

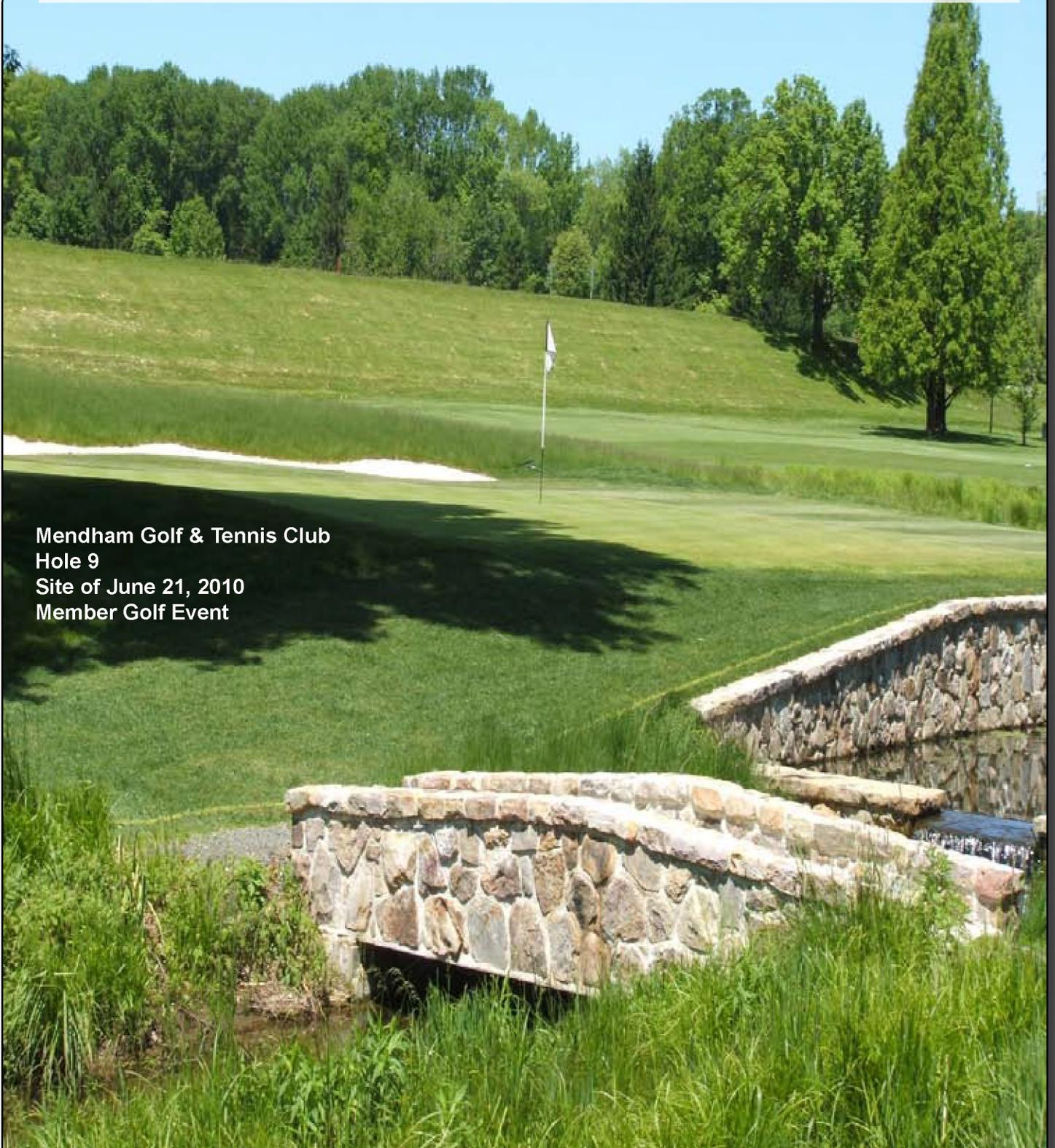


THE
GREENERSIDE

Spring 2010 • Volume 34 Number 2

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

Mendham Golf & Tennis Club
Hole 9
Site of June 21, 2010
Member Golf Event



“The FedExCup returns to Ridgewood Country Club”

From August 23-29, 2010 the Greens & Grounds Department of The Ridgewood Country Club will be hosting a hospitality tent for visiting superintendents, volunteers, staff and dignitaries throughout the first leg of the PGA Tour’s Fed-Ex Cup. This is a major undertaking with some 100 plus volunteers and staff needed each day to prepare the course.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks will be served to those volunteering and we are currently soliciting financial donations of \$1,000 to help defray the cost. All sponsors will be recognized as a sign of our appreciation for their support.

All proceeds after expenses will be donated to the GCSANJ Foundation whose mission is to support turfgrass research, scholarships and charities throughout the state.



If you are interested in being a 2010 Barclays Hospitality Tent sponsor, please contact me at traisch@gmail.com, 201.225.6533 or Ken Kubik, Barclays Hospitality Chairman, at kenkubik@hotmail.com, 973.252.6634.

Thank you for your support. See you in August!

Sincerely,

Todd Raisch, CGCS
The Ridgewood
Country Club

*“Battle to the Barclays”...
The 2010 PGA TOUR
Playoffs for the FedExCup
begin here!*



Sponsors who have already committed:

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<i>LaCorte Farm & Equipment</i>	<i>United Rentals</i>
<i>Matrix Turf Solutions</i>	<i>Wilfred MacDonald</i>





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

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Printing by
AlphaGraphics, Totowa, NJ
973-812-6600 • FAX 973-812-6601

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Welcome New Members!

Nicholas Flynn, SM, Greenbriar Woodlands
Curtis Chambers, SM, Panther Valley Golf Club
Sean Lynch, SM, Pinch Brook Golf Course
Matthew Sudol, AF, Sandscapes
Jeff Wyant, AF, Planet Air
Jeff Smolha, AF, Valent USA
Ralph Henninger, AF, Fisher and Son
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with the subject "GCSANJ Email Address"

COVER PHOTO
Mendham Golf & Tennis Club, Mendham NJ
Photo Courtesy of Chris Boyle, CGCS

President's *Message*

While finishing my round of golf at Navesink Country Club, I wondered to myself if everyone playing in the GCSANJ May meeting that day was aware of the great family that we are part of? Almost every segment of the golf industry has been playing golf during my last couple of rounds, from golf course superintendents and our affiliate representatives, to USGA advisory staff, club officials and university professors. I am sure some of you would never have thought, when you were just getting started, that this profession you chose was going to bring you into contact with so many distinguished people of our industry. With so many associations in this great state of New Jersey dedicated to the profession of golf, it is no wonder that this state is so highly regarded around the country.

Looking back at my beginnings in this industry, it's hard for me to believe that I am where I am now, and I am sure that my family and friends would also have to agree. What started out as a young boy finding and hitting golf balls at the local club, to being a golf course superintendent, and now the president of the association, would surely have put a smile on the man who taught me this great game, my dad. As Father's Day approaches, we should all look back on the men who have guided us through life and give them a moment of thought and praise on this day. And for those of you that are dads now, please remember to give your children the time and effort that they need, because now they are the ones looking up to you for assistance and guidance.

What a great time I have had at the last two monthly meetings! The golf committee has stepped it up a notch this year and given us a great lineup. Our meeting in April, with our Philly brethren, showed that two associations could come together and have a great time at a wonderful old course playing golf and socializing. Eric Westervelt should be proud of the job he is doing at that facility - the course was in great shape and the day was made a

William Murray, Shark River Golf Club



bit sweeter with our association finally winning the "War at the Shore". At our May meeting, Dennis Granahan and Navesink Country Club opened their course to us for another great day of golf and education; they should be very proud of their course. Fast greens and ideal conditions allowed all of the participants to go home wondering how the course won the battle out there.

Chris Boyle, an executive board member, and Mendham Golf and Tennis Club, will host our next meeting in June. Chris and Ian Kunesch will be giving the golf committee the day off so they can enjoy themselves for a change and have a two-man Ryder Cup style event. I think it is a great idea to do something a little different and I'm sure we will have a lot of fun and laughs with this new event.

Once again in July, everyone should get to the Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day. There is so much information to see and learn from that day that it should be a must on all your calendars. Please go to the website calendar and see what the association has planned in the coming year. The Foundation will be having a boat cruise in September out of Brielle for a night of relaxation on the water and also will hold the RTJ Invitational at Metedeconk National in October which raises money for scholarships and research. It would be nice to meet some new faces as well as see the ones I know in our association so please keep the dates open.

