

Tee to Green

COMING EVENTS

- June 19 CAGCS Meeting, Silver Springs C.C.,
MGCSA Members invited.*
- June 26-29 First U.S. Senior Open Championship,
Winged Foot Golf Club
- July 24 Long Island Field Day
- July 31 MGCSA Meeting, Bedford Golf & Tennis
- Aug. 14 MGCSA Family Picnic—Woodway C.C.
- Aug. 14-17 Westchester Classic, Westchester C.C.
- August 19 Joint meeting of CAGCS and MGCSA
at H.B. Brownson
- Sept. 15 MGCSA Meeting, Spook Rock Golf Club
- Sept. 30 MGCSA Invitational, Fenway Golf Club
- November MGCSA Annual Meeting
- December 12 MGCSA Christmas Party—
Westchester Country Club

*Any MGCSA members planning to attend CAGCS meeting at Silver Spring—call either Bruce Cadenelli (203-838-4960) or Peter Rappoccio (203-438-6720) or Silver Spring Club (203-438-2671).

MGCSA NEWS

On Thursday, May 29th the MGCSA journeyed to Fairview Country Club for the annual Green Chairman/Superintendent Invitational Tournament. Over 40 teams from the Metropolitan area competed in this event. Bob Alonzi, MGCSA President and Fairview Superintendent, had the course groomed to perfection with the greens like lightning. And the weather could not have been better. Here are the results:

Low net was a 63 which was a three way tie among the teams from the L.B. Brownson Country Club, the Innis Arden Club and the Fenway Golf Club. A match of cards determined the following winners:

First Low Net:	Second Low Net:	Third Low New:
Jim Medieros	Pat Lucas	Al Tretera
G. Beach	Chet Rice	W. Hellenback

Low gross was captured by Mr. Brandt of Candlewood Valley Country Club while Vinny Pentenero recieved the closest to the pin award and Mark Millet got the longest drive award.

In all it was a fun day for everyone. We'd like to thank Bob Alonzi and everyone at Fairway Country Club along with MGCSA volunteers for making the event a big success.

Congratulations are in order to Mary and Mark Millett on the birth of their son Jeffery Mark on May 14th.

At the MGCSA Board of Directors Meeting held at the Fairview Country Club May 22, the following applications were acted upon:

Scott Niven	St. Andrews G.C.	Voted A Member
Curtis Niven	Fairview C.C.	Voted B Member

Welcome to MGCSA!

We all are saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Andrew Virtuoso, longtime friend of the MGCSA. We send our thoughts and prayers to his family.

—Pat Lucas

WELFARE: Please contact Bob Alonzi, 203-531-8910 (office), or 203-531-1930 (home) regarding any hospitalizations, etc. of members of the MGCSA.



Winners of the Green Chairman/Superintendent Invitational Tournament held at Fairview Country Club are (left to right): G. Beach and Jim Medieros of the H.B. Brownson Country Club; W. Hellenback and Al Tretera of Fenway Golf Club; Mr. Brandt of the Candlewood Valley Country Club; Vinnie Pentenero of the Siwanoy Country Club; and Mark Millet of Westchester Hills Golf Club. Not pictured: Chet Rice and Pat Lucas of Innis Arden Golf Club.



EDITORIAL STAFF

Pat Lucas, *Co-Editor* Office 203-637-3210
Home 203-637-3939
Ted Horton, *Co-Editor* Office 914-967-6000
Home 914-937-3613

OFFICERS

President Robert Alonzi, Fairview Country Club
Office 203-531-8910; Home 203-531-1930
Vice-President Michael Maffei, Back of Beyond Golf Course
Office 914-279-7179; Home 914-279-7895
Secretary Paul Caswell, Greenwich Country Club
Office 203-869-1000; Home 203-661-8949
Treasurer Sherwood Moore, Winged Foot Golf Club
Office 914-698-2827; Home 914-234-9469

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Publication deadline for *Tee to Green* is 21 days before the regular meeting.

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The guest speaker at our May meeting, Fairway C.C. was R.P. Korbobo, Rutgers University Extension Service.

