

# CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS



Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

*Devoted to sharing knowledge and experience for better turf*

*December, 1989*

*Volume 23, No. 4*

**CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION  
OF GOLF COURSE  
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**Newsletter** John F. Streeter, CGCS  
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**Representative to the Board**  
 Stephanie Zanieski

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

**Newsletter Staff**  
 John F. Streeter, CGCS, Editor  
 Michael Dukette, Technical Copy

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.

**Merry Christmas** to all!

**Around the Association**

**Watroba Elected to Lead CAGCS**

Tom Watroba, Golf Course Superintendent at The Suffield Golf Club, Suffield, CT, was elected President during the Annual Meeting of CAGCS. The Suffield Golf Club played host to this well-attended gathering of over 80 members of CAGCS. Tom is no stranger to this Association. After having joined the organization in 1979, Tom quickly became involved with the inner workings of the Association. As a person known for straight forward detail and dedication, Tom was elected to serve CAGCS in 1983 as a board member and chairman of the Membership Committee. Subsequently, he proceeded up the ladder to Secretary, Vice President and now President. I think we all share the feeling that Tom will be the catalyst of new energy for our ever-growing Association, and help pave the way for CAGCS into the 1990's.

In other election results, Steve Rackliffe, CGCS, of Willamantic C.C. was elected as Vice President for a one-year term. Rounding out the Executive Committee of CAGCS is John F. Streeter, CGCS, of Cliffside C.C. elected as Secretary and Scott Ramasy, CGCS, of Pautipaug is the new Treasurer.

Peter Pierson of The Pequabuck Golf Club was elected as a new director of CAGCS and will chair the Scholarship and Research Committee as well as being our representative to PPUC. We all welcome Peter back on the Board. Other directors elected to continue serving CAGCS were Frank Lamphier of Aspetuck Valley, Dave Stimson, CGCS, of Tumble Brook C.C., Peter Lewis of Farmington C.C. and Fred Bachand of Wethersfield C.C. will also continue as directors in 1990.

The new Commercial Representative who was also elected by her peers will be Stephanie Zanieski from Cadwell and Jones.

CAGCS accepted 15 new members in 1989 which brings our total membership to 252. We have 114 Class A, 41 Class B, 65 Class C, 4 Affiliate, 22 Life and 6 Honorary.

Congratulations to new Life Members Gary Bryant, George Christie and Bob Viera. Also receiving recognition at the Annual Meeting were 25 year members Al Hawkins, Dick Hosking, John Wydra and Ed Zenisky. Twenty-year members include Jesse Anderson, Fred Bachand, Leo Della Bianca, Tom Fletcher, Jim McDonald, Bob Osterman and Dave Roule. How about 52 years of service to CAGCS, Everett Pyle and Bill Somers -- now thats longevity!

**Country Club Cars Donates  
to S & R Fund**

CAGCS extends its thanks to Dick Kaupin and Dick Mather of Country Club Cars of New England for their generous contribution at the Annual Meeting. Country Club Cars, in conjunction with Ez-Go Golf Cars, provided a hole-in-one and closest to the pin prizes, with all proceeds going to CAGCS Scholarship & Research Fund. The prize was a new Easy-Go golf car or utility vehicle for someone who may have been lucky enough to insert ball in hole on ONE shot, or the use of one for a year for closest to the pin.

Results were many errant shots with no holes in one, but Scott Ramsay won the vehicle for a year when his shot landed closest to the well-tucked pin at Suffield's 9th hole. The other winner was CAGCS's Scholarship and Research Fund.



Mike Wallace (pictured above) and Greg Wojick (pictured below) receive tokens of appreciation for their many years of service to CAGCS.



President Elect Watroba takes the gavel from out-going President Chalifour.



Out-going President, Chalifour, being fitted for Past President's blazer.



**1990 CAGCS Board**

Pictured from left to right are John Streeter, Stephanie Zanieski, Tom Watroba, Steve Rackliffe, Scott Ramsay, Bob Chalifour, Peter Lewis, Dave Stimson, and Frank Lamphear. Not pictured Peter Pierson and Fred Bachand.

