



Tee to Green

PUBLISHED BY THE METROPOLITAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT ASSOCIATION

President's Message

Research Donations

An investment in your future

I'm sure no one can deny the value of turfgrass research to golf course superintendents and their clubs. As an association, we took a big step last fall toward improving our support of research projects by designating a portion of our dues toward those efforts.

Now there's *another* opportunity to contribute to a worthwhile research funding endeavor: the newly established Met Area Turfgrass Research Foundation. Founded by the MGA about four years ago, the foundation is now cosponsored and directed by the MetGCSA and the Long Island and New Jersey Golf Course Superintendent Associations, with the MGA providing administrative assistance.

Thanks to those who have given in the past, the foundation has been able to support moss research conducted by Dr. Norman Hummel of Cornell University (see article, right) and patch disease work being done by Dr. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers.

There is a valuable reward to be gained from this type of donation. What we learn from turfgrass research helps us do a better job—enabling us, often, to save our club thousands of dollars or, at the least, to improve the playing conditions of our course.

The MetGCSA Board of Directors urges you to support this fund-raising effort by sending a check for \$150 to the Met Area Turfgrass Research Fund. It's a small price to pay for the valuable information you'll receive in return.

SCOTT E. NIVEN, CGCS
President

Special Feature

WAGING WAR ON MOSS

Dr. Norman Hummel of Cornell University offers new hope for superintendents trying to rid their greens of this meddlesome weed

These days, clubs put a premium on golf course superintendents who are able to produce lightening-fast greens. But doing so means mowing greens shorter and keeping the nitrogen fertility to a minimum—two practices that reduce turfgrass vigor and leave it open to weed encroachment. Consequently, one of the more troublesome weeds superintendents are battling today is moss.

Until recently, mercury products were the only known means of controlling moss. But with the support of the Metropolitan Golf Association, we've conducted research to look at other ways to control this meddlesome weed.

What follows is a description of both chemical and cultural tools that we've found effective in eradicating most moss problems.

Moss Control With Chemicals

Moss's growing season begins in early spring—well before the bentgrass on your greens. To burn back the moss during this period, it helps to apply hydrated lime late March. Three to five lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. should do the trick. *Hint:* The lime will be easier to spread if mixed with a dry sand topdressing.

Once the bentgrass begins growing, other herbicides can be applied. One of the more effective treatments in our trials was the Scotts Goosegrass Control, a betasan-ronstar combination. Labeled for use on bentgrass greens, this product provided 83 percent

control from only a single application. The only caveat: Scotts Goosegrass Control will cause some discoloration.

Two other materials, siduron (Tupersan) and bentazon (Basagran), provided from 53 to 74 percent control of moss. While not quite as effective as the Scotts product, both proved safer since neither injured the turf.

Worth noting is that, with the exception of bentazon, it seems the most effective treatments are preemergence herbicides. While it's difficult to determine from these trials whether the effect is pre- or post-emergence, all of these materials were effective in controlling moss. It was several weeks, however, before we noticed any significant decrease in moss populations.

Moss-Fighting Cultural Practices
Chemicals offer only a partial solution to the moss problem. (continued on page 7)

Also in This Issue

- 2 Jones Invitational: A record-breaking fund-raiser
- 2 The race is on for the GCSAA Scholarship Award
- 3 Water hazards: Are you up on the rules?
- 4 Scenes from the family picnic
- 5 Upcoming events...A 50/50 Raffle for a worthy cause

JONES INVITATIONAL HERALDS COMMITMENT TO PROFESSION'S FUTURE

The inaugural Robert Trent Jones Invitational, a golf event benefiting the GCSAA endowment fund named for the legendary architect, raised a record \$27,000 to support university scholarships.

The mid-June tournament was held at the Metedeconk National Golf Club in Jackson, NJ, and featured teams from 15 selected golf clubs around the Northeast—four of them, not including Metedeconk, MetGCSA members. The teams, which were comprised of club superintendents, officials, and members, contributed \$1,500 each to support the Jones Fund and do battle with Metedeconk, Jones' most recent New Jersey design. Metedeconk members made additional contributions to bring the total to \$27,000, making it the largest contribution by a single golf club in the fund's two-year history.

