

THE Greenerside

Official Publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

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The Distinguished Service Award goes to... Alfred Caravella and the Member of the Year is... John Hyland

Al Caravella is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for the year 1998. For those of you who do not know Al let me give you a little bit of his background. Al is one of the eldest superintendents still working. He is a past president of GCSANJ and spent many years on the Executive Board. He was instrumental in the creation of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association. He was one of the first superintendents to be an instructor at the Rutgers Turfgrass Management Short Course and is a frequent speaker at turf conferences.

Helping superintendents is a special quality of Al's, spending many evenings at other courses helping diagnose turf, irrigation and other problems. He is a man of integrity and always one of the highest paid superintendents in the area and is credited by many as a major reason that we can enjoy the benefits that we have today. One of the benefits that Al enjoys today is the winter off! That is right! Al was not able to receive his award in person as he is hibernating down in Florida for the winter. As luck would have it, Al's daughter, Kathy, and son, Peter, were able to represent their family and receive the award for their dad. They expressed Al's feelings and had a fun evening with all of us at The Presidents Ball.

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Peter and Kathy Caravella representing their Dad, Al Caravella, the 1998 Distinguished Service Award recipient.



1998 GCSANJ Member of the Year—Mr. John Hyland.

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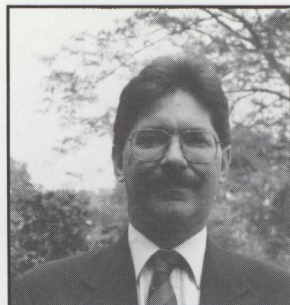
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President's Message



Thanks for your support (in electing me and over the duration of my term)

In a past issue of *The Greenside*, we published an article about all the decisions that a golf course superintendent has to make to keep the operation a success. Let me tell you, since I was elected president of GCSANJ, not a day has gone by that I did not have to make decisions involving the future of our great association. Glenn Miller (you remember him, don't you?) explained this to me, but you have to be in the position to realize all of the work that is put in by the president of GCSANJ! I thank all the past presidents and everyone else who has made this association what it is today, and I will do my best to help carry on with the great tradition that we have established.

One of the decisions that I knew I was going to have to make this year was: if I am the editor of *The Greenside* and also the president of GCSANJ, would I have to write both the Editorial and President's message? Enough is enough, the membership only wants to read so much of my opinions, so the decision was made to replace the Editorial with a member profile. If you look to your right you will see the new feature. At least you only have to read about my past this one time!

We have started the Vendor Spotlight in this issue, which will give you the chance to get up close and personal with some of the vendors who support *The Greenside* throughout the year. Please remember to support those who support us.

It is my pleasure to welcome the new district directors of GCSANJ. From District 4 we welcome Brian Minemier who is replacing John Carpinelli, CGCS, and in District 2, we welcome Christopher Holenstein who is filling in for Pat Campbell, CGCS. Pat has moved up to the position of secretary, and Mike Mongon has moved up to the position of vice president. Let's not forget Glenn Miller who is now GCSANJ's own official immediate past president!

If there is anything that GCSANJ can do to assist you or to make our profession better, please be sure and contact any member of the Board, as we are there to help make all of our careers better! If you would like to assist in making GCSANJ better, please contact me or any Board member, as we are always looking for help on committees and in other areas.

THANKS FOR YOUR ANTICIPATED SUPPORT

Ken

An interview with Ken Krausz, CGCS, 1999 GCSANJ president

New to *The Greenside* for 1999, we're going to give a profile of GCSANJ's officers, directors, representatives and members. I thought it appropriate to plug into the brain of our newly elected fearless leader, Ken Krausz, CGCS.

Ken is presently the golf course superintendent at Paramus Golf Course, a position he has held for ten years. His resume includes a two-year stay as superintendent at Old Tappan G.C. from 1986-1988 and assisting in the reconstruction of Orchard Hills G.C. (also in Paramus). Ken hails from Old Tappan and graduated from Northern Valley High School in 1974. He continued his education at Rutgers University's Turf Management Course, where his grades earned him a second-year scholarship from NJTA. Certified since 1990, Ken stresses family values, community service and our professional associations. He is a member of GCSAA, past president and captain of Midland Avenue Fire Company #3 and has served on the Board of Directors of GCSANJ since 1991. Ken also is editor of *The Greenside* and an instructor at Rutgers University. He has a lovely wife, Kathy, and two daughters, Anna and Katie.

BR: Ken, I guess I'll start with the most frequently asked question. What prompted your career choice to become a golf course superintendent?

KK: Brian, like many superintendents, I had not originally planned to be in this business. The town that I lived in had the first municipally owned golf course in the state, and I was in the right place at the right time. I knew the Department of Public Works superintendent through the Fire Department, and when an opening came up at the golf course, he asked me if I would be interested in working for the town. I figured it was worth trying. It goes to show you how being involved in organizations can be a great help in almost anything you do.

BR: Now an established and successful professional in the industry, I'm sure, like any road, it has had some bumps. Can you recall a time when you thought of other avenues for yourself?

KK: Successful is a relative term, and the lower pay of a municipal superintendent had me looking to the private clubs for a short period of time. After exploring what it would take for me to work at a private club and figuring in the cost of the benefits that Paramus provides me with, I realized that I wasn't doing so bad. Ten years later, I have job security, with a salary and benefits package that puts

me in the middle of the pack. Although I may have done better elsewhere, I am happy that I did not pursue that other avenue.

BR: What, then, would you say has been the most rewarding part of your career?

KK: There are two main reasons that I feel this career is rewarding. The people in this business are great and a joy to associate with; also, working so close to home is a huge benefit. I see people get on the bus to work at 5:30 a.m. and get off the bus at 6:00 p.m. Although I put a lot of hours in, I am able to see my family in the afternoon, have dinner with them each night and make those all important school plays.

BR: You are obviously a huge supporter of GCSANJ. What would you say is the association's greatest asset?

