### CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

# CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

### Volume 34, No. 4

### The boys of summer

**C** ongratulations to Michael and Robbie Neaton, sons of Phil and Donna Neaton, State Little League Champs from Lyme/Old Lyme, not

an easy battle. First in District 10, they were beaten by Mystic and then came back to beat Mystic twice to win the district title.

The state title was another spent 11 days with the little league. Side trips were made to the ESPN studios and Lake Compounce—well, maybe not all business, sounds like a

> lot of fun, too. Back to the Regionals, the team did great through the first round. However, in the second round they lost to Goffstown, NH (3-2) yes, just one run away from advancing. There were

Proud father, Phil Neaton, with his two sons, Robbie on his right and Michael on his left.

challenge they won by beating Shelton twice.

The team advanced to the Eastern Regional Tournament which was held at the Giamatti Field in Bristol, CT. Here it is all business. The players are housed in dorms and have no physical contact with family. The team more than 7,000 little league teams competing when the tournament began. Lyme/Old Lyme finished 16th. Nice going, guys!

Congratulations also to Phil Neaton, (supt. at the Black Hall Club) league president, and Brad Moore, manager.

### September, 2000

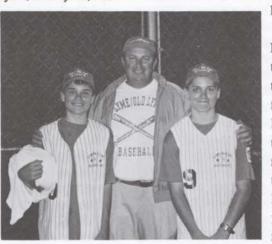
### Pequabuck GC takes home 2000 CAGCS Invitational Trophy

The team from Pequabuck GC, Peter Pierson, supt., snuck home with the Invitational trophy by shooting a gross score of 68, only one shot ahead of the teams from Shennecossett GC, Frank Polizzi, supt. and Orange Hills CC, Jud Smith, Supt., who came in 2nd and 3rd respectively with a 69.

First place net was won by the team from Wallingford CC, Scott Gennings, supt., followed by Twin Hills CC, Mike McDermott, supt., and Black Hall Club, Phil Neaton, supt.

The weather threatened all day, but no rain fell—something unusual for this year. CAGCS is indebted to Watertown GC, host supt. Bob Viera, and the Bruedan Corporation for their continued sponsorship of this event.

This was the 20th anniversary for the Invitational Tournament, the first being held at Wethersfield CC with 15 teams competing. The thrust behind this event was aimed at allowing club officials the opportunity to experience a CAGCS event—and, in so doing, the real strengths of the association would be viewed in greater support and understanding of the superintendent's profession.





Brian Skelly CAGCS President

The old song used to ask, "Where have all the flowers gone?" We know that this summer they just drowned and rotted away. Little did I think in the spring, while I was hoping for a wetter summer than last year, that even I would say "enough already". Since June 1, we have had 13.50" of rain here at Old Lyme, and we did not receive any of those 7" storms that some of you got. Add to that, cool temperatures, cloudy days, I feel like I'm in the northwest.

I guess those volcanoes in the spring

#### **CAGCS Board of Directors**

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Newsletter Editor Bob Chalifour, CGCS (Ret.)

Newsletter Committee David Basconi, Heather Garvin, 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. and to LESCO, INC. for sponsoring this year's family day. With the help of these sponsorships, we are able to keep the cost to members at a minimum.

While I am on the subject of meetings, I would briefly like to talk about attendance. The entire board spends a lot of time and effort to get courses for our monthly meetings. Every host superintendent spends of lot of time getting his or her course ready to host one of our events. Each club or town gives up revenue and the course itself allowing us to play.

Out of respect for our fellow superintendents, we should all attend as many meetings as possible, whether at a private club or a public one. Yet it seems that only the meetings at private courses are well attended.

Come out and attend all of the meetings whenever possible because remember, we are all in the same boat, with the same headaches, no matter the budget or membership.

Mother Nature treats us all the same, so come enjoy the fellowship of your friends and cry over your beer about the weather together. Also offer your course for a meeting. We are looking for sites next year and beyond. It is not too early to sign up and get the date of your choice.

Finally, when this issue comes out, the "Hundred Days of Hell" will have ended. There are only shorter days and cooler weather to look forward to. Now if only fall would give us moderate temperatures, sunny days, adequate rain, and last a long time allowing us to reseed and recover.

