

Tea to Green

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COLLECTION

October 1980

Published monthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

Vol. X, No. 9

COMING EVENTS

- Dec. 8-11 New Jersey Turfgrass Association Expo '80 — Cherry Hill Hyatt House, Cherry Hill, N.J.
- Dec. 12 MGCSA Christmas Party Westchester C.C.
- Jan. 25-30 52nd International Turfgrass Conference and Show — Anaheim, Calif.

John C. Argue, president of the Southern California Golf Association and one of the leaders in the campaign to bring the 1984 Summer Olympics to Los Angeles, will be the keynote speaker at GCSAA's 1981 Conference and Show Jan. 25-30 in Anaheim, CA.

Argue, who will deliver the conference kickoff address at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 26, will be one of almost 30 speakers included in the conference educational program. The Schedule also includes a preconference golf tournament Jan. 23-23, preconference seminars Jan. 24-25, the world's largest turfgrass trade show, a USGA Green Section Turf Conference, a golf course tour, the annual GCSAA membership meeting, the conference banquet and a number of social activities.

Richard C. Minasian, a retired U.S. Navy Captain, civil engineer and amateur golfer from Ventura, CA., will be the featured speaker at a prayer breakfast during the Anaheim conference and show. Minasian, other members of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship and several Christian athletes will speak at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 25, in the Anaheim Convention Center.

MGCSA NEWS

At the MGCSA Annual Meeting held at Pio Salvati's Elmwood Country Club, the following slate of officers as proposed by the nominating committee was approved:

President	Michael Maffei
Vice President	Charles Martineau
Treasurer	Sherwood Moore
Secretary	Peter Rappoccio

Directors for 2 years — Class of 1982

William Gaydosh
Michael Caravella
Craig Wistrand

Past President—Robert Alonzi

Directors with 1 year remaining — Class of 1981

Dennis Flynn
Patrick Lucas
Mark Millett

GCSAA BULLETINS

GCSAA's annual membership meeting, including election of officers for the 1981 term, will be at 2 p.m. Jan. 28 in Anaheim. The following slate of candidates has been nominated.

President: Michael R. Bavier, CGCS, Inverness G.C., Palatine, IL.

Vice President: David C. Holler, CGCS, Riviera C.C., Coral Gables, FL.
James A. Wyllie, CGCS, Bayview C.C., Thornhill, Ont.

Director: Eugene D. Baston, CGCS, Birmingham (AL.) CC.
Riley L. Stottern, GCCS, Jeremy Ranch C.C., Salt Lake City, Utah
Cary L. Tegtmeyer, CGCS, Topeka (KS.) C.C.
Robert R. Wilson, Oak Hills C.C., San Antonio, TX.



New MGCSA President Mike Maffei, Elmwood Country Club Host Superintendent Pio Salvati and MGCSA Past President Bob Alonzi.



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Treasurer Sherwood Moore, Winged Foot Golf Club
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Publication deadline to *Tee to Green* is 21 days before the regular meeting.

Something to Think About . . .

A THANKSGIVING THOUGHT

*The Johnsons had two turkeys so
They sent one down the street
To Widow Brown who worked so hard
Her family's bills to meet.*

*Now Widow Brown had one small hen
So, when the turkey came,
She had her children take the hen
To Miss Carr, old and lame.*

*Miss Carr, so glad to get the hen,
Was stirring up a cake;
"A half of this," she said, "to John,
A blind man, near, I'll take."*

*"My, how I like a bit of cake" . . .
Old John was filled with joy . . .
"I have two apples, one shall go
To that poor Connor boy."*

*Now, if you want a happy time
Thanksgiving Day, this year,
Just do as all these people did . . .
Pass on some of your cheer.*

DON'T FORGET!!

Dear MGCSA Member:

At the Annual Meeting last November, it was suggested that in view of our good fortune as Superintendents, the MGCSA should consider doing something special during the holidays for the not so fortunate within our community.

Since the membership present expressed interest and support, a "Reaching Out" Committee was formed. The

Committee members, John Wistrand, Dick Gonyea, Pat Lucas, Bob Alonzi, Peter Rappoccio, Mike Maffei, Al Moore and I, have met several times to discuss our individual research on the needy within our area and to make recommendations.

Through this research, we located many large and small local organizations to whom gifts of toys are just as welcome as contributions of money or clothing. That is why we feel that without digging into our pockets we can launch a "Toys for Tots" campaign.

