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# Tee to Green

SERIALS

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## Assistants on Course

Tracey Holliday – CC Fairfield

The career path of the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent is commanding more attention within the Chapter these days. The Met GCSA recognizes the need to work more with its Class B members – to help them prepare and communicate more effectively about their professional career preparation. A 4:00 p.m. meeting has been scheduled for this purpose at the Apawamis Club on July 2nd.

Meanwhile, *Tee To Green* has surveyed several Assistants to ask them how well prepared they feel they are for a future career as a Golf Course Superintendent? In general, everyone we spoke to felt they were comfortably on course with their career – with each offering some additional comment that we share with you now.

*Shirley Talmage* (Winged Foot GC) – advises that she is, “addicted to her career” and will stay where she is for as long as she continues to learn and is motivated, which is now the case; the position itself does not prepare you, rather your own goals and objectives and how they are pursued; Shirley likes the challenge of causing both the environment and fellow workers to respond to her thinking and “visions;” Shirley’s “work feels like art.”

*Mark Angerosa* (Innis Arden GC) – communications between the Superintendent and Assistant are the keys for Mark; *Time Management* is something that is not taught in school, but which is heavily emphasized on his present job; learning to set daily scheduling priorities is essential to right decision making; finally – every Assistant must get feedback from the boss as to whether a good job is being done; if you do not know – ask and “learn to learn.”

*Bob Welch* (Patterson GC) – experience has been Bob’s greatest trainer; the Winter School Program at the University of Massachusetts has been a big help, but as Bob notes – “They do not teach you how to write a letter to an IBM Executive who sits on the club board to convince him of why you need a \$35,000 piece of equipment to cut grass.”

*Doug Belmont* (Ridgeway GC) and *Dominick Montelone* (Wykagl GC) have both worked under more than one Superintendent at the same golf course and agree there is something new to be learned from each new boss – regardless of the fact that the site remains the same.

In contrast, *Peter Cavanaugh* (Sterling Farms GC), *Charlie Siemers* (Quaker Ridge GC) and myself (CC of Fairfield) have all worked at more than one golf club, which can be a good way to familiarize yourself with different memberships, crews, equipment and bosses’ philosophies of management.

There are many ways which an Assistant Golf Course Superintendent can prepare himself or herself for a career. What is refreshing to know is that there is no wrong way. The vast majority of Class B members feel well prepared agronomically for their careers. As *Mike Medonis* (Westchester CC) put it, “It’s the behind-the-scenes work that the Superintendents deal with that the Assistants want to play a bigger role in.”

The July 2nd meeting will serve as a good forum for Assistants to talk about issues and to learn from each other – while still retaining their individuality. Thank you one and all. ■

## CGCS Honor Roll

We are pleased to advise that the following Met GCSA members have, this year or previously, earned the most distinguished status of *Certified Golf Course Superintendent* (CGCS):

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# Executive Director's Report

## Searching For The Right Image

It is appropriate that at the time when the Met GCSA is bestowing the first *John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award* this month that we stop to take a special look at its related significance. John Reid is affectionately known as the "Father of American Golf." Among his distinguished accomplishments: playing in the first game of golf in this country in 1888; forming the first golf club in this country at St. Andrew's the same year; helping to organize the USGA and the MGA; and, recognizing that a fledgling golf course industry would require regular maintenance, assigned his personal staff to maintain our first golf courses – thereby giving a start to the now proud profession of the Golf Course Superintendent.

From the beginning, the Golf Course Superintendent has been reaching for recognition, status and respect commensurate to his skill level and professional knowledge. It has been a long and noble struggle that for some time now has been bearing a fruitful return. Yet, the Golf Course Superintendent's finest hours and real discovery clearly and excitingly lie ahead.

Legitimate and sincere debate exists within the profession as to what specific image the Golf Course Superintendent should identify and go with from here on?

You are earning recognition as an *executive* – suggesting further pursuit of an office-oriented, computer-based, thinking superintendent's image. You have earned recognition as an on-line *manager* – suggesting a more immediate on-going leadership role within the club environment; and you have a long proud history of being known as "*working superintendents*" – always willing to roll up your sleeves and mix dirt with muscle power – an image some across the country suggest it is time to discard.

