## CONNECTICUT



## **CLIPPINGS**

March 1987

Volume 21, Number 1

#### **Up Coming Events**

CAGCS Meeting -- March 17 Yale Inn. Meriden Ct **USGA Regional Conference** 

March.25.26 Brookline, Mass. - Scarborough, NY.

GCSAA Seminar -- April 6,7 Enviorment and Water Issues Bass River, Mass.

CAGCS Meeting--April 14 New Haven Golf Club

CAGCS Meeting-- June 8 Hopmeadow Country Club

CAGCS Meeting-- July 14 Cliffside Country Club

CAGCS Family Day -- August? Madison Club

CAGCS Meeting -- Sept. 15 Skungamaug, Coventry, CT. Glastonbury Hills

CAGCS Meeting -- October 13 Tashua Knolls, Trumbull, CT.

GCSAA Seminar -- Dec. 10, 11 Weed Identification

Prov., R.I

#### WHAT'S INSIDE???

Supt. Forum

**GCSAA** Conference Highlights

**Committee Happenings** 

**Turf Clippings** 

**Question for next issue's** Supt. Forum

#### Meet The Editor

As many of you may know by now, your Newsletter has changed editors. Greg Wojck has turned the scrolls over to the new kid on the block.

Seeing as I am new to this great State of Connecituct, I will be looking forward to hearing from some of you by way of the Newsletter. I feel that the Newsletter is one of the best vehicles we have for the dispersion of views and ideas from the membership.

A successful publication of this sort is greatly enhanced by the participation of its readers. Therefore, I have a plan which should help provoke some member participation. In this, and all upcoming issues, I will be publishing a column entitled "The Supt. Forum. This will be of a question/comment and answer-type column with information and data coming from the members. If you have any comments or questions concerning golf course operation, CAGCS policies, GCSAA policies, or any other opinion you wish to air, this is the place to do it.

The mechanics of this column will be as follows: For example - A question will be published in the March Newsletter. The comments to the question will be published in the May Newsletter. Therefore, all of the readers will have six to eight weeks in between issues to respond to the column. To begin this Forum, I have made the first contribution to the column in this issue. I hope that in the future, I will be receiving communication from all of you out there who always have so much to say, but nowhere to say it. To air your comments or questions to this column, just drop me a note by way of the U. S. Post Office, or pick up Ma Bell and ring me up.

I will be looking forward to hearing from you. Remember, this is your Newsletter. In order for it to be used to its fullest potential, your participation is essential.

John F. Streeter, CGCS, Editor

# Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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#### President's Message

A new year, new challenges, new hopes. Hopefully the equipment is ready and the crew is in place. Plans written in non hardening permatex.

What's happened this winter?

The stock market has hit new highs, despite insider trading or maybe because of it. New Tax Laws. More bad press about pesticides, fertilizers and a new one...winter greens. Chemlawn bans 2,4-D.

Great conference in Phoenix...GCSAA, our hats off to you and a check for \$175.00,too. Thank you, Jim Prusa, for a job well done.

Macgolf is the greatest computer game ever invented... 186 on Augustina National and 268 on Shinook Hills [my current lows]. It's 1987, shouldn't we have computers on golf carts?

Good-bye Acti-Dione...hello water dispersable bags, again. This year I'm gonna try those little crystals that hold water.

Cadenelli considerably elected. Television commercials about golf course superintendents...who'd have ever thought.? I'm gonna buy a VCR this year, for sure. Television commercials about golf course superintendents on Connecticut televisions...hopefully coming soon.

I don't know...nobody knows (I love that Federal Express commercial) ["Everyone has trouble **shouting** up the hierarchy...few people have trouble **shouting** down the hierarchy" GW, your green grower, with your asparagus tip for the day.]

Too much vitamin V, says MacFarlane. \$500 million for CT roads...hope they finish the bridges first. I always feel inadequate about safety in the workplace, shouldn't we all? How fast will the greens be this year...should they be? Danny Ainge with a punk hairdoo...

Ah yes, New England in the wintertime...BTU-tiful...Tukson in the wintertime...I'm ready for the golf season, Iran and I just bought a pair of red slacks. Thank you, John Streeter. 65 at Apache Wells!!!

And you think all you have to do is pick up the (CT) Clippings. Call me for a critique on "Tips for Better Business Writing."

