



THE Greenerside

Official Publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

Ridgewood Country Club hosts the 62nd Senior PGA Championship

By Doug Vogel, Superintendent
Packanack G.C.

It may have rained on his parade, but it did not dampen the spirits of Golf Course Superintendent Todd Raisch as he prepared the historic Ridgewood Country Club for the 62nd Senior PGA Championship held during the week of May 24-27.

“He was calm, cool and collected,” marveled Maplewood Country Club Superintendent Greg Nicoll. “Todd remained positive even though it rained, and it had an effect on all of us who were around him.”

With an impressive well-trained staff and a pool of 90 volunteers, Raisch met the monumental challenge of producing a major championship caliber course much to the liking of all those who played. “The golf course is immaculate,” remarked tour member Tom Kite. “Everybody in the locker room has been raving about the golf course.” Everybody—including family and friends who arrived at 4:00 a.m. each morning and for the second shift at 4:00 p.m. to volunteer their services.

“I was impressed with the whole package. How it looked, how Todd handled himself like he did it all the time,” observed volunteer Tom Weinert of the Plant Food Company. “I was addicted. I came back to help on Thursday, Friday . . . it was awesome to be a part of it.”

Not many people have a better perspective on Todd’s efforts than host PGA Professional Bill Adams. “I have never seen a golf course in better condition in any major and I’ve been to them all. Todd manages bad weather as well as anybody I have ever seen. Even with the weather, the pros were overwhelmed by the condition of the course.”

“He had this placed dialed in,” added Nicoll. Yet a simple one-word assessment on the beauty of Ridgewood’s conditioning by father-in-law Elmer Miller said it best—“PRISTINE.”

The biggest compliment of the week was paid to Raisch by Tom Watson, who insisted that Todd stand next to him



(Left to right) Ridgewood C.C. Golf Pro Bill Adams, PGA Senior Champion Tom Watson and Ridgewood C.C. Golf Course Superintendent Todd Raisch.

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GCSANJ Newsletter is published six times a year by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

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Editorial



What's Going On

So far this year we have had months of snow cover, followed by almost a week of 90 degree plus temperatures, a mini drought and over 5 inches of rain on the weekends, and the year is not one third over. New Jersey is a great place to run a golf course!

If things seem a little rough and you need a little time for learning, make it a point to attend the GCSANJ/Rutgers Fine Turf Field Day. That event is coming up soon, August 2nd. The time of this event is changed, registration starts at 9:30 a.m., with tours starting at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m., to accommodate the wishes of superintendents.

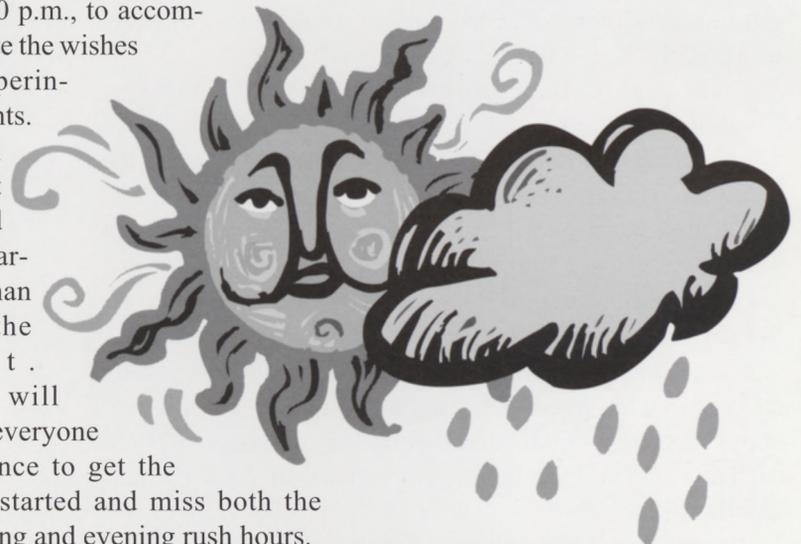
It will start and end earlier than in the past. This will give everyone a chance to get the crew started and miss both the morning and evening rush hours.

Another event that is in discussion for change is the annual meeting. Turnout is always poor and two years ago we moved it to the golf house to create more interest. That did not work!! This year there is talk about moving the meeting to EXPO. Keep your ears open!

The plans for 75th Anniversary Dinner Cruise are almost complete; look for mailings for this great event!

As you can see, the Board of GCSANJ is working hard, trying to think of better ways to do things; the Board listens to what you have to say. This is your organization, become involved, you'll be glad you did.

Lets' hope that the summer is kind! Looking forward to seeing everyone soon. 



Ken

President's Message

Ed Mellor, Superintendent, Colts Neck Golf & C.C.

In my last President's message I commented on how our Association works together like no other group of people that I am aware of. Since then I received my copy of the 2001 budget survey. Over 100 superintendents responded to this year's survey. I believe that is a GCSANJ record. Almost half the superintendents in the state Association responded to the 2001 survey. These surveys are conducted every two years. If you are still interested in participating, simply contact Bruce Peeples, CGCS, at Spring Lake Golf Club, and an addendum can be added and mailed to all the participants. These surveys are solely for the use of the participating superintendents. For all that did participate, we ask that you do not share this information with anyone. Some of this information could be considered sensitive.

For all of you that have gotten the survey, you're aware of how valuable they are. They contain information on budgets, benefits, cultural practices, rounds played, even irrigation information. Our jobs are approximately half science and half art; it's nice to see how other clubs are managing

their resources and compare that to the way we manage our own. I refer to mine regularly.

I would like to thank all those that participated in the 2001 Budget Survey, and I remind you not to share this information with others. The next survey will be done in 2003.

I would like to thank all those that participated in the 2001 Budget Survey, and I remind you not to share this information with others.

Bruce Peeples and his committee did a great job preparing this year's survey. Job well done, Bruce. This is just one example of how the members of the GCSANJ stick together to help each other. ♪



62nd Senior PGA Championship

Continued from page 1

during the picture taking at the Champions Banquet. The Old Tom Morris recipient was gracious in his praise for all involved in his victory. "You can tell your whole staff this is the best course we've played on all year." ♪



Todd Raisch made sure that the rough was!

Calendar

- August 2** GCSANJ/Rutgers University Fine Turf Research Field Day, Hort Farm II. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100
- Sept. 17** GCSANJ Invitational, Shackamaxon Golf & Country Club. Host Superintendent, Mark DeNoble. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100
- Oct. 16** GCSANJ Championship, Scotland Run Golf Course. Host Superintendent, Andrew Franks. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100
- Dec. 10** GCSAA/GCSANJ Seminar, Managing a Multicultural Workforce, Trump Taj Mahal. Contact GCSAA at 800-472-7878
- Dec. 11-13** NJTA EXPO, Trump Taj Mahal. Contact NJTA at 732-821-7134

Member Profile

Getting to know "The Big Root"—Ken Kubik

By Joe Kinlin
Assistant Superintendent
Arcola C.C.

I recently had the pleasure of sitting down and talking with Ken Kubik of Grass Roots about his career and our industry.

Ken Kubik has served the golf industry for over 30 years and fortunately for us he will probably never stop. Ken was born in Newark, New Jersey. He started working in the golf business at the age of 13 as a caddie at Crestmont CC located in West Orange, New Jersey. He eventually began working on the greens crew for Superintendent Pete Pedrazzi and was Pete's assistant superintendent from 1970-73. He then took a job as a salesman for the Andrew Wilson Company until 1978, when he started his own business called Grass Roots, which he still owns and operates today.

Ken's business background and business experience

gave way to his involvement in GCSANJ as advertising manager for the newsletter from 1976-79. He also helped develop the official newsletter of GCSANJ, *The Greenside*. Along with assisting superintendents with hosting tournaments and organizing volunteers, Ken has served on the Board of Alliance for Environmental Concerns and the New Jersey Turfgrass Association Board of Directors. Perhaps Ken's finest achievement was receiving the 1993 GCSANJ Distinguished Service Award. You get a real sense when talking to Ken about the award that it "really means something."

