

CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

Volume 30, No. 5

December, 1996

President's 1996 Annual Report

Philip Neaton

This has been a year of change and continued growth for CAGCS.

Regionally, we became affiliated with the Rhode Island Turfgrass Conference and Show. This led to our involvement with all of the superintendents associations in New England to begin work on one regional turf conference. Providence, RI, has been selected as the site for the first New England Regional Turf Conference and Show and is tentatively scheduled for the first week of March, 1998.

Nationally, we have been working on becoming an affiliated chapter of GCSAA. The last step of this process was to make the changes in our by-laws which were voted upon at our annual meeting.

The growth of our association regionally and our affiliation with GCSAA makes running the CAGCS office more and more time consuming. I can't thank Pauline Streeter enough for her hours and years of service managing our office. This workload became so demanding last winter that we hired Mary Jo Kennedy part time to help Pauline get through the busy periods. Mary Jo has become familiar

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John Napier, CGCS elected CAGCS' 38th President

John F. Streeter, CGCS, Editor

CAGCS held its annual meeting on November 5th at the Suffield Country Club in Suffield, CT. Host superintendent/manager, Thomas Watroba, a CAGCS past president, provided us not only with a pristine, enjoyable golf course, but also was directly accountable for the wonderful lunch and facilities and truly great hospitality by his staff.

John Napier, CGCS (pictured here with John Motycka) was duly elected to lead our association. John has been a member of CAGCS for 20 years and has been the golf course superintendent at the Stanley Golf Club for the better part of 20 years. John is no stranger to the Board of Governors of CAGCS. Most recently, John has served our association

as Vice President and Secretary. While on the Board as a Director, John chaired the Membership Committee, Scholarship & Research Committee

and also participated in the decision making of our association.

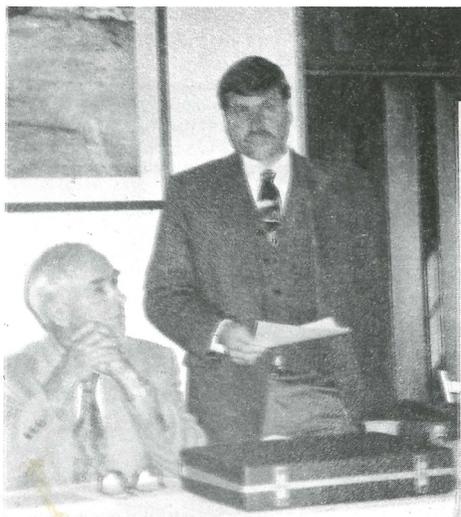
John's broad experience over many years as a board member certainly has prepared him for his new endeavor as President.

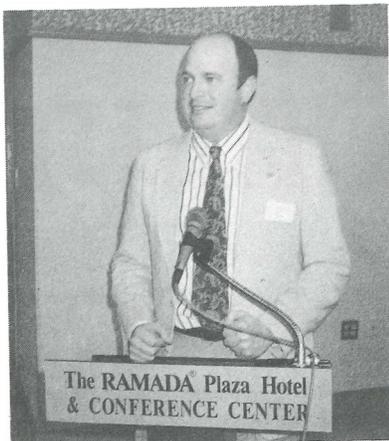
We feel that our association will be in good hands with John at the helm.

The meeting began with the officers and directors accounting for their duties throughout the past year with the reading of their annual reports.

Fred Bachand, was presented with an engraved plaque from CAGCS for his 25 years of service to the Wethersfield CC. Fred was the first recipient of the CAGCS annual Superintendent of the

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*1996 CAGCS President
Philip Neaton*

with operation of our computer system, preparing for monthly meetings and now can run the office in Pauline's absence.

At the rate we are now growing, we will soon outgrow the space we currently occupy in the Streeters' basement. The board is currently investigating our options for accommodating our future growth.

I am sure everyone appreciates the time that we, as your board, volunteer to run this organization. I would like to thank each board member for

President's 1996 Annual Report

(continued from page 1)

Philip Neaton

their help with keeping things running so smoothly.

