

# CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

Volume 31, No. 1

February, 1997

## President's Message

John Napier, CGCS  
CAGCS President

As we usher in the new year, I would like to take a few moments to reflect on the changes which occurred in CAGCS at the close of the 1996 year.

Our Affiliation Agreement with GCSAA was finalized at the end of December. This partnership will serve to focus our energies on the professional image of the golf course superintendent, make the general public aware that golf courses and the environment can and do work in harmony. Also, CAGCS and GCSAA will work hand-in-hand to the benefit of all members.

First and foremost, I would like to thank our former president, Philip Neaton, for all of his hard work and dedication to CAGCS. His shoes are going to be difficult to fill—but, I will do my very best.

A special thanks goes out to all officers, staff and volunteers who have worked so diligently to enhance and improve our organization. I am excited and proud to be working with our new directors on the following committees:

▽ Greg Bradley will chair Scholar-

*(continued on page 2)*

## CAGCS honors Robert Chalifour, CGCS 1996 Superintendent of the Year

Robert Chalifour, CGCS, was awarded the 1996 CAGCS Superintendent of the Year Award at our annual Winter Seminar on January 7th.

The CAGCS Superintendent of the Year Award is our association's most

treasured award and is given annually to an active Class A or Life member who has been a CAGCS Class A member for at least five years, a person who has shown exemplary skills in maintaining a golf facility and has devoted his or her time and effort to help benefit fellow superintendents and local and national golf associations.

The Superintendent of the Year Award is bestowed upon the recipient by his or her peers and is determined by a

mail-in ballot from all voting members. The winner of this award is not eligible for consideration again for 15 years.

This year's recipient began his career—probably unknowingly—by

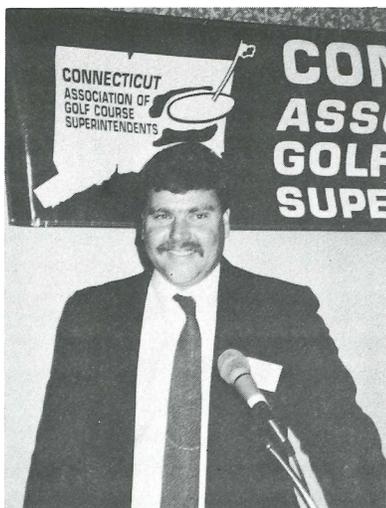
starting his own landscape business while he was in high school. Bob continued his education at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts and completed his education at the University of Rhode Island.

His first position as a golf

course superintendent was at the East Greenwich Country Club in Rhode Island. He was a very active member of the Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association, and served

*(continued on page 10)*





*John Napier, CGCS  
1997 CAGCS President*

**President's message**

(continued from page 1)

chair our Governmental Committee which now includes Public Relations, EIC, Tri-State Research Foundation, Chapter Relations with GCSAA, Environmental, Alternate Voting Delegate and Bylaw committees.

▽ Dennis Houle will chair Education which includes meeting sites and surveys. He is also temporarily chairing our Social & Welfare Committee.

▽ Owen Regan will represent the commercial members and be responsible for the Superintendent of the Year Award.

In closing, our Christmas party at the Hawthorne Inn was a huge success! The food, music, dancing and socializing were enjoyed by all. Heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the many people who volunteered their time and effort to make this party a reality.

You need only to take a look at the

pictures on the enclosed insert with this Newsletter to see what a great time was had by all!

A special thank you to Jeff Rogers, Jud Smith and Dennis Houle for their hard work and dedication in making this party such a hit.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend best wishes for a healthy, happy and productive new year.

**— In addition —**

CAGCS, in cooperation with the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association (CRPA) is interested in sponsoring a statewide golf tournament this summer.

The proceeds of this tournament will



ship & Research and Benevolent Fund.

▽ Jud Smith will chair the Newsletter Committee.

▽ John Motycka will chair Golf which includes golf tournaments at all monthly meetings, our annual Invitational, the Met & New England Team Championships and organizing our National Team.

▽ Scott Gennings, CGCS, will chair Membership.

