

# THE Greenerside

Official Publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

## Water-use restrictions for golf courses in the east

**W**ater, our most precious natural resource, is nearing record low levels; local media and news correspondents are already reporting anywhere from 30-50 percent water reductions being mandated for golf courses. The March 12, 2002 edition of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* feature article, "NJ Imposes Water-Use Restrictions", identifies golf course water restrictions already in effect. "Golf courses are permitted to water tees, greens and fairways by sprinkler or other conserving mechanical means. But each course is required to reduce its water use by 50 percent."

### How Will This Affect the Superintendent?

As a turf professional, you face particularly difficult choices in relation to water conservation issues. It makes sense both financially and ecologically to use less water and do your part to protect one of our most vital resources even when we are not in a crisis situation. However, water is critical to your business—from the establishment and maintenance of healthy roots for uniform, vigorous turf to the distribution and effectiveness of soil-targeted chemicals and fertilizers. Patrons of your facility may also be less mindful and appreciative of your conservation efforts. They have come to expect an aesthetically pleasing experience with lush, vibrant turf; they find browning grass, even though still playable, less than appealing. If the golfers/members are dissatisfied, so is your employer—loss of revenues can equate to the loss of your job. So what choices do you have? Aquatrols, a New Jersey based company, says there are ways to keep your course in good playing condition and still SAVE WATER.

### Save Water and Your Job!

There are several strategies you can employ to reduce water use and still satisfy your patrons.

- Use effluent or "gray" water for irrigation—it's nitrogen-rich and lessens the impact of irrigation on the fresh water supply.

- Maintain a vegetated buffer around water bodies. This reduces storm water flow into ponds and streams and the potential pollution from runoff of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Conduct routine inspections of your irrigation system for leaks. If possible, update older systems to make them

*"Golf courses are permitted to water tees, greens and fairways by sprinkler or other conserving mechanical means. But each course is required to reduce its water use by 50 percent."*

more water efficient.

- Use drought-resistant plant types for roughs.
- Water at night or early morning when potential for wind and evaporation are lowest.

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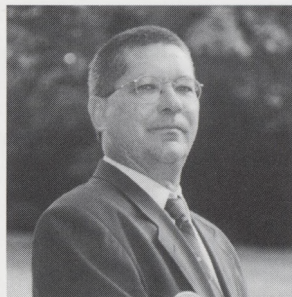
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# Editorial



## It's been a great six years!

Anyone who has driven past a reservoir in the past winter has to know that we are in BIG trouble when it comes to water. The water company in my area says the reservoir should be at 95 percent capacity right now, according to them we are at 48 percent. I drove past some reservoirs lately and find that 48 percent hard to believe. It looks like there is a stream where there was once a huge body of water. I am very concerned, as we all should be.

The State of New Jersey, many counties in New York and Connecticut, as well as Pennsylvania have all imposed water restrictions. I am surprised that it took this long. I have heard reports that we have a 60-day supply and a 90-day supply; either way when you can count your water supply in days, we all need to be concerned.

The restrictions that we have in place in New Jersey are restrictions that I can live with. Sure, we are not being treated as a business, as most businesses have no restrictions at this time. We might lose some grass, someone might lose a job over the lack of water (although if that is the excuse there were probably other reasons), but the fact of the matter is that it is only grass. I want to be able to go to my kitchen tap and get a drink of water when I am thirsty.

GCSANJ, as part of the Alliance for Water Conservation (AWC) has spent a lot of time and money working with a lobbyist and state officials. The reduction by 50 percent is much better than we did last time, and I want to thank each member who wrote a letter, attended a meeting or donated money to the cause. We are far from over with this issue, so let's hope for rain and if you know the steps, do a rain dance.

This is my last editorial in *The Greenside*; you will no longer see my picture on this page. After serving as editor for almost six years, and being involved for ten years, I have decided that it is time to step down as editor. I have learned a lot while working on this newsletter, it has been something that I enjoyed a lot. Lately it has been more like a job than a project, and I always said that when this gets to be like a job it would be time to step down.

What happened? Nothing in particular. I don't know if it is as simple as more responsibilities that I have or just a change in my attitude, I just know that it is time to go. The Board of Directors is working to find a replacement, and I am committed to helping that person in any way that I can to

*Continued on page 4*

Visit us on the web at: [www.gcsanj.org](http://www.gcsanj.org)

# President's Message

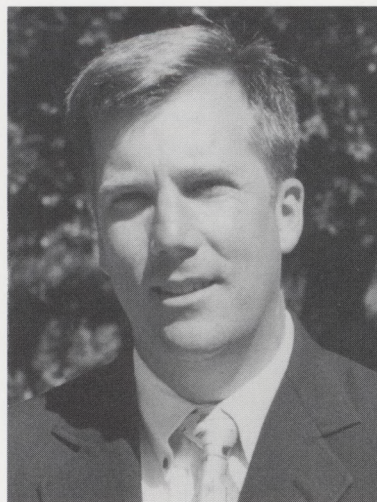
I think I might need to start this President's message with an apology. This issue of *The Greenside* may be a little late getting to your house or office because of the lateness of this article. I'm sure most of our past presidents may remember an occasion when perhaps their message got to the editor's desk a little behind schedule. On my behalf, however, I had already written an article for this issue. It was ready to go to Ken shortly after getting back from Orlando. The topic of that article was the lack of rain New Jersey had been experiencing over the last 18 months. I went on to say that we might see some water restrictions and that they could be coming as early as April or May. Since that article was written, our new Governor has declared a drought emergency. I waited a few days to see what types of restrictions were going to be handed down from Trenton. That decision took longer than I expected. The Governor wanted to hear from a few industry leaders before making that decision. I'm very happy to say that, through the NJDEP, Governor McGreevey heard from the golf course industry.

Superintendents Glenn Miller and Mickey Stachowski have been donating a tremendous amount of their time working with Nancy Sadlon and Hal Bozart from State Street Associates in an effort to rewrite the administrative order regarding the drought restrictions and how they affect the green industry. I'm delighted to say that because of their hard work and diligence, they have had many successful meetings in Trenton. This has not been a short journey and is one that is going to continue to consume a great deal of time.

As you may recall, during the summer of 1999 we were in a similar drought situation, and Trenton imposed a moratorium on watering anything other than greens, and our greens could only be watered from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. At the writing of this article, those restrictions have been eased so that tees and fairways can receive a limited amount of water. The new restriction also goes on to dictate the hours in which you can irrigate. I encourage all GCSANJ members to visit the DEP's web site at [www.state.nj.us/dep](http://www.state.nj.us/dep) or [www.njdrought.org](http://www.njdrought.org) so that you will have a better understanding of the current situation as it unfolds.

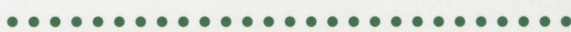
Another point that needs to be brought up is that of public opinion. The golf course industry continues to receive more than its fair share of criticism for being less than environmentally friendly. In most cases I feel these opinions are not well founded; however, I am contacted by New Jersey newspapers regularly regarding water use on golf courses. It's our obligation as members of this association to take the high road as stewards of the environment and lead by example during this drought. Again I encourage each of you to visit the DEP's web sites to ensure that we are all in compliance.

