

CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

Volume 32, No. 1

February, 1998

President's Message

Anthony Grosso
CAGCS President

As we enter 1998 and I enter into my first few months as President, I am thankful that the preceding Presidents and their Boards of Directors have left CAGCS in such good condition. Our industry, along with our association, is changing very quickly. It's the hard work and dedication of our members who donate their time to serve on the board and committees that has kept CAGCS current and up to date in the turf field, both on the local and on the national level.

During my five years on the board, I have had the privilege to serve under three Presidents (Peter Pierson, Phil Neaton and John Napier, CGCS) who have all done an outstanding job in leading CAGCS. I just hope that I can continue their commitment to excellence. I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve as President of CAGCS.

Congratulations are in order to Peter Pierson on his election as President of EIC and to John Streeter, CGCS, who is entering his second year as President of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation. Again, this shows how CAGCS

(continued on page 2)

John Napier, CGCS, honored as 1997 Superintendent of the Year

by Owen Regan,
Commercial Rep. to the Board

John Napier, CGCS, golf course superintendent at the Stanley Golf Course in New Britain, CT, for the past 24 years, this year's recipient of the CAGCS Superintendent of the Year award, is best characterized by three words - caring, conscientious and committed - words that are testimony to the honor that he is receiving and so richly deserves.

He is caring, conscientious and committed to all that he undertakes. His deep personal commitment to his chosen profession and to his golf course are evidenced by the myriad of projects he has accomplished during his tenure as a superintendent.

John joined CAGCS in 1977 and served on the board for many years, serving as chairperson of the membership and S & R committees, Secretary, vice president, and just

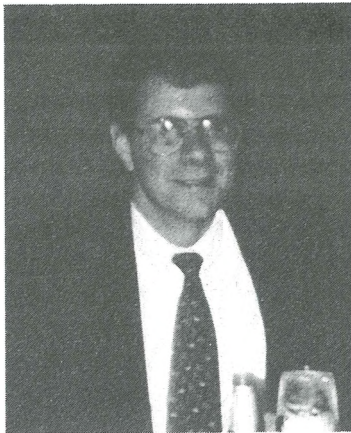
finishing his term as CAGCS President. During this past year, John took CAGCS to another level. He realized the importance of keeping our office up to date and was instrumental in upgrading our computer system for more efficiency and better communication

throughout the industry, as well as with GCSAA. As immediate past president, John is chairing our employment referral service. Through his efforts and with the help of committee members, CAGCS has upgraded the process for job referrals and the manner in which CAGCS will communicate with clubs looking for assistance in hiring personnel.

He earned a Bachelors Degree in Turf Management from the University of Massachusetts, Stockbridge, and is a certified golf course superintendent.



(continued on page 3)



Anthony Grosso
1998 CAGCS President

President's message (continued from page 1)

our new board members, I would like to personally recognize and thank our officers, directors and office staff who are committed to improving our organization:

Officers

Brian Skelly - Vice President
(Green Book Committee)

Jud Smith - Secretary
(Newsletter Committee)

Peter Pierson - Treasurer
(EIC, Tri-State, and Invitational Committee)

Directors

Dennis Houle - Education Committee

John Motycka - Golf Committee
(Golf tournaments at all monthly meetings, Invitational, the MET and New England Team Championships)

Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS
Governmental Committee
(Public Relations, EIC, Tri-State, Environmental, and CAGCS voting delegate)

Owen Regan - Commercial Representative to the Board
(Monthly meeting skill prizes & Superintendent of the Year Award)
Bob Chalifour, CGCS
Newsletter Editor

Office Staff - Pauline Streeter and Mary Jo Kennedy keep us (especially me) on schedule in all aspects of our business.

The year 1998 has already been a very busy and successful time for CAGCS starting with the Christmas party which was held at the Hawthorne Inn. It again was a huge success thanks to Peter Cure and his committee of many.

The CAGCS/GCSAA Regional Seminar held in early December was very well attended, as well as our annual Winter Seminar on January 6th.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and green new year!

Anthony Grosso
1998 CAGCS President

members have played leading roles in the turf industry.

Congratulations are also in order for our three new board members, Dan Rackliffe, CGCS from Longshore Club Park, who will chair the Scholarship & Research Committee; Wayne Urban from Farmingbury Hills Country Club, who will chair the Membership Committee; and Peter Cure, CGCS, from Crestbrook Park Golf Club, who will chair the Social & Welfare Committee. Along with

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Photos
David Basconi

New England Turfgrass Conference & Show

By Anthony Grosso

The New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show (NERTCS) is a new event that will take place March 3 - 5, 1998 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in downtown Providence, RI. The conference and show is the result of a partnership between all seven New England golf course superintendents associations, along with the New England Sports Turf Managers Association and the Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals.

