

# the Bull Sheet

Official publication of the MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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## On Course With the President

by Timothy Kelly,  
President, MAGCS



I am writing this message in early June. The weather so far this year has been awful. The progress of the growing and golfing season continues to be sub par. I continue to revise and adjust my work flow chart; postponing or delaying projects, and cancelling others. Unfortunately I am running out of weeks and days with which I will be able to accomplish the balance of this mother of all work loads. Revenues are down, tasks need to be done yesterday, and budgets need to be reduced. It is my sincere hope that this is not the scenario at your country club or golf operation. As a professional golf course superintendent, I will continue to endeavor to meet all of these challenges head on with all of my God given abilities and talents. Luckily I also possess the following assets: a pool of knowledge, motivation, some experience (good & bad), and a dedicated staff. I seek the guidance of peers as needed, and the understanding of my family. At this point in time, I am sure looking forward to the MAGCS events like the Cougar Game outing, or the Dinner Dance. Come early October, a scant 113 days away, I will be finishing this season's tasks and projects. I will then be ready to start the process of recharging my batteries, and reviewing the past season in order to plan for 1994! Then the cycle is complete, and it can begin again.

The MAGCS will be hosting a hospitality tent at the Western Open this year. The tent location will be moved back onto the Dubsdread Golf Course.

The July MAGCS meeting will be held on Monday, July 19th at Poplar Creek Golf Club. Our host for this July meeting will be Luke Strojny. At this meeting we will be honoring the Senior Members of MAGCS.

## "The Test"

Skyrocket Time — Independence Day,  
Course is ready for overwork and overplay.  
Thoughts of years when Nature wasn't kind,  
Pests put you to the test, Weather didn't mind.  
Front row seat on Nature's Loop-de-loop, Express,  
Challenge is there, You're on, for the test.

Kenneth R. Zanzig

## 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  
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Host Superintendent: Tom Lively

**COST:** \$95 for brunch, golf, 1/2 cart and dinner  
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10:00 a.m. Riverside

Shotgun Start

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## Fairy Rings and Their Control

by Malcom C. Shurtleff

Emeritus Professor of Plant Pathology  
and Extension Plant Pathologist  
Department of Plant Pathology

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Fairy rings can appear in any turf on a golf course. They are caused by any one of about 50 thatch- and soil-inhabiting fungi (mushrooms [toadstools] and puffballs). During the spring and early summer look for circles, arcs, or ribbons of darker green, faster-growing grass which may be 4 to 8 inches wide. A concentric ring of thin, dormant, or dead grass may sometimes develop both inside and outside this circle. Occasionally, a second zone of stimulated grass occurs inside the zone of dead grass. During dry weather, especially in late summer and autumn, the outer ring of lush grass may be missing with the dead ring outside the inner or between the inner and outer dark green areas. Fairy rings vary from a few inches to 50 feet or more in diameter, but most are 2 to 15 feet across. In mild weather, after rains or heavy irrigation, large numbers of mushrooms or puffballs (the fruiting bodies of the fairy ring fungi) may suddenly pop up in the outer circle of lush grass.

Commonly, several distinct rings or arcs develop in the same general turf area. Where the rings meet, fungus activity ceases, and the rings take on a scalloped effect.

**Fairy rings are usually first seen as a cluster of mushrooms or as a tuft of stimulated turf. Some rings disappear unexpectedly for a year or more and then reappear, usually a foot or more larger in diameter.**

Fairy rings are usually first seen as a cluster of mushrooms or as a tuft of stimulated turf. Some rings disappear unexpectedly for a year or more and then reappear, usually a foot or more larger in diameter.

