

# CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

Volume 29, No. 4

September, 1995

## President's Message

**Peter R. Pierson**  
CAGCS President

The summer of 1995 will go down in the record books as the driest in Connecticut since the Civil War. While this past summer was considered the best in memory for vacationing, it surely was a very cruel season which made all golf course superintendents regain (if you ever lost it) a great deal of respect for Mother Nature.

If during this past summer you lost close contact with your wife and children or significant other, take a break and say "Hello wife and family. I'm back among the living." Get rid of those "summer personalities". We must worry only about that which we can do something about. We can do nothing about the weather—good or bad

### Jackson to speak at October meeting

I am sure that all plant pathology labs were extraordinarily busy this summer. The Tri State Research Foundation is supporting Dr. Jackson's efforts in researching anthracnose and root pythium and their relationship to nematodes. Dr. Jackson will be speaking at our October 16th meeting at Ell-

*(continued on page 2)*

## The summer from hell

by Thomas Watroba, Superintendent  
Suffield Country Club

This headache is killing me! I took two Advil an hour ago and still it keeps pounding. It's 12:15 p.m., Thursday, August 24th. We have a one-day member-guest today with a one o'clock shotgun start. We're trying to syringe as much turf as possible before the tournament starts and we're having a rough time of it.

The Weather Channel called for partly cloudy skies, temperature in the high 80's and humid. Instead, it's sunny and dry around 80°, and the wind is howling. The wind gusts have to be 40 m.p.h. -- at least! I hate those liars. They didn't say a word about wind. I promise myself, time after time, that I will refuse to watch their lies; but, like an addict, I keep going back.

We haven't had a drop of rain in 19 days, and I'm sick of chasing wilt. I'm sick of standing by helplessly and watching unwatered areas of turf dying. My head is still pounding.

A member playing in the Cheapskate Open (what my staff calls the members who never bring guests, but rush up to play the course before a one-day tournament starts) comments to me about

how nice the weather is. I deadpan "For what? Killing turf?" He stares at me quizzically as I add "Another week of this nice weather and the whole course will be dead." He walks away. He's not a bad guy—just clueless as to what the situation is. I'm miserable. I know it. Don't talk to me.

One of my syringe people rides up to me and I ask him if he's done the 6th green. "I soaked it this morning like you said to do. I figured it was O.K." he says. "It's not O.K.," I reply. "I was just on it 10 minutes ago, and it's dry as a bone." "Go get it!"

We aerified greens this past Monday. I must be crazy, but can they take the water now? Speaking of water, I have got enough for about a week, maybe 10 days. I'm not sure, I've never seen my water supply this low. I wish it would snow. Green leaves are blowing out of the trees and 3rd green is covered. Boy, isn't this weather grand?

I drive up by the putting green area which is covered with carts and golfers preparing for the start of the tournament. I ponder the fact that we have

*(continued on page 3)*

**President's Message** (continued from page 1)

ington Ridge Country Club about his research work and this past season in general. Do yourself a favor a plan on attending. Don't miss this chance to hear from one of the most respected turfgrass pathologists in this country.

**Support Tri State Research Foundation**

Support by CAGCS and our member clubs is very important to the success of Dr. Jackson's work. The more member clubs who contribute to the Tri State Research Foundation, the more important local research can be undertaken.

The following is a list of CAGCS member clubs who have contributed to the Foundation:

- Aspetuck Valley Country Club*
- Black Hall Club*
- Canton Public Golf Course*
- Country Club of Darien*
- Country Club of Farmington*
- Country Club of New Canaan*
- Country Club of Waterbury*

- Ellington Ridge Country Club*
- Greenwich Country Club*
- Hartford Golf Club*
- Hop Meadow Country Club*
- Innis Arden Golf Club*
- Oak Lane Country Club*
- Orange Hills Country Club*
- Patterson Club*
- Pequabuck Golf Club*
- Pittsfield Country Club*
- Redding Country Club*
- Rhode Island Country Club*
- Silver Spring Country Club*
- Skungamaug River Golf Club*
- The Stanwich Club*
- Tumble Brook Country Club*
- Wee Burn Country Club*
- Woodbridge Country Club*
- Woodway Country Club*

