



*John Meyer
Cannon Turf Supply, Inc.*

As I sit here this early November day, it is snowing outside, which makes it easier to write a column for the December issue of *On Course*. Each "columnist" I know wants to make their article "timely." I hope I can do the same. Today I am writing you with not only a recap of where the

Commercial Member Advisory Committee has been but also "my" vision of the future.

This past year, the committee took a large leap forward in trying something new, something that had never been done before in our organization, a Vendor's Day Golf Outing. A mini "trade show," if you wish. The golf day was a sell-out as were all of the booths. However, the trade show was not the sellout that the vendors would have wished. In other words, it was not well attended by the superintendents. Hats off to all those that did attend; and we, the vendors, certainly do appreciate your taking the time and effort to go through the show. Many thanks to the Board of Directors for letting us try something new in an effort to raise dollars for research.

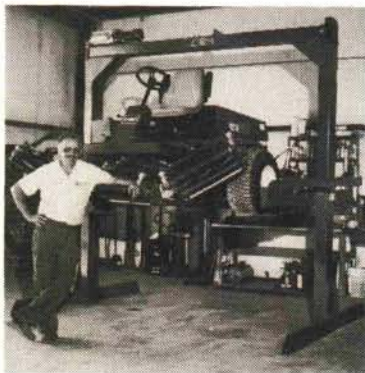
Although attendance was not the best, the day WAS a success.

We raised \$5,000 for the research green at Cantigny. If there is a future in Vendor's Day '98, we need to find away to increase the participation by the superintendents or the day will fail. From the survey we sent out after the show, most vendors would not participate under the same format.

Which brings me to the future of the committee. Is Vendor's Day a good thing? I think so. I believe it can be an excellent tool in raising funds for a needy cause. That needy cause need not be the research green at Cantigny. That needy cause could be the American Cancer Society or the Leukemia Foundation or Mothers Against Drunk Drivers or you name it. The needy cause could be an annual scholarship fund given to a MAGCS member's child for college. Or we could do both.

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the Bull Sheet

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Medinah C.C. is working towards the August 1999 PGA event, but they are also being considered for the 2003 Ryder Cup. These events will be great for Medinah C.C. and Danny Quast, CGCS, as well as for the greater Chicagoland area.

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In early November, Olympia Fields C.C. was selected as the site for the U.S. Open in 2003. Olympia Fields is ranked in the top 100 courses in the country. It has been the site of the 1925 and 1961 PGA Championships and hosted the 1928 Open. Also this past summer, it was the site of the U.S. Senior Open.
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Remember, MAGCS members, to call your friends across the country to tell them what a great guy Tommy Witt, CGCS, is. Tommy is running for secretary-treasurer for the GCSAA in February at Anaheim.



Fairways of the Future

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even distribution of water. Conversely, it also shows that a single row of sprinklers cannot be used to properly irrigate a fairway given today's standards because the centerline must receive an excess amount of water to keep the edges from drying out. Following the lead set by the desert regions of the country, it is likely that future irrigation systems will be designed to water from property line to property line so that superintendents can make it rain as if they were Mother Nature (if not better) whenever they so desire.

In conclusion, the management of fairways looks as though it will become as sophisticated as that for the greens. In other words, to speculate on what tomorrow's fairways will look like, take a closer look at the greens. I hope, however, that the speed of the fairways will never become an issue, as then it will be time to retire. ■

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Director's Column

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We put on great monthly meetings at some of the greatest golf facilities in the world; but given the size of our organization, I do not think we do enough to promote ourselves as stewards of the community. I believe that this Vendor's Day is a way to do that. Let's give the proceeds to that needy cause.

Let's start a scholarship program that is available to ALL members' children and grandchildren. So that the market is not overrun with new superintendents, let's make it a scholarship available only to those not going into the greenskeeping business.

With the funding that Vendor's Day could provide on an annual basis, this could be a four-year scholarship valued at \$1,000 to \$2,000 per year. Applicants would be judged by an independent team of judges made up of high school counselors and university personnel. The scholarship would be renewable each year based on the recipient maintaining a "B" average. With this scholarship available to ALL members' children and grandchildren, every one in the organization would feel "more bang for the buck."

My vision of the future of this committee is to try and implement some of these ideas. I need support from my fellow commit-

tee members and the rest of the vendors. And we need the support from the rest of the membership.

I do believe that some sort of Vendor's Day in '98 will happen. The cause, the format, the logistics will need to be spelled out in detail in the near future. As you read this, please formulate your thoughts, ideas, and comments. Please feel free to drop me a line or e-mail me at cannonturf@aol.com. The committee will be meeting in January to discuss all of our options.

As I close this editorial, I would like to bestow from my family to yours a **Very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.** ■