Take it seriously, but not too seriously, Amerika.

Greg Wojick, CGCS, President

#### SUPT. FORUM QUESTION

In response to the adjacent article that appeared in Golf Digest, Dec.,1986, I have taken the liberty of airing my views on the aqusations which were implicated in this article, and also a response from GCSAA...

In the next issue of Connecticut Clippings, I will be looking forward to hearing from the readers, thier views and comments realting to the following questions concerning the article, "A case for banning temporary greens ".

Who should handle the rebuttals, if any?

To whom should the comments and rebuttals be directed? (The author, or the superintendent whom was quoted.)

OR, if you have any other views on the matter, please let me know.

To aire your comments, please contact me by April 7, either by way of MA BELL or drop a note in to YE OLD MAIL BOX. Your participation will be greatly appreciat-

John F. Streeter, CGCS, Editor

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

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#### A case for banning temporary greens by Robert Carney

"Let me be completely objective about this. I hate temporary winter greens. Hate them. Playing temporary greens is like playing baseball with no bases. It's like poker without a pot. I would rather listen to the Mazuk version of "Eve of Destruction.

Oh, that sinking feeling I get when I walk onto the first tee at my local northern course in November and see the white sign with red letters TEMPORARY GREENS IN USE. Aaaaaaar-rrrggghhh!! Anybody in favor of temporary greens should go jump in a temporary lake. Is this objective enough? For one thing, it's unfair. My friend Lupo lowers his putting average by 18 strokes every winter because the "Automatic Two Putt on Temporary Greens" rule is in effect. This rule stipulates that since you're basically putting on your front lawn, you don't actually have to get the ball in the hole, unless, of course, it goes in by accident after bouncing off the top of a nearby sprinkler

This may please golfers such as Lupo, and say, Ben Hogan, but some of us have worked hard on our one-lever putting strokes and would like to get paid for it, thank you.

What galls me even more than temporaries, however, is the fact that I have to play them while my friend Fitz, whose course is only a few minutes from mine, does not. "We play our greens all winter long," he reminds me about once a week from December to April.

Which makes no sense. If playing on those greens won't hurt, why does my superintendent say, "Walking on our greens during the winter will kill them and you'll be putting on washboards for the rest of your life"? Same climate. Same kind of greens. Totally different policies.

Well, I've done a little digging and come up with an answer. And the answer, in my humble opinion, is that most superintendents don't want to be bothered with winter golfers. Based on conversations with some highly respected green superintendents, several referred to me by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the facts back me up.

- 1. If a green is sand-based, as many modern greens are, there is no need to close it in cold weather.
- 2. If a green has a more traditional foundation, a mixture of soils and little or no sand, it will withstand moderate play even after it's frozen. You may have to top-dress it extra in the spring and fall, but it should only have to be closed for that week or two in March when it thaws.

Hmm. Then why am I putting on Poa annua for four months a year? "Because green superintendents are basically conservaative people," says Gordon Witteveen, the superintendent of the Board of Trade Country Club in Toronto. Of those fellows I talked to, Witteveen is, admittedly, the most liberal. He keeps nine of his 45 holes open year-round. They're sand-based greens, which stay firm and never suffer from foot-printing, even, says Witteveen, during the thaw period. "I also open the other 36 holes weeks before my colleagues and never with temporary greens. I get critized for that. It takes extra effort. But golf is for people. The most useless piece of real estate in the world has to be a golf course without people on it."

Canonize that man.

Look. I know all of you superintendents don't agree. And I know that you have the best interests of the course and the memberships of your clubs in mind. I'm just making a plea for that small number of us who don't mind a little frostbite and want to keep playing the game we love even if the bunkers and ponds are frozen. Give us a chance. Give us our greens! Be like a friend of mine who cares for a very fine course in Westchester Coun-

ty, New York. Give in. "I used to fight it," he says. "Now I just tell the members that I'll need to top-dress more in the spring and fall, and that will cost them. ... If we can afford railroad ties, we can afford more dirt."

#### My views on the Golf Digest Article

As a concerened Superintendent, I have a couple of views I wish

to aire concerning this article.

