



THE Greenerside

Official Publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

The 75th Anniversary Kickoff Gala is a ball



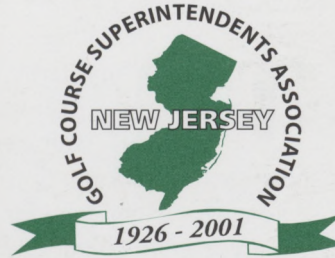
GCSANJ Distinguished Service Award Recipients: Sitting, left to right, Dr. Henry Indyk, Al Caravella, Sherwood Moore, Pete Pedrazzi. Standing, Jack Martin, Bob Dickison, Joe Flaherty, Skip Cameron, Ed Walsh and Ken Kubik.

By Ken Krausz, CGCS

The date was October 21, 2000, the place was the Upper Montclair Country Club and the event (in case you were in hibernation for the past year) was the GCSANJ 75th ANNIVERSARY KICKOFF GALA! Over 200 guests arrived and had a wonderful evening. We were met at the door by Judy Policastro and Sydney Dickison. Judy and Sydney were assisted by some of the staff at UMCC who had glasses of wine for everyone. The guests were ushered into an adjacent room for photos and directions to the patio.

Everyone on the patio was enjoying the beautiful evening. Pianist Bob Siebert did a great job of setting the tone while the cocktail hour was celebrated. The manager at UMCC realized that everyone was enjoying themselves, so he extended the event an extra hour. Enough cannot be said about the entire staff at UMCC.

Mike Mongon was the Master of Ceremonies and he had the crowd in stitches. Ed and Mary Walsh were there, giving Mike plenty of material. We had 12 Past Presidents and 10 Distinguished Service Award Recipients in attendance. Doug Vogel, our historian, created displays with all the 50-year members' original applications, the evolution of *The Greenerside*, photos of past winter seminars and more.



Our hosts, Bob & Sydney Dickison.



GCSANJ Past Presidents: Sitting, left to right, Dave Pease, Al Caravella, Sherwood Moore and Skip Cameron. Standing, Don Marshall, Jack Martin, Ken Krausz, Glenn Miller, Joe Flaherty, Ed Walsh, Chris Carson and Bob Ribbins.

Doug also created the 75th Anniversary Journal, which debuted this evening.

As I write this article and as I go through all the pictures that Shaun Barry sent me, I remember what a great time I had. Just looking at the pictures that will end up in this issue and the ones

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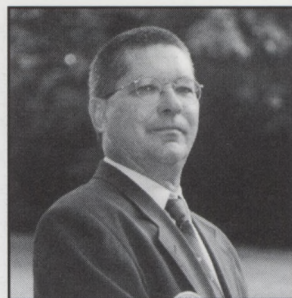
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Editorial



I'm back!

By Ken Krausz, CGCS

This is my first editorial in two years, and all I can say is how great the last two years have been for GCSANJ, wait a minute, I can't say that, what I meant to say is how great it has been for me. The last ten years on the Board of GCSANJ was a great experience for me, and I encourage anyone who would like to get involved to contact any of the officers and let them know that you are interested.

I want to encourage anyone going to the GCSAA Conference and Show to stop and spend some time at the Noreaster Hospitality Suite at the Adams Mark on February 15, and if you are a Rutgers Alumni, their reception also, which is at the same hotel, and the same date. The National is a great place to greet old friends, whether it is superintendents from the region or old classmates.

Another thing that is going on in Dallas is the GCSAA Turf Bowl, in which students from universities meet to compete for the title of (I don't know what the title is, so why don't we call it) GCSAA Turf Head Student Champions. Seriously, these students have studied hard and last year the Rutgers Turf Club did very well in their first attempt at this competition. Representing Rutgers this year will be Dennis DeSanctis, Jr., David Olsen, Katie Livingstone and Jeff Borajkiewicz. These students were the high scorers in an exam among the turf students to see who would represent Rutgers. Good luck!!

I wish GCSANJ's new Executive Board, President Ed Mellor, Vice President John O'Keefe, Secretary Bruce Peoples and Treasurer Pat Campbell. I also wish the Board of Directors all the best in their efforts to help GCSANJ grow. Please welcome Roger Stewart, CGCS from TPC @ Jasna Polana as the new District III Director and Brian Gjelsvik from Preakness Hills C.C. as the new Assistant Superintendent Representative.

President's *Message*

What is GCSANJ Up To?

by Ed Mellor, President, GCSANJ

Many people over the years have asked me, "What does the GCSANJ do for me?" I thought I would dedicate the "President's Message" in each issue of *The Greenside* to help explain what the different committees are doing.

There are quite a few people who donate their time as directors or committee members who are the true unsung heroes of this association. These individuals are working on such topics as drought emergency legislation, the DEP's minimum criteria for IPM, securing sites and speakers for monthly meetings, etc. I'm not sure that our membership knows how much work is being done on their behalf to improve their profession on a local level. I also feel that there are probably more members who would like to get involved, but are not sure what they can do or who to contact. If you have any input on how the association is being or should be run, don't hesitate to write your ideas down and fax them to me or contact the committee chairman directly. A list of committees and their members are in the front of our directory.

In this issue I thought I would discuss the Annual Meeting. By the time this issue of *The Greenside* comes out, most of you are probably thinking of the long flight to Dallas and not the drive to Hollywood Golf Club, and it probably seems like a lot of time has passed since the Annual Meeting, but I think it's an important topic to talk about. I've been to a lot of annual meetings of our association, but I know that I am the exception. I wonder why. This year our Annual Meeting was again held at Hollywood Golf Club. They always do a great job. The food is excellent and the course was in fine shape as usual. And the price is right. So why doesn't our membership attend this event? It can't be because of a lack of excitement. For all of you who did not attend this year, I thought I would recap what you missed.

