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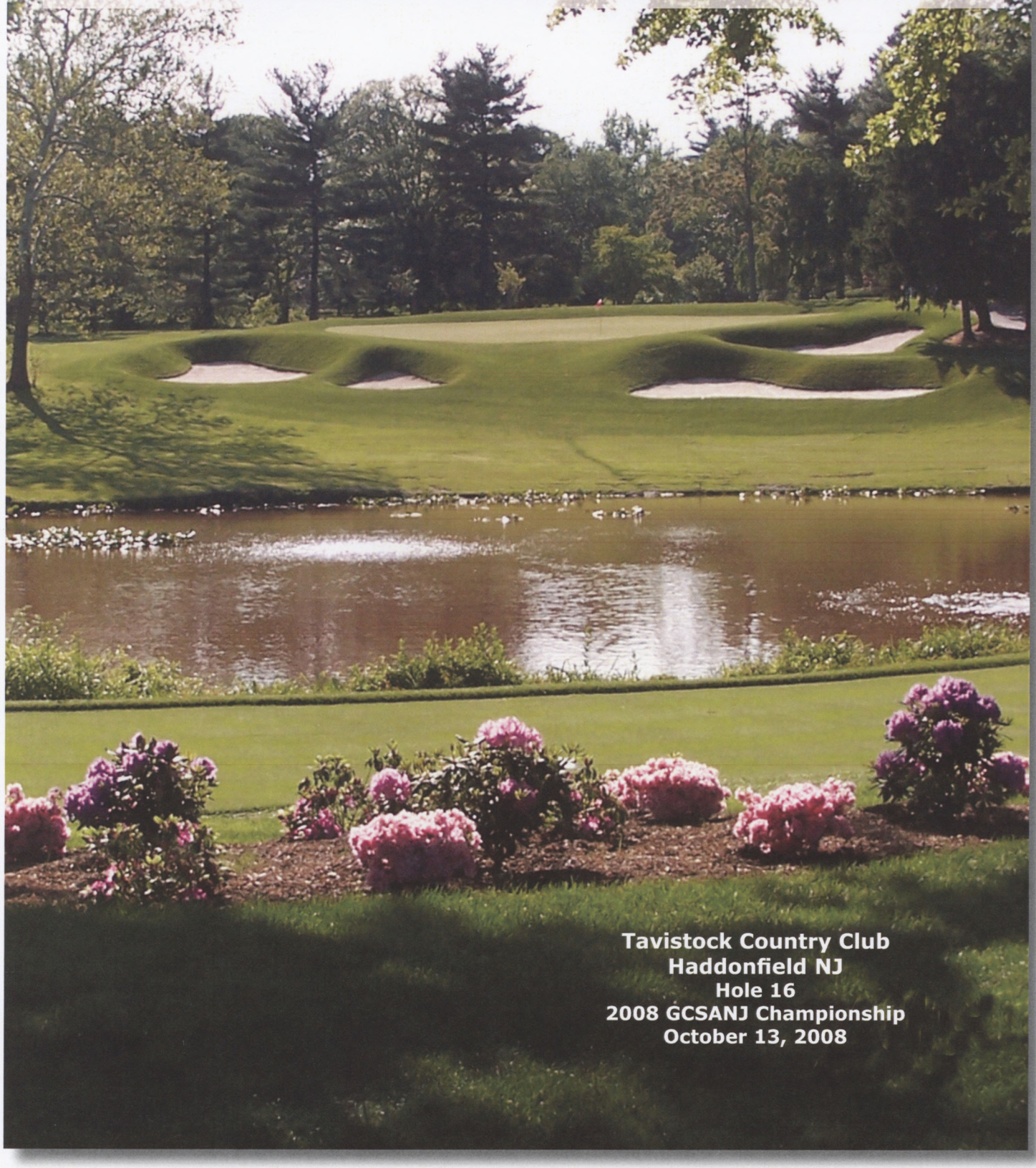

Tavistock Country Club
Haddonfield NJ
Hole 16
2008 GCSANJ Championship
October 13, 2008

Championship at Tavistock

HOST TOM GRIMAC

GROSS CHAMPION
BILL MURRAY

Class "C" Championship at Navesink

ASST- CHAMPION
SEAN HARTMAN

HOST DENNIS GRANAHAN

President's *Message*

Dear GCSANJ Member,

I would like to thank you for giving me the honor of serving our association in the upcoming year. In the past, some transitions had to travel down a bumpy road. But thanks to the efforts of our Past President, Mickey Stachowski, things will be much smoother this time around.

As the Holiday season closes, it is a good time to reflect on what has happened over the course of the past year. Our Executive Director, Cece Peabody, is up to speed in all matters and is steering this association down the right path. The Board of Directors has a clear vision on how to serve its membership and move forward to even better times.

Arnold Palmer, who was one of my idols growing up, once said, "the most important person at a golf course is the Golf Course Superintendent". One of the Board's most important tasks will be to take that phrase and improve the image of our profession.

Education is another area where we can better serve our membership. The Education Committee has once again outdone themselves with a great series of informative talks at Crystal Conference.

We have to continue that effort and add more classes and one-day seminars throughout the state to educate all who are unable to attend Crystal.

Another key to the future is our youth, meaning we must put forth a greater effort and focus on our scholarship programs. In these tough economic times, scholarships are a way to help ease their burden.

If you the membership have any recommendations or complaints, feel free to contact a Board member and that issue will be brought forth.

William Murray, Shark River Golf Club

I hope all members of this association enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and have a Happy New Year.

Coming Events:

GCSAA Conference – New Orleans, February 2 thru 7, 2009

"Nor'easter" will be Thursday night.

New Jersey Chapter GCSAA

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Tavistock CC and Tom Grimac Host GCSANJ Championship

by Shaun M. Barry

For most of us there has not been a time when Tom Grimac CGCS wasn`t the superintendent at Tavistock CC. Most likely the same can be said by 90% of his members. In an era when people move around to try and improve their lot in life Tom very quickly realized that this club was the place that he wanted to spend his career. It is a special place where the love Tom has for the course and the members is understood and is returned completely.

When they asked Tom to spearhead a project to tear-up and then rebuild the course he never hesitated. He knew that it would be stressful for everyone involved but he had the vision to see what it could be and how this would benefit the club. He shared the club`s enthusiasm and then he made it happen.

During that time Tom told me he wanted to host our Championship when the work on the course was finished. I knew that if the course was going to be better than it was before the work it would be a no-brainer. Tavistock had hosted the Championship a few years ago and that was a great experience so if it was going to be improved I couldn`t wait until it was ready.

Last year at Arcola CC when I was handing the Sherwood Moore Cup to Tom for the 5th time, he told me 2008 was the year. I smiled and crossed off one of the things on my "to-do" list. In February Tom arranged things with the course and we were all set. In August the club asked Tom if we would take a week later date for our meeting. That was not an issue at all. They were being very kind to us because of their respect for Tom. He had gone to them and they decided to comp golf and carts. Our only cost was going to be for food, taxes and service charges. That meant we were going to offer a full day registration to our members and the cost was going to be $80 a person. I haven`t checked for an official date but that price hasn`t been seen since the 1980`s. (Note: Pine Valley would have been in the same range but we had to take caddies and that moved the cost above this meeting.)

As you can imagine things like this don`t just happen to everybody. It happened because Tom went to the board and asked them to comp carts and golf. They listened and they granted his request because of the mutual respect that they have for each other. They also recognize that we are not just another outing. We are all part of the same industry and it is only right to be treated this way. Thank you very much Tom and Tavistock.

The day started early and soon Wendell Beakley and Doug Larson were out placing the sponsor signs. They said that they knew the course and for some reason I believed them. Kevin Driscoll jumped into his normal seat for registration and Phil O`Brien filled in when a break was required. 80 players arrived and *Continued on page 5*

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***Jim Cadott*, Editor**
Contributing Writer & Photgrapher
Shaun Barry
Please address inquiries to:
Editor, **The Greenerside**
25 US Hwy 46 W, Wayne NJ 07470

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Cece Peabody, Executive Director
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Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey
25 US Highway 46 West
Wayne, New Jersey 07470
1-866-GCSANJ1 • FAX 973-812-6529

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Cover Picture of Tavistock Country Club
Courtesy of Thomas Grimac, CGCS

Tavistock CC and Tom Grimac

Continued from pg 4

they signed up and headed to lunch or practice as smoothly as I have ever seen. It was great. Lunch was sponsored by Lou Bosco of Turf & Equipment Supply Co. and it was great. Since Mr. Grimac picked the food for the menus I would have expected nothing else.

When we headed out to the course most of us had no idea what to expect. I guess we knew that the conditions would be perfect and that the greens would be quick but unless you had actually played it since the changes were made you had to be impressed and surprised. Really good had become great and fast had become lightning. We were very lucky that the pins were not meant to hurt us or we might still be there.

There were a few 4 and 5 putt greens recorded out there but thankfully that was just me. I am sure nobody else had any problems. I know that I didn't see anyone within my group have any putting issues. Gregg Armbruster and my brother Kelly kept getting it close and Bill Murray made every putt he needed. He picked a line and the ball went into the hole. It was nice to see and when scores were added Bill ended up shooting a wonderful 76. Considering that he was 4 over par after 5 holes that score even looks better. This gave him a three shot victory over Tom Grimac and he won the Sherwood Moore Cup for the second time. Ian Kunesch placed third with an 84 after a match of cards with John Alexander. Bob Prickett did shoot an 80 and Jim Cross shot an 83 but they won their net flights and were rewarded with a larger prize taking those honors. Jim's net 74 edged out Ewan Macaulay and John Alexander who both shot 75. Bob's 70 not only gave him a victory in his flight but he was low net superintendent in the entire field. That gave him possession of the Dr. Henry Indyk Cup for the year.

In second and third place in this flight were Dennis Granahan (75) and Wendell Beakley (83). In the C Flight, Jeremy Daubert, who plays very little, had a very high handicap but it was accurate and he won with his 72. Joel Collura's game has been good this year and he took second with an 80. When we were deciding the awards for the Affiliate flight there was only one name on the sheet for gross scores and he wasn't a true affiliate. Rich Hurley shot 82 but my 103 would have won if I had decided to put my name on the sheet. I also know that one of our affiliates shot in the 80's and he should have won but he forgot to add his name to the list. I am sure there were others but in the end we decided that Rich had earned the honor of winning the Dr. Paul Sartoretto Cup.

Continued on page 7

My Best Wishes to All

Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP
Executive Director

Thank You GCSANJ Members for all you do for this association. It is a pleasure and honor to work with you - I'm looking forward to a great 2009.

TOO OFTEN WE UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A TOUCH, A SMILE, A KIND WORD, A LISTENING EAR, AN HONEST COMPLIMENT, OR THE SMALLEST ACT OF CARING, ALL OF WHICH HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO TURN A LIFE AROUND.
- LEO BUSCAGLIA

"IF YOU'RE NOT DOING SOMETHING WITH YOUR LIFE, THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW LONG YOU LIVE. IF YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING WITH YOUR LIFE, THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW SHORT YOUR LIFE MAY BE. A LIFE IS NOT MEASURED BY YEARS LIVED, BUT BY ITS USEFULNESS. IF YOU ARE GIVING, LOVING, SERVING, HELPING, ENCOURAGING, AND ADDING VALUE TO OTHERS, THEN YOU'RE LIVING A LIFE THAT COUNTS."
- JOHN C. MAXWELL.

