



THE Greenerside

Official Publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

Turfgrass economic impact study to be completed

By Ken Krausz, CGCS
Superintendent Paramus Golf Course

Rutgers University is leading the way in researching, compiling and presenting a study to evaluate the New Jersey Turfgrass market. This study will go a long way in helping the turfgrass industry get the recognition and support it deserves. The project was announced at the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo in December 2001, and the completed project is to be presented at the NJTA Expo in December 2002.

The purpose of this proposed study is to show the economic importance of turfgrass to industry leaders, policy makers and the general public. The project will evaluate the annual economic contribution of the turfgrass industry to New Jersey's economy. In addition, critically needed information on the cost of turf production, industry projections, inventory of turf acreage throughout the state, and estimated demand for new recreational and residential turf areas will be developed.

The information gathered will be used in various ways. Have you ever tried to explain the value of the turfgrass industry to a person who was not allowed to water their lawn when we could water our golf courses? Imagine trying to explain to state policy makers that the turfgrass industry needs to be able to be treated as an industry when decisions are being made concerning rationing. If we were able to provide documentation on numbers of hired workers, paid labor expenses, maintained turf acreage and all costs associated with the industry as well as the aesthetic, environmental and safety value of turfgrass, we would be able to get our point across with a lot more authority.

Members of the Rutgers University staff will conduct the study. The team leader is Ramu Govindasamy, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics.

Members include:

Adesoji Adelaja, Dean of Research, Cook College
Dr. Bruce Clarke (no bio necessary)
Margret Brennan, Associate for Program Development

and Marketing, Office of Research, and Kevin Sullivan, Institutional and Industrial Analyst, Office of Research

I attended a preliminary meeting in November and was

The purpose of this proposed study is to show the economic importance of turfgrass to industry leaders, policy makers and the general public.

very impressed with the presentation given by the above group. They explained past studies that they had done and answered many questions in a way that made me very com-

Continued on page 4

In this issue

Editorial	2
President's Message	3
GCSANJ hires State Street Associates	4
GCSANJ News	5
GCSAA News	14
Step-by-step guide to consistent bunkers	15
John Cameron: Early pioneer	19
Cook College presents Turfgrass Management Symposium	20
Golf course tractor PTO safety	21

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Ken Krausz, CGCS **Editor**
Newsletter Business Staff

Chris Holenstein
973-627-3748

Ken Krausz, CGCS
201 599-8301 • FAX 201 447-0301

Contributing Writers

Douglas Vogel, Brian M. Remo,
Shaun Barry, Joe Kinlin

Please address inquiries to:

Editor, **The Greenside**

125 Crain Road, Paramus, NJ 07652

For Ad Placement: Judy Policastro
(973) 379-1100

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732-787-0786 • FAX 732-787-7212

Golf Course Superintendents
Association of New Jersey

66 Morris Ave., Suite 2A

Springfield, New Jersey 07081

973-379-1100 • FAX 973-379-6507

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Editorial



Small Changes, Big Expectations

Another year is ahead of us, 2002. It seems like we were just worried about Y2K, remember that fiasco? What is next? Everyday things just seem to blend together these days. Next thing you know everyone will be back from Orlando and the "season" will be here.

There are drought warnings and watches throughout the state, and the long-term forecast does not look good. Hopefully, by the time you get this, the greens will be covered in snow and the reservoirs filling up. As reported, GCSANJ is working hard to ease the restrictions for the next round of water cutbacks; you can help by attending meetings of the local watershed areas. Your representation at the local level will help when the cuts come and the regulators know who you are. Contact Mickey Stachowski; he can point you in the right direction.

The GCSANJ annual meeting was held at Expo this year, and the turnout was better than in the recent past. The plans are for it to be at EXPO again next year, and I'm sure a few small changes will be made to make things even better. We will report on EXPO next issue, but I just wanted to point out a couple of things that happened. The entire Executive Board was re-elected for another year, so good luck Ed, John, Pat and Bruce. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dave McGhee of Fiddlers Elbow, and the Member of the Year Award went to Steve Kopach of Mountain Ridge C.C. These superintendents will be profiled in coming issues of *The Greenside*.

I want to say good luck to Mark Kuhns, CGCS, of Baltusrol G.C. in his run for director of GCSAA. Mark has not been in New Jersey too long and has done a great job at Baltustrol in a short period of time. From what I can tell he has done quite a lot of work in two GCSAA affiliate chapters in Pennsylvania and a lot of work on GCSAA committees. Good luck!

Visit us on the web at: www.gcsanj.org

President's Message *Ed Mellor, Superintendent, The Colts Neck Golf Club*


For the first time, the GCSANJ held its annual meeting at Expo in Atlantic City. I think it was a success. There were nearly 60 members in attendance. Since it was scheduled at the same time most affiliate members that were in Atlantic City were setting up their booths, the vast majority in attendance was superintendents. I guess there is no perfect time for everybody. The highlight of this meeting, in my opinion, was the naming of this year's Distinguished Service Award Recipient. Anyone who's been active in our association for any length of time knows David McGhee from Fiddler's Elbow Country Club. His selection was an excellent decision on the committee's part. Also Steve Kopach received the Member of the Year Award for his continued work on our website. Congratulations to you both and thank you for the work you've done to improve our association.

The next big event this winter is the GCSAA's 73rd International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando. Registration is down due to the world's concern about traveling. The travel industry as well as the GCSAA is coming up with monetary incentives to encourage you to make the trip. Hotel, airfare and car rental rates have been discounted. Also, I believe the GCSAA is not charging extra for on-site registration and has arranged payment plans instead of pay-

ing for the entire event in advance. If you're still considering making the trip, you might want to contact GCSAA Travel at 800-442-7220 for additional travel advice and discounts.

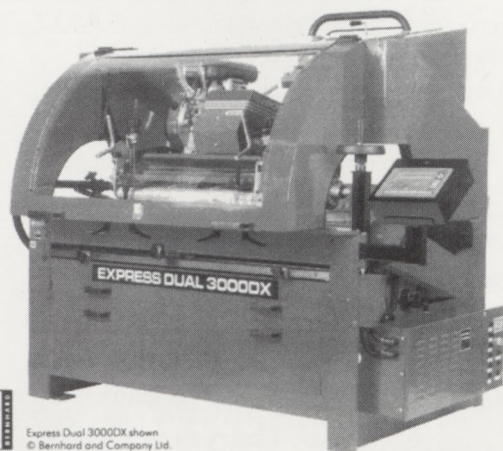
And, finally, this winter, I strongly encourage you all to

Unless we get a heck of a lot of rain and snow this winter to fill our reservoirs, 2002 promises to be a real challenge.

take advantage of the winter. If it's at all possible, make an effort to take some time off. It seems that each year is getting a little longer and the job a little more demanding. This is the time to "recharge your batteries." September 11th should have taught us just how fragile life can be. Reintroduce yourself to your family and friends. Maybe spend a few extra days in Orlando or go north to enjoy the snow. Whatever you're in to, do it. You need to do something for yourself so you're ready for the 2002 season. Unless we get a heck of a lot of rain and snow this winter to fill our reservoirs, 2002 promises to be a real challenge. 