The above list was furnished in early August. It has been reported that since the contribution cards were included with the last Tri State Newsletter, more contributions have been received. If your club is not included in this list, we will surely acknowledge your contribution in future issues of the

*Clippings.*

Fall is a very important time for CAGCS. On October 10th, the Annual Scholarship & Research Tournament will be held at the Watertown Golf Club, Bob Viera, host superintendent. I would like to take a moment to thank all those who participate in the S & R Tournament. The monies raised at this tournament provide a large portion of our commitment to both scholarships and research. Congratulations to all recipients of 1995 CAGCS scholarships.

On October 16th, Ellington Ridge Country Club, David Vibber, superintendent, is hosting our October monthly meeting.

Our annual meeting and election of officers will be held on November 7th at Birchwood Country Club, Edward Consolati, superintendent, in Westport, CT.

In early October you will receive the slate of officers and 1995/1996 budget for your review and consideration. This is your association. Plan on attending the annual meeting and let your thoughts be known.

Have a great Fall!

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

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~and~  
Thomas Watroba  
*Suffield Country Club*

**Photos**  
David Basconi  
Brian Pope

**The summer from hell**

*(continued from page 1)*

been open since March 23rd with carts and have not lost a full day due to the weather.

Man, am I tired! I wish I could sleep for a week, maybe a month. Who's that guy who fell asleep? Rip Van Winkle? Yea, Rip Van Watroba! Wake me up when this nightmare of a summer is over.

Another member walks over to me and says, "Tom, this weather's got to be killing you. It's brutal." I think to myself, all right, this guy's cool, he knows the score. I nod my head as he adds, "You've done a great job of keeping the course up this summer. I realize it's been difficult." I thank him and ride away.

I feel better for 30 seconds or so, my head still hurts. I tell myself, you gotta hang in there... gotta hang tough. You've been through rough times before. Things will get better." I pause and wonder why on earth I ever wanted to be a golf course superintendent. Why is it more important to me to have this golf course survive this summer than my own physical or mental well-being? Oh well, it must be a blood thing!

I see the boys draining their hoses on a hill. It's time to get out of the way. I'll go into my office, grab a couple more Advil, maybe get something to eat. Just another day in the summer from hell.

Thomas Watroba  
Suffield Country Club

It's good to hear some candid thoughts from our members. Although this has been an unusual season for most, it is important that we communicate with the proper channels in our clubs to make them aware of our delimmias.

One must remember that this is the business we have chosen. We have to prepare ourselves for the worst, hope for the best, and be ready to make a plan and change a plan. As with our everyday lives, our business has gone through many changes in the past ten years, and I am sure there will be many more as we approach the next century.

We would very much like to hear from some of you out there who would like to share a couple of paragraphs of their experiences during this summer from hell!

John F. Streeter, CGCS  
Editor



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## CT Pesticide Supervisory & Operator License Exams

The CAGCS office has obtained applications and manuals for each of these exams. Each exam requires pre-registration and the payment of the license fee which covers the cost of the test and the license.

If you would like to take the Supervisory exam, you must complete the application and return it with the \$25 license fee. Once there are enough applications to offer the exam, you will be notified. The exam is usually offered every 4 - 6 weeks.

If you would like to take the Operator exam, you must complete the application and return it with the \$20 fee. The schedule for the remainder of the year for the Operator exam is as follows and is given at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.:

October 16th  
November 13th, and  
December 11th

at the Hartford Extension Office, UCONN Branch, 1800 Asylum Ave., West Hartford, CT. (Parking on Trout Brook Dr.)

The CT DEP has advised us that they are looking for locations in the New Haven area; but, as yet, they have not been able to secure a location.

Applications and manuals may be obtained by calling the CAGCS office 203/387-0810, or directly from the Pesticide/PCB Management Division (860/424-3369).