Once again to all the Dads out there, have a great and happy Father's Day. 🇺🇸

Bill Murray

President, GCSANJ

2010 CALENDAR

Check calendar for updates and signup info.

www.gcsanj.org

- **June 21, 2010**
Golf Meeting
Mendhan Golf Course
Mendham, NJ

- **August 12, 2010**
District III Championship
Toms River Country Club
Toms River, NJ

- **September 11, 2010**
“End of” Summer Social
Boat Cruise
Brielle, NJ

- **September 20, 2010**
Chapter Championship
Rock Spring Country Club
West Orange, NJ

- **October 19, 2010**
RTJ Invitational
Metedeconk National Golf Club
Jackson, NJ

- **November 3-4, 2010**
7th Annual Crystal Conference
Minerals Resort
Vernon, NJ

It Takes Two to Tango

Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP
Executive Director



It takes at least two people to make something happen...and as you read this issue of *Greenside*, you can see how true that statement is.

When something unexpected happens to a super, and the word goes out that help is needed, many respond.

When a school needs something (whether monetary or product) to complete a project, members respond and get it done.

When an event is being run, committee members step up and help where needed.

When a tournament is being hosted at a local course, and volunteers are needed, they sign up, show up, and help.

When work related changes are happening in the industry and association input is needed to provide information, members are there.

No just doesn't seem to be a word in GCSANJ's members' vocabulary....and Yes most definitely is.

Thanks to two of you who start the tango, and to the rest of you for keeping the dance going. ↓

★ SUPERS ★

Is your Assistant a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey? The benefits of membership not only include a quarterly issue of this award-winning *Greenside* magazine, but also educational and networking opportunities at some of the best golf courses the state has to offer.

It is \$75 well spent and will pay dividends for you and your club. Please visit gcsanj.org or contact Cece Peabody for an application.

The Friendly Rivalry Continues at Atlantic City Country Club

by Shaun Barry

If our meeting at Atlantic City CC is any indication of what this year will be like, then we will have a great year for monthly meetings. The history of this year's meeting goes back to 2009 when Wendell Beakley started asking local superintendents if they would be able to host the 2010 joint meeting with Philly. The first positive response came from Eric Westervelt. He needed to check the schedule but if we were somewhat flexible he felt that he could host the event. Another superintendent responded a few days later but Wendell was committed to Eric to see if he could do it. As you know, Eric could host the meeting and now we have a strong possibility that our second volunteer will be the site in 2011. If that doesn't work out, ACCC would be happy to have us return. Way to go Wendell.

Mr Beakley worked with the terrific staff in the clubhouse to set the menu and the times for all of the events we have going at these meetings. Many e-mails and calls later and we had a finalized schedule. Now the question was will we get a full field for the 3rd edition of "The Friendly War at the Shore." and would we have enough sponsors to help make a difference. With the economy still suffering, we expected that we would lose some sponsors and we did. We however did not lose **Turf Equipment & Supply Company** as our meeting sponsor. For the third year in a row they wanted to help out and also present the Challenge Cup to the winning association's president. Joining them as a major sponsor was **Harrell's**. Between Alfie Gardiner's and Josh Kopera's sponsorship of lunch we were able to lower the cost of the meeting and have some money for prizes. When Steve Hesser from **Lawn & Golf** also donated funds we knew we would be fine. We didn't have as many prizes as last year but those that played and won well were rewarded.

The club told us that 120 players was the best number for a large group because more than that seems to slow play down considerably. We accepted their advice and cut it off at that number. Everyone knows that people will cancel and others will show-up thinking that they were registered.

Both of those things happened and we came out at exactly 120 players. I have never seen anything like that and ACCC's Fran Mulholland was amazed.

Registration had to continue through our education but *Jim Nagle* from *Forse Design* was very well received. His talk on "Bunker Construction and Maintenance" gave many good insights into a very important part of everyone's responsibilities. Registration also had to continue through lunch but Kevin Driscoll brought out some food to feed the volunteers. Jay Parisien checked in his last Philly guy in time to get a bite but without Mr Driscoll, Wendell and I would have missed a terrific meal.

We got out to our starting hole without a practice swing or putt and it showed. The only good thing is that we were not in the big match. NJ had about 10 more players so someone had to just play and not worry about those 3 ft putts. I made a smart decision and nobody suffered other than Bruce Peebles and Tom Wolgast who had to put up with us -- the "us" being Mr. Driscoll and myself.

We did not play the course to its full length but the slight breeze made it play longer than what the card said. The wind gave you a feeling of what a nice day in Ireland might feel like and the course played hard and fast. It allowed for shots that stayed close to the ground rather than everything being hit high and hard. It was a wonderful feeling to play that kind of golf on this side of the pond. It appears that quite a few of the players felt exactly the same as I did but the only difference is that they know how to play.

The low gross winner was **John Garger** (NJ) with an even par round of 70. He edged out perennial favorite **Chet Walsh** (PA) by a shot, and on a match of cards new member **Jeff Wyant** (NJ) beat **Paul Brandon** (PA). They both shot 74. Between both associations there were 9 rounds under 80. I guess everyone got away for the winter. The net winners all shot 67 and after a match of cards **Bob Prickett** (NJ) finished first with **Shaun Barry** (NJ) and **Brad Helcoski** (PA) taking the next two spots.

Continued on page 8

War at the Shore



**JIM NAGLE, FORSE
DESIGN DISCUSSES
BUNKERS**



**GCSANJ PRESIDENT, BILL MURRAY AND
ACCC SUPT. ERIC WESTERVELT**

GCSANJ & PAGCS



MEET AT ATLANTIC CITY CC



The 5 closest to the pin contests were sponsored by **Turf Equipment & Supply Co.** Taking a prize were **Paul Brandon** (PA- 4ft 6ins), **Jeff Wyant** (NJ- 3ft 10 ins), **Wendell Beakley** (NJ)-1ft 4ins,) **John Garger** (NJ- 7ft 3ins) and **Stuart Barker** (NJ-7ft 8ins). **Turf Equipment & Supply Co** also sponsored 2 of the long drive contests. Those were won by **Ron Gorniak** (PA) and **Stuart Barker** (NJ). The other 2 sponsors were **Aer-Core** and **Lawn & Golf**. Winning these were **Jim Cadott** (NJ) and **Greg Hufner** (PA). I intentionally left Greg to the last because I had to comment on his drive. It was Paul Dotti-like. It was over 340 yards and I don't think anybody came close to it. I don't remember ever being that young and strong.

We had 10 skin winners counting both flights. They were **Chris Boyle** (NJ), **Paul Brandon** (PA), **Tom Currie** (PA), **Alan Fitzgerald** (who is a 41 handicap player so anybody can win one of these-PA), **Brad Helcoski** (PA), **Dave LaLena** (NJ), **Glenn Miller** (NJ), **Steve Stephens** (PA), **Rolf Strobel** (NJ) and **Tom Tucci** (NJ).

The final competition was for the Challenge Cup which is presented by the folks from **Turf Equipment & Supply Co.** Unfortunately the trophy did not get across the river and remains in Philly as I write this article. It was an oversight that will be corrected very soon. The sad part of this is that we had 6 people from our meeting sponsor in attendance to make the presentation and there was nothing to present. Everyone understood that it was an honest mistake and both associations apologize. Sometimes life throws you a few curves. If you will return next year, I guarantee that it will be there for you to give it away and we will take lots of pictures.

Many thanks again to my wonderful volunteers, everyone at ACCC, our friends from Philly and of

course all of the sponsors that I have mentioned in this article. The day was a great success but only because of everyone who helped make this day so special. I do look forward to returning for another opportunity to enjoy this classic golf course. Our final thank you goes to Eric & Stuart. The course was amazing and just so much fun to play. As noted golfer and world renowned superintendent, Bruce Peeples, CGCS, said: "It is a course that you could play every day for the rest of your life". I know for a fact that once he had enjoyed playing a hole he just couldn't wait to see the next one. I think the whole field felt that way so congratulations on what you are doing and please tell everyone on your crew that their hard work impressed 118 people who are hard to impress when it comes to golf course conditions.



Oh, by the way...I did forget to tell you that NJ finally won the competition after 2 years of coming in second. It was a great match and I know many individual matches came down to

the last hole. With this victory, GCSANJ president Bill Murray, has almost completed the list of things in golf that he wanted to do and all is right with the world. ♪

CLASS A and CLASS SM MEMBERS

Don't forget to renew your Pesticide License!

