



THE NEW SLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents

Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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October 1998

New Tewksbury Country Club takes off with help of superintendent Russ Heller

Things have been happening fast for Russ Heller . . . and for the Tewksbury Country Club which happens to be his new address.

One year ago Heller was closing in on his fifth season as assistant to head superintendent Wayne LaCroix at Andover Country Club. His quick progression on the job led to a situation where LaCroix could leave Russ in charge and be assured that the drum roll of course maintenance at Andover never missed a beat.

But then the wheels of change began spinning. First, Marc Ginsberg and Arnie Martel, a couple of neophytes in the golf business, bought a private airport in Tewksbury and replaced runways with fairways. Thus was born the nine-hole Tewksbury Country Club.

Eight months later (April) with construction of the course in a crash-condition state with opening slated for July, Heller answered an ad for the position of golf course superintendent.



Russ interviewed for the job and two days later Tewksbury had its main man.

"It's been kind of a whirlwind situation for me," Heller explained. "The course was completed in less than one year, and by that time I was aboard for a couple of months. I came here last May, got the place in playing shape, and we opened for business July 19. However, there's a ton of work to be done before I catch my breath."

Taking the big step from assistant to head superintendent was an overnight experience compared to Heller's entrance on the golf course maintenance scene. That route was full of detours, including one that ran through, of all places, a major league umpiring school.

"Definitely, it was a roundabout way, getting in the (golf) business," Russ said. "After high school (St. John's of Shrewsbury), I had all intentions of being

an electrical engineer, and majored in that subject for two years at the University of Lowell. But, just like that, I thought better of the idea and up and left school."

Actually, Heller went from one likely situation to an unlikely one when he enrolled in the Joe Brinkman Baseball Umpires School in Florida. Russ had worked some high school games in between classes at Lowell, and the change in careers appealed to him.

But another change loomed after three years in the minors, stuck in the New York-Penn League. Russ became interested in landscaping, then headed for Stockbridge School of Agriculture. He wound up as assistant to LaCroix at Andover after taking his internship there. Heller's emergence as a golf course superintendent is a long story in contrast to his changeover from Andover assistant to

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head man at a converted airport, where clearing of land and some runways was accompanied by the roar of entering and exiting airplanes.

The Tewksbury post is quite a challenge for Heller because it thrusts him and course owners in the middle of the public links competitive picture.

"My job is to give players a feeling of playing a private course at public course prices," Russ told. "That was what I walked into when I started here in May. By that time the course had seven holes completed. I worked those into playing shape while the last two holes were constructed. Overall, I had less than two months to get the place ready for play. Surprisingly, it worked out pretty well. At least, the golfers seem to think so."

Tewksbury opened July 19 and was such a hit with the public it averaged 250 rounds on each of its first two weekend days. Since then that figure has flirted with 300.

So, what's the attraction?

For one thing, the course owners have concentrated on its condition in order to establish a base of regular players. The clubhouse will come in the future, but for now the combination of pro shop and management offices are in the same building that housed airport officials. A teaching center is on the agenda and other improvements are on the horizon.

The course, which plays to 2,600 yards and carries a par of 33, was laid out under the direction of consultant designers Frank Stasio and Bob Flynn. Some of the holes are close to adjacent housing property lines and call for accurate shotmaking.

"What's nice about the operation is that we did a lot of work clearing and grooming the rough areas," Heller disclosed. "Too often new courses are

rushed into play, giving golfers headaches finding balls when they stray off the fairways. It doesn't happen here. We eliminate most of that type of problem which helps in another way - pace of play. That's important in the public links world. We have to keep play moving."

The Tewksbury course is just enough of a challenge to test the newcomer or fledgling golfer that happens to be the object of the course's playing appeal. "We tend to make it comfortable for the beginner," Russ explained. "But there's still room for the experienced golfer to enjoy the ride. We have 30 bunkers and five man-made ponds that come into play on five different holes. So, it's no pushover."

