



Tee to Green

May 1985

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Classic Conditions Change

by Ted Horton, Westchester CC

Once again, it is Westchester Classic time. A regular attraction on the PGA Tour since 1967, the Classic is one of golf's top two fund raising tournaments for charity.

We are all familiar with the standard Golf Course Conditioning Guidelines the PGA Tour asks host clubs to use when preparing for their events. We are lucky at WCC, because most of the prescribed cuts and widths are the same as we give club members on a daily basis. This might surprise some people.

The one exception is the height of the rough that the PGA Tour requires. Through the 1984 tournament, we were asked to generate roughs up to a height of 6 inches – "using fertilizers, if necessary, to achieve this level." With some difficulty, luck, overseeding and several years of trying – we were beginning to get the roughs up to 6 inches in height as requested.

The combination of persistent wet weather and first time ever roughs at the prescribed 6 inches were more than the players could stand last year. New 1985 guidelines request "that roughs be cut at 4 inches with a rotary and at 3 inches with a reel mower" – much the same as for member play.

Other standard cuts used by the PGA Tour are: tees not over 1/2 inch; fairways at 1/2 – 3/4 inches with a 25 – 35 yard width; and green speeds within 9 – 10 feet on the stimp meter.

The Classic is scheduled for June 5-9 this year. Met GCSA and GCSAA members are cordially invited to attend as the guests of *Manufacturers Hanover*. Complimentary passes can be picked up at the "Will Call tent." ■

Water Shortages Require Immediate Attention

Paul Veshi, Siwanoy CC

It is hard to believe that in the span of four years we have come full circle, once again, within the water cycle: from the shortages of 1981, to the heavy Spring rains of 1983 and 1984, and now – we face another crisis after one of the driest winters in our recorded history with precipitation down 33% below norm.

Local news reporting tells us that our reservoirs are at 50% of capacity when they should be at the 92% level for this time of year. Eleven inches of rain would be needed in May to correct this situation and this is not about to happen. Regional restrictions can be expected soon in the various forms with which we are quite familiar. The first were just announced in New Jersey and will apply to some 94 northern municipalities. Affected New Jersey golf courses may be watered for only two hours a day – during the very early morning hours. More severe restrictions can be expected.

Clearly, we are faced with an *existing* water shortage that will not be easily corrected – one that we can expect will test our mettle this coming summer. The duty of the Golf Course Superintendent is very well defined regardless of environmental condi-

(continued on page 5)



Reservoir rocks tell the tale.



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Computers – A Must!

Guest Columnist

Jim McLoughlin, Met GCSA Executive Director

Few subjects today occupy the attention more of Golf Course Superintendents than that of computers and how they might fit into the world of golf course management. Speculation and rumor both encourage and confuse the most interested. Systems that have been recently marketed generally do not address the comprehensive needs of the golf course maintenance industry – and often lack quality control support.

The good news is that the help and answers everyone is looking for are not very far away. We can realistically expect solid products to surface within the market place in 1986. To be in a position to take full advantage of this coming opportunity, the Golf Course Superintendent should begin his preparations now.

The first realization that must be dealt with is that any number of hardware systems will get the job done. The *key* to the successful use of computer systems within the field of golf course maintenance is the quality of software programs developed specifically for this purpose.

The very real challenge of selecting one hardware system from many has been somewhat simplified within the golf industry of late. Many software writers and vendors are designating IBM hardware. For example: the *USGA* with its national handicap system; and *Toro*, *Royal Coach* and *Rain Bird* in the golf course irrigation area. Meaningful software now being considered for the golf course maintenance field will, in all probability, make a similar decision – favoring IBM hardware. Theoretically, a club should find it difficult to justify the purchase of any hardware other than an integrated IBM system, or an IBM compatible system, for the reason that computer standardization is desirable within a club and the industry itself.

The American system of free enterprise, however, challenges this premise. Very sound and presently available software packages in the fields of accounting and data base management, for example, have been designed to be used with various hardware systems and are being marketed vigorously. It is not unlikely that a club could commit to a computer system for the clubhouse – without knowing that it does not readily accommodate golf course maintenance needs.

