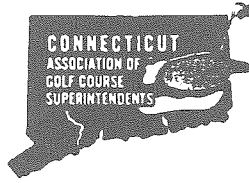


# CONNECTICUT



## CLIPPINGS

October 1986

Volume 20, Number 2

### 1986 CAGCS Golf Schedule

## Golf Review

#### **May 12 CC of Farmington**

- Individual Stroke Play.
- 1st Round CAGCS Championship.
- 1st Round Qualifying Metropolitan Team Championship.

#### **June 10 Watertown Country Club**

- McGlaughlin Trophy.
- President's Cup.
- 2nd Round CAGCS Championship.
- 2nd Round Qualifying Metropolitan Team Championship.

#### **July 8 Indian Hills Country Club**

- Individual Stroke Play.
- 3rd Round CAGCS Championship.
- 3rd Round Qualifying Metropolitan Team Championship.

#### **August 19 (Picnic) Madison CC**

- Chapman Tournament

#### **September 9th Highfield CC**

- Junior/Senior Tournament

#### **October 7 Laurel View Golf Club**

- Assistant/Superintendent Tournament

#### **November 11 Pilgrim Harbor GC**

- Scramble

*A special thank you: to all the host clubs, superintendents and staffs for making our important golf schedule a success in 1986.*

## The Drought Down Deep

Superintendents are rarely happy with the weather. Either the winter temperatures are too cold, or we have not had enough snow to insulate the tender plants. Then in the summer it gets too hot, and, which recently has been the most frequent grumble, it has been just too dry.

The latter complaint should be a concern to all superintendents. In spite of all the rain in July and August, total precipitation, including snow, has either been limited in amounts or so poorly distributed during the year that the plants have suffered from lack of water. Most of the rainfall during the last couple of years has come in flash thunderstorms. The quantity of rain is there, but falls so quickly that most of it is unable to percolate into the soil, and instead runs off into streams and rivers. Thus river or lake levels do not necessarily reflect the amount of water in the soil.

Recently I read an article indicating our water reserves are almost full this year. The article indicating our water reserves are almost full this year. The article compared the reservoir water levels to those of last summer. Then the levels were so low that municipalities were placing restrictions on the use of the water. This type of drought receives a lot of publicity. A second kind of drought is still with us (as of this writing). This drought relates to water in the soil available to the plants. In the last several years, the amount of ground water has been decreasing slowly to a point where no reserves are left to supply the plants with moisture between rain storms.

This last summer even the subsoil located beneath the normal root-zone in many locations has dried out. Since plants require a continuous supply of moisture during the year's growing season, the dry soils have placed many plants under serious stress. The shallow-rooted plants or those in shallow soils on bedrock or in sandy soils are the first to be affected.

Tell-tale signs include drooping foliage, premature leaf drop (small amounts of leaves yellowing and dropping as early as mid-July) and, in some cases, stunted new stem growth.

These initial signs are followed by profuse flowers. This is a natural process in which stressed plants put all their available energy into their reproductive cycle. The increased quantity of seeds help guarantee the continuation of the species should the parent plants die.

I am sure superintendents recall the huge amounts of pine cones and maple seeds that needed to be raked up these last couple of years, or the unusual number of maple seedlings that have guaranteed the continuation of the species should the parent plants die.

*-continued on page 6*

## Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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<i>Vice-Pres.</i>	Robert Chalifour, CGCS
<i>Sec/Treasurer</i>	Steve DiVito
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<i>Director</i>	Mike Reeb, CGCS
<i>Director</i>	Mike Wallace, CGCS
<i>Director</i>	Thomas Watroba
<i>Assoc. Dir.</i>	Henry Lesinski

*CAGCS Executive Director  
Peter Pierson*

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 Connecticut Clippings is an official publication of The Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Inc.

*Editor: Greg Wojick, CGCS  
1347 Newfield Ave.  
Stamford, CT 06905*

*Advertising: Mike Reeb, CGCS  
95 Country Club Rd  
New Canaan, CT  
06840*

# Grass Catcher

## OSC

The Organizational Study Committee has completed its revisions to our bylaws and has sent out the revised copies to the membership. If you haven't read the revised bylaws take some time and look it over. You will have the opportunity to vote on the new bylaws at the annual meeting on November 11. The new set of bylaws are simplified and more concise. There are many changes but the more significant changes are: splitting up of the secretary/treasurer officer position and revisions to the annual reclassification.

The OSC committee has spent many long hours discussing each and every change and is proposing that the new bylaws be accepted in their entirety.



