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President's Message

Year-end Notes

'd like to start off this message by thanking you for the opportunity to serve another year as MetGCSA president. I optimistically look forward to the coming year.

I'd also like to thank the board members who have generously given their time to our association: John O'Keefe (Preakness Hills CC), John Carlone (Middle Bay CC), Earl Millett (Ridgeway CC), Tim O'Neill (CC of Darien), Matt Ceplo (Rockland CC), Will Heintz (Hampshire CC), Patrick Lucas (Woodcrest CC), Dave Mahoney (Siwanoy CC), Tim Moore (Knollwood CC), Dennis Petruzzelli (Lakeover National GC), Jeff Scott (The Apawamis Club), and Joe Stahl (Metro Milorganite).

Welcome also to newly elected board member Tony Grasso (*Metropolis CC*). Having served on the board in the past, Tony brings a great deal of experience with him.

Speaking of experience, I tallied up the number of years that each of our current board members has served on the board, and I came up with a grand total of more than 75 years' experience.

The depth and breadth of these people's experience, coupled with their outstanding dedication, goes a long way in helping us serve you, the membership, and in accomplishing the goals of the association. (continued on page 3)

High-Speed Information Access—Just a Computer and Modem Away

hese days, if your office isn't equipped with a computer and a modem, you're missing an important link to a vast pool of knowledge, information—and even job-enhancing conveniences. Here are just a few of the many windows of opportunity a computer and modem have to offer:

Anytime Access to TurfByte

Special Feature

Tapping into TurfByte, a bulletin board system (BBS) that's accessed by superintendents around the globe, offers a learning experience that's hard to beat. A simple menu system allows you to navigate through the BBS's three main sections: the Bulletin Section, which offers hot-off-the-press turf-related information; the Message Section, which allows you to pose questions to—and tap the knowledge of—a tremendous pool of superintendents; and the Files Section, which carries files—or public domain programs—you can download on your computer.

information I've ever seen," says Middle Bay Superintendent John Carlone, a longtime TurfByte user. "I can't believe how much I've learned from reading the discussions that take place there." A discussion that instantly came to mind was on fertilizers. "Golf course consultants and superintendents from around the country offered their observations and firsthand experiences with various products," says John, who also remembers being one of the first to know about Tersan LSR being contaminated with Atrazine. "When you log on to TurfByte, you find out about things the day they happen."

John's also profited from several of the software programs carried on the BBS: *Q-Edit*, which works in conjunction with word processing programs and checks grammar, punctuation, and spelling, and a communications program, *Deluxe Reader*, which has enabled John to quickly download information from the BBS to his computer—a tremendous time and money (continued on page 4)

"TurfByte is the best clearinghouse of time and money (continued on page 4)

Also in This Issue

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- (2) Wintertime Educational Events
- Will Heintz Recaps GCSAA Chapter Relations Meeting
- (7) Read All About It: MetGCSA Takes Met Area Team Championship
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- (7) Field Day Tributes

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Invest in Your Future

t's that time of year again-when the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation will be appealing to you to contribute \$150 of your budget dollars toward research . . . research that will benefit the quality of turfgrass conditions on your golf course and, just as important, aid you in doing your job more effectively and efficiently.

Watch for a mailing in early 1995, and be sure to support this worthwhile cause.

It's a small price to pay for the valuable benefits you and your golf course will receive in return.

If you would like to speak to someone about the foundation's work, please feel free to contact any of the Tri-State's Met area reps: Joe Alonzi of Westchester Country Club, 914-967-6000 ext. 360; John O'Keefe of Preakness Hills Country Club, 201-694-0260; Tim O'Neill of Country Club of Darien, 203-656-0600; and Larry Pakkala of Woodway Country Club, 203-329-8257.

Note: Corporate contributions are also welcome.

Upcoming Events

Educational Events

MetGCSA Winter Seminar Wednesday, January 11 Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

1995 Professional Turf and Landscape Conference

Wednesday, January 18 Westchester County Center, White Plains, NY Registration cutoff date: December 30

NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition II Wednesday - Thursday, February 1-2 Holiday Inn, Suffern, NY Registration cutoff date: January 24

GCSAA Seminar: Irrigation Efficiency Wednesday, March 8 Hampshire Country Club Mamaroneck, NY

Among the topics to be covered: biological controls update, aquatic plant ID and control, golf course renovations by computer, a prescription for summer patch, avoiding fungicide resistance. For further information, call Will Heintz, 914-698-6131.

