

# THE GREENERSIDE

Official Publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

## Look out for lightning on the links!

By Jozsef deKovacs

According to the *New Jersey Law Journal*, a New Jersey court has passed down the nation's first known ruling that lightning is not an act of God when it hits a golfer. The court cited breakthroughs in engineering and forecasting that have given golf courses the capability to protect golfers from lightning. Therefore, though courses don't have an affirmative duty to protect their patrons from lightning, they are liable if they establish protective systems and the systems don't work. The opinion suggests that courses can escape liability if, in effect, they decline to interpose themselves between God and golfers.

In this case, the Atlantic City Country Club's practice was to monitor the weather, and it had an evacuation plan that consisted of the golf course personnel driving onto the course to warn golfers. According to the defense, a United States Golf Association (USGA) poster placed in the clubhouse recommended immediate reaction to dangerous situations and advised golfers to *seek shelter if you feel danger from lightning or storm is imminent*. In March 1993, a foursome on the course noticed lightning and began walking toward the clubhouse (there were no man-made shelters along the way). The plaintiff put up an umbrella and was subsequently struck by lightning. He survived, but was injured and sued the club and its owners.

This case sets new precedence that lightning is increasingly falling into the category of hurricanes and tornadoes—disasters that have become more predictable. All managers should consider their options and research the expense associated with installing a warning system and shelters.

NOTE: *Lightning Safety* posters (14" x 20") are available through the USGA for \$1 each, or \$75 per 100. *Lightning Safety Tips* stick-

**A New Jersey court has passed down the nation's first known ruling that lightning is not an act of God when it hits a golfer.**

ers (4" x 6") are available for \$2.50 per package of 20. To order these materials, please call the USGA at (908) 234-2300.

### Attention GCSANJ members!

Our area code has been changed from 201 to 973. Please clip and save for future reference.

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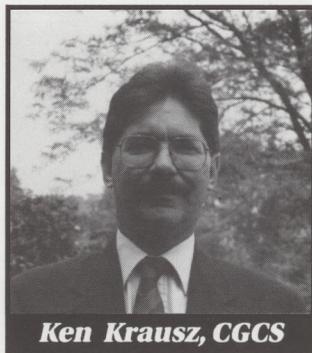
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# EDITORIAL



Ken Krausz, CGCS

## GCSANJ membership makes it happen

by Ken Krausz, CGCS

Welcome to the summer! I am writing this in the beginning of June, and it has been wet and cold up until this week when summer said hello real

quick. I was wearing a coat all day Friday and by

Monday the temperature was reaching into the nineties! This Friday it is hot and humid with thundershowers. By the time you read this the summer will be half over, so I am particularly anxious to see this issue in my mailbox!

This issue has reports from a couple of committees that members of the Board of Directors of GCSANJ chair. When you read the report from the Government Relations Committee you will realize all the work that is put forth by members who are not on the Board at this time. While you read this issue, take notice of the different bylines. All of these people help to make GCSANJ what it is; thanks to everyone who pitches in. If you would like to help, we can always use it. Contact Judy at GCSANJ headquarters or any Board member.



Speaking of Judy and GCSANJ headquarters, they are one of the many places throughout the state that has had their AREA CODE changed. When you call Judy, the new area code is 973, which makes their phone number 973-379-1100.

Now back to this issue. There is a report about the Education Program and Table Top Field Day. Thanks to the vendors who helped make this day a success. There is also a note from the Survey Committee; if you have not yet returned your survey, you should still have time.

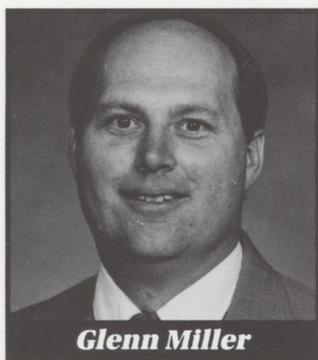
Look inside and see what the Tri-State Research Foundation is up to. Many exciting projects have been and continue to be funded by the member clubs. One committee that always is included in this publication is the Golf Committee. These are the people who make our meetings run smoothly after the host superintendents and staff have finished doing their magic.

We are always asking for your help, and this is just a small list of people and tasks that are being worked on. If you are interested, GCSANJ needs your help in whatever way you can offer it. Thanks to all who make this association run.

Two reminders, the deadline for the September-October issue of *The Greenside* is August 1, and if you call GCSANJ headquarters the new number is 973-379-1100.

Enjoy the rest of the summer as fall is just around the corner.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Glenn Miller

## GCSANJ membership makes it happen - Part II

I hope that everyone has taken a minute or two to read the May-June issue of *The Greenside*. I know, I

know, this is about the worst time of year to sit at your desk with your feet up. It's unheard of, right? But I highly recommend closing your office door, hanging out the "do not disturb" sign and spending a little time reading. If that's not possible, take the issue with you on your rounds and find your favorite spot for a few minutes of peaceful reading. The articles are worth the effort and the contributions from our members interesting.

After all, this is an award-winning publication, again! *The Greenside* has won another "Best Overall" award for the January-February 1996 issue. The fact that this publication continues to win awards is a visible sign of the vitality of our organization and the dedication of its members.

Despite the exhausting requirements of our jobs, family pressures and other distractions too numerous to mention, I am continually amazed at and inspired by the level of dedication and effort put forth by the members of this organization. Needless to say, I am extremely proud of our many accomplishments.

Field Day is another example of the selflessness of the people involved with this industry. Dr. Bruce Clarke and Dr. James Murphy have dedicated the August Field Day to bentgrass research, which benefits everyone in this association.

Field Day, which was launched in 1928, is now split into two sessions: Landscape field day was on June 2, and the bentgrass field day is on August 13. August is, of course, the perfect time to view plots under stress. We will also see first-hand the progress of the greens construction research. Let's all show our appreciation and support for this research by attending on August 13.

## Calendar

- July 24** **July Monthly Meeting**, Great Gorge Country Club. Host: David Brubaker. Contact Judy Policastro, (973) 379-1100.
- August 13** **Golf and Fine Turf Tour**, Rutgers University/Cook College Horticulture Farm II, Ryders Lane. Contact New Jersey Turfgrass Association, (732) 821-7134.
- August** **District Meeting**, to be announced.
- Sept. 15** **Invitational**, Hominy Hill Golf Course. Hosts: David Pease, Ron Luepke. Contact Judy Policastro, (973) 379-1100.
- October 9** **GCSANJ Championship**, Alpine Country Club. Host: Stephen Finamore, CGCS. Contact Judy Policastro, (973) 379-1100.
- Nov. 11** **GCSANJ Annual Meeting**, Hollywood Golf Course. Host: Jan Kasyjanski, Contact Judy Policastro, (973) 379-1100.
- Nov. 4-6** **Penn State Golf Turf Conference**, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA. Call (814) 863-1017.
- Dec. 9-11** **New Jersey Turfgrass & Landscape Expo '97**, Trump Taj Mahal Casino/Resort. Contact NJTA, (732) 821-7134.



