



Connecticut Clippings

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AN ICY START TO WINTER

By Adam Moeller, Agronomist
December 16, 2009

Many locations of the Northeast Region are off to a tough start to the winter season with recent snow and rain storms causing an early formation of ice across greens, tees, and fairways. Widespread winter injury occurred across the northern tier of the region last year and the early ice formation this year is extremely frustrating and also threatening.

Dealing with ice formation is difficult and requires careful analysis before removal is considered. Snow/ice removal followed by a significant drop in air temperatures can be lethal to the turf. On the other hand, turf covered by ice for an extended time can be severely injured by suffocation or anoxia. For *Poa annua*, ice encasement problems typically arise after 60 days of continuous ice cover while bentgrass generally lasts for a month longer under ice. However, there are many variables affecting turf performance such as organic matter levels, the level of hardiness attained, soil temperatures, etc. Removing ice now probably isn't necessary, but given the injury experienced last year, it might be tempting. Since most turf has probably not fully hardened off, tolerance of ice encasement will be reduced.

At this point, it is difficult to determine the best course of action. The ice may melt all by itself, solving the problem. Removal often is risky, but assisting natural ice removal if temperatures warm

a little would make good sense. For instance, if there is a predicted warming trend that looks sufficient for melting the ice, helping it along by applying melting agents (i.e. black sand) would be appropriate. Hastening the melt if the weather is not likely to be warm enough for the turf to clear off completely may lead to more freeze-thaw cycles, which can be disastrous.

Pressure to remove snow/ice layers early could be a response from pressures created by course decision makers who remember the problems experienced last winter. Keep in mind, removing snow/ice layers can cause significant mechanical damage so if you do need to remove snow/ice accumulations, be careful not to create a problem when trying to solve another.

The recent snow/ice accumulation may also have disrupted preventative snow mold applications in the southern tier of the region. Hopefully the warming trend experienced earlier this week has helped clear some snow/ice and the applications can be made as soon as possible. Now is the time to make these applications if they haven't been done so already.

The winter season is certainly off to an interesting start. When communicating the potential problems that can arise on golf courses as a result of winter weather, be sure everyone understands that there are some variables that can be controlled and some that cannot.



Finally, a purpose for long grass on a golf course.

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John Garcia

January 23, 2010

Since I began my time on the CAGCS Board, I have watched Jud Smith, Wayne Urban, Keith Angilly, and Chris Mauro lead our association. Although they all had very different leadership styles, they had many things in common: their hard work, dedication, and passion for our industry allowed each of them to leave CAGCS in much better shape than they found it. My hope is that the next two years are as productive, and that our current Board continues to build on the strong foundation of this great association.

The President's Message

2010 will likely continue to be a challenging time for the golf industry, most of us are facing our second or third year of budget cuts, tightening environmental regulations, and continued uncertainty in the weather. The good news is that these issues are inter-related, and by improving our practices in one area, we will directly impact the other in positive way. An important paradigm shift is coming to the golf industry, and we need to help drive the train before we are thrown off of it. As Superintendents we need to continue our innovative, resourceful ways by finding new ways to: reduce water use, cut synthetic fertilizer and chemical treatments, and explore ways to make our operations more efficient. By making our operations and courses more sustainable, and properly communicating our small victories to our members, owners, or patrons, we will also improve the sustainability of something very important to all of us.....our jobs.

In closing, I have many to recognize and thank: first, thank you to our 2010

host superintendents, we once again have a fantastic schedule and hope to have outstanding participation in our events again this year; to our cooperate partners for continuing to support our association in our educational and social events; to Bob Chalifour for his continued hard work and leadership in putting together our newsletter; and to the entire Board of Directors for their continued hard work on behalf our association. Finally, a special thank you from all of us to Scott Ramsay, our Government Relations Chairman who through his Yale roots has truly been our "Bulldog" on monitoring, and working towards a reasonable alternative to the DEP's Proposed Stream Flow Regulations. Scott has spent countless hours on this and has truly gone beyond the call of duty. Please stay tuned to all CAGCS communications, and get involved in this important legislative process.

