

THE CONN. CLIPPINGS



APRIL 1981

Volume 14, No. 2

President's Message

Because the CAGCS has become aware of a number of problems several golf course superintendents have faced during the past few months, the March 17 meeting was devoted to discussing the current status of professional golf course superintendents in Connecticut. In addition, the meeting touched upon how superintendents can acquire job security and maintain, even bolster, their image as professionals in the golf course business.

Two positive results evolved from this discussion.

First, it was established that increased communication among golf course superintendents is important and helpful. Stimulating discussion makes meetings more interesting and worthwhile, and it helps all of us not only to deal effectively with problems we may face, but also to develop the self-confidence needed to conquer these problems. It is much easier to deal with difficulties when, through talking to others in our field, we find that someone else has had to deal with the same or similar situation. Very often, too, we can gain insight from seeing how others handle similar problems. But more importantly, effective communication is the way to improve our status and reputation among the golfing public and our superiors. Ideas for, even practice at, communicating well can begin at the CAGCS meetings.

Second, the CAGCS hopes to begin to play a more aggressive role in several areas of golf course management. First, it would like to begin offering assistance in finding clubs suitable employees to fill their superintendent vacancies. In addition, it would like to offer technical and employment advisory assistance. Specific information regarding these programs will be forthcoming within the next couple of months.

Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS

Future Happenings

April 20

CAGCS Monthly Meeting
Country Club of Fairfield
Fairfield, Conn.
Ted Maddocks, Host Superintendent

May 12

CAGCS Monthly Meeting
Willimantic Country Club
Willimantic, Conn.
Greg Wojick, Host Superintendent

June 1

Superintendent Invitational
Race Brook Country Club
Orange, Conn.
Armand LeSage, Host Superintendent

June 24

UMASS Field Day
Turf Plots
South Deerfield, Mass.

Superintendent Invitational

The always-popular Superintendent Invitational will be held at the Race Brook Country Club on June 1st this year and host superintendent Armand LeSage promises that the golf course will be a tough challenge for this year's entries.

Armand and his crew have been hard at work getting ready for our arrival. They have been overseeding fairways, planting trees, topdressing like crazy (by hand—that's crazy!), and even rounding up a swan for the pond on #2. The swan is the Race Brook Country Club's symbol, and Armand has looked high and low for a suitable replacement for the one that got "beaned" last year.

Race Brook Country Club is a 27-hole private golf club. It was founded in 1912 as a 36-hole facility but was reduced to 27 holes at the beginning of World War II. The architect was Robert Pryde, a charter member of the GCSAA.

Armand took over as superintendent for the retiring Maurice Ryan in 1980. Before taking over as superintendent, Armand worked as assistant to Ryan from 1975 to 1980, and before that, beginning in 1969, he was assistant superintendent at the Wethersfield Country Club. Armand is a 1966 UMASS Turf School graduate and a Vietnam War veteran.

Golf Professional Frank Selva and Manager Thomas Flanagan promise to make our day as enjoyable as possible, and anyone who has ever played at Race Brook knows that the enjoyment assuredly comes from the meticulously groomed grounds and not always from your golf score.

So ask your club officials now to sign up for this highlight of our golfing season. Remember first come, first served . . . and please, don't bean any swans!



Your 1981 Board of Directors: From Left to Right - Stan Sablak, Jim Medeiros, Greg Wojick, Steve Cadenelli, Mike Wallace, Dave Stimsof, Peter Pierson, Ray Beaudry, Peter Lund.

Connecticut Association Of Golf Course Superintendents

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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.

The CONN. CLIPPINGS is an official publication of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Inc.

Greg Wojick, Editor
49 John St.

Willimantic, CT 06226

Grass Catcher

Congratulations to John and Melinda Ferry on the birth of their baby girl, Betsey-Ann. John has recently become the sales manager for Turf Products Corp. in South Windsor, Conn.