Therefore, we are asking you to look through those cluttered corners in your basements and closets that have been waiting to be cleaned out anyway and to select all the toys that are in working order. Then, just phone the Committee Member who lives nearest you and he will gladly stop by to make a pick-up.

Please give a moment of your time to help others. It's a great feeling, so let us hear from you.

Sincerely,
Bob Bruce, Chairman



MGCSA meeting at Greenwich Country Club on October 15th. Paul Caswell, Superintendent; William Loweth, Greens Chairman; and Jerry Coats, Golf Professional.



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MGCSA President Bob Alonzi presented a gift from MGCSA to retiring Superintendent Jerry Scafa at the Hudson Valley GCSA meeting.



Mildred and Jerry Scafa

SNAP JUDGMENTS

The ability to think on one's feet, to make quick and accurate judgments under stress, is a valuable asset in the type of emergency situation which often descends on golf course superintendents. When such an occasion arises, a correct decision must be made quickly, with no time for pondering or further research. They must make a snap judgment, often with a considerable investment depending on their decision.

Experienced executives who have had a great deal of experience in making quick decisions under pressure say that making the right choice in such situations requires two particular talents. First, one must have a good memory, and, secondly, he must be able to use that memory in analyzing the situation at hand.

The background for making such snap judgments depends on the superintendent's intimate knowledge of his course and its operation. That's where the memory part comes in. Each bit of information may at one time or another be important, and by remembering bits of data, you can call upon your memory when you need to make a quick decision. A thorough, well-organized filing system can be a big help, too.

Another important factor is your grasp of the big picture. By keeping your goals in mind and relating the decision at hand to your overall course operation, you can narrow your options to a point where it is fairly simple to make the right choice.

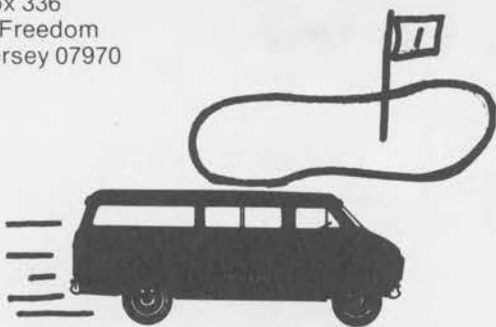
One good way to develop your ability to make snap judgments is to go ahead and make them in non-critical situations without applying them. By making such decisions and then observing what really happens later, you can sharpen your decisive skill for the real thing.

Although there is no advantage to making snap decisions when there is time to do a thorough and rational study of the situation, you can develop your intuition and your ability to make quick choices with a minimum of stress. Whether you are ready or not, sooner or later you will be called upon to use them.

—Credit: Forefront

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TROUBLESHOOTING YOUR CHAIN SAW

For many people, winter's onset means that it's time to lay in a supply of firewood. Others will take advantage of the slow season to clear away unwanted brush and dead trees. Whatever the reason, it's time to get your chain saw running right.

If yours doesn't sound quite right, or if it isn't cutting properly, the problem might be a simple one that you could correct easily. Check in your owner's manual for a troubleshooting guide which correlates symptoms with possible mechanical problems and corrections. If your manual is lost, refer to this guide prepared by the John Deere Company, Moline, IL.

1. *Poor Cutting.* First, check the chain. It may be dull or have been improperly sharpened. Also, while wearing gloves, check the chain tension by lifting the chain at the center of the guidebar until the bar itself lifts up. The bottom of the drive lug should be flush with the top of the guide bar. Is the guide bar damaged? Is the chain installed backward? Always put the chain on the guide bar so that the top cutting edges face the nose of the bar.

If the chain and guide bar check out, then the problem may be in the power supply. Check for dirt in the exhaust ports and muffler, and look for a dirty fuel filter. Finally, adjust the carburetor.

2. *Oiler not working.* Maybe it's simply out of oil, or the oil supply hole is plugged. See if the oil strainer is dirty. Perhaps the vent in the oil tank cap is plugged. BE sure the oiler is adjusted correctly.

3. *Engine won't start.* Read the operator's manual or call a

dealer to check the proper starting procedure. It could be out of gas or simply flooded. If the sparkplug is fouled, replace it. Check the carburetor adjustment.

4. *Engine dies or accelerates poorly.* This problem can be caused by a fouled spark plug, a dirty air cleaner, or plugged vent on the fuel tank cap. Maybe the saw simply ran out of gas. The carburetor could be adjusted incorrectly.

