



TEE TO GREEN



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Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

New Happenings in '94

Though right now it's hard to believe that spring is here, it's only a matter of time that this record-breaking winter will be far behind us and a new season will be in full swing.

The MetGCSA is entering 1994 with a new executive secretary—and new ties with the MGA. The alliance with the Met Golf Association, which I mentioned in the last issue of *Tee to Green*, has become a reality. That means the hub of our operation will be MGA headquarters, and our executive secretary will also now perform Met Golf Association duties.

Let's welcome Ineke Pierpoint, Ardsley Superintendent George Pierpoint's wife, to her new post. And once again, special thanks to our first—and now former—executive secretary Jan Russo for her hard work and dedication, and for offering her time to show Ineke the ropes.

If you have any questions or concerns related to the association, you should still contact me or the appropriate committee chairman (see list on page 3). Other association business, however, should now be directed to Ineke at 914-698-0390.

Our mailing address will remain the same—P.O. Box 396, Mamaroneck, NY 10543—until the new MGA headquarters in Elmsford, NY, are completed. By the way, the building (continued on page 2)

Special Feature

What Three Area Superintendents Have to Say About Snow and Ice Removal

Superintendents in the greater Metropolitan area are relatively "green" when it comes to handling persistent snow and ice cover on turf—primarily because the deep freeze conditions we've suffered this past winter are rare, to say the least.

But even green industry authorities have little concrete advice to offer. "Ice injury is a very complex issue that is not fully understood," admits the USGA, in the March issue of its periodical *North-east News* (see article, page 4).

So what's a superintendent to do? You'll find approaches vary from course to course. Some superintendents are sitting tight and hoping for the best come spring. Others have launched labor-intensive snow and ice removal programs. Here's what three in our area have done to help their turf survive the record-breaking winter.

Will their programs work? Unfortunately, only time will tell.

Rick Schock, Wee Burn Country Club, Darien, CT
When I got back from the conference, I

walked the course and found mixed layers of snow and ice—8 to 12 inches on top of about 2 inches of solid ice.

At first, I thought about using a darkening agent, such as charcoal or top-dressing, but I didn't feel either would melt the snow and ice fast enough. So I went with a mechanical approach. I used snow blowers and even plowed with our pickup truck, using chains on the tires for traction.

We first got out there on February 18, at the start of an unseasonably warm three days. Beginning with 11 of our more shaded and protected greens, we made sure we cleared enough of the area so all the surface water could drain away from the greens. We also opened channels to help the water escape. By the afternoon, these greens were slush. Four days later, they were all clear and looked fine.

Some of my poa may be spared because I deep-tine aerified late fall. The sand-filled holes hadn't closed up completely, so there were probably small pockets that allowed (continued on page 4)

Also in This Issue

- ② Your 1994 Meeting Schedule
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- ⑤ Creative Solutions to Universal Problems
- ⑥ Looking for Reid Award Candidates

New Happenings in '94

will also be home to the Met PGA, the CMA, and several local golf organizations. In my opinion, this is the start of a long and fruitful relationship with the MGA and other area professional organizations.

Let me also start the year by welcoming newly elected board members Dave Mahoney, Dennis Petruzzelli, Joe Stahl, and Patrick Lucas Jr. Dave, Siwanoy Country Club superintendent, will co-chair the Golf Committee with Matt Ceplo, and Dennis, Lakeover National Golf Club superintendent, will co-chair the Communications Committee with Tim Moore. Joe, of Metro Milorganite, will serve as our commercial member representative, while Patrick, assistant at Winged Foot Golf Club, will serve as our Class B member representative.

Coming off the board are Mike Mongon, Steve Sweet, and Al Tretera. I want to thank all of you for your time and involvement in the association. Also leaving the board, having completed his term as past president, is Larry Pakkala. Larry served the association for 12 years, working on various committees and as treasurer, vice president, and president. Now that's dedication! A special thanks to you, Larry.

Our committees are hard at work on plans for 1994. Our meeting schedule is complete (see below), with the exception of the Poa Annual Tournament, which we co-host with NYSTA. The Board of Directors and I are looking forward to a positive and successful year.

