



THE Greenerside

Official Publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

Down on the Farm ... The 2002 Invitational

Shaun Barry
Aventis Environmental Science

Gary Arlio takes his GCSANJ responsibilities very seriously, so when Hamilton Farm gave us the opportunity to have our Invitational Tournament at their course, he immediately presented the idea to the Board. It meant a change in our proposed schedule, but after much discussion it was decided that this change offered us a unique chance to increase our visibility within the golfing community.

The cost of our event would increase significantly, but it was thought that the events of the day would still allow us to reach our goal of 26 teams. We actually got to 32 teams because we never want to turn anyone away. When two teams had to cancel we smiled and kept it at 30 teams.

Part of the reason for choosing this site was the opportunity for some of the attendees to also play the par three course. Fifty-six players teed off at 8:00 a.m. under the watchful eye of Scottie Nield, who is the head golf professional. Scottie and his staff wanted things to be perfect in and around the clubhouse. They were. This young Scotsman runs a very friendly and professional shop.

The par three was just for fun and that it was. Every player who came off these 18 holes was in complete awe of this extraordinary short course. Lunch was next on the schedule, and it appeared that everyone was a low handicapper at this sport. Before we knew it the carts were loaded and everyone was waiting to start. It turned out to be an adventure worth waiting for.

The course did not play its full length, but this way everyone had a chance to enjoy their experience to the fullest and, perhaps, win something in addition to the beautiful GCSANJ logo watch that Gary had gotten as our gift to the teams.

Play ended too quickly for the field, and I think a few

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Hamilton Farm Golf Club



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

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From the editor's desk

Early this spring, March 20th to be exact, I was cutting my #7 fairway when suddenly I came to realize that I had never read the minutes of the 1st Annual Meeting of the National Association of the Greenkeepers of America from 1927. I didn't panic, but I did cowboy it back to my office and called GCSAA headquarters immediately.

Within 14 seconds I got a voice, a human voice, that asked me how could she direct my call. Of course in the back of my mind I wanted to say "patch me through to McGarrett," but I resisted and asked to talk to Susanne Clement, the librarian/curator of the GCSAA. Her machine answered, "I'm not at my desk right now, but I am in the building. If you . . ."

She was in the building.

She was in the building so maybe I can have her paged because, well, there was a bit of anxiety growing, and I needed a copy of the minutes and I needed it soon—real soon. My plea to the staff was answered as they located Susanne, and I received a fax within 51 minutes. I had them read and memorized within 10. I include the following excerpt for your reading pleasure:

"Mr. MacGregor introduced Mrs. G.A. Farley, editor of the National Greenkeeper. She asked for contributions for the magazine and practically every hand was raised in response to the call for articles written by practical greenkeepers to be published for the benefit of all members of the association."

Just as all my predecessors have done before me, I now ask you to raise your hand.

Yours in Turf,

Doug



The editor (right) and fellow volunteer Blair Quinn relax after a morning of double cutting greens and raking traps for Bob Dickison at the Upper Montclair C.C. for the NFL/PGA Seniors Classic.

President's Message

"If you went back and re-read the 'President's message' from the last 30 years or so, I am sure you would see the same words of encouragement you see from me: Get involved!" (Glenn Miller, 1997); "We urge you to get involved." (Al Foster, 1963); "Please get yourself involved with our Association." (Al Caravella, 1970); and "We need you to get involved!!!" (Jack Martin, 1972).

"Committees are an important part of the GCSANJ activities. They are the gears that make this organization function." (Steve Finamore, 1989); "Participation in GCSANJ activities is very rewarding, and you will find that the friendships that develop will last a lifetime." (Chris Carson, 1993); "Your ideas are essential to the vitality and progress of the Association." (Joe Flaherty, 1978); "The importance for communication between the general membership and the committee is paramount for the success in fulfilling membership needs." (Dave Pease, 1992); and "If you would like to assist in making the GCSANJ better, please contact any Board member." (Ken Krausz, 1999).

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many

members who have come forward and made themselves available for committee assignments. It is most encouraging to realize we do have people that want to get involved." (Ed Walsh, 1987).

***Come out to the meetings, join in the discussions, have your say and enjoy good fellowship."
(Sherwood Moore, 1953).***

"This Association is not run by one person or a group of two or three persons, but by every member in the Association. So when we say support we really mean it! Come out to the meetings, join in the discussions, have your say and enjoy good fellowship." (Sherwood Moore, 1953). ¶

Calendar

September 17

GCSANJ Monthly Meeting,
The Architects Club. Host
Superintendent – David
Eichner. Contact Judy
Policastro at 973-379-1100.

October 14

GCSANJ Championship,
Tavistock C.C. Host
Superintendent – Thomas
Grimac, CGCS. Contact Judy
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November 26

GCSANJ Fall Seminar,
Baltusrol, G.C. Host
Superintendent – Mark
Kuhns, CGCS. Contact Judy
Policastro at 973-379-1100.