## GOLF COURSE LAWSUIT

A lawsuit was brought against the Town of Groton, Shennecossett Golf Course, claiming that a 6' high chain link fence was not properly maintained—specifically, the stanchions on top that normally hold barbed wire.

The complaint stated that personnel did not replace wire that had been removed, causing injury to the plaintiff's left ring finger when he was climbing the fence to return to the course after retrieving a golf ball that was hit through the fence by another golfer in his threesome.

On July 26, 1995, after three full days of testimony given during the trial, the jury rejected the claim and sided with the defendant, Shennecossett GC, respecting the fact that the fence is a barrier and is not meant to be climbed.

Robert Chalifour, CGCS  
Shennecossett Golf Course

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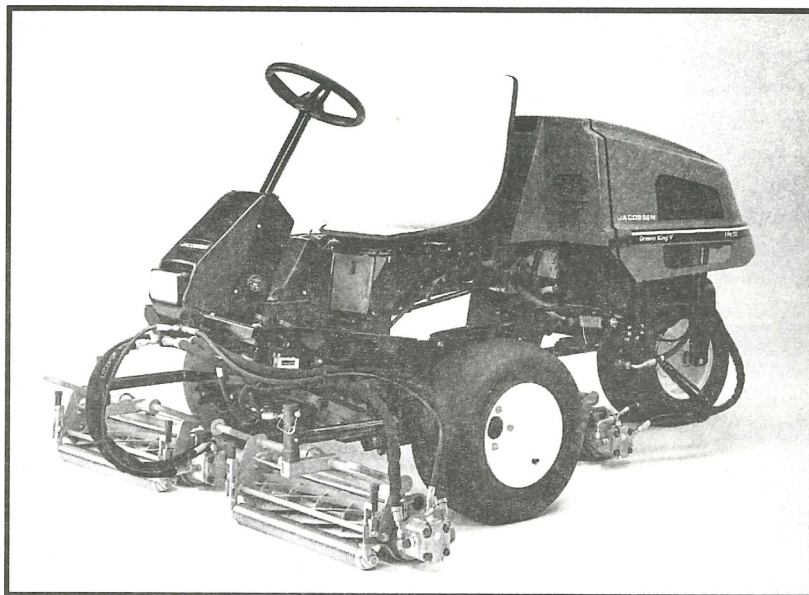
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# Around the Association



## Welcome New Members

Christopher Anderson - Class B  
*Skungamaug River Golf Club*

Lawrence W. Dodge, Class A  
*Oak Lane Country Club*

John Kelley, Jr. - Class A  
*Portland Golf Course*

Joseph Malay - Class A  
*Naugatuck Golf Club*

.....

## Orlando Room Block

As you know, CAGCS has blocked a total of 25 rooms at the Omni Rosen Hotel (headquarters hotel) for the National Convention in Orlando, FL.

At the time of printing of this issue of the *Clippings*, there were only 3 rooms remaining.

It is urged that any member who wishes to make a reservation in the room block call the CAGCS office (387-0810). If all rooms in the room block are reserved, there is a possibility that we may be able to obtain more rooms.

.....

## 1995 S & R Tournament

The annual CAGCS S & R Tournament is scheduled for October 10th at the Watertown Golf Club.

Deadline for reservations is Sept. 29th.

If you are making a late reservation, please be sure to call the CAGCS office with the required information.

Don't just put it in the mail! We must know the exact count no later than Oct. 3rd.

## CAGCS Halloween Party

The CAGCS Halloween Party is scheduled for October 21, 1995 at The Castle at Cornfield Point in Old Saybrook, CT.

Last year's party was a great success! Remember—deadline for reservations is October 14th.

.....

## "Par for the Course" Reminder

Below is the schedule of the remaining 1995 air dates and times for GCSAA's television show "Par for the Course":

- Oct. 8, Sunday.....7:30 a.m.
- Nov. 5, Sunday.....7:30 a.m.
- Nov. 10, Friday ..... 2:30 p.m.
- Nov. 19, Sunday ..... 7:30 a.m.
- Nov. 26, Sunday ..... 7:30 a.m.
- Dec. 3, Sunday ..... 7:30 a.m.
- Dec. 10, Sunday ..... 7:30 a.m.
- Dec. 17, Sunday ..... 7:30 a.m.

