



Tee to Green

PUBLISHED BY THE METROPOLITAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT ASSOCIATION

President's Message

Applause Please

I would like to devote this month's message to honoring a few members and staff for accomplishments that have brought great distinction to us as a chapter.

At the 61st International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, the GCSAA will bestow some of its highest honors on four MetGCSA members.

First, the *Tee to Green* will receive an award for the "Best Overall Under 16 Pages" in the 1989 GCSAA Chapter Editor's Contest. Tim Moore, newsletter editor and superintendent of Knollwood Country Club, along with his editorial staff—which included the addition this past year of Pandora Wojick as managing editor—have created a new look and editorial focus that have enabled our newsletter to receive this outstanding measure of achievement. (See Notable Notes on page 3 for more.)

Also this year, the team of Ted Horton, CGCS, and Mary Medonis from Westchester Country Club will receive the Leo Feser Award for having written the best superintendent article in the internationally distributed publication, *Golf Course Management*. Their award-winning prose was entitled "Employee Safety on the Golf Course."

Last, but certainly not least, Sherwood Moore will become the first golf course superintendent to receive the GCSAA's highest honor: The Old Tom Morris Award. With this award, Sherwood—who I don't have to tell you about (continued on page 5)

Special Feature

PREPARING FOR AN ERA OF PESTICIDE RULES & REGULATIONS

James T. Snow of the USGA Green Section offers commonsense advice on building a less pesticide-dependent operation

Somewhere around the mid- to late 1980s, people started predicting that the 1990s would be the "decade of restrictions" for the turfgrass industry. If it's not water that'll be restricted, it's pesticides, they conjectured.

Well, now that the 1990s are here, it's become evident that one of the most troublesome hurdles for turfgrass professionals will be pesticide restrictions. An anti-pesticide sentiment has already brought a noticeable increase in pesticide regulations at national, state, and local levels. (But see box on page 7 for "A Pesticide Regulation War Won.")

And that sentiment is growing. Scientific research concerning pesticide safety and the many benefits of its use is being overshadowed by sensational stories generated by self-proclaimed "environmental" groups and the news media. Consequently, if most pesticides used on golf courses today aren't banned, they will become so tightly regulated that they'll be difficult to use effectively.

The good news is that this won't happen overnight. In fact, it will probably take a number of years. That's enough time for the turfgrass industry to take the steps necessary to adjust to a new way of life—a less pesticide-dependent way of life. But like all change, this one will take time, so the time to act is now.

What follows are seven steps that'll help you prepare for this era of pesti-

cide rules and regulations. Many of them will be familiar to you. Some, you may have already adopted. But in either case, they're sound practices that bear repeating.

Improving Pesticide Management

1. *Focus on cultural management techniques to grow pest-resistant turf.* Here's where your turf-management expertise is put to the test. Rather than relying heavily on chemicals to keep your turf pest-free, make a special effort to follow what the textbooks—and your experience—have taught you.

By applying the principles of proper irrigation, good (continued on page 7)

Also in This Issue

- 2 Introducing your new board... and committee chairmen
- 2 Two educational opportunities
- 3 *Tee to Green* wins high honors...Member news
- 3 In search of meeting sites
- 4 Stats on MetGCSA members... 1989 a record-breaker
- 5 A thank you to Met members
- 5 Dr. Pat Vittum wants you
- 7 Pesticide warning signs banned

Meet Your New Board of Directors



Who's who on the board, from left to right: Matt Ceplo, Earl Millett, Secretary John O'Keefe, Tim Moore, Jeff Scott, VP Tim O'Neill, Tony Grasso, President Larry Pakkala, John Carlone, Treasurer Joe Alonzi, Bob Lippman, Past President Scott Niven

Committee Chairmen at Your Service

Please feel free to contact any of the following committee chairmen with questions or comments. We've provided their numbers, here, for your convenience.

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(liaison between MetGCSA & GCSAA)
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Long-Range Planning

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Scholarship and Research

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Social and Welfare

Jeff Scott, Apawamis Club
914-967-2100

Tournament

- Tony Grasso, Willow Ridge CC
914-967-4035 *
- Earl Millett, Ridgeway CC
914-948-5606

* New number. Be sure to mark it in your directory.

