

# the Bull Sheet

Official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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## On Course With the President

Last weekend was a sign for me that the heart of the golf season is underway. Every year in early June for about the last 10 years, I've paddled in the Mid-American Canoe Race on the Fox River with Dan Murray. It is good that our spring rains were definitely worth something! It was nice to paddle in the Fox with water deeper than the paddle for a change. If any of you have seen Dan Murray paddle, you know that high water is needed. Seriously though, Dan was as pooped as I was at the finish line.



The rainy spring was frustrating for golfers as well as Golf Course Superintendents. During such a frustrating spring, it is little diversions like a canoe race from which we all should take some time to gather our thoughts and get a fresh outlook on things. It can also be easy to ignore the family when work and club members are on ones mind. One of my hobbies, flying, also includes my family, and I then enjoy the best of both worlds. My wife, Hayden, and Kailey were nervous at first, but now they enjoy flying with me. I just tell Debbie "don't worry, we will probably make it back". Hobbies or stress releases are necessary for everybody.

It is also important this time of year to reinforce our professional PR at our courses. Sometimes problems beyond our control may occur, and a good foundation of PR may make a difference should serious problems take place.

Dealing also with the operations, projects, and headaches within the framework of the Midwest has been a challenge, while trying to manage my golf course at the same time. You may or may not know that our Executive Secretary will be leaving the MAGCS. The responsibilities and time needed to complete that job continue to increase, and the demands of the position never seem to let up. A part-time Secretary for an Association of our size is becoming unrealistic in order to accomplish the prompt services we wish to provide for our membership. The Board of Directors will have several meetings to discuss the options and needs for the future. Luke Strojny has completed a Golf Course Superintendent Association survey which should provide useful information from associations throughout the country.

Another change that will be made is the title of our newsletter **The Bull Sheet**. After much discussion, consideration, and support from member input, the Board of Directors unanimously voted for a new newsletter name. The name "The Bull Sheet" will be kept, but moved inside the newsletter replacing "Midwest Breezes", and a new title will represent our official association publication. Member input will be sought for a new professional and ready for "prime time" publication title. Give us your input for a newsletter heading, and who knows, your title suggestion might end up on the cover of the MAGCS publication for many years to come!

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(President's Message continued)

This is important to our association and our evolving image as professionals as we cross the threshold of moving from a big small association to truly being the big association of the "Midwest".

**Joel Purpur, President, MAGCS**



## Director's Column

by **Brian A. Bossert, CGCS**

Well, this is due over to Fred by the end of the day, so I better get started. I rarely seem to get anything done sooner than I have to. On the other hand, at this time of the year we are all so busy that "just doing it", regardless of when it gets done, may be as good as it gets. I have not been around this business as long as some, but this spring was the wettest and slowest getting started that I could recall. Personally, as the first week of June ends, I feel my staff and I are finally catching up and giving our members at Bryn Mawr a finished product closer to what we aim for.

This spring, it has been a real challenge for me to keep priorities straight and attempt to thoroughly complete one task before moving on to the next. The weather has interrupted so many projects that it seems as though a half dozen uncompleted tasks strewn out about the course has been the norm.

In the past six months, being a Board member of the MAGCS has added to my list of responsibilities. A few things have really surprised me and here are a few observations from a rookie Director.

a) This involves a great deal of time! The arrangements chairman is responsible for several mailings and coordinating the monthly meetings. Sometimes, it's amazing how long it takes just to connect with someone on the phone. Being the new guy along with Luke, I am anxious to help. However, I have reminded myself more than once to do my real job first and tend to MAGCS affairs after my obligations to my employer are met.

b) My eyes have been opened to how our Class E members really foot a great deal of the bill for ... well, everything. Without their financial support at monthly meetings, the annual hospitality room and **Bull Sheet** advertising, the cost of membership for the superintendent would be enormous. Thank them the next time you think of it.

c) What a transition time this is for our profession and OUR association. The MAGCS is on the threshold of great change and it is exciting to be a part of. I think the MAGCS offers their members a great return on their investment and the services promise to be bigger and better in the future. I resist change more than most, but rest assured, all is for the best.

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