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
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GCSANJ hires State Street Associates


In an effort to ensure that the turfgrass industry is treated fairly in future drought situations the Board of Directors of GCSANJ interviewed lobbying firms to represent the interests of the entire turfgrass industry. Hal Bozarth of State Street Associates met with us a few times and the Board felt that they would represent us well.

I have heard that there are some concerns in other organizations that GCSANJ hired State Street to represent the concerns of golf courses alone. That is in no way true. Every discussion that was held aimed at supporting the entire industry. We just wanted to make sure that progress was being made.

In the recent past, a group of industry representatives formed the Alliance for Water Conservation. That group made great strides, they formulated a draft of recommendations for the next drought. Each group had input on the recommendations and brought those to state employees who origi-

nally asked for them. After several meetings it was evident that progress was not being made, not from a lack of trying. At each GCSANJ Board meeting the question was raised, "Is there progress?" Eventually we decided that a lobbyist was the way to go and that the lobbyist would present one plan and that plan is the exact same plan that the AWC had been pushing for.

We did not want to tell the membership that there were no changes made during the next drought because we had failed to act. When we started interviewing lobbyists we had no idea that drought watches and warnings would be in place again so soon. State Street Associates will be representing the entire turfgrass industry, as that is the only way that fair changes can be made.

Let's all hope for a snow covered winter and a wet spring so we can have time to act on this important issue. 


Turfgrass economic impact study

Continued from page 1

fortable knowing that they would be there to facilitate this study and then be available to present the findings as a team to our lobbyist or others who would need interpretation of the findings.

Other groups that were represented at that meeting were

NJTA, who volunteered to take the lead in fundraising if needed, the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association, the Sports Field Managers Association and others.

The next step will include a focus group that will help to create a survey that will be mailed to turf managers throughout the state. When you receive a survey please fill it out as factually as you can and return it in a timely fashion. The survey will be short and your cooperation will go a long way in helping our industry. 

Calendar

March 6, 7 **Advanced Turfgrass Management Symposium: The Trials and Tribulations of the Modern Golf Green**, Cook College. Contact Cook College at 732-932-9271

May 7 **Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic**, Royce Brook Golf Club. Host Superintendent, Trent Inman. Contact NJTA at 732-821-7134

August 1 **GCSANJ - Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day**, Hort Farm II. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100

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GCSANJ *news*

THREE TIMES IS A CHARM

By Shaun Barry
GCSANJ Commercial Representative
Aventis Environmental Science

The assistants of this association have many things to be proud of on a daily basis. They recognize the importance of their contributions to the golf course, and they understand that they really are a team with the head superintendent. They can also be proud of the tournament that has flourished for three years. It started under the guidance of a young assistant by the name of Brian Remo. Tim Kerwin followed Mr. Remo, and now Brian Gjelsvik has continued the tradition. Along with Joe Kinlin, these three men were the committee that created this event. Many changes have taken place in each of their lives, but all four are still helping to make this event successful.

The 2001 tournament was held at Royce Brook G.C. It

seems that Trent Inman can't say no to a worthwhile request. With a course and a date secured, the committee once again solicited donations from the affiliate members. These requests were met with a positive response so, once again, the cost of the day was very affordable for our C members and their guests.

Recognizing the importance of education, the guest

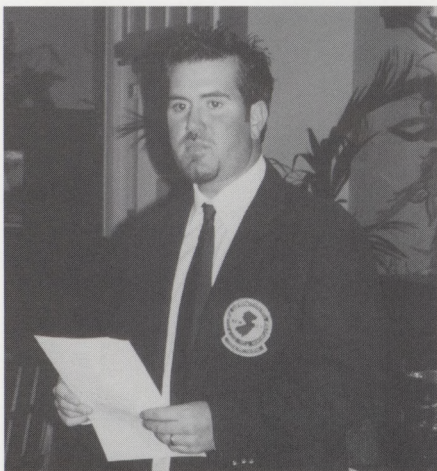
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Rich Buckley touched on many important topics during his educational presentation at the C Championship.



(From left) Tony Grieco, Brian Remo, Tony Benfield and Don MacKay show off the prizes that they won at the C Championship.



Brian Gjelsvik was very professional as he addressed the membership at the C Championship.

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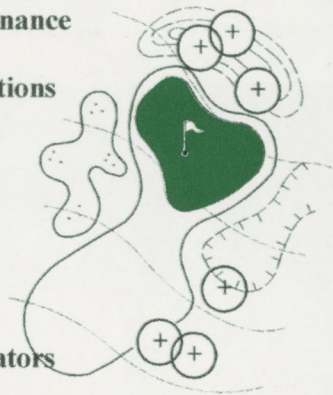
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GCSANJ news

Continued from page 5

speaker was Rich Buckley of Rutgers University. He did a great job covering all of the topical issues with his prepared presentation and then finished the education part of the day with 15 minutes of questions and answers. He had to be on his toes with this very thoughtful gathering. An excellent lunch was followed by group photos, and then we all headed out to the West course for a real challenge.

There was some fine golf played by these young guns, and, for the second time in two years, the low gross honors went to Tony Benfield. Low net honors were earned by Don MacKay. In the guest category, Tony Grieco was low gross and Brian Remo walked away with low net. There were many others who won prizes, but at the end of the day anyone who was able to attend this meeting was a winner. Attending this meeting will show you how serious and talented our C members are and how good the future will be when it is their turn to lead. 🏌️

THE CHAMPIONSHIP LANDS AT SCOTLAND RUN G.C.

By Shaun Barry
GCSANJ Commercial Representative
Aventis Environmental Science

My first experience with Scotland Run G.C. was in the year 2000. Kevin Driscoll had asked Andrew Franks if he could bring a group out to play the course. Phil O'Brien and I joined Kevin (yes, he did pay us), and we headed out to see what challenges this new course might offer. I immediately liked what I saw. What a great course! We were on the 8th hole when Kevin Smith stopped to see how things were going. Kevin is the assistant superintendent and he knows Mr. Driscoll's game, so he was checking to see if Whitey had gotten lost or if he had been banished from our group (no



Andrew Franks (left) is all smiles as he receives our 75th Anniversary flag from Brian Minemier.

such luck). During this visit he said that Andrew would like to host a GCSANJ meeting when our schedule permitted. The clubhouse was under construction, so we just had to pick a date. We considered the April 2001 meeting, but then felt that the timing would be better for a later date. The Championship date was open so we went with that, and it was a wonderful choice. Everything was perfect.

