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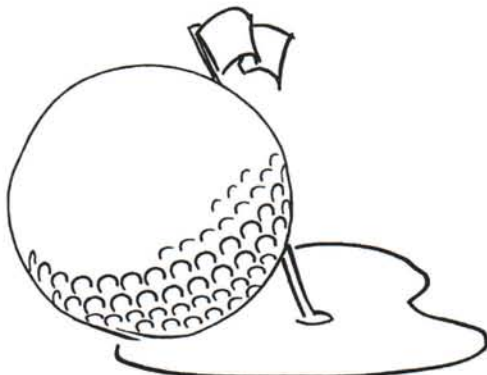
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Congratulations to **Bret Collins** of Bloomingdale Golf Club and his wife Marian on the birth of their bouncing new baby.

Also congrats to Bryn Mawr Country Club for their recent FULL certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program. Credit **Bryan Widmer**, first assistant, for the hard work and his ingenuity in jumping through all the paperwork hoops.

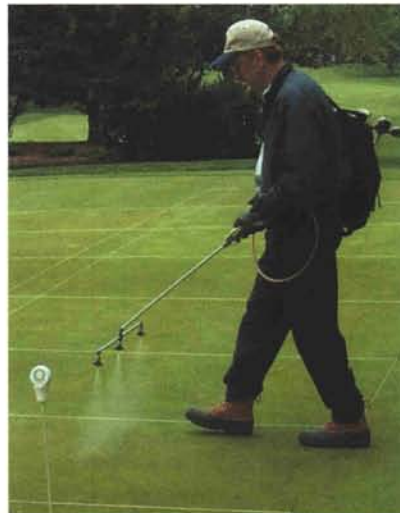


Our past editor, **Fred Opperman**, and his wife **Judy** have been keeping their travelling show on the road recently. Show here is **John Ebel** (retired, Barrington Hills C.C.) with **Fred and Judy** during their visit to **John and Juanita's** home in Sun City, Arizona.

And the "Gerald Ford Past President's Pratfalls Award" goes to . . . **Kevin Czerkies**, CGCS of Sportsmans C.C. (MAGCS president in 1998) for completely tearing his right bicep away from the bone while helping some employees lift a tent awning onto a truck. Kevin got to spend his 41st birthday having surgery to repair the tear, and won't be able to golf for several months (if he plays like Gerald Ford, this is good news to anyone nearby when he's hitting). Best wishes for a full recovery, Kevin, and while you are recuperating, check out the library for a book on delegation of work . . .

Dr. Randy Kane is at it again—Randy has begun year two of his *Poa annua* seedhead suppression study at Chicago Golf Club (**Jon Jennings**, CGCS), Fox Valley

Golf Club (**Dan Anderson**, CGCS) and Aurora Country Club (**John Gurke**, CGCS). Look for the results of this year's study in a future issue of *On Course*.



Dr. Kane auditioning for *Ghostbusters III* on the putting green at Aurora C.C. Speaking of **Dr. Kane**, for those who missed the tour of the new Midwest Golf House before the April monthly meeting, he is happy to report that they are open for business. The CDGA can be reached at its main line at 630-257-2005, or by fax at 630-257-2088. Randy's direct line is 630-257-8126, and all future mailings can be sent to Midwest Golf House, 11855 Archer Ave., Lemont, IL 60439. Another big event at Golf House recently took place with the groundbreaking for the new par-three youth golf course being built by Wadsworth Construction. If you are in the neighborhood, stop on in and take a look around—the facility boasts a state-of-the-art theater/meeting room, a museum of memorabilia from the associations housed there, and a nice golf course across the street to kick it around afterward.

This just in from GCSAA: Through March 1 of 2002, superintendents and assistants

joining GCSAA for the first time can do so for \$75. This also applies to supes and assistants who've let their memberships lapse for at least two years. Also, key staff members at your course can join as associate members for \$125, with all member privileges but voting.

Great news about an old friend—**Tony Rzasdski**, CGCS, formerly of Woodside G.C. in Colgate, Wisconsin, has a new gig. TR has accepted the golf course superintendent's position at The Bull at Pinhurst Farms in Sheboygan (the bratwurst capital of the world), a Jack Nicklaus design with housing development. Good luck, Tony, and keep us flatlanders updated.

