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A Little-Known Occupational Hazard

t our May 14 meeting at the Country Club of Darien, our guest speaker was Dr. David J. Leffell, who is a Professor of Dermatology & Surgery at Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Leffell spoke about an occupational hazard that few superintendents seem to take as seriously as they should: skin cancer.

After hearing Dr. Leffell talk and then reading his book, Total Skin, I was reminded of just how dangerous overexposure to the sun can be. In the May/June 1999 issue of the Tee to Green, we ran a story written by a member and former superintendent, Herb Waterous, who was fortunate enough to survive malignant melanoma, the deadliest of all skin cancers. I thought Herb's and Dr. Leffell's warnings might bear repeating, especially in view of the fact that we recently lost a colleague to melanoma.

For my President's Message this issue, I've noted numerous skin cancer facts and figures, as well as some sage advice on its detection and prevention. I hope you'll take a few moments to read them-and heed them.

Skin Cancer: The Startling Reality

Just a few decades ago, skin cancer was rarely a topic of discussion. Since then, however, the incidence of skin cancer has climbed steadily and is now the most common cancer in humans.

Each year, in fact, more that 1 million cases of nonmelanoma skin cancer are reported in the U.S. Of these, there will be approximately 2,000 deaths-about 2 percent-primarily from squamous cell carcinoma.

Melanoma is a far more serious problem. Of the approximately 45,000 new cases each year, there will be about 7,500 deaths; in other words, about 17 percent of those who get melanoma, won't survive it.

In the 1930s, the lifetime risk for developing melanoma was 1 in 1,500; now that projected figure has become a startling 1 in

Another thought we should all keep in mind: Men have a higher mortality rate than women from skin cancer, largely because



John Carlone, CGCS MetGCSA President

they avoid taking skin conditions seriously and frequently don't seek treatment. Denial and worry are the two biggest reasons cited for not seeking medical help for suspicious spots or growths.

When it comes to skin cancer, early detection is the best medicine. Dr. Leffell continually points out in his book that the treatment for skin cancer is quite simple—if identified early.

Warning Signs

Here are some pointers for detecting the three most common skin cancers:

Basal Cell Carcinoma: These tumors of the skin don't spread quickly, taking many months or years for one to reach a diameter

They appear as small, fleshy bumps or nodules on the head, neck, and hands. Occasionally, they show up on the trunk of the body but usually as flat growths.

Squamous Cell Carcinoma: This is the second most common skin cancer found in Caucasians. These tumors are typically found on the rim of the ear, the face, lips, and mouth and may appear as nodules or as red, scaly patches. This cancer will develop into large masses, and unlike basal cell carcinoma, it can metastasize.

Malignant Melanoma: This, the most aggressive of skin cancers, may appear suddenly or begin near a mole or other dark spot in the skin. When looking for melanoma, consider these ABCD warning

- · Asymmetry: One half of the mole does not match the other half.
- Border irregularity: The mole's edges are ragged, notched, or blurred.

continued on page 10

Feature

Fields of Arten

Superintendents Share
Their Trials—and
Triumphs—in Silvery
Thread Moss Control

oss has long plagued many area superintendents. And, frustratingly, their trials with curative chemicals have given them only temporary relief—until recently. Now, it seems, many are on their way to finding a permanent solution in various forms of copper, which Cornell's Dr. Frank Rossi has put to the test in research trials funded by both the MetGCSA and the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation. (See article on pages 6 and 7.)

What follows are superintendents' formulas for success—and in a few cases, disaster—in ridding their greens of this most persistent turfgrass invader.

Supers With Some—to Severe— Amounts of Moss

Tony Grasso, Metropolis Country Club, White Plains, NY

Where has the moss shown up, and what have you done to control it?

I've been battling moss on my greens for the past 11 years. Years ago, I tried to control it with "Apple Juice," if you know what I mean. I also tried Lescowet and Dawn Ultra. This killed the moss, but it also injured the turf, and it was very time-consuming to apply. One of the most effective moss controls we've discovered is to just bulldoze the moss-infested green. We completely rebuilt our #15 green, not because of the moss, but it did get rid of it.

Seriously, the most success we've had so far has been with one of Dr. Rossi's recommended moss cures: Junction. Last spring, we made five applications at 5 oz./1000, and so far, we've been able to eliminate about 90 percent of it.

In the areas where we killed the moss, bentgrass crept in immediately. Where we eliminated larger areas of moss, we had to resod.

The only possible downside to using Junction is that copper levels increase in the soil, and if your pH levels drop into the 5.3 to 5.5 range, then the copper becomes available and could, potentially, harm the grass plant.

What do you attribute the moss growth to?

I think that moss has been able to thrive because we were cutting low and maintaining low fertility rates to achieve faster greens. I also believe our moss problems were made worse because our mowers carried it from one green to others.

What type of soils do you have? What's your pH? What type of grass is on your greens?

We have push-up and sand greens with a pH of 6.3 to 6.5 and grass that's a combination of poa and bent.

Do you have any words of wisdom for those trying win the war against moss? 4th down, punt. Really, if you're going to attack the moss, the best time to do it is in early spring when it's about 50 or 60 degrees. Never do it in high heat. The materials you apply, after all, are meant to singe the moss; if you apply them in high heat, they could singe the grass plant as well.

Bob Alonzi, CGCS, Fenway Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY

Where has the moss shown up, and what have you done to control it?

Moss has been a problem on a number of Fenway's greens since I accepted the super-intendent's position a year and a half ago. To get rid of it, I've tried Ferrous Sulfate and more recently Junction, which Dr. Rossi recommends. Last fall, I made three applications at 5 oz./1000, and to date, I've achieved 100 percent control.

You could say that my wife, Kim, also had a hand in solving our moss problem. When she would come to the course to spend some quality time with me, she'd plug out the moss and then use it to make moss baskets. (We're saving for a trip to Alaska.)

What do you attribute the moss growth to?