Verify your license with GCSAA... www.gcsaa.com

2010 RUTGERS TURFGRASS RESEARCH FIELD DAYS

REGISTRATION FORM

MAIL Check (Payable to 'NJTA') to: 25 US Hwy 46 W, Wayne NJ 07470
 FAX this form with Credit Card Info or Purchase Order # to: (973) 812-6529
 CALL if Questions: (973) 812-6467 • **CLICK** to register: www.njturfgrass.org

NJTA Use Only:
 Date Received: _____

PROGRAM

Tuesday, July 27, 2010
Golf and Fine Turf Day
 Hort. Farm II
 102 Ryders Lane, North Brunswick, NJ
 ** No entry to Farm until 7:00 a.m. **

7:30 AM		Registration Open
8:00 - 8:30 AM	<i>Optional Early Bird</i>	Core Session # 1 <i>1st 80 to sign in</i>
9:00 AM		Tours Begin
1:00 PM		Tours End
1:00 - 2:00 PM		Lunch
2:00 - 2:30 PM	<i>Optional</i>	NEW! Core Session #2 <i>Different than 8 AM</i>
2:30 PM		Field Day Ends

Wednesday, July 28, 2010
Lawn, Landscape & Sports Field Day
SFMANJ Trade Show & Equipment Demos

Adelphia Research Farm
 594 Halls Mill Road, Freehold, NJ
 **Vendors can arrive at 6:30 a.m. **

7:30 AM	<i>Visit Vendors</i>	Registration & Trade Show Open
9:00 AM		Tours & Equipment Demos Begin
1:00 PM		Tours & Demos End
1:00 - 2:00 PM		Lunch
2:00 - 2:30 PM	<i>Optional</i>	Core Session
2:30 PM		Field Day Ends

BOTH DAYS: Pesticide Recertification and GCSAA Education Credits Offered

FIELD DAY REGISTRATION FEES Each Day (Tuesday or Wednesday) **Onsite Registration or Postmarked After 7/16/10

MEMBER Before 7/16/10 ** Registration: \$ 40	NON-MEMBER Before 7/16/10 Registration: \$ 50
MEMBER After 7/16/10 or OnSite ** Registration: \$ 55	NON-MEMBER After 7/16/10 or OnSite Registration: \$ 65

** This includes the following associations: New Jersey Turfgrass Assn, Sports Field Mgrs Assn of NJ, Golf Course Superintendents Assn of NJ, NJ Landscape Contractors Assn, Cultivated Sod Growers Assn of NJ, NJ Nursery Landscape Assn. Membership is subject to verification. **Which Association Are You a Member of?**

<input type="checkbox"/> NJTA	<input type="checkbox"/> SFMANJ	<input type="checkbox"/> GCSANJ	<input type="checkbox"/> NJLCA	<input type="checkbox"/> CSGANJ	<input type="checkbox"/> NJNLA
WRITE FEES ON APPROPRIATE LINES:			TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	
MEMBER Before 7/16/10			x \$ 40 Each Day	\$ _____	\$ _____
MEMBER OnSite or After 7/16/10			x \$ 55 Each Day	\$ _____	\$ _____
NON-MEMBER Before 7/16/10			x \$ 50 Each Day	\$ _____	\$ _____
NON-MEMBER OnSite or after 7/16/10			x \$ 65 Each Day	\$ _____	\$ _____
EARLY Order Rutgers Hat			x \$ 10 Each	\$ _____	\$ _____
OnSite or After 7/16 Rutgers Hat			x \$ 15 Each	\$ _____	\$ _____
2010 Individual NJTA Membership			x \$ 80 Each	\$ _____	\$ _____
TOTAL DUE				\$ _____	\$ _____

FIELD DAYS REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Register ONLINE at www.njturfgrass.org

* Use This Form for no more than 2 Attendees. • PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY • FIELD DAYS will be held Rain or Shine.

Today's Date: _____
 First & Last Name/s: (1) _____ (2) _____
 Company: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____
 **E-mail for Confirmation: _____

** We need your email to send confirmation and directions, plus any updates and future events. Thanks very much.

Payment: Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ *All registration fees are non-refundable.
 Check # _____ || Credit Card? Visa Mastercard American Express || Purchase Order # _____
 Account Number: _____
 Exp. Date (MM/YY): _____ / _____ Security Code: _____
 Name on Account: _____
 Billing Address: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____
 Authorized Signature: _____

Purchase Orders must be signed by NJTA. Send PO or Voucher with registration form.

REGISTRATION



The Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Lab

The Plant Diagnostic Laboratory provides accurate and timely diagnoses of plant problems.

Below is a sample of services performed:

- ▶ Disease and Insect Pest Diagnosis
- ▶ Plant and Weed Identification
- ▶ Insect Identification
- ▶ Fungus and Mold Identification
- ▶ Nematode Assays
- ▶ Screening for Neotyphodium Endophytes
- ▶ Fungicide Resistance Screening
- ▶ Other Services Available by Contract

For more information please call us at 732/932-9140 or visit the web for sample submission instructions and forms at: www.rcrc.rutgers.edu/plantdiagnosticlab.



www.rcrc.rutgers.edu/services

The Rutgers Soil Testing Lab

The Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory performs chemical and mechanical analyses of soils.

The following services are routinely performed:

Landscape

- Level 1** Fertility Test: Nutrients, pH, recommendations
- Level 2** Problem Solver (soil/plant suitability test)
- Level 3** Topsoil Evaluation

Greenhouse

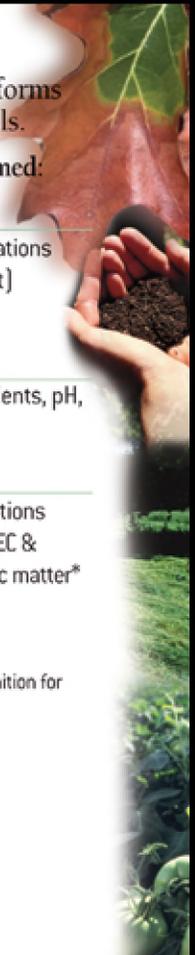
Saturated (Organic) Media Extract Analysis: Nutrients, pH, electrical conductivity, inorganic nitrogen

Sport Turf

- Level 1** Fertility Test: Nutrients, pH, recommendations
- Level 2** Complete Test: Nutrients, pH, estimated CEC & cation saturation, soluble salt level, organic matter* content, soil textural class
- Level 3** Sand Root Zone Test

*Organic matter content would be determined by loss-on-ignition for golf course greens, as described by USGA guidelines.

For more information please call us at 732/932-9295, or visit us on the web at: www.rcrc.rutgers.edu/soiltestinglab.



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GCSANJ Enjoys the Challenges Presented by Navesink

by Shaun Barry

Dennis Granahan has been a GCSANJ member for only a few years. He joined when he became superintendent at Navesink CC. Prior to that he was an assistant for Chris Carson at Echo Lake CC, Bill Spence at The Country Club, and for Joe Alonzi at Westchester CC. He came close on several job interviews and he chose to use each of these opportunities as learning experiences.

This attitude is typical of Dennis and soon he was interviewing at Navesink, and they quickly decided to offer him the job. I was going to say “the position” but we all know that being a superintendent is more than just a position. It is a job that requires lots of hard work, dedication, a great understanding of the needs of the whole golf course, how to deal with people that work for you and those that you work for. Of course that is just a small part of the things a superintendent needs to know and to be good at. A successful superintendent isn't just born that way but rather it is a learning process, and it is quite evident that a very talented young man learned a lot from his previous mentors. If Bill and Joe had been able to join Chris for this meeting, I am sure they would all have been pleased and proud.

The weather was wonderful and people started arriving early. They were greeted by **Cece, Wendell, Kevin Driscoll** and **Phil O'Brien** who ran the registration table and as usual they did a great job. Things could not have run any smoother. Everyone gathered for **Dave Oatis**'s presentation, but before I got there to introduce him, the staff saw the people and took that as a sign that lunch had been moved up. As a result, lunch started early and Dave spoke while people ate. He gave a preview of what to expect in 2010 and his thoughts were well received. There were many questions and that is always a good sign. People showed that they were interested and that they felt comfortable enough to interact with Dave. Lunch ended when he finished speaking and it has been reported that Dave was able to find the last hot dog which was his only request to the audience. I am glad that we were able to accommodate him and so maybe we will have a return engagement somewhere in the future.

We were pleased that **Harrell's** was able to help with the cost of this meal just as they did at the Atlantic City meeting. This type of sponsorship really makes a difference in the quality of the lunch and the over-all costs of the day.

