

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents Association

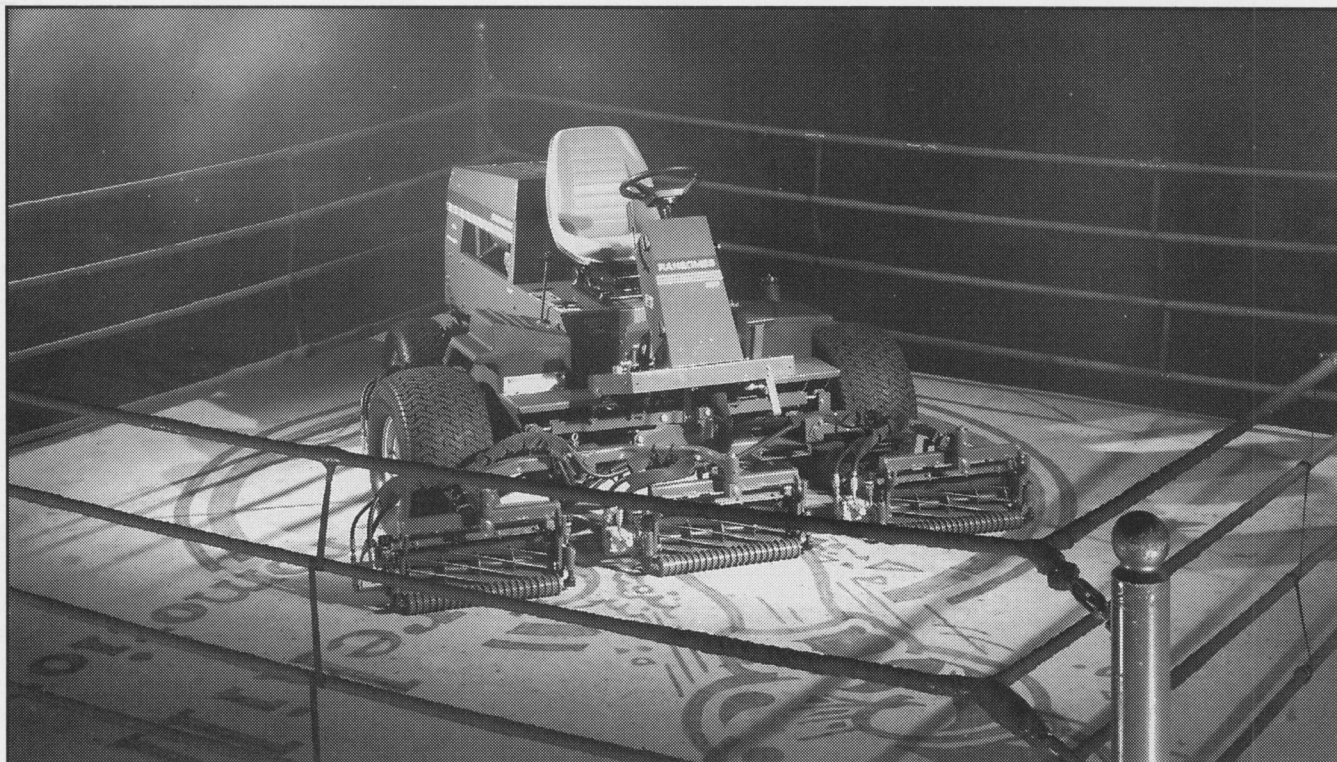
INFORMATION ON:

- OTS Schedule included
- OSC/Nutrite Seminar
- Giant Pumpkin
- Turf or Consequences
- Winter Educational Opportunities



Seasons Greetings from the O.G.S.A.





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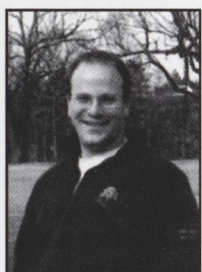
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editor's comments



Another year has ended as we gear up for a wide slate of seminars, conferences and trade shows. The OTS, GCSAA and CGSA shows offer us much to take back to our own clubs, who benefit the most from our education and new contacts. The OGSA has reached a point in its existence where much of its time will

be put into the development of policies and procedures, improving and relations with our members and assuming a pro-active role in our beliefs and increasing our exposure as professionals.

The newsletter will play a very important role in this. It seems each time we take a step forward in improving the magazine we seem to lose that step somewhere else. Only past Newsletter Editors understand the difficulties and frustration that arises in producing the newsletter. Our main objective this year was to develop procedures and guidelines for the people involved with the newsletter and shift some of the responsibility of the newsletter to our office manager.

Beginning in 1998 Jackie D'Amato of our office manager will be taking an active role in the newsletter. In essence our office manager becomes a co-editor, handling the administrative side of the newsletter, which allows the newsletter committee to focus its time on the development and gathering of information for the magazine without the administrative burden. Many of us in our own work place are developing job descriptions and operational manuals. We feel it is time to do this with the newsletter. We are also considering using consultants as a tool to help us communicate what it is we want to say. 1998 will be a year of change in the newsletter. We are confident we will all benefit from it.

