



THE Greenerside

Official Publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

GCSANJ annual meeting moves to Atlantic City

The annual meeting of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey will be held at the Taj Mahal on Tuesday, December 11, 2001. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the New Jersey Turfgrass Association's Turfgrass Expo. GCSANJ President Ed Mellor stated, "The annual meeting has not been traditionally well attended. This move is intended to make attending the meeting convenient to members who will be at the Turfgrass Expo. This business meeting is our most important meeting of the year and if moving the venue will help the membership become more involved, it will be a huge success."


Highlights will include the annual election of officers and the presentation of our two prestigious awards, the Member of the Year Award and the Distinguished Service Award.

Steve Chirip, president of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association and GCSANJ commercial representative, said,

"This seems to be a perfect fit, as NJTA and GCSANJ have common goals and members."

The meeting will be held in the Topaz Room and will

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start at 11:30 a.m. There will be a fee of \$30.00, which will include a buffet lunch. You must sign up in advance so we can bring enough copies of the financial statements, last year's minutes and reports. Check your mailbox for the registration form. 

Our Deepest Sympathies. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families.

GCSANJ is deeply saddened by the tragic events of September 11th and our prayers and deepest sympathies are with the victims, their families and all of those affected. As we watch the events unfold, we continue to be moved by the countless number of heroic acts we witness.

Below we have compiled a few ways we can all help:

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September 11th Fund - United Way and The New York Community Trust have established the September 11th Fund. Your contribution will be used to mobilize resources to respond to the urgent needs of victims and their families affected by these attacks.

<https://www.uwnyc.com/pledge/sept11.cfm>

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Editorial



End of summer ramblings

What a year it has been so far! This is a crazy business that we have come to love, and that must be the reason that we are still doing what we do. If it were not for the beautiful sunrises, sunsets and natural settings in between I would have to think that a lot of us would be doing something else.

Don't get me wrong, like I stated, I love this business. My seven minute commute is enough for me. A lot of people would probably think I was nuts last week when I took off my shoes and socks and waded into the puddle on the eighth green to find the drain after getting 1.25 inches of rain.

Maybe all that weather that we had this past spring and summer is why we had to cancel the 75th anniversary picnic. I hope that everyone enjoyed the day whatever they were doing, as it turned out to be a beautiful one. The Krausz family spent the day together; we had blocked out the calendar and made the best of it. The tree dedication was a beautiful event; you could feel the history at Crestmont C.C. The Pedrazzi family were wonderful hosts, and the tree that Haledon Nurseries donated is a beautiful Pin Oak. After the ceremony my family and I headed to Sunrise Lake and had our own picnic. I always say that everything happens for a reason, and the way I figure it, if we had not cancelled the picnic I would have had a great day, but nothing like the time I spent with my family.

As we all know this can be a very volatile business. It can also be very rewarding. This week I heard of a couple of superintendents who are no longer at their posts. This makes me wonder if I made the right career move, but as I stated above, I love this business and everything happens for a reason.

Fall is right around the corner and another season is almost over. Soon the aeration will be done and the leaves hauled away. I am looking forward to some down time and hope to see everyone at the annual meeting. ♪

Ken



President's Message

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

As I'm writing this President's message, it's August and New Jersey seems to be in a heat wave. I got to work about one hour before sunrise this morning and the temperature was already 80 degrees. Yesterday on my way home the thermometer at the bank on the corner said it was 105. For the first time this summer the Swimming River Reservoir looks to be at least one foot low. The only saving grace the golf courses in New Jersey have, I thought, is that it is August and the days are getting shorter, and we tend to get more thunderstorms this time of year. If this were June we would be looking sourly at more drought restrictions.


This is a topic that demands a great deal of time at each GCSANJ Board meeting. Month after month Mickey Stachowski of Fiddlers Elbow reports on the program and the stumbling blocks his committee on drought restriction encounter. It seems that the restrictions regarding how water is allocated in New Jersey during a drought is a legislative matter. The restrictions were written in 1970 and haven't been updated since. Mickey's committee has been to Trenton and has met with the DEP in an effort to rewrite the legislation to make it more equitable for golf courses. At this point, the GCSANJ seems to have hit it a brick wall with our limited resources. It is felt that perhaps a lobbyist is needed, however, this means considerable expense. It is also felt that this is not an Association burden, but one that could be funded by the golf course owners and the local golf associations. Please be aware that a letter may be sent to your golf course addressed to the ownership, soliciting their help in this matter.

On another note, the GCSANJ Board of Directors has moved this year's annual meeting from Hollywood Country

Club to N.J. Turfgrass Expo located at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City on December 11, 2001. Although the meeting has routinely been held at one of New Jersey's premier golf clubs, it tends to have a very limited attendance. Hopefully

***GCSANJ Board of Directors has moved
this year's annual meeting from
Hollywood Country Club to N.J.
Turfgrass Expo located at the Taj Mahal
in Atlantic City on December 11, 2001.***

by moving it to the Tuesday morning slot during the Expo it will generate more interest. Hope to see you there.

Another educational meeting is being put together in place of the regularly scheduled November annual meeting. More details will be in your mailbox as soon as they become available. 

Calendar

- Oct. 16, 2001** **GCSANJ Championship**, Scotland Run Golf Course. Host Superintendent, Andrew Franks. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100.
- Nov. 29** **Alliance for Environmental Concerns Annual Meeting and Seminar**, Fiddlers Elbow Country Club. Contact Nancy Sadlon at 732-563-9252.
- Dec. 10** **GCSAA/GCSANJ Seminar**, Managing a Multicultural Workforce. Trump Taj Mahal. Contact GCSAA at 800-472-7878
- Dec. 11** **GCSANJ Annual Meeting**, 11:30 a.m., Topaz Room, Trump Taj Mahal. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100.
- Dec. 11-13** **NJTA EXPO**, Trump Taj Mahal. Contact NJTA at 732-821-7134
- Jan. 16, 2002** **GCSAA/GCSANJ Seminar**, Turfgrass Traffic Stress: Physiology and Management. Rutgers University. Contact GCSAA at 800-472-7878

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Member Profile

50 Years of Reminiscing

By Dr. Paul Sartoretto

Introduction by Joe Kinlin

Assistant Superinintendent, Arcola C.C.

