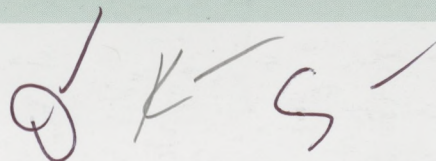




THE Greenerside

Official Publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey



Snapshots

By Chris Holenstein
Superintendent, Mount Tabor C.C.
GCSANJ District II Director

Each year seems to bring its share of challenges, leaving some of us to wish for a "normal" season. This past season pushed the patience of many superintendents coping with a shortage of qualified labor, water restrictions and record high temperatures, a hurricane's winds and deluge, and new turf diseases that consumed grass and pesticide budgets alike. Some people of sound mind question why we choose this profession. Golf course superintendents cite the standard answers—working outdoors, managing a living ecosystem, a love of golf and so on. Each of us has our own reasons and takes the good with the bad.

One simple truth is that golf course work provides the opportunity to see and experience what some people can only imagine. My wife, Margarida, for example, who commutes to Newark, works worlds apart from Mt. Tabor; wildlife has distinctly different definitions when you compare the two. Each day for me, like many of us, brings sights, sounds and moments that conjure excitement, wonder and appreciation, along with the stress and aggravation, and there is no place other than a golf course where they can be found. The good seems that much better in spite of, or perhaps because of, the bad.

As I reviewed my 1999 journal, mental snapshots came to mind of the roller coaster that was this past season. These snapshots are the daily life of any golf course superintendent. As I recalled these moments, I realize that each one, enjoyable or not, routine or not, along with its accompanying emotions and challenges, defines this profession. Those who work on a course can truly understand how each of these affects us.

SNAPSHOTS –

Of mowing:

Mowing greens for the first time and the last time of the season.

Checking the quality of cut day after day after day.

The satisfaction of a clean fairway mowed when the grass is dry.

Watching a trained staff work the course as a team.
Getting it done before the holiday weekend.

Each year seems to bring its share of challenges, leaving some of us to wish for a "normal" season.

Of people:

Eating the traditional pizza lunch with the greens-aerification crew.

Working with the crew members who always come through when they are needed most.

Getting the messages on the answering machine from the ones who don't.

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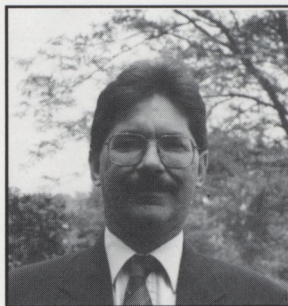
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President's Message



Happy Holidays

Well, we made it! Another year has come and is just about over—they do seem to go by faster these days! I could write about the drought and what GCSANJ is trying to do on that front. Tropical storm Floyd would be a good subject. I could comment on the plans for our 75th anniversary.

The Annual Party is soon, as well as EXPO, and let's not forget the national conference and show!

I could write about these things. Heck, if you want to read about these subjects, you will have to read the whole issue!

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be a couple of days away. The leaves will be cleaned up or close to it, so let's change our thoughts to our families. How about that vacation we have been thinking about?

Sleeping in is a great winter activity! How about those projects around the house—if we don't start them soon the time will run out! Forget about that for today, it is our slow time, so how about spending some time with the family!

ENJOY THE WINTER

SPEND SOME TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY

MAKE THE BEST OF THE HOLIDAYS

RELAX AND TAKE SOME TIME FOR YOURSELF

I would like to thank the membership for all their support during my first year as president.

I would also like to take this space to wish each and everyone

A HAPPY THANKSGIVING

and hope everyone enjoys

HAPPY HOLIDAYS,

Including a Y2K compliant
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS,

Ken



Snapshots

Continued from page 1

Sharing a hot cup of coffee at dawn with the fairway operator.

Watching my mechanic, Rudy, work his magic as he does best, again and again.

Repeating the tee-mowing instructions for the umpteenth time to yet another new employee.

Grass Roots showing up with the delivery before I even hang up the phone.

Of wildlife:

Coming face-to-face with a coyote when neither of us expects it.

Having a hawk eyeball me at arms length from atop a tee sign.

Watching the flock of wild turkeys descend from their hemlock roost into the middle of Saturday morning play.

Watching the same flock intently take a greens' mowing lesson from an astonished employee.

Letting the squirrel escape the rope during the morning dragging of the fairways.

Occasionally glimpsing the resident 10-pointer.

Moving the sunning snake from the footbridge on Ladies' Day.

The family of foxes at dawn.

Of drought:

Getting the rain shower that keeps the fairways going for another day.

Not getting the rain that you expected with "certainty."

Having to set the fairway controllers to "off" as the grass crunches underfoot.

Keeping the carts off the wilting fairways.

Praying for a cloudy weekend afternoon.

Finally mowing the fairways as they begin to grow again.

Of storms:

Watching oak trees uproot as Floyd passes through.

Watching rivers of runoff wash out the bunkers.

Warning the group on the first tee about lightning.

Having the sun come back out after an afternoon thunderstorm.

Deciding to close or not to close.

Of the golfers:

Watching the finals of the Club Championship from behind the scenes.

Meeting the guests during the two-day tournament.

Fixing the ballmarks left on the greens.

Being told the greens are too fast and too slow by different people on the same day.

Relinquishing the course to a Monday outing.

Seeing yet another flag-cart drive wherever it wants.

Reading the Club newsletter with a positive reference to our work.

Facing the Saturday crowd during the first frost delay.

Of the work:

Cutting cups for the member-guest.

Dragging hoses.

Staying one step ahead of disease.

Saying goodbye to the family as they head for the shore.

Fixing the leaky fitting on the main in front of the second tee.

Replacing the battery in the Macintosh so the damn thing will work again.

Finishing the last minute report before the greens committee meeting.

Making the lists of things to get done.

Enjoying sunrise and sunset on the course on the same day.

Taking pictures of a successful flower program.

Taking pictures of fall foliage against the green golf course.

Looking good for another weekend.

Enjoy the holiday season and let's hope for a "normal" summer next year. ☺

Calendar

November 18 Alliance for Environmental Concerns Annual Meeting: Fiddlers Elbow. Contact Nancy Sadlon at 732-563-9252

November 20 Annual Party: Barclay Hotel, Belmar, NJ Contact Judy Policastro at GCSANJ at 973-379-1100

December 6 GCSAA Seminar - Maximizing Job Satisfaction: Taj Mahal. Contact GCSAA at 1-800-472-7878

December 7-9 New Jersey Turfgrass Expo: Contact NJTA at 732-821-7134

December 7 GCSAA Etonic ½-Day Seminar - Bringing Out the Best in People You Manage: Taj Mahal. Contact NJTA at 732-821-7134

December 7 GCSAA Overview of the Professional Development Initiative: Presented by GCSAA.