Shortly after the meeting started, Chris Carson asked probing questions about the state of the finances of the GCSANJ. The answer is we had a balanced budget. As it turned out, as it has for the last few years, the revenue slightly exceeded our expenses. Then Charlie Dey started a discussion on the lack of voting members in attendance and how we need to do a better job of getting our members to the Annual Meeting. He's absolutely right. Next, Dave Pease gave us his rendition of where the association should be

heading and how a restructuring of our dues did not make sense to him. Dave touched on many topics, most of which were well received by the majority of the membership. There were 20 committee reports read summarizing the progress

I thought I would dedicate the "President's Message" in each issue of The Greenside to help explain what the different committees are doing.

of the GCSANJ. While all of this was happening, the Executive Board was discussing how they would hold elections for the 2001 officers. Finally, the meeting was topped off with some cool-headed logic from Jack Martin. All that for just \$30.00! I wonder if we will have more or less people attending next year.

As I am writing this article, it is approaching mid-December, and the country still doesn't know who the next President of the United States of America will be. I can't think of a clearer message of how one vote can make a difference. I hope I'll see more of you next November. ☺



Calendar

- Jan 22 –
Feb 9, 2001** Rutgers Three-Week Preparatory Short Course: Contact Keith Wilson at 732-932-9271
- Feb 11-18** GCSAA's 72nd International Golf Course Conference and Show, Dallas, Texas. Contact GCSAA at 800-472-7878
- Feb 15** NorEaster Hospitality Suite: Adams Mark Hotel, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Feb 15** Rutgers Turfgrass Alumni Reception: Adams Mark Hotel, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The 75th Anniversary Kickoff Gala is a ball

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that don't make it, I am reminded of all the people that attended. I know that there are some people that I was not able to greet and others that, although I said hello to, I was not able to talk to for long. That is probably a sign of a successful evening.

Steve Cadenelli, past president of GCSAA and GCSANJ member, along with his wife Linda were there and presented a plaque from GCSAA, which is also celebrating its 75th anniversary

Sky Bergen presented a 25-year plate to Dennis DeSanctis for his years of service to GCSANJ. Since this is the last year that Sky Bergen was going to handle the 25-year presentations, GCSANJ presented Sky with a plaque for his 47 years of active service to GCSANJ.

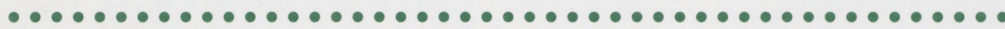
The attendance was fantastic; when you look at these pictures (see pages 12 & 13) you will see members that you have not seen in years. Marty and Debbie Mantell as well as Past President Don Marshall arrived from Virginia, Ed and Mary Walsh made the trip from the outskirts of nowhere,

the Cadenellis as well as Sherwood and Marie Moore made the trip from Massachusetts.

I could go on and on, but I will let the pictures tell the rest of the story.

I would like to thank the entire committee for all their efforts in this great evening, and remind everyone that this is only the start, as the anniversary is actually during the year 2001. In particular I want to thank Bob and Sydney Dickison for all their efforts, as well as the Upper Montclair Country Club for all their support.

In 2001, we will have a tree planting at the Crestmont Country Club, the site of the first meeting, and we hope to have a family picnic in the area that same day, as well as a dinner cruise and special tournaments during the year. I hope that we get as many people to these events as the Gala. I send a special invitation to the younger members of GCSANJ to attend, including all the assistant superintendents and your families, come out, meet and enjoy, as one day you will be an "old timer" like me and reminisce about the 75th in another 25 years! 🏌️



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GCSANJ news

HOPEWELL IS A CHAMPIONSHIP TEST

By Shaun Barry
GCSANJ Commercial Representative
Aventis, USA

Steve Bradley has been a proud member of the GCSANJ for many years. During that time he had hoped to host a monthly meeting. In 1999 we showed up for a meeting, and we ended up having lunch. This is what happens when Mother Nature decides to schedule a day of rain without checking our schedule. We approached the club again, and they agreed to host our championship. Late October weather can be nasty, but the day turned out to be brighter and warmer than expected.

John Hyland, Steve Chirip and Matt Anasiewicz arrived early to conduct the finals of the Long Drive contest. John Alexander and Matt Lapinski are good friends, and they were the only two players in the "A" finals who were able to keep the ball in the fairway. Matt took top honors with a drive of 253 yards. Joe Ciccone and Ken Krausz also lost because the fairway wasn't where they hit their drives. This allowed Shaun Barry and John Hyland to win their respective flights.

The club prepared a wonderful lunch, and everyone left happy and well nourished as they headed out to test their skills. The course is 75 years old, but it still is quite capable of a challenge to all of our players. Steve, Jay Kimball, Charlie Edgar and the rest of the staff had the course in tour tournament condition. It is not a long course, but it required the use of every club in the bag, and the small, quick greens got everybody's attention.

Since this was the championship, we had many winners. Adding his name to a very select list of talented golfers was Doug Larson. His gross score of 77 was tied with Angelo Petraglia, but he won on a match of cards. This made him the 2000 winner of the Sherwood Moore Cup. Taking third and fourth places were Ian Kunesch (78) and Tony Benfield (79).

Harry Harsin, Sr.'s net 70 edged John Wantz (70), Tim McAvoy (70) and A. Petraglia (71) in the "A" flight. Glenn Miller had a day to remember. His 67 was the low net of the day. This gave him the Dr. Henry Indyk Cup and first place in the "B" flight. The next highest finishers were Tom Tuttle (67), Bob Dwyer (70) and Wendell Beakley (71). Joel Collura enjoyed attending this meeting because his 69 was the best in the "C" flight. Our golfers are getting better, so there are fewer people in this group. Adam Mis (75) and S. Bradley (81) were second and third respectively. Ken Krausz played

in the Leslie Cup finals, so some putts were conceded. This forced Ken to post a no card, but since he was the only other player in this flight, he was awarded fourth place.

