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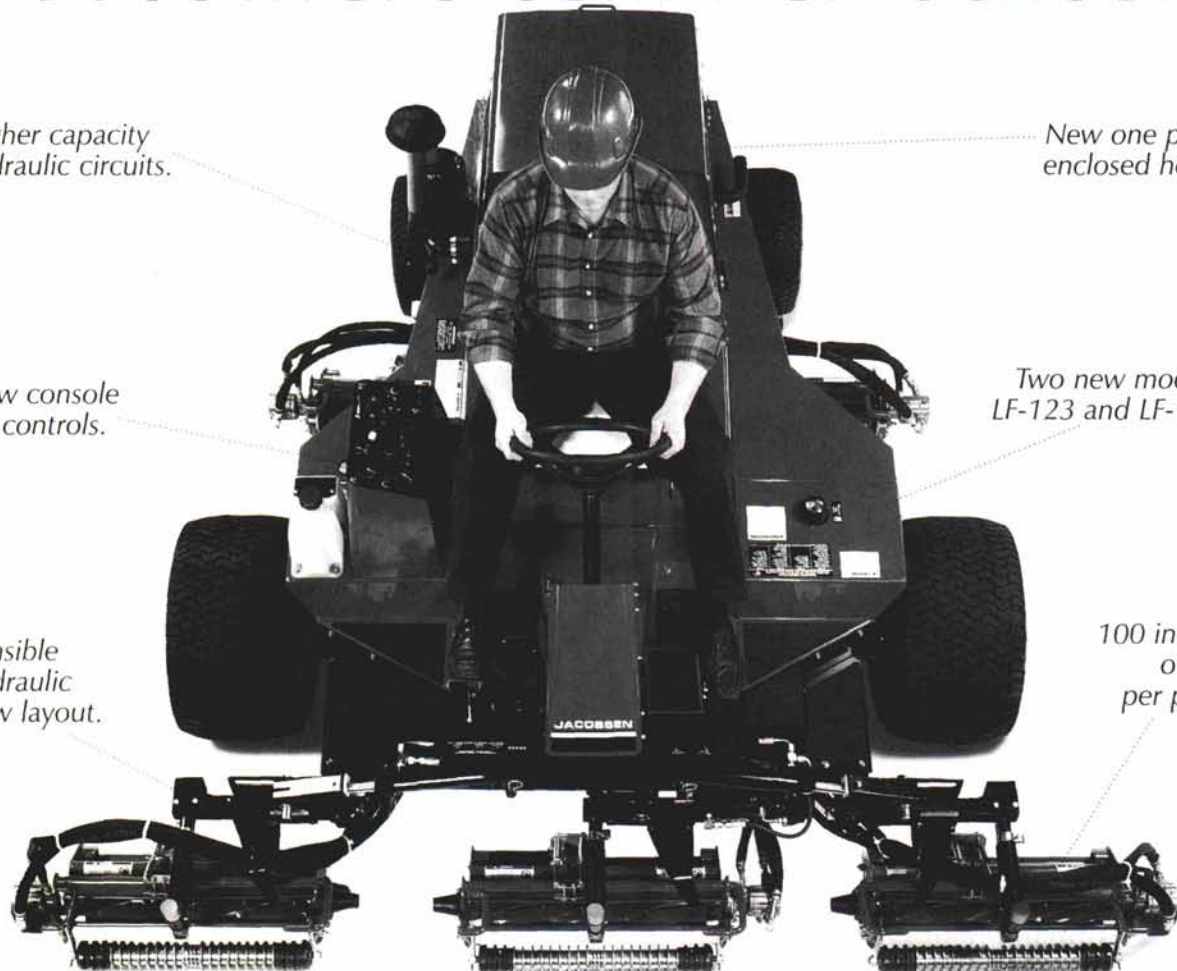
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the Bull Sheet

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!

(continued page 4)

(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.

(continued page 6)

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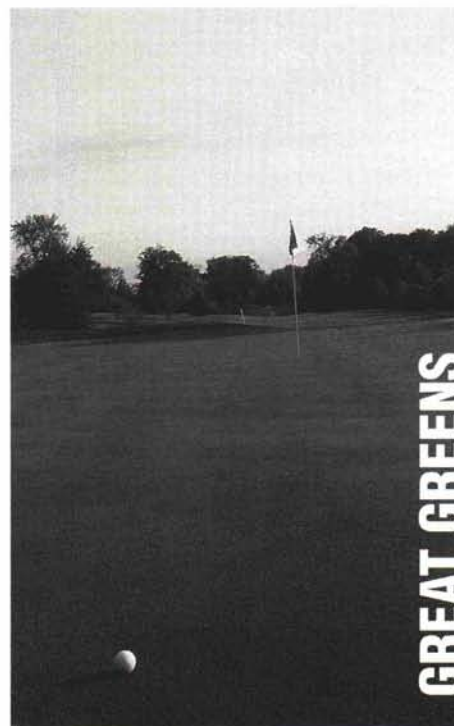
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(Director's Column continued)

d) There are a host of great guys (and gals) in OUR association. I am probably not alone, but I have not always made the effort to get to know people past just putting a name to their face. There are plenty of people who are willing to share advice and their experience. The monthly meetings are a real good time, if you participate. I am also slowly finding out at the Board level that I can learn more by listening than talking. I am fortunate just to be around such a sharp group of guys.

In closing, I want to say what a privilege it is to be directly involved in an association such as OURS. I am doing my part to help and learning a great deal in return. I urge anyone interested in helping to sign up for committee duty at the annual meeting at Medinah. The more participation on your part, the better OUR association becomes.

