

## ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Dave Braasch, Glen Erin Golf Club



# Presidential Update

*As I change my desktop calendar over from February to March, I happen to notice that spring is less than three weeks away (even the maples have begun to bud out), but the snow and ice covered golf course is making it hard for me to believe. It was nice to get a break from the weather by attending the Golf Industry Show in Orlando back in February and enjoy a few days in the 70s. It was great to see the number of people who were able to attend the MAGCS Hospitality suite at the Renaissance Orlando at Sea World. As many of you know, we tried something different this year by moving the room "off site" rather than being in the headquarters hotel as we have been in years past. The thought process behind this was to try to eliminate the number of "strays" walking into the room and to reduce our costs. Through observation and conversation with MAGCS members this move proved to be successful and without inconvenience. I would like to thank our Sponsors, Sharon Riesenbeck, and her Class E Committee, and Luke Cella for a great evening.*

The second round interviews have begun for a CEO for GCSAA to replace Steve Mona. For the interim Cam Oury, GCSAA's chief financial officer and managing director of finance, will assume this position until a replacement is hired. Steve's official last day was Friday, February 29. We wish him well at his new position with the [World Golf Foundation](#).

I would like to remind everyone to visit the MAGCS website to review and post your thoughts and comments on the proposed MAGCS/GCSAA logo. The proposed logo is located in the "Forum" section of the website and, thus far, only two Board Members have voiced their opinion, that's only a .0025% response rate. Need I say more?

The following closely resembles a part of what the state of Wisconsin has already been going through as a part of their newly adopted NR151. This is a proposal by the Illinois 95th General Assembly. It:

*Creates the Phosphorous Turf Fertilizer Use Restriction Act. Provides that, beginning July 1, 2009, a person may not apply a fertilizer containing the plant nutrient phosphorus to turf in this State. Provides that the restriction does not apply when (i) a tissue, soil, or other test by a laboratory or method approved by the Agency and performed within the immediately preceding 3 years indicates that the level of available phosphorus in the soil is insufficient to support healthy turf growth or (ii) the property owner or an agent of the property owner is first establishing turf via seed or sod procedures, but only during the first growing season. Sets a maximum fine for violation of the restriction. Provides that*

*the University of Illinois Extension Service, in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency, shall study and evaluate phosphorus needs of turf throughout the State and develop the standard for the minimum amount of available phosphorus needed to support healthy turf growth. Requires the Environmental Protection Agency to produce consumer information on use restrictions and recommended best practices for lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus and on the best management practices for other residential sources of phosphorus in the urban landscape."*

This appears not to have much of an impact on your fertilization program, as long as you base it on your soil tests, which most of us already do anyway. We will keep you informed as details become available. Or, better yet, sign up to be on the MAGCS Advocacy and Compliance Committee, so that you can be one to make a difference. One of the issues we all face and will continue to face is water use. Luke Cella has recently started to attend and represent the golf course superintendents and the Green Industry Association at monthly meetings of the Northeastern Illinois Water Supply Planning Group. In January 2006, Governor Blagojevich issued Executive Order 2006-1, calling for a statewide study of water-supply issues. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has been commissioned by the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to facilitate such a process for an 11-county planning area of northeastern Illinois. They meet each month to formulate this study. To find more information about this process you can visit: [www.cmap.illinois.gov](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov). -OC