

# THE GREENERSIDE

Official Publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

## How Cool is Bluegrass?

*Golf courses are under continuing pressure to "defend" themselves. In bringing to you another article on the theme of golf course benefits, "The Greenerside" provides the facts to address some of the tough questions that may come your way from the media or the public at large. Last issue, Dr. Thomas Watschke placed a spotlight on his three-year turf and water quality study.*

*In this issue, Dr. James B. Beard, world renowned turf scientist and Professor of Turfgrass Physiology and Ecology at Texas A&M University, shares his thoughts on the benefits derived from turfgrass. As anyone who has ever walked from the beach to that first patch of green knows, turfgrass can dramatically lower the temperature of the ground's surface.*

*Not only does Dr. Beard publish and speak to the scientific community, he also speaks out to the industry. At the December Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show, he stated: "It's important you speak out on behalf of the turfgrass industry and its contributions to counter some of the unfounded accusations and fantasies concerning turfgrass. If you people don't start doing it out in your own communities, I don't know who will." Dr. Beard's scientific viewpoint will help you do just that.*

Some published reports claim that turfgrasses are high water users, even exceeding the water use rate of trees and shrubs. The scientific facts are that turfgrass can actually conserve water. Partial evidence of the truth of this statement is provided by nature itself.

In the semiarid regions of the U.S. plains states, grasses are the dominant vegetation, whereas trees and shrubs are dominant in the higher rainfall areas east of the Mississippi River and west of the Cascade Mountains on the Pacific Coast. The point is, that there are many turfgrasses, both natural and naturalized, that are quite low water users.

In what surely must be a "worst-case water-shortage" scenario, studies at Texas A&M University showed that green functional turfgrass can be retained throughout a 160-day period without using any additional water. Without either rainfall or supplemental irrigation, five different varieties of three warm-season turfgrasses (Bermudagrass, St. Augustinegrass and Seashore Paspalum) displayed exceptional drought resistance qualities. Accentuating the severity of this drought stress

test was the fact that the grasses were grown in three-foot deep sand, which offered almost no reserve water-holding capacity.

What this and other studies have shown is that it's man's decisions and methods concerning specific cultural practices that create a high water use rate in certain turfgrass species, not the plant itself.

Contrary to what some people and groups may propose, grass can indeed be a conservor of water and energy. Perhaps one of the least recognized functional benefits of turfgrasses is the ability to entrap and hold rainfall better than most surfaces, thereby reducing water loss by runoff and enhancing the potential for ground water recharge. In a related dimension, turfgrasses are one of the

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## THE GREENERSIDE

*GCSANJ Newsletter is published six times a year by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of NJ, 66 Morris Ave., P.O. Box 359, Springfield, NJ 07081*

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*Art and Typography by  
Association Management  
Corporation, Springfield, NJ*

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Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are the opinions of the authors and do not express the opinions or policies of the GCSANJ Board and its membership.

## EDITORIAL



### Not Just Another Pretty Face

There are several measures of a golf course. The first is the overall course playability. It's the layout of the course, the speed of the ball and other factors built into the course design and turf playing quality. We think we know how to measure these aspects. Sometimes

we use a meter. Other programs use computer-assisted analysis to determine play difficulty for a course. But mostly, we use our own simple judgement based on personal experience.

Another measure is course aesthetics. Here every man or woman is their own best judge. Nevertheless, we do share some ideas as to what makes a course look great. Sometimes it's the overall look of the grass, but more often, it's the integration of the grass, the trees, bushes and ornamentals tied to the topography that sets a course apart from the others and makes it extra special.

The September/October 1990 issue of "The Greenside" highlighted trees and their role on the golf course. Going from the large to the small, this issue brings some focus to the role of ornamental plants in making your course special.

A good looking course brings with it a lot of benefits. Some of these are as visible as the beauty of the course, while others remain hidden in the benefits that quality turf brings to the environment. The lead story in this issue of "The Greenside" discusses additional benefits that quality turf brings to your community. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America advertising program's motto is, "WE KEEP GOLF GREEN". Actually, golf courses help keep America green. In certain urban areas, the only patch of green is the golf course, the cemetery and, perhaps, a public park. For aesthetics, the golf course wins hands down!

A golf course is not just another pretty face! Read this issue and find out why.

ILONA GRAY, EDITOR

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## "Field of Dreams"

**David Pease**  
**President, GCSANJ**

Located in central New Jersey is a place where the dreams of this Association become the reality of accomplished goals. Unlike the movie, our "Field of Dreams" is not a baseball diamond amidst the

Iowa corn, but a Golf Course surrounded by an institution of higher learning.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey Field Day, which is held at the Rutgers University Golf Course, is our largest annual fundraising event.

The reality of our dreams is evident through Turfgrass Research and Scholarship Grants. These two areas fuel the success and perpetual growth of our profession. Funding for such programs would not be possible without the symbiotic relationship between the Commercial

and Superintendent members.

Membership support through attendance is critical for a successful Field Day. In the past, the overall attendance at the Field Day has been good, although Superintendent appearances and participation has been less than one would expect for such an important fundraising event.

Even though there are many private field demonstrations taking place throughout the state, there is no other event where the competition of iron distributors go head-to-head on field demos. This competitive atmosphere is only seconded to the camaraderie that takes place between the Superintendents and their chemical tech reps and Agricultural tradesmen.

Herein lies the point, in order for a successful Field Day, the Association needs membership support through attendance. For if our own members feel it unnecessary to attend, we may be in fear of major commercial pullouts.

Your input through attendance is greatly appreciated. The Association extends this appreciation to **Joe Spang** and his staff for their sacrifice in hosting this most important event.

