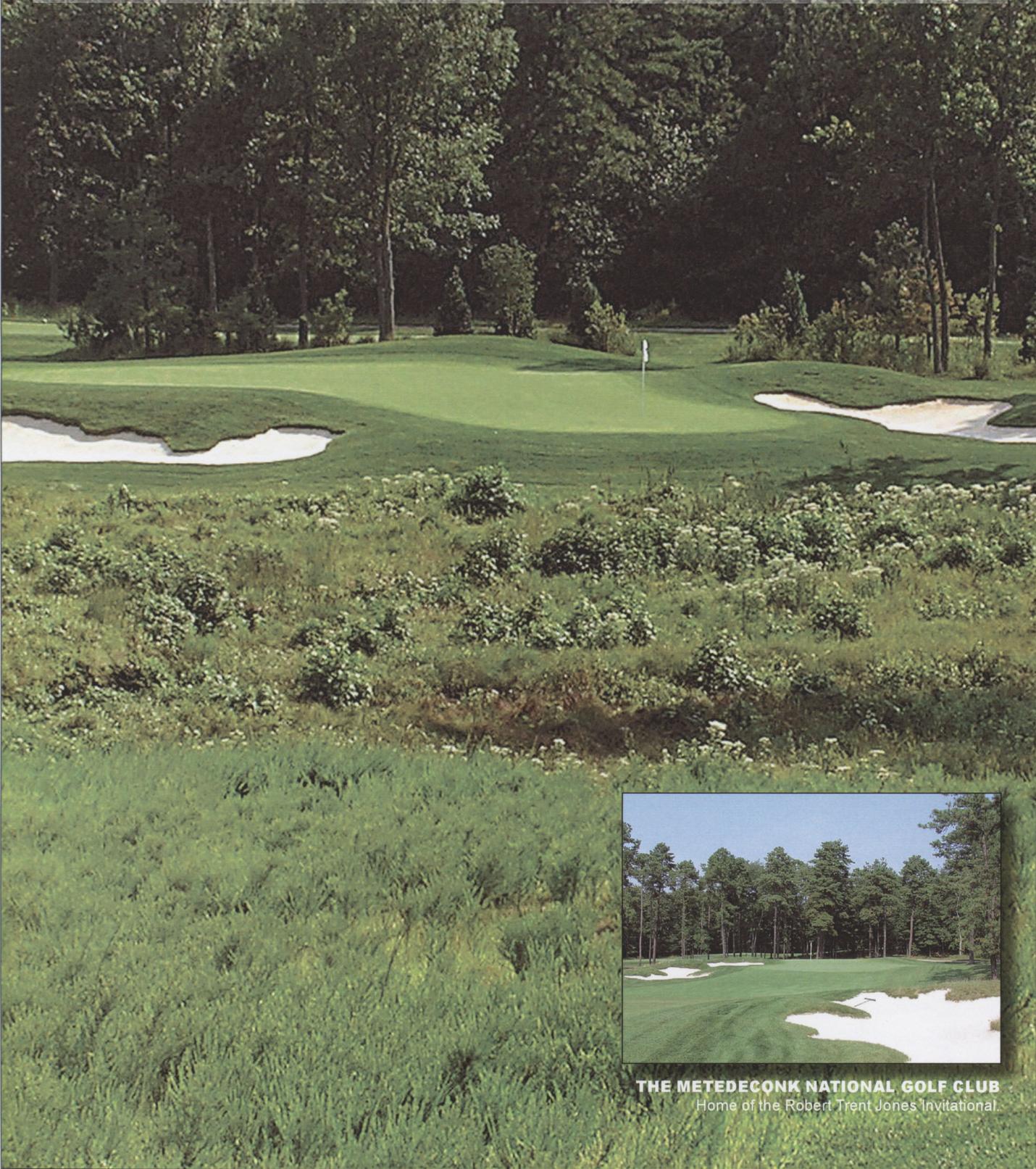




THE GREENERSIDE

September - October 2004 • Volume 28 Number 5

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY



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From the editor's desk

Those of you conversant in advanced German already know my secret. For the rest of you in the dark may you now see the light. The literal translation of Vogel from German is bird. It certainly doesn't make me a bad guy but I had a dream and the vision was quite clear.

It's time.

"It's time" the English scholar Eric Idle once said "for something completely different." We are taking this newsletter devoted to golf course management and fulfilling the vision - writing about birds.

Indigenous birds and outrageous birds. Birds of prey and birds of play. Identifying them, saving them, watching them slide by the cup. Yes siree Bob nothing but birds. Besides, if we translated Krausz from German we'd be writing about curly things. And who wants that?

Ich hat einen Vogel (I have bats in the belfry) 



Doug

The editor and Gary Arlio's thumb pose for a traditional photo-op. Neither would score well on the worlds #1 rated golf course but they both had a great time.

On the cover:

The beautiful Metedeconk National Golf Club pays tribute to its designer Robert Trent Jones Sr. by running an annual tournament in his name and generously donates the proceeds to turf research through the GCSAA and GCSANJ Foundations. Host superintendent Tim Christ and staff provide the fantastic conditions.

Photos courtesy of the Metedeconk National Golf Club.