I hope to see you all in San Diego!

John Garcia

GEOFFREY CORNISH DINNER THE LIFE AND CAREER OF A LIVING ICON

The old saying goes, "find a career you enjoy doing and you'll never have to work another day in your life." At 95 years old, Geoffrey Cornish is a living example of these words to the fullest. He has tracked all over the world in his life as a student, an agronomist, a soldier, a superintendent, and an architect learning and teaching the art of golf course design along the way. More than 200 projects bear his name a name that is familiar to most golfers. He has collected scholarly degrees including an honorary doctorate from the University of Massachusetts. He has written and co-written books that fill library shelves. He inspires members of the golf industry with his tremendous recall of the people and projects that have meant the world to him during his experiences. He continues to give back to the industry, as he established recently through an endowment in the Stockbridge School of Agriculture in

his name and in the memory of his late wife Carol who assisted him in drafting some of his earliest projects as a designer. Even today, Geoff is still interested and likes to work on projects when he can. It is not work if you enjoy doing it the way Geoff does!

On March 3, 2010 at 7:30 p.m., the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation will host a dinner at the Convention Center in Providence to pay tribute to Geoff and Carol Cornish and, to recognize his contributions and his wonderful career. We would like to encourage you to attend. The dinner will include an entertaining tribute to Geoff's life and career from his design partner Mark Mungeam and author/columnist Brad Klein along with some other special moments. All proceeds from the dinner will go toward a contribution to the Geoffrey and Carol Cornish Fund for Enhanced Learning Opportunities endowment fund. Registration forms are included in the show brochure. They are also available online at www.nertf.org. Or you can easily register online. For more information please call my office at 401-841-5490. All other conference

and show information is also available online. If you have any difficulty finding information, then please contact my office.

- Gary Sykes



Geoffrey Cornish

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

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**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE -
JANUARY 22, 2010**

A Public Hearing on the Proposed Stream Flow Standard's and Regulations was both informative and productive. The number opposed to the legislation as currently constructed far outnumber those for it. I am proud to say that our association and industry was well represented on this very important matter. Thank you to all that attended to the meeting. A special thank you to: Peter Gorman, Mike Wallace, Kevin Collins, Ed Goodhouse, Steve Curry, Ken Ainsworth, Scott Ramsay, and John Motycka for participating in the process through verbal testimony. Also, I would like to recognize Joe Parrillo and Ron Drapeau of the Connecticut State Golf Association for their attendance and participation. Their continued attention and support on this issue will be crucial as the legislative process continues. I believe the take-home message yesterday is that this proposal is in dire need of modification, and we must all hope that DEP heard that message as clearly as those in the audience did. The public comment period will remain open until

February 4th. Written testimony should be submitted to:

Mr Paul E Stacey
Department of Environmental Protection,
Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse,
Planning & Standards Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Let's not get complacent!!!! Now is the time to continue hammering home our concerns with this proposed Regulation. Every single piece of written testimony must be read, considered, and responded to prior to the creation of a final draft regulation, and it's eventual submittal, vetting process, and vote. This is an open comment period for those that reside in the state, not just us... get your General Managers, Professionals, and golfers to submit as well! I have attached a copy of my verbal testimony for your review, and to be used as a template for the creation of written testimony. Scott Ramsay, Michael Dugan, and myself are more than happy to assist you in scripting your testimony, or simply to give it a final review prior to sending. Following is a list of "talking points" for consideration in your testimony.

