

CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

Volume 34, No. 3

July, 2000

Sun safety made simple: "Slip! Slop! Slap!"

by Erin Flynn
American Cancer Society

When you think of safety at work, the first things that come to mind are probably seasonal issues like pesticides or lightning. However, a great risk affecting golf professionals year-round is right under your nose (and, if you're not careful, on your nose): skin cancer.

Each year more Americans are diagnosed with skin cancer than any other form of the disease. The good news is that this cancer, which affects nearly

one million Americans annually, is easily cured if detected and treated early. The bad news is that the most serious form of skin cancer —malignant melanoma — is on the rise and is increasing faster than the rest.

Golf course superintendents have reason to be concerned. According to the American Cancer Society's Director of Skin Cancer Initiatives Mary O'Connell, "People who work outdoors, such as farmers, lifeguards, and golf superintendents, have an increased risk for getting skin cancer because of long hours in the sun."

Learning more about sun safety can help reduce the risk. For example, people who work outside should protect themselves from damaging ultraviolet rays which are present even on cloudy days and reflect off such light surfaces as water, sand, concrete, and snow. "The best way to protect your skin is to put a barrier between you and the sun," says O'Connell. "Since one barrier won't cover everything, it is important they be used in combination. This can mean wearing a long-sleeved shirt, a hat, and using sunscreen where your skin is exposed." She added that

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Dursban remains labeled for golf course applications

Indianapolis, Ind. (June 8, 2000) -- Dow AgroSciences LLC announced an agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that will allow the continued use of Dursban insecticide (chlorpyrifos) on golf courses. Chlorpyrifos products were among the first scrutinized under new standards resulting from the passage of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA).

"We're pleased that golf course superintendents will continue to realize the benefits of this product," said Bruce Miehle, general manager for Turf and Ornamental Products at Dow AgroSciences.

"Dursban products have been on the market for more than 30 years. More than 3,600 studies and reports have been conducted examining critical aspects of chlorpyrifos products as they relate to health and safety. No other insect control product has been researched more thoroughly."

The agreement that Dow AgroSciences announced includes a voluntary cancellation of most in-and-around-the-home uses of chlorpyrifos in the U.S., including use of the product as a full-barrier termiticide treatment in

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What do you do out there in Kansas, anyway?

Tim O'Neill brings CAGCS members inside the GCSAA boardroom

During the past couple of months, Tim O'Neill's position as director on the GCSAA board has required that he travel to GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, KS, for two separate meetings. A general meeting was held first—on May 4 and 5. About a month later—June 9 and 10—Tim joined the Membership Standards Resource Group (MSRG) for a meeting to discuss the Professional Development Initiative (PDI). Here, Tim offers a look at the inner workings—and the outcomes—of these two “meetings of the minds.”

The Spring Board Meeting

Meetings of the GCSAA board are all business—and a lot of prepwork. Two weeks before each of the meetings, a packet of information arrived on my doorstep so I could be well briefed and prepared for the sessions.

For the May meeting, I received two books—each one pertaining to a separate day of the meeting. Day one's book contained reports, issues, and discussion items related to GCSAA and GCSAA Communications, Inc. Day two's book contained all the materials necessary to discuss GCSAA's fiscal budget.

Each day, the board and the executive officers of the GCSAA staff would convene for the meeting, which President Scott Woodhead would begin promptly at 7 a.m.

Day One

The meeting agenda was divided into three basic areas:

1. Consent items, which are minor issues that require board approval and were generally discussed at a prior meeting.
2. Action items, which are more significant issues that were previously discussed but are now coming before the board for final resolution.
3. Discussion items, which are issues—minor or significant—that are introduced to the board; depending on the sentiment of the board, they're either killed or tabled for the next meeting as consent or action items.

