



THE Greenerside

Official Publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

GCSANJ members score big at this year's National Conference

by Shaun Barry, GCSANJ Commercial Representative
and Ken Krausz, GCSANJ President

The March-April edition of *The Greenerside* went to press before the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando, so this report may seem a little behind schedule. Think of it as a review of last year's accomplishments and next year's goals.

Four member golf clubs and their superintendents received Environmental Steward Awards, GCSANJ was represented well at the Golf Championship and *The Greenerside* took "Best Overall" in its category for the fourth straight year!

In addition to the four Chapter and Merit Environmental Steward Award winners, Ted Horton, formerly of nearby Westchester County, was honored with the 1999 President's Award for Environmental Leadership by GCSAA.

Local winners include **Ed Casteen**, CGCS, of Forge Pond County Golf Course, Brick, NJ; **Clark Weld** of Blue Heron Pines Golf Club, Cologne, NJ; **Leslie Carpenter** of Newton Country Club, Newton, NJ and **Richard Christian** of Pine Valley Golf Club, Pine Valley, NJ.

These five superintendents and their clubs have done our profession proud with their accomplishments. The members of GCSANJ recognize and applaud them for their hard work, along with all the members of GCSAA.

Prior to enduring the rigors of the seminars and trade show floor in Orlando, some of our members were able to participate in the GCSAA Golf Championship. Getting the opportunity to renew old friendships while discussing the changes within the industry is what makes this event so popular. It is also quite an honor to compete on a national level.

Considering the pressure of tournament play and dealing with rusty swings, some GCSANJ members had an extraordinary time. **John Carpinelli** created the most interest at the tournament when he made the only hole-in-one of the week. Congratulations, John, but we hope you did not have to buy drinks for everyone. **David Pughe's** GCSANJ application is pending, but his golf placed him in 10th spot in the

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John "Four Time Ace" Carpinelli (right) with Ken "Not A Chance" Krausz

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President's Message

Here we go again, spring has arrived and we are moving into summer! I hope everyone is doing well. The Executive Board has been busy all winter, and some changes are being implemented to improve our association. One program we are going to try is to invite life members of our association to attend a monthly meeting at no cost to the member. This is a great way for the younger members to meet and talk to the seasoned veterans of our association.

Pictured below are some of your Board members; these are the hard working representatives of the association who hope to be life members one day. Some of them actually think that they are still the younger members of the association.



GCSANJ BOARD MEMBERS: Seated, left to right, are Mike Mongon, vice president; Ken Krausz, president; Pat Campbell, secretary; and Ed Mellor, treasurer. Standing are Directors John O'Keefe, Gregg Armbruster and Gary Arlio; GCSAA Delegate Jim McNally; Director Brian Minemier; Commercial Rep. Steve Chirip; Director Mark Kriews; Commercial Rep. Shaun Barry

and Immediate Past President Glenn Miller. Not pictured are Directors Wayne Remo, Bruce Peeples and Chris Holenstein and Assistant Superintendent Rep. Tim Kerwin

I am happy to report that I received a letter from one of our honorary members, Ilona Gray. She and her husband Bob are doing well and send their best to the members. Speaking of Ilona, I have to say that her work as editor of *The Greenside* will always be appreciated. This issue of *The Greenside* is a little late, and I have had a lot of problems getting this issue together. Ilona used to call me sometimes begging for articles and that is how I felt this issue. I have to thank everyone who stepped up to the plate to help me out, especially Shaun Barry, who was responsible for most of the pictures in this issue.

GCSAA did a critique of *The Greenside*. One professional editor gave us a glowing review, comments such as nice layout, great advertisement to editorial balance, good photo placement, etc., etc. I am reading this review and feeling great; the last section said, and I quote, "Take a new picture of the editor." Talk about bursting my bubble! It went on to say that it was too dark. You will notice that the president's picture is missing in this issue—wait until next month for my new mug shot! The next editor stated that we need more articles from members as there were only a few members who contributed articles in that particular issue. My challenge to each and every member is write an article; let's show GCSAA that we can do better.

Congratulations to all the Environmental Steward Award recipients and all the members who represented GCSANJ in the GCSAA golf tournament this winter.

I wish you and your families well during this difficult summer season. Remember that our families are number one! [

Ken

An Interview with John O'Keefe, CGCS, Preakness Hills C.C., GCSANJ District 1 Director

Born and raised in Lenox, Massachusetts, John J. O'Keefe received an early education and admiration for nature. Fishing, hunting, diving and snowmobiling kept his childhood in touch with the environment and developed his present love for the outdoors. It was this appreciation, coupled with his love of the game that sparked his career choice of golf course superintendent. John received his education from The Stockbridge School of Agriculture, became certified in 1987 and has continuously been a pillar of involvement in GCSAA, GCSANJ and the MetGCSA where he served as president.

John's reputation speaks volumes through his work, having maintained one of the most well respected courses our great state has to offer. His resume also includes the helm at Westchester Hills Golf Club (White Plains, NY), an assistantship at Longshore Club Park (Westport, CT) and a two-year stint as a landscape foreman. The home support team consists of his lovely wife Margaret and their two daughters, Adrienne and Maureen. John stands for communication, environmental concerns, advancement through education and a commitment to excellence. Presently your District 1 director and golf course superintendent of Preakness Hills C.C., John continues to support the industry and its associations as a model member of both.

BR: John, looking back at your childhood, you probably remember sitting in kindergarten class exchanging braggadocio with your friends about what everyone wanted to be when they grew up. Policemen, firemen, race car drivers... what were your original aspirations as a child, and, then, what prompted your career choice to become a golf course superintendent?

JO: I always wanted to be an architect until I began working in the landscape field. While working in landscape, I started to notice and appreciate the beauty of golf courses.

BR: Looking back on your past, can you recall anyone in particular who has had the greatest impact on your professional career?

JO: Ronald J. Woodger, the owner of the landscape company I worked for, was the individual who encouraged me to pursue college and a career, not just a job.

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

JO: The most rewarding part of my career has been the



John O'Keefe, CGCS

friendships that I have made through jobs and professional associations.

BR: You were GCSANJ's Membership Committee chairman for 1998, and increasing our membership has always been a perennial goal. In what ways do you plan to attack this goal?

Continued on page 4

Calendar

- May 24** **MAY MONTHLY MEETING:** Hopewell Valley Golf Course. Host: Steve Bradley. Contact Judy Policastro, 973-379-1100.
- June 14** **JUNE MONTHLY MEETING:** Ballyowen Golf Course. Host: Rich LaBar. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100.
- July 26** **JULY MONTHLY MEETING:** Mendham Golf and Tennis Club. Host: Chris Boyle. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100.
- August** **DISTRICT GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS:** TBA
- August 5** **FIELD DAY:** Rutgers Hort Farm II, Ryders Lane
- Sept. 13** **INVITATIONAL:** Pine Barrens Golf Course. Host: John LaVoie.
- October 11** **GCSANJ CHAMPIONSHIP:** Trenton C.C. Host: Tom Tuttle. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100.