THE COMPLETE GOLF COURSE

By Rachel Therrien, Westchester Country Club

On Thursday, May 29, guest speaker Dr. Raymond Korbobo, landscape specialist of the Cooperative Extension Service based at Rutgers University, addressed M.G.C.S.A. members concerning the selection and care of proposed plant material utilized on golf courses.

Through the combination of his experience as a landscape designer/extension agent and his keen interest in golf, Dr. Korbobo has come to the conclusion that future golf course management will not be solely involved with turf.

Members were reminded that golf course management is not just a two-dimensional business but rather a three-dimensional situation. We must not direct our energies exclusively to turf but should lift our eyes and view the golf course as a complete landscape—a land use whereby, turf and other plant material should compliment one another.

Population pressures and urbanization have meant that the space allocated for the growth of plants in one's neighborhood or community has been decreasing rapidly, particularly in densely populated residential areas. Even as more land is paved or covered with houses and the other construction necessary for urban and suburban life, plants continue to be important features in the man-made landscape. People are beginning to lose touch with the soil. "Club members are coming to the course to see what they have lost from their backyards," in Dr. Korbobo's opinion.

With this basic philosophy of what the human needs are, Dr. Korbobo enthusiastically pursued the topic of the expanded role in golf course management by demonstrating through visuals, the functional and aesthetic values of plants on the golf course.

Too often landscape plants are thought of only for their beauty, without regard for their functional value. Yet, plants can be used for much more than beautification. They can improve the quality of an environment functionally as well. Some examples were shown where plants were mass planted in order to provide a visual barrier to an objectionable view, i.e. expressways or as a means of noise control. When using plants for screening purposes, one should remember not to plant in a straight line or in a very obvious equidistant pattern. Secondly, all transplanted trees should be guyed and staked. Some plants suitable for use as screening material are: Red Pine, Japanese Black Pine, and the San Jose Holly. The audience was forewarned and encouraged not to plant Scotch Pine or Austrian Pine in the future. Both species are very susceptible to Diplodia. Honeylocust and Grey Birch are also not recommended due to their susceptibility to disease. The White Dogwood has not been performing well in recent years. A good substitute for this variety is the Kousa Dogwood.

Attention was given to the fact that plant material can be used to direct a view. This may be done by placing plants so they reveal an outstanding view gradually as one moves along a golf hole or through plantings, or it may be accomplished by framing or restricting the view with plants. Some examples that illustrate these factors can be seen at Oak Hills C.C., Rochester, N.Y. and Woodway C.C., Darien, Connecticut.

It is important that one should consider the whole growing season. Aesthetic values can be found in plant parts. Texture, color, and a feeling of design movement show in a wide

variety of bark. The form of a large Sycamore with patches of peeling bark is very majestic against a clear, blue winter sky. Shrubs were recommended for only those areas not in play.

A suggested list of plants suitable for golf course landscaping are: Flowering Crabapple, Callery Pear, Dawn Redwood, Yoshino Cherry, Beech, Saucer Magnolia, Sweetbay Magnolia, Silverbell, Sourwood.

The presentation proved to be extremely informative and thought provoking. The point had definitely been made when Dr. Korbobo stated, "A golf course is only complete when you take advantage of what you have."



Kenneth Weiser, President of Fairview C.C. welcoming MGCSA members at the May meeting.

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All this beauty surrounding me.
Thanks for ears so I can hear
Voices of those which I hold dear.*

*Thank You, God, for this good earth
Filled with numerous things of worth.
Thank You for trials that let me know
That You are helping me to grow.*

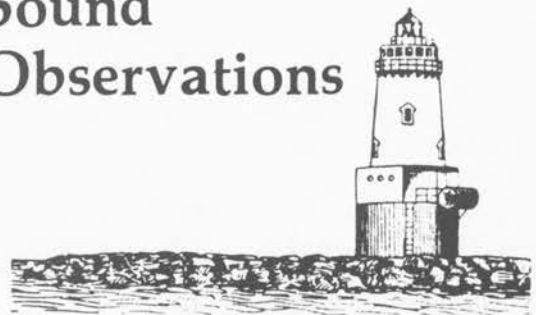
*Thanks for this farmland where we toil
On this Your changing fertile soil.
Thanks for health to work each day
To earn the cash our bills to pay.
Thanks for our family that we love,
Yes, special thanks to You above,
For sending us so many dear
To us as they give pleasure here.*

*Thanks for my feet with which I trod
On this Your land, yes thank You, God.
Thanks for the hands tha I can use
To sew or cook or write good news.*

*For everything I give my thanks,
To One Who always now outranks
The ones I love here on earth
Because of Him I know their worth.*

—Credit: Pull Tab, Spokane, WA.

