



THE **GREENERSIDE**

Summer 2010 • Volume 34 Number 3

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

Rock Spring Golf Club
Hole 12
Site of September 20, 2010
Chapter Championsp



The Competition:

Format:

The Competition will be 18 hole stroke play, best two balls of four. There will also be individual competitions for the GC Superintendent and PGA Professional

Prizes

Awards will be given to both low gross and net teams

Schedule

The practice facility will open at 9 AM and brunch will be available from 9 to 10:30 AM. Play will begin at 11 AM with a shotgun start.

Entry Fee

\$1,600 per foursome (includes golf, prizes, gifts, food, cocktail reception and charitable donation.



This event is a fundraiser and all additional revenue will go to Research of Turfgrass, Environmental Awareness, Scholarship and Charity.

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www.gcsanj.org

RTJ INVITATIONAL

at

Metedeconk National Golf Club



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- Robert Trent Jones

22nd Annual

October 19, 2010



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Welcome New Members!

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Jeremy Batz, C, Trump National Golf Club

Kevin Trainer, AF, Golf Cart Services

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Send to: execdiretor@gcsanj.org
with the subject "GCSANJ Email Address"

COVER PHOTO

Photo Courtesy of Michael Campbell, Rock Spring Club

President's *Message*

*"Hot town, summer in the city
Back of my neck getting burnt and gritty
Been down, isn't it a pity
Doesn't seem to be a shadow in the city*

*All around, people looking half dead
Walking on the sidewalk, hotter than a match head"
(Lovin Spoonful)*

As I am writing this article, we are trudging through the dog days of August. No one wants to wish his life away, but please get me to the fall with some refreshing Canadian air, cool nights and shorter days. Some of us had high heat, some have had high heat and humidity, and some have had all the above plus torrential rain. I just hope that everyone kept their wits about them and tackled this summer to the best of their abilities. If this weather continues I am going to get an Alaskan newspaper, look in the want ads, and find a job north of the Artic Circle. Even with this so-called global warming it still must be cooler and easier to grow grass there.

After the summer we have all had, I'm sure that everyone is ready for some relaxation. The Foundation has just what you need -- a wonderful cruise along the Manasquan River on Saturday, September 11, 2010. This will be a great time to socialize with members you do not see very often. Another fellowship opportunity awaits at the end of the month where we are lucky to have former board member Michael Campbell's course, Rock Spring Golf Club in District 2, host our association's championships on September 20th. Knowing Mike, I am sure the course is going to be at it's best.

Rolling into October the Foundation is again running the RTJ Tournament on October 19th. But first on October 7th our association is going to try to defend our Met-Team Championship out on Long Island at the Bridge Club.

William Murray, Shark River Golf Club



That brings us to November where the Education Committee always steps up and facilitates two days of continuing professional education and golf at the Crystal Springs Resort. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

As I enter the last few months of my presidency, I can now look back on what a wonderful two years I have had serving this association. Being president has brought me to all four corners of this state plus everywhere in between meeting old and new members while enjoying their camaraderie at education seminars or golfing outings. I must take this time to thank Cece Peabody, Executive Director, and the Board of Directors, for putting their faith in me to lead this great association. It has been a most humbling experience and honor. All my efforts to get to the association's meetings over the past two years, would have been in vain except for my staff at Shark River Golf Course. Whenever I had to go to a meeting, they always went that little bit extra to ensure that our course was being taken care of. (*Thanks Guys.*) With this being my last message to you, I would like to thank you all for trusting me with your association.