For this issue of *The Greenside*, we decided to give our readers a little history lesson. The following is a little something that Dr. Paul Sartoretto wrote about his experiences in our industry. "Dr. Paul," to those who know him, has contributed tremendously to both what we do and how we do it with regard to chemical applications. He was a true pioneer in our field, as you will read in this article. Although "Dr. Paul" is a native of New Jersey, he has since retired and moved to the West Coast to be near family. So please read the following; I think you will enjoy what this great man has to share with us.

My first GCSAA convention was in 1950 in Boston of all places! All the members attending gathered in the ballroom of the host hotel for a group picture. The two products that were the hit of the show that year were DDT and 2,4-D. I have a vivid memory of myself standing beside my exhibit, which was a jar of PMAS on a small table. Alongside it was a pamphlet describing its fascinating power of selectively killing crabgrass in Bentgrass and protecting it against disease.

I was naïve in this setting because I was an organic chemist with a terrific invention discovered in the area of agronomy and pathology—an area I knew little about! PMAS' selective crabgrass killing property was discovered accidentally in the fungicide test plot at the University of

Rhode Island in 1946. Nevertheless, I forged ahead with my sale's strategy: "Try a free gallon and you'll be back for more. By the way, who is your favorite distributor? We haven't appointed any yet, but you'll be able to conveniently buy it through him." That modest beginning launched Cleary

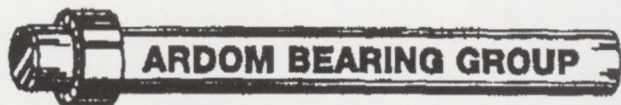
"Try a free gallon and you'll be back for more. By the way, who is your favorite distributor? We haven't appointed any yet, but you'll be able to conveniently buy it through him."

Chemical into this industry.

There was one man in this industry that I admired and revered. He was O.J. Noer. Superintendents, distributors and professors all respected him and honored him. He was the best known and the most knowledgeable man in turf. He had a great collection of slides and visited more courses than anyone. O.J., with the cooperation of the agricultural colleges, brought order and continuity to the winter turfgrass conferences. He would line up a group of speakers who would chronologically travel to each conference without overlapping or conflicting with each other. I became one of the speakers on the circuit and I learned a lot from him.

A few years later, Bill Cleary (our founder) brought his younger brother into the fold. He became an instant success as a salesman, as you older supers know. Later, he played a major role in the formation of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association. There was sufficient land on the Cleary prop-

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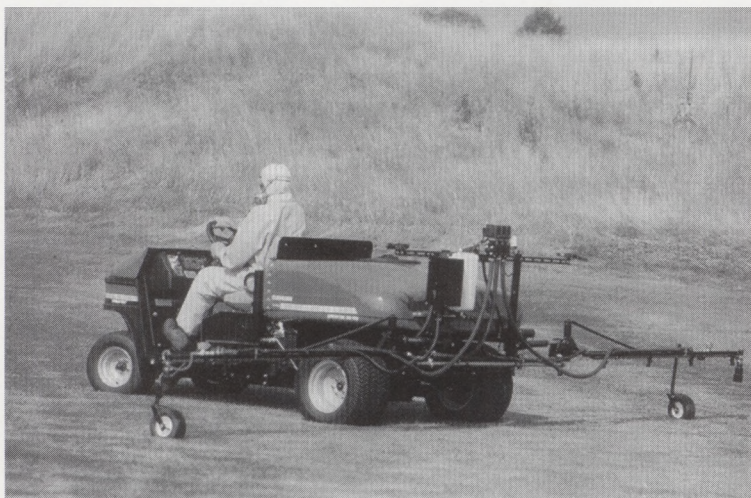
erty to build a nine-hole golf course and a nine-hole pitch and putt. They served not only for testing but also public play to cover expenses. I mention this because, over the years, we hired many young men fresh out of school to run the course. Later they went on to become illustrious superintendents. Joe Malikowski, fresh out of Rhode Island, built the course. He was followed by Paul Boisselle. We were fortunate to have a succession of fine young supers: Danny Quast, Dennis DeSanctis, Chris Carson and Pat Campbell. It's only natural that the care of the course would fall into the capable hands of Robbie Harris, son of Bobbie Cleary, president of Cleary Chemical. Although Shaun Barry's father was manager of Cleary's product division and his brother Kerry is presently manager, Shaun was fascinated with the golf end of the business and it certainly paid off for him.

My invention, PMAS, turned out to be the most effective selective crabgrass killer and fungicide for Bentgrass. However, I learned early on that it, as well as all other pesticides, fell short of perfect control and best results could be obtained by mixing. I began preaching tank mixing pesticides for better control. Being a chemist, I was able to devise safe rules for mixing without encountering phytotoxic-

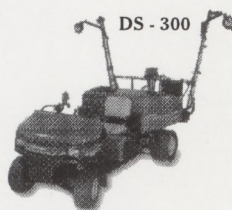
ity, much to the consternation of some pathologists. Dr. Houston Couch, well known for his oratory and much in demand as a speaker, was my adversary. Slowly, I built up a following of knowledgeable supers who were having good results mixing, and over the years they helped spread the word and the practice.

Tank mixing gave the superintendent better control and made him look good. It also gave me a generous and unselfish image because I was recommending mixes that often included competitive products mixed with Clearys. I guess that's the reason why you honored me with the Distinguished Service Award. Or was it for the accomplishment of introducing you to Liar's Poker, with the embellishments of dip and double dip options?

I am now 88 years old and still with my great wife Mary, who's 85. We just celebrated our 63rd wedding anniversary and are planning a big bash for the 65th. After I suffered a stroke in 1997, we retired to Arcadia, California, to be near family. We have two daughters, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, all living in the Los Angeles area. I'm still in touch with the Clearys two or three times a week, and I'm only a phone call away (626-446-1794, five cents a minute weekends!).