Sound Observations



LET'S GO PROSPECTING

Did you know that our very own Metropolitan area is rich in gold deposits? Were you aware that these deposits are constantly growing and renewing themselves? Yes, this is certainly true.

When USGA Agronomist Bill Brewer addressed our March 26th meeting at Mark Millett's Westchester Hills Golf Club he referred to our MGCSA Superintendents as collectively possessing "the greatest store of turf knowledge in the world." Yes, our Metropolitan area certainly has the highest concentration of knowledgeable turf managers in the entire world. We live and work among a gold mine of talent and experience with our MGCSA membership.

A GOLDMINE OF TALENT...



In putting this little newsletter together each month, I am faced with many decisions for *Tee To Green* content. Sure there are always the usual features such as meeting notices, MGCSA News, GCSAA News and the like. And if we are lucky, we receive a research article from one of our many friends at our colleges and universities. Of course, there are usually photos of our previous meeting to be used. Finally, to fill the remaining portion of available space, I usually wind up using reprints from other sources.

Where are the "meat and potatoes" articles? Where are the first hand experiences from the people "in the know"? What were the field results, good and bad points of that new piece of equipment which you recently purchased? Is that chemical as good as it's claimed to be in the ads in national magazines? If you had to do that automatic irrigation system over again, what would you do differently?

At our recent Superintendent/Green Chairman Invitational Meeting at Bob Alonzi's Fairview Country Club, everyone received a one page flyer describing Fairview. It contained such things as the names of our hosts for the day, a little club history, brief description of maintenance practices, test plot results, etc. I think Bob did an excellent job for public relations with this one descriptive sheet. And I won't hesitate to say that this Superintendent picked up a few ideas from the conversation which this flyer generated.

We have *Tee to Green*. How about it fellows?

—Pat Lucas

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COMMUNICATIONS, CREDIBILITY AND FAIRNESS

Morale problems such as absenteeism, turnover or poor level of performance can be closely related to your employees' sense of whether or not they are being treated fairly. Even if their jobs are less than satisfying, studies show that people will often put up with unpleasant duties as long as they feel that their organization makes an effort to treat them fairly, gives them the sufficient job-related information and makes them feel a part of the overall operation.

One of the primary factors in employee morale is the manager's credibility. The more your employees believe you and support you, the more effective you will be as a supervisor. In a way, it's similar to having a good reputation in that it must be earned and continually maintained.

Consistency is one of the marks of a good manager. People like to know that you will respond to them tomorrow the same as you did yesterday. It is also important that you avoid treating one employee more favorably than another. It is only human that you like some of your people more than others, but don't let your personal tastes affect the quality of your management. Favoritism shows up first in this area of personal attention, and your people will pick up on it quickly.

An effective manager also keeps a close rein on his emotions. Losing your temper rarely solves a problem, and most employees work best when their surroundings are not in an uproar.

Broken promises can do more to dampen morale than anything else. Do things when and how you say you will and follow through on your plans and programs. Even though your people might understand that it's not always your fault when things don't work as planned, you should avoid making promises unless you know you can deliver.

Be available to your employees for advice and help. People appreciate a leader who will take the time to work with them in solving problems and providing support. Be even-handed in giving coaching, guidance, praise and personal favors.

No matter how good a supervisor you are, sooner or later you will have to discipline an employee. Make sure your

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discipline is both appropriate and consistent. The punishment must fit not only the violation, but also the circumstances and past record of the offender, and it must be enforced each time there is a violation.

—Credit: GCSAA Fore Front

NY STATE TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE MOVES TO ROCHESTER

The New York State Turfgrass Association is pleased to announce that its Annual Conference will be held this year from November 11-13, with the trade show at the Rochester War Memorial and the Genesee Plaza Holiday Inn as the host hotel.

Following a successful show last year in Syracuse, NYSTA once again plans on an expanded trade show with much floor space devoted to the display of heavy equipment. Exhibitors representing all facets of turfgrass management will once again partake in the trade show, this year being held for two days.

