



Doing More With Less

As superintendents, we are challenged to do more with less. Since I became a superintendent, I have witnessed this phenomenon of dwindling resources firsthand. Many of the pesticides that were in use when I first started are no longer available. It is much more difficult to hire employees than in the past. At my club, each employee undergoes a State of Illinois background check, plus we check their Social Security number to make sure it corresponds with their birth date. Budgets have grown, but at a pace less than the rate of inflation. Government regulations covering everything from fuel storage tanks to rinse pads all have taken a piece of the money pie. Sure, greens fees have also increased, but will fees continue to increase to the point of making golf unaffordable? I do not have an answer to this question or a solution for our other dilemmas.

As your MAGCS Board of Directors, we too are trying to do more with less. Fewer clubs are willing to host meetings. Less sponsorship monies have been available this year. Yet we continue to provide our membership a reasonable price for a day of golf, food and prizes.

Registration for the recent Merit Club meeting brought up many questions about doing more with less. (Okay . . . how is he going to tie this all together?) In the eight years I have been on the MAGCS Board, we have never had a surplus number of clubs willing to host one of our meetings. Poplar Creek was originally going to host the July meeting, but when Oscar Miles offered the Merit Club, the Board of Directors felt it was a great opportunity for the membership to play a premier club. I hope some of you think this was a good idea.

In any event, the major complaint I heard about the July meeting was registration. Since January, I have been preaching the use of e-mail for all of your MAGCS correspondences. More than 200 of you took advantage of e-mail. This posed a problem no one figured. The people who get their correspondence through the regular mail (snail mail) got the meeting notice much later than those signed up for e-mail notification.

The Board has adopted a plan to help alleviate this problem. Going forward, we will begin to take registrations on some designated future date. In other words, you will not be able to register before a certain date, thus allowing everyone an equitable chance of getting into the meeting.

We also fielded complaints about the price of the meeting. Gone are the days of free greens fees and carts. Let's all take a look at it, ladies and gentlemen. Who is willing to give up a day with no income plus pay for staff? The usual process in calculating the price of a meeting goes something like this: we get the cost from the club for golf, carts and food. Our fixed costs of postage, prizes and other expenses are added to it. Then, any sponsorship money is

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2001-2002 FRED D. OPPERMAN EDITORIAL AWARD CONTESTANTS

Cathy Miles Ralston *Editor*

Earlier this year, the MAGCS Editorial Committee, with the unanimous and enthusiastic endorsement of the Board of Directors, initiated the Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award. All original articles written by MAGCS members in categories C, D, E, F and G (e.g., assistant golf course superintendents, students, associate/commercial members, etc.) and appearing in On Course are eligible for the new award; however, "Super-N-Site" articles are not eligible.

While guidelines stipulate at least six eligible articles in each qualifying year (in this case, September 2001 through August 2002), the Editorial Committee approved a one-time exception and allowed retroactive eligibility dating back to January 2001. Here, then, are the illustrious contenders for the first-ever Fred D. Opperman Editorial Award!

Year/Month	Article	Author
2001		
February	"Why Do I Do This?"	Anthony Frandria
March	"Are You In The Gray On Snow Mold?"	Curt Franklin
April	"Here's Johnny!"	Rich Daly
May	75 th Anniversary Retrospective "The Thirties: Golf And The Midwest Greenkeeper's Association Weather The Great Depression"	Erwin McKone
July	75 th Anniversary Retrospective "The Rock -n- Roll Fifties: Golf Becomes Everyman's Game"	Larry Tomaszewski
2002		
February	"Goose Control: Owning a Dog or Hiring a Service" "Mabel's Magic"	Harold Frederickson Erwin McKone
April	"Challenging The Best & Playable For All: A New Goal For Golf Course Architecture"	Greg Martin

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subtracted from the total. This number is then divided by the number of players to reach our price for the meeting. If there is a limited field, the cost of the day will increase. This is another issue about which I would like to make a point. The host club sets the limit of players, plain and simple. The field may be limited because of a variety of reasons, but we have to accept it.

Then, we heard complaints about class E members playing or "taking spots" from class A members. Out of the 98 players at the Merit Club, 25% were class E. Several Board members and a few others actually gave up their spots so other class A members could play. I cannot look a class E member in the face and say, "Yes, we will take your sponsorship money for our meetings and hospitality room, but you cannot play golf at our monthly meetings."

As your MAGCS Board of Directors, we too are trying to do more with less. Fewer clubs are willing to host meetings. Less sponsorship monies have been available this year. Yet we continue to provide our membership a reasonable price for a day of golf, food and prizes. I know we cannot please all of you all the time, but maybe it is time for you to host a meeting.

