

THE GREENERSIDE

September - October 1993 Volume 16 Number 5

Get a lead on seed

by Ilona Gray

Everything has a beginning and for terrific turf, the beginning is quality turf seed. This year's unusual weather occurring all over the United States has conspired to create higher demand for certain seeds. "The Greenside" surveyed a number of suppliers for their view on the demand and supply situation for turf seed. *One caveat is that time changes everything, and these reports should be read with the understanding that they were obtained in the beginning of August.*

The American Sod Producers Association (ASPA) published a summary of this year's production outlook in their July/August 1993 **Turf News**. They reported that Common Kentucky bluegrass seed acreage will be up about 15% over last year. Proprietary varieties of bluegrass are expected to be in good supply and of good quality. In the Northwest the question raised was "when will the rain stop?" Art Wick of Lesco reported that predictions for tall fescues and ryegrass were favorable. The ASPA report supports the New Jersey reaction to the bad weather seed forecast.

Sky Bergen projected that despite the rain in the northwest there will likely be a good crop of most varieties. The 1992 bluegrass seed crop is essentially gone, and the 1993 seed will not become available until October. Ryegrass was planted extensively and should be in good supply, but again availability will be late in the year. Improved turf type fescues are in greater demand, and 1993 production was increased to meet this. For the creeping varieties, good supplies should be available. However, newer bent varieties are expected to be in short supply, while no shortfalls are expected for the established varieties.

Rich Baker and Gerald Fountain of Seacoast Laboratories and Seed Research of Oregon explained that the hot and dry weather in New Jersey will definitely translate to greater demand for grass seed for the late summer and early fall. Based on the poor production in 1992, Seed Research

planted 30% more perennial rye and bentgrass in Oregon than they did last year. This year's weather in Oregon will likely cause a lower crop, which for Seed Research has been offset by increased acres planted. Rich and Gerald figure that they will be able to meet the increased demand in New Jersey without inconvenience to the golf trade. The exception to this is the Bluegrass supply which may be off by 80% from last year.

Marie Pompei of Lofts Seed, Inc. told "The Greenside" that the summer of '93 will not be forgotten for a long time. "Besides the record high temperatures, we've also experienced one of the driest summers on record. This has resulted in the ultimate drought test." Marie expects a lot of turf here in New Jersey will succumb.

Marie further stated, "As a result, we will see a lot of

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EDITORIAL

THE GREENERSIDE

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Ilona Gray, Editor
Ken Krausz,
Newsletter Business Staff
Douglas Vogel,
Edward Walsh, Shaun Barry,
Paul Powondra
Contributing Writers

Please address inquiries to:
The Greenside, Editor,
P.O. Box 3672, Wayne, NJ
07474-3672.

For Ad Placement: Ilona Gray,
(201) 595-7172

Art and Typography by
Trend Multimedia
(908) 787-0786



Wilting weather

by Ilona Gray



With all the complexities of running a golf course, none is so fickle as the weather. We can listen to reports, watch the skies and fight back with irrigation and maintenance techniques, but victory over the weather remains outside our reach. 1993 will be remembered as the year that tested everyone's capabilities and skills.

Our area has experienced hot and dry weather on an unprecedented scale for New Jersey. Heat and lack of rainfall records were shattered all over the state. This coming January 31, at the 65th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas, Texas, superintendents from all over the United States will meet, and I will wager now that a key topic will be the weather. From the Midwest to the Far West to the South and the Northeast, the weather has not been conducive to good turf.

Bad weather means more fungus, more stress and more reseeding. This issue of "The Greenside" takes a look at some of these and deals with them both with humor and seriousness. "How Dry Was It?" stories and "Get a Lead on Seed" help share the burden. A very serious warning on the potential for skin cancer is also shared in a special note, "Sunshine on My Shoulder."

However the weather will treat us next season, GCSANJ members know that we will get by with a little help from our friends.

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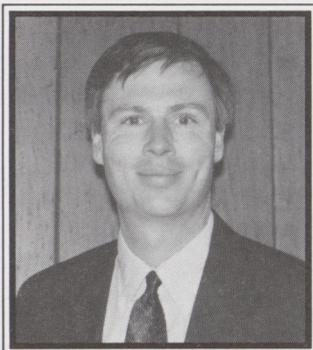
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Home improvement

 our Board works hard to provide you with the services and programs you

tell us you want, and it is our

sincere goal to be responsive to the membership. To that end, a number of improvements and additions have been made in recent years:

- Your request for more social activities has resulted in the successful establishment of the Presidents Ball. Hosted by Harry Harsin at the Barclay Hotel, this year's event has been moved to Saturday, November 6. The dance honors all past presidents and the cumulative contributions they have made to GCSANJ . . . and is a lot of fun.
- Some of you told us that the meetings can be improved by holding down costs where possible and shortening the time of the evening activities. The Golf and Meetings and Speakers committees have done a wonderful job of negotiating lower prices, providing more of a mix of sit down dinners, cocktail hours and buffets and have also developed some informal meetings. There is no clearer evidence of your support for these initiatives than our August meetings. A few years back, we had difficulty attracting 50 people to our August meeting. By breaking up into Districts, smaller clubs can participate as meeting sites, the District concept is promoted and District teams qualify for the championship. Most importantly, your participation has dramatically improved . . . this year's August attendance was more than 200.
- Many of you encouraged the Board to pursue a charitable venture, with the result being our fundraiser coming up at Deal, and the golf raffle which will begin shortly. As a side benefit of this new endeavor, we are initiating a new turf foundation, which will improve many aspects of our internal structure.
- We have taken a hard look at our Field Day, and this year's program and new site (Hort Farm II on Ryders Lane by Cook College) will address many of the concerns ex-

Calendar

- September 28** GCSANJ Invitational, Green Brook GC, hosted by Joseph Kennedy. Contact: Judy Policastro, (201) 379-1100.
- October 5** 29th Annual Turfgrass Equipment, Irrigation and Supplies Field Day, Rutgers Hort Farm II, Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ. Contact: Judy Policastro, (201) 379-1100.
- October 5** Spiritual Gathering of Turf Grass Professionals, Rutgers Hort Farm II, Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ. 3 p.m. Contact: Don Puellen, (609) 520-1094.
- October 21** GCSANJ October Meeting, Deal Golf & C.C., hosted by Angelo Petraglia. Contact: Judy Policastro, (201) 379-1100.
- October 21-22** Business Communication and Assertiveness Techniques, Melville, NY. Contact: CGSAA, (913) 832-4444.
- November 6** Presidents Ball, The Barclay Hotel, hosted by Harry Harsin. For further information contact: Judy Policastro, (201) 379-1100.
- November 9-12** Turf and Grounds Exposition, Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY. Contact: NYSTA, (800) 873-TURF or (518) 783-1229.
- November 9** GCSANJ Annual Meeting, Hollywood G.C., hosted by Robert S. Tosh. Contact: Judy Policastro, (201) 379-1100.
- November 23** Alliance for Environmental Concerns, Environmental Seminar - Pesticide Safety and Risk Communication, Clark, NJ. Contact: Ilona Gray, (201) 595-7172.

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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pressed by our commercial supporters and will hopefully encourage more of the membership to participate. The Field Day Committee has prepared a whole new day, including tours of the turf plots led by Drs. Clarke and Murphy. There will be a lot for you to see, and we encourage all Superintendents, Assistants, Mechanics and Club Officials to attend. The date is Tuesday, October 5 (rain date, October 6), and there is no charge for attending.

