

Hello 2013



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Believe or not we are coming up on the heels of another golf season here in the Midwest. I hope that everyone had some time to relax and recharge the batteries, especially after the last season.

2012 was not only challenging in all aspects of golf course maintenance, it was also difficult to enjoy the game of golf. Hopefully 2013 will be more forgiving and allow us to enjoy some time-out for recreation, networking and education. The 2013 schedule is rounding into form and I'm excited about the venues that will be welcoming us. The schedule consists of our normal monthly functions, and as a committee, we are looking to introduce a new event to try and spark some more participation and excitement.

Starting things off for the season, we will give it another try at Calumet Country Club. Unfortunately, the scheduled College Championship last fall was cancelled due to weather. Superintendent **Matt Harstad** is opening the doors back up for us and hosting the annual Spring Scramble on April 30th. Let's hope that Mother Nature is cooperative and allows Matt to showcase the fruits of his and his staff's labor.

On May 13, **Kirk Spieth** will host the Midwest and ITF in our combined meeting at Beverly Country Club. It has been a while since we've visited this club on the Southside of Chicago and will be a nice chance to play this Championship course. I'm sure the ITF will set up a game to make it fun and intriguing for all.

A change that just came upon us is the June Monthly Meeting. We've pushed it to July 22 and look forward to playing one Chicagoland's hidden little gems, Edgewood Valley Country Club. Superintendent, **Ron McCarthy** will host the July meeting where we will honor the Assistant Superintendent Champion and the Dom Grotti Champion. This is a great event to reward your Assistant by welcoming them to participate, as well as getting the opportunity to spend some time together outside of work and have some fun.

Because of the meeting switch from June to July, this June the Midwest is planning to add a new 9-hole event to its lineup. The idea was favored by many who completed our recent membership survey. The understanding of the time it takes out of one's day for an 18-hole event made this a viable idea and we thought we'd give it a shot. **Chuck Barber** will be opening the doors at St. Charles Country Club for golf and then an informal BBQ at his shop following the event. Dates for these events haven't been set; keep your eyes peeled for those to be released later.

MAGCS will still host the Family Night Picnic at the Kane Country Cougars game on July 20. It is a great time to get the family out of the house and spend some time with everyone. Games are always exciting and how can you beat a night at the ballpark with family and friends?

The battle for the MAGCS Regular and Senior crowns will be on August 26th. **Steve Van Acker** and Crystal Lake Country Club will be our host for these Championships. Steve wanted to host the event a bit earlier on the calendar so it didn't compete with our fall aerification schedules and every thing else that seems to happen at that time of year. These are small adjustments worth trying out; hopefully we can see more people competing for the top spot this season.

To wrap up the season we will all get the pleasure to experience the latest golf course addition to Chicago when we are welcomed by **Michael Heustis** and Chicago Highlands Club. The golf committee is looking at a new format for this event, so stay tuned. We look forward to playing this new track and couldn't ask for a better way to round out the end of the season.

We all know it can be a challenge to get away for an event but we hope to see you this year. Participation is key in keeping these events alive and supporting our fellow members as they roll out their best to host us. Plus I ask, why shouldn't you reward yourself with a day of fun? These events can be a good way to enjoy friends and colleagues and a great way to get some answers through networking and meeting people like yourself in the industry.

