

# Connecticut Clippings

Volume 36, No. 3



July/August, 2002

## Golfing St. Andrews

By Bob Chalifour, CGCS (Ret)

The rain stopped, the flooded greens drained and the golf course opened allowing us to play. Dean Bozek, my golf partner's early morning walk in the pouring rain to the starters booth paid off, as the weather deterred lesser golfers. There was a 10:50 tee time available for two. Paired with a gentleman from London and the other a new comer to St. Andrews along with caddy Eddy, we were ready.

Standing on the first tee with OB to the right, the Royal & Ancient clubhouse behind you, St Andrews and New Clubhouses as well as shops across # 18 fairway on your left is daunting to say the least. Better aim a little left I think as each golfer ahead of me has first tee jitters, and not great shots. WHAM! I'm off the tee, in the air and fairly long into the 18th fairway, not a bad position. KERPLUNK! Whoops, forgot about the Swilken Burn that runs across #18 and in front of the 1st green. Whew! Glad this hole is over.

The remainder of the round went about average for me. A few great shots, and many not so great. If it wasn't for Hells Bunker I would have had a fairly good round. Just



One of many scenic views, 4th Fairway at Kingsbairns Golf links.

had to hit into that bunker to experience what all the talk was about. A short putt on #17 for a bogey, the most difficult hole on the course, made walking up # 18 even more awe inspiring. The par on # 18 will draw me back again.

When you go, and I recommend it highly be sure to hire a caddy. Double greens and hidden bunkers make it difficult sometimes to determine what direction to hit the ball. Our caddy I found out later was almost as famous as the course. Eddy, was interviewed on the Today show segment "Where in the World is Matt Lauer". Having caddied for numerous personalities did not go

to his head, he was very helpful, encouraging and gracious.

Known for it's windy, raw days the St. Andrews weather except for the early morning was very forgiving the day we played. This was November, not prime time summer, that can be cold and raw. A sweater and light windbreaker was adequate. There was a light breeze and temps in the mid to high 50's made it very comfortable. Most of the time the weather is either cold and raw, or raw and cold.

There are 5-18 hole golf courses at St. Andrews. The Old Course is 6,566 Yds., Par 72. Originally the course  
*Continued on page 3...*





Jud W. Smith, CAGCS President

## Time Waits for No One

It's hard to believe that as I write this, we are literally half way through the 100 day war (Memorial Day to Labor Day). This is the time frame that turf here in southern New England is under its greatest stress.

Temperatures and humidity are high, rounds of golf are at their max and rainfall and water levels are diminishing. The great equator in this unbalanced equation is.... you guessed it.... your friendly neighborhood golf course superintendent. A good friend of mine said something that has stuck with me and I thought I'd share...God grows the grass until July!!

We are in the middle of the game, doing what we do to make a living and hopefully, doing what we do because we love it. Our partner in this game is something we can't control--Mother Nature. The guys that have been in our profession the longest share a common feeling; don't try to lead her but rather learn to follow real well. She sets the tone and we dance with it. We can press the envelope on things but she, ultimately, has the final say. When in doubt...error the side of caution.

Our Association motto is "Devoted to sharing knowledge and experience for better turf". Sharing in our arena means

communicating. We can do this via telephone, computers or US mail, but also by attending monthly meetings or playing in our two-man team matches. There is so much to be said about making personal contact with others that are in the game. Heck, on a rainy day drive over to see your neighbor down the street for coffee, lunch, or even for no reason at all. Time flies by and often, we lose track of it.

Some of you keep an eyeball on the passing of time by the growth of your kids or grand kids. I look at my dog, Augie, and see the steady increase of white around his muzzle...I remember when he was six months old and we slept in the pump house one night, just to make sure the pumps went on.

Where does that elusive element - time - go??

Looking back thus far, I'd like to thank our colleagues and their crews for hosting meetings. Specifically Bruce Morse, Greg Bradley, Peter Pierson, Bob Silva, and Mike Decker who will host our August meeting at Clinton Country Club. Thank you all for stepping up, grinding it out and providing us an opportunity to meet, play golf and catch up on life.