In the Affiliate Division, Jim Woods (83) won the Dr. Paul Sartoretto Cup on a match of cards with John Farrell (83). Rob Finnesey once again donated \$100 to the winners of each flight of the long drive contest and the same amount to the GCSANJ Foundation. This is the seventh year that Tree Tech Inc. has carried on this tradition. In a nice turn of events, Rob collected first place honors in the Affiliate Net Tournament. His 71 was one shot better than Tom Weinert and Rich Hendrickson. S. Barry's 75 took fourth place over Rick Krok (75) and Mike Uckar (75).

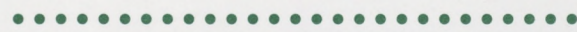
In the District Championship, District 3 slipped by the defending champs from District 4. A. Petraglia, T. McAvoy, J. Wantz, H. Harsin, J. Woods and Jim Cross made up the winning team.

Ken Kubik sponsored trophies for the newly created Senior and Super-Senior flights. Bob Prickett and H. Harsin were the gross winners, and K. Kubik, Jack Martin, Clyde Ashton and J. Hyland took net honors.

Each on the course skills contest was sponsored and open to all players. Long drive winners were M. Lapinski (A.T. Sales), D. Larson (Lebanon), J. Cross (Lesco) and B. Prickett (Storr Tractor). Hitting it closest to the pin were J. Alexander (A.T. Sales), Dennis Granahan (Koonz), M. Lapinski (Torsilieri) and Phil O'Brien (Zeneca).

A. Petraglia and D. Larson led the 0-14 skin winners. Angelo had two skins and Doug had an eagle for a double.

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GCSANJ news

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J. Alexander, Greg Armbruster, T. Benfield, M. Lapinski and J. Woods had one apiece. In the 15-40 group, G. Miller was the star. He had two skins and one was an eagle (yes... an actual eagle) for a total of three. Other winners in the flight were W. Beakley, Jim Caddott, Charlie Edgar, Harry Harsin, Jr., Dan James, K. Krausz and Pat O'Neill.

For the first time in years the Leslie Cup was actually played at the championship. This is how it is expected to happen. That, along with the fact that somebody will be playing Bob and Tom, is also a given, but this year was different. Two new teams were in the finals. The match was close, but Kevin Driscoll and Phil O'Brien were able to defeat Ken Krausz and Brian Remo. While we celebrate their win, I think their suggestion of engraving the trophy with the names of Baldy and Whitey should be reconsidered. Now I know everybody will know who they are, but I think it will start a bad tradition. I hate to think what I would have to call



myself if Mr. Pease could carry me to victory!

It has been a very interesting year, and I do need to thank Steve Bradley and Hopewell Valley for their generosity in hosting this meeting. I also send my thanks to each superintendent and golf course that was part of our schedule in 2000. We could not have done it without you, and your efforts are truly appreciated. ♪

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GCSANJ news

"C" came, "C" saw, "C" conquered

by Brian M. Remo
Richmond County C.C.


It was a typical Monday morning on Staten Island. The sun was out, the birds were chirping and the wind blew ever so briskly, like Mother Nature was reminding us all that the year without a summer would most definitely have an autumn to remember. The day was October 30, 2000. The place was Richmond County C.C. The event . . . the third annual Class "C" Golf Championship. Sixty-four men went out to battle the 6,500 yards of slick greens, tucked pins, tight fairways and lengthy rough that awaited the performance that would deem the next champion of the New Jersey assistants. Who would hold the title? Who would claim the sought after "C Cup" that has slowly become the gleam in the eyes of so many who have tried to harness its glory for two years prior? The scene was set for something great to happen on this day, my friends, and something great happened indeed. There was one man who seemed to have everything going his way that afternoon. A man from Arcola C.C. named Joe Kinlin.

After bogeys on one and two, Mr. Kinlin didn't think he was off to too good of a start. Two of the easier par fours had just escaped his grasp as he approached the third tee. The signature hole was playing to a mere 163 yards, with a howling head wind and a vertical drop of just over 100 feet. Joe Kinlin drew a 6-iron from the right side of the green across the rear pin position and, just as it looked like it might over-shoot it to the left, the wind seemed to coax it back toward the green and the golf banner that would shortly mark the territory of a new Class "C" champion. Joe wrapped up closest to the pin for that hole by taking his putter out of the equation. A hole in one! I don't think he realized the importance of the shot until after the dog pile of his playing partners clambered off of him, but one thing was for certain, that shot marked the preamble to what would be the round of the day . . . that shot started a string of well-played holes to lead the pack . . . that shot started the Joe Kinlin show.

Kinlin fired an 86 to lead all players, while stacking up three skins, a longest second shot award on the longest par five in the Met section, and an obvious closest to the pin on three. Joe Kinlin left his heart on the playing field. He left his mark on Richmond County C.C., but most importantly, he left the island with the cup.

Tony Benfield (1998 Class "C" Champion, Deerwood C.C.) won the net division for assistants with a 74. Matt Sedorak (Grass Roots Inc.) won the non-assistant gross with

an admirable 89. Non-assistant net honors went to Jay Antonelli (Club Car Inc.) with a 72. The longest drives on the 6th and 18th holes were won by Tony Hooks (Navesink C.C.) and John Green (Rumson C.C.) respectively. The closest to the pins were awarded to Adam Geiger (Schofield Inc.), putting it 13'11" on the 5th, and "El Presidente" Ken Krausz (Paramus G.C.), who shot a dart of 8'2" on the 13th.

