



Kevin Czerkies, CGCS
Sportsman's C.C.

Just before the holidays, I had the honor of being invited to attend a meeting representing the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents with several of our allied associations: the Illinois PGA, Illinois Junior Golf Foundation, and Chicago District Golf Association. The reason for this meeting was to discuss the "Hook a Kid on Golf" program. This program was founded in 1994 by the National Alliance for Youth Sports.

This meeting was put together and hosted by Jerry Rich, owner of Harvest Rich Farms. Jerry is taking a hands-on approach to getting this program up and running in the Chicago area. He proposed that the Woodstock Conference Center be turned into a junior golf camp that would be supportive to the "Hook a Kid on Golf" program. The Woodstock Conference Center is currently owned by Northern Illinois University, and they would be willing to lease out the 75-acre site for such a development.

All this is fine and dandy, but as I sat there, I kept wondering to myself, why was I invited to this meeting? Well, finally it came to light. Should this development become a reality, the MAGCS will be asked for input on the care and maintenance of this facility. One part of the "Hook a Kid on Golf" program is that these future golfers of America learn the proper care of a golf course. Not only would they learn the simplicities of ball mark repairing and divot replacing, but older kids would be provided with hands-on training of mowing, cup changing, and trap raking. These young golfers would gain a greater sense of

respect for golf courses which may also steer them in the direction of future employment in our profession. I urge you to be supportive of this endeavor if your help is called upon.

The MAGCS will also be getting a little more press. The Chicago District Golf Association has decided to give each allied association a spot in their magazine, *Chicago District Golfer*, to showcase any information they see fit. MAGCS Public Relations Chairman Jim McNair has volunteered his efforts to see that pertinent information is supplied to the CDGA for this space. Thanks, Jim.

I'm looking forward to the March MAGCS meeting. Not only are we returning to Nordic Hills, but our educational program has been enhanced. The education will be a half-day GCSAA seminar sponsored by Etonic. CEU's will be available for GCSAA certification. After the education, a nice lunch will be served, followed by our business meeting. Those of you unable to attend the educational portion are certainly invited for the lunch and meeting. I hope to see you there.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Czerkies".

Kevin Czerkies, CGCS
President, MAGCS