



Tee to Green

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SEED DEMAND EXCEEDING SUPPLY

As if the present water drought is not enough, local Golf Course Superintendents face another challenge of some import later this summer as the playing season draws to a close. A constantly growing industry and our old friend Mother Nature, once again, have combined to create the condition where there is far greater demand for some grass seeds than can be produced at this time.

Confirming what everyone already knows, the classic bent grasses: *Penncross*, *Penneagle*, *Seaside* and *Emerald* – are presently in very short supply. The availability of blue grasses will also cause some concern. Rye grasses are in routine plentiful supply.

Bob Russell of *J & L Adikes, Inc.* confirmed the bent grass seed shortage and offered an explanation why: "Two bad growing seasons in Oregon because of heavy rains in 1983 and 1984 curtailed production and eliminated all hope for carry-over supplies." Approximately 95% of the country's seed supply is grown in Oregon. Similarly, John Morrissey of *Loft's Seed* suggests that the short supply is also due to the surprising amount of new golf course construction around the country and the continually expanding nature of our industry.

Clearly, demand is running ahead of supply. Bill Somers of *Somers Turf Supply* advises that it takes the growers three to four years to significantly increase the seed production capacity of the industry. We are now in year three of such a program that has been held back by the bad growing years of 1983 and 1984. However, all sources indicate that the August 1985 crop

Task Force Update

The Westchester County Drought Emergency Task Force is proceeding with business as usual through the month of July.

Late June meetings finalized the official form that will be used to submit variance requests. Golf courses will be granted variances at this time if they meet the following requirements: reduce consumption by 50% over "prior" usage norms, water fairways during the cooler evening or early morning hours of the day and syringe greens only for a few minutes during mid-day hours. Golf facilities may draw upon their own water supplies – provided they, too, comply with these same guidelines.

Should New York City move to a Stage Three alert because of the drought, new pressures will be put on Westchester County to further reduce water consumption. ■

does look very promising and should allow the industry to begin to work itself into a positive growing-storage cycle.

Bill Rose of the *Tee To Green Seed Company*, Hubbard, Oregon advises that his company dedicated 50% more acres to bent grass seed production this year and expects a bumper crop to be harvested in mid-August. Barring unwanted rains, *Tee To Green* will begin to ship seed across the country on August 17th.

Rose indicates that the seed production industry is doing everything it can to meet customer needs, but that, "It is very difficult to get a harness on rapidly increasing client needs." Rose advises, however, that *TTG* expected to have produced enough seed this year to have a carry-over surplus for next year.

Dr. Norm Hummell of *Cornell University* offers advice that frames the seed issue: "Superintendents should try to take advantage of one of the drought's by-products, its ability to kill off poa annua, by re-seeding earlier this year after fairway renovation – if they can get seed when they want it." Dr. Hummell suggests that some 1984 seed can still be found, if we look hard enough. Unfortunately, the desired seed probably will not become available until the present crop is harvested, cleaned, shipped and, hopefully, received by mid-September – dangerously close to the remaining poa annua population's germination period.

The bent grass seed shortage has pushed prices up about 25% across the board. As anticipated, scalpers are trying to take advantage of the situation – forcing Golf Course Superintendents to make a tough decision: plant when they should with costly seed of questionable quality, or wait for the new crop which might not arrive on time. Constant communication with local distributors regarding scheduled availability of seed should soften this decision process. Ironically, Golf Course Superintendents have been placed in the unique position of praying for rain on the East Coast and for no rain on the West Coast – not an uncommon dilemma. ■



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The Spouse Committee

Guest Columnist: Nancy Horton, Co-Chairman

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The Met GCSA ByLaws, as revised last November, called for the formation of a sub-Committee within the Social and Welfare Committee entitled the "Spouse Committee." The purpose of this new Committee, as stated in the ByLaws, was to support family unity and to help family members better understand and contribute to the profession. The Committee has been functioning for six months now and would like to communicate with the membership regarding its work, future plans and to correct some general misconceptions. We are comfortable with what we are doing, but not necessarily with our name. Suggestions are welcomed.

First of all, the Committee was not formed to plan social functions. Bill Gaydosh, Harry Nichol and the Social & Welfare Committee do this very well, with help from all of us. As a first order of business, Carole Pakkala and myself were asked to serve as Co-Chairmen for the sub-Committee. It is intended that a succession of women will be asked to serve in this capacity through the years – as I first move on, then Carole.