Lastly, CAGCS has reserved a room block at headquarters hotel in Dallas for the Conference & Show. Rooms are on a first-come, first-serve basis. So, contact the office (203/387-0810 or toll free 888/561-7778) for the appropriate forms.

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### **President's message**

Brian Skelly, President

did affect the weather.

I would like to thank our host superintendents who have offered their clubs for meetings this year. May was held at Oronoque CC hosted by Ward Weischet, CGCS; June was at Shennecossett GC hosted by Frank Polizzi, CGCS, and while the first date was rained out, the makeup date was a perfect day. July was at Westwoods GC hosted by Kevin D'Amico, CGCS. The golf courses were in excellent shape at all three venues and were enjoyed by those that attended.

Thanks also to the respective clubs and towns that allowed us to use their facilities, Oronoque CC, the Town of Groton, and the Town of Farmington.

Our annual family day was a clam bake picnic at the Madison Surf Club. The menu was never ending — from mussels, chowder, burgers & dogs, chicken, and of course lobster. While the weather was not absolutely perfect, it did not rain. Kim Heyl and her committee did an outstanding job.

A special thanks to Chris Mauro who helped get the park and the Town of Madison for allowing us to use it

### Connecticut Clippings

### A Vision for the Future GCSAA Maps Out a Course for 2005

Timothy O'Neill, CGCS, is serving his first term as a Director of GCSAA. He is the superintendent at the Country Club of Darien, a member of CAGCS, the Met GCSA, and the Rhode Island GCSA

People are always asking me, "So how is it being on the GCSAA Board?" And my answer is, as I believe it always will be, "It's been great!" Truthfully, I've learned a lot about GCSAA, and it's strengthened my belief in the association's mission. I have a tremendous amount of respect for my fellow board members and the GCSAA staff.

The biggest challenges have been time away—and weathering the frustrations of travel.

I just returned from a whirlwind tour that included a trip to Denver for the summer GCSAA board meeting and a stop at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, KS, for a day-and-a-half meeting with the Student Resource Group.

I thought you might be interested in some of the topics we discussed, not the least of which are GCSAA's ambitious plans for the future. Here are the highlights.

#### Looking ahead to 2005

In addition, we reviewed the association's Mission and Vision, which the board approved last October and which projects ahead for the next five years.

The Mission Statement has changed slightly. It used to read, "GCSAA is

dedicated to serving its members, advancing their profession, and enriching the quality of golf and the environment." With a slight shift in focus it now says, "GCSAA is dedicated to serving its members, advancing their profession and enhancing the enjoyment, growth, and vitality of the game of golf."

Taking into account this mission, GCSAA's vision for the year 2005 includes seeing that:

 employers will recognize superintendents as the key to the economic vitality of the facility

 golfers will recognize superintendents as the key to the enjoyment of the game

• the golf community, environmental community, public policy makers, and society will recognize GCSAA as leading the golf community's commitment to protecting and enhancing the environment.

• GCSAA members and others in the golf industry will recognize GCSAA as the authoritative source for information and education related to golf course management and will participate in GCSAA programs at record levels

GCSAA has already set in motion a number of strategies for realizing this vision.

> As an association, the goals for 2005 include increasing membership; strengthening GCSAA's environmental leadership role among golf and environmental constituents; building partnerships with leaders of allied golf



associations; becoming a greater presence in turf-related research; becoming a recognized authority on information and issues related to golf course development, management, and operations by further developing the Conference and Show and use of the internet to deliver information and services; positioning GCSAA as a dynamic and responsive organization by establishing a greater connection between GCSAA and its members and chapters.

#### At the Board Meeting

Like most GCSAA board meetings, this one-day session included a full agenda, including review of association finances and approval of:

• the association environmental mission, goals, and strategies

 regulations regarding caddies and spectators during the GCSAA golf championship

 sponsorship opportunities and potential sponsors

(continued on page 10)



#### Connecticut Clippings



Supt. - Jud W. Smith Asst. Supt. - Joe Fabrizio Manager - Judy Smith Morgan

The CAGCS September 11th meeting took us to the Smith Family's course, Orange Hills CC, in Orange, CT. Superintendent, Jud Smith, our association Vice President, is the third generation in the business.

His grandfather acquired the land in the 1920s, which was originally a park and opened a 9-hole golf course. Jud's father, Walter, became involved in the 50s and added another 9 holes.

