CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

Volume 31, No. 2

President's Message

John Napier, CGCS CAGCS President

As we prepare for a new golf season, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new members of our association who have been accepted into membership since our annual meeting. They are:

> Keith A. Angilly - Class C Woodbridge Country Club

Steven Colangeli - Class B Aspetuck Valley Country Club

Christiaan Kipp - Class C Redding Country Club

Lindsey Munger - Class C Redding Country Club

Mark H. Pelkey - Class C Hop Meadow Country Club

Joseph G. Roy - Class C Heritage Village Country Club

Kevin St. Denis - Class C Patton Brook Country Club

Walter J. Wozniak - Class C Highfield Country Club

I wish all of you the best for the upcoming season and beyond. I also

(continued on page 2)

Michael Wallace, CGCS elected to GCSAA Board of Directors

Michael Wallace, CGCS, golf course superintendent at the Hop Meadow Country Club in Simsbury, CT, was duly elected to a two-year term as a Director of our national organization. Michael received 5,294

votes finishing a close second to Tommy Witt, CGCS, who garnered 5,817 votes. Mike, a CAGCS past president and always an active contributing member, will now be focusing his efforts in helping lead our national association into the next millenni-

um. We are proud to have Mike Wallace representing us at GCSAA and we invite you to call upon him with questions and/or concerns you may have regarding our national association.

Mike has provided us with the following article concerning some of his thoughts and views of the Board of Directors of GCSAA.

April, 1997

"During the past two years, I have

answered many questions about our national association and heard many concerns aired. It has been an interesting two years. As I enter year number three, I look back at our organization and I have to thank all of those who have preceded me. You see, GCSAA has not happened in the

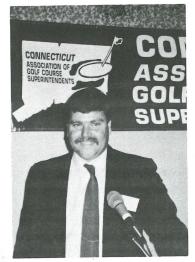
past couple of years. It has evolved over a long period of time. Each person elected has to work with eight others to provide a vision and direction to your association. It has not always (continued on page 3)



Connecticut Clippings

April, 1997





John Napier, CGCS 1997 CAGCS President

encourage you to attend our meetings, social events and feel free to talk with any member regarding concerns or questions, as our CAGCS motto is "Devoted to sharing knowledge and experience for better turf".

We presently have 24 pending members, and I would like to bring their attention to the CAGCS membership policy which requires pending members attend two general membership meetings within one year from the date

President's message

(continued from page 1)

of their application prior to being accepted into membership. If you have a question regarding your membership status, please call Scott Gennings, CGCS, Membership Chairperson, at (203/269-3660).

The months of December, January and February were spent waiting for a winter that never materialized. Now, as we enter April and prepare for the opening of the 1997 season, winter is trying to make its presence known. Can this be a prelude of what Mother Nature has in store for us during the upcoming season?

Whatever cards are dealt to us this year, we can still come up with a royal flush, our ace in the hole being *communication*.

I remember the college years when we were all taught about the basics of botany, soils, turfgrass physiology, chemistry and hydraulics. Not enough time was spent on the important subject of communication. I am not saying that we do not need our basic skills; but, in combination with good communication, we will have a winning hand.

How can we become better communicators? It starts with our own staff, peers, golfers and our superiors. We can communicate with our golfers through the use of bulletin boards, newsletters, talking with golfers on the first tee during busy time and frost delays, and through meetings with the men's and women's golf clubs. In other words—make ourselves available and accessible to the golfing public.

Due to the fact that communication is of paramount importance, we should schedule regular meetings with our professional contemporaries, be they the golf professional, greens chairman, golf director, club manager or parks director.

In the case of trying to present a budget, implement a new program or concept for the course, my experience has shown that it is most beneficial for me to present the idea first to my direct superior and then together we make the presentation to the policy (continued next page)

CAGCS Board of Directors

President JOHN NAPIER, CGCS Stanley Golf Course

Vice President ANTHONY GROSSO Pautipaug Country Club

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Newsletter Editor John F. Streeter, CGCS

> Newsletter Committee

Jud W. Smith Heather Garvin

Photos David Basconi

President's message (continued from page 2)

making board members. This alleviates any misconceptions or hearsay regarding the proposal, also at that time any questions or concerns can be addressed directly by the superintendent.