I also do not want to forget those of you who have hosted two-man team matches. Often times these matches provide an opportunity to play at a club we normally wouldn't or couldn't. That reminds me, thank you and congratulations Tom DeGrandi and your staff at TPC River Highlands. Not only was the GHO a huge success, the course was magnificent. I hope you are catching up on your rest. Well done!

Looking down the road, our meeting calendar finds our Invitational at Great River Golf Club (a tour venue waiting to happen), September 19th. H. Smith Richardson, October 21st and our Annual Meeting at Birchwood, November 5th. Wait a minute...Annual Meeting.... That means elections!!!

Already??

If you been thinking about getting on the Board of Directors or hosting a monthly meeting for 2003 - DO IT!!! Write an article for the Clippings, have lunch with a friend, hug your kids, go on a date with your wife - DO IT!! Because...time waits for no one!!

Thanks Sir Mick.

Peace,

Jud

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*Golfing St. Andrews continued...*

consisted of 22 holes, eleven out and eleven back. On completing a hole, the player teed up his ball within two club lengths of the previous hole, using a handful of sand scooped out from the hole to form a tee. Imagine if this was the practice today, with all the play most courses get the holes would be very deep, maybe wide too, hey lets' bring it back.

In 1764, the Society of St. Andrews Golfers, which later became the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, decided that some holes were too short and combined them.. This reduced the course to eighteen holes and created what became the standard round of golf throughout the world.

The track through the whin bushes on which the Old Course evolved was so narrow that golfers played to the same holes going out and coming in. As the game became increasingly popular in the nineteenth century, golfers in different matches would find themselves playing to the same hole, but from opposite directions. To relieve the congestion, two holes were cut on each green, those for the first nine had a white flag, and those for the second nine a red flag.

When Old Tom Morris created a

separate green for the first hole, it became possible to play the course in a counter-clockwise direction, rather than clockwise which had previously been the norm. For many years, the course was played clockwise and counter-clockwise on alternate weeks, but now the counter-clockwise, or right-hand circuit has become the accepted direction.

While in St. Andrews we also played Kingsbairns Golf Links which is just 6 miles south of the Old Course and our hotel the Dunvegan. This course is fantastic to say the least. Californians Kyle Phillips and Mark Parsinen did an outstanding job. Four hundred years ago a 9 hole course existed on the site. Three years ago this land was transformed into a true links course, unlike what previously existed. Every hole has a view of the North Sea, much like Fishers Island Golf Courses' water views. This is a must play on your list.

When you go I recommend staying at the Dunvegan Hotel. Jack and Sheena and their staff are excellent hosts. The decor is golf orientated with old pictures and memorabilia. Golfers, caddies, greenskeepers, and authors often stop by the pub for libation and


idle chat. David Joy popped in on a couple of occasions. David is an actor /author who portrays "Old Tom". David has put together an historical scrapbook of Tom Morris' golfing life with old photographs and newspaper clippings. This book takes the reader back in time. The Scrapbook of Old Tom Morris, by David Joy. Bring along a copy and ask David to autograph it for you.

### **When You Go**


- Hotel Dunvegan, reasonable prices, good food & lodging, great beer
- Play Old Course & Kingsbairns
- Use charge cards, cash - ATM
- Must have passport (make a copy to carry along too)
- Book Old Course early (Men handicap max 24, Ladies max 36)
- High season more expensive April-October
- Tips included in prices (may tip more for exceptional service)
- Book flights early for best price

### **Helpful Websites**

- [standrews.org.uk](http://standrews.org.uk)
- [golfagent.com](http://golfagent.com)
- [vacation-scotland.co.uk/dunvegan.html](http://vacation-scotland.co.uk/dunvegan.html)
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## Job Stress Management Tips to Start Today

By Susan Bryant

**S**tress. Pressure. Anxiety. Tension. Whatever you call it, there is no shortage of it in today's fast-paced, technologically advanced workplace.