Over the past few years, there has been much talk about having only one turf show in the New England area. Even though everyone knew this was the only option if the shows were going to prosper, it was not until February 25, 1997, at a meeting at the Blue Hill Country Club, that the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show came into existence. This organizational meeting was attended by eight of the nine associations. At this meeting, officers were elected, bylaws were worked on, committees were formed, and an agenda was set to start the process of putting the show together. Each organization invested \$500 in start-up money and from that point we were up and running.

NERTCS will replace the Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire Turfgrass Conferences. NERTCS' main objective is to provide financial support to facilities of higher education that maintain a turf program and turf research facilities in the New England area.

Through the many hours of meetings since that first meeting, the show has developed into what we feel could be one of the top turf shows in the country. Highlights include an excellent educational program featuring over 25 speakers from the turf industry, and an extensive trade show featuring over 300 booths of exhibitors from throughout the United States. Along with the educational program and the trade show, the NERTCS will also feature a pre-show GCSAA seminar on March 2nd on the construction and maintenance of a chemical storage facility. The keynote speaker at the opening session will be Hall of Fame pitcher Jim Palmer. There will be an opening reception and a show reception, plus many other events.

The success of this conference will enable us to continue our goal of financial commitment for innovative turf research and education that will enhance professional career development in the turfgrass management industry.

John Napier, supt. of the year *(continued from page 1)*

With home renovation projects, a pilot of single engine planes, and a skier, he also finds time for his community. He participates in the Christmas in April Program and has served as a house captain for three years. He also serves as a mentor for the Community Youth Service Bureau.

John is well known for his conscientious work ethic and dedication to do

his best. He is a dedicated family man, having been married 14 years to his beautiful wife, Sharon. He cares about the people he serves, both professionally and personally, and is known for his honesty and integrity.

It is with great pride and pleasure for CAGCS to present the 1997 Superintendent of the Year Award to John Napier, CGCS.

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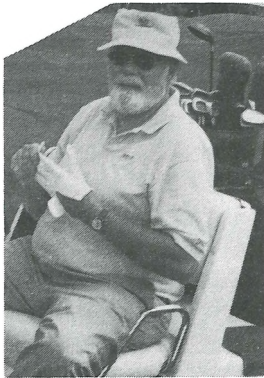
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Gary Bryant - superintendent & menor - retires

by Kevin DeVaux, Ass't. Golf Course Supt.
Stanley Golf Course



I can't remember exactly what the day was like other than to say it was early spring of '91 when the white haired man walked

into my maintenance facility. He started with, "Hey, I'm your neighbor. Come on, let's take a ride." We went over to his course which fortunately for me was a half mile down the road (more on this later), where he proceeded to give me the grand tour.

He knew that I had come from a private course, so he felt compelled to let me know that I was going to have to learn how to grow grass now that I was in the public sector. He mumbled something about the 'cast of Ben Hur' having trod the course the day before and as a result the yearly damage had begun.

I wasn't completely aware at the

time, but I had made a fortuitous move in my career. As the summer wore on, I found myself spending more and more time at his place, not only because there was always food in the fridge or on the stove, but because there was always something new to be learned. And, as the other visitors and phone calls would attest, I was not the only one tapping into this resource. I think it got to the point where some thought I was a member of the crew at times.

Not one time in the next four summers was that door closed to me for whatever I needed, whether it be a piece of equipment, a 2" coupling, or some friendly advice—whether I asked for it or not.

That white haired man was Gary Bryant, superintendent at Manchester Country Club until his retirement this past December. A throw back to a time when the superintendent actually spent more time on the course than in his office. Gary remains a well respected 'Keeper of the Green'.

During his stay at Manchester Coun-

try Club, his door was always open to me and any other colleague who needed to tap into his wisdom and experience. This was also the case at the other courses he maintained throughout his career. Gary could also be counted on for an amusing anecdote involving any of the long list of friends and associates he acquired during his many years as a member of this association.

I hope to someday be able to repay to some young superintendent what was given to me. For that reason, my door will always be open.

So Gary, as you say farewell to this business, good-bye to the 4:00 a.m. cup changes and Saturday afternoon syringes, I know I am not alone when I wish you an enjoyable retirement. From all of us that you have helped during your career, a sincere thank you.

A colleague and friend.

How can I improve my public relations?

by Fred Bachand...
20 years ago!

Look into yourself. Try to feel good about yourself, not in a conceited way, but in a positive way. If you don't feel good about yourself, why should you expect others to feel good about you? Some days we just feel good, no matter what goes wrong, while other days we may not feel so good even when things are going right.

Try, we must not stop trying to feel good inside ourselves.

