

THE GREENERSIDE

Official Publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

Scenes from throughout 1997

[Handwritten signature]



Annual Meeting - GCSANJ Executive Board (from left) Mike Mongon, Glenn Miller, Ken Krausz and Joe Kennedy.



District II Championship, Mt. Tabor, Chris Holenstein (left) and Pat Campbell.



Rutgers Field Day



GCSANJ President Glenn Miller (left) presenting plaque to Bob Dickison at the awards ceremony for the NFL/PGA Seniors Classic.



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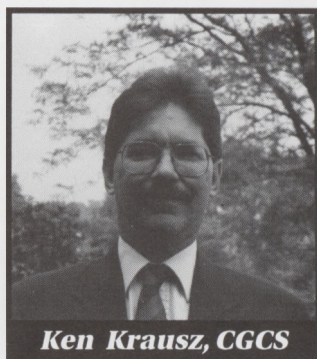
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EDITORIAL



Ken Krausz, CGCS

Looking back and forward

by Ken Krausz, CGCS

The holidays have passed and, hopefully, everyone has settled into their winter routines—education, budget preparation, tree work and vacation

time are my main winter routines. Who knows, maybe this winter I'll be able to watch my favorite team win the Super Bowl! I can dream, can't I?

The winter is always a time for reflection, and I have spent a lot of time thinking about this business and of the people in it. We as golf course superintendents have made great progress in the time that I have been in this profession. Our level of education has increased dramatically in the past decade. Back then, who thought of using computers; now they are on our spray vehicles besides being in our offices and homes.



We have satellite dishes bring the weather right into our shops. We have equipment managers, irrigation technicians and spray technicians.

We have made great advancements in all aspects of our business, things that we all should be proud of. There is one thing that bothers me—it seems to me, and this is my opinion, that we as a group are no longer the same close-knit fraternity that we used to be. Years back, when someone asked me what I thought was the best thing about my job, I always said that superintendents are open people, ready to help other superintendents; there are no secrets between us, well, almost none. If I had a problem, a phone call or two would bring the troops to help out.

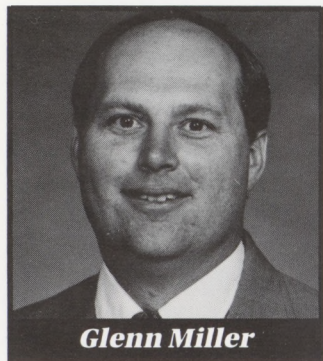
These days, I see that attitude changing. There are many people out there who are still willing to help out no matter what, but it seems that much of that willingness to help others has changed. It is almost as if some of us are afraid that if we help others, then that person will have an edge on the rest of us.

Maybe that attitude has always been there, and now I know more people so I see more things, but while talking to the older, retired superintendents, I realize that this is probably not the case. This is a way of life in other businesses, but, hopefully, not ours. We are all in this profession for our own personal reasons, but we are all in it together. Whether you are in the ultra-private club or the daily fee nine-hole course, you and I face the same obstacles, be it budget, personnel, weather or disease, and we as superintendents can relate to each other better than anyone else when it comes to the pressures we all face.

I hope I am wrong, I have been once or twice. I also hope that we can all help each other out. If there is something I can do to help you, please call, and when I call you or when any superintendent calls, let's remember that we are all just trying to make a living in this great profession, and let's keep this fraternity going!

I look forward to seeing you all soon, hopefully just to look back and then help us all move forward.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Glenn Miller

Thanks

I would like to thank the membership for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president for the upcoming year. As it happens, this message will be one of

thanks to several people. Thanks to Ron Mencl for many years of service to the Association as director and immediate past treasurer, and congratulations to Mike Mongon on his election as our next treasurer.

For those of you who missed the Presidents Ball, I can only say that you missed a great time, and you should plan on making it next year. Thanks to Harry and Rita Harsin, and Shaun Barry for putting on a great event.

The Ball featured the presentation of the GCSANJ Distinguished Service Award to Dr. C. Reed Funk, along with presentation of the GCSANJ Member of the Year Award to Steve Chirip.

I also want to thank Ed Mellor and his committee, who did a great job setting up our Association booth at the New Jersey Turfgrass Association Expo. Our new line of GCSANJ merchandise looks great. Call Ed for a catalog.

I would like to thank all the members who served on various committees last year. I encourage those of you who have an interest to get involved in one of our Association committees by calling either the committee chairman or me.

Again this year I am proposing to the Board that we sponsor the Chapter teams playing in the GCSAA golf championship in Anaheim. Last year it worked out well, and I hope to see strong representation for our Association again this year.

Glenn A. Miller



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Calendar

- Jan. 19 - Feb. 6** **Golf Turf Management School**, Rutgers University. Contact Bruce Neary, 732-458-0309.
- Jan. 22 - 29** **Everyday Spanish**, Cook College. Contact Office of Continuing Education, 732-932-9271.
- Feb. 2 - 8** **GCSAA Conference & Show**, Anaheim, California. Contact GCSAA, 800-472-7878.
- Feb. 24 - 25** **Environmental Management & Communication on Golf Courses**, Fiddler's Elbow C.C. Contact Office of Continuing Education, 732-932-9271.
- March 3 - 4** **Introduction to Golf Course Turfgrass Management**, Rutgers University. Contact Office of Continuing Education, 732-932-9271.
- April 21** **April Monthly Meeting**, Harbor Pines C.C., Host: Rich Broome, CGCS. Contact Judy Policastro, 973-379-1100.
- May 14** **May Monthly Meeting**, Spring Lake G.C., Host: Bruce Peebles. Contact Judy Policastro, 973-379-1100.
- July 20** **July Monthly Meeting**, Montammy G.C., Host: Mike Miner. Contact Judy Policastro, 973-379-1100.
- Sept. 28** **Invitational**, Manasquan River G.C., Host: Glenn Miller. Contact Shaun Barry, chair, 732-846-8173.