Consider these statistics:

- Stress-related disorders are fast becoming the most prevalent reason for worker disability according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

- Job stress and related problems cost American companies an estimated \$200 billion or more annually through absenteeism, turnover, accidents, etc.

The World Health Organization calls job stress a "worldwide epidemic."

Obviously stress has a powerful impact on us. Can we eliminate the stressors of modern work life? No-and it's a good thing we can't. We need a certain degree of stress in our lives to spur us to action, challenge our perception of what we are capable of, and help us reach new levels of performance. The trick is learning how to manage the stress versus being overwhelmed by it.

Bill Delano, founder of Job Stress Help, an Internet service that provides confidential, individualized advice via email to those experiencing job stress, has these suggestions:

In with the good Air, Out with the Bad; Take a breathing break. Frequent short breaks during the day allow you to breathe deeply and relax your mind, preventing stress build-up; Move It or Lose It; Begin an exercise program. Exercise helps release endorphins, which relieves stress; Let Go; Recognize the difference between the things you can control and the things you cannot. Make a list of these two categories. Starting today, make a pact with yourself to stop stressing about the things in your job you have no control over; Beware of the To Do List; Take note of all the good work you do and give yourself credit for it. Set short-term goals and allow yourself to take satisfaction in achieving them; Develop a Tough Skin; Try not to personalize any criticism you receive. Look at negative comments as constructive criticism that allows you to improve your work. If however, the criticism is verbally abusive, e.g., your boss yells at you or uses vulgar language, discuss this problem with your manager or human resources department; Share the Load; Delegate

or share work whenever possible. Don't fall into the trap of thinking you are the only person who can do the job right. Your coworkers and boss might start to buy into that concept as well; Don't Make Work a Four-Letter Word; Job stress builds when our minds are constantly focused on work. Strive for balance in your life. Make time for family, friends, hobbies and, most importantly, fun; Know Your Rights; Read then Guide to Workplace Law by the American Bar Association. It's important to know your rights as an employee or employer.

Although learning to manage a stressful job is important, sometimes it makes more sense to leave it. How can you determine when it's time to give your job the heave-ho? You know it's time to quit when:

1. You have tried all the appropriate channels and methods for resolving your situation, to no avail (or the appropriate channels are not made available).
2. Your boss is intimidating, disrespectful or demeaning to you.
3. You are so bored on the job that you are exhausted by the end of the day. If you don't have an upwardly mobile career path that challenges you to grow professionally, it's time to look for a more interesting position.

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## 20 Years Ago..... The "All American" CAGCS Member

by Greg Wojick, Editor

I've been a member of CAGCS for three years, the past year as newsletter editor, and have served on the board of directors for two years. During this time, I have heard presidents and officers of our association repeatedly urging or membership to get involved - participate, cooperate, donate, communicate - anything to keep our association progressing and continuing as an association that we all can be proud of. I have watched and noticed the members of our group who work toward that end - those who I'll call from here on the "All-American" member do that the other don't? He simply demonstrates a continued conscientious effort to fulfil his unwritten responsibilities to the association. He attends as many monthly meetings as possible and sends in his reservation card to make

life easier for all who involved in planning the meetings. When attending the CAGCS functions, the "All-American" member always makes sure he is appropriately dressed.

The "All-American" member helps his fellow members by occasionally offering his club for a monthly meeting, which allows his colleagues to see how the programs he's undertaken are working at his club. He is pleased to invite his Green Chairman to the annual Green Chairman/Superintendent tournament and his assistant to the annual Assistant Superintendent/Superintendent golf tournament. He helps his own profession indirectly by supporting the efforts of the scholarship and research committee. He schedules an S&R Tournament at his club to raise money for student scholarships and research projects and always attends the annual S&R Tournament with at least one foursome. In addition, he often contributes to the S&R fund to further support the golf course superintendent's profession. It's easy to criticize the golf committee

for the way they set handicaps and run the golf tournaments, but the "All-American" establishes a state handicap to ease the golf committee chairman's burden and to see that he doesn't collapse after two months of service.

