

CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

Volume 28, No. 2

June, 1994

President's Message

Peter R. Pierson
CAGCS President

As thoughts of the '93-'94 winter are fading and what it left at many of our golf courses, we should all be thankful that we have been spared the floods of the midwest, the earthquakes of the west coast, and the violent tornados and storms which raised havoc around the country within the past year.

I am very pleased to report to the membership that the financial condition of CAGCS is very good. We are presently at the membership level of which the 1994 budget was drafted. The *Connecticut Clippings* has received very strong advertising income for the current year, and the advertising support is running well ahead of the 1993 level.

The Connecticut Golf Summit held on March 26th was a strong success. Russ Palmer, Executive Director of CSGA, did a great job in organizing the event. It was a pleasure for me to work with the CSGA, the CT Section PGA, and the CT Managers Assoc. David Oatis from the USGA Green Section did a great job in presenting the "Ten Pitfalls of Golf Course

(continued on page 2)

The media and the game of golf

by Don Hearn, CGCS
Weston Golf Club
Weston, Massachusetts

Don Hearn, CGCS, is the golf course superintendent at the Weston Golf Club in Weston, MA. He is past president of the New England GCSA and GCSAA and has been a golf course superintendent for 25 years. He wrote this article which appeared in the January/February, 1994 edition of the "USGA Green Section RECORD" and, with his permission, we have reprinted his article.

Television viewing of golf events has reached huge proportions, with millions of people watching golf on TV each year. The U.S. Open Championship gained full coverage of all 18 holes of the final two rounds in 1977. Over 9.9 million people viewed the last half hour of the 1993 U.S. Open! Every major television network will carry some type of golf event this year. The American golfer watches televised golf in numbers greater than in all of history.

Golf on TV is covered by announcers with various backgrounds, from football player to sportswriter to professional golfer. Devout viewers receive

much of their education on the game from these announcers and, therefore, they (the announcers) have tremendous influence on the way many golfers think.

The game depends upon accurate interpretation of the Rules and precise definitions of terms. However, many announcers, playing the role of ringmaster, are carelessly using terminology that is confusing and inaccurate. A new generation of golfers, educated by TV, is emerging on the scene.

It seems the game of golf has taken on an air of almost "blood sport" proportions, the combatants being the players and the golf course! The judge and jury are the media -- particularly the television analysts and commentators. No longer does a player's ball roll across the green -- the ball "releases." Approach shots do not stop quickly -- they "check."

On a recent telecast, viewers were told the "greens aren't releasing." It's as if the green was an active participant playing the role of opponent! The announcer leads the viewer to believe

(continued on page 3)

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

Maintenance"... three times, mind you!

CAGCS has again renewed our blue sponsorship of the Cannon Greater Hartford Open. The sponsor badges, day coupons (exchanged for a day pass) and parking passes (2) will be available at the "Will Call" trailer at Millane Nursery in Cromwell. Millane Nursery Garden Center is located about a half mile south of the TPC at River Highlands entrance on Route 99. The sponsor badges and parking passes should be signed out and returned at the end of the day. Take advantage of this member benefit.

I don't want to get on a soap box, but I would like to have CAGCS members listen to a few words concerning PPUC - the Environmental Industry Council. PPUC is the only representation the Professional Pesticide Users of Connecticut have at the legislature. CAGCS is a charter member of PPUC and golf is a very strong financial contributor to the organization.

Just a few short years ago, PPUC and the Clean Water Coalition worked very hard to draft posting and prenotification guidelines for the pesticide

application industry. At every legislative session, someone wants to further restrict the ability of the professional applicator to perform their job.

Maintaining the presence of PPUC at the Connecticut Capitol is not inexpensive. Working with other disciplines (arborists, pest control operators, lawn care, etc.), PPUC can represent member organizations much more effectively than any organization could do by themselves.

PPUC needs the support of every golf course in Connecticut to help protect the golf course superintendent's ability to provide the best course conditions possible for their membership.

I would urge each and every superintendent to consider membership in PPUC. Enclosed with this newsletter is a membership application. If you need information about membership in PPUC, please contact me at work (583-2427) or home (635-5413).