ALPINE C.C. REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

by Shaun Barry

Once again, **Steve Finamore** came through for the GCSANJ. He approached me and said that he would like to host the October Championship Meeting if that date was still open. It was and I immediately thanked him for offering. Now that is the way to put together our schedule.

The day before our meeting, I was speaking with Steve. We needed to go over some last minute details. During the conversation, I asked if the greens were fast. He said that they were trying to slow them down. I started to get nervous. The next morning I arrived early and went down to the maintenance facility. The mechanic said Steve was on the course double-cutting the greens. My hands started to shake and they haven't stopped yet (the three balls that I didn't lose in the trees actually have burn marks on them from their trips across these greens).

When we actually got to play, it looked like Steve and his crew actually double-cut the whole course. It was in magnificent shape. What a great site for our championship! Only true champions would be crowned today.

Capturing the Sherwood Moore Cup and winning the Championship Flight was **Tom Grimac** with a fine 81. This title has long eluded Tom's grasp but this year it reflected the final touches to a great year of golf. Many times champ, **Angelo Petraglia** (84), took second and **Larry Dodge** (86) edged out **Bob Dwyer** (86) on a match



GCSANJ President
Glenn Miller with
Alpine C.C.
Superintendent Steve
Finamore.

of cards. **Armand LeSage** (76) says he is hitting it farther and better than any other time in his life. It showed as he won the A Flight on a match of cards. Taking second and third were **T. Grimac** (76) and **Harry Harsin** (76). **B. Dwyer's** 76 unfortunately was out of the money. Winning the B Flight was **Jack Martin** (68), but this score also gave him the Dr. Henry Indyk Cup. He was followed by **Charlie Cadet** (69) and **Wayne Remo** (70). **Tony Gordon** (72) and **Jim McNally** played hard but they finished behind the second best net score of the day. Winning the C Flight was **Joe Kennedy** with a 69. **Stephan Kay** proved that he can do more than design great golf courses—his 79 was the lowest gross score of anyone in the field. With this fine effort, he was awarded the Dr. Paul Sartoretto Cup. Three players had net 73 scores in the Commercial Flight, but **Tony Raczynski** was the winner. He was followed by **Peter Siegel** and **Bob Gregory**.

The closest to the pin honors winners were **Tom Armbruster** (5 ft. 2.5 inches), **B. Gregory** (8 ft. 4 inches) and **Gary Arlio** (6 ft. 4 inches). **T. Armbruster**, **B. Gregory**, **Eugene Filippi**, **Ken Mathis** and **Craig Roncace** had one skin each hold up.

As has become a tradition in recent years, **Rob Finnesey** and **Tree Tech Inc.** donated \$100 to each winner of their flight in the long drive contest and a corresponding amount to our charity. This represents a \$600 donation to our Association. **Doug Larson** (A Flight) and **Ed Mellor** (B Flight) won this year, but there were no winners in the C Flight. Nobody kept it in the fairway so this money also went to the charity. Our thanks to everyone who tried (I missed in three different districts) and to Rob and Tree Tech Inc. At the end of the evening I announced that District 1 had won the District Championship. An error was made, however, and District 3 actually came away with another victory. On the team were **Jim Woods** (80), **T. Raczynski** (83), **A. Petraglia** (84), **H. Harsin** (87), **K. Mathis** (89) and **Phil Scott** (90). Congratulations to the winning team and my apologies to the District 1 team.

For the sixth year in a row, **Clyde Ashton** and **Double Eagle Equipment Co., Inc.** donated \$500 toward our trophies and plaques. This totals up to \$3,000 and still counting. They do this because we ask and because they want to help. It is this type of effort that makes this industry so unique. They, along with every company that paid



Alpine Long Drive
Contest winner, A
Flight, Doug Larson
(right) with Rob
Finnesey.



Alpine Long Drive
Contest winner, B
Flight, Ed Mellor
(right) with Rob
Finnesey.

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for a tee or green sign, should be remembered and thanked.

Glenn Miller did a nice job presenting the proposed by-law changes over dinner. It is a wonder that anyone took the time to listen because the food was excellent. This really was a day to be thankful for. Steve, when you read this, please let your staff and everyone at Alpine know what a great time we had. Your and their efforts were appreciated.

P.S.: Normally I don't report the results of the 50/50, but **Quentin Huber** (\$170), **J. Woods** (\$110) and **Bob Gregory** (\$55) returned all of their winnings back to us for the Foundation charity. What a wonderful gesture. Thank you, gentlemen!

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

by Ken Krausz, CGCS, and Shaun Barry

If it is November we must be heading to Hollywood! For as many years as I have been a member of GCSANJ, we have been welcomed with open arms by the Hollywood Golf Club.

All of the GCSANJ Committee chairpersons gave reports of their committee's progress during the past year. The hottest topic



GCSANJ President Glenn Miller (left) with Hollywood Superintendent Jan Kasyjanski.



The GCSANJ Board pose for a photo at the Annual Meeting. Back row (left to right): Gary Arlio, John Carpinelli, Doug Larson, Ed Mellor and Vince Bracken. Front row (left to right): Mike Mongon, Glenn Miller, Ken Krausz and Joe Kennedy.

of the meeting, was the proposed dues increase. If you remember, at the 1996 Annual Meeting the Board of GCSANJ proposed an increase and were asked to delay the increase and investigate the situation further. It seems that the Board did a good job in investigating and getting the results out to the membership, as this year the increase was approved after some short discussion. The Board would like to thank everyone in attendance for their support.

One of the more enjoyable parts of the Annual Meeting is the presentation of the 25-year awards. **Sky Bergen** did a great job as usual compiling this information and making the presentations. To keep the interest going you will have to read the 25-year report later in this issue.