Ken's secrets to success as a business owner in the turf industry are service, service and service. Quick and reliable delivery of products that superintendents need is a major part of that service commitment. Another tremendous part of the service Grass Roots provides is the knowledge and experience that Ken has to offer. From some of the outdated chemicals no longer in production to the newest chemistry that will soon be available, Ken will always tell you what works. Perhaps one of the most unique educational events that I have had the pleasure of attending is something Ken cooked up called Dinner and Dialogue. What Ken does is get together a number of superintendents and assistants and bring them all down to Grass Roots headquarters in Mount Freedom, New Jersey. He has a speaker come in to discuss a product that everyone is interested in and then takes everyone out to dinner. This is yet another tool that Ken uses to serve our industry. (And you can all take the advice of John Wantz, CGCS, the sangria at that restaurant is some of New Jersey's finest.)

JK: Ken, what made you decide to go into the turf business? First on the course, and second as a vendor.

KK: My mother was the office manager at Crestmont C.C. and every a.m. she would leave me at the caddie yard in order to get a loop. I did various jobs at the club, i.e. office helper, parked cars, busboy, waiter and eventually started working on the greens maintenance staff.

As a vendor: I chose between being a golf course superintendent at Sunset Valley G.C. and being a salesman for Andrew Wilson, Inc. I chose the latter because it paid ten dollars more a week, I received a car and an expense account (and the "New Root" was on the way!).

JK: Who were your mentors?

KK: Pete Pedrazzi – I was his assistant at Crestmont C.C., and Bert Jones – he was my boss at Andrew Wilson, Inc.

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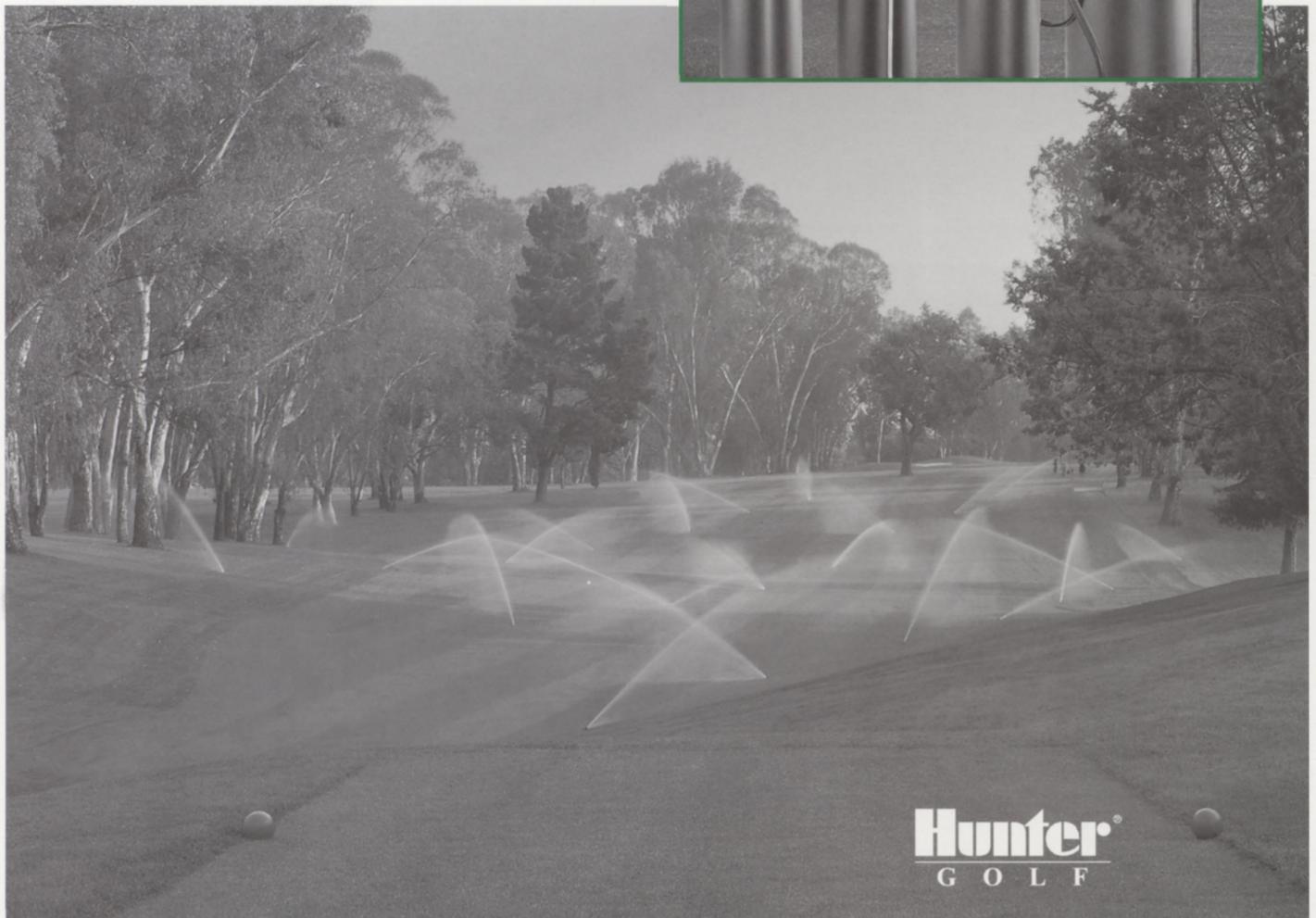


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Member Profile

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JK: What are your finest accomplishments both personally and professionally?

KK: Personally: having four wonderful children who continue to make me proud to be their father.

Professionally: receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the GCSANJ.

JK: What do you feel is the toughest issue facing our industry?

KK: Golfers' expectations of course conditions.

JK: How do you feel about some of the newer technological advances coming out on the market (i.e. fertigation, chemicals, equipment)?

KK: The newer pesticide technological advances are more environmentally sound, and therefore I have a clear conscience selling the pesticides to the golf course superintendents.

JK: In case people don't already know, who do you have on your staff at Grass Roots?

KK: Ken Kubik – the “Original Root”
Keith Kubik – the “New Root”
Jay McKenna – Operations Manager
Pete Pedrazzi – “The Legend”
Support group at warehouse – Matt Sedorak, Bill Burke, Ryan Burbridge and Karen Kubik
Financial office staff – Ginny Kubik and Pixie Smith

JK: What is the best part about your end of the turf business?

KK: Being able to work with the fraternity of guys in our industry.

JK: My boss calls you the “Original Root” and I have heard you referred to as the “Big Root.” So, Ken, you've got to set the record straight...which do you prefer? And finally is Keith known as the “Little Root” or does he have any “root” at all?

KK: To clarify any discrepancies.... The “Original Root” is Ken. Keith used to be “Root Junior,” but he has done such a bang-up job he has become the “New Root” in my eyes.

JK: Ken, once again, thanks for taking the time to let us get to know the “Real Root.”

KK: Joe, thank you, always a pleasure. ☺

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GCSANJ news

THE GCSANJ MEETS IN THE EAST

By Shaun Barry
GCSANJ Commercial Representative
Aventis Environmental Science

When Clark Weld volunteered to host a meeting, I don't think he realized that it would be our first meeting of the year. Of course this would be no problem for him unless we picked the day when he was aerating greens on the West course. As it turned out, the club proved that Murphy's Law is still alive and well. The good news was that Clark's staff got to do something positive for the greens, and he also opened up two extra spots for some of our members to enjoy a new experience. The really good news is that he didn't have to try and make a putt on these Augusta-style greens. Only the really talented players seemed to handle their contours and speed. It was an amazing experience. Blue Heron Pines East has the visual look of a parkland course but it played hard and fast just like a links course. What a great combination, and it was quite obvious how much time and effort went into preparing this course for play. It is one of the newest courses in the state, but Clark, Jeff Riggs (good luck on your new course), Pete Lozier and their staff have done lots of work to achieve this level of quality so quickly.

