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An Overview of Management . . .


(continued from page 24)

superintendent are as follows: payroll, budget, weather statistics, pest control, water usage, training, fuel and waste disposal, soil/water tests and equipment maintenance.

- Budgeting and purchasing were the two topics that generated the most inquiries. At Club Corp, the club manager sets standards for both the budget and capital improvements based on the input supplied by the golf course superintendent, board of directors (if applicable) and others. The budget is supported by the standards determined by the superintendent, with the approval of the general manager, regional superintendent and regional

vice president. Decisions as to length of season, expected course conditions and staff size must also go through the same channel. In order to get approval for capital improvements, the general manager and superintendents must submit request and justification forms to the vice president. Supporting evidence shall include cost versus benefit, support of the club's objectives, safety or replacement of worn out equipment, etc. As is common among management companies, Club Corp has purchasing agreements with major companies based on the quality of the product, service and cost.

In closing, I hope this article has given you a better understanding as to how Club Corp and

other management companies operate. As for the opportunities, they are endless. 

References:

1. Mr. Bruce R. Williams, CGCS, Los Angeles C.C.

Management company list

2. Mr. Jim Faubion, senior vice president, Club Corp

Survey response

Steve Van Acker -N- Crystal Lake C.C.

(continued from page 10)

- all landscaping and beautification around the new clubhouse.
- rebuilding green #17.
- resurfacing greens #2, 3 and 14.

During his nine years, Steve has:

- renovated 70 bunkers and implemented five new greens.
- added three new lakes and 300 trees.

All of the above, in only 70+ hours a week!

Steve and his understanding wife, Mary Kay, have been married for 22 years. Their son, Jason, is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Jason's career direction is still up in the air (maybe a future superintendent). In the off-season, Steve and Mary Kay love to travel to places with lots of sun,

sand, water and of course, golf courses. Steve is a devoted Green Bay Packers fan and loves to bowl. And based on his average (190), he is quite good at it.

Challenges, rewards are numerous

The soft-spoken Steve describes his biggest challenges as:


- keeping Crystal Lake C.C. up to his own personal quality and aesthetic standards;
- ensuring that 235 playing members are privileged and proud to be members of Crystal Lake C.C.;
- and finding enough time in his 70+-hour work week to enjoy his family and other hobbies.

His greatest and ongoing professional and personal rewards are:

- receiving continued support and appreciation from the members for a "job well done";

- knowing that once the long, long season is over, he will have serious time for his family, travel, bowling and watching the Packers beat the Bears;
- and beating Bob Lively and taking his hard-earned money.

As a new member of the MAGCS and coming from a totally different profession and background, I found getting to know Steve to be a real pleasure. Golf course superintendents truly love their work. Every season simply reiterates their commitment and desire to make "their" golf courses the best they can be.

Thank you, Steve, and all superintendents for allowing me to be part of your world. 

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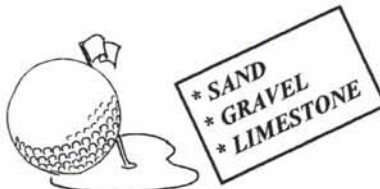
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the Bull Sheet

John Gurke
Contributing Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 19 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Crystal Lake C.C.

July 27 — 1999 Midwest Regional Turf Field Day at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

August 5 — University of Illinois Turfgrass and Landscape Field Day at the Landscape Horticulture Research Center and Hartley Selections Garden, Urbana, IL.

August 17 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Odyssey G.C.

August 18 — 1999 Michigan Turfgrass Field Day at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. For details, contact Kay Patrick at 517-321-1660.

November 3 — Midwest Turf Clinic, Medinah C.C.

November 20 — Fall Dinner Dance at Seven Bridges G.C.

Contributing editor's update: Disregard the fax number printed in the May *Bull Sheet*—all *Bull Sheet*—related information can be directed to me in the following manners: 1) E-mail to Boomding@aol.com. Don't ask about the address—suffice it to say that just about every possible combination of Bull and Sheet,

along with some interesting variations thereof, have been taken; 2) Mail any photos or written material to me at 1218 Ridgeway, Aurora, IL 60506; 3) Call me either at the office during my work hours of 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., or at my home office during my leisure hours of 7:03 p.m. through 9:00 p.m.; 4) Fax me at (630) 892-7447—attn.: John

Gurke; or 5) Just tell me when you see me. You'll still have to use one of the previous four methods, as my short-term memory isn't what it used to be.

