

# THE GREENERSIDE

Official Publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

## 1997 PGA Championship

by Doug Vogel

**T**iger's Tikes, ecologists, rabid fans and the world's best professional golfers converged on the Winged Foot Golf Club the week of August 11-17 to decide whose name would be engraved on the Wanamaker Cup—the PGA's coveted top prize

Renowned Westchester County turf expert Earl Millett led a contingent of Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendent Association gentlemen in marshaling the 8th hole during the championship week. Many GCSANJ supers and associates with dual memberships volunteered their time by either marshaling or working on the maintenance crew of Winged Foot Superintendent Bob Alonzi, CGCS. It was a long hot week but well worth the experience.

Marshaling was boring and tiring, yet fun and rewarding. I found the day went much faster by engaging in conversation with people in the gallery. I met some very interesting people, but no one more interesting than the character who sat underneath a big pine tree in the landing area of the left rough. For three days I watched him smoke his pipe as he studied the players passing by. On Sunday we finally got into a conversation.

"These people here today are only watching a tournament, they're not seeing how beautiful this course really is," the old man said in between puffs. I agreed, having been fortunate to have played Winged Foot last year. In our talk, we found out we had a lot in common. We both came from New Jersey and both had an interest in golf and antiques. By coincidence, the Harrington Park resident happened to know quite a few superintendents from our state. He mentioned he knew Joe Flaherty, Bob Dwyer, Jack Martin and Ed

Walsh. I thought to myself, now this guy gets to play at some really great golf courses if he knows those fine gentlemen.

As the Davis Love/Justin Leonard group passed through, the old man got up and shook my hand. "This truly is a man-sized course, Doug, she's held up well." As he walked away, he turned back and said, "When you see your greenkeeper friends back in Jersey, tell them Albert wishes them well."

The following volunteers received temporary working visas to cross the Hudson River for the 1997 PGA Championship at the Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, New York:

John O'Keefe, Steve Kopach, Gary Arlio, Greg Vadala, Joe D. Kennedy, Doug Vogel, Pete Pedrazzi, Wayne Remo, Jay McKenna, Carl Quazza, Mike Miner, Tim Kerwin, Jeff Weld




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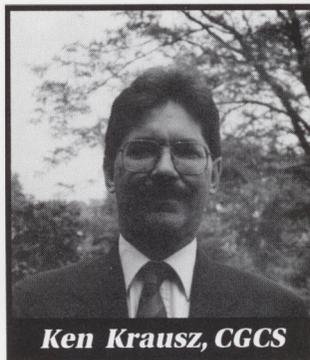
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# EDITORIAL



**Ken Krausz, CGCS**

## Planning, planning and more planning

It seems as if there is never enough time in the day. My alarm greets me by 5:00 a.m., and while drinking my first cup of coffee and watching the early morning news (probably my best time of the day), I go over all that needs to be done that day and projects that need long term planning. I

have all my plans set and when 6:00 a.m. rolls around the crew is ready to go; wait a minute, one employee called in sick and the tee mower will not start. Time to go to plan "B". You all know the routine, plan what to do and get ready to plan when plan "A" can no longer work.

It is amazing what can get done when we put our heads (and backs) into it. All the articles in *The Greenside* have to be put into someone's schedule. I give a big **thank you** to everyone who takes the time to gather the information, put it into print and send to me the finished article. Read the cover article by Doug Vogel about the PGA Championship and think about all the people who were able to juggle their schedules to fit in the time to help Bob Alonzi at Winged Foot. Think of all the planning that Bob and his crew had to do.

Take a look at all the people who sent in articles covering the GCSANJ Championship, Field Day and the Annual Golden Cup Cutter tournament. Think of all the work that is involved in organizing these events. Read the Cadence column and then think of some of your conversations explaining what your job entails

I am getting tired just thinking about all of this work. Does anyone remember the days when we were able to just go out and cut rough? Those were the days! No, wait a minute, back in those days I had to have a second job just to make ends meet. At least I did not have to do as much planning as I do today.

This is the time of year I look forward to—we have the annual meeting this month and Expo next month. They take a lot of planning, but not so much by me. Speaking of Expo, Dick Caton has received confirmation from GCSAA that 1 CEU will be awarded for attendance, also available is .7 CEU's for the Maximizing Teamwork seminar. I look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

With all this planning let's not forget the most crucial aspect, we have families! Be sure you are able to include time for them. I read somewhere recently "Nobody on their deathbed has ever said 'I wish I had spent more time at work'." As I write this I am in the process of moving to a new house, talk about a lot of planning!

It seems that everything eventually gets done, so maybe while I was busy making plans I did not realize that there are now 30 hours in a day.

PS My new address is:

Ken Krausz

125 Crain Road, Paramus, NJ 07652

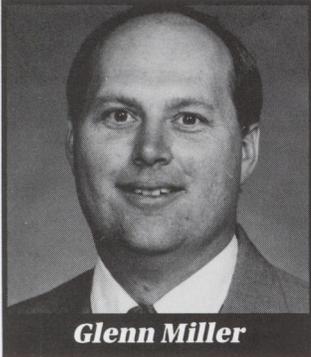
My business and fax phone numbers are the same but my new home phone number is:

201-599-8301

*Plan to call me soon!*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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**Glenn Miller**

## Communication

In September, I and several other superintendents attended a manager's meeting that I found very interesting and not too surprising. The meeting was designed to open the lines of communication between the superintendents and the managers. Topics

such as staffing and different cultural practices at each course were first on the agenda. While we intended to cover five or six items on the agenda, we never made it past the first couple because we realized that the real issue at hand was more in line with communication and cooperation, or, more to the point, teamwork.

The bottom line of the discussion was how to improve teamwork among the three management positions. This problem is not something new, it's been around since the beginning of time. Even though we did not mention it, there will seem to be an awful lot of personality conflicts along with the unfortunate power struggle. I am sure that each situation is a little different at each facility, but I always wonder which conflict started first: the power struggle or the personality conflict? Maybe they both existed at the same time. True professionals should be able to put these conflicts aside and move on in the best interest of the business.

I believe that sometimes we are our own worst enemies. Just recently I received from my Pro Shop staff the procedure for course set-up for the weekly state pro-ams. It reads something like this:

"The responsibility for pin locations shall be the golf professional's. I understand that in some cases the superintendent will insist on setting the hole positions. The obvious problem that usually arises is that superintendents, in general, prefer the highest scores possible and will go to great lengths to ensure that these scores will be shot. In these cases, simply try to impress upon the superintendent the purpose of the weekly pro-amateur events and the fact that the golf course need not be tricked up, but can stand on its own merits—being in part politician and part psychologist will help in this regard."

The way I see it, the "obvious problem" lies with the power struggle and/or the personality conflicts. Obviously some individuals see superintendents "in general" to be a selfish, sadistic, stupid, plodding lot. Guilty or not, we all must bear the burden of erasing this image. We need to make "PR" a higher priority and take time to lay the groundwork for open and constructive dialogue among the three professional associations.

We have been working on improving the relationship between

the three associations over many years, and I feel we are getting closer to accepting and respecting each other as true professionals. I plan on continuing to communicate and cooperate with our fellow professionals. It is important to remember that if we want to be looked on as true professionals, true managers of fine turf and not a problem the golf pro and managers must deal with, we need to be seen, heard and act as true professionals.

## Calendar

---

- November 11 GCSANJ Annual Meeting,** Hollywood GC. Host Jan Kasyjanski. Contact Judy Policastro (973) 379-1100.
- November 20 Alliance for Environmental Concerns Annual Meeting,** Fiddlers Elbow. Contact Nancy Sadlon (908) 563-9252.
- December 8 GCSAA Seminar: Maximizing Teamwork,** Trump Taj Mahal. Contact GCSAA (800) 472-7878.
- Dec. 9-11 New Jersey Turfgrass & Landscape Expo '97,** Trump Taj Mahal Casino/Resort. Contact NJTA (908) 821-7134.
- Jan. 19-Feb. 6 Golf Turf Management School,** Rutgers University. Contact Bruce Neary (732) 458-0309.
- February 2-8 GCSAA Conference & Show,** Anaheim, California. Contact GCSAA (800) 472-7878.
- March 3-4 Introduction to Golf Course Turfgrass Management,** Rutgers University. Contact Office of Continuing Education (732) 932-9271.