# GCSANJ NEWS

## CADENELLI AND GALLOWAY, PERFECT TOGETHER

by Shaun Barry

I was standing on the 18th tee at Pine Valley G.C. with Eric and Steve Cadenelli and Iain MacLeod from Tain G.C. in the highlands of Scotland. It was a beautiful day. Four friends on the number one golf course in the world, and our scorecard looked like we could actually play this game. Forget about that beer commercial, it does not get any better than this or so I thought. It is at this time that Eric decides to tell me he would like to host a superintendent meeting in 1997. Would that be possible? I immediately thought back to last fall when I found myself enjoying shooting a 90 on this great new course. My immediate reply was, "What month do you want?" The day had gotten better.

When April 29 became the date that Eric selected, I called Joe Owsik to invite the Philadelphia superintendents to our annual joint meeting. Upon hearing the site, he thought for a second and then asked me if I thought New Jersey could fill the field by itself. With a limit of 116 players it seemed possible that we could come close. Joe then suggested that it not be a joint meeting because this would mean that half of the New Jersey and Philly groups would not be able to play. What good does that do? Good thinking on his part. I guess that is why he is a superintendent.

Going alone was a good idea, but we wanted to make sure we reached the 116 player limit, so we allowed guests as usual. The response was immediate. Two weeks before the deadline date, we went from 105 to 126 in one day. It was first come, first

serve, but I hate turning anyone down. Maybe we could increase the limit of the field. Eric was very gracious and said yes, but please do not go over 140. I told him that I did not think we would exceed 132. We reached 140 within two days. It was tough but we returned applications for 20 people of which eight were guests. 140 players. It was going to be an interesting day!

The host pro, Jim Mancil, and his staff did a great job getting us organized while Kevin Bruton served a fine lunch to prepare us for our adventure. Dr. Jim Murphy responded to some unexpected problems. His slide presentation couldn't be seen because the tent allowed too much light in. He carried on as if nothing was wrong. All who were there came away with a lot of pertinent information about what is happening at Rutgers. He proved that we are fortunate to have him working for us.

Before we knew it, our carts were moving and we were on  
*Continued on page 5*



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# GCSANJ NEWS

*Continued from page 4*

the course. Although there had been over two inches of rain in 12 hours earlier, the course was magnificent. Eric, his assistant Joe Lucas and the entire staff did an excellent job. The effort that they put in to prepare for us was similar to the effort that goes into preparing for the U.S. Open. It was appreciated. The pace of play was good and although the scores were high, I only saw smiles. In fact, I'm not sure that I have ever heard more superlatives.

The tournament we played was a net skins event. Winning with eagles were **Pat O'Neill**, **E. Cadenelli**, **John Alexander** and **John Schoellner**. Our low gross winner was the previously mentioned **Joe Owsik**. His 80 edged out three players at 81. They were **Brian Minemier**, **Bob Prickett** and **Phil Scott**. Mr. Prickett and his partner, **Tom Grimac**, continued their mastery of the Leslie Cup. The finals had been postponed because Tom and Stephanie were to be in Korea adopting their

beautiful little girl. Normally, if one person is not available to play the event still goes on, but this was not a normal event in a person's life. Bob and Tom defeated **Fran Owsik** and **Tom Sauer** in a close match. If Fran's back had not gone out, who knows what would have happened. With their fourth straight victory, they did not have to qualify for the 1997 event. I will report on who qualified in my notes on the Mattawang meeting.

**Mark Peterson** took long drive honors again, while **Jim Woods** and **Kevin Driscoll** won the closest to the pin honors. One of them hit a beautiful soft draw onto the green, and the other topped a three wood that rolled all of the way. You guess who did what. We also had a gross skin game, and you might recognize some of names of the winners. **J. Owsik**, **T. Grimac** and **J. Alexander** joined **Mark Mihelic** with each having one birdie hold up. This closed the day on our golf scores but not on our memories.

Eric, please accept our sincere thanks for everything that you did for us and extend that feeling to everyone at Galloway. It was a special day. Let us know when we can do it again.

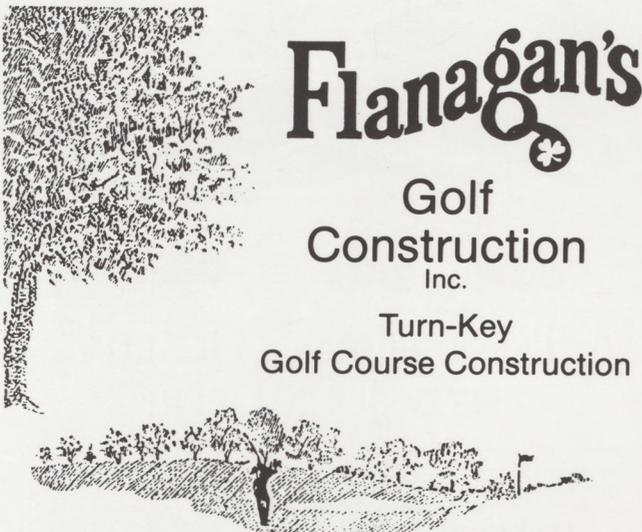
## GCSANJ RETURNS TO MATTAWANG

*by Shaun Barry*

Last year Mattawang G.C. was the site of the District III championship. It turned out to be a great time, and before we left that day, **Chip Kern** asked if they could host a state monthly meeting in 1997. He wanted to share this course with the GCSANJ, and he knew how hard it has become to find places to host a meeting. I gladly accepted his offer.

Early on the morning of the 20th, I was performing a

*Continued on page 6*



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# GCSANJ NEWS

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normal pre-meeting routine. Watching the Weather Channel. Would the rain stop in time? They said it would, so I was worried. **Ron Alfieri**, who is the host superintendent unless Chip needs him somewhere else, thought it would clear and it did. Ron and **Bill Gilligan**, who takes over when Ron leaves, make a great team. Together they have helped improve the playing conditions of this fine golf course. **Ken Krausz** was heard remarking how impressed he was with the course. All of the 66 players would agree.