JOE ALONZI, CGCS
President

Upcoming Events

Clip-and-Save 1994 Meeting Guide

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------|--|
| March 23 | Wykagyl CC New Rochelle, NY Business Meeting <i>Steve Renzetti</i> | July 12 | CC of New Canaan New Canaan, CT Met Area Team Champ Qualifier, First Round <i>Mike Reeb, CGCS</i> |
| May 2 | Sleepy Hollow CC Scarborough, NY Superintendent/Manager Tournament* <i>Joe Camberato</i> | Sept 20 | Innis Arden GC Greenwich, CT Met Area Team Champ Qualifier, Final Round <i>Pat Lucas, CGCS</i> |
| May 16 | Westchester Hills GC White Plains, NY Superintendent Two-Ball Championship Qualifier <i>Matt Ceplo</i> | October 6 | CC of Fairfield Fairfield, CT Supt/Gr Chrmn Tourney* <i>Ted Maddocks</i> |
| June 6 | Tamarack CC Greenwich, CT Invitational Tournament* <i>Dave Arel</i> | Nov 17 | CC of Darien Darien, CT Business Meeting <i>Tim O'Neill, CGCS</i> |

***New Tournament Protocol.** This year, to alleviate a cash flow problem, we'll be asking members to prepay several of our tournaments: the Superintendent/Manager, Superintendent/Green Chairman, and the Invitational. To attend these events, you will send a check in along with your registration form. Caddy or fore caddie fees must also be paid the day of the event, and we'll be collecting a \$10 prize fee at the door. You will, however, be able to sign for beverages.

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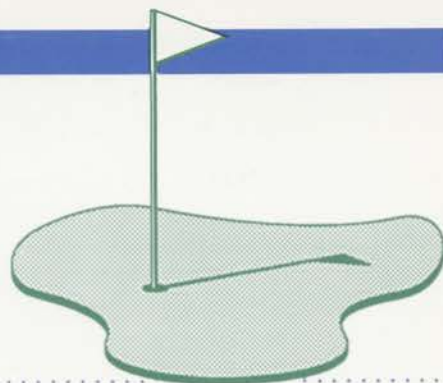
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ADDRESS: P.O. Box 396, Mamaroneck, NY 10543.

1994 Committee Chairmen at Your Service

This is your guide to the MetGCSA's committee chairmen. They're here to serve the association—and you—so please feel free to contact any one of them with questions or comments. We've provided their numbers, below, for your convenience.



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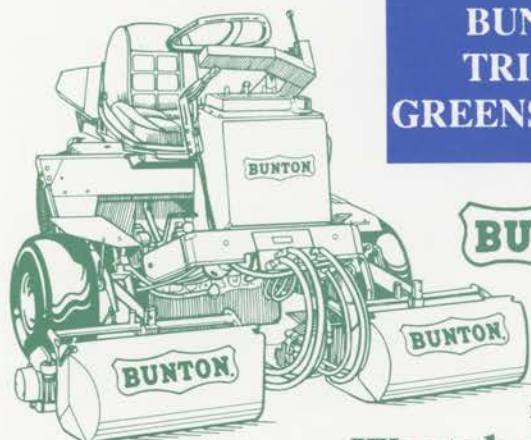
Jeff Scott, CGCS, *Apawamis Club*
914-967-2570

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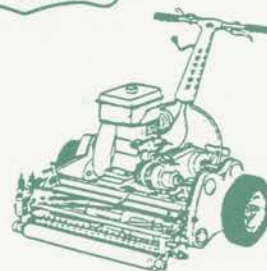
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What Three Area Superintendents Have to Say About Snow and Ice Removal

gas exchange around the plants. The exposed sand also might have acted like a darkening agent, helping to melt that first layer of ice.

I'm most concerned about crown hydration from freezing and thawing—particularly on the greens we didn't plow. We're working right now to remove as much of the snow on these as possible. I've kept my Greens Committee informed on some of the problems we could all be facing this spring.

Tracey Holliday, Sterling Farms Golf Course, Stamford, CT

In mid-February, I had tried to get on

the course to plow some of the greens, but even our small tractor got stuck out there. By the first of March a firm enough layer of ice had formed to allow us to travel the course with a Club Car. So I sent two of my guys out with Milorganite and a hand spreader, and they worked an entire day applying it as a darkening agent.