# GCSANJ NEWS

## HOMINY HILL REPEATS FOR 1997

by Shaun Barry

Our 20th edition of the Invitational Tournament was a great success. We chose to return to Hominy Hill GC, which is still ranked in the top 25 public golf courses in the country. After seeing the job that **Ron Luepke** and his staff did on this great layout, I would think it is in the top five public and the top 100 overall. It was just super! What would it look like if it only had 10,000 rounds a year? Congratulations are in order to everyone at Hominy, but the pride that showed on each tired face told me that they knew that their efforts had paid off.

Taking advantage of the conditions and the beautiful weather was Fairmount CC. They had won both tournaments in 1996, and this year their score of 52 gave them the 4-man team title again. When you sink every putt that you look at, scores like this can happen. On the winning team were **Vince Bracken, Mark Guiliano, Jim Dwyer** and **Glen Kakol**. Rumson CC was led by **Jim Cross** and **Don Brigham** to a victory in the Superintendent-Pro Division with a 60. **Jim Morrison** and **Hugh Devlin** played some fine golf to help Rumson shoot a 56, which was good enough for second place. **Tom Tuttle, Gary Roberts, Barry Rank** and **Charles Gallagher** shot 58 as a group, and Trenton CC took third. Our president, **Mr. Miller**, and **Brent Studer** combined for a 63. On a match of cards with Fairmount they placed second as a two-man team. It bodes well for Manasquan River, since next year they will be our hosts.

Closest to the pin honors were:

Hole #3 - **Barry Rank** (Trenton CC) - 9 feet 5 inches

Hole #7 - **Glenn Miller** (Manasquan River GC) - 14 feet 9 inches

Hole #11 - **Joe Stella** (Colonia CC) - 5 feet 3 inches

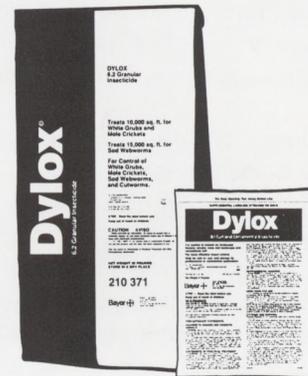
Hole #16 - **Ted Cox** (Upper Montclair CC) - 9 feet 2 inches

**Mark Guiliano** (Fairmount CC) took home the cash offered to the pros with his shot of 7 feet 3 inches at the 11th hole.

Many thanks to **Dave Pease** and **Alan Roberts**. Without their efforts this event would not have gone so smoothly and would not have been at Hominy Hill. The last people that I need to thank (even though they don't want any) are the Tournament Committee members. **Steve Chirip** does more than anybody in preparation for this tournament. **John Hyland** always shows up anywhere help is needed. **Ken Mathis** continues to find the time to assist, and **Ed Mellor** came over to drop off some shirts and ended up working the full day. We are a very lucky association to have people like this in our group—they make it work.

*Continued on page 5*

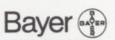
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# GCSANJ NEWS

*Continued from page 4*

Mark your calendars for next year. It will be September 14, 1998. Glenn will be happy to test your putting strokes if you can make it into the field.

If you were lucky enough to play in the Invitational, you received a beautiful flag which marked our 20th Anniversary. Not only did **Ken Kubik** get these flags made for us, but he and **Greg Hutch** from Rhone-Poulenc donated them to the association. This allowed us to increase our prizes to the winners. Thanks, gentlemen. It really helped make the day better.

## DISTRICT 4 CHAMPIONSHIP

*by Phil O'Brien*

The District 4 Championship was held August 4, 1997, at Merchantville Country Club. **Kent Rickenbach** and his crew had the course in beautiful shape. Merchantville is a nine-hole course founded in 1892, and Kent related some interesting history about the course. George Crump, architect of Pine Valley, was a member. Johnny McDermott, winner of the U.S. Open in 1911 and 1912, was the pro at Merchantville for a period of time. McDermott was 19 when he won the US Open the first time and was the first US citizen to win. He is also one of only five people to win the Open back to back.

Against this historic setting, the district championship was played. When the scores were posted, it appeared some of the players had used hickory shafts and gutta percha balls. Several people did, however, perform well. **Tom Grimac** had the low gross 74, followed by **Jim Waniak** at 78 and **Brian Minemier** at 79. Low net was won by Greens Committee Chairman **Rob Sweigert**, 68, followed by **John Carpinelli** at 69 and **Greg Armbruster** at 70. Longest drive and closest to the pin were won by **Doug Larsen**, who also checked people in, helped with the longest drive contest and sold hot dogs at the turn.

It was a great day on a fine and excellently conditioned course. Everyone in District 4 extends many thanks to Kent and his crew.

## FIELD DAY '97

*by Steve Chirip*

On August 13, the New Jersey Turfgrass Association in conjunction with Rutgers University, Cook College and the GCSANJ held its annual Field Day. Special interest was focused directly on the golf course superintendent. This was a half-day program starting at 12:30 p.m. with registration. This, we felt, gave the superintendent a chance to get his operations up and running and plenty of

time to get to Rutgers. **Drs. Clarke and Murphy** and their entire staffs put on a great show. Tour stops included: The Ability of Bent Grass to Compete with Poa, Surface vs Sub-surface Applications of Heritage, Primo Use to Enhance Longevity of Marking Lines, as well as the New Greens Construction Project.

After the plot tours, a barbecue dinner was served. Of the almost 200 attendees, about 70 to 80 stayed around to enjoy the food and had their questions answered by the Rutgers people who were there. There were people from 13 different states—some as far away as California, Utah and Oregon.

It was my pleasure as Field Day chairman to bring all of these great people together—professors, superintendents, commercial reps, etc. Any suggestions you may have to improve Field Day, please contact me or Dr. Clarke, as we only want to serve the needs of our members to the best of our abilities.

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## NEW MEMBERS

The Greenside welcomes the following new members:

Name	Club or Company	Category	District
Joseph Addressa	Galloping Hill	A	II
Mark Ansiewicz	Reed & Perrine Sales	AF	III
Jay Antonelli	Club Car	AF	II
Richard Benard	Scott Co.	AF	III
Jeff Black	A.C. Schultz Inc.	AF	III
Brendan J. Byrne		D	
Bruce Cadenelli	Metedeconk Natl. GC	A	III
David Cincilli	Sand Barren CC	C	IV
Paul Crump	Twin Brooks	B-1	II
Joseph DeLauter II	Arcola CC	C	I
Mark DeNoble	Shackamaxon G & CC	C	II
Paul Dotti	Edgewood CC	B	I
Edward Fay	Glenwood CC	C	III
David Fowler	Marlboro CC	C	III

Adam Geiger	George Schofield Co.	AF	III
David Jackson	Medusa Minerals	AF	II
Harry Leonard	Lions Head	A	II
Peter McCoy	Ash Brook	A	II
Adam Mis	Rancocas GC	A	IV
Brian Miniminer	Burlington GC		IV
William Neier	Sheron Envir.	AF	II
Matthew O'Neal	Royce Brook GC	C	III
Wes Perrine	George Schofield Co.	AF	II
Anthony Piechowski	High Mountain	C	I
Richard Pietropola	Brigantine Golf Links	C	IV
Robert Prettyman	Sand Barren CC	C	IV
Thomas Purdell	Bartlett Tree Experts	AF	I
Dave Taylor	Tavistock CC	C	IV
Dean Torsilieri	Torsilieri Inc.	AF	I
Shane Tresslor	Black Bear G & CC	C	I

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# GCSANJ NEWS

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## FROM THE HEART

It is during the tough times, when you really need some support, that your friends come through. My mom recently passed away. She was almost 85. Her friends were gone. It was going to be a quiet wake. If you have been through this, then you know that equates to a lot of shared sadness.

Steve Chirip, however, made some calls, and it seemed that most of the association showed up to extend a helping hand. At each step of the way was one of my friends. You made me smile and laugh when I didn't want to, but when I needed to. I thank each and every one of you for your friendship. I am a very lucky person.