December 10, 11, 12

**New Jersey Turfgrass
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Down on the Farm ... The 2002 Invitational

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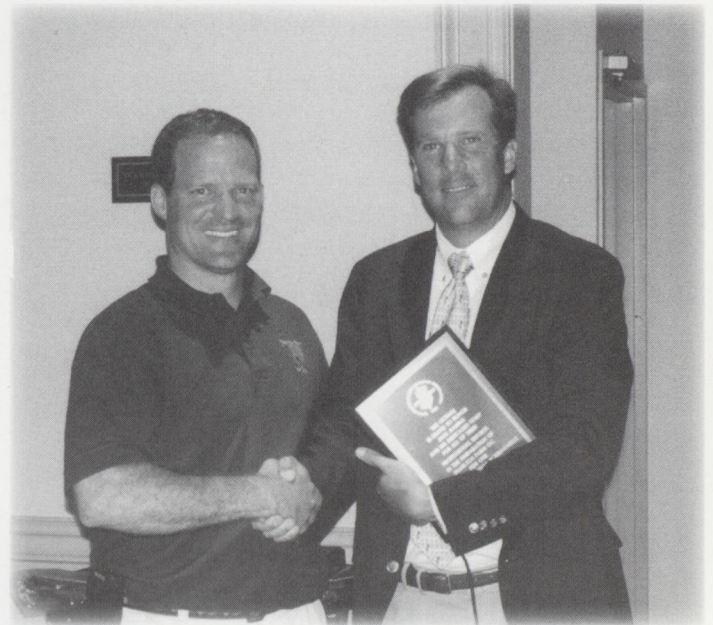
teams played an extra hole or two just to extend the experience. The cocktail hour and dinner were excellent. They prepared us for the conclusion of the event of which the highlight was the introduction of our host superintendent. Tim Christ was the force behind the creation of this beauty and it was a job done well. The superintendent now, however, is Paul Ramina, and if it is possible this course will get even better. Paul came here from Riviera C.C., and he is looking forward to adding to the excellence that already exists. Paul, along with Michael Gornert, John McShane and their staffs with a little help from Dennis Shea, spent many hours preparing for the first "major" to be held at Hamilton Farm G.C. I hope they were pleased with the results because 120 golfers that I saw could not be any happier.

The final part of the day was the actual awarding of prizes. The winners deserved their accolades because their golf was wonderful. The Team Event went to Upper Montclair for the first time (Red must be taking lessons). The team of Bob Dickison, Gordon Hahn, Ed Healey and Bob Paskill shot a 56 for a two-stroke victory. Royce Brook's 58 edged out Rock

Spring on a match of cards. The Superintendent/Professional Tournament also was decided on a match of cards. Trent Inman and Ben Steele had a 62 for Royce Brook. They defeated Gary Arlio and Willie Spicer from North Jersey C.C. John Schoellner and Andy Brock had a 63 and Metuchen took third place. Andy, however, was the low professional and his 68 earned him \$200. Closest to the pin winners were Leslie VanSyckle (5 ft. 4 in.), Pat Zenner (5 ft. 6 in.) Mike Kierne (2 ft. 4 in.) and Mark Guliano (6 ft. 2 in.). The longest drive went to Corey Birgham from Rumson. Corey is the reigning state Amateur Champion and with a plus 4 handicap I can see why.

Mr. Arlio also arranged for a silent auction to help the

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2002 Invitational Host Superintendent Paul Ramina (left) accepts a GCSANJ plaque from Ed Mellor.



Bringing Hamilton Farm to its knees was the winning team from the Upper Montclair C.C. Ed Mellor (left) and host Pro Scottie Nield (right) flank Gordon Hahn, Ed Healey, Bob Dickison and Bob Paskill.

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GCSANJ news

REFLECTIONS OF 2002 SENIORS NFL TOURNAMENT

Bob Dickison, CGCS
Upper Montclair C.C.

These comments are offered in the areas that the Upper Montclair Country Club Green Department had the most contact with: golf course setup, general tournament setup and parking.

GOLF COURSE – With the May-June date this year the course was in top condition. The weather pattern for the winter months set the course up to be in excellent condition. By the time of the tournament the Poa had finished flowering, which made for a much nicer golf course. The mild winter allowed the course to start the year off without any problems and the growth was ahead of schedule for the season.

We were very fortunate with the weather for the tournament this year. Tournaments before and after ours have had

some serious weather, with rain or cold or both. This year's weather was perfect for golf.

The tees, approaches, fairways and rough were in the best condition ever. The greens were excellent as always. They were mowed at .105 for the tournament. They rolled true, were smooth and had a good pace to them. The fairways continue to show improvement each year in firmness and smoothness with our sanding program. Again this year I was asked to grow the rough higher to make the tournament more challenging for the pros. We also improved the quality of the bunkers over last year and were commended on them by the tour officials.

Upper Montclair is the style of course that the touring

Continues on page 7



GCSAA-sponsored PGA Senior Tour player Jim Colbert toasts the efforts of Bob Dickison and his crew during dinner break in the maintenance shop.



"I won the 2002 GCSANJ Invitational. What have you won lately?"

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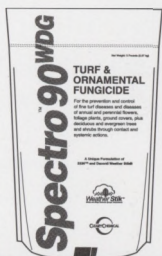
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professionals like to play. Several times during the tournament I was asked by players and visitors alike, what are those white trees? The Cornus kousas or Kousa Dogwoods were out in full bloom for the tournament this year. Our wide selection of trees is becoming more noticeable each year to players and spectators alike.

As in the past we had superintendents, members of their crews and other members of the Golf Course Superintendent Association of New Jersey volunteer to help out with the daily maintenance for the tournament. We had volunteers come in to rake bunkers in the mornings from Packanack G.C., AgrEvo USA Co., United Horticultural Supply, Ridgewood C.C., White Beeches G. & C.C. and Canoe Brook C.C. The greens were mowed by volunteers from Ridgewood C.C., Storr Tractor Co., Baltusrol G.C., Mount Tabor C.C. and Preakness Hills C.C. I was able to get experienced help from Forest Hill Field Club and Hyatt Hills G.C. in the afternoons to help with the mowing and rolling.