Continued on page 7



Andrew Franks and Kevin Smith surprised everyone at the Championship with their unique entrance. They jumped out of a plane and landed by the 1st tee just in time to start the competition. Amazing!



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GCSANJ news

Continued from page 6

The tournament committee got there early. We had our annual GCSANJ Foundation fundraiser scheduled for this meeting. In addition to the normal complement of company sponsors for our monthly skill prizes, we had asked for additional donations. We raised over \$3,000 on signs alone. (There isn't enough room to list everyone who donated so generously, but I know that is not why you gave. Just to be able to help children has always been enough, and your gifts are really appreciated.) To put out all of the signs, our day had to start around 8:00 a.m. so we could be ready for the 10:00 a.m. registration of a field of 100 players. Matt Anasiewicz and Bill Murray joined Kevin and Paul to make sure things went smoothly.

Andrew and Kevin had finished course preparations earlier than normal because they had planned a surprise for the group. Fifteen minutes before the start of the shotgun these two gentlemen were stepping out of an airplane. Just as the last one of our members was finishing the great lunch we had been served (thanks go to Lebanon for sharing the cost), the host professional made the announcement. We all stopped what we were doing and looked to the skies. There they were. Within moments they were safely on the ground near the first tee. What an entrance! Without any hesitation they both got out of their gear and headed to their tees to start the tournament. A downhill 3-foot putt must seem pretty tame after this adventure off the course.

Leading the adventure on the course was Tom Grimaldi. He shot a 76 for low gross honors, which gave him the Sherwood Moore Cup. This also gave him his third victory of the fall. He captured low gross honors at The Robert Trent Jones Invitational held at Metedeconk National, and then he won at The Met Team Championship, which was played at Sunningdale C.C. in Westchester, N.Y. Right behind Tom on this day was Angelo Petraglia (77), John Alexander (77) and Ian Kunesch (78). Wendell Beakley took first place in the A net flight with a 68. This was the lowest net score of all of the flights, so he took home the Dr. Henry Indyk Cup. Completing this flight were Bob Prickett (70), T. Grimaldi (70) and Greg Armbruster (73). The top four finishers in the B flight were Harry Harsin (69), Keith Chapman (71), Bill McAteer (73) and Jeff Wetterling (75). (Unfortunately, Chip Kern's name was inadvertently put on the wrong score sheet, so his score does not appear in this flight where it belongs. He missed out because his 69 would have put him amongst the winners. Sorry, Chip.)

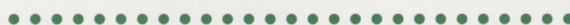
The C flight only had three winners and they were Joel Collura (72), Pat Wall (77) and Mark Wittlinger (78). Joel shot this fine score while he also was competing in the finals of The Leslie Cup. Despite this fine effort, Joel and Brad



Pat Wall, CGCS, has long been a member of and a friend to the GCSANJ. He has chosen to retire in early 2002, so this was his last meeting as an active superintendent. He is shown here displaying the results of a great day at the Championship.

Simpkins lost to Trent Inman and Tom Weinert two and 1. It was a great match and a wonderful victory for Trent and Tom. They really wanted to win and they hope to be repeat champions. It also marks the first time in the history of this

Continued on page 8



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GCSANJ *news*

Continued from page 7

event that a team from the north has won. Watching and playing in this tournament I know how much fun the competition is, and I know that Bob Leslie would be very proud.

Winning the Dr. Paul Sartoretto Cup for the second year in a row was Jim Woods. He shot a 77 to take this honor. His 77 also matched the scores from Angelo and John Alexander. When these gross scores were combined with those shot by H. Harsin, B. Murray and C. Kern, we come up with the district team winners. In another close match District III defeated District IV by three shots. Mr. Woods also took low net honors in the affiliate division with a 71. He edged out Ed Casteen (71) and Tom Weinert (72).

Our long drive contest was conducted before the start of play. Rob Finnessey from Tree Tech Inc. continued his long-standing tradition of giving a total of \$300 to the three winners and another \$300 to our foundation. B. Murray and Shaun Barry won their flights with drives of 443 yd. and 428 yd. (give or take 200 yd.) into a stiff breeze. There was no winner in the C Flight, so the foundation got an extra donation. Many thanks, Rob, for your constant help.

The long drive contests on the course had much different results. Winning the prizes that were donated from our affiliates were Peter Hill (Century Rain Aid), T. Weinert (Country View), Steve Rudich (Lebanon), Mark DeNoble (Wilfred MacDonald) and Bob Prickett (Storr Tractor). Closest to the pin winners were J. Alexander (Koonz), 2 ft. 3 in.; K. Chapman (Storr Tractor), 5 ft. 11 in.; Doug Smith (Wilfred MacDonald), 13 ft. 6 in.; and T. Grimalac (Torsilieri), 7 ft. 1 in. Making one skin each, we have J. Woods, J. Alexander, Kelly

Barry (unlike Seamus he is my real brother), T. Grimalac, Lou Bosco, Rick Broome, E. Casteen, Harry Harsin, Jr., John Fenwick, Jack Montecalvo and (last and definitely least) Kevin Driscoll.

Completing the golf events of the day was a senior and a super senior event. Bob Prickett and Harry Harsin took gross honors, while Pat Wall and Jack Montecalvo walked away with net honors. Pat is retiring and moving away so this was his final monthly meeting. It is quite fitting that this forever-happy man said goodbye while holding two plaques. You will be missed, Pat. Jack has also retired and, although he has had some health problems, he looked great. I expect he will continue his winning ways for a long time to come.

Our day was a great success, and we really owe a debt of thanks to Andrew and Kevin and to every person at Scotland Run. A lot of effort went into preparations and execution for this event to run so smoothly. I hope we can return soon.

The following donors at the Championship supported the GCSANJ Foundation:

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Continued on page 9



GCSANJ *news*

Continued from page 8

TWO LONG TIME GCSANJ MEMBERS PASS

Michael H. Leary and Dr. Paul Sartoretto passed away recently. Both men gave a lot to this organization in their own special ways.