Heller works the maintenance shift with assistant Mark Conway, experienced in the private course sector, and interchanging part-time help. He goes at it six days a week, and he doesn't even count his hours. "It's my first head job," Russ concluded, "It's a big opportunity for me after a great relationship and learning experience with Wayne at Andover. So far we're packing them in. So far things are going right. I couldn't be happier."

GERRY FINN

Calendar

- November 2 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Whitinsville Golf Club
Whitinsville, Mass.
Supt. - Paul Wilson
- November 17 **GCSAA Seminar**
*Strategies for Managing
The Turfgrass System*
The International
Bolton, Mass.
- November 18 **GCSAA Seminar**
*Developing Your Hazard
Communication Program*
The International
Bolton, Mass.

The Super Speaks Out

This month's question: How did the extreme weather conditions of this golf season affect your course?

Frank Murphy, Country Club of Halifax:

"This could be the home of the 'extreme'. I mean in everything.

"For example, we have a hole we call 'the patient'. It doesn't know how to assess weather conditions. The stupid thing thrives on drought! The rest of the year, or when it's normal, the hole stinks!

"This certainly has been a season of extremes here. We had one dry spell when we really got cooked. It didn't rain for 42 consecutive days. Then, when it did rain, we got the grand total of two-tenths of an inch.

"So, this has been a very bad season for me. As far as the extremes of the situation go, June was too wet and July was too dry. It's hard to get a handle on things when the weather acts in such an unpredictable manner.

"In addition to the weather knockout punches thrown this way, I'm living with a bad watering system. That means any extended period of very dry weather can knock our grasses for a loop.

"However, we did what we could under this difficult time. We hired a college kid to do all-night watering where the really dry spots popped up. This helped, but it couldn't solve the overall effect of the rainless weather.

"We had nine pumps going 16 hours a day, and two three-man crews making inroads with squeegees until we could get at the turf for mowing. We were out in rowboats, and took on any area we could find that was mowable."

**Bruce Packard
Stockbridge G.C.**

"It got so bad here that when we got a half-inch of rain late in the summer, it was reason to celebrate. Frankly, I'll be glad when this season comes to an end because it's been one of the worst, weatherwise. But I said the same thing two years ago when we got hit with a strange fungus on our greens. I did everything to get rid of that stuff and finally went to a last resort, the internet. I did get the answer to the problem on e-mail. Regardless, this season has been like our patient hole. It stinks!

Bill Yanakakis, New Meadows Golf Club:

"We have the Ipswich River to contend with here, so any kind of excessive rains usually puts us in a troubled state. That's what we were in, especially in June.

"Then we had 15½ inches of rain. The combination of the river and that downpour put us under. We were closed three days and spent all of them trying to bail out of the mess.

"The solution was set in place by trying to drain the low spots, which was very difficult to do. Our guys had to wade in the water to free the drains and keep them open. It was a very trying time because the rains just refused to stop.

Then, when they did, another problem arose when the extreme of a very dry July took over. It was either a feast or a famine. Fifteen or so inches of rain in June, then two inches the entire month of July.

"Oh, I forgot. Also during that period when we closed we still had to keep tees and greens mowed because they were growing like wildfire. We did this by transporting equipment and manpower on flat boats. However, the worst was still to come.

"That surfaced with an extreme breakout of dollar spot, and that's what I've been fighting ever since the wet season backed off and the dry season took over.

"To put it simply, it hasn't been an easy year for me."

Bruce Packard, Stockbridge Golf Club:

"You just know that when we have extreme weather conditions, Stockbridge is one of the prominent targets to feel the brunt of the consequences.

"It's happened before and it banged into us again on June 8 when we had 6½ inches of rain to go with an overflow of the Housatonic River, which is almost as much a part of the course as the turf itself.

"This time, with the course under five feet of water, we were closed for eight days. We spent those eight days in double formation, waiting for the water to recede and helping that process to get in full gear.

"We had nine pumps going 16 hours a day, and two three-man crews making inroads with squeegees until we could get at the turf for mowing. We were out in rowboats and took on any area we could find that was mowable. Frankly, we were scrambling to try and save as much turf as we could.

