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You'll be reading this in early January, and I hope the weather has caught up with the calendar by then. Today is November 30, and the little bit of rain we had overnight and this morning actually has the grass greening up. How about that warm Thanksgiving weekend? We had 80 golfers on Saturday, more than we can generally expect all month. Sometimes the season just doesn't seem to end. After a long season such as this one (remember the spring—probably three weeks ahead of the norm), a superintendent can feel a bit whipped.

I am not sure where I'm heading with all this, but I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and has found some time to relax and get away from their jobs. At Bryn Mawr, we had a new irrigation system installed this fall and major earth moving and rebunkering done on several holes. It was the busiest fall of my young career, and after spending most of the Thanksgiving weekend numbering controller stations with Jim Reed (no offense, Jim), I'm certainly looking forward to a well-deserved break.

A superintendent's responsibilities are increasing in the '90s. Not that they ever were minimal, but the business is becoming so advanced technically that it is difficult to keep up. I think the managerial responsibilities involved in directing large staffs and budgets, the environmental and safety considerations and documentation required therein, and the salesmanship required to pull off the job make this one of the most challenging careers going. I guess I never feel like I'm quite on top of it all. It makes me realize how important a well-trained staff is, because it certainly can't be a one-person show. Like I said, I'm not sure where I was heading with that, but I just hope everyone has an opportunity to get away from it all during the off-season. Enough is enough sometimes, and we just have to be content with doing the best we can.

I'm glad I have the opportunity to get away from the workplace occasionally and attend MAGCS functions. It is a nice break from the routine, and I especially enjoy attending the board meetings. I'll miss Ed Braunsky's sense of humor, but there's plenty more where that came from in the group. It is always interesting to hear how things are going at other golf courses. It is also very enlightening to hear other perspectives on the challenges and opportunities facing our industry these days. I will be assuming the secretary-treasurer position this year and look forward to it. It is nice to be a part of an organization that provides such a solid service to its members and strives to do such a good job. Having served behind the scenes for awhile now, I can proudly proclaim that to be very true.

In addition, I'll be coordinating the hospitality room at the GCSAA conference again this year. Hopefully, you will join us at the Omni Rosen Hotel in Orlando on February 11 and 12. Talk about getting away from it all; it doesn't get any better than this. As usual, vendor support has been terrific. See you there!

I hope our web site will be a complete reality by the time you read this. George Minnis and Fred Opperman have helped me a bit with the finishing touches; I hope everyone enjoys the end result. In fact, I'm sure there will be some improvements that can be made, and your input is welcome.

In closing, I appreciate the opportunity to serve this association and work closely with such a good group of superintendents. Recharge those batteries this winter, prosper in 1999 and we'll see you in Orlando! 