Besides the trade show, the 34th Annual Turfgrass Conference offers three days of educational sessions with presentations on various aspects of turfgrass research and management for those in the golf course, parks, landscaping, athletic fields, sod growing, cemetery, seed, supply and educational fields. Credit will be given for Pesticide Recertification and a special Pesticide Training course will be given.

Booths measuring 9'x10' are only \$135 each; multiple booths are available at a discounted rate. For complete information on the trade show, contact Janet Dudones, The Ed Worthington corporation, 50 Petrova Avenue, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983/(518) 891-1830. For other information relating to the Conference, contact Executive Secretary Ann Reilly at 210 Cartwright Blvd., Massapequa Park, N.Y. 11762/ (516) 541-9034 or 6902.

—Ann Reilly

DEALING EFFECTIVELY WITH SALESMEN

Salesmen are a necessary part of your business operation. They keep you informed of new products and serve as a personal contact between you and your suppliers. When a product you need is in short supply, a good relationship with your salesman can make the difference between getting your order and going without.

Unfortunately, many superintendent/salesmen contacts result in a lot of time and coffee being consumed with very little to show for it. Here are some ways you can organize your meetings with salesmen to save you both time and energy.

Prepare for sales calls by having some idea of what you will order. Study that firm's promotional literature and trade magazine advertisements to develop a list of questions about products which interest you.

Make your salesmen understand that your time is valuable and that you have no intention of wasting it. Your regular salesmen should understand that you will have nothing to do with a salesman who wastes your time and his. After all, he is there for your convenience.

Train your staff to separate the unimportant and unneeded items which salesmen are seeking to sell you from those products which could be of some value. Give someone on your staff the authority to turn down those which obviously have little value. Keep a list of your needs handy so that your staff can refer to it when a salesman calls.

Meet with salesmen in an area of your building where you are least likely to be interrupted. The few minutes each day you save by making your meetings more efficient will add up to a sizeable total by the end of the year.

Don't bother your salesmen with matters over which they have no control. If you have a problem which they cannot solve, go directly to the company and use the time saved for more pressing matters.

It doesn't hurt to cement valuable relationships over an informal cup of coffee when you both have time to spare, but a hard look at the way you deal with salesmen can result in a considerable amount of time saved on everyone's part.

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BACKPACK BLOWERS HAVE MANY USES

With the coming of fall, many golf course superintendents are confronted with the problem of removing leaves from greens, sand traps and course shelters. Instead of dusting off the traditional leaf rake, many have found a simpler and quicker solution in a new breed of backpack blowers.

A backpack blower is simply a small gasoline engine which blows a stream of air through a hose controlled by the operator. They can be used to chase leaves into a neat pile for removal or blow debris from tight spots in course shelters.

As an additional benefit, some can be adapted to spray or dust chemicals, power line trimmers or serve as a portable generator. They also can be used to remove snow from vehicles or paths, and some superintendents have found that they are excellent for drying greens just before a tournament.

—Credit: Fore Front

BUTANE LIGHTERS CAN BE DANGEROUS

Recent reports citing exploding disposable butane lighters in the deaths of two welders are false, according to George Bombyk of the National Safety Council. However, Bombyk, an NSC safety technical specialist, said that at least one death and a number of serious injuries had been blamed on the lighters.

"I only know I'll never carry one," he said.

Bombyk said that the primary danger from disposable lighters was that their butane chambers may become weakened from heat, allowing flaming butane to spray on the user.

"I have one report of a woman from North Carolina who was badly burned from chin to waist when her lighter sprayed butane down her flammable shirtfront," he said. Another report said that a Pittsburgh man died of severe lung damage caused by a leaking lighter which ignited his clothing, he said.

Bombyk said that when the lighter flame heats the lighter's metal windshield, that heat is transferred to the plastic butane chamber weakening it. The melting points of plastics used in lighter chambers range from 300° to 400°F., although some melt at temperatures as high as 600°, he said.

In another case, a lighter lying on a truck dashboard began leaking because of the sun's heat focused through the windshield. Bombyk said that the butane apparently triggered a chemical reaction resulting in the release of hydrogen cyanide, a chemical used in gas chambers.

