



Updates and Changes

This month there is no shortage of topics to discuss so we might as well jump right in.

GCSAA CEO Steve Mona

By this time everyone is aware that on September 26th it was announced that GCSAA CEO Steve Mona had accepted the newly created Chief Executive Officer position of the World Golf Foundation. Mona has committed to assisting the GCSAA for up to 6 months as the GCSAA Board of Directors select a new CEO and complete the transition process. The GCSAA Board of Directors are already in the process of selecting Mona's replacement. During the Chapter Delegates meeting, delegates will be briefed on the selection process. This information will be part of the Chapter Delegates report presented at the annual meeting on November 7th at the Midwest Turf Clinic.

Under Steve's tenure the GCSAA has accomplish many goals including: overall growth of the association, development of the Golf Industry Show, establishment of the Professional Development Initiative, improved offerings in continuing education, and the evolution of the GCSAA Foundation into the Environmental Institute for Golf. While news of Mona's departure may be bittersweet, the GCSAA can take pride in the decision that was made 14 years ago to select a highly skilled individual as the leader of our association.

The MAGCS wishes Steve and his family all the best as he assumes his role as CEO of the World Golf Foundation, and we extend our support to the GCSAA Board of Directors as they embark on the difficult task of selecting a new CEO.

MAGCS Website

The updated MAGCS website was launched in September. All members are asked to visit the new website and set up your personalized screen name and password.

The website is a work in progress. Many of the pull down menu items have already been populated and are ready for use. Some menu items are still under development and are not fully functional yet. If you come across any "bugs" please bring them to our attention so that we can make the necessary corrections.

Launching the updated website was a critical step as we move closer to our deadline for going paperless. You may recall that our long range plan called for a conversion to paperless in 2008. The updated website puts us in a position to achieve this

goal. Our webmaster shows that several members have already logged on and switched their password. Don't get left behind! If you have not yet logged on and switched your password please do so as soon as possible. If you need assistance please contact the MAGCS business office at 630-243-7900 and Luke will walk you through the process. Some MAGCS services have already gone paperless such as the employment referral service. The balance of our transfer to paperless will take place over the next couple of months.

Class C Advisory Committee – Habitat for Humanity Project

I can not say enough about the out standing work that the Class C Advisory Committee has accomplished. I would personally like to thank committee chairman John Ekstrom, (Assistant Superintendent at Hinsdale Golf Club) and the rest of his committee for all their hard work. John's term as Chairman of the Class C Advisory Committee comes to an end this fall. The chairman of this committee is appointed by the President to a 2-year term. Michael Heustis (Assistant Superintendent at Chicago Golf Club) has been appointed as the new chairman of the Class C Advisory Committee. Michael has served on the committee for the past two years.

This fall the Class C Advisory Committee continues to lead by example as they partner with Habitat for Humanity to landscape a Habitat Home. The mission of Habitat for Humanity is to provide opportunities for home ownership to limited income families. Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with people in need to build modest and affordable housing. The houses are sold to those in need at no profit and with no interest.

Greg Martin of Martin Design Partnership has volunteered his services to design the landscape and develop the required plant list. We will solicit donation from MAGCS members to cover the materials need for the project. The home is located in Aurora at 119 N. Sumner Street and is scheduled for completion in November.

This project is a great opportunity for all members to "give back" and participate in a win – win situation. Watch for sign up information to be sent out shortly.

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- Habitat for Humanity receives professional landscaping services – WIN!!
- A fortunate family benefits from a beautiful yard. A place that the entire family can enjoy – WIN!!
- MAGCS members and vendors that donate materials establish a relationship with Habitat for Humanity and demonstrate a commitment of giving back to the community – WIN!!
- MAGCS members that volunteer their time to work on the project gain the personal satisfaction of knowing that they have given the most precious gift of all, time. Time donated so that a less fortunate family can achieve a better quality of life – WIN!!
- As an association the MAGCS reaches beyond the turf industry and establish a relationship with Habitat for Humanity (an international organization) in what we hope will develop into an annual event – WIN!!

A special thanks to Matt Breeden (Assistant Superintendent at Seven Bridges Golf Club) for all his hard work. Matt has championed this project from its inception and seen it through to fruition.

MAGCS Board Governance

In order to strengthen governance at the board level the MAGCS Board of Directors are in the process of developing job descriptions for all board positions including executive officers and directors. These job descriptions will be incorporated into a Board Members Code of Ethics. This document is set to be reviewed at the October board meeting and we expect to have it finalized prior to the annual meeting. This document will help officers and directors better understand and fulfill their responsibilities to the MAGCS membership.

Conclusion

My term as President is winding down and next month is my last Presidents message. I look forward to recapping the accomplishments of the current board and I invite all of you to attend our Annual Meeting on November 7 at Medinah Country Club.

Tim -OC

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