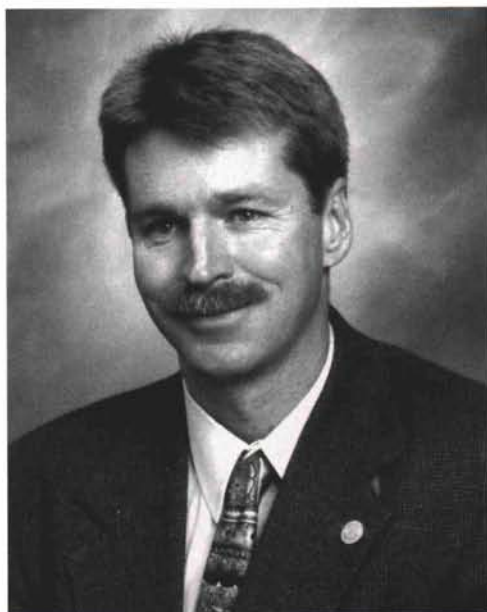


Luke Strojny



Luke Strojny

-N-

**Poplar
Creek**
Country Club

This month's monthly meeting will be a departure from the norm, as we will convene at Poplar Creek Country Club as opposed to our usual January meeting site of Arrowhead Golf Club. Luke Strojny has been golf course superintendent at Poplar Creek in Hoffman Estates since 1984, and has been a key part of the many changes and improvements that have taken place there.

Currently, Luke is the vice president of MAGCS, and is eager to lead our association in 2002. His work ethic is apparent in the manner in which he has tackled both his job and his association responsibilities.

Luke's journey to reach this point has been not unlike that taken by many of us in this industry—he began his career in golf as a caddy at St. Andrews Golf Club in West Chicago in the mid '70s. After attaining the coveted "cart boy" position there, Luke's career path led him into our end of the business when, in 1976, he began working on the grounds staff for John Lapp. During this time, Luke worked toward his associate's degree in ornamental horticulture from the College of Du Page, culminating in his receiving the rolled-up paper with the pretty ribbon tied around it in June of 1981.

With degree in hand, Luke crossed the border into Cheeseland to accept the position of golf course superintendent at Maple Grove Country Club in West Salem. After two years there, he came back to the lowlands and took on his current position as golf course superintendent at Poplar Creek. Luke continued his on-the-job education, earning Certified Golf Course Superintendent status from GCSAA in 1987 (the year he married his wife, Debbie). In his time at Poplar Creek, Luke has overseen the evolution of the course into a first-rate golf facility through the numerous improvements that have been implemented. Next on the list is a complete redo of the practice facility, which will commence in the fall of this year.

(continued on page 29)


Since 1995, Luke has served on the Board of Directors of MAGCS, serving as chairman of the Membership, Golf, Arrangements, Scholarship and Employment Committees; and carrying out the duties of secretary/treasurer in 2000. Currently, Luke is the vice president of MAGCS, and is eager to lead our association in 2002. His work ethic is apparent in the manner in which he has tackled both his job and his association responsibilities.

Luke could not have achieved his current status if not for the support of his family. His wife, Debbie, son Kyle (9), and daughter Julia (4) are his inspiration, and his time away from work is spent doting on them. Luke

enjoys coaching his son in Little League, and participating in their soccer and hockey leagues as well.

The January meeting is extremely important to the future of our industry, as our association will decide how we will vote on GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative in February in Dallas. Luke and the entire Board of MAGCS hope to see a big turnout on the 22nd. Remember Florida—our vote DOES count!



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