

## ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Scott Witte, CGCS, Cantigny Golf Course



# A Quotable Season Comes to an End

*As your president, I feel obligated to try and offer a bit of inspiration in my column. So, as I look back on 2010, I can't help but think of the German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, who said: "That which does not kill us makes us stronger." Many of you have endured nightmarish seasons due to flooding, heat, humidity, and turf diseases. There were probably moments where you scratched your heads and wondered, "What's next!"*

Another quote from Nietzsche says: "A good writer possesses not only his own spirit, but also the spirit of his friends." As I attended the Midwest monthly meetings, I sensed that the "spirit of my friends" is still in recovery mode after a long, difficult growing season. Fortunately the cool fall breezes have the same rejuvenating effect on superintendents that they have on cool season grasses. Over the course of the summer I benefited greatly from the fellowship of my friends and fellow members of the Midwest. I never underestimate the power of friendship, especially when times get tough.

One of the most important things is that we take what we learned this year and allow it to make us better. If you've made as many mental notes as I have this year, you've gained some great experience in dealing with some of nature's toughest conditions. 2010 will definitely go down as a character building year.

When it comes to character, Nietzsche also said: "Character is determined more by the lack of certain experiences than by those one has had." Obviously it wasn't our first choice to have a long, obnoxious, hot and wet summer, but we have no control

over that. Our job is to weather the storm and grind out a good product for our patrons regardless of the conditions. I applaud your efforts and I pray that you'll ultimately reap the long term benefit of the experience you gained in 2010. Granted, some of those experiences really seem to suck at the time, but in the long run, we may benefit from them.

I don't know if I've succeeded in offering some inspirational thought or not, but I've enjoyed the process. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your president in 2010. I look forward to serving as Past President in 2011, as Dan Sterr takes the reins.

Lastly, I'd like to offer my own inspirational one-liner to the members of the Midwest.

"Regardless of difficulty, may every growing season... be a season of growth."

Scott A. Witte, CGCS

President MAGCS 2010 -OC



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