



SERIALS
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METROPOLITAN ST

August 1983

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Vol. XIII, No. 7

Meeting Notice

New Date: Thursday, September 22, 1983
Location: Old Oaks Country Club
 Purchase St., Purchase, NY

Host
 Superintendent: Mark Millett
 Club Manager: Nick Mourkis
 Golf Professional: Bob Heins
 Greens Chairman: Lowell Schulman
 President: Theodore Locker

Telephones
 Superintendent: 949-4203
 Clubhouse: 949-5100

Golf: Carts - \$10.00
Lunch: Buffet
Social hour: 6.00 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres.
Dinner: 7:00 p.m. \$32.00 including tax, tips
Program: To be announced
Directions: Conn. Merrit exit 27, Purchase Street.
 Right off exit. Club 1/2 mile on left.
 Hutchinson River Parkway to Purchase
 St. Left off exit. Club 1/2 on left.



President Chuck Martineau congratulating member Chuck Fatum for recently winning the prestigious Hochster Tournament at Quaker Ridge Country Club.

Coming Events

September 12 Poa Annua Golf Tournament
 Cortland C.C.

September 21 Metropolitan Area Supt. Team
 Championship, Grossinger's

September 22 MGCSA Meeting - Old Oaks

October 13 MGCSA Meeting, Sleepy Hollow

November 1-3 New York State Turfgrass Association
 Conference & Trade Show, Rochester

November MGCSA Annual Meeting

December 10 MGCSA Christmas Party,
 Ridgeway C.C.

February 28, 29 - 53rd Mass Turfgrass Conf. &
 March 1, 1984 Industrial Show
 Springfield Civic Center,
 W. Springfield, MA

President's Message

In March of this year the MGA invited chapter members of the Long Island, New Jersey, and Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Associations and Green Chairmen from the same areas to meet with them to establish a committee to act in an advisory capacity to the MGA on issues of mutual interest. Of primary focus and concern was, and is, to provide greater exposure of the golf course superintendent at local clubs by educating the membership-at-large about golf course operations. By combining resources with the MGA, the MGCSA can increase its political potential while continuing to provide the practical and professional knowledge needed in turf management.

While the committee is still in the process of prioritizing its short and long range goals for the Spring of 1984, some basic ideas have been scheduled for discussion this Fall. These include:

1. Methods of increasing communication system within chapter clubs via the Green Chairman.
2. Contributing articles on related turf subjects to MGA magazine and newsletters.

WELFARE: Please contact Craig Wistrand, 203-869-6477 (office) or 203-625-0319 (home) regarding any hospitalizations, etc. of members of the MGCSA.



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

3. Suggesting guest speakers and topics for seminars and meetings.

4. Promoting turf research; raising funds for research; establishing a central clearinghouse where turf information and research findings could be utilized.

5. Possibility of using the MGA office as the headquarters for the MGCSA.

I am personally very pleased that the MGA has expressed its concern and recognition for the importance of our contribution in golf course management by initiating this collaborative effort. I look forward to a continuing relationship with the MGA and would welcome any suggestions you might have for future agenda. — Charles A. Martineau, *President*

MGCSA News

As this is being written at the end of August, it seems as 1983 has not been a kind year for turf managers. First we had the RECORD SETTING rains of March and April. On top of that, we had a very wet and cloudy May. And then came the June which was like a sauna. Along with turf conditions and irrigation systems not fully geared up or adequately prepared for the wilt. Then July, like a steam room manufacturing pythium like a factory. And now August, does the sun seem brighter? To date we have had close to 30 days of over 90 degree temperatures.

Now, everyone (most) is in a holding pattern, waiting for some sign of cool weather to get in there and rip it up to make it better. And the winter to study the weak links in the chain and to refine and update.

We had a few Hyperodes around the beginning of June after spraying wall to wall. I think the strange weather we had may

have upset the timing cycles of the adults and some got missed by the one spray at full Dogwood bloom. BUT, in thinking about the entire situation, all Dogwoods don't bloom at one time. And I'm sure all Hyperode adults don't all get up at once and begin a trek to the nearest Poa annua Together. Maybe the old idea of a split application in the spring is the way to go.