The extent of the ice and snow varied from green to green: Some had just one ice layer; others had a layer of snow sandwiched between two layers of ice.

Where we had the ice-snow-ice combination, the Milorganite broke through the top layer of ice and the

snow the first day, and the bottom layer of ice the following morning. By the second day, there were actually patches of grass showing.

Of course, mother nature played a role here. It wasn't bright and sunny, but there was enough sunlight to heat up the Milorganite and begin the melting process.

Right now, three of my greens are entirely exposed. The others are still covered. On one of those three greens, I can see some ice injury. And I'm quite concerned about what I see—and smell—in the fairways, especially since they're the less hardy perennial ryegrass.

The USGA's Story on Snow and Ice Removal

In the USGA Green Section's March 1994 issue of *Northeast News*, they warn of the hazards of persistent ice cover on greens, tees, and fairways. Turf most at risk, they say, is poa annua and perennial ryegrass—particularly if surface and internal drainage are poor—while creeping and velvet bentgrass are thought to hold up for longer periods of time under solid ice covers—slightly beyond 50 or 60 days.

Two Theories on Ice Injury

How and why injury occurs is still a bit of a mystery, although there are two popular theories. The first: Solid ice cover prevents gas exchange around the plants, causing toxic concentrations of gas to build up and damage the turf. In fact, a recent Canadian study found turf-damaging cyanide gas present under ice conditions.

The second, more common type of injury is caused by plant hydration that's followed by a rapid drop in temperature. The water within the hydrated plant freezes and expands, causing damage to the cell walls. Turf most at risk of crown hydration injury has not completely hardened off or has begun to break dormancy. Interestingly, a continuous ice

cover alone is often not the primary concern. It's the events that lead to the ice cover or conditions during periods of thaw that determine the turf's fate.

Helping Your Turf Survive the Winter

You up the chance of having your turf come out of the winter alive if you:

- Remove large snow accumulations to within 2 to 3 inches of the surface. This will prevent excessive water accumulations that could hydrate the plant and lead to ice damage. This is especially helpful immediately before a warming trend.
- Remove solid ice layers that have been in place for more than 60 days. You can do it mechanically—with a snow blower, plow, or aerifier, for instance—or with the aid of a darkening agent, such as Milorganite or charcoal, which will accelerate melting and ease removal during sunny, warm periods.

One caution: Care must be taken to remove the water that results from the melting process, especially where surface drainage is poor. If allowed to puddle, the water will be absorbed by the plants leaving them more susceptible to damage should the temperature plummet again.

- Install small trenches in greens to facilitate water movement from areas with poor surface drainage. Effective tools: an old chain saw or an asphalt saw.

Because injured turf may *appear* green and healthy after snow and ice have been removed, you should pull a plug from a green and bring it inside to monitor its growth. But no matter what your plug test tells you, it's always a good idea to alert your Green Committee of the potential for injury.

Reducing Future Risk of Ice-Related Injury

To reduce the probability of ice-related injury in the future, you might want to do some—or all—of the following:

- Promote bentgrass.
- Improve surface and internal drainage.
- Eliminate shade conditions.
- Harden the turf off properly in the fall.

Recommended Reading

- Dr. John Roberts from the University of New Hampshire has an informative article on crown hydration injury in the October 1993 issue of *Golf Course Management*.
- "Promoting Recovery From Winter Injury," *Green Section Record*, January 1979.

Bob Alonzi, CGCS, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY

In the late '60s and early '70s, we had a lot of what I call dark blue ice. This is usually the result of heavy rains that puddle and then freeze solid as temperatures drop—or a total thaw that then refreezes. Courses really suffered during that period. And most of the damage, I believe, was caused by hydration, which, of course, hit the poa annua hardest.

This winter, conditions were different. Most of the ice formed on top of the snow, creating a crumbly, granular mix that's more apt to leave air pockets.

Unfortunately, there's little research on the effects of ice on turf, so it's a bit of a guessing game. At Winged Foot, we spent a couple of days—February 9 and 10, to be exact—removing snow and ice from seven greens that we thought were most in jeopardy: They're shaded and have depressions that could collect water. We used primarily snow

blowers, and once exposed, the turf looked excellent.

