

CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

Volume 29, No. 1

February, 1995

President's Message

Peter R. Pierson
CAGCS President

Happy new year to all members of CAGCS. This year has arrived with little or no snow, above normal temperatures and many golfers thinking that New England is a 12-month golf climate. During mild periods of the winter months, golf turf can have both long and short term detrimental effects from golfer traffic. Let's hope that reasonable thinking can prevail at this time of the year so golf turf does not start out "behind schedule" when Spring arrives in early April.

CAGCS held a very successful Winter Seminar on January 10th. The weather was in direct opposite from 1994 when we had to contend with snow and ice. Mike Wallace, CGCS, our 1994 Education Chairperson, and Will Heintz, Met GCSA Education Chairperson, put together a great program. All CAGCS members can be very proud of the job Mike has done for many years as a CAGCS officer and director. CAGCS is enthusiastically supporting Mike's candidacy for Director of GCSAA. The election will be held at the 1995 GCSAA Con-

(continued on page 3)

1994 Superintendent of the Year

Steve Rackliffe, CGCS

By Jeffrey F. Rogers

The Superintendent of the Year Award, bestowed on the recipient by his peers, has become the most coveted award of our association. This year, I received a 72% return, which is a good response. Twenty-eight superintendents received votes in this year's balloting. This year's recipient won by a large margin.

This year's award winner received an Associate in Science Turf Management degree in 1977. He also received a Bachelor of Science in Plant and Soil Sciences in 1980. He finalized his formal education in 1982 when he received his Master of Science degree. All of his degrees are from the University of Massachusetts.

He started his career working on the crew at Shuttle Meadow CC under Bob Silva and thereafter, as assistant super-

intendent at Tumble Brook Country Club in Bloomfield, CT. In 1982, he accepted the superintendent position at the Willimantic Country Club. After 12 years, he is still going strong.

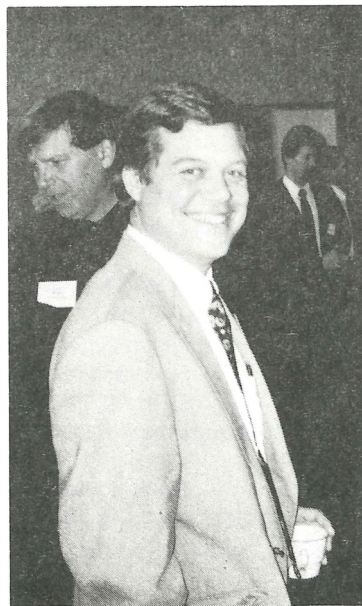
He has been an active member of CAGCS since 1978 and has served on the Board of Directors as Membership Chairperson, Secretary, Vice President, and served our association as President in 1992.

Steve has also overseen the tedious job of our last two CAGCS surveys.

This year's recipient, Steve Rackliffe, CGCS, has been devoted to the betterment of the associa-

tion and the profession.

He is the true meaning of the word "leader".



IF YOU WERE A TREE....

WHO WOULD YOU TRUST?

Over 75 Years of Excellence in Tree Care

Golf Course Programs Better than **PAR**

**OUR GOAL IS TO PRESERVE
YOUR TREES!**



Norwalk - 847-1855
Westport - 222-5595

Greenwich - 661-8014
Darien - 655-8008

A note of thanks

by Steve Rackliffe, CGCS

I would like to take this opportunity to tell the membership of CAGCS how honored I feel to have been chosen as this year's recipient of the Superintendent of the Year Award. When my name was announced at this year's January seminar, I was shocked and at a loss for words when I stood behind the podium and addressed the membership. I have since had time to reflect.

When I was a student at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, CAGCS awarded me a scholarship. After Stockbridge, I decided to continue my education at the University of Massachusetts working on my Masters Degree. Once again, superintendents organizations around the Northeast supported Dr. Joe Troll's turf-grass conference and research projects. It was support like this that helped me (as well as others) and afforded me the opportunity to continue my education.

I always felt I wanted to give something back to CAGCS which gave so much to me. I tried giving back by serving on committees and holding various offices of our association so I could help our organization grow. A funny thing happened, while I thought I was giving, I was still receiving. I was meeting people and colleagues and have become great friends and confidants.

This past January 10th, I received once again. To be presented this awarded from CAGCS, by one of my best friends -- my brother, Dan -- is something I will always treasure. I am truly honored.