President's Message *John O'Keefe, CGCS, Preakness Hills CC*

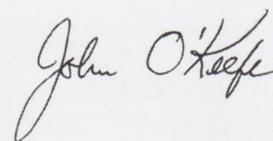
We all have something special in our wallet. We probably don't think of it often but it can be a very powerful tool. It can open doors for us, bring us notoriety, make us part of a family, make us smarter, give us solace, support and even provide us with some friendship and fun. Do you know what it is yet?

At the Metedeconk National Golf Club the other day, I was approached by a gentleman. His name was Ed Batta and he is the Past President of the New Jersey State Golf Association. After confirming who I was, Mr. Batta said that he had my signature in his wallet. I being just a bit confused, and frankly also a bit scared, responded "what's that?" He then opened up his wallet and pulled out a 1996 Met GCSA Membership Card. The card indeed had my signature on it as I was President of the Met at that time. I have a lot of junk in my wallet, most of which I have no use for, but this gentleman had very little in his wallet and the card seemed to be very well taken care of. I was impressed by the fact

that he so treasured his association with golf course superintendents. He kept this card for over 8 years in his wallet and he wanted to let me know how much it meant to him. When someone becomes affiliated with different organizations, other organizations offer complimentary memberships. I feel that I have been and probably most people have been guilty of taking these memberships for granted. Mr. Batta certainly didn't feel this way. He still feels honored having once being a part of our professional family.

That thing in your wallet can open the doors to a new job or experience. It can bring us notoriety among our peers in the profession and can add to our resume. It can give us a feeling of family, support, solace and friendship when times are good and more importantly when times are bad. It can certainly make us smarter. The education experiences at the Conference at Crystal Springs, November 3-5 alone are worth a year of membership. Educational opportunities abound.

Let's all take our cue from Mr. Batta. Not only to value our GCSANJ membership but use it and let it be known that we use it. Be proud of us. 



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Helping wild birds

(Editors Note: The following text is excerpted from the brochure "What you can do to help an injured or orphaned wild bird" published by the Raptor Trust a private, non-profit, tax exempt corporation dedicated to the preservation and well being of birds of prey. Founded by Dr. Len Soucy and located in Millington, New Jersey, the Raptor Trust is licensed by the State of New Jersey and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to rehabilitate injured and orphaned wild birds of all species.)

Birds, vast numbers of them, share this world with human beings. They live virtually everywhere on earth. No one really knows how many birds there are, but the best scientific "guesstimate" is about 100 billion - some 8,700 different species. Probably over five billion live in the United States alone. We all see birds every day and surely we've become more familiar with them than all other kinds of wild creatures.

Because so many birds live in close proximity to humans, every year great numbers of injured and possibly orphaned individuals are encountered by people. Most humane people

who come upon a bird in distress want to help, indeed will help. The problem is that very often people simply don't know how to help. Just determining if a bird should be helped can sometimes be difficult. We hope the information offered here will help you determine what to do, how to do it safely, and guide you in doing what's best for the bird.

Wild Birds and the Law

All wild birds, with the exception of exotics (birds, usually non-native species, legally sold as pets), are protected by state and federal law. It is illegal to harm them in any way. (Game birds may be taken according to state hunting laws.) It is also illegal to keep wild birds as pets or to sell them, or their parts, including feathers. Furthermore, the law states that they cannot be held in captivity without authorization from both state and federal wildlife agencies. Obviously, the laws were enacted to protect wild birds from being killed, harmed or exploited in any way. They were never intended to preclude or discourage the public from helping a bird in need.

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Are you certifiable?

By Paul Dotti

How many courses are members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program? Hopefully most of you answered yes to this question. How many of these courses are Certified Audubon Sanctuaries? This is where it gets a little troublesome. In the State of New Jersey, there are only 17 Certified Sanctuaries out of 62 registered members. Many people I talk to say that I am already doing some things already, why should I go through all the paperwork to become certified? Each year our industry is in the spotlight more and more, especially for water, fertilizer and chemical usages. As Superintendents, we are the most educated users of those tools, but the public does not perceive it that way. Go to any town meeting or drought meeting and when golf courses come up, the public has no idea what managing a golf course is all about.

How can we change this perception? Becoming a Certified Audubon Sanctuary is a good start. When Edgewood Country Club became a member in 1995, it had no aspirations of becoming certified. I came on as the Superintendent in 1996 and I began researching the program a little bit more. I felt that if we were paying the annual dues, we should get the most out of it. Upon flipping through the binder, I was overwhelmed and hesitant to take on what seemed to be a very big program. The first thing to do was to get the Board and Green Committee to accept this program. Newsletters and presentations at meetings was the way I "planted the seed". We began by installing blue bird boxes the first year.

The second year, we carefully planned out areas for naturalization. I knew the course was maintained from fence line to fence line, and the members would be hesitant to accept this change. We started with an area or two, one in fescue, the other in wildflowers. Yes we heard the old "what did you forget to mow over there" at first, but people began to accept it. The wildflowers were an instant success, especially by the women. Two years later we had 30 acres naturalized. My selling point to the Club was that these are out of play areas with no irrigation that were unsightly in the summer months. We now did not have to water, fertilize or treat for insects or weeds. This saved us about \$10,000 the first year alone. We became certified in one category at a time and over the course of three years we were making our way through the program with little or no problems. The paperwork was no way near as much as I originally thought, since we were doing many of the requirements already. I did most of the paperwork in the fall and winter when things slowed down on the course. This is also a good program for assistants and other staff members to be involved with since it will enable them to learn what is happening on the golf course. Our final

Continues on page 6

Calendar

October 12, 2004 GCSANJ Championship, Ballamor Golf Club, Egg Harbor, New Jersey

Host: Michael Miller

November 3-5, 2004 2004 Crystal Conference and Golf Classic, Crystal Springs Resort, Hamburg, New Jersey

Host: Craig Worts

December 7-9, 2004

NJTA Turfgrass Expo, Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, New Jersey. *Contact Dick Caton 856-853-5973*

February 7-12, 2005 GCSAA Golf Industry Show, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida

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Certifiable?

