



## CHICAGOLAND ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

### Verdure Newsletter

September 2006

Rick Bowden	President
Dan Dinelli, CGCS	Vice President / Forum
Dan Charlton	Treasurer
Jon Jennings, CGCS	Secretary / Verdure
Tommy Witt, CGCS	Director / Education
Dan Marco, CGCS	Director / Arrangements

### Upcoming Events

#### Chicagoland Meetings:

November 9, – Naperville Country Club, (Forum)  
December 7, – Bob O' Link Golf Club, (Budget Meeting)  
January, Date TBA – Shop Tour

Tim Anderson, CGCS  
Rick Bowden

#### September Meeting:

Our meeting was held September 20 at Bryn Mawr Country Club in Lincolnwood. Brian Bossert, CGCS was our gracious host for the evening. Brian and the entire staff at Bryn Mawr once again provided our group with a terrific venue and a fabulous meal. We had a turnout of 21 people which included 7 guests. Michael Wheeler, CCM from Medinah Country Club was our featured speaker that evening. Michael provided his thoughts as to the strengths and values of the General Manager, Chief Operating Officer Position at a private club.



*September 20, 2006 CAGCS meeting at Bryn Mawr Country Club.*

Michael Wheeler, CCM at Medinah Country Club offered terrific insight to the working relationship between the superintendent and the general manager. Medinah Golf Course Superintendent, Tom Lively, CGCS was there to confirm the valuable relationship between the two. Michael stated that every relationship is different. He felt that it was important to have the correct people in place for a facility to function at its highest level of efficiency. Michael felt that the business was aligning itself with corporate America in that it is looking for one individual to be accountable for the entire organization. He expressed the need for the Club to show its commitment to the individuals running the operation and stand behind some of the tough decisions that had to be made.

Michael rode the golf course with Tom Lively the first week he was on the job and offered one of the best statements anyone could say, *"I'll never say anything behind your back that I wouldn't say to your face."* Now isn't that the kind of encouraging words we could all work with? He stressed being proactive with new relationships. The superintendent should offer education and interact with the manager to help that person understand what is occurring at the course. He said that it was important to have a clear concise vision for the Club and for your people.

Michael offered valuable insight for those in attendance regarding the positioning of CMAA on the topic and the relationship of a quality general manager working with the golf course superintendent. Michael has accepted the position of General Manager at Cherokee Town and Country Club in Atlanta, Georgia. We thank Michael for his time that evening and wish him all of the best with his new position.

#### **Position on the Chief Operating Officer/General Manager, (adapted from *cmaa.org* web site)**

The General Manager (GM)/Chief Operating Officer (COO) is hired by the Board of Directors, reports to the President or Executive Committee, and is responsible for carrying out the Board's policies. The General Manager/Chief Operating Officer will be held accountable for all areas of the club and will ensure the synergism of all club activities. He/She becomes the Board's bridge to the staff and committees and enables a Board to avoid the intricacies and short-term focus that is the staff's responsibility. This will allow the Board to work more exclusively on the holistic and long-term focus of club governance. He/She will prepare such special reports as may be requested by the Board and will report back on the effectiveness of the club's policies, operations and new programs.

The characteristics of a successful GM/COO include honesty, straightforwardness, integrity, accountability, leadership and dedication. He/She must demonstrate interpersonal relations skills, be a good communicator, be administratively competent and be able to communicate the club's vision.

#### **GUIDELINES**

The GM/COO is a partner with the Governing Board in achieving the club's mission and discusses issues confronting the club with the Governing Board. He/She also assists the Governing Board in developing a format for assessing the progress of the club and reviews any issues of concern with the Governing Board.

The GM/COO keeps the Governing Board apprised of the organizational climate, identifying problems either actual or anticipated, communicates with the Directors, and offers consultative assistance as well as shares responsibility with the Governing Board for the club's organizational development and organizational change programs.

The GM/COO has ALL club department heads reporting to him/her. The GM/COO will assume or delegate the duties and responsibilities of the department heads if they are absent or disabled. The GM/COO will complete all responsibilities and duties as prescribed in the bylaws of the club and perform other duties as directed by the Board of Directors.

The GM/COO monitors long- and short-term objectives, financial reports and prepares a financial plan for the club.

The GM/COO sets the standard for effective management, maintaining a high level of ethics, prudence, creativity, productivity and demonstrating a concern for the supervision and development of the staff.

The GM/COO helps the Board to arrive at a consensus about important matters by providing pertinent information and interacts with the Board to investigate more efficient operating procedures and new club activities.

### **Sunshine Course**

One of the great strengths of our region is the Three-Hole Sunshine Course at the Midwest Golf House. The Three-Hole Sunshine Course at Midwest Golf House is designed to service the Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA) and all allied golf associations. The Sunshine Course is located next to the Midwest Golf House on eight acres of land across the street from Cog Hill Golf & Country Club. The land was donated to the CDGA by the Jemsek Family. Not only does it provide a venue for initiating an interest in young golfers, it is also a living laboratory.

The University of Illinois in conjunction with the CDGA assesses different turf varieties and has the ability to carry out experiments under the direction of Dr. Derek Settle. Overall, this is a very important component of turfgrass research in the Chicagoland area.

The Sunshine Course operates on a very limited budget and is forced to make due with older equipment and a lot of improvising. This is the time of year when many of us are evaluating the usefulness of equipment and thinking about trading some pieces in for new equipment.

One of the disheartening aspects of purchasing new equipment is how small the residual value is when it comes to trading old equipment in. Instead of taking a few hundred dollars for a trade, why not donate it to the Sunshine Course? Here is a list of equipment needs at Sunshine Course.

1. ground driven fertilizer spreader
2. Toro walking greens mower
3. topdresser for greens & tees
4. self propelled sprayer
5. reel type triplex bank mower
6. Lab equipment i.e. microscope and other tools which would most likely need to be purchased. Derek will add details too this list.
7. Triplex greens mower

Please contact Dr. Derek Settle if you have any of the requested equipment and would like to make a donation. He may be reached at [dsettle@cdga.org](mailto:dsettle@cdga.org) , or (630)685-2307

### **Host a CAGCS Meeting**

The 2006 year is winding down and we would like to thank the individuals that made the year a success by graciously hosting a CAGCS meeting at their facility. Planning for the 2007 season has begun 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 [ruthlakecc@aol.com](mailto:ruthlakecc@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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 2006 edition CAGCS golf shirts are in. Be sure to pick up one of these handsome short sleeved shirts. 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.

