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Bull Sheet printed by Ever-Redi Printing, 5100 East Ave., Countryside, IL 60525.

The **Bull Sheet** is published once a month. All articles are required by the 10th of the month to make the next issue. Advertising is sold by the column inch, by the quarter page, half page, and by the full page. All artwork to be finished and in black and white. Circulation is over 600 issues per month.



President's Message

Bruce R. Williams, CGCS
MAGCS President

Role Models

Each of us has probably encountered at least one individual who has made a major impact on our lives. People who have influenced us in such a manner that we have chosen to pattern ourselves after these people. What we feel about these influential people is very difficult to put into words but I hope to describe some of those feelings. I want to share with you the thoughts I have about the people most responsible for shaping my personal life and professional career.

I suppose we all hope that our children will one day grow up to be the spitting image of their fathers. As a child, I felt the importance of the position my father held, and knew that he was not only the leader of our family but also that he played an important role in the golf industry. As a youth, it was hard to conceive the someone could fill both of those roles so well. During my adolescent years, I began to realize the importance of loving your work and the happiness that one could derive from their chosen profession. It certainly took a few years for me to figure out my own career path but I had a firm foundation for whatever career I would have chosen as my father had given me a strong base to develop from. He was my first role model and probably the strongest influence in my life.

During the summers of my high school years, I was fortunate to get my first taste of the golf industry and I worked as a caddy at the Onwentsia Club in Lake Forest. Hubby Habjan was the first person that I ever worked for. One couldn't have chosen a better employer to start off with. During the idle hours waiting for a caddy "loop", I learned how to help around the range house and occasionally change a grip or two on some clubs. Hubby hired me after several years of caddying and I became his shop assistant. Thanks to Hubby, I learned what work was all about at an early age. He instilled in me the proper work ethic and helped me to establish the proper attitude about working. I can assure you that I didn't fully understand all the principles of the proper work ethic at the time, but reflecting back on that period I now realize how important he was as a role model for me.

Several superintendents took me under their wing (in addition to my father) and they were excellent examples of the leaders of our industry. Frank Dobie at Sharon Golf Club and Bruce Sering at Glen View Club were both responsible for bringing me along and were an important part of the maturation process for me. I give them the credit for opening the door to this great industry for me and sharing their knowledge. They not only taught me about turf but more importantly they taught me about people and how to manage them. (cont'd. page 3)

Dr. Ken Payne served an important role in my life as well. He was my professor at Michigan State University and most importantly he was my friend. At a time in my life when I was making a career decision, "Doc" was there to give me the confidence to believe in myself. Those lessons I learned in Turfgrass 101 were inconsequential, in retrospect, to the lessons about life that "Doc" taught me.

These are the men that most influenced my life. Had it not been for them I don't think I would have enjoyed the successes that I am experiencing. They set the tone for what work is all about. They set the standards by which one should model their life. Anyone would be proud to have known or worked for just one of those mentors. I was extremely lucky to have learned from some of the best leaders in our industry. I will be forever grateful for all that they have done for me.

Although it was never said, I always felt that it was my duty to pass on that knowledge that was given to me by those special people. Sharing that knowledge has been one of the major driving forces in my life. I only hope that one day I can aspire to becoming a role model for the people that surround me. I can't think of a more pleasant thought.

Director's Column



Minor Details

by Donald A. Cross, CGCS
Skokie Country Club

There is probably little, if any, of the following that you haven't already heard, seen, or done. It concerns the topic of paying attention to minor details. This probably serves the purpose of reminding me about these things as much as it does for any of you.

Now that we are well into the normally high plant stress period the tendency to get psychologically and physically drained is heightened. We all can begin to get a little tired and occasionally lose sight of some of the things we often routinely perform, the seemingly insignificant, but extremely important, minor details.

One of the most noticeable minor details that comes to mind is with tee and green supplies. Clean ball washers with regularly replaced water and soap, and clean towels should be standard operating procedure. Daily cleaning of the putting cups and painting of aluminum or replacing plastic cups when necessary, and keeping flags and flagsticks in good condition, also go a long way toward projecting your concern for details.

How about your tee surfaces? Are broken tees and debris removed, divots replaced or removed and refilled with topdressing and seed, and divot mix buckets kept filled? Have the yardage markers and sprinkler heads been edged recently? This can apply to fairways as well and include valve boxes and drainage grates. Additional edging would obviously include bunkers and flower beds.

