

# CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS



Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

*Devoted to sharing knowledge and experience for better turf*

*September, 1991*

*Volume 25, No. 3*

# CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

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

**Newsletter**  
John F. Streeter, CGCS, Editor  
Photos by Jeff Rogers & Dave Basconi

The object of this Association is to encourage increased knowledge of golf course management and greater professionalism through education, research, exchange of practical experience, and the well-being of each individual member.

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## GCSAA President Responds To New York Attorney General's Report

The GCSAA, responding to a report published in late July by the New York State Attorney General's Office, called the report "unsupported by fact, inaccurate and misleading."

The report, Toxic Fairways: Risking Groundwater Contamination From Pesticides on Long Island Golf Courses, is based on a survey of 52 golf courses on Long Island, N.Y. The report claims that the golf courses surveyed are treated with as much as seven times more pesticides per acre than are used to grow food crops. The report implies that the chemicals could pose a risk to local groundwater supplies.

GCSAA President Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, stated, "A number of points from the report are unsupported by fact, inaccurate or misleading. The primary thrust of the report seems to be that simply because these materials are applied on golf courses, they will *de facto* enter groundwater. Yet, no scientific evidence is cited in the report to support this notion. In fact, actual monitoring and sampling studies suggest that there is very little movement of materials applied on courses -- even in more vulnerable soils than those found on Long Island."

A major independent study completed on Cape Cod, Mass., and other university studies at Cornell and Pennsylvania State University show that golf course chemicals do not pose a threat to groundwater supplies when properly applied. "Any suggestion that turf chemicals, when professionally and properly applied, will enter groundwater under golf courses in any amount sufficient to pose risks to humans is without foundation in science," Cadenelli said.

Cadenelli continued, "The report and the news release that preceded it refer to the fact that pesticides are applied to courses for 'merely aesthetic' reasons. Plant protectants are used to control diseases, insects and unwanted plants that cause damage to a very valuable piece of property. Golf course superintendents manage golf courses in an environmentally responsible manner to ensure that there are acceptable conditions for golf and to protect the significant investment that golf courses represent."

Golf course are businesses: they provide thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in property taxes. The value of land around the golf course is also enhanced, creating a larger volume of tax revenues from homes and businesses located nearby.

Properly maintained turfgrass actually benefits an entire community by preventing erosion, cleansing the air of pollutants, acting as a "heat sink" that cools the atmosphere, maintaining much-needed greenspace in urban settings, providing habitat for thousands of species of birds and wildlife, and filtering pollutants from rain and irrigation water.

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***"Golf course superintendents were putting the principles of integrated pest management into practice long before 'IPM' became a government buzzword."***

Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, President of GCSAA

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More and more golf courses around the country are utilizing effluent (reclaimed wastewater) for their irrigation purposes. The natural filtration properties of turfgrass allow this wastewater to be disposed of on golf courses and be cleansed before it reaches the groundwater supply.

Cadenelli continued, "Golf course superintendents were putting the principles of integrated pest management into practice long before 'IPM' became a government buzzword."

Integrated pest management, or IPM, is the utilization of turfgrass management strategies that are economical and have the least possible effect on people, property and the environment. Reduced pesticide usage is an important element of any IPM program.

"Given the expense of chemicals and our own deep concerns about protecting natural resources, why would we use them unnecessarily? Modern emphasis and education is on using pesticides 'curatively,' as a doctor would use a specific medicine to treat a specific problem. Ask those who know -- extension agents, pesticide regulators, educators -- and they

will tell you that golf course superintendents are leading the way in implementing IPM practices," said Cadenelli.

Maria Cinque, turf specialist at the Cornell Cooperative Extension on Long Island, backed up that statement. "We at the Cornell Cooperative Extension have been teaching IPM practices for the last 10 years. Many of those practices are used by golf courses on Long Island," Cinque said. "I believe that the amount of pesticides has definitely been reduced during this period," she continued.