Nutrients for these fungi come from a breakdown of organic matter. Infection often begins where large roots, wood or other organic matter is buried in the soil. Growth usually starts with a germinating fungal spore or with pieces of mycelium at a central point and continues radially in all directions. Each year the rings may enlarge from 5 inches to 2 feet or more. The fungus grows throughout the soil, sometimes to a depth of 8 inches or more. If you dig deeply into the outer dark green ring area with a trowel or spade, you will find a dense, white, threadlike network of mycelium (mushroom spawn) that has a strong musty odor.

The lush, dark green grass of a fairy ring is due to the increased amount of nitrogen made available to the grass roots by the fungus as it breaks down organic matter in the thatch and soil. The ring of brown, dormant or dead grass is caused by the dense, subsurface layer of mushroom spawn that impedes water movement into the soil, depletes nutrients essential for the growth of grass, and may produce toxic levels of ammonia or hydrogen cyanide. The grass in this area can become so weakened that it dies from environmental stresses. The roots are sometimes killed by the fungus or other disease-causing organisms. Invasion by weeds soon follows. As the fungus grows radially outward, the older spawn in the interior of the ring dies, releasing nitrogen and other nutrients used by the turf plants, initiating the possible formation of an inner green ring of stimulated grass.

(continued on page 6)





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(Fairy Rings continued)

Fairy rings are usually most severe in light-textured, low-fertility soils that are deficient in moisture. The rings are more common and damaging on lightly watered and fertilized fairways than on well-irrigated and fertilized greens and tees. Turf with a thick thatch and growing in a sandy soil is very vulnerable to damage.

Controlling fairy rings is not easy because the soil becomes almost impervious to water. Before seeding, sodding or sprigging a new turf area, remove the bases of tree stumps and large roots, and other large pieces of organic matter from which these fungi obtain nutrients. Keep the new turf area well fertilized and watered. It is best to moisten the soil to a depth of 6 inches or more. Shallow watering is believed to encourage the germination of fairy ring fungi. In established turf areas, fairy rings can be effectively controlled but the methods are laborious and time-consuming. The best ways are through suppression and antagonism.

**A. Suppression.** To suppress ring formation, water the turf thoroughly and fertilize well to enhance the growth of grass within and around rings, to a level close to that of the lush ring of grass.

1. The symptoms are easily 'disguised' by pumping large quantities of water 10 to 24 inches deep into the soil, at about 1-foot intervals, for a distance of 18 to 24 inches on either side of the outer stimulated zone of dark green grass. Maintain the soil in a near water-soaked condition for 4 to 6 weeks by watering every 2 to 3 days using a tree-feeding lance or root-feeder attachment on a hose. Repeat the treatment several months to a year or more later when the rings begin to wilt.
2. Since there are fewer rings and they are much less conspicuous on well watered and fertilized turf, apply nitrogen fertilizer several times during the growing season based on a soil test and the cultivar or blend of grass being grown. Avoid excessive applications of nitrogen and organic matter as they tend to stimulate the development of fairy rings and encourage other turf diseases. Core cultivation and the use of a wetting agent (surfactant) helps to move water more deeply into infested soil.

**B. Antagonism.** This control method is most effective when a turf area is heavily infested with a number of fairy rings. The biology of these fungi ensures that two or more strains will eliminate each other when occupying the same site.

1. Strip the sod or kill the infested area with glyphosate (Roundup, Kleenup) and then strip the sod. Thoroughly rototill the entire area soil covered by the fairy rings. Using a rake, collect the white mycelial spawn from all the rings and blend it thoroughly. Spread the blended spawn as evenly as possible over the exposed soil, then thoroughly mix the mycelium-infested soil, by multiple cultivations using a rotary cultivator, to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. Rake or roll the soil level and fertilize.
2. Wet the soil to a depth of 8 inches or more with or without adding a wetting agent to increase water infiltration into the denser spawn layers. Sod or reseed the area and keep it well watered and fertilized.