We worked hard to keep water from accumulating—and then refreezing as solid ice—in low-lying areas on the greens. We removed snow drifts and dug runways to allow the water to flow away from the greens.

The biggest problem I see coming out of this winter is the soggiess of the soil. It's so saturated right now that we can't bring any large equipment out on the course. That means we have to delay our prepwork, which under normal conditions begins early to mid-March.

The golfers will be disappointed since we've always allowed winter play. But if we let people out on the course too soon, they'll create more damage than the ice would have.

A Final Note

I guess what I learned in my conversa-

tions with these and other superintendents is that you can talk to 20 different people about what they're doing about snow and ice removal, and not one of them will have the proper prescription for your course.

Many variables come into play from golf course to golf course—even green to green.

So while mechanical approaches, darkening agents, and even wetting agents to help move excess water in the spring, are all sound practices, you have to find what's best for your particular course and conditions. Nothing's etched in stone.

In the end, you just have to do what you believe is best and keep your membership informed about what's happening out there. The rest, unfortunately, is in the hands of mother nature.

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Heard at the National

Five Superintendents Offer Creative Solutions to Universal Problems

Here's just a sampling of the innovative ideas you can pick up at the GCSAA National Convention's educational sessions. Drawn from "The Innovative Superintendent" session, these tips and techniques come from supers across the country—a MetGCSA member among them.

If one or more of their ideas strike your fancy, why not give these guys a call. I've provided their names and numbers to make your information hunt a little easier.

Taking the Financial Bite Out of Backflow Protection

Steve Scarbrough, CGCS, of Bakersfield Country Club in Bakersfield, CA, 805-871-4088, demonstrated that backflow protection needn't be a costly—or unsightly—proposition. When his city required that he install a backflow device in the line he was using to fill his pond with city water, he first explored commercial products. The cost was between \$12,000 and \$18,000—a sum he hadn't budgeted for. So he came up with a clever alternative.

On one side of the pond, there was a hill with a 24-foot drop to the water. He ran a fill pipe up the hill, and to disguise where the pipe extended above the pond, he created a waterfall. He constructed a cement trench with an 8-inch-thick base and 4-inch-thick sides. He then placed rocks in and around the trench to give it a natural look. This not only complied with city specs for backflow protection, but also added an attractive asset to his golf course.

Pesticide Storage: Two Perspectives

Richard Tegtmeier, CGCS, of Elmcree Country Club in Cedar Rapids, IA, 319-393-9523, discussed the pros and cons of building your own pesticide storage shed. He built a 10' x 16' x 9' high structure, complete with steel paneling for fire protection, heat and electric, and a sealed, 12-inch containment berm around the building.

Among the advantages to new construction that he cited:

- You can locate the building exactly where you want it.

- You can design a building that's attractive and blends in with existing structures.
- It's less costly than prefab construction. (He was able to build his shed for \$11,500. That's at least \$2,500 less than a comparable prefab structure. But try to do it for that figure in the Metropolitan area!)

High on his list of disadvantages were:

- The structure can't be relocated.
- It's more difficult—and costly—to expand the structure as pesticide storage needs grow.

His only regret with his new building: the width of the door. It's 30 inches. If he were to do it over again, he said he'd install two 3-foot doors, like the prefabs have.

Steve Cook, Wakonda Club, Des Moines, IA, 515-243-7777, offered his experience with prefab pesticide storage. After careful evaluation of his pesticide storage needs, he chose a heated 16' x 9' x 9' high building. He paid \$14,000 for that configuration and another \$1,500 to install electricity and a cement pad to rest the structure on. He had only good things to say about purchasing a prefabricated building. Among his comments:

- You avoid building design costs.
- The building's built to code, so you needn't pour over code requirements.
- Installation is quick and easy and can

be done with minimal site preparation, though he did choose to pour a cement pad.

- Expansion is simple. You can add on by simply buying another building.
- Because the building isn't permanent, you can move it to another location—or haul it away.

If he were to do it over again, he said he would have purchased metal ramps for the building and forced air ventilation—two options available on all prefab structures.