This circumstance would place the Golf Course Superintendent in the awkward position of having to justify a secondary computer system within the club for his purposes. More than likely, he would also be subject to some criticism for not alerting the club to the problem beforehand. Clearly, the Superintendent needs to become familiar with developing computer system options within the industry and to communicate this information to his club – in the very near future. It is essential that a club commit to a computer system only when it has firsthand knowledge of what specific software programs are available and which apply universally to both the clubhouse and golf course maintenance areas.

Further good news worth noting is the scope and depth with which computers will address the needs of the Superintendent – beyond our best expectations. Following is a brief listing of the application areas where computer system will make the Golf Course Superintendent a more informed and better manager of people, equipment, natural resources, moneys and terrain: (1) word-processing for report writing and filing; (2) data base systems for storing, sorting and analyzing on-site information and data; (3) an informational network capability to share information and data with national data base operations; (4) labor hour management and analysis; (5) equipment inventory – maintenance and depreciation scheduling; (6) a cross-reference inventory of generic versus brand name equipment parts and materials; (7) budget development, tracking and analysis; (8) chemical applications – computations, cost and effectiveness comparisons within a data base environment; (9) irrigation and pump systems management; (10) graphics; (11) publication & literature inventory listings and cross referencing; (12) diagnostic inquiries and research; and (13) landscape design.

(continued on page 6)

Potassium Deficiencies

by John O'Keefe, Westchester Hills Golf Club

Potassium Deficiencies seem to be showing up more and more throughout the Westchester area as superintendents receive their soil tests. These deficiencies seem especially common in areas where clippings are being removed, such as tees and greens. We will probably start to see more of the same problem on fairway tests as the practice of removing clippings becomes more common.

Symptoms of a Potassium deficient turf appear as follows: The first symptoms appear as leaves start to droop and soften, and excessive tillering is evident. As the deficiency worsens moderate yellowing of the inner veins of the leaf occurs, especially in the older leaves, followed by the rolling and withering of leaf tips. Once a deficiency occurs it alters the plant in a variety of ways. The lack of Potash drains carbohydrate reserves, which restricts rooting. It also increases the transpiration rate which often causes premature wilting.

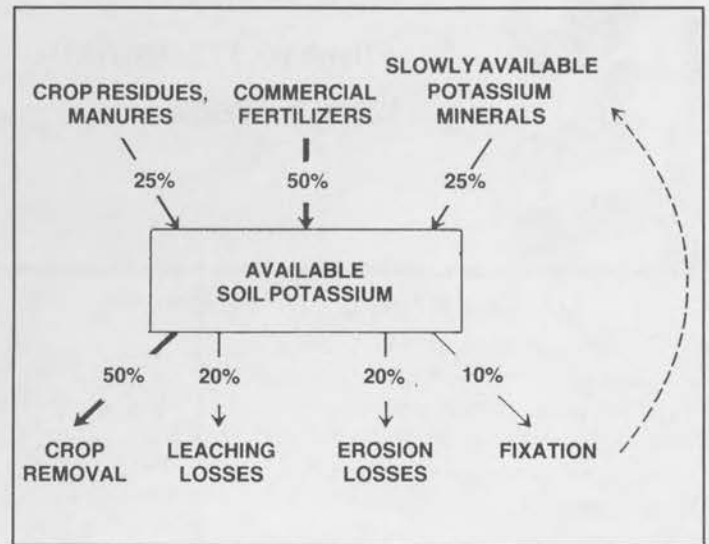
Potassium is a nutrient essential to plant growth and development. It is used for the process of photosynthesis, starch formation and the development of chlorophyll; all of which strengthens a plant. It also is necessary to regulate transportation and aids in translocation. Optimum levels of Potassium benefit a plant in many ways. Root growth is stimulated and the plant becomes more wear tolerant. Turfgrasses have a tendency to promote more stolons and rhizomes. The leaf cells of turf develop more turgidity and plant succulence is reduced. High levels of potassium reduce the proneness to many diseases, such as Brown Patch, Dollar Spot, Fusarium Patch, Ophiobolus Patch, Red Thread and Helminthosporium diseases.

