

THE Greenerside

Official Publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

Something new to look out for in the Garden State ... *Gray Leaf Spot*

APR 21 1999

By Matt Nelson, Agronomist
USGA Green Section, Northeast Region

Golf courses throughout the state of New Jersey with significant stands of perennial ryegrass were afflicted with gray leaf spot during the late summer of 1998. The causal agent, *Pyricularia grisea*, a fungus, is a major pathogen of rice across the world. Until the early 1990s, the pathogen had been identified to cause gray leaf spot on St. Augustine grass and blast of annual ryegrass, but had not been documented as a pathogen of perennial ryegrass. Gray leaf spot on perennial ryegrass was reported in the early 1990s, but a major epidemic swept across the Mid-Atlantic States during the summer of 1995. Many golf courses with large areas of perennial ryegrass monostands were decimated by this fungus and chemical control and prevention strategies proved to be expensive. Environmental conditions favorable to gray leaf spot activity again became prevalent during the summer of 1998 and infected stands of perennial ryegrass were reported as far north as upper New England and as far west as Nebraska. Numerous golf courses in New Jersey experienced significant turfgrass loss and injury from this pathogen for the first time. The prolific spore production of *Pyricularia grisea* and the widespread use of perennial ryegrass throughout the state suggest gray leaf spot is a disease that is here to stay and may become active whenever environmental conditions are suitable to infection.

Although development of this disease has been reported as early as June in the Central and Mid-Atlantic States, disease activity typically begins in August following extended periods of high heat and humidity. Once active, gray leaf spot can remain active until the first hard frost. Gray leaf spot activity in Pennsylvania has been reported in November. Small gray lesions with brown, irregular perimeters develop on leaf blades of perennial ryegrass. Faint, reddish-brown patches 3-24 inches in diameter develop in stands of perennial ryegrass. The disease is frequently confused with brown patch or pythium blight, although mycelium are not easily observed. As disease development progresses, leaf blades

take on a scorched appearance that can be improperly diagnosed as wilt or drought stress. If the turfgrass does not respond to irrigation, closer examination of the turfgrass stand is warranted. It is not uncommon to observe healthy *Poa*

A twisted leaf tip is another distinguishing symptom of gray leaf spot, particularly in stands of perennial ryegrass seedlings.

annua plants within a gray leaf spot infected stand of perennial ryegrass, in which case drought stress can usually be eliminated as a causal factor of turfgrass decline. A twisted

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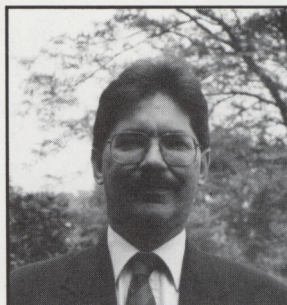
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President's Message



So, what did you do all winter?

EDUCATION, EDUCATION and more EDUCATION. It is February and that means we are all taking classes to learn more about our profession. I'll be leaving for Orlando and the conference in a couple of days, and I have a full calendar of education set for those couple of days. Expo had a great lineup of seminars and GCSAA along with GCSANJ held a one-day seminar. Every time I turn around there is another opportunity to learn.

The Class "C" Committee is sponsoring a "Strategic Career Planning" seminar at The Rock Spring Club this February. There is a symposium in Maryland, "Advances in the Biology and Management of Gray Leaf Spot in Cool-Season Turfgrasses" and the USGA is holding its Regional Conference at the Golf House. These are just a few of the educational opportunities available to us this winter, so when you are asked, "What do you do all winter?" these are a few of the things we do to fill our "off season".

I mentioned the Class "C" Committee and am happy to report that Brian Remo, our Class "C" Representative, is now a class "B" member as he has taken over the superintendent's position at Richmond County Country Club, good luck, Brian. Tim Kerwin, assistant superintendent at Metedeconk National G.C., has been appointed as the new Class "C" Representative. I have known Tim for the past year and am sure he will be able to take over where Brian left off.

Well, it's off to the National, so I have to go home and pack my bags. I wish all of you a great rest of the winter and hope each of you has a wonderful spring.

SEE YOU AT THE SEMINARS,

Ken



Profile

by Brian M. Remo

An interview with Patrick K. Campbell, CGCS, 1999 GCSANJ secretary

Pat is presently at Panther Valley Golf & Country Club. He has been there as superintendent for seven years. His resume includes a three-year stay at Suburban Golf Club in Union, New Jersey; three years at Basking Ridge Country Club and four years as superintendent/manager for the Cleary Corporation's Tara Greens Golf Center, Somerset, New Jersey. Pat attended the Rutgers University Turf Management course from 1971-73 while employed under his dad, Patrick V. Campbell, who was superintendent at Flanders Valley Golf Course, Flanders, New Jersey. He was certified in 1993. Family values and community service are very important to Pat, and he has demonstrated such as a trustee in charge of funds and future planning at Rockaway Presbyterian Church. He was equally involved in recreational sports in Rockaway and because of his own experiences of youth, he has spent relentless hours counseling young adults with alcohol and drug abuse problems. He has been active in GCSANJ activities since 1991 and became District Director in 1994. He was recently elected as secretary to the Executive Board.

BR: Pat, my favorite question to start with is how you first got into this business. What prompted your career choice to become a golf course superintendent?

PC: My dad was assistant superintendent at Canoe Brook C.C., Summit, New Jersey, for many years, and at ten years old I spent many hours hauling one-inch hose up and down fairways with dad laughing at my struggle. When he became superintendent at Flanders Valley we lived there, and I spent even more hours working with him evenings and weekends learning every aspect of the job. This was long before I was on the payroll. It seemed natural and comfortable that this would be my direction in life.

BR: It's often so difficult to explain to people what we do, why we choose our lifestyle and why we enjoy our work. Many young people find it hard to convey to friends and family this choice and its validity. Did you find this true when you first started out and how did you deal with it?