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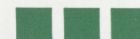
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## Calendar

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| July 25      | GCSANJ July Monthly Meeting - Rancocas G.C., Willingboro, NJ. Host: Martin Mantell, (609) 877-4314.   |
| July 29      | Father and Son Championship - Edgewood C.C., River Vale, NJ. Contact: NJSGA, (201) 338-8334.  |
| August 8     | Rutgers Turfgrass Field Day - Adelphia Research Farm, Adelphia, NJ. Contact: Ed Milewski, Morris County Ag Agent, (201) 285-8300.                               |
| August 28    | Invitational - Canoe Brook C.C., Summit, NJ. Host: Skip Cameron, (908) 277-0105.  |
| September 17 | Metropolitan/GCSA Professional Turfgrass Field Day - Westchester C.C., Rye, New York. Contact: Bob Lippman, (914) 248-7476.                                     |
| October 2    | Championship - Alpine C.C., Demarest, NJ. Host: Steve Finamore, (201) 768-5489.   |
| October 8    | 27th Annual Turfgrass Equipment, Irrigation and Supplies Field Day - Rutgers Stadium and Golf Course, Piscataway, NJ. Contact: John Carpinelli, (609) 235-0150. |



# How Cool is Bluegrass?



(Continued from page 1)

most cost-effective means of trapping and holding surface water that may be carrying eroded soil and organic chemicals, thereby reducing the amount of siltation and organic chemicals that enter sewers, streams, rivers and lakes.

Grass also offers a unique cooling capability that greatly enhances the comfort of people in highly populated

urban areas. It accomplishes this at no cost of outside energy or the burning of carbon dioxide

*That little grass plant most of us take for granted may help make this planet more liveable, especially if we learn to give it a chance to give us all of the benefits it is capable of.*

creating fossil fuels.

Studies now in their third year consistently demonstrate that actively growing turfgrass will reduce surface temperatures by 30-40° F in comparison to bare soil and by 50 to 70° F in comparison to synthetic turf surfaces. Cement, asphalt and stone surfaces also act as heat sinks with surfaces much hotter than turf.

As an added benefit, turf's growth process removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere which has been identified as one of the potential factors that may cause global warming. By absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing clean oxygen, the grass plant is helping cool the earth, as well as our homes.

There are many other functional benefits of turfgrasses typically overlooked by the general public. These include:

1. *Soil erosion control, which protects a vital national resource.*
2. *Dust stabilization.*
3. *Heat dissipation—temperature moderation.*

4. *Noise abatement.*
5. *Glare reduction.*
6. *Reduced runoff loss of precipitation.*
7. *Higher groundwater recharge.*
8. *Increased degradation of organic chemicals.*
9. *Safety in vehicle operation and equipment longevity.*
10. *Facilitates security for key installations.*
11. *Reduced fire hazard.*
12. *Reduced problems with pests such as insects, snakes and rodents.*

It should be noted that these functional benefits derived from turfgrasses are closely interrelated with water in a number of situations. Furthermore, even turfgrasses that are grey to tan in color due to summer drought stress still retain many of the important benefits listed.

Through education about proper turfgrass selection irrigation equipment selection and use, man can also realize increased benefits from turfgrass.

That little grass plant most of us take for granted may help make this planet more liveable, especially if we learn to give it a chance to give us all of the benefits it is capable of.

**Editor's Note:** Dr. James B. Beard is a Professor of Turfgrass Physiology and Ecology in the Department of Soil & Crop Sciences at Texas A&M University, College Station. His research and teaching in Turfgrass Sciences include a broad array of topics including many mentioned in this article. Recognized as a leader by his peers, he has served as President of the Crop Science Society of America and the International Turfgrass Society, as well as being a recipient of numerous honorary positions and awards. Dr. Beard also is the author of six books on turfgrass and their cultures.

This article has been reprinted from the "Journal of Environmental Turfgrass".



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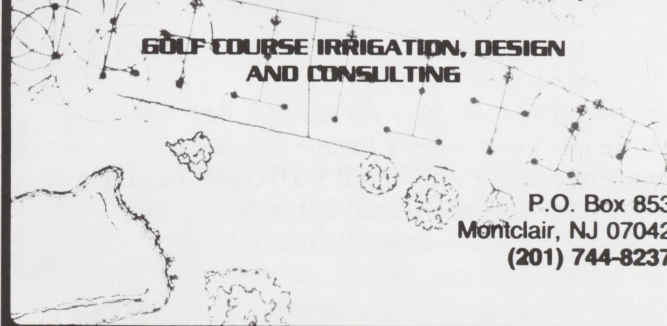
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# GCSANJ NEWS



## "SCOTT TO THE RESCUE"

In the middle of February, I was getting ready to write the report for our April Meeting. It was simply going to say that our first meeting of 1991 was cancelled because we were not able to secure a meeting site. Fortunately, **Harry Harsin** urged me to contact **Phil Scott**. It was last minute and Phil has done more than his share (four meetings in 19 years), but maybe he could help. Within a week, Bamm Hollow had made a place for us and our year started out with a bang.

Eighty-six players showed up to test their skill on a course where the Ladies Professional Golf Association's best players have had a tough time. Nothing has changed because most of our field struggled to an average score of 96. It was cold and windy, but the course was in wonderful shape. We should have scored better, but either most of us are working too hard or we have no talent. In some cases, such as mine, both of those problems apply. At least we were able to see and appreciate what **Phil**, **Matt Dobbie**, **Tom McConnel** and the rest of the staff were able to do in such a short time. They should be proud.

Phil has something else to be proud of and that is the respect he has earned from his peers at Bamm. **Bob Elliot** is the manager and **David Lees** is the golf professional. Both went out of their way to do that little extra because of Phil. Bob's staff prepared and served a wonderful dinner in a fashion that told us we were important. Dave donated a beautiful golf bag because he wanted to say thanks to his golf course superintendent for his importance to the game. We all understand and share their feelings. Phil and everyone at Bamm Hollow deserve our respect and thanks.

## "BAMM HOLLOW RESULTS"

Bamm Hollow produced a good blend of winners. Most were names we know very well, but there were some new players we hope to hear from again.