Sincerely,
Steve

C A G C S Board of Directors

President & PPUC Rep.
PETER R. PIERSON
Pequabuck Golf Club

Vice President
PHILIP NEATON
Black Hall Club

Secretary
JOHN NAPIERACZ, CGCS
Stanley Golf Course

Treasurer
HEATHER L. GARVIN
Canton Golf Course

Immediate Past President
JOHN F. STREETER, CGCS
Woodbridge Country Club

Education
BRIAN SKELLY
Old Lyme Country Club

Golf Co-Chairpersons
ANTHONY GROSSO
Pautipaug Country Club
~and~

JOHN MOTYCKA
Skungamaug River Golf Club

Membership
SCOTT D. GENNINGS, CGCS
Wallingford Country Club

Public Relations
GREG STENT
Wampanoag Country Club

S & R
JEFFREY F. ROGERS
Robert Baker Companies

Social & Welfare
JUD W. SMITH
Orange Hills Country Club

Commercial Rep. to Board
JEFFREY F. ROGERS
Robert Baker Companies

CAGCS Office
P. O. Box 3678
Woodbridge, CT 06525
Telephone & Fax Nos.
(203) 387-0810

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

Newsletter Editor
John F. Streeter, CGCS

Committee
Anthony Grosso
Pautipaug Country Club
~and~
Thomas Watroba
Suffield Country Club

Photos
David Basconi

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

vention in San Francisco.

CAGCS, along with other local chapters, is going to host a hospitality room at the San Francisco Marriott, Headquarters hotel, on Friday, February 24th, and all CAGCS members are urged to participate.

Congratulations to Steve Rackliffe, CGCS, from the Board of Directors and the entire membership as the 12th recipient of the Superintendent of the Year Award.

The Board of Directors has elected Frank Lamphier, Aspetuck Valley Country Club, our CAGCS Team Captain. Frank has long been playing in both GCSAA and CAGCS competitions, and the GCSAA Net Team trophy is given annually in his honor. Frank will determine the CAGCS members representing our association in the GCSAA team competition at the 1995 tournament. He will also assist the Golf Committee in selecting and recruiting for other CAGCS competitions.

CAGCS again hosted a GCSAA seminar on January 19 & 20, 1995 at the Raddison Hotel in Cromwell. The hot topic, *Golf Course Restoration, Renovation & Construction Projects* sold out in early December. The Board of Directors is committed to bringing GCSAA educational seminars to Connecticut on a regular basis. We would like to see as many CAGCS members take advantage of these offerings in our home state. We have already requested a GCSAA seminar for January, 1996 and

should be hearing soon what topic has been selected and which dates are reserved.

I would like to thank our Executive Secretary, Pauline Streeter, for serving as our seminar monitor. This is a new idea offered by GCSAA to hosting chapters, in lieu of them sending a representative. With CAGCS monitoring the seminar, GCSAA will donate the sum of \$600 to our Scholarship & Research Fund. This is the approximate amount it would have cost GCSAA if they had in fact sent a monitor.

I would like all members to join with the Board of Directors and keep up your support of our association. The Board needs the help of the membership to make our association stronger.

It is not too soon to think about offering your club for a meeting site for 1996. We are finding that clubs are putting club calendars together earlier and earlier every year. So, if you are interested in hosting a meeting, contact the association office or Brian Skelly, our Education Chairperson, or any member of the Board.

Spring will be here before we know it, and the members of CAGCS will be hard at work preparing their courses for the 1995 golfing season. Good luck to everyone!

Digging divots and making (but repairing) ball marks, I remain

Peter Pierson,
President, CAGCS

Consistently High Quality Competitive Prices Prompt Delivery

CONNECTICUT MULCH DISTRIBUTORS, INC.

KEN LINDELAND

WOOD CHIPS - BARK - LANDSCAPE TIES

Business Address	Mailing Address	Telephone
1300 East St.	1515 North Stone St.	(203) 623-2987
Suffield, CT. 06078	W. Suffield, CT. 06093	Fax 292-1047

METRO MILORGANITE, INC.
For a HEALTHY ADVANTAGE over SEASONAL PROBLEMS WE OFFER a WINNING LINE UP:

Country Club

LEBANON

- FERTILIZERS
- TOP DRESSINGS
- BIOSTIMULANTS
- SEED
- PESTICIDES
- GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES

Rick Appgar Scott Appgar Joe Stahl

Metro Milorganite Inc.
DEPEND ON US FOR FOUR SEASON SOLUTIONS
(914) 666-3171 Fax (914) 666-9183
365 Adams Street, Bedford Hills, NY 10507

TUCKAHOE TURF

(800) 243-7582

CHOICE OF BENTGRASSES
- Maintained at 5/32" and 1/4" -
Penncross • Providence • Pennlinks
3-Way Fairway Blend

Pallets or Big Rolls
Washing Service Available

High Fine Fescue Mix
Versatile Blue-Fescue-Rye Mix
Low-Cut Blue-Rye Available
Farm Inspection Welcomed

Ice Alert

While we have enjoyed one of the mildest winters in many years, I am sure we are yet to experience our fair share of snow, ice and cold weather.

The following article published in the USGA Green Section Northeast News in March, 1994, and written by David A. Oatis, Director, and James E. Skorulski, Agronomist, may prove to benefit all of us before the winter is over. They have given us permission to reprint their article.

What does the ice do? Will grass be lost? How long does ice have to be on the turf to cause damage? Should it be removed? These are common questions.

The concern is well warranted, as damage from ice is a regular occurrence in more northerly portions of the Northeastern Region. Although not common, ice has been known to cause significant damage further south. As a review, let's examine what is believed to occur under ice, practices which can

help reduce injury, and steps which can be taken to initiate recovery. Above all else, golfers should be apprised of the situation and warned that winter damage is a possibility.