Having played the course in qualifying for the State High School Boys Championship, it brought back many good memories and some new realizations. Those were that I am old and can't play the game (yes, I did know that, but I was trying to forget that the next day would be my 50th). Some people obviously don't have either problem. A youthful **Ian Kunesch** smoked the field with a 75, and **Greg Hutch** (70) came out of

golf retirement and won low net on a match of cards. **Mike Uckar** and **Bob Prickett** were the closest to the pin winners, but Bob did not win the longest drive. That honor went to **Jim Woods**. Jim also won two skins. **John "New District IV Director" Carpinelli**, **Tom Grimac** and **Steve Chirip** had one skin each.

The Leslie Cup competition got started with some of the matches being played at Mattawang. Defending champs Grimac-Prickett defeated Carpinelli-Larson. Cross-Woods edged out the Owsiks on the last hole. The number one seeded team in the north (Luepke-Scott) advanced past Alexander-Strobel. Sportsmen of the year candidates Hyland-Toto would not play their scheduled match against Barry-Pease. Dave couldn't make it due to an unscheduled meeting, so it would have been 2 vs. 1. If it had been an official match, it would have ended on the 13th. The other matches are being played at alternate sites and should

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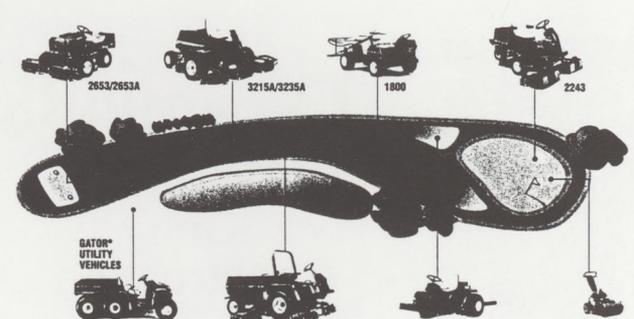
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# GCSANJ NEWS

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be completed soon.

Our speaker was **Mike Mongon** who did a great job (but he forgot to wear his Irish kilt). His update on government relations really gave everyone a good overview on the delicate changes that our industry is facing. His presentation was followed by a stimulating question and answer session that reflected the level of interest he generated.

After Mike's talk, we had the chance to introduce **Mike McFarland** from Alpine, The Care of Trees, Inc. We thanked him for his company's \$300 donation to the association at the Galloway meeting. It was very generous.

The day ended too quickly. We had a wonderful affair, and I hope Chip, Ron and Jim will thank everyone for their help. Perhaps you will invite us back again.

## MY PAL "ARTIE"

by Jim Pelrine

Back in 1963 when I first got into this business, one of the first people that I met was Art Elmers. A few years later, I subsequently purchased a home that was around the corner from where the Elmers family resided. Over the next three decades, Art spent many hours, mainly on summer weekend afternoons at my house, having a smoke, visiting, talking shop, giving me good counsel and having a beer or two. I never met anyone who knew more about turf and bugs than Art did. Although he was a consummate hard working professional with a gruff exterior, he had a "heart of gold." Art loved his family and took great pride in their accomplishments. A better friend I could not have. This summer I'll really miss the visits from my pal "Artie."

Continued on page 8

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# GCSANJ NEWS

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## LIFE MEMBER PASSES AWAY

The Greenside is sad to announce the passing of Lawrence Munther on May 21, 1997. Mr. Munther started the Munther Spraying Company in 1947. He retired from that position in 1983. His son Larry now runs the business.

The members of GCSANJ extend deepest sympathy to Larry Jr., his daughters Judith Ann Murry and Deborah Ellen, and to his wife Eleanor.

## BYLAWS NEWS

by Vince Bracken  
Director, District II

In order to serve the members of the GCSANJ better, the Board has set in motion a new amendment to our Bylaws, if

passed by the members of the GCSANJ at our Annual Meeting in November. We will have in place a Benevolent Fund from which if a member becomes disabled or distressed, the trustees of this fund (who are the Executive Committee) can disburse the funds in an appropriate fashion.

The following is a copy of the proposed bylaws addition:

### Proposed Benevolence Fund

Placement should be in the Bylaws. Use of membership money should be voted on by the membership.

### Article 5

#### Proposed Benevolence Fund

SECTION 1. Creation of Fund: There shall be a Benevolence Fund in the sum of \$1,000 allocated from our General

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# GCSANJ NEWS

*Continued from page 8*

Fund. This money shall be used to aid disabled or distressed members. When sum is less than \$1,000, the treasurer shall make further allocations.

**SECTION 2. Trustees:** The president, vice president and secretary/treasurer shall act as Trustees of the fund, and the Trustees shall make collection of the requisite percentage of dues to be applied to this trust and shall during the period for which they are appointed have the sole power for management, distribution and disbursement of the funds. The funds shall be paid at the discretion of the Trustees to any disabled or distressed member.

The provisions shall not be construed to vest in any member, a matter of right, payment of any portion of the interest or principal of the trust fund. The Board of Directors may, from time to time, make recommendations to the Trustees as to management and distribution of the funds; such recommendations, however, shall be only advisory.

## 1997 GCSANJ SURVEY

*by Ron Luepke  
Director, District II*

Thank you to all who participated in the 1997 GCSANJ Golf Course Maintenance Survey. The responses are currently being tabulated, and the results will be returned to those who have participated.

Since its inception, the results of this survey have been a useful tool for those individuals who have participated, as well as a valuable asset to the Club Relations Committee when assisting clubs.

If you have not returned your survey responses, you can still add to the data base and receive a copy of the results if you act quickly. If you have misplaced your copy, call Judy Policastro or me, and we will see that you receive another.

I would also like to thank Steve Finamore, John Carpinelli, Ed Mellor, Dave Pease and Bruce Peebles for their involvement in serving on the Survey Committee. If you have any comments or suggestions on how the survey can be made better, please contact one of us.

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# Government relations

by Mike Mongon  
Director, District I

Presently the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey, in conjunction with GCSAA, is monitoring several areas of legislative and regulatory issues for 1997. I am once again serving as your Government Relations chairman and would like to thank my committee in advance. The Government Relations Committee for 1997 is:

Name	Work Phone	Fax Number
John Wantz, Due Process	732-542-0317	732-544-8039
Tom Grimac, Tavistock	609-795-3839	609-795-4512
Clark Weld, Blue Heron Pines	609-965-2972	609-965-0525
Dennis Wrede, Cedar Hill	973-535-3225	973-992-1857
Wayne Remo, Rock Spring	973-736-2154	973-325-1964
Doug Vogel, Packanack	973-696-6495	N/A
Armand LeSage - White Beeches	201-262-3365	201-262-7989
Pat O'Neil, Navisink	732-842-0789	732-219-1971
Mike Mongon, Chairman	201-843-6960	201-843-0084

This watchdog group will monitor area news and has been asked to report back to me with any information that could be relevant to golf course management.