Billed as "The Best Educational Experience for the Green Industry," this session will include talks on such topics as "Turfgrass Renovation and Management," "Surviving a DEC Pesticide Inspection" (by Met member Mike Cook of Alpine), "Wildlife Management in the Landscape," and "Noise: Reduction Methods and Local Legislation." For further information, call 914-636-2875.

In addition to offering sessions on a variety of current environmental issues and turf management principles, the expo will feature several sessions on how computers can aid your turf management operation. It will include talks from Met members John Carlone and Dave Mahoney. For further information, contact NYSTA at 800-873-TURF.

For further information, contact GCSAA at 913-841-2240.

Happy Holidays to One and All!

Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy holiday season and new year

The MetGCSA Board of Directors

Advertising Manager

Photographer

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Year-end Notes

Committee Notes

High on our list of priorities is maintaining—and where possible, exceeding our present standards of excellence in all committee functions. In several areas, there is no doubt room for improvement. We're always open to suggestions—and, of course, a helping hand or two.

Here are few observations I'd like to share on several of our committee functions:

• The Communications Committee: The Tee to Green had an excellent year financially in 1994. We actually had to turn away advertisers. The one area we're still struggling to improve, however, is the production schedule.

You can help the *Tee to Green* staff produce a more timely publication by offering newsworthy article ideas or even by penning an article from time to time. It's a win-win. You get your name in print, and the *Tee to Green* establishes a pool of readily publishable articles.

• The Tournament Committee: Our monthly meetings have been so successful that we've had to rewrite our bylaws to put a cap on the number of golfers that can participate in our golf events. Yet I still hear complaints about the cost of these meetings.

I assure you the Tournament Committee does everything in its power to keep the cost of these meetings as low as humanly possible.

• The Education Committee: This group has done a fine job in finding speakers who have timely and interesting subject matter to discuss at our monthly meetings. They've done an equally, if not more, outstanding job putting together our Winter Seminar.

This session has received rave reviews, particularly from nonmembers who attend and remark how they wish their associations offered a seminar as informative as this one.

Our Field Day seminar is still in its formative stages. Our goal is to make it as successful as our Winter Seminar, the only difference being that the subject matter is targeted toward green chairmen and club officials. Again, we welcome your thoughts and topic ideas for any of our educational functions.

• The Social & Welfare Committee: Our Social & Welfare Committee's mission is to develop functions that provide us—and our families—with fun, informal get-togethers. I consider these functions just as important to our job success and well-being as our educational activities.

The Summer Social, Family Picnic, and Christmas Party are what I call "Attitude Readjustment Functions." They enable us to let down, relax, and just as important, draw our families into our professional world—a world we often get so caught up in that we tend to ignore the ones who care about and support us the most.

If you have any suggestions for future events, please let us know.

About Our Dues . . .

Over the past several years, the board has worked very hard to keep the dues stable. You have to realize, though, that the services we provide are costly. This year, we were saved from a dues increase largely by the money we raised from our Field Day. It also helped that the *Tee to Green* was able to operate in the black.

I can't emphasize enough how important the Field Day is to our association. I also can't overemphasize how important it is that we continue to improve our support. This event comes at a time of year when it takes little effort to participate. So next year, let's see if more of you out there can attend.

A New Meeting Place

If you read the last issue of the Tee to Green, you know that the MGA recently opened its new building in Elmsford, NY, next door to Knollwood Country Club. You also know that the MGA is sharing its quarters with numerous golf-related groups, including ing the MetGCSA.

In addition to providing us with shared secretarial services and storage space for our records, these offices offer

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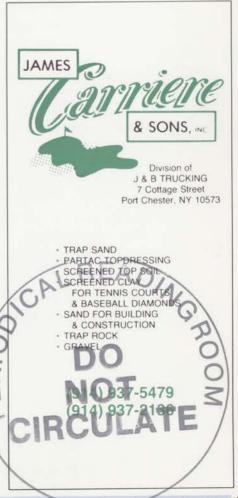
us a convenient location to conduct our board and committee meetings.

Continued Growth and Achievement

I feel that the MetGCSA is one of the most professional, and yet fraternal, golf course superintendent associations in the country. I also feel that we didn't get this way by resting on our laurels. It's taken many board members many, *many* hours of hard work and dedication to make this happen.

