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*Happy
Holidays*

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Around the water cooler

What a turnout for the three day Crystal Conference high up in the mountains of New Jersey. It's getting bigger every year. Great weather for the golf and tons of rain during the seminars – just as it should be. Prominent Rutgers grad Dr. A.J. Turgeon now of Penn State filled us all in on another dehiscence. It can be as short as one hour – no kidding! A.J. is really passionate about turfgrass and the tetraploid controversy proved it. • The food was great, the coffee hot and the cookies hit the spot thank you very much. • The vendors were very generous and the water cooler man came home with free pens, pads, coffee mugs and of course hats all in a handsome GCSANJ logo'd briefcase. Did I mention about the free cigars? • District V is gearing up for the migration south. Cocktails at 4 sharp! Plus or minus 2 hours. • See you in Anaheim. Water cooler man over and out. 🍹



Dr. A.J. Turgeon warned that turfgrass management will get more difficult as we get more tools.

Happy Holidays!

On the cover:

The Metropolitan Team Championship winning GCSANJ team. This one was HUGE!

Photography by Shaun Barry, team captain.

President's Message

Michael A. Stachowski, Golf Club of Concordia

2006 is rapidly coming to an end – a time to reflect on the past season – to recognize the positives, as well as the negatives, so I can produce a better product for my golfing membership. Try as I may, mistakes are made, but by addressing these issues, both the golf course and my membership will benefit.

I feel the same can be said for our Association. In the eight years I've served on the Board of Directors, I have seen this Association grow and prosper. Yes, there were missteps, but there was also acknowledgement, and transformation so the Association could continue to move in a forward direction.

The Education Committee has made great strides with the Crystal Conference and other education opportunities. We had record attendance at the Crystal Conference this year, which can be attributed to the outstanding agenda. The vendors spent quality time with the attendees during the tabletop trade show portion of the event. With the vast array of educational venues offered by the Education Committee, you can obtain all of your membership requirements for the GCSAA without leaving the State. Many thanks to the members of the Education Committee for their hard work and dedication.

The Communication Committee maintains the GCSANJ website (GCSANJ.org), as well as The Greenside publication, both of which are excellent tools for broadening the Association. They can only thrive with constant member support and participation. If you would like to contribute an article to The Greenside or have a topic for sharing or discussion on the website, please contact the committee.

The Government Relations Committee has worked extremely hard to cultivate recognition for the Golf Course Superintendent profession by bringing to the forefront the vast array of knowledge available from the members. Through their tireless efforts, legislators have sponsored and passed bills that will greatly benefit our profession, the GSCANJ's relationship with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has strengthened and we were granted a seat on the Water Supply Advisory Council; the latter of which, will allow us to have a voice in drought restriction implementation, as well as the structure of the State's water supply master plan. Our Association has grown significantly by providing quality services for its members and improving our relations with Legislators and State agencies.

Lastly, I would like to thank Roger Stewart CGCS, for his past year of service and for passing on to me a very strong Association. Under my direction, I am hopeful that we will continue to move forward by providing the absolute best services for our members. I thank all members for your continued participation in the events that we sponsor. Together, we can grow and prosper.

I wish you and your families a Happy Holiday season and a Healthy 2007. 🍀

MARK TORTORIELLO
Construction Supervisor

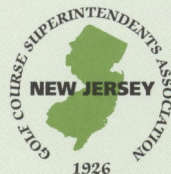
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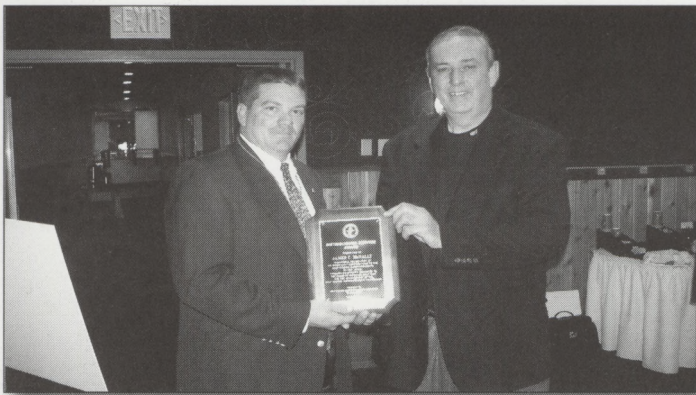
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McNally named Distinguished Service Award recipient



Veteran superintendent Jim McNally receives the Distinguished Service Award plaque from President Mickey Stachowski.


Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey Life member Jim McNally was presented the Distinguished Service Award at the annual meeting held during the Crystal Conference on November 8, 2006.

The GCSANJ has benefited from Jim's dedication to his fellow superintendents for over 40 years. His service has been nothing but distinguished. "He dedicated so much of his time to forward the GCSANJ to what it is today" pointed out past president John O'Keefe. "Anything he was asked to do he did. That's the way Jim is."

He's been an organizer, a mentor, a representative, a money manager, and a wealth of knowledge to fellow superintendents.

Jim started his career as a "pipe fitter" for superintendent Harold Loescher at the Passaic County Golf Course in Wayne, New Jersey. He went on to successful stops at the Greenbrook Country Club, the Manasquan River Country Club, Pontantico Hills, and the Rock Spring Club. He has mentored many fine superintendents including Peter and Glenn Miller, Mark Griff and Mike Campbell. While per-

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Changing of the guard

By Mark Griff



Al Rathjens will hand over the reins to son Allen at the Raritan Valley Country Club.

In our business it seems that we hear more and more distressing stories about superintendent's losing their jobs for one reason or another. Longevity seems to be a thing of the past in our profession. However, one man who has broken

the mold has been Al Rathjens. He has been Superintendent at Raritan Valley Country Club for forty years, and this March he will retire. He will be walking out on his terms. Also to show what Raritan Valley thinks of Al professionally and personally, they are making his son Allen, who has been his assistant since 1992, his successor.

Al Rathjens was taught the business from his father, Al Rathjens Sr., who was Superintendent at Spring Lake Golf Club from 1939-1969. Al Jr. was raised in the house at Spring Lake so the golf business was in his life from the very beginning. Al worked with his father thru high school and college and developed a love for the business right away. From there he went on to Rutgers School of Agriculture and majored with a B.S. in Plant Science. Upon graduation Al took the Superintendent's position at Beacon Hill Country Club in 1964 and Warrenbrook Country Club in 1965. However, it was the following year that Al would find a home and leave his mark at Raritan Valley Country Club. His father also had a long tenure and was a past president of the GCSANJ from 1948-1950. "I loved to be outside" Al said in my interview with him. "I grew up on a golf course and it's what I knew." Al had a great relationship with his father and that was passed on to his son Allen who will succeed his father in March of 2007. "I'm very proud and excited for him" Al said. "I wish him the best." The one advice Al gave me and I wish to pass it on to other superintendents is to take care of yourself health wise and financially. The business can be awfully stressful and you need to look out for yourself. When I asked Al what he will miss the most, he said the early mornings and late evenings on the course when it looks the best. When there's no one around and you have the place all to yourself, that's what it's all about. Al is looking forward to Saturdays and Sundays off during the warm months, and how unique it will be not to worry about those hot and windy summer days. He also plans on keeping busy in retirement by working on his new house, playing golf, going fishing and just enjoying life with his wife Susan and two

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McNally

Continued from page 4

forming his duties as superintendent and taking time to teach young assistants about the business, Jim still found time to serve the association.

McNally hosted the GCSANJ Field Day for four years at Greenbrook during the mid 1960's and was well known for the hospitality he provided to his fellow superintendents. He also represented the association in the 1970's as a delegate to the National Convention. His influence on the national stage is still respected today as Jim has been the delegate since 1998 and continues in that roll today. Not many people know more superintendents than Jim McNally and his opinions are held in high regard amongst them.

