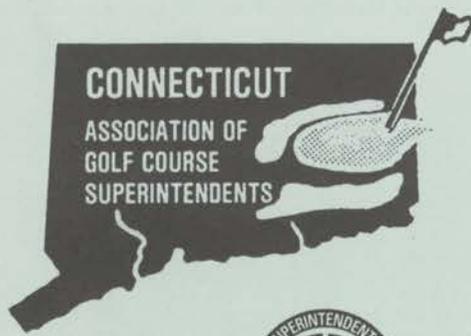


APR 25 2000



CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

Volume 34, No. 1

March, 2000

Anthony Grosso elected 1999 Superintendent of the Year

by Skip Deubel, Commercial Representative to the Board

It is my pleasure and privilege to announce this year's superintendent of the year. This is the association's most prestigious and coveted award because it is voted on by the recipient's peers.

In addition to exhibiting skill in maintaining a golf facility, the recipient has devoted time to being an ambassador of the industry by helping

fellow superintendents and contributing time and effort to the betterment of the local and national associations.

Anthony has served many years on the CAGCS Board, just finishing two years as its President, and now serving his final his duties on the Board as Immediate Past President. He has also been involved with the New England Regional Turfgrass Association since the beginning.

Anthony was born in Easton, CT and, like many, his first golf course job was a summer position while in high school. His first job was at Oronoque Country Club working for Eric Johnson.

After high school, three years were spent at Southern Connecticut State University and a final year at American University in Washington and resulted

in a degree in physical education.

A passion for football led Anthony to a brief coaching career at places such as Cornell, Wisconsin, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at King's PT. But, part-time golf course jobs were always mixed in.

When he returned back home, he worked for Bob Osterman at the Connecticut Golf Club. Next, he served as Paul Sabino's assistant at The Farms Country Club, which led to his current position as golf course super-

intendent at the Pautipaug Country Club in Baltic, CT, in March, 1993.

He resides with his wife, Kathy, and their two children in Marlborough. Congratulations, Anthony!



Inside this issue

- President's message. 2
- UMASS looking for volunteers. 3
- Take a look at Norwich CC. . . . 4
- Meet commercial member Jim Staszowski 5
- Grass Catcher. 6
- Are you ready for a fire at your maintenance facility? 8
- Commentary 10

President's message

Brian Skelly, President

The millennium came in without any Y2K bugs — winter finally arrived with a vengeance in January with cold temperatures and high winds that brought wind chill readings to sub zero levels consistently, and also that strange form of moisture called “snow”! The course is white, the discussion on whether the greens are open or closed is put to bed for awhile.

This is definitely a great time of year.

I would like to thank Anthony Grosso for his leadership and dedication to this association for the last two years a president, “it’s going to be a tough act to follow”. At the same time, I would like to congratulate Anthony for being selected Superintendent of the Year, an honor well deserved. He has put a lot of work into our association as well as the New England Regional Conference.

I would like to welcome our new board members who stepped up to the

plate to fill some vacancies. Chris Mauro, Highfield CC, will chair the Scholarship & Research Committee filling Tim Gerzabek’s term. Chris has jumped right in with enthusiasm, and I know that S & R is in good hands and we are looking forward to working with him.

Kim Heyl, Fenwick GC, is filling the remaining term of Dennis Houle and will be taking over as our Social & Welfare Director. Kim has already taken over the reins and we are sure she will do a great job.

I am looking forward to working with all of the board members. Their professionalism and dedication has kept and will continue to keep CAGCS moving in a forward direction into the new millennium.

Speaking of the millennium, where are we going?

What new changes are in store for our industry and profession?

Thirty years ago, greens were cut at 1/4” and now they are down to 1/8” or less. Fairways are being cut with greens mowers on some courses.

Irrigation systems have gone from quick couplers and hoses to computers and automatic sensors.

New chemicals are appearing that require less active ingredient per application and last longer. The grasses themselves are being bred to be more disease and insect resistant, and drought tolerant.

Now, if they can just control Mother Nature to give us 50 degree nights and 75 degree days with 1/4” rain every third day, gentle breezes and no bugs.

Golf is exploding in popularity and courses are opening all over the country, creating new opportunities but also offering challenges to our own clubs to keep their members. We also



Brian Skelly
CAGCS President

have the challenge and responsibility to keep on improving in our profession and making us, as superintendents, more valuable to our clubs.

This can be done through education (keep abreast of new ideas), making us visible to the membership and available to answer questions. Don’t hide down at the “barn”. Having contacts with the media and town or city officials can’t hurt.

Finally, by now all superintendent members should have received the letter requesting help for meeting sites. This is probably one of the most difficult tasks the education chairperson faces.

While I realize that the demand from members to keep outings to a minimum increases, I also realize that if every member offered his/her club for one meeting, we would only go to that club once every 11 years at the earliest. This does not seem to be too much of a burden to a club, so volunteer and help out, public or private, makes no difference.

We still need sites for this year and it is not too early for planning for 2001 and beyond. Please help out.

