



CHICAGOLAND ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

Verdure Newsletter

December 2006

Rick Bowden
Dan Dinelli, CGCS
Dan Charlton
Jon Jennings, CGCS
Tommy Witt, CGCS
Dan Marco, CGCS

President
Vice President / Forum
Treasurer
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Director / Education
Director / Arrangements

Upcoming Events

Chicagoland Meetings:

January 25th – Shop Tour
February – No planned meeting
March – Annual Meeting & Elections

Hopefully everyone had a terrific and healthy holiday season accompanied by some well deserved rest and time with the family. Following a cold snap with snow in the beginning of December that looked as though the season was at an abrupt close, the weather has been abnormally warm for the last 6 weeks. Unfortunately, any chances of a white Christmas were dashed. As we get back into the groove of things for the New Year, there are many educational activities offering us the opportunity to re-tool and prepare for the rapidly approaching 2007 golf season.

Dinner with the Wives Returns to Shoreacres

Tim and Jean Davis hosted a spectacular evening at Shoreacres with the return of the “Dinner with the Wives” event December 6. The combined festive holiday atmosphere of the Shoreacres clubhouse and early December snowfall provided the backdrop for a chance to get together with friends and our spouse’s for the night. A total of 15 couples attended a very intimate evening made memorable by the attentive staff and exquisite service of Shoreacres.

Following cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, we were lead into the dining area and seated for what was to be a delectable gastronomic experience. The meal commenced with acorn squash bisque served eloquently in a miniature pumpkin. Following, a salad of miniature baked brie with cranberry chutney served with baby greens topped with almonds, dried cranberries and citrus basil vinaigrette was placed before us. The entree consisted of a petite filet with wild mushroom red wine reduction and rolled lemon sole filled with crabmeat and tomato beurre blanc with chives accompanied with wild rice and confetti vegetables. Don’t think it is over yet, the desert was as equally amazing consisting of “A Tasting of Chocolate”. There was a miniature hot chocolate cup which I would swear was a melted chocolate bar in a cup, chocolate Christmas package topped off with a scoop of peppermint stick ice cream all in a crispy chocolate cookie basket. General Manager, Michelle Dubuc along with Head Chef, Carmelo Gallegos went above the call to make sure everyone felt welcome.

This is a fabulous occurrence. We are very fortunate to have a member such as Tim Davis that takes the initiative to make this event occur each year.



Festive table settings await the couples during the “Dinner with the Wives” event.



You won't want to miss this evening in the future if by chance you did not attend this year. It is a great lead into the holiday season.

Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents Annual Budget Meeting

Rick Bowden hosted the annual budget meeting at Bob O'Link Golf Club December 7. This is always a very educational event where we as members have the opportunity to openly share information regarding salaries and budgets for the most recent and upcoming years. The semi-annual distribution of budget information is helpful for everyone. As a manager charged with the task of providing top conditions throughout the golf season with a given budget number, we are able to make comparisons to see where we stand as well as find out what other clubs consider for expenses. If you are at an upper club with substantial resources, you may not think that providing information will be of any immediate value to you. While initially it may not, remember the old adage, “A rising tide raises all ships”. Meaning that if the clubs spending less than you begin to spend more, it will push the upper clubs up as well. Everyone benefits from the dissemination of information. A total of 32 surveys were exchanged. Dan Marco, CGCS put together a new format for gathering information that offers quite a lot of detail. As we are all very well aware, comparing two golf course budgets is very difficult. However, with definitive dissection of the budget data, a fair comparison is much more attainable.



The Budget Meeting is an important tool for all to participate. The information exchanged is useful for future planning and comparison.

Winter Shop Tour

Thursday, January 25th, 2007

The Chicagoland Association will be having its annual winter shop tour at the following 3 locations:

First Stop - Riverside Golf Club - Host: Nick Baker

Second Stop - Hinsdale Golf Club - Host: Bob Maibusch, CGCS

Third Stop - Ruth Lake Country Club - Host Dan Marco, CGCS

This is a great chance to get out of your shop and see how other shops are set-up. The locations chosen this year are a wide range in age from old to new so there is something for everyone to bring back to their own operation.

Guest are welcomed and encouraged.

Coffee and Donuts will be provided at Riverside and lunch will be served at Ruth Lake.

*****RSVP to Dan Marco @ (630) 986-4476 by Monday, January 22nd.***

Time: 8:00 a.m. at Riverside Golf Club, 2520 S. DesPlaines Ave. North Riverside, IL 60546 (708)447-1049

Cost: \$25 per person

Directions to first stop:

From the North

294 S. to 290 E to Des Plaines Ave. South. Shop entrance will be on your right a few miles down Des Plaines Avenue just after railroad tracks across from North Riverside Fire Department.

From the South

294 N to 55 N. exit 171 north (exit 282B). Turn Right onto 31st Street. Turn left onto Des Plaines. Shop will be on your left hand side across from North Riverside Fire Department.

Host a CAGCS Meeting

Planning for the 2007 season is under way and we are looking for venues to host monthly meetings. We have been fortunate to have been provided with some fantastic venues to hold our meetings the last couple of years. It does not take a lot of effort to host a meeting and is very rewarding. Please consider hosting a monthly meeting at your facility. The meetings consist of cocktails, dinner and valuable roundtable discussions. If you are interested in hosting a meeting or would like to obtain further information, please contact Dan Marco, CGCS either by telephone, (630)986-4476 or via email ruthlakeecc@aol.com .

Web Site

The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents has a new web site. Launched March 14, 2006, the web site is in its preliminary stage of introduction and growth. You will be able to check upcoming monthly meeting venues and see all the new information for the Association. Please visit www.cagcs.org . If you would like to add something to the web site or have a suggestion, please email Jon Jennings chicagogolfclub@aol.com . The web site was created to assist members obtain useful information.

e-Verdure

If you would like to contribute to the Verdure or have some information you feel others would gain benefit, please contact Jon Jennings, chicagogolfclub@aol.com .The Verdure is another great way to disseminate information to our membership. By sending it electronically, the information is very current. The deadline for submitting information for the upcoming issue is the second Monday of each month.

Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents Shirts

The new edition CAGCS golf shirts are in and available now. Be sure to pick up at least one of these handsome short sleeved shirts pictured below. The CAGCS logo is embroidered on the left chest. The price of these good looking shirts is \$45.00. You have the option of being billed for the shirt(s) or paying upon receipt. They are available in red, black, blue, yellow and white. You may obtain one at a monthly meeting or contact Dan Charlton. These high quality shirts by Peter Miller as pictured below are available in all sizes and an array of colors. Stock up for your winter golf trip!!

