



# My Great Idea

*To take something . . . and try to make it better. It is a premise to which most of us try to adhere constantly. We do this daily on the golf courses that employ us. Seven years ago, it was one of the reasons I became involved with the inner workings of the MAGCS. I thought that if I could come up with one really great idea, I could change the world, or at least a small fragment thereof known as the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents.*

*The MAGCS Board is about a small group of people willing to represent a larger group of people; it's about making decisions based on a thorough investigation of all pertinent information to form a conclusion that favors the majority.*

Now, as my responsibilities on the Board are waning and I am closing in on that great past presidents' pasture in the sky, it gives me time to reflect and realize how young, gullible and stupid I really was (I said was). Looking back, I am ashamed to confess that in the seven years I have served, I did not come up with one really great idea to make MAGCS better. Looking back over my years served on the Board, I can admit to only participating in many major decisions that would affect the operations today. To highlight some of the decisions that were made by the different Boards I served on in seven years: we formed an MAGCS Web site, contracted Cathy M. Ralston as editor of *On Course* and turned *On Course* into a full four-color magazine, drove our membership numbers to the 700 mark, put together hospitality rooms that cannot be matched by any other GCSAA chapter, made donations to affiliated organizations approaching the \$30,000 range, formed the Class C Advisory Committee, centralized our operations at Midwest Golf House and teamed up with the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation in forming the executive director position, then contracted our very own Luke Cella to fill that position.

To take primary credit or blame for any of the changes to the MAGCS over the years of my tenure would be a grave injustice to those who have served alongside me. The truth of the matter that I can humbly admit is that MAGCS probably would have evolved without me. Our job as a Board is not to merely stay the course and navigate the ship through the rough seas. It is about exploring and discovering new ways to solve old/new problems. What I have learned over these years as a director is that this is not about individuals, it is not about one person with an idea making a difference. The MAGCS Board is about a small group of people willing to represent a larger group of people; it's about making decisions based on a thorough investigation of all pertinent information to form a conclusion that favors the majority. It is many people with many ideas, all with a common goal in mind, trying to make things better.

In closing, I would like to say only this: the time commitment of serving on the MAGCS Board of Directors these past seven years pales in comparison to the feeling I have of honor, satisfaction and pride in the Association that chose me to do so. I owe many lifelong friendships to serving MAGCS. I have the deepest respect and fondest admiration for all those who volunteer their time to try to make things better. My only hope is they all receive the support and overwhelming fulfillment I have.

ITF . . . here I come!

