



Connecticut Clippings

Volume 36, No. 5

November/December 2002

CAGCS ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

The Birchwood CC with host Superintendent Ed Consolati, Club Manager Daniel Brohy, and Golf Professional David McGoldrick along with their staffs provided an elegant setting for our election of officers and directors. Brian Skelly, Nominating Chairman announces the following were elected to office on November 5, 2002, at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

Officers elected for a one-year term

- President - Jud Smith, Orange Hills Country Club
- Vice President - Wayne Urban, Farmingbury Hills Country Club
- Secretary - Keith Angilly, Mill River Country Club
- Treasurer - John Motycka, Skungamaug River Golf Club

Directors elected for two year terms

- Kevin Balocca - Willimantic CC
- Kimberly Heyl - Fenwick Golf Club
- Peter Pierson - Pequabuck Golf Club

There were no nominations from the floor. Please join with me in congratulating all those serving on the Board, and wishing them well as they serve their terms. If you would like to serve on a committee or help out at monthly meeting registration, please contact Jud Smith 203/799-0286 or the appropriate committee chairperson.



Executive Board



Board of Directors



The Board of Directors of CAGCS would like to wish all members and their families a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!





Jud W. Smith, CAGCS President

I remember like it was just yesterday... the first President's Message.. you know.. "crawling before you walk" and all. How the time flies...I want to thank you all for your comments regarding my past messages. I realize that much of the contents were less about turf and more about life and lessons that it provides. I try to speak or write from my heart; I apologize if that offends any of you... That's not the intent. This Association means a lot to me and I'm grateful to you all for this opportunity to serve as I do.

Speaking of being thankful... It's that time of the season to reflect on this past year with all its highs and lows (not

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The Clippings is open to all commentary. Please send your comments to:
Bob Chalifour, Newsletter Editor

The President's Message

just temperatures and dew points). We should try to be thankful for what we do have... our health and the love of a spouse, a child, a pet or a friend (or any combination thereof). As long as we are healthy and there is the good stuff in our life, the rest is just details. Life is always life, the ups and downs, the births and deaths, always changing. Good things happen and bad things happen. The key is how we react to it. It's kind of strange, but everything seems to happen for a reason...a lot of the time I do not know why, but then again who am I to try to figure it out. The key for me is to try to accept things I can't control as being as they should be. The passing of a loved one or a friend or the loss of a job, house or whatever, sometimes doesn't seem to make much sense and one can waste a lot of time and mental energy trying to figure it all out. For example, I'm sure there is someone out there that has involuntarily left one job only to eventually find another, that was better suited for you in the long run. If this applies to you or you know someone going through a similar "down" in life... reach out...share your experience, lend your support. Help out in any way you can. I guess that's the message of this message...be thankful for what we have (or don't have) and help out another human being this holiday season. You don't need a cause or a reason to do something for someone else - just do it. Drop some clothes off at the homeless shelter, bring a turkey to a soup kitchen (with your kids), bring some food or supplies to your local dog/cat pound... you get the idea. Magic happens when this stuff occurs...TRY IT!

Okay enough...some thank you's are in order: 1. To the Board of Directors of CAGCS for your dedication, energy and time, you've made my job effortless. 2. To Ms. Mary Jo Kennedy, the heart and lungs of our Association. 3. To the Superintendents, Assistants and their crews that hosted monthly meetings, the Invitation, the S & R and the two-man team matches. 4. To the Commercial members and your companies for your sponsorship in a variety of ways. And finally, 5. To the crew at Orange Hills for their hard work, dedication and loyalty that has allowed me to take time away from the course to fulfil other obligations.

Another note, I'd like to remind everyone about our Annual Christmas Party on December 14th. Superintendent,

John Gallagher, and Club Manager, Tom Flanagan have been most gracious to offer their newly renovated clubhouse so that we may share in the holiday spirit. Please try to make it.

Lastly, I have enclosed a poem that I wanted to share with you all. I hope you enjoy it. Have a healthy and happy holiday season and God bless.

Peace,

Jud

How Do You Live Your Dash !!!

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on her tombstone from the beginning ... to the end.
He noted that first came her date of birth and spoke the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years. (1934-1998).

For that dash represents all the time that she spent alive on earth...
And now only those who loved her know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not, how much we own;
The cars.. the house.. the cash.
What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard...
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,

that can still be rearranged.
If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real,
And always try to understand the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,
and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect,
and, more often wear a smile...
Remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy's being read with your life's actions to rehash...
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?