"Our guys did a pretty good job, too. I think we lost about one-half acre of turf on the fairways, but it was almost an impossible task out there. I have to think we were lucky to lose that little. That's how bad it was.

"Of course, we were then faced with the other extremes. Yes, extremes because in our location in the Berkshires we had to face long periods of dry weather that included nights when the temperatures hung around 65. That's a no-no here because the turf is used to nights in the 50s.

"The combination of high temperatures in the day and unusually high numbers at night really increased the incidence of disease. As a matter of fact, it's the highest incidence of disease I've ever seen here. I've sprayed three times more this summer than I ever have, my pesticide budget has been drained for a long time, and dollar spot is lurking at every instant.

"With all of that adversity, though, we have recovered pretty well. We managed to give our members and their guests a pretty good amount of prime playing opportunity. But this summer has been ridiculous. We went from as wet as we can get to as dry as we can get. I guess you could say Mother Nature had a 'baaaad' year in 1998."

GERRY FINN

From the President

Golf course chemicals: Setting the record straight

by Kevin Osgood, Superintendent,
Newton Commonwealth Golf Course;
President, GCSANE

Recent media reports, based on a document distributed by the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG), painted a less than flattering picture of chemical use on golf courses.

While those in the golf industry welcome debate on the issue of golf and the environment, such a discussion is only valuable when based on facts, not emotion. Unfortunately, MASSPIRG's report is emotionally charged, with a reliance on inaccurate data and faulty assumptions. Space does not allow for a point-by-point analysis of MASSPIRG's work, but this report will examine some of the more controversial issues raised.

It is apparent that many media organizations relied solely on this document, rather than seeking a balanced view of the topic. Hence, some of the criticism should be placed on work of those entities that took the report at face value. Nationally-syndicated columnist Alston Chase, who spent the majority of his career reporting on the media, noted recently in the Washington Post that nowhere are falsehoods more frequent than in environmental reporting.

Occupational profile

The professional responsible for the day-to-day management of golf course maintenance activities is the golf course superintendent. As a whole, nearly 97 percent of these individuals have a post high school education. That is supplemented by an extensive continuing education program offered by various universities and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and its affiliated chapters. Superintendents are well versed as to the implications of improper maintenance practices, therefore putting themselves or others in jeopardy is unethical and irresponsible.

The MASSPIRG report reviewed a study conducted by GCSAA that found a higher than average number of its members in Iowa had passed away due to certain forms of cancer. MASSPIRG drew the conclusion that this was due to their occupation. What MASSPIRG did not tell

the public is the professor who conducted the research determined that there was *NO* cause and effect between the occupation and the existence of these cancers. Why did he reach this conclusion? Quite simply, the study relied on death certificates with no record of genetic makeup or lifestyle history. The research could not examine family medical history involving the presence of these cancers, nor could it determine whether the subjects smoked or consumed alcohol.

The whole (and complete) truth on chemical usage

The MASSPIRG report listed one Massachusetts golf course applied diazinon, a substance banned by EPA since 1990. The truth is the granular form of diazinon was banned, however the liquid form was not. The golf course in question applied the liquid form, hence no misuse occurred as the MASSPIRG document inaccurately stated. The use of cadmium chloride by a golf course in 1995 was also listed by MASSPIRG as a violation. While the chemical was voluntarily canceled by the manufacturer in 1990, the product currently in channels of use and trade was cleared for use. Again, MASSPIRG misrepresents the facts.

The scrutiny of 2-4-D is also misleading. In fact, the EPA reported after 200 toxicology, environmental fate, wildlife, and residue studies on multiple forms of the chemical, that it produces no significant adverse effects to human health, and did not result in carcinogenicity. Further discussion by MASSPIRG used a 1991 media report to link chemicals, namely 2-4-D, to breast cancer. However, a report released by the New England Journal of Medicine dismissed this link and actually pointed to genetics as the greatest factor in breast cancer cases.