If after you check the problems listed, the symptoms persist, take the chain saw to a dealer who offers repair service.

EVALUATING YOUR OPERATION

With the passing of summer, golf course superintendents in many parts of the country have an opportunity to sit back, take a deep breath and evaluate their operations. On many courses, heavy player traffic has slowed, seasonal employees have gone and budget time is approaching. It's time to take inventory.

Besides the problems of getting the course and equipment ready for winter and inventorying leftover supplies, it's also time to look back over the summer and take a mental inventory of your operation's strengths and weaknesses.

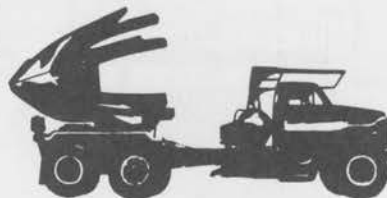
For example, what went wrong during the season? Was your course damaged by insects or disease? If so, what can be done to prevent a recurrence? Now is the time to figure out what should be done and when.

Were your crew members aerifying the course on the day of a club tournament? The slow seasons are the time to work out lines of communication to prevent such misunderstandings from happening next year.

What can be done to improve the course? Take an objective

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7:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Hot and Cold Hors d'Oeuvres

Tartlettes of Quiche Lorraine, Stuffed Mushrooms, Rumaki, Fried Shrimp, Clams Casino,
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DINNER — 8:30 p.m.

Proscuitto and Melon

Mixed Green Salad Chiffonade with Choice of Dressings

Roast Shell Strip Sirloin of Beef Bordelaise

Stuffed Baked Potato

Broccoli Fleurets Hollandaise

Cherries Jubilee Flambees

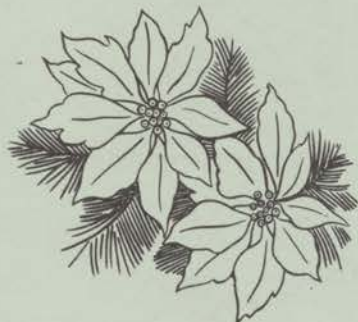
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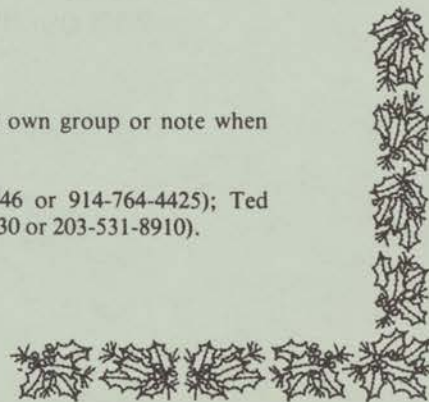
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Dinner includes wine, you may sign
for drinks after the Cocktail Hour.

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TABLE ACCOMMODATIONS: Seatings of 8 or 10. Please arrange your own group or note when making reservations with whom you wish to sit.

For additional information please call Bob Tosh, Chairman (914-764-8846 or 914-764-4425); Ted Horton, Host Supt. (914-967-6000 or 914-937-3613); Bob Alonzi (203-531-1930 or 203-531-8910).



look at your irrigation system, your equipment and the design and condition of your course. Maybe this is the time to plan improvements.

While you are evaluating your performance over the last season, don't overlook the things that went especially well, either. Did you pick up any additional responsibilities this year, responsibilities you might like to continue? Did you try a new scheduling program that was effective? How can it be changed to work even better?

Which of your employees really came through for you? Did an assistant take over some of your responsibilities and run with them? Which employees are willing to put out a little extra effort? Which ones seem to have good ideas? Did one of your seasonal employees prove to be especially hardworking and reliable? If so, you will want to make arrangements to have him back next year.

Now take a look at those projects that were put off all summer. Now is the time to dust them off and get to work on them.

Here is where a good filing system comes in handy. By taking clear notes on problems and opportunities as they occur, and by adding to those notes when you evaluate your operation at the end of the season, you can develop a handy reference tool for use in the future.

Whatever your evaluation of the summer proves, it's important to reap whatever benefits you can. If everything went relatively well, it's just as vital to know why as it is to uncover the causes if there were problems. By building on the past year's achievements and avoiding its mistakes, we can face anything the future has to offer. —Credit: *Forefront*

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JANUARY 25-30, 1981

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MENTAL STRAINS REPORTED FROM AILING ECONOMY

A middle-aged, unemployed Detroit chemical worker reached a point where he couldn't look his wife in the eye. Every time he did, he said, he burst into tears.

