

Connecticut Clippings

Volume 43, No 2

July/August 2009

Course Goes 'Green' with Environmentally-Safe Bridges

If you don't join the trend, you risk being left behind by your competitors! The past decade has been marked by a movement towards courses being more environmentally friendly and eco-smart.

As many golf courses across the country have begun to clean up their acts with earth-friendly fertilizing and pest-control methods, a common eco-menace is still hiding in plain sight – vehicular and pedestrian bridges.

These seemingly docile structures traverse rough terrain and environmentally-sensitive areas such as wetlands, marshes, ravines and creeks. The status quo of traditional materials has become dated and dangerous to our environment. Typically built from treated lumber, which is filled with creosote or chromated copper arsenic, wooden bridges leach hazardous toxins into the ground and water, endangering the eco-system.

There are alternatives available to superintendents, which turn 100-percent recycled materials from consumer and industrial waste (otherwise destined for landfills), into building products for bridges and boardwalks, as well as landscaping for bulk heading and framing walkways, cart paths, tee boxes and steps for golf courses.

While satisfying strict environmental codes, the recycled material holds additional advantages over conventional building products. "Green" bridges withstand severe weather and flooding, and last on average more than 50 years

with minimal wear and tear, compared to typical wood structures which require maintenance every 10-15.

Eco-safe bridges and walkways are cost-effective as well. Materials can be obtained for lower cost per foot than wood and are just as easy to install. With the use of standard tools, installation is quick, hassle-free and customizable for extreme traffic and weight

To the naked eye, environmentally-sound bridges blend in with the course's surroundings. The natural look remains like new over time, requiring no painting and staining, while the materials are impervious to corrosion, cracking, fungus, insect infestation, moisture decay, rotting, rust and overall deterioration, thus saving money on upkeep and labor.

A common fear for any superintendent is a slip or fall on a bridge or walkway, still wet from an early morning rain shower. That is because wood absorbs water, leaving a slick surface for golfers traveling over. Plastic surfaces do not create this common occurrence and will save a passerby from the embarrassing fall, an unfortunate injury, and more important for a course operator, potential litigation.

Golf's recent commitment to all things green bodes well for these new alternatives.



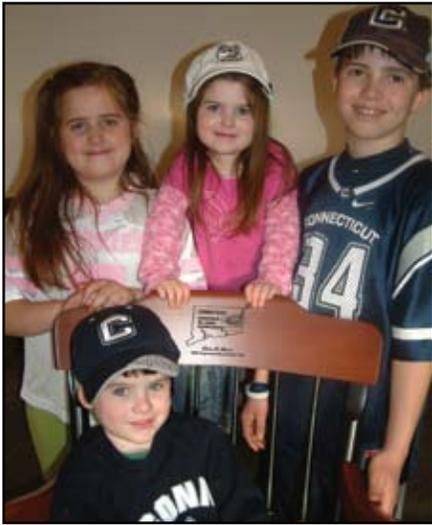
Green bridge for environmental areas on golf courses.

Construction opportunities on courses being renovated or updated are abound, and non-wood structures have become the 'eco-smart' choice.

By Jim Kersteinis, CEO Axion International

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Seated, Jason, Left to right Alessia, Sage and Zachary Mauro

The President's Message

The Board of Directors decided that beginning in 2009 our association would begin an annual tournament for our benevolent fund in order to raise and have funds available to help our members and their families get through any unforeseen challenges. Thank you to Mark Mansur and Wintonbury Hills Golf Course for hosting our Benevolent Fund Golf Tournament. Unfortunately which seems to happen more often than not this season our event was shortened due to rain, thank you to all who attempted to play, thank you to all our members, guests and our commercial members who made contributions to this event, because of your generosity we were able to deposit over \$10,000.00 into this fund. As we schedule our future meeting schedules we will be looking to our members to host this tournament as we hope to be able to grow this event in the years to come.

Please watch the mail and check the web-site for monthly meeting and social event notices. Some dates to mark on your calendar: Family Day at Lake Compounce - Sunday, September

13th, sponsored by Syngenta and Melissa Gugliotti, The Invitational at Glastonbury Hills - Tuesday, September 15th, sponsored by Club Car, On Course Construction and Steven Willand.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time and their facilities to host our 2009 events and again a special thank you to all our commercial members for your time and for all your continued donations that help keep our events enjoyable and affordable. If you have any interest in hosting a future event, please give Don Beck or Mary Jo a call for more details.