▽ Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS, will

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

**Newsletter Editor**  
John F. Streeter, CGCS

**Newsletter Committee**

Jud W. Smith  
Heather Garvin

**Photos**  
David Basconi

**CAGCS joins CT Recreation and  
Parks Association  
in statewide tournament**

be used to promote the development of youth golf programs at participating courses, provide student scholarships, aid research, and contribute to the administrative expenses for the two organizations.

In order to be successful, we will need ten golf courses to hold the first round of the tournament.

Parts of the tournament fee will go toward greens fees, pro shop credit and lunch at each site.

The tournament will use a scramble format and our goal is to have prizes awarded at each site in the amount of \$2,700 to the top eight foursomes (based on 100 golfers per course). One foursome from each site will advance to a championship round where the winning team will receive a golf trip to Hilton Head, South Carolina.

CAGCS is excited about working with CRPA on this joint venture. By including the media, civic leaders, and local sponsorship, we feel that the tournament will give our associations some positive exposure outside of the golfing community.

At a time when golf courses are under increased scrutiny from both environmental organizations and the general public about safety and health issues, this could be a good opportunity for us to promote the positive aspects of our associations, as well as make the public aware of our concentration on environmental issues in our maintenance programs.

In the process, we can help to develop future golfers by strengthening junior programs and we will ensure that all junior golf programs have an emphasis on rules of golf and golf etiquette.

A committee of Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS, Peter Pierson, Anthony Grosso, Scott Gennings, CGCS, and myself has already been formed, and we are presently looking for volunteers. If you are interested in having your course used in the opening round of the tournament, please contact one of the above individuals at their courses. We hope to make this tournament a huge success.

Thank you for your anticipated support.

John Napier, CGCS  
CAGCS President

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## Focus on winter turf injury—

# Preventing desiccation

By Tom Watschke, Professor of Turfgrass Science,  
 Pennsylvania State University--University Park

Desiccation is the most common physiological injury sustained during winter. Desiccation occurs when the water supply is diminished or frozen and unavailable, so the plant is unable to absorb the water it needs to replenish the water lost through transpira-

tion. These conditions cause turf to be more susceptible to damage:

- √ windy weather,
- √ frozen soils with exposed areas,
- √ low humidity.

Combining these factors will almost ensure winter desiccation. For example, several days of freezing temperatures, low humidity and wind will increase the possibility of desiccation because soil moisture rapidly declines in these conditions. Elevated areas are especially susceptible to desiccation.

During winter, turfgrass plants have greatly reduced root systems. Therefore, when evaporation losses from the soil combine with transpiration losses, there is an impossible demand for water placed on an already crippled root system.

In some cases, the soil may not contain adequate moisture before the ground freezes. But, in many cases, moisture is lost by sublimation (a process in which water constantly changes between solid and vapor states) during the winter. In either case, desiccation is especially critical when the soil has a low moisture content, or when it is partially or completely frozen, and the temperature is high enough to stimulate growth activities, such as respiration and transpiration. The plants need water for these growth activities, and none is available.

### —Some solutions—

Make sure the soil is at field capacity when the soil freezes or the first big snow hits. However, saturating the soil can hydrate the crown, setting it up for ice damage. To help prevent desiccation:

- √ apply moderate amounts of nitrogen fertilizer,
- √ eliminate any thatch problem,

(continued on page 8)

## SNOW MOLD CONTROL

Following are some of the chemicals labeled for snow mold control. This information is for preliminary planning ONLY. For application information, cautions and restrictions, rely only on the directions supplied by the manufacturer of the product you select.

Type of snow mold	Chemical(s) by common name(s)
Coprinus snow molds	Mercury chlorides, PCNB, thiram* + cadmium compounds.
Fusarium patch (Pink snow mold)	Benomyl, chlorothalonil, fenarimol, iprodione**, mancozeb, mercury chlorides, PCNB, phenylmercuric acetate**, thiophanate-ethyl + thiram*, thiophanate-methyl, thiophanate-methyl + iprodions**, thiophanate-methyl + mancozeb, thiram*, thiram* + cadmium compounds, thiram* + PMA, thiram* + triadimefon, triadimefon*, vinclozolin.
Snow scald (Sclerotinia snow mold)	Mercury chlorides.
Typhula blight (Gray snow mold)	Anilazine, chloroneb, chlorothalonil, fenarimol, iprodione, mercury chlorides, PCNB, Phenylmercuric acetate**, thiophanate-ethyl + thiram*, thiram*, thiram* + cadmium compounds, thiram* + PMA, triadimefon*.