CAGCS Board of Directors

President	Brian Skelly
Vice President	Jud W. Smith
Secretary	Dennis J. Houle
Treasurer	Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS
Past President	Anthony Grosso
Education	Dan Rackliffe, CGCS
Golf	John Motycka
Membership	Wayne C. Urban
Scholarship & Research	Chris Mauro
Social & Welfare	Kimberly Heyl
Government Relations	Peter R. Pierson
Com. Rep to Board	Skip Deubel

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

Newsletter Editor - Bob Chalifour, CGCS (Ret)

Newsletter Committee - David Basconi,
Heather Garvin, Edward Goodhouse,
Ron Holcomb, Jud W. Smith

Volunteers needed!

Nikki Rothwell and Dr. Pat Vittum
University of Massachusetts

As most of you are aware, the annual bluegrass weevil (ABW) is a continual pest of golf course turf in the northeastern United States. Damage from this insect may vary from minor infestations to considerable turf damage on short mowed turf.

Currently, there is no definite program to monitor these insects, and they are frequently controlled by a calendar spray method. At the University of Massachusetts, we are proposing to create a degree day model to aid golf course superintendents in the control of the ABW.

A degree day model is a technique that is based on the minimum and maximum daily temperatures, precipitation, evapo-transpiration throughout the growing season. These factors are then compared to the activity level of the particular insect, in this case, the annual bluegrass weevil. The degree days are accumulated in conjunction with the activity of each life stage of the ABW. For instance, in the spring, we would monitor the activity of the adult weevils moving out from overwintering sites while simultaneously collecting temperatures and moisture levels. This collection process will give us a fairly precise timing of maximum adult ABW activity in relation to temperature; this would be repeated for first generation larval activity, as well as second generation adult activity, and finally second generation larval activity.

The collection of temperatures and moisture levels along with insect activity over a three-year period will eventually lead to a degree day model. In other words, upon completion of a degree day model, a superintendent will be able to predict ABW activity by collecting minimum and maximum daily temperatures. With this model, a superintendent may know that ABW first generation adult activity is at its maximum and could then treat the golf course precisely as needed.

Degree day models are corrected for yearly fluctuation in temperature; they allow for a more exact timing of control methods because the degree day model is based on the average temperatures, not on actual calendar days. A degree day model would allow superintendents to use control methods more effectively and more cost efficiently.

To create this degree day model, we need your help. If you would like to participate, enclosed with this newsletter is the appropriate form. The original form can be photocopied and your completed copy can be sent or faxed to us each week of the 2000 season (March 1st - September 1st).

Please fill in the form with as much information as possible. We would really appreciate your help and look forward to working with all of you! Thanks for your help. Nikki Rothwell and Dr. Pat Vittum; University of Massachusetts, Fernald Hall, Amherst, MA 01003-2410. (Phone: 413/545-0268; Fax: 413/545-5858)



GOLF IRRIGATION SERVICES, inc.

P.O. Box 505, 103 McCracken Road, Millbury, MA 01527

Art de Atienza

508-756-5903

Fax 508-757-8626

IRRIGATION SYSTEM SPECIALISTS

PARTAC® GOLF COURSE TOP-DRESSING



AMERICA'S PREMIUM
HEAT TREATED
TOP-DRESSINGS

TYPAR®

GEOTEXTILES & TURF BLANKETS

U.S. GOLF HOLE
TARGETS™
AND MUCH MORE!

800-247-2326

DISTRIBUTED IN CT BY:
JAMES CARRIERE & SONS

914-937-2136

VALLEY FARMS SUPPLY
860-651-8555



An environmentally sound
approach to turf management

Add life to your turf!

BigJect® Distribute beneficial
microbes through your
irrigation system.

Recharge microbial based program
Extend your root system!

Clean your wash water!

CleanRack™



...a comprehensive wash
water recycling system

TURF
PARTNERS

Contact Joe Stahl or your local
Turf Partners representative
at 800-228-6656
www.ecosoil.com





Our association begins this year's golf meeting schedule, as it has every second year in recent history, at the Norwich GC. Our thanks to superintendent Bruce Morse (pictured above) for his continued support of CAGCS.

Bruce's life has always involved the outdoors. He grew up in Windsor where tobacco farming was dominant. He worked various jobs in tobacco until graduating high school and continued for another year. He then

Norwich Golf Club will host CAGCS monthly meeting - April 24th

by Heather Garvin

worked for the Baker Company, in the container division, for four years and got a background in horticulture. Bruce attended the American Motorcycle Institute in Daytona Beach, FL, for motorcycle mechanics. He worked in Manchester as a motorcycle mechanic for three years.

He got into the golf business by answering an ad for a golf course mechanic at Simsbury Farms GC. When the assistant left there for another job, Bruce became the mechanic/assistant. He then furthered his experience at Shuttle Meadow and Ellington Ridge CC. He completed the UMASS Winter School in 1988.

Bruce spent one year as superintendent of Century Hills and the next year, he became the superintendent at Norwich where he is now entering his

10th season.

Bruce lives in Windsor with his wife, Cheryl, and sons, Kyle age 17, and Daniel age 14.