In a point in his career where most superintendents are winding down their careers, Jim jumped back into the fray in 2003 and took on the very demanding role of Treasurer for the GCSANJ. He just completed a successful three year term.

His most admirable trait through, is his ability to connect with all ages of the profession. It's not above Jim to ask a first year superintendent what he's been using to combat a certain problem on his course, or seek out a fellow veteran for an opinion on an issue concerning the industry. That's what makes Jim McNally who he is-just a fellow superintendent along for the ride with his peers.

Congratulations Jim on being named the 2006 GCSNJ Distinguished Service Award Winner.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to a person, persons, or organization who has significantly contributed to the GCSANJ through a continuing lifetime of commitment. I



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Changing of the guard

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Al Rathjens, Sr. and Jr. - both past Presidents of the GCSANJ circa 1965.

Al Rathjen's Professional Career

- Rutgers School of Agriculture – B.S. Plant Science – 1964
- Interned at Spring Lake C.C. – 1961-1964
- Superintendent – Beacon Hill Country Club 1964-1965
- Superintendent – Warren Brook Country Club 1965-1966
- Superintendent – Raritan Valley Country Club 1996 – 2007
- Served on GCSANJ Board of Directors and as Secretary
- GCSANJ President – 1975

sons Allen and Gregory. In all the years Al has been around I asked him what was the biggest change he has seen in over forty years. He replied that irrigation systems have been the biggest change. Going from quick couplers and watering at night to automatic “push button” irrigation is something he said his father would have never believed. What’s hard for me to believe is that in this day and age that a superintendent can still last more than 10 years in this business. Especially since we are judged not only by our peers but Boards of Governors, Greens Committees, and owners who have little background in Agronomy. Al Rathjens is a pioneer who has shown us that longevity is possible. I personally want to congratulate Allen for being appointed the new superintendent. Good luck Allen. I also want to thank Al for all he has done for our business and for the conversations we have had when I had questions. I wish Al all the best. Enjoy your retirement, you deserve it.

Mark Griff is the golf course superintendent of the Richmond County Country Club. ¶

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Member of the Year goes to Sparta



GCSANJ President Mickey Stachowski presents Brad Sparta with his Member of the Year plaque.

Brad Sparta, golf course superintendent of the Ballyowen Golf Club in Hamburg, New Jersey was honored as the 2006 GCSANJ Member of the Year during the annual meeting held at the Crystal Conference on November 8, 2006.

Sparta spent many years volunteering his time on various committees such as Education and Special Events before being elected as a District I Director. He has since chaired the Research and Scholarship, Communications and Membership and Roster committees during his past three years on the board.

Brad was instrumental in developing the Crystal Conference. This past year his dedication to this cause helped make the event the highest attended yet. Not one to rest on his laurels, Sparta is already looking ahead to help build the conference into the premier educational/social event in the industry. Congratulations Brad for your commitment to your fellow superintendents.

The Member of the Year Award is presented annually to a member who had significantly contributed to the GCSANJ. †

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The Bedens Brook Club gives us an assist

By Shaun Barry

Our monthly meeting schedule usually ends with the C Championship. This year we almost ended without it. Mark Griff volunteered to be the host for the event back in May. Somehow a decision on this offer was delayed until September when Mark was given an ok by us. Unfortunately the club had filled the original date so Mark had to withdraw Richmond County CC from consideration but only after he spent a lot of time trying to make it work. Tony DiBartolomeo immediately expressed an interest. He is the assistant at The Bedens Brook Club but he is also the assistant liaison to the GCSANJ board. His boss, Dave Walsh thought that it was a good idea and when the club agreed we settled on October 30th as the date. This gave us only 4 weeks to get the notice out to our members and to have them respond. It wasn't a lot of time especially since everyone's schedules are busy even at this time of the year. The field turned out to be small but 34 players wasn't bad all things considered.

