



# The Write Stuff

*The other day I was hanging out with my 7-year-old daughter, Kori, while she was writing a short letter to a friend. Halfway through a word, her pencil came to a screeching halt as she turned to me and said, "How do you make a 'b' again?" She would sometimes use a small 'b' and a small 'd' interchangeably. I quickly realized that she had not used her writing skills all summer long. This was just another classic example of the old saying, "If you don't use it, you lose it!" When was the last time you used **your** writing skills?*

*Not enough time . . .  
can't write . . .  
no ideas . . .  
nobody asked me.  
Let's debunk the  
most common  
excuses for not  
contributing to a  
chapter publication.*

In many cases, the biggest problem is just getting started. Once you get going, the whole process of getting your thoughts on paper can be very gratifying. I have found that the more you do it, the easier it gets.

So even if thoughts and ideas do flow easily for you, here is a short list of basic guidelines for writing.

The basic writing process includes three stages. During the first stage, **choosing your topic**, you determine your audience and select an appropriate topic on which to write. During the next stage, **developing and organizing your information**, you accumulate the ideas and information you wish to present, arrange them in a suitable order and develop a thesis statement. Finally, during the **writing and revising stage**, you prepare a first draft of your article and then polish it through rewriting and editing.

Although this scheme seems cut-and-dried, writing is a flexible process. It is entirely possible that you may choose to move through these three stages in a different order. The important thing is that you get your ideas on paper. Try and be as clear and concise as possible, and don't be afraid! Be yourself and put your personality into your work. The entire process of researching a topic or sharing an idea can be a tremendous experience.

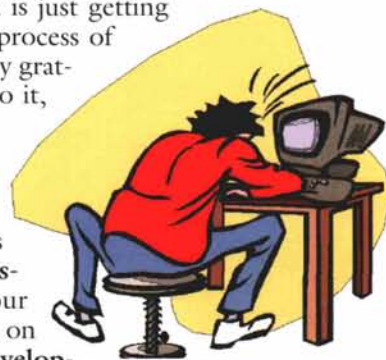
According to Mary Walker, self-described "communication goddess" and keynote speaker at this year's GCSAA Editorial Session, the most common excuses for NOT contributing to a chapter publication are:

- Not enough time.
- Can't write.
- No ideas.
- Nobody asked me.

Well, let's address how easily we can overcome these four minor inconveniences. The "not enough time issue" I can understand in June, July and August. This is why a little planning and organization can easily rectify the whole "no time" thing. In most cases, we are able to set up deadlines two to ten months in advance. As long as you are not a procrastinator, this should not be a problem.

Next is the "I can't write" thing. No problem. We have a brilliant team of writers that can't wait to get the story. Brad Anderson is the leader of a

*(continued on page 32)*





**Dear Friends,**

On February 1, 2002, I started working with J.W. Turf and in turn the members of MAGCS as well as NWIGCS and the ITF and WTA. It has been a great experience and one I'll always look back on with a smile. Everyone has been so helpful, friendly and patient. I thank all of you for this wonderful experience. I will always be grateful for the acceptance and friendship I have received. The support staff at J.W. Turf has also been outstanding and never has there been a more dedicated parts, service and administration group.

I missed my children growing up as I was busy conquering the business world, and now I have the same choice with my grandchildren. I'm doing it differently this time and resigned from J.W. Turf. My last day was Thursday, August 19.

This was a terribly hard decision but the right one for me at this time. As always, the hardest part of leaving is the friends you've left behind. Holly and the other folks at J.W. have been incredibly fair to me and I hope we're always as good of friends as we are today. I've also met some of the finest superintendents in America and hope to in some way stay in touch. I've also had the opportunity to play some great golf courses and the experience of being involved with the U.S. Open, PGA Championship and three JD Classics has been one I'll always cherish. The MAGCS is the most professional GCSAA chapter I've ever been involved with and a credit to your profession. Good luck and God bless to all of you! And remember, "Nothing Runs Like A Deere."

Sincerely,  
Gale Stenquist

*Director's Column (continued from page 5)*

group that gets the scoop on what is going on around town. All you have to do is give the facts to our "Midwest Breezes" reporters. If you have any interest at all in being a "Midwest Breezes" reporter, or if you have some news, call Brad at 708-624-6784. Another option is to simply do the best you can on your own, and our accomplished editor can help you clean up your article. One last idea is to send in a digital photo, and just write out what is going on in the photo. How easy is that?!!!

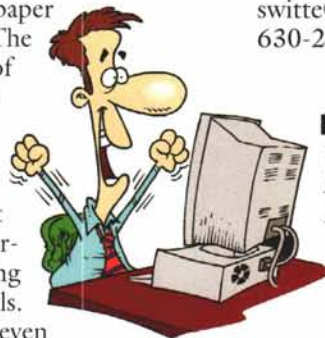
Moving on, we get to "no ideas." C'mon people! The problem is that most people think that they are not interesting. This is simply not true. What we sometimes fail to realize is that a golf course superintendent has one of the most exciting and interesting jobs around. The truth is that we have lots of interesting things to write about. We superintendents have learned to adapt and overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles on a daily basis. Now **that's** drama! The *On Course* magazine thrives on the ingenuity and creativity of the MAGCS membership. What kind of projects did you do on the course this year? Did you make any new discoveries this season? Also, just remember that life is not just grass and golf. What are you passionate about? This is what people want to hear! It could be anything. What about that big salmon you pulled in off Lake Michigan, the ski trip to Jackson Hole, or the whitewater raft-

ing trip. Anyway, you get the idea.

The final excuse I will address is "nobody asked me." Well, I'm here, and I'm asking! Winter is **WRITE** around the corner. This is the time to get thoughts on paper (and/or hard drives). The gratification, sense of accomplishment and the overall great feeling that you contributed to the MAGCS should be reason enough to get involved. More importantly, you'll be brushing up on your writing skills. On top of all that, we even give awards!

Your Editorial Committee chairman would love to hear from YOU!

Scott A. Witte, CGCS  
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**Reference**  
*Writing for Career-Education Students.*  
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