In nearby Lincoln Park, a young married couple lost their jobs, their house, their car, their television and their telephone. Both began extramarital affairs. Both began abusing their two small children.

These are just two of the cases cited by beleaguered mental health workers around the country who report a growing mini-epidemic of depression, alcoholism and family violence.

As they did in a similar Associated Press survey three months ago, mental health officials lay much of the blame on the continuing strain of dealing with inflation, recession and unemployment.

"Historically, when financial conditions from a national perspective are tighter, we will witness an increased incidence of breakdown," said David Turkot, an Atlanta psychologist.

Wholesale price figures released recently marked the first drop in that economic barometer in 4½ years, although the Labor Department said the 0.2 percent drop would have been a 0.4 increase had the index not included a new factor never used before.

August's Consumer Price Index had prices 12.8 percent higher than a year ago, and bank prime interest rates skipped higher recently, which eventually will make loans prohibitively expensive to many customers.

In addition, the national unemployment rate is now 7.5 percent. That's 8 million Americans out of work.

"Three out of five people who come to us for help are unemployed. Our volume is up 25 to 35 percent," said Judson Stone, director of the Six Area Coalition Mental Health Center in Lincoln Park, Michigan.

Unemployment in Wayne County—where Lincoln Park is located, just outside Detroit—was 15.6 percent in June, the latest statistic available, said Rick Rosen of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"We use unemployment insurance figures for our statistics and they've been so overloaded there with new applicants that they can't get the numbers to us," he explained.

In Baltimore, unemployment was 8.6 percent in August. A month later, 26,200 people there applied for 75 Social Security jobs.

"It is a desperate picture," said Phyllis Diggs, director of the North Baltimore Mental Health Center. She said 15 to 20 percent more people are seeking the center's help this year than last.

"It's been increasing steadily for the last five or six months," she said. "The way it comes out is in more depression, heavy drinking and some family violence."

None of this surprises Thomas Cottle, a sociologist and psychologist at Harvard Medical School who has studied unemployment's emotional impact for 15 years. Cottle calls unemployment "a killer disease."

"In our culture, working is close to the center of life. Our culture teaches that if you don't work in an acceptable way, then you're supposed to be depressed," Cottle said.



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"And when job loss lasts . . . a million symptoms show—tooth decay, kidney failure, alcoholism, sexual infertility."

To make matters worse, Cottle said, the mentally ailing unemployed often don't seek help: "A lot of people want to go for help, but they don't want to bear the extra burden of feeling that along with being out of work, they're also crazy."

Local conditions swell the tide of troubled Americans, as well—like drought. Southeastern Arkansas, for example, had only one inch of rain from May 16 to late September.

"We usually get 12 to 14 inches. The farmers are really hurting," said Clarence Perkins of the Southeast Arkansas Mental Health Center in Pine Bluff, where client volume has increased 15 to 20 percent.

In Stone's service area near Detroit, unemployment from the ailing auto industry and related businesses is nearing 30 percent.

"The hardest hit in terms of numbers are the young people, young married couples who have no resources to fall back on," he said. "They feel impotent and angry and take it out on each other and the children.

"The next largest group is older—a guy about 50 years old who's permanently laid off. He can't pass the physical for a comparable job, so he's facing a future doing things like overnight work as a security guard for less money than he used to make."

Inflation batters some Americans more than others, agreed psychologist Richard Kiley of the Appalachian Mental Health Center in Elkins, W.VA.

"The elderly . . . already lived through the Depression in the '30s. They're worried about losing their homes a second time. There's a great deal of anxiety and depression," he said.

"We're also seeing many of their children, who feel depressed and guilty because they want to help their geriatric parents, but they can't afford to."

"People came to us a year ago depressed and crying, but now we're seeing people who are suicidal," said Jack Viar, director of the Tri-County Community Mental Health Center in North Kansas City, Mo.

But Viar isn't so sure the economy deserves full blame for a 15 percent rise in volume at his center.

"I've been wondering why our inpatient unit is running full all the time . . . We've had other recessionary times and I don't recall the volume going up the way it has the last five or six months.

—Associated Press

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

Is there anything else you would like to read in *Tee to Green*? We look forward to hearing from you and would welcome your thoughts, problems, solutions to problems, etc.

—Pat Lucas

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