**Angelo Petraglia** fired a 75 to win the gross division. He was followed by **Bob Prickett** and **Forrest Arthur**. Both these players shot 78, but Bob won a match of cards. **Chris Gaynor** took up from where he left off last year. His net 68 was two better than **Steve Chirip** and **Phil O'Brien** who had 70s. **Jeff Wyant** had the longest drive and **Mike Hocko** and **Jerry Swain** were the closest to the pin winners. **Mark Sinto** won the \$100 golf bag that was donated by **David Lee**. **Angelo Petraglia** and **Bob Prickett** closed out the competitions with two skins each.

Shaun Barry

## District Meeting Dates:

District	Meeting	Date	Hosts
#1	Walkill	August 15	Steve Roberts
#2	Basking Ridge CC	July 8	John Fenwick
#3	Toms River CC	August 1	Ed McSeaman
#4	Medford Village CC	August 6	Mark MacDonald

## "A DAY TO REMEMBER"

Metedeconk National Golf Course has a certain ring to its name. You sense that this is a special place before you even drive onto the property. Like Pine Valley and Augusta National, it is tucked out of the way hidden deep in a forest of pines. Each of these great courses established a standard in design and maintenance that only very few have achieved.

During construction **Steve Cadenelli** took the time to show me what he was creating. They were still in the clearing stage, but Steve had the look in his eye that I remember when my daughter was born. His excitement was contagious and I could not wait to come back and see his "baby".

On May 21st, I got my chance to return because Steve was able to host a monthly meeting. It was an extraordinary day, one filled with fun and adventure that saw most of the field shoot over 100. **Vic Gerard** provided soda and juice on the course, but nothing could help. More trees were hit than fairways and greens. Nobody shot in the 70s although a couple people did shoot in the 170s. Titleist had to put on another shift and our caddies asked about combat pay. This course brought us to our knees. It was a day none of us would have missed. Thanks again, Steve, to you and the **Sambol Family** for having us. It was worth the wait.

Our two-man teams produced some very high net scores, but we had three teams that did very well. **Dave Lerner** and **Jim McNally** combined for a 151 and first place. **Joe Henry** and **Bob Moore** came in second with a 153 total. A 156 score put **Mike Hocko** and **John Schoellner** in third place. All of the winning teams received gift certificates and plaques for their efforts.

In the battle for low gross, **Tom Grimal** beat **Angelo Petraglia** on a match of cards. Both shot 82. **Bob "On the Toe" Prickett** won the long drive, while **Steve Malikowski** and **Bob Moore** won our closest to the pin contests. **Bob Dwyer**, **Tom Grimal**, **Angelo Petraglia**, **Bob Prickett** and **Jeff Wetterling** won in the skins competition.

Shaun Barry

(Continues on next page)





# GCSANJ NEWS

## GCSANJ SPONSORS UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS REGULATIONS SEMINAR (USTS)

April 23, 1991 was a beautiful day; the sun was out and the temperature hovered around 70 degrees. Even with those conditions, approximately 30 superintendents and club officials made the trip to Colonia Country Club for a three-hour seminar concerning federal and New Jersey Underground Storage Tank regulations.

Edward Keebler, Operations Manager for TTI Environmental Consulting Corporation, presented a very informative session regarding the latest regulations.

John Dana of FAI Insurance Counseling explained the insurance regulations and discussed different policies available. The Metropolitan Golf Association, which John is involved in, the National Club Association, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America all offer UST insurance policies.

Charles Sciara of ConVault Environmental Tank systems answered questions concerning above ground storage.

The timing on the New Jersey regulations has changed so that now we have until 1993 to comply for gasoline storage tanks and 1995 for heating oil. The problem with this is that the tanks still have to be insured in 1991 and it is very tough, if not impossible, to get insurance on tanks that do not meet the new standards. I urge all superintendents and club officials to evaluate their clubs' responsibility and liability.

Although very complex, a lot of questions were answered and I know that I can now talk with my club officials in a more professional manner. Please remember how complex this issue is and realize that this article represents my impressions of the information presented and take it as such.

I would like to thank Chris Gaynor, CGCS and the Colonia Country Club for the use of their facilities. Larry  
(Continues on next page)

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# GCSANJ NEWS

Dodge of Essex Fells Country Club chaired the meeting as Tom Grimic, CGCS, our educational chairman, was not able to attend, although he was instrumental in setting up this seminar, as he attended one not long ago.

**Ken Krausz, CGCS**

## WILFRED MACDONALD PRESENTS TECHNICAL SERVICE SEMINARS

On April 23, 1991, Wilfred MacDonald held a five-hour seminar on the Jacobsen Greens King IV and on April 24, 1991, a seminar on the LF 100.

Paul Zeller of Jacobsen presented an informative session on the care, maintenance and trouble shooting of these machines. Mike Moore, parts manager for Wilfred MacDonald, was also present to put in his insight and field questions.

Approximately 25 men attended these seminars and had a chance to learn a thing or two, present their problems and share war stories.

The gathering of the mechanics worked well as they gave Paul a few questions and suggestions to bring back to Jacobsen. It also gave them a chance to share problems and solutions. A job well done.

**Ken Krausz, CGCS**

## CAPE MAY SUPERINTENDENT PRESENTED WITH RANSOMES GREENS 3000

Steven Malikowski, superintendent at Cape May National Golf Club, recently accepted delivery on a Ransomes Greens 3000. Unlike most new equipment deliveries, however, there won't be an invoice with this one as Malikowski won the free use of the mower for a season, courtesy of Ransomes Inc.

"I'm pleased to have won the use of the Greens 3000, and I'm looking forward to putting it to good use this season," said Malikowski, upon receiving the keys from Ransomes' Vice President of Engineering, Tom Stuart, and distributor Sales Manager Mark Ericson.

Steven Willand Inc. of Augusta, distributor for Ransomes and Cushman Ryan Turf Equipment, will provide support to the Cape May National Golf Club.

