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Tee to Green

PUBLISHED BY THE METROPOLITAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

Work Smarts

Deep Aerification: A Success Story

Ardley Superintendent George Pierpoint describes how deep aerification saved his course from costly green reconstruction

Aerification has long been important to superintendents in their battle against soil compaction and its inevitable threat to the vigor of turfgrass on their greens, tees, and fairways.

But oddly enough, many superintendents are finding that the very piece of equipment they've used to correct compaction has begun to create a second hardpan barrier just below the reach of their conventional aerifiers' 3- or 4-inch tines. The result? A whole host of problems, including puddling, reduced infiltration, decreased percolation, black layer, and shallow rooting.

Deep penetration equipment—such as the Verti-Drain Deep Tine Aerifier and the Floyd-McKay Deep Drill

Aerifier—are helping superintendents address these and other problems on greens that before only reconstruction might have solved. I'm one of those superintendents.

Ardley's greens are old, and like most built without the benefit of modern USGA specifications, my greens are small and were constructed with inferior materials.

We were considering reconstruction of at least two of the greens, when I received literature on deep aerification. This was back in December 1987. After thoroughly investigating what was then a relatively new technique, I discovered deep aerification would give my ailing greens exactly what they needed: It promised to break through the hardpan,

opening up the soil to oxygen and improving the movement of water through the soil profile.

I decided to give it a shot.

Deep Aerifying With the Verti-Drain

Mounting the Verti-Drain Deep Tine Aerifier on a Massey Ferguson tractor, we used a 3/4-inch-diameter solid tine that reached 10 inches into the soil. At first I was concerned that using a solid tine would create another compaction zone deeper in the soil. Let's face it, if you displace the area of a 3/4-inch solid tine, it has to go somewhere. But I soon realized that the Verti-Drain uses a pitchforking action; its tines actually tilt, lifting and loosening compacted soil layers.

Since 1988, we've deep aerified five times, both spring (early April) and summer (mid-August). The results, though predictable, have been dramatic. Among them:

■ *A gradual improvement in the soil structure of my greens.* (continued on page 5)

President's Message

Communicating the Pros of Pesticides

Simple steps we can take to quiet antipesticide sentiment

Today, few issues concern government officials—and the public—more than those related to the environment. President Bush has even declared the '90s to be the "Decade of the Environment." And though many applaud his efforts, I feel they're bound to fuel further antipesticide sentiment across the country.

But we can counter that sentiment—at least in part—by staying in the foreground of pesticide-related issues and standing ready to present the facts about our golf course's relationship to the environment.

I've done some reading on the subject and thought I'd share a few pointers on how we can avoid the unnecessary ban of pesticides crucial to our maintenance operations:

1. *Keep abreast of the activities of the GCSAA's Government Relations Committee.* Why? Because this committee is responsible for educating (continued on page 2)

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Communicating the Pros of Pesticides

legislators—and the public—about the benefits of pesticides and how they're used safely on golf courses. We can use this information to quiet the fears of members—and others unnecessarily concerned about pesticides.

This past March, for instance, the committee successfully defended pesticide use on golf courses. Michigan Superintendent William Roberts, who's secretary/treasurer of the GCSAA, represented the golf course industry at a meeting of the Senate Subcommittee on Toxic Substances, Environmental Oversight, Research and Development. The committee convened to examine the use, regulation, and potential health risk of commercially applied chemicals on turfgrass.

In defense of turfgrass chemicals, Roberts pointed to the Cape Cod study, which showed that virtually no turf chemicals reach groundwater supplies, and he explained the GCSAA's many educational programs designed to provide members with practices for preserving the delicate balance of the golf course environment.

Tell your membership about these kinds of findings whenever the opportunity arises. If your department contributes to your club's newsletter—or has one of its own—it wouldn't hurt to publish a short piece now and then describing any good press that pesticides receive. The more good news you circulate, the better.