PC: I too found it difficult to express my love of turf and turf management and improving the game of golf for the golfers. I guess one could say my best expression is through my work, my challenges and all the projects I've been given the opportunity to develop and complete. It was difficult in the beginning, but through the great people in our profession and

through GCSANJ, I have spent many, many terrific hours discussing my job and experiences. As a young boy out with my dad, I seemed to absorb all the things he did on the course like a sponge. He was my greatest teacher!

BR: What, then, would you say has been the most rewarding part of the career?

PC: The rewards have been many but to mention the most important: (1) Achieving certification; (2) Gratification from members at Panther Valley; (3) Completion of projects to beautify and enhance the game of golf; (4) Recognition by peers as a true professional and (5) The opportunities to mentor my assistant superintendents and assist them in acquiring

Continued on page 4

Calendar

March 25

USGA REGIONAL CONFERENCE: One-day seminar to present current information about turfgrass management issues at Golf House, Far Hills, NJ. Contact USGA at 908-234-2300

April 19

APRIL MONTHLY MEETING: Joint Meeting with Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Manufacturer's Golf and Country Club. Host Doug Larson. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100

May 10

RUTGERS TURFGRASS RESEARCH CLASSIC: Fiddlers Elbow Country Club. Host Dave McGhee. Contact New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation at 732-821-7134

May 24

MAY MONTHLY MEETING: Hopewell Valley Golf Course. Host Steve Bradley. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100

June 14

JUNE MONTHLY MEETING: Ballyowen Golf Course. Host Rich LaBar. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100

July 26

JULY MONTHLY MEETING: Mendham Golf & Tennis Club. Host Chris Boyle. Contact Judy Policastro at 973-379-1100

Profile

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a superintendent's position.

BR: You know from my past involvement how I feel about association support and extending that to assistants and students through education and involvement. As an officer of this association you provide contributions to these goals; could you comment on their importance and how you feel GCSANJ benefits from them?

PC: Every organization is only as beneficial as its directors/members are willing to give. The hours I've spent assisting members acquire knowledge by sharing my own experiences and carrying out project goals are probably the most rewarding for me. I do this to give back what many in the industry (commercial reps, as well) have given me, especially members of GCSANJ.

BR: Looking back on your past, can you recall anyone in particular who has had the greatest impact on your professional career?

PC: Yes, there are many in our profession who are in the fore-

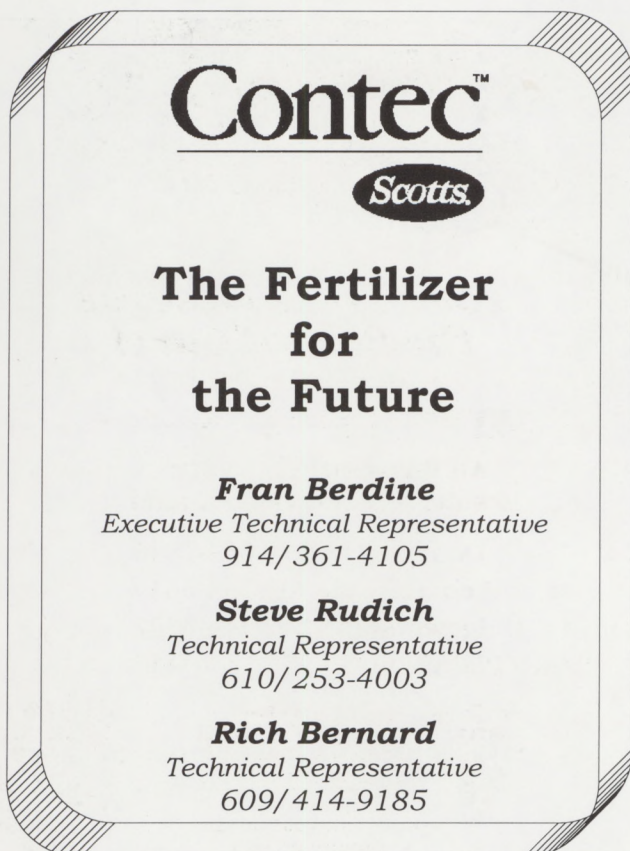
front of my mind who are no longer with us: Jack Ormond (superintendent of Canoe Brook C.C.), Paul Boiszell (superintendent of Fiddlers' Elbow) and Patrick V. Campbell (superintendent of Flanders Valley G.C.). The others too numerous to mention mentored me at Rutgers, worked with me on GCSANJ committees, commercial and chemical reps who educated me, and the crews who worked for me over the years who brought fresh, innovative ideas.

BR: You were GCSANJ's Club Relations Committee chairman for 1998. It seems recently to be a vital asset to our profession. What can you comment on the Committee's importance?

PC: (1) Members are aware of the Committee's availability to discuss problems, whether political or agronomically related, that are strictly confidential.

(2) Brainstorming and team networking can solve a multitude of problems and utilize exchanged ideas by sharing experiences and gaining strength through knowledge, awareness and reinforcement.

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Profile

Continued from page 4

(3) For the clubs, if no superintendent is currently employed, the committee assists in defining the club's requirements for candidates and for the members (candidates) that benefit packages should be offered in direct proportion to the level of experience as a professional in turf management.

BR: Today's golfer seems to be more and more educated when it comes to agronomics and course management. How do you promote that at Panther Valley?

PC: Constant communication through memos and meetings so the membership is well informed on golf course procedures. When pertinent articles appear in our periodicals, I copy them and provide same to Board Members. My present Greens Chairman joined our crew on weekends to better understand operations and tournament set-ups because, in turn, he can pass information directly to members and answer questions professionally with first-hand knowledge.

BR: Conversely, it has always been important in our profession to play and understand the game itself. Where do you stand on that importance and how do you promote that knowledge for yourself and your crew?