Upcoming Events

SEMINAR

■ GCSAA Seminar: Insect Pests on Golf Course Trees & Shrubs
DATES: March 15 & 16, 1990
PLACE: The Treadway Hartford Hotel, Cromwell, CT
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL:
GCSAA, 800-472-7878

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

■ 59th Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference and 14th Industrial Show
DATES: March 14-16, 1990
PLACE: Civic Center, Springfield, MA
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL:
Debbie Salkaus, 413-545-2591



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Tee to Green an Award-Winning Newsletter

We've done it. The *Tee to Green* has been voted *Best Overall* (among periodicals fewer than 16 pages) in the 1989 GCSAA Chapter Editor's Contest and will be honored at the GCSAA Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando.

A panel of three judges evaluated *Tee to Green* and nearly 40 other eligible contestants on overall excellence, design, editorial judgment and content, scope and quality of writing, and presentation.

Also a winner in the Best Overall category—for periodicals more than 16 pages—was *The Florida Green* of the Florida GCSA. In addition, four newsletters were recognized for Best Cover, Best Flag, Best Original Editorial Content, and Best Visual Format.

The 1989 contest judges were Jerry Ducker, CGCS, of Hallbrook Farms Country Club; Nancy Harper, owner of Harper & Associates, an advertising/communication firm; and Pris Owings of the National Federation of Press Women.

BIRTHS

- Calli Marie to Jeff and Kathy Scott, November 2, 1989. Jeff is superintendent at the Apawamis Club in Rye, NY.
- Mark Jr. to Mark and Nannette Loper, December 31, 1989. Mark is irrigation sales manager for Turf Products Corp.

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

- Steve Renzetti took over as superintendent at Burning Tree Country Club, Greenwich, CT. Previous position: assistant superintendent, Quaker Ridge Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY.
- Bill Rapp has been appointed sales manager of John Deer Golf and Turf Equipment for the Bruedan Corp. in Chester, NY.

RETIRED

John Wistrand and Anthony Grasso, owners of Metro Milorganite, are retiring, but their 25-year-old business will live on. They've sold Metro Milorganite to Rick Apgar, who, with the help of his son-in-law Joe Stahl, plans to pick up operations where John and Tony left off. Rick is also the owner of Rick Apgar Sales, a landscape contractor supply company, and Mill River Supply, a retail garden center.

Keep posted for more on John and Tony's retirement in a future issue of *Tee to Green*.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

- Fenway Superintendent Joe Alonzi, along with team members Bob Grachino (club manager), Ralph Winenski (president), and Jeff Fox (golf professional), finished 11th out of 36 teams at the November John Deer National Tournament held in Palm Springs, CA. They came in 37 under par. Admirable, considering the winning team finished 45 under.

A special congratulations, also, to Joe, who won "closest to the pin" during the tournament.

- George Pierpoint, superintendent at Ardsley Country Club in Ardsley, NY, was the lucky winner of the Annual Bill Caputti Scholarship and Research Raffle. The \$1,000 prize was drawn at the December 16 MetGCSA Christmas party at Willow Ridge Country Club in Harrison, NY.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Allyn Smith, superintendent at Briar Hall Country Club in Briarcliff Manor, NY, for the past 12 years. Allyn passed away December 22, 1989 and is survived by his wife, Barbara, and daughter, Lynn.

For those who wish to send a card, his wife's address is: 126 Robins Road, New Rochelle, NY 10804.

1990 MetGCSA Meeting Sites Still for the Taking

Here it is: A tentative Met Meeting Schedule for the year. As you can see, more than half the sites and dates are still open. Anyone interested in hosting one of the meetings can call Tony Grasso, 914-967-4035, or Earl Millett, 914-948-5606.

March	Apawamis Club Jeff Scott
April	OPEN
May 24	Sunningdale Country Club Dom DiMarzo
June	OPEN (Invitational Tournament)
July 10	Ardsley Country Club George Pierpoint
August	OPEN (Possible date for Poa Annual Tournament)
September	OPEN
October 16	Tamarack Country Club Dave Arel
November	OPEN (Annual Meeting)



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THE METGCSA MEMBERSHIP—STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

The 1989 membership committee—Chairman Tim O'Neill (CC of Darien), David Dwinell (St. Andrews GC), Dennis Flynn (Brae Burn CC), Byron Johnson (Terre Co.), and Les Kennedy (Oak Lane CC)—put together the following stats on MetGCSA members—317 in all. Where do *you* fall in the statistical lineup?