Start of play was delayed somewhat but it was not because Dr. Jim Murphy from Rutgers went too long with his presentation. He did a great job, and he was only slightly disappointed to find out that he was not the main reason why 128 players were attending the meeting. It also was not because the lunch (partially sponsored by Lebanon) was excellent (it was!) and people couldn't stop eating, but rather because a few of the club's morning golfers had been diverted from the West course to the East because of the aeration. They were out there a little longer than expected, but these things do happen.

The delay really did not affect the quality of play for our winners. Matt Ceplo made his trip from North Jersey a successful journey as his even par 72 easily out-distanced the field. John Farrell played well, but his 75 put him in second place. In the 15-36 handicap flight Wendell Beakley won with an 84, and he beat Jack Montecalvo (88) who has been recuperating from a major operation. Tony Raczynski (68) and Mike Uckar (64) were winners in the net flight, while John Hutchinson (70) and Rick Broome (68) were runners-up.

Long drive winners were Alan Beck (Fisher & Son), John Betts (Storr Tractor), John Carpinelli (Century Rain Aid), Tony Funari, Sr. (Country View), Frank Horan (Leba-

non) and Bill McAteer (Lebanon).

Phil O'Brien showed that he is ready to carry Kevin Driscoll once again at the Leslie Cup this year as he won two of the Closest-to-the-Pin contests. He was 29 inches on the 5th (Finch Turf) and 15 feet 5 inches on the 7th (Fisher & Son). Tom Fallacaro hit his 3 feet 3 inches on the 13th (Koonz Sprinkler Supply) and Jerry Coscia won the last prize with a shot to 11 feet 5 inches on the 17th (Torsilieri)

Our 0-14 Skin winners were M. Ceplo, Craig Kinsey, Tony Toto and Jim Woods. In the other flight the champs came only from the first half of the alphabet—Harold Busch (twice), Steve Chirip, Mike Famularo, Bob Fetzko, John Fowler and Byron Johnson. If this trend continues, this might be my year for a skin.

Clark was able to join us for dinner so we got a chance to thank him for hosting an event that he unfortunately couldn't enjoy like the rest of us did. Perhaps we need to come back when you can play, Clark, but in the meantime please extend our sincere thanks to everyone involved. Their efforts were noticed and appreciated. [

WILDWOOD ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS

By Shaun Barry

The good folks at Wildwood G. & C.C. thought that they were only scheduling a GCSANJ monthly meeting. It now appears that we use their generosity to actually plan for some rain if it becomes necessary. Last year our day was

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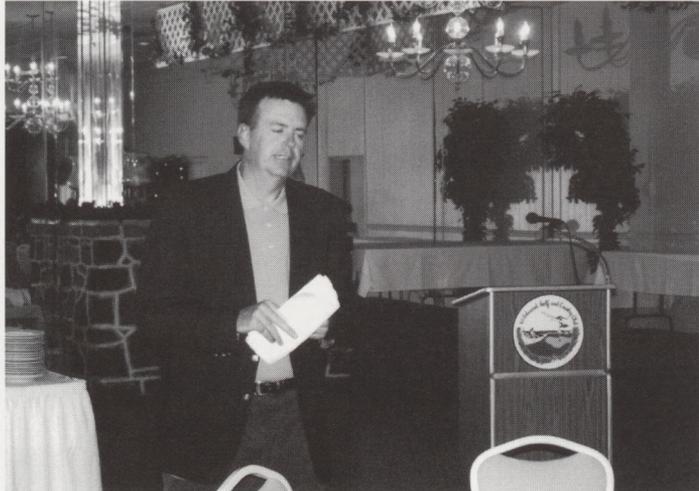
GCSANJ news

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affected when the rain did not stop in time for us to get the group onto the course. This year things were only slightly different. The club very kindly asked us to return so we could experience the challenges of this wonderful course. Khlar Holthouse has moved to the Niagara area since last year, and Jeff Staeger moved up to the head position. Hosting the meeting was okay with Jeff and it definitely was okay with us.

In spite of a strong desire to attend the meeting, which was evident from the large field last year, most of our members had to stay close to their own courses. A month-long drought was still going strong when the deadline for atten-

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Jim Baird is shown speaking to the GCSANJ at their May Meeting.



Jeff Staeger receives our new 75th anniversary flag from Gregg Armbruster for hosting our May meeting at Wildwood Golf & Country Club.



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GCSANJ news

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dance to this meeting passed. Of the 48 members on the list there were a few who were unsure until the day of the event. Those that did attend had a great time.

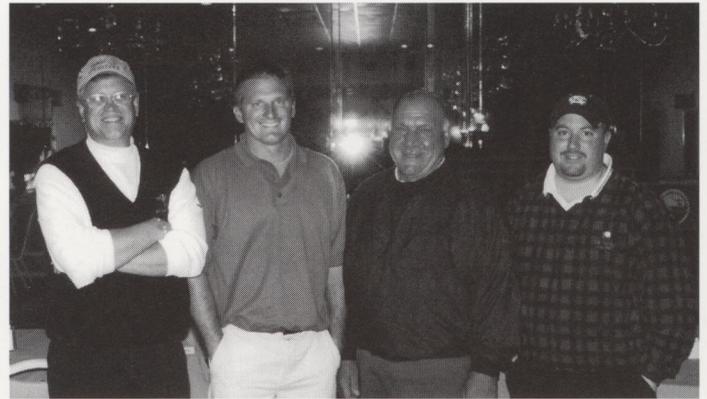
Jim Baird gave a great USGA update. Everyone in the room seemed to feel very comfortable with Jim knowing that he was now going to be part of their professional lives. Having the ability to ask questions from a person who will have the answers definitely reduces some of the normal daily stresses.

During a relaxed lunch that was sponsored by Leon's Sod Farm and Syngenta, the rain decided to stop. It then remained dry until about 10 minutes after most of us finished play. It appears that not only is Jeff a wonderful superintendent, but he has some control over the weather. In case of an emergency, Jeff's number is in the directory.

We did have to move the ball in the fairway because of casual water, but because the course does drain so well we had no problem enjoying the round. Enjoying it the most was Tom Grimac. Tom tries to play here whenever possible so he does know the course (I know somebody very well who also knows the course and he shot 99), but he still had to play hard and smart to shoot his 76. He edged out Jason Buccino (77). It was Jason's first meeting as a member, and it looks like District III has picked up another player for its District team. Tony Funari, Sr. also knows the course and his net 67 put him ahead of Damon Berardo's 71.

Rolf Strobel was closest-to-the-pin on the 5th (Koonz Sprinkler) with a shot of 11 feet 10 inches. Bruce Bailey took these honors on the 16th (Torsilieri) when he finished at 5 feet 11 inches. John Farrell had a good day in these skills contests. Not only was he closest at the 10th (Wilfred MacDonald) with 2 feet 6 inches, he also won two longest drives (Storr Tractor and AT Sales). Dave Taylor joined John when he won two of the longest drive contests (Century Rain Aid and Country View). T. Funari, Sr., Chip Kern and Tom Sikes won the last three contests that were sponsored by Fisher & Son, Lebanon and Wilfred MacDonald. Mr. Farrell also had two skins (I think John was happy he was able to make it), and Gregg Armbruster, Ed Casteen, T. Grimac, Jack Montecalvo, Steve Rudich and Bob Starry left with one each.