Dave and Rhea Vibber are the proud parents of a brand new baby boy. Dave is the golf course superintendent of the Ellington Ridge Country Club in Ellington, Conn.

Are you looking for ways to train and educate your crew? Jim Medieros and the education committee have slides on diseases and insects that may be useful. The NGF Operations Handbooks can also be obtained from Jim and his committee. So why not take advantage of these helpful services?

John Motycka, owner/operator of the Skungamaug River Golf and Tennis Club, reports that the back nine addition to his golf facility is ready for the golfing public. John designed and built the addition that was started in 1977.

Good Luck to Peter Lund who has left Farmington Hills Golf Club in Wolcott to become Superintendent of the Berkshire Hills Country Club in Massachusetts. Stay in touch, Pete!

Meet Your Hosts

Ted Maddocks - Country Club of Fairfield

The April 20th CAGCS meeting will be held at the Country Club of Fairfield in Fairfield, Connecticut. Your host, Ted Maddocks, has been Superintendent at Fairfield for just a few short months, taking over for James Burke.

Ted is married, 27 years old, father of three boys and holds an Associate's degree from the UMASS (Stockbridge) Turf School. Ted comes to Fairfield from the Pittsfield Country Club in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

The Country Club of Fairfield was opened on July 2, 1921. The original architect was Seth Raynor and in 1957 the course was redesigned by Robert Trent Jones. The interesting seashore layout is a true test of your golfing skills. Anyone who played in the 1979 Superintendent Invitational can attest to that. Don't miss this special opportunity to play on one of this state's finest golfing facilities.

Greg Wojick - Willimantic Country Club

The Willimantic Country Club is the site for the May 12th CAGCS meeting. The club opened as a nine-hole golf facility in 1922. In 1966, the back nine and a new maintenance building were added, and the parking lot and clubhouse were expanded. Today the club has a membership of nearly 400 persons, and plans are now being laid for future improvements.

I got my start in the golf course business at the Skungamaug River Golf Club, and I broadened my experience by working at the Balcones Country Club in Austin, Texas. Upon graduation from the University of Connecticut in 1978, I worked for a short time for the Soil Conservation Service in Storrs and then as an assistant to Golf Course Superintendent Bob Chalifour at the Shennecossett Golf Course in Groton. As Superintendent at the Willimantic Country Club for the past two years, I have undertaken several improvement projects. The par three, #10 hole has been altered to increase the golfer's "pleasure"; numerous trees and shrubs have been planted to further define and beautify the course; and a long-range equipment improvement plan has been initiated to increase job efficiency. Future plans call for automating the irrigation system which is, at present, manually operated for tees and greens.

Our Pro-Manager, John Boucher, will greet you in the Pro Shop and for all you early arrivals, you are welcome to drop by the maintenance building for coffee and donuts.

Golf Tournament Schedule

At the March 16 meeting of the golf committee, the following events were decided upon for our 1981 golfing season:

April 20	Full Handicap Tournament (Peoria system) Country Club of Fairfield
May 12	Blind Draw Willimantic Country Club
June 16	First round of the Superintendent Championship Hopmeadow Country Club
July 14	Second round of the Superintendent Championship Bel Compo Golf Club

August 11	Open Date Clinton Country Club
September 15	Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament Pautipaug Country Club
October 13	Superintendent/Assistant Championship H. Smith Richardson Golf Club
November 10	Annual Meeting Glastonbury Hills Country Club

There will be three divisions: "A" Division (0-12 Handicap), "B" Division (13-24 Handicap) and "C" Division (25-40 Handicap).

Coping With the Water Shortage

Each year it seems that some region of the country is faced with a shortage of water. If the problem becomes critical enough and water use restrictions are imposed, one of the first uses to feel the ax is golf course irrigation. Notwithstanding the fact that the golf industry generates millions of dollars in goods and services and employs thousands of people, golf course irrigation is considered a recreational use of water in most states and therefore is placed low on the priority list during a water shortage. The limits placed on course irrigation in any particular area may vary from conservation to mandatory restrictions to a complete ban on all water uses. In each instance, short-term and long-term management programs must be thoughtfully designed in order to ensure the best possible survival of existing turf areas.