First of all, I feel that two sides of the story should be told when publishing such a controversial item as this. The best way to accomplish this, I feel, is to flood the editor, [Robert Carney] with information pertaining to the "Other side of the story". Also I feel that GCSAA should make an effort to have a rebuttal printed in Golf Digest pertaining to "The other side of the story".

In these times of so-called improving public relations, this article does not do the Superintendent or his image any justice. An article of this nature deserves a strong rebuttal from all of us who are concerened with the image and profesionalism of a Golf Course

Superintendent.

#### John F. Streeter CGCS

As the GCSAA North East Chapter Liason, Mike Wallace, CGCS reports that the national association has taken steps toward rebuttal of this article. They published a form letter which will be made available to any GCSAA member who may request it for use as a piece of ammunition.

The contents of this form letter are published below.

Also John Shilling, Executive Director of GCSAA, has had much communication, both oral and written, with *Golf Digest* concerning this and other articles that may appear in thier magazine relating to Golf Superintendents and/ or their maintenance practices.

#### GCSAA RESPONDS

The following is a response from John M. Schilling, Executive Director, GCSAA, relating to the Golf Digest Article, December, 1986:

"...For the record, GCSAA has no policy supporting winter golf

play on dormant greens.

The reason for this is that GCSAA members manage turfgrass on such a wide variety of soil structures and temperature extremes. What works at one golf course might not work at the next course down the road.

GCSAA is proud of the professional skills that each of our members have and recognizes that only the superintendent at each

course can determine playable conditions.

In the case of Mr. Carney's article, I cannot find whether or not we supplied names of superintendents for him to call regarding his story. However, it is entirely possible as we do receive similar requests from time-to-time. Whatever individual superintendents might tell him would, of course, be at their own initiative.

I'm sure it's a safe guess that just as many superintendents would have a conflicting viewpoint towards winter play as were quoted in his article in favor of it. ..."

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## ANOTHER VIEW ON WINTER GOLF

Winter golf has been in existence at Shennecossett for 16 of the 17 years that I have been here. Past practices, when the course was private, meant closing in mid-October because after Labor Day there was very little play. Many existing practices carried over when the Town of Groton purchased the golf course in 1967.

The financial situation was not strong, and an early closing would mean even less revenue to support the operation. I suggested that the course remain open through December 1st. I would collect fees during the week. On weekends, someone would be hired to collect the fees. The first extended Fall Season was successful for both the golf course and the golfers.

As a result, I was asked if the season could be extended through winter. My answer was yes. However, I emphasized that extremely close monitoring would have to be done. Any decision to open would have to be made on a day-to-day basis by the golf course superintendent or a representative of his.

The agreement was made, and the course has been open (weather permitting) ever since. Southeastern Connecticut is unique in that it usually misses much of the bad weather that hits the Northeast. There can be snow 12 miles north of here, and none on the course.

Several criteria are used to determine whether to open or delay opening.

1. Are greens firm enough to support play? If greens are not frozen, then they must be dry enough not to squish water when walking on them.

2. Frost - Frost delays are very common.

3. Weather prediction for the

day - If in doubt, stay closed.

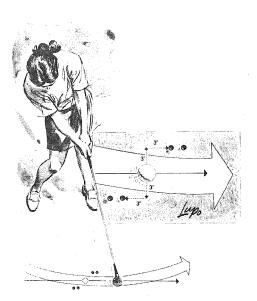
The Damage - Once the grass has ceased growth and is dormant, the tees are closed and the markers are placed in front of the tee on a level area. Two cups are on the front of the greens to distribute traffic. The temporary tees take a beating. However, once growth begins, these areas fill in within a few weeks. Some years, the front of the greens will be offcolor and may be somewhat slower to recover in the spring. This recovery may take one to three weeks. By the first of May, there is usually no indication that the greens have been played on.

Golfer Reaction - How soon the golfers forget! The first couple of years, everyone is appreciative of the opportunity to be able to "play". Then, as the years go by, you get an arrogant group that wants to play, regardless of frost or wet greens. The "Out-of-Towners" or golfers from courses that are usually closed begin to influence the "Regulars" who play here all season. Deep down, the regulars know the reasons for closing, yet will still try to persuade you to open, even after reading a poster I made up of pictures and articles about winter golf from various copies of the *USGA* Green Section Record.

