



**CONNECTICUT
ASSOCIATION OF
GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS**



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Dr. Noel Jackson Retires

by Bob Chalifour, CGCS (Ret)

For the last three years, Dr. Noel Jackson, distinguished, teacher, researcher, and extension specialist at the University of Rhode Island has been semi-retired. But now Dr. Jackson is ready to do all those things that fully retired people do.

What a career! Raised on a farm in Yorkshire, England, Noel chose to pursue an academic

career rather than a life on the land. His academic background consists of a B.Sc. Honors Degree in Agricultural Botany from King's College, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, U.K., and a Ph.D. Degree in Agronomy from the University of Durham, U.K.

So how does one's interest gravitate from a training in forage grass management to a career specializing in dead turfgrass plants? His interest in the field of Turfgrass Pathology came about when a job as Biologist became available in 1958 at the Sports Turf Research Institute in Bingley, England- a job opportunity and a much needed salary! Dr Jackson's predecessor at the STRI, J. Drew Smith, had initiated the program in 1950 but accepted an appointment in New Zealand in 1958 leaving Noel to assume responsibilities. After some initial panic he met the challenge, prospered, and developed an interest that proved to be a lifelong venture. Seven years later (1965), Dr. Frank Howard, chairman of the Plant Pathology/Entomology Department at URI and a regular visitor at STRI hired Dr. Jackson for a position at the university.

"I planned to go over for about a 2 year stint and return to England." Thirty-eight years later Dr. Jackson is still here and plans to remain in Kingston with his wife Valerie. A daughter and grandchildren living in England plan to move to the Kingston area soon.

Dr. Jackson has worn many hats over the years. A 3-way appointment as teacher, researcher and extension specialist is a tough assignment and not what most professors relish although in these tight budget times more new appointments will be expected to assume multiple responsibilities. Many golf course superintendents and researchers throughout New England and the United

States are former students. Dr. Jackson stated that his most proud accomplishment is "seeing former students succeed in academia, as golf course superintendents and sports turf managers."

The strong background in agronomy prior to becoming a pathologist gives Dr. Jackson the knowledge to advise on agronomic practices that are the basis of sound turf management and have a big impact on turf disease incidence and severity. His prompt and accurate diagnosis of disease or agronomic problems have made him an invaluable ally to golf course superintendents and sports turf managers, as well as the golfers and sports enthusiasts they serve. Over the years a large number of golf course superintendents and sports turf managers have sent or dropped off samples at Dr. Jackson's laboratory in Woodward Hall. Everyone in the turf industry has benefited from his research.

As an educator Dr. Jackson went beyond the traditional classroom to speak at numerous

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Dr. Noel Jackson contemplating a shot over the pond.



Jud W. Smith, President

The President's Message

.....
 "Every silver lining has a touch of gray..."

That elusive element, the thing we can't get more of or get any back from yesterday, you know, that thing called TIME... marches on. As it moves (in the only direction it can) forward, things change. Seasons change, jobs change, people sometimes change, personal lives change and even Boards and Officers change.

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.....
 I know that latter may be hard to swallow, but it's the cold, hard truth! That brings me to a point...this is my second to the last President's message. The last one will be a short thank you note so I guess I have one more shot at introspection, reflection and per-haps philosophy. While there are those anxiously awaiting the incoming President, my good friend, Mr. Wayne Urban and his pearls of wisdom, I will write to those few who might enjoy a little "off the beaten path stuff." I do want to thank those whom have commented, it makes it all worth while. As some of you might surmise, (which has been pointed out early during my formal education years) my form needs work but the content is okay!! You're right and I'm working on it.

All right here goes...change is inevitable. Good changes and bad changes it doesn't matter - it just will be. In the end however, the only part that really matters is how we react to and handle change. The change can be incredibly quick (like lighting) or painfully, dreadfully, slow (like divorce or even...). It seems that the variable that impacts us the most is of course...TIME.

How long will it take? Is it over already? What just happened? These are all valid questions to ask during the process. The only thing one can ultimately do is ... give time - time. Let time do its thing...don't fight it, try to make it go faster or slower, just ride it out. As long as we don't suffer any permanent mental

or physical damage...things will always work out for the best.

