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SUPERINTENDENTS



Connecticut Clippings

Volume 36, No. 1

March/April, 2002

Superintendent of the Year

It is an honor and a privilege to be given the opportunity to present to you the Superintendent of the Year Award. This is our association's most prestigious and coveted award because it is voted on by the recipient's peers. Nominees must be Class A or Life Members who have shown exemplary skills in managing and maintaining a golf facility - and have devoted time and effort to help benefit local and national superintendents associations.

This year's recipient started in the business in 1970 - working on a grounds crew at the Golf Club of Aspetuck, known today as Connecticut Golf Club. In 1977 he became the Assistant Superintendent at Tashua Knolls Golf Course in Trumbull. The following year he earned a Certificate in Turf Management from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He was appointed Golf Course

Superintendent at Pequabuck Golf Club in 1982.

This year's recipient has served on the CAGCS Board for numerous years - and from what my sources tell me - there has not been a committee that he has not served on or a chair he has not held.

This Superintendent of the Year has many other interests including fishing and lobstering on his 22 ft. boat. I'm sure many of you that know him personally and have heard the stories of the many "big ones that got away!"

As an athlete, he participates in football, basketball, and softball leagues. What you may not know is that he has been a competitive, award - winning bowler for over 30 years. Some of his favorite travel destinations include: the Caribbean, Nashville, Newport, Vermont and, of course, Ireland. He loves Irish music and anything to do with "a touch of the green."



Brian Skelly

(Speaking from personal experience, I know he likes to knock down a pint or two of Guinness.)

Our recipient has been married to his lovely wife, Mary, for 28 years.

They have two sons...Eric, a 2nd year student at Suffolk Law School, and Sean a freshman at New England College.

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Connecticut Association's 2001 Golf Course Superintendent of the Year from Old Lyme Country Club, our very own past President, MR. BRIAN SKELLY.



Jud W. Smith
CAGCS President

It's All in the Draft

It is with some apprehension that I write my first "President's Message".

I know we crawl before we walk, so here goes...

There is a neat little book by Robert Fulghum entitled, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. This book highlights some basic insights about surviving in this thing called life. Cleaning up after oneself, warm cookies and milk, afternoon naps, and helping others—are but a few. An insight that has come to me only through the passing of time and the sometimes harsh lessons life can provide is...the success of any group of people, whether it is the New England Patriots, IBM, Chrysler, YOUR GREENS STAFF, and even our own beloved association (CAGCS), depends greatly on the draft. More concisely, the success of an organization is directly related to the caliber of people that make up the group. Of course, add in training, motivation, incentives and free golf (when appropriate and time permitting, of course) and there is no stopping the team. Ultimately, however, it boils down to good stock out of the gate.

As I reflect on the Board of CAGCS I am instantly comforted. It is of quality stock. I haven't added up the years of experience in our industry and also "board" years, but it is noteworthy. Our association is in very good hands and I'm extremely fortunate to be surrounded by such quality people. For those of you who have been vacillating about getting involved with the board, THERE IS NO NEED TO WAIT ANY LONGER!! Get on a committee or host a tournament. I'm a firm believer that we get out of something what we put into it. Our association is no different!!



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President's Message

Speaking of the "Effort In/Success Out Theory", I am quickly reminded of Pauline Streeter. For fifteen years as executive secretary she took our association personally and gave all she had. Through illness and other life challenges, she constantly and consistently "powered" our group. Many of you do know what Pauline has done for the board and our association.

Some don't know. I cannot begin to accurately tell you. If you have an hour, ask any board member (past or present) or any number of the contacts in Kansas at GCSAA and they will tell you. Rest assured she will be sorely missed and that is an understatement.

Now back to the Draft...

Some six years ago, because CAGCS was growing and the day-to-day duties of our executive secretary were increasing, Pauline needed help. Logically and logistically, she called her long-time friend and neighbor (at the time) Mary Jo Kennedy-wife of former board member, Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS.

At first Mary Jo would just keep Pauline company. After a short time, she helped with mailers and then eventually she answered the telephone. At that point, it was over, Mary Jo was "drafted" and she was off.

At first it was special teams, then assistant to the executive secretary and now six years later as Pauline departs, she is the one executive secretary. Mary Jo takes the "reins" at the

office and CAGCS never loses a step! I love it when a plan comes together. Actually, I believe that there are no coincidences and that everything happens the way it is suppose to-as long as I stay out of way!!