In this meeting, various items were brought up for discussion, including:

- * a new research program designed to test maintenance products, such as

wetting agents, biostimulants, fertilizers, and soil amendments

- * Web Strategy Committee progress

- * the PDI communication plan
- * the appointment of Robert Maibusch, MG, CGCS, as a director for the 2000 presidential year

I found this agenda breakdown to be a highly impressive and professional way in which to conduct association business.

Day Two

The second day focused on issues related to approving the next fiscal budget. We also reviewed the GCSAA Business Plan. GCSAA's fiscal year begins on July 1.

During the approval process, all GCSAA department heads come before the board to discuss and justify their expected expenses and plans for the coming year.

As the Membership Committee chairman, it was my responsibility to pay particular attention to the areas dealing with member services and programs.

Numerous reports are prepared to clearly map out staff resources and expenditures, right down to stationery and postage. Throughout the entire process, Chief Financial Officer Julian Arrendo demonstrated a remarkably clear understanding of all facts of association operations.

This leg of the meeting was particularly rewarding for me since I was able to walk away with a greater understanding of our association business—which includes a \$20 million-plus operating budget—and the need for a well-thought-out business plan that ensures growth and improvement.

I am happy to report that both fiscally and professionally, GCSAA is well positioned to meet the growing needs of superintendents.

The MSRG Meeting

The June meeting's focus was the Professional Development Initiative. Since the New Orleans conference and

(continued on page 10)

CAGCS Board of Directors

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

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Edward Goodhouse, Ron Holcomb
and Jud W. Smith

The *Clippings* is open to all commentary. Please send your comments to Bob Chalifour, Newsletter Editor, 39 First Street, Groton, CT, 06340.

"People who work outdoors, such as ... golf superintendents, have an increased risk for getting skin cancer because of long hours in the sun."

sun safety habits need to be practiced every day to be effective.

Martin Weinstock, M.D., Ph.D., Brown University's Director of Dermatoepidemiology Unit, agrees: "A lot of my skin cancer patients are golfers who haven't used protection because they were unaware of the dangers."

Prevention means simple steps.

To combat this lack of awareness, the American Cancer Society has created the "Slip! Slop! Slap!" campaign to help people protect their skin. The campaign has been featured in public service announcements across the country. Its slogan is:

Slip on a shirt. Wear tightly woven fabrics that prevent UV rays from reaching the skin. An easy test is to hold the fabric up to the light. If you can see through it, you aren't protected.

Slop on sunscreen. Apply sun-

screen SPF 15 or higher liberally and often. It's best to put on sunscreen before going so the skin has time to absorb it.

Slap on a hat. Choose a wide brimmed hat that shades your face, neck and ears. More options are becoming available as sun-protective clothing manufacturers offer hats with broad visors and removable flaps.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Other tips include limiting sun exposure when ultraviolet rays are most intense (between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.) and wearing sunglasses to protect your eyes.

The Skin Protection Federation, a new coalition of more than 30 national organizations brought together by the American Cancer Society, is dedicated to bringing more attention to sun safety issues. Such members as the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, The Weather Channel, the Environmental

Protection Agency, and the U. S. Tennis Association are working together now to develop a national program that will encourage more people to develop sun safety habits.

Early detection is critical

The American Cancer Society recommends cancer-related checkups every three years for those under the age of 40 and every year for those 40 or older. This checkup includes overall health counseling (such as tips on how to quit smoking) and examinations of the skin and other organs.

During this exam, you will be checked for the main skin cancers, which are basal cell, squamous cell, or melanoma.

Basal cell cancer: The majority of skin cancers are basal cells. They develop on the face and ears, grow slowly and usually do not spread to other parts of the body. Basal cells can take the form of a pale, wax-like module or a red, scaly, sharply outlined patch. This was once a disease of middle or old age, but is now seen in younger people given their increased sun exposure.

Squamous cell cancer: About 20 percent of skin cancers are squamous cells. They appear primarily on

(continued on page 8)

Lowell family honored "Golf Family of the Year"

The Lowell family, owners and operators of the Canton Public Golf Course on Route 44 since 1932, were honored as "Golf Family of the Year" on June 5th at the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association annual dinner in New York.