In our line of work, we deal with many different personalities and environmental conditions which do not always lend themselves to positive communication. If a potentially volatile situation arises, it may behoove us to step back, take a moment to calm down and think how to best handle the situation intellectually, rather than emotionally.

Other ways to improve your communication skills are to observe, listen and learn from others whose communication skills we value, as well as participate in communication classes, such as public speaking, staff development courses, the golf summit and seminars offered by GCSAA.

As the golfing season is upon us and we become enmeshed in our daily professional responsibilities, it is my hope that some of these communication tips will prove helpful to you in the day-to-day business of managing a successful golf course.

> John Napier, CGCS CAGCS President

Thoughts from Mike Wallace (continued from page 1)

been a smooth road, but I can honestly say I do not think anyone had anything but the betterment of the association in mind when they served.

One of the questions I am most often asked is, "What do I get from serving?" The old cliche that "you get out of something what you put into it" is very true. But in my case, the education I have received as a Director is invaluable. You see, I have to sit on the other side of the table. By that I mean most of us go to our club's meetings as employees. We prepare presentations and try to inform our club's management teams of our needs. In that capacity, we are the conduits of information.

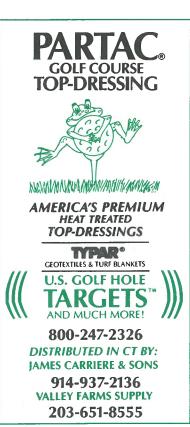
The role is reversed as a Director of GCSAA. In this capacity, I have to base decisions not on the information that I have developed but on the information provided to me by staff, consultants and other experts.

How much information do you need to make a decision? Is there enough time to develop it? Are we looking at all of the pertinent data? It is role reversal at its ultimate. What this has taught me is what types of information and how much is needed. It is this type of education, along with the many new friends that I have developed, that I value.

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to pass along some facts about GCSAA's budgeting process. It all starts in November when the Board meets in the planning meeting. At that time, it revisits where we are and then looks at where we want to go. It is at this meeting that priorities (mandates) are discussed and decided upon. From this meeting, the staff developes a business plan to accomplish these goals. The business plan is then developed into a budget document that the Board sees in rough draft form in late February or early March. Adjustments are made and a final draft is presented at the Spring Board meeting for approval. Once it is approved, it is up to the management team to implement the plan. Sounds simple enough!

I think we can all agree that in many

(continued on page 10)



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Election results

The big news at the 1997 Conference was the election of Michael Wallace, CGCS, to a two-year term as a National Director. John Streeter, CGCS, the voting delegate for our Chapter, was instrumental in gaining national support for Mike. Nice job, John, and congratulations to Mike as he continues his dedicated service to GCSAA.

Election Results: President - Paul McGinnis, CGCS; Vice President -George Renault, CGCS; Secretary/ Treasurer - Dave Ferris, CGCS.

Directors elected to two-year terms: Michael Wallace, CGCS, Tommy Witt, CGCS, and Sam Snyder, CGCS.

Congratulations to all and best of luck in the coming year!

Annual meeting highlights

At GCSAA's annual meeting, delegates voted on the following bylaws:

Dues will increase to \$250 per year beginning July 1st for all Class A and B members.

Assistant superintendents will remain at half dues of Class A and B members without voting privileges.

Voted down was the amendment to

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GCSAA news

Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS Governmental Chairperson

establish a class C-V membership class. If passed, this would have given assistants with three or more years experience the option of becoming a class C-V assistant with voting privileges and being responsible for full dues. This amendment was narrowly defeated.

Other voting results saw the approval of retired members with 20 years of service in a particular membership class being able to retire in that classification.

The last bylaw that was approved was the waiving of membership dues for Class AA life members.

The conference and show continues to grow and there seems to be no end in sight to that growth. This year, some 22,000 people from around the globe registered for the show, and it just shows the popularity of the game of golf and how our industry continues its growth as America's favorite game.

Tournament review

The 1997 GCSAA Golf Championship was held in Las Vegas, NV, Feb. 5 - 7. Over 720 competitors plays on six courses over three days with traditional weather for the event being provided by Mother Nature (40-50 mph winds on Wed. & Thurs.) Some 20

CAGCS members were entered and from all accounts everyone had a great time.

In the 1st flight, Scott Niven, CGCS, The Stanwich Club, finished a fine 5th net. The 2nd flight saw Peter Bly win 5th gross and John Gallagher, III, after a round of 78, grabbed the 7th and last plate in the net division.