2. *Communicate with our own Govern-*

ment Relations Committee. If you have any ideas on how our committee might enhance the image of golf courses and golf course superintendents as responsible pesticide users, don't hesitate to give our committee chairman, Joe Alonzi, a call. I'm sure he'd be happy to hear from you.

3. *Strive to avoid any negative publicity by employing environmentally sound maintenance procedures.* Pesticide misuse, overuse, or accidents are guaranteed to hasten pesticide restrictions, if not their removal from the market.

4. *Support new research efforts.* The future is looking brighter for genetic and biological pest-control techniques. Be sure to promote any research that seeks to develop new pest control measures—particularly cultural control programs—that are environmentally acceptable.

Though, at first, these steps may sound like more trouble than they're worth, consider the potential consequence of ignoring them: being expected to maintain the same high-quality playing conditions your members have grown accustomed to without the benefit of pesticides.

If we don't want the "Decade of the Environment" to become the "Decade of Pesticide Restrictions," I feel we have to take an active role in educating golfers and the general public not only about the pros of pesticide use, but also about our ability to use them knowledgeably and without harm to the environment.

LARRY PAKKALA, CGCS

President

Educational Opportunity

■ *Golf Course Construction/Renovation & Golf Day*

WHEN: Tuesday, August 21, 9-4:30

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL: NYSTA, 800-873-TURF or 518-783-1229.

Social Event of the Year

■ *Summer Social: "Manhattan Skyline Dinner Cruise"*

DATE: Tuesday, August 21

DETAILS: Enjoy dinner and dancing while sailing the East River.



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

Upcoming Events

Tournament Reminder

■ 1990 Poa Annual Golf Tournament

DATE: Monday, August 13

PLACE: Ridgeway Country Club,
White Plains, NY

DETAILS: A golfing event run for the benefit of turfgrass research.

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

A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Your July Meeting Host

Superintendent George Pierpoint primed Ardsley for a meeting worth remembering

When George Pierpoint III came to Ardsley Country Club seven years ago, his number one goal was to improve golfing conditions at the now 95-year-old club. He enlarged the maintenance facility, installed an automatic irrigation system and an extensive drainage network, and added five new tees. Plagued by the troubles typically associated with older greens, George has also undertaken a successful deep aerification project, which he began in 1988 (see "Deep Aerification: A Success Story," page 1).

On July 24, those of you who attended the MetGCSA golf meeting were able to see, firsthand, the fruits of George's labor, which he's quick to acknowledge wouldn't have been possible without the backing of Ardsley's

"very supportive membership."

A veteran to the turfgrass management field, George launched his career in 1959. He was drawn to the business, he says, because he enjoys working with nature and seeing the daily results of his work.

He graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1964, and then in 1966, took his first superintendent's position at Orange County Country Club in Middletown, NY. From there, he moved to Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield, NJ, where he stayed a year and a half before accepting a position at the Concord Resort Hotel in Kaimesha Lake, NY.

There, he undertook the monumental task of running the golf and grounds operation. Much more than the typical superintendent's slot, George's position

at the Concord required that he manage 45 holes of golf, a 26-acre truck farm, ski slopes, snow making, and much more.

In 1983, after four and a half years at the Concord, George accepted the superintendent's position at Ardsley in Ardsley-on-Hudson, NY. Working for a private country club, he says, has given him the opportunity to work for a smaller, more appreciative group of people—and offered him a welcome change, a change he's never regretted.

Married 24 years, George and his wife, Ineke, have two children: George IV and Robert. George IV recently graduated from SUNY Delhi's agricultural program and is working at Edgewood Country Club in New Jersey. Robert, in his second year at SUNY Delhi, is also in the agricultural program and is employed at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, NY.

When George isn't at work or with his family, he loves to hop on his full-dressed Harley and take it for a ride.

BERT DICKINSON

Westchester Country Club

Ardsley Tournament Winners

Well before the July 24 MetGCSA golf meeting, George Pierpoint had been hard at work prepping the course for the numerous tournaments held at the club this summer. And the successful Westchester Open, held the week before, primed the course for an enjoyable day of golf for Met members.

