

Lee to Green

Vol. IV, No. 5

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June, 1975

MEETING NOTICE:

Date: June 12, 1975, Thursday
Place: Pelham Country Club
Lunch: Available in grill room
Golf: 12 noon on. 1st round of Superintendents Championship M.G.A. Handicap—for Class A members only Class B and C will play their Championship at the July meeting.

Cocktails: 6-7 PM

Dinner: 7 PM Presentation of G.C.S.A.A. Certification Plaques: Harry Nichol, Edward Horton, Everett Wood.

Program: Mr. Wallace A. Mitcheltree, Rutgers University, "Labor Management."

Host: Terry Mulligan

Directions: Take I-95 South to Exit 7. Turn right at bottom of ramp (Boston Post Rd.) Take first left turn, Wynnewood Road, Club is at the end of the street.

Note: Please return cards as soon as possible!!! If you don't return the card please call if you are playing golf or coming for dinner. 738-2730.

COMING EVENTS:

June 12 Pelham C.C. M.G.C.S.A.
June 17 H.V.G.C.S.A. Conn. G.C.S.A. Joint Meeting
Dr. Joe Trull, Salem Golf Club
July 22 H.V.G.C.S.A. Garrison Golf Club
July 30 University of Massachusetts Turf Field Day
July 31 M.G.C.S.A. The Apawamis Club, Superintendents Championship final round Class B and C Championships
July 31-Aug. 3rd Westchester Classic
Aug. 6-7 Penn State Turfgrass Field Day
Aug. 18 M.G.C.S.A. Family picnic
Sept. 11 M.G.C.S.A. Superintendents Invitational, Fenway G.C.
Sept. 18 Labriola Memorial Tournament
Oct. 7 Conn G.C.S.A. Golf Club of Avon
Oct. 17 M.G.C.S.A. Field Day, Westchester C.C.
Oct. 29-30 Wisconsin Golf Seminar, Milwaukee, Wisc.
Nov. M.G.C.S.A. Annual meeting
Dec. 13 M.G.C.S.A. Christmas Party, Rye Golf Club

MEETING DRESS CODE

Jacket and tie must be worn to meetings. Most clubs enforce this rule on club members. We can not expect to be an exception.

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

There will be a brief meeting at Pelham C.C. June 12th at 6:15 PM to have the membership approve our association becoming Incorporated. The board feels this is very important for everyone's protection. Full details will be explained at the meeting.

MGCSA NEWS:

It has been a busy month for everybody I am sure. The first two weeks of May were cool, actually cold and plenty of rain but things changed fast and it was soon summer weather and the grass took off for the moon. The rotary mowers were and are still mowing the hay. The 92 degree day on May 24 was a little much. So much for the weather.

The monthly meeting at Quaker Ridge Golf Club was an excellent one. Tony Savone had the course in excellent playing condition and 66 golfers enjoyed this nationally ranked course. It certainly is a tremendous test to a golfer and the scores showed it. We played another interesting golf tournament which Al Tretera—our Golf Chairman set up. Best-Ball of Twosome. Frank Bevelacqua and his partner John Perlitz took first place on a match of cards over the old pros, Frank Martin and Louis Santucci both had 63's, Everett Wood and Bob DePencier also won on a match of cards over George Grossman and Bob Alonzi with a 64. We had a tremendous turnout for dinner with 126. The manager John Dasko and his staff certainly did a great job handling this large group.



First prize winners of the 2 Ball Low Net Tournament at the Quaker Ridge Country Club were Lou Santucci and Frank Martin.



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Garry Crothers
Ted Horton

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Not copyrighted. If there is good here, we want to share it with all chapters – unless author states otherwise.

It sure was nice to see Ted Joswick from Fairview. It was wonderful to see some different faces at the meeting. Our Program Speaker Dr. John Kaufmann brought us up to date on what is happening at Cornell. Dr. Kaufmann is the head of the turf program at Cornell University and M.G.C.S.A. was happy to present a check of \$500 for the turf program. Sherwood Moore, Program chairman announced that Wallace Mitcheltree would be our next speaker at Pelham C.C. (Labor Management)

Garry N. Crothers

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

May was a great meeting and certainly everybody enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of Quaker Ridge but we must be a little more considerate of our host. We had 60 return cards and a few phone calls so we figured on 80-100—126 sat down for dinner. How would you like to plan for a dinner with this type of count. It is only common courtesy to send your return card in or if not call the host or club. This is especially true today with food costs being high and budgets tight.

