

## Director's Column

by Kevin Czerkies Sportsman C.C.

This is my first Directors column since being elected Director of the MAGCS last November. I would like to thank those of you who supported me in the election. Needless to say, I am a much busier person now.

I was appointed the Arrangements Chairman. Even though the golf sites were set for 1993, my job was, and still is, to plan meals and times with the host superintendent. Also, I must arrange sponsors, set the fees for each meeting, and collect the money. Arrangements Committee members include Ed Braunsky, Len Berg, Don Ferreri, Greg Fuchs, and Luke Strojny.

Golf sites are also being secured for 1994. I am happy to report that we have many superintendents interested in hosting a meeting. Some have not hosted a meeting in a while, others have never done so.

Tentative golf meeting sites for 1994 are as follows:

April — Inverness	August — Cress Creek
May — Silver Lakes	September — Seven Bridges
June — Aurora C.C.	October — Barrington Hills
July — Orchard Valley	

One of the objectives thrust upon the Arrangements Committee was to have some kind of family event this year. We've decided to try a Kane County Cougars game and picnic on August 21. This promises to be a fun time for all ages. Registration forms have been sent out for this event and the deadline to sign up is July 21. So don't delay, we only have 200 tickets.



## Super 'N' Site Profile

by Public Relations Committee

On Monday July 19, the MAGCS will visit Poplar Creek Country Club in Hoffman Estates. This will be the third time for supt. Luke Strojny (pronounced Strojny) to host a meeting. We will notice a considerable change since we last visited Poplar Creek. In December 1989, the Hoffman Estates Park District purchased the property with a commitment to upgrading the course to accommodate the heavy play and problem flooding. More about the course later.



Luke started in the golf business working for John Lapp at St. Andrews C.C. in West Chicago. After attending Western Illinois University, his first superintendent's position was at Maple Grove C.C. in West Salem, Wisc. In the fall of 1984, he began at Poplar Creek. Luke is 33 years old and lives in Bartlett with his wife Debbie and their 2 year old son Kyle. Luke achieved Certified Superintendent status in 1991.

The Killian and Nugent designed Moon Lake C.C., opened in the 70's and in 1984 new owners came in and changed the name to Poplar Creek. The current landlords have made several dramatic improvements. Some include:

- clubhouse with banquet facilities.
- lighted practice facility with 18,000 sq. ft. grass tee and 50 all weather mats.
- re-built the first and eighth greens.
- state of the art maintenance facility.
- several tee additions and re-construction.

At Poplar Creek, Luke started from the ground up. The 11,000 sq. ft. maintenance facility (built in 1991) is a Taj Mahal when compared to his old digs. In 1984, the previous owners took all the maintenance equipment with them and the grounds department shared a 2,700 sq. ft. building with the Pro-Shop. His first order of business was to purchase all the equipment for the golf course, while assembling a staff to put it all to use. The new clubhouse opened in April 1992 (about 10 years too late). Most of the landscaping (including 10,000 yds. of sod) was done in-house.

Bob Lohman was hired to re-design the first and eighth greens. The old first green was too small and sloped such that 30-40% was usable cup space. the eighth green was built in a flood plain, and it wasn't elevated, so almost any rainstorm put that green under water.

Flooding and heavy play (46,000 rounds) are the two main problems Luke faces. 60% of the course is located in a flood plain. The storms of June 8th and 9th brought only 1.5 inches of rain, yet #7 and #10 were flooded. As you will see, the club is surrounded by housing and strip malls, consequently vandalism is also a cause for concern. As with many golf clubs, Luke has tried to stop the carnage but to no avail, so all ballwashers and benches are chained down.

Luke and his crew welcomes the MAGCS and assures a good time will be had by all.

## ITF Northern Golf Day

**WHEN:** Monday, September 27, 1993

**WHERE:** Riverside Golf Club  
Host Superintendent: Dave Behrman  
and

Ruth Lake Country Club  
Host Superintendent: Tom Lively

**COST:** \$95 for brunch, golf, 1/2 cart and dinner  
\$195 for tee sponsorship (includes one golfer pkg.)

**TIMES:** Brunch  
9:30 a.m. Ruth Lake  
10:00 a.m. Riverside  
Shotgun Start  
10:45 a.m. Ruth Lake  
11:30 a.m. Riverside

Reservations Limited! Watch for brochure in your mail to make reservations.