The following are some thoughts on how to make the best use of existing water resources and how to condition turfgrasses for drought conditions.

The Irrigation System

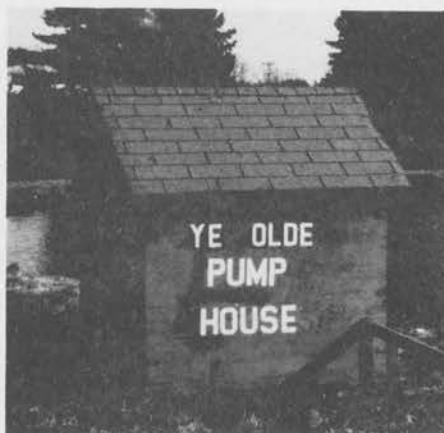
A well-designed, correctly installed and properly utilized automatic irrigation system provides the best means of conserving water. Water savings of 40 percent to 75 percent have been documented on golf courses that converted from a manual to an automatic system. However, regardless of the type of irrigation system available, it should be operated at peak efficiency and steps should be taken to increase its efficiency if the situation permits.

- Repair all leaks.
- Check nozzle size as it relates to available pressure and resulting coverage.
- Check for nozzle wear.
- Where necessary, relocate heads to improve water distribution.
- Use half-circle sprinklers where applicable.
- Check pump performance and other pumphouse systems.

Irrigation Practices

Proper use of the irrigation system is one of the most important factors in conserving water. Preparing turf for hot summer weather requires that little, if any, irrigation water be applied during the spring. Encourage the turf to establish a deep, fibrous root system in the spring by allowing the soil to become dry between rains and/or irrigation sessions.

- Before irrigating, use a soil probe to determine existing soil moisture and rooting depth.



- Apply water as uniformly as possible, depending on soil conditions and plant needs.
- Apply water only as fast as the soil can accept it. To avoid puddling and runoff, use short, repeat cycles or else cultivate the soil (core, slice, spike) to improve water infiltration.
- Irrigate when there is little wind and when the temperature is relatively low usually at night.
- Hand water critical areas if it can prevent overwatering adjacent areas.
- Constantly monitor the system to ensure that all heads are operating as they should be.

Cultural Programs

To paraphrase an old cliché, "a healthy turf is a drought-resistant turf."

- Aerification. Aerate (core) turf areas during the spring in order to relieve soil compaction, promote root growth and improve water infiltration (note: concerns about *Poa annua* encroachment after spring aerification are of secondary importance when drought stress may place the survival of the turf in jeopardy).
- Cultivation. Spike and/or slice turf areas when weather permits through out the season so that good water infiltration is maintained.
- Wetting agents. A wetting agent should be used during the spring, and at lighter rates during the summer, to promote good water infiltration through thatch and soil, improve soil water retention and prevent dew formation. It is normally used on greens and collars, but can be beneficial to most turf areas.
- Fertilization. Use relatively low rates of nitrogen fertilizer. A lush, fast-growing turf uses more water and is more susceptible to injury from other stresses. Coordinate applications with predicted rains or apply during light rains.

- Diseases and Insects. Avoid turf damage from diseases and insects by utilizing a proper pest control program.
- Weeds. Apply herbicides in the spring for weed control only if large numbers of weeds are present (broadleaf) or can be anticipated (crabgrass). If spraying must be done, spot-treat the worst areas rather than making a blanket application.
- Cutting height. If possible, raise the cutting height and reduce mowing frequency on tees, fairways and roughs. It is unlikely that much benefit will be derived from raising the height on greens already cut at 3/16" - 1/4".
- Thatch control. If excessive thatch is a problem, then thatch control measures (aeration, spiking, slicing, verticutting) and wetting agents should be utilizing on a regular basis.
- Overseeding. On turf areas composed primarily of *Poa annua*, plans should include overseeding during late summer or early fall with a more drought tolerant grass species. Turf areas which cannot be irrigated during the summer will likely require renovation during the fall.

