



THE GREENERSIDE

March-April 2006 • Volume 30 Number 2

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY



THE PINE BARRENS GOLF CLUB
site of the April GCSANJ monthly meeting

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

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Art, Typography and Printing by
AlphaGraphics, Wayne, NJ
973-692-9090 • FAX 973-692-9032

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Around the water cooler

Wow. Did you see the picture of Jim Snow in Golf Course News? Its suitable for framing and awaits his autograph. • Ken Krausz CGCS got plenty of satisfaction rolling with the Stones in Atlanta courtesy of TurfNet.Com. • Thinking of a new maintenance building? Consider the following. Pete Pedrazzi Sr., Jim McNally and Dave Brubaker found the putting conditions of Elliott Lewis' new garage floor quite poor. Elliott never top dresses or rolls his floor. Never has, never will. • Congratulations are in order for Jim Murphy on becoming a full professor at Rutgers. • The Water cooler man leaves you with this great observation from the 1942 NJGCSA minutes. "All the boys are having help trouble these days. Those that have not have troubles, those that have - have even more!" 🍷



John Hyland makes a fashion statement at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Morristown.

On the cover:

The Pine Barrens Golf Club maintained by
the crew of Jeremy Daubert.
Photo courtesy of Empire Golf.

President's Message

Roger A. Stewart Jr., CGCS TPC at Jasna Polana

The golf season is upon us and most superintendents I talk to are feeling pretty good about things right now. It's been a good spring to get some things done with mostly dry conditions. The only thing that could mess that up is continued dry conditions that eventually lead to drought conditions. We narrowly avoided the first stage of regulation at the end of April when we received over two inches of rainfall in most areas. However, we all know that if this trend continues it could mean a difficult summer ahead. I recently had an inspection visit from the NJDEP Department of Water Enforcement. This was the second time we have had a visit in the last three years. The person from NJDEP was Laura Dougherty and she was helpful, informative and proactive in keeping us compliant with regulations. She worked through some discrepancies she had found in our reporting from 2005 and was very helpful in correcting the mistakes. In addition, she did her very best to explain the water allocation regulations which helped us clarify some questions we have had since the last drought. There has always been some intrepidation in regard to the water regulations and their enforcement. Yes, it can be intimidating because the superintendents I know want to be compliant in every way. They don't want to miss something and draw attention, or worse yet be the recipient of violations and possibly fines. We also have a big responsibility to our golfers and members who play our courses to provide the best playing conditions possible. Through the efforts of our Government Relations Committee and their work with AWC and State Street Associates, we have been able to make our voice heard in Trenton. This will help if and when restrictions are enacted in the future. But perhaps most important is how each of us can act as our own advocate by being proactive with our irrigation practices. The message is use water judiciously when you need it and conserve it when you don't. Together we all will benefit.

Regarding GCSANJ, were you one of the lucky ones at the GCSANJ meeting at Pine Barrens? 144 players and one of the biggest and best meetings we have had. Congratulations to Jeremy Daubert and his staff for providing a great course. Look for a repeat at Neshanic Valley in May and continued monthly meeting enthusiasm in 2006. For those of you who need a mid season break and want to do something nice for your friends, your wife, or your significant other, there is the Summer Social on July 8th. A Dinner Cruise on a Mississippi

River Boat. This promises to be a great evening of relaxation and fellowship. Get your reservations in now for a really great time. The Board of Directors will conduct their second Board Meeting of 2006 on Tuesday, May 23 at The Gieger Center at Rutgers. In addition to normal business issues, Chris Carson will be giving us an update on recent developments within NJTA.

Best wishes for a great 2006 season! 🍷



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Dear GCSANJ Member,

The GCSANJ Board of Directors has approved a membership drive. Applications received from April 1, 2006 through August 31, 2006 will qualify for the prize. The first sponsor listed on the application will be considered the member who referred the new member to GCSANJ. The member referring the most applications approved will be rewarded with a \$400 American Express Gift Card. The winner will be presented with gift card at the Crystal Conference and Golf Classic in November.

Good luck to all members!!

Sincerely,
Bradley D. Sparta
Membership and Roster, Chair

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County Muni's, The Place to Play

By Robert McNeil

Throughout New Jersey there has been an insurgency of new municipal golf courses developed over the past 5 years; Charleston Springs (North and South) in Monmouth County, Heron Glen in Hunterdon County, Neshanic Valley in Somerset County and Mercer Oaks East in Mercer County. These are not the typical layouts players expect at a municipal facility. In fact, some have been recognized as being amongst the best public courses in the state. Of course, Monmouth County continues to set the standard for quality municipal golf in New Jersey...but look out!