Peter Pierson has been the hardest working past president in recent history. I think most would try and wind down their last year on the board, but Peter kept very busy and has already decided to stay on the board by serving as treasurer, no less. Peter is currently serving as Vice President of EIC, and he represents us as a board member of the Tri State Research Foundation. He served as coordinator of our GCSAA seminar last March and is in the process of organizing the next Golf Summit.

Vice President John Napier has been busy working on our bylaws changes making sure that we have everything necessary for our affiliation with GCSAA.

John also spent considerable time updating and administering our bien-

nial survey, as well as helping with the preparation of the Green Book this past year.

As secretary, Anthony Grosso not only kept the minutes from all board and membership meetings, but he represents CAGCS at both the Rhode Island and New England Regional Show board meetings.

Heather Garvin has spent many hours at her computer recording our financial transactions and budgeting for future expenses. The treasurer definitely has the most time consuming job on this board and she always had up-to-date information to help us make financial decisions. Heather has left the board and she will be greatly missed.

Greg Stent has also ended his board term. He and his committee are to be commended for raising enough money through raffles and the S & R

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

Newsletter Editor
John F. Streeter, CGCS

Photos
David Basconi

President's Annual Report - 1996

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Tournament to award 11 scholarships and help fund Dr. Gail Shumann's diagnostic lab this summer at the University of Massachusetts.

Education Chairperson, Brian Skelly, had a challenging year coordinating meeting sites and educational opportunities. Bad weather forced the cancellation of two events in 1996. Brian managed to salvage our Winter Seminar by combining it with the March meeting in order to get us our pesticide credits for the year.

John Motycka ran the golf committee alone this past year, even with the added burden of administering a USGA handicap system for our membership. He kept all of our meetings running smoothly.

Membership Chairperson, Scott Gennings, CGCS, continuously updated our growing membership files as well as tracking prospective members' attendance at monthly meetings before they can be proposed for membership.

Social and Welfare Chairperson, Jud Smith, had a rather frustrating year. He organized some great social events for us, but our participation was down from previous years. Jud and Jeff Rogers are going all out for this year's Christmas party, and at this moment we have an outstanding turnout with 84 reservations.

This past year was Greg Bradley's first year on the board and as Public Relations Chairperson, it is his primary responsibility to send press releases to local newspapers and magazines. Greg took the Superintendent of the Year notice a step further this year by presenting Tom Watroba with a plaque to display in his clubhouse.

Our Commercial Rep to the Board, Art deAtienza, had his term cut short by a new job in Massachusetts. While he was here, he handled the Superintendent of the Year voting and presentation, he solicited commercial support for our monthly skill contests and Christmas party, he represented Connecticut's commercial members at the Rhode Island Turf Show board meetings; but, most of all, his services as DJ at our various social functions will be missed. We all wish Art good luck with his new job.

Although John Streeter is no longer on the board, he is still very active in CAGCS business. John has edited our newsletter for as long as I can remember. He will once again be our voting delegate in Las Vegas. He has organized our hospitality room at the national for many years, and he will be President of the Tri State Research Foundation in 1997. He gives us office space in his home and has hosted many meetings and social functions at his club.

I thank God that his automobile accident this past summer wasn't any worse than it was. John would be a hard man to replace. I feel fortunate to be surrounded by these dedicated individuals and would like to again thank this board, their committees and those who worked behind the scenes to keep this association running smoothly this past year.

Finally, I would like to thank the membership for their support and the privilege of serving this group the past six years.

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Annual meeting highlights

(continued from page 1)

Year Award, receiving the award in 1983.

John Motycka, Golf Chairperson, awarded the President's Cup to Mike Dukette and the McLaughlin Trophy to Mike Decker.

Membership Chairperson, Scott Gennings, CGCS, awarded 10, 15, 20 and 25 year pins to those in attendance. Those members who are eligible to receive these pins and who were not in attendance will receive their pins by mail.

Heather Garvin, out-going Treasurer, reviewed the budget for the 1996/1997 fiscal years. The budget was voted upon and approved by all

voting members in attendance. It was deemed that there will be a dues increase of \$10 which will bring our 1997 dues to \$150 per year.

