



BEARD  
COLLECTION



**MEETING NOTICE:**

Day & Date: Thursday, November 16, 1978

Location: Elmwood Country Club  
Dobbs Ferry Road  
White Plains, New York 10607

Host Superintendent: Pio Salvati

Host Club Manager: Ted M. Donn's

Host Golf Professional: Rick Rarick

Telephones: Superintendent: 914-592-6608

Clubhouse: 914-592-6600

Golf Shop; 914-592-8989

Golf: 10 A.M. on Carts: \$12.00

Lunch: a La Carte

Social Hour: 6-7 P.M., with Hors D'oeuvres

Dinner: 7 P.M., \$18.00 including gratuity & tax

Program: Annual Meeting

Special Notes: Guests welcome, Jacket & Tie required.

**Directions:** FROM SPRAIN BROOK PKWY: Exit at 100 B, White Plains. Go right off exit and Club will be on right side of road about 1/2 mile away. FROM TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE: After bridge, take I-287 towards New England and exit at Sprain Brook Pkwy shortly thereafter. Continue as above. FROM CONN. OR NORTHERN WESTCHESTER: Take I-287 West towards T.Z. Bridge. (Get there via I-95 or I-684). Exit off I-287 at Exit #4 (Rt. 100 A Hartsdale). Turn left at exit, following 100 A to intersection at the Aphrodite Restaurant. (Shopping Center on your left). Bear right on 100 B and continue about one mile to Club on right.

**COMING EVENTS:**

November 13-14 Wastewater Irrigation of Recreational Turfgrass Conference, Arlington Park Hilton, Arlington Heights, Ill. 60006. Contact: Mr. Paul Fullmer, American Society of Golf Course Architects, 211 North LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. 60601

November 14-15 Management II Seminar GCSAA, Hyannis, Mass.

November 14-16 Annual New York State Turfgrass Conference, Turf Inn, 205 Wolf Road, Albany, New York.

November 16 MGCSA Annual Meeting.

November 28- New Jersey Turfgrass Expo '78, Cherry Hill

December 1 Hyatt House, Route 70, Cherry Hill, N.J.  
Contact Dr. Henry Indyk, General Chair-

man, Soils & Crops Dept., Cooks College-Rutgers Univ., Box 231, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903 (201) 932-9453.

December 2 MGCSA Christmas Party, Greenwich Country Club

February 4-9 50th International Turfgrass Conference & Show, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Ga.

February 27, 28- 1979 University of Massachusetts Turf Conference, Springfield Civic Center, Springfield, Mass.

**MGCSA NEWS:**

Dave Parsons should be complimented for the fine conditioned Mill River Club golf course presented for play by the members of the Long Island and Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents' Associations. Unfortunately, and I would like to apologize on our behalf, the attendance from the MGCSA was very poor. This is a shame since the weather was as favorable for golf as could be hoped for. Bill Brewer and Jim Snow, USGA Green Section Agronomists, presented a recap of the year's turfgrass conditions. All told, the day was well planned and although the attendance was low we'll have to try again.

The return cards enclosed with the meeting notices have always intrigued us as a source of information. As you will notice, we are trying to gather pertinent facts by asking leading questions on the return card. Please answer the questions and return the cards to enable us to report our findings in the successive newsletters. If you have a question needing some answers send it along for consideration.

MGCSA is again pleased to be able to contribute to various research projects. We have elected to donate \$150,000 to the O.J. Noer Fund, an amount to be equally matched by Metro-Milorganite, Inc.; \$150,000 to the University of Massachusetts; \$300.00 to New York State Turfgrass Association for Cornell University; and \$300.00 to Rutgers University for Bentgrass Research. Needless to say, we are presently in the third year of our Hyperodes Research Fund approximating a grant of \$8,000.00 per year to Cornell. Without a doubt we should be proud of our efforts to promote better golfing conditions.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the brochure advertising our Christmas party at the Greenwich Country Club. An excellent party is planned by Paul and Cathi Caswell and I hope that those who can attend will make every effort to do so. We have



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**Treasurer:** John Traynor, Westchester Country Club  
Office 914-967-6000, Home 203-334-7359

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

kept the price reasonable but we can assure you the high quality to which we have become accustomed. Please try to attend.