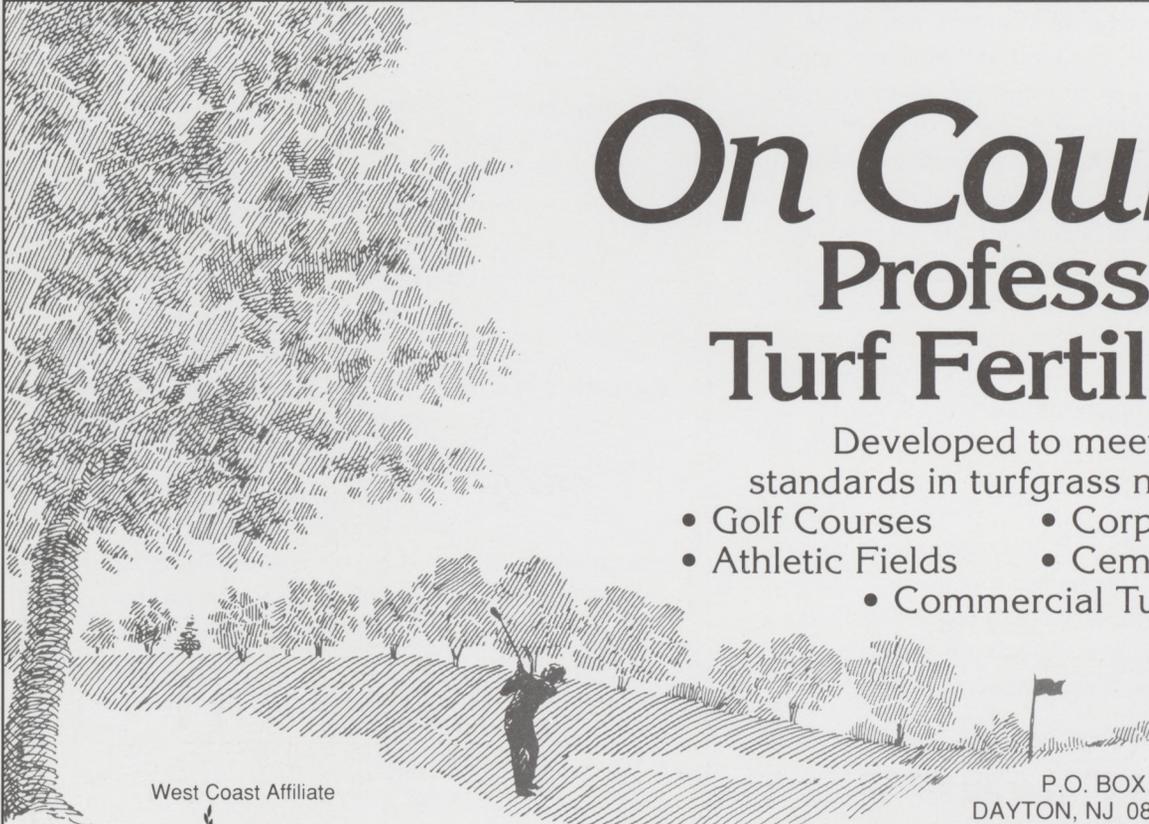
With the large and diverse membership that we have, we know that we cannot be all things to all members. We are trying, however, to respond to your needs and concerns and encourage every member to let us know how we can improve our association. Your support in helping GCSANJ to grow will contribute to the positive, professional image we have. *f*

Get a lead on seed

Continued from page 1

renovation and replacement of even once well established turf. We expect a great demand for drought tolerant and insect resistant varieties." "There already has been an unusually early demand for seed," says Lofts Vice President of Sales, **John Morrissey**. "'92 crop seed is quickly being depleted from our warehouses, and so we will be anxiously awaiting each truckload of new production to arrive."

In general, supplies of quality seed for most types should be readily available despite an expected increase in demand. Getting a lead on seed early is the best approach to ensuring that your particular needs are met. Dealing with reliable suppliers and obtaining certified seed will help avoid problems in reestablishing the greens, fairways and tees that have suffered during this long, hot summer. *f*



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GCSANJ NEWS



DISTRICT ONE CHAMPIONSHIP RETURNS TO WALKILL COUNTRY CLUB

By Ken Krausz, CGCS

It was the first nice day of an awful summer, 85°F and sunny. Perfect weather to finally leave the golf course for a few hours. As I pulled into the parking lot, I knew it was going to be another memorable day. We were met by the manager, Frank Vauk, and Superintendent Steve Roberts. The members of Walkill knew how to make us feel welcome.

After a great lunch on the deck, it was time to play golf. Imagine having 42 members of GCSANJ come play your course in the middle of this summer; imagine maintaining a golf course with a snap valve irrigation system this year! Let me tell you, Steve and his crew did a great job in a horrible year. The tees and fairways were perfect. I felt very inferior because there was not a blade of grass out of place. They were all alive, not a brown speck on the hole. I played the first hole in my usual fashion, all over the place. As I stepped on to the second tee I felt a sigh of relief, the second hole is a par three, and I could see it, there was some brown on the second green. Finally it looked like I was back on my course. I made par on that hole (my only of the day) and spent the rest of the day on a beautiful course, saying to myself, I'm glad I'm not having a tournament on my course during this lousy summer.

Steve, his crew, Frank and all the members of Walkill, thank you for a great day that ended with a fantastic meal and the qualifying round for the long drive contest. 🏌️



Harry Harsin shows pride in his association.



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GCSANJ NEWS



Here are the results of the day:

Qualifying for the Long Drive Contest from District I

A Flight	Ian Kunesch	283 yards
	Steve Roberts	272 yards
B Flight	Mark Griff	232 yards
	Bob Dube	221 yards
C Flight	Ken Krausz	217 yards
	Andy Schuckers	214 yards
D Flight	Bill Buckmiller	276 yards
	Shaun Barry	256 yards

Closest to the Pin

#2	Dick Grant	6' 1 5/8"
#4	Joe Kennedy	10' 10"
#7	Ian Kunesch	6'

Closest to the Line

Steve Roberts

The following players will represent District I in the Championships:

1.	Jay Antonelli	73
2.	Ed Walsh	77
3.	Dave Mayer	80

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COMING SOON!

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4. Wayne Foster 80
5. Rich Lane 81
6. Rich Fodor 82

Good luck, men.

Manager Frank Vauk shot a 74 and guest Shaun Barry shot a 76! *f*

NEW ADDITIONS

"The Greenside" and GCSANJ would like to congratulate **Mike and Kathy Mongon** on the birth of **Timothy Scott** on May 24, 1993. Weighing in at 7 lbs., Timothy is welcomed by big brother Ryan and big sister Katrina.

John and Karen Carpinelli are the proud parents of a new baby boy, **Vincent Robert**, born on August 3, 1993. Vincent weight 8 1/2 lbs. As John would say, "A keeper." Big brother Michael is going to teach him the ropes.

Gerald Fountain has told "The Greenside" that **Carl and Eileen Braun** had a baby girl, **Alison Elizabeth**, on June 21, 1993. Carl is the assistant superintendent at Hopewell Valley G.C., working with Steven Bradley.

Mr. Fountain was also pleased to announce that **Rod and Sue Brennan** had their second child, **Brian Phillip** on July 22, 1993 at 8lbs. 12oz., Rod is the assistant superintendent at Springdale G.C.

Congratulations to all of you! *f*

A HIGH FIVE

by *Ken Krausz, CGCS*

"The Greenside" is getting rave reviews from a lot of the members. I have received compliments about the layout and content. **Ilona Gray** is responsible for the layout. Thank you, Ilona.