- Classify First!
- Too expensive.
- Not now, in this economy. Golf is struggling.
- Wrong way and the wrong time!
- Did not bring in stake holders to help craft these regulations.
- How is the DEP going to manage this?
- This proposal has gone far beyond the original mandate the DEP received from the legislature.
- Per capita usage has been dropping over the last 10 years, anyway.
- There is a better way through improved technology and BMP's.
- Why are we going to use arid state regulations in the northeast?
- Deal with the at risk streams first.
- Why blanket the entire state with prohibitive regulations when less than 1% of the streams are at risk.
- Once the diversions are more tightly regulated then the permits will be under further scrutiny at renewal.
- Purchased water will be much more expensive

As always, should you have any questions, or need assistance in completing your testimony, feel free to contact myself, Scott Ramsay, or CAGCS Lobbyist, Michael Dugan (860) 833-2198.



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- 8am-12pm *A Plan-Based Budget Will Help You Succeed!*
- 8am-3pm *Strategies for Poa annua Prevention and Control in Cool Season Turf*
- 1pm-5pm *Computer Training-Advanced MS Excel 2003*
- 1pm-5pm *Keeping Your Head Above Water: Regulatory Obligations, Public Perception and Financing It All*
- 1pm-5pm *Understanding Turf Fungicides*

Trade Show Hours

Tuesday, March 2 • 4:30pm-7:30pm with reception
Wednesday, March 3 • 10am-5pm ~ Live Auction 4pm
Thursday, March 4 • 9am-1pm

Educational Session Hours

Tuesday, March 2 • 9am - 4:30pm
USGA Session & Keynote Speaker Steve Palermo
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New Members

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Congratulations

Congratulations to Ed and Christina Downing who were recently married on November 27, 2009.

Congratulations to Corey Schultz an assistant at The Connecticut Golf Club who was elected by the Class C Members at

the Winter Seminar. Corey will be the Class C Representative to the CAGCS Board of Directors for 2010. He can be reached at corey0226@hotmail.com

Condolences

To Mark & Katie Mansur on the passing of Katie's father Charles Andrew, Sr, on November 28, 2009

To the Smith Family on the passing of Lee Smith, wife of Water and mother of Jud Smith, on December 22, 2009

Correction!

Winner of the Class C Tournament was Phil Matts for The Patterson Club.

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SCOTT NIVEN TO RECEIVE THE METGCSA'S 2010 SHERWOOD A. MOORE AWARD

by Larry Pakkala, CGCS

At the January 20 Winter Seminar, the MetGCSA Awards Committee will present its prestigious 2010 Sherwood A. Moore Award to The Stanwich Club's Scott E. Niven, a turfgrass management professional who has clearly met—some might even say, exceeded—the award's criteria of “advancing the image, status, and reputation of the golf course superintendent.”

The 15th superintendent to receive this award—since it's namesake, Sherwood A. Moore, himself, did in 1987—Scott seems to fit the mold perfectly. “I can't help but think how pleased Sherwood would have been to see Scott added to the list of superintendents who have been honored in his name,” says Awards Committee Chairman Matt Ceplo. “Reading Scott's nomination form, it was clear just how instrumental his contributions and conduct have been in helping to elevate our industry and profession,” adds Matt.

A Credit to the Industry

Scott's list of credits is, indeed, noteworthy. A certified golf course superintendent since 1985, Scott has been a GCSAA member for more than 31 years, serving on six GCSAA committees—most recently chairing the Research Committee—speaking at five national conferences, and writing numerous articles for Golf Course Management and other industry publications, including our own Tee to Green.

Like many SAM Award recipients before him, Scott has been actively involved in the MetGCSA, his service instrumental in bringing our association to a level of professionalism that has earned the respect of many allied groups in the golf industry.

Serving on the MetGCSA board for 11 years, Scott moved through the chairs to president in 1988-'89. Giving back to the profession he feels has given so much to him, Scott continues to host association meetings and social events and has served on at least half of the Met's committees, still a willing and able contributor on the Communications Committee.

Scott's also willingly shared his knowledge and expertise with fellow industry professionals,

giving 55 lectures over the years—not just at the national, but at regional and local industry conferences and events as well.