One further request—we are looking for meeting sites for next year? It is not too early to plan our agenda so if you would like to host a meeting please contact us.

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment Pat and Michele Lucas for their diligent work to reorganize our Newsletter. A great deal of time and effort is required to meet deadlines and keep the newsletter content interesting. Help is always appreciated. If you can contribute, please contact Pat at 203-637-3210. He will be glad to hear from you.

We are fortunate to be able to hold the annual meeting at the Elmwood Country Club this year. Hopefully, the fine weather will last through this meeting and we will have a good attendance to discuss our association and its goals. The guidance and wisdom of all members is appreciated.

Finally, Garry and Sharon Crothers send their regards. Stop and see them in Vermont if possible.

Ted Horton

*The following item has been submitted by John Hunt, Chairman of the Bylaws Committee for consideration of the membership of our annual meeting.*

The Board of Directors has, after lengthy discussion, determined that it is no longer feasible for the MGCSA to carry life insurance for its members. Consistent with this decision certain amendments to the bylaws would be necessary as follows:

#### Article VI Section I

##### Paragraph 1 Sentence 2 to read;

The Benevolent Fund shall be administered jointly by the

Benevolent Com. Chairman, the Association Treasurer, and the Association Secretary under the supervision of the Board of Directors.

#### Article X Paragraph 2 section 3

Sentence 2 change insurance or welfare to benevolence.

#### Article XI Section 1

Change Welfare Committee to Benevolent Committee

#### Article XI Section 6

To read Benevolent Committee

The duties of the Benevolent Committee shall be to administer aid in case of sickness or death of any member, and shall administer the benevolent fund. The secretary and treasurer of the corporation shall be permanent members of this committee.

#### Article XII Section 3 Add:

He shall also be a permanent member of the Benevolent Committee.

**Section 4.** Change Welfare Committee to Benevolent Committee.

#### Other amendments to the Bylaws would be

#### Article III Section 3 to read

3. Class C Member—Any firm whose primary concern is supplying or servicing the turf industry or who otherwise might directly benefit the turf industry as justified by a consensus of the Board of Directors shall be eligible to designate one representative, employed by such firm, as a class C member, and so on.

#### Article X Paragraph 2

Add section 4

Any board member absent from three successive board meetings may be removed from office without notification by a majority vote of those members of the Board of Directors in attendance at any regularly scheduled board meeting. The vacated office would be filled by appointment of the same Board of Directors to complete the term of the relieved officer.

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT . . .

*Editor's note: This month begins a new feature in Tee to Green. "Something to Think About" will be a famous quotation, proverb, or saying whose worth has withstood the test of time. Members having any favorite quotations they wish to share are encouraged to send them to Tee to Green for publication.*

"I will pay more for a man's ability to speak and express himself than for any other quality he might possess."

—the late Charles Schwab

## TURF MANAGER'S WINTER CHECK LIST

Mr. Frank Sirianni, Supt.

Penn State University Golf Course

November is the month Superintendents and Turf-managers in Pennsylvania are making preparations for winterizing their golf courses, sod farms, and equipment. The following is a list

of *musts* we use at the University Golf Course.