The shotgun start began right on time and soon everybody had had their first three putt of the day. The greens were great. They were running at 11 on the stimpmeter and although the contours weren't quite like the ski jump at Lake Placid, it felt that way. Some people may have even experienced the joys of a five putt. This may seem strange but the good thing is that the pins really were in fair positions. These greens were not designed with hole locations in mind. Thank goodness we had forecaddies to help read the greens. It got so bad however that I think we drove some of the caddies to start drinking. I thought that was our job.....

At the end of the day however we saw another example of the “cream rising to the top.” **Tom Grimac** won low gross with a 75. I guess we forgot to tell him how tough the greens were. He would have won low net also but we try and give only one prize to a player other than the skill prizes. We were able to pay 5 places in gross and net. The next 4 winners in the gross event were **Jay Antonelli** (78), **Jeff Wyant** (79), **Rich Hurley** (83) and **Gale Stenquist** (86). **John Alexander** had the low net score with his 70. Joining him were **Ted Weeks** (71), **Chris Boyle** (72), **Chris Carson** (72) and **Ralph McGillan** (75). Unfortunately a couple people's scores were not entered onto the sheets so their prizes went to others. **Todd Raisch** wasn't the only one but he was one of those fellows. Not only did his winning net score and skin not get posted but he wasn't able to hear us when we called his number in the 50/50. All of these would have totaled \$340 worth of prizes. He told me this at the end of the evening and it might have bothered someone else but not Todd. He had a big smile and you could see that he was happy and had enjoyed the day having played well on a great course with wonderful friends.

continued on page 12

GCSANJ Enjoys the Challenges Presented by Navesink

continued from page 11

I am pretty sure though that next time he checks to see if someone has posted his scores.

Four of our skill prizes were donated. **Syngenta** and **Wilfred MacDonald** sponsored closet to the pins while **Aer-Core** and **Syngenta** sponsored long drives. Thank you very much gentlemen for your help in making this event successful. Winning some of those prizes were **Frank Horan, Brian Minemier, Lou Bosco** and **Bob Prickett**. These were your long-drive winners and none was a surprise. In the closest to the pin events we had **Mike Tardogno** (4ft 4ins), **Jim Cross** (1ft 3ins), **John Alexander** (4ft 8ins) and **John Murphy** (18ft 3ins) be the last ones to put their names on the signs. Our skins games are divided by handicaps and although we had lots of birdies made, only 7 held-up. They were **Jim Buszka, Jim Cadott, Chris Carson, Ralph McGillan, Mike Tardogno, Tom Wolgast** and **Chris Zelley**.

At dinner, **Bill Murray** presented the plaque to Dennis along with the flag that we give at every meeting. These flags are donated by **John Deere** and they have been doing that for years. Dennis thanked his staff and everyone at the club for their help and generosity. He was accorded a loud and enthusiastic round of applause for a job well done and I know he will tell everyone how much we enjoyed the course and the day. **Fran Owsik** introduced **Matt Sudol** who is a new member and Cece escorted **Frank Tichenor** into the room where he was introduced as the new director from district 2. That leaves one more opening from district 2 for the board of directors. If you have the time and the interest, this would be a good opportunity to put your name in for the election.

Thanks for the great support everyone and I hope to see you at Mendham on June 21, 2010. †



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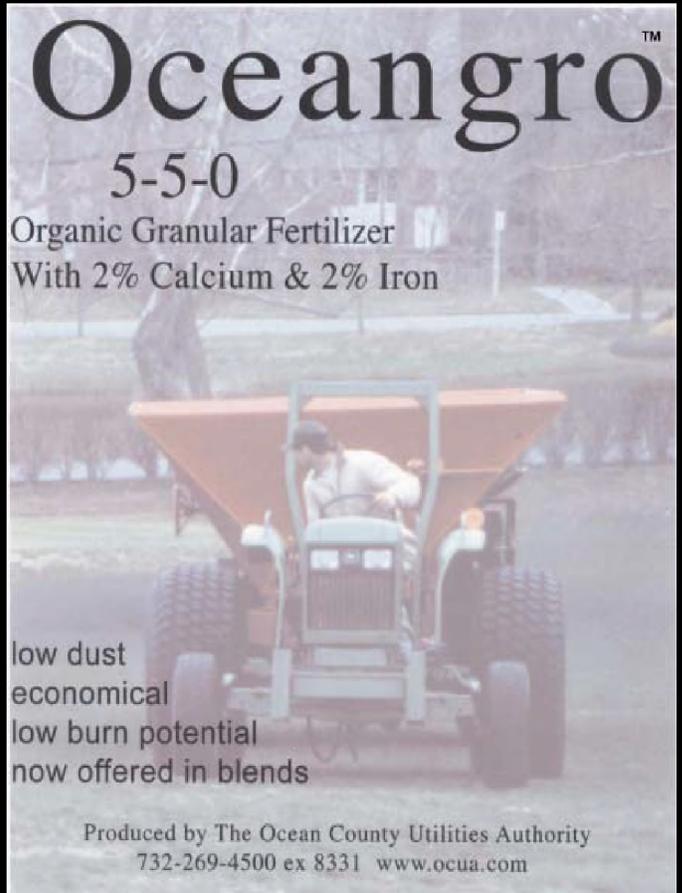
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CECE WITH THE VIC GERARD BOYS

AFTER THE WORK IS DONE

by Jim Cadott

Article will also appear in the
Summer issue of NJSGA Magazine

All golfers at one time or another have admired the work of their golf course superintendent, but few realize that the job is not done just because the sun has set for the day. This is the time the superintendent will research some disease issues, study the latest technical information, or catch up on some association business.

All of this information revolves around one source, the *Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey (GCSANJ)*. The GCSANJ was formed in 1926 as a fraternal organization of greenskeepers. They recognized the overwhelming need for a strong, professional approach to improving the conditions of their golf courses. They had the wisdom to understand that education was paramount to making that happen. They sought out knowledge from the university level, from the early USGA Green Section, but most importantly by freely giving info to and taking info from other greenskeepers. This sharing of thoughts highlighted the character of these men because they were giving away their "secrets" but they were doing their part in promoting the game of golf. These ideals still hold true today and have expanded into the GCSANJ supporting various charities, research projects, and scholarships.

The *GCSANJ Foundation* was formed to conduct the fundraising support of the GCSANJ. It was one of the first superintendent foundations in the country that supported something other than a golf course related issue. Each year, thousands of dollars are donated to various organizations that have ties to GCSANJ members. Autism, ALS, childhood cancer, and the physically impaired are some of the serious issues that we have helped fight.

Much of the technical information that your superintendent uses on the golf course comes from your own backyard. Rutgers University is arguably the leading research center in the world for fine turf (golf course) management. The GCSANJ has supported numerous projects at Rutgers and they have resulted in positive, useful, and everyday practical information that is used not just in New Jersey, but worldwide.

Whether it be plant cross-breeding by Dr. Meyer, a disease cure by Dr. Clarke, or a greens mix project by Dr. Murphy, the GCSANJ has its members at the forefront of this research, providing a give and take dialogue with the Rutgers staff to let them know what works and what does not. Knowing the importance of the work done at Rutgers, the GCSANJ and its membership hold board positions with the New Jersey Turfgrass Association. The NJTA Foundation is the fundraising branch of this association and their only purpose is to raise money for turfgrass research at Rutgers, and once again, our members are first in line and ready to support them.

The GCSANJ Foundation also supports causes on a national level. Each year, the Foundation, along with Metedeconk National Golf Club, have held the RTJ Invitational Tournament. Created and named after Robert Trent Jones, the proceeds raised are split between our Foundation and The Environmental Institute for Golf. The EIFG is the national research support mechanism for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. We are proud to be teamed with Metedeconk National and to become one of the highest association donors in the country. Between Metedeconk National and the GCSANJ, over \$500,000 has been donated to support the EIFG.



Foundation and scholarship committee have helped numerous members' children pay for college by awarding scholarships to students who meet our criteria. Over \$100,000 has been raised and awarded and the GCSANJ is committed to expanding these dollar amounts.

Continued on pg 20

1-hole golf classroom now in play

FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP — With golf wedge in hand, state Agriculture Secretary Douglas H. Fisher stepped up to the tee Thursday afternoon, took a few practice swings, then shanked his shot left.

Timothy M. McCorkell, superintendent of the Monmouth County Vocation School District, followed. Ditto, shank left.

Finally, John Humphrey, a 2008 graduate of the district Career Center's landscaping program, stepped up — and rose to the occasion — placing the ball 5 feet from the hole on the 96-yard, par 3. Having a former student nail a shot was fitting.

For this was the formal opening of the career center's estimated \$75,000 golf hole that serves as an outdoor classroom. Here, landscaping program students learn such things as golf course design and development, pest and turf management and grounds maintenance.