GCSANJ news

THE GCSANJ ACCEPTS THE PINE BARRENS INVITATION

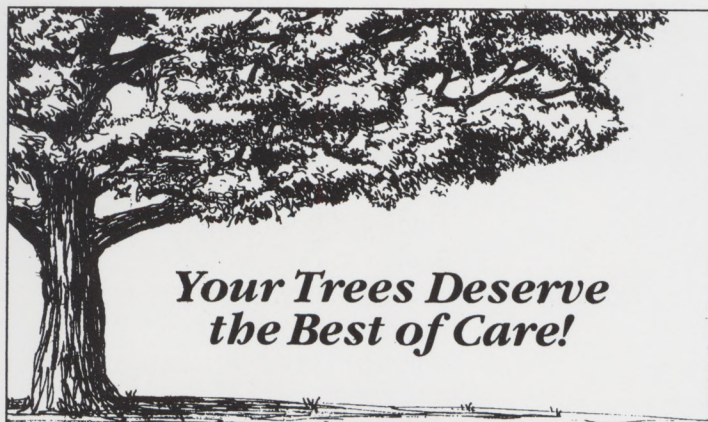
By Shaun Barr, AgrEvo USA, GCSANJ Commercial Representative

In the fall of 1998, Kevin Driscoll suggested that I speak with Dave Giordano at a new course in Jackson, New Jersey. He felt that they would want the honor of hosting one of our monthly meetings. Kevin and I made contact and Dave was very receptive, but the clubhouse would not be ready if we chose April or May for the meeting. After touring the course it became quite evident that this would be a wonderful site for the Invitational, and since that was going to be in September, the clubhouse would be ready. Everybody agreed and we checked with the state PGA for a date. With that secured, everything was in order or so we thought. Dave moved on to Sand Barrens and John La Voie took his place, but John also changed jobs. Jim Strutton replaced John, but I wasn't wor-



1999 Invitational Supt-Pro winners (from left) Mark Peterson and Lou Katsos from Shore Oaks G.C.

1999 Invitational 4-Man Team winners are from left: Tony Zappulla, Mark Peterson, Lou Katsos and Jack Cox.



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ried. The course was ready and Jim was happy we were going to be there.

By August I became a little concerned about the clubhouse. It might not be ready, but that turned out to be the least of my problems. I got a call from the course and there was a scheduling mistake by the course. Another group had our date. From being a little concerned, I went to panic. Fortunately we were able to secure the course for two days later and that was the last of our major problems.

Yes, it did rain on us, but after the summer that we had just come through not one person complained. No, the clubhouse was not ready, but the pavilion was just what we needed—dry and bright with enough food and drink to keep us nourished and happy.

Steve Chirip, John Hyland and Matt Anasiewicz did not play, but they ran the event beautifully. After all of the cards were turned in it became evident that many teams had played very well. The defending team from Regents Glen was not able to defend but their original team was not here, so maybe that had some bearing on the results. The new champs came from Shore Oaks. This team, comprised of Mark Peterson, Lou Katsos, Tony Zappulla and Jack Cox, shot a beautiful 56 to edge out the team from Knickerbocker. This team was comprised of Sam Juliano, Ed Whitman, Robert Zampieri

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GCSANJ news

Continued from page 4

and Bob Pleff, and their 57 was good enough to beat Rolling Green on a match of cards.

Completing a sweep of the tournaments, we find Mark Peterson and Lou Katsos capturing low supt.-pro honors with a 62. They tied with John Schoellner and Jim Miller from Metuchen, but lost on the match of cards.

Bill King (Spring Lake) and Mike Preston (Echo Lake) both shot 71, but lost low pro honors to Dan Haskell (Medford Lakes) on another match of cards. This one lasted five holes before Dan took the honors.

Winning the closest to the pin contests were Pat Campbell (Panther Valley), Bill Clarke (Essex Fells), Angelo Petraglia (Deal) and Clarence Reed (Spring Lake).

When the day was over everyone seemed very pleased with the course and the tournament. It was a great day and all of our thanks go out to Jim and his staff and to Rudy and Barbara for their help when things looked bad. **L**

THREE GCSANJ SUPERINTENDENTS HOST MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

The NFL Senior Classic was held at Upper Montclair C.C. this spring and scores of volunteers rallied to assist Bob Dickison, CGCS. The best compliment that all members of GCSANJ should take from this event is when Bob was told by tournament officials that "the greens are too fast, slow them down!" Good job, Mr. Dickison!

Superintendent Rich Lane and Hackensack Golf Club were host to the New Jersey State Golf Association Amateur Championship. Rich had the course in fantastic shape while trying to coordinate the construction of a new maintenance facility. It was a close tournament coming down to the last hole. Congratulations to Hackensack and Rich Lane!

Past President of GCSANJ (and drought emergency committee member) Chris Carson prepared Echo Lake C.C. for

Continued on page 6

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Continued from page 5

the New Jersey State Golf Association Championship. Chris and his crew did a great job during the drought! Thanks to Echo Lake C.C. for their support of Chris and the entire crew, as the course played to championship form! **L**

DISTRICT REPORTS

By Shaun Barry

District I

Matt Ceplo was asked to host the District I meeting right in the middle of a six-week period where he shut the water off to his fairways. He did this before restrictions were mandated. He made a tough decision, and his course still looked beautiful. No, it wasn't lush and green, but it was wonderful to play. No complaints were heard from the 25 members in attendance. There were smiles everywhere except when the final scores were recorded. Rockland CC played tough. Ian Kunesch led the way with an 81. This score qualified him for



Matt Ceplo, CGCS, receives a plaque for hosting the District I meeting. President Ken Krausz, CGCS, does the honors.

the District Team. Other players on the team are Glenn Gallion (84), M. Ceplo (87), Fran Berdine (90), Andy Schuckers (93) and Jim Swiatlowski (94). Dick LaFlamme was Matt's guest, and he picked up a skin. Joining him were Ian, Ken Duggan, Shaun Barry, Fran and Glenn. All had one skin each.

With the knowledge that we were helping a charity, 22 people donated to the long drive contest. Since we were unable to run the contest, we chose the winners from past history. Ian, Matt, Jim (A Flight), Jim Gurzler, D. LaFlamme, Steve Finamore (B Flight), Ken Krausz, George Van Haasteren and Byron Johnson (C Flight) will now compete at the championship.

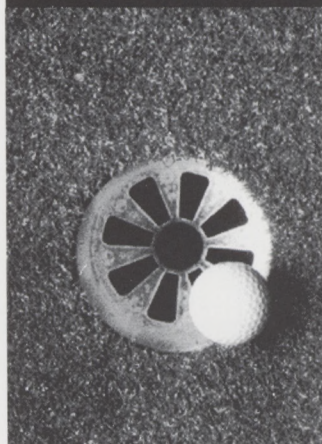
A great day on the course was also followed by a wonderful meal at a local restaurant. A lot of effort went into this day, and our thanks go out to Matt and his staff. They worked hard for us and it showed. Thanks to all.