Crabgrass and goosegrass certainly made its presence known everywhere in the area. I wonder if the heavy rains helped diminish the effectiveness of the preemergence? It looks as if the second half application in June is in order routinely.

We had hopes of trying the wetting agents for Poa seedhead suppression this spring but the heavy rains prevented this. Has anyone tried it and how about a report for TEE TO GREEN?

I'm sure with the stressful summer we had that many lessons were learned. Please take the time to share them with your fellow superintendents through an article in TEE TO GREEN.

Make sure you read the article in the September issue of Golf Digest entitled "Dear Fellow Members" by Peter Andrews. An excellent article and everyone on the Board of Governors at Innis Arden has received a copy. — Pat Lucas



Tamarack C.C. was well represented at MGCSA July meeting. (l-r) Arthur Marciano, Green Committee; Frank Zegarelli, Board of Governors; Gene Grady, Superintendent; Dan Bianca, Green Chairman; Greg Fricke, President.

Job Offering

Assistant Superintendent Position

Montammy Golf Club, Alpine, New Jersey

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Dr. Turgeon Speaks at MGCSA Meeting

by Dennis Petruzzelli

Assistant Superintendent Brae Burn C.C.
Purchase, New York

Dr. Al Turgeon, Turfgrass Research Specialist of the Truegreen Company, was the guest speaker at a recent MGCSA meeting held at Tamarack Country Club in Greenwich, Connecticut.

The basis of Dr. Turgeon's speech dealt with the reasons for poor turf stands in relation to growth media and thatch. The following is a summary of his talk.

In maintaining fine turf, the turf manager has expectations and/or desires of his growth media. He hopes that there is a reasonable amount of moisture retention enabling the turf to withstand droughty conditions. Equally as important is the nutrient retention of that medium. Leaching of essential nutrients past plant roots results in a thinned, sickly population of turf. Also, a medium of adequate oxygen content is required by the root system. A low level of oxygen is commonly blamed on poor moisture and nutrient retention.

Thatch, when managed properly in accordance with intended use, can yield numerous advantages. For an athletic field manager, a reasonable layer ($\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ ") is desired to add cushion or resiliency to his playing surface. The same holds true for the Golf Course Superintendent. Although golf course conditions rarely encounter blitzing linebackers, some resiliency is desired. An ideal depth on greens is $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ " and $\frac{1}{2}$ " on tees and fairways. This minimal amount of debris aids greens, for example, against serious injury of golfer's ball marks. Another ad-



Program Chairman Peter Rappoccio presents speaker plaque to Dr. Al Turgeon.

vantage is insulation of the soil surface. This "blanket effect" is especially important in the wintery cold months since soil is kept warmer as well as plant roots. Also, wear tolerance is increased from thatch but only with debris accumulation to a critical point. However, excessive amounts of thatch can cause serious problems; not only will it harbor insects and diseases, but makes for a terrible growth medium. Thatch possesses macropores, is high in aeration and resistant to compaction. It behaves as a temporary reservoir in high moisture conditions and, in converse, evaporates it quickly. The drying out phenomenon is often the culprit of extensive wilt in highly thatchy areas during high temperature stress periods. Fertilization of an excessive

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thatchy turf requires a slow release product to slowly feed plant roots. A quick release material tends to move swiftly through thatch, resulting in minimal nutrient reserves for later usage by the plant. Slow release materials embed themselves in the thatch layer and gradually feeds the root system.

What is mat and how's it related to thatch? Mat is a mixture of soil and thatch which is a compensation of the two forming a "hybrid medium." Similar to the mat principle is combining sand topdressing with thatch. Improved nutrient and moisture retention is achieved since sand particles accumulate in thatch macropores. This combination tends to hold moisture and nutrients better and longer than if separate. The ideal combinations of the two are not known as of yet but will prove to aid the turf manager in his quest of producing finer turf.