I stand firm on my decision. There have been days that I have stayed closed and could have opened. But I would rather make that mistake than to open and then wished that I had stayed closed. If in doubt, stay closed!

Robert Chalifour, CGCS





#### **GOLF TIP**

Swinging the club on the correct path — inside-square-inside — is the key to accurate hitting. Here's a practice drill to help you groove the correct path. Tee up a ball, then position two tees about an inch apart, three inches behind and to the right of the ball. The "gate" formed by the tees outlines the correct path and provides you with checkpoints for your swing. If you strike the tees behind the ball as you take the club back, your clubhead is moving outside the target line. If you strike any of the tees as you swing through the hitting area, you've cut across the target line from out-to-in. A swing on the correct path will leave the tees undisturbed and result in a well struck shot.

#### " Did You Know?"

The following data was taken from Dr. Houston Couchs disease seminar based on his research work done at Virginia.

Proper solution rates, nozzle sizes, and optimum psi's at the nozzle for vari-

ous fungicides.

"Daconil 2787" 1 gallon of water per 1000 sq. ft

Tee Jet nozzle 8002 or 8004, Raindrop RA 15

30 to 60 psi's at the nozzle

"Chipco 26019" 0.5 to 4 gallons of water per 1000 sq. ft.

Tee Jet 8002 or 8004, Ra 15 nozzles

30 to 60 psi's at the nozzle

"Bayleton" 2 gallons of water per 1000 sq. ft.

Tee Jet 8002 or 8004, Ra 15 nozzles

30 to 60 psi's at the nozzles

"Dyrene" 1 to 2 gallons of water per 1000 sq. ft.

Tee Jet 8002 or 8004, Ra 15 nozzles

30 to 60 psi's at the nozzles

"Rubigan" 1 to 2 gallons of water per 1000 sq. ft.

Tee Jet 8002 or 8004, Ra 15 nozzles

#### Thoughts About Nematodes

When was the last time your golf course was checked for nematode populations. The following is an article that may lend some food for thought.

Question:

Based on your observation of turfgrass response in the northeast, midwest and southeast, do you feel that nematode injury to cool season grasses is the same as on warm season

grasses?

Answer:

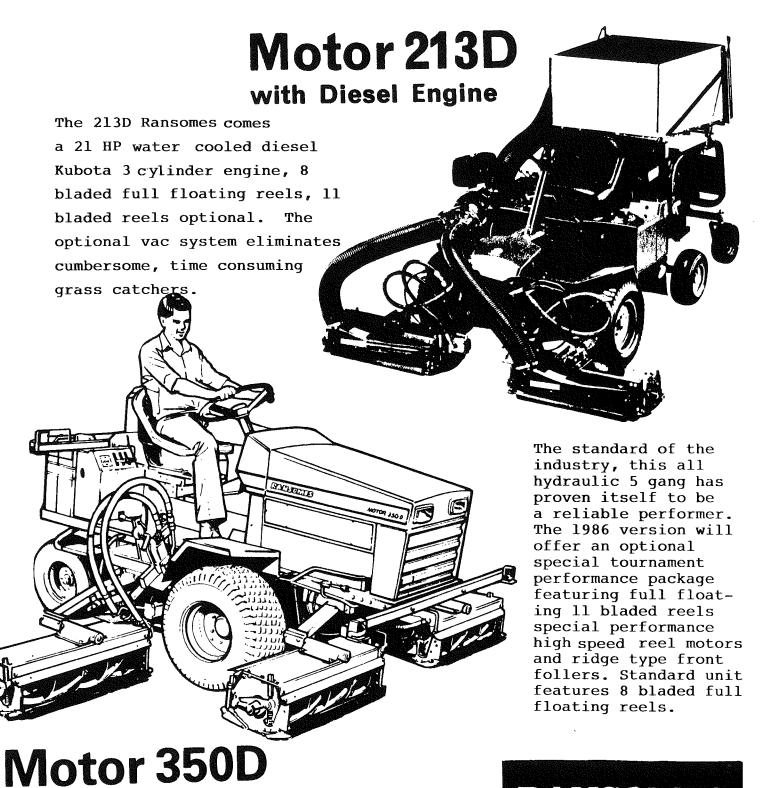
Nematode injury to turfgrasses in southern states is pronounced where control measures are not used. Turf affected by nematodes produces chloritic or pale green foliage. New leaves often wilt easily and die back. Turf becomes thin and growth in the spring is generally poor. Injury may become so intense that bare spots develop and ultimately these spots fill in with annual weeds and grasses. In northeast and midwest sections of the country unexplained lack of grass vigor, poor color and thinning of turf has attributed to nematode activity. A comparision of grass response in both northern and southern patrs of the country leads me to believe that nematodes are far more important spoilers of turf in the north than they have been given credit for.