Okay....now Mary Jo will need help; it is too much for one person. Now what?? Enter Ann Piscitelli, a lady with some twenty years experience in the legal profession, a colleague of Pauline's in another life, and a friend of Mary Jo's. Suffice it to say....nothing but sweet music!!

Finally, The Clippings...do you like it? Here's another story and draft-pick situation. Thirty-year member of CAGCS and editor (in his fifth year) Bob Chalifour, CGCS has combined his energy and dedication with the talents of Marysia Brejwo of Marysia Designs and here we are!! I'm told the best is yet to come.

In closing a few things of note: hopefully your dues are in... file CT DEP Water Diversion Permit by July 2002... March 19 meeting with a speaker from Inland Water Resources for DEP with the topic on "New Water Reporting Requirement of Public Act 01-202"...and GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR ASSOCIATION!!

Lastly, I want to thank the greens staff at Orange Hills. If it were not for them, I would not be writing this. It truly is all in the draft.

Peace,
Jud

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Trip to St. Andrews

A Visit with Walter Woods

By Melvin Lucas Jr., CGCS

A trip to St. Andrews, staying at the most popular Bed & Breakfast in the "Auld Grey Toon", Dunvegan Hotel, located a 9 iron from the first tee at the Old Course is the way to go. The weather was extremely nice for the first part of November. The hospitality can't be beat, and the pints of beer were not bad either.

The number one person to meet is Walter Woods, the 2002 GCSAA Old Tom Morris award winner. Walter met us at Kings Barns GC, a course that he helped resurrect four years ago along with architect Kyle Phillips. The course, then a 9-hole layout went defunct in 1815. The course today is spectacular, with numerous holes along the North Sea and it's ambience of playing a true links golf course.

Walter is a true host and a great friend, we enjoyed a wonderful golfing experience as was the case of the old style greenkeeping community. The next evening we were invited to Walter's home where his lovely wife Caroline served meat pie, an authentic

Scottish meal and very good by the way. After dinner, sitting by the gas fireplace in a modern home, we talked of greenkeeping in Scotland and the trials and tribulations that Walter experienced at the Old Course. The warmth of friendship flashed high by a "wee dram" or two, going well into the evening.

CGSAA is to be commended. Walter is truly the most deserved recipient of the Old Tom Morris award. He is a person who walked in "Old Tom's" footsteps, redesigning Jubilee and Eden, building Strathtyrum and 9 hole Balgove. During his overseeing of the Old Course, he unearthed the wells dug by Tome Morris for irrigating the greens. A unique archeological find, in as much as the leading keeper of the green "Auld Tom" recognizing the need for water, dug wells to levels below the sea. This water was then hauled up by buckets to water the gently rolling hillocks of each green.

Walter has been an ambassador for greenkeeping throughout the world. He has been bestowed with awards for both his greenkeeping and golfing ability. To cap off a wonderful trip, Walter brought us into the St.



(L-R) Bill Morton CGCS at Misquamicut, Dean Bozek Asst. GCS at Misquamicut, Mel Lucas Jr. CGCS, Walter Woods, Bob Chalifour CGCS

Andrews clubhouse. Overlooking the 18th green of the old course, we felt like we had moved back in time. Trophies, plaques, golf, memorabilia from years past lined the walls. Few of us can bask in the quality of golf club life like this in the U.S. Those who have been to The Garden City GC, Old Elm, Bob O'Link and Augusta can relish in the fact that we do have ties to golf as it is today in the famed "Ould Toon of St. Andrews".

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Winter Seminar Largest Ever

The largest ever, 160 plus members and guests of CGACS turned out for a day of education and the awarding of the Superintendent of the Year award. Congratulations Brian Skelly, see related article.

A Program consistently having interesting and informative speakers is sure to keep people coming back each year, and this one did. Dr. Bill Torello stressed the importance of promoting microbial activity for overall plant vigor and health. Dr. James Murphy updated everyone on on-going research work at Rutgers University on root-zone mixes. This work is supported by the Tri-State foundation, USGA and others. Some of those results suggest that conditions may warrant modified mixes. His own work will continue with the help of research grants.

David Oatis, USGA Agronomist went over the good and bad of greens construction and maintenance, a subject most can easily relate to. For an in depth look at this subject check usga.org/greenssection. Maximizing turf quality and minimizing nutrient pollution research was reviewed by Dr. Karl Guillard.