TIME - Things I must Earn or To Improve My Emotions are two acronyms that work for me, perhaps they could work for you too. The old adage "time heals all wounds" has a lot of truth to it and (although the knowledge of such didn't bring much comfort at the time) it was and is the case. No matter what is going on, time passes and situations or conditions work out as they are suppose to. Remember those greens with winter damage or in our case, from early August? Or the heartache when a pet passes, or a child goes off to school? Nothing truly heals like time - however long it takes.

An interesting by product to the whole process is that in the end, when the cycle is complete, we are usually stronger, better and more peaceful about life in general. The key is to go all the way through whatever is going on. No short cuts, substitutes, or U-turns. Do the best you can with what you have and it will all work out.

So you see, every cloud does have a silver lining and all we have to do is look and work for it. And while it does have a touch of gray, we will be older, wiser and more distinguishable for it. And as the rest of the song says... "we will get by.... we will survive."* Thanks Jerry.

Peace,

Jud

* J. Garcia

Dr. Noel Jackson of URI Retires continued...

regional, national and international turf conferences, superintendent meetings and GCSAA seminars. One seminar "Are We Mowing Our Greens to Death?" was so popular that he agreed to have it video taped to allow golf course superintendents to show it to club officials. As more than one supporter said "Dr. Jackson is never afraid to take a stand on what he thinks is best for the turf, the golf course superintendent and the course."

As a speaker Dr. Jackson has few peers. No one falls asleep when Dr. Jackson speaks. His presentations remind me of a Bob Hope monologue but with pertinent information mixed in the humor. Words we never knew existed and terms that are baffling and complex are spoken about then explained so that both superintendents and golfers alike understand. For those of you that enjoy his impressive words that you may or may not understand try saying *Gaeummanomyces graminis* var. *tritici* (rapidly) and then try to spell it (without looking).

On one of his first speaking engagements Dr. Jackson was invited to speak to greenkeepers in Scotland. There were to be three after dinner presentations in three different cities, Glasgow, Dundee, and Edinburgh, and would require travel by train. At the first stop Noel was greeted by a few of the local greenkeepers

in the afternoon who invited him to a nearby pub for "a wee beer and a chaser" i.e. beer and a shot of scotch. The hospitality continued unabated until the dinner and meeting took place- in another hostelry well-stocked with liquor. Getting through the first presentation was rough, then on the 2nd and 3rd stop the same scenario was repeated. Noel admits to having increasing difficulty articulating what he was trying to say to the different groups of greenkeepers at each stop. That third presentation must have been a doozy!

As a researcher Dr. Jackson is an expert on take-all patch and other rhizosphere diseases, yellow tuft, anthracnose and mycorrhizae of turfgrasses. He helped in the field development of many of the fungicides available today, has authored numerous research and extension articles, and co-authored Fungal Diseases of Amenity Grasses - this monograph is considered one of the premier references on the subject of turfgrass diseases among turfgrass pathologists.

Many golf course superintendents today are concerned about the costs and availability of pesticides. Dr. Jackson stated that the costs of development and registration for new products are huge. On top of that many products are coming off patent, that opens up lower prices to the consumer but allows for lower profits and less money plowed back into development.

Dr. Jackson cites the vertidrain and the introduction of systemic fungicides as 2 of the more important recent advances in the golf turf industry. The constant demand for increased green speed presents our biggest challenge today. As outspoken as ever, he continues to chastise those that insist on lower mowing heights. He notes that the increased incidence of anthracnose, summer patch, and now, bacterial wilt, relate directly to those reduced heights of cut.

Dr. Jackson was a staunch supporter of the Rhode Island Turfgrass Foundation (established by Dr. C. R. Skogley) and a founding member of the Rhode Island Turfgrass Conference And Show. He was also influential in merging the Rhode Island Conference with the Massachusetts Conference into the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show. Over 2,000 turf managers attend this successful conference annually. Dr. Jackson would like to see more of the revenue generated by this conference go directly to the Universities, especially the URI turf program for which there is a current need.

For now though Noel is planning to enjoy his retirement that will include keeping up with turf disease research, consulting, travel, golf, gardening, and smoking bluefish.