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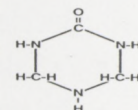


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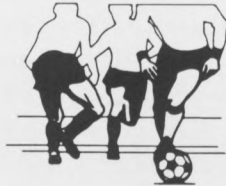


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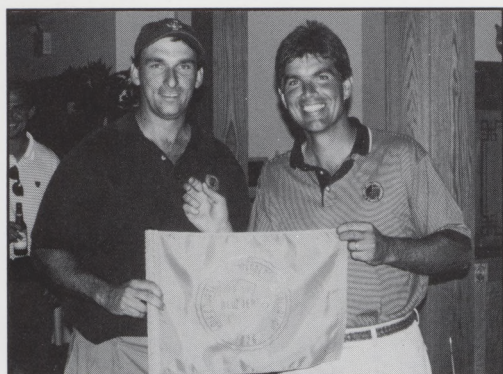
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District II

The day after our meeting at Rockland, District II gathered at Pinch Brook, where Bill Engler had the course all prepared just for us. Well, actually it was only his normal



GCSANJ Director Ken Givens presents our flag to Bill Engler from Pinch Brook G.C. for hosting the District II meeting.

conditions, but it felt like extra work had gone into the day. Only 19 players could get away, but 14 of that number donated to our charity effort by trying for the long drive. Chris Boyle, Shaun Barry and Chuck Perkins led their respective flights with Chuck having the longest drive of the day. B. Engler, Pete Pedrazzi, Sr., Joe Ciccone, John Hyland and Joe Guarino also qualified for the finals at Trenton.

J. Ciccone's 74 led all qualifiers for the District Team. He was joined by P. Pedrazzi (75), C. Boyle (75), B. Engler (76), Ken Indyk (77) and Steve Chirip (79). Closest to the pin honors went to none other than "The Root." D. LaFlamme, Brian Remo and Steve Chirip had one skin each and M. Ceplo had two for the day.

Bill and his staff were great hosts. We had a great time and hopefully we can return soon.

District III

Ed McSeaman is both the superintendent and the manager at Toms River C.C., and now he can add "Rainman" to his resume. Just scheduling the District III meeting brought enough rain to cancel the day. Having a third of his golf course under water made the decision very easy. A week later 48 people still showed up to play and eat. What a beautiful day on a course that was now out of dormancy.

All of the players enjoyed the course, but Vic Gerard, Jr. (73) had the most fun. Joining him on the District Team were John Alexander (78), Angelo Petraglia (78), Jim Woods (79), Bill (Yes, I am the real Bill Murray) Murray (80) and Jay Antonelli (82). John Wantz and Matt Dobbie took closest to the pin honors, while J. Woods hit the longest drive on the course. Winners in each flight of the charity long drive were Mr. Murray, Mr. Dobbie and George Thompson. They were also joined by the two Jims, Kevin Driscoll, Shaun Barry, Clyde Ashton and Blair Quinn. With 32 participants we raised \$320 for the Foundation to distribute to our charity. Congratulations to each winner and to each one of you who

Continued on page 10



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Ed McSeaman hosted the District III meeting. He is presented with a plaque by Bruce Peebles.

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Continued from page 8

reached into your pocket for the donation.

We had enough players for two skins contests. V. Gerard, Jr., J. Alexander and Angelo had one each for the first group, while Chris Zelle, John Fenwick, Matt Anasiewicz and Greg Flynn did the same in the second group.

During a fabulous poolside dinner, Glenn Miller conducted a question and answer session on the water restrictions. It was very timely and informative with many questions from the group. You could see how much time Glenn had put into this topic at the state level.

The whole day turned out so well that we are trying to book this site again for next year. Attend if you can, it truly is a fine experience.

District IV

District IV Director Brian Minemier had a great idea for a site to host their meeting. Ask the other director. He did



District IV host and director Gregg Armbruster receives our flag from Brian Minemier.

and Gregg Armbruster came through. Not only did he have Medford Lakes CC in superior shape, he took the time to organize the whole day. He had gotten numerous sponsors to help, and he put the teams together and he set up the tournament. I can see a future golf chairman in the wings. We started with the long drive contest. The "Dean," aka Bob Prickett, unloaded for the two longest drives, but only one counted. His 275-yard shots edged out Doug Larson (270) and Craig Roncace (264). Other qualifiers were Steve Malikowski, Ed Casteen, Shaun Barry, Lance Seeton and Pat Wall. This district raised \$220 for our charity.

B. Minemier led all scorers with a 73. Jim Waniak (78) and Tom Grimac (79) were declared winners, but unfortunately I overlooked D. Larson's score of 75. Sorry, Doug. It won't happen again (this year). In addition to these four players, Gregg (79) and B. Prickett (80) made the District Team. Low net winners were E. Casteen (68), G. Armbruster (69) and B. Prickett (69). Closest to the pin success was seen from John Betts, Gary Ramsey and D. Larson. The longest drive on the course came from Clyde Evans. T. Grimac and D. Larson had one skin each. Gregg had two skins and Brian also had two, but since one of his was an eagle, we doubled it and his total was three skins.

The day concluded with lots of food and laughter and a strong desire to do this again. It was a great day and, Gregg, we really appreciated all of the work you did. Thanks. [

Recap of the August 18, 1999 GCSANJ Executive Board meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Krausz at 1:00 p.m. Pat Campbell and Panther Valley was our host.

Two thank you notes were read, one from George Wade, president of the Hudson Valley Superintendents Association, and another from Earl Millett, president of the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association. They thanked

Continued on page 12


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GCSANJ news

Continued from page 10

GCSANJ for the round table discussion at Ballyowen.

Glenn Miller and Mike Mongon met with Mark Smith and members of the DEP concerning the drought.

Jim McNally reported that the Noreaster Hospitality Suite has been booked for February 7, 2000, at the Marriott in New Orleans.

Bruce Peeples stated that there were 96 responses to the survey and that he is working on compiling the information.

Ken Krausz gave a report on the 75th anniversary committee.

The next meeting was set for September 17, to coincide with the groundbreaking of the turf building addition. (That meeting was the day after Hurricane Floyd and was rescheduled for October 8, 1999.)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. ¶

Two New Jersey superintendents renew professional certification

Kenneth S. VanFleet, CGCS, superintendent at White Oaks Country Club, and Patrick A. Wall, CGCS, superintendent at Cedar Creek Golf Course, have completed the renewal process for maintaining their status of Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Kenneth has been superintendent at the Newfield, New Jersey, course since 1998, and he initially achieved his title of "CGCS" in 1995. Pat has been superintendent in Bayville, New Jersey, since 1985 and initially achieved his title of "CGCS" in 1989.


GCSANJ congratulates these superintendents for their commitment to education. ¶

NJ Turfgrass Association Expo - December 6, through December 9, 1999

The NJTA Expo always provides us with information and speakers on the latest topics. Vendors are available to show their products AND it is a great place to get away and network with others in the business.

Besides the usual, there will be a GCSAA seminar on Monday: *Maximizing Job Satisfaction*. On Tuesday morning there will be an Etonic Series Seminar: *Bringing Out the Best in People You Manage*. Tuesday afternoon will bring an overview of the GCSAA Professional Development Initiative.