Norwich GC has small greens which are elevated with mounding around many of them. It is not a long course (6,182/blue; 5,872/white; 5,104/red), but the layout will get you to play every club in your bag. There are new tees on 2 and 12 since we last played at Norwich. The Norwich Inn overlooks the 17th tee which is the signature hole.

The course is actually in Norwich and Montville. It is run by the Norwich Golf Authority. The course is built on gravel and drains well. With no ponds on the property, the irrigation water is purchased.

It's Time to Take a Closer Look at Hunter Golf

Introducing *Vista* - With the Power of Real-World Visual Control

Reality-Based Software with Animated Graphics

Hunter Golf introduces Vista, the most advanced and powerful irrigation control system available today. Vista utilizes the precision of your irrigation consultant's AutoCAD™ design to create realistic 3D graphics that allow you to "drive" every fairway on your course, fine-tuning the system from a real-world golf cart perspective. Advanced yet easy to use, Vista features truly automated programming, real-time dynamic flow balancing and a familiar internet-style interface. See your local Hunter distributor - and discover why it's time to take a closer look at Hunter Golf products.



AUTHORIZED HUNTER DISTRIBUTOR



Connecticut
East Hartford, 80 Thomas St., 860-528-9182
Milford, 243 Woodmont Rd, 203-878-0658



Meet Commercial Member - Jim Staszowski

by Ed Goodhouse

James Staszowski is a member of one of northwest Connecticut's most illustrious golfing families. In 1936, Jim's father, Stan Staszowski, became the golf professional at Green Woods CC in Winsted. Stan assumed the course superintendent position at Green Woods in 1948 and retired from that position in 1983 and remained as pro until 1988 when he stepped down at the age of 70.

Jim's uncle, Frank Staszowski, was the golf professional at Torrington CC for almost 40 years. The storied Staszowski brothers were known as skilled golfers and congenial pros. They helped to establish and grow the game of golf in northwestern Connecticut during five decades. Stan and Frank are still active golfers. They still play well as they have maintained their

trademark elegant swings.

Jim and his siblings grew up working and playing at Green Woods CC. Jim's sister, Mary Ellen, worked in the clubhouse and kitchen, while Jim and brother, Joe, worked on the golf course. Jim became a talented golfer and developed an interest in course maintenance during his high school days. He attended Gilbert High in Winsted where he played on the golf team.

After graduating from high school, Jim attended the Stockbridge School at UMass. He earned an Associate's Degree in turf management and then went on to graduate in 1981 with a Bachelor's Degree in plant and soil science.

In 1981, Jim went to work for the Turf Products Corporation, then a small but growing equipment supplier,

being recommended by Dr. Joseph Troll. Jim became an equipment salesman in the small but growing TPC. As TPC expanded, Jim's golf course background and education helped him develop into a quality sales representative. Jim is still with TPC today. His experience and knowledge make him a valuable asset to the many people he serves.

Jim lives with his family in Lenox, MA. His wife, Linda, is a school teacher with the East Greenbush school system. Jim, Linda, and their two daughters have a busy family life. Ten year old Brittany is a soccer player and skier. Breana, who is six, is also a skier. The Staszowski's enjoy the comforts of living in a small Berkshire community.

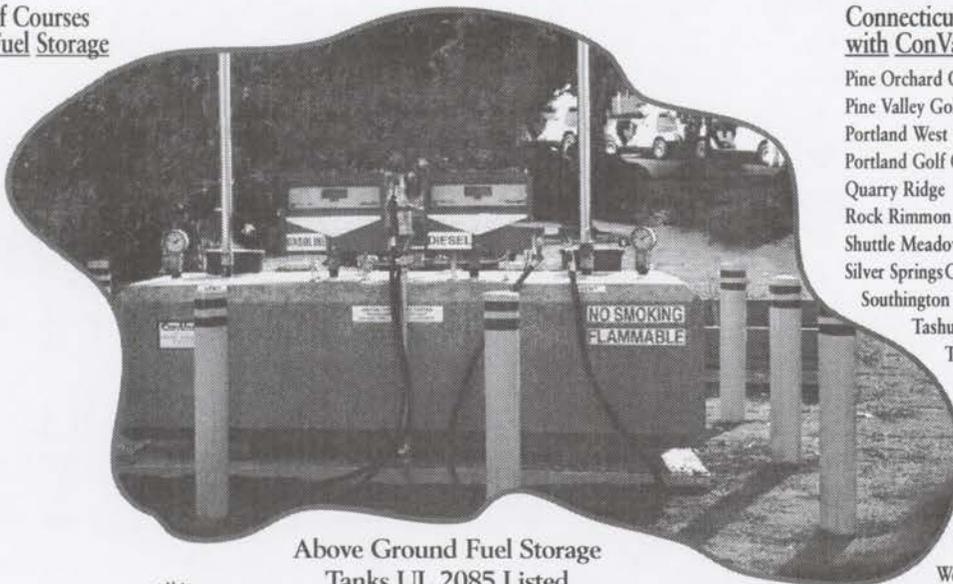
Jim still golfs and is on the board of directors of Greenock Golf Club. Family travels over the years have brought the Staszowski's to Hawaii, Disney World and the Bahamas.