Mark Piccolo
OGSA Newsletter Editor

Green is Beautiful 1997

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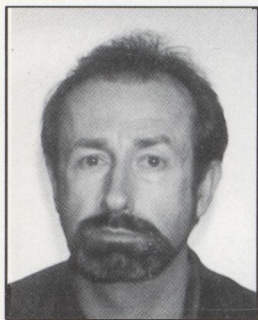
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 8 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Tuesday & Thursday 12 P.M. - 4 P.M.

president's message

O.G.S.A. President

Simon George



Now that the season winds down, we can look back and reflect on what has transpired. Hopefully the season has been very positive for everyone in the golf business.

The O.G.S.A. continues to move in a very positive manner, the next few years to come will be exciting as the board looks at

new areas to explore. To convey our professional image is so important not only to ourselves but to the general public.

Look for items such as Canada blooms, The Golf and Travel Show and, of course, the awareness that the National Occupational Standards will bring.

I will remind you all again of our A.G.M. to be held on January 7th, 1998 followed by the first Presidents reception at 7 pm.

This is my last message from the President, and in closing I would like to thank all my fellow board members for all their input and dedication and to Jackie D'Amato for a job very well done.

It has indeed been a pleasure to be O.G.S.A. President in 1997 and I can say that I will certainly miss my involvement with the board in the future.

Wishing you all the best of Christmas and a Happy Healthily Prosperous New Year.

Simon George
O.G.S.A. President



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Keynote Speaker **Dr. David Posen** *Stress: The Epidemic We Can't Avoid*

Dr. David Posen graduated from the University of Toronto Medical School in 1967. He was involved in a research project in San Francisco before interning in Edmonton, Alberta. After a year of general practice in the Canadian Arctic he spent a year practising in Jerusalem. In 1971, Dr. Posen started a family practice in Oakville, Ontario.

In 1995, Dr. Posen gave up his general practice to devote his time exclusively to stress management, lifestyle counselling and psychotherapy. David lives in Oakville, Ontario. In addition to his busy schedule of seeing patients, writing and public speaking, he is an avid runner, skier, baseball and tennis player. He played in the Oakville Symphony Orchestra for nine years, but now restricts his musical activities to serenading his wife and two young children at home.

Dr. Posen's keynote address will focus on personal positive change. It promises to be both funny and uplifting, filled with valuable common sense advice on diminishing and managing the

anxiety of change. There is no quick fix for mastering stress, but Dr. David Posen will teach you creative and effective strategies which will unlock the mysteries of stress and wellness.



1998 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium Speaker Program Tuesday, January 6, 1998

10:00 a.m.

Opening Ceremonies
Rhod Trainor, Chair OTS '98
**Guelph Turfgrass Institute
Update**
Rob Witherspoon
Director, GTI

10:30 a.m.

Keynote Speaker
*Stress: The Epidemic
We Can't Avoid*
Dr. David Posen

11:30 a.m.

SPECIAL SESSION FOR CLUB MANAGERS / OFFICIALS



**The Role of the Course
Leadership During a
Major Renovation Project**
Jim Moore,
USGA Green Section

11:30 a.m.

**TRADE SHOW / EXHIBITOR-
SPONSORED LUNCH BREAK**



Tuesday Afternoon Industry-Specific Seminars 2:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.



GOLF COURSE

- 2:30 - 3:30 **USGA Greens – What You Don't Know Can Hurt You and Your Courses**, *Jim Moore, USGA Green Section*
- 3:45 - 4:15 **Future of Golf Clubs in Ontario**, *Steve Johnston, KPMG*
- 4:15 - 4:45 **West Coast Chronicles on Managing Fusarium Patch**, *Leslie MacDonald, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*



SPORTS TURF

- 2:30 - 3:00 **Sports Turf Safety and Risk Management**, *Dr. Arthur Mittelstaedt, Recreation Safety Institute*
- 3:00 - 3:30 **Sports Turf Managers Certification Program**, *Steve Trusty, Sports Turf Managers Association*
- 3:45 - 4:15 **A Mandate for Soccer - The Possibility of Canada Hosting the World Cup**, *Terry Quinn, Canadian Soccer Association*



LAWN CARE

- 2:30 - 3:00 **Turfgrass Insect Pest Management Research in Quebec**, *Dr. Yves Carriere, University of Laval*
- 3:00 - 3:30 **GTI Research Update**
Literature Review of Necrotic Ring Spot Resistance Trials, *Dr. Tom Hsiang*
Pesticide Residue in Composted Turfgrass Clippings, *Marg Carter*
Turf Id Software Demonstration, *Dr. Ken Carey*
- 3:45 - 4:15 **New Insect Control Products**, *Leo Blydorp, Bayer, DowElanco Representative, DowElanco*
- 4:15 - 4:45 **Organic Amendments - Understanding the Tools of the Trade**, *Doug Smith, Organic Lawn Maintenance*



SOD PRODUCTION

- 2:30 - 3:00 **Grass Identification**, *Dr. Jack Eggens, GTI*
- 3:00 - 3:30 **Necrotic Ring Spot Resistance Management**, *Dr. Tom Hsiang, GTI*
- 3:45 - 4:15 **Customizing Kentucky Bluegrass Sod Blends for Specific Uses**, *Dr. Bill Meyer, Rutgers University*
- 4:15 - 4:45 **New Turf Cultivars - Panel of Ontario Seed Companies**, *Seed companies will be given the opportunity to discuss new cultivars that are available in Ontario.*

OTS '98 Social Event

Check out the New Look! There will be more of everything... space, hors d'oeuvres, bars & bartenders to serve you!