Shaun

## GCSANJ WILL HOST TEAM SEMINAR

"Maximizing Teamwork," an educational seminar co-hosted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey and the

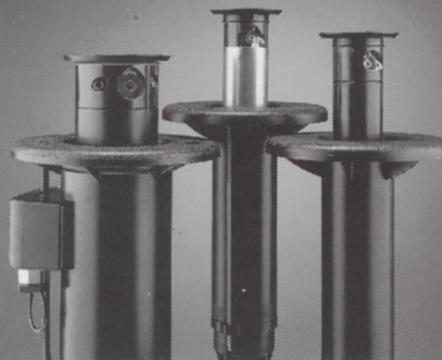
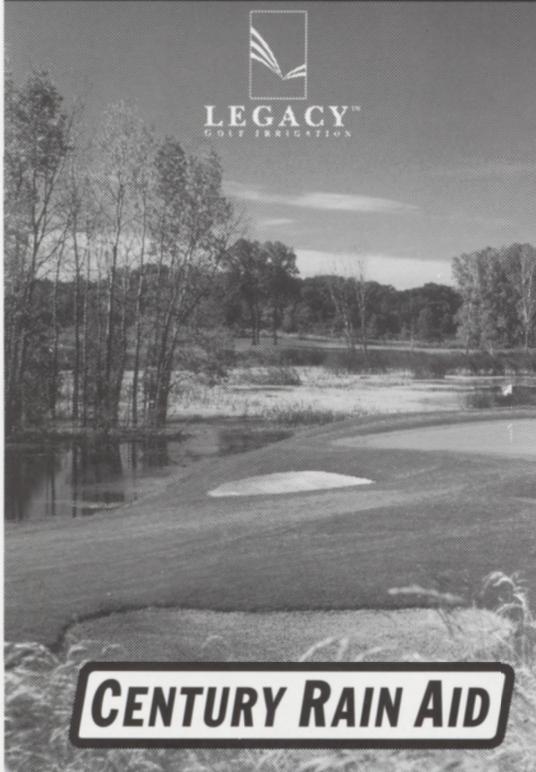
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, will be presented in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on December 8, 1997, at the Trump Taj Mahal Casino and Resort in conjunction with the New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Expo '97.

This course will be vital to your understanding of how to develop and maintain effective teams. You will learn how to create team momentum, reduce inefficiency and maximize team results. This course will also explore individual styles of team leaders and ways to leverage those styles. You will assess strengths and limitations of current teams, learn to create high-energy teams and learn to work effectively with unproductive team members.

Bree Hayes, Ed.D., will instruct this informative seminar. She has worked as a counseling psychologist and organizational consultant with corporations such as IBM, Xerox, Kraft and Pillsbury. Currently, she works as a staff consultant with RHR International Co. of Atlanta.

Registration for the seminar will include lunch and a reference manual. Advance registration is required. Please call (800) 472-7878.

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# GCSAA NEWS

## CHAPTER DELEGATE MEETING

by James C. McNally

The 5th Chapter Delegate Meeting was held September 5 and 6, 1997, at GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Gary Grigg, CGCS, put forth the following candidates for office: George Renault, CGCS, for president; David W. Fearis, CGCS, for vice president; R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS, and Thomas Witt, CGCS, are running for the position of secretary/treasurer.

A field of four candidates are running for two positions on the Board of Directors. Ken Mamgum, CGCS, is presently on the Board and is running for re-election. Wayne Remo, CGCS, John Maddenn, CGCS, and Joseph Emanuel, CGCS, are new candidates running for the Board of Directors.

Samuel R. Snyder, III, CGCS, and Mike Wallace, CGCS, each have one year terms left on the Board.

Each candidate offered a brief presentation to the delegates at

the meeting and were available for specific questions.

Other subjects that were brought before the delegates are as follows:

- A. Membership standards which are far reaching and may affect all A & B members. We will hear a lot about this subject over the next couple of years.
- B. New code of ethics was explained and how to start a complaint—what should be considered a violation or what is a professional courtesy violation.
- C. GCSA Foundation is going in a new direction getting donations to help support Education and Research.
- D. Regional Seminars - Rebate program will be addressed to help stop losses so these valuable sources of education will be able to continue. Along the same lines, Etonic will be helping national and local chapters with money and staffing to run educational seminars. One Etonic program is to help local chapters to work with local schools with Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs.
- E. Chapter Role in the Committee Volunteer Process - President of local chapter will offer comments on all people wishing to serve on National Committees.
- F. Dual membership was discussed and comments offered as to how to make the process work for both Chapter and National.

I wish to thank the New Jersey Chapter for allowing me to attend the meeting and be their delegate for the upcoming years.

### GOLF DIGEST RECOGNIZES GCSAA, SUPERINTENDENT PROFESSION

A must read for those who golf is the January 1997 edition of *Golf Digest*, complete with its annual listings including "The 36 Most Powerful People in Golf," "Opinion Poll" and "Your Year to Break Through, by Five Major Champions."

Of particular interest to the golf course superintendent profession and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) is "Opinion Poll"—a survey of 500 randomly selected *Golf Digest* subscribers. Saving the best for last, from the GCSAA perspective, *Golf Digest* asked "Who is the most important person at your club or course?" An impressive 48 percent of the respondents selected the golf course superintendent, nearly twice as many as the next selection in the poll.

The popular "36 Most Powerful People in Golf" ranking featured the association as GCSAA CEO Stephen F. Mona, Certified Association Executive, was listed 29th. At 39 years of age, Mona was one of only five individuals under 40 who made the listing, including professional tour players No. 3 Tiger Woods (20), No. 28 Laura Davies (33), No. 31 Colin Montgomerie (33) and CBS broadcaster Jim Nantz (37), No. 34.

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# GCSAA NEWS

Continued from page 8

Mona came to GCSAA in January 1994 after serving stints with the USGA and state golf associations of Georgia and Northern California. During his tenure, GCSAA membership has climbed from 13,700 to 16,700, while the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show attendees and exhibit space numbers have grown annually.

In its "What's Ahead" column, *Golf Digest* also gave special recognition as a "must" for anyone in the golf course planning, siting, designing, building and maintaining, the publication Environmental Principles for Golf Courses in the United States. GCSAA was one of 16 organizations that participated in the development of the principles and played a large role in compiling and distributing the first publication of the document.

## GCSAA ADOPTS UPDATED DRESS CODE

At their summer meeting, the GCSAA Board of Directors approved an education committee recommendation regarding a dress code for all GCSAA seminars, including conference seminars and chapter-hosted regional seminars. As you may recall, a dress code already exists for several conference events. The new seminar dress code is intended to help promote the professional image of golf course superintendents through professional attire.

Accordingly, the new dress code for conference and chapter-hosted seminars is:

- Casual business attire (slacks and collared shirts for men, similar attire for women); jackets are recommended.

For your reference the dress code for other conference events follows:

- Trade show and educational sessions: Golf casual attire.
- Opening Session and Government and Environmental General Session: Sport coat and similar dress for women.
- Gala Reception and Dinner: Coat and tie, and similar dress for women.
- Golf Tournament: Golfing events - Golf casual attire, such as golf shirt or sweater and

casual slacks, no jeans. Welcoming Reception - Semi-business attire, such as an open-collared shirt with sport coat for men, and similar attire for women. Victory Reception and Banquet - Business attire, such as a suit with coat and tie for men, and similar attire for women.

Continued on page 10

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# GCSAA NEWS

Continued from page 9

## O'BRIEN RECOGNIZED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

GCSAA Chief Operating Officer Joe O'Brien has been selected by the GCSAA Board of Directors to receive the association's most prestigious environmental honor, the 1998 President's Award for Environmental Leadership.

The award was established in 1991 to recognize "an exceptional environmental contribution to the game of golf: a contribution that further exemplifies the golf course superintendent's image as a steward of the land."

GCSAA President Paul S. McGinnis, CGCS, will present the award to O'Brien during the Government and Environmental General Session, Feb. 5 during GCSAA's 69th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Anaheim, California. The General Session and a following reception are presented in partnership with Novartis Turf & Ornamental Products, Rain Bird, Jacobsen Division of Textron and Pursell Technologies Inc.

O'Brien was nominated and selected for the award based upon his commitment to fostering and facilitating environmental initiatives with allied golf associations and advocacy groups. His efforts improved communication between the country's most influential golf and environmental organizations, which resulted in the development of "The Environmental Principles for Golf Courses in the United States." The "Environmental Principles" is a summary of recommendations and considerations for all existing golf courses, as well as those in development.