The speaker before lunch was Dr. Jim Baird from the USGA. He gave a presentation explaining the important benefits that he and his associates provide to a course during and after their visits. It was the right presentation to a very attentive audience. Following this presentation everyone seemed to enjoy the lunch sponsored by Bayer ES and Grass Roots.



Superintendent Dave Walsh receives the GCSANJ Flag and plaque for hosting the "C" Championship at Bedens Brook.

Once the players got to the course they encountered several sponsored skill contests. Closest to the pin and long drive sponsors were Bayer ES, Seeton Turf and Vic Gerard.

When Kevin Giles (Deal) returned the "C" Cup that he won last year he joked with me and said that he should have left it home because he was going to win it again. It was sort of like Babe Ruth pointing to the stands and then hitting it there. It isn't bragging if you can do it and like the Babe, Kevin shot a 77 and he took the cup back home. He also confessed to not knowing much about the course before he

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got there. After finishing the round he couldn't say enough good things about it. He felt that this was the best course in the best condition that he had played all year. Others felt the same way. Taking assistant low net was local favorite Tony DiBartolomeo. His net 81 tied him with Jason McPhail (Deal) but he won on a match of cards. The non-C winners were Tom Kaufman with an 80 and Shaun Barry with a net 72.

Brian Lesclinier (4ft 4ins) was the closest to the pin winner on the hole sponsored by Vic Gerard so he won the gift certificate but Larry Cunningham's (Hollywood GC) shot to 12ft 5ins was the closest superintendent. That gave him the use of a utility vehicle for a month so I am sure Jan Kasyjanski was happy to hear that Larry did so well. Doug Spencer donated the two prizes above but he also received one with a shot to 10ft 9ins. Chris Krno from Rockaway River CC won the Seeton Turf prize when he hit it to 15ft 3ins.

The long drive winners were Kevin Giles and Frank Horan, Winning the last of the official prizes was Jen Torres from Indian Springs GC. No score is available but it was honest enough for her to easily win The Kerwin Cup. If anyone knows where the cup is please let us know so we can make an official presentation to Jen.

In the skins contest, Mike Linkewich had the pleasure of making an eagle. That gave him two skins. The other players who made one each were Tony DiBartolomeo, Kevin Giles, Brian Lesclinier, Jason McPhail and Bill Murray.

Many thanks to Dave and Tony for offering to be our hosts and for the club's special efforts to make room for us at the last minute. It was a truly great day and I hope we can showcase Dave, Tony and the club at a future monthly meeting. 🏌️



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The championship tradition continues at The Ridge at Back Brook

By Shaun Barry


Every year the search for meeting sites starts pretty early. 2006 was one of those years but it also was one of those years where things changed as our schedule neared completion. The Ridge at Back Brook was one of the clubs on our 2006 shop tour and it was during that tour when Todd Bunte volunteered to be the host for our May meeting. As things sometimes happen, the club's schedule changed and we were moved to October 23rd and now it would be our Championship meeting.



Everyone is still talking about the golf course at the Ridge. Superintendent Todd Bunte receives his well deserved GCSANJ tokens of appreciation.

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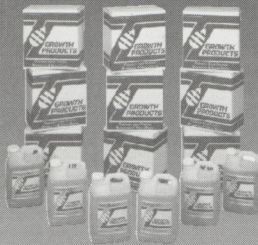
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Joel & Pam Moore are the owners of The Ridge at Back Brook and it was they who approved Todd's request. It was also through their kindness that they reduced the charges for our meeting. Even with their large reduction in fees the outing costs came to \$180 per person which is much higher than our normal expenditures. Todd did not want this to become an issue so he spoke to his suppliers and he asked for some help. Soon after he had spoken to people I received a call from Mike Oleykowski from Fisher & Son. Mike had spoken to EarthWorks and Lido Chemical and together the companies wanted to donate \$3,000 to cover the entire costs of the food. What a wonderful gesture. I then heard from Ken Kubik and MaryLou DesChamps. They just asked what was needed. I explained what we hoped to do and they both offered \$2,000 each. I know that Grass Roots and Storr Tractor are always helping out so I got them down to \$1,000 each. I had to promise that I would ask again if additional funds were needed. Chip Kern from Shearon Golf had been speaking to Ineke Pierpoint