The election of officers was held and the following slate was presented by the Nominating Committee and approved by the membership:

President - Glenn Miller
Vice President - Ken Krausz
Secretary - Joe Kennedy
Treasurer - Mike Mongon

After the meeting adjourned, we all ate a fabulous lunch and then golf was in order.

The golf report from the Annual Meeting was easy to figure out. We played a nine-hole skins game and 31 players got a chance to enjoy the course. **Jan Kasyjanski** always seems to have this nine in great shape. We are hoping to play all 18 somewhere in the near future.

There were only two birdies made all day. **Shaun Barry** made a 3 at the 8th hole from 18 inches, and **Fran Owsik** made his birdie, also at the 8th, from 30 ft. Two birds but no skin. Since some people had left already and some were playing more holes, we couldn't give the money back. The decision was made to donate the money to our Foundation. What a nice way to make us all winners.

Thanks Shaun, Fran and Jan.

25-YEAR MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

What do the 1997 recipients of the 25-year award have in common—O.K. besides the fact that they joined the GCSANJ in 1972? All three of them are Certified Golf Course Superintendents, and all three have served on the Board of GCSANJ—thanks for giving back!

Bob Ribbans, CGCS, was the only recipient of the 25-year award who was able to attend the Annual Meeting this year. Bob has been superintendent at Forsgate Country Club for the past 11 years. He was also superintendent at Fairmont C.C. from 1980-1986 and Roxiticus C.C. from 1976-1980. Bob worked as the assistant superintendent at Fiddlers Elbow C.C. for six years under Superintendent **Paul Boizelle**. A summer job at Fiddlers is also on Bob's resume. Education includes Trenton State College and attending Rutgers in 1973 and 1974.

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Service for GCSANJ includes: director 1978-82, secretary 1982 and 1983, vice president 1984 and president in 1985 and 1986.

Wayne Ballinger, CGCS, is working for Wadsworth Golf Construction Company and is in Virginia at this time. Wayne was superintendent at Copper Hill Golf Course from 1986-1992. He also held the position of superintendent at Glenwood C.C. from 1980-1986 and superintendent at Knob Hill C.C. from 1972-1980. Wayne lived next door to Medford Lakes C.C. and worked there while attending Trenton State College. The Rutgers Short Course is also part of Wayne's education. In giving back to the profession, Wayne was the treasurer for GCSANJ and Field Day Chairman, giving over five years of volunteering back to the Association.

Ed Walsh, CGCS, is employed as superintendent at Mansion Ridge C.C. in Monroe, New York. This is a new upscale public golf course scheduled to open during the summer of 1998. Ed worked as superintendent at Essex County C.C. for three years, Ridgewood C.C. for 18 years (hosting the 1990 U.S. Senior Open) and Colonia C.C. for three years. Ed was the assistant superintendent at Suburban



At the Annual Meeting, Sky Bergen (left) presents 25-year award to Bob Ribbens. Congratulations, Bob.

C.C. for three years under **Jack Martin**, and he also worked at Princeton Hills (now Hillsboro) and Warren Brook C.C. under **Al Rathjens**. Ed is a graduate of the Rutgers Winter Course. He has served as president of GCSANJ as well as the Tri-State Turf Foundation. One of his biggest accomplishments is that Ed Walsh served as editor for *The Greenside* for six years.

All the members of GCSANJ congratulate Bob, Wayne and Ed for their accomplishments in the past 25 years and thank them for all they have given back.

Thanks also to Sky Bergen for all his hard work in compiling this information and presenting the awards.

PRESIDENTS BALL VI IS A SUCCESS

by Shaun Barry

Every year I look forward to the Presidents Ball. It gives me a chance to truly interact with people from all parts of this industry. It is a relaxed atmosphere where everyone kicks back and enjoys a great meal, good conversation and music that will appeal to all age groups. The slow music that seems to bring us together in a romantic way seemed to be the most popular, but if you did dance to all of the up-tempo selections you are in great shape.

The fact is that we are there to honor all of the GCSANJ presidents

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in attendance. **Skip Cameron, Joe Flaherty, Jack Martin, Steve Finamore, Dave Pease, Chris Carson and Glenn Miller** were honored and asked to stand proudly with their wives. It is a short and small way of thanking these couples for helping the GCSANJ through the years.

We then honored a very surprised but very deserving man as our second Member of the Year recipient. **Steve Chirip** was chosen from many worthy candidates, but, as with our Distinguished Service Award winner, it was an easy choice. **Dr. Reed Funk** became our twelfth DSA winner. When you listen to his bio maybe he should be a repeat winner.

With all of the official duties completed, 83 members and guests proceeded to enjoy themselves immensely. Led by the example of our hosts, **Rita and Harry Harsin**, there were smiles and laughter everywhere. The dance floor was crowded, and even those former non-dancers with bad backs, bad knees and two left feet joined in the fun.

As the party broke up well after midnight, you could feel the glow. People were asking about next year's date and how they were going to get other members out to the next one.

Put the date down on your calendar when it comes out. You don't want to miss this and you won't be disappointed.

Editors Note: This was reported by Shaun Barry, the chairperson and photographer for this event. Thanks, Shaun.



Scenes from the Presidents Ball.



The 1997 GCSANJ Member of the Year Award was presented to Steve Chirip (right) by President Glenn Miller.



Glenn Miller (left), president of GCSANJ, presented Dr. Reed Funk with the 1997 Distinguished Service Award.



THE MET TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

by Shaun Barry

On October 6, 1997, the GCSANJ sent its team up to the C.C. of Darien to challenge for the Met Team Championship. Although New Jersey has already won this event two times in the past, some of our A players were unavailable. The self-appointed captain (who will remain nameless) spent a lot of time picking the team and an equal amount deciding who would be a gross or a net player. There was a movement within part of the team to have him overthrown so these choices could be changed, but the die was cast and the team went forward. They returned as champions, and the captain will be immor-

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talized for his leadership.