1. Protect turf from frost damage, either by water or by keeping golfers and traffic off until conditions are favorable.
2. Complete all outside work, save inside work for wet and cold days.
3. Drain all water lines, open drains where there is danger of freezing. Blow lines out with air if possible.
4. Store equipment that will no longer be used.
5. If course is left open for late play move cups to front of greens—take tee markers off and put in front of tee.
6. Add a few tablespoons of anti-freeze to water in ball washers if they are left out.
7. Use snow fence along entrance roads and near shops to protect areas that drift.
8. Keep leaves picked up.
9. Wrap and use guy wires on trees planted in fall.
10. Check radiators on vehicles that will be out and subject to freezing conditions.
11. Clean catch basins and drain boxes.
12. Spray greens for winter protection of winter kill, if budget permits spray tees and collars, etc.
13. If greens are exposed to winds and have been a problem, snowfence may help.
14. Spray evergreens if necessary.
15. Paint ball-washers—flagsticks—tee markers and waste baskets.
16. Overhaul and sharpen machinery, check each machine for worn parts.
17. If course is new and not fully covered keep seed on hand for dormant seeding.
18. Store all liquids in heated area to protect from freezing.
19. Mark and label all materials, use shelf rotation.
20. Attend Turf-conferences, equipment shows and schools.
21. As soon as snow cover is gone check course several times during winter months.
22. Look over last seasons records, make plans for next seasons improvements.

#### WELFARE:

Please contact Pat Lucas 203-637-3210 or Edward Horton 914-698-2828 regarding any hospitalizations, etc. of members of the MGCSA.

### GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA EMPLOYMENT REFERRAL SERVICE

October 6, 1978

**Title of Position:** Grounds Superintendent  
**Golf Course:** The Hartford Golf Club  
West Hartford, Connecticut

The Superintendent will be directly responsible to Richard L. Mahoney, Green Chairman.

**Course Description:** 27 hole private membership  
Bent grass greens, bent and blue tees &  
mixed fairways.

**Annual Basic Salary:** From \$18,000 to \$30,000

**Grounds Crew:** 8-10 permanent 8-10 seasonal

**Annual Maintenance**

**Budget:** \$210,000

**Requirements:** Degree in Agronomy preferred.  
Minimum 5 years as grounds  
superintendent or 2nd man on large  
facility.

**Send Resumes to:** Mr. Richard L. Mahoney  
10 North Main Street  
West Hartford, CT 06107

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*As we all know, our annual meeting is rapidly approaching. But also approaching is the annual meetings at each of our own club. And this usually means changes on the Board of Governors, Committee Chairmen, and sometimes a new Greens Chairman.*

*We are all aware of the time involved explaining to a new chairman the "behind the scenes" activities of a maintenance department which enables us to make the course look the way it does. This education process is usually time consuming and sometimes difficult.*

*Reprinted in this issue of Tee to Green, is an article taken from the January, '78 edition of The South Florida Green, official bulletin of the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association. It is entitled "How to Succeed as a Greens Chairman" and combines humor with down to earth experience of a greens chairman.*

*I think it's well worth reading . . . and then passing on to someone else.*

*Pat Lucas, Editor*

## HOW TO SUCCEED AS A GREENS CHAIRMAN

By C. MICHAEL DUNN

Commodore Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club  
Boca Raton, Florida

Next to being a major league umpire I can think of no job as thankless as a Greens Chairman's. A Greens Chairman needs a thick skin, a green thumb, a soft heart, a hard head, a refillable prescription for sleeping pills and an unlisted telephone number. In a club with 400 golfing members he has 400 assistant chairmen, not including the wives, some of whom should count double.

The Greens Chairman must produce greens that will stop a flyer out of the rough within two feet of the hole. He must engineer the fairway grass long enough to make the ball stand up as if it were teed and yet roll 50 yards after it lands. It's his responsibility to limit the rainfall between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. and never let it rain hard enough to close the course. He's expected to make a greens mower last indefinitely and a fairway mower even longer. Gadgets such as trucksters, weed eaters, sodcutters and rototillers are looked upon by the Board of Governors as unnecessary frills.

Now I hate yard work. I have always hated yard work. I don't see eye to eye with things that grow. When I look at flowers they wilt. Born on a farm in Northern Michigan, I've always been grateful to my father for having the good sense to move to Chicago where most of the land is covered with concrete. So, when the Commodore of our club tapped me for the Greens Chairmanship I rebelled.

