

THE GREENERSIDE

September - October 1994 • Volume 17 Number 5

The 79th Met Open at Ridgewood

1994 is proving to be a big year for the Ridgewood Country Club. Not only is the course helping to celebrate Ridgewood Village's Centennial this August, but the RCC also hosted the 79th Met Open Championship. This was the third time that the course was selected for this premier golfing event. The New Jersey qualifying rounds for the Met Open were played at the Raritan Valley CC where 180 players competed for 25 places. It took a card of even par 70 or better to make the cut. Other qualifiers were hosted by New York clubs.

The superintendent at the RCC is John Gasper. John received a B.S. and M.S. from Ohio State University. He had worked at several Columbus, Ohio, area courses including Muirfield Village before coming to Ridgewood CC. One of his major missions for this year includes improving the soil environment in the greens. John has embarked upon an aggressive aerification program to alleviate soil layering and subsurface compaction. He plans to use conventional aerification (three times a year) with a deep-tine aerification in the spring and fall. Introduction of new bentgrass varieties to the greens will be an additional challenge. Upgrading and expanding the irrigation systems, continuing the beautification programs, and a bentgrass conversion on the fairways are key objectives this year as well.

The RCC is one of New Jersey's outstanding courses, designed in the Tillinghast tradition with three 9-hole courses that can be combined for tournament play. The sloping back to front greens, the century old trees, and no let-up in the play serve to challenge both the golfers and the superintendent. It's no wonder the Met Open has returned to the RCC. ♣



A scenic view of Nine East at the Ridgewood Country Club.

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THE GREENERSIDE

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EDITORIAL



Cornwallis

by Ilona Gray

It's amazing that sometimes being victorious in one battle leads to a defeat in another. Of course this is not always the case, but in many instances in history a victory has ultimately led to a major defeat.

Let me explain by example. In our own revolutionary war, a series of very messy battles in which the Continental forces were defeated by the British occurred in North Carolina. These skirmishes reached a climax at Guilford Courthouse near Greensboro. The British commander was General Cornwallis, highly regarded by both his troops and the British military establishment.

Although Cornwallis was victorious, his army was broken as a result of the ferocious battle.

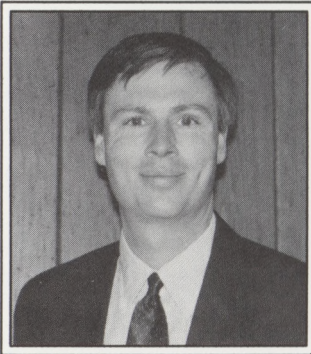
Afterwards, he insisted on following his own bad plan and attacked Virginia with his army in a near exhausted state. Isolated, Cornwallis lacked the information and benefit of different viewpoints on his particular situation. A few months later the world turned upside down as the British were defeated in Virginia by George Washington. The British under Cornwallis had indeed won the battle at Guilford, but it cost them the war at Yorktown on October 19, 1781.

In running a golf course there is the risk of winning the battle but losing the war as well. During a season's battles there are many tough decisions, and no one but the superintendent can really call them. The superintendent is the commanding general on the field, and it is his/or hers strategies and tactics that will win or lose the day and the season. Looking back on this year's skirmishes, fungus attack was for many courses a serious threat. Most superintendents reacted vigorously to the assault and shifted resources to meet the onslaught. You can second guess yourself on this if you'd like. Did you overreact? Did you not recognize the threat until too late? The real answers to these questions lie in the current condition of the course.

To win the season the course must be in sufficiently good shape to over-winter and be ready for spring. Strategic actions may be necessary including considerations for equipment replacement, drainage, and irrigation. The fall is the ideal time to develop a winning plan for the next season. Inspections are needed, not only of the condition of the course, but its equipment, its staff, and its management. If everything you had went

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Doing the right thing

One of the best moments I saw at the recently completed U.S. Junior Amateur at my club was on the first extra hole

of a match. Marion Moore, from South Carolina, had a three foot putt to win his match and carry him forward from the round of 16 into the round of eight. It was possibly the most important putt of his life, and 100 people were watching. As he was drawing his putter back, he stepped away from his ball and beckoned for the official who was with him. After a brief conversation, he re-marked his ball and calmly made the putt . . . *for the half*. He had seen what no one else watching had—the ball had moved, and he called the penalty. As he was walking past me to the second hole, I heard him say quietly to himself, “The ball *did* move.”

Moore went on to lose his match on the third playoff hole, but in the eyes of all who witnessed it, or heard of it, he was a true winner that day.

During the years I have spent on the Board, I have had many opportunities to see our Board and our Association members behave in the same admirable fashion. Assistance to fellow members is made solely because it is needed. Work is done to promote and improve our group without thought of personal gain, but because it's the right thing to do. Friendship is offered and reciprocated because we are all in this business together.

Our Association is undertaking two projects, currently, because of this same spirit of fairness, assistance, and friendship. Our charity fundraiser is underway beginning with the round of golf raffle. Forty superintendents (7 more than last year) have donated a round of golf at their clubs this year, and your Board hopes that the membership works together to help sell and promote this worthy cause. The Emmanuel Cancer Fund, Make-A-Wish, and Project FAITH are the three children's charities we are working for this year, and they need our help—let's all pull together to improve on last year's \$24,000 donation. Your Board hopes, too, that all of our commercial friends can help with sponsorships at our annual championship/charity fundraiser at Montclair Golf Club in October.

Another admirable cause is being put together now by a

Continued on page 8

Calendar

October 4

- **GCSANJ Turfgrass Equipment, Irrigation and Suppliers Field Day**, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Rutgers Hort. Farm II, Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ. Contact: Judy Policastro, (201) 379-1100.

October 17

- **GCSANJ October Meeting: The Championship** at Montclair, hosted by Greg Vadala, CGCS. Contact: Judy Policastro, (201) 379-1100.

October 21

- **Professional Golf Turf Management School Application Due Date**, Winter Session. The actual session is from January 2-March 10. Contact: (908) 932-9271.

November 4

- **GCSANJ Turf Scholarship Program**, deadline for all applicants. Contact: Judy Policastro, (201) 379-1100.

November 8-11

- **Turf and Grounds Exposition**, Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY. Contact: NYSTA, (800) 873-TURF or (518) 783-1229.

November 10

- **GCSANJ Annual Meeting**, Hollywood GC, hosted by Jan Kasyjanski. Contact: Judy Policastro, (201) 379-1100.

November 11

- **President's Ball**, The Barclay Hotel, hosted by Harry Harsin. For further information, contact: Judy Policastro, (201) 379-1100.

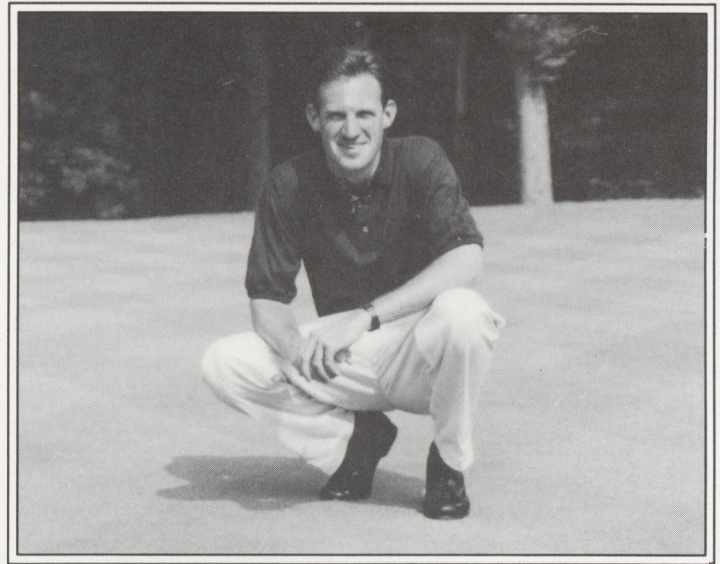
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Private course...public involvement

by John Gasper

The Village of Ridgewood is celebrating its 100th anniversary of incorporation. Although the community pre-dates the Revolution, it was not until 1894 that the village was "born." The Ridgewood Country Club will be joining in the celebration. The club is located in neighboring Paramus and will be selling centennial shirts, buttons, and flags to help support the Village Library, which will preserve and display historic memorabilia of Ridgewood.