when he heard what we were doing. He immediately moved \$1,300 that we owed him towards this meeting. With Bayer ES there to fill in any of the gaps we were comfortable offering the day at \$125. It was a number that Todd and I felt would be acceptable and it was. Once the meeting notice came out we knew that attendance would not be a problem. Almost a week before the deadline we were at the 100 player limit. We were able to move the limit up slightly but still had to turn away more than 20 people. Todd even gave away his spot in the field as did Lance Rogers and Shaun Barry. It got three more of our folks into the field and it was a nice thing to do.

John Hyland did not get into the event but he still came to help at registration. Was he ever surprised when Dave Mishkin and Bill Murray presented him with a nice belated birthday gift. Bill and Dave had been there early for the finals of the long drive contest sponsored by Rob Finnesey and they, along with Shaun Barry were declared the winners in their respective flights. This annual donation from Tree Tech is a way for

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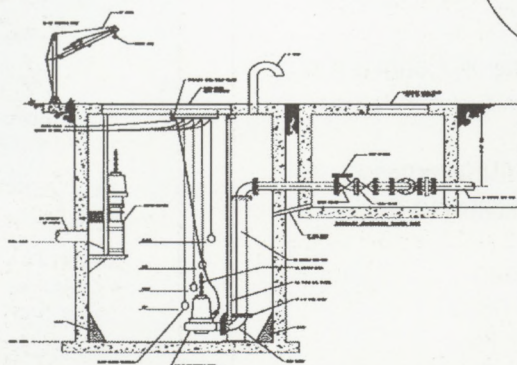
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Rob to give something back and for him to do it in a quiet way. Rob has done this for over 10 years and he calls me if I forget to ask him if he wants to do it again. He donates \$100 to the winners in the A, B & C flights and then he donates the same amount to the GCSANJ Foundation in the name of each winner. This year, because the winners also donated their winnings, all \$600 went to the foundation. Our thanks go out to everyone involved but especially to Rob for his continued efforts to help.

The day of the meeting was bright but cold and windy and nobody seemed to care. They were just glad to be there. Bill, Dave and John were joined at the registration table by Matt Anasiewicz, Kevin Driscoll and Phil O'Brien. All of this help made things move very smoothly. With no long lines everyone got to enjoy a leisurely lunch and were at their holes right on time.

During the round everyone had a chance at 5 closest to the pin contests. They were sponsored by Chris Zelle, Philly

Turf, Storr Tractor, Vic Gerard and W.A. Cleary. There were also 4 opportunities to hit the longest drive on selected holes. These gift certificates were donated by Atlantic Irrigation, Philly Turf, Storr Tractor and Wilfred MacDonald. Most of these affiliates have been sponsors at every monthly that we have. None of them have to do this but they want to help the association. Please join me in thanking each and every one of them for their generosity.

In addition to these contests everyone had a chance to "Beat The Supt." Because he had given up his place in the field Todd Bunte decided to do something special. He stood on the 17th tee all day taking on all challengers. He was helped in this contest by a severely under-dressed Lance Rogers. His thin jacket was no match for the biting cold and constant wind but he never left his post. They were there because Todd decided to raise money in an effort to help some of his fellow superintendents attend the Crystal Springs Conference. Any extra money would go to the foundation. Between Lance's smooth salesmanship and

Continues on page 15

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Continued from page 14

Todd's shotmaking over \$1,000 was raised during this contest. It is really special when you see how one individual can make a difference. We call that successfully thinking outside the box. One of the fellows who quickly entered the competition was Mr. Jack Martin. He is retired and has been living in NC and Florida but his heart is never far from his profession and his friends in NJ. The cold forced his group to end the round a bit early but he was so impressed with course I know he will return just to play the holes that he missed. If he does return I expect he will get Bob, Pete and Rob to join him again so everyone can finish their round.

