

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Tony Kalina, CGCS, *Prairie Landing Golf Club*



A Different World

It's just a "Different World" now-a-days out here. To say that it's been a humbling, stress-filled, draining season would be considered a vast understatement by many. I'm sure many will be glad when this year's golf season closes. To refresh, recharge, and prepare ourselves for the 2011 season with renewed zest.

Speaking of renewed zest, the 58th Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 3, 2010, at Medinah Country Club. Curtis Tyrell, CGCS, will again host. As the MAGCS's Immediate Past President and Education Committee Chair, it is the Committee's duty to put together the education program at this annual event. The theme for this year's Turf Clinic is: "It's a Different World." GCSAA Education credits can be applied for and obtained. Here's a rundown of the highlights:

1. Can you imagine being a first-year superintendent in 2010? WOW! Well, three first-year MAGCS member superintendents did just that. Nick Leu from Blackstone GC, in Marengo, Illinois; Ben McGargill from Wynstone GC, in North Barrington, Illinois; and Scott Verdun from Kenosha CC, in Kenosha, Wisconsin, will participate in a roundtable discussion about their experiences this season. The insights and tribulations of handling a new job, learning a new course, fostering new relationships with staff and club officials, working through a very tough first season, and coping with outside interests will be valuable lessons for all to hear. I'm certain they will agree that this year, 2010, was in fact, a different world.

2. When you've got something important to share how do you share it? Getting a worthy, timely and accurate communication out to your administration, guests, and members has become critical for many superintendents and operations. In this on-line, instant access, information age, internet and mobile hand-held technologies have caused a sharp rise in the use of weblogs, email blasts, and social networking sites by golf course superintendents.

Four veteran MAGCS members will share their knowledge of these communication tools. All four have earned the GCSAA's, "C.G.C.S." mark of distinction and respect. They are: Henry Michna, Winnetka CC; Dave Ward, Coyote Run GC; Jeff Frentz, Lakeshore CC; and Luke Cella, MAGCS Executive Director. Henry and Dave will share, display, and discuss their use of weblogs. Each will walk us through their blog, showing us their creative uses about course conditioning. Jeff will discuss and display his use of email and email blasts to get his maintenance message out. And, Luke will walk us through all we need to know about social networking via the internet on Facebook

and Twitter. All will describe how they incorporate new methods of communication into golf course management.

3. Have you ever wondered what really goes on in the rhizosphere surrounding turfgrass roots? (I know I have). A good shot of 'up close and personal' is in store for the gathered membership when Gary Campbell, a certified consulting agronomist and Russ Blogg, a soil microbiologist, present their soil microbiology thriller, "Deep, Down Different." Both Gary and Russ are employed at Agri-Energy Resources, Inc., in Princeton, Illinois. They will discuss functions, roles, and interactions in the mysterious subsurface world of soil microorganisms and roots. Aerobic, facultative, anaerobic, obligate, and saproptc are just a few of the words that will forever roll from your tongue at cocktail parties and dinner tables after listening to these gentlemen. It will be exciting!

4. Lastly, Mr. Dan Roan, 'Chicago's Very Own, WGN-TV Weekend Sports Anchor,' will give our keynote address. He has hosted and co-produced pre-game and halftime shows for WGN's NBA and Major League Baseball telecasts. He is also substitute play-by-play announcer for WGN's Bulls, Cubs, and White Sox games. With the addition of the Chicago Blackhawks to WGN's programming schedule, Dan is also hosting between-period segments during hockey telecasts. Dan has won three Emmys for sports-related work while at WGN. He is an avid golfer who has qualified and participated in many Illinois Opens and other notable amateur golf championships. We are thrilled to have him give our keynote address.

In closing, on a personal note, as the MAGCS Immediate Past President, the 2010 Turf Clinic will be my last official board responsibility before my tenure ends. Eight years ago, at the 2002 Turf Clinic, I was elected to serve the MAGCS Board of Directors. It brought me a great deal of personal and professional reward. I savored serving this association, and I am whole-heartedly grateful for the opportunity and appreciative of the confidence and support you bestowed upon me. I will forever treasure the closeness of the friendships we created. It has been the utmost honor and privilege. Thank you.

I pray that God's grace will continue to fill you and yours with good health, fine spirits, and plentiful joy.

Sincerely, Tony Kalina -OC