

CONNECTICUT



CLIPPINGS

Dec.-- Jan. 1987-88

Volume 21, Number 5

Up Coming Events

CAGCS Annual Seminar-Jan. 12
Yale Inn, Meriden, Ct.

**GCSAA International Conference
and Show--Jan. 30---Feb. 4**
Houston, Texas

Mass. Turf Conference-- Feb.29,Mar.3
and Show
Springfield Civic Center
Springfield Mass.

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Connecticut Clippings is an official publication of The Conn. Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Editor : John F. Streeter CGCS
160 Nod Rd.
Avon Ct. 06001

LAWN CHEMICALS: worrying about a non-risk

by Elizabeth M. Whelan

Americans sometimes seem to have a passion for worrying about non-risks. Currently, some people are worried about alleged health hazards from lawn-care chemicals. In response to these fears, municipalities around the nation are considering laws that would require lawn-service companies to post signs on lawns they treat. Why the concern? The unfounded claim that some people suffer severe allergies following exposure to lawn chemicals?

In reality, lawn-care chemicals pose no hazard to human health when they are used as intended. As is so often the case in our "chemophobic" country, the facts do not support the fears.

Serious consumer allergies caused by lawn-care chemicals appear to be rare or non-existent. In recent medical texts on allergy, lawn-care pesticides are not listed among major allergens such as pollens, molds, animal dander, foods and insect stings.

The medical literature also suggests that lawn chemicals do not cause significant occupational allergy. Compared with consumers, lawn-care employees are exposed to far greater amounts of the chemicals when, for example, they mix or apply the products. If occupational exposure does not produce serious effects, then the limited consumer exposure arising from greatly diluted pesticide concentrations used by lawn-care companies would seem to be highly unlikely to produce allergic effects.

The sensitivity of allergic people to weeds, pollen and insects greatly exceeds human sensitivity to lawn-care chemicals. Indeed, on balance lawn-care pesticides would be likely to prevent more allergy through weed and insect reduction than they might cause.

For the 35 million Americans who have allergies, the use of herbicides can help control weeds and reduce their pollen. To reduce the risks of bee stings, dandelions and clover also can be controlled with herbicides.

About 40 Americans die each year because they are severely allergic to the stings of bees, wasps, hornets, yellow jackets and fire ants. Here is a real risk that lawn-care chemicals can help overcome.

There are other health benefits to be gained from using lawn-care chemicals. Some serious illnesses are carried by insects that commonly live in grassy, weedy areas. Ticks, which are usually found in tall grass, are vectors for Rocky Mountain spotted fever or Lyme disease. Regular mowing and the use of herbicides to kill weeds can help reduce the risk of tick bites.

Accumulated human experience alone provides assurance that serious adverse health effects for these products are unlikely. Additional animal studies may be interesting but appear to be unnecessary. Research in other important health areas such as anti-cancer drugs or AIDS treatment may suffer if companies are forced to conduct costly toxicological tests on old pesticides.

But if Americans would show the same concern about actual and undeniable hazards (smoking, excessive alcohol use, promiscuous sexual behavior, not wearing seat belts) as they do for lawn-care chemical non-risks, many of life's most serious problems might someday be solved.

Elizabeth M. Whelan is Executive Director of the American Council on Science and Health in New York.

Frank Lamphier Honored With "Superintendent of the Year Award"

Frank E. Lamphier of The Aspetuck Valley Country Club in Weston Connecticut, has been named to receive "The Superintendent of the Year Award" by The Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Frank was honored by his peers as the votes were unvailed at the CAGCS Annual Meeting in November. This award, whose recipient is determined by a mail in ballot from all voting members, is given annually to a Connecticut Superintendent whom has shown exemplary skills in managing a golf facility, minimum of 5 years as a member of CAGCS, and one who has devoted his time and effort to help benefit fellow superintendents and local associations.

After graduating from The Stockbridge School of Agriculture in 1954, Frank wasted no time getting into the golf course business. From 1955 to 1967 he worked with various architects, such as the famed Robert Trent Jones, Geoff Cornish, Bill Mitchel and Hal Purdy building golf courses throughout the east. In 1964 Frank built the original 9 holes at Mt Snow Vermont, then it was time to move on to the Nutmeg State in 1967. Frank came to Connecticut as the construction superintendent at Aspetuck Valley Country Club under Hal Purdy, and then stayed on as the golf course superintendent, and as Frank puts it,

"I'm still here and still building".