PC: I have always made it a routine to play a few holes each day so I know the exact conditions of the greens, tees and fairways as a golfer. I do this after the crew begins their daily management details. When I was hired at Panther Valley I was told that playing golf was a requirement, so I make a point to stretch my schedule to play when members or the pro ask. When members stop me as I make my daily reviews around the course, I always take time to patiently explain and answer their questions. I play with my crew periodically and encourage them to play weekly after hours to obtain a better understanding of the course from the golfer's point of view.

BR: As secretary, have you set any goals for yourself or for GCSANJ?

PC: I have never been a very good note taker so I know that I can enhance my communication skills. My goal is to increase communication among directors and Board members and encourage discussions and resolutions of GCSANJ goals and future plans. As a Board member I want to ensure that policies and by-laws passed are beneficial to the organization and its members. I hope in some small way to enhance the benefits of the association by doing my part.

BR: Pat, I appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to talk with me. I congratulate you on your new appointment and wish you good luck and green grass for 1999 and beyond.

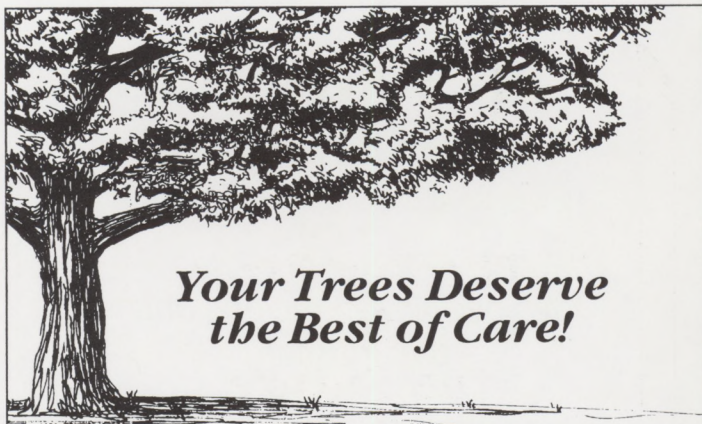
PC: Brian, thanks so much for giving me this opportunity to share this part of my life and offer assistance wherever needed. Good luck with your column and your new position for this 1999 season and your future endeavors.



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25-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARDS PRESENTED

Sky Bergen did his usual fine job in researching the 25-year members so he could present them at the GCSANJ Annual Meeting at Hollywood Golf Club on November 10, 1998. The following members have dedicated 25 years of service to the association.

Fran Berdine has been with the Scotts Company since 1972, working his way up from trainee to technical representative to senior technical representative and all the way up to executive technical representative. Since this award was presented, Scotts went through a reorganization and Fran's position was eliminated. Fran landed on his feet and is now employed by Turf Partners.

Fran received his BS in Floral and Ornamental Horticulture from Cornell University. He is a past editor of the Hudson

Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association's newsletter "Foreground" and was superintendent of his family's golf course in New York State from 1955 to 1967. Fran has two sons who are assistant superintendents at New York golf courses.

John Wantz, CGCS, is the superintendent at Due Process Stables and has been for the past six years. John was superintendent at Forsgate C.C., Glenwood C.C., Rockland C.C., North Jersey C.C. and Old York C.C.

He graduated from Penn State University and has been a member of GCSAA for the past 20 years.

John Schoellner, CGCS, has been the general manager at Metuchen Golf Course for the past four years. John started in this business by mowing the greens at Beacon Hill G.C. at age nine. He was an assistant superintendent at Deal G.C. and Jumping Brook G.C. John was superintendent at Beacon Hill and at Essex County C.C. where he also served as general manager. He was also general manager at Lakewood C.C. in Maryland.

John is a past Board member of GCSANJ, an associate member of the P.G.A. and is a certified club manager. He graduated from the two-year Penn State golf course management course.

Ken Kubik is the president of Grass Roots Incorporated, a golf course supply company he co-founded 20 years ago. Ken worked at Crestmont C.C. for 13 years as a caddie, club staff member, greens crew member and assistant superintendent under Pete Pedrazzi. He was a sales manager for Andrew Wilson Company.

Ken has an associate art degree from Concordia College, a B.A. from F.D.U. and attended Rutgers University short courses. He was the advertisement manager for *The*

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Correction

For those of you who did not notice, as well as those who did, in the last issue of *The Greenside*, the captions for the pictures on pages eight and nine were reversed. As soon as I opened the issue to those pages, I told myself I'm not a big dancer but those people do not look like they're doing the two-step. Sorry about that.

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Greenerside and author of the famed column "Willit Wilt". He was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from GCSANJ in 1993.

Ken is an avid tennis player and his son Keith is active in Grass Roots Inc.

The Greenerside congratulates these fine members of GCSANJ and thanks them for their years of service.

DISTRICT III CHRISTMAS PARTY

By Bruce Peebles

On December 17, 1998, the annual District III Christmas Party took place at The Paddock Restaurant on Route 33 in Manalapan. Fifty people attended, with many superintendents bringing a number of their staff to celebrate the holidays.



Without a care in the world, GCSANJ members gear up for the hardwood.



District III Christmas Party: Bruce Peebles shows the same skills on the bowling alley as he does on the golf course.



Past President Glenn Miller shows his stuff.

Mike King of Knob Hill GC won the "award" for bringing the most—seven!

After a bit of holiday socializing, a delicious buffet lunch was served with a cash bar available. The pool table and assorted video games seemed to be heavily used as well. A 50-50 was run during dessert, and a total of \$271 was raised for the Food Bank of Monmouth County! One nameless donor gave back \$100 that he won for the cause—a true Santa among us!

