



Connecticut Clippings

Volume 45, No 1

March 2011

2011 CAGCS WINTER SEMINAR SUMMATION

On Tuesday, January 18, 2011, the CAGCS hosted its annual winter educational seminar. Despite a snow and ice event in the state that morning, 172 people still made the journey for the seminar. Unfortunately, there was no way to postpone or reschedule due to the speakers' travelling schedules, so thanks to everyone who "weathered the storm".

Those who made it were not disappointed, as we had a very good slate of talks from three dynamic speakers. Dr. Frank Rossi, from Cornell University, opened up the morning with "Putting Green Mowing: It's more than height of cut", which looked at five years of field research on mower head design, frequency of clip, and bedknife positioning and how they relate to putting green performance and the incidence and severity of basal rot anthracnose.

During the first break, the Class C election took place, and I am glad to report that Douglas Zitnay from The Great River Golf Club was elected to be the representative to the board. Congratulations to Doug, and I look forward to your presence and insight on the board.

Our next speaker was Mr. Anthony Pioppi, a freelance writer and author, and he presented "Uncovering the Architectural & Agronomic History of your Golf Course". This was an interesting talk highlighting ways to research the history of your course utilizing various resources, internet websites, and databases. Tony provided a handout with a list of online resources; if anyone that did not attend is interested, please contact me and I can get you the information.

The final talk of the morning session was Dr. Thomas Nikolai, from Michigan State University. "Irrigation: Science, Art, and Measurement" was the title of his presentation, and it considered the artful and scientific methods we use to estimate daily water use that can help conserve water in an IPM program. Soil amendments, wetting agents, subsidence, and plant available water were focused on, and their relation to estimating water use needs was examined.

After lunch, Dr. Rossi spoke on "The Bethpage Project...The Art and Science of Pesticide Reduction". This focused on a ten year research study at Bethpage State Park that addressed key cultural and pest management strategies which have resulted in retaining acceptable turf quality, while reducing pesticide use. This ultimately resulted in reduced environmental risk, and reduced exposure to workers and golfers.

The final presentation of the day was "The Top Ten Reasons to Lightweight Roll". Dr. Nikolai shared his findings from over seventeen years of research on lightweight rolling of greens, which has demonstrated that the mechanical practice reduces disease, weed, and insect activity. Superintendents who have implemented the practice have been able to reduce pesticide inputs while still maintaining turf quality and acceptable control of pests. Furthermore, it was shown that a combination of less mowing with increased rolling can produce desirable green speeds.

Unfortunately this year, the Distinguished Member of the Year Award was not presented. I encourage everyone to be more involved with this process next year, so we can continue the tradition of honoring the individuals who have been tremendous help to us and/or the association over their careers, and are truly deserving of this prestigious award.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our three speakers for their participation and wonderful presentations, Marc Weston and Peter Gorman for chairing the two sessions, and all of our vendors that purchased display tables to help ensure the success of the event. I hope everyone has a good season and I look forward to seeing you next January for the 2012 CAGCS Winter Seminar.

Eric Morrison, CGCS
Education Chairperson

IN THIS ISSUE...

President's Message.....	2
Editor's Message.....	3
Winter Recovery.....	5
Grasscatcher.....	6-7
Another Success.....	8
Dr. Troll.....	10
Dogs Of Summer.....	11



John Garcia

According to the “experts” New York City and Hartford were two of the worst-hit cities as far as winter weather in 2010/2011. I know, I know, this isn’t exactly breaking news. But, to put it in perspective, Hartford recorded over 7 feet of snow this winter! We now have endured one of the hottest, driest summers on record, followed by one of the coldest, snowiest winters on record. All that during a brutal economic downturn. Hopefully, we will soon be putting our plows and sanders away, and shifting to preparations for another golf season. There is widespread concern and angst throughout the region by those with poa annua greens. Many superintendents have spent the last several weeks/months trying to decide if removing snow was a good idea, or the kiss of death. Early reports are varied throughout New England in terms of the