"O'Brien's contributions extend far beyond development of the 'Environmental Principles,'" McGinnis said. "This was a collaborative effort with 20 endorsing organizations coming together, many for the first time, to address environmental issues. The result was something of consequence, an advancement of professional relationships that will lead to future initiatives between allied golf and environmental organizations. This opened doors for GCSAA members to approach these other organizations and work through local environmental issues together."

"I'm personally proud of and pleased for Joe being named the recipient of this award," said Stephen F. Mona, CAE, GCSAA's chief executive officer. "He has been a tireless advocate and true leader in bringing the golf and environmental communities closer together."

O'Brien became GCSAA's chief operating officer in January 1994. Prior to this, he was president of the American Hotel Foundation, a fund-raising and grant-making philanthropic organization dedicated to advancing the hospitality industry. He also worked for the PGA of America from 1973 to 1990 and for Marriott Golf for three years.

"I was overwhelmed in just being nominated for the award," said O'Brien. "Having been named as the recipient, I really don't have the words to express my appreciation to GCSAA members and the Board of Directors. It truly is one of the finest things that

has ever happened to me; to receive recognition like this is wholly unexpected and extremely gratifying."

Previous winners of the President's Award for Environmental Leadership include the Cape Cod Study participants in 1991; the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses administered by Audubon International and sponsored by the USGA in 1993; William Timothy Hiers, CGCS, at Collier's Reserve Country Club in Naples, Florida, in 1995; the USGA Environmental Research Program in 1996; and golf course architect Michael Hurdzan, Ph.D., in 1997.

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, Kansas, 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.

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# Green speed

by Richard Spear  
Grounds Superintendent

**D**uring the last 10 years the subject of green speed has received much attention from many segments of the golf community. It has become a source of competition between clubs and a point of contention between memberships and superintendents.

I would like to present a brief analysis on this subject and touch on the ramifications to the playability and maintenance of our course at Piping Rock.

Green speeds have dramatically increased in the last 25 years, since the introduction of the Stimpmeter. The Stimpmeter, which was designed as a method of quantifying green speed so that consistency could be achieved throughout the course, is a three foot long flat bar with a V-shaped groove running lengthwise. A notch is cut across this groove 30 inches from the low end. The golf ball sits in the notch and breaks free and rolls down the groove when the bar is raised. Since it breaks free at exactly the same bar angle every time, a precise velocity is achieved. The distance that the ball rolls on the green is measured. The faster the green, the farther the ball will roll. The measurement is done in several directions, and the results are averaged so that any uphill and downhill influences will be aver-

aged out. The Stimpmeter reading is actually a measurement of the resistance to golf ball roll presented by the turf grass.

In the mid '70's a green speed reading of 8' would have been considered fast for a private club hosting a tournament. In 1996,

***In 1996, many courses now target speeds of 11' for competitions and that 8' reading would be appropriate for a public course on a daily basis.***

many courses now target speeds of 11' for competitions and that 8' reading would be appropriate for a public course on a daily basis.

This increase has had a significant impact in two distinct areas: agronomics (the study of turfgrass) and playability.

Making greens faster has had a tremendous effect on agronomics. Normally, to achieve green speeds of over 9', we must cut the greens at 9/64" or lower, 8-14 times per week, roll occasionally, withhold leaf producing nutrients and verticut periodically to remove additional top growth. These procedures help us create an extremely "unnatural" environment, a short tight carpet of grass that presents very little resistance to the roll of a golf ball. Once achieved, these grass plants must live in a greatly weakened condition, wherein they are susceptible to damage from fungal diseases or parasitic insects. This situation requires us to spray frequently to protect the turf from pathogens and to spoon-feed macro- and micronutrients, as any imbalance to this environment could prove damaging. Obviously, when the weather cooperates, we can produce green speeds of 9'-10', with the help of the aforementioned procedures, sophisticated irrigation, and judicious, analytical use of turf chemicals. When the weather does not cooperate, and we're subjected to high nighttime temperatures and high humidity and/or heavy rainfall, we are really walking a tightrope. One mistake (or even a gust of wind) and we fall off.

Increasing green speeds definitely has have effect on playability, especially on the older courses where the greens' contours were designed before the influence of the Stimpmeter. Newer courses almost always have relatively flat sections on the greens separated by tiers so the cupping areas are level. Typically, when older courses with undulating greens increase the speed to modern tournament standards, the downhill putts become somewhere between extremely demanding and impossible.

*Continued on page 13*

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# Green speed

Continued from page 11

A few years ago, I did an experiment to determine how fast downhill putts become as green speeds increase. In measuring greenspeed we are always looking for the most level spot to take readings. Consciously using the Stimpmeter on slopes is avoided. In this case to achieve our goal we mowed a section of our large practice green at different heights and frequencies to achieve different green speeds. The area used contained a fairly consistent 3'-4' slope, as well as a flat area at the lower end.

The results were very interesting. When the green measured 8' on the level, it rolled just under 7' uphill and 12' downhill. When it rolled 9' on the level, it rolled almost 8' uphill and 18' downhill. At 11.5' on the level it measured about 10' uphill and 31' downhill. These results show that the greenspeed gets exponentially faster downhill with arithmetic increases in the level speed. This was on a fairly gentle 3-4° slope. What would happen on a more severe 6° slope like we have on the front of our 10th green? That downhill ten footer you had last summer on #10 probably measured at least 40' on the Stimpmeter, and if you didn't hit it as if it were a 1-2 footer, your 2nd putt was probably a 20' chip from the front collar.

Very fast green speed on highly sloped greens requires a change in strategy of how to play the hole. The target is no longer the pin, but an area below the hole. Intelligent players on fast greens would rather have a 30' uphill chip than a 15' downhill putt, so they hit their approach shots for an area that will minimize the chance of a downhill putt. In effect, superintendents, or committees who influence them toward very fast greens, are redesigning the golf course by dictating how it should be played. Do we really want to make obsolete the great greens' contours of Macdonald, McKenzie, Ross,

Colt, Allison, et al, whose designs we revere?

Where does all this leave us? After factoring together the agronomics and playability aspects, can we arrive at a target green speed that makes sense for all occasions? Probably not! Agronomically, our poa-bent surfaces would be the healthiest and be much less chemical-dependent if they were cut five times per week at 3/16 of an inch. This would give us a green speed of 6-7' and would be clearly unacceptable.

Most proficient players like Piping Rock's greens in the 9 1/2-10' range. Greens 3, 6, 8, 10 and 13 are demanding at this speed but with well thought out pin placements, the course is challenging and playable.

At this point we must compromise these two positions, although clearly we are favoring playability over the conditions that pure agronomics would dictate. I believe that we should target 9' green speeds for normal play and 9 1/2' for tournaments. Should the weather or some other condition weaken the turf beyond expected levels, we should and will back down from these targets until the turfgrass regains strength.

The maintenance of golf courses has become quite sophisticated and expensive in recent years partially because of the high demands placed by golfers on course conditions and subsequently the people who maintain them. Your understanding of the variables with which we must deal and the resources available to help us deal with them, will allow us to make fiscally responsible choices while still increasing the enjoyment of the golf experience at Piping Rock.

*Richard Spear is the superintendent at Piping Rock Club in Locust Valley, New York. Richard wrote this article for his club's newsletter.*

---

## Lawmakers in New Jersey strike back at lightning

by Jozsef de Kovacs, CGCS  
Deal Golf & Country Club

Recently, a bill concerning the liability of certain golf clubs and associations in the state of New Jersey was introduced. Although this is still a long way from becoming law, this bill is attempting to ensure that no golf facility can be held responsible for an act of God that takes place on their premises.

