

CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS



Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Devoted to sharing knowledge and experience for better turf

July, 1992

Volume 26, No. 2

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

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

Newsletter
 John F. Streeter, CGCS, Editor
 Photos by David Basconi

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.

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In memory of a fallen comrade

By Thomas Watroba

We were all shocked and saddened by the tragic loss of Robert W. Johnston, CGCS, Golf Course Superintendent at Wampanoag Country Club. Bob passed away on July 9, 1992 after a battle with cancer. Bob was truly one of the good people in our profession.

I was fortunate enough to have developed a friendship with Bob over the past few years. I am certain there are individuals who knew him longer or were closer to the man than I was. Yet, I feel I knew him well enough to share with you some thoughts about Bob.

First and foremost, Bob Johnston was a devoted husband to his wife, Bette, and father to two young boys, Robert and Brian. Professionally, he was one of the finest and most dedicated golf course superintendent I have ever met. The condition of Wampanoag Country Club was testimony to that statement. Bob overcame numerous adversity to achieve playing conditions that were second to none in the area. Bob epitomized the modern golf course superintendent consistently seeking education to advance his position and our profession. When it came to his fellow superintendents, Bob was generous to a fault, always willing to lend equipment, material, or advice to whoever was in need. The Hartford area superintendents can attest to this fact.

Although Bob was an active, concerned member of CAGCS with his Boston roots, his heart was with the New England Golf Course Superintendents' Association which he served well for many years.

Bob sincerely enjoyed golf and all of the good qualities golf courses and country clubs have to offer. For the past two years, Bob was a member at my course, Suffield Country Club. I will never forget the day he approached me about becoming a member at Suffield. He flatly stated that if I had any objections, he would not join. This was typical for the man - direct, honest, a touch of class. While Bob was at Suffield, he never interfered with my operation - always offering to help in any way he could. I deeply respected him for that.

My intentions were not to canonize Bob Johnston. Like all of us, he had his faults and weaknesses. Hopefully, you have gained a little better understanding of what the man was all about. To those of us who were fortunate enough to have gotten to know him, I am sure we echo the same sentiment. I will miss my friend, Bobby Johnston.

Memorial donations may be made to the Robert and Brian Johnston Educational Fund, c/o the Windsor Federal Savings & Loan, Bank Street, Granby, CT, 06035.

A Labor Saving Program

By Mike Reeb, CGCS

A little over two years ago we initiated an alternate method of labor scheduling at The Country Club of New Canaan, allowing us to eliminate the "scheduled weekend overtime" which has long been a routine part of golf course maintenance.

Simply put, our maintenance facility now operates seven days a week, year round. Each person works five days a week, with one day off during the week and one during the weekend. A schedule is made up thirty days in advance to assure good distribution of our work force throughout each week without having to rely on any overtime to get the job done.

Undeniably there are cost benefits, but the idea is also "labor saving" in human relation terms; a healthier work environment results. The program evolved from a desire to achieve a better, balanced lifestyle for maintenance staff who previously were relied upon to work a full week and then expected, with the same level of energy and commitment, to perform weekend duties as needed (routine course care, storm cleanup, snow removal, etc.). With these types of responsibilities it has long been a burden on staff and

management alike to respond to the various pressures related to golf course maintenance while striving to assure a satisfying personal life; a significant drawback to our profession. So why not create a method of dealing with all

tendent or Assistant towards the end of the current month. Requests for specific days off, received in advance from each employee, are plugged in along with pre-arranged vacation plans (our staff is allowed to take their vacations at any time of the year they would like, barring any special events usch as Member Guest). Unless otherwise requested each employees' days off are randomly distributed and will vary from week to week. Sometimes the days off are consecutive and sometimes they are not, such as a Wednesday and a Sunday; we attempt to keep it convenient and interesting. The completed schedule is posted above the time clock and everyone is responsible for adhering to it without reminders.