Malikowski's name was randomly selected in a drawing sponsored by Ransomes Inc. at the International Golf Course Conference and Show in Las Vegas last February.

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*Sitting on the new mower is Steve Malikowski. Leaning on the Ransomes Greens 3000 is Mark Ericson and standing on the far right is Tom Stuart.*



## "A HAZARD COMMUNICATION PROGRAM FOR THE GOLF COURSE FACILITY"

Developing a Hazard Communication Program was the topic of the May meeting of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey held at Metedeconk National Golf Club. The need for the HazCom Program and its incorporation into the golf course facility was addressed by Stephen G. Cadenelli and Steven Ratto.

The Hazard Communication Program is constructed to give all those working at a facility which handles hazardous materials a right to know about the risks involved and the proper procedures for dealing with these hazards. Although it is mandated by law, the HazCom Program is a sound policy of educating employees to better understand their working environment and, therefore, improve productivity.

Identification of hazardous materials is the first step of the program. A written inventory of all areas of the facility will establish what hazards are present.

Material Safety Data Sheets must then be obtained for all the materials identified. Distributors must supply these upon request with shipment of products and update those already in-house. Manufacturers can be contacted if there are problems with a distributors' availability. The MSDS is the heart of the HazCom Program, providing all

pertinent information from physical characteristics to first aid and proper disposal of the material.

A written program should be in place for all employees to review. Policies, procedures and inventories are all listed as they pertain to each facility. A catalog of MSDS's should be included. If followed, this written program and subsequent training sessions ensure that all employees should become familiar with a facility's hazards and procedures in dealing with them.

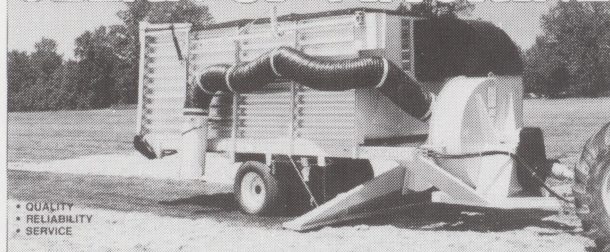
Training sessions bring everything together for the employee to understand the program. Every employee is informed through various, commercially available audio/visual and written aids that help build a strong training program. All employees must satisfy their employer as well as themselves as to their comprehension of the HazCom Program. Employees should sign a form stating that they have received proper training and are aware of the HazCom Program as it exists at the facility.

In summary, to reach compliance, the employer must: 1) list all hazardous materials; 2) obtain MSDS for these materials; 3) get a written HazCom Program in place; and 4) train all employees involved.

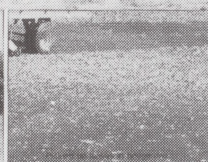
Compliance is the law and another way to uphold environmental integrity on the golf course.

Steve Ratto

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## The Value of Education

As detailed elsewhere in this publication, your Association recently provided a timely half-day seminar on Underground Storage Tanks. We are facing very short time tables for both technical and financial requirements, and Tom Grimac and his education committee did a great job of putting together a way for our membership to get the information we need to make sound recommendations to our Boards, Greens Chairmen and Managers. I, person-

(Please turn to page 9)

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# The Value of Education

(Continued from page 8)

ally, was in need of this information. I expected to receive it and Tom and his committee surpassed my expectations.

I now know the technical requirements with which I am faced. I know the insurance requirements. I know the timetables and target dates by which I must comply. I know how to select a company to perform this expensive job. In short, through the timely work of GCSANJ, I have the knowledge I need to make informed proposals and recommendations to my club.

Less than two weeks after this seminar, I compiled various notes, documents and quotes from several sources into a proposal and presented my recommendations to an ad-hoc committee of my Board. I felt comfortable during that presentation mainly because of the information gathered from our Association's seminar. The cost of that seminar: \$30.

The reason for this missive is not to let you know that Echo Lake is moving forward with tank replacements and natural gas conversion, and it certainly is not to pat myself on the back for attending an educational offering. The reason for my writing is to ask most of you: Why weren't you there?

Certainly Commercial and D members might see

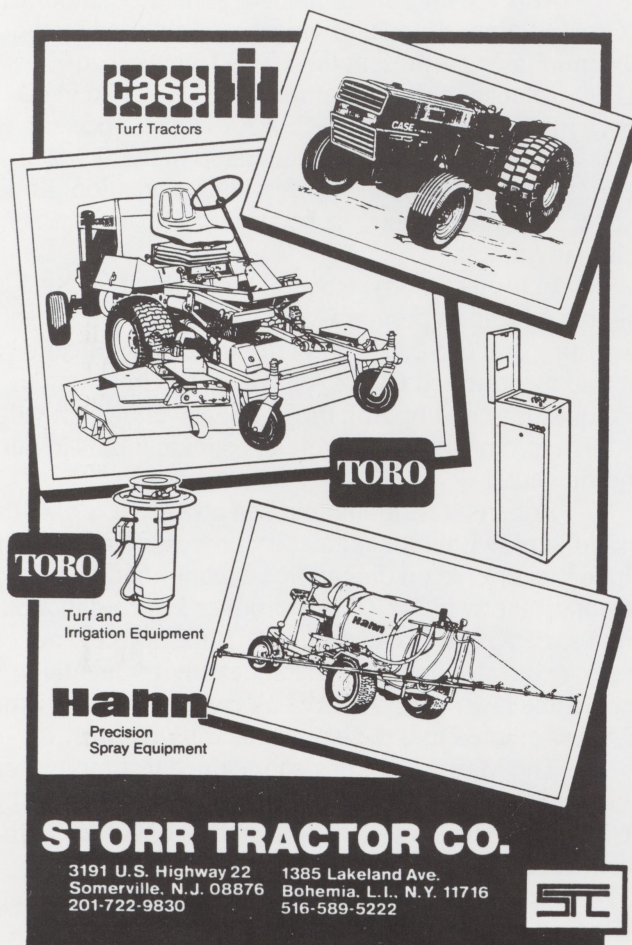
limited value in the subject, and I am sure that there are Superintendents who have already thoroughly researched the topic and are conversant in the laws and regulations. Some of you also must have managers or Boards which have initiated UST programs, or work for a municipality or County and are not personally involved with USTs. Most superintendents that I know, however, do not fall into these categories, and those who do would have benefitted from a broader understanding of the UST situation anyway. So, I ask again: Where were you?