Again this year we were loaned extra equipment by some of our distributors, a sweeper by Storr Tractor Co.; eight greens mowers, five utility carts, three mower trailers, a Metro truck and two rollers by the Wilfred MacDonald Co.; a utility vehicle by the E/T Equipment Co. and Forest Hill Field Club also loaned us a greens roller and an aerator. The Meadowlands helped out with traffic cones, barricades and a medical cart.

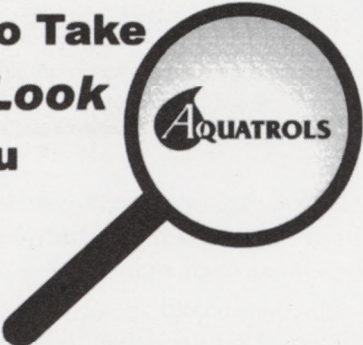
As she has done in all of the tournaments, my wife Syd arranged lunches and dinners for the green staff. This let the crew keep working in the parking lots and allowed us to get an early start on the evening mowing and rolling. Our green staff once again did an outstanding job with the parking and course maintenance.

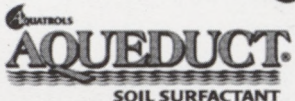
On Thursday evening during our dinnertime, Jim Colbert came to the shop and met with the crew. He gave an informal talk and answered many questions that the crew had. This was arranged for by the "National." It gave all of us that work on the course a better sense of what the tournament looks like through a touring player's eye.

TOURNAMENT OPERATIONS – As in the past, a two-week start on setup helps things run a lot smoother and offers more flexibility in the total setup. I know that the parking lot gets a bit cramped with all of the staging of tournament operations. We do make an effort to keep it as clear as possible for the membership and still be efficient in the tournament setup. The staging of most of the tourna-


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GCSANJ news

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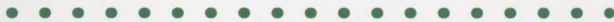
ment equipment at the bottom of the range, this year, helped to keep the parking lot clear of tournament supplies and it worked out logistically well.

PARKING – This year parking was less than 500 cars a day. This was an all time low for the tournament. Our men spent a lot of time setting up the parking lot and manning it during the tournament and it saw very little action. With the attendance and parking being off as they were, it affects our ability to accomplish what is needed on the golf course. **I**

THE PRESIDENT ANSWERS THE CALL

Shaun Barry

There are many golf destinations throughout the world. Colts Neck may not come to mind when you think of one,





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Dr. Jim Baird of the USGA shares his insight with the large number of GCSANJ members at The Colts Neck meeting.



Ed Mellor is quite proud to receive the GCSANJ plaque and flag from Steve Chirip. As a 15-year member of the Board, Steve was happy to help.

but perhaps it should. In the past this area has been known for its horse farms (and as the home of Dave Pease . . .), but with four courses and one under construction (Shadow Isle G.C.), perhaps it could be called “Myrtle Beach North.” With or without that title, one of these courses was the site of our May meeting.

As part of his presidential duties, Ed Mellor decided to host a GCSANJ monthly meeting at The Colts Neck G.C. Having been part of this course since the construction phase, Ed really feels a special love for this marvelous club, and he wanted to share that feeling with us. His enthusiasm for the course is felt by the entire staff, and it showed. Patsy Lang tried to duplicate what she and Ed McSeaman did for us when she was at Toms River C.C., and she was successful. The food was excellent both at lunch and dinner. Tuckahoe Sand even helped out by sponsoring the lunch.

Before we headed out to enjoy the competition and the course, Jim Baird gave us a USGA update from his travels

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GCSANJ *news*

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this spring. This type of presentation always gives everyone an idea of what others are seeing and perhaps what to expect. The combination of good food and timely information always seems to help the good players play better while having no positive effect on the poorer players (Why is that, Mr. Driscoll?). Everyone enjoyed the day and lots of wonderful golf happened, but I can only report on it since I can't play it anymore.

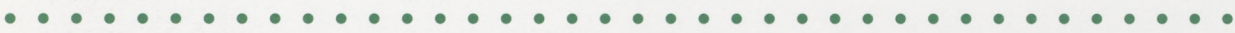
David Pughe made this his first foray onto the 2002 season, and he took top honors with a 70. Tom Grimac (73) was a close second. Steve Chirip (83) and Jack (Hi, I'm Al Caravella) Martin (84) were victorious in the Second Flight. Jim Cross and Jim Davis both had a net 66, but Mr. Cross won on a match of cards. Damon Berardo and Brian (let's have a match, Shaun, and you owe me \$5.00, Shaun) Remo were in the other division and both shot 56. Damon won on a match of cards.

Closest to the pin winners were: J. Martin (Jacklin Seed), 8 ft. 4 in.; John Farrel (Jacklin Seed), 8 ft. 7 in.; Dennis DeSanctis, Sr. (Finch), 7 ft. 2 in.; Tim Mariner (Jacklin Seed), 2 ft. 6 in.; Joe Ciccone (Wilfred MacDonald), 1 ft. 9 in. and J. Cross (Plant Food), 2 ft. 9 in.

