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Greate Bay Country Club - Hole 9
Somers Point, NJ
April 27th Joint Meeting
with Philly GCS

Rutgers Turf Students Compete in the Turf Bowl



Photo Courtesy of David Breeding NJAES

L to R: Dr. Richard Hurley, William Reardon, Justin Hughes, Stephanie Alea, Keith Eilertsen, Tucker Brownlee, Zane Raudenbush, GCSAA President Mark Kuhns CGCS, Katelyn Venner, Gregory Bohus, and Timothy Sibicky.

On February 6, while attending the Golf Course Industry Show in New Orleans, Rutgers Turf students competed in the annual “Turf Bowl.” This prestigious event was a three hour extensive and comprehensive test of Agronomy and turf related subjects. Included in the test were questions and hands on identification of turfgrasses, diseases, soils, fertility, insects, weeds, topdressing, mowing, equipment, math, calibration, general management, and a written case study exercise.



In total eighty-four teams representing Universities from across the US participated in the “Turf Bowl.” Each team consisted of four students who worked together during the three-hour testing.

The first team from Rutgers consisted of Justin Hughes, Will Reardon, Zane Raudenbush and Kate Venner. Team two included Stephanie Alea, Tucker Brownlee, Greg Bohus, and Keith Eilertsen.

Dr. Richard Hurley who accompanied the team on the trip said, “Our first team finished 12th out of 84 and our second team finished 35th. Dr. Bruce Clarke, Sabrina Tirpak and I all helped with the pre-trip study preparation for the Turf Bowl and we are all very proud of our students.”

The Rutgers Turf Club, under the leadership of President Justin Hughes, raised money for travel expenses to the event by conducting a “Citrus Sale” this past fall. Additionally, funds were donated to the Rutgers Turf Club by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of NJ and Grass Roots Company to enable the Club to send a second team to compete in the Turf Bowl. Many thanks to all who assisted with the Citrus Sale and those who provided donations.

Dr. Hurley felt that “All in all it was a great event exposing our students to the turf industry and providing an opportunity for our students to network with industry professionals and to meet many leaders in the green industry.”



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In this Issue

From the President	4
Executive Director & Calendar	5
Winning Tradition in Alabama	8
Velvet Bentgrass for Golf Course Turf.....	12
Neshanic Valley River-Friendly.....	17
Give Back to Members in 2009.....	18
Economic Impacts...of Golf Courses.....	19
Stanley & Leslie Cups	22
Conversation with Bill Murray, President.....	23
GCSAA "Jersey" Connection.....	29
Rutgers Turfgrass Golf Classic.....	30-31
Who Is This Member?.....	32
Patron Directory.....	42

Welcome New Members!

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COVER PHOTO

Hole 9, Greate Bay Country Club, Somers Point NJ
Photo courtesy of Ken Thompson, Superintendent, GBCC

President's Message

William Murray, Shark River Golf Club



Dear GCSANJ Member,

“Passion”

A feeling of unusual excitement, enthusiasm or compelling emotion towards a subject, idea, person or subject.

Passion is the driving force behind each and every one of us who calls themselves golf course superintendents. Whether it is just for the all out love of the game, or just the pride we all have to succeed at our profession, I know this passion is within all of you. With National, Regional and State golf associations standing by with wide eyes and watering mouths just to get the approval to hold their tournaments on our courses, our superintendents continually step up to the plate and show what type of passion and dedication is needed for this game. You should all be commended for the job you do not only hosting these “BIG” tournaments but the effort you put forth in all the events at your clubs. This pride mixed with your passion is the reason our state rises to the top of the list when it comes to the best places to play this crazy and wonderful game.

Now that we are in the middle of our “down time” and the ground is frozen solid, I sometimes find myself daydreaming for warmer weather and the start of a new season. This though is the time of the year for all of you to get reacquainted with your families, get all your equipment back in shape or just piece together a winning plan for the upcoming season. Now I want to remind everyone of the upcoming events on the horizon.

February is the month that GCSAA hosts the Golf Industry Show in New Orleans. This year one of our own Mark Kuhns will be elected president of GCSAA. Our state has not had a president of GCSAA in the last fifteen years so let us all wish Mark success for his upcoming year.

John O’Keefe is also running for a director’s position on the GCSAA board and I am sure that he will be reelected, another congrats. New Jersey should be very proud to have these two gentlemen serving on the National Board at the same time because it just doesn’t happen that often.

March we hope to introduce a seminar where we can continue to bring you outstanding education.

April will be the month that we start to play this crazy game. Our annual event with the Philly Association will take place in the Atlantic City area for another “War at the Shore” tournament. This event is a great opportunity for all of you to meet our peers from Philly and give them the whooping they deserve.

May, I believe, we will be meeting at Colonia Country Club where Lance Rogers hangs his “cowboy” hat. We all know that Lance always steps up to the plate, so let’s show our respect and make it a great day for him and his club. Also, NJTA has their annual outing at Fiddler’s Elbow, it is a great cause so get out and support it.

I hope all the members have a great start to 2009.



Listen to a response from John Alexander, GC Supt. at Cranbury Golf Club, about his recent posting in the job employment section of our website: "You guys are the best, the response was overwhelming!"

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GCSAA

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2009 CALENDAR

Check website for info.

- **April 27, 2009: Joint Meeting with Philadelphia GCS**
Greate Bay Country Club, Somers Point NJ
- **May 4, 2009: Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic (NJTA Event)**
Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
- **May 28, 2009: Monthly Membership Meeting**
Colonia Country Club
- **June 14, 2009: US Open**
Bethpage State Park
- **July 11, 2009: Summer Social**
Jenkinson's On the Beach
- **August 4, 2009: Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day - Golf & Fine Turf**
Hort Farm II, New Brunswick
- **November 10-12, 2009: Crystal Conference**
Crystal Springs Resort

KNOCK, KNOCK...

*Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP
Executive Director*



Opportunities come at different times, and my first trip to the Golf Industry Show was an unforgettable, enlightening, and wonderful opportunity to see more about what our members do on both sides of the aisle.

The show was far larger in scope than I thought (the registration brochure was an encyclopedia of speakers, events, and concurrent sessions so I should have had a clue how big this event was). I put faces to the names at GCSAA that I'd spoken with, and I met other Executive Directors/CEOs from across the country. Each and every person was genuine, knowledgeable, helpful, and loved this industry. Was I in great company!

I learned what the GCSAA does to support each chapter, but also how far-reaching the GCSAA name is in the golf industry. And with so many chapters, including NJ, showcasing the new chapter logo, ethics, and methods...it's easy to see why it matters.

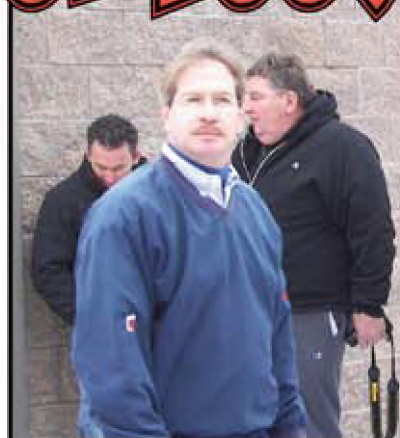
Idea sharing was part of my learning experience...and I've made acquaintances I know will become friends. It is always affirming to hear that other chapters have the same concerns and the same challenges, and the networking sessions yielded plenty of ideas and tips.