Ian Kunesch and **Tom Grimal** tied for the low score of the day with a pair of 77s. They chose a match of cards over a playoff. This allowed Ian to be declared the winner. **Shaun Barry, Harry Harsin, Doug Larson, Bob Prickett, Tony Raczynski** and **Jim Woods** were the other members of the team. Their team total of 462 was the largest margin of victory in years. Long Island (475) and the Met (483) were the next two teams. Jeff Hemphill (CT) had the longest drive, and Tim O'Neil (Met) won the closest to the pin contest.

Congratulations to the team. Next year we will have a qualifying date where we will pick the team. This will take the choice out of the process. If anybody wants to host the event in mid-September, please let me know.

Joint superintendents hospitality suite at GCSAA Annual Conference & Show

Going out to the GCSAA Annual Conference & Show? If so, mark your calendar to stop by the joint hospitality suite at the Anaheim Hilton and Towers. The date is February 6, 1998, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The Pacific Ballroom D is the place to be. This is the perfect place to meet all of your friends from the Northeast. There will be all kinds of food, so bring your appetite. As in the past, to contain costs, drinks will be available at the many cash bars located throughout the ballroom. Come and enjoy the evening, and show your support for Wayne Remo, CGCS, in his bid to become a director of GCSAA.

Pinehurst connection

Congratulations are in order for Thomas Ristau of Pennink Arrimour Inc. On November 29, 1997, he and Sharon Geldbach were married in Pinehurst, North Carolina. Dave Pease joined Tom and his family and friends for two rounds of golf before acting as Tom's best man. Playing #2 and #8 before your wedding must be good luck because the wedding turned out beautifully. We wish them years of love and happiness.

WELCOME, DOMINICK

The Greenside is pleased to announce the birth of Dominick Michael Vacchiano, born on October 8, 1997, weighing in at 7 lbs. 2 oz. If you went to the Presidents Ball, you would realize that Dominick's mom, Sue, was doing fine as well as baby and father. If you did not recognize Sue, she was the one who kept calling home to make sure Dominick was fine, as that night was their first night separated.



1997 Met Team champs are (left to right): Shaun Barry, Tom Grimal, Ian Kunesch, Tom Raczynski, Doug Larson, Jim Woods, Harry Harsin and Bob Prickett.

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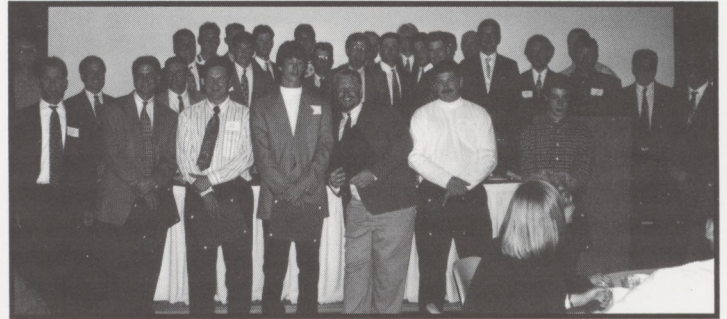
Rutgers hands out the diplomas and the checks

by Steve Chirip

On November 1, 1997, a rainy Saturday night, the graduates from the Rutgers Short Course received their diplomas. More than 30 graduates and their families were present. Also on this evening, scholarships were given to those continuing their education. Almost \$60,000 was handed out from various groups. Some of them were The Paul Deschamps Memorial Fund, N.J.T.A., The Lofts Memorial, Agrevo and several others. It was a great event.

On this night, the Rutgers Alumni Association gave out its Recognition Award. The recipient of this award was very surprised as I believe he thought he was only there to give a presentation of his preparation for the PGA Tournament. That is right, the winner of this

year's Recognition Award is Bob Alonzi, the superintendent at Winged Foot and a member of the first graduating class of the Rutgers Short Course. Congratulations to Bob and to all who received diplomas and awards that night.



1997 Rutgers Short Course graduates.

What is your handicap?

by Steve Chirip

I recently had the pleasure to play in a golf tournament on behalf of the N.J.T.A. It was held at Copper Hill C.C. and called the Copper Hill Classic Paul Deschamps Memorial. Now, back to my original question. At this tournament your handicap is not a number or an index, it is your ability to accept what life gives you and to move ahead with an attitude that "I can do anything I put my mind and body to."

Let me explain for those who have never played in this great event. It is a team event, made up of five players per team, a low gross and a low net score are counted. Now the makeup of the team: each team is matched up with an assistant pro from a golf course in the New Jersey Metro area. This is also a great part of this outing in that the assistant pros are wonderful to play with. Next you have three regular golfers (if there is such a thing) and last, but not least, a member of the 5-some is a member of The Eastern Amputee Association. That is right, a physically challenged person. These players put on a clinic before we tee it up; it is as inspirational an event as you will ever see.

Some good golf was played and some great golf was played. There was a tie for first among the pros which Charlie Cowell from White Beeches won in a playoff over Darren McGowen from Essex Fells C.C. The low score for the amputees was a 78 shot by Bob West, the president of the association.

Rob Milnarski and his staff had Copper Hill in excellent shape. Thanks, Rob.

I would like to urge everyone to attend this outing next year. It is an experience you will never forget. Let me end by thanking our hosts, Mary Lou and Lise Deschamps and Storr Tractor for a superb golf tournament.