John Napier, CGCS, incoming CAGCS President, reviewed the amendments to the CAGCS Bylaws necessary to become an affiliated GCSAA Chapter. After consideration of same and questions from the floor being answered by Michael Wallace, CGCS, GCSAA Director, it was unanimously voted to amend the CAGCS Bylaws to conform with that of GCSAA and to become an affiliated Chapter.

Some of the bylaws changes that are

now in effect with respect to our local association include:

- Class A members are now superintendents who have experience of three years or more.
- Class B members are now superintendents with less than three years experience.
- Class C members are now assistant golf course superintendents.
- Our commercial members were formerly known as Class C members. They are now categorized as "Commercial" members.

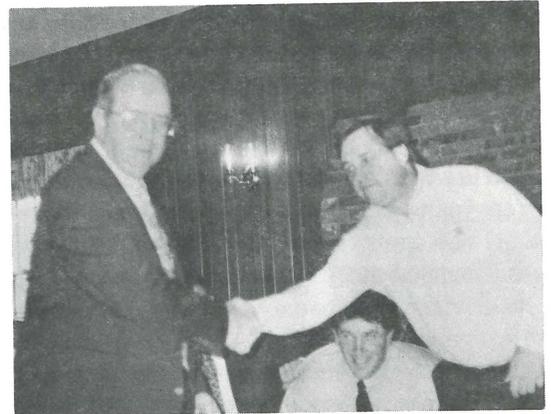
The Board of Directors proposed to the membership that Dr. Gail

(continued from page 7)



← Fred Bachand receiving his CAGCS plaque from Peter Pierson.

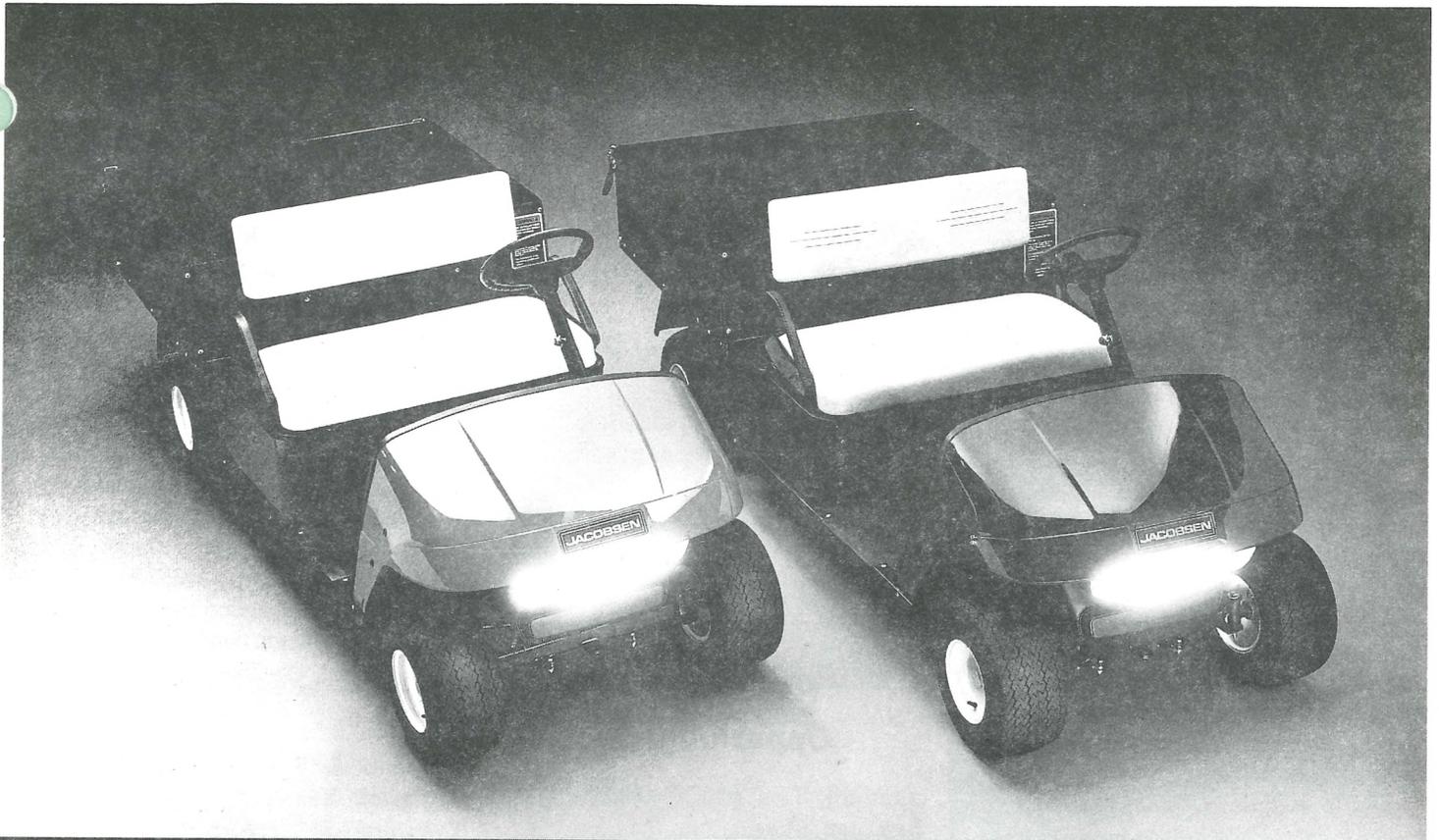
Ron Holcomb → receiving his 25-year pin from Scott Gennings, Membership Chairperson