There were many ways for everyone to have a chance at having a longest drive prize. These winners were Jim Cadott (Jacklin Seed), Tom Bevacqui (Storr Tractor), Clark Weld (A.T. Sales), Rick Korck (Pocono Turf), Bob Prickett (Philly Turf), Doug Larson (Philly Turf), Bob Dwyer (Wilfred MacDonald), Tom Tucci (Torsilieri) and Jim Baird (John Deere Landscapes). As usual, Jim donated his prize. He gave it to Ed, and Ed gave it to his assistant, Mike Cagiano, for all of his hard work.

D. Pughe, Mike King, Jim Woods, Joe Ciccone and Dennis DeSanctis, Jr. won skins with eagles, while John Alexander, John Grady, Mark DelSantoro, J. Ciccone, J. Martin,

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GCSANJ news

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Ken Miller, Mike Uckar, Roger Stewart, S. Barry, S. Chirip and D. Berardo won a skin with their birdies.

A quarter of the field won some sort of a prize, but the best prize came from being at this event. Ed, Mike and their staff spent many long days making sure that the course would stay in its normal excellent shape, and their work paid off. Steve Chirip perhaps spoke for all of us when he said, "I could play this course every day of the week and enjoy it totally." It was a lot of fun, and we do recognize the efforts that were put into the day for us. Thanks to everyone and I hope we can return soon. ¶

OBITUARY

Edward C. "Chief" Nickelson, 1943-2002 – Edward Nickelson, past president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey, passed away on April 30



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Ed Nickelson

at the age of 59, after a long battle with cancer. Nickelson joined our Association in 1967 and worked as an assistant superintendent under Don Marshall at the Montclair Golf Club. He became superintendent in 1970 and remained in that position until 1989. At the time of his death, Ed was a managing partner of the Gambler Ridge Golf Club in Cream Ridge, N.J.

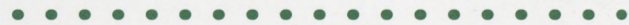
During his tenure at the Montclair G.C., Nickelson hosted the 1973 U.S. Women's Amateur, the 1985 U.S. Amateur, two State Opens and numerous other majors, including the 1981 GCSANJ Invitational.

He was a very active member of the GCSANJ. He was chairman of the Field Day Committee, served as treasurer for six years and, in 1982, was elected to the office of president.

Ed's career was interrupted in 1968 while he served in the U.S. Army during the Viet Nam War.

Nickelson's legacy to the golf course maintenance business has been his mentoring of many successful superintendents, including Jim Cross, Chris Carson, Gary Cameron and Paul Kuenher. ¶

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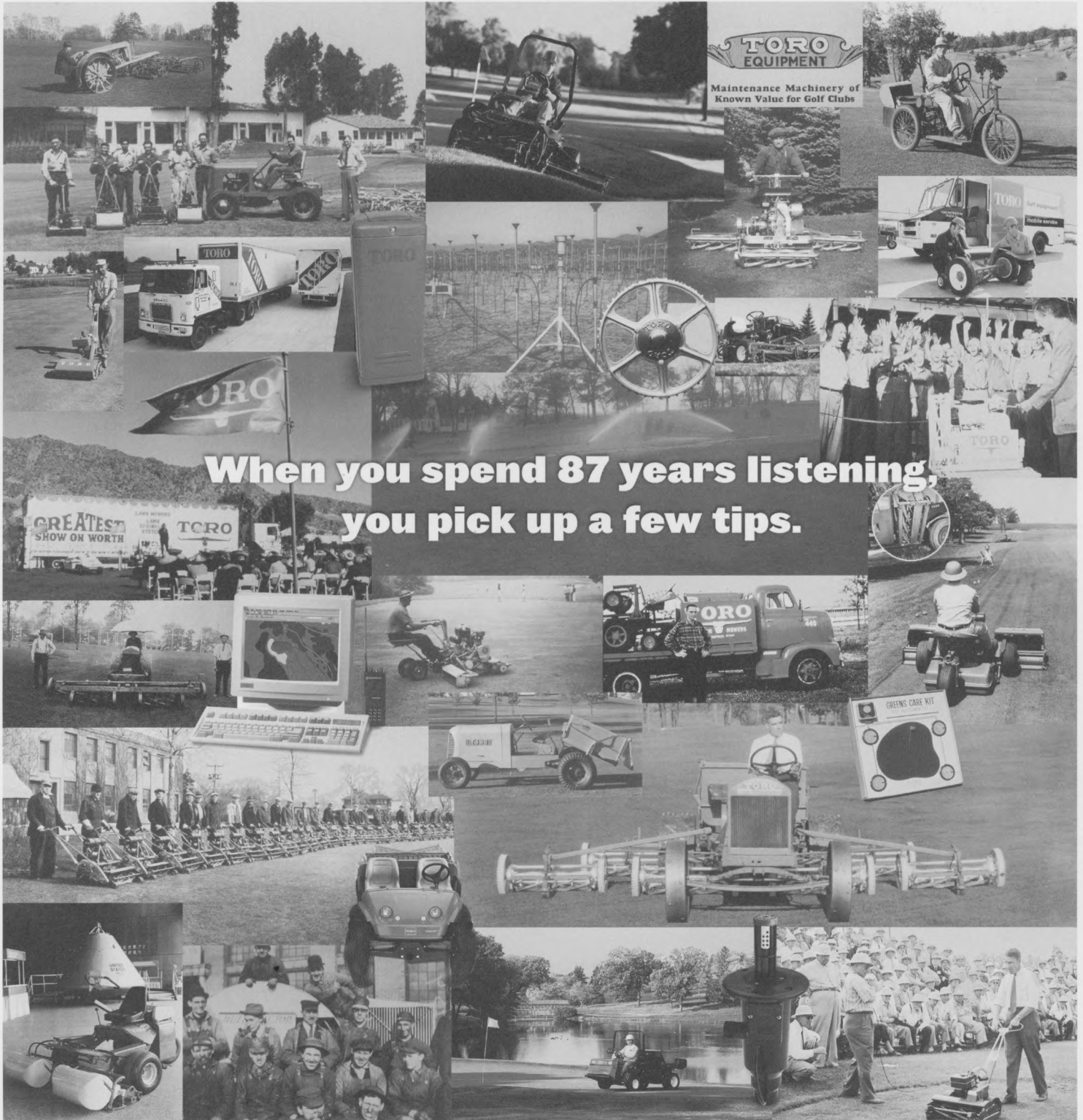
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GCSANJ news