Where should future emphasis be placed within these meaningful image choices? Majority opinion appears to favor the executive/manager look – assuming that a limiting choice must be made. This is not necessary. The Golf Course Superintendent is a truly unique individual, not only within golf, but the entire management world. He is a scientist, a creative artist, an engineer, and a critical manager of both people and money – all in one and like no one else.

Your image is what you are – every facet, in a natural way. As the artist gets paint on his hands and climbs the scaffolds when working on a masterpiece, so too the Superintendent within his masterful world. Be proud of all that you touch. You will sustain every image. Your name is not as important as what you are. You are a "Greenkeeper" and a "Superintendent" – a wonderful heritage. The world will adjust to you. It should not be the other way around. ■

*"Whatever you are willing to put up with, is exactly what you will have."*

Right to reprint must  
be requested of the Editor.

# Fairway Management with Plant Growth Regulators

Scott E. Niven - The Stanwich Club

At the Stanwich Club, our initial purpose for experimenting with PGR's was to control poa annua. We found that products such as *Embark* from 3M Corp. and Elanco's *Cutless* are PGR's that will allow the turf manager to decrease his population of poa annua at a pace that will not make the golf course look ugly in the process. It was important to the Club membership that we approach our goal in this fashion, and subsequently these products proved to be ideal for this type of poa reduction strategy. However, after a few years use of these growth regulators, we've also found that they can provide many other benefits to fairway turf besides a gradual reduction in this persistent weed.

Although I can be categorized as an amateur researcher, I feel that my methods of experimentation are accurate enough to provide significant and meaningful results and conclusions. However, due to the inherent climactic and environmental conditions existing at The Stanwich Club, it is reasonable to suspect that different results with these products are possible in other locals.

Our fairways are comprised of various amounts of poa annua and bentgrass and are maintained at  $\frac{5}{8}$ ", mown with Toro Proturf 84's 3 to 4 times/wk. with clipping removal, fertilized with 2.5-3 lbs. N/yr., aerified and overseeded once per year, irrigated as needed with syringing and pesticides are sprayed on a preventative basis.

We begin each spring by spraying our fairways with *Embark* PGR to control poa annua seedheads. Due to the high degree of accuracy required to apply this chemical I would suggest that it be tested on a small scale prior to treating all fairways. Some precautions to consider before using *Embark* include: informing your club members of your intent to experiment with this product and what results you expect to occur; insuring that spray equipment is accurately calibrated and operating efficiently; using a method of application that will guarantee complete coverage (no misses); making a preventative application of fungicide to control leaf spot soon before or after

applying the *Embark*; and finally, avoid spraying K. bluegrass roughs if at all possible, but if you must, use a fungicide there as well.

In southern Connecticut we usually apply *Embark* around April 20 at a time when the turf has greened-up completely and when the first couple of seedheads start to appear on south facing slopes. The material is applied with a boom and we drag pipes in the dew or mark the spray line with a paint gun to assure an accurate application. It is also important that the turf not be irrigated or mowed for a minimum of 2 days following application. After trying rates of 4, 6 and 8 ounces of product per acre, I feel that with all things considered, the 6 ounce rate has worked best at Stanwich.

The end result of controlling poa seedheads is that the fairways will look much nicer, provide a much better lie, reduce the dispersion of poa annua seed onto surrounding areas and into the soil, improve the summer survival potential of poa annua, and finally, it has allowed us to cut back significantly on our mowing frequency for 3 to 4 weeks, at a time when we are very busy with numerous other projects.

When the growth effects of *Embark* have ceased and the turf resumes normal growth, usually about mid-May, we apply a new growth regulator from the Elanco Corp. known as *Cutless*. This is used primarily to inhibit poa annua, promote bentgrasses, and reduce the overall rate of growth on our fairways. There are also a number of other favorable benefits from using *Cutless*, which will be described in my final summary.