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Newsletter Editor
Bob Chalifour, CGCS (Ret.)
Co-Editor
Heather Garvin

Newsletter Committee
David Basconi, John Garcia,
Edward Goodhouse, Ron Holcomb,
Mike Mooney and Jud W. Smith

The Clippings is open to all commentary.
Please send your comments to:
Bob Chalifour, Newsletter Editor,
39 First Street
Groton, CT 06340

The President's Message

extent and severity of the damage. If you were unfortunate enough to experience damage, be sure to utilize every possible resource on the road to recovery. Our friends at the Regional Universities can be a great help, and many of them are encouraging Superintendents to reach out to them and discuss any issues that we are seeing this spring. As an industry, the more we learn about winterkill, the better we can prepare for the future. Hopefully, we can see some moderation from Mother Nature this spring, and good weather for recovery.

Speaking of recovery, the other “experts” (the economic ones), continue to insist that the worst is now behind us. Although the global economy may be on the mend, it’s best that we continue running our operations with a guarded optimism. Golf, is after all a recreational activity, and therefore typically viewed as “discretionary spending”. There did seem to be a bit of a “buzz” surrounding this year’s New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation Conference and Show. Many of our Corporate Partners are beginning to see some improvement in terms of purchases, in particular from the equipment end of things.

Just one guy’s opinion, but I would think that if clubs are beginning to purchase equipment again, that we must be heading in the right direction.

Finally, I’d like to offer one more word of congratulations to Dr. Joe Troll, and his wife Lonnie, who were honored on Wednesday evening of the New England Show. CAGCS sponsored a table, and we were fortunate enough to take part in a very touching evening in appreciation of Dr and Mrs. Troll, and their long-standing commitment to excellence in our industry.

Mark your calendars for April 12th, the kick-off of the CAGCS meeting schedule at The Tradition Golf Club at Wallingford. Thank you to Kevin Collins, and all of this years’ host Superintendents for their generosity in offering up their facilities. We have a great schedule of events planned, and look forward to seeing you all there on the 12th. We are now looking for sites for 2012 meetings, and anyone interested in hosting should contact Mary Jo Kennedy, or Eric Morrison, CGCS.

Have a great spring!

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EDITORS MESSAGE



This year marks the 43rd year for our newsletter - Connecticut Clippings. The idea of a CAGCS newsletter began with Charlie Baskin Jr. Country Club of Waterbury* in 1966. The first issue however wasn't published until April 1968. Today, it still takes awhile to put an issue together. Charlie was the originator and first editor of Connecticut Clippings. According to Charlie "it was designed to disseminate information" and he got the idea from other chapters which were using newsletters as a communication tool. Charlie retired as editor in 1972 and then-president Bob Viera, Watertown GC appointed Bob Osterman, CT Golf Club as editor.

In 1975, Joe Torok, Turf Manager of Hop Meadow CC took over as editor. Joe was succeeded as editor by Steve Cadenelli, CC of New Canaan in 1976. Greg Wojick, Willimantic CC started as editor in 1980 and continued for seven years when John Streeter CGCS, Woodbridge CC became editor in 1987. Ten years later in 1997 I took over the reins when I retired from Shennecossett GC, and I am now turning them over to Steve Smith, Rock Ridge CC.

I would like to thank all of those that have helped me along the way. I would like to mention a few. Pauline Streeter, who was our CAGCS Executive Secretary at the time I took over, made my job easier as she seemed to know

more about the workings of the Clippings than anyone. Now Executive Secretary Mary Jo Kennedy handles advertising, produces the collages that everyone enjoys, proofreads, and compiles items for the grasscatcher section. Mary Jo also keeps the editor on an even keel. Bob where are you? Are you on your boat? Let's get this issue finished up! Thank you Mary Jo, for all your help.