KK: GCSANJ's greatest asset is, again, the people. The members are fantastic and great to associate with. The other people are the staff at AAMC, our association's management company. They offer so much to the association and

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Calendar

- February 8-14 GCSAA Conference & Show,** Orlando, Florida. Contact GCSAA, 800-472-7878
- February 10 Turf Diseases – Cook College Advanced Topic.** Contact Rutgers University, 732-932-9271
- March 3 Concrete Pavers, Applications & Installation.** Contact Rutgers University, 732-932-9271
- March 11 Designing and Installing Concrete Block & Timber Retaining Walls.** Contact Rutgers University, 732-932-9271
- March 8-9 Advanced Turf Management Symposium on ponds, drainage and stream bank stabilization - Fiddler's Elbow C.C.** Contact Rutgers University, 732-932-9271. GCSANJ Table Top exhibits contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100.

Profile

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work hard to keep us together and organized.

BR: What about *The Greenside*? As editor, you must have strong feelings toward the importance of the newsletter. How would you say it benefits the superintendent?

KK: *The Greenside is a great vehicle to get to know each other. Articles about our members and our different functions are most enjoyable as they bring us up to date with our peers. The Greenside lets us know what is going on around the state, as well as updating us on research concerning our area. It also makes a little money for GCSANJ, which is always nice!*

BR: As president of GCSANJ, what major goals have you set for yourself and for the association?

KK: *GCSANJ has always been run well in the past, and, as the new president of a strong organization, it is going to take a lot to reach goals in an already successful association. It's like taking over a golf course that is already*

in great shape, you can fine-tune it, but may not need to overhaul the entire operation. If you take over a golf course that is run down, it is easier to make noticeable improvements. Glenn Miller asked me last year to work on creating a policy and standard operating procedure manual. Upon its completion, it will be given to all new Board members to aid in their understanding of what is expected of them. That and continuing to improve upon our goal of promoting GCSANJ and ourselves to the general public are two reachable and noticeable goals I have set.

BR: Fire Department, Parks Department, associations and family. That's quite a bit to juggle around a career that's as hectic as ours is. How do you manage?

KK: *I prioritize my involvement in whatever I do. My first priority is, of course, to my family, second comes my job. I have always made the fire department my third priority, but now GCSANJ has made it a tie for third. If I need to take care of association business, I will get it done. However, if a fire call comes in, and I hear that someone is trapped in a burning building, that becomes my first priority. The glue that holds it all together is my wife. Kathy takes up the slack around the house while I am doing whatever it is that I'm doing. Without her understanding, I would be running around taking care of our two daughters, taking them to practice, etc. She is the reason I am able to do the things that I do.*

BR: Throughout your career, is there any one person who you feel has influenced you the most and why?

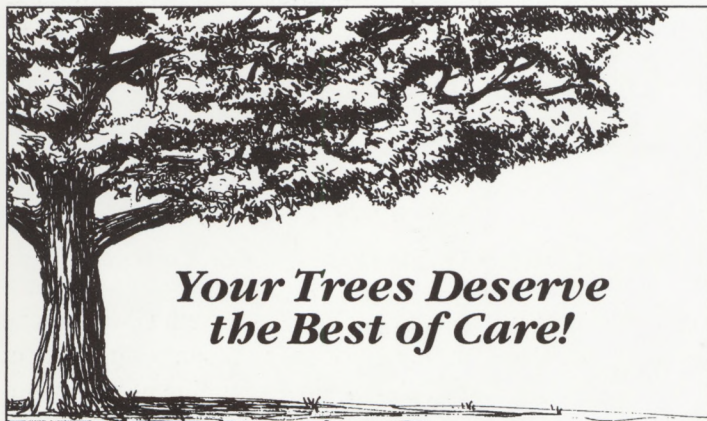
KK: *The most influential would have to be Frank Bevelacqua. I always say, "When I grow up, I want to be just like Frank." He was at Blue Hill Golf Course right up the road from me when I first became a superintendent. He was my go-to guy whenever I had questions, and he always made time for me (besides the fact that Blue Hill was always in top-notch condition).*

BR: Any thoughts of continuing your involvement in GCSAA?

KK: *I never say never, but I doubt it. Maybe some committee work in the future, but I always felt I would have more impact on a local level.*

BR: Well, Ken, I certainly know first-hand that you have the dedication and commitment for the position, and wish you all the luck and congratulations in your upcoming term.

KK: *Thanks, Brian. I'll do my best. It's been a pleasure talking with you, and good luck with your new column.*



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OLDE YORK IS A CHAMPIONSHIP SITE

By Shaun Barry

Brad Simpkins is not on the Golf Committee, but he still helped in securing Olde York GC for our championship. He came to me. Do we have a site for October? We had one, but they had to cancel, so, no, we did not have anything lined up. Since he knew the owner, Mr. Ed Eggett, and Mark Stallone, the superintendent, and Bill Greene, the assistant superintendent, he would ask. In a few days we had a date and our schedule for '98 was complete.

There was a lot of anticipation within the association about playing this venue. We had heard great things about this course, and we were not disappointed. The course is not overly long but it is a wonderful test of our golfing skills. There may be no better fairways anywhere in the world, and if they wanted to tuck the pins we would still be playing. It really was a great time for everyone.

Tom Grimac won the Championship flight with his score of 76, and he also took the Sherwood Moore Cup. **Doug Larson** crossed the river and his 77 placed him in second. **Mark Kriews** (83) took third. Mr. Grimac also won the A flight with a net of 69, and with that score, he captured the

coveted Dr. Henry Indyk Cup. **D. Larson** (71) was second again and **Chris Boyle** (74) was third. **Ed Casteen** (70), **Steve Finamore** (72) and **Jim Cross** were the winners in the B flight. **Joel Collura** played very well and his 78 gave him top honors in the C flight. **Jim Carr** is the 2nd assistant superintendent at Olde York, and his 81 took second on a match of cards with **Ken Givens**. Our commercial flight winners were **Shaun Barry** (70) in first after a match of cards with **Tom Sharpe**. In third was **Matt Anasiewicz** with a 71. T. Sharpe's gross score of 82 allowed him to take home the Dr. Paul Sartoretto Cup.

