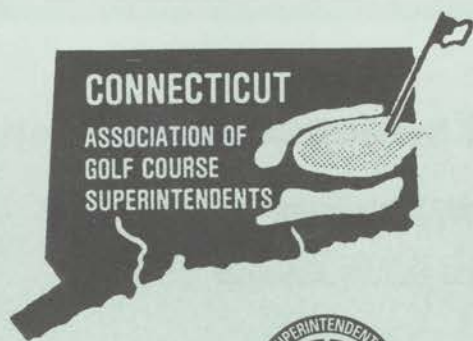


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CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

Volume 35, No. 5

November/December, 2001

Jud W. Smith elected CAGCS President

Jud W. Smith, Orange Hills CC, was elected president for the year 2002.

Other officers reelected at the November 7th annual meeting at Rock Ridge CC were:

Vice President - Dennis Houle
Redding CC

Secretary - Wayne Urban
Farmingbury Country Club

Treasurer - John Motycka
Skungamaug River GC

Elected to serve two-year terms as directors were Heather Garvin, Canton Public Golf Course, and John F. Streeter, CGCS, Woodbridge, CC.

Keith Angilly, Mill River CC, was appointed to fill the remaining one year director term for John Motycka.

Remaining on the board to complete



(L-R) John Streeter, CGCS, Chris Mauro, Heather Garvin, John Callahan & Keith Angilly

their terms are Kimberly Heyl, Fenwick GC, Chris Mauro, Highfield CC, and Peter Pierson, Pequabuck GC.

Brian Skelly will remain on the board as

immediate past president.

The commercial membership unanimously agreed that John E. Callahan, The Cardinals Co., serve as commercial representative to the board.

After all officers and directors presented their annual reports, it was announced that there would be a \$10 dues increase for 2002.

Dan Rackliffe, CGCS, this past year's membership chairperson, awarded lifetime membership plaques and pins to Ron Holcomb, Chas. C. Hart Seed Co. and Henry Suchinski, superintendent at Simsbury Farms Golf Course. Also eligible to receive life-



(L-R) Wayne Urban, John Motycka, Jud Smith, Dennis Houle

(continued on insert)



Brian Skelly
2000 & 2001 CAGCS President

President's message

Brian Skelly, President

I find it hard to believe that another year has passed. While not the most difficult for managing grass, it still presented problems especially in August and September. However, the season is over and so is my tenure as President of CAGCS.

I leave with CAGCS in great shape both financially and physically. Our membership numbers are strong with new members coming in all the time. I would like to thank the members of CAGCS for giving me the opportunity to serve this great association.

Little did I realize back in 1992 when Steve Rackliffe appointed me to the board where my journey would end. It has been an honor and a

privilege to represent CAGCS as President.

CAGCS is still active both regionally and nationally with members on the board of GCSAA, the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference, and the Environmental Industry Council. None of this could be accomplished without the dedication and hard work of our members, who offer their time to serve these various entities. Anyone who is interested in serving on a committee should contact someone on the board. You will not be sorry.

I would like to thank our executive secretary, Pauline Streeter, and our administrative assistant, Mary Jo Kennedy, for all their hard work and help. Their professionalism and dedication are the true reason CAGCS runs as well as it does. Words can't say thank you enough for all the help you have given me through the years, but thank you anyway.

As President, I have served with a dedicated and hardworking group of people who donated their time with

one goal in mind — to work towards the constant betterment of CAGCS and the professional advancement of its members. It has been a pleasure to work with this group of people, who I look upon as friends and fellow superintendents. I would like to thank CAGCS' Board of Directors for all their help and guidance and advice.

Anthony Grosso - Past President
You're finally done!

Jud Smith - Vice President
I know CAGCS is in good hands

Dennis Houle - Secretary

Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS - Treasurer
Peter Pierson - Government Relations,
EIC, Tri-State. Voting Delegate,
Liaison with DEP on water diversion

John Motycka - Golf

Wayne Urban - Social & Welfare

Kim Heyl - Education

Dan Rackliffe - Membership

Bob Chalifour - Newsletter Editor

Chris Mauro
Scholarship & Research

Skip Deubel
Commercial Representative

Finally, in the last issue of the *Clippings*, I stated that next year's annual meeting is at Rock Ridge.

Correction - next year's annual meeting will be at Birchwood Country Club, Ed Consolati, superintendent.