Reduce Other Stress Factors

Avoid placing turf under any unnecessary forms of stress. A healthy, vigorous turf is much more likely to survive the drought if other stress factors can be reduced or eliminated.

- Cart and foot traffic. Distribute traffic across the turf as uniformly as possible. Eliminate traffic on important play areas when possible by keeping carts on paths, banning cart use on certain days or weeks during the season, and by careful traffic monitoring.
- Drainage. Good drainage, even during a water shortage, is a pre-requisite to good turf. Turf in poorly drained areas is usually shallow-rooted and weak. Work on drainage installation any time weather permits.
- Weeds, Insects, Diseases. As noted above, eliminate competition and injury from weeds, insects and diseases by following proper pest control programs.
- Trees. Trees can weaken turf by preventing good air circulation and creating excessive shade, and tree roots can compete with turf for available moisture and nutrients. When possible, improve sunlight penetration and air circulation by thinning trees or their branches. Root prune trees and greens to reduce moisture stress in these areas.
- Wind barriers. Though not practical in most instances, the establishment of wind barriers near exposed sites can help to reduce evapotranspiration water losses.

Continued on next page.

Establish Priorities

When water use is restricted to a certain quantity, based on either a percentage of previous use or on an absolute quantity per facility, it usually becomes necessary to set priorities with respect to which areas of the course will receive the specific allotment. When this occurs, the following priorities are usually established:

- 1) Greens and collars
- 2) Tees
- 3) Approach areas
- 4) Landing zones
- 5) Other fairway areas
- 6) Roughs

Investigate New Sources of Water

When water rationing is imposed, it is often those golf courses which utilize municipal or public water supplies that are hardest hit. Therefore, it usually pays a golf course to establish alternative sources of water for future use. Among the options are:

- Creating new ponds or enlarging existing ponds and reservoirs to hold large quantities of water which can be diverted from streams, wells, catch basins or other bodies of water.
- Digging wells to supply water directly to the irrigation system or to existing ponds or reservoirs.
- Dredging existing ponds, canals and reservoirs in order to increase their capacity.
- Investigate using sewage effluent for irrigation purposes.
- Collect and funnel runoff water, water from air conditioners, shower water and pool water into existing ponds.

Conclusion

Of critical importance in dealing with a water shortage is the advance planning which must be done to ensure that the best can be made of a bad situation. The golf course superintendent and course officials should agree ahead of time as to the best program to follow. Club members should be forewarned about the kinds of restrictions that might be placed upon them as the season progresses and they should understand that turf losses will inevitably occur should water use be severely curtailed. When it comes to dealing with the golfer and his course, the best policy is one of no surprises.

The explanations for some of the above recommendations are necessarily brief and not all of the guidelines apply equally to all golf course situations. For more information on any of these recommendations, please contact the nearest USGA Green Section regional office.