The real beauty of this approach is FLEXIBILITY, an important function necessary to success which can evolve as you go. Early on we inventoried each person's skills regarding all the individual jobs that are a part of our operation. Our goal is to train each employee to perform all tasks so that we are able to accomplish any given job regardless of who might have the day off; for example we now have nine

"The real beauty of this approach is FLEXIBILITY ..."

"Our goal is to train each employee to perform all tasks, so that we are able to accomplish any given job, regardless of who might have the day off."

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Recertification, CEU Evaluation Reforms Announced by GCSAA

For more information, call the
Education Department at
(913) 832-4444.

At the spring Board meeting, GCSAA's Board of Directors approved an option allowing some currently certified golf course superintendents to choose whether they will recertify under the 1994 policy or the 1997 policy.

After July 1, 1997, the total number of CEUs required for recertification will drop to 10.0 and CEUs will no longer be awarded for participation in the GCSAA Conference and Show.

With the Board's action, CGCSs whose certification renewal date is between July 1, 1994 and June 30, 1997, will now have the option of meeting either of the following:

1994 recertification requirements

- 15.0 CEUs total, with up to 8 CEUs from attending GCSAA Conference and Show
- At least 4.9 CEUs from GCSAA seminars

1997 recertification requirements:

- 10.0 CEUs total, with none from GCSAA Conference and Show
- At least 7.0 CEUs from GCSAA seminars.

President's Message

Steven L. Rackliffe, CGCS

It's hard to believe that it is almost July. Our monthly meetings, along with the CAGCS Invitational, have been great successes. Looking back just a couple of years ago, our average monthly meeting attendance was between 50-60 members. So far this year, we have been averaging 85-95 members per meeting. It's great to see our members support our organization with such high attendance.

Those members who have been attending our meetings this year have been treated to playing golf on some very fine golf courses. The conditions and layouts have been magnificent. So far we have played at Norwich, Wallingford, Waterbury, Cliffside and Westwoods. I would like to thank the superintendents who have hosted these meetings for the fine job they did in preparing their respective courses for our Association and the help they gave in organizing our monthly meeting at their club. A great deal of time and effort goes into the preparation of each and every monthly meeting. The people who make them successful are

the host superintendents, CAGCS Golf Director, Peter Pierson, the Education Director, Peter Lewis, and CAGCS secretary Pauline Streeter, as well as members who support and attend these meetings.

Each member is responsible for making sure their name is submitted (card returned) to the CAGCS post office box, therefore making the headcount more accurate and thus avoiding uncomfortable situations for the host superintendent. If you have submitted a reservation card but find you are unable to attend, please notify the host superintendent.

We have some great golf courses to play at our upcoming meetings - Greenwich Country Club on September 22nd, Golf Club of Avon on October 6th, Country Club of Torrington on October 19th, and Rock Ridge Country Club on November 10th.

Thanks to the hosts of these clubs for inviting CAGCS.

I hope that our attendance continues to grow.



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A labor saving program,
con't from page 2.

**An alternate method
of labor scheduling**

licensed pesticide operators able to share the load. This approach has proven extremely helpful not only from a management viewpoint, but is readily accepted by employees as well: rotating through the various duties keeps work interesting and empowers them to swap days off with each other if their plans change.

Further flexibility is realized when our operations are compromised by any number of undesirable events, from weather or equipment problems to the sudden rescheduling of a tournament. Being on the seven-day schedule enables you to rebound far easier, in many cases diminishing the urgency of a situation. No longer restricted to accomplishing everything between Monday and Friday, you are able to face "the weekend" in a different light.

Above all, this approach gives you the ability and inclination to become more flexible in your maintenance practices.

Of course, your golf committee and general membership must be willing to see some maintenance activity throughout the day on Saturday and Sundays. While disruptive procedures need to be avoided there are still many things which can be done without bothering golfers. In fact, our attention to detail has been improved by scheduling some of the smaller, often overlooked jobs for the weekend hours (A good one is keeping the maintenance area neat and organized). And having workers on hand all day throughout the weekend ensures prompt response to quickly developing situations - the end result is improved golfer satisfaction.

