



Connecticut Clippings

Volume 37, No. 1

March, 2003

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

For the past 21 years the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents has presented an award voted on by the recipients peers. Only Class A and Life Members are eligible for this prestigious award which is in recognition for demonstrating exemplary skills in managing and maintaining a golf facility, and who has been devoted to helping fellow superintendents on the local and national level. At our January Seminar where 170 members attended, everyone anxiously awaited the announcement and presentation.

For the first time in the history of CAGCS presenting this award the honor belongs to a women. Although she grew up in the golf business, our recipient Heather Lowell Garvin's first choice was not golf course maintenance at her family's golf course, Canton Public GC. After graduating high school where she played on the golf team, she attended Bradford College for two years and received a degree in Psychology from the University of Denver. (Which surely has come in handy being in the golf business). Heather worked in the Pro Shop of the course through high school and college. While in college, Heather ran the Connecticut Women's Golf Association Junior Program for three years.

Wanting to live in Bermuda, Heather was told that she would need a "marketable trade" so she chose legal secretary. She attended Morse School of Business and

upon graduation started work at a Canton, CT law office. Heather stated that she did not like it at all. At his time her Dad, Walter Lowell, PGA Member, and CAGCS Life Member needed some help on the golf course. Heather joined the crew and enjoyed the work. Scheduled to go to Bermuda to look for that secretarial job and live on the island, she instead looked for work on



John Callahan (R) presenting award to Heather Garvin (L)

a golf course but came up empty. So it was back to Canton GC, and with help from a CAGCS Scholarship (Parson Memorial) she attended UMASS Stockbridge Winter School.

Since 1985 Heather has organized and run a weekly junior golf program for 40 junior golfers at Canton PG, a challenge at times but she states the rewards of seeing many of her students continuing the game in high school and college is rewarding. She is also on the CT Women's Golf Association Priscilla Maxwell Endicott Scholarship

Committee (also one of their first recipients) and Treasurer of CT Women's Tournament of Champions.

In 1993 Heather was appointed to the CAGCS Board of Directors. She continues to be reelected and has served as Chair of Scholarship and Research, Treasurer, and serves on the newsletter Clippings committee. Since 2002 she has served as the golf chairperson. She was on the Advisory Committee for Best Management Practices for Golf Course Water Use in the State of Connecticut in 2001. Along with Ronald Holcomb, Heather continues to provide informative Superintendent Profiles of upcoming meeting hosts.

An avid golfer, Heather has won the Women's Club Championship at Canton Public GC numerous times. In 1994 she earned a qualifying position in the Public Links Championship in Canton, Ohio for the National Championship. A tournament that she stated was a learning experience.

In 2000 The Metropolitan Golf Writers awarded their prestigious Family of the Year award to the Lowell Family.

Heather lives in Canton, CT with her husband Dana who is her Assistant and Mechanic at the golf course. And as Heather states is invaluable in his support of her endeavors. Along with golf, she enjoys gardening and the activities that Long Island Sound provides along the Connecticut shoreline.

Heather, congratulations from all your fellow Golf Course Superintendents.



Jud W. Smith, CAGCS President

The President's Message

"Dancing days are here again...When the summer evening grows..." i

It certainly won't belong before tree buds tint the landscape, the infamous Robin makes his/her first appearance and our crop beings to wake-up after its long winters nap. There is still sometime left to complete those house projects, finish that book on the night stand or take that trip you've been pondering for

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

awhile. There is no time like the present because that is really all we have. Yesterday is gone and who knows about tomorrow? It's all about the precious present.

In the light of the recent shuttle disaster I'm beginning to sadly accept a common human behavior... specifically...taking things for granted. By things I mean those various aspects that make up our lives, people, places and our health. Why does it take a tragic event or a near death experience to wake up? Why do we as a species usually appreciate something more when it is gone? Take a look at your back for example, yes, that's right your back. How many of you forget, ignore or neglect your back until of course it "goes out" on you? Then, when you are flat on it with nothing to do but think...you realize how important that part of your anatomy is. Come to think of it, don't we do that with almost everything? Why does it take pain or loss to realize what is valuable in our lives?