However, no honor ever bestowed could express the way Mr. Matt Wasserloos got his money's worth by running a 128 to capture the most honest golfer award that has fittingly been named "The Kerwin Cup." It's a shame that Doug Spencer (Club Car Inc.) is no longer an assistant, his 132 would have stolen the cup right out from the young Mr. Wasserloos. Kudos, Doug. All in all, the consensus seemed to be a great time had by all and yet another successful championship. Much praise was given to the hosts (Brian Remo, Curt Gandolfo) and their dedicated staff for the preparation, yet the real praise should aim toward the ongoing committee that has and will continue to pave the way for years to come. Class "C" Delegate Tim Kerwin and his committee have carried the torch with much success. All involved should be highly commended. 





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LA NINA HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

The summer of 2000 has been marked by extreme weather. While cool, wet conditions have been the norm in the East, the West and South have suffered through drought and fire. The Washington, D.C. area had its coolest summer since 1972, while the San Francisco Bay area suffered a heat wave with record temperatures of up to 110 degrees.

But now, according to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), La Nina, the cause of this weather, is gone and not expected to return. Nor is its climatic opposite, El Nino, expected to influence the weather for the next nine months.

The U.S. autumn forecast does call for warmer-than-normal temperatures in the Southwest, especially in the desert Southwest and in the Florida peninsula. It's likely that drier-than-normal conditions will continue in the Southwest.

In the Northwest and the Central and Southern plains, scientists expect wetter-than-normal conditions, but not enough to eliminate the drought.

"For the first time in three years, global weather will not be impacted directly by either a strong El Nino or La Nina," said Norman Y. Mineta, U.S. Secretary of Commerce. "This means a return to more normal weather, but long-term seasonal outlooks will be more uncertain without the influence of these climate cycles."

El Nino occurs when sea-surface temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific are warmer than usual, and La Nina, when the water temperatures are cooler than normal. Both events influence the atmosphere and have ripple effects on weather around the world.

NOAA scientists also said a lesser-known, short-term climate phenomenon called the Madden-Julian Oscillation, is one of several that can impact the numbers and intensity of tropical storms. The MJO circulates from west to east around the globe, sometimes enhancing wind patterns favorable for rainfall. As the pattern approaches the Americas, other factors being equal, hurricanes are more likely to occur in the Gulf and Caribbean.

With hurricane season at its peak and parts of the East getting more rain than normal, officials warned of the severe flood dangers of tropical storms and hurricanes, and urged residents to stay prepared.

"Every home, school, office, church or business along the East [and Gulf] Coast should have a NOAA Weather Radio, and be prepared to respond when the warnings are announced," said Jack Kelly, director of the National Weather Service.

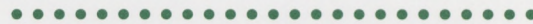
INDUSTRY NEWS

The EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing program has launched a web site that provides information for more than 600 products and services. The database is one of several resources that the EPP program developed to assist government agencies in their purchase of environmentally preferable products and services.

Organized into 50 categories from appliances to vehicles, the database is a comprehensive resource for conducting market research, revising performance specifications, developing contract language or establishing evaluation criteria.

The EPP database includes more than 330 environmental standards and guidelines developed by government agencies and independent groups. There are links to hundreds of environmental purchasing resources, potential suppliers and contracts used by federal, state and local governments, and the private sector for purchasing green products and services. The database contains information developed by lead-

Continued on page 9



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Continued from page 8

ing environmental experts in EPA programs and those of other Federal or foreign agencies. More information on this program is available at <http://notes.erg.com>.


Lebanon Seaboard Corp. has contributed \$88,957.30 to Rutgers University to further turfgrass research. The figure represents royalties for some of the varieties of turfgrass that have been developed in cooperative projects with Dr. William Meyer and Dr. Reed Funk at Rutgers. 

**CONGRESS APPROVES
NTEP, SCIENTIST POSITION**

The FY2001 Agriculture Appropriations bill recently

signed by President Clinton includes another year of funding for the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program and adds a full-time turfgrass research position in the USDA for the first time since 1988.

The new position will be located at the Beltsville (Md.) Agricultural Research Center and will be funded at \$250,000 a year. The new scientist will work on improving genetic stocks of new and promising turfgrass species as well as currently utilized species. Included in the duties of the new position will be collecting grasses growing in native stands under harsh conditions to find plants with improved tolerance to drought, heat, cold, insects, disease and wear.

Editor's Note: Every year we are asked to write letters to support NTEP. This year it passed on its own! 



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1st and goal

by Brian M. Remo

Golf Course Superintendent, Richmond County C.C.

One would have to agree that we live in some fascinating times. The world of technology has evolved to a point where our forefathers would be astonished at how the job of the superintendent has improved. No more looking at the sky for a guess at the weather, we now have on-site weather satellites to predict with amazing accuracy. The days of pull-behind reel mowers are almost extinct since the invention of the hydraulic motor. An accounting pad and pencil has rapidly been replaced by the personal computer. Locating a fellow worker is made possible by the hand-held radio. As for improvements in irrigation . . . Well, let's just say that when I use the word bayonet in a sentence, most guys my age have no idea what the hell I'm speaking of. Technology, amazing new research and inventions of the new millennium have made the industry a lot different than when my grandfather ran his operation. It makes you wonder who dreamed up these lifesaving techniques, how they ever got along without them and what will they think of next.

Well, my crew and I have a few ideas with hopes that the brainiacs out there are within the reach of our mighty circulation. We thought that this being the Christmas season and all, it was a perfect opportunity to make our list, check it twice and pray that there's an Einstein that's one-half MacGyver and one-half those guys that put Steve Austin together so that maybe we'll see them become a reality.

Dear Santa Claus/Inventor Type Guys:

My name is Brian Remo from RCCC in Staten Island, New York. My crew and I figure we've been really, really good this year, so we made a list of all the things we would like to see under the tree Christmas morning. My assistant, Curt, would like:

1. **A Rock Detecting Cup Cutter**

This would be a cup cutter that is charged with a 12-gauge shell, therefore requiring almost no strain from its user. A small tectonic radar would allow the operator to avoid rocks that might otherwise interfere with the operation.