Mike Leary was 60 years old; of those 60 years 27 were spent as superintendent at Montammy C.C. in Alpine N.J. He was a superintendent for over 35 years; most recently Mike was the manager of Golf Course Operations at the Griffin E. Harris Golf Course in Greenwich, Conn. He started his career at Shepard Hills in Waverly N.Y., and worked at Oak Hills in Rochester N.Y. before coming to Montammy. Among his peers Mike was famous for his stand of Bentgrass at Montammy. Dave Pease once remarked, after Montammy hosted the GCSANJ Invitational, those greens were the most consistent he had ever played. Al Radco was always amazed at the condition of the entire golf course. It was said that some of Mike's methods were a little unorthodox, but they worked for him.

Former Assistant Superintendent Paul Jordan hosted the first annual Mike Leary Memorial Golf Outing this fall. The



Mike Leary

American Cancer Society, 800-ACS-2345, and the United Hospice of Rockland County, 845-634-4974, were recipients of almost \$1,000 each, the proceeds from this tournament.

Mike is survived by his beloved partner, Joan LaRose, two sons, Patrick of Howell, N.J. and Jeffery of Hilton Head, S.C., and a daughter Janet of Allentown Pa.

Dr. Paul Sortoretto, a long-time employee of Cleary Chemical, was 88 years old. Dr. Paul earned his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Notre Dame University in 1937. He came to work at W.A. Cleary Chemical in 1944 as director of research and development. After the death of William Cleary in 1965, he assumed the office of president. It was during his

tenure at Cleary that Dr. Paul pioneered the technology of tank mixing fungicides to obtain a broader spectrum of disease control. Dr. Paul invented PMAS! He was the subject of GCSANJ's member profile, September-October 2001.

Dr. Paul and his wife Mary retired to Arcadia, California, in 1998. He is survived by Mary, to whom he was married for 63 years, three daughters, Paula Olsen, Mary Bloebaum, Regina Fink, Ph.D., six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. ¶

A RECAP OF THE MINUTES OF THE GCSANJ OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

The October 17th meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by President Ed Mellor. The meeting was held at the Rock Spring Club; Ed thanked Jim McNally for hosting us.

Those present included Ed Mellor, Jim McNally, John

Continued on page 10

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Continued from page 9

O'Keefe, Bruce Peeples, Gregg Armbruster, Shaun Barry, Roger Stewart, Chris Holenstein, Brian Minemier, Paul Dotti, Mickey Stachowski and Ken Krausz.

Phil Scott sent a thank you note, as he is happy to become a life member. Joe Ciccone is doing well after surgery. Jim McNally attended a golf tournament in the memory of Mike Leary. GCSANJ will send a \$100 donation to a charity in Mike's memory; Ken Krausz will get the charity information to Judy.

After a long search and interview process a motion was made by Ken Krausz, seconded by Chris Holenstein, to hire State Street Associates, the lobbyist firm, to represent GCSANJ and the Green industry in getting the document that was drafted by the Alliance for Water Conservation set in place in the state so the next time there are water restrictions, the green industry is asked to conserve in a more even percentage as the rest of businesses.

Ed Mellor sent a letter to GCSAA asking for support of Dr. Bingru Huang's research on Bentgrass drought stress

tolerances.

Mark Kuhns spoke with the Board concerning his run for GCSAA Director.

Paul Dotti and Roger Stewart have finalized plans for the November educational meeting.

The club relations committee reported on a recent meeting with a member club.

Brian Minemier and Gregg Armbruster reported that the golf simulator was on order for EXPO and that commercial sponsorship was going well.

Mickey Stachowski attended a Drought Emergency Task Force meeting and stated that superintendents should be attending their local watershed meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

The November 8th meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. at association headquarters by President Ed Mellor.

Those present included Ed Mellor, Pat Campbell, John O'Keefe, Bruce Peeples, Shaun Barry, Roger Stewart, Chris Holenstein, Paul Dotti, Mickey Stachowski, Ken Krausz, Jim McNally and Judy Policastro.

Dennis De Sanctis sent a thank you card for the fruit basket; Dennis is doing well.

Mickey Stachowski informed us that parts of New Jersey are in a stage one drought watch. There is a meeting with the Alliance for Water Conservation and Hal Bozart set.

There is a meeting set at Rutgers to discuss the Turfgrass Economic Impact Study. Ken Krausz will attend.

A GCSAA seminar on Turfgrass Stress is scheduled for January 16th at the Ralph Geiger Center. There may be a

Continued on page 11

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GCSANJ news

Continued from page 10

seminar in March; plans are being tossed around. There are also plans for superintendent roundtable discussions, possibly on a district basis.

Shaun Barry noted that the scholarship committee is discussing changes in the way we award the scholarships, possibly opening them up to children of GCSANJ members that are not in the turfgrass field. The foundation will be administering this.

Bruce Peeples and Joe Flaherty attended a party in which Raritan Valley C.C. celebrated the 35th anniversary of Al Rathjen Jr.'s employment there.

The assistant superintendents annual seminar and golf tournament had 50 people attend. The meeting was at Royce Brook and host Superintendent Trent Inman did a wonderful job.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. 🍷

WELCOME THE NEWEST GCSANJ MEMBERS

Please join *The Greenside* in welcoming the following new members of GCSANJ:

Robert D. Carey, Class A, Spring Brook CC, District 2
Jeremy Daubert, Class C, Pine Hill GC, District 4
Robert Arts, Class C, Stanton Ridge CC, District 3
William Goodrich, Class AF, Helena Chemical, District 4
Jeffery Davis, Class AF, Maniotino Contracting, District 2
Art Briggs, Class D, Preakness Hills CC, District 1
George Caezza, Class C, Edgewood CC, District 1
Lee Kozsey, Class AF, Syngenta, District 3

Congratulations to David Fowler, Bunker Hill GC, as he requested a classification change from class C to class B.

We also wish the best to Patrick A. Wall, CGCS, who has requested a classification change from Class A to Life A. 🍷

COLIN MICHAEL CAMPBELL IS OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Michael and Amy Campbell are proud to announce the birth of Colin Michael Campbell, born December 11, 2001, at 12:26 p.m. Colin weighed in at 8 pounds 1 ounce. All is well and he is a true bundle of joy. Colin's dad, Michael, and his grandfather, Pat, both work at Panther Valley. 🍷

JOE CICCONE HITS THE HALF-CENTURY MARK!

Did you hear? Joe Ciccone is 50! Well, that is the scoop from Buddy Rizzio. These pictures tell the story of a successful man. Wonderful wife, great family and friends. What more can a person ask for? Happy Birthday, Joe! 🍷



Janet and Joe Ciccone pose for the camera at Joe's surprise 50th birthday party. This is one birthday that Joe will never forget.



Joe's brother-in-law and his daughter display Buddy Rizzio's gift. It's nice to have friends.