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section of certification was Outreach and Education. This is the area that scared me the most and I was not sure how to attack it. Through a member, I contacted the Superintendent at the local grammar school and asked if we could install a few bluebird boxes and a small butterfly garden for the 6th grade students to monitor. They were very excited and that spring I lectured 160 6th graders on the importance of the program. Edgewood has been generous enough to pay their annual dues each year so they continue to receive updated information. Since then, the school takes an annual trip to Edgewood to see the various things we do. This has been the most satisfying part of the whole program. I am able to educate children on the importance of protecting the environment, and at the same time changing the perception of our course and many others with parents and faculty being involved.

What has Edgewood gained since becoming a Certified Audubon Sanctuary? I will briefly highlight how we have benefited in each area of certification.

Environmental Planning

- ◆ Make a tree and wildlife inventory. Learn what is out on the course.
- ◆ Make a property assessment; wetlands, woodland, fine turf etc.

Wildlife and Habitat Management

- ◆ Reduced and or eliminated fuel, pesticide and water usage in 30 acres of turf.
- ◆ Increased blue bird populations with over 35 nest boxes.
- ◆ Attracted more wildlife with all the naturalized areas.

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- ◆ Reduced chemical usage in fine turf areas with more thorough scouting.
- ◆ Record keeping allows us to target hot spots first.
- ◆ Established damage thresholds for fairways, tees and roughs.

Water Conservation

- ◆ Installed quick couplers in known dry areas.
- ◆ Removed irrigation in certain areas and replaced with fescue or wildflowers.
- ◆ Changed irrigation around impervious surfaces.
- ◆ Repaired irrigation leaks immediately.
- ◆ Recycling wash water.
- ◆ Individual head control and part circle heads help obtain accurate watering.

Water Quality Management

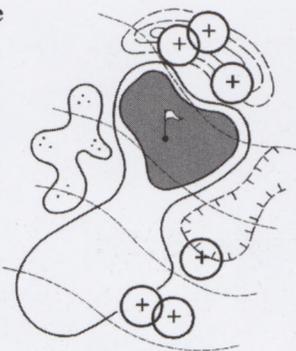
- ◆ Established buffer and no spray/fertilizer zones around all water bodies. These buffers also act as deterrents for geese.
- ◆ Installed diffusers and aerators in ponds that have led to reduced chemical treatments.
- ◆ Recycling wash water.



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Certifiable?

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Public Outreach and Education

- ◆ Adopted a local grammar school and have hosted annual class trips for 4 years.
- ◆ Spoke at the NYSTA Conference on the importance of the program.
- ◆ Have educated the members with newsletters on the importance of the ACSP.

If you look at my highlights, I can bet that almost every one of you are doing some of the things already on the list. If that is the case, you need to document it and you will be on your way to certification. Documentation and photographs are very important to monitor your progress. It is really quite easy and here is how we have benefited from the program;

- ◆ Fine turf areas have improved with the removal of maintenance in over 30 acres of out of play turfgrass areas.
- ◆ Edgewood CC has been featured in 9 national publications.
- ◆ ACSP has named Les Carpenter of Newton CC and myself as the only two Audubon Stewards in the State of New Jersey.
- ◆ Edgewood members have accepted the program and often offer input, a big change from 9 years ago.
- ◆ The local community now understands that golf courses benefit the environment more than harm it.

It is important to remember that not everything you do will be a success. Bluebirds took a year or so to find the nest boxes. Purple Martins to this day have been a failure, due to the competition from Starlings. Naturalized areas will attract wildlife once they are discovered. Most importantly, enjoy your hard work, ride around in the early morning and late afternoon and watch how you have benefited the golf course.

Our industry is getting stricter and stricter with water, chemical and fertilizer usage. In the near future, it is going to be mandatory to follow and adhere to strict guidelines concerning water conservation, chemical and fertilizer usage, similar to the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. The DEP is already talking about possible mandatory programs. By taking a proactive rather than reactive approach will only strengthen our industry. When you see top courses like Pine Valley, Ridgewood and Baltusrol as Certified Sanctuaries and Colonial Acres, a 9 hole "mom and pop" course in NY State in the same category, it only shows that this program is a perfect fit for all types of golf courses. Help strengthen our profession and image by taking a proactive approach with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. If you run into problems with the program or to become a member you can call Audubon at 515-767-9051 or you can contact Paul Dotti at edgepaul@hotmail.com or call 201-666-1200 x234.

Paul Dotti is the GCSANJ District I Director. 📌

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No end in sight at Toms River CC

By Shaun Barry

Ed McSeaman continues to tempt the fates every year that he hosts the District III meeting. He knows that by being the site for this meeting means that bad weather can occur and it usually does. This year was sort of an exception. At tournament time everything was perfect but a few weeks prior to this he saw how dry things were getting so he told Seamus that he was asking for some rain. A couple days later it does rain but it forgot to stop. Medford Lakes got 14 inches and Gregg Armbruster didn't know what had hit him and his course. Now you know Gregg, but please forgive Ed because you just got what was meant for him.



