

CONNECTICUT



CLIPPINGS

DECEMBER 1982

Volume 15, Number 6

Best Wishes for a Happy and Prosperous 1983

Share the Excitement at GSSAA (continued)

In the October/November issue of *Connecticut Clippings*, my report of the First Annual Newsletter Editors' Seminar included articles on: the GCSAA educational program, the conference and show, and *Golf Course Management* magazine. The coverage of the seminar continues with articles regarding: The Move of GCSAA Headquarters and the Simmons Survey.

The Move of GCSAA Headquarters

GCSAA headquarters is located in Lawrence, Kansas. Kansas is a beautiful state, and the Lawrence area is particularly pleasant. The rather small but attractive headquarters building is adjacent to a 36-hole public golf course (Alvamar Hills) and is just a stone's throw away from Kansas University. Kansas is, of course, centrally located in the United States—halfway between the West coast and the East coast. Accessibility was a prime consideration for the Lawrence location. With these points in mind, it may seem as though Lawrence is an excellent place for a National headquarters—but let's take a closer look.

Does Lawrence have access to the pivotal marketplaces that can enhance the opportunity to conduct business in a comprehensive way? Does Lawrence contain the government, technological, financial, communications, marketing and golf expertise that our association must interact with on a regular basis? Can an individual or group feasibly combine a trip to GCSAA headquarters with a visit to the PGA headquarters, the NGF headquarters, a National convention, a famous golf complex or even a vacation trip? Does Lawrence have a substantial pool of qualified golf-oriented

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54TH International Turfgrass Conference & Show



ATLANTA
FEB. 19-25, 1983



Seminar Plans Complete

The Education Committee headed by Jim Medeiros has completed plans for the Annual CAGCS Winter Seminar to be held January 18, 1983 at the Plainville Holiday Inn. Diversification best describes the 1983 program as areas to be discussed include: annual and ornamental use, computers, growth regulators as they might pertain to *poa annua*, expected standards for play, new approaches to turfgrass research as well as an update on various pesticide regulations. As usual credit for pesticide license recertification will be granted those who attend and who pass the take-home test.

The Winter Seminar has become a much looked forward to fixture on the CAGCS annual calendar. Many superintendents have found it a very useful tool for educating their crews at little cost. Successful turf managers have become very aware of the need to expose their key personnel to as much practical and technical information as possible. They realize that the key to successful management is getting work done through others. Consequently, the more informed an employee is, the more he can accomplish. Don't hesitate to send those key employees to such a seminar. It will be money well spent. The successful turf manager also realizes that it is all too easy to fall into that "Oh-I've heard it all before" routine. Although sometimes tedious, seminars and conferences serve as refresher courses that are constantly needed. Without staying abreast of changing theories and methods one can easily become a member of the "What the hell happened" club. So be sure you head that group of employees seeking new knowledge.

Remember, send your pre-registration check ASAP as it is three dollars cheaper than at the door. Lunch is included in the price. Also, this year's Seminar is at the Holiday Inn in PLAINVILLE not Hartford.

Steve Cadenelli

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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
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individuals who would be suitable for employment at GCSAA headquarters? Can GCSAA staff frequently and feasibly meet face-to-face with allied associations' staff in Lawrence? GCSAA would certainly not be considering this move if the answer to these questions was yes. Unfortunately, Lawrence, Kansas falls short on many of these points.

The GCSAA executive committee has made the preliminary decision that it will be necessary to move the Association's headquarters facility out of Lawrence, Kansas. Because Florida satisfies many of the aforementioned criteria as a prime spot for the headquarters, the executive committee is strongly considering Orlando for its new complex. I believe that this move has been well thought out, and it is certainly worthwhile.

A final point regarding the move is Executive Director Jim McLaughlin's viewpoint in this matter. Jim has indicated that he would leave his position as executive director of GCSAA if a move will not occur. Jim feels strongly that the move is essential if our association is to progress into the forefront of the golf industry. Regardless of whether Jim McLaughlin stays or leaves

GCSAA, the move, in my opinion, is certainly justifiable. I feel that, with Jim's foresight and leadership, the best kept secret in golf—that of the Golf Course Superintendent—will no longer be a secret.