Ridgewood CC was founded one year before the village in 1893 as the Ho-Ho-Kus Golf Club. It was the first club in the state. In 1901 the club moved to Ridgewood, near the center of town between Maple, Van Dien, and Linwood Avenues. After a fire in 1927, the club was relocated to its current address in Paramus. The Ridgewood town hall now sits on the very property on which the members of the Ridgewood CC once played golf. Many of the centennial events will be held where the Ridgewood CC fairways used to lay. The town and the club are physically part of one another's history.



John Gasper, superintendent, examining the greens during the Met Open Championship at Ridgewood CC.

As superintendent of this historic course, both my wife, Jill, and I have really gotten involved in the centennial events. Jill has donated some baskets from her basket business to the Ridgewood Library's Ridgewood Collection Room, and we both are working as volunteers for the November Grand Finale. ♣

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Cornwallis

Continued from page 2

into just getting by this year, you may be setting the course up for a defeat in the next season. Does the staff need additional training to be ready for the spring? What professional training could benefit you, the superintendent?

These are not good questions to answer by yourself. Every good general discusses the strategic problems with their peers and solicits tactical advice as well. With an association like GCSANJ you are just a phone call away from a consultation with a fellow superintendent, and, at each monthly meeting, a full day of opportunity for an exchange of views is made available. This October is the GCSANJ Turf and Equipment day, another excellent consultative opportunity. Come prepared to share ideas. Don't be a Cornwallis. Win the battle and the war by attending GCSANJ functions. ♣



GCSANJ NEWS



TURFGRASS EQUIPMENT, IRRIGATION AND SUPPLIERS FIELD DAY

Something for anyone interested in growing and maintaining better turfgrass areas. That is the commitment and promise for this year's 30th field day, scheduled for October 4 with an October 5 rain date. As an added attraction, research plots will be toured from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. *Free door prizes, free parking, and free admission make this the most open turf-oriented event of the year.* Refreshments, hot dogs, and hamburgers will be available to keep you going all day.

This is the major fundraiser of the GCSANJ, and you are urged to attend and participate in a great event. Our vendors have pulled out all the stops to make the 30th Field Day the best one yet. The program will be held at the Rutgers Hort Farm II off Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. **Call Judy Policastro at GCSANJ for additional information, (201) 879-1100.**

WELCOME TO GCSANJ

"The Greenside" welcomes the following new GCSANJ members and invites them to call us and contribute news and stories:

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-------------------|---------|
| Charles Brown | D | Howell Park GC | Dist. 3 |
| William Filmyer | C | Grow Master | Dist. 4 |
| Anthony Funari | A | Ponder Lodge GC | Dist. 4 |
| Ken Indyk | C | Storr Tractor Co. | Dist. 2 |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-------------------|---------|
| Jan Kasyjanski | A | Hollywood GC | Dist. 3 |
| Michael J. Lee | B-1 | Peace Pipe CC | Dist. 2 |
| Patrick F. Madden | D | Cape May Natl. GC | Dist. 4 |
| Jack Magnus | C | Vicksburg Chem. | Dist. 3 |
| Jim McAllister | C | Yardworks | Dist. 3 |
| Bruce Morford | B-1 | Beacon Hill CC | Dist. 3 |
| Timothy Rumbos | B | Indian Spring GC | Dist. 4 |
| Anthony Stefanik | B-1 | Atlantic City CC | Dist. 4 |
| Paul Strani | C | Storr Tractor Co. | Dist. 2 |
| Rob Werley | C | Koonz Sprinkler | Dist. 2 |
| Chris Woolbert | C | Koonz Sprinkler | Dist. 2 |

Membership Change

| | | | |
|--------------|----------|-------------------|---------|
| Blair Quin | C | Wilfred MacDonald | Dist. 3 |
| (reinstated) | | | |
| Bret Roby | B-1 to B | High Point CC | Dist. 1 |

Continued on page 6

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GCSANJ NEWS

CRYSTAL SPRINGS IS A CLEAR WINNER

by Shaun Barry

If I were to mention the names of **Joel Riggs, Bruce Salmon, and Dick Grant**, very few of our members would be able to place these people. If I add the name **Dave Mayer** to the list, a light of recognition would go on. Crystal Springs GC would immediately come to mind, especially for those people who were able to attend our July meeting.

Joel, Bruce, and Dick were very happy to see our group enjoy the creation that they have added to the golf world. Dave is responsible for Crystal and Bowling Green GC. His management skills, coupled with long hours and great crews, have allowed both courses to get better each year. Thanks and congratulations go out to everyone who helped make our day so wonderful.

Most of our group credited their poor play to being distracted by the great views and the beautiful layout of the course. As usual, some people took their game seriously and avoided the distractions. **Frank Vnuk** shot 78 and **Tony Toto, Ed Wein, Bill Luthin, and Dave Werner** won the team low net event. **Steve Matuza** won the individual low net honors with a 67. We reported that **Craig Lambert** had also shot a net 67. We must have still been looking at those views when we recorded his score. Sorry, Craig.

It is good to see that **Bob Prickett** is feeling better. He took long drive honors with his three-wood, and he also teamed up with **Tom Grimac** to defeat **Pat Campbell** and **Les Mickens** in the team event (If you don't think that is

something, just ask **Ed Walsh**—he is still having nightmares.) Dave Mayer was closest to the pin on #8, while **Jim Cross** prevented a family sweep when he edged out **Al Mayer** (Dave's dad) on #12. Dave Mayer and **Ken Mathis** joined the other winners with one skin each.

It was truly a great day. The food and weather were perfect. Dr. Noel Jackson was funny and informative, and we were invited back. How can it get any better?

A STAR IS BORN

by Shaun Barry

On June 21, 1994, **Dave McGhee** and Fiddler's Elbow GC invited the media to tour their new 18-hole golf course with clubs in hand. New Jersey's finest golf writers were there along with one who isn't, yours truly. Ilona had gone through

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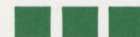
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Continued from page 6

her list of potential writers until she came to me. A sense of duty (?) caused me to adjust my plans so I could help out.

Touring and appreciating this course was simple. This creation is really a great example of how a modern course can fit beautifully into the natural terrain. What was difficult was trying to think like a writer as each hole exposed more of the course and the vision of Rees Jones. Suddenly I realized what the problem was—all of the birds were making so much noise that concentration was impossible. Birds! Where did they come from? Hadn't I heard that there were no birds on golf courses? Where did I get that idea? Oh well, maybe that is another story.

Our tour ended too quickly. This course demands that you play it again and again. With most holes offering a myriad of ways of attack, you need to try each one. When your task is complete, you will want to start all over again. ♣

THREE TIMES IS A CHARM

By Shaun Barry

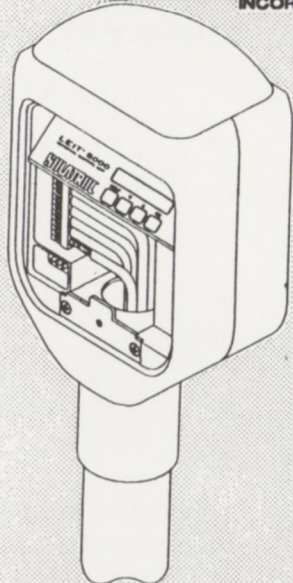
District II just had their third straight August meeting at Madison GC. Once again it was a wonderful time. How could a 98-year-old, nine-hole course continue to hold our interest? Attend one meeting here, and you will understand.

This is a club that remembers its history. Both old and new. The clubhouse welcomes you. It does not overwhelm. The members really enjoy golf, and they are glad that we are there. The course is short and plays to a par of 62, but only **Larry Dodge** knows how to play it. Expect to be challenged.

When you go to the water fountain on the 4th tee, read the plaque. *It honors one of our own—Duke Polidor.* They remember the important things.

Continued on page 8

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GCSANJ NEWS

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All of our group enjoyed the game, and some actually played well. Larry Dodge (68) and Pete Pedrazzi (74) had the best gross scores. Vinnie Bracken (62), Rob Finnesey (62), and Ed Schindo (62) were low net winners with Bob Dwyer (63) taking 4th place. Ed Walsh and E. Schindo were closest to the pins. Qualifying for the District Team

were L. Dodge, P. Pedrazzi, B. Dwyer, R. Finnesey, E. Walsh, and V. Bracken. Winners of the night golf competition were Mark Sinto, the DeSanctis Duo, and Ron Mencl. Some people are better in the dark.

Many thanks go out again to Mark Sinto, Sean Hoffman, and Nick Lyons. We had a wonderful time. ♪

Doing the right thing

Continued from page 3

group of members to benefit a member in need. You will hear more on this soon, **if not already**, and your Board applauds and supports this effort. We hope that you will respond generously. On a personal note, I would like to thank the GCSANJ members who initiated and developed this. It goes hand in glove with the Board's commitment

toward improving our benevolent activities to benefit members in need, and can only make our Association and bonds that tie us together stronger.