But, now is the time to get some of you to step up to the plate and get involved. It only involves getting on a committee and volunteering your time. It really is a great association in a great state. 🇺🇸

Bill Murray
President, GCSANJ

2010 CALENDAR

Check calendar for updates and signup info.

www.gcsanj.org

- **September 20, 2010**
Chapter Championship
Rock Spring Country Club
West Orange, NJ
- **October 19, 2010**
RTJ Invitational
Metedeconk National Golf Club
Jackson, NJ
- **November 3-4, 2010**
7th Annual Crystal Conference
Minerals Resort
Vernon, NJ
- **December 7-9, 2010**
35th Annual GREEN EXPO
Turf & Landscape Conference
Atlantic City, NJ
*Presented by the
New Jersey Turfgrass Association*

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It is \$75 well spent and will pay dividends for you and your club. Please visit gcsanj.org or contact Cece Peabody for an application.

What? Murphy's Law again?#*!

Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP
Executive Director



The weather this summer could have been the best of the best of Murphy's Laws for many of you.

The following article was excerpted from *The Desert Wings*, March 3, 1978

Murphy's Law ("If anything can go wrong, it will") was born at Edwards Air Force Base in 1949 at North Base.

It was named after Capt. Edward A. Murphy, an engineer working on Air Force Project MX981, (a project) designed to see how much sudden deceleration a person can stand in a crash.

One day, after finding that a transducer was wired wrong, he cursed the technician responsible and said, "If there is any way to do it wrong, he'll find it."

The contractor's project manager kept a list of "laws" and added this one, which he called Murphy's Law.

Actually, what he did was take an old law that had been around for years in a more basic form and give it a name.

Shortly afterwards, the Air Force doctor (Dr. John Paul Stapp) who rode a sled on the deceleration track to a stop, pulling 40 Gs, gave a press conference. He said that their good safety record on the project was due to a firm belief in Murphy's Law and in the necessity to try and circumvent it. Aerospace manufacturers picked it up and used it widely in their ads during the next few months, and soon it was being quoted in many news and magazine articles. Murphy's Law was born.

The Northrop project manager, George E. Nichols, had a few laws of his own. Nichols' Fourth Law says, "Avoid any action with an unacceptable outcome."

The doctor, well-known Col. John P. Stapp, had a paradox: Stapp's Ironical Paradox, which says, "The universal aptitude for ineptitude makes any human accomplishment an incredible miracle."

Nichols is still around. At NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, he's the quality control manager for the Viking project to send an unmanned spacecraft to Mars.

Just a few of Murphy's Laws:

- Nothing is as easy as it looks.
- To succeed in politics, it is often necessary to rise above your principles.
- Trust everybody ... then cut the cards.

Continued on page 26

MENDHAM PROVIDES A WELCOME BREAK DURING JUNE

by Shaun Barry

Chris Boyle had spent some time thinking about hosting a meeting before he approached the board. He and *Ian Kunesch* agreed on the time and place. They felt that Mendham Golf & Tennis Club in June would fulfill the requirements to host a small gathering of GCSANJ members. A few guys playing some golf and then ending up having a few burgers and beers. This itinerary should be able to lure folks away from work just as the Summer was starting. A relaxing day before the hundred days of Hell (an understatement in 2010). It would be a team event and Chris and Ian would run the day. They wanted to give the tournament committee a day off.

If you were able to attend, you know that the board thought that it was a good idea and it became part of the schedule. It also became more than a few teams. 78 players signed-up. *Ed Walsh* drove-down from RI. *Jack Martin* drove-up from NC. *Bob Dickison*, *Bob Dwyer*, *Bob Prickett* and *Harry Harsin* came out of retirement. *Tom Ashfield* drove over from Westchester. *Pete Pedrazzi* joined in the fun and every district had people in attendance.

The menu changed and the cost went up from the original plans but it was still a wonderful meeting that was held in a month that our association in the past stopped scheduling meetings because of low attendance. We may have to look for a June site in 2011 if we can get this amount of participation.