# The Score Board

## Joint Meeting with New England Supers held at Wampanoag

The September meeting of CAGCS took on a different twist this time around. With Bob Johnson as our Host Superintendent and his old friends from The New England Association, a very informal but enlightening session was the scenario for our joint meeting at Wampanoag. After a brief business meeting, members from both groups gathered out on the new veranda (one of the new additions to the recently overhauled club house at Wampanoag) and exchanged some of the dilemmas associated with managing golf courses in 1989. Seems that everyone had the same things to say about 1989. "Too Much Rain", "Can't get much else done but maintain", "The Pro's unruly because that guy keeps telling him NO CARTS", and the members want to know "How many days have we been closed this year?" Well, its now time to put on our winter bonnets and get ready for winter escapades. All in all, the day was enjoyable as Bob provided us with a well-conditioned Donald Ross layout, and the rest of the Wampanoag staff laid out the red carpet for all. Following a well-balanced lunch, we took off for the links and the results are posted on the right.

## Scramble Format At Suffield Yields New Winners

Indian summer weather was the order of the day at Suffield for CAGC's Annual Meeting and golf tourney. Not only did the 50-or-so golfers enjoy the weather, but also the superb conditions which were provided by Tom Watroba and Staff. Even with the consistent rains that had plagued us all this fall, Suffield was still in prime form. The Scramble format used for this last golf outing seemed to produce a few new names to the winner's circle, as the scores indicate.

## Scores From Wampanoag

### Gross Winners

Peter Pierson - 70  
Mike Dukette - 74

### Net Winners

James Staszowski - 65  
Paul Jamrog - 69  
Tom Watroba - 69  
Dennis Lamp, Jr. - 70  
Larry Bunn - 70  
Mel O'Kelly - 71

### Closest To The Pin

New England, Tony Debetincourt  
Connecticut, Mr. Littlejohn

### Longest Drive

New England, Mel O'Kelly  
Connecticut, Jim Staszowski

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## Scores From Suffield

### 9- Hole Scramble Format

Scott Ramsay, Brian Pope, John Callahan, Kim Heyl  
Score of 32  
Frank Savakis, Al Semprebbon, Cindy Johnson, Scott Lowe  
Score of 32  
Mike Dukette, Brian Skelly, Steve Rackliffe, Bob Szymanski  
Score of 33

### Longest Drive

Scott Lowe

### Closest to the Pin

Mike Dukette

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# NEWS FROM GCSAA HEADQUARTERS

## GCSAA Hosts Golf Course Conference And Show In Orlando

### GCSAA'S International Show Draws Golf Course Industry to Orlando

Orlando, one of Florida's hottest golfing destinations, is set to host an expected 15,000 attendees for the 61st International Golf Course Conference and Trade Show. The GCSAA, sponsor of the annual event, is predicting that new records for both attendance and trade show participation will be set with the 1990 Conference and Show, which is set for February 19 - 26.

The latest innovations designed to assist golf course superintendents in managing the world's golf courses will be unveiled during the 61st International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida. Nearly 500 companies will exhibit a vast selection of products and services for professional golf course superintendents from the United States and abroad during the Trade Show (February 24-26).

The GCSAA has sponsored the event annually since 1928. It has grown to become one of the 150 largest annual American trade shows.

During the week-long program at the Orange County Convention/Civic Center, educational opportunities abound: 38 continuing-education seminars, six concurrent education sessions, a state government relations forum, meetings of allied associations and symposia on a wide range of topics. Educational subjects for 1990 include environmental and water resource management, budgeting and financial management, safety and risk management, golf course design, construction and renovation and more.

Exhibit space at the newly expanded Orange County Convention/Civic Center was 95 percent sold by the end of October. More than 70 new exhibitors were already scheduled to display their lines at the 1990 show. The total number of exhibitors for the 1990 show is expected to be between 475-500. The 1989 GCSAA Trade Show in Anaheim, California, featured 463 exhibitors from the United States and around the world.

Millions of dollars worth of turf equipment and golf course management products will be on display during the trade show, which is set for February 24-26. The latest innovations to help golf course superintendents stay on top of their profession will be unveiled at the two-and-one-half day show, recognized by Tradeshaw Week as one of the 200 largest trade shows.

Irrigation equipment, drainage systems, geotextiles, seed, turf chemicals, safety products and all manner of turf maintenance equipment will be featured in the exhibit hall, along

with the whole gamut of golf course accessories.

Also on the agenda are the Association's annual meeting and election of officers and the GCSAA Golf Championship. The championship's 600-player field will compete on five of Florida's top golf courses: the Grand Cypress Resort's New Course, Hunter's Creek Golf Course and Walt Disney World's Magnolia, Palm and Lake Buena Vista golf courses.