"Look, Mr. Commodore," I said with all the persuasiveness I could muster, "I couldn't make a petunia grow in the Garden of Eden."

"That's O.K.," he said, "we don't need petunias. All we want is some nice green grass on the fairways and some even nicer and shorter grass on the greens."

"But," I pleaded, "I don't really know a . . ."

"You'll learn," he said, and so, I became the Greens Chairman.

Feeling sorry for myself, I took a walk around the course. It

made me feel worse. Robust beds of weeds nodded defiantly in the afternoon breeze. The grass looked tired, except for the vigorous growth that was taking over the cart paths and the shapeless bunkers stared at me like so many craters on the moon. "I must need a Greens Superintendent," I mused.

Unlike plumbers or doctors, Greens Superintendents don't list themselves in the yellow pages, so I decided a good place to look would be on someone else's golf course. All Greens Superintendents are nocturnal; just why they can't sleep like normal humans escapes me at the moment, but armed with this bit of insight I arrived at a nearby country club at dawn. The place was a beehive of activity. "How the hell did I get involved in this slave labor business," I wondered just as a tractor whizzed by.

"Watch yourself there, Buddy," the driver yelled over the roar of the engine. He was pulling what looked like a heavy farm disc cutting deep slits in the soil. In places it tore up big chunks of turf making the fairways look like great green noodles laid side by side.

I caught him the next time around. He turned off the engine and swung around on the metal seat. "I'm the Greens Chairman of the club down the road. You the Superintendent here?"

"You'll find him over on the next fairway," he said.

"Tell me," I said, my curiosity getting the best of me, "How come you're tearing up the course? Are they gonna make a subdivision here?"

"Nothing like that," he said, "I'm wiping out the nematodes."

"What are nematodes?"

"Did you say you're a Greens Chairman?" He looked at me and sighed, cranked up the tractor and continued his ripping operation.

I found the Superintendent studying a break in the main sprinkler line. He told me he had an outstanding assistant who was overdue for a top job. "I'd hate to lose him but it's not fair to hold him back any longer. His father is a Greenskeeper, his grandfather was a Greenskeeper and so was his great grandfather."



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"Sounds like the whole family is demented," I said.

"Probably so," he answered, "but you don't have to be to get into this business because it'll drive you there soon enough. You'll find out. Lot's o'luck."

The new Superintendent arrived two weeks later, on the first day of the month. We toured the course together. "Do you think we have any nematodes?" I asked.

"Well," he said, "I don't want to hurt your feelings the first day on the job but it looks to me like this is the international headquarters for nematodes and I'd say right now they're holding their annual convention."

"We have some weeds, too," I said, weakly.

"Yeah, and bermuda mites."

"Let's go back to the barn," I said. "Maybe we can contrive a plan to deal with the whole problem."

We poured ourselves some black coffee from a pot that simmers all day on the far corner of a workbench. Then we sat down to drink coffee, argue, make notes, and draw sketches until late into the afternoon. I knew what the members wanted, or at least I thought I knew. To translate that into a golf course that would make them happy we decided to retain a recognized golf course architectural firm. This would assure us the needed course changes would be done professionally. Fairway bunkers, from years of raking and maintenance work, had become uninteresting, round, cavities, and the shape of the greens had lost their character. The lethal yellow epidemic had taken a toll of over 700 coconut palms, so there was plenty for an architect to do.

Then we decided to retain one of the leading agronomists in the Southeast to make monthly visits of inspection. Our abundant crop of goosegrass and other assorted irritants added to the nematode and bermuda mite population gave him plenty to do, too.

My assignment was to hold the membership at bay and to persuade the Board of Governors to supply the funds we needed to do the job. Being Vice Commodore and a member of the Board helped some, but it's not easy to explain to an owner of a supermarket chain, a criminal lawyer, a C.P.A. from Detroit, an industrial architect, a business consultant turned college president, and a vice president of marketing for an international oil company, why it costs so damned much to mow the lawn!