Not only has Frank Lamphier excelled on the golf course terrain, but also has gained a reputation on the snow covered slopes of the north country. During the years of 1955 to 1967, Frank could be found either coaching or ski racing himself down the snow covered slopes of Mt Snow and Stowe in Vermont. In 1957 Frank was the 237th person to be certified as a ski instructor by The Professional Ski Instructors of America. Frank also had the privilege to be Co-Director of the Flims-Laax Ski Racing Camp in Switzerland through the years of 1970 to 1973.

Along with being a grass grower and ski buff, Frank has been known to swing a pretty good stick on the golf course. Not only has he walked away with many CAGCS tourneys, but also has to his credit the first place trophy as the winner of The Tournament of Champions competition of Vermont in the years of 1963 and 1964.

Frank has been a member of The Connecticut Association since 1967, and served as President in

1974 and 1975. Along with his many years of service to CAGCS, Frank has also had his hands into National Association affairs. Frank was one of the people who was instrumental in making the GCSAA's Annual Golf Tourney what it is today. Frank became active in the tourney back in 1971, "when we had only 50 to 60 players", and has served on the committee in many capacities. Through Frank's efforts the Annual GCSAA Tourney has grown to sold out crowds. This years tournament will boast over 450 players over 4 golf courses in Houston, a long way from 1971's numbers. With Frank's retirement from the Tournament Committee this year, I hope we will not feel his loss, because its contributions from people such as Frank Lamphier that has made this business of golf course superintendency a better place to live, work and play.

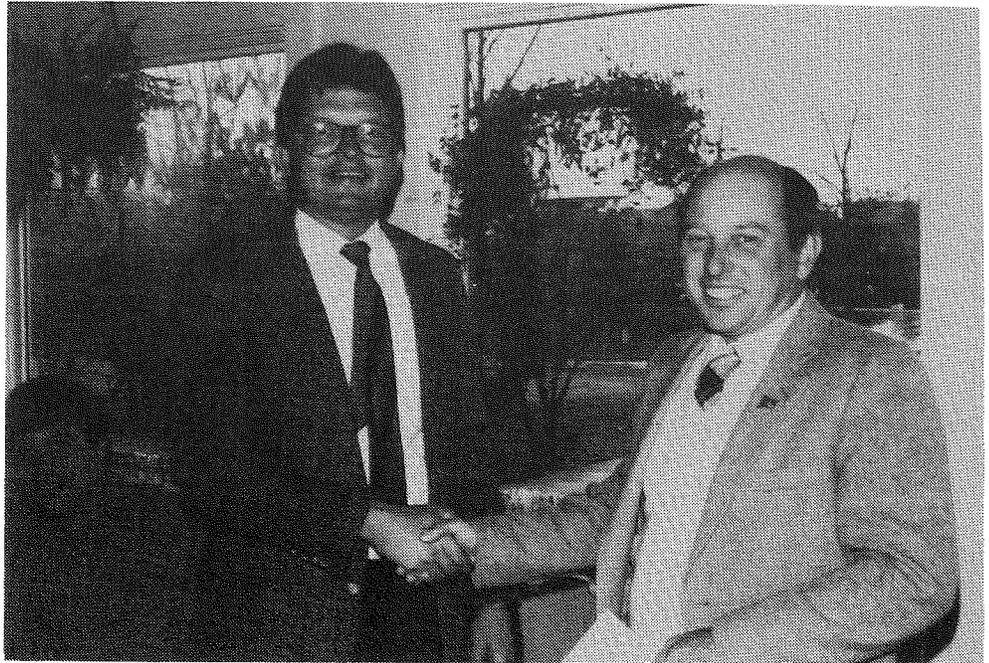
Congratulations to Frank Lamphier, the 1987 CAGCS Superintendent of the Year, a truly deserving recipient.

by,
John F. Streeter
Editor



CAGCS Elects New Board of Directors

At the annual meeting of The Conn. Ass. of Golf Course Supts., the membership exercised its right to vote and duly elected a new Board of Directors for 1988. Unfortunately there were some losers and some winners. After all the votes were tallied, it was found that the Vice President race was determined by a mere 3 votes and the 1 year directors position was also a close one, with only 2 votes separating that race. Elected as President for a one year term was Bob Chalifour CGCS, the Vice Presidents chair went to Mike Chrzanowski and Mike Wallace CGCS and Tom Watroba were re-elected to the Treasurer and Secretary positions. In the Directors division, John Streeter CGCS and David Stimpson CGCS were elected for two year terms and Bob Osterman CGCS was elected for a one year position. The Executive Committee would like to thank all those members whom attended the Annual Meeting and are looking forward to your support in the coming year. The following is a list of the new Board and thier specific committee assignments.