Some precautions to be considered prior to the use of *Cutless* are as follows: it is important to either use *Embark* to control the poa seedheads or else wait until the seeding has stopped, all spray equipment must be very accurately calibrated, be prepared to water the material in thoroughly, when used in conjunction with overseeding wait until seedlings are well established (10-14 days) before applying *Cutless*, and, lastly,

(continued on page 7)

## Coming Events

### JUNE

26 U. Mass. - Turf Research Day S. Deerfield, MA

### JULY

2 Met GCSA Class B Meeting Apawamis C  
15 Met GCSA Summer Social Fairview CC  
15 GCSA-NJ/HV GCSA Meeting Rockland CC  
21 Met GCSA Golf/Meeting Pelham CC

### AUGUST

5 Rutgers Turfgrass Field Day Adelphia, NJ

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## Trap Renovation At Whippoorwill

Bill McQuaid - Whippoorwill Club

In 1981 the Planning Committee at Whippoorwill contracted Mr. Geoffrey Cornish to prepare a golf course Long Range Plan. The original course was designed by Donald Ross, then redesigned by Charles Banks and built by Charles Blair MacDonald. Both architect and the Club membership saw the need to upgrade the course, but each wanted to keep the initial integrity intended by Banks. The final plan presented to the Club, by Mr. Cornish, was wide in scope. It called for the addition of new tees, contour mowing of the fairways, the restoring of cup placements on many greens, the installation of 18 holes of irrigation, and the reconstruction of the golf course traps. Whippoorwill offers a typical Charles Banks design, which consists of raised greens with steep banks and flat bunkers around the green. It was Mr. Cornish's intention to restore the bunkers to their original shape, while at the same time modifying several to "marry" them to the green.

The original trap layout work is done with stakes, or flags, so as to get an initial visual idea as to how the new trap will look. Before renovation begins we marked the outline of the bunker with marking paint to guide in contouring construction. In rough shaping of the traps, we found that a plow attachment for the back hoe does the best job. This plow allows for sand and soil removal with the least disruption of the remaining soil. It is important that the restored bunkers soil base be packed. If the soil is loose when the new sand is added, it will

darken and cause problems with small stones in the sand.

We found the use of mica flooring strips to be a very satisfactory edging material. It is a lot easier to shape - nicer than wood or metal edging materials. This system, so far, has served us well. As we still have many traps to do, it might be interesting to try the sand bag method of edging used by Bob Alonzi at Winged Foot.

Most of the original traps on the course have no drainage tile whatsoever. This is one thing we found that was needed when redoing traps. Now every trap has a drainage system, to a drywell. We used 3" to 4" drainage pipe with 3/4" stone covering the pipe. The stone was covered with GEO-textile fabric to keep the sand from clogging the stone. Before sand is added, we rake and level the base one last time. We then add 6 to 10 inches of USGA type sand into the face of the trap, with approximately 6" throughout the rest of the trap.

Whippoorwill has made great strides in the last 5 years. The fact that the Club membership plans to continue with another plan, shows an awareness and the desire to keep improving the golf course. It also shows the membership's trust in the work already done by Mr. Cornish, Golf Course Superintendent Chuck Martineau and the Grounds Crew at Whippoorwill. I know that we will all be looking forward to whatever improvements lie ahead. ■

## Computers Help Architects

Using a standard database software program that has been modestly adapted, golf course architects are able to put the computer to work to analyze their course design work – on a hole-by-hole basis.

With computer analysis, architects can be sure they have achieved a design balance for each hole through the proper evaluation of the following playing factors: sand; right dog legs; left dog legs; water; yardage; prevailing winds; and angles of terrain – uphill, downhill and sidehill.

Architects first anticipate what the club selection sequence might be for a hole and then design the hole for that sequence – one that will challenge the player.

Target greens are set up to reflect the value of the incoming shot. If it is a wedge shot, for example, we would expect the player to carry a hazard, or at least part of a green, and would not pitch the whole green from front to back; rather – we'd break the green in a number of directions to make the incoming shot more demanding.