GOLF COURSES RELY ON

BUILT TO LAST, ConVault's patented system protects your fuel within a steel primary tank wrapped in a 30 mil poly liner, reinforced within a six-inch concrete vault. Over 31,000 ConVault remain in service today without a single system failure.

Connecticut Golf Courses with ConVault Fuel Storage

- Black Hall Golf
- Candlewood C.C.
- C.C. of Avon
- C.C. of New Canaan
- C.C. of Waterbury
- C.C. of Farmington
- Crestwood Park
- Darien C.C.
- Farmingbury Golf
- Farms Country Club
- Fenwick Golf
- Grassy Hill C.C.
- Great River Golf
- Harbour View
- Hop Brook Golf
- Hopmeadow C.C.
- Hunter Golf
- Indian Springs
- Innis Arden
- Madison C.C.
- Oak Lane C.C.
- Old Lyme C.C.



Above Ground Fuel Storage
Tanks UL 2085 Listed



UNITED CONCRETE PRODUCTS
173 Church Street, Yalesville, CT 06492 (203) 269-3119 • Fax (203) 265-4941
Web Site: www.unitedconcrete.com

Connecticut Golf Courses with ConVault Fuel Storage

- Pine Orchard C.C.
- Pine Valley Golf
- Portland West
- Portland Golf Course
- Quarry Ridge
- Rock Rimmon C.C.
- Shuttle Meadow
- Silver Springs C.C.
- Southington C.C.
- Tashua Knolls
- Timberland Golf
- T.P.C. at River Highlands
- The Patterson Club
- Tumblebrook C.C.
- Wampanoog C.C.
- Washington Club
- Watertown Golf
- Wethersfield C.C.
- Westwood Golf Course
- Woodbridge C.C.
- Woodway C.C.
- The Orchard



Grass

Catcher

Welcome new member

Paul Bell - Class C
Woodbridge Country Club

* * * * *

Congratulations

Mike Wallace, CGCS, Hopmeadow CC, on his election as secretary/treasurer of GCSAA, and to Tim O'Neill, CGCS, CC of Darien, on his appointment to a one-year director term.

Greg and Marilyn Stent on the birth of their daughter, Caroline Rate.

Drew and Jen Cummins on the birth of their daughter, Cara.

Newly certified golf course superintendents, Jim Calladio, CGCS, The Millbrook Club, and Scott Ramsay, CGCS, Tower Ridge CC.

Paul Barratt, CGCS, Titleist & Foot-Joy Worldwide, on his appointment as newsletter editor for the Rhode Island GCSA newsletter, *Surf & Turf*.

— On the move —

Art deAtienza, formerly of Sawtelle Bros., has started a new endeavor working with irrigation and installation. The name of his new company is Golf Irrigation Services, Inc.

Jonathan Jennings, CGCS, former superintendent at the Patterson Club, has taken on a new position at the Chicago Golf Club.

Christiaan Kipp, former assistant superintendent at Redding CC, has taken on the superintendent's position at Grassy Hill CC.

* * * * *

Condolences

Matt Howland on the passing of his father.

Kevin J. Kennedy on the passing of his mother.

Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS, on the passing of his mother.

Jim Kilburn on the passing of his father.

Brian Pope on the passing of his father and brother.

Clinton CC superintendent, Mike Decker, and crew have a new maintenance building that was relocated next to the 12th fairway.

* * * * *

CAGCS 2000 dues & membership directory

There are still members who have not yet paid their 2000 dues. Any member who has not paid his/her dues by March 31, 2000 will be deleted from membership without notice in accordance with the CAGCS bylaws.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your membership status, please call the CAGCS office (888/561-7778) or Wayne Urban, Membership Chairperson (203/879-8037).

The 2000 Membership Directory will be prepared in early April. If any of your information has changed, or if you have not yet returned your information sheet, please do so immediately. If you need another form, please call the CAGCS office.

* * * * *

Deadline dates

The deadline for submission of the 2000 biennial survey is March 30.

The deadline for the May issue is April 7.

The deadline for submission of scholarship applications is April 20.

USGA Recommended Sands
Topdressing ~ Divot Mix

Root-Zone Mixes
Bunker Sand & Pea Stone

Holliston Sand Co., Inc.
Tift Road ~ Slatersville, RI 02876

AllGro Compost
AllGro Mixes

(401) 766-5010
Fax (401) 762-4976

Connecticut
Mulch 
Distributors, Inc.

Covering ground since 1978

Business Address
1300 East St.
Suffield, CT. 06078

Mailing Address
1515 North Stone St.
W. Suffield, CT 06093

Telephone
(860) 623-2987
Fax 292-1047

1999 Christmas Party



1999 Christmas Party



Dogs of summer

Keith Angilly, Supt., Hunter Golf Course
Meriden, CT



This is Sam, my faithful companion of nearly five years now. Sam is a mixed breed, mostly Pointer with some Lab and Doberman. He was abandoned at the home of one of the staff members at Segregansett CC where I was the assistant superintendent at the time.

So, after a rocky start, he now has the ultimate dog life, free run of my home as well as the golf course on which to roam.