Watch what you say?

In the course of your conversation each and every day,

Think twice, try to be careful of what you have to say;

Your remarks may be picked up by someone's listening ear,

You may be surprised at what some people think they hear.

Things that you innocently say, or try to portray,

Can be changed and greatly exaggerated along the way;

Many stories change for the worse as they are retold

So try to keep any questionable remarks "on hold".

May I give all of you some very sound advice?

When you speak of others, say something nice;

Try to say good things, regardless of who is around,

If you have nothing good to say, don't utter a sound.

You may find that an innocent remark, in the end,

May lose you a close and valued friend.

Henry Lesser

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Newsletter Committee

John F. Streeter, CGCS, Editor

The media and the game of golf

(continued from page 1)

the green chose not to cooperate with the golfer. Imagine that! One would not dare insinuate that perhaps the golfer did not hit it ... hard enough! The truth is, the player, not the green, is the source of the deficiency.

It is amazing how the laws of nature change during golf tournaments. For example: Winds don't blow -- they swirl. Balls don't roll one way or the other because of surface slope and gravity -- grain makes this happen. Greens don't become drier as the day goes by -- they become crusty. I've been a golf course superintendent for 25 years and I've never seen a crusty green. Firm, yes. Dry, yes. But crusty? Burnt toast is crusty.

I am sure commentators and other media people do their best to describe what takes place in a way that is interesting to viewers, listeners, and readers. The incorrect use of adjectives and other technical agronomic terms, however, is hardly profession.

There seems to be an almost sycophantic relationship between the media and the players. The announcers place great stock in the professional golfers' assessments of golf course conditions and events. Case in point: A very popular professional golfer stated he would not have played in the PGA Championship at Inverness if he had known the greens would be as slow as he thought they were. In his opinion, they were "too slow" for a major championship.

Some years ago, a famous golfer exclaimed he did not play in the Pleasant Valley Golf Classic in Sutton, MA, because the fairways, at the time, were Kentucky bluegrass, not bentgrass! (The fact is, there was almost no Kentucky bluegrass in the fairways, but lots of annual bluegrass -- the same grass that dominated the fairways at most other PGA Tour stops in the North! -- Editor).

The media accept these statements as

if the player has infallible knowledge and authority. As a result, the player feels a power to persuade the masses, and the focus by others becomes the golf course and the playing conditions. The axiom "play the ball as it lies" no longer is the theme of golf. Golfers have become catered-to athletes.

Grain on greens, particularly during the early part of the Tour schedule, is the number-one topic of announcers. Grain can cause golf balls to defy the laws of gravity! Grain, for the record, is the direction or arrangement of grass leaf blades, often forming a pattern. During the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, played on different courses in the Palm Springs area, viewers were frequently reminded that putts will break toward the close-by community of Indio. Viewers were also informed that the grain grows toward the setting sun, and therefore will affect the route of putts. Further, they were told putts will break away from the mountains. Now, if Indio is east of the tournament site, and the sun sets west of the same site, and the closest mountains are located south... which way will the putt break?

Surely the slope of the green has the most significant influence on the direction of the breaking putt, not the mystical forces emanating from the mountains, the sun, or downtown Indio! Golfers tell me that they are sure putts can break uphill because of grain even on triple-mowed tournament turf cut at 7/64 of an inch! I wonder where they got that idea?

Being critical of the media is easy, especially of those on television. Their job must be more difficult than it looks, and to be dragged over the coals for the slightest mistake must be frustrating. However, one of their missions is to provide insight and factual information to the viewer. The "isms" spoken with authority are well

(continued on page 4)



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The media and the game of golf

(continued from page 3)

Televised golf has made everyone stop and take notice of golf course conditions.

beyond my ability to understand their origins. One commentator stated, "The grain's moving left to right, toward the setting sun. He [the player] played quickly. The grain got him."

Does this mean if he had played more slowly the grain would not have gotten him? Or does it mean the grain prevented the putt from falling in the hole? Either way, it seems the grain, not the player, had the most influence upon the ball.

