

the Bull Sheet

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Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 10-15 — GCSAA's International Conference and Show in Atlanta, Georgia.

February 12-13 — MAGCS Hospitality Suite sponsored by the Golden Tee Club at the Marriott Marquis Hotel from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. each night.

February 18-21 — Toro NSN Site Pro Training Classes at Golf House in Lemont, Illinois. GCSAA will award 1.7 CEUs for attendance. Call TPEC for details.

February 24-28 — Indiana-Illinois Turfgrass Short Course at the Holiday Inn in Willowbrook, Illinois.

February 25-26 — Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School and Trade Show in Collinsville, Illinois.

March 11 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Golf House in Lemont, Illinois.

March 12-13 — Reinders Turf Conference at the Waukesha Expo Center in Waukesha, Wisconsin. More details follow.

March 20 — CDGA/USGA Green Seminar at Medinah Country Club, Tom Lively, CGCS host. Again, details follow.

First off, congratulations to Pam and Brian Bossert, CGCS (Bryn Mawr C.C.) on the birth of twin boys on December 26. Briggs Ivan (6 lb., 5 oz.) and Brock Eli (6 lb., 2 oz.) are healthy and a handful!

On February 24th through 28th, the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation

and the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, in cooperation with Purdue University and the University of Illinois, will sponsor the Indiana-Illinois Turfgrass Short Course at the Holiday Inn in Willowbrook. The objective of this program is to provide basic information to those who are employed or considering employment in the turf industry. It will focus on basic turfgrass management, soils, fertility and pest management. A veritable who's who list of educators will be conducting lectures and hands-on laboratory sessions. For more information, call Bev Bratton at 765-494-8039 or Tom Voigt at 217-333-7847.

Not to be overshadowed, the Southern Illinois Grounds Maintenance School and Trade Show will be held on February 25th and 26th at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, Illinois. Contact the Madison-St. Clair Extension Unit at 618-692-7700 for registration information.

As if you haven't had enough opportunities to improve your knowledge, here's another to put on the schedule: The 16th Reinders Turf & Irrigation Conference at the Waukesha Expo Center promises to be bigger and better than ever. Held every two years since 1971, the event features nationally known speakers, offers enlightening seminars and brings a variety of industry manufacturers together—all in one place. This year's conference takes place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 12th and 13th. More than 40 educational sessions are scheduled covering a wide range of topics, such as turfgrass management, combating turf diseases, golf course irrigation systems, equipment maintenance and more. The conference will also feature a trade show with more than 65 manufacturers displaying products and services ranging from equipment to control products to

lawn-care accessories. Among the featured speakers are Pat Jones, publisher of *Golfdom* magazine, Wayne Horman of the Scotts Company (RoundUp Ready Bentgrass) and Dr. Joe Vargas of Michigan State University ("Latest Trends in Turfgrass Diseases" and "Anthracnose Management Strategies"). Added bonus: free doughnuts, free lunch and free social hour each day! Call 262-786-3301, ext. 243 for info.

Dr. Randy Kane reports that the Green Seminar is back on the schedule for 2003, and will be held on Thursday, March 20 at Medinah Country Club. Only now the Green Seminar is new and improved! The meeting will be cosponsored by the USGA Green Section and Mid-Continent director Paul Vermeulen. Save the date and make plans to attend.

This comes a tad late, but is appropriate while we are on the subject of the CDGA: Lee Miller (of Interactive Turf fame) married his longtime sweetheart Robin on November 16 in her hometown of Suffolk, Virginia. The two met three years ago in Raleigh, North Carolina, where they both worked on the same golf course—Carolina Country Club. The quaint (nice word for inexpensive) ceremony took place in the same church in which Robin's parents were married 35 years before, which added to the charm of the affair. The rain outside, however, was not so charming—it rained cats and dogs all night long—but according to superstition that is supposed to be lucky. Golf seems to be a recurring theme in the couple's lives, as they spent their honeymoon at the Moon Palace Golf Resort in Cancun, Mexico. Congratulations, Lee and Robin!



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MAGCS sends its deepest sympathies to the **Leuzinger** family on the passing of **Pete's** mother and **Jeff's** grandmother Doris on December 8. With Pete and Jeff as her son and grandson, you KNOW she died a proud woman. You have our condolences, guys.