The "All-American" member makes a sincere effort to meet new members and to make them feel welcome to our group. He also realizes the need to patronize the all-important advertisers of this newsletter. As a fun-loving and recreational member, he's the one organizing a softball game at the annual picnic and playing Santa at the annual CAGCS Christmas party.

Many of us have a tendency to grumble in the corner of a meeting room when we have a gripe with the way our association is run, but the "All-American" member offers constructive criticism publicly at the monthly meetings or quietly with a director or a group of directors. This member doesn't hesitate to offer to assist a committee chairman with an assigned task when he knows he can

*Continued on page 10...*

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## Welcome New Members

Kevin Collins; Class A;  
Tower Ridge Country Club

George Corgan; Class Commercial;  
Venture Vehicles Division of Turf  
Products

Lenny Grippo; Class A;  
Indian Spring Golf Club

Manny Mihailides; Class Commercial;  
DGM Systems, LLC

Jason St. Louis; Class C;  
Willimantic Country Club

## Congratulations

From - GCSAA NEWSLINE - EMP  
Achievement Peter T. Cure, CGCS at  
the Orchard Creek Golf Course in  
Altamont, NY Earned special-  
izations in Integrated Pest Manage-  
ment and Water Quality and  
Application.

Marc E. Weston, assistant golf  
course superintendent at Indian Hill  
Country Club in Newington, CT,  
earned specialization in Storage,  
Disposal and Recycling.

## Birth Announcement

Laura & Tom DeVaux on their  
daughter Elizabeth Collins. She was  
born on April 19th, 2002 and  
weighted in at a healthy 6lbs 12ozs.!

## CAGCS News

CAGCS Family Day  
Saturday, September 7, 2002  
Lake Compounce

CAGCS Invitational  
Thursday, September 19, 2002  
Great River Golf Course

CAGCS web site is up! Take a look  
at: [www.cagcs.com](http://www.cagcs.com).

Our S & R Tournament is scheduled  
for Wednesday, October 9, 2002 at  
Shennecossett Golf Club. Please ask  
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be willing to donate merchandise  
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Annual Conference 'In Pursuit of  
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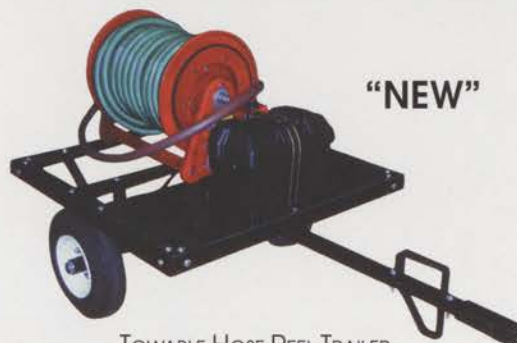
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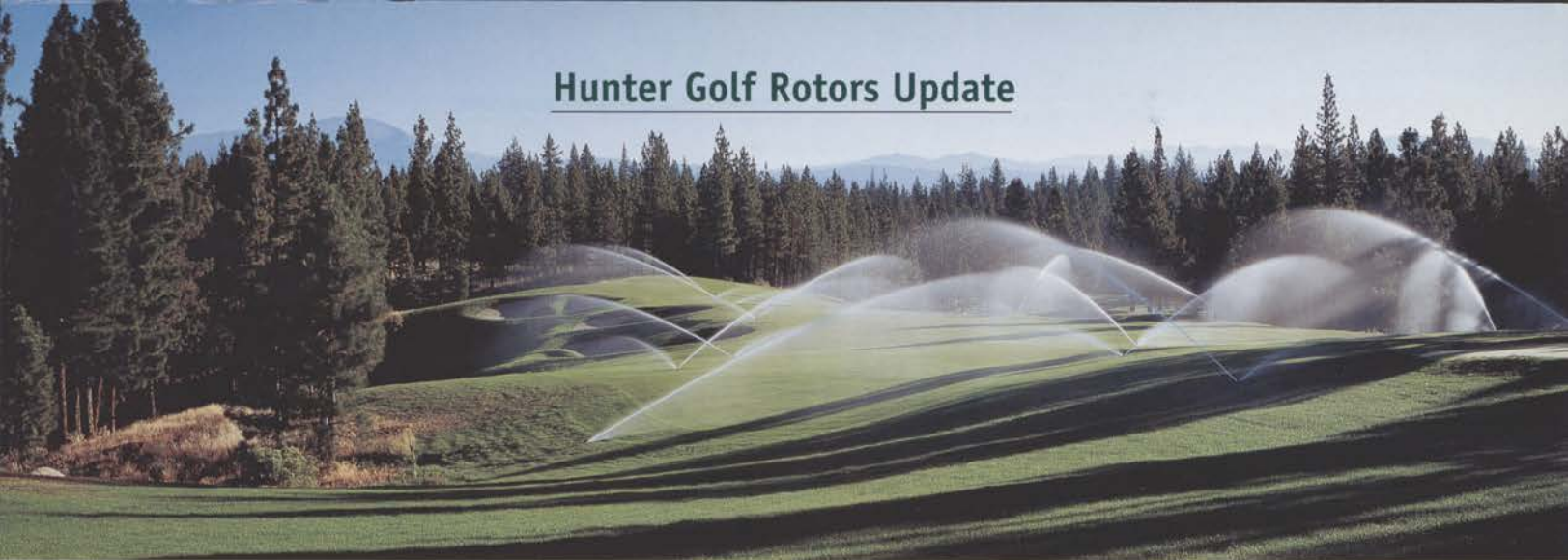
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## Hunter Golf Rotors Update