Steve Cadenelli, Metedeconk's superintendent and GCSAA secretary/treasurer, coordinated the event. To him, the tournament was "a very meaningful way in which to recognize the unique relationship between the golf course architect and the golf course superintendent, as well as an excellent opportunity to support the development of future golf course managers and the game of golf while enjoying a great day of golf and camaraderie."

GCSAA President Dennis Lyon called the Jones Invitational "a milestone" for the association's Scholarship & Research Fund. "This is definitely a major step in the development of the Robert Trent Jones Fund. I really have to congratulate Metedeconk for a job well done...and I also want to thank Steve and the whole staff there for a great effort."

Players heaped praise on both architect and superintendent for the superb design and conditioning of the two-year-old course. Steve, in turn, cited the tremendous efforts of his crew in preparing Metedeconk during the previous soggy weeks.

The GCSAA Robert Trent Jones Endowment Fund was established in 1987 with a substantial donation from the New Jersey architect. Once fully capitalized, the fund will help pay college tuition for turfgrass management students considering careers as superintendents.

On Your Mark...Get Set...Ready...Go for the GCSAA Scholarship Award

The race is on for the GCSAA 1989-1990 Scholarship Award. The Scholarship & Research Office will select winners based on their leadership potential, scholastic capabilities, character, social and communications skills, and commitment to a career in golf course or turfgrass management.

To be eligible, candidates must have completed the first year of a two-year program that emphasizes turf management, but qualified graduate students are also encouraged to enter.

Applications for the scholarship award are contained in packets that were distributed in April to more than 100 educational institutions with programs in turfgrass management or related fields.

If you know of any students who might be interested in competing for the award, have them contact their school's turfgrass management department or the GCSAA Scholarship & Research Office, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS 66047, 800-472-7878.



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ADDRESS: P.O. Box 396, Mamaroneck, NY 10543.

A By-the-Book Description of How to Mark—and Play—the Water Hazards on Your Course

The rules surrounding golf course water hazards are so lengthy—and tedious—that many superintendents have only a vague idea of how to mark and play the water hazards on their course. What follows is an attempt to explain this rule for those of you who haven't had the stamina to learn the ins and outs of Rule 26 by reading your Rule Book.

Water Hazards Defined

A water hazard is any sea, lake, pond, river, ditch, surface drainage ditch, or other open water course—whether or not it contains water.

The margins of a water hazard (other than a lateral hazard, which we'll get to in a minute) should be defined with *yellow* stakes or lines. The stakes and lines should be considered part of the hazard as should anything that extends vertically above the hazard area—a tree limb, for instance.

Water Hazard Options

When your ball lands in, touches, or is lost in a water hazard, you can do one of three things (see diagram, right): (1) Assuming the ball is playable, you can go right ahead and play it without penalty. But if that's impossible, imagine a line (2) running from the hole to the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard. You can drop on an extension of that line for a penalty of one stroke. Your third option is stroke and distance. In this illustration, that means returning to the tee (3) and placing your ball as near as possible to the spot where your original ball was played, and then your next stroke would be your third.

Note: To treat the ball as lost in a water hazard, there has to be reasonable evidence that the ball actually landed there. If there's any shadow of a doubt, the ball must be treated as a lost ball and played under penalty

of stroke and distance (see Rule 27 in your Rule Book).

Lateral Water Hazards: The Particulars

A lateral water hazard is one that is situated in such a way that it's impossible to drop a ball behind the hazard and keep the spot at which the ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard between the player and hole.

The part of a water hazard that's to be played as a lateral water hazard should be distinctively marked with *red* stakes or lines.