Ice injury is a very complex issue that is not fully understood. There are two theories about how damage occurs.

The first hypothesizes that a solid ice cover prevents gas exchange around the plants. Toxic concentrations of gases then may accumulate to damage the turf. Cyanide gas was found damaging turf under ice conditions in a Canadian study. This information has led to the recommendation to remove ice if it has been in place for 50-60 consecutive days. Creeping and velvet bentgrass are thought to persist for even longer time periods under solid ice covers.

The second type of injury, which seems to be more common, involves plant hydration followed by a rapid drop in temperature. The water within the hydrated plant freezes and expands, causing damage to the cell walls. This

form of injury is called crown hydration injury and is thought to be responsible for much of the Poa annua damage occurring in Northern New York State, the New England states and Canada. Dr. John Roberts from the University of New Hampshire has completed some very good field work and is well versed in this type of injury. His article in Golf Course Management, October 1993, explains and describes the injury and is recommended reading.

Poa annua and perennial ryegrass are both highly susceptible to damage from ice cover. It is thought that crown hydration injury can also damage creeping bentgrass if hydration occurs and the temperature falls drastically, but this is not common. Turf which is not completely hardened-off or which has begun to break dormancy is also more susceptible. Often, a continuous ice cover alone is not the primary concern. It is the events which lead to the ice cover or conditions during periods of thaw that determine the turf's fate.

(Continued on page 8)

24 hrs.,
7 days



The Cardinals

"Serving All Your Maintenance Needs
with Personalized Service"

- Specializing in Custom Orders
- Traveling Showroom for Easy Ordering
- Custom Blend Grass Seed & Fertilizer
- Full line of Pesticides
- Tee & Green Accessories
- First Aid & Safety Supplies



John E. Callahan,
President

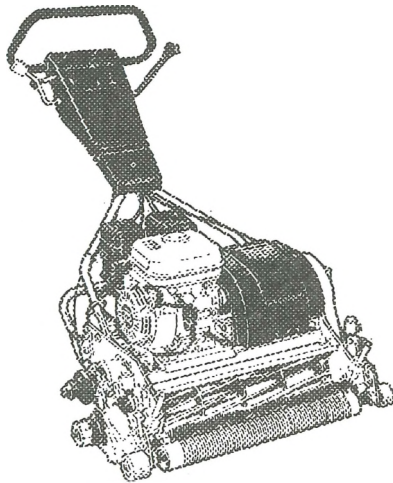
166 River Road ♦ Unionville, CT 06085 ♦ 203-673-3699 ♦ Fax: 203-673-8443

SAWTELLE BROTHERS, INC.

65 GLENN ST., LAWRENCE, MA 01843 - 21 EAST DUDLEY TOWN RD., BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002
1-800-999-TURF

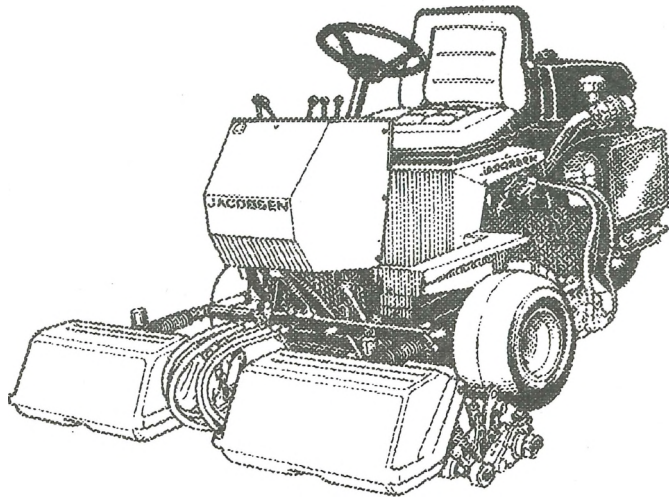
FOR A DEMONSTRATION OF ONE OF THESE FINE GREENS MOWERS CALL 1-800-999-TURF

JACOBSEN GREENS KING 422 WALK-BEHIND GREENS MOWER



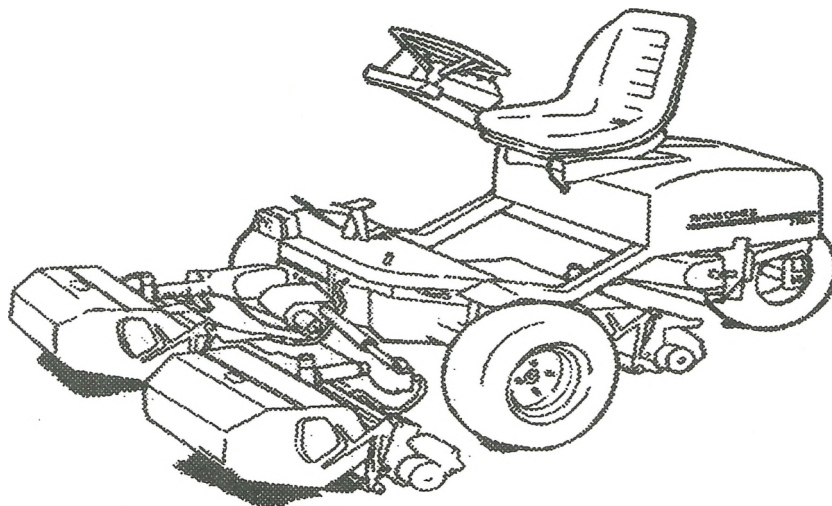
The Greens King 422 gives your greens their finest cut ever. It's durable, low maintenance design and unsurpassed operator comfort make the Greens King 422 the best greens mower for your course.