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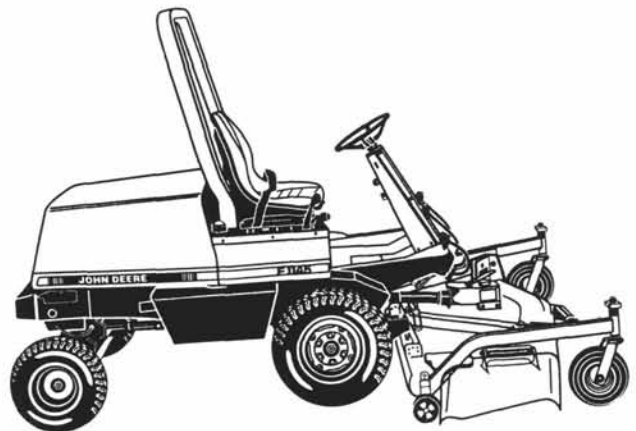
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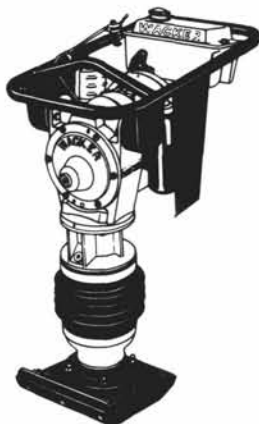
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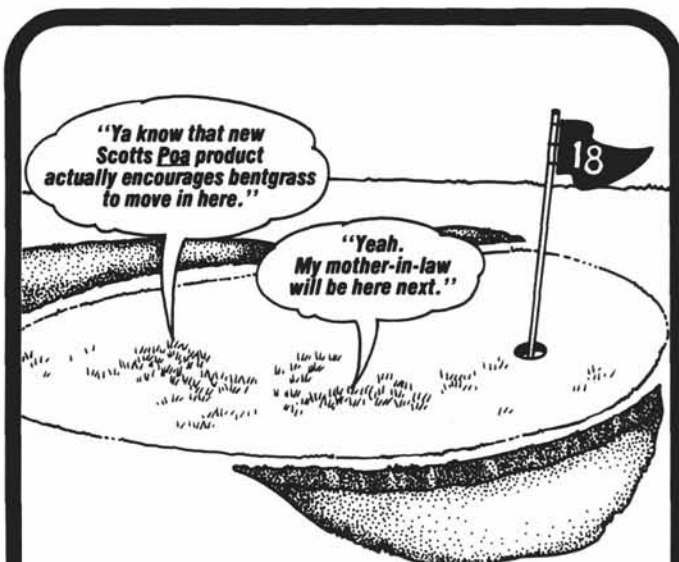


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# 1993 MAGCS Golf Committee Monthly Meeting Schedule Duties

The following is a list of meetings for 1993 and the duties of each committee member for each meeting.

The duties are as follows:

## PRE-EVENT CHAIRMAN

Coordinate all pre-event plans. Arrange for merchandise prize amounts, what types of prizes, and where purchased. Plan on being at the meeting site 1 1/2-2 hours before tee time. Since this year you must pre-register, you will have a copy of the tee assignments. Make sure all handicaps are recorded. Deal with cancellations. Sign-up people who show up the day of the event. Those people are not eligible for prizes that day. Give the final players list to pro if necessary.

## BETTING HOLE PERSON

Setup betting hole for the meeting. Make sure someone is assigned to work the hole. Be sure all proper items are in order.

## POST-EVENT CO-CHAIRMAN

Two people will act as Post-Event people. These people will be responsible for any scoring that needs to be done after the event to decide the prize winners. Assist with the distribution and record keeping of prizes at the conclusion of the event.

## JULY 19 — Poplar Creek Country Club

Event is the senior championship. Other players will play an individual score event. Gross and net prizes for both divisions. Figure net score by subtracting the players individual handicap from their score.

