

the Bull Sheet

Official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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On Course With the President

One might suppose that by this time we are all due a rest, and a considerable one at that, from the ravages, stresses, and inherent problems of the golf season. True enough — we are due a well deserved break from what has turned out to be an extraordinarily long (it seems) and arduous golf season. There are a lot of tired voices I hear as I pick up the telephone and listen to whomever is there. The problems have not necessarily been huge, or entirely related to turfgrass but it does seem that a lot of long hours and some rather nagging golf course and people type difficulties have contributed to what amounts to be a real long season on the links.

From what I can gather as the conversations develop, the difficulties are somewhat hard to pin down. I do hear a lot more comments regarding the increasing demands of the memberships and more and more pressure from the clubhouse management people. And yes, there are those ominipresent disease and insect, etc. problems to fight as the seemingly endless summer presses on. Also there is the usual and never ending search for the ideal "Equipment Manager" (yeah, I know the moniker is a bit flamboyant, but it is a nice title) who can manage the golf course maintenance fleet and him/herself at the same time. I know it is a tall order, but someone has got to be capable of both. There are, thankfully, plenty of excellent Equipment Managers and Assistant Superintendents to help fight the frustrations of the season. They are there to support us and fulfill eagerly the directives of day to day golf course management operations. But they never seem to entirely grasp the angst the Superintendent is subjected to during the course of the season. If only they knew ...

Well, the end of the season long struggle (if it has indeed been a struggle) draws near. We've made it; we are survivors. Good enough I say.

Let's get on with the best part of the golf season and the best part of the year. There's golf to play, football games to attend, autumn leaves to watch, and best of all — ski trips to plan. Or whatever else you may do to distance yourself from the haunts of this season past.

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Bob Williams used to circle August 23 on his wall calendar, and as the assistant in residence at the time I wondered why ... Bob informed me that while the golf season is NOT over by any means; if a Superintendent still had some quality turf and some remaining sanity and his job on that date — he had done pretty well. I've circled August 23 on my calendar ever since.

Bottom line. What can I say after all of this? TGIF!! Thank goodness it's Fall!

ATF