

CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS



JUNE, 1988

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Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

**CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION
OF
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS**

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A Word From The Editor

As I am sure you have noticed, we have yet another cover for the Newsletter. As an old friend of mine once said, "If not happy with first cover, try again." So we did.

After close examination of the first cover, we decided to employ the services of another graphic artist to make some changes. Richard Chalifour, who happens to be the son of our President, was responsible for what we think is a much improved cover. Thanks, Richard, for a job well done.

I also might add that even with the expense of the first cover, we still were within budget for this project.

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Bob Viera came through again to rescue the Annual CAGCS Invitational. A good time was had by all who attended on June 14th, and as usual, Bob and the Watertown Golf Club put on a good show. Thanks, Bob, for your hospitality. I believe you are off the hook for 1989, as a site has already been secured.

Also, thanks to Phil Neaton, Gary Bryant, and Peter Lewis for hosting the previous monthly meetings.

John F. Streeter, CGCS

President's Message

Robert Chalifour, CGCS

The CAGCS has taken the position of supporting the DEP in its effort to eradicate grass carp - white amur that were introduced into Connecticut waters without a permit prior to January 1, 1988. The problem being that there is no guarantee that the fish are triploid (sterile). The DEP does not want to take any chances that these fish could reproduce and get into waters that are not certified for introduction.

As a result, there will be many questions from club members and the public concerning the fish kills that will be taking place. From a public relations point of view, the Board of Directors suggests that the courses involved state to their members and the general public the following:

An unwanted species of fish is being destroyed in order that the certified grass carp that will be introduced soon will have a better chance of survival.

The grass carp will aid in keeping a pond free of weeds and algae that are unsightly, clog irrigation strainers, valves and heads. The use of grass carp will also eliminate the need for using chemicals to control weeds and algae in ponds.

Major Renovations In A New Position

Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS

Oak Lane Country Club

Woodbridge, CT

Accepting a new position as a golf course superintendent is one of the most exciting and challenging events to occur in one's career. Whether he be an established superintendent changing positions or an assistant accepting his first job, the excitement and anticipation are tremendous.

**The challenges of a new
course . . . are ones
that we all
look forward to meeting.**

The challenges of a new course and crew -- and of working with a new green chairman, green committee and board of governors -- are ones that we all look forward to meeting.

Add an imminent major renovation project -- such as green and tee construction, trap reconstruction, or drainage work scheduled to begin upon your arrival -- and these challenges can seem insurmountable.

In the Northeast, a new superintendent is often hired in the off-season and has several months to prepare his crew and set up his organization for that first season of golf. This preparation is important in helping to create a positive first impression on the membership that can be vital to the superintendent's success at the club.

A major project can upset that initial organizational effort and help create a first impression before the grass has even begun to grow. Unfortunately, that impression can be as negative as it can be positive, and the new superintendent may be judged by the results of a project that he did not have complete control over.

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I learned quickly at Oak Lane CC that if I was going to be successful and create a positive first impression, I would have to work hard, get good advice and be a little lucky.

When a club is making a superintendent change and a major project is ready to begin, the club will usually wait for the new man to be hired before starting the work. Such was the case at Oak Lane.

A three-phase plan to renovate the golf course was in place when I was hired. All 75 bunkers were to be reconstructed, six new tees were to be built, and approximately 40,000 feet of tile drainage to be installed. Phase I consisted of the 28 greenside bunkers on the front nine, three new ladies' tees, and about 17,000 feet of drainage.

I began at the club on Dec. 1 -- and the work began two weeks later. Work continued right through that first winter whenever weather conditions permitted.

The club is located in south-central Connecticut. The winter of '83 - '84 was relatively snow-free, so Mother Nature was providing some of the luck I knew we would need.

The mistakes of "forcing" Phase I that first winter became painfully evident. The best time for fall construction in Connecticut -- between Oct. 15 and Dec. 15 -- had passed. The winter work was costly in both time and money. The working conditions of frost, ice, mud and cold made the job seem never-ending.