On those days that we are glowing with confidence, the people around us will feel relaxed and be willing to share their thoughts with us. Even a friendly glance will do wonders for YOUR public relations, or let's say people relations, because putting on a false face for the right people may work sometimes—but feeling good about yourself works all the time, for all the people.

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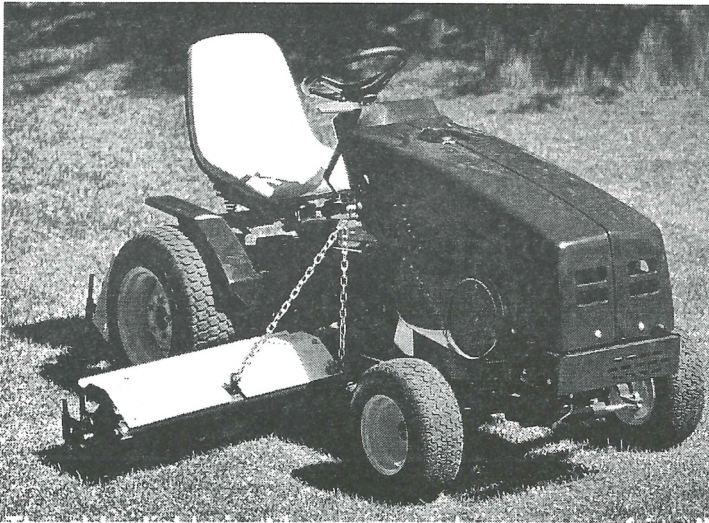
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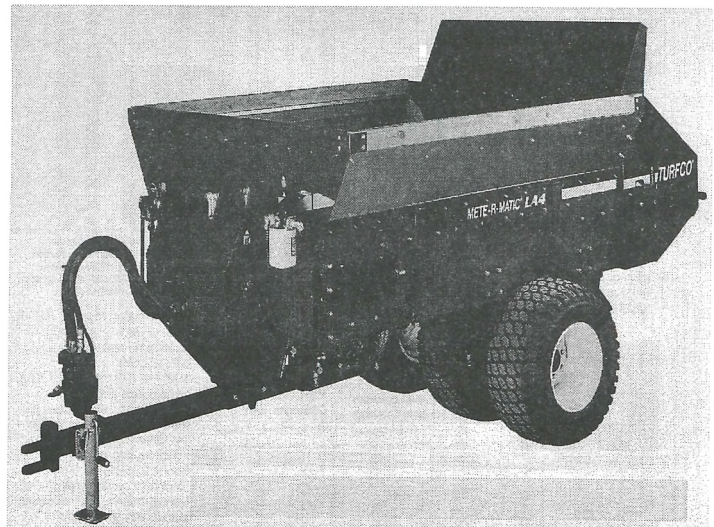
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Connecticut Golf Scramble

by John Napier, CGCS

CAGCS in conjunction with the CT Recreation and Parks Association (CRPA) joined together to hold the first Connecticut Golf Scramble on July 31, 1997. There were 136 golfers who participated at two courses - Simsbury Farms GC and Stanley GC, with the champions being crowned at the Country Club of Farmington in October.

The winning team of Joe Prevuznak, Kevin Saba, John Mendek and Kevin Reed received a 3-night, 4-day golf trip to Myrtle Beach, SC, for their efforts.

The tournament was publicized via radio on WTIC AM 1080 and television on WVIT Channel 30, as well as the Hartford Courant and other local newspapers. We were able

to raise \$3,000 for junior golf programs within the participating communities. Each association



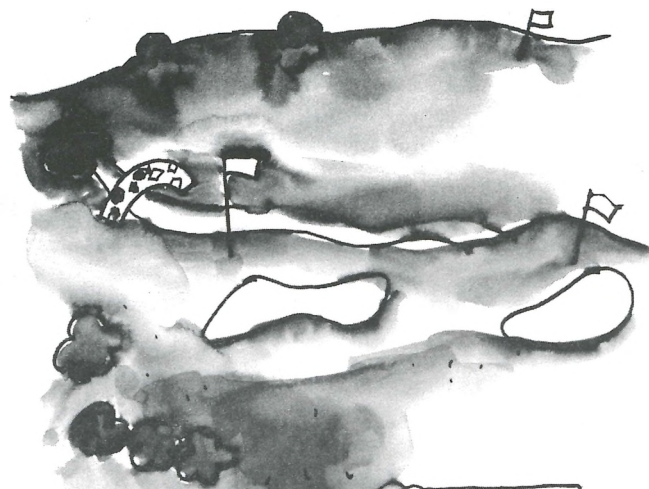
received just under \$1,000, our portion of which will go towards the creation

of a much needed benevolent fund.

I feel strongly about this event and hope for its continuation. Although the tournament field did not have as many CAGCS participants as we initially anticipated, I consider last year's event to be a success.