When golf was finished and all of the four putts had been counted and recounted it was easy to see how difficult the course had played. If however you listened to all of the excited conversations and looked at the smiles and happy faces you knew how much everyone had enjoyed themselves.

Tom Grimac was the only player who was able to break 80. His 79 edged out defending champ Bill Murray (82) for the coveted low gross honors by a superintendent. Having the lowest score is so important because this gets the winner's name on The Sherwood Moore Cup with the best players in the history of our association. Wendell Beakley's net 69 got him the Dr Henry Indyk Cup which goes to the superintendent with the lowest net score. The other major event winner was Peter VanDrumpt. His 86 earned him The Dr. Paul Sartoretto Cup and that goes to the affiliate member with the lowest gross score. In addition to these awards we had many other winners and the complete list is below.

Championship Flight (Supt. only) Low Gross

- 1st : Tom Grimac 79
- 2nd : Bill Murray 82
- 3rd : Matt Ceplo 84

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Continued from page 15

A Flight (Supt. Only)		Low Gross	Low Net
1 st :	Tom Grimac	79	Wendell Beakley 68
2 nd :	Bill Murray	82	Pat Dolan 73
3 rd :	Wendell Beakley	83	John Alexander 75

B Flight (Supt only)		Low Gross	Low Net
1 st :	Harry Harsin	93	Dave McGhee 75
2 nd :	Mark Peterson	94	Eric McGhee 77
3 rd :	Victor Federico	97	Mark Griff 77

Affiliates		Low Gross	Low Net
1 st :	Peter VanDrumpt	86	Dick Neufeld 71
2 nd :	Lee Kozsey	89	Ken Kubik 73
3 rd :	Bob Zelley	92	Chris Zelley 73

Guests		Low Gross	Low Net
1 st :	Chris Owsik	85	Joe Kinlin Sr. 77
2 nd :	Kevin Pursell	85	Grover Alexander 87

District Champions: District III

- Bill Murray (82)
- Pat Dolan (85)
- John Alexander (85)
- Harry Harsin (93)
- Mark Peterson (94)
- Dave Mishkin (101)

Closest to the Pin winners:

- #2 (Vic Gerard) no winner
- #8 (Philly Turf) Harry Harsin (7ft 0ins)
- #12 (W.A. Cleary) Ralph McGillan (2ft 7ins)
- #15 (Storr Tractor) Grover Alexander (5ft 7ins)
- #17 (Chris Zelley) Josh Kopera (4ft 6ins)

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Met Team Championship October 3, 2006 Fisher Island, New York

By Bill Murray

Going to this tournament meant more than just another day golfing for the eight men that were selected to carry the flag of our great association. This day was to bring home the championship of the entire superintendent associations of the east coast. In all there were thirteen associations represented, some as far away as Maryland and the Finger Lakes of New York and some as close as The Met and Connecticut.

Going up to Fisher Island meant driving a few hundred miles and staying the night in a hotel the night before. My group which was composed of Wendell Beakley, Lance Rogers and Dave Mishkin was nothing but a comedy of errors

from the start to our destination, Hampton Inn in Groton Ct. Fearing that we would be early getting to Lance's house, Dave and myself decided to make a small detour for some lunch (chicken wings and soda pop), like you really believe that? and ended up being a half hour late. In the mean time Lance was scurrying around thinking we would be early and calling us, repeatedly asking what was going on. Well we did finally get to Lance's home were the four of us piled into his Hummer (we all need to be working where he works) and started our journey. We then needed to decide which way to go to get there? As we were driving north thru New Jersey, John Alexander called to find our location, we were about thirty miles north of him and we decided to keep in touch on the way up. Our first big decision was either to take 95 north or head up the Merritt, we opted for the Merritt (a big mistake). As soon as we got on the Merritt, Shaun Barry called and said he was on 95 North and to keep in touch and we'll measure