A tireless worker, Sam has kept the Hunter GC reasonably free of geese, much to the hap-

piness of our golfers. In fact, I am not sure, but I think the golfers appreciate Sam more than me!

Meeting sites needed

All Class A and B members are urged to check with their clubs to see if it would be possible to host a CAGCS monthly meeting, whether this year or next.

Please call the CAGCS office or Dan Rackliffe, Education Chairperson, at 203/341-5072.

Pictured below left are Walter Smith and Harry Meusel who were awarded a plaque and recognized for their 50 years as members of CAGCS.

Not in attendance, but who also is a 50-year member, is Karnig Oviaan.

* * * * *

GCSAA scholarships

All GCSAA members should be aware that there are several scholarships available through GCSAA.

Log on to GCSAA's website (www.gcsaa.org) to find out requirements for each and obtain applications.

Deadline for Essay Contest is March 31; Legacy Awards is April 15; the GCSAA Scholars Program is June 1.

A new scholarship, "Footsteps on the Green" is open to students who are following in their parents'/grandparents' footsteps majoring in golf course man-



As you can see from the enclosed insert of pictures, a great time was had by all in attendance at the 1999 Christmas Party held at Grassy Hill CC.

Calendar of Events

March 28th
CAGCS Monthly Meeting
Hawthorne Inn, Berlin, CT

April 24th
CAGCS Monthly Meeting
Norwich Golf Club
Bruce Morse, Supt.

May TBA

June 12th
CAGCS Monthly Meeting
Shennecossett Golf Club
Frank Polizzi, CGCS

agement with a deadline of April 15.

First place - \$3,500; second place \$2,500; third place \$1,500. A merit award of \$500 is given to the fourth place winner.

* * * * *

— 20 years ago —

Long-time CAGCS member Curt Stimson recently retired from full-time employment with the Magovern Co., although he intends to stay involved to some extent during the season.

Peter Bly became the new superintendent at the Brooklawn CC in Fairfield replacing Frank Nichols who retired April 1st.

Mark Fuller, superintendent of the Longshore Park Club in Westport, gave a presentation at the March meeting on the construction and management of solar greenhouses.

**PREMIUM
SOD
FOR
GOLF COURSES**

Owen Regan

A T Sales Associates, Ltd.
1787 Olde Louisquisset Pike
Lincoln, RI 02865

Tel 401-465-8066
Fax 401-729-8163
Pager 800-592-0675

JULY HEAT

Michael Mooney, Superintendent
Pequot Golf Club

It all began on Friday, July 9, 1999. It was a normal day as far as golf course operations were concerned. We locked up shop at 3:00 pm and all headed home. At 3:25 pm, the golf professional called me at home to tell me that the maintenance building was on fire.

Upon arrival at the scene, I met with the local fire chief. I conveyed all potential hazards and dangers that lurked within the burning structure. The firefighters extinguished the blaze in relatively short order.

The total building was reduced to a charred pile of smoldering rubble. Everything was consumed by the intense heat from the blaze. The equipment storage room was nothing more than a collage of melted aluminum, fiberglass, and rubber. Machinery was simply reduced to a mass of stripped, charred, steel skeletons. Memories of how they once looked was all that remained. "The fire was over, or was it?"

As I look back now, it really only began after the fire was extinguished. I was being bounced around like a pinball from DEP officials, to town fire officials, to local investigators, to state fire examiners. As one can imagine, there was no order to this madness. It was simply a feeding frenzy for information.

At this point, my main concern was

to initiate, with the guidance of the DEP, an immediate site cleanup plan. This first phase of the cleanup would be geared towards any remaining chemicals and oils. Shortly after this plan was discussed, an emergency response unit materialized on the scene, and the cleanup process began.

While all this chaos was going on, I had to plan for our upcoming weekend maintenance schedule. Given our new situation, we would certainly be challenged in the days and weeks to come. One positive point in all this was that our new maintenance building, which was currently under construction, had four walls, and a roof. It was a quick move to say the least. With help from fellow superintendents, the golf course maintenance schedule began to fall into place. Other friends also stopped by to offer assistance to help dampen the blow. As for sales reps, well, do I need to go any further. "Did someone say FIRE!" I heard, although not able to verify the legitimacy of the source, that Brian Pope was at the scene of the fire before the firefighters. Rumors even began to surface afterwards, stating that he allegedly encouraged the firefighters not to put the blaze out too quickly. In all seriousness though, Brian, as well as other sales reps were extremely helpful in loaning me equipment while insurance issues were being settled.

This brings to mind another obstacle — dealing with insurance companies. As with all insurance companies, they're great institutions until you need to call your chips in. Be sure to stay on your insurance adjuster until the case is settled. A phone call a couple of times a day will certainly help

speed up the process. Also, familiarizing yourself with your clubs insurance policy is a great idea. Even reviewing the policy each winter to ensure that new pieces of equipment recently acquired are fully insured. Types of insurance and coverage may influence storage decisions of seed, fertilizer and pesticides. If you store pesticides in the building, you may want to check to see if these items are also insured. There is no question that a separate, outside pesticide storage building is the only way to go. Having a pesticide storage building would have made this ordeal much easier to deal with.

