

CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 1988

Volume 22, No. 4

**CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION
OF
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS**

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A STRESSFUL YEAR

By C. R. Skogley

Someone told me recently that if a golf course superintendent said he had no turf problems this year, he had to be lying. All I can say, if anyone escaped with all grass intact, he had to be a magician. In my thirty plus years as a turfgrass agronomist, I do not recall a season in which the weather treated us quite so bad. Last year was hard on grass because of a prolonged drought through much of the growing season. Without good irrigation, much of our turf was totally dormant or dead by the end of August. With adequate irrigation, there weren't many problems.

We had good rainfall during September of 1987, but October and November were again very dry months. The Fall season is critical in the life of a grass plant, as that is the time when it recovers from summer stresses, builds up reserves, and forms buds for leaf and root growth for the following season. Certainly, some of this year's problems can be attributed to the poor Fall, 1987, growing season. Renovation and overseeding in the Fall of 1987 was not as successful as normal and for the same reason.

Early season, 1988, didn't get off to a good start either. Temperatures and rainfall were considerably below normal well into June. Grasses did not green up and make normal growth until much later than usual. Only with heavy, early fertilization were grasses greened, and this is a no-no. March, April and May is the peak period of root growth and feeding, particularly heavy feeding, results in green grass and top growth, but, at the expense of root growth.

When we were not getting normal leaf growth and extension during the Spring, the various leaf spot diseases were more serious. During leaf spot season, the disease really digs in when leaves are not being renewed fairly rapidly. The longer each leaf stays on the plant and is not mowed off, the more time leaf spot fungus has to grow and produce damage. These bad conditions prevailed this Spring. Even our newer leaf spot resistant Kentucky bluegrasses, used by our sod producers, were widely damaged this year and many of them had to resort to fungicides.

Rainfall records here at our University Station provide some interesting statistics. For the month of April, we had a total of 3.01 inches, but 2.27 inches fell on one day - the 28th. In May, we again recorded 3.01 inches, but 2.5 inches occurred between the 11th and 25th. Of the 3.15 inches recorded in June, 2.5 inches fell one day - the 26th. For July, we had 7.19 inches, but 6.1 inches fell between the 20th and 28th. We had only one rainfall in August. Over one inch fell on the 24th (Our Field Day).

We all know the weather was erratic this year. From August 3rd through the 15th, we had 13 nights with temperatures above 70°. Our somewhat coastal location is cooler than where many of you are located also.

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Newsletter Staff

John F. Streeter, CGCS, Editor

Peter Lewis, Local Copy

Greg Bradley, Advertising

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(cont'd from page 1) **A Stressful Year**

Dollarspot, red thread, brown patch, Pythium and summer patch were all common and variously damaging this summer. Grasses actually drowned or cooked in poorly drained areas during the later July, early August period. Fungicides did not help in these situations. Wet wilt was common and daily syringing was required in many instances.

You can tell your golfers and club officials that this was an extremely difficult growing season, and few courses escaped the loss of some grass. A season such as this can be a great teacher, however. I believe we learned the value of good root systems and well aerated soils. Grasses in and around aerifier holes certainly stood out during the summer. The need for daily syringing is proof of a poor root system.

Suggestions for avoiding similar problems in future years:

1. Aerify turf extensively as early as possible in September to aid in improved grass growth through the Fall season. Early aerification will help with root growth and permit rapid recovery of the turf.
2. Topdress with a good compost-type dressing if possible. This helps replenish minor and trace elements, and improves nutrient holding capacity of the soil (as opposed to straight sand).
3. Overseed in conjunction with aerifying and topdressing, where needed. The slicer-seeders are by far the best way (Mataway, Jacobsen, Olathe).
4. Feed liberally through September and early October, and possibly in late November. Give the turf all the fertilizer it needs to recover from the summer and to build reserves. Do not overdue, however.
5. Use an effective fungicide as late as possible to prevent snow molds.
6. Refrain from early Spring fertilizer applications. Do not worry about trying to green up the grass early. If it has been well fed through the Fall, it will have plenty of nutrients to promote a good root system. Remember, most root production occurs from March to May. Early feeding reduces this growth.
7. Refrain from watering in early season, unless the soil gets unusually dry. If we keep the soil saturated with water during the Spring, we exclude oxygen and prevent normal root growth.
8. Aerify and topdress as late in the Spring as possible. Wait until the grasses are growing vigorously so recovery is rapid. We aren't interrupting early season root growth, and we are also providing soil aerification closer to the stress periods of the summer.
9. Consider changing cutting height. I believe we have gone overboard with cutting heights. Anything less than 3/16 inch is asking for trouble. With the excellent mowing and grooming devices available, with increased frequency of mowing, and with adjusting watering practices, I believe we can provide fast, true putting surfaces without scalping our grasses. Close mowing during cool seasons may not be lethal, but raising the cut through July and August is certainly advised.