JACOBSEN GREENS KING IV TRIPLEX GREENS MOWER



The Greens King IV's exclusive design sets the industry standard for precision mowing. The 9-blade reels are mounted in cutting units with free floating articulation to follow ground contours. The cutting unit's patented steering action prevents marking or scuffing of turf during turns. Cutting heights are adjustable from 5/64 to 9/16 inch.

RANSOMES E-PLEX ALL - ELECTRIC GREENS MOWER



The E-Plex is the turf industry's only electric greens mower, featuring quiet and pollution free operation, exceptional quality of cut, no hydraulic fluid, large capacity quick-mount grass catchers, ability to control clip rate by ground speed, excellent hill-climbing capabilities, large tires for low ground pressure. A powerful 48-volt electric motor gives the operator a mowing capacity of 9 to 18 greens, depending upon application and terrain.

SERVICING NEW ENGLAND WITH FINE TURF MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT SINCE 1932

Around the Association



Tri State Research Foundation

By now, all of our Class A and C members should have received the first edition of the Tri State Research Foundation newsletter, *Foundation News*. Along with the newsletter is a request for a \$150 contribution to help support our Tri State efforts.

We urge all of you to find \$150 somewhere in that big budget and forward it to this worthy cause.

Anyone seeking more information on the Foundation is urged to call John F. Streeter, CGCS, or Peter Pierson, Tri State reps. from CT.

Included with this issue is a survey from Dr. Noel Jackson. He has just received a \$60,000 grant from the Tri State for research work. This survey is very important in helping him find results. We urge all of you to please fill it out and return it to Dr. Jackson as soon as possible.

Hospitality suite in San Francisco

The CT Association will co-host, along with the Met, NJ, Mid-Atlantic, RI, and Hudson Valley Associations, another hospitality suite at this year's annual GCSAA convention.

The suite will be held at the San Francisco Marriott on Friday, February 24th, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Golden Gate Room. Any member wishing to attend must present either the invitation or your 1995 CAGCS membership card.

Invitations can be obtained at the convention by seeing John Streeter, Tom Watroba, Peter Pierson, or Mike Wallace.

Mass Turf Conference

The annual Mass Turf Conference and Industrial Show will again be held at the Civi Center in Springfield, MA, on March 6th, 7th and 8th. You must register to be admitted to either the educational program or the Industrial show.

For more information contact Lonnie Troll, Executive Secretary, at 413/549-5295.

Welcome New Members

Ed Ball - Class C
Champion Athletic Turf

William Blount - Class B
H. B. Brownson Country Club

Christopher Cowan - Class C
Agriturf, Inc.

Thomas DeGrandi - Class B
TPC of River Highlands

Thomas DeVaux - Class B
Race Brook Country Club

John Dyckman - Class C
Alpine, the Care of Trees, Inc.

James Goodrich - Class C
Millane Nurseries

Richard Negralle - Class B
Clinton Country Club

Anthony Ranaldi - Class B
Hop Meadow Country Club

Andrew Streeter - Class B
Woodbridge Country Club

Kristian Waagen - Class B
The Patterson Club

'Par for the Course' moves to ESPN.

"Par for the course", GCSAA's national cable television program, moved to ESPN beginning January 1, 1995. The 1995 schedule includes 19 Sunday dates and 11 Thursday/Friday dates.

GCSAA will also produce a series of short feature segments that will appear during PGA Tour and Senior PGA Tour events on ESPN. These segments will highlight issues and trends in golf course management in an entertaining way.

So, pass the word and tune in!

WHITE CONTRACTORS GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATION

Thomas A. White
James E. Morris, jr.

203-869-8808
914-234-0092

P.O. Box 484
Old Greenwich, CT
06870-0484

From the editor

John F. Streeter, CGCS

This is the continuing saga of the Softspike issue. For those of you who read the November, 1994, issue of the *Clippings*, you would have realized that, as Editor, I was looking for some input on this subject from some of our readers.

As I indicated, I would like to begin a *superintendents' forum* which would be published in each issue of the *Clippings*.

