



Raising Standards Once Again

Congratulations. The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is the first local chapter in the United States to go "paperless." There are still a few items that you will receive via the regular mail from MAGCS. They are: On Course (now printed on 10% post-consumer content to boot), your directory, and your dues statement. I commend the board for taking this step to promote environmental stewardship in the management of the Association. From now on, electronic communication will now take on a more important role. I urge you to keep your contact information current (especially email), visit MAGCS.org often (dare I say home page?), and/or let me know if you are not receiving our emails or are having trouble with the website. Just write and send me a letter and I will be happy to help. – Please call the MAGCS office and I will get you squared away.

All of our meeting notices will be done via email and posted on the website. For those of you who want to pay online, we do process credit card transactions through our secure server. For those of you that like to pay by check, you can still register online and select the option "pay by check" at the end of your transaction. You may then print off a copy of your registration record and submit that to your club/company for a check request. I will match up the check with your registration once it is received.

I would also like to thank Parin Schmidt for helping with the redesign of the website. Parin has a very good understanding of what works, and what doesn't, what is needed and what is just window dressing. I appreciate the time he has spent with the site. Furthermore, I look forward to improving the site and invite you to send your comments along. Managing the website is like managing a golf course. There is always something that can be done to improve the place.

If you have been flipping back and forth looking for the President's Message, you won't find it. In an effort to streamline *On Course*, the Board decided on a recommendation from the editorial committee to try something new and combine some Director's Columns, print President's Messages quarterly, and have the Executive Director write a column once in a while. You will still get all the key information coming from the Association, but not all of it will be in the format that has been used in the past.

It just so happens, my column is the first of the New Year. The New Year leads me to thoughts of what is to come, namely resolutions. I've never been big on them, because I know my

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nature. I revert back fairly readily to my modus operandi, but here is one I'm going to try: Be less productive. I know most of you suffer from the same ills as I; always looking to improve things, searching for a better way, creating efficiencies to get more done, planning future tasks long in advance, preparing for uncertainties.... the list goes on. Granted, this may not be one to share with your employer, (even though I work for all of you) but I think being less productive will have its merits. A few of the ways I'm going to try to be less productive are:

Leave work at work. (I've already started this by leaving a list on my desk each night of the things I have not accomplished, so I have a place to start my next day.) It has helped me to be at home when I'm at home and relieve the guilt and stress associated with always having something to finish or complete.

Live in the moment and just be. Children are great at this. Certainly I won't look to invent games or imaginary friends, but I will try to appreciate the here and now and try not to stress out about yesterday or tomorrow. Take time to foster and build friendships, meet others and get to know them by sharing a moment or two or a cup of coffee.

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Make a little more time for myself. How else can you be less productive, and maybe self-centered at the same time? Do some of the things that you want to do, not the things you feel you have to do or need to do. Take a walk, go to the batting cage or driving range, to church or synagogue, exercise, turn the music up loud, read a book, or take a nap on the couch. Do things for you, and don't feel guilty about it.

Our work gets accomplished, because that is the type of people we are. We are driven by an inner force that wills us to

succeed. I know I will soon revert back to this, as will most of you, once the smells of freshly cut grass find their way to your nose. In the meantime, try and enjoy a few months of the new year and be a little less productive.

For those of you heading south to the Golf Industry Show, I hope you have safe and expedient travel and I hope to see you at the Midwest Hospitality Reception (details on the website). For those of you not going to Orlando, I hope to see you at some point throughout the year. **-OC**

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