As for employee acceptance, any change of this magnitude needs to be thoroughly proposed and discussed

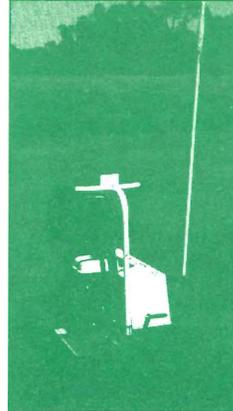
with the crew prior to implementation. There may be concerns about loss of income from those who rely on the overtime (New Canaan's full time employees recieved a pay increase, or differential, to partially compensate for the discontinued overtime wages). Other thoughts may not arise until after the program has been in place for awhile; in this case flexibility comes into play again.

We've found that its possible to adapt to different priorities among the individual crew members while keeping the entire schedule satisfying to all.

While nothing more than a retail store approach to ensuring sufficient labor during all hours of operation, the application of this seven day, no overtime work schedule for golf course maintenance may be a thought that proves helpful to your operation. Flexibility, normalized life style and cost efficiency are recognizable benefits. Trying the idea for a few months would likely show you and your staff these attributes. And you just might uncover other alternatives that would better serve the particular needs of your golf course. Try it.

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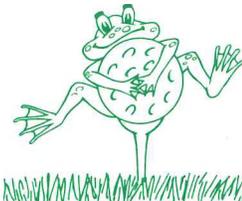


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Grass Catcher



CAGCS Welcomes New Member

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Met GCSA Announces Professional Turfgrass Field Day

In conjunction with the Metropolitan Golf Association, the Met GCSA will be conducting a professional turfgrass field day together with a greens chairmen committee educational series on Tuesday, October 13th at the Westchester Country Club.

The above seminar for golf course superintendents and greens committee chairmen will be held indoors between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served outdoors immediately following the seminar after which the superintendent and chairman will have an opportunity to tour the booths and observe equipment demonstrations by the various distributors.

All professional turf managers are invited to attend as well as mechanics and equipment technicians.

For additional information contact Mr. Jeffrey Scott, the Apawamis Club, tel: (914) 967-2570 or Mr. Allan Tretera, Turf Products Corporation, tel: (800) 243-4355.

Upcoming Events

Watch your mail box for the CAGCS Annual Family Day/Picnic which will be held on August 17, 1992 at McCooks Park in Old Lyme, CT.

Chairman Brian Skelly has a full slate of events scheduled for adults and children alike.

As in the past, this day is free of charge to all members and their families. However, any guests over the age of 12 will be charged \$10.

Besides food, drink and games, you will be able to swim, sun and relax on beautiful Niantic Bay. Come one - Come All. Hope to see you on August 17th.

Check your schedules

... for the upcoming meeting at Greenwich Country Club on September 22nd.

Once again our Association returns to Avon Golf Club, Jim Medeiros, CGCS, superintendent, for our Annual S & R Tournament on October 6th.

We will be rounding out the "fall tour" at Torrington Country Club on October 19th, and Rock Ridge Country Club for the Annual Meeting on November 10th.

CAGCS to block rooms in Anaheim

Once again our Association will be blocking rooms for those attending the Annual GCSAA Conference & Show being held January 23 - 30, 1993 in Anaheim, CA.

We will belock 10 to 15 rooms at the Anaheim Hilton, headquarters hotel.

Information and reservation forms for the block of rooms will be mailed in the coming weeks.

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Candidates sought for CAGCS Board

November is up and coming and once again our Association will be electing leaders for the coming year.

In order for an Association to be a successful working mechanism, input and service from its members is of utmost importance.

Anyone who thinks he/she would like to give a little time for the good of the Association and himself is asked to contact Nominating Chairman, Thomas Watroba at Suffield Country Club for further information.

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Pine Orchard takes home CAGCS Invitational

The team from the Pine Orchard Yacht/Country Club lead by Eric Johnson, superintendent, captured the annual CAGCS Invitational which was held on June 1st at the Country Club of Waterbury. In a scramble format, the team of Eric Johnson, R. Falkoff, E. Anderson and M. Baughan (pictured above right) combined for a low gross score of 58.