Developing a crew and establishing my organization that first winter became almost impossible because of the construction and the resulting turnover in employees. Each irrigation wire, pipe and valve that was ripped out of the ground made me realize more and more the mistakes of forcing the job. By March 1, the first eight holes of the course looked like a war zone, and it was obvious to me that on opening day, my future at Oak Lane could be very questionable. I had not had a chance to grow a blade of grass, and I was beginning to doubt my abilities as a golf course superintendent.

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With a great deal of hard work, some very good advice from Vin Bartlett (the construction contractor) and a lot of luck with the weather, 95 percent of the work was completed by opening day. The end result was a crew I was every proud of, an organization forged out of necessity, and a membership that was truly excited about their "new" course.

Phase II -- 34 greenside bunkers on the back nine, two new tees, and 15,000 feet of drainage -- was completed in the fall of '84. We took the lessons we learned from Phase I and were able to complete Phase II at less cost, in less time, and with considerably fewer headaches.

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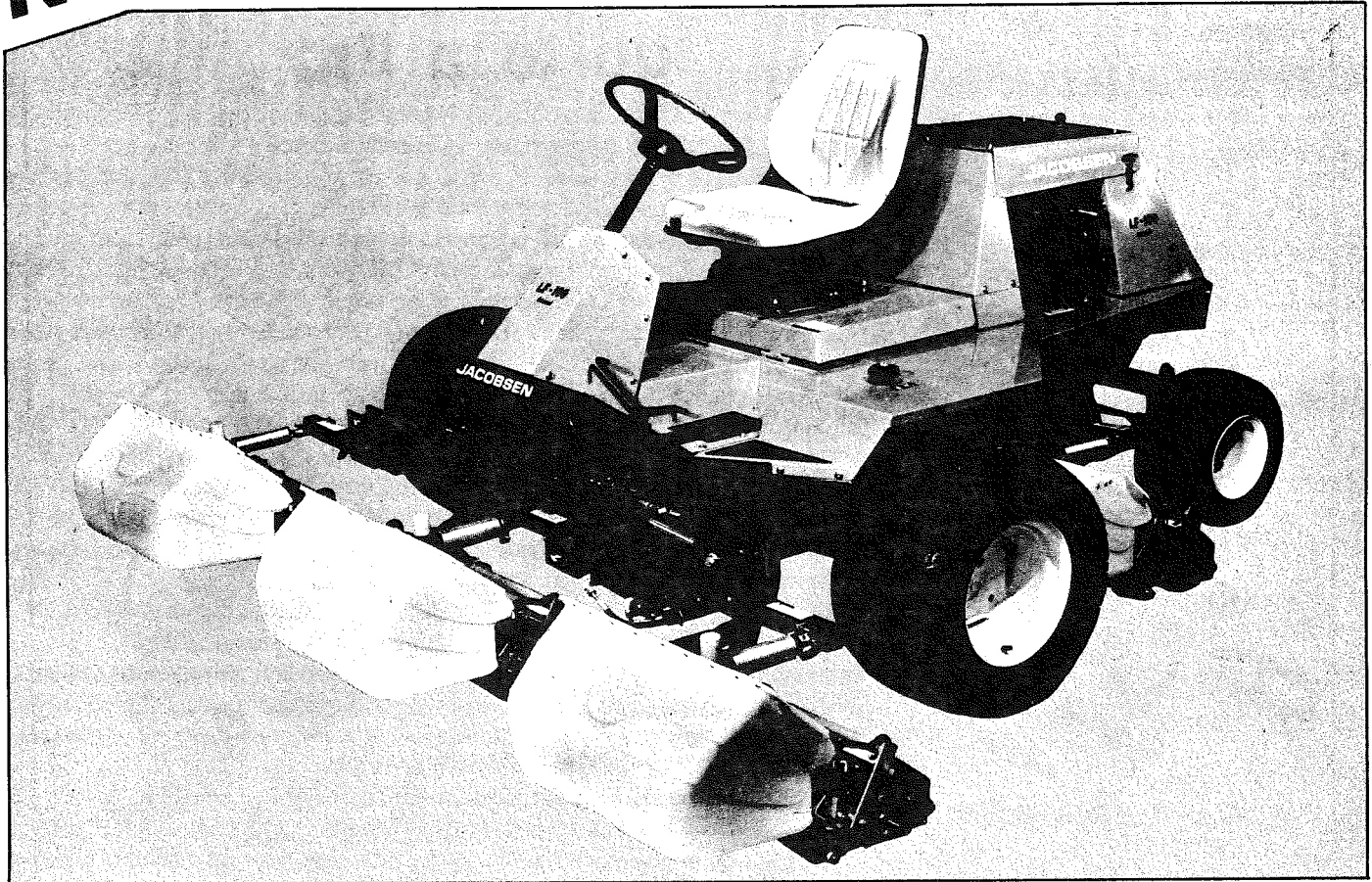
The opportunity to do a major renovation project in a new position worked out very well for me, but the potential for disaster followed me right up to that first opening tournament.

