

the Bull Sheet

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 6 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Eagle Brook C.C.

November 4-6 — Penn State Golf Turf Conference, State College, PA. For information, call 814-863-1017.

November 12 — Midwest Clinic and Annual Meeting at Medinah C.C.

November 15 — Midwest Dinner Dance at Aurora C.C.

January 8-9 — GCSAA Seminar "Golf Greens, History, Theory, Construction and Maintenance" at Oak Brook, IL.

January 19-22 — Michigan Turfgrass Conference, Lansing, MI.

January 20-22 — Midwest Turf Expo at Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN.

Kurt Galisdorfer at Exmoor C.C. has a position available immediately for a 2nd assistant/technician. If interested, please call 847-433-1177.

Applications are now being accepted for Penn State's Two-Year Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program for the class beginning in September 1998. There is an application fee of \$35, and the deadline is December 31, 1997. Call 814-863-0129 for more information.

Two of our members had articles in the August 1997 issue of *Golf Course Management*. Tony Rzadzki, Bristlecone Pines, wrote, "Why Not Adopt?" an article on the adoption of a local school working with the Audubon International's program for schools. Dan Dinelli's, North Shore C.C., article entitled, "Don't Treat Pests: Avoid 'em," concerned the IPM approach to pest management. Both were excellent articles. Well done guys. Incidentally, Tony was given the Editor's Award a few years back for his many articles in this publication, and Dan won the Ray Gerber Editorial Award last year. Both are in contention for the Ray Gerber Award this year.

Kerry Blatteau, Oak Brook Hills Golf Club, and his dog Jenna got lots of publicity by appearing on the Channel 2, 5 p.m. newscast, Tuesday, August 5. Kerry and Jenna showed how the border collie works to control geese on the course. Great PR Kerry.

The bus trip to the University of Illinois Field Day on August 20 was a success. There were about 22 on the bus (room for more in 1998), with about 16 getting on at Woodfield Mall and the rest getting on at Mattson. The U of I group had an excellent program again this year, and the weather was great. Thanks to Arthur Clesen, Inc. for supplying the snacks and drinks on the bus.

Assistant is needed at Biltmore C.C. Call Brian Thomson at 847-381-1963.

Congratulations to Lori and Bob Lively on the July 12 birth of twin girls, Katie and Sarah. Their family of five includes son Bobby who is 2. Everyone is doing fine—except for the lack of sleep for the parents.

Park Ridge C.C. will be installing a new Toro OSMAC with double-row and perimeter watering around the greens. This will be one of the newest and up-to-date systems in the area once completed. Plus Mike Gruening will be building a new 12th green with Bill Boyd of Timberline doing the work.

Tim Davis and his crew at Shore Acres have been building a gabion rock wall along a drainage swale this past summer. When finished, they will have built over 960 feet of walls at a cost of about \$20 per foot. The facing wall is lined with granite boulders, and the interior basket is filled with 3" to 4" of limestone rocks. It is very attractive.

Wedding bells have struck and will strike for two of our bachelor superintendents. Brian Bossert, Bryn Mawr C.C., and Pam Brackenbury were married in Palos Park on September 26, 1997. Mike Bavier, Inverness G.C., and Mary Florek will be wed on October 17, 1997. Congratulations to these fine couples, and may they enjoy health and happiness in their lives together.

Greg Coyne at Kankakee C.C. and Jack McCormick of Calumet C.C. are doing major bunker renovations at their courses, each one doing over 50 bunkers. That will keep the sand trucks rolling.

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The MAGCS will register the initials "MAGCS" for a time when they decide to go on-line. This will avoid the possibility of someone else using the initials and putting us in a position of trying to buy it back.

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Paul Knulty is looking for an assistant at the Oak Club of Genoa. Please call 815-784-5678.

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Park Ridge C.C. assistant Wayne Geier's son Josh, 15, has cancer and is going through radiation treatments. Please remember Josh in your prayers for a speedy recovery.

Excellent Opportunity for your Spanish Employees to Acquire the Applicators/Operators License

School:
William Rainey Harper College
1200 West Algonquin Rd.,
Palatine, IL 60067

Instructor:
Fernando Fernandez, CGCS

Course: Training course to help Spanish-speaking people not fluent in English to pass the commercial Not-for-Hire Applicator and Operators license, category General Standards.

Qualifications: Must know enough English to take and pass a fourth grade-level qualifying test.

Time & Dates: Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, November 8, 1997, to February 21, 1998, for a total of 10 weeks.

Benefits: Students will go over each one of the chapters in the General Standards book, both in English and in Spanish, until they learn the material and have enough confidence to take the test.

Fees: \$250

Promise: If the student passes the qualification test, Harper guarantees that the student will pass the General Standards Test, or they will keep him in their program until he passes it or for a full 12-month period.

Info: Please call 847-291-2232, and ask for Fernando.

Materials needed: The General Standards book, both the English and the Spanish versions.

Director's Column

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My last and biggest goal was to take a summer vacation, something I had never done in 28 years of working on golf courses. I did not originally intend to take one this year, but my wife and children were traveling out to Wyoming the last week of July for four days of living on covered wagons while riding horses and trekking through the Grand Tetons. It was planned as another family vacation without me. I'm sure that those of us with children have all gotten the lecture from time to time about how our wives feel like single parents, but I'm lucky that this doesn't discourage my wife from forging ahead. My kids asked why I couldn't go with them, and I gave them my standard golf course superintendent reply of not being able to take that much time off during the summer. After

some reflection, I realized that I would probably never get the opportunity to do this with my children again.

I once again approached my grounds chairman, and he enthusiastically gave me the green light to spend the week in Wyoming. I then made the arrangements to meet my family without their knowledge (I wanted a bailout option in case something went haywire at work, and I couldn't leave). In the last week of July, the week of my 40th birthday, I departed for Jackson Hole, Wyoming. It was one of the best things I have ever done. The look on my kids' face when I arrived was priceless. We had a great week incommunicado in the mountains. I didn't even worry about work because I knew there was nothing I could do about it. Of course, sit-

ting in the Denver airport waiting for a connecting flight home and hearing that Chicago had a heat index of 118 the previous day was a little disconcerting, but everything was fine when I got back.

I guess the lesson that I learned from all of this is to not let life pass me by. There is never a good time to be gone from work, but we grow as people when we experience new things; and the trust that we place in our staffs when we are gone is invaluable to their development as well. I was lucky this year to have exceptionally good weather, a fabulous staff, and a supportive Board of Directors and membership at my club. It's something that everyone should be able to do with a little prior planning. ■