

THE GREENERSIDE

July - August 1994 • Volume 17 Number 4

Five minutes with Arnold Palmer

by Doug Vogel

All good writers do their research first, then move on to the interview. As a superintendent trying to be a good writer, I did the interview first, then searched for information on my subject. And so it went as I headed over to the Upper Montclair C.C. to interview Arnold Palmer during the Cadillac NFL Golf Classic.

Out of respect for the hard work of **Bob Dickison**, CGCS, and his staff, I made certain I parked in the rough of the B-lot even though I could have parked closer to the media tent on the finer cut turf. As it turned out, it didn't matter where I parked. Rain, four car tires, and golf course turf did not make for a pleasant combination. I didn't personally do any damage, but I did see a very large Cadillac sunk up to its axles along one of the service roads. In spite of all this turmoil, the members of the Upper Montclair C.C. can rest easy knowing the repairs to their showplace are in the experienced hands of the dedicated professional golf course superintendent they all know as "Red."

I met Mr. Palmer in the locker room after his Friday round and introduced myself as a writer for the award winning *Greenerside* newsletter. I told him I was a golf course superintendent, and I was new at the interview business. He was most gracious and invited me back to his locker to field my questions. Now keep in mind my reason for interviewing Arnold Palmer was due to the fact that I knew as a youth he worked on a golf course. So in my buffoonery I proceeded to ask the first question, "Did you ever work in golf course maintenance?" He smiled and half chuckled, "Boy, you really are new at this." With the ice now broken I proceeded onward.

Arnold Palmer said he learned the maintenance business "from a tough taskmaster, my father, Deacon Palmer." The senior Palmer was the superintendent/pro at

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Arnold Palmer

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THE GREENERSIDE

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EDITORIAL



Diversion

by *Ilona Gray*

Everyone needs one once in a while. Diversions are those mental health breaks that we all take that permit us to stick to our knitting or keep our nose to the grindstone or, in golf jargon, to keep hitting them straight. We need to take a little break from our routine to keep us sharp and allow us

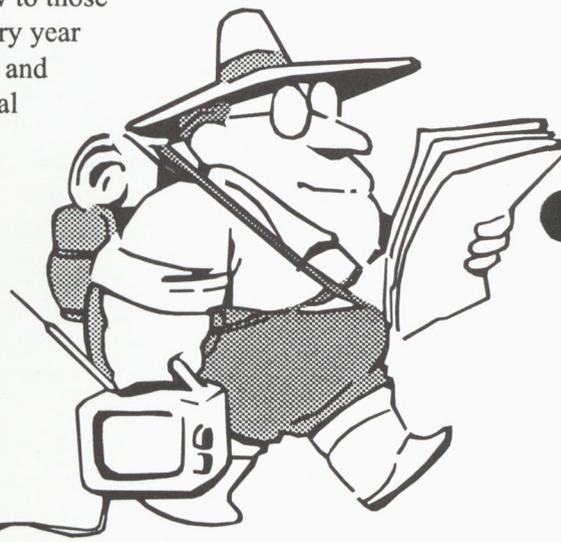
to see things in a different perspective. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Expressions like that are not the culmination of some five-thousand page thesis on creativity; they come from a basic understanding of what it takes to get through a tough job.

None of this should be new to those who manage golf courses. Every year brings a new set of challenges, and 1994 is no exception. The brutal winter, the spring season, and now summer require a vigilant effort for successful turf management. With everything going on right now, you may hesitate to take off for a week and just vacation. This is the work season, and it's intense. A diversion, however, does not

have to take a lot of time to produce a lot of benefit, and that's why I am recommending one so strongly.

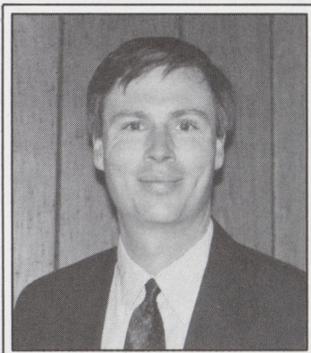
It's easy to think about big diversions. Sail a one-person boat around the world. Hike to Patagonia or work to break the most of the Guinness Book of World Records. Attempting a big diversion could be serious to your professional and family well being and must not be attempted without some serious thought. Little diversions bring little risk and often great benefits to both family and career.

Look around your course and you will probably be able to spot enough work to be done to keep you and your staff busy for years. Work can be challenging, but staying creative and enthusiastic all season long is a real test of your metal. Watch your performance and determine if a little diversion is just what the doctor might order. Perhaps it's an outing with the family or a few hours of volunteering for your favorite charity. Maybe it's a round of softball with your staff or a picnic at your favorite spot. Regard-



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Like clockwork

Like it is for most of the membership, June and July are the busiest times of the year here at Echo Lake. It's a time when I rely most on my crew to know and do what is needed, and I am

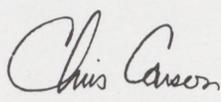
indeed fortunate to work with terrific people who get the job done.

GCSANJ does not stop because we are busy, and we are all beneficiaries of the continuing efforts of our Board and Committee members. The working of our Association moves quietly on, and I would like you to be aware of some of the work being done in your behalf.

Our charity fund-raiser planning is well on its way, as is the legal finalizing of our GCSANJ Foundation. Field Day work has begun, and it looks like this event will be even better than last year's acclaimed success. Preliminary work goes on with regard to broadening our member benevolent and relief activity. *The Greenside* comes out like clockwork in its excellent award-winning style. The meeting and golf schedule is full and running smoothly, and plans are already underway for *next* year's events. Our strong financial health is being monitored, our internal management is operating on all cylinders, and our long range planning continues. In short, the Association is in full swing.

It is my pleasure to observe our hard working Board members and Committee members, and to see the myriad of contributions of all types from the entire membership that help makes us so successful. Without this hard work and contribution, GCSANJ would surely not exist as we know it—and as President I want to take this moment to thank every single person who is working to better our association. Your efforts are appreciated!

Welcome to **Steve Malikowski** who rejoins the Board as District Four director. **Pat Wall** has, regrettably, resigned his Board position because of job commitments, and we will miss his thorough and thoughtful work. Thanks, Pat, and welcome, Steve!


Chris Carson
President, GCSANJ

Calendar

- July 26-30** **USGA Junior Amateur Championship, Echo Lake C.C.** Superintendent, Chris Carson. Contact USGA, (908) 234-2300.
- August 3** **Turfgrass Research Field Day,** Cook College Horticultural Farm II, North Brunswick. Recertification Credits. Contact Bea Divine, NJ Turfgrass Association, (908) 821-7134.
- August 4-7** **MGA Amateur Championship, Hackensack G.C.** Superintendent, Richard Lane. Contact MGA, (914) 689-0390
- August 5** **Professional Golf Turf Management School, Application Due Date.** Fall Session. The actual session is October 3- December 9. (908) 932-9271.
- August 8-9** **US Healthcare Classic, Rock Spring C.C.** Superintendent, Wayne Remo. Contact PGA, (908) 521-4000.
- August 10-11** **Penn State Turfgrass Field Days,** Turfgrass Research Center, University Park, PA. Contact George Hamilton, (814) 865-3007.
- Sept. 20-22** **Micholob/PGA Championship, Montclair G.C.** Superintendent host is Greg Vadala. Contact PGA, (908) 521-4000.
- Sept. 27** **September Monthly Meeting, Echo Lake G.C.** The Invitational Tournament. Contact Judy Policastro, (201) 379-1100.
- Oct. 21** **Professional Golf Turf Management School, Application Due Date.** Winter Session. The actual session is from Jan. 2-March 10. Contact, (908) 932-9271.