A recent event that serves as a good example of this human behavior is the tragic end to the space shuttle Columbia. I was amazed to discover that there were 112 shuttle flights between Challenger and Columbia. That's right, one hundred and twelve - that is like a train schedule! It seemed like there was a shuttle take-off and landing every few months. I was taking these high-risk events of space exploration for granted - partly because the memory of the Challenger faded and also because shuttle missions became routine, ordinary and even perhaps mundane. But then fate happens, there is a shift in standard operating procedures and then, and only then, do we get a wake-up call on the precious gift of human existence. I guess my point is this...if you haven't already...don't wait for

that wake-up call to appreciate all the little things that make up your life on a daily basis. A good place to start is by being grateful to even wake-up in the morning! Hit the floor and stretch your body, especially your back, shoulders and neck - you know, those parts of the body that we use to "carry" all those things we do all day long!! Make some home made pancakes and really smell the coffee. Actually have a conversation with your wife or dog and/or your kids. Appreciate them today as if they could be gone tomorrow. On the way to work, turn the radio off and notice the tint of the trees, the chill of the cold or the movement of clouds. When you boil down this whole concept you are left with something like... "Pay extraordinary attention to everyday things." Not because we should do, but rather, because most of us don't. And unless you have a hard drive connection to fate and the future you never know when one or any of those things that make-up your existence could be altered or even removed. So why wait, wait for what? ...life is what's happening when you're busy making other plans. Get in the game, enjoy the precious present because "it's" alright, you know it's alright, you know its all in your heart".

On an important association note... Congratulations are in order to Ms. Heather Garvin on receiving the 2002 Superintendent of the Year Award. Heather has been serving on various boards and committees for as long as I can remember. She does a great job with anything she undertakes. I am very happy that our association recognizes her value to the group. Congratulations again. I'd also like to welcome Mr. Kevin Balocca to the Board. He has a lot of enthusiasm and is a welcome addition!

Peace,
 Jud

i R. Plant/J. Page

The One And Only

By Ronald Holcomb

Hank Suchinski, Golf Course Superintendent (Ret) after almost 33 years as the only superintendent at Simsbury Farms GC retired January 31, 2003. A member of Terryville High School Basketball Championship Team in 1954, he also played baseball and after a tryout with the NY Yankees, Hank ended up in Germany. After serving with the 7th Army for two years, he went to work for Roger Wallace, (father of Michael Wallace, CGCS) and then John Perry at the CC of Farmington. His work while in High School for Louis Dziediz at Pequabuck GC started him on his long and successful career.

While working at the CC of Farmington he attended The Stockbridge School of Agriculture Winter School. In 1970 Hank

became the first and only Golf Course Superintendent at Simsbury Farms GC. Hank and his wife Kathleen, LPN live in Simsbury. He has three daughters, Bonnie, Darcy and Sandra, along with eleven grandchildren.

Hank's hobbies are golf, travel, trips to Saratoga Race Track and playing the bass guitar with the "Fender Benders". Hank stated that he also enjoys getting his family together for CAGCS Family Day at Lake Compounce. The Board of Directors and membership of CAGCS wishes you a long and healthy retirement.



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Bob Chalifour, CGCS (Ret.)

Two Centuries ago, elaborate landscapes were almost entirely without what we refer to as a lawn. Why? Mown grass was difficult and costly to maintain. To get that perfect look that many want today, you either needed a small flock of sheep and someone to tend them or a full time gardener ready to wield a scythe, very labor intensive and time consuming, but good exercise. As a result, only the richest of the rich had lawns, and these took the form of small areas of close-cropped turf suitable for outdoor games like *Boules* (a form of lawn bowling) which was then all the rage.

The grassless landscape changed forever when in 1830 a patent was obtained by Edwin Budding. Having seen the large-bladed machines used in mills to remove excess nap from woolen cloth, he decided that the same process could be adapted to grass cutting. The new invention manufactured by John Ferrabe, instantly removed the main impediment to a lush green lawn - the lack of an easy, cost efficient means of mowing it. Suddenly everyone could have their own perfect green carpet with far less labor, and lawns started to spring up everywhere as the ultimate status symbol in the Victorian garden.

How much of this old, *excuse me*, antique mowing equipment is still around? Enter James B. Ricci, who

with his wife Margaret, and two children live on a farm in Haydenville MA. A rural community just west of Amherst, where Jim earned a degree from UMASS. An entrepreneur, and a former owner of an automotive machine shop, has proven to be helpful experience when working on various pieces of equipment.

About ten years ago Jim purchased



Stop and Visit Jim Ricci at the NERTC!

a Locke Power Mower, remember them, dark green with pinstripes and a sulky. Almost too nice to mow with. This mower sparked Jim's interest and he started looking into the company that makes them. There was not much historical material available so Jim made a visit to Bridgeport, CT

where the company had started. Like a lot of things his research became more interesting as he got more involved. The research has expanded from this one mower to a barn full of antique mowing equipment as well as a book project about the history of the reel mower.

Jim's emphasis is on pre WWII turfgrass related literature, mowers and tools. His barn is a virtual storehouse of old equipment, rusty parts, stuff under the bench, to items which could still do a day's work. His goal is to establish a turfgrass equipment literature library at a university or professional organization. Jim along with Margaret, who is good at finding old mowers at antique shops, continue to look for old golf and turf related items to add to his collection. Jim asks when it comes to paper, please don't use it to light a fire, just stick a stamp on it and send it along. After all, as Jim says "it is your heritage, being just as important as the ball, tee and club".