Judy Preston, Coastal/Marine Conservation Director, Connecticut Nature Conservancy, gave an interesting presentation with scenic inland and coastal pictures of our State. Judy was able to show how her group, and golf course superintendents have very similar interests. She demonstrated how watersheds intertwine with population and how native vegetation and buffers are so necessary to protect the environment.



Pauline Streeter & Peter Pierson
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Newtown Country Club

Joseph Trosky, Class Commercial
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Alfred Wilson, Class A
Great River Golf Club

Thomas A. Woodsome, Class C
Tumble Brook Country Club

Correction

We inadvertently omitted John D. Mulhearn from the list of recipients who received life member status this year.

Congratulations

Mary Jo Kennedy on her promotion to Executive Seceretary of CAGCS.

Mike Marino, CGCS on attaining Certified Golf Course Superintendent status.

Nat Mitowski at URI has been receiving disease samples all winter. The URI site is uriturf.org.

John Ruzbatsky, CGCS, CC of Farmington, on his appointment to the Board of Directors of CAGCS. John will be Chairman of the Education Committee.

Gail Schumann is accepting disease samples at her diagnostic lab. For information see umassturf.org.

John Streeter, CGCS formerly at Woodbridge is now at North Cove CC, L.I. New York.

Michael Wallace, CGCS, Fairview Farm GC, Harwinton, CT on his election as president of GCSAA. Other officers elected were Jon D. Maddern, CGCS Elk Ridge GC, Atlanta, MI., vice-president; Mark J. Woodward, CGCS Dobson Ranch & Riverview GC, Mesa, AZ., secretary/treasurer.

The directors elected were Sean A. Hoolehan, CGCS Wildhorse Golf Club, Pendleton, Ore. David S. Downing II, CGCS Barefoot Resort and Golf Club, North Myrtle Beach, S.C. And Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS Country Club of Darien, Darien, CT is serving the remainder of his two-year term.

Sign of the Times

Sign seen late this fall on a topdressing machine. "United we Sand."

Web Sites

Geoff Mangums Putting Zone . Lots of information and links - puttingzone.com

All around golf site - golf.com.

More about the masters - masters.org.

Want to find a golf course? Check sports.yahoo.com/pgs/golfcourses/.

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20 Years Ago

*"Connecticut Clippings,"
September 1982*

"Fred Bachand of Wethersfield CC Receives Course Superintendent's Award"

Fred Bachand, superintendent of the Wethersfield Country Club since the Fall of 1989, had been named recipient of the third GCSAA-PGA TOUR Citation of Performance.

The award, which annually is presented to honor the superintendent who has made a significant contribution to his profession in association with a PGA TOUR tournament, was made jointly today by President Commissioner Deane R. Beman.

Bachand received his associate's degree in turf management in 1965 at the University of Massachusetts. He started in his profession at the New London Country Club, New London, CT, as part of the college program.

He came to Hartford, CT, in 1965 to work as an assistant to William Dest and was appointed superintendent in September of 1969.

A resident of Marlborough, CT, Bachand and his wife, Susan, have two children. He is a past secretary of the CAGCS.

Criteria for the Citation of Performance Award include knowledge and performance within the profession; cooperation with PGA TOUR officials in preparation for TOUR competition and length of service.

"The PGA TOUR recognizes the importance of every superintendent, not only at PGA TOUR tournament sites, but at each course across the country," Commissioner Beman said.

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CAGCS 2001 CHRISTMAS PARTY



MEMBER PROFILE MICHAEL DONAHUE

By John Garcia, GCS Crumpin-Fox Club

A few months ago I asked Bob Chalifour if there was some way that I could help out with the newsletter publication and he told me that he hoped to continue collecting a series of biographies on our commercial members. I agreed to help out, and I decided to start by talking with Mike Donahue. Mike has been with Lesco for 17 years servicing Western Massachusetts and sharing Connecticut territory with Mike Dukette. Those who know him know that he is an outgoing, concerned, and helpful individual with great understanding of his product line, and more importantly, our business.

Mike grew up in Buck's County, Pennsylvania, just outside of Philadelphia. He got his start in the green industry at a young age, spending his summer vacations from high school and college working at a local nursery, and later for a landscape contractor. In 1980, he graduated from West Virginia with a Bachelors degree in Plant Science. Upon graduation he worked for Brickman Industries selling

to grounds maintenance contractors for four years before accepting his current position with Lesco.