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Profile

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JO: I plan to pursue recruiting golf course superintendents and assistant superintendents who are not members but are working in New Jersey to become members. Another way I hope to expand our membership is by offering different membership classes; for example, this year we are offering out-of-state membership. This class was created to allow Class A, B and C members from other chapters to join at a reduced rate. These new classes are only for individuals actively working in the golf course management industry.

BR: Growing up in the area, I have always remembered Preakness Hills C.C. as one of the finest maintained courses in the area. One of my previous employers once commented: "There's never a blade of grass out of place at Preakness Hills." To what do you credit your reputation as having an enormous attention to detail?

JO: I have always believed that you are only as good as the people who work for you. I am fortunate to have a great staff at Preakness Hills, and the club has always been supportive, providing what we need to get the job done.

BR: You also have a reputation for your active involve-


ment in both GCSANJ and the MetGCSA. Could you briefly describe your feelings on the benefits of the dual membership? Perhaps more individuals would consider belonging to both as well.

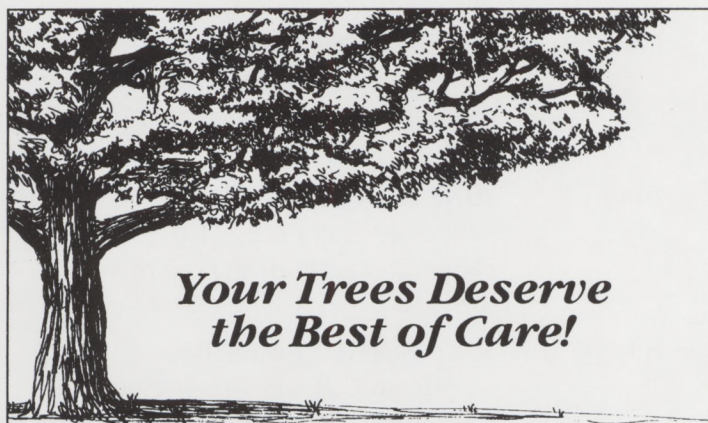
JO: We are fortunate in this area to have the opportunity to become involved with many great chapters. It takes time to become active, but the benefits can be endless. Education experiences as well as the camaraderie of your peers are two of the biggest benefits I have had.

BR: I also know that you believe strongly in the continuance of our education as golf course superintendents. Name one topic you would like to see offered in the many seminars and conferences made available to us.

JO: I think one topic often overlooked is actually understanding the game of golf and its rules.

BR: John, I appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to talk with me and wish you good luck and green grass for 1999 and beyond.

JO: Thank you, Brian, it has been my pleasure. 



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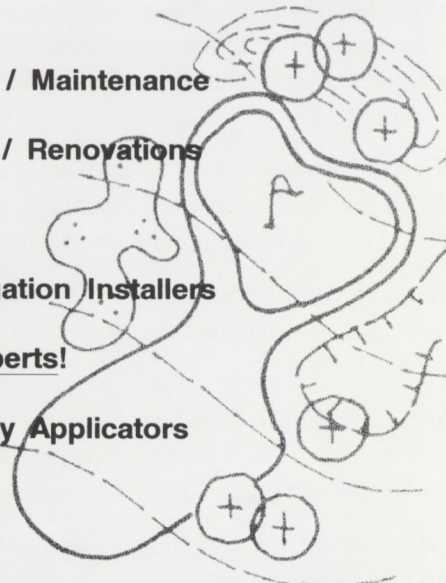
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GCSANJ members score big

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championship flight-division A. This is where the best golfers in the country play. **Bob Prickett** walked away with second place and a crystal trophy from the third flight-net division. If he had made a few putts he would have won this easily, but he only makes those putts when he is playing against us.

Wayne Remo, CGCS, Mike Miner, CGCS and **Jeff Wetterling, CGCS**, took third, fourth and fifth places in the sixth flight-net division. **Steve Cadenelli** may have moved to Cape Cod, but he has always maintained his membership in our association. We are happy to see that he finished sixth in the 7th flight-gross division. **Chip Kern** continued his winning ways with third place in the seventh flight-net division. **Adam Mis** received his crystal trophy with a second in the 8th flight-gross division. **John O'Keefe, CGCS**, and **Roger Stewart, CGCS**, took fourth and sixth respectively in the 8th flight-net division. In the net division of the affiliates tournament, **Mike Cook, Jr.** won first prize. Nice playing, Mike!

One of our teams came in fourth in the net division. John O'Keefe was reported to have carried the team, but we are sure **Jim McNally, Glenn Miller** and **Wayne Remo, CGCS**, were instrumental in their success.

Congratulations to these winners and to everyone who was able to participate.

The Greenside was voted "Best Overall" in the Chapter Newsletter Editors Contest for the fourth year in a row. The winning entry was in category "3," Newsletter Published Primarily by a Practicing Superintendent with Pay.

Each year we are asked to submit one issue for judging. This year the September-October 1998 issue was submitted. The cover article was by **Doug Vogel**, with the title Historical Preservation, a recap of the Cadillac NFL Classic and how Bob Dickson was the winner at Superintendent **Bob**

Dickison's Montclair C.C. (funny that this issue asks for volunteers again for this tournament). Bob had a recap of the tournament preparations. **John Boyer**, superintendent at Marriott Seaview Resort, thanked all the volunteers for their support during the LPGA Shoprite Classic. The editorial spoke of how the industry lends a helping hand to those in need. President Miller wrote a review of the summer of 1998.

GCSANJ News reported that **John Carpinelli** made the first ever hole-in-one at Royce Brook Golf Course (funny that this issue reports that John had a hole-in-one in the GCSAA tournament in Tampa this February). It also reported about **Bob Dickison's** bad back and **Brad Simpkin's** back operation. Bob Dickison also went "under the knife" that summer and both are reported to be doing well. The GCSANJ News also reported that The Met GCSA tied GCSANJ at **Mike Miner's** Montammy Golf Course

GCSANJ members got together to support one of our own when a golf tournament was held and \$9,000 raised to help offset the cost of Bret Owsik's knee surgery. **Al Foster's** 50-year career was reported on by Doug Vogel. Newton Country Club and Superintendent **Les Carpenter** were recognized for achieving designation as a "Certified Cooperative Sanctuary System." **Brian Remo** did a breakdown of the time spent in one week and realized that there was not a lot of time left for his wife. I wonder how that breakdown will change now that he is a superintendent, especially since he only calculated 8% for driving and now he commutes a lot further. Brian thought assistant superintendents had it tough.