The new list is in! The new list is in! *Golf Digest's* 2001-2002 "America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses" list—more anticipated than the *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue—is officially out, and no fewer than nine MAGCS members are tending to these beauties. Oakland Hills C.C. South Course (**Steve Cook**, CGCS) was 10th, Medinah C.C. No. 3 (**Tom Lively**, CGCS) was 14th, Los Angeles C.C. North Course (**Bruce Williams**, CGCS) was 22nd, Olympia Fields C.C. North Course (**Dave Ward**) was 30th, Chicago G.C. (**Jon Jennings**, CGCS) was 43rd, Butler National G.C. (**Mike Sauls**) was 58th, Cog Hill G & C.C. (**Ken Lapp**) was 64th, Point O' Woods G & C.C. (**Ron Fox**) was 80th, and Shoreacres Club (**Tim Davis**) came in at 87th.

Call for volunteers: **Gregg Rosenthal**, CGCS, of Kemper Lakes G.C. is seeking assistance during two upcoming events—the Women's Amateur Public Links (WAPL) runs June 15-22,

(continued on page 34)

while the SBC Senior Open runs July 16-23. If you'd like to share your time and expertise in exchange for a great experience, call Gregg at 847-540-7209.

Mechanic wanted: McHenry Country Club is looking for a full-time mechanic to start ASAP. Benefits include insurance, meals, 401(k) and uniforms. Salary commensurate with experience level. Contact Bob Lively at 815-385-0635, or at rbl35@juno.com

Irrigation technician wanted: Heritage Bluffs Golf Club in Channahon is accepting applications for this position. Salary range is \$23,000 to \$26,000 and includes a benefit package. Interested parties contact Chuck Anfield at 815-467-1665.

- Strive for self-improvement through constant self-evaluation.
- Enthusiasm, fairness, moral and physical courage are the four most important aspects of leadership.
- The essence of leadership is integrity, loyalty, caring for your people and doing the honorable thing.
- Have consideration of others.
- Food is very important.
- Showmanship is a vital technique of leadership.
- Never be satisfied; how can it be done better? Strive to do small things well.
- Don't over-inspect or over-supervise.
- The harder they work, the more they brag.
- Keep troops informed; tell them what, how and why. It builds confidence.
- Maintain discipline and command respect.
- Give encouragement. Be diplomatic.
- The ability to speak and write well are two essential tools.
- There is a salient difference between profanity and obscenity.
- Yelling distracts from your dignity; take it aside.
- Stay calm and show little emotion in distress.
- Don't cry to staff. Be a resolute island in all the insanity.
- An organization does well only those things the boss checks.
- Stay ahead of your boss. Your boss is always right.
- Discuss and argue your point of view until a decision is made and then support the whole decision heartedly.
- Learn it right and you'll do it right the rest of your life. Learn it wrong and you'll spend the rest of your life learning how to do it right.
- Morale is a state of mind. It is steadfastness, courage, hope, confidence, zeal, determination and loyalty.

Esprit de corps . . . 


somebody from Purdue University. I would like to run some seminars that are funded by the MAGCS: Spanish classes in the fall and a CPR class with training on defibrillators in the spring. Next January (2002), we'll be able to partake of two GCSAA seminars, one on drainage and the other on lake and aquatic management. We had a really good turnout for the March session and would like to repeat this next year.

Medinah C.C. will once again host the Midwest Turf Clinic on November 7, and by now you should all surmise what the theme will be: our 75th anniversary. Just a quick synopsis of the event (nothing is set in stone): a history of the MAGCS, evolution of equipment, statesmen

and mentors, keynote speaker, history of the *Bull Sheet/On Course*, science/ research speaker, and our Association's future.

Also, we are working on compiling a "Midwest Family Tree." Brad Anderson of Midlane C.C. brought this idea, originally conceived by Mr. Bob Williams, to my attention. You should already have received the flyers on this particular topic. The form is pretty self-explanatory; the top section is rather easy and focuses on your club, the bottom section will require you to do some digging. Ask members and long-time employees for information on past superintendents. Try to get accurate dates and spelling of names. Then mail or fax these forms to George Minnis, Brad

Anderson or myself. We will compile the forms, sort them and put them into some kind of binder. Every seven to ten years, we'll update the list. If you have any questions, please feel free to call any of us mentioned above.

I certainly hope you all come to at least one monthly meeting to enjoy the gorgeous golf course, the great food and spirits, and the lovely beverage ladies; may the educational speakers get your undivided attention, too! If anybody has any ideas for education programs or wants to speak at a monthly meeting, please contact me. Enjoy your season! 

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Do-It-Yourself for Avid Golfers

Once upon a time, in the carefree days before USGA specifications, in an era when the typical home lot was bigger than a postage stamp, the nation's golfers salivated at the prospect of backyard putting greens.

Or did they? You might surmise as much from the 1966 *Golf Digest* article, "How to Build Your Own Putting Green." Consider it the *Reader's Digest* version of *Putting Green Construction for Dummies*. "Today's do-it-yourself homeowner can construct a private green at a minimum cost and effort," advises Dr. Gene C. Nutter. He goes on: "Naturally, the size of the green depends on the available area. Most backyards would accommodate a green of about 1,000 square feet, or about 35 feet in diameter."