After plates were cleared, about 20 celebrants went into the adjacent bowling alley for some spirited competition. Is **Jim Cross** good at everything he does? **Charlie Dey** should be especially commended for being true to his word and showing up a bit late even though a Greens Committee meeting had been scheduled that afternoon!

Our thanks go to **Mark Kriews, Brad Simpkins, Shaun Barry, Dave Pease, Glenn Miller, Jim Cadott** and anyone else who helped before, during or after. A great time was had by all.

KRAUSZ AND POLICASTRO ATTEND CHAPTER LEADERSHIP TRAINING & STRATEGIC PLANNING CONFERENCE

By Ken Krausz, CGCS

Remember the ice storm on Thursday, January 14 and 15? **Judy Policastro** and I remember it well! We were scheduled to fly to GCSAA Headquarters at 7:00 a.m. to attend the training and planning session starting at 12:00 noon in Lawrence, Kansas. The 4:00 a.m. phone call to the airline resulted in a cancelled flight and a rebooking at 11:00 a.m.. After almost missing that flight due to road conditions we had the pleasure of sitting on the runway for two hours wait-

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A MESSAGE TO THE GCSAA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS NETWORK

By Steve Mona, GCSAA Chief Executive Officer

I want to take this opportunity to clarify the facts about the change to the GCSAA government relations program and address several questions raised in response to the December 18, 1998, issue of *Greens & Grassroots*.

The government relations function has been refocused and reassigned—not dissolved nor diminished. The program has been refocused with a greater emphasis on assisting GCSAA chapters with state and local issues, and a smaller number of key national issues that directly affect our members.

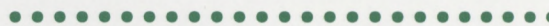
In conjunction with the expanded emphasis on chapter service, the government relations staff has been reassigned to the Information Services Department, to take advantage of some natural synergies with our Information Center and Web resources. Carne Riordan, who has been with the GCSAA government relations program for more than five years, has been named government relations manager. This change enhances our abilities to monitor issues and support GCSAA affiliated chapter needs for information and assistance.

GCSAA is continuing its leadership role on certain national issues, with our key concerns right now being the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act and the application of the Americans with Disabilities Act to golf facilities. GCSAA will continue to participate in coalitions on other appropriate issues, but will allow the organizations more directly affected to assume leadership in the advocacy role. For example, GCSAA will support—but not duplicate—the

efforts of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute on noise and emissions issues.

The next issue of *Greens & Grassroots* will give additional details about our new government relations focus.

The next issue of *Greens & Grassroots* will give additional details about our new government relations focus. GCSAA is committed to a strong, effective government relations program, and believes that this change in focus and structure will serve our chapters and individual members in an enhanced, focused manner.



GCSANJ news

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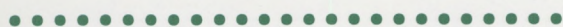
ing to be de-iced (I guess that is a good insurance policy). Our three-hour flight had us sitting in a full plane for five hours and finally making it to the first day of meetings 4 ½ hours late.

The conference was a pilot project by GCSAA and had leaders from 15 affiliated chapters from around the country cram as much information into our heads as we could to see what could be done to make our chapters and GCSAA better. We learned of the availability of information and help from GCSAA committee leaders. We were updated on the Etonic Education Series and the availability of the Speakers Bureau.

A lot of time was spent on strategic planning and the willingness of GCSAA to assist in this and many other topics. We were on the go with classes starting at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

It was great to meet leaders from around the country and be able to discuss the way our associations were set up and how they ran.

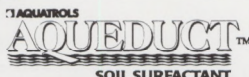
Judy and I both feel the two main things we learned is that GCSAA is available and more than willing to help in whatever way they can and, most importantly, we confirmed what we thought, *the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey is in very good shape!*



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Cadence

By Brian M. Remo

You know, it's kinda odd . . . The past month of my life has been quite possibly the most intense, yet it flew by so quickly just the same. Just recently, I have been named the golf course superintendent of Richmond County Country Club in Staten Island, NY. Those close to me know the thrill it has been for me to have reached this point in my career. The feeling of independence . . . The feeling of authority . . . The feeling of pride and rebirth of enthusiasm that all assistant superintendents strive each day to attain. Yet, I must admit that a sadness falls over me now as I sit at this computer.

This keyboard has been an outlet of great emotion for me this past year and an opportunity allowing me memories that I will always remember as some of my favor-



ites. This past year, a new wave of involvement emerged from the very youth that feeds the membership of an association that continues to excel.

My goals of involving the assistant superintendents of GCSANJ took huge bounds when mere baby steps seemed a difficult goal. The idea of representation of the Class "C" membership has evolved into an appointed position to sit on the Board itself. The idea of gaining valuable insight from other assistants has evolved into a nine-seat committee contributing more and

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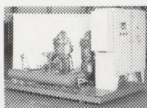
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Cadence

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more with each passing day. The Class "C" tournament—a huge success.

Things couldn't have gone better, and they continue to progress further. Why then, you might ask, am I saddened? The truth is, amidst the excitement of my new position, I possess the feeling of great loss as well. Truth be told, guys and gals, there's a part of me that is going to miss being an assistant. My father always told me that this occupation is funny for one simple reason: You go to school for four years to learn how to grow grass at a position where growing grass is the easy part! *My father was right.* I've decided that every time I say those words, either aloud or to myself, I'm going to put a dollar in a jar. Come Father's Day, it will be this money that I pull from for his gift. I'm no accountant, but it looks like I may have to spring for a Benz this year.

Yes, it's true that the pressure on your position increases. However, the self-esteem that this added pressure exudes on you allows you to perform even better than before. What's

more interesting is the little things you never realized went on behind the scenes of the superintendent's position. These

I thought long and hard about a title for this column, and, keeping with my football analogy, I tried to picture a coach on his first offensive drive of the season.

little things add up to the whole reason that our position requires such a diversified professional for its fulfillment.