Chris Carson
President, GCSANJ



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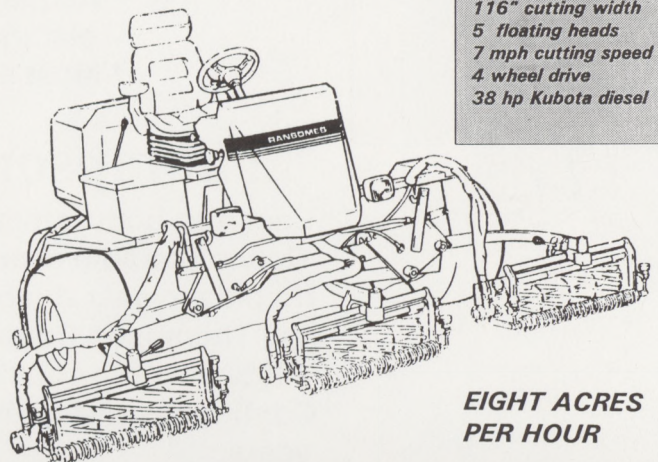
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The "Reel" World

by John G. Martin, Jr.

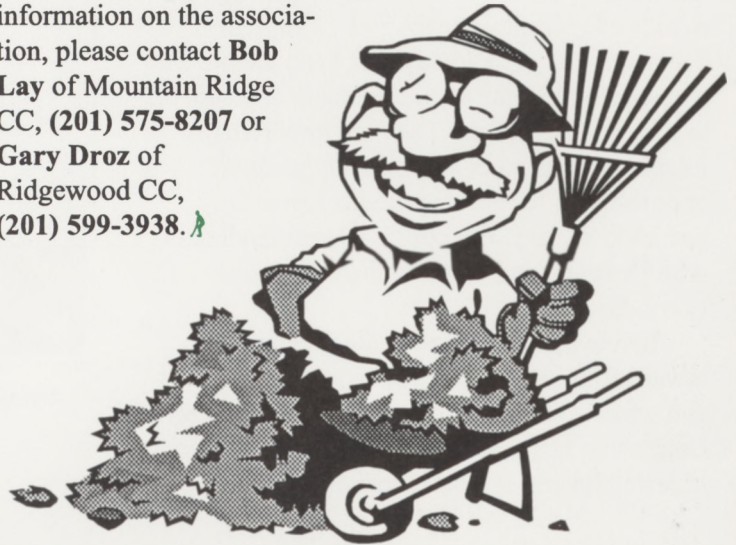
It's time to breathe a sigh of relief. The dog days of summer are winding down, and fall is approaching fast. Mechanics around the state are getting equipment ready to do battle with the yearly barrage of leaves. Time to dust off the blowers, sweepers, and mulchers you'll use to uncover the grass you struggled all summer to keep green. As everyone settles into the autumn routine of leaf removal, golf course mechanics are looking forward to the yearly winter routine of equipment reconditioning.

Another thing golf course mechanics are looking forward to is the monthly meeting of the Golf Course Mechanics Association. Dates have been set, so keep October 17, November 14, and December 19 free, and mark those dates on your calendars. Some of the topics which might be covered include diesel engines, fuel injection systems, bearings and seals, and generators and welders. Times, locations, and other specifics will arrive closer to the actual meeting dates.

Also in store for this fall is the annual GCSANJ Turfgrass Equipment Field Day, Tuesday, October 4 and the

N.J. Turfgrass Association convention on November 29. The Mechanics Association will have booths at both of these shows and will also conduct an education seminar on November 29 in Atlantic City. Watch your mail and/or ask your super about these events.

If you would like more information on the association, please contact **Bob Lay** of Mountain Ridge CC, (201) 575-8207 or **Gary Droz** of Ridgewood CC, (201) 599-3938.



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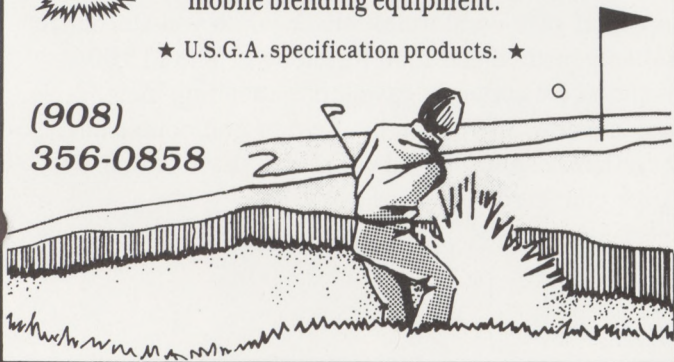
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Turf Day at Rutgers

by Anthony DeMarco
Passaic County Golf Course

I try to attend every seminar I can. Working as an assistant supervisor on a 400 plus acre, 36-hole public course with over 120,000 rounds of golf played each year, I appreciate every seminar or field day that I can attend. The county provides the encouragement and support to attend these events. They are important learning experiences and provide essential opportunities for earning credits toward my pesticide license. The course superintendent is **Abe Hemsey**, and together the course tests us every day.

Driving down on Interstate 287 headed toward Rutgers, I wondered who would I meet and what would I learn at this year's Turf Day. Discussing turf management with golf course superintendents and other turf experts at a Turf



Attendees at Rutgers Turf Day listening to one of the turf talks.

Day would be an all day lesson. The field day was just starting as I arrived, and several groups were headed out on a series of half-hour stops.

The exceptionally humid weather made me feel very uncomfortable, and as the heat rose I was really tempted to leave. But as I looked around and saw people I knew, I decided to stay. It turned out to be a great experience.

The field day had demonstrations on how to lay sod and showed different types of bent grass under stress, while Dr. Bruce Clark talked about brown patch and summer bent patch. There was also a demonstration on the Toro Hydro Jet effect on bent grass and different types of organic fertilizers. This was especially interesting to me. Calibrating sprayers and the use of different nozzle sizes also provided a learning experience.

The food was terrific and, of equal importance in the heat, there was plenty of cold soda. The field day organizers did a terrific job and also arranged for an oversized canopy that gave comfortable shade while you ate. There was plenty of food and food for thought. The \$15.00 registration fee certainly gave those attending their money's worth. Anyone in the field of golf course management or landscaping should not miss a day like this. I'll look for you there next year! 🌿

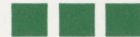
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GCSAA releases 1994-95 strategic plan synopsis



An ambitious agenda for the coming year was revealed by the GCSAA. Both mission and vision statements were prepared that set the tone for this year and the future. The mission statement provides a succinct statement as to why the GCSAA exists: "GCSAA is dedicated to serving its members, advancing their profession, and enriching the quality of golf and its environment."

The purpose of the Vision Statement is to establish a shared image of what the association will look like in the future. The Vision Statement and Goals are summarized below. It looks like it will be a lot of hard work to accomplish this, but for those active in the association, it will be a lot of fun and comradeship as well. This all starts with the February 1995 GCSAA meeting in San Francisco. Contact GCSAA at (913) 841-2240 for the full text of the Synopsis.

VISION

GCSAA, by the year 2000, will be a peerless profes-

sional membership organization that:

- Makes a positive impact on the lives of its members by providing professional support through exceptional service and programming.
- Promotes and sustains the image of the golf course superintendent as the manager of golf's most valuable asset: the golf course.
- Enriches the quality of golf by actively educating its members and investing in the future through scholarship and research programs.
- Is recognized by the profession, the golf community, and society as the authoritative source of information on state-of-the-art turfgrass management, the golf environment, and other matters related to golf course management.
- Enhances the opportunities for members to achieve employment security and attain their individual career

Continued on page 12



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GCSAA releases 1994-95 strategic plan

Continued from page 11

- goals.
- Develops and provides leadership in addressing issues of relevance to members, the golf community, and society locally, nationally, and internationally.
- Strengthens relationships and cooperation with affiliated chapters, allied associations, the golf industry, and other organizations to the mutual benefit of members, golf, and society.
- Sustains fiscal stability, applies its resources, and employs appropriate technologies effectively to deliver programs and services that benefit the membership and the profession.
- States and practices its values and ethics, including the principles of integrity, fairness, individual dignity, and respect for others.

GOALS

Career Assistance: To furnish members with resources to effectively secure employment and pursue career goals.

Chapter Relations: To foster mutually beneficial relationships with affiliated chapters.