Thanks
Chris P. Mauro

Fourth of July has come and gone, Labor Day is fast approaching and with my time running out as a member of the CAGCS Board I sit to write one of my last President's letters. During my time serving this association I have had the privilege to meet and get to know many people and have witnessed our association achieve a level of professionalism that many did not think was possible. Many of my past letters and comments have been influenced by my belief of the importance of family and friends and is with that in mind that I feel one of the most important things our association has ever done took place last month.

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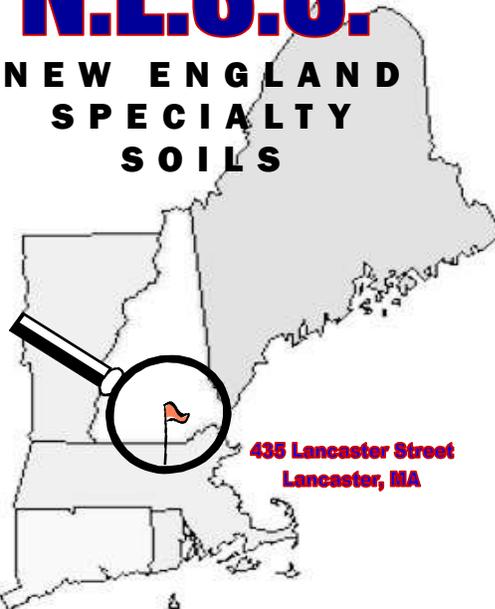
Connecticut Clippings is an official official publication of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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BOB VIERA
CLASS OF 1951

Bob Viera retired golf course superintendent of Watertown Golf Club, Watertown CT, on May 22, 2009 was inducted into Dartmouth High School athletic Hall of Fame along with eight others.

A three-sport athlete during his career, Bob lettered 4 years in football, 4 years in basketball and 2 years in golf.

During his senior football season, he was elected captain and named Second Team, all Narragansett League. During his 4 year basketball career, he was chosen Co-Captain as a senior and averaged 16 points per game as a first team all Narragansett League selection. He was also awarded the prestigious Joseph Viveiros Trophy as the "most outstanding basketball player".

At the conclusion of his athletic career at D.H.S. he was chosen "Athlete of the Year, 1951"

Bob continued his athletic career in the U.S. Army participating in Unit football, basketball, and softball.

Bob also served as President of CAGCS in 1972-73 and was the 1984 Superintendent of the Year.



Bob & Betty Viera at Dartmouth High School athletic Hall of Fame Induction.

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CAGCS APRIL GOLF RESULTS
Willow Brook Golf Course
APRIL 27, 2009

1ST GROSS – 115

Eric Morrison, Shennecossett GC
Ward Weischet, CGCS John Deer Golf

2ND GROSS – 125

James Favreau, TurfLinks
David van Leeuvan, SePRO

3RD GROSS – 126

Gary DeVaux, Topstone GC
Thomas DeVaux, Hunter GC

1ST NET – 95

John Napier, CGCS, Stanley GC
Owen Regan, A.T. Sales

2ND NET – 102

Brett Armstrong, Steven Willand
Michael Donahue, Phoenix Environmental

3RD NET – 96

Greg Moore, On Course Construction
Edward Downing, New England Specialty
Soils

Closest to the Pin, Hole #2 – 7'
Tim Gerzabek, Blackledge CC

Closest to the Pin, Hole #9 – 4'9"
David van Leeuvan, SePRO

Closest to the Pin Hole #14 – 24'
Ward Weischet, CGCS, John Deere Golf

Closest to the Line
Edward Downing, NE Specialty Soils

Longest Drive
Christopher Guilmette, Willow Brook GC

Longest Putt, Hole #3 – 9'
Tim Gerzabek, Blackledge CC

CAGCS MAY GOLF RESULTS
SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH
TOURNAMENT
Watertown Golf Club
MAY 18, 2009

1ST GROSS – 58

Kevin Collins, Tradition GC at Wallingford
Ward Weischet, CGCS, John Deer Golf
John LaBrie, Gillette Ridge GC
John Parmelee, Indian Springs GC

2ND GROSS – 61

Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS, Blind Brook Club
Timothy O'Neill, CGCS, CC of Darien
Larry Pakkala, Plant Food Co.
Dave Wallace, New England Turf, Inc.