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

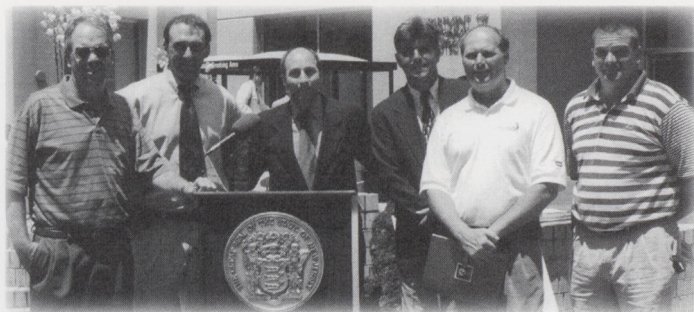
Tom and Susan Hunter (Pocono Turf) are proud to announce the birth of Brigid Rose. Brigid joined the sales staff at Pocono Turf on May 23, 2002. She weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and stretched herself out to 18.5 inches.

Tom and Colleen Tuttle happily announce the birth of Elizabeth Marie on April 19, 2002. She was 8 pounds, 15 ounces and 20 inches tall. Elizabeth will soon be helping Dad change cups at Trenton C.C. in preparation for the Philly superintendents meeting to be held there on October 21, 2002. ¶

THANKS, GUYS



(From left) Mickey Stachowski, Scott Fretz, Ken Mathis and John Fitzgerald were only a small part of the many GCSANJ members who helped Roger Stewart, CGCS, during his tournament week.



Bradley Campbell of the DEP is flanked by your GCSANJ Board members. They took time out of their busy schedules to be in Trenton when the changes in the restrictions were being announced. (From left) Bruce Peeples, Gregg Armbruster, Bradley Campbell, Brian Minemier, Glenn Miller and Mickey Stachowski.



Steve Chirip and Kevin Driscoll found time to be part of the committee for the Invitational.

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GCSANJ news

Continued from page 12

GCSANJ MINUTES – APRIL AND MAY

Bruce Peeples, CGCS, Secretary

APRIL 16, 2002

Meeting held at TPC at Jasna Polana

Present: Ed Mellor, Bruce Peeples, Mickey Stachowski, Roger Stewart, Jim McNally, Dr. Bruce Clarke, Shaun Barry

Not Present: Ken Krausz, Brian Minemier, Gregg Armbruster, John O’Keefe, Pat Campbell, Chris Holenstein, Gary Arlio, Paul Dotti, Steve Chirip

Call to Order: 12:45 p.m.; quorum not present.

Approval of Minutes: Read but not approved.

Announcements/Benevolent: Thank you from Dr. Karen Plumley.

Treasurer’s Report:

- Will try to get Tedd Vitale to meet with Alampi & Associates.
- Discussed AWC bill.
- Mickey to make sure Sadlon Environmental has insurance certificate.
- Monthly finance report discussed; cannot accept – no quorum.

Newsletter:

- Editor position discussed – agreed to have interested applicants brought before the Board for interviews.

Government:

- Mickey, Glenn Miller and Nancy Sadlon met with Denis Hart of water allocation – discussed possible changes to restrictions.
- Roger interviewed by Leher News Hour concerning drought restrictions.
- Roger also attended local watershed meeting.

Golf:

- April meeting to be at Sand Barrens with Dr. Jim Murphy speaking.
- May meeting at Colts Neck G.C. – Jim Baird speaking from USGA.
- District III at Toms River C.C., August 15.

Continues on page 14



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The Greenside 13



GCSANJ *news*

Continued from page 13

National Delegate:

- Received letter from Mark Kuhns stating he will be running again for GCSAA director.

Special Events:

- Next roundtable to be tentatively held at Green Acres C.C.

Membership:

- New GCSANJ membership applications – Jim to phone solicit Board members to gain approval.
- Jayson Pierce – Heron Glen – Class B – Dist. 3
- Brad Fox – NJ National G.C. – Class B – Dist. 3
Classification changes:
- Frank Tichenor – Glenwood C.C. – Class C to B
- John Cawley – Retired member from 1978 – present recommended Life A

Ethics:

- Issue discussed – will contact Brian Minemier with recommendation.

By-Laws:

- Met a second time – will bring four proposals to June Board meeting.

Club Relations:

- NJ Turfgrass tournament May 7.