Ken Blanchard, author of The One Minute Manager and an avid golfer, will deliver the keynote speech at the opening session Feb. 22.

Following the presentation of GCSAA's coveted Old Tom Morris Award, pop singer Tony Orlando will perform at the gala closing banquet Feb. 26 at the Peabody Orlando Hotel.

The 1989 GCSAA Conference and Show drew more than 14,000, including more than 1,000 international participants representing 39 countries outside the United States.

### MOORE TO RECEIVE 1990 OLD TOM MORRIS AWARD

For the first time, the GCSAA will bestow its highest honor -- the Old Tom Morris Award -- upon a member superintendent.

Sherwood A. Moore, CGCS, 50-year GCSAA member and past president of the Association, will receive the award during the closing banquet of the 61st GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show.

"Sherwood's a great superintendent, sure, but he's more than that," said Dave Marr, ABC Sports commentator, former PGA Tour player and friend of Moore's for 35 years. "He is the kind of person I would assume young people at ... all the fine turfgrass schools would aspire to be like. Sherwood Moore is a worthy recipient of the Old Tom Morris Award.

Moore was the superintendent at Winged Foot Golf Course in Mamaroneck, N.Y., from 1957-1967. From there, he moved on to become superintendent at Woodway Country Club in Darien, Connecticut. When Winged Foot was selected to host the first Senior Open in 1980, Moore returned to help get the course in prime condition. In 1984, he left to join The Captains Golf Course in Brewster, Massachusetts. Moore also served as acting agronomist for the USGA Green Section during 1987-1988. Recently retired, Moore still continues to work as a consultant at The Captains.

GCSAA established the Old Tom Morris Award in 1982 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding lifetime contributions to the game. The award is named in memory of

*(continued on page 5)*

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## GCSAA Headquarters, continued ...

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Old Tom Morris, greenskeeper and golf professional at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, four-time British Open champion, clubmaker, ballmaker and golf course architect.

Moore joins the host of golf luminaries who are past Old Tom Morris Award winners: Arnold Palmer, Bob Hope, Gerald Ford, Patty Berg, Robert Trent Jones, Sr., Gene Sarazen and Chi Chi Rodriguez.

~ Orlando ~  
**The Magic Kingdom and More**

Orlando, Florida, is not just any "Mickey Mouse" convention city. No, GCSAA's host city in 1990 offers much, much more besides Mickey and the rest of the attractions at Walt Disney World.

The 61st GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show will take place at the newly remodeled and expanded Orange County Convention/Civic Center, a 350,000 square-foot complex set on a 115 acre, tropically landscaped site that is no more



than 15 minutes from any of the 17 GCSAA Orlando hotels.

Within an hour of the city, guests will find a multitude of attractions, from the alluring natural beauty of central Florida and its warm, sun-drenched climate to the dizzying variety of visitor attractions.

The Walt Disney World Resort complex alone offers the fantasy of the Magic Kingdom, the marvels of EPCOT Center, the "Hollywood" glamour of the new Disney/MGM Studios theme park, the wet and wonderful Typhoon Lagoon water park, Pleasure Island night-life and more.

And then there's Cypress Gardens, Gatorland Zoo, Boardwalk and Baseball, Busch Gardens, Spaceport USA, Silver Springs nature theme park and Sea World.

More than 60 golf courses are within a 30-mile radius of the city, and 2,000 area lakes offer fishing, water-skiing and other water sports.

For sun-seekers, miles and miles of sandy beaches along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts are only an hour's drive away.

Fine dining, theater, museums, galleries, cruises, hot-air balloon flights, helicopter tours, sports and numerous shopping opportunities all await GCSAA Orlando Conference and Show participants and their families.

Join us for the  
**61<sup>st</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
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GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS  
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(continued from page 6.)

over to Bentgrass at a ratio of at least 50:50 at the minimum to a ratio as high as 65:35 Bentgrass to Poa on the other greens.

Come August 1, 1989, I will again apply Cutless. This time at a rate of 1/4 lb./acre, weather permitting. Two weeks later, the greens will be aerated and overseeded at a rate of 3 lbs./1,000 again with Penncross Creeping Bentgrass.