"Ye GODS!" they'd cried in unison, "All you gotta do is mow some grass, rake some sand and kill a bunch of weeds! How in hell can that cost a quarter of a million dollars?" So I, too, had plenty to do. When I asked for (and finally got) \$50 an acre to kill the nematodes they almost accused me of personally infesting the course.

"We never heard of nematodes before you took this job."

My first victory over the Board came when I pried a Triplex greens mower, and 100-gallon sprayer out of them in spite of their calm that I already had more equipment than the Florida State Highway Department. Sand to refurbish all the fairway bunkers, \$6,500 worth, came a little easier. I delayed my request for \$10,000 to install a liquid fertilizer system until the House Committee Chairman planned a request for new chairs for the country club dining room. We formed a coalition and maneuvered both through successfully.

But the big problem still lay ahead. Golf course beautifica-

tion doesn't come cheap, especially when an extensive tree planting program is a part of it. Using reverse strategy, when it came my turn to make the Greens Committee report at the November meeting I stated, simply, "The Greens and Grounds Committee makes no request for funds." I received a standing ovation.

Meanwhile, thanks to my Greens Superintendent, the nematodes were gone along with the bermuda mites. The crow-foot was dead and so was creeping charlie and there was a thick carpet of bright green grass on the fairways. The greens were smooth, putted true and were newly shaped. Some of the bunkers had been rebuilt and there was fresh sand in them and in all the bunkers around the greens.

So, in the December meeting I hit them for \$40,000 to beautify the course. There was hardly a whimper.

I'm the Commodore now, so I appointed myself to the job for another year. I know goosegrass when I see it; in fact it haunts my dreams at night. I can distinguish between dollar-weed and dichondra. And I know what MSMA will do and why, sometimes, we add a little 2-4-D. After we spike the greens, if I see a little brown grass around the hole I know there is a tiny worm down in there just awaiting evening so he can come up and feast on those tender leaves of Tiftdwarf. So I'm gonna apply for the job again next year. After all, I wouldn't want all that hard earned knowledge to go to waste. Besides, it's easy . . . when you've got a top quality Greens Superintendent calling all the shots.

But I still hate yard work.

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## COLD WINTER PREDICTED BY FARMER'S ALMANAC

DUBLIN, N.H.—Don't be fooled by a mild November and forget to get out your long woolies: its going to be a long, cold winter, warns Abe Weatherwise, the crusty meteorological soothsayer of the Old Farmer's Almanac.

In today's 187th edition of the nation's oldest continuing publication, Abe cautions that despite a mild beginning, the coming winter offers no reprieve from its bone-chilling predecessors.

The almanac may have a folksy exterior, but it was only six days off in predicting the "Blizzard of 1978," and was considered accurate enough in 1944 to be banned by the U.S. government for fear the enemy would gather weather information from it.

The team of forecasters, who write under Abe's pseudonym, predict Thanksgiving week of 1978 will introduce a string of cold waves East of the Mississippi, which will segue into another major snowstorm at the end of January 1979 "to remind us of last winter."

The central part of the country is in for an even worse fate with "exceptional cold waves" for the Central and Great Plains states with "near-blizzard conditions" through February.

The venerable 192-page publication predicts the weather with a claimed accuracy of 80 percent. It was first published in George Washington's time.

"People want us to be accurate," says Judson Hale, 12th almanac editor. "Everybody pulls for the almanac. We're in the enviable position that if we're right, everybody's happy. And if we are wrong, they just ignore us."

The almanac says the South will experience cold waves "as far south as central Florida" beginning in December and have an above-normal snowfall this winter. It also warns that heavy rains in January in southern Appalachia could mean extensive flooding.

For skiers, the almanac predicts an ample snowfall in the Rocky Mountains, with late April snowfalls for the entire West. The central part of the country will get a lot of snow in February. The East, in spite of cold weather, will not experience the abundance of snow which has fallen the last two winters.