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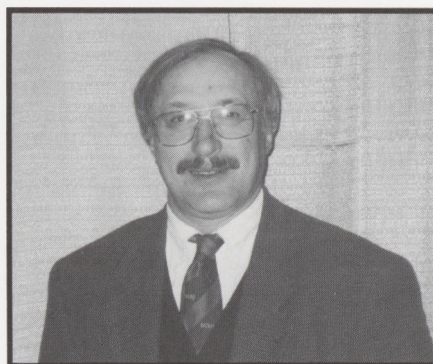
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LeSage receives Ilona Gray Environmental Award

Armand H. Le Sage, golf course superintendent of White Beeches Golf and Country Club, was presented with the second annual Ilona Gray Environmental Award from the Alliance for Environmental Concerns at the organization's annual meeting held recently at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Bedminster, New Jersey.

The AEC is an organization comprised of individuals from the pesticide regulated community in New Jersey. The activities of the organization include representing the user community at state regulatory and legislative meetings; education of members concerning certification, training and licensing through their newsletters, seminars and conferences; communicating facts about the responsible use and the benefits of pesticides to legislators and the public; networking with allied professionals and product manufacturers to provide factual responses to issues and concerns; and joining forces with allied associations to coordinate appropriate responses to key issues.

LeSage has served twice as president of the AEC and has been on their Pesticide Regulation Task Force. He has represented AEC throughout the United States at National Alliance meetings. Armand is an active member of GCSAA, serving on many committees and currently on their Public Relations Committee, and is undergoing training in their Ambassador Public Speaking Program and the GCSAA Audubon Program for Schools. He is also a member of GCSANJ; member currently serving on the Board of Directors of NJTA; member currently serving on the Board of Trustees of the First Congregational Church of River Edge; and a guest lecturer in the



Armand LeSage, recipient of the 2nd annual Ilona Gray Environmental Award.

Turf Management Program at Rutgers University. Armand is a decorated Vietnam veteran and is married to Mary-Justine Lanyon. He has two daughters, Amanda, a seventh grade student at River Dell Middle School, and Margot, a junior at St. Michaels College in Vermont.

The Ilona Gray Environmental Award was presented to LeSage by John Buechner, president of the Alliance for Environmental Concerns, Inc., who told the audience that the award was given as special recognition for achievements, accomplishments and years of dedicated service to the Alliance. Armand is retiring as a Board member after 11 years of service. The meeting was attended by over 100 members and invited guests.

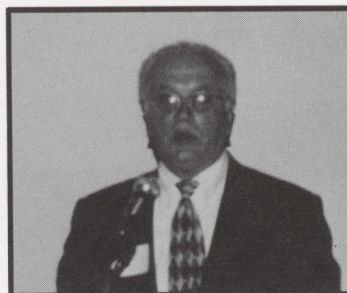
Alonzi given Rutgers Turfgrass Alumni Association Lifetime Achievement Award

Robert Alonzi was awarded the Rutgers Turfgrass Alumni Association Lifetime Achievement Award at the Eighth Annual Turfgrass Student Awards Banquet in November 1997. This event, held each year at Cook College on the Rutgers Campus, honors turfgrass scholars and leaders in the turfgrass industry for their outstanding achievements.

Alonzi is the golf course superintendent at Winged Foot G.C. in Mamaronek, New York. His career in the industry began in 1966 at Tamarack Country Club, and since then he has dedicated his career to the betterment of the golf turf industry. In 1984, he was the host superintendent for the U.S. Open held at Winged Foot and for the 1997 PGA Championship also.

An alumni of Rutgers, Alonzi has always given back to the

university as a guest lecturer, in fact he became so popular in the classroom, he has also lectured at national conventions, the University of Massachusetts and Michigan State University.



Bob Alonzi, superintendent at Winged Foot Golf Club, recipient of the Rutgers Turfgrass Alumni Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

Cadence

by Brian Remo

Ah yes, once again Jack Frost is nipping at our noses. Old man winter is biting at our faces. But for some inexplicable reason, golfers are still chomping at the bit. December usually means the end of a lot of things for us in the northern golf industry: No more mowing . . . no more spraying . . . no more leaves . . . no more irrigation. However, I am slowly starting to think that whenever a person purchases a set of golf clubs these days, that an alien abducts his or her brain with a toxic microchip that causes them to ignore all facets of weather, temperature and basic laws of sanity to place priority in striking that little white Titleist a few thousand more times like the apocalypse is upon us. Don't get me wrong. It's this kind of fanaticism that has catapulted the success of this sport, along with the respect and development of our profession. I would just like to discuss some situations that the average assistant may encounter during the winter months and some easy solutions that may help.

Avoiding winter damage is probably a major concern for all of us during these next few months, and among the causes of this damage is frost. I'm sure with the freaky weather we've been having here in New Jersey lately, that many courses have already suspended play many times due to frost. (Keep in mind that it is November 24 as I am writing this.) This situation can get very hairy at times. It is often difficult to explain why even in the best of weather, play must be suspended. When I was an intern at Essex County C.C. a few years back, Ed Walsh taught me something that I still utilize today. He said that the more you teach a membership about what we are trying to accomplish, the better the understanding of the decisions you make. Here at Rock Spring, I distributed a newsletter to the Greens Committee that reviewed in brief the factors and effects of winter damage in relation to turfgrass. Response was all positive, and I think a new understanding and appreciation for play suspension was established. I advise all others to do the same. Communication is our most valuable asset, and it is important that the lines remain clear and open. But the next time the hounds are barking at the gate, and you're getting the evil eye from 20 to 30 blood-thirsty golfers packing titanium . . . be brave and stick to your guns. You were hired to do a job. Your education and experience allow you to make the decisions that are best for the course. It is their golf course, but it's your call.

Carts . . . always a fuel for controversy. They provide income for the club. They speed up play. They are often essential for older or disabled golfers. But, man oh man, can they make a mess! To have carts or not to have carts, that is the question. Whether tis nobler in the mind to send the vehicles out to ravage the turf at will, or collectively ship every last four-wheeled capsule of destruction off to a deserted island to be blown off the face of the earth for all eternity. Those courses that don't have wall-to-wall paths can suffer greatly during the winter months. Remember, in the growing season we can repair minor cart damage as it comes by way of soil, seed and sod. But in the winter, these mishaps accumulate into one heck of a spring project.