In his 30-year tenure as a turfgrass professional, Scott hasn't stopped to rest on his laurels (the good ones never seem to). Committed to research, Scott has been a member of the USGA Research Committee and served on the board of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation for the past eight years, currently guiding the group's efforts as president.

But then Scott has long been committed to research—for decades, in fact. Like Sherwood Moore, he has been eager to put new products to the test, from chemicals promising Poa annua reduction to seed varieties geared toward specific growing environments.

One of Scott's more notable trials was with the Dow product Cutless, which was launched in the early '80s to reduce Poa while allowing interseeding with bentgrass. He put Cutless to the test in a three-year renovation program designed to transform The Stanwich Club's Poa fairways to Penn Eagle bentgrass. Because of his success with the product, Dow sent Scott on a speaking tour throughout the U.S. and Japan. To this day, Dow attributes Cutless's popularity to Scott's early trials at The Stanwich Club. Using a maintenance approach to thwart annual bluegrass encroachment, Scott's been successful in maintaining a 100-percent Penn Eagle stand on his fairways.

Another of Scott's more noteworthy “research” efforts has smoothed the way for the enormous undertaking he's in the throes of right now: resodding every one of his greens with bentgrass. Forward thinking, Scott decided 15 years ago to put 25 bent varieties to the test on Stanwich soil to determine which offered the most desirable qualities. He set up 10' x 10' plots in triplicate, rating each test plot for



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growth habit, color, density, and dollar spot and Poa resistance.

The clear winners, Scott determined, were the A-1 and A-4 bentgrasses. Scott's now taken that information to the field with the resodding of his greens, which will be open for play this spring, culminating a career-long dream of having solid bent greens.

In his 26 years at The Stanwich Club, Scott has had many opportunities to showcase his talents. Dedicated to making the course the best that it can be, Scott's work no doubt played a role in the club's high rankings on Golf Digest's TOP 100 LIST. The course has also attracted numerous prestigious local golf events and, in 2002, its first national championship, the USGA Mid-Amateur.

All the while, Scott and the membership never stopped making improvements, but none matched the full-scale renovation project that, under the direction of world-renowned

Golf Course Architect Tom Fazio, put the club on yet another of Golf Digest's lists: “Best New Remodel” for 2006 among golf courses in the U.S. Two years and \$5 million later, the club had removed 1,000 trees, reconstructed seven greens and every bunker, added 23 new bunkers and 20 new tees, dredged five of the course's ponds, and last but not least, installed a new irrigation system.

At the helm of this project and every other effort to provide the best in playing conditions at Stanwich, Scott has earned not only high praise, but also the respect of his entire membership.

“The Stanwich Club's 400-plus members are proud to bring their guests to a golf course that Scott has so meticulously maintained year after year. We've been unbelievably lucky to have him, and I am proud to call him a personal friend,” says Stanwich Club Green Chairman and Past President Steve Green, who not only hired Scott in 1983, but has also worked closely with him through many of Stanwich's improvement projects.

“Over the years,” Green continues, “Scott has transformed the reputation of the Stanwich golf course from not only one of the most challenging tracks in the Metropolitan Region, but also one that has consistently been rated among the best-conditioned courses in the area and throughout the U.S.

“Beyond that, and more importantly,” adds Green, “Scott has been the consummate gentleman in all his dealings with his staff, our membership, our vendors, and his peers. I can't say enough about the respect he commands, the importance people place on his opinions, and the stature that he has developed over those years. Scott has been a tremendous ambassador for The Stanwich Club and superintendents everywhere.”

Among the many other Stanwich Club members singing Scott's praises is the well-known CBS sports commentator and superintendent advocate Jim Nantz. “Scott has raised the bar in his profession,” says Nantz. “We at Stanwich are lucky to have him sculpting our course. I have long admired how he handles long-term planning with a deft skill to get immediate results. He's an artist, a genius, and a visionary.”

