

# Two Great Tools

by Roger A. Stewart, Jr., CGCS

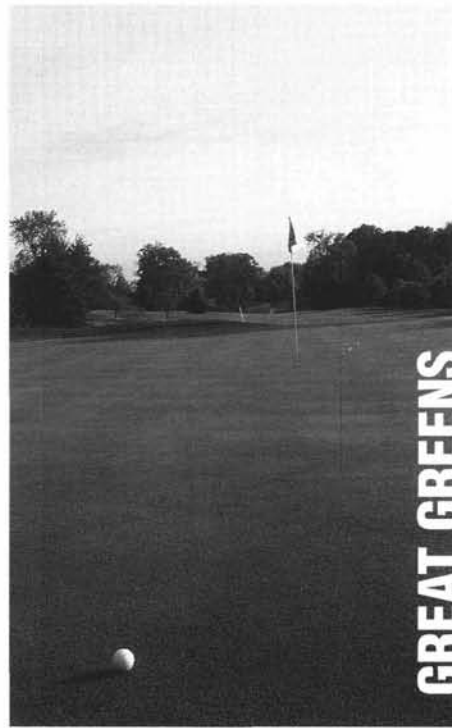
There is a great tool available to Golf Course Superintendents here in the Chicago area that is used by only a few of us. It is a communication link that is quick and easy to use. That hint should be enough for everyone to recognize what I'm talking about. It's our own computer bulletin board called TURFTALK. The only thing you need is a computer with a modem and some communication software and you can become a part of a group that shares information on a daily basis. The main topics of messages sent through TURFTALK are golf turf related, but there are also other users from parks and businesses which only serve to broaden the range of information available. Best of all the only cost is the phone call. The entire BBS is funded by M.A.G.C.S. and is one of the benefits of being a member.

Participating in TURFTALK is very easy and requires very little time. If you don't have a computer and modem in your office, perhaps you have one at home. TURFTALK operates 24 hours a day which makes home use even more attractive. Call me at 708/898-6139 if you need more information or talk to any of the current users like Bruce Williams, Mike Schiller, Nick Hongisto, Ray Schmitz, Dan Dinelli along with many others. The fall season is approaching and more time will be available to tune into TURFTALK. Try it, you'll like it.

Another great tool many superintendents make use of in this area is provided by the CDGA. We all know Dr. Randy Kane as the house doctor when it comes to helping solve turf problems and he does a great job. Recently, we have been battling Black Layer syndrome here and Dr. Randy Kane was a key player in a team of consultants who helped us formulate a course of action to rectify the problem. I appreciated very much having a trusted and familiar face there to help. My thanks to the "Doc" and the CDGA who fund his position. I encourage all my peers in this area to utilize Dr. Kane's talent and abilities to help solve turf problems at their courses. I also encourage the M.A.G.C.S. to seriously consider expanding their support for Dr. Kane's position to the fullest extent possible. In return, we all receive the benefits of his expertise.

We all look for ways to improve our performance and do the best job we can and I hope these two methods are beneficial to you. Have a great fall season.

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