Here's a look at the tournament results:

Best Ball of Foursome

Low Net Winners

- 56 J. Kennedy, S. Renzetti, B. Laurie, D. Gonyea
57 J. Martin, M. Galliar, L. Stout, F. Scheyhing
58 (Match of Cards) T. Grasso, A. Tretera, B. Middleton, T. Moore

Low Gross Winners

- 69 D. Petruzzelli, T. Baviello, M. Ceplo, D. LaFlame
70 (Match of Cards) T. Lambert, D. Madar, S. Sharples, B. Sutherland
70 (Match of Cards) H. Waterous, J. Fulwider Sr., M. Leary, C. Denny

Other Results

Closest to the Pin
S. Lamb

Longest Drive
A. Caravella

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2nd Place with 6'5": P. Harding

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The 1990 U.S. Senior Open Comes to the Met

A look at the club—and superintendent—behind the event

It starts as a drive along a private road. A hard look through the trees and the eye encounters just a sampling of one of the greatest A.W. Tillinghast-designed golf courses in the country. Just ahead, among the tall oaks and the rhododendron and azalea landscape lies the picturesque clubhouse. You have arrived at one of the finest and oldest clubs in the country: Ridgewood Country Club, this year's site of the U.S. Senior Open.

Three locations and three names later, the 100-year-old club is recognized as one of the top 10 courses in our area and is ranked among the top 100 nationwide.

First known as the Ho-Ho-Kus Golf Club, Ridgewood was founded by a man named William Dayton Rosenkrantz who, after returning from a trip to Europe with golf clubs in hand, masterminded the development of a small course in Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ.

In 1901, the club followed its membership to Ridgewood, NJ, and was renamed Ridgewood Golf Club. Then some years later, amidst speculation that the town might develop land in and around the present golf club, Ridgewood made plans to move again, this time to its present site in Paramus, NJ.

Noted PGA Golf Pro George Jacobus, who signed on with the club in 1913, asked a good friend of his to design the new course. That friend? None other than the renowned championship golf course architect A.W. Tillinghast. In 1929, the club changed its name for the third and last time—from Ridgewood Golf Club to Ridgewood Country Club—and opened in its current location.

The man whose task it was to prepare the golf course for the U.S. Senior Open, held June 28-July 1, was Superintendent Ed Walsh.

The Man Behind the Tournament-Quality Course

Ed got his start in the turfgrass industry while still in high school. He worked on the grounds crew at Metuchen Golf Club in Metuchen, NJ, and after graduating, went to Warren Brook Golf Club and then Barton Landscape as a foreman.

The turning point in Ed's career

came, however, when he accepted a job at Princeton Hills Golf Academy in Hillsborough, NJ. During that time, he decided to enroll in Rutgers' Turf Program, and soon after completing the coursework, landed an assistant's job with former Suburban Golf Course superintendent, Jack Martin.

After one and a half years at the Union, NJ, course, Ed accepted his first superintendent's position at Colonia Country Club in Colonia, NJ.

Then three years later, in January 1976, Ed signed on at Ridgewood. Originally assistant/co-superintendent with Bob Kapherr, Ed became the sole superintendent when Bob retired in '77.

Over the years, Ed's done a lot to enhance the aesthetics and playability of the course. He's initiated a comprehensive tree maintenance program, rebuilt and/or constructed 25 tees, rebuilt 75 percent of the course's bunkers, and installed a state-of-the-art irrigation system and pumping station. Ed was also one of the first superintendents in the area to have separate pesticide storage facilities built.

So it's no surprise that Ridgewood was chosen as the site for this year's prestigious U.S. Senior Open. It's also no surprise that the club was, at first, apprehensive about hosting the event.

Prepping for the Tournament

A huge undertaking for both Ed's department and the club's membership, a tournament of this caliber requires years of planning and hard work.

For the club's Board of Directors, it meant assembling numerous committees. An astounding 40 subcommittees

and a full 75 percent of the membership were involved with tournament preparations. The club also brought in Tournament Director Richard Farley, whose expertise and guidance proved vital to the Open's success.