### Orange Hills CC - Smith family host of September 11th meeting

Geoffrey Cornish designed that layout which was opened in 1958. Mr. Smith is still active with clubhouse management and projects. Jud's sister, Judy Smith-Morgan, is the function coordinator at the course.

Since we last visited Orange Hills, there have been a few changes. The 9th green, which was right next to the club entrance, has been moved away from the road and enlarged to a 6,000 sq. ft. green. There are new tees on 1, 5 and 6, and six of the greens have internal drainage.

If you don't remember from the last time, the back holes which are the newer holes are tighter than the front nine.

The road to superintendent was not a straight shot for Jud. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Richmond, majoring in marketing and management. Jud worked in New York City, Los Angeles and New Haven in sales and real estate. When help was needed on a drainage project, he lent a hand, enjoyed it and has been on the course since. Jud attended the 1991 UMASS Winter School.

Jud worked with his predecessor, Karl Knobloch, on and off during high school. Jud also has learned a lot from and appreciates the help he received from local superintendents John Gallagher, John Streeter, Harry Meusel, and Les Kennedy when he first started out in the business.

Jud had the opportunity of coaching football with Mark Whipple at New Haven and learned a lot about motivation from him.

Jud lives in Orange with Augie, his 7 1/2 year old "mutt". When not working, Jud enjoys golf, football, coaching youth football, fishing and snow-mobiling.

The Smith family was a finalist for the Nuzko Family Business Award from the UCONN School of Business in 1999.

house.

With no formal education in golf course architecture or turf, the two brothers credit Charlie Allen, Dr. Jessie DeFrance and Dr. Fred Ledoboer for their guidance. Why golf for two nongolfers at the time of their first venture — simply, they wanted to keep and preserve the land. About 1985, both Charlie and Joe became more avid golfers.

In addition to golf, Charlie enjoys boating, traveling and antiquing with his wife of 41 years, Jennie.

With all the extra duties and hobbies, Charlie credits Pete Palmer with the day-to-day operation of River Ridge. Charlie's daughter, Pamela, keeps a watchful eye on the books.

### River Ridge CC will host Supt/Asst. Tournament - Oct. 25th

Charlie & Joe Rustici - Owner Profile

Our hosts for the October 25th meeting are Charlie & Joe Rustici, owners of River Ridge Golf Course. The two brothers designed and built both the course and the clubhouse.

When asked why golf for two Electric Boat workers, the answer was, "What better use for the land?"

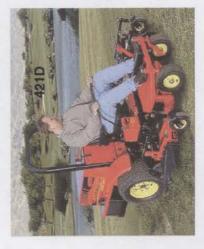
The family farm was their first venture, Elmridge Golf Club. Charlie and Joe wanted to keep the land so they sold the dairy herd of 80 cows and 2,000 turkeys and worked at building Elmridge while working at Electric Boat. The course was started in 1964 and opened in 1966.

The former Brewster Orchard in Griswold became available and Charlie and Joe bought it at auction. Here we go again, a chance to preserve the land. This time they brought in a couple of outside contractors, but still were at River Ridge daily working and supervising, both the course and club-

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### October 3, 2000

### **Tumble Brook Country Club**

Superintendent: Cindy Johnson Asst. Supt. - Fred Diefenbach PGA Professional - Bob Nelson Manager - Ara Daglian

The S & R Tournament will be held at Tumble Brook Country Club on October 3rd. Superintendent Cindy Johnson will be our host for the annual fundraising tournament.

Tumble Brook is a 27-hole layout that was built in three stages, nine at a time. The first was constructed in 1924 by Willie Parks, Jr., a two-time British Open Champion. The second Orrin E. Smith and William Mitchell created nine in 1947-48. George and Tom Fazio designed the third nine in 1970. We will be playing the green course for the S & R which is made up of the first and third nines.

The greens at Tumble Brook have subtle undulations. When you get to holes 25 and 26, there is a spactacular view of Hartford. Heublien Tower can be seen from the course also. Tumble Brook was host, with Hartford GC, of the 1996 USGA Mid-Amateur, as well as PGA Pro-Ams and the CWGA Edicott Cup.

Cindy grew up in Bloomfield and played golf all her life. She wanted to be a professional golfer when she was young, but decided not to pursue that as she got older.