Greg Wojick, handing over the gavel to incoming President Robert Chalifour: Which one looks happier?

Charlie Baskin and Frank Lamphier assume thier regular duties in tallying the votes.

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Vice Pres: Mike Chrzanowski
Secretary: Thomas Watroba
Treasurer: Mike Wallace CGCS
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News Letter John F. Streeter CGCS

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Executive Dir. Peter Pierson



Views of a GCSAA Candidate,

by, Mike Wallace CGCS

The decision to run for Director of GCSAA was not a decision that I made in haste. One has to take into account his current position, family life, and his career goals. I have always had the desire to serve my fellow man, and this is just another extension of that desire. My position with my current club is on a firm foundation after three years of service, and my family has reached a point where I can devote the necessary time to perform the duties of a Director properly. So the time had come to move ahead.

GCSAA is a very dynamic and forward-moving organization. I have served on the Membership Services Committee for the past two years and have seen the types of programs that GCSAA is working on. A retirement program, or in lieu of that, a service which could help superintendents find or implement a program is currently being worked on. We thought we had a program fairly close to completion, and Uncle Sam changed the tax laws and other circumstances came to light that made GCSAA start a new search in another direction.

Education is the key to the future. We, as professionals, must continue to be better educated and never lose the desire to "be the best we can be", as the advertisement so aptly states. If you think about it a while, Public Relations is a form of education.. What are we trying to accomplish with public relations? We are educating our membership to the realities of the superintendents' world. The better we perform PR, the better are our chances of success. Governmental relations is again an educational process. The student



this time is the government, and one can see that GCSAA's efforts in this area will be very important as more and more regulations are developed. Education is an area that I feel we must continue to move forward in.

One area that I would like to research is the area of the qualifications of an individual becoming or retaining his Class A rating within GCSAA. Should there be qualifications other than just time and the holding of a certain title for three years? If so, how are we going to measure these qualifications? Should one be required to seek further his or her knowledge to retain their Class A standing? I feel this is an area that we should look at with an eye toward setting some standards in the future. But it must be investigated and all options considered.

I wish to thank the CAGCS for allowing me the opportunity to run for Director of GCSAA. Your support and trust in the past have been very satisfying. Believe me when I say, "Get involved!". You do get a great deal out of involvement, and I feel honored to be able to serve Connecticut and represent our region in the upcoming election.

CIBA-GEIGY CONTRIBUTES \$50,000 TO GCSAA ENDOWMENT FUND

A \$50,000 contribution to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Scholarship and Research Fund has been made by the Turf and Ornamental Department of the Ciba-Geigy Corp.

The Robert Trent Jones, Sr. Endowment Fund, established by the GCSAA in August, makes scholarships available to outstanding students enrolled in college turfgrass management programs nationwide. The fund works to encourage future leaders among professional golf course superintendents.

"We're pleased and excited about the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the endowment fund," says Bill Liles, Director of Ciba-Geigy's Turf and Ornamental Department. "Furthering turf research through scholarships for college students is an excellent example of industry, education and the GCSAA working together."

John Shilling, GCSAA Executive Director, notes that the endowment fund enables the Association to support research in such areas as drought and disease-resistant grasses, environmentally sound turf management, and effective water and soil resource conservation.

Director Gerald Faubel, CGCS, Chairman of the Scholarship and Research Committee, says the timing and generosity of Ciba-Geigy's contribution to the endowment fund "indicate the kind of leadership needed to keep our profession strong."

Liles adds that Ciba-Geigy looks forward to making additional contributions to the turf industry in the years ahead. This contribution is the first of many steps we intend to take."

GCSAA Conference Heading to Houston

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will conduct its 59th International Golf Course Conference and Show Feb. 1 - 8, 1988, in Houston at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

The convention is the largest gathering of professional golf course managers in one location during the year. The show is expected to attract more than 13,000 people from around the world who want to learn more about state-of-the-art equipment and technology in golf course management.

In 1987, the 58th International Golf Course Conference and Show was held at the Phoenix Convention Center in Arizona and broke all records in the history of the event. Attendance numbered nearly 13,000. More than 350 hours of instruction were presented by 150 instructors, with 29 educational seminars offering Continuing Education Units. More than 300 commercial exhibitors displayed supplies and equipment over 300,000 square feet in the convention center.

As the 1988 Houston event approaches, all signs point to more records. Not only is attendance expected to exceed this year's, but, months before the event, hotels were filling up in the Trade Show's exhibit space reservations were ahead of the 1987 total.