This year's U.S. Senior Open held particular interest—and prestige—because it was the first in which golf greats Lee Trevino and Jack Nicklaus were eligible to play.

To better prepare himself for the tournament, Ed attended the Senior Opens at Medinah in 1988 and at Laurel Valley in 1989. In '89, he also went to the Masters at Augusta and the U.S. Open at Brookline. But that was only a small part of Ed's prep-work. He also spent many days with USGA Tournament Agronomist Tim Moraghan, who offered him guidance in preparing the course for the event. Ed says of the USGA Green Section: "It's the most effective source of information around."

After the information-gathering was complete, the hard work began. It took all of Ed's sizable staff—31 full-time and seasonal workers, three summer workers, and two placement students—two years to ready the course for the historic event, which as most of you know, ended with Lee Trevino finishing first, followed by Jack Nicklaus.

Contributing to a successful Open is just one of many feathers in Ed's cap. As past president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey (GSANJ), Ed was responsible for initiating the publication of GSANJ superintendents' budget information. He also put in five and a half years as editor of the GSANJ's *The Greenerside*, which under his direction won several GCSAA awards for best format and readability.

A frequent contributor to various turfgrass trade journals, Ed's professionalism both in print and on the job have gone a long way toward enhancing the image of the golf course superintendent. So let's give him a round of applause—for his many jobs well done.

MIKE MONGON
Arcola Country Club

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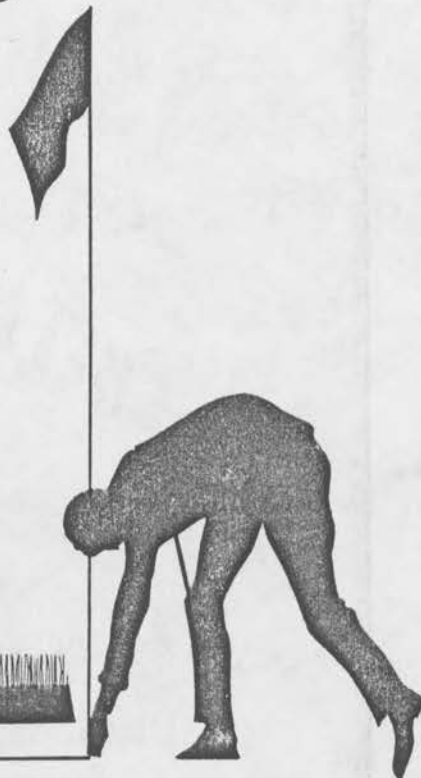
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Deep Aerification: A Success Story

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■ *Improved internal and surface drainage.* I find now that even after a heavy rain, my greens drain quickly and are still playable.

■ *Increased oxygen flow to the soil.* Oxygen, as you know, is critical to root respiration and, ultimately, the health of the grass plant. The deep aerification process has given my greens a noticeably healthier root system—one that's thicker and deeper.

And just for the record: I've found deep aerifying in mid-August somewhat better than in April: Recovery seems to be quicker and seed germination better.

Deep Aerifying With the Floyd-McKay

At the end of March last year, we

aerified five rocky greens with the Floyd-McKay Deep Drill Aerifier. The Floyd-McKay is a self-contained machine that uses 60 carbide-tipped drill bits which reach a depth of up to 10 inches. It can be equipped with 1/2-inch, 5/8-inch, or 3/4-inch drill bits. We chose to use the 5/8-inch drill bits, which proved to be the most forgiving in our rocky soil.

When subsurface rocks are a problem, it's safer to go with the Floyd-McKay. The depth of the drill head is controlled at all times by the operator, so when the machine hits a rock, the operator can easily stop the drilling, raise the drill head, and move forward a few feet. This minimizes the possibility of damaging the putting surface.