Education: To set the standards of professionalism in golf course management, provide educational programs that develop skills, knowledge and professionalism, and offer opportunities for earning professional recognition.

Effectiveness: To apply resources and technologies to maximize effectiveness and efficiency in the development and delivery of programs and services.

Government Relations: To represent the profession in federal regulatory proceedings, monitor and communicate

legislative activity, and assist superintendents in their efforts to achieve effective influence and regulatory compliance.

Image: To inform the public of the role and importance of the golf course superintendent and promote the profession and the association.

Industry Relations: To create and promote partnerships with companies that supply products, services, and support to the membership.

Information: To serve as the information clearinghouse for the industry and the profession.

Integrity: To embody the principles of integrity and fairness, treating all with respect and dignity and holding members, staff, and associates to the highest ethical and professional standards.

International Service: To develop appropriate services to meet the unique needs of international members and the profession.

Membership: To continuously enhance the value of membership and strengthen the association through membership growth.

Partnerships: To create and enhance alliances with golf industry associations and other organizations.

Publications: To provide periodicals and other publications of value to the profession.

Scholarship and Research: To fund grants to advance education and science as an investment in the future of the profession and the game of golf. ♪

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X marks the spot

by Ed Walsh

There are some times when I just can't seem to find anything to write about. This usually happens toward the end of the summer when all any of us want to do is relax. It's those times that I always put Ilona Gray through a lot of grief by giving her "the article will be there tomorrow" routine. That happened this time, too.

Ilona gave me three extra days to get this article to her, and, if it wasn't for something that just happened to pop up, I might still be procrastinating.

Seems when I got home last night, there was a message



on the answering machine from a shoe store at the local shopping center saying the shoe laces I ordered were in stock. It took me a few minutes to figure out when I ordered shoe laces. It finally came to me.

Last winter, some time in January, I think, I went to this shopping center with my wife, Mary, to get a pair of work boots. I usually don't wear boots. I realized, being at a new job, I would probably be spending a lot of time on the course during the winter months. I didn't want to ruin a pair

of good shoes so I thought I would get something that was, sort of, multi-purpose. You know what I mean, rugged but still classy enough to walk through the clubhouse.

Well, we go to this shoe store that is like an L.L. Bean-type of place. I see these boots that look like rugged shoes and ask the salesperson if they have my size, which of course they did. Now the fun begins. The salesperson starts telling me what a terrific pair of boots/shoes I've chosen; How they are considered the finest in the world; How they are made by superior craftsmen in some far away country (wasn't Japan or Korea, either); How they have an almost lifetime guarantee. And on, and on, and on, and on.

Actually, I did like the boots/shoes because they were just what I wanted. They looked great and could be worn with a nice pair of slacks. I still could go to the clubhouse for lunch, which is what this is all about, almost.

Now we get to the cash register area of the store, and I hand the salesperson my American Express credit card (fortunately this was one of the few places left on this earth that still accepted American Express, according to Visa anyway) and pay the bill. I should have known that when all you hear is how great a product is when you're looking at it and not once does the price get discussed that the product is probably too expensive. That was certainly the case in this situation. The boots/shoes cost over \$180, tax included, of course.

Now after you've given your American Express card to the salesperson, it's way past the point when you can say "no you don't want to buy them at that price." So I am the proud owner of a pair of boots/shoes that cost more

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Continued on page 18

Amateur photo ops nixed at San Fran show

by Ilona Gray

That's press talk for no photos at the GCSAA show in San Francisco unless you have media credentials! That's the rule, and here's the explanation. Steve Malikowski, CGCS, of the Cape May National GC, wrote humorously in "The Greenside" on the no-photo policy enforced at the trade show in Dallas. This summer, the National association's president, Joseph Baidy, replied to Steve with both a personal letter and an official statement on its photography policy. For those attending San Francisco, the highlights of the policy are simple: **No cameras without media credentials.** The reason for this is to protect the investment of the displaying companies, which in turn helps support the GCSAA. To quote GCSAA's letter, "The association has to balance the wishes of the attendees against the pressing need to prevent the theft of new technologies. The policy was aimed at a handful of potential violators and not the attendees who simply want to take a few snapshots."

"The Greenside" will be covering the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show. Other changes in GCSAA policy on the show include the following:

- Prior approval is now required to exhibitors planning guest appearances, promotional give aways, and contests to ensure that these events are appropriate for all attendees.
- All exhibitors at the GCSAA's trade show must have goods and services that relate to the golf course management industry.
- Guest hall vouchers have been eliminated, but a more attractive trade show pass only will be offered.
- Spouses of attendees, distributors, and exhibitors will be allowed on the trade show floor at no charge.

These policies will help ensure a more professional atmosphere at the GCSAA's biggest annual event. ▶

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Metric golf

by Dr. Bob

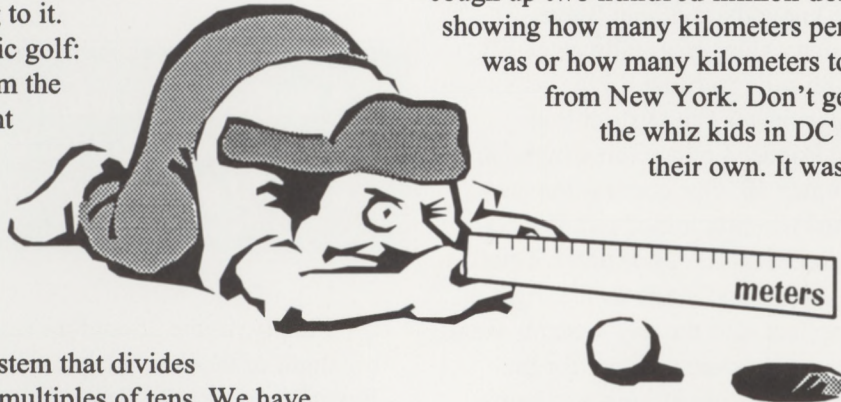
Lots of people have good ideas. Good ideas are a dime a dozen. It's bad ideas that are truly rare, and I am therefore compelled to share this one with you. I call this bad idea "Metric Golf." It has a horrible ring to it. Listen to the sound of metric golf: "Just how many meters from the hole are we?" "Do you want a half-liter of beer on the 19th hole?" Metric golf could truly wreck the game in America. It's that bad an idea, but it gets worse.

Metric is based on a system that divides everything up into units or multiples of tens. We have always had metric money with ten pennies to a dime and ten dimes to a dollar, a ten dollar bill and a one hundred dollar bill. Other bills are multiples of tens such as twenties and fifties. Only the nickel, the quarter, and the five and two dollar bills are exceptions, and five is, after all, half of a ten. After more than two hundred years we have begun to adopt a one liter and two liter soda bottle and the idea of a metric wrench for a metric bolt.

Picture with me, though, a truly metric golf game. It would have 20 holes which could be referred to as the front and back ten. Meter markers at one hundred, two hundred, and three hundred meter placements would after a 10-year period be understood by all golfers. Sand traps and water hazards could be metricized to keep the game on the ten scale. The ball could be reconfigured to weigh exactly so many grams and have a diameter of exactly so many centimeters. Maybe the clubs should be metricized as well. Why play with a foursome when a tensome would be no more cumbersome. Tensomes would increase the number of players per round and, perhaps, push more players through the course per season.


Tournament play could take ten days or be limited to ten players or teams. We could institute all kinds of poorly constructed new rules to accommodate the idea of ten. Metric thinking would rule the course.

Changes in the clubhouse would occur as well. Balls would be purchased in boxes of ten rather than the dozen that we now use. I doubt the price would change, so expect to pay more for metric balls. Golf shirt sizes in metric should be anticipated also. Metric food portions, metric drinks, and metric room sizes would help complete the metric image of the new golf.



All of this could have happened, but it won't because bad ideas like this need to be squashed by good thinking people. *Believe it or not, a 1988 Federal law requiring the government to step into the ten zone will not be implemented.* The law would have required the taxpayers to cough up **two hundred million dollars** for metric signs showing how many kilometers per hour the speed limit was or how many kilometers to Washington, DC it is from New York. Don't get too excited. It was not the whiz kids in DC that pulled the plug on their own. It was the 2,000 plus letters

sent by citizens who felt that the money should go somewhere else than into sign posts that did the trick.


The take home lesson is clear. When someone proposes a bad idea, like metric golf, it's up to all of us to sound off and just say "NO." Ten times! 