I haven't been in New Orleans for at least 8 years, so I could see the changes since Katrina devastated the area. Natives could not have been more cordial, the French Quarter was lively and fun, and the local restaurants excelled in their food.

The convention hall brimmed with education sessions of all kinds, including great speakers, networking and social options, and plenty time to do it all. We were proud to have the opportunity to help the Rutgers Turf Club be part of the Turf Bowl...and it underscores how what we do as an association has meaning to others.

I am grateful for any opportunity to learn more about this industry, to share and network, and to see how much members care. I thank you. I recommend you say yes if opportunity knocks on your door. Don't think about it...just be glad you heard the knock.

GCSANJ ANNUAL SHOP 2009



THIS YEARS WINTER SHOP TOUR WAS DOWN IN DISTRICT III ON JANUARY 19TH AND WE HAD A TOTAL OF 55 PEOPLE FOR THE TOUR. OUR FIRST STOP WAS AT RUMSON COUNTRY CLUB AND HOST SUPERINTENDENT JIM CROSS GAVE US A VERY THOROUGH BREAKDOWN OF HIS FACILITY AND PROVIDED INFORMATION THAT WE COULD TAKE WITH US. I REALLY WANT TO THANK JIM BECAUSE HE WAS GOING ON VACATION THAT DAY AND HE WAS STILL ABLE TO HOST THE MORNING SESSION AND MAKE HIS FLIGHT OUT OF NEWARK. OUR SECOND STOP WAS AT HOLLYWOOD GOLF CLUB. JAN KASYJANSKI HAS A FIRST RATE MAINTENANCE FACILITY AND AN INTERN FACILITY THAT LOOKS MORE LIKE A HOTEL. PIZZA AND DRINKS WERE SERVED AS EVERYONE WALKED AROUND IN AMAZEMENT. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, BRUCE PEEPLES AND SPRING LAKE GOLF CLUB WAS OUR LAST STOP. BRUCE AND HIS STAFF SHOULD BE COMMENDED WITH THE LIMITED SPACE THEY HAVE TO WORK WITH. BRUCE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS NEW FACILITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. EVERYONE WALKED AWAY WITH SOME GOOD IDEAS ON THEIR OWN FACILITY AND A RELAXING GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL. AGAIN, I WANT TO THANK OUR HOSTS FOR MAKING THE DAY POSSIBLE. BY MARK GRIFF



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NEW JERSEY CONTINUES A WINNING TRADITION IN ALABAMA

by Shaun Barry

Knowing how the winters are in the Northeast will always mean that any golfer coming from this part of the world has lots of rust in their game once they start playing again. This is evident every year during the GCSAA's National Championship & Golf Classic. Many talented superintendents from NJ have played on the big-stage with very little success. This forced three month lay-off has been too great of a handicap to overcome. Ian Kunesch and Jim Swiatlowski participated in the Championship Flight but "moments of greatness" were no match for the consistency exhibited by their southern competitors.

Tom Grimac, like some of our other good players, has the game to challenge anyone once he gets the chance to play and practice. He however knew that at tournament time he would not have his "A" game. For that reason he opted for the first time to compete in Classic 1 Gross rather than the Championship Flight. The level of play is still high but at least it gave him a chance. Joining him in this flight was Brian Minemier and although they didn't win they really did well. Tom finished tied for 7th with 56 points and Brian was tied for 9th with 55 points. If they can get to Palm Springs a week early next year maybe one of them will win this flight. It was also good to see Jason Dorn finish tied for 22nd place. He is always so busy we never see him at meetings and it is nice to know that he has enough game to compete at this level.

In the Classic IV Gross flight, soon to be GCSAA President Mark Kuhns, played like he was a kid again. His 34 points were enough to put him a tie for 2nd one point out of first. He plays very little but it seems that the skills he learned out in Western PA were really ones that will be with him for a lifetime. Not far behind Mark were a couple NJ guys. Our own future president, Lance Rogers, was tied for 10th (it could have been higher but that is another story) and Dan Kilpatrick whose 29 points placed him in a tie for 14th.

In addition to the competitions for individuals they had two-man team events. The Four Ball II Gross and Net events were won by the same team. They were awarded prizes for their gross score but what they did certainly is something that needs to be noted. It is a case of saving the best for last because both of these gentlemen are members of GCSANJ. The winning team was comprised of John Alexander and Dave Dudones. Their gross score was 72 and they won by 4 shots. On the net side they won with a score of 62. I am still trying to figure out how 2 guys from NJ could

do so well without practice but they obviously teamed beautifully and made all of the putts that they needed to make. Dave was willing to give me some quotes about this victory but it probably is better to speak to them in person and we may not have enough room in this article for a couple hours of quotes (just kidding Dave !!!) Way to go John and Dave. You are National Champions and it doesn't get any better then that. Jim Swiatlowski and his partner finished tied for 4th in the gross event and tied for 8th in the net event. Another strong performance

from one of ours.

We had other members competing in the Championship but their victories came more from meeting old friends and making new ones then for what they did on the course. Bob Prickett's back went out again or else his score would have been one of the reportable ones. I wonder if he hurt it pulling fish out of the ponds between shots?

This is really one great event and if you can find time to compete next year you will be glad that you did. The fact that it will be in Palm Springs should be an extra incentive in case you needed an extra reason to play some winter golf.

**Competition
in Alabama
keeps NJ
Supers busy
even after
hiatus.**

DISTRICT III CHRISTMAS PARTY



THE PREZ SAYS
'09 WILL BE A
GREAT YEAR



Another year, another great time at the District 3 sponsored GCSANJ Christmas Party. On December 17 at Bar Anticipation in Lake Como, more than 50 members came together for a lunch and libation. What stood out the most, though, was the overflowing cans of food that we donated to the NJ Food Bank. Once again, a small donation to the food bank was asked for and we were able to double the amounts from the previous years.

GCSANJ President Bill Murray and GCSAA President Mark Kuhns both addressed the crowd and wished everybody a healthy and happy 2009. President Kuhns was not done yet, as he and Ken Kubik twisted many arms selling the 50/50 raffle tickets. Dave Mishkin was the big winner (again!) this year and, in tradition, shared his winnings with the rest of us. Afterwards, the door prizes were given out and some lucky members left with GCSANJ shirts, pullovers, and hats. A good time was had by all, and it was obvious that our membership knows how to be giving at a wonderful time of the year.

HO! HO!
HO!