However, the team from Aspetuck Valley, headed by Frank Lamphier, (pictured below) also carded a 58; but, for the second year in a row, lost with matching cards.

The winning team was presented the Traveling Connecticut Cup which will be kept on display for a full year. The winning team members also received beautifully framed golf prints as an addition to the first prize.

The first net winners posted a score of 50. They were the team from the Stanley Golf Club headed up by John Napieracz, P. Ledger, John Mulhearn, and R. McGlone (pictured right).

The full field was treated first class from the greetings from golf pro and his staff to the well-condition course provided by Charlie Baskin, CGCS. Following golf an elaborate display of hors d'oeuvres was presented to the attendees.



Other Scores

2nd gross
Aspetuck Valley
Frank Lamphier - 58

2nd Net
Heritage Village CC
Peter Burnham - 51



3rd Net
Black Hall Club
Phil Neaton - 52.2

4th net
Suffield Country Club
Thomas Watroba - 52.8

Closest to the pin prizes were won by Charles Baskin on the 8th hole and Sam Title from Tumble Brook won the use of a Yamaha golf cart for a year with his shot on no. 12.

The big boomers of the day were Ray Falkoff (Pine Orchard) who had the longest drive on no. 4 and our own "senior citizen" Frank Lamphier had the longest poke on no. 18.

Congratulations to all winners and compliments to the Country Club of Waterbury for an exquisite well-organized day.



*Sure shots
from Invitational
Country Club of Waterbury
June 1st*



Life Cycles of the Annual Bluegrass Weevil *Hyperodes* and the Black Turfgrass *Ataenius*

by Steve Alm, URI Entomologist

One of the reasons we are experiencing more problems with these two pests in recent years is the loss or ineffectiveness of the long residual insecticides such as Chlordane and Oftanol. These materials could be applied once for season-long control of white grubs in many locations. Chlordane has been shown to have residual activity against termites in the soil for more than 30 years! Oftanol has a soil half life of more than 150 days. Compare this to soil half-lives of alternatives such as: Turcam (5 days), Sevin (10 days), Dursban (30 days), diazinon (40 days),

Mocap (25 days), Triumph (34 days), and Dylox, Proxol (10 days).

Oftanol may be ineffective at your particular site due to microbial degradation. Microbial degradation occurs when microbes (bacteria, fungi) break down the Oftanol before it has a chance to control grubs. This material though, can still be used very effectively in many locations.

If your insecticide application timing is not nearly perfect (and even it is in some cases) the shorter residual materials may not provide adequate control if egg hatch is extended for a partic-

ular generation. For example, we have been saying for quite some time that you should apply a material for Japanese beetle grub control on or about August 15 in Rhode Island. By this time, most of the eggs have hatched and your control timing will be optimal. This is true for most years but last year at one particular site, we were still observing eggs and 1st instar larvae on September 23! This was most likely caused by droughty conditions that didn't allow the eggs to swell

(Continued on page 9.)

CAUTION - The life cycles presented below are from one year's data at two locations in Rhode Island and data from other states. Events may occur a week or more either side of the given dates depending on rainfall, temperatures, etc.

April 15 - May 7

(between forsythia and flowering dogwood blooms)

1st generation adults of both *Hyperodes* and *Ataenius* are emerging, mating, and laying eggs. Dursban for *Hyperodes* and *Ataenius* control. Oftanol 2 for *Ataenius* control of greens. Triumph is registered for *Ataenius* control of greens. Triumph is registered for *Hyperodes* control on tees, greens and aprons, but be aware that daily irrigation may wash the material into the soil where it will not be effective for *Hyperodes* control.

May 15 - June 1

Young *Hyperodes* larvae are actively feeding near the crown of annual bluegrass plants. In 1991, most of the damage had been done by the first week in June in Kingston. Larger larvae continue to feed and eventually pupated on or around June 10 in 1991.