Remember, we are still looking for sites - just say you are interested and someone will contact you.

CAGCS Board of Directors

President - Brian Skelly
Vice President - Jud W. Smith
Secretary - Dennis J. Houle
Treasurer - Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS
Past President - Anthony Grosso

Committee Chairpersons

Education - Kim Heyl
Golf - John Motycka
Membership - Dan Rackliffe, CGCS
Scholarship & Research - Christian P. Mauro
Social & Welfare - Wayne C. Urban
Government Relations - Peter R. Pierson
Com. Rep. to Board - Skip Deubel

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

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Bob Chalifour, CGCS (Ret.)

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David Basconi, John Garcia,
Heather Garvin, Edward Goodhouse,
Mike Mooney, Ron Holcomb
and Jud W. Smith

The *Clippings* is open to all commentary.
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Tel: 203/387-0810 ~ Toll Free: 888/561-7778 ~ Fax: 203/387-7866
E-Mail: cagcs@noreaster.net

New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation

A report to New England area superintendents

by Mark A. Richard, CGCS, President

It is hard to believe that it has been over five years now since the formation of the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation and its conference and show.

The culmination of many hours of hard, tedious negotiations, and give-and-take by all groups involved has propelled our show into one of the top regional turfgrass conferences in the country.

We are nearly half way to our goal of a \$1 million trust to ensure continued funding down the road, as well as having given out nearly \$300,000 to date to our area turfgrass schools for present and ongoing turfgrass research.

Along with these outstanding accomplishments, the Foundation group retains the services of our Show Director, Marketing and Events, and in 2000 hired a full-time administrator, Mr. Gary Sykes, as Executive Director.

In Gary, the Foundation Board has the perfect man for the job. Gary is quite familiar with all the workings of the various universities, is a very accomplished golfer and former golf course superintendent. Besides being well spoken and well liked throughout the golfing community, he is a man of integrity, a family man who speaks ill of no one.

What better person to represent the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, and in a broader sense, the New England area superintendents. The position of Executive Director was created to handle the day-to-day

headaches and problems that were beginning to overwhelm the hard working volunteer board. We felt it important that the NERTF be seen and heard in person and so directed the Executive Director attend at least two monthly meetings of ALL New England area superintendents' groups during the year.

The preparation of all bills for the signature by the treasurer, preparation for all committee and board meetings, administration work that comes from setting up calls for proposals to researchers and getting the funding to the universities and in the proper hands. The day-to-day problems of running a business, if you will.

These duties have been expanded to include the formation of a 501(c)(3) tax exempt trust for business and individual donations to the Foundation that can be tax deductible.

Also, a newsletter is in the works to report on the ongoing funded research.

Clearly, if the position of Executive Director was a little murky to some a year ago, it is easy to see how much more defined and involved it is getting. This is pretty much what we had envisioned the position to be early on, a work in progress with ever-clearer responsibilities evolving.

More importantly, the Executive Director is no more than a phone call



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away to help any superintendent with any questions he/she may have regarding perceived problems or possible oversights in our operations.

As successful as we have been, I am sure we will still be prone to a mistake or two. If that is the case, we now have a professional avenue to direct your concerns as well as handle any suggestions that may improve our efficiency. No superintendent should claim he/she is in the dark concerning NERTF policies or procedures. After all, this is a foundation formed by superintendents for the good of the industry. It is YOUR Foundation. Help us reach our maximum potential.

In closing, much work has been accomplished over the last five years to bring us to this point in our history.

I am hopeful that the next five years can be as successful and satisfying for the Foundation. With your continued help and support, the sky is the limit.

**2002 NERTF
Conference & Show
Providence, RI
March 5, 6 & 7
(March 4th - Seminars)**

**CAGCS members
continue to support
Scholarship & Research**

The annual Scholarship & Research Tournament returned to the Torrington Country Club for the third time. Pictured in the center here with his crew, Ed Goodhouse, our host superintendent, proudly displays the first flag used by the U.S. Navy.

Orin Smith designed Torrington CC in 1929 and the layout has not been changed from the original plans. The par 4, 4th hole, is considered the signature hole. Ed especially likes the par 3, 6th hole, because it has a Redan green. Overall, the greens are vary fast.