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Continued from page 11

AL RATHJENS HONORED FOR 35 YEARS AT RARITAN VALLEY CC

By Bruce Peebles, CGCS
Superintendent, Spring Lake G.C.

A special evening took place on November 3, 2001, at the Raritan Valley Country Club, and GCSANJ was there to help celebrate. Al Rathjens, Jr. was honored for his 35 years of service as the golf course superintendent. The first thing that comes to mind is what an incredible achievement it is for both Al and Raritan Valley C.C. to have such a commitment to each other for that long a time period! Both are to be congratulated.

Al, his wife Susan and son Al, III were invited to the annual awards night banquet at the club and nothing more was said. However, Raritan Valley C.C. and General Manager Bill Hoferer, CCM, had additional ideas. A phone call was placed to President Ed Mellor asking participation from GCSANJ members. I quickly volunteered, as Al's father, Al



The old backyard.



Al Rathjens (left) and life-long friend Joe Flaherty.

Rathjens, Sr., had been golf course superintendent at Spring Lake G.C. for a number of years, and Al, Jr. himself grew up in the same house my family and I lived in when we first arrived at Spring Lake. I then placed a call to Joe Flaherty, CGCS, who I knew was a friend of Al's, and he and his wife Eileen quickly agreed to attend as well.

Al and his family could not have been more surprised! When Al first noticed my wife Janet and I, a curious smile came over his face. But when he saw Joe and Eileen, his jaw dropped. Then he knew something was up! As I was to later learn, Joe and Al might as well be brothers as they attended school together all the way through, were in each others weddings and even share godchildren! Joe and I were asked to say a few words, which we gladly did. GCSANJ also presented Past President Al and his family with a large photograph of his old backyard—the seventeenth hole of Spring Lake Golf Club.

It was great to see the sincere respect and admiration Al Rathjens, Jr. was accorded that night at Raritan Valley C.C. It certainly is well deserved! 🍷

Continued on page 13

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Continued from page 12

MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERSHIP

By Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS

It is indeed an honor to be nominated for director of GCSAA. I consider GCSAA one of the strongest professional organizations in this country. We undoubtedly are one of the strongest within our industry.

GCSAA has been part of my life for over 20 years. I can't begin to imagine where we would be today without GCSAA. From humble beginnings of a handful of visionaries, with virtually no funding, to a multi-million dollar organization supporting thousands of members, GCSAA has provided us with educational opportunities and membership services that are second to none within our industry. Our staff at GCSAA has evolved into a highly organized group that could rival the management teams of many Fortune 500 companies. We are indeed a very professional group. The vision of our founders has grown and been nurtured by the many dedicated members and staff that have followed in their footsteps. We have achieved a level of professionalism that even our founders could not have imagined.

The bar will soon be raised for future generations of superintendents. PDI will introduce a new level of professionalism that many organizations can only hope to achieve. Our class A status will have significant meaning, and other professions within our industry will be striving to keep up with our pace. We will have the highest standards in the industry, and we, as a group, will only work harder to achieve the next level.

Our certification program has helped many of our members grow stronger in the quest for professionalism. Maintaining certification status has kept those members better informed and prepared to do their jobs, through advanced education and on the job experience. The level will soon be higher as the committee is working to create a true test of our expertise and put a premium on formal education and practical experience. As a member of the Certification Committee, I am proud to be part of this process. When our work is completed, certification will have greater meaning and more clout in the golfing community.

There are many issues facing superintendents today. The one issue that seems to surface more frequently is job security. Why can't superintendents who work very hard, day in and day out, maintain their positions until they retire? Why can't superintendents lead normal lives like other professionals and spend more time with their families and friends without being told "you're never on the course?" Why can't we serve

our professional organization without the threat of being fired? This is a major issue that must be addressed soon. We must ask ourselves how can we, as a professional group, help solve this problem for future generations? It is becoming all too frequent that we hear about a good superintendent losing his or her job because of political manipulation or age discrimination! Surely we can look at this problem and develop a strategy to solve it. What role will this association play in solving this problem? The answer to this question is not simple. Education is the obvious answer to help us deal with today's trends and problems associated with being a superintendent. GCSAA should strive to develop an educational program devoted solely to job security. Programs should address communication skills, management skills, legal skills and other topics that will provide a superintendent with the necessary support to defend against this nationwide trend.

I am very fortunate to have the full support and encouragement of my club to pursue this challenging endeavor. I have been involved in my professional associations most of my career, and I will continue to serve as long as I am able to do so.

If elected to the Board of GCSAA, I will work tirelessly to help solve the problems we are facing. I am committed for the long haul. I am committed to professionalism. I am committed to education. I am committed to you, my fellow superintendents, and all of the members of GCSAA. I will not let you down, and I will strive to represent you with the utmost in dignity and professionalism.

In conclusion, I want to thank everyone involved for providing me this opportunity. Win, lose or draw, I will always be there for my fellow GCSAA members and especially my fellow members of GCSANJ. I will always share my experiences and be part of this great organization. Thank you. I

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FLORHAM PARK SUPERINTENDENT RENEWS PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Scott Carpenter, golf course superintendent at Brooklake Country Club, Florham Park, N.J., has completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Carpenter has been at the Brooklake Country Club since 1979. He initially achieved his title of CGCS in 1992.


GCSAA instituted the certification program in 1971 to recognize outstanding and progressive superintendents. Approximately 1,700 golf course superintendents currently hold CGCS status.

To become certified, a candidate must have at least three years' experience as a golf course superintendent, be employed in that capacity and meet specific post-secondary edu-

cational requirements and/or continuing education units (CEUs). The candidate must then pass a rigorous six-hour examination covering: knowledge of GCSAA and its certifi-

GCSAA instituted the certification program in 1971 to recognize outstanding and progressive superintendents.

cation program; rules of golf; turfgrass management; pest control; safety and compliance; and financial and human resource management.

Maintaining certified status requires a renewal process be completed every five years since the initial date of certification. To fulfill certification renewal requirements, Carpenter participated in 10 CEUs of continuing education and professional development. 

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Alliance for Environmental Concerns annual meeting a success

If you were not sure where to get the answers to regulatory questions before you attended the Alliance for Environmental Concerns (AEC) annual meeting, you certainly had the answer after attending this informative seminar. AEC Executive Director Nancy Sadlon and the Board of Directors did a great job of getting informative speakers and setting a great agenda.

Anne Waters, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection outreach coordinator, explained the changes in the pesticide licensing and regulatory issues. This is the first overhaul of the entire process in quite a while. You can contact Anne at www.pcpnj.com or 609-984-6507.

Hal Bozarth of State Street Associates gave some very interesting insight on how the state government will change in 2002.