Some have told me that the cost was too high, that for \$30 all they would have received was coffee and danish. To that, I respond that what they would have received was education and information, information that would have been cheap at twice the price. They would have enjoyed the camaraderie of other members. They would have taken home an in-depth book on technical requirements. They would have contributed their ideas and concerns and made the meeting even stronger than it was, and in so doing would have made their Association even stronger than it is. On top of all that, they would have had coffee and danish.

My crew here at Echo Lake knows that I use certain truisms frequently half in jest and half seriously. Atop that list is "A clean shop is a happy shop". Second on that list is Oscar Wilde's "A cynic knows the price of everything and value of nothing". There can be no more apt use of that quote than for this Association. Your committees work hard to provide excellent services, services that are intended to make our membership improve and grow. You can benefit from these offerings, you can contribute to them and make them stronger: you can provide the information you have to make your peers better superintendents and Association members.

Don't be a cynic when it comes to our Association—look for the value, not the cost. If you can make our education sessions better, then do it...because only through the membership's involvement and continued support will we as an Association continue to improve.

Chris Carson  
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# GCSAA NEWS

## EPA AND GCSAA TEAM UP ON LAWN CARE EDUCATION

The nation's environmental authorities have joined forces with America's turfgrass experts to educate homeowners about ecologically responsible lawn care practices. The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America are co-sponsoring a new campaign that features television public service announcements on the proper use of lawn care chemicals.

The 30- and 10-second commercials, entitled "Think Before You Apply", ask homeowners to "read the directions and use only the amount needed to do the job", when applying lawn care chemicals. Both spots list a toll-free number (1-800-858-7378) that viewers may call to receive more information on proper usage of and possible alternatives to lawn chemicals.

The commercials were released in the top 40 United States television markets. Leading national cable

television networks also received the spots.

Lewis S.W. Crampton, EPA associate administrator for communications and public affairs, said "We hope these commercials will create more awareness of the need to use lawn care chemicals judiciously."

Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, GCSAA president, added, "GCSAA is pleased to be part of this unique public education program. It is our pleasure to offer expertise to help America's homeowners maintain great home lawns in an environmentally responsible manner."

## GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT TESTIFIES AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

"Golf and the golf course superintendent have a very real interest in reducing pesticide use," said William R. Roberts, CGCS, in testimony before the recent Senate subcommittee hearing on toxic substances and environmental oversight. Roberts, vice president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, testified on behalf of the association.

Roberts, the superintendent at the Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, was invited by the subcommittee to represent the 10,800 members of GCSAA. Subcommittee chairman Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.), invited Roberts and GCSAA to appear because of the association's recognized leadership in the fields of turfgrass management and professional education. Roberts also testified at last year's subcommittee hearing at Sen. Reid's invitation.

In his testimony, Roberts highlighted GCSAA's ongoing education programs and the association's stance on posting and pre-notification of pesticide applications. He also reconfirmed GCSAA's "diligence in asking the hard questions and finding the right answers which will lead to a minimization of overall pesticide inputs to our environment."

Roberts' testimony touched on GCSAA's willingness to work within the regulatory process. The subcommittee was briefed on the public education/public service announcement which GCSAA produced in conjunction with the EPA. The PSA, entitled "Think Before You Apply", educates homeowners about environmentally responsible lawn care practices. A copy of the television PSA was entered into the official hearing record.

The May 9 hearing also included testimony from representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Professional Lawn Care Association of America, the Chemical Producers and Distributors Association, the Federal Trade Commission and the General Accounting Office.



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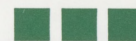
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# NGF Launches second Awards program



For the second consecutive year, the National Golf Foundation is inviting public golf facilities across the nation to share their best promotional and operational programs.

The annual Public Golf Achievement Awards program is part of NGF's ongoing efforts to underscore the importance of public golf in America. It recognizes public golf facilities for successful efforts to enhance the growth and enjoyment of the game in their communities.

Participating municipal and daily-fee facilities will be invited to share their best promotional and operational programs. Some of them include: speed-of-play programs, educating golfers in such areas as etiquette and ball-mark repair, and innovative approaches to introducing new players to the game.

Entry forms were mailed to NGF member facilities in June; the deadline for entries is September 1. Judging will take place shortly thereafter, with announcement of award recipients scheduled for October.

"The importance of public golf to the long-term growth of the game," said NGF President Joseph Beditz, "is reflected in the fact that 70% of all rounds played today are recorded at public facilities."

Last year, 50 golf facilities and municipalities from

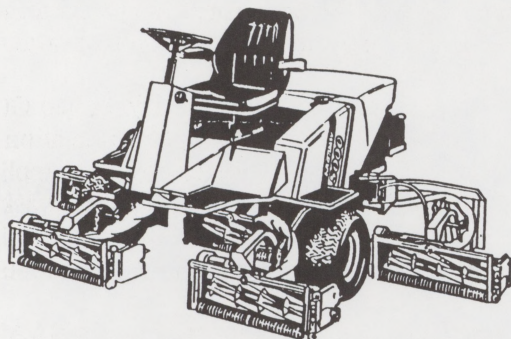
across the U.S. were recognized for excellence in promoting public golf in their communities.

Due to golf's growing popularity, public facility operators have been faced with the challenge of meeting increased demand while maintaining the enjoyment of the game.

"The 1990 award recipients showed that public courses have indeed risen to the challenge," Beditz said. "We are again looking forward to hearing from the nation's public facilities and learning about the variety of creative promotional and operational programs being conducted."