The almanac also predicts a late spring, with rain and a danger of flooding for much of the country, then warns of sparse rain from June until August, coupled with high temperatures, which could cause a severe drought in the Great Plains.

The Almanac, first distributed in 1792 by Robert B. Thomas is published every fall in an 18th Century house and two connecting barns in the small New Hampshire town of Dublin, not far from the Massachusetts border.

Originally printed to help the farmer prepare for snowstorms, drought, and other natural disasters, the almanac—packed full of trivia, planting tables, animal gestation period charts, zodiac secrets and 16 regional weather forecasts—now reaches an estimated 3.2 million persons.

Its technique of predicting weather based on a series of cycles—observing sun spots, phases of the moon, and the currents of the Atlantic Ocean off Laborador—has yet to be taken seriously by professional meteorologists.

But the professionals could take heed from some of the almanac's recent successes. The slim yellow volume was dead accurate in its predictions of abnormally cold winters for the past two years and correctly forecasted a major snowstorm that became the blizzard of 1978. Hale explained that the blizzard should have hit the Northeast at the end of January but was delayed.

The publishers of the almanac stress the word old in its title to distinguish it from another almanac in Maine, which has only been publishing for 163 years.

Credit: Greenwich Times, October 16, 1978

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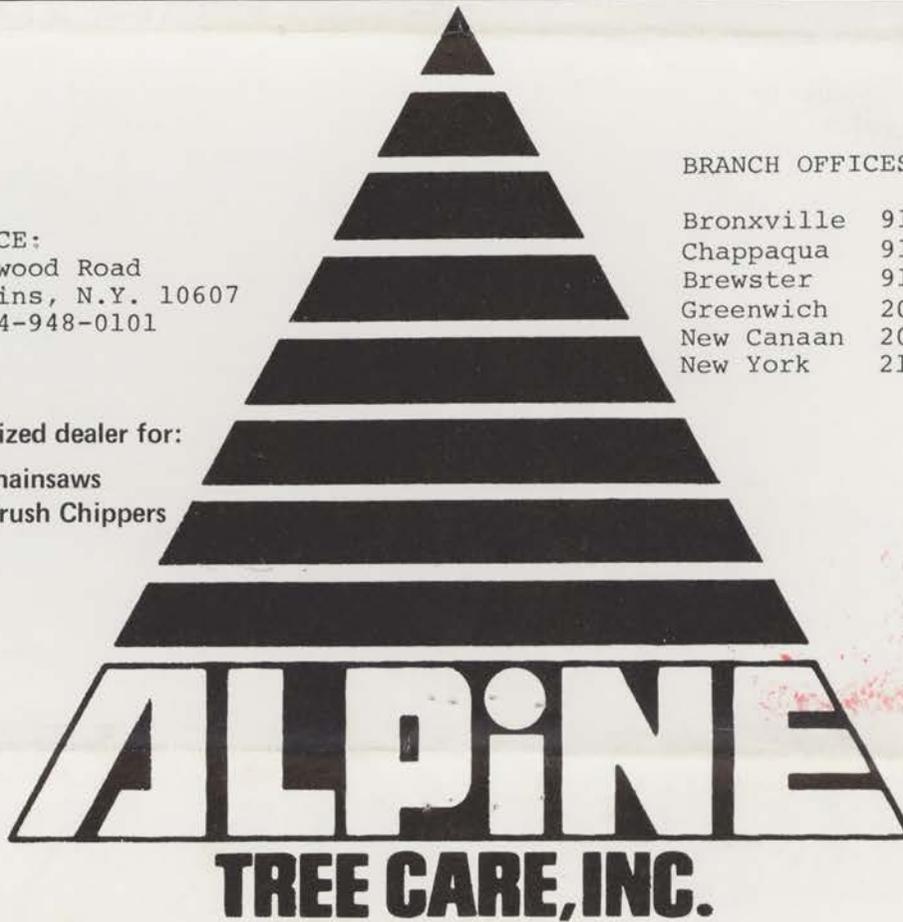
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