I firmly believe that moss problems are caused by overwatering. In general, we water more than we should, and the sprinkler head placement of the newer irrigation systems contributes to the problem by providing improper water distribution.

I was at Winged Foot for more than 15 years and never had a moss problem. And we did crazy things like rolling and keeping heights of cut low. The one thing I didn't do, however, was overwater. We wanted to keep our greens hard, so sometimes they'd get so dry that they would literally wilt at 11 a.m. We did lots of handwatering, rather than rely on our sprinklers. We also had an aggressive cultivation and topdressing regime.

What type of soils do you have? What's your pH? What type of grass is on your greens?

We have old push-up greens—sandy loam modified by topdressing. Our pH is 5.0, and our turf is a poa/bent combination with a high percentage of poa.

Do you have any words of wisdom for those trying win the war against moss?

Moss is a little bit like Herpes. Once you get it, you've always got it. To keep moss out of your turf, most important is to hold back on water. Also helpful, I think, is to core cultivate at least two times a year and dethatch using 1/8" blades. Add Ferrous Sulfate to your pesticide applications. And in addition to heavy topdressing in the fall, early winter, and spring, I would almost bury the greens with sandy topdressing.

Jon Jennings, CGCS, Chicago Golf Club, Wheaton, IL

Where has the moss shown up, and what have you done to control it?

The moss problems I've encountered haven't been big. At Patterson, it would show up only on the back left slope of the second green a couple times a year. Now, at Chicago Golf, I get spots on about four greens at various times of the year.

I did experiment with a few controls: I used Dawn Ultra, and I tried a combination of Lescowet, Subdue 2E, and hot water. This combination turns the moss an ugly color—and can damage the turf if it's sloppily applied. But with repeat applications, the Subdue cocktail will kill the moss.

I've also thought of trying a product that's gained favor out here called Terracyte. It contains a peroxide component that releases an "active" oxygen ion in solution, which oxidizes any nearby organic molecules, including those important to the survival of microbes, algae, and moss.

In the end, though, because my moss patches have been relatively small, I just cut them out with a cup cutter and dispose of the plugs before they have a chance to spread.

"In my book, surface moisture is the prime culprit in moss growth."

Mike Mongon

What do you attribute the moss growth to?

I've attributed my moss problems to shady areas or ridges that tend to get scalped near the edge of the green if the person doing the mowing isn't careful to set the mower down gently. I'm sure that low mowing heights also contribute to moss.

What type of soils do you have? What's your pH? What type of grass is on your greens?

All of the greens that have had moss problems have been native soil. At Patterson, the second green had a pH of 6.5. The greens at Chicago Golf have a pH ranging from 7.4 to 7.7. The grass, here, is a mixture of bentgrass, including Colonial, South German, Penncross, and a variety of poa biotypes.

These greens are 80 years old and have been topdressed for the past 13 years. The material I use for topdressing has a pH of 6.1.

Do you have any words of wisdom for those trying win the war against moss? Maintain adequate fertilization, and keep a vigilant watch on moss growth so that you can jump on it when it first appears on your greens or other problem areas.

Joe Alonzi, CGCS, Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

Where has the moss shown up, and what have you done to control it?

We've been working on our moss problems for 15 years now. We've tried peroxide, wetting agents, Ammonium Sulfate, Iron Sulfate, and soap to control it. These things would knock it back, but then it would resurface; we probably weren't as persistent as we should have been.

For the past couple of years, Dr. Rossi has been here experimenting with some copper-based materials. His products killed the moss, and since the spots weren't large, the turf just grew over it. Though it's too early to tell how lasting the effects will be, I'm hopeful.

What do you attribute the moss growth to?

I think our moss gained a foothold because of lower mowing heights and thinner turf. I also know that if we still had access to mercuries and similar metal-based products, the moss would have never had a chance. But of course, I understand that those products had to be eliminated.

What type of soils do you have? What's your pH? What type of grass is on your greens?

We have push-up greens with a thick layer of topdressing. Our pH is 5.5 to 6, and our turf is a combination of poa and bent.

Do you have any words of wisdom for those trying win the war against moss? Go after your moss in late fall, when the temperatures are cool. Total elimination is hard, so if you don't have any moss, be sure to keep doing whatever it is that you're doing!

Mike Mongon, Fairview Country Club, Greenwich, CT

Where has the moss shown up, and what have you done to control it?

Between Fairview and Arcola, I've had 13 years' experience with moss. We've tried Hydrated Lime, Ammonium Sulfate, Iron Sulfate, Liquid Dawn, and Terra Care, which the company now calls Terracyte. This product has actually proved the most effective in eliminating moss.

At Fairview, we've applied Terracyte at 4 lbs./1000 both spring and summer. This material is basically a bicarbonate that works by sucking the surface moisture out of the moss. It's kind of like putting salt on a slug.

We now have our moss down to nickel and dime size, and the bentgrass has moved into the areas where we've done away with the moss.

To keep the moss from reappearing, we've done two drill-and-fill applications, filling each time with Profile.

What do you attribute the moss growth to?

In my book, surface moisture is the prime culprit in moss growth.

What type of soils do you have? What's your pH? What type of grass is on your greens?

Our greens are 70/20/10, sand/soil/peat. Our pH is 6.5, and our turf is a combination of poa and bent.

Do you have any words of wisdom for those trying win the war against moss? Moss survives—and thrives—in surface moisture. Eliminate that type of moisture, and chances are you'll eliminate your moss problems.

Earl Millett, Ridgeway Country Club, White Plains, NY

Where has the moss shown up, and what have you done to control it?

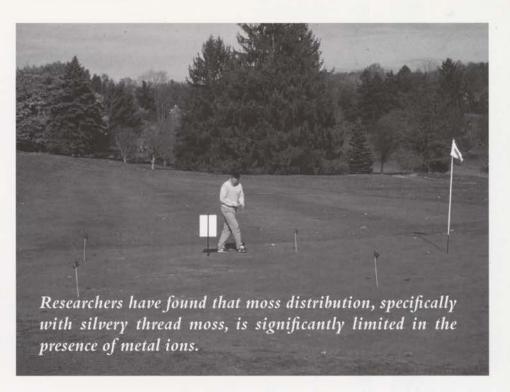
I've been dealing with moss problems for 21 years. It began on two of the sand greens that were built in 1978. When I arrived at Ridgeway, they were 90 percent moss. Over the course of two years, the moss was down to about 5 percent.