We also had an influx of sponsors. **Josh Kopera of Harrell's** was responsible for suggesting and providing our speaker and they covered her expenses. Kathy Conrad did a great job discussing all facets of wetting agents and their usage. **Fred Rapp of Atlantic Irrigation** contributed towards lunch and so we were able to add more items to the menu. The exact same thing happened with dinner as **Syngenta and Lee Kozsey** sponsored that meal. A great addition to the list of sponsors was **Wayne Remo of John Deere Golf**. They provided the on-course refreshments and did that ever come in handy. Once we came to the skills contests every one was sponsored. Donating the prizes for the closest to the pins were **Ken and Keith Kubik from Grass**

Lee Kozsey from Syngenta and **Wilfred MacDonald** who was represented by **Glenn Gallion and Bernie White**. **Jay Antonelli of Vic Gerard Golf Cars** also offered the use of one of their utility vehicles for a month to the closest to the pin on their hole. Our long drive sponsors were **Dennis DeSanctis from Aer-Core**, **Steve Kopach from E-Turf** and **Lee Kozsey from Syngenta**.

A Relaxing Day before the 100 Days of "Hell"

The teams were divided into 3 flights based on the total handicap of the two players. *John and Grover Alexander* (71) defeated *Bill Murray and Wendell Beakley* (72) in the A Flight. *Rob Finnesey and Lance Rogers* won

the B Flight. Their 75 was 4 shots better than the team of *Fred Rapp and Peter VanDrumpt* who took second on a match of cards. C Flight was another close event but *Jim Cadott and Joe Kennedy* (79) edged *Frank Tichenor and Pat Quinlan* (80).

The closest to the pin winners on the 5th hole were *Bob Dwyer and Jack Martin*. This was a team event that required both players to be on the green and the total distance of both shots was the team score. Bob and Jack recorded a distance of 15 ft. Those must have been two great shots. *John Alexander* (4ft 1in) and *Tom Ashfield* (6ft 7ins) earned the two other standard contests and *Tony DiBartolomeo* won both the gift certificate and the use of the utility vehicle with his shot of 8ft 9ins. One of the long drives was a team long drive. The winning team had to have the longest drive in the fairway but his partner also had to be in the fairway. *Ken Kubik* had a winner until his partner hit his shot into the rough. (are you speaking to Pete yet Ken????). The actual winners were *Josh Kopera and Dave Schell*. *Harry Harsin* won in the 55 years and older category while *Matt Dobbie* took the prize in the 0-14 handicap group and *Jim Cadott* won in the 15 to 40 handicap group.

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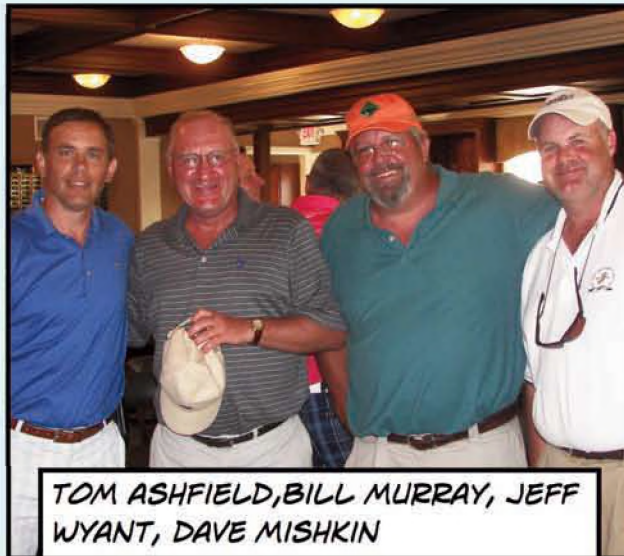
MENDHAM GOLF & TENNIS CLUB HOST MEETING IN JUNE