MAKE YOUR DASH COUNT!

Everyone's Doing It

*Construction and Renovation
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With new courses being built, many existing courses are making changes. Updating, renovating whatever you want to call it, many courses are doing it. Why? The reasons are varied. More picturesque, more playable, more maintainable. What's your **more** reason? Numerous clubs in Connecticut as well as elsewhere either have, or are or about to make the plunge to keep up with the Jones's. No pun intended.

Tumble Brook GC where Cindy Johnson is Superintendent, is undergoing a 3 year project to upgrade each nine under the direction of Pro/Architect Mark McCumber with construction by Course Crafters from Florida, 770/503-0858. Alan Goodwin, CGCS at Silvermine GC in Wilton is working on a 10 Year master plan to provide definition and improvements to his 1950's golf course.

The Werner family that owns Silvermine GC along with Goodwin hired Mark Sosnowitz, ASLA of Mark Eliot Design to create a master plan and then carry it out with contractor RJ Davis of Wilton. Mark stated that the Werner family wanted the "farm look" to go and create a more picturesque course. The family

owned, yet private course is undergoing changes to greens and tees along with an extensive tree planting program. Stone walls are being built with blasted out rock, and a pond has been deepened and reshaped affording Goodwin a beautiful view from his new office window. Areas of poor drainage are being addressed and taken care of. Sosnowitz from nearby Greenwich, CT spends ample time on the job with the contractor to fine tune his design. Mark Eliot Design 203/972-9131

Renovation not for you. Think again, it is happening everywhere. An irrigation system here, a pump house there, perhaps a green or tee over there. Stately old courses such as Shennecossett in Groton and Norwich GC in Norwich, CT have both seen extensive changes in the past few years. New Seabury on the cape has undergone a transformation as well. One of the most spectacular golf courses in the world, Banff Springs, Canada underwent a complete 18 hole restoration. Whoa! That is one of the top 100 golf courses in the world.

Their track record in dealing with strict environmental laws was part of the reason GDS founded by Les Furber and Jim Eremko got involved with the Banff Springs project. Internationally known, GDS has completed over 100 projects in the USA, Caribbean, Canada, and

Europe. Prior to the formation of GDS both Furber and Eremko worked with Robert Trent Jones Sr., on such projects as Valdarama, Europe's # 1 course and site of the 1997 Ryder Cup. Recognizing the demand for restoration projects, GDS recently formed an alliance with a New York based associate to focus on projects in the Northeast. They can be reached at 845/401-1923.

Numerous architects, designers and contractors are actively seeking both small and large projects throughout the Northeast. In an upcoming issue we will look at some of the projects that are underway throughout Connecticut and Rhode Island. *Editors note, Any information anyone has to contribute towards this article would be greatly appreciated.*



Finishing touches on pond at Silvermine Golf Club

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Superintendent Profile

Eric Morrison

Our host for this year's annual Scholarship & Research Tournament started playing golf at Pilgrim Harbor Golf Course (now Tradition at Wallingford) while in high school. Eric also worked as a starter and ranger. This sparked his interest in golf where he began working on the grounds crew for Ward Weischet.

In 1994 Eric graduated from UCONN with a degree in psychology, but decided he liked golf better and worked his way up to become the Assistant Superintendent to Weischet. Eric completed the Winter School at Stockbridge in 1997 and served as the Assistant Superintendent at Burning Tree CC for Gary Glazier, prior to taking the superintendent position at Shennecossett GC.

Eric has been at Shennecossett GC which is operated by the Town of Groton for 2 years. His favorite hole is the infamous # 4 turtle back green. His favorite hole to play is the picturesque # 16 that overlooks the mouth of the Thames River and Long Island Sound. Shennecossett is

popular among local golfers and many vacationers, resulting in about 50,000 rounds of golf per year. The site of the Connecticut Senior Open since 1997, Shennecossett is scheduled to host this event for 2 more years. This year golfers from over 13 states participated in the event.

An avid golfer, Eric recently went on a trip to Ireland with Weischet, and Kevin Collins, Golf Course Superintendent at Tower Ridge GC. There they played golf 6 out of 7 days, including the day they arrived, that's avid. Eric also enjoys

snow boarding and my favorite sport not to participate in, mountain biking.