The Canton operation is a Lowell family affair. Walter's grandfather, James E. B. Lowell, built the course and it opened Memorial Day 1932, and James sold it to Walter's father, James B. Lowell, eight years later.

"I remember they built the course with help from the Open Hearth

shelter in Hartford. The men were paid \$1 a day and got room and board," Walter Lowell said.

"My daughter, Heather Garvin, went to the University of Denver and got her degree in psychology, but decided it wasn't for her," Walter said.

"I told her we needed help around the course. So she went to UMass and earned a degree in their turf management program over the winter, and she's been the superintendent here for 11 years. Her husband, Dana, works here too".

Walter's wife of 43 years, Phyllis, and daughter, Dawn Miner, and her daughters, Elizabeth and Sarah, have also minded the shop over the years.

A Perfect World

*Were we of the same mold
Of a Walter Lowell,
There'd hardly be a speck of sin,
And no finer World to live in:
Ah, if the gods that be,—
Would flush away the current sins,
And begin the World anew;
Then, were they to call upon one,—
A special Human Being to start in all;
One who'll glow beyond all others,
In all avenues of true benevolence;
Which Man would you say would be
chosen.
To fill a New-World with Beauty?
Truly, — only one,
He'd be Walt Lowell.*

Frank Paladino



Kevin D'Amico, CGCS
Westwoods Golf Course
Ass't. Supt. - Paul Wollenberg
Date of Meeting: July 11, 2000
A B C D

Westwoods - Kevin D'Amico, CGCS host July 11th meeting

At the site of the Ridgeview Dairy Farm, Geoff Cornish designed the present day Westwoods Golf Club in 1960. The Town of Farmington bought the club in 1981, added a clubhouse and hired Kevin D'Amico.

In 1989, Kevin was appointed Superintendent of Parks & Golf Course.

Westwoods is a par 61 with the 10th hole, par 4, 420 yards, as its signature hole. It also has a one-half acre practice green. In addition, 9 holes are in the planning stage.

Kevin, a CAGCS member for 22

years, is a native of Waterbury and started working for Charles Baskin, Jr. at the Country Club of Waterbury.

After completing Winter School UMASS/Stockbridge, he became the superintendent at Highland Golf Club in Shelton for five years.

In his spare time, he enjoys road trips in his 1980 Corvette L81 and camping with friends. Horse racing is another pastime favorite of his.

Kevin has two children. His son, Kevin, is a sergeant in the USMC, and his daughter, Carissa, will be a senior at Farmington High School.

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**Watertown Golf Club will host
CAGCS Annual Invitational Tournament
August 1st**

Superintendent: Bob Viera
Asst. Superintendent: Doug Cooper

Bob is beginning his 41st year as a golf course superintendent. Like many in the business, Bob became interested when a teenager. At age 14, Bob worked after school and weekends for Buster Brown who revived the New Bedford Public Links in Massachusetts.

Upon high school graduation, Bob enlisted in the Army and was in the 6th Army Ordinance, a mechanical branch of the Army. Bob used these skills to help others such as Bill Dest when he needed a special mower created to cut the turf plots at UCONN. Because of his service in the Army Bob attended UMASS/Stockbridge on the G.I. Bill, receiving his two-year degree in 1958.

Bob's wife of 43 years, Betty, has been a part of his life at the course as well as off. Before she retired after working with Bob for 24 years, Betty mowed greens, serviced and adjusted

the mowers and taught new employees to mow. When not working, Bob and Betty enjoy playing golf.