Contact the New Jersey Turfgrass Association at 732-821-7134 if you have not received an information packet. ¶



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1999 GCSANJ survey to be updated

There were two superintendents that submitted surveys this past year that were not included in this year's results. They will be published and sent out to all superintendents that participated this year. If you sent in a completed questionnaire and did not get the survey or information was not correct or missing, please contact Bruce Peeples and those corrections will be added to the update. ¶



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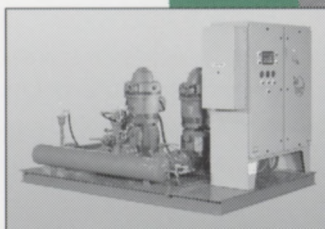


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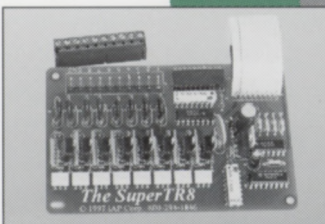
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GCSAA news

CHAPTER DELEGATES MEETING 1999

By James C. McNally
GCSAA Chapter Delegate

Candidates for 2000 Board and officers were introduced to 101 voting delegates in Lawrence, Kansas, on September 10-12, 1999. All candidates offered brief presentations plus availed themselves to a question and answer session with the voting delegates.

Running for president is Scott Woodhead; vice president – Tommy D. Witt; secretary/treasurer – Ken Mangum vs. Mike Wallace. There are two openings for directors and three candidates are running: Jon Maddern, James Nicol and Timothy O'Neil.

The most important part and most time spent was with membership and professional development initiatives. Two-

and-one-half years in the planning and a big change in the way of not just paying dues to be a class A or B member. Expect to hear and read about this in coming months.

Thanks for the opportunity to be your representative at the annual meeting. ¶

GCSAA CONTRIBUTES TO MORE THAN 50 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

As part of its commitment to supporting the community, GCSAA and its staff contributed time and resources at both the corporate and individual levels to benefit more than 50 local organizations in the Lawrence community throughout fiscal year 1999, which concluded June 30.

Community programs supported include The American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association of Kansas, the American Red Cross, ECKAN (East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corp.), Douglas County AIDS Project, Habitat for Humanity, Junior Achievement, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, the Lawrence Business/Education Partnership, Cottonwood Inc., Special Olympics, the Sunflower State Games, Toys for Tots and the United Way of Douglas County, among many others.

In addition to financial contributions, each GCSAA staff member is allowed and encouraged to use two business hours per month (equal to three business days per year for each of the 115 staff members) for volunteer opportunities. This includes activities such as spending time with students in local schools, making deliveries to those in need and/or organizing staff events on behalf of a charitable cause.

GCSAA regularly supports charitable activities in the community meeting one or all of the following criteria: providing support to children of the community, providing for the overall welfare of the community, promoting the game of golf and helping to inform the community about GCSAA. An internal committee consisting of nearly 20 team members evaluates all requests for funding and volunteers and leads in the decision-making process.

"Just as GCSAA is dedicated to serving its members, it is also dedicated to making a difference in the community," said Stephen F. Mona, CAE, GCSAA chief executive officer. "We encourage GCSAA members to get involved in their own communities—and further recognize the importance of providing similar opportunities for GCSAA staff. We are proud to be a part of the Lawrence community and continually strive to be a good corporate citizen." ¶



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Rutgers breaks ground for Turfgrass Education Building

By Steve Chirip, Egypt Farms, GCSANJ Commercial Representative

The day was sunny and breezy. What this beautiful day did not show was the horrible weather the area had been through the past few days due to Hurricane Floyd. Bound Brook was under water. Part of downtown was on fire. Roads were closed. But many people were on their way to Rutgers for the groundbreaking of the new multi-use building. Classrooms, labs, office and storage space make up this newest building at Hort Farm II Ryders Lane. This building is a joint effort by private funds as well as many local associations. Stepping up are GCSANJ, NJTA, Metropolitan Superintendents Association, N.J. Landscape Association and others. Ralph Geiger, a Suburban C.C. member, started the ball rolling and today is the groundbreaking.

It seems whenever Dr. Clarke plans a building dedication, we get generous amounts of rain. Four inches in one hour before the Reed Funk Building was dedicated, over 12" due to Hurricane Floyd. Next drought give Dr. Clarke a call

to see if he can set up another building dedication.

Over 80 brave people made the trip. They heard Art Brown, Secretary of Agriculture for N.J., along with the Dean of Cook College and other industry representatives dedicate this great new addition to the Rutgers facility, which many feel is the finest turf program in the country. **I**



Groundbreaking for the new Rutgers Turfgrass Education Building. Shown left to right are GCSANJ members Joe Flaherty, CGCS, Gregg Armbruster, Mike Mongon, Brian Minemier; Clyde Ashton, Dave Pease.

Loss control bulletin

Jump start your heart

Every day nearly 1,000 people in the United States suffer sudden cardiac arrest. More than 95 percent of these people die, in many cases because CPR and a defibrillator are provided too late, if at all. Golf courses are among the top five locations where sudden cardiac arrest occurs. National Heart Association statistics tell us that for every five golf clubs, there will be one heart attack per year.

Until a few short years ago, heart defibrillators, because of their high cost and complexity of operation, were only found in hospitals and only accessible to highly trained health professionals. Then, because of the high frequency of cardiac arrests in airports, shopping centers, golf courses and other public places, two things happened:

1. New, compact, automated heart defibrillators were developed. These devices, which are kept on premises, can be used quickly by non-medical people who have received approximately 4½ hours of training.
2. "Good Samaritan" legislation has been enacted in a number of states, which will protect the trained users of the

defibrillators and the companies that employ them from civil liability.

At a country club, even if a physician is available, each minute of delay of CPR and defibrillation decreases survival by up to ten percent. After 10 minutes, very few resuscitation attempts are successful. Quick application of a defibrillator can mean, quite literally, the difference between the life or death of a club member, guest or employee.

The new defibrillators are known as Automatic External Defibrillators (AED). They are light, compact and, after a short training session, can be operated successfully by just about anyone. They are being used by first aid squads, police departments, fire departments, airlines, major corporations, large industrial installations and, now, golf courses.

For additional information on this life-saving breakthrough, we recommend you call SOS International at 800-782-3695. SOSI is a full service company providing emergency lifesaving and defibrillation equipment and internationally accepted training for non-medical workplace first aid responders. **I**

Frost Delays

How can a footprint be a killer?

When it's a footprint made on a putting surface that's covered with frost.

It's hard to believe that simply walking across a golf green covered with frost can cause so much damage, but the proof will be there in a few days as the turfgrass dies and leaves a trail of brown footprints. That's why most courses will delay starting times until the frost has melted. And it's also why golfers who appreciate a quality putting surface will be patient during frost delays.

Why does frost cause problems?