So once again Remo's Rhetorical Rambling desperately seeks a point, so here it is. The one thing I'm glad I had the opportunity to do was diversify the superintendents that I had the pleasure of working for. I worked for two established supers, Ed Walsh and Wayne Remo, and a super in his first

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Cadence

Continued from page 10

year at the helm, Eric Carlson (1995). I truly feel that the different experiences one gains from both extremes can better prepare for that person's own day of reckoning. So here's what I was hoping to do. I figure my first year here at RCCC will be chock full of exciting adventures that should keep the job interesting to say the least. So I'm offering to the assistants yet another tool to take with them into their future. I offer you to share in this, my first season as a superintendent. To learn from my findings, bumps in the road and mistakes along the way. Maybe they will help, maybe they are already common knowledge, but I'm sure they'll be unique and even comical. After all, life is too short to not find levity in its misfortunes. I'll do my best to keep it interesting.

I thought long and hard about a title for this column, and,

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The Rutgers Turfgrass Alumni Association holds its annual meeting

The annual meeting was held during EXPO. President Jim Wallenstein opened the meeting and there was discussion on how to make the association more active. Dr. Karen Plumley suggested that we target not only the short course students but also the two- and four-year students. This idea was well received. Dr. Plumley volunteered to assist in this and Ken Krausz offered his help.

Joe Bianco presented the treasurer's report, and it was noted that this year's scholarship recipients were Erik Caudullo and Timothy Smith. There was some discussion about the cost of the quarterly newsletter and it was suggested that an article be placed in *The Greenside* and other publications and only an annual newsletter be printed.

There was also some discussion about the direction of the association and the fact that most new members were golf course related and that maybe the landscapers were being left behind. This was put to committee and meetings will be held to make sure that this is not the case.

The annual election was held and the results are as follows: President *Jim Wallenstein*, Vice President *Ken Krausz*, Secretary *Dr. Karen Plumley* and Treasurer *Joe Bianco*.

President Wallenstein thanked all those who attended and the NJTA for the use of the meeting space. He wished everyone well and is looking forward to making the association stronger.

keeping with my football analogy, I tried to picture a coach on his first offensive drive of the season. The 20-yard line is

The 20-yard line is quite comparable to the opening day of the golf season, with a long, hard road to the end zone called closing day.

quite comparable to the opening day of the golf season, with a long, hard road to the end zone called closing day. The off-season for the superintendent is also so similar to that of a football coach in that staffing, game plan, strategy, schedules and conditioning are the daily tasks. So next month, this column will suitably be renamed to "First and Goal." I'd like to wish everyone a great spring and green grass for 1999, and thank everyone for their kind regards that I've received over the past few months. Good luck, and I'll see you on the field.



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Gray Leaf Spot

Continued from page 1

leaf tip is another distinguishing symptom of gray leaf spot, particularly in stands of perennial ryegrass seedlings. Seedlings, by the way, seem to be more susceptible to this disease than mature plants.

If gray leaf spot activity is suspected next season or in subsequent years, a sample should be submitted to Rutgers University for diagnosis immediately. Since gray leaf spot can decimate acres of perennial ryegrass stands in as little as 48 hours, do not delay in submitting a sample to a qualified plant diagnostic laboratory. Confirmation of this pathogen is strongly recommended since chemical control is costly.

At this time, recommended label rates of Heritage tank mixed with chlorothalonil at the high label rate applied at 21-day intervals beginning in mid-July are believed to provide the best preventative control. Sterol inhibiting fungicides tank mixed with chlorothalonil also will provide reasonable protection, although perhaps not as much as the Heritage/chlorothalonil combination. Fungicide application should extend into the roughs at least six feet since infection often begins in areas of higher cut grass such as the roughs and surrounds. A minimum of two applications is recommended and three applications would be better if it can be afforded and/or disease pressure is severe.

Curative control of this disease is difficult. An initial application of chlorothalonil at the highest label rate should be followed with a tank mix of Heritage at the high rate with chlorothalonil at the highest label rate one week later. Additional fungicide applications of the above mix will need to be applied on 14-day intervals, if not more frequently.

Keep nitrogen fertilization moderate as high levels of nitrogen can increase disease activity. Irrigation should be performed during the day to minimize the duration of leaf wetness (fungal spores require free moisture for germina-

tion). Clipping collection may also help thwart the spread of gray leaf spot and reduce moisture levels within the turfgrass canopy. Mowing when the turfgrass is dry is advised to minimize the spread of the spores. Avoid mechanical injury, i.e. aerification and verticutting, if disease activity is present.

Gray leaf spot is a serious disease of perennial ryegrass that can definitely be devastating to large ryegrass stands and very costly to control. For those golf courses without sufficient operating budgets, the viability of perennial ryegrass for use as a fairway turf is in serious question. Conversion to creeping bentgrass fairways may be the best long-term management decision from a holistic standpoint. The northeast Green Section agronomists can help with conversion strategies if you believe this is the most prudent alternative. Some consultants and industry representatives also are advocating the use of Kentucky bluegrass in fairways, although this species has not been proven to be viable in the northeast under current management regimes within this region. Incorporating Kentucky bluegrass and fineleaf fescues into the roughs may also be necessary if the roughs at your golf course are dominated by perennial ryegrass.

Gray leaf spot is a new disease in the northeast and much of the rest of the country. In lieu of this fact, little research has been completed concerning management factors and strategies for the control of this pathogen. The information within this article is based largely on the field experiences of Green Section agronomists, university extension specialists and golf course superintendents across the country and should not be construed as factual information supported by research. Rest assured, however, that research projects around the nation are being initiated, including an extensive screening of the perennial ryegrass germplasm at Rutgers University for resistance to gray leaf spot. Stay tuned and we may all get through this ordeal together.