Scott Evans and his fans are all smiles after his hole-in-one.

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Winners at Toms River CC (L to R) Angelo Petraglia, John Alexander, Bill Baumert, and Shaun Barry.

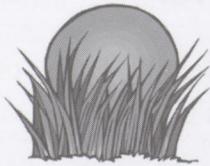
This meeting also has strange things happen on the day it is played. Last year the country had a major power outage and 25 million people were without electricity. This year our governor added some electricity to the state when he shocked the world with his announcement. This also turned out to be the third year in a row that we had a hole-in-one on the same hole. Now the question we are asking is who will make one next year?

George McRoberts from Tuckahoe Sand & Gravel continued his generous ways by sponsoring our lunch. By the end of the year he and his company will have done this 4 or 5 times and it is really appreciated. Our closest to the pin contests were funded by CCI, Plant Food, Storr Tractor and The Terre Co. The long drives were not funded but the qualifiers will now be able to compete in the state event at the Championship in October.

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GCSANJ *news*

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The winners from all three flights were Jim Cross, Matt Dobbie, Eric Hanisko, Eric McGhee, Mark Peterson, Pat O'Neill, Fred Rapp, Brad Simpkins and Roger Stewart. Show up early at Ballamor guys and see if you can win your flight.

Our low gross winner was Angelo Petraglia who shot a wonderful 73. It was vintage Angelo according to Vic Gerard but the best part of the day for Angelo was that he got to do this while playing with his son. John Alexander also played well and he had a 74. Our net winners were Bill Baumert (69) and Shaun Barry (70).

Scott Evans from Spring lake was the closest to the pin on 15 with his hole-in-one and Kevin Giles was 6 ft 2 ins further away from the pin than last year because last year it was he who made an ace on this hole. John Alexander was closest on 2 and 11 with shots to 9 ft 2 ins and 5 ft 3

ins. To just hit one of these greens is great and to hit both is amazing.

Jim Cross did not make an ace but he did make an eagle and that gave him two skins. Joining him with 2 skins were John Alexander, Mark Peterson and Angelo Petraglia. Shaun Barry and Harry Harsin had one each and the big winner was Vic Gerard with three of them.

Our day again concluded with a fine meal poolside while live entertainment added to the atmosphere. It really is a great day and our warmest regards and deepest respect go to Mr. McSeaman and his staff for the wonderful job that they do for us. This may not officially be a permanent site for this meeting but there is no end in sight and if the folks here keep inviting us back we will happily return. So thanks to everyone at the club and I hope to see you next year if Ed promises not to ask for some rain. ☺

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Pine Valley opens its doors

By Shaun Barry

On September 13, 2004 the GCSANJ had a very unique experience. The meeting site for their monthly meeting was the number one golf course in the world. How did this happen? Why did this happen? The simple answer to both of these questions is Rick Christian. Rick decided that he wanted to host a meeting for his peers. He knew that many of our members had never played there and it would be a very special day for everyone who was lucky enough to be picked to go. Rick asked the club for this meeting and they very graciously gave their ok.

Our final field was made up of 84 members on the Championship course and 15 on the short course. Everyone was pleased to have been picked and they thoroughly enjoyed

this piece of golfing heaven, The weather was extraordinary and it “almost” matched the conditions on the course. Mr. Christian and his staff are dedicated to working hard and smart and we could all see the fruits of their labor. This has been Rick’s way of doing things since he became head superintendent at Pine Valley at the age of 23 and he will not change. He will always strive to make things even better even if that is not possible.

Getting the opportunity to play this storied course helped inspire some of our players with their games but for many of us it was just too tough. That being said I know this was the best day of our golfing lives no matter what we shot. Gary Ramsey is the assistant to Doug Davis at Riverton CC and he was asked to fill in for Doug. His 76 was the best score of the day and I am sure he made his caddie quite happy. No throwing the ball out of the scrub for that guy. John Farrell (78), Ian Kunesch (79) and Brian Minemier (80) were close

Continues on page 13

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Continued from page 12

behind Gary's winning score. Steve Rudich (91), Harry Harsin (92), Dave Pease (94) and Tom Tucci (101) were low gross winners in their flight. The low net winners in both flights were Rich Lane (70), Paul Brandon (72), Bill Murray (76), Ken Mathis (76), Shaun Barry (75), Kevin Driscoll (76), Mike Hocko (80) and Rich Fodor (83).

The closest to the pin contests were sponsored by A.T. Sales, Jacklin Seed, Plant Food and Storr Tractor. Prizes were given to Tom Grimac (7 ft 8 ins), Phil O'Brien (5 ft), Charles McMonagle (11 ft 10 ins) and Tom Tucci (14 ins). Doug Larson, Steve Malikowski, Tim Mariner and Jeff Drake hit the longest drives on the selected holes. Their winnings were given by Jacklin Seed, Storr Tractor, The Terre Co and Wilfred MacDonald.

Double winners in the skins contest were Brian Minemier



Pine Valley superintendent Rich Christian and his two pals Dozer and Hershey.



Bill Murray successfully gets out of the Devils Asshole.

and Pat O'Neill. Winning one apiece were John Carpinelli, Keith Chapman, Ian Kunesch, Bill Murray, Fred Reidel, Jeff Riggs, Ron Simpson, Jeff Staeger and Tom Tucci.