GCSAA has released its legislative/regulatory agenda for 1997, which the GCSANJ has endorsed. It will consist of monitoring and, where applicable, the application of position statements to the following areas:

## I. Federal Legislation

- EPA Budget (Enforcement)
- Endangered Species
- Wetlands
- Pollution/Runoff
- Environmental Audits

- Methyl Bromide
- Wage and Hour
- Regulatory Reform
- Immigration
- Tort Reform/Junk Science
- Health Care
- Research
- Emissions

## II. Federal Regulation

- Worker Protection Standard
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Emissions
- Noise

## III. State Legislation/Regulation

- Posting and Notification
- Preemption/Primacy

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# Government relations

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Effluent  
Water Resources  
Environmental Audits  
Wetlands  
Endangered Species  
Pesticide Applicator Licensing  
Multiple Chemical Sensitivity

GCSANJ along with GCSAA will monitor and report to its membership any state or federal activity in any of the aforementioned areas. I would also encourage our membership to be more community and civic minded in light of the negative publicity golf courses have received in recent months.

Governor Whitman (recently in a radio address) was quoted as saying her priorities for the year environmentally would focus on run-off from parking lots and *golf courses*. Jane Nogaki, Pesticide Program coordinator for the New Jersey Environmental Federation, recently provided a New Jersey newspaper with the Federation's viewpoint on golf courses in general and, more importantly, made references to land purchases for golf courses in an effort to preserve open space. She is quoted in the paper as saying "as if golf courses could be equated with open space. While a golf course may look like open space, it is in fact a highly managed, unnatural ecosystem that depends on high inputs of chemicals and water to survive the stress of daily foot traffic and daily mowing to 5/32" on greens."

These are things making their way on the radio waves and in newspapers.

The noise ordinance issues are becoming more prevalent than ever. With the golf market booming and the sport seeing tremendous growth, residential construction of homes bordering golf courses is hitting record levels. The funny thing here

is that realtors aren't showing those homes at 6:00 a.m. when golf course preparation is underway. Would-be buyers are shown homes at 3:00 p.m. when virtually all preparation has been completed for the day. The buyer doesn't find out until the

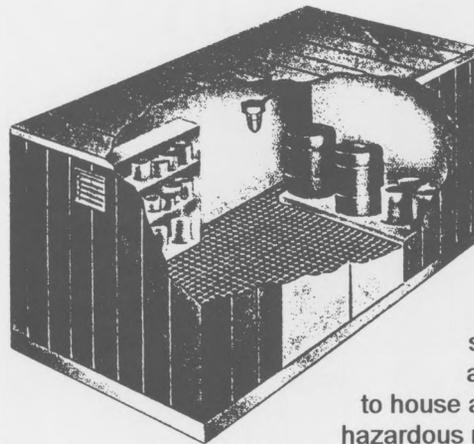
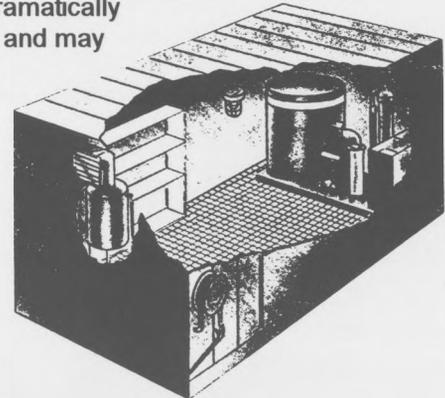
Continued on page 12

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# Government relations

Continued from page 11

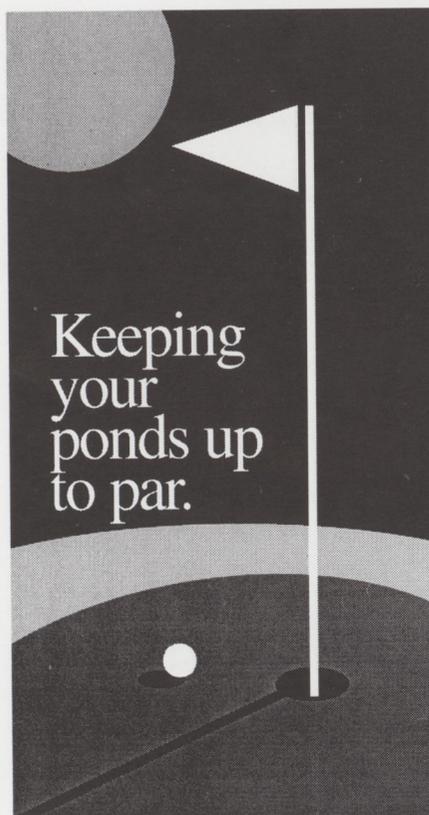
first morning that equipment (some with loud engines) is interrupting their sleep and, more importantly, their quality of life.

In light of this article, earlier I encouraged our membership to be more community and civic minded. Here are my top ten tips to help attain this:

1. Get to know the local town council where your golf course is situated.
2. Invite local officials over for golf or lunch, or both.
3. Get a copy of local town ordinances and look for potential conflicts with regard to golf course management. If you see a potential problem, such as noise, try to invoke the "grandfather clause."
4. Sponsor local events.

5. Make local donations to civic groups.
6. Become a member of the local Rotary Club.
7. Equipment share with town and Board of Education.
8. Lend a hand on a local project. (Last year some staff members at Arcola helped a local group in the construction of a playground at a local school.)
9. Make sure local fire and police officials know the access points to and around the golf course.
10. Educate (with accurate information) the benefits of the golf course to the community.

Best of luck in 1997. Call me or any of the committee members and report any local, state or federal news that would have an effect both positive or negative on golf course management.



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\*See Coastal Environmental for guarantee guidelines.



# Seven rules of effectiveness

by Bev Hansen

Californians for Compensation Reform

Use common sense and good manners:

**1. Develop a relationship with your lawmaker before it is needed.**

Attending fund-raisers is nice but not necessary! After each introduction to a lawmaker, send a follow-up letter, reminding him or her where you met. Cross paths a lot, follow-up each time. It is very important to get to know staff in the capitol and district offices! Staff will read your letters first.