Five minutes with Arnold Palmer

Continued from page 1

the Latrobe C.C. for 55 years. "You worked hard for Deacon Palmer, or you found another job," Palmer pointed out clearly. "We did everything by hand. We hand raked traps, pulled weeds out of the greens by hand. We had no chemicals, and we hand cut the greens. Now sure, many of us still hand cut greens, but I think I can safely say we all have engines on our greens mowers. We cut the greens with a push mower with no motor," Palmer said with a grin. "If you leaned too much on the handle it came off the green. Keeping a uniform height of cut took concentration," Mr. Palmer said. This acquired concentration would certainly be put to use later in Mr. Palmer's other career.

We all remember the Pennzoil commercial featuring Mr. Palmer tooling around on an old Worthington tractor. That was modern equipment compared to the tractors of his youth. "We had old Fordson tractors with steel wheels. They had spikes in them for traction." Mr. Palmer had a look of amusement on his face when he mentioned

the Fordson. I think he realized I didn't have a clue, and he was right. I had never heard of Fordson until he told me about it.

The fascinating part of the interview was the unspoken part, the observations I made while in his presence. It was interesting to see that Mr. Palmer never turned away

He carried his own permanent marker and personalized every hat, program picture, and issue of *The Greenside* given to him. "Ilona, how do you spell Ilona?"

any requests for autographs or photo opportunities. He carried his own permanent marker and personalized every hat, program picture, and issue of *The Greenside* given to him. "Ilona, how do you spell Ilona?" Mr. Palmer asked as he wrote his best wishes to our editor. Mr. Palmer made my day as he put the brakes on a reporter from *Time* magazine who was trying to butt in with "just one quick question." Obviously this journalistic hack did not understand the importance of *The Greenside* interview.

I thanked Mr. Palmer for his time, and I asked him if he would answer one more question. He said, "No problem—shoot." "What jobs were you particularly good at?" I asked. Without hesitation Mr. Palmer replied, "You had to be good at everything."

Editor's Note: I wanted to finish Doug Vogel's interview with a question of my own, so I faxed the following to Mr. Palmer's executive assistant, Doc Giffin, to ask the titan of golf: "Based upon your experience as a young man in golf course maintenance and a lifetime as a professional player, what would you recommend that golf course superintendents do to make the courses more payable for the golfers?"

Arnold Palmer's answer came back short, to the point, and a rather pleasant surprise, "In my opinion and experience, most superintendents are constantly trying to make their golf courses more enjoyable for their players. I really don't have any specific suggestions." There could not be a better endorsement to what you are already accomplishing! 🌿

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GCSANJ NEWS

FIDDLER'S PLAYS HOST

by Shaun Barry

On May 9, 1994, **Dave McGhee** gave us the chance to get a sneak preview of his nearly-completed 3rd eighteen at Fiddler's Elbow C.C. Many people took advantage of the opportunity, and they were impressed. It will be another great addition to Paradise (that is another name for New Jersey in case you didn't know). Following the tour, 122 people headed out to challenge the course. The only positive things that happened were nobody got lost and everybody really enjoyed themselves.

Tom Grimac once again set the standard as he shot 76. He also joined **John Betts, Steve Chirip, Ed Kutt, Richard Lane, and Bob Scott** with one skin each. **Rich Krok** had the longest drive, and B. Scott's closest to the pin was overshadowed by the near ace that **Mark Sinto** had on the other closest to the pin hole. He was 1 1/2" away (I wonder how much drinks for 140 people would cost?).

In the Modified Stableford Tournament, S. Chirip won his first-ever monthly event when he blitzed the field with 53 points (his invitation to the Masters should arrive soon). E. Kutt had 49 points, Ed Casteen had 47, Ed Walsh had 46, and M. Sinto finished fifth with 45 points.

The first round of the two-man net team championship was completed. The number one seeded team of Grimac & Pricket defeated Harsin & Lane in a close match that was once again highlighted with Bob catching fish while Tom made the putts (what a team!). The other winning teams were Campbell & Mickens, Betts & Mitchell, Finnesey & Ruzsbatzky, Fountain & Kunesch, Mellor & Stiles,

Carpinelli & Larson, and Geer & Owsik. This competition should prove interesting to follow.

Dr. Jim Murphy gave us an informative presentation. He had a very receptive audience because everybody ate so much food that nobody could move. Once again Fiddler's Elbow was a superb host, and I hope they know how thankful we are for their efforts. ♪

WELCOME TO A NEW EDITION

Dave and Jane Mayer proudly announce the newest member of the GCSANJ. Kyle Mayer was born on June 6, 1994 (D-Day + 50 + one person). Nineteen hours of labor were tough for Jane and Dave, but it was worth it. Kyle weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long. ♪

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GCSANJ NEWS

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ESSEX FELLS WELCOMES US AGAIN

by Shaun Barry

Essex Fells C.C. proves that familiarity does not necessarily breed contempt. This course has been the site of many of our monthly meetings over the years. They are glad to have us, and this year we proved how happy we were to be there. Our projections for attendance were from 90 to 100. When we reached 115 the club notified us that this would be the limit for the dining room. Our host superintendent (**Larry Dodge**) and the club manager (Hubert Conrad) immediately started to help. Through their efforts, we ended up with 124 for dinner but still had 20 people on the waiting list. Attendance at meetings has increased over the years so this could happen again. Get your applications in early for all future meetings because attendance is based on a first come, first served basis. If this problem continues we may have to change our registration policy, but we will keep you informed if this becomes necessary.

The condition of the course explains why this is such a popular venue. It was perfect. Larry had said there would be areas marked off with white paint. I was all over the course, and the only white paint that I saw was in the parking lot. Donald Ross would be very proud.

Many of our people said that they really enjoyed themselves, but I know better. I saw their scorecards. Only a few people actually had a good time. **Ian Kunesch** was

one of them. He shot 74 and took low gross honors. He also joined up with **Gerald Fountain** in the team event to defeat the talented duo of **Ed Mellor** and **Gene Stiles**. They join **Paul Geer** and **Fran Owsik** in the next round. **Dave "One Iron" Oatis** did not have such a good day. He shot 75, had four birdies, won nothing and had me as a partner, and **Dave Pease** was in our group. Will he ever return?

Ken Mathis won our Match Play vs. Par event on a match of cards with **Bill Beverlin**. Both were +7. **Wayne Foster** (+4) was next, and he was followed by **John O'Keefe** (+2), **Steve Chirip** (+2), and **Ed Walsh** (+2). **Kevin Giles** had the longest drive with the only good shot he hit all day (his words). He must have shot it out of a cannon. The closest to the pin honors went to **Paul Snyder** and "Lefty" Dodge. Four skins held up. They belonged to D. Pease, **Matt Dobbie**, **Phil Scott**, and F. Owsik (I think

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GCSANJ NEWS

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District III has been practicing.)

Following an absolutely wonderful dinner, **Pete Pedrazzi** made us laugh, think, and cry. He did a great job taking us down memory lane while getting us to prepare for the future. What a great finish to a memorable day. Thanks to everyone at Essex Fells C.C. for their efforts. The hospitality was extraordinary. 🌿

Jeffrey had been a spray technician at Fiddler's Elbow C.C. for the past two and a half years, when he was accidentally killed while spraying greens and tees.

The accident occurred on the back of the new 14th tee on the Forest Course. Apparently, as Jeff was making a turn on the back of the tee, he evidently lost control of the vehicle which flipped and pinned him under the cart. Efforts to revive Jeff were unsuccessful.