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RESEARCH TOPICS NEEDED!

July 21st and it feels like we are riding the wave-crest of one of the oddest years on record for growing turf. We've had it all, cold, snow, cool, rain, warm, rain and hot and dry, it sounds normal, but the combinations and durations seemed extreme to say the least. Regardless, it seems each year that unique issues arise and challenge the best minds in turf. This year's insect generations and population are near the top of local concerns and questions. Winter death showed up on many golf courses again in non-consistent patterns. Summer as always is again separating the ready from the not so ready and the re-occurring theme continues to be "endure to the end!" The Mission Statement of the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation is:

Improving Turfgrass: Through Research, Education, and Environmental Stewardship.

The NERTF wishes to communicate always that it is dedicated to respond-

ing to the needs of those managing turf in the New England Region first. In New England, we are fortunate to have great research facilities and well qualified researchers who could help in this effort. Attempts to develop and improve turfgrass with ongoing research at state universities will add to the arsenal of all managers. The NERTF is dedicated to funding this cause, with the knowledge that the end beneficiary will be the turfgrass managers in N.E. The NERTF needs input from the turf industry on areas and topics of needed research, and would like to continue to encourage anyone who has concerns to contact the NERTF Board or Office with these suggestions. We need your suggestions and concerns. It is our plan then to place those suggestions in the hands of the researchers on your behalf. The NERTF Funding Committee plans are to suggest that these issues would have greater weight when project proposals are submitted. The board is aware however that other research issues should always be considered especially when they could provide a critical link to a larger problem or issue.

The NERTRT is also asking anyone who hasn't made a club donation, to dig out the letter sent to you in February, asking for your research suggestions and a donation from your club to the NERTRT for \$200 or more to help with project funding. If you cannot find your letter you can download one from the NERTF website (www.nertf.org) or request one from the NERTF office (401-841-5490). Your club's name will appear in our yearly newsletter as a turf research supporter and all funds will go directly toward ongoing turf research projects in New England this year. The next project funded could be the one you've been hoping for!

The NERTF wishes everyone all the best in our continued common pursuit of

"Improving Turfgrass"!

Gary J. Sykes, Executive Director

New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation

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CAGCS member Andy Drohen wins 2003 Massachusetts State Amateur title

Ninety years ago a young caddie named Francis Ouimet walked through the gates of The Country Club and captured the 1913 U.S. Open Championship in what was one of the most memorable sporting moments of all time.

This afternoon, a former caddie from The Country Club, Andy Drohen (St. Anne CC) delivered one of the greatest upsets in recent Massachusetts amateur golf history by defeating four-time Richard D. Haskell MGA Player of the Year Frank Vana, Jr. (Marlborough CC), 1 Up, in the final match of the 95th playing of the Massachusetts Amateur Championship at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts.

With the victory this afternoon, Drohen's name will be etched on The Massachusetts Cup, a championship trophy that has been claimed by such golf legends as Francis Ouimet, Jesse Guilford, Frederick Wright and Ted Bishop.

Playing on a course that he made many a loop on during his tenure as a caddie, Drohen played with confidence and consistency during the early stages of the 36-hole match and jumped out to a 5 Up lead after 24 holes. The two players battled hole-for-hole throughout the first 18 holes. Vana, who started off the morning with a bogey on the 446-yard, par 4 1st hole, found himself trailing by three holes at the turn.

The door of opportunity opened for Vana as he found himself only 1

Down on the 18th tee. An errant tee shot, however, sailed far right and into the pine trees behind the 15th green. A double bogey on that hole - Drohen had made a routine par - dropped Vana to 2 Down at the break.

Drohen's momentum continued even after the brief lunch break as he captured that 5 Up advantage thanks to a birdie on the 310-yard, par 4 24th hole. Following a brief rain storm that suspended play for an hour, Vana began an incredible - and what would have been a historic - comeback. Vana posted birdies on three of four holes to pull within two holes of Drohen heading into the final seven holes.