Although nematode populations in soils in cooler sections of the country are not as likly to be as great as in warm areas, there is sufficient cause to conclude that those present are capable of injuring fine turf.



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**RANSOMES** 

## From the Desk of the Executive Director

During 1987, all CAGCS members will have the opportunity to call upon the Executive Director to serve their needs. I look forward to serving the Association and its members, but I may remind you that your Association needs your support and participation to remain healthy and active.

If you would like to host a CAGCS meeting at your club, whether for 1987 or next year, please feel free to contact me.

If any CAGCS members have an employee at the U. Mass Winter School, please be aware that there is scholarship aid available for qualified students. Contact me or John Napieracz, S & R Chairman.

Peter Pierson, Executive Director

#### CAGCS Shirts and Sweaters Available

Orders for shirts, sweaters and jackets will be taken at the the March meeting of CAGCS.

Prices are as follows: CAGCS shirts 23.00 CAGCS sweaters 25.00 CAGCS jackets ??

## Dick Parsons Memorial Scholarship

John Napieracz, Scholarship and Research Chairman, reports that The Dick Parsons Memorial Scholarship is in the process of reorganization.

Results will be published at a later time.

## Policys Regarding CAGCS Scholarship Application

- 1. Immediate family members and employees of members are eligible to apply.
- 2. Applications must be requested in writting from the S&R Committee. Any member may request an application.
- 3. Requests for applications must be made before April 1, 1987.
- 4. The deadline for submitting applications is May 1, 1987.
- 5. Incomplete applications will not be acted upon.
- 6. Each scholarship will be for a minimum of \$100.00, with the total number of scholarships and the amounts awarded to be determined yearly by the S&R Committee, based on available funds.
- 7. Interviews and copies of the applicant's transcript from his or her's last attented school may be requested, at the discretion of the S&R Committee.
- 8. An applicant may recieve this scholarship for a maximum of four years.

#### Policys Regarding CAGCS Research Funds

For a College or University to apply for research funds, the following steps must be taken:

Summarize project and how it will benefit Connecticut golf courses,

Indicate type of assistance required; Funds, Equipment and/ or material, If equipment, state what type If material, state type and amount

Progress reports are required

Each applicant must have a personal interview with Research Committee

Return required information to:
John Napieracz, Research Chairman
71 High Ridge Road
New Britan, Ct. 06053

#### Cadenellis Corner

I cannot begin to adequately express my appreciation for the support of the many friends and associates in CAGCS of my candidacy for GCSAA Director

Such an effort, as I have previously stated, would be impossible without the strong support of one's local chapters. I am indebted to every member of CAGCS, GCSANJ, and MGCSA and in response to that debt I assure everyone a dedicated and diligent effort on thier behalf as I sit on the GCSAA's Board. The goals of all Golf Course Superintendents of continued education, increased recognition in the golf community, and professional identity are the foundation of GCSAA's identity and it is these goals which I will strive to achieve as a member of your governing body.

As I have been appointed Chairman of GCSAA's Education and Certification Committees, I would very much welcome ideas, suggestions, and criticims regarding the annual conference program, on- going educational programming, and the certification program.

Such input is essential and most desired. Please do not hesitate to phone or write with any and all ideas.

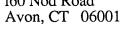
If you have changed your address, please let us know so we can keep our addressing labels up to date. If you would like to have your Greens Chairman receive the *Connecticut Clippings*, please include the proper information on for form below:

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#### GCSAA Conference Highlights

## <u>Hearn Elected as GCSAA President</u>

Donald E. Hearn, CGCS, who hails from The Weston Golf Club, Weston, Mass. was unanimously elected to serve as President of GCSAA in 1987 at the annual meeting held in Phoenix.

Don brings along many years of service to GCSAA. In his 5 years on the Board, Don has served as Vice President, Secretary / Treasurer, and 3 years as director, chairing such committees as certification and education.