The following is a brief statement of explanation about the bill:

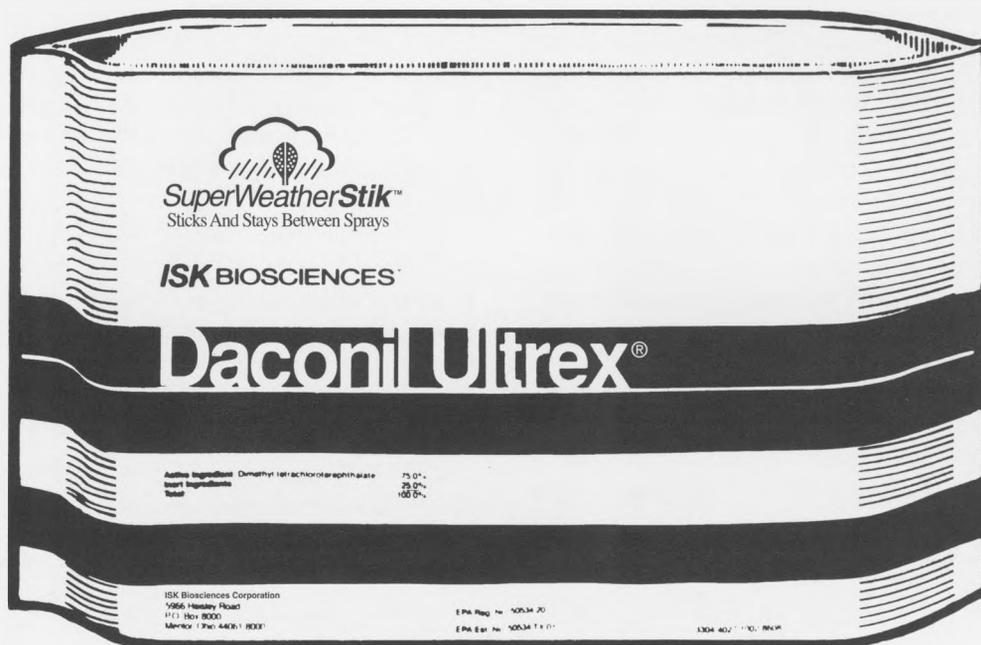
"In the recent case of Maussner v. Atlantic City Country Club, Inc., the New Jersey Supreme Court found that where a golf course 'had taken steps to protect its patrons from lightning strikes, a duty of reasonable care arises to take these steps correctly under the cir-

cumstances.' This bill would provide that a golf club, society or association or its trustees, directors, officers, operators, employees agents, servants or volunteers owes no duty to warn of any weather-related phenomenon including lightning strikes. However, the bill would not limit the liability for any willful or malicious failure to warn against any dangerous condition, use or structure."

The most important section of this bill indicates that, if this becomes law, *this shall not limit the liability for any willful or malicious failure to warn against any dangerous condition, use or structure.*

I will continue to monitor this bill as it moves through the New Jersey State Assembly and report on it.

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# The Golden Cup Cutter goes to . . .

**D**uring the summer of 1996, a few members of the GCSANJ in northeast New Jersey sat down and planned a golf tournament for the greens departments of several local courses. The plan called for each participating course to get its crew to another golf course to enjoy a friendly competition among their peers. The winning team received the "Golden Cup Cutter Trophy," a genuine cup cutter painted gold with the winning team and year inscribed on the blade. Bragging rights are included, however, David Mayer quickly wore his out, and Dave Szymanski had too many clubs.

The inaugural 1996 Golden Cup Cutter Tournament was a huge success. Dave Brubaker provided superb playing conditions and a fantastic food and beverage spread at Great Gorge Country Club. Bowling Green Golf Club won the event over a field of Great Gorge, Black Bear, Crystal Springs, Farmstead, Lake Mohawk, Rolling Greens and Wallkill. A total of 56 players competed.

The 1997 Golden Cup Cutter Tournament was held at the Wallkill Country Club. Rich Foder had the golf course perfect and an excellent post-tourney dinner. Lake Mohawk won the event featuring teams from Black Bear, Bowling Green, Crystal Springs, Farmstead, Great Gorge, Lake Mohawk, Newton and Wallkill. Sixty-four players competed this year.

The Golden Cup Cutter Tournaments have been huge successes. The competitive nature of the event develops a team unity, pride, increased interest in the game of golf and the view of a new course for all participants. Everyone made new friends, exchanged ideas, gained an increased sense of pride in their occupations and, above all, had a great time.

Special thanks go to Dave Brubaker, Kiyoshi Fujinami, Rich Foder and Frank Vnuk for hosting the events. If anyone thinks they have a crew that can beat Lake Mohawk, your captain better be Tom Kite.

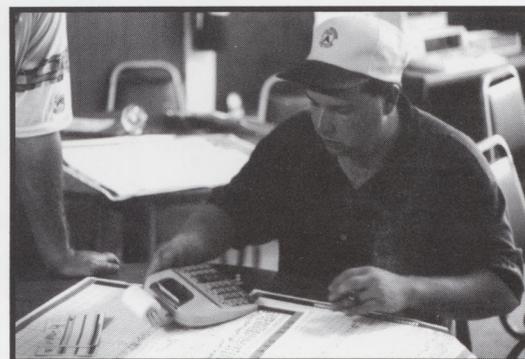
*This article was submitted by the Golden Cup Cutter Tournament Steering Committee.*



*Group photo of all participants in the Golden Cup Cutter Tournament.*



*Host Rich Foder hitting his third shot from #9 fairway to the par three #7 hole.*



*Tournament officials were perplexed by the number of clubs in Dave Szymanski's bag.*

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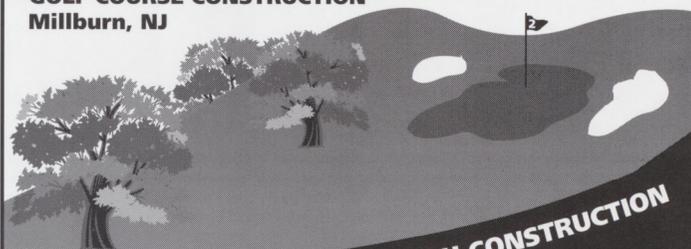
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# Cadence

by Brian M. Remo

Whenever I meet someone new, the inevitable conversation creates itself as to what each person does for a living. Most people are usually quite unfamiliar with the title assistant golf course superintendent, and the usual questions arise, most of which I am sure we are all familiar with: "They have college courses for that?", "What do you do in the winter?", "So do you give golf lessons too?", "Can you get me on Pine Valley?", However, my all-time favorite would have to be, "So you're kinda like Bill Murray in Caddyshack, right?" I usually like to retort with a sarcastic answer like, "Yes, sir, that's me all right. I dress up in camouflage each day and hunt gophers with plastique while defacing flower beds with a sickle." But in all seriousness, it is sometimes misunderstood and unrecognized even in our own industry, the responsibilities of an assistant superintendent and how that role has evolved over the years from a mow jockey with a 12-gauge to an educated, environmentally conscious personnel manager with the dedication to maintain acres and acres of the world's most beautiful properties.

As the superintendent's role at the golf course has expanded, the responsibilities of the assistant have also evolved. Today, the assistant superintendent is much more involved in the day-to-day operation of the golf course. Fifteen years ago a superintendent may have been able to manage the golf course merely with the assistance of a foreman or, in some cases, a good mechanic. The increasing responsibilities of the golf course superintendent in regulatory compliance, personnel, finances and business management can keep him or her anchored to the office for most of the day (and often into the night). In effect, much of the course operation falls to the assistant, who is the essential eyes and ears of the superintendent. Today's assistant deals with sophisticated irrigation systems, supervises and trains the crew, develops schedules and management programs, and works in coordination with outside contractors concerning large projects. I can remember a few years back meeting Joe Flaherty, golf course superintendent at Baltusrol G.C., at one of the conferences I attended at Anaheim. He told me, "A good assistant is like having

an extra pair of eyes in the back of your head and a textbook under your arm."

It then occurred to me that here in New Jersey, our industry has produced a great number of successful veteran golf course superintendents who have witnessed this change in our professional roles. In fact, it is the success of these past superintendents that has helped catapult the golf industry to the level it is today and the respect it brings to those employed by it. Therefore, I decided to ask one of New Jersey's own "local legends," Pete Pedrazzi, Sr., CGCS (Grass Roots Inc., formerly veteran super at Crestmont C.C.), what he felt caused this role adaptation to occur and the benefits it gives to both the superintendent and the assistant. Mr. Pedrazzi comments:

*Continued on page 17*

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# Cadence

Continued from page 16

"Regarding the superintendent and assistant superintendent working relationship, the two biggest changes that I have seen in the past 35 years are, fortunately, both extremely important in the assistant superintendent's development. With the intense pressure being put on today's superintendent because of increased responsibility and the higher expectations of their membership to have consistently excellent playing conditions, the assistant superintendent, to his or her benefit, has been forced to take on the added responsibility of handling the staff and day-to-day routine operations. The other evident change is that today, in most cases, not only the superintendent but also the assistant attend Greens Committee Meetings, with the assistant superintendent often called on to give progress reports. This gives the assistant invaluable experience in dealing with the membership on a one-to-one basis."