Greens are fragile. The putting surface, or green, is an extremely fragile environment that must be managed carefully and professionally. Remember that every green is a collection of millions of individual grass plants, each of which is a delicate living thing. Obviously, Mother Nature never meant for these plants to be maintained at 3/16 or even 1/8 of an inch for prolonged periods. This "stress" makes greens constantly vulnerable to attacks from insects, disease, heat, drought, cold—and frost.

Frost is essentially frozen dew. It can form when the temperature (or wind chill) is near or below the freezing point. The ice crystals that form on the outside of the plant can also harden or even freeze the cell structure of the plant. When frosted, the normally resilient plant cells become brittle and are easily crushed. When the cell membranes are damaged, the plant loses its ability to function normally. It's not much

different than cracking an egg. Once the shell is broken, you can't put it back together.



The proof is in the prints

Although you won't see any immediate damage if you walk on frosted turf, the proof will emerge within 42-72 hours as the leaves die and turn brown. And, since just one foursome can leave several hundred footprints on each green, the damage can be very extensive.

Thanks for understanding

The damage isn't just ugly—putting quality will also be reduced until repairs are made. Those repairs are expensive

and, in some cases, the green may have to be kept out of play for days or weeks until the new turfgrass is established. A short delay while the frost melts can preserve the quality of the greens, prevent needless repairs and may even save you a few strokes the next time you play.

For more information, please contact the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3859; telephone 785-841-2240; www.gcsaa.org.

Editor's Note: Feel free to copy this and post at your club.

Create a logo and receive a golf shirt!

GCSANJ and the 75th anniversary committee have launched a contest to create a logo celebrating our 75th anniversary. Any person who submits an entry will receive a **golf shirt** with the new logo. The winning artist will also receive a **jacket** with the logo and **tickets for two** to attend and be recognized at the **75th anniversary kickoff gala** at Upper Montclair Country Club in the fall of 2000. Look in your mailbox for contest details and other 75th anniversary happenings.



Winterize your lawn

Editor's Note: This was sent to me over the Internet; I don't know where it originated.

"Winterize your lawn," the big sign outside the garden store commanded. I've fed it, watered it, mowed, raked it and watched a lot of it die anyway. Now I'm supposed to winterize it? I hope it's too late. Grass lawns have to be the stupidest thing we've come up with outside of thong swimsuits!

We constantly battle dandelions, Queen Anne's lace, thistle, violets, chicory and clover that thrive naturally, so we can grow grass that must be nursed through an annual four-step chemical dependency.

Imagine the conversation the Creator might have with St. Francis about this:

"Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there in the Midwest? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistles and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracted butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles."

"It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great extent to kill them and replace them with grass."

"Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?"

"Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn."

"The spring rains and cool weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy."

"Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it—sometimes twice a week."

"They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?"

"Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags."

"They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?"

"No, sir. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away."

"Now let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?"

"Yes, sir."

"These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work."

"You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass

stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it."

"What nonsense! At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and

Now let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life."

"You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles, bag them and pay to have someone haul them away."

"No! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and keep the soil moist and loose?"

"After throwing away your leaves, they go out and buy something they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves."

"And where do they get this mulch?"

"They cut down trees and grind them up."

"Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. Saint Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for tonight?"

" 'Dumb and Dumber,' Lord. It's a real stupid movie about . . ."

"Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story." ¶



Open letter to our wildlife

Dear Wildlife,

When are you going to wake up and take notice? We are members of the USGA, NJSGA and the METGA, not the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Our acreage is a golfing sanctuary and, therefore, subject to a high standard of etiquette.

Mr. Fox – You have beautiful fur and a wonderful little family, but we are not hiding anything under our newly changed hole plugs. Stop digging them up! And either rake the sand traps after you play in them or stay out!

Mrs. Deer – Your family is always a welcome sight strolling down the fairway even if you are a high risk agent of disease. Do I have to remind you that if the greens are closed to

the members they are closed to you too? I was quite disturbed to find my #5 green, which had been submerged under water for 2½ days,

punctured with your precious little Bambi's hoof prints. Doesn't your husband give a crap?

Big Blue – The Great Blue Heron Scientific Research Society has recently released their three-year study titled "Aerial Heron Guano Droppings and Their Effect on Golf Greens." Read it!

Uncle Redtail – We enjoy watching you soar effortlessly. You are polite and sit still when our golfers putt. We also envy your hunting skills, but when are you going to realize that women golfers love baby bunnies and don't like to find fur and guts spewed about the fairways? Be more considerate!

Snappy – The sight of your menacing looking head peering out of the muck still makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up. Although we don't discriminate against ugliness at our club, we do discriminate against turtles that rip up cart paths, bunkers and tees just to deposit a few eggs. Knock it off or I'll send you on a vacation to Pine Valley.

Joe Crow – Please be advised that we have cut our pesticide usage in an effort to be better stewards of our land, not to provide bigger, juicier grubs for your benefit. Respect our turf or does Diazinon on corn cob ring a bell?

The last time one of your peers didn't heed our warning we introduced them to a Border Collie named Rocky. She has since brought law and order to our course with minimal bloodshed. As a sign of good faith, we have rewarded the songbirds with wildflower patches, built aquatic habitat for frogs to prosper and seeded native grasses for rabbits to dine on. It is now time for you to do the same. This is a golf course not some shot and a beer joint for you to carry on as you please.

If you feel that we have singled you out unjustly, please be advised that separate letters have been sent to The Golfer and The Teenage Vandal.

I hope this letter finds you in good health and I remain

Yours in turf

Doug Vogel
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Ten tips

Editor's Note: Since "Conference Season" is here, I thought the following article from the American Society of Association Executives may help you to get the most value for your time:

10 TIPS TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR ASSOCIATION'S SEMINARS

Take advantage of the wonderful networking and professional development opportunities awaiting you at association educational workshops and seminars. Here are ten ways you can maximize your involvement in association educational seminars:

1. Arrive early. This gives you the information and control to make the seminar work for you. Find a comfortable seat. Arriving early gets you "in the mood" for learning and avoids the stress of rushing in.

2. Remove yourself from office pressures. Nothing's worse than taking the office with you everywhere you go. Let the office function without you for one day. If possible, ask your assistant or co-workers to leave messages or make an appointment at a set time to check in. Perhaps you can call in during your lunch break.

3. Bring business cards. Attending association educational seminars gives you the edge, both intellectually and professionally. It's a great place for networking and you'll want to have business cards ready for those people with whom you'd like to keep in touch.

4. Introduce yourself to at least three people sitting near you. You obviously have something in common with them: they are probably fellow association members, they want to learn, and they chose a seat in the same vicinity you did! Break the ice and say, "hello."

5. Take notes. It helps your comprehension to make a few notes, even on the workbook or handouts. Write down questions as they pop up, so you'll remember to ask them later.

6. Participate in the discussion. You'll remember more of the material if you participate in the discussion. If you have a suggestion that works or had a similar problem and solved it, please share that information so others can learn from your experience.

7. If you have a question or need further clarification, just ask! Chances are if you have questions or something isn't clear, you're not the only one puzzled. This is your opportunity to get your questions answered.