To control it, we added drainage lines up the middle of the green and up both aprons. We applied Iron Sulfate every week for the first two months. Of these two tactics, the Iron Sulfate seemed to work the best. We apply 2 oz./1000 per week in March and April and again in September and October. Fall applications seem to be most effective.

Then, to keep the moss from reappearing, we've increased our N applications, putting out 1/2 lb. N/1000 per month of the growing season.

What do you attribute the moss growth to?

I can only think that low mowing heights and the poor construction of our greens is responsible. No drainage tile was installed in the greens....the old build a bowl and fill it up.



What type of soils do you have? What's your pH? What type of grass is on your greens?

The greens that had bad moss are sand with a pH of 7.2. Our turf is a combination of poa and bent.

Do you have any words of wisdom for those trying win the war against moss? Your only real hope is to look to Dr. Rossi's research for answers. People have had a lot of success in recent times with the metal-based fungicides. I've seen some pretty significant results with these.

Scott Niven, CGCS, The Stanwich Club, Greenwich, CT

Where has the moss shown up, and what have you done to control it?

I've had small amounts of moss on and off for 15 years. It started on one green and then spread to all of them—some more than others.

We've tried just about everything to control the moss: Ferrous Sulfate, Hydrated Lime, Dawn Ultra, Hydrogen Peroxide, top-dressing, Copper Hydroxide, and Pendimethalin, which ended up killing some of the turf. Although I got this tip from a usually reliable researcher, the damage was already done when I noticed that it said on the label in dark, bold letters: "Do not use on bentgrass." Oops.

Most recently, I followed Dr. Rossi's Junction program. In mid to late fall of last year, I applied Junction five times at 6 oz./1000. By the start of this spring, I found that my moss population was rapidly

decreasing, and right now—mid-June—the moss is completely eradicated.

What do you attribute the moss growth to?

I think a number of factors come into play: low heights of cut, low fertility, multiple mowings, and light topdressing.

What type of soils do you have? What's your pH? What type of grass is on your greens?

Our greens are built from native soil with a pH of 7.0. Our turf is a combination of poa and bent.

Do you have any words of wisdom for those trying win the war against moss? Beware. Almost all the products out there can harm your turf if not applied exactly as specified. Right now, your best bet is to experiment with some of the products that have proved successful in Dr. Rossi's research.

Supers With Little-to-No Noticeable Moss

Mike Reeb, CGCS, Country Club of New Canaan, New Canaan, CT

At Country Club of New Canaan, we have sandy loam greens that are a combination of poa and bent. The pH ranges from 6.2 to 6.7, except on our putting green, which has a pH of 5.9. Interestingly, this is the only green that has a small amount of moss. To control it, we've just cut it out and put out several applications of Dawn Ultra.

I feel we've excluded moss from our greens because we work hard at keeping our turf healthy with routine tissue testing, ample sunlight, and reasonable heights of cut (bench settings .135 walk mowers and .120 triplex).

Most moss that I've seen has been associated with thin, weak turf, mowed too low with insufficient sunlight.

Jeff Wentworth, Pelham Country Club, Pelham Manor, NY

Our greens are approximately 60 to 90 percent poa annua with a pH ranging from 5 to 6.3. We have about three inches of top-dressing—Egypt Farms 90/10—on top of native soils.

Last year, we found two spots of moss about 2" x 2" on our fourth green. We treated it with Ferrous Sulfate and Liquid Dawn and are now moss-free on all 21 greens.

I can't say for sure why our greens are spared from moss problems, except to think that maybe our cultural practices have something to do with it:

- For the past 12 years, we've relied solely on Pelham's municipal supplies for our irrigation water.
- We apply 12 to 16 oz./1000 of Ferrous Sulfate per year, as well as 1.5 lbs. of N/M Ammonium Sulfate fertilizer.
- We also aerate two times per year and topdress lightly, about one yard across all 21 greens per month.

Greg Wojick, CGCS, Greenwich Country Club, Greenwich, CT

My greens have never had any moss, and I'm not sure why. They're old push-up greens except three, which were built in the early '60s. All drain pretty well. The average pH is 6.2. We have poa/bent in varying amounts.

I've done a lot to the greens over the past 14 years. None of it has yielded any moss. I suppose if I were pressed for an explanation, I'd have to say that the prime reason is that I'm not a heavy waterer. I hold back ... sometimes almost too much. I don't insist on ultra-fast conditions either, and I don't mow down to the dirt.

I was wondering what I would do if I were asked to grow moss on my greens. I probably would water through the night, mow low, and syringe throughout the day. I'd also set the mowers down to the dirt and try to scalp wherever I could.... I wonder if that would do it.

Cornell Researchers Gain a Leg Up on the Moss Epidemic

Finally, some news worth celebrating: Cornell University researchers Dr. Frank Rossi and graduate student David Dudones have developed a formula for the prevention and eradication of silvery thread moss on putting greens.

With funding from the MetGCSA and the Tri-State Turfgrass Research Foundation, the researchers spent the past three years delving into every conceivable aspect of moss invasion: the biological, ecological, nutritional, and sanitary.

Though moss has been studied before, with some strides made toward a *curative* chemical control program, none have attempted to do what Dr. Rossi and his team have done: develop *preventive* measures that seek to exclude moss—or create an environment where established moss can't persist.

What follows are some of the research team's most pertinent findings.

Moss Control Facts and Fiction

Moss invasion is an incredibly complex series of interactions among management practices, the moss organism, and the environment.