**The chance to change
the character of a golf
course does not
come very often . . .**

My advice to anyone facing this same situation is to accept the challenge. The chance to change the character of a golf course does not come very often, nor does it come to many superintendents. Just remember to accept the challenge with the enthusiasm and dedication you would any other, expect and plan for the worst, and keep a large bottle of aspirin in your desk, for the headaches can be enormous.

NEW!

LF-100 Lightweight Fairway Mower



Jacobsen's new LF-100 5-gang out-front mower is designed for productive lightweight mowing *and* durability. Over 60 years experience building heavy-duty professional turf equipment and technological leadership in lightweight greens-mowing design have been combined in this rugged new mower.

The 100" cutting width and 5 mph mowing speed give the LF-100 higher productivity for more economical lightweight mowing. Its efficient design and wide turf tires give it the lowest ground pressure of any out-front 5-gang at 6-7 psi, for less compaction and healthier turf.

A 3-cylinder diesel engine powers the LF-100, saving as much as 50% in fuel costs over an air-cooled gasoline engine. The diesel also gives longer engine life and reduced maintenance. The wide-core radiator and heavy-duty air cleaner keep the engine cool and clean for improved operation in demanding conditions.

The outside reels are located up front so that the trimming edge is easily seen without looking back and away from the mowing path. The operator can mow with less effort and greater comfort. This mower configuration also gives a shorter uncut circle of grass on turns, and makes grass catcher removal, reel inspection, and maintenance much easier.

New heavy-section blades and bed-knives on Jacobsen's proven Greens King mowers have extra strength and longer life for demanding fairway mowing applications. These durable fairway mowing features are combined with the exceptional cutting performance of Jacobsen's fully floating, steerable reels.

A common problem with lighter greens-mowing reels is their tendency to rise up in areas where thatch is heavier, giving the fairway a "wavy" look. The LF-100's heavier reels cut *through* irregularities in

the turf to give a smooth, uniform finish to your fairways.

Jacobsen's durable, proven chassis design and extra-heavy lift arms reduce the chance of damage or downtime from heavy-duty use and faster mowing speeds.

Foot pedal controlled hydraulic lift raises all five reels quickly, for efficient cross-cutting of fairways and sports fields. The four-wheel stance makes holding a straight line easy. A short turning radius and power steering provides extra maneuverability for quick turns and accurate striping.

The hydraulic system design — with separate high-capacity pumps for traction and reel drive — improves hydraulic efficiency for better performance. Backlapping is standard, with reversing reel controls for easier maintenance.

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CAGCS announces scholarship recipients

The following individuals have recently been awarded a college scholarship funded by the CAGCS Scholarship and Research Fund:

Stephen Roger Barrett
Steve Colangoli
Debra Holcomb
Diana Kotowitz
Susan Kotowitz
Lori Silva
Nancy Lynn Stimpson

Congratulations!