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The rest of the story

by Nigel Wisskowski, CGCS

Now that Malikowski is in hiding I've been asked to take over his position as contributing writer to "The Greenside." We all hope that "The Greenside" can win another newsletter award at the National this year, but we know that without Steve writing, the chances are pretty slim, especially since Ed Walsh is still doing what he calls "writing."

First some District Four news. The District Four championship was held at Ponder Lodge Golf Course in Villas, New Jersey, on August 18. Our host for the day was **Tony Funari**, who just recently joined our association. We welcome him into GCSANJ. Tony and his staff were more than accommodating and made us feel right at home. The weather was perfect, and the day's events went just as well. A total of 50 people were on hand for the championship and barbecue, and a great time was had by all.

Thirty-four golfers competed in a shotgun start tournament, and, as expected, the low round of the day was turned in by **John (the Bass Master) Carpinelli** with a score of 79. John also won the bass fishing event with four large-mouths adding up to a total of 18.5 pounds. This is a new event for District Four which includes golf and fishing in the following manner. After holing out on any hole that has a water hazard, a fish must be caught before teeing off on the next hole. Condolences to **Bob Prickett** and **Tom Grimac** who I believe are still there trying to get the big one. Actually, second place went to Tom Grimac with 80, and third was a tie between Bob (Gadabout Gadis) Prickett and **Andy (Shagile) Drevyanko**. Low commercial rep of the day went to **Rich Brandel** with a 75. Rich came late and played with three non-members, so we couldn't get his score attested. Therefore, see ya.

This was our premier event of the year for District Four, and it was a great success. Tony at Ponder Lodge has invited us back again next year with Grimac and Malikowski accepting. This event is our family outing day. We thank all the superintendents who brought their spouses and families, who also had a great day. The activities included swimming at the Olympic size pool; the kids especially enjoyed the 3-meter diving board at the pool. A belly-flop contest was held. The winner was **Al Phillips** with a net 24,000 gallons displaced. All in all it was a great day. We hope to fill this facility next year.

Finally, district long drive qualifying was held in three different flights. In the 0-12 flight the three qualifiers were Bob Prickett with a poke of 321 yards, second was Tom Grimac at 300 yards, and third was **Mark McDonald** (who

actually did drive the longest, all the way from Kennett Square), with 295 yards.

In the 13-24 handicap flight, first was **Mike Fanularo** with 287 yards, followed by **Wendell (Hulkster) Beakley** with 280 yards. Third went to **Steve (Agent 13) Malikowski**.

A belly-flop contest was held. The winner was Al Phillips with a net 24,000 gallons displaced.

Finally, in the 25-and-up category, which was the highlight of the day, we had a little problem. After **Bill Beverlin** and **Kevin Driscoll** failed to get one in play, even after allowing them a small bucket each, the winner was **Roy (Wedge) Griffith** with a drive of 77 yards. ♪



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Fall planting

Though many golf course superintendents do most of their tree and shrub planting in the spring, the fall can also be a good time to plant certain species. Here is some expert advice from the Davey Tree Expert Company for the do-it-yourself tree and shrub planter.

"Roots continue active growth until the ground freezes," says Roger C. Funk, Ph.D., vice president of human and technical resources at Davey Tree Experts. "As a result, trees and shrubs planted in the fall have several weeks to become established before winter."

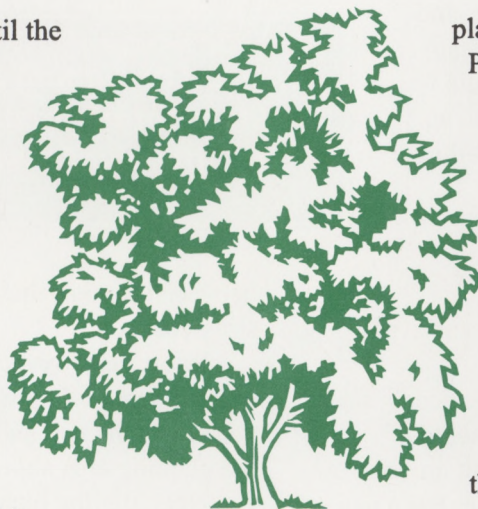
Only containerized or balled-and-burlapped trees and shrubs should be planted in the fall, Funk says. Bare-root planting should be done in the spring. Also, plant broad-leaf evergreens, cherry, dogwood, Japanese maple, magnolia, pin oak, white

birch, and willow in the spring.

PLANT SELECTION

The first step in ensuring successful planting is selecting the right plant for the site. Plants most commonly fail in a landscape because they are not suited to their location. Critical to success are:

- **Hardiness zone.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture publishes a map of hardiness zones in the United States. Select only landscape plants suitable for your area's hardiness zone.
- **Microenvironment.** The microenvironment is the climate immediately surrounding the planting site. Does the planting site have intense sunlight, or is it



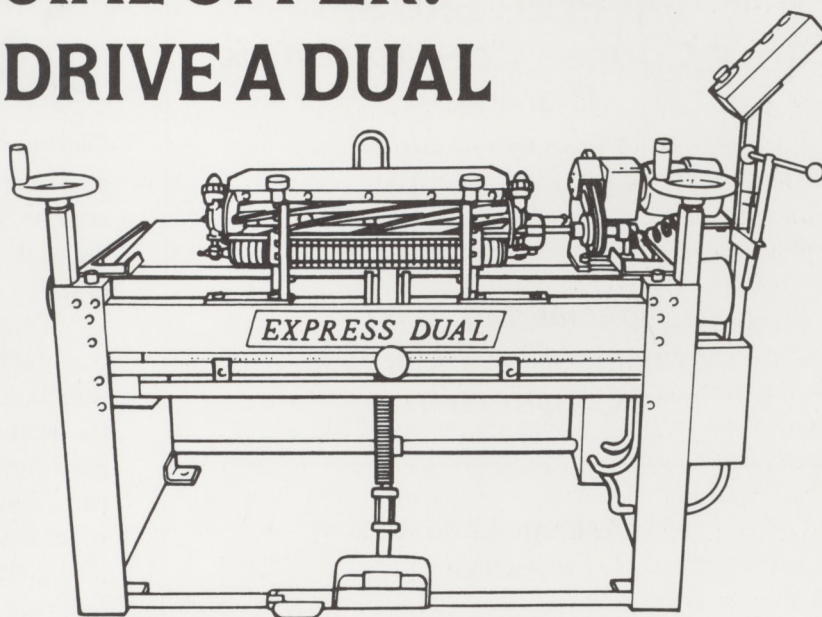
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Fall planting

Continued from page 17

in the shade? Is it subjected to high winds? Choose only plants that are tolerant of the conditions immediately surrounding the site.

- Soil drainage and pH. To check soil drainage, dig a hole at the planting site, fill it with water, and let it drain. Then, refill the hole and let it drain again. For normal drainage, the water should drain about 1 inch per hour. Check pH with an indicator strip. Choose plants that grow well in the site's soil conditions.

PLANTING TECHNIQUE

The second most important factor in plant survival is proper planting technique.

"The most common mistake is planting too deep," says Dr. Funk. "Planting too deep may limit the amount of oxygen that reaches plant roots, inhibiting plant growth and possibly limiting nutrient and water uptake. For a new transplant, this can be devastating."

Instead of digging a deep hole, prepare a wide planting

area. Spading a large area helps the plant overcome transplant shock. During transplanting, the plant can lose as much as 98% of its absorbing roots. Transplant shock is the period when the plant re-establishes equilibrium

Instead of digging a deep hole, prepare a wide planting area. Spading a large area helps the plant overcome transplant shock.

between the roots and the crown. During that time, it is stressed.

Roots need oxygen to grow, and soil is their only oxygen source. In a wide planting area, more oxygen penetrates the soil and reaches the roots. Ideally, extend the planting area about three times the area of the root ball.