Eric is single, and lives in Groton with his border collie, Blue. Blue, also a Town of Groton employee, accompanies Eric to work each day and earns her keep by harrasing the canadian geese that are attracted to Shennecossett's lush fairways.

I am sure everyone enjoyed their day at "Shenny", that has hosted several CAGCS events over the years.



Eric Morrison, Superintendent at Shennecossett Golf Club and his dog Blue

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** 2002 Annual Meeting Birchwood Country Club **



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John J. Farrar; Class C
Norfolk Country Club

David Wetzel; Class C
Pautipaug Country Club

Congratulations

Erica and Glen Dube on the birth of their daughter Madison Elizabeth. Madison was born November 20, 2002 and weighed a healthy 6 lbs. 5 oz.

Sharon & Mark Chant on the birth of their son James Paul (Jake). Jake was born 11/27/02 and weighed in a healthy 7lbs 10ozs.

Congratulations to our new Life Members & our 2002 pin recipients!

The following have been members of our Association for 30 years and are our new "Life Members"

Paul Barratt, CGCS; Class A, Titleist & Foot-Joy Worldwide
Joseph R. Heller, Jr.; Class A, East Hartford Golf Club
Mark Loper; Class Commercial, Turf Products Corporation (pictured)

Receiving 25 year pins were:

Peter Bly; Class A, Brooklawn

Country Club
Adam P. Laverty; Class C, Borough of Fenwick
Robert Lippman; Class Commercial, Westchester Turf Supply
Brian Skelly; Class A, Old Lyme Country Club
John Napier, CGCS; Class A, Stanley Golf Course

Receiving 20 year pins were:

Gregory B. Bradley; Class A, Farmington Woods Country Club
Glenn S. Moore; Class Commercial, Glenmore Landscape Service
Steven Rackliffe, CGCS; Class Affiliate, UCONN/Dept. of Plant Science

Receiving 15 year pins were:

Kevin Bengston; Class A, Indian Hills Country Club
Edward L. Clark; Class C, Wallingford Country Club

Receiving 10 year pins were:

Charles Rustici; Class A, River Ridge Golf Course
Larry Gauvain; Class C, Simsbury Farms Golf Course
Albert J. La Prise; Class Commercial, Allen Seed, Inc.
Anthony Grosso, Class A, Pautipaug Country Club
Arthur deAtienza; Class

Commercial, Golf Irrigation Services, Inc.
Mark Gostkowski; Class C, Wallingford Country Club
Joseph Rustici; Class A, Retired
Dana K. Garvin; Class C, Canton Public Golf Course

Condolences

Hank Suchinski on the passing of his mother on November 5, 2002

David and Dayton Stimson on the passing of their father Curt Stimson on November 1, 2002. Curt a long time friend of CAGCS was the Sales Manager for the McGovern Co. Curt retired in 1979 as Vice President.



Mark Loper

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January 6-10, 2003: Cornell Turf Program, 1 Week Course, Ithaca, NY
 January 13-17/03 An Organic Approach to Turf Management Western, NY

January 14, 2003: Winter Seminar, Hawthorne Inn, Berlin, CT

January 20 - February 7, 2003: The Rutgers Professional Golf Turf School Three Week Preparatory Short Course Contact "www.cook.rutgers.edu/~ocpe"

January 30, 2003: Annual Lawn Care Seminar, Auburn, MA for info. call the UMass Turf Program 508/892-0382

February 6-8, 2003: New England Grows, negrows.org Hynes Center, Boston, MA

February 9-11, 2003: GCSAA Golf Championship, Hilton Head, S.C.

February 10-15, 2003: GCSAA Conference & Show, Atlanta, GA

February 11, 2003: Stockbridge School of Agriculture Job Fair. For info call the school at 413/545-2222

February 17-21, 2003 An Organic Approach to Turf Management, Bethpage State Park, LI, NY
 Contact "www.hort.cornell.edu/instruction/short/courses"

March 17, 2003: Pre-conference half-day seminars on Monday, March 17 include (1) Annual Bluegrass Management (GCSAA), by Dr. Frank Rossi, Cornell University; (2) Bunker Maintenance, Placement, and Construction, by Craig Schreiner, Golf Course Architect; and (3) CPR and ADD training by local CPR trainers.

March 18-20, 2003: NERTF Conference & Show, Convention Center, Providence, RI. Contact NERTF at 401/884-0004 or www.turfshow.com

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Worthless meetings: Rest in peace

By Jeff Wuorio

"When I die, I hope it's in a meeting. The transition from life to death will be barely perceptible."