.....

## Rhode Island Turf Show

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## A Pequabuck sweep on home course!

### President's Cup & McLaughlin Trophy

On August 10th, the President's Cup (low gross score) was won by Peter Pierson, Pequabuck's superintendent, by firing a 71 and matching cards with last year's winner, Mike Dukette. Peter is on a roll this year, as he was also our 1995 CAGCS golf champion.

The McLaughlin Trophy (low net score) was won by Pequabuck's assistant superintendent, Bob Douglas, by posting a score of 66. He won by matching cards with Phil Neaton, Black Hall Club.

Congratulations!!!

### Watertown Golf Club captures 1995 CAGCS Invitational

On September 12th, the team from Watertown Golf Club captured the annual CAGCS Invitational Tournament. The team of Bob Viera, Mike Carney, Fran Graziano and Tomas Murphy fired a best ball of 66.


When you read on and see the final results, you will see how tough a day it was. The 2nd and 3rd low gross scores fired by Crestbrook Park Golf Club and Madison Country Club (winner of the Invitational for the past two years) were also 66, with the winner being determined by matching cards.

The team from Wallingford Country Club comprising of Scott Gennings, Sean Busca, Nick Crettela and Danny O'Neill captured the net prize with a 59.

The low pro of the day was John Paesoni, Norwich Golf Course, and was awarded a cash prize.

CAGCS would like to thank Tower Ridge Country Club for their gracious hospitality, and the fine course conditions provided by Scott Ramsay, superintendent. This was our first "Softspike/spikeless Invitational" and most all participants recognized the superior conditions the use of Softspikes/spikeless shoes can provide.

Unfortunately, no one got a hole in one on the 12th hole which would have awarded a cash prize of \$10,000.



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*Team from Watertown GC, Bob Viera, Supt.  
Invitational Winners*



*Team from Wallingford CC, Scott Gennings, Supt.  
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**Other Invitational Results**

2nd Low Gross - 66  
*Crestbrook Park Golf Club*  
 Peter Cure, Supt.

3rd Low Gross - 66  
*Madison Country Club*  
 Mike Chrzanowski, Supt.

2nd Low Net - 61  
*Suffield Country Club*  
 Thomas Watroba, Supt.

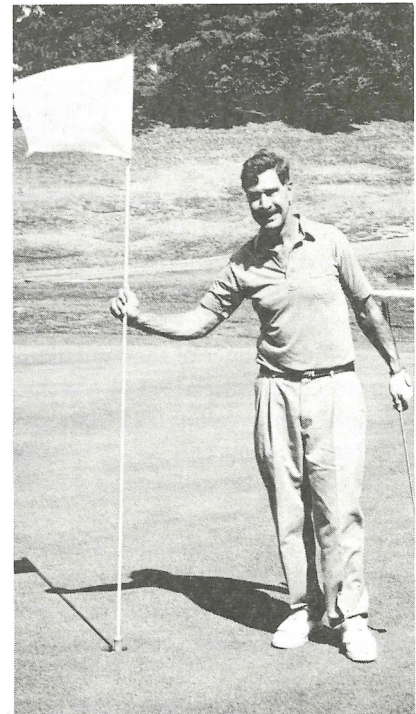
3rd Low Net - 62  
*Indian Hill Country Club*  
 Kevin Bengston, Supt.