MASSPIRG data on pesticide usage based on total pounds and gallons used is in fact also misleading. On golf courses, the vast majority of products used are of the "weed and feed" products containing mostly fertilizer and a relatively small portion of pesticides (as little as .05%).

Posting practices in place

Contrary to the MASSPIRG report, the Massachusetts Department of Food and

Agriculture *DOES* require posting *PRIOR* to application of chemicals. Also contrary to the report, there are specific size, wording, and location requirements. It should also be mentioned that university and GCSAA instructors address posting requirements and methods, and that the DFA hosts many educational programs required to keep up with license renewal.

But what happens to chemicals applied on the golf course? Purdue University's Dr. Clark Throssell, one of the nation's most highly respected turfgrass specialists, noted there is little to be concerned about when it comes to golf course chemicals.

"As we take a look at pesticides, overall we are finding they provide almost no risk to casual exposure that would be of any concern," Throssell says. "Research shows to get any pesticide residue at all you have to take a rough cloth and vigorously rub the grass leaf. Obviously, no one out there playing golf is going to do that in the course of a round."

Golf courses and water quality

There has been much conjecture on golf course water quality, but a recent course water study by Dr. Stuart Cohen, president of Environment and Turf Research Services, "invalidates claims that golf courses should be treated as hazardous waste sites."

Golf course turf is actually an outstanding filter of water, thereby removing pollutants and breaking down chemicals before they have any chance to reach water sources. Noted University of Florida researcher Dr. John Cisar again points to science over perception. "Scientific findings do not support the perception held by many, and often supported by media outlets, that using these materials is not safe. Predominant findings by multiple independent researchers have supported this time and time again."

The New York Attorney General

The MASSPIRG report also relies on the New York Attorney General study to support its thesis. Again, reliance on faulty data does not support MASSPIRG. The New York study found that golf courses have a pesticide application rate seven times higher than agriculture. The information has never been peer reviewed

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UMass Extension Report

Turfgrass for low maintenance sites, Part II

by Mary Owen, Regional Turf Specialist,
University of Massachusetts Extension

Turfgrass Selection

Tall fescue is another option for low maintenance areas. Older tall fescues are typically wide-bladed, bunch type grasses tending to form turf of low shoot density and low quality. However, there are now many finer textured cultivars; several have been bred with good turf forming abilities. Tall fescue has good wear tolerance but relatively poor ability to recover from damage.

Tall fescues are capable of forming a deep and extensive root system where soil is deep enough to permit. The result is that, because they are able to reach a larger area in the soil, they appear to be more tolerant of drought conditions. However, tall fescues do have a high requirement for water and fertility, especially during establishment. Tall fescues prefer fertile, moist, high organic matter soils. A poorly established stand of tall fescue will have little advantage over other higher input requiring grasses.

Tall fescues are also not quite as cold tolerant as some other cool season grasses, and will tend to thin out of a turf after extensive cold or difficult winters. Turf stands composed of a high percentage of tall fescues may need to be overseeded on a regular basis to insure stand density. While tall fescue will tolerate a low fertility regime, it will perform better when provided with 0.5 to 1.0 lbs. of nitrogen per growing month. Tall fescue will also tolerate moist, saline soils. In addition, tall fescue, while resistant to drought, will respond favorably to irrigation.

Tall fescue is often mixed with Kentucky bluegrass or perennial ryegrass for seeding.

Establishment

Establishment of grasses, though they may be low maintenance, is critical. Irrigation of seedbed and seeding turf, as well as supplemental fertilization, will result more quickly in denser turf less prone to weed infestation and better able to withstand stress of drought, insect/disease injury, or other factors. Research shows that low maintenance grasses which receive adequate fertility and irrigation during establishment form denser turf cover more quickly and are less apt to be invaded with weeds.

Timing of establishment also has impact on turfgrass stand. New seedings are best begun in late summer (i.e. late Aug. - mid-Sept.). Research has proven that turfgrass stands begun this time of year will be denser and less prone to weed infestation.