Cultural practices are ultimately important in controlling thatch levels. Light, frequent verticuttings at soil depth yield favorable results in eradicating surface thatch. A sound aerification program helps reduce thatch at a deeper level. Spring and Fall seasons are most adequate times for this practice. Topdressing has proved to be a valuable management tool in controlling thatch. Biologically, microorganism environment is enhanced, thus, increasing the degradation rate of thatch.

Instituting these programs plus many other supplements can help the turf become healthy, stronger and decrease pests that attack it. Possessing the ability to successfully combat one's thatch levels also has an additional advantage — it allows the turf manager to sleep a little better at night!

MGA 1983 Rules of Golf Quiz (continued)

22. In a four-ball match, player 'A' who is off the green, concedes a putt to player 'D' whose ball is near the hole. Before player 'D' could go up to remove his ball, player 'A' plays his shot. His ball strikes player 'D's' ball and rebounds into the hole.

- A. Player 'A' is disqualified from the hole.
- B. There is no penalty and player 'A's' ball is deemed holed.
- C. Player 'A' incurs a one-stroke penalty for not giving player 'D' the opportunity to pick up his ball. His ball is deemed holed.

23. A ball was within the confines of a dry water hazard, with a beer can just in front of his ball. A twig is lying across the can and the ball. The player decides to play the ball as it lies and removes the can. In moving the can, the twig is moved also.

- A. The player incurs a one-stroke penalty for removing the can and the twig.
- B. The player must replace the twig as near as possible to its original position after the can is removed, without penalty.
- C. The player gets a break because of the lifting of the can and does not have to replace the twig.

(continued on page 7)

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Long-Range Planning and Execution

by Rachel M. Therrien
Westchester Country Club
Rye, New York

There are over 12,000 golf courses in the United States which provide recreational facilities for 13 million adults and cover a total acreage that is equal to the size of the state of Connecticut.

The management strategy devised for the golf course maintenance program varies with the type of facility, i.e. resort, municipal, private, or public. The strategy is based upon priorities that have been established by appropriate representatives of the club membership or club owner and the golf course superintendent. According to Mr. Al Radko, former director of the USGA Green Section, "... the normal program of golf course maintenance and management falls into the renovation category. The superintendent is continually striving to improve his turfgrass picture by intelligent fertilizing, aerating, topdressing, watering, and all the many other routine practices." The jobs over and above routine management, usually are classified as capital improvement projects with priority assignments so that the course is not torn up year after year during the height of the golfing season.

Some of these projects are focused on changing the design of some part of the golf course through *construction*. To cite a few examples, a tee may need enlarging, a green may need reshaping, or drainage improvement. Other priorities will be concentrating on renewing or improving the turf surface.

Mr. Geoffrey Cornish, a guest speaker at the MGCSA sponsored educational program held at Fairview C.C. on January 10 spoke on this very issue. In the words of Mr. Cornish, "Whether the work is to be carried out in a single season, or as more often is the case, it is phased over many years, care and thought is required to produce a master plan."

Several reasons were stressed to the audience as to why a Master Plan should be considered. Those reasons presented were as follows:

1. Improve playability and interest for golfers – shot values should be considered,
2. Improve the overall aesthetic quality of the facility,
3. Maintainability of the tract – stabilize costs,
4. Improve safety in light of today's increase of participants and golf car usage,
5. Improve the management of natural resources:
 - a. *water management*: pond construction, increase pumping and irrigation efficiency and water distribution systems, awareness of local, state, federal regulations pertaining to water usage.
 - b. *vegetative management*: Trees and shrubs: pruning, fertilizing, spraying, for improving the vigor of existing plant material; planting, to insure future generations the same pleasure.
6. There exists the potential for a high rate of turnover of Green Committee personnel, thus, it is important that the Master Plan be created to obviate the waste of time and money resulting from haphazard changes and allow the superintendent the opportunity to determine the course of action necessary to achieve these goals.