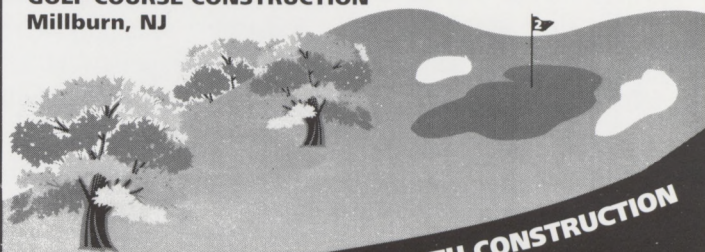
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Ten things to consider before renovating

If your club is considering a major renovation or expansion, you need to make sure it will address member and club needs not only today, but 10 years from now.

1. Will spending money on your facility be money well spent?

Consider the market and existing clientele. Does improving your facility mean increasing the cost of a round of golf? If so, will the market support the increase? Conversely, you may need to make improvements just to compete with the new golf course down the street.

2. To plan or not to plan?

A master renovation plan is a strategic tool used to guide future golf course improvements. Develop one comprehensive plan that covers the entire golf course rather than several small, loosely connected plans. A comprehensive plan gives the "big picture" and ensures an integrated approach to improving the facility.

3. Focus on the fundamental first.

One of the first things to think about is where to make improvements. Review all golf course features—tees, putting surfaces, hazards, practice areas, etc.—and focus initially on improvements that will address fundamental issues of playability, strategy, shot value, maintainability, drainage, aesthetics and safety. Addressing shortcomings in these areas is a first step in the right direction.

4. Don't let the budget get in the way of a sound comprehensive plan.

A budget should be used as a tool to schedule a necessary improvement. Prioritize improvements and then implement them as a budget allows. Before long, the plan of improvements will be implemented.

5. What are some of the factors that impact the cost of remodeling a golf course?

Scope of improvements, availability of qualified contractors, using in-house vs. outside contractors, materials cost and time of year.

Continued on page 15

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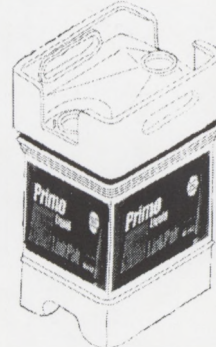


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Ten things to consider before renovating

Continued from page 14

6. How to handle disruption of play?

Typically, phasing improvements minimizes impact to the entire golf course and allows a portion of the course to remain open for play. Other ways to minimize disruption include using temporary tees and greens and changing the routing of the course. Another strategy is to limit work to two or three holes at a time. Scheduling work during off-peak play times is also an option.

7. Determine if in-house resources can complete some of the work or if all work will be completed by outside contractors.

In most cases, in-house resources can perform some golf course improvements. Tasks such as stripping sod, tree removal, minor drainage and minor irrigation system modifications can usually be completed by a maintenance crew.

8. Who should be included in a master planning project?

The key to a successful master plan depends on input from the individuals who are responsible for the fiscal or

daily operations of the facility. These are the major contributors in the planning team: golf course general manager, superintendent, golf pro, green chairperson, long-range planning committee chairperson, representative men, women, junior and senior golfers, golf course architect.

9. How long does it take to complete a master plan renovation document?

This depends on the scope of the project, but preparation of a master plan document should take about 60 to 120 days.

10. Work with an architect who has golf course renovation experience.

Many architects consider golf course renovation work more challenging than new course work design because of "built-in" constraints associated with existing courses. Often renovation work requires working around existing irrigation systems, drainage, trees and parts of the golf course that are to be preserved. Renovation work requires a certain level of experience and it pays to work with an architect who has course renovation experience.

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Lofts Seed presents \$575,000 check to Rutgers University

Dr. Richard Hurley, executive vice president of Lofts Seed, recently acknowledged the company's commitment to turfgrass research at Rutgers University by presenting a check in contribution to the Peter Selmer Lofts Scholarship Fund.

The check, which totaled \$575,000, was presented to Dr. Bruce Carlton, executive dean, Cook College/Rutgers University. This represented royalties paid to Rutgers on the 1997 production of Lofts Seed varieties that were developed in cooperation with Rutgers University. Others in attendance from Rutgers included Dr. C. Reed Funk, Dr. Bruce Clarke, Dr. William Meyer, Dr. Peter Day and Dr. Donald Rossi. Since 1982, Lofts has paid a total of \$6,389,251.28 to Rutgers University in support of their leadership in turfgrass development.

Based in Winston-Salem, Lofts Seed, a subsidiary of AgriBioTech, Inc., markets turfgrass seed to professional athletic field managers, golf course superintendents, sod farm-



Dr. Richard Hurley presents check to Dr. Bruce Carlton, looking from left are Dr. Day, Dr. Funk, Dr. Meyer, Dr. Clarke and Dr. Rossi.

ers, landscapers, lawn-care operators, municipalities and homeowners. The company owns patents on more than 25 seed varieties such as Rebel III Turf-Type Tall Fescue, Palmer III Perennial Ryegrass, Eagleton Kentucky Bluegrass and L-93 Creeping Bentgrass.

Lofts Seed can be found at many famous places such as: Fenway Park, Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill golf course, the White House putting green, Central Park and the Pentagon. Lofts operates branches in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia and Oregon, as well as marketing turfgrass seed internationally. The 75-year-old company has more than 100 employees, including two full-time Ph.D's for extensive research and plant breeding, producing new and improved seed varieties. Famous golfer, Arnold Palmer, has been a spokesman for the company for 19 years.

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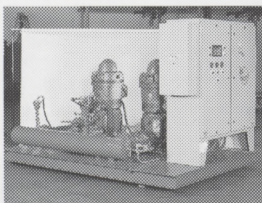
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Back it up or lose it, literally

By Chris Holenstein

How many times have you heard the importance of copying crucial computer files to save them in case of system failure? How diligent are you at actually doing it in a timely fashion? I recently got a lesson in the need for back-up disks for another, more unexpected reason.