As the rain began to threaten once again, the two competitors walked onto the 36th tee with Drohen holding onto a slim 1 Up lead. Drohen looked to be in trouble when his second shot landed in the left bunker short of the hole, but he came through with an outstanding shot out of the sand that left him with a 15-foot putt for par. Vana then missed his birdie putt - one that would have forced extra holes - and watched as Drohen calmly sunk his par putt to close out the match and earn the title of 2003 Massachusetts Amateur Champion.

Editor's note: Information for this article is from an MGA press release



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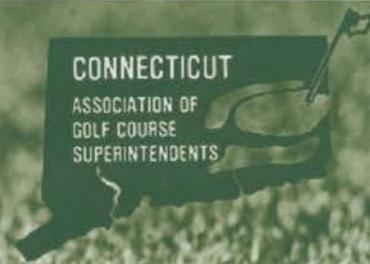
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Peter Pierson proud grandfather of Pierson Patrick Kenney born July 12th weighing in at 7lbs 13ozs and Merrick Kellyn Pierson born August 4th weighing in at 8lbs 8ozs.

Dennis Houle, GCS Redding CC is moving to Winchester CC, Winchester, MA

Scott Ramsay, CGCS The Orchards GC is now at Yale GC

Phil Neaton, GCS on hosting the Connecticut Open. The Day (New London, CT) did an article on Phil during the tournament

Mike Mooney, GCS Pequot GC was recently featured in the Day (New London, CT) for his work in attracting purple martins to his golf course

Joe Heller, Jr., GCS East Hartford GC on his retirement.

Bob Silva, GCS Shuttle Meadow CC on his retirement.

Condolences

Greg Stent, GCS Wampanoag on the passing of his father, Dr. Philip Stent.

Reminder

CAGCS ROOM BLOCK
San Diego, CA 2004 Room Block housing forms are available. Please call the office to request one. Deadline for forms to be returned to office is October 31st.

Calendar

October 14, 2003 Scholarship & Research Tournament Wampanoag GC

November 5, 2003 - Annual Meeting Dock & Dine / Fenwick GC, Old Saybrook

December 3, 2003 GCSAA Seminar Management Strategies For The Turfgrass System

The LPGA is looking at holding a tournament at Stonington CC, Superintendent Dean O'Lari, in the fall of 04.

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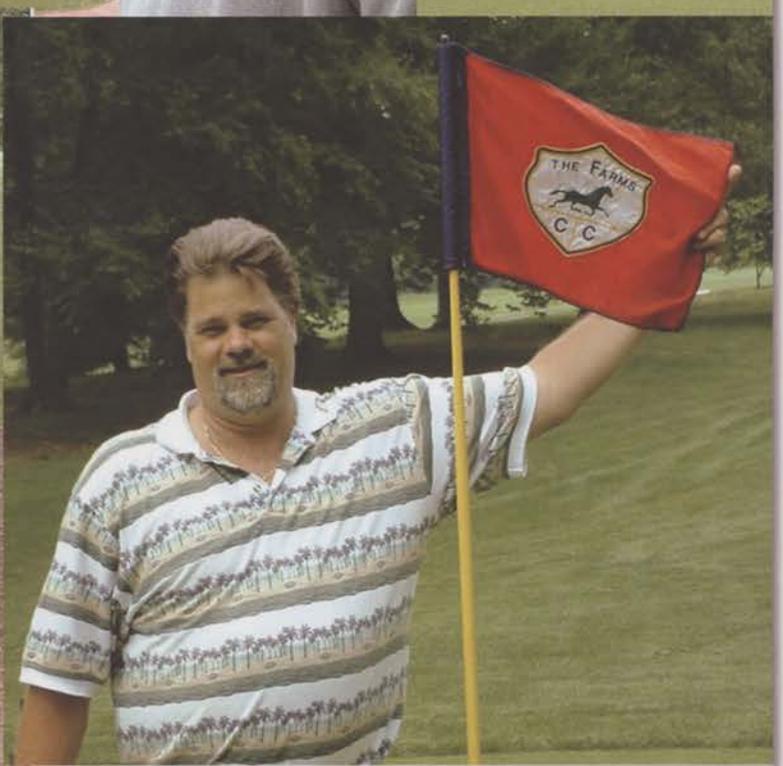
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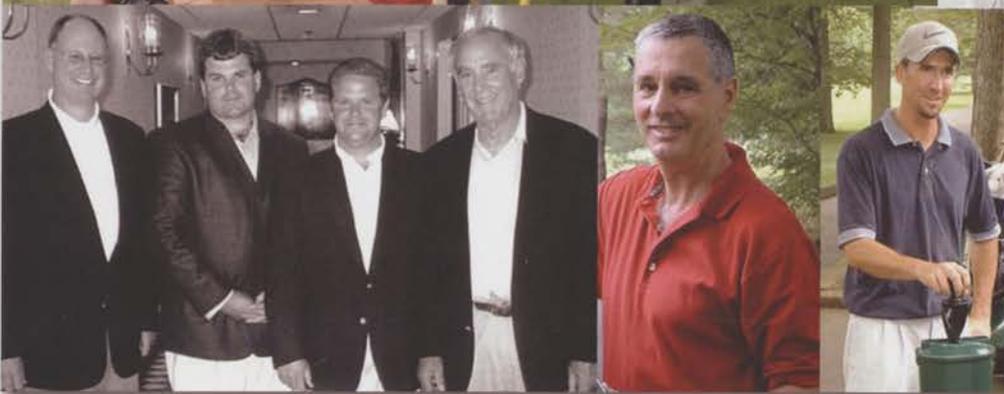
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2003 CAGCS Invitational - The Farms Country Club