The district championship was never in doubt as District 4 ran away from the field. Making up the winning team were **T. Grimac** (76), **D. Larson** (77), **Brian Minemier** (83), **Tony Benfield** (85), **Dave Bird** (86) and **Wendell Beakley** (87). In the annual fund raising event we had the finals of the flighted long drive contest. **M. Kriews** won a spirited contest in the A flight. In the B flight I think **S. Barry** was the only person in the fairway, so they had to give him the victory, and **Clyde Ashton** used the clubs that **John Hyland** made for him as he edged out Mr. Hyland for the win. Each winner received a \$100 check from **Rob Finnesey** of Tree Tech. Rob also gives a matching donation to our Foundation so we can continue our

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The Distinguished Service Award

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Al's name was submitted by the membership of GCSANJ and then voted on by past presidents and DSA recipients. This process allows the "elder" members of this association, who know more members and what they have done, to voice their opinions concerning our most prestigious award, an award given to someone who has given a lifetime commitment to our profession and association.

The MEMBER OF THE YEAR award is presented to a member of GCSANJ who is making current contributions to our association and who represents the high esteem and admiration of GCSANJ's 500 plus members.

The members of GCSANJ responded to a request for nominations for this award, and the Awards Committee evaluated those submissions and recommended **John Hyland** as the recipient of the GCSANJ Member of The Year Award for 1998.

John Hyland is not a golf course superintendent; he is

employed by the Chatham School District, but I think that he would have loved running a golf course. **John** is a member of GCSANJ who enjoys helping the association and its members. He has been a member of the Golf Committee for the past 10 years. He is one of the first people who we meet when we attend a golf outing, as he is always there to register the field. This year **John** decided on his own that our tee and green signs needed some help, so he made holders for those signs.

I first met **John** when he helped with the roping detail at Bamm Hollow for the LPGA tournament. **John** is a member of the Transportation Committee for that tournament every year. He was also part of the rope crew at Fairmount and Ridgewood C.C.

Al Caravella and **John Hyland** are ambassadors of GCSANJ, and it is an honor to report that they have received the Distinguished Service Award and the Member of The Year Award for 1998. Thank you both for your dedication to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey!



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work toward the charity of our choice. Also making a donation was Clyde Ashton and Double Eagle Equipment Co. Inc. They have given us \$500 toward the trophies and plaques for the last seven years. It is quite a wonderful gesture, and it really helps the association. Our thanks go out to these two people and their companies and to all of the other companies that have helped out with our meetings during the past year. Whether it is **Peter McFarland** donating \$300 to help the District 1 meeting or all of the companies that sponsored holes during the course of the year, please be assured that your efforts are noted and appreciated.

We also had some skills contests and the winners were as follows:

Closest to the pin:

#2 (Finch Turf Equipment) B. Minemier – 5 ft. 9 inches

#5 (Alpine The Care of Trees) Dave Mitchell – 7 ft. 3 inches

#8 (Pennink Arrimour Inc.) Mark Mason – 8 ft. 4 inches

#11 (Wilfred MacDonald Inc.) Ed Mellor – 4 ft.

#15 (Chipco/Rhone-Poulenc) E. Casteen – 27 inches

Chipco/Rhone-Poulenc also sponsored a long drive contest on the course, and M. Kriews continued the winning ways with the long stick. There were only two skins that held up and that made our winners T. Benfield and Doug Smith very happy.

The day ended too quickly, but we are left with many fond memories. I hope everyone at Olde York knows how special a place they are. We were treated wonderfully, and our thanks go out to each and everyone who had a part in making this day so special.

EXCERPTS FROM THE FALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

There was a meeting on September 22, 1998; it was called to order by President Glenn Miller at 1:04 p.m. Those present included: Glenn Miller, Ed Mellor, Bruce Peeples, Wayne Remo, Ken Krausz, Dr. Jim Murphy, Steve Chirip, Mark Kriews, Mike Mongon and Pat Campbell.

Ed Mellor presented to the Board a preliminary budget for 1999.

Ken Krausz discussed a new series of articles entitled "Vendor Spotlight."

Mike Mongon reported on Assembly Bill #2379 as well as ongoing government legislation. He also spoke about supporting the Alliance annual meeting.

Dr. Murphy stated that Dr. Hart was hired to fill the weed science position and that the turf entomologist position would be filled soon.

Bruce Peeples reported that there would be a meeting with the Survey Committee on October 8.

There was discussion on allowing the commercial (AF) members of the Executive Board to be able to cast a vote during those meetings. This was well received and will be looked into.

Wayne Remo reported that registrations were going well for the fall GCSAA seminar.

Ed Mellor discussed the way we offer merchandise to the membership and felt that the catalog was not working well. He also updated us on EXPO.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 P.M.

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The next Board meeting was held on October 22, 1998. President Miller called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Those present included: Glenn Miller, Ed Mellor, Shaun Barry, Steve Chirip, Pat Campbell, Gregg Armbruster, Mark Kriews, Gary Arlio, Jim McNally, Wayne Remo and Ken Krausz.

We received a thank you note from Bob Dickison who wrote that his back surgery went well and that the fruit basket was delightful.

Shaun Barry reported that Double Eagle will again provide the plaques for the championship. He also updated us on the assistant golf meeting and championship.

Jim McNally reported on his trip to GCSAA headquarters for the delegates meeting. Discussions of candidates followed.

Wayne Remo reported on his progress with a winter seminar to be held in March. He is working with Rutgers to assure an informative program and is also working with vendors so they can have "Table Top" presentations of their businesses.

A couple of ethics issues were raised. It was stated that all members must be aware of our bylaws, especially concerning ethics issues. All members must be sure that the superintendent of a club is aware if you are interviewing for that position even if you have only been approached about interviewing for a position. Think about it, would you really want to work for a club that might not notify you that they were interviewing people for your position? Something that comes to our attention every once in a while is that the Pro Shop has just extended a courtesy round to superintendents. While the Pro Shop is trying to do right by the superintendents, the fact is that no superintendent should be walking into a Pro Shop and flashing his membership card. The superintendent must be notified; I know sometimes we are hard to get and sometimes things happen, but let's be professional about this.

John Carpinelli presented the first reading of the proposed by-law changes at the monthly meeting at Olde York.

Ken Krausz stated that he was very happy with all of the response from the membership concerning the DSA and Member of The Year awards. He said plaques were ordered and the awards would be presented at the Presidents Ball.