\* See label for special use restrictions.

\*\* Label is approved only in selected states. This may mean that the product is labeled in all states except California.

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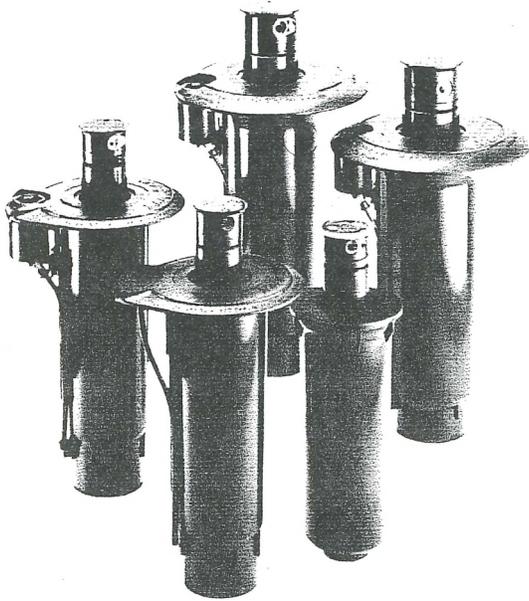
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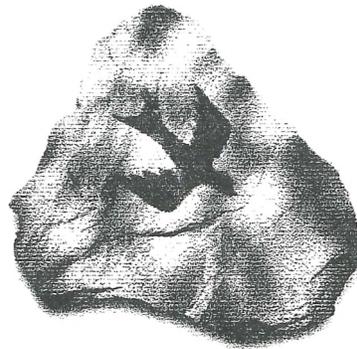
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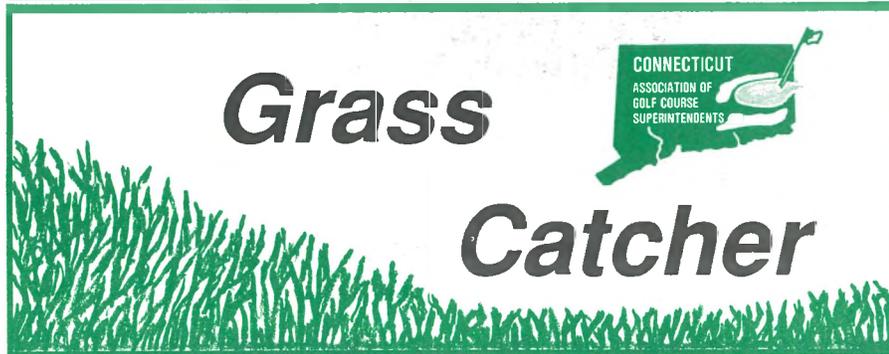
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### Tri State Funding

You should have received the first issue of the Tri State Research Foundation's Newsletter by the time this newsletter reaches you. The Foundation Newsletter is accompanied by a request form for your donation.

As you may know, the Tri State Research Foundation is made up of superintendents associations from Connecticut, New York, Long Island, Hudson Valley and New Jersey.

In order for our Foundation to accomplish its mission, we depend on each and every one of you to do your part and contribute. The \$150 contribution is a small part to pay for research which will benefit us all.

Please see to it that your club responds to this in a timely manner.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Welcome new member

Gregg Holbrook - Class C  
Rolling Greens Golf Club

\*\*\*\*\*

### 1997 Green Book

The 1997 Membership Directory (also known as the "Green Book") will be printed the last week in February. Any member who has not returned their information sheet should do so immediately or call the CAGCS office with corrections.

Any member whose dues remain unpaid will not appear in the Green Book.