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Because you just haven't had enough of the holidays . . .
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The annual South Side Christmas Party was held on Monday, December 9 at Chef Klaus' Steak & Seafood in Frankfort. The old building has burned to the ground, but they still served the traditional German fare right down to the BIG mugs of Warsteiner and Spaten. Most of the familiar figures were present—**Dudley Smith**, **Pete Vandercook**, **Ray Schmitz** and **Jim Burdett**, to name a few—and many newcomers to this annual ritual popped in as well. Party organizers **Ed Esgar** (Ravisloe C.C.) and **Keith Peterson** (Calumet C.C.) deserve a big hand for a job wonderfully done. The atmosphere was warm and festive for the onset of the holiday season, and the full house of party-goers had a great time.



Kerry Anderson and Jim Burdett.



Organizers Ed Esgar and Keith Peterson work the biceps.



George O'Hara and Pete Vandercook.
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The MUCH-younger-but-still-a-tradition West Side Holiday Party was also a part of the circuit this past December. Held at Dave & Buster's in Addison, the affair included an Italian feast for lunch with plenty of refreshments to wash it down while enjoying a friendly game of pool. As has become a "tradition within a tradition," the refreshment fund ran out in midstream, causing a brief but controlled riot. Thanks to **Paul Carlson** of Central Sod Farms, Inc. (our hero), the melee was quashed when he generously reopened the tab. Thanks also to **Gary Hearn** (Salt Creek G.C.) and **Don Ferreri** (Seven Bridges G.C.) for organizing the party.



The three Daves—Nadler, Braasch and Meyer—make an eerie trio, with Dave Braasch having worked for Dave Meyer before working for Dave Nadler . . . or something like that.



Don Ferreri and Gary Hearn.



Tom Lively and Sylvia Lima.
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Why do we get the raised eyebrow treatment from our superiors when we request capital funds? The January-February issue of USGA's *Golf Journal* ran an interesting item on the comparative costs of golf course equipment versus things they can identify with. The highlights included: A set of aerator tines runs \$10 more than a Panasonic 27-inch stereo television, a triplex greens mower is \$6,450 more than a 2003 Stingray 200 CX power boat (\$26,450 vs. \$20,000), and a power bunker rake actually costs \$2,780 more than a 2003 Ford Focus ZX3 2-door hatchback (\$12,780 vs. \$10,000). Yikes.

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GCSAA CEO Steve Mona announced that Julian Arredondo, the association's chief financial officer, will assume the chief operating officer position effective March 1. Mr. Arredondo replaces Chuck Borman, who recently resigned to return to his former role as executive director of the Carolinas GCSA.
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Peter Hahn of Ridgemoor Country Club has been a busy man this past year. Ridgemoor, with the help of Lohmann Golf Designs and Horizon Golf of Evanston, recently completed the renovation of all 57 bunkers to improve their appearance, address maintenance issues and enhance their strategic roles relevant to each golf hole. The 1921 W. B. Langford course also replaced its crumbling timber walls with stone, and removed 400 trees to help bring it back to the original architect's concept. All this work was done while taking just two holes at a time out of play.

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PEOPLE ON THE MOVE . . .
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Warren Shafer, formerly of Prime Turf, has started a new company. Growing Solutions will offer a full line of products, including water treatments, fertigation, wash-water recycling and GPS mapping. Congratulations and good luck to Warren in his exciting new endeavor.
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Pete Kiraly, formerly at Hilldale Golf Club, is the new superintendent of Schaumburg Golf Club. Best of luck to Pete in his new challenge.
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Golf course mechanic seeks position: **Mario Godinho** has 10 years' experience in a wide range of golf course equipment maintenance. Call Mario at 630-844-9085 or 239-823-9988 (cell) for background and resume.
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Finally, this perspective about our business was found floating around the Internet:
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Imagine the conversation the Creator might have with St. Francis on the subject of lawns.

GOD: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature, what in the world is going on down there in the U.S.? What in the world happened to the dandelions, violets, thistles and the stuff I started cons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil,

withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of color by now. All I see are patches of green.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. They are called the Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But it is so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, bees or birds; only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing it and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and the warm weather probably make the



Golf Course Funnies

Oopsy! And Lenny the crane truck operator was doing SO well with his new diet . . .



grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites very happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it has grown a little, they cut it—sometimes two times a week.

GOD: They cut it? Why? Do they bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now let me get this straight. They fertilize it to make it grow and when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense! At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep the moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves are compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You'd better sit down, Lord. As soon as the leaves fall, the Suburbanites rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No way! What do they do to protect the shrubs and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?


ST. FRANCIS: After throwing the leaves away they go out and buy something called mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down the trees and grind them up to make mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: *Dumb and Dumber*, Lord. It's a real stupid movie about . . .

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis! 

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