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GCSANJ *news*

LAKE MOHAWK RETURNS TO THE SCHEDULE

By Shaun Barry

Our July meeting was hosted by Eric Carlson and Lake Mohawk Golf Club. It had been a long time since our last meeting was held here, and Eric and the club were excited to be part of our schedule. Some of our southern members thought about flying here, but eventually they decided to drive. Maybe that is why so many courses in District 4 have been volunteering the last few years. They discovered how to avoid the long drive.

As each member arrived you could feel a sense of calm coming over them. Looking at the lake with the mountain ridge back over your right shoulder and, with the temperature about 10 degrees cooler than what you are used to, it does reduce all levels of stress. Just before lunch we were treated to a fine presentation by Chris Markham of Go Wild! Natural Resource Management. He seemed to create a lot of



Lake Mohawk was the perfect location for many of our District I members.



Eric Carlson receives our 75th flag from Ken Krausz, CGCS.

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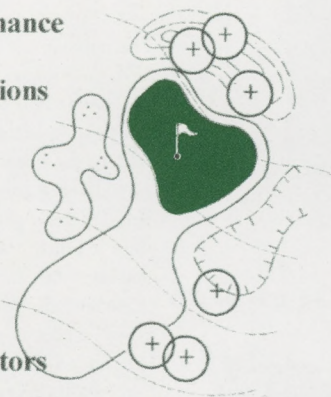
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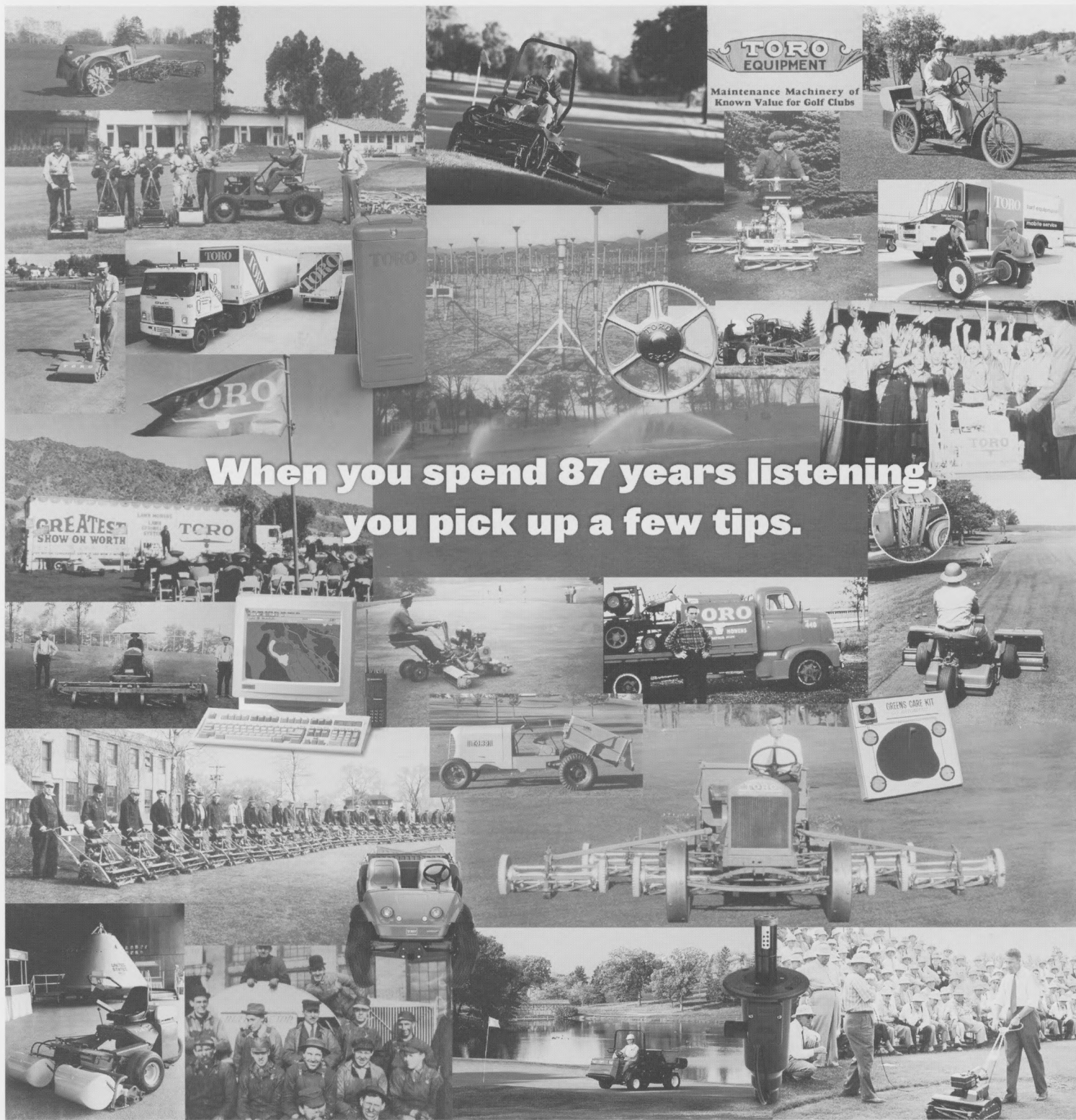
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interest and had to answer many questions.

During our delicious lunch we were given a very pleasant surprise. We were graced by the presence of a GCSAA legend. Sherwood Moore, CGCS, decided to return to the course and see how many changes were made since he had worked here so many years ago. He had a beautiful black and white photograph showing him mowing the first fairway. The conditions looked great and while there have been many changes made to the course, he seems to only have aged just a few years. He looked great, and perhaps that can be attributed to the wonderful lady who was with him at our meeting. It seems that Marie has always been with him, and I think that her love and respect and support have kept both of them so young. Sherwood took a cart to tour the course and to watch some golf, but for some strange reason he only got to see Skip Cameron play.