An Award-Winner in the Making

Scott, you might say, was born to be a superintendent. When he was 7, his father, a Class A PGA professional, moved the family to Claremont, NH, where he accepted a position as superintendent/club manager/pro at the Claremont Country Club.

Both Scott and his brother, Curt, worked alongside their father at Claremont and then at Angus Lea Golf and Tennis Club in Hillsborough, NH, which his father purchased when Scott was 12. Working there summers through high school and then college, Scott ended up pursuing a degree in turfgrass management from the University of Rhode Island—though he did spend a semester at UNH before making the shift to URI and fully committing to his fate as a turfgrass manager.

After completing his B.S. in 1976, Scott moved to the Met area to accept an assistant's position at Greenwich Country Club under then superintendent Paul Caswell. After three years there, he landed his first superintendent's job at St. Andrew's Golf Club in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. Scott left two years later to accept the superintendent's position at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, NY, his last stop before Stanwich.

In his tenure at Stanwich, Scott has built more than just a career; he's also built a family. Married for 25 years,

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he and his wife, Dana, have raised their two children, Nicholas and Heather, on Stanwich grounds. Though both are college students—Nick's attending Iona College and Heather is a freshman at University of Delaware—and Dana is equally busy with her long-time career as a global accounts executive with Hertz, they still put a priority on family time. Avid skiers and sports enthusiasts, they continue to enjoy family getaways, often traveling to far-flung ski destinations from the Swiss Alps to British Columbia.

The key, Scott feels, to juggling the demands of family and work, is staying in top physical condition with good diet and regular exercise. Every few years, he sets his sights on a marathon to keep himself motivated. To date, he's run four New York Marathons.

A Testament to His Success

But then Scott continually strives to achieve the best in whatever he's involved in. The word mediocrity is not in his vocabulary.

Few know this better than the numerous assistants and interns who have worked with Scott at Stanwich over the years and moved on to top superintendent positions of their own. Among them are John Carlone of The Meadow Brook Club, Glenn Perry of Rolling Hills Country Club, Rob Gianpetro of Bulls Bridge Golf Club, Sean Cain of Sunningdale Country Club, Blake Halderman of Brae Burn Country Club, Grover Alexander of Hudson Hills Golf Course, and Jason Booth of Country Club of New Haven.

Reflecting on his experience as one of Scott's first assistant's at Stanwich, in the early to mid-'80s, John Carlone says, “As a wet-behind-the-ears graduate of URI, I was like a sponge, soaking up all the knowledge I could in my first position out of college. The best way I can portray the effect working for Scott has had on my career is to say that some of my golf course management practices to this day are simply

variations of what I learned while working with Scott at Stanwich.”

To Scott, helping shape the careers of his staff members is one of the more rewarding aspects of a superintendent's job—which, by the way, he's quick to point out is a job he's more than happy to have chosen.

“I've always considered myself lucky to have found a career that is not only challenging, but also immensely rewarding,” says Scott. “There are a few things better than being able to see, every day, the results of your efforts by producing a beautiful course.”

If there's one thing, however, that Scott's been less than pleased with, it's that superintendents have never seemed to receive the respect they deserve for the important and difficult job they do in managing their golf courses.

“Finally, though,” says Scott, “I think the tables have begun to turn. It helps, of course, to have people like CBS Sports Commentator Jim Nantz recognizing superintendents' skill and indispensable contributions to the game of golf on national TV.

“I have always tried,” continues Scott, “to do my part in promoting a positive image for the golf course superintendent, so I couldn't be more proud to receive this award and have my name associated with the great Sherwood Moore—the epitome of professionalism—and all the other SAM Award recipients, who to me, represent the pillars of our industry here in the Met area. My sincerest thanks to the MetGCSA for this honor.”

The pleasure, Scott, is all ours.

Larry Pakkala, a past Sherwood A. Moore Award recipient and longtime friend of Scott's, is a Territory Sales Manager with Plant Food Company, Inc., in Cranbury, NJ.

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