



Leaves Are Changing Color

Where did the season go? Fall is here and winter is just around the corner. My presidency is coming to an end, and I am gasping for air. This has been a very busy year for me, what with being President, course issues at Salt Creek, and outside distractions from friends and family. It's still a great pleasure being President of the best chapter in GCSAA.

I love Fall, the best of all seasons. I enjoy playing golf this time of the year. I tend to admire the landscaping more. It's less crowded on the course. I get a chance to relax and absorb the cool fresh air, but most of all – I enjoy doing projects. There is time for reflection, for growth (course value and improvements), for personal (gratification and desire) and family (understanding and unselfishness) issues. These are values that can be lost due to distractions, self doubt, and being misguided. This is the time to find those values again.

Our annual event is almost upon us. Tony Kalina has a great line-up for the 54th Midwest Turf Clinic being held at Medinah Country Club, on November 1st. There's a Roundtable with Course Architects, a speaker from R.I.S.E. (dealing with pesticides), speakers from USGA for the afternoon session, and an 'Improv' skit dealing with golf. Please, Paul Voykin, put your phone on VIBRATE in case Dudley calls you from that heavenly golf course. Again I want to emphasize involvement (Sept. issue). Get involved with committees, or run for a position on the Board. The satisfaction of working with your peers and colleagues is rewarding and priceless. Also in November, we have the Fall Dinner Dance at Ruth Lake Country Club. I want to thank Dan Marco for hosting this event. Bring your spouse or significant other, let your hair down, and dance the night away.

Reflecting back on the PGA Tournament at Medinah in August, I want to thank Tom Lively and his crew for allowing me to work during tournament week. I hope I wasn't a burden, especially to all the volunteers who worked the grounds. It was a pleasure to interact with the touring Professionals (during the practice rounds and on the driving range), to meet Rees Jones – course architect for Medinah C.C., to watch Paul Vermuelen check turf conditions and ask PGA Officials about course set up, to see Superintendent volunteers doing stimpmeter readings, vendors supplying great food, and all the other volunteers. The greatest enjoyment came from working with college students, interns, assistants and employees from other courses, and Tom Lively's staff. What a connection can come from being with a large group of people working to provide a venue that both the Professionals and the Fans can enjoy, whether in person or from their television sets. I gained a better understanding from this group of what the future is in the turf industry. I would like to wish you all good luck in your future endeavors, thank you for the memories, and thank you for letting me be a part of your life for a fraction of a moment.

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