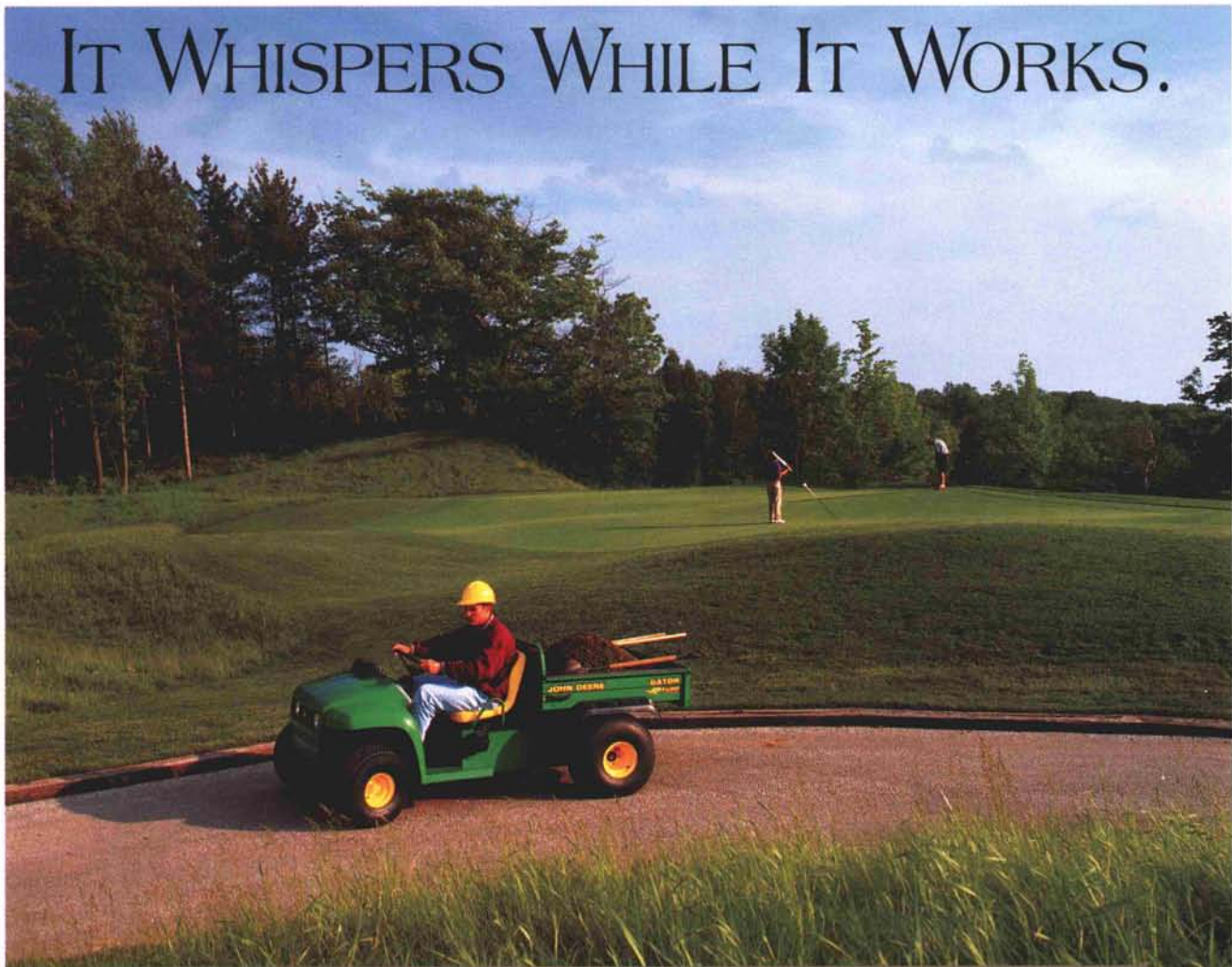
A big "high five" goes out to the GCSAA's public relations department for the insert recently published in *Golf* magazine and several other publications. The insert pertains to the golf course superintendent's image. If you haven't seen it, check it out—the use of humor is refreshing, and makes for very interesting reading to both folks in the business and those who use our facilities.

(continued on page 36)

On Wednesday, May 19, our distinguished past editor, Fred Opperman, was honored at a going-away party held at Seven Bridges G.C. with Don Ferreri serving as host. Many MAGCS members joined in sending Fred off in style to his new Montana digs while enjoying the fine hospitality provided by the folks at Seven Bridges. Word has it that Fred is leading the list for the starring role in the sequel to *A River Runs Through It*, as the MAGCS outfitted him with a complete fly-fishing package. Now he just has to learn how to fly-fish. Again, BEST OF LUCK, FRED!



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the Bull Sheet

(continued from page 34)

Another local superintendent made it to the big leagues by getting some flattering press in a recent edition of the *Daily Herald*. Gregg Rosenthal, new superintendent at Kemper Lakes, was credited with the fine conditions at his course by several local PGA pros, including Jim Sobb and Emil Esposito.

