

# CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

Volume 28, No. 4

September, 1994

## President's Message

Peter R. Pierson  
CAGCS President

Labor Day 1994 has finally arrived and all too soon it will be a distant recollection of a half day to relax, maybe more than a half day for some. This Labor Day weekend was a good one weatherwise with below normal day and night temperatures. Some may refer to this upcoming period as an attitude-adjustment time.

I was fortunate to attend the 63rd University of Rhode Island Field Day on August 24th and it was a fine day. What wonderful weather the URI faculty, graduate students and turf farm staff provided.

As a member of the Tri-State Research Foundation, CAGCS provides part of the research dollars for some important research that is being undertaken by Dr. Noel Jackson. Additional financial support for the Tri State Research Foundation can be generated by individual clubs joining the Foundation. Please make an effort to have your club consider membership in the Tri State Research Foundation, if not in 1994, aim at joining in 1995. Your support is needed and appreciated.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Spike marks

*Finally a solution?*

By John F. Streeter, CGCS  
Editor

If I had to list five of the most aggravating problems that we encounter on golf courses, spike marks would be somewhere near the top of the list. We all know that the spikes that penetrate our near-perfect green surfaces are detrimental to the grass plant. They deliver excess wear and injury to our green surfaces. Most of us have greens that were built for half of the play that we are receiving now. On top of that, we are mowing at lower heights of cut and receiving what seems like months without a break in golfers.

If I could eliminate 50% of the wear caused by spike marks on my greens, I would not only be able to produce a better, more consistent product, but also somewhere down the line maybe save a little bit in maintenance costs.

There is a recent trend now being employed by some of the top clubs in the country. To name a few, Pine Valley in New Jersey and Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio, have led the way in mandating that all golfers wear the "Softspike". The Softspike is of urethane material; and, to date, has been

hailed a great success by the clubs who have been using them.

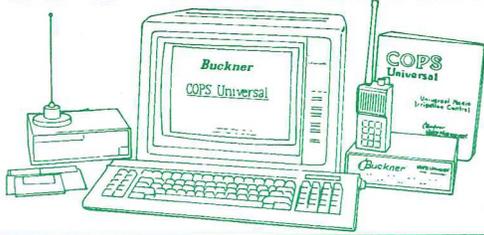
The cost to change a pair of shoes into Softspikes is around \$8 per pair. An average club of 300 members, with some simple multiplication, brings you around \$2,400 to change all of the spikes over. Consideration also must be given to guests who will come to play and will need to have their shoes changed over. This may seem excessive, but think about the benefits that we, and our members, will enjoy as a result of using this new Softspike.

In the September issue of *Golf Course News*, there is an article about these very same Softspikes. The following are some quotes taken from this article that I wish to include.

Mark Yoder, supt. at Scioto CC in Columbus, OH, is quoted as saying: "Metal spikes ruin mower blades. The urethane spikes do no damage. Is it agronomically saving me thousands a year? No, but it sure is easier on the greens". *Golf Course News* reports that a new golf course can be grown in

*(continued on page 3)*

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The 1994 CAGCS year is quickly drawing to conclusion. The members of the Board of Directors have worked very hard this year to continue the strong and active pace set during the past few years. Elections for officers and directors will be held at the annual meeting to be held at Old Lyme CC on November 7th.

As every year comes to a close, CAGCS wishes to thank those superintendents who have gone the extra mile and

## President's Message

(continued from page 1)

invited CAGCS to have a meeting at their club. Many members have volunteered their clubs in the past, and we thank you. CAGCS's Educational Director is in charge of securing meeting sites. If you desire to host a meeting, please contact someone on the Board of Directors or contact our Executive Secretary at 387-0810 and leave a message so someone can get back to you.

CAGCS is proud to announce that Michael Wallace, CGCS, from Hop Meadow Country Club has had his name placed in nomination for Director of GCSAA. CAGCS has contacted other surrounding chapters to support Mike's bid to become a Director of GCSAA.

On September 24th, I will be traveling to GCSAA Headquarters to attend the Chapter Relations meeting on September 25 and 26. The agenda for this year's meeting will be centered on the relationship between GCSAA and its affiliated chapters. I look forward to the opportunity to visit GCSAA Headquarters and share in what should prove to be a very educational and informative meeting.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of the officers and directors for their hard work during 1994. Those persons new to the Board in 1994 did an outstanding job, as well as those who have had previous Board experience. I would also like to thank Pauline Streeter on behalf of all the membership for her valuable contributions and her hard work in making our association so successful.