There was a panel discussion and other interesting insights on the FQPA and almost anything that could impact the industry through government regulation.

The silent auction bidding exceeded last year's income and great deals were had. 

Step-by-step guide to consistent bunkers

By Chris Hartwiger

Follow the rules and you can achieve consistency, but are you sure you want to? Bunkers are one of the most popular topics discussed during Green Section Turf Advisory visits. These hazards, as defined in The Rules of Golf, are often criticized for being too hard, too soft, too wet or contaminated with sediment. Bunker discussions almost always end with the familiar refrain: "All we want are consistent bunkers!" For those of you who share in this desire, I have good news for you. It can be done.

Having been down the long, winding road to bunker consistency with golfers before, the first step is to weed out a few of the pretenders from those who are ready to get down to business. This short survey will do the trick.

How would you rate bunker consistency at your golf course:

1. The bunkers are fine just the way they are.
2. The bunkers are not consistent, but I am not willing to pay any money out of my own pocket to improve them.
3. The bunkers are not consistent and I am willing to pay up to \$500 to improve them.



4. The bunkers are not consistent and I am ready to pay whatever it takes to improve them.

For those of you who selected 1, 2 or 3, you have permission to stop reading. For those of you who selected 4, read on.

For years golf course superintendents have tried to main-

Continued on page 16

A black and white photograph of a golf course with several large, active irrigation rotors spraying water. In the foreground, a man in a polo shirt is kneeling and looking at a large map or blueprint. The text "Hunter GOLF" is overlaid on the image.

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Step-by-step guide to consistent bunkers

Continued from page 15

tain all the bunkers with the same riding machine or hand raking technique. In the quest for consistency, this approach was doomed to fail because of the many factors that influence bunker performance. The shape of the subgrade, the runoff of surface water, the spacing of the drain lines, the amount of irrigation coverage and the position of the bunkers in relation to the prevailing wind are a few of the factors that make each bunker unique. The same maintenance program does not produce consistent bunkers.

The first step in our quest for consistency is complete reconstruction. Purchase the best sand in your area and use the most technologically advanced construction technique. Here is where things get a little sticky. If we really want consistent bunkers, it is imperative to make each bunker the same size and shape. After all, it would be inconsistent to have a sloped subgrade on one bunker and a flat bottom on another. Come to think of it, this will make construction even easier.

The next step does require me to break a little bad news to you. If we want consistent bunkers, and we do, we had better go ahead and make each green identical to avoid any inconsistencies in the way the shot should be played. For example, a bunker shot to a green sloping away from the player is going to perform differently than a shot to a green sloping toward the player. This would represent inconsistency.

Hang in there—the last two changes are almost painless. Every approach shot on par 3s, par 4s and par 5s should be the same length. Change the length of the holes as needed to meet this requirement. Although our sand is perfect, I have a feeling that a ball hit high with a pitching wedge into a bunker will have a different lie than the lie of a ball in the bunker hit with a low screaming 3 iron. Again, different lies would result in inconsistent bunkers.

Finally, we must do something about the variety of sand wedges that are available. Some sand wedges are great for firm sand, while others are better for softer sand. If we want consistency in our bunkers, we cannot stand for different equipment. Each club can specify which wedge their players must use. To offer a little variety, maybe a different wedge could be specified for different days of the week.

There you have it—consistent bunkers. Although I have offered great recommendations, I hope no one follows them. Now I will tell you why. (Caution: The next few statements may infuriate some of you.) First, most people who complain about the bunkers being inconsistent are really saying that they are not getting the ball up and down as frequently as they think they should. Second, who ever said bunkers are supposed to be consistent? Every bunker is different and, therefore, bunkers are inherently inconsistent.

If you do not take anything else from this article, remember that golf is a game of inconsistencies. A player must make adjustments for yardage, the lie of the ball, the direction and speed of the wind, the slope of the putting green, and on and on and on. What is consistent about playing the game? Nothing. And that is precisely why it is fun to try to get that little ball into the hole in as few strokes as possible.

If the bunkers at your golf course frustrate the daylight out of you, take a lesson from a golf professional. Become a better course manager and avoid them. But above all else, do not allow the condition of a hazard to take the fun out of the game.

Chris Hartwiger shares innovative ideas as agronomist for the USGA Green Section Southeast Region, based in Birmingham, Alabama.

Reprinted from November/December 2001 USGA Green Section Record ¶

Timely tips . . .

By Joe Bianco, NJTA Board member

The United States Department of Treasury/Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCEN) released pertinent business and personal credit access information concerning how and when your personal, financial and business information may be released to *anyone* effective July 1, 2001.

The important part of the release reads as follows:

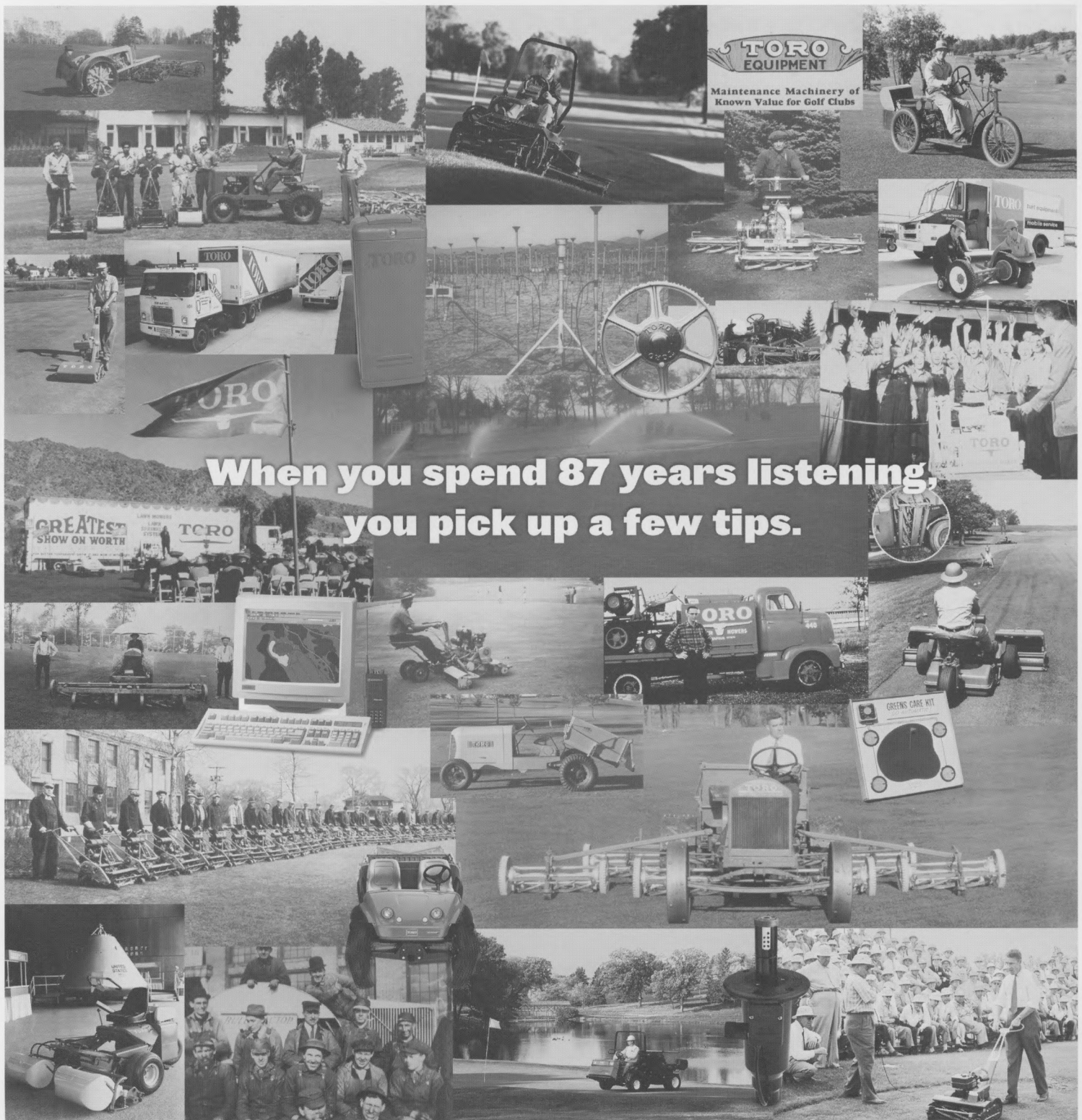
The four major credit bureaus in the United States will be allowed, starting July 1, to release any and all credit information, including mailing addresses, phone numbers, rela-