There was a lot more that went on at the Conference and Show, but we felt that these accomplishments and recognitions are things that GCSANJ members should be proud to be a part of.

Congratulations to everyone who contributes to this great association. ♪



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WATCH FOR THIS DIAMOND CELEBRATION

Quick question; what do the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America have in common? OK, besides the fact that both associations are there to help us.

Both associations were founded in 1926. Seventy-five years later will be the year 2001, and GCSANJ has formed a committee to make it a memorable yearlong celebration. We have not had our first meeting yet, but it will be in the near future.

We have had informal discussions and a couple of ideas have come up. One idea is to have our monthly meetings at courses that will also be celebrating their 75th, so if your club will be 75 in 2001 give us some thought. We will try and do many things during the year to bring everyone together—the idea of a family picnic was raised.

GCSAA will be celebrating also, and we have made contact with their 75th anniversary committee chairperson, and we will probably do something together. The committee we have so far is as follows (please contact any one of us if you would like to be on the committee or if you have any ideas): Ken Krausz, Shaun Barry, Pat Campbell, Les Carpenter, Bob Dickison, Sydney Dickison, Al Foster, Ken Kubik, Pete Pedrazzi, Doug Vogel and Ed Walsh (although Ed does not know yet).

GCSANJ is looking forward to a great 75th anniversary, and your participation is critical to making that year a success. In the meantime, let's enjoy this year and next while thinking of our Diamond Celebration. ☐

ADVANCED TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM "MANAGING WATER FOR BETTER GREENS AND BLUES"

*By Chris Holenstein, District 2 Director
Superintendent, Mount Tabor C.C.*

On March 8-9, 1999, superintendents and other turfgrass professionals from New Jersey and surrounding states gathered at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Bedminster, New Jersey, for the annual Advanced Turfgrass Management Symposium, co-sponsored by Rutgers University and GCSANJ. The program featured water management strategies for erosion control, greens drainage, fertigation and lake quality; addressed soil compaction issues; and offered construction tips. Moderated by Dr. Steve Souza of Princeton Hy-

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dro, the program included presentations by Superintendents Scott Niven of The Stanwich Club and Scott Schukraft from Huntsville Golf Club, among other outstanding speakers.

Attendees were given the chance to visit with representatives of turf industry vendors at the tabletop vendor show held concurrently with the symposium. Eighteen companies were present to showcase their products and discuss the upcoming season with turfgrass managers.

As expected, everyone was treated to the hospitality that Fiddler's Elbow Country Club is well known for. The elegant setting, the comfortable facility and the high-quality educational seminar were the rewards received by those professionals who attended this year's program, and the reasons to look forward to next year's.

The symposium was coordinated by Keith Wilson of Cook College's Office of Continuing Professional Education, who can be reached at 732-932-9271 with questions or comments on this year's program, as well as with suggestions for topics for upcoming seminars.]

DISTRICT III MEETING

*By Mark Kriews, District III Director
Superintendent, Old Orchard C.C.*

On Tuesday, March 23, District III members were treated to a tour of two of our state's newest golf courses. The first stop was Pine Barrens Golf Club in Jackson, NJ. The day began with the introductions of General Manager Rudy Vigna, Superintendent John LaVoie (special thanks to John who started work on Monday and entertained us on Tuesday) and Assistant Superintendent Jim Strutten. Following introductions, our group was treated to a tour of a spectacular golf course. The course opened for play earlier in the month and should provide quite a challenge to all golfers. Our thanks to everyone at Pine Barrens G.C. for allowing us to visit.



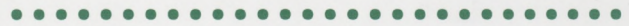
Pine Barrens G.C. hosted District III members during a recent tour.



Chuck Bergamo (Lesco) and George Thompson (Peddie School G.C.) view Eagle Ridge G.C. from its highest point on the District III tour.

Lunch and a District meeting were next on the agenda. Thanks go to Brad Simpkins and Matt Anasiewicz for buying lunch and to Doug Spencer for providing beverages. The

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meeting was informative, and Bruce Peeples and I will follow up on the group's suggestions as best we can. Discussions were had on various topics including more District meetings, annual meeting attendance and monthly meeting schedule. If any questions were not answered or you have suggestions for the Board, please contact Bruce or me.

Our second tour of the day was of Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Lakewood, NJ. Superintendent Dennis Park and Assistant Joe Elias were wonderful hosts. Dennis and his crew are preparing this beauty of a course for a June 26 opening. If you like hills, you'll like this course.

Good luck to both John and Dennis, and thanks for your hospitality. A thank you also goes to Fran Owsik for all his help getting this day in order. [

FIVE GCSANJ MEMBERS ADD TO THEIR FAMILY TREES

Michael Stachowski of Fiddlers Elbow C.C. and his wife Leslie are the proud new parents of a baby girl. Chandler Catherine Marie was born on March 12, 1999. When I spoke to Michael, he said everyone was doing well, and, at the age of three weeks, Chandler was sleeping well at night and she had very strong lungs.

On March 26, 1999, Elizabeth and Ian Kunesch became parents for the second time. Victoria Elizabeth chose this day to join the family, and since she weighed 10 pounds, 1 ounce, it was not a moment too soon. Early reports are that Marc James Kunesch is adapting well to being an 8-year-old big brother. Good job Marc, Elizabeth and Ian.

Chris Boyle from Mendham Golf and Tennis Club was spotted leaving the Advanced Turfgrass Management Symposium after lunch the second day. He told me that he had just spoken to his wife Amy and it "was time." He also stated that Amy had already started labor before he left for the symposium that morning. I'm not sure that I would have been able to get away under those conditions, but Chris lived in the area so he was able to attend. Nicholas Boyle was born the next morning, March 10, 1999, and everything went well. Since Nicholas was born the next morning, one would think that Chris could have stayed for the entire symposium (only kidding).

Elly Anderson Raisch, daughter of Todd and Susan Raisch, was born on December 5, 1998. Since this was only days before the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo, I would have to say Todd, Superintendent, at Ridgewood C.C., probably did not attend this year. (I always say once you have children, "Life as you knew it will never be the same.") Elly weighed in at 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 19-1/2 inches long. She arrived during an emergency "C" Section (ouch); everyone is doing well.

Somehow *The Greenside* missed the arrival of Alec Nicoll, son of Greg and Dee Dee Nicoll of Maplewood C.C. Alec was born on April 10, 1998. He weighed in at 7 pounds, 8 ounces with a full head of red hair. On his first birthday he had grown to 25 pounds and has had seven haircuts already! We apologize for the delay in getting Alec's announcement out to the membership.