So, gather on Tuesday, January 6th at 5:00 p.m. with other delegates, exhibitors and speakers...relax, mingle, network...have fun!



NSGA, STA meetings please see page 10.

Wednesday, January 7

Concurrent Seminars

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

1. Estimating and Bidding

Chuck Vander Kooi, Vander Kooi and Associates Inc.

In order to price a job you must have an accurate idea on cost. Vander Kooi gives an overview of his estimating system which includes labour costs, equipment costs, general conditions, labour burden, overhead allocation, profit and lastly, the "ding dong" factor. Join him to find out all you need to know about pricing and estimating and what the "ding dong" factor is.

2. Pesticides in the Environment

Dr. Chris Hall

Since the 1970s, there has been considerable concern about the fate and persistence of pesticides used in urban green spaces. These concerns include pesticide drift, run-off, volatilization and leaching, as well as the subsequent contamination of the soil, potable water and non-target organisms. During this seminar we will discuss what type of pesticide degradation and leaching occur and the strategies available to reduce non-target contamination

3. Turf Drainage – Theory and Practice

Goeff Corlett and Dr. Bob Sheard

Dr. Bob Sheard will introduce the principles and theory of water movement through soils. Goeff Corlett of Turf Drain will cover the practical aspects of turf drainage, including drainage system design, installation and repair.

4. Turf Pathology: Current Research, Extension and Diagnostics

Dr. Tom Hsiang, Leslie MacDonald and Pam Charbonneau

In this workshop we will discuss how turf pathology research can address the needs of the industry. We will outline the steps that go into planning, obtaining funding, carrying out, analyzing and reporting on turfgrass pathology research. Specific examples will include projects on gray snow mould and DMI fungicides. The extension portion of the workshop will focus on the tools and services available through OMAFRA to turf managers to help them deal effectively with turf diseases. The diagnostic section will discuss the step by step procedure of how diagnoses are made at a diagnostic clinic and the importance of proper sample preparation techniques. Also included will be a section on how to interpret a report from a diagnostic clinic.



11:30 a.m.

**TRADE SHOW / EXHIBITOR-
SPONSORED LUNCH BREAK**

Wednesday, January 7

Industry-Specific Seminars

2:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.



GOLF COURSE

2:30 - 3:00 Turf Research Highlights

Typhula Research Update, Dr. Tom Hsiang, GTI
Transformed Bentgrasses

Dr. Steve Bowley and Brenda Rojas, GTI
Kemptville Research Highlight
Peter Johnston-Berresford

3:00 - 3:30 Pythium Root Rot - Facts, Fiction and Sheer Speculation, Leslie MacDonald, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

3:45 - 4:15 Bentgrasses - Will That Be Creeping, Dryland, Colonial or Velvet? *Dr. Bill Meyer, Rutgers University*

4:15 - 4:45 Waste Not, Want Not - Turf Irrigation Scheduling, Dr. Terry Gillespie, GTI



SPORTS TURF

2:30 - 3:00 Breeding Improved Turfgrasses for Sports Turf Use, Dr. Bill Meyer, Rutgers University

3:00 - 3:30 Establishing a Sports Field *Claus Zander, Zander Sod*

3:45 - 4:15 The Do's and Don'ts of Renovation, Seeding and Drainage *Gord Dol, Dol Turf Restoration*

4:15 - 4:45 Innovative Sports Turf Managers: Comparing Maintenance on High Sand Content vs. Soil Sports Fields, Jane Rivers, Town of Oakville *Lawn Tennis Court Maintenance, Thom Charters, Bayview Golf and Country Club*



LAWN CARE

2:30 - 3:00 Lawn Problems of '97 - A Year End Review, Pam Charbonneau, OMAFRA and Marilyn Dykstra, University of Guelph - Pest Diagnostic Clinic

3:00 - 3:30 Your Insurance Policy - Are You Really Covered?, Mike O'Grady, O'Grady & Associates Insurance Services Inc.

3:45 - 4:15 Urban Pest Management Organization Update, Wendy Rose, Crop Protection Institute

4:15 - 4:45 To Be Announced

**OGSA meeting
please see page 10.**

Thursday, January 8

Concurrent Seminars

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

1. Managing To Bring Out the Best in People

Jim Brown, Strive

With upwards of 70% of the budget going to wages, people may represent the single largest cost to your organization. But they also represent the single largest source of potential as well. In this highly interactive workshop, you will discover tried and true techniques to bring out the best in people you supervise. It will lead to improved performance and your people will thank you for it.

2. Solving Turf Management Problems - More Case Studies

Dr. Jack Eggens, GTI

This workshop will present **new** real life turf problems and give participants the opportunity to use their knowledge to troubleshoot and problem solve.

3. Surfing for Turf - Internet Workshop

Dr. Ken Carey, GTI

This workshop will explore the resources for turf managers on the Internet. You will learn how to communicate with fellow professionals in Ontario and around the world, access current research and extension information, weather data and more. The Guelph Turfgrass Institute web site and links will be featured. Included will be tips on selection of a reliable Internet service provider and computer and modem selection to make the Internet work for you.