8. Keep an "action items" list. Throughout the seminar jot down ideas you can implement immediately when you return to the office. Share the ideas you've gleaned and notes with your boss and co-workers. Think about what you'll do next to reinforce what you've learned.

9. Have lunch with someone you don't know. Take an opportunity to flesh out ideas with someone you meet at the seminar.

10. What's next? Find out if your association provides additional resources on the same subject. Are books or tapes available for you to take home? Determine additional subjects to explore that will enhance your professional career. [



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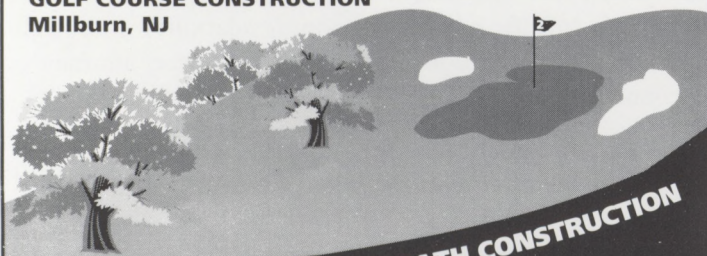
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Retirement: Know your choices

By James K. Woods

If you're in the first wave of America's largest generation, baby boomers, you'll be entering into retirement sometime in the early next century. That may seem a long way off, however, in actuality it may only be a few years away. With this in mind, you may benefit from a review of some of the retirement planning choices you will face.

Pension Pay-Out Options – if you have a company pension plan, you will need to decide how you want to receive your pension proceeds when you retire. Generally, you'll be given a choice between receiving income for the rest of your life (single life option), receiving an income for the life of you and your spouse (joint and survivorship option) or receiving a lump sum distribution.

Each option has advantages and disadvantages. For instance, a single life option will pay a higher income than a joint and survivorship option. However, if you take the single payout option, income will cease at your death whereas if you take the joint and survivorship option, payments continue for the life of both you and your spouse. With both of these payout options, you give up your pension balance in exchange for income. In other words, you cannot stop receiving income and withdraw your remaining pension balance.

If you want full control over your pension assets during retirement, or are concerned that your pension income may not keep pace with the cost of living or support your intended lifestyle, you might consider taking a lump sum distribution. You'll receive the pension proceeds net of income taxes, and then you can manage your retirement portfolio. In this respect, you'll find yourself in the same situation as those individuals who are participants in employer-sponsored plans.

Qualified Plan Proceeds – If you're a participant in an employer-sponsored retirement plan (i.e. 401(k)), you'll be required to actively manage your retirement assets. You'll need to make prudent investment decisions consistent with your goals and tolerance for risk.

Keep in mind the investment principles that will help you attain a satisfactory retirement. A well-diversified portfolio is still essential, as is allocating your assets among various types and classes of investments to spread risk. A more

conservative asset allocation model that includes fixed-interest and income-producing investments may be more appropriate for retired investors. For many people, these objectives can be met by creating a portfolio of various types of




mutual funds. Note, however, that diversification and/or asset allocation cannot eliminate the risk of investment losses.

Before You Pass "Go" – As you can see, you'll need to make a number of decisions as you approach the homestretch to retirement. However, here's one important point to keep in mind—if you were forced to retire today, would your resources be adequate to provide a comfortable retirement? What if you suffered an untimely death? Would your current retirement assets be enough to support your spouse and family? For these and many other reasons, life insurance should be an ongoing part of your financial program.

As you clarify your retirement goals and objectives, it's prudent to regularly review your plans with your financial professional.

This article is for general information only and is not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. You should consult with your advisor, attorney or accountant with regard to your individual situation.

James Woods is a Registered Representative with New England Securities 

Vendor Spotlight

The Terre Company of New Jersey

The Terre Company is closely associated with the earth. The word Terre is derived from the French meaning Earth. In 1925, The Terre Company of New Jersey was established in Rochelle Park as a farm fertilizer blending company. At that time, truck farms covered the landscape of Northeastern New Jersey and gave the state its name, "The Garden State."

After World War II the truck farms gave way to suburban sprawl and The Terre Company shifted its emphasis to becoming an independent, wholesale source to the professional turf and ornamental trade. They began to distribute everything from A to Z in horticultural materials. Their broad customer base, consisting of garden centers, florists, golf courses, municipalities, boards of education, athletic organizations and landscape contractors, enjoy the ability to acquire all their supplies, including custom blends of grass seed, professional fertilizers, pesticides, nursery stock, and even landscape construction and mulching materials from one

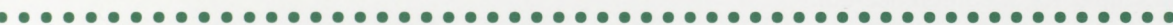
source. It can be said that The Terre Co. can provide you with everything that grows under the sun, or shade.

The Terre Company, now going on over 75 years of quality service to the landscape trade, employs over 20 people

The Terre Company, now going on over 75 years of quality service to the landscape trade, employs over 20 people experienced in horticulture.

experienced in horticulture. The depth of their experience in the turf and ornamental field is enormous, mainly due to the fact that 15 of their staff members have been employed with them between 10-25 years. It is this experience that enhances Terre's ability to act quickly and efficiently in servicing their customers.

The Terre Company's present location in Clifton, New
Continued on page 22





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Vendor Spotlight

Continued from page 21

Jersey, was established in 1979 and has grown to a 22,000-sq. ft. warehouse and seed blending facility. In 1988 they expanded into the nursery and ornamental business, both re-wholesaling out of a 3-acre yard as well as representing over 20 growers for direct shipment to customer yards or job sites. Terre's latest endeavor has been to supply a full line of Christmas items to garden centers and florists. These items include Christmas trees, wreaths, roping, handmade specialty items

and much more.

The Terre Company has survived many industry changes over the past 75 years—mostly due to loyal friends, customers and suppliers. Although the future is always uncertain, one certainty is that The Terre Company is going to continue to strive to improve on what they have always done best, servicing their customers. To the people at Terre, this industry is more than just business, it's a way of life. Being close to the earth makes it a challenging, but friendly business. 

In The States

New York – S. 2543, passed by the Senate in June, and A. 1461, passed by the Assembly in February, have so far remained separate entities. Both bills are "right-to-know" bills to require 48-hour universal pre-notification of pesticide applications.

No further action is expected on these bills, even though environmental activists have called for a conference committee to negotiate differences and resolve the bills. The legislature has finished regular session business and is focused on adopting a state budget—now more than 100 days past the deadline.

The bills will likely remain this way until next session, which coincides with an election year. RISE reports that, should this occur, our industry can anticipate that right-to-know will become an election year issue for downstate legislators. Superintendents will need to be ready and willing for considerable grassroots activity.

New York – Governor Pataki has vetoed legislation that would have given local governments the authority to regulate pest control and ban the use of federal- and state-registered pesticides. RISE lobbyists were instrumental in lead-

The bills will likely remain this way until next session, which coincides with an election year.


ing the successful grassroots effort to get the bill vetoed.