It's Conference and Seminar time again. The main conference room in the Hilton Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Simmons Survey

In an effort to better understand what its members need and want, GCSAA contracted with the Simmons Market Research Bureau, Inc., (NY, NY) to survey the class A members of GCSAA. The 64-page survey gives the staff more direction when tailoring its programs for members' needs.

The respondents were categorized by geographic regions: Northeast; Southeast; Midwest; South; Northwest; Southwest, and also by course type: 9 holes; 18 holes; 27 holes; 36 holes or more; 31,000 or more rounds during 1980; privately-owned course; college-graduate or more. Jim Prusa, when presenting this survey to the newsletter editors, pointed out that, in future surveys, zip codes will be used to more-accurately, locate specific needs and problems.

Here are some examples of the information collected:

- 80.5% of Northeast superintendents do not have written employment contracts.
 - 54.4% of Northeast superintendents close their regular greens during the off-season.
 - The average annual salary of Northeast area superintendents' wives is \$5,470.
 - The level of education of Northeast area superintendents:
 - 6.5%—some high school or less
 - 23.8%—high school graduate
 - 44.5%—Two-year associate degree
 - 21.8%—bachelor degree
 - 1.1%—other
 - 64.9% of the Northeast area superintendents play golf regularly.
 - 86.1% of the superintendents in the Northeast have the responsibility of setting up their course for tournament play.
- Other questions provided information regarding net worth, savings, investments, salary and bonuses of golf course superintendents.

Greg Wojick, Editor

Future Happenings

January 7, 1983
USGA REGIONAL CONFERENCE
The International Golf Club
Bolton, MA

January 18, 1983
CAGCS WINTER SEMINAR
Holiday Inn
Plainville, CT

February 17, 1983
CONNECTICUT
GROUNDSKEEPERS
CONFERENCE
Hartford Civic Center
Hartford, CT

February 19-25, 1983
GCSAA 54TH INTERNATIONAL
TURFGRASS CONFERENCE &
SHOW
Atlanta, GA

March 1-3, 1983
UMASS TURF CONFERENCE &
SHOW
Springfield Civic Center
Springfield, MA

March 17, 1983
USGA REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Westchester Country Club
Rye, NY

Questions & Answers

Question:

My lawn is developing brown spots—what do I do?—Salerno, Italy.

Harry Meusel, golf course superintendent at the Yale Golf Course (New Haven, CT), recently received a phone call from a resident of Salerno, Italy (this is a true story, by the way). This resident (name unknown) apparently has the only lawn in Salerno (something to do with the climate, soil conditions or whatever). Every Sunday the entire town walks by his home to look at his lawn.

The problem that this prideful homeowner has is that his lawn is developing brown spots. The resident says that the spots have been caused by a dog who is urinating on his lawn! He called Harry for advice—

Harry's Answer:
Get rid of the dog!

If you have a question or a question and an answer (as Harry did), that you would like to see published in *Connecticut Clippings*, send it to:

Questions & Answers
c/o Greg Wojick, Editor
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The Scottish Way

This article has been reprinted from Conn. Clippings April 1971 Vol. 4 No 1.

Scotland is where it all began and from this unique and beautiful country the game of golf was brought to these United States with all the frustrations that go with it from the Players point of view and from the maintenance point of view.

If there is humbleness in your soul it will come from within you at least half way around the Old Course at St. Andrews. You cannot curse the hazard your ball is in because it was there before your ancestors were born. You can say to yourself, "How lucky I am to be walking this ground that has brought pleasure to more people than any other sport we know."

It was a great experience to see the people who turned out each day on the golf courses visited, in any kind of weather, to play their game, the way they have for centuries. Anywhere you go people talk golf and of the great tournaments and fine golfers who played in them in the past. They will also tell you where the big ones will be for the next few years, and just what each course will offer new to challenge the worlds best golfers.