Jeff had been previously employed at Beaver Brook Country Club and other courses in Arizona. He will be remembered at Fiddler's Elbow for his dedication and enthusiasm.

IN MEMORIAM

It's with great sadness that we report the tragic accidental death of **Jeffrey Lake** at the age of twenty-five.

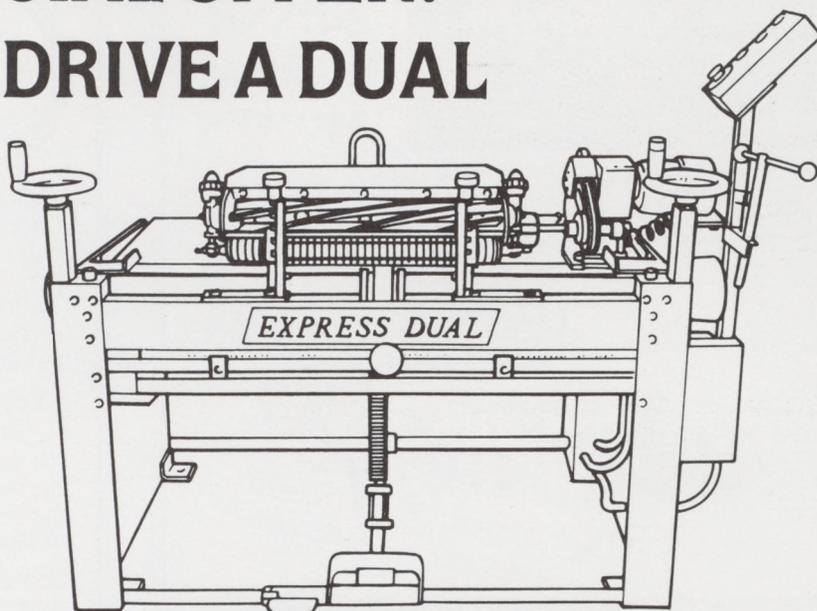
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NEW MEMBERS

GCSANJ welcomes the following new members:

Joseph Antonioli	B	Blair Academy G.C.	Dist. 2
Edwin L. Brown II	B-1	Rehoboth Beach C.C.	Dist. 4
Justin Dorman	B-1	Roxiticus G.C.	Dist. 2
Dave Hepburn	C	The Toro Company	Dist. 3
Michael A. Kuzy	B	Holly Hills G.C.	Dist. 4
Joseph M. Lucas	B-1	Upper Montclair C.C.	Dist. 2
David Mitchell	C	The Morie Company	Dist. 4
Richard Molnar	C	The Morie Company	Dist. 4
Brian M. Remo	D	Essex County C.C.	Dist. 2
Bradley Rozzelle	B-1	Tavistock C.C.	Dist. 4
Michael A. Ruzzo	C	Miles Inc.	Dist. 3
Jeffrey W. Smolha	B-1	Bowling Green G.C.	Dist. 1
Steve Sweiderk	B	Roselle G.C.	Dist. 2
Brian Burton	B-1	Laurel Creek C.C.	Dist. 4

The following membership status has been upgraded:

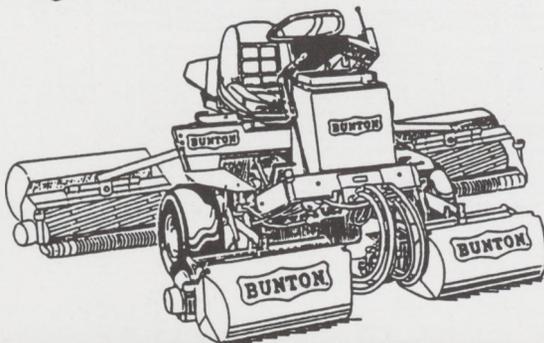
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The "Reel" World

by John Martin, Jr.

Heat is the word of the day. Blistering temperatures and smothering humidity in June gave us a taste of what the approaching New Jersey summer has in store for golf courses around the state. Mechanics at every course are busy keeping reels sharp and dealing with the multitude of odds and ends breakdowns that the new season brings with it.

The Mechanics Association is also busy at this time of year. **Mike Kompier** is updating the equipment users' list. To help accomplish this task, he would like anyone who hasn't already done so to fill out the equipment users' list mailer that was sent out this winter and send it in. The equipment users' list catalogues, by make and model, the equipment at each golf course. Should you run into a problem with a repair, you can quickly locate someone with the same machine who may provide the insight needed to keep down-time to a minimum.

If you did not receive a users' list or would like to get some information on joining the N.J. Golf Course Mechanics Association, please contact **Bob Ray** of Mountain

Ridge C.C., (201) 575-8207, or **Gary Droz** of Ridgewood C.C., (201) 599-3938. 





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Rules of Golf C.C. Championship a hard fought match

by Ken Krausz, CGCS

With Doug Vogel and Glen Gallion acting as course officials, the championship was played in the heat of the day on June 16. Heat does not only refer to the 90 degrees plus for the day, but also the pressure that surrounded the event. While walking through the parking lot of the Essex Fells Country Club, both Jim Pelrine and I were met by many members of GCSANJ asking about the match. I knew the pressure was on.

After a great lunch I still had not spotted my opponent and thought, maybe I'll win by default, or maybe Jim was preparing for some kind of grand entrance. I kept looking toward the sky figuring that maybe he would be landing on the first tee by parachute. It did not happen; Jim and I met about ten minutes before tee time, and the usual courtesies were exchanged.

On the first tee, which was actually the 11th (you know

how at these big tournaments sometimes the holes are changed), Jim and I decided that it would be a straight match, and we proceeded to tee off. After beating me by a stroke or two on that first hole, we decided that we would play the match by holes also; you know, that way we could each win and everyone would be happy.

Larry Dodge and his crew did an excellent job of

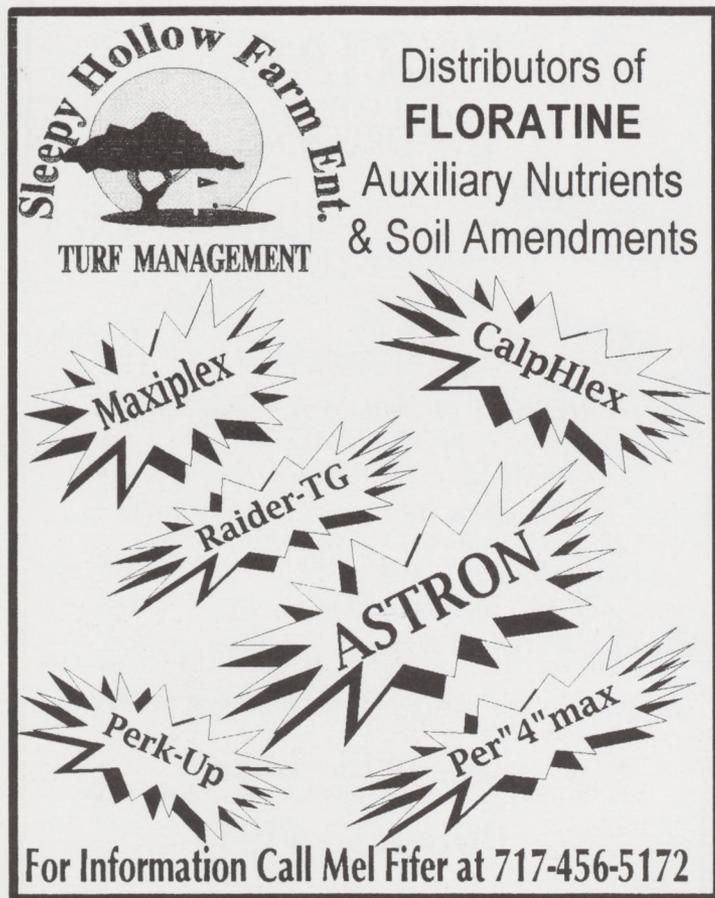
The low spot of the day was when yours truly hit a shot out of the rough and off of a tree. It went ten yards backwards before hitting Doug in the hand.

preparing the course, as did the pro shop and clubhouse staff in taking care of the rest of the day. Our caddie, Dick, had his hands full with us; he really earned his pay in that heat. I could not get a handle on those greens; they were true and slick, something that I do not get to play on too often, and I will say that if I had been able to sink a few of those putts, the results would have been different.