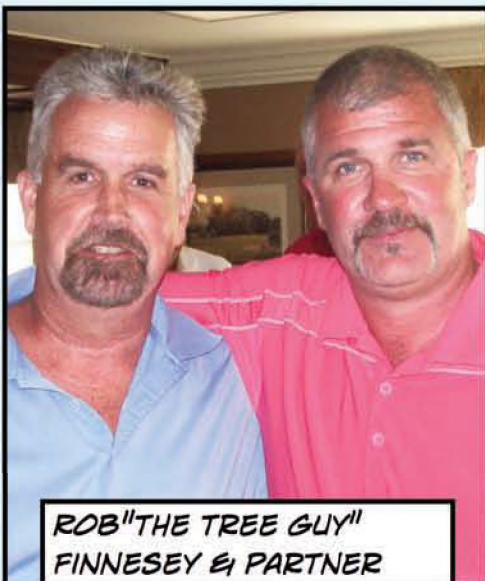
LEGENDS



FRIENDS! KEN KUBIK AND ED WALSH



TOM ASHFIELD, BILL MURRAY, JEFF WYANT, DAVE MISHKIN



ROB "THE TREE GUY" FINNESEY & PARTNER



BILL PRESENTS FLAG TO MENDHAM SUPT. CHRIS BOYLE

Toms River CC and Ed McSeaman are Perfect Together

by Shaun Barry

The working relationship that our association has with *Ed McSeaman* goes back many years. When he first hosted a district meeting, President Clinton may have just started his first term. Little did he know that we would keep begging him to invite us back every year. He has always said yes and there is no end in sight. He does this even though he now knows that there is some sort of potential disaster associated with him hosting our meeting. When I think about the great flood, I don't think about Noah's Ark but rather the many times Ed has had to deal with seeing his golf course under water and often it has been right around the district three meeting. I have written about these issues many times and this year was no exception but we were lucky this time.

It seems most of the state has been in a drought. If it rained on your course it was torrential rains which lead to wonderful conditions for disease and dead turf. No matter who you were and how hard you and your staff worked to save your turf, it was inevitable that you were going to get dinged-up. Sometimes things are out of your control unless you can walk on water. Ed is good but he hasn't acquired that skill yet.

With that build-up you might expect me to say that Toms River wasn't in great shape. It was just the opposite but I am sure Ed was just waiting for the other shoe to drop. On the day of the event it looked like we were going to get hammered. It was hot and humid and the potential for rain kept increasing. Shortly after registration began it did start to rain lightly. For some of the guys standing there felt so good they never headed for shelter. Some of them may not have remembered what it was. This rain got heavier during lunch but by some miracle it stopped just before play started and it stayed away until dinner was finished. Maybe the evil spell has broken.....

Right after lunch, Ed addressed the group and then they were off to enjoy some golf. There were a few people who were not able to make their tee-time. Current GCSANJ president *Bill Murray* and NJTA president *Keith Kubik* were joined by past GCSANJ presidents *Stachowski and Pease* at Toms River City Hall. They were attending the meeting to discuss the proposed fertilizer bill. This 2 hour meeting ended-up taking 5 hours. Our association had many people who were able to attend both events. They took the time to express their feelings and left but the guys who spoke and were part of a panel were there until the very end. Thank you gentlemen for representing our industry's desire that laws should be based on science and not emotion.

Back at the course everything went beautifully. 65 golfers got to play this 9 hole gem. Our limit was 60 but Ed did not want to turn away anyone. As it turns out the course was in extraordinary shape. Ed has also been given the entire responsibility for running the club. If a decision has to be made he makes it. That is a lot of pressure even if you are not also responsible for what happens on the course itself. The fact that he gets up at 4:00 am to start his day helps but when your nights can end at 11:00 pm I know he must be tired (thank goodness Nancy is there to support and help him). I do know that he is very proud of his staff. I believe he has 4 fellows working on the course and with Ed's guidance and help they have performed like a crew twice that size. I heard many people say that the course has never looked so good and I have to agree. It was as tournament ready as any of the courses that we see on tv hosting summer events. Ed could have chosen to play but when he found out we had 69 players signed up he chose to keep working and let others enjoy the day. Perhaps the fact that the last time he played was at our 2008 Toms River meeting could have had an influence on his decision. I was going to put him with former "pirate" and good friend *Tim Kerwin* who was playing with his new boss *Bob Bulkowski*. Even that wasn't enough

Continued on pg 9

Toms River CC and Ed McSeaman...continued

by Shaun Barry

to keep him away from his role as “Hydration Man.” Ed did a great job providing **Grass Roots** sponsored refreshments to his very thirsty friends. I think this may have earned him a few votes for the “Member of the Year” award.