2003 CAGCS Scholarships Recipients

The following are recipients of the 2003 CAGCS scholarships, which are awarded annually to immediate CAGCS family members and to employees of members who are majoring in turf management.

Dr. Richard Skogley Scholarship recipient: Katherine Mary Kennedy, daughter of Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS

Others receiving scholarship awards: Brian J. Basconi, son of David Basconi; Amy L. Chrzanowski, daughter of Michael Chrzanowski; Erica E. Cooper, daughter of Douglas Cooper; Jayne M. Donovan, daughter of Shawn Donovan; Ashleigh C. Gauvain, daughter of Larry Gauvain; Kelly A. J. Fuller, daughter of Mark G. Fuller, CGCS; Rory K. Laverty, daughter of Adam P. Laverty; Jana Reed Loper, daughter of Mark Loper; Colleen Moore, daughter of Glen Moore; Daniel A. Morse & Kyle B. Morse, sons of Bruce Morse; Colby W. Norden, son of Cindy Johnson; Stephanie A. Pope, daughter of Brian Pope; Benjamin L. Rackliffe, & Katherine B. Rackliffe, children of Steven Rackliffe, GCCS; Alexis Reeb & Tyler M. Reeb, children of Michael Reeb, CGCS; Michael R. Guinan, who is employed at The Blind Brook Club, Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS and Robert J. Wagner who is employed at Race Brook Country Club, John M. Gallagher, III, Golf Course Superintendent.

The Board of Directors and members of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents want to congratulate all recipients, and wish them the best in their scholastic endeavors.

Inform and Educate

In my travels for Holliston Sand Co. I get to visit many golf courses. Recently I overheard a comment from a women golfer who had just finished playing 9 holes, to a male companion just going out to play. "The greens here are very bumpy today. They have just been - you know, irritated". The man paused, and then responded and said "I think you mean aerated".

Yes, most golfers are "irritated", and it may very well be that the greens are "irritated" too when aeration and topdressing take place.

When I was at Shennecossett GC, a public course, I posted a sign in the pro shop at the register informing golfers of days when aerating and topdressing were taking place. Perhaps a sign on the 2nd tee or a handout explaining what, and the reasons why the procedures are taking place would be a good idea. Superintendents at private courses may have an easier time transmitting this information through club newsletters and bulletin boards.

2004 GCSAA Excellence In Government Relations Awards now being accepted

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2004 GCSAA Excellence in Government Relations Awards. The EGR Awards recognize and honor outstanding individual and chapter efforts in government relations in the areas of advocacy and compliance. The awards reflect all government relations efforts, and are not limited to the previous year's activities. Do you know someone who has advocated on behalf of the industry before state or local policymakers? How about an indi-

vidual who has served on a local or state board and provided a voice on issues important to the industry? Do you know someone who has helped fellow superintendents become educated on environmental or worker safety laws and regulations? If so, then nominate them or your chapter for the EGR Awards. The deadline for nominations is October 15, 2003. Applications are available online at www.gcsaa.org/resource/egr/egr.asp or you can call the GCSAA Service Center at (800) 472-7878 to get a hard copy nomination form.

