

the Bull Sheet

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 7 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Orchard Valley G.C.

August 4 — John Deere Team Championship at LaGrange C.C.

August 14 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Bartlett Hills G.C.

August 20 — University of Illinois Field Day

August 24 — MAGCS family outing and Kane County Cougars baseball.

September 22 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Ruffled Feathers G.C.

September 29 — ITF Northern Golf Day at Glen View Club and Evanston G.C.

A couple of the clubs responded to the request of who is spikeless and what they did to get there. Here are some comments:

Bill Kennedy reports that Cress Creek C.C. is entering its second year as a non-metal course. Everyone is happy.

Henry Michna at Winnetka G.C. states that non-metal spikes are strongly encouraged. Season pass holders (members, as they call themselves) were given a set of the new soft spikes in the spring and asked to participate. Daily fee golfers receive a \$3 discount (another way we look at it, is the metal monsters pay a \$3

surcharge) if they wear non-metal spikes. Participation by daily fee players is better than 40%! Participation by the pass holders is undetermined but thought to be even better. If someone comes in and buys a set of soft spikes before playing (to be changed later on their shoes), they receive the \$3 discount anyway. The clubhouse manager and golf pro lead the "PR" movement; all Henry has to do is verbally be supportive. He predicts by 1999 the only people with "metal mashers" will be the touring pros.

John Gurke of Aurora C.C., reports that they had a "Spikeless Weekend" in August 1995. Soft spikes were provided and changed over for free. The overwhelming response led to an annual meeting vote to go spikeless in February 1996, which was passed. They have been spikeless ever since.

Don Behning, the head mechanic at Itasca C.C., is retiring at the end of the 1997 golf season. They are looking for an experienced mechanic to fill this position. Please send a resume to the attention of Scott Speiden, Itasca C.C., 400 E. Orchard St., Itasca, IL 60143, or fax to 630-773-8676.

Gary Schweber at Four Winds G.C. had an accident in early May that broke a bone in his thumb when he was making repairs to the irrigation system. Get well soon, Gary.

Dave Arden reported a correction to one of the previous notes

in that Jami Lynn Arden was the second girl born in the Arden family in many years. Shawna Marie Arden, daughter of Gerald Arden, was the first. Sorry, Shawna Marie!

For Sale: Two, 1994 Jac 422s greensmowers, \$2,000 each. Very good condition. A 1984 Cushman top dresser, like new, \$1,000 or best offer. Toro blower, fits 220D only, good shape, \$850. Call Bob or Merl at Balmoral Woods C.C., 708-672-4390.

The application deadline is December 31, 1997, for the fall 1998 semester for the Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program at Penn State. Write to: Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802-3504.

From the Educational Committee: You may want to have your equipment technician check into your new engine needs as soon as possible. Various distributors are claiming many industry standard engines will no longer be produced as of August 1, 1997. There are new regulations that no doubt originated in California regarding air pollution. This will affect several Kohler, Briggs and Stratton, and Tecumseh engines.

Peter Leuzinger has participated in the first "Birdwatching Ryder Cup" event which took place May 21, 1997. Competition details and rules:

The Birdwatching Ryder Cup will take place on 12 American and 12 European golf courses from midnight to midnight on Wednesday, May 21, 1997. A single observer will be assigned to each selected golf course,

(continued on page 32)

the Bull Sheet

(continued from page 30)

where he or she will be responsible for recording as many wild species as possible from within the golf course boundaries.

The match will be based on the total number of species observed by each team on its 12 sites, with the highest aggregate score winning. Due to the larger number of naturally occurring bird species in the USA, a handicap of eight American species equating to five European species will be employed in determining the final result.

In the USA, the competition will be organized by Audubon International with special assistance from the Wildlife Links Committee. In Europe, the event will be organized by the European Golf Association's Ecology Unit with assistance from Birdlife International and its national partner associations.

Peter said that his observer reported 82 different species at Ivanhoe G.C. during the 24 hours on the course.

Congratulations to Bob Breen, Jr., of Arrowhead G.C., on earning an environmental man-

agement specialist certificate from the GCSAA for completing a specialization program for Golf Course Development. GCSAA is addressing the environmental impact of golf course maintenance and the increasingly complex training needs of golf course superintendents by offering specialized training through its Environmental Management Program.

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Editor's Note: Apologies to Mike Mumper, Ravisloe C.C, for not giving him credit for his article, "Larry Chirico -N- Rolling Green Country Club" in the June issue.
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Reflections on Tom Mascaro 1916 - 1997

*Dudley Smith
Silver Lake C.C.*

met the mushroom compost salesman about 1950 when he came to Centre Hills C.C. in State College, Pennsylvania, to demonstrate his prototype aerifier. It was pulled behind a Worthington Chief tractor. You engaged the open spoon aerifier by raising up the transport wheels (no hydraulic help). Sand bags were placed on top to get better penetration.

No. 2 green by the clubhouse was the site. We traveled in concentric circles—what a mess when we got to the center of the green. After Mascaro left, we had much tamping and topdressing to do with hand shovels (topdressing machines were not invented yet). Today, the superintendent would be discharged for making such a mess on the green; but at Centre Hills, Burt Musser was the green chairman.

As a student in 1952-1953, I helped the graduate students count crabgrass plants on test plots on fairways in Philadelphia.

The normal routine was to stop at Mascaro's home in West Point for spaghetti and beer before the trek back to Happy Valley.

The "Big 3" (O.J. Noer, Fred Grau, and Burt Musser) always had a fourth "bench man" on their speaking engagements. The cameraman was Tom Mascaro. Imagine the education you would have gotten if you could have eavesdropped in their hotel room while they were sipping Haig & Haig Scotch. The "Troubadours of Turf" had SRO audiences in Ames, Keokuk, West Lafayette, and Toronto.

Mention Mascaro, and you think aerifier, verticut, moisture sensing apparatus; but when I went to visit Warren Bidwell at Olympia Fields, he had a dozen West Point electric greensmowers charging along a wall. What heavy burdensome machines. The advent of the triplex mower phased out the walking electric greensmowers.

I think of the many turf clinics where the crippled little Italian in the electric scooter was the final

act with his colored slide show. Tom had more organized colored slides than anyone in the world (from sheep grazing fairways in Scotland to Chinese coolies building golf courses by hand with pick and hoe).

How many years did our magazine publish his photo quiz "Can You Identify This Problem?" It was a classic.

Two of my friends possessed the same qualities—humble, good listeners, brilliant minds, mechanical geniuses (with patents to prove it), mentors to scholars, recipients of our Distinguished Service award: Ben O. Warren and Thomas Mascaro.

We will miss you, Tommy!

Editor's Note: Thomas Mascaro of Pompano Beach, Florida, died May 6, 1997, at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife Dorothy; sons John and Bobby; daughters Tammy Shackelford, Linda Owens, and Stella Churchill; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.