



THE GREENERSIDE

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Around the water cooler

Congratulations Al Foster. He celebrates his 60th year as a GCSANJ member. Al tended the greens of the Forest Hill Field Club, Aldecress (now Alpine) and Hackensack Golf Club. He also mentored Jack Martin and Eliot Lewis - two super superintendents • Speaking of Jack Martin, word comes from Florida that Al Caravella was elected president of "District V" or better known as the West Wind Condo Association. Jack was the interim president. Other "District V" members are Skip "the horticulturalist" Cameron, Gentleman Joe Flaherty, and Ken "Root" Kubik. Wasn't it just 35 years ago that Jack succeeded Al as GCSANJ president? What goes around comes around! • Welcome back from the Orient Gary Crothers. Gary, a past GCSANJ president and newsletter editor, currently maintains 9 holes up in Vermont • The Meadowlands was rocking as Doug Vogel led his 10 year old girl's team to the championship of the North Jersey Flag Football League held at Giant's Stadium in January. The girls ran the table going 7-0 in the tournament • And the Water Cooler Man asks - have you seen the Tim Kerwin DVD yet? 🏈



The editor and the 2005 NJFFL Champion Seahawks beat up all seven boys teams who got in their way.


On the cover:

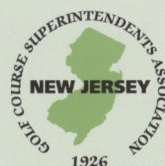
#5 green of the Preakness Hills Country Club maintained by the crew of John O'Keefe CGCS.
Photo by Assistant Superintendent Marty Pugh.

President's Message

Roger A. Stewart Jr., CGCS TPC at Jasna Polana

There are only a few weeks left of our winter and the busy 2006 golf season begins. Veteran superintendents and assistants know all too well of the demands the golf season places upon us. We should all take the opportunity to spend some meaningful time with our families before the season begins. Our families deserve all the gratitude we can muster for the sacrifices they make. The support and understanding they give us all year is a cornerstone to our success and the GCSANJ wants all of them to know how much we appreciate what they do for our profession. On a similar note, I would like to thank Gregg Armbruster for the years of support he donated to GCSANJ as a member of our Board of Directors. Gregg made a decision not to run for re-election last year and he will be missed dearly. I apologize to Gregg for not mentioning his time on the board in my last message. Gregg gave of his time and made a sustaining contribution to GCSANJ with his presence on the Board of Directors. Please take the time the next time you see Gregg Armbruster, to stop and extend your appreciation for all he has done for our association. I hope all of you have been using GCSANJ.org to stay updated on what is happening in our association. I hope each member finds the President's Updates informative and helpful. Since the Board of Directors will be meeting quarterly, I feel it is important to use the website to bridge that time span with updated information as necessary. The board has been successfully using e-mail, phone and fax to conduct the affairs of our association. There are some new initiatives being started to make GCSANJ more effective for its members and also to insure we continue to manage GCSANJ in an efficient manner. There will be less golf meetings in 2006 and even less in 2007. The reason is we have to adapt to the changes in our profession. The demands of our profession provide fewer opportunities for our members to attend all day events, especially during June, July, and August. We hope to offer more evening educational opportunities during these months using Roundtables that work well with groups of 20-30 members who meet between 6:00PM and 8:30PM for a business dinner to discuss pertinent and timely topics. We hope to see one in each district in the month of July. Please contact Director Chris Boyle if you would like to host one of these rewarding meetings in June, July, or August. Your Board of Directors continues to perform due diligence in the decision process surrounding the concept of an Executive Director for GCSANJ. A recent strategic planning session with GCSAA provided some good direction

and we are waiting for a recap of their recommendations. The members are the heart and soul of GCSANJ. Please consider participating by becoming a committee volunteer. I guarantee your efforts will prove rewarding and your help will be very much appreciated by all our members and the Board of Directors. Thank you to every member for their support. 



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Nitrogen fate in a mature Kentucky Bluegrass Turf

By Kevin W. Frank, Kevin O'Reilly, Jim Crum, and Ron Calhoun

Extensive research has been conducted on nitrate-nitrogen ($\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$) leaching in turfgrass systems. Most research has indicated that turfgrass poses little risk to the environment from nitrate leaching (3). Research conducted at MSU by Miltner et al. (2) reported that the majority of labeled fertilizer nitrogen applied to Kentucky bluegrass never reached the soil. Most of the applied nitrogen was taken up by the plant, immobilized in the thatch layer, or lost to volatilization. Only 0.2% of the applied nitrogen was collected in the drainage water of lysimeters 1.2 meters below the soil surface over a three-year period.