4. Turf Environmental Stresses

Dr. James Beard, International Sports Turf Institute

An overview of the impact of stresses on turfgrass will be given. Special attention will be given to shade, drought, heat and low temperatures and the influence they have on turfgrass stands.



12:00 noon
LUNCH BREAK

Thursday, January 8

Industry-Specific Seminars

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.



GOLF COURSE

1:00 - 2:00 Innovative Superintendents

The 1996 Canadian Open Flood

Dean Baker, Glen Abbey Golf Club

Golf Course Management: An Assistant's Perspective

Scott Heron, Westmount Golf Club

2:00 - 2:30 Superintendents Challenge

Teams representing Seneca Grads, University of Guelph

Short Course Grads and University of Guelph Diploma

Grads go head-to-head in a test of their turf management knowledge.



SPORTS TURF

1:00 - 2:30 Panel Discussion: IPM - Barriers to Implementation

IPM Experts and Park Superintendents



LAWN CARE

1:00 - 1:30 Pesticide, Pets and Wildlife - What You Need to Know as a Lawn Care Operator

Dr. Bruce Hunter, Ontario Veterinary College

1:30 - 2:00 Tracking Pesticides Indoors

Tom Delaney, Professional Lawn Care

Association of America

2:00 - 2:30 Lawn Care Challenge:

Three regional teams of lawn care operators will go head-to-head to test their turf management knowledge.

See you at OTS '99...
January 5-7



OTRF meeting
please see page 10.

OSC/Nutrite Seminars another success! by Alex La Belle CGCS



Dr. Frank Rossi

Once again those two giants, Ontario Seed Company and Nutrite, combined to produce another terrific series of seminars. This time they were recognized by the GCSAA with 0.5 Continuing Education Units. This was the 9th annual Seminar Series and The Deer Ridge Golf Club

and Superintendent Greg Aljoe were our gracious hosts. Each year the program grows, attracting more and more eager professionals in our industry who take the opportunity to listen to the latest in research and technological advances. This year was no exception. The keynote speaker, Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell University gave two very enlightening talks. The first was on winter injury and the second on selection and establishment of bentgrass.



Although many of us have heard about winter injury year after year we have not been privy, perhaps, to the use of PGR's (Plant Growth Regulators) to reduce the incidence of winter injury to the turfgrass plant. That is not a typo! Yes, indeed, PGR's such as mefluidide (formerly here as Embark) are proving to be a catalyst in the production and storage of carbohydrates (CHO's) in the plant prior to winter dormancy. Rates as low as 0.01 ounces per thousand

(Frank's an American) have had dramatic effects in helping the turfgrass survive up to 5 freeze/thaw cycles and come out shining. There is some misconception that plants suffer injury when ice crystals form inside the plant and puncture cell walls causing them to collapse causing the death of the plant. Apparently this is not the case. We have to understand the relationship between the water inside the cells (intercellular) and water between the cells (intracellular). The intercellular water contains a high level of solutes and rarely freezes. However the intracellular water, used for cooling the plant does freeze. Still, puncturing is not the culprit! What happens is, that when a thaw occurs, the water in the intercellular spaces unfreezes and begins to draw water from inside the cell causing the collapse of the cell. How quickly this occurs causes the death of the cell. The goal, therefore, is to keep water inside the cells. Plants that store CHO such as fructans late in the year exhibit the best tolerance to ice damage. Practices which enhance this scenario should lead to better chances of turfgrass winter survival. Unfortunately, most of the data that is available on turfgrasses was done in the late 60's and not much since. What triggered this renewed interest into these mechanisms was research done on cereal grasses in the prairies. Now people like Dr. Rossi and our own Dr. Yves Desjardens from Laval University are leading the way for those of us in the turfgrass industry. It is not difficult to see how important it is for us to communicate with people in the farming, fruit production, sports turf and other fields (pun intended) to share information and see what can be adapted to help everyone out of tough situations.

Dr. Rossi's second talk on selection and establishment was equally fascinating. The strategy in bentgrass production is to beat the old stalwart Penncross. The problem is a reluctance to experiment with grasses that don't carry Penncross's impressive track record. As Dr. Rossi put it, there are differing priorities between superintendents and golfers. Superintendents want a grass that will out compete *Poa annua*, exhibit high disease tolerance, wear tolerance, uniform color, upright growth habit and strong recuperative powers, just to name the top half of the list. Golfers want greens with good color, consistency, uniformity and they want it grown in yesterday! Dr. Rossi rates Providence 1019 and the new 1119 as very good. Procup is apparently better on soil greens than sand

OSC/Nutrite seminars

OSC/Nutrite Seminars another success! by Alex La Belle CGCS continued

greens. His sleepers are Viper, 18th Green and Regent. For more information you can contact Kevin Morris, NTEP National Director. The pros at OSC and Nutrite can track him down if you're having trouble. Surprisingly enough there was no significant



Ian Bruce, Scott Roginson, Geoff Corlett, Dr. Frank Rossi,
Chris Crouch, Jim Firth

difference between the cultivars on ball roll !