I'm sure that I speak for all of the GCSANJ membership in wishing Alec, Elly, Nicholas, Victoria and Chandler all the best for a happy and healthy life!

If you have had a baby or know someone who has (or any other family news), please let GCSANJ know so we can

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get the word out.]

GCSANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS WERE BUSY ALL WINTER

The Executive Committee along with the Board of Directors met once a month during the winter. The following is a report of the progress made during the meetings.

December 2, 1999, President Ken Krausz opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and thanked Immediate Past President Glenn Miller for all his work in the past and also for allowing this meeting to be held at Manasquan River G.C. Ken introduced the new District IV Director, Brian Minemier.

Ed Mellor presented the treasurer's report, and Glenn Miller suggested that money market funds be transferred to a

CD; this suggestion was approved.

Jim McNally gave a report on GCSAA and the upcoming election; more information would be available from Jim at the January meeting.

Bruce Clarke and Wayne Remo were having discussions about the seminar in March; a location has not been confirmed yet.

Ken Krausz reported that superintendents are still visiting golf courses without first contacting the superintendent, which is in violation of our Code Of Ethics. This situation was addressed and everyone reminded that a full attempt must be made to contact the superintendent of a golf course before visiting.

Dr. Bruce Clarke invited members of the GCSANJ Board to attend the annual symposium where Rutgers staff mem-

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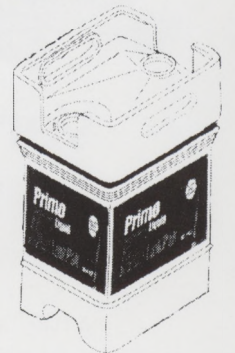
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bers present a synopsis of their research. Dr. Clark announced that Rutgers has hired Steve Hart as a weed scientist and will be conducting interviews for the entomologist position. Dr. Clarke stated that turfgrass research was faring well in the budget process at Rutgers, and that all of the contributions by the allied associations in New Jersey are part of that. Rutgers sees that we are committed to turfgrass research, which makes it easier for Rutgers to justify filling these positions.

Bruce Peeples gave an update on the survey about to be mailed out to A & B members. A discussion followed on fine-tuning the questionnaire.

Gary Arlio reported that four scholarships were awarded, two to Rutgers students and one each to students at UMass and Brookdale College.

Ed Mellor spoke about the booth at EXPO.

There was discussion of GCSANJ Board representation

at meetings, and it was decided that new blazers and crests would be provided to Board members so we would look presentable. Spring jackets were also approved; these items were brought up during discussions of Board retention as we have had a lot of turnover among the Board.

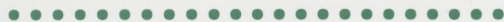
It was announced that John Hyland received the Member of the Year Award, and Al Caravella was selected as the Distinguished Service Award recipient. There was discussion on a 50-year award, and Gary Arlio volunteered to look into this.

Brian Remo discussed the upcoming Assistant Superintendents Winter Seminar and urged all to attend.

It was reported that District 3 would be holding a Christmas Party on December 17.

Ken Krausz requested that the holiday baskets be delivered in person to retired Life Members and that was agreed to.

Tim O'Neill, candidate for GCSAA Board of Directors, addressed the Board of GCSANJ.



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The January Meeting was held on January 20, 1999.

President Ken Krausz opened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. and introduced Chris Holenstein, the new District 2 director, and Tom Kerwin, the new Assistant Superintendent Committee chairperson.

Ed Mellor reported that the finances were on track.

Mike Mongon reported on the allocation of \$100,000 for the study of groundwater in the Toms River area. There is some concern that this is not enough money to do the job adequately.

The New Jersey Water Allocation Bureau is beginning to require a Water Conservation Plan when their permits are up for renewal.

Ken Krausz asked about combining an educational seminar with our annual meeting as a way to get more members to attend. This will be looked into.

John O'Keefe reported on an updated (new) membership application to reflect our recent bylaw changes. He also stated that some of the bylaw changes cannot be implemented until the next dues cycle.

John's committee also felt that the Honorary Member list should be broken down to include Honorary Class (Member for Life) and Informed Class (Individuals on an annual basis).

Ed Mellor reported that some 30 people helped with the booth at EXPO this year, making it an easier job for everyone.

Continued on page 12

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Continued from page 10

Gregg Armbruster has been in contact with the Club Managers, PGA and NJTA, as all these associations are trying to make sure their schedules do not conflict.

Tim Kerwin spoke about the Class "C" Committee's progress in creating a booklet with directions to each member club. He also spoke about the winter seminar.

Ken Krausz reported on the trip that Judy and he made to GCSAA Headquarters. The main points that were made are GCSAA is there to help and GCSANJ is in pretty good shape.

Ken also spoke about our 75th anniversary and is forming a committee.

Jim McNally gave a breakdown of the candidates for GCSAA office and discussion followed. There will be a quick meeting of our Board in Orlando to finalize our vote.

The February Meeting was held on February 22, 1999.

Jim McNally reported on the GCSAA Conference and Golf Tournament. GCSANJ did well and there was a suggestion of GCSANJ team shirts for the next tournament.

Ken Krausz asked where the GCSANJ Foundation was headed, and it was agreed that a meeting would be arranged.

Shaun Barry updated us on the golf sites for 1999. There was discussion of sponsors for lunch at meetings. This turned into a discussion of creating a "menu" of sorts to be sent to commercial members so they can decide at one time what they would support for the year. This would have to include *Greenside* advertising. The question of two sponsors for the directory was raised. These were accepted as good ideas,


although the "menu" would have to be created at a time that everything for the year could be included, as we would not want to go back to the commercial was discussed.

John O'Keefe questioned the status of offering complimentary meeting attendance to Life members. It was suggested and agreed upon that Life members be invited to attend one meeting a year at no cost. When there was a meeting in their district, they would be sent a letter of invitation; this way it would spread out the attendance. Since the only District 4 meeting this year is being handled by the Philadelphia Association, Life members from 4 will be invited to the District 3 Meeting at Hopewell Valley.

Bruce Peebles discussed the survey; it was decided to send out reminder cards. A general "how are we doing" survey and one for commercial members. That will be addressed this fall.

Ed Mellor reported that a new merchandise company caught his eye in Orlando. Ed is thinking of switching companies, as the Southern product line does not seem to be moving.

Gregg Armbruster reported that the Club Managers Association has set November 2 as the date for their Superintendent/Manager/Pro education and golf outing.

The preceding is a quick breakdown of the monthly meetings. 