Join your fellow chapter members in one or more of our events in 2009...we're giving back to our members in many meaningful ways. See you soon!

GCSANJ News EMAIL link!
Do we Have Your EMAIL Address?

Have something to share about other GCSANJ members? Send an email to the address below to share information, good or bad, that you may want passed onto the membership. This is our best avenue to keep all members well informed. Thanks.

We need your current email address to send news.

gcsanjnews@gmail.com

Listen to a response from John Alexander, GC Supt. at Cranbury Golf Club, about his recent posting in the job employment section of our website: "You guys are the best, the response was overwhelming!"

Visit the GCSANJ's website today!

www.gcsanj.org

The Speakers

5th Annual Crystal Conference

Read the article about the Crystal Conference on page 8.

Tavistock CC and Tom Grimac...

Continued from page 5

On the net side my 79 took 1st place honors while Brad Simpkins (80) and Rick Krok (81) were close behind.

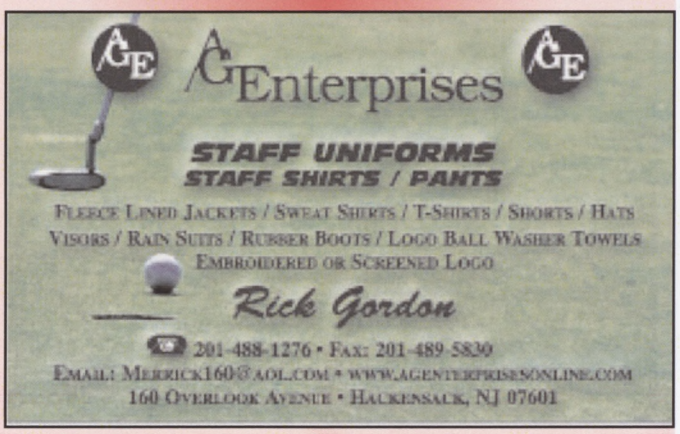
(Note: We had 12 skill prizes because of the generosity of several companies. These sponsors will have their name in the parenthesis right after the name of each winner. In addition to these sponsors we also had the guys from Pocono Turf sponsor dinner. Doug Larson signed up months ago and he got Chris Zelley to write the check. Between Pocono`s and Turf Equipment `s help we were able to pay for most of the prizes and plaques. Thank you very much gentlemen.)

Our winners in the closest to the pin contests were Joe Kinlin Sr. (Storr Tractor) 4ft 3ins, Kelly Barry (Turf Equipment), 2ft 8ins, Jeff Staeger (Cleary Chemical) 7ft 10ins, Mike Brunelle (Vic Gerard) 13ft 5ins and Rich Hurley (Vic Gerard) 5ft 1in. Our long drive winners were Ryan Oliver (Turf Equipment), Dick Neufeld (Turf Equipment), John Borek (Turf Equipment), Rick Krok (Turf Equipment), Ryan Oliver (Atlantic Irrigation), Mike Curley (Syngenta) and Rich Hurley (Storr Tractor). The skins game had several winners and Tom Grimac led that group when he made eagle on the second hole. This was one of the more challenging pin positions so that makes it even more impressive. Tom didn`t describe how he made eagle but I understand that it was a bit unorthodox. It still counts and that is the important thing. This gave him two skins and John Alexander, Carl Carlson, Ewan Macaulay, Bill Murray and Bob Prickett each had one.

Normally this would be the end of the event but Wendell Beakley has been keeping abreast of what is happening to Ed Casteen. It seems that there have been a couple more visits back to the hospital and the out of pocket costs are adding up. Wendell spoke to Rolf & Lori Strobel, Brad & Linda Simpkins and Ken Mathis. Within minutes the groundwork for a silent auction was put together and with everyone`s help, especially Lori and Linda, a list of prizes was pulled together and Wendell had his silent auction at the Championship. All in less then a week. Almost everyone put their name down on the lists but the winners were Gregg Armbruster, Wendell Beakley, Lou Bosco, Jim Cross, Joe Kinlin, Doug Larson, Ken Mathis and Bill Murray. I have a feeling that some of these prizes may never be used but that didn`t make a difference to these fellows. As we were adding up the totals a young assistant by the name of Rob Quattrone came up and gave me $20. He doesn`t know Ed but he wanted to help. It was a very touching gesture and it is another example that the future of this great industry will continue to remain strong.

(Note: This event raised almost $1,500 for the Casteens.)

Tom had his assistants attend dinner so they heard all of the accolades but I hope Tom will tell them one more time that their efforts were great and they and their staff did a wonderful job of making Tom and all of us very happy. It could not have been any better.



5th Annual Crystal Conference and Golf Classic Wrap Up *by Brad Sparta*

The 5th Annual Crystal Conference and Golf Classic was held November 11, 12, 13, 2008, and back again at Crystal Springs Resort. Golf was sponsored by **Plant Food Company** and was enjoyed by close to 100 people at Black Bear Golf Club in Franklin. Superintendent Don MacKay had the golf course in great shape with 18 difficult pins. There was quite a bit of cursing and swearing as you went around the course. Lance Rogers had some choice words for the Don after the event but it was all in good fun. Don's team of his assistant Joe Sudol, Wild Turkey Superintendent Mike Paluzzi, and his assistant Mike Wenning won the tournament with a -9 score. The awards for the tournament were donated by **Grass Roots** during the cocktail hour that was sponsored by **Seeton Turf Warehous**e.

The next two days were seminars held at Minerals Hotel. The seminars were held in the Copper Room and the breaks (Sponsored by **Aquatrols**) and lunch (sponsored by **Syngenta, Storr Tractor** and **Harrell's**) were held in the Sports Court where the 31 vendors that attended had their tables set up. After the seminars on Wednesday, there was a "Meet the Vendors" cocktail hour in the Sports Court and **Grass Roots** picked up the second hour of cocktails. Thanks to all of the sponsors, donators and vendors that made the event a great success.

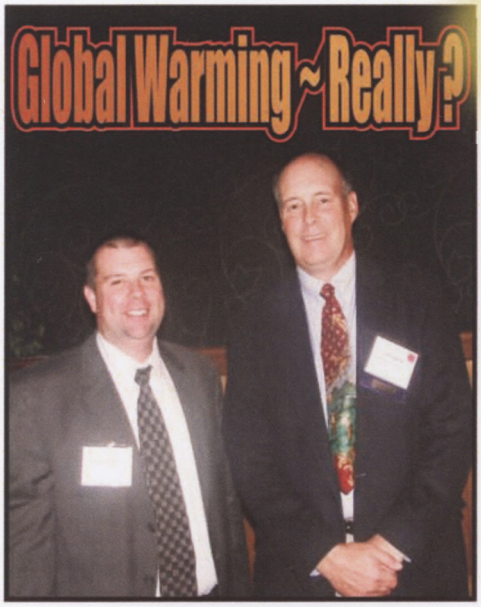
Wednesday seminars featured 4 different speakers from around the country to present to 150 people in attendance. Dr. John Kaminski from University of Connecticut presented twice on the *ID and Management of Patch Diseases* and in the afternoon on *Dollar Spot Management*. Dr Steve Hart from Rutgers gave us an update on *Velocity Herbicide* and what we can expect with using it. Dave Doherty from ISTRC presented *Physical Soil Properties and What They Mean to You* before lunch and *The Sealing of Our Greens and What We Can Do About It* after lunch.

The last presenter for the day was Dr. Karl Danneberger from The Ohio State University. His talk was *Intra and Inter-Seeding: The Dream Lives On.* All 6 talks were interesting and informative for the attendees.

On Thursday, the day started off with Dr. Danneberger talking about *Sustainability: A Global Perspective* to a crowd of 125. He showed slides of golf courses from around the world and how they survive in their surroundings. Dr. Nathaniel Mitkowski from University of Rhode Island spoke about his research on *Nematodes* and how they are becoming an increasing problem in the Northeast. Marie Pompei from F. M. Brown's and Sons talked about the different warm and cool season grasses to use in low maintenance areas. Golf Course Architect Mark Fine presented a slideshow of *Bunkers, Pits and Other Hazards* from around the world. It was amazing but Shaun Barry knew every golf course that was shown. The last speaker for the seminar was Herb Stevens from *Grass Roots Weather on Global Warming: Fact or Fiction.* His presentation was captivating and was very interesting to hear what may have in the future with the global climate.

The Crystal Conference and Golf Classic get bigger and more popular every year. The conference has been built on strong education, fun at the golf event, networking and a tremendous amount of camaraderie.

Next year's event will sure to be the strongest education that we have had yet.



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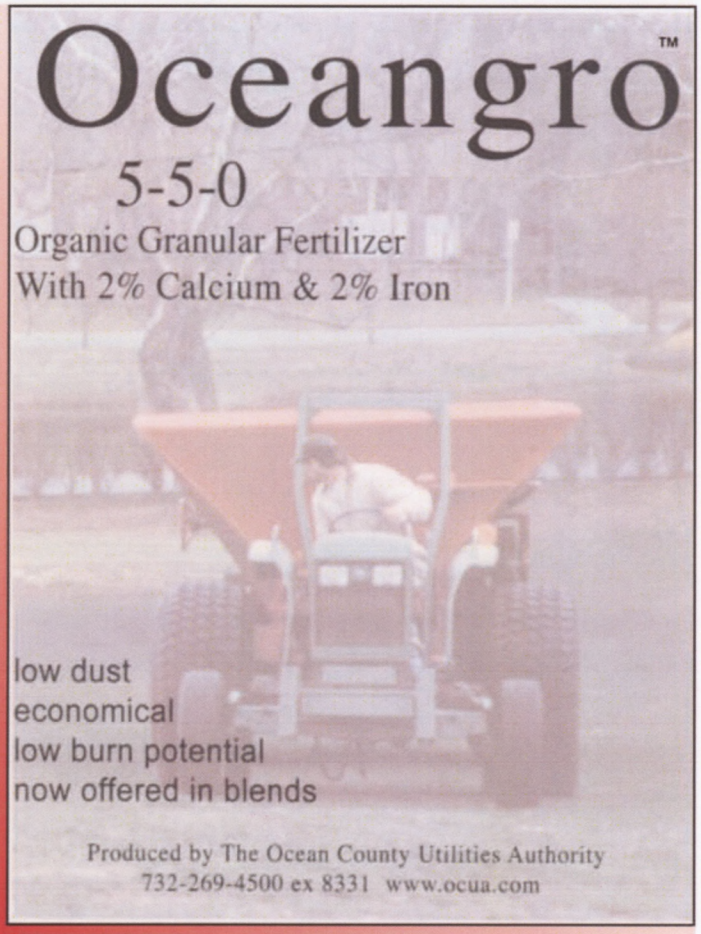