The majority of N fate research has been conducted on relatively young turf stands, ranging in age from one to seven years. However, the age of a turf stand has been proposed as an important factor in determining the fate of N. Bouldin and Lathwell (1) suggested that the ability of a soil to store

organic N under relatively constant management and climatic conditions, which are typical of turf systems, would decrease with time and eventually an equilibrium level of soil organic N would be obtained.

Porter et al. (4) examined total N content in soil to a depth of 40 cm in 105 turf systems ranging in age from 1 to 125 years old. The data suggest that soil organic matter accumulation is rapid in the first ten years after establishment and slowly builds to an equilibrium at 25 years when no further net N immobilization occurs. Porter et al. (4) concluded that there is a rather limited capacity of the soil to store organic N, and that after ten years the potential for overfertilization is greatly increased.

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Kentucky Bluegrass Turf

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Petrovic (3) hypothesized, based on the data of Porter et al. (4), that older turf sites, or sites with high organic matter contents, should be fertilized at a reduced N rate to minimize the potential for $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ leaching. Petrovic theorized that the rate of N applied to younger turf stands (less than 10 years) should equal the rate at which N is used by the plants, lost to the atmosphere, and stored in the soil. Older turf sites (greater than 25 years of age) lose the ability to store additional N in the soil, and therefore should be fertilized at a rate equal to the rate that nitrogen is used by the turf and lost to the atmosphere (3).

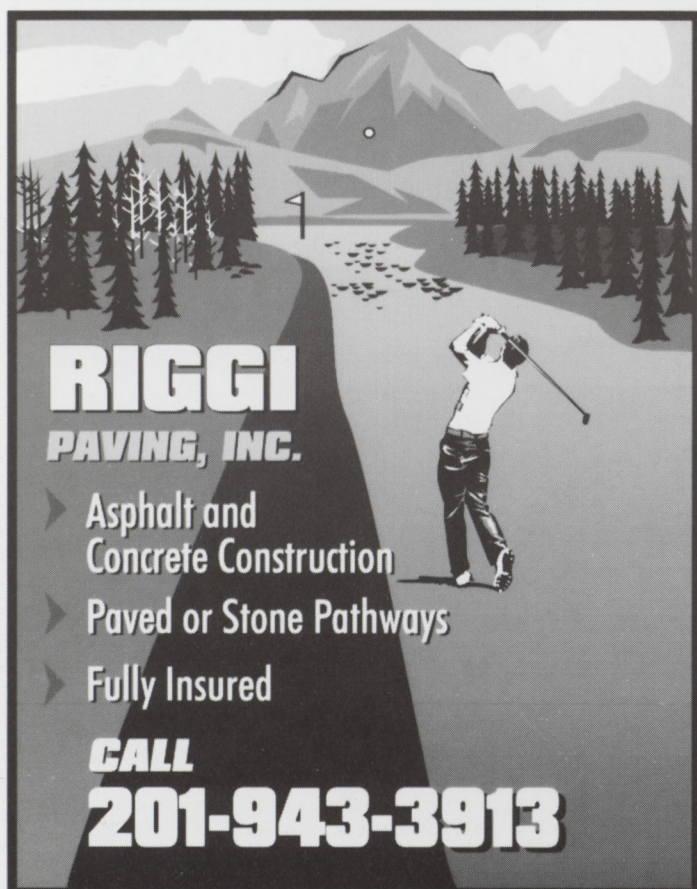
Due to the lack of long-term data on nitrogen fate in mature turfgrass stands this research was undertaken. The research objectives were to quantify $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ and ammonium-nitrogen ($\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$) concentrations in leachate, and determine the fate of fertilizer nitrogen among clippings, verdure, thatch, soil, roots, and leachate for a Kentucky bluegrass turf 10 years after establishment.

