



# Hospitality Suite Brings New Meaning to Raising and Maintaining the Green Stuff!

*As most of you know, the 2004 hospitality suite was phenomenal. I was on the committee led by Sylvia Lima and kept thinking under my breath: "Thank goodness we have someone like her running the show—I'm so glad she knows what she is doing as this is something I would never be able to do!" As the year progressed, her dedication and time commitment further emphasized my opinion. I assumed that if I had done a pretty good job for her I would be on her committee once again, you know, help out as much as I could and let her do all the hard work. Well, you know what they say, "When you assume . . ."*

In December at the IPTC (Illinois Professional Turf Conference), I was asked to take the Commercial Advisory Committee Board-level position. I knew there was a lot of work to be done. The first step was to figure out where was all the information from years past so I could start the process. A big thank you is owed to Luke Cella and Sylvia for all their patience and timely responses to the countless e-mails I sent them over the next several days. I then met with Luke in person, and he promptly handed me all the files from years past. I almost croaked. Thankfully, my predecessors kept excellent notes. I put the last couple of years' history on a spreadsheet and was able to decipher what worked and what didn't. Luke and Sylvia graciously assumed the responsibility of handling the PowerPoint presentation (a HUGE help!).

I then put a committee together. Here is where the MAGCS organization really shines. Every single person that I asked jumped on board without hesitation. I now had a committee full of aggressive volunteers to whom I am extremely grateful: Garry Anderson, Keith Copersmet, A. J. Huey, Sylvia Lima, Dave Nadler, Bruce Schweiger, Howard Shuck, Scott Spier, Steve Stewart, Marsha Traves, Rick Uthe and Sam Wineinger. To these fine professionals, my heartfelt thanks for getting the solicitations in on time! Not only did this committee make the necessary calls to our existing sponsors, they accepted my challenge to seek out at least three new sponsors for this well-publicized event. Some of our new sponsors are: Aquatrols, Aspen Valley Landscape, Cleary Chemicals, DHD Tree Products, DryJect Midwest, Kasper Trucking, Martin Design Partnership, Pendleton Turf Supply, Peat, Inc. and Rabine Paving. Thank you for your support of and faith in our organization. A special request to our superintendents is now in order: Please extend your thanks to these new sponsors if you do business with them today, and if you are in the market for a new product or service, please consider one of these fine companies.

I would also like to thank the committee members, fellow vendors and of course, "step-up-to-the-plate" superintendents who helped me man the welcome table and the door. It is truly a sacrifice to give up the socializing on a business trip. A very special thanks to Gary Hearn, who stayed by my side both nights and kept our cash receipts in order! Thank you as well to Garry Anderson, Ed Braunsky, Keith Copersmet, Kevin DeRoo, Jay Druhan, Derek Florian, Brett Grams, Tom Healy, Dave Holler, Nick Hongisto, Tim Keating, Kevin Knudson, Steve Lane, Sylvia Lima, Chuck Odierno, Bruce Schweiger, Scott Spier, Steve Stewart and Rick Uthe.

You would think that with so many people working outside of the suite,

*(continued on page 6)*

*The biggest thank you, of course, goes to our sponsors participating in the Golden Tee Club. Our motto states it simply: You're the Best!*

there would be plenty of room inside the suite. Unfortunately, that was not the case. I apologize for the tight quarters on Thursday night; if you returned the next night, you were afforded a much larger room. Seriously, we were not trying to hide from you!

The biggest thank you, of course, goes to our sponsors participating in the Golden Tee Club. Our motto states it simply: You're the Best! I hope you will continue to support the MAGCS organization throughout the year. Our superintendents truly enjoy the suite and appreciate your generosity.

Another bright spot of the MAGCS Hospitality Suite is our relatively new split-the-pot raffle. In 2004, we were extremely pleased to have raised \$2,800 between the two nights. This year, we were truly blown away. The first night we raised \$3,400, of which \$1,700 was awarded to Dan Howard of Master of the Links. This is an awesome occurrence since Master of the Links sponsors their own scholarship offering. What is that saying? The more you give, the more you receive? The second night was just as

favorable in light of the slightly fewer people attending: \$2,200 was raised and we were able to give away \$1,100 to Patrick Ryan, a student at Kishwaukee Community College. Patrick's professor tells us that Patrick is a true-blue turf management student, earning his own money through many odd jobs on courses in the area to pay for his trip to Orlando. Furthermore, he is going to be doing an internship at Bethpage Golf Course in New York this summer. We truly picked a winner! I sure hope Jay Druhan (Membership Committee chair) was able to track him down and get his membership application filled out! In any case, due to the influx of money raised at the Hospitality Suite, our MAGCS Scholarship Fund is in such great shape that Paul Bastron of the Scholarship Committee is considering raising the amount of our two MAGCS scholarship offerings in the very near future. In just two short years of this split-the-pot raffle, we have been able to raise more than \$4,000 for our scholarship program. Thank you to all that participated in the raffle; who knows, maybe next

year will be your lucky year—we have yet to have a superintendent win.

Some other pertinent facts: we averaged 300 people per night, superintendents and their families comprising more than half. My committee members were able to raise about \$41,000; our expenditures were as follows:

<u>Thursday Night</u>	<u>Friday Night</u>
Food:	Food:
\$8,403	\$9,181.25
Beverages:	Beverages:
\$9,183	\$6834.74

Including tips and service charges, our total outlay was about \$43,000. So, we just about covered our expenses. Once again, a huge THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS! The MAGCS Hospitality Suite continued its fine tradition of providing the best for the best group of customers in the industry.

Keep your eyes open for the dates and location for next year as we hit the streets of New Orleans! If you would like to help at next year's event, please don't hesitate to give me a call!



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