What Sherwood missed was some really great golf. Leading the way with a gross score of 71 was new member Tom

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GCSANJ news

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Henderson. Chris Markham had hurt his hand and couldn't shake hands at lunch, but he somehow managed to shoot a 75. Mr. Brian Remo had a net 68, which tied him with Byron Johnson, but Brian won on a match of cards.

Because of all of the affiliates that have donated money toward the prizes at our monthly meetings we do have lots of skills contests. Many thanks to them because their generosity really does add lots of fun to every meeting. The company that sponsored the contest will have their name after the winner's name.

Winners in the closest-to-the-pin contests were Dennis DeSanctis (Wilfred MacDonald—this really did happen!) – 3 ft. 7 inches; Phil O'Brien (Finch) – 5 ft. even; Peter Siegel (Koonz) – 5 ft. 9 inches; Jim Gurzler (Torsilieri) – 3 ft. 8 inches and Brian Minemier (A.T. Sales) – 7 ft. 4 inches. Collecting a prize for their long drives were Dick Neufield (Floratine), Keith Kraham (Syngenta), Steve Kopach (Koonz), P. O'Brien (Country View), Mark Wittlinger (Century Rain Aid) and Jack Martin (Wilfred). These were great



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drives but the best contest was in the women's long drive event (Storr). It was an actual head-to-head contest that took three holes to find a winner and the pressure was enormous. Finally Nancy Sadlon edged out Marie Pompei by less than a yard.

Our skins contest also was amazing. Paul Dotti had an eagle and was three under par after 6 holes. He unfortunately had gotten to the club after registration had closed, so he was not able to enter. What a shame! There were lots of people who did enter, and they added to the lore of our Association. T. Henderson was not to be outdone by Paul, and he had his own eagle and so did C. Markham. (Bad hand? I guess it's nice to be young.) Three eagles at one meeting! John Farrell had no eagles but he did have 2 skins. With 1 skin each we find Kevin Driscoll (I told you this was going to be amazing), P. O'Brien, John Fenwick and J. Gurzler.

Following our special guest at lunch, we were privileged to have a GCSANJ legend at dinner. Mr. Pete Pedrazzi started his career here, and he has many fond memories of that time in his life. He seemed quite happy speaking about how things were and how they have changed so much. He is a very wise man who has seen and can remember so much. If you listen you will learn.

Having spent just one day here it is easy to see why these two great men wanted to return. Eric and his staff had the greens moving very quickly (what an understatement), but they were perfect and the course itself could not have been in better condition. Everyone at the club did a great job, and we really felt like we belonged. Thanks again and let's not be strangers. I

FRIENDS GATHER AT THE BEDENS BROOK CLUB

By Shaun Barry

Through the years we have had a great relationship with our neighbors in the Philadelphia Association. Many of our members are also members of their association and vice versa. Part of this good feeling comes from the joint meetings that we have had for as long as I can remember. This year was no exception, and judging by the size of the field we may have found the perfect month and the perfect location to host this event.

Benny Peta volunteered The Bedens Brook Club, and 126 of his closest friends attended. Mr. Peta is a very popular person in both associations, but his roots are in Pennsyl-

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GCSANJ news



(Left to right) Winners at the NJ-Philly Joint Meeting: Tim McBrearty, John Betts, Jeff Wetterling and Tom Tuttle.

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vania. He currently is the vice-president of the Philly Association, which means he gets to find meeting sites and make all of the arrangements for the day (I believe he is looking forward to being president and thus losing this responsibility). As a result, this was a Philly meeting, and if you were there you know what a good job Ron Gorniak and his committee did in running the tournament. The food was truly extraordinary (and was partially sponsored by John Fowler of Syngenta—thanks, John) and the staff was very, very friendly. These people like Benny and it showed.

Out on the course it was more of the same. Benny, Tod, Sean and the whole crew did a great job. They are very talented, and they worked very hard for the conditions to be so good. This is obviously a major reason why it is ranked in the top 20 of courses in New Jersey, and they should be proud on a daily basis. Once I started playing I thought that I was in the middle of a great book that was written about

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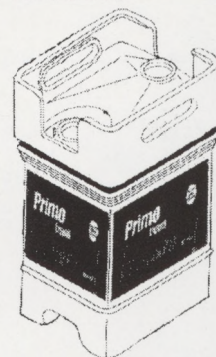
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GCSANJ news

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Ireland. It is called, "A Terrible Beauty." The beauty part came from the hard but wonderful challenge of a course that was in perfect condition. The terrible part exists only in my world, and that is because I started play by making a 12 on my first hole. The really bad part was that it happened so quickly and easily and I was not shocked.

The serious (a.k.a. talented) golfers played better than I did, and they also had a great time, but remember that none of them had a 12. Most of the field was involved in a friendly match against the opposing association. As happens so often, New Jersey was crushed by Philly. They had 35 points to our 25, but no clubs were thrown and everyone enjoyed the competition. We also had prizes for individuals and the winners were pretty evenly divided.

Closest-to-the-pin winners were Jeff (NJ) Wetterling (A.T. Sales) – 5 ft. 8 inches; Greg (PA) Hewitt (Finch) – 6 ft. 4 inches; Doug (PA) Bice (Koonz) – 17 ft. 9 inches and Steve (PA) Stephens (Torsilieri) – 13 ft. 8 inches. Taking long drive honors were Mickey (NJ) Stachowski (Storr); Chris (PA) Ward (Century Rain Aid); Charlie (NJ) Clarke (Syngenta); Andy (PA) Drahan (Country View) and Lou (PA) Amadio (Wilfred).

Andy (PA) Drahan led all players with a 75. Ian (NJ) Kunesch had just played in the NJSGA Open, but he had to settle for a 79 here. He was joined at that number by Tony (PA) Grieco and John (NJ) Farrell. John (NJ) Alexander led the net tournament with a 69. Following him were Charlie (PA) McGill – 73; Tom (NJ) Grimac – 74; and John (NJ) Betts – 74. Chip Kern was the only winner of 2 skins.