After play was completed people were soon filling in the score sheets and then heading over to find a table for dinner. While they were doing this, *Kevin Driscoll* continued his volunteer service by grabbing a cart and heading out to the course to bring in the final signs and markers so we could wrap-up the results. He was there with *Cece and myself* at registration and only got to play 9 holes because the field was full even though he was one of the first to register. Thanks again Kevin for all that you do for the association.

Even though sponsorship has been down this year we were able to have all of our contest prizes donated. **Aer-Core, Black Lagoon and Wilfred MacDonald** helped out for 2 skills contests each. *Herman Boyko* (32ft 8ins), *Jerry Minlionica* (12ft 11ins), *Rob Johnson* (19ft 2ins) and *Matt Dobbie* (9ft 7ins) hit it closest to the pin and *Phil Juhring* and *Shaun Barry* hit the long drive in their flight. I do believe that *John Wiblishauser* from Bayer actually hit it well past Shaun but he decided not to take the prize from his old friend. I owe you one John.

Once again this short (6,136 yards) golf course showed how tough it is. *Jay Antonelli* is one of our better players and he shot 77 to win low gross. In second place was *Jeff Wyant*. This 1 handicap player shot 80. I guess there is a reason for its 129 slope rating. Our net winners seemed to have no problems. *John Borek* played better than he has in 10 years and that resulted in a 67 and *Jim Morgan* was close behind with a 69. He was tied with our friend *Peter VanDrumpt* but we didn't have Peter's card to

conduct a real match of cards. We picked a name and it was Jim. Better luck next time Peter.

We had 10 skins hold up from both flights. *Phil Juhring* lead the way with two. *John Alexander, Chris Borek, Herman Boyko, Ralph Henninger, Ken Miller, Jerry Minlionica, Sean Ross and Jeff Wyant* captured one each.

Prizes were given out before dinner started and this gave *Bill Murray* (the fertilizer meeting did finish in time for him to make dinner) the opportunity to introduce Mr. McSeaman. He thanked us for coming and he made sure to acknowledge everyone at the club because they are so important to

this event being so good. Ed also received our plaque and flag. It is usually presented by the president and it was but Bill but also insisted that the district directors be part of the presentation. That gave *Jim Cadott and John Alexander* the chance to smile for the camera. It also gave Bill and Jim the opportunity to discuss and promote the upcoming meeting at Bamm Hollow, the cruise and the RTJ.

TOMS RIVER... ANOTHER TERRIFIC EVENT IN DISTRICT 3!

Once the dinner line opened up all speeches were done. I didn't get a chance to highlight the sponsors but your generosity is truly an important part of the success of the meetings so please accept this as a belated thank-you. There was also one sponsor who helped by donating that sweet Jersey corn. It came from **East Coast Sod** (or is that now East Coast Sod, Seed and Corn?) and was delivered by *Mr Driscoll*. It may not be as good as your sod Kevin but it was the best corn that I had all year.