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Association of Golf Course  
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John F. Streeter, CGCS,  
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**Photos**  
David Basconi

*"I believe that it will have to be the  
golf course superintendent who brings this to the  
forefront of the golf industry."*

faster, if players wear the urethane spikes. Softspikes will do less damage and allow the turf to mature faster.

John Malloy, former supt. at Wynstone GC in North Barrington, IL, who is now growing in the Jack Nicklaus-designed Bearpath Golf & CC in Eden Prairie, MN, is quoted in part as saying, "Checking his greens one day after they had absorbed about 240 rounds of play, [with all players wearing the Softspikes,] the putting conditions were identical at 3 in the afternoon as at 7 in the morning, as far as spike marks are concerned. Quality turf can be maintained better with the urethane spikes. The metal spikes create a perfect seed bed for *poa annua*. Softspikes do not. Metal spikes pull up the turfgrass runners. Softspikes do not."

So, what are the disadvantages to Softspikes? According to Malloy, "They do not last as long. They have to be changed every 20 to 30 rounds, depending on how much concrete or asphalt you walk on. They tend to be at little slippery on very steep, wet slopes."

I believe that it will have to be the golf course superintendent who brings this to the forefront of the golf industry. I, for one, will be willing to include the cost of the spike change over in my operational budget. I think we should all investigate this situation, share thoughts with each other concerning the implementation, and work toward getting this off the ground.

Here's a thought. At a CAGCS meeting next season, maybe our association could respike all of our attendees' shoes with the Softspike, giving us the opportunity to survey the results firsthand.

Anyone having thoughts on this matter are encouraged to write a letter to the editor. These letters will be continuously updated and printed in each of the following issues of the *Clippings*.

(For more information, Softspikes, Inc. is located at 5800 Farrington Avenue, Alexandria, VA, 22304, tel: 800/638-0075.)



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# Around the Association



## Rooms blocked for '95 Conference & Show

CAGCS has reserved a block of 25 rooms at the San Francisco Marriott (Association Headquarters) for the 1995 Conference & Show scheduled for February 20-27, 1995. The charge for single/double rooms is \$143 per day.

A notice has recently been mailed to all members with the registration form. If you cannot find your form, please call the CAGCS office (387-0810). We will get another form to you and reserve a room.

Deadline to reserve a room is October 20th. Don't miss out. The reserved rooms will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis.

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## GCSAA Golf Championship February 18-21, 1995

Any member participating in the GCSAA Golf Championship must

contact and register with Anthony Grosso no later than January 20, 1995.

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**Rhode Island GCSA & Golf Course Managers of Cape Cod** are jointly sponsoring two GCSAA one-day seminars at the Providence Marriott in Providence, RI.

November 3rd  
"Drainage Systems"

November 4th  
"Irrigation Scheduling Techniques"

GCSAA will award .7 CEUs and a certificate of achievement to participants passing an examination at the conclusion of each seminar which run from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

The cost to GCSAA members is \$100 per seminar.

You can register by phone. Call GCSAA (913/832-4430 or 800/472-7878). Or, contact our CAGCS office (387-0810) for a registration form.

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The MET GCSA has scheduled their annual Professional Turfgrass Field Day for October 18th at The Westchester Country Club.

A seminar will coincide with the Field Day hosted by Dave Oatis, Director of the Northeast Region of USGA along with Dr. Noel Jackson, Professor of Plant Sciences from URI.

The seminar for superintendents and green chairmen, as well as all interested parties, will be held between 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

For additional information, please contact Jeff Scott, Apawamis Club (914/967-2570) or Joe Stahl, Metro Milorganite (914/248-5456).

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## S & R Tournament Monday, October 3rd

Please note the change in date for the Scholarship & Research Tournament at Torrington Country Club.

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## Social committee produces banner year !!!

The Social Committee, chaired by Jud Smith, Orange Hills Country Club, certainly has given CAGCS members great opportunities to get together and share some fine weather and comradery.