"(The program) put me in a direction of a career path to become a golf course superintendent (of grounds)," said Humphrey, a 21-year-old Middletown resident now serving an internship at the Beacon Hill Country Club in his hometown.

Thursday's ceremony — attended by about 80 students and state and county officials — formally introduced the golf hole and thanked donors who essentially created the hole for free through donations of time and goods.

Reid Sod Farm of Freehold Township donated about 1,000 square feet of bluegrass turf, which has a retail value of about \$200.

"We're neighbors," said Randall Reid, whose farm is near the school. "We just volunteered. It looks good." Mungeam Cornish Golf Design Inc. of Uxbridge, Mass., helped students with the design, for example. "Really, partnerships are key in education, especially vocational education," said Thomas Sansevero, career center principal.

The program previously had a golf hole on its 12-acre site, but it was lost when the district constructed the Biotechnology High School. Creation of a new hole began in the summer of 2008 with students drawing up plans, said John Neyhart, turf-management teacher.

The actual hole was cut into the 3,000-square-foot green earlier this week.

"When we cut the hole out there, they (students) were so excited," Neyhart said. "They were finishing this off."

The tees-to-green project, which takes up at estimated three to four acres, includes two sand traps and a well-irrigation system.

The hole's name, "FFA Links," is derived from landscaping program students being members of the the National FFA Organization, formerly the Future Farmers of America.

The current school year has 20 full-time landscaping program students, with others in the 500-student career center taking part in the program to some degree, Sansevero said. Landscaping program students maintain the 12-acre career center-Biotechnology High School site.

Center students spend a half-day at their home high schools for academics and the rest of the day at the center for vocational training, Sansevero said.

Fred Jones, 18, a landscape program member from Asbury Park High School and vice president of the career center FFA chapter, helped build the sand traps and mows the tees and the green.

From programs such as this, according to Fisher and others, students move on to careers in farming, garden centers, nurseries, golf courses, the sciences and so on.

Shawn Cusack, a 2009 graduate of the landscaping program, is a greenskeeper at the county-operated Howell Park Golf Course, working toward being a golf superintendent of grounds.

Standing on a tee, his back to the green, Neyhart summed up the landscaping program's newest laboratory. "This is the real experience," Neyhart said.

†

See pictures on next page...

This article was reprinted from the Asbury Park Press website, APP.com, and written by Joseph Sapia, Freehold Bureau.



Pictured:

- 1 - Upper left: FFA Students working on hole.
- 2 - Middle left: President of GCSANJ, Bill Murray and Jeff Allen
- 3 - Lower left: Freddy Jones, Vice President FFA
- 4 - Upper right: GCSANJ members with FFA leaders
- 5 - Lower right: Rick Krok, Storr Tractor Company

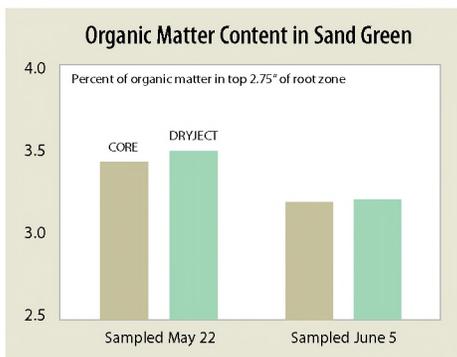
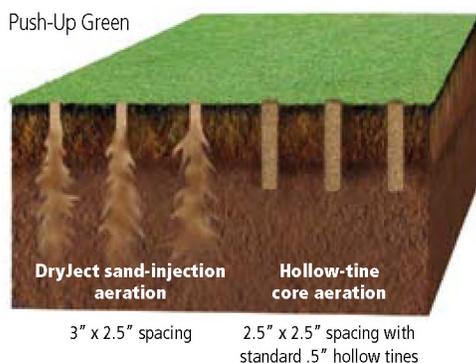


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Organic Matter (report quote)
"There was no significant difference in organic matter control between DryJect and core aeration."

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 Research conducted by Dr. Ed McCoy, Ohio State University.

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Editing the Greenside - Memories and More

I was recently asked what I thought my involvement with the Greenside did for my career. At first I couldn't give an answer but the more I thought about the question the more I realized what that impact was.

It certainly gave me access to a wider network. We sent copies of the publication to everyone even closely related to the golf course management industry. People at the USGA to the PGA Tour, the New Jersey and Met Golf Associations, the New Jersey and Met PGA, most of our fellow state association editors around the country to editors of the major turfgrass publications received copies of each issue. Originally I didn't realize just how valuable that decision was until I received a note from David Fay, USGA Executive Director, telling me how much he enjoyed our little publication, especially Willet Wilt. I also remember visiting our old headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas, and seeing a copy of the Greenside on a desk in their library. I asked the staff if they read our newsletter and they all said they enjoyed the informational and informative text and the humor. It was one of their favorite publications.

Being the editor also gave me the opportunity to unlock a skill I never knew existed and that's writing which has served me well throughout a long career in this business. Of course early on my vocabulary and grammatical abilities left a lot to be desired, so I will forever be indebted to Ginny Kubik who found the time to edit my early efforts which I suspect was an effort unto itself.

I know the time spent with the publication made me a better association president when that calling came a few years after my tenure with the Greenside was finished. It must have been at one of the GCSAA editor's meeting that I learned the importance of getting as many names and pictures of your association membership in your publications. I think we did a pretty good job of that and it bought me closer to the membership as a whole so they knew me a little more when I became the association's leader.

From the golf associations to the golf pros, to the club managers to vendors and company reps to university researchers. I was exposed to as I like to say "The Business of the Business" because of my association with the Greenside.

More than anything else, I learned the importance of commitment and working with people who shared those same values. WE were successful because WE were committed. Ken Kubik did all the advertising work along with the Willet Wilt column. Jerry Schoonmaker (former super at Suburban) was a terrific photographer and Mike (former super at Rock Spring) and Betty Hannigan and George (retired super from Ardsley C.C.) and Ineke Pierpoint (executive secretary of the MGCSA) helped with mailing. Along the way Dennis DeSanctis and Charlie Cross (former super at Rumson) also helped out in various capacities.

We had a great five to six year run. The publication was recognized as best in its class every year and even won an award for editorial excellence one year (thank you again Ginny).

And you know what the best part of that experience was really? We had fun. We worked closely with the publisher (Spear Printing, Washingtonville, N.Y.) laying out each issue, did all the mailing ourselves (licking stamps, inserting the issues in the envelopes, drinking large amounts of wine to take the taste of the stamps out of our mouth's – that's my story and I am sticking to it), selling and collecting advertising fees, taking pictures at meeting and golf event and collecting articles and cartoons from other publications that we used in our efforts. It was a total team effort from a team that really enjoyed doing it.

As I now work my way into retirement, I know that my experiences with this publication gave me the ability to stay in touch with the friends I've made in this great profession with the written word and I will forever be thankful. That in itself was worth every minute spent editing the Greenside.

Ed Walsh, CGCS



GREENERSIDE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

After the Work is Done...continued

by Jim Cadott

There are a few other allied associations that GCSANJ members also support. One of these associations is The New Jersey Green Industry Council. This is a watchdog association for political activity and how Trenton can effect the way we conduct our jobs. The GCSANJ has actively been involved in the water advisory commission for New Jersey and has had major input on drought restrictions for golf courses. It was the proactive work of the GCSANJ that turned the NJDEP from looking at golf courses as "parks and recreation" to looking at them as a viable industry in the state. As a result, a GCSANJ member now sits on the commission.

The GCSANJ has also supported causes such as The First Tee Project and Play Golf America. Our association was the first in the country to commit to the First Tee program with the idea that growing the game is not just for pros and managers, but for everybody who has a future in golf. The GCSANJ has made a commitment to meet, create dialogue, and help solve the challenges that allied associations like the NJPGA and the CMANJ face; and to help preserve and grow this wonderful game in New Jersey.

The GCSANJ is proud of its accomplishments and how this association and its members have helped take the golf experience to new levels. So, when you see your superin-

tendent wrapping up another day, remember, he or she may just be heading for the second half. If you support the causes that support your superintendent, it will be your golf course that will be the biggest winner. ♪

Jim Cadott
GCSANJ Member
Golf Course Superintendent
Pebble Creek Golf Club



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I would like to thank everyone who has extended their support in helping Metedeconk National make it through this challenging time. Within a week we have been able to start maintaining the golf course like it didn't miss a beat. Watching a building burn down with over half of the equipment inside is an awful and helpless feeling. But seeing how an industry comes together to help a neighbor, far outweighs those thoughts of helplessness.