Cadenelli noted that superintendents nationwide are using fewer and fewer chemicals more effectively each year. "It seems ironic that this report is issued at a time when we're using better materials in increasingly small amounts. If there isn't a problem now, I don't see how there could be one in the future," he said.

The report itself stated that: "There is no reason to believe that any water now supplied to Long Island exceeds safe drinking water guidelines for any pesticides."

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# Clipping Recycling

William M. Dest, Associate Professor  
University of Connecticut  
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

One of the major problems with removing clippings is their disposal. Most often they end up in landfills which are becoming filled at an ever increasing rate with debris of all kinds.

This has caused great concern with limited land and the problems associated with landfills. It has been estimated by the National Solid Wastes Management Association that grass clippings make up 75% of our yard wastes, the remaining portion made up of leaves and brush. It has been further estimated that grass clippings take up more room in landfills than leaves. The problem has become so acute in some areas of the country that some states and towns are formulating plans to ban grass clippings from landfills.

A study is presently being conducted at the Plant and Soil Teaching and Research Farm, Storrs, CT on a perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass turf to study clipping recycling. The research is designed to investigate the effects of grass clippings on the biological activity in a turfgrass community, their effect on the physical and chemical properties of soils and nutrient recycling under a turfgrass sward. The length of the project is three years, 1990-1992.

Data collected to assess the effect of

clipping treatments on the turfgrass sward are:

1. Total weight of clippings produced per year;
2. Root growth and development;
3. Visual ratings for disease activity, turfgrass quality (color and shoot development) and nitrogen deficiency symptoms;
4. Weed populations using a quadrat method;
5. Earthworm activity using counts and weights from worms collected within a three square foot area of each plot;
6. Analyzing for leaf tissue nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium for each harvest to determine nutrient recycling;
7. Nitrogen leaching; and
8. Measuring soil properties which include bulk density, water permeability, macropore space, soil organic matter, available soil nutrients and soil acidity.

The total clipping yield for the 1990 growing season was greater in plots in which clippings were returned compared to the clipping removed treatment, a result of the nitrogen recycled. The treatment in which clippings were recycled returned 135 Lb N per acre while plots in which clippings were collected removed 108 Lb N per acre.

Nitrogen deficiency symptoms in the leaves appeared at the latter part of the growing season in the clipping removed plots. Diseases of red thread, rust and leaf spot were evident at certain periods over the

growing season with greater disease incidence occurring in the clipping removed plots. Earthworm activity was greater in the clipping recycling treatment. Also, water infiltration rates were higher in clipping returned plots, probably a result of the increased earthworm activity.

Although an increase in the bentgrass populations on fairways has been reported by removing clippings, returning clippings even in this circumstance will save time, energy and essential nutrients. An alternative to clipping removal for increasing the bentgrass population is to rehold or reduce fertilizer nitrogen on fairways. Studies we conducted over the past eight years have shown that bentgrass populations increase several fold by doing this. Each method is accomplishing the same results by reducing available nitrogen thus providing bentgrass a competitive advantage over annual bluegrass.

Recycling the essential plant nutrients, savings on energy by reducing fertilizer use, promoting earthworm activity with its contribution to better soil conditions for plant growth, and our part to clean up the environment by helping to solve our landfill and disposal problems are important benefits to be gained by returning grass clippings from mowing to the lawn.

There is presently a national movement by the turfgrass industry to promote clipping recycling. The results from this study will provide information based upon sound research of the benefits to be derived by doing so and strengthen the industries effort in promoting national awareness on this important issue.

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# Grass Catcher



## CAGCS announces Scholarship Recipients

The Scholarship & Research Committee awarded scholarships in the amount of \$400 to the following people for 1991:

### Recipient - Sponsor

Jonathan Zuk - Greg Bradley  
Greg Holcomb - Ron Holcomb  
Cynthia Stachura - Doug Stachura  
Grier Wallace - Mike Wallace  
Ian Wallace - Mike Wallace  
Diana Kotowicz - Steve Kotowicz  
Kurt Osterman - Bob Osterman  
Patrick Lucas - Patrick Lucas  
Billy Abetz - John Motycka

Also, Mary Lizauskas was awarded the Richard Parsons Scholarship for the U-Mass Winter School Program.