Eric Johnson also snatched the last gross plate in the 4th flight. John Ruzsbatzky finished a fine 5th net and in the 8th flight was Mike Wallace, CGCS, finishing in 3rd place net.

Rounding out the field in the Senior II flight was none other than Frank Lamphier taking 3rd Gross.

In the Chapter Team competition, the CT #3 team finished a very strong 5th out of 106 teams entered in the net division. Congratulations to team members Eric Johnson, Frank Lamphier, Paul Sabino and Mike Wallace. In the gross division, the CT #1 team finished a respectable 27th out of 106 teams entered. A tip of the cap to team members Peter Bly, Mike Decker, Larry Dodge and John Gallagher, III.

In the Four-Ball Championship, CT was not represented in the Gross Division winners, but in the Net Division, at the Sunrise Country Club, Mike Chrzanowski and Chris Mauro teamed up to finish in 4th spot all alone. In the Net Division at Paiute Course, Frank Lamphier teamed with Ivy Latham to tie for 7th, and Tom Watroba and John Callahan joined forces to finish tied for 9th.

In the final net division at The Badlands (by the way, the name surely fits the course) new member, Rick Schock, Jr., paired with Grag Stanely to grab the last prize in a tie for 13th.

In the fun contests held during the Four-Ball event, Scott Niven, CGCS, won the coveted "Closest-to-the-Line" prize.

Congratulations to all winners and we look forward to seeing all of our friends again in California in 1998 as the tournhment moves to Newport Beach.

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In our continuing effort to promote the spikeless issue in Connecticut, we would like to update our list of spikeless clubs.

If your club has recently banned metal spikes, please call or fax the CAGCS office (203/387-0810) before the next newsletter deadline of May 9th so that we may continue to publish this list.

1997 Membership Directories

The 1997 CAGCS Membership Directory (more commonly known as the "Green Book") will hopefully be mailed to all members toward the end of April.

Pending members will receive their copy after they have completed the membership requirements and have been voted into membership by the Board.

Annual baseball outing - May 17th

Mark your calendar! CAGCS has booked a date with the New Haven Ravens (farm club of the Colorado Rockies) for Saturday, May 17th when they face the Norwich Navigators (the minor league affiliate of the New York Yankees).

We will be able to watch the game while enjoying a menu of barbequed chicken & ribs, salad bar, corn on the cob, and dessert.

Watch your mail for more details!

Congratulations to Bob Szymanski and his wife, Lynn Marie, on the birth of their son, Matthew Ryan, born on January 31st.

People on the move

We would like to congratulate the following CT members who have recently moved to other positions:

Art deAtienza, formerly irrigation salesman for PIE Supply, is now the regional manager of the Rainbird Division of Sawtelle Bros.

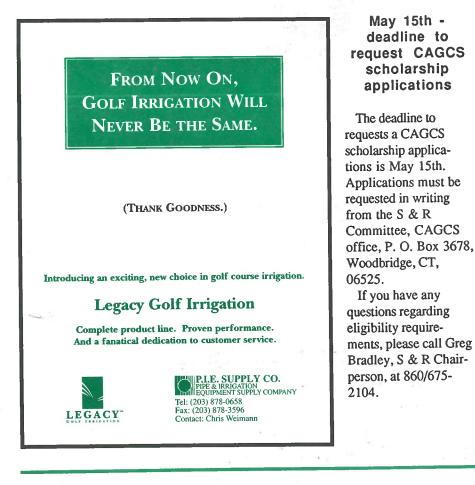
John Kotoski, CGCS, formerly golf course superintendent at Pine Ridge CC, is now the superintendent at Suburban CC, Baltimore, MD.

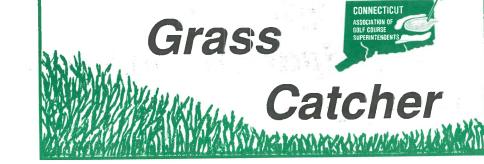
John Labrie, formerly the assistant superintendent at the Country Club of Farmington is now the superintendent at Millbrook CC in Windsor, CT.

Jeff Rogers, formerly with Northern Professional Turf, has taken a new position with Allgro, Division of Wheelabrator Technologies, and we hear he will be moving to Florida.

