

CONNECTICUT



CLIPPINGS

APRIL - MAY 1982

Volume 15, Number 2

President's Message

April is here and with it the endless little details which must be looked after. All is ready for the season to come. Plans are made, new programs in place, and hopes ride high. It is at this time that I feel it is extremely important to remember a simple but often overlooked fact: **Communication** is your most effective tool and ally.

Let your club members know what you intend to do, when you intend to do it, and how and why you intend to do something, and success in your endeavor will be much closer at hand. It is also necessary to follow up your new programs with timely status reports. If all is well, this should be noted, but if a snag has occurred, it is best to also note this and the action which you intend to take to remedy the problem. This art of communication can take many forms: A club newsletter, club meetings or verbal communication to members' questions on the course. Whatever form it takes, it is a vital tool in your management program. It must be practiced and refined, and if so done, it can be an extremely valuable asset.

In closing, I would like to ask you not to forget to smell the roses along the path of life. Often we get so caught up in the day-to-day hustle and bustle that we don't see the great and wonderful environment in which we work. Take a moment to look around you at all the beauty. We are indeed fortunate to be able to enjoy such a profession.

Michael Wallace, CGCS

What's Happening?

What's happening at your golf course? Drop a line to *Connecticut Clippings* and let us know. Any new ideas or ways to improve the newsletter will be welcomed by the newsletter committee.

Greg Wojick, Editor

The Superintendent's Tour

Shorehaven - Bob Phipps

One-half mile of salt marsh coastline highlights his month's host club, the first stop of the 1982 Superintendent's Tour, the Shorehaven Country Club, in East Norwalk.

The Shorehaven course was built 56 years ago and, at about 6,300 yards from the white tee markers, is a typical links type of layout. As you might expect, the wind is always a factor. Host superintendent Bob Phipps says all flags are usually straight out by nine o'clock every morning.

The windy conditions have a tremendous drying effect at Shorehaven. The wind, plus the well-drained soil on most of the course, means that Bob must irrigate more than most of us, starting earlier in the spring and extending later into the fall. Not surprisingly, then, Bob's biggest problem is availability of water. The club is now trying to find a suitable site for the construction of a new lake that will eliminate the need to buy water from the city. The current 25 GPM well is not adequate.

Bob is a 1963 graduate of UMass. After graduation, he worked as Bill Dest's assistant at the Wethersfield Country Club for three years before moving to the superintendent's position at the Cohasse Country Club in Southbridge, Mass. Seven years later, he accepted the superintendent's job at Shorehaven, where he is now in his tenth year.

Bob and his wife Diane have a daughter, Kim, who is now a freshman at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. She is attending school with the help of a CAGCS scholarship.

I know it may be too much to hope for, but I'd like to see the wind die down on April 13 when I have to play at Shorehaven.

Farms - Stan Sablak

Stan Sablak is May's host when the Superintendent's Tour stops at the Farms Country Club in Wallingford. Stan has been at the Farms for four years, coming there after eight years as superintendent at the Edgewood Golf Club in Cromwell. Prior to Edgewood, Stan spent three years as superintendent at Amherst Golf Club in Amherst, Mass., and one year at Honey Hill Country Club in upstate New York. Stan is a Turf Management graduate of UMass' Stockbridge School. He and his wife, Sandra, have two children, ages 10 and 13.

The Farms course, opened 22 years ago and designed by Geoffrey Cornish, measures 6,398 yards from the white tee markers. It has a relatively wide-open front side, but a much tighter, wooded back side. Being a Cornish-designed course, there must be at least one hole with a tree firmly planted in the middle of the fairway!

Stan, his assistant, Steve Gammons, and a crew of 11 maintain the course. Their biggest problem, like that of Bob Phipps at Shorehaven, is water - or rather, the lack of it. Hopefully, the solution lies close at hand. A neighboring hospital has a well on the club's property which may become available to the club as soon as city water is piped to the hospital. Four years ago, that project was slated for completion within a year. Four years later, however, it's still on the drawing board with no indication as to when it might break loose. So near, and yet, so far.

John Motycka

Times **must** be getting tough -

I got a get-sick card from my doctor.