Scholarship & Research, Rutgers, Survey, Commercial, Public Relations, Assistant Liaison, Foundation, Web Site,

Awards, Nominations, District Reports, Old Business and New Business had no reports.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. ¶

MAY 23, 2002

Meeting held at Colts Neck Golf Club

Present: Ed Mellor, Pat Campbell, Bruce Peebles, Chris Holenstein, Roger Stewart, Jim McNally, Shaun Barry, Gregg Armbruster, Paul Dotti, Brian Minemier, Ken Krausz, Steve Chirip, Glenn Miller, Tedd Vitale

Not Present: Mickey Stachowski, John O'Keefe, Gary Arlio

Call to Order: 8:55 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Approved.

Announcements/Benevolent:

- Eb Steiniger, Pine Valley superintendent, passed away.
- Note from Dr. John Gerwig thanking GCSANJ for Honorary membership.

Treasurer's Report:

- Tedd Vitale spoke concerning GCSANJ finances.
- Tedd was told to continue helping re-organize GCSANJ financial statements.

Newsletter:

- Two letters received for position of *Greenside* editor, Brian Remo and Doug Vogel.
- Doug Vogel is now interim editor.
- Ken Krausz stated approximately 40 hours per issue needed.
- Bruce P. made motion to have Board interview candidates at next Board meeting – approved.

Government:

- Glenn discussed water restrictions, called on all members to attend public forum in Bordentown on June 3.
- Bruce P. suggested reminder go out for contribution requests for water issue.
- Need to have a good accounting of AWC expenses – Glenn will discuss with Mickey.

Continues on page 15



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GCSANJ *news*

Continued from page 14

Golf:

- GCSANJ Invitational to be June 17.
- North Jersey C.C. meeting in July cancelled – need new site.

National Delegate:

- Nominations by July 1st due for GCSAA nominations.
- GCSAA tournament to be in Hilton Head G.C.

Special Events:

- Next roundtable to be held at Green Acres C.C. on June 19.
- GCSANJ fall seminar site to be Baltusrol on Nov. 26.
- Discussed GCSAA seminars for Expo and January

Membership: Approved the following:

- Paul Ramina – Hamilton Farms Class A – Dist. 3

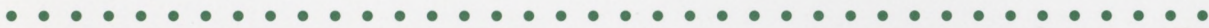
- Matt Manze – Minebrook G.C. – Class B – Dist. 2
- Curt Gandolfo – Panther Valley C.C. – Class C – Dist. 2
- Thomas Fallacaro – ET Equipment Co. – Class AF – Dist. 1
- Eric Hanisko – Primos Products – Class AF – Dist. 3

Ethics:

- Issue discussed – Brian Minemier will write letter explaining Board decision.

Scholarship & Research, By-Laws, Rutgers, Survey, Commercial, Club Relations, Public Relations, Assistant Liaison, Foundation, Web Site, Awards, Nominations, District Reports, Old Business and New Business had no reports.

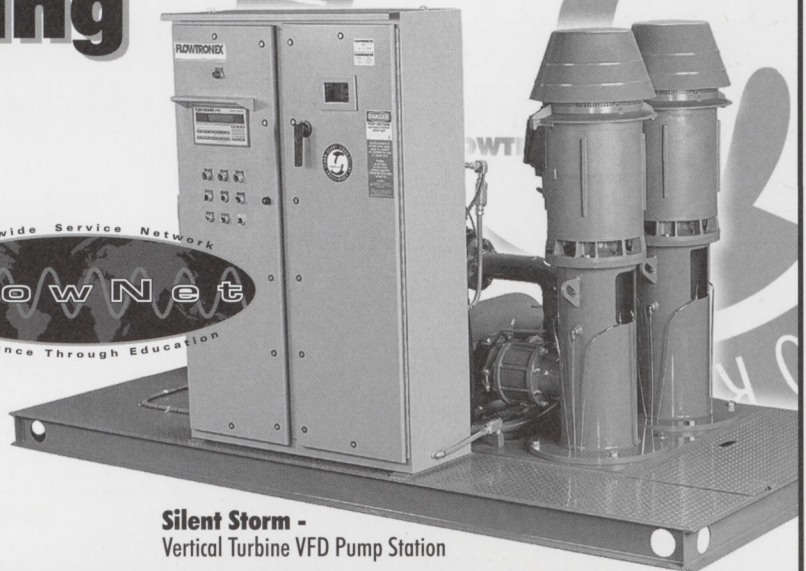
Meeting adjourned: Noon. [



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MAKE A DIFFERENCE! VOLUNTEER FOR A GCSAA COMMITTEE

Committee involvement is a great way to serve the Association and the profession. A limited number of seats on GCSAA committees will be available after the 2003 election in Atlanta. If you are interested in serving on a GCSAA committee next year, you must complete and submit a volunteer interest form by November 1. You can complete the form online: http://www.gcsaa.org/members/community/volunteer_form.asp, or to request a form, call the service center at 800-472-7878. 

ELECTION 2002 INFORMATION ADDED TO GCSAA LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

Another new and useful tool has been added to the GCSAA Legislative Action Center (LAC) at <http://capwiz.com/>

gcsaa.org/election/. "Elections and Candidates" is designed to help you make informed decisions on candidates and issues during this election year. Your vote is critical this election year—control of both chambers of congress hangs in the balance. The new feature includes:

CANDIDATE FINDER: Identify Election 2002 candidates for Congress and state offices by entering your zip code.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION: Comprehensive biographical information on all candidates, including e-mail addresses and candidate campaign web sites.

KEY ELECTION DATES: Key primary and general election dates and voter registration deadlines.

VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS: Fill out a voter registration form online that can be printed and mailed to your state's registrar.

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Continues on page 17

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Continued from page 16

the Internet to vote isn't allowed, you can fill out a voter registration form online that can be mailed in to complete your registration. Simply select your state from the drop-down menu and click "GO." Read through the eligibility guidelines for your state to make sure you're eligible to vote, enter your personal information into the online form and select the "Preview My Voter Registration" button. Double-check the information you entered for accuracy then click "Get My Application." After following these steps, print and mail your voter registration application to your state's voter registration department.

To learn more about other great features in the GCSAA Legislative Action Center, or for assistance with the new "Elections and Candidates" feature, contact Chava McKeel,

legislative analyst, at <mailto:cmmckeel@gcsaa.org> or 800-472-7879, ext. 619. ¶

THE TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES OF GREEN SPEED

Years ago, there was a man named Edward Stimpson who loved golf and craved to create more fairness in the game. To further his passion, he invented a device intended to ensure that all the greens on a course were of relatively equal speed. The idea was to give superintendents (then, greenkeepers) a way to compare the speed of the 4th green with the 13th and take steps to equalize them. This was, no doubt, a sound and noble idea.

But sometimes bad things happen to good ideas.

Today, his simple tool, the Stimpmeter, is often misused

Continues on page 18

The 2002 Invitational

Continued from page 4

GCSANJ Foundation. It was very successful with almost \$7,800 pledged for the items being offered. Not bad for our first such auction and a very sincere thanks to everyone who helped make this event happen. We know we could not do this without you.

Our day did end and it did so with a wild thunderstorm. Since this day was so extraordinary, it only seemed fitting to have God have the closing remarks. Hopefully He thinks we should do this again. ¶



Trent Inman (left) and Ben Steele of The Royce Brook C.C. celebrate their victory in the Superintendent-Pro Tournament at the Invitational.

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Continued from page 17

to compare the speed of greens from course to course and, unfortunately, to establish a benchmark of putting difficulty. Golfers are sometimes heard to say, "Hey, Hickory Hills was 'stimping' 13 last week." This essentially means that the greens were as fast as the linoleum on most kitchen floors.

From a purely competitive standpoint, that's OK. However, this quest for fast greens has serious consequences in terms of cost, environmental quality and the long-term health of the green. In short, speed can kill. Here's why:

A healthy, vigorous green can be maintained at a very short cutting height (as low as 1/8-inch) for short periods of time without serious consequences if it's been prepared properly and weather conditions are acceptable. Courses hosting tournaments often take months (and spend significant extra money) to bring greens up to an ultrafast speed for PGA Tour players. For example, the greens at Augusta

National or Oakmont may "stimp" up to 14 when properly prepared and dry.

However, fast greens are extremely fragile. If you compared them with human beings, it would be fair to say that their immune systems can be very weak. They become susceptible to diseases and pests, and therefore may require more chemical treatments. Weather can also quickly destroy the health of an ultrafast green. High temperatures and lack of moisture in the air are deadly to greens that are maintained at very short cutting heights for any length of time.

The risks of maintaining fast greens—even with the best professional management by superintendents—were apparent in the summer of 1995 when golf courses across the eastern United States lost greens during the extended period of drought and high temperatures. Many of the world's best-known courses suffered serious damage and were essentially unplayable for the last half of the year. Many of these had to be reseeded or completely rebuilt at a cost that was high in terms of budget, playability and reputation.

The solution to the dilemma of fast greens is twofold. First, the golf industry is sponsoring and promoting research and development of new grasses that are more tolerant of fast speeds under adverse condition. Organizations such as the USGA and GCSAA are investing millions of dollars in this effort.

On the other side, golfers should understand and accept the limitations of these living systems we call greens. Golfers should also heed the advice of superintendents who manage, nurture and protect these ecosystems. And finally, many golfers must change their attitudes about the competitive aspect of green speeds. They should, in the footsteps of Mr. Stimpson, strive for fairness, not fastness. [



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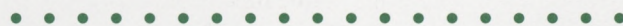
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From the archives

Golf course superintendents traditionally dealt with the accumulation of leaves and brush with the accepted method of open burning. During the early 1970s, the state lawmakers in Trenton introduced legislation to ban the practice. The following article, written by Ed Nickelson for the Association newsletter, begrudgingly captures the mood of his fellow superintendents, while offering an alternative to a very major problem. Editor

COMPOSTING – A REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE

As agronomists, sometimes considered public enemy number one, we are continually confronted with new legislation designed to “protect society and ensure Mother Nature an even chance.” Such is the case with the banning of all open burning. It is an unreasonable edict covering all bases except cigarette smoking.

In spite of what the “organic ecologists” propound, we who must deal with Mother Nature are well aware of her methods of operation: the monsoons of last year; the droughts of '64, '65 and '66; the Gypsy Moth; the ever present chinch bug; the piles of organic matter choking our dumps, etc. Unfortunately, man and his requirements do not have enough time or space to wait for her to perform. Reason dictates that man cannot wait, thus he uses fire. Legislators eliminated fire. How about legislating a solution into existence! A minor oversight, but one that will be correct just before the last exit out of Trenton is blocked by leaves and branches.