How about traffic control supplies? I dislike ropes and signs but at times there's no alternative. The least we can do is make sure the signs are neat, stakes are set straight and trees are not used for securing ropes. This is certainly a minor detail but you can bet players notice.

How do your trees and ornamental plant materials look? Pruning of dead, damaged, and low hanging branches and removing suckers, broken stems, spent blooms, and the all too occasional wedged-in plastic cup or crushed beer can, will show your concern for more than just turfgrass.

How does your equipment measure up? Our members, and boards spend significant sums of money on equipment and surely expect it to be maintained well and kept clean and orderly. We often have to use some rather antiquated equipment but this is no excuse not to take care of it and besides it's easier to sell them on an additional piece if they know it will be treated properly.

Finally, how do you and your employees look? Our employees appearance, as well as our own, can have a major impact on how we are perceived by the people we work for. Stand back and take a look, are their uniforms or clothes neat and clean, is their personal hygiene appropriate? Remember when you start to point your finger, stand in front of the mirror and try it first.

As I stated before, these items are not in anyway profound or untrodden but merely some thoughts to keep us focused during perhaps the most difficult time of the year. We could all add numerous items to this list.

Just some minor details, but don't forget, several minor details add up to major success.

June 10, 1991 — Golf Event Winners Naperville C.C.

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Low Net

1st — Score 125 (-17)

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2nd — Score 125 (-17)

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The Intriguing World of Weeds — Common Dandelion — The Lion's Tooth

L. W. Mitich, Weed Technology
Volume 3, Number 3, 1989

From ancient times to the present, common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* Weber in Wiggers) has been considered one of the most delectable of garden vegetables. People have carried the seeds from place to place for cultivation since before written history. No early records exist of the importation of dandelion into the United States. This has been suggested as evidence that its use was so prevalent in Puritan times, that dandelion seed, along with seed of other essential plants, was carried to the Colonies as a part of every good wife's garden supply. More than most "weeds", therefore, dandelion has been spread by deliberate cultivation as a food.

Dandelion is a rarity in that humans can eat all parts. The young leaves are boiled like spinach or eaten raw in salads. The roots also are peeled and sliced for salads, or are eaten roasted or fried. The yellow blossoms can be eaten outright, deep fried or mixed into pancakes, or made into wine. Dandelion leaves can be made into a healthful tea, and the roots can be dried and ground, like chicory, for a coffee-like drink.

Dandelion is an exceptional source of iron, copper, potassium, and other minerals. It contains 0.5% phosphorus, 1.6% calcium and 0.5% magnesium. It is also a good source of vitamins A and C. Improved large-leaved dandelion varieties are available specifically for cultivation as a annual fall and spring vegetable.

Dandelion is considered a serious weed problem in Austria, Italy, Poland and Turkey. It is a principle weed in eight countries, including the United States; a common weed in 21 countries; and is present in most other nations. There are 50 to 60 species of *Taraxacum* and hundreds of variations have from time to time been described.

Dandelion is a stemless perennial herb with a long taproot and milky sap (latex). It forms a rosette of somewhat succulent, deeply and irregularly lobed leaves, 5 to 25 centimeters (2 to 10 inches) long. Flower heads are yellow, 2.5 to 5 centimeters (1 to 2 inches) across, atop hollow stalks. Mature fruit form pappi with many soft white hairs that comprise the familiar globose "puffballs" which children often disperse and which are borne efficiently by wind and water.

Dandelion can reproduce vegetatively if the taproot is broken into pieces. Thus, the whole taproot must be removed from the ground if the plant is to be eradicated physically. This can be difficult, as the taproot is contractile — it "locks in" to the soil and contracts as the rosette grows, keeping the growing point near the soil surface.

Turf for Peace

"Today, the more civilized and peaceful a country is, the more (formal) turf is used. When our lives become more comfortable, the importance of grass increases as a place where we can get close to it, enjoy it, play and relax on it. Turf is now a symbol of civilization, peace and affluence."