Special thanks for all those who helped us transport equipment to Metedeconk. We look forward to returning the favor.

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Willet Wilt Says: The Early Summer of '87

A strange thing happened on the way to the summer of '87. The golf course superintendent awoke one spring morning to find out summer had already arrived.



Supposedly, the critical 100 days run from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. By the time we got to day two of the critical 100, we already had had five straight days of over 90 degree temperatures. The fifth day was June first, and the golf course superintendent was shuddering to realize it was still three weeks to summer.

It's not that the golf course superintendent doesn't like the summertime -- it just seems as though summer is getting longer each year. The song "Summertime and the Livin' is Easy" always make the golf course superintendent think that no one every told the grass that the livin' was easy.

Here's a common quote from someone other than a superintendent, "Boy, I bet those guys that run the golf course are doing great with all this rain lately." Actually the summer rains are only good for salesmen.

A good barometer of how the summer is going is the mood of the salesmen and the Greens Chairman. What a superintendent doesn't want to see in July is a happy salesman or a depressed Greens Chairman. Another indicator of the type of summer it has been is whether in August the salesmen are trying to sell more fungicide to keep grass alive for another month or seed because it has passed the stage of trying to save it any longer.

Nobody can tell me there hasn't been a lot of summer, because even the salesmen have started to wear bermudas.

There will be a survey taken at the end of

summer. The golf course superintendent is invited to vote on whether the summer of '87 was a good summer or a bad summer.

The votes are to be sent to Willet Wilt c/o Ken Kubik, P. O. Box 336, Mt. Freedom, NJ 07970. The voting will all be relative to whether your golf course lived or died! But, don't feel bad, because in the immortal words of Kermit the Frog, "It's Not Easy Being Green."

2010 Sybase Match Play Championship

by Patrick Husby

In the beginning of January, the engine really began to gather steam en route to Hamilton Farm Golf Club possibly hosting the Inaugural 2010 Sybase Match Play Championship. The event was scheduled to be contested the week of the 17th through 23rd of May. As a grounds staff, with many of us having the experience of the 2005 and 2006 HSBC Women's World Match Play Events, we could not have been more excited at the opportunity to prepare for another prestigious LPGA Tour stop. Then came the realization! Only 4 months to prepare! Only 121 days! 60 of those days are January and February! As it happened, the snow melted, and we got to work on the golf courses around the 15th of March. 60 days away from tournament time. No big deal, right.....

January and February allowed us time to organize and gather volunteers and sponsors. These two things are vital to any tournament, big or small. The response to the first email blast for Grounds Maintenance Volunteers was overwhelming. As we moved closer to the event, we received calls from guys we had never even met, asking what they could do to help, be it sending staff, equipment, tools, etc. I cannot even begin to express the feeling of brotherhood that exists within our industry. We ended up with 25 to 35 volunteers each morning and evening, ranging from interns at daily fee facilities, to Directors of Grounds at top-100 golf courses.

continued on page 35

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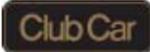
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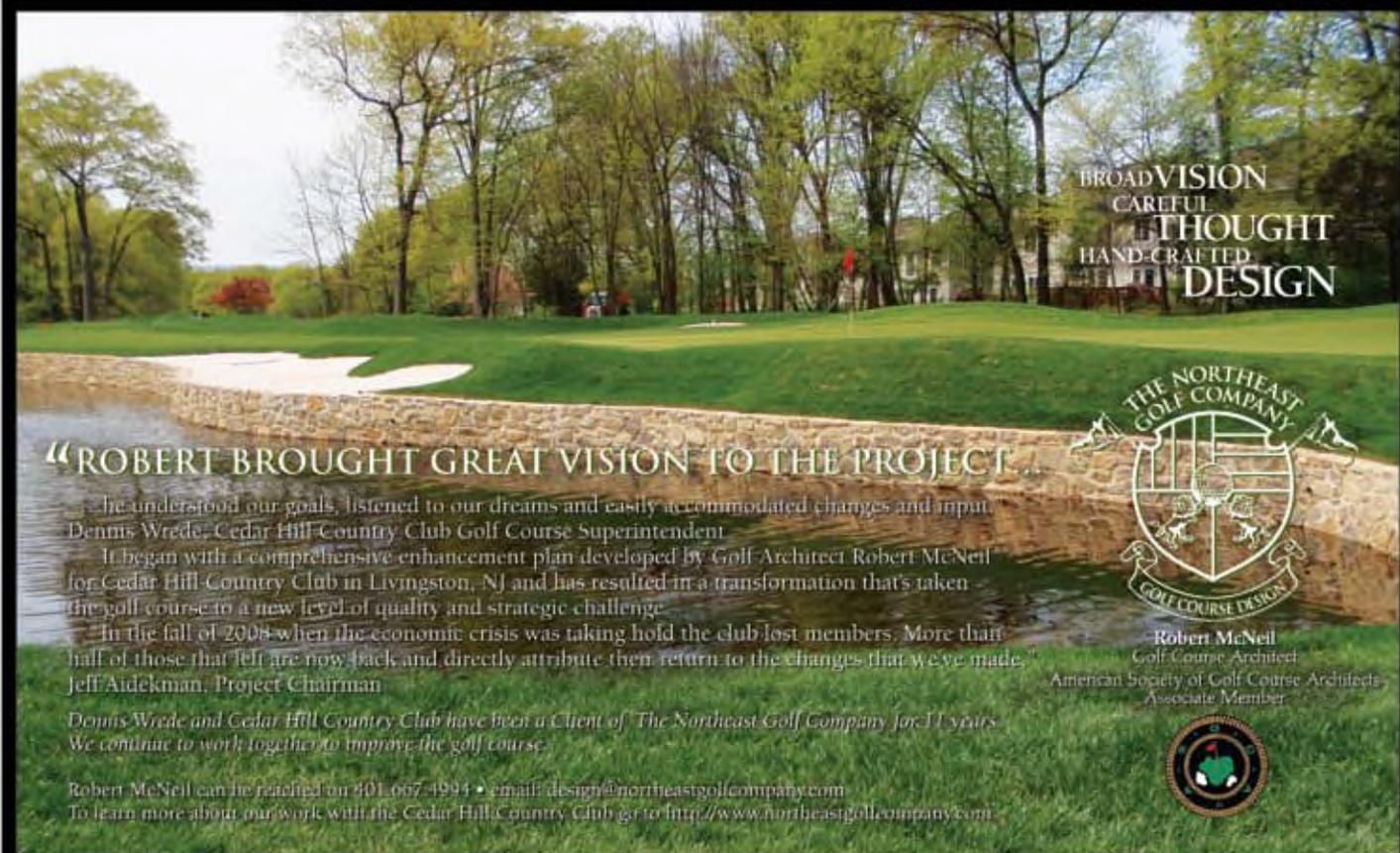
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Dennis Wrede, Cedar Hill Country Club Golf Course Superintendent

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“Grim Reaper or Angel of Mercy”

by David R. Pease

GM/Director of Agronomy, Monmouth County Park System Golf Courses; Turfgrass Consultant; Adjunct Professor: Brookdale Community College; GCSANJ Past President; 2010 GCSANJ Membership Committee

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word “Consultant”? Some say that a Golf Course Consultant is one of the greatest tools in your agronomic arsenal. And for others, the word Consultant strikes the fear of God in their hearts. Consultant; derived from the Latin “consultare” meaning “to discuss”. “A consultant is usually an expert or a professional in a specific field and has a wide knowledge of the subject matter. A consultant usually works for a consultancy firm or is self-employed, and engages with multiple and changing clients. Thus, clients have access to deeper levels of expertise than would be feasible for them to retain in-house, and may purchase only as much service from the outside consultant as desired”*.

In most operations it is generally an accepted beneficial business practice to hire consultants to broaden their information base. Consultation in our industry comes in many forms: it may be singular in nature as in hiring an “individual consultant”, or more complex by soliciting an entity containing multiple services with extensive staffing. The term “Team Approach” has been adopted by many Superintendents; “I have my Team of experts”; Dr. Joe Snodgrass is my pathologist, Robert J. Troon is my Architect, and my soil management and plant nutrition is handled by T. F. Soil and Plant Diagnostics. The bottom line is no one Superintendent can survive in this business without soliciting professional advice to increase their level of expertise, period.

