



Find Answers, Friendship at the Show

Wintertime is budget time. It is time to analyze, tweak and possibly nix programs from 2004 and plan in-detail programs for 2005. And with these programs, there is some indecision as to effectiveness versus price; or we can always question, am I getting a good bang for my buck? For me, these questions often find good answers while I am attending the Golf Industry Show.

This year's show is expecting more than 20,000 participants. I counted 150-plus MAGCS members planning to attend. Eight hundred exhibitors will be spread out over 250,000 square feet of floor space. However, this year it will be easier to get around the floor. The floor space is being divided into solution centers.

It will also be a time to honor Distinguished Service Award winner Tommy D. Witt, CGCS from Northmoor Country Club in Highland Park. Congratulations, Tommy!

And we also expect great things from more than 30 MAGCS golfers competing in the golf championships. It will be hard to beat our success from 2004, but most important is the networking and friendships developed during the time spent on and off the golf course.

And I know we all look forward to the hospitality receptions. The MAGCS-sponsored hospitality reception is at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Salons 11 and 12, on February 10-11 from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. each evening. I hope to see everyone enjoying a terrific venue provided by our commercial representatives, to whom I say, thank you for your generosity!

Not only can I get my education and technical questions answered at the Golf Industry Show, I really look forward to networking. Oftentimes, personal experience is invaluable and a new friendship is rewarding. While attending the leadership conference in Lawrence, Kansas last spring, a discussion during a break ensued concerning the efforts of local governments in restricting use of fertilizers or pesticides. Sometimes, these grassroots efforts in a local municipality can move quickly with little or no sound data, just strong feelings or sentiment. One such case occurred in the state of Minnesota. Paul Eckholm, president of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association at the time, attended hearings and testified. This information was instrumental in getting provisions for golf courses while the state of Minnesota passed laws restricting the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus. This prompted me to start a new Advocacy and Compliance Committee for the MAGCS, with committee chair Todd Schmitz. This committee will advocate to our law-making entities accurate data upon which to base decisions when constructing laws. The committee will also help develop a list of contacts within our legislature should there be a bill proposed that could affect our way of doing business. Todd Schmitz will update us on his committee in next month's *On Course*; if advocacy or compliance issues are of interest to you, please contact Todd or myself.

I hope to see many of you at the GIS and also at the hospitality reception. May everyone have safe travel to and from Orlando.



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