As I mentioned at the Annual Meeting, as a member of the MetGCSA since 1972, I've seen the association steadily improve every year. Every president has bumped the association up a notch by the end of his term. My goal as president is to continue the association's growth and achievement. We're a great association; I'm striving to make us just a little bit greater.

JOE ALONZI, CGCS President



High-Speed Information Access—Just a Computer and Modem Away

saver, he says.

This BBS is on-line 24 hours a day thanks to former Lawrence (Kansas) Country Club Superintendent Duane Patton, who is the TurfByte's system operator and one of its initiators. (Duane's now a sales rep with The Scotts Company.)

To join fellow supers on-line, simply call 913-842-0618 any time of day or night. There's no fee, only the cost of the long-distance phone call—and the communications software and computer and modem, provided you're not already equipped.

For further information, contact Duane Patton, 913-842-0592, or John Carlone, 516-766-1838.

✓ MetByte for Local News and Views

Up and running since April of this year, MetByte is a BBS created by and for MetGCSA members. Like TurfByte, MetByte provides an open forum for superintendents to hash out everything from turf-related problems to the latest and greatest in turf management techniques. "Right now, we have about 15 Met superintendents on-line," says Siwanoy Country Club Superintendent Dave Mahoney, who has accepted the challenge of acting as MetByte's system operator. "It's a great way to communicate with your peers. And the more people who participate, the more valuable the information exchange can be."

Among the topics discussed this past season: using Redi-Seed vs. primed seed; control measures for hyperodes weevil; poa control with Prograss; the effectiveness of turf rollers and the Hydroject.

Dave keeps the BBS on-line between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m., and sometimes a little later. The number is 914-337-3459. As mentioned under TurfByte, you'll need communications software, a computer, and a modem to go on-line.

If you'd like information on how to join the growing number of MetGCSA MetByte users, you could refer to the May 1994 issue of *Tee to Green*, pages 5 & 6, or contact Dave at 914-961-8698.

✓ On-Demand Info From the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) Database

This bibliographic computer database was designed by Michigan State University's Library to provide access all published materials on turfgrassrelated topics and research. While MSU's Turfgrass Information Center will track down—and send you—any information you request (for a fee, of course), you also have the option of searching the TGIF database on your own computer.

To do that, you must become a subscriber and open an account with t Turfgrass Information Center. The Individual Rate is a reasonable \$75 per year. In addition to allowing you acce to TGIF, you also receive a copy of the VuePort software package for telecommunications, 10 hours of on-line time credit on the MSU computer, a TGIF user manual, the center's quarterly newsletter, *The Sward*, and *The Turfgr Index*, which is produced twice a year and provides author and subject listing of all materials added to TGIF over a s



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month period. There's more: As a subscriber, you're also entitled to significant price breaks and priority processing for services.

For instance, if you'd like TGIF to conduct the database search for you, they'll charge you \$10 and provide a list of articles published, in abstract form, on the topic of your choice. The turnaround time is generally 48 hours. If you're a nonsubscriber, the charge for the same service is \$40, and you could have a long wait for your material, since subscribers are always serviced first.

Another handy option: TGIF will track down and supply a copy of just about any article or research report in its database. For subcribers, this service runs \$5 per document 20 pages and under; for nonsubscribers it's \$8.

A local TGIF subcriber is Westchester Superintendent and Met President Joe Alonzi. "TGIF recently conducted a search for me on the growth retardant, Embark, and its effect on bentgrass. They sent about 100 different abstracted articles on the subject," says Joe, who also notes that the abstracts are often so detailed that you needn't track down any of the complete articles for further information.

You can access the TGIF database 24 hours a day, Friday through Monday. On Tuesday through Thursday, the database is on-line 18 hours. For further information, call the Turfgrass Information Center at 517-353-7209 or 800-446-TGIF.

✓ At-Home Access to Your Office—and Irrigation System

How many times have you wanted to rethink the settings on your irrigation system once you'd made the long drive home? Now, with a communications software program like *PC Anywhere*, it's possible. The only catch is you have to 'ave a computer and a *high-speed* nodem both at home and in the office.

Dave Kerr at Ridgewood uses PC Anywhere to, in essence, bring work home with him. "I can retrieve anything and everything that's on my computer at work, including budget spreadsheets and word processing documents," he explains. "I also like being able to operate my irrigation system from home. When the ESID (Electrical Storm Identification Device) shuts down my system after-hours, for instance, I can reset it manually without making the trip back to Ridgewood."