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Velvet Bentgrass for Golf Course Turf: History and Research Update

James A Murphy, Ph.D., Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University

Interest in velvet bentgrass (*Agrostis canina* L.) for golf course turf has been rekindled (Brilman and Meyer, 2000). Velvet bentgrass is a prostrate, stoloniferous grass that produces turf with very fine-leaf texture and very high shoot density and tolerates low cutting heights. Its genetic color can range from a deep apple-green to dark green. Other notable characteristics of velvet bentgrass include good to excellent tolerance of dollar spot disease and a lower requirement for N fertilizer and irrigation than creeping bentgrass (*A. stolonifera* L.).

Velvet bentgrass was one of several components in the seed mix known as South German Mixed Bent, which was used to establish turf on many older golf courses in the United States (Piper and Oakley, 1922). Despite velvet bentgrass typically being 10 to 15% of the seed mix (by weight), Piper and Oakley reported several golf courses (Braeburn, Brookline, Ekwanok, Siwanoy, and Wollastan) having pure velvet bentgrass putting greens and many others with as much as 50% velvet bentgrass. Two fairways at Brookline were reported to be practically pure velvet bentgrass as well as large areas on the fairways at Wykagyl. Thus, velvet bentgrass was capable of crowding out other grasses on golf courses in the northeastern U.S. under the turf management practices of the time. Piper and Oakley noted that velvet bentgrass was rarely more than 25% of putting greens in the region about Philadelphia and Washington D.C. and attributed this to velvet bentgrass being more susceptible to “brown-patch”.

Piper and Oakley (1922) reported evaluating selections of velvet bentgrass in Arlington, VA and recommended golf clubs to experiment with the grass as well. They noted selections of velvet bentgrass could differ dramatically in vigor of growth; sprigs could spread to form a patch varying from 6 inches to 3 feet in diameter in one growing season. In their opinion, velvet bentgrass formed “the finest quality of putting turf.” Shortly thereafter, there were positive reports from golf courses experimenting with velvet bentgrass putting greens in New Jersey and Massachusetts. Major R. Avery Jones (1927) described the common occurrence of one to four feet diameter patches of velvet bentgrass at Baltusrol Golf Club, on older seeded putting greens, several of

which contained as much as 80% velvet bentgrass. Jones also discussed establishing a sod nursery of velvet bentgrass, which was used to sod the new ninth green of Baltusrol’s Upper Course. He described advantages of velvet bentgrass as: excellent color, texture and density; resistance to weed invasion; less topdressing needed; less rapid growth and easier mowing than creeping bentgrass; less fertilizer and irrigation required; and, after established, does not send out runners on the surface as does creeping bentgrass. Jones stated that good surface drainage was needed to avoid winter kill of velvet bentgrass. Mr. W.R. Hurd (1927) confirmed with Jones’s assessment of velvet bentgrass, writing positively about velvet bentgrass having been grown for nine years at Kernwood Country Club in Salem, MA and two years at the United Shoe Machinery Athletic Association Golf Club in Beverly, MA. Mr. A.D. Burton (1927) wrote to dispel concerns about healing, brown-patch, winter kill, and slow spring growth based his greenskeeping experience with transplanted velvet bentgrass sod on two putting greens (Nos. 4 and 10) at Mountain Ridge Country Club in West Orange, NJ.

Velvet bentgrass also was evaluated in numerous demonstration turf gardens planted from 1928 to 1930 across the Great Lakes and Northeast regions (Monteith and Welton, 1931; 1932a). Ten golf professionals (Tom Boyd, Billy Burke, Wiffy Cox, Abe Espinosa, Johnny Farrell, John Flattery, John Golden, Tom Kerrigan, Willie Macfarlane, and Horton Smith) visited the Arlington turf garden in Virginia and putted on plots of six different grasses; velvet bentgrass was unanimously chosen by these golf professionals as the best putting surface (Monteith and Welton, 1932b).

Thereafter, the Great Depression and World War II apparently disrupted much of the focus on velvet bentgrass. In fact, a variety of velvet bentgrass, ‘Raritan’, developed by Dr. H.B. Sprague at Rutgers University was lost during World War II. Interest in velvet bentgrass also was thwarted by the unavailability of pure seed until the mid 1960s (Skogley, 1975), early inbreeding efforts that may have weakened the species (Brilman and Meyer, 2000)

Continued on pg 13

and the advent of higher turf management inputs brought about by readily available and inexpensive synthetic fertilizers (Skogley, 1975) and pesticides (Torello and Lynch, 2001). Factors commonly cited as reasons for discouraging the use of velvet bentgrass in the U.S. (except in the more northern latitudes) included excessive thatching tendency, slow recovery from damage, and susceptibility to disease (USGA Green Section, 1967; Radko, 1968; USGA Green Section, 1985a; b). Concerns about excessive thatching and susceptibility to disease were very likely related to higher management inputs (fertilizer and irrigation) being used in turf management after World War II (Skogley, 1975).

Recent breeding of velvet bentgrass outside of its traditional region of use (Brilman and Meyer, 2000) has enabled breeders to develop excellent tolerance to many turfgrass diseases (National Turfgrass Evaluation Program, 2008). Moreover, recent velvet bentgrass cultivars exhibit excellent turf performance under traffic compared with many creeping bentgrasses (Samaranayake et al., 2008).

Velvet bentgrass is reported to have a low N requirement of 0.2 to 0.4 lb 1000-ft² per growing month (Beard, 1973). However, a considerably greater N recommendation has been reported for a newer cultivar ('SR 7200') of velvet bentgrass grown on sand-peat rootzone in Rhode Island (Boesch, 2005; Boesch and Mitkowski, 2007). Frequent topdressing is commonly recommended for managing thatch accumulation in velvet bentgrass turf (Turgeon, 2008); growth regulation, rolling, and grooming are additional management practices that golf course superintendents use to produce a smooth, consistent, and firm putting surface (Zontek, 1989; 1997). However, the use of these practices on velvet bentgrass is not well understood. A more comprehensive understanding of management techniques appropriate to the culture of velvet bentgrass putting green turf is needed.

Update on Management Research of Velvet Bentgrass at Rutgers University Turf Quality

Our data indicate that it is feasible to manage 'Greenwich' velvet bentgrass grown on sandy loam at

relatively low N levels during mid season (0.1 lb 1000-ft² per growing month). Fertilizing velvet bentgrass at 0.4 lb 1000-ft² per growing month became excessive (puffiness) later in the season (August); however, grooming two times per week improved turf quality on plots fertilized at 0.4 lb of N per 1000-ft² per growing month by reducing puffiness. Thus, velvet bentgrass response to N fertilization in our trial was in better agreement with Beard (1973) than the recommended 4 lb 1000-ft² per year or more on sand-based root zones and 3 to 4 lb 1000-ft² per year on silt loam for 'SR 7200' velvet bentgrass in Rhode Island (Boesch, 2005; Boesch and Mitkowski, 2007). Skogley (1975) clearly described the long term risks of liberal N fertilization (> 3 lb 1000-ft² annually) for 'Kingstown' velvet bentgrass maintained as putting green turf on a fine sandy loam.