There are actually only two sources of potassium for the soil. One of which is through the decaying of old plant material or thatch, which we are starting to eliminate through clipping removal. The second source is commercial fertilizers. There are a variety of potassium fertilizers available. The largest problem

with most forms of Potash is that it must be handled with care because of possible burn and high salt content.

During the past three years Tony Grasso of Metro Milorganite has been performing tests with potassium on fairways at a local golf course. The tests involved two fairways, one where clippings were returned and one where clippings were removed. He started these tests to determine the amount of potassium being taken from the soil with clipping removal. Basically his results were that 150 pounds of Potassium per acre are removed annually.

With facts such as these we are able to see how deficiency problems can occur without returning or adding proper amounts of this vital nutrient. ■



Coming Events through July)

May

7 Met GCSA Monthly Meeting/Golf Wykagyl CC

June

4 Golf Writers National Awards Dinner Elmsford Marriott

6 Met GCSA Invitational Tournament Stanwich C

5-9 Westchester Classic Westchester CC

26 Massachusetts Field Day South Deerfield

July

11 Met GCSA Monthly Meeting/Golf Tamarack CC

NEW TTG FEATURE

Golfers have a natural curiosity and interest in the work of the Golf Course Superintendent. It is to our mutual benefit that this inquisitiveness be satisfied.

TTG will present a *Turf Tip* (see page 4) within each issue – suggesting that the Superintendent reproduce this commentary within his club's Newsletter for membership reading.

– Pat Lucas, Editor

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Met GCSA News

The Association would like to congratulate the following Superintendents who have accepted new positions:

Tony Baviello:

Wykagyl Assistant to Pelham CC

Steve Cadenelli:

CC New Canaan to Links at Vista Center

Charles Cross:

Rumson CC to Meadowbrook C

Ken Flisek:

moved from Michigan to Apawamis C

Roger Harmony:

Pelham CC to Racebrook CC

Will Heintz:

Westchester Assistant to Hampshire CC

Terry Mulligan:

Rolling Hills CC to Heritage Hills CC

Scott Schukraft:

Assistant to Superintendent at Rolling Hills

Jeff Scott:

Fenway Assistant to Knickerbocker CC

Frank and Jean Amodion welcomed son Kevin on January 11th; Les and Jo Kennedy kept pace with daughter Katherine Mary on February 12th. Dennis Flynn has graciously agreed to serve as *Tee To Green* staff photographer. — C. Pakkala



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Turf Tip

Daytime Watering

Golf Course Superintendents are often asked why it is necessary to water the grass during the day – when it gets hot and humid?

Most irrigating is done during the night and early morning hours with the help of computer controlled watering systems. Generally, this is sufficient watering to keep the grass plants alive.

There are times however, when certain weather conditions require supplemental watering during the day. These conditions are: high temperature, *low* (not high) humidity, bright sunlight, wind and poor soil conditions. Combinations of these factors produce a turf condition known as “wilt.”

During wilt conditions, the grass plant is losing more water through its leaf blades (called transpiration) than it can replace from the soil through its root system. Unless, checked, wilt will kill grass within a few hours time. When difficult weather conditions exist, “syringing” coats the grass blade and cools the plant down – preventing further dehydration.

– P. Lucas, Jr.

Edgewood Tournament Results

Chilly winds and light rains did not discourage 68 hardy golfers from competing in the season's first Chapter Golf Tournament at the Edgewood Country Club on April 25th.

The Low Gross Better Ball competition was won by John Carlone from *Stanwich* and Gene Westmoreland of the *MGA* (69). Second Gross honors were won by Host Bill Gaydosh and Mike Higuera (71); third place went to Al Caravella and Jim Fulwider (72).

First Place in the Net competition went to Rich Brown of *Garrison* and John Coppola of *Otterkill* (61). The tandems of Mike Leal and Dave Heroian, and Mark Millett and Dan Verrille – tied for second place (62).