Post-Event Chairman — Don Ferrari  
Betting Hole Person — Phil Taylor  
Post-Event Person — Ed Braunsky  
Post-Event Person — Albie Staudt

## AUGUST 9 — Lake Wood Golf Club

Event is a 4 man team total. Gross and net prizes. Net score will be determined by adding the 4 players handicap and taking 80% of the total. This number will be subtracted from the 4 man total for a team net score.

Pre-Event Chairman — Phil Taylor  
Betting Hole Person — Ed Braunsky  
Post-Event Person — Kerry Blatteau  
Post-Event Person — Dave Louttit

## SEPTEMBER 21 — Shoreacre Golf Club

Event is the annual M.A.G.C.S. championship. All players must pre-register for the event and will be flighted and paired according to handicaps. Failure to pre-register will result in not being able to participate in the event. All prizes will be low gross only within your flight.

Pre-Event Chairman — Ed Braunsky  
Betting Hole Person — Rob Zimmerman  
Post-Event Person — Brian Bossert  
Post-Event Person — Kerry Blatteau

(continued on page 10)

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(Meeting Dates continued)

#### OCTOBER 4 — Bartlett Hill Golf Club

Event is the annual M.A.G.C.S. College championship. Format will be a 2 man scramble and a college must have at least 2 two-man team scores to qualify for the championship. The college championship winner is gross scores only. You must play with only your partner from your college. May play with another team from another college. The winner will be the college with the lowest two team gross total. Prizes will be awarded in both gross and net. The team net score will be determined by adding the two handicaps together, dividing by two and taking 80%. This number will be subtracted from the team score. There will be a non-college open division as well.

Pre-Event Chairman — Mark Johnson

Betting Hole Person — Albie Staudt

Post-Event Person — Doug Long

Post-Event Person — Rob Zimmerman

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**Midwest Association of Golf Course  
Superintendents Monthly Meeting  
Seniors Day — Monday, July 19th, 1993  
Poplar Creek Country Club — Host: Luke Strojny**  
Tee times available from 10:00-1:30  
Cocktails 5:30 Dinner & Meeting 6:30 — Casual attire

Pre-registration and pre-payment is required. Call Poplar Creek Pro Shop at 708/884-0219 to make your tee time, then mail in your payment to MAGCS. If the MAGCS does not receive your payment by July 15th, you will be charged a late fee of an additional \$10.00 and you will not be eligible for prizes. MAGCS member cost for the day - \$50.00; Non-member cost for the day - \$70.00; Cost for dinner only - \$25.00; Cost for dinner only at door - \$30.00

**July 19th, 1993**

**Poplar Creek**

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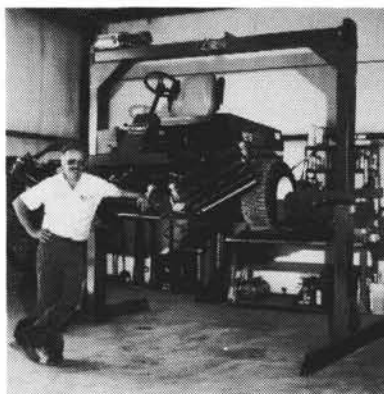
Dinner \_\_\_\_\_

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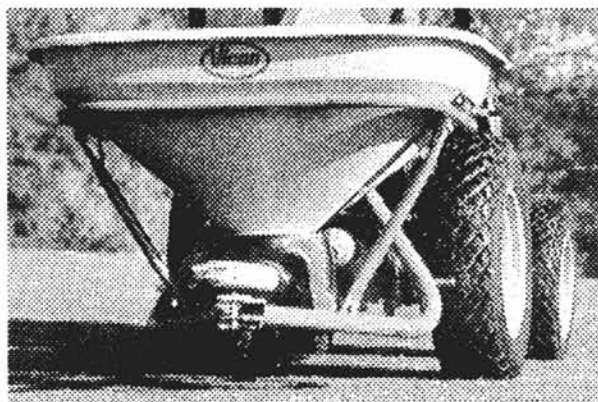
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