If you have a fire where an environmental cleanup is necessary, I strongly recommend that you hire an environmental consultant. These people will work on your behalf to ensure that the proper steps are taken for a safe, efficient and effective cleanup operation. There may be some environmental cleanup companies that will view your vulnerable time as an "open check-book". Without proper parameters for the cleanup, you may end up spending thousands more than you need to. A good consultant, will choreograph the cleanup and ensure that the necessary materials are disposed of properly. Any remaining debris is usually evaluated and deemed as standard demolition refuse. In some cases, leftover debris may be sampled and tested to determine the proper site for disposal. If needed, consultants will also follow up with their own tests and make any recommendations accordingly.

In dealing with a situation of this magnitude, the most valuable information that I could share is to remain professional and proactive in the cleanup process. Taking a proactive position in the cleanup is something that will be received enthusiastically by the DEP and any surrounding neighbors. Actions speak louder than words in this situation. Also, keeping inventory copies of equipment and pesticides off-site is a simple step that can pay big dividends in a case like this.

As with any environmental cleanup,

(continued on page 10)

STUMP



Bill Ennis
(860) 658-2100

RECYCLER.

CT Arborist License #62372 Fully Insured

SAWTELLE BROTHERS ^{INC}

SERVICING NEW ENGLAND WITH TURF
EQUIPMENT & IRRIGATION SUPPLIES
SINCE 1932

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

1-800-348-4661

BILL BARRETT - EASTERN MAINE,
SOUTHEASTERN NEW HAMPSHIRE
(800) 348-4661 X127

LARRY BUNN - CENTRAL & WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
(800) 348-4661 X125

GEORGE GORTON - IRRIGATION SALES
CONNECTICUT
(800) 348-4661 X161

GREG HENNESSY - IRRIGATION SALES & SERVICE
(800) 348-4661 X147

CHUCK MERSERVEY - IRRIGATION SALES
(800) 348-4661 X148

GREG ALBANESE - IRRIGATION SALES
(800) 348-4661 X175

MIKE HANNIGAN - SOUTHEASTERN
MASSACHUSETTS & RHODE ISLAND
(800) 348-4661 X126

BRETT ARMSTRONG
CONNECTICUT
(800) 348-4661 X160

GEORGE WISE - CONNECTICUT, CAPE COD
(800) 348-4661 X173

BOB HOBBS - WESTERN MAINE,
NEW HAMPSHIRE
(800) 348-4661 X145

JOHN LENHART - EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS
(800) 348-4661 X128

BLAYR CROWLEY - VERMONT & WESTERN
MASSACHUSETTS
(800) 348-4661 X142

RAY VINCENT - IRRIGATION
SALES & SERVICE
(800) 348-4661 X111

SPECIALIZING IN LEASING



TURF SERVICES

IRRIGATION SERVICE

SAWTELLE BROTHERS, INC.

65 Glenn Street, Lawrence, MA 01843

Telephone: (978) 682-9296 • Fax: (978) 683-9198

PARTS: (978) 683-3086 • 1-800-999-TURF (8873)

Commentary ... Let's get this straight!

by David Pulley, Golf Course Superintendent, Pine Valley Country Club
Wilmington, North Carolina

In 1996, the BOD decided that GCSAA (as an entity in and of itself) needed to strengthen its role in the industry. They wanted the GCSAA to have as much influence as the USGA and the PGA. The CGCS program had not had the desired effect on the industry, and hadn't really done anything to improve GCSAA's image. The logical step would be to improve the "standing" of Class A by changing the requirements (new and improved). They felt that if they could restrict who gets in and who stays in Class A, then GCSAA's image would have to improve in the eyes of employers, the public and influential golfers.

In 1997, the BOD appointed the Membership STANDARDS Resource Group (MSRG) in order to determine

the requirements for Class A and also how to justify the proposed changes to the membership. Thus the Membership STANDARDS initiative was born. The MSRG felt that in order to get the credibility they wanted, they would have to require Class A to be college educated, and that CEUs and PDUs should be required to prove that a Class A is continually educated. Just like what had been INTENDED for the certified program.

The MSRG felt that the only way they could sell this to the members was to prove that the change in classification would result in higher pay, job security, increased recognition and job opportunities. In 1997, the MSRG hired SRI International to research four areas: job analysis, employer study,

member study and education review. These studies were to help the MSRG prove that a change in classification would benefit the members.