**2. Do your homework.**

Be clear and concise in your message so you can make your points quickly. Know the status of important bills, bill sponsors and other key information.

**3. Know who your friends and enemies are.**

Use that information wisely.

**4. Honor their time constraints.**

Their days are not always very glamorous, and they are

always busy!

**5. Always just tell the truth.**

Be frank regarding the whole situation, including the opposition.

**6. Know how the issue relates to and impacts the lawmaker's district.**

Make sure they know you are a constituent.

**7. Tell them what you want them to do.**

Then pay attention to what happens and acknowledge it in a letter, either way.

**Bonus #1:** Never mention issues and campaign fundraising together. Don't refer to your campaign contribution or how you voted.

**Bonus #2:** Make your communications effective. Use short promotional pieces and save the longer analysis for staff. Don't use videos unless you view them together at your meeting. Phone calls, fax and e-mail are okay. No postcards.

*Presented at the 1997 Fifth Annual Green Industry Legislative Conference. CKS 2/17/97*



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# Rutgers University research projects receive funding

At the 1997 Rutgers University Research Symposium, representatives from the Tri-State Research Foundation presented funds for two projects underway at Rutgers. President John Streeter, Vice President Timothy O'Neill and Past-President Ed Walsh attended the day-long symposium and made the following presentations:

- \$11,000 to a root-zone study being conducted by Dr. James Murphy. A total of \$55,000 will be awarded to this project over the next five years. This project is also being co-funded by the USGA and GCSAA.
- \$10,000 to a project being conducted by Dr. Randy Gaugler for his work developing disposable fermentation equipment to produce insecticidal nematodes for the biological control of white grubs. A total of \$30,000 over the next three years has been committed to this project. This project recently received matching funds from the GCSAA Chapter Cooperative Research Program.

The Tri-State Research Foundation is committed to the identification of turfgrass problems that exist in our region and supports the research to generate environmentally friendly solutions and controls. Along with representation from the Metropolitan Golf Association, the foundation is governed by superintendents from each of these five local chapters of superintendents: Metropolitan GCSA, Connecticut Association of GCS, Long Island GCSA, New Jersey GCSA and the Hudson Valley GCSA, representing over 500 area golf facilities.



From left: Tri-State Research Foundation Vice-President Tim O'Neill and Past-President Ed Walsh present funds to Rutgers University's Dr. James Murphy and Dr. Bruce Clark to support their work on a root-zone study. Looking on is John Streeter, president of the foundation.



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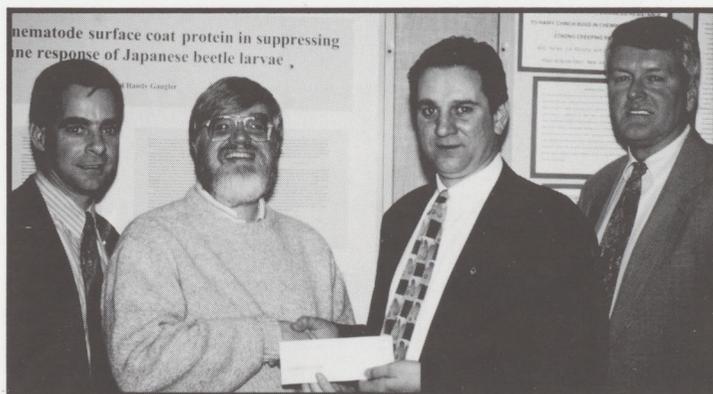
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A \$10,000 check was also given to Dr. Randy Gaugler (second from left) by John Streeter, president of the Tri-State Research Foundation, for his work developing disposable fermentation equipment to produce insecticidal nematodes for the biological control of white grubs. Ed Walsh (right) and Tim O'Neill also were on hand for the presentation.

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# To your health . . . an interview

by Doug Vogel

**W**e as golf course superintendents are stewards of the land. The responsibility for the health of the golf course falls directly on our shoulders. To accomplish this task we practice the technique known as IPM. This intricate method of probing, testing and charting is undertaken to treat symptoms before they become severe problems.

The turf equipment we use on this healthy land has become a major capital investment for our employers. Stringent preventive maintenance programs are set up to keep these engineering marvels running smoothly in an effort to increase their efficiency and prolong their life span.

But as we orchestrate our daily, weekly and even monthly routines, do we allocate any time to maintain the health and life of ourselves? The King does and is living proof that it works well. Aviation enthusiast Arnold Palmer recently spoke at a press conference during the 1997 Cadillac NFL Golf Classic about his successful battle with prostate cancer.

"My life hasn't changed that much since the operation, but

my outlook on it has. We're now getting to the point that a lot of us are going to get cancer. My doctors may not have caught it if I didn't get my PSA. Get your PSA." Palmer has been

**So check your soil moisture, count your temperature days, change your oil and filters, and consider going to the doctor for a checkup.**

taking a prostate specific antigen blood test for years and credits it for the early detection of his cancer. Treatment is very successful if the cancer is caught in its early stages.

The saying "Long live the King" has now taken on a new meaning. "I'm not ready to quit," said the airplane pilot. And if Arnold Palmer is to continue to play golf, he needs healthy superintendents around to maintain the golf courses he plays. So check your soil moisture, count your temperature days, change your oil and filters, and consider going to the doctor for a checkup.



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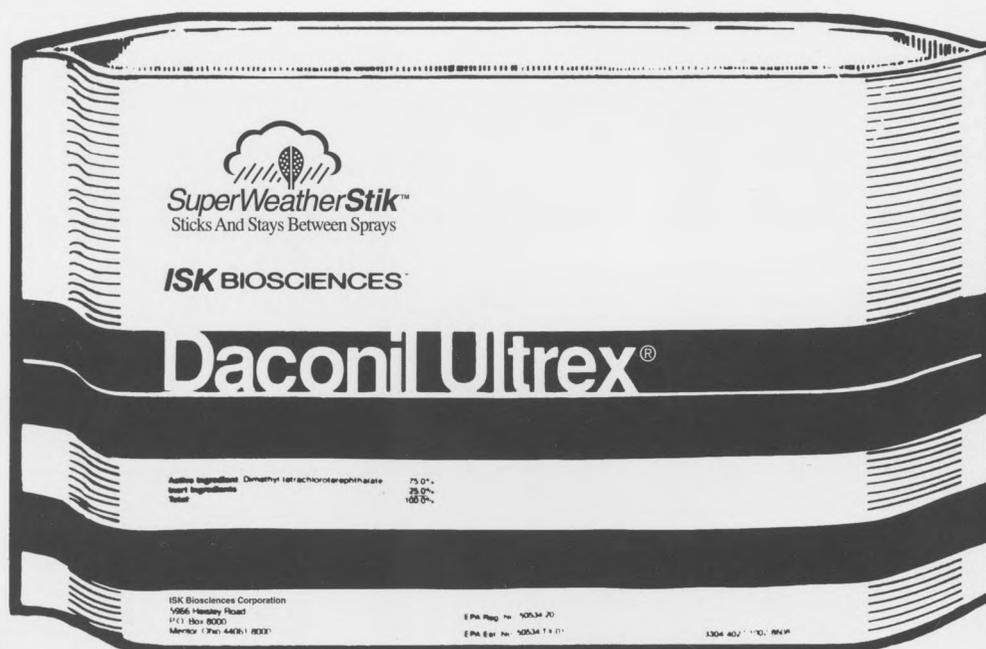
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# Rutgers announces the 1997-98 golf turf management program