Some of the other highlights came from Rick Christian, John O'Keefe and Bruce Peeples. These gentlemen chose not to play so someone who had never played the course might get the chance at this meeting. John Farrell and Doug Larson combined to donate \$750 towards lunch and they did this before they knew we were playing Pine Valley. Tom Crump made his first monthly meeting since his bout with cancer and he got to do it with his brother Paul who worked so hard at the course in Tom's absence. Harry Harsin has retired but he flew up from Florida to fulfill a dream. Ian

Continues on page 14



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Continued from page 13

Kunesch's third place finish here was not as good as the state fourball competition where his team came in second. These were just a few things that I thought were too good not to share with you.

The only bad things about this day was that we had to tell many of our members that their names had not been picked from the hat so they were not going to be able to play. There also was that small group that either had injured themselves or just couldn't get away from work. Hopefully we can do this again so they might get another chance. Rick would like this to happen so lets keep our fingers crossed.

I will end my report here but the memories of the day will remain with me forever. Thanks for everything Rick and please let everyone at the club know what a wonder-



Ken Krausz hit's a real "bomb" off the #1 tee.

Continues on page 15

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Continued from page 14

ful time we had and thank them for letting us enjoy their golf course.

Shaun Barry, technical representative for Bayer Environmental Sciences, watched Ken Krausz and Doug Vogel leave all their birdie opportunities in the scrub and sand. ¶

Did you Know?

Birdie, the term for playing a hole in one under par was coined at the Atlantic City



Country Club in 1903. The term eagle for two under par was soon to follow. Legend has it that a foursome including A.W. Tillinghast would comment “that was a bird of a shot” which evolved into birdie.

The Atlantic City CC is an absolutely fabulous conditioned golf course maintained by superintendent Jeff Kent. The back nine wanders through marshland offering bird-watchers spectacular opportunities while the wind wreaks havoc with birdie opportunities. ¶

Congratulations

A round of applause goes out to Ian Kunesh and his partner Brian Komline for taking second place in the 79th New Jersey State Golf Association Four Ball Championship. At the press conference following the match the national golf media grilled Kunesh about losing 6 & 5. “Our goal coming in was to get to the finals. We got to the finals. We did accomplish one thing.” The championship was held at the Alpine Country Club where Steve Finamore CGCS always presents spectacular conditions. Ian now sets his sights on the GCSANJ Championship to be held at the Ballamor Country Club. ¶

Obituary

Robert Martin

Robert Martin, former assistant superintendent of the Greenacres Country Club, passed away on August 18, 2004. Martin was 44 years old.

Bob started his career working for Jeff Wetterling CGCS at the Forest Hill Field Club and moved on with Jeff to Greenacres where he worked for 6 years. He left the golf business to teach building and lawn maintenance at the Arthur Sypek Vocational Tech Center in Ewing Township.

Martin was a devoted father and husband and a United States Marine Corps veteran.

He is survived by his wife Carol and children Christopher (3 yrs) and Olivia (1 yr). A trust fund has been set up for the children and donations can be made to: The Christopher and Olivia Martin Trust, c/o Wachovia Bank, 891 Brunswick Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08638. ¶

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Wild birds

Continued from page 4

Wildlife Rehabilitation

Providing care for injured and orphaned wild birds is generally not a service of state or federal wildlife agencies. Here in New Jersey, as in most other states, the care is provided by people called avian wildlife rehabilitators (rehabbers). To be an avian wildlife rehabilitator you must be knowledgeable in all aspects of bird care, pass a written test, and be licensed by both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state in which you reside. Some rehabbers work at home and receive only small numbers of birds each year. Others, like The Raptor Trust, operate large facilities that care for thousands of birds annually. All rehabbers are dedicated to helping wild creatures, and all provide their services free of charge. Their goal always is to return healthy, self-sufficient birds to the wild. Anyone who rescues a wild bird should get it to a licensed rehabilitator as quickly as possible. By

doing so, you have broken no law and have afforded the bird the best possible chance of surviving and ultimately being free again.

There are avian rehabilitators located throughout New Jersey. To find one in your area, call one of the following:

State of New Jersey Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife

Hampton Office 908-735-8975 (8:30-4:30)

Trenton Office 609-292-9400 (8:30-4:30)

Law Enforcement 908-735-8240 (8:30-4:30)