James T. Snow, Agronomist
USGA Green Section

51 Ways to Cope With Less Water

1. Minimum nitrogen, higher potash.
2. Higher cut on greens, tees, fairways.
3. Hold back on first watering to harden turf.
4. Establish priorities on watering, i.e., greens, tees, approaches, landing areas, etc.
5. Use anti-transparent on grass and shrubs. (Experiment)
6. Advise membership now concerning water problems we will be facing.
7. Watch herbicide-fertilizer application. Less amounts if water availability is in question.
8. More hand watering, less sprinkler use on greens.
9. Determine how much water you have to work with (capacities of lakes, ponds, etc.). Adjust watering program to possibility of not having any rainfall to replenish these amounts.
10. Omit fairway watering if necessary.
11. Capture rain water roof gutters, from club buildings for filling spray rigs, cleaning, etc.
12. Get back to old-time basics of golf course management, i.e., old courses in Scotland, no water, but still beautiful.
13. Consider sprigging Zoysia grass in fairway areas prone to wilt and moisture loss.
14. Use wetting agents for more uniform water profile. (Experiment)
15. Keep nitrogen on the 3-4-pound rate per year.
16. Program or apply irrigation in dawn to early a.m. hours.
17. Use soil probe to determine water need.
18. Cut less area as fairway - shorter and narrower.
19. Insist on water person timing all moves.
20. Cut down nozzle if possible.
21. Educate water person as to desirability of "skipping" low fairway areas.
22. Use herbicides only if needed (can reduce roots).
23. Educate your membership, write a special newsletter and follow up articles laying it on the tables as to what will happen.
24. Re-evaluate all your water requirements.
25. Reduce number of rounds of golf allowed on days of stress.
26. Allow for the maximum recovery time of a turf area before use again.
27. Develop a crisis management program.
28. Water 5-10 minutes daily between 5:00 and 7:00 a.m.
29. Use sewage effluent for water use.
30. Night watering only.
31. Less frequent mowings.
32. Begin watering as late as possible in 1981.
33. Consider mowing at night to reduce stress.
34. Water in daytime, to be able to supervise and observe better.
35. Conserve, adjust watering down to base minimum.
36. Use mulches on plant materials.
37. Erect wind barriers where needed.
38. Seek additional water sources (drains, ditches, wells, ponds, marginal water, roof systems, air conditioner water, etc.).
39. Meter usage.
40. Improve efficiency of system (fix leaks, relocate heads, check nozzles, train waterman).
41. Minimize spring nitrogen applications.
42. Aerate turf areas this spring, to establish good roots and ensure good water infiltration.
43. Keep turf "hardened" prior to summer by irrigation as infrequently as possible during the spring.
44. Irrigate at night when possible — less wind, lower temperature, less evaporation.
45. Check soil moisture and depth of roots before deciding to irrigate, and then irrigate only to depth of roots.
46. Reduce or avoid other stress factors (insects, diseases, weeds, good traffic control and good drainage.)
47. Consider using more organic fertilizers less inorganic fertilizers, to lower salt index and reduce need for frequent and copious watering.
48. If watering is prohibited, consider pump house renovations and improvements.
49. Communicate with an informal local golf associations, such as PGA, MGA, etc., on what effect altered maintenance programs will have on playing conditions.
50. Read April 1981 issue of *Golf Course Management*.
51. Pray for frequent rains!

MGCSA Survey

Job Openings

Assistant Superintendent: Ellington Ridge Country Club. Send resumes to Dave Vibber, Superintendent, 56 Abbot Rd., Ellington, Conn.

This Is The Week That Was — Greenkeepers Diary

FRIDAY - In at dawn again and fell over the barn dog, before I get a light on. Friday is the day we do EVERYTHING. Assistant late again, sometimes I wonder about him. He wouldn't even hold still when I had to cut the bubble gum out of his hair—got mad because I cut his headband. This is the day I was going to spray because I missed last Friday that should have gone on the Friday before that. Maybe Monday. Maybe by then the cutworms will have turned to moths and have flown away. Looped around the course in the pre-dawn light and saw four joggers, a mushroom picker, two ball hoppers in the pond, three members walking dogs, an old Italian lady cutting dandelions and a partridge in a pear tree. Threw a rock at the last mentioned. I love the course early in the morning—so quiet, so peaceful and tranquil. I think I'll call the state troopers and have all these people arrested. Picked up the remains of a big beer party by the fifteenth then went to work.

