

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Matt Kregel, *The Golf Club at Strawberry Creek*



# When do Traditions Start? Certainly Before 60 Years

*What else can one say about 2012 that hasn't already been said. Can you believe that we experienced and survived it? I always thought that the Midwest had some of the best superintendents in the country and this year we were truly able to shine. Job well done to all my fellow keepers of the green.*

The 60th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic is fast approaching. Can you believe that this great educational opportunity is turning 60? That is quite a remarkable accomplishment. The education committee has prepared a strong educational program for the day. Mark your calendars for November 14, 2012 at Medinah Country Club.

Chicago's very own turf doctor, Dr. Derek Settle, will talk about the year that was 2012. He also has formed a panel of local experts that he worked with over the year to talk about their on course findings and experiences. The panel includes fellow superintendents, Tim Christians, Brad Chamra, Scott Pavalko, and USGA Agronomist Bob Vavrek.

Dr. Rick Latin, Purdue University, one of the leading authorities on bacterial wilt will be on hand discussing that very topic. Is it for real and do we need to be concerned about it?

Steve Cook, CGCS, MG, will be in attendance discussing everyone's favorite weed, those that have gone hard, trees. Are they good, bad or indifferent? What were they thinking when they planted so many. How has the course changed with the maturity of these weeds.

Dr. Nick Christians, Iowa State University, is slated to talk on the drought of 2012 and what was involved in keeping

turf alive in the brutal heat and lack of rain. Water management will be a key proponent of this talk.

The keynote address will be from Chicago Bear Tom Thayer. For the past 16 years, Tom has been one of the voices of Bears radio on WBBM. Let's hope that come mid-November there still is plenty of excitement and buzz in the air concerning football in Chicago.

Don't forget about President Kohlstedt's year in review, chapter elections and the numerous awards that are given out on this day.

The education committee is always looking for ideas/topics for education and speakers for our monthly meetings. Please pass along that information and we will reach out to that individual. Along the same lines, *On Course* is always looking for content for its monthly publication. We encourage you to contribute to your magazine. It can be turf related or something completely off the wall. Get the creative juices flowing and be heard.

Happy aerating to all and I hope many will have irrigation systems winterized and snow mold protection applied when we meet on November 14, 2012 at Medinah Country Club for the 60th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic. **-OC**

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