Until Trenton is barricaded, a reasonable alternative must be utilized. Richard Walters, superintendent of Maplewood's Park Commission, addressed the Golf Course Association of New Jersey at its March meeting and described his method and apparent solution to the leaf problem—composting. One has visions of the familiar pile lying in a corner of every American yard, only on a grandiose scale; odor included. It should be remembered that Mother Nature has always used slow oxidation (burning) as her prime means of debris reduction and elimination. Half the Town of Maplewood is not devoted to a composting operation. In reality, only 2½ acres of land are utilized to reduce a useable product and annual crop of 15,000 cubic yards of leaves within 14 months. The key to the operation is obviously management. Making sure Mother Nature is provided the essential ingredients—air, water and nutrients. According to Mr. Walters, the actual amount and method of introducing these ingredients is still open to a great deal of conjecture.

Briefly, the following are some of the key points in his operation. The leaves are first watered. They are then placed into windrows about 14 feet high, keeping the piles under eight feet wide, with the sides as vertical as possible. The



vertical walls are essential for proper air circulation. Fertilizer is then added. Periodic watering follows to keep them moist. They remain in this state until they are decomposed

Continues on page 20



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From the archives

Continued from page 19

enough to be useful, about one year.

Considering that composting is eons old, it was surprising to learn that the actual amount of progress with this procedure is limited. The chemistry, while understood, has not been reduced to a highly efficient method. Mr. Walters stated that more experimentation is needed. The resulting information will allow management and technology to design equipment and procedures approaching the efficiency of a good fire. There is machinery available designed for turning, aerating, watering and restacking the windrows, however, they are highly impractical for small operations. Mr. Walters' operation is equipped with conventional machinery such as pay loaders and side-dump loaders. A minimum essential item is a front-end loader equipped with a manure fork attachment. It is needed to construct the windrows.

While composting may not be the final answer, for the moment it seems to be the most practical approach. Compared with some of the available alternatives—compaction, trucking, incineration and landfill—it is the most economical


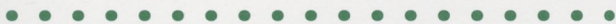
and has the brightest future. It is not without its own set of inherent problems. There must be land available, preferably away from neighbors who may object. There is some

Until reason returns to Trenton, what does one economically do with the leaves? Compost them, or as one of the characters in the cartoon strip B.C. states, "The red ones don't taste too bad."

odor, but that can be controlled by proper management. It does require additional labor and investment in equipment. However, the initial investment is low enough to set up the operation on a trial basis, or at least until legislators realize the necessity of controlled open burning.

It is just impossible to effectively compost branches; wood chips do not make good landfill, and there are only so many flowerbeds to be mulched. Even the volume of leaves generated requires a community effort to effectively compost. This same effort and expense could be spent on a more efficient means of burning the organic debris while eliminating the particle pollution.

Until reason returns to Trenton, what does one economically do with the leaves? Compost them, or as one of the characters in the cartoon strip B.C. states, "The red ones don't taste too bad." ¶



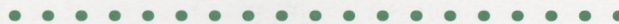
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Thunderstorm and lightning safety

From a Preparedness Guide by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA and the National Weather Service, January 1994

Be prepared before the storm:

- Know the county in which you live and the names of nearby major cities. Severe weather warnings are issued on a county basis.
- Check the weather forecast before leaving for extended periods outdoors.
- Watch for signs of approaching storms.
- If a storm is approaching, keep a NOAA Weather Radio or AM/FM radio with you.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are imminent. This is your best way to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation.
- Check on those having trouble taking shelter if severe weather threatens.

What to do when thunderstorms approach:

- Remember, if you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning. Go to

safe shelter immediately.

- Move to a sturdy building or car. Do not take shelter in small sheds, under isolated trees or in convertible automobiles.
- If lightning is occurring and a sturdy shelter is not available, get inside a hard top automobile and keep the windows up.
- Get out of boats and away from water.
- Telephone lines and metal pipe can conduct electricity. Unplug appliances not necessary for obtaining weather information. Avoid using the telephone or any electrical appliance. Use phones only in an emergency.
- Do not take a bath or shower.
- Turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can overload the compressors.
- Get to higher ground if flash flooding or flooding is possible. Once flooding begins, abandon cars and climb to higher ground. Do not attempt to drive to safety.

Note: Most flash flood deaths occur in automobiles.

Continues on page 22



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Thunderstorm and lightning safety

Continued from page 21

If caught outdoors and no shelter is nearby:

- Find a low spot away from trees, fences and poles. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding.
- If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees.
- If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible, and minimize your contact with the ground.
- If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter immediately.

Warnings and watches—what to listen for:

Severe Thunderstorm Watch – tells you when and where severe thunderstorms are more likely to occur. Watch the sky and stay tuned to know when warnings are issued. Watches are intended to heighten public awareness and should not be confused with warnings.



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Severe Thunderstorm Warning – issued when severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in the path of the storm.

Myths and facts about lightning:

Myth If it is not raining, then there is no danger from lightning.

Fact Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.

Myth The rubber soles of shoes or rubber tires on a car will protect you from being struck by lightning.

Fact Rubber soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning. However the steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching the metal. Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.

Myth People struck by lightning carry an electrical charge and should not be touched.

Fact Lightning-strike victims carry no electrical charge and should be attended to immediately. Contact your local American Red Cross chapter for information on CPR and first aid classes.

Myth “Heat lightning” occurs after very hot summer days and poses no threat.

Fact What is referred to as “heat lightning” is actually lightning from a thunderstorm too far away for thunder to be heard. However, the storm may be moving in your direction!

Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are imminent. This is your best way to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation.

Remember, if you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning.

Go to a safe shelter immediately! ⚡



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