Next, dig the planting hole. The hole should be no deeper than the container or root ball. Planting just one

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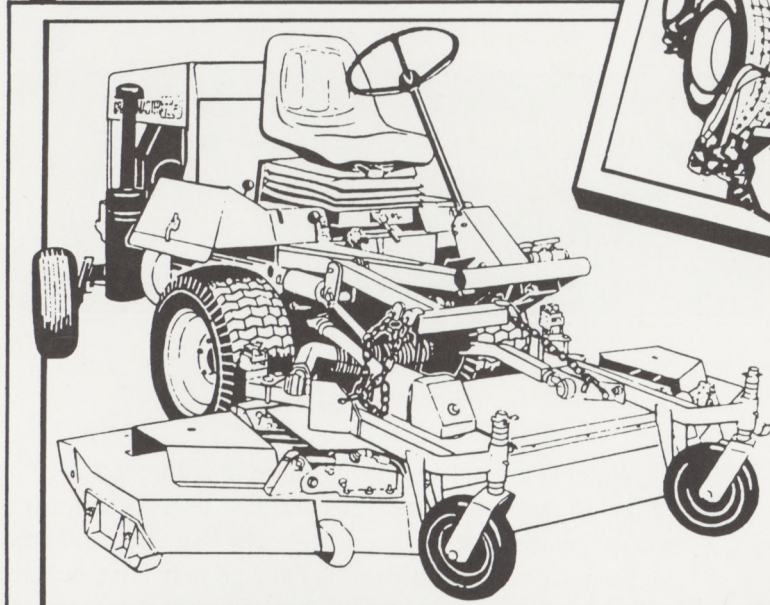
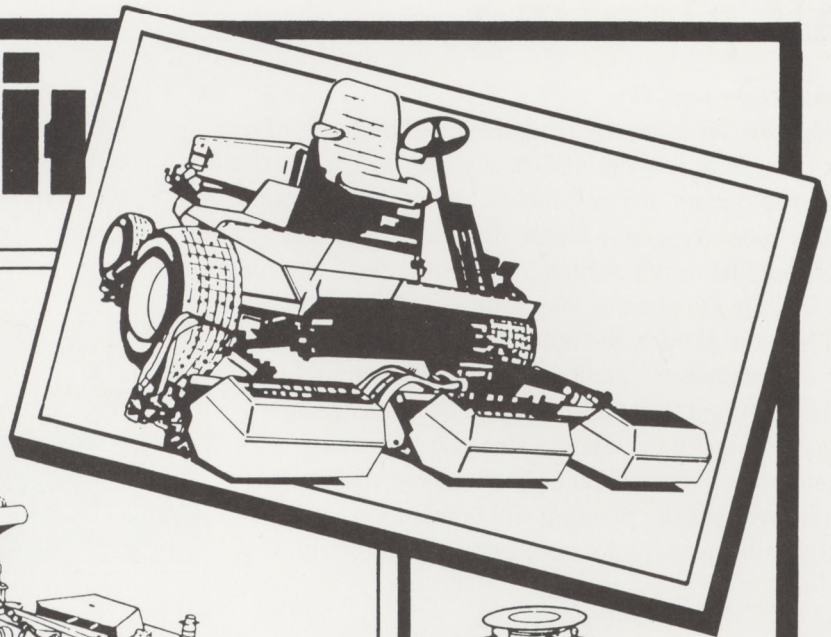
than the first five cars I owned in my life, and all of the cars ran fine. Actually we may not have had that much money in the bank when we bought our first home, now that I think of it.

A couple of months after I got over the shock of paying that much for a pair of boots/shoes, Mary and I were at the shopping center again. It was around the time that one of the laces on the boots/shoes had broken, and Mary suggested going back to the same store and picking up another pair. You see, not only were the boots/shoes made by a super craftsman from a far-off country, so were the laces. You guessed it, they didn't have any in stock and had to order a pair for me.

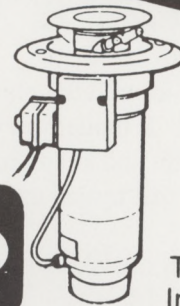
I sit here pondering my next move. Should I just go and pick up the laces, or should I try and find out how much they are going to cost first. Because if they took 5 or six months to order, they can't be cheap. What did I get myself into anyway? Well, it did give me something to write about. I'll keep you posted. ♪

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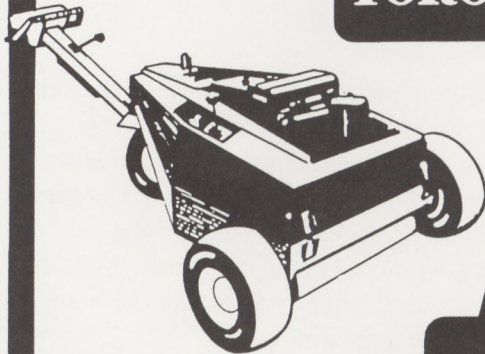


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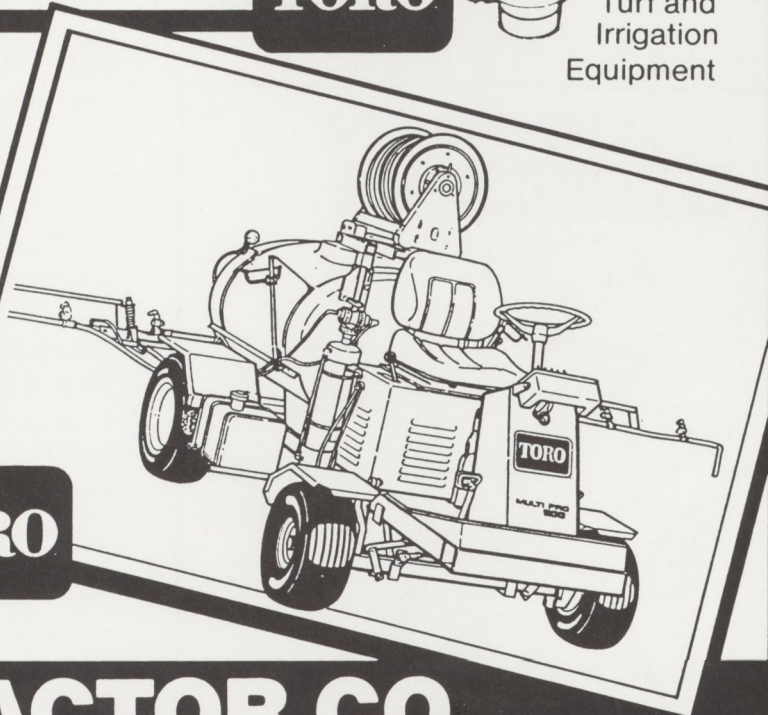
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Fall planting

Continued from page 18

inch deeper can cause the new transplant to die from lack of oxygen. In poorly drained, heavy clay soil, it may be a good idea to plant one or 2 inches higher than the container to allow more oxygen to reach plant roots. The sides of the hole should be rough or broken up—otherwise, the roots may encircle the plant as they grow.

Place the plant in the hole. If the roots are encircling a containerized plant, either spread them out or cut them. To cut the roots properly, use a sharp knife or shears to make three equidistant vertical cuts around the ball. Backfill the planting hole with the soil removed during planting site preparation. Amending the soil is usually not necessary. Tamp lightly.

MULCHING

Next, apply mulch around the plant. Mulch provides many benefits to plants. It moderates soil temperatures, suppresses weed growth, and keeps soil moist.

Dr. Funk cautions that mulch must be applied properly to be beneficial.

“The most common mistake when mulching is apply-

ing it too deep,” he says. “Apply mulch at a depth of two to 4 inches at the plant’s drip line, tapering to 1/2 inch just outside the stem. Never pile mulch on the stem. Mulch on the stem attracts rodents and creates ideal conditions for decay fungi.”

Dr. Funk cautions that mulch must be applied properly to be beneficial. “The most common mistake when mulching is applying it too deep,” he says.

WATERING

Water is critical for newly transplanted trees and shrubs. Monitor soil moisture carefully, as the plant can be stressed by too much or too little water. By the time stress symptoms appear, considerable damage may have occurred to the plant’s root system. Check soil moisture by removing a small amount of soil from the root area using a soil probe or trowel. The soil is too dry if it crumbles in your hand instead of holding together in a moist ball.

STAKING

Stake newly transplanted trees only when they cannot remain upright on their own. To provide proper support, stake the tree low enough on the trunk to allow some flexing while keeping the root system stable. Determine the ideal staking point by putting your hand on the base of the trunk and moving it up until the tree stands upright. Move your hand back and forth slightly to ensure the trunk can flex but the root system remains stable.

A common mistake is the use of only one stake. Two stakes with a flexible tie on each will provide better trunk support and reduce the potential for injury.

A tie should have a flat, smooth surface and be somewhat elastic to allow slight movement of the tree. Do not use wire in a hose. Instead, use a 2-inch wide inner tube or other flexible wrap. Stake so that the tree is snug, but not tight.