3RD GROSS – 62

Keith Angilly, Mill River CC
Walter Wozniak, Mill River CC

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Tom Serino, Mill River CC
Erik Burr, Mill River CC

1ST NET – 53

Mark Osborne, Steven Willand, Inc.
Todd Olovson, Sleeping Giant GC
Scott Zwiers, Millbrook Club
Justin Gabrenas, Lake Waramaug CC

2ND NET – 54

Steven Curry, Shuttle Meadow CC
Steve Winarski, Shuttle Meadow CC
Jon Rosinsky, Shuttle Meadow CC
Mark Gombotz, Shuttle Meadow CC

Rob Larson, Tom Irwin, Inc.
Greg Stent, Wampanoag CC
William Stevens, Glastonbury Hills CC
Garth Townley, Green Woods Country Club

Longest Drive, Hole #7
John LaBrie, Gillette Ridge GC

Longest Drive, Hole #10
Phil Matts, Patterson Club

Closest to the Pin, Hole #4 – 4'3"
Matt Topazio, guest

Closest to the Pin Hole #15 – 3'3"
Shannon Slevin, Pine Orchard Yacht & CC

**CAGCS JUNE GOLF RESULTS
Shennecossett Golf Club
JUNE 24, 2009**

1ST FLIGHT

1st Gross
Ward Weischet, CGCS, John Deer Golf – 70
1st Net
Eric Morrison, Shennecossett GC – 65
2nd Net
John Parmelee, Indian Springs GC – 68
3rd Net
Paul Bonini, CGCS, Watertown GC – 69

2ND FLIGHT

1st Gross
John Callahan, Cardinals, Inc. – 76
1st Net
Timothy O'Neill, CGCS, CC of Darien – 66
2nd Net
Chris Mauro, Highfield Club – 68
3rd Net
Dave Conrad, Metro Turf Specialists – 70

3RD FLIGHT

1st Gross
Jason Booth, New Haven CC – 79
1st Net
George Harris, Lake of Isles -Troon Golf – 66
2nd Net
Jeff Houde, Tom Irwin – 66
3rd Net
Steve Curry, Shuttle Meadow CC – 68

4TH FLIGHT

1st Gross
Mike Mooney, M&M Hydroseeding – 83
1st Net
Anthony Grosso, Mohegan Sun CC
at Pautipaug - 63

2nd Net
Tom Rodden, Gillette Ridge GC – 68
3rd Net
Al La Prise, Allen Seed – 71

Closest to the Pin, Hole #4 – 18'2"
Mike Decker, Clinton CC

Closest to the Pin Hole #9 – 11'2"
Heather Garvin, Chas. Hart Seed Co.

Closest to the Pin Hole #12 – 7'1"
Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS,
The Blind Brook Club

Closest to the Pin Hole #15 – 13'3"
Sean Moran, SODCO

Closest to the Line – 1'
Ward Weischet, CGCS, John Deere Golf

Longest Drive – long
Mike Dukette, Harrell's

Longest Putt, Hole #2
Mike Mooney, M&M Hydroseeding

Longest Putt – Hole #18 – 69'
George Harris, Lake of Isles -Troon Golf

CAGCS FAMILY DAY

Sunday, September 13, 2009

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Jerry Marin, Commercial
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Timothy Nadeau, Class C
Wethersfield Country Club

Notes



Dr. Joseph Troll, Professor Emeritus, UMass Stockbridge School has moved to Florida.

Joe & Lonnie Troll
16720 SE 78 Lillywood Ct.
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The CAGCS Board of Directors and Members wish you a long and healthy life in your new Florida home. We will all miss seeing you at the NERTC.

UConn research - looking for a Toro greens aerator (Model 09110)

We are currently conducting some research here at UConn where we utilize a modified Toro greens aerator to simulate traffic on an athletic field. We currently have a Toro Greens Aerator (Model 09110). This model was manufactured from 1988 to 1996. Replacements parts for this machine are no longer available through Toro distributors. We would like to determine if any superintendents might have one of these units sitting around that they would be willing to donate to the University for replacement parts for our current machine. Thank you for your help.

Jason J. Henderson, Ph.D., University of Connecticut
Phone: 860-486-0189
jason.henderson@uconn.edu

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Congratulations

Sean & Sierra Flynn on the birth of their daughter Erica Sydney on May 19th weighed in at 6lbs 13ozs.

A very belated welcome to Steve Curry, Golf Course Superintendent at Shuttle Meadow CC.

Ryan & Monica O'Neal on the birth of their son Liam James on June 12 and weighed in at 8lbs 3ozs.

Condolences

To Gerald Mills on the passing of his mother Gerturde Mills (Pollock) on May 25, 2009 at the age of 90.

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Melissa Gugliotti, Cindy Johnson, Heather Garvin, Bob Chalifour, Wayne Zoppo on a very cool morning at the Masters.