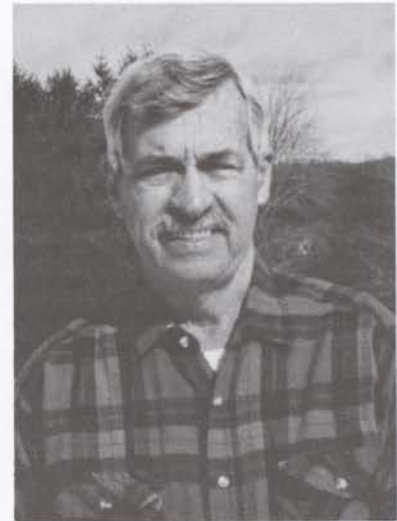
Watertown Golf Club was built in 1915 as a 9-hole course. Over the years, it has changed from its original 9 holes to 27 holes and now it is an 18-hole layout. The original architect is unknown but Geoffrey Cornish has worked with the club on updates.

Eight holes have been redesigned with new bunkers, mounding and tees. A new wall surrounds the first tee.

The signature hole is number 12, a par 4 which has 5 new bunkers and water running through the fairway. The course restorations are ongoing.

A trip to the maintenance facility is a walk down memory lane. Bob and crew keep a 1950 Dodge truck in working order, along with mowers and turf equipment from the past.

Bob served on the CAGCS Board for 15 years, serving as President in



1972-73. He was on the committee that started the Scholarship & Research Tournament. In 1984 Bob was the recipient of the Superintendent of the Year Award. Bob has come forward on numerous occasions to host CAGCS events — a credit and honor to his dedication to the industry.

This year will also mark another milestone for Bob and his wife, Betty. Bob has visited the Social Security office in preparation for a much deserved retirement at the end of this season.

The CAGCS membership and Board of Directors want to thank you for all your support and wish you and Betty a long, happy and healthy retirement.



Owen Regan

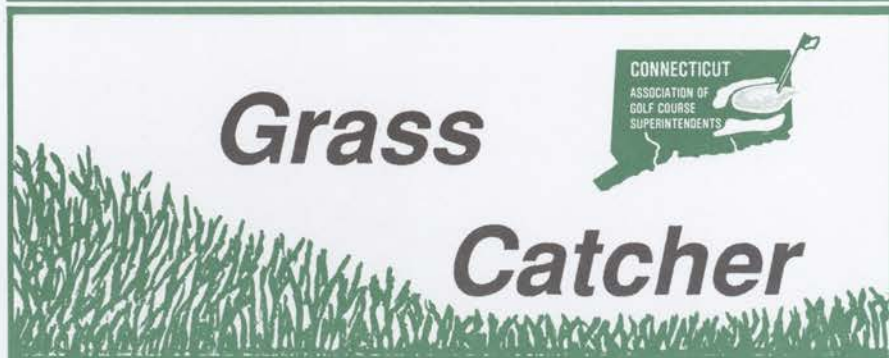
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Eric DeStefano - Class C
Twin Hills Country Club

Michael Mooney - Class A
Pequot Golf Club

Shawn T. O'Sullivan - Class B
D. Fairchild Wheeler Golf Club

* * * * *

Room Block - Dallas, TX

CAGCS has reserved a block of 30 rooms for the 72nd International Golf Course Conference and Show, Feb. 11-18, 2001, in Dallas, TX, at headquarters hotel, the Adam's Mark.

As soon as we have received our specially marked hotel reservation forms, we will notify the membership and the process for securing a room in the block will be explained.

If you need airline tickets or a rental

car for your trip to Dallas, GCSAA Travel is ready to help! They have secured special conference and show discounts on both airfares and rental cars and are ready for your call now.

Call them directly at 800/442-7220 to make your reservations.

* * * * *

CAGCS Annual Family Day August 9th Madison Surf Club

Kimberly Heyl, Social & Welfare Chairperson, is in the process of finalizing the arrangements for a clam bake for the CAGCS annual family day scheduled for August 9th at the Madison Surf Club.

The facilities include beach, swimming, areas for volleyball, basketball. Remember to bring your beach equipment (chairs, blankets, towels, etc.)

Be sure to make your reservations by August 2nd so we can get an accurate count to our caterer.