- From a biological perspective, moss reproduces almost exclusively from the vegetative phase on putting greens that are highly groomed. In other words, by lowering the height of cut to meet members' high standards for putting green speed, superintendents have unwittingly created conditions ideal for moss invasion.
- From an ecological standpoint, close mowing does *not* seem to encourage spores to spread across putting greens.
- Culturally, it appears that the key to keeping moss at bay is to maintain a dry putting green surface. This alone, however, would not be enough to control existing moss populations, since even microscopic, perched water tables that result from soil layers or organic matter accumulation would offer enough moisture for moss to thrive.
- Increased mowing heights will reduce moss invasion primarily by maintaining high-turf density and minimizing voids. Raising the height of cut, however, will only mask existing populations.

The Magic of Metal Ions

In the course of their studies, the researchers found that moss distribution, specifically with silvery thread moss, is significantly limited in the presence of metal ions. In fact, a small study at Oregon State University demonstrated the potential for Cu and Zn to be effective in reducing moss populations.

In an effort to provide a deliverable program for superintendents, the researchers decided to investigate the role of increased copper levels in moss control by experimenting with two Cu-based products that contained Copper Hydroxide (Kocide) alone or in combination with mancozeb (sold as Junction or Man-Kocide).

Field studies were initiated in 1999 and continued through 2000 at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY; Galloway National Golf Club in Galloway Township, NJ; and Fairview Country Club in Greenwich, CT, as well as on test plots at Cornell in Ithaca, NY.

To accurately evaluate their control methods, the researchers took initial soil tests to establish baseline soil nutrient levels and initial moss population counts.

Copper treatments were applied in a $\rm CO_2$ backpack sprayer calibrated to deliver two or four gallons of water per 1000 square feet. The pH of the spray solution water was 6.5.

Half of the applications were made following an abrasive topdressing procedure. They followed an application regime of every two weeks in the:

- fall only (4 applications)
- fall and spring (8 applications)
- spring only (4 applications)

Cu amounts were consistent between Kocide and Junction to identify the potential contribution of mancozeb in moss control

The Results

Results indicated that there was no difference between Kocide or Junction, supporting the research team's hypothesis that Cu is responsible for moss control.

More specifically, they found:

• Four fall applications of CuOH at 5 oz. of product per 1000 square feet—applied between October and December—provided up to 50-percent control the follow-

Upcoming Events

ing spring and almost 100-percent control by summer. In general, fall applications are superior to spring for maximum moss control.

- Two-gallon spray volume was more effective in reducing moss populations than the four-gallon. Studies with lower volume sprays are underway.
- Copper data on soils with pH from 5.5 to 6.5 indicated very little accumulation. However, tissue accumulation did reveal a fivefold increase in leaf Cu levels. Still, over the course of several experiments, turf injury was noted only to annual bluegrass in the fall treatments at Westchester Country Club, which persisted for a few weeks and was not evident the following spring.

Still More to Ponder About Moss Control

There are many nutritional issues that must be addressed—specifically, the relationship among Cu, Mn, Zn and Fe levels and how this could have an effect on turf performance over time. Dr. Rossi will begin to investigate these issues in 2001.

A significant amount of preliminary research has been initiated to determine the application of desiccants and low levels of Cu to prevent moss from establishing in the spring. For instance:

- Growth chamber experiments have indicated that three applications of Junction at 0.5 oz per 1000 prevent moss from establishing.
- Potassium-based fatty acid soap has also proved exceptional in moss prevention. The research team expects to field test the moss prevention aspect of the project this season.

While we are pleased with the initial success of this moss control program, many more questions need to be answered. The researchers will turn their attention to:

- understanding Cu release and availability at various spray tank pHs
- improving our understanding of Cu accumulation and injury to annual bluegrass
- taking a more in-depth look at new technologies, such as soaps and peroxides, for desiccation

Watch for more details, as Dr. Rossi's research continues to unfold.

MetGCSA Meeting and Golf Events

MetGCSA Championship/Met Area Team Championship Qualifier, Round 1

Tuesday, July 10 Garrison Golf Club, Garrison, NY Host: Rich Browne

Poa Annual Tournament

Monday, August 13 Minisceongo Golf Club, Pomona, NY Host: Jason Ziesmer

MetGCSA Championship/Met Area Team Championship Qualifier, Round 2

Tuesday, September 18 Centennial Golf Club, Carmel, NY Host: Will Heintz

The Assistants Championship

Tuesday, October 2 The Stanwich Club, Greenwich, CT Assistant Hosts: Albion Imondi/David Polyino

Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

Tuesday, October 16 The Meadow Brook Club, Jericho, NY Host: John Carlone, CGCS

Annual Meeting

November: Date & Site TBA Contact either of our Tournament Committee co-chairs— Jeff Wentworth, 914-738-2752, or Sean Cain, 914-723-3239—to book this meeting at your club!

National Event

GCSAA's 75th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday–Friday, September 13–14 GCSAA Headquarters, Lawrence, KS The deadline for registration is July 13, so hurry! Learn more about the festivities, view the schedule of events, and print the registration form at http://www.gcsaa.org/about/75th/tribute.html.

Area Professional Golf Events

Japan Airlines (JAL) Big Apple Classic ~ LPGA Tour

Thursday–Sunday, July 19–22 Wykagyl Country Club New Rochelle, NY Host: Chip Lafferty

The Lightpath Long Island Classic ~ Senior PGA Tour

Friday–Sunday, August 3–5 The Meadow Brook Club, Jericho, NY Host: John Carlone, CGCS

Educational Event

University of Rhode Island Turfgrass Field Day

Wednesday, August 15 Kingston, RI Call 401-874-2481 for further information.

Social Events

Family Picnic

Monday, August 6 Woodway Beach Club, Stamford, CT Host: Larry Pakkala, CGCS Plan to bring the family to this always-fun social event. Watch for a mailing as the details unfold!

Summer Social

Our Summer Social will take us on a moonlight cruise to the Statue of Liberty along New York's scenic East River. Watch your mail for the date and details.