Conversion of Poa Annua to Bentgrass via the use of regulators should be approached with caution, as disastrous results could take place. Probably the most important thing to do is to alert your membership of your intentions, as in many areas yellowing is unacceptable and it will definitely occur.

Bentgrass conversion also requires an individualistic approach. What is work-

ing for me may not work for you. Soil types, temperature, humidity, sunlight, fertilizer practices, irrigation techniques, spraying equipment, nozzles, and amounts of play all influence the affects of the growth regulator on the turf.

Some observations I have made while using Cutless are that I do not recommend applying rates to greens any higher than 1/4 lb./acre every three to four weeks, as more subtle discoloration seems to be "more acceptable", than a look of totally dead or dormant turf. Also, it has been observed that overseeding is best done at least a minimum of two weeks after a Cutless application without any undue influence to germinating seedlings. During the time of the Cutless applications, it could be observed that the amount of clippings was significantly reduced. However, in dealing with putting greens, the dew must be

removed every day for normal play. During our mowing schedule, a cutting height of 5/32" was maintained, and a slight increase in green speed was evident as the Poa was not growing.

In conclusion, I have a first-hand experience in the positive effects of the plant growth regulator, Cutless\* in the Poa conversion to Bentgrass. I believe that this is the way to change over to a more permanent grass, short of complete resodding, fumigating or use of other more drastic measures.

(\*Cutless is not label approved for golf course greens at this time.)

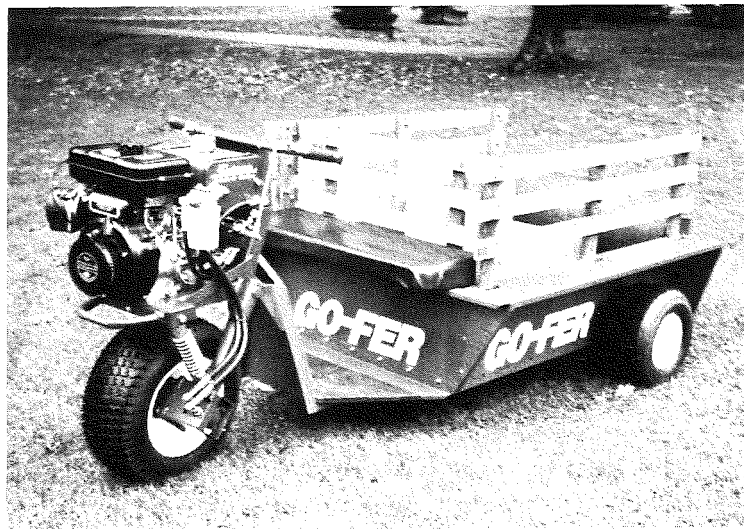
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## Some Ideas About Roots

Dr. W. H. Daniel, Purdue University

Our historical roots, as a family and individuals, have recently received special attention. However, the roots of concern in turf are those little white string things that supposedly are below the grass you see on the surface.

**First, what is a root?** Roots are initiated at the nodes occurring along stems. These may be concentrated in a crown or spread along a stolon. Portions of mature roots are mainly conductive tissue plus providing some storage nutrients, especially starches.

The working part of any root is the soft absorbive root tip and the root hairs near it. This is where the payload of water and elements are absorbed for transfer to the crown, stems and leaves known as the turf cover. And, woe is the plant which had lost its root tips! So, a living root is that plant tissue joined to the node and extending to and including a root cap. Although some branching is normal, when individual root tips die, the older root parts seldom initiate new root tips. Physiologically, the plant's response is to initiate a new root at the node and just start again (provided extra energy is available and time is allowed). In other words, the energy path is to start a new root, which has least transfer distance for nutrients. So, keeping root tips alive and active is the first challenge of turf managers.

Bud Esterline at Muncie one time said, "Bill, on Monday I cut the cups and could see roots above five inches deep. It was dry, so Monday evening we made a big effort to water the greens real good. Tuesday morning early it rained and it was so cloudy and wet that we couldn't mow Tuesday. Although still raining, we finally mowed a little Wednesday afternoon, and the rain just set in there. Brown patch began to show. We finally got greens mowed on Friday, and on Saturday the weather cleared up, and all I had for roots were a few black strings! I had lost my complete root system between Monday night and Saturday morning." Now what? Bud knew he had to lightly water those greens, to watch for wet wilt, to keep the leaves moist enough so they wouldn't wilt until new roots would generate. If he could get by for about seven days, he'd have some new roots growing, and later some good roots working again, and back to normal. Five days of wet weather cost Bud his root system, and then it took him ten days to get partial replacement.