Over 105 members and guests attended the Dinner at Edgewood and enjoyed a presentation by Golf Course Architect Stephen Kay on the subject of his recent visit to the Himalayan country of Bhutan. ■

Water Shortage (continued from page 1)

tions: to provide the best possible playing conditions within the natural and man-made resources that are available. This responsibility is a constant that guides professional golf course managers all the time. As a profession, we have met this challenge well in the past and we will do so once again.

The key to coping with less water is *preparation* and *communications*. Back in 1981, *Tee To Green* Editor Pat Lucas and his staff compiled an invaluable collection of guidelines and approaches to be used to combat pending and existing drought conditions. I recommend your reading of the March, 1981 issue, again. In the meantime, a summary profile of these tried and true practices are represented here to help the Golf Course Superintendent prepare the management and committees at his club for the challenges of the coming summer.

- *Irrigation Systems* – a well-designed, properly installed and used irrigation system is one of the keys to the efficient use of water. Repair all leaks; check nozzle size as it relates to available pressure and resulting coverage; check for nozzle wear; relocate heads to improve water distribution; check pump and pump house systems performance.

- *Irrigation Practices* – preparing turf for hot summer weather requires little, if any, use of the irrigation system during the Spring; encourage the grass to establish a deep, fibrous root system in the Spring by allowing the soil to become dry between rains and/or irrigation applications; before irrigation – use a soil probe to determine existing soil moisture and root system depth; apply water as uniformly as possible and only as fast as the soil can accept it; use short repeat cycles and cultivate the soil, where necessary, to improve water infiltration; irrigate when there is little wind and when the temperature is relatively low; hand water where necessary to avoid waste.

- *Cultural Practices* – aerate during the Spring to relieve soil compaction; spike and/or slice turf areas when weather permits to increase water infiltration; use wetting agents during Spring and, to a lesser degree, during the Summer – again, to promote better infiltration, increase water retention and to prevent dew formation; use relatively low rate nitrogen fertilizers to reduce the grass's need for water and apply when raining – if possible; minimize disease and insect damage with appropriate control programs; spot-apply herbicides in the Spring for weed control; raise cutting heights to reduce mowing frequency; continue programs designed to address serious thatch problems, overseed during late Summer or early Fall with more drought resistant grass species.

- *Reducing Other Stress Factors* – generally, avoid placing turf under any unnecessary forms of stress; distribute golf car and foot traffic; maximize good drainage opportunities; thin trees that prevent good air circulation; prune tree root systems to minimize competition for soil moisture – especially near tees and greens; establish wind barriers near exposed sites to reduce evapo-transpiration water losses.

- *Set Priorities* – insure that the water that is available is put to its best use; the following priorities are recommended: (1) greens and collars, (2) tees, (3) approach areas, (4) landing zones, (5) other fairway areas, and (6) roughs.

- *Look For New Sources of Water* – alternate water sources can only relieve the situation – and they should be investigated thoroughly.

Advance planning is critical to successfully coping with a water shortage. The Golf Course Superintendent and club officials should mutually agree ahead of time to the best program to follow. A well positioned communications program should be developed and directed to the club membership from this point on – advising of the kind of restrictions that can be anticipated and of the specific steps the club will be taking to minimize turfgrass stress – during the season. The Met GCSA will work with any club seeking guidance in this communications area. When it comes to dealing with the golfer and his course, the best policy is one of no surprises. (USGA Green Section is gratefully acknowledged as the primary source of this information. ■

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Guest Columnist (continued from page 3)

It is difficult at this time to pinpoint the anticipated cost of the computer systems that would deliver the above capabilities. Preliminary studies, however, suggest that the total cost of the hardware and software system would be recoverable within a year's time – before consideration is given to the many intangible benefits that will accrue to the Superintendent and his club from computer usage. Should appropriate hardware already be positioned within a club, these costs would be significantly less.

Finally, it is suggested that the Superintendent begin now to acquire "hands-on" experience with a computer. One sure way is to acquire access to a Personal Computer through the club, or personally, with relatively inexpensive word-processing, home accounting and data base software programs. Any reasonable effort to get some golf course and personal business done on the PC will afford the Superintendent and his family a comfortable way to become computer oriented and ready for more critical tasks – in the near future.