BOB'S NEW HOME

By Shaun Barry

RDC Golf & National Fairway Group Inc. recently chose to showcase their new maintenance facility at Forsgate C.C. with a grand opening ceremony. It was with great pride that they had an official ribbon cutting ceremony. Invited guests

Continued on page 15

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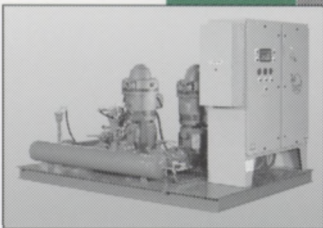


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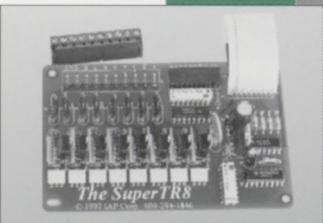
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GCSAA news

GCSAA, PGA, CMAA TO OFFER GOLF PLUS RETIREMENT PLUS

In a cooperative effort, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), the PGA of America and the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) jointly announced recently the expansion of Golf Retirement Plus to allow employers to contribute to their members' accounts. As a result, golf employers now will be able to offer Golf Retirement Plus to members employed at the more than 9,400 GCSAA, PGA or CMAA-staffed facilities nationwide.

Golf Retirement Plus is a supplemental retirement program that allows employers to use a single program and reward key professionals who are GCSAA, PGA and CMAA members. With Golf Retirement Plus, employers can offer many of the benefits associated with 401(k) or other retirement plans, but with reduced tax, administrative and investment burdens.

Respective GCSAA, PGA and CMAA members control their own accounts and make all investment decisions. Em-

ployers can make tax-deductible contributions directly into the employees' annuity accounts on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis. Contributions made by the employer are taxable to the employee.

"We are thrilled to participate in Golf Retirement Plus," said GCSAA President George Renault, III, CGCS. "The ability to provide our members and their employers with a simple and low cost retirement program is an excellent example of what our associations can do together."

"The PGA, GCSAA and CMAA are pleased to offer Golf Retirement Plus to our respective members and their employers," said PGA President Will Mann. "This venture shows the cooperative spirit that our allied associations share to provide excellent retirement options."

"This kind of cooperation with the GCSAA and the PGA is the foundation for working for the common good for our members," said CMAA President Bill Kendall. "We are excited to be part of a retirement program which will benefit our members in their future years."

Continued on page 15

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GCSAA news

Continued from page 14

GCSAA golf course superintendents, GCSAA assistant golf course superintendents, PGA professionals, PGA assistant professionals and club managers can open an annuity account by calling 877-RET-PLUS (877-738-7578). [

DEVELOPMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER GOLF COURSE CONDITIONS? ALTERNATIVE SPIKES, COMPUTERIZED IRRIGATION HEAD THE LIST

What is the golf course superintendent's equivalent to the recent equipment innovations of liquid metal club heads and titanium shafts?

According to a survey of the professionals responsible for the beauty, performance and upkeep of the nation's golf courses, alternative spike golf shoes and computerized irrigation are the most frequent responses.

Across the nation, 44 percent of golf course superintendents responding to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) Golf Leadership Survey [see

editor's note] said computerized irrigation systems had the single most positive effect on the game in the last five years, in terms of golf course maintenance technology. An even greater number, 60 percent, targeted the systems as the management advancement with the most positive impact on operating efficiency. A majority of superintendents (52 percent) believe water consumption will decrease significantly over the next five years due much in part to this new technology.

On the issue of innovations in golf accessories, superintendents overwhelmingly credited the advent of alternative spikes for aiding efforts to deliver improved putting conditions. In fact, 89 percent identified alternative spikes as the accessory having the most beneficial effect on golf courses. Research indicates on the whole that alternative spikes do not damage putting surfaces as much as metal spikes, allowing for improved ball roll. Anecdotal evidence indicates alternative spikes reduce the amount of resources needed for the upkeep of greens.

The survey also highlighted a number of other trends

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GCSANJ news

Continued from page 12

included the Mayor and local dignitaries, who all seemed impressed with this beautiful and functional building. Former GCSANJ Past President Bob Ribbans, CGCS, helped in the ceremony and was part of the official contingent. He was quite proud of this effort, which took 1½ years from the initial planning stages to complete. There were approximately 100 people in attendance. They were given a tour of the 12,000-sq. ft. structure. With a price tag of around \$1,000,000, it was easy to see why the six GCSANJ members who attended were very pleased for Bob and Forsgate. This is the fourth maintenance building for the course, and it will serve Forsgate very well. Our congratulations to all involved with this project. [



Bob Ribbans, CGCS, is joined by John Wantz, CGCS, at the recent grand opening of Forsgate's maintenance facility.



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Continued from page 15

and issues affecting the superintendent within the industry, including the environment, golfer etiquette, and maintenance equipment and staffing.

Environment

In predicting changes in course operations over the next five years, the environment figured most prominently. The three most common predictions were an increase in environmental regulations, improved environmental management techniques and a decrease in water usage. Uncontrollable and unpredictable weather patterns will always play a role in the golf course maintenance expenditures. When queried on the effects of last year's weather phenomena known as El Niño, 44 percent of respondents answered it had increased costs at their golf courses.

Golfer Etiquette

Superintendents identified failure to repair ball marks on the putting green as golfers' worst breach of etiquette (60 percent), followed by failure to rake bunkers (18 percent)

and to replace divots (8 percent). Moving violations on the golf cart paths were also a concern of superintendents. More than 40 percent cited golfers for driving on or too close to greens as the most common violation, while ignoring daily post of golf cart restrictions was next (33 percent).

Slow Play/Ball and Club Design

Golfer disdain for slow play is shared by superintendents as the poll reveals slow play is a function of golf's popularity, golfer inexperience and golf course conditioning. The respondents cited increased course traffic (33 percent), high rough and fast greens (26 percent) and decline in golfer etiquette (23 percent) as the primary causes of slow play. Superintendents said they have combatted slow play by either lowering the rough (46 percent) or widening the fairways (25 percent).

Unlike efforts to control slow play, superintendents are not reacting to the distances achieved by new golf balls or advances in golf club/shaft technologies. 84 percent of superintendents said they were not grooming their courses to compensate for increasing distances of golf balls.

Maintenance Equipment

Despite the high cost of maintenance equipment, superintendents prefer to buy their equipment rather than lease. According to the survey, 68 percent of golf course superintendents buy their maintenance equipment, while 23 percent opt to lease and then purchase their equipment.

Staffing and Image

On staffing issues, superintendents expressed confidence and optimism for their future. 31 percent claimed their staff size would grow in the next year, while 65 percent responded their staff would remain at the same level. Asked to critique their own image, superintendents overwhelmingly gave themselves positive reviews among players, course owners and golf professionals. 78 percent of superintendents believe players view them in a positive light, 85 percent believe golf course owners value their work, while 71 percent believe that golf professionals view superintendents positively.