I think that when Mr. Pedrazzi states "the assistant superintendent's development," he best depicts the reason our roles as assistants have changed over the years. The GCSAA, with the cooperation of each regional and state association, has established a network dedicated to development and advancing the golf and turfgrass industries. More importantly, we as members of this industry have embraced a code of ethics that stands for the promotion and education of those who will follow in our footsteps. Golf course superintendents can be proud of the progress their chosen profession has made, and we as assistants to these professionals have the hard work and dedication of our associations to thank for the opportunities that are given to us to succeed.

Truth be told, ladies and gentlemen, we are not movie stars. We do not make the five o'clock news each night. We don't have extravagant power lunches, and our names don't usually appear atop the Fortune 500 club list. Our hours are crazy. Our summers are anything but a vacation. Weekends? What's that? We usually eat lunch on a cushman and rarely get eight hours sleep. But find me any assistant superintendent who doesn't love every minute of it and I'll show you a person who picked the wrong line of work. So,

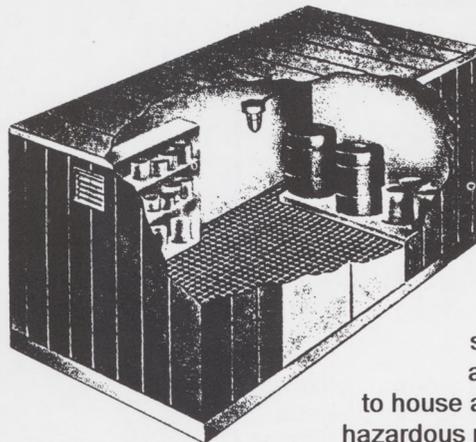
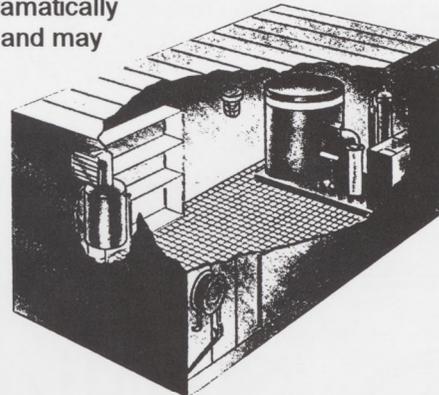
the next time someone asks you, "Exactly what does an assistant superintendent do?", you can proudly say that you protect America's number one pastime from your spacious 160 acre office. And for those who inquire whether you get dirty or not, your reply can be, "Sure do. Every chance I get."

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# Superintendent profile

Wayne P. Remo, CGCS  
Certified Golf Course Superintendent  
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On September 29, 1951, James and Carol Remo entered the hospital to give birth to their second of four children. Their first born daughter, Bonnie, anxiously awaited the arrival of her new baby brother or sister. Carol quietly hoped for a strong and health baby. James, on the other hand, desperately prayed for a boy. His prayers were answered when their son, Wayne Peter Remo, came into the world that day. Wayne's father was the super at Rivervale C.C. at the time and boasted the birth of his son to their hometown of Emerson, New Jersey, proclaiming, "I finally got a boy." Well, when that boy reached the age of eight, his mother drove him down to the greens department, walked him into James's office announcing, "Well, you so desperately wanted a boy . . . here he is!" Wayne's father looked down at the small boy standing in his office and, figuring that he would have no time to manage a golf course and an 8-year-old, decided that the best childcare would be a Jacobsen G-10 tractor and a set of five gang fairway mowers. James sat Wayne

in the driver's seat, put it in gear, hopped off the machine and sent his son off into the world. Quite a bit of rough would be carved up that day, but, more importantly, Wayne carved a place for himself in the golf course industry.

Wayne Remo attended Wyckoff Public Schools and Ramapo High School (class of 1969). While at Ramapo, Wayne excelled at baseball, football and basketball, lettering in all three sports. He was best remembered for his game-winning touchdown reception on Thanksgiving Day, 1968, and his near perfect game retiring the first 20 batters in a row against Pascack Valley H.S. in 1968. He had a few offers to go further with baseball, but the importance of a college education brought him to Delaware Valley College, where he graduated with a degree in Agronomy in 1973. Wayne married very early and continued his father's dream of legacy with the birth of a son, Brian Michael Remo, in 1973

Immediately after graduation, Wayne took on the position of assistant superintendent under the guidance of his father, then the super at North Jersey C.C. in Wayne. Wayne met Candace Marie White while at NJCC, and the two married in 1976. In 1977 he got

*Continued on page 19*



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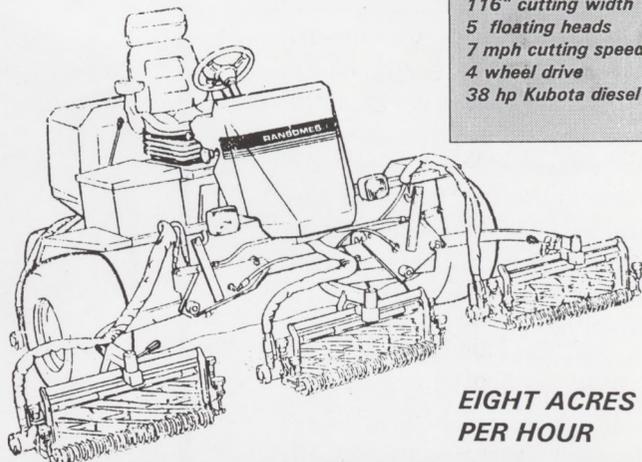
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# Superintendent profile

*Continued from page 18*

his first super position at White Beeches C.C. in Haworth, New Jersey. Three years later, Wayne's father suffered a severe heart attack, so Wayne left White Beeches to serve as interim super of North Jersey C.C. while James recovered. After his father's recovery and return, Wayne acquired another superintendent position at Essex Fells C.C. In 1980, Wayne lost his best friend in the death of his father who died of a heart attack while coaching the local youth football team. Wayne helped coach with his father for 10 years and finished out the season as head coach after his father's death. Tragically claimed yet another loved one when Wayne's mother-in-law was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 1985. The love for his wife and his strong belief in family took Wayne to Florida so that Candace could be close to her mother during her last years.

Experimenting with a change in his occupational path, Wayne decided to rely on another one of his strengths, irrigation. He owned R&M Irrigation, an installation and repair company based out of Port Richey, Florida, from 1985 to 1986, and from 1986-1987 was employed by IBM Corporation as a customer engineer repairing computers. After his mother-in-law's death in 1987, Wayne started to miss his New Jersey home and the golf industry, so, when a good friend told him of a position at a private club in West Orange, his love for the golf course brought him to Rock Spring Club in 1988. Wayne, Candace, Brian and their daughter, Jamie, moved back to Wyckoff, and the Remo family happily remains there today.

Wayne P. Remo has always been a pillar of example in this industry and in his community. Between 21 years of service in the

Wyckoff Fire Department (five of those years as departmental chief), 10 years of coaching the Wyckoff Recreation Football League, four years as chapter delegate for GCSANJ, involvement in GCSAA's Career Development, Elections and Golf Tournament Committees, holding a 195+ average in usually two different bowling leagues, it's amazing that Wayne manages to be a successful and contributing professional in this industry. Wayne lives by the motto: In order to make a difference, you have to get involved. He has always stayed involved with both the New Jersey and the National associations and, in his 20 years as a superintendent, has only missed one national conference since his first in Portland in 1976.

Currently, Wayne is running for a director position on the Board of GCSAA for 1998. He explains, "I'm running for director as the opportunity lends itself to insure the continued success and development of this industry, its associations and the professionals employed by it." Representative of his strong value for education, Wayne has been a Certified Golf Course Superintendent since 1990 (recertified in 1995). He has always put his family first, but the golf course isn't far behind. Wayne enjoys the sport (currently a 15 handicap) and enthusiastically attends as many tournaments as he can.

Presently, Wayne has been the super at Rock Spring Club for 10 years. I am happy to say that he always has been a man of integrity, commitment and generosity. I'm proud to be his assistant, I'm proud to be his friend, but most of all, I'm proud to be his son.

*Brian M. Remo*

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## Mulching: The natural thing to do

"What is the best single thing I can do to help my trees and shrubs?" In many cases, the correct answer can be stated in one word—MULCH. Why? Because mulching more closely parallels with how trees grow in nature.