Applications of Primo MAXX (trinexapac-ethyl) on velvet bentgrass were effective at protecting the turf against excessive thinning from grooming in our trials. Moreover, this beneficial effect of Primo MAXX on groomed turf was, at times, more pronounced under lower N fertilization.

Lightweight rolling every other day had little effect on turf quality in our trial. Similar to recommendations for creeping bentgrass, velvet bentgrass should be tolerant of lightweight rolling as frequently as every other day.

Torello and Lynch (2001) recommended frequent, light topdressing with light vertical mowing to firm and smooth the surface of velvet bentgrass turf. Velvet bentgrass in our trial was very tolerant of a persistent (twice a week) regime of aggressive (0.05 inch deep) grooming. More than one season of grooming two times per week was required before unacceptable thinning of velvet bentgrass occurred. Plots maintained at 0.4 lb of N per 1000-ft² per growing month were more tolerant of frequent grooming throughout both years.

Ball Roll Distance (Green Speed)

A range of 9.5 to 10.5 feet measured with a Stimp meter is considered by some as a preferred green speed for daily play on putting greens in the northeastern United States (Niven, 2008). Green speed in this velvet bentgrass trial mowed at 0.125 inch was nearly always within this range during the first year of

Continued on pg 35

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Neshanic Valley employs operational and maintenance practices recommended by the "River Friendly" program, resulting in the reduction of the contribution to non-point source pollution and improvement of the wildlife habitat on and near the course. When it rains, runoff carries pollutants (e.g. litter, oil, soil, hazardous substances), into the waterways. This non-point source pollution poses a great threat to water quality locally and across the nation. Much of this non-point pollution can be controlled by River Friendly activities.

"Protection of our environment and our natural resources are of primary concern throughout the Park Commission ," stated Darrell. Marcinek, Director of Golf Maintenance. "The staff at all five of our golf courses fully understands the importance of the River-Friendly program and works every day to assure compliance with the responsibilities set forth."

Photo: (l to r) Ray Brown, Director, Somerset County Park Commission; Henry Patterson, Executive Director, NJWSA; Darrell Marcinek, Director, Golf Maintenance; Andrew Hojnowski, Manager, Neshanic Valley Golf Course; Tom Marshall, Assistant Superintendent, NVGC; Ed Highland, Supervisor, Golf Maintenance; Kenneth Klipstein, Director of Watershed Protection Unit, NJWSA; Taa Petti, Asst. watershed Protection Specialist, NJWSA; Tammy Banks, Assistant Superintendent, NVGC; Sandy Kaiser, Director of Community & Public Affairs, Ethicon, Inc.

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A Happy 2009 to all GCSANJ Members!

"This association shall stand dedicated as an advocate for the Golf Course Superintendent, and strive to demonstrate devotion to the industry, environment, the game of golf and the community."

When this association was incorporated in 1926, it was their leadership's dream to make it an association that looks after the well being of its members and the game of golf. Over the years, countless members have dedicated numerous hours to insure that our association and its members have had the opportunities for education and advancement in this industry. Without their efforts, this association would not be in a financial situation that has allowed us to finally succeed in attaining our goal of hiring an Executive Director.

As a result of these continued efforts, GCSANJ is in a good financial position, and the current Board of Directors would like to give back to the membership. In 2009, we would like to directly offset costs for specific social and educational events which we believe will encourage more members to participate in GCSANJ functions. It's a win-win for all!

***Every event you attend makes you eligible –
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 - ▶ One member name will be drawn at the end of the May meeting, and one member name will be drawn at the end of October meeting.
- 3. One (1) FREE trip to the National Golf Industry Show - February 2010**
 - Includes airfare, accommodations for three nights, and registration to the show.

These programs and others being finalized (ideas include subsidizing Crystal Conference fees and monthly Golf Meetings) are ways your board can help defray rising costs in today's economy. Additional ideas you have will gladly be brought to the board for discussion and possible implementation. Giving back through programs and seminars is one important way this board can meet the needs of our membership. We value and thank you for your membership and wish you and yours a Happy and Healthy 2009!

Bill Murray

Bill Murray, President

Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

Economic Impacts on Current and Future Maintenance of Golf Courses

Adam Moeller, Agronomist, USGA Green Section, Northeast Region

The current economic downturn is being felt in every sector of sports world, and golf is not an exception. The golfing population is static, competition for the entertainment dollar is fierce, memberships are down, and golf outing revenues are shrinking at many courses. Golf course maintenance operating costs, however, continue to escalate as labor compensation, fuel, and delivery charges have risen dramatically. As a result of revenue shortfalls and rising costs, golf course maintenance operating budgets across the country are being reduced or at best staying flat. A logical and fair response to a reduced budget should be lower golfer expectations. Many golfers are sympathetic to these difficult times and some will understand the need for belt tightening. However, it is likely that many more will have little tolerance for cut backs and will maintain their high expectations. That is where communication becomes crucial. Golfers need to understand the severity of your budget crunch, and the choices that have to be made.

Adjustments in the maintenance operation during tough economic times are natural, but it is important that these adjustments do not compromise the long term sustainability of the facility. The decision makers (owners, committees, advisory group etc.) and the golf course superintendent need to discuss what is most important at your golf facility. Prioritizing components of the maintenance program is essential to understand where improving efficiency and cost saving strategies are possible. Putting greens will always be first but the list can vary slightly from there down. Tees and fairways, however, are the most logical areas to follow with roughs and bunkers further down the list. Once the importance of each area is determined, specific alterations in management practices should be examined. The remainder of this article will focus on general areas where cost saving strategies should be considered.

Labor

Efficient labor operations are integral to maintaining high quality golf turf in all economic landscapes. The importance, however, is magnified in our current

economic climate. Labor generally encompasses 50 to 70 % of the total operating budget. As a result, labor is a common target when reductions are deemed necessary. Reducing the total staff size, improving efficiency, multi-tasking operations, and limiting overtime are common strategies used when times are tight. Specifically, reducing overtime and increasing the amount of part time, seasonal employees, can provide significant cost savings from the labor budget. If staff size is reduced, adjustments in maintenance programs need to parallel this change. Otherwise, it may require longer days and more overtime to prepare the course and little actual savings will occur. In terms of improving efficiency, be creative. Earlier start times should provide longer duration of unimpeded maintenance. Examine if two (or more) separate tasks can be merged into one. An example of this could be combining hole changing with greens mowing. Every course is different and thus some ideas will be beneficial while others might not be possible. Nonetheless, desperate times call for desperate and creative measures. Minimizing detailed, labor intensive hand work should be also be considered to conserve labor resources. Although hand labor can produce a highly manicured look, reducing the frequency of some of these tasks should not significantly affect playability.

In addition to on course hand labor, examine the amount of resources directed at course accessories like ball washers, benches, water coolers, etc. Having fewer of these accessories on the course will translate into cost savings. Think about all the maintenance that goes into these areas, the dollar signs can add up quickly.

