



Tee to Green

PUBLISHED BY THE METROPOLITAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

Special Feature

Two Supers Have Super Success With Tools New to the Golf Course Industry

In the mini success stories that follow, Greenwich Country Club Superintendent Greg Wojick and Arcola Country Club Superintendent Mike Mongon describe uncommon uses for two common tools—one common to the farm industry, the other among consumers. But neither, you'll see, is your run-of-the-mill piece of golf course equipment—at least, not yet.

Greg's Story: Clipping Disposal Made Easy—and Economical

There's one unarguable fact about golf course fairway clippings: It's beneficial to remove them. Not only does it give your fairways a neater appearance, it's also been known to enhance the spread of creeping bentgrass. Still open to debate, however, is how best to dispose of the harvest of clippings col-

lected after every mowing.

The most common practices are stockpiling clippings in an on-site dump and hiring a refuse hauler to cart them off weekly, a convenient but costly alternative. At Greenwich Country Club, we were hauling clippings to our dump site—until it became unpleasantly clear that clippings can't be piled up and forgotten, particularly when your dump is located where ours is: upwind from our first tee and golf shop area.

I was fortunate to find a cost-effective solution to this problem at a USGA regional seminar I had signed up for. Held a couple of years ago at Sleepy Hollow, the seminar offered several practical alternatives to clipping disposal, but the one I found most intriguing involved using a piece of farm

equipment—a manure spreader.

Strongly endorsed by Jim Latham, Director of the Great Lakes Region USGA Green Section, this method was being used successfully by golf course superintendents in Wisconsin. So I gave a couple of them a call to see how they felt it was working.

After only positive reports, I got the club's go-ahead this spring to purchase a Knight 710 Slinger manure spreader. A product of the Knight Manufacturing Corporation, a Wisconsin-based farm equipment manufacturer, the Slinger was available through Columbia Tractor in Claverack, NY. The cost: \$7,800.

Not what you might envision a manure spreader to look like, the Slinger is a side-throwing unit that has an auger-type feed to a flair-type discharge device which slings the clippings up to 45 feet into the roughs.

Using the manure spreader has proved not only simple (continued on page 4)

President's Message

A Welcome Message—to Members Old and New

Over the past several years, the MetGCSA has grown in popularity. Last year alone we added 26 new members, bringing our membership total up to 317. And if you've been following our "Notable Notes" section of the newsletter, you know that since last count we've added an impressive number of new members to our roster.

Being the month of the summer social—an opportunity for members old and new to socialize with one another—I thought the time was right to formally welcome new members to the association and remind all you established members to do the same, whenever the opportunity arises.

Many of us longtimers have found a group of friends in the association with whom we feel comfortable. And I think that's great. In fact, I feel (continued on page 3)

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Upcoming Events

The Duke Polidor Memorial Golf Tournament

A fun way to benefit a worthy cause

The third annual Duke Polidor Memorial Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, September 22 at Heritage Hills Country Club in Somers, NY.

For the uninitiated, the tournament was established three years ago to benefit a scholarship fund set up in memory of Duke Polidor, who was tragically killed in a hit-and-run accident.

Duke, then superintendent of Fairmont Country Club in New Jersey, was the son of Heritage Hills Superintendent Todd Polidor and Barbara Polidor, also a longtime Heritage Hills employee.

The family started the scholarship fund with the outpouring of contributions received from friends, neighbors, local civic groups, and residents of Heritage Hills after Duke's death. So far, the fund has benefited four students enrolled in the UMass Turf Management program. The recipients, chosen jointly by the UMass administration and the Polidor family, have each been awarded \$1,000 scholarships.

The entry fee of \$100 is tax deductible and includes a cart, greens fees, and prizes, as well as a full breakfast before and cocktail hour/buffet after the tournament. We encourage participants' spouses to join us for the post-tournament cocktail hour/buffet. Just let us know when you sign up whether your spouse will be attending, and please include an additional \$20 to cover expenses.