In other breaking news, Ken Krausz, CGCS, has in-



*Ed Mellor, Superintendent,  
The Colts Neck Golf Club*

formed me that he is stepping down as our editor of *The Greenside*. Ken has been the editor since Ilona Gray left in 1996. Ken's hard work, along with the articles submitted by our members, has helped *The Greenside* routinely win awards for excellence nationally year after year. Ken, I thank you for your hard work and commitment in making *The Greenside* a great publication. ♪



## Calendar

- April 30** **GCSANJ April Monthly Meeting,** Sand Barrens G.C., Host Superintendent: Bruce Bailey. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100.
- May 7** **Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic,** Royce Brook Golf Club, Host Superintendent: Trent Inman. Contact NJTA at 732-821-7134.
- May 23** **GCSANJ May Monthly Meeting,** The Colts Neck Golf Club, Host Superintendent: Ed Mellor. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100.
- June 17** **"The Invitational," A new time of year, Hamilton Farms.** Host Superintendent: John McShane, III. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100.
- August 1** **GCSANJ-Rutgers Turfgrass Field Day,** Hort Farm II. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100.
- September 17** **GCSANJ September Monthly Meeting,** The Architects Club, Host Superintendent: David Eichner. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100.

# Water-use restrictions for golf courses in the east

*Continued from page 1*

Another important but underutilized water management tool at your disposal is a soil surfactant (wetting agent). Water has a natural tendency to either sit at the surface of the soil where it evaporates, or drains through the soil unevenly so that it may be inaccessible to the roots of your turf. Some surfactants are formulated to penetrate uniformly into the rootzone area and provide water where it is most needed, without causing the area to become over-saturated and soggy.

This allows your turf to make the best and most complete use of applied water, particularly during dry spells; consequently you can apply less water with greater benefit. Effective surfactants also allow turf managers the flexibility to dry soils for fast, firm greens while still ensuring confidence in quickly rewetting these soils to moisture levels required for quality turf performance even during hot, summer stress periods or drought conditions.

## **Fellow Superintendents Reduce Water Use and Maintain Playability**

Paul Davids, CGCS, at Colbert Hills at Kansas State University (Manhattan, Kansas), started injecting a surfactant on his entire course in July 2001. "The benefits beyond reduced water usage were impressive. The uniformity of turf color was very surprising. My course is very undulating and the high spots greened up and stayed green. The lower spots weren't wet like they had been. I was able to eliminate afternoon spot watering on roughs, fairways and tees."

A twenty-year veteran, Phil Neaton of Black Hall Country Club in Old Lyme, Connecticut, has used Aquatrols surfactants because they are proven and safe. "Injecting surfactants has allowed me to cut my fairway watering in half.

I also had three very wet greens that made it difficult to move the cup around (because of the strong suction hold). Surfactants help me maintain uniformly moist turf that is not too wet."

South Florida was under phase 2 water restrictions for

***Some surfactants are formulated to penetrate uniformly into the rootzone area and provide water where it is most needed, without causing the area to become over-saturated and soggy.***

several months during 2001, allowing courses to water fairways only twice a week within a designated 8-hour water window. Despite these restrictions, The Club at Emerald Hills in Hollywood, Florida, was in amazing shape. Robert Harper, superintendent of The Club at Emerald Hills, admits that his saving grace was the use of wetting agents, which he injected through his fertigation system. "Even with reduced watering, the wetting agents, in combination with my fertilizer program, increased the health of my fairway turf and improved turf color and uniformity. When the restrictions were lifted, our fairways were the best they'd ever been."

Employing a combination of these strategies can help superintendents keep their courses attractive and maintain optimum playability despite this year's water challenges.

*Article submitted by Kathleen Conard and Colleen Clifford, Aquatrols, Cherry Hill, N.J. [*

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## **Editorial**

*Continued from page 2*

make this transition go as smoothly as possible.

I am proud to be among a list of fine people who can call themselves past editors of *The Greenside*. Ilona Gray, Jim Gilligan, Ed Walsh (with the help of Ken Kubik and a whole crew of distinguished members), Paul Boiselle, Don Marshall, Gary Crothers, Charlie McCrea, Al Caravella, Sherwood Moore, Al Foster and his wife Henrietta. These people and countless others have made this newsletter proud. I am in pretty good company.

I need to thank all those who have helped me over the years, but I am sure that I will forget some, so I will keep the list very short: everyone at AAMC and Trend Multimedia, all the sponsors over the years, my wife Kathy and the person who ALWAYS came through for me, Mr. Shaun Barry. To everyone who has ever helped this newsletter in any way I say, "Thank You!"

*Ken*



## 2002 GCSAA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

By Shaun Barry  
GCSANJ Class C Representative  
Aventis Environmental

Talk to any of the people who had a chance to compete in this year's event and you will find some very happy golfers no matter what they shot. A few lucky folks had the opportunity to get in a practice round or two, and it seems to have helped during the tournament.

The first day had everyone competing in two tournaments at the same time. You and a partner were part of a two-man team, and you were also put together with two other players to form a four-man team. The two people who joined you might have been strangers at the start of play, but at the end of play you had two new good friends and two more reasons to try and play next year. The teams were placed in the gross or net division for both of these events

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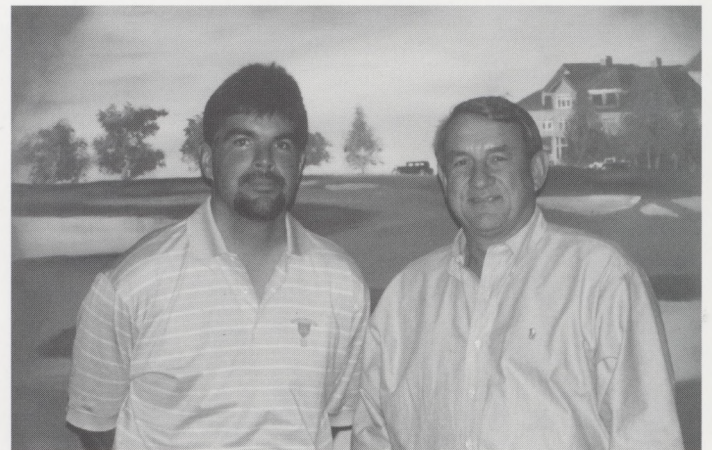
according to your handicaps. Each event for this day was a four-ball competition, which helped if your game left you for a while. Your partners were always there to bail you out. Well, at least that is correct for the people who I will mention later on in this report.

The best finish from GCSANJ members in the gross division was a 9<sup>th</sup> place finish by John Carpinelli and Tom Grimac. Ian Kunesch was part of a team that came in 16<sup>th</sup>. John also added to his lore by getting the nearest to the pin award on the back nine. Brian Minemier and Bob Prickett were part of the winning team in the Net 1 Division. They paired up with two superintendents from Toronto to become champions in this division. It appears that District IV is a force in the nation as well as in New Jersey. John Alexander and his partner were also in this division, and they came in 2<sup>nd</sup> on the net side and 4<sup>th</sup> on the gross side.

In the other divisions we see that Chip Kern played well again, and he and his team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Charlie Dey has continued to improve at this game, and he and Jeff Wetterling were 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Harry Harsin and Glenn Miller proved that they are a great team with a 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. This closed the books on the results from the first day, but it set the stage for the individual contests held on days two and three.

Mr. Harsin led the way for our association with his wonderful performance. He became a national champion by winning his division. Way to go, Harry! Next year, though, you may have to spot the field a few shots. Dave Pughe (3<sup>rd</sup>) and John Carpinelli (6<sup>th</sup>) showed that they are ready for the championship flight with their fine play. Moving through the results we find Trent Inman, 7<sup>th</sup>; John Alexander, 2<sup>nd</sup>; Bob

*Continued on page 6*



Brian Minemier (left) and Bob Prickett represented the GCSANJ well with their victory at the GCSAA Championship.