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NEW DEP STREAM-FLOW REGULATIONS ON THE HORIZON

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proposing changes to the minimum stream-flow standards that may impact existing and proposed surface-water and ground-water withdrawals.

Public Act 05-142, enacted in 2005, directed the DEP to develop regulations that would expand the coverage of the stream-flow standards to include all rivers and streams in Connecticut, rather than just those the DEP has stocked with fish, as was the case previously. PA 05-142 requires that the new standards strike a balance between the water demands for potable, irrigation and manufacturing and other lawful water uses as well as public safety and the needs of fish and wildlife that also depend on the availability of water to sustain healthy natural communities. The updated standards would be phased in over a period of 2 to 16 years to allow current users time to adjust their operations and/or identify additional sources.

When promulgated the new stream-flow standards will apply to water users that divert more than 50,000 gallons per day.

In some cases these users will be required to decrease withdrawals during periods of low-stream flow to comply with the new standards. Compliance may also be achieved through adoption of a Stream Flow Management Plan that establishes a binding agreement for all water users in the watershed. As currently drafted, withdrawals covered by an approved DEP Water Diversion Permit would not be subject to the new standards; however, registered diversions and diversions with expired permits would be subject to the new standards.

The DEP would establish a public process to subdivide all rivers and streams in Connecticut into one of four classes. Each class would represent a defined balance between human-use and ecological-health priorities. Class 1 waters would assign priority to protecting ecological health. Class 4 waters would assign a greater priority to supporting human activities. Class 2 and Class 3 waters have intermediate balance points between ecological and human use. It is anticipated that withdrawals from Class 1 or 2 waters would be subject to more stringent controls.

The stream classification process will likely consider such factors as the size and location of the withdrawal or in-stream structure, the presence of flow-sensitive aquatic life, the location of stream gages, proximity to waste-water discharges, designated

open-space or protected area and physical habitat restoration potential. The proposed stream-flow regulation will specify a process for changing a classification if conditions warrant. The petitioner would need to demonstrate the change is necessary to meet a legitimate human need for water that cannot be satisfied without reclassification.

Once a river or stream is classified, specific operational requirements may be imposed on parties who maintain structures or withdrawals that impact or have the potential to impact flow in the classified watercourse. This would include ground-water withdrawals that impact stream flow.

The DEP has proposed a four-tiered screening methodology for ground-water withdrawals to evaluate compliance with the stream-flow standards. Tier-1 is a direct comparison between the stream-flow standard and the permitted, registered or proposed maximum-allowable withdrawal rate. If the maximum withdrawal rate exceeds the stream-flow standard, a Tier-2 review would be implemented, which compares the standard to the average-day withdrawal for the peak-use month, based on the latest five years of operation. Failing the Tier-2 demonstration, the DEP would move to a Tier-3 evaluation that uses a site-specific analytical approach to evaluate potential impact of ground-





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water withdrawal on stream flow. The final method for compliance determination, Tier 4, incorporates ground-water modeling or monitoring to evaluate the relationship between ground-water withdrawal and stream flow.

If the Tier 4 review indicates the ground-water withdrawal still does not meet the stream flow standard the DEP may approve conditional operation of the timing, duration and volume of the withdrawal.

Currently, the DEP is redrafting the rule and responding to input provided by water users and other stakeholders.

Rob Good, CPG, LEP
Hydrogeologist – Principal
Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc.

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If you would like to reserve a room in the room block, please email or call the CAGCS office and leave your name and the address

where you would like your housing form sent to (home or business). We will then forward to you the specially marked housing form, which will be available by the end of August for completion with instructions. In order to be fair to all, they will be sent out on a first-come, first-served basis.

A first night's deposit, plus room tax, is required. The amount due at the time of reservation is \$269.21 (\$239.00 plus 12.64% tax) which can be guaranteed to a credit card only. Further information and instructions will be given at the time the housing form is sent to you.

Call today to get your housing form!

Do not hesitate to reserve your room! The

earlier you plan on arriving in San Diego, the earlier you should get your housing form. Fewer rooms are allocated for February 6th & 7th. The full 25 rooms are available on February 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, & 12th. If you plan on leaving San Diego a few days following the convention, get your housing form early. Again, the allocations of rooms lessen on Feb. 13th & 14th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office.

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ON THE FAIRWAY, NEW LESSONS IN SAVING WATER



ATLANTA — Six years ago, when Georgia's state government rewrote its rules for water use during droughts, it cut no slack for an obvious culprit: golf courses.

With emerald fairways that glistened even in the most blistering conditions, they were a tempting target.

Yet golf course managers were indignant. They argued that they were reining in water use in dozens of ways, like planting native grasses and auditing sprinkler spray patterns. Instead of being penalized, they said, they should be emulated.