Materials and Methods

Between 1989 and 1991 at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, Michigan State University, four monolith lysimeters were constructed. In September 1990 the area was sodded with a polystand of Kentucky bluegrass (cv. 'Adelphi', 'Nassau', 'Nugget') for a United States Golf Association sponsored leaching and mass balance nitrogen-fate study conducted by Miltner et al. between 1991-1993. Prior to the construction of the lysimeters, the area had been in turfgrass for six years. The lysimeters are constructed of grade 304 stainless steel, 0.05 cm thick. The lysimeters are 1.14 meters in diameter and 1.2 meters deep. The bottom of the lysimeter has a 3% slope to facilitate leachate drainage to a tube on one side. Leachate is collected in 19-liter glass containers. The leachate is collected on a regular basis. For complete specifications of lysimeter construction, see Miltner et al. (2).

The lysimeters and surrounding plot area have received continual fertilizer applications and cultural practices to maintain high quality turfgrass since lysimeter construction. Fertilizer treatments and leachate collection began in 1998. The experimental design is relatively simple. Two of the large lysimeters and surrounding turf area were treated annually with 245 kg N ha^{-1} (5 lb. N/1000 ft.²) split over 5 applications. The application dates were May 1, June 1, July 1, September 15, and October 15.

Continues on page 6



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Calendar

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May 8, 2006 11th Annual Rutgers Turfgrass
Research Golf Classic
Fiddlers Elbow Country Club Bedminster, NJ
Contact: Michelle Rickard 215-757-6582

June 22, 2006 Monthly Meeting -
Glen Ridge Country Club
Host: Mike Vacchiano
Contact: Ineke Pierpoint 1-866-427-2651

Kentucky Bluegrass Turf

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The remaining two lysimeters and surrounding turf area were treated annually with 98 kg N ha⁻¹ (2 lb. N/1000 ft.²) split over two applications. The application dates were May 1 and October 15. Lysimeter percolate was collected periodically, volume measured, and a subsample collected for nitrogen analysis. The turf was mowed twice per week at 7.6 cm (3 inches) and clippings returned. Irrigation was used to return 80% potential evapotranspiration weekly.

In the fall of 2000, 56 microplots were installed in the plot area adjacent to the lysimeters. The microplots are constructed of 20-cm diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) piping to a depth of 45 cm. The PVC piping was driven into the ground using a tractor and hydraulic cylinder. This process preserved the soil structure within the microplots and the surrounding plot area. On October 17, 2000, ¹⁵N labeled urea was applied to the lysimeters and microplots to determine mass nitrogen balance. The microplots were extracted and partitioned into verdure, thatch, roots, and soil on seven sampling dates. Soil

Sampling Component	Low N Rate	High N Rate
Clippings	1	2
Verdure	8	9
Thatch	7	7
Roots	10	13
Soil	51	38
Leachate	1	11
Total	78	73

Table 1. Mean labeled fertilizer nitrogen recovered from both the low and high rates of nitrogen application treatments (expressed as % of amount applied) from different sampling components of mature Kentucky bluegrass.

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Kentucky Bluegrass Turf

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and roots samples were partitioned into depths of 0-5, 5-10, 10-20, and 20-40 cm. Harvest dates followed by DAT (Days After ^{15}N Treatment) for the microplots were:

- November 1, 2000 (15 DAT)
- December 1, 2000 (45 DAT)
- April 19, 2001 (184 DAT)
- July 18, 2001 (274 DAT)
- October 9, 2001 (357 DAT)
- April 20, 2002 (549 DAT)
- July 17, 2002 (637 DAT)

In addition, weekly clipping samples were taken to determine the amount of nitrogen in the top-growth of the plant. The leachate from the lysimeters was monitored for nitrate-nitrogen and % ^{15}N enrichment. In addition, soil, thatch, verdure, roots, and weekly clipping samples were sampled for % ^{15}N enrichment to determine mass nitrogen balance for the system.

Results

Fertilizer Allocation

The average total labeled fertilizer nitrogen (LFN) recovered among all sampling components (clippings, verdure, thatch, soil, roots, and leachate) for the low and high N rates was 78 and 73%, respectively (Table 1). The majority of applied LFN was recovered in the soil, averaging 51% and 38% for the low and high N rates, respectively. Lower amounts of nitrogen were recovered in the roots, thatch, clippings, and verdure.