Dr. Gail Schumann, Turf Pathologist with the UMass Extension Turf Program, has submitted the following announcement:

BASF has received EPA approval for a new fungicide, Emerald™ (active ingredient: boscalid). It does not yet have state registration in all states (e.g. NY and MA), so check with your local distributors before use. Emerald™ is labeled for dollar spot and bentgrass dead spot. It is an important new tool for dollar spot management because it is a new chemistry. It actually belongs to the same chemical group as flutolanil (ProStar™), which does not control dollar spot. It is a penetrant chemical with upward movement. It should be used in rotation with penetrant (systemic) fungicides from different chemical groups and contacts such as chlorothalonil to avoid resistance. It is registered for golf course use only.

Emerald™ has been added to the UMass Extension Turf Fungicide Chart. To download the updated version of the chart, visit: http://www.umassturf.org/publications/online_pubs.html

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EZGO Golf Cars sponsors 2003 Invitational at the Farms Country Club

Members of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents and team representing their clubs gathered at the Farms Country Club on July 14, 2003 to compete in the 2003 Invitational sponsored by EZGO Golf Cars. Paul Sabino, Superintendent, Jim Hanlon, PGA Professional and Howard Murphy, General Manager, were the greatest of hosts. Paul and his staff did a wonderful job of preparing the golf course for our tournament. Paul was also in charge of the weather where he received a special thanks for his efforts. Jim Hanlon helped CAGCS get some really great prizes through Pro Tour Memorabilia. Prints of Tiger Woods, Payne Stewart and Fred Couples were awarded to the Gross and Net team winners. Howard Murphy, and Jim Kehoe, Food and Beverage Manager, and the House staff provided competitors a buffet lunch prior to play. At the conclusion of play a large selection of hors d'oeuvres was served in the clubhouse.

Frank Savakis and Doug Hopper, New England representatives of EZGO Golf Cars, presented each participant with a tee gift from EZGO. CAGCS is indebted to EZGO for their continued sponsorship of our Invitational.

David Basconi, a commercial member of CAGCS, was again with us for his great job of taking team photos that have been distributed to each participating team. CAGCS is very grateful to have David's camera expertise for the day.

2003 CAGCS Invitational Golf Results The Farms Country Club July 14, 2003

| | | |
|-------|-----------------|---|
| Gross | 1 st | Tallwood Country Club - 68 Lawrence Barrett Eric DeStefano Charlie McDermott Steve McCusker |
| | 2 nd | Orange Hills Country Club - 69 Jud Smith Dave Belowsky Matt Wiederecht Steve Gettings |
| | 3 rd | Indian Hill Country Club - 70 Kevin Bengtson Robert Heimgartner Michael Gallon Mark Mahon |
| Net | 1 st | Highfield Country Club - 58 Chris Mauro Jim Jolly Dwight Danielson Bill Murray |
| | 2 nd | Black Hall Club - 59 Phil Neaton Tom Decker Dick Roberts Andrew Campbell |
| | 3 rd | The Farms Country Club - 60 Paul Sabino Jim Hanlon Fred Dorsey Barry Burke |

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|----------------|--------|
| Closest to Pin: | #4 | Steve Garren | 3'10" |
| | #8 | Anthony Grosso | 0'9" |
| | #13 | Larry Barrett | 20'11" |
| | #16 | Frank Savakis | 3'2" |
| Long Drive | #2 | Andy Lecher | |
| Closest to line: | #17 | Steve Gettings | |

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2003 CAGCS Invitational winners - Tallwood Country Club from left to right - Steve McCusker, Charlie McDermott, Eric DeStefano, Larry Barrett

Family Day - Lake Compounce (September 6, 2003)



Over 100 members and guests enjoyed a beautiful day at Lake Compounce. Mrs. Joan Malay - "CAGCS is to be congratulated for promoting such a wonderful day for members and their families".