This past spring, members enjoyed a night out at the ballpark with the New Haven Ravens. We were treated to seats in the pavilion and a great menu of messy... but good... barbequed chicken, ribs and the works. Sixty-six members and guests really had a great time.

Thank you to Wayne Urban for his input and help in making this event so successful.

When it came time for the cruise held on July 23rd, it definitely was time to get off the golf course. The night of the cruise produced a nice light rain-fall. For any other organization hosting a cruise down the Connecticut River, this would have been a disaster.

However, to the amazement of the vessel crew, all in attendance were extremely grateful and full of unrestrained high spirits because of it. At the time of sailing, the rain had stopped, the engines started, the music began, and a truly great time was had by all.

While our monthly meetings are great enjoyment, we are still on a golf course. The baseball game, cruise and

family day put us in the world where everyone else is.

On August 30th, CAGCS members and friends enjoyed probably the best day of the year, and that is family day at Short Beach Park. Who would have ever expected 75 degrees, cool winds, and great sunshine? That is exactly what our gift was on family day.

Bob Szymanski, superintendent at Short Beach Park, made absolutely sure that CAGCS members had a great time ... and they surely did.

The social committee has now planned a Halloween Party scheduled for October 28th at The Castle in Old Saybrook, CT. The Castle will surprisingly be decorated and full of fun. This is surely to be one of the year's best functions. Costumes are definitely preferred.

We have made special arrangements with the Comfort Inn, which is only 4 miles from The Castle. Take advantage, spend the night, enjoy yourself, and put 1994 to rest. On Monday morning, the leaves will still be there.

As you can see from the enclosed insert of pictures, our social events have become a key ingredient.

Special thanks and recognition have to be given to Art deAtienza, PIE Supply. The cruise and family day would not have been as great as they were if it were not for him. He has unselfishly

given of himself and his equipment, without charge, to provide music and entertainment for these events. *Thank you, Art!*

Watch for details for the Christmas party in the November issue of the *Clippings*.



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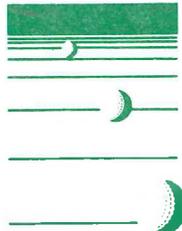
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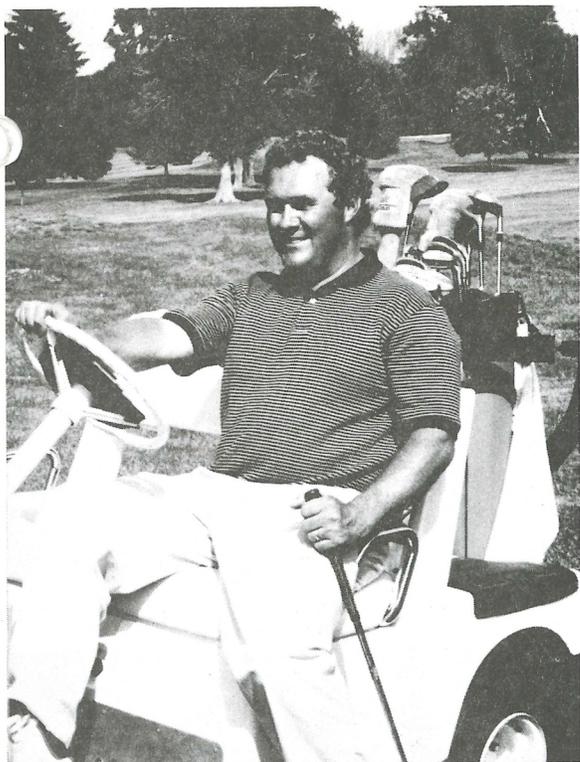


