

**THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
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President's Message

In my short existence on this earth, I cannot recall any spring weather that compares to this year. The beautiful weather started early and has remained consistent throughout April and May. Every plant that could possibly bear flowers did so this spring, including the forsythia and flowering quince bushes, and of course **poa annua** L. We have received timely rainfall and nothing too severe as last autumn's rainfall total, thank God.

Along with the nice weather comes the development and fine manicuring of our golf courses. By late May the cool nights and light frosts are finished, and we enter into the consistently good weather and uniform turfgrass growth. All the planning and hard work during the winter months is now paying it's rewards. Sometimes the best laid plans are ruined by circumstances out of our control, i.e., the weather. So as we get into the beginning of what appears to be a long, hot summer, keep one thing in mind; none of us are God. There may be a few members at your club that believe the superintendent has God-like powers, i.e., providing a good, firm putting surface after three inches of rain. But as superintendents, we must convince these people to forget those silly notions and build a retractable dome over the course.

In reality we must live with what mother nature deals us and nothing will change that. As keepers of the green, our job is to enhance the natural environment that we have been hired to maintain. Utilizing the proper tools and methods, I would say 99% of us have been greatly successful. That 1% is probably out selling shoes, not necessarily a knock on the trade of shoe selling. Try to keep things in proper perspective as you go through the summer heat stress and keep your cool. Remember, many of our problems are weather related and totally out of our control.

I must comment on the amount of new golf courses under construction in the Chicago area. After talking to several reliable sources of such information, it was noted that approximately ten new courses will be started in 1987. Also, a total of 30 new courses will begin within the next three years. This trend is in total contrast to the recession years of the early eighties when we were actually losing golf course property.

In general, the golf industry is entering an era of rapid growth. There will be many new job openings available to qualified people in the future. What puzzles me is the declining enrollment in the turfgrass science curriculum at many colleges and universities. Maybe the money that is appropriated for these programs is being cut back. The few turfgrass students graduating each year are being placed into jobs on the golf course. According to these program directors, they need more turf students to meet the increased demand. I feel there is a definite shortage of educated people entering this field as grounds crew workers, irrigation technicians, foremen, or assistant mechanics. The trainees that possess the experience and education will eventually advance into the assistant or superintendent's position. Maybe we need to upgrade our pay schedules to attract a few more qualified people from institutions of higher learning.

James E. Evans