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Prickett, 7<sup>th</sup>; Jeff Wetterling, 3<sup>rd</sup>; and Chip Kern, 3<sup>rd</sup>. All played well enough to bring a prize home.

To have one player from a state as far north as New Jersey play well against 12-month-a-year golfers would be great. To have so many of our guys play so well is amazing. No wonder I can't win anything anymore.

When the tournament was completed, everyone headed to Orlando for seminars and the trade show, but I know that this getting back to the real world did not diminish their wonderful experience on the golf course. Each player takes home lots of great memories and, hopefully, you will be able to join them next year. ¶

## SORRY GUYS

*By Shaun Barry*

Looking through the last *Greenside* I noticed that we (okay, I) had forgotten to mention some golf news in detail.

In October 2001, New Jersey sent a team of eight golfers to compete in the Met Area Team Championship. This is an annual event that was created by and run by the Met Association. They do a wonderful job and this year was no exception.

Sean Cain and Sunningdale CC were the hosts to nine teams. These teams came from as far north as Albany and as far south as Maryland. All of the local associations are invited to send a team. It is a great tournament and you should try to be part of the team. The play is always spirited, but friendship and fun has been the main reason for this day.

Tom Grimac had the lowest gross score of the day, which was quite an achievement. The greens were running at 12.5, and since the course was built in 1913 you know that they were not flat. The rest of the New Jersey team also played well, and they came away with the victory. Congratulations to the team and I hope they get to try and repeat in 2002. ¶

## EXPO 2001

Bob Dickison, CGCS, has been the general chairman of this show for many years. He has seen it grow and get better each year. Having Chris Carson as the educational chairman along with Steve Chirip as president of NJTA has been a real benefit and the future looks bright. Everyone who is a part of this production always finds the time and energy to strive for improvement. Most of their work is behind the scenes but their efforts are seen by all.

In 2001, Expo seems to have attracted more people than in any previous year. The 126 exhibitors were pleased that registration passed the 2000 mark. With only six open booths this year, it is apparent that the exhibitors should book their 2002 requirements early. Being early gives you the best chance of getting the location that you would like to have.

The Lawn/Schools session on Tuesday morning had a total of 265 in attendance and reflects the strong interest coming from this segment of our industry. What is amazing about this number is that this is 145 more attendees than from any other year. The golf market continues to support Expo, and it remains an integral part of the success of this show.

The committee is already hard at work planning for 2002, so mark your calendars from December 10-12 to be part of one of the best regional shows in the country. It is an educational experience that should not be missed. ¶

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## RECAP OF GCSANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, which was held at Manasquan River Golf Club, was called to order at 3:45 p.m. by President Ed Mellor.

Those present included Ed, John O'Keefe, Bruce Peeples, Gregg Armbruster, Gary Arlio, Shaun Barry, Roger Stewart, Chris Holenstein, Ken Krausz, Brian Minemier, Steve Chirip, Jim McNally and Ted Vitale, CPA.

Jim McNally is looking into the status of the donation to the Mike Leary Fund.

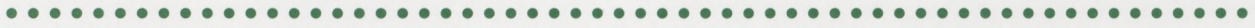
Bruce Peeples suggested that the treasurer work with AAMC to make sure that all expenses are charged to the correct line item.

Chris Holenstein announced that everyone who submitted an article in the past year would receive a pen as a token

*Continued on page 8*



*If I didn't know better I would have thought these 19<sup>th</sup> century golfers were Larry Dodge, Bob Dwyer and Pete Pedrazzi.*



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# GCSANJ news

## Continued from page 7

of our appreciation. Chris also updated us on the plans for the annual meeting with the production staff of the newsletter.

Glenn Miller reported that he, Mickey Stachowski and Nancy Sadlon met with the lobbyist, Hal Bozart. During this meeting Hal was brought up to speed on the past efforts regarding water restrictions and what we would like to accomplish.

Ken Krausz reported on the Turfgrass Economic Survey that Rutgers University is spearheading.

It was reported that Rutgers was narrowing down the list of candidates for Dean of Cook College.

The Research Field Day is set for August 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Golf Classic is scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Jim McNally reported on his attendance at the GCSAA Delegates Meeting and the dedication of the Old Tom Morris Statue at GCSAA Headquarters.

Jim reported on the state of the association, as well as reporting on the candidates for the National BOD.

Roger Stewart reported that 100 people attended the GCSANJ Educational Seminar held at Fiddlers Elbow.

Gary Arlio suggested that the GCSANJ scholarship be open to turf students and family members of GCSANJ members in good standing. This proposal will be discussed and run through the GCSANJ Foundation.

Brian Minemier updated us on the sponsorships of the golf simulator that will be at EXPO. The sponsors will cover the cost.

Brian also updated us on the merchandise inventory.

John O'Keefe reported that there are over 70 members signed up at the web site.

An on-site web budget survey was proposed.

Ted Vitale presented the annual audit and answered any questions that the Board members had regarding finances and our financial state.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Continued on page 9

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# GCSANJ news

## Continued from page 8

The January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GCSANJ Board of Directors was held at The Rock Spring Club. President Ed Mellor called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m.

Those present included Ed, John O'Keefe, Pat Campbell, Bruce Peeples, Gregg Armbruster, Gary Arlio, Shaun Barry, Roger Stewart, Chris Holenstein, Ken Krausz, Brian Minemier, Jim McNally, Paul Dotti, Mickey Stachowski and Brian Gjelsvik.

We received thank you notes for the holiday baskets from Ed Nickelsen, Clyde Ashton, Ziggy Zaleski, Tom Zimich and Joe Smirt.

We received a thank you note from the Owsik Family for the flowers in remembrance of Mrs. Owsik.

Mrs. Sarletto sent a thank you for the donation to Rutgers University in Dr. Paul's name.

We also received a thank you from United Hospice of Rockland County for the donation in Michael Leary's memory.

Pat Campbell stated that he has meetings set with Ted Vitale, CPA, and AAMC to make sure that all the accounting procedures are correct.

Chris Holenstein announced that *The Greenside* won best in its category for the eighth year in a row.

Chris scheduled a newsletter committee meeting to discuss plans and ideas for 2002.

Brian Gjelsvik reported on the upcoming assistant superintendent seminar at Arcola C.C.

Mickey Stachowski reported that the new DEP commissioner is Bradley Campbell.

Mickey reported on last month's meeting in Trenton and said that another meeting would be held soon. He stated that


the state seems reluctant to recognize golf courses as a business when it comes to water restrictions.

Paul Dotti updated us on the winter seminar and tabletop.

Brian Minemier stated that the golf simulator was a success at EXPO.

Jim McNally reported that GCSANJ carries approximately 190 votes to the National Conference and Show this year.

A full block of votes will be cast for Mark Kuhns, CGCS, as director of GCSAA, with the other block being split in half for David Downing, CGCS, and Sean Hoolehan, CGCS.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. 