Ed has been at Torrington CC for 24 years. He is a native of Goshen, graduated from Wamogo HS, and received his bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. Ed and his wife, Kathryn, have enjoyed 25 years of marriage and have two children. Kathryn is an x-ray technician at Sharon Hospital. Daughter,

Karla, is a freshman at the U. S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO, and son, Caleb, is a sophomore at Wamogo HS. Ed and his family have traveled to Belgium, France, Mexico and the Caribbean.

CAGCS says thanks to Ed and his crew for a very successful tournament. It was great!

Many thanks to each superintendent and golf professional who donated items that were used in our raffle.

Of course, this tournament would not be possible without our commercial tee sponsorship.

All of our commercial members readily come to the front to sponsor this event. Room does not allow us to mention them individually but our sincere gratitude is expressed to each.

CAGCS is proud to assist its members, members' children and employees



with scholarships.

This year's Dr. C. Richard Skogley scholarship was awarded was to Kyle Bruce Morse. This award is given annually to the applicant whose achievements show a commitment to community, career and academic objectives. Kyle is the son of Bruce Morse, supt. at Norwich Golf Course.

This past year, a CAGCS life member, John Lynch, passed away, and his wife donated \$1,500 to the S & R Fund. CAGCS is going to give a scholarship in his name in the amount of \$500 for three consecutive years. The first recipient of the John Lynch scholarship is Kelly Ann Fuller, daughter of Mark Fuller, CGCS, supt. at the Connecticut Golf Club.

Other recipients of a CAGCS scholarship are:

Brian Basconi
Erica Cooper
Michael S. Chrzanowski
Amy Lauren Chrzanowski
Jason M. Dowgiewicz
Michelle Gauvain
Jana Reed Loper
Timothy Mayes
Colleen Moore
Jason St. Louis
Alan Vibber
Robert Wagner

S & R Tournament Results

Gross

1st - 58 - Chris Demers, John Flemming, Ken Modzelesky, Shawn Flemming
2nd - 59 - Bill Murray, Chris Mauro, Dan Ford, Walt Wozniak
3rd - 60 - Cindy Johnson, Fred Diefenbach, Howie Friday, Sheri Lubin

Net

1st - 52.60 - Chris Mikita, Eric Morrison, Kenny Ainsworth, Kevin Collins
2nd - 55.30 - Andry Drohen, Jim Wierzbicki, John Wynne, N. Goldberg
3rd - 56.80 (m/c) - Allen Woodward, Matt Howland, Matt Quinn, Phil Stone
4th - 56.80 (m/c) - Greg Stent, Ivan Bidstrup, John Maloney, Steve Pons

Skill Prizes

Closest to Pin #3 - Kevin Balocca 3' 2"; #6 - Eric Morrison 1'11"; #11 - Steve Sirica 6'6"; #17 - Ron Smith 3'5"; Closest to Line - #18 - Willard Jacobs
Longest Drive #1 - Dan Ford; #15 - John Kul

DEP charts course for compliance with Water Diversion Policy Act

By Robert F. Good, Jr., Associate
Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc.

The much-anticipated DEP conference on "Water Resource Management in a Golf Course Environment" was held at the Country Club of Farmington on October 18th. About 200 stakeholders in Connecticut's golf course industry attended the conference, including superintendents, regulators, developers, industry affiliates and consultants.

The main topic of discussion was the DEP's plan to bring Connecticut golf courses into compliance with the Water Diversion Policy Act. The conference also included educational presentations on golf course hydrology and irrigation efficiency and panel discussions about the Final Draft Report on Potential Best Management Practices (BMPs) for golf course water.

The opening address made by Jane Stahl, Deputy Commissioner of the DEP, focused on a partnership between the DEP and the golf course industry to, "do the right thing." Ms. Stahl stated that the DEP's compliance initiative for water diversion was consistent with the DEP's proposed strategic priorities for the next decade, which include a renewed effort towards watershed management, conservation

and development, conservation and development management and environmental stewardship. She recognized the role of the CAGCS in the process, and the golf industry as a whole, whom has been proactive and cooperative.

Denese Rezecha, Assistant Director of the DEP Inland Water Resources Division, then spoke about conserving and allocating water resources from a natural resource and regulatory perspective. Ms. Rezecha pointed out that the relative abundance of our water supply in Connecticut must be balanced against the competing demands for this resource from streams, power supplies, industrial processes, domestic uses, agricultural and recreation.

