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THE CONN. CLIPPINGS



JUNE 1975

VOL. 8 No. 2

EDITORIAL

I would like to announce that this will be my last issue as Editor of "Conn. Clippings". Joe Torok, Turf Manager at the Hop Meadow Country Club, will be assuming the duty of editor as of July 1st.

After almost four years as editor, I seem to be short of new ideas to keep the newsletter interesting. Being both secretary and newsletter editor has been very time consuming and I have not been able in recent months to keep the same quality newsletter as in previous years. I am sure Joe will do an outstanding job.

Putting a newsletter such as our together is truly a rewarding experience. The knowledge you gain from the articles in the newsletter has helped me many times here on my course. For when putting something in print, you just don't skim over the article, but digest it in full.

You also received many other newsletters from across the country from other associations. You read the articles, get to know some of the people, their problems and solutions. There have been many articles that were published in "Conn. Clippings" that have appeared in other newsletters. I could go on and on with the rewards of an editor, but for the sake of time and space, I will stop here.

I would like to congratulate Joe on his new position and wish him a great deal of luck and hope he can get as much out of the position as I did. For it is because of people like Joe, our association will continue to be productive and will remain a leader in the contributions to the profession.

CAGCS has been very good to me and there is only one word I can use at this time to express my feelings. A very sincere Thanks!

BOB OSTERMAN

ENGINEERS FACE WAR IF THEY REQUIRE PERMITS TO FILL POOL AND PLOW FARM

By JAMES H. PHILLIPS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opposition is developing to a proposal that could require some homeowners to get an Army Corps of Engineers permit before filling a backyard swimming pool and certain farmers to seek permission to plow.

The proposal by the Army Engineers would give them ironclad rule over virtually every natural and artificial body of water in the nation.

Under the plan some potential homeowners would need a permit before digging a basement for their home and certain golf course greenskeepers would need federal permission to build a new sandtrap.

Rep. Thomas S. Foley, D-Wash., chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, said the panel would "have the gravest concern" over any action that could have such a "far reaching impact on agriculture."

A spokesman for the American Farm Bureau Federation said the strongest of the corps' proposals "smacks of the sort of federal power grab of which we've seen far too much already."

A spokesman for the corps said the key factor in such strange areas as golf courses, backyard swimming pools and basements is whether the area has ever been flooded by a navigable stream.

If so, it lies on the flood plain and comes under corps jurisdiction. Permission would be necessary to move more than one cubic yard of dirt in these areas, the spokesman said.

The proposal was one of four issued Tuesday by the Army engineers in re-

sponse to a U.S. District Court decision expanding the corps' jurisdiction over dredge and fill operations from "navigable waters" to "waters of the United States."

The court ordered the engineers to define "waters of the United States." The corps then published four alternative definitions.

The four alternatives are:

— Give the corps authority over every coastal and inland artificial and natural body of water in the nation, including wetlands. The corps said this "would extend federal authority to regulate dredge and fill operations in thousands of square miles of land protected by levees." It also would require a rancher to obtain a federal permit to enlarge a stock pond or deepen an irrigation ditch, the corps said.

— Limit corps authority on coastal waters to the mean high water mark or salt water vegetation line, whichever is greater, and inland waters to navigable streams and their primary tributaries up to their headwaters. The corps said that under this proposal, permits would not be required for most dredge and fill operations involving less than 100 cubic yards of material.

— Enlarge corps jurisdiction to waters defined in proposal No. 1 but follow current permit procedures only for navigable waters. For stock ponds, drainage ditches and other similar bodies of water, permits would be issued unless an appropriate state agency objected.

— Limit corps jurisdiction to the waters defined in alternative No. 2 and issue permits as in No. 3.

The corps prefers No. 4, but it said the Environmental Protection Agency, which could veto any permits, favors alternative No. 1.

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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

NEWS OF SCIENCE

NEW HAVEN — The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has used pharmaceutical wastes formerly dumped into Long Island Sound to grow several kinds of plants.

H. C. DeRoo, of the Station's Department of Soil and Water, has successfully grown corn, chrysanthemums and junipers using the spent biological material known as mycelium which is a by-product of pharmaceutical production.

The wastes are produced by the Charles Pfizer Company in Groton at the rate of about 1,000 tons per week.

Mycelium applied at the rate of 100 tons per acre of silage corn produced up to 15 percent better yield than was obtained using conventional fertilizers.

One quarter to one third mycelium mixed with wood fiber waste in containers eventually produced chrysanthemum plants of good to excellent quality although early growth showed some yellowing and stunting.

DeRoo found no harmful effects from using mycelium wastes as fertilizer for container-grown junipers. The slow release of nitrogen from the wastes kept the test junipers greener during the winter than plants grown in the standard container mixes.

Zinc in mycelium did not appear to be harmful to the plants but DeRoo said salinity and slowness to nitrify may inhibit use of the waste on salt intolerant species.