More traditionally, municipal golf has been thought of as a place to play that wasn't overly challenging, with at best, marginal conditions. Certainly not memorable or worthy of championship status. Most recently Bethpage Black on Long Island, host of the 2002 U.S. Open, put traditional thinking aside. Though the goal of most municipal courses is to serve the constituency, the success of Bethpage Black and the

newly built facilities throughout the state have established a new benchmark. No longer are players satisfied with poor conditioning, featureless landscapes or courses void of strategic engagement. Municipalities are now charged with finding ways to provide their residents with a product of which everyone can be proud. Easier said than done.

In 1997, The Northeast Golf Company was retained by Bergen County in northeastern New Jersey to establish a long-range master plan for improvements to its four course 72-hole system of municipal golf. The visionaries at the County, led by General Manager of Golf Courses, Kevin Purcell, may have seen the writing on the wall. Bergen County currently operates Rockleigh Golf Course in Rockleigh, NJ (Rebecca Hawkins), Darlington Golf Course in Darlington, NJ (David Werner), Overpeck Golf Course in Teaneck, NJ and Orchard Hills in Paramus, NJ (Pete Evans). The County has also recently purchased a 5th course, Valley Brook in Emerson, NJ, to meet the growing demands of its players.

In light of the state of golf in the late 90's, with some of the new courses mentioned above in planning and the Tiger Effect in full force, Bergen County officials felt it was time to make improvements that would change the way their residents perceived "their" golf courses.

Continues on page 6



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Calendar

June 12-18, 2006 U.S. Open, Winged Foot G.C., Mamaroneck, NY
Host: Eric Greytok

June 22, 2006 GCSANJ Monthly Meeting-Glen Ridge C.C.
Host: Mike Vacchiano
Contact: Ineke Pierpoint 1-866-427-2651

July 8, 2006 GCSANJ Summer Social
Point Pleasant, NJ
Host: Gentleman of District III.

County Muni's,

Continued from page 5

The process began with a Comprehensive Enhancement Plan being developed for each course individually. The team of project consultants included the staff of The Northeast Golf Company, GEA Engineering (drainage analysis), Storr Tractor (irrigation), Neglia Engineering (wetland consultation) and William Buchanon (construction consultant). Each golf course was studied from top to bottom to identify improvement priorities. Greens, tees, bunkering, fairway contours, irrigation capabilities, cart paths, trees and drainage were all reviewed. Over time features had worn, strategies changed, technology advanced, competition gained, history was lost, all having some level of effect on the overall quality of the golf facilities.

The Comprehensive Enhancement Plan provided the County with a vehicle to manage these inevitable changes for the betterment of the golf courses, for the players, but

more importantly as a financial asset. In much the same way you way you would update your kitchen to improve your living conditions and add value to your home.... the County believed that that well-planned enhancements to their golf courses would bring great enjoyment to the players and add real economic value. The conclusion, these courses had the foundation to be much better, but considerable improvements would be required.

In many cases the findings or vision outlined within the Comprehensive Enhancement Plan can draw great excitement on the surface, but the ability to execute the Plan is quite another matter. When developing a master plan it is imperative that a level of commitment is established, both financially and personally. In the case of Bergen County that commitment was driven by Kevin Purcell and supported by

Continues on page 9


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Old Tom Morris

County Muni's,

Continued from page 6

County Executive, Dennis McNerney. Their ability to garner funding within the County's financial structure, instill a new attitude in the personnel at each of the courses, communicate excitement to the public and spend the necessary time with the architect and builder to get it all right is the key to making a project of this magnitude work.

Over the course of the last 8 years the County has taken aggressive steps toward the execution of these plans. Working with Sam DiPasquale and Landtek Golf Construction, Rockleigh GC and Overpeck GC have been completely renovated with all new tees, bunkers, cart paths, several new greens and a few new holes. The County worked with Storr Tractor and National Sprinkler to update the irrigation systems and numerous trees have been removed or pruned to improve turf and playing conditions. In 2004, Rockleigh GC was recognized as the Runner up for Best Renovation in the Country by Golf Inc. Magazine, a testament to the hard work of superintendent, Rebecca Hawkins.



Rockleigh #4 following renovation.

Currently, Turco Golf Construction has begun the \$3.5 million dollar renovation of Darlington Golf Course in Mahwah with the shaping of the new 11 and 12 holes. These holes along with new features throughout the course are certain to get the attention of golf enthusiasts in the County and are benefits of working with a dedicated team that can see the future of municipal golf.

There is no question that Bergen County is now part of the inspiring "Municipal Golf" tradition in New Jersey.

Robert McNeil is the principal golf course architect for the Northeast Golf Company.

