



Winter Highlights

Winter's end is in sight; the reels are sharpened, the equipment looks brighter, requisition for new equipment is on the horizon, and the budget is pulsing with new figures. I am starting to get the itch for a new season after the dreary month of January. January is always a slow month for me, following on the heels of December—a short month with the holidays. January is most of the time sunless and cold, a good month to work on the budget, read some trade magazines or a book.

Winter abounds with educational opportunities, so take advantage, especially if you are among the GCSAA Class A members on a three-year renewal cycle and facing a June 30, 2006 deadline to fulfill renewal requirements.

That said, I am not a big reader of books, but during the winter months I try to read a couple of books that enhance my well-being and improve my self-image. I just finished a very entertaining book by Ben Wright, *Good Bounces & Bad Lies*, an autobiography of his adventures around the game of golf. A book that offers a lot of inspiration for the soul and opportunities to reflect on self-image is the book by Joel Osteen, *Your Best Life Now*. So grab a magazine or a book and catch up on some reading to pass the time.

The GCSAA National Convention (Golf Industry Show) is happening during the month of February in Atlanta and hopefully you will be or were able to attend. Just a reminder, the hospitality room is being held on Thursday (February 9) and Friday (February 10) at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta on Peachtree Street. Expect highlights to include opening session (Thursday the 9th at 8:30 a.m.) for presentation of the Old Tom Morris Award to Dr. Joe Duich, developer of A and G bentgrass varieties, and Innovative Superintendent Session I (Thursday the 9th at 7:00 a.m.) when Jon Jennings of Chicago Golf Club speaks on "Creating and Presenting a Self-Evaluation."

The Silent Auction is also worth checking out; I have been participating for the last three years and really enjoy this event. I have received some items at a lower cost and saved some money for the club, plus the proceeds go to The Environmental Institute for Golf.

GCSAA Class A members may be interested in this update. Members who are on a three-year renewal cycle have until June 30, 2006 to remain a Class A member. Members must attain 3.0 points (1.2 must be educational points) and also provide proof of possessing a pesticide license; if these requirements are not fulfilled by June 30 of this year, you are reclassified as a Superintendent Member. Please check with GCSAA by going to "My Member Central" on the Web site and viewing your current transcripts. If you have any further questions, please contact Dan Sterr (membership chairperson) or myself and hopefully we can resolve your problem.

An Assistant Superintendent Workshop takes place on February 23 at the Midwest Golf House. The theme is "Weather." Superintendents, please inform your staff about this event; give them a chance to take a break to get educated and enjoy their colleagues. Thank you.

I'm going to leave you with a few quotes by famous people. Lee Trevino: "I'm not saying my golf game went bad, but if I grew tomatoes, they'd come up sliced." Sam Snead: "These greens are so fast I have to hold my putter over the ball and hit it with the shadow." Tommy Bolt: "Putting allows the touchy golfer two or four opportunities to blow a gasket in the short space of two to 40 feet."

Have a safe trip and hopefully I will see many of you in Atlanta.