As for the content, a "thank you" goes out to each and every member who has written an article for "The Greenside". The contributions from the membership are the "Heart and Soul" of this organization and the newsletter. Two years ago when members were saying the newsletter was getting too technical and not personal enough, we asked the members for help. You responded with articles each month, and the GCSANJ Board got the compliments. It is you who must be thanked. Please keep those articles coming, and if you haven't written an article, try it, it's fun! Thanks again. *f*

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of **Luke Martin**. Luke worked for Golf Cars, Inc., a commercial member of the GCSANJ, for the past 18 years and before that he was the branch manager for E-Z-Go. *f*

LESCO'S FLAGS ON THE GREENS

by *Shaun Barry*

At every monthly meeting we see flags with the GCSANJ logo at every green. These are a gift from Lesco. I know that we have said thank you at a personal level, but as an association, we want you to know that we do appreciate this extra touch. *f*

PAT GROOMS THE PANTHER

by *Shaun Barry*

Panther Valley G.C. made its inaugural appearance onto our monthly meeting schedule on June 21, 1993. Hopefully, there will be many more chances for us to visit this great golf course. It was designed by Robert Trent Jones, who made a recent visit to be part of the club's anniversary celebration. A scheduled look at a few holes on the course became a complete tour of all 18. Our members shared this feeling and only an intense thunderstorm forced

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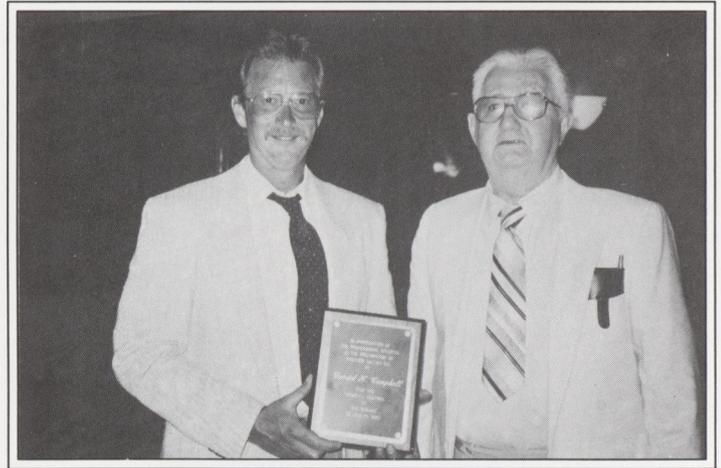
GCSANJ NEWS



our group off the course.

Conditions were marvelous, and they reflect the efforts put forth by **Pat Campbell, John Fitzgerald, John Martin** (yes, son of the original) and the entire crew. On the day of our meeting, Pat received notice from the GCSAA that he had become a certified superintendent. This honor was even more special because it was announced to a group that included his proud father and wife. Congratulations, Pat!

On the course, only a few players were able to handle the slick greens. Leading the group was a great player who also has some experience with this course. **Ian Kunesch** returned home, and he fired a 77. He edged out **Mike King (80), Fran Owsik (82), Dave Pease (85) and Shaun Barry (85)**. **Jim McNally** was the winner in our match play vs. par event. He won 6 up. **Wayne Remo** was second with a +5, and his assistant, **Kerry Boyer**, was at +3. **John Farrell** was +2, and **Shaun Barry and Jim "Sleepy" Pelrine** were +1. **John Fitzgerald** had the longest drive, and **Jim McNally and Rich Brandel** won closest to the pin



Patrick K. Campbell showing off his plaque for preparing Panther Valley for the June 21, 1993, GCSANJ meeting. His father, Patrick V. Campbell, is by his side.

honors. Our skin winners were **Larry Dodge, Kevin Giles, Ian Kunesch, Wayne Remo, Jeff Theibault, Fran Owsik and Phil O'Brien** (really!) with 1 each.

In the two man team event, **Kevin Driscoll** cut the fan belt on his car so he wouldn't have to play his match. He made **Phil O'Brien** play against the team of **Barry and Pease** all by himself. **Phil** was "tubed" into submission and will have to wait for next year.

It was a great day because the whole club went out of their way for us. Thanks for all of your help and thanks also to **Dr Richard Hurley** for his presentation on the Masters. Maybe he will let us take the slides next time. *f*

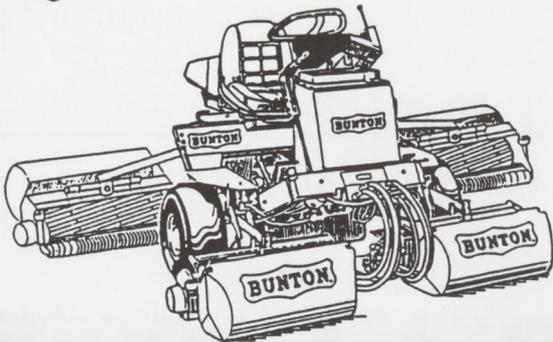
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ZEFFER ZOOMS AT THE HOLLOW

by Shaun Barry

I am always in awe when a superintendent volunteers his/her course for a July meeting. To present your golf course to a group of your peers during the most difficult time of the year takes . . . courage. **Don Zeffer** came to me and never hesitated when I suggested July. When we got there it was quite evident why he was not concerned. The course was in great shape. Part of the credit must go to **Beth Anne Bevins** and the entire crew. I know the staff is not large, so their tans did not come from the beach but rather from hard work.

With the club's help, we were able to have **Dave Oatis** (U.S.G.A.) speak before lunch. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the slide presentation. Lunch, golf and a cook-out followed, and two out of three were great for most of us. Our meals were casual, which seemed to help soothe some

of the nerves that have been frayed by this summer's stress.

On the course, "The Boys of Summer", **Tom Grimac** and **Bob Prickett**, defeated **Jack Martin** and **Vinnie Bracken** in a hard fought match. If you know Bob then you know that he is quite casual on the course. That explains why he was able to pull out a fishing pole during this match. He actually catches (and releases) a 12" trout. I can only hope that it is not hunting season for his next match. They will be playing **Dave Pease** and **Shaun (Chopper) Barry** in the finals at Deal Golf & C.C. Dave and Chopper had to go extra holes to decide their match with **Rob Finnesey** and **John Ruzsbatzky**. It was one to remember.

Tom Grimac (78), **Bob Prickett** (80) and **Jay Antonelli** (80) had the best gross scores, while **Bill Beverlin** (67) led the net side. He was followed by **Rob Mlynarski** (69) and **Bob Prickett** (71). (More or) **Les Stout** had the longest drive while **Fran Owsik** and **Larry Dodge** hit it closest to the pin. **Mike King** and **Jack Gillen** were the only skin winners.

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GCSANJ NEWS



Harkers Hollow G.C. is one of those courses that make you feel welcome. I hope they will make us feel welcome again. Thanks for your hospitality. 🏌️

NEW MEMBERS TO THE GCSANJ

A "Greenside" welcome and congratulations to the new members listed below. We hope to see you at the upcoming tournaments.

	District	
William K. Chapman Cape May National G.C.	B-1	4
Stephan Curry Hominy Hills G.C.	B-1	3
John J. Donovan Fairmount C.C.	B-1	2
Kenneth J. Duggon High Mountain G.C.	B-1	1
Robert Hughes Miles, Inc.	C	4
Kenneth Jenks Canoe Brook C.C.	D	2
Harvey Jones, II Ramblewood C.C.	A	4
William Koonz, Jr. Koonz Sprinkler Supply	C	2
Timothy McBrearty Willow Brook C.C.	A	4
John Ripps Moyer & Son, Inc.	C	1
Craig J. Roncace The Riverton C.C.	B-1	4
John T. Roussey Shackamaxon G. & C.C.	B-1	2

Lance Seeton
Lesco C 4

Dennis Strigh
Pinelands G.C. A 4

John C. Waldron
Ft. Monmouth B-1 3



Another completed match in the two-man team event. Pictured here are left to right: Harry Harsin, Glenn Miller, John Ruzsbatzky and Rob Finnessey.