In a natural way, the Committee has found it relatively easy to work along the lines suggested by the ByLaws. Our immediate goals are to discuss and find ways to support Met GCSA families and to make appropriate contributions to the Association and profession. We have moved at a deliberately slow and careful pace to insure that we can carry out the right way what is planned. There are needs within the Chapter that we think the Committee can help address, but only after given the time to become more familiar with issues. It will be important to expand the Committee with interested members and their spouses as tasks become defined.

So far the Committee has been able to focus on the personal side of Chapter life. We have worked to identify new members and expect to be able to contact their families soon to help them assimilate into our community and to be comfortable at Met GCSA social functions. Consideration is being given to initiating an annual reception for new members and their families. We surveyed the full membership to help the Committee acquire a feel for family size, the children population and living patterns. This information will be passed on to the Social & Welfare Committee to help it better plan for Association programs. The first evidence of this will be the expanded concept for this year's Family Picnic, which is profiled on Page 5 of this Newsletter.

There is particular interest within this Committee and the Membership Committee to work diligently to identify the senior and retired members of the Association; to make them always feel welcome within our family and to plan activities for the Chapter that will not discourage their participation. For example, one of the early monthly meetings each year might be dedicated to honoring our senior members and the valuable contributions they have made to the profession. We invite their participation within all committees.

We are moving slowly, but with confidence that our Committee can make a contribution. Your thoughts are invited as to how our outreach programs and general planning can better serve the Association membership. ■

Participate in your Photo Contest!

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be requested of the Editor.

Common Sense and Information

Neatness Impresses

A recent survey of the country's leading business executives indicated that there is a close correlation between the neatness of a person's desk/office and the respect his or her employers have for the individual's management ability and their willingness to provide advancement.

The national survey, conducted by a national accounting firm, rated the overall neatness of the desks/offices of top executives, middle managers and other staff personnel. The desks/offices of top executives earned a passing neatness grade 72% of the time – as compared to 55% for middle managers and 54% for other staff members.

The lower the level of responsibility within a firm – the more likely the desk of the individual was to be cluttered than the desk of top executives. For example, middle managers and staff personnel were 75% more likely to work in sloppy environments than top executives. Surveyist Marc Silbert advised that his survey did not look into the condition of desk drawers.

A second survey is now underway that is expected to show the further correlation between neatness and work efficiency. ■

Improving Telephone Coverage

A recent year-long live survey of Met GCSA Members indicated that when called by a person outside their own club during working hours: 21% of calls were not answered; 52% of the time the phone was answered, but the Superintendent was not available to take the call, generally because "he was out on the course" – leaving only 27% of the time when the Superintendent was able to accept calls personally.

When asked when the Superintendent might be available to return or take another call when he "is out on the course" – 68% of the time the caller is told by the crew member that he does not know.

A busy manager is expected to be away from his telephone. A good manager plans adequate coverage – an option not always available within a small golf course crew.

The answer to this problem can be a telephone answering machine ranging in price from about \$100 to \$260. This would allow the Superintendent to leave a personal message before leaving the office indicating when he would be back and able to return or accept calls. The ability to provide 100% telephone coverage would please callers and enhance the professional image of the Superintendent. ■

Exercise Pays Off

Regular exercise, sweating and jogging pays off at work according to a recent Gallup Poll of 1,033 men and women over 18 years of age – according to *USA TODAY*.

Fifty-five percent of exercisers feel less stress at work and home since they began working out, while only 39% of non-exercisers felt the same way.

Ninety-one percent of exercisers feel certain they can make their plans work, compared to 82% of non-exercisers.

Forty-four percent of exercisers feel better about their careers since they started working out. Thirty-seven percent of exercisers say they feel more creative because of regular workouts.

Analyst Anne Mollegen says, "To me, exercise is indicative of mindset – solving problems, meeting challenges and taking control."

The findings of the current poll confirm earlier studies which indicated that exercising professionals are less anxious and confront problems in a more controlled manner with greater degrees of success.

Regular exercise is recommended for all members of the golf course superintendent's family. ■

Coming Events

August

1	Entry Closing – NE Supt's Classic	Quechee C (Vt.)
6	Met GCSA Board Meeting	Innis Arden GC
19	Met GCSA Family Picnic	Woodway CC
27-9/1	US Amateur Championship	Montclair GC

September

10	Cornell Field Day	Ithaca, NY
19-24	GCSAA Mid-Year Conference	Indianapolis, IN
26	Met GCSA Championship – 2nd Round	Ridgeway CC

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Host Superintendent

Scott Niven, Stanwich Club

Our host for the 1985 Met GCSA Invitational is a dynamic individual who pursues excellence and diversity both on and off the golf course.

