

# the Bull Sheet

Official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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## On Course With the President

Judging by the amount of comments related to recent past writings, people really do read our newsletter! I guess I turned up the heat with the CDGA more than I expected. Yes, sometimes it does get a bit hot in the kitchen, but on the other hand sometimes it may take a small wave to smooth the sands on the beach.



When the article was published concerning a General Manager being on the panel at the Club Directors Workshop, a number of Superintendents spoke out to myself as well as various representatives of the CDGA. This may have upset some of the individuals within the CDGA, but our message as Superintendents, was delivered. I am very pleased with the response, concern, and outcome with the CDGA. I was assured by CDGA Official Don Gardner and others, that the CDGA **does not** want to lessen its relationship with Superintendents. The organization would like to continue to work together with common goals.

I was also told that the General Manager who sat on the panel was not invited to do so, and for the sake of saving embarrassment, was allowed to remain "up front". If this is true, it was a considerably bold move on his part. I still think it is quite a coincidence that the first subject talked about was the value of the General Manager. Whose idea was that? Bruce Sering made it clear at a CDGA seminar held at Butterfield Country Club a few years ago, how Superintendents generally view the G.M. concept. Our views have not changed as far as I know.

Despite this ripple in the water, I believe that our relationship with the CDGA is, and can remain, as good as ever. It brings great pleasure to see the development of the CDGA's services with Turfgrass Advisor Dr. Randy Kane. Dr. Kane's services and research continue to develop for the benefit of golf, especially for the Chicago metro area. We are really fortunate to have Dr. Kane in our back yard making house calls as the "Turf Doctor". His work with the experimental green at Cantigny will provide a vast array of cutting edge information from which we can all benefit. For this reason, the MAGCS increased the amount of donation to the CDGA Foundation to support the work of Dr. Randy Kane and the research green at Cantigny.

The MAGCS contributed \$6,000 toward support of Dr. Kane and the project. The increased exposure is a direct result of voluntary MAGCS dues contributions towards turf research.

To wrap things up, yes, maybe the title "CDGA, Superintendents Friend or Foe?" was a bit harsh. But if the CDGA had meant to lessen the Superintendents part in golf course management, which they claim they didn't, it would have been a very significant set back and the title would have been fitting. After discussing the issue with CDGA Officials, I feel the CDGA recognizes the importance of our expertise and our skills in management. As far as "General" Managers seeking additional authority, I don't think we should drop our guard, not for a minute.

Joel Purpur, President, MAGCS