With the rain coming down and the drought going away there were many smiles all around. It showed after the prizes were all given out. Even though most people had long rides in front of them, many just stayed late so they could talk and joke with some old friends. Everybody seemed relaxed and pleased. We had had a wonderful day of education and fun, and our prayers had been answered. It doesn't get any better



Low gross and low net winners at Wildwood G. & C.C. are (left to right): Tom Grimac, Damon Berardo, Tony Funari, Sr. and Jason Buccini.

than that. Wildwood G. & C.C. was a sensational host and we will return if they will have us back. 🏌️

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GCSANJ news

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COMMERCIAL VENDORS KEEP THE TROOPS FED DURING THE PGA SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

By Ken Krausz, CGCS

Todd Raisch, superintendent at Ridgewood Country Club, had the task of making his showcase golf course shine a lot easier by all the help that was provided by volunteer members of GCSANJ and other friends and family of Todd's. Making all the volunteers comfortable was a task that was provided by over 20 vendors of the golf course industry.

One of the maintenance garage bays was turned into the **Hospitality Area** and "Command Central" of the grounds department. If you needed a cup of coffee and a Krispy Kream in the morning it was there. At lunchtime a hot meal was available, and at any time during the day volunteers could be seen watching the weather channel or the golf tournament while socializing with friends.

The following is a list of supporters of the hospitality area. Todd and I, along with anyone else that made it to the maintenance area, say **thank you** for helping make the tournament a little more enjoyable!

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UPPER MONTCLAIR COUNTRY CLUB HOSTS THE NFL GOLF CLASSIC

By Ken Krausz, CGCS

The tournament was pushed back a couple of weeks and what a difference that made. When Bob Dickison, CGCS, gave his morning pep talk to the grounds crew and volunteers, we were able to walk out of his shop and into the daybreak. Usually the 5:00 a.m. start would mean raking the first few bunkers in the dark.

Bob did his usual wonderful job in preparing UMCC for the tournament. One thing about the pushed-back date is that the deadline for *The Greenside* was the same time, so in the interest of putting this issue "to rest" (an editor's term) I will leave you with the following pictures:



(Left to right)
Tom Watson
with Bob
Dickison, CGCS.



Bruce Colbert
(left), GCSAA-
sponsored
golfer, with Bob
Dickison, CGCS.



From left, Steve
Chirip, Shaun
Barry, Ken Kubik
and Gerald
Fountain.

Certified Help Available

By Paul Dotti
Superintendent, Edgewood C.C.

It seems more and more golf courses are members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, but many do not wish to go through the categories to obtain the certified status or are not sure how to proceed with the program. The program was designed to create environmental guidelines for superintendents to manage their own golf courses by. Of course, raising mowing heights and naturalizing may not be acceptable at many clubs. These guidelines are not set in stone, and everyone manages their own course differently. Oftentimes people are not sure how to approach a certain category or are intimidated by how much time a category may require.

Today more than ever, we as golf course superintendents are under a microscope on how we manage our facilities. We are usually perceived as "water wasters" and "spray fanatics," when in reality, we are probably the most educated when it comes to applying both. It irritates me when it is raining and you see a homeowner's or corporation's sprinkler system running. Yet we are perceived as the water waster.

Being involved in the Audubon Program, our club not only received full certification last year, we are also looked upon differently by our community. We adopted a grammar school in town, and we are now in the process of consulting another one in the next town over. We had a class trip come to our club. The children got to see native areas, bluebirds, wildlife and wildflowers. Now people don't see Edgewood as an exclusive gated private club anymore, but a haven for wildlife and nature.

I think it is a good thing for as many clubs to become

certified as possible. This is not only good public relations for our association, it is also a positive for our profession.

As mentioned earlier, there are many members of the

We are usually perceived as "water wasters" and "spray fanatics," when in reality, we are probably the most educated when it comes to applying both.

ACSP in the metropolitan area, but only a few have achieved full certification. If you are a member and do not know how to get started or are having trouble in a certain category, feel free to call me anytime, and I will try to help you as much as possible. Or you can call the ACSP at 518-767-9051. If time is a factor, there are companies out there now that will come in for a fee and help you through the certification process.

I can be reached for questions at 201-666-0290 or e-mailed at edgepaul@hotmail.com.



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* Offer limited to superintendents and assistant superintendents joining GCSAA for the first time or those superintendents and assistant superintendents whose memberships have lapsed for at least two years.



GCSAA news

TO TEST OR NOT TEST: GCSAA EDUCATION SEMINAR CHANGES

Please be advised that as of July 1, 2001, there is no longer a mandatory testing requirement for GCSAA educational programs. This change will be reflected throughout the GCSAA curriculum and will include GCSAA Conference Seminars, Regional Seminars, Chapter-Administered Seminars and External Education programs.

Instructors may still give a test if they so desire; however, this requirement will no longer distinguish a PDU offering from a CEU offering. The Education Department would strongly recommend that there still be some form of assessment for the educational offering so that members can be sure of having gained something from the program.

To be eligible for PDUs and CEUs, a program will still need to meet the 3.5-hour time requirement. With the elimination of the mandatory testing, you might be wondering how to determine whether an offering should be eligible for PDUs or CEUs. Please use the following definitions to help you make that decision:

To Qualify for CEUs – A program/seminar/session must have clear, written learning objectives on a single topic area that is at least 3.5 hours in length.

To Qualify for PDUs – A program/conference with no specified learning objectives on several diverse session topics that are each less than 3.5 hours in length. The combined sessions must be at least 3.5 hours in length.

When preparing your own conferences and meetings, if you have a program that stands alone from the rest of your conference, you might consider this for CEUs, as long as it meets the other requirements listed above.

For questions about PDU requirements, please contact Penny Mitchell, senior manager of Certification, at 800-472-7878, ext. 484 or e-mail to: pmitchell@gcsaa.org. If you have questions about CEU requirements, please contact Nicolas Shump, education sales and program coordinator, at 800-472-7878, ext. 650 or e-mail to: nshump@gcsaa.org.

GOLF COURSES ARE WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Golf course superintendents, caretakers of the nation's golf courses, are more and more becoming caretakers of the earth, according to a recent survey of the profession. Wildlife, both good and bad, was just one topic [see Note to Editors] in a wide-ranging leadership survey that polled superintendents on issues affecting golfers, the game of golf and the golf industry.

According to golf course superintendents, wildlife habitat on golf courses is on the increase. The majority (66%) of superintendents has added natural ecosystems on their courses in the last five years with the majority (39%) adding between 2-5 acres of wildlife space.

Environment: Geese, not gophers, superintendents' enemy number one

Superintendents were asked to rate the animals and insects most inclined to harm the habitat they are entrusted