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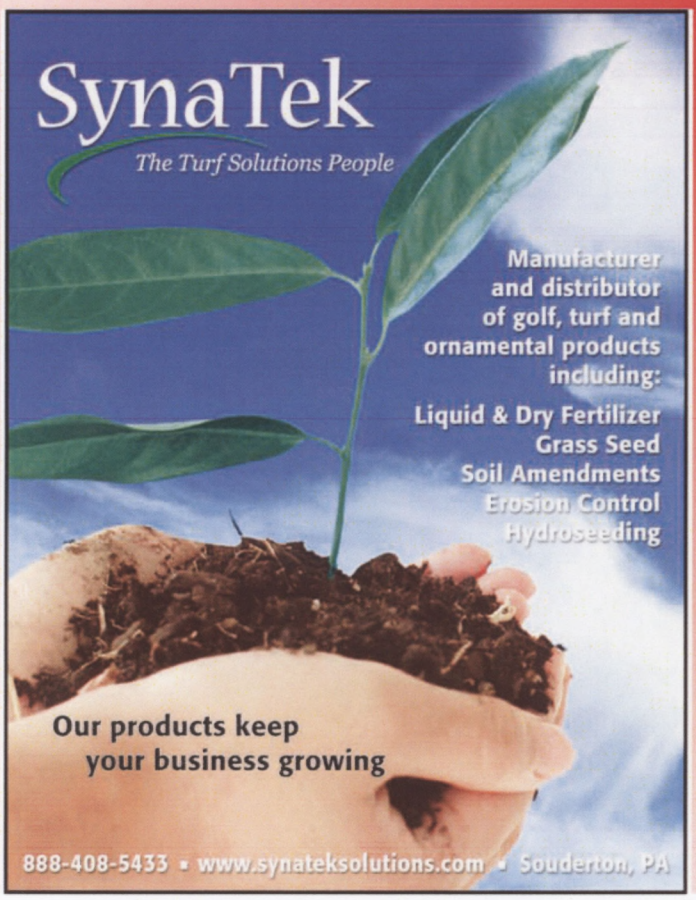

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Inaugural Leadership Academy at GCSAA Headquarters Sept. 22-24, 2008

Participant - Lance Rogers,CGCS

GCSANJ President Mickey Stachowski asked me a few months ago if I would like to participate in the Inaugural Leadership Academy at GCSAA headquarters. I thought that this would be a good opportunity to see where the leaders of our association do their daily business.

I returned from the event and I am glad that I participated. The building that houses the GCSAA is a small commercial, 4 story building that seems to be perfect for the 110 employees that work for the GCSAA.

After breakfast, we met in the auditorium to begin our day. Dave Fearis, Director of Membership, introduced our new CEO, Mark Woodward to the group and he had some intriguing things to say. He seems to be extremely busy and even though Steve Mona did a great job, he is assessing everything and everyone at the GCSAA. Mark is interviewing every single employee and after being with the GCSAA for more than 80 days, he has gotten through only half of them. Mark is meeting with other leaders in the golf industry, as well as leaders from other types of business to see how they run their companies or organizations. Mark seems to be a good fit for the GCSAA, after all he is one of us.

Pictured in front of GCSAA headquarters in Kansas with Old Tom Morris are the individuals who attended the Inaugural Leadership Academy.

Inaugural Leadership Academy at GCSAA Headquarters

I gathered a great deal of information over two days and got to see all the things the GCSAA has to offer to it's members and why they are so valuable. Some keys things that were discussed or discovered:

1) This year the GCSAA has developed the Chapter Outreach Grant Program. A total of $30,000 in grant money is available for chapters and can be used for website services or any type of media outreach for that chapter. Some chapters that have applied for this grant have been given up to $3,000. About half the funds are still available.

2) As we know, some members of our group are not members of the GCSAA. The GCSAA can give them membership free for one year. I discussed with them that maybe individual chapters, or the GCSAA can send form letters to club officials stressing the importance of their membership to the GCSAA. Perhaps they could even offer advice to that superintendent on how to explain the importance of this membership.

3) GCSAA is committed to media outreach through the Golf channel.

4) The GCSAA is committed to making the GCSAA logo a noticeable seal of our organization. Everyone recognizes the PGA logo, and the GCSAA strives for the same. GCSAA is asking chapters to adopt this logo with their chapter name above it. Forty-eight chapters have adopted the new logo. Some have adopted fully and others partially. In my opinion the new logo with the chapter name above it looks very professional.

5) A lot of work and time goes into preparing the GIS show. New this year, members can volunteer for the Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans. The GCSAA would like to do this every year.

6) The website has an amazing amount of information on it and it can be overwhelming. On the Chapter page there is great information on what Board members should expect from their duties, how to run a meeting, etc.

7) In March the GCSAA hosts the Chapter Leaders/Executives Symposium, and two sessions are held during the GCSAA Education Conference and GIS each year. These are important times for the Executive officers and/or Presidents of those chapters to meet and discuss what works for their chapters. This is the only way our chapters can learn and grow. Leann Cooper, Chapter Services Manager can answer all your questions on these matters.

8) Chapter meeting participation is down throughout the country and no one is sure of the solution. Participation being down is not necessarily a bad thing. It's more important to maintain your membership numbers. Some chapters have seen greater participation when they had less meetings, or sometimes shorter meetings. Maybe 9 hole meetings, roundtables or just brief 1-2 hour education meetings at someone's course would be a viable new format. The GCSAA realizes that we all need to keep an eye on this, but they are not excessively concerned. We are dealing with different generations and some of the old methods may need to change.

9) The GCSAA Board is no longer allowing anyone to stay on a committee for more than 5 years. They would like to keep fresh blood on the committees. Anyone can sign up for a committee on the website at gcsaa.org.

It was refreshing to see the GCSAA Headquarters and it was also good to see the energy of everyone that works there for the GCSAA. I honestly believe the money we spend for our dues is well spent and we should remember just how high the dues are for the PGA and the CCM. If we, as a Chapter, continue to communicate all the services that are available to our members...we all win in the end. If we want to be recognized as leaders of our industry, then we, as golf course superintendents, need to act like leaders and remain active with a strong group like the GCSAA. Remember, the GCSAA has more tools than anyone could imagine on their website and for any situation and they are only a phone call away.

On a final note, I would encourage everyone to go to the national headquarters if they are ever given the chance. The support for this event was provided by Syngenta and Toro. Thanks to our sponsors always.

* Special Note - we have since adopted the new logo!

Lance A. Rogers, CGCS
Golf Course Superintendent

New Jersey Chapter
GCSAA

Cultural Management of Anthracnose Disease on Annual Bluegrass

by James A. Murphy, John C. Inguagiato, Bruce B. Clarke, Brad S. Park, and T.J. Lawson

RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Reprinted from Nov/Dec 2007 issue of the USGA Green Section Record

Nitrogen fertility and growth regulators can have positive impacts on management of this potentially devastating disease.

Anthracnose is a disease on many turfgrass species throughout the world, but is particularly severe on weakened or senescent annual bluegrass (Poa annua L.) turf. Anthracnose is caused by the fungus Colletotrichum cereale (Manns, Crouch, Clarke, and Hillman), which persists in turf as a saprophyte in thatch or infected plant material. Typically, the fungus can become pathogenic and infect leaf, stem, or root tissue when an environment of high humidity or extended leaf wetness coincides with plant stress. Symptoms can be observed throughout the year, but are most intense between June and September in temperate and transitional climatic zones.

Annual bluegrass grown on golf course putting greens is a weak perennial species that is known for its prolific production of seedheads, particularly between mid-April and June. Seedheads are unsightly, but more importantly, they also decrease the playability (smoothness and uniformity) of a putting green and deplete the carbohydrate (food) reserves of the plant by early summer. Consequently, carbohydrate-starved annual bluegrass plants are thought to be more susceptible to anthracnose once summer conditions become more stressful (e.g., hot, humid and/or droughty weather).

The incidence and severity of anthracnose on annual bluegrass turf has increased in recent years throughout the United States, particularly along the east coast and mid-western states. In many cases, epidemics were so severe that fungicides have been unable to effectively control the disease when used at label rates and application intervals, resulting in extensive turf damage and major disruption to play, especially on putting greens. It is thought that changes in fungicide use patterns as well as management practices commonly employed on golf courses may be predisposing turf to anthracnose.

It is probable that more than one or various combinations of management factors may be enhancing the severity of this disease and making it more difficult to control. Common management practices thought to affect anthracnose severity include N fertilization, mowing, rolling, chemical plant growth regulation, verticutting, topdressing and irrigation. Our research program at Rutgers University has and is currently evaluating various aspects of these important cultural practices. The overall goal of our research is to develop a set of best management practices (BMPs) for the control of anthracnose disease on annual bluegrass putting green turf.

Continued on page 15

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Cultural Management of Anthracnose...

This article summarizes findings from a trial that evaluated the impact of N fertilization, two chemical growth regulators, verticutting, and the potential interactions of these factors on anthracnose of an annual bluegrass putting green.

GENERAL RESEARCH METHODS

The trial was conducted on annual bluegrass turf grown on a Nixon sandy loam and maintained as a putting green. Plots were mowed 10 to 14 times per week with a triplex mower bench-set at 0.125-inch. Turf was topdressed lightly with medium sand every 14 days and brushed with a cocoa mat. Water was applied uniformly to the plot area by hand-held hose or sprinkler irrigation to avoid severe drought, yet maintain firm dry surface conditions consistent with industry playing standards. Preventative disease control (fungicides) that did not affect anthracnose was applied for dollar spot and brown patch diseases.

NITROGEN FERTILIZATION

Of the 17 essential nutrients required for plant growth, nitrogen (N) is often the fertilizer nutrient that can be most effectively used by a turf manager to impact plant vigor and health. Plant growth and maintenance requires relatively large amounts of N, and N deficiency can inhibit growth and reduce tolerance to environmental stress (Orcutt and Nilsen, 2000). In the northeast, N is commonly applied at less than 3 pounds 1000 ft-2 annually on putting greens to limit leaf growth and reduce the frictional resistance to ball roll (Radko, 1985; Zontek, 2004). This may result in N deficiency during the growing season since recommendations for N fertilization of annual bluegrass putting greens typically range from 2.7 to 6.3 pounds 1000 ft-2 yr-1 (Beard et al., 1978; Vargas and Turgeon, 2004). Turf maintained below optimal N levels can enhance the severity of diseases such as dollar spot and red thread (Smiley et al., 2005). The practice of occasionally spoon feeding turf with N at 0.05 to 0.125 pounds per 1000 ft-2 when plants are low in vigor may not be sufficient to maintain a healthy, disease-free playing surface.

We evaluated soluble N applied at 0.1 pound 1000 ft-2 (as an NH4NO3 solution) every 7- or 28-days beginning in mid-May and through the summers of 2003, 2004, and 2005. Our findings clearly indicate that low rate soluble N fertilization every 7 days had the greatest reduction in anthracnose severity throughout this study; increasing N by 0.3 pound 1000 ft-2 month-1 during the summer reduced damage 25 to 73% (Table 1). More research is needed to determine the optimum frequency of low rate liquid N fertilization; that is, fertilization every 14 or 21 days may be as effective as every 7 days at reducing severity of anthracnose.