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our progress. Minutes later we hit a traffic jam followed by missing the exit in New Haven for 95 North. We still do not know how we missed the exit (Dave was co-pilot) but we got to see most of the state (and the lady in the SUV) before finding 95 just short of our destination. Twenty minutes later we were finally in the lobby talking to Shaun and John who had already checked in. After a meal provided by Shaun and his boss Jim we were to get back to the motel for some much needed sleep in order to be fresh for the tournament. But when we returned Tom Grimic was checking in and he really needed to take the edge off a very long day for him (winning the RTJ), so Tom, Wendell and myself proceeded next door for a libation or two. Thank God we made it back to the room without further incident.

Waking up the next morning to a beautiful day made the trip worth while, so we all thought. Beginning with breakfast the team started to assemble (in walking Ian Kunesch); all

we were missing now was Tom Ashfield. Loading in the vehicles and getting to the ferry was done without a hitch (possibly an omen?) with Tom waiting for us there. Players began to load the ferry for the forty five minute ride to Fishers Island. With the weather being as nice it could possibly be in October the ferry ride followed by a bus ride brought us to our destination, the line for the buffet awaiting us, only kidding. After a great lunch it was off to the golf course and what a golf course. Playing golf seemed secondary with the vista's presented to us at every turn on the course; sixteen out of the eighteen holes were on the water with views of a lighthouse, boats and magnificent houses. But then after a grueling test of golf we were finally all standing in front of the leader board to find out our fate. As it turned out we could not find one of our score cards, but then it appeared (Tom did you leave it on the cart) and with that New Jersey was crowned CHAMPIONS. After much celebration and congrats

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from the other teams (I'm sure Philly is not too happy) it was time for us to board the bus to the ferry and then make our way home. The ride home was as good as it can get with four guys happier than you know what, smiles and a sense of accomplishment. We are all hoping that we get the chance next year to do our association proud once more.

TEAM TOTALS

Gross		Net	
Tom Grimic	74	Wendell Beakley	72
Tom Ashfield		Lane Rogers	
John Alexander	70	Dave Mishkin	66
Ian Kunish		Bill Murray	

Bill Murray is the golf course superintendent at Shark River G.C. in the Monmouth County Park System. He is a past Sherwood Moore Cup Champion. 🏌️



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Continued from page 16


Longest Drive winners:

0-13 (Wilfred MacDonald) Doug Larson
All Handicaps (Philly Turf) Randy Rider
14-36 (Storr Tractor) Tony DiBartolomeo
55 Plus (Atlantic Irrigation) Mike Pastori

Skin Winners:

Grover Alexander-2 (eagle)
John Alexander-1
Matt Ceplo-1
Chip Kern-1
Ian Kunesch-1
Ralph McGillan-1

At the end of the day Brad Sparta suggested that we have the Championship at this site on a permanent basis. He was very sincere and I believe we would not have had a single

negative response if this was put to a vote. What this says the most is just how great an experience it was for all of us. We felt like we were honored guests by the Moore family and everyone on their staff. The course was an amazing challenge and Todd along with Frank Henshaw, Tom Vosters and their staff did an extraordinary job in preparing for our visit. It is something that we will remember forever. Thanks for everything and maybe Brad's wish can come true. 