June 10 - 18

1st generation *Ataenius* larvae are mostly 2nd instars at this time (there are 3 larval instars before the pupate and become adults). Control grubs now if more than 50 grubs/sq. ft.

June 20 - July 4

2nd generation *Hyperodes* adults emerge and lay eggs. Control is usually not warranted (see text).

July 1

2nd generation *Ataenius* adults emerge and lay eggs. Wait to see if grubs reach threshold levels in late July or early August.

July 7 - 31

2nd generation *Hyperodes* larvae are feeding near the crowns of annual bluegrass. Control is usually not warranted (see text).

August 1 - 7

2nd generation *Ataenius* larvae can be found. Control grubs now where thresholds are reached or wait one week and control Japanese beetle grubs as well.

*Life Cycles of the Annual Bluegrass Weevil *Hyperodes* and the Black Turfgrass *Ataenius**

(continued from page 8)

and hatch. Japanese beetle eggs need at least 10% soil moisture to develop and can remain "dormant" for some period until conditions become more favorable.

I have combined the life cycles of *Ataenius* and *Hyperodes* since some aspects of the life cycles overlap and you may be able to control both insects with one well timed insecticide application. Remember, *Hyperodes* weevils are only pests of annual bluegrass and only at cutting heights of 0.25 - 0.5" so control sprays can often be limited to aprons. *Hyperodes* weevils are also surface feeders (crowns) so you want the pesticide to remain in that region. A good material for *Ataenius* and other white grub control that moves from the surface through the thatch to the root zone may not be the best choice for *Hyperodes* control and vice versa.

CONTROL OF HYPERODES [ANNUAL BLUEGRASS WEEVIL (ABW)]

Migration to fairways begins in the spring about the time forsythia is in full bloom (April 15). By the time flowering dogwood is in bloom (May 7), most adults will have emerged. This is the period for first generation adult control. Dursban is a good control choice since the ABW is a surface and thatch infesting insect.

Control of the first generation will usually provide season-long control. The control spray can often be limited to the aprons of greens or other areas maintained at cutting heights of 0.25-0.5". Turfgrass at cutting heights of 1.5" or higher are not affected.

If a second application is needed for second generation adults, timing of control should be on or around July 4th. It is more difficult to time insecticide

treatments for the second generation since adult activity is spread out over several weeks. Small larvae are present during the last three weeks of July, larger larvae are present during the last two weeks in July and into early August.

Second generation larvae rarely warrant a control spray. Check annual bluegrass crowns on turf cut at 0.25-0.5".

CONTROL OF BLACK TURFGRASS ATAENIUS (BTA).

Adult beetles overwinter in wooded areas near golf course roughs and prefer pine needle litter. Adults begin to return to golf course turf as early as March and continue through early May. Late April or the very first of May, depending on the year, is the recommended timing for first generation adult control. Oftanol 2E applied to greens at this time will give you some idea of the severity of problems at your particular site (dead beetles can be observed on greens).

The adults though, do not cause damage to turf so you can wait until about June 7 to start sampling for larvae in the soil (see thresholds on page 8). Black turfgrass *ataenius* eggs are deposited in clusters in the soil and larvae, like most of the white grub pests on turf, feed on the roots of annual bluegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and bentgrasses. These larvae are deeper in the soil than annual bluegrass weevil larvae and require an insecticide move at least to the soil/thatch interface for control to occur. Oftanol 2E was applied to one of our heavily infested sites on June 26 in 1991. No turf damage was noticed but the application probably should have gone on about a week earlier.

With a long residual material like Oftanol, this lead time is possible. With a shorter residual material, the timing was probably perfect. An Oftanol treatment at this time may eliminate the need for Japanese beetle control later in the season.