Following these simple steps will help ensure that your landscape plants not only survive transplanting, but also become a healthy, attractive part of the landscape. ▶

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GCSANJ members invited to Alliance Environmental Seminar



The Alliance for Environmental Concerns' Annual Meeting and Environmental Seminar will be held on **Tuesday, November 22** at the Ramada Hotel, Clark, New Jersey. This year's seminar will focus on the upcoming changes in the Pesticide Control Code and *how they can and will affect your management of the golf course*. We have invited **DEP Commissioner Robert Shinn, Jr.** to give his views on the effects of regulations on the business community, and his reported mission to make policy changes that would lessen the DEP's reliance on fines and fee revenues. Commissioner Shinn was quoted recently in "The Star-Ledger" as saying, "We have frozen all fees in the DEP to not only stabilize the cost of doing business in New Jersey, but we have started reducing the cost of processing permit applications in the DEP without affecting environmental standards."

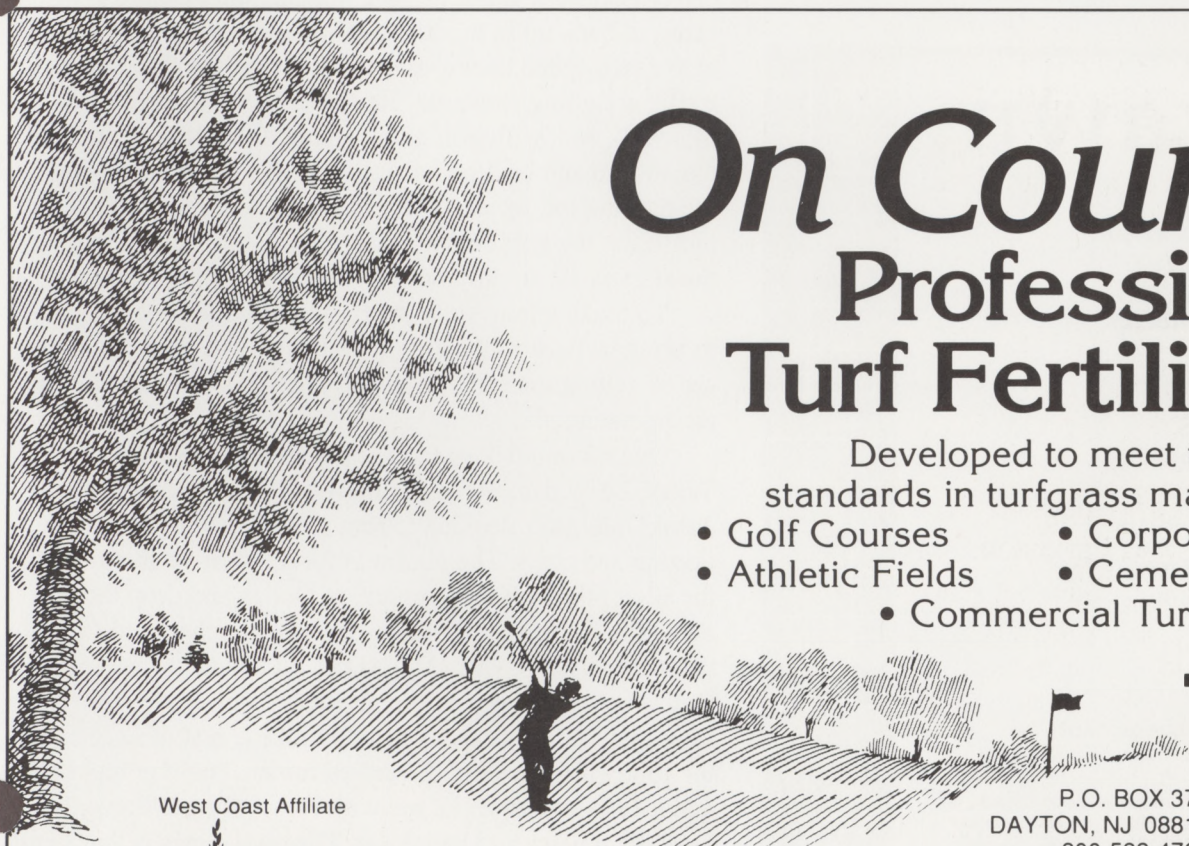
Norman Goldenberg, vice president of Government Affairs of Terminix, TruGreen/ChemLawn, will give his talk on the federal directions for pesticide regulations. Rounding out the seminar will be the state pesticide

administrator, Ray Ferrarin.

So set aside November 22, 1994, for this important conference. You will also receive CORE recertification credits. *Contact Ilona Gray, Alliance executive director, at (201) 595-7172 or fax (201) 942-1406 for the agenda and registration forms.*

Back to the future!

The NJ DEPE has had its official name changed, returning it to its original acronym and name: NJ DEP or New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The energy responsibilities were removed from the agency by Governor Whitman in July and transferred to the Board of Public Utilities. The change has no impact on the agency's pesticide regulatory mission.



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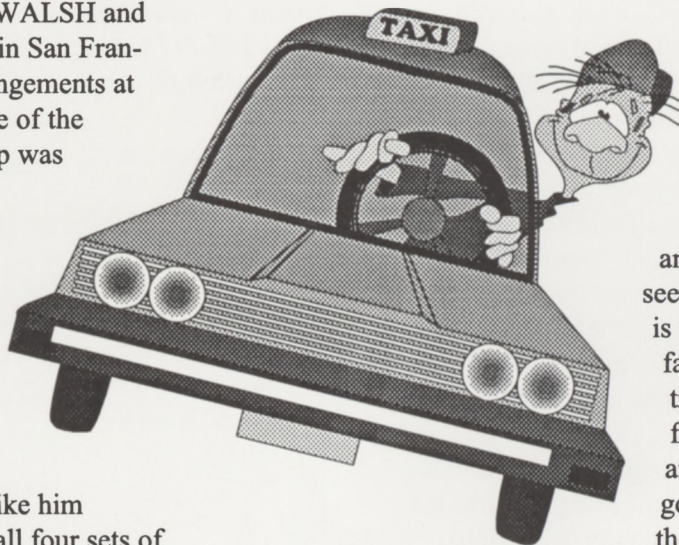
Cars and conventions

by Nigel Wisskowski, CGCS

Thinking of going to San Francisco in February for this year's National reminds me of some interesting automotive adventures that some superintendents have had over the years. Somehow they all have two things in common, though. WALSH and MALIKOWSKI. Ten years ago in San Francisco, Ed Walsh made golf arrangements at the San Francisco Golf Club, one of the world class golf clubs. The group was Joe Alonzi, Ted Maddocks, Malikowski, and, of course, Ed. Well, Ed got the cab that fateful morning, and the following is Steve's rendition.

First of all, we were the cabbie's first fares ever. Second he looked just like Cheech Marin of Cheech and Chong fame, and he spoke just like him also. The hack just couldn't get all four sets of

clubs in the trunk and close the lid properly, but he was determined to try. Now, with Ed in the front and the rest of us in the back, Ed tells the hack where we are going. Naturally the cabbie has never heard of San Francisco Golf Club let alone where it is. So Ed runs back to the concierge in the hotel and gets a local map. Ed gives the cabbie directions and off we go.



Well, now we have a limited time to get to the course on time, and Ed tells the cabbie we are not going to make it. The hack disagrees and steps on it. If you have ever seen a chase scene on television, this is what it was like. With golf balls falling out of the trunk, we were traveling the San Francisco freeway at a high rate of speed, and, with Ed still insisting we are going to miss our tee time, we miss the exit to the golf club! Naturally, the next exit is 14 miles away. The

driver decides it is not too late to make the exit and precedes to back up in the breakdown lane for about one mile at as fast a speed backwards as the rest of the five lanes of traffic are going forwards. He got us there, and we tipped him well, and, with golf clubs on our shoulders, we waved bye to him and breathed a sigh of relief. As he is leaving the parking lot, we are told that Ed made arrangements for himself at the golf course and being only his name was on the starters sheet, only he was allowed to play.

To make a long story short, we called for another cab to bring us back to the Hilton. What do you think the odds are of getting the same cabbie?? Thanks for making all the arrangements, Ed.