Send items to: James B. Ricci, 30 North Farms Rd. Haydenville, MA 01039-9724, E-mail jricci@reellawnmower.com

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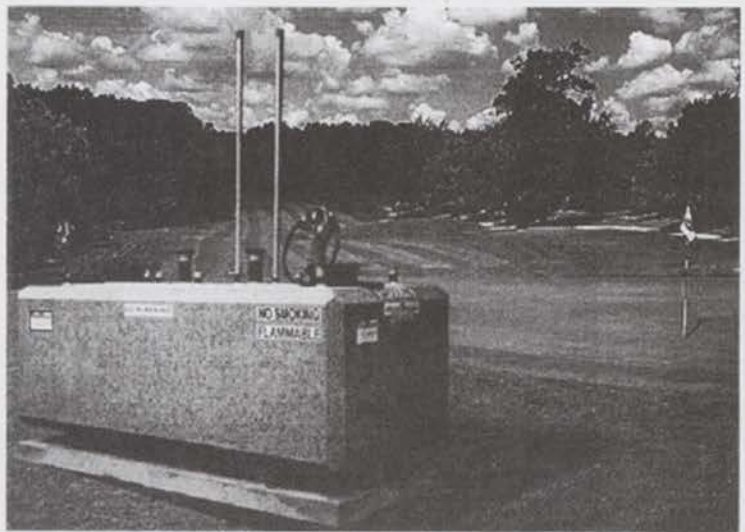


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Thomas Marmelstein;
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Brooklawn Country Club

Congratulations

To John Garcia formerly Golf Course Superintendent at Crumpin Fox in Bernaston, MA is now at The Patterson Club.

To Bob Witkoski, Golf Course Superintendent Washington GC, featured in an article in the February 03 issue of Golf Digest. Author David Owen unearths a treasure of wisdom, commitment and a few quirks as he stresses the importance of the superintendent as the key to any good golf club. Also view at golfdigest.com

The Irrigation Association is pleased to announce that Glenn S. Moore of Glenmore Landscaping Service, has passed the required IA Certification Examination to become a Certified Golf Irrigation Auditor. The CIGIA program was created in a partnership with GCSAA.

To Michael and Cassy Griswold on the birth of their daughter Lilith Diane.

To Hank Suchinski, Golf Course Superintendent (Ret) on his retirement after 32 years at Simsbury Farms GC.

To Tim O'Neill, CGCS, Country Club of Darien, on his election to GCSAA Secretary-Treasurer.

Condolences

To the family of Wayne Ripley, a former golf course superintendent, and sales representative for the Tom Irwin Co.

To the family of Peter Smith, former golf course superintendent at Shinneck Hills GC and manager of Foxwoods Golf and Country Club.

To the family of Scott Lowe. Scott, formerly with Bruedan Corp served as VP of Operations for the northeast for 15 years. In March of 2001 he formed Golf Car Protection, LLC with Robert Hall.

To the family of Herbert L. Emanuelson, Jr., former CSGA President (1973-1974)

To Jim and Matt Medeiros, two of seven children, on the passing of their father Louis "Lefty" Medeiros, a USMC WW II Veteran.

GCSAA Essay Contest

GCSAA Essay Contest is open to undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees or a certificate in the turfgrass field. Applicants must be a member of GCSAA. The focus of the essay should be the golf course management profession and be seven to twelve pages in length. Three awards for this competition total \$4,500.

Applications for the GCSAA Essay Contest are available in the CAGCS office and is also available on the GCSAA Web site at: <http://www.gcsaa.org/career/pursuing/scholarships/scholars.html>

The deadline for the contest is March 31st.

Calendar

NERTC - March 17-20 Rhode Island Convention Center 401/848-0004 www.nertf.org

March 19 8:00 a.m. UMass/Stockbridge/Winter School Breakfast Renunion (all invited) at the NERTC, The Rotunda Room, RI Convention Center. Please join Joe & Lonnie Troll as we celebrate and reflect on 81 years of turf education at UMass

March 25 CAGCS Monthly Meeting. Hawthorne Inn, Berlin, CT

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Newsletter Editor
Bob Chalifour, CGCS (Ret.)