Bunker Maintenance

Over the past decade, the amount of resources allocated towards maintaining bunkers at many facilities has grown substantially. Numerous golf courses have already trimmed bunker maintenance to the bare minimum and those who have not are sure to do so in the near future. Reducing bunker raking and edging frequency, switching from hand to machine raking, incorporating spot/touchup raking, and

Continued on pg 24

FOUNDATION NEWS



GCSANJ members and the GCSANJ Foundation give back!

In the top photo, the GCSANJ Foundation presents a check for \$10,500 to the Environmental Institute for Golf. Mark Woodward, CGCS and CEO of the GCSAA gladly accepted check on behalf of the EIFG. The funds came from the RTJ Invitational held at Metedeconk National Golf Club and The Barclays Hospitality held at Ridgewood Country Club.

Members of this great association stepped up to help with a great cause. GCSANJ members with help from the Foundation were able to raise significant funds for Ed Casteen. Pictured above is some of these members and the Foundation presenting a check for \$2,000 to Ed. This check will help with Ed's medical expenses.

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The 2008 Stanley Cup Winners Continue A Tradition

Unlike **The Bob Leslie Cup** this competition does not have a long history but it also was named after one of our members who passed away at a young age. **Terry Stanley** played on a college team with Fuzzy Zoeller. I think Fuzzy was paying Terry more often then he was receiving money from Terry. Even with that kind of game he loved working on the golf course so he chose to become a superintendent. Once he came to New Jersey life got better for all of us. He became one of us immediately and would be there to help anyone. He never bragged about his golf because he let his clubs do the talking. Check out The Sherwood Moore Cup and you will find his name and he was part of some of the GCSANJ teams that won the Met Team Championship. He made golf look easy. An opportunity to take a job in Florida was too good to pass up and then he got sick and left his family and friends with lots of wonderful memories. It was for all of these reasons why The Terry Stanley Cup was created. Since he was such a good player it was decided to make this a scratch event and



since he was such a good friend to everyone it was also decided to make this a team event. He would have been proud of this but he would have been embarrassed with the attention.

2007 was the first year for this tournament. In that final match

Fran and Joe Owsik defeated **Brad Fox and Josh Kopera**. Brad and Josh had beaten Tim Mariner and his assistant in 2006 but that was before it became The Terry Stanley Cup. It looked like it might be a repeat of the 2007 event but **Chris Boyle and Brad Sparta** defeated **Brad and Josh** in the finals from the North. In the south it once again was Fran and Joe winning that division.

Metedeconk National was chosen for the match. The weather was a bit cool because schedules had delayed the finals but it still was a great day to play. This was another tight match. Fran said he made par on the first hole and then took the rest of the match off. That meant Joe was playing against some pretty tough competitors but he was up to the challenge.

He attempted to qualify for the US Amateur many times as a younger player so this didn't bother him at all but it wasn't easy. Chris Boyle had a birdie putt on the 14th hole to tie the match. Before he could attempt the putt, the local press showed-up. Brad seems to feel that this was an intentional attempt to disrupt the match but when I spoke to the photographer he denied that he was there to influence the match. He was just doing his job. The putt for birdie was a little left of the hole and the match remained the same. In a few holes it was all over and the Owsik cousins had defended their title. Well done gentlemen and good luck in 2009. If Fran regains his form you may never lose but if we stop allowing the press onto the course during play maybe it will Brad and Chris's turn.

The Bob Leslie Cup Results

The 2008 event proved to be quite good with many really terrific matches. The winners from 2007 (Eric Carlson and Rich Fodor) were not able to defend so the field was wide open for new winners. There were the usual strong teams who looked good on paper and some of the other ones that did not not look good on paper or in person. The team of **Shaun Barry and Dave Pease** comes to mind immediately. How anybody could refer to them as "sandbaggers" is beyond me but one of the best young players in the state thought so after he saw Barry miss-hit an iron shot so badly it was 40 yards short of the pin but it hit the top of the rock wall and bounced onto the green. I consider that just plain luck but I guess I am wrong. Mr Pease was only able to hit the ball with one hand but when he got up and down from a bunker he became a "sandbagger." I have also been told that this has happened in the southern bracket. You have got to love a game where your friends feel comfortable enough to question your character but especially if that means you won the match. I can't wait until this year's competition.



The finals were held at Forsgate's Banks Course. It has been the site of previous finals and really is a great choice to identify the best net teams (well at least I think so...). Representing the North Flight was the very strong team of **Mark Griff and Steve Wirth**. Their opponents from the South Flight were **Paul Brandon and Tom Tucci**. Paul and Tom had advanced but never had an easy match. They very easily could have lost every match especially in the one against **Lou Bosco and Joel Collura** but somehow they came through each time. Mark and Steve had an easier time advancing through their matches. Both teams were confident but each knew it wouldn't be easy. The match was close all of the way until the 16th hole. It seems that Paul wasn't playing his best but when he birdied the 16th they went one up and then he birdied the 17 for a **Brandon and Tucci victory**. Somebody needs to tell Paul that only a few people have ever birdied both of these holes in one round. What a great victory and now your names are on a trophy honoring one of our friends who loved this industry but unfortunately left us way too soon. He would have been really proud of everyone who participated and if he could he would be playing in 2009. He can't but I hope you find a partner and have some fun and meet some new friends.

In 2009 Bill Murray has asked Dave Mishkin and Mark Peterson to take ownership of this event. They will monitor the South and Joe Kinlin will do the same in the North. There may be some slight changes that should make it better so start practicing, make sure you have a handicap that you can play to and maybe you too can become a "sandbagger".

A Conversation with our President, Bill Murray

Where were you raised and how did you make your way to NJ?

Well, I was born and raised in Lee, Massachusetts, which is a small town in the western part of the state. After graduating from the turf program at UMASS, I went to work as an assistant superintendent at a course in the eastern part of the Mass. followed by some good years as an assistant and a superintendent at two courses in Connecticut. From there I moved from Trenton N.J. to Westchester N.Y., and was an assistant superintendent and small engine mechanic for a golf course renovation company. When a good friend of mine called about a job opening, I came running down here to the Jersey shore to work for Monmouth County. After 12 years here, my good friend Shaun always told me that this is paradise and now I truly believe him.

You are a single digit handicap. Does this come easy? How does this affect your maintenance philosophy?

Having a dad who taught me the game of golf at the age of five, this game comes a little easier than someone who starts the game later in life. My dad instilled in me what the game golf is about--it's more than hitting the ball, it's about values you learn and how to apply them to your life. The many times we were looking for wayward balls, his insight and knowledge of the game was passed on to me. Without him I would never, and I mean never, be the kind of golfer or person I am today. If you have ever been to Shark River, these teachings or influences are shown all over the course.

Would you consider yourself old school traditionalist or new school cutting edge in regard to your maintenance?

I would consider myself old school traditionalist but always willing to learn new ways. With all the education out there today, I think it would be irresponsible not to take advantage of new techniques. To answer your question, I think today's superintendent should draw a degree from both schools.

As President of GCSANJ, please explain your philosophy, the BOD role, and where you see the association in 5 years?