Ideas, where do they come from? Many from members, other newsletters, GCSAA, USGA, and Ron Holcomb, a former golf course superintendent, and now retired from Hart Seed Co. And speaking of Hart Seed Co., I want to express my gratitude to Heather Garvin who has been assisting me with the Clippings for the past 4 years. Pictures, everyone loves to see them. Thank you to Dave Basconi, D&S and Les Kennedy Jr., CGCS The Blind Brook Club. Marysia Walker does our lay out work and was responsible for bringing the beautiful color to our newsletter. Marysia thank you for all your help.



My first year as editor of the Clippings, I volunteered to man the CAGCS booth at the New England Regional Turf Conference. A chance meeting led to my association with the then owner of Holliston Sand Co. I continue to represent Holliston Sand, Slater Farms division and would like to thank them for allowing me the time to spend on the Clippings.

In closing I would like to thank all of the past editors, presidents, board of directors and members for their contributions. Thank you advertisers, your support pays for our newsletter and actually helps us turn a small profit. In the future I plan to contribute a column that I am tentatively calling "On The Road". As I travel about for Slater Farms I will report back back with items that may be of interest to my fellow members.

Remember this is your newsletter, please support it.

Bob Chalifour, Editor Connecticut Clippings sandman4098@yahoo.com

*Clubs noted are where superintendents were at that time

CT Clippings Staff - (l to r) Mary Jo Kennedy, CAGCS Exec. Sec., Stephen Smith, CGCS, Rock Ridge CC, incoming Editor, Marysia Walker, Designer, Bob Chalifour, CGCS, Slater Farms, out going Editor and Heather Garvin, Chas. Hart Seed, Co-Editor



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**RECOVERY FROM WINTER INJURY
EARLY SEASON SEED ESTABLISHMENT**

David Kerr, CGCS, Ridgewood Country Club

PREPARATION

- 1) Mix 50% Creeping Bentgrass Seed with 50% topdressing or construction mix
- 2) Dampen material and mix daily, temperature of mix between 65-70.
- 3) After three days the mix will need to be applied. It is very important that the mix goes out at the very beginning of root initiation No later

APPLICATION

- 4) The area to be seeded should be prepared with holes approximately 1/2" apart by approximately 1/2" deep.
- 5) Apply mixture by hand over the area
- 6) Repeat step 4
- 7) Lightly brush in
- 8) Topdress by hand using straight topdressing
- 9) Lightly brush in
- 10) Apply starter fertilizer
- 11) Daily light watering



Shoveling # 4 Green and porch roof at Redding CC submitted by Brett Chapin, GCS. Editors note: I hope the membership appreciated this effort.

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Condolences

To the Petersen Family on the passing of Jack Petersen, co-founder of Tom Irwin Inc., who passed away on February 17, 2011.

To the Otte family on the passing of Peter Otto, long time Hunter service technician who passed away on February 20th

Congratulations

To Shannon Slevin formally of Pine Orchard Yacht & Country Club on accepting the position of Golf Course Superintendent at Shorehaven Golf Club

To Peter Gorman, formally of Suffield Country Club, on accepting the position of Golf Course Superintendent at Pine Orchard Yacht & Country Club.

To Lance Heil who accepted the position of Golf Course Superintendent at Suffield Country Club.

Announcement

The 4th Annual Rhode Island Turf Foundation Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday May 10 at the Meadowbrook GC Rt. 138 Richmond, RI. Starting time is 1:00 PM Shot Gun with lunch served at noon and dinner at 6:00 PM. Sign up www.riturfgrassfoundation.org using Pay Pal or make a copy or registration and mail in. Cost \$500.00 for a foursome or \$150.00 per single player.

Reminder!

CAGCS Scholarship Applications are due by Friday, May 6, 2011

Notes

I just returned home to Florida after having attended the New England Turf Grass Association Conference in Providence, Rhode Island. At the conference, I gave a talk that I hoped expressed my gratitude to all my students and colleagues who enriched my life over my many years at the University of

Massachusetts. There were people I am sure I neglected to mention, no excuses but I am going to be 91. However, there is one person, Steve Curry, who I wanted to recognize and thank for initiating ATG which continues to raise money for turf research. Steve, I am glad you came into my life. – Sincerely Joe Troll

CAGCS - GCSAA certified superintendents honored for 25 years of certification in Orlando

Peter Lund – Barrington, R.I.
Scott E. Niven – The Stanwich Club, Greenwich, Conn.
Michael C. Reeb – Country Club of New Canaan, New Canaan, Conn.