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President Ed Mellor shares our 75th flag and a smile with host superintendent Benny Peta.



GCSANJ President Ed Mellor poses with Philly's President Don Brown after a very successful joint meeting.



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A. Drahan, Jason Buccino, Tom Tuttle, J. Betts, Dennis DeSanctis and Tim McBrearty had 1 each, and the rest of us had zero but we did have a great time.

Ed Mellor and I were part of a very happy group that just did not want to leave. Darkness did chase us away, but before we left we all had to thank Benny one more time for all that he did for the meeting so it would be such a success. It also has occurred to me that the course is in New Jersey and Benny is a member of GCSANJ, and since the field was limited maybe we would try and meet here again sometime soon. Sounds good to me. I will keep you informed how Benny feels about my idea. 🌱

TREE PLANTING CEREMONY, OR QUERCUS PALUSTRIS VAR, GREENSKEEPER!

By Chris Holenstein

On Sunday, July 15, 2001, under high blue skies at the Crestmont Country Club, a distinguished group of men and women dedicated a tree to the rich history of 75 years of greenskeeping. The assembled persons gathered "next to the barn" to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey and symbolically planted a sturdy Pin Oak very near to the spot where the idea for the Association first took root. In honor of the small group of greenskeepers who met there on September 14, 1926, this modern group of golf course superintendents, their families and friends joined together to affirm the longevity and vigor of their ideals.

Hosted by Superintendent Peter Pedrazzi, Jr., and joined by Crestmont Country Club Greens Committee Chairman Sandy Schoenbock, the group first listened to a welcome address by GCSANJ President Edward Mellor. Then GCSANJ history specialist/superintendent Douglas Vogel regaled the group with association lore, and Shaun Barry directed the efforts to photo-memorialize the event. GCSANJ Vice President John O'Keefe, Past President Ken Krausz and superintendents Joe Ciccone and Pete Pedrazzi, Sr., joined in the ceremony.

The tree itself, donated by Carl Quazza of Haledon Nurseries, stood silently, as if preparing itself for the day 75 years hence, when it might cast shade on another gathering of superintendents dedicated to the ideals of professional improvement, educated environmental stewardship and membership cooperation. 🌱



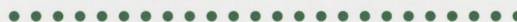
President Mellor and Vice-President O'Keefe lead the ceremonies at the tree planting.



The Pedrazzi family poses in front of the newly-planted tree that celebrates the 75th anniversary of our Association.



Part of our GCSANJ family gathers at Crestmont C.C. to be part of the tree planting ceremony.



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GCSANJ *minutes*

The Board of Directors of GCSANJ has been working hard all year!

The March 22nd meeting of the GCSANJ Board was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by President Ed Mellor.

Sky Bergen sent a letter announcing his retirement. The members of the Board spent a couple of minutes reminiscing about all that Sky has done for this Association.

Clyde Ashton sent a letter thanking GCSANJ for the holiday basket.

The Greenerside was congratulated for its "best in category award."

Mickey Stachowski reported on the Pesticide Use and Reduction Act. Mickey also proposed joining forces with other groups for hiring a lobbyist. Brian Minemier will contact two lobbyists who expressed interest in working directly with us.

There was some discussion about holding the invitation on a Monday, that that may hurt attendance. It was decided to keep that date, as Shackamaxon is an excellent

site; they are celebrating their 75th anniversary and a decision needed to be made.

The GCSAA election results were announced.

Bruce Peeples gave an update on the survey.

It was noted that Vic Gerard Golf Carts and Scott McNally's Quality Irrigators sponsored the GCSANJ national championship golf shirts.

GCSANJ will send a foursome to the Club Managers "Make a Wish" tournament as well as the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation Golf Classic.

GCSANJ will purchase a brick for the GCSAA 75th program.

The GCSANJ web site is up and running: www.GCSANJ.org.

A letter was sent to all members asking for volunteers to attend local PAC meetings. These meetings are part of the statewide water shed committee. The response has not been good.

District 4 will be having a winter meeting with five speakers lined up.

John O'Keefe met with Bob Dickison and Steve Fahl of the New Jersey State Golf Association to discuss continued cooperation between our groups. John also met with Charles Borman, director of the Carolinas superintendents association, to discuss how their association handles activities.

Dave Pease reported on the Finance Resource Committee plan of action.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

The June 14th meeting of the GCSANJ Board of Directors was called to order at 12 noon by President Ed Mellor.

Mickey Stachowski gave a report on the search for a lobbyist.

The District 1 & 2 meeting is set for Rolling Green. The District 3 meeting is set for Toms River and the District 4 meeting is set for Towne and Country Golf Club.

The Invitational is set for Shackamaxon and the Championship will be held at Scotland Run.

The GCSAA Delegates Meeting is scheduled for September 12-16th. Jim McNally will be attending as National Delegate and John O'Keefe will be attending as a committee member. Mark Kuhns, superintendent at Baltustrol, announced his intention to run for director of GCSAA.

The survey results are out to the members who participated.

Paul Dotti reported that the GCSAA educational semi-

Continued on page 13

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GCSANJ *minutes*

Continued from page 12

nar on Turfgrass Traffic Stress will be held at Rutgers on January 16, 2002.

The Member of the Year and Distinguished Service awards will be presented at the annual meeting at Expo.

Gregg Armbruster is looking into changing the putting contest at Expo to a golf simulator.

Ken Krausz reported on the progress of the picnic and the dinner cruise.

The web site is now using a different format with some minor changes.

Dr. Bruce Clarke updated us on field day plans; Bruce Peebles will attend a committee meeting. The search for a new dean is ongoing. Bruce is contemplating a turfgrass economic survey and the impact of the drought. GCSANJ will assist when necessary. There is a new Rain Out Shelter being constructed at the hort farm. Five new faculty members have been hired, as Rutgers is continuing its commitment to turfgrass. The enrollment in the four-year program needs to increase.