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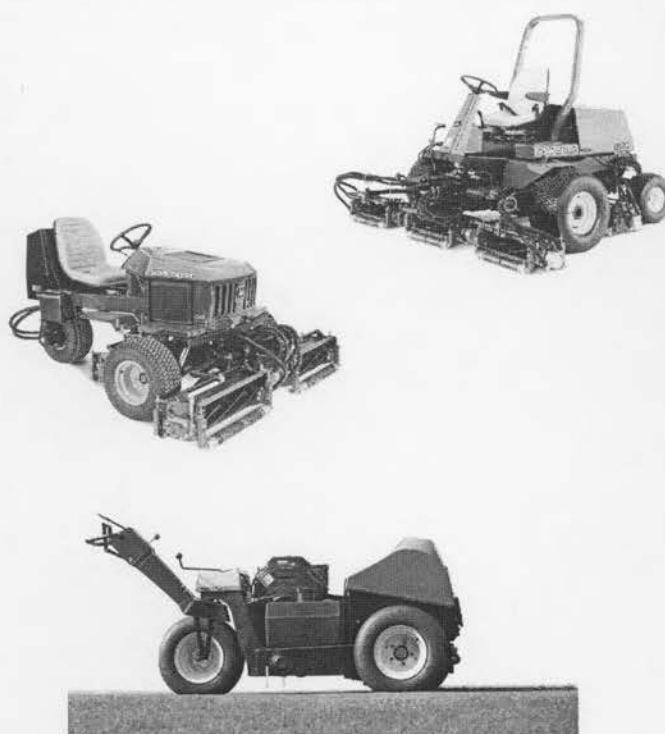
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### CAGCS May Meeting Golf Results Farmington Woods Country Club May 20, 2002

1st Gross -  
Andy Drohen/John Wynne 70

1st Net -  
Joe Malay/Mike Dukette 65

2nd Net -  
John Kul/Peter Tyrell 67

3rd Net -  
John Fleming/Tom Watroba 67

4th Net -  
John Trosky/Steve Roberts 68

5th Net -  
Kevin Collins/Eric Morrison 68

6th Net -  
Ward Weischet/John Garcia 68

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Closest to Line #10 -  
Scott Gennings

Long Drive #3 -  
Andy Drohen

Closest to Pin -  
Sean Moran 3'11"