Dr. Fumio Kitamura
From *Landscape Management* October 1989

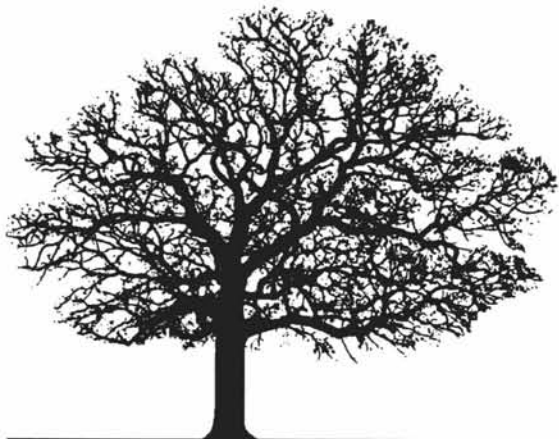


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July Plantings for the Fall Garden

by James A. Fizzell, Sr. Ext. Adviser
Horticulture, U. of I.

Many vegetables may be grown for the fall garden with great success. For those with limited space the fall garden is a must.

Anytime after July 1, sow carrot, radish, turnip, Chinese cabbage and kohlrabi seeds. Chinese cabbage tends to grow better as a fall crop than as a spring crop. Harvest when it is three to four inches tall for salad greens or allow to form heads.

Radishes are favorites of many gardeners, since they grow so quickly. Icicle, Champion and Red Prince varieties work quite well. These varieties are ready to harvest in less than 30 days.

Turnips should have an equal part in the fall garden. Sow seeds in rows for ease when weeding. Mix seeds with dried coffee grounds to help eliminate clusters of seeds when sowing the seeds. Turnips are tasty raw as well as cooked, says Mr. Fizzell.

Carrots are the all time favorites of gardeners. Scarlet Nantes, Royal Chantenay and Danvers Half Long are a few suggested varieties. Carrots are slow to germinate in hot weather, mix and sow radish and carrot seeds together. The radish seeds will germinate first breaking the soil surface and showing off the row. Remove the radishes as they mature thereby leaving room for the carrots to grow.

Leaf lettuce may be planted every two weeks starting in mid-July. Try varieties such as Salad bowl, Black seeded Simpson and Grand Rapids.

Other crops that do well in fall gardens are spinach, beets, swiss chard, mustard, and beans. To have success with your fall garden follow these easy steps. Sow seeds at 1 1/2 to 2 times the recommended depth. Cover with a light mulch to keep the soil cool and prevent crusting, or cover each row with a board. Check each morning and remove the board when seedlings have come up.

Keep adequate and constant moisture. Establish a regular watering, feeding, and spraying program.

Insects which were a problem in the spring gardens are often of little concern to the fall gardeners. Many insects have already completed their life cycles by then.

"Fire Cracker Time"

How many shades of Blue does Wilt Demand,

Before turning to straw on command?

Rich colors of infectious disease,

Has brought many Super's to Their knees.

Let's hope it never happens to You,

Basking in the Sun, neath a Sky of Blue.

But if it does, don't dismay,

Most every Super's faced such a Day.

Fourth of July Firecrackers will find room,

To Pinwheel and Skyrocket, touch the Moon.

Kenneth R. Zanzig



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1991 CATALOG



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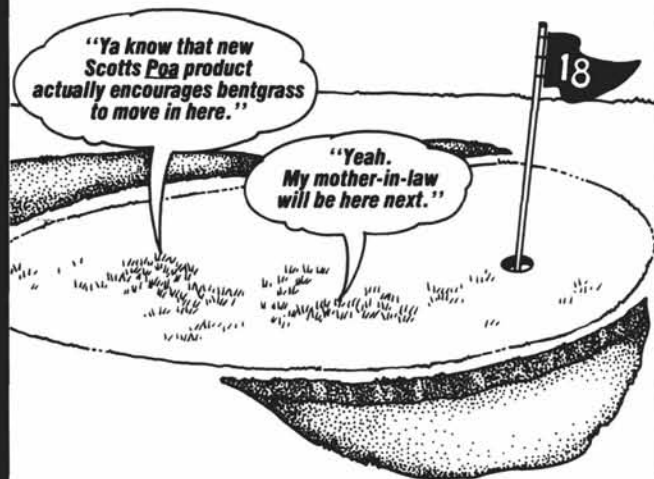


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Pictures of Ed Stewart's Retirement Party — River Forest Country Club



Ed & Gene Stewart, son Steve & wife, Karen with Steve Jr. and Michelle. Daughter Sue & Jim Reed with their family of Philip, Alissa, Kim and Jimmy. Seated to the right is Charles MacIntyre, the club President.



"Now if you invest your money in used golf balls ..." Albie Staudt with Reggie and Tom Byrne.