By now you are asking, "Well, how badly did Jim beat you?" I do not have my card with me, so the following may be a little off, but it went something like this: Jim shot an 83 and I had an 85, and he beat me in match play when we halved the last hole. Hold on, my memory is coming back, and I actually think that those are Doug's and Glen's scores.

The day was not without its high points. When Jim hit a great drive on what I will refer to as the rock hole, our whole foursome almost fell over from laughter when his second shot hit that rock dead center and sent his ball into the woods. His third shot bounced off a tree dead center (I heard that Dennis DeSanctis also hit the rock; it must be a company thing). The low spot of the day was when yours truly hit a shot out of the rough and off of a tree. It went ten yards backwards before hitting Doug in the hand. Sorry, Doug, but when your lawyer contacted mine he was told that with the way I was playing you had no case unless you were wearing hockey gear. Jim saw the ball coming and pushed you out of the way, so I guess we can thank him for saving you a trip to the hospital.

Let's just say that Jim had a better day than I golf-wise, but friendships were the rule for the day, and everyone who played that day were the true champions. ♪



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Reflections on the 1994 Cadillac NFL Golf Classic

by Robert Dickison

The majority of our work for the month of May was spent on preparing the course for the Seniors Tournament. We installed temporary fencing to protect the East nine greens and tees, to delineate the tournament course from the parking, and for general crowd control. In all, over a mile and a half of fence was installed in the week prior to the tournament. This all had to be removed in two days so the course could be ready for play at 8 a.m. Wednesday following the tournament.

The new clubhouse patio and cart path were finished during the first week of May, and the landscaping was installed at the beginning of the second week. Twenty thousand square feet of sod was laid on the new club lawn area. At the same time, 12,000 flowers were planted in the beds throughout the course. All of this was accomplished in just two weeks time.

While all of the planting and landscaping was going on,

the course was brought into tournament condition. To get all of this work finished before the start of tournament week, we increased our green staff of 17 to 20 and worked ten hours a day. For the tournament week, two additional people were brought in just to mow fairways in the afternoons, and two others were hired to work in the parking lot.

We were able to have the course in tournament condition by the Friday prior to tournament week. At that time the weather was perfect, but that didn't last long; by Monday the rain started. The first four days were cold and rainy; during that time we received 1.3" of rain. By Friday morning we had a very wet and soggy golf course. Friday afternoon saw the weather start to change, and the weekend turned out to be very nice. Through it all the golf course held up very well.

Through the rainy spell we put down over 350 bales of straw in areas of heavy gallery traffic. The straw helped to

Continued on page 12



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1994 Cadillac NFL Golf Classic

Continued from page 11

soak up the excessive wetness and to protect the grass from being trampled. On the golf course roadways and parking lot, 200 plus tons of road stone were used to keep our roadways open and to build temporary roads on the East nine. All of the road work was done on Friday and Saturday to keep the parking areas open and operating. By using the driest areas on the East course and shifting from area to area, we were able to protect the fairways from any major damage while parking over 14,000 cars for the week. **Steve Bock**, our assistant golf course superintendent, ran the parking lots and did an excellent job of keeping the East course from being severely damaged by the traffic and, at the same time, keeping the traffic flowing. When considering all that went on during the week the course came through relatively unscathed.

With all the wetness, the course continued to provide excellent playing conditions. Fairways were somewhat softer than normal, which caused some problems with the golf carts. The clean and place rule was instituted by the PGA throughout the tournament. Greens remained in top condition, being groomed, rolled, and double cut at .140" daily. This year's slightly higher cut was dictated by the stresses caused by the extreme winter. Still the greens reached a speed of 10-8 by end of the tournament.

Each evening of the tournament, the greens crew were given dinner before they started their chores. This consisted of feeding 25 men each night. Arrangements were made with the tournament concessionaire or an outside caterer for each night's meal. This proved to be a job in and of itself.

The new club lawn needs to be replaced along with a few small areas on the East where stone was put down and an area behind 3 and 7 West greens. I think that the other worn areas will recover fairly soon. To increase their recovery, the worn areas were aerated and 900 lbs. of seed

planted just in the rough. The areas that were used for practice have been aerated, overseeded, and topdressed.

Again this year we were loaned extra equipment by some of our distributors: an intermediate rough mower by

This year's slightly higher cut was dictated by the stresses caused by the extreme winter. Still the greens reached a speed of 10-8 by end of the tournament.

the Steven Willand Co., a sweeper by the Storr Tractor Co., and a small pickup truck and two greens rollers by the Wilfred MacDonald Co. ♪

Turf Field Day scheduled

The date for this year's Turfgrass Research Field Day has been set for **August 3, 1994**, at the Turf Research Center (Horticulture Farm II), North Brunswick. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. "rain or shine." Guided field tours will commence at 9:15 a.m. Recertification credits will be awarded at the conclusion of the program, so mark your calendars now for this worthwhile event.

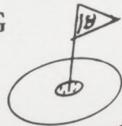
For further information, contact New Jersey Turfgrass Association, Milltown office, (908) 821-7134 or Dick Caton at (609) 853-5973.

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Golf course cuisine

Dear Golf Course Superintendents:

This letter is part confession and part plea for your cooperation. I'm always hungry and playing on a course is no exception. What to eat? What to eat? Dining out is always a choice, but sometimes when at the course, you just can't get away. A simple lunch from home could satisfy, or I can stop by at the club house. Often, though, I sneak out on the course and eat it. I've not been stopped by any superintendents as yet and hope not to be. But you have to appreciate just how good some of the main courses on the courses can be.

A golf course contains a literal cornucopia of delicacies, and, if prepared correctly, could serve as a fancy feast for even the most discerning gourmand. The common bracken fern, sometimes called the pasture



brake, makes an excellent appetizer. Just poach the young, tender singular growing sprouts in salted water and serve up with a cream sauce on toast. Yummy! The older stems and leaves are not only tougher, but they're toxic. If I don't have time to cook, I'll dig into an old crown of an Ostrich fern and find the "nut" or "banana." This is up to an inch thick and has a nutty flavor and can be eaten raw or cooked.

The common cattail (Typha) can serve up several tasty dishes. In the summer, the cattail produces its spike-like flower. When the upper half of the flower stalk is covered with a thin, green husk, cut it off. Peel the husk and simmer until tender. Eat it like corn on the cob. It's nutritious and filling! The cattail pollen can be used like flour to make pancakes or crepes or biscuits. I can help you out if you have a

Continued on page 15

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Diversion

Continued from page 2

less, the few hours that most diversions take pay back many fold by re-invigorating and re-energizing you or your staff.