CAGCS Welcomes New Members

Ken Clear
Alpine Tree Care, Inc.

Pamela Cooper
Manchester Country Club

Richard C. DeMatteo
Alling Memorial Golf Club

Bruce Morse
Ellington Ridge Golf Club

Douglas R. Philipp
Norwich Municipal Golf Club

More about Poa annua

By
C. R. Skogley, Professor
University of Rhode Island

No subject has been more thoroughly cussed and discussed in golf course circles than annual bluegrass. Have you ever been to a conference when this grass (weed) wasn't a subject for discussion? Every conceivable management and herbicidal control potential has been talked and written about for as long as most of us remember.

I have visited several golf courses in the past few weeks, and I must say I have never seen Poa annua any more reproductive than I have this year. Seed heads are so dense there doesn't seem room for vegetation. There may be a reason for this extra-heavy seeding this year. It seems that all plants make extra effort to survive when they are subject to stress. Drought, heat, cold or any abnormal stress seems to trigger a reproductive mechanism that tells the plant - reproduce! The prolonged dry season of 1987 may have been the trigger. Floral initiation for the 1988 season was initiated in late 1987. Flowering primordia with all grasses are formed during late summer and fall. Poa annua is a very opportunistic grass because of its seeding potential and it really doesn't need much encouragement. We can depend on it to produce heavily every year and not just in the spring. It can reproduce at heights below the mower setting - no matter how close.

Many superintendents have decided to join the culprit rather than fight it. In some instances, we might have lots of bare ground if it weren't for Poa. Yet weighing the pros and cons, it is also generally agreed that we turf managers have created the problem through over-management. Too much water, fertilizer, high soil pH's, close mowing and use of unadapted grasses are all management factors that have increased the presence of annual bluegrass.

As with all species of turfgrass, there are many types of annual bluegrass. Researchers have identified over 56 types. They are coarse, fine, dark or light colored, annual or perennial in habit, erect, decumbent, very reproductive to no seed production, etc. Selection and breeding work with the species is in progress and maybe we will eventually join it rather than fight it.

The first control method should be through management. If we will provide the optimum management for the grass or grasses we want we will discourage Poa. Secondly, there are at least two methods of control we can employ successfully if we use them wisely and have some patience. The first is with the various PGR's (Plant Growth Regulations) that are available to us.

There is ample evidence that these materials work well when used as recommended. If we can eliminate or reduce seed production, we can slowly reduce the incidence of this weed. We also reduce upward of 75% of the mowing requirement during the often wet April-to-June period. The slight turf discoloration associated with their use isn't serious. Besides, we don't have much green color anyway when our turf is white with Poa seedheads. A second method of control may be afforded with the herbicide, endothall. It has not been widely used, but research by Dr. Roy Goss and associates in Western Washington State and years of use in Australia have shown excellent results. I feel we have used it successfully here at our research station as well. It is not a quick, short-term solution, and repeat use over several years seems to be indicated.

The endothall formulation being used is a sodium salt that contains 17.5 grams of active ingredient per liter. It is sprayed at the rate of 1/4 to 1/3 ounces in 2 1/2 gals. of water per 1,000 sq. ft. Typically, two applications at 2 to 4 week intervals are made in both spring and fall when temperatures are between 50° and 70° F. The result has been a gradual elimination of Poa annua over a 2 - 3 year period. It might be worth a try.

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P.P.U.C. UPDATE

By
Steve Rackliffe

The 1988 Legislative session is now over. The joint Bill proposed by the Clean Water Coalition and the P.P.U.C. regarding the pesticide posting issue passed both the Senate and the House.