Superintendents have frequently asked about the potential role, if any, of late- and early-season granular N fertilization in suppressing anthracnose of annual bluegrass turf. Some superintendents have reduced or abandoned the practice of applying granular N (¾- to 1¼- pounds 1000 ft-2) on greens in the fall or spring, thus further reducing the supply of this important nutrient. Previous research on annual bluegrass fairway turf has found greater disease when most N was applied during April and May rather than November; also, N applied at 6 pounds 1000 ft-2 yr-1 increased anthracnose foliar blight compared to 3 pounds 1000 ft-2 yr-1 (Danneberger et al., 1983). Similar research is needed to define the possible role of late- or early-season granular N fertilization on anthracnose of putting green turf. Furthermore, the influence of the seasonal effect of granular-N fertilization on the optimum frequency of low rate liquid N fertilization during the growing season needs to be determined. Such research would provide insight into the feasibility of using foliar (liquid) fertilization to reduce and possibly eliminate higher rate granular N fertilization with respect to disease management.

CHEMICAL GROWTH REGULATION

Chemical plant growth regulation has become an integral component of putting green management on many golf courses (Dernoeden, 2002; Danneberger, 2003). We evaluated two plant growth regulators (PGRs) for possible effects on anthracnose severity. Mefluidide (Embark® 0.2L) is applied to suppress seedhead formation in annual bluegrass putting green turf, which improves uniformity and smoothness of the playing surface. Trinexapac-ethyl (Primo MAXX™ 1ME) can also improve the vigor and playability of putting greens by reducing vertical shoot growth and increasing stand density and uniformity (McCullough et al, 2005). The Embark levels studied were either none or a split application of Embark at 0.69 fl. oz. 1000 ft-2 two weeks apart in April 2003, 2004, and 2005. The levels of Primo studied were either none, or Primo applied at 0.125 fl. oz. 1000 ft-2 every 14 days starting at the same time Embark was applied, except on plots treated with with Embark when Primo treatments were initiated on the last date of Embark treatment.

Our findings indicate that chemical growth regulation generally improved turfgrass quality, but the greatest benefits (i.e., reduced seedheads, better turf quality and reduced anthracnose) occurred when Embark and Primo were used sequentially. Disease reduction from growth regulation was not as consistent and generally not as dramatic as that observed with 7-day soluble N fertilization. The effect of either growth regulator used alone was inconsistent, but neither product greatly aggravated disease symptoms. At later stages of disease outbreaks, the greatest reduction in anthracnose occurred on plots treated with Embark and sequential applications of Primo under the 7-day N fertilization schedule (Table 2).

The combination of these PGRs presumably improved physiological and morphological characteristics of the turf, thereby reducing susceptibility to anthracnose, a disease that is known to be more severe on stressed turf (Smiley et al., 2005). Embark reduces seedhead production of annual bluegrass, and several studies have reported that regulation with Embark re-allocates photosynthate away from shoots and seedheads to root and crown tissues (Cooper et al., 1987; Cooper et al., 1988; Hanson and Branham, 1987). Stress tolerance of turf improves with increased rooting; thus the re-allocation of photosynthate to roots and crowns probably improved the vigor of annual bluegrass turf. Additionally, Primo applications can improve physiological characteristics (Ervin and Koski, 2001b; Zhang and Schmidt, 2000; McCann and Huang, 2007) as well as reduce internode elongation of turfgrass (Ervin and Koski, 1998; Ervin and Koski, 2001a). A slower growing, more compact turf

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would increase the proportion of the leaf blade remaining after mowing. Since leaf blades have greater photosynthetic efficiency than sheaths (Thorne, 1959), stress associated with routine low mowing would be reduced with the use of Primo.

Because plant growth regulation has become so prevalent, a better understanding of the impact of these materials on anthracnose is needed before more comprehensive BMPs can be developed to combat this devastating disease. Our current research is evaluating chemical regulation strategies that reduce seedhead formation in the spring, suppress vegetative growth throughout the season, or combine both forms of suppression. Various application timings, rates and frequencies of Primo, Embark and ethephon (Proxy®) are being studied for their effects on anthracnose.

VERTICUTTING

Anthracnose is reputed to be enhanced by wounding of host plant tissue. Verticutting is commonly used to reduce irregular shoot growth, puffiness, excessive thatch and non-uniform shoot density of putting green turf with the goal of improving turfgrass quality and increasing ball roll distance. An initial report indicated that verticutting to a 0.2-inch depth increased the severity of anthracnose on a mixed annual bluegrass-creeping bentgrass turf compared to a 0.12-inch depth or no verticutting (Uddin and Soika, 2003).

We have evaluated verticutting to a 0.12-inch depth with 0.04-inch wide blades spaced 0.5-inch apart every 14 days from May to August 2003, 2004, and 2005. Contrary to expectations, verticutting to a shallow depth (0.12-inch) did not have a substantial effect on anthracnose. Verticutting in our study only cut leaf blades and did not remove organic matter from the thatch layer. Thus, verticutting at depths great enough to cut crowns and stolons or remove thatch may enhance plant stress and increase anthracnose, whereas verticutting to groom the leaf canopy does not appear to affect disease.

SUMMARY

Management of annual bluegrass putting green turf with soluble N applied every 7 days at a low rate (0.1 pound 1000 ft-2) from late spring through summer provided the most consistent reduction in anthracnose severity. The growth regulators Embark and Primo used in sequence to suppress seedheads and vegetative growth also reduced anthracnose severity but not as consistently as weekly low rate N fertilization. At advanced stages of disease, the combination of 7-day N fertilization and Embark and Primo application provided the greatest reduction in disease severity. Use of Embark or Primo alone had infrequent and inconsistent effects on anthracnose but should not greatly aggravate disease severity. Shallow verticutting of the upper leaf canopy (grooming) every two weeks during the growing season had little effect on anthracnose severity.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors thank Dr. Hiranthi Samaranayake for assistance with statistical analysis. This work was supported by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, and grants from the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, United States Golf Association, and New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation.

Jim Murphy and Bruce Clarke are Extension Specialists in Turgrass Management and Pathology, respectively, John Inguagiato is a graduate student, Brad Park is a Sports Turf Research and Education Coordinator, and T.J. Lawson is a Principal Laboratory Technician at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

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Table 1. Anthracnose disease response to N fertilization of annual bluegrass turf mowed at 0.125-inch in North Brunswick, NJ during 2003. Data is representative of disease response in 2004 and 2005.

	Turf Area Infested			
	18 June	30 June	25 July	22 August
	---------- % ----------			
Nitrogen (N) †				
28-d	14.2 a‡	36.8 a	49.9 a	39.8 a
7-d	5.7 b	12.8 b	31.4 b	35.9 a

† Nitrogen was applied as an NH_4NO_3 solution containing 0.1 pounds 1000-ft^{-2} of N from 12 May to 22 September 2003.

‡ Numbers in columns followed a different letter are statistically different based on an *F*-test at the 0.05 probability level.

Table 2. Anthracnose disease response to N fertilization, Embark (mefluidide) and Primo (trinexapac-ethyl) application on annual bluegrass turf mowed at 0.125-inch during later stages of disease progression in 2004 and 2005.

			Turf Area Infested	
			2004	2005
Nitrogen†	Embark‡	Primo§	30 August	30 July
interval (d)	--------- fl.oz. 1000-ft^{-2} ---------		---------- % ----------	
28	0	0	65.0	84.9
28	0	0.125	51.3	86.5
28	0.69	0	57.4	82.0
28	0.69	0.125	50.3	85.3
7	0	0	48.9	66.6
7	0	0.125	43.0	67.6
7	0.69	0	50.0	69.0
7	0.69	0.125	25.1	45.9
	LSD		*6.8*	*9.4*

† Nitrogen was applied as an NH_4NO_3 solution containing 0.1 pound 1000 ft^{-2} of N from 7 May to 9 October 2004 and 21 May to 3 August 2005.

‡ Embark 0.2L was applied as a split application of 0.69 fl.oz. 1000-ft^{-2} on 7 and 21 April 2004 and 6 and 20 April 2005.

§ Primo MAXX 1ME was applied every 14-d from 7 April to 22 September 2004 and 6 April to 10 August 2005. Initial Primo application was delayed on turf previously treated with Embark until 21 April in 2004 and 20 April in 2005.

Baird - Murphy Research Summary – Nov/Dec 2007

FAREWELL TO A MEMBER

Alexander L. Edgar, 88, died November 18, 2008 in New Carlisle, Indiana.
A graduate of Rutgers University, Alex served in the Pacific Theater in the U.S. Army Air Corps in WWII.

Preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Charles and John (also a golf course superintendent), and his wife Christina who died the previous day. They are survived by their children, Charles of Lawrenceville, NJ, Alexander of Mishawaka, Indiana, and Joan Elghettey of Bloomsbury, NJ, seven grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Former superintendent and General Manager of the St. Andrews Golf Club, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY (1950-1957), superintendent of the Essex County Country Club, West Orange, NJ (1957-1965), he was the owner-operator with his wife of the Washington Golf Club in Washington, NJ until his retirement in 1970.

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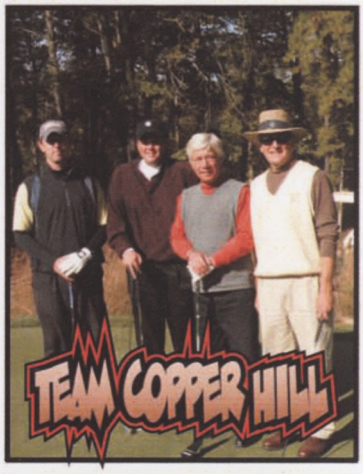
TEAM COPPER HILL

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Team Panther Valley

Team Hollywood

Team EIFG

Team Manasquan

Team Torresdale Frankford

TEAM EAGLE OAKS

The RTJ Continues A Winning Tradition

by Shaun M. Barry

This event started 20 years ago and was successful because of the hard work and dedication of the Sambol family and Steve Cadenelli CGCS. We still have financial support from the Sambol family and Steve remains as our advisor. To that mix we have added the members of the GCSANJ Foundation. They assumed ownership of the event in 2007 because with all of the changes at Metedeconk it was hard for them to reach and attract the core group of superintendents and courses that was needed to make this successful. The Foundation didn`t realize the enormity of the challenge in front of them but they were not deterred by anything. They reverted back to the basics and they reached out to the community that they know well. Their efforts paid dividends immediately and 10 new teams were added to the field in 2007.

With a solid year behind them the committee better understood what was needed and when it was needed. Lance Rogers continues to make the rest of us look better with his computer skills and his attention to detail. Many things that were contracted out in the past are now done in house. That house usually is the Rogers home where Lance gets help from Kim and the children. He doesn`t ask often but they are always there to help Dad. Fred Rapp also used his computer skills to create the notice that went to sponsors and the change looked great. The rest of the committee members were either mailing invitations, buying stamps, receiving checks, depositing checks and coming up with new ideas at their 20 plus meetings concerning this event. Suggestions were plentiful and action was immediate. It is a very well running committee.