The 1988 growing season provided a lesson in the value of using all we know about agronomics.



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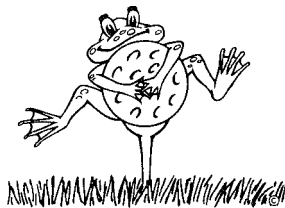
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The Grass Catcher

Connecticut Clippings 20 years ago today.

In the April issue of 1968, Editor Charles Baskin, CGCS, reported that The Yale Golf Club had recently installed a new fully automatic watering system. Harry Meusel, Golf Course Superintendent then and now, reported that most of the trenching had to be blasted out of rock.

Dr. John C. Shread, Entomologist Connecticut Agricultural Station, informed us about the discovery of the *Hyperodes* weevil and concluded that the pest has been a major contributor to *poa-annua* decline for a longer time than previously thought, here in the northeast. He also outlined a treatment program using heptachlor.

How did all of the unfortunate Superintendents make out who had that bad batch of Teremec SP. The roving reporter from the *Clippings* staff did inform us of a few who applied the contaminated chemical. Too bad, that should not happen to anybody. Anyway, for those unfortunate ones, why don't you drop *Connecticut Clippings* a line and let us share the nightmare. Maybe a few words on how you dealt with it once you found out what happened, the severity of turf loss, and the methods you employed to bring the turf back to life.

U.S.G.A. Announces New Rep for Ct.

The U.S.G.A. Green Section has recently announced that James E. Connolly will be the new agronomist for the State of Connecticut. Jim will be living in Willimantic, CT. and will be visiting golf courses for the U.S.G.A. in the states of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. You may contact Jim at U.S.G.A. Green Section, Golf House, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, New Jersey, 07931-0708.

Have you had a job change, an address change, or have you added CGCS to your name recently? If any of the above pertains to you, please drop a line to John F. Streeter, 160 Nod Rd., Avon, CT 06001.

A Word From The Editor

By this time all the leaves have turned and fallen and all of the scars from summer past are healed. What a summer, record breaking temperatures and humidity, no rain, too much rain, disease, insects, wilt, who would think it was ever going to end. It was a season in which we all earned our keep. Everyone suffers to some degree in a season such as this, some worse than others and for various reasons. I think that a summer such as this will encourage Superintendents to reevaluate their maintenance programs and make the necessary adjustments needed to minimize turf loss in the type of conditions that we have experienced this past year. Without the proper funding for pesticides, renovations, labor, mowing equipment and an adequate irrigation system, a picture perfect course can be somewhat unattainable.

So get in there and fight for your rights. Get what you need in your budget before the House Chairman spends \$20,000 in the mens' locker room, or they rebuild the pool that is in use for only 3 months a year, or some other out-of-the-way project.

A friend of mine once told me that the golf course is the most important commodity at a country club and for one simple reason, if you close the golf course, see how many people join the club to eat in the clubhouse or swim at the pool.

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Information concerning the CAGCS annual christmas party by now has reached your mailbox. A new concept will be tried this year. Our President has secured The Mystic Ramada Inn for this gala affair. The deal will include a pool side party (but no skinny dipping) food, drink and entertainment. Rooms available for a modest fee of \$35.00 per night so none will have to leave the premises. The date is Saturday, Dec. 3. So mark your calendar and make a strong effort to support this timely event in which we can all be merry.



GCSAA Annual Conference and Show Moves To Anaheim in 1989

GCSAA Conference Sets Sales Record Five Months Early

This has been a record-breaking year for the GCSAA. Earlier this year, the Association welcomed its 8,000th member; and, as of today, space sales for the 60th International Golf Course Conference and Trade Show -- slated for Anaheim in early 1989 -- have reached a record five months in advance.

To date, more than 117,960 net square feet of display space has been committed to various manufacturers and distributors from all over the world. This surpasses the previous record of 112,000 net square feet in Houston earlier this year.

"We still have some space available, but it's truly incredible how quickly everyone has responded," said Karyn Davis, sales and marketing manager for GCSAA. "The industry is booming, and exhibitors are eager to display their products to the buyers -- the golf course superintendent."