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Signature/Bayleton Tank Mix Added to Signature Label

Together, the fungicides control most of the difficult turfgrass diseases, including brown patch, dollar spot, anthracnose and Pythium

Montvale, NJ (September 3, 2003) – SignatureR Fungicide now may be tank-mixed with BayletonR fungicide to provide broad-spectrum disease protection on turf, Bayer Environmental Science announced. The Environmental Protection Agency recently approved an amendment to the Signature label allowing approved use of the tank mixture.

A true systemic fungicide, Signature moves throughout the plant, controlling diseases such as Pythium, anthracnose and bentgrass deadspot, as well as Summer Decline. It also activates the plant's natural immune system to ward off further disease.

Programs including multiple applications of Signature, prior to the onset of stresses, routinely provide excellent improvements in turf color, vigor and root development. Bayleton controls brown patch and gray leaf spot, as well as dollar spot, which will complement the diseases Signature controls and offer a very effective tank mix against diseases. Together, the fungicides will tackle most of the difficult diseases turf managers encounter. The tank mixture may be used on most turfgrass varieties.

"Now that this tank mixture is labeled, turf managers have much greater flexibility in fighting turf diseases," says Eric Kalasz, business manager of fungicides for Bayer Environmental Science. "Signature and Bayleton can handle a majority of the diseases occurring on golf courses and will improve turf quality in the process."

Stockbridge News

Perhaps you know of someone who is interested in a career in the green industries.

Why don't you invite them to visit the Stockbridge School, the "small school with big opportunities?" The Stockbridge School offers five majors within the green industries. After two years of study students receive an associate of science degree and are well-prepared for exciting job opportunities in arboriculture, horticulture, crop production, landscape contracting, and turfgrass management. All curricula include a required internship. Stockbridge School is located at UMass Amherst which affords students the advantages of being at a larger institution while participating in smaller classes. Stockbridge is well known in industry circles. Job placement is high for Stockbridge students. There are more jobs available than we have graduates to fill them!

Industry representatives, mark your calendars. The seventh annual Stockbridge School JOB FAIR will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 in the Campus Center at UMass Amherst. Companies are invited to send representatives to meet with Stockbridge students regarding employment opportunities. UMass students,

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recent Stockbridge alumni, and area high school students will also be invited to attend. Space for company representatives is limited and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Make your reservations early. Applications will be available in November. For more information contact the Stockbridge School office at 413-545-2222 or stocky@nre.umass.edu.

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

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White grubs

We received a turf sample from a golf course in central Vermont last week that had several second instar (middle-sized) Japanese beetle larvae in it. I

was a bit surprised because I had been assuming the grubs would be running a little behind schedule this year, but at least at that site, they were right "on time".

On the other hand, we were digging a field plot in Waltham (just west of Boston) yesterday and found TINY grubs of oriental beetles and asiatic garden beetles. These little guys had hatched within the previous day or two. The European chafer grubs we found were all second instars. So all three species are running a couple weeks behind "normal" in terms of development. That was more what I had been expecting, since the spring was so wet and cool, and there were several stretches of cool wet weather during the summer as well.

So for turf managers - expect to find anything and everything. Nothing will surprise me this year. Some areas will apparently be close to "normal" while others will be running a little behind schedule.

As far as I am concerned, it is too late to apply imidacloprid (Merit) to control any grub problems, even though things are running a little late. Your best bet, at this point, is to use a cura-

tive product. In some states (but NOT New York!), bendiocarb (Turcam) remains an option for this year, and of course trichlorfon (Dylox) is normally an excellent quick hitter. (Again note that the readers in Maine do not have access to Dylox.)

As a reminder as you are looking for grubs, they may be in different places this year. Because there has been so much soil moisture (and some areas have been notably wetter than normal), the beetles may have opted to lay eggs in higher and drier sites.

Chinchbugs and billbugs

We received very few calls on either insect this year. I am assuming activity was indeed much lower than we saw in 2001 and 2002, primarily because the damage is more apparent in drought conditions. With all the rain we had in most parts of southern New England, the turf never really went into the noticeable summer cormancy, and while chinchbugs and billbugs undoubtedly were present, their activity was masked by the overall favorable growing conditions.

Submitted by: Dr. Pat Vittum

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