“Twenty-five percent of GCSAA’s Class A members have achieved the highest level of recognition through the CGCS professional designation,” said Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, who was elected GCSAA’s president at the annual meeting held on the last day of the conference, Feb. 11, and also was one of the 45 superintendents honored for 25 years of CGCS designation. “This program requires



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their demonstration of a higher set of competencies in golf course management through testing and practical application. Employers can feel confident they employ a career professional who has made a strong commitment to professional development.”

To qualify for GCSAA’s competency-based certification program, a candidate must have at least three years experience as a golf course superintendent, be employed in that capacity and meet post-secondary educational requirements and/or continuing education points. The candidate’s knowledge, skills and abilities are validated through the development of a portfolio consisting of their responses to skill statements, case-study scenarios and submission of work samples; an on-site inspection of their golf facility; and a rigorous six-hour examination covering competencies relating to agronomic, business, communication, environment and leadership domains.

Maintaining certified status requires renewal every five years after the initial date of certification. To fulfill certification renewal requirements, a candidate must participate in 150 hours of continuing education and professional development. A total of 347 GCSAA certified superintendents renewed their certification in 2010.

Turf Products Receives Awards

The Toro Company announced their “Partners in Excellence” awards at the recent GCSAA show in Orlando, FL. Turf Products was awarded in three different categories:

Irrigation Distributor of the Year: The Toro Company has awarded it prestigious “Irrigation Distributor of the Year” award to Turf Products, LLC of Enfield, Ct. This award is given to only one Toro distributor each year based on meeting specific standards outlined in Toro’s “Partners in Excellence” program. Turf Products Irrigation Division services golf courses from Westchester County, NY to Maine. TPC is celebrating 41 years in the turf industry.

Toro’s “Green Blazer” Award: Nat Binns, of Turf Products, LLC has received the Toro Company’s “Green Blazer” award. This award recognizes the top commercial salesmen in the United States. Mr. Binns is the sales representative servicing the greater Boston marketplace for Turf Products. Please join us in congratulating Nat on this outstanding achievement and national recognition!

Irrigation Serviceperson of the Year: Paxton Mallard has been awarded Toro’s top honor for outstanding customer service – “Serviceperson of the Year”. Paxton is the lead service technician for Turf Products LLC, of Enfield, Ct. servicing golf course irrigation systems. Paxton’s technical expertise and outstanding work ethic were just two of the key factors that earned him this coveted award. Please join us in congratulating Paxton!

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NOT JUST A ROUND, BUT ANOTHER SUCCESS!



The 2011 New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show concluded on March 10 at 1pm. As I stand in the middle of the Exhibit Hall watching everyone begin their breakdown of exhibit space I reflect on this great week! The feelings are very similar to watching the last putt of major tournament that you just spent many months preparing for and then it is over! Our Monday qualifier was a day full of seminar attendees viewing a variety of topics including Basic Turf Management, Irrigation Conservation, Computer Training and even life-saving training for AED Equipment. More than 300 seats were taken as new and old management concepts were shared and instructors fielded questions to fulfill the needs of the audience.

Our opening round included a full-field hearing several topics directed by the USGA, including remote broadcasts, all to benefit of superintendents and those they work with. The NERTF President, Mike Buras, reminded attendees that the show continues to focus on its objectives and that attendees should understand that the show is "their" show and all suggestions and comments are important to the foundation. The day peaks with a highlighted keynote and then a few opening hours on the trade show floor with a welcoming reception and the opportunity to initiate conversations with vendors. Tuesday is nice day without many distractions or decisions other than where to find lunch. As the players gain confidence while visiting vendors, those first day butterflies diminish. A boost by Olympic Hockey Gold Medal Team Captain Mike Eruzione comes as he helps those in attendance realize that with hard

work and focus on their goals, that they too can be a champion!