Closest to the Pin  
 #3 Bob Gauvain  
 #8 Jim Uberti  
 #12 Tony Piccochi  
 #16 Jerry Bugg

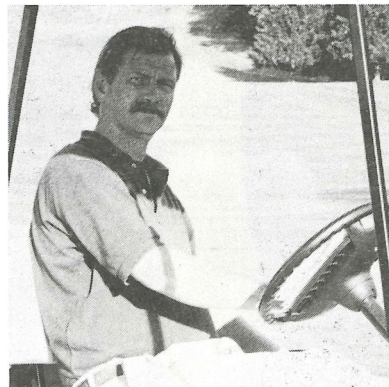
Longest Drive  
 Cindy Johnson



*Scott Ramsay, host superintendent, (left, with John Gallagher, III, supt. at Race Brook CC*



*Peter Burnham, Supt., Heritage Village CC*



*Tom Watroba, Supt. Suffield CC*



*Bob Viera, Supt., Watertown GC Invitational Winner*

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## Fazio to receive superintendents' highest honor

Tom Fazio, one of golf's top course designers, has been named the recipient of the Old Tom Morris Award from the GCSAA.

Fazio, a resident of Hendersonville, NY, will be presented the award in a special ceremony during the annual banquet on February 10, 1996.

GCSAA established the Old Tom Morris Award to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the game. The award is named in memory of Old Tom Morris (1821-1908), greenkeeper and golf professional at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland. Morris, a four-time winner of the British Open (1861, '62, '64 and '67), also was ranked as one of the top links designers of the nineteenth century.

GCSAA is honored to pay tribute to Tom Fazio's lifetime contributions to

the game," said GCSAA President Gary T. Grigg, CGCS. "His commitment to the game and to his community—especially all the personal time he devotes to the Boys and Girls Clubs—is a great example of the spirit that Old Tom brought to golf."

Fazio, a native of Norristown, PA, began his career as a golf course designer in the suburban Philadelphia office of the Fazio family firm in the 1960s, assisting his uncle, George Fazio, in course constructions. In 1972, he established his own firm with an office in Jupiter, FL.

Fazio joins Arnold Palmer (1983), Bob Hope (1984), former President Gerald Ford (1985), Patty Berg (1986), Robert Trent Jones, Jr. (1987), Gene Sarazen (1988), Juan "Chi Chi" Rodrigues (1989), Sherwood Moore (1990), William Campbell (1991), Tom Watson (1992), Dinah Shore (1993), Byron Nelson (1994) and Dr. James Watson (1995) as recipients of the award. The GCSAA board of directors selects the Old Tom winner.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, KS, the association provides education, information and representation to more than



### GCSAA's 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show

February 5-11, 1996

14,500 individual members from more than 50 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession, and enrich the quality of golf and its environment.

### GCSAA makes major changes to conference and show schedule

The GCSAA board of directors recently approved a new format for the association's annual conference and show which will now run on a Monday to Sunday schedule. Previously, the event had run Monday to Monday.

The change was made because research had shown that a large majority of registrants currently leave on Sunday. By leaving early, registrants missed activities such as the final day of the trade show, the association's annual meeting, the USGA Green Section session, and the banquet and show.

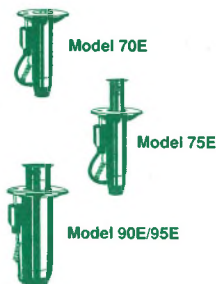
"The new format was approved to allow greater participation in these and other important events," said GCSAA President Gary T. Grigg, CGCS. "Now members can leave the conference and show and not worry about missing anything."

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## Sponsors announce plans for 1995-96

### Environmental Steward Award

The four sponsors of the Environmental Steward Award announced plans for the 1995-96 program. Ciba Turf & Ornamental Products, Rain Bird, Jacobsen Division of Textron, Inc. and Lebanon Turf Products announced the following important dates:

- Entry forms available -- Sept. 1, 1995
- Closing date for competition -- Oct. 31, 1995.

In the previous three years of the competition, the sponsors have donated more than \$50,000 to The GCSAA Foundation.

"We appreciate everything the sponsors have done to make the Environmental Steward Award one of the leading recognition programs in our industry," says Gary Grigg, CGCS, GCSAA president. "As an association, together with the sponsors, we're committed to expanding this program and keeping it on the road to success." Entry forms are available from any of the sponsors, Ceres Communications (coordinator of the program) or in the September issue of *Golf Course Management*.

An independent panel of judges, selected for their expertise in environmental issues and turfgrass management, reviews the entries. Awards are given in three categories: public, private and resort courses. One national winner is selected in each.