### CAGCS co-hosts regional seminar March 6 & 7

We would like to encourage each of you to register for *Plant Nutrition & Fertilizers* regional seminar, we are co-hosting with GCSAA scheduled for March 6 & 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Farmington Marriott.

As golf course superintendents, it is important for us to continue to develop our skills through continuing education.

Through this two-day seminar, you will gain practical information on how to create the best fertilization schedule for your golf course. By learning how to evaluate fertilizer programs based on scientific facts and research, you will be able to meet the nutritional requirements of your turfgrass and maintain it with appropriate soil testing.

It is our goal to make this program successful. So, please call GCSAA TODAY (1/800-472-7878) to register.

\*\*\*\*\*

**May 15th** is the deadline for requests for CAGCS Scholarship Applications.

Scholarship applicants may submit their request in writing for an application from the S & R Committee, c/o CAGCS Office, P.O. Box 3678, Woodbridge, CT, 06525 beginning April 1st.

**CAGCS gets toll free telephone number 888/561-7778**

CAGCS has installed a toll free telephone number for members' use. Please make note of this number.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Maine Turf Conference March 6 & 7

The Maine GCSA will host a turf conference & show at the Samoset Resort in Rockport, ME. Along with an equipment display, featured speakers include Dr. Bill Torrello, Dr. Gail Shuman, and Dr. Frank Rossi.

Additional information can be obtained by calling 207/781-7878.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 1997 Golf Summit March 8

See details regarding program, schedule and speakers on page 11.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Deadline** for ads and articles for April *Clippings* is March 7th.

The Connecticut Association of GCS and GCSAA present

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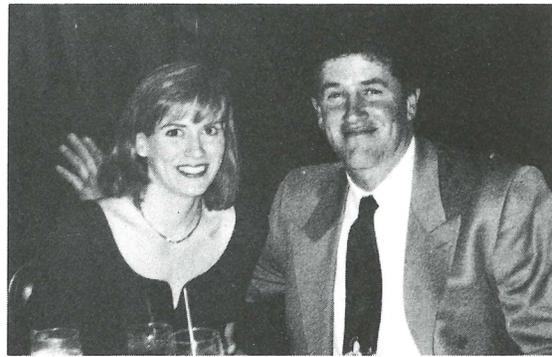
Member cost: \$220; Non-member: \$330  
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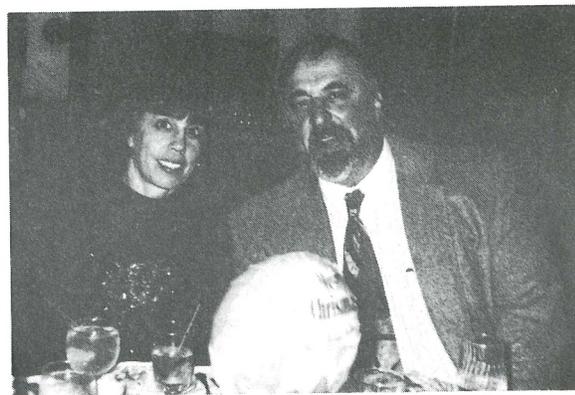
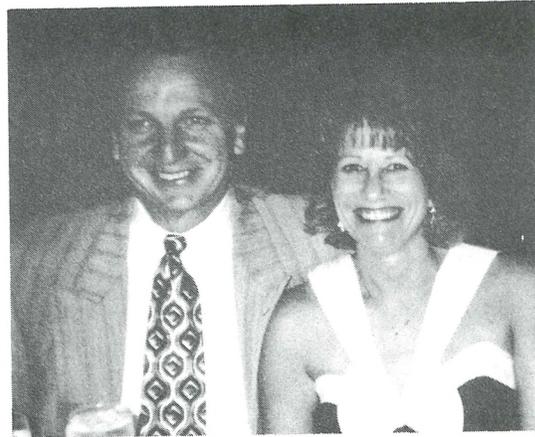
For more information or to register, contact  
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*Highlights from the 1996 CAGCS Christmas Party*



*Highlights from the 1996 CAGCS Christmas Party*



### CAGCS held its annual Winter Seminar on January 7th.

Once again, this educational day was well attended. Chairperson, Dennis Houle, and his committee should be congratulated for putting together an informative and well-planned session.