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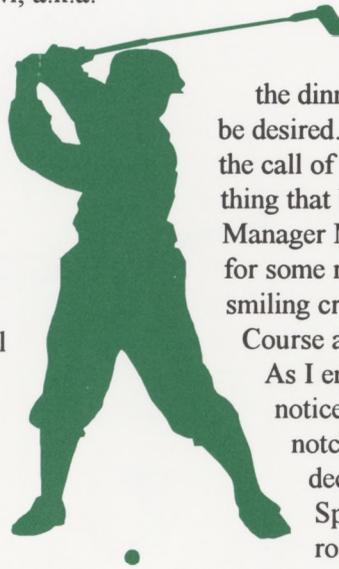
Walking and talking at the U.S. Open



by Doug Vogel

Bus Number 1228 rumbled out of the dust bowl, a.k.a. the Quarry, my designated parking area for the week. How ironic it was that within two minutes I was transported from what is a cleverly disguised town dump to the beautifully maintained Baltusrol Golf Club, host to the 1993 U.S. Open.

After passing through several security gates, I checked into the air conditioned press tent. To my surprise I found it to be jam packed with members of the media. Since most of the press came from all parts of the world, you would think that they would at least venture out onto the course to cover the tournament. I found this to be a falsehood. The lure of air conditioning, big screen television, free Hägen-Das ice cream and Crystal Pepsi couldn't keep me in the tent. I rarely checked back in because I was there to see the turf, get crowd reaction and walk the grounds of Baltusrol.



My first priority was to seek out Joe Flaherty, CGCS, superintendent of Baltusrol. Knowing he would be busy, I wanted to introduce myself and be on my way. As it turned out Joe *was* busy, busy taking good care of his crew. It seemed that the dinner prepared by the official caterer left a lot to be desired. Joe said his crew was working well beyond the call of duty, and he felt they were entitled to something that better resembled a meal. A quick call to Club Manager Mark Denoble and arrangements were made for some real food prepared by the clubhouse kitchen. A smiling crew was seen caravanning across the Upper Course after a well deserved feast.

As I entered onto the course, I couldn't help but notice the tremendous contrast between the top notch tee to green conditions as opposed to the decimated conditions of the gallery areas. Spectator traffic had all but destroyed the rough, the flower beds and parts of the Upper Course Fairways. Yet, ten to fifteen yards from the ropes

Continued on page 13



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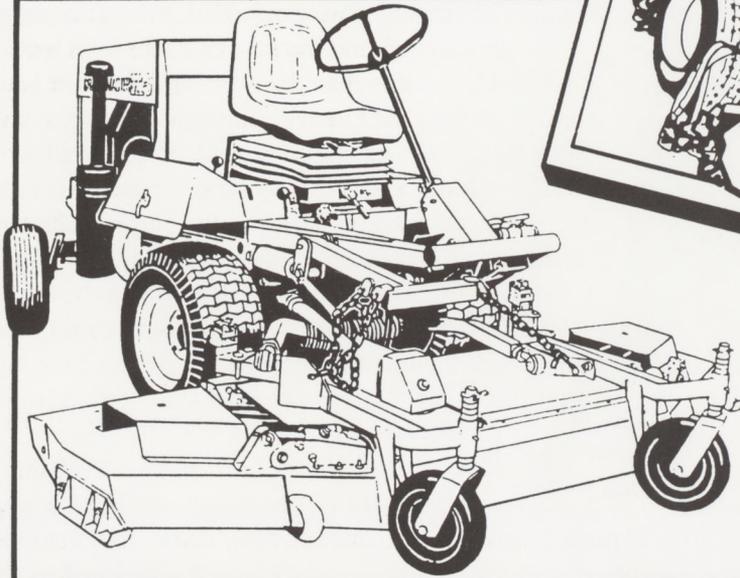
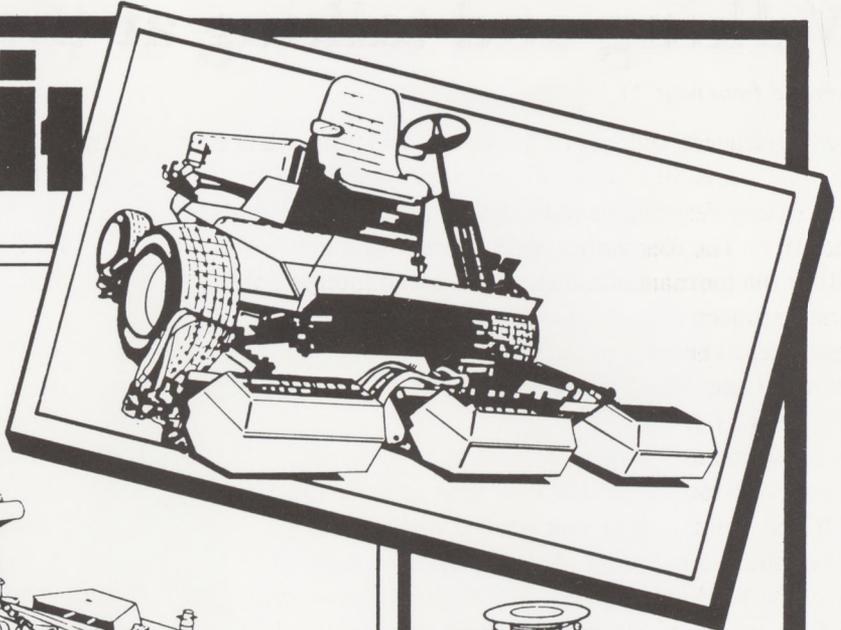
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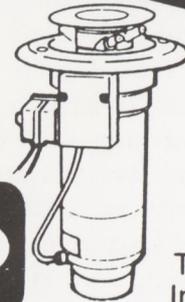
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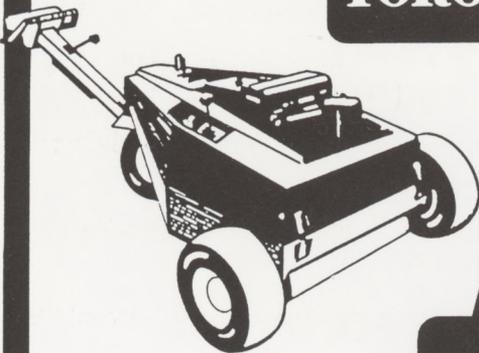


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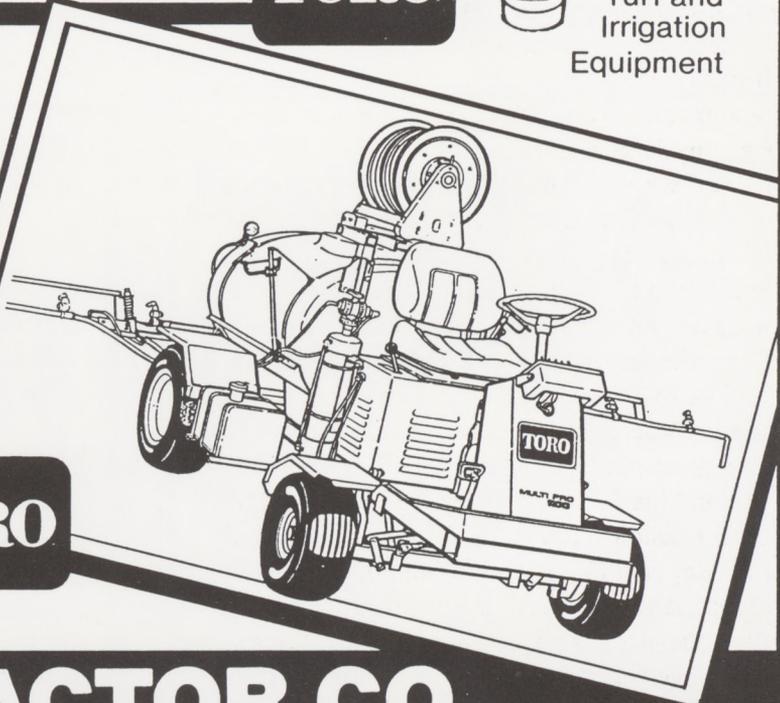
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Walking and talking at the U.S. Open