Closest to Pin #17 -  
Mike Chrzanowski 3'1"

Longest Putt #9 -  
Chris Mauro 12'4"

Longest Putt #18 -  
Tom Watroba 31'10"

Kickers -  
Scott Walker/Jim Staszowski  
Richard Cook/Ron Smith

Skins -  
#1 Ward Weischet  
#9 Andy Drohen  
#11 Sean Moran  
#14 Mark Grenert

### June 13, 2002 meeting at Pequabuck Golf Club

1st Gross -  
Mike Dukette - Terrence Mish 61  
Dayton Stimpson - David Stimpson

1st Net -  
Ward Weischet - Sean Moran 56  
Kevin D'Amico - Byron Johnson

2nd Net -  
Heather Garvin - Keith Angilly 59\*  
Steve Roberts - Ray Beaudry

1st Hot Ball -  
Mark Grenert - Ron Smith 86  
Robert Barrett - Roy Sibley

Kickers -  
Eric Morrison - Lenny Grippo "8"  
Jon Case - John Napier  
Jim Staszowski - Lenny Bagni  
Stephen Smith - Dave Basconi

Closest to Line #5 -  
Ray Beaudry 1'0"

Long Drive #14 -  
Eric DeStefano 277 yards

Closest to Pin #4 -  
Jim Staszowski 6'11"

Closest to Pin #16 -  
John Napier 4'8"

Longest Putt #6 -  
Byron Johnson 40'11"

Longest Putt #10 -  
Lenny Grippo 8'8"

Skins -  
#2,6,12 Mike Dukette 3-2-3  
#4,17 Jim Staszowski 2-3  
#8 Joe Trosky 2  
#9,16 Sean Moran 3-2  
#10 Kelly Elbin 2  
#14,15 John Callahan 3-3  
#18 John Arru 3

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This training program is offered to garden center managers and employees; athletic, municipal and institutional turf managers; lawn care operators, grounds managers, landscapers, arborists, tree wardens, and nursery operators. Horticulture professionals will learn about IPM concepts and the optimization of pest control through proper cultural management of turf, woody ornamentals, and other related specialties.

The cost of the training program is \$499. Registration Deadline is September 24, 2002. Please register soon, space is limited.

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## Schedule of Events

### September 19

Great River GC, Alfred Wilson, Supt.  
CAGCS Annual  
Invitational Tournament

### October 9

Shennecossett GC, Eric Morrison, Supt.  
Scholarship & Research Tournament

### October 21

H. Smith Richardson GC, Peter Grace,  
Supt., Best Ball of Twosome  
Superintendent/Assistant Tournament

### November 5

Birchwood CC, Edward Consolati, Supt.  
9-Hole Scramble ABCD  
Annual Meeting

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*Continued from page 5...*

contribute. You know as well as I do that most of us fall short on many of the points indicated in this article. Yet it would take little more than a conscientious effort for all of us to become better CAGCS members with the result being a highly respected and proud association with a greatly improved self-image. When you seriously think about the members we respect most and perhaps subtly try to emulate, I think you will find that they come very close to that "All-American" CAGCS member status. At this time, I would like to thank those individuals who sent me articles and news tips during 1981, helping to make "Conn. Clippings" a top-notch newsletter. I'm also pleased to announce that Bill Somers of Somers Turf supplies has agreed to become our new photographer. Bill's many years of photography experience are certain to enhance the quality of our newsletter.

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the course with definite ideas for a remodeling plan. The ASGCA member will forego his/her normal fee for this service in return for a donation to our Foundation."

The offer applies to both public and private courses, and Morrish hopes that many municipally-owned courses will take advantage of the opportunity to have a qualified ASGCA member analyze their facility.

To request a visit, or learn more about the process, please contact the American Society of golf course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 06001. Or, call 312/372-7090. You can learn more about the Society, which is comprised of relating golf course architects in the US and Canada, by visiting the organization's web site at [www.asgca.org](http://www.asgca.org).



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