Wayne Urban, formerly golf course superintendent at Mill River GC, has accepted the position as golf course superintendent at Farmingbury Hills in Wilton, CT.

Good luck to all!





May 15th deadline to request CAGCS scholarship

applications

The deadline to

If you have any

Grass Catcher (continued)

The month of March was surely a jam-packed busy month for CAGCS members.

GCSAA/CAGCS regional seminar

On March 6 & 7th, CAGCS cohosted an educational seminar with GCSAA at the Hartford Mariott, Farmington. Forty-nine members of GCSAA attended the seminar on Plant Nutrition and Fertilizers. Peter Pierson not only worked closely with GCSAA in preparing for the seminar but also served as our on-site coordinator, providing smooth and enjoyable seminar sessions, which resulted in GCSAA contributing to our chapter's Scholarship & Research Fund.

1997 Connecticut Golf Summit

On the 8th of March, CAGCS joined forces with the CT Section PGA, the CT State Golf Asssoc. and the CT Managers Assoc. in hosting the 1997 Connecticut Golf Summit which was also held at the Hartford Marriott. Over 125 club officials, golf professionals, club managers and golf



course superintendents attended this event.

CAGCS was proud to have had Immediate Past President of GCSAA, Bruce Williams, CGCS, (pictured above with Les Kennedy, Jr.) who spoke on the subject of "The Golf Course Superintendent as a Profession-

Every participant must have a USGA handicap.

5. Whether we play a round robin schedule, an elimination schedule, or a combination of both will be deter-

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al." Feedback from his presentation was very positive, as many attendees questioned and commented on the subject being presented. On behalf of CAGCS, we would like to thank Bruce Williams for his appearance and his valuable addition in making this year's Golf Summit a success.

Please take a moment to thank Peter Pierson, CAGCS Treasurer, for all of his hard work, as he also was our CAGCS 1997 Summit Coordinator.

CAGCS business meeting

March 11th brought us to the Ramada Inn in Meriden where CAGCS President, John Napier, CGCS, presided at our first membership/business meeting in 1997. All board

members presented extensive committee reports and informed the membership of the new happenings in CAGCS, specifically upgrading and purchasing a new computer system.

Following the business meeting, we were treated to a presentation by Dr.

(continued on page 10)

one team will play a maximum of four

The deadline for sign-up is May 3rd.

You may sign up by mailing the cou-

or five matches.

Two-Man CAGCS Team Championship

New for 1997 is a season-long, two- man team competition. Precise details of how it will work will follow soon and will depend in large measure upon how many teams participate. What is known so far is as follows:

1. Pick your own partner.

2. Play matches on your own time at any course within the time frame to be determined—the overall season will run May through October.

3. The entry fee is \$20 per man/\$40 per team. All entry money will be returned as prizes to the winning team(s).

4. Play will be match play, net, with 2 points per hole: one point for low ball and one point for low total.

combination of both will be mined by the number of ent schedule will be designed so	tries. The		with your entry fee, person at the April
Two-Man 7	Feam Cham	pionship - Entry	Form
Sign us up for the C	CAGCS 1997	Two-Man Team C	hampionship.
Name	Affilia	ation	Telephone
		·	
Our \$40 entry fee is enclo	sed. (Make ch	ecks payable to "C	AGCS) and mail to:

John Motycka, 104 Folly Lane, Coventry, CT 06238 May 3rd is deadline for sign-up



Tri-State Turf Research Foundation Corner

By John F. Streeter, CGCS Foundation President

As members of CAGCS, all of you should by now have received the first newsletter along with a request for donations to the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation. We solicit every member club from Connecticut, New York and New Jersey in an effort to raise funds for research that will be pertinent to our geographical area.

As of our last financial report on

April 1st, we had received donations from 110 clubs.

My goal as President this year is to reach the 200 mark in individual club donations. It is important that all of you who have not contributed, please find a way to fund our research efforts.



If you are unable to see your way clear to fund the requested \$150, there are other vehicles you may use for contributions to our foundation. For example, you may credit your CIBA-GEIGY product points to Tri State and also by purchasing Milorganite because the Milorganite Company returns a percentage of all of its sales back to turf research. And with that, I would like to take this special opportunity to thank Metro Milorganite/Joe Stahl, rep., for their recent generous donation of \$3,200 to the Tri State Turf Research Foundation.