Basically, SRI found from the job analysis that superintendents use a wide variety of skills, knowledge and abilities to perform their responsibilities. From the employer study, they found that employers HIGHLY respect the superintendent and need the superintendent's expertise. "Employers perceive that the superintendent is the most indispensable member of the management team, by virtue of a specialized and scientific knowledge base that others can't easily learn". From the member study, SRI found that the members are satisfied with the

→

Keep Your Turf Management Program On Course with AQUATROLS Products

AQUATROLS
AQUADUCT®
SOIL SURFACTANT

Treat & Promote Recovery of Turf Under

AQUATROLS
PRIMER
Mats Flow Soil Surfactant

Prevent LDS, Establish & Maintain Uniform

AQUATROLS
BREAK-THRU
ORGANOSILICONE SPREADER ADJUVANT
DEW CONTROL AGENT

Maximize Effectiveness of Foliar Applied Pesticides



AQUATROLS
InfilTRX
SOIL PENETRANT

Promote Improved Water Penetration & Turf

AQUATROLS

(800) 257-7797 / Fax: (856) 751-3859
www.aquatrols.com

July Heat

(continued from page 8)

proper public relations is paramount. Open communication lines with any adjacent neighbors. This cannot be emphasized enough. You must gain the confidence of your neighbors in your ability to cleanup the site in a safe, and efficient manner. Show your neighbors that you are being professional and responsible in the cleanup process. Lack of communication may provoke undo concern, which in turn causes people to arrive at their own conclusion without the proper information. This is an extremely undesirable situation. Misinformed people cause rumors to fester. False rumors will only hamper your ability to facilitate a speedy cleanup. A well informed neighbor is usually a supportive, calm and understanding neighbor.

In order to deal with a fire effectively, you must be prepared long beforehand. Having copies of all inventories off-site is very valuable. Keeping fertilizer and pesticides stored away from the main building is another excellent idea. Pesticides in a fire is every superintendent's worst nightmare. "A stitch in time will certainly save more than nine," when it comes to dealing with the aftermath of a fire.

(Editor's note: See September, 1999, issue that reported the fire.)

role that GCSAA plays in their lives and careers. SRI's education review found the current education curriculum provided by GCSAA lacking in many areas and recommend numerous improvements. (You should read the Membership Standards Initiation-Analysis Reported provided by SRI to judge for yourself the value of their findings). Cost to GCSAA for SRI = \$342,000.

Well, this was NOT what the MSRSG needed to help them justify the change in classification. So, in 1998, Mullen, a marketing firm, was hired to study the marketability of the current Class A members, and GCSAA's image. Mullen found (to their surprise) that superintendents are in a "better position both professionally and socially than ever before". Mullen did find that "the PGA is still the dominant association in the industry" and that GCSAA needed to "promote its own existence". Cost to GCSAA for Mullen = \$???? (not reported).

Lo and behold, the SRI and Mullen reports in hand, the MSRSG still could not justify (to the members) the need for a classification change. These reports had shown that superintendents are highly skilled, that the image of the superintendent has improved and is considered a valuable member of the management team, and that members are in fact happy with their profession, their image and their association's role in the industry. So, how can the MSRSG "sell" the changes to the membership?

Enter Franklin Covey. In April of 1999, Franklin Covey was hired to achieve two basic goals: to "sell" the initiative to the membership and to help restructure the education system based on the recommendations from the SRI report.

Covey immediately changed the name of the initiative from Membership STANDARDS initiative to Professional Development Initiative. (Because it sounds better!) Covey

introduced the new and improved mission statement for the association. (Because it sounds better!) Covey sold THEIR HR web tool to the BOD, the MSRSG and the staff by convincing them how valuable access to the self assessment data would be in determining educational needs, and assessing the memberships' competencies. Also, employers could use this information to help in deciding who to hire, as well as guide the superintendent's continuing education (in areas that the employers deemed necessary). By involving the employers, this would strengthen GCSAA's role in their eyes, thus enhancing the image of GCSAA in the industry. So, now have the REQUIREMENT for self assessment to enter and maintain Class A. And we are going from an experienced based classification to a competency based classification.

Covey then taught the BOD and the MSRSG how to SELL the classification changes to the membership. They stressed the importance of allowing the membership to have a "buy-in" feeling for the program. The more the members "buy-in" the more they will feel it is necessary. Let the membership know the MAIN areas of change but (most importantly) encourage them to help establish a few of the details (work in progress) as that will enhance the "buy-in" effect. They (the members) will become "stakeholders" in the initiative, and support it as needed improvement. (Go to the Covey website and you will find this philosophy throughout their teachings).

Cost (F/Y/E Jun,00) to GCSAA for Covey = \$432,000.

The cost to date for the MSRSG meetings, cross committee meetings, chapter communication efforts and focus groups to GCSAA = \$233,000.

So, here we are ... \$1,007,000 later, with GCSAA's proposal to change the classification, so THEIR influence might increase in the eyes of employers, the public and influential golfers. In reality, very little of this money has gone to actual education improvements to date. The education improvements are to come after we spend another \$1,487,000 in the next few years. The PERCENTAGE of the budget (be it 3.2% or 50%) has NOTHING to do with whether the money was spent for something needed, for a worthwhile improvement and/or for a necessary change. We just spent a million dollars on changing a classification system that doesn't need changing, just so that GCSAA can try to "promote their own existence".

YES, as a result of this, we will one day have a quality educational program provided by GCSAA, but the end does not justify the means.

Do you have anything to say?

The *Clippings* is open to all commentary.

Please send your comments to Bob Chalifour, *Clippings* Editor, 39 First Street, Groton, CT, 06340.