One more quick one. At last year's convention in Texas, Ed Walsh, Steve Malikowski, Ted Maddocks, and John Gallagher decided to rent a van together and share driving and costs. The plan was for all to drive from Austin, the site of the golf tournament, to Dallas and drop the van off there. Ed and Steve were rooming together, and Ed was the last to use the van. OK. NOT! Ed needed to get to Dallas before the rest of the group and got a ride with someone else on Tuesday night, with the rest of us leaving the following morning. Ed called me on Tuesday night at about 11 p.m. and woke me with these words, "Steve, I have good news and bad news. The good news is that I am in Dallas, and I'm fine. The bad news is that the only set of keys to the van are now in Dallas also. Sorry, Steve." ▶

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Fiddler's Elbow C.C. announces opening of new Rees Jones course

Fiddler's Elbow Country Club announced that their new 18-hole championship golf course, designed by Rees Jones, was officially opened on July 1, 1994. The new par-72 course is known as The Forest Course. The addition of The Forest Course expands Fiddler's Elbow facilities to 54 holes of golf, making it the largest golf facility in the state. The Meadow Course and The River Course are the other two courses. The announcement was made by David M. McGhee, general manager of Fiddler's Elbow Country Club.

"The opening of The Forest Course represents the culmination of more than two years of careful planning and construction to create one of the top courses in the region," commented Mr. McGhee. "It was the goal of Fiddler's Elbow's trustees to build a terrific new course for our members. We were fortunate to have a beautiful piece of land to start with, and even more fortunate to have an imaginative architect like Rees Jones to shape the terrain into a great test of golf. Rees's ability to maximize the natural beauty of the land transformed the property into something special for golfers of all abilities to enjoy. This addition is the perfect way to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Club."

The Forest Course incorporates 200 acres of the 700-acre Fiddler's Elbow complex. It was built on the highest land on the property and offers panoramic views of Schooley's Mountain to the north and the Cushetunk Mountains to the southwest. The first four holes play down and back up over open fields that have been transformed into mound-lined fairways, accented by strategically-placed bunkers. Of the more than 100 bunkers on the course, 19 of

them are on the par-5 third hole.

The course then winds back through the woods, which feature mature stands of beech, oak, hickory, birch, white pines, and cedars. The trees beautifully frame the fairways

There will be four sets of tees on every hole, which will allow the course to play from 5,154 from the forward tees to 7,128 yards from the tips.

and provide magnificent backdrops for the greens. There are two more mounded, links-style holes on the back nine, plus some wetland areas on the 11th, 12th, and 16th holes, and a 4-acre lake around which the 17th and 18th holes play.

Continued on page 24



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Fiddler's Elbow C.C.

Continued from page 23

There will be four sets of tees on every hole, which will allow the course to play from 5,154 from the forward tees to 7,128 yards from the tips. From the Championship tees, the course will have a Slope Rating of 137 and a Course Rating of 73.3. Die-cut diagrams await players at each tee to give them a preview of the hole.

In commenting on the course, Rees Jones noted, "A great course starts with the land, and I was fortunate to be working with a naturally beautiful site, one of the best I've ever had to work with. The rolling terrain is just about perfect—not too severe, but steep enough to provide a variety of gentle uphill and downhill shots. When you're playing through the woods, you feel like you're in a nature sanctuary it's so quiet and peaceful. While each hole provides its own challenge, the closing three holes will surely test your shotmaking capabilities. You better have your score in hand by the time you get to them."

The closing three holes illustrate the challenge of Jones' design: the 16th is a 415-yard up-hill par-4 dogleg right with wetlands in front of the tees and bunkers guarding the right side of the fairway and green; the 17th is a

194-yard par-3, all carry, over a lake; and the 18th is a 602-yard par-5 Cape hole which requires a tee shot over the lake plus two more good shots to make it through the tree-lined fairway to the green.

Jones, whose Atlantic Golf Club in Bridgehampton, New York, was named the Best New Private Club in the United States in 1992 by "Golf Digest", will submit The Forest Course for their review for the 1995 rankings.

Founded in 1965, Fiddler's Elbow Country Club is a private corporate retreat located in Bedminster Township, New Jersey. The old stone manor clubhouse overlooks the Lamington River and features gourmet dining and a variety of meeting room accommodations.

Threatened but no longer endangered

The American Bald Eagle, symbol of America and the central image on the Great Seal, was pronounced no longer endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This animal more than any other led the shift away from organo-chlorine pesticides toward today's more environmentally acceptable products. In the days when DDT was extensively used, bird eggs from top carnivores like the bald eagle began to thin, and the number of hatchlings declined dramatically. The pressure from habitat destruction pushed many of these species to the brink of extinction. In the lower 48 states, the bald eagle has battled back from a population of about 800 birds to almost 8,000 today. They are still endangered, meaning that their numbers are few and their habitat scarce. It will take continued vigilance and effort to return this species to its potential, but we're on the right path.

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Stephen Kay

GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

The man behind the greens

Editor's Note: Ken Krausz took advantage of the local writers looking for sports news during the baseball strike. He contacted Kevin Newell, sports writer for "The Record." Here are highlights from the resulting article.

"The job of superintendent is a job in which you're managing a large budget," said **Ken Krausz**, in his sixth year as superintendent at Paramus Golf & Country Club after serving three years at Old Tappan GC. "We have to basically keep monitoring the weather and turf conditions at all times to make sure the grass is getting the best chance of growing."

Krausz, a certified golf course superintendent, is in the middle of his second two-year term as co-director of District 1 of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey (District 1 encompasses courses north of Route 80). **Joe Kennedy** of Green Brook CC in North Caldwell is the other co-director.

"The big deal, really, is trying to actually figure out allowances, within the amount of your budget, to which kind of practices you would use," said Krausz, 38, an Old Tappan native who lives with his family on the course at


Paramus. "If you have a large labor budget, you can mow your greens by hand. With a smaller budget, you would use a riding mower. It's very labor-oriented [by hand]. The height of the cut reflects the speed of the green. But also, the lower the cut, the faster the green, the more maintenance you need.

"And that goes for the rest of the golf course. A lot depends on the type of grass, budget, and amount of play the course receives."

While some superintendents use a stimpmeter like a chef uses a tasting spoon, Krausz forgoes that route.

"All you hear is. 'My greens run at 10.5 on the meter,'" said Krausz, a graduate of the Rutgers University Golf Turf Management School. "I'd rather stay out of that type of thing."

A licensed pesticide applicator, Krausz, a big supporter of turf grass research, also has to weigh his options on whether to use fungicide or fertilizer—depending on turf and weather conditions.

So, the next time you miss a putt you thought you should have made or rave about the overall conditions of the course, thank your course superintendent. 

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Back Nine



INTERACTIVE INFORMATION

The National Agricultural Chemicals Association released a new interactive computer program called "Food Pesticides and Your Family." The program was designed to increase understanding and awareness of the role of pesticides in food production. Contact Lora Austin at NACA, (202) 872-3864, for further information.

TAJ MAHAL

If you have not registered, you need this reminder. The Expo '94 is set for November 29-December 1. The Expo is sponsored by N.J. Turfgrass Association in cooperation with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Cook College and Rutgers University. For further information contact (908) 821-7134.

LIFESAVING COSTS

The cost of prevention to save a life varies enormously with the source of the prevention. For example, to save a life with childhood immunizations or prenatal care costs virtually nothing. Flu shots cost about \$600 per life saved while water chlorination costs about \$4,000 per life. Breast cancer screening at \$17,000; home radon control at \$141,000; and asbestos controls at \$1,900,000 per life are far more costlier options.

GUNS 'N ROACHES

Jeffrey Harris of MIT stated that 20 percent of all deaths in the U.S. on an annual basis are related to tobacco smoking. Other studies have ranked the risk of death sources as follows: tobacco, alcohol, motor vehicles, handguns, electric power, motorcycles, swimming, surgery, x-rays, railroads, general aviation, large construction, bicycles, hunting, home appliances, fire fighting, police work, contraceptives, commercial aviation, nuclear power, mountain climbing, power mowers, scholastic football, skiing, vaccinations, food coloring, food preservatives, pesticides, prescription antibiotics, and spray cans.

Omni Magazine reported that a headless cockroach can live for several weeks before finally dying of starvation. Is this a new Guinness record or an average or a one point observation? Don't know. In 1866 none other than Thomas Alva Edison invented a device to electrocute these creatures. Execution by surgical beheading or electrocution remains rare among roaches. Between seven and 8 percent of the U.S. population is allergic to cockroaches, and these insects transmit a variety of digestive tract disorders which can lead to diarrhea and dysentery. Roaches in golf course buildings should be treated by a professional pesticide applicator with the appropriate certification. ♪

Calendar

Continued from page 3

November 22

- Alliance for Environmental Concerns, Pesticide Regulations/Environmental Seminar. Ramada Hotel, Clark, NJ. Contact: Ilona Gray, (201) 595-7172.

Nov. 29-Dec. 1

- Expo '94, Taj Mahal Casino and Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ. Contact: N.J. Turfgrass Association, (908) 821-7134.

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