Temporary greens . . . You can mow them down, you can put nice flags in them, you can paint all the circles you want, but no golfer is happy to hear the words: "We're on temps today." Here in New Jersey,

our management practices in regards to putting greens are designed to promote the maximum attainable ratio of bentgrass to Poa. During winter dormancy, it is increasingly critical that Poa is not given a "green light" for spring invasion. Because of its simple root systems

Avoiding winter damage is probably a major concern for all of us during these next few months, and among the causes of this damage is frost.

and early season growth rate, ball marks, foot traffic and other forms of soil compaction favor the progression of Poa annua during periods of freeze-thaw, soil compactability increases substantially. The upper 1/4" of the green may thaw, while a frozen layer remains below. (Foot Traffic + Soft Soil + Solid Layer = Compaction City.) Any sharp depressions made during this period will not heal and can also leave

Continued on page 12



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Pesticide safety: Where are we now?

By Nancy Sadlon
Executive Director
The Alliance for Environmental Concerns

The AEC Annual Meeting and Seminar, held at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club on November 20, 1997, was a big success. It should be a don't miss meeting date on your calendar for next year. I suggest you set aside the date of Thursday, November 19, 1998.

We had a great turn out with over 80 people attending to participate in discussion on our topic "Pesticide safety: Where are we now?"

We had some great speakers from the industry and the environmental activist community to provided another lively and informative panel discussion as well as excellent individual presentations on topical subjects. Our meeting offered more recertification credits to attendees than ever before (6 Core credits, 2-3a, 2-3b, 2-7a, 2-8a). We had a silent auction that offered a variety of products and other items, donated door prizes and an absolutely fabulous breakfast and lunch spread prepared by Fiddler's Elbow C.C. It was a great day!

The morning's events started with a surprise. There was the scheduled presentation of the "Ilona Gray Environmental Award," which was presented to a well-known New Jersey golf course superintendent/Alliance Board member. The award recipient was known to have difficulty being on time. So he was assigned the honor of giving the pledge of allegiance. To our surprise, our distinguished award recipient, Armand LeSage, was on time and well practiced for the pledge of allegiance. The real surprise was Armand's as he was not asked to come up for the pledge of allegiance but to receive the "Ilona Gray Environmental Award" for his years of dedicated service to the Alliance for Environmental Concerns and to the industry. It was a great moment for Armand LeSage and for those attending and especially for those who know him well.

NJDEP-PESTICIDE COMPLIANCE UPDATE

The DEP Update this year was provided by John Orrok, NJDEP Chief of Pesticide Compliance. Of interest, he noted that 30-40% of the applicators in the state are unlicensed. In 1997, 300 complaints were filed with the department, a decrease from last year. Most of these

complaints were from the public. The pesticide code was readopted this year (1997) with no changes. However, he explained that the department will be looking to make global revisions to the pesticide code in 1998; something the AEC will be staying on top of for all its members and allied associations, including GCSANJ.

TICKS AND LYME DISEASE RESEARCH REPORT

Next up was Dr. Booth from Bartlett Tree Experts. His talk on ticks and lyme disease was rated excellent by all attendees who returned the evaluation form. This dynamic speaker captivated the audience and provided us all with important information on ticks based on his research. As he noted, the deer tick is the one of concern with respect to being a carrier of lyme disease. It is the one that is much smaller than the dog tick. Habitat of this tick is in moist, shaded areas. The time when ticks are most dangerous, most hungry for a meal, and, therefore, the time to be most careful, is in May, June and early July. Contrary to some perceptions, the deer ticks do not drop from the trees nor are they found in the open lawn areas. They are predominantly found one to two feet off the ground, along well traveled deer paths. Ticks can easily be killed with pesticides. You do not need a lot. Low doses of a pesticide product (such as sevin, dursban, tempo, etc.), downward sprayed in leaf litter and/or woodland understory areas where ticks are found is recommended. The spraying of open lawns should be considered a misapplication as this is not where the ticks exist. Lastly, Dr. Booth discussed repellent options for ticks. The popular spray Deep Woods Off (containing Deet) is considered just adequate. The latest research suggests that a concentrated aerosol of permethrum at 0.5% concentration is most effective. It should be sprayed on clothes, and *it must never be sprayed on skin.*

NJDEP INSPECTION ADVICE

DEP Inspector Joseph LaBella refreshed the audience's knowledge of what inspectors are concerned about and what they would like to see on an inspection. He stressed the importance of communication, encouraging applicators to use the phone to call the DEP and discuss confusing regulations, discuss label interpretation, discuss potential misapplication, report spills or accidental misapplications and to change registration status when necessary. With respect to records

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Cadence

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the putting surface bumpy well into the spring of the year. Algae, moss and Poa will compete with the bentgrass to fill in these voids. Bentgrass is at a huge disadvantage to this kind of competition for the simple fact that Poa breaks out of dormancy much earlier than bent, and mosses can grow throughout the winter. Over one-half of the time per round of golf is spent on the putting surface, so no golfer will be happy to know that this facet of the game may be eradicated for even one or two holes. However, it must be understood that an area in which so much of the game is played must also hold the highest priority in our management practices. I always like to tell our

members to pretend they're in old Scotland, where the 19th Century green speeds topped out at about 6' on the stimp meter.

Our utmost objective as golf course superintendents and assistants is to provide our players with the finest possible golfing conditions. Restricting play, temporary greens and restricting carts are management tools which significantly affect these conditions for the better. Our combined knowledge, through education and experience, advocates the usage of these tools when frost layering, turf dormancy and the other lovely gifts of winter occur. Remember, guys and gals, if God wanted New Jersey to have perfect golf conditions 365 days a year, He wouldn't have invented Myrtle Beach.