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# Accepting a compliment

*Editor's Note: We wish to thank Terri Heaphy for allowing "The Greenside" to reprint this excellent advice and Shaun Barry for sending it on to us.*

A golfer rushes up to a superintendent during his lunch at the clubhouse to tell the superintendent that the greens are absolutely perfect; "the best in the area" he says. The superintendent responds: "Yeah, but we have so much poa annua and the greens are so bumpy and I don't know what will happen when all of the hot weather gets here and I am having problems with the drainage on #9 and #16 and didn't you see all of that dollar spot? and...and...and...". From now on, the golfer pays attention.

The course manager stands up in front of some 50 people at a golf association meeting and announces that he and the superintendent have been unhappy with the condition of the greens for the last three years. Several attendees, who had never noticed any problem, corner the superintendent after the meeting and demand to know: "What's wrong with the greens?????".

"The golf course is immaculate!", the president of the ladies association squeals with delight, "and I just love the flower bed at #10 tee. "Yes", the superintendent laments with a weary voice, "but did you see all those weeds? I don't know how we will ever keep up with them." Next time, the lady notices the weeds.

Sound familiar? We are our own worst enemy and our own best critic. That fact proves itself time and time again. How many of you, when complimented, just say "thank you"? More often than not, we spring forth with a veritable dissertation about the zillions of things that are wrong. When we do this, we say in essence to our complimenters: "You don't know what you're talking about." The end result can be very unpleasant indeed. That person will not only never compliment you again but you can bet that he will be in the grill "holding court" with fellow golfers pointing out all of your shortcomings that you so readily pointed out to him. He will probably even add a few of his own.

The same holds true for giving out unnecessary negative information when the general consensus thinks things are OK. This is not to suggest that you lie or otherwise withhold important information. We owe it to our patrons to provide accurate technical information on subjects such as that smelly stuff we sprayed on the fairways yesterday or why we had to water the greens anyway after a brief morning shower. We owe it to ourselves to keep the unnecessary stuff to ourselves.

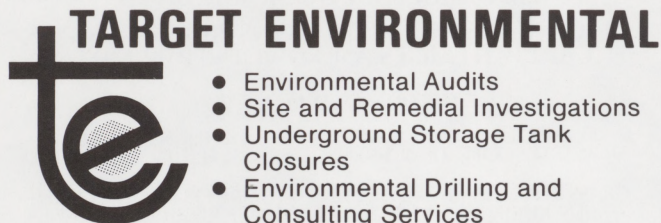
Think about it. How many of your golfers can really tell the difference between poa annua and bentgrass until the poa annua goes to seed? How many of your golfers carry a soil probe in their bags to check root depth? Do you really think the lady that complimented the flower bed noticed the weeds? How many golfers at your course can correctly identify a single disease? Get the picture?

Our jobs are tough enough and none of us are perfect nor can we be expected to be. Everyone's idea of what is good and what is not is very subjective. So, next time someone pays you a compliment, keep the bad stuff to yourself, get a big smile on your face and just say: "Thank You".

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# Black layer of putting greens

by Dr. J. Vargas  
Michigan State University

Reprinted from "Lawn Institute Harvests", April 1991;  
Editor-Eliot C. Roberts.

Of all golf course putting green conditions to be investigated during the past ten years, none has generated more interest or concern for curative measures than the "black layer". Dr. Joe Vargas at Michigan State University is an authority in this area and his research results and conclusions are worthy of note. Consider the following points.

- We need to know more about the practice of sand topdressing of golf greens. Light, frequent applications should not result in the creation of a perched water table or localized dry spots that may require use of wetting agents or nematode problems.

- Natural soil supports good populations of a wide variety of organisms; often sands do not. Sand cultures allow weak pathogens to become stronger. These have

been observed, particularly on Toronto creeping bentgrass. A bacterial wilt has been found to plug conductive tissue under some conditions.

- Sands may become nutrient deficient - especially for phosphorus. Calcareous sands may require use of sulfur to acidify some for improved nutrient availability.

- The black layer is associated with use of sulfur, particularly dry forms. Sulfates in water wash down into the sand. The black layer has nothing to do with either soil or sand as it may occur in either substrate. It has to do with the presence of sulfur under anaerobic conditions as the root zone becomes water saturated.

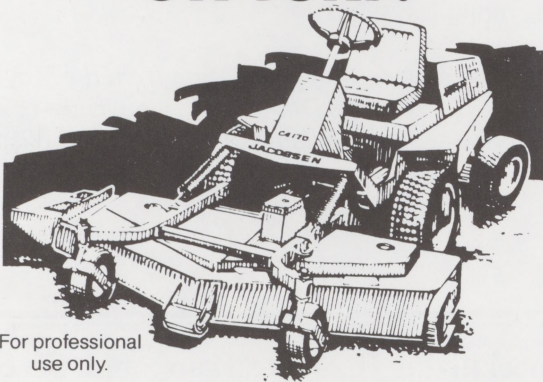
- Algae use a by-product of sulfur to stimulate their development. Control of algae is helped by getting rid of sulfur.

- Sulfur becomes an oxygen sink. That is, oxygen is tied up in the oxidation of sulfur. Where there is limited oxygen, anaerobic conditions develop. This condition is enhanced by excessive irrigation, heavy rains, traffic that compacts the soil and the presence of sulfur. One inch of rain can take all the oxygen out for a 24-hour period. Sulfur may come from supplemental application, acid rain, irrigation water and overuse of sulfur-coated urea.

- What management practices can help prevent the black layer:

- aerification;
- light irrigation;
- use of nitrate fertilizer - 1/4 to 1/3 of a pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per application because of high salt index;
- avoid applications of sulfur.

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# THE BACK NINE

## NEW JERSEY FIRST TO TEE OFF

Dr. William Lowell, a Maplewood dentist, received a patent for the golf tee as we know it today in 1924. Reddy Tee Company produced golf tees until 1943. You can learn more about golf history at the USGA's National Headquarters Golf House Museum in Far Hills, New Jersey.

