



Poa trivia



By Rob and Steve Wasser
LESCO, INC.

What a year we have been having! I know it is easy to talk about the weather but as Monroe stated in one of his articles, the weather runs our business. I thought for sure this year would end up like 1995 with disease running everywhere because of the shallow roots. If I could have predicted anything farther from the truth, this was definitely the year. It has been a blessing to have the cool nights and really cool days. I know it has helped a lot of tight budgets and helped golf courses take a little bit of a breather from the wet spring. Fall is coming, let's hope it doesn't come until December so we can make up for the May we never had.

Hats off to the Kohler Company, Mike Lee, and the staff at Whistling Straits; you did a wonderful job hosting the PGA event. It was a lot of fun to see Whistling Straits in all the national papers, to hear about the towns of Kohler and Sheboygan, and to watch with pride the state of Wisconsin shine. Great job in Kohler!

A big congratulation goes out to two superintendent families that grew in the last month. First is Randy Swonger and his wife Sheri, who were blessed with a son Trevor Raymond Swonger. He was born on July 8th at 4:24 A.M. At the time of his birth Trevor weighed in at 4lbs 15 oz. Randy is the Superintendent at Trout Lake Golf Course in Woodruff. Scott and Lisa Bushman were blessed with their second child Ryan Scot, on July 25th. Ryan weighed in at

5lbs 1oz and was 18 inches long at the time of his birth. I was told that older brother Trent is fine with having a little brother. I don't think he really has a choice! Congratulations go out to your families from all of us.

Wedding bells were ringing in Sheboygan on July 10th for the new Mr. and Mrs. Steven and Megan Specht. After a long engagement the knot was finally tied on July 10th in the early afternoon. I heard the party lasted until July 11th; Steve, we can only wonder why the celebration lasted as long as it did! Congratulations to the two of you; may God bless your marriage.

On a different note, I would like to talk about a fellow superintendent of the Northern Great Lakes Superintendents Association. Ken Vepel, the superintendent at Lac View Desert Golf Course in Watersmeet is in need of our help, be it prayers or financially. In May of 2003 Ken was diagnosed with Von Hippel Lindau Syndrome, a rare genetic and ter-

minal disease. This disease (VHL) is a tumor suppressor gene. If the gene is lost or mutated, its inhibitory effect on cell growth is lost and diminished and tumors may develop which can lead to cancerous growth. Ken has already lost a kidney to VHL and he also has an inoperable brain tumor because of VHL. Ken and his wife Connie have three children at home: 12-year old Zak, ten year old Melissa, and eight year old Sam. If you would like to help in any way, please give Bob Brooker, superintendent at Plum Lake Golf Course, a call at 715-542-2598.

Also along this note Wayne Otto needs our help. Wayne has been very sick and has been in Germany getting treatment. Please keep him and his wife in your prayers.

If there is anything you would like to share with your fellow superintendents, please give Rob or Steve Wasser a call or e-mail at 262-206-0775 or 920-362-1809 or e-mail at sls156@lesco.com or sls224@lesco.com.

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