The Water Diversion Policy Act was adopted in 1982 to strike such a balance — permitting ground-water withdrawals, surface-water withdrawals and inter-basin transfers of water, in amounts of more than 50,000 gallons per day (gpd) when such diversion is found to be necessary — is compatible with long-range water resource planning, and will not have a significant adverse impact to the environment or existing water users.

The golf course industry must recognize that competition for water resources is an important aspect of water allocation, and that competitors could be interveners in the application process.

Ms. Rezecha stated that the DEP records indicate 46 golf courses registered their water diversions before the deadline in 1983, and an estimated 61 courses are in need of filing for diversion permits. She confirmed that the diversions grandfathered by the original registrations are exempt from the diversion permit process, even if their withdrawals are causing environmental impacts.

This exclusion status can be avoided in cases where significant changes have been made to the water systems since 1982.

She mentioned that the DEP might be interested in reallocating registered diversions in cases where the actual water consumption is significantly less than the registered amount or where withdrawals have been terminated.

Relative to the allocation issue, the

(continued on page 8)



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Dennis Petruzzelli, CGCS
Class Commercial
Metro Milorganite, Inc.

Kevin M. St. Denis, Class C
Manchester Country Club

* * * * *

— Congratulations —

Michael and Kathy Chrzanowski on the birth of twins, a boy Max, and a girl Teagan.

Gary and Diana Sykes on the birth of a baby girl, Heather Marie.

Gary Reynolds, golf professional at the Hartford Golf Club on being the first member of the Section to receive the PGA National Bill Strausbaugh Club Relations Award.

Reynolds becomes the third section professional honored to receive a national PGA award. Walter Lowell was named PGA golf professional of the year in 1978 and Ron Beck was named PGA merchandiser of the year in 1994.

* * * * *

— Condolences —

Family of **L. Gary "Bear" Luccini** who recently died in the Baro Neurological Institute at St. Joseph Hospital in Phoenix, AZ.

Gary Luccini, known to his friends as "Bear", was employed at the Franklin CC for more than 32 years, most recently as the golf course superintendent.

A high school athlete, he was a varsity letterman in football, basketball and golf. He also attended the Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst. Active as an adult in local sports, he served for

many years as the voice of Franklin High School hockey on cable television.

He was a member of the Rhode Island and New England GCSA chapters, a member of GCSAA, and well known to many Connecticut superintendents, many of whom trained under him.

* * * * *

**Annual Winter Seminar
January 15th**

Kim Heyl, Education Chairperson, and her committee are planning another informative seminar for this coming January. This well-attended seminar, with dynamic speakers, is always a highlight of the year.

Featured speakers include Dr. William Torello, UMASS; David Oatis, USGA, Dr. Jim Murphy, Rutgers; Dr. Carl Guillard, UCONN; Stephen Kay, golf course architect; representatives from the CT DEP and EIC.

* * * * *

2002 Dues Statements

The 2002 dues statements are in the mail along with the member information sheets. This is the information used to prepare the membership directory, so make all corrections and changes and return it to the CAGCS office.

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2001 Annual Meeting



(Continued from page 1)

2001 CAGCS Annual Meeting November 7, 2001 Rock Ridge Country Club

time status are Thomas R. Gresh, Blackledge CC, and Fred Zeytoonjian, Turf Products Co. Lifetime membership is granted to those who have been CAGCS members for 30 years.

Twenty-five year pin was awarded to Peter Burnham, CGCS, Heritage Village CC.

Fifteen-year pins were awarded to Dennis Houle, Redding, CC, Dan Rackliffe, CGCS, Longshore Club, and John Streeter, CGCS, Woodbridge CC.

Ten-year pins were awarded to Jon Case, Airways GC; Kevin DeVaux, Stanley GC, Terry Mish, Winfield Nurseries, and Jud Smith, Orange Hills CC.

Those members who are entitled to receive pins and were not able to attend the meeting will receive theirs in the mail.