Ken also presented a proposal that he and Judy Policastro attend the Chapter Leadership Planning Workshop at GCSAA headquarters in January. This was approved and if GCSANJ is selected, they will attend the three-day workshop.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

CLASS "C" CHAMPIONSHIP . . . A SWEET DEAL

By Brian M. Remo

Deal Golf and Country Club certainly was sweet on this pleasant and fun-filled day. Forty-eight hard-nosed competitors showed up to battle on this seasonally pleasant Tuesday morning for the distinct honor of holding the championship trophy for New Jersey assistant superintendents . . . The "C" Cup. Representatives from all four districts were there to stake their claim for the brass, and no one left disappointed. Upon arrival on the grassy links, one could sense the preamble to a battle royale, and by day's end, new friends, a new tradition and history were made.

Deal G & CC stood ready for the task with phenomenal service from the start. Guests of the day were greeted with complimentary gifts, hot coffee and warm conversation in the beautiful surroundings of the century-old club house, and were able to appreciate the archives of the structure that has built its reputation into what it is today. Following a fabulous and down-to-earth presentation by Rutgers University's Dr. William Meyer, contestants were blanketed by a buffet lunch that could be described only as presidential. But these mighty warriors didn't come to stuff their faces, they came to face their stuff on the intimidating track that awaited the first strike.

Beautiful scenery, lush fairways, clean and well-manicured turf enveloped the fastest and truest putting surfaces

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this reporter has happened upon all season. Four-putts fell like leaves from the trees that day, as each participant could see from hole one that this day would be a test of the endurance of the game. So much compliment can be given to the preparation of a golf course whose greens were aerated less than 24 hours prior to tee off! I will try to sing their praises as best I can. Assistant superintendents **Kevin Giles** and **Charlie Cadet** came through in a big way for the likes of their peers and relied heavily on the production of their superintendent, **Angelo Petraglia** (who assisted them in their cause). The result: a playing field that truly lived up to the respect and condition of champions.

Five hours and 18 holes later, the results were in. In the non-assistant category, **Jim Cross** defeated **Dave Champion** in a match of cards for the honor of low net, with a score of 67. The Tournament Committee did present Dave with a complimentary bag of sand for the effort. But it was **Vic Gerard, Jr.**, who carded a score of 74 for low gross. In the assistant category, **Brian Gjelsvik** (Preakness Hills) walked away with the low net, putting up the score of 71. However, it was all **Anthony Benfield** (Deerwood CC) on this day. Tony's 78 was the number that made the grade and allowed him to walk away with the cup. Congratulations to Tony, we look forward to the defense of his title next year. I am proud to announce the inception and presentation of another trophy heralding the assistant who put up the highest gross score for the event. This trophy was predetermined to be named after the first recipient, and I am honored to announce that the Class "C" Committee's own **Tim Kerwin** (Metedeconk) holds the 1998 "Kerwin Cup" with a respectful 113.

Among the many amenities offered at the championship, corporate sponsors contributed over \$1,500 worth of prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive and scoring champions. The list of these supporters is long, but I want to send a warm thank you to all the sponsors who made the day even more rewarding. I especially wish to give my eternal thanks to two men behind the scenes who contributed many hours before, during and after the championship to ensure its success. **Shaun Barry** (AgrEvo) and **Steve Chirip** (Egypt Farms) were a phenomenal support group to the Class "C" Committee and truly are the "Angels in the Outfield." It is so nice to have such support in our association, and I wanted them to know that it was appreciated and nothing short of perfection.

The day ended with a five-star dinner, complimentary cocktails and a warm reception by Club Manager Jozsef deKovacs and his impeccable club house staff. Looking around the room, I could sense the success of the day by the smiles on the faces of those who participated. Angelo, Kevin,

Charlie, Dr. Meyer and Jozsef were all given plaques of gratitude for their presentation and returned the favor with a solemn invitation to return to the site in future years. I would again like to thank Deal G & CC for the professional preparation of the course and the warm acceptance into their home. The 1998 Class "C" Championship will be hard to top in future years, but a wide path has been paved for its existence to endure.

THE PRESIDENTS BALL IS A SUCCESS

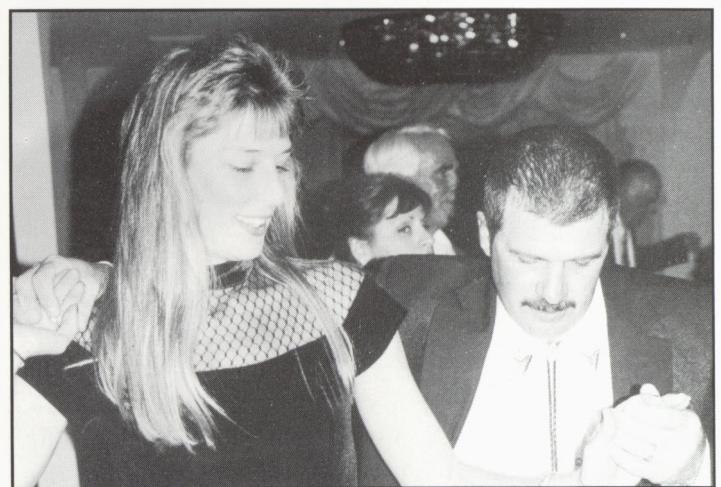
by Ken Krausz

As usual **Harry and Rita Harsin** were gracious hosts when the Presidents Ball returned to the Barclay Hotel on November 21. The food was excellent, the drinks plenty, the entertainment fantastic and the company outstanding!

The Presidents Ball is a place where past presidents are recognized, and there were quite a few in attendance. It is always a great time when our "better halves" get to meet and renew old friendships. The Presidents Ball is also where the Member of The Year award was presented; this year a shocked **John Hyland** was the recipient. The Distinguished Service Award recipient for 1998 was **Alfred Caravella**. You can read more about those two men in the cover article.

This year Rita found an unknown band, Everyday People, these three musicians were one of the best rock and roll bands around. There was also an illusionist there who visited each table and defied our eyes with each trick! This year I was able

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Bill and Trish Greene enjoy dancing the night away with a few of their friends.

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to find a Bed and Breakfast right around the block from the Barclay, which allowed me to walk home after a wonderful evening. Next year we will be providing you with a list of local hotels to make your stay a little more fun.

Thanks again Harry, Rita and, of course, our Presidents Ball official chairperson and photographer, Mr. Shaun Barry.



Lance and Kim Rogers two-step around the floor at the Presidents Ball.