There is more than a little bit of truth to this joke from an unknown author. We've all found ourselves trapped in the meeting down the hall from purgatory. Moreover, we all know what a drain that can be, not only on time and energy, but on the enthusiasm and interaction that a good meeting is supposed to inspire.

But good meeting habits — both in preparation and execution — are learnable skills. For anyone who has a hand in business get-togethers, it's imperative that you know the specific problems that can kill your meetings and what you can do about them.

First, an overview of several deadly meeting sins:

Time leaks: This can take several forms. Your meeting might not start on time or it might run way over its appointed end. Perhaps more important is the time between those two poles.

Unfocused agenda: This is the meeting that goes nowhere. This evil has several guises. It may be the meeting without an agenda ("let's get together and shoot the breeze"). It can appear as a meeting that seems to take a swipe at a prearranged agenda: "Another problem is wide-open agenda categories," says Charlie Hawkins, author of "First Aid For Meetings." "It's no more help to have items such as 'Department Head Reports' or 'Old Business' and 'New Business'."

Idea assassins: Even meetings that seem well-orchestrated may not encourage creative, proactive participation. This can mean a meeting leader who doesn't encourage input from other attendees. Even worse are meeting participants who are quick to criticize an idea before they've had

a chance to hear it through and give it due consideration. "With that kind of meeting, a lot of ideas never make it to the crawling stage, let alone the running," notes Hawkins.

Bad cop, absent cop: The person in charge of the meeting is the vortex where all these snafus converge. The problem may be a meeting facilitator who runs roughshod over everyone, dictating every element of the meeting and squelching participation. It can also mean a facilitator who does little to direct the meeting, leaving it to drift toward the Gilligan's Island of productivity.

Any of these problems sound familiar? I'll bet they do, as nearly everyone has endured the pain of meetings like these. If so, here are nine strategies to get the most out of your meetings:

1. Is this meeting necessary? Before you ever put a single word to your meeting announcement memo, make sure the issues involved warrant a get-together. Can they be handled via e-mail or phone calls? Consider,

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too, who should be there. Not every meeting mandates attendance from everyone.

2. Set ground rules beforehand. This may be the single most valuable piece of advice to help ensure time-efficient, productive meetings. Create an agenda, lay out topic issues and keep the conversations focused on the subject at hand.

3. Set time limits. Obviously, there are some meetings that are productive and can go over the allotted time, but time limits ensure that you focus on what needs to be discussed first.

4. Please, no war stories. Urge people not to ramble, but to keep to the topic at hand within a reasonable amount of time.

5. One meeting, one voice. Only one person speaks at a time. We all know what a time drain it can be when eight people are locked in a conversational scrum.

6. If you're gonna lead, lead. Many

of the elements of good meetings come down to the direction offered by the meeting facilitator. In general, try to use a light touch. For instance, remind someone that they have five minutes left in their presentation rather than just cutting them off, but don't be gun-shy about enforcing the rules. Also, Hawkins suggests that groups rotate facilitators rather than having the same person lead every meeting. If nothing else, that solves the problem of the same meeting leader pushing the same ideas — and perhaps committing the same offenses — meeting after meeting.

7. Have a real agenda. This means more than just scribbling down a bunch of topics that may or may not come up.

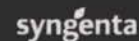
Be specific. Don't plan to talk about "sales." Break it down, according to product or geographic region. A specific agenda makes for a time-effective discussion; honed agenda items tend to keep the discussion focused as well.

Prioritize. Nothing's more frustrat-

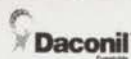
ing than a meeting organized around a central topic that never even comes up. To prevent that, organize agenda items in order of importance. The key issues are at the top, ancillary topics at the bottom. That way, should time crunch the meeting, only less important issues are lost.

8. Park some items. Great meetings often foster issues not originally on the agenda. If those come up, Hawkins urges that they be placed in a "parking lot," a space of time at the end of the meeting. If everyone wants to continue, fine. If not, earmark those issues for the next gathering.

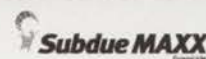
9. The art of language. This is important for everyone in the meeting, not just the person in charge. Encourage positive feedback that, in turn, fosters participation. Rather than saying, "That idea stinks!" consider, "It doesn't grab me now, but tell me more." Carefully crafted language lets others know where you stand but doesn't discourage creativity or put down others in the group, making for a more vibrant meeting.











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