As Wednesday approaches, attendees prepare for a full day that can feel much more like 36 holes from start to finish. There are four tracts of education in the morning to consider. The tradeshow heats up starting at 10am and going until 5. There are more education and credits to pick up in the afternoon and if you are looking for some friendly competition, come and challenge the field at the show auction where you can put yourself in a better position as you approach the final round. At the end of the day, there was the annual social event sponsored by Syngenta and Harrells to relax and consider how the day played out. If you are lucky to be around for the finale, then also some time to plan. Many weren't done yet though, as this year's special events included a dinner in honor of Dr. Joe and Lonnie Troll. This historic event seated more than 100 in attendance and cited the creation of the NERTF Distinguished Service Award given to them for the many years of personal attention that they have given to the turf industry and for the many whose careers have benefitted by being educated and fellowshipped by the Troll's. It was special to be a part of and with Joe and Lonnie in attendance will be a landmark event always!

As the final round is here, the field is thinned out and the opportunity to spend quality time on the trade show floor is still possible. Two

hours of high level education with appealing topics is scheduled. Networking continues as the field can anticipate the approaching finish. Conversations tend to be more about the events of yesterday than what to do about today. The clock hits 1, and the week is, as Jim Nantz would say, one for the history books! The exodus has begun on the floor! With 53 hours of education and 13 hours of tradeshow time during the week, it takes a lot of planning and commitment to make it all go smoothly. We thank all sponsors, attendees, exhibitors and presenters for your vital support. We appreciate everyone who has worked so hard to continue to be as strong a conference and show you can find in the industry. We thank you for your compliments and your suggestions. Keep them coming! Don't forget to mark your calendar, as in 2012 we will surprise many with an earlier show. The planning has already begun. Our dates are February 6-9th and before you know it... it will be here and gone!

*By Gary Sykes, NERTF Executive Dir
From the GCSANE's "The Newsletter"*



Pictured (L-R): Michael Buras, NERTF President; Mary Owen, UMass Ext., Director; Joseph Troll, Lonnie Troll, Gary Sykes and Robert Ruzsala.

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DR. TROLL

Dr Troll, your career has spanned many decades of service to the fine turf profession, during those years you had some help, Joe and Lonnie have been married for 67 years, for many years when you were at the university and after your retirement, you and Lonnie continued to work hand and hand. I know you would agree that Lonnie was instrumental in all you achieved in creating a academic environment of excellence. I've had the pleasure of serving with you both on the MTLGC for 20 years.

During that time I saw you both in action and the many contributions Lonnie made working with you and the board, working to raise 800,000's of dollars for turf research and grant funding her work in assisting students working in the early years with the turf plots, her many years of excellence in administrative duties performed serving turf conferences, Lonnie's your work as secretary and treasurer of the MLTGC.

You two had the most successful 1-2 punch in all you've accomplished working together. Through your combined efforts you created a environment of excellence in your years of service together, the number of friends gathered there tonight reflect this.

Dr Troll the number of students whose lives you have enriched through your lifelong

commitment to excellence at the University of Massachusetts, will never be equaled. I know I speak today for the countless number of former students that have achieved successful professional careers as a direct result of your mentoring, and stewardship. Your watchful eye and encouraging word always seem to follow us all long after we completed our field of study at the University.

You truly inspired your students as a educator, teacher, mentor and friend your guidance and wisdom served your former students well long after your students left the university. Your greatest gift of all was to bring out the best in people. Your friendship is a gift we all cherish your one of a kind.

The turf industry and the game of golf, as we know it today, have been well served and uniquely blessed through the contributions of so many who have come and studied before you. The professional careers of so many of your former students span the globe, truly enriching the game.

The educational experience you provided at the University were invaluable to us all. Your legacy will always remain with all of us who benefited from your wisdom, through the various skills and talents you taught us.

