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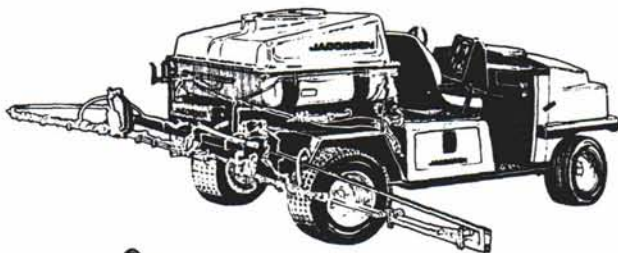
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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) is a professional organization founded in 1927 whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.





"We will be closed for inventory" the small postcard spelled out the other day. As I took a moment (which is about all the free time we have these days), it dawned on me that I needed to take some time to take my own personal "inventory." I thought about all of the facets of being a golf course superintendent and how the inventory was holding up.

Spending time with my family at this time of year has always been a tough shelf to keep stocked. I have to admit that the moments have been few and far between so far in 1997. Sure, I was able to take the clan to the zoo and to an occasional KCCG (Kane County Cougar Game), but a few days in a row would be more desirable. This will happen in October. We venture to Door County every Columbus Day weekend. Take a minute to see if you have given your family or friends some time this past few months. By the way, the Midwest will have an outing to the Cougars later this month on the 24th.

How about your crew at your course or place of business? Besides their actually taking inventory of the many items needed to operate efficiently, have you taken "inventory" and shown them your appreciation? How about a bash or picnic one day to relax and look back on all of their jobs well done. We try to turn in the many aluminum cans we collect throughout the summer and have a get-together for the crew. It really increases the inventory for the rest of the year! Up until now, it has been a wild year. Show your team you care.

We had a rare experience this last month concerning our monthly meeting at Orchard Valley. This meeting was not only the first Vendor Day, but it also filled up golferwise two weeks before the given deadline! Many people paid earlier than expected.

Have you taken inventory about paying your meeting fees as soon you get the announcement? Think about it in the future. When an announcement states that the event will take the first 128 PAID golfers. It means the first 128 PAID golfers!!! Why not pay for an entire foursome all at once? The MAGCS took inventory on how it allows members to pay for not only the monthly meetings but also for dues renewal. Starting this month, we will be accepting Visa and MasterCard as

a form of payment. If I could nominate a person for sainthood, it would be Luke Strojny. The Golf Committee is the hardest-working committee of them all. It will, hopefully, be easier in the future for all concerned.

Taking inventory can be easy enough to do. Clean up the many shelves of our profession. Take the time to step back and look at the whole picture. Here's hoping that the rest of your year is full of sellouts!

As always, thanks to all!

Ed Braunsky, CGCS President, MAGCS

# TURFTALK

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*Luke Strojny, CGCS  
Poplar Creek G.C.*

helping me carry the 100 boxes of prizes that I have to take to each golf event. My hat goes off to these members for all their help.

There have been many changes in the Golf Committee. We have invited the current MAGCS golf champion to serve on the committee. Tom Robinson has offered a new perspective on formats for events so that the good, bad and average player can enjoy them, and they are fair to everyone. Prizes have been upgraded; instead of the same old shirts and hats, we now have logoed golf bags, watches, wind-shirts, jackets, golf towels and, of course, shirts. Cochairman Don Ferreri is investigating securing higher-end prizes for the annual tournament.

We are going to attempt to do a one-time sale of MAGCS

merchandise. A list of merchandise along with an order card will be available for you to fill out and pay for, and we will place your order. Look for this later in the fall. Plans are being finalized for the use of Visa and MasterCard to pay for dues, golf events and merchandise. I pray that this will make registration for the meetings a lot less difficult.

By the time you read this, the July 7 meeting at Orchard Valley is over. Registration has been extremely difficult for this meeting. The announcement stated we would take the first 128 paid players, and the deadline for registration was June 30. The event was full as of June 18. I made over 40 calls to people telling them that they could not play. Many four-somes had one or two players that could not play because they had