SATURDAY—Everybody in the world loves weekends but Greenskeepers. More turf disasters have happened on Saturday and Sunday than all the Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays put together. Right off the bat four pins and a dozen markers missing and the usual moronic messages written in the sand traps... why can't they write inspirational thoughts or the weather report? A neat group partied last night. All imported beer, an empty Southern Comfort bottle and two Cutty Sark—members' kids. Went to look at a very large pupa dangling from the tree by the ninth and after gazing in wonder for two seconds realized it was a tampon. Left it there, maybe it will hatch.

Credit: Hutchinson Valley



President Steve Cadenelli with the March 17 CAGCS meeting guest speaker Larry Sheridan.

DAILY ROUTINE OF A GOLF COURSE SUPT.

I. Start Promptly.

Assign jobs and issue special instructions via **written** daily work schedule, seasonal weekly maintenance outlines and planned agronomic and maintenance improvement programs. Ensure that all equipment is properly serviced and adjusted prior to use.

II. Check Course - First Thing A.M.

Greens and turf for disease, wilt, irrigation performance and general conditions. Staff and jobs in progress - observe equipment operation, job procedures and techniques.

III. Miscellaneous.

Trouble shooting, recordkeeping, communications, etc.

IV. Check Course - P.M.

Greens and fine turf for disease, wilt, soil moisture and general conditions. Determine and program irrigation requirements. Jobs done or undone - noting good and bad.

V. Written Work Scheduling -

Tomorrow.

Review weekly maintenance outline, agronomic and maintenance improvement programs, notes and staff available.

PLAN YOUR WORK AND WORK YOUR PLAN!

To be, or not to be: Water!

Rain, Rain, Come, - solve it all,
Swell the Reservoirs tall;
And quell these earthly storms,
So that we can get-on with daily norms;

Water, Water, - where art thou water;
Will we truly get our quota?
Aye, there's the rub!
The powers-that-be,-

Will they genuinely agree,
That we're as important as industry;

Fight! Fight!

Write, Write, - take in hand the mighty pen,
And bring to view to our legislative-men; -
That our profession beams from a priceless toil,

And not to imperil our golden soil;
To convince them, to genuinely agree; -
That we're as important as industry;

Fight! Fight!

Facts, Facts, - give it all, without fear,-
Loud and datum clear;
And ensure our right,-

So, as to vanish all doubt,
With bold-strokes - and they'll genuinely agree;

That we're as important as industry;

Fight! Fight!

Until the last drop.

Frank Paladino

GCSAA HIGHLIGHTS

Did you know that educational expenses are, in many cases, deductible? This means that those of you who attended the GCSAA's Conference and Show in Anaheim might be able to deduct a portion of your expenses when filling your income tax return. Keep expense records, and contact your local IRS office or individual tax consultant for the details.

By now, all GCSAA members should have received the quarterly newsletter which contained forms by which members may submit ideas for possible presentations at the 1982 conference in New Orleans. Regardless of how different or "out of it" you may think your idea is, please don't hesitate to submit it. Original concepts and ideas are what make the conference interesting and help me and the others on the GCSAA Education Committee to do a more effective job of selecting educational programs for our meeting and conferences. So please, take a few minutes to complete and return to me the survey you have received. A speedy response would be appreciated.

All GCSAA members will receive their annual dues billing early in May. Be sure to fill out the Mandatory Classification Review Statement and return it with your payment by July 1, 1981. Also, be sure that headquarters has your up-to-date address to avoid unnecessary membership status mistakes.

Remember, the yearly \$90 GCSAA dues is the best investment you can make for you and your profession. A host of helpful literature beyond the regularly received information is available to all members.

Anaheim Speaker cassettes are still available. To order, contact:

GCSAA/USGA Cassettes
c/o Eastern Audio Associates, Inc.
Oakland Center, 8980 Rt. 108
Columbia, MD 21045

EXTRA* EXTRA* GCSAA pre-conference golf tournament to be held at the Disney World Golf Complex at Orlando, Fla. in 1982. Keep an eye out for more information as it becomes available. This tournament promises to be a great event!

Steve Cadenelli

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