Scott Niven was born in Quantico, Virginia and grew up living on golf courses maintained by his father, who doubled as a superintendent and golf professional. Constant access to golf courses has allowed Scott to develop a solid golf game with a handicap generally under 10.

Family background led Scott to the University of Rhode Island, where he graduated in 1976 with a BS degree in Plant Science. Locally, Scott served as an Assistant under Paul Caswell at *Greenwich*; and later was named Golf Course Superintendent at both *St. Andrews* and *Siwanoy* – before coming to *Stanwich* in 1982.

A constant innovator, Scott has effectively managed expansive beautification and poa annua eradication programs at *Stanwich*. Scott feels that the poa annua reduction program, which began at *Stanwich* before he arrived, has increased the bent grass population from some 20% to 77% of the fairway area. To support this program, Scott cuts fairways with 84 inch triplexes, removes cuttings, overseeds extensively, syringes infrequently and uses a wide variety of supportive chemicals.

Recognizing the fast changing nature of the science of golf course management, Scott anxiously and constantly seeks out new information and methods for getting the job done. As ready as he is to acquire knowledge, Scott is willing to share it with fellow Superintendents. He thoroughly enjoys the camaraderie of working within the profession and making friends.

Scott enjoys the diversity and freedom that being a Golf Course Superintendent offers, while at the same time respecting the correlating responsibilities. Recently married to his lovely wife, Dana – Scott ran in the last New York City Marathon, finishing very respectably. ■

Record Invitational

Silver Spring and Winged Foot Take Honors

Records can be broken numerically. The 1985 *Stanwich Invitational* did that with a record 38 club teams entered. Tournaments can also set new records in the intangible areas. The *Stanwich Invitational* did this, also – by providing a thoroughly enjoyable day that included new planning and a large field playing a marvelous golf course in under 5 hours. All in all, it was quite a remarkable day – with the best weather possible.

The day's agenda concluded with a Cocktail Reception, with delightful and fully appreciated hors d'oeuvres that capped off the day and allowed participants to go home in the early evening hours.

The competition was as close as the day was enjoyable. Both the Net and Gross Championships were fiercely contested, with close final scoring. Gross Honors were won by the *Winged Foot GC* with a best ball of four score of 69; the *Quechee C* finished second with another score of 69, with *Mt. Kisco CC* third at 70.

The *Silver Spring CC* won the Net Tournament and the overall Met GCSA Championship with a Best Ball score of 61; *Ridgeway* and *Woodway* tied for second with scores of 63. The 1986 Invitational will be held at the *Woodway CC* next June. ■



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Exciting New Picnic Plans

Make way for one of the more exciting days in Chapter annals. The former Family Picnic has been revitalized and renamed the "Met GCSA Lobster Clambake and Family Picnic" and scheduled for Monday, August 19th at the Woodway Beach Club.

The Board, Social & Welfare and Spouse Committees have worked hard to present an enjoyable day that will attract the vast majority of Chapter Members and add cohesion to the Met GCSA family.

The menu for the day will feature lobster, steak, BB chicken, hotdogs and hamburgers. Featured games and activities will include swimming, volley ball, tennis and lawn pong – designed for all age groups. The entire day's program, including entertainment, has been carefully structured to appeal to both children and adults.

A raffle will be held to spread good cheer after the early evening cookout. Pricing will be attractive – with children under 12 getting in free; between 12 and 18 paying half price. Official notice with full details will be mailed out in late July. ■

Directory Comment

Met GCSA members will be receiving their 1985 Membership Directory at about the same time as this Newsletter.

When received, the contents of the booklet will be self-explanatory. The format is new, as are many of the features. The 44-page Directory is intended to promote and present information about the Association's members and lists the 25 Patron Sponsors of *Tee To Green*.

A new "B-1" membership coding is listed within the Directory to distinguish Class B members holding Superintendents positions versus those who serve as Assistants.

A full effort has been made to present accurate information within the Directory. Members are asked to forward necessary corrections to Jim McLoughlin – for the 1986 edition.

Members may obtain additional Directories for \$5.00. Direct requests in writing to Met GCSA, P.O. Box 196, Thornwood, NY 10594. The Directory is available to Chapter Members only. ■

Photo Contest Committee Appointed

Scholarship & Research Committee Chairman Mel Lucas has announced that the following individuals will serve on the Committee to judge results of the 1985 Met GCSA Photo/Slide Contest as announced in the June issue of *Tee to Green*.