MetGCSA Christmas Party

Saturday, December 8 Brae Burn Country Club, Purchase, NY Host: Dennis Flynn, CGCS

New Honors in Environmental Stewardship

CSAA and Golf Digest are joining forces to recognize the stewardship of golf course superintendents and their golf facilities, in addition to significant work being done to promote environmental initiatives by communities and individuals.

This awards program blends GCSAA's Environmental Steward Awards and Golf Digest's Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards. And it is made possible by the sponsoring companies Syngenta Professional Products; Rain Bird Corporation, Golf Division; Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products; and Pursell Technologies Inc.

"Clearly, the synergy created by GCSAA and Golf Digest will enhance what are already successful environmental recognition programs," says GCSAA President Tommy Witt. "GCSAA is committed to providing education and information that enables its members to implement sound environmental practices. The alignment with Golf Digest will allow us to better

communicate that and showcase advancements in the industry."

An independent panel of judges representing major national environmental groups and the golf industry will conduct the award selection. Judging panels for both awards previously have included independent agronomists and/or turfgrass consultants, representatives of independent environmental groups, and members of the golf community.

Applicants will be evaluated in five categories: Resource Conservation, Water Quality Management, Integrated Pest Management, Wildlife/Habitat Management, and Education/Outreach.

You've Got to Be in It to Win It

If you plan to apply for the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards (ELGA)—or nominate another deserving person—you should know that applications are due by October 1. You can get an application from the pages "Clearly, the synergy created by GCSAA and Golf Digest will enhance what are already successful environmental recognition programs."

- Tommy Witt, GCSAA President

of the May issue of Golf Course Management, through the GCSAA Service Center at 800-472-7878, chapter leaders, Golf Digest, and from each of the participating sponsors.

You can also access it—and submit it—electronically through GCSAA's web site (http://www.gcsaa.org/environ/elga_form.html) or *Golf Digest's* (http://www.golfdigest.com).

"We at Golf Digest are enthusiastic about the partnership with GCSAA," says Roger Schiffman, executive editor of Golf Digest. "We have always been committed to communicating to our readers on the whole spectrum of issues surrounding the game.

"We, along with the GCSAA and key environmental groups, helped spearhead the Golf and the Environment initiative some six years ago. Now, this program will only improve golf courses around the country as we analyze and publicize the positive practices being implemented."

New Web Site Promotes the Role of the Superintendent

CSAA announces the May 10 launch of an exciting new web site, http://www.GolfSuper.com. Designed for the general golfing public, this site will help golfers understand—and appreciate—precisely what goes into making their experience on the course enjoyable.

"We believe this site will fill an information void and, at the same time, promote the superintendent as a key to golfers' enjoyment of the game," says GCSAA Immediate Past President R. Scott Woodhead. "It has been my experi-

ence that golfers, especially avid ones, have a thirst for knowledge about the golf course. I think those who visit our site will find it unique—even fun."

Among the many topics covered on GolfSuper.com: information on course management, including such topics as green speed, frost delays, bunkers and course conditioning terminology.

Another section will discuss the subject of etiquette: divot replacement, ball mark repair, and golf car rules to name several. Another feature of the site will be to explain how superintendents are stewards of the land, managing their facilities in a way that is compatible with the environment.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to learn more about courses that host professional golf events and the elaborate steps taken to prepare for the world's best golfers.

Now, the next time your Green Chairman or committee member questions any of your practices, you can refer them to GolfSuper.com as a credible source of information—and education—about what it takes to do what you do.

Agency Pricing

Editor's Note: Welcome to our premier "Issue of the Issue" column. Here's where you can get the rub on your colleagues' sentiments on various products, practices, and issues facing our association and industry.

Periodically, we'll pose an industry or jobrelated question for all to see-and answer-on the Met's web site. The question we choose will relate to a topic or trend that's particularly pertinent to our membership. Then, we'll publish the responses in our column.

We hope you'll watch our web site for our "Issue of the Issue" question. The column's success, after all, depends on your participation and willingness to respond. We're looking forward to hearing from you-and putting your name in print in future issues.

For our first column, we asked for the membership's thoughts on agency pricing-a recent phenomenon in our industry. The practice of having a fixed price for specific products, regardless of who supplies them, has some supporters and some detractors.

Here are the "mixed reviews" of the superintendents and suppliers who were kind enough to respond to our very first

Arik Carlson, The Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT

Agency pricing is both good and bad. It's good because you know what the price for the year will be, no matter who sells the product to you or how much you buy, eliminating the "used car salesman" syndrome in our business. It's bad because it reduces competition among companies and salesmen eager for your business.

I also feel there should be some sort of volume discount available to those who purchase in large quantities. The way it's set up now, I get the same price whether I buy 30 cases of Daconil Ultrex (4x10 pounds) or five cases. I feel it's only right that the manufacturer allow for some type of discount, selling, let's say, 1 to 9 cases at \$356, 10 to 19 cases at \$350, and 20+ at \$345. Manufacturers in most other industries around the world follow this practice. And in the end, it's to the company's benefit to offer volume discounts. It offers those who have the ability to stock up the incentive to buy their product.

Stephen Tibbels, CGCS, Acushnet River Valley Golf Course, Acushnet, MA

Agency pricing? My first thought was that it was somewhat un-American given that it eliminates the possibility for competition and a salesperson's ability to fine-tune pricing to meet the needs of the client. I can see where a company would prefer agency pricing to ensure a specific profit and to put their product in the hands of everyone regardless of the distributor.

And from our perspective, agency pricing does make it easier to distribute product purchases among salespeople to give everyone a piece of business. I like giving each rep the chance to make a sale simply because they are trying to make a living just like you and me.

Overall, I would say that I am in favor of the current level of agency pricing, but I would not want to see this approach to sales consume all products. I still like the human side of sales, meeting with salespeople faceto-face and discussing situations as they arise on the course. I would expect that total agency pricing would result in online or phone purchases and significant scaling down of sales forces.