Select for Pest Tolerance

On sites where pest activity has been problematic, turfgrass cultivars containing endophytes should be chosen for new seedings or overseedings. Endophytes are fungi that live within the plant. These particular fungi do not damage the plant, but rather impart tolerance to leaf feeding insects such as billbug, sod webworm, aphids, and chinch bug. They do not have any effect on root feeding insects such as white grubs.

Several cultivars of fine fescues, tall fescues, and perennial ryegrasses have been bred to contain beneficial endophytes.

Fresh seed, stored carefully, is likely to have the highest percent of live endophytes. There is no quick test for amount of endophyte within a batch of seed, and because the fungus is alive, its percent within a batch will decline over time and with poor storage conditions. Therefore, purchase fresh seed which has been handled carefully. Information on the bag or label will not always provide information on endophytes. Speak with a reliable seed supplier for information on availability of endophytic cultivars. Endophytic cultivars should not be planted where animals may graze.

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GCSANE News

Remember when?: GCSANE's past

Remember when? looks at significant events and individuals of GCSANE's past.

25 years ago

According to distinguished members of the USGA Green Section-Eastern Region, 1973 was one of the most difficult seasons for course conditioning. Alexander Radko, William Buchanan, and Stanley Zontek concurred that superintendents were victims of Murphy's Law. "Everything that could go wrong, did, and golf courses suffered excesses in turf loss on fairways, collars, and aprons," the three experts declared.

Wet spring weather began the grooming season, and extended periods without sunshine in the spring caused grasses to grow weak and spindly. When clear, hot, sunny days were followed by countless days of high humidity, the bottom began to drop out. Therefore, golfers played through water sprays almost all of July and August when Poa Annua predominated. "1973 was a tortuous year for grasses," Radko said. "It is safe to predict that its praises will never be intoned in a ballad. It wasn't a very good year!"

15 years ago

Musings from Divot Drift: Golf chairman Steve Murphy on why his hairstyle is called the Watergate: "I cover up as much as I can." Regulars at Taconic G.C., Williamstown, have the impression that

management really doesn't want them to use their new suggestion box. The box is attached to a post implanted in the middle of a large water hazard on the fourth hole.

Weston G.C. and superintendent Don Hearn were hosts for a productive August meeting during which woes of the season's weather were given an airing. The tournament format was a team of four, and the winners were Jim Fitzroy, Jim Bean, Pat Vittum, and Neil Loomis.

5 years ago

Rain didn't deter the field from making the fifth annual Turf Research Tournament a smashing success at Willowbend G.C. The response was such that the field numbered 116, just four short of capacity. Among the winners, battling Willowbend's fine layout and adverse weather, were Dave Comee, Robin Hayes, Steve Carr, Jack Hassett, Kevin Osgood, Bob DiRico, John Lensing, and Rick Marcos.

Veteran Kernwood C.C. superintendent Dean Robertson was honored by members and special friends in a gala party marking his 16-year stay at the course. Adding to the affair were Robertson colleagues Leon St. Pierre, Dave Barber, Don Hearn, Tony Caranci and Dean's next door neighbor, Kip Tyler of Salem C.C.

GERRY FINN

DIVOT DRIFT...announcements...educational seminars...job opportunities ...tournament results...and miscellaneous items of interest to the membership.

INFORMATION

UMass & GCSANE developing golf course IPM protocols. The UMass Extension Turf Team, part of the UMass Extension Agroecology Program, in cooperation with GCSANE, is currently developing IPM protocols for golf course management systems. Integrated Pest Management Protocols for Golf Courses will be field tested during the 1999 growing season on several courses across Massachusetts. Participating superintendents will implement the IPM practices outlined, and commit to working with the UMass Turf Team to determine the feasibility of using the protocols as a means of documenting the use of integrated pest management. This project was created in response to a growing demand from both the industry and the private sector for the use and implementation of integrated management systems in all aspects of professional turf care. It is supported in part by the Lonnie Troll/GCSANE Turf Research Fund and the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture. For more information, or to find out about becoming a cooperator in the 1999 field testing segment of the project, contact Mary Owen, UMass Extension Turf Team (tel.: 508-892-0382; fax: 508-892-4218; mowen@umext.umass.edu).