We saw some old faces at our last meeting and it sure was wonderful to see you. You fellows who haven't been coming to meetings of late **please join us**. We had some great fellowship at the last meeting and that's what living is all about. Our baseball game added to it. We truly enjoyed ourselves and we should do more of it as a group. We have to think about other things besides just **OUR** golf course. As they say in ROTARY "Do something for somebody else." Please join us at Pelham C.C.

We will be conducting a **Superintendents Salary Survey** and a **Budget Survey** in the near future. If the majority of the members respond it will give a realistic picture. Try to make an extra effort to complete the respective surveys.

Just a reminder that cost and tie are required for our meetings. It's a part of our image and so is a return card.

Thank you,

Garry N. Crothers, President

WELFARE:

Keep us informed. Call Dick Gonyea 914-835-3205, Dan Cancelleri 914-667-3737 or Roger Morhardt 914-279-7181 with any information which you think should be shared.

LIFE—HONORARY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS—

It was wonderful to have such a large turnout for this meeting especially when we were honoring our life members along with two new honorary members and two Distinguished Service Awards. The life members we honored have devoted most of their lives to our profession and certainly have each contributed a great deal to making the profession what it is today. They have seen many changes through the years. It would be interesting to hear their comments about how it was many years ago and to compare it with modern machinery. Those who received their life award plaques were as follows: Bob Laird, Jack Ormond, Lloyd Stott, Peter Strazza, Emilic Strazza, (Albie Pentenaro, excepted by Gus Powell). We presented plaques to Doug Rankin and Harry Dee who were unable to make it. It was a pleasure to have you all there. We sure would like to see you more often. We also honored Charles Lund and Joe Austin by making them both honorary members for the many years of service to M.G.C.S.A. and helping superintendents over the years. Their knowledge of equipment was vast and their contribution to this aspect of our profession was great and both were standouts in this area especially. Finally we presented plaques to both Mr. Roger King and Dr. Andrew Virtuoso for their many years of Distinguished Service and contributions not only to golf but also in helping and promoting our profession and the golf course superintendent. Both these men have been active with us for many years and still are. We only wish each club would have men like this who have devoted so much time in working as a team with the golf course superintendent.



Four wonderful men to whom we are all indebted were honored as Life Members of the MGCSA. They are Jack Ormond, Pete Strazza, Lloyd Stott and Bob Laird.



For distinguished service to the MGCSA, Dr. Virtuoso, Whippoorwill Club and Mr. King, Quaker Ridge Country Club, received our thanks.



Charles Lund was honored after 50 years of service as mechanic-foreman at Winged Foot Golf Club.



Joe Austin, newly elected as an Honorary Member receives the plaque from President Garry Crothers.



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MEMBERSHIP:

The Board of directors has approved the membership application of Frank Buschini—Class C.

MGCSA SOFTBALL CLASSIC:

It was a nice warm day for our heated battle with the commerical men on the softball field at Rye Neck High School. It was a lot of fun and we had a good turnout. Many of the wives and children watched their Dads and husbands play their hearts out. The beer wagon was kept busy reviving players between innings. The Supers took the first game 9-8 while the commerical men took the second game 10-8. I am sure there were a few sore arms and legs the next day. We had some fantastic action at home plate and fortunately everybody got home in one piece. We will do it again this season. We do have a challenge from the golf professionals which we definitely will make arrangements to play. Thanks to Bill Caputi and Roger Morhardt for making the arrangements and for Al Tretera for the ever present beer wagon. How about a touch football game in the fall.



SECRETARY'S NOTES

One M.G.C.S.A. Board Meeting has been held since last reported in the Newsletter:

Whippoorwill Club— May 28, 1975

Incorporation of our association was the subject of a lengthy discussion at this meeting and the Board was pleased to meet with Mr. O'Neil Kelly, the lawyer who will present our application to incorporate. Following the noted discussion the Board approved the newly written by-laws as written under the supervision of Mr. Kelly with several amendments. At this time I do not feel qualified to detail the changes in the by-laws but would encourage all members to attempt to attend our next meeting at Pelham Country Club where Mr. Kelly will be available to answer your questions. Notably, we are pleased to say that our present name has been accepted for the corporation.

The following man was accepted for membership pending publication of his name in the newsletter:

Frank Buschini, Sr. — Class C

Again, if you have questions about our association functions please contact a Board Member. We need to hear from everybody if possible.

By Ted Horton, C.G.C.S.

CORNELL TURFGRASS RESEARCH PROGRAM

By Ted Horton C.G.C.S.

We were pleased to have Dr. John Kaufmann at Quaker Ridge Country Club to accept the M.G.C.S.A. donation of \$500 to the Cornell Turfgrass Research Program. Having travelled the long distance to our meeting by bus indicates Dr. Kaufmann's willingness to spend the money where it will do all of us the most good.