NOTE: The 1999 GCSAA Golf Leadership Survey was conducted at GCSAA's 70th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida, February 9-12, 1999. The computer-based surveyed 1,275 golf course superintendents on trends in golf and golf management. [



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ZPP-HER-009

1st and goal

by Brian M. Remo, Superintendent
Richmond County C.C.

Well, guys and gals, it's been two and a half months on the job here at RCCC, and as I look outside the office window I see a beautiful scene. The rolling terrain of the golf course is blanketed with an eight-inch thick coating of the white stuff. The trees, shrubs and turf are adorned with little fluffy white flakes of snow. It's funny how snow in general shrouds the earth for the short amount of time that it remains on it. For those brief days, the golf course's imperfections cannot be seen. Worn out turf, broken cart paths, sickly trees, drainage problems, bad bunker edges, leaves, sticks and debris are all hidden by the masking of the winter's pride. Yes, it certainly is a beautiful day for February 1 . . . EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT IT'S MARCH 15!! I looked at my daily planner this morning and saw: *Monday – Start opening greens . . .* Ha!! I don't think so, Jack! You'd be lucky to see 'em by Wednesday!

Sometimes these little setbacks come at unfortunate times, but often enough, Mother Nature provides you with a little opportunity to step back and recount your thoughts. After the plowing is done we'll probably clean the entire shop, re-evaluate our inventory, paint some equipment and prepare for the upcoming weeks of opening the season. I'm not saying that I pray for the onslaught of snowfall (in fact, reference to my article on rain should just about sum up my feelings on heavy precipitation in general). However, this does bring me around to making my point: time management.

To all assistants who are looking for jobs in the industry, be sure of one thing: you'll never keep your lips above the water if you cannot manage your time. I used to make fun at the way my father would drive into my brain all of the organizational tactics that he made me perform as his assistant.

Well, Pop, another buck just went into the jar 'cause *you were right!* Not only have all of those tactics made this transition easier for me, but I don't know how anyone could manage without them. If you consider yourself to be even the least bit unorganized, **FIX IT QUICK**. I can only imagine the ramifications of figuring it out the hard way. Start finding ways to organize your thoughts, schedules, daily tasks and future plans as a standard to take with you on your next endeavor. Not all of what you establish now will be applicable to every situation at every golf course, but this practice will make adaptation much simpler. I have thought of a few time management tools specifically that I have used as an assistant that I now hold dear to me. Try to develop a plan that suits your abilities and your course's requirements.

Keep A Daily Log


Although it may seem an encumbering task at the end of a long day, sit and write down the happenings of the workday. Most stationary stores sell red hardback daily planners with the year on the cover and a full page for each day of the year. This book once filled can be kept as a sort of an almanac for future reference and can serve as a daily planner as well. Weather condition, mental notes and previous year recollections are also good to include.

Make Up An Attack List

At the start of each week, write a list of all the things you wish to accomplish. At the end of each day cross off what was accomplished, and add any new goals or "to-do's" you found along the course of the day. Update the list once a week, prioritizing jobs as immediately, today, this week and long term. A good super or assistant is not the one who empties the list the fastest, but the one who always has a long list to empty!

Continued on page 19






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1st and goal

Continued from page 18

Write It Down!

When I was an intern at Rock Spring Club, the assistant, Kerry Boyer (presently superintendent at Marlboro G.C.), had a saying written at the top of his clipboard: "A sharp pencil is more reliable than a keen mind." The saying and the usage of a clipboard are both great ideas.

Post Schedules and Daily Tasks

Weekend schedules, daily work lists and upcoming over-time days should be posted on a central posting board for the entire staff to see. If your shop doesn't have an area like this, it might be a good idea to suggest starting one, preferably near the time clock or lunch table where it is sure to be seen by everyone daily.

Become Computer Literate

It used to be that a computer was an aide to a superintendent's management plan. Folks, you might as well consider it a necessity. Aside from its professional word processing capabilities, a spreadsheet such as Excel is highly valuable in almost all procedures we encounter each day. If you do not have access to one at the office, the purchase of a home unit should be considered.

Last month I attended the GCSANJ seminar at Rock Spring Club sponsored by the Class "C" Committee. My as-

sistants, Al and Chuck, attended with me as well. Jim MacLoughlin gave one of the finest presentations I had seen all year and went into great depth on the value of time management to a golf course superintendent. I commend him and urge the attendance of Jim's presentation and services to anyone who has access to its viewing.

I can personally vouch for the validity of his information and the suggestions I made above. A good friend of mine once said "Success at the management level is not merely based on preparation, but primarily relative to how well one adapts to the change." I sat down with my wife, Fran, the other night (who either enjoys discussing my work with me or she fakes attentive listening rather well), and realized two things: 1. I never learned so much than in the past two months, and 2. I never realized how much I had learned. Education, experience, poise, demeanor, accounting and people skills . . . all tools that a superintendent should keep in the mental tool box in his or her head. But, as in life, a neat and tidy toolbox is essential for a job well done. And that, my friends . . . takes organization.]



Calendar

Continued from page 3

October 19 GCSAA SEMINAR, BENTGRASS MANAGEMENT RELATIONSHIPS TO PHYSICAL, MECHANICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL STRESSES: Rock Spring Club. Host: Wayne Remo, CGCS. Contact GCSAA at 800-472-7878.

November 2 CLUB MANAGERS, GOLF PRO, SUPERINTENDENT TOURNAMENT

December 6 GCSAA SEMINAR, MAXIMIZING JOB SATISFACTION: Taj Mahal. Contact GCSAA at 800-472-7878.

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Continued on page 25



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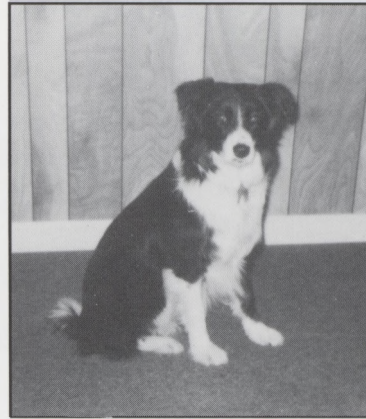
Warning: Don't let this happen to your goose-chasing dog

By Ken Krausz, CGCS

OUR DOG ALMOST DIED LAST MONTH! Paramus Golf Course has had a Border Collie, Mist, for the past three years. Mist chases the geese here and at the town pool. She has a great set up, 118 acres to run around, a crew and membership that love her and a large indoor-outdoor pen for when she is by herself. A bunch of mice decided that Mist should not live alone, so they decided to take up residence in our maintenance facility.

The last time we had mice indoors was five years ago, and we bought mouse traps which did not work, so we purchased mouse bait in cardboard boxes that killed the mice after they ate it. This winter we purchased the same mouse bait and placed the boxes up on shelves so Mist would not be able to get to them.