Continued on page 14

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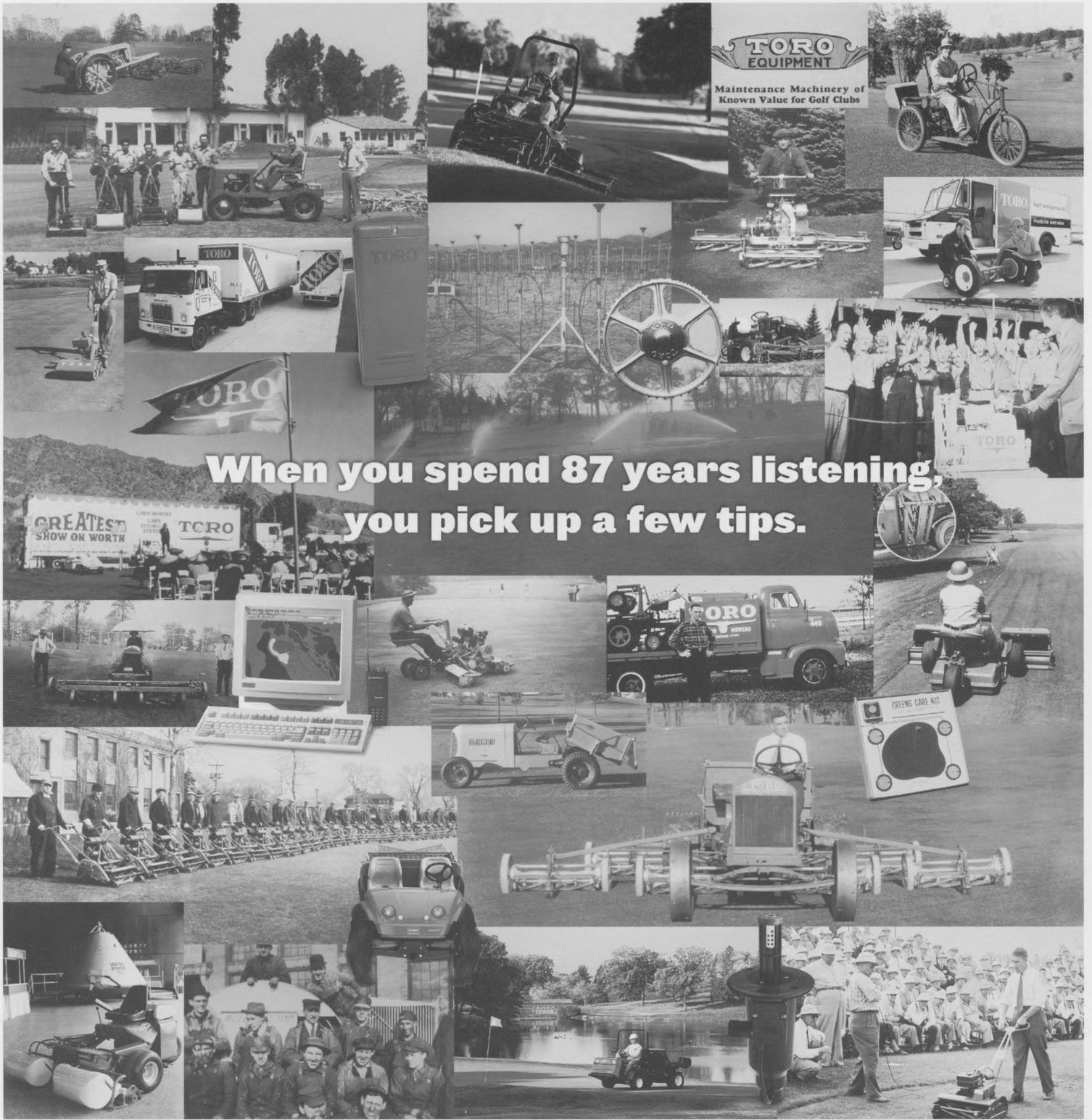
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GCSAA news

Continued from page 12

with preserving. Geese were cited (41%) as wildlife that caused the most destruction on the golf course, edging out moles (11%), deer/elk (10%) and gophers (9%) for top honors.

Gophers, however, remain uppermost in the minds of superintendents who overwhelmingly report "Caddyshack" as their favorite movie (62%).

When queried about harmful insects, the nation's superintendents stated that root-feeding insects such as grubs (60%) were the overwhelming choice for being the most harmful to golf course conditions.

Not only are superintendents adding native wildlife acreage on their golf courses, but they also prefer an unblemished, natural landscape (69%) or a body of water (18%) to abut their courses.

Environment: Drought and water superintendents' biggest challenge

For the second year, water and lack of it, figured prominently in the annual survey. Drought and water supply short-

ages were cited by 45% of the nation's superintendents as being the biggest environmental threat to their golf courses in the next year. The findings are consistent with the 2000 GCSAA Leadership Survey, which revealed that 50% of

GCSAA President Tommy Witt, CGCS, said, "Computerized irrigation systems have enabled golf course superintendents to use water in an effective manner."

superintendents cited drought as their number one environmental concern.

Effective water utilization and management is essential to superintendents who identified computer irrigation systems as the most important piece of technology for golf course operation (65%). "Just as advancements in technology have had a profound effect in the playing of the game—balls, club heads, shafts and alternative spikes—so too have they improved golf course conditioning activities," GCSAA President Tommy Witt, CGCS, said. "Computerized irrigation systems have enabled golf course superintendents to use water in an effective manner. We can now control irrigation with precision in terms of the amount of water put on the golf course, the duration it is applied and the location it is directed."

Continued on page 16

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GCSAA news

Continued from page 14

Superintendents Render Their Decision: Side with PGA Tour and USGA

Although the case has yet to be resolved by the Supreme Court, superintendents ruled for the PGA Tour in its legal dispute with Casey Martin. Fifty-four percent of superintendents supported the Tour's position against the use of golf cars by players during tournament play. However, the results were not clear-cut, as 37% of superintendents supported Casey Martin's side of the issue. While superintendents may have disagreed about Casey Martin and golf cars, there was definitive support for the USGA in its dispute with golf equipment manufacturers about the marketing of non-USGA approved golf clubs and balls. Sixty-six percent supported the USGA position with only 26% opposing the issue.

Superintendents selected alternative spikes as the golf equipment technology to have the most impact on the game

(37%), with metal woods (19%) and golf cars (16%) as the next most significant innovations. "When alternative spikes first entered the marketplace about a decade ago, golf course superintendents as a group were cautiously optimistic," said Witt. "We saw the positive impact on putting surfaces, but the key was golfer acceptance. The golfers have now clearly spoken as the vast majority has switched from metal spikes to some type of alternative. The widespread use of these types of spikes has made for much better ball rolling on putting surfaces."

Superintendents Rate Tiger Woods Golf's Most Powerful

Golf superintendents were asked to rate the most powerful figure in golf today. In overwhelming numbers, Tiger Woods (48%) was voted the industry's most powerful, easily beating PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchen (10%) and Jack Nicklaus (9%).

Continued on page 17



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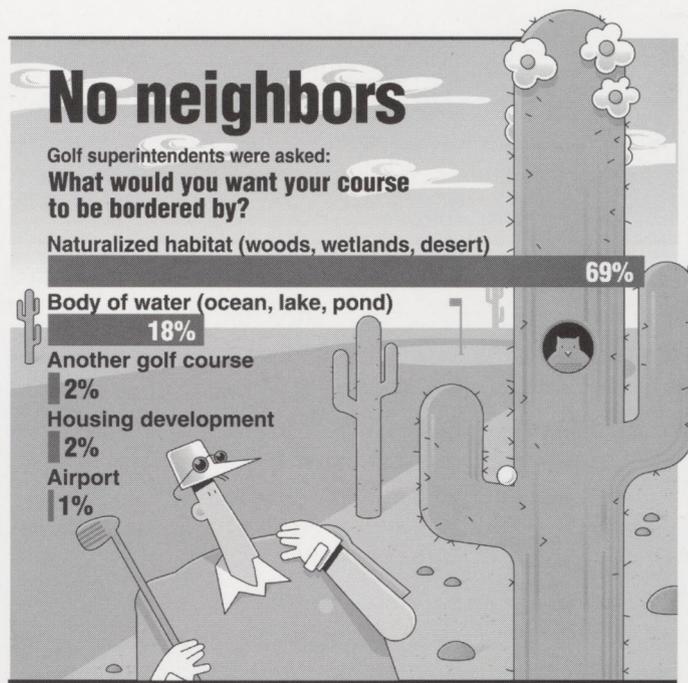


Continued from page 16

And superintendents report their favorite golf tournament is the Masters (53%), followed by the U.S. Open (20%) and the Ryder Cup (11%).

***Note to Editors:** The 2001 GCSAA Golf Leadership Survey was conducted at GCSAA's 72nd International Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas from February 11-17, 2001. The computer-based survey probed 990 golf course superintendents on trends in golf and golf course management. Others in attendance, but not participating in the survey, include course owners, architects, general managers, and club and course officials.*

***Survey Results:** This press release provides an overview and highlights of the 2001 GCSAA Golf Leadership Survey. As we've selected to highlight the most significant findings, you may notice that percentages noted in this release do not total 100%. Full results from the GCSAA are available.*



Source: GCSAA's 2001 Golf Leadership Survey



Special Membership Offer!