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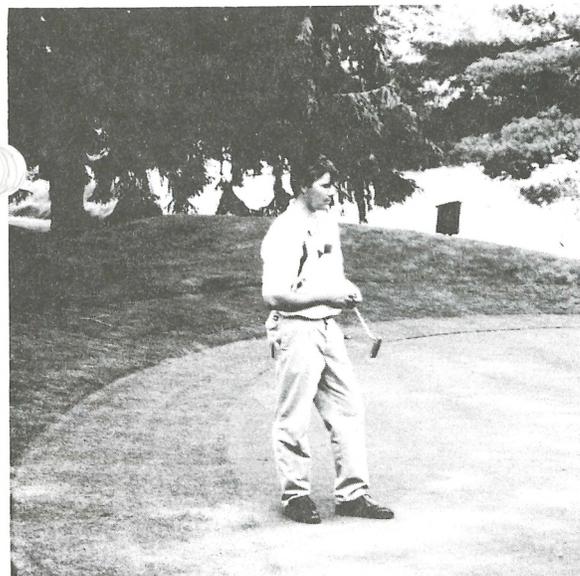
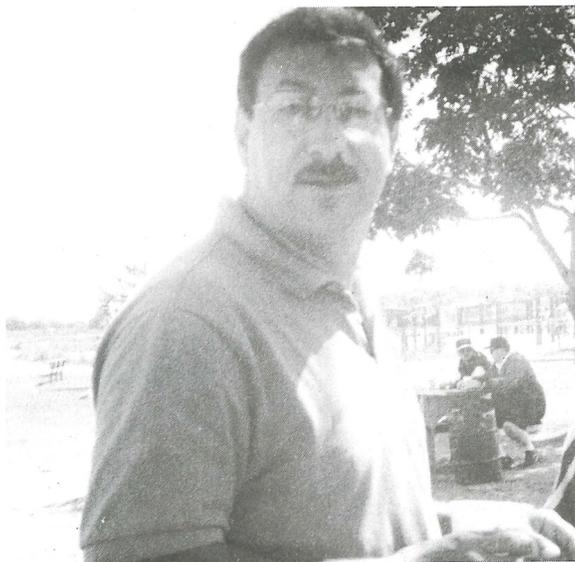
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*More pictures  
from the  
Invitational held  
in June at the  
Wampanoag CC.*

⇐ Eric Johnson,  
Pine Orchard  
Yacht & CC.

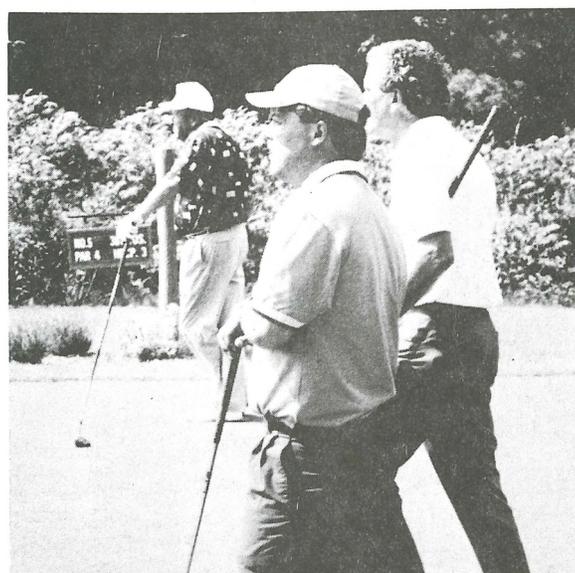
Dave Basconi ⇒  
D & S, is rarely  
seen on that side  
of the camera.



⇐ Mike Decker,  
Clinton Country  
Club.