**Where are the roots?** Would you believe 90 percent of root length is in the upper two inches or five cm?

Ideally, a diffuse extension root system is desired, but for every use, management, root zone and irrigation, what is normal, adequate and necessary will vary. As turf managers, you will want all the roots possible or practical.

Roots have been found over 100 inches long under Bermuda in California tests. However, roots of three feet for fescue and zoysia, two feet for bluegrass and bentgrass would be considered quite long. When trenches are made across roughs or tall grass areas, the long root extension in the soil profile is usually impressive.

**Roots are plant membranes.** "Here, you root; do this! Absorb (take in) 5,000 pounds of water plus one pound of elements the plants must have. By the way, **keep out the excessive and avoid unneeded.** Meanwhile, let's hope nematodes make no holes and

*(continued on page 9.)*



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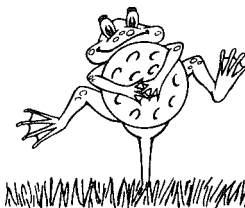
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(continued from page 8.)

rhizoctonia doesn't infect. And, while you're constantly expanding, we'll try to keep the leaves healthy, the mower sharp, the wear distributed, the drought averted, and we'll try to avoid scalping or other turf stress." After all, the top must send energy clear down to the root tip. When energy is short, the number of root hairs diminishes, the diameter reduces and the root initiation slows.

**Roots are powerful absorbers.** Before the plant wilts, roots will take water from soils down to 13.6 atmospheres, a pF of 4.5 or tension equivalent of 14 meters of water. The wise turf manager has every reason to utilize the reservoir of moisture within a root zone between irrigations. In other words, it is foolish to ignore the root zone moisture storage potential when managing fine turf.

**What is water-air balance for roots?** Incidentally, that root tip must have some oxygen as it works. Waterlogged soils are hard on roots. Being waterlogged for more than 24 hours under stress weather is a cause for concern. Most turf managers have seen roots growing over the surface of the ground in an attempt to be where there is aid. Roots may be deep or shallow just in response to air supply. We've seen roots grow in water when air is needed, but remember, oxygen travels through water 100 times faster than through wet compacted soils.

**Roots are strong!** When roots are numerous, their combined strength is in athletic fields, tees and traffic areas. New roots in new soils always look good. A measure of success is to have sufficient roots to hold the soil mass for their entire depth of penetration when held by the surface sod. Research on rooting of sods has been conducted to determine resistance to an upward pull after one month of growth.

#### How would you insult roots?

1. Reduce their air at root tips.
2. Increase the water to excess.
3. Compact the soil; use equipment and carts.
4. Smear, seal the surface.
5. Raise the temperature.
6. Overcrowd the plants.
7. Lose leaves due to disease.
8. Reduce leaf surface.
9. Shade by trees, buildings, other plants.
10. Overfertilize and stress plants.

#### What would you do to favor roots?

1. Increase oxygen in root zone.
2. Avoid any overwatering or continued wetness.
3. Vertically core, spike, slit open root zone surface.
4. Topdress to raise cutting height.
5. Topdress to minimize surface compaction and effect of thatch.
6. Increase leaf surface.
7. Avoid or spread wear.
8. Avoid disease or turf weakening.
9. Lower the temperature - cooling when possible.
10. Reduce shade or competition.
11. Fertilize - low to medium nitrogen.
12. Provide ample potassium and minor elements.

Turf managers and their crews can't make a root! You can help; let the plants make them. You can kill the root or slow it down.

## Facts To Help Maximize Fungicide Effectiveness

Optimum dilution levels for maximum disease control

Fungicide	Gallons of water per 1000 sq.ft.
Daconil	1 gallon
Dyrene	1-2 gallons
Bayleton	2 gallons
Chipco 26019	0.5-4 gallons
Banner	2 gallons
Vorlan	1-2 gallons

#### Nozzle Sizes and Pressure

Flat Fan 8002 nozzle	30 to 60 psi
RA-10 or RA-15	40 psi

Ph of spray tank after filling should be 6.5 and not allowed to sit without agitation.

Fertilizers that cause the ph of the tank mixture to become either acidic or alkaline should not be mixed with fungicides.