## GCSANJ WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were accepted at the December 2001 and January 2002 board meetings:

- Timothy Treptow, Fairmont CC, Class C
- Carl Terek, Jr., Battleground CC, Class C
- Jeffery Berg, Valley Brook, GC, Class A

*Continued on page 10*

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## Continued from page 9

Alfie Gardiner, Simplot Partners, Class AF  
 Gregory Jacor, Tavistock CC, Class C  
 Arthur Briggs, Preakness Hills CC, Class C  
 Joseph Naughton, Bella Vista CC, Class C  
 Michael Miller, Ballamon GC, Class C  
 Mack Becker, Bella Vista CC, Class C  
 Tim Reinagel, Basking Ridge CC, Class B  
 Dr. D. Linde, Delaware Valley College Turf Program,  
 Honorary  
 Kathy Antaya, USGA Agronomist, Honorary

The following members requested classification changes and these were approved:

### Class B to Class A

Brian Remo  
 Paul Parascondolo  
 Charles McMonagle

### Class C to Class B

Shaun Reynolds  
 David Fowler  
 Pat Hickey



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(Left to right) Steve Chirip, Tom Tuttle, and Doug Vogel take a break from the rigors of a trade show.



(Left to right) Dave Brubaker, Dave Mayer, Chris Boyle and Mike Lee seem to be enjoying their trip to Orlando.



John Alexander is caught between nines at the GCSAA Golf Championship.



Expo 2001 was able to remind us of an event we will never forget. In attendance with a video presentation from Ground Zero were three of New York's finest.



Understanding the importance of keeping abreast of current issues, these Board members were part of the annual AEC meeting.

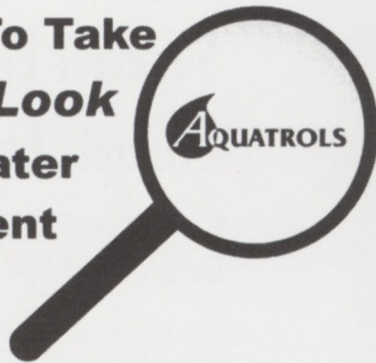


The GCSANJ is well represented at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Expo 2001.



Ken Kubik congratulates Glenn Gallion on his 25 years as a member of GCSANJ.

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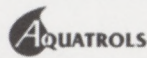


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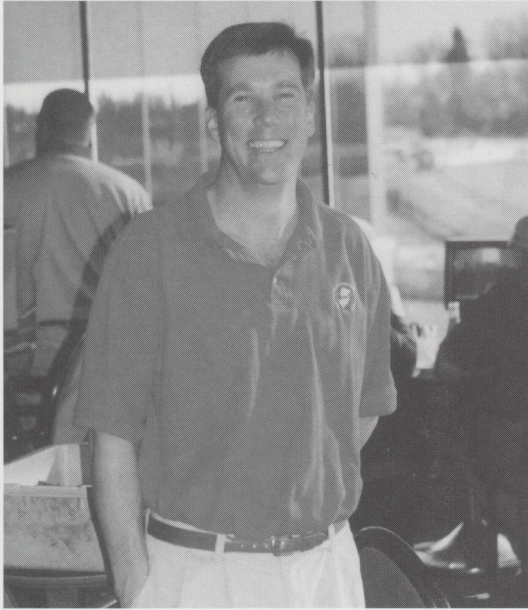
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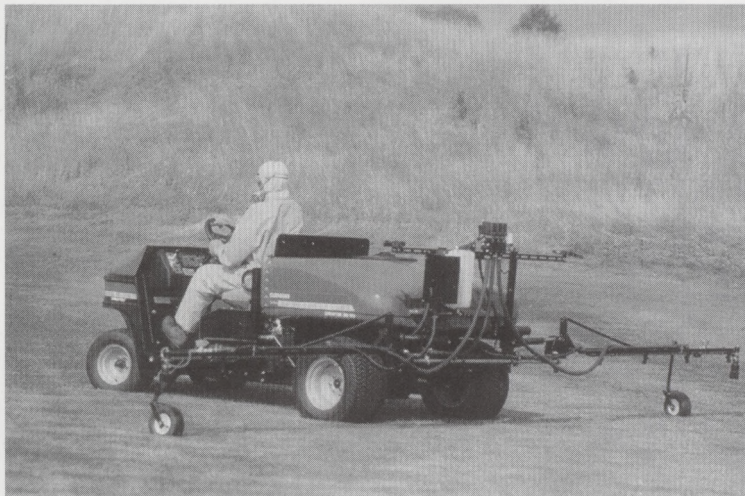
# Photo's from the District III Christmas Party



GCSANJ President Ed Mellor is all smiles at the District III Christmas Party.



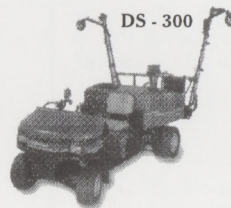
Mickey Stachowski looks for some advice from Mark Peterson at the District III Christmas Party.



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# GCSAA news

By Dr. Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS  
Director of Grounds, Baltusrol Golf Club

**T**he election of GCSAA directors and officers is over for another year, and, I must admit, it was a very educational experience. Unlike our local chapter election, running for a seat on the national Board can become a very competitive contest. Every aspect of your career is scrutinized under a microscope and very few stones are left unturned.

The election process starts when at least one chapter nominates one of their members or a member of another chapter. This individual, in most cases, has contributed a great deal of time with chapter matters and has served on the Board at one time or another. Most candidates have progressed through the chairs to become president of their local chapters. Most candidates have served on GCSAA committees for several years before a run for the Board. All of this experience demonstrates a level of competence and understanding of our profession and the way GCSAA operates.

The next step on the road to the election is the candidate's review by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee verifies all of the above information and also takes into consideration the candidate's service with allied associations. In many cases candidates serve on state turfgrass association turf endowment boards. Some individuals serve on advisory boards of various turf schools, regional conferences and other entities dealing with our profession.

Once nominated by the committee, a candidate must start down the campaign trail. A candidate must now build a platform based on issues within GCSAA and how he or she will deal with these matters if elected. Issues may include everything from PDI to certification standards. From my personal observation, a candidate better have a firm grasp of the issues when it comes time to meet the delegates in Kansas.

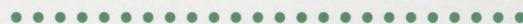
There are 104 chapters of GCSAA and each chapter has a voting delegate and a alternate delegate. The delegates meet at GCSAA headquarters in Kansas each fall to discuss the many issues dealing with our association. The delegates also meet the candidates at this time and have the opportunity to meet and discuss issues with them one on one. The candidates also will make a short presentation to all of the delegates at this time. Having been through this, I can tell you this is a nerve-racking situation because this is probably the most important talk you will give in your career. You will never be totally prepared to deal with all aspects of

an election, but you will find that you are better prepared than you think and the best in you will begin to surface.

Running for office is much more than just running a campaign; it is a major commitment and sacrifice in your life. You will need the support of your family and your employer. If you don't have your family's and your employer's support, your campaign is dead from the start. If elected, you will have spend from 50 to 100 days a year away from home and job. This is a significant amount of time away, and you will have to deal with many problems from a distance. A candidate must have a very strong support team to make his or her time on the Board run smoothly. An employer must understand the significance of GCSAA to the golfing industry. A superintendent serving on the Board of GCSAA will play a very important role in this industry. Golf clubs allowing superintendents to serve must understand the important role that they play in serving the game of golf and the industry in general. These clubs are usually the leaders in the industry and contribute heavily to the game of golf.