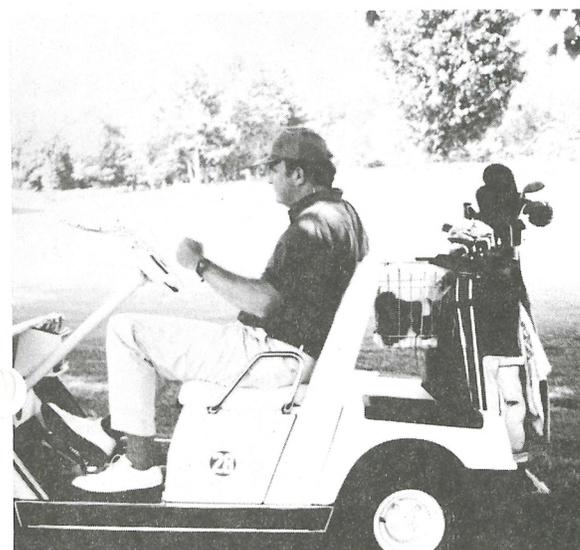
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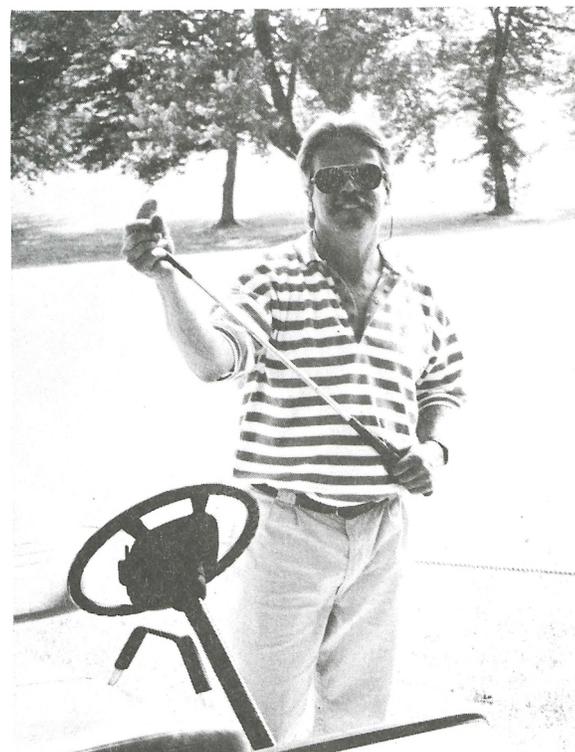
Brian Skelly,  
Old Lyme CC,  
CAGCS Member-  
ship Chairperson

⇒



Phil Neaton,  
Black Hall Club,  
Vice President of  
CAGCS.

⇐



# CAGCS

## Family Day

August 30th

Seventy-seven members and friends were in attendance, and we enjoyed the beach and a menu of clams on the half shell, chowder, and everything else you could imagine being served all day. All you had to do was ask.

There were families in the tot lot, on the beach, feet in the water, and playing in the sand.

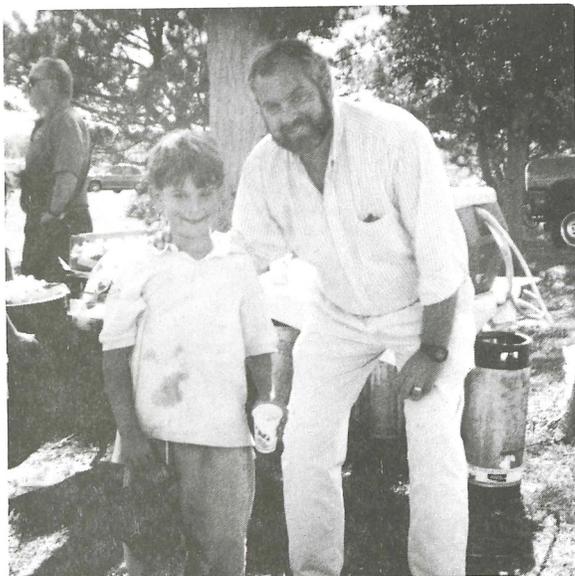
Bob made sure there was no charge to CAGCS members who wished to play golf.



*Art deAtienza, the music man, with Jud Smith, Chairperson Social & Welfare Committee*



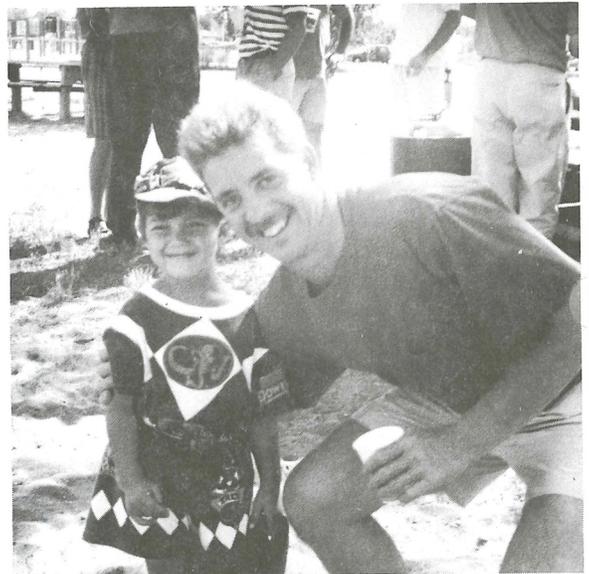
*Bob Szymanski, host of family day at Short Beach Park, with our "Chef for the Day"*



*Joe Stahl, Metro Milorganite, with his son, J.J.*



*Greg Bradley, Farmington Woods CC, with his wife, Sue*

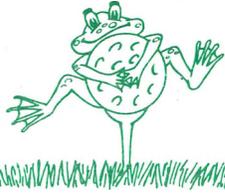


*Al Adaskaveg, Rockledge CC, with his son, Austin*



*Kevin Bengston, Indian Hill CC, with his son, Nicholas*

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**CAGCS Calendar**

October 3rd  
S & R Tournament  
Torrington Country Club  
Edward Goodhouse, Supt.