Continued from page 11

were the cleanest, tightest fairways that this author has ever seen. The greens were magnificent, and I overheard people in the gallery describe them as “glass”, “pool table” and “smokin’ “. The tees were also in great shape, many of them built for the tournament on the recommendation of golf course architect, **Rees Jones**. The traps were like works of art, but they presented a problem that Joe had to deal with on very short

The tees were also in great shape, many of them built for the tournament on the recommendation of golf course architect, Rees Jones.

notice. On Wednesday, the day prior to the tournament, the U.S.G.A. informed him the traps had to be hand raked every day regardless if they were hit into or not. Already with a short time frame to accomplish all the daily cutting requirements, hand raking every trap was a virtual impossibility. A volunteer crew of fellow superintendents, vendors, staff and friends from Oakmont (PA) Country Club jumped into action. The traps were immaculate and were all raked in the proper U.S.G.A. direction. Joe was grateful and said the volunteer rakers were “fantastic, we couldn’t have done it without them.”

Walking towards the practice range, I noticed sitting in the shade, twenty large squares of turf. These 4 1/2 x 3 1/2 modulares of sod were being used as extra driving range space. This was the first attempt for their use in a U.S.G.A. event. The idea was the brainchild of **Dr. Henry Indyk**. They were forklifted into place, and, as they became worn out, the modulares were removed and replaced with others. Dr. Indyk commented that they were very well received by the pros, and he was very happy with their “maiden voyage”.

The empty bleachers in the shade beside number four green made a great place to rest for a while. As I was relaxing, Joe and his daughter, Mary, pulled up in a cart with a special mission. They were following up the last golfers of the day pulling the pins. With 30,000 souvenir seekers present, it wasn’t worth leaving them in the greens. Mary told me she already refused an offer of \$30 for a flag. Before I left, I overheard that one pin was already removed—both the flag and stick!

The one real worry during the tournament was rain. With both the Upper and Lower Courses packed with people and equipment, any drop of rain could have caused a large amount of damage. Saturday afternoon looked threatening as big black clouds rumbled over the course. Storm warning signs went up, and the bleachers were cleared. Joe and Assistant Superintendent **Steve Wirth** were in constant radio communication with each other as the crew readied

themselves for the worst. Joe’s wife Eileen even called in from home helping to track the rain. The threat moved through, and Baltusrol was spared.

On Sunday Lee Janzen was crowned the new U.S. Open Champion. The crowds slowly departed, the media signed off and the souvenir tent lines were far less than the previous two hour waits. On Monday the job of putting it all back together awaited Joe and his staff. The membership of Baltusrol Golf Club should feel very privileged to have such a dedicated professional to handle the monumental task of restoring their course back to what the golfing community considers a national treasure. Job well done, Joe.

The following quotes were taken from people in the gallery, behind the scenes and from the players themselves . . .
Doug Vogel.

“The greens were firm, in very good shape, rolling at the speed we like.” - Stuart Bloch (President, U.S.G.A.)

“It is the best U.S. Open conditions that I have seen.” - Robert Wrenn (P.G.A. Tour Professional)

“The greens were very tough, the fairways cut nice, what a great course.” - Ward Jones (Diesel Filter Salesman)

“If Baltusrol were a baseball card, it would be graded gem mint.” - Tom Walton (Accountant)

“The traps looked really great on Sunday for the finals.” - Ken Kubik (Volunteer)

“Look at that ball roll, he didn’t even hit it!” - Paul Johnstone (College Student)

“There’s nothing wrong with this course.” - Donald Busher (Financial Analyst)

“Considering there has been no natural rainfall, the place was absolutely fantastic.” - Chief Moore (Folding Carton Salesman)

“That grass is short.” - Jack Sullivan (7-year-old Spectator)

“That’s one clean beach.” - Anton Wolf (Airline Pilot)

“They’ve done a great job today (Thursday). The second hole stopped on a dime. The course is in magnificent shape, the fairways are fabulous.” - Corey Pavin (P.G.A. Tour Professional)

“The quality through the green and the coordination putting it all together is what impressed me the most.” - Chris Carson (President, G.C.S.A.N.J.)

New location, new events top the list for the October 5 Field Day



by Pat Wall, CGCS

As most of you are hopefully now aware, the 29th Annual Turfgrass Equipment and Supplies Field Day will take on a new look this year. We are really excited about it and know you will be too.

The event this year will be held on October 5, at the Rutgers Hort Farm II on Ryders Lane, New Brunswick. This location is more centrally located and provides easier access and PLENTY OF PARKING. Additionally, we have a wonderful opportunity to sharpen our skills as turf managers.

The Research Team at Rutgers has tours of their turf plots planned that will add a new dimension to the event. We are fortunate to have such renowned folks sharing their labors with us.

All of our commercial friends will be displaying and demonstrating their wares as well. Please remember that

they have been there all year long when we needed them. It is our professional duty to turn out and support this event.

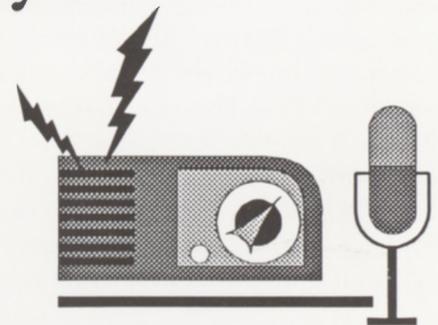
Since we are at a new location with different logistics, we're going to need more volunteers. A letter will soon be sent to each district detailing the needs for a successful event. One critical factor for the success of this event is a strong commitment from ALL our members, both in attendance and in your time and assistance.

So mark your calendars and bring your crew,
Because without you, we'll be blue!

Radio days

by Ilona Gray

Chris Holenstein from Mt. Tabor Golf Club was listening on July 4 to WCBS AM "All News, All the Time" radio when he was horrified to hear Ellen Mitchell reporting



from the Long Island area that golf course superintendents are "pouring" pesticides on to the courses and "polluting" the ground water. Chris alerted the president of GCSANJ, Chris Carson, to this broadcast, who promptly called the radio station and made a rebuttal. The rebuttal made the later broadcasts. Chris Holenstein also contacted the Alliance for Environmental Concerns who put him in touch with the national organizations including one for specialty pesticides called RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) and Kirk Kahler from the Government Affairs section of the GCSAA. WCBS heard from RISE, the AEC and the GCSAA. They were given sufficient information so that future broadcasts should not be biased and, hopefully, will reflect a better appreciation of how pesticides are used on golf courses.

Both Chris Holenstein and Chris Carson deserve a big "thank you" from GCSANJ for their willingness to respond to media hype. Inaccurate news should be rebutted immediately. WCBS should also be commended for amending their broadcast so promptly and thus heading off a whole rash of misleading news.

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X marks the spot

by Ed Walsh, CGCS

Have you ever analyzed our profession, tried to list the strengths and weaknesses of the job we have chosen and call a career? Having recently gone through a position change, this evaluation was something I have done on a daily basis. And you know what, my love and appreciation for my profession has only grown throughout this entire process.