I've often wondered -- if the grain grows toward the setting sun, is there a period when it also grows toward the rising sun? And if it does, at what point in the day, or evening, does it reverse direction from growth toward the

setting sun to growth toward the rising sun?

How's this one: "You can't see it or feel it ... but it's there!" This was an analyst's observation on grain during a major Tour event. I wonder how this analyst would react if I told him the sidehill-downhill putt he was about to attempt really didn't break downhill on the sidehill. Rather, it broke uphill on the downhill because, though he couldn't see it or feel it, there was a mound on the sidehill that would cause his ball to break uphill. I'm sure my observation would be dismissed, if not my sanity questioned.

But, here is an analyst who can make an unfounded or inaccurate observation

and have those listening accept it as Gospel. This is especially true if they are professionals from the Tour.

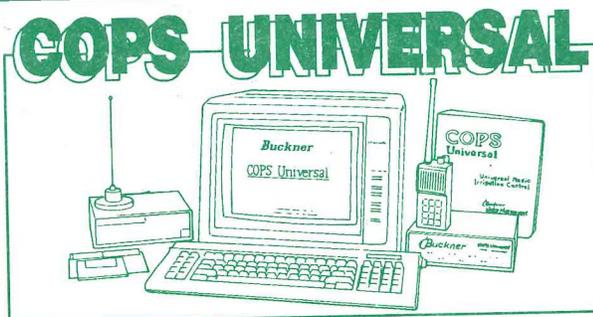
I've had golfers tell me what is said on TV must be true because professional golfers know such things. Many golfers assume, or believe, that professional golfers are well versed in agronomy. When I point out that this is not usually true, they're amazed. Some, I feel, don't readily accept this premise and probably never will.

But driving a car does not make you an automobile mechanic. Does it?

The most disconcerting aspect of the incorrect information supplied by some commentators and writers is the effect it has on golf course superintendents and their profession. Although a statement like "the grain took it" may seem innocuous, it is truly amazing how golfers can believe the reason a putt behaves strangely is because of the grain they heard about last weekend on TV. Of course, grain did not affect putts to the extent it now does until commentators used it as an excuse for missed putts.

The seemingly incessant harping about the grain, particularly on overseeded greens, has reached the point of being ridiculous. If bermudagrass is the "grain culprit" and is overseeded with cool-season grasses such as ryegrass, bentgrass, or *Poa trivialis*, the ball doesn't even contact the bermudagrass because the bermudagrass lies dormant under the overseeded grasses. The cool-season grasses are not grainy because they are seeded at high rates, grow very upright, and are cut very closely.

A suggestion to help remedy what I believe is a problem is to have commentators meet with golf course superintendents prior to air time. One well-known personality told me he walks the course early in the day to get a feel for what the player will experience. USGA and PGA Tour public relations people should be interested in making sure this time is available for their golf tournaments and championships. The USGA, and PGA Tour go to great lengths to expend untold resources to insure a top-quality golf course for their events. Superintendents prepare for months prior to the event only to listen to inaccurate remarks from media personnel. Better education is the key. The media need to get together with the USGA and Tour officials and involve the people who really know the most about golf course preparation and turfgrass -- the superintendents.



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.....

Congratulations

To John and Jane Gallagher on the birth of their son, Sean Thomas, on May 6th.

.....

Reservations for monthly meetings

All CAGCS members are asked to make their reservations for monthly meetings as timely as possible.

Please make note of the deadline date. If you are mailing your reservation on the deadline date, please call the CAGCS office (387-0810) and leave your reservation on the telephone answering machine.

1994 Green Books

It has come to our attention that some of the Green Books were not properly collated. If your Green Book is one of those and you would like a new one, please contact the CAGCS office (387-0810).

.....

Cruise in the works

The Social & Welfare Committee has tentatively planned a cruise with music for CAGCS members and friends for July 16th.

With this particular company, we will be the only party on the cruiser.

So, watch your mail for further details!

.....

The deadline date for the July issue of the *Clippings* has been extended to July 5th.



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Bruce Morse, Norwich Country Club, hosts April monthly meeting

With all of the snow and ice this past year, it took a brave soul to host our April meeting. However, Bruce never thought for a moment that it would be a problem, and Norwich was in excellent condition on April 14th.