The effort promoting the 2008 event was greater than at any time in the past but the economy hurt the results. We had fewer teams and fewer sponsors than in 2007 but the event went off beautifully. The staff at Metedeconk is world class. They know what needs to be done and they do it effortlessly. The course was in tremendous shape. Ryan never seems to leave the job and his dedication has been instrumental in why the conditions are getting better and better. The course will always be a challenge if you aren't hitting the ball well and this year was no exception. What was different this year is that Ryan chose new locations for the tee markers. Some holes played a lot shorter because Ryan understands that this is not the US Open. Ryan and the committee were not out to embarrass anybody or to protect par. We want people to enjoy playing this course as much as possible. For some people the course played harder than they expected, however, with the dry conditions and slow growth the greens were quite firm and fast. The majority of the field seemed to really enjoy the fair challenge offered by the course. I hope they return and bring other teams with them.

When the final results were determined we had the team from Manasquan River winning the gross title with a score of 145, The team members were Glenn Miller (supt.), Tom Hassel, Michael Zusack and Brent Studer (pro). With only one change in the players, this is the same team that won in 2007. Will they be able to defend again in 2009? Jim Cross`s team from Rumson took second place honors with a 149 score and in third place with a score of 152 was the Tom Grimac led team from Tavistock..

On the net side of the event the winning team was from the GCSANJ. Mickey Stachowski blended shots with Bill Murray, Lance Rogers and Shaun Barry for the victory. Their score of 136 edged out the Ryan Oliver team from Metedeconk by one shot. Following the GCSANJ`s example, Ryan`s team nipped Jan Kasyjanski `s Hollywood team also by one shot. This victory could have gone to anyone of these teams. In the individual competition Ryan Oliver took low gross with a score of 82 and Bruce Peeples was awarded the trophy for low net. He had a 76 and he won on a match of cards. This was a first for both Ryan and Bruce but I am sure they will try and win many more times. The low professional was Brent Studer. He shot a 74 and even though I thought Glenn carried his team to victory I may have been mistaken.

In the skills contests, Mickey Stachowski and Pat Dolan were closest to the pin. Mickey was 2ft 4ins away on number 17 and Pat got it to 19ft 6ins on the 25th hole. The longest drives were won by Ryan Oliver and Rick Krok. This is not a surprise because both of these young men hit it out of sight.

The day ended with many teams carrying away beautiful pieces of crystal but every person took away some pretty amazing memories. They had played a terrific golf event at one of the best golf courses in the world and because of their participation; turfgrass research will be receiving additional funding so the search for even more improvements can be carried on. This is truly a win/win for our industry so I hope you will join us next October for the 21st RTJ.

Many thanks go to our sponsors who are listed below. Sponsors are the backbone of all fundraisers and these companies understand how important it is to continue supporting this event. If you have a choice in purchasing products please consider what these companies have done

The RTJ Continues...

to support this event and this industry when you are making a decision. Take the time to say thanks to them. It will be appreciated.

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Panther Valley Golf & Country Club Hosts the District 1 & 2 Championship

by Mark Griff

Sept 16th proved to be a great day for the District 1 & 2 championships at Panther Valley Golf & Country Club. Pat Campbell not only was generous in giving up his golf course for the day but the conditioning was superb and the weather was great. Thanks to Pat and his staff for a great day of golf.

Joe Kinlin blew away the field with a 73 to take low gross followed by Ian Kunesch with an 80 for second. Vince Bracken came in with the low net of 68 and Jim Pelrine took second with a 69. We were fortunate to have many donated prizes for closest to the pin and long drive contests.

Thanks goes out to Storr Tractor, Wilfred Macdonald, Vic Gerard, E/T Equip, Syngenta, The Terre Co and Black Lagoon Pond Management for their donations. Closest to the pin winners were Scott Carpenter, Joe Kinlin, Les Carpenter and Bob Boyle. Long Drive Winners from the 0-9 handicaps were Paul Dotti (twice) and Joe Kinlin. The 10-19 handicappers were Dennis Wrede, Mark Berdine and Josh Kopera. The 20-40 handicappers were Pat Schlagenhapa, Bernie White and Vince Bracken.

We hope that Pat will offer his course to us again next year. It was a great day on a beautiful course, thanks again Pat.

GCSANJ Director, Michael Campbell presents flag and plaque to host and father, Patrick Campbell.

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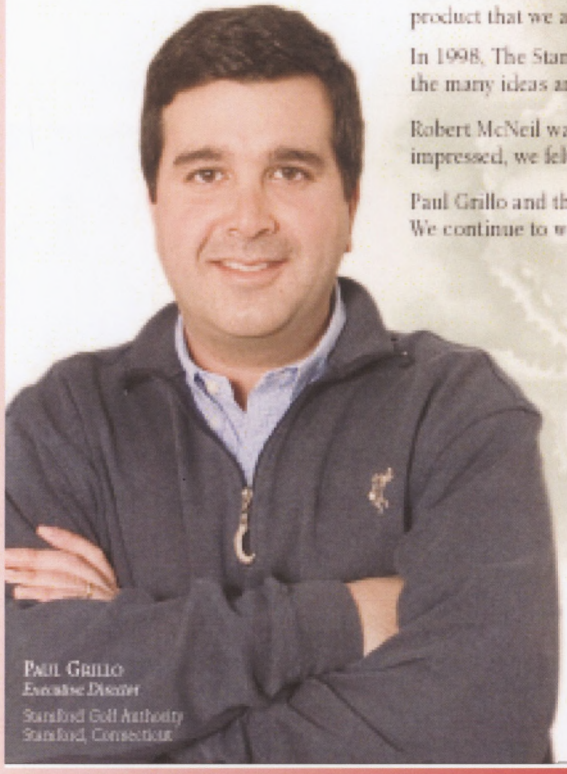
Paul Grillo and the Stamford Golf Authority has been a Client of The Northeast Golf Company for 10 years. We continue to work together to improve Sterling Farms Golf Course in Stamford, Connecticut.



PAUL GRILLO
Executive Director
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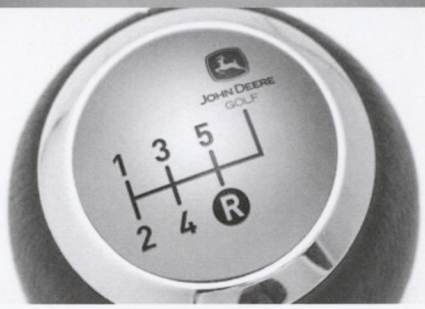

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Rutgers Turfgrass Alumni Association Achievement Award 2008

These notes were presented by Thom Ritchie at the Rutgers Turfgrass Graduation and Awards Dinner.

This year's recipient is a beacon for our industry.

• He is respected and loved by all who know him.

• He sets an example for service to others and is a true friend to all.

• He played golf at St. Peter's in New Brunswick and was the #1 man.

• He planned on playing on his college team at Murry State University, but a shoulder injury ended that chance.

• A member at Tamarack Golf Course (Middlesex county) – had a wide reputation of consistently shooting under par and Won the Club Championship.

• Worked for W. A. Cleary for 10 years selling turfgrass chemicals

• Moved to Bayer as a long term Sales Representative

• Is a member at Lahinch Golf Club in Lahinch, Ireland

•Travels to Ireland annually to play golf, often organizing groups.

• Director - in NJ Turfgrass Association.

• Chairman of the membership committee and Golf Classic Committee that raises funds to go to Rutgers Turfgrass Science Dept. for research.

• Awarded NJTA Member of the Year in 2007.

• Always there with his camera at industry events,

• A good Match maker too – He introduced NJTA President, Dr. Karen Plumley to her husband Ron Luepke, GC Superintendent.

• A Board Member of GCSANJ for more than 20 years.

• In 2005 the NJ Golf Course Superintendents Association Honored him with their Distinguished Service Award.

• In 1996 the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey also recognized him with Their Member of The Year award.

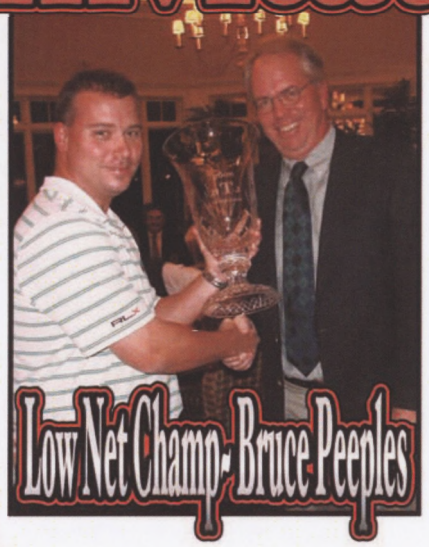
Congratulations to Shaun Barry

A surprised Shaun Barry accepting his award.

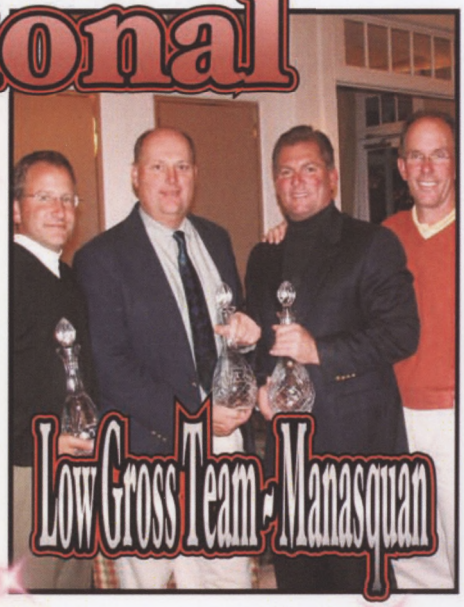
Shaun Barry, center holding award plaque, with Joseph Bianco (left) and Thom Ritchie (right)