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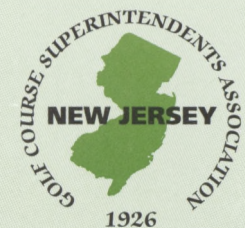
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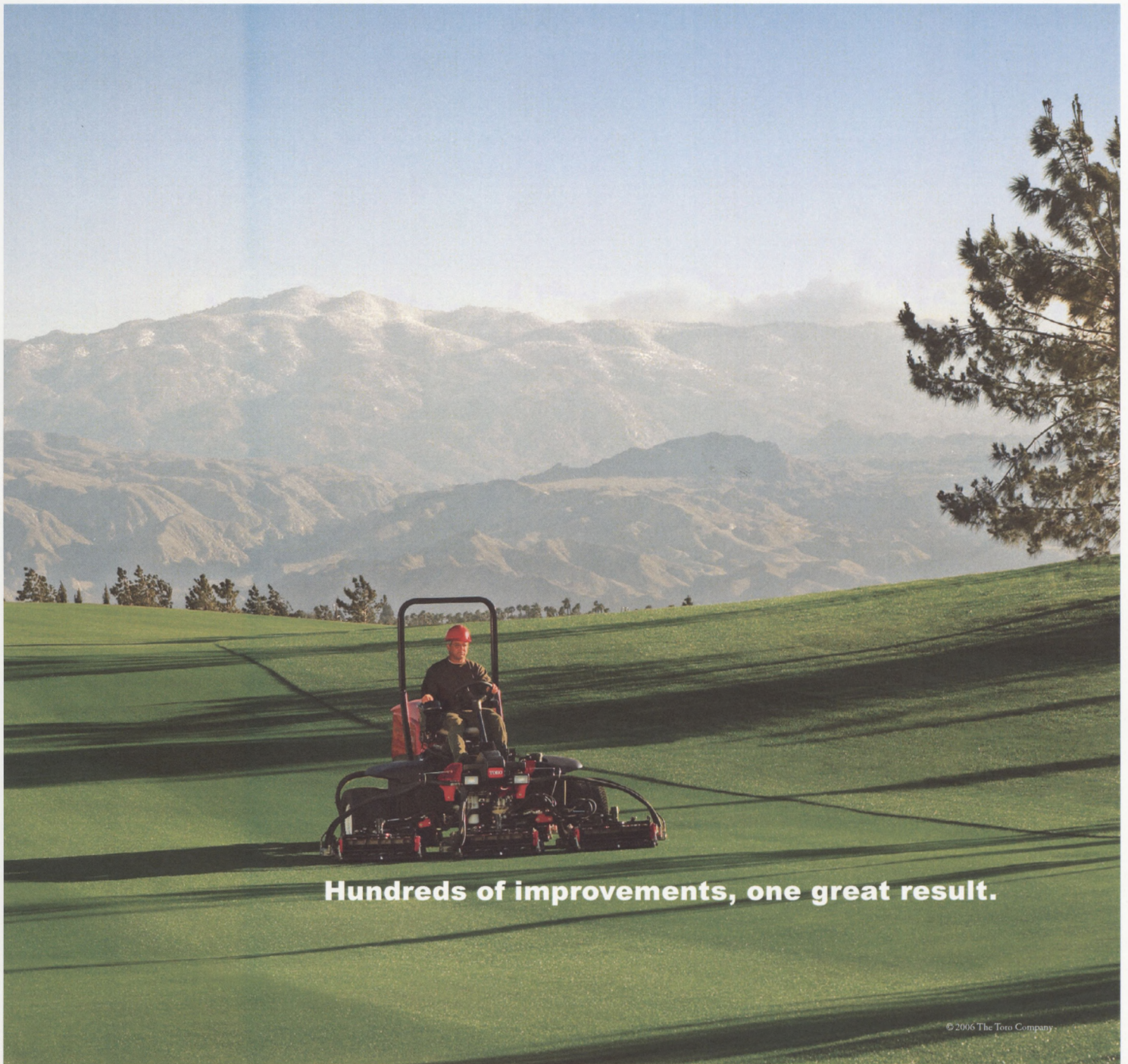
Ken Krausz adds his 20 years of experience to the discussion.



The fans line up for autographs of Ed Hyland, Darrel Marcinek, and Jesse Sholl of Neshanic Valley.

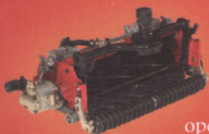


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