A couple of days later Mist was not eating so we took her to the vet. He was informed of the mouse bait, but rea-

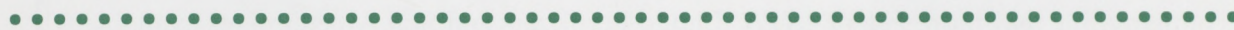


Mist, alive and well!

soned that since her gums were not bleeding (a sign of poisoning) and her throat was red that she probably was just under the weather and gave me some medication. Two days later Mist coughed up blood and was brought back to the vet. He took x-rays and found blood in her lungs.

Mist was rushed to the local animal hospital and spent the next five nights there getting treatment. Nothing was ever confirmed, but the treatment that Mist was given was the treatment for poisoning, and she responded well, so

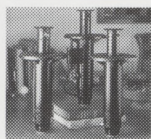
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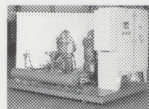
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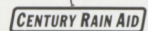


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Don't let this happen to your dog

Continued from page 22

the "scientific guess" is that Mist ate some of the poison and did not have the "classic" symptoms of poisoning so was not diagnosed immediately.

There are two theories on how Mist got to the bait. While she was in the hospital we cleaned the entire shop and found the bait all around the shop, which leads us to believe that the mice moved the poison to the ground and Mist ate it, or the other theory is that since we only found two dead mice and no evidence of more that maybe Mist ate the dead mice

Cadillac NFL Golf Classic looking for volunteers

Wanted - Experienced personnel to rake bunkers, hand cut greens or other tasks required to help in the preparation of Montclair C.C. for the Cadillac NFL Golf Classic. The hours of work are 5:00 a.m. until the tasks at hand are completed. Experience in golf course maintenance is required as Bob Dickison, CGCS, will be running around like crazy during that week, which starts Memorial Day and ends Sunday, June 6. Rate of pay - the feeling of camaraderie and satisfaction that we can still rake a bunker with the best of them.

Last year at least 20 volunteers helped out, and it was a great experience. If you can free up a couple of mornings, we were done by 7:30 - 8:00 am. Contact the "Official GCSANJ Golf Classic Coordinator," Mr. Shaun Barry at 732-846-8173. You will enjoy a couple of mornings spent as a part of this number one grounds crew. [

and ingested the poison that way.

Mist is fine now and we will contact a professional exterminator if we see mice again! The scary thing is that we thought we had placed the poison correctly, and the vet did not see the normal symptoms (bleeding gums) so Mist was almost lost.

It cost Paramus Golf Course over \$2,200 to make Mist better, and that could have been a hard thing to explain to my bosses, but they all understood the gravity of the situation and supported the efforts to save Mist.

The hospital gave Mist blood and plasma transfusions, and I had to ask, "How does a dog give blood?" The answer, we have the same blood types as dogs so the hospital staff gives blood when necessary, and blood is purchased from a blood bank if no other is available!

This story has a happy ending, Mist is fine and now living with my family and commuting to work with me. Mist was close to death, the hospital did not think that she was going to make it through the first night. So use my situation and learn by it and make sure that your "GOOSE CHASER" is here to chase geese for a very long time! [

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Opening day, hidden costs of golf course maintenance

by Ken Krausz, CGCS

This past winter I was asked by my manager, LPGA member Madeline Cassano, to have our ball washers painted a new color and also to get flags with the Paramus Golf Course logo on them for the spring. Madeline and I have one of the best relationships that any golf course management team could have, and I knew that she would trust my judgment when it came to pricing (although she had final say over design and color).

My trip to the GCSAA conference and show had me investigating the different options and orders placed when I returned. Paramus Golf Course is open all year (closed on Christmas and due to weather), although our official "season" is the same time that USGA Handicap's can be posted. This year posting began on April 9, and my staff started to get the course ready for the "season."

I started to add up the costs of just sprucing up the green and tee areas, and it was quite a tab. The following is a quick breakdown:

TEEING AREA -

Rebuild and paint Ball Washers (done by a company in California)	\$60.00
New Club Washers on each tee (also requested by the Pro/Manager)	\$69.00
Mounting bracket for New Club Washer	\$30.00
Foot Scrapers	\$45.00

GREENS-

New Logo Flags (not including artwork)	\$10.00
New Putting Cups	\$16.00
New Poles	\$14.00

Add these costs up and you have spent almost \$250.00 per hole to make it look nice; that comes out to over \$4,500 for 18 holes.

You may say that is not so bad, but many costs are not included. We have divot pails at every tee marker, 3 per tee at \$100 per pail is \$300 per tee or \$5,400 over 18 holes, not including tee mix and seed.


I have not included the cost of tee markers, pin placement flags, target rings, signs, club rests, garbage cans, ball washer detergent, bunker rakes, benches, stakes, marking paint, signs, water coolers or many other items, such as **labor** to install all of these items.

The way I figure, it costs the Greens and Grounds Budget a good \$10,000 to make the course look nice for opening day and we never closed! The green and teeing areas look

great, Madeline is happy, and we are getting compliments on the new flags and ball washers, so I guess it is all worth it!

The way I figure, it costs the Greens and Grounds Budget a good \$10,000 to make the course look nice for opening day and we never closed!

Next request, a parking lot sweeper that can also clean cart paths. Initial costs come in at about \$30,000, but that does not include the labor savings and noise reduction of using a backpack blower! ♪



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Focus on Dogwood Anthracnose

Dogwood anthracnose is a serious disease of flowering dogwood in the northeastern United States. *Unlike most dogwood diseases, dogwood anthracnose can result in tree death within a 3- or 4-year period if allowed to proceed unchecked.* The disease will first infect the leaves and then pass into the small twigs, eventually reaching the main trunk. Cankers form on the trunk at the bases of the dead branches. Once the trunk is extensively cankered, the tree probably will die.

Curing the disease is difficult. Currently, no sure-fire treatments are available. *The best course of action includes minimizing stress through proper watering, fertilization and pruning, thereby relying on the tree's own mechanisms to defend itself.*

Symptoms

Dogwood anthracnose is more severe during cold, rainy spring weather. The disease first infects the leaves of the tree, especially those on the lowest branches. Small, tan, purple-rimmed spots on the upper leaf surface are the first symptoms. They will enlarge and join to form large dead areas on the leaf. Eventually, the entire leaf may wither and die.

Leaves killed by the anthracnose fungus often hang on

the trees after normal leaves drop in the fall. By this time, the fungus has grown down the leaf stalk and entered the woody twigs.