Lateral Water Hazard Options

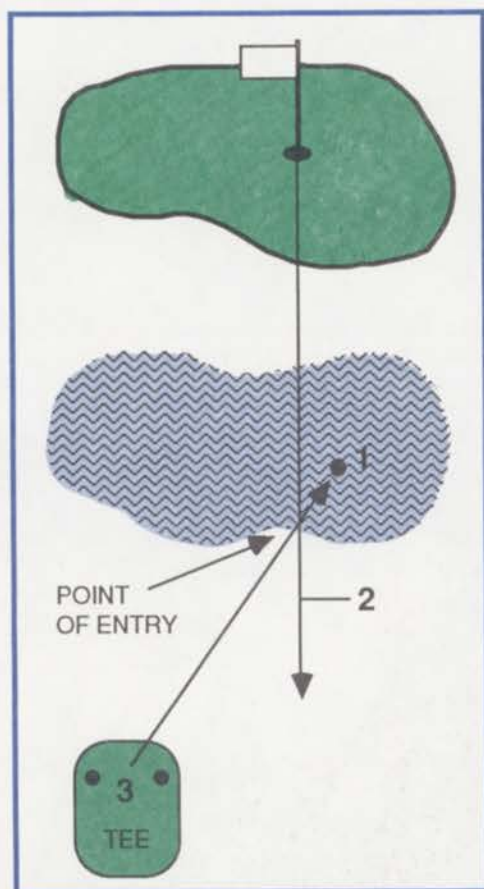
If you thought the first was confusing, brace yourself for this one. There are five options when a ball lies within a lateral water hazard (see diagram

below, right). The first three are the same as those for a water hazard: (1) Play the ball as it lies without penalty. (2) Drop behind the hazard on a line drawn from the hole through the point (A) at which the ball entered the hazard and take a one-stroke penalty. (3) Use the stroke-and-distance option.

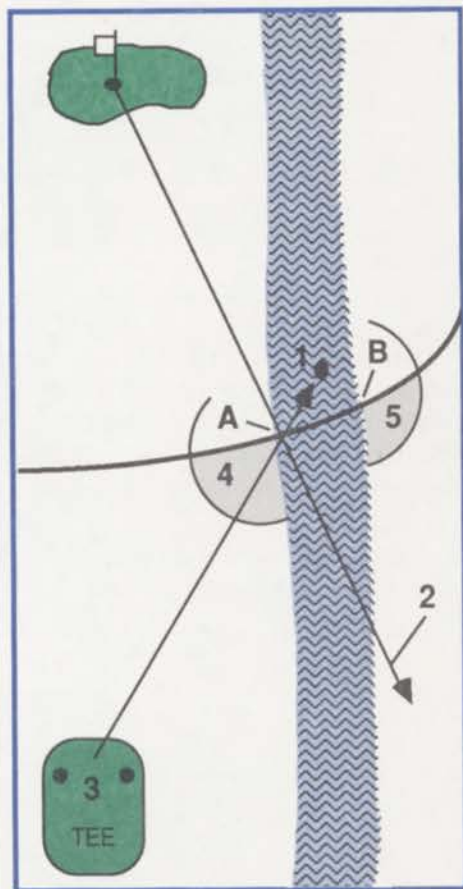
The two other options also call for a penalty stroke. You may drop within two club lengths of A, no nearer the hole (4) or on the opposite side of the hazard (5). The reference point on the opposite side is B, which is the same distance from the hole as A. In either case, it's important to remember that the ball may not be dropped any nearer the hole than the point at which the ball crossed the margin of the lateral water hazard.

By the way, this rule allows you to clean your ball when lifted.

MARK MILLETT
Old Oaks Country Club



Water Hazard



Lateral Water Hazard

SCENES FROM THE FAMILY PICNIC

A Day of Fun—and Profit—for the MetGCSA

There was a smorgasbord of activities—not to mention food—at the July 24 Family Picnic held at Woodway Beach Club in Stamford, CT. Perhaps one of the most unique and successful activities was the father/child bake-off and auction, which, aside from being a lot of fun, generated over \$600 for the MetGCSA Family Relations Committee.