To celebrate GCSAA's 75th Anniversary we are offering a special membership dues rebate program beginning **January 1, 2001** and continuing through **March 1, 2002**.

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The encounter

By Doug Vogel, Superintendent
Packanack Lake C.C.

Volunteering to help fellow superintendents has always been a great way to see other golf courses, pick up a few ideas and meet interesting people. The experience at the Ridgewood Country Club was no different as I helped Todd Raisch prepare for the 62nd Senior PGA Championship.

Raking traps is my preferred task, and Todd was quick to put me in charge of a crew after finding out that I am known as the Babe Ruth of all trap rakers. I did not disappoint him as the raking skills of my crew were regaled by officials, players and ourselves.

“Who raked these bunkers, Vogel’s guys?” exclaimed an impressed Lee Trevino.

“Boys, these traps are as pretty as the fairway,” commented the PGA Rules official.

Every morning when we finished I always looked forward to the walk back to the maintenance shop, a time to relax and enjoy the beauty of the course, even in the rain. As I strolled up #17 on Wednesday, I came upon two distinguished looking gentlemen standing under a large tulip tree.

“We meet again, my friend,” the well dressed man with

mustache said. “I recall we engaged in conversation at the Winged Foot Club a few years back. You were a greenkeeper with a penchant for history if my memory serves me well.”

It was the man with the pipe and his memory served

The experience at the Ridgewood Country Club was no different as I helped Todd Raisch prepare for the 62nd Senior PGA Championship.

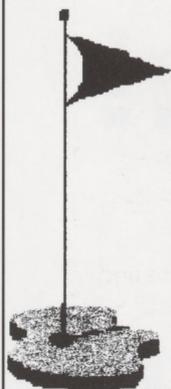
him very well.

“My friend, Paul, and I have been discussing the conditions of this magnificent piece of property. The membership must be greatly satisfied with the way in which their greenkeeper practices his craft.”

“I was employed here at Ridgewood many years past,” added the man in overalls. “This young greenkeeper has produced conditions of which I am not familiar. I am extremely proud of him. Might you know where he stalls his horses? We have some sugar cubes as a little reward for their part in this impressive undertaking.”

The rain started to increase in intensity, so I shook hands with the two, bid them farewell and started a fast-paced trot back toward the hospitality room. “Will I be seeing you at Shackamaxon in September?” yelled the pipe smoker.

Yes, Albert, I said to myself. I am very much looking forward to it. 



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Shearon Golf is a full-service golf course design/build and maintenance firm specializing in the development of new courses and the renovation of existing golf facilities. Operating from locations in Princeton and Voorhees, New Jersey, and Plymouth Meeting and West Chester, Pennsylvania, Shearon has served the Northeast area's finest golf courses for more than 14 years.

Established in 1986, Shearon offers a turnkey approach to meeting the challenges of the ever-changing golf course industry. Whether designing a new championship course or a state-of-the-art learning center, renovating a classic design or executing an extensive redesign, Shearon Golf's talented team of professionals can cover every aspect of the project. Our staff of golf course designers, ornamental horticulturists, arborists, agronomists, golf course construction experts and irrigation specialists works together to ensure that each project achieves the utmost in playability, maintainability and aesthetics. This, when combined with our extensive, professionally maintained fleet of equipment, allows us to provide quality golf at affordable prices.

Shearon has the ability to provide a full range of site design services, ranging from golf course master planning to detailed site-specific landscape designs. Our staff designers will work closely with the superintendent, membership and local regulatory agencies to produce a design/master

plan that everyone will admire. Shearon's design themes adhere to a common sense approach, where budgetary needs and maintenance after construction are integral in the design process. Our design experience includes the redesign of White Marsh Valley Country Club, a George Thomas design established in 1908; Mill River Country Club in

Shearon has the ability to provide a full range of site design services, ranging from golf course master planning to detailed site-specific landscape designs.

Stratford, Conn., where we have completed an 18-hole reconstruction over the past year; and the Manchester Country Club in Bedford, N.H., a sensitive redesign of this Donald Ross masterpiece. Most recently, Shearon's first original 18-hole design, River Winds in West Deptford, N.J., is in process. Here, Shearon is not only the architectural firm, but will be responsible for construction, grow-in and maintenance.

Whether constructing a new design or a renovation, Shearon Golf's construction experts are sensitive to the preservation of the natural features of the land, as well as the intelligent interpretation of the architectural plan. The quality of our workmanship is evident in the numerous courses that have benefited from our outstanding construction services, including Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Penn. Here, over a six-year period working with superintendents Dick Bator and Paul B. Latshaw, Shearon returned the famous quarry, which runs from the 16th to the 18th holes, to its original intent. We also reconstructed the majority of all tees and put in extensive drainage throughout the golf course including the 11th and 15th greens. All this under the watchful eyes of these two very demanding superintendents. Other prominent construction projects included work at Trenton Country Club, Green Acres Country Club, Hopewell Valley Country Club, Bedens Brook Golf Course, Cherry Valley Country Club, Springdale Country Club, Atlantic City Country Club and Medford Lakes Country Club, to name a few.

As Shearon's construction experience grew, the size of the projects also expanded to include our first 18-hole construction project, Jericho National. Here, working with architect Dana Fry, Shearon completed all the finish grading, tee, green and bunker construction. The successful completion of Jericho led to the construction of two other courses

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Shearon Golf

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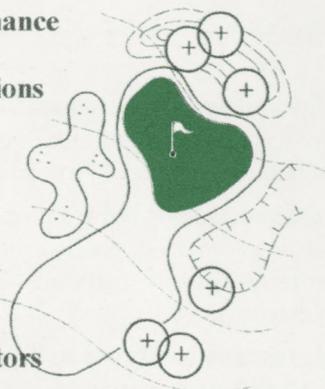
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Vendor Spotlight

Shearon Golf

Continued from page 20

for Meadow Brook Golf. They are Tattersall Golf Club in West Chester, Penn., a Rees Jones design, and the just opened Valley Brook Golf Course in River Vale, where the Shearon golf team built the entire golf course including bulk earth, irrigation installation, feature shaping, finish work, et al. This entire project was completed in 13 months!

In addition to our design and construction capabilities, Shearon offers exceptional golf course maintenance services. In conjunction with its sister company, Shearon Environmental Design, Shearon Golf has grown to over 300 em-

ployees strong and provides an extensive array of services, including irrigation, arboriculture, custom spray applications, aeration and overseeding.

Shearon Golf strives to provide the golf industry with top quality service that is affordable, reliable and flexible. That's the Shearon Golf advantage! For more information on Shearon Golf and how we can assist you in all of your golf course endeavors, please contact Chip Kern, CGCS, at 609-466-0666 or visit us on the web at www.shearongolf.com.



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From the links

Recently I came across an article written by Bob Boyfuss of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Service of Greene County, N.Y. I thought it is worth sharing.

1. Be firmly rooted in your particular place. Trees are not wishy-washy, nor are they easily pushed around or moved once they have become established. Some humans have these attributes too. Together they are referred to as "integrity."

2. Be firmly rooted, but learn to bend when necessary. If the trees could not bend from the wind or the weight of the snow, they would blow over or break into pieces. Survival requires the ability to bend. Humans, too, are far less likely to break down if they can learn how to bend a little, yet still be able to bounce back.

3. It is okay to lean a little. Gravity and sunlight cause trees to grow straight up, but wind and other elements plus time can modify an upright stance. It is certainly desirable to remain firmly rooted in one's beliefs or principles, but it is also possible to lean one way or the other without compromising.

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From the links

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4. It is important to grow a little each year. Trees that cease to grow soon perish. Growth need not be linear or obvious or even physical, but it should be as regular and routine as the passing of the seasons. Humans who stop growing also begin to die, whether they know it or not.