Having experienced my first campaign, I can honestly say that it was a very gratifying experience. I have made many new friends over the course of the campaign and have grown significantly in my understanding of our profession. It was a great honor to be nominated and to receive over 2,600 votes in the election. Although our campaign came up a little short of needed votes to win, I fully intend to run in the next

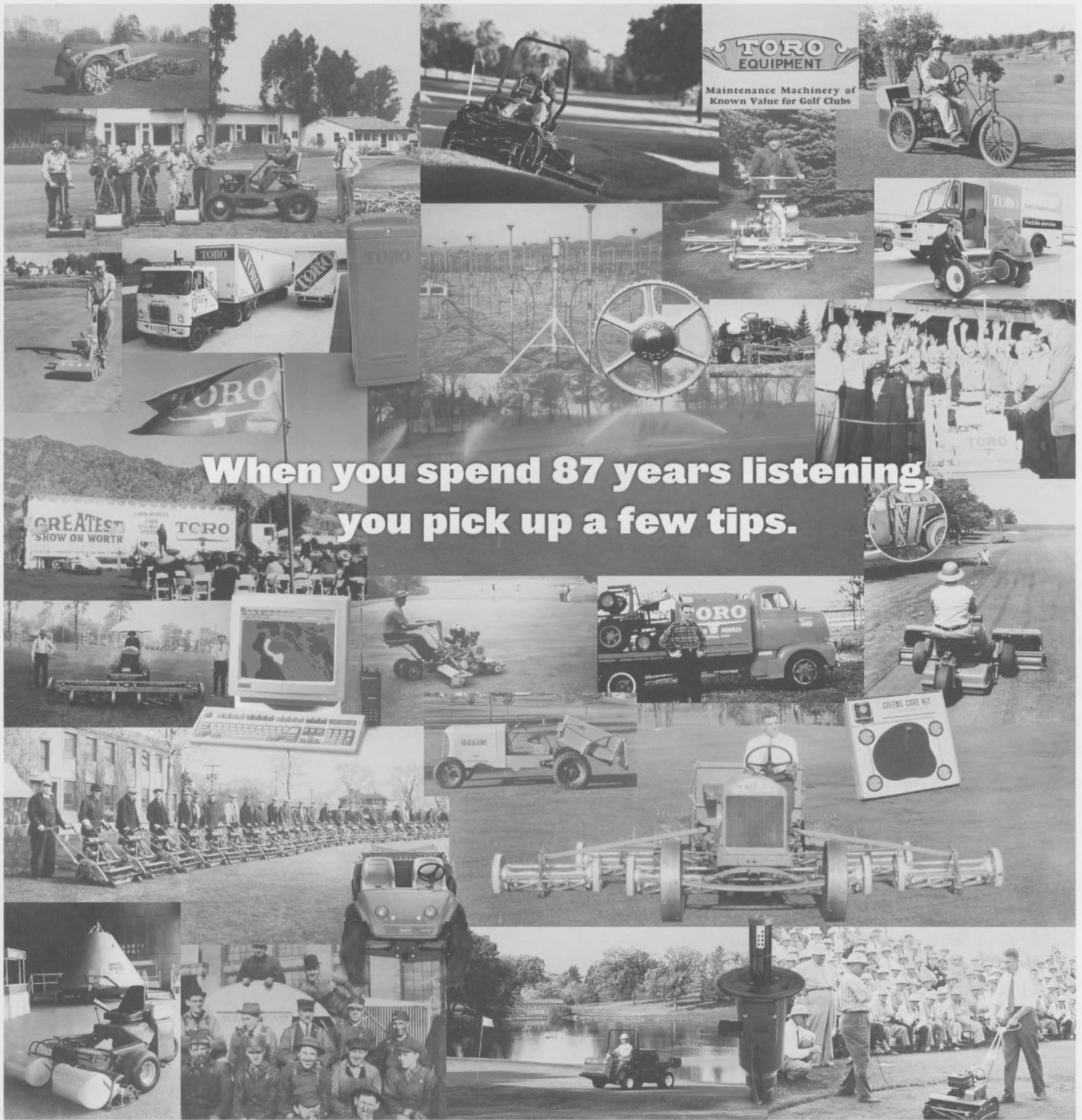
*Continued on page 15*



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**Continued from page 13**

election if nominated.

I want to thank the Board and all the members of GCSANJ for your overwhelming support of my campaign. I would not be able to run an effective campaign without your support. Thank you! My committees in New Jersey and Pittsburgh did an outstanding job, and I want to thank them for their tireless effort. Greg Nicoll of Maplewood C.C. in New Jersey and John Ferruchie of Deer Run G.C. in Pennsylvania did outstanding jobs as co-chairmen of my campaign and are in the process of organizing the next one. I would also like to thank all of those individuals who contributed to the campaign fund. I welcome any input or advice for the next campaign.

### **BALTUSROL GOLF CLUB TO HOST THE 2005 PGA CHAMPIONSHIP**

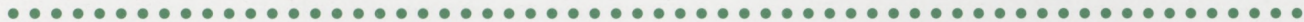
The PGA of America announced February 15 that the venue

for the 2005 PGA Championship has been changed from The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, to Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, New Jersey.

Officials at The Country Club decided that the stress of hosting a second mega-tournament in six years was too much. The Country Club was the site of the 1999 Ryder Cup Matches, which gained as much notoriety for its unruly crowds as the U.S. team's comeback victory.

"The demands of hosting the Ryder Cup Matches certainly taxed the resources of The Country Club, our neighbors and the surrounding communities", said John Cornish, a member of The Country Club and general chairman of the 1999 Ryder Cup Matches.

Jim Awtrey, the PGA of America's CEO, said concerns about crowd behavior had nothing to do with the change in venue. ¶



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## ENROLL IN GCSAA'S NEWEST ONLINE SELF-STUDY COURSE

On November 1, GCSAA introduced Applied Turfgrass Physiology to its self-study curriculum. This new offering joins Responsible Pesticide Use in Golf Course Management, and the Art and Science of Maintaining a Functional Putting Green in GCSAA's online education curriculum. Applied Turfgrass Physiology is an introductory level course that teaches turfgrass physiology from the basics to its application on the golf courses. This course consists of nine chapters. Other course features include interactive learning reviews, high quality images and illustrations to help explain the complex subject matter.

Drs. Jack Fry, Kansas State University, and Bingru Huang, Rutgers University, who also teach a GCSAA seminar on the same topic, created the course. Upon the completion of the course, members will receive 1.4 GCSAA CEUs. The cost of the course is \$85.

To order the course, go to [www.gcsaa.org/learn/online/turfphys.html](http://www.gcsaa.org/learn/online/turfphys.html). For questions about this course or other GCSAA self-study opportunities, please contact Nicolas Shump at 800-472-7878, ext. 650 or e-mail to: [nshump@gcsaa.org](mailto:nshump@gcsaa.org).

## CLEARY CHEMICAL COMMEMORATES 65 YEARS

Cleary Chemical is commemorating 65 years in the turf and ornamental markets with a yearlong celebration and a commitment to the future of the industry.

"We've worked hard to keep pace with an industry that never rests," said Don Breeze, general manager. "We're proud to be a part of the turf and ornamental markets, and we're committed to an even stronger contribution to the entire green industry."

The company launched its celebration at the GCSAA Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, giving golf course superintendents the opportunity to win one of 65 prizes including a trip to Ireland, the ancestral home of company founder W.A. Cleary. The grand prize will be awarded at next year's show in Atlanta.

*Editors Note: It has been predicted that eventually there will be two turf and ornamental plant protectant manufacturers, 1 huge one and Cleary's.*

## AEC sponsors boxing event

The Alliance for Environmental Concerns (AEC) announced recently that it will be sponsoring the 2002 New Jersey Golden Gloves Amateur Boxing Tournament on May 3, 2002, at the Marriott Hotel at Newark Airport. Dinner begins at 7:00 p.m., followed by the event at 8:00 p.m.