The Tri State Research Foundation is presently funding three projects. We are in the last year of our commitment to Dr. Noel Jackson and his research concerning anthracnose severity and its relationship to nematodes. The total amount funded for his research was \$20,000 per year for three years.

We have also entered into a five year contract for a total of \$55,000 with Dr. James Murphy, (pictured here speaking at our CAGCS business meeting on March 11th) with his research in assessing differential root zone mixes for putting greens over

time under two environmental conditions. We have

we have most recently entered into a three-year project with Dr. Randy Gaugler of Rutgers University. Dr. Gaugler's project will involve developing new technology for insecticidal

nematodes that attack white grubs. His research is expected to result in control of white grubs without the use of insecticides, an issue that is important to the environment, as well as our critics. We are contracted to fund this project at a sum of \$10,000 per year and I am happy to announce that we have received matching funds of \$10,000 per year from the GCSAA Foundation which will also be used to fund Dr. Gaugler's research.

As you can see, our Foundation contributes large sums of money to fund research. We feel this procedure is the most efficient way to accomplish turf research in a timely manner.

Your support is essential if we are to succeed in our endeavors.

Battling infestations of moss & algae in turf

Published by The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service Art Bruneau (Extension Turfgrass Specialist) and Bill Lewis (Extension Weed Control specialist)

Infestations of algae and moss in the turf are associated with unfavorable conditions for growing healthy, dense turf. Algae are unicellular or multicellular threadlike green plants that form a thin dense green scum over the soil surface. This scum forms a tough black crust when dry which acts as a barrier impeding the entrance of water and nutrients into the soil.

Algae are competitive in compacted, waterlogged soils and during warm, sunny, humid conditions.

Mosses are green plants with leaves arising from all sides of a central axis. Mosses may grow erect or prostrate. They typically form a thick green mat at the soil surface.

Conditions favoring the growth of mosses include low fertility, poorly drained soils, high soil acidity, excessively wet soils, soil compaction, excessive thatch or a combination of these factors that add up to thin or weak turf. Mosses are very competitive in cool, moist, shaded locations, such as the north side of buildings and wooded areas.

Physical or chemical removal of these pests will only be temporary unless growing conditions are improved. In some areas you may choose to use a mulch cover (pine straw, bark, etc.) or plant a shade-tolerant ground cover instead of turfgrass. The following practices can help you prevent or control algae and moss.

Cultural

(1) Plant shade-tolerant grasses.

(2) Conduct a soil test to determine proper lime and fertilizer needs. Lime is necessary to reduce soil acidity. Proper fertilization will aid in preventing weed encroachment.

(3) Avoid excessive watering and

improve irrigation scheduling if necessary.

(4) Aerify (core) compacted soils.

(5) Increase air movement and light penetration in shaded areas by removing unnecessary undergrowth and pruning tree limgs.

(6) Improve drainage.

Chemical

(1) Algae may be controlled with copper sulfate at the rate of 2 to 3 ounces per 1,000 square feet or one teaspoon in 8 gallons of water. An application of 5 to 10 pounds of ground limestone per 1,000 square feet prior to reseeding will help to inactivate the copper sulfate that may be toxic to grass seedlings. Punch holes in the alga crust or remove the crust entirely to allow turf recovery in these areas. Prepare a new seedbed and replant if large bare areas exist.

(2) Moss may be controlled with copper or ferrous sulfate sprayed at 5 ounces per 1,000 square feet in 4 gallons of water. Applying concentrated amounts (10 ounces per 1,000 square feet) of ferrous ammonium sulfate to the moss spots when the moss is damp offers another means of control.

Ferrous ammonium sulfate should not be watered in. An application of 5 to 10 pounds of ground limestone per 1,000 square feet prior to reseeding will help to inactivate the copper sulfate that may be toxic to grass seedlings. Physical removal of the moss by raking may be needed to allow for recovery in these areas. Prepare a new seedbed and replant if large bare areas exist.

(This article appeared in the March, 1997, issue of the Newsletter of the GCSA of New England)



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Thoughts from Mike Wallace (continued from page 3)

cases it is easier to control expenses than to predict income. Without income, we have no new programs or mandates. Each year the Board does its best to challenge the income projections.

We cannot be overly optimistic in this area or we could be looking at cutting programs. Areas of income are the conference, advertising, sponsorships and membership dues. Out of all of these, dues is the most consistent. The others can fluctuate wildly.