2. **Self-Unclogging Sprinkler Heads**

These would mechanically sense any reduction in flow and open the device through the swing joint activating the sprinkler for a 30-second period until the blockage was cleared, then replace the internals of the sprinkler to its previous state.

3. **Permanent Hazard Paint**

Self-explanatory. (Evidently Curt doesn't care for this task.)

My applications manager, Ed, would like:

1. **Spray Bot**

This is evidently not too far an idea from the electric remote controlled lawn mower. Perhaps you and the Husqvarna people could come up with this one for pesticide applicators.

2. **Fert/Spray Grenades**

I'm not so sure the DEP is gonna' be too cool on this one, but I'm sure the Daconil people could come up with some sort of compromise. These handy buggers would contain any chosen active ingredient, set to a certain square footage, then simply placed in the center of the desired application area, pull the pin and run like hell. I don't know about the effectiveness or the safety involved (but it sure does sound cool).

3. **Late Sleeping Golfers**

This is just a fantastic idea no matter how you look at it. Who the hell convinced these people that 5:30 a.m. is a good time to do anything?

My second assistant, Artie, would like:

1. **Leaf Dis-solvent**

Once a year, each tree on the golf course could be injected with a kryptonian-type enzyme that would slowly dissolve its foliage into oblivion. (By the way, if this one does work out, don't tell Jimmy Pelrine. He'll probably have me strung up by my toenails for demolishing his 40-Blower income.)

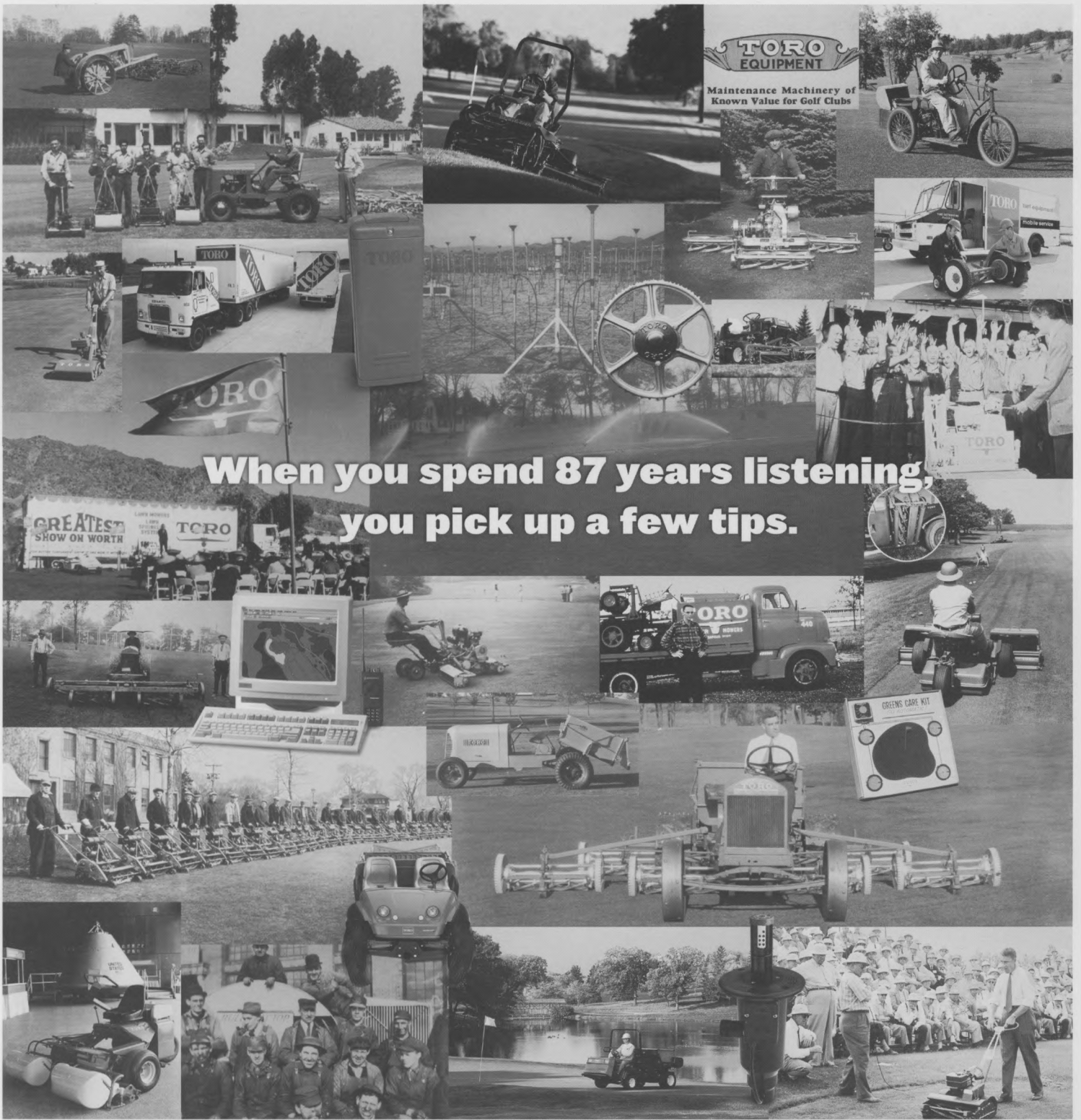
2. **Beer Fountains**

If you know Artie, you understand. If you don't know Artie . . . well, that's Artie.

As for me, I really couldn't ask for much more than I've been given already, but this being the frosty season and all, one item does come to mind. How about temperature controlled land mines? This could really make a statement in our industry and make the 7:00 a.m. questionings go a lot easier. "Why can't we golf yet, Brian?" "Well, sir, if you do go out there, you might end up in Jersey." (Just an idea of course.)

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and Nanu Nanu.