The Committee has also awarded \$1,000 to the support of turf research at the University of Connecticut which will be headed by Dr. William Dest.

.....

## Wallace children receive GCSAA Legacy Award Scholarships

Ian and Grier Wallace, children of Mike Wallace, superintendent at the Hop Meadow Country Club recently received \$1,500 each as recipients of the First Annual GCSAA Legacy Award Scholarships.

## Ice cools off Colonial's Greens

You think you had a bad summer? When the U.S. Womens' Open arrived at the Colonial Country Club in Texas this past summer, the +90° daily heat again brought out the innovative ways that help superintendents get by difficult periods.

In order to keep the bentgrass alive on their greens, the grounds crew embarked on the "ice mission". Yes, 30 to 50 lb. bags of ice were used on each green in an effort to save the bentgrass from the oppressive heat.

So, count your blessings!

.....

## Washed Sod

A new breakthrough in the sod business has and will enable superintendents to overcome that perennial fear of sodding that new green or tee.

The biggest fear about sodding a new green or tee is the probability of the soil layer that comes with the sod not matching the new mix. That problem has now been eliminated with the advent of washed sod. This simply means that there is now sod available that has been put through a process of washing all the soil off the sod so that it comes to you completely in tact with no soil barrier. In fact, my

friend and colleague, Les Kennedy, CGCS, superintendent at Oak Lane Country Club, is at this very moment installing washed sod purchased from Tee & Green Sod, Dave Wallace, proprietor, on his newly constructed 11th green.

I'm sure Les will be presenting this process and its results in the near future.

.....

## USGA Green Section announces 1992 Regional Conferences

March 17, 1992  
Albany, New York

March 19, 1992  
Long Island, New York

March 24, 1991  
Boston, Massachusetts

.....

## CAGCS Welcomes New Members

Jonathan Case - Rolling Greens  
Steve Dolinak - Dow Elanco  
Paul Jamrog - The Orchards Club  
Michael Driscoll - Glastonbury Hills  
Scott Lake - Hawthorne CC  
Richard Lewis - CC of Farmington  
Gerald Mills - Hartford GC  
Bruce Moore - Eastern Land Mgmt.  
Jonathan Peters - Turf Grass Student

.....

Congratulations to Brian and Mindy Pope on the birth of their new baby boy - *Jonathan!*

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## Kennedy Captures CAGCS Championship

Les Kennedy, CGCS, of the Oak Lane Country Club, breezed his way to low honors in the Annual CAGCS Golf Championship. The Championship which was held over the course of two meetings this year, being in May at the Hartford Golf Club and June at the Black Hall Golf Club, proved to be formidable tests of golf. Kennedy's fine 74 at Hartford and sizzling 78 at Black Hall proved to be the winning numbers for this year's gross trophy.

In the Net Division, Ward Weischet of Pilgrim's Harbor Country Club was the overall winner this year. Quite a change from being the defending champion over the last two years in the gross division. Congratulations to both winners.

In the Senior Division, Frank Lamphier, Aspetuck Valley, once again took home the gross trophy and John Mulhearn of the Stanley Golf Club was the net winner.

In the Affiliate Division, Mike Duquette, Old Fox Company, successfully defended his gross trophy, while Roger Barrett of Hart Seed was the net winner.