Newsletter Committee

David Basconi, Heather Garvin
John Garcia, Edward Goodhouse,
Ron Holcomb, Mike Mooney
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The *Clippings* is open to all commentary. Please send your comments to: Bob Chalifour, Newsletter Editor, 39 First Street Groton, CT 06340

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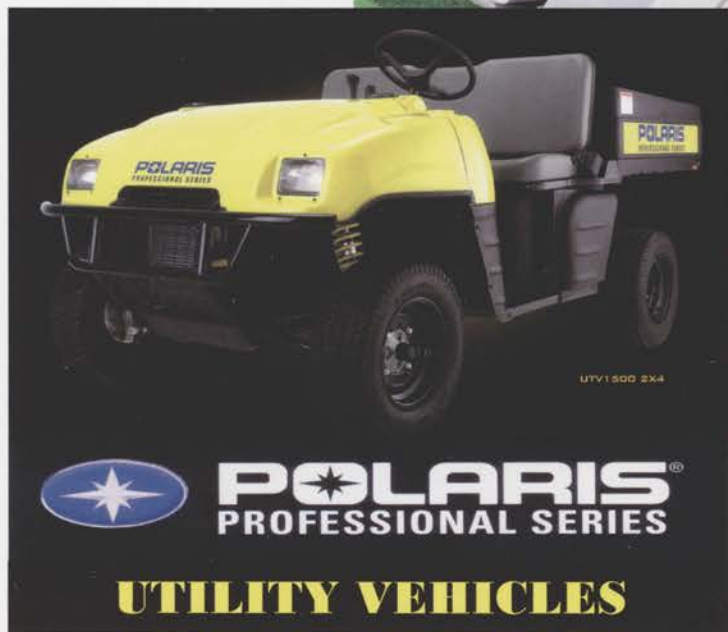
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New Focus, Name for The GCSAA Foundation

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Foundation's Board of Trustees has approved a revision of the entity's direction and name, effective Feb. 1.

What will be known going forward as The Environmental Institute for Golf, the association's philanthropic arm will concentrate on addressing environmental issues surrounding the game of golf according to board of trustees chairman Joe Black. He indicated the changes come as a result of a year and a half study that analyzed the needs of golf and the strategic focus of The Foundation. Qualitative research was gathered through interviews of individuals representing all aspects of the golf industry. The clear and compelling feedback revealed that golf's relationship with the environment is gaining a positive stature; however the momentum must not be allowed to dissipate due to the lack of a long-term vision. Respondents indicated GCSAA's development efforts should be directed to the subject of the environment and the entity assigned that task should be easily identifiable with that cause.

"We recognize that The Foundation's strategic focus must evolve if it is to continue to provide the greatest impact to the profession and to golf," Black said. "The Environmental Institute for Golf allows us to build on the momentum of the Investing in the Beauty of Golf endowment campaign and direct our energies to a coordinated vision of environmental excellence. This is not a new fundraising campaign; rather it is a new direction that will result in the delivery of programs and services with greater value to the marketplace."

The Institute's emphasis on environmental stewardship will not be solely limited to its own initiatives. Black indicated that a phi-

losophy of collaboration is core to its ultimate success. Partnerships will be sought with other organizations (i.e. USGA Green Section, Audubon International, Center for Resource Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, etc.) to deliver the most effective programs and services to the marketplace.

The renaming and repositioning of The Foundation has historical precedence. Originally established as the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Fund in 1955, it became known as The GCSAA Foundation in 1995 after education and historical preservation initiatives were added to its mission. The Foundation's focus was to support four program areas: research, education, scholarship and historical preservation.

"The changes in 1995 resulted in the creation of numerous programs and services that have benefited superintendents and their facilities," Black said. "The Investing in the Beauty of Golf endowment campaign allowed The Foundation to establish relationships and attract resources from areas of the golf industry not previously engaged."

The Institute's programs and services will be developed through individual centers. Each center will address a specific topic identified through needs assessments, and implemented through information collection, research, education and communication. From conclusions reached, seminars, conferences, lectures and symposia will allow experts to share their knowledge on a specific topic with golf course superintendents, owners, builders, developers, architects, the government and regulatory communities, environmental community, media and others affected by golf course management and development issues. Through education and outreach, a collection of best management practices for golf courses will be assembled, shaped and communicated to the golf and

environmental communities.

To begin the center development process, the Institute will host a strategic planning session to develop the specific direction of the centers. This is intended to outline a definitive charge for each of the centers proposed for development. The Institute's strategic planning session will be a collaborative exercise open to those committed to fostering environmental excellence. This event will be conducted later this year.

Current Foundation programs will continue to be managed until centers are established, at which point the programs will be folded into the centers.

"This is not a recreation of the wheel," Black said. "The Foundation has served the profession, the industry and the game well. Now it is time we capitalize on the results and develop programs that will serve the new focus. Our immediate charge is to build The Institute's foundation. I am excited about its long-term potential and what that means to the golf and the environmental communities."

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 22,000 members in more than 65 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Visit GCSAA online at <http://www.gcsaa.org/> or <http://www.golfsuper.com/>.

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Tuesday, March 18 • 5pm-8pm
Wednesday, March 19 • 10am-2pm / 4pm-6pm
Thursday, March 20 • 9am-1pm

EDUCATIONAL SESSION HOURS:

Tuesday, March 18:
9am - 5pm • USGA Session & Keynote Speaker Mike Ditka
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