Over approximately two years, 1 and 11% of LFN was recovered in leachate for the low and high N rates, respectively (Table 1). The largest amount of labeled nitrogen recovered in leachate was during the winter months. The total amount of labeled nitrogen recovered in leachate was much greater than that measured by Miltner et al. (2). On the same site as our research, from 1991 through 1993, Miltner et al. (2) applied N as urea at $39.2 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1}$ by either a spring or fall application schedule. Miltner et al. (2) reported 0.2% of applied LFN recovered in leachate from a fall application. For our research, leachate from the low N rate had a similarly low amount of LFN recovered. However, leachate from the

high N rate had drastically different results than the Miltner et al. (2) research. Over the two years of our research, 11% of applied LFN was recovered in leachate for the high N rate (49 kg N ha^{-1} rate).

Conclusions

This research indicates that single dose, high rate, water soluble N applications (49 kg N ha^{-1} per application) to mature turfgrass stands should be avoided to minimize the potential for $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ leaching. However, just as the original research on this site was conducted over a relatively short time frame of two years, the results presented in this paper were from four years of data collection, albeit from a turf stand that has been fertilized for more than ten years.

The long-term N fate research at Michigan State University is on-going and future results will be reported. Upon conclusion of the 2002 research season, the USGA opted to fund this research project for an additional five years. A future article will report on data collected from 2003 through 2007. Starting in 2003 the amount of nitrogen applied for the high N rate was reduced from 245 to 196 kg N ha^{-1} split over four applications. The low N rate remained at 98 kg N ha^{-1} .

In the first year of reducing the high N rate the amount of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ recovered in leachate did not decline from previous levels, but in 2004 and 2005 there was a drastic reduction in the concentration of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ recovered in leachate. Future years of data collection will indicate whether the lowered high N rate results in consistently lower levels of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ leaching.

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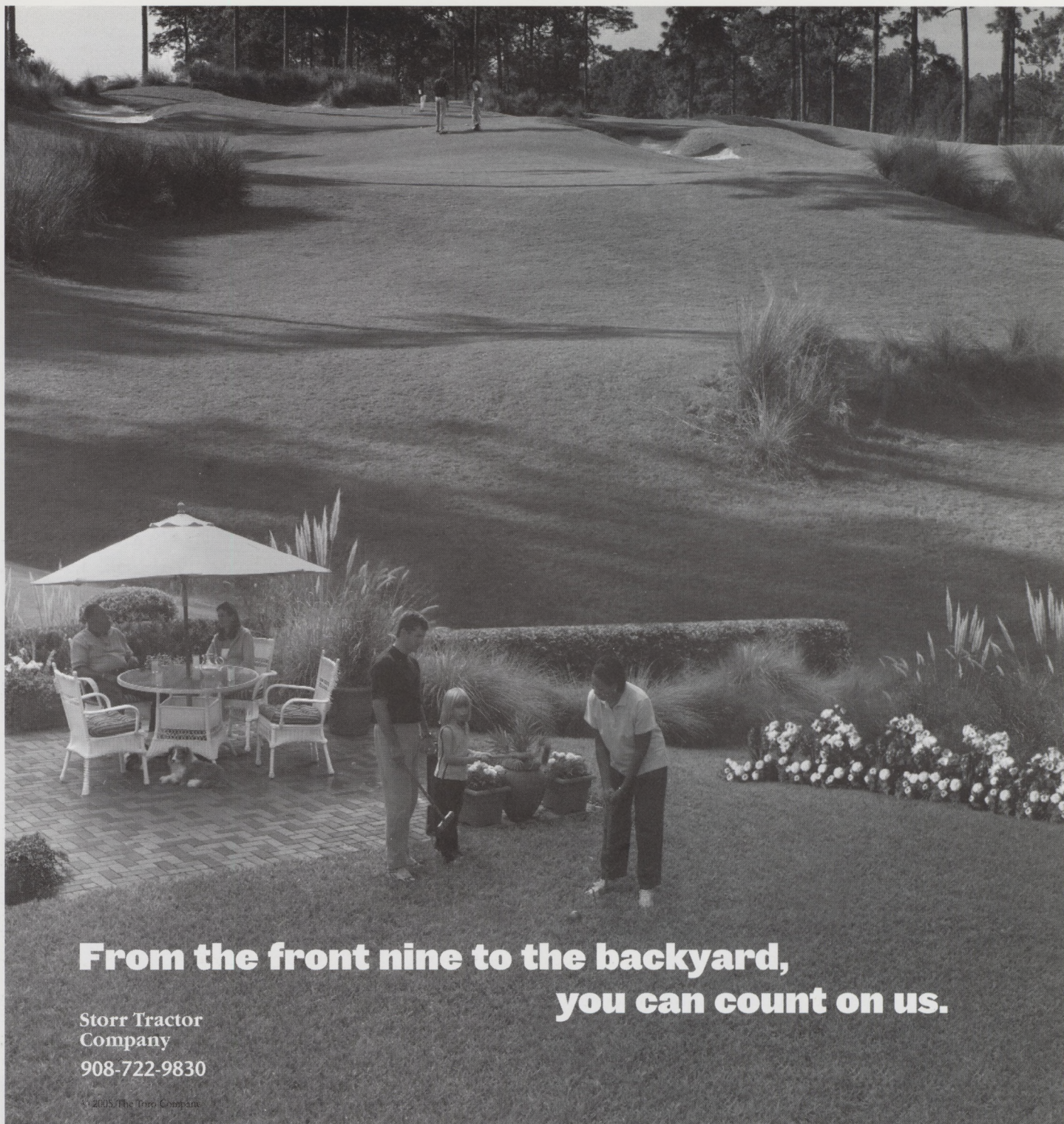
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Kentucky Bluegrass Turf