The 60+ golfers enjoyed the kick-off of our season with a two-man scramble tournament format.

.....

Frank Lamphier, Aspetuck Valley Country Club, hosts first round of CAGCS Championship & Met team qualifying

The first round of the CAGCS Championship and Met Team qualifying round were held at the ever-challenging, well-conditioned layout at Aspetuck Valley. The final round is scheduled for June 14th at Crestbrook Park Golf Club.

The 1994 Met Area Team Championship will compete in October at a site yet to be determined.

First Round Scores

Low Gross

Mike Dukette - 76
Ward Weischet - 78
Mark Millet - 82

25 - 36 Flight
Dave Basconi - 70
Kevin Williams - 71
Scott Gennings - 74
Phil Neaton - 75

Low Net Winners

0 - 11 Flight
Fran Graziano - 69
Frank Lamphier - 70
Scott Niven - 75

12 - 24 Flight
Stephen Basile - 63
Lynn Engler - 67
Mike Wallace - 68
Shawn Donovan - 69

Gross Leaders for Met Team

Mike Dukette - 76
Ward Weischet - 78
Frank Lamphier - 79
Stephen Basile - 81
Scott Nivan - 83
Mike Miner - 85

Net Leaders for Met Team

Stephen Basile 63
Shawn Donovan - 69
Frank Lamphier - 70
Mike Miner - 70
Dale Wesselman - 71

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Prepare for OSHA inspections

Turf and ornamental businesses are subject to an unannounced inspection by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) due to a 1991 update of the OSHA Act of 1970.

Violations may result in citations and fines. The most common OSHA citations include:

- No written program present
- MSDS file not up-to-date
- No product inventory
- No written chemical hazard program

How prepared are you?

By reviewing three main areas, you can determine how well your business would fare in the event of a surprise

inspection.

Written programs should include this key information:

- Who you are and what you do
- Key work areas and their respective managers.
- Name of the person responsible for maintaining the list of chemicals and MSDS file.
- The person responsible for reviewing MSDSs and chemical lists.
- What training includes
- Who handles training.
- How new hazards are assessed.
- Protective and emergency equipment available.

Training programs should cover the following areas:

- Information on the Right-to-Know laws and your company's program.

• Basic information on the pesticides and their physical hazards.

- How to read an MSDS and pesticide label.
- Where MSDSs and the written program are kept.
- Where special hazards are located.
- Protective and emergency plans and procedures.

A third critical area to review is your facility. Take a few minutes to review several areas:

- Chemical inventory and storage location.
- Labels on all containers.
- Train employees in safe handling procedures.

Thank you to Bob Lippman of Westchester Turf Supply for providing this information.

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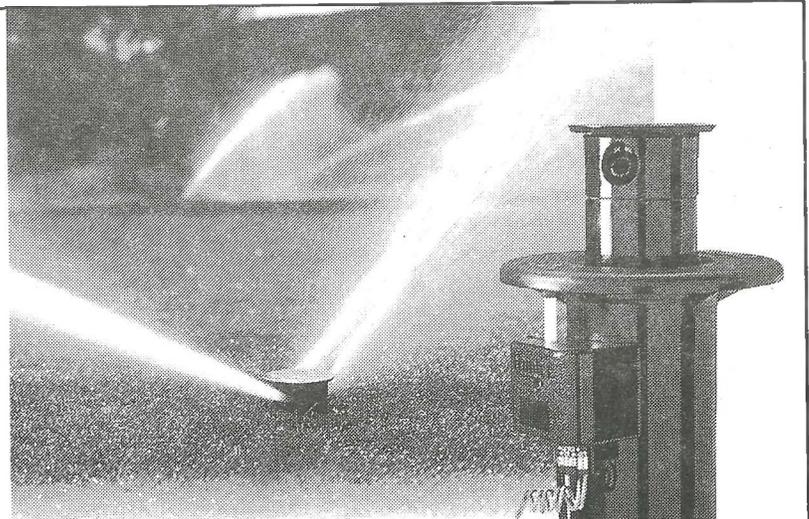
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Certification Renewal Requirements

"CGCS" signifies professional excellence. To maintain this level of excellence, Certified Golf Course Superintendents must keep abreast of the latest techniques and requirements in the rapidly changing world of golf course maintenance. Continual training and education is essential.