The Board's philosophy and mine are one in the same, to make OUR association the best it can be. To serve, educate and make this association one that is always looked up to. Five years from now this association will be in capable hands and I am positive they will see to it that the above statement is achieved.

What can the membership do to help in advancing the association?

This is a great question. With the industry getting younger it will be up to the youth of this association to carry on the traditions and incorporate their own new ideas to help this association grow. This will mean more members getting involved with committees, running for board positions and making sure they attend as many functions as possible. In one simple statement -- "Get Involved".

Tell us about Ireland, your club, and how this influences your career back here?

Ireland is known as the land of green hills and little leprechauns but it doesn't end there. Tom Watson has said that Ireland is the home to the best links golf in the world and I agree. I think by now everyone knows that Shaun



Barry belongs to Lahinch Golf Club in Ireland, and thanks to him I am now a lifetime member. Everyone in the golfing industry should try to visit Ireland just once in his or her life; it's an experience that you will never forget. It is without a doubt the best golf and most scenic place that I have ever been to. And did I mention The Guinness and pub life? Whoa Bill let's get back to reality -- I take what I see and learn from the

superintendents across the pond and try to bring that flavor back here to Shark River, whether it be in bunker design or just the way they go about their agronomic practices. You know, as they say, one is never too old to learn something new.

Fifteen years from now, Bill Murray is where and doing what?

If the big guy up above is kind to me and keeps me on this earth, I hope that I will be retired and working part time somewhere. I still need to visit so many places, which will be a great opportunity for me to take my two nephews to some of the places I need to see. As far as golf, I would still like to play with my friends and make sure the superintendents of the future keep this game intact. It is the greatest game EVER.

Economic Impacts on...Golf Courses...continued from pg 19

and edging frequency, switching from hand to machine raking, incorporating spot/touchup raking, and possibly eliminating (or not maintaining) unnecessary bunkers are all things to consider when evaluating your bunker maintenance program. Remember, if mechanical bunker rakes are frequently used and liners are present, the potential for exposing the liner is increased, which could completely negate any cost saving and have a big impact on playability. Encouraging players to be more diligent and conscientious about raking their own footprints probably will not lead to a huge difference but it is still the easiest, most obvious solution for improving bunker maintenance programs. Bunkers add interest and challenge to the game of golf, however, they are hazards that are meant to be avoided and therefore resource allocation should match their importance.

Mowing Frequency and Patterns

Minimizing mowing frequency on all areas of the course is an easy way to cut fuel usage and redistribute labor toward other tasks. Tee, approach, and fairway

mowing could easily be reduced to 2 to 3 days per week, especially when combined with plant growth regulators. Rough height could be lowered slightly, which would allow for less frequent mowing and the intermediate cut of rough could be eliminated. Courses that still have their old gang mowers could give them a try. These old reel mowers will not cut seed stalks and they are slower than larger rotary mowers. However, they use much less fuel, so savings may be possible. Creating and/or expanding “no mow” natural areas can provide significant cost saving. These no mow areas, however, need to be kept natural, without any inputs, to produce significant cost savings.

Reducing mowing frequency on putting greens is difficult, but certainly possible. Double cutting can be minimized and rolling greens occasionally instead of mowing might provide some cost saving benefit. Reducing the frequency of walk mowing greens (with the exception of the cleanup pass) and switching to triplex mowing occasionally is another option.

Continued on page 27

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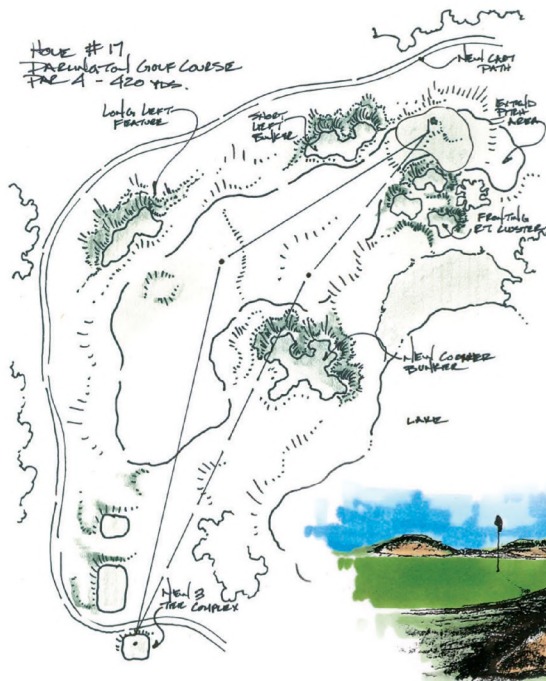
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Economic Impacts on...Golf Courses...continued from pg 24

Mowing the cleanup pass could be skipped occasionally, which would save costs and reduce stress on these areas. Slight reductions in mowing strategies such as those mentioned above should not compromise surface playability and can provide meaningful cost savings.

Mowing patterns (i.e. striping) add dramatic aesthetic quality to fairways. The efficiency of creating these patterns, however, is questionable. Rotating the direction of cut is a good idea to improve the quality cut and encourage upright growth. However, periodic dragging of the fairways may accomplish similar goals as cross cutting with much greater efficiency. Adequate rotation can still be achieved through more efficient, light/dark, half/half mowing patterns. Therefore, reducing or eliminating crosscut mowing fairways in favor of light/dark, half/half mowing can improve efficiency and conserve fuel.

Plant Protectants and Fertilizers

Fertilizer and plant protectant materials combine to typically account for nearly 15 % of the total operating budget. Thoroughly dissect your disease, weed, and insect management programs and ask yourself the following questions. First and foremost, am I doing everything possible (e.g. grass species, moisture management, fertility, air movement) to limit pathogen, weed, and insect pressure? Am I taking advantage of early-order opportunities? Could application intervals be lengthened without serious concern for disease outbreak? Can materials with fungistatic activity on multiple pathogens be used? Are there generic products that provide similar efficacy? Are periodic dollar spot infection centers tolerable in the golf course fairways? Are sporadic crabgrass populations tolerable? Do I have historic locations where insect pressure is nearly nonexistent? Are spot treating or curative applications options for certain pests? Skipping preemergent herbicide applications for some areas of the course is an option to consider. For courses where grub activity has not been an issue, eliminating a preventive application is another option. Golf courses that do not have a history of summer patch activity, preventive applications may not be necessary. My guess is that there are areas where everyone can improve upon that will strengthen the pest management programs and conserve resources.