She graduated from UCONN in 1980 with a Bachelors Degree in Horticulture and Agronomy. She was working at Tumble Brook part time upon graduation and has been there since. Cindy attended the UMASS

### Fusarium Patch (pink snow mold) Study

Dr. Gail Schumann at the University of Massachusetts is conducting a study to help deal with some of the problems with Fusarium Patch on golf courses. A number of superintendent associations are supporting this study, but she is asking for our help. The study will include timing of fall applications for winter snow mold control, disease prediction during spring/fall outbreaks, and evaluation for fungicide resistance.

(1) Send Dr. Schumann Fusarium patch samples for the research collection. (2) Record environmental conditions when you see fall outbreaks of the disease. If you want a copy of the recording sheet, please call or email.

Are you interested in testing some fungicide treatments and timing on your golf course? We have some data from research plots on good fungicide combinations.

Please call or email. Graduate student Richard Anair will go to your course and evaluate the results in the spring. Dr. Schumann will then put together recommendations for the best treatments and timing for New England under real world conditions.

Dr. Gail Schumann Assoc. Prof. of Plant Pathology Dept. of Microbiology, UMASS 209 Fernald Hall, Amherst, MA 010003-2420 Tel: 413/545-3413 FAX: 413/545-2532 email: schumann@pltpath.umass.edu



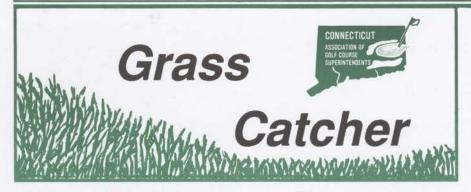
Cindy Johnson with her two border collies "Duffer & Bogie"

Winter School in 1981.

She credits fellow TBCC employees Ed Fanfesti and Steve Rackliffe with teaching her as she started out in the business. Cindy has been superintendent at Tumble Brook since 1983.

Cindy lives in Simsbury with 16year old son, Colby, and border collies, Duffer and Bogey. In her free time, Cindy enjoys golf, travel and walking.





Welcome New Members

George Gorton, Jr., Class Commercial Sawtelle Bros., Inc.

Scott Tretera, Class Commercial Metro Milorganite, Inc.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Room Block - Dallas, TX

All CAGCS members should have received their notice about the room block for the 72nd International Golf Course Conference and Show, February 11-18, 2001, in Dallas, TX, at headquarters hotel, the Adam's Mark.

Any member wishing to block a room should call the CAGCS office. A specially marked housing form and a letter of instructions will immediately be sent to you.

We have 30 rooms and they will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis.

\* \* \* \* \*

Deadline for November/December issue is October 13 **Condolences** to Keith Angilly on the passing of his father, and to Michael Cornicelli on the passing of his father.

### Connecticut Section PGA Agronomy Scholarship

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

1. Employed at a Connecticut/ Western Massachusetts golf facility employing a PGA member.

2. Employed at a Connecticut/ Western Massachusetts golf facility employing a CAGCS or GCSAA member.

3. Attending an agronomy course for a Winter Turf Program, 2-year degree, 4-year degree, or PhD in Agronomy.

Applications must be requested by December 1, 2000 and can be obtained from: CT Section PGA, 35 Cold Spring Road, Suite 212, Rocky Hill, CT, 06067, or from Walter Lowell, Canton Public Golf Course, P. O. Box 305, Canton, CT, 06019. If you have any questions please call Walter at 860/693-8305.

### October 2 - Deadline for 2001 Environmental Steward Awards

Consider yourself a candidate. Applications are available from the GCSAA service center (800/472-7878) or the GCSAA Web site: www.gcsaa.org/environ/ esaapp01.html.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Del Kinney to retire as CSGA Executive Director

After four years of significant contributions to the game of golf in Connecticut, Del Kinney, Jr., will retire as CSGA Executive Director at the end of the year.

Kinney, 59, has presided over a period of important changes in the 101-year old association, including streamlined management, improved communication with member clubs and other golf organizations, including CAGCS, expansion of the operations at Golf House in Rocky Hill, and outreach to disadvantaged young golfers.

Before joining the CSGA, Del was the Dean of Admissions at Western Connecticut State University. He had served the Danbury institution for 30 years.

He has been a top golfer on the Connecticut scene for many years and has two CSGA Public Links Championships to his credit.

Del will join his wife, Georgette, who retired this year from WCSU, a home construction business.