"That's how it was reported"

Compiled By Doug Vogel

- Patrick Finn, green keeper of the Warner Meadow (Mass) Golf Links, was killed by a bolt of lightning while he stood under a tree holding an umbrella for his green chairman. That's how it was reported on September 12, 1901.
- Greenkeeper David Honeyman proposed to the green committee to have a flock of about 300 sheep keep the grass down at the Lenox (Mass) Links. The old golfers at the club praised the sheep because "they are better than men to keep a golf field in condition." That's how it was reported on August 17, 1895.
- The development of caddies in some cases resulted in finding those who were able to take the position of green keeper, for the caddies proved active and willing and were less phlegmatic than the average green keeper. That's how it was reported on November 26, 1899.



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A Gathering of the Clans at Pine Barrens GC

By Shaun Barry

The 2006 GCSANJ monthly meeting schedule has started out very strongly. Jeremy Daubert is one of our quiet young guns who up until now probably was pretty unknown to most of our members. After his hosting of a joint meeting between our association and the Philly association at Pine Barrens, that can no longer be said. Both he and the golf course were outstanding and all that we heard were raves. His assistants are Dave McDonough and Dave Taylor and they spent many long hours with Jeremy and the staff preparing for this event. All of their efforts made the course ready for a "major" and having 144 knowledgeable strangers seeing your course is a major event. Our thanks go to everyone and I hope they know that they really earned our respect as well.

Dr. Bill Meyer took some time off from his busy work schedule at Rutgers to give us a great view of what is happening with the new turfgrasses. Dr. Meyer is an inspirational speaker especially when he is talking about his passion. In spite of the wonderful aroma coming from our impending lunch there were many questions. That is a sure sign of a successful presentation.

Our lunch and dinner sponsors didn't get noticed in the meeting announcement but their donations were a major reason for the generous price we were able to offer our members. These companies were Dry-Ject, Floratine, Lebanon and ProAer. Many thanks to each one of you for helping us with the costs. Another reason for our costs were

Rudy Virga and Barbara Iasillo. This management team really tries to do everything that they can for us. It is a special feeling working with them and I hope they will want us back.

With the large field, we had to play the course from the blue tees. We wanted to make it as large as possible so everyone could fit in a little easier. With a golfer of the caliber of Chet Walsh (Philly) the length didn't matter. He easily shot a 73 to record the best gross score. John Farrell (77) defeated Doug Larson on a match of cards for second place. Bob Prickett is back and his 66 took the net prize while Mark Peterson (73) and Bill Murray (73) placed second and third. In the higher handicap group Ken Jeinnings (Philly) had low gross (82) and low net (67) but a player can only win one prize so he took low gross. Rich Hendrickson (91) took second on a match of cards with Chris Zelle. The low net winners in order were Wendell Beakley (68), Scott Bills (68) and Dave Pease (73).

Once again our affiliate members have responded to our request for sponsorship. Each skill prize was donated by the companies listed below. When you speak with them please say thanks.

Sponsors for the Closest to the Pin contests were Dry-Ject, Philly Turf, Storr Tractor and Vic Gerard. Winning these contests were Bob Prickett (18ft. 3ins.), Mark Fine (5ft. 1 in.), Lou Bosco (5ft. 1 in.) and Chet Walsh (9ft 3 ins.) Our long drive sponsors were Atlantic Irrigation, Bob

Continues on page 14



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A Gathering

Continued from page 10

Fields, Philly Turf, Storr Tractor and Chris Zelle. Earning these prizes were Ed Day, Matt Dobbie, Matt McAllister, Jim Pelrine and Bob Prickett. Dave Taylor felt strong and he won two of these contests.

Our skin winners were led by Mark Peterson who earned two skins with his eagle. Mark Fine, John Gosselin, Ken Jeinnings, Mark Kuhns, Brian Minemier, Steve Rudich, Brad Simpkins and Chet Walsh had one each. We did schedule 11 team matches between our associations. Not everyone returned a card but from what we have it appears this friendly competition went to NJ by a point.

It was a great day with a large turnout. We had a special guest join us. Jeff Surrette who is the executive director of the Philly PGA section was an honored guest and he hopes to have our organizations work even closer in the future. The day was great for many reasons but the key part was because many of our Philly brethren crossed the river to join

us. Many thanks to Sean Remington, Kristen Liebsch and Jeff Edwards for making this happen and once again many thanks to everyone at Pine Barrens.

Shaun Barry is the 2005 recipient of the GCSANJ Distinguished Service Award.



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Birth announcements

On July 15, 2005 Kevin & Christine Tansey became parents when Kaelyn entered the world. She was only 6 lbs 6 oz's and 20 ins long but she became the center of the world for Kevin and Christine. Kevin is the superintendent at The Pines course at Sea View Marriott and everything is well with his family and life in general.

Jessica and John Mc Monagle were born on February 10, 2006 to proud parents Patricia and Chuck Mc Monagle. They came into the world a little early, but when they left the hospital Jessica was 5 lbs. 8 oz's and John was 7 lbs. 2 oz's. Chuck is the superintendent of the Raritan Landing Golf Course and has nothing but high praise for the miracle workers of the Overlook Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. 