← Mike Dukette being awarded the President's Trophy

→ 1997 Board of Directors (Standing L-R) Dennis Houle, John Motycka, & Scott Gennings, CGCS: (Sitting L-R) Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS, Jud Smith and Gregory Bradley.





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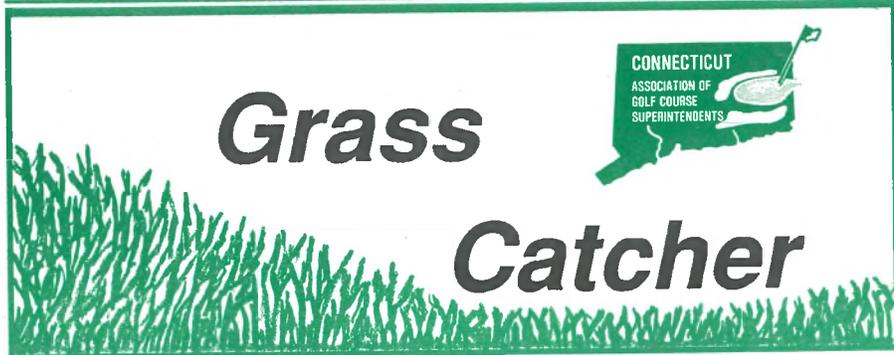
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Welcome New Members

Keith A. Angilly - Class C
Woodbridge Country Club

Steven Colangeli - Class B
Aspetuck Valley Country Club

Christiaan Kipp - Class C
Redding Country Club

Lindsey Munger - Class C
Redding Country Club

Mark H. Pelkey - Class C
Hop Meadow Country Club

Kevin St. Denis - Class C
Patton Brook Country Club

Walter J. Wozniak - Class C
Highfield Country Club

* * * * *

**1997 Dues State-
ments** have been sent out to all CAGCS members along with information sheets. Please take a minute to review the information, make any and all necessary additions, deletions

and/or corrections and return it to the CAGCS office as soon as possible.

The Green Book will be printed early next year. Any member whose dues remain unpaid as on February 1st will be deleted from the Green Book.

* * * * *

Educational Opportunities

January 7—CAGCS Winter Seminar, Ramada Inn, Meriden, CT. The educational sessions will be presentations by Dr. Robert Wick, U/Mass, Dr. Steven Alm, URI, Dr. Bruce Clarke, Rutgers Univ., Ed Klonoski, Univ/Hartford, Joel Simmons, Earth Works.

The Superintendent of the Year Award will be presented at the end of the day.

Pre-registration prior to Jan. 1st is \$60; registration at the door \$70. If you have any questions, call the CAGCS office (203/387-0810).