Another thing to think about: The prefab delivery people won't heft the building off the trailer. Once it arrives, the rest is up to you.

Pruning Made Safe and Easy

Greg Hansen, CGCS, of Pleasant Valley Country Club in Little Rock, AR, 501-225-5243, devised a rig that enables his crew to safely extend their pruning reach threefold—to 22 feet. Basically, he's constructed a wooden platform, complete with galvanized pipe guardrails, that he attaches to his front-end loader. It functions kind of like the cherry pickers you see on utility trucks.

The top rail has a 2 x 4 attached to it to better absorb the shock of a falling limb than the piping alone would. Even more interesting, though, is that it can be attached to the loader with only four bolts, so it requires less than 10 minutes to assemble and disassemble.

The cost? \$80.

Info Alert

Seeking Reid Award Candidates

The Awards Committee is accepting nominations for the MetGCSA's 1994 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award. Initiated in 1986, the award is presented annually to an individual "who has demonstrated a knowledge of—and commitment to—the game of golf and the science of golf course management."

Past recipients were Guido Cribari, Alexander Radko, Ken Venturi, Dr. Ralph Engel, Dr. Haruo Tashiro, Geoffrey Cornish, Frank Harrigan, and Jim McGloughlin. This year's award will be presented the June 6 Invitational, so nominations should be submitted by **April 15**.

Just contact any one of the Awards Committee members: Tim O'Neill, Chairman, Pat Lucas, Mike Maffei, Scott Niven, or Larry Pakkala.

Helping the Green Committee "Picture" Course Projects

MetGCSA member Superintendent Mike Mongon of Arcola Country Club in Paramus, NJ, 201-843-6960, offered pointers for using a video camera to report on projects in progress or to sell club officials on course improvements.

Though he finds the "visual" reports an interesting departure from the traditional oral presentations, he admits creating an effective video presentation takes some forethought and practice. Here are some of the things he's learned by trial and error:

- Be sure your camera battery is fully charged. You don't want to have to cut a taping session short—or miss it entirely.
- When taping work in progress, keep your camera steady and moving—at just the right speed.

There's nothing worse than 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.

- Stand at a given point each time you tape the same project. Different angles can confuse viewers, making the shots seem like they're taken on different holes.
- Use the time/date option to record a project's time span directly on the tape.
- Use the fade option to provide more continuity between each of your taping sessions.
- Don't narrate as you videotape. It allows you the flexibility of stopping the tape for questions or comments at any point of the presentation, and it's far more professional.
- Be sure to preview the tape before the presentation so you're well prepared—not only to narrate but to entertain any questions.