Bob Williams, Marv Gruening and Ed



The DiGuidos, Leiths, Staudts, & Russ Reed, with Ray Schei and Julius Albaugh in the background.



Standing behind Ed is Joel Purpur who succeeded Ed at River Forest C.C. and Fred Opperman



Wally Fuchs, Pete Leuzinger & De Ann, Bonny Fuchs and Judy Opperman.



Jaunita & John Ebel, with the Reeds.



The Meyers & Nadlers



"The Toro Connection" — Jim & Russ Reed with Steve Stewart



Bob Williams with Don & Lynn Gerber.

"The Bull Sheet" & Editorial Committee Survey

by Fred D. Opperman, Editor

The survey is now completed and for me as your Editor it held no surprises. The rule of thumb for most surveys is to expect about a 10% return. We did better by getting 144 postcards returned, (we mailed out 635) as of June 11th when I tabulated the results. This is a return of 22.6%.

I have entered all of the suggested name changes for those of you who thought that the name should be changed as per question #7. I've also included all of your comments from question #10. The greatest thing I noticed is that so many of you write the name of our newsletter as one word — it's three words, "The Bull Sheet".

The following are the responses for each choice:

1. Are you happy with the present ratios of 60% ads and 40% articles?

- a. Yes — 110 Responses
- b. No — 19 Responses
- c. Suggested ratio: 1 for 35/65; 6 for 40/60; 15 for 50/50; 1 for 55/45; and 1 for 68/32.

2. Would you like to see the number of newsletter pages

- a. remain at 22 pages — 102 responses
- b. increase to: 23 responses in range from 23-50 pages
- c. decrease to: no responses

3. Which page layout do you prefer:

- a. Three columns and smaller ad sizes — 37 responses
- b. Our current format with two columns — 98 responses

4. Would you like to see the front cover and flag of "The Bull Sheet" changed?

- a. Yes — 46 responses
- b. No — 88 responses

5. Would you like to see 4-color on the front cover?

- a. Yes — 59 responses
- b. No — 76 responses

6. Would you like to see the name of the publication changed?

- a. Yes — 35 responses
- b. No — 103 responses

7. If yes, what name would you suggest?

Professional Golf Course Supt's. Bulletin
Midwest Turf Tender
Midwest Breezes (4 votes)
The Prairie Turf Chronicle
The Supers Sheet
The Midwest Golf Course Superintendent
Midwest Golf Course
Chicagoland Golf Course Superintendent
None — Keep "The Bull Sheet"
Midwestern Fairways
Midwest Turf Super
Don't change name
Midwest Monthly
Doesn't matter
Chicago Turfgrass

Anything that might reflect the attitude toward our profession.
How about "Computer Green" — a stupid empty yuppie name.
Not really, but feel that this great publication should get national recognition.

The Cutting Edge
The Clippings or Behind the Green
Midwest Turf Management

Not Midwestern Breezes

Leave as is

Gerber Golf Report

MAGCS Monthly

Superintendents' Sentinel (look out)

Windy City Links

The MAGCS Reporter

It's been a good name all these years, don't change.

Links Letters, Super Views, Super News, Roots, Midwest News & Views

The present name has a lot of history.

Journal of MAGCS

Keeping of the Green

The Midwest Turf News

8. Please circle your MAGCS Classification:

AA — Retired - 12

A — Active Superintendent - 71

B — Less than 3 years as Superintendent - 6

C — Assistant Superintendent - 4

D — Employee of Superintendent - 4

E — Associate Member - 23

H — Honorary - 7

AE — Advertising Associate - 10

Editor of other newsletters - 1

Friend of MAGCS - 3

9. Please circle your age bracket.

a. 20-29 - 12

b. 30-39 - 53

c. 40-49 - 33

d. 50-59 - 12

e. 60+ - 21

10. Additional comments you would like to make concerning your newsletter? (I never realized some people could write so much on a post card!)

"I for one cannot wait for the next "Bull Sheet", month after month. Keep up the good work Fred! Keep informing us and giving us the latest "Bull".

"I'd say, there was some pretty solid thought that went into the concept of "The Bull Sheet". I for one, have enjoyed the thoughts and messages it contained, while missing the Bull on the cover. As for the art of hole changing, at times it takes a bull to do it. For the sake of many who were part of the past, wave the Flag of Glory, revel in the individuality that makes one's finger print different from another." "Great editorial Fred!"