The role of water in turfgrass management is becoming more and more of an issue and will continue to grow as we see this precious resource come under more strain. Speakers who addressed this topic were Geoff Corlett with a very visual demonstration on the movement of water in the soil/sand mix medium, and the Burnside trio of Jim Firth, Chris Crouch and Mary Beth Kelly. Jim and Chris are well versed in the intricacies of MOEE regulations, hydrology, erosion control, water budgeting and procurement (of water that is!). It is amazing what hurdles you may have to leap when trying to build a new course and rationalize your requirements for irrigation. These guys were a fountain of knowledge on waste management, buffer zones, groundwater supply and storm water management just to mention a few of the specialty services they offer. They were involved with the Wilmot Creek project that saw the development of large reservoirs supplied from deep groundwater.

Concern was raised about pumping precious groundwater to the surface where evaporation and contamination could occur. Nightmare scenarios of California's debacle began to leap to mind. Believe it or not there are discussions happening with regards to the engineering of vast covers over manmade aquifers in surface depressions. When a concern becomes great enough it seems that man will find a way to make the seemingly outrageous look cost effective and obvious. These were some very thought provoking sessions to be sure.

The day was capped off with wine and cheese and a hilarious show from Yuk Yuk's Comedian, Glen Foster. The comedian has become a trade mark of the Seminar Series sending everyone away smiling. Don't miss the next educational round from OSC/NUTRITE. They've already started on next year's event!



Adrien Gallant, Cathy Plomske, Chuck Eggelston, Tami Packham,
Scott Uffleman, Elizabeth Wing

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giant pumpkin

There's a Pumpkin Patch on the 18th Hole! *Kerry Whale*



What started as a few inquiries last fall from Ed Doda on How to Grow a GIANT PUMPKIN, has turned into Plant-Prod Turf's Annual Giant Pumpkin Growing Contest. Once the word was out that Ed was trying to grow the largest pumpkin many superintendents were quick to jump in and challenge each other: who could produce the BIGGEST pumpkin?

Plant-Prod sales representatives distributed to each participant: Plant-Prod 10-52-10 and 20-20-20 water soluble fertilizer, a fertilizer applicator, basic instructions and Dill Atlantic Giant Pumpkin Seeds. The location, strategy and growing was now up to each individual course and the competition was on.

Along the way we heard of a few pumpkin tragedies. Someone's prize pumpkin had been murdered by a wandering backhoe, vandals destroyed a pumpkin patch one week before the weigh-in (so they say), and many animals were thrilled that there was a new food source planted on their behalf. Unfortunately, many pumpkins never saw the outside of their seed package and some plants never had the pleasure of pollination. However, in the end there was as many as 50 superintendents who had a pumpkin on the vine.

The big weigh-in was October 1st, at Nobelton Lakes Golf Club. Barry Endicott and his staff were great hosts with many giant pumpkins of their own on display. With trucks and trailers arriving at 11:00 AM,

the pumpkins came wrapped in blankets, cuddled in straw, strapped on skids and a few even rode in the cab!

There were a total of three categories a course could enter:

The Biggest Pumpkin The Ugliest Pumpkin and The Best Dressed Pumpkin.

It sure was hard to believe that all the pumpkins that arrived came from the same seed source. Some pumpkins were white, yellow, round, long, some with warts, one with engraving and a pumpkin from The National had breasts on it! They looked like implants to me, but who's going to argue; this is the 90's!

When all the pumpkins had arrived (we are happy to report there were no casualties along the way; however, Angela from Weston had to pull over part of the way to adjust her pumpkin straps) the weigh-in and judging began. The grand prize winners were as follows:

GIANT PUMPKIN

First Place -	Oakdale Golf & Country Club 224 pounds Paul Dermot / Steve Jones
Second Place -	Weston Golf & Country Club 196 pounds Angela Gerth
Third Place -	Barrie Country Club 181 pounds Ed Doda and Staff

UGLIEST PUMPKIN - Pushlinch Golf & Country Club

Jim Moore

There's a Pumpkin Patch on the 18th Hole! *Kerry Whale*



BEST DRESSED

The National
Chris Dew & Staff

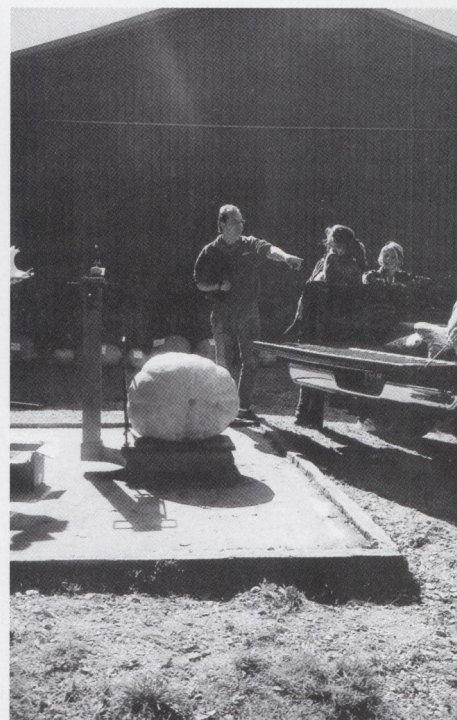
Honorable Mention

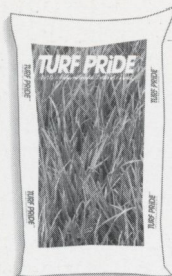
Weston Golf & Country Club
Credit Valley
Beacon Hall

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

To finish off the event in Nobleton Lakes fashion, there was a highly competitive croquet match. With a little help from his competitors and colleagues (Bill Fach in particular), Chris Dew was the grand champion! Though there were a couple of times Chris had to put his croquet mallet down and get his driver out to get back on track, he managed to defeat the five other finalists.