**Deadline for May Issue
April 7, 2000**



A BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE

Landscaping, Design, Integrated Pest Management,
Arboriculture and Golf Course Beautification

CT DEP Reg.# B-1195

Reg.# 5-3430

CT Contractor's Lic./Reg.# 00560481

Carol Yann

4 Monroe Street

East Hartford, CT 06118-2320

Pager (860) 948-4644

Home (860) 568-4120

CAGCS thanks these patrons for their continued support of our association

A-OK Turf Equipment

Articulator Dealer
Coventry, RI 02816
Michael D. Cornicelli
(401) 826-2584

A T Sales

Premium Sod for Golf Courses
Lincoln, RI 02865
Owen Regan
(401) 465-8066

Allen's Seed, Inc.

693 South County Trail
Exeter, RI 02822
Al La Prise
(401) 884-2097 - (800) 527-3898

Anderson Turf Irrigation, Inc.

5 Cronk Rd., P. O. Box 7036
Plainville, CT 06062
Jesse J. Anderson, Jr.
(860) 747-9911

Aventis Environmental Science

311 Carriage Drive
Kensington, CT 06037
David J. Sylvester
(860) 828-8905

The Bruedan Corporation

E-Z-GO & YAMAHA
GOLF, TURF & UTILITY VEHICLES
Scott O. Lowe ~ Frank Savakis
(800) 773-6740

C. R. I. S., LLC

Golf Course Irrigation
923 Woodtick Road
Wolcott, CT 06716
Chris Carney (203) 879-2362

The Cardinals, Inc.

Complete Distributor of Golf Course
Accessories & Maintenance Supplies
John Callahan
(860) 673-3699

Championship Turf Services

Prec. Laser Leveling/Custom Aerification
Green/Tee/Bunker Const. & Renovation
Michael Flowers
(800) 562-5860

The Chas. C. Hart Seed Co.

P.O. Box 9169, 304 Main Street
Wethersfield, CT 06129-0169
R. Sibley ~ R. Holcomb ~ P. Bednarczyk
(860)529-2537 & (800)326-HART

D & S

Floratine Products
Flymo, Douglas Rollers, Trion Lifts
Dave Basconi
(203) 250-TURF

Earth Works, Inc.

Custom Deep Aerification Service
West Wareham, MA 02576
Carl Wallace
(800) 815-1113

Egypt Farms, Inc.

Sterilized Topdressing, Greensmix
Bagged Topdressing & Divot Mix
Dean Snyder
(800) 899-7645 FAX (410) 335-0164

Glenmore Landscape Service

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

Golf Technical Services, Inc.

Irrigation Services
Lawrence, MA 01843
Ray Vincent
(800) 999-TURF

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.

Rocky River, OH 44116
(800) 321-5325 FAX (800) 673-3030
Mike Donahue (860) 668-0821
Mike Dukette (860) 684-6242

Metro Milorganite, Inc.

54 Miry Brook Road
Danbury, CT 06810
Scott Apgar~Ernie Steinhofner~Scott Tretera
(203) 748-GOLF (4653)

Millane Nurseries, Inc.

604 Main Street
Cromwell, CT 06416
Don Swanson
(860) 635-5500 (sales@millane.com)

NORTHERN Professional Turf Products

Winfield Nursery, Inc.
Nursery Stock & Turf Care Products
West Suffield, CT 06093
Sean Moran (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 (860) 651-8555

R. F. Morse & Son, Inc.

ParEx Fertilizer - Power Equipment
West Wareham, MA 02576
Carl Wallace
(508) 295-1553

S.B.I. Turf Services

Deep & Core Aerification & Overseeding
Plaistow, NH 03865
Jim Favreau
(978) 372-0021

Sawtelle Brothers, Inc.

65 Glenn Street
Lawrence, MA 01843
Brett Armstrong ~ George Gorton
(800) 999-TURF

Shawnmark Industries, Inc.

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

SODCO, INC.

Bentgrass, Blue/Rye/Fescue
High Fescue & Blue/Rye blends
Washing Services
Matt Faherty (800/341-6900)

Steven Willand, Inc.

4 Production Drive
Brookfield, CT 06804
Mark Ericson - Gary Mathis
(203) 775-5757

Sound Beach Services, Inc.

d/b/a White Contractors
Golf Course Construction & Renovation
P.O. Box 484, Old Greenwich, CT 06870
James E. Morris, Jr. (203) 869-8808

Tee & Green Sod

P. O. Box 418
Exeter, RI 02822
Dave Wallace
(401) 789-8177

Terre Company of NJ, Inc.

206 Delawanna Ave., P. O. Box 1000
Clifton, NJ 07014
Byron Johnson, Jr.
(973) 473-3393 FAX (973) 473-4402

Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.

Golf Course Turfgrass
West Suffield, CT 06093
Skip Deubel
(800) 243-7582

Turf Partners

15 Londonderry Road, Unit 3
Londonderry, NH 03053-6604
Joe Stahl, III
(203) 209-6951

Turf Products Corporation

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

Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.

Servicing the Fine Turf Profession
Bob Lippman, Sr. ~ Bob Lippman, Jr.
Office (914) 248-7476
FAX (914) 248-6862

Winding Brook Turf Farm, Inc.

240 Griswold Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109
William Seccareccia
(860) 529-6869 or (800) 243-0232