On Membership Activity

During 1989, there were:

- 6 new Class A members; 5 were reclassifications with 4 from Class B and 1 from Class CS
- 12 new Class B members
- 9 new Class C members
- 3 new Class CS members, 1 of which was a reclassification from Class C
- 7 new Class AS members, 5 of which were reclassifications from Class A

According to the bylaws, there's room for 11 new Class C or CS members. The total, however, cannot exceed 40 percent of the total of Class A and B members.

1989, WEATHERWISE, A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR

1989 may go down in superintendents' annals as the only year that bucket loaders got an oil change more often than the ladies played golf on Wednesdays. Though the growing season started with drought restrictions, it ended with record rainfall.

In May, alone, 13.3 inches of rain doused the area, followed by 5.4 inches in June. July and August were equally wet, with the four-month precipitation total nearly 30 inches. That's 200 percent above normal.

September, October, and November were also wet ones. We got 11 inches of rain and 7 inches of snow.

According to the National Weather Service, the average annual precipitation rate at Central Park is 44.12 inches. By December 1, they had received 64.28 inches—over 20 inches above the average, with a full month to go. From April 1 to November 31—a period of 32 weeks—we had only 5 weeks with no rain. (You'd think we were living in Seattle.)

The record-breaking precipitation had varying effects on MetGCSA members. One salesperson reported selling over 100 rain suits, 150 pairs of

On GCSAA Membership

- 89 percent of Class A members are also GCSAA members.
- 43 percent Class B members are also GCSAA members.

On Pesticide Licenses

- 85 percent of Class A members have pesticide license numbers listed in MetGCSA data; 74 percent were listed in 1988.
- 100 percent of all *new* Class A members have their license number listed.

On Certification

- 32 percent of Class A members are certified; 28 percent were certified in 1988.

hip boots, 300 miles of rope, and cart signs too numerous to count. On the other hand, club managers complained of lost revenues, with decreased play and cart use and more than a few canceled outings. (And what do you do with 30 pounds of shrimp ordered for an outing that's been called off?)

For golf course superintendents, the markedly different weather pattern meant a shift in concerns: Rather than worrying about how much it was going to cost to run pumps or purchase city water, we were worrying about bailing out bunkers, repairing washouts, dumping truckloads of clippings, and keeping carts off the course.

But in every rain cloud there is a silver lining: Remember, the unusually wet spring provided a perfect environment for the fungus that took care of our gypsy moth problems. And for many, soggy conditions made it easier to sell memberships on cart paths, since cart damage was so extensive. But right up there on my list of positive outcomes was that the sod I laid down last fall actually survived.

MATT CEPLO
Westchester Hills Golf Club



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Letters

A Thank You to Met Members

At the Patterson Country Club meeting, I got up and thanked you for your wonderful donation, as well as concern and support through my family's battle to keep my sister going. But on my way home, I thought about the many faces I didn't see at the meeting and felt that a note was still necessary.

As I pointed out at Patterson, the friendships that I have developed over the past 13 years will always be cherished. You truly are a special group.

My sister's children are only 1 and 2, and your contribution, added to others, will ensure a good start to a quality education.

My family and I thank you all.

MARK LOPER

Turf Products Corp.

Special Announcement

Volunteers Needed in the Name of Science

Dr. Pat Vittum of the University of Massachusetts is looking for superintendents who would be interested in having the new technology of high-pressure spray applications tested on their course.

Those of you who were at the Winter Seminar saw firsthand the promise that high-pressure injection equipment shows in reducing chemical application rates required to control pests. We also detailed Dr. Vittum's research in the September/October 1989 issue of *Tee to Green*, pages 4 and 5.

Volunteers will have to be able to pick up the spray equipment, since she doesn't have a vehicle available for transporting the equipment.

Anyone interested in helping Dr. Vittum expand her testing in our area can contact her at Suburban Experiment Station, 240 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA 02254, 617-891-0650.

President's Message

Applause Please

(continued from page 1)

—becomes a legend following such great people as Arnold Palmer, Bob Hope, Gerald Ford, Patty Berg, Gene Sarazen, and Chi Chi Rodriguez.

What a way to close out a decade of major improvements in the turf management field. The '80s have seen many dramatic improvements not only in our profession, but also in the character and dedication of the people who've had a role in making those improvements happen. Thanks to the dedication and professionalism of our association members, the MetGCSA is an organization we can—and certainly should—be proud of.

Congratulations to all of you for a truly outstanding show of accomplishment.