Next year is a whole new growing season! So start planning your pumpkin patches this fall and your growing strategies all winter, because the competition is about to begin again. Anyone interested in competing can pick up their seeds at the Plant Products booth, Toronto Ontario Turfgrass Symposium in January 1998 or call your Plant Products Turf Representative at (905) 793-7000. All Courses are welcome to participate.





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December

by Doug Breen, Superintendent,
Waterloo Golf Academy



will the whole shop still smell like quintozone? How many feet of snow will the Pro let build up on those golf carts before he assumes that hew can store them in my shop? (Of course half the pull carts are already beside the bench where they were piled by the proshop staff as nuts and bolts came loose through the summer. Someday the geneticists of this world will stop cloning sheep and design a human being who can teach golf and also have the manual dexterity to handle a 7/16th wrench.)

But there is one December question which grates on the nerves of a superintendent like a dentist's drill. It's irritation quotient is somewhere between the sound of fingernails on a chalkboard and the chewing of tinfoil. It's even more exasperating than the way everyone says, "green side up!" when you're laying sod. It will be asked by golfers - it will be asked by friends - it will be asked by people you don't even know. Someone asked me this question at my grandmother's funeral, and someone invariably asks it over Christmas dinner... "WHAT THE HECK DO YOU DO ALL WINTER?"

Every time I hear that question I want to attack the asker with a barrage of turnips, profanity, and cranberry sauce, but my wife, who abhors all violence involving foodstuffs always restrains me from wasting a good meal, quite literally on my well intentioned relations. So I mutter something about budgets or equipment repair and try to think of something annoying to ask them about their lousy jobs.

But I guess really it shouldn't surprise me - I mean nobody understands what we do all summer. For twelve years I've been working in the golf course maintenance industry and my family is still waiting for me to "stop fooling around and get a real job". If you don't believe that we aren't respected, just try to get a bank loan. It would be easier to get credit by telling them that you are a toadie for Black Sabbath or a chauffeur for Saddam Hussien then by telling them that you're a superintendent.

A number of years ago, I was interviewed as a candidate for a superintendent position in the Toronto area. A relative assured me that I'd have an "excellent

December is a month full of questions. Did I get the snow mould protection down at the right time? Is it still where I put it? Can I rationalize the leaves that didn't get picked up as some kind of experimental organic greens cover? How long

chance of getting the job since his son would put in a good word for me with the starter, who he knew very well". People think of starters, pros, caddies, and even the little freaks who clean their clubs as more influential forces than the superintendents. We're like gaffers on movie crews - every movie has one, but no one knows what they do or why.

One day last summer, a golfer struck up a conversation with me on our sixth tee. After a little small talk about the Tiger-cats, his garage door opener, and chinch bug in his lawn, I asked him how he found the course that day. "Well", he said, "the fairways and tees are great, but those greens..." (paused, and I seriously considered tramping on the gas of my Gator and escaping while he collected his thoughts) "...the greens", he continued, "need more water or sumptin', 'cause my ball won't stick on them. No siree, it just rolls right off. And while you're at it, can you speed them up at all? All my putts come up short." (I have often thought that what golfers really want is two greens on every hole. A nice soft spongy one for chipping onto, and a rock hard one for putting. But I digress.) So I stifled a lecture about having your cake and eating it too and waited until his foursome had teed off (each giving a different opinion on green speed). Then I replaced their dozen or so divots from the four tee shots, and countless practice swings, as they happily trotted off, each dragging his pull cart across the forward tees.

All long as the course suits a golfer on that particular day, you don't exist. But if anything goes wrong, or heaven forbid you should aerify something, the membership will be calling for your head on a spike. So what should we do? I've decided that a good New Year's resolution, apart from the one about no longer teasing the squirrel's in my backyard, will be to try to advance the image of the superintendent next session. I intend to take every opportunity to inform the golfers in my world what exactly it is that we do.

So the next time someone asks you, "What the heck do you do all winter?", bite your bottom lip, grind your teeth and gently tell them. If enough of us tell enough people, maybe word will get around and there'll be one less question to be asked next December.



GTI 1998 industry services information

by Rob Witherspoon, GTI Director

Media and Public Relations

Help the GTI promote the positive benefits of turf. The GTI provides information promoting the benefits of turfgrass to a number of garden writers and media outlets across Ontario. If you have a garden columnist or other person who writes or reports on turf in your local community, forward their name and address to the GTI and if they are not already on our list, we will provide them with up-to-date turfgrass information and other materials they can use to promote good turf management practices and a positive image of turfgrass in your community. If you see a newspaper or other media report that provides inaccurate and negative information about turfgrass, forward a copy to us with the address of the source and we will respond directly to the newspaper or media outlet with accurate, research-based information promoting turfgrass as a positive component of the environment.