5. Shed a little excess baggage each year. The leaves on trees are not permanent! In order for new growth to occur, trees must shed non-productive leaves. Humans also need to shed some excess baggage on a regular basis (I am not just referring to the extra pounds we seem to put on each year—especially in our “middle” age).

6. It is good to have tough bark. The most alive and growing tissue on a tree is just beneath the bark. A tough bark protects this vital tissue from all sorts of damage. Our bodies need tough bark (thick skin) to protect our tender souls

from all sorts of emotional damage.

7. Develop an extensive, wide-spreading root system. Roots are not just for anchorage. Roots absorb water and nutrients while forming complex inter-relationships with other roots, fungi, plants and animals. Humans are also a product of their immediate environment. If we can reach out far and wide, beyond our arm's or leg's length (our dripline?) to absorb or use what is out there, we too will thrive.

8. Tolerate some shade or provide some shade. Most trees will grow bigger, taller and stronger in full sunlight,

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GCSANJ Education Committee needs your input

*By Paul Dotti
Superintendent, Edgewood C.C.
District I Director
GCSANJ Education Chairperson*

It has been the consensus that we as an Association need to concentrate more of our efforts on education. While we all have certain topics that pertain to our courses, we often find that we will not attend a seminar if the topic does not concern us. As Education Committee chairman, I would like to get some feedback from our members on topics they would like to see covered in the future. If I know certain topics are requested more, seminars can be targeted to meet those requests. For instance, dollar spot is an ongoing issue that we all want to learn more about, as is worm casts and moss on greens.

Please let me know of any issue you would like to see covered in the future, and I will try my best to concentrate on the most requested ones. You can e-mail me at edgepaul@hotmail.com or fax me your requests at 201-722-9040. I look forward to hearing from you. ¶

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Government update

New Jersey

S.B. 2171, the "Pesticide Use Reduction Recognition Act" would require the Department of Environmental Protection to create a program for the recognition of voluntary pesticide use reduction. Under the program, a governing body of a county, municipality or school district would be eligible to receive a certificate from the agency upon their pledge that IPM was used on all property under their control.

New York

A. 1746 would create a temporary state commission on pesticide application to evaluate and make recommendations on the sale, use and application of industrial strength pesticides in urban areas. (The bill sponsor's staff could not define "industrial strength pesticide" for us.) The commission would be responsible for creating a brochure to distribute to the public describing the dangers posed by the use of industrial strength pesticides.

The use of power leaf and lawn blowers would be restricted statewide under A. 4086/S. 2745. Equipment use would be limited to the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Mon-

day through Friday) and from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Saturday and Sunday). Operation of such equipment outside

S.B. 2171, the "Pesticide Use Reduction Recognition Act" would require the Department of Environmental Protection to create a program for the recognition of voluntary pesticide use reduction.

these hours could result in a civil penalty of up to \$100 per violation.

A. 5553/S. 2940 would require golf courses to post signs at the first and 10th tees stating the date of application and the trade names of all pesticides applied. Signs would have to be placed at the time of application and remain posted for

Continued on page 25

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Government update

Continued from page 24

two full days following the date of application.

The use of pesticides classified by the EPA as human carcinogens or Category I or II acute toxicity products would be banned on golf courses under A. 5565. The state environmental commissioner would be able to prohibit the use of products that could cause groundwater contamination, wildlife kills or threaten endangered species.

Golf courses would be required to have at least one functional cardiac defibrillator and train employees on the proper operation and use of such equipment under A.B. 5966. The bill would also provide a liability clause for any person who would voluntarily render emergency treatment using the defibrillator.

A new section on pesticide safety would be added to the state environmental conservation law under A.B. 5265. The new section would require certified applicators to notify local fire departments and emergency response personnel of all pesticides stored at their facility, as well as prepare an emergency response plan for potential pesticide leaks. The section would also set specific requirements for pesticide storage facilities, including how pesticides must be stored and secured.

Individuals applying pesticides in or within 100 feet of a tidal wetland would be required to obtain a permit under A. 5194. A permit would only be granted if the commissioner could confirm that an IPM program was in place that included the use of biological and cultural methods to treat the target organism; chemical treatments could only be used as a last resort. Applicators would be required to provide

notification to individuals likely to be adversely affected by the application and post signs around and along the perim-

Golf courses would be required to have at least one functional cardiac defibrillator and train employees on the proper operation and use of such equipment under A.B. 5966.

eter and at public access points to the treated tidal wetland. Public notice in a local newspaper would be required seven days and then again at three days prior to the application.

A. 5147 would require commercial sod producers and

Continued on page 27



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Ask the golf course architect

By Edward M. Beidel, Jr., ASGCA, RLA
Vice President and Director of Golf Services
Daft-McCune-Walker, Inc.
Towson, Maryland

Our golf course is beginning to show signs of age and we are considering renovations. What are the advantages of a Golf Course Master Plan? (Part one of a two-part column.)

Consider the Master Plan as a blueprint to guide the renovation of your course, just as the original blueprints guided its construction. By doing some thoughtful planning, the project will proceed smoothly and with fewer headaches for the club personnel, greens committee, and golf course superintendent and maintenance staff.

A Master Plan can address a variety of goals and desires for renovation. First, master planning can help a facility maintain its competitive edge with other, newer facilities. By updating and refreshing the visual quality of the course, through the addition or redesign of tees, greens and



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bunkers, a course can take on an entirely new character and add strategic playing value. Particularly, those courses designed during the "low maintenance era" of golf course design (for example, post World War II), now look bland or lack character when compared to newer courses.

Second, a Master Plan can address a challenge shared by many existing courses, that of maintaining poorly located and constructed golf features. Consider, for example, sand bunkers that lack sub-drainage, thereby affecting play or forcing the maintenance crew to spend additional time addressing the problem. Relatedly, trees that are too close to greens or tee boxes reduce the amount of air movement and sun needed to maintain quality turf, again requiring additional mechanical and human resources. Thus, master planning can address problem maintenance issues, which in turn can enhance aesthetics and playing issues.

Third, Master Plan renovations, reconstructions or enhancements can generate new interest in a course, and by incorporating even small changes, such as additional tee boxes, will attract new members or users to a facility. Particularly with the increasing numbers of female, junior and senior golfers, a facility that can accommodate various levels of skill, while still providing a challenge to low handicap golfers, will hold a distinctive advantage over other, less accommodating courses in the area.

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Government update

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installers to provide all customers with detailed information on all pesticides that were applied to the sod directly or to the soil in which the sod was grown.

Municipalities would be able to adopt laws, ordinances and regulations more stringent than state law concerning the use of pesticides and public notification relating to their use under A. 6087.

Pennsylvania

H.B. 539/S.B. 149 would create the Water Resources Conservation and Management Act to provide for water resources conservation, planning and management of state waters. The act would create a state water plan, conservation areas, permits for withdrawal or diversion of water, and drought planning. Other highlights include: 1. Water use registration and reporting for total withdrawal equal to or exceeding an average rate of 10,000 gallons per day in any 30-day period; 2. Establishment of conservation credits to be given to persons who have adopted significant water conservation measures; and 3. Drought response planning and

authority would be given to the state's DEQ.