Anyone who would like more information about the fund or tournament should contact John Currie of Currie Landscaping at 914-277-4919 or Heritage Hills Golf Pro Joe Cipriano at 914-276-2169.

Special Event

■ Professional Turfgrass Field Day

DATE: Tuesday, September 18

PLACE: Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

DETAILS: Don't miss this unique opportunity to peruse the wares of area suppliers. (See insert for further details.)

Tournaments

■ The Autumn Classic

DATES: Wednesday and Thursday, September 24-25

PLACE: The Quechee Club, Quechee, VT

■ The Met Area Team Championship

DATE: Tuesday, October 2

PLACE: St. Andrews Golf Club, Hastings, NY

Notable Notes

New Members

■ William Brewer, Class CS, LESCO.

■ Carl Quazza, Class C, Haledon Nurseries, Wayne, NJ.

Educational Opportunity

■ NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition

DATES: Tuesday-Friday, November 13-16

PLACE: SUNY Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY

DETAILS: Held in cooperation with Cornell University, this year's conference and trade show will open with three special one-day seminars on human resource management, right-to-know hazardous materials communication, and basic turfgrass management. For NYSTA members, registration is \$60; for nonmembers, it's \$90. And there's an additional fee for the seminars. Note: Special one-day passes are also available. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL: Carolyn Steadman of NYSTA at 800-873-TURF or 518-783-1229.

Births

Weighing in at 9 lbs. 1 oz., Emily Rose was born to John and Leslie Carlone July 19, 1990. John is superintendent at Middle Bay Country Club in Ocean-side, NY.



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Meet Your September Meeting Host

Rock Ridge Country Club in Newtown, CT, is the site of the September 11 MetGCSA meeting—and the final qualifying round for the Met Area Team Championship. Host Bob Welch has been superintendent at the nine-hole course since 1988 and, in that time, has had the opportunity to oversee more major capital improvements than some superintendents see in a lifetime. Among them: the installation of a new mini Olympic-size swimming pool, tennis courts, parking lots, driveways, extensive exterior clubhouse renovations—and numerous other enhancements that, to date, have totaled nearly \$1 million.

The 35-year-old club was once an estate, complete with three small golf holes, which the club has retained as its 3rd, 4th, and 5th holes. But by the time Bob signed on as superintendent, Rock Ridge had fallen into a state of disrepair. Aside from having to clean up after a newly installed irrigation system that had wreaked havoc on the course, Bob had to face a maintenance operation that was sorely out of date. "When I got there," says Bob, "tees and collars were being mowed with hand rotary mowers, the roughs were well above my ankles, and the staff was being laid off during the winter."

Bob's key strategy during that initial transition phase—and now—has been to maintain open lines of communication with the membership—something he considers crucial to the success of not only large-scale capital improvements, but also smooth daily operations.

Before launching into a career in

golf course maintenance, Bob worked in a machine shop as a welder and then—in an attempt to get closer to the outdoors—as a mechanic at a gas station. From there, Bob found his way to Longshore Club Park in Westport, CT, where he started as a mechanic and then rose to assistant after attending the UMass Winter School in 1982.

After four years at Longshore, Bob moved to the Patterson Club in Fairfield, CT. Under Superintendent Ray Beaudry's tutelage, he worked as an assistant for four years before becoming superintendent at Rock Ridge.

From Rock Ridge, it's a 40-minute drive to Bob's home in Stratford, CT, where he and his wife Debbie live with their three children: Erin, 3; Stephanie, 5; and Peter, 14. When Bob's away from the course, his favorite pastimes, he says, are catching a few winks and spending time with his family.

BERT DICKINSON
Westchester Country Club

President's Message (continued from page 1)

A Welcome Message

it's a natural course of events. You won't find a large group around that doesn't have what I've heard some of you refer to as cliques. But of course, it's also important that we not lose sight of what it's like to be a newcomer to a large association like ours: Initially, you feel like an outsider. So let's remember to step outside of our circle of friends from time to time and make an effort to greet and get to know our new members.