Table sponsorship is available at a cost of \$750-\$1,000 per table. This includes dinner and the event (10 people per table). General admission is \$50.00

For more information contact Nancy Sadlon at 732-563-9252.

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# Tour of leading golf courses offered through scholarship

The Grand Tour Scholarship is inviting golf course design and turfgrass management students to apply for a tour of leading golf courses throughout the United States.

This is the third year of the scholarship sponsored by the Toro Company, which offers a unique learning experience to future leaders in the golf industry. The trips will take place in August and are organized by the founder of the scholarship, Bettina Schrickel, golf course architect and president of Lioness Golf LLC.

The scholarship offers four students the opportunity to visit a variety of famous historic and modern golf courses on the east coast and west coast of the United States, respectively. The Western Route leads to 22 golf courses in three weeks; the Eastern Route includes 25 courses and takes four weeks. Courses to be visited include Augusta National, The National Golf Links of America, TPC at Sawgrass, The Country Club in Brookline, Cypress Point Golf Club, Pebble Beach Golf Links, Riviera Country Club and Pinehurst.

Experience has proven the benefit of two students traveling together to share knowledge and impressions and split the task of driving across the country. Students will have the opportunity to walk each golf course, study the layout and talk to the golf course superintendent.

Golf course design and turfgrass management students from all over the world are invited to apply for the scholarship. Last year's successful candidates came from England, Germany and the United States. Applicants shall be at least 21 years old and have demonstrated significant efforts and results in their educational career.

The scholarship covers costs for airplane tickets, rental cars, fuel and hotel accommodation for the duration of the

journeys. Students will be provided with a route book that includes detailed directions, useful tips and safety advice.

*This is the third year of the scholarship sponsored by the Toro Company, which offers a unique learning experience to future leaders in the golf industry.*

Applicants must have a valid passport and drivers license. It is the students' own responsibility to obtain a tourist visa for the United States, if required, as well as full health and travel insurance.

Deadline for application is May 15, 2002. The Grand Tour Scholarship committee will select candidates according to the contents and quality of application documents. For application forms and further information, contact Bettina Schrickel at 954-647-3436 or e-mail [lionessgolf@aol.com](mailto:lionessgolf@aol.com)





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# Rutgers news

## SEED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTES \$200,000 TO RUTGERS

Seed Research of Oregon has contributed more than \$200,000 to Rutgers University in 2001, representing royalties for 25 grass seed varieties.

"We are proud to be returning such a large annual payment to Rutgers," said Seed Research of Oregon President Mike Robinson after presenting Rutgers Professor William Meyer with a check for \$203,756.04. "It is an honor to be working with the finest breeding program in the world."

Robinson began working with Rutgers Professor Dr. Reed Funk in 1978. Funk was instrumental in helping Seed Research of Oregon establish its breeding program and develop a wide assortment of grass seed, including SR 4200—an industry leading perennial ryegrass—and European favorites Apollo and Athena.

"We appreciate the continued support of the turfgrass programs at Rutgers and the opportunity of working with Seed Research of Oregon," Meyer said.

## BUDD SEED AND PRO SEEDS PRESENT CHECK TO RUTGERS

Budd Seed and Pro Seeds Marketing have presented Rutgers University a check for \$409,186.78 for royalty payments on the 2000 production of Rutgers developed turfgrass varieties. Added to previously paid royalties, this makes the total contribution nearly half a million dollars. The royalty check was presented to Dr. William Meyer, professor of turfgrass breeding, and Dr. Stacy Bonas, assistant professor of turfgrass breeding.

"Rutgers continues to be the world leader in the research and development of improved turfgrass varieties," stated Ken Budd, president of Budd Seed. "We look forward to our firm commitment to the total support of Rutgers to fulfill our customer needs," added Dick Olson, president of Pro Seeds Marketing.

## NEW AGREEMENT BETWEEN RUTGERS AND JAPAN TOBACCO

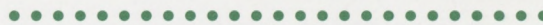
A new agreement between Rutgers and Japan Tobacco will enable university scientists to develop and commercialize improved turfgrass varieties by using a pioneering plant transformation technology, according to William Meyer, Ph.D., head of the Rutgers turfgrass breeding program.

The technology was developed by Japan Tobacco and modified for use in turfgrass by Barbara Zilinskas, Ph.D., and a plant scientist at the Center for Turfgrass Science and the Biotechnology Center for Agriculture and the Environment at Rutgers.

Under the agreement, Rutgers will be able to sublicense the technology to research-oriented companies, for use in developing improved transgenic turfgrass varieties. The companies have access to proprietary genes and will use the technology to develop new varieties, which will be marketed by those companies. "Long term, we believe that transformation technology will enable us to solve some unsolved pest and disease problems," said Meyer.

The Japan Tobacco transformation technology, known as PureIntro, employs plasmids derived from *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, a bacterium that has the unique ability to insert a portion of its DNA into the cells of plants. For years, scientists thought that this bacterium could transform only dicots, a category of plants that includes soybeans, cotton and tobacco, but not monocots, a category that includes corn, rice or grasses. However, Japan Tobacco scientists found a way to employ *Agrobacterium* in monocots. A Rutgers team led by Zilinskas has successfully applied PureIntro to turfgrass.

"Japan Tobacco strongly believes that our technical alliance with Rutgers would provide turfgrass companies worldwide with effective solutions to develop improved varieties," said Sanji Matsushima, planning group general manager of Japan Tobacco. ¶



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# The labor market – It's tough competition

By Mike Huck, Agronomist  
USGA Green Section  
Southwest Region

## HELP WANTED:

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Make up to \$10.00 per hour while training! Domino's Pizza – Various Orange County, California locations.

It is no wonder that golf course labor has been extremely difficult to find this season when fast food restaurants are paying either as well as or better than most golf courses. It is difficult for golf maintenance positions to compete with jobs like this even for the same pay. Just think about it. Would you rather work indoors in a controlled climate or be out in the 100-degree heat, smog, rain, frost, etc.? If I were someone not interested in golf, I pretty much know the decision I would make! On my recent trips throughout the southwest

region, I have been speaking with superintendents about labor issues. Here are a few of their comments:

*"We have had an advertisement in the local papers for 3° weeks without a single response. We are offering \$8.35 starting wage, and now things will only get worse since the summer help is returning to school."*

*"Our incoming rate is pushing \$10.50 per hour. We couldn't attract anyone at a lower wage."*

*"The quality of help we have been able to get is pitiful. We have turned over 40 people this season. I have hired people on Friday and they don't show up on Monday. We had four high school age kids go out to lunch, only to return and punch out and quit. They told me they didn't feel like working any more. I know part of the problem is the incoming wage here—it's only \$6.50 per hour."*

*"We have been operating an average of 1° people short on each of our seven courses. In fact there is a new Wal-Mart down the street, and they can't open yet because there are not enough people available to completely staff the store."*

You can be sure there will be more of the same problems next season if the economy stays strong. Now is the time to start planning for the coming year in the budgeting process. Consider ideas such as:

- **Growth regulators** – Growth regulation programs for fairways can be expensive, but if they reduce the labor required for mowing by 30% to 50% it may be worth it. Also, you don't have to worry about providing benefits for a bottle of growth regulator or if it does not show up on time! Look at growth regulators as a source of "liquid labor."
- **Efficient equipment** – If you have not investigated spinner type topdressing applicators or rotary rough mowers, now is the time! You can cover most greens when topdressing in two to three passes since these units throw sand 30 feet and very uniformly! Rotary rough units can increase productivity over similar sized reel units by 30% to 40% based upon increased ground speed. Rotaries also require less maintenance.
- **Equipment lease packages** – If you have a junk pile for an equipment inventory and are spending a bundle of money on parts and repairs, consider leasing utility vehicles and the primary mowing fleet. Any unit that has an expected useful life span of five to seven years should be evaluated for a lease. Leasing allows you to turn over



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**Continued on page 20**

# The labor market

Continued from page 19

units before they become mechanical nightmares and then replace them with the most current and efficient technology available. New equipment can keep your operators out in the field mowing instead of watching the mechanic make repairs. In addition, you no longer have to worry about how to dispose of the old unit—the dealer picks it up and takes it away!