Talking with Mike on a more personal level I learned that he has been married for 17 years. He, his wife Gail, son Neil, and their two dogs live in Suffield. Neil is a sophomore in high school, and Gail is a second grade teacher in Somers. Mike's hobbies include skiing and golf. He has been playing golf on and off for twenty years, and enjoys playing at Oak Ridge and St. Anne's, both in Agawam, MA. He has also spent many years breeding and raising Golden Retrievers. CAGCS Members Dennis Houle, Les Kennedy and Ward Weichert are among the many who have enjoyed the companionship of Donahue-raised Golden Retrievers over the years. It was nice to learn a little bit more about Mike on a personal level, as he is a great asset to Lesco and to our association.

GOLFDOM MAGAZINE WINS NATIONAL FOLIO: EDITORIAL AWARD

Cleveland - Golfdom magazine, a leading publication for super-

intendents, owners and other leaders in the golf business, has been named a Gold Award winner in the 2001 Folio: Editorial Excellence competition.

The annual Editorial Excellence awards, presents by Folio: magazine, are among most prestigious national awards in magazine publishing. The awards are unique in that entrants are judged by the standards set by their editors and how well they meet their mission statements. The contest is judged by a who's who of the industry's leading editors, publishers and consultants.

"This is a fabulous honor for our whole editorial team," said Pat Jones, Golfdom's editorial director and publisher. "We've tried very hard to achieve a high level of editorial quality, so it's encouraging to get this kind of recognition from our peers in publishing."

Golfdom, which debuted in 1999, is an innovative monthly publication that goes to 30,000 golf course superintendent, managers and owners around the nation. The editorial team includes Jones, editor Larry Aylward, managing editor Frank Andorka, designers Lisa Lehman and Kim Traum.

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Frost Delays

From USGA.COM

How can a footprint be a killer?

When it's a footprint made on a putting surface that's covered with frost. It's hard to believe that simply walking across a golf green covered with frost can cause so much damage, but the proof will be there in a few days as the turfgrass dies and leaves a trail of brown footprints. That's why most courses will delay starting times until the frost has melted. And it's also why golfers who appreciate a quality putting surface will be patient during frost delays.

Why does frost cause problems?

Greens are fragile. The putting surface, or green, is an extremely fragile environment that must be managed carefully and professionally. Remember that every green is a collection of millions of individual grass plants, each of which is a delicate living thing. Obviously, Mother Nature never meant for these plants to be maintained a 3/16 or

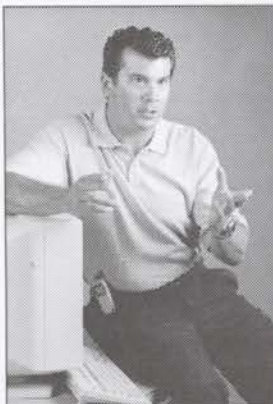
even 1/8 of an inch for prolonged periods. This stress makes greens constantly vulnerable to attacks from insects, disease, heat, drought, cold and frost.

Frost is essentially frozen dew. It can form when the temperature (or wind chill) is near or below the freezing point. The ice crystals that form on the outside of the plant can also harden or even freeze the cell structure of the plant. When frosted, the normally resilient plant cells become brittle and are easily crushed. When the cell membranes are damaged, the plant loses its ability to function normally. It's not much different than cracking an egg. Once the shell is broken, you can't put it back together.

The proof is in the prints. Although you won't see any immediate damage if you walk on frosted turf, the proof will emerge within 48 to 72 hours as the leaves die and turn brown. And, since just one foursome can leave several hundred footprints on each green, the damage can be very extensive.

Super Notes

George Thompson, CGCS, has been named as the recipient of the 2002 USGA Green Section Award. The award was presented at the Green Section Education Conference, held Feb. 9 in Orlando, Fla. During GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show. Thompson, a former winner of the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award, has been superintendent of the Country Club of North Carolina since 1984. Prior to that he was at Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, Md., for 18 years. He is known as an innovator, having been one of the first superintendents to use fine leaf perennial ryegrass for a number of projects and has trained more than 60 individuals who have gone on to other positions in the turfgrass industry. George is a 1964 graduate of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture.



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