The show will run February 6-13 in the Anaheim Convention Center and will be among the largest to be presented there. The GCSAA Conference and Show is a one-stop marketplace for today's golf course superintendents from around the world. More than 60 percent of the exhibitors have indicated that they will be revealing their new product lines and services for 1989 at the show.

GCSAA Golf Championship in Palm Springs

More than 450 members of the GCSAA are expected to gather in Palm Springs, California, several days before the organization's 60th International Golf Course Conference and Trade Show to compete in the Association's golf championship.

The two-day tournament will be played on four courses in the desert resort area. The PGA West courses that will host the championship will be the TPC Stadium Golf Course, site of the annual Skins Game, and the Jack

Nicklaus Resort Course, where the 1988 PGA Tour Qualifying School was held. Other participants will play the Citrus Course at LaQuinta and the Mission Hills Resort Course. The first three are in LaQuinta and the latter is in Rancho Mirage.

Many of today's superintendents are avid golfers, and their knowledge about the game plays an important role in the maintenance of their courses. "When you play, you can sympathize better and have a better understanding for the course difficulty," says defending champion Dave Powell, golf course superintendent at Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, North Carolina. Powell won his second GCSAA championship title early in 1988 in Houston.



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GOLF TIP

Turning away from the target in the backswing builds power. Turning toward the target in the downswing releases it. To promote a strong coiling and uncoiling action, envision a big clock on the ground, as illustrated. Practice swinging the club back through 4 o'clock. In the downswing, key on swinging the club through 4 o'clock, then through the center of the clock's face and continue on through 8 o'clock.

Wallace Makes Bid At GCSAA Directorship

Michael Wallace, CGCS of Hop Meadow Country Club in Simsbury, CT., has been nominated to run for election to the Board of Directors of GCSAA. After a strong showing in last year's election in Houston, we feel confident that Mike will be successful in Anaheim.

During the pre-election activities in Houston, Mike paved many in roads and carried himself well enough to earn the respect from members of GCSAA's Board of Directors who in turn encouraged his candidacy for this year's election.

Mike follows a line of Connecticut Superintendents who have vied and been successful in this endeavor. Past Presidents Charles Baskin, CGCS, Robert Osterman, CGCS and currently serving as Director a native son Steve Cadenelli, CGCS. We feel that Mike is a very qualified candidate for this position and we will all do our best to help get him elected.

SLATE OF GCSAA CANDIDATES SET

The Nominating Committee of the GCSAA has submitted a slate of candidates to the Association's Board of Directors. The committee selected the candidates during recent meetings at the Association's headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. The candidates' names will be on the official ballot when elections are held during the 1989 Annual Meeting in Anaheim, California, February 13.

The nominees are:

For President: Dennis D. Lyon, CGCS, City of Aurora, Colorado, Golf Division.

For Vice President: Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, Metedeconk Golf Club, Jackson, NJ
and
Gerald L. Faubel, CGCS, Saginaw Country Club, Michigan.

For Directors: Gary Grigg, CGCS, Shadow Glen Golf Club, Olathe, Kansas; Randy Nicholas, CGCS, Cherokee Town and Country Club, Dunwoody, Georgia; Michael Wallace, CGCS, Hop Meadow Country Club, Simsbury, Connecticut; and Randy Zidik, CGCS, Rolling Hills Country Club, McMurray, Pennsylvania.

The president and vice president are elected to one-year terms, and directors are elected to two-year terms. Three directors will be elected. The president will appoint the organization's secretary-treasurer after the election.

Currently, Lyon is vice president of GCSAA; Cadenelli and Nicholas are directors; and Faubel is secretary-treasurer.

John A. Segui, CGCS, currently is president; Donald E. Hearn, CGCS, is immediate past president; and Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS, William R. Roberts, CGCS, and Kenneth A. Sakai, CGCS, are directors.

GCSAA/HALL-KIMBRELL join forces for environmental auditing service to golf courses

Coping with various regulatory obligations and managing environmental and safety risks are increasingly recognized as important professional responsibilities of today's golf course superintendent.

To help superintendents continue to meet these responsibilities, the GCSAA formally announced that it has contracted with one of the nation's leading environmental consulting firms to develop the first comprehensive environmental management system for the golf course industry. Hall-Kimbrell Environmental Services, Inc. will join GCSAA in presenting this new concept to attendees of the 60th International Golf Course Conference and Show, February 6-13, in Anaheim, California.