Following acceptance of our check, Dr. Kaufmann then summarized some of the research in progress at Cornell:

1. Control of *Veronica filiformis* has been achieved with applications of Dacthal 75% wettable powder. Verify the rates and timing before attempting this control.

2. Renovation by using a defoliant named Roundup (glyphosate) manufactured by Monsanto Commercial Products

Company is being tested at Cornell. Dr. Kaufmann noted that two pounds per acre appeared to kill all perennial grasses but was ineffective on seed in the soil. Broadleaf weeds are not controlled. Most importantly, reseeding can take place 6 hours to 3 days after application.

Instant degradation of the product makes glyphosate a possible choice for week kill in sand traps as the sand blasted to the green should not result in any further kill of valued grasses at the edge of the traps. Glyphosate may be used around trees as the product is effective on green, actively growing foliage only.

3. Work with growth retardants still indicate that the products all varied in degree of control. Burn is associated with many of these chemicals and they should only be used on a controlled basis. Growth retardant work will be discussed at the Orange Country Sod Field day on July 30, 1975.

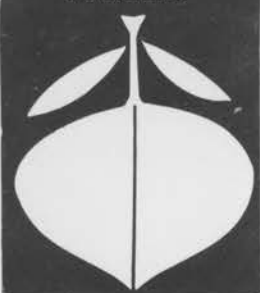
4. Nitrate pollution is being examined in Suffolk County. Turfgrass fertilization is being blamed for the large amounts of nitrates in the soils and water and effort is being expended to examine if our practices are at fault. Nitrogen recovery from removed clippings is being compared to fertilization rates to determine the efficiency of plant nitrate utilization. Dr. Kaufmann noted that one fifth of the fertilizer applied appears to be lost by removing the clippings.

5. Forty varieties of Bluegrass and twenty varieties of Ryegrass are being examined in a new shade plot area. These plots have only recently been established and not results gathered yet.

6. Three quarters of an acre will be established with Annual Bluegrass to study the feasibility of maintaining Annual Bluegrass under golf course conditions. It was suggested that an area be mixed with Bentgrass to simulate conditions that exist on courses in our area.

In summary, Dr. Kaufmann said that ten acres of land with soils typical of our areas had been allotted for turfgrass research at Cornell. With financial support, the future looks bright, and we hope that cooperation throughout the State will help aid some of the progressive research underway at Cornell. Thank you Dr. Kaufmann for your informative talk and the tiring bus ride to be with us.

Emanuel Shemin
Horticulturist



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FAIRY RING DISEASE OF TURFGRASSES

Philip M. Halisky, Professor of Plant Pathology, Cook College, Rutgers University

The seasonal occurrence of mushrooms and puffballs in turfgrass areas is relatively commonplace. Such mushrooms create an unsightly appearance that mars the aesthetic quality of otherwise well-maintained turf. Furthermore, these fungi may present a health hazard since some of the species encountered on lawns are known to be toxic to man.

In a 1964 survey turf specialists from 30 locations in North America reported on the severity of various turfgrass diseases. In lawns they ranked fairy rings as the most serious disease encountered, while on golf courses fairy rings were ranked fourth in severity.

SYMPTOMS

Fairy rings are most commonly seen as complete rings, arcs, or crescent shapes of grass which is dark green. At times circles of bare ground or weeds are seen without any mushrooms. At other times mushrooms may appear in a circle without the presence of the dark green band of grass.

In mid-summer the affected grass wilts, turns brown, and dies. Often the ring becomes invaded by weeds. In the absence of rain or irrigation the soil in the ring may become compact and hard.

Fairy rings develop most frequently in weakened turf lacking in nutrients, or in soil high in undecomposed organic matter. Commonly they are seen in turf areas such as pastures that are dry and low in fertility. Fruiting bodies (mushrooms or puffballs) may appear when soil moisture is available.

LIFE HISTORY

Initial turfgrass infestation generally occurs when pieces of mycelium (thread-like fungus body) are introduced with soil, sod, or by wind-borne spores. Livestock and poultry manures may contain spores of fairy ring fungi. Fungus growth starts at a central point and spreads outward making an ever-widening circle or partial circle. Annual outward growth of a fairy ring may be as little as a few inches or as great as 1 to 2 feet.

The ring grows outward because the fungus seeks new food sources after having depleted its food supply. Accumulation of soil ammonia also encourages growth of the fungus outward.