"Once the plan has been decided upon, some clubs enter it in their by-laws and no future changes for a 10-15 year span are allowed except in accordance with it. By following the plan faith-

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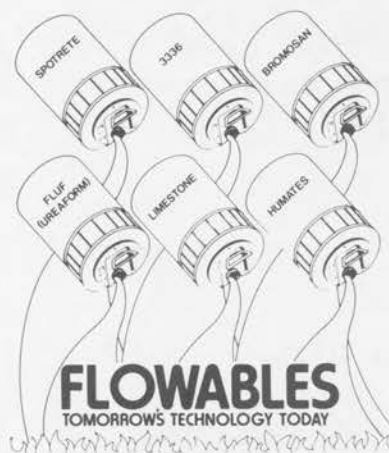


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fully, a modern layout can be achieved," continued Mr. Cornish.

The green chairman and his committee together with the superintendent and golf professional are key individuals involved in the preparation of the Master Plan. An important item for consideration in Mr. Cornish's opinion is the style of the golf course design, when implementing long-range plans. Without the input and advice of the aforementioned individuals many good features of an old layout could be lost. It is the role of the golf course architect to sift through these ideas offered by these people, introduce fresh ideas, and finally to produce the finished plan(s).

In his closing remarks, Mr. Cornish so aptly described the process. "It is hard work on the part of all, together with discussion, that produces the inspired master plan. The four steps in producing an outstanding golf course are: inspired design, sound specifications, methodical and pains-taking construction, and dedicated maintenance."

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Fall Evaluation

FALL! It's the time of year one thinks of cornstalks & pumpkins; witches and goblins; geese flying South; autumn colors and falling leaves. But there are other things one should be thinking about; and that is just how good a job was done this season. What did we accomplish; what goals did we set and meet; what goals did we fail to meet and what about next year? Also, for next year, will we have to tighten our belts and if so where do we start?

One place to start may well be the Superintendent's desk. The following list may be some of the areas where money is wasted unnecessarily:

1. Crew not starting on time properly (example — crewmen start at 7:10 instead of 7 sharp, 10 min. lost times 6 men equals 60 min. or 1 hour; 1 hour per day times \$5.00 times 5 days equals \$25 per week times 30 weeks equals an unbelievable loss of \$666.00 for the season.
2. Plans to start a job on Monday, but the equipment was not checked out ahead of time and a problem is found with the equipment and the crew stands around until the problem is corrected.
3. No rain plan so the crew stands around watching it rain.
4. A project is not properly planned for both labor and material. The crew wastes time on both and the job takes longer or has to be redone.
5. Improper instructions given to crew and not making sure that crew understands what has to be accomplished.
6. Manufacturing jobs (due to bad planning) just to keep crew busy for an hour or so.
7. Sending out improper equipment that is not in working order.
8. Crew taking too long of a break or leaving job site too soon at noon and quitting time.
9. Sending too large a crew for a project and too few for other projects. It should be known ahead of time how many men and for how long.
10. Not preplanning work ahead so that what items have to be used are out, ready to go and all in working order.
11. Not properly watching the buying procedures; overbuy-



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ing, not getting the best possible price, making sure the purchase will not be inferior equipment or chemicals.

These are just a few ideas as to where the money is wasted. I'm sure if you put your mind to it, you as a Superintendent are guilty of at least some of these things and could add several not listed.

So, as winter creeps up on us and conventions, seminars, and vacations come and go, we can take the time to properly plan and execute a happy and successful 1983 season.

— John Stephenson, CGCS
Pottawatomie Park Golf Course
Credit: The Bull Sheet

For Immediate Release . . .

Alpine Begins New Service

Alpine Tree Care, Inc., which has been successfully serving the New York Metropolitan area since 1919, launched a new division, Alpine Environmental Services, to meet the rapidly growing need for professional expertise in our urban environment. Headed by John T. Moran, Consulting Arborist and Vice President of Alpine Tree Care, Alpine's experienced Consulting Arborists and Foresters offer a wide range of services, including consultation, appraisals, diagnosis, site planning, urban tree management systems, environmental studies and educational programs. As part of the aforementioned services, of particular interest to MGCSA members is the preparation of golf course surveys containing inventories and recommendations for new plantings and for the care and maintenance of existing trees and shrubs.