## Upcoming Elections

Should the proposed bylaws pass the election ballot for the 1987 board of directors will look like the following:

*Secretary (one year term)*

*Treasurer (one year term)*

*Director (two year term)*

*Director (two year term)*

*Director (two year term)*

*Note: Contact Frank Lamphier, nominating committee chairman, if you want to pursue a position on the board of directors.*



## Superintendent of the year

The ballots for the 1986 Superintendent of the Year award will be sent out soon. Previous winners of this honor are: Fred Bachand, Robert Viera and Charles Baskin, Jr. Give serious thought to who you want to join this elite group of superintendents. The winner of the 1986 Superintendent of the Year award will be announced at the November annual meeting.



**"If we open a quarrel between the past and the present, we shall find that we have lost the future." Winston Churchill**

## Editor's Note

A very hectic schedule, both professionally and personally, coupled with an inaccessible laser printer are the reasons that this issue of *Connecticut Clippings* is only the second of the year.

*Connecticut Clippings* has been looking for someone who wants to take on the responsibility of producing this newsletter either as editor or co-editor. To date no one has volunteered. It takes time to produce a quality newsletter but the rewards are certainly worth the effort.

Anyone who is interested in the position as editor or co-editor, please call me to talk it over.

*Greg Wojick, Editor*



## President's Message

# If we can't take care of our own - What good are we?

If we can't take care of our own, then what good are we? I'm sure someone, somewhere is responsible for originating this question. I don't know who said it, but it makes a lot of sense for our association and it certainly appeals to my sense of reason. I feel we should become more concerned about the well-being of our fellow member.

I want to create a rather substantial benevolent fund within our association. This fund would sit in the bank and accrue interest if everyone in the association (and their families) was happy and healthy. But when tragedy strikes and it seems as though the deck is stacked against a member and/or his family, then CAGCS would be in a nice position to offer some help.

Anyone who has suffered "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" knows that at a time of crisis you don't care about turfgrass research or which member's kid got a CAGCS scholarship. At a time of financial and emotional breakdown it's no longer important if golf fees at a meeting are eight dollars or ten dollars or if we hire an executive director or buy a new computer for the association. Survival becomes the issue. We all put our hearts and soul into our profession. Wouldn't it be nice if the profession was in a position to help when there is no money to pay the bills?

So it only follows (that is if you agree with me to this point) that we make a sincere effort to "take care of our own" - the members of CAGCS. But how?

Stashing some cash may be part of the answer. Cash, combined with a little brotherhood, responsibility for your fellow professional if you will, could be the best antidote we could prescribe for an ailing member. But how could we raise money to start a substantial benevolent fund?

As always I'm looking for ideas from you, the membership. Give me a call if you come up with a good suggestion. Here are random thoughts of my own:

1. How about a golf tournament with the benevolent fund being the guaranteed winner.
2. Maybe we should just pass a hat around at a meeting or a raffle or...
3. A direct appeal to you, the members, to make out a check to the CAGCS benevolent fund.

I know in the past we have helped out CAGCS members who were down and out, but fiscally we were "robbing Peter to pay Paul." A separate benevolent fund is, in my opinion, the fiscally responsible way to attack this concern.

Along with the board's help and ideas, I will be addressing this issue. And I ask for membership support.

*Greg Wojick, CGCS*

## GCSAA Director's Column

It is indeed a pleasure to write this column as a Director of GCSAA as I look forward to the coming year of service of GCSAA's Board. This article will appear with each issue of *Connecticut Clippings* and will serve to keep CAGCS informed as to the goings on with our national association.

1986 promises to be a year of continued growth and development for GCSAA. Tremendous enthusiasm exists within the Board of Directors, members and staff for continued upgrading and expansion of existing programs and the possible development of others. Those charged with the direction of GCSAA are intent on doing everything possible to promote our profession within the world of golf and of providing GCSAA members the educational offerings and services they desire.

Let me close this first director's column by expressing my sincere appreciation to each and every member of CAGCS for the support provided me in my effort for this office. I assure you a dedicated effort and ask your input whenever possible so that I may represent you in the most effective manner. Thank you.

*Steve Cadenelli, CGCS*

**Editor's Note:** Steve Cadenelli wrote this column earlier in the year. Steve has been nominated again this year to run for director of GCSAA. Once again, CAGCS is wholeheartedly supporting his effort.

# CAGCS Hires Executive Director

## Peter Pierson accepts position

CAGCS president, Greg Wojick, CGCS, is pleased to announce that Peter Pierson has accepted the position of CAGCS Executive Director. This new position was created by CAGCS to help facilitate the needs of its fast-growing professional association.

Peter served as Golf Course Superintendent at the Edgewood Country Club, Cromwell, Connecticut from 1978 to 1983. Edgewood was sold in 1984 to PGA Tour Investments and today is known as the Tournament Players Club of Connecticut. Much of the TPC golf course was redesigned and reconstructed after the PGA Tour Investments purchased it. During this reconstruction period (1982-85) Peter was the golf course superintendent. Peter was in charge of the TPC golf course for the Greater Hartford Open (GHO) in 1984 and in 1985. In October 1985, Peter resigned as golf course superintendent at TPC.