Mike Mongon receives the Rutgers Turfgrass Alumni Association's Outstanding Achievement Award

The Outstanding Achievement Award is presented annually to a person who gives back to not only the green industry, but also their community. Mike Mongon does that and a whole lot more! We all know Mike has been involved as an instructor for many programs at Rutgers. We all know that if there is a government relations issue, Mike is the one to call. Anyone who has ever attended a District 1 tournament at Arcola C.C. knows that Mike can groom a great golf course and provide us with a fun barbecue at the same time.

What we may not know is all that Mike does away from the golf course. Mike is president of the Paramus Junior Baseball League and has been instrumental on renovating many fields in Paramus. He was a driving force when his children's school needed a new playground. His club is now sponsoring that school in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctu-

ary Program. He teaches 7th grade CCD and has been a member of the Paramus Board of Education Budget Advisory

We all know that if there is a government relations issue, Mike is the one to call.

Committee. All of these activities plus too many others to list here.

The award was presented to Mike at the Rutgers Awards Dinner, and he was totally surprised, especially when his wife, Kathy, and children, Ryan, Katrina and Timmy, showed up at the awards dinner.

Congratulations, Mike, from all of us in GCSANJ!

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golf course management conference/trade show, with attendance surpassing 20,000 each of the past three years. Last year in Anaheim, an exhibit space record (230,200 square feet) and educational seminar all-time attendance best (5,670 registrations) were established.

The 1999 Conference and Show features various changes from past events. Most notably the Gala, the traditional concluding function, now takes on a new format. Scheduled for 6-7:30 p.m., Saturday, February 13, the event begins with the GCSAA Awards Ceremony at the Orange County Convention Center. During the evening, Jaime Ortiz-Patiño will be presented the Old Tom Morris Award, the president's gavel will be passed and the week's activities will be reviewed.

Following the Awards Ceremony, the evening continues at 9 p.m. with the President's Dinner Show at the Peabody Hotel. Dining, music and comedy are on the agenda as GCSAA recognizes President George Renault, III, CGCS. During dinner, comedian and celebrity impressionist Gordie Brown will provide his humor. The night concludes with the tunes of David Clayton Thomas and Blood, Sweat & Tears. The GCSAA Award Ceremony and the President's Dinner Show are presented in partnership with the Textron Group of Companies: Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, E-Z-Go and Textron Financial Corporation.

The Government and Environmental General Session, traditionally held on Thursday evening of Conference and Show week, now moves to 8:45-10:45 a.m., Friday, February 12. It has also been reformatted to appeal to a broader audience and renamed the Golf, Government and Environmental General Session. It will feature a roundtable discussion of golf's leaders Tim Finchem (PGA Tour commis-

sioner), Jim Awtrey (PGA of America CEO), Jim Ritts (LPGA commissioner), David Fay (USGA executive director) and Jim Singerling (CMAA executive director). It will be

The GCSAA Conference and Show is the world's largest golf course management conference/trade show, with attendance surpassing 20,000 each of the past three years.

moderated by GCSAA CEO Steve Mona, CAE. The session is presented in partnership with Novartis Turf & Ornamental Products; Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products with Cushman, Jacobsen, Ransomes and Ryan brands; Rain Bird and Pursell Technologies, Inc.

The Conference and Show actually begins with the members-only GCSAA Golf Championship '99, presented in partnership with The Toro Company. The schedule includes a one-day, four-ball event February 7 at four different Tampa, Florida, courses, and the championship featuring 760 participants on eight different courses, February 8-9. Additionally, more than 90 GCSAA conference seminars (to earn CEU credits) will be conducted February 8-13, and more than 60 hours of workshop sessions and forums (no CEU credits granted) will be held February 11-13.

The trade show runs February 12-14, with the Distributor Preview from 8-11 a.m., February 12. Prospective Conference and Show attendees (including media and distributors) may contact GCSAA at 800-472-7878 to request a registration brochure.

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Cadence

By Brian M. Remo

I can remember back when I was in college that the environment was always a hot topic. I just took a look at my old curriculum and noticed the following courses: Intro to Environmental Science, Environmental Impacts, Environmental Conservation, Plants and the Environment (see a connection anywhere?). I compared my courses to another curriculum from a long, long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. I won't mention what old timer it belonged to but I will say he shares my last name. Although almost identical in agronomic requirements, I only found the word "environmental" once. I did find Introduction to Dairy Science, though, and I came to realize that this may very well be the lost art that our profession is lacking today! It is quite apparent that the way turfgrass management affects today's environment is an understanding that is imperative to our profession and an increasing concern and responsibility of our position. So there's little old me, sitting in one of these environmentally concerned required classes,



surrounded by the future saviors of the universe, and the minute you merely mention the word GOLF, the onslaught begins: "What a waste of the earth . . . You guys have no concern for the ramifications of your pesticide applications . . . That stuff gets into the water table, you know . . . You guys should be thinking of the environment instead of running a status factory. . ." etc., etc. etc.

These accusations are quite commonplace in our industry, and, although the golf course's main objective is to serve a clientele or membership of a certain sport, golf courses have also proved to play a positive role in the environment as of late.

In a world where big business and industry require such a large quantity of our geography, golf courses may become the last sanctity of true wilderness in suburban areas. Through the Audubon Society and other cooperative organizations, golf courses have become a benefit to today's environment and the wildlife it serves habitat to. The first step that many courses seem to be taking is to increase the support of the bird population. Both beautiful and beneficial, birds are an asset to any golf course and stand as

Continued on page 13



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Cadence

Continued from page 12

representative to its maintenance practices. Providing a nesting habitat for our winged friends is important for many reasons. Due to loss of habitat (dead trees providing natural cavities are often cut down) and competition with exotic species, many of our native birds are left without a place to breed. Furthermore, many species, such as the purple martin, prey on insects, which is not only beneficial to the golfer, but also the superintendent who can consider birds a biological control as a part of his or her IPM program. Finally, bird and bat boxes show the golfer, their guests and nearby residents that the course is a valuable asset to their environment and their community.