Connecticut Association Of Golf Course Superintendents

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The object of this association is to encourage increased knowledge of golf course management and greater professionalism through education, research, exchange of practical experience and the well being of each individual member.

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

Greg Wojick, Editor

49 John St.

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Meet Your Class "C" Members

Our featured member for this issue is **Carl Wallace**, a turf specialist involved in both chemical and equipment sales for the MaGovern Co., South Windsor, Conn. Attendance at the University of Hartford, six years with the Kerr Magee Co. and 13 years with the MaGovern Co., allows Carl to pass along helpful advice to superintendents. Not wishing to get "too bogged down with technicalities of the job," he likes to lighten up with a "poorly but enjoyably" played game of golf. A resident of Portland, Carl and his wife Marge, have two children; Donna, 16, and Brien, 13.

Mike Reeb

Grass Catcher

Mike McDermott of **Twin Hills Golf Club** in Coventry, Conn. has given *Conn. Clippings* an update on his back-nine expansion project. Mike says he's hoping for a July 1983 opening date for the new back nine, which began construction in 1977. Mike and his crew are doing the construction work as well as maintenance work on the existing nine holes, and Mike reports that all greens will be finish graded and seeded this fall. Fairways will be cleared of "all" rocks and will also be seeded this fall - Mother Nature permitting, of course.

Mike is giving serious thought to the construction of a windmill as a power source for his irrigation system. He is gathering information on windmills and would appreciate input from anyone who has had experience with them.

Keep the faith, Mike, you'll be "catching grass" in no time.

Those of you who did not attend the March 16 CAGCS meeting missed a very stimulating get-together. New President **Mike Wallace** conducted a smoothly run meeting and offered members the opportunity to voice their opinions on topics relating to association business . . . Secretary/Treasurer **David Stimson** gave his always-accurate financial report . . . Social chairman **Steve DiVito** reported that the social event survey results will soon be compiled and available . . . Education committee chairman **Jim Medieros** announced the upcoming meeting dates . . . Acting golf chairman **Peter Pierson** introduced the new and promising golf tournament program for this year, and he also announced that **Ron Holcomb** will take on the responsibility of the new S&R committee chairman . . . Chapter relations chairman **Frank Lamphier** gave the membership a detailed report on the successful election of **Bob Osterman** to the Vice-President's position on the GCSAA's executive board . . . Immediate Past President **Steve Cadenelli** filled in members on the results of the proposed banning of the material dioxin in Connecticut.

Again, member participation was emphasized and the highlight of the meeting was the testimony by past CAGCS presidents **Harry Muesel** and **Frank Lamphier** on the personal benefits they have gained through their years of participation in both the state and national associations. **Harry Muesel** was also awarded a 24-year GCSAA membership pin. Congratulations, Harry!

If you couldn't make the March meeting, make plans now to attend the April meeting in Shorehaven, and send in your **reservation card** to help Bob Phipps and the staff at Shorehaven plan for the meeting. If you haven't paid your membership dues by April 1, David Stimson will delete your name from the membership roster. So get your check into him, PRONTO!

By now, each member should have received a notice concerning the *Conn. Clippings* mailing list update. If you would like your green chairman, club president, pro or someone else to receive *Conn. Clippings*, please fill out the card with that person's name and address as soon as possible. If you know of someone who is receiving the newsletter and really shouldn't, please let me know so that I can delete his or her name from my list.

Turf Products Corporation has agreed to supply *Conn. Clippings* with computerized mailing stickers. Once again, our commercial members have come through to support our group. Try to patronize the suppliers listed on the back cover of this newsletter.

Those Were The Days and **Front Nine - Back Nine** are two new columns being introduced in this issue of *Conn. Clippings*. **Those Were The Days** will include reprints of bits of news from past issues of *Conn. Clippings*. I find them very interesting and hope you will too. **Front Nine - Back Nine** is the brainchild of **Peter Pierson**. This column will be the sounding board of the golf committee and will include reports on the "happenings" of our golfing year.

John Motycka, owner of the Skungamaug River Golf Club, and **Mike Reeb**, superintendent of the Redding Country Club, have agreed to participate in the publication of *Conn. Clippings*. John initiated the idea of "The Superintendent's Tour" and will handle the writing of that column for each issue. Mike will be interviewing our class "C" commercial members and will be reporting on the backgrounds of these essential members of our association.