The GCSANJ is an excellent source for a diversion. Little diversions could include a short note for *The Greenside*. For example, Doug Vogel took a five-minute diversion to interview Arnold Palmer at the Upper Montclair CC Cadillac Classic. If writing is not your diversion, attend the monthly GCSANJ meetings. Sometimes just reading *The Greenside* is a good diversion from the daily task at hand. Work, too, can be a diversion from work. This is the case when the work done is different from your usual tasks. GCSANJ Committee work is a diversion from the usual daily tasks which benefits not only the GCSANJ, but those who work for it as well.

Here are some basic guidelines to maxing out on a diversion. To get the most out of a mental health break first commit the time you think you can spare and then double it. Next make a list of your five favorite things and throw it out and list five things that fit the allowed time. These should include things that you have either never done or haven't done in a long, long time. Drop those things that are destructive or vindictive. (Don't fly to Singapore with a can of spray paint and hope to become an artist!) Select the most productive item on your list and *just do it!* 

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(It's about time.)

Golf course cuisine

Continued from page 13

crabgrass or goosegrass problem. Just collect the seeds, thresh them or grind them with a mortar, and I'll cook them up like wild rice. If broadleaves such as purslane are your problem, I can help too. They can be prepared as wilted greens or stir fried in bacon fat. The leaves are quite edible in a salad. Some of nature's wild plants, such as wild asparagus, cook up just like the stuff you can get in the grocery store.

Time for dessert. Blackberries, raspberries, wild black cherries, crab apples, and so much other good fruit is frequently in reach. Chokecherries, which are red, can be eaten as well. They should be cooked first and can be made into a delicious chokecherry soup. There are some other fruits that may not come to mind as readily. Rose hips are actually the fruit of the rose and an excellent source of vitamin C. Split the hip open and remove the seeds. They can be eaten raw or cooked with sugar to make a fine jam. The really nice thing with rose hips is that none of them are poisonous.

Since I also like fine beverages to wash all this down, I know exactly where to look. It's no problemo. The common mint with its familiar flavor and square stem can add zip to a club soda or more commonly used to make a mint

herbal tea. Other teas can be made from a variety of plants including witch hazel leaves (not for everyone's taste) or sweet vernal grass. The dry leaves of this fragrant ornamental grass can be quite refreshing as well.

You've read my confession and now read my plea for help. Please help me dine out better by planning your plantings with their culinary content in mind. It slows the game rate terribly if I have to scour the course to find the right plants. The roughs can be a great place to plant a snack, and, with the right selection of trees, I can always be close to a dessert. This would be good around the 16th to 18th holes, for example. Plantings around the club house and cart paths can provide for teas, salads, and starchy snacks. I wouldn't ask you to let your enthusiasm for this deprive you of your better judgment. Leave the greens and the fairways to the golfers.

With apologies and acknowledgment to Euell Gibbons,

Al Fresco

Thanks for the snacks. Al ♪

DowElanco supports industry with new program

DowElanco offers the Responsibility Comes First product stewardship program for 1994. By purchasing DowElanco products, businesses can receive safety items or make donations to trade associations.

"Our first concern is always the responsible use of our products," says Mark Urbanowski, DowElanco communications manager. "In addition to manufacturing products, we also offer educational materials and protection equipment to minimize risks and to promote an atmosphere which allows for quick response in the event of an accident."

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X marks the spot



by Ed Walsh

Most of us look at *Golf Digest's* Top 100 Golf Course listing when it comes out every two years. It's always interesting to see what courses are new and which older courses are removed from that list.

The Greenside is going to take that list, or at least this column is going to take that list, a little further. We are going to rate the top courses in the country that have less than 18 but more than nine holes. Now, in typical Ed Walsh fashion, most of you who bother to read this column are starting to get a little confused. You say what courses have less than 18 but more than nine holes and are worth a damn. I say read on because there are three courses in our own state that are listed in the "Top Ten."

I won't mention in what order they fall because, as we all know, when you reach "Top Ten" status the order just doesn't matter. You're in a very elite group and that's all that does matter. So here we go, get ready.

We have two 16-hole courses, and they are Rockaway River Country Club in Denville and Cedar Hill Country Club in Livingston. Both are going through some major renovation, and each has two holes closed. Now you would think that the members at these outstanding facilities would be really annoyed, but both supers, **Wayne (Long Ball) Foster** at R.R.C.C. and **Dennis (Legs) Wrede** at C.H.C.C., tell me that isn't the case. As a matter of fact, both memberships are starting to get used to posting lower scores and are asking if their course can't be kept this way indefinitely. That certainly sounds like an idea that **Jack Martin** or **Skip Cameron** would come up with also.

Wayne told a story about a bridge on his course that collapsed under the weight of a back hoe, and how his membership stood around and cheered when they learned that the problem with the bridge may delay the opening of the holes affected by the renovation. Dennis relays a similar experience when he seeded the two holes under reconstruction, and a heavy rain washed most of his efforts away. The Ladies 9-Hole Committee presented him with a gift certificate and asked if he would seed the area again just before the next thunder shower. I guess, like Jack and Skip, most folks do like to see a lower score on their card, even if it means you played less holes. Must be a physiological thing.

Now the other course listed in this publication is my

own, Essex County C.C., which for the first few weeks of the Spring only had 17 holes in play. We actually were playing 18 with one temporary green because the first green was rebuilt last fall and just wasn't ready until early May. I have to admit that I actually enjoyed posting lower scores myself because this hole played shorter, and we utilized one of those 6" cups that even **Pete Pedrazzi** can hit (most of the time from really close range).

You know, we may be starting a new and exciting trend with this. I can see it now, a whole set of new criteria for listing top courses. The best 13-hole course with a bar and grill is Podunk Golf Club, designed by Desmond Airhead; **Steve (no cameras allowed) Malikowski**, superintendent. The best 15-hole course without a liquor license is Empty Country Club, designed by Sharps Buckler; **Bob Prickett**, superintendent. The best six-hole course with a boat dock and jet ski ramp is The Water Way Club, designed by Murph the Surf (who recently graduated from the Harvard Landscape Design Program while serving six to 10 on a robbery conviction); Tom Grimac, superintendent.

You know, I am going to call *Golf Digest*, *Golf Magazine*, and *Golf World* and see if they think my idea has any merit. Better check with Jay Mottola and Gene Westmoreland and Steve Foehl first though. They know golf, and they know a good idea when they hear it. ♪

Avoid skin cancers

At least 90% of all skin cancers are caused by long-term, unprotected exposure to the sun, according to the Mayo Clinic. By the very nature of golf course work, long days in the sun are unavoidable, but skin cancers can be avoided.

The Mayo Clinic's recommendations for avoiding skin problems include:

1. Wear protective clothing;
2. Wear a broad-brimmed hat;
3. Use sunscreen with a sun protection (SPF) of at least 15.

Splendor in the grass

by Dr. Bob

This is really adult reading, and the warnings requiring the reader to be 18 or older or accompanied by an adult are hereby invoked.

Grass plants, like all living things, must reproduce to maintain the species. Much like humans, age has little to do with a grass plant's ability to reproduce, but its genetics, the environment, and the physical condition of the individual plant do. Genetics predetermine whether a species is capable of reproducing without sex, called apomixis, or whether it needs sex, or whether it can reproduce with and without sex. Genetics also determines whether the plant can be cross fertilized or self-fertilized, or whether the course of the pollen matters at all. Some species, under certain conditions, can hybridize with other species. Vegetative reproduction is very important to a grass plant's ability to spread out and cover large areas. Rhizomes, tillers, and stolons are the usual mechanisms

for vegetative reproduction in grasses. Physical condition determines which direction a plant's energy will go toward reproduction, often determining whether or not the plant will produce seed or how vigorous its tillers will be.