Gearing Up for Deep Aerification

If you're planning to deep aerify any part of your course, it pays to do a little prepwork. Here's what I recommend:

1. First and foremost, hunt down a reputable and experienced contractor.
2. Prepare your membership for what's to come. Deep aerification, like any aerification process, will temporarily disrupt play and create a less-than-desirable surface. But most members are willing to put up with short-term inconvenience when they know it's for the long-term good of the course. Nonetheless, when deep aerifying greens, you may want to redirect play to temporary greens.
3. Be sure to mark all underground utilities and irrigation lines with surface spray paint to avoid costly—even hazardous—damage to lines and utilities within reach of the deep aerifier.
4. Have ample topdressing on hand—and the staff to spread it—to ensure rapid recovery.
5. Gather all the necessary equipment and materials beforehand, including drag mats, drag brushes, street brooms, utility vehicles, and seed and soil amendments.

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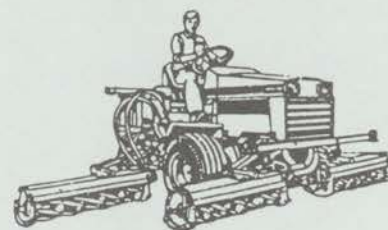
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High-Pressure Injection Testing at 10 Area Courses

Dr. Pat Vittum of the University of Massachusetts will be visiting 10 area courses to demonstrate and test high-pressure injection and subplacement of insecticides for control of grubs and hyperodes. Dr. Vittum believes these insecticides work best when placed through the thatch layer to the root zone. And in the tests she'll be conducting, she hopes to prove her theory.

Superintendents are welcome to observe any of these trials and to offer input. They'll be conducted August 22, 23, and 24 at the following locations and times:

August 22			
7 a.m.	Westchester Country Club Rye, NY <i>Patty Knaggs, supt.</i>	11 a.m.	Sleepy Hollow Country Club Scarborough, NY <i>Joe Camberato, supt.</i>
9 a.m.	Winged Foot Golf Club Mamaroneck, NY <i>Bob Alonzi, supt.</i>	1:30 p.m.	The Powelton Club Newburgh, NY <i>Robert DeMarco, supt.</i>
August 23			
8:30 a.m.	Meadow Brook Club Jericho, NY <i>Charlie Cross, supt.</i>	10:30 a.m.	Garden City Golf Club Garden City, NY <i>Ed Buttler, supt.</i>
1:30 p.m. Eastern LI site TBA			
August 24			
8:30 a.m.	Rolling Hills Country Club Wilton, CT <i>Scott Schukraft, supt.</i>	10:30 a.m.	Woodbridge Country Club Woodbridge, CT <i>John Streeter, supt.</i>
1:30 p.m. Country Club of Farmington Farmington, CT <i>Peter Lewis, supt.</i>			

For further information, please contact either Joe Stahl or Rick Apgar of Metro Milorganite Inc. at 914-666-3171. They've volunteered to pick up the trailer that The Magovern Company has kindly made available and then tow it to the University of Massachusetts where they'll pick up Dr. Vittum's sprayer. They've also generously donated their time to transport the sprayer from club to club during the three-day trial sessions.

A round of applause should also go to the 10 superintendents who have made their courses available for research.

A Call for Nominations

Now's the time to submit your nominations for the Sherwood A. Moore Award. For the uninitiated, this award is presented annually to an individual who has "advanced the professional image, status, and reputation of the golf course superintendent." Previous recipients were Sherwood Moore, Ted Horton, and Bruno Vadala.

Please send or phone in your nominations as soon as possible to Awards Committee Chairman Scott Niven, The

Stanwich Club, 888 North Street, Greenwich, CT 06831, 203-869-1812.

Eligible Hire

Joe Libriaco, a University of Richmond graduate, is on his way to Cornell's landscape design program. Interested in gaining hands-on experience in golf course turf management, he's looking for a position at an area golf course for both the balance of the summer and for next year. Anyone interested in Joe's services can contact him at 914-747-1437.



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L. Delea & Sons Sod Farms

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Fleet Pump & Service Group

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