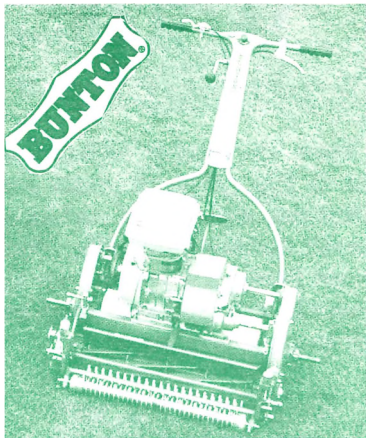
The first subject I wish to address is the subject on Softspikes. I am sure, by now, most of you must have read some information somewhere about these new turf-saving spikes. I, personally, believe that this subject will not die.

At the time of this writing, there happens to be a few more companies getting into the game of manufacturing

softspikes. Foot Joy and Etonic, two of the biggest manufacturers of golf shoes, have now signed an exclusive contract with the softspike people to make these spikes available on their golf shoes.

So, as you see, if you have been doing some reading this winter, everybody is starting to get into the game. I was a little displeased that no one communicated any thoughts, whether positive or negative, on this subject.

Learning from each other is one of the most important educational tools that we, as superintendents, have available to us. The *superintendents' forum* is an excellent place for us to share some of our ideas and experiences, whether good or bad. This softspike issue is one that I thought would spur
(continued on page 10)



Powered rotary brush and thatcher attachments for grain control and healthy turf, non-floating head design for true cutting heights, and dual powered drive rollers for straight cuts make this unit the premier walk-behind greensmower.

WESCO FORD TRACTORS
27 Broad Street
Norwalk, Conn. 06851
203-847-2496

January Seminar

The CAGCS annual Winter Seminar was held on January 10th at the Ramda Inn in Cromwell, CT. We had 120 in attendance. Mike Wallace, 1994 Education Chairman, put together a most interesting slate of speakers for this

year's seminar.

This year's program was accredited for recertification credits for CT Pesticide license holders and also by GCSAA for certified superintendents.

Dr. Bruce Clark from Rutgers updated us with his summer patch research. Mr. Edward Connors, III from Golf forms gave an interesting review on construction and renovation on golf courses with using computers.

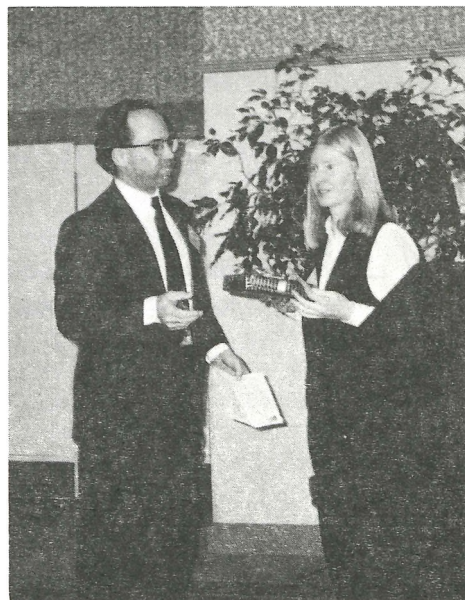
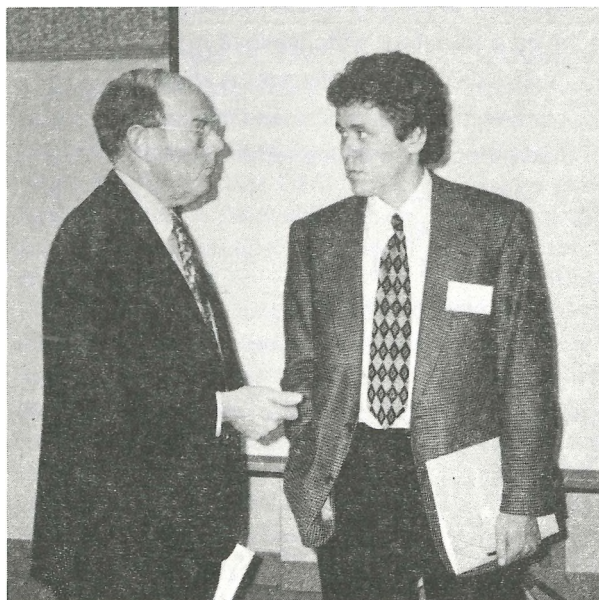
Also on the agenda was Cheryl Craft from Cornell University, (pictured below right with Scott Ramsay, our afternoon session chairperson) reviewing the advances of biological control of turfgrass diseases.

Mr. Ron Smith from Sports Club Management

presented a very informative presentation concerning OSHA and Right to Know Act.

(Pictured below left are Peter Pierson, Pequabuck Golf Club, and his assistant, Bob Douglas.)

Presentation of the Superintendent of the Year Award to Steve Rackliffe highlighted the day.



Ice Alert

(continued from page 4)

Who should be concerned?

Those who maintain high populations of *Poa annua* on greens are at highest risk, especially if surface and internal drainage are poor. Poorly drained fairways and tees with high populations of *Poa annua* or perennial ryegrass are also at risk.

Should existing snow and ice be removed?

This a difficult call. Removing ice which directly covers the turf for 50-60 days is recommended. Snow and ice removal is also a good idea in late winter as the spring thaw nears.