Though contestants were limited to male adults and their children, the contest managed to drum up an impressive 18 home-baked entries. Most cakes were decorated around a golf theme, but some stuck to the good ol' finger-lickin' basics, like a white coconut-frosted layer cake and a made-from-scratch blueberry coffee cake.

A panel of impartial judges—Bob Lippman of Westchester Turf Supply, Byron Johnson of Terre Company, and Dom Richichi of Dar Par Sales—found deciding on the winners no easy task. After a—ahem—*lively* discussion, they awarded Winged Foot Superintendent Bob Alonzi and his family first place for their artful re-creation of the 10th hole at Winged Foot.

Bruno Vadala, superintendent at Metropolis Country Club, pulled second place for his golf-ball shaped cake, and Country Club of Darien Superintendent Tim O'Neill and family came in third for their edible rendition of the MetGCSA logo. Winners took home trophies; all other contestants received ribbons for their participation.

The auction that followed had more than a few tense moments, as bakers seemed to know no bounds when bidding for the chance to take home their entries. The cake that commanded the highest bid was, as you might expect, the first place entry, which went once...twice...three times to Bob Alonzi for \$100. The money raised will be used by the Family Relations Committee to fund other family-related activities.

As always, the beach club was the perfect setting for a member/family get-together. The Family Olympics—year two of fun and games for MetGCSA members and their children—included a host of new activities. Among them: the hula-hoop relay, egg toss, and water balloon toss. Competitors were divided into four teams—Green, White, Blue, and Yellow—with the Green Team, captained by Mark Millett, superintendent at Old Oaks Country Club, the overall winner.

Special thanks should go to members of the Family Relations Committee and all the volunteers who helped to make the Olympics—and the entire day—successful. And of course, we can't forget to thank Woodway superintendent Larry Pakkala and the Woodway Beach Club staff who, as always, went out of their way to make the summer picnic enjoyable.

DONNA MILLETT
Family Relations Committee



Green Team Captain Mark Millett (superintendent at Old Oaks Country Club in Purchase, NY) guides his team to victory during the Family Olympics competition.



For those of you who had any shadow of a doubt, here's picture proof that Winged Foot Superintendent Bob Alonzi actually had a hand in baking the first-prize cake in the father/child bake-off. The question is, who did the lion's share of the work? Bob or his daughters, Jennifer (left), Cassie (right), or Dana (who unfortunately didn't make it into the picture)?

Upcoming Events

MONTHLY MEETING REMINDER

■ 1989 Final Round Championship at
Metropolis Country Club in White
Plains, NY

DATE: Thursday, September 28

HOST SUPERINTENDENT: Bruno Vadala

ACTIVITIES: Presentation of the Sher-
wood A. Moore Award and special
50/50 Raffle (see box at right).

SPECIAL EVENT

■ 1989 Poa Annual Golf Tournament

DATE: Thursday, October 5

PLACE: Fenway Golf Club, Scarsdale,
NY

DETAILS: Sponsored by the MetGCSA
and the New York State Turfgrass
Association, this event is being run to
benefit turfgrass research. A fee of
\$320 per foursome, \$80 per single
covers greens fees, prizes, golf cart,
and a one-and-a-half-hour open bar
with hot hors d'oeuvres.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL: Mike
Maffei at 914-279-7179 (office) or 914-
278-9436 (home)

Special Announcement

50/50 Raffle for a Worthy Cause

A good friend of the MetGCSA has recently had an unfortunate tragedy in his family. Mark Loper, who many of us have known and worked with as sales manager from Turf Products irrigation division, has lost his sister, Anne Milewski, at the age of 31 after a long illness. She is survived by her husband, James Milewski, and two small children, Andrea, 2, and Julia, 1.

At our September 28 meeting at Metropolis Country Club, we'll be holding a 50/50 Raffle to benefit a special trust fund that has been set up for the children.

