



Change of Season

According to www.infoplease.com, on Sunday, September 23rd, 2007 at 5:51 am EDT the autumnal equinox occurs as the sun crosses the celestial equator, from north to south, marking the beginning of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere. The change of the seasons is something that I have always enjoyed about living in the mid-west. The fall equinox also marks a period of change on the golf course. Championship tournaments have been completed. Those who were victorious have had their names added to the Champions list, and golf course superintendents shift gears as fall construction projects ramp up. Aerification and over seeding move to the fore front as courses work to restore conditions following the severe flooding and heat that we experienced during the month of August. Hopefully everyone was able to endure August with minimal damage.

Fall also marks a period of change for the MAGCS as our focus turns toward 2008. Plans are underway for the Annual Midwest Turf Clinic scheduled for November 7th at Medinah Country Club, Tom Lively, CGCS host. The slate of candidates is finalized for the MAGCS' annual meeting and election.

This year there are 3 board positions to be filled for the coming year. At the national level, the GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting is scheduled for October 12th thru the 14th. The chapter delegate meeting brings together representatives from GCSAA affiliated chapters. Delegates are responsible for carrying forward those opinions of the members within their chapter as they relate to GCSAA initiatives, issues that affect our profession, and issues that affect the membership of the GCSAA. Don Ferreri, Seven Bridges Golf Course, has agreed to serve as the MAGCS chapter delegate. I would like to thank Don for his continued service to the MAGCS in this capacity. This year the agenda for the chapter delegates meeting focuses on chapter effectiveness. Specifically, the GCSAA has asked that all chapter delegates be prepared to participate in discussion groups centered on the following six questions

1. Does the GCSAA need chapters to successfully serve members?
2. Do the Chapters need GCSAA to successfully serve members?
3. Should the GCSAA work in unison or collaboration with the chapters to serve members?
4. Would professional management help chapters successfully serve members?
5. Should all chapters and the GCSAA share the same mission, vision, and goals?
6. Would your chapter be willing to enhance the partnership with GCSAA to more effectively serve members?

All members are encouraged to take an active role in the association and voice your thought on these topics. Your feedback is important! Feel free to contact any board member and/or the chapter delegate to express your opinion. Use what ever avenue of communication is easiest: casual conversation, fax, text message, phone call, e-mail, web site posting... Your input will make for a more productive meeting. Other topics on the agenda for the Chapter Delegates Meeting include:

- The New Delegate Orientation
- What GCSAA is Doing for You
- The GCSAA Branding Campaign
- Chapter Effectiveness
- GCSAA Dues Discussion
- GCSAA Committee Selection Process
- GCSAA Association Briefing and Indicators for Success
- Presentation of the GCSAA Candidates
- Learning From our Members (what else do we need to know)
- State Economic Impact Studies
- Topics From the Delegates

It sounds like a packed 3 days. In November, at the annual meeting, Don will report back to the membership on the outcomes of the chapter delegates meeting.

As mentioned earlier, fall is a period of change. It is so palpable that you can feel it in the air around you. I hope that along with that change comes the opportunity for all MAGCS members to recover from the stress of the summer months and kick back and enjoy some football!

Tim **-OC**