RTJ Invitational

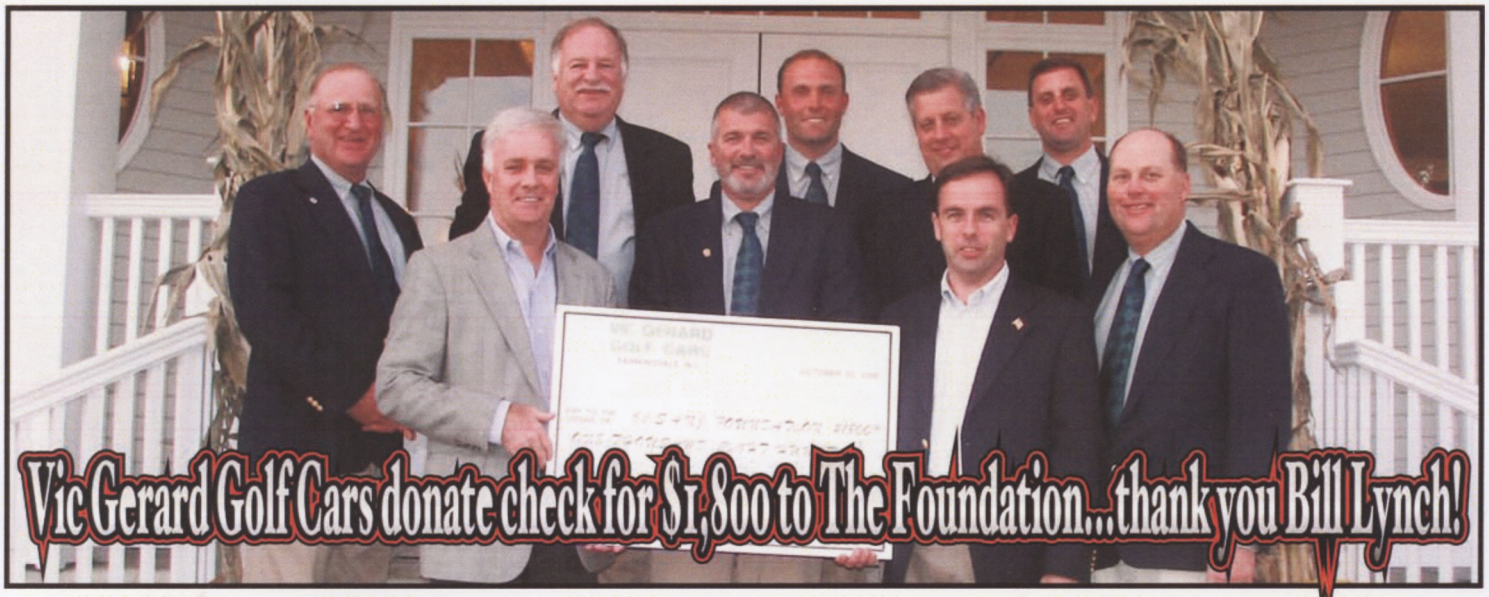
GCSAA VP - Mark Kuhns



Low Net Champ - Bruce Peeples



Low Gross Team - Manasquan



Vic Gerard Golf Cars donate check for $1,800 to The Foundation...thank you Bill Lynch!

Low Gross Supt. host Ryan Oliver

Ryan Oliver w/ wife Amber & Fred Rapp

Low Net Team - GCSANJ

GCSANJ finishes 4th in Met Team Championship

by Lance Rogers

Team GCSANJ was made up of 8 players which consisted of 2 gross teams and 2 net teams. The teams for gross were: Brian Minemier/Pat Dolan and Paul Dotti/Joe Kinlin. The teams for net were: Bill Murray/Chris Boyle and Wendell Beakley/Lance Rogers.

Matt Burrows had Winged Foot Golf Club in excellent condition. The course was in unbelievable condition and whew! the greens were really rolling good...I mean GOOD! The course was set up fair but tough for most of us. I would like to send out a special thanks to Matt and his crew. More special thanks needs to go to Blake Halderman, Andy Drohen and the MetGCSA for having another spectacular event. Winged Foot could not have treated us any better. Thanks again.

Here are the final results of event:

Winged Foot Golf Club
West Course – Par 72
October 27, 2008

Team Scores Par 288		**Score**
1st	Connecticut AGCS	288
2nd	Philadelphia AGCS	291
3rd	MET GCSA	301
4th	GCSA of New Jersey	303
5th	Central New York GCSA	304
6th	Long Island GCSA	306
7th	Pocono TGA	307
8th	Mid-Atlantic AGCS	311
9th	GCSA of New England	313
10th	Central Penn GCSA	314
T11th	GCMA of Cape Cod	320
T11th	Hudson Valley GCSA	320
13th	Michigan GCSA	321
T14th	Northeastern GCSA	326
T14th	Rhode Island GCSA	326

GCSANJ 2009 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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SECRETARY	LANCE ROGERS, COLONIA COUNTRY CLUB
PAST PRESIDENT	MICKEY STACHOWSKI, GOLF CLUB AT CONCORDIA

Left to Right: Bill Murray, Paul Dotti, Chris Boyle, Lance Rogers, Mickey Stachowski

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Golf Industry Show News

Build a house. Create a future.

2009 Golf Industry Show Volunteer Habitat for Humanity Project

If you would like to give something back to the people of New Orleans, here's your chance to make a big difference. The partnering associations of the Golf Industry Show are teaming up with Habitat for Humanity to host a series of special work days before the trade show opens to help build homes in some of New Orleans' most devastated areas. No experience is necessary, and all the equipment and supplies are provided. Your time and energy can help make the dreams come true for several families in a big way.

All volunteers will be placed in teams of 15 to work on homes within a particular area. The Golf Industry Show will provide transportation from the New Orleans Morial Convention Center, lunch at the work sites, and plenty of outdoor necessities such as water and sunscreen. Project t-shirts will be provided to show your team spirit and build camaraderie with your peers.

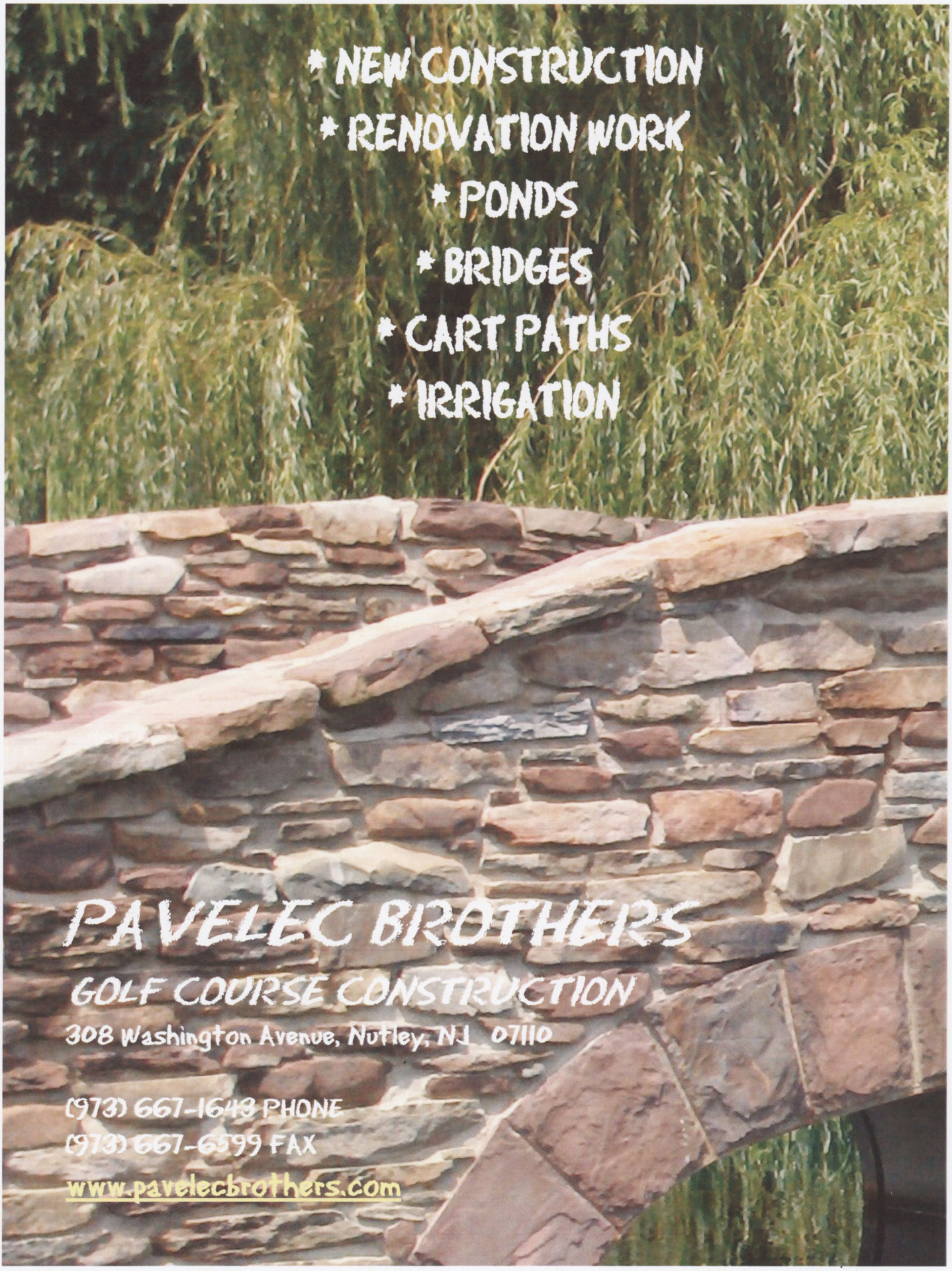
If you'd like to participate in this first-ever volunteer project, you can sign up through any of the education conferences presented by GCSAA, NGCOA or CMAA. Participation requires a $25 registration fee. GCSAA members are eligible for .15 service points per day for their participation in the service project.

A slide show of the work days will be shown in the New Orleans networking park (booth 207) during trade show hours, and a New Orleans area Habitat for Humanity representative will be onsite to collect additional donations.

Ryder Cup captain headlines GCSAA Education Conference in New Orleans

Azinger to keynote GCSAA Opening Session

Paul Azinger will keynote the 2009 GCSAA Education Conference Opening Session Feb. 5 in New Orleans.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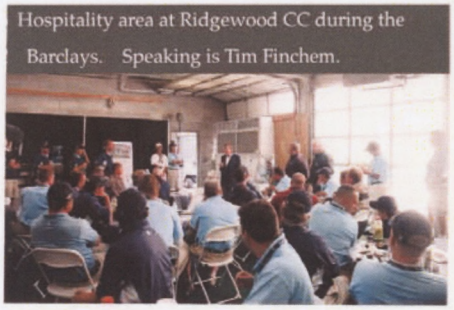
Foundation Newsletter - The year of 2008 **November 2008**

"Clambake by The Sea" a huge success. The Foundation raises more than $7,500. Monies raised from this clambake help fund scholarships and charity. Mark you calendars, next year's event will be on July 11th.

Research - Foundation gives over $14,000 to research work done by Bruce Clarke, James Murphy and by Albrecht Koppenhofer.

RTJ Invitational- held at Metedeconk National Golf Club on Monday, October 20th, 2008. Superintendents and club members from the Northeast gather to raise money for the GCSANJ Foundation and the Environmental Institute for Golf. Twenty four teams showed up this year to compete on a spectacular golf course. Ryan Oliver, Golf Course Superintendent at Metedeconk, does a superb job and you would be amazed how awesome the conditions really are. This event has raised close to $ 700,000 over the last 20 years. Plan on bringing a foursome next year in early October to see for yourself. Go to our website to see winners and sponsors of event.



Hospitality area at Ridgewood CC during the Barclays. Speaking is Tim Finchem.

The Barclays Hospitality

The GCSANJ Foundation helped support the hospitality area at Ridgewood Country Club during the PGA tour event..."The Barclays". We sent out communications to members and sponsors to promote event and helped setup the hospitality area for all the wonderful volunteers. The event was a huge success.

