



People Make The Difference

For those of you who missed Paul Vermeulen's educational presentation at the June MAGCS meeting at Prestwick Country Club, I'll share an interesting insight Paul related in respect to the 103rd U. S. Open Golf Championship at Olympia Fields.

At Prestwick on the day after the U.S. Open's final round, [the USGA's] Paul Vermeulen said, "In my mind, the Open is all about the people . . . That's what makes the difference. That's what makes the Open meaningful." Paul's words made me think about the trust that the membership of the Midwest has placed in the Board of Directors to manage and guide the business efforts of our Association on their behalf.

As we all know, Paul is the director of the Mid-Continent Region for the United States Golf Association's Green Section. At Prestwick on the day after the U.S. Open's final round, Paul said, "In my mind, the Open is all about the people. It's about the staff and volunteers who through their hard work, dedication and skill made the Open special." Paul believes that above all, the Open Championship is not about the competition, nor about any individual player, nor about the champion golfer. No, the Open is about the assembled staff and volunteers who play their positions so very well when 'under the gun' to pull the thing off. "That's what I will remember most about this year's Open. That's what makes the difference. That's what makes the Open meaningful," Paul said.

As I listened to Paul's overview, it dawned on me that in many instances I had heard similar words before in some way, shape or form. Probably all of us have heard those same words before, somewhere, so many times, in fact, it's considered cliché. But for some reason, I took note of his words. They had real meaning and conviction. They made me reflect.

It seems so long ago since I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. In fact, it was last November. As one of the "new kids on the block," I have found Board service interesting and rewarding. It will be some time before I am able to fully understand the "parliamentary procedures" of our meetings or the "behind the scenes" actions of our officers. I just listen to our president, Kevin DeRoo, and do as he asks. I don't have any personal goals or an agenda. Heck, on many Board issues, I don't have an opinion. I am looking for where I can best serve our membership, heed advice and follow directions.

Paul's words made me think about the trust that the membership of the Midwest has placed in the Board of Directors to manage and guide the business efforts of our Association on their behalf. We like to hear your opinions and comments regarding our management efforts. It's our duty as Board members to consider and decide the course of action on all business before the Board. However, it is membership's responsibility to "steer the ship," ask questions and offer suggestions to help improve the management and administration of our Association.

It is a pleasure to work with the many dedicated men and women within our Association, ranging from committee volunteers to commercial

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BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Phil Zeinert, CGCS *Elgin Country Club*

The following are highlights of the MAGCS Board of Directors meeting held Tuesday, July 1 at Bartlett Hills Golf Course. Full meeting minutes, once approved, are available on the Midwest Web site.

- The Editorial Committee reported being busy with a survey that will guide the content and appearance of the *On Course* magazine in the future. Response rate has been satisfactory and possible changes will be implemented as dictated by the responses.
- The Board approved accounts payable for the month of June in the amount of \$14,917.04.
- Discussion occurred over the “no nonmembers” policy currently in place for monthly golf meetings. At present, none of the meetings are selling out. A motion was made to allow guests to participate in certain

golf events at the discretion of the Arrangements Committee, while still affording priority registration to members. The motion passed.

- The following new members were presented for approval and welcomed to MAGCS:

Justin Barker.....Class C
Evanston Golf Club

Chris Bordeleau.....Class C
North Shore Country Club

Paul Witte.....Class E
Earth Works Natural
Organic Products

Brett Pacher.....Class C
Orchard Valley Golf Club

Eric Gakstatter.....Class E
Discovery Management Group

- On behalf of the Environmental Committee, Gary Hearn gladly reported that more than 15 clubs participated in the Bird Watching Open with Olympia Fields Country Club taking top honors with 94 species of birds identified.

- Fred Behnke reported that more than 30 applications had been received for the executive director position. The executive members of the MAGCS and ITF will interview and select a candidate, tentatively by September 1, 2003.

- The next meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. at Bartlett Hills.



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representatives, from educators to Board members, indeed all MAGCS members. We have a wonderful team of people, in both elected and non-elected capacities, putting forth tremendous efforts for the betterment of our profession and Association. I am proud to be a small part of it!

Paul was right in saying, “It’s all about the people,” and I say, “It’s the people who make the difference and our Association special.”



Scholarship Winners . . .

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golf course, which leads to an increase of nutrition of the grounds and its surroundings. With increased environment health comes increased wildlife. The areas of improved ecological health help to attract animals, and additional wildlife takes up residency in the surrounding area. This will happen because of increased vegetational nutrients supplied by the improved plant life. Some tend to think that chemical runoff from pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers would contaminate surrounding waterways and soils, but dense grass has been shown to be one of the best biological filters, consequently decreasing contaminant runoff to surrounding areas. The area of high-density grass may also help to filter out many other chemicals from agriculture or industry, which would actually clean areas of surrounding water. Green grass also supplies a great percentage of the oxygen necessary for aerobic life. The healthier a superintendent can make a golf course, the more oxygen the golf course can supply. Today’s golf course superintendent is a guardian of the environment, not a destroyer. They increase vegetation and increase wildlife in the area, help filter out chemicals from run-off and help generate a significant amount of oxygen.



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