The snow can be removed from the frozen greens with a snow blower or plow and the ice layer exposed, but do not pile the snow where it will interfere with natural surface drainage from

the green. Mechanically removing the ice with the aid of a conventional aerifier (equipped with solid tines), Verti-Drain machine or Aerway machine might also be effective. Bob Vavrek, Agronomist from the Great Lakes Region, described a successful ice removal program using the Cushman GA-30 machine. The key to success is to remove the ice in small increments of .5" so as not to damage the equipment. This type of removal is actually more successful when the ice is very cold and thus more brittle.

Darkening agents such as Milorga-nite or charcoal can also be used to accelerate melting and ease removal during periods of sun and warm temperatures. However, care must be taken to remove the water which results from the melting process, especially where surface drainage is poor.

The water, if allowed to puddle on

the surface, will be absorbed by the plants, leaving them more susceptible to damage should the temperatures drop again. Small trenches can be installed to facilitate water movement from the low-lying areas to prevent the hydration. An old chain saw or an asphalt saw is an effective tool for this purpose.

Has my turf already suffered damage?

Removing existing ice is no guarantee that damage has not already occurred. The turf may appear green and healthy after the snow and ice are removed and the damage may not become apparent until growing weather arrives. Hence, it is a good idea to remove a plug from a green which has been ice covered and bring it inside to resume growth. This should provide a fairly good indication of whether injury has occurred up to this point.

(continued on page 9)

Tee & Green & In Between

Whether your challenge is a deadline, a tee, a green, a fairway, a rough, or a bunker surround, we have a blend that fits your needs.

We understand the variety of problems you face because we have spent a great deal of time listening to golf course superintendents. As a result, Tee & Green Sod offers the most complete product line



**TEE &
GREEN SOD**
— INCORPORATED —

available to the golf course industry—
even a four-foot wide washed roll!

Give us a call for information about our selection of products, and our unique harvesting and washing techniques.

- Bentgrass
- Bluegrass
- Washed sod
- Bluegrass-Ryegrass
- Bluegrass-Fine Fescue

401/789-8177 • 401/789-3895 (fax) • PO Box 418, Exeter, RI 02822

Ice Alert

(continued from page 8)

If damage is evident, or you are concerned about potential damage, then it is a good idea to make the Green Committee and members fully aware of what might occur in Spring. Obtain as much information as possible concerning ice related injury and discuss the recovery programs and the corresponding downtime which may be required. It is best to avoid surprises, especially when they may involve the use of temporary greens and regrassing operations. It is also a good idea to update lists of seed and sod suppliers as products may be in high demand if widespread damage occurs. Finally, it is recommended to review the article "Promoting Recovery from Winter Injury" Green Section Record, January 1979, as it provides an excellent review of recovery procedures. Injury from ice is a very complex problem, with many variables that are not yet completely understood. Some covering techniques seem to be effective for areas which suffer ice damage on a regular basis. Promoting bentgrass, improving surface and internal drainage, eliminating shade conditions and hardening the turf off properly in

the fall will all help reduce the probability of ice related injury. Taking steps to prevent prolonged ice cover and plant hydration will also better your chances. Unfortunately, damage is difficult to predict and can occur even when every precaution is taken. The following steps might be considered at this time to reduce potential injury. They include:

- Remove large snow accumulations to within 2 - 3" of the surface. This will prevent excessive water accumulations which could hydrate the plant and lead to ice damage. This is especially appropriate immediately before a warming trend.
- Solid ice layers in place for more than 60 days should also be removed either mechanically or with the use of a darkening agent.
- Pull a plug from an ice covered green and bring it inside to check for mortality.
- Make your green chairman and committee fully aware of the potential for injury and make early preparations for a recovery program.

Tips from the USGA

December 31, 1999 - A 21st Century Fairy Tale

by Paul Vermeulen, USGA Agronomist

Today, December 31, 1999, I am reminded of some significant achievements of the last 100 years. The invention of the reel mower in the early 1900s, the discovery of 2,4-D by Fanny F. Davis in the mid 1940s, and, of course, the banning of steel spikes in the late 1990s.

While some achievements were readily embraced because their value was tangible to superintendents across the country, the banning of steel spikes was an exception. It started as a small idea and slowly grabbed the American golfer's attention. In the early 1980s William "Bill" Bengueyfield, Chairman of the USGA's Turfgrass Research Committee, contacted the office of Dr.

Gibeault at the University of California, Riverside. Under Dr. Gibeault's guidance, an indepth study of the effects of various golf shoes on putting greens was conducted.

The results of the golf shoe study were irrefutable. Golf shoes equipped with steel spikes literally cut the turf apart and compacted the soil. Furthermore, they "significantly" disrupt putting quality. Based on these results, how could the American golfer fail to immediately embrace spikeless golf shoes?

When the shoe study was conducted, it was done with shoes designed with spikeless soles. Two problems arose. First, the spikeless-sole designs wore

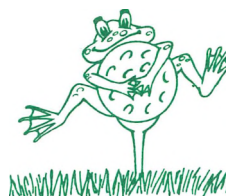
quickly, and were both difficult and expensive to replace.

