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THE CONN. CLIPPINGS



DECEMBER 1973

VOL. 6 No. 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE LOOKING AHEAD TO '74

First of all, I would like to thank the membership of CAGCS for showing the confidence in electing our new board and myself as your new President. It is an honor of which I will try to be worthy.

We have a Board of Directors which presents a good cross section of our state. We, as your executive committee, need the help of the membership to ensure a smoothly run organization. Your suggestions are more than welcome. Please try to have all suggestions, both pro and con, presented to myself or any board member, in writing. This way you can be sure of action at the next board meeting.

Once again this year, the board will meet previous to our monthly membership meeting, to allow us the time to conduct the business properly.

The aims of our new board will be as follows:

1. Try to upgrade the salaries and working conditions of our membership.
2. Keeping Connecticut jobs for Conn. Supts. This means any job opening should be immediately reported to Bob Osterman, our Employment Chairman.
3. Have the membership submit helpful articles for printing in the Conn. Clippings to Bob Osterman. This is your paper and only as good as you make it.
4. Committee Chairmen will submit a written report, monthly, for publication in the Clippings.
5. Increase both our local and national membership. Once again this is up to the individual member.
6. Volunteer to serve on a committee. Unless you tell us, we never

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THE GRASS CATCHER

The USGA Green Section's Educational Conference will be held on January 25, 1974 at the Biltmore in New York City.

The theme is "Managing Turf in the 70's". Announcements and reservations forms will be in the mail soon.

Hope to see you all there.

Congratulations to Jim & Jan MacDonald on the birth of their daughter, Heather Joy, born October 9, 1973.

DON'T FORGET ! ! !

Conn. Association of
Golf Course Superintendent's
Annual Christmas Party
Sat., December 15, 1973
Watertown Country Club
Cocktails 7-8 p.m.
Dinner at 8 p.m.
Dancing 9-1
\$10/person

DOOR

PRIZES

EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Capable young man is seeking employment in the New England area as an assistant superintendent or foreman. He is married with two children. Military status — two years in the U.S. Marine Corps. Experience — 3½ years as a greenskeeper at a golf and country club in the state of Washington. Helped in building several new greens using stolons and seed. Rebuilding tees and all jobs usual to maintenance of golf courses. Can operate all golf course equipment.

On behalf of the "Conn. Clippings", officers and directors of CAGCS, I would like to extend to everyone of our readers and members the very best of wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THINGS TO DO IN WINTER

While it is generally true that the golf course labor problem in the Northeast had improved some this past year, it has by no means reached the point where the Superintendent and the Green Committee can relax and "breathe easy" about this situation. Competition for good workers in the highly-industrialized states of New Jersey, New York and Connecticut has always been keen, with industry usually winning out because of the more attractive "bait" that it has to offer. One of these incentives is the prospect of year-round employment. It is through this medium that the golf courses are able to keep their key men from year to year. The number of men retained depends largely on budget limitations — some clubs can retain the full crew while others manage to keep only a nucleus of workers. Some of the important jobs that such a crew might do over the winter are the following:

1. Paint and repair all machinery and equipment.
Paint and repair benches, ball washers, shelter houses, the markers, flag poles, etc.
2. Repair roads, paths and bridges.
3. Prepare topsoil (mix and sterilize).
4. Install drainage lines where needed and blueprint them for permanent record.
5. Clean out tile lines, drainage ditches and brooks.
Clean out heavy brush areas around the course that generally slow up during the season.
Clean up rocks, stumps and other obstructions to golfers as well as maintenance equipment.
6. Remove trees that hamper the movement of the rough units; that restrict air drainage about greens.

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CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

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Vice President Robert Tosh
Secretary Bob Osterman
Treasurer James MacDonald

Board of Directors

John Perry John Lynch
Alfred Bachand Karnig Ovian
Robert Chalifour Edward Anderson
Robert Viera

The object of this association is to promote research, education and an exchange of practical experiences in the field of turf grass culture so that the increased knowledge will lead to more economic and efficient management of golf courses and related turf areas.