Fertility regimes are highly variable from one course to another, however, the actual requirements are usually very similar. Nitrogen will always be the most important nutrient required for turfgrass growth and development. Phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) and various other nutrients are also important, but should only be applied based on deficiencies from a Sufficiency Level of Available Nutrients (SLAN) soil test report. Thus, do not use a complete fertilizer unless there are P or K deficiencies. Otherwise, you are paying for something that is not necessary. Always calculate the cost per pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet when purchasing fertilizer. This will help purchasing decisions in the future by identifying equally effective, less expensive products without compromising the fertility regime. A specific example of where huge cost savings has been achieved is with the use of dissolvable Agricultural Grade fertilizer products like ammonium sulfate and urea. Once dissolved, these products can be applied alone or in combination with plant growth regulators to fairways, tees, and greens and will be equally effective as other liquid fertilization products. In terms of application frequencies, use all the tools in the tool box to help make these decisions. Evaluate turf color, clipping yields, and the amount of wear and traffic to understand when and how much fertilizer is needed in particular locations. In some areas, fertilization might be completely abandoned this season, which obviously reduces costs. Turf health, however, may be compromised if fertility reductions outweigh recovery needs based on traffic and wear patterns.

Fairways are the largest of all fine turf areas and thus are one of the biggest potential areas for savings. Plant nutrient supplements (including biostimulants) applied to putting greens, however, are extremely costly and can add up quick. Do these products work as nutrient sources? Probably, but their effectiveness and cost are not usually in line with one another. Preliminary results from research conducted at the University of Maryland and the Chicago District Golf Association have demonstrated that urea tank-mixed with iron provided equal or better turf quality compared to twelve other commonly applied plant nutrient supplements. Bottom line, products without consistent, positive research results justifying their cost should be abandoned.

Continued on pg 28

Avoid Compromising Long Range Programs

As mentioned earlier, there are some areas where cost cutting can have serious and long term negative effects. Diminishing resources should never compromise long range programs like putting green rootzone management and improving grass growing microenvironments. Topdressing and core cultivation, which are integral in maintaining functional and reliable putting green rootzones, should never be sacrificed. Sand is expensive and core cultivation is a laborious. Their importance, however, should not be realized through hindsight when problems arise.

Turf grown in poor microenvironments requires more inputs to maintain and turf problems will eventually arise, despite your best efforts. The vicious cycle of needing more inputs to maintain healthy turf, losing revenue from a damaged surface, and then needing more resources to promote recovery is all too common. As such, tree work is not something to put off as the consequences can be severe. Improvements in grass growing environments (through tree work) and root growing environments (through cultivation and soil modification) does not guarantee turf health, but it certainly improves its chances!

Capital equipment budgets should be approximately 10 -20% of the total operating budget. For courses with severe economic challenges, equipment replacement may need to be sacrificed or at least scaled back in the short term. However, keep in mind that courses that get drastically behind in equipment replacement experience higher repair costs and reduced efficiency. Worse yet, such courses at some point require a large infusion of capital to get caught back up. Furthermore, if equipment replacement falls far enough behind, course conditioning will eventually be affected.

Communication and Expectation Adjustments

When significant reductions in the operating budget occur, expectations should be adjusted. Playability of fairways, roughs, and tees might change slightly and aesthetics throughout the course are likely to decline. At courses where the budgets are being cut, the pursuit for perfectly manicured, consistent surfaces will have to be put on hold for awhile. Golf is an outdoor game, ultimately dictated by the environment. How does the

saying go? If you want consistency, play an indoor game like pool or bowling. The bottom line is golf will undoubtedly survive. Changes and adjustments in maintenance operations are essential for the survival of many facilities and less crucial for others. Ultimately, communication is needed now more than ever between course officials, the superintendent, and golfers, emphasizing what changes are going to be made, why, and what to expect. Additionally, understanding specific concerns that may arise if tough weather is experienced and how it relates to budget decisions during the season between course officials and the superintendent is crucial.

Sometimes it is difficult to discern between necessary maintenance and luxury maintenance. I define luxury maintenance as unnecessary management practices that provide no meaningful impact on the game of golf. Common examples include: daily hand raking of bunkers, dew walks and intermediate rough, annual on course flower plantings, year-round fairway clipping removal (with the exception in the spring), weekly fairway divot filling, daily hole changing regardless of play volume, and the list goes on and on. Obviously, my ideas of luxury maintenance might differ from others. Nonetheless, every golf course has them and, depending on how many you have, indicates the range of cost saving potential. If these maintenance practices were no longer performed or the frequency significantly reduced, would the golf experience really change? Times are tight and challenges are definitely at our doorstep. Prioritizing the importance of each area will be extremely helpful in understanding the difference between an expendable luxury and necessary maintenance.

Figure 1. Adjustments in fairway mowing pattern can improve efficiency without having an effect on playability.



Additional figures on page 29...

The 2009 Golf Industry Show in New Orleans had strong Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey connection when two of its own were elected to the GCSAA Board of Directors. Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS at Baltusrol Golf Club was elected President and John J. O’Keefe, CGCS at Preakness Hills Country Club was elected as a Director.

Both Mark and John are imports from neighboring states, which verifies the quality of golf courses in the state of New Jersey that they now call home. The New Jersey Chapter of the GCSAA is extremely proud of the fact that their home Chapter is here.

The GCSANJ presented a watch to Mark Kuhns at the GIS in February. The engraved inscription on the back of the watch noted the position of 2009 GCSAA President he had attained and the initials GCSANJ. In this way the Association let Mark know that they are proud of what he has and will accomplish.

Mark has a passion for the profession and has promoted the position of Golf Course Superintendents to all segments of the golf industry. He has a willingness to listen to the concerns of fellow Golf Course Superintendents and to take their questions to the GCSAA Board. Mark does not just talk a good game but he does whatever it takes to accomplish positive results. Mark’s accomplishments are to be judged not only for this year as GCSAA President but for the full eight years he will have served on the GCSAA Board.

John O’Keefe has begun his second year on the GCSAA Board as a Director. John is a great representative of the profession and has proven to be a productive and respected Director of the GCSAA Board in only one year. John envisions a dramatic increase in the role of GCSAA for the benefit of the Golf Course Superintendent. The New Jersey Chapter of the GCSAA is going to benefit from the continued representation on the GCSAA Board with John.

The state Association has a resource available with Mark and John that no other Chapter can claim. They have demonstrated their leadership abilities throughout the tri-state area long before their commitment to the GCSAA Board. Therefore, feel free to communicate with either one of these gentlemen at anytime for an update on the GCSAA. ||

Economic Impacts on...Golf Courses

Figure 2. Perfectly manicured bunkers require an exorbitant amount of resources that could be used more efficiently.



Figure 3. Dew walks and intermediate rough can take up valuable resources through labor, fuel, fertilizer, and plant protectants.



Figure 4. Old technologies such as gang mowers can be highly effective in fuel conservation





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Schedule of the Day

REGISTRATION OPENS

9:00 A.M.

BREAKFAST WITH RUTGERS -- PREMIER SPONSORS ONLY

9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.

NEW FOR 2009! RUTGERS RESEARCH UPDATE

10:15 A.M. - 11:15 P.M.

LUNCH & SILENT AUCTION OPENS

11:30 A.M.

SHOTGUN START

12:30 P.M.

GRAND RECEPTION & GOLF AWARD PROGRAM

5:00 P.M.