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 a two year period and requires two seasons of supervised field experience where students apply skills developed in the classroom.

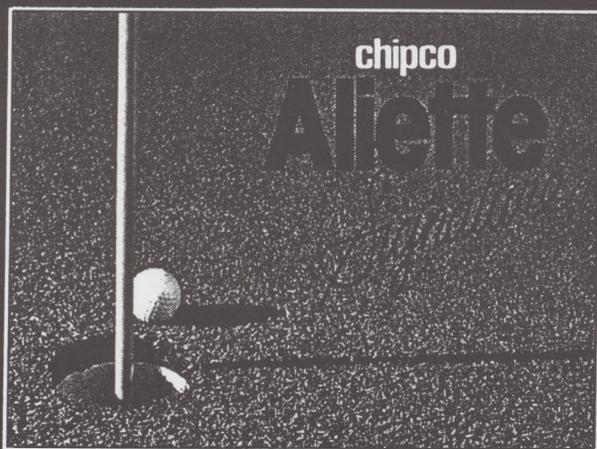
In this program, students learn technical skills required of all superintendents such as turfgrass establishment, maintenance of greens and tees, plant pathology, entomology and weed identification, as well as management, computer and communication skills all managers should master.

The course is recommended for golf course superinten-

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

This year the fall session will be held October 6-December 12, 1997, and the winter session will be held January 5-March 13, 1998. Classes are held daily, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the Cook Campus of Rutgers University. Applications for the fall session are due on July 15, and for the winter session they are due on September 1, 1997. To request a brochure or for more information, contact Linda McAteer at the Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education, P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0231; (732) 932-9271 or e-mail at [mcateer@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:mcateer@aesop.rutgers.edu).

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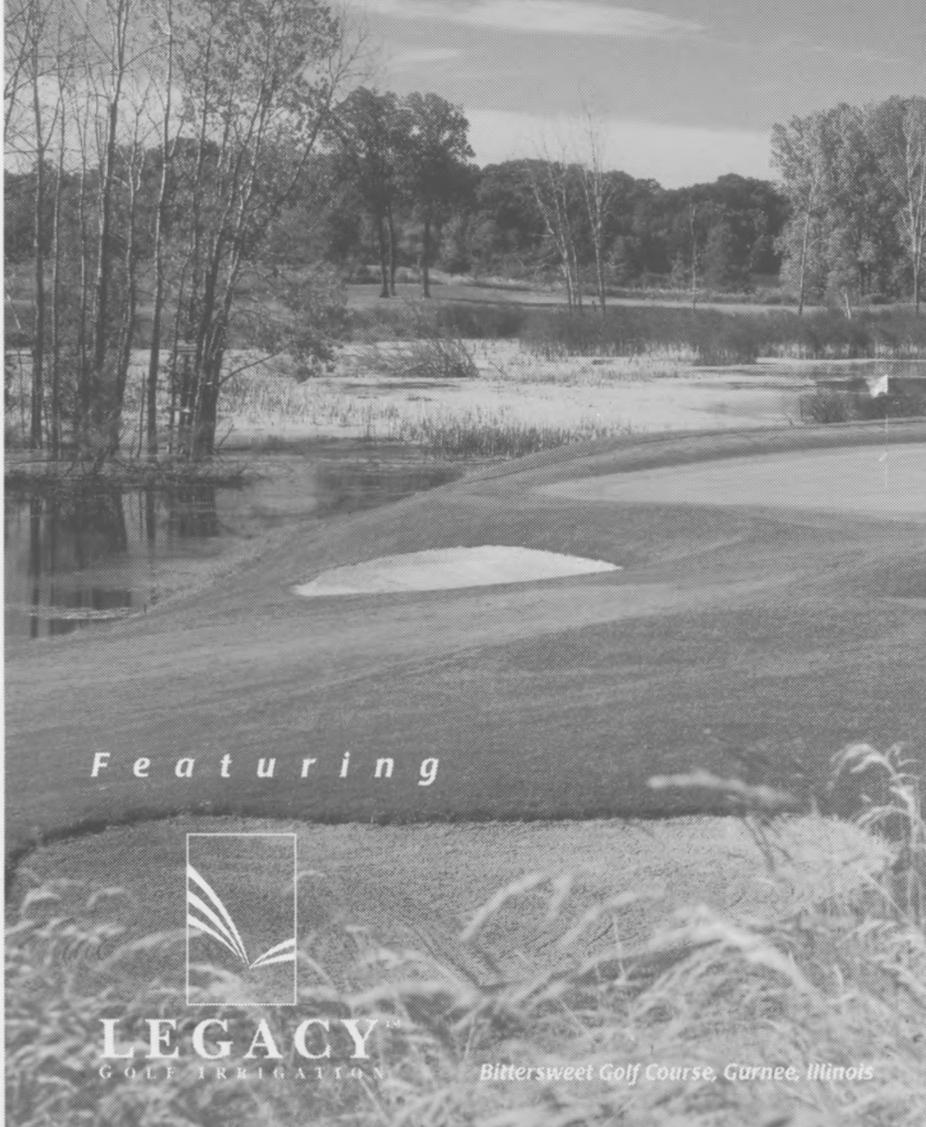
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# Cadence

by Brian M. Remo

**A**lthough I've only been an assistant for two years, there's something that I've noticed in the 17 years that I have been exposed to this industry. When I look back at all the assistants that I have had the pleasure to work with, I seem to remember that the ones who were the most successful were the ones who established a good communicative relationship with their staff. Being that, when I came to Rock Spring, I made it a point to keep those lines of communication open to develop a respect and cooperative relationship among the entire crew. Each individual has their own ideas, questions and suggestions that can help us gain greater insight to our management plan. The relationship between the assistant superintendent and each crew member is very valuable to both individuals. It is my belief that most important is the strong working relationship between the assistant and the equipment operations manager.