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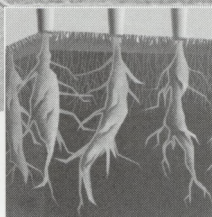
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Pine Barrens showcase



GCSANJ President Roger Stewart congratulates Jeremy Daubert on his efforts in hosting the joint Philly/GCSANJ meeting.



Rogers, Mishkin, and Murray enjoy the post golf festivities.



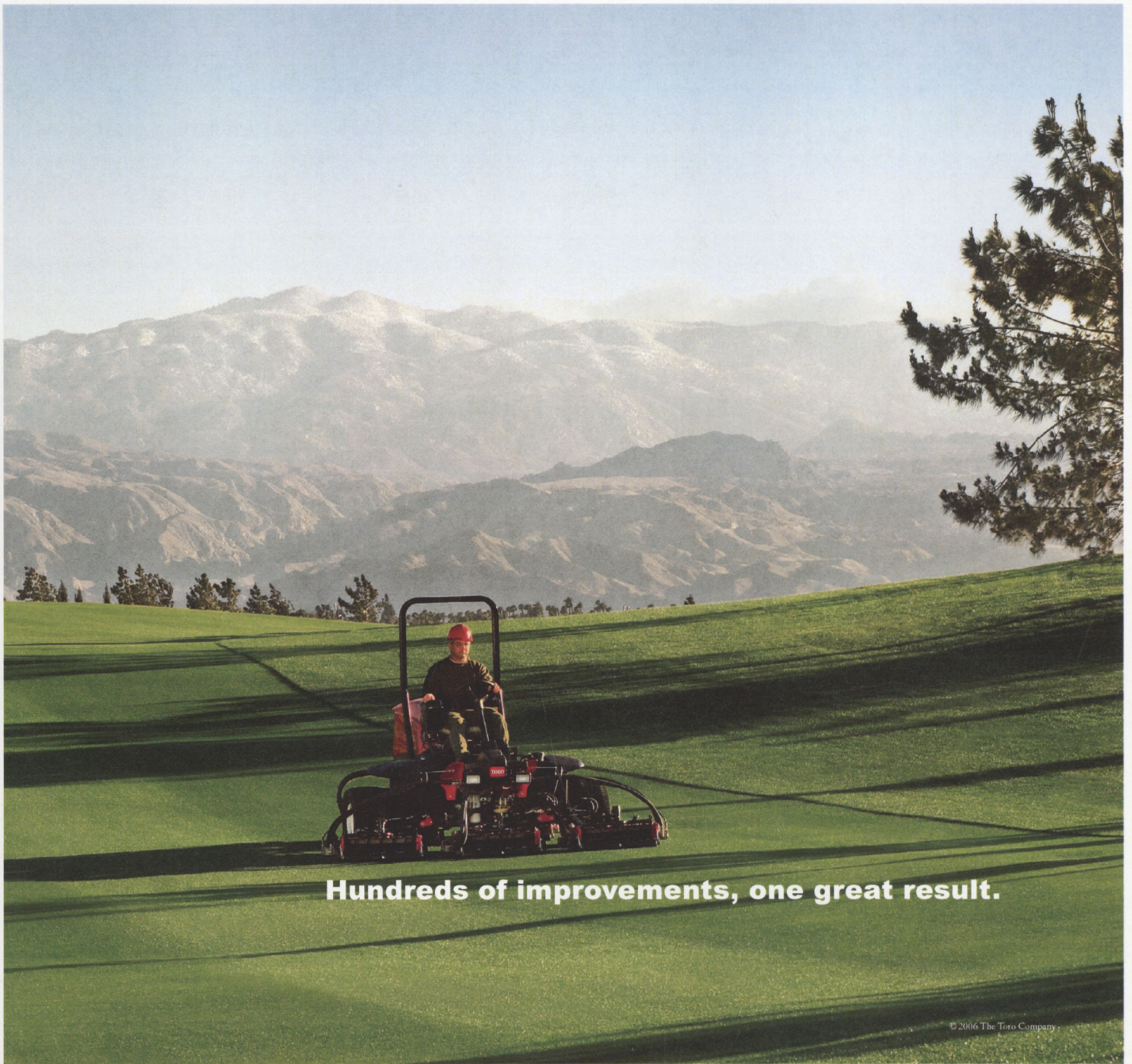
Pat O'Neil, Matt Dobbie, and Mike Hocko kick back after a day of golf at Pine Barrens.



Roger extends the grip of appreciation to Mark Kuhns and presents him with a photo signed by all the volunteers at the 2005 PGA.



The Pine Barrens staff of Jeremy Daubert, Dave Taylor and and Dave McDonough along with Peter Van Drumpt listen to the speaker.



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