Happy note: Congratulations to Tony and Marge Meyer who celebrated their 60th—yes, 60th—wedding anniversary on May 20. This gives one pause to think—60 years of marriage is an amazing accomplishment. Extrapolating my own personal marital statistics, my 60th anniversary will be celebrated with my 20th wife. Congrats again, Tony and Marge!

More happy news: Jeff and Marcy Luezingler had quite a surprise on May 29—they are the proud parents of a daughter who was born three months premature, weighing in at one pound, ten ounces. At press time, mother was recuperating and improving; baby was well and will remain at Lutheran General for some time; dad was busy with not only the baby, but also moving the household to a new home; and grandpa was on the phone all day bragging. Congratulations to the entire Luezingler clan!

Sad note: The MAGCS extends its heartfelt condolences to Ken Lapp and family on the loss of his wife Betty on May 5. You are in our prayers.

More sad news: The grounds department at Prestwick C.C. suffered a tragic loss on Saturday, May 29, when, while on their way to work, two employees were killed in an automobile accident. Manuel Del Toro, 59, was a seven-year groundsman who left

The ITF Combined Golf Day held May 3 at Mount Hawley C.C. and Weaver Ridge G.C. was a huge success, with both courses receiving rave reviews from those in attendance. Many of our MAGCS members took the opportunity to get away and enjoy some great golf and camaraderie, as well as to experience the world-famous Peoria nightlife.



L to R: Jim McNair, Harry Lovero, Lynn Wesson, Dan Sterr (far right, scratching self)




L to R: Eric Forester, Jay Druhan, Dave Louttit, John Turner

behind a wife, children and grandchildren. Manuel Salinas had just begun his career at Prestwick, and had recently celebrated his 18th birthday. Both men, according to Tim Anderson, golf course superintendent, were great employees and great friends. Heartfelt condolences go out to the families of both, as well as to everyone at Prestwick. "Descansen en Paz, Amigos."

The area's annual pro-superintendent event was held on Thursday, May 13 at Mission Hills C.C., where superintendent John Otis had the very TIGHT track in superb shape. The weather once again was a factor, which seems

to be the norm for this fun event. Thanks go out to the IPGA and E Z Go for their hard work in making this another memorable day.

Parting thought: The flowers are finally planted! This time of year is always fun—putting the seemingly infinite number of trays of annuals in the ground, and hoping against hope they grow together by Memorial Day. My question is: Is broken glass an integral component of mushroom compost, or was it put there for some other reason? 



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Do You Care About the Future?

(continued from page 20)

recycling in the school, naturalizing school grounds, building a butterfly garden, taking nature walks around the school, constructing nature trails and mounting bird feeders. You can donate leadership for the projects and materials from your golf course if you so desire. A field trip to the golf course ties it all together.

The time to introduce this program is now, when it is early enough for schools to integrate the program into their curricula for the 1999-2000 school year. Your involvement in this program will substantially promote you and our profession. It can help you satisfy the requirement for outreach and education certification of your golf course. Consider too that many of the activities take place in the fall and winter, which is our slower season. What a good reason to get out of the shop!

I think the most important consideration is that your involvement and effort are investments in the future. Not only the future of the great game of golf, but also the future of our ability to continue to enhance and protect the valuable natural resources of the planet—indeed, the very things that compelled us to be involved in golf course maintenance. If you need help getting started, just call me at 815-467-1665. Information is also available through the GCSAA Web site (www.gcsaa.org). 

A New Editor "Tees Off"

(continued from page 26)

and an engaging, exuberant, adventuresome little guy who will undoubtedly get his first golf lessons from Grandpa next summer!

In closing, I have a couple announcements to make. One is the initiation of a Letters to the Editor column, so please—send me your comments and observations, whether related to articles appearing in *On Course* or hot industry issues. Remember, this is your magazine, and it is one of my goals as editor that the magazine include as many of your voices as possible. To that end, on to announcement number two. Fred Opperman took tremendous pride in the quality, and quantity, of superintendent-written articles appearing in *On Course*. Another of my goals is to uphold and build upon that fine tradition. So write that article you've been contemplating, and send it in.

I would also encourage you to give me a call at 847-537-7883 for a brief chat. Call it an informal survey, but I would love to hear your thoughts for the future of *On Course* and any suggestions you might have. Since I myself am not a superintendent, such conversations will be especially valuable to me in terms of shedding light on the challenges you face and the information you require.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to serve as editor of your magazine. I look forward to your feedback and support.

Sincerely,

Cathy Miles Ralston



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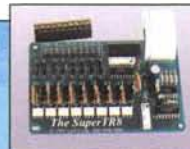
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