John, Mike, **Bill Somers**, as photographer, and I will constitute the newsletter committee for this year.

Greg Wojick, Editor

CAGCS History - 1968

Those Were The Days

Joe Bidwell, superintendent of the Golf Club of Avon, is busy with the construction of their new nine. The design work was done by **Geoffrey Cornish**. Greens are of C-1, C-19 mixture and the fairways are a bent and Merion mixture. All the trees are bent and will be cut at one-half inch.

Walt Lowell, superintendent at the Canton Country Club, teamed with **Tom Nettieblatt** to win the Conn. PGA Pro-Am championship. Walt also is the Pro at Canton. The team won first honors with a nine-under-par at the beautiful Shuttle Meadow Country Club.

The Country Club of Waterbury is in the process of installing an eight-foot fence along its perimeter. Approximately 10,000 feet of fencing will be installed this year. Major reason for fence; vandalism.

A new country club is under construction in Hebron, Connecticut. The name of the club is the Hebron Health and Country Club. The design work was done by **Mike Ovian**. Greens are seeded to Pennecross, and everything else is seeded to 0217, fylking and norlea ryegrass. Opening day is tentatively set for July 4, 1969. The superintendent's position will be filled this winter.

Several new golf courses are "on the boards" in Connecticut. Reports are that **Geoffrey Cornish** is working on ten courses in Connecticut. We even have a California architect working on a course in Connecticut.

Black Hall Club, with **Dick Cook** as superintendent, is hoping to be playing all 18 holes by the time *Conn. Clippings*' June copy reaches everyone. Dick also reports that the new holes built last fall at Old Lyme C.C. are open for play.

Dates to Remember

- April 13** CAGCS Monthly Meeting
Shorehaven Golf Club
Bob Phipps - Host Superintendent
- May 18** CAGCS Monthly Meeting
The Farms Country Club
Stan Sablak - Host Superintendent
- June 1** CAGCS Monthly Meeting
Stanley Golf Course
John Napieracz - Host Superintendent
- June 14** CAGCS Invitational
Hartford Golf Club
David Roule - Host Superintendent

Spring - On Hold!

Tardy Winds feigning as a Bird's wing,
Whipped across the khaki Terrene,
And suppressed (at the dawn of Spring),
The vivid color of Green.

Frank Paladino

Ken Pierce, superintendent at Blackledge C.C., reports the new nine holes are open for play. With all 18 holes in use, they are looking forward to a busy season.

Tumble Brook Country Club superintendent, **Dave Stimson**, has turfed all 18 tees with an Astoria and Seaside bentgrass mixture. A five-foot collar around every green was also turfed. Two tees were rebuilt with the size being greatly increased.

The minimum wage as of July 1, 1967 is \$1.40 per hour. This will be increased to \$1.60 per hour on July 1, 1968.

Reprinted from
Conn. Clippings
1968

Front Nine Back Nine

CAGCS wants as many members as possible to play and enjoy golf at our monthly meetings. This year, there will be three divisions for our golf events: Class A 0-12, Class B 13-24 and Class C 25-36. **It is the responsibility of each CAGCS member to establish and maintain his own handicap.** CAGCS has neither the time nor the means to establish and maintain handicaps for our members. A handicap card, either from the Connecticut State Golf Association or a club handicap card, will be required and must be presented when registering for play at our meetings. Members not having a state or club handicap will be put in a Calloway group.

There will be many different events in the golf schedule for 1982. Some of these will include a Superintendent/Green Chairman tournament at Brooklawn Country Club on October 12, a Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent tournament, the Connecticut State Golf Association trophy and the McLaughlin trophy.

The CAGCS Championship will be run a little differently this year in that there will be some flexibility in the number of rounds required during the course of our events. What we are trying to do is to set up a schedule that will allow a member to miss a meeting and not toss him out of the championship. More on this will be forthcoming.

The golf fee will remain \$5 per regular tournament. Special events such as Superintendent/Green Chairman and Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent tournaments will have a separate fee.

Peter Pierson, Golf Chairman



"Same time again tomorrow

—weather permitting, of course?"

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