GCSANJ and Rutgers team up to provide practical environmental training

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey is teaming up with Rutgers University to present a two-day symposium on "Environmental Management and Communications on Golf Courses" on February 24 and 25, 1998.

The symposium will be held at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Bedminster, New Jersey, which recently completed the work required for certification as an Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary.

The program will provide practical, cost-effective recommendations for implementing environmental management programs on golf courses. Topics to be covered include:

- conducting an environmental audit on a golf course
- strategies for controlling runoff and improving surface water quality
- low-cost methods of creating wildlife habitats
- minimizing chemical use through cultural practices
- minimizing water requirements
- a review of Best Management Practices identified by USGA environmental research

Speakers will include specialists with experience in the environmental concerns of golf courses in the areas of water quality, irrigation, wildlife management, pesticide safety and environmental auditing. Each speaker has been asked to provide a checklist of action items that superintendents can take back to their courses.

In addition, four leading superintendents—Chris Carson from Echo Lake Country Club, Tom Grimac from Tavistock Country Club, Dave Pease from the Monmouth County Park System and Clark Weld from Blue Heron Pines—will participate in a panel discussion on strategies they use to minimize chemical use on their courses. The audience will have ample opportunity to add their own comments and questions during this session.

The second day of the symposium will conclude with an interactive workshop on Environmental Communication for Golf Course Superintendents. This session will help golf course managers better understand and plan for some of golf's most frustrating and challenging communication issues, such as:

1. Why are people so concerned about golf course pesticides even when they misuse them regularly on their own properties?
2. What can you say to people who call with concerns or complaints about chemicals you apply on the course?
3. How can you plan for and react to an environmental problem, such as a fish kill or accidental spill, which can affect your course even if it was not caused by your operation?

These issues of environmental management and communication are the focus of a two-year project underway in New Jersey. The GCSANJ and the GCSAA are cooperators in a project with the Center for Environmental Communication at Rutgers University to document Best Management Practices in the state and to provide technical assistance to courses that want to implement environmental management and communication BMPs. The project is funded by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Environmental Planning, which is providing partial funding for this symposium.

The program also is part of the Advanced Turfgrass Symposium series, which has been sponsored by the Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education and the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science. Participants will receive these additional benefits by attending:

- 8 core credits toward pesticide recertification in New Jersey.
- A vendor show on day two.
- A list of college students with backgrounds in natural resource management or environmental science who are seeking internships to help golf courses prepare their Audubon international certification packets.
- A discount for GCSANJ members.

The registration fee for GCSANJ members is \$175 if it is received before February 9. The fee for non-members before that date is \$195. The fee for all registrations after February 9 is \$235. The registration fee includes refreshments, lunch and course materials.

To register or for more information, call the Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education at 732-932-9271.

VASTACRES

Joe and Anne Vasta

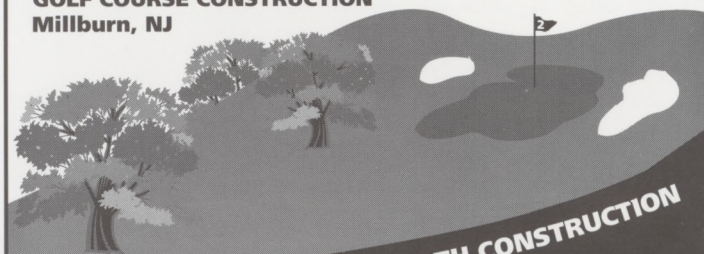
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Pesticide safety: Where are we now?

Continued from page 12

of application, he stressed that all pesticide application records are readable by *anyone*, up-to-date and complete per DEP regulations.

A TOXICOLOGISTS VIEW OF "WHAT IS THE REALITY OF PESTICIDE EXPOSURE CONCERNS?"

Dr. Michael Maynard of Novartis Crop Protection Inc. addressed the subject of "What is the reality of pesticide exposure concerns?" This industry toxicologist noted that there is a growing misperception about the hazards of pesticide exposure that is not founded in reality. This, he believes, is in part due to the media, the Internet and the nature of society. Media stories such as those about alligators with small parts, deformed frogs, Gulf War Syndrome, DDE/PCB breast cancer, Alar, etc., are examples of bias/semi-science reporting that has resulted in false blames on pesticides resulting in growing public misperceptions. The Internet and numerous other sources are providing all kinds of information that looks like science but is *not* really science and is not peer reviewed, etc. This 'junk science' is readily accessible to the public and by link association is gaining more credibility than it deserves. It is often inaccurate or false information made available to the public with little discrimination of science. And lastly, growing misperceptions about pesticides are fueled by the society we are becoming... a society of litigation. We as a society seem to always be looking to find someone other than ourselves to place blame. And we don't trust our 'government systems.'

So what is the reality of pesticide exposure concerns? Dr. Maynard presented the 1995 Washington State Pesticide Exposure Results, which importantly illustrate a decrease in incidents related to pesticides. He also presented the exposure results associated with three anonymous compounds.

1995 Washington State Exposure Results - In Summary:

- Total pesticide related claims are < 300/year with no unintentional deaths or serious injuries.
- Numbers are a very small percent of potential situations/claims/risks.
- Of those, < 50% have observed symptoms and almost all of those resolved.
- Numbers are diminishing with better systems to capture incidents.

Dr. Maynard asked the audience to consider some other elements in our society that give us reason for concern. In comparison to the following anonymous compounds, the reality of pesticide exposure concerns is far less that it is perceived by the public. Can you guess what the following compounds are?

Compound X:

> 100,000 deaths/year
> 15.3 million people affected in 1993
25% of hospitalizations related
Costs > \$100 billion/year

Compound Y:

44,000 deaths/year
18,000 deaths/year with alcohol
700,000 disability injuries/year
Costs > \$500 billion

Continued on page 15

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Pesticide safety: Where are we now?