Byron Johnson, The Terre Company of New Jersey, Clifton, NJ

I support the practice of agency pricing because it puts all the distributors, both large and small, on an equal playing field. It allows superintendents to base their purchasing decisions on the salesperson's knowledge, service, and expertise.

Bob Scott, Dow AgroSciences LLC, Springfield, NJ

I like agency agreements as long as the product is priced fairly. It prevents low-ball pricing, and it encourages superintendents to measure distributor value not by the price of the product, but by the quality of the service they receive: how responsive and reliable the rep is to the superintendent's needs. Sales reps are an excellent source of knowledge since they visit many courses and see, firsthand, both successes and fail-



ures with various practices and products.

If service is not a priority and all you are after is low price, the agency format will not be advantageous. More important than price, in my book, is that superintendents and distributors build a relationship based on trust and honor. With agency pricing, sales reps are more likely to be given the chance to do that.

Buddy Rizzio, Turf Products Corporation, Mountain Lakes, NJ

I do not like the practice of agency pricing. Besides the fact that the profit margin for salespeople is reduced, it puts superintendents in the position of flipping a coin to

pick a supplier.

You may not realize it, but we, as distributors, pay exactly the same price for our products as what we charge. We are rebated at the end of the year based on what we sell. It makes it tough to keep the operation going during the season. I have also ran across confusion from customers, especially municipalities whose purchasing policies are more structured than the private sector. They seem to think the practice is fishy.

Special thanks to Bill Perlee-a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee and superintendent at The Apawamis Club in Rye, NY—for managing the survey process and reporting.

Interestingly, there is talk now that sun exposure isn't wholly responsible for skin cancer.

President's Message continued from page 1

- Color: The pigmentation is not uniform. Shades of tan, brown, and black are present. Dashes of red, white, and blue add to the mottled appearance.
- Diameter: If it's greater than six millimeters (about the size of a pencil eraser), have it looked at. If a mole grows in size, have it looked at.

Other red flags: changes in the surface of a mole—scaliness, oozing, or bleeding—or in sensation, including itchiness, tenderness, or pain; the spread of pigment from the border into surrounding skin; the appearance of a bump or nodule.

Staying Out of Harm's Way

Interestingly, there is talk now that sun exposure isn't wholly responsible for skin cancer. The medical community has reason to suspect that environmental factors may come into play as well. Just how much they come into play, we're not sure. But one thing is for sure: Scientific evidence suggests that anything you can do to minimize exposing your skin to the harmful effects of ultraviolet rays will *help* prevent skin cancer.

Here are some pointers on how to protect your skin:

- Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going out to allow the active compound to interact with your skin.
- Apply a broad-spectrum sunblock or sunscreen every two hours while outdoors.
- · Wear a hat.
- Wear sun-protective clothing with a tight weave. The common T-shirt has an SPF (sun protection factor) of only 6.
- Avoid the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Be aware of the reflection of radiation off sand, water, and snow.
- Never use a tanning bed.

Keep in mind that just as important as protecting yourself is protecting your children. It is estimated that 85 percent of lifetime sun exposure is acquired by the age of 18. Children spend a great deal of time outdoors and should be protected from the sun on a regular basis.

Sunscreen vs. Sunblock: There Is a Difference

Here's a little-known fact: The terms sunblock and sunscreen, though used interchangeably by most, are *not* synonymous.

Sunblocks are physical agents, like zinc oxide or titanium dioxide, that actually reflect the sun's rays. They block UVA and UVB.

Sunscreens are chemical agents that absorb the ultraviolet radiation rather than reflect it. If choosing a chemical sunscreen, look for a product that provides both UVA and UVB protection.

In either case, look for a product with an SPF of 15 or higher. The best-known sunblock is zinc oxide. A chemical variation of zinc oxide, called titanium dioxide, is now used in a variety of high-quality products. Unlike zinc oxide, titanium dioxide is virtually transparent as it reflects back the ultraviolet rays.

In the End

Periodic self-examinations increase the likelihood that you'll catch a skin cancer lesion in its more curable early stages. If you detect a suspicious spot, don't delay in making an appointment with a dermatologist.

It's also wise, particularly if you have a family history of skin cancer, to make an annual visit to a dermatologist to get a professional view on the condition of your skin.

Dr. Leffell was kind enough to donate a copy of his book to the MetGCSA. It's available to any Met member interested in reading it—once I'm done, of course! Just call me or Matt Ceplo, and we'll send it off to you.

You can also get a copy from Hyperion, 77 West 66th St., New York, NY 10023.

John Carlone, CGCS President

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

- Richard Feducia, Class B, Dellwood Country Club, New City, NY
- Gerald B. Fontain, Class AS, United Horticultural Supply, North Brunswick, NI
- Kristian W. Granger, Class C, Hudson National Golf Club, Croton-on-Hudson, NY
- Mark Grenert, Class AF, Sawtelle Brothers, Inc., Lawrence, MA
- Elliott Lewis, CGCS, Class A, High Mountain Golf Club, Franklin Lakes, NJ
- Gary Mathis, Class AF, Steven Willand, Inc., Brookfield, CT
- Michael Nissman, Class AF, PDG Enterprises, Rye Brook, NY
- Geoffrey Ringler, Class C, Hudson National Golf Club, Croton-on-Hudson, NY
- Garth Townley, Class C, Metropolis Country Club, White Plains, NY
- Steve Turchick, Class B, Lake Mac-Gregor Country Club, Mahopac, NY

Members on the Move

- David Henault has moved from assistant superintendent at Fenway Golf Club in Purchase, NY, to superintendent at Foster Country Club in Foster, RI.
- Mark Mansur has moved from assistant superintendent at Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, NY, to superintendent at Richter Park Golf Course in Danbury, CT.
- Vincent Pavonetti has moved from assistant superintendent at Willow Ridge Country Club in Harrison, NY, to superintendent at West Point Golf Club in West Point, NY.



