

Ice Cold Beer

by Rob Zimmerman, Hinsdale Golf Club

An old journalism professor of mine used to preach that most people who read newspapers or trade journals skim them first and then read only the articles whose titles appeal to them most. So I've got everyone's attention, right?

During the past couple of years, I've been involved in several conversations concerning the development of a "pseudo-association" for assistant golf course superintendents. These discussions have aroused various ideas from starting its own professional association to getting together at a local drinking establishment every once in a while. This past February at the annual Arrowhead meeting, I was fortunate enough to have lunch with John Tobin, assistant superintendent at River Forest C.C. and Steve Schendel, assistant superintendent at The Golf Club at Oak Brook Hills. Through the course of the meal, discussion once again turned toward the idea of an assistant "get-together". Since that date, we have spoken again on several occasions and have developed an idea we would like to present to our fellow assistant superintendents.

We feel that it would best serve our interests to start out with a few get-togethers throughout the year, probably scheduled between late fall and early spring so as not to create scheduling problems with our long work hours. These meetings would serve a few basic needs. As assistant superintendents, it is important to know one another, to be able to put a face to a name, and to have the ability to converse with one another and exchange ideas. It is this sharing of ideas and camaraderie that is the backbone of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents and something we as assistant superintendents need to develop. As future superintendents, we need to be able to relate to our peers and use the opportunity to grow professionally. We envision these meetings revolving around an educational topic, with plenty of time devoted to question and answer segments. A few possible topics could be interviewing for a superintendent's job along with mock interviews, recent experiences with course projects, and roundtable discussions about job responsibilities and expectations. This is only a partial list and by no means are these topics set in stone.

John, Steve, and myself would like to try and get together with all of you early this summer to solicit interest in pursuing this idea further. We have tentatively set a date for June 10. Once again, these meetings are meant to help enhance our professional development as assistant superintendents and become better acquainted with our peers. In order for us to properly plan for our first event, please RSVP by May 26 to River Forest C.C. at (708) 782-4259, The Golf Club at Oak Brook Hills at (708) 323-7633, or my home number at (708) 769-1854.

P.S. — If your assistant is not a member of the MAGCS, would you please pass this article along to him/her. Thank you.



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