Following the meeting and a great lunch, 54 golfers ventured out for a 9-hole scramble

— Golf Results —

1st Place

D. Houle, D. Rackliffe,
R. Good & A. Drohen

2nd Place

J. Callahan, J. Napier,
K. D'Amico, R. Szymanski

Winners of major championships and trophies were:

CAGCS Champions	Gross	Net
A Flight (0-12)	Ward Weischet, CGCS	Peter Pierson
B Flight (13-19)	Dick Cook	Paul Sabino
C Flight (20-36)	Joe Malay	John Napier
Senior (>50)	Eric Johnson	Bob Chalifour
Commercial	Mark Grenert	Shawn Donovan
President's Cup	Mike Dukette	
McLaughlin Trophy	Wayne Urban	
Supt./Asst.	Mike McDermott, Supt. Eric DeStefano, Asst.	Bruce Morse, Supt. Eric Kundahl, Asst.

The 2002 season two-man team competition fielded 27 teams, up from 23 last year. The winners were Phil Neaton, Black Hall Club, and Al La Prise, Allens Seed Store.

The 7th annual New England Superintendents' Championship was hosted by the Vermont GCSA and held at the CC of Vermont on September 11th. Our team of Greg Stent/ Mike Dukette, Keith Angilly/John Callahan, Wayne Urban/Mark Fuller, and Al La Prise/Owen Regan finished 2nd. (The team was comprised of 6 out of 8 of the original qualifiers.)

The Met Area Championship was held at the Sunningdale CC in Scarsdale, NY, on October 11th. Our team of Jud Smith, Mark Grenert, Walt Wozniak, Greg Stent, Jim Calladio, Chris Mauro, John Callahan and Scott Tretera finished 5th.



Golf results

**Tower Ridge Country Club - October 16
Superintendent/Assistant Championship**

Low Gross - 70 - Twin Hills CC
Michael McDermott/Eric DeStefano

2nd Gross - 73 - Oronoque CC
Ward Weischet/Phil Matts

Low Net - 63 - Norwich Golf Course
Bruce Morse/Eric Kundahl

2nd Net - 65 - Stanley Golf Course
John Napier/Kevin DeVaux

Better Ball of Two

Low Gross - 77
Heather Garvin/John Callahan
Low Net - 64
Robert Good/Dennis Petruzzelli

Closest to Line #2 - Kevin Bengtson
Closest to the Pin #3 - Wayne Urban
Long Drive #14 - Heather Garvin
Long Putt - #18 - Phil Matts
Congratulations to Rob Good on a
hole in one!

From Sept., 2001 *Golfdom* — Peter Cure, CGCS, Orchard Creek GC, Altamont, NY, recommends Tyvek coveralls to prevent ticks from clinging to workers' clothing and moving to their skin. Light colored, impenetrable and tight fitting around wrists and ankles.

* * * * *

**"The Wheel"
under new management**

Fairchild Wheeler GC, formerly managed by National Fairways, was forced out of their contract by the City of Bridgeport. Reports cite poor management and failure to make lease payments.

Fairchild Wheeler (National Fairways) also left many vendors holding unpaid bills. There also have been reports of employees not being paid.

Management is now under the City of Bridgeport and Gerry Brett, golf course superintendent.

Meanwhile, Phelps Brook, LLC, a division of National Fairways, is developing two 18-hole golf courses in North Stonington, CT.

* * * * *

As you read this, your editor will be returning from visiting Scotland and the haunts of "Old Tom Morris".

With the 75th anniversary of GCSAA, selected future issues will highlight the history of golf.

* * * * *

*May all CAGCS members enjoy a
happy holiday season.*

*Good wishes to all for a happy and
prosperous new year!*

Upcoming Events

December 8th
CAGCS Annual Christmas Party
Woodbridge Country Club

January 15th
CAGCS Annual Winter Seminar
Hawthorne Inn
Berlin, CT

February 3 - 10
*GCSAA's 73rd
International Golf Course
Conference & Show*
Orlando, FL

February 12
Fifth Annual Job Fair
Stockbridge School
Campus Center at UMASS
(413/545-2222) or
(stocky@fnr.umass.edu)

March TBA
CAGCS Monthly Meeting

March 4 - 7
*New England Regional
Turfgrass Conference & Show*
Providence, RI

* * * * *

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**DEP's plan to bring
Connecticut golf courses into compliance
with the Water Diversion Policy Act**

(continued from page 5)

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DEP has determined that adequate golf course irrigation can be accomplished with a maximum withdrawal of 250,000 gpd, which is consistent with the existing General Diversion Permit withdrawal limit.