## MEMBER ON THE MOVE

Michael Oleykowski has recently joined Ciba-Geigy in their Turf And Ornamental division. As a sales specialist, in his new duties, he will work with distributors and their representatives promoting Subdue, Banner, Triumph, Pennant, Pace and new products. Mike's territory includes eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware. He and his family will continue to reside in Mt. Holly, New Jersey and keep his association with the GCSANJ. Mike formerly was with LESCO as a golf course specialist.

## MOTHER NATURE FOUND GUILTY

For some time, there have been numerous accusa-

tions by environmentalists that "agriculture" is the culprit behind the accumulation of nitrates and phosphates in soils and water supplies. Fertilizer and animal wastes have been the alleged sources of these nutrients.

A recent release from the Potash and Phosphate Institute lists three areas of pollution where agriculture was not to blame.

- Under certain conditions in northern Canada where there has never been any agriculture or fertilizer use, some surface waters from lakes have been found to contain higher nitrate-nitrogen concentrations than the current tolerances for human consumption. This is a natural phenomena which occurs when spring temperatures begin to rise and organic matter decomposes, releasing nitrates.

- According to the Great Lakes Water Quality Commission, cores from the bottom of Lake Michigan indicate that more phosphorus was being deposited into the Great Lakes from runoff 400 to 500 years ago than today.

- Recent research has found that high nitrate levels are present deep in the soil at some locations. Agriculture and crop fertilization has never been practiced in many of these places. One unlikely place where high soil nitrate concentrations have been found is deep in the Mojave Desert.

Although these represent cases where agriculture was found innocent, farmers should still stress chemical use in cropping systems.

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# X marks the spot

You know, the more I read this newsletter, the more impressed I am. It's probably fair to say I can be considered a good judge of this publication having done for five plus years what Jim Gilligan did and now Ilona Gray does. I think I've collected almost every issue that has been produced and when I look at the first "Greenersides" versus the more recent issues, I find absolutely no comparisons.

The only thing I wonder about is did Jim, and does Ilona have nearly as much fun as our early group? When Ken Kubik, Mike Hannigan, Dennis DeSanctis, Jerry Schoonmaker, Charlie Cross, Wees Goosman-Beverage and I were putting this thing together, we got together a lot to discuss our plans and set our dates. Actually Ken, Mike and I, and later Charlie, would talk a lot over the phone, put some columns together, send the whole thing to the printer and get together with our wives and kids and anyone who wanted to help lick stamps and envelopes and mail the damn thing. It wasn't what it is today.

As a matter of fact, we used to have a budgeted item to compensate us for those, so-called, mailing meet-

ings. The mailing meetings consisted of stamps, envelopes, beer, wine and pizza. The beer was to wash down the pizza. The wine was for the ladies who didn't like beer and to wash the taste of stamps out of our mouths. The most difficult part of the night was to determine who was able to drive to the post office to drop off the newsletters. We were usually fortunate to have George and Ineka Pierpoint join us during those meetings. George was not one to have any more than a beer or two so he usually got the nod when it was time to pick the person to make the delivery.

Now none of this seems too relevant, but it does show that we really had a good time and did produce a pretty decent product in spite of ourselves. Most importantly, it gives me the opportunity to look back on some great times and in my own way say thanks to the great group of folks that started the newsletter you are reading today.

Ilona, I hope you're having as much fun today as we did back then.

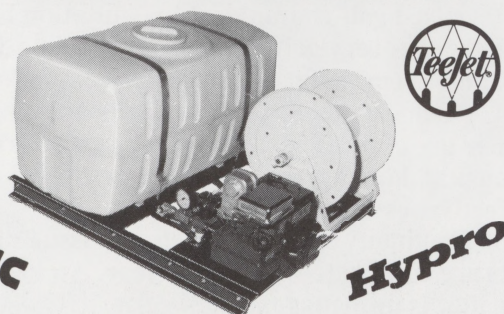
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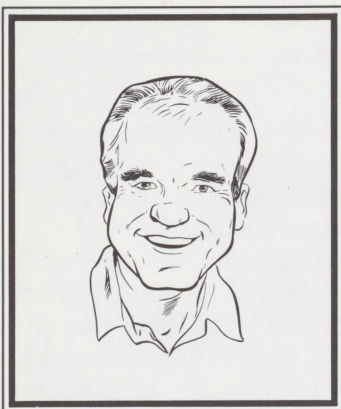
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## Jim Gilligan's Column

### LISTS

In a previous issue of "The Greenside", two lists were published: Sky Bergen's list of Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey members he encountered

at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America conference in Las Vegas and Ed Walsh's list of accomplished former assistant superintendents. These lists fostered an idea to publish a list of my own. Some thoughts included a list of bio-stimulants and their sources of power, a list of nitrogen sources and their meaning to superintendents, or a list of superintendents who have hosted a GCSANJ meeting and those who haven't. Lists are difficult to publish because someone is always left off. Just when I had given up on the idea of publishing a list, I saw the May issue of "Golf Course News", published by United Publications, Yarmouth, Maine, which published a list of "Supers' 10 deadly problems". This lead article,

written by Peter Blais, was a review of a talk given by USGA agronomist James Connolly at the Maine Golf Turfgrass Conference and show in Portland, Maine. Mr. Connolly's talk was entitled "The Top 10 Sins of Golf Course Maintenance". These problems were not only deadly, but sinful, a dreaded combination. The list was the result of a survey of the 14 USGA agronomists of which 12 completed it. The survey was commissioned by a group of golf course owners.

The survey results are the compilation of observations the USGA agronomists see in their visits to hundreds of golf courses.

Initially my reaction was that this represented another indictment of superintendents; that superintendents were alone the cause for these "10 deadly problems". After speaking with Jim Connolly, I learned it was not his intention to fault superintendents but to make the industry aware of these problems.

There is no denial that these problems exist, but it seems that superintendents are the ones held accountable for them. Only three of the problems are agronomic, the remainder are either administrative or economic.