Dr. Nutter then takes his readers through a step-by-step approach to building a green. Remove the topsoil, he says, then address drainage issues. "If the subsoil is, for instance, hard clay, there are two methods which will provide good drainage. One is to install four-inch farm tile about 15 or 20 feet apart in gravel-filled trenches in the subsoil, with the pieces not quite butted together . . . A simpler but not so effective method would be to lay a six-inch layer of gravel or cinders over the subsoil, then add an eight-inch layer of coarse sand and finally, an eight-inch layer of topsoil on top of this."

Preparing the seedbed comes next. Dr. Nutter recommends a preparation of three cubic yards of well-rotten manure or commercial humus, or two bales of peat moss; then two cubic yards of coarse sand (unless the topsoil is very sandy). "To this, add 30 pounds of super-phosphate and an insecticide like dieldrin or heptachlor." Fifty pounds of lime should be figured in if the soil is acidic, says Dr. Nutter.

"Mix all of the soil materials with the topsoil . . . This could be done by hand, using a shovel, or with a roto-tiller, or a disc attached to a garden tractor . . . Do not leave materials in layers," Dr. Nutter cautions.

Planting is next, and Dr. Nutter all but mandates bentgrass for Northern areas, adding, "It is important to find out the exact strain best suitable for your area. Check this with a local golf course superintendent." Seaside, Penncross, Highland and Astoria all get the nod from Dr. Nutter.

1. Remove top-soil



2. Spread fertilizers



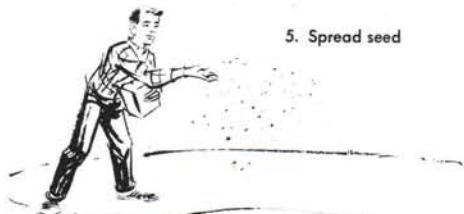
3. Mix all materials with soil



4. Roll until firm



5. Spread seed




6. Keep moist



Post-planting care includes keeping the seed moist until it germinates. Writes the esteemed professor, "When the grass has reached a height of one inch, it should be mowed to one-half inch with a putting green mower. The grass should be cut at the one-half inch height for four weeks, then gradually lowered to one-quarter inch." (Wonder how this green would fare with the Stimpmeter?) "Usually the greens must be cut three times a week during the growing season."

In terms of maintenance, Dr. Nutter suggests fertilizing monthly, topdressing with screened loam twice per season, periodical aerating, application of fungicides and weed removal. "The best idea would be to see a local golf course superintendent for a definite maintenance program. He could tell you exactly what to do." (Thanks for the vote of confidence, Dr. Nutter!)

Finally, Dr. Nutter addresses the price tag for this little luxury. "About \$300" is Dr. Nutter's ballpark figure, with the disclaimer that this figure "does not include the costs for a putting green mower, putting cups, a hole-cutter, irrigation hose and sprinklers." How that figure adjusts for inflation is uncertain. Still, consider what that same 1,000-square-foot green would run you today: a whopping \$5,000 to \$7,000 (using current USGA specifications, \$5-\$7 per square foot)! 

Budget for 1,000-square-foot putting green

Construction materials	High	Low
2 bales peat moss	\$12.00	\$ 9.50
2 yards sand	10.00	8.00
30 lbs. superphosphate	4.00	3.00
50 lbs. ground limestone*	1.50	1.00
25 lbs. 5-10-10 or similar fertilizer	2.00	1.00
25 yards top-soil	80.00	70.00
3 lbs. bentgrass seed**	4.50	3.00
Roto-tiller rental (by hour)	5.00	2.50
Labor for stripping of top-soil (could be done by owner)	75.00	25.00
Totals	\$194.00	\$123.00

Other materials	High	Low
Putting green mower***	\$200.00	\$100.00
Putting cups (each)	10.00	5.00
Hole cutter	15.00	8.00
Hose and sprinkler	25.00	15.00
Totals	\$250.00	\$128.00

*Test soil to see if needed.

**If in South, use 5 lbs. Bermuda seed (usually 75¢-\$1.00 a lb.), re-seed each October with 50 lbs. ryegrass (about 10¢ per pound) if greens are to be used in winter.

***New mowers cost about upwards of \$500.00, but used ones are often available from golf course superintendents or golf course supply firms.