As professionals, MGCSA members will recognize the value of such an inventory and its application towards the overall aesthetic beauty and challenge of a golf course. A golf course survey can help to preserve and protect the many valuable trees and shrubs on golf courses.

Trees and shrubs are often taken for granted until the invasion of a major infestation of insects or disease. A healthy tree, one with proper care and feeding, is much more able to withstand such attacks and to survive the stress conditions caused by extremes in weather. To identify, locate and evaluate, particularly the feature trees and shrubs which are crucial to the design of a golf course, and to follow through on a yearly basis with a comprehensive program of care and maintenance founded on a readily available overview of the entire golf course as a whole, puts you way ahead of the game.

We've all heard so much about doctors today practicing preventative medicine. Alpine Tree Care, Inc. is, in effect, trying to do just that with the formation of Alpine Environmental Services.

Answer Sheet — 1983 Rules of Golf Quiz

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>	<u>Applicable Rule/Decision</u>	<u>Comment</u>
22.	A	Rule 35-2d	Player 'D' was entitled to lift his ball as soon as it was conceded
23.	B	Rule 11-4 Dec. 75-17	This is a decision by equity.

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Synopsis of Simmons Survey

The following information is a partial synopsis of a demographic survey that was done in the Spring of 1982 by Simmons Market Research Bureau. An unbelievable 64.7% of the Class A Members randomly selected participated in this survey.

Because of the volume of data gathered, this synopsis will be offered in the next few issues of 'Newsline.' (Editors Note: but only in this issue of Tee to Green) A great deal has been learned from the first survey and plans are being made for a second this

year, which will provide us with more specific information about budgets, salaries, etc.

Keep in mind that these figures reflect responses from Class A members only.

CLUB/COURSE OPERATIONS

1. Type of club/course:

52% Private (member owned)	11% Private (non-member owned)
19% Public	1% Military
12% Semi-private	4% Other

NOTE: This distribution generally holds true geographically with the exception of the Southwest where nearly 30% of our Class A members are at public courses.

2. Areas of maintenance responsibility:

- 97% are responsible for full grounds and facilities
- 16% are responsible for clay tennis courts
- 1% are responsible for grass tennis courts
- 7% are responsible for paddle courts
- 12% are responsible for other facilities including pools

3. Cart maintenance responsibility and compensation method:

43% are responsible for golf cart maintenance and on the average receive \$3,724 in additional compensation for these efforts.

94% are responsible for deciding if carts are to be used on a given day and if the course will be open for play.

Water/irrigation systems used:

Fairways:	Greens:
54.7% automatic	65.7% automatic
35.9% manual	29.3% manual
5% semi-automatic	12.1% semi-automatic
Tees:	Roughs:
63.1% automatic	19.1% automatic
31.6% manual	9.5% manual
10.7% semi-automatic	2.2% semi-automatic
	70.9% none

NOTE: Should you have any questions relating to this information, contact Lewis C. Powell, CGCS, Director of Informational Services, at GCSAA headquarters.

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MGCSA Family Picnic Woodway Beach Club

I would like to thank everyone for attending the Family Picnic and all who helped in making it the success it was. Special thanks should be given to Roger Morhardt for his fabulous chili & corn, Joe Carriere for his famous homemade sausage, Terry Mulligan for his knowledge of beer kegs & cooking, also John Wistrand, Danny Cancelleri, Glenn Moore, Steve Cadenelli, Pat and Michele Lucas, and last but not least, my wife Carole for lining up *The Amazing Mr. Smith* and his magic act.

There were 107 in attendance out of the 150 that we expected. The fact that it was 97 degrees surely played a role in diminishing the size of our group. Regardless of the heat it was an enjoyable evening for all!

—Larry Pakkala



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