Next time you are in the woods, take a close look at the trees. Notice that there is a deep layer of leaves on the surface. Reach down and dig a little bit. You'll observe that beneath the leaves, there is a rich layer of decomposed plant material. Growing through this layer are many fine roots. Now look around you. Try to determine to which plants those roots belong. You'll probably see very little grass, and if the tree canopy is dense, probably very few other plants as well. The roots that are growing very close to the surface are tree roots. The roots are present in this organic layer because the water, nutrients and oxygen they need to grow are all found there in abundance. As this material decomposes, the nutrients it contains are returned to the soil for the tree roots to absorb. Each fall, the trees shed their leaves which fall to the ground and continually replenish this biologically rich layer.

Now take a look at the trees in your own yard. What do we see

here? Instead of a thick layer of decomposing plant material, we find a thick carpet of grass. If we try to dig through the grass, we may find some tree roots, but they are few in number compared with the grass roots. Little trace of the layer of decomposing plant material can be found. When the trees drop their leaves, we are quick to rake them up and to haul them away.

Perhaps you are beginning to understand the problem. When we plant our trees in a sea of grass, we are forcing them to grow in an unnatural situation. Most of a tree's roots are found in the top 40 inches of the soil. Of those, the majority are found in the top 12 to 18 inches. Grass roots, of course, occupy this same zone and are intense competitors with tree roots for water and nutrients. When root competition is combined with other urban problems such as poor soils, restricted root zones, mechanical injury and air pollution, it is no wonder that some of our trees perform poorly. By mulching our plant materials in the urban landscape, we attempt to duplicate the conditions in which trees grow in nature.

Just what do we mean by mulching? Mulching is simply the

*Continued on page 20*

# Mulching: The natural thing to do

Continued from page 19

addition of a ring of an organic material around the base of your trees and shrubs. Many suitable materials are available, but one of the most convenient is shredded wood chips. Wood chips are readily available, inexpensive, easy to work with, long lasting and attractive. By replacing turf with mulch, we can improve the conditions in which our woody plant materials must grow.

Anyway you look at it, mulching is one of the best things you can do for your plant materials. Not only does it help to conserve moisture around the tree's root zone, it helps to keep the soil cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. Also, mulching helps to prevent "mower blight" around the base of the trunk. Mower blight occurs when attempting to remove the grass that is growing right next to a tree trunk with power lawn mowers. If the lawn mower hits the base of the trunk, portions of the bark can be torn loose, resulting in wounds that can seriously harm the tree. A ring of mulch will eliminate the need to mow close to the base of the tree, reducing the chances of contact between the mower and the tree.

What quantity of mulch is needed? First, the larger the mulched area, the better. The most desirable situation would be to forget about the turf and to mulch the entire yard. Of course, this is seldom practical, so try to mulch as large an area as possible. Next, as far as depth is concerned, a 3 to 4 inch layer works best. At less than 3

inches, the grass may not be smothered and will make a valiant comeback. Depths greater than 4 inches can actually harm the tree by reducing the roots' ability to obtain oxygen (remember, roots need oxygen just like we do).

One more thing, make sure you keep the mulch pulled back (4 to 6 inches) from the tree trunk. Moist chips, if kept in continual contact with the bark, can promote attack by certain insects and diseases.

When mulching with fresh wood chips, fertilizer should be broadcast over the top of the mulch layer. This fertilizer provides nutrients to the microorganisms that will decompose the wood chips. Without the added fertilizer, the microorganisms will use nutrients from the soil around the tree roots, reducing the nutrients available to the tree and partially defeating the purpose of the mulch. Use a rate of 1 to 2 pounds of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet of mulched area.

In summary, mulching attempts to duplicate the way trees grow in nature. It reduces competition from turf, conserves moisture and helps reduce trunk injury. Give mulching a try. It certainly is one of the best things you can do for your plant materials.

Prepared by Rex A. Bastian, Ph.D.  
Alpine, the Care of Trees

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# Wayne P. Remo: "Meet the candidates" speech

*Editor's Note: The following is a copy of the speech given by Wayne P. Remo at the Delegates Meeting, September 5, 1997, at GCSAA Headquarters, Lawrence, Kansas.*

It is my honor and pleasure to have the opportunity to address all of you here today. When I was an assistant superintendent of North Jersey Country Club in 1977, I attended by first conference and show in Portland, Oregon. While at that conference I met the president of the GCSAA, Richard Malpass. I was inspired by his professionalism and in awe of the position he had attained in his career. I was treated kindly by all those in attendance and impressed by the size of the convention. The attendance that year was 5,200 and our membership was under 4,000. I was truly proud to have chosen a career in Turfgrass Management.

In the 20 years that have passed, I have met every president of our association and been fortunate to know them personally. Last year's conference attendance in Las Vegas was 22,000 and our membership has grown to over 18,000. The association has seen many ups and downs in this period of time, but I believe each Board mem-

ber has contributed to the continued success of GCSAA.

My story really begins in 1956 when I was five years old. My father was the golf course superintendent of Rivervale Country Club at that time, and I began spending every moment I could with my dad at the golf course. I knew I loved being there and that Turf Management would be a part of my life forever. His leadership, drive, compassion and love for the game passed on to me, and we were best friends until his untimely death in 1983. His insight to the value of education helped me attain a degree in Agronomy from Delaware Valley College in 1973. Being a recipient of GCSAA's scholarship in 1972 and again in 1973, the financial burden coming from a family of four children was eased. Through continued educational seminars, my father became certified in 1977 and I followed in 1990. The Remo family tradition in the golf industry has continued with my son, Brian, who also has graduated with a degree in Agronomy from Delaware Valley College. My entire personal and professional history is available to you at the breakout sessions, and I am anxious to meet each of you personally. It is

*Continued on page 22*



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# Meet the candidates speech

*Continued from page 21*

interesting to note that of the 80 associations being represented here today, 32 representatives are new, 20 were alternates and 23 were delegates as of January 7 of this year. Your being here shows commitment to the future success of our profession and for that I thank you.

This election, however, is not about me. It is really about us. I remember sitting where you are at the first delegates meeting in 1993, listening to President Randy Nichols give the State of the Association address. The purpose of that meeting was to get the membership involved and to hold GCSAA's Board of Directors accountable. To unite the chapters, improve communication, improve networking, challenge vendors and enhance staff capabilities. Mandates were created such as increasing membership services, enhancing image and career development. Without the beginning and continuance of this delegates meeting, these achievements could never have been reached to the extent attained so far. It was the delegates who asked for a "Meet the Candidates Session" at this meeting so you had the chance to discuss personally the issues important to your local association.

I believe we have the finest staff anywhere, and I am sure Steve Mona and Joe O'Brien will be the first to tell you that. The im-

proved communication and membership services started by Randy Nichols exemplifies the true professional manner with which we have brought a tighter grasp on our professional careers, making us all part of one family of turfgrass managers. This can only continue if you ask the questions and demand the answers. I believe in surveys, education, research, scholarships, member services and image. But most importantly, I believe in you. My running for director was initiated from other associations asking me to do so, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey making the nomination, support from the Rock Spring Club, backing from my family and my total commitment to you through the GCSAA.

In closing, I encourage us to meet later in the breakout sessions to discuss many of the concerns you have; some of these being the golf tournament, corporate sponsorships, bylaw changes, dual membership, dues and the timing of this delegates meeting. The opinions I have for these and other issues are open minded. The direction taken will be in the best interest of the membership through your input. Remember the reason you elect any person to office is trust. Be confident that you are selecting the person who will best represent you. Support Wayne Remo in February and elect yourself.

Thank you.



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# Golf and the environment

## 1. Well managed golf courses provide substantial ecological and community benefits. Courses are:

- Community greenspaces that provide recreational opportunities and also offer and enhance wildlife habitats.
- "Air Conditioners" that produce vast amounts of oxygen while cleansing the air of pollution and cooling the atmosphere.
- Water treatment systems: healthy turfgrass is an excellent filter that traps and holds pollutants in place; courses actually serve as catch basins for residential and industrial runoff; many courses are effective disposal sites for effluent wastewater.
- Among the best ways to reclaim and restore environmentally damaged sites, such as landfills.
- Businesses that contribute substantially to communities through employment, taxes, property value improvement and enormous charitable support.