As for you newcomers out there, let me encourage you to attend our meetings and social events regularly. Granted, you won't immediately feel like an integral part of the group, but it's only a matter of time before you'll find yourself a friend or two—or three—and begin to enjoy the benefits of being a part of the MetGCSA—an association that offers not only a professional support system, but also a social network that's designed to enhance the quality of your life, both personally and professionally.

LARRY PAKKALA, CGCS
President

New Membership

The New York State Green Council (NYSGC) has announced a new membership category: Now, for \$10, any individual can become an associate member of the NYSGC. The fee entitles you to receive *Green Lines*, the council's newsletter, and to attend Green Council meetings to present our industry's ideas and concerns.

The NYSGC's purpose is to offer information and educational services to professionals—and those considering a profession—in the green industry. It also performs the crucial function of coordinating resources for lobbying efforts. In fact, it was the NYSGC that helped unite green industry groups to battle posting laws in the state. (See "A Pesticide Regulation War Won," on page 7 of the January/February issue of *Tee to Green*.)

If you decide to join, your \$10 contribution will help support the Green Council—in its efforts to support our industry.

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Two Supers Have Super Success

but cost effective. Here's the three-step process we now use for clipping removal at GCC:

1. The fairway mowers pile their "harvest" alongside the fairways.
2. One worker on a tractor, towing the PTO-driven Slinger, shovels the clippings into the machine.
3. When the 1000-gallon belly of the machine is full, the worker fires up the PTO, and the Slinger quickly redistributes the clippings into the rough so they're not visible.

Before the manure spreader, it would take two workers, each with their own truckster, five and a half hours to collect and dump the clippings. Now, the process requires only one worker and two and half hours.

In addition to the obvious time and labor savings of this process, distributing the clippings throughout the rough is said to have value as a fertilizer. But there's another way the manure spreader has paid off at GCC: We've been able to use the machine to shred and mix the plugs we collect after aerifying, creating a pile of rich, read-to-use topsoil.

The manure spreader is a quick, economical, and environmentally responsible solution to clipping disposal, and it's one we feel comfortable

recommending to any golf course. Stop by sometime, and watch it in action.

GREG WOJICK, CGCS
Greenwich Country Club

Mike's Story: Helping Club Officials 'Picture'—and Buy

Into—Future Projects

Every picture tells a story. And for me, the most telling pictures have been those I've captured on camcorder. No, I'm not talking about home videos. I'm talking about the tapes I've made of the golf course at Arcola Country Club.

Starting last fall, I've made it common practice to record projects in progress and even potential problem areas on the course. Then, when the Green Committee or Board of Directors calls a meeting, I've got an instant *visual* presentation to accompany my usual speech about what we've been doing—and what we'd like to do—on the course.

This has proved an interesting—and popular—departure from the traditional oral presentations I used to give the club's board and Green Committee. And its given board and committee members who were unable to attend a



Greenwich Country Club Assistant Superintendent Brett Armstrong guides the Knight 710 Slinger manure spreader to the next "harvest" of fairway clippings.

meeting the option of viewing what was discussed.

I actually started this practice when I was having a tough time selling the board on a drainage project I felt Arcola couldn't do without. Because members generally weren't on the course after a rainstorm, they couldn't believe the drainage problem was serious enough to warrant the expense involved in correcting it—until I caught it on videotape, that is.

Recorded after a tremendous rainfall, the tape not only gave them a clearer picture of the drainage problem, it convinced them to give me the go-ahead on the project. Since then, I've found it much easier to *show* board members the need for a costly project than to just tell them about it. After all, it's pretty hard to deny the need to correct a problem when it's staring you in the face.

But the camcorder is much more than a sales tool. It's also a great educational tool. After being questioned about why I needed to keep seven full-time staffers on hand during the winter, I used the camcorder to educate the Green Committee on what I do to keep every one of those workers occupied during the winter months.