"This current edition is one of the best."

"I think the present magazine is very well done, but it's time for a new name (if the GCSAA can allow their publication name to evolve, we can as well)"

"Too many non interesting articles — give us news of members and not pros!!"

"No full page ads — 1/2 page the largest. Bring back the Bull."

"We should all be proud of "The Bull Sheet". Much credit should go toward Fred Opperman for doing a fine job over the years."

"You're doing an excellent job."

"Golden words I have heard today,

That the "Bull Sheet" is here to stay" from Ken Zanzig's poem 198?"

"The name of the publication should not effect its content in any way."

"I think there are a lot of other things we should worry about in our association than changing the name of "The Bull Sheet".

"Good idea — 4 color cover, is it possible to put a photo of the club we are going to play that month? I would volunteer to get the photos. Creative ideas to get articles, i.e. ... contests, friendly "pressure" to fellow supts. for articles."

"Fred, pretty strong words in your editorial. However, having worked for Dudley Smith and Warren Bidwell, I am a traditionalist. Long live "The Bull Sheet".

(cont'd. page 10)

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(Survey cont'd.)

"Maybe we can change the association name too — 'Greater Chicago GCSA.'"

"The name 'The Bull Sheet' has endured for 45 years without a problem, why change now?"

"I've always accepted the name 'The Bull Sheet' — but never liked it. I do respect its history!"

"It has always looked professional to me."

"Keep up the good work."

"Overall I think that 'The Bull Sheet' and its editor Fred Opperman was doing a fine job as our associations monthly newsletter."

"Make 'Midwest Breezes' section the 'Bull Sheet'."

"Great job Fred, regardless of the name, the publication of the MAGCS should uphold the fine tradition fostered by Ray and yourself. Keep it up."

"The cover doesn't make the book. Who are we trying to please, ourselves or others? I think most of our members have seen or heard of 'The Bull Sheet' over the many years."

"I would like to see a bigger, more modern newsletter."

"Fred a great defense, well done. If you change the name 'The Bull Sheet' to something else, this old guy will change also to another organization."

"Some sort of periodical for each year ending, so we can find certain articles easier than paging through our past magazines."

"Hi Fred!"

"Great job, Fred! But I also feel that a change would be good at this time. Our profession has changed dramatically in the last 45 years and our newsletter should catch up."

"Great job all of these years."

"Fred, I feel 'The Bull Sheet' is fine the way its been since I've received 42 years ago."

"Fred, I enjoyed your comments on 'The Bull Sheet' title. However, and although I agree with you on name change, a change for the younger people could be a positive move."

"Modernize the cover ..."

"No need to apologize for the soapbox Fred, and you were fair in providing opposing views equal opportunity to present their side."

"The Bull Sheet" has been the best, keep up the good work. We are proud of what we have."

"A fine publication, good job to all involved."

"Bull Sheet" is a great publication, and you do a great job with it. Keep up the good work."

"I enjoy 'The Bull Sheet' as it is. Good job."

"Fred, you have one of the best newsletters around. I think that minor changes would enhance the publication. I am interested to see the survey results."

"Name of publications: 1. Turf Grass Tattler; 2. Superintendents Sampler; 3. Greenskeeper Gazette; 4. Ball Mark Banter; 5. Daily Divot; 6. Dudley's Divot! All of a sudden the name 'The Bull Sheet' is starting to sound pretty good — leave it alone."

"Keep up the good work Fred!"

"The MAGCS newsletter is 'Top Notch'. I can appreciate the practical approach in it's making, for example I don't think it is necessary to change the front cover to a 4 color process. I'm not positive, but I have always felt that the national magazine is too extravagant in its making, not budget oriented as is our profession."

"Some mental giant at Coke A Cola had a similar idea about change a few years back, I wonder where he is today?"

"I have mixed emotions — 'The Bull Sheet' stands for a lot. A professional name would possibly add to our credibility."

"Great publication. Keep up the good work."

"Logo is good. Dump cupchanger and replace with mid-age person dressed in golf clothing holding clipboard — (denotes working person in charge). Note Joel's idea might be best — reference 5/91 'The Bull Sheet' page 15."

"You may want to honor an outstanding superintendent of the past by naming the publication after that individual."

"More of what different superintendents in the area have going on at their courses — major projects, etc., would be great to get around and see ideas that would serve others in future." (cont'd. page 12)