Annual Charity Gin Tournament

by Paul Voykin

The Annual Charity Gin Tournament was held on Monday, March 27th at Hackney's famous Restaurant in Wheeling. The weather was cold and wet, a perfect day for us to play gin. A record turnout of 45 donars showed up, some to play and some just brought their checks and stayed for a super lunch which "Geeg" Masterson, the owner, always prepares for us. What a great bunch of generous friends we have in the Midwest! A new high of \$2,500.00 was raised by the gin charity event. Some of the money donated went to brave little Jake Arden, the three year old son of Mike Arden who works for his brother Jerry as assistant and mechanic at Old Orchard Country Club. Young Jake is a cancer victim and already has lost a kidney to the terrible disease, which is especially tragic when it hits children. Say a prayer tonight for courageous Jake Arden. This is one tough little guy.

A portion of the money went to Rodrigo Sanchez whose wife passed away suddenly with a massive cerebral hemorrhage leaving behind four young children. Rodrigo has been a vital part of Mike Bavier's crew for 17 years as spray technician and assistant mechanic. If you read this and your heart is touched, please send a check to my office for \$40.00. It's not too late to help Jake & Rodrigo.

Peter "The Voik" and Johnny "The Bear" did a classy job of welcoming everyone with their cheer and good humor. No one complained about the pairing or the rules, except yours truly who in the first round drew old pay "Duddles" Smith who promptly proceeded to whip me with ease. Dudley has a killer instinct when he plays gin. He doesn't talk or smile and wears a poker face. The only utterance by Dudley every 15 minutes was, "Hey Ricky, bring me another beer ... only one!"

In the end, the final gin round, we all gathered around the finalists, two skilled participants "Big John" Treichler, Al Pondale's assistant and Jim "The Mask" Mascarella, one of the four very nice members that Mike always brings to the tournament. (We missed you this year, "Pops" ... get well!).

"Big John" and "The Mask" went neck and neck to the very end and then "The Mask" got a slight edge and beat out "Big John". Next March I hope we even get a bigger turnout.



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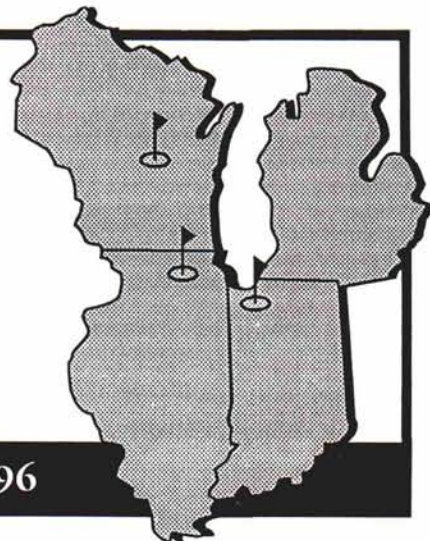
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Member of Audubon? Why Not!!

by Tod Hopphan, Assistant Supt.

Evanston G.C.

As we all know and have seen and heard, golf courses are not necessarily viewed with a favorable eye these days. Environmentalists are pushing their agendas harder and harder every year and they don't show signs of letting up. With the Paul Harvey's and the Wall Street Journal's of this world, spewing their beliefs over the airwaves and newspapers, we hardly have a chance to get our side of the story told. I'm sure that most of us see these situations as a problem looming on the horizon and if we continue to do nothing about it, it will only get worse.

We all seem to tell a good story and have a lot of ideas about what to do with this situation, but we end up doing nothing about it. My feelings are we never will win a head-to-head fight against these adversaries. They believe what they believe and nothing we say will change that. What we have to do is steer around them and start a positive public relations campaign to show our communities that we are not the environmental hazard that our enemies say we are. We must all work together and show unity if we are to succeed. Many ideas have been kicked around over the years and some could possibly work, but the key is to get organized and do it!

I have had the opportunity to serve on some of the MAGCS committees and it has been very rewarding. This year I decided to put my money where my mouth is and do something about this situation by signing up for the Public Relations committee. In my opinion, this committee and the work that comes from it should be one of the most important in the entire association. With the onslaught of negativism coming our way, we need to get organized, set an agenda, and accomplish what we can as soon as possible.

One of the first areas, we are addressing is our involvement with the Audubon Society of New York State (ASNYS). Currently, over 69 courses in Illinois are members with 54 being from the MAGCS. With these numbers we are putting together a survey to collect data and compile it for future press releases. Since numbers can carry more weight than words, what we collect from each course will carry more power with the media than individually presented.

As you have probably read in the past, Evanston G.C. has been involved with the ASNYS for 3 years. For the first time, we have an ally in the environmental world. I want to see this organization not only survive but prosper. With increased involvement from the MAGCS, we can finally have a voice that is loud enough to be heard.

Over the years, I have talked to a lot of you about being members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. It still seems that there are a lot of misconceptions about this program. If I had a dollar for every time someone said to me "we can't join because we can't have boy scout troops on our fairways" I would be a rich man. There are no complicated requirements of membership with this program. You can do as much or as little as you want. My hat is off to what Peter Leuzinger has accomplished

(continued page 10)

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This leads into a positive stance and going with it. Right now, we are 69 strong and growing, but that leaves a lot of us not being members of this organization. I feel if everyone at a minimum was a member of the ACSP, we could strengthen our position and show a solid front to our adversaries. I am confident and proud of what we all have accomplished in our industry. I know we are responsible managers of our land and environmental stewards. Our problem is that we don't know how to pat ourselves on the back. With increased membership in the ASCP and organizing our efforts together, hopefully we can finally get the attention, we so richly deserve. In closing, I am offering my services to anyone who has questions about the ACSP and its involvement. If Evanston Golf Club can become certified, there is no reason anyone else can't either!



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