tives, employment history and past credit practices, etc. — to anyone who requests it.

If you would like to opt out of this release information, you must call 888-567-8688.

I have done this and it only takes a couple of minutes. You can also have everyone in your household removed with one phone call as long as you have their social security number.

Reprinted from NJTA Turfgrass Clippings, Fall 2001. ¶



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FCC's radio audit includes golf courses

The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (Bureau) is conducting an audit of the operational status of Private Land Mobile Radio (PLMR) stations licensed on frequencies below 512 MHz. The purpose of the audit is to update and increase the accuracy of the Commission's PLMR licensing database. Golf courses that utilize radios to communicate and operate irrigation systems will be included in the FCC's audit.

As part of the audit, the FCC is sending audit letters to licensees with authorized facilities operating on frequencies below 512 MHz. The Bureau began mailing letters August 15, 2001, and will complete all mailings approximately six months later in February 2002. The audit letter includes a form designed to gather the required information to complete an audit response. Licensees are required to respond within 60 days.

The FCC has created a website that provides information associated with the audit, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/plmrs/audit.html>. Information located at this site includes: the golf

course name, contact name, call sign, date the audit letter was mailed and any responses received from the licensee. Utilize the following steps to access audit information for a specific golf course:

1. Enter <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/plmrs/audit.html> to access the FCC's Construction and Operation Audit web page.
2. Click on the Spectrum Audit Database bullet, located at bottom of the text on the Construction and Operation Audit page.
3. In the Spectrum Audit Search web page, enter the golf course name in the search by licensee section or enter a license call sign in the search by call sign section.
4. The completed search will provide the following information: audit letter's date, addressee and responses received.

If a golf course does not receive an audit letter, a response to the audit is still required, and the golf course should utilize the FCC's web site to determine if it was included in

Continued on page 20

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John Cameron: Early pioneer

By Doug Vogel, Superintendent Packanack Lake C.G.
GCSANJ Historian

The Yountakah C.C. in Nutley, N.J., enjoyed the reputation of being one of the best-maintained golf courses in the New York Metropolitan area. The man responsible for the excellent conditions was a hardworking Scotsman named John Cameron. Cameron joined the Greenkeepers Association of New Jersey in 1927, one month after its first official meeting. This fraternity of greenkeepers was a tight knit bunch, so much so that two members were on hand supporting John on his wedding day. Vic Eaton of the Trenton C.C. was a groomsman and Alex Reid of the Plainfield C.C. was his best man. All three men figured very prominently in the early formative years of the association. Cameron, Reid and Eaton were elected to numerous Board positions, each attaining the top position of president.

John Cameron installed the first central watering system on a New Jersey golf course. He was a stickler for weeds in his greens and employed summer help to crawl on their hands and knees to remove them. He hosted the 1939 and 1942 New Jersey Open. 1939 Open Champion Long Jim Barnes praised Cameron's effort as being the "man with the best greens."



Vic Eaton, Trenton C.C. (left)
and John Cameron,
Yountakah C.C.

Having grown up in Scotland, Cameron enjoyed the game of golf just as much as its maintenance. One memorable round of golf took place in 1931 at the Trenton C.C. with friend Vic Eaton. Adjacent to the club was the New Jersey State Insane Asylum. As both golfers played up the 18th fairway during a heavy downpour, they heard a voice from across the street yell out a window, "You should be in here, not me!"

The effects of a bad economy and the outbreak of World War II caused the Yountakah C.C. to close in 1943. It was

Continued on page 21

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Cook College presents Turfgrass Management Symposium

On March 6-7, 2002, Cook College of Continuing Professional Education will present "Advanced Turfgrass Management Symposium: The Trials and Tribulations of the Modern Golf Green." This annual advanced winter turfgrass symposium provides a grounds-up review of the current state of golf green research. From the root zone to what makes the ball roll, leading turfgrass scientists will share their view of what it takes to meet the ever

increasing demand for high performance turf.

How far can we go? When is enough enough? These and more exciting questions will be addressed in these two education-packed days.

Contact the Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education at 732-932-9271 to reserve your place at this informative symposium. (The cost to GCSANJ members is \$295.00 before February 15, 2002.)

FCC's radio audit includes golf courses

Continued from page 18

the audit. Golf courses that do not respond to the FCC's audit risk having their licenses cancelled. After cancellation, the golf course will incur the costs required to comply with current FCC regulations before acquiring a new license.

Thanks to Joe McCleary, CGCS, at Saddlerock Golf

Course in Aurora, Colorado, for providing this information. Joe is the government relations liaison for the Rocky Mountain GCSA.

Contact the GR department at 800-472-7878, ext. 610, or mail to: grinfo@gcsaa.org if you need assistance using the FCC website.