Professional Development Programs

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Turf Managers Short Course

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Nov. 16-Dec. 11, 1998 (Limited Spaces Still Available)

Turfgrass Water Workshop

Geoff Corlett, Dean Cormack and Dr. Terry Gillespie
March 24 & 25th, 1998, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For information on the above programs contact the office of Open Learning at (519) 767-5000 or visit www.open.uoguelph.ca

The GTI is involved in the development and delivery of a variety of turf management courses and video tapes available through Independent Study/OAC ACCESS. Courses include

Turf Management, Golf Course Design & Construction, Irrigation and Weed Control in Turf. Video tapes include *Identifying Turfgrasses, Mower Choices for Grade Turf and Spraying Turf Pests.* Course may be taken for individual interest or applied towards the Ontario Diploma in Horticulture. For information call (519) 767-5050 or visit www.uoguelph.ca/istudy

Turf Management Publications & Software

A wide range of turf management publications are available directly from the GTI. Titles include:

Insect and Disease Control in the Home Garden (Pub 64)
Guide to Weed Control 1997 (Pub 75)
Diseases and Insects of Turfgrass in Ontario(1996)(Pub162)
1997-98 Production Recommendation for Nursery and Landscape Plants (Pub383)
Recommendations for Turfgrass Management (1997) (Pub 384)
Pruning Ornamentals (Pub 483)
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GTI Turfgrass Identification CD-ROM (Beta test version available January '98)

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Consulting & Advisory Services

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The GTI Advisor

1998 marks the third year of publication of *The GTI Advisor*. It is a unique publication providing current management information for turf and landscape managers every two weeks throughout the growing season - 17 issues planned for 1998. It includes turf, woody and herbaceous plant management information, weather forecasts and data with comparisons to the previous year, a list of problems currently being submitted to the Pest Diagnostic Clinic, research summaries from the GTI and other researchers around the world and the popular Ask the Expert question and answer feature. Condensed to four pages with no advertising. The GTI Advisor

provides a quick and easy way to stay abreast of current management information. E-mail subscribers receive each edition prior to printing. Due to significant printing and mailing cost savings, e-mail subscriptions are only \$19.00. Subscriptions to the printed edition are available for \$45.00 with a fax subscription available for \$85.00. Subscription rates do not include GST.

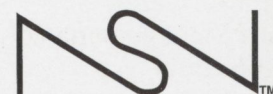
www.uoguelph.ca/GTI

The GTI website has been further improved by the development of a simpler, more user friendly interface and search capability. It provides an easy entry point for golf superintendents and staff to the wide range of turfgrass resources available on the internet. Included is up-to-date information on GTI research and industry services, webpages of industry associations allied with the GTI, including the OGSA page (www.uoguelph.ca/GTI_guest/ogsa.htm) and extensive, categorized links to other turfgrass resources available on the Internet. The GTI webpage also includes an interactive bulletin board where you can pose questions, place job postings, sell used machinery and comment or inquire on just about anything related to turf care management.

continued page 16



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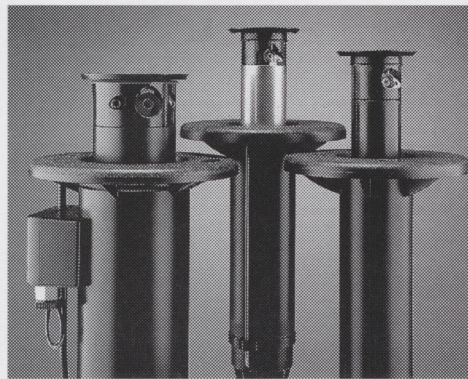
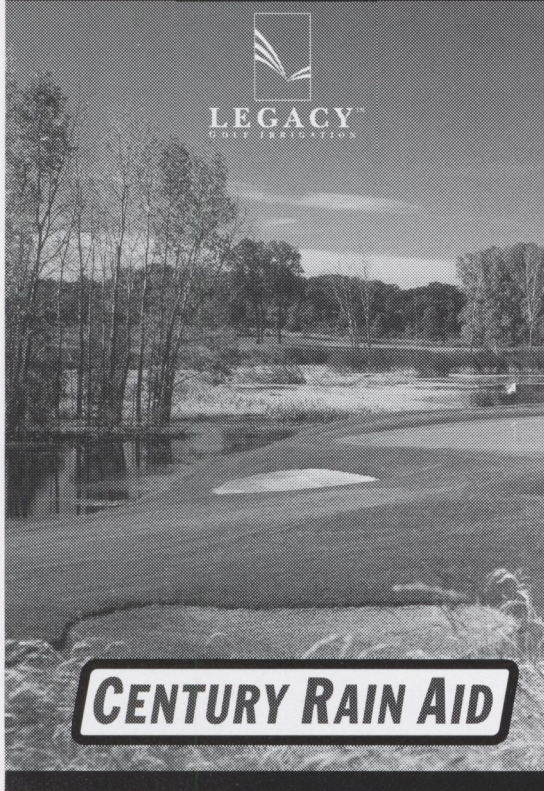


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News Release

Contact: Jeff Bollig or Kristi Frey - 785/832-4430
or media@gcsaa.org #102697

A Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) -funded water quality study confirmed the results of previous research that pesticide runoff and leaching to ground water from golf courses is minimal, and when detected, at levels that are usually well below health advisory standards. Researchers Stuart Cohen, Ph. D., Amelia Svrjcek, Tom Durborow and N. LaJan Barnes analyzed data from 36 golf courses, all in the United States with the exception of one on Prince Edward Island, Canada. The group analyzed water quality monitoring data for the pesticides, metabolites, solvents and nitrate/nitrogen used on courses. Summaries of data were also obtained from Guam and Japan, but were treated separately. The results will be published in the November issue of GCSAA's monthly magazine *Golf Course Management*.

