

Florida: There are more local ordinances being formed to propose restrictions as opposed to statewide ordinances. At this time there are bans on certain fertilizer applications in over 40 counties. This has been confusing. Superintendents are advocating on golf's behalf.

Labor and Immigration

- Support for H-2B Visa Program
- This is a federal government program for businesses to get temporary visas for immigrant workers
- This has not been used very much in Illinois

Pesticides

The main concerns are:

- Safe and responsible use of pesticides
- Continued use and availability of effective products
- Methyl-bromide and chlorothalonil are products on the "radar" to eliminate usage



Value of Golf

- Activists have been "busy" with Endangered Species Act Litigation
- Example: Sharps Park Golf Club in California

GCSAA has taken part in an advocacy message program:

- WEAREGOLF
- Golf has a profound economic and charitable impact
- We are on the leading edge of environmental sustainability and stewardship
- Americans enjoy health and wellness participating in golf
- Golf provides a leading role in efforts to support our troops
- We want the golf industry to be treated "fairly and equitably" as a business

Water Management

- In Illinois we have the NPDES Pesticide General permit
- This is a permit required for any pesticide application made to "waters of the state"

Chava wrapped up her presentation with what the GCSAA Government Relations Program was going to be moving forward in 2014 and beyond. The key statements are:

1. Develop a "key contacts" program. This is an actual job that they are looking to fill. The goal is to create relationships with our members and all members of congress.
2. Create a government relations web portal on the GCSAA web site.
3. Create a government relations e-newsletter.

In conclusion Chava presented a list of upcoming "hot topics in government relations.

- FCC regulations - This pertains to mobile radio systems that will limit frequencies from a wide band to a narrow band

- Affordable Health Care Act - This is also known as Obama Care and will affect businesses that will be required to provide health care coverage to workers working over 30 hours per week.
- Globally Harmonized System of Pesticide Label - Creates changes to pesticide labels, MSDS (SDS) sheets & Written hazardous communications programs

Chava was very informative and provided a lot of information. She has been working on our behalf in government relations as a Staff Member of the GCSAA for quite a while. Government relations are all about networking and contacts. Although her physical stature does not cut an imposing presence, just to give you an insight on who we have working for us, her nickname on the "hill" is "the velvet sledgehammer." We all should feel pretty good that we have someone representing us that "has our back." Thanks Chava. @

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Bob Williams and Mike Bavier, Sr. "Bob made me go back to school and take it seriously. Mike let me take flowers from his greenhouse to woo the girl who became my bride. I'm alive today because of her." Fred worked for Mike Bavier, Sr. at Inverness prior to working at Mt. Prospect Golf Club for the past thirty years.

Fred has realized knowing how to grow grass is the least important part about being a golf course superintendent. Maybe knowing his audience, he told me, "there are a lot of people out there smarter than you – listen and learn and don't be afraid to ask for help." He went on to explain, "imagine what your job would be like without your staff on your side, be proactive, let them know what you want."

Fred worked a variety of jobs before getting into golf; working on a road crew, factory shifts, and the bus thing – he did sell women's shoes (like Al Bundy) and all this has formed him in some way. Looking back his life at Mt. Prospect Golf Club, "I am grateful for the opportunity to see some of the best golf course operations in the world through my professional associations and to have had the opportunity to try my hand at putting together a semi-reasonable facsimile of one."

Those who know Fred, I think will agree, he's a kind and gentle soul and when asked what the best thing he's learned on his own, he responded, "Be kind, everyone you meet is going through some hardship."


Fred won't miss being the boss, of that he is certain. He does miss the dawn and getting the day started at the course. It is peculiar, three of the four mentioned to me they'd miss the early mornings on the course. I'm not sure that will ever go away, but I can tell you from experience, you can still wake up early and go outside. You just have to open the door.



Congratulations Fred, Greg, Gary and Steve.



were tired of funding my endeavors and wanted to take me off their payroll. To make them happy, I went on some job interviews but nothing really panned out or piqued my interest. Then along came another gentleman, Dave Wollenberg. At the time, Dave was a salesman for Canon Turf Supply out of Indianapolis and called on Cary at Curtis Creek. Prior to working for Canon Turf, Dave was the assistant at Silver Lake Country Club under Dudley Smith (past president 1967). Dave told me that Dudley was looking for an Assistant. This lead that Dave game me led me to where I am today. I'll be starting my 23rd season at Silver Lake Country Club. If you were wondering, my golf career was put on hold. Sometimes it's not about what you know, it's who you know.

As we enter the holiday season and winter months take time from work and spend more time with your family and friends. 22 years goes really fast and the next 22 will be even faster.

Happy Holidays and New Year. 



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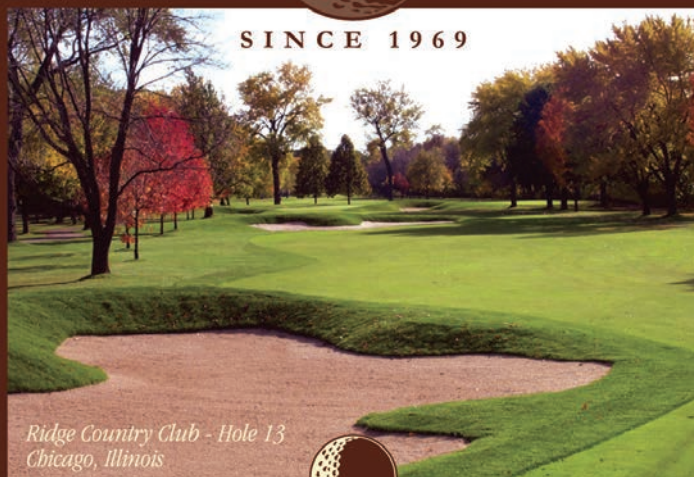
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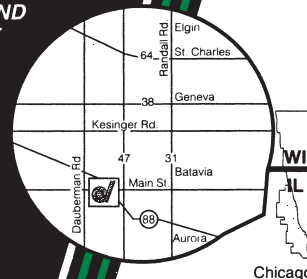
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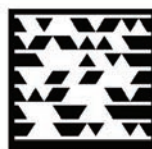
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