The CONN. CLIPPINGS is an official publication of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

Robert W. Osterman, Editor
937 Black Rock Turnpike
Easton, Conn. 06612

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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know what special attributes you may have.

7. Have better attendance at our regular monthly meetings. If you are there for the day, we expect to see you at the meeting. We need your ideas.
8. Work more closely with our National organization, keeping them abreast with what we are doing on the local level.

This information will be published in the Golf Superintendent.

To quote Cliff Wagoner, our GCSAA President, "Your association owes its position and stability to a long line of dedicated doers. What you do for CAGCS will determine how useful CAGCS will be tomorrow."

I know we are all looking forward to the Christmas party at Watertown G. C. on December 15th. Please try to attend this festive occasion.

Try to make a special effort this year to attend the National Conference in Anaheim, Calif. We should all be on hand to induct our very own, Charlie Baskin as President of GCSAA.

Again, thank you for electing myself as your President, and allowing me to have such a fine board of "doers".

FRANK E. LAMPHER
President
C.A.G.C.S.

THINGS TO DO IN WINTER

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7. Prune and trim trees around the course — especially around greens in pocketed areas and shaded trees.
8. Rebuild poorly constructed greens.
9. Build or enlarge on barn and shop facilities.
10. Enlarge tees and do any other construction work that couldn't be done during the golfing season.
11. Fill in "useless" traps — traps that nobody gets into except the maintenance crew.

SOME REMINDERS FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. Reread service manuals that accompanied new (and old) equipment.
2. Take inventory and order necessary replacement parts that are important to have on hand.
3. Carefully study records for the past year and streamline where possible.
4. Set up service charts for each piece of machinery; also depreciation table to replace machinery when its life expectancy period is over.
5. Set up a timetable for deliveries of fertilizer, fungicide, herbicides and other materials for next season. Order enough fertilizer!
6. Attend as many turf conferences as possible over the winter.
7. Catch up on reading of turf publications.

WINTER CONFERENCES

Over the winter season several important conferences are scheduled that should be of interest to Green Committee Chairmen and Superintendents in the Northeastern Region. Many nationally recognized turf men will be present to participate. An important part of the overall turfgrass picture will be presented and discussed at these meetings.

The golf season may be slow or closed for many at this time, but the season for learning is ever with us. With so many nationally known experts present it's a good bet that each person in attendance will bring home some new thoughts or ideas to put to work on his individual course. Usually these ideas mean savings for the club in question — hope to see you there, faithfully at work for your club.

AL RADKO, *Northeastern Director*
USGA Green Section.

AIR-COOLED ENGINE MAINTENANCE TALK

by Farrell Sloop,
E. J. Smith & Sons

Most complaints concerning engine operation can be classified as a combination of malfunctions. When the cause of malfunction is not readily apparent, always perform a check-up of the three main points of the engine: Compression, Ignition, and Fuel Systems. This check can usually be done in a matter of minutes. It is quick and a sure way of determining the cause of engine failure. Many times, engine failures can be caused by poor engine service. All engines should be clean and free from dirt, dust and grass clippings. As you know, it takes many things all put together to give you a good running engine and good engine performance. That's what you want and what you expect from any engine.

FUEL TANK: Be sure fuel tank is clean inside and is filled with fresh gasoline.

FUEL CAP AIR VENT: Keep air vents open.

FUEL LINES: Fuel lines should always be in good shape.

CARBURETORS: Must be clean. Dirt is the carburetor's number one enemy. Over a period of time, silt, carbon, and gum deposits may decrease the size of jets as well as the air and fuel passages and interfere with the working of the carburetor. Keep them clean.