In addition, there may be as many as 21 U.S. regional winners: one public, private and resort winner in each of the seven U.S. Golf Association regions. There also may be three winners each in Canada and internationally. Merit winners may be selected at the discretion of the judges.

In 1994-95, 31 golf course superintendents received Environmental Steward Awards, which were created to recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses for their work to protect and enhance their local environments. For example, past winners have been recognized for overall course management excellence; outstanding programs to maximize pesticide and fertilizer efficacy, and irrigation and equipment efficiency; and wildlife preservation and enhancement.

Benefits for national winners include:

- \$500 donation to The GCSAA Foundation in their name,
- personalized plaque,
- specially designed seal for display purposes,
- traveling trophy and
- the opportunity to be highlighted in a 1996 edition of *Golf Course Management*.

Regional winners receive a \$40 donation to The GCSAA Foundation, plus the plaque and seal. Merit winners receive a personalized certificate of merit. The names of all winners are included in a 1996 issue of *Golf Course Management*.

For more information about the Environmental Steward Award, contact: Environmental Steward Award, c/o Ceres Communications, 421 West Travelers Trail, Burnsville, MN 55337  
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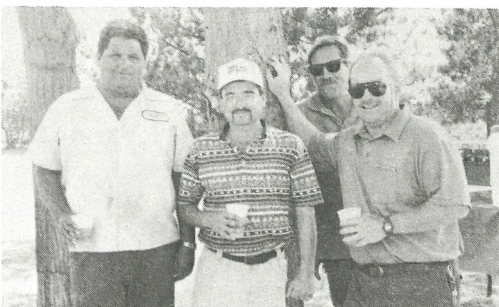
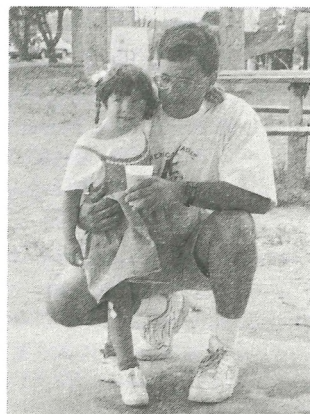
Green and tee construction materials and mixes conforming to specifications are available.

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

## CAGCS Family Day

CAGCS members and friends enjoyed a fun-filled day at our annual family day which was held at Short Beach Park in Stratford on August 22nd. There were families in the tot lot, on the beach, feet in the water, and playing in the sand. Our host, Bob Szymanski, made sure there was no charge to CAGCS members who wished to play golf.

We were treated to a great menu of barbequed chicken and ribs, burgers and dogs, chowder, clams, and more and more which was served all day. As you can see from the pictures, we had many future CAGS members in attendance (below).



## Dates to Remember

**September 12th**  
CAGCS Annual Invitational  
Tower Ridge Country Club  
Simsbury, CT

**October 5th**  
Met Team Championship

**October 10th**  
CAGCS Annual  
S & R Tournament  
Watertown Golf Course  
Watertown, CT

**October 12th**  
N. E. Championship  
Tournament  
Hop Meadow Country Club  
Simsbury, CT

**October 16th**  
CAGCS Monthly Meeting  
Ellington Ridge Country Club  
Ellington, CT  
Supt./Assistant Tournament  
Two-Man Best Ball

**October 21st**  
CAGCS Annual  
Halloween Party

**November 7th**  
CAGCS Annual Meeting  
Birchwood Country Club  
Westport, CT  
Scramble - Blind Draw

**November 29 & 30**  
Rhode Island Turfgrass  
Show & Conference  
Providence, RI

**December TBA**  
CAGCS Christmas Party

**February 5 - 11, 1996**  
GCSAA's 67th International  
Conference & Show

After a long, hard season, it was great to see families together having a good time and getting away from the stressful days of summer.

There were many great pictures, but space would not allow for all to be published.

Hats off to Jud Smith, Art deAtienza, and Bob Szymanski for all their efforts in making this a successful day!

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*CAGCS thanks these patrons for their continued support of our Association!*