Here at Rock Spring, we have acquired the services of a small but rapidly growing natural resource management company—GO WILD. Wildlife biologist and owner Christopher Markham centers on golf courses to provide wildlife for today's suburban environment. His ideas and management programs are brilliant, and results are already being noticed here at Rock Spring after only a short time. GO WILD has established a diverse network of bird nesting throughout the course, created much interest within the membership, in-

creased the aesthetic beauty of the course and helped toward certification in ACSS's Wildlife and Habitat Enhancement category to boot. Plans for the future include a scenic butterfly garden and exotic plant displays as well as continuing to diversify the bird population.

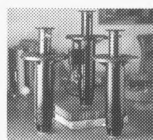
The need for environmental awareness is evident in today's golf course, and we as turf managers can benefit greatly by the acquisition of natural resource management companies and wildlife biologists to aid in our efforts. The programs we have instituted here at Rock Spring are merely an example, and I know of many other courses that are making the effort as well. The educated plans that are available through these organizations have proven results and can benefit even the smallest of acreage, with even the gentlest of steps.

The reflection of our occupations as an industry rely on the action we take as professionals and as educated, environmentally conscious protectors of the game. Enhancing the course as its own separate environment will help ensure its existence. Golf courses are certainly not a waste of God's great earth, but it's a certain shame to not utilize the acreage to its full and utmost potential.

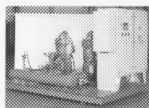


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Life on the edge sometimes goes over the edge

Grass is getting cut shorter. Shoulder seasons are longer. Golfers are more demanding. And superintendents are getting more stressed out, some throwing up their hands and even leaving the profession.

Are the 1990s really the Golden Age of Greenkeeping? Have superintendents taken turf care to the extreme and become their own worst enemies?

"The demand for low-cut greens and disease-resistant grass has not always started with the golfer. The superintendent wants something better to maintain—not easier, but better," said Bob Mitchell, who has retired after many years as executive director of grounds at The Greenbriar resort in West Virginia.

Well, the superintendent has gotten that "something better," time and time again. Wherever we turn, it seems we see evidence of bentgrasses that grow further south, zoysias that grow further north, Bermudas that are seeded types, bedknives that cut lower, groomers that do this, aerators that do that—knowledge expanding through the stratosphere.

This gives superintendents the tools to nurture an expanding array of turfgrasses beyond the limits of today. They're taking conditions to the edge and sometimes they go over the edge. Other times, when an alert superintendent foresees a turf disease coming and cuts back on maintenance practices to reverse the conditions, he faces the possibility of getting fired.

All of this pushes the envelope in superintendents' personal lives.

Meanwhile, the demand for faster greens, shorter-cut fairways and roughs that aren't at all rough may have begun in America. But, sadly, that appears to have spread to the Homeland (and Heartland) of golf. Some Brits want the same in their own courses. Can you imagine the Old Course at St. Andrews manicured to the specifications of an American parkland course? Old Tom Morris would roll over in his grave.

"The membership today has such high expectations but knows so little about the business. You put those two together and it's a dangerous combination—it's a recipe for trouble," said one superintendent.

"Golfers today are not as tolerant as those in the past," said Mitchell. He mentioned stresses that are 'brought on by the younger golfer who wants better conditions or lower prices, and those things don't work together.'

"Good superintendents will try to give their members what they want, but it's killing them. They are being driven into the ground to produce more and more, added Dan Jones, the longtime superintendent who just retired from Banyon

Golf Club in Florida.

Jones admitted to burnout from the rigors of a job that, in the South, is unrelenting 365 days a year.

"A lot of people a lot younger [than Dan Jones] are burning out," said superintendent Tim Hiers of Collier's Reserve in Naples, Florida. "It's not an anomaly in him. A lot of guys are getting out and taking different career paths."

There are so many paradoxes in the business of greenkeeping. A superintendent could keep a golf course in immaculate condition for years—then get a three-week aberration in the weather. Members used to having a golf course that, condition-wise, is 99 on a scale of 100, suddenly have an 82. What happens? Too often, the superintendent gets fired. And even when it does not happen, the stress the superintendent is under not knowing his fate can be overwhelming.

Professors will tell you the trend toward "a carpet golf course" has to reverse, but when and how will that occur?

What happened to the "Brown is Beautiful" campaign of a few years ago—to the "reality check" owners were urged to give concerning tour conditions in the everyday life of their golf courses . . . to the reawakening of what the Stimpmeter was really created to do (measure consistency, not speed)?

Perhaps it comes down to the governing bodies—to the U.S. Golf Association, the PGA of America, the PGA Tour and LPGA getting the word out: golf is not a good run on a clay track, it is a good walk in God's nature.

Reprinted with permission from Golf Course News, November 1998, editorial by Mark Leslie, managing editor.



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The root of the problem

By Glenn Gallion

For many years superintendents were locked into a process of aerification that was pretty much the same from year to year. We would go out in the spring and core aerate the greens and either harvest the plugs and then topdress, or let the plugs dry and then drag the soil off of them and blow or rake the rest. Then we would wait until after Labor Day and do the same thing all over again. This standard remained pretty much the same until the 1980s when we started to realize that we had created a problem. This time-worn method of relieving compaction had actually caused some of the same, only this compaction was not on the surface, it was at the bottom of those 3/12-inch holes we have been punching for years.

Once this dilemma was realized, equipment manufacturers scrambled to come up with a solution. This is when some of the equipment we use today was introduced. Deep tine aerating and deep drilling became the new method of getting through that infamous 3/12-inch layer. At this point in time there was much discussion about what we would do if we created another compacted layer down deeper. What next? Maybe miniature dynamite pellets dropped in the holes? No, the next innovation was high-pressure water injection, which couldn't compact because nothing mechanical was entering the ground. From that point in time until the present, we have seen many new concepts designed and introduced to the turf industry. In almost every trade magazine or at every trade show, you see some new device introduced to relieve the dreaded compaction. And with the growth of golf continuing

you will continue to see more new equipment coming out every year.

So, where do we go from here? It has been my contention, since the '80s, that no one method of aeration is the cure-all or the end-all. I believe that a healthy root zone is achieved by

We have at our disposal an arsenal of machinery to combat compaction and other root zone problems.

utilizing all of the above, and the superintendent of the '90s will be the judge of when and what method is the right one. We have at our disposal an arsenal of machinery to combat compaction and other root zone problems. There are machines that can inject granular and liquid products, and all of the equipment mentioned in this article can either be purchased or rented. You can also hire service contractors to come in and perform the work for you. That way, in most cases, the aeration process is finished before your first golfer goes out, and there is little or no clean up. Whatever way you choose, there is no excuse for not getting to the root of the problem.