Continued from page 7


SUMMARY

Research was undertaken at Michigan State University to determine nitrogen fate and nitrate-nitrogen leaching from a mature turfgrass. Research from 1998-2002, investigated the amount of nitrate leaching from two nitrogen rates, 2 and 5 lbs. N/1000 ft.²/year. The research found:

- The average total labeled fertilizer nitrogen recovered among all sampling components (clippings, verdure, thatch, soil, roots, and leachate) for the low and high N rates was 78 and 73%, respectively.
- The low nitrogen rate treatment (2 lbs. N/1000 ft.²/year) had low levels of nitrate leaching.
- The high nitrogen rates (5 lbs. N/1000 ft.²/year) had high amounts of nitrate leaching.

Acknowledgments

The authors express thanks to the United States Golf Association, the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station for funding support. Graduate student support for Kevin O'Reilly was provided by the Paul E. Rieke graduate assistantship.

KEVIN W. FRANK, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; KEVIN O'REILLY, Graduate Student; JIM CRUM, Ph.D., Professor; and RON CALHOUN, Environmental Turfgrass Specialist; Crop and Soil Sciences Department, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 



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Alliance for water conservation update

I am pleased to announce that on January 10, 2006 Governor Richard Codey signed the Water Supply Advisory Council Bill into law. This bill (S-937/A-2196) was sponsored by the AWC and will add five extra seats to the Water Supply Advisory Council. The AWC will make recommendations to the Governor for appointment for one seat to be filled from the ranks of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey and one will be a representative from the landscape maintenance or landscape irrigation contractor communities.

I would like to take the time to thank Hal Bozarth, State Streets Associates, his Staff, and the AWC for helping this bill to become Law.

I would also like to thank Senator Andrew R. Ciesla, Assemblyman Joseph Cryan, and Assemblyman Joseph Vas for their sponsorship of this bill in their respective houses.

Respectfully, Michael A. Stachowski, Vice President GCSANJ Board of Trustees, Government Relations Chairman, GCSANJ

Birth announcements

Anthony & Leyanna Benfield had a beautiful little girl on 10/26/05. Taylor weighed 7 pounds even and was 19 and 1/4 ins tall. Everyone is healthy and her sisters Bridget, Brianna and Isabel are doing great as big sisters.

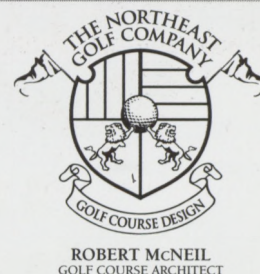
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Bad Debt

Dear GCSANJ Member,

One of the primary responsibilities of the GCSANJ Board of Directors is to manage the finances of the association in a productive and responsible manner. I am pleased to inform you that recent and current financial management practices for GCSANJ have been both productive and responsible. Part of managing finances for any business is the collection of bad debt. Unfortunately, GCSANJ is not immune to having bad debt. Currently that bad debt is approaching several thousand dollars and some of it is more than one year old. In an effort to reduce the current bad debt and avoid the problem in the future, the GCSANJ Board of Directors has taken the following action. Beginning with the June issue of the Greenerside, all unpaid debts to the association that are 90 days in arrears or more will be posted in this publication and on the Website. If you have been contacted about a bad debt by GCSANJ and wish to avoid your name being posted please contact Dave Mishkin, GCSANJ Treasurer to resolve payment. Any member who is over 120 days past due will be suspended until payment is made.