Monday, November 23, 1998, started as any other fall morning on the way to the shop: updating the day's schedule, picking up the mail, checking for frost. The weather was cold, but the first sight of my office trailer gave me a different kind of chill. The trailer door was ajar; the office was burglarized! As I cautiously entered the trailer, the empty space on my desk glared at me, the missing Macintosh apparently the object of this "B&E."

As thieves go, this bunch was fairly considerate. The picture of my family and the other items on my desk were placed carefully to the side, and they didn't bother to trash the office or deface it in any way. They were determined to get past the deadbolt securing the door, however, so the damage to the door and frame was considerable.

After filing the police reports and taking inventory (they took my radios and chargers as well), I thought of my computer desktop and the files I kept on it. When was the last time I backed-up my files, what was missing and how sensitive was the information that was stolen? Personnel records, pesticide application records and Greens Committee reports came immediately to mind. These had been saved to disks. The few files I did lose were relatively unimportant, but I mentally kicked myself for not copying everything. Over the years many items had accumulated in the computer's memory that were minor, yet useful in many ways. Bulletins and notices commonly posted in the clubhouse, inventory forms and letters were all things previously just a "point and click" away that now would have to be generated again. Besides taking their availability for granted, it was difficult to remember everything stored in memory until it was needed.

The convenience of using the computer for writing reports, finding and checking records, and faxing payroll was missed in the following weeks. Thoughts turned toward replacing the computer. Laptop or desktop, Mac or PC? If PC, how to convert my Mac files to a Windows environment? Fortunately, as things turned out, I didn't need to make these decisions as an unexpected call from the Parsippany police informed me that my computer had been recovered, and the individuals responsible (one of whom was a former employee) had been caught and charged. Fine detective work, a search warrant and an observant patrolman resulted in the computer's return, files intact. I was lucky, one of a minority of victims who recover lost or stolen items.



Needless to say, everything has since been saved to disks, lesson learned. A word of advice: back up your files now, lest someday you discover that you have "lost" everything.



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The three greatest minds

By Doug Vogel

A prominent professor from a local state university was holding court at a holiday cocktail party to which I had the so-called privilege to have been invited. He was boasting about how the three greatest minds of the twentieth century all lived and worked in New Jersey. His claim quickly turned into an intellectual debating game in which he gave any of the interested pseudo-intellectuals a chance to name the three giants of thought.

The best the turtle-necked forty-somethings could come up with was Piscipo, Springsteen and Parcells. So it was no surprise that the professor was in shock when I leaned in and calmly peeled off the names of Einstein, Edison and Pedrazzi. "And did I forget to mention that they all had a great influence on the game of golf?"

The disbelief in their faces was priceless. I continued to shock the cocktail crowd with what I thought was general Garden State knowledge.

"Thomas Alva Edison revolutionized civilization by inventing the light bulb, phonograph, motion pictures, electric power stations and 1,089 other patents. The electronic principle known as the Edison Effect is widely used in communication systems for irrigation and two-way radios on every golf course in the world." And I continued.

"The deep thinking Albert Einstein defined the Universe while walking the streets of Princeton. His Theory of Relativity has changed the way we adjust bedknives and how short we can cut our greens."

"What about this Pedrazzi fellow?" scoffed a naysayer.

"What about him? Pete Pedrazzi is not only a great thinker but he is a great talker. With over 40 years in golf course management, he is known as the Wizard of Florham Park. The Pedrazzi Effect is a well known phenomena in the golf community, and his Theory of Irrelativity is adhered to by many young students of the turfgrass discipline."

I left the confused group so they could debate amongst themselves my perplexing statements. As I stepped up to the bar for another beer, the young pre-law student/bartender was nodding his head in agreement. "Hey, mister, I'm impressed, not only do you drink Schaefer in cans, but you know Pete Pedrazzi. But who were Einstein and Edison?"

The moral of this story can be summed up by the old adage that "you can learn more about greenkeeping with your belly against the bar." The young bartender is going to go home knowing who Edison and Einstein were simply because he asked the question.

With that in mind, we have numerous veteran superintendents in our association who can be found at meetings, conferences and at the other end of a telephone. These gentlemen are more than willing to share their knowledge and, the

last time I checked, the advice was free.

Not many people know more about tournament preparation than Bob Dickison or Joe Flaherty. Ed Walsh and Steve Malikowski certainly know about putting thoughts down on a piece of paper. Jack Martin knows the ins and outs of run-

So whether it's in a hospitality room, a monthly meeting or at the Barnyard Tavern, talk to a veteran superintendent because they are the Edisons and Einsteins of turf.

ning an association. And Pete Pedrazzi has some great insight on job preservation and country club policies. So whether it's in a hospitality room, a monthly meeting or at the Barnyard Tavern, talk to a veteran superintendent because they are the Edisons and Einsteins of turf.

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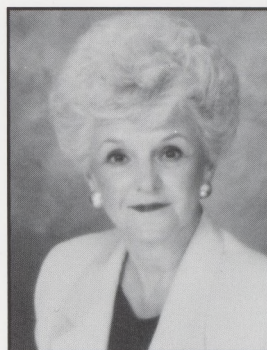
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By Mary Lou Des Champs
President and CEO

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That was the beginning of a lifetime dedicated to turf and the wonderful people we met involved in the industry. It



Mary Lou Des Champs
President and CEO

was a learning experience for both of us, understanding the needs of all of our customers, the golf course superintendents, landscapers, irrigation contractors, parks and recreation superintendents, the supervisors of the department of public works and cemetery associations, anyone and everyone involved in the turf industry. They were all very important to us, as I hope we were to them.