Many superintendents with TORO irrigation systems have received the \$120 PC Anywhere program for free—in addition to numerous other extras when they sign up with TORO's National Support Network (NSN). "TORO gives you the PC Anywhere software so their support people can perform diagnostic evaluations of your irrigation system—and even send or receive files by modem," explains Knollwood Superintendent Tim Moore, who's had to consult with TORO about his new irrigation system on a number of occasions.

PC Anywhere is a Symantec Corporation program. For further information,



you can call the company in California at 408-253-9600 or stop by a local computer software dealer.

END NOTE

If you'd like to explore any of these resources further, please feel free to contact the superintendents we've cited here.

You might also be interested in attending the Turf and Grounds Exposition II, which will run February 1 and 2 (See Upcoming Events, page 2).

Two of the supers we talked to for this article, John Carlone and Dave Mahoney, have been asked to speak at this conference.

John's talk is titled "Getting Up to Speed: Self-Taught Computer for the Turf Professional"; Dave will be speaking about MetByte.

The expo will also feature speakers on TurfByte and TGIF, two other resources we mentioned in this article.



Will Heintz Offers an Inside View of GCSAA Chapter Relations Meeting

n September 25 and 26, Met GCSA Board member Will Heintz represented our association at the GCSAA Chapter Relations Meeting held at GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, KS.

Will was one of more than 70 volunteer leaders from across North America who attended the open-forum discussion with members of GCSAA's Board of Directors and a special Chapter Relations Planning Resource Group.

"The GCSAA used this meeting to explore ways it could improve ties with local associations," says Will, who came away from the session with a new appreciation for the GCSAA's work.

"It was clear after this meeting that GCSAA does far more for its members than provide a nice, glossy magazine. It offers a credible voice in Congress and in the media, protecting us from unjust pesticide legislation or misperceptions about our pesticide use," he says. "GCSAA also does a lot to enhance the superintendent's image: Running TV spots during major televised tournaments is just part of that effort—and that alone is far more than any individual association or superintendent could do on their own.

"Right now, between 20 and 30 percent of superintendents out there aren't GCSAA members," he continues, "so another part of this meeting was to discuss how "the national" could encourage 100 percent participation. There's strength in numbers, after all, and with escalating environmental concerns, the GCSAA will need all the support it can get.

"GCSAA plans to continue these annual meetings, and I'm glad. It allows local associations to express their views and hash out their problems—and it gives everyone a real sense that we're all in this together. We all share the same concerns—and GCSAA is there to help."

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Extra, Extra! Read All About It... MetGCSA Takes Met Area Team Championship

ongratulations to the Met team of John Carlone (Middle Bay CC), Matt Ceplo (Rockland CC), Bert Dickinson (Willow Ridge CC), John Gallagher (Racebrook CC), Tony Grasso (Metropolis CC), Will Heintz (Hampshire CC), Earl Millett (Ridgeway CC), and Fred Scheyhing (Mount Kisco CC). They posted six, very strong scores to snatch a one-stroke victory over the Philadelphia GCSA and go on to win the Met Area Team Championship held October 19 at Essex County Country Club.

Essex County is a fine example of a C.H. Banks course. It's characterized by rolling hills, sharp grade changes around the greens, and large swales throughout the putting surfaces. Host Superintendent Ed Walsh had the course not only in great shape, but also perfectly set up for the championship.

Nine teams competed. The difference between the Met's score and fourth place was just five strokes—less than one a player. The low gross was won in a two-hole playoff by Rob Bigley of the Northeast superintendent's association. Rob was tied at 75 with Chet Walsh of Philadelphia. Rob drained a birdie putt from the back of the 11th green to claim the title.

Here's how the nine teams stacked up:

☆ ☆ ☆ 448 MetGCSA ☆ ☆ ☆

- 449 Philadelphia GCSA
- 453 Northeast GCSA
- 453 New Jersey GCSA
- 458 Mid-Atlantic GCSA
- 458 Pocono Turfgrass Association
- 471 Central Pennsylvania GCSA

#18 Rich Wells, Northeast GCSA

- 479 Hudson Valley GCSA
- 482 Connecticut GCSA

Longest Drive

Low Gross Champion

75 Rob Bigley, Northeast GCSA (won in a playoff)

Closest to the Pin

#6 Chet Walsh, Philadelphia GCSA

#9 Clark Bartholomew,

Hudson Valley GCSA

Special thanks to Essex County General Manager Robert Osborne—and again to Ed Walsh—for their assistance in securing the date. Thanks also to Golf Pro Bill Nash for donating a rain sweater and for supplying all the prizes.