The law would have been devastating to golf courses in New York and would have set a precedent due to the power granted to local governments.

Originally designed to stop the use of pesticides for pigeon control, the bill was passed by the legislature due to pressure from environmental activists. As it moved through the legislature, the bill language was broadened to allow local governments to regulate pest control practices—not just for government-owned facilities but privately owned property as well.

This one was too close for comfort and is a reminder for the golf course management industry that more superintendents must get personally involved in local and state level grassroots efforts to protect our industry from legislation that threatens the availability of pesticides.

DROUGHT INFORMATION PACKET

Any GCSAA member whose golf course suffered from the recent drought can call the GCSAA service center at 800-472-7878 to receive a free drought information packet. 

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Maximizing Job Satisfaction to be held at Turfgrass Expo

Maximizing Job Satisfaction will be held in conjunction with the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo '99, December 7-9, 1999. Are you comfortable in your present position? Are you suffering from burnout? This seminar will help you evaluate and work through the gaps in your level of job satisfaction.

Topics include working systematically to be content and productive, and identifying job traits that provide you with the greatest and least amount of satisfaction. The seminar will be held Monday, December 6, 1999, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Trump Taj Mahal Resort and Casino in At-

lantic City, New Jersey. The member fee is \$120; non-members - \$180; 0.7 CEUs will be offered.


The instructor will be Gerry Sweda, a former corporate training manager for O.M. Scott Sons and a former golf course superintendent. He is an independent trainer who specializes in improving the effectiveness of businesses and individuals.

Maximizing Job Satisfaction is brought to you by GCSANJ. For more information or to register, contact the GCSAA Service Center at 800-472-7878. 

Playing golf in the GCSAA Golf Championship?

All members of GCSANJ playing in the Golf Championship will represent GCSANJ in the Chapter Team Competition. The \$5 per person entry fee will be paid by GCSANJ. This year we will also be providing **GCSANJ Team Golf Shirts** for each player. Please contact

Jim McNally, our GCSAA Chapter Delegate, to let him know of your shirt size and if you plan on playing in a team already. If you are not a member of a chapter team, Jim will assign you to one.

Good luck to each player and team! 

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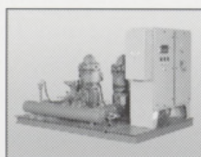
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


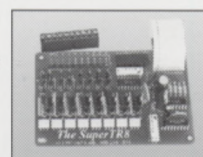
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A comparative analysis

NOTE: What does it take to present a golf course that meets the expectations and challenges of the world's top golfers? The Pinehurst Resort golf course maintenance staff documented the labor expense necessary for such preparations. In labor costs alone, the price tag was nearly \$1 million more than "normal" if the facility was to be maintained year round in a like manner. This does not include the added expense for equipment and machinery to facilitate such activities. The following analysis for Pinehurst No. 2, site of the 1999 U.S. Open Golf Championship, was provided by Pinehurst Resort Director of Golf Course Maintenance Brad Kocher, CGCS, with input from Assistant Director Bob Farren, CGCS, and Pinehurst No. 2 CGCS Paul Jett.

Each year after attending the U.S. Open (or viewing it on television), the other "majors" or professional tour events, golfers inevitably inquire, "Why can't our golf course look perfect like those?"

Well, it can. All it takes is a huge staff, a large investment in machinery and a great deal more money.

The Pinehurst Resort golf course maintenance department sought to put in perspective the costs involved in preparation for the 1999 U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2. Included were the labor costs as well as the amount of labor hours for the week of the championship. The data was then extrapolated for the entire year assuming the same "U.S. Open" maintenance levels.

In terms of extra labor in the two years (1997-1998) preceding the U.S. Open, Pinehurst incurred approximately \$100,000 in additional expenses for such activities as hand mowing around greens, leveling sprinkler heads, additional bunker maintenance, cleaning of wooded areas, golf cart path maintenance/preparation, as well as additional work on greens such as topdressing and ballmark repair. These costs do not reflect capital investment for irrigation additions, greens construction, tee additions, tee leveling or bunker renovation, which needed to be done regardless of the championship.

The most dramatic numbers involve the labor hours worked during the week of the event compared with what would be a typical mid-June expense. In a normal June period, Pinehurst staff would work 580 regular hours and 80 hours of overtime in a seven-day week. A combination of 16 to 18 full- or part-time employees would comprise the staff at this time of year. For the U.S. Open, Pinehurst No. 2 had 28 regular employees and approximately 50 volunteers working 3,120 regular hours (78 total employees x 40 hour work week) and two hours overtime (78 total employees x 2 hours) for a total of 156 overtime hours. Obviously, the volunteers were crucial to the cause.

These hours translate into the following:

Normal June Week (hours worked)

Full/Part-time hours: 580 regular + 80 overtime
16-18 employees: 580 regular hours + 80 overtime
(at 1.5 time pay) = 700 hours of expense


U.S. Open Week (hours worked)

Full/Part-time + Volunteers: 4,120 regular + 156 overtime
78 employees: 3,120 regular hours + 156 overtime
(at 1.5 times pay) = 3,354 hours of expense

The above computation indicates the labor necessary for U.S. Open week and equates to approximately 4.8 times the normal labor hours over a one-week period. In terms of Pinehurst's hourly *annual* payroll for Pinehurst No. 2, this intensity of maintenance would result in an *annualized* increase of \$950,000 in labor. With a normal budget of approximately \$750,000 on No. 2, this increase in labor would result in an *annual* expense of approximately \$1.7 million.

Granted, not every U.S. Open venue has been the benefi-

Continued on page 25



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A comparative analysis

Continued from page 24

ciary of so many volunteers giving their time and energy to prepare the course to this intensity. It is a luxury to have 78 workers, and Pinehurst is an appreciative benefactor. If the number were only 50 staff, which might be more "normal" for an Open, the net result over a year would be an annualized expense of three times the normal labor hours. This would result in an annualized increase of approximately \$500,000 in labor and an annualized budget of \$1.25 million. Below are some of the tasks performed and the hours associated with normal maintenance levels as well as U.S. Open levels.