*Your friend,
Brian M. Remo*



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The 75th Anniversary Kickoff Gala



Looks good on you!



GCSANJ President Ed Mellor presents Doug Vogel with the Member of the Year plaque.

Sherwood Moore receiving DSA plaque from his nephew, Skip Cameron.



Lance and Kimberly Rogers waiting for the two-step.

Sky Bergen presents 25-year plaque to Dennis DeSanctis.



The 75th Anniversary Kickoff Gala



Sky Bergen receives plaque for 47 years of service to GCSANJ.



Steve and Linda Cadenelli return from the Cape.



Distinguished Service Award recipient Sherwood Moore with Member of the Year Doug Vogel.



Ron, Mike and Karen: Those Irish eyes are smiling.



Ed and Mary Walsh seem to be enjoying the evening.



Vendor Spotlight

The History of Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.

In 1928 Wilfred MacDonald established his "lawnmower" business in Weehawken, New Jersey. At that time, "Mac" was distributing the new JACOBSEN "power" reel mowers to local dealers serving the "homeowner" market. Mac and his brother Charles kept their business "in the black" through the great depression (not to mention a few wars). The business survived through the 1950s.

In 1965, operations moved to 340 Main Avenue in Clifton, N.J. Parts, service and sales operated out of this small building. Jacobsen was also growing and appointed MacDonald as "direct factory-to-user" dealer for turf and commercial (golf course) equipment. In 1963 Jim Pelrine started with the company. Wilfred retired in 1966 to become a "citizen of the world."

In 1975 the company headed west (about 2 miles) to a second building to house the new warehouse and shop op-



The latest in a long line of Wilfred MacDonald homes.

erations. At the time, the company employed 14 full-time employees. Three additional salesmen were added in the early '80s, as was the Harley Davidson golf car line. Outboard Marine's "Cushman" line had grown into a major product, which we were proud to represent. By the end of 1991, the distribution area grew by leaps and counties. New customers came from both north and south of our home in Clifton. At that point, our product line had grown to 20! That meant that our customers had the *most* choices of the *best* equipment from *one* source.

In 1995 we moved east (about 2 miles) to Terminal Road in Lyndhurst, N.J. (in one frantic weekend). Our entire crew had increased to around 30 in number, working very hard to serve our "friends."

Over the last two decades, promoting such world-class turf product lines as Textron, Jacobsen, Cushman, Ransomes, Ryan, Kubota, National, Turfco, Giant Vac and Smithco, your valued patronage has enabled us to earn many prestigious sales awards including seven Jacobsen Distributor of the Year and Elite "Golden Reel" awards, 19 Cushman "Quota Buster" honors, along with many other after-market sales and support citations.

Well, by 1999 we had outgrown our location in Lyndhurst, so we packed up yet again and moved (again in one "frantic" weekend, but in reality, over one month) five miles to the northeast to our brand new home in South Hackensack. Our new 50,000 square foot building we consider "state of the art" and it truly is "OUR" building! With larger parts and service departments, plus more warehouse space, we expect to provide exceptional service to our customer base as we move into the new millennium. Always working to provide the service you demand, our reward is your continued most-valued patronage. 🌱

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ASGCA offers brochure to aid in selection of a qualified golf course architect

Selecting a qualified golf course architect is vital for municipal planners, landowners and developers, investors and anyone interested in developing a new golf course or remodeling an existing facility.

"Selecting a golf course architect during the initial phase of a project may be the most critical step," says Brian Ault, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). "The architect's advice on site selection, environmental matters, cost estimates and other critical issues is vital to both the short- and long-term success of any golf course project, even before the land planner begins work."

Available exclusively from the ASGCA is *Selecting Your Golf Course Architect*. The eight-page brochure provides details on how the golf course architect can help save money in the initial and long-term stages of a golf course project.

To obtain a copy of *Selecting Your Golf Course Architect*, as well as a listing of current ASGCA member-archi-

texts, send a self-addressed, business size envelope to American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60601. Or you can log on to the ASGCA web site at <http://www.asgca.org>.

Penn State launches turf web site

Penn State's Center for Turfgrass Science recently developed a web site for program information. The site contains educational program information, research reports, outreach activities, and faculty, staff and graduate student contact information. The site address is turf.cas.psu.edu/.

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When is a tornado not a tornado?

By Kerry Boyer, Superintendent
Bella Vista C.C.

What is the real difference between a tornado and an ill wind? I never really thought about it much and never really had to. Does an ill wind become a tornado if just one more tree is downed? Is it a tornado if one more mile is added to the wind speed? Webster defines a tornado as a "localized, violently destructive wind-storm occurring over land characterized by a long funnel shaped cloud that extends to the ground . . ." My golf course, Bella Vista C.C., experienced such a storm. The national weather service didn't qualify it as a tornado even though all the characteristics were there: the wind speed, witnesses to the funnels and resulting four swaths of damage. The weather service referred to it as an "ill wind."

On August 7 of this year I left work about 4:00 p.m. to bring my girls to a movie at the local theater. I was at peace leaving work on this August afternoon as the course was in great shape. While exiting the theater after the movie I noticed the parking lot was wet but saw nothing that would

have indicated any more than a bit of rain and subconsciously was sorry that we hadn't gotten more.

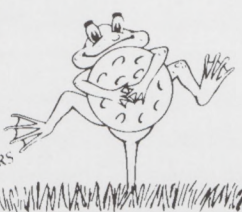
Unfortunately, more is what I got, but not of rain. On the drive to work the following morning, I noticed an increasing number of branches scattered in the road the closer I got to my destination. About 1/2 of a mile away from my entrance the roads had been closed. When I finally managed to get into the course my headlights cut through the morning mist and shone on 5 green complex to expose a 100-year-old oak laying across the green. I couldn't fully process what my eyes were seeing, and then it hit . . . a tornado had rampaged my course in a matter of minutes. At 5:45 p.m. the previous evening, winds that registered up to 100 mph hit a very small corridor of central Jersey (my course), which left a path of devastation that, as of this writing, we're still experiencing the repercussions of.