It took a while, but from the South to the arid West, their wish is coming true. Mindful that global warming could provoke more and longer dry spells, state governments are increasingly consulting golf courses on water strategies.

In Georgia, golf course managers have emerged as go-to gurus on water conservation for both industries and nonprofit groups.

Marriott International is applying lessons learned at its golf course here to its resort properties in other states. Habitat for Humanity is landscaping front yards with drought-tolerant plants recommended by golf superintendents.

"Look, if you want to learn how to irrigate, these are the guys to ask," said Garith Grinnell, who recently retired from the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Such accolades are a turnabout for a business that is often faulted for harming the

environment through excess use of water and pesticides.

In Georgia, the shift in perspective came about largely because of a crippling drought that peaked in 2007. By that year, 97 percent of the clubs that belonged to the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association had voluntarily adopted what are viewed as best-management practices for water use, reducing consumption, they estimated, by 25 percent in just three years.

Lake Lanier, Atlanta's main source of water, had meanwhile dropped to record low levels, exposing muddy bottom not seen in half a century. It dawned on state and local water managers that golf courses might have some useful know-how.

Golfing grounds managers "are great technical assistance to me," said Kathy Nguyen, president of the Georgia Water Wise Council, a state association of water professionals that encourages conservation. "I can call them up and talk to them about different technologies." (Georgia's drought eased significantly this year.)

Ms. Nguyen has relied on golf superintendents in drafting guidelines for homeowners like letting grass grow longer, fixing leaks in hoses as promptly as possible and keeping lawn mower blades razor sharp. (Grass cut by duller blades is more frayed and requires more water to stay healthy.)

The golf industry still draws strong criticism from environmentalists. Turf is, after all, the thirstiest of plants. The average American golf course drinks up some 50 million gallons of water a year — comparable to the yearly usage of 1,400 people. In the West, the figures are higher.

Yet that reality, coupled with rising water prices, is what led to strides like irrigating golf courses with "gray water," or nonindustrial wastewater that is recycled for other purposes.

Tom Bancroft, chief scientist with the National Audubon Society, says that for all the progress golf has made, it remains a deeply problematic industry. Many courses "use fertilizers that can run off into fresh water, and many use pesticides in lawn and grass," Mr. Bancroft said. (Audubon International, a separate group, works with golf courses to encourage wildlife preservation.)

Mark Esoda, superintendent of the Atlanta Country Club in suburban Marietta, where initiation fees are \$85,000, acknowledges that practices among the nation's courses range from indifferent to conscientious. But Mr. Esoda maintains that he and other superintendents have a lot to teach municipalities about watering their ball fields and homeowners about tending to their yards.

Zippering around the course on pine-shaded paths, Mr. Esoda stopped abruptly near the seventh hole. He gestured toward a patch of newly laid turf of zoysia, a warm-weather shade grass native to Southeast Asia and Australia. On shady parts of the course it is replacing fescue, a genus of cold-weather shade grass that can live through the winter and thus requires five months' more watering and mowing.

Mr. Esoda said he had also installed affordable monitors that prevent automatic sprinklers from activating during or right after a rain.

And when isolated dry spots appear on the greens, he said, he sends staff members out with watering cans rather than turning on the sprinkler system.

Finally, Mr. Esoda has made an aesthetic adjustment after years of savoring the green glow of a perfect lawn. "Crispy around the edges is O.K.," he confided.

Water is just one area where golf courses and environmentalists may find a rapprochement, said Anthony L. Williams, director of grounds

at Marriott's Stone Mountain public courses just outside Atlanta.

As metropolitan areas sprawl outward, golf courses may be the only large-scale green space for miles around, offering crucial potential habitat for migrating birds and other wildlife.

Mr. Williams, who has a degree in local horticulture, has been letting native grasses take over his lawns. Off the fairways he does not even bother to mow, and on the greens he is maintaining grass at one-sixteenth of an inch higher than typical courses. It makes playing slow, he allows, but "consistent." He has also replaced all the flowering annuals with perennials, which generally require less water, choosing those that are attractive to native wildlife.

Since he took charge of the two courses in 2005, Mr. Williams has cut water consumption by 45 percent, he said, and witnessed the return of some wildlife species like the red-tailed hawk.

The changes have come with a price, like the occasional large brown spot on the fairway. But Mr. Williams says the golfers do not mind.

"I just stand out there on the greens and explain, 'We are doing this so your grandchildren can come out here and play,'" he said. "People understand that."

- *The New York Times*



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