

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Steve Shumansky
Perham Lakeside Country Club



As winter comes to a close, I sit back and think, was this the winter that almost wasn't? The time seemed to go rather fast. I guess not shoveling or plowing snow every other day was nice. Sure we had snow, but nothing like last year.

Here it is, the first week of March, and the Red River has crested already, and I haven't heard of anyone being evacuated due to high water, I mean the boys aren't sandbagging their courses and going through what they did last year.

Could this be the start of a "normal" season? I sure hope so! But then again, what is "normal"? All the weather people blamed it on El Nino. I don't care who was to blame. . . It was just nice. Think about it, who has been out on their course in February? Many of us. But we're usually checking for ice, not driving around wearing a light jacket and catching a few rays.

Sure we always have a pre-spring warm-up, and it's usually in the beginning of February, not the whole month!! But

driving around and looking at things, I was astonished at how nice everything looked. In this northwest region of the state we had very little frost, anywhere from 6" to 14" and from talking to some of my friends in the southern part of the state, they didn't have that much.

Courses were in very good condition. Hopefully in April, I can say the same thing. I hope everyone has rested up for what's sure to be a busy season, and if the weather keeps on this way, an early one. I for one am looking forward to getting out and taking care of business. I'm sure you have prepared and planned for the upcoming year the same as I. The start of a new year is, well, refreshing. You don't really know what's going to happen. Each year has its individuality; it's different from year to year, and maybe that's what makes what we do so exciting. Sure we might battle with Mother Nature from time to time, it seems more often than not. But it's watching the sun come up, looking and listening to the birds as they return, and watching the irrigation system start when it's supposed to. The beauty of what we do, that's what makes it all worthwhile.

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February was a busy month for many. Some were able to attend the national convention in Anaheim, which I understand was another great educational experience for our profession. I wasn't able to attend, but I was able to attend the North Star Turf Supply clinic held on February 24th at the Thunderbird Motel and Convention Center. Dale Parske, and all of the staff of North Star Turf Supply, did another wonderful job organizing the speakers for a fun-filled day of education and camaraderie.

MTI Distributing Co. also hosted its annual MTI University recently at the Ramada Inn in Minnetonka. It's nice that our distributors host such events to help educate us and keep us informed on the latest technologies and updates. For that I say thank you for helping all of us.

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Please let me know about announcements so I can have them in our *Hole Notes*, i.e. births, marriages, certifications and obituaries. I'm sure your neighboring superintendents and friends would like to know what's going on with you. With that I would like to congratulate Bob McKinney, Mendakota Country Club, on his recent certification in the GCSAA's "CGCS." With all your dedication and professionalism in our business we're proud of you.

If I miss something that you want printed, I'm sorry. I can't do it without your participation, so please let me know what's going on.

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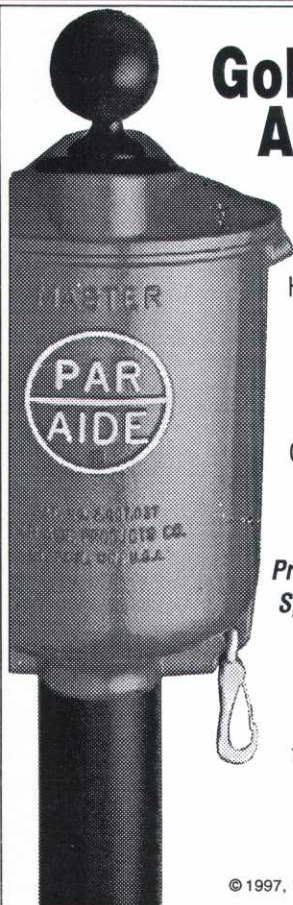
Paul Eckholm and his wife Renee have a new daughter named Kaija who was born on Sunday, January 25th.

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With this, I wish all of you a good spring, and hopefully Mother Nature will be good to all of us this year. See ya next month.

—Steve Shumansky
Editor

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