All of the sexual action in grasses takes place in the grass flower. The flower of a grass is very small and is

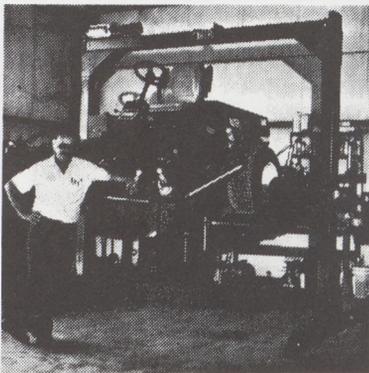
When it comes to sex, size, timing, and position all have exaggerated examples in the grass family. Corn is actually a giant grass.

found in the part of the plant that is usually referred to as the seedhead. The actual flower is covered by tiny bracts called spikelets. Unless you really look closely you will not see the usual flower parts. Miniature anthers filled with pollen and a miniature stigma which receives the pollen are all enclosed by these bracts. The seed is actually the fruit of the grass. Some grasses pollinate with their spikelets open, and some prefer to keep it all in the family and pollinate with their spikelets closed.

All of the above is really the basics. Splendor in the grass can take some bizarre turns as well. When it comes to sex, size, timing, and position all have exaggerated examples in the grass family. Corn is actually a giant grass. The corn kernels on the cob are the grass seeds, and nature has removed the protective spikelets. The corn silks are the stigmas down which the pollen travels. Corn has the largest of everything in the grass family. Some species of bamboo flowers so infrequently that they are suspected of flowering only once in 100 years while many common weeds will flower all season long. Although the vast majority of grass species are wind pollinated, in the rain forests of Central America there are grass species that are pollinated with only the assistance of ants. In the Pinelands of New Jersey, a grass species called *Amphicarpum purshii* produces seeds on a seedhead as well as seeds that are produced on underground stems.

With all the reproduction going on, it's no wonder that Mother Nature has cooked up over 7,500 different species of grass. Grass has been put to use as a food crop, as forage for animals, for soil conservation, bamboo for shelter, wildlife management, and, of course, for turf. The next time you take your mower over the course, you will have a far better appreciation for what you are cutting off! ♪

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For the record

*Editor's Note: This letter was written to **The Record** by the Alliance for Environmental Concerns to set the record straight on the GCSAA's mortality study on golf course superintendents. GCSANJ is a supporting member of the Alliance.*

Ms. Marilee Loboda Braue
Consumer Watch
The Record
150 River Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601

Re: "Getting to the root of pesticides," June 5, 1994

I would like to comment on your article of June 5.

1. Related to the cause-of-death study for the Golf Course Superintendents Association, the University of Iowa director of that study cautioned against drawing any cause and effect relationships, especially in regard to pesticides, from the preliminary study. The most frequent cancers in this study were lung and brain, both, as you state, most commonly related to smoking. However, other cancer deaths in the study, such as stomach, bladder, kidney, pancreatic, and colon also

2. Similarly, you mention non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and 2,4,D use. An extensive EPA report (March 1994) indicates not enough evidence "to conclude . . . a cause and effect relationship . . ."
3. Related to "natural" pesticides, many of these compounds—such as pyrethrum—are toxic. This doesn't mean that they can't be used as safely as any other pesticide, but it *does* mean that label directions should be followed closely, just as with synthetic products.

It is important for your readers to know that the label directions on every synthetic pesticide product represent 8-10 years of research involving as many as 120 or more EPA-mandated tests, many with laboratory animals and specific for human health and safety. Even then, only about one in 20,000 makes it through this extensive research and regulatory process to market shelves.

Ilona Gray
Executive Director
Alliance for Environmental Concerns

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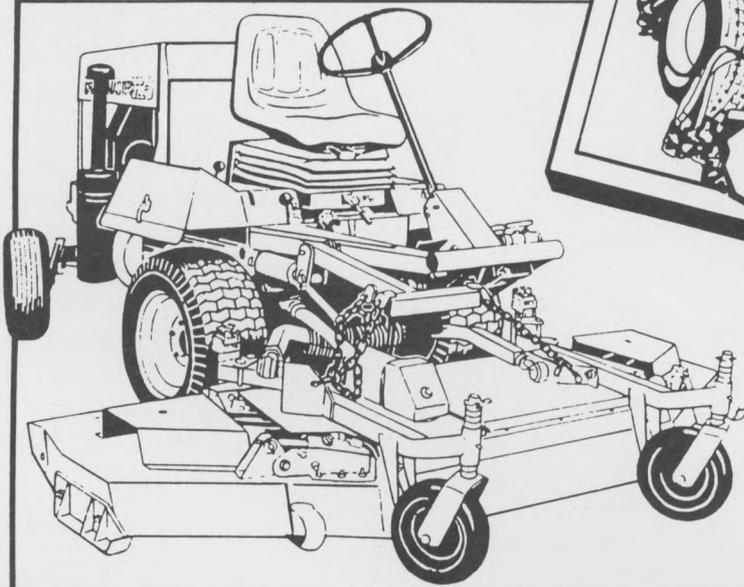
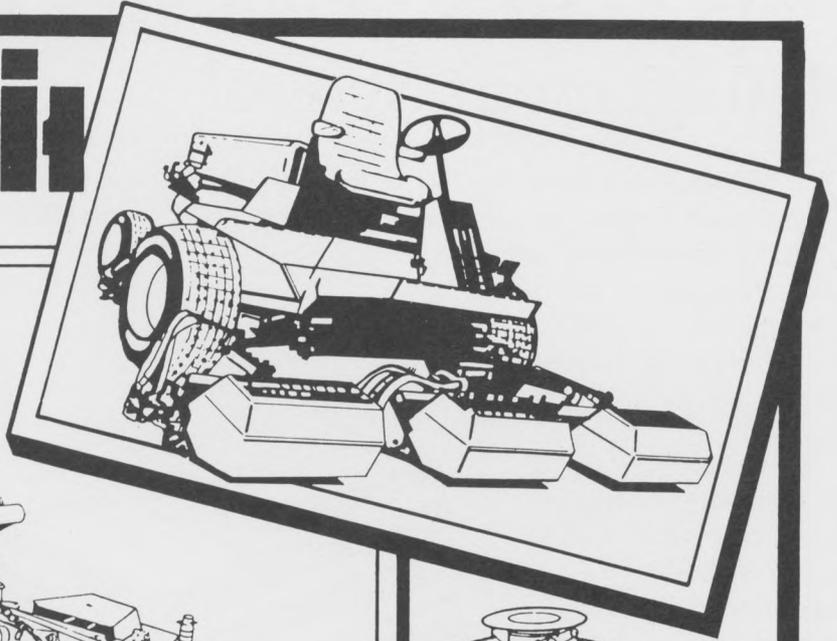
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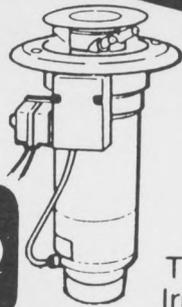
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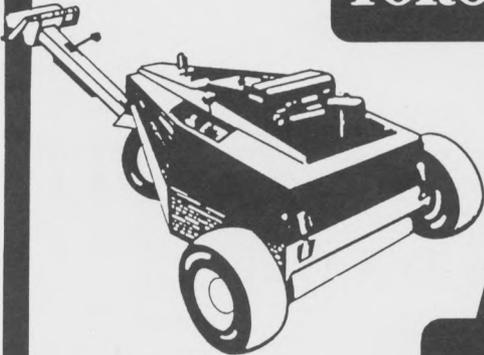


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Applications are being accepted for the two-year Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School, one of the nation's leading professional education programs in golf turf management. The course is presented in two 10-week sessions over two years and requires two seasons of supervised field experience where students apply skills developed in the classroom.