For the estimated 61 golf courses that may need diversion permits, Ms. Rezecha had the following advice:

- √ Diversion permit applications are reviewed and issued on a first-come, first-serve basis, so apply early;

- √ Come in for a preapplication meeting with the DEP to discuss your course's water use and determine the best permit strategy;

- √ Hire a competent consultant, with expertise in hydrogeologic evaluations and diversion permit policy; and

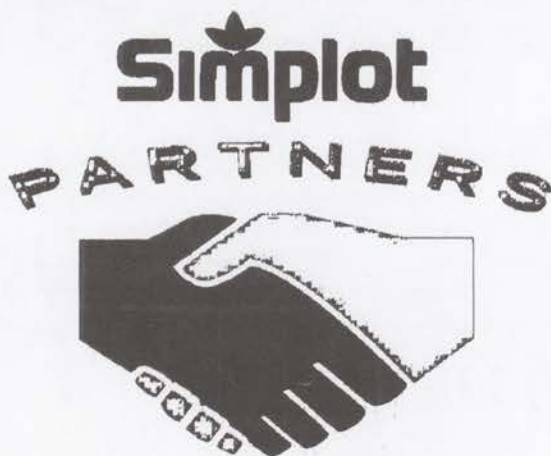
- √ Educate the local community wherever possible about golf course water use and water quality issues to minimize the number of interveners to your application.

The morning session ended with a presentation by Bob Smith, Chief of the DEP Bureau of Water Management, on the DEP's Golf Course Compliance Assistance Initiative. This initiative was described to include the DEP's involvement in the Water Resource Management conference, its role in developing the golf course BMP's, institution of Public Act 01-202 in June, 2001, and the proposal to develop a new General Diversion Permit, specifically designed for the golf



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course industry.

Mr. Smith echoed a consistent theme, that the DEP is willing to take an active and cooperative role in the compliance process, not by enforcement, but by open communication and development of a reasonable and effective compliance strategy.

With PA 01-202, the DEP hopes to provide an incentive for voluntary compliance with the Diversion Act by instituting new and realistic reporting and application deadlines, without the threat of enforcement actions.

Courses that maintain a water diversion must now provide operating data for each water source to the DEP by July 1, 2002, and all diversion permit applications must be filed by July 1, 2003. This amnesty period may not apply to courses that have made significant changes to their water systems since 1982.

The new General Diversion Permit is still a work in progress and may be over a year in the making. Superintendents are hopeful that the new permit will afford limited peak water usage in excess of 250,000 gpd and consider average water usage over periods longer than 24 hours.

A representative from the Massachusetts DEP reported that the MA diversion permit does consider averaging, applying only to withdrawals in excess of 100,000 gpd, averaged over a three-month period. There is plenty of time for the CAGCS to become involved in the drafting of the new general permit and lobby for a diversion limitation that is more applicable to golf course irrigation.

Mr. Smith closed by reviewing a to-do list for golf courses, in light of the assistance initiative policy. He suggested that golf courses: →

"To-Do" list for golf courses

- ✓ Install flow meters at all water withdrawal points to provide good operational water use data;
- ✓ Review and institute the BMPs for Golf Course Water, dated October 4, 2001;
- ✓ Learn the diversion policy and do not rely strictly on the interpretation of others for your particular situation;
- ✓ Request a permit determination from the DEP, either in writing or with a preapplication meeting; and
- ✓ Comply with PA 01-202 to avoid enforcement actions in the future.

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Season 2001: An Agronomic Oddity

The following is an excerpt from the USGA, Links Online

Northeast News Update of September 14, 2001

by David Oatis, Director, and

Jim Skorulski, Jim Baird and Kathy Antaya, Agronomists

Source: David Oatis. Used with permission.

The 2001 growing season for many golf courses in the New England region was indeed odd. The problems experienced across the area have varied from mild to extreme, locally unique to regionally common. The bottom line is that 2001 has proven to be a difficult year for turf managers. Turf loss has been more the rule than the exception for many of the golf courses in Rhode Island as well as throughout the New England region.

The purpose of this communication

is to simply provide an opportunity to help understand what occurred this past season at the agronomic level. One of the most useful resources of information with regard to golf course turf, as well as an unbiased view of the entire region, is the USGA Staff Agronomists. Through the Turf Advisory Service, each USGA agronomist visits close to 100 golf courses each year. They are in the unique position to have a very informed perspective as to what is happening with golf course turf throughout their region.