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100 Calvert St., Harrison, NY 10528
914-835-3801
- ☆ **Glenmore Landscape Service**
Glenn S. Moore
98 Hackgreen Rd., Pound Ridge, NY 10576
914-764-4348
- ☆ **Grass Roots Turf Products Inc.**
Ken Kubik
P.O. Box 336, Mt. Freedom, NJ 07970
201-361-5943
- Greenacres Company
Golf Course Irrigation & Landscaping
266 Newtown Tpke., Redding, CT 06896
Dave Pijnenburg: 203-938-8618
- ☆ **Growth Products, Ltd.**
Clare Reinbergen
P.O. Box 1259, White Plains, NY 10602
914-428-1316
- ☆ **Hawthorne Bros. Tree Service Inc.**
John Hawthorne/Charles Siemers
5 Center St., Bedford Hills, NY 10507
800-235-7035
- James Barrett Associates, Inc.
Golf Course Irrigation Design & Consulting
Jim Barrett: 201-744-8237
Montclair, NJ
- ☆ **James Carriere & Sons, Inc.**
Bill Carriere
7 Cottage St., Port Chester, NY 10573
914-937-2136
- ☆ **LESCO, Inc.**
Seed, Fertilizer, Control Products, Equipment
Greg Moran: 914-331-4869
800-321-5325
- ☆ **Loft's Seed, Inc.**
John Farrell
P.O. Box 146, Bound Brook, NJ 08805
908-356-8700
- ☆ **Metro Milorganite Inc.**
Rick Apgar/Scott Apgar/Joe Stahl
365 Adams St., Bedford Hills, NY 10507
914-666-3171, FAX 914-666-9183
- Montco/Surf-Side/Zap!
Surfactants & Defoamers
Box 404, Ambler, PA 19002
Bob Oechsle: 215-836-4992, FAX 215-836-2418
- ☆ **Nassau Suffolk Turf Services, Inc.**
Frank Marra
Turf Supplies & Equipment Rentals
516-286-1052, PAGER 516-278-4766
- Nor-Am Chemical Company/Agr Evo
David J. Sylvester
311 Carriage Dr., Kensington, CT 06037
203-828-8905
- Partac Golf Course Top-Dressing
Kelsey Park, Great Meadows, NJ 07838
Jim Kelsey: 800-247-2326/908-637-4191
Bill & Joe Carriere: 914-937-2136
- P.I.E. Supply Company
Artie deAtienza/Steve Smith
243 Woodmont Rd., Milford, CT 06460
203-878-0658
- Pro-Lawn Products, Inc.
Richard Cooke
Turf & Ornamental Products
914-883-5881, FAX 914-883-5943
- ☆ **Rhone-Poulenc Co./CHIPCO**
Greg Hutch
877 Yellowbank Rd., Toms River, NJ 08753
908-929-4657
- ☆ **SAV-A-TREE**
Complete Tree & Shrub Care, Naturally
Westchester: 914-666-8202
NJ: 201-891-5379 CT: 203-661-6755
- ☆ **Sawtelle Brothers Inc.**
Jim Rock
21 E. Dudleytown Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002
800-999-TURF
- ☆ **Shemin Nurseries Inc.**
Horticultural-Irrigation Supplies
Jim Hesse: 203-531-7352
1081 King St., Greenwich, CT 06831
- ☆ **Stephen Kay, Golf Course Architects**
Renovation, Master Planning, New Golf Courses
495 New Rochelle Rd., Office 2B
Bronxville, NY 10708, 914-699-4437
- ☆ **Steven Willand, Inc.**
Bruce Pye
23 Route 206, Augusta, NJ 07822
201-579-5656
- ☆ **Tee and Green Sod, Inc.**
Bentgrass, Fescue, Rye, Sod Blends, Washed Sod
P.O. Box 418, Exeter, RI 02822
David Wallace: 401-789-8177
- The Scotts Company
Steve DiVito: 203-723-5190
111 Mallane Lane, Unit #D, P.O. Box 286
Naugatuck, CT 06770
- ☆ **The Terre Company of NJ, Inc.**
Byron Johnson Jr.
206 Delawanna Ave., Clifton, NJ 07014
Office: 201-473-3393 Home: 203-748-5069
- ☆ **Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.**
Bentgrass for Greens, Tees, & Fairways
Fine Fescue, Rye, Bluegrass, Washed Sod
Skip Deubel: 800-243-7582
- ☆ **Turf Products Corp./TORO**
George Gorton, Irrigation/Al Tretera, Equipment
P.O. Box 1200, Enfield, CT 06083
800-243-4355/203-763-3581
- ☆ **Turf Products Corporation**
Ernie Rizzio
47 Howell Rd., P.O. Box 296
Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046, 201-263-1234
- ☆ **Valley View Greenhouse**
Frank Amodio
RT 123, RR 2, Box 27, So. Salem, NY 10590
914-533-2504/914-533-2526
- ☆ **W.A. Cleary Chemical Co.**
Robert Leslie: 201-746-6734
1049 Somerset St., Somerset, NJ 08873
908-247-8000/800-524-1662
- ☆ **Westchester Ford Tractor Inc.**
John Apple/Ray Beaudry
Meadow St., Goldens Bridge, NY 10526
914-232-7746
- ☆ **Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.**
Bob Lippman Sr./Bob Lippman Jr.
P.O. Box 198, Lincolndale, NY 10540
Office: 914-248-7476 Mobile: 914-649-0303
- ☆ **White Contractors**
Golf Course Construction & Renovation
P.O. Box 484, Old Greenwich, CT 06870
James E. Morris Jr.: 203-869-8808/914-234-0092
- ☆ **Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.**
Dennis DeSanctis/Chris Santopietro
340 Main Ave., Clifton, NJ 07014
201-365-6801