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The course is recommended for golf course superin-

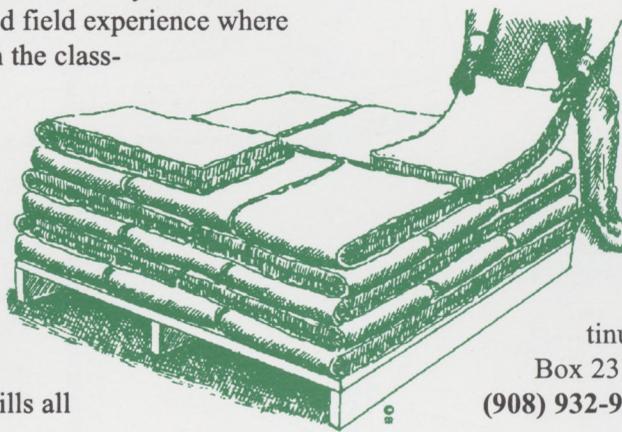
tendents, assistant superintendents, greenskeepers, irrigation technicians, and mechanics who have a minimum of two years of experience working in turf management.

The **Fall Session** will be held **October 3-December 9, 1994**, and the **Winter Session** will be held **January 2-March 10, 1995**.

Applications for the **Fall Session** are due on **August 5, 1994**, and applications for the **Winter Session** are due on **October 21, 1994**. To request a brochure and application or for more information, please contact the Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education, P.O.

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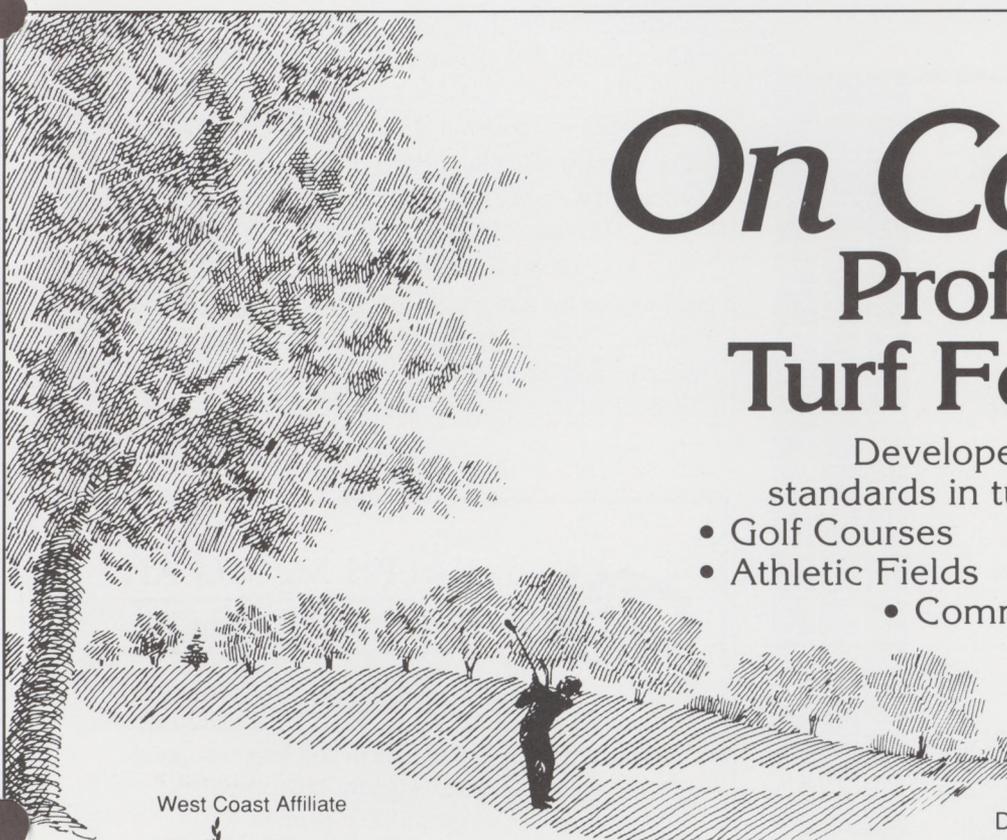
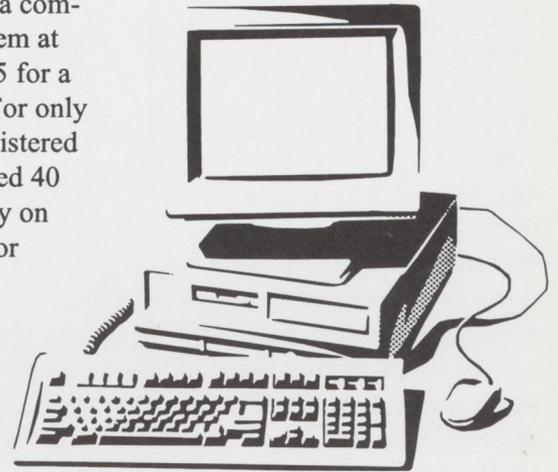
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Landscape contractors can have instant access to the full text of New Jersey's regulations affecting pesticide use, current weather conditions, degree day data, and more on the Rutgers Cooperative Extension computer bulletin board. The board now features a full set of summary regulation fact sheets covering topics from Farmland Assessment to immigration laws and open burning. Pesticide control regulations are searchable by the use of key words, an easy way to find selected information. Wholesale prices from the USDA/Chicago/San Francisco terminal markets on ornamentals are posted.

Other features include: daily agricultural weather forecast; listings of New Jersey farmers who produce and sell agricultural products of all types; "AG A.M.," a national summary of farm related news from the USDA; the financial tip of the week; a calendar of educational events and classes; the horticultural engineering report; the Extension Insect and Disease newsletter; and, of course, Landscape IPM Notes. All Extension Fact Sheets and Bulletins,

which feature information on everything from how to control a termite to caring for spray equipment, are available.

The Rutgers Extension Computer bulletin board can be reached by callers equipped with a computer and modem at (800) 722-0335 for a free trial use. For only \$15 a year, registered users are granted 40 minutes per day on the 800 line. For more information, call (201) 579-0985. 



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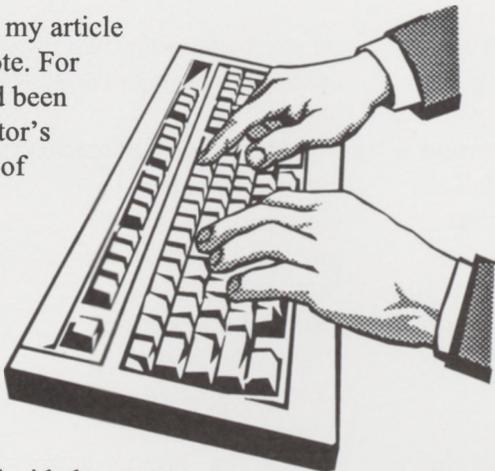


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The truth leaks out

by Steve Malikowski, CGCS

I had planned on beginning my article this month on a serious note. For quite some time now I had been considering running for a director's position on the GCSAA Board of Directors. But due to recent developments that I have been made aware of, I have apparently blown any possible chance of that happening. Also, for the sake of *The Greenside*, I have decided that I will no longer write for this great newsletter and have decided to step down as a contributing writer. Ilona and her staff have done a great job with this newsletter for years and will continue to do so without my satires. In fact, I don't know if everyone is aware, but *The Greenside* received the top award from GCSAA for Chapter Newsletters in Dallas at the Conference. I would like to congratulate her and her staff



for a great job in producing this award-winning newsletter. To my knowledge she has not publicly received any recognition of this achievement with the exception of a short blurb from Ed Walsh in the last edition of *The Greenside*. I do not want to jeopardize the chances of any future awards for her or this newsletter. It appears that my Gary Trudeau-style of writing has offended the industrial people who run things at GCSAA; so to avoid any more problems or embarrassment, I have decided that this is the end of my writing career, and this is my last article. ♪