*(continued on page 32)*



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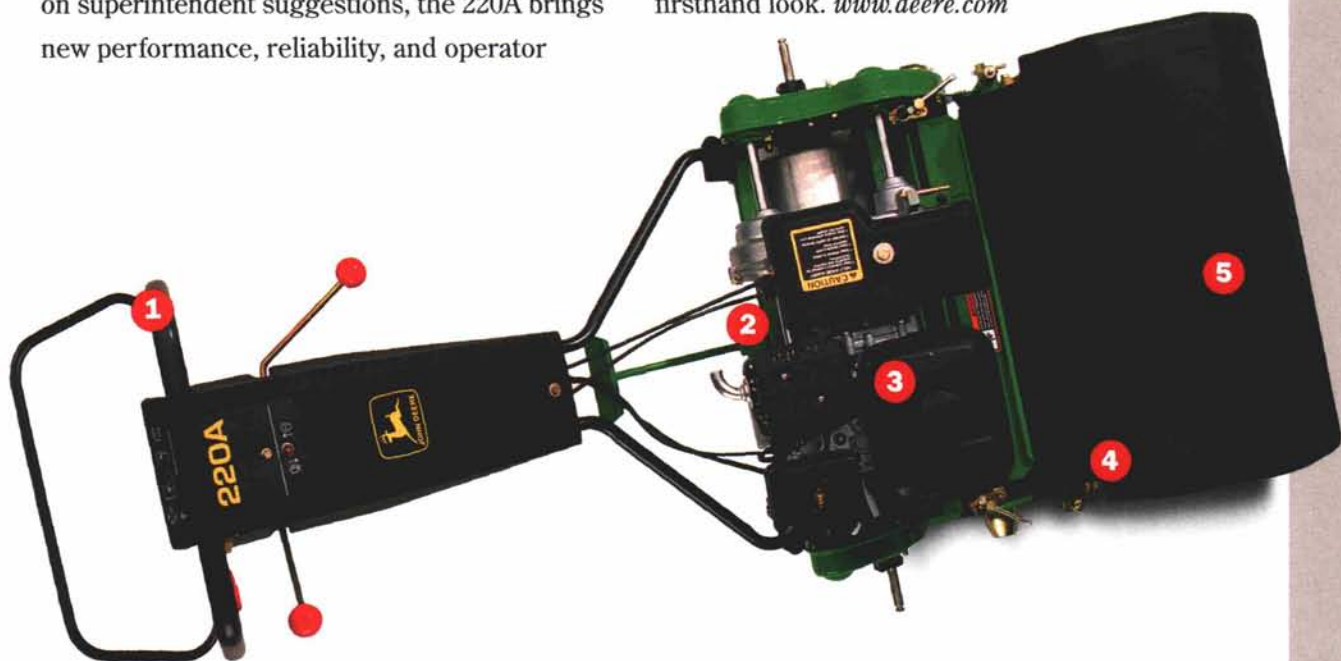


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# Keep Them Greens a Rolling, Rolling, Rolling

Gary Hearn  
Salt Creek G.C.

It's funny how the turf industry goes in circles. Back in the early 1920s, rolling was part of the maintenance program for putting greens. Then this machine was left for the early spring revival of frost heaving and to make greens a little smoother for early play during the middle of the century and up to the 1990s. During that period, we saw the growth of modified greens, better varieties of bentgrass, lower mowing heights, improved topdressing techniques, and better aerification programs.

Now, during the 1990s with increased pressure on green speed, increased volume of play, a new breed of bentgrass varieties, weather conditions, and "Tiger Wood mania," rolling has made a comeback. There are three kinds of rollers: tow drum rollers, triplex attachments, and light-weight dedicated greens rollers.

For most superintendents, rolling is done in late winter or early spring to take out the frost heaves and to help smooth out the greens for early play. But in the last two to three years, especially in the Chicagoland area, rollers have increased in popularity. I am not here to promote a brand which will do the best job for your golf course, but the ones that can be attached to greens triplex mowers seem to work the best for most superintendents.

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I interviewed six superintendents from the Chicagoland area who have different types of greens and situations. They are:

Tom Lively, Ruth Lake C.C.—Private, 18 holes.

Jim McNair, Orchard Valley G.C.—Public, 18 holes.

Steve Partyka, White Pines G.C.—Public, 36 holes.

Steve Van Acker, Crystal Lake C.C.—Private, 18 holes.

Mike Vukmir, Maple Meadows G.C.—Public, 27 holes.

Paul Wagner, Boulder Ridge C.C.—Private, 18 holes.

(continued on page 10)

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**Keep Them Greens a Rolling...**  
(continued from page 8)

All of these golf courses are cutting their greens at about 5/32 inch and are using attached rollers on used triplex units. Most of the superintendents are rolling right after mowing the greens and picking up about six to twelve inches more on the stimpmeter. Also, by using these attached units, they are getting their greens rolled much faster without disrupting play. Jim McNair double-cuts his greens, then rolls them. Both Jim and Mike Vukmir use their rollers more in the spring and fall as a supplement to mowing when the greens are growing slowly.

Steve Van Acker and Paul Wagner roll their greens at least two to three times per week and don't see much in compaction of the soil or thinning of the turf, and Paul has sand-based greens. All of these superintendents use their rollers very liberally during

special functions, tournaments, weekend play or certain weather conditions—again, to gain some speed without changing the height of cut. Consensus from this

*Consensus from this group is that the greens are smoother and consistent, and that seems to satisfy both the superintendent and the golfer.*

group is that the greens are smoother and consistent, and that seems to satisfy both the superintendent and the golfer.

I got mixed reviews on top-dressing; both Steve Van Acker and

Jim McNair are not very pleased with the rollers' effect after top-dressing, but that might be due to either wet sand, application procedures, or particle size. Paul Wagner brushes his greens the rolls them, and that seems to work fine. Mike Vukmir and Steve Partyka don't seem to have any problems with their topdressing procedures. Tracking with the triplex units raised a question with Steve Partyka because he had used a lightweight dedicated roller before and saw some good results, like a longer period of speed on the stimpmeter and a much smoother surface. Another question that I asked to each superintendent was irrigating the night before a rolling would take place, and they felt there wasn't a problem.

Tidbits: Mike Vukmir has sand-based greens that are fairly new, and he is trying to get his greens established by using the

(continued on page 14)

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