

CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

File

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President's Message

John F. Streeter, CGCS
CAGCS President

Summertime is here, the fish are jumpin', and the cotton is growing high. I am sure by now we are all into the grueling routines of the 7-day per week hours which is how we earn our money.

Even with everybody's busy schedules, it is nice to see the tremendous participation at our monthly meetings. Both the May and June meetings were well attended with both totalling over 90 golfers/participants.

As many of you know, our policies with our meetings are varied from what our association used to do. We have gotten away from the rigid business meetings/educational sessions for the summer meetings, and the Board felt that the time for educational seminars and business meetings are for the fall and winter.

I hope all of you have been enjoying the casual format of our monthly meetings and are taking advantage of your fellow comrades in attendance by mingling and getting to know them and talking about common problems and/or solutions to problems which

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Irrigation System Installed... Retrospect

By Gary Bryant
Golf Course Superintendent
Manchester Country Club

Several years ago, Manchester Country Club decided to install a new irrigation system. Since the old system was close to thirty years old and a constant source of both aggravation and a drain on labor resources, I was asked to investigate the feasibility of the installation of said system.

Lessons learned during this process:

Talk to other superintendents

Make sure you ask one key question. "If you had it to do over again, what would you change?" You will be amazed at the answers that you will receive.

Hire a consultant/designer

If you have the distributor design the system for you, you may as well give them a blank check and start digging.

Remember your "comfort" zone. If you are not comfortable and confident in the equipment/controllers, don't buy them just to try to save the club money. Neither the club nor the distributor is going to repair these items

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on a Sunday morning when it is going to be 90° before the day is over.

Committee involvement

Remember the image on a pack of Camel cigarettes? A horse designed by a committee. You do need the backing of the Board of Governors and the Greens Committee, but you don't need committee members asking other courses about their irrigation systems because they do not have the knowledge to ask the right questions.

Distributor involvement

Ascertain whether the distributor can work well with the consultant/designer. If the distributor decides to bypass the superintendent and to go to the club directly, find another distributor.

Equipment knowledge

Try to find out whether you can handle minor repairs yourself. You are going to be unable to get help during long, holiday weekends. Distributors and contractors no longer can afford the luxury of an abundance of

President's Message

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we are all experiencing in our business each day. Sharing knowledge about our industry is one of the most important facets that our association has to offer. I think of our group as a fraternity, brothers and sisters helping

each other to move forward and be successful in this wonderful business that we have chosen as our profession.

As many of you may be aware, CAGCS has imposed some new guidelines for registering and making reservations for monthly meetings. Some of you who have attended the May and June meetings and did not make a reservation with us, you paid a post entry fee. Those of you who made a reservation for the meeting and did not attend were billed. These policies are in effect now and will stay in effect.

We all understand that there are crises that arise on the day of the meeting or the night before the meeting. All one needs to do to avoid being billed

for a "no show" is to make a telephone call to our CAGCS office (387-0810). We will accept cancellations right up to the last minute of the meeting and, therefore, you can avoid being billed for a "no show". The reasons for these enforcements is simply that we are committed to a guaranteed number to the club which is hosting the meeting.

This and That...

I hope to see all of you at the July 20th meeting at Madison Country Club which has always been a special treat, and I, for one, am looking forward to that day.

The Scholarship & Research Tournament will be held on October 5th at the Mill River Country Club, Wayne C. Urban, superintendent.

The Educational Committee is in the process of soliciting clubs for 1994 sites. If you are interested in hosting a monthly meeting, please contact Michael Wallace, CGCS, Educational Committee Chairperson, or you can call the CAGCS office for more details.



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Connecticut Clippings

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James Connolly
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**"If you had it to do over again,
what would you change?"**

Gary Bryant's Retrospect,
continued from page 1.

service people, so plan on making minor repairs yourself.

Murphy's Law

Whatever can go wrong will go wrong. The first day on the job, the contractor trenched three irrigation lines, putting me out of business for two days. Be fully prepared for aggravation from the contractor, subcontractors and members. A complete system being installed on an established course is a major undertaking and problems will arrive that are no one's fault. Remember, communication is the key; however, many people will hear only what they want to hear, so prepare yourself.

Contractor

I was amazed how many contractors wanted to install this system. Most were discounted because of no experience or expertise, but you will receive a lot of calls from people that you never knew existed. The designer/consultant will help you select a reputable contractor, and even with the best available, it will not be easy.

What would I change?

I would make changes in the specifications as far as some things, but generally the project went fairly well. Talk to a lot of fellow superintendents

around the country, not just friends. I was amazed how many superintendents in Florida would give you their time talking about irrigation systems. Cover all your bases in the planning stages, and it will prepare you for this project.

Was it worth it? Lord, yes. Our system is computer controlled, easy to use and repair, and has made a big difference in the golf course.

To summarize, hire a qualified consultant/designer. With the kind of monies that are involved with a project this size, it is asinine to try to be your own engineer.

Talk to other superintendents. Be honest and up front with your questions, and you will receive the same kind of answers.

Don't forget your "comfort" zone. After all is said and done, it is your system to operate and repair. Don't let anybody sell you anything that you are not comfortable with. Remember, your backside is the one on the line.

It is almost guaranteed that "Murphy's Law" will smack you in the mouth several times during this project. Be patient and after all is said and done, you will be rewarded with a first class irrigation system.

Hope you all have a good season!

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The Farms Country Club Paul A. Sabino, Superintendent Hosts May Meeting

The winter was long, cold and stormy. The snow lasted right into spring... so much so that our first scheduled outing at Frank Lamphier's Aspetuck Valley Country Club had to be canceled due to all of the moisture. But that is all behind us, and we all enjoyed our golf outing at Paul Sabino's The Farms Country Club.