The Bill will require:

1. If a neighbor on your course wishes to be notified that you are spraying, that person shall submit in writing to D.E.P. a request to be put on registry (which will be sent out by D.E.P.). In the event that you are going to spray within 100 yards of that neighbor's house, you should contact them 24 hours in advance. Contact may include, but not limited to, telephone, in person, or by mail. If notification attempts are unsuccessful, the applicator will attempt to notify the registrant in person immediately prior to the application. If unable to notify, notice of the application and attempt to notify will be put on the registrant's door. The notice should include approximate date and time of application.

2. Posting on the first tee and pro shop the day of spraying. The sign should be 1' x 1', stating pesticides applied that day, and designated area, i.e., greens, tees, and fairways.

The above Bill indicates how golf courses must comply. Lawn care operators, arborists, and other pesticide users have different regulations written into the Bill. Feel free to contact me for any information regarding this issue. The Bill will become effective October 1, 1989. Therefore, it really won't effect our industry until the 1990 season.

Take a minute . . .

Take a minute to look over your information contained in the recently printed 1988 CAGCS Directory. If any of the information is not correct, no matter how small a correction, please cut out the last page of the Directory, fill in the correct information, and mail it to John F. Streeter, CGCS, 160 Nod Road, Avon, CT, 06001.

If you have not received a copy of the 1988 CAGCS Directory, please call John at 658-5796 or at home 651-8711. Extra copies are limited.

It is important that the mailing list of the Association be up to date, as we do not want any members to miss out on important information.



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Christ receives GCSAA certification

Paul M. Christ, superintendent of Whitney Farms Golf Course, has been designated a certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) by the GCSAA. Christ has been superintendent of the Monroe, Connecticut, course since 1984. He lives at 156 Shelton Road in Monroe.

To become certified, a candidate must be employed as a golf course superintendent and have five years experience as a superintendent. The candidate also must pass a rigorous six-hour examination testing knowledge of the game and rules of golf, turfgrass management, pest control management, financial management, and the history, ethics, purpose and procedures of GCSAA.

The GCSAA certification program was instituted in 1971 as a means of recognizing outstanding and progressive golf course superintendents. More than 800 GCSAA members are currently entitled to use the letters "CGCS" after their names.

GCSAA, a professional association of golf course superintendents, was founded in 1926 to promote the art and science of golf course management. Its 7,500 members represent the United States, Canada, Mexico and 17 other countries. Headquarters for the association is in Lawrence, Kansas.

EPA Cancels Diazinon's Golf Course Labeling

Pesticide products containing diazinon are barred from golf course or sodfarm use, effective immediately.

On March 29, the EPA Administrator, Lee Thomas, signed a final order canceling diazinon's labeling for any golf course uses. Thomas cited the "unreasonable risk" that the chemical posed to birds when applied in open turf areas like golf courses.

The order became effective in early April upon its publication in the Federal Register. The EPA's decision makes no provisions for short-term use of existing supplies. In fact, Thomas' final statement specifically bars any golf course application of products containing diazinon after the order became effective.

The final order overturned a January 25 administrative court ruling that would

CGCS Survey Results Summarized

Late last year, an 18-question survey was sent to all certified golf course superintendents. Seventy-nine percent of the 800 surveyed were returned to headquarters.

The summary of results was presented to the GCSAA Certification Committee at its meeting during the Houston Conference. The survey results will help guide the committee in making program decisions during the coming months. The following are summaries of the more significant survey findings:

- 72% of all certified superintendents are between the ages of 31 and 45.
- 93% of certified superintendents play golf at least once each month.
- 89% of certified superintendents have at least a two-year college degree. Most earned their degree in agronomy or turf management.
- 54% of the survey respondents have been certified for more than five years.
- 96% of certified superintendents have attended GCSAA's Conference and Show. 92% have attended a GCSAA educational seminar.
- 66% of the survey respondents work for private golf clubs.
- 68% of respondents receive no increase in pay or benefits as a result of being certified.
- Respondees overwhelmingly indicated support for GCSAA's certification long-range plan.