Births

Congratulations to:

• Sleepy Hollow Superintendent **Tom Leahy** and his wife, Jennifer, on the birth of their son, Ian, on April 16.

• Rockrimmon Country Club Superintendent **Tony Girardi** and his wife, Christine, on the birth of their daughter, Rebecca Marie, on April 17.

Well Wishes

We'd like to send well wishes to the following MetGCSA members and friends:

- Mike Leary, superintendent, Bruce Memorial Golf Club, Greenwich, CT
- Gerald Mahoney, MGA Director of Golf Programs

In Memoriam

We are sorry to announce the loss of longtime MetGCSA commercial member and friend **Bob Mullane.** Bob, who we all know for his affiliation with Alpine, the Care of Trees, died April 15 at his New Canaan, CT, home at the age of 59.

An avid golfer, Bob has been a member of the Met for nearly 40 years, serving, during his tenure, on our board of directors. Bob was also actively involved with the Scholarship and Research Committee. He showed special interest in helping our scholarship funds grow, working tirelessly to sell the annual raffle tickets that helped fund the college educations of many Met members' children.

A Giants fan, Bob loved to share his enthusiasm for the game with a superintendent or two down at the Meadowlands. Many of us will never forget accompanying Bob to Giants Stadium to watch Sunday football.

Bob will be dearly missed and always remembered as a friend to superintendents and our association. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife, Pat, and his sons, Shawn and Michael.

Spotlight

Garrison Golf Club: A Scenic New Venue for Our July Meeting



Rich Browne

arrison Golf Club, the site of the Met's July 10 meeting, is a true treat to the senses. The view from the first tee at Garrison is inspiring. West Point is directly ahead, and the Hudson River meanders along the horizon. In the eyes of host Superintendent Rich Browne, the spectacular hilltop vista is a thrill in more ways than one: "In my 21 years at Garrison, I've never seen Brown patch. I think that's because the wind never stops blowing here."

Rich will also tell you that the high point of his day, quite literally, is taking his morning coffee in the golf cart overlooking West Point, which is all the more special, of course, because it was the place where his father worked as golf coach and pro when Rich was just 3 years old. "I had several uncles in the golf business as well, so I've been around the game my whole life," says Rich.

New Owners Give Garrison New Life

Prior to Garrison, Rich was the superintendent at Maplewood in New Jersey and then Inwood on Long Island. In 1963, while at Maplewood, he completed a two-year degree from UMass and then, two years later, the 10-week turf program at Rutgers.

In the family tradition, when Rich was hired at Garrison in 1980, he assumed a dual role—of both superintendent and head pro. Today, working under the club's fifth set of owners, his sole focus is on managing the golf course and grounds—and on supporting the latest owners' commitment to preserving and upgrading the facility.

Chris and Sharon Davis, Garrison's newest owners, have apparently done more for the course in a year and half than all the other owners combined. "They're in the process of donating 100 acres of property to the town as open space," says Rich, "and, right off the bat, gave us more than \$450,000 in new equipment.

"I'm a little upset that I didn't get the opportunity to work with these great owners sooner in my career," he continues, "but hey, better late than never."

Under the new regime, Rich has more than doubled the size of his crew, which now numbers 15. And for the first time in his tenure, he has a mechanic and an able assistant, Jeff Newell. "Life is good," he says, contentedly. "No, it's great."

Glory Days

The 300-acre property has an interesting past. A fort from the Revolutionary War days was located near what is now the first tee. The beautiful stone structures throughout the property are reportedly old wells used, at one time, as a source of drinking water. And the club was also once the site of a spa, which was the training ground for boxers like Gene Tunney and Floyd Patterson, as well as a rehab haven for well-known actors who would come, on occasion, to dry out.

One of the goals of the new ownership is to restore some of the past glory to the club. "You'll notice a lot of construction," Rich says. "We're in the process of rebuilding all 18 men's and ladies' tees, renovating all the sand traps, and enlarging the lakes on the 14th hole to make the 14th green and the 15th tee island shots. The club is also building a new spa and 40-room hotel. This place will really be something when it's complete."

In the meantime, Rich enjoys working with the current staff of 110 employees and popping in, from time to time, to see his wife of eight years, Miriam, who works in the club's restaurant, Bill Brown's.

A sports enthusiast, Rich is an avid golfer and a diehard Mets, Jets, and Devils fan.

Word to the Wise

For those of you planning to tee it up for the MetGCSA Championship and Round 1 of the Met Area Team Championship Qualifier, Rich will tell you that Garrison's set of Par 3s are among the toughest you'll find anywhere. "The course was built in 1962 by golf course architect Dick Wilson," notes Rich, adding, "His layouts feature small greens and narrow fairways favoring a right-to-left style of play.

"So brush up on those tee shots," warns Rich. "At Garrison, accuracy is key."

Bill Perlee, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at The Apawamis Club in Rye, NY.

Scorecard

Powelton Pulls Out All the Stops

The MetGCSA enjoyed a July day on April 30 at the Powelton Club. Special thanks to Bob DeMarco and his staff for having the course in midsummer condition for our annual Two-Ball Qualifier—and to the entire Powelton Club staff for their gracious hospitality.

The day's event closed with the low score for the day a stunning 59, shot by Paul Pritchard of Wiltwyck Golf and Bob Steinman of Beekman Country Club.