In accepting the position of CAGCS executive director, Peter commented, "I will help to coordinate the activities of the association and keep CAGCS in the forefront of golf by developing a stronger bond between CAGCS and the Connecticut State Golf Association and the Connecticut Section of the PGA." Peter expects to work with the executive director of CSGA, Russell Palmer, and Robert Shea who is the executive director of the Connecticut Section of the PGA.

Peter lives in Cromwell, CT with his wife Sherry and children Tad and Kimberly. Peter graduated from Clemson University in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science degree in ornamental horticulture. Peter has been a long-time class A member of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

## Rhode Island GCSA and GCSAA Co-Sponsor Two-Day Seminar

*Disease Identification and Control*  
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## MET GCSA in the News

Mr. Golf himself, Guido Cribari of Eastchester, retired executive sports editor of the Gannett Westchester Rockland Newspapers, received the first John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award Wednesday evening, Aug. 13, from the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association at Woodway Country Club in Darien, Conn.

The presentation, highlighting the association's Invitational Golf Championship, was made by Peter Rappoccio of Silver Spring Country Club and Met GCSA president. More than 300 guests attended including course superintendents, golf professionals, club presidents and golf officials from Westchester, Connecticut and the metropolitan area.

The award honors the memory and contributions of John Reid, affectionately known as the Father of American Golf, who is credited with bringing the game to America from his native Scotland more than 100 years ago. Reid also formed and founded the very first golf club in this country, St. Andrews in Hastings-on-Hudson in 1888.

The presentation caps an unusual awards cycle for Cribari, who last year received the Lincoln Werden Memorial Award from the Metropolitan Golf Writers and Golf Casters Association, and, who previously was the first non-professional golfer to receive the Sam Snead Award from the Professional Golfers Association of America through its Metropolitan Section. Another prestigious golf honor was the distinguished service award from the Metropolitan Club Managers. He also is a member of the Westchester Sports Hall of Fame.

*-Helen Ganz Spiro is Lifestyles Social Editor of Gannett Westchester Newspapers.*

## **CAGCS Championship Results**

**"A" Flight - Bob Witkowski, Gross  
- Dave Roule, Net**

**"B" Flight - Greg Wojick, Gross  
- Kevin D'Amico, Net**

**"C" Flight - Doug Cooper, Gross  
- Mike Wallace, Net**

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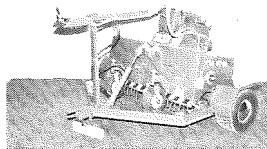
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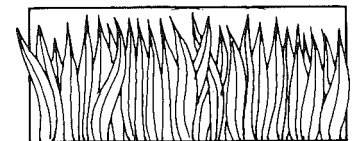
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## Drought Deep Down

PAGE 6

-continued from page 1

I am sure superintendents recall the huge amounts of pine cones and maple seeds that needed to be raked up these last couple of years, or the unusual number of maple seedlings that have germinated throughout the course. This was simply a response to mature trees being under the stress of drought.

When looking for drought damage be sure to test the soil carefully. The same symptoms may occur in plants that are overwatered or located in soggy places. Watering an already overwatered plant would compound its problems.

To make matters even worse, once plants are under stress they become more susceptible to other problems. Many of the insect, disease, and winter injury problems brought to our plant clinic this past summer, were secondary. These afflictions would not have occurred had the plants had enough water.

What can be done to protect plants in the landscape? The most effective preventative of soil dryness is using a mulch. Also water newly transplanted material. In very dry periods even plants planted two or three years before may require extra care until fully established. And finally, when you do water, water thoroughly so the entire root-zone, (12 to 18 inches down) is completely moistened. Then allow the soil mass to dry out moderately before rewatering to avoid starving the roots of oxygen and later causing root rot. When there has been no rainfall, watering once a week is enough during the growing season for most plants, and slightly more frequently during very hot, sunny weather, and for plants growing in very sandy soils. But test the soil frequently until you are more familiar with the different locations of your garden and how to water them.

*-adapted from the Bartlett*

*Arboretum newsletter. Ted Lockwood, Director*

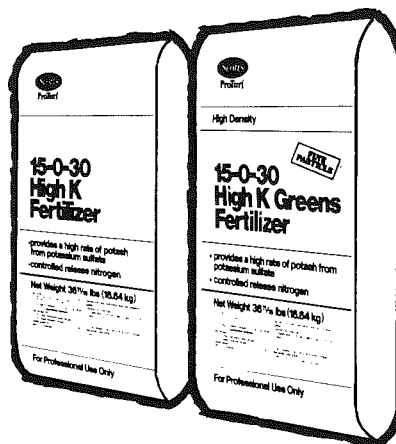
## Christmas Party Plans Set

**December 5 is the date. Mark it on your calendar and make plans to attend this year's revival of the annual CAGCS Christmas party.**

Mike Reeb and his social committee have attended to every detail and will just be waiting for the reservation cards to come in. This year's Christmas get-together will be held at the Woodbridge Country Club in Woodbridge, CT. Good food, gifts and live music will be provided for this gala event. Thanks to the Woodbridge Country Club for graciously hosting this year's party.