Certified Golf Course Superintendents must renew their certification every five years. To maintain certification, an individual must accumulate a minimum number of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) during their five year renewal period OR retake, and successfully complete, the certification examination.

CEUs can be obtained by participating in GCSAA sponsored educational events; participating in non-GCSAA sponsored educational events that have

been pre-approved and assigned CEUs by GCSAA and/or completing coursework offered by an accredited organization that utilizes validated CEUs or some other recognized unit of credit, i.e. college or university credit hours.

The GCSAA Certification Program is progressive. As a result, the renewal requirements have undergone several changes over time. An individual's recertification date determines which specific requirements are applicable to them. The varying recertification CEU requirements are outlined below:

Recertification Date

July 1, 1992 - June 30, 1994
 15 CEUs Required

- At a minimum, 3.0 CEUs from GCSAA

seminars and/or correspondence courses.

- 2 CEUs are available for attending a GCSAA National Conference. Up to 10 Conference CEUs can be submitted per renewal period.

July 1, 1994 - June 30, 1997
 15 CEUs Required

- At a minimum, 4.9 CEUs from GCSAA seminars and/or correspondence courses.
 - 2 CEUs are available for attending a GCSAA National Conference. Up to 8 Conference CEUs can be submitted per renewal period.
- (Individuals who must renew within this time frame may substitute the requirements for recertification after July 1, 1997)*

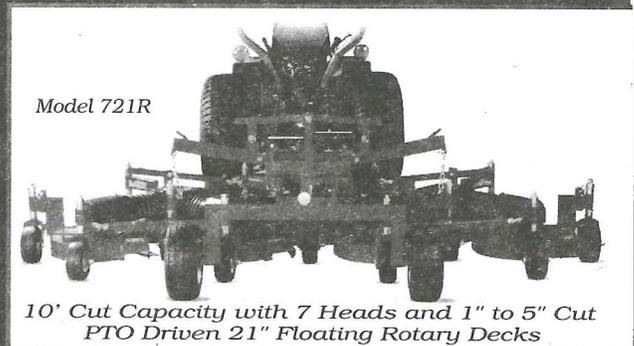
After July 1, 1997
 10 CEUs Required

- At a minimum, 7 CEUs from GCSAA seminars and/or correspondence courses.
- CEUs for attending GCSAA's National Conference are not applicable.

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Dallas ... some reflections

By Patrick Lucas, CGCS

In the midst of GCSAA's 65th Conference & Show, a theme about relationships was recurring. It began with the keynote address by Zig Ziglar as he stressed the solid connection between success at home and success on the job. Ziglar said, "How well you do at home affects how well you do on the

job." Goals, Ziglar said, are not just for the job. We must have goals for our family and personal life, such as being a better spouse or a better parent.

Scheduling both family and recreation time must be one of our goals; and it must be a priority in our scheduling, not just something we try to salvage with whatever time is left over from the job.

Ziglar then went on to talk about attitudes which affect our behaviors. He stressed that we are all "finders" of either negatives or positives in life, and encouraged us to become "good finders" instead of "fault finders". Part of being a "good finder" is having an attitude of gratitude, looking around and seeing the many things to be grateful for. And, the more we look, the more we find.

Midway through the conference, Dr. Donald Waterstreet directed an educational session entitled "Eliminating Self Defeating Behaviors". Speaking from first-hand experience, he stressed that difficulties and problems in life are "givens" and we all have to deal with them. However, it is not the difficulties themselves, but rather our reactions to them that cause a problem. The bottom line is that our disposition, not our circumstance, creates

the problem. No one can make you angry without your permission.

Since human behavior is a learned response, we can relearn and develop new and healthier responses to life circumstances.

Another example comes from society's message that we must be perfect. "Being a perfectionist is like living on a treadmill," Waterstreet said. "We can never be quite good enough."