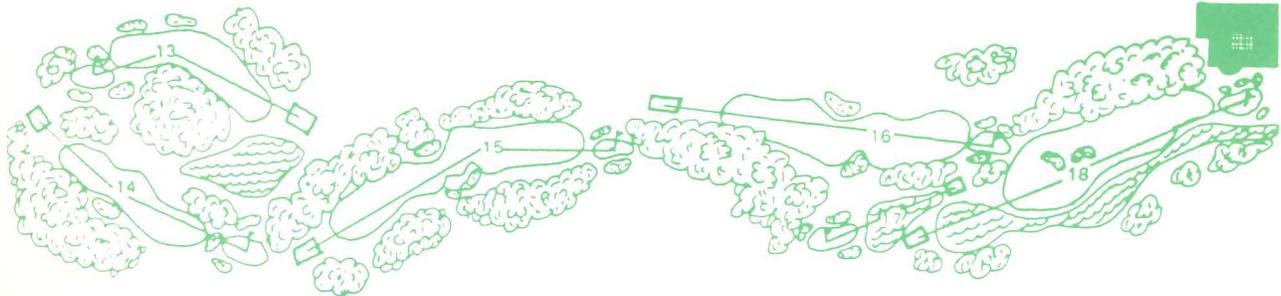
Niemczyk found that second generation eggs begin to appear when Rose of Sharon, *Hibiscus syriacus*, begins to bloom in Ohio. Rose of Sharon usually blooms in the last two weeks in July or the first part of August in Rhode Island. In 1991, we found BTA 2nd and 3rd instar larvae on August 4.

Due to their small size, first and second instars (stages) of the grubs are not considered to cause any appreciable damage. The third instar, which is present from June through August, can cause serious damage to turf. Tashiro (personal communication) feels that there is little need to control populations less than 50 grubs per square foot. On well maintained turf, 100-200 larvae per square foot may be required to cause damage. If larval control is needed, the materials for Japanese beetle grub control are also effective against BTA.

There is a milky disease of BTA similar to the one that attacks Japanese beetle larvae. If when sampling you notice a large percentage of larvae are a milky color, you can subtract these from your sample count per square foot. The milky grubs will die shortly from the bacterial disease. Due to this natural disease, an infestation of BTA may decline after one or two years of relatively high populations.

Anyone who has a turfgrass insect problem, please feel free to give me a call at (401) 792-5998.

The Clippings



Calendar

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOST
August 17	CAGCS Family Day & Picnic	Cook's Park East Lyme, CT	CAGCS
September 22	CAGCS Monthly Meeting	Greenwich Country Club Greenwich, CT	Gregory Wojick, CGCS
October 6	CAGCS Scholarship & Research Tournament	Golf Club of Avon	James Medeiros, CGCS
October 19	CAGCS Monthly Meeting	Country Club of Torrington Torrington, CT	Edward Goodhouse
November 10	CAGCS Annual Meeting	Rock Ridge Country Club Newtown, CT	Robert Welch
December TBA	CAGCS Christmas Party	Old Lyme Country Club	CAGCS
January 23 - 31 1993	GCSAA Golf Championship -and- Conference & Show	Golf Championship San Diego, CA Conference & Show Anaheim, CA	GCSAA

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206 Delawanna Avenue
Clifton, NJ 07014
Byron Johnson, Jr.
H-(203) 748-5069/W-(201) 473-3393

Toelles Road Sand & Gravel Co.
29 Toelles Road
Wallingford, CT 06492
Hal Kraus - Bruce Imbt
(203) 284-8552

Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.
West Suffield, CT 06093
Penncross ~ Bluegrass ~ Fescue ~ Rye
Skip Deubel
(800) 243-7582

Turf Products Corporation
157 Moody Rd., P. O. Box 2576
Enfield, CT
John Ferry - Mark Loper
(203) 763-3581

Turf Specialty, Inc.
15 Londonderry Road, Suite 3
Londonderry, NH 03053-3388
Dave Schermerhorn
(603) 437-0008

Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.
P. O. Box 198
Lincolndale, NY 10540
Bob Lippman
(914) 248-7746

Winding Brook Turf Farm, Inc.
240 Griswold Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109
Donald Grant
W/(203) 529-6869 H/(203)225-9232