

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS.

Editor — Ray Gerber
865 Hillside Ave.
Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137
Phone — 469-6467

Associate Editor — Robert Williams
90 East Franklin, Apt. 208
Lake Forest, Ill. 60045
Office Phone — 432-0088



Fred Opperman — President.

The President's Message

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The following is a list of office telephone numbers to the entire Board.

Mike Bavier, CGCS - Emeritus	358-7030
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Did you ever ask yourself just why you are a Golf Course Superintendent? What makes you work seven days a week from early April thru mid October, with hours ranging from daybreak to dusk and sometimes till even late at night in a muddy hole to repair that irrigation leak, and then having to work Sundays, Easter, Memorial Day (both of them since we seem to be having double holidays for the same day the past couple of years here in Illinois), July 4th and Labor Day (appropriately named, for we labor on that day, too). Then we get the "Holidays" that land on a Monday or a Friday and that's a "long weekend". It certainly is for the Superintendent and his crew, for we have twice as much work to be done in half the time. Then you can go on and describe the onslaughts of the various types of weather that make the job difficult, the diseases, the new and strange insects and pests popping up, no pensions, and the new green chairman or club official who understands none of the above. Why in heavens be a Golf Course Superintendent???

Why? Because even with all of the above problems it's a fantastic job. All of the above problems can be solved and modified to some degree to make life enjoyable. If it wasn't so you would see a much greater turn-over of Superintendents leaving the profession. That, you don't see. We have a very unique profession in my opinion. We are builders and creators. I get great satisfaction in seeing something materialize, grow and develop, whether it be a long range plan for an irrigation system, a new tee, or a planting on the golf course. We are responsible for it being and seeing that the idea is carried out and accomplished.

Our profession is a wonderful profession. We work with the best that nature has to provide. We feel the wind at our backs and the sun in our faces. We see the first flight of migrating ducks and geese heading north. We see the first blooms of the year. We see the first buds of the maple trees that burst forth into beautiful flowers. And who can forget the aroma of the first mowing in spring.

Yes, we work long hours and many days during the season, but we are compensated in many ways that other professions couldn't touch in a thousand years. I love it!