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Golf course tractor PTO safety


By Richard Oates
Oceangro Fertilizer

Would you like to be saved from a monster lawsuit, headache and major injury to one of your staff members? How about a reminder of something you know but may have forgotten? My name is Richard Oates and I am the sales representative for Oceangro Fertilizer. I formerly worked as a sales manager for Lesco and was an assistant at Metedeconk National in Jackson. Oceangro is the 5-5-0 organic fertilizer produced in Ocean County and sold in bulk to golf courses and municipalities in New Jersey for grow in and as a maintenance fertilizer.

Large volumes of Oceangro must be applied to turf because of the low fertilizer ratio, and using a Lely or Vicon spreader to apply the material is not practical. Oceangro purchased large volume wet lime spreaders to loan out for free to make an Oceangro application. My job with Oceangro is not only to promote the material, but also drop off the spreaders and help with calibration. I thought I would just clean, grease and drop the spreaders off, but complications do arise. The spreader PTO shafts, bearings and safety shields quite often returned mangled—sometimes like a train wreck. The thing is, now I notice a lot of golf course PTO-driven equipment with damaged or missing PTO safety shields. It seems to be the norm for at least some golf courses. I've seen some PTO shields so badly damaged that one-half of the PTO shaft is exposed.

So what's the big deal? Those damaged plastic safety shields mean that: 1) The tractor isn't hooked up to the equipment correctly or 2) The equipment isn't being used correctly. If you allow this to happen, your insurance company won't like you and OSHA won't like you either. Do PTO


accidents really happen? You have a better chance of being killed by a tractor roll over (*you do have a roll over bar on that tractor; don't you?*) than being caught by an unguarded PTO shaft, but it does happen. Type in the words "Farm Tractor Accidents" on the Internet and you'll be surprised at what you find.

When hooking up a tractor to PTO-driven equipment, there are certain measurements and clearances that must be checked to guarantee safe use to the equipment and the operator. The plastic safety shroud will not tear, shred, melt or be deformed if those measurements are checked first. You know RPMs should be low before engaging the PTO, sharp turns should be avoided and safety shrouds should be in place, but does your operator know that? I used to think golf course people were the true green industry professionals, but after seeing the damaged spreaders returned to Oceangro, it seems that not everyone working on every golf course could be considered a professional. Don't let this happen. The grass will grow back—a staff member's arm or leg will not if it's torn off. 

.....

Early pioneer

Continued from page 19

sold to the International Telephone and Telegraph Company, who retained Cameron as its grounds superintendent for the property. He was set on saving his irrigation system only to come to work one morning finding steam shovels and bulldozers digging it up. John was let go after one year of employment and lived only long enough to see his beloved Yountakah turned into brick buildings and blacktop. 

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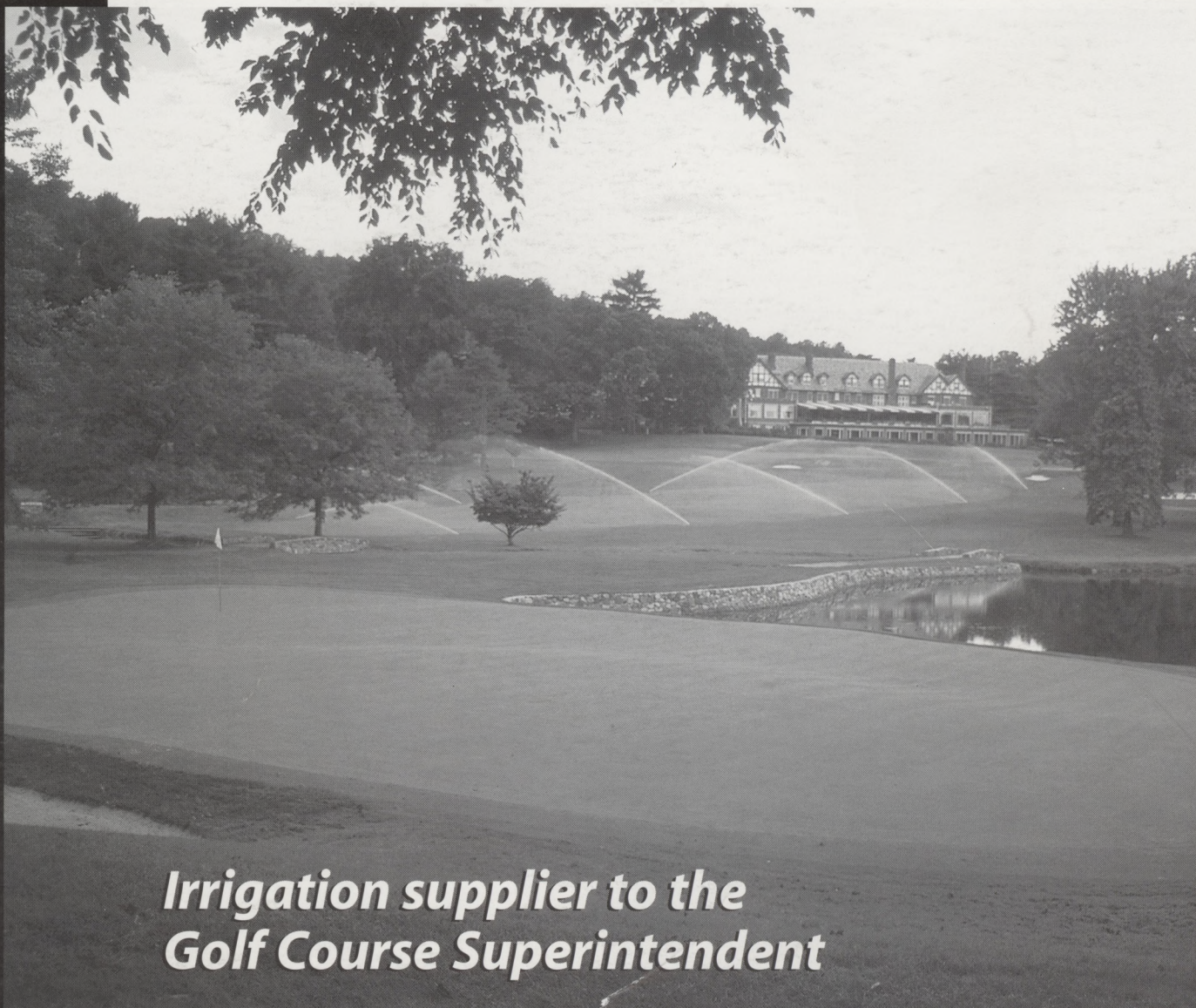
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