



Strengthening Our Alliances

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is allied with many fellow industry associations. The superintendent-member associations include the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents, the Northwestern Illinois GCSA and the Central Illinois GCSA. We also work with the Turf Equipment Technicians Association, the Chicago District Golf Association, the Green Industry, Illinois Junior Golf Association, The First Tee, the Midwest Sod Council, the Illinois PGA, USGA Mid-Continent Region and the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame.

The MAGCS has forged and nurtured alliances with many fellow golf industry associations, among them other local GCSAA chapters, the CDGA, the IJGA, the IPGA and TETA.

One of the organizations with which we work most closely is the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation. This month's golf meeting is a combined meeting with the ITF. Tom Prichard will be hosting the joint venture at the Ivanhoe Club in central Lake County, IL. Everyone is encouraged to attend the event on May 23 at a great venue for a great cause—raising monies for the ITF.

The ITF was founded in 1959 and raises funds to help support turfgrass research and education in Illinois. The dollars generated from the combined meetings help support research at the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University. The monies also have been used to help establish a permanent turf pathologist position at the U of I and for undergraduate scholarships for turf students. I encourage all MAGCS members to participate in the ITF functions. You can find further information at www.illinoisturfgrassfoundation.org or by contacting our shared executive director, Luke Cella, at 630-243-9483.

At this year's Masters at Augusta National, the GCSAA executive members met with executive members from the USGA to further bolster what is already a strong relationship. I know many superintendents and their golf clubs have utilized the Turf Advisory Service with outstanding results. And those people who were able to attend the CDGA/USGA Green Seminar at Medinah this past March were able to benefit enormously from Paul Vermeulen's presentation. Paul has always spoken passionately in regards to improving the superintendent's communication with committees, chairmen and members.

The Turf Equipment Technicians Association serves our area mechanics with informational and networking opportunities. The youth of today seem to have a lack of interest in getting involved in golf course mechanics—we're just not as cool as NASCAR and create little buzz. However, Russell Stachlewitz at Kishwaukee College in Malta, IL, tells us about their turf tech program. Please encourage anyone you know that shows interest in equipment repair and management to consider the program at Kishwaukee.

And finally, if you did not get a chance to read the article "The Shape of Things to Come" by Cathy Miles Ralston that ran in last month's magazine, please do so. This article is an overview of a strategic plan in the works. The mission statement is online and this is a great place to comment and offer feedback. Remember that this plan is in the works and can only become a solid membership-owned plan with your input. 