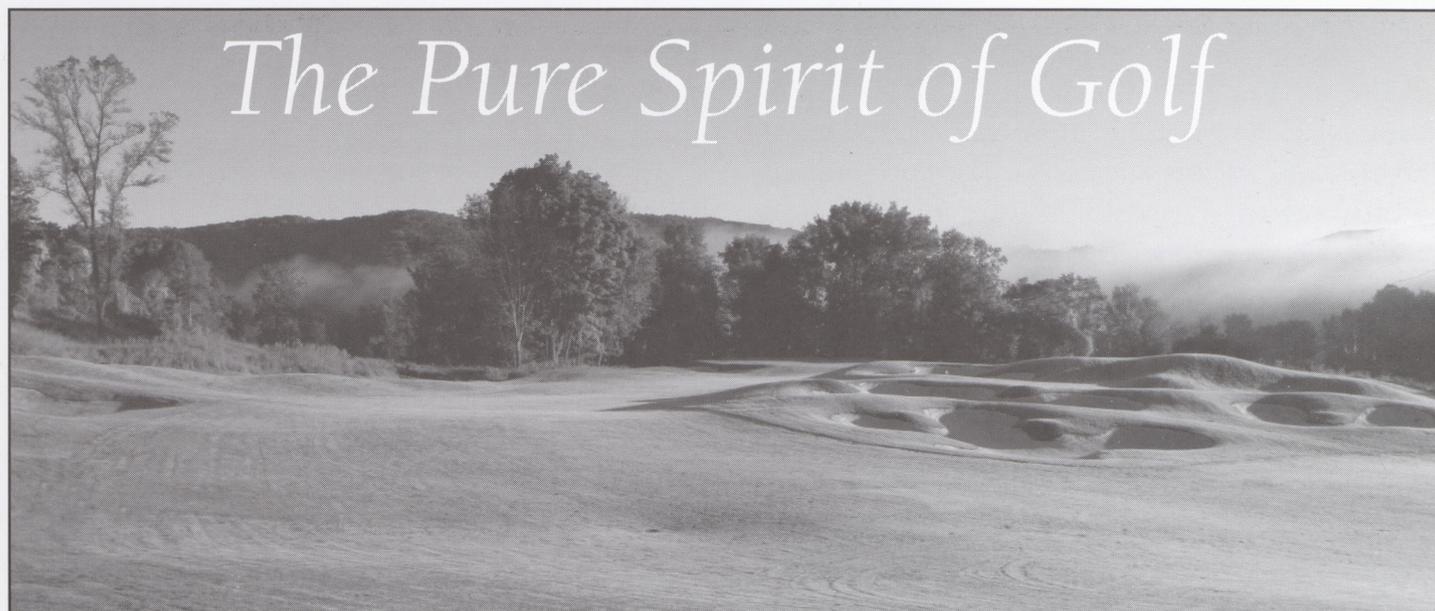
(Answering machine after hours)

The Raptor Trust 908-647-2353 (8:30-5:00)

(Answering machine after hours)

You might consider locating a rehabber near you and keeping the phone number and address on file. That way no time will be lost should an actual emergency arise.

Continues on page 17



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Wild birds

Continued from page 16

Determining What's Wrong

Any normal, healthy, wild bird, when approached by a human being, will fly away. If it doesn't, something is wrong with it. Most times one of the following is what's wrong:

- ◆ It's too young to fly away.
- ◆ It's been injured and can't fly away.
- ◆ It's sick and too weak to fly away.
- ◆ It's tame (probably because it was improperly raised in captivity) and doesn't know it should fly away.

Injured Birds

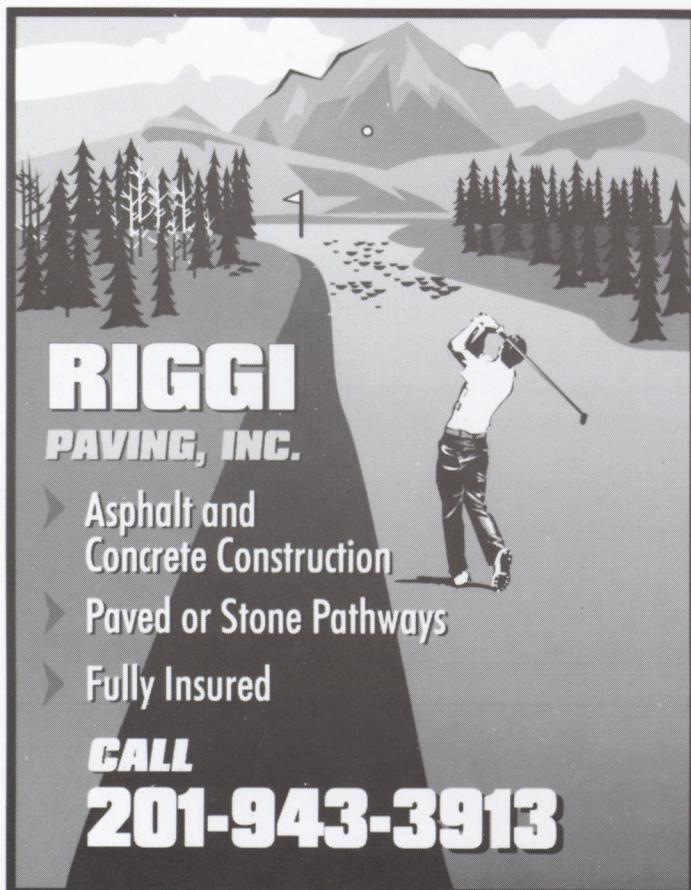
Many, perhaps most, of the injuries suffered by wild birds are caused by, or related to, human activities. The vast majority of the injuries are not intentional, but accidents, and often difficult if not impossible to prevent. (See The Raptor

Trust publication *What you can do to help prevent injuries to wild birds.*)

Most of the wild bird injuries we see at The Raptor Trust are caused by impacts. Birds regularly collide with motor vehicles, hit tall buildings and fly into glass windows and doors, not recognizing that glass is solid. These impacts result in everything from concussions to nerve and tissue damage and broken bones. Birds also get tangled in fishing line, are poisoned by chemicals, fly into wires and, sad to say, many protected species are still shot by lawless, irresponsible people with guns.

Any bird that has sustained a serious injury is in deep trouble, and without human assistance has little to no chance of surviving. Broken bones seldom heal properly on their own – not in humans, not in birds. So if you find an injured bird and you wish to help it, capture it, and get it to a rehabilitator as quickly as possible.