I would like to thank all of the sponsors for their support, as well as the tournament committee of Anthony Grosso, Peter Pierson, Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS, John Motycka and Scott Gennings, CGCS, for their efforts in organizing the event and for taking time to be present at the courses the day of the event.

I urge the membership of our association to get involved with this tournament which brings our association some needed publicity as well as help educate young golfers who will eventually become the members of our clubs.



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From the editor

Bob Chalifour, CGCS

See what happens when you write a few articles for your newsletter? They make you the editor. Don't let this stop you from sending in articles regarding any information you may have. I do not plan to "retire" from this job for a while.

The committee has met and discussed various ideas, some of which you will see in this issue as well as future issues. However, the basic feeling is that John Streeter has done a great job and there is no need to try to fix something that is not broken.

What can you write about? Here are a few ideas: John Motycka - tell us about the new maintenance building you built... Fred Bachand - tell us about the drainage work at Wethersfield CC... Jim MacDonald - what about all that bunker renovation at New Haven CC? If you do not like to write, pass along your notes and the committee will help write the article.

I would like to credit former editors, Charlie Baskin, CGCS, who founded the *Clippings*, Bob Osterman, Steve Cadenelli, CGCS, Greg Wojick, CGCS, and John Streeter, CGCS, was editor for the longest period of time, March, 1987 - December, 1997.

Send your comments, articles, etc. to the CAGCS office, or directly to me: 39 First St., Groton, CT 06340, Tel: 860/445-4688;

E-mail: bobchalifour@prodigy.net

Thank you to Greg Bradley and 1997 S & R Committee

As a new member on the CAGCS Board of Directors there was, on my part, a certain amount of apprehension. Shortly after the election at Birchwood, Anthony Grosso gave me a call and asked me to head the S & R committee. I accepted this post without reservation.

Greg Bradley, the former committee chairperson, was very helpful initially

in letting me know the basic operation and responsibilities of the committee and sent his notes and correspondence by next day mail. It wasn't until I looked at the actual contents of this information that I realized the tremendous job that Greg and his committee had done.

The S & R Committee for 1997 did a truly outstanding job, in particular with the S & R Tournament—an unprecedented success both in terms of

execution and in its financial achievement. The committee responsible for this remarkable success included Greg Bradley, Chairperson, and committee members Peter Cure, CGCS, Mike Dukette, Matt Faherty, Heather Garvin, Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS, Mike McDermott, Scott Ramsay and Greg Stent.

Kudos on a job well done—truly a tough act to follow.

Dan Rackliffe, CGCS

CAGCS trivia contest

In each of the five issues there will be a challenging trivia question with a special prize to be awarded for each question. Only CAGCS members will be eligible and the winner will be determined by a random drawing from all correct entries.

Good luck to all! Send your answers to the CAGCS office, P.O. Box 3678, Woodbridge, CT, 06525. The deadline is March 13, 1998.

1. Many Connecticut courses were designed or operated under different names from their current title. Can you give the current name of all these "oldies"?

Bel Compo	Heritage Woods CC
GC at Aspetuck	New Britain Municipal
Hyfield GC	Orkil Farms GC
Norwich Inn GC	Edgewood GCEdgewood GC
Cliffside CC	New Haven Municipal
	Stanford Municipal

2. Out of the 48 contiguous states, which was the last to have its first municipal golf course? Name the state.

3. Which Connecticut municipality is currently "home" to the most current Class A CAGCS members? Name the town and the supers.

4. Match the following courses and their former superintendents:

Charlie Baskin	Bel Compo
Paul Caswell	Country Club of Waterbury
Ken Kelliher	Farms Country Club
John Lynch	Greenwich Country Club
Tim Michaud	Hop Meadow Country Club
Lyle Mitchell	Manchester Country Club
Karnig Ovia	Neipsic Golf Club
C. Robert Phipps	Shorehaven
Stanley Sablak	Woodbridge Country Club
Les Scheiber	

5. Give the real first names of these present and former PGA professionals:

Ben Hogan	Fuzzy Zoeller
Chip Beck	J. C. Snead
Chi Chi Rodriguez	Jack Nicklaus

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Owen Regan ~ Dave Wallace
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Byron Johnson, Jr.
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Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.

Golf Course Turfgrass
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Turf Products Corporation

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Enfield, CT 06082
John Ferry ~ Mark Loper
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Turf Specialty, Inc.

15 Londonderry Road, Unit 3
Londonderry, NH 03053-6604
Jack Luba
(800) 228-6656

Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.

P. O. Box 198
Lincolndale, NY 10540
Bob Lippman ~ Bob Lippman, Jr.
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(203) 869-8808

Winding Brook Turf Farm, Inc.

240 Griswold Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109
Don Grant
(860) 529-6869 or (800) 243-0232