The GCSANJ Board of Directors feels strongly that the members of this association have been more than patient regarding this issue and regret that this action is necessary.

Sincerely

Roger Stewart GCSANJ President



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Successful raffle for food bank

By Lance Rogers

I would like to give a special thanks to all GCSANJ members and friends who purchased raffle tickets in an effort to raise money for the Monmouth County Food Bank. I witnessed first hand at NJTA Turf Expo and at the District III Christmas party the willingness of everyone to give to a terrific cause. The raffle, thanks to Bill Murray and Dave Mishkin, raised \$755. All proceeds were given to the food bank prior to Christmas.

We had a great turnout at the District III Christmas party on December 14th and fun was had by all. Numerous door prizes were given out and we would like to thank Shaun Barry and Dr. Richard Hurley for their generosity. We had three winners in the raffle. The winners: 1st prize and a set of King Cobra irons went to Ron Richter (Asst. at Navesink), 2nd prize and a rescue club went to Ken "the ROOT" Kubik and the 3rd and final prize a putter went to Tim Kerwin. All winners were present and accepted their prizes. The night ended with a great band and many holiday wishes. I hope everyone had a spectacular holiday. I

GCSANJ member earns national honor

Mickey Stachowski, superintendent at the Golf Course of Concordia in Cranbury, N.J., has been named a recipient of the 2006 GCSAA Excellence in Government Relations Awards.

The award was presented Feb. 10 during the General Session of the 2006 Golf Industry Show in Atlanta, Georgia.

"Mickey has increased the profile of the golf course management industry and the positive impact that golf courses and those who manage them can have on their surrounding environment," said GCSAA President Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS.

Stachowski won the advocacy award for his work in legislative issues in New Jersey. He has served as the government relations liaison for the GCSA of New Jersey since 1999 and was vital in the formation of the Alliance for Water Conservation, a statewide green industry group that works to gain reasonable restrictions during times of drought.

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In 2002, Stachowski and the alliance were instrumental in gaining relief for the golf industry from water restrictions imposed during the 1999 drought. They also started an annual "Day on the Hill" in which members of the green industry gather to meet with key legislators and discuss issues affecting the profession.

Stachowski and the alliance have sought through legislation to add two seats to the state's Water Supply Advisory Council, including one seat held by a member of the GCSANJ. The legislation did not pass during 2005, but will be reintroduced in 2006.

Mickey currently serves the GCSANJ as its Vice President. All members of the association congratulate him for all the hard work he has done for the profession. Big time thanks to you Mickey! 🏌️

Kuhns makes strong run

Mark Kuhns CGCS of the Baltusrol Golf Club lost a closely contested race for Secretary/Treasurer of the GCSAA in the election held at the GCSAA Annual Meeting during the Golf Industry Show in Atlanta Georgia. Kuhns retains his position on the Board of Directors. Congratulations Mark and we will see you next year. 🏌️



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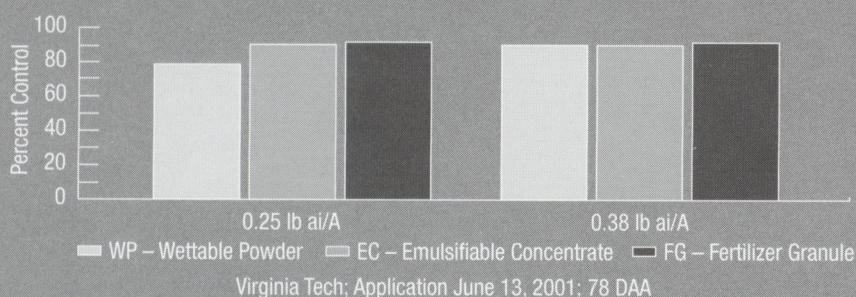
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2006 annual meeting results

Sean A. Hoolehan, CGCS, president; Ricky D. Heine, CGCS, vice president; and David S. Downing II, CGCS, secretary/treasurer. Directors are Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS; James R. Fitzroy, CGCS; Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS; Sanford G. Queen, CGCS; and Robert M. Randquist, CGCS. The immediate past president is Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS.