Paul Hubbard is the equipment operations manager here at Rock Spring Club. He joined us in January, having relocated



Equipment Operations Manager Paul Hubbard (left) and Brian Remo, assistant superintendent, of Rock Spring Club.

from Myrtle Beach. With seven years experience in the golf course industry and four years as a Coast Guard machine technician, he came to us with ample experience and a work ethic that fit right in with the high pace program of a private club. Our situation is one where the assistant and the E.O.M. are both new to the course where they are employed. This is a situation we both find beneficial because we are able to

*Continued on page 22*



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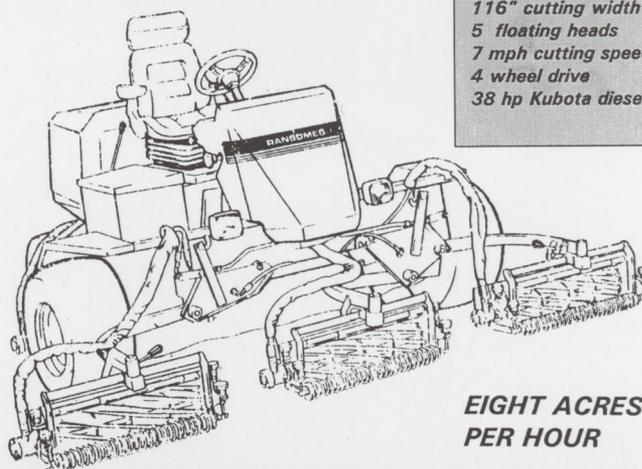
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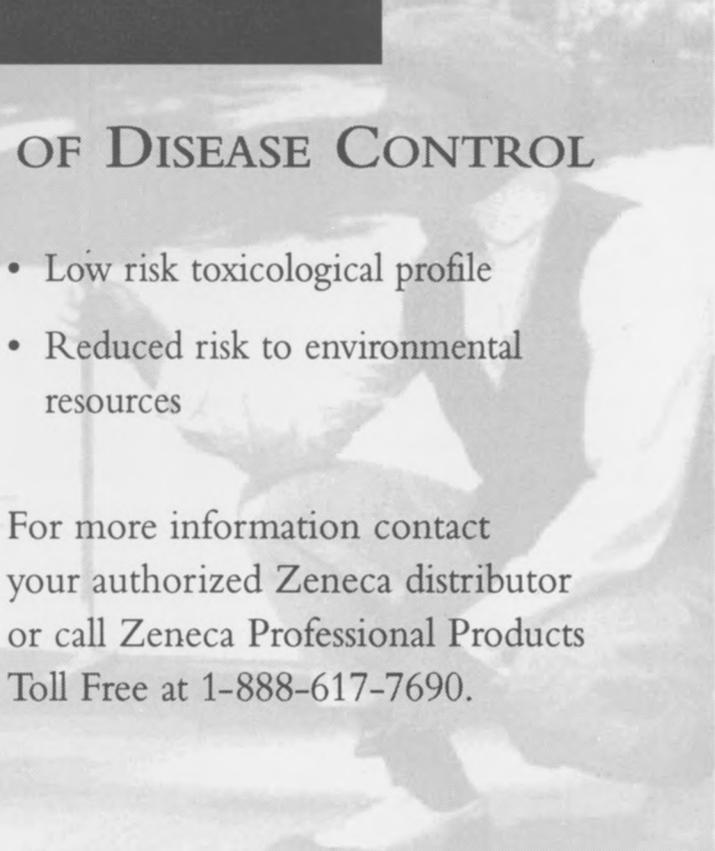
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# Cadence

Continued from page 20

develop a plan together and (with proper communication) cooperate our schedules and weekly goals to assist one another. Paul is an avid golfer and is very knowledgeable in respect to the playability and condition of the course. Paul and I try to play at least nine holes a week together, which has been most helpful to us both. It gives me an opportunity to show Paul the results of my work, as well as providing him a good look at how the machinery is performing on the job.

We both feel that the key to our successful working relationship is constant communication and free expression of opinion. Each Monday morning we discuss the goals for the week, and each morning we discuss the goals for the day. It allows us to know where we are, where we are going and where we need to be. Paul agrees that communication with the assistant superintendent is vital, providing an accessible link to the needs of the golf course and the desires of the golf course superintendent.

At Ridgewood C.C., Gary Drozdowicz has been the equipment operations manager for 11 years. During that period he has served under three different superintendents and in conjunction with over 15 different assistants. Gary's situation is much different than ours because of his experience on the job. After speaking with Gary on the phone, he expressed his opinions on the importance of a good rapport between the assistant and the E.O.M. He and the 1st assistant at Ridgewood, Bob Carey, have found that good communication is a must to manage efficiently at the 27-hole private club. Gary comments, "There are a lot of 9 p.m. phone calls and things can get hectic at times, but the important thing is to help each other out without telling each other how to do their job." Having been there for 11 years, Gary is a great benefit to any assistant at Ridgewood. He can be relied upon for information concerning crew capabilities, machine operation and which management tactics have and have not been effective in the past. "Good communication is not only beneficial," states Gary, "but essential."



Bob Carey and Gary Drozdowicz of Ridgewood C.C.

My father always told me that you can make every correct agronomic decision, but if the equipment doesn't run, you're dead in the water. I think that sums up the importance of a good E.O.M. pretty well. In turn, positive interaction between the assistant and the E.O.M. aids in the overall production of each individual. Lord knows, I'm no Mr. Goodwrench. Mechanics is by far the weakest part of my educated knowledge of this industry, but I am slowly finding out that the more questions I ask, the more I understand. Keep in mind that the responsibilities of an equipment operations manager can be quite disconcerting at times. They may spend a lot less time on the course than we do, but I'm sure that they have every bit as much interest in the finished product as we do. You also may be surprised at all of the useful input you'll receive from a simple conversation. Because even assistants can use a little assistance from time to time.



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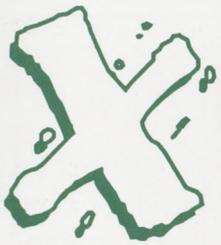
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# MARKS THE SPOT

by Edward Walsh, CGCS

**N**ow that I am out of Essex County and almost at Mansion Ridge (a new Nicklaus course in my home town of Monroe, New York), I have been spending a lot of time driving around the New York Metropolitan area talking to superintendents about growing in a new course. This has been an interesting experience in itself, and it has led me to the subject of this column, toll collectors.