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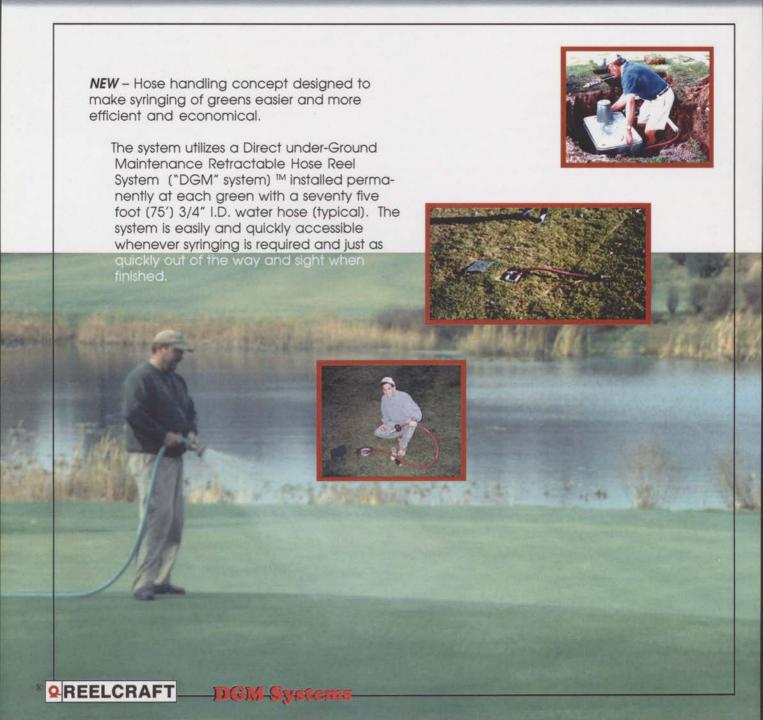




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- Maximizes labor efficiency by making the job easier and less burdensome to greenskeepers (takes out the monotony of the job).
- Hand watering vs. sprinkler watering will give a more even and / or isolated watering distribution to the green; more effective and higher quality application will preserve and protect the green from bad exposures.
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### Monthly Meeting Golf Results

June meeting - Shennecossett Golf Club Tournament: Blind Partners

	01055	INCL
1st	K. Kennedy	K. DeVaux
	G. Goodwin	M. Sullivan
2nd	J. Motycka	D. Cook
	F. Polizzi	T. Tighe

Crook

**B.** Armstrong

3rd

Long putt #7 - R. DiBella Closest to pin #9 - S. Ramsay Closest to pin #12 M. Faherty Closest to line #14 - B. Chalifour Long putt #15 - D. Basconi Longest drive - M. Cornicelli

Skill contests

R. DiBella A. Adaskaveg

Ma

S. O'Sullivan

July meeting - Westwoods Golf Course Tournament: A B C D - Best Ball of Four

Gross - 56 (The Home Town Boys) K. D'Amico, B. Till, P. Wollenberg & S. Hagan

> Net - 47 M. Dukette, B. Morse, B. Silva & A. Grosso

Hot Ball P. Pierson, Dayton Stimson, David Stimson, R. Holcomb Skill Contests

Long putt #7 - A. Adaskaveg #12 - M. Faherty Closest to pin #3 - B. Morse #18 - A. Grosso Closest to line - A. Adaskaveg Longest drive - S. Moran



CAGCS is thankful to The Bruedan Corp. which has been partially sponsoring our annual invitational tournament since 1997. Pictured here is the team from Bruedan that participated this year at Watertown Golf Club.

### **Upcoming Events**

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

> October 6th Bob Viera Day hosted by Watertown Golf Club

October 12th E. I. C. Golf Outing Tallwood Country Club

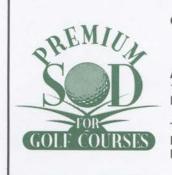
October 25th River Ridge Country Club Charlie & Joe Rustici, Owners Supt/Ass't. Tournament

November 14th CAGCS Annual Meeting & Election of Officers Highfield Country Club Chris Mauro, Supt.