Congratulations to Paul and Bob and to the following Two-Ball Qualifiers:

Class A/B 60 1) Bob Alonzi/Joe Alonzi BYE 2) Bob DeMarco/Gary Arlio Fenway GC/Westchester CC Powelton Club/North Jersey CC 15) Mark Fuller/Shawn O'Sullivan 16) John Carlone/Tim O'Neill 73 The Meadow Brook Club/CC of Connecticut GC/D. Fairchild Wheeler GC Darien 8) Sean Cain/JeffWentworth 65 7) Bert Dickinson/Chip Lafferty Sunningdale CC/Pelham CC Willow Ridge CC/Wykagyl CC 9) Paul Gonzalez/Lou Quick 10) Mike Miner/Jim Swiatlowski 67 67 Canyon Club/Anglebrook GC Montammy GC 4) Mike Reeb/Greg Wojick 62 3) Tim Garceau/Rich Browne 61 CC of New Canaan/Greenwich CC The Tuxedo Club/Garrison GC 13) Tim Moore/Todd Polidor 70 14) Jason Ziesmer/Glen Dube Knollwood CC/Heritage Hills GC Minisceongo GC/Oak Hills Park GC 5) Earl Millett/John O'Keefe 6) Matt Severino/Bob Zaletsky 63 63 Ridgeway CC/Preakness Hills CC Scarsdale GC/New York CC 12) Jim Fulwider/Jim Fulwider Sr. 11) Fred Scheyhing/Chuck Martineau 68 Century CC/Class AL Mount Kisco CC/Whippoorwill Club Class A/B matches should be completed by Match 2 ~ August 10 the following dates: Match 3 ~ September 21 Match 1 ~ June 22 Final ~ October 26 Class AF

| Westcheste | man Jr./John Richichi BY rTurf Supply/Dar Par Sales | E 3) | Mike Cook/Ken Clear Alpine, the Care of Trees | 64 |
|-----------------------------|--|-------|--|----|
| 8) Dan Cano | vs. celleri/John Apple n Corp./Westchester Ford | 70 6) | vs. Joe Kennedy/David Griffin Irra-Tech, Inc./Down to Earth | 66 |
| 2) Jeff Weld/ Bayer Corp | Joe Stahl poration/Turf Partners, Inc. | 4) | Greg Moran/Charlie Siemers Lesco, Inc. vs. | 64 |
| 7) Al Tretera | vs. | 5) | John Currie/Ernie Steinhofer Currie Landscaping/Metro Milorganite | 66 |

Class AF matches should be completed by the following dates:

Match 1 ~ August 10 Match 2 ~ September 21 Final ~ October 26

Superintendent/Manager Tourney Results

Country Club of Darien hosted the Met-GCSA Superintendent/Manager meeting on May 14. There were 19 superintendent/manager teams competing in a Better-Ball-of-Two Competition. There isn't much else to say but first class all the way. The golf course was in great shape, the food service was top-notch, and the Pro Shop was gracious and helpful. Special thanks to our host Superintendent Tim O'Neill and his staff and to the entire Country Club of Darien staff for their hand in making the day pleasurable.

Here's a look at the top plays:

Superintentent/Manager Tournament

First Low Gross

John Carlone/Dennis Harrington Jr. The Meadow Brook Club

First Low Net

JeffWentworth/Richard Mercer Pelham Country Club

Second Low Net

Bert Dickinson/Kevin Herrington Willow Ridge Country Club

Closest to the Pin

Tony Grasso Metropolis Country Club

Longest Drive

John Carlone The Meadow Brook Club

Two-Ball Event

Superintendents unable to attend with their manager were paired with a commercial member to compete in a Two-Ball Tourney.

Congratulations to Bob Welch of Rock Ridge Country Club and Ray Beaudry of Westchester Ford Tractor, the low net winners of the event.

Are Earthworms Bugging You?

Have We Got a Solution for You!

e've all been taught that earthworms are our friends: They reduce thatch, after all, and aerate the soil. What they don't teach you in Entomology 101, however, is that when earthworms are present in great numbers, their castings present a great problem for golfers.

Golf courses with an overabundance of earthworms have been stumped since there hasn't been a product approved for earthworm control-or so they thought. But guess what? According to Larry Gilhuly, director of the USGA Green Section's Northwest Region, golf course superintendents in the Pacific Northwest have been reporting-for the past 15 years-significantly reduced earthworm populations when they conduct regular sand topdressing programs on their fair-

Complete removal? No, but populations have been reduced to the point where these soil-eating critters are no longer a topic worthy of discussion.

Proof Is in the Test Plots

The problem has been that there was no data to back up these visual observationsuntil lately. Work being conducted by Paul Backman and Eric Miltner at Washington State University (WSU), along with Tom Cook at Oregon State University (OSU), is beginning to show what happens when sand is applied to earthworm-infested soils.

The photos to the right demonstrate the difference in earthworm populations where no sand has been applied on a typical Western Washington silty loam soil and where 1 1/2" of sand has been applied over the course of two years.

In general, though it may take several years to visually observe a reduction in earthworm populations, it's quite certain that golf courses that have applied 1/2" to 1" of sand annually have shown noticeable reductions in earthworm populations.

For further information on this method of earthworm control-and how it may apply here in the Northeast-contact Larry Gilhuly at 253-858-2266 lgihuly@usga.org.







Time's running out for your chance to take our Writer's Challenge and win a round of golf for yourself and three of your favorite golfing buddies at one of the premier golf clubs in the New York Metropolitan area (and caddies are included). Included with your prize is a fabulous dinner, with all the trimmings, at a famous Midtown Manhattan steakhouse. You'll never have to reach into your pocket.... That's right! It's all on us!

Of course there's a catch. But it's a simple assignment. For those of you who missed our first announcement of the particulars, all we ask is that you write and submit an article to us, here, at Tee to Green. If your submission is deemed the year's "best" by our panel of judges, the dream golfing day and dinner are yours. But there's more.

You will also be acknowledged at the MetGCSA's Annual Meeting in November. And your award-winning entry will be published in the Tee to Green's last issue of the year-along with your picture and formal announcement of your special achievement.

You will receive national recognition! What's more, we expect this contest to be held every year, so chances are good that your name will go down in Met history as the first winner of the Writer's Challenge.

Hurry. All entrees are due in July and should be submitted to Tee to Green Co-Editor Glenn Perry at 333 Hurlbutt Street, Wilton, CT 06897. Remember, your article can be about almost anything relating to our profession. You might write about a great golf experience or work experience or about a technical aspect of the profession or a human interest story. Whatever topic you choose, however, it must be one that will interest our members.

We look forward to receiving your entries. Good luck!



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