


January Monthly Meeting at Arrowhead Golf Club

January 13th found us at our usual venue for the January monthly meeting—the Arrowhead Golf Club, with Bob Breen hosting once again. Our final meeting in the old clubhouse featured a cornucopia of diverse educational topics.

After the business meeting, Don Ferreri (Seven Bridges G.C.), our chapter delegate to GCSAA, gave an update on the state of our national organization, focusing on PDI, chapter affiliation and impending bylaws changes. Don also pointed out that MAGCS carries a lot of weight at the national level, accounting for 273 votes in the upcoming election. The proposed bylaws changes Don described were mainly drawn up in an effort to make GCSAA board service a bit easier for volunteers to undertake (without losing their jobs after working their way through the process)—specifically allowing for technology to be used in lieu of travel, via videoconferencing, electronic mail and more. Don also named the candidates for whom our Association would be voting in the election this month (even asking those present if there were any objections to the names given).



Dave Braasch with host Bob Breen.

The education portion of the morning featured three gentlemen from three very diverse backgrounds. First on the agenda was Joel Cheek, the national golf car service manager for Yamaha Golf Cars. Joel gave us an in-depth talk on the preventive maintenance of golf cart fleets, highlighting daily, monthly and annual maintenance practices, along with storage and operating environment dos and don'ts. Following Joel was Todd Leonard of GE Vendor Financial Services, who presented "Equipment Leasing for Today's Golf Course Superintendent." The talk focused on the two main types of leases—capital and operating—and the benefits of each. Todd presented a case study that raised many questions from the audience, and it was apparent that leasing may become more popular in the future. Finally, our last speaker, Dr. Phil Nixon of the University of Illinois and self-proclaimed "grub butt-hair expert," posed the question, "Are You Being Bugged By Invasive Insect Pests?" Phil pinpointed four specific pests with which we all are either very familiar now, or will soon become so. The emerald ash borer—a newcomer on the scene that has caused many in the Detroit area to have "lost their ash" (his quote)—was one of the highlighted insects, along with the Asian longhorn beetle, the Japanese beetle and the gypsy moth, which, according to Phil, is capable of producing a "rain of caterpillar crap" on anyone unfortunate enough to be standing under an infested tree. This talk, including very detailed descriptions of the effects some of the controls for these bugs produce (slimy, gooey things with phlegm-balls dripping off them) and of the reactions grubs have to being immersed in alcohol or boiling water, was the perfect segue into the lunch room, where the staff at AGC provided us with a wonderful meal. We at MAGCS thank Bob Breen and the staff at Arrowhead Golf Club for their hospitality, and hope that we'll be invited back once the new clubhouse facility is completed. See you in San Diego! 



Joel Cheek of Yamaha.



Todd Leonard of GE Financial.



Dr. Phil Nixon of U of I.