* * * * *

Deadline for September issue
August 11

Upcoming Meetings

August 1st
Annual Invitational Tournament
Watertown Golf Club
Robert M. Viera, Superintendent

August 9th
CAGCS Annual Family Day
Madison Surf Club
Madison, CT

August 16th
URI Turfgrass Field Day
Contact Dr. Bridget Ruemmele
Tel: 401/874-2481
Fax: 401/874-5296

September 11th
President's Cup &
McLaughlin Trophy
Orange Hills Country Club
Jud Smith, Superintendent

October 3rd
Scholarship & Research Tournament
Tumble Brook Country Club
Cindy Johnson, Superintendent

Congratulations to Paul and Nancie Sabino on the birth of their daughter, Lilly Marie.

Condolences to Les Kennedy, Jr., on the passing of his father, Lester Kennedy, Sr., who was a golf professional at Pawtucket Country Club for over 40 years, retiring in 1983. An accomplished golfer, he was named one of the most promising young players on the PGA tour in 1942 with Lou Worsham.

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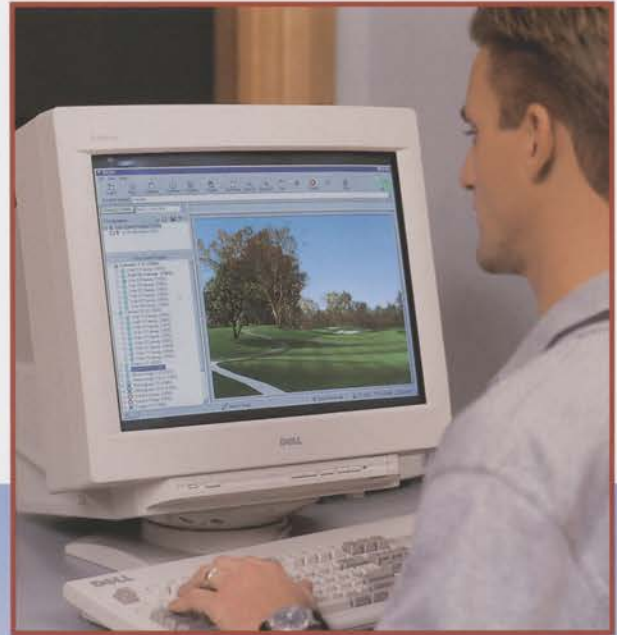
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Dogs of summer

In my travels, one of the most talked about problems on many golf courses, as well as other business, is the lack of labor. There is plenty of work but not



enough employees.

The tight labor market has brought out the best in golf superintendents' unique ability to deal with crisis situations. Remember the drought, the flood, the irrigation leaks, the irrigation pump failure.

Please meet Augusta T. Goosechaser, a/k/c, a work dog and friend that never complains. Dennis Houle, superintendent at Redding CC, goes on to praise 8-year old Gus who has a free run of the course. Gus will lay sod, drive the John Deere loader, and Dennis' golf car. Oh, yes, Gus also chases geese.

With all of his duties, it was difficult interviewing Gus. However, a tip led me to the club snack bar where Gus is a regular for lunch.

Gus, a Golden Retriever, was obtained from Gail Donahue (wife of Mike Donahue) who breeds Golden retrievers. Gus has a sister, Angie, who lives with Les and Mary Jo Kennedy. Next year, Dennis may be working for Gus, as Gus may consider running (pun intended) for club president.