- **Seasonal labor bonus contracts** – Once you hire seasonal labor, it can be difficult to keep them the entire summer. Consider giving seasonal labor a “contract” that assures them a 50¢ to \$1 bonus for each hour worked, provided they stay through dates agreed upon in writing at the time of hire. For additional information, see the article entitled, “Once You Get ’em You Gotta Keep ’em,” by Dave Oatis, *USGA Green Section Record*, May/June 2000.
- **Part-time labor** – retirees are often interested in golf course work, especially if you can offer them free golf

as a benefit. Also consider recruiting stay-at-home housewives for part-time labor. A few courses have marketed themselves to this untapped labor resource by hiring housewives to walk-mow greens and tees. Their advertisement in the paper reads: “*Ladies: Now you can take your morning walk and get paid for it, too!*”

- **Increase the payroll budget** – There just may be no other way around this problem than to raise incoming wages. It appears the days of cheap help for golf maintenance are gone, and golf maintenance could be facing some tough competition in the labor market for several years to come.

The point is that you have to pay people well enough to keep them or they will just move on down the road to the next available paycheck. As one wise businessperson once told me: “The only way to you keep your help is to pay them well enough so that they are afraid to lose their job!” ☞

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# Golf cars and cart paths

**G**olf cars are a convenience enjoyed by millions of players and a necessity for many golfers with disabilities. However, when they are driven improperly, they can cause serious damage to the course. More important, unsafe operation can lead to accidents and injuries. Here's some information about the use of golf cars and how to use them responsibly.

## *Interesting Facts*

- The first golf car was invented in the late 1940s strictly for people with disabilities.
- About two-thirds of all regulation 18-hole rounds are played with golf cars (NGF, 1994).
- Several states now allow golf cars to be registered for "street" usage.
- Since the introduction of golf cars, caddie usage has dropped to only 1 percent of regulation rounds (NGF, 1994).

## *Safety First*

- Golf cars should only be operated from the driver's side.
- Never drive with more than two occupants or allow riders on the back of the car.
- Be sure your passenger is fully seated and check for obstructions before moving.
- Keep your entire body—particularly your feet—inside the car when moving.
- Drive slowly through turns and drive straight and slow up and down slopes.
- Be certain to set the brake when coming to a complete stop.
- Use extra care when operating a golf car in reverse or

on hills, wet turf, loose surfaces or rough terrain.

- Remove the key when the golf car is not in use.
- Do not operate a golf car when impaired by alcohol or drugs.
- Golf cars do not provide protection from lightning—seek appropriate shelter if lightning is present.

***Unsafe operation can lead to accidents and injuries. Here's some information about the use of golf cars and how to use them responsibly.***

## *Follow the Rules*

The wear-and-tear of golf car traffic can cause unsightly and expensive damage to the golf course. Tire ruts in soft, wet areas can take weeks to heal. Compaction caused by heavy traffic can also ruin the playing surface. You can help prevent damage by following the course's standard golf car policy and obeying temporary restrictions caused by weather, construction or other factors.

## *Drive Friendly*

If you "drive friendly," your use of a golf car won't impede the play of others:

- Park your golf car behind or beside the green—never in front—to allow players behind you to hit sooner after you've finished the hole. (You should generally always avoid driving a golf car into the "approach" area 20 to 30 yards in front of the green.)
- Stop your vehicle to avoid distracting a nearby player who is preparing to hit a shot.
- Never drive into yards or neighboring properties.

## *General Tips*

- Never drive a golf car through standing water in fairways or any turf areas that are obviously wet.
- Never drive onto a green, collar or tee or any marked hazard.
- Never drive into any area that has been recently seeded or sodded.
- Avoid abrupt stops and sharp turns that cause skidding.
- Spread out wear-and-tear by avoiding compacted areas.
- If golf cars are allowed in the fairway, follow the 90-degree rule: Stay on the path until you come even with

***Continued on page 22***

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# Golf cars and cart paths

Continued from page 21

your ball, then make a 90-degree turn into the fairway and drive directly to your ball. After your shot, drive directly back to the path.

- Watch for special signage or other markers that direct traffic.
- Avoid driving over sprinkler heads and yardage markers.
- Don't drive cars into out-of-play areas that may be environmentally sensitive (such as wildflower patches, native grass plantings and marshes).
- Golfers with medically certified disabilities may need access to areas not normally open to golf car traffic. Their golf cars are generally marked with a flag to let others know they have special access.
- Avoid pulling off the path near tees and greens.
- Keep all four tires on the path whenever possible. Do not park with tires off the path. 



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# Twenty public relations tips

The following is a list of activities that you can undertake at your facility to enhance your image and inform individuals you interact with such as golf clientele, golf course management and the general public. These can be applied on an individual basis, but also may be applicable to chapter activities.

1. Play golf with your clientele regularly, including green chair and committee, general manager, golf professional, patrons, etc.
2. Have lunch at your facility with your clientele regularly, including green chair and committee, general manager, golf professional, patrons, etc.
3. Host an open house annually for your clientele including green chair and committee, general manager, golf professional, patrons, etc. Be creative and hold special sessions for specific groups such as juniors, seniors, men and women.
4. Hold meetings with your green committee and management staff at your maintenance facility on a regular basis.

5. Publicize your maintenance activities in your facility newsletters and postings on signs/bulletin boards throughout the course. Make a special effort to publicize activities well in advance to inform patrons and communicate in an educational manner to provide knowledge.
6. Share GCSAA publications with members of your management.
7. Participate in junior golf clinics.
8. Participate in local and regional golf shows, both turf and consumer.
9. Host scholarship and research fundraiser events.
10. Consider participation in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses and/or Schools. Contact Joellen Zeh at Audubon International at 518-767-9051, ext. 14.
11. Participate in continuing education and career development activities.
12. Provide lawn care and related home maintenance activities in facility newsletters.
13. Print your name, title and include GCSAA logo on scorecard and signage on the course.
14. Host an information table/tent at golf events that attract public attendance.
15. Seek "free" advice from your golf patrons who may specialize in public speaking, public relations, communications, etc.
16. Start each year by writing down ten items about you, your staff or facility that may be interesting. Share them in newsletters or through postings on the bulletin boards (i.e. maintenance staff employee of the month).
17. Start the year by writing down ten items about the ac-

*Continued on page 24*



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# Drought watch


The effects of drought are having an impact on golf courses across the nation. You can locate comprehensive drought information, including current drought restrictions in your state or region, in GCSAA's Drought Resource Center.