The study determined that just nine of 12,101 analyses for pesticides in groundwater samples were in excess of drinking, water health advisory levels. Only eight of 2,731 analyses for pesticides in surface water samples exceeded their respective drinking water limits, and 25 exceeded guidelines for aquatic organisms. In the surface water samples, there were no readings of nitrate/nitrogen levels above the federal drinking water standard, while just 31 of 849 groundwater samples exceeded the standards. The results from Guam and Japan were similar.

GCSAA Director of Research Jeff Nus, Ph. D., said the study was the first attempt at a comprehensive examination of water quality on golf courses. Past research, with similar results, was limited to just one geographic region. Still, Nus said this most recent study was not meant to be national estimates for golf course impacts on water quality.

"Based upon previous scientific research funded by the United States Golf Association, GCSAA had contended that properly managed golf courses do not pose a discernible health risk, and in many cases improve the quality of water," Nus said. "This latest study is important because the data analyzed from surface and ground water from golf courses support the results of the previous USGA-funded studies under carefully controlled laboratory conditions."

Nus said three factors largely explain the

positive results of the study:

1. Golf course superintendents are educated, licensed and regulated in the application of golf course chemicals therefore they judiciously employ their use and adhere to science-based course management practices.
2. Healthy turfgrass acts as a good filter of water, thereby removing pollutants. Additionally, chemicals in water are broken down by microbes in the turfgrass ecosystem before they reach water sources.
3. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency intensely scrutinizes all pesticides before they are registered for use. "These results should not be used to support a relaxation of environmental stewardship by superintendents, especially when one considers the geographic data gaps," said Cohen, President of Environmental & Turf Services and principal investigator of the study. "However, these results invalidate the claims by some that golf courses should be treated as if they are hazardous-waste sites." While this study is significant, Nus said additional scrutiny is likely. The issue of water quality for all uses (golf courses, industry, agriculture, etc.) is receiving considerable attention from researchers. He indicated that the United States Golf Association has contributed major funding to the issue of pesticide and nutrient fate.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 18,000 individual members from more than 50 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enrich the quality of golf and its environment.

For additional information contact: Stuart Cohen, Ph.D., President, Environmental & Turf Services, Inc..

W'heaton, Md., at 301/933-4700. Jeff Nus, Ph.D., GCSAA Director of Research, 800/472-7878 ext. 429.

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— Dr. Jeff Nus

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

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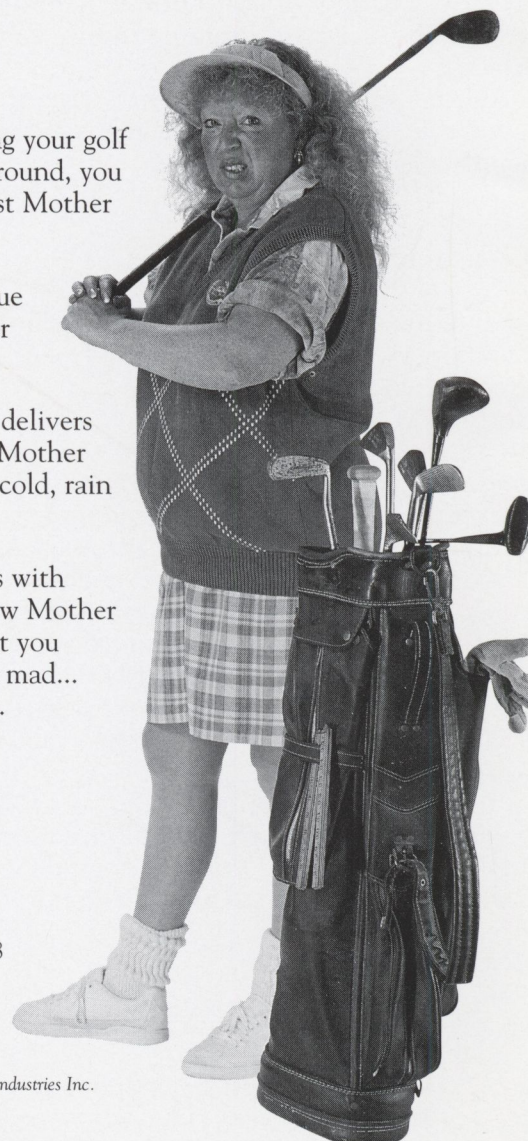
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- *Maintain courteous relation with your employer, employees and fellow superintendents, while practising sound business and turf management.*
- *Continue to broaden your knowledge through formal education channels and by exchanging experiences and ideas with fellow members.*
- *Endorse products or practises only when completely satisfied through personal experience..*
- *Refrain from corresponding either verbally or in writing, with a Director, member or official of another club, regarding its affairs, without the prior knowledge of that club's superintendent.*
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