Here again, we do have choices. We can choose to break out of old behaviors and take on new; find our own unique potential, and commit to developing healthier relationships with family, business associates, and most of all, with ourselves.

GCSAA's Annual Prayer Breakfast featured Agronomist Robert Brame, CGCS. His message again focused on relationships. "Why has life today become so complicated?" It is so because we are taught to focus on things which are really unimportant, even trivial. In our day and age, the unimportant has become important, and the important has become unimportant. The more we get wrapped up in ourselves, the more our lives become complicated and less satisfying.

Personally, I found these presentations an important part of the conference. Before I returned home, my lessons on relationships were not over. As I was flying back from Dallas, my wife, Michele, leaned over to share a quote by Lewis Carroll from a book she was reading: "One of the deep secrets of life is that all that is really worth doing is what we do for others."

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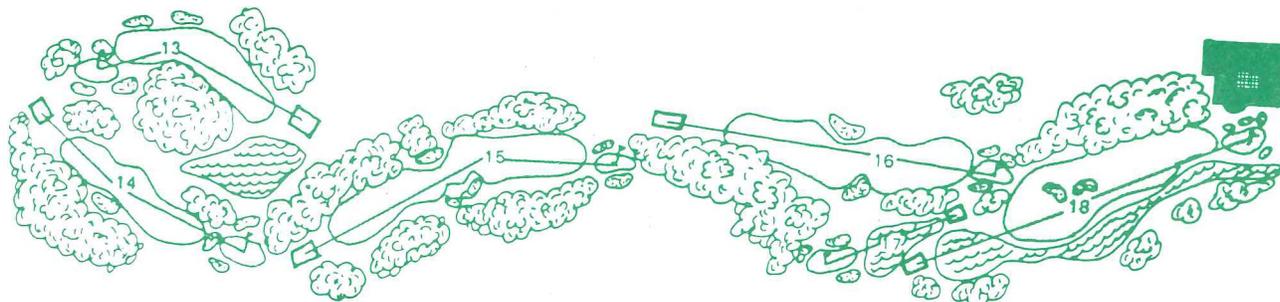
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The Clippings



Calendar

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOST
July 16 (Tentative)	Cruise	Watch for further details!	CAGCS
July 19	CAGCS Monthly Meeting	Woodbridge Country Club Woodbridge, CT	John F. Streeter, CGCS
August TBA	CAGCS Annual Picnic	To Be Announced	CAGCS
September 15	CAGCS Monthly Meeting	Pequabuck Golf Club Pequabuck, CT	Peter R. Pierson
October 4	CAGCS Annual S & R Tournament	Torrington Country Club Torrington, CT	Edward Goodhouse
October 11	CAGCS Monthly Meeting	Elmridge Country Club Pawcatuck, CT	Charles & Joseph Rustici
November 7	CAGCS Annual Meeting	Old Lyme Country Club Old Lyme, CT	Brian Skelly

CAGCS thanks these patrons for their continued support of our Association

A-OK Turf Equipment

Articulator Dealer
Coventry, RI 02816
Michael D. Comicelli
(401) 826-2584

Nor-Am Chemical Co.

3509 Silverside Road
Wilmington, DE 19803
David J. Sylvester
(203) 828-8905

Anderson Turf Irrigation, Inc.

5 Cronk Rd., P. O. Box 7036
Plainville, CT 06062
Jesse J. Anderson, Jr.
(203) 747-9911

Atlantic Irrig. Specialties/Supplies

70 Research Drive
Stamford, CT 06906
Tim Pogue
(800) 886-4774

B & P Turf Farm, Inc.

Windsor, CT 06095
Rollouts-Installations Services
Peter-Celina O'Meara
(203) 683-0158 ~ (800) 201-8873

Boston Irrigation Supply, Inc.

Dedham, MA 02026
Hunter Golf Rotors & Valves
John Ramey
(617) 461-1560

Bruedan Corp. of Connecticut

E-Z-GO & YAMAHA
GOLF, TURF & UTILITY VEHICLES
Scott O. Lowe ~ Frank Savakis
(800) 773-6740

Cadwell & Jones, Inc.