Remember, the bottom line on GCSAA's budget is \$300,000. That is the target of income over expenses. It sounds like a great deal of money. In reality, it is 2% of the total budget. I ask you, have you been asked to project your budget numbers to within 2%?—a thin margin.

Having said that, I can say that this year we have had an exceptional conference. Attendance was up from projections and due to that fact, the bottom line may be larger than \$300,000. I ask that you remember that for each \$150,000 difference you see in the bottom line represents only a 1% deviation from the projected target.

It is and will continue to be my goal to serve all of the members of GCSAA. Our organization is moving forward. We have a great deal to be thankful for. Let us continue to build bridges with allied organizations and chapters. There will be many challenges facing us in the future. I'm sure that working together we can overcome them and move this profession to even greater heights. I look forward to the many challenges and your assistance along the way."

> Michael Wallace, CGCS GCSAA Director

Grass Catcher (continued from page 7)

James Murphy, researcher at Rutgers University, who reported on his current research work concerning evaluating root zone mixes for greens construction. Dr. Murphy outlined the preliminary lab work that is ongoing and described the procedures that will be used to construct the test plots which will evaluate various types of sand and organic mixes which can be used in new greens construction.

Dr. Murphy also informed us that this research will also yield information to golf course superintendents who are looking to amend their native greens with sands and ceramic materials. This particular research project is being supported by the USGA, GCSAA and the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation.

Interested in becoming a "certified" golf course superintendent?

The chart below is the sliding scale formula which outlines the varying entry requirements for application to GCSAA's Certification Program.

Entry requirements for becoming an applicant in the certification program include current employment as a golf course superintendent, education, and completion of GCSAA seminars. Your level of post-secondary education determines the number of years experience along with the number of CEUs you must earn from GCSAA seminars required to qualify as an applicant.

Once you have completed the requirements and have submitted your application, you will have one year to pass the six-hour exam and the course evaluation portion of the requirements.

Congratulations to Peter Cure, CGCS, superintendent at Crestbrook Park Golf Club, and to John Kotoski, CGCS, who just took a new golf course superintendent's position at Suburban Country Club in Baltimore, MD, upon their recent completion of the certification process.

We would also like to recognize Jonathan Jennings, CGCS, superintendent at the Patterson Club, whose name was inadvertently omitted from our certified superintendents' list which appeared in our December, 1996, issue.

GCSAA instituted the certification program in 1971 to recognize outstanding and progressive superintendents. More than 1,600 active GCSAA members currently hold "CGCS" status.

For any questions, or to request a comprehensive brochure on the certification program, contact Penny Mitchell, GCSAA Certification Manager, at 913/832-4484 or e-mail to certify@gcsaa.org.

Education	+Experience as GCS	+CEUs*
Bachelor's degree in turf/plant science	3 years	4.2
Other bachelor's degree	5 years	7.0
Associates' degree in turf/plant science	5 years	7.0
Two-year turf certificaate from a four-year school	5 years	7.0
Other associate's degree	7 years	9.8
Turf certificate (400-hour minimum)	7 years	9.8
No degree or recognized certificate	8 years	31.5

CAGCS 1997 Schedule

April 16 Monthly Meeting * Manchester Country Club Manchester, CT Gary S. Bryant, Supt.

May 13 Monthly Meeting * Pequabuck Golf Club Pequabuck, CT Peter R. Pierson, Supt.

June 17 Monthly Meeting Crestbrook Park Golf Club Watertown, CT Peter T. Cure, Supt.

July - TBA Monthly Meeting Westwoods Golf Club Farmington, CT Kevin D'Amico, CGCS

August 11 Annual Invitational Tournament * Hartford Golf Club West Hartford, CT Herbert Watson, Supt.

September 16 Monthly Meeting Shennecossett Golf Course Groton, CT Robert A. Chalifour, CGCS

October 14 Annual S & R Tournament * Redding Country Club Redding, CT Dennis Houle, Supt.

October 20 Monthly Meeting Country Club of Waterbury Waterbury, CT Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS

November 4 Annual Meeting Birchwood Country Club Westport, CT Edward Consolati, Supt.

* Denotes spikeless clubs

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> The Cardinals, Inc. 166 River Road Unionville, CT 06085 John Callahan (860) 673-3699

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