Apparently, stimulation of green grass inside the ring is not due to the activity of the fungus mycelium. Rather, the old mycelium in this soil region is decomposed into available nitrates by other soil microorganisms. These nitrates stimulate the grass which grows as though recently fertilized.

In the process of growth of the rings the fungi produce such a thick, heavy mat of mycelium in the upper 4 to 8 inches of soil that it becomes difficult for water to penetrate to the grass roots. Nutrients may also be unavailable. A lack of water and/or nutrients may contribute to the kill of grass.

Fairy rings may persist for years in the soil. In certain places in Europe they have been observed in the same areas for hundreds of years. In western Canada one fairy ring is estimated to be over 200 years old, while in Colorado two giant rings are estimated to be approximately 600 years old.

CAUSES OF DEATH

Three theories explain how soil-borne fairy ring fungi cause death in turfgrasses. They are:

- 1) The mycelium of the fungus densely permeates the soil rendering it impervious to penetration by water.
- 2) The roots of the turfgrasses are invaded by the parasitic fungi which cause the fairy rings.
- 3) These causal fungi produce a volatile, highly phytotoxic gas called hydrogen cyanide (HCN) in the soil.

Throughout the world more than 60 species of mushrooms and puffballs are known to be associated with fairy rings in turf. The exact mode of action responsible for causing death depends on which particular mushroom or puffball is involved and what type of a ring is formed.

TYPES OF RINGS

Fairy rings are identified by the type of ring or circle that is produced. In general, three types of rings are known.

TYPE 1—Those rings in which the grass is killed or badly damaged, usually resulting in a circle of bare ground that is devoid of grass. The outer area in advance of this dead zone is characterized by a ring of stimulated grass that is both darker green and taller than the surrounding grass. A second ring of

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stimulated grass may be formed toward the inside of the dead zone. Mushrooms or puffballs may or may not be present in any of these areas. Type 1 rings impart the most severe injury to turfgrasses.

TYPE 2—Those rings in which the turfgrass is stimulated but in which no dead zone develops. A Type 2 ring is, therefore, less injurious to turf than a Type 1 ring. Again, mushrooms or puffballs may or may not be present.

TYPE 3—Those rings in which no effect on the grass can be detected: either by stimulation or death of grass. Type 3 rings are identifiable only by the presence of fruiting structures (mushrooms or puffballs). Type 3 rings are, therefore, least injurious to turfgrasses.

From the above descriptions it is apparent that a Type 1 or Type 2 ring can be detected whether the fruiting bodies of the responsible fungus are present or absent. In contrast, a Type 3 ring can only be identified when fruiting bodies are present.

INFLUENCE OF ENVIRONMENT

The influence of environment on symptom expression and on growth of fruiting structures is evident from the fact that where mushrooms are present during a wet year they may fail to reappear during a dry year. Similarly, green bands of stimulated grass that are present one year may disappear the following year, and then reappear in later years. The unpredictable character of these phenomena indicates that symptom expression and mushroom development probably are related to the vicissitudes of the weather.

The extent of injury to turf by fairy rings is also related to the maturity of the rings. Thus, older rings are characterized by more conspicuous zones of stimulated grass than are younger rings. Very old rings, on the other hand, commonly develop zones of weakened or dead grass infested with weeds. Lack of moisture also aggravates the damage from fairy rings as indicated by their increased prevalence during periods of prolonged drought.

FAIRY RINGS IN N.J.

In 1964 a 5-year study was undertaken at Rutgers University to identify the mushrooms and puffballs causing fairy rings in turfgrasses and to categorize the type of ring each species of fungus is associated with. The fleshy fungi were collected from

turfgrass areas during May through November each year from 1964 to 1968. The turf areas examined included home lawns, golf courses, public parks, school grounds, industrial lawns, pastures, roadsides, and research plots. Along with environmental observations such as distribution patterns, population numbers, and season of greatest abundance. The rings were classified into Type 1, 2 or 3 based on factors such as turfgrass stimulation, dead-zone formation, and other symptoms associated with fairy ring formation.

Fungus fruiting bodies were identified in the laboratory where spore prints were made to aid in fungus diagnosis. The results of this study showing the kinds (species) of fungi collected and the types of rings they form are given in the table.

In New Jersey the most commonly occurring fairy-ring mushroom (*Marasmius oreades*) forms Type 1 rings in turfgrasses most severely. In fact, 41 percent of all the rings examined in turfgrass areas in New Jersey were of the injurious Type 1 category.