Improvements are made on the golf courses in Scotland but only after great study and planning. The exception is the Old Course at St. Andrews, that is a state of preservation and will never change except from nature's hand. Some courses are now enlarging tees due to the increase in play both from the Scots and the growing tourist trade. I did see some greens rebuilding and strangely enough the new designs are still in keeping with traditional small green design which most courses have in Great Britain.

The practices on the various courses are similar to our New England courses in that the frost danger is still there in the Fall and courses are closed until the danger has gone. Other hazards are different like the Crows that fly onto the courses at St. Andrews and pick up divots looking for insects. You see divots all over the turf and think for a while that the golfers here are worse than at home. When you get in a bunker you might be unfortunate enough to lose a ball in a rabbit hole. There are hundreds of rabbits there and they dig in every day, and bunkers are easier digging than through the fescue of the fairways.

The grasses are different than in New England, as the fescues grow naturally there and without much fertilizer. The abundant rainfall and moderate temperatures make

President's Message

Life has many twists and turns which will never be answered. Just when one feels he has the answer another event or happening occurs which causes us to stop and ponder.

The fall and winter months are the time when we should stop, consider and evaluate ourselves and our programs. Don't think for a minute that next year will be any different. Poor weather, equipment failure, and many other problems will still be there. Now is the time to search out new solutions. Get out and visit with neighboring clubs. Younger superintendents should visit and learn from those with years of valuable experience. Attend educational seminars and conferences.

It is also the time we on the board of directors are working to lay the groundwork for next year's events. If you would like to become involved or host a meeting please contact a director. It is your association and your input is extremely valuable.

Don't rest on your laurels or you may soon find them resting on you. Go out, learn, search for solutions. Be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Michael Wallace C.G.C.S.

for good growth, but not rapid. Cutting is not as frequent generally in all of Scotland, as the weather controls the rate of growth with cool winds. The greens have bent grasses of many varieties and you can even find some Poa Annua here and there.

The soil on the seaside courses is as expected sand based and well drained. The root systems are excellent and shot making is very smooth through the turf. On the inland courses there is generally a very heavy soil, and a rock and ledge problem some places. The rocks are evidenced by the many stone walls along property lines and roadways. Buildings are also commonly built of fieldstone or brick.

We should congratulate the members of the Scottish Greenkeeping Association for the fine job they do on the hundreds of golf courses in Scotland. Thousands of golfers from abroad play there annually and surely all come away completely satisfied with the fine conditions of the courses.

Pierre Coste

Grass Catcher

Did you know that Ed Zenisky's maintenance building burned down? On December 7, the barn that was used as the Oaklane Country Club's maintenance building burned to the ground—equipment and all! Superintendent Ed Zenisky has put out a plea to all Golf Course Superintendents in our association for used equipment. If you have any used equipment that you would want to sell, contact Ed. He surely needs all the help he can get. Tough luck, Ed—Keep the faith.

The Old Fox Chemical Company has announced that Henry J. Lesinski will take over as area sales representative for the retiring John Grant. Henry has indicated that he would soon like to join our association. We look forward to having him as a new member.

Congratulations to Scott Niven who recently became the new Golf Course Superintendent at the Stanwich Golf Club in Greenwich. Scott comes to Stanwich from the Siwanoy Country Club where he served as superintendent. Also moving to Connecticut is Larry Pakkala who is the new superintendent at Woodway Country Club in Darien. Larry moves over from St. Andrew's Golf Club where he had been superintendent the past several years. Best wishes to both!

Kevin D'Amico has left the Highland Golf Club, in Shelton, to become the new Golf Course Superintendent at the Westwood Golf Club in West Hartford. Good luck in your new job, Kevin.

If you would like to hold a regular monthly meeting of CAGCS in 1983, contact Jim Medieros or any member of the education committee. They are now in the process of planning their schedule for the upcoming season.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve Cadenelli, John Motycka, Mike Reed and Bill Somers who helped me with *Connecticut Clippings* in 1982. We had a very successful year and I'm looking forward to an even better year in 1983. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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