December 2nd CAGCS Annual Christmas Party Theatre Banquet & Show The Spinning Wheel Inn Redding Ridge, CT

December 12 & 13 Two one-day seminars "Sustainable Golf Course Landscape Design: Enhancing Aesthetics, Function & Maintenance" ~ and ~ "Integrated Environmental Mgmt" Hawthorne Inn Berlin, CT

January 9, 2001 CAGCS Annual Winter Seminar Hawthorne Inn Berlin, CT



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Page 8

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### Upcoming Stockbridge School Events

Stockbridge School, the Associate of Science degree program at the UMass Amherst, offers five majors within the green industries. After two years of study, students are wellprepared for job opportunities in arboriculture, horticulture, crop production, landscape contracting, and turfgrass management.

All curricula include cooperative work experience. Stockbridge School is located at UMass, giving students the advantages of being at the larger institution while participating in smaller classes.

The Stockbridge School will sponsor its annual Stockbridge School Field Day on Friday, October 6th, at UMass Amherst. The Field Day will feature an activity in each major and provide an opportunity to acquaint prospective students with Stockbridge programs. Interested individuals and high school groups are invited to attend. Mark your calendars now!

Industry representatives will also be interested to know that Stockbridge School will be hosting their 4th annual Job Fair on Tuesday, Feb.13, 2001 in the Campus Center at UMass Amherst. Companies are invited to send representatives to meet with students regarding employment opportunities. Make your reservations early. Applications will be available in the fall. You can contact the Stockbridge School office at 413/545-2222 or stocky@fnr.umass.edu.

Individual visits to discuss Stockbridge programs and tour the UMass campus can also be arranged at any time. Simply call the Stockbridge School office or write to us at 115 Stockbridge Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. You may also visit our web site at www.umass.edu/stockbridge/

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#### Page 10

### A vision for the future (continued from page 3)

Then we batted around a number of other hot topics. On the list were:

• the Professional Development Initiative (PDI)

enhancements to the Speakers
Bureau Program

· the association internet strategy

 the association's upcoming 75th anniversary celebration

 Golf Course Management magazine's standard operating procedures and coverage of the Conference and Show

#### At the Student Resource Group Meeting

Following the board meeting, I was off to Lawrence for my meeting with the Student Resource Group. As chairman of the group, it is my responsibility to lead discussions about services and programs available to our student members.

The group consisted of 12 student members from across the country. For each, it was their first trip to our association headquarters. Most of the group members were either presidents or officers of their individual student chapters.

Although some were still trying to determine their ultimate career path, most felt they would be superintendents about five years after they graduated. One mentioned wanting to be a director of golf for a large facility. Several also mentioned achieving certification as one of their goals.

A number of them discussed the frustration of running a student chapter and getting the participation and commitment from other turf students. The resource group reviewed most all student programs and made recommendations for improvement. We also discussed:

 ways to create and enhance student/superintendent chapter relationships

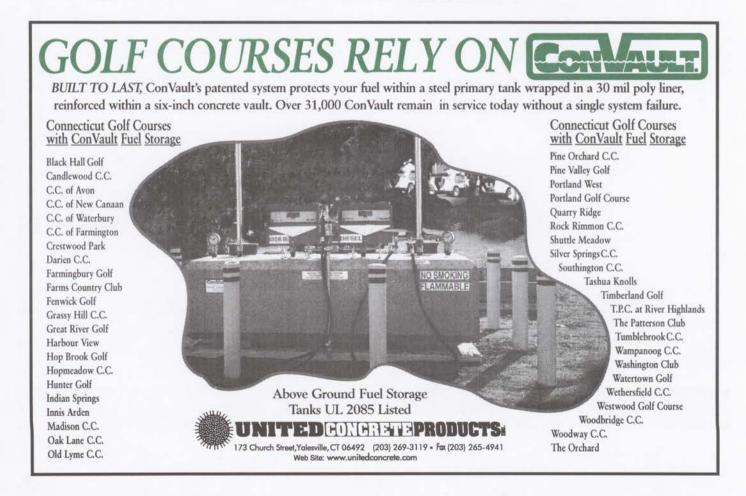
• enhancements to the student newsletter Student Links

• website information related to students

After a tour of headquarters and a day-and-a-half of discussions, the students headed home charged up and ready to leap into the profession.

I left feeling good about these students' enthusiasm for turfgrass management and their commitment to the industry.

Feel free to contact me at the CC of Darien  $(203/655-9726 \times 222)$ . Remember, you can also find out the outcome of all of our board meetings in the "Members Only" section of the GCSAA website at www.gcsaa.org.



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