### Complete Championship Results

<u>Handicap</u>	<u>Gross</u>	<u>Net</u>
0 - 10	Les Kennedy	Ward Weischet
11 - 18	Greg Wojick	Mike McDermott
19 - 27	Jerry Mills	Tom Fletcher
28 - 36	Phil Neaton	Al Adaskaveg
Senior	Frank Lamphier	John Mulhearn
Affiliate	Mike Dukette	Roger Barrett

## Oak Lane Takes Home CAGCS Invitational

The team from Oak Lane Country Club captured the Annual CAGCS Invitational Tournament held at Woodbridge Country Club on June 25th. The team of Les Kennedy, Club Pro, George Estabrooke, Chairman Jimmy Uberti, and Board Member Gordon Leahy (pictured here) fired a best ball of 68 to win the trophy matching cards with the team from Aspetuck Valley. The team was presented the traveling Connecticut Cup which it will keep in display for a full year.

The team from Aspetuck Valley, Frank Lamphier, John Stevens, Dave Welch, and Bill Sammis, captured the net prize.

The full field was treated first class from the greetings of Golf Pro Tony Amaral, to the well-conditioned course by John Streeter, CGCS, to the fine spread of food put out by manager Luis Arlia.

Another successful tournament was had.

Congratulations to all winners!





*Host team, Woodbridge Country Club, John Streeter, Supt.  
1991 CAGCS Invitational*



*Net Team Winners from Aspetuck Valley  
Frank Lamphier & Company*



*Our Neighbors from Racebrook  
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# PPUC Special Edition

## Supreme Court OK's Local Pesticide Restrictions

*The fallout from the recent Supreme Court decision to allow local authorities to enact pesticide application regulations is very frightening. Imagine if your golf course was in two towns with different regulations.*

*All CAGCS members must become aware of any local efforts to regulate pesticide applications. PPUC must know if a local government is thinking of regulations. It is easier to stop before they get on the books.*

*Peter Pierson, PPUC Rep.*

In a surprise decision, the U. S. Supreme Court voted in favor of allow-

ing local communities to go beyond federal and state law in the restriction of pesticides.

The Town of Casey, Wisconsin had passed an ordinance severely restricting the application of pesticides in the town. Industry sued to block the ordinance on the basis that the federal law, FIFRA, pre-empted any pesticide restrictions below the state level. The suit was successful, and was affirmed by all the Wisconsin courts. State officials in Wisconsin appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court, and the issue was heard this Spring.

A major effort by an industry coalition, the Forestry/Rights-of-Way/Turf Coalition was mounted in an effort to have the high court affirm the lower courts' decision. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court decided unanimously to reject the contention that federal law prevented local pesticide restrictions.

A most serious blow to applicators who may now face multiple local ordinances that are often more restrictive, and based upon emotion rather than science and reason.

### How will Connecticut be affected?

Due to foresight of some applicators, we have a firm state pre-emption law that simply states that only the Commissioner of DEP can regulate pesticides. PPUC obtained a legal opinion reaffirming the law a few years back, and we take a firm stand against any proposed local ordinances trying to regulate the application of pesticides.

There have been four instances in four different towns where we have been able to convince local authorities that their proposed ordinance was illegal. Although we are in good legal shape in our state, we can easily lose our fight if either the current law is changed, or local ordinances get passed without PPUC knowing about them!

### What you must do to prevent local restrictions

- Be on the alert for any move to pass an ordinance in towns you service. Suggest you follow town affairs closely.
- Contact PPUC at 644-4447 as soon as you become aware of any local moves to restrict pesticide application. **THIS IS VITAL TO MAINTAINING OUR STRONG POSITION ON STATE PRE-EMPTION.**
- Support PPUC as the best instrument in Connecticut to protect your ability to continue in business.

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## CAGCS Board sets guidelines for presentations and demonstrations...

Due to recent questions regarding presentations and demonstrations of products, the Board has elected to set guidelines for such events. The purpose of this is to enable the Association advanced planning such that the events will be well announced and planned, thus encouraging attendance and preventing lengthy and over booked meetings.

The following parameters are designed to meet the CAGCS objective of encouraging increased knowledge of golf course management and greater professionalism through education, research, exchange of practical experience and well being of each individual member.

1. Proposed presentation/demonstration should be brought to Board no less than two Board meetings before the intended date.

2. Prior to affirmation of Board, the Education Committee should be consulted, and they in turn should propose this to Board.