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ences I can ever recall. Running (jogging to people who don't do it very quickly) is very ingrained with my wife's family. Some six years ago, while I was returning from a winter golf trip to Florida, I got into a heavy conversation about running with the man next to me on the plane. This guy was absolutely obsessed and it turns out he was returning from Orlando and the Walt Disney World marathon. His two sons ran the race, but he had to bow out a few days prior for health reasons. Well, by the end of the flight the man's wife had started to chime in, started telling me about her daughter (I could see it coming) and actually handed over her daughter's phone number to me (it wasn't my idea). Well, their daughter is now my wife and the

wonderful mother of little Bailey, and running continues to be a healthy way to bind our family together.

In late April, eight members of the Brackenbury family (no ringers allowed) toed the line for an 80-mile relay race in southern Illinois. We started on the banks of the mighty Mississippi and plodded east, ending up at the Ohio River. Hence, the race is called the "River to River," and it was an awesome day. This was strictly a family event for us and we were not racing the clock or anyone else. Actually, we were secretly racing the sun and hoping to finish before the course officially closed at 8 p.m. Our finishing time of 12 hours, 3 minutes ducked us under the deadline by 40+ minutes.

I should point out that no one on the team (named "Team Tommy" after my father-in-law, who, by the way, has got a knuckle sandwich for our contributing editor and his wooden leg comment a few months ago) was in the best running shape of their life. Everyone on the team is a dedicated parent and on most days, there just isn't time for running. In fact, my sister-in-law Darlene (Dar) did some of her training going back and forth on their very long lane while her children played in the yard. For different reasons, the best being, "I thought I was pregnant," she and my wife didn't run at all for three weeks prior to the race.

Race day started with our team van rolling out 15 minutes late at 5:45 a.m. No family of eight should ever expect to leave on time. The van was packed with coolers of water, Gatorade, Power Bars, fresh fruit and not-so-runner-friendly items such as pretzels, peanut butter and jelly, soda, Cheetos, Snickers and a couple of Keystone beers (brother Ronnie

would be the first runner finished and he wasn't driving). We had lettering on the van, letting the other teams know who we were and that we were competing in the "Happy Family Division." The van really only seats seven comfortably, so the early morning rise and the cramped seating had a few of us exchanging frowns, but we were looking pretty sweet in our matching "Team Tommy" t-shirts that Dar worked on until the wee hours the night before. She and Ronnie were graciously hosting 15 for the weekend and it should also not go unmentioned that my mother-in-law Nola, sister-in-law Karen and her friend Bonnie shouldered the biggest responsibility by caring for the four toddlers on race day.

The race itself was very hilly and the weather warm and windy; fortunately, the sun stayed behind the clouds most of the day. To a person, everyone ran great and gave it their all. My wife had not run more than four miles in a day since 1999, so I was pretty proud of her 10.7-mile effort. I got to know what it was like to run at a world-class pace, as my last half-mile was directly down a steep hill and was done at a 4:16-mile pace. The only "Unhappy Family" moment occurred when brother Timmy wasn't ready to grab the baton in his first exchange. He was back at the van pinning on his race number. It didn't take more than 20 minutes before we all loved him again, but there is something disconcerting about watching your team stand still for 90 seconds during a running race (Timmy swears it was only 30 seconds).

There was some time for conversation (we each ran 2.5 – 4 miles three times) between our running stints. My wife's family is a little spread out, so it was nice to catch up. The countryside down

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there was beautiful—a peaceful break from the urban landscape. There were also moments of concern; brother-in-law Doug sure turned a nasty shade of red during his runs. There were also plenty of individual prayers being said and opportunities to support one another. Someone was always waiting for you with a cold bottle of water and a pat on the back when you finished running.

We finished first in the “Happy Family Division” and plan to defend our title next year. The problem there is twofold: I am not sure some of our runners will be game (I know my wife hopes she is pregnant) or willing

to come from four different states to participate (and what are the chances only one team will be in the “Happy Family Division” again?). We relished the county fair-type atmosphere and a cook-out at the finish line where we celebrated our victory on a picnic table with a feast of brats and burgers, corn-on-the-cob and chicken burritos.

The ride home was very quiet and the van was looking pretty “lived in.” Fatigue and a full belly had won us over. We arrived at Ronnie and Dar’s some 16 hours after leaving and everyone was pretty whipped. Fortunately, cousin Mike had the

presence to call for a group prayer in the van before we opened the doors and headed off to the nearest bed. I get a lump thinking about it. It was the highlight of the day, put the whole event in perspective and was the reminder that it is through God, that all these wonderful things come to pass. I was struck with an overwhelming feeling of peace and gratitude; knowing that I had participated in a very special occasion on that particular day. As simple as that seems, I don’t get to feel that way too often. It’s only fitting that prayer and family would be such a large part of a day like that.



On the banks of the Ohio River, Brian and wife Bailey are joined by the rest of the Brackenbury family relay team.

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