Continues on page 18



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Wild birds

Continued from page 17

Capturing, Handling and Transporting

The degree of difficulty and the risk involved in attempting to rescue an injured wild bird depend greatly on the following: what kind of bird it is, how big it is and what's happened to it. In general, small birds are easier and much less risky to handle. A hawk that's been hit by a car and knocked unconscious is no problem to pick up, but the same bird, if alert, can be a handful. An injured bird will not know you are trying to help it and will resist your efforts in whatever way it can.

Most of the injured birds people find, primarily songbirds, are easily handled and pose little risk to their rescuers. Large birds like geese and swans are much more difficult to capture and handle because of their size and strength. They use their wings as weapons and can deliver serious blows with them. A few groups of birds such as raptors, loons, herons and egrets can be risky, even dangerous to handle.

When rescuing these birds the rescuer must take precautions to avoid being stabbed, bitten or clawed by the "rescuee."

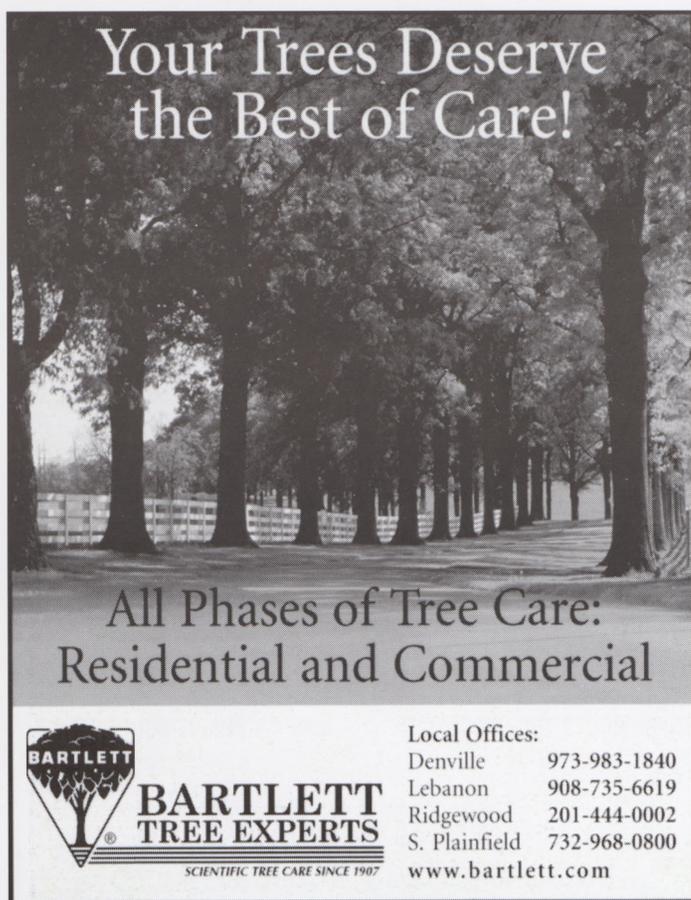
The best way to contain and transport an injured wild bird is in a cardboard box. Shoe boxes work well for small birds and can usually be found around the house. Larger and heavier boxes can be obtained from a super-market. The box needs to be large enough so that the bird fits comfortably in it without being cramped. Punch a few air holes in the sides and put a towel or a piece of old carpeting on the bottom so the bird is not on a slippery surface, and tape the top closed. Small birds may be safely transported in a paper bag, again with a towel to stand or lie on. Airline sky kennels and other pet carriers can also be used. Placing the bird in a *closed, secure, darkened* environment is very important. It will help keep it calm, reduce additional stress and prevent it from causing further injury to itself. *Do not transport wild birds in wire cages or glass aquariums.*

If you should find an injured bird in a situation you cannot resolve yourself, don't risk getting injured – get help. Call your local animal control officer or a rehabilitator for advice.

Songbirds are by far the most common group of birds people come in contact with. They are generally quite small, often tiny, colorful birds that are not difficult to handle. Injured songbirds are easily captured, by simply walking up to them and picking them up in your hands. If you're apprehensive about touching them with your bare hands or afraid of being bitten (seldom very hard) use gloves. If you own or can borrow a small fishing or butterfly net, you can use that. Or you can drop a lightweight towel or tee shirt over the bird to secure it. Handle the bird gently to avoid further injury.

Wading birds such as herons, egrets and bitterns are difficult to handle and can be very dangerous to rescue. Most are large (Great blue herons are four feet tall), long-legged, long-necked, birds with formidable beaks. They primarily eat fish, capturing them by stabbing and impaling them with their beaks. These birds are capable of inflicting a painful and serious wound. Be careful when handling them. The best way to capture any of these birds is with a long-handled,

Continues on page 19



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Wild birds

Continued from page 18

large fishing net. If a net is not available, use a blanket or coat and cover the entire bird before picking it up. If you must carry the bird in your arms, be sure to keep its beak away from your face. Place it in a box suitable for the bird's size, and keep it warm, dark and quiet until you can get it to a rehabber.

Loons are dangerous to handle because, like herons, they have long, sharp, stabbing beaks. If you come across a stranded loon, you won't have to chase it to capture it because once on the ground, they stay grounded. Their legs are located so far back on their heavy bodies that they are very clumsy on land and cannot take off from solid ground. To pick them up it's best to employ the "cover 'em completely technique" using a coat, blanket or heavy cloth of some kind. If you must hold the bird, be sure to hold the head or beak

firmly with one hand, keeping it away from your face. Use a heavy cardboard box for transport.