AIR CLEANERS AND FILTERS: A properly serviced air cleaner protects the internal parts of the engine from dust particles in the air. If air cleaners and filters are not carefully cleaned, dirt and dust which should be collected or trapped in the cleaner will either be drawn into the engine and become part of the oil film or will choke the engine, causing an excessively rich mixture of fuel. As we all know, dirt in the engine oil forms an abrasive mixture which tears the moving parts instead of protecting them. A stopped up air filter or air cleaner can cause raw gasoline to wash oil off the cylinder walls, thereby, causing poor lubrication. Always replace air cleaner gaskets and mounting gaskets that are worn or damaged.

ENGINE BLOWER HOUSING: Blower housings should be clean and free of dirt and grass clippings. The blower housing controls the air that is brought forth from the flywheel that gives the direct air current around the engine block and cylinder head to cool the engine. Always keep the cylinder block,

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THE YEAR OF EXTREMES — 1973

by Sherwood A. Moore
Woodway Country Club

No one connected with the turf industry in the Metropolitan New York area — or in fact the whole Northeast — will ever forget the 1973 season. We did not have a little of everything, we had a lot of everything. Mother Nature threw the book at us this year in the form of adverse weather (excessive cloudy days, excessive rainfall, and excessive heat), every disease imaginable, insects galore, and then to top it all, the summer ended off with a blistering heat wave.

After a very mild winter, Spring broke early and March had some very nice workable days, so all turfmen thought what a wonderful season was ahead for us. That was short-lived — for the rains came and continued. Cloudy rainy weather can make the grass look green, if you ignore the diseases, but when the sun breaks out that little grass plant just fades away. This is what happened near the end of June and the first part of July — grasses started to die like mosquitoes at a Dursban cocktail party.

Those areas that did survive this period met a new onslaught in early August by another downpouring rain (oh, what ever happened to those half inch and one inch rainfalls) followed by warm, muggy weather. Diseases were working on diseases — they had no grass left to devour.

Ah, we thought in mid-August when we had a breathing spell of cool nights, we are “over the hump” and “Poa annua” weather is back with us. So we started to aerify and rip the turf areas apart for reseeding, when Mother Nature let go with another block buster in the form of two weeks of hot weather — nine days of which the temperatures were over ninety degrees. So there went some more grass — yes, even new seedlings to the ravages of heat and disease. Those who had difficulty in identifying Pythium diseases previously had no trouble during this period.

In fact, the grasses have been infested with every disease in the book this year — the plant pathologists are grinning from ear to ear. In spring and early summer, Red Thread or Pink Patch (*Corticium fuciforme*) and the Leafspots (*Helminthosporium*) walked thru the fescues and bluegrass turf areas. Many beautiful bluegrass lawns were brown from leafspot diseases.

Fusarium Blight or Frog Eye Disease (*Fusarium roseum*) was more

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MATURITY IS MANY THINGS

MATURITY is many things. First, it is ability to base a judgment on the Big Picture — the Long Haul. It means being able to pass up the fun-for-the minute and select the course of action which will pay off later.

Maturity is the ability to stick with a project or a situation until it is finished.

Maturity is the capacity to face unpleasantness, frustrations, discomfort, and defeat without complaint or collapse.

Maturity is the ability to live up to your responsibilities, and this means being dependable. The world is filled with people who can't be counted on. People who never seem to come through in the clutches. People who break promises and substitute alibis for performance.

Maturity is the ability to make a decision and stand by it. Immature people spend their lives exploring endless possibilities and then do nothing. Action requires courage. And there is no maturity without courage.

Maturity is the ability to harness your abilities and your energies and to do more than is expected. The mature person refuses to settle for mediocrity. He would rather aim high and miss the mark than aim low — and make it.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed;
Or are you just contented
That your name be on the list?

Do you attend meetings
And mingle with the flock;
Or do you stay at home
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along;
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belong?

Do you ever go to visit
A member who is sick?
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique

Think this over, member
You know right from wrong;
Are you an active member
Or do you “just belong”?

Anon.

AIR-COOLED ENGINE MAINTENANCE TALK

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cylinder head, and blower housing clean.