Multistate (Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania)

The Delaware River Basin Commission has issued a

H.B. 539/S.B. 149 would create the Water Resources Conservation and Management Act to provide for water resources conservation, planning and management of state waters.

revised proposed rulemaking related to the creation of new water usage reporting requirements for source water withdrawals in the Delaware River Basin. Under current law, water users (including golf courses) who withdraw more than 100,000 gallons of surface or groundwater per day on aver-

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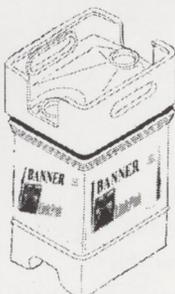


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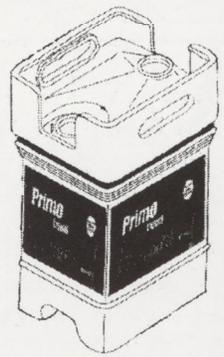
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Government update

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age during any 30-day period are required to report their monthly withdrawals to state agencies. A proposed rule was published in October 2000 that created standardized reporting requirements for water users in an effort to collect standardized data from state to state. The revised proposed rule

will require additional reporting of acres irrigated (for irrigation uses only), whether water is recycled or reclaimed, and the percentages recycled or reclaimed (if available). The agency expects to formally adopt the rule on April 19. For a copy of the original and revised proposed rule, go to http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/notice_feb01.htm. [

From the links

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but others need some shade from their taller companions to survive or to become established. Many people, too, need some shade from their taller companions to survive. This situation changes often during a lifetime.

9. Protect your environment. No area of land on this planet has better stewards than the forests. Trees protect soil from erosion, while recycling essential nutrients. They provide food, shelter and refuge, not only for themselves, but for the countless other organisms that depend upon them. Humans worry much about their own tiny space, while often ignoring the needs of the communities (forests?) that surround them.

10. Be useful, even in death. Forest trees that die due to natural causes or harvest are as important to the health and overall forest community as those that live and grow each year. Trees killed for harvest provide wood for housing, furniture, fuel, baseball bats and a million other things that may

last for many years. What will be the use of your life when it ends? Will your legacy provide anything for those who follow? If an ash tree is destined to become a baseball bat, will you teach a child to hit a ball with it?

Submitted by Patrick Lucas, CGCS, Innis Arden G.C. [

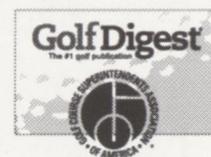
Consider yourself a candidate.



Applications for the 2001 Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards are available from the May issue of *Golf Course Management* magazine, chapter leaders, *Golf Digest*, participating sponsors and the GCSAA Service Center (800/472-7878) or the GCSAA Web site (www.gcsaa.org/environ/elga_form.html).

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Ask the golf course architect

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Fourth, golfers in the United States prefer wall-to-wall "green" in comparison to those in the United Kingdom who will accept varying shades of "brown," which is a topic worthy of discussion in a future column. Thus the challenge for superintendents in the United States is to keep the course lush green even during times of severe drought. Since superintendents do not control the weather, this challenges many antiquated irrigation systems, which lack the coverage expected and require extensive hand labor that is part of a partially automated or manual irrigation system.

Over the years, these numerous small improvements can begin to take on a "patch work" appearance, which may be the result of the changing course personnel with different and sometimes competing perspectives. The advantage of a Master Plan is that the golf course architect can weave these various opinions into a consistent vision. This approach ne-

gates a piecemeal appearance while providing an overall plan that in the end is less expensive than the various short term

The advantage of a Master Plan is that the golf course architect can weave these various opinions into a consistent vision.

but sometimes overall ineffective solutions. The value of a long range, coordinated perspective that considers all the golf course features simultaneously cannot be overstated. ↓

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Industry news

The Turf Resource Center and Lawn Institute says the use of big rolls of sod for golf course turfgrass installation is on the rise, according to member of Turfgrass Producers International. The method is quickly outpacing alternatives such as slab and small roll sod for fairways, clubhouse areas, and even rough and greens.

The ease and speed of harvesting and installing the big rolls were cited as the motivation for the switch. In addition, the larger rolls were reported to produce a smoother, more manageable, and therefore more immediately playable turf.

Although big-roll harvesters have been available since the 1960s, the recent surge in popularity is credited to increased awareness and recent developments in technology. One change is the netting applied to the underside of the sod as it is being harvested.

The netting allows almost any type of sod to be taken in

In addition, the larger rolls were reported to produce a smoother, more manageable, and therefore more immediately playable turf.

big rolls and can either be removed during installation or left in place to reinforce the installed sod. For information on Turfgrass Producers International, visit <http://www.turfgrasssod.org>.



During its recent meeting, GCSAA's Board of Directors approved changes to the Associate membership classification, making it more accessible to all golf course employees!

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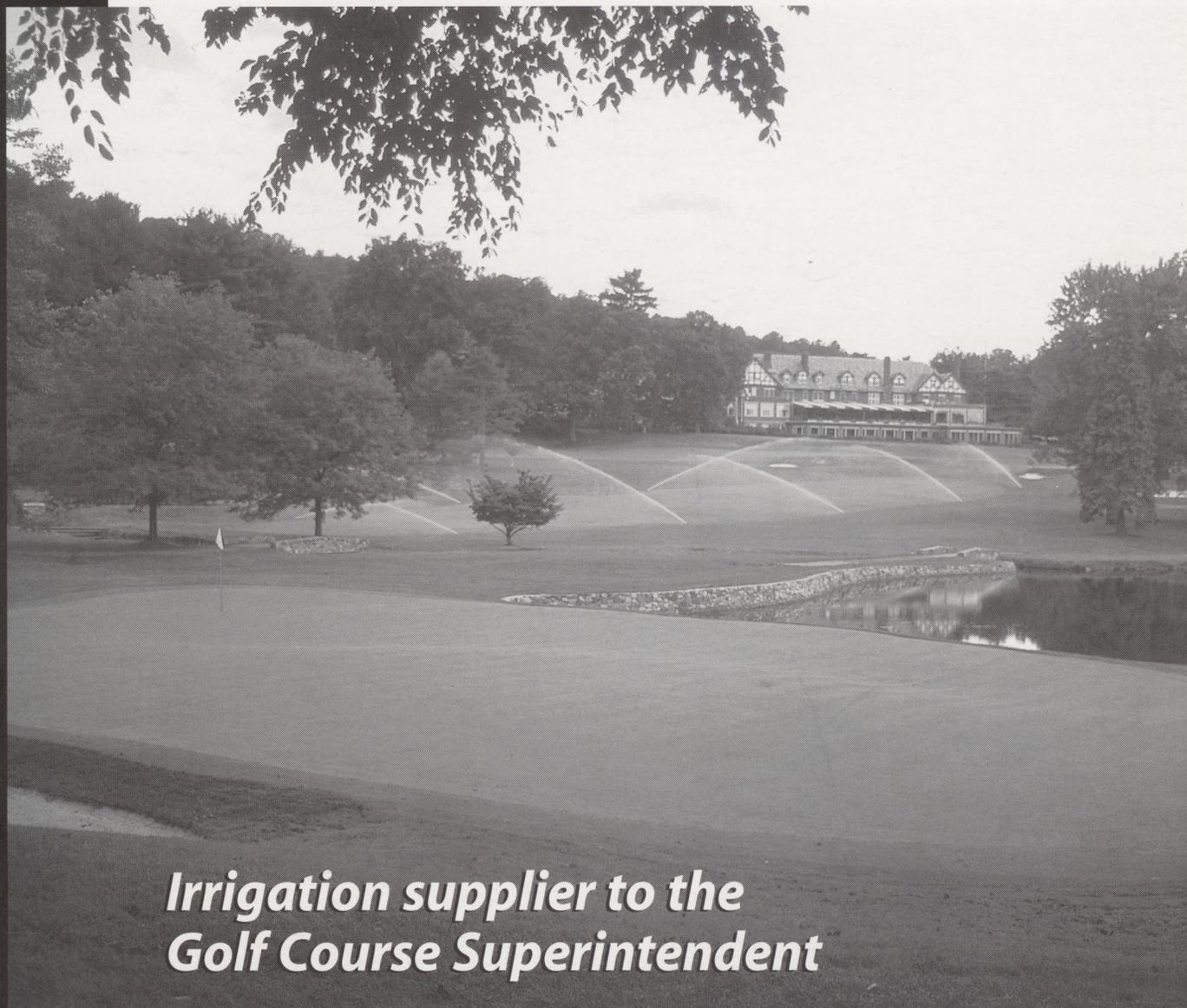
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