Second, many golfers without a clear definition of a spikeless golf shoe were inadvertently sold athletic shoes for Astroturf sport fields. Unlike spikeless golf shoes that did little or no damage to putting greens, the Astroturf athletic shoes did unbelievable damage. As a consequence of this later problem, platoon discipline was evoked. All shoes except traditional steel spiked golf shoes, were banned on most golf courses.

From the nationwide ban of spikeless shoes in the early 1980s, the results of Dr. Gibeault's study were almost forgotten. In 1991, however, an ingenious inventor, whose name is not easily remembered, developed a soft, rubber spike. This spike could be used to retrofit all brands of steel spiked golf shoes. Unfortunately, it still took three years before this invention, known today as Softspike, gave new life to the game of golf.

In 1994, the idea of banning steel

PARTAC® GOLF COURSE TOP-DRESSING



AMERICA'S PREMIUM
HEAT TREATED
TOP-DRESSINGS

TYPAR®
GEOTEXTILES & TURF BLANKETS

U.S. GOLF HOLE
TARGETS™
AND MUCH MORE!

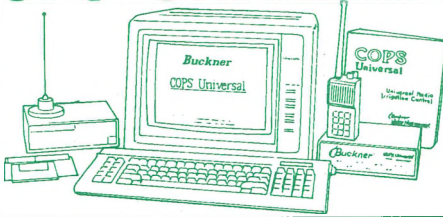
800-247-2326

DISTRIBUTED IN CT BY:
JAMES CARRIERE & SONS

914-937-2136
VALLEY FARMS SUPPLY
203-651-8555

(continued on page 10)

COPS UNIVERSAL



Gain central control of any existing controllers, regardless of make or manufacturer.

Each COPS-Universal radio field unit has up to 42 stations per field unit. Ideal for retro-fitting parks, median strips, school grounds, and golf courses. COPS-Universal lets you change any field controller into a field satellite and manage your entire system from a central PC. COPS-Universal offers:

- Communication by repeating or direct radio. (No new controllers or communication wire.)
- Unlimited programs, unlimited start and run times to meet all your water management needs.
- Freedom to use valves as you choose, regardless of hard-wiring constraints.

For a personal demonstration, contact: Art deAtienza or J. Anderson

Main Office: 243 Woodmont Road • P.O. Box 3049 • Milford CT 06460 • (203) 878-0658



P.I.E. SUPPLY CO.
PIPE & IRRIGATION
EQUIPMENT SUPPLY COMPANY



From the Editor

(continued from page 7)

some interest. As it has not to this date, I would like to include my experiences, along with a experiences from a few of my fellow colleagues who I have solicited, concerning the promotion of softspikes at our respective clubs.

My good friend and colleague, Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS, superintendent at Oak Lane Country Club, wore the softspikes while playing at Hilton Head this past November. "I totally forgot that I had them on my shoes until I was walking on a cart path and couldn't hear that familiar clicking noise" says Les. Thereafter he surprised me with a full set of softspikes for Christmas.

At my club, after attending a Green Committee meeting and subsequently a Board meeting, I have already begun my campaign on the softspike issue. My approach contained aspects that I knew would be related to my particular circumstances -- No. 1 - Being Woodbridge Country Club, built before WWII, has greens that are very small in size. The architect had in mind at that time of supporting somewhere around 4,000 to 5,000 rounds per year. As you all know, golf has increased dramatically in the last 15 to 20 years.

(continued next page)

A 21st Century Fairy Tale

(continued from page 9)

spikes started grabbing hold. At the time, I remember being called an idealist for wearing Softspikes during my travels and encouraging their use. I was told over and over by superintendents, golf professionals, and club managers, that until PGA Tour players took off their steel spikes, the American golfer would never take note.

They were right. It was not until Muirfield Village Golf Course in Ohio, home of Jack Nicklaus, instituted a steel spike ban that the tide started turning. The ban at Muirfield Village finally got the American golfer's attention. When golfers from Ohio returned to their winter retreats in the sunny Southwest, they brought with them "a new invention" for eliminating spike marks on greens. From Ohio and then the Southwest, the use of Softspikes gradually spread across the entire United States.

Unbelievably, it was not until this year, when the United States Open returned to Pebble Beach Golf Links, that a major championship was hosted under a steel spike ban to preserve putting quality. It is hard to even imagine that major tournaments before 1999 could be won by a player whose putt was deflected into the hole by a spike mark left by a competitor.

(Please note that the USGA does not officially endorse the sale of products by for-profit organizations. This agronomist, however, is an idealist who, as a golfer, is disgusted with greens that are torn apart by the time he gets to the course after work.)



WHITE MARSH, MD.

1-800-899-SOIL (7645)
FAX (301) 335-0164

Sterilized Top Dressing

Our top dressing is formulated especially for your area to specifications recommended by leading universities and testing laboratories.