For instance, I videotaped various segments of a month-long brush-clearing project, including before and after shots. And using the camcorder's day/date option, I was able to



A view of the Knight 710 Slinger manure spreader's flair-type discharge device, which slings clippings up to 45 feet into the roughs, offering a tidy solution to clipping disposal.

record the project's time span right on the tape, offering visual proof of the work's duration.

Bringing the outdoors inside the boardroom has also helped add a lighter tone to some very serious meetings. The way I work my presentations is to adjourn with the board to the club's less formal grill-room, where they have a TV/VCR setup. Having previewed the tape and prepped for the presentation the day before, I'm well prepared to entertain any questions, and I, of course, encourage them.

I don't narrate as I videotape. I find it works best to do it live and in person. Not only is it more professional, it allows me the flexibility to stop the tape for questions or comments at any point during my presentation.

A word of caution, however, to anyone interested in trying this presentation technique: Be sure before you bring a video into the boardroom that you've had enough experience taping work in progress. There's

nothing worse than asking your board or Green Committee to sit through a video that jerks, jumps from scene to scene too quickly, or just as deadly, stays too long on a subject with little action or interest.

What I've described here is just one of many valuable uses for a camcorder/VCR setup in a golf course operation. If you don't already own one, and you'd like to sell your club on its usefulness, you can also point out the setup's value in employee training, work review and evaluation, and in recording golf course changes or enhancements.

Another selling point: VCR and camcorder prices have dropped substantially since they were introduced eight years ago. In fact, you can get a high-quality setup with TV for around \$1,800. To lower the cost a bit, you may want to consider getting a camcorder like mine, which plugs directly into the TV, eliminating the need for a VCR.

If you have any questions, just give me call. I'd be glad to help you out.

MIKE MONGON
Arcola Country Club

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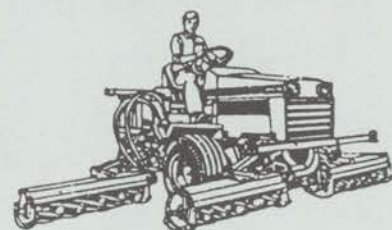
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S pecial Announcement

We're Throwing the Book at You....

The rule book, that is. Of the 36 scorecards returned at the July 24 Ardsley meeting, only six were signed. That not only makes our Tournament Committee's job tougher, it's also in violation of Rule 6-6B of the Rules of Golf, which we've reprinted here for your convenience.

When reviewing this important rule, also note that it requires that players check their score for each hole and settle any doubtful points with the Tournament Committee.

With increased participation in our meetings, our Tournament Committee's job has become far more involved and time-consuming. So let's do our part by following the principles of this simple rule.

RULE 6-6B: *Checking Scores*

The competitor shall check his score for each hole, settle any doubtful points with the Committee, ensure that the marker has signed the card, countersign the card himself, and return it to the Committee as soon as possible. The competitor is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 6-6B: *Disqualification.*

S corecard

First and Final Round Qualifiers for the Met Area Team Championship

One of the qualifying rounds for the Met Area Team Championship was held at the July 24 Ardsley meeting. For Class A members, it was the first qualifying round; for Class B and C members, it was the first and final qualifying round. Here's a look at the top contenders and their scores:

Class A Qualifiers: First Round

Handicaps 0-10 Gross

79 Matt Ceplo, Westchester Hills GC
79 Mike Medonis, Bonnie Briar CC
83 Mark Millett, Old Oaks CC

Handicaps 11-18 Net

70 Tony Savone, Quaker Ridge GC
73 Mike Miner, Connecticut GC
73 Tim Moore, Knollwood CC

Handicaps 19 and Above

71 Bob Alonzi, Winged Foot GC
71 Tony Baviello, Pelham CC
74 Jim McNally, Greenrock Corp.

Class B Qualifiers: First and Final Round

First Place

70 Charles Denny, Century CC

Second Place

72 Scott Tretera, Old Oaks CC

Class C Qualifier: First and Final Round

First Place

73 Ken Clear, Alpine Tree Care

The final qualifying round for Class A members will be held at the September 11 MetGCSA meeting at Rock Ridge Country Club in Newtown, CT.

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