Editors note: Glen Gallion was a golfcourse superintendent until November 1997. Since then he has been with Terra Biotics Commercial Turf Service as their Operations Manager.

Putting with P.R.: Accessibility

What is the most important tool for a journalist?
Note pad and pencil? Tape recorder?
Portable computer?

Those items are significant, but the most vital instrument for the media is accessibility. Without access to individuals for interviews and information, the media cannot report the news and inform the public. With no source, there is no story. So how does that apply to the golf course superintendent?

Superintendents can be proactive by providing both work and home telephone numbers to media representatives in their community and/or geographic region. The media in turn will rely on those individuals with whom it has access and can contact for information. If superintendents are accessible, the likelihood increases that the media will contact them. The

benefit is that superintendents will be able to tell their own story, rather than having someone else do it for them.

On an individual basis, superintendents should write to newspaper editors and radio/television sports directors, providing a business card and introductory letter. This correspondence should express a willingness and the accessibility to provide information. GCSAA chapters should provide directories to regional media representatives as well with a cover letter of introduction. If no such directory exists, perhaps this should be a project for a "slower" time of the year.

All too often the media has an assignment that may present little if any direction. If such a task concerns the superintendent profession, wouldn't you want to be the one to provide

Continued on page 16

\$260,000 gift from groundskeeper's estate will benefit students at Stockbridge School

A gift of \$260,000 from the estate of a former New Jersey groundskeeper and his wife will establish a scholarship fund for students studying turfgrass management at the two-year Stockbridge School at the University of Massachusetts.

Charles Osterman was the chief groundskeeper and superintendent of an estate in Demarest, New Jersey, owned by the late state Sen. Edmund Wakelee. As a bonus for his work, he was occasionally given blue-chip stock in oil, communication and utilities companies. He and his wife, Frances, eventually retired to Florida, where Charles died in 1985 at the age of 72. Following his death, Osterman's nephew, Robert W. Osterman, took on the management of his aunt's portfolio, which grew considerably until Mrs. Osterman's death in 1997. Before her death, Frances Osterman indicated that it was her and her husband's wish that one-third of their estate be given to educational institutions with courses in soils, grasses and landscape technology, equipment and management.

Robert Osterman carried out their wish and beginning next

year, the Charles E. and Frances M. Osterman Scholarships will be awarded annually to six students at Stockbridge School. More than \$10,000 in scholarship aid will be awarded each year to students majoring in turfgrass management or a related curriculum.

Osterman's ties with Stockbridge were established when he attended the Winter Turfgrass School in 1968. Like his uncle, he too spent much of his professional life in the turfgrass field, as golf course superintendent and general manager of the Connecticut Golf Club. He served as Board member of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents and went on to serve on the Board and as elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Two of Robert's sons also attended Stockbridge: Kurt received an associate degree from Stockbridge in 1993, and Keith attended the winter turfgrass program in 1994.

"We're honored that Robert Osterman has chosen the Stockbridge School to receive this bequest from his aunt and uncle," says Nancy Garrabrants, Stockbridge director. Robert Helgesen, dean of the College of Food and Natural Resources, notes that Osterman's choice of Stockbridge to receive the gift "reflects the quality of the Stockbridge program and accords it tremendous recognition."

Robert Osterman made the gift on behalf of his aunt and uncle to Campaign UMass, the campus's comprehensive five-year campaign to raise \$125 million, engage advocates and enhance the University's image across the state and the nation.

The two other institutions selected by him to receive gifts of \$260,000 from his aunt and uncle's estate are the agronomy program at Michigan State University and Lake City Community College of Florida.



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Putting with P.R.: Accessibility

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the accurate information?

Do you have a media/public relations tip you would like to share with your fellow superintendents? Do you need assistance in working with the media? Contact Jeff Bollig, media/public relations manager, or Kristi Frey, public relations specialist, at 913-832-4403, by fax at 913-832-4433 or via e-mail at media@gcsaa.org.

It's easy to reduce chemical exposure on golf courses

By Steve Tally

Reproduced from *Purdue University, August 1, 1997* newsletter

To most golfers, chemical use by the local golf course is one method to keep the grass green and the course in good playing condition. To others, it appears to be a threat to the environment—or, even worse, to their own health.

Not to worry, says Clark Throssell, professor of agronomy at Purdue University and co-director of Purdue's Turfgrass Research and Diagnostic Center. He says golf courses are environmentally friendly, and golfers who are concerned about contact with the chemicals can take a few simple precautions to reduce exposure.

According to Throssell, a large amount of research in the past two to three years on the risk of golf course pesticides

should allay the fears of concerned golfers. "As we take another look at these pesticides, overall we're finding that they provide almost no risk for casual exposure to levels that

Research has shown that once the pesticide dries on the leaf of the turfgrass plant, you really can't just casually brush it off.

would be of any concern," he says.

According to Throssell, most pesticides are applied wet, and if they dry before coming into contact with people, they will not easily come off the vegetation.

"Research has shown that once the pesticide dries on the leaf of the turfgrass plant, you really can't just casually brush it off," Throssell says. "To get any pesticide residue at all you have to take a rough cloth and vigorously rub the grass leaf. Obviously, no one out playing golf is going to do that in the course of a round."

Other research projects, some of which were conducted at Purdue, have shown that many pesticides are caught by the thatch before they reach the soil, and well before they would have the opportunity to enter the ground water.

"There's a body of research that shows that pesticides are either broken down by microbes in the thatch layer and soil or retained in the soil, which acts as a filter. In most cases pesticides are not prone to leaching, and runoff occurs only under extreme conditions," Throssell says.

According to Throssell, one good way to reduce exposure to pesticides is to not pressure the golf course personnel to allow golfers to play through areas recently treated with pesticides. "Many people don't realize it, but there are two main professionals at every golf course, the golf course superintendent and the head golf pro," Throssell says. "These individuals and their staffs work together to schedule pesticide applications so that there is minimal interference with golfers.