Well, like any other morning when you arrive at work to face the many problems that can occur while being a golf course superintendent, there was not time to hang the head and wallow in misery. Our priority, of course, was to get the golf course playable. Our greens, tees and fairways had to be cleared and repaired to allow golf. We had extensive damage on five of the greens where most of the larger trees were downed. The fairways and tees were filled with debris, causing broad damage to the fairways and eight of the tees. One of the first phone calls I made was to a tree company to clear all the "widow makers," tops of trees dangling by threads in the tree canopies. My biggest fear was that one of these would come careening down on top of somebody.

Continued on page 17

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When is a tornado not a tornado?

Continued from page 16

The final tally of damage to the course was five greens extensively damaged, eight damaged tees, 180 trees fully uprooted or downed at the base, 43 trees literally cracked in half and hundreds more partially damaged. When we renovated the course two years ago, we designed the new holes around many existing large specimen trees, which are no longer standing on 12 of the holes. Needless to say, the appeal we worked so hard to achieve in our design was non-existent.

With as much damage as was done, thankfully, it occurred on a Monday when the course was closed and not a single person was hurt by this "ill wind." In addition, considering all the trees that were literally propelled about the course, it is amazing that the newly built clubhouse, pumphouse and station and maintenance facility were left unscathed.

Other than the tree climber coming in, all the work was done in-house. We had nine holes opened by 11:00 a.m. that

Wednesday, and we were in full operation by Thursday morning. Quite obviously, this most expedient cleanup and repair project could not have happened without my phenomenal crew. I can't say enough about my first and second assistants, Dave Flower and Mark Becker, who kept the crew going through this overwhelming disaster. In addition, it goes without saying that I would have been lost without my equipment operations manager, Neil Weatherly. He not only kept the saws, chippers, machinery and carts operating, but helped clear sod and soil. I'm grateful to them all for their hard work and fortitude.

I, myself, have been thinking quite a bit lately about the differences between tornadoes and ill winds. If the weather service insists that this storm was an ill wind, then, in this case, I see no real difference at all.

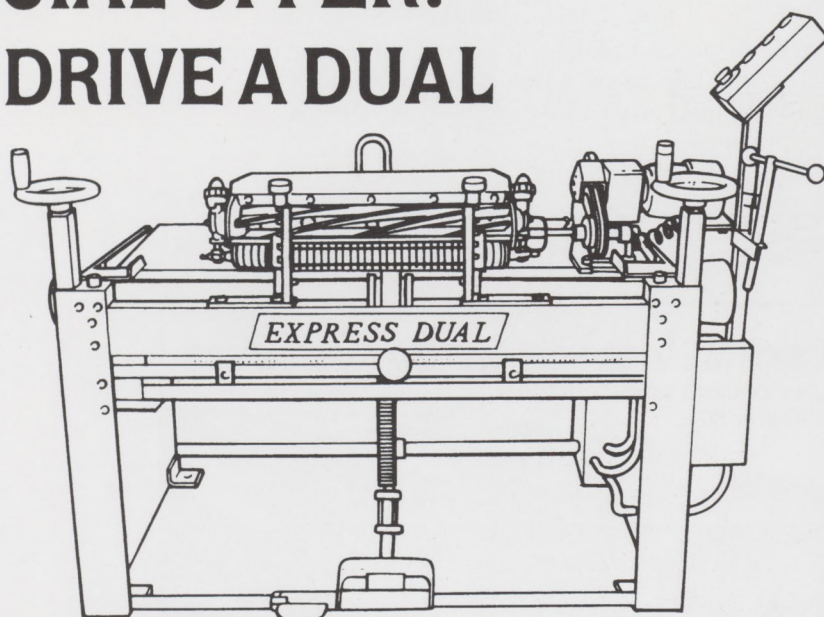
Editor's Note: The same day that the "ill wind" came through Bella Vista, Kerry broke three toes and had to hobble through the cleanup.

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It's still just a game

Author unknown

I don't know about you, but I'm beginning to fear
That much has been lost from the game we hold dear.
The players, it seems, have made the decision,
The course must be made a thing of precision.

Each line must be perfect, greens pool table true,
The bunkers 'consistent,' the sand white and new.
Each hazard once different, must now play the same,
There simply can't be any luck in this game.

The rub of the green, bad hops and tough lies,
Are signs of bad care in today's golfer's eyes.
"Let's fire the course super, and hire one we know
has control over nature, who can force grass to grow."

I think I can prove my point to you all,
By briefly discussing a visit last fall
To a course, I am sure, you would all recognize,
It's been on TV—the ultimate prize.

As an agronomist for the USGA, my routine was the same
On this fine autumn day.

The group was assembled, for the tour of the course,
The superintendent and me, and the Committee in force.

One lady, two seniors, three flat bellies and more,
I'd have to be careful, I could start a war.
There were few shared opinions in this group I could see,
So with great trepidation, I stopped at one tee.

"Just look!" they exclaimed, "our tee's thin and bare,"
Well, it's too small, don't you see, and just look up there.
While the tree is truly a beautiful sight,
The grass on your tee doesn't get enough light.

They gasped and fell back—why, one nearly died.
"Are you saying that we should commit arborcide?"
I promise the memory of this tree will soon pass
When you once more can tee up your ball on the grass.

They scowled and they glared, all down in a hunker,
"To heck with the tees, let's look at a bunker."

"The traps all play poorly," said Flat Belly three,
"This sand must be bad—it couldn't be me."
"Our sand is just fine," the lady next said.
The seniors agreed it was all in his head.

No feathers were smoothed when I tried to explain
That the bunkers are hazards, and that part of the game
Is to develop a "feel" for sand dirty or clean—
But the committee had already left for the green.