The Committee consists of: Ross Goodner of *Golf Digest*; Zahid Iqbal, Director of Communications for the *National Club Association*; Charlie Robson of the *Met PGA*; Ron Rhoads, General Manager at *Wykagyl*; Jim Snow of the *USGA*; Gene Westmoreland of the *MGA*; and the remaining members of the Met S & R Committee – Dick Livingston of *Quaker Ridge* and Craig Wistrand of *Round Hill*.

The Contest is open to all Met GCSA members wishing to submit previously taken or original 35 mm color slides focusing on the science of turfgrass management, the playing of the game of golf, its magnificent courses/facilities and people.

The Committee expects to have the winning selections published in a manner that will enhance the profession and raise money for the S & R Fund. ■

S & R Applications

Chapter Members are encouraged to submit requests for 1985 grants to the Met GCSA Scholarship & Research Committee, P.O. Box 196, Thornwood, NY 10594 – before the closing deadline of August 31, 1985.

Applications will be considered within the following three categories: (1) an award of \$1,000 to Class A, B and C Members that must be used for education in the field of turfgrass management; (2) an award of \$400 to a Class D member to be used for education in the field of turfgrass management; and (3) an award of \$600 to Class A, B or C dependents to be used for an educational purpose.

The above information is subject to modest change. Final details of the 1985 Grant Program will be mailed to the full membership in a short time. Questions about the Program should be directed to Chairman Mel Lucas – (516) 676-2332.

Letters of application should state area of study applicant is considering and include school transcripts. Employment and academic references are welcomed by the Committee. ■

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Turf Tip:

Fairway Renovation

Often the Golf Course Superintendent must tear apart good looking turfgrass in order to insure its future. The annual late summer ritual of renovating fairways is generally not understood by the average club member or golfer.

Fairway renovation is a time of mixed emotions for the Superintendent – balancing the known need to prepare for reseeded against the many anxious moments, caring and hard work that go into growing quality grasses.

The fundamental reason why it is necessary to cut and disturb fairways is to produce the best seed bed possible for the coming growing season. Renovating accomplishes this through the following indirect means:

- By reducing thatch.
- By relieving compaction, especially in heavily traveled areas where golf cars pass; and
- By opening the soil to receive the new seed.

Renovating also offers the opportunity to reduce and eliminate unwanted surface undulations that build up through the golf season.

Culturally, the best time to renovate fairways is in late August or early September for these two reasons:

- To give the new seed time to settle in and germinate before the poa annua population naturally germinates and offers stiff competition to new seed growth in late September. Most clubs wait until member play falls off after Labor Day before renovating; some run the risk of modest member dissatisfaction and renovate in August to insure maximum results; and
- To take advantage of the normal very healthy Fall growing season.

Fairway renovating is accomplished by the following four practices: aerating or coring to a depth of about three inches, verti-cutting along the surface, verti-grooving just within the soil and dragging.

Very obviously, fairway renovation is an important tool in the year-to-year and long range planning and management of a golf course. ■

– Pat Lucas, Innis Arden GC

June Board Meeting

The Met GCSA Board of Directors met on June 25th at the Whippoorwill Club. The highlights of this meeting follow:

- It was noted that 1985 dues payments were comfortably on schedule.
- Elected to Class A membership were: Mike Miner (Mahopac) and John DeMatteo (Split Rock); to Class B were: Ken Flisek (Apawamis), Scott Schukraft (Rolling Hills), Stan Pollander (Burning Tree) and Don Szymkowicz (Silver Spring).
- Confirmation has been received that GCSAA will offer a Seminar on *Ornamental Pest Management* at the Elmsford Holiday Inn on October 16-17.
- Education Committee reviewing candidate names to replace Steve Cadenelli as Co-Chairman of the annual Winter Seminar Program.
- Bob Alonzi confirmed Winged Foot's invitation to host an October, 1985 Green Chairmen's Golf/Meeting. The date will be announced soon.
- Board reviewed comments in reaction to cancelling of *Summer Social* – recognizing the popularity of the event with some, as well as the heavy cost. The feeling prevailed that the Chapter could not afford the *Social* this year and should use its resources to insure that the *Picnic* and *Christmas Party* were successful and well-attended.
- The Hampshire CC has expressed a strong desire to host the First Annual Bill Caputi Memorial Golf Tournament this coming August. Met GCSA will support this effort totally every year.
- Scholarship & Research Committee looking at a busy July agenda: soliciting the applications, setting priority list for many requests received for donations, getting the Photo Contest underway, supporting the Bill Caputi Tournament and preparing for the Annual Raffle.
- The Met GCSA will consider sponsoring an annual *Most Improved Holes Contest* next year – an exciting possibility.

The Board will next meet on August 6th at Innis Arden. ■

A good picture is worth a 1000 words!

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