Winterkill resource center

Superintendents, especially those who work in the northern parts of the United States, often have to battle the effects of winter weather. Under certain conditions, this can result in significant damage to golf

course turf, especially putting surfaces, known as "winterkill."

When winterkill occurs, it is important for superintendents to communicate to golfers what has happened, why it happened, and what is being done to address the problems.

This Winterkill Resource Center will help you locate comprehensive winterkill information for your state or region.

There are over eleven articles available on the GCSAA website.

To download articles and access links on Winterkill go to www.GCSAA.org and access the Resources file.

For help addressing winterkill or other public policy issues, contact the GCSAA Information and Public Policy Department at (800)472-7878. **I**

“DryJect® aeration/sand injection is tremendous. There's nothing else like it.”

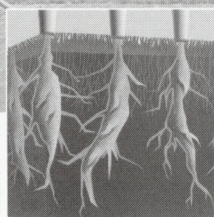
Paul B. Latshaw,
Superintendent, Muirfield Village Golf Club



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"That's how it was reported"

Compiled By Doug Vogel

- William Campbell was green keeper of the public links in Boston for several years previous to his death last summer. When he died the care for the grounds devolved upon Mrs. Campbell for the remainder of the season. She is a Scottish women and came to this country with her husband seven years ago. That's how it was reported on May 12, 1901.
- Angle worms are wreaking havoc at the Dyker Meadow (N.Y.) course. When green keeper Low saw the greens he was horror stricken. They don't grow monstrous specimens of worms in Carnoutsie for the Scotchman's hands went up in amazement. "Mon" he said "thur no wurms - thur snakes!" That's how it was reported on August 28, 1900.
- How to get greens with smooth and close turf with no weeds and clover makes a great question. The answer appears to be to employ a resident skilled green keeper and pay him a good salary. Make him responsible and take the matter out of the hands of the green committee, which knows about as much about it as the average club professional. That's how it was reported on July 21, 1901.

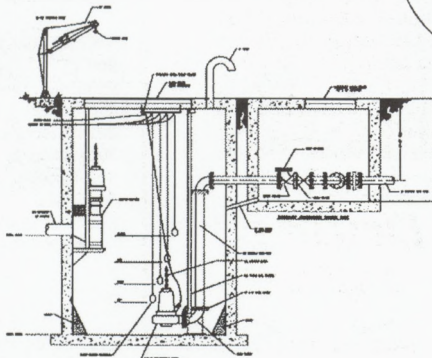
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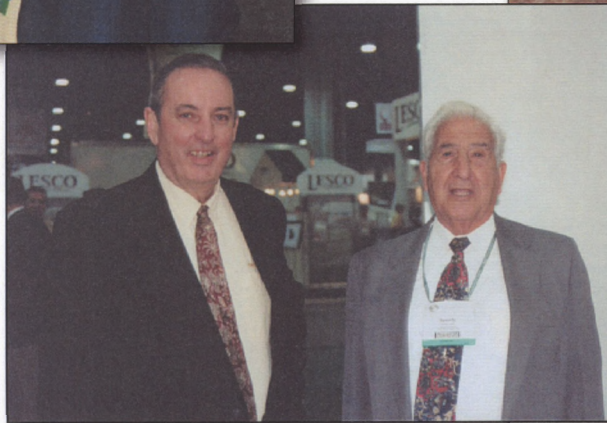
Atlanta highlights 2006



Tom "Double Eagle" Ashfield gets his picture taken with 2006 GCSAA Excellence in Government Relations recipient Mickey Stachowski.



Mike Mongon points to the camera flash from Shaun Barry's camera.



Jim McNally and Jim "Speedy" Lipari catching up on card tricks in Atlanta.



Professor Dick La Flamme getting ready to teach his botany class.



Bob Prickett and Brian Minemier left their ties back at the hotel room.



Paul and Margaret Ramina stopped by the Bayer booth for a 2006 bracelet charm.




Two of Dick La Flamme's best students - Ed Mellor and Tim Kerwin.



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