SPARK PLUGS: To perform its' basic job of providing a high voltage spark at the proper location or time in the combustion chamber, a spark plug must exactly match the dimensional requirements of the particular cylinder head in which it is installed. Spark plug electrode gaps wear away at a rate of .005 to .008 during a normal service life in most all engines. The air-cooled engine, unlike the engine in your car or truck, works under a load most of the time. Under load spark plug condition becomes critical as electrodes wear and fouling deposits accumulate on the plugs core, hidden misfiring develops. To help avoid problems with small air-cooled engines, replace spark plugs regularly and clean the spark plug with every oil change. A bad spark plug will spoil a new change of engine oil. A bad spark plug will not burn all gasoline. Raw gas will work down into the engine crank case and cause bearing wear.

FLY WHEEL SYSTEM: The flywheel is located on the crankshaft with a soft metal key. The flywheel and flywheel key is held in place by a nut or starter clutch. The flywheel key must be in good shape to insure proper location of the flywheel for ignition purposes. *Do Not use a Steel Key under any circumstances on a small engine.* Use only the key that is supplied for the model engine to be serviced. Flywheels used are made of aluminum, zinc, or cast iron. The flywheel has three (3) jobs to do. It acts as the device for stirring the air to cool the engine. It keeps the engine turning when it is not receiving power from the power stroke. It keeps the magnetic field in motion and makes the ignition system capable of supplying the amount of voltage necessary to form a spark at the plug on time.

ENGINE OIL: Think of engine oil as a quart. Yes, engine oil has four (4) different jobs to do.

1. It lubricates.
2. It cools the engine.
3. It seals the seals in the engine.
4. It helps keep the engine clean.

Remember oil is an engine's life insurance.

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

Look and check all parts so as to be sure they are in order. Track Down each possible cause of below standard conditions and correct them NOW.

(From the Carolinas Newsletter)

THE YEAR OF EXTREMES — 1973

(Continued from Page 3)

prevalent this year than many of us have ever witnessed. This disease caused considerable loss of turf on lawns, fairways and roughs this season. And naturally Dollar Spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) and Large Brown Patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*) did not take a back seat. They were ever present. Mention has already been made of the severity of Pythium Blight or Cottony Blight (*Pythium*). Fairy Ring (*Basidiomycetes*) was present in all its glory, plus no doubt numerous other diseases that we did not even want to think about.

Oh yes, don't forget our friends the turfgrass weevils. They took their share of turf in May and June, and then, not being satisfied with that, produced a second active brook in August.

The Japanese Beetle is making its presence known this year after being sort of forgotten about for years. Even some resistant strains are being reported, so from now on do not include them out. The chinch bugs took a back seat this year — probably got drowned out — but the sod webworm and cutworms made up for them. If you witness numerous birds working ravenously on your lawn, you had better investigate before the above mentioned critters wipe it out.

So it really has been a year of extremes — with rainfall, temperatures, humidity, insects, wilt, and what-have-you. Even though it is best not to think about it and try as we may to forget, I think that 1973 will be a topic of conservation among turf men for some time to come. I only hope my golfing members do forget and forgive.

(From Tee to Green, Oct. '73)

HOW TO DECORATE A CHRISTMAS TREE

First, get a tree. Second, with branches. Third, Green. Now you are ready to start. Climb to the attic. Wrestle old suitcase full of twinkling doodads. Box will break open third step down. Lay out strings of lights. Stop. Go to Store. Buy six dozen light bulbs. Plug in lights. Try to find why lights don't work. Go to store. Buy new strings of lights.

Place tree in rack. Pick tree up. Place in rack. Pick it up. Do this twelve times. Nail tree to floor. Climb



on chair. Fasten star to top of tree. Lean way over to accomplish this. Pick the tree and yourself up. Repeat this three times. Turn job over to wife and kiddies. Sit down. Say, "Yes, its very Pretty." Repeat these words until January first.

THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUPPORT OF THE CONN. CLIPPINGS:

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