Anyone who wishes to contribute privately to this trust fund may do so by mailing their contribution to: *Andrea & Julia Trust Fund, c/o C. Constantine, Attorney, 109 New London Turnpike, Glastonbury, CT 06033.*

FIELD DAY REMINDERS

■ 25th Annual Turfgrass Equipment,
Irrigation and Supplies Field Day

DATE: October 3, 1989

RAIN DATE: October 4

PLACE: Rutgers Stadium and Golf
Course, Piscataway, NJ

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL: Judy
Policastro, 201-379-1100

■ NYSTA Turf and Grounds
Exposition

DATE: November 7-10, 1989

PLACE: Rochester Riverside Con-
vention Center, Rochester, NY

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL: 800-
873-8873

COME ONE, COME ALL

■ MetGCSA Christmas Party, Willow
Ridge Country Club, Saturday, Decem-
ber 16

DETAILS: Keep December 16 open for
holiday cocktails, dinner, and
dancing at Willow Ridge Country
Club in Harrison, NY. Look for
more details in an upcoming issue of
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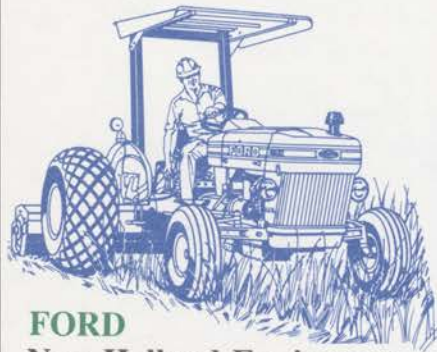


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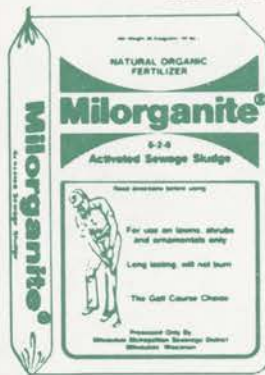
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Special Feature

WAGING WAR ON MOSS

(continued from page 1)

Unless cultural steps are taken to increase turfgrass vigor, you'll find chemical control of moss a never-ending battle.

We designed studies to look at the effects of cultivation techniques and fertility on moss eradication. And the results clearly demonstrated that the culture can be changed to the detriment of moss.

While silvery thread moss will tolerate dry conditions, it prefers an abundance of free water. Core cultivation followed by sand topdressing creates a system of "vertical drains" that facilitate rapid water removal from the surface. We found moss removal much speedier with this process than with core cultivation alone. Deep spiking was also beneficial compared to only core cultivation.

Nitrogen, iron, and potassium are

probably the most important tools in a moss eradication program. Moss control improved as the rate of nitrogen was increased. In the first test, moss was eliminated over two growing seasons from plots that were initially 40 percent moss by increasing nitrogen rates to about 0.8 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. per growing month; that's about 6 lbs. of nitrogen per year. Iron applications at a rate of 6 ozs. per 1000 sq. ft. per month were beneficial during the first year, especially at the higher rates of nitrogen. However, in the second year, iron had no effect at all on the moss.

The problem, of course, with these high nitrogen treatments is that you get more top growth—and slower green speeds. So in our latest test, we experimented with using more moderate rates of nitrogen, in conjunction with potassium. We were able to produce the same results as the first test by applying about 3 lbs. of nitrogen and 4 to 6 lbs. of potassium annually. The only difference was that the amount of top growth was greatly reduced. *Note:*

A supplemental potassium program should be started in the springtime.

Moss Control in a Nutshell

In short, early spring applications of hydrated lime, followed about a month later and in the early fall with a herbicide are the first steps in controlling moss. Increasing your nitrogen and potassium levels and using iron during this period will also improve the competitive advantage of desirable grasses—at the expense of moss. In addition, it's good practice to control your soil moisture levels through careful irrigation and by providing good drainage throughout the soil profile.

Clearly, enough information is known, now, for superintendents to develop a legal moss control program. But research will continue.

DR. NORMAN HUMMEL
Cornell University

For a more in-depth report of this moss project, write or call Dr. Norman Hummel at Cornell University, 20 Plant Science Building, Ithaca, NY 14853, 607-255-1629.

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