I realized that the real strength of being a golf course superintendent is the true friendships you build. Some of these friendships you might not even realize exist, but when the chips are down, people rally behind your cause. These friendships come in different sizes and places. Sometimes from areas you would never expect: sales reps that you did little business with, club members that you rarely talked to, fellow superintendents that you only saw at meetings and staff members that you probably thought never realized what your job was all about.

Going through this change can be very frightening. We all think of ourselves as invincible and that problems only happen to the other guy. But when it happens to you, it can certainly take you down a few notches on the ego chart.

The bottom line is it can also be a very rewarding experience. You realize who you can really depend on at crunch time. You gain a certain respect for yourself that you

might never know existed and, most importantly, you become a better person from the experience.

I am doing things now that I haven't done in years and liking it. I am in a position which is providing a tremendous opportunity for personal and professional growth. I am seeing many things from a very different perspective and realizing just how closed minded I had become.

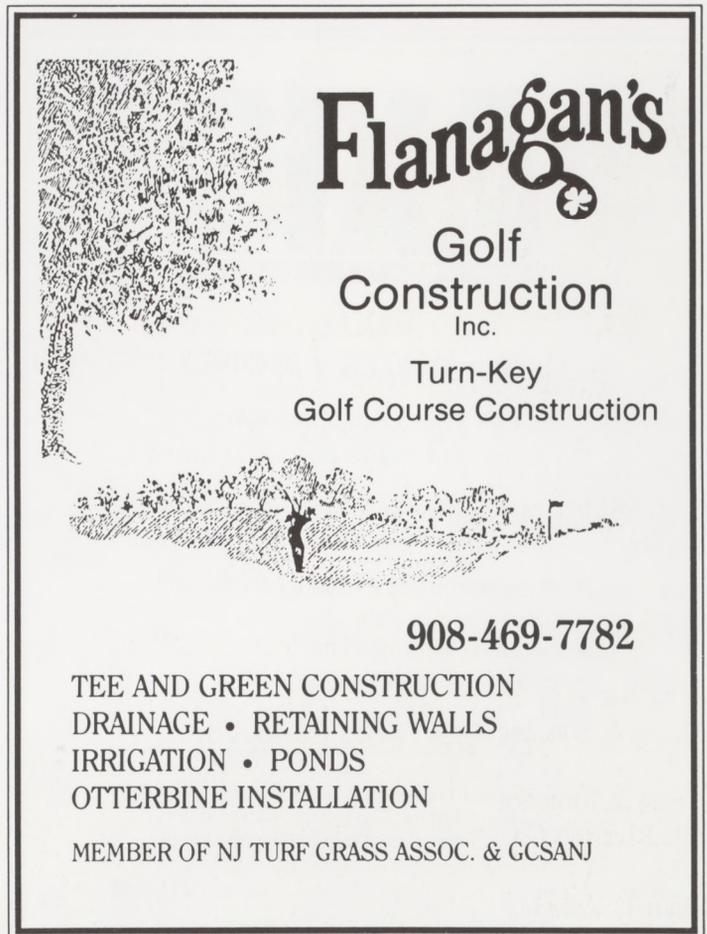
I didn't plan on this change and probably wouldn't have considered it under stable conditions, but now realize how healthy it has become for me as a person. A very successful fellow superintendent used to tell me that changing jobs is something you should do every five to ten years. I never gave that much thought for a whole lot of obvious reasons, but realize now that the change I've made just may be the best thing that ever happened to me.

I want to say "thanks" to the people who gave me strength and support throughout this experience. You are what makes this a truly great profession.

Dead dirt

To eradicate hookworm from his dog run area and lawn, a homeowner accepted the advice of a Rhode Island veterinarian and applied boron to his property. Boron can control hookworms in the soil, but it can also kill the grass. Boron is one of the 16 minerals required for a healthy lawn, but too much of a good thing can be bad. The application used was a granulated 14.3 percent boron product applied at 10 pounds per 100 square feet. This, we are advised, was 215 times the agricultural rate for this product. The lawn died, and the problems of the homeowner began to multiply.

To re-establish his lawn, he had to remove the "contaminated soil." Boron is not regulated by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management as a toxic material or hazardous waste, or even a fertilizer, so it could be placed in a landfill for \$49/ton. This equated to \$3,700. With the addition of \$1,500 worth of new soil, spread and graded, fertilized and seeded, the cost for hookworm control approached \$6,000.



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How dry was it?

The Editor of "The Greenside" decided to do a quick survey of superintendents to find out if she was the only one experiencing hot and unusually dry conditions this summer.

"It was so-o-o dry that a well known Long Island golf course reported that its roughs caught fire. It was so-o-o dry that a golf course superintendent in Sussex County, New Jersey (who chooses to be anonymous) didn't realize how much peat he had in the soil until his turf died, and the sod burst into flame." So if your course looks haggard and worn, just remember, at least you didn't have to call the fire department. . . . From **Gerald Fountain**

"It was so-o-o dry that the eighty-two messages on my NJ Bell answering service went unanswered. I am not ignoring you, I am ignoring everybody." . . . From **Armand LeSage**

"It was so dry that we had temperatures over 90 degrees for ten days in a row, four of which were above 100 degrees with an average of 80% humidity." Try growing grass in those conditions and even plastic grass mats will wilt! . . . From **Glenn Miller**

"It was so dry that my bentgrass went to four-color publication. For 90 days starting back on May 28, Cape May National had only one inch of rain. The bentgrass went from green to yellow to brown to gray. I've never seen bentgrass this dry changing colors so fast." . . . From **Steve Malikowski**

Yours in turf

by *Doug Vogel*

Spending time watching the U.S. Open at Baltusrol was a real thrill. Seeing the top professional golfers in the world compete for one of their top titles made for an exciting week. More important to me, I got to see one of our top professionals and the fruits of his labor. Joe Flaherty deserves much more recognition than what I heard or read about while "working" the Open as a member of the press. Maybe the fact that the course had no flaws and was picture perfect didn't warrant any coverage. Good news does not make good copy.

My week of special privilege would not have been possible without the help of three people. I would like to thank **Rich Skyzinski** of the U.S.G.A. for granting "The Greenside" press privileges for the week, and **Ilona Gray** for securing them for me. Also, thanks to **Joe Flaherty** and his staff for sharing whatever time they gave to me, which helped make writing my article an easier task.

If anybody did not get the chance to go to the tournament, I leave you with one last observation. Watching John Daly practice with his drivers is like watching Dave Kingman take batting practice. Nobody went to the port-o-johns!

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The truth leaks out

by Steve Malikowski, CGCS

Before getting into the lighter side of golf course maintenance, a few comments and observations are appropriate. First and foremost are the thanks to the people who have helped make Cape May National become a successful operation. These are the people who have long been forgotten, so to speak, but were crucial in the development, construction and growth of the course. Phil DeMarco and his staff at the Aqua Flo company have not received the recognition that they deserve. I apologize for that oversight. Before construction began, I spoke with numerous superintendents and researched many types of irrigation systems and sprinklers and then decided, with the backing of my club, to use the Buckner Cops system. I now realize this was the best decision I have ever made in choosing irrigation. As with any new installation problems will occur. I certainly have had my share. Cape May National boasts one of the state of the art irrigation systems in the country today. I thank Phil and his design team for putting it together.

Unfortunately, the Cap May weather has bitten us once again. The finest irrigation systems can't help if there isn't any water to put into the 10-inch mains. June and July have come and gone with only .66 inches of rain. When you depend on surface water and the only recharge of the supply is through rainfall, a course quickly takes on the "British Open Look." Here at Cape May National we play golf as it was intended. We don't worry about the weather unless it rains too much and keeps the golfers away. After three years of trying to grow turf in Cape May County, and having lived here for almost ten years, I have come to realize that there is no such thing as "normal rainfall." It just doesn't rain here!