The rain did come after we were gone so hopefully Ed you consider that a good sign and will let us return next year. 🍂

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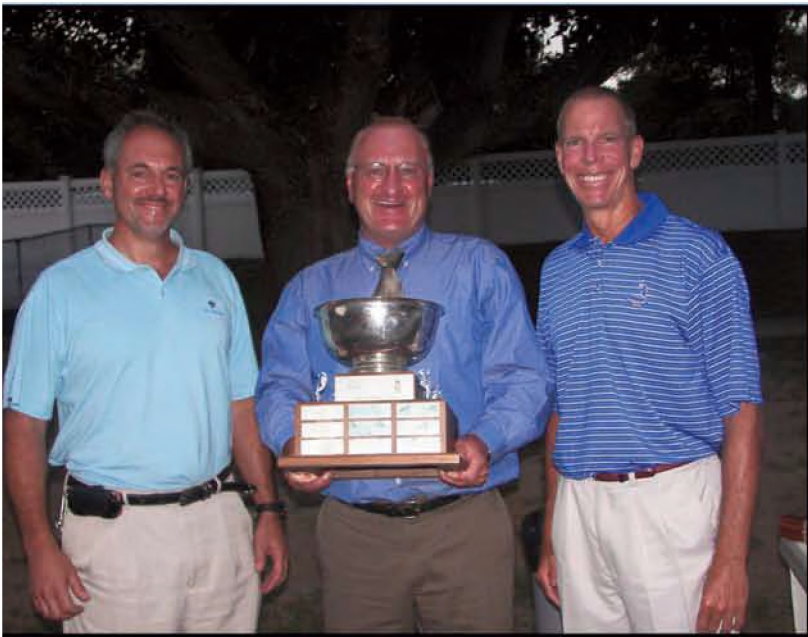
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District 3 Meeting Toms River CC



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- Level 3** Topsoil Evaluation

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Saturated (Organic) Media Extract Analysis: Nutrients, pH, electrical conductivity, inorganic nitrogen

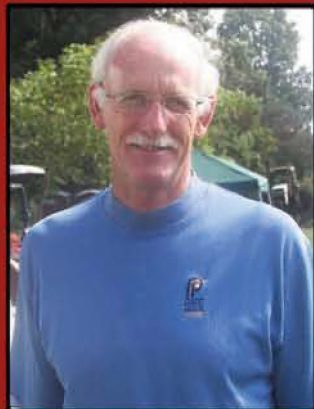
Sport Turf

- Level 1** Fertility Test: Nutrients, pH, recommendations
- Level 2** Complete Test: Nutrients, pH, estimated CEC & cation saturation, soluble salt level, organic matter* content, soil textural class
- Level 3** Sand Root Zone Test

*Organic matter content would be determined by loss-on-ignition for golf course greens, as described by USGA guidelines.

For more information please call us at 732/932-9295, or visit us on the web at:
www.rcrc.rutgers.edu/soiltestinglab

www.rcrc.rutgers.edu/services



Bamm Hollow Hosts Another Successful Roundtable Meeting

by Shaun Barry

For the second year in a row *Matt Dobbie* volunteered to be the host site of a much needed roundtable discussion. We had a return visit from Rutgers's *Dr Jim Murphy* and he was joined by *Adam Moeller* from the USGA. It may not be a true roundtable but it is a great way to listen to some timely presentations and the discussions that follow are important to everyone in the room. Almost every superintendent took the opportunity to ask questions of our speakers and there were some good exchanges between the attendees. No one left that room without picking up lots of information. It was also important to find out that every superintendent in that room had had some issues during this long and hard summer. Nobody was spared. Some were hurt more than others but that is the nature of the beast. If nature conspired against you, your conditions were going to suffer especially if there are things that need to be addressed on your course. This year has very effectively identified all of the issues each superintendent knew about but for some reason hasn't been able to get to or the club has decided to wait. After this year hopefully there won't be too many clubs waiting to do what their superintendents suggest.

We expected 42 people to attend but ended up with 35. Great numbers but the club could have accommodated 80 so next year if we have this meeting consider attending. You will learn something or you will help someone with your experiences. The potential is good that we return to Bamm Hollow in 2011 because Matt has asked to make this an annual meeting and he wants to keep hosting it. The location is great for most people so the board may decide to honor his request but if not I still hope we have this meeting every year because it really can be helpful to any member of the GCSANJ.