April Golf Results

Norwich Golf Course
Shamble Gross/Net

Gross winners

- 1st - C. Mauro & W. Weischet
- 2nd - M. McDermott & E. DeStefano
- 3rd - K. Angilly & R. Smith

Net winners

- 1st - M. Dukette & C. Mauro
- 2nd - J. Ruzsbatzsky & S. Moran
- 3rd - M. Howland & Dave Crader
- 4th - M. Chevrier & S. Chevrier

Special Games

- Closest to Pin #9, J. Moran
- Closest to Pin #15, J. Ruzsbatzsky
- Longest Drive #11, M. Decker
- Straightest Drive #11, M. Howland
- Longest Put #2, M. Cornicelli
- Longest Putt #17, R. Hetherington

Kickers #2

- Jud Smith & Greg Moore
- Eric Johnson & Roy Sibley
- M. Cornicelli & P. Legault
- S. Rackliffe & Ted Tighe

**May Golf Results
Oronoque Country Club**

*Note from John Motycka,
Golf Chairperson*

At Oronoque CC, 66 players competed. Host Ward Weischet, CGCS, was nice to us as pin placements on those tricky greens were generally kind. Imagine what might have been.

No matter how long I have been supervising people, I never cease to be amazed and frustrated at how seemingly simple instructions can be wrongly interpreted or overlooked.

Such was the case at Oronoque where written instructions stating "No Duplicate Winners" were overlooked by the golf shop. In this case, the problem developed when the person who read the instructions, delegated

the job to someone who did not.

At the time, I did not feel it appropriate to stop the presentation as the winners were being announced, but I now wish I had done so.

At any rate, here are the proper winners.

Gross Winners

(A, B, C & D Flights, respectively)

Front - M. Chrzanowski,
W. Weischet, S. Deubel, D. Basconi

Back - S. Moran, T. Watroba,
T. Baviello, S. Gennings

18 - T. Rogers, C. Mauro,
M. Sullivan - A. La Prise

Net Winners

(flights, respectively)

Front - G. Stent, T. Ainsworth,
S. Donovan, K. Williams

Back - B. Mobeck, S. Ramsay,
K. D'Amico, B. Skelly

18 - B. Pope, J. Callahan,
J. Malay, G. Drewery



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Slip, Slop, Slap . . . (continued from page 3)

sun exposed areas like the ears but can also develop within scars or lesions; they tend to be more aggressive and can spread. "ears are high risk areas for skin cancer because these cancers spread more readily to other parts of the body," explains Weinstock. "We did a study eight years ago that found many of the people who had died had squamous cells start on the ear." They are usually small, round, slightly raised, and red and crusty. Often there is a sore in the cancer that does not heal.

Malignant melanoma: This is the most dangerous form of skin cancer. While only about 14 percent of skin cancers are malignant melanoma, this type accounts for the majority of deaths. (Approximately 47,700 people will be diagnosed with melanoma this year and 7,700 will die from it.) Melanoma begins in the skin cells that produce skin coloring, which is

why these cancers tend to be mixed shades of tan, brown and black. Those who are darker-skinned are less likely to get this disease; however, it can develop on their hands, soles of the feet, and under the nails.

Melanomas are usually found on sun-exposed skin, but can appear on other parts of the body. Often they begin in or near a mole or dark spot on the skin and spread quickly to other parts if not detected early.

Since most people have an average of 25 moles, how do you know which ones to worry about? An ordinary mole is an evenly colored brown, tan, or flesh colored spot in the skin. It can be flat or smooth and has sharply defined borders.

Remembering the "ABCD rule" may help you identify abnormal moles:

A symmetry (one half does not match the other half);

Border irregularity (edges are ragged, uneven, blurred);

Color (not uniform, may have shades of brown, black, blue, or red);

Diameter (is wider than 1/4 inch or is growing larger).

The best protection against skin cancer is to know the terrain of your skin and take simple steps to incorporate sun safety habits into your daily routine. As Weinstock recommends,

"We don't want you to be a couch potato, but we don't want you to be a baked potato, either."

(For information or materials about sun safety contact the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org or call 1-800-ACS-2345.)