Fusarium Patch (Pink Snow Mold) Study. Dr. Gail Schumann, University of Massachusetts, is initiating a study to help deal with some of the problems with Fusarium Patch on golf courses. The study will include timing of fall applications for winter snow mold control, disease prediction during spring/fall outbreaks, and evaluation for fungicide resistance. If you would like to be a cooperator in this study and would be willing to record environmental data at the time of growing season outbreaks, and would be willing to mail turf samples to her lab to help create a culture collection for experiments, please contact her at: Dept. of Microbiology, Fernald Hall, UMass, Amherst MA 01003-2420; phone: (413) 545-3413, e-mail: schumann@pltpath.umass.edu

Gray Leaf Spot Alert. The Northeast Region USGA Green Section agronomists inform you that the destructive disease of perennial ryegrass, gray leaf spot (*Pyricularia ansoa*), is active in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. The pathogen infected established and seedling ryegrass. It has the potential to be very damaging where perennial ryegrass populations are high or new ryegrass seeding has been completed. Symptoms of the disease can be easily confused with drought stress or other disease pathogens. Courses that are growing perennial ryegrass in fairways, tees, or roughs, or are seeding perennial ryegrass, need to be aware that gray leaf spot is active and is causing significant damage. **Symptoms:** (1) Symptoms begin as reddish-brown spots 1/2-inch in diameter, or wilted turf that can easily be confused with brown patch or Pythium. No Mycelium will be present. (2)

Turf appears to be under wilt stress, but does not respond to water. (3) Infected plants often exhibit distinctive twisting of the leaf tip that can appear water soaked or felted (spores), and have purple, gray, or yellow coloration. (4) Circular to oblong grayish-brown leaf lesions, with and without dark brown or purple borders, will be observed on the foliage. (5) Only perennial ryegrass has been infected thus far, so other species (i.e. bentgrass and annual bluegrass) will appear healthy in contrast. (6) The disease initially (but not always) begins in the rough or intermediate rough. **Control:** The first fungicide application must be made with Daconil, tank mixed with (in descending order of effectiveness) Heritage, Banner Maxx (Bayleton and other sterol inhibitor fungicides may also work) or Cleary's 3336. According to the University of Maryland, Prostar and Chipco 26019 or 26-GT show little control of gray leaf spot. Gray leaf spot can be controlled with repeated fungicide applications. Control is obviously very expensive. Laboratory diagnosis is strongly recommended if you suspect that the pathogen is active at your course. The disease has been reported to be active through December in Maryland, so expect active infection to recur if warmer temperatures return. Our intent is to warn superintendents of a serious potential problem and to offer assistance. Best of luck, and please feel free to call our offices (David Oatis/Matt Nelson (610-515-1660) or Jim Skorulski (413-283-2237) if you have any questions.

Congratulations to Mark and Laura Casey on the birth of their first child, Alyssa Marie, who weighed in at 8 lb., 7 oz.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Mechanic/Equipment Manager. Duties include equipment repair, preventative maintenance scheduling, equipment record keeping, and assessing demo equipment. I am looking for a meticulous person to direct our equipment usage and upkeep. Benefits include \$16.00/hr., 401K plan, 80/20 health insurance, Mon.-Fri. work week (except three-day weekends), good working environment, and a modern shop area. Contact: Pat Kriksceonaitis, Essex County Club, at (978) 526-4600.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Superintendent & Club Official Tournament Framingham Country Club

Low Gross: Len Curtin, Paul Caruso (Lexington), 69
2nd Gross: Art Lamb, Bob Micucci (Purpoock), 71
Low Net: Ed Eardly, Don McNiece (Wampatuck), 60
2nd Net: Jim Beane, Dick Duggan (Cyprian Keys), 62*
3rd Net: Martin Hunt, James Breen (Marlboro), 62
Closest to the Pin #8: Martin Hunt, 6'11"
Closest to the Pin #17: Walter Lankau 6'7 1/2"
*match of cards