Now, with that said, let’s look at the controversy of potential encroachment from an established Golf Course Superintendent’s perspective: when does the provision of golf course professional services become encroachment to the resident superintendent? There is an aggressive approach being administered in today’s market to provide services to golf courses that were once considered the exclusive domain of the Golf Course Superintendent. The golf course superintendent was the sole provider and conduit of such service provision. One only needs to look at the advertisements being touted in golf association periodicals, the net, and through club directed

mailings: “How can we assist your golf club”... “We can reduce your maintenance expenses while improving course conditions”... “Looking for a change in professional oversight?”... There are literally hundreds of these entities made up of former superintendents, former agency agronomists, former and present educators, and self anointed gurus of turf management. These representatives come in the form of Management Companies, Head Hunters, and Private Consultants. The concern for professional encroachment where unsolicited efforts are put forth can be disconcerting for the resident superintendent. In addition, known or unbeknown to the resident Superintendent, a club may hire a consultant as a “check” to the “principal-agent problem”; the principal being the Club/employer; the agent being Superintendent/employee.

The principal-agent problem or *Club/Course dilemma* occurs when the Club and the Superintendent may not have the same interests and the consultant is retained to treat those difficulties, much like a “fixer”. The Club/Principal may have lost confidence in their superintendent and are seeking outside independent counsel either known or in many cases “unbeknown” to the resident Super. Also, consultants are brought in to be “transition specialists”, set the table to move in a “new direction” and to provide service and counsel to the principal by conducting the transition process cleanly and efficiently, even surgically while providing a foundation for agent search and replacement. Rightfully or wrongfully, consultants and professional agency reputations can be built upon the body bags left in the wake of such principal-agent problems.

Compounding the encroachment controversy is the consultant “access” to the golf course with respect to the GCSAA membership. Many of the golf course consultants and consultant management company representatives are card carrying members of the GCSAA and GCSA-Locals. Notification of entry to a fellow GCSAA member’s golf course is proper protocol with respect to the code of conduct guidelines and without proper notification to the resident

continued on pg 28

“Grim Reaper or Angel of Mercy”

continued from pg 27

by David R. Pease

superintendent member; golf course entry is strictly prohibited.

Sad to say this code has been breached more times than the speed limit on the Garden State Parkway by consultants and consultant agencies, and for good reason, monetary remuneration. There is a conflict of interest when GCSAA/GCSA-Local member consultants are asked by the Principal/Club Employer to come in and review a fellow GCSAA member's golf course under the cloak of anonymity. This action to compromise the GCSAA code of conduct is fueled by compensation from the club. The club is the client; the club is procuring the consultant service, not the superintendent. There is a parallel business relationship, and thus lies the paradox.

On the other hand, member to member, the code of conduct is straight forward. It's pretty simple; either abide by the code of conduct or resign your GCSAA Membership. However, being a member of the GCSAA is a valued resource. Membership allows “access to the organization's scrolls”; feeding off the barrel load of contacts within the association, having access to education, conference, local meetings, golf clubs and courses, industry alliances, association alliances, and the fact that being a member of GCSAA gives professional credibility which is very difficult if not impossible to give up. When a breach of rule has been identified, much like in the “game of golf”, the field needs to be protected. Notify your local board when such violations occur. There is a mechanism in place to deal with such violations. Stand tall and stand responsible as a member, for maybe the next time it will be your facility under surreptitious review.

In précis, take the time and expense to look at your golf course through a second pair of eyes. Take a proactive stance when evaluating your performance and your golf course's performance by obtaining outside expertise. Do not be pigeonholed into selecting just one outside source of counsel; diversify over time the consulting sources and services available. This will provide you and your club an assortment of complex guidance from multiple sources that will stand up to questioned authority, validating and giving credibility to your operation. Be cognizant of the current flowing within the aquifers of your club. Expand your informational resources and be prepared. Bolster your arsenal with those who are respected within the industry regarding professional guidance, because this is an area that needs to be cultivated in order to keep your agronomic system current and free from unfounded and unsubstantiated criticism.

The profession of Golf Course Superintendence is one of the most diverse and dynamic vocations to be a part of. Do diligence through preemptive counsel. ♪

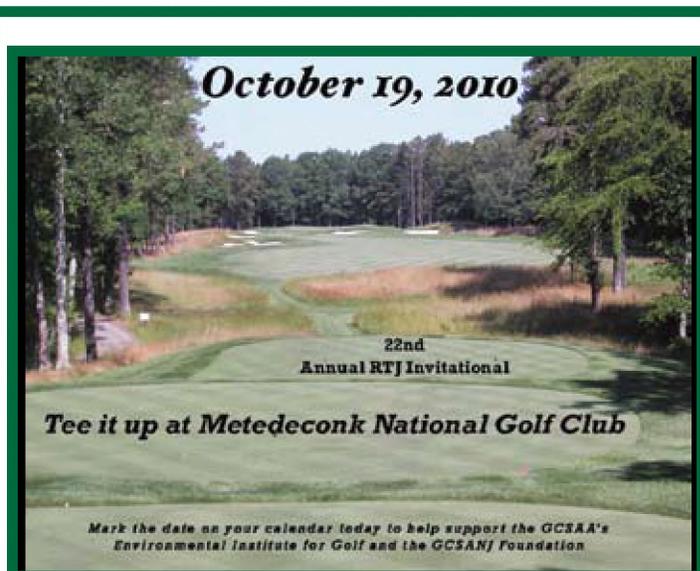


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<u>Nutrients per Application</u>	Nitrogen	Phosphate	Potassium	Calcium	Magnesium	Sulfur	Boron	Copper	Iron	Manganese	Zinc	Humic Acid	Carbo	Amino Acids
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Rutgers Golf Classic Continues Its Winning Ways!

The 2010 Rutgers Classic came very close to being re-scheduled. Tom Breiner, Bob Fellner, Mark Loos and Gary Shupper cast the deciding votes. Tom is the head superintendent at Fiddler's Elbow and Bob, Mark and Gary are the superintendents for each course. The decision was made to play but we would have to keep carts on the paths. Many people did get their feet wet in a few spots but conditions were great.

At dinner Bruce Clarke spoke briefly. He took this opportunity to thank Dave McGhee and each of the *Premier Sponsors* for their support. These sponsors are **BASF, Bayer, Cleary Chemical, John Deere/Finch Services, Maxwell Turf, ProSeeds Marketing/Alliance Seeds, Storr Tractor, Syngenta and The Scotts Co.** Storr and Syngenta, have been Premier Sponsors for all 15 years but it is the combined support from all 9 of these companies that is one of the main reasons for our success. Bruce also mentioned **Grass Roots, Paige Electric and Mountain View Seeds** for their major contribution as *Eagle Sponsors*. If Bruce had more time he would have individually thanked every *Birdie, Par and Hole* sponsors along with teams and players. Brad Hillman also spoke very briefly but he wanted everyone to know how much Rutgers University appreciates their support and dedication to the turf program.

We had teams representing the GCSANJ/GCSANJ Foundation, The Met, Tri-State, LIGCSA and PAGCS. These are all superintendent teams but we also had teams from every part of our industry. We had Bill Murray (GCSANJ), Keith Kubik (NJTA) and Karen Plumley (NJTA Foundation) playing. They are presidents of their respective associations and they were there for support while enjoying a beautiful day.

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this event be so successful. Your support is appreciated and I hope you will save May 2, 2011 on your calendar as we return to Fiddler's Elbow for the 16th Annual event.

Forest Course Winners:

- Rutgers Cup: (Maxwell Turf) Doug Heron, Paul Blodom, Sean Cain, Steve Rabideau (67)
1st: (Forest Hill Field Club) Rich Garrigan, Tim Maher, Frank Tichenor, Guy Vinci (62)
2nd: (Helena) Doug Gray, Tom Grimac, Andy Matulewicz, Bob Prickett (62)
3rd: (Echo Lake) Wendell Beakley, Chris Carson, Rob Finnesey, Mike Mongon (63)

Meadow Course Winners:

- 1st: (Seeton Turf) John Alexander, Matt Mailin, Jim Morgan, Warren Savini (64)
2nd: (Cleary Chemical) Rick Fletcher, Tim Mariner, Roy Petters, Jeff Wetterling (64)
3rd: (Caffrey Tree) Bob Caffrey, Lou Hicks (67)

River Course Winners:

- 1st: (Paige Electric) Nancy Dirienzo, Rick Krok, Mike Pastori, Grover Snyder (61)
2nd: (East Coast Sod) Kelly Barry, Kevin Driscoll, Harry Harsin, Brian Minemier (63)
3rd: (Syngenta) Grover Alexander, Dennis DeSanctis Jr., Jesse Shannon, Mike Tardongo (64)

Long Drive Winners:

- Chris Butler, Matt Dobbie, Ron Gorniak, Joe Kinlin, Darrell Marcinek, Steve McDonald, Kyle Miller, Cece Peabody, Denise Smith

Closest to the Pin Winners:

- Chuck Bergamo (19ft 9ins), Tim Christ (9ft 5ins), James Hempfling (9ft 6ins) Doug Heron (6ft 6ins), Kyle Miller (2ft), Warren Savini (3ft 1in)



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2010 Sybase Match Play Championship continued from page 23

by Patrick Husby

This type of variety leads to one of the things that I love most about events like this, the camaraderie. Those times in the volunteer tent after morning assignments are complete, when ten groundskeepers from ten different facilities are exchanging experiences, information, and making contacts. Those times are priceless.

