

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

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PRESIDENT' MESSAGE

As I approached the golf course Sunday morning I noticed something was wrong, but could not put my finger on it until I got closer. Then it was plain to see, no flags. A quick tour and the totals were six flags, and poles, and three sets of tee markers. Yes, I was lucky no damage to the tees, greens or fairways, but this type of vandalism costs the club just the same. What do we do, call the police? There isn't much they can do unless they catch the people red handed, and I don't think they realize just how expensive flags, poles, and tee markers are. That little adventure cost Butler National about 150 dollars, and it doesn't take long before the totals get out of hand.

What do we do? What can we do? I know some of the clubs have security people on the golf course wandering around and some of those have a dog with them. Others have members of their crew wandering around for a time, but that can be dangerous for those crew members.

I would like our association to take some kind of action. Maybe some of our fellow Superintendents would write an article for the newspapers explaining our plight. It's hard to believe that parents would condone the action of their teenagers out on the golf course, drinking beer, stealing flags and tee markers, breaking the ball washers or seeing how many times they can get their cars to spin around on the greens. Maybe we have to go to the local police and ask that they pay a little more attention to our courses. I don't have the answers, but I know that this could be a bad year. With summer jobs being scarce there will be more time to look for ways to get into trouble, and there will be our courses, wide open and inviting.

In talking with our local police, they made some suggestions. Report all incidents to the police, no matter how small you might think it is. If someone is caught, prosecute; don't say that he won't do it again and let it go at that.

I still would like to get the press interested, even if it is at the local level. Don't be shy - let's inform the public about the problem. Maybe, just maybe, it will help.

Ed Fischer

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