

## WINTER RECAP

Nick Marfise, Park Ridge Country Club

# Class C Does it Again



*On behalf of the MAGCS Class C Committee I would like to thank everyone who came out to the Winter Workshop. The Winter Workshop is always geared towards career development and professional improvement. The morning's discussion featured speakers from the GCSAA: Lyne Tumlinson – Director of Career Services and Penny Mitchell - Senior Manager of Certification.*

Lyne and Penny explained among other things how the GCSAA has developed new standards to become a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS). The title of CGCS is designated, as the pinnacle position in golf turf management. In order to become certified you must plan ahead. It takes time and preparation to achieve this status. The good news is that you can begin your certification process now, even as an assistant. The first step you can take is to find out where you need help.

A tailor-made tool available to members on the GCSAA website is called the Professional Development Resource or PDR. The PDR is an interactive questionnaire that assesses your past and present work experiences to help outline your skills as a superintendent. This tool was developed around core proficiencies that our peers believe make a great superintendent. The PDR shows where you excel and where you need to improve your proficiencies to learn the many different aspects of being a qualified superintendent.

The other important step to begin now is to document your work and accomplishments. One of the new requirements of certification is to create a portfolio of your career and achievements. You can do this by capturing photos of projects,

recording items in a journal and creating a living history of what you have done. This is an excellent habit to get into – it will arm you with information for your next interview and career advancement.

We switched gears in the afternoon, actually jumped gears into other professions where our turf background can be used.



*Penny Mitchell and  
Lyne Tumlinson, GCSAA Staff*

Eddie Sagen - Facilities and Systems Manager for McDonalds and Eric Adkins - Director of Grounds at Toyota Park presented their professions and their start in golf. Mr. Sagen and Mr. Adkins presented together a wonderful insight into how valuable and versatile our turf degrees and knowledge have become. There are job opportunities out there that aren't focused on golf but use the same set of skills we are developing now.

Whether in golf, sports turf or another turf profession, the job market is highly competitive. The success of your facility reflects your success, so set realistic goals and accomplish those goals one at a time. Sit with your fellow co-workers and Superintendents to discuss your competitive edge, and your carrier decisions. Respect constructive feedback from your superiors and remember what you put off for tomorrow, someone else has done yesterday. **-OC**