The goal of course preparation for professional events is to have the golf course—the field of play—set up to test the skills of the participants. Consistent, daily preparation of the golf course from height of fairway cut, green speed, repaired divots and hand raked bunkers ensures that each player encounters the same conditions as their competitors each day of the event. Those same conditions can be attained at one's home course, but it comes at a steep price. **L**

U.S. Open Course Preparation

	Normal Day (staff x hours)	Normal Week	US Open Day (staff x hours)	US Open Week
Greens (mowing)	2 x 2.5 hours = 12.50	x 7 = 87.50	8 x 1.5 hours twice/daily = 24.00	x 7 = 168.00
Setup	1 x 4 hours = 4.00	x 7 = 28.00	2 x 4 hours = 8.00	x 7 = 56.00
Fairways (mowing)	2 x 2.5 hours = 5.00	x 4 = 20.00	5 x 1.5 hours twice/daily = 15.00	x 10 = 105.00
Tees/Short cut (mowing)	3 x 4 hours = 12.00	x 5 = 60.00	10 x 2.5 hours = 25.00	x 7 = 175.00
Rough (mowing)	2 x 12 hours = 24.00	x 2 = 48.00	4 x 6 hours = 24.00	x 7 = 168.00
Intermediate rough (mowing)	1 x 3 hours = 3.00	x 3 = 9.00	1 x 3 = 3.00	x 7 = 21.00
Bunker raking	2 x 3 hours = 6.00	x 7 = 42.00	10 x 4 hours = 40.00	x 7 = 280.00
Divot repair		30.00		169.00
Stimpmeter reading	1 x .25 = 0.25	0.25	4 x 6 hours = 24.00	x 7 = 168.00
Backpack blowers				
(pine needles off bunkers/turf)		2.00		168.00
Clipping removal (Poling)		7.00		252.00
Rake sand cart paths	1 x 8 hours = 8.00	8.00	3 x 3 hours = 9.00	x 7 = 63.00
Rake natural sand areas	1 x 4 hours = 4.00	4.00	5 x 3 hours = 15.00	x 7 = 105.00
Collect fairway clipping		N/A	1 x 6 hours = 6.00	x 7 = 42.00



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The Alliance for Environmental Concerns annual meeting set for November 18


Pesticide-free golf courses? That will be one of the topics discussed as the AEC has scheduled Kevin Hutchings to speak at its annual meeting, November 18, 1999. He is the golf course superintendent at Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco. Kevin is dealing with strict pesticide regulations from both the city of San Francisco and the National Park Service.

He will speak of the whole story, not just the parts reported on by the press. The lead environmental consultant working with Presidio will also be there to share the real truth, both successes and problems.

There will also be a "DEP Update," a seminar entitled "The Realities of IPM, Past, Present and Future." The topic "Balance of Risks – Synthetic vs. Natural Chemicals" will be presented as well as a panel discussion with Fred Langley from RISE, Jane Nogaki of the NJ Environmental Federa-

tion, Dr. Darrell Sumner from the Bowman Gray School of Medicine, and others.

The meeting will be held at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Bedminster Township, NJ.

As usual, a silent auction will take place. To register, please call Nancy Sadlon at 732-563-9252. 



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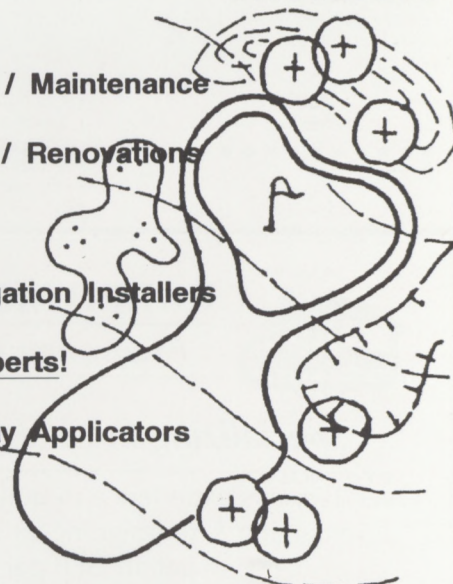
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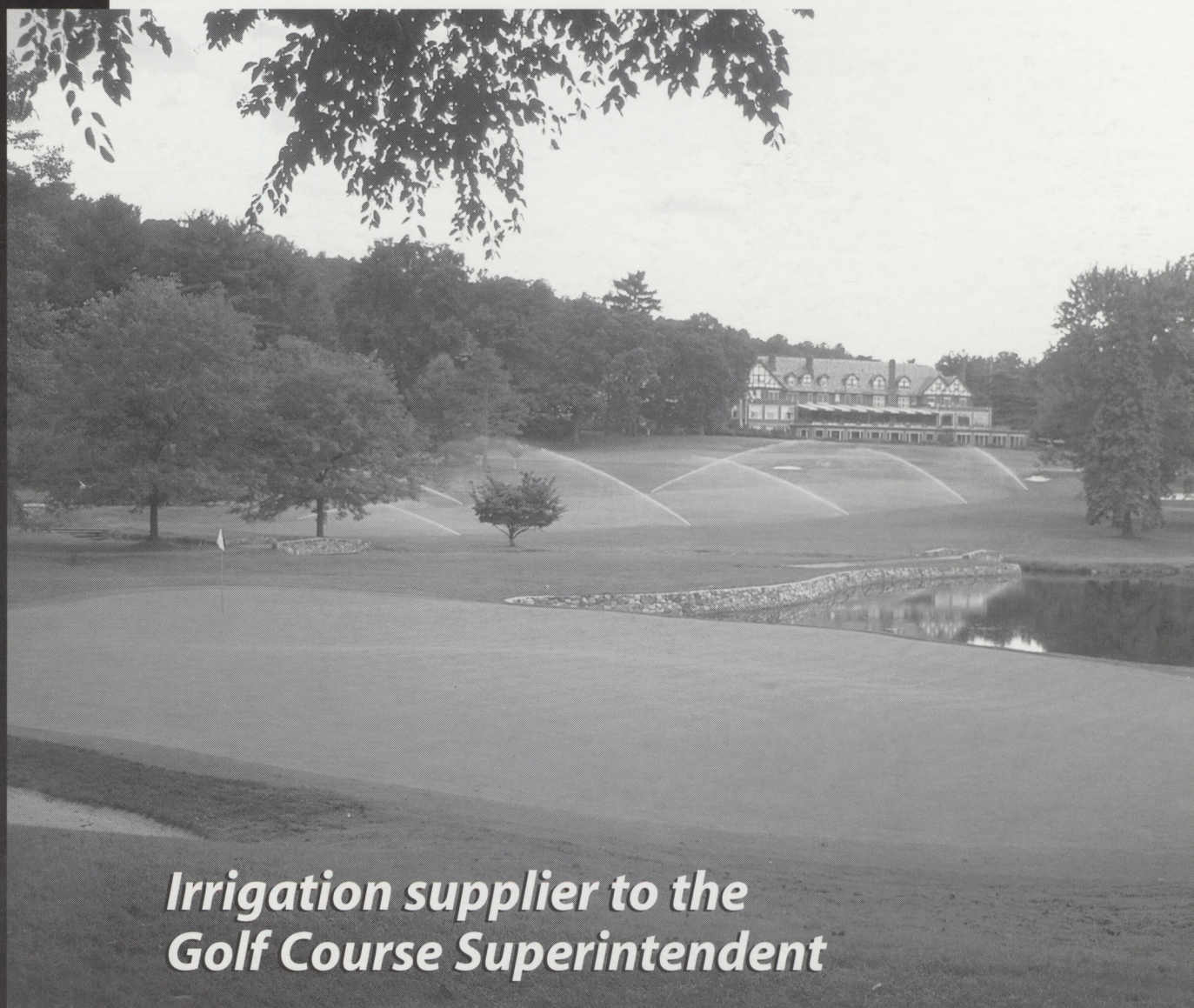
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