



Peaks and Valleys

How many times do you get asked what you do during winter, especially when someone finds out you have a seasonal job. (My favorite sentence that usually follows is something to the effect of spending winters in Florida with the great migration of the blue hairs playing golf). Wouldn't it be nice if we could just turn it off completely for a few months?

I always find myself defining what seasonal is to “those people”. The only thing seasonal about the golf course superintendent profession is that the job is cyclic or recurring throughout the year. Seasonal doesn't mean that the job ever comes to a complete halt like an intermission during the acts of a play or maybe halftime during a football game. The job might become a bit adagio, or slow during the winter months, but it never stops altogether. You would go nuts if it did anyhow.

Try managing an Association of professionals whose job is seasonal. Things can become cyclic squared in a hurry. Once the monthly golf/education meetings stop, it is right into annual meeting – end of year – Midwest Turf Clinic – dues renewal-board orientation – committee assignments – dinner dance – editorial calendar – committee meetings – strategic planning meetings – magazine advertising schedule – hospitality reception – monthly meeting schedule – January meeting – GIS – suddenly it is March again and we are preparing for the Past President's Council trying to get out the April meeting notice and the rushing to get the directory printed. I've always been a seasonal person. I like the changes that each part of the year brings, and I always like the familiarity when it comes around again.

As we enter the slow, take some time to prepare for the next year, think about the areas that gave you trouble this past season. This is when professional development begins. Now is the time to educate ourselves, plan ahead, and learn a little so next year's peak won't seem so high. Take a seminar, a class, or stand up and teach one – you will be amazed how much you will learn when you prepare a lecture. Need a forum? We've got plenty. Just ask.

Illinois Professional Turf Conference

Illinois Professional Turf Conference (IPTC) Education Highlights:

There are two great seminars offered on Wednesday – the first is Leadership 360 by Steve Keating of the Toro

Company. This workshop will provide you with some new insights to management, staff motivation, empowerment, and ultimately greater leadership ability.

MAGCS very own **Steve Schendel** will also present in the on Wednesday. His workshop is designed for superintendents who really want to make a difference in the development of their assistants. Think your assistants are prepared when they leave your course? Take a look and see the process Steve has developed as a trainer for American and Eagle Golf Corporations. Are you currently an assistant? All the better – come and attend this workshop to make certain your current employer is offering all they can for your career advancement.

In addition Dr. Trey Rogers will present his findings on the ball mark repair tool study that he completed at Michigan State. Though I can tell you the one that works best is the one that is used, Dr. Rogers will give you the low down on what he found out.

Other MAGCS members are slated for a round-table discussion about projects that they recently completed.

Tim Anderson, CGCS, Al Fierst, Dan Marco, CGCS, Dave Ward, and **Dan Charlton** will share their insight and experiences from the planning stages to the completed product. If you are planning any type of project (large or small) or even talking about one at your golf course, this round-table is for you.

If you need to re-test or test for the Illinois Pesticide Applicator's license, you will be able to do it at the IPTC. Have you noticed how crowded the exams have gotten in the spring? Beat the rush by taking the test early this year. You can laugh at your friends when they have to take the test in April on the first nice warm day of the season.

Remember the IPTC is at a new location, the **Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center** December 10-11-12. You should have received your registration packet in the mail. Please fill it out and send it in. You can register online at illinoisturfgrassfoundation.org as well. Also, the Bears are

(continued on next page)

playing on Thursday (December 11) and the ITF is planning a few festivities around the game.

Website Update

Every time MAGCS sends a mass email, some bounce back. We have tried to contact most of you by USPS mail to get you to update your information. If you have not heard from us in a long time, please check your account with MAGCS to make sure we have your correct email. In addition, it would help for all members to add MAGCS to your **safe senders** list. The accounts to add are: luke@magcs.org and admin@magcs.org. This will tell your computer that we are A-OK, we are really.

On Course

Thank you all that have contributed to the magazine over the past year. Congratulations to Tim Anderson, CGCS and Dr. Derek Settle on their award winning articles, "Charles Bartlett – A Historical Tribute" and "A Family Doctor". The following articles were considered for this year's editorial awards:

Ray Gerber Entries

November 2007 – "2007—You Are Not Alone" - Fred Behnke, CGCS
December 2007 – "I Recently Jointed N.A.G.A." - Harry Lovero
December 2007 – "Steve Mona Named as CEO of the World Golf Foundation" - Tim Anderson, CGCS
January 2008 – "Basamid Kills – Tips and Techniques" - Samuel MacKenzie, CGCS
March 2008 – "Synthetic Turf on the Course" - Jeff VerCautren
March 2008 – "Steep Grass Faced Bunkers" - Joel Purpur, CGCS
April 2008 – "Charles Bartlett – A Historical Tribute" - Tim Anderson, CGCS {Winner}
May 2008 – "Building a Stronger Management Team at NIGM" - Todd Shmitz

Opperman Entries

August 2007 – "Choosing Grasses for Un-Mowed Rough" - Tom Voigt
August 2007 – "Instant Message" - Keith Krause & Luke Cella, CGCS
September 2007 – "Emerald Ash Borer – One Year Later" - Luke Cella, CGCS
September 2007 – "Toro Parts Distribution" - Steve Sphuler
October 2007 – "Making the Right Renovation Decisions" - Michael Heustis

October 2007 – "The R.E.D Zone" - Keith Krause
November 2007 – "The Benefits of Going Green with Natives" - Doug Bauer
December 2007 – "Thoughts for the Off Season" - Gus Santos
January 2008 – "Special Events Require Special Considerations" - Paul Vermeulen
February 2008 – "Pay Me Now, or Pay Me Later" - David Marquardt
March 2008 – "Fixes are Easy Once the Problem is Found" - Glenn Peters
April 2008 – "A 'Family Doctor'" - Derek Settle, PhD {Winner}
May 2008 – "So You got an iPod for Christmas-Time to Open it Up" - Larry Collins & John Gurke, CGCS
May 2008 – "How Reliable is Your Pump Station" - Chris Plumb
June 2008 – "Global Warming, Climate Change, and YOU" - Dr. Randy Kane
June 2008 – "Emerald Ash Borer 2008" - Greg Oltman
June 2008 – "Donzi" - Darrick Robbins
July 2008 – "Four Years of Testing Yields Interesting Results in Bentgrass Trials" - Tom Voigt, PhD
July 2008 – "The Drainage Dilemma" - Tom Shapland
August 2008 – "Tree Shade Exacerbates Physiological Decline of Greens during a Chicago Summer" - Derek Settle, PhD
August 2008 – "A Method To Prioritize Your Ash Trees And Protect Them From The Emerald Ash Borer" - Thomas Green, PhD
August 2008 – "Racing Fever—Have You Caught It?" - Virgil Range

MAGCS is always looking for articles for the magazine. There are plenty of stories out there and now is the time to remove them from your brain and share them with your friends. If you have format or technical questions, MAGCS.org hosts our author guidelines. If you have content or extraction method questions, please contact 630-243-7900 or luke@magcs.org.

Midwest Personalities ONLINE

It can't get any easier. We've created an online form for all MAGCS members to fill out. Next time you see the link in our email, take ten minutes and fill out the form. If you didn't get the email, (see above – Website Update) head to the website and look under the members tab, and click on Midwest Personality Profile. **-OC**



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