GCSANJ will forward \$1,000 to the Alliance for Environmental Concerns as part of an effort to hire State Street Associates as a lobbyist. GCSANJ interviewed State Street Associates to formulate a game plan for our water restriction problems. The meeting was well received. This was the

second lobbyist we interviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The July 12th meeting of the GCSANJ Board was called to order at 12:34 p.m. by President Ed Mellor.

There was some discussion as to the financial status of the Water Alliance. It is "treading water."

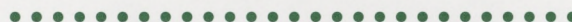
There was discussion about hiring a lobbyist; funding and alliances with other organizations were discussed. GCSANJ wants to be sure that the decision made is the right one, as the water issue is so important to the industry.

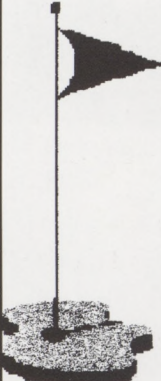
It was reported that Knickerbocker C.C., Sand Barrens G.C. and Tavistock G.C. are on the 2002 schedule.

Roger Stewart and Paul Dotti are exploring getting an all-day education seminar in November.

Ken Krausz noted that the picnic was cancelled due to a lack of advance sign ups, but that the tree planting ceremony at Crestmont C.C. was still on.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. I





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2001 Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days

By Shaun Barry

August 1-2, 2001, found the staff at Rutgers hosting all members of the turfgrass industry at their annual Research Field Days. August 1 was dedicated to lawn and landscape, while August 2 was for members of the golf course industry.

Over 250 people attended the lawn and landscape section. This was held at Adelphia, where much was to be seen and learned. Most of the attendees were from New Jersey. Even though it was a busy time of the year, they realized how important this university is to the future of the industry. I am sure that many of those in attendance will bring others when they get the chance next year.

The golf course section also was well attended. There was a nice contingent from the USGA along with a busload of superintendents from Long Island. We also had a large number of superintendents from Pennsylvania. Between these two groups they almost had as many superintendents in attendance as we had from New Jersey. It just goes to show how many people have graduated from Rutgers, and how many people recognize what a great contribution Rutgers is giving to our profession.

The final count for this day was around 200 people, so that gives a two-day total of 450. It seems that they picked up about 30 people each year for the last ten years. This program is one of the best in the world, and it should be something that you should not miss. 



From left: Jim Snow, Dave Oatis and Chris Carson are part of the large group of attendees at the Rutgers Field Day.

Jim Baird (left) and Bob Dickison discuss the trials at the Rutgers Field Day.



(Left to right) Steve Chirip, Ken Kubik and Chris Carson prepare to view the trials at the Rutgers Golf Field Day.

Dr. Bruce Clarke is the center of attention at the fungicide trials during the Field Day.



Dr. Plumley discusses the results from all of her trials.

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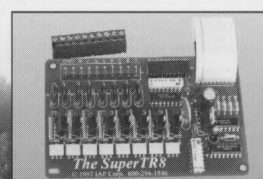
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Ask the golf course architect

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

So the facility owners or members have made the decision to remodel the golf course and a golf course architect has devised a Master Plan. Now, the question is how fast can or should we implement the plan?

An aggressive remodeling program usually describes an implementation phase consisting of one-to-two-years of construction. In contrast, extended remodeling programs encompass longer periods of time, anywhere from three years to infinity, depending upon the complexity of the master plan. Many factors, in addition to the plan itself, require consideration when deciding how aggressively

the remodeling program will be achieved. Below, I will discuss several of the most important variables.

First, there must be consideration of the course's financial resources. Many private clubs have an annual capital

Sometimes, in order to keep up the number of rounds during construction, courses will offer reduced fees to offset the less than optimal playing conditions.

improvement fund. The advantage of such a fund is that the members have already set aside a certain amount of money each year dedicated to upgrading the facility. When such a fund is available, this may negate the need to seek additional financial support from the members. This, in turn, lessens the possibility that the remodeling project will be sidelined by a negative membership vote. When financial resources for the remodeling project are based on the revenue from the improvement fund, this amount will dictate the speed of the remodeling project.

If there is no capital improvement fund or if the amount is considered insufficient to support the scope of the project, several revenue support streams might be considered. If the facility is private, an additional source of revenue may be a special assessment or dues increase on the part of the membership. For public courses, and perhaps some semi-private facilities, increased greens fees may be an additional source of revenue. All of these are potential avenues to pursue, depending upon the enthusiasm of the membership for the remodeling project. Another consideration is the owner's/club's loan history and loan capability, which may provide suitable capital for the project. Obviously, the more working capital available, the more aggressively the project can be pursued.

A second important consideration when determining the speed of the remodeling project is revenue depletion. As a result of golf course reconstruction play is often disrupted. In an aggressive plan, the course may be closed entirely or, more likely, half the course is closed for a two-year period (outward nine the first year and inward nine the second year). Thus, the course that pursues an aggressive program faces decreased revenues (from fewer rounds) during a time when working capital is most necessary. In contrast, an extended program may allow the course to remain open (through the use of temporary greens and tee boxes), but the overall disruption (noise and inconvenience of construction equipment,

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Ask the golf course architect

Continued from page 16

detours and temporary features) will be experienced for a much longer period of time. Sometimes, in order to keep up the number of rounds during construction, courses will offer reduced fees to offset the less than optimal playing conditions. Finally, it must be noted that decreased revenue refers not only to fewer greens fees collected but also the domino affect that fewer rounds has on the golf course support facilities. Fewer rounds of golf means less money spent in the bar and the restaurant, as well as the pro shop. If these facilities provide substantial support to the overall operation and financial health of the course, the long-term disruption of these revenue streams that would result from a more extended remodeling plan, may dictate the need for a more aggressive strategy.