# BENTGRASS SOD

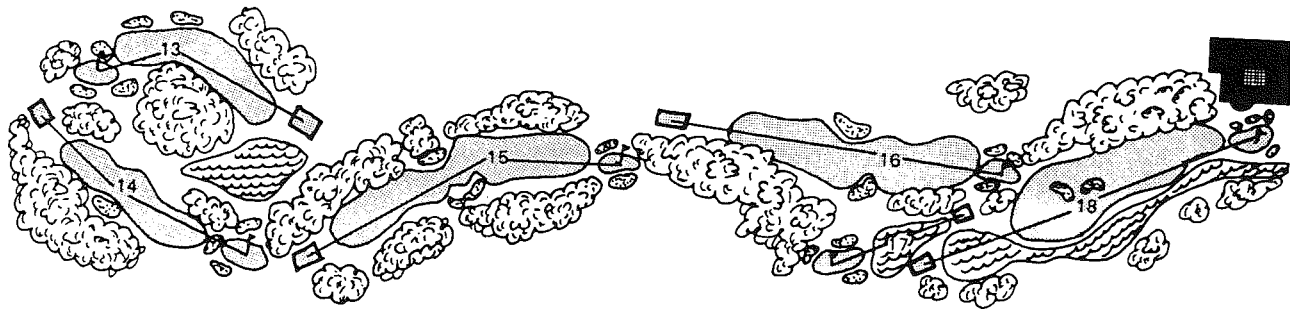
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# The Clippings



## Calendar

### CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOST
December 1st	CAGCS Christmas Party	Ramada Hotel East Hartford, CT	CAGCS
December 4 - 7	New Jersey Turf Grass Expo	Resorts Hotel Atlantic City, NJ	New Jersey CGSA
December 8 & 9	GCSAA Seminar Golf Course Restoration and Renovation	Tuxedo, NY	GCSAA
December 11 & 12	GCSAA Seminar Golf Course Restoration and Renovation	Tuxedo, NY	GCSAA
January 9	CAGCS Annual Seminar	Holiday Inn Plainville, CT	CAGCS
February 19 - 26	International Golf Course Conference & Show	Orange County Convention & Civic Center Orlando, FLA	GCSAA
March 15 & 16	GCSAA Seminar Insects on Trees and Shrubs	Treadway Hotel Hartford, CT	GCSAA

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**O. M. Scott & Sons**  
Proturf Division  
Marysville, OH 43041  
Al Arison  
(203) 336-9890

**Old Fox Chemical, Inc.**  
249 Shaker Road  
Enfield, CT 06082  
Mike Dukette  
(203) 749-8339

**Partac Topdressing**  
Kelsey Park, Great Meadows, NJ 07838  
(800) 247-2326/(201) 637-4191  
Bill Carriere (914) 937-5479  
Steve Kotowicz (203) 792-3032

**Pipe & Irrigation Equipment**  
243 Woodmont Road, P. O. Box 3049  
Milford, CT 06460  
Paul J. Roche  
(203) 878-0658

**Pro-Lawn Products, Inc.**  
30 Nashville Road  
Bethel, CT 06801  
Steve Kotowicz  
(203) 792-3032

**Purple Kings Farm**  
Williamstown, MA 01267  
Ralph C. Mason  
(413) 458-3184  
(413) 458-4646

**The Reichert Company**  
Automotive Lubricant Distributor  
Riverside, CT 06878  
Frank Reichert  
(203) 637-2958

**Ro-Brand Products, Inc.**  
Automotive & Industrial Fasteners  
319 Cooke Street  
Plainville, CT 06062  
(203) 747-1621

**Somers Turf Supplies**  
P. O. Box 2294  
Devon, CT 06460  
Bill Somers  
(203) 878-2108

**Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.**  
Bluegrass/Fescue Turf - Penncross  
West Suffield, CT  
Skip Deubel  
(203) 668-1226 (collect)

**Turf Products Corporation**  
1496 John Fitch Boulevard  
South Windsor, CT 06074  
Mark Loper - John Ferry  
(203) 528-9508

**Turf Specialty, Inc.**  
60 Merrimack Street  
Hooksett, NH 03106  
Dave Schermerhorn, Ed Wiacek  
(800) 228-6656

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

**Valley Farms Nursery & Supply**  
Sod - Turf Supplies  
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) 248-7476

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