CLOSING OF SILENT AUCTION WILL BE ANNOUNCED

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The commitment of these companies to provide Premier Sponsorship Level funding to this Golf Classic represents a significant alliance with growing commercial entities which hopefully will be sustained and increased in the future.

How Sponsorship Will Help in 2009

Partial proceeds of this year's Golf Classic will be used to help construct two new sand-based root zones totalling 20,000 square feet for golf and sports field research. For more information on how to contribute to this fund, please contact Dr. Bruce Clarke at (732) 932-9400.

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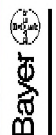


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The proceeds from the Golf Classic will be used to provide Research Grants, Scholarships, Funds for Special Projects (e.g., New Sand-Based Root Zones), Equipment, Supplies, and Facilities to support Turfgrass Research and Education at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences/Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

The New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation and the University represent a formidable alliance in support of the Turfgrass Industry in the State of New Jersey and across the country.

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- * The Soviets boycott the summer Olympics
- * Apple introduced the Macintosh personal computer
- * Vanessa Williams becomes first black Miss America

The year was 1984

- * Prince embarked on "Purple Rain Tour"
- * "Where's the Beef?" new hot catch phrase
- * Richard Petty wins his 200th and final victory
- * The Baltimore Colts move to Indianappolis in the middle of night
- * Robert Dickison, CGCS is GCSANJ President
- * Pease, Murray, Cross and Cadenelli attend wedding of their UMASS friend

If you know the answer,
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trial and at the high end or exceeded this range during the second year of this trial. Thus, velvet bentgrass can be managed to produce playing conditions (green speed) acceptable to today's golfer.

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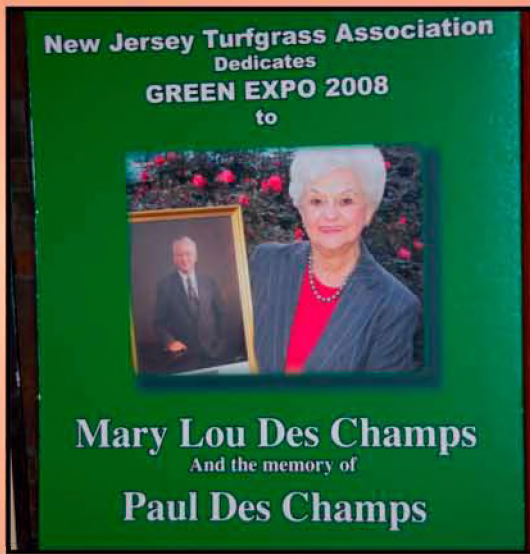
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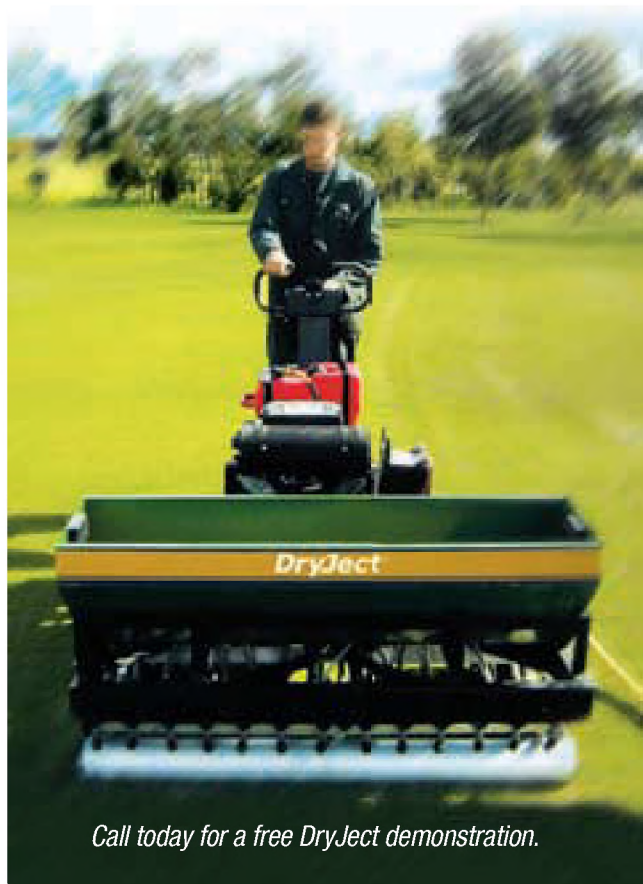
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Golf Course Superintendent

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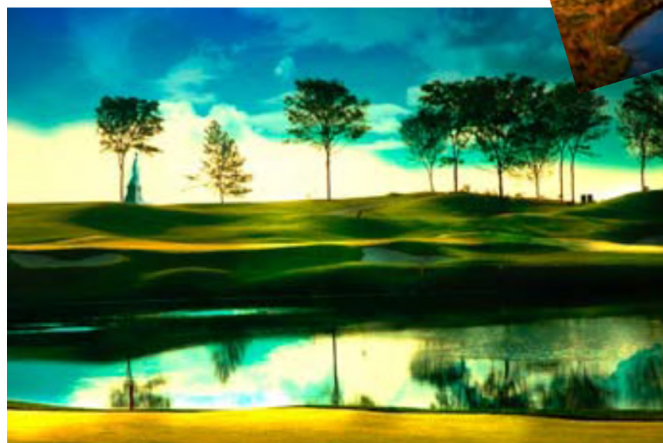
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**We encourage GCSANJ members to support
Greenside Advertisers and Patrons.**

4th Annual Summer Social - Mark Your Calendars -July 11, 2009

A GCSANJ Foundation Fundraiser



SUMMER SOCIAL IS GOING BACK TO THE BEACH!

Last year's get together on the beach was a huge success...so we're going back! This year we've improved the menu: fresh grilled hamburgers/hotdogs, ribs, BBQ chicken, corn, veggies; a raw bar with clams, oysters, shrimp/crab cocktail and we've added an ice cream sundae bar. Above all this, we will again have premium open bar for the entire event. Smokey "One Love" Starr will put an overwhelming vibe into your body and before you know it, you'll be dancin' the night away.

Attention all members!! With the economy and cost of education...why not have your children apply for a scholarship TODAY! The Foundation is excited about this year's summer social and anticipate additional funds to go towards scholarship.

Go to www.gcsanj.org to download your application and send into the GCSANJ by May 31st. There are many benefits to being a member of the GCSANJ and this is one of them...take advantage of this huge benefit!

Event Date: July 11, 2009

**Cost ~ \$ 80 per person
Guests are welcome!**

Funds raised from this event go directly back to our members!

The GCSANJ Foundation is committed to helping our members and their children with their education costs.

In 2008 The Foundation awards \$9,500 in scholarships to GCSANJ members and their children.

Congratulations!

~ Kyle S. Beakley ~

~ Allison Ceplo ~

~ Joseph Guanill ~

~ Diane Kathleen Miller ~

~ Ellen Peebles ~

~ David A. Rickert ~

~ Ronald J. Richter, Jr. ~

~ Philip Thomas Rudich ~

~ Stephanie Wirth ~

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