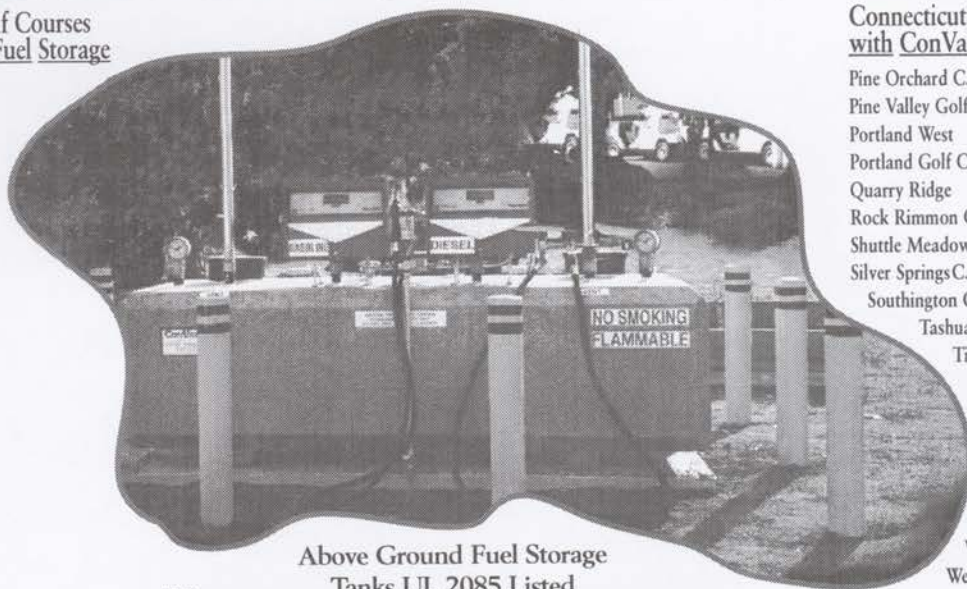
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Inside the GCSAA boardroom (continued from page 2)

show, GCSAA has received significant member feedback, which has helped to mold the latest changes and ongoing development of the PDI. As the Membership chairman, it was my job to report recommendations generated during the Membership Committee's April meeting. Among them were to:

- * Devise an alternative Class A entry path for superintendents who do not have at least a two-year turf degree. This might include such things as requiring that they have more experience and continuing education credits.
- * Award membership credits to superintendents who act as mentors to budding turf professionals, e.g., interns.
- * Require Class A members to have an appropriate pesticide license or to pass a GCSAA-developed exam. In other PDI discussions, we decided:
- * Ongoing requirements will include such things as credits for continuing education and industry-related service.
- * Use of the HR Web, now called the Professional Development Resource (PDR), will not be required, just strongly encouraged, possibly by

offering credits. PDR is an online competency evaluation tool designed to allow superintendents to assess their on-the-job effectiveness and target specific areas for improvement.

* Members will be given credit for educational programs taken locally or nationally.

The PDI still has a way to go before it's put into effect. It will be discussed again at upcoming committee meetings in July and at the Delegates Meeting in September.

Prior to the Delegates meeting, the membership will be sent a document that details the latest proposal. Members are encouraged to review this material and contact their delegate with comments. Look for more details about the MSRSG meeting in the July issue of Newline.

Also know that, as a GCSAA member, you can learn more about our board and MSRSG meetings by visiting the association website—www.gcsaa.org—and logging on to the members-only section.

Tim O'Neill, CGCS
Country Club of Darien
(Tel: 203/655-9726)

Dursban — (continued from page 1)

existing residential structures (post-construction). Use of products affected by this agreement will be allowed until existing stocks are depleted.

Use of chlorpyrifos in the U.S. as a termiticide for spot and local treatment will be allowed until December 31, 2002. Chlorpyrifos will remain available in the U.S. for use as a termiticide for new residential construction (pre-treat) until December 31, 2005. This date may be extended, however, based on the results of an exposure study specific to this application.

Retail sale of chlorpyrifos products in the U.S. will be allowed until December 31, 2001.

Chlorpyrifos will remain available for various U.S. nonresidential uses such as golf courses and ornamental nurseries as well as for all U.S. crop uses except tomatoes.

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