



Rites of Spring – Changes Ahead

On behalf of the MAGCS Board, I would like to begin by wishing Cathy Miles Ralston much success in future endeavors. Ralston brought professional style to the magazine as Editor for the past seven years. She elevated On Course to a higher standard of quality and presentation. Ralston's guidance and excellence in journalism are certainly appreciated. I wish her the best of luck.

Through much thought and deliberation, MAGCS Board and I decided to seek another direction with *On Course* by contracting the management of the magazine with Luke Cella, our Executive Director. This magazine is one of the Association's greatest assets. The Board and I felt that centralization of the management of *On Course* with the management of the affairs of the Association will streamline both operations. As we have seen the management of the Association reach new levels in recent years, I look forward to the future of *On Course* with Luke at the helm.

Atlanta Show

I trust everyone had a great time in Atlanta during the Golf Industry Show. I also hope that you indulged yourself at one or both of the Hospitality Receptions. I would like to thank our most generous sponsors for making those two events successful. When I return from the Golf Industry Show my head is always full of new ideas and theories. I always hope I am able to digest and incorporate all that I have seen into my scheme and plans for my golf course.

My biggest enjoyment from the show is just meeting colleagues and spending time with friends. As you get older, these precious moments – being brief, tend to shape your existence. I would like to congratulate Dr. Joe Duich, Professor Emeritus at Penn State University, on winning this year's Old Tom Morris Award.

New Life

Spring is in the air and this is one of the best times of the year. I enjoy the 'smell' of freshness and knowing that the new season is just around the corner. Spring brings in new life as tree buds are swelling, grass is turning green, crocuses are blooming and wildlife becomes more abundant.

I start to get excited during this time of year as I anticipate the new challenges ahead. As I begin getting projects started, my staff returns from hibernation with new hope. And – of course – I start swinging a golf club again. You know that winter is past and the rites of spring are upon us when you are looking forward to touring the course, reviewing winter's damage and socializing with customers/members as I am.

March Madness

I really enjoy college basketball, especially during tournament time. I was on pins and needles last year when the Illini went through the tournament bracket to the championship game in St. Louis. I hope the Illini can repeat this year; however it might be a very tall order. For this to occur, the underclassmen will have to step up and meet the new challenges that Dee Brown and James Augustine have given them. March madness is soon to begin, I enjoy watching the double-digit seeded teams play hard to win or lose by a few points by over-rated powerhouse teams. Those first four days of the tournament are truly maddening. Sit back on a comfortable couch and enjoy the basketball madness before the golfing madness kicks in. GO ILLINI!