By putting all these factors into a computer on a weighted basis and then using standard sort procedures, we are able to analyze each hole to make sure we are building into the course as many balanced, yet varied options as we practically can – to make each hole interesting, challenging and fair.

Computer *design* programs that are now being used within the landscape architectural field will soon be used by golf course architects when *designing* golf courses – opening new vistas and allowing structural insights that will help the golf course superintendent manage the course and educate Green Committee members about the science and art of golf course design and management. (Dick Nugent, ASGCA) ■

## Relative Information

The average United States resident went into the 1985 calendar year with \$7,334 in bank savings.

Men can lose 1-2 pounds a week on a 1,500 calories per day diet; most women can eat no more than 1,100 calories a day to lose 1-2 pounds a week.

Yearly odds that you will be: robbed are 1 in 17; bitten by a dog are 1 in 159; hurt in a car crash are 1 in 140. ■

## Meeting for Class B Members

A meeting designed specifically for Class B members has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 2nd at the Apawamis Club – from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The agenda for the meeting will focus on career planning and mobility, preparing for jobs interviews while retaining individualistic traits, negotiating, communications and management techniques. Class A members are welcome at the meeting. ■

## Persuasion Pointers

*Talk Faster* – if you want to increase your credibility. People who speak rapidly are perceived to be more trustworthy than slower talkers. They are seen as having *honest* enthusiasm. Examples: faster talking actors and speeded up commercials.

*Eye Contact* – should be increased when speaking and reduced when listening if you want to be seen as being more powerful. Increase eye contact the further you are removed in distance from someone you want to influence.

*Change of Attitudes* – to enhance your chance of changing someone's attitude – present your message when you are alone with the person – when he or she will be less defensive, more apt to focus on your theme and less influenced by other opinions within a group. This is why some find early morning and late night TV advertising so attractive and well priced.

*Case Histories* – are a better way to influence people than presenting just plain data. Case histories that illustrate statistical data are the ideal and found to be more believable than straight data presentations.

*Videotaping* – surprisingly, videotape techniques may be more applicable within the world of the golf course superintendent than that of the golf professional – a premise that will be demonstrated at the Met GCSA Fall Communications Seminar. The same equipment can be shared by all professional staff within a club. (Courtesy: *Communications Briefings*). ■

## Bunker Renovation

David K. Kerr - Ridgewood CC (CT)

In all the literature I sorted through as I set out to rebuild our steep faced, heavy washout bunkers here at the Ridgewood Country Club I would share one key point that is not simply one man's opinion, as so many bunker rebuilding tips are, but rather a fact worth writing down. The most effective control in reducing sand contamination (especially in steep faced bunkers) is to build a slight berm on the uphill side of bunkers – channeling water around the bunker instead of allowing it to flow directly into the bunker. The only water entering your bunker should be from your sprinkler heads or rainfall. Even steep faces will be easy to maintain with proper water channeling around bunkers.

As for open stone drainage trenches above washout bunkers designed to channel surface run-off around bunkers: I would avoid them if at all possible. They are a nuisance to the golfer, too close to the green and, as the turf knits over the trenches in a very few years, they will be less and less effective.

The second aspect of bunker rebuilding I feel strongly about is proper drainage. The drainage pipe we pulled out of our bunkers was completely full of sand and silt after 9 years of use – this is unacceptable. Newer type fabric wrapped A.D.S. drainage pipe cost only pennies more per foot than bare perforated ads. Wrapped perforated 4" ads piping running through a pea stone trench, or PVC drainage pipe running through a pea stone trench lined with drainage fabric, will give you many more years of good drainage than a bare pipe in trap rock. Bunker renovation is very labor intensive and it is for this reason that when you rebuild a bunker, you should put the necessary time and money forward to properly design and construct a long-lived bunker. ■

## Trivia

What four different players shared the same name and played for the Cleveland Indians, Washington Redskins, Denver Nuggets and the Detroit Red Wings in the 1970's? (Clue within this issue.)