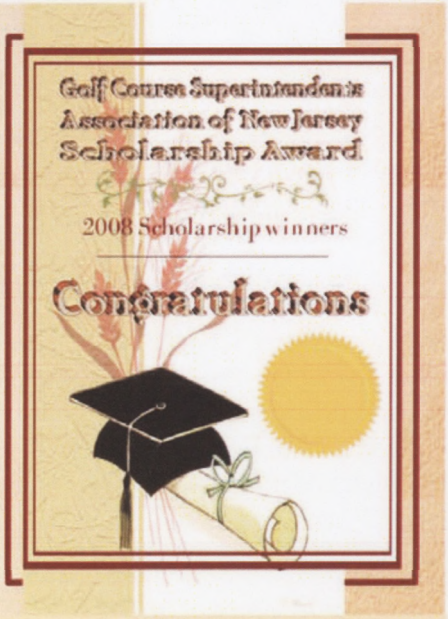
Other charities:

~ Mark T. Hughes Memorial Fund
~ Eastern Amputee Association
~ Make-A-Wish
~ ALS- Lou Gehrig's Disease (Driving4life)
~ The Children's Institute for Autism
~ Joe Troll Tournament and UMass

Most Recent Charity:

Dave Mahoney Memorial Golf Tournament ~ Celebration of life event. Event raised money for Dave's family and we were proud to be part of it.

Go to www.gcsanj.org for more info.



The Foundation awards $9,500 in scholarships to GCSANJ members and their children. Congratulations!

~Kyle S. Beakley~
~Allison Ceplo~ ~Joseph Guanill~
~Diane Kathleen Miller~ ~Ellen Peeples~
~David A. Rickert~ ~Ronald J. Richter, Jr.~
~ Philip Thomas Rudich~ ~Stephanie Wirth~

Recent news:
~ Vic Gerard donates $1,800 to GCSANJ Foundation from golf cart program.
~ Charity motorcycle ride raises $1,300 to go to the Mark Hughes Memorial Fund

GCSANJ Foundation Honored As 2008 Member of the Year

by Jim Cadott

While there are many individuals who have contributed to our association over the past year and could have been recognized as "Member of the Year", it was a group that was given the honor for 2008. The GCSANJ Foundation was named "Member of the Year" and the award could not be more fitting. With Shaun Barry as President, Lance Rogers as Vice-President, and Glenn Miller as Treasurer, the Foundation boasts three former winners of this prestigious award. Add to this lineup Jim Cadott as Secretary, William Murray, Fred Rapp, and Ryan Oliver as Directors, and you have a motivated group working very hard to grow the GCSANJ Foundation into a charitable organization we all can be proud of.

In 2008, the Foundation became more active than ever before. Soon after the first of the year, the Foundation began laying out a schedule of fundraisers and charitable causes. The Summer Social held in July continues to be a success for the Foundation. The ground work gets done by March, and all that is asked is for our members to show up and have a good time. In the fall, the RTJ is held at Metedeconk National, and has rebounded to become an outstanding event once again. Not only do you play one of the top courses in the country, you also support the Foundation and the Environmental Institute For Golf. If that is not monies well spent, I do not know what is. These fundraising events do more than raise money. They raise awareness of the causes that the Foundation supports.

The recipients of the Foundation's support were varied this year. We sponsored golf events such as The Children's Institute(autism), Paul Des Champs (Eastern Amputee Assoc.), Drive For Life (ALS), and the Dr.Troll (UMass). And when one of our colleagues passed in October, the Foundation was there to support the Dave Mahoney Golf Outing.

The Foundation has always been a supporter of Rutgers University and their various research projects. With the wealth of information and knowledge coming from Rutgers, we will continue to support them as their work has a direct impact on our profession.

The Mark Hughes Fund is now being handled solely by the Foundation as a separate entity. We are able to help lessen the burden Lisa Hughes and her family has faced the past couple of years. This year the fund received an unexpected gift when a group of irrigation contractors and distributors from the tri- state area held a motorcycle rally and decided to donate $1,300 to the Hughes' cause.

The Foundation worked closely with the scholarship committee this year and revamped the criteria and dollar amounts given. A total of nine scholarships were awarded with a dollar amount of $9,500. This is the largest amount of money the association has ever given out for scholarships and the Foundation hopes to double the amount in the future.

The future of the Foundation now looks very promising. It was not too long ago that the two original members, Miller and Barry, were wondering if the Foundation could even sustain itself. Now, after an infusion of new board members, this committed group has developed a plan that has grown the Foundation larger than anybody thought was possible. With a promotional campaign along with a dedicated fundraising schedule, this board has raised both money and awareness. Not only does our association know and support what we are all about, but allied associations, such as the PGA of New Jersey, the NJTA, and the GCMA of New Jersey are also well aware of the Foundation and have offered support.

Perhaps the single most telling event of where we stand came when the Foundation received an unsolicited offer from Vic Gerard Golf Cars. Owner Bill Lynch and Commercial Sales Manager Doug Spencer chose to donate $50 to the Foundation for every commercial Club Car vehicle sold in 2008. No matter where this dollar amount ended up, it was the very generous thought and offer to help raise money for the causes we support. It is the awareness raised and causes that are supported by the Foundation that are the backbone of our association. And when people like Bill and Doug recognize this, then we know we are on the right path. A check in the amount of $1,800 was given to the Foundation at the RTJ Invitational.

Once again, a very deserving group was named "Member of the Year". The Foundation asks nothing from our members except support. Next time you see a fundraising event that is being run by the Foundation, do not pass it by. Our continued success depends solely on our membership. Remember, the Foundation does all the work, all you have to do is show up and have a good time !!!

GCSANJ Distinguished Service Award

"Just Ducky"

Often when I asked Al Rathjens how things were going he would respond in his deep resonating voice, "Just Ducky!" Al's dry wit never permitted him to get over-excited about anything; perhaps that best explains how he lasted to retire from Raritan Valley Country Club after four decades of being their Golf Course Superintendent.

This accomplishment is rare. It is achieved by being able to communicate with the staff and the membership, by producing consistent quality golf course conditions, and by being a gentleman at all times.

The Rathjens family has produced a legacy of three generations of Golf Course Superintendents in the state of New Jersey. It also should be noted that Al and his Dad are Past Presidents of the GCSANJ.

Al is a graduate of Rutgers University, College of Agriculture. His golf course background previous to Raritan Valley Country Club includes Spring Lake Golf & Country Club, where he worked for his Dad, Beacon Hill Country Club, and Warren Brook Golf Club, where he held the position of Golf Course Superintendent.

Al has retired to the Phillipsburg, NJ area with his wife, Susan. He and Sue are parents to sons Allen and Gregory. Al speaks very highly of the retirement lifestyle. He had absolutely no problem adjusting to awaking later and being freed of the responsibilities of being a Golf Course Superintendent.

Ken Kubik
Grass Roots, Inc.

Distinguished Service Award winner, Al Rathjens with son, Allen

With his friends… Joe, Pete and the "Root".

The following are comments from some of his contemporaries: Skip Cameron, Chris Carson, Jack Martin, Pete Pedrazzi Ed Walsh, and Steve Finamore

It is to be celebrated that in this disposable society, Al spent a full career in our volatile business and left on his own terms.

Chris Carson, GCS
Echo Lake Country Club, NJ

The first person that I legitimately worked for in the golf industry was Al Rathjens at Warren Brook Golf Club. I showed up late one afternoon after lunch and Al suggested that I should consider selecting some other profession.

Ed Walsh, CGCS
Shelter Harbor Golf Club, RI

Honoring Mr. Alfred J. Rathjens with the distinguished service award is a wonderful choice. I first came into the New Jersey scene when I was about 15 years old and remember young Al's father as President of the GCSANJ. He was a great guy and I wish he could be there to see his son being honored. The three musketeers of Al, Joe Flaherty and Mel Lucas were younger than me, but having the same ambition of being Greenskeepers brought us all together. Anyone that knew Al would always hear him say, "What the hell am I doing in this job? I should have been a plumber," or some other trade. Well, you stuck it out to the bitter end and Raritan Valley Country Club and the membership were better for it. And if you think about it, I'll bet you'll agree that so are you. I pity your beautiful wife Susan for having to listen to you all this time. She is a saint. Congratulations Al. No one deserves it more than you.

Skip Cameron, Retired GCS
Canoe Brook Country Club, NJ

I remember Al in his youth; most of you that read this know Al in his later years. He has certainly been an icon in our business. Most superintendents never last as long as Al did at one club, which is a tribute to him. Al and I are the same age and started out together as young superintendents. At our age you remember what happened thirty or forty years ago like it was yesterday. What happened yesterday you can't remember. I'd like to tell you some things that happened to Al when he was starting out. I bet you didn't know that Al was an athlete and a poet. Al and I played on a basketball team in the night league in Union, N.J. The lightest guy was 230 or so and when we went down the floor the gym shook. As you can guess, we didn't win many games. Al, Joe Flaherty, and I went to Hawaii after the San Francisco Convention in 1967. Joe and Al were single. Al ("The Poet") spent most of his time writing love letters to Sue. There are more stories of course, but I can't remember them. All the best to Al, Sue, and the boys. Al and Sue, we love you. Have a great retirement.

Jack Martin, Retired GCS
Shackamaxon Country Club, NJ

I always enjoyed talking to Al on the phone. When I asked him how he was, his refrain was always the same, "Marginal at best." Al always swore that his course was an "ancient Indian burial ground," because if anything could go wrong, it would. Raritan Valley should feel very fortunate to have had Al for so many years and to have his son Allen to succeed him.

Pete Pedrazzi, CGCS
Grass Roots, Inc.

One of the best. Amazing someone as grumpy as Al could survive in this business that long and be one of the best. But I go to work each day trying not to be as grumpy as he was.

Steve Finamore, CGCS
Alpine Country Club, NJ

McCullough`s Emerald Golf Links Returns To The GCSANJ Schedule

by Shaun M. Barry

A few years ago Mark Peterson hosted a joint meeting between NJ and Philadelphia. It was a great success and I was hoping to get another monthly meeting there in the next few years. As it turns out we didn`t have to wait that long for a group of superintendents to return to this site. Our district IV directors were looking for a location to have their district meeting. I think Wendall did speak to Mr. Peterson for suggestions and he directed him back to McCullough`s.

Once Wendall gets going you just know things will get accomplished. A phone call to Larry Motto and a visit to the club resulted in a date for the meeting and the final details were worked out soon after that. Wendall knew that I had several sponsors for skill contests but he wanted to do even more. Before the notices went out he had gotten Lawn & Golf Supply Co. (Ken Jeinnings and Steve Hesser) and Mitchell Products (Dave Mitchell & Karen Plumley) to sponsor lunch and dinner. Both of these companies donated $500 each towards the meeting and we all know that finding extra money isn`t easy these days..

In addition to this we already had Turf Equipment and Supply Co (Lou Bosco and Dave LaLena) sponsoring 4 skill contests along with The Terre Co (Brian Lescrinier) sponsoring one as he has done all year. Helena Chemical (Bill Goodrich and Doug Grey) responded with 2 contests while Black Lagoon Pond Co. (Chris Borek), UAP (Ched Baker), Fisher & Sons (Mike Oleykowski), Seeton Turf (Lance Seeton) and Plant Food (Brad Simpkins) joined in with their support by sponsoring one contest. This is more sponsors than we have for some state meetings.