I remember my days in the Berkshires in Massachusetts and the five years spent in the Pocono Mountains when you could actually plan on a certain number of days lost to rain. You would send the crew home early and save on the labor budget. Not here. Up north the irrigation systems would supplement the rainfall. Down here the rainfall supplements

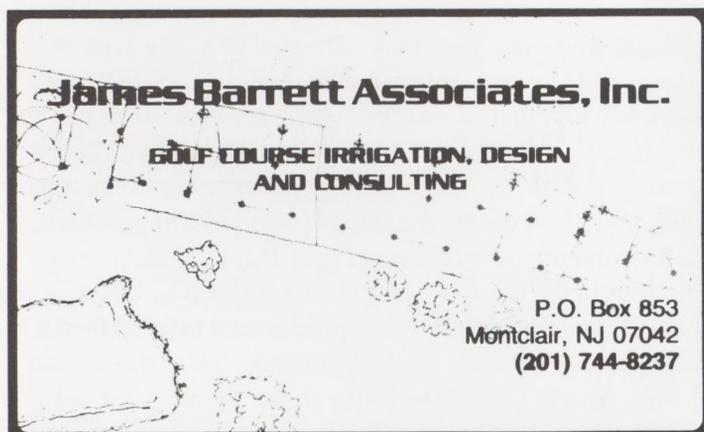
the irrigation. The bentgrass fairways were planted with fine fescues as a nurse grass during the establishment phase. With the "British

Open Look" the fescues are thriving, and the bent has a color that I call "USGA Green." More fine fescue will be planted to help get through these Cape May summers.

In July, we decided to stop irrigation of the fairways to

Continued on page 18

When you depend on surface water and the only recharge of the supply is through rainfall, a course quickly takes on the "British Open Look".



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Sunshine on my shoulder



by Ilona Gray

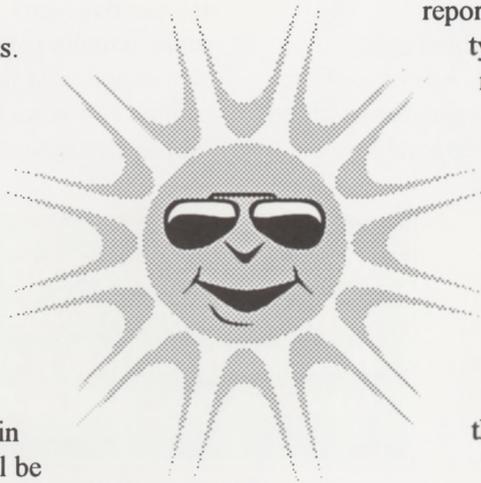
Working outside brings a lot of benefits. The sky above, the warm sun and soft feel of good grass beneath the feet. But like all things, too much can do more harm than good and this is especially true of sunshine. Science tells us that the UV light from the sun can induce skin cancers with considerable frequency. Skin cancers can be deadly or easily managed, but regardless, the best solution lies in prevention.

Prevention can avoid the need to explain to your spouse and family why surgery will be necessary or worse. It's easy to build into your daily routine a program that will help avoid skin cancer. One of the best solutions is to cover up and wear a sun screen. Avoid getting burned. A cap, long sleeve shirt and sloshing on the Factor 15 or higher is the way to go.

Each year 2,500 Americans die from non-melanoma

skin cancer, and more than 600,000 new cases are reported in the United States. There are two types of skin cancer: non-melanoma and melanoma. The non-melanoma forms are divided into basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. The basal cell type is the most common and grows slowly, rarely spreading. The squamous cell type is faster and can spread to other organs. The melanoma types are more deadly. The message here is to review with your physician any growth, mole or change in the skin during your examination. Don't

Continued on page 20



The truth leaks out

Continued from page 17

ensure enough water to keep the greens and tees. I watched the fairways turn from green to purple to brown to tan and finally to gray. During the hottest part of July we went twenty days without a drop of water on any fairway. When asked, "Do you think they will come back?", I replied, "Sure, bent is pretty tough; it's just going dormant." Two weeks later when asked again, my reply remained the same, but when asked the following week, I replied, "I have never seen bentgrass this color before. In my professional opinion, it's dead."

The next day we received .66 inches of rain and replenished the irrigation lake for a short time. The fairways began to show signs of life. With two days of irrigation the dead came back to life, and within a week we have 95% recovery. It was great to dust cobwebs off my fairway machines and teach my staff how to use them again. We thought we would loose play, but we didn't. We kept great greens and tees and nature took care of the rest. If there were any Poa in the fairways before, it's gone. If there were any insects before, they are gone. We saved money by not cutting a whole lot. Our electric bill was lower because we didn't pump so much. We skipped two TGR applications, and we did not have to worry about Pythium or Patch diseases in the fairways. If we lost a little bit of turf, that's okay, because it's cheaper to spend a little on seed than a lot on all that other stuff. So the truth leaks out in this season's lesson: here at Cape May Natural, we do things the old fashioned way, we learn it.



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The Landscape Restoration Handbook is a joint publication of the United States Golf Association and the New York Audubon Society. It is a comprehensive guide that demonstrates how to use naturalization as an alternative to more intensive landscape management. The book, which published in mid May, shows how to obtain the following benefits of natural landscaping or ecological restoration projects for water quality improvement, erosion reduction, lower maintenance, chemical reduction, ecosystem and ecological community protection, and plant and animal species diversity.

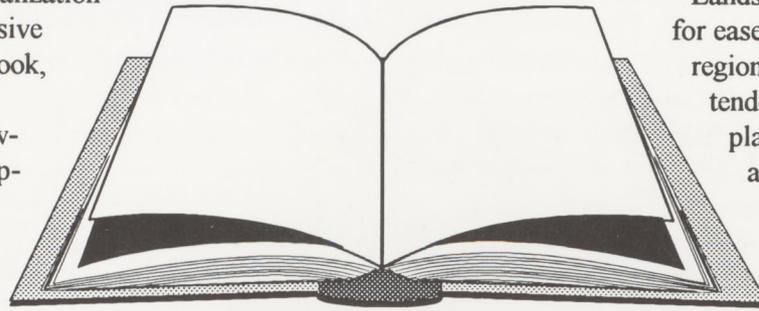
The book provides an extensive list of common and scientific plant names associated with ecological communities throughout the United States. Plant characteristics

covered in each listing include plant type, environmental tolerance, aesthetic codes, wildlife value, color, bloom time, and landscape uses. It also contains a list of nurseries.

Landscape Restoration Handbook, for ease of use, is organized by region so that golf course superintendents, landscape and urban planners, golf course architects and horticulturists can find specific information for their ecological restoration program.

The 8 1/2" x 11" book has 650 pages and

includes a 4-color map displaying ecoregions. It is available from Lewis Publishers, 2000 Corporate Boulevard, NW, Boca Raton, FL 33431, (800) 272-7737 or from the USGA at (800) 336-4466.