The GCSAA/Hall-Kimbrell package being developed will include an environmental self-audit questionnaire and notebook along with videotape training materials designed to provide management assistance in areas such as pesticide use, storage and disposal, underground storage tank regulations, OSHA requirements and general risk management. Completed self-audit materials will be individually reviewed by Hall-Kimbrell's professional staff to provide specific recommendations and analysis.

"The up-front cost of developing these materials is several hundred thousand dollars, which Hall-Kimbrell has decided to invest," noted GCSAA Executive Director John M. Schilling. "The result will be a very valuable new management tool with low unit cost to individual superintendents."

The cost of a professional environmental audit can exceed \$10,000. The price of the new GCSAA/Hall-Kimbrell system is expected to be less than \$1,000.

Steve Wharton, project manager for Hall-Kimbrell, has been collecting information from golf courses across the nation in a series of site visits. Technical advisor for the overall GCSAA/Hall-Kimbrell effort is Dr. Wynan Hock, plant pathologist and extension pesticide specialist at Pennsylvania State University.

GCSAA BRINGS HOME SILVER AND BRONZE

The Olympic athletes in Seoul recently returned with their bounty of medals recognizing outstanding performances.

And recently, GCSAA brought home several awards for its advertising and public relations efforts.

A multiprojector audio-visual presentation titled "Golf At Its Best" received a Silver Prism Award from the Kansas City Public Relations Society.

In addition, the Kansas City Art Directors bestowed Bronze Awards on GCSAA for its new television commercial and print advertising campaigns.

The print campaign also received recognition from the Kansas City Advertising Club's Omni Awards Committee, who gave it a bronze.

P. P. U. C. and You

The following is a brief letter written to all members of the P.P.U.C. from the President. Please take time to read it. We, in Connecticut, are fortunate to have this organization working for us. The number of benefits CAGCS has received over the past few years due to the hard work and finances of the P.P.U.C. membership is immeasurable. Imagine posting your golf course properties every 75' whenever you anticipated spraying?

While CAGCS is a member of P.P.U.C., you can join as an individual member for \$25, or your club can join as a business member for \$200. Please fill out the application and join. P.P.U.C. needs your commitment, and we as professionals in this fine industry need P.P.U.C.

Steve Rackliffe, CGCS

.....

• NEW YORK HAS JUST ISSUED POSTING REGULATIONS THAT ARE THE MOST SEVERE IN THE NATION. THE BUDEN ON APPLICATORS IS SUBSTANTIAL!

(Connecticut killed a DEP proposal to require applicators to keep records for 20 years.)

• MASSACHUSETTS CONTINUES TO "TIGHTEN THE SCREWS" ON THEIR RESTRICTIVE PESTICIDE REGULATIONS.

(Connecticut, first in the US, passed legislation that included the amateur applicator.)

Why the vast difference in these states' pesticide actions? P.P.U.C. is why. We have become a respected, professional trade group who have demonstrated our ability to meet the concerns of our citizens while avoiding the over-restrictive attitudes that prevail elsewhere.

National recognition of our innovative approaches, yet strong industry stands, has brought invitations for us to tell other state pesticide groups how we are able to restrain government's interference in our business, but yet build solid relationships with the agencies that regulate our activities. Our message is simple - we represent all professional applicators in our state, and all the trade associations that use pesticides in their businesses, and sit at the same table to decide policy. We stand united.

As in all things, there comes the time to support these accomplishments with the necessary funds to maintain our strong position. No-one believes the fight to stay in business is over, we've just won a good share of the recent battles. Just as long as there are people who make a living scaring the public about the products we use, there will be a strong need to maintain and increase our presence, both at the legislature and the regulatory agencies, that make rules governing our work.

Please complete the dues statement (which appears below) and return it with your dues check for the year October 1, 1988 to October 1, 1989. We must have your help to continue our efforts. Remember, laws and regulations like New York would be significantly more costly to comply with than the modest dues of our organization. It is your most cost effective way to be allowed to conduct your business without unreasonable interference.

Sincerely,
Frank Reynolds, President
Professional Pesticide
Users of Connecticut

STATEMENT

To: Membership Chairman
Professional Pesticide Users of CT, Inc.
P. O. Box 524
Cheshire, CT 06410

FROM: _____
(name (Individual))

Address

Business Name (Organization)

Address

Enclosed is the dues payment for myself and/or organization for the period October 1, 1988 to October 1, 1989. According to the dues structure outlined on the reverse side of this statement, I calculate my/our share of support is \$ _____.