LARRY PAKKALA, GCGS
President

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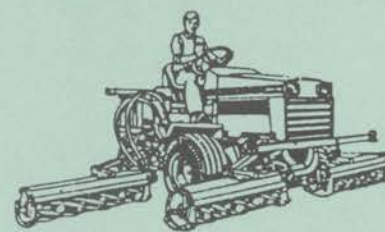
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PREPARING FOR AN ERA OF PESTICIDE RULES & REGULATIONS

(continued from page 1)

drainage, correct construction, regular cultivation, and cultural management for soils and turf, you'll have fewer pest problems. This won't eliminate the need for pesticides, of course, but it will greatly reduce the number of required pesticide applications.

2. *Begin experimenting with curative pest control.* Waiting to spray until your turf actually shows signs of pests is nerve-racking at best, but careful monitoring will ensure that you catch the pest before irreparable damage is done. And better, it will help you avoid a reasonable number of pesticide applications each year.

To start, use your curative pest control program only in low-risk situations.

3. *Handle pesticides responsibly.* Strictly adhere to regulations for applying, storing, and disposing of pesticides, residues, and containers. Responsible use and handling will only enhance the image of the industry among skeptics. On the other hand, pesticide misuse, over-use, and accidents will surely hasten their removal from the market.

4. *Adopt the commonsense principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).* This includes using new technologies for monitoring pests, predicting outbreaks, and justifying applications of pesticides—and water. Among the tools available: weather stations, disease diagnostic and forecasting kits, computer integrated pest forecasting equipment, soil temperature and moisture monitoring devices, and computerized irrigation controls.

5. *Be on the lookout for new research efforts.* Promote and support any research that: a) improves our understanding of turfgrass pests and stresses, b) seeks to develop new pest control measures—including cultural control programs—that are environmentally acceptable, and c) seeks to breed and develop pest-resistant and

low-water-use grasses for golf.

Opening the Lines of Communication

6. *Educate golfers about the consequences of low-to-no pesticide use.* Begin the difficult job of convincing your golfing membership that they must accept less-than-perfect turf conditions on their courses. Even if the requisites noted above are successful, a pesticide-free maintenance program will not keep a course free of pests and pest damage. Keep golfers posted on pending legislation and how it might affect your maintenance program.

7. *Communicate the pros of pesticide use.* Inform the public and our legislators about the benefits of many of our pesticides and how they're used safely on golf courses.

Final Note

Making an honest attempt at using the cultural management programs and IPM techniques described earlier might help establish a good-faith relationship with environmental groups and governmental regulatory agencies, but unfortunately, the growing intolerance to pesticides among people worldwide is so strong that the turfgrass industry will undoubtedly be forced to cut back on its pesticide use. At best, pesticides as we know them today will be greatly restricted; at worst, they will be gone forever.

Let's hope the quickly swinging pendulum will swing partly back to a position of compromise and reason. But we can't afford to wait until the cupboard is bare to become more pesticide independent.

JAMES T. SNOW

Director, Northeastern Region
USGA Green Section

A Pesticide Regulation War Won

If you feared you might have to start posting warning notices every time you applied pesticides, worry no more.

Thanks to a litigious group of New York State farmers, pesticide applicators, hoteliers, restaurateurs, and bowling alley operators state officials cannot require the noisome signs.

"I think it's a major victory for agriculture and horticulture in the state of New York," said Thomas West, lawyer for a number of the plaintiffs, in a recent *Newsday* interview.

According to DEC officials, the regulations at issue were designed to help people with chemical sensitivities avoid pesticides that could be harmful.

They would have required people in the business of applying pesticides—which, of course, includes golf course superintendents—to post signs indicating what chemicals were to be used and when they would be applied. The signs would have to be displayed prominently from four to 24 hours before spraying, depending on the particular chemical, and left in place for up to

two days after pesticide applications.

But the cases against posting the signs were far too strong for the Justices of the State Supreme Court Appellate Division in Albany to ignore.

Among them: Notification requirements could actually prompt farmers to use more pesticides and sidestep the state's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program, which encourages prudent spot use of chemicals rather than mass spraying.

For restaurants, hotels, and bowling alleys, the signs could create a climate of fear that could drive away business.

The appeals court ruled that state officials must first do a complete study of the environmental impact of pesticide warning notices before ever requiring such as regulation.

The new regulations were struck down May 11, 1989 by State Supreme Court Justice Paul Cheeseman. It was the state's appeal of that ruling that placed the cases before the appellate division.

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