The Farms Country Club was designed by Geoffrey Cornish and was built in the early sixties. The course was built on heavy clay soils, with plenty of rock, and the greens are of the pushed-up variety. In addition to the golf course, there are tennis courts and a swimming pool.

Paul Sabino started working at The Farms under the direction of Stanley Sablak on a part-time basis. Paul learned very quickly that he really enjoyed this kind of living and work. With the support and encouragement of Stanley, Paul received the Troll Dickerson Scholarship to attend the Univ. of Massachusetts. Receiving the Lear Honorary Scholastic Society Award (3.75 or better grade point average) on graduation, Paul returned to The Farms as Stanley's assistant. In the fall of 1990, Stanley decided to move on and left the job of superintendent in the very capable hands of Paul.

One of the first projects Paul tackled was the 11th green. Historically a problem green, Paul installed a drainage system, cleared away some trees,

and deep tined the green to change it into one of the best and driest on the course. Continuing on to build the 13th ladies' tee and working on the #7 bunkers, he has been able to show the membership what he is capable of. The membership is very pleased with the results and have increased Paul's budget over the years.

One of Paul's secrets is to always pay attention to aesthetics by planting flowering shrubs and paying special attention to flower beds... another was to reorganize his labor staff. By doing this, he was able to find increased hours to keep up with all projects... and, of course, the constant upgrading of equipment.

Somehow, Paul has found time to run for the Board of Governors at the Summerhill Condos where he and his wife, Nancie, live. Nancie has been extremely supportive of Paul's career for which he is most grateful. They are expecting their first child in early September. We all wish him the best of luck with his career and new family.

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Superintendents deserve praise

Following Tom Watroba, Suffield CC, hosting the PGA Section's opening event, the following are comments which appeared in the *Journal Inquirer*, written by John Nowobilski, PGA pro at Tallwood CC:

"As tough as it has been for us golfers to play, let alone score, due to the weather conditions, imagine what the

golf course superintendents are going through.

Nevertheless, their incredible knowledge and cautiousness (some of you might think it's over cautiousness) will pay off. I know many of you are going crazy waiting to get out to play and, as I write, some courses are still not fully operational, with carts,

USGA

Turf Advisory Service Continues to Grow

The USGA Turf Advisory Service (TAS) continues to grow in number of golf courses visited each year in New England. One hundred thirty golf courses subscribed to TAS in 1992, up from 118 the previous year. This is encouraging considering the economic climate. The majority of the subscribers are private courses, but the number of public golf courses participating in TAS continues to grow. The growth among the public courses is due in part to the special offer of a full-day visit at one-half cost.

As you know, the USGA Green Section exists as a service to golf courses and could not exist without their support. In fact, the Green Section operates at a deficit in order to keep the service affordable to all golf courses, private or public.

A lot takes place during a TAS visit, and the amount of information exchanged can be extensive. This sharing of knowledge and information is, in my opinion, one of the greatest benefits of a USGA visit. Someone once told me that no one is too big to get some advice, even brain surgeons ask their associates for advice.

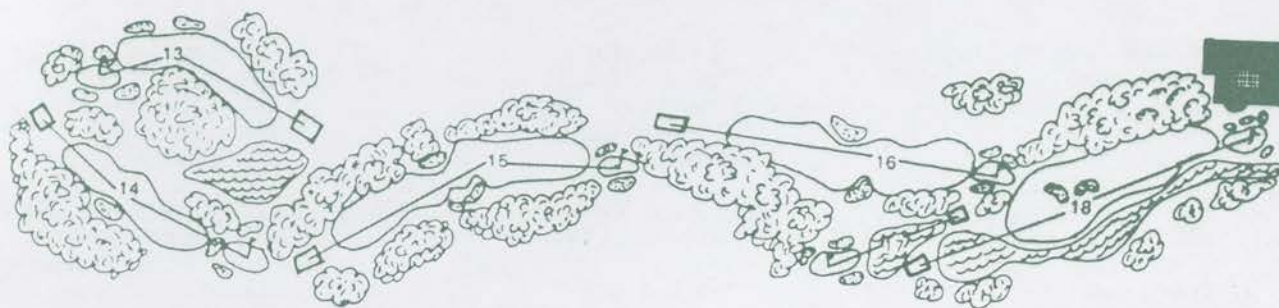
I encourage you to use this service to your advantage and consider participating this year in the USGA Green Section TAS. Information can be obtained by calling (203) 456-4537 in Connecticut or (908) 234-2300 in New Jersey.

greens, practice areas, etc.

But remember one thing: Your superintendent *wants* you to enjoy the course you play, so listen to him or her. Superintendents have your best interest at heart during some tough times.

I must take space and time to commend superintendent, Tom Watroba, for the superb job he and his talented staff did to get the course in playable condition."

The Clippings



Calendar

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	HOST
July 20	CAGCS Monthly Meeting	Madison Country Club	Michael Chrzanowski
July 31	Oldies But Goodies Cruise	New England Cruise Lines Haddam, CT	CAGCS
August TBA	CAGCS Annual Picnic	To be Announced	CAGCS
Sept. 14	CAGCS Monthly Meeting	Black Hall Club Old Lyme, CT	Philip Neaton
October 5	CAGCS Annual S & R Tournament	Mill River Country Club Stratford, CT	Wayne C. Urban
October 18	CAGCS Monthly Meeting	Wethersfield Country Club Wethersfield, CT	Alfred Bachand
November 9	CAGCS Annual Meeting	Rolling Greens Golf Club Rocky Hill, CT	Jonathan Case

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