What relation is that child to its father who is not its father's son? ■

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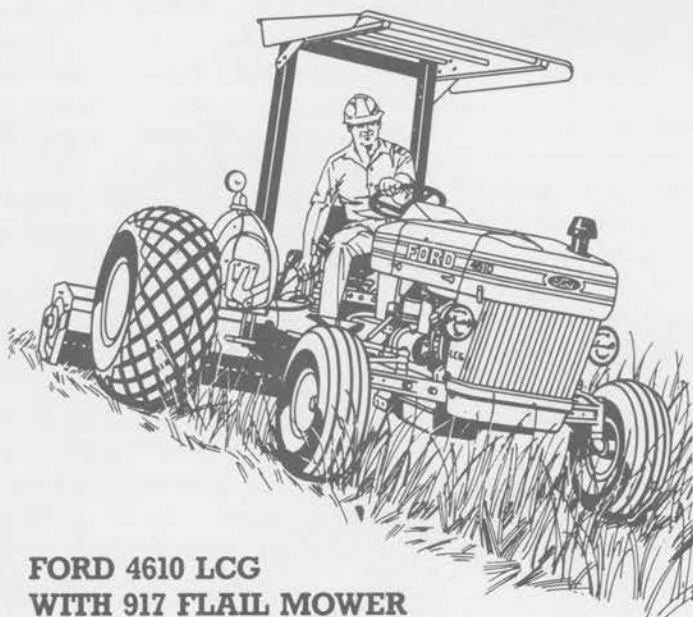
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## Fairway Management (continued from page 3)

use rates of 1 lb./A of product or less if the fairway has less than 50-60% bentgrass. If the need should arise to return the turf to its normal growth rate, gibberellic acid can be applied as an antidote to *Cutless*.

During 1984, roughly 3 acres at Stanwich were treated with *Cutless*; in the Spring of 1985, 12 acres were treated; and in late summer of this year, all fairways were treated (19 acres) – except 3 acres which were left as a check. The material was applied with a boom type sprayer.

In 1985, a study of clipping reduction was conducted on treated fairways by counting the number of baskets of clippings removed at each mowing for a 20 week period. The results were as follows: a May 13 application with rates of 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0 lbs. *Cutless*/acre showed an average weekly reduction in slipping amounts of 30%, 41% and 40% respectively over an 11 week period; an August 29 application of the same rates showed an average weekly reduction of 49%, 50% and 59% respectively for a 4 week period (hurricane Gloria provided 6" of rain which leached out the chemical prematurely); and over the entire 20 week period the total reductions were 29%; 33% and 39%.

In summary, a close observation of the *Cutless* treated areas over a two year study demonstrated the following benefits: a reduction in poa annua of up to 35% in one year; a reduction in clipping amounts and mowing requirements (saves money, labor and gasoline); a reduction in water requirements (little wilting, saves water); improved color and vigor of perennial grasses; control of various broadleaf weeds; some control of crabgrass; and a reduction in thatch. On the negative side, some discoloration of poa annua is possible for a 2-3 week period.

It is my feeling that these PGR chemicals will be a dominant feature in the future of turfgrass management. By promoting healthy, strong, permanent grasses, growth regulators can help to provide superior fairways, and help to conserve costly and scarce resources such as water, gasoline and labor.

(Hint: Lawrence) ■

## 1986 Invitational Host

Larry Pakkala is a man who likes to get involved. He is a Certified Golf Course Superintendent, Met GCSA Treasurer and has served on the Met GCSA Board of Directors for two years.

A religious man, Larry is on the Board of Stewards of the First Congressional Church of Darien and, additionally, landscapes and maintains the church grounds.

As Property Manager at the Woodway CC, Larry is proudest of his re-design and construction of the 8th green and the rebuilding of five new tournament tees. Over 200 trees have been planted throughout the course over the past two years; 400 more trees will be planted over the next four years within this six year program.


Larry is a Penn State graduate – as is his wife Carole. In his spare time, Larry enjoys golf, raquetball and jogging. Larry and Carole have two delightful daughters – Christina 10, and Lauren, 5. (Mary Medonis) ■

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