3. Subject of presentation/demonstration should be timely and/or new technology.

4. Presentation and/or Demonstration should not compare competitive products or actively promote sales of product.

5. Donations of monies should be put toward advertising in the

*Clippings.* Closest to the Pin/Longest Drive prizes at monthly meetings, Christmas Party or Scholarship and Research donations will be published in issues of the *Clippings*.

6. All demonstrations to be made at least 1-2 hours in advance of golf function.

7. Any such presentation and/or demonstration shall be noted in the monthly meeting notice.

We would like to encourage individuals to assist CAGCS in meeting our objective. Please contact a member of the Education Committee with any proposals.

• • • • •

The September issue of *Golf Digest* lists the 36 most powerful people in golf.

Our own John Schilling, Executive Director of GCSAA, is on that list!

Quoting from the article, "John ... is an amiable behind-the-scenes man whose organization has steadily risen in terms of influence and credibility."

"Golf course superintendents have displaced the club pro as the game's pivotal on-the-course employee and their earnings reflect that shift. Six-figure incomes are now common ...;



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much less so for club pros ... The GCSAA annual trade show, run by Schilling, is a monster, one of the nation's top 3 percent in terms of square footage."

"Schilling gets along very well with the USGA and its Green Section, and their cooperative efforts are likely to lead to significant agronomic advances for golfers in the '90s."

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# *Sure shots from Invitational*

*Woodbridge CC*

*June 25th*



*Mickey Hawkes, Golf Pro,  
Madison CC on the 9th Green*



*Eric Cadenelli ... Just a walk in the park.*



*Peter Pierson ... Should I chip? Or, should I blast it?*

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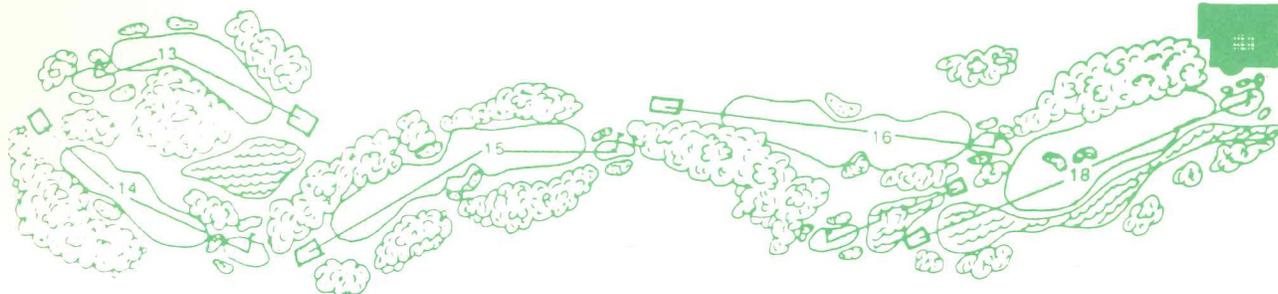
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*Dave Stimson negotiating a chip.*

# The Clippings



## Calendar

### CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOST
October 1	CAGCS S & R Tournament	Farmington Woods Country Club	Greg Bradley
October 17	CAGCS Monthly Meeting	Tallwood Country Club Hebron, CT	Michael Ovia
October 28 & 29	GCSAA Regional Seminar <i>"Golf Course Restoration &amp; Renovation"</i>	Cape Cod, MA	GCSAA/RIGCSA CCTM
November 12	CAGCS Annual Meeting	Pilgrim's Harbor Country Club Wallingford, CT	Ward Weischet
December TBA	CAGCS Christmas Party	Woodbridge Country Club Woodbridge, CT	CAGCS
January 13 & 14 1992	GCSAA/CAGCS Regional Seminar <i>"Environmental Considerations in Golf Course Management"</i>	Cromwell, CT	GCSAA/CAGCS
February 4 - 12 1992	GCSAA International Turf Conference	New Orleans, LA	GCSAA

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