It is important that the Golf Course Superintendent begin to take the initiative with computers soon – as developing circumstances within the golf industry expand this opportunity and offer every chance for the turfgrass manager to excel. An entire industry is preparing to take a big step forward with computers. It is imperative that the Golf Course Superintendent be prepared to join in and contribute to this advance. The alternative is obvious. The Met GCSA is ready to help its members in this regard. ■

New Invitational Policy

The Met GCSA Tournament Committee has changed the format of the Annual Invitational Tournament – to eliminate the Banquet after golf and cocktails. This year's Tournament, scheduled for The Stanwich Club on June 6th, will cost \$200 per foursome – this fee will include lunch, golf, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

*Stephen
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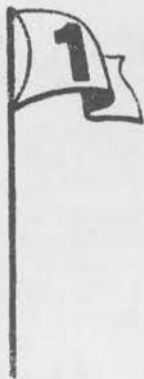
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Superintendents Profiles

HOST PROFILE: Steve P. Finamore, Wykagyl CC

The May meeting of the Met GCSA will be held at one of the oldest golf courses in the country – Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, New York. The Host Superintendent is Steve Finamore.

As a young caddy at the Wayland Country Club in Massachusetts, Steve became intrigued by the science of golf course management and earned a BS degree from the University of Massachusetts, specializing in Turfgrass management.

Steve's work experience is extensive and diverse, including the well-known Country Club of Brookline and Raritan Valley in New Jersey. His first Superintendent's position for the Monmouth County Parks System included the responsibility for four golf courses, two of which are highly ranked public courses – Hominy Hill and Howell Park. This valuable experience led to New York and his present job at Wykagyl in 1982.

Steve readily shares the philosophy that has guided his career: A good Superintendent must have the foresight to plan ahead; and the management capabilities to achieve maximum efficiency in all maintenance operations.

This philosophy is apparent in the many present and future projects Steve has planned for Wykagyl. They include sand trap renovation, drainage, new tree plantings, cart path construction, tee construction, and overseeding with newer turf varieties. The club will also be embarking on a gradual replacement of the irrigation system.

A hockey and golf enthusiast, Steve lives in Hillsdale, New Jersey with his wife Janet and daughters Sara and Christine; and is an active member of the Met GCSA Tournament Committee. ■

HOST PROFILE: William J. Gaydosh, Edgewood CC

The April meeting of the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association was held at scenic Edgewood Country Club in River Vale, New Jersey. The Host Superintendent was Bill Gaydosh.

Born and raised in Yonkers, New York, Bill originally had aspirations of becoming a commercial artist. He attended school in New York City before deciding to apply his creative talents to the field of golf course management. Bill proudly speaks of his employment at Fairview Country Club under the tutelage of Ted Jozwick, first as a crew member, and later as Assistant Superintendent as the "laying of his foundation." With valuable field experience and having graduated from Rutgers Winter School, Bill was offered the opportunity to become the Superintendent of the Fairmont Country Club in Chatham, New Jersey. He remained there eight years before moving to Edgewood in 1975.

Bill is constantly searching for new solutions to challenging problems. He is currently experimenting with Embark (plant growth regulator) for *Poa Annuua* seedhead suppression. He plans to apply Embark to most areas of the golf course, and apply a mixture of Embark and fungicides on certain test areas. If successful, just one application will suppress seedhead propagation and protect against leaf spot in vulnerable turf areas.

The use of oxadiazon (Ronstar) for Goosegrass/crabgrass control, and the bensulide (Betasan)/oxadiazon (Ronstar) combo product is being closely monitored at Edgewood. Both products provided excellent control last year, but did not allow seed germination in the treated areas, even after Fall renovation procedures.

Bill also involves himself in insecticide evaluations in conjunction with Rutgers University in the hopes of increasing and advancing our profession's knowledge of pest control. Bill has been a valuable member of the Met GCSA Board of Directors since 1980.

Bill currently lives in Suffern, New York and enjoys spending time with his four daughters and pursuing his hobbies of skiing, model boats and, of course . . . golf. ■



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