LEGISLATIVE AWARENESS — A MUST TODAY

In recent months, various governmental instrumentalities have attempted to enact legislation which could have had an adverse effect upon the operation of golf courses and their resultant quality. In several instances, attempts have been initiated which could have limited or banned the use of fertilizer on golf courses. Additionally, we have seen trial balloons flown concerning rationing of fuel, real estate taxation methods and increasingly harsh regulations of necessary pesticides.

Government, be it local, state, or federal, continues to be felt more and more on the golf course. The time when golf courses were seldom affected by such matters has long since passed, and now the superintendent and all other supervisors at a golf course must consider these laws with almost every action they take.

We may be an industry guilty of complacency and not mindful of serious inroads which have been made and others which some contemplate that could easily alter this picture if allowed to continue unaltered. Consider for example that most decisions made concerning golf are based upon the premise that golf courses as they have become known, will continue. Recent governmental attempts in some areas cast a dark shadow across all golf courses, and in some instances, endanger their very existence.

When professional associations of "greenskeepers" were established some fifty years ago, the primary reason for their formation was to assist the members in scientific areas of turfgrass management through the dissemination of new information. While this reason still exists today, an important new area is that of being in a position to react to potential governmental actions.

Graphic examples of cooperation between professional associations and governmental bodies can be found daily. Within the golf course superintendent's profession, there are several excellent examples of how a united group can insure that its interests are represented and considered prior to final action. First at the federal level and more recently at the state level. Massachusetts and Michigan for example, some legislators proposed the banning of non-farm fertilizer usage. While individual or local interest was first aroused, this was closely followed by organizational efforts to present information to legislators which was vital to a complete and thorough understanding of the problems which would follow such a ban. Fortunately, we can say today that these

federal and state proposals were permitted to die without moving beyond the committee level. However, this is not to say that further attempts by these or other governmental bodies will not be forthcoming, nor can we afford to become relaxed on the issue. Unfortunately, the golf superintendent's interests may not always receive the mindful considerations they deserve by the law makers.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) made determined efforts on the Massachusetts and Michigan fertilizer bills and on a Wisconsin pesticide bill by advising the chapters in those states of the proposals, followed by suggested actions and/or GCSAA position information. Superintendents in those states acted in unison through a letter writing campaign and in offering testimony to support their concerns.

This is not a totally new area of action for GCSAA, with it having given testimony concerning pension reform legislation, as well as in dealing with the Environmental Protection Agency; however, involvement in the state-level legislation is relatively new and caution must be taken to insure that counter-productive measures are not permitted through a conflict of actions by the state and national organizations. Neither should GCSAA attempt to supercede the chapter's prerogatives in the state-level actions, because the impetus must remain at the local level where those who will be most directly affected will have the greatest input. GCSAA's intended posture is that of acting as a hot-line to disperse information and to serve as a reservoir of resource information and prepare nation-wide position papers.

Because more and more legislation is of concern to golf courses and historically it has been demonstrated that legislative actions are duplicated from the local and state levels to the national level and vice versa, a seemingly minor item of legislation may soon become so significant that it is affecting the profession nation-wide. Additionally, a piece of legislation may appear to be insignificant at the time of passage and later, through interpretations and enforcement policies, become of tremendous import to the profession and the superintendent's ability to perform his required tasks.

Based upon these trends and historically documented cases, each member

(Continued on Page 4)

THE GRASS CATCHER

by BOB OSTERMAN

LETTER

From: Don Pakkala

Publicity Chairman
Phila. Assoc. of GCS
1626 Lafayette Rd.
Gladwyne, Pa. 19035

TO: Chapter Newsletter Editors
RE: 1975 U.S.G.A. Women's Open

The 1975 U.S.G.A. Women's Open will be held July 17 to July 20, 1975, at the Atlantic City C.C., Northfield, N.J. The USGA, the Atlantic City C.C. and host superintendent, Doug Fraser, wish to invite any and all class A members of GCSAA to attend. By presenting their membership cards at the proper gate, members will be admitted free of charge to view the tournament action.

Request your assistance in disseminating the above information by publication in your chapter newsletter. Thank you for your cooperation and the best of luck in 1975.

Sincerely,
Don Pakkala

IMPROVEMENTS AT BLACK HALL CLUB

Black Hall Club is in better than ever shape this year. Over the past winter and spring Dick Cook, Supt. has been making a number of improvements at the Club which should add a great deal to an already excellent golf course.

Cart paths have been improved or relocated on the 2nd, 12th and 13th holes.

Rocks have been removed and "rough areas" improved, most notably on the left of the 13th hole and between the 13th and 15th fairways.

Small, permanent, embedded cement markers on all the tees to show the spot of measurement for the Ladies, Regular and Championship tees. These will correspond with the measurement shown on the score card.

Another improvement that should be a great benefit to the golfer is the planting of trees and shrubs as 150 yard markers. Beauty and variety were considered as well.