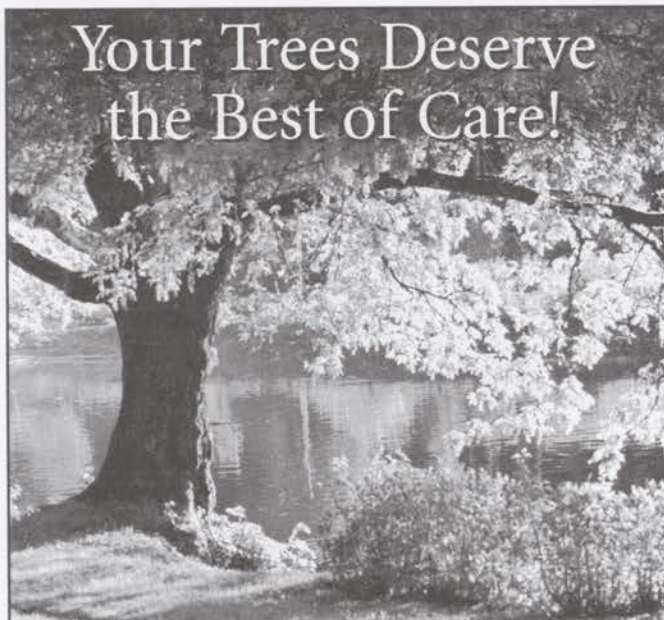
Turf problems abound. Requests for turf visits are continuing to come into our office from courses that have experienced turf problems this year. Make no mistake about it, 2001 has been a year of

peculiar weather extremes and turfgrass at many courses throughout the region has suffered as a result.

We started the year out with extreme winter injury, caused both by snow mold fungi and crown hydration injury. The cold spring hampered recovery efforts. The early spring drought put further stress on the turf and was especially troublesome for courses that had irrigation difficulties. However, for many courses, the real problems did not start until July and August.

We heard a variety of diagnosis this year, but anthracnose (*Colletotrichum graminicola*) seems to have stolen the headlines this season. Nonetheless, we saw all of our other old friends this summer too: summer patch, take-all patch, dollarspot, nematodes, brown patch, pythium, *cucularia*, etc. were all prevalent. I believe many of our problems resulted from the late spring and extended drought which delayed, and then prolonged, the annual blue-

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The Rhode Island GCSA sent this article to their membership, and we would like to thank them for the shared information.

grass seeding cycle by a couple of weeks.

Just as the Poa seeding cycle finished up, we experienced several days of blistering high temperatures. The combination of root die back (caused by the seeding cycle) and the high temperatures caused extreme stress to annual bluegrass. We saw extremely weak fairway turf during the week of July 4th. At some courses, the annual bluegrass was wilting at 10:00 a.m., even though there was adequate soil moisture!

Periodic bouts of milder temperatures helped the turf at many courses, but the high temperatures and locally heavy (torrential in some areas) rain-

fall pushed more turf over the edge later in July, and things got worse in August. Early mid-August often is a good time to aerify our golf turf, but the high temperatures and heavy rains caused problems with these activities, too.

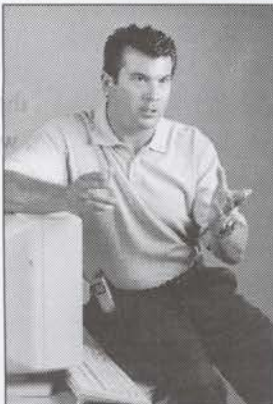
And if all that wasn't enough, there was the chemical contamination problem! Several courses in the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions recently have suffered turf thinning and loss apparently due to applications of a product contaminated with phenoxy herbicides. Some lots of Bensumec 4LF, made by PBI Gordon are believed to be causing the problem.

While some courses escaped the

summer unscathed, most have lost grass on one area or another. Some have suffered extensive damage.

Whenever a golf course loses turf, there is concern. This brief reflection on the 2001 season has hoped to address some of the questions many courses may have. As the 2001 season comes to a close, much of the turf lost is beginning to, or already has, recovered. In most cases, weak and undesirable Poa annua is being replaced with better grass varieties. With that in mind, remember that sometimes Mother Nature can deal a pretty bad hand, but if the cards are played right even a losing hand has a chance to win.

(This regional news update and others written by the USGA Green Section staff, can be found on the USGA web site: www.usga.org/green/news/new.html)



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