

Director's Column

by Kerry Blatteau, CGCS

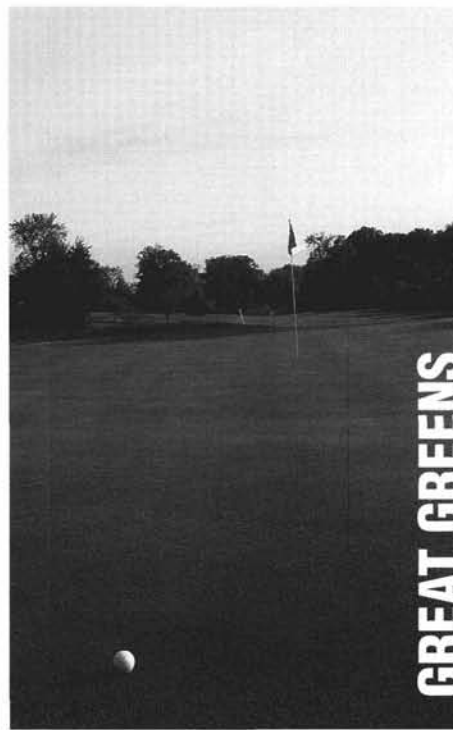
April 12. The rain has finally arrived and given me a chance to come inside and catch up on my paper log jam. Spring in Chicago — who knows what to expect. Last year it was cold and wet into May. This year it's been mild and dry. Certainly keeps you flexible, doesn't it?

I am completing my fourth year serving on the MAGCS Board of Directors and have enjoyed being chairman of the golf, membership, public relations committees. I also am presently a member of the scholarship and research committee. While learning much about the function and scope of these committees, I have also gathered some valuable insight as to the direction of our organization.

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is no longer a small, local group. As in many past years, the MAGCS has a member serving nationally on the GCSAA Board of Directors. Our membership has grown to make us one of the largest regional associations in the country. We interact yearly with other nearby regional associations and some of the most respected collegiate turfgrass programs in the country. We co-sponsor a major 3 day turfgrass exposition as well as regional education seminars. Locally, we organize seminars and education programs pertinent to our Chicago area needs. We have one of the best hospitality rooms at the national convention. Also, we are fortunate enough to have many high quality facilities that are willing to host our monthly local meetings. Finally, we donate funds to many local and national research and scholarship programs.

To accomplish all of these things takes a well organized, planned and funded commitment, similar to running a golf course. As our organization has grown, the need to operate in a more businesslike manner has become evident. Things such as pre-registration and pre-payment for all functions, earlier planning and commitment for meeting locations, the addition of logo merchandise and the conversion to computer records are all a part of that change to a more business-like operation. While these changes may not have provided as smooth a transition as always hoped, the end result will, I think, be an improvement for the entire membership.

The present Board of Directors is as forward thinking as any I have served on and has a goal to expand our organization into the top local organization in the country. This push for excellence is only fitting for a region with the best conditioned and managed golf courses in any part of the country. I hope you, as members, will be as excited as I am about the future and the direction we are headed. The Board of Directors looks forward to your input and support to assist us in this period of advancement and progress.



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