The next item to check off the list was the Grounds Maintenance Sponsorships. This is absolutely critical. Everything from tournament shirts, hats, and meals needed to be taken care of, and the network of turf professionals who stepped up to the plate to help really made us realize how lucky we are. The calls were made, the begging began, and before we knew it, we had all the sponsorships we needed. **Seeton Turf Warehouse, Morris Golf, Fisher and Sons, Primos Products, Inc., Grass Roots, Chris Zelle, Alfie Gardiner, Valent U.S.A., and Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.** all gave their financial support without question. Thank you very much, we could not succeed without you all.

We feel that the Sybase Match Play Championship was a glowing success, from the level of play of the LPGA, to the excellent course conditions, the wonderful job done by The Golf Channel, as well as the job of event planning by the Octagon team, and last but not least the entire team here at Hamilton Farm Golf Club. The fact of the matter is we cannot do it alone, so on behalf of the entire maintenance staff at Hamilton Farm, we salute and thank each and every volunteer and sponsor. Our success is yours. ♪



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Article originally published on April 16 in the Reading Eagle and was written by Bret Devo

Editor's Note: We like to tell stories of professional and personal accomplishments. This article tells the story of Tom Weinert's son and his incredible feats in the sportsman modified series.

TAMAQUA MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT MAKES IMPRESSION AT BIG DIAMOND.

When Michael Weinert strolls into the pit area he looks like any other middle-school kid, wide-eyed with enthusiasm for the racing action at Big Diamond Raceway.

Unlike others his age, Weinert doesn't head for his seat in the grandstand or meet up with friends for a night of socializing. He puts on a driver's suit and climbs into the cockpit of his blue and white No. 18 sportsman.

Weinert spends his weeks doing homework and plays basketball and baseball for his school's teams.

Come race night, however, Weinert is no ordinary 14-year-old.

The Tamaqua Middle School student, a rookie in the sportsman division this season, has raced three times in top five.

Last Friday at Big Diamond, Weinert drove to a career-best fourth-place finish against some of the Forestville oval's most seasoned veterans. It was just his second feature race at the clay oval.

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Sunday, the team headed north to New York's Five Mile Point Speedway, where the touring Race of Champions sportsman circuit held its opener. The field for the 40-lap race featured top sportsman drivers from around the Northeast.

Weinert showed he can race with the best.

Starting 11th, Weinert fought visibility issues early in the extra-distance feature when his arm restraint (a safety requirement) got snagged inside the cockpit. He was unable to pull off tearoffs on his helmet shield. Struggling to take in his surroundings, he dropped to 16th in the early circuits but patiently picked his way forward for fifth.

By all accounts, Weinert is exceeding expectations, even his own.

"I never expected to get two top-five finishes in one week," Weinert said. "I definitely thought I would be at the back of the field, starting last and trying to get experience the first few weeks."

Weinert's plan of starting voluntarily from the back of the pack changed following two preseason practice days at Big Diamond and Grandview Speedway in Bechtelsville.

Bobby Smith, who is working with the team on race day in an advisory crew chief role, turned the kid loose.

"The Grandview practice helped make the decision," Weinert said. "Bobby told me he thought I was ready (to run with the pack)." A graduate of the quarter-midget and micro-sprint divisions, Weinert feels he still has a lot to learn. Driving in traffic with the bigger, heavier sportsman car has been a challenge.

"I wasn't really comfortable at the start," he said. "I feel more comfortable around other cars now. I still have to learn how to run a better line. I watch (358-modified) drivers like Craig Von Dohren and Duane Howard. They go high and cut in for more speed. I'm used to running around the bottom from the micro."

Weinert credits Smith and Jason Bashore from Bethel speed shop BFP Specialty for maintenance and setup help.

"I have so much help from them," Weinert said. "We wouldn't be running so well without them."

Weinert is getting an education on the cars as well.

"I'm learning weight transfer, how Bobby changes the car and what it does," he said. "One thing we don't have to worry about in the sportsman is adjusting the wing like we did in the micro-sprint."

Weinert has aspirations for the big time. He is set to tackle an ambitious schedule this year that includes weekly racing at Big Diamond, sportsman events at Grandview and the full Race of Champions circuit.

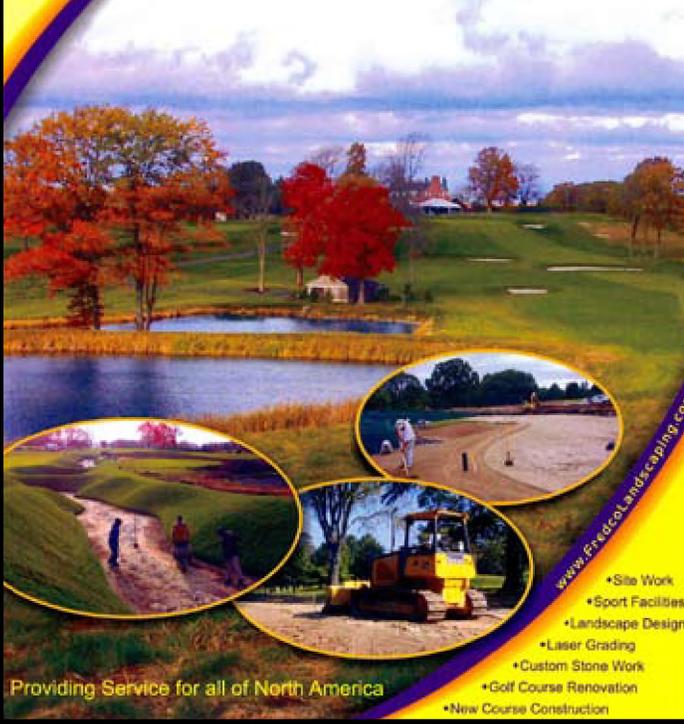
His next step up the ladder will be into a 358-modified later in the season. The team - funded by his father, Tom - is in the process of acquiring a small-block modified that will be reserved for special appearances.

"I can't wait (to run the modified)," Weinert said. "I'm going to have to get used to the power. We'll try to get some practice and keep learning."

Contact Brett Deyo: sports@readingeagle.com.

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GCSAA Professional Conduct Guidelines

The following professional conduct guidelines are provided to encourage the highest standards of conduct among the membership of GCSAA. These guidelines are a companion document to the [GCSAA Code of Ethics](#). While the professional conduct guidelines may not be enforced with membership sanctions, these guidelines should nonetheless be promoted, practiced and encouraged by GCSAA members. Non-compliance of these guidelines should be noted, publicized and self-policed by fellow GCSAA members, officials and affiliated chapters to discourage future instances of such noncompliance.

In assessing one's actions, all superintendents should ask the question, "Would my actions meet with the approval of other superintendents?"

1. A member should always contact a fellow superintendent prior to visiting his/her course, regardless of the reason for the visit.
2. Applications for employment should only be sent to an employer if the applicant has contacted the current superintendent to determine whether the position is available, or if the applicant is responding to an Employment Referral Service announcement.
3. A member should only accept an interview for a job currently held by a fellow superintendent if the applicant has contacted the current superintendent to verify the position is open, or if the applicant has learned about the opening in an Employment Referral Service announcement.
4. Members should always adhere to the complimentary golf policies of other golf courses and always give as much advance notice as possible when seeking playing privileges at a fellow superintendent's golf facility.
5. Members should only accept a consulting assignment at a golf facility if the current superintendent at that facility is aware of such impending consulting activity.
6. Consulting recommendations for a facility should be made in the presence of the current superintendent or written recommendations should be carbon copied to the current superintendent.
7. Members should always conduct themselves in the highest professional manner at all golf-related events and other public events where the member is representing the golf course superintendent profession.
8. A member should not render negative opinions or comments about fellow members.

Members are encouraged to remind fellow superintendents about these courtesies through phone calls, electronic messages and letters. Peer reinforcement of these standards is encouraged.

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