Our seminar began with a welcome from our new president, John Napier, CGCS. The entire day was filled with informative sessions concerning pesticide laws and updates lead by Brad Robinson from the DEP, Armando Paolino, our Lobbyist, and Richard Tice

the Executive Director of the EIC.

We were treated to presentations from Dr. Steve Alm, from the University of Rhode Island, *New Insecticides for Turf Insect Control*, Dr. Bruce Clarke, Rutgers University, who informed us on curealls for *Takelall Patch*, and Dr. Robert Wick from U/Mass on *Population dynamics & management on nematodes in putting greens*. Rounding out our program, Ed Klonoski, Univ. Hartford, introduced us to the subject of

*Integrating Computer Technology into Golf Course Management*, and, also, Joel Simmons from Earth Works made a presentation on *Balancing chemistry and biology of soils*.

Highlighting the seminar, were the presentation of Superintendent of the Year Award to Bob Chalifour and Honorary Membership was awarded to Dr. Steven Alm.

An Honorary Membership into CAGCS has also been voted to Dr. Gail Shumann.



**Winter desiccation is probably the most lethal component of winter injury. Understand the predisposing conditions, and you're halfway to prevention and cure.**

(continued from page 4)

- √ irrigate any critical sites,
- √ do not core in the late fall without topdressing, and
- √ consider other options, such as using a protective cover, topdressing, installing a windbreak (like a snow fence) or applying an organic mulch.

Even though it's expensive to haul water to greens when you can't turn the irrigation on, this practice may be necessary to save dying turf. If you can use your irrigation system, drain the lines the same day.

If you install a snow fence, there may be a higher incidence of snow mold. This is because the accumulation of snow against the snow fence forms an insulating layer, which can

provide ideal temperatures (36 to 42 degrees Fahrenheit) for snow mold. (See the "Snow mold control" sidebar.)

Some protective covers are bulky and difficult to secure to the turf, and condensation often occurs on sunny, warm winter days. Temperatures under some covers are occasionally high enough to induce *Poa annua* growth. Make sure the protective cover you choose allows air movement and reduces temperature fluctuations. One study shows that spunbonded geotextiles were effective in reducing desiccation, stimulating growth and producing an earlier spring greenup.

Although desiccation does not occur every winter, be aware of the predis-

posing environmental conditions. During snow-free periods, periodically check the turfgrass crown for turgidity, using the diagnostic technique mentioned in the "How to tell if it's winter injury".

Desiccated turf appears very dry, is brittle and is easily pulled from the soil. Periodically examine the upper 1 to 2 inches of soil, particularly during windy weather, because soil moisture can decline rapidly during low humidity (10 to 20 percent relative humidity).

#### HOW TO TELL IF IT'S WINTER INJURY

There are three ways you can tell if your turf is suffering from winter injury. One is to look at the leaves because damage by winter injury, desiccation or drought tends to:

- √ Have an even or uniform pattern,
- √ Be worse on one side on the plant, and
- √ Have a distinct, uniform line.

Contrast winter injury with disease and insect damage, which is more scattered.

Another method is to collect five to eight plugs from an area you suspect is damaged, and then artificially induce greenup. This will indicate potential turf survival.

A third approach involves removing the outer sheaths of the turf plant, cutting a slice through the crown with a razor blade and examining the crown area with a magnifying glass. A firm, white crown with turgid cells indicates healthy meristematic tissue. A brownish or black, mushy (flaccid) crown indicates low-temperature injury.

#### THE READER'S DIGEST VERSION OF WINTER DESICCATION

Winter desiccation occurs on semi-dormant and dormant turf and is most severe:

- √ On windswept, exposed areas;
- √ On elevated sites;
- √ Where there is significant runoff; or
- √ Where air temperatures are above freezing.

Cool season turf seems to be more susceptible to winter desiccation than warm season turf.

Both atmospheric and soil drought can cause winter desiccation. Atmospheric desiccation or windburn is a condition in which the turfgrass leaves appear healthy immediately after snow thaw, then soon turn brown during a period of rapid evapotranspiration.