P. O. Box G, Buckland Station
Manchester, CT 06040
John Schuller (203) 643-0644
Al LaPrise (401) 438-5000

The Cardinals, Inc.

P. O. Box 520, 166 River Road
Unionville, CT 06085
John Callahan
(203) 673-3699

James Carriere & Sons, Inc.

7 Cottage St., Port Chester, NY
Trap Sand - Partac Topdressing
Bill Carriere
(914) 937-2136

D & S

Floratine Products, Nova Tee
Flymo, Douglas Rollers, Trion Lifts
Dave Basconi
(203) 250-TURF

Double Eagle

Turf Maintenance Equipment
Wallingford, CT 06492
Carl J. Wallace ~ John Paty
(203) 265-6006

Eastern Land Management, Inc.

Golf Course Construction/Renovation
Shelton, CT 06484
Bruce T. Moore, Sr.
(203)924-7272 & (800)926-GREEN

Egypt Farms, Inc.

Golf Green Topdressing
(800) 899-7645 (Soil)
The Terre Co. (201) 473-3393
Metro Milorganite (914) 666-3171

Glenmore Landscape Service

98 Hack Green Road
Pound Ridge, NY 10576
Glenn S. Moore
(914) 764-4348

Golf Cart Services, Inc.

275 Wells Street, P.O. Box 327
Greenfield, MA 01302
Jim Bernier
(413) 772-0955

Greenacres Company

Irrigation & Landscape Contractor
Redding, CT
Dave Pijnenburg
(203) 938-8618

GridTech

294 Valley Rd., Middletown, RI
Soil Improvement-Canadian Geese Control
Charlie Baskin
(401) 849-7920 FAX (401) 849-7937

The Chas. C. Hart Seed Co.

Wethersfield, CT 06129-0169
Roy Sibley ~ Roger Barrett
Ron Holcomb ~ Jim Harris
(203) 529-2537 & (800) 326-HART

Imperial Nurseries, Inc.

713 Pigeon Hill Road
Windsor, CT 06095
Steve Fawber
(800) 950-6054

Lesco, Inc.

20005 Lake Road
Rocky River, OH 44116
Mike Donahue
(800) 321-5325 FAX (800) 673-3030

Lofts Seed Company

68 White Cedar Drive
Madison, CT 06443
Paul Bednarczyk
(203) 421-4641 & (800) 526-3890

Metro Milorganite, Inc.

365 Adams Street
Bedford Hills, NY 10507
Joe Stahl ~ Scott Appar
(914) 666-3171 or (203) 321-0678

R. F. Morse & Son, Inc.

West Wareham, MA 02576
ParEx - KPower - Vertidrain
William D. Raus
(508) 295-1553

Partac Golf Course Top-Dressing

Great Meadows, NJ 07838
(800) 247-2326 (908) 637-4191
Bill Carriere (914) 937-2136
Joe Bidwell (203) 651-8555

Pro-Lawn Products, Inc.

102 Conklin Road
Stafford Springs, CT 06076
Mike Dukette
(203) 684-6242

Sawtelle Brothers, Inc.

Lawrence, MA 01843
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Peter Moran & James Rock
(800) 999-TURF

The Scotts Company

14111 Scottslawn Road
Marysville, OH 43041
Steve DiVito
(203) 723-5190

Shawnmark Industries, Inc.

Specialty Products & Service
Warwick, RI 02888
Matt Howland (24 hours a day)
(401) 295-1673

Terre Company of NJ, Inc.

206 Delawanna Ave., P. O. Box 1000
Clifton, NJ 07014
Byron Johnson, Jr.
(203) 748-5069

Toelles Road Sand & Gravel Co.

Wallingford, CT 06492
Golf Course Sands & Topdressing
Hal Kraus
(203) 561-2442

Turf Products Corporation

157 Moody Rd., P. O. Box 1200
Enfield, CT 06082
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) 248-7476 FAX (914) 248-6862

White Contractors

Golf Course Construction & Renovation
Old Greenwich, CT 06870
James E. Morris, Jr.
(203) 869-8808

Winding Brook Turf Farm, Inc.

240 Griswold Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109
Donald Grant
(203) 529-6869 & (800) 243-0232