Raptors are another group of birds that can be dangerous to handle. Also known as birds of prey, they include hawks, falcons, eagles and owls. Raptors come in all sizes from diminutive American kestrels, not much larger than Blue jays, to huge eagles with seven foot wingspans. The most common species in New Jersey are Red-tailed hawks, American kestrels, Great horned and Screech owls. (See Raptor Trust publications *Hawk Facts* and *Owl Facts*.) Raptors can be recognized by their hooked beaks and taloned feet. Although their beaks are formidable weapons, the real business end is their incredibly strong feet. Their grip is vise-like, and large hawks and owls are capable of seriously hurting a human. The best way to capture an alert raptor is to completely cover it with a jacket, coat or blanket. If pos-

Continues on page 20

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Wild birds

Continued from page 19

sible wear heavy gloves. Gather up blanket and bird together, keeping it away from all parts of your body that you deem valuable. Cardboard boxes work well for transport.

By rescuing an injured or orphaned wild bird you've taken the very important first step in saving its life. You've taken it out of harm's way and have it safe and secure in a box. We strongly urge that your next step be to get it to a qualified and licensed person as quickly as possible. Do not try to raise a baby bird yourself, no matter how appealing, or treat an injured one, no matter how tempting. Realistically, even experienced rehabilitators can't save them all, but they can offer the bird its best second chance at survival, self-sufficiency and freedom. **L**

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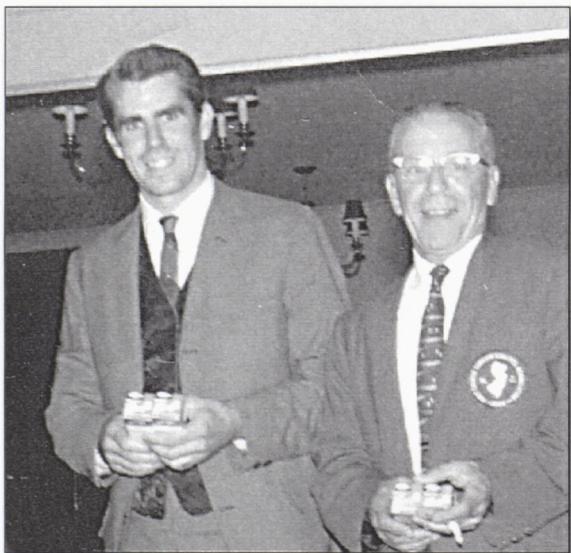
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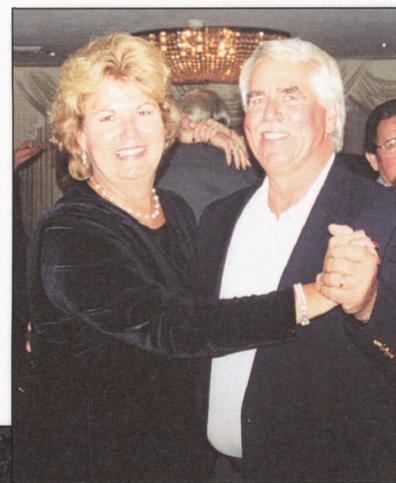
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Harry Harsin retires



A dashing Harry Harsin accepting 6 golf balls along with Sabby DeFalco after winning one of many tournaments. Circa 1968.



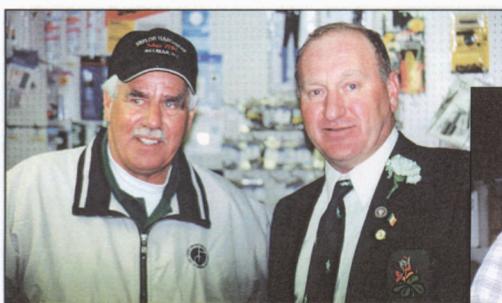
The king and queen of the Presidents Ball – Harry and his beautiful wife Rita.



Harsin captures the 1990 Invitational along with his Greenbriar Woodlands teammates.



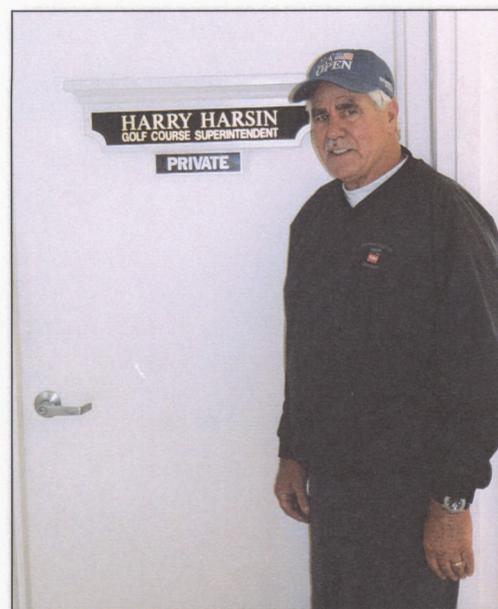
Harry proudly represented the GCSANJ at the MET Team Championship at the Westchester CC.



Bill Murray is in awe of the 3 time GCSANJ Championship winner.



GCSANJ vice president Bruce Peeples congratulates Harry on his long successful career.



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