(Cut along dotted lines)

(Sign)

A Moment With Our Immediate Past President

Our Association is made up of individuals who are dedicated and hardworking ...

But I've been wondering, "Does its future have some problems that are lurking?"

Golf is booming and well-conditioned golf courses are certainly in demand ...

But will our Association be able to keep up and deal the cards, not only just play the hand.

I envision not a kinder and gentler Association, - we've been that for years ...

But isn't it time for a more powerful and visible group for whom the golfing community will cheer.

Let's become more a dominant force of golf's world, not just the second team ...

How do we do that, you ask, listen carefully, I'll explain.

The first thing to do is employ the right staff, surround ourselves with good people, another executive director perhaps?

Then establish a long-range planning committee whose job it will be ... to present goals with deadlines and put it in the form of a plea.

A plea to expand with more vision and understanding...And just maybe by the year 2000, we'll own an airport so John can make a safe landing.

No, maybe not an airport, but a home at golf house
And

Is it out of the question to part-own a golf course?

More members, more services, more events and larger needs are what our Association will grow to from today's newly-formed seeds.

Yes, our group is in the seedling stage of what I hope will become a prominent part of the golf world, instead of just hohum.

Let's get closer to CSGA, the women, the pros, let's become brothers with PPUC, the press, the groundskeepers and who knows ...

There are no limits to what we can do, but let's make plans today and ask all of you ...

To start at the grass roots (please excuse the pun) to speak highly of what we have begun.

Tell your neighbors, partners, your colleagues of our plans. Get them thinking of the future, not just the immediate problems at hand.

For we are a group of friends with a common goal, but we're also a growing business, and we should understand that role.

Greg Wojick, CGCS
Immediate Past President

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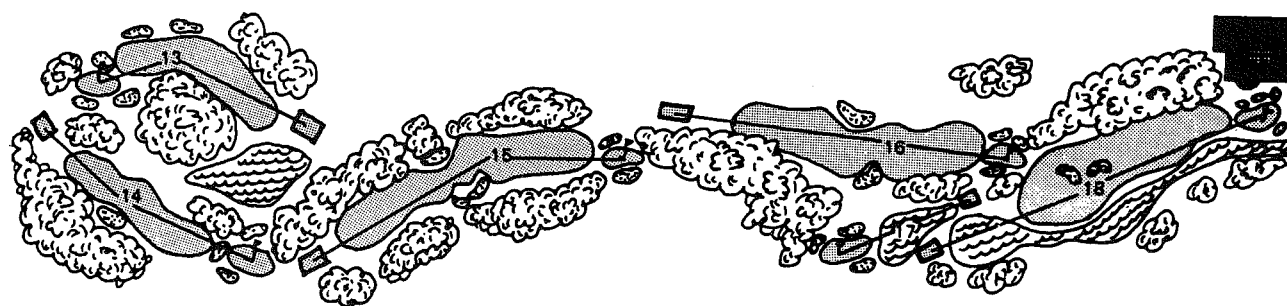
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Suppliers	Open	No
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The Clippings



CALENDAR

Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOST
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 1 & 2	GCSAA Seminar Disease Identification & Control	Rochester, New York	GCSAA
December 3	CAGCS Christmas Party	Mystic, Connecticut	CAGCS
December 12-13	GCSAA Seminar Introduction to Soil Science	Newport, Rhode Island	R. I. Golf Course Supt. Association
December 6, 7 & 8	New Jersey Turf Grass Expo	Atlantic City, New Jersey	Rutgers University & NJGCSA
January	CAGCS ANNUAL SEMINAR	To Be Announced	CAGCS
January 19 & 20	GCSAA Seminar Environmental Considerations in Golf Course Management	Albany, New York	GCSAA
February 6-13	International Golf Course Conference and Show	Anaheim, California	GCSAA
March 9 & 10	GCSAA Seminar Insects on Turf and Trees	New Brunswick, New Jersey	GCSAA & NJGCSA

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U A P Products
Box 116
East Glastonbury, CT 06025
Henry Lesinski
(203) 659-1217

Valley Farms Nursery & Supply
Sod - Turf Supplies
133 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070
Joseph D. Bidwell
(203) 651-8555

Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.
P. O. Box 198
Lincolndale, NY 10540
Bob Lippman (Home: 914-248-5790)
(914) 277-3755

Winding Brook Turf Farm, Inc.
240 Griswold Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109
Donald Grant
(203) 529-6869