November 7th  
CAGCS Annual Meeting  
Old Lyme Country Club  
Brian Skelly, Supt.

October 11th  
Monthly Meeting  
Elmridge Country Club  
Charles & Joseph Rustici, Supts.

December TBA  
CAGCS Christmas Party  
Hosted by CAGCS  
"Watch for details!"



October 28th  
Halloween Party  
at  
The Castle  
Old Saybrook, CT  
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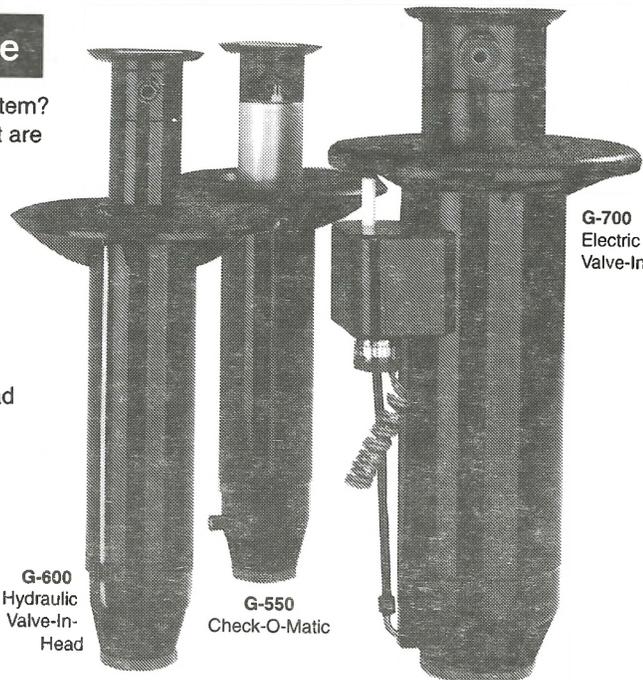
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Joe Bidwell (203) 651-8555

**Pro-Lawn Products, Inc.**

102 Conklin Road  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076  
Mike Dukette  
(203) 684-6242

**Sawtelle Brothers, Inc.**

Lawrence, MA 01843  
Bloomfield, CT 06002  
Peter Moran & James Rock  
(800) 999-TURF

**The Scotts Company**

14111 Scouslawn Road  
Marysville, OH 43041  
Steve DiVito  
(203) 723-5190

**Shawnmark Industries, Inc.**

Specialty Products & Service  
Warwick, RI 02888  
Matt Howland (24 hours a day)  
(401) 295-1673

**Terre Company of NJ, Inc.**

206 Delawanna Ave., P. O. Box 1000  
Clifton, NJ 07014  
Byron Johnson, Jr.  
(203) 748-5069

**Toelles Road Sand & Gravel Co.**

Wallingford, CT 06492  
Golf Course Sands & Topdressing  
Hal Kraus  
(203) 561-2442

**Turf Products Corporation**

157 Moody Rd., P. O. Box 1200  
Enfield, CT 06082  
John Ferry ~ Mark Loper  
(203) 763-3581

**Turf Specialty, Inc.**

15 Londonderry Road, Suite 3  
Londonderry, NH 03053-3388  
Dave Schermerhom  
(603) 437-0008

**Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.**

P. O. Box 198  
Lincolndale, NY 10540  
Bob Lippman  
(914) 248-7476 FAX (914) 248-6862

**White Contractors**

Golf Course Construction & Renovation  
Old Greenwich, CT 06870  
James E. Morris, Jr.  
(203) 869-8808

**Winding Brook Turf Farm, Inc.**

240 Griswold Road  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
Donald Grant  
(203) 529-6869 & (800) 243-0232