After the presentation we had a great dinner. The staff is just wonderful to work with and they do all of the work. We come hungry and they prepare enough food to feed an army. Many thanks to everyone who made this such a special day.

After dinner we did have the annual (2nd year in a row with a trophy large enough to add 22 more names) **Long Drive contest**. Once again the weather was not conducive to hitting it long and the hole we used seemed to cause everyone to hit lots of errant shots. It still was great fun watching and teasing the participants as they tried to "catch one." Matt would do ok on "Comedy Central" and nobody was spared. When it was his turn to hit however almost everybody watching had something to say and Matt seemed to enjoy the gentle barbs.

We had 10 contestants in the 1st round. Only 6 of them actually were able to hit at least one of their five shots into the fairway. Defending champ *Ryan Oliver* and long-hitting **Paul Dotti** were part of the group that missed but they were in good company. From the initial group, 4 players advanced to the final round. *Fred Parcells* was the top-qualifier with a shot of 264 yards. Unfortunately he wasn't able to keep any of his 6 second round shots in the fairway. *James Robertson* did and was third at 240 yards. *Bill Murray* and *Matt Dobbie* were tied for 1st at 248 yards. They got 6 more shots and only Bill was able to hit the fairway. He actually hit 4 shots in the fairway and 3 of them had to be within yards of each other. (Matt came close to reaching the Parkway which was about 400 yards away but we couldn't count that one.) Bill's winning drive was 244 yards. I have seen him hit a 2 iron that far so you know the conditions were a little tough. The fact that he was hitting barefoot might also have had something to do with the distance.

We also tried a putting contest and after 9 holes Bill and Matt were tied again. The contest was held on a green that was rolling very quickly and if it hadn't rained a little bit we might still be putting. With the slightly slower conditions both of these gentlemen ended up with 19 strokes. A sudden-death playoff ensued and on the 7th extra hole Bill made the winning putt.

Continued on pg 21

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AT BAMM HOLLOW CC



**DR. JIM MURPHY,
RUTGERS**



**PAST LONG DRIVE CHAMP, RYAN OLIVER PRESENTS
PRIZED TROPHY TO THIS YEARS LONG DRIVE
CHAMP...PREZ BILL "DOG" MURRAY**



ADAM MOELLER, USGA



**BILL MURRAY
PRESENTS FLAG TO
HOST MATT DOBBIE**

Playing a Leslie cup match against Dobbie + O'Neill...



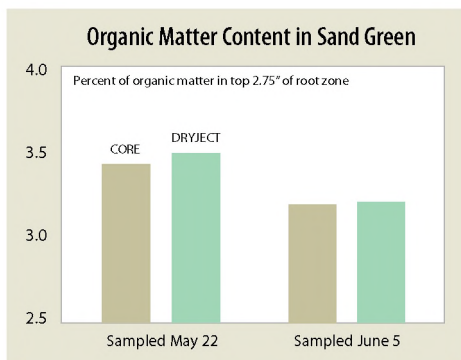
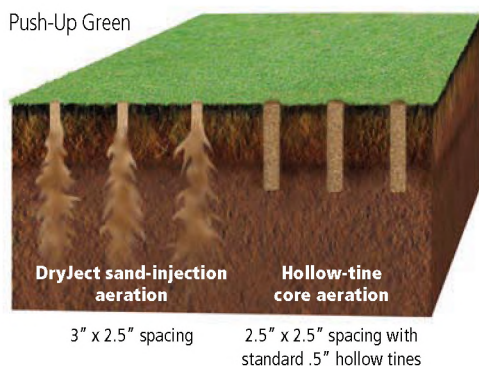
The Leslie Cup opponents pictured here are a good example of the fun in store for every team that enters the competition. This match went to Matt Dobbie and Pat O'Neill but Ken Mathis and Brad Simpkins almost got it to go extra holes. There are many matches that have been played in both the Leslie Cup and the Stanley