January 6 & 7— 1997 New Hampshire Turf Conference, Holiday Inn, Manchester, NH— Educational sessions will be led by

Dr. John Roberts, Dr. Cheryl Smith from the Univ. of NH; Dr. William Dest, Univ. of CT; Dr. Gail Schumann, U/Mass; Dr. Joe Vargas, Michigan State.

For registration information contact Barrie Robertson (603/888-3050).

January 13-15—66th Massachusetts Turf Conference & Trade Show, Hynes Convention Center Boston, MA

This year's conference will feature educational sessions led by nationally respected experts in golf course turf management, as well as other lawn and grounds care.

For further information on attending or exhibiting, please contact Mr. James Conant, Co-Chair, (508/362-1136).

March 6 & 7 CAGCS/GCSAA Regional Seminar, Plant Nutrition & Fertilizers, Marriott Hotel, Farmington, CT.

* * * * *

Hospitality Suite

CAGCS will again be co-hosting a hospitality suite at the National Convention in Las Vegas on Feb. 9 at Bally's, headquarters hotel, from 6:00-9:00.

You will be receiving an invitation in the mail which will be your pass into the room.

Watch your mail for details!

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Annual meeting highlights

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Schumann of the University of Massachusetts and Dr. Steven Alm of the University of Rhode Island be voted into membership as Honorary Members for their dedication to the turf industry, research work, and willingness to work with golf course superintendents. The membership unanimously voted to accept them as Honorary Members and they will be awarded with their membership at the Winter Seminar scheduled for January 7th.

Following the annual meeting, the election of officers and directors took place.

Election Results

President - John Napier, CGCS
 Vice President - Anthony Grosso
 Secretary - Brian Skelly
 Treasurer - Peter Pierson

Three directors were elected to serve two-year terms. They were Dennis Houle, Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS, and John Motycka.

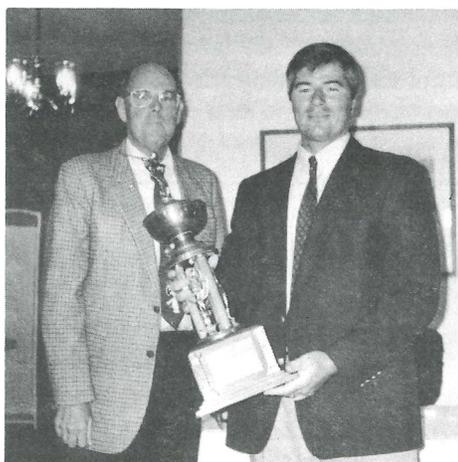
Continuing to serve on the board as directors will be Greg Bradley, Scott Gennings, CGCS, and Jud Smith.

Philip Neaton will serve on the board as Immediate Past President.

Owen Regan, Tee & Green Sod, Inc. (pictured below) was voted as commercial representative to the board.



John F. Streeter, CGCS



Michael Decker receiving the McLaughlin Trophy



Anthony Grosso, Vice President (left) with Brian Skelly, Secretary (right)

CAGCS 1997 Meeting Schedule

January 7
 CAGCS Winter Seminar
 Ramada Inn
 Meriden, CT

March 11
 Monthly Meeting
 Ramada Inn
 Meriden, CT

April 8
 Monthly Meeting
 Manchester Country Club
 Manchester, CT
 Gary S. Bryant, Supt.

May - TBA

June 17
 Monthly Meeting
 Crestbrook Park Golf Club
 Watertown, CT
 Peter T. Cure, Supt.

July - TBA

August 11
 Annual Invitational Tournament
 Hartford Golf Club
 West Hartford, CT
 Herbert Watson, Supt.

September 16
 Monthly Meeting
 Shennecossett Golf Course
 Groton, CT
 Robert A. Chalifour, CGCS

October TBA
 Annual S & R Tournament
 Redding Country Club
 Redding, CT
 Dennis J. Houle, Supt.

October 20
 Monthly Meeting
 Country Club of Waterbury
 Waterbury, CT
 Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS

November 4
 Annual Meeting
 Birchwood Country Club
 Westport, CT
 Edward Consolati, Supt.