Reports of the welders' deaths from exploding lighters were circulated by a wire service, newspapers and magazines, including *Popular Mechanics* magazine. However, *Popular Mechanics* later retracted the story, citing a report from the National Burn Victim Foundation that no such evidence had been found.

The news stories stated that a single butane lighter contained a potential explosive force equal to approximately three sticks of dynamite. Bombyk said that if a lighter did explode in a confined space, the force might be equal to that of a large firecracker.

He noted that in one case, a lighter which had fallen down a truck defroster vent actually did explode. However, he said that it only blew the top off the defroster and that the driver was not injured.

—Credit: GCSAA Fore Front

This space was left over. Your article could have made the difference. If you're shaky about spelling or grammar, don't worry—our typesetter is a former teacher. You know how they all love to change things around. They do it to me each month.

Pat Lucas, Editor

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Harry Nichol, Superintendent of Country Club of Darien, being congratulated by MGCSA President Bob Alonzi on receiving his GCSAA re-certification award.

RONALD LEISHMAN TO RECEIVE GCSAA CITATION OF PERFORMANCE

Ronald Leishman, superintendent of the Royal Montreal Golf Club, Ile Bizard, Quebec, has been selected to receive a 1980 Citation of Performance award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Melvin B. Lucas, Jr., CGCS, GCSAA president, announced. The award will be presented in ceremonies during the 1980 Canadian Open Championship at the Royal Montreal June 19-22.

Leishman was selected to receive the award for his expertise and performance in his profession and his preparation of the Royal Montreal Course for the 1975 and 1980 Canadian Open championships, Lucas said.

Leishman, 30, was raised on a dairy farm near Lachute, Quebec, approximately 45 miles north of Montreal, and began working on golf courses while a student in the turfgrass management program at the University of Guelph, Ontario. Those courses included the Lachute Country Club, the Royal Montreal, and Thorn Hill Country Club in Toronto.

"Because of my background on the dairy farm, I wanted some type of agricultural career. I feel that a career as a golf course superintendent was a perfect choice for me," Leishman said.

He returned to the Royal Montreal as an assistant superintendent after his graduation in 1974 and was named superintendent of the 45-hole complex in 1975.

The Royal Montreal, the oldest permanent golf club in North America, has a rich history. Founded in 1873, the club hosted the first Royal Canadian Golf Association open tour-

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nament in 1902 and the first Canadian Open championship in 1904. The 1980 Open will mark the seventh such tournament for the Montreal golf club, which was designated "Royal" by Queen Victoria in 1884.

In 1959, the club moved to its present location on Ile Bizard, off the Lake of the Two Mountains. The 45-hole complex was designed by Dick Wilson.

Despite problems caused by unfavorable weather conditions this spring, Leishman said he thought the course would be in excellent shape for the Open.

"We had a very, very bad spring here," he said. "This is the first winter I've seen here where we had no snow cover. We had a lot of wind burn and a very late spring, but we've done a lot of work to get the course in decent shape for the Open."

"Basically, all we're doing is following normal maintenance procedures, but to a much greater degree than usual. We've aerated a lot of landing areas and approaches, and the course is coming back well. I feel that it will be in decent shape," he said, praising his staff of 35.

Leishman, a member of GCSAA since 1978, and his wife, Jennifer live in Pierrefonds, a Montreal suburb. They have a 10-month-old son, Jeffrey.

GCSAA is a professional association of golf course superintendents, founded in 1926 to promote the art and science of golf turf management. Its 4,800 members are located in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and 17 other countries.

—Credit: Dick Halé,
Director of Communications, GCSAA



Roy Benjamin, Green Chairman of Fairview C.C. addressing MGCSA members at the May meeting.

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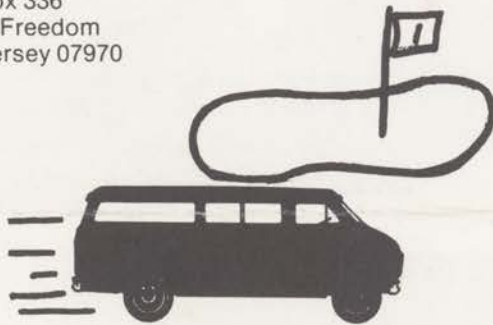
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