Soil water can be present yet unavailable to the plant due to the turf's diminished root system. Or, soil water may be frozen and unavailable.

There are two prevention tactics to use: apply water or control evapotranspiration. Make sure the soil is at field capacity when the soil freezes or the first big snow hits. However, don't saturate the soil because this can hydrate the crown, setting it up for ice damage. Use windbreaks, mulches, topdressing or protective covers to control evapotranspiration.

## Winter desiccation

(continued from page 8)

### WHAT HAPPENS TO TURF AS IT ENTERS DORMANCY?

As winter approaches, day length, light intensity, and day and night temperatures decrease, causing many physiological changes in the turfgrass plant. The first change is a reduction in growth. Temperatures drop in the fall and nitrogen metabolism slows, resulting in decreased protein synthesis and slower growth.

Later, carbohydrates accumulate in storage tissue (rhizomes, stolons, and crowns) due to the reduced demand for carbon caused by less growth and lower respiration.

As long as chlorophyll remains in the leaf, photosynthesis will continue even after temperatures drop significantly. Instead of using carbon dioxide, the turfgrass plant translocates most of the carbon dioxide it fixes in late autumn as carbohydrates to

storage tissue.

Once temperatures are cold enough to cause leaf chlorophyll degradation, photosynthesis decreases drastically, and new foliar growth is almost non-existent. The turf canopy takes on a mottled green to light brown color.

Root sloughage begins in late autumn, resulting in as much as an 80 percent loss in the root system during the winter. The crown area, however, is alive and at the mercy of the elements. Because the grass is alive, it transpires, respire and occasionally fixes small amounts of carbon dioxide; consequently, it requires water. When the soil is frozen, this becomes a problem. The inability of grasses to satisfy their water requirement results in a wilting phenomenon known as desiccation. Desiccation, direct low-temperature kill, low-temperature diseases, traffic injury and heaving (in some cases) are all types of winter injury.

### A day at the Capitol

by Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS, Government Relations Chairperson  
Environment Industry Council Rep.

The Environmental Industry Council, Inc. (EIC) is hosting a Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, March 5, 1997. This event is open to anyone with an interest in legislation that regulates pesticide usage and the environment. Whether you are a member of EIC or not, this is a great opportunity for you to meet and get to know your legislators and observe first hand how our state government works.

The day will begin at 8:00 a.m. with a complimentary breakfast, presentations from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. by a series of speakers involved in regulation activities, and one-on-one meetings with your state representatives from 10:00 a.m. on.

Please join us on March 5th and get to know your legislators. Without input, you cannot influence the direction of our governing body. The larger the attendance—the louder our collective voice will be.

See you in Hartford!

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**Superintendent of the Year**

(continued from page 1)

that association working on many committees and eventually served as its President. Bob joined CAGCS in 1970, about the same time he took on the superintendent's position at the Shennecossett Golf Course in Groton, CT, where he is beginning his 27th year.

Since 1970 he has continuously served our association by chairing the Public Relations Committee, as well as working on many others, including Scholarship & Research.

His first position on the board was that of Vice President and thereafter served as our President in 1988 and 1989.

Bob has been on and off the board serving a total of 12 years. He has never said "no" to any request, and he is still active in CAGCS business, as he is presently working on our history to contribute to the National's endeavor of saving the history of the golf course superintendent.

While being educated at U-Mass and URI, Bob recognized the importance of GCSAA's certification program and has been a "certified" golf course superintendent for many years.

While this year's recipient enjoys golfing, he also loves boating, cars, plays hockey, loves to hunt, and has been an active bowler for 23 years.

He has been married to his lovely wife, Pat, for 32 years and has two sons, ages 32 and 12.

It is with great pleasure and pride for CAGCS to present the 1996 Superintendent of the Year Award to Bob Chalifour.

**Editor's Corner**

*The troops have arrived!*

John F. Streeter, CGCS, Editor

After ten years of being chief cook and bottle washer of the *Connecticut Clippings*, I have finally been rescued from the grueling responsibility of producing the newsletter as the lone soldier.