"They're too slow."
"They're too fast."
"They're too soft."
"They're too hard."
"They're too steep."
"They're too flat."
"They're worse than my yard."

I tried to explain, their greens were quite good.
In fact, the ball rolled just as it should.
And that actually, their course was much better than most.
When it came to the game, they surely should boast.

Of conditions that offered a great deal of fun,
For mother and daughter, for father or son.
But this fell on deaf ears, for they just couldn't see,
That it's still just a game, and always will be.

The visit then came to an uncomfortable close.
I fear all I did was add to their woes.
They just couldn't see the good things that they had,
They'd lost their love of the game, and that's pretty sad.

My kids are just starting to learn how to play
A game that has given me much through this day.
They'll learn to enjoy a shot that's hit well,
They'll learn that short putts can be living hell.

But they'll also learn that golf is much more
Than a four-hour walk and posting a score.
Sure they'll beat it around, but when they are done,
I hope that like me, they'll find it's great fun. ♪

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Dropping the Hammer

Use This Philosophy to Small Golfers' Ignorance

By Mike Hamilton, CGCS

Being a superintendent is no easy task. The expectations of the players increase every day. They expect us to provide perfect conditions no matter what obstacles Mother Nature throws our way. But the one factor that drives more superintendents out of the industry is the constant moaning we hear from a small percentage of golfers.

In my more than 20 years as a superintendent, I survived these slings and arrows by employing a philosophy known as Hammerology. Among other things, Hammerology can help younger, less-experienced superintendents "translate" golferspeak. Let me give you a few examples:

"The golf course is in wonderful shape" means "I played well today."

"The golf course is in terrible shape," means "I played like crap today."

"The greens are inconsistent" means "I had a lot of uphill and downhill putts today, and I have no ability to adjust."

"Can't you get the grain out of the greens?" means "I listen to Johnny Miller too much."

"The greens are too fast" means "I misread the speed all day."

"Can't you cut the fairways lower? I hit flyers all day" means "Those steroids I'm taking are really starting to work."

"There's no grass on the fairways. I can't get a wood underneath the ball" means "These bozos I'm playing with won't let me tee it up in the fairway."

"I hate the sand in our traps" means "I need to take a lesson on how to hit out of the sand, and I'm too stupid to know that a trap is something in which you catch wild animals."

"Do those guys need to be working while I'm playing?" means "I have no concentration."

"Could you come and tell me what's wrong with my lawn?" means "I'm too cheap to pay for a good lawn care service."

"There are too many lakes on the course" means "You're not doing anything wrong. I just like to complain."

Continued on page 22



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The Ball


Author unknown

In my hand I hold a ball
White and dimpled, rather small.
Oh, how bland it does appear
This harmless looking little sphere.
By its size I could not guess,
The awesome strength it does possess.
But since I fell beneath its spell,
I've wandered through the fires of hell.
My life has not been quite the same,
Since I chose to play this crazy game.
It rules my mind for hours on end,
A fortune it has made me spend.
It has made me curse and made me cry,
I hate myself and want to die.
It promises a thing called par,

If I can hit it straight and very far.
To master such a tiny ball,
Should not be very hard at all.
But my desires the ball refuses,
And does exactly what it damn well chooses.
It hooks, it slices . . . dribbles . . . dies,
Or disappears before my eyes.
Often it will have a whim,
To hit a tree to take a swim.
With miles of grass on which to land,
It finds a tiny patch of sand.
Then has me whimper like a pup,
And swear that I will give it up.
I take a drink to ease my sorrow . . .
But The Ball knows . . .
I'll be back tomorrow. ♪

Did you know?

According to a recent keyword search study conducted by Lycos, "golf" was the No. 1 sports keyword and the No. 16 overall keyword used at search engines on the web last year?



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Green speed publication available

A newly published bulletin entitled "Factors Affecting Green Speed" is available to golf course managers and golfers alike. This four-color publication by The Ohio State University and The Pennsylvania State University covers management practices that impact ball roll on putting greens. The authors, Patty Sweeney, George

Hamilton and Karl Danneberger, incorporate research data in an easy to read format.


For your free copy, contact The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation (888-OTF-3445), Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council (814-863-3475), USGA Golf House (908-238-2300) or any regional USGA Green Section office. 

Technology update: Expertcity.com

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Mayo Clinic says it may have figured out the "yips"

According to the Associated Press, a study by the Mayo Clinic has shown both physical and psychological causes for what golfers have long called the "yips."

The study, published in *Sports Medicine*, says more than a quarter of avid golfers get the yips, and that this affliction can add as much as five strokes to a sufferer's 18-hole score.

It turns out that anyone who assumes an abnormal posture repeatedly and for a prolonged period can develop a similar condition. Victims also include musicians and den-

tists, among others. Mayo researchers said yips sufferers have higher average heart rates and increased muscle activity, particularly in the wrists. 

Great links: Virtual hard drives

Worried about bogging down your computer with all those digital photos? Need some extra file space? Here are just a few of the sites available on the Internet that allow you to store your personal files on their servers:

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<http://www.freedrive.com>
- Driveway.com:
<http://www.driveway.com>
- Xdrive.com:
<http://www.xdrive.com>
- InternetfileZone.com:
<http://www.i-filezone.com/>


Dropping the Hammer

Continued from page 19

"The greens were just getting nice when you aerated means "I can't tolerate you trying to make the course nicer."

"I saw one of your employees screwing around" really means "Can't they wait until they pass out from heat exhaustion before they stop to get a drink?"

Mike Hamilton, CGCS at Foxfire CC in Naples, Fla., says he'd be more than happy to offer private lessons in Hammerology for an exorbitant fee.

Editors Note: Dropping the Hammer was reprinted with permission from the October 2000 issue of Golfdom. 

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