Call Mike Reeb or Jack Lynch for details regarding the Christmas party.

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### ***CAGCS News Bits.....***

.....The CAGCS membership survey will be sent to the membership shortly. Please fill out every question completely and accurately. Remember if you don't fill it out you don't get back the results!

.....There have been new pesticide regulations from DEP. Questions regarding pesticide regulation should be directed toward PPUC (exec. dir. Don Kiley or Richard Marcks).

.....Gary Bryant, Manchester Country Club, is doing just fine after his recent by-pass surgery.

.....Look for green book up-dates in your mailbox soon! Remember to make the appropriate changes in your book so that it stays current.....

# Cow-Pasture Golfers Have A Ball

With summer's crops harvested and a few weeks of good fall weather still ahead, plenty of rural folks switch from digging soil with plows to digging divots with golf clubs!

That suits residents of Oregon's Willamette Valley to a tee — golfers from around the world and from down the road are driven to attend this rural area's "holey-unusual" golf tournament.

The annual Cow Pasture Open attracts hundreds of farmers, ranchers and even a few professional golfers...but if you think the field of contestants is odd, wait'll you hear about the field they play on! The 18-hole course, located near Shedd, covers 372 acres of dusty, burned-off ryegrass fields and includes swamps, oak groves and muddy ponds.

If the course sounds seedy, well...it is. "This area is the grass seed capital of the world," explains Dave Horn, a tournament organizer. "Every fall, we bum off the ryegrass to kill pests and get rid of the stubble...and afterward all that flat, open ground makes a perfect temporary golf course!"

The idea for the unusual golf tournament started with Dave, along with golfing buddies Sid Brown and Lawrence DeWitt. Another friend, grass farmer Ron Powell, was mowed over with the idea, and volunteered to temporarily convert his burned-off farm fields into a gigantic golf course.

How unusual is this agri-golf? It's a sport of a different color — instead of greens, organizers warn, participants have to putt on the "browns!"

Trophies are awarded in a variety of categories, including longest drive on the 1-mile-long sixth hole. But the real winner at the Cow Pasture Open is the local volunteer fire department, to which all proceeds are donated.

"Last year we raised \$4,000," Dave says proudly, "and this year we're aiming for \$5,000! Since the tournament started, we've had golfers come from as far away as Guam and British Columbia to play here!"

Indeed, hundreds of golfers happily put down \$25 each to play the course, which Dave admits is sometimes erratic. "The ground is hard and smooth," he says, "and a 225-yard shot can easily roll and bounce another 125 yards!"

"The course takes you over 5 miles of hot, dusty ground," Dave continues. "After you get done with one round, you're not ready to go over it again — at least not right away!"

Why would anyone want to play in these less-than-ideal conditions? "It's not the Cow Pasture Open's barnsized holes — actually 5 gallon pails — attracting frustrated putters," Dave claims.

"It's the prestige," he says with a grin. "A lot of golfers come here just so they can tell their golfing buddies that they played in the Cow Pasture Open!"

Dave is quick to add that without the help of dozens of volunteers, this "country" club wouldn't be up to par. "A lot of man-hours go into this," he points out. "We spend the whole winter painting signs and barrels for the course and printing publicity material and scorecards."

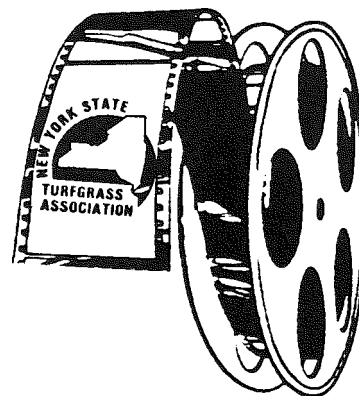
"In the fall, neighboring farmers volunteer their time and machinery to make sure the course is properly graded and laid out. Nothing is overlooked," Dave concludes. "We want to make sure that everyone has a good time!"

The fun doesn't stop when the golfing ends, either. Included in the entry fee is a big steak dinner with all the country trimmings, including fresh corn on the cob, hot biscuits and gallons of iced tea for the hot, thirsty golfers at the day's end.

The Cow Pasture Open may not have the drama of the U.S. Open or the class of the Masters Tournament...but folks in Oregon don't mind — they know their one-of-a-kind farm-field golf tournament is right on course!

CREDIT: FOREGROUND (Taken from Country People, Sep/Oct 1985)

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