Paul and me had a unique relationship from the beginning, for we were a team in every sense of the word. His dreams were my dreams, and we worked very hard to make those dreams come true. When he passed away almost nine years ago, there was never any doubt what I would do with the rest of my life. It was my intention to continue with the business, for it was my pride and my passion as well! As I reflect over the years, the business has been most gratifying, the people I have met and friendships made have been most rewarding. Some of my greatest memories are of times spent with those associated with the industry. It gives me great pleasure to continue with the same traditions that have always been a great part of our lives. Words cannot express my appreciation to all that have supported Storr Tractor Company and contributed to our success, for that success would be meaningless if it cannot be shared with those in whom we believe.

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Continued on page 26



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Continued on page 23

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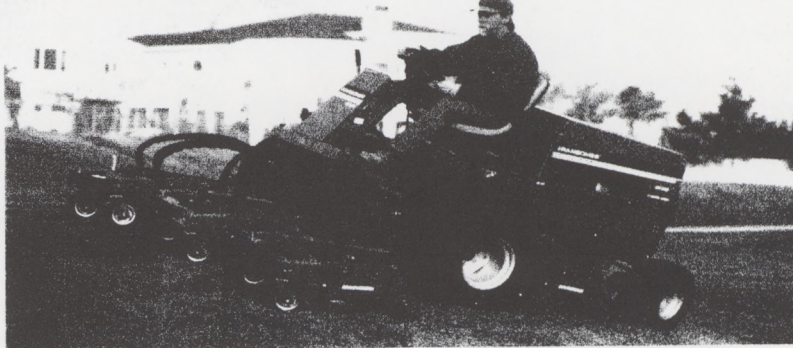
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Plant & Pest Advisory

Continued from page 22

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1999 MGA RULES OF GOLF QUIZ

The following quiz was reprinted with the permission of the Metropolitan Golf Association. Test your knowledge of the Rules of Golf; the answers are on page 26.

1. *A and B are partners in a four-ball match. B removes the flagstick, places it on the putting green behind the hole and putts. A, believing that B's ball will strike the flagstick, picks up the flagstick allowing B's ball to roll beyond where the flagstick had been placed. What is the ruling?*

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. A is disqualified from the hole.
- C. B is disqualified from the hole.
- D. A and B lose the hole.

2. *A and B are fellow competitors playing behind C and D. C's ball lies on the putting green. However, since D is searching for his ball, they invite A and B to play through. Subsequently, A putts his ball on the green and it strikes C's ball.*

A. It is a "rub of the green" with no penalty to either player. A's ball is played as it lies, while C's ball is replaced.

B. A incurs a penalty of two strokes and must play his ball as it lies. C replaces his ball without penalty.

C. C incurs a penalty of two strokes and must replace his ball. A must replay his stroke without penalty.

3. *In a match, B uses a wooden tee to mark the position of his ball. A's ball is deflected by the tee.*

A. Player A incurs a one-stroke penalty and must play the ball as it lies.

B. Player B incurs a one-stroke penalty and A must play his ball as it lies.

C. There is no penalty and A must play his ball as it lies.

4. *A player's ball is in a fairway bunker. He enters the bunker without a club and positions his feet for the purpose of determining how he wishes to play the shot. When he steps out of the bunker to get a club, the ball moves.*

A. No penalty. The ball is played as it lies.

B. The player is deemed to have moved the ball and

Continued on page 25

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1999 MGA RULES OF GOLF QUIZ

Continued from page 24

incurs a penalty stroke. The ball shall be replaced.

C. The player incurs a penalty stroke and the ball is played as it lies.

5. *A player lifts his ball for identification without announcing his intention nor marking its position. He then cleans the ball beyond the extent necessary for identification. The player incurs:*

A. A two-stroke penalty in stroke play or loss of hole in match play.

B. A one-stroke penalty in either form of play.

C. No penalty provided he gave his opponent or fellow competitor the opportunity to observe the lifting and replacement.

6. *In stroke play, a player's ball comes to rest on a paved cart path. He drops the ball at a point two-club lengths from his nearest point of relief and plays it. Realizing that he may have made an error, he announces his intention to play a second ball under Rule 3-3 and indicates that he would like*

the score with the second ball to count. He drops the second ball correctly and plays it.

A. The score with the original ball counts with a penalty of two strokes.

B. The score with the second ball counts with a penalty of two strokes.

C. The score with the second ball counts with no penalty.

7. *In a match, Player A plays out of turn. Player B, his opponent, requests that Player A abandon the ball and play in correct order. However, after playing his shot, Player B withdraws his request for A to replay.*

A. Player A must replay his tee shot since the request may not be withdrawn.

B. Player A was obliged to continue with the original ball.

C. At his own option Player A may replay stroke or continue with original ball.

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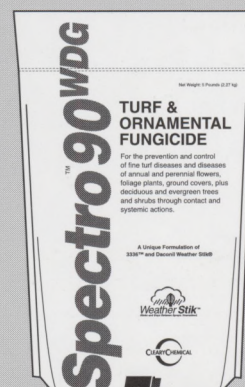
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ANSWERS TO 1999 MGA RULES OF GOLF QUIZ

1. D
Rules 1-2; 30-3f; 17-3b; Dec. 1-2/3
Comment: Removal of flagstick prevented B's ball from striking unattended flagstick.
2. B
Rules 19-5 and 18-5; Dec. 19-5/2
Comment: A should have asked C to mark his ball.
3. C
Rule 19-1; Dec. 20-1/17
Comment: the tee is not "equipment."
4. B
Rule 18-2b; Dec. 18/2b/2
5. B
Rules 12-2 and 21; Dec. 21/4
6. A
Rules 3-3 and 20-7b; Dec. 3-3/3
Comment: Player must announce intention to play a second ball *before* he plays stroke. The score with the original ball will count including a 2-stroke penalty for playing from a wrong place.
7. C
Rule 10-1; Dec. 10-1c/1

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Continued from page 20

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