Now, I've wanted to write about toll collectors for some time, but always seemed to have other, more important topics to discuss. Having come across a lot of these folks in the past few weeks, it seems the appropriate time to make them the point of this "X marks the spot."

I did a little research into the training that these people get when they first come on the job. To my complete surprise, I found out that they get a lot of training in being friendly and courteous. Can you imagine that, they actually do get training on how to be friendly and courteous. If your experiences are the same as mine, and I'll bet they are, you probably think if that training included a test at completion, did anyone ever pass? In

***In all the times I've paid a toll  
I can probably count on one hand  
the times the toll collector was  
actually pleasant.***

all the times I've paid a toll I can probably count on one hand the times the toll collector was actually pleasant. I'll go even further and say that I can count on one hand the times the toll collector even said anything at all.

*Continued on page 25*

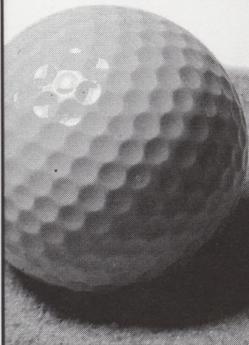
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Continued from page 24

Now I realize that sitting in a toll booth collecting money and breathing in fumes from engine exhausts all day long is no piece of cake, but the money is pretty good, the benefits are very good and there is really no pressure from a performance standpoint. How difficult can it be to sit there and collect money? The most difficult thing you do is give change and maybe, and only under duress, give someone directions. Heck, Malinkowski could do that (???)

I have noticed that the people on the Garden State Parkway are usually nicer than those on the New Jersey Turnpike, and that the further away you get from the cities, the nicer almost all of these people get.

I have a solution to this never-ending problem. The GCSAA and local chapters should develop film clips from selected clubs' Green Committee Meetings. Show these folks who seem to have the weight of the world on their shoulders what it's like to sit through one of those experiences and maybe, just maybe, they won't think their jobs are so tough. The real problem might be that if we look at some of those clips ourselves and start to realize just how hard our jobs really are,

more and more golf course superintendents might want to become toll collectors.

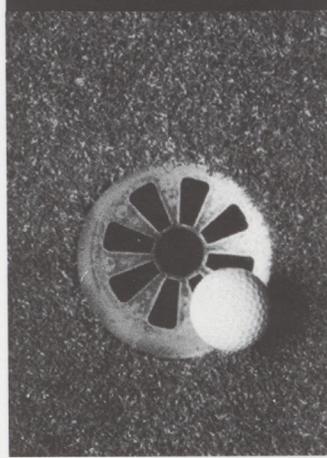
#### Quick Note:

In my last column I talked about the families that have perpetuated this profession in New Jersey. In my haste I forgot to mention a person (and family) who has helped me personally many, many times during my career. Al Caravella never gets the credit he deserves for helping elevate this profession from the greenkeepers of yesterday to the golf course superintendents of today. He was one of the first to realize that moving from course to course was the only way to gain the financial rewards of hard work. He is also an innovator when it comes to understanding the importance and aesthetic value of trees, shrubs and flowers on golf courses. A lot of what we are today is due to Al's vision years ago, and I personally feel he's never received the accolades he deserves. Al, let me apologize to you, sons Mike (Broad Acres G.C.) and Frank (Mercer County Parks), and the real family boss, Kathleen, for the omission, and let me thank you for being there when I needed a lot of help.

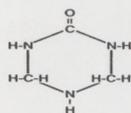


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# New and exciting

by Vincent Bracken, Director District II

**T**he Education Program and Table Top Field Day held at Basking Ridge turned out to be a huge success with over 32 superintendents and 30 plus commercial representatives on hand for the event.

The educational program was excellent. Speakers Christopher Hartman, counselor-at-law, discussed issues of hiring and firing; Lee Mangum from the Audubon Cooperative System touched on issues involving the process of becoming a Certified Cooperative Sanctuary; Dave Oatis and Ken Nelson are always crowd pleasers with their informative insight as to problems and solutions which they've come across in traveling in our region; and Pete Pedrazzi concluded the program with humor and emotion as to the ultimate pressure—trying to balance career and family. In my experience I have found it difficult and, at times, almost impossible to juggle the two. I make time for my family because, before you know it, the children are grown and in college. I really believe spending time with your children, whether at home, on vacation or even on the golf course, contributes to making you a better superintendent.

Below are the commercial representatives present at our Table Top event:

Tom Hunter, Montco/Surfside, Sky Bergen, National Seed Company, Ken Griepentrog, National Seed Company, Shaun Barry, AgrEvo, Steven Willand, Shearcr/Penn Tree Surgeons, Rip Rippel, Plant Food, Mike Bandy, W.A. Cleary Chemical Co., Bob Scott, DowElanco, Peter McFarland, Alpine, The Care of Trees Dennis DeSanctis, Wilfred MacDonald, Inc., Michael Pelrine, Wilfred MacDonald, Inc., Joe Porcello, Century Rain Aid, Jeff LaCour, Davisson Golf Inc., Mike Oleykowski, Novartis Ken Kubik, Grass Roots, Ray Buckwalter, Lebanon Seaboard Corp., Kevin Driscoll, Lofts Seed Inc., Al Rzeczkowski, Lofts Seed Inc., Clyde Ashton, Dougle Eagle Equipment Co. Joe Jaskot, Aquarius Irrigation Supply Inc., David Beausoleil, Aquarius Irrigation Supply Inc., Adam Geiger, George Schofield Company, Phip Scott, Storr Tractor Company Fred Rapp, Storr Tractor Company, Cathy Futyma, Ferti-Soil Turf Supply, Peter vanDrumt, Ferti-Soil Turf Supply Richard Brandell, Ferti-Soil Turf Supply, Pat O'Neil, The Terre Company, John Farrell, Barenbrug Northeast Lance Seeton, Lesco, Brad Simpkins, Lesco, Craig Lambert, Lesco

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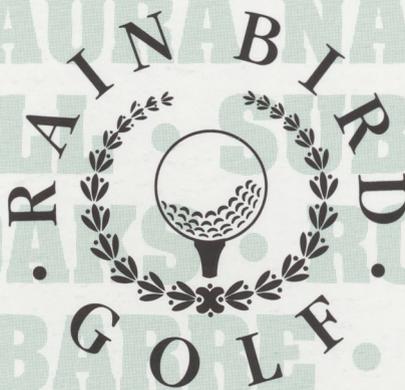
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