These values you instilled in us, served us all very well. This I believe is education at its very best! The impact you made throughout the turf industry, as it relates to golf, is everywhere. The success of your former

students who manage some of the finest golf courses in the world, reflect this. Each time a round of golf is played, your fingerprints are there! Many of the turf industries top educators are former students of yours who now educate the next generation of the best and brightest. And the countless others who have made significant contributions, affiliated within the golf and the fine turf profession whom you guided. You helped shape the high professional standards that exemplify the golf course industry and the golf superintendents throughout the world, as we know it today.

In closing on behalf of myself and so many others who have been blessed to have enjoyed a personal association with you and Lonnie, to know you is to love you, your motivation and drive was never about Joe Troll, always about the students you guided, your legacy lives in the hearts and minds of all who studied under you and that unwavering strength of character puts you number 1 in the hearts and minds of all who studied before you, in our book you'll always be at the head of the class. You're the best the American spirit has to offer, you're an American original. Thanks for the opportunity to share a few words with you tonight, it has been a great honor for me.

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DOGS OF SUMMER

Voluntary puppy raisers take pups at about eight weeks of age, love, and care for them, participate in weekly socialization and training activities at the Fidelco training center and when the pups are approximately 14 to 16 months old, return them to Fidelco for formal guide dog training.

The John Gallagher family of Race Brook CC is among thousands of families and individuals that have participated in the Fidelco volunteer puppy raising program over the years. They expose the pup to a wide variety of experiences in the home, on the street, at the golf course and the world at large; the very things that the dogs will be

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of knowing that you have helped prepare your pup for a lifetime of service. When the pup returns to Fidelco, it enters a six to nine month formal training program. Once the dog is placed with a Fidelco client, you are given a photo of the dog in a guide dog harness. You are also invited to participate in a graduation walk; one last visit with the dog you raised before it partners with a Fidelco client.

If you would like more information the site for Fidelco which is located in Bloomfield CT is www.fidelco.org.

Editors note: Congratulations to John Gallagher III on over 25 years at Race Brook CC



"Lizzy" with our pound rescue goose chaser. "Eddy" on the seat wanting to go play in the snow.



"Lizzy" with Sean Gallagher at Fidelco Fund Raiser."



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Plant Food Company's Spring Green Up / Aeration Program

Solve These Turf Issues with This Program:

- Yellow, sick looking Poa.
- Anthracnose attacking plant.
- Poa looks horrible; bentgrass looks OK.

Spring Green Up / Aeration Program	Rate per 1,000 sq. ft.	Gallons per One Acre
Blu-Gro® 10-4-6 & Micronutrients	9 oz	3.1 Gal
Ammonium Polyphosphate 10-34-0	9 oz	3.1 Gal
Phosphite 30 0-0-27	3 oz	1.0 Gal
AdamsEarth® Biostimulant	3 oz	1.0 Gal
Flo Thru™ Plus Soil Penetrant	4 oz	1.3 Gal

Nutrients per Application	Nitrogen	Phosphate	Potassium	Sulfur	Boron	Copper	Iron	Manganese	Zinc	Humic Acid	Carbo	Amino Acids
Lbs per 1,000	.140	.308	.120	.002	.0003	.0004	.0068	.0004	.0004	.079	.019	.272

How to Use:

- This is a soil application in which liquid application needs to be irrigated in.
- If puddling occurs, pause irrigation until water subsides. Continue to irrigate to push nutrients into the roots system
- Recovery begins within 24 hours. Repeat applications may be needed.

What these Products do:

- **Blu-Gro® 10-4-6:** Provides immediately available primary, secondary and micronutrients to promote plant recovery.
- **10-34-0 Ammonium Polyphosphate:** Promotes stronger roots and initiate nutrient uptake .
- **Phosphite 30, 0-0-27:** Systemic potassium and phosphite combination that provides healthier turf under stress conditions.
- **AdamsEarth® Biostimulant:** Feeds soil microorganisms and improves stress tolerance and nutrient assimilation. High rate of help take turf out of growth regulation.
- **Flo Thru™ Plus Penetrant:** Breaks water tension and eliminates “water channeling”. Ensures that this liquid drench evenly penetrates the soil profile.



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