EXCLUSIVE! All materials are thoroughly mixed and sterilized by indirect heat in our special process. The sand particles are actually coated with a mixture of top soil and peat humus for a completely homogenous mixture that will not separate during handling and spreading.

Computerized blending of soil mixtures for a superior growing medium.

Green and tee construction materials and mixes conforming to specifications are available.

Custom on-site soil blending and testing with a portable computerized blender to meet your specifications are available.

"What better way to cut down on the wear and tear of greens than to ban those metal spikes. It makes sense, doesn't it?"

John F. Streeter, CGCS
Woodbridge Country Club

Most of us who have small greens are now receiving two to three times the traffic than they were originally designed for.

What better way to cut down on the wear and tear of greens than to ban those metal spikes. It makes sense, doesn't it?

The species of grass which you are growing, whether it be poa, poa/bent, or in my case Velvet bent, may also prove to be a mitigating factor. In my situation, as I explained to my club, our Velvet bentgrass is not the most prolific healer from traffic, especially spikes. What better medicine to preserve our beautiful Velvet bent than instituting a softspike program?

At my club, as with any club, drastic changes come slowly. But surely, if you persist, the old saying goes, "You must walk before you run." At my particular club this adage is very appropriate.

What I have suggested is that at the very least, we do a softspike day. We decided that by doing a softspike day in conjunction with an ABCD tournament where we have all different types of players, only members, a shot-gun

start, we thought this would be the way to go.

Also, along with doing a softspike day, I have requested that we make these new spikes available for purchase at our club. Making them available for purchase along with timely articles to your members and articles at the softspike purchase center, hopefully will be advantageous in speeding up the total integration of softspikes at the Woodbridge Country Club.

At this present time, the Board of Governors, is still chewing on my suggestions. Let me warn you...You may very well be the only proponent from the club staff selling this idea!

This game being strong in tradition, subsequently is difficult to change. These turf-saving spikes are not going to go away even though we have negative and nonsupport dialogue from our PGA constituents. I have heard golf pros say, "They would be great for the greens, but there are too many other drawbacks." They are not willing to try and deal with the issue.

The superintendent is going to have to be the proponent behind this change. I urge all of you to gather as

much information about these softspikes as possible and make a presentation to your club.

FYI... the January issue of *Golf Course Management* has published an excellent article which would help you in your presentation. I have also taken the liberty to include a little softspike fairy tale (see page 9) for your reading.

The deadline for the next issue is April 15th. The *Clippings* staff will be soliciting your ideas for the next issue, and I am wholeheartedly looking forward to your responses.

Presently, the CC of Darien, Tim O'Neill, CGCS, superintendent, is implementing a softspike only policy beginning April, 1995. Also on the list are a host of some of the most prestigious clubs in the country that have gone to the softspike only.

I hope that the *Clippings* will be publishing a list of softspike users in our coming issues.

Call or fax your
comments
(203) 387-0810

CAGCS Upcoming Events

March 20, 1995
CAGCS monthly meeting
Hunter Golf Club

April 18, 1995
CAGCS monthly meeting
Whitney Farms Golf Course

May TBA
CAGCS monthly meeting
Hartford Golf Club

Experimental vaccine... Lyme disease

The Lyme Disease Research Center at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, CT, is again conducting a study of an experimental vaccine.

Participants must be between the ages of 15 and 70 and in generally good health.

Sites are located across the state including Middlesex Hospital. If you are interested in participating, call (800)884-4955)

Lisa Bruno, RN Study Coordinator, will provide more details at our March meeting.

A-OK Turf Equipment

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

AgrEvo USA Company

2711 Centerville Road
Wilmington, DE 19808
David J. Sylvester
(203) 828-8905

ALPINE, the CARE of TREES

Excellence in Tree Care
Ridgefield (431-4100)
Westport (222-5595) Norwalk (847-1855)
Greenwich (661-8014) Darien (655-8008)

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 Marcoux
(800) 886-4774

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.

166 River Road
Unionville, CT 06085
John Callahan
(203) 673-3699

The Chas. C. Hart Seed Co.

P.O. Box 9169, 304 Main Street
Wethersfield, CT 06129-0169
Roy Sibley ~ Ron Holcomb
(203)529-2537 & (800)326-HART

D & S

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

Eastern Land Management, Inc.

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

Egypt Farms, Inc.

P. O. Box 2223
White Marsh, MD 21162
Ray Bowman ~ Dean Snyder
(800) 899-7645

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 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

James Carriere & Sons, Inc.

7 Cottage St., Port Chester, NY 10573
Trap Sand - Partac Topdressing-Drainage Stone
Bill Carriere
(914) 937-2136

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) 708-8873

Metro Milorganite, Inc.

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

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

R. F. Morse & Son, Inc.

West Wareham, MA 02576
ParEx - KPower - Vertidrain
Carl Wallace
(508) 295-1553

Robert Baker Companies

Wholesale Nursery
West Suffield, CT 06093
Jeff Rogers
(203) 668-5225

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, Unit 3
Londonderry, NH 03053
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