"The best solution is for golfers to be a bit more understanding when the course maintenance causes a minor interference with their round of golf."

Likewise, the golfer who complains about the stray dandelion or patch of poor turf may pressure the course superintendent to overuse chemicals. Throssell suggests that

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It's easy to reduce chemical exposure on golf courses

Continued from page 17

golfers adapt to courses that are less than perfect. "We should get used to playing on British-style courses where a few weeds and some brown spots are just considered part of the game," he says.

Another way to reduce inadvertent chemical exposure is to ask the golf pro and superintendent to use practices that reduce exposure. "This could be as simple as asking the course to post signs at the first tee explaining what pesticides have been applied that day and when—many courses already do this," Throssell says. "Courses also can use equipment such as spray shrouds that prevent pesticide drift caused by the wind. They are more likely to do that if they know that pesticide exposure is a concern to their customers."

For those who are concerned about exposure to pesticides and chemical fertilizers and may want to restrict their exposure, Throssell has these additional tips:

- Don't move anything from the turf to your mouth. Cigars are popular now, especially on golf courses, but golfers should avoid placing the stogies on the ground while they take their swing. "Not only is there a chance that the cigar will come into direct contact with the chemicals, but some courses are irrigated with waste water from sewage treatment plants, so there's a chance of bacterial contamination as well," he says. For the same reasons, golfers should never place tees or golf balls in their mouths. Several products have appeared in the past year or two that prevent cigars from hitting the turf. One is a small plastic holder named the Tee-Gar, that attaches to a golf

tee and can be placed in the ground, and another is an aluminum cigar holder that attaches to the handle of a golf bag. These products may be found in cigar and golf stores and catalogs.

- Talk to the golf course superintendent to find out what chemicals were applied and when. "Most golf courses apply chemicals in the early mornings through the week," Throssell says. "It would be very rare for them to be applied on weekends."
- Wash hands and forearms at the end of a round.
- Wear long pants whenever the weather allows.
- Avoid playing on days when pesticides or fertilizers have been applied to the turf.
- Never play golf in your bare feet.



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Vendor spotlight

MITCHELL PRODUCTS

MITCHELL PRODUCTS is a new company with offices in Millville, New Jersey, and operations in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey. Established to serve the golf course industry, MITCHELL PRODUCTS offers specialized sand-based products for use in maintenance and new construction. Additionally, they are marketing and establishing national distribution channels for the new TriCure surfactant (formerly Optima).

Dave Mitchell founded the company on January 1, 1998. Before leaving the Morie Company/Unimin Corp. to start the business, Dave spent 15 years developing sand-based products including a product line for Morie that was widely accepted by over 250 golf courses from Virginia to New York. Additionally, Dave strongly supported the industry by sponsoring many Morie symposiums and golf tournaments attended by hundreds of superintendents.

Now, having teamed up with Dr. Santi Mane, well known for her development of several of the leading soil surfactants sold worldwide, MITCHELL PRODUCTS is establishing a solid product line consisting of premium products at competitive prices.



Dave Mitchell

"When I was with Morie, I saw the need for better quality sand-based products sold to golf courses. The industry was screaming for it, and by listening, we were able to succeed very quickly. What I'm doing now with my new company is offering only products I feel are the best in their category. As we grow, we will add only those products and services that meet that criteria."

The product line currently consists of:

GC-500 Treated Topdressing 90-10 – Unique in that we mix our surfactant with the sand/humus to eliminate hydrophobic properties caused by drying at high temps. Superintendents tell me it waters-in beautifully, keeps sand from sticking to rollers and keeps the frost off in the mornings.

TriCure & TriCure 25 – *Not just another wetting agent.* TriCure is based on a new technology which enables the treatment of not only soil, but also thatch layers and peat sources.

Crushed Quartzite Bunker Sand – Because of the difficulty in choosing a bunker sand, I developed one for superintendents and players. This sand sets up quickly, prevents fried-egg lies, drains well, resists erosion and dries white. It plays so well, even I can play out of the bunkers.

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O.J. Noer Research Foundation to mark its 40th anniversary in Orlando

The O.J. Noer Research Foundation will mark its 40th anniversary during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's International Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida. The Foundation was established to honor Mr. Noer, who was the leading turfgrass agronomist of his day. He was agronomist at the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, producer of Milorganite fertilizer. During his long career, he traveled throughout North America, visiting with golf course superintendents on their home turf. In addition, he participated in many local, regional and national superintendents conferences and wrote numerous articles for popular and scientific publications.

Since its inception, the Foundation has supported some 54 turfgrass research projects at 19 university and experiment stations. It also provides funds for the purchase of rare and important books related to turfgrasses, to expand the O.J. Noer Memorial Collection housed at Michigan State University. Funds are generated by the income derived from the investment of contributions. Contributions come from indi-

viduals, superintendents associations, turf supply manufacturers and from Milorganite distributors and buyers who wish to "put something back" into the turfgrass industry. The Foundation is an all-volunteer organization in order to maximize funds available for research.

O.J. Noer was a 1926 graduate of the University of Wisconsin, with a degree in Soil Science. His many honors include having the GCSAA Conference in Houston (1960) dedicated to him. He received the USGA Green Section Award in 1963 and was a three-time winner of the GCSAA's Distinguished Service award (1952, 1959 and 1960). His name was also listed in the Wisconsin State Golf Association Hall of Fame in 1985. He was an honorary member of many local and regional superintendents associations in the United States and Canada.

Noer was one of the first to utilize visual aids in his presentations. His first slides predated color film—using black and white positive prints on glass and then hand tinting them. He also was a pioneer in using motion pictures to illustrate golf course operations, which were annual features at GCSAA conferences. His connections with turfgrass manufacturers and suppliers, coupled with Dr. Fred Grau's Green Section influence, enabled them to encourage many universities to establish turfgrass programs. His scientific prestige and ethical posture prompted his appointment as the only "commercial" member of the USGA Green Section Committee. Following his retirement from Milorganite, he served as agronomic advisor to renowned golf course architects Dick Wilson and Robert Trent Jones. Most of all, though, he is remembered as a friend of any golf course superintendent he ever met.

For more information on Mr. Noer, the Foundation and the O.J. Noer Memorial Collection, check the World Wide Web at <http://www.lib.msu.edu/tgif>.



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