On a question concerning reaction to the new GCSAA examination, most respondents indicated that they did not feel they were familiar enough with the new exam to offer an opinion of its appropriateness.

Opinions were evenly split on a question about a proposed GCSAA plan to train assistants and staff members. Half of the respondents felt that any help would be beneficial. The other half felt that their operations were too unique to use standard materials that might be developed.

Opinions were also evenly split regarding a proposed technical referral service to be provided by CGCS's. Many superintendents opposed to the program cited liability reasons for declining to participate.

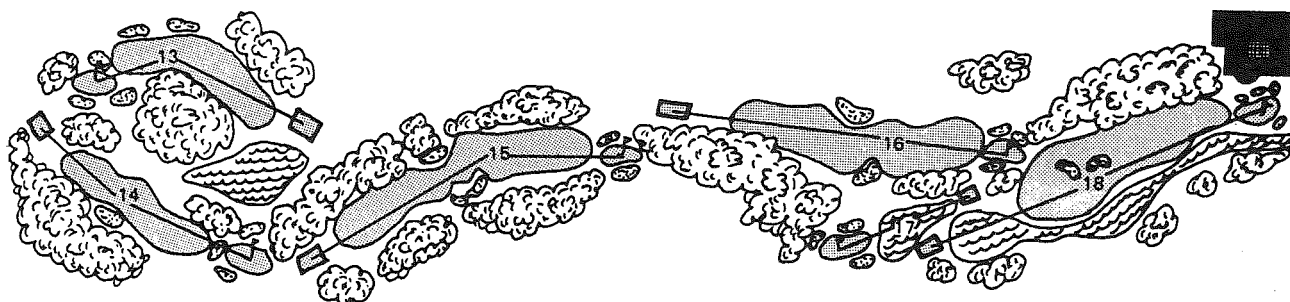
have allowed continued golf courses applications. Both the reversal and the severity of the cancellation order caught many by surprise. At "Newline" press time, Ciba-Geigy Corp., the leading manufacturer of products containing diazinon, had not yet determined what course of action it would take. The company may ask Thomas for an "administrative reconsideration," but an EPA spokesman called the chances of reversal "slim".

Zachary Grant, GCSAA manager of government relations, said he was disap-

pointed by the broad reach of Thomas' decision. "There's never been any previous discussion of an immediate prohibition of use of diazinon," Grant said. "We are repeatedly assured by EPA staff that no such ruling on the use of existing supplies was contemplated."

Grant added that he couldn't find fault with the agency's scientific conclusions, but was "more concerned about the lack of consistent signals emanating from Washington."

The Clippings



CALENDAR

Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOST
June 23	Univ. of Massachusetts Turfgrass Research Field Day	Univ. of Massachusetts Turfgrass Research Center So. Deerfield, MA	Contact: Dr. Richard J. Cooper (413) 545-2353
July 12	2nd Round CAGCS Championship President's Cup/Gross 2nd Round Met Area Team Qualifying	Wethersfield Country Club Wethersfield, CT	Alfred Bachand
August 8	Annual CAGCS Picnic	Madison Country Club	Mike Chrzanowski
September 13	Memorial Tournament Parson's Trophy - Gross McLaughlin Trophy - Net	Pequabuck Golf Club Pequabuck, CT	Peter Pierson
September 27	Scholarship & Research Scramble/Net	Glastonbury Hills Glastonbury, CT	Roger Barrett
October 5	Met Area Team Championship	Middle Bay Long Island, NY	John Carlone
October 18	Superintendent/Assistant	Tunxis Plantation Farmington, CT	Charles Babcock
November 8	Annual Meeting Nine Hole Scramble	Birchwood Country Club Westport, CT	Edward Consolati
November 10-11	GCSAA Seminar Plant Nutrition & Fertilizers	Natick, Massachusetts	New England Supt. Association
December 12-13	GCSAA Seminar Introduction to Soil Science	Newport, Rhode Island	R. I. Golf Course Supt. Association

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