

2014 Event Planning



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Briarwood Country Club

GIS 2014 is in the past so now it's time to start thinking about the 2014 season. I'm finding it hard to do as everything is still so white and cold. What an unreal winter we are having here in Chicago. Normally I enjoy this time of year and I like to see it go long.

Like most this year, I'm ready to see the snow disappear and the mercury rise. No matter the complaints, in a few months the our season will be kicking in full gear, not only with work on the golf course, but with Midwest education and golf events too. Our lineup for 2014 is shaping up though some details still need to be ironed out at a couple of our sites. As every year the committee tries to spread the events around the area, and it seems this year we've accomplished just that.

Our March Meeting is the last of the education only events and is early this year, March 6 at Midwest Golf House. The education committee has done a great job of lining up speakers for this half day of education on fungicide research, new products, and golf history. Our staff will cover the topics and bring you a recap of the topics in a future issue of On Course.

April we get into the swing of things as, David Kohley and Silver Lake Country Club will open their doors for us to carry out the annual spring scramble. Dave, our MAGCS President, is excited to have us come enjoy the golf course. We can all hope that by then the snow is gone and the sun is warm! (We purposefully scheduled the first outdoor event in the south for this reason.)

The month of May we travel further south to the Country Club of Peoria, as Andy Morris, Golf Course Superintendent welcomes us for the combined ITF/MAGCS outing. This event should be great; the ITF/MAGCS seem to always find a top notch place to play. Andy has done a great deal of work over the years and I've heard nothing but rave reviews about it. It will be a nice change of scenery to have some rolling hills and undulations that are scarce around Chicagoland.

In June we stay near Chicago, but head out west to Aurora Country Club to visit John Gurke, CGCS. The June event is always well attended as the Dom Grotti trophy is up for grabs and the Assistants' Championship is competed. Honor your Assistant by treating them to a day of golf with you. Maybe you'll come home with some hardware and a permanent place in the MAGCS history books.

The Family Night Picnic at the Kane County Cougar game has been a routine event for a Saturday night in the summer for our MAGCS members. This year we are changing things up; a family picnic is being planned for our families at the Midwest Golf House. We're planning to set up some games and golf for the children and maybe a few for adults, with food and refreshments for all. Last year, we also welcomed a new event in the month of July, the 9 or I should say 12 hole event. The event was held and great reviews followed. Plans are still being put into place for this event for 2014 and a venue will be announced soon.

Last season, Steve VanAcker hosted the MAGCS Championship in late August before the busy month of September was upon us. Following that lead, Ryan Tully will host the MAGCS Championship the last week of August at Harborside International. The course will definitely provide a challenge to all our competitors. We're also working on the format and scoring for the Championships to make things go more smoothly.

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Director's Column continued from page 3

We've purposefully adjusted the Midwest event schedule, trying to stay clear of September with a holiday and aeration. If you still want to get out and play, I urge you to head up to Sheboygan and play in the Wee One event at Pine Hills. If you've never done it, take the opportunity, it is a treat and supports a great cause. More and more support keeps coming in for the Wee One. In fact, I just noticed on Twitter that two new events are being held this year in Ohio and Missouri- Kansas. This is great!

Fall golf will be coming to the North Shore this season as the October event will be held at Briarwood Country Club. October used to be home to the College Championship but last year we changed the format to a two-man team in a Ryder Cup format (6 holes stroke play, 6 holes best ball and 6 holes scramble) and all enjoyed it. We'll keep the format this year; it is never too early to start picking your partner. I look forward to hosting everyone here at BCC and enjoying fall golf.

We'll wrap up our 2014 season as we do each year, moving inside, on November 12 at Medinah Country Club for the Midwest Turf Clinic. We have another full year ahead on the Midwest calendar. Let's hope that Mother Nature is kind to us with a temperate summer after the winter we've been dealt. I thank all the hosts for opening their doors for us in 2014. As Golf and Arrangements Chairman, I can share with you that it hasn't been the easiest to find host clubs and superintendents. We have a few commitments for 2015, but for the most part, our future calendar remains open. I ask that you consider hosting an event for your fellow members. I look forward to seeing you at an event throughout the season. @

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