As noted above, noise and inconvenience of construction illustrate a third important variable when deciding the speed of the reconstruction project. Disruption to the players was noted above. Any time the course is shut down, there is a risk that patrons may find another course and never return, even when the facility re-opens. If only nine holes are available, players also may decide to go to a different course. For private clubs that have reciprocal agreements with other clubs, this is less of an issue. However, for public courses, closing down half the course or the entire course may not be possible, particularly in an area where there are other attractive alternatives. Again, an extended plan may result in more minimal disruption at any one time, but yet be compounded over the sheer number of years that the course is under construction. Players may tire of yet another routing or another temporary tee.

Furthermore, disruption to the course's staff also merits some thought. Under an aggressive plan, the extensive scope of the work and the relatively short time constraints usually dictates awarding the entire project to outside contractors rather than having the work or portions of the work done by in-house personnel. Alternatively, when a plan is extended over a number of years and the scope of each yearly project is small, existing course personnel may be called upon to perform many of the reconstruction tasks. Thus, in addition to all the duties of keeping the course open and providing satisfactory playing conditions, personnel must often perform the additional duties of golf course reconstruction. If this extended project encompasses only several years, the burden to the staff may be manageable. However, as the number of years increases, the additional demands may create staff burnout and a higher rate of personnel turnover.

A fourth consideration is whether the professional personnel involved in the program (golf course architect, contractor) will remain available for an extended remodeling program. Major golf course construction companies may not

be interested in an extended implementation program, even if each yearly construction phase is part of a larger master plan. For those companies, even small projects require major commitments of time, personnel and geographic location but yield a smaller profit margin. In contrast, an aggressive implementation takes on the scope of work usually associated with new course construction, and major companies have the equipment and personnel necessary to complete the project within the construction deadline. Larger companies, with their extensive resources, are the "insurance policy" for the course, having the knowledge and personnel necessary to "fast-track" the project. The real success of the project is re-opening on time and, obviously, the more resources available, the more likely that this will happen.

If limited funds dictate an extended program, the best alternative may be to use an established, yet qualified local

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Ask the golf course architect


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contractor who is comfortable working under the direct supervision of the golf course architect. This requires the golf course architect's commitment to provide frequent on-site consultation to the construction staff. Furthermore, it requires the course or club secure a commitment from the golf course architect to maintain his/her involvement throughout the extended implementation program. Because the golf course architect and contractor will be working together over an extended period of time, a good working relationship is vital.

Accessibility to materials as well as other construction costs is a final area of consideration. If an extended implementation is being considered, there should be some assurance that the materials purchased will be uniform across the years of the project. Varying the root zone mixes for tee boxes and greens, particle gradation of bunker sands, gravel backfill for drainage components will complicate maintenance practices, which in turn will be more costly to the facility. Varying the materials also will change the playing conditions across the holes of the course, which many players will find unacceptable. Although variety in golf design and shot selection is a proper goal, variety in agronomic conditions is not considered a positive aspect of the course. Finally, extended implementation often is more costly in

terms of contractor and construction costs than an aggressive plan. For example, contractor mobilization costs in an aggressive plan occur once. In an extended plan, they occur yearly. Thus, like paying interest on a loan, you end up paying more for the advantage of spreading your payments out over time.

In summary, among all of the variables discussed here, those related to project financing are probably paramount. Inconvenience to player and club personnel is another important consideration. Similarly to taking off a Band-Aid, one quick pull produces a lot of discomfort but it is over in a short period of time. In contrast, the gradual removal results in less intense pain at any one moment but stretches out the Band-Aid removal process over a longer period of time. In the end however, both methods achieve the same result. It sometimes is just a matter of the individual's, or in this case, the course facility's, tolerance level.

For further information, contact Ed Beidel at Daft-McCune-Walker, Inc. at 410-296-3333 or email Ed at ebeidel@dmw.com. Daft-McCune-Walker, Inc. is a multidisciplinary firm of golf course architects, land planners, landscape architects, civil engineers, environmental professionals and surveyors. 

Certification: What good is it?

By Randy Dayton, CGCS

Having recently completed the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's requirements for re-certification, I have had ample opportunity to consider the values of being a certified golf course superintendent and the reasons for working toward that title.

It is easy to come to the conclusion that the GCSAA has oversold the program in some regards. Earning the title will not guarantee your future success or safeguard your career. Then again, neither will a degree in agronomy. Both, however, will open doors that might otherwise remain closed.

Like a college degree, certification does enhance your perceived value in the eyes of employers. The GCSAA feels that adding the "CGCS" designation to your name says you've gone the extra mile to become the best superintendent you can.

It says you are not satisfied with what you learned yesterday, last year, or last decade, but instead, that you strive

to remain up-to-date with industry practices and technology. It says you are willing and able to take advantage of any development or procedure available to keep your golf course in the best condition possible. That perception (and fact) can make the difference in a job interview.

The GCSAA has done an excellent job of promoting the certification process within the industry, and many employers are now aware of its significance. Prospective employers often show a preference for certified applicants and often make certification a requirement of available positions. You can expect that to be the case more often in the future.

Even so, there are aspects of certification that (at present) do not achieve some of the GCSAA's loftier claims. Compensation surveys, for instance, have repeatedly demonstrated that certified superintendents earn (on average) more than their non-certified colleagues, but becoming certified will not automatically guarantee an increase in your salary. Likewise, you may not immediately earn the respect and

Continued on page 22

Dr. Bruce Clarke speaks on turf diseases

By Mike McCullough, NCGA Agronomist

While many of the NorCal superintendents attended the Media Day at Wente Vineyards on April 12, I attended the Novartis Crop Protection Turf Disease Seminar at Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. Dr. Bruce Clarke, extension turfgrass pathologist at Rutgers University, was the featured speaker. I thought that a brief recap of the diseases covered by Dr. Clarke would be beneficial to those who missed this excellent program.