Mike Wallace, CGCS, bids for reelection to GCSAA Board of Directors

Michael Wallace, CGCS, superintendent at Hop Meadow CC, has been nominated for the position of Director of GCSAA. Michael has served on the GCSAA Board of Directors in 1995 and 1996.

Although both terms came via the Presidential Appointment, we are confident that this year's election will vault Michael into a two-year Director's position.

As a GCSAA Director in 1995, Michael chaired the Membership Committee along with the Conference & Show Committee. He served as Vice Chairman on the Technical Information Services, Scholarship and Career Development Committees.

As a GCSAA Director in 1996, he again chaired the Membership Com-

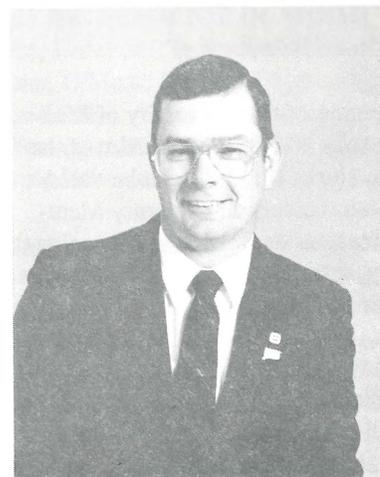
mittee and participated in the Career Development Forum at the 1996 Conference and has given GCSAA presentations to many local chapters.

Michael is a past president of CAGCS and was awarded the coveted Superintendent of the Year Award in 1990.

Michael brought Hop Meadow to the status of becoming the 40th "Certified" Audubon Sanctuary in the United States.

Mike has been a member of GCSAA for 20 years and has served on numerous committees which led to his desire to serve GCSAA as a full-time Director.

We think Mike Wallace, because of his commitment and involvement in local and national agendas, will make



a good candidate for GCSAA. Michael has been personally involved in the growth of our profession for many years and he is committed to continue serving GCSAA and its members.

We look forward to seeing you at the GCSAA Annual Meeting on Tuesday, February 11th, to support him on this most eventful day.

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Editor's corner

John F. Streeter, CGCS, Editor

Following up on last month's article "CT clubs go spikeless", I have decided to solicit the various clubs that have imposed a spikeless policy and report the procedures they used to make metal spikes history at their golf clubs. I was pleased to hear from clubs that have gone spikeless since our last issue and urge any of you who have imposed a spikeless policy at your club to contact the *Clippings* staff so we may add your club to our list of spikeless clubs in Connecticut. Our list has grown from 8 clubs reporting to 13 clubs who are now spikeless.

"Congraulations"

Indian Hill Country Club
Kevin Bengtson, Supt.

Manchester Country Club
Gary S. Bryant, Supt.

Pequabuck Golf Club
Peter R. Pierson, Supt.

Race Brook Country Club
John M. Gallagher, III, Supt.

Watertown Golf Club
Robert M. Viera, Supt.

Our first commentary on the approach to converting your club will be covered by yours truly and the efforts involved with convincing Woodbridge Country Club to adopt a spikeless policy.

I believe that any worthwhile endeavor that you undertake at your club must involve communication and subsequently feedback from the membership.

My first approach at Woodbridge was to flood our members with information about the alternatives that were available to metal spikes. I gathered

articles and testimonies about turf friendly spikes and posted them around the club. We also mailed this information to our members with a cover letter from me.

The testimonies and prepared information that I gathered helped to spark some interest. So, I took the offensive and prepared a plan on the steps to take that would eventually lead us to a spikeless club. With all my communications, both written and verbal, I stressed the reasons why a metal spike ban at our club would be advantageous. I cited such things as our small greens, the limited cupping positions available, and how these factors could be solved with a metal spike ban. I communicated the advantages non-metal spikes possess with relation to wear on turf and savings a metal spike ban would create not only on the golf course but also in the club house areas.

Aside from this type of communication, I was afforded the opportunity to speak to our board of directors and subsequently to the entire membership on the subject.

My presentation to the members took place on opening day of golf for men and women. Armed with the video from the Softspike Company and some text that I had prepared, I proceeded to deliver the presentation in the month of April.

To my delight, this program was very successful as it yielded many questions and support from the many members in attendance.