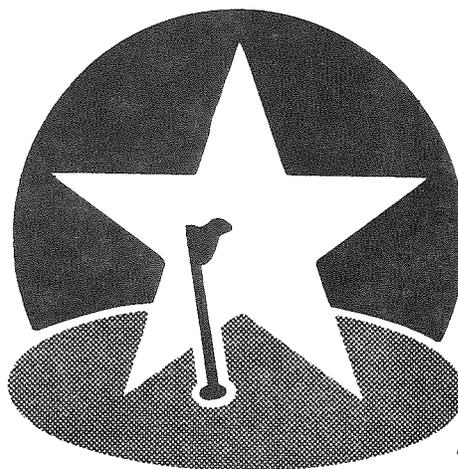
The conference also provides the opportunity for the Association to present college scholarships to deserving students, to recognize distinguished service and to present the Association's highest honor, the Old Tom Morris Award.

For further information on the 1988 Conference and Show, contact GCSAA, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS, 66046, 913/841-2240.

Future GCSAA Conference Sights

Anahiem, Calif.--- 1989
Orlando, Fla----- 1990
Las Vegas, Nev.--- 1991

59th International Golf Course Conference & Show



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Lawrence, KS 66046-9990

Topdressing Golf Greens

By Frank Rossi and C. R. Skogley

Turfgrass managers have long recognized the importance of topdressing for maintaining fine turf. Researchers at the Arlington Turf Gardens provided evidence as early as 1925, that topdressing was of great value in producing and maintaining bentgrass greens. As a measure of its importance, research on topdressing practices has been in progress at the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station since 1944.

Prior to mid-century, use of most golf courses was very light in contrast to the generally heavy use of today. Management requirements were considerably fewer as well, and the specific nature of the "compost" did not appear to be critical. Materials fairly high in organic matter were preferred in some cases as they provided some nutrients and some moisture-holding capacity. Prior to the advent of irrigation systems, the latter was quite important.

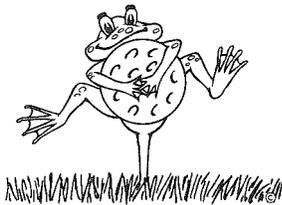
As the use of golf courses increased, wear and soil compaction became more apparent, and former management requirements had to be reconsidered. Increasing traffic reduced water infiltration rates and soil aeration. Disease incidence increased, followed by encroachment of *Poa annua* and other weeds. The quality of putting surfaces declined.

Unfortunately, many of the remedies for the problems were, and still are, superficial. Most frequently, solutions were sought through increased use of fertilizers, water, and pesticide. This approach helped temporarily in some instances but generally it compounded the problem. The only real, long-time solution was to improve the growing medium - the soils under the greens.

In most cases, this was not expedient because of time and immediate costs involved. Another, and more practical solution was to find and utilize a topdressing system that would, over a period of years, create a new and improved growing medium.

Much research on topdressing has been done and many materials and mixtures have been used. The prime variables in making and using soil topdressing materials are particle size distribution, organic matter content, and ratio and frequency of application. For years, the USGA Green Section Agronomists have

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been recommending mixtures that contain at least 75 percent medium and coarse sands. They have also recommended adding 10 - 20 percent of a well-decomposed organic matter.

In more recent years, many golf course superintendents have changed to the use of straight sand, with many of them applying it at light rates at 3 - 4 week intervals. The cost of sand and the ease of application have made this practice expedient. Turf agronomists at this station have neither recommended nor condoned this practice. We do not feel that the physical, chemical, or biological properties of sands are conducive to efficient plant growth. Sands have little moisture or nutrient-holding capacity, and biological activity within soils, important to healthy, natural plant growth is lacking, or nearly so, in straight sands. Sand culture requires an increase of management inputs - water and nutrients, resources which may be expensive and limited.

In an effort to evaluate our theory, we initiated research trials to compare sand topdressing with a soil-sand mixture program. Trial plots were separately seeded in 1974 with Penncross and Emerald creeping bentgrasses and Kingstown velvet bentgrass. The plots were maintained identically through the 1975 season and topdressing treatments were commenced in 1976.

Four topdressing treatments were established. (1) Sand, alone, applied every four weeks at the rate of three cubic yards per 1,000 sq. ft.. A locally available mortar sand was used. Applications were made from April through November. No mechanical aerification was performed. (2) A 50:50 mixture of sand and composted soil at the same rate and frequency as (1). No aerification was done. (3) The 50:50 sand-soil mixture as used in (2) was applied in May and September at seven to nine cubic yards per 1,000 ft following aerification. A hollow-tine aerifier (Greensaire), with 5/8 inch tines, was used in May, and a slicing aerifier (Mataway) was used in September. Cores were removed. (4) The same material and frequency as (3) but without aerification. Topdressing materials were brushed into the turf following application.