Once the fungus invades the twigs, it will begin to grow down the twig toward the main trunk. Entire twigs and small branches will die as the fungus grows through them. *Diseased trees take on a characteristic appearance with dead branches on the lower limbs while the upper crown remains green.*

Branch and twig death forces the infected tree to produce large numbers of suckers along the trunk. The leaves produced on the suckers are very large and succulent. They are very susceptible to infection by the anthracnose fungus as described above. *Once the fungus kills the leaves and grows down the soft wood of the sucker, it can quickly reach the main trunk of the tree.*

After reaching the main trunk, the fungus forms cankers at the base of the dead branch or sucker. Bark swelling and splitting is often evident around these areas. Eventually, cankers from several infected branches spread completely around

Continued on page 26

Century Rain Aid

Continued from page 20

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Focus on Dogwood Anthracnose

Continued from page 25

the trunk of the dogwood. If this occurs, the tree will die.

Management

The disease is most severe on drought stressed trees. During dry weather, apply one inch of moisture per week. Avoid overhead irrigation because it wets the foliage and increases the severity of leaf infections. Properly mulch your trees to conserve moisture and improve soil conditions.

Fertilization is important. While both spring and fall treatments are desirable, fall treatments should be emphasized. Heavy spring applications of nitrogen, especially on trees infected with anthracnose, will stimulate excessive foliage growth. The succulent foliage will be susceptible to leaf infections. A fall application combined with a light spring treatment will help minimize this concern.

Prune to remove water sprouts and infected branches. Thinning dense canopies will help improve air circulation. Any diseased wood pruned from the trees should be removed from the area to reduce the likelihood of reinfection.


Mulch around the base of your trees to conserve moisture and to prevent bark injuries. This will eliminate the need to mow close to the trunk and will discourage weed growth. Trunk injuries severely damage the ability to move water and nutrients throughout the tree.

Fungicide treatments should be employed only where a sound cultural program is practiced. Applications should be made at 10 to 14-day intervals during periods of cool, wet weather. Begin applications as the new leaves unfold. Where fungicide treatments are used, 3 treatments should be considered a minimum, with additional treatments applied if conditions favorable for disease formation persist.

Prevention

Prevention of anthracnose begins by reducing plant stress. Stressed trees are more prone to disease and wood boring insects. Reduce stress by properly caring for your trees before a problem exists. **Mulch** around the base of your trees to prevent wounding by lawnmowers and weed trimmers. **Fertilize and water** your dogwoods to build up their stored energy reserves. **Prune** to improve appearance and eliminate disease susceptible growth. **Restrict the use of weed killers** beneath dogwood canopies. By staying ahead of a problem, you can avoid having to play "catch-up" later.

Courtesy of Alpine, the Care of Trees



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QUICK FACTS

- Anthracnose is more severe during cold, wet springs.
- Drought stressed trees are most susceptible.
- Dogwood anthracnose can kill a tree over a 3- to 4-year period if left unchecked.
- Maintaining healthy, vital trees through proper cultural care will help reduce the likelihood and severity of the disease. †



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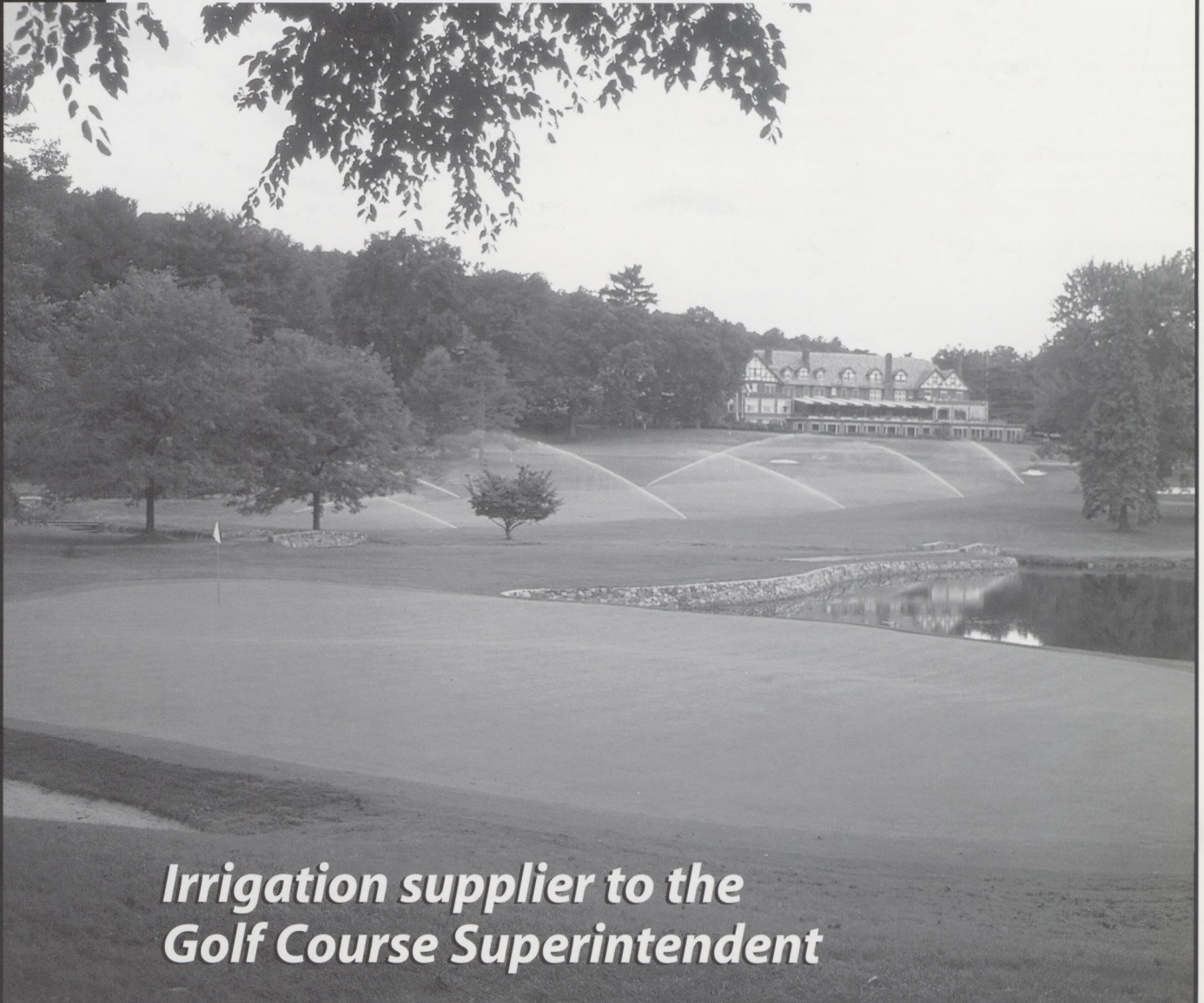
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