Turf fact sheets available

Two color fact sheets have recently been released that deal with the identification and control of root-infecting diseases of cool season turf. The first (Fact Sheet #FS166) is entitled, "An Integrated Approach to Necrotic Ring Spot Control in Turf." The second fact sheet (#FS162) is entitled, "An Integrated Approach to Summer Patch Control in Turf." The cost of each publication is \$1.00, and they may be obtained from local County Extension offices or by writing to the Publications Distribution Center, Cook College, Dudley Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08903. ♪

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The rest of the story

by Nigel Wiszkowski, CGCS

CERTIFIED GOOD CHEAP SHOTS

The following is the opinion of this writer and not necessarily that of the BOD or The Greenside staff.

Not long ago I had a telephone conversation with Steve Malikowski down at Cape May National, which has prompted me to offer this small piece of LITERary information. It was an interesting conversation to say the least. I learned that he was resigning as a contributing writer for *The Greenside*. He feels he needs to do this. His LITERary wit will surely be missed. His satires in the past were well done; certainly a refreshing change from the total seriousness of this turf business. It was always interesting to see how superintendents can cope with stress through humor. No matter how bad the weather is where we are, somewhere else the weather is worse. It is a shame that some of his satirical literary genius has been labeled

offensive and unwarranted by certain pompous groups of individuals.

Next, congratulations to *The Greenside* in receiving the award for best Chapter Newsletter from GCSAA at the Dallas Conference and Show. Ilona, you must be proud of what you and your writers have done. I guess the award was given in spite of Steve's writing, not because of it.

Well, anyway, let me move on. I have been able to tap a reliable source of information and will be taking over Steve's old job with *The Greenside*. Besides, I hear he is too busy to write any more now that he has returned to the Board of Directors of GCSANJ. Welcome back, Steve. I understand he also is trying to get his Chapter Delegate job back. Wouldn't that be ironic? We all hope he gets back his former position as National Hospitality Suite Coordinator too. We never ran out of beer when he had the check-book. I understand that this past year's Hospitality Suite bill came right on budget. Steve would never dare to do that. Of course, it's easy when you serve Old German by the keg. ♪

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The Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council and The Pennsylvania State University have announced they are seeking additional vintage turfgrass equipment for the Mascaro/Steiniger Turfgrass Museum scheduled to open on August 10, 1994, during the Penn State Turfgrass Field Days.

A sizable amount of equipment has already been assembled and is presently being refurbished. An appropriate name plate placed on each contribution will acknowledge the gift to the museum.

A list of the current equipment is available to potential donors so that duplication will not occur. If donors can call, fax, or write to the following people, they will send you a listing of the equipment:

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All vintage equipment should be shipped to the Landscape Management Research Center, Pennsylvania State University, Orchard Road, University Park, PA 16802.

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Chemicals and cancer

No issue creates a greater stir among the public about farming practices than food safety and the occasional headline about the problem of pesticide residue on fresh produce. Yet the American Cancer Society vigorously promotes the heavy consumption of fruits and vegetables as one of the best preventive techniques to ward off cancer. What goes on here?

Speaking recently to a group organized by the American Council of Science and Health was Dr. Bruce Ames, a professor at Berkeley and the foremost expert on cancer research in the country. Dr. Ames strongly disputes the casual connection between environmental sources and an increased risk of cancer. He asserts, "The vast bulk of chemicals ingested by humans is natural. For example, 99.99% of the pesticides we eat are naturally present in plants to ward off insects and other predators." Further, he adds, "Reducing exposure to the .01% that are synthetic either to individual chemicals or to mixtures will not reduce cancer rates. On the contrary, fruits and vegetables are essential dietary cancer fighters and making them more expensive by reducing synthetic pesticide use will increase

cancer."

In his talk, Dr. Ames claimed that aging and degenerative diseases of aging like cancer appear to be due to the oxidants produced as by-products of normal metabolism. In other words, there is a normal "background" level of cancer in people. Beyond that, human activity can elevate the risks of getting cancer. According to Ames, the three leading causes are: smoking, dietary imbalances (excess fat and calories, inadequate fruits/vegetables, fiber, calcium) and chronic infections leading to "chronic inflammation." He says past occupational exposures (like asbestos exposure in smokers) might cause 2% of current human cancer, and industrial or synthetic chemical pollution causes less than 1% in his view. He writes, "The age-adjusted cancer death rate in the U.S. for all cancers combined (excluding smoking-caused) has remained steady since 1950, while life expectancy increases each year. We are the healthiest we have ever been in human history."

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Back Nine

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According to the United States Product Safety Commission, the sport with the greatest emergency room admissions is bicycling with 649,536 admissions in 1992. Golf playing led to 37,556 admissions. Boxing was responsible for 5,303 admissions, and even table tennis can be a hazard with 1,455 emergency room admissions. The latest sport, in-line roller skating, is expected to bring over 83,000 people through the hospital doors this year. When interpreting data of this sort, you need to consider the number of players and the amount of time spent at the sport. The relative number

of boxers, for example, makes this a riskier sport, while the millions of rounds of golf played and the few admissions makes this a relatively safer sport. The lesson, however, is there is no recreation without risk, and there is risk when you don't recreate.

Mosquitoes are twice as attracted to the color blue as to any other color. That's useful if nature attacked us only with mosquitoes. Other insects love the color yellow, especially yellow jackets and hornets. Some insects are attracted to carbon dioxide (hold your breath), while others like the smell of after shave and perfume. Still other enjoy that "You need a shower odor." Body heat is another attractant. What to do? Conduct tick checks and spray repellent and hope it doesn't attract some while repelling others. If you're outdoors, there is no way around getting bugged. 

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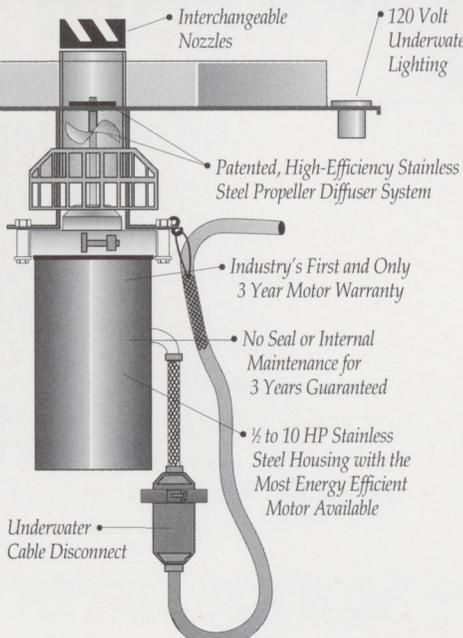
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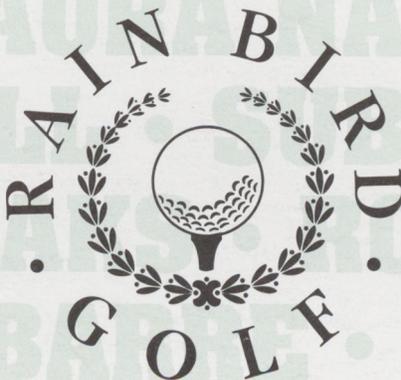
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