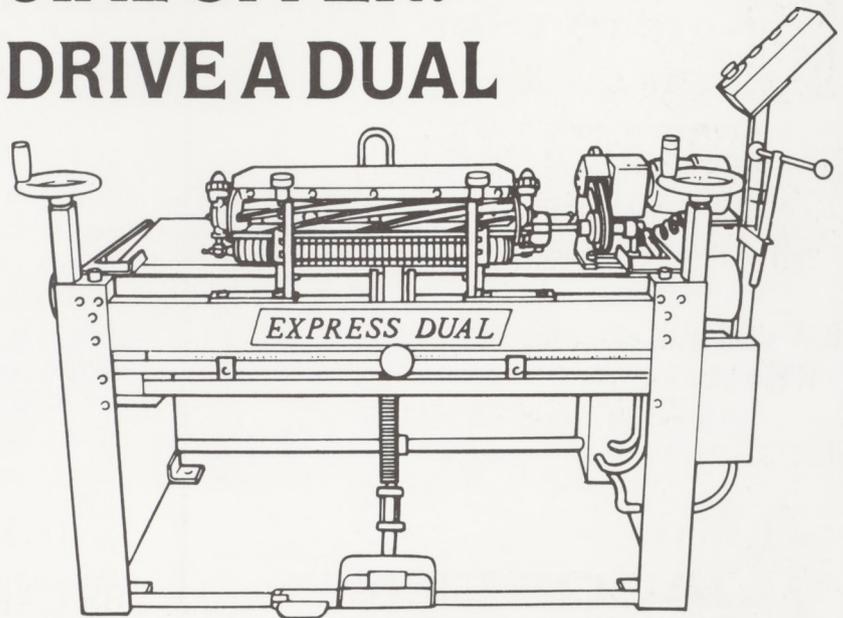


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AUDUBON SOCIETY OF NEW YORK SENDS "THANKS"

"The Greenside" got a thank you from this prestigious organization for its coverage of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. This thanks really has to go to all of the superintendents who take the time to make life a little easier for our feathered friends.

WOMAN WITH 2,000 BALLS SUES GOLF COURSE AND WINS

This was not reported in "The National Enquirer", but "Golf Business Today" did carry the story. It seems that a woman from Washington was awarded \$8,100 in a lawsuit based upon damages received over two years from golf balls hitting her mobile home. The home was near the driving range, but with a somewhat obscured view. She does not

know what she'll do with the more than 2,000 golf balls collected from her yard. "The Greenside" suggests that she trades them for a set of clubs and a golf lesson. This way she can both beat them and join them.

GOOD NEWS FOR RUTGERS TURF

The New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station is recruiting a Turfgrass Scientist. The position will be tenured and will require 60% research/40% teaching responsibilities. This is good news for Rutgers and great news for New Jersey's turf-based industries.

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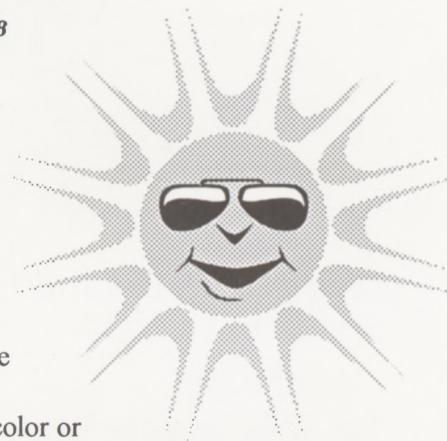
Sunshine on my shoulder

Continued from page 18

try to diagnose yourself. Your physician or the American Cancer Society (1-800-ACS-2345) can tell you what symptoms to look for.

No one is immune to skin cancer. It doesn't matter what color or shade your skin is, there is no immunity. As a superintendent, you should encourage your crew, through personal example, to cover up by wearing long sleeve shirts with a hat, plus using plenty of sun screen with a SPF of 15 and above.

You can thank two of your colleagues who have had their own experience with skin cancer as well as my father for prodding me to write this for you. Don't become a statistic!



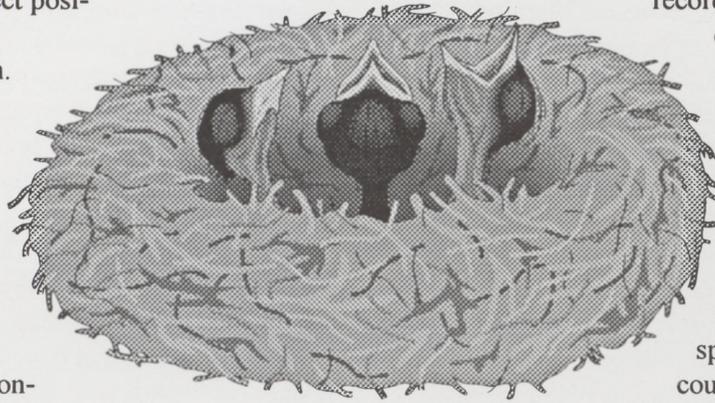
Be on a World Series team



by Ilona Gray

We need your "eagle" eyes and obvious interest in the great outdoors to help form a winning team. By choosing a career that keeps you outdoors in the spring, you are in the perfect position to help make a World Series Winner. Interested? Then read on.

Nancy Sadlon, the Environmental Specialist with the United States Golf Association Green Section, has relayed to me that she is looking for some team support to scout and identify bird species that might be nesting or living on golf courses. Here's why. Without sponsorship or official team status, three representatives from the USGA, Charleen Harvey, Al Alig, and Nancy, as well as four individuals from The Audubon Society of New York State, Ron Dodson, Nancy Richardson, Charles Rouse, and Doug Pendelton, went



through the challenge of the 24-hour World Series of Birding held in New Jersey on May 15. This team, unlike the others, restricted their observations to golf courses. The World Series of Birding has been played out for ten years in our state. The objective is to spot and record with referees as many species of birds as possible in a 24 hour period. Winning teams have used scouts to determine where they should conduct their observations. To quote Nancy, "Our recent experience in birding at four golf courses has indicated that numerous species of birds utilize the golf course environment. This is contrary to popular belief and the growing negative perception that the golf course environment is devoid of wildlife." The four courses surveyed were Cape May National, Marriott's Seaview Golf

(Please turn to page 22)

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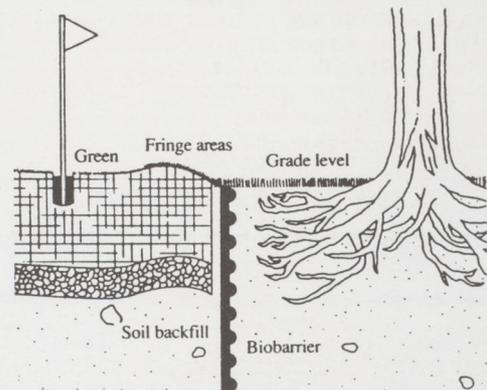
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Continued from page 21

Resort, Cedar Creek Golf Course, and Metedeconk Golf Club.

"There is little data which documents the number and diversity of species, which utilize the golf course for breeding, nesting, feeding and migratory nesting. Individuals can help change this perception by watching and keeping a list of bird species and the numbers occurring on their course. It would be important also to include the other wildlife species which utilize the course." Nancy encourages you to post and publicize this information. She further stated, "Wildlife inventories are an important step in managing habitat potential on the golf course." Nancy continued, "The USGA-sponsored Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP) encourages wildlife inventory and offers numerous conservation and wildlife project suggestions. These bird inventories will be of great help to next year's efforts for the World Series of Birding. Scouting before the event is a necessary step to sighting the greatest number of species."

Nancy emphasized, "Six golf courses are fully certified from the ACSP, which means these courses have met all seven 'Achievement Categories' including: Environmental Planning, Public Involvement, Integrated Pest Management, Wildlife Food Enhancement, Wildlife Cover Enhancement, Water Conservation, and Water Enhancement. None of these golf courses, however, are situated in New Jersey." She asks you to consider joining with the 28 New Jersey courses currently participating in this important program. People throughout New Jersey can help future efforts by scouting during the year and knowing about the species that exist on the golf course.

How did the joint USGA/The Audubon Society of New York State team fare? They were able to identify 60 species in just eleven hours, which is pretty impressive when you consider they had not done any scouting for birds before the event. Next year, with your help and a twenty-four hour effort, this team can approach the over 200 species needed to win this event.



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