Wendall didn`t stop there. When the day of the event came he was there to help with registration and putting out signs along with Kevin Driscoll, Doug Grey and Doug Larson. It was an easy registration with all of this help.

Lunch was soon served and there were lots of full plates with quite a few people going back for seconds. It was a bit cool that day so I am sure everyone was making sure they were well fueled for the day as they went out to try and challenge this terrific Stephen Kay creation.

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More about...McCullough`s Emerald Golf Links Returns To The GCSANJ Schedule

Tom Grimac`s 78 was the best gross score of the day as he edged Brian Lescrinier and Doug Larson who both shot 80. Doug `s 74 however did win low net honors. Steve Lane took 2nd with a 76 but he did so on a match of cards with Stephen Kay.

Long Drive winners were Gregg Armbruster, Chris Borek, Steve Lane and Ken Jeinnings.

Closest to the pin winners were Paul Brandon (12ft 5ins), Rich Hendrickson (20ft 8 ins), Rich Hendrickson (10 ft 4 ins) and Phil Juhring (12ft 10 ins).

Some of these shots did lead to skins. Paul Brandon and Rolf Strobel both won two while Rich Hendrickson, Doug Larson, Brian Minemier, Kent Rickenbach and Steve Rudich had one each.

After golf we enjoyed another fine meal and we had the chance to sit around and discuss the round and the course with the guys.

Stephen Kay stayed late and he really seemed to enjoy the questions and compliments. There is an amazing diversity to the holes and I quite often felt like I was in Ireland or Scotland playing one of their wonderful links courses.

Part of the great feelings came from the layout but also from the quality conditions that Larry Motto and his staff provided. They have done a great job and I hope they know their efforts were truly appreciated by this group.

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Navesink CC Is proud To Host the "C "Championship

by Shaun Barry

The "C" Championship has been in existence for about 10 years. During that time it has had various levels of success. There is always a reason for the good years and the challenged years. In most cases the involvement from our C members is the key. This year Cory Chicoine from Edgewood got things rolling. He is the assistants` representative on the GCSANJ board. This connection and his commitment to his fellow assistants inspired him to put together a committee to promote and run the C Championship. They had meetings and they established their goals. The other members of the committee are Levi Henninger (Preakness Hills), Marty Pugh (Green Brook) and Joe Sudol (Black Bear). Great job fellows.

Dennis Granahan had already volunteered Navesink CC as a host for this event so that was one issue they didn`t have to worry about. They knew this course would attract a lot of attention especially since Dennis was able to keep the price low. Having a speaker was one one of their key goals but our educators all seemed to be busy on this date. Once I spoke to Dennis about this problem he agreed to speak to the attendees. It wasn`t that long ago when Dennis was an assistant so it would be easy for him to discuss the changes he experienced once he became a superintendent. This was a great topic for people who expect to move up in the future. Changes will happen and it is a lot easier to deal with them if you are aware of what they might be. Dennis didn`t use a computer for a power-point presentation. It was an inter-active presentation and it came from the heart and the mind. The guys had lots of questions and Dennis had the answers. It went into lunch hour but nobody seemed to mind.

Navesink always does a great lunch and this was no exception. Sponsoring this meal we had Downes Tree Service, E/T Equipment, Pavelec Brothers, Shearon Golf and Syngenta. Their generosity is why the assistants only paid $30 for the day and I am sure that is a major reason why we had almost 60 players. Thank-you for your help. It is what makes all of our meetings successful.

Out on the course the name Tom Wolgast was repeated time and again. It isn`t that everyone knows Tom but everyone did want to meet him because he was the "gentleman" who decided on pin locations. Once I had putted off the same green two times I decided there would be no miracles for me today. The locations were not unfair at all but if your stroke was even a little bit shaky it was going to be a long day. The greens have always had a reputation of being hard to read and that is for good reason. Dennis said that when the women played their LPGA event here they called the course No-sink instead of Navesink. They played here in June so I am not sure what they would have said if they played in our event. These greens were "smoking" but once you got a feel for them it wasn`t hard to two putt. One putting however wasn`t very common because those breaks are subtle and they get you almost every time.

Play moved along very nicely and everyone finished with a smile on their face. The course may have won but conditions were so good everyone forgot about their score. It was just a really great experience. Of course there were different levels of scoring and some of the players actually did well. Sean Hartman won the Assistants Championship trophy for the second time. His 83 was the best gross score of the day. Joe Willoughby was second low assistant with an 89. Brad Jones (68) and Richard West (77) took net honors amongst the assistants. In the non-assistant group Mark Foulks (86) and Jim Cross (88) had the low gross scores while Wendell Beakley (74) and Shaun Barry (82) were low in their net division.

Closest to the pin winners were Dennis Granahan (Wilfred MacDonald) 7ft 1in, Mike Weber (Storr Tractor) 25ft, Jim Cross (Atlantic Irrigation) 56ft, Chris Zelley (Vic Gerard) 10ft 8ins and Tom Wolgast (Vic Gerard) 19ft 5 ins. Our long drive winners were Cory Chicoine (Storr Tractor), Mike Pastori (Shearon), Joe Mannuci III (Turf Equipment),Tom Wolgast (Cleary Chemical),Brad Jones (Wilfred MacDonald), Mark Foulks (E/T Equipment), Brian Kemps (Northeast Golf) and Cory Chicoine (The Terre Co.).

Due to a couple of the contests where we had no winners the donations from Red Sky and Syngenta will be used to help defray the costs of the plaques. Our skin winners were led by our host and Frank Horan. Both Dennis and Frank had two and Brad Jones, Tom Higgins, Coby Mattison, Richard West and Tom Wolgast had one each.

Dennis please thank your entire staff for a job well done and that includes Tom. I know he can take a joke and his choices only added to the mystique of Navesink. This meeting had 41 assistants in attendance and that is a record for the "C" Championship. They learned a lot from your speech and I know they saw the results of all of your efforts. It was a great day and also thank MariBeth and Steve for their help inside of the clubhouse. We felt very welcome.

Dave Pease, pictured above, donates his GCSANJ Foundation money to the Centra State Medical Center in effort to help others in need.

Mark Griff presents plaque to Jason Thompson for successfully hosting the NJ PGA Championship at Essex County Country Club

CHAMPION, BRENT STUDER, PGA PRO AT MANASQUAN RIVER CC

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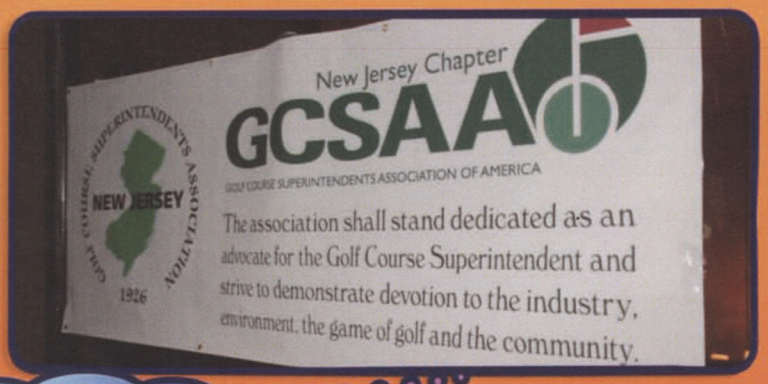

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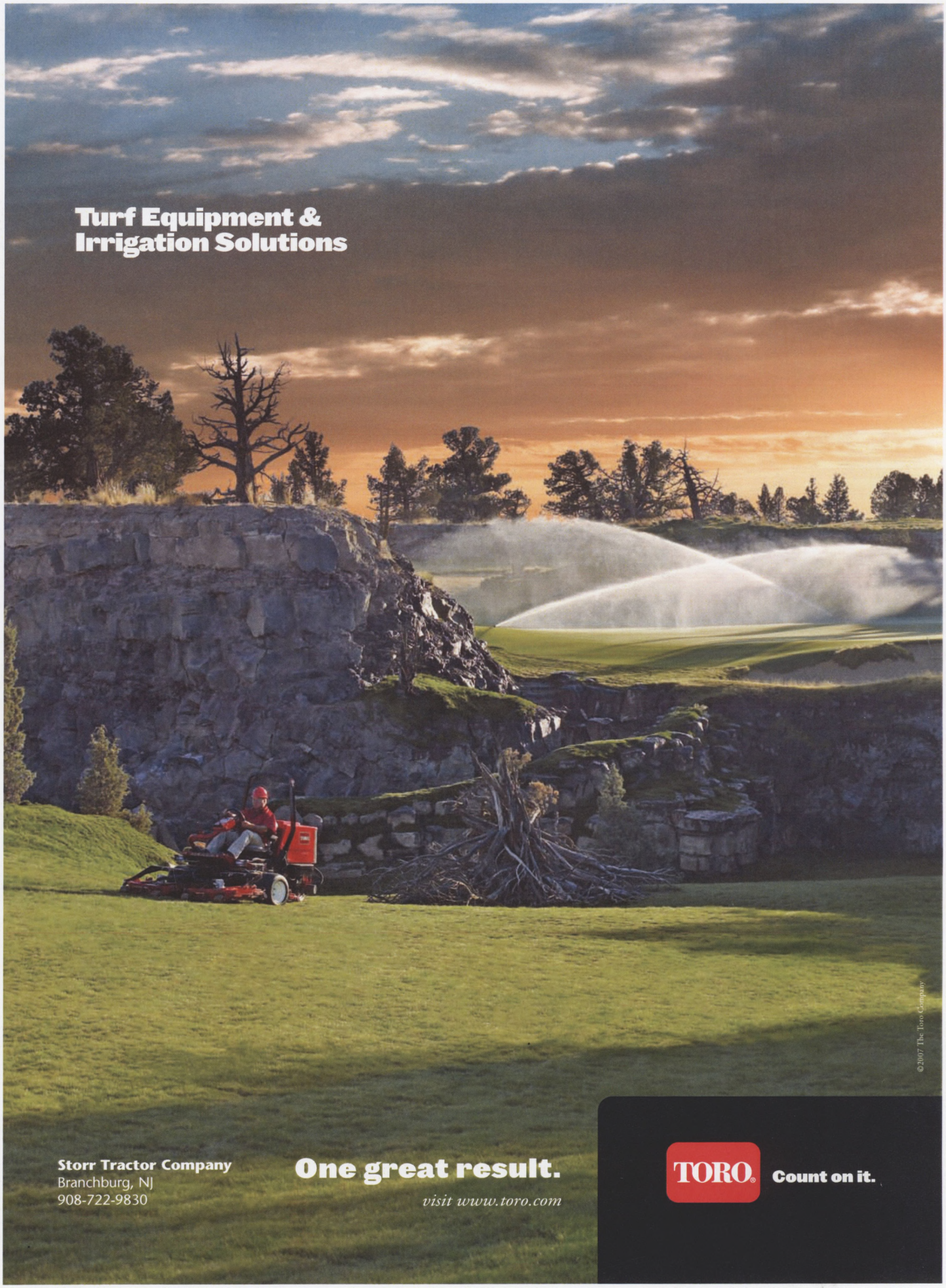
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