Continued on page 7

Topdressing Golf Greens {cont. from page 6}

The greens were mowed at 1/4 inch, three times per week. Fertilizer was applied when needed as indicated by color and growth of the grass on treatment #3. This program was considered the standard. Complete fertilizers most often 12-2-8 or 25-5-10 and milorganite for summer feeding, were used. Seasonal fertilizer usage varied somewhat but averaged 3.7 lbs. of N per season through the eight years of the study. Water and fungicides were applied as needed by the turf on the standard treatment. Fungicides were used on a curative basis. Insecticides and herbicides were used as required. Compaction on the greens was only that associated with normal maintenance.

The study was continued for an eight-year period. Monthly application of the sand-soil mix provided the best quality turf in most years. The semi-annual application of this mixture, without aerification also provided excellent quality turf in most years but usually not quite as good as when the dressing was applied monthly. The treatment with semi-annual application of the sand-soil mixture preceded by aerification was generally rated lower in quality than other treatments with the same topdressing material. We concluded that the appearance of the surface of the greens was adversely affected by the process of aerification for some weeks following the treatment. Visual quality ratings, taken within the few weeks following each aerification, were lower and this in turn lowered the seasonal averages. Since our trial area was not subject to heavy traffic, the benefit of aerification was not obvious.

Monthly application of sand resulted in acceptable quality turf early in the study, but turf quality declined with both grasses after the fourth season. By this time, a two-inch sand layer had developed. Earlier Rhode Island studies have shown that throughout the season, and especially during summer months, more than 90 percent of roots of grasses on putting greens are within the upper two inches of the soil. It is probable that our irrigation and fertilization programs were inadequate once the sand depth, resulting from the topdressing program, had increased to this extent. By the end of the eighth year sand depth under the frequent, light, topdressing program had accumulated to a depth of four to five inches.

The monthly application of sand-soil also provided better early-season colors in all years. Late-season growth and color was also better on those plots receiving a sand-soil topdressing application rather than sand alone. The early-season response was possibly due to higher nutrient levels, better winter protection, or increased absorption of solar radiation by the darker sand-soil mixture.

Our studies showed that sand topdressing provided the firmest surface with the least amount of thatch. These may be desirable characteristics, yet some surface resiliency is desired.

Based on these and former Rhode Island topdressing studies we still agree with USGA Green Section recommendations for topdressing materials. We believe a proper topdressing program is critical to long-term success with greens management. Preparation or acquisition and proper use of a high-quality topdressing material should be a top priority for superintendents.

Recording Pesticide Applications Are You doing it Right?

Recently I was called by the Department of Environmental Protection and was asked to have my records available for inspection. I was a little nervous and wondered what had prompted such a request. It seems the Department is finally in a position to develop the staff and has the resources to perform the regulatory function that was given to them by the Legislature. I would like to pass along some observations that I made and hopefully this information will help others in this process.

I have trained my personnel to keep all pesticide applications recorded on a form that was developed many years ago by CAGCS and the DEP. These records are stored on a yearly basis in three-ring binders and the current year is always kept in a separate binder to avoid confusion. The records were reviewed and the inspector did note some flaws in my system which we are correcting. They will also want to see your storage areas. I have always tried to date my pesticides as they arrive to insure that no product is allowed to age too long. The total inspection lasted no more than an hour.

The inspector was very helpful in pointing out ways in which I could improve my records. First it was noted that the EPA registration numbers can be recorded on a separate page. That page may then be kept in the front of the binder and the recording of the numbers will not be required on each and every sheet. It was also pointed out that if anyone is helping in the process of applying pesticides that that individual should have an applicator's license. Even if all they are doing is pulling a hose. Finally, I asked about the new reporting requirement. It was pointed out that all that is required is the total amount of material applied to a site in a year. The simplest way to computer this is to know your inventory at the beginning of the season, add the quantity of product purchased during the season and subtract the year-end inventory. While it is too late this year for many of us to use this method, it will definitely be a time saver in 1988.

John Streeter has enclosed the form that was developed many years ago. Please feel free to copy this form and use it. The form was developed for that very purpose. I encourage you all to cooperate and learn from the inspectors. It is my personal opinion that records and reporting are here to stay, and that our industry is a leader in this area. We can only improve our situation by developing a spirit of cooperation.

Michael Wallace, CGCS
Hop Meadow C. C.

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