MUSHROOMS AND PUFFBALLS ASSOCIATED WITH TURFGRASS FAIRY RINGS IN NEW JERSEY

Fungus Name	Ring Type	(1964-1968) 5-Year Total
<i>Marasmius oreades</i>	Type 1	55
<i>Agaricus campestris</i>	Type 2	41
<i>Panellus reticulatus</i>	Type 3	20
<i>Lepiota naucina</i>	Type 3	18
<i>Calvatia cyathiformis</i>	Type 2	13
<i>Clitocybe species</i>	Type 1	11
<i>Psilocybe foeniculii</i>	Type 3	6
<i>Agaricus arvensis</i>	Type 1	2
Total fairy ring fungi		166

CONTROL OF FAIRY RING

Attempts to control fairy rings in turf have proven to be very difficult and the most promising treatments have been shortlived. Innumerable attempts have been made to retard or to eliminate fairy rings by use of fungicides, fumigants, removal of soil, fertilization, and the application of high levels of water. Many fungicides have been tested to find one that will completely eradicate the fungus.

To date the search for such a chemical has been fruitless.

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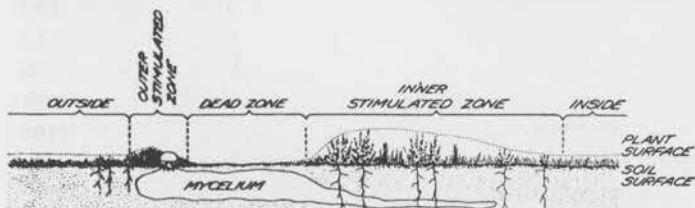
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Section through a fairy ring showing the area of soil occupied by the mycelium of the mushroom.

The better fungicides appear to retard fungal growth but only temporarily. Eventually the rings reappear. In the past, phenyl mercury acetate (PMAS) and cadmium-containing fungicides were used at twice the recommended dosage for foliar application. However, these compounds are now restricted from use on turf in New Jersey.

The newer benzimidazole systemic fungicides (such as benomyl) are not effective in controlling fairy rings and may even stimulate their activity (See **Green World**, Vol. 2, No. 2, May, 1972).

FUMIGATION

Fumigation by formaldehyde or by methyl bromide is feasible if the rings are few and small. Formaldehyde fumigation may appeal to the homeowner because the method is safe and relatively simple. However, it requires the removal and discarding of sod from the area of the ring plus 18 inches around the outside perimeter of the ring. Because of the extensive work and high cost involved, removal of soil and/or fumigation is often prohibitive.

In general, no satisfactory control measure is known for fairy rings at the present time. All turfgrasses appear susceptible to this disease. Persistent soaking with water using a tree-root probe or hydrogun fastened to a garden hose plus fertilization will help to reduce symptoms of fairy rings in turf.

Credit: Greenworld, June 1975

ROLL-OVER PROTECTIVE STRUCTURES FOR AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS

Recently, I read a copy of the Federal Register dated Friday, April 25, 1975—pages 18254 through 18268 dealing with

roll-over protection for agricultural tractors. I found the Department of Labor's comments and standard to be of extreme interest as it appears that the final standard exempts the "low-profile tractors" from roll-over protection while being used in orchards, vineyards, hop yards and low-clearance buildings. Seemingly, we may be able to demonstrate that we use the "low-profile tractor" in a similar manner while mowing rough under the many trees that border golf course fairways. Hopefully, we could get the Department of Labor to also exempt our tractors. Meanwhile, it appears that the final standard preserves the requirement contained in the proposal that all tractors manufactured after October 25, 1976 of over 20 engine horsepower used in agriculture be equipped with a seat belt and a ROPS that meet the test and performance requirements specified in the standard.

I have written to G.C.S.A.A. Headquarters requesting that they look further into the possibility of exempting the "low-profile tractors" used in golf course maintenance. Hopefully, they will have some success in this direction.

by Ted Horton, C.G.C.S.

CANADIAN GEESE

We would like to again remind you that if you are having a problem with Canadian Geese you should contact Mr. John Cross, Agent-in-Charge of Fish and Wild Life Service, Post Office Box 717, 11 North Pearl Street, Albany, N.Y., 12201, phone 518-472-5381. They are planning to remove geese from courses sometime near the end of June while the birds are flightless and can be driven into traps. If you need relief from these nuisance geese, be sure to act now.

Interestingly enough, when I questioned Bill Buchanan of the U.S.G.A. Green Section about removal or disturbance of the geese he noted that "he had encountered one club that claims to have had no more geese problems once they started using a dye in the ponds. The superintendent at the club feels that the smell of the dye has kept the geese from returning." If anyone else has made observations of this nature let us know about them. Perhaps we can solve the problems more easily than expected.

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