To find current drought restrictions/information in your state, follow these three easy steps:

1. Visit <http://www.gcsaa.org/resource/drought.html> and select the "National Drought Mitigation Center" link.
2. Select the "Drought Watch" link.
3. Browse through the links on this page and choose the

one that will provide you with current drought information for your state or region.


The GCSAA Drought Resource Center also provides a comprehensive list of drought resources available to you from GCSAA.


Thanks to Bob Collins, CGCS, at Cripple Creek Golf & Country Club in Bethany Beach, Delaware, for recommending that we make GCSAA members aware of the GCSAA Drought Resource Center. 

## Twenty public relations tips

*Continued from page 23*

- tivities undertaken by your staff that will serve to make a better golfing experience for patrons.
18. Keep track of patron questions, ideas and comments by carrying a notepad with you at all times.

19. Promote all aspects of your facility and the value you add in appropriate settings.
20. Call Jeff Bollig at GCSAA for assistance at 800-472-7878, ext. 430. 



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# U.S. sets three-month temperature record

November 2001 through January 2002 produced record warmth in the United States according to scientists at National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C. And the January global temperature was the warmest in 123 years of record keeping.

"Unusual warmth persisted across a large part of the contiguous United States during the past three months resulting in the warmest November through January since national records began in 1895," said Jay Lawrimore, chief of the Climate Monitoring Branch at the Asheville Center.

The preliminary national average was 39.94 F, which was 4.3 F above the mean for 1895-2001. The previous record was set in 1999-2000. Since 1976 the average November-January temperature has risen at a rate of 1.2 F per decade.

This winter, above-average warmth stretched from Montana and Oklahoma to the East Coast. Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Massachusetts and Vermont had their warmest November to January, and as many as 18 states from the Plains to the Northeast recorded their second warmest November-January.

In those areas a number of daily high-temperature

records were established and the warmth coincided with below-normal snowfall. A lack of snow cover contributed to short-term drought conditions in the northern Plains.

Although precipitation was near normal nationwide from

***Severe to extreme drought covered approximately 18 percent of the contiguous United States at the end of January.***

November to January, an area of below normal precipitation stretched from Florida to Maine, worsening drought conditions along the East Coast. Connecticut and Maine experienced their driest November-January on record and nine other states (New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia and South Carolina) were much drier than normal.

At the end of January, moderate to severe drought conditions were widespread from southern Georgia to Maine. Conservation was encouraged in New York City as reservoirs were filled on less than half of capacity. Drought continued in much of the Inter-Mountain West while abundant rain and snowfall along the West Coast alleviated drought in much of Washington, Oregon and Northern California. Severe to extreme drought covered approximately 18 percent of the contiguous United States at the end of January. National and global data for the November-January period and for January are online at: <http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/2002/jan/jan02.html>.



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# Pennsylvania bill to establish water conservation program

**P**ennsylvania bill H.B. 2230, the Water Resources Conservation and Protection Act, would require the Department of Environmental Protection to establish a statewide program to promote water conservation and the efficient use of existing water resources. The program highlights include:

- Identification of critical water planning areas;
- Voluntary implementation of water use reduction plans by all water users in a critical water planning area;
- Updating the State Water Plan, which is 25 years old;
- Creation of a voluntary statewide water conservation program for all water users;

- Establishing a Statewide Water Resources Advisory Committee;
- Obtaining a total inventory of the state's water resources; and
- Registration and water use reporting of the largest water users in the state, which include users that have a total withdrawal, diversion or consumptive use equal to or exceeding an average of 10,000 gallons per day in any 30-day period.

Read the text of H.B. 2230 at <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/MT/2001/0/HB2230P3163.HTM>.

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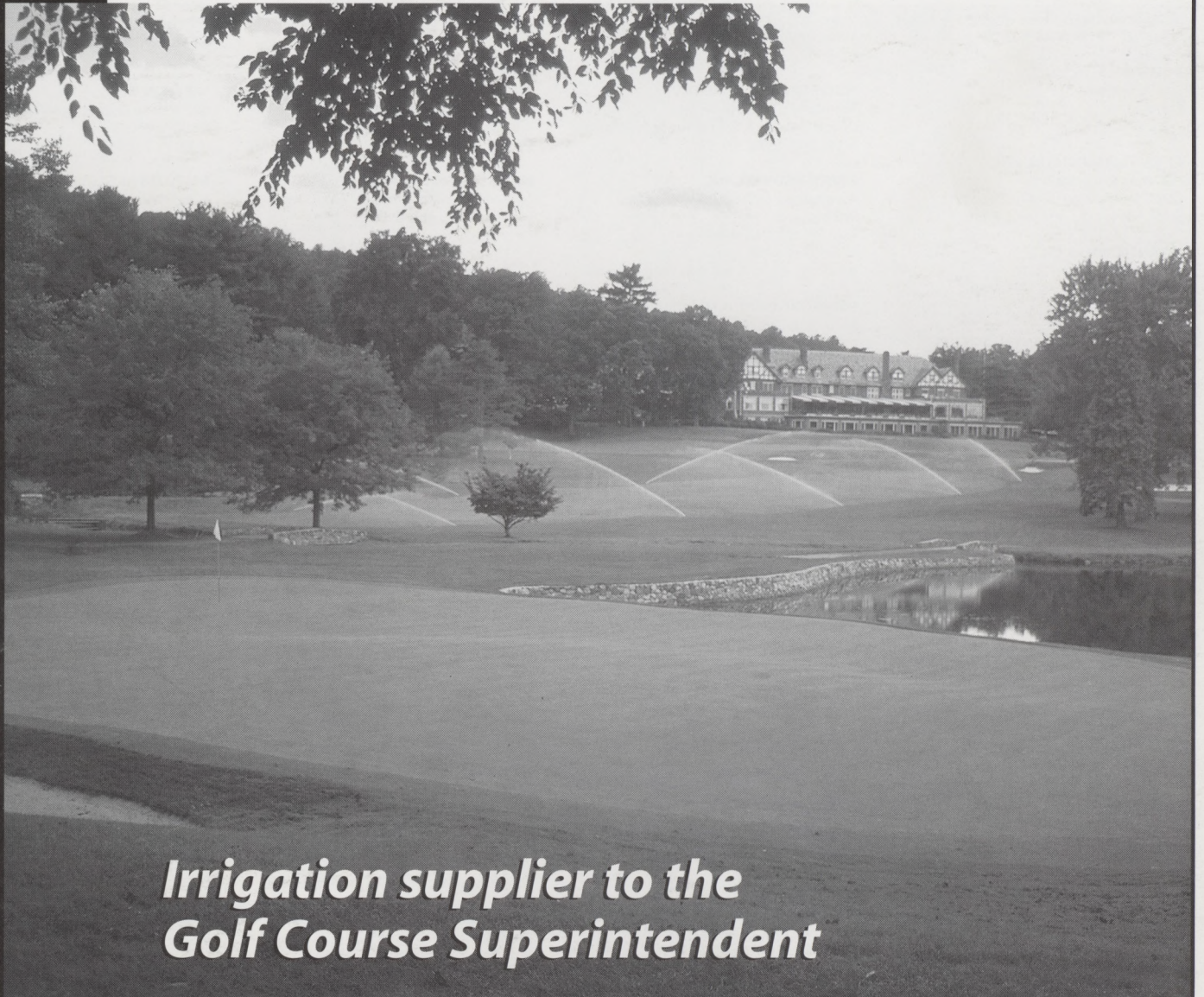
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