



Leadership and Stewardship

I have the dubious honor of being co-chairperson with Luke Cella of both the Membership and Environmental Committees. I inherited this position from Tim Anderson and Tim is the proverbial "tough act to follow," very professional in his approach as a committee chair.

The 2003 North American Bird Watching Open was more successful than the 2002 event, and hopefully will be even bigger next year. Out of a total 82 participating clubs nationwide, 15 were from the Chicagoland area! Congratulations to Dave Ward and crew at Olympia Fields Country Club in leading the nation with 94 birds identified.

Membership comprises our future leadership, the backbone of this organization. You—the members—will set the tone for this organization, now and for years to come. Please don't forget our past leaders, retired members and past members because **they** made MAGCS history and laid the foundation for MAGCS future.

Membership tends to get our concerted attention from December through February, then fades to the background as the golf season gears up. Membership fees are due by January 15 each year; thank you to about 92% of our members for renewing on time. The other 8% will do better next year, right? Official membership stands at about 655 and mid-year updates should have arrived by the middle of August. If you didn't receive an update, let me know and I will take care of it. Membership took up a lot of my time during February and March, because I was making phone calls to ensure that members were renewing their memberships. So please inform your CPAs, accountants, bookkeepers and secretaries to keep an eye open for a renewal notice in November or December and process this before the holiday season.

Remember that if you as members need anything from any MAGCS committee, please feel free to contact me, Luke Cella or our executive secretary George Minnis. Speaking of George, a special thank-you to him for really managing the membership. George has made my job easier by keeping me informed, steering me in the right direction and being a confidante. Thanks! I also want to pass along a thank-you to all the new members who joined within the last year; hopefully you are enjoying the camaraderie and benefits the Midwest offers. Also, I would like to recognize the members who have attained 25-year status: Dave Behrman, Midlothian Country Club; Tim Davis, Shoreacres; Larry Joseph, Boylan Sales (retired); James Knulty, Big Foot Country Club; Mike Nass, Cantigny Golf; Tommy Robinson, Ravinia Green Country Club; and Steve Van Acker, Crystal Lake Country Club. Congratulations!

As far as overseeing the Environmental Committee goes, in this capacity I am always thinking about the superintendent's role as environmental steward. Environmental issues have ethical implications and widely impact the golf course and surrounding community, always posing new concerns and challenges.

I want to thank my Environmental Committee of Pete Leuzinger, Matt Kregel, Chad Kempf, Tim Anderson and Chuck Anfield—the real environ-

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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, August 5 at Bartlett Hills Golf Course. Full meeting minutes, once approved, are available on the Midwest Web site.

- The Board approved accounts payable for July in the amount of \$34,736.03.
- Kevin DeRoo and Fred Behnke reported that the Executive Director Selection Committee had narrowed the field of candidates from 31 to four. The committee planned to interview the four candidates on August 13. Employment Committee chair, Fred Behnke, reported notifying those candidates not chosen for interviews.
- Motion was made to extend complimentary Fall Dinner Dance invites to MAGCS members at The Glen Club, Cog Hill, Stonebridge and Olympia Fields, all of which hosted professional tour events this year. The invitations are to include spouse/guest. The Board approved the motion.
- Fred Behnke reported attending the most recent Green Industry meeting, where he learned and shared with the Board that the Department of Agriculture is soon to offer study materials and testing materials in Spanish.
- The following new members were presented for approval and welcomed to MAGCS:
 - Bryan Bielecki**Class A
Billy Casper Golf Management/
Cook County Forest Preserve
Golf Courses
 - Connor Shaw**.....Class E
Possibility Place Nursery



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mentalists—for their suggestions and insights. Our goals for 2003 were to promote participation in Audubon International's Bird Watching Open, work on a Web site, delve into pesticide testing and better inform the public outside the golf arena of golf's positive environmental impacts.

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total 82 participating clubs nationwide, 15 were from the Chicagoland area! Congratulations to Dave Ward and crew at Olympia Fields Country Club in leading the nation with 94 birds identified. Also, I would like to recognize the other area participants: Heritage Bluffs, Village Links, Thunderhawk, Oak Grove, Mount Prospect, Aldeen, Bryn Mawr, Prestwick, Renwood, Cress Creek, Beverly, Pottawatomie, Salt Creek and Midwest Golf House. Honorable mention goes

to Aurora, Bartlett Hills and any other golf courses that did not officially register but took time to participate on the designated day. Thank you to all superintendents for making time in your busy schedules and weathering the damp, dreary weather.

In terms of pesticide testing, vice president Fred Behnke addressed this in attending a Green Industry meeting held in July. Fred and I have discussed this topic and more information will be conveyed to membership in the future. There are some positive forces at work within the industry and the MAGCS, with the University of Illinois, will pursue all avenues to find a better solution.

I know that in our hearts, we are all environmentalists striving to use IPM (integrated pest management) to the best of our ability. Please show concern for our #1 resource—our children—and the community at large. Educate kids and tell them about mistakes along the way. Take them to Morton Arboretum, the Chicago Botanic Garden or any local wildlife sanctuary. Better yet, take them camping! Keep the faith.



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