## 2. Science is on our side.

- Independent university research supports the fact that well-managed golf courses do not pose significant risks to environmental quality, wildlife or human health.
- The modern pesticides and fertilizers used to maintain healthy golf course turf have been thoroughly tested and are considered safe when used according to label directions.
- A pesticide product today has typically undergone more than 120 studies at a cost of \$50 million before it is registered by the Environmental Protection Agency.

## 3. Today's golf course superintendents are educated professionals who care about environmental quality.

- Most of today's superintendents have college degrees and substantial continuing education.

*Continued on page 24*

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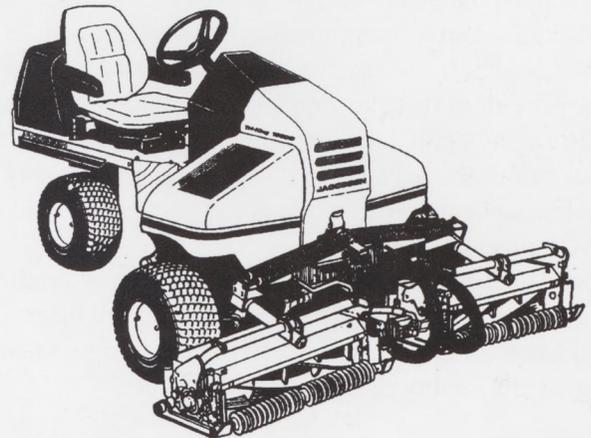
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# Golf and the environment

Continued from page 23

- Superintendents are the nation's leading practitioners of Integrated Pest Management, a philosophy that reduces the potential environmental risks of pesticide usage.
- Virtually all golf courses employ at least one state licensed pesticide applicator who is trained in environmentally sound pesticide use.

## 4. Are golfers at risk?

- No. There is no scientific evidence that golfers face any chronic health risks from the pesticides used to maintain courses.
- Once a liquid pesticide product is applied and the turf is dry or the product has been watered in, there is very little chance of exposure to golfers or others who enter the area.
- Golfers with possible chemical allergies are always encouraged to contact superintendents to find out what products might be in use.

## 5. The entire golf community is committed to being a model environmental industry for the 21st Century.

- The United States Golf Association is pouring millions of dollars into independent research to study issues such as water quality and wildlife habitat.
- The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has made environmental education a major focus of all of its education and information programs.
- The nation's golf course architects now design courses that reduce the need for pesticides, water and costly maintenance practices while preserving habitat and environmental quality.
- The Allied Associations in Golf are currently finalizing a set of "Environmental Principles" that will offer guidance for responsible development, design, maintenance and facility operation for the future.

## 6. We are working to correct public misconceptions about golf.

- Much of the environmental criticism of golf courses seems to be linked to local opposition to community growth.
- Local "anti-growth" sentiment has often led to unscientific claims about pesticide usage and other highly charged issues such as wetlands and wildlife habitat.
- Those isolated development disputes have led to public misperception.

For more information about golf and the environment, contact:

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America  
1421 Research Park Drive  
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# Hazard trees

**T**rees are beautiful creatures. They shade our homes, increase the value of our properties, cleanse and replenish our air and beautify our surroundings. We wish that our trees would always be perfect and never pose a hazard to people or property.

Unfortunately, this is not always true. Trees can become hazards for any number of reasons. As arborists, we have the duty to identify any tree that we believe may pose a hazard. It is also our duty to bring this to the attention of the homeowner or property manager. Because of the confusion that exists regarding hazard trees, we have prepared this guide to provide a little background information.

Three conditions must exist before a tree can be considered a hazard tree:

- The tree must have the potential to fail either in part or in total
- An environment must exist that may contribute to the failure
- A target must exist, either a person or property

If any one of the above conditions is missing, the tree is not considered a hazard. For example, a tree may be ready to topple over any minute. If, however, it is located in the middle of an empty field where people never travel, the tree poses no threat and is therefore not a hazard.

Even though a tree has been identified as a possible hazard, it does not mean it always must be removed. In many situations, only a portion of the tree presents a hazard. Removal of an offending limb or limbs may remove or reduce the threat. Cabling or bracing portions of the tree combined with thinning the crown to reduce weight may also be options.

Assessing the potential for a tree to fail is not an exact science. Many variables affect whether or not a tree will fail. Decay of branches, the main trunk or the root system will often lead to tree failure. The extent of decay throughout a tree is often not visible to the naked eye. Checking the internal condition of a tree often requires drilling holes into the trunk or branches. Such techniques involve risks of their own, but may be necessary to determine the extent of internal decay. Before such tests are performed, we must have permission from the owner or property manager to proceed.

No one can predict when, or even if, a tree will fail. A hazard tree may not fail for many years after identification. It could fail the next hour or the next day. It may never fail. A tree that appears perfectly sound could fail without warning.

When we identify a hazard tree, we believe that the tree poses a risk to property or people. It is our duty to inform



you of the risks we perceive. We do not make them lightly. We do not recommend the removal of trees simply to generate business. We make the judgments based on logic and the best information and knowledge available to the arboricultural industry. If we recommend removal of a tree based on a hazard assessment, we do so because we honestly believe the tree poses a risk to people or property. The homeowner or property manager always has the right to make the final decision.

*Prepared by Rex A. Bastian, Ph.D.  
Alpine, the Care of Trees*



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# People and things

*Editor's Note: Dr. Henry Indyk continues to sort through his papers and send me tidbits. The following is reprinted from an editorial by Jimmie Fleming in a New Brunswick newspaper called The Homes News, July 1976.—Some things are slow to change.*

**EARNs TRIBUTE:** Dr. Henry Indyk, specialist in turfgrass management in the Soils and Crop Department at Cook College, calls attention to the "unsung hero" on any well-kept golf course.

Indyk's comments trace back to a laudatory item in this column recently to the personnel of the Tamarack golf course operated by Middlesex County in East Brunswick.

Individuals representing two statewide groups had occasion to praise the club and its staff for the excellent accommodations provided and we're sure did not mean to slight anyone involved.

However, no mention was made of the one person most responsible for a delightful day—the man who saw to it that the course was put in perfect shape.

At Tamarack, that man is Tom Sandle, the superintendent of the golf course. On other golf courses, his name is different, but Indyk points out, his many responsibilities are similar.

In his salute to all good golf superintendents, a breed with which he is extremely familiar, Indyk says:

"This individual is a human being who appreciates a pat on the back for his conscientious efforts.

"He must not only contend with the vagaries of the weather, insects, diseases and weeds, but also errant golfers.

"Even under the best of conditions, he must listen to such criticisms as 'the greens are too fast; the greens are too slow; the greens are too hard; the greens are too soft; the greens are mowed in the wrong direction; the tee markers are in the wrong places; the fairways are too narrow; the fairways are cut too long; the roughs are too tall, etc., etc., etc.

"He must be extremely dedicated, conscientious and many things to many people. When conditions on the course do not measure up to par, he becomes the punching bag whether or not he is responsible. When conditions are superb, he will receive a rare word of appreciation from the golfer having a good day, but never a word of commendation from the press.

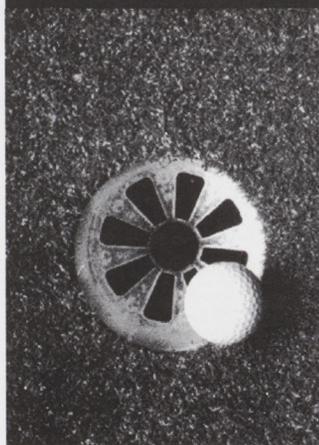
"The man I am paying tribute to for a job well done is a professional with a high degree of expertise in the many technical ramifications of turfgrass culture and management."

It is praise well deserved by the "Tom Sandles" wherever they may serve and, we might add, long overdue.

Thank you, Dr. Indyk.

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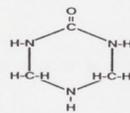
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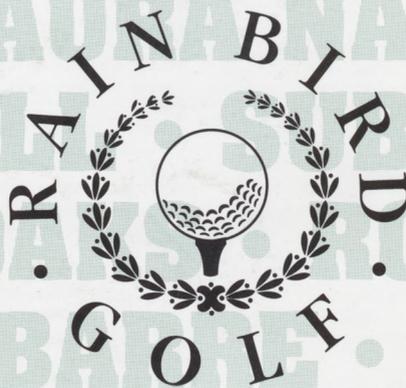
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