The membership feels that Don will continue to work in moving GCSAA and its members to thier rightful place in the golfing community.

#### Cadenelli Elected to 2 year term

Congraulations are also in order for Steve Cadenelli CGCS, a former Connecticutite and still an adopted son. Steve was elected to a 2 year term as director after recieving the most votes cast for the three directors positions.

Steve also brings many years of service to GCSAA by way of committee assignments and his most recent tour of duty as GCSAA director for one year.

#### Other Election Results

Elected as Vice President, one- year term John Sequi, CGCS, Pennsylvania

Elected as Directors, two- year terms Dennis Lyon, CGCS, Colarado Randy Nichols, CGCS, Georgia

#### Future Conference Sights

Houston, Texas -- 1988 Anahiem, Calif. -- 1989 Orlando, Fla. -- -- 1990 Las Vegas, Nev.- 1991

#### Black Layer Forum Presented

Page 9

On Saturday afternoon of the conference, GCSAA presented an open forum concerning the mysterious phenomenon that is plaguing golf course greens across the country.

This phenomn, now called *Black Layer*, was addressed by some of the leading Agronomists in the country: including Dr.

Joesph Vargus and Dr. Willam Hodges.

Speaking to a overcrowded room, the panel of speakers reported on thier findings, some solutions they have experimented with, and thier opinions. At this time, they cannot honestly say exactly what the major contributing factors are to this *Black Layer*.

In general terms, superintendents across the country are finding a black layer at various depths within the soil profile, that eventually restricts root development, air and water movement.

The layer is reported to have been found under various physical and environmental conditions. An article by Professor John Hall, extension agronimist from The Virginia Coopereative Service which appeared in *Golf Course Management*, Feburary, 1987, concludes that the layer is bieng found where there are distinct soil layers caused by the use of improper topdressing materials and practices, and/ or poor construction procedures.

He states that at these soil interfaces, the water is bieng pooled thus creating a growing media for various types of algae and bacteria which are trapped in an anaerobic state. The by- products of these algae's, plug up water and air channels within the soil, thus severely restricting water and air movement and root growth.

If our industry is going to get a hold on this problem, much more trials and research must be done.

I know some of you may have these symptoms. If so, we should communicate our thoughts on the subject to each other, so as we may help each other resolve this *Black Layer Pest*.

#### Annual Banquet and Show a Sellout

The Annual GCSAA Banquet and Show proved to be another sucess. A sold-out ballroom witnessed many positive comments relating to the Golf Course Superintendent and his profession.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of GCSAA's highest honor, **The Old Tom Morris Award**. The presentation was made to Robert Trent Jones, Sr., noted Golf Course Architect, by NBC commentator Jay Randolph." Trent Jones is the Beethovan of the golf world, designing one masterpiece after another, and you the superintendents, make each design sing with beauty," stated Mr. Randolph.

Jones was high in praise for the Golf Course Superinenndent. He was quoted as saying that, "without the dedication and the expertise of the Golf Course Superintendent, an Architect's

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 Salvatore J. Rizzo, Jon Mattsoon
 (203) 271-1682

Shemin Nurseries, Inc. 1081 King Street P.O. Box 64, Glenville Station Greenwich, CT 0683 (203) 531-7352

- Somers Turf Supplies
   P.O. Boz 294 Devon, CT 06460
   Bill Somers
   (203) 878-2108
- Terre Co.
  206 Delawanna Avenue
  Clifton, NJ 07014
  Byron Johnson, Jr.
  (201) 473-3393
- Turf Products Corporation 1496 John Fitch Blvd.
   South Windsor, CT 06074
   Mark Loper, John Ferry, Shawn Donovan (203) 528-9508
- Valley Farms Nursery & Supply Simsbury, CT 06070 Sod - Turf Supplies - Fertilizer Joseph D. Bidwell, Owner (203) 651-8555
- Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.
   P.O. Box 198 Lincolndale, NY 10540
   Bob Lippman
   (914) 277-3755
   (914) 248-5790HM
- Winding Brook Turf Farm, Inc. 240 Griswold Road Wethersfield, CT 06109 Donald Grant (203) 529-6869

Al Zikorus
Golf Course Architect
Member ASGCA
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