Hole 1, Sugar Maple; hole 3, Holly (2); Hole 4, Juniper; Hole 5, Laurel; Hole 7, Rhododendron; Hole 8, Red Maple; Hole 9, Dogwood; Hole 10, Scotch Pine; Hole 11, Linden; Hole 12, Laurel; Hole 13, Austrian Pine; Hole 15, Burning Bush; Hole 17, Dogwood, and Hole 18, Sugar Maple.

GUEST LECTURERS

Two members of our association participated as guest lecturers in the turf course being taught in the Radcliffe

Hicks School of Agriculture at the University of Connecticut. Gary Byrant, of the TPC Corporation, lectured on and demonstrated the proper use of reel and rotary mowing equipment used in the maintenance of fine turf. Fred Bachand, Golf Course Superintendent of the Wethersfield C.C., spent the day on campus lecturing on Golf rourse maintenance and instructed the class in turf renovation techniques by the use of chemicals and turf equipment. Both men teamed up to show the correct use of spray equipment and fertilizer spreaders with their calabration. The association should be proud of the excellent job these men did and a word of thanks comes from the University for their participation.

PUBLICATIONS

As a service to its membership, and other interested individuals, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has a wide variety of publications available, most of which are cost-free. Some of these publications are available to non-GCSAA members for a nominal charge, some are not available to non-GCSAA members.

The following is a listing of publications which are currently available from the headquarters office:

A Meaningful Combination . . . You and GCSAA, (no charge, available to all persons). This newly designed booklet fully describes the Association, listing the many benefits of membership and contains all membership application materials.

The Golf Course Superintendent. His Qualifications, His Responsibilities, His Requirements, (no charge, available to all persons). Originally written for superintendents to give their green chairman, it has been re-written so that anyone interested in golf can better appreciate the professionalism of the golf course superintendent's position.

Golf Course Superintendent Career, (no charge, available to all persons). This new flyer replaces GCSAA's "Careers In Turf," and is designed to provide information about the profession to potential students and those considering becoming superintendents.

Your Next Step . . . GCSAA Certification Program, (no charge, available to all persons). A brochure describing the Association's Certification Program, its benefits to the individual and the profession, it contains a wealth of information about the program and an application request form is included.

GCSAA's 1975 Conference and Show Brochure, (no charge, available to all persons). Two versions of the 1975

Conference and Show brochures are available. One version is designed for those interested in exhibiting, while the second is for those interested in attending the Conference and Show. The second version, termed the member brochure, provides complete information about the annual event and includes all necessary registration materials.

The exhibitor's brochure contains a description of the show, a floor plan, rules and regulations, a space contract and other pertinent information.

The Golf Superintendent magazine, (personal subscription and two member complimentary copies are included with GCSAA membership, normal subscription rate is \$5.00 annually). The official journal of the Association and the profession, the ten-times a year magazine offers information of both a technical and practical nature as well as profession and fraternal news.

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION PUBLICATIONS

GCSAA Pesticide Usage Reference Manual, (available only to GCSAA Pesticide Seminar I participants until March 1, 1975 at which time it will be available on a cost basis). This 150-page publication offers information to prepare the superintendent for the state-level pesticide applicator's licensing and/or GCSAA Certification Program.

The Golf Course Superintendents Public Relations Handbook, (available only to recognized chapter secretaries, no charge). The 16-page booklet details methods to utilize in organizing a chapter oriented public relations program. In addition to considerable information, samples of news releases are included.

Golf Course Superintendent's Guide to OSHA Regulations, (available only to GCSAA members, no charge). This General guide to the OSHA regulations which most concern golf course operations, offers valuable information without the legal jargon and volume of the original regulation. It is however recommended that the complete regulation document and updating material be referred to when technical questions arise. *All About OSHA*, a US Department of Labor publication, is also sent with the Superintendent's Guide. This second publication provides background information about the internal workings of OSHA.

REQUESTING PUBLICATIONS

Anyone interested in receiving any of the publications which are available to them should make their requests directly to the GCSAA Headquarters, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

LEGISLATIVE AWARENESS

(Continued from Page 2)

of the chapter must be on the alert for legislative developments within his geographic area and report to the chapter. Next, the chapter must determine if the proposal could be harmful or helpful and what would be the best approach to the matter. If the chapter feels this development is of a considerable magnitude or if possible assistance is desired, they could report the item to the GCSAA officers or headquarters personnel. In some instances, GCSAA may advise chapters of impending legislation or seek the assistance of persons within the chapters to represent the national organization at the local level.

Individual superintendents may not be able to be aware of all legislation which could affect them, nor would they always be able to bring to bear the impact an organized effort would. However, it is the individual superintendent who must bring these matters to the attention of the organization so that the appropriate actions can be taken. This effect could become even more broad based if a course's golfers could be encouraged to become involved to the extent or reporting items of interest to their superintendent.

We can ill afford to be legislated out of existence and fortunately through our professional association, we can position ourselves to insure that our interests are represented on all items of legislation which could negatively or positively effect our ability to provide the type of conditions that today's golfers have learned and appreciate.

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