This golf course industry is a career for golf course superintendents; it is a matter of job security. Golf course owners, club officials, general managers, golf directors, and agronomists have careers affiliated with maintenance, but their opinions have strong influence on the superintendents performance.

The list is presented here as it was published in "Golf Course News". My comments are in bold print.

1. Communication and public relations. **Balanced communication should be the guideword here; even parts of speaking and listening. Because of his tenuous position, the superintendent often listens instead of speaking when pressure is applied against his instincts.**

2. Overwatering. **Superintendents overwater to increase the margin of against wilt; it is easy to overwater with automatic irrigation systems, too often the clocks are set and left without monitoring.**

3. Fast green speeds. **Green speeds are kept too fast to emulate the Masters, USGA Open Championships or any televised golf championship. Imitation is the problem here; as every golfer wants to play like Jack Nicklaus, every golf course wants to look like Augusta.**

4. Pesticide use. **Superintendents are more judicial in their use of pesticides. We are more aware of environmental damage; we have seen pesticides abused to ineffectiveness; and pesticides are costly.**

5. Continuity of club officials. **An issue superintendents are confronted with each year. An important issue that is unmanageable.**

6. Pesticide storage and maintenance. **This is a serious problems for superintendents. In most cases, it**

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(Please turn to page 17)



## Jim Gilligan's Column

is an economic issue; it falls down the priority list when funds are scarce.

7. Tree management. I don't see this as a top 10 problem; cutting down trees is a controversial environmental issue in most places.

8. Amount of play. Golfers are stretching their golfing dollar by extending play from dawn to dusk, with no time remaining for maintenance. Golf courses are also hosting more outside tournament events.

9. Labor. Ranked too low. Put at the top of the list. Labor conditions at most golf facilities are poor. Low wages, few benefits, poor working conditions, little training, no recruitment are some of the problems. In these economic times, there are more people available to work, but are we recruiting effectively, are higher wages and benefits offered to keep good people now or lose them when the economy rebounds.

10. Equipment. Connolly said, "Some of these guys take the junkiest piece of equipment and make it work. It is a compliment to the industry."

There is more to this article than I have related to you in this column. Read the article in the May issue of "Golf Course News", and talk to the USGA agronomists to hear their perspective. This industry is not without problems, but where do you read about them?

(Please turn to page 18)

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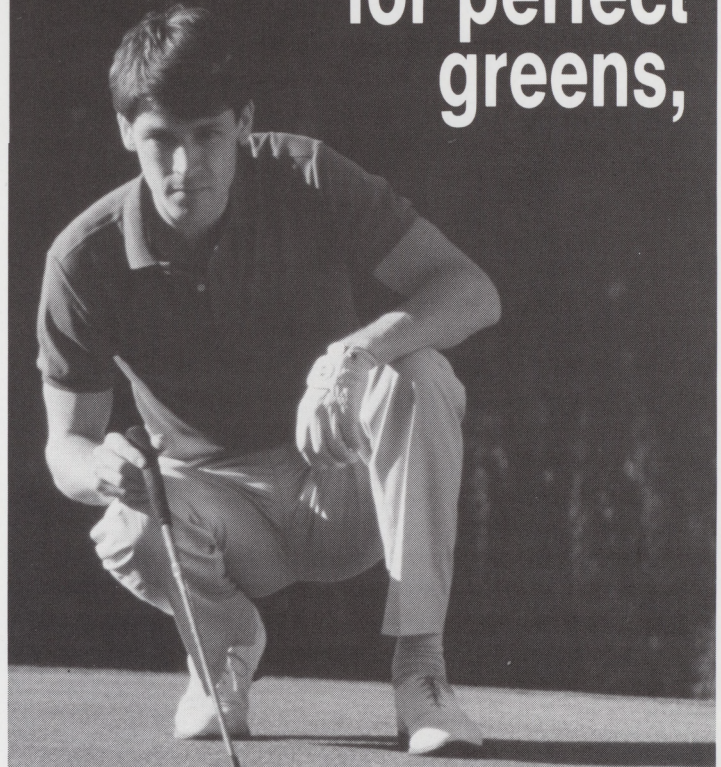
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On October 8, at Rutgers Stadium and Golf Course in Piscataway, people from the entire green industry will be gathering to watch the latest in equipment being demonstrated by the experts. This is the number one fundraiser for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey and, naturally, you should be there along with your fellow superintendents. Bring your mechanic along so that he can view and possibly test the latest equipment.

You can make this an even bigger event by letting the rest of the green industry people know about it. So... spread the word to the landscapers, ornamental businesses,

sod farmers, arborists, turf care professionals and your fellow GCSANJ members! Along with the demonstrations, suppliers of various kinds and a pretty good, inexpensive lunch make this a terrific day.

The field day is free to the attendees, so there is no excuse to miss it. Mark October 8 on your calendar now.

For further information, contact either Judy Policastro at (201) 379-1100 or John Carpinelli at (609) 235-0150. John is this year's chairman of the Field Day and Judy is the Executive Secretary of GCSANJ.

## Jim Gilligan's Column

(Continued from page 17)

In the closing paragraph of the article, it mentions some "sins" that didn't make the top ten: "superintendents being unable to read soil tests; poor record keeping; inappropriately timed maintenance; and taking advice from the wrong people." Think about it.



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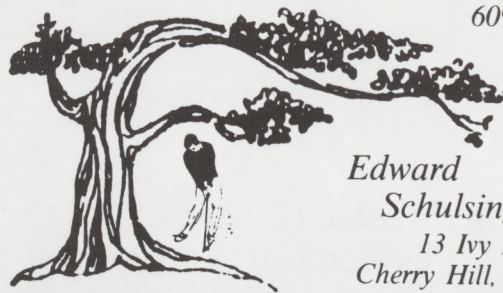


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## BLUE RIDGE PEAT FARMS, INC.

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★ New Patrons for 1991

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