Our next step was to impose a spike ban for one month. With the green committee's support, we asked our board at Woodbridge to approve a spike ban for one month. It was unanimously approved, and we had our spike ban in place for the month of July.

At this point, my goal was to make it as easy as possible to get all golfers to change over from their metal spikes. Beginning in May, we announced that our club would provide softspikes for no charge as long as our members had changed over before the ban was in place.

This was a home run that left us with only one slight problem. At that time, we did not have enough staff on hand to keep up with the demand. So, I decided to lend some help to the situation. I announced that on Saturday and Sunday mornings for a period of three weeks, our golf course personnel would be available to change out spikes for our members.

This worked well—as it not only helped with the demand—but it also served as time for me to directly communicate with our golfers one-on-one about the spike issue.

We had 100% compliance in July and the results of no spikes on our greens for this period did not go unnoticed.

As the ban was lifted in August, we had about 20% of our golfers return to metal spikes for one reason or another. This small percentage of spikes on our greens also did not go unnoticed.

At this time, I felt that I had done all I could do to convince my club to change over and that now it was in their hands.

After a little politicking, I was informed that the golf and green committees were going to propose to our board that Woodbridge become a spikeless club in 1997.

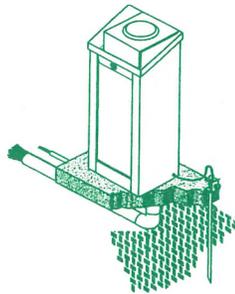
The rest is history, and I am looking forward to a spikeless year in 1997. I hope that some of my experiences that I have shared here will lend some thought to you and your endeavor in changing your club to a spikeless club in the near future.



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| Charles G. Baskin, CGCS | Scott E. Niven, CGCS |
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| Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS | Michael Wallace, CGCS |
| Patrick Lucas, CGCS | Ward H. Weischet, CGCS |
| Peter Lund, CGCS | Gregory J. Wojick, CGCS |

*The Board of Directors
of CAGCS*



*would like to wish
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Walter C. Varni
(860) 633-1273

Glenmore Landscape Service
98 Hack Green Road
Pound Ridge, NY 10576
Glenn S. Moore
(914) 764-4348

Greenacres Company
Dave Pijnenburg
Irrigation Contractor
75 Codfish Hill Rd., Bethel, CT 06801
(203) 748-0558

James Carriere & Sons, Inc.
7 Cottage St., Port Chester, NY 10573
Trap Sand - Partac Topdressing-Drainage Stone
Bill Carriere
(914) 937-2136

LESCO, Inc.
20005 Lake Road
Rocky River, OH 44116
Mike Donahue
(800) 321-5325 FAX (800) 673-3030

Lofts Seed Company
68 White Cedar Drive
Madison, CT 06443
(203) 421-4641
(800) 708-8873

Metro Milorganite, Inc.
365 Adams Street
Bedford Hills, NY 10507
Joe Stahl
(203) 321-0678 or (860) 663-8048

Millane Nurseries, Inc.
604 Main Street
Cromwell, CT 06416
Jim Goodrich
(860) 635-5500 & (860) 526-3991

NORTHERN Professional Turf Products
Wholesale Nursery
West Suffield, CT 06093
Jeff Rogers
(860) 668-5225

Partac Golf Course Top-Dressing
Great Meadows, NJ 07838
(800) 247-2326 (908) 637-4191
Bill Carriere (914) 937-2136
Joe Bidwell (203) 651-8555

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

R. F. Morse & Son, Inc.
West Wareham, MA 02576
ParEx - KPower - Vertidrain
Carl Wallace
(508) 295-1553

Sawtelle Brothers, Inc.
21 E. Dudley Town Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Peter Moran~Dave Brownell~Frank Bava
(800) 999-TURF

The Scotts Company
26 Waite Avenue
South Hadley, MA 01075
Rick Forni
(413) 534-8896

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

Tee & Green Sod
P. O. Box 418
Exeter, RI 02822
Owen Regan ~ Dave Wallace
(401) 789-8177

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) 284-8552

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, Unit 3
Londonderry, NH 03053-6604
Dave Schermerhorn
(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 06870-0484
James E. Morris, Jr.
(203) 869-8808