My heartfelt thanks goes to Jud Smith and Heather Garvin for coming forward to serve as the new *Clippings* editorial staff.

To date, the three of us have had one physical meeting and plan to meet at various times throughout the year so that we may disseminate interesting and local noteworthy news.

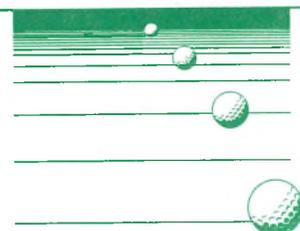
As I have said many times before, our newsletter needs more than one soldier. With the addition of these

troops, I contend that the *Clippings* will be a much more worthwhile reading experience for all of our subscribers.

A part of the committee's agenda this year includes doing feature articles on monthly meeting hosts and their clubs and also to continue to update you on association's activities and to bring to you various timely agronomic articles.

Our newly inducted staff will be out soliciting newsworthy stories from our members at large. I hope that when called upon you will give them their fair due and be a part of your association's information network.

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## Spikeless clubs in Connecticut

Continuing the tradition of listing all spikeless clubs in Connecticut, the following clubs have made the plunge into the spikeless world.

**Country Club of Darien**  
Timothy O'Neill, CGCS

**Hartford Golf Club**  
Herbert Watson, Supt.

**Indian Hill Country Club**  
Kevin Bengtson, Supt.

**Manchester Country Club**  
Gary S. Bryant, Supt.

**Oak Lane Country Club**  
Lawrence Dodge, Supt.

**Pequabuck Golf Club**  
Peter R. Pierson, Supt.

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

**Redding Country Club**  
Dennis Houle, Supt.

**Suffield Country Club**  
Thomas Watroba, Supt.

**Tower Ridge Country Club**  
Scott Ramsay, Supt.

**Tumble Brook Country Club**  
Cindy Johnson, Supt.

**Wallingford Country Club**  
Scott Gennings, CGCS

**Watertown Golf Club**  
Robert M. Viera, Supt.

**Woodbridge Country Club**  
John F. Streeter, CGCS

## 1997 Golf Summit

CAGCS has again joined forces with the CT State Golf Association, the CT Section PGA and the CT Club Managers to host the 1997 Connecticut Golf Summit on Saturday, March 8th, at the Marriott in Farmington.

CAGCS is very excited to have Bruce Williams, CGCS, Immediate Past President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America presenting our workshop, *The golf course superintendent as a professional*.

Mr. Phil Flynn will give a presentation on *Partnership in our changing environment* on behalf of the CT Section PGA, with the CT State Golf Association hosting a session on *The USGA and you!* by Mr. James Farrell, Regional Manager for the USGA.

The day will begin with a continental breakfast during registration from 8:00 - 8:30 a.m., with three workshops (8:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.), followed by a luncheon.

Watch for the Summit brochure upon your return from the GCSAA Convention in Las Vegas.

Pre-registration is \$50 — On-site registration is \$60

If you have any questions, please contact the CAGCS office (888/561-7778) or call Peter Pierson, Summit Coordinator 860/583-2427.

## CAGCS 1997 Schedule

March 6 & 7

*CAGCS/GCSAA Regional Seminar*  
Farmington Marriott  
Farmington, CT

March 8

**GOLF SUMMIT**  
Farmington Marriott  
Farmington, CT  
Co-hosted by  
**CAGCS, CSGA, CT PGA &  
CT CLUB MANAGERS**

March 11

Monthly Meeting  
Ramada Inn  
Meriden, CT

April 16

Monthly Meeting  
\* Manchester Country Club  
Manchester, CT  
Gary S. Bryant, Supt.

May 13

Monthly Meeting  
\* Pequabuck Golf Club  
Pequabuck, CT  
Peter R. Pierson, Supt.

June 17

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

July - TBA

Monthly Meeting  
Westwoods Golf Club  
Farmington, CT  
Kevin D'Amico, CGCS

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

\* Denotes spikeless clubs  
(All golfing participants must wear  
softspikes or spikeless shoes.)

***CAGCS thanks these patrons for their continued support of our Association!***

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(800)346-5048

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