Summer Patch is a disease that many superintendents encounter each year. This root disease can become a problem in the same areas on the course every year. Conditions that favor the development of the disease symptoms are hot and humid conditions, excessive soil moisture, low mowing heights, soil compaction and poor drainage. When soil temperatures are cooler, the pathogen lays dormant on the outside of the root system; once soil temperatures warm up the symptoms can take up to 6-8 weeks to appear. Cultural control measures include reducing compaction and providing the turf with better growing conditions (i.e. raising the height of cut). Try to adjust the soil or rhizosphere pH to 6.0. Fertilizing with ammonium sulfate or SCU's products has shown some success in the suppression of summer patch. However, be careful when applying these products since there is a potential for foliar burn, especially when warm weather is imminent. Many of the newer fungicides have been effective in controlling the fungus (i.e. Heritage and Compass). Dr. Clarke recommends watering the chemicals in after an application has been made. This practice moves the product into the root zone where it could be utilized effectively.

Basal Stem Rot Anthracnose (ABR) is a common stress related disease. This fungus resides in the thatch, and during stressful conditions in the summer an outbreak is very likely. ABR attacks both poa and bent and the results are

When soil temperatures are cooler, the pathogen lays dormant on the outside of the root system; once soil temperatures warm up the symptoms can take up to 6-8 weeks to appear.

generally a yellowing and thinning out of the turf. Conditions that favor the development of the disease are any mechanical damage to the turf such as double cutting or rolling, low fertility, consistently wet soils and compaction. Dr. Clarke mentioned that the use of soft spikes has had positive effects in reducing the incidence of this disease. Cul-

Continued on page 20

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Dr. Bruce Clarke speaks on turf diseases

Continued from page 19

tural practices that help in reducing the disease are increasing mowing heights, reducing mowing frequency, not aerifying or topdressing when ABR is active and reducing soil moisture. A preventative fungicide program is essential. Start the spray program two weeks prior to stressful summer conditions and continue the program until more favorable temperatures exist. Low Nitrogen applications throughout the disease season can help in turf recovery. It is important to alternate the chemistries of the fungicides when controlling this disease. Many superintendents will tank mix N and fungicide applications.

A couple of the new diseases on the turf horizon are Bentgrass Dead Spot and Gray Leaf Spot. Bentgrass Dead Spot is a relatively new disease that should grab the attention of superintendents that have new bentgrass greens. It was originally found in 1997 in Maryland and most recently found last year in Missouri, the Carolinas and Texas. The disease prefers greens that are less than six years old and are built with large amounts of sand. Full sun locations and hot

and dry weather also favor the development of the disease. The diseased areas get no larger than 3 to 4 inches and look

Bentgrass Dead Spot is a relatively new disease that should grab the attention of superintendents that have new bentgrass greens.

very similar to dollar spot or cutworm damage. The disease is easy to identify as the black fruiting bodies of the fungus are very prominent and can be seen with a small hand lens. The damage generally takes 6 to 8 weeks to heal after an infection has occurred. Any efforts to re-seed in these damaged areas are futile as the fungus releases toxins that delay germination. Balanced fertility has provided some relief of

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Dr. Bruce Clarke speaks on turf diseases

Continued from page 20


the disease. Avoid stress or mechanical injury, excessive traffic and dragging in topdressing treatments. Some of the newer bentgrass cultivars have shown some resistance to the disease. Chemical control measures include the DMI fungicides on a curative 5-7 day interval.

Gray Leaf Spot is a foliar disease that affects St. Augustine, perennial rye, annual rye and to some extent tall fescue. According to some local sources, GLS is commonly found on St. Augustine in Southern California. No GLS has been reported on perennial rye in California as of yet. The disease can occur in the spring and continue until fall. Usually the disease occurs in July, August and September when air temperatures consistently reach 70-80 degrees Fahrenheit. The disease favors young stands of turf with overseeded areas being the most susceptible. Rough areas that are cut above 2.5 inches develop the most severe infestations. Drought-like conditions predispose the turf for infections of GLS. Researchers at Penn State have developed a disease

predictor model that will alert superintendents when conditions favor GLS. Culturally you should: avoid irrigating at dusk, do not use PGR's or herbicides during the hottest summer months, mow only when the turf is dry and remove clippings as frequently as possible. Summer fertilization is not recommended. The newer fungicides will control GLS, which is known to be a prolific spore producer. Currently there are no resistant cultivars of perennial ryegrass. Some of the newer tall fescue varieties have shown some resistance to GLS.

For a copy of Dr. Clarke's notes, please contact me at (831) 625-4653 or e-mail your request to me at mike@ncga.org.

Editor's Note: While surfing the GCSAA web site, I noticed this article about Dr. Clarke and felt it was worth reprinting.



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Golf Course Specialists

Certification: What good is it?

Continued from page 18

adoration of your employer and peers when you become certified, and the grass in your care will still die on occasion.

Over time, however, certification will increase your earnings potential and will improve the perception of professionalism you receive from the people with whom you work. In addition, today's golf market is highly volatile, and you can find yourself unemployed on a moment's notice. If that happens, you need every competitive edge you can find to secure a new position as quickly as possible — certification can be a "difference maker" in that situation. It can also be a difference maker if you decide to relocate to another region of the state or country where you have no established professional reputation. Again, the "CGCS" designation says "professional," and that's frequently what a prospective employer needs to hear.

The cost of certification is very reasonable, especially when compared to similar programs in other professions (such as the PGA). The application fee is \$200, and the com-

plete set of study materials for the test costs \$370. Re-certification is required every five years, at a fee of \$150.

There are also a variety of seminars required to earn the Continuing Education Credits for certification or re-certification. Each is accompanied by a fee, of course, and those can add up to become one of the program's primary costs. With the implementation of the Professional Development Initiative, there will be a number of new means for earning CEUs, and not all of them will require attending a conference or taking a class.

When the PDI kicks in during 2003, however, certification requirements will change. The GCSAA Certification Committee is in the process of redesigning the certification test, and the goal is *not* to make it easier, so now is the best time to consider working toward certification.

The decision is yours, but the basic fact is this: becoming certified can help your career prospects, and will never work to your detriment.

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