Next year, we'll be traveling to Northeast Pennsylvania to play Huntsville Golf Club. Our host superintendent will be Scott Schukraft. Rumor has it some guys are already setting up practice rounds!

DAVE MAHONEY

Siwanoy Country Club

Letters

A Special Thank You

he family of Bert Jones would like to extend their appreciation to all who participated in any way in the "Bert Jones Open" on October 11. Please accept our thanks for a wonderful day and evening and a lovely tribute to Bert. - Mrs. Gerry Jones

Notable Notes

Field Day Recognitions

ore than 300 turf and landscape professionals attended the October 18 MetGCSA Professional Turfgrass Field Day at Westchester Country Club to view the event's special clinics, equipment demos, and numerous supplier booths.

The Green Chairman seminar, run in coordination with the MGA, drew nearly 60 attendees.

Special thanks to Field Day Committee Chairmen Joe Stahl of Metro Milorganite and Jeff Scott of The Apawamis Club and the 19 other committee members whose hard work made the day a success. They are:

- · Joe Alonzi, Westchester Country Club
- Sean Cain, The Apawamis Club
- · Bob DcMarco, Powelton Club
- Will Heintz, Hampshire Country Club
- Tracey Holliday, Sterling Farms Golf Course
- Byron Johnson, The Terre Company of NJ, Inc.
- Bob Lippman, Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.
- Mike Maffei, Back O'Beyond, Inc.
- · Earl Millett, Ridgeway Country Club
- Mike Miner, Superintendent
- Tim O'Neill, Country Club of Darien
- Bill Ross, Fenway Golf Club
- Chris Santopietro, Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.
- Fred Scheyhing, Mount Kisco Country Club
- Scott Stark, Fenway Golf Club
- Al Tretera, Turf Products Corp.
- · Scott Tretera, Elmwood Country Club
- Bob Welch, Rock Ridge Country Club
- Jeff Wentworth, *Pelham Country Club* We'd also like to thank Westchester Country Club for hosting the event and

Country Club for hosting the event and Dar Par Sales for supplying us with twoway radios for the day.

Last, but not least, we'd like to thank the exhibitors whose participation made the field day possible. As we've done in the past, we've enclosed a list of exhibitors in this issue with their area of specialty and phone number. Once again, we encourage you to show these people the same support they showed us during our field day.

PATRON DIRECTORY

Patrons listed on this page are supporting our association. You are encouraged to support them.

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- Atlantic Irrigation Specialists Inc. Tim Pogue/Ed Santalone 620 Commerce St., Thornwood, NY 10594 800-878-8873
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Down To Earth All Phases of Golf Course Construction David Griffin 914-576-7693

Eastern Land Management Inc. Bruce Moore Golf Course Renovation & Construction 203-924-7272

Egypt Farms, Inc. Topdressing, Construction Mixes, Bunker Sand, Computerized Soil Blending White Marsh, MD 21162, 800-899-7645 (SOIL)

Emerald Isle, Ltd. Bill Middleton 2153 Newport Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103 800-628-GROW

E/T Equipment Co.
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914-271-6126, FAX 914-271-6146

- Feldman Brothers Inc. David Feldman/Joe Schneider Turf Maintenance Equipment 800-527-3898, 203-443-3530
- Fleet Pump & Service Group Donald Tiedemann 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

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- LESCO, Inc. Seed, Fertilizer, Control Products, Equipment Greg Moran: 914-331-4869 800-321-5325
- 1 Loft's Seed, Inc. John Farrell P.O. Box 146, Bound Brook, NJ 08805 908-356-8700

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Montco/Surf-Side/Zap! Surfactants & Defoamers Box 404, Ambler, PA 19002 Bob Oechsle: 215-836-4992, FAX 215-836-2418

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Nor-Am Chemical Company/Agr Evo David J. Sylvester 311 Carriage Dr., Kensington, CT 06037 203-828-8905

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- Shemin Nurseries Inc. Horticultural-Irrigation Supplies Jim Hespe: 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 Tom Marmelstein: 516-679-1961
- The Ferre 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, LincoIndale, 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