Continued from page 14

Compound Z:

Worldwide > 3 million deaths/year

Worldwide costs > \$200 billion

US > 400,000 deaths/year

US costs > \$70 billion

40,000 fetal/infant deaths related

Other related illnesses/hospitalizations

Join the Alliance and don't miss our annual seminar/meeting next year.

To find the answers to the compounds listed above, see below.

Anonymous compounds answers: Compound X = Alcohol; Compound Y: Auto Accidents; Compound Z: Smoking.

Letter to the editor

To the editor:

I am writing in response to the article "Cadence" written by Mr. Brian Remo in the Nov.-Dec. issue.

I have been married to an assistant golf course superintendent for nine years, and I am very proud of what my husband does.

Thanks and appreciation to Mr. Remo for bringing attention to the assistant and the hard work they do. It's about time someone said "thanks and good job" to all the assistants everywhere." Summer is "anything but a vacation," and it is hard to make plans with the family when you work weekends. There are people who say all they do is sit on a mower and cut grass, how much brain power can that take? There is so much behind the scene that isn't seen. I know I could never calculate the right amount of chemical to be sprayed on the fairways, it's not as easy as it sounds. Then, there is the irrigation system, talk about "not being easy." Mr. Remo mentioned the word dirt. To all those who ask, "Do you get dirty?", I invite you to see my husband's jeans stand by themselves after he has spent time in a muddy hole fixing an irrigation leak.

An assistant has a lot to know about his/her golf course and spends a lot of time dealing with members as well. So, to all of those clubs, both private and public, who are seeking a new superintendent, requiring two years or more experience, I feel you have overlooked more than one or two very qualified people.

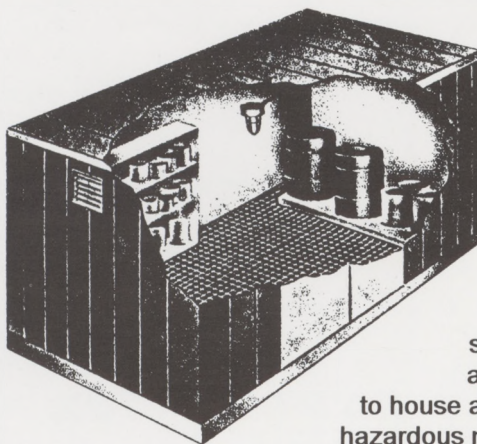
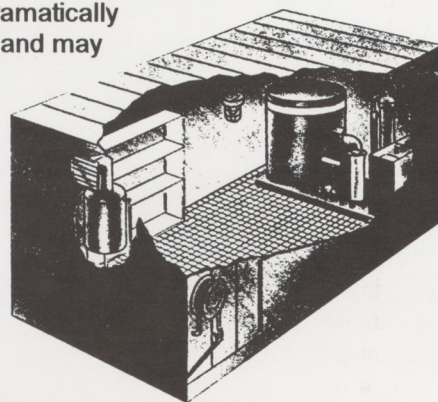
Sincerely, Sue Brennan
(Rod Brennan, Assistant, Springdale G.C.)

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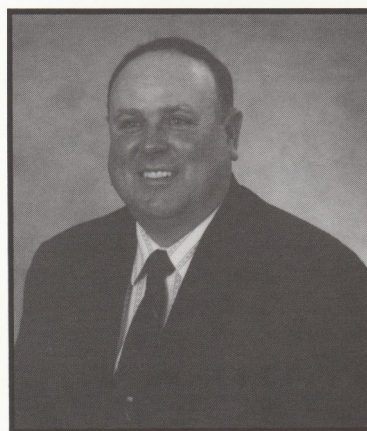
An interview with Wayne P. Remo, candidate for GCSAA director

Ken Krausz Wayne, why do you feel that you would be a director of GCSAA who will make GCSANJ proud, as we recommended you for this position?

Wayne Remo First, I appreciate that GCSANJ submitted my name as candidate for director. Having served as delegate to GCSAA for the past four years, as well as serving on various national committees, I am aware of where GCSAA was and the direction that it is going. The direction of both GCSAA and GCSANJ seems to be the same so this would be a natural match.

K.K. It will take a lot of your time and effort to be an effective director; do you feel that you are able to give all that is necessary?

W.R. Absolutely, after making sure that I was willing to put in the time and effort, I made sure that I had the support of both my family and The Rock Spring Club. If either of those two groups were hesitant, I would have gone



Wayne P. Remo

no further. When everyone around me supported my commitment, I then spoke with the Executive Board of GCSANJ who also gave me their full support. I am ready and willing to do what has to be done or else I would

Continued on page 18



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An interview with Wayne P. Remo

Continued from page 17

not have considered running. As you know, Ken, when I do something, I do it with full commitment.

K.K. What are your goals as GCSAA director?

W.R. My goals are many; they include: continuing GCSAA's mandates of image, chapter relations, environment and job security through dedication to the elected position of director; to service the membership by being part of team involvement by asking questions,

demanding answers, boosting the profession, remaining accessible and addressing the needs of the many; to unselfishly give back to the continued advancement of the turfgrass management field which has given me and my family a rewarding and successful way of life.

K.K. Wayne, you have convinced me that you are committed to this task; you have my vote, and good luck in Anaheim.

W.R. Thank you, Ken, and don't hesitate to call if you have questions or concerns. I am here to represent you!

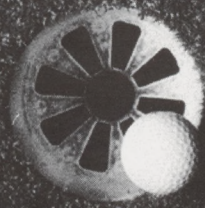
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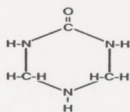
intentionally undertook to perform a forbidden act in willful disregard of company safety rules and ruled that workers compensation can be denied if a blatant disregard of rules leads to injury.

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