GCSAA SEMINARS

GCSAA Seminars, Nov. 1998 - May 1999

Date	Seminar	Location
11/16/98	Managerial Productivity	Myrtle Beach, SC
11/17/98	Strategies for Managing the Turfgrass System	Bolton, MA
11/17/98	Golf Greens: History, Theory, Construction, & Maintenance	Brewster, MA
11/17/98	The Superintendent as Grow-In Manager	Myrtle Beach, SC
11/18/98	Developing Your Hazard Communication Program	Bolton, MA
11/19/98	Turfgrass Ecology	Centerville, OH
11/30/98	Turfgrass Ecology	Wausau, WI
12/1/98	Problems & Solutions: Using Annuals & Perennials in the Golfscape	Brookfield, WI
12/1/98	Salt Affected Turfgrass Sites: Assessment & Management	Albuquerque, NM
12/2/98	The Superintendent as Grow-In Manager	Dallas, TX
12/2/98	Weed Control	Memphis, TN
12/2/98	Managing Turfgrass Root Systems	Brookfield, WI
12/2/98	Causes, Detection, & Management of Localized Dry Spots	Brookfield, WI
12/4/98	The Superintendent as Grow-In Manager	Ames, IA
12/7/98	Strategies for Managing the Turfgrass System	Hammond, LA
12/7/98	Problems & Solutions: Using Annuals & Perennials in the Golfscape	Atlantic City, NJ
12/8/98	Employee Safety Training	Ellicott City, MD
12/8/98	Managing People for Peak Performance & Job Satisfaction	Salt Lake City, UT
12/9/98	Strategies for Managing the Turfgrass System	Oklahoma City, OK
12/9/98	Maximizing Job Satisfaction	Ellicott City, MD
12/10/98	Golf Course Construction, Management, & Grow-In	Jacksonville, FL
1/6/99	Golf Greens: History, Theory, Construction, & Maintenance	Pleasanton, CA
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Golf Course Chemicals

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or published in scientific journals. Why? The study was a product of mathematical extrapolation by non-scientists working for the Attorney General. It was based on a limited survey of Long Island golf courses and made comparisons of putting greens versus non-intensive agriculture. Putting greens are the most intensely treated area on the golf course, but they represent less than six percent of the total acreage. The remainder of the course (roughs, fairways) receive minimal treatment. Therefore, as others have noted, this study is seriously flawed.

A final word

Despite all the warnings about golf course maintenance practices, no deaths due to chemicals have been reported. It has become popular to use faulty data and emotion to attack golf, often times due to its perceived status as "a rich man's sport."

However, science does not support that golf negatively affects the environment. Consider comments of golf course architect Michael Hurdzan, himself owner of a doctorate in environmental plant physiology.

"A lot of people who call themselves environmentalists simply spout stuff they read in magazines," he says. "I'm not afraid to go after those folks. They're the people who spread myths about golf, the myth that chemicals run off the golf courses, the myth that courses pollute groundwater, the myth that golf courses kill people. I've challenged them. They've

yet to produce even a shred of scientific evidence for their claims. On the other hand, we can show that golf is good for the environment."

The reason for this is the training level of and the educational opportunities for the various professionals responsible for maintenance and construction. Secondly, chemicals must be exposed to numerous tests, and have much invested before they reach the market. If one has any question about the safety of his/her golf experience, they should contact their local golf course superintendent.

Selecting turfgrass, part II

continued from page 5

Many cultivars of fine fescues, tall fescues, and other grasses exhibit tolerance to specific diseases and conditions. When selecting cultivars of fine leaved fescues and/or other grasses with which to mix them, consider tolerance qualities.

Maintenance of turfgrasses requiring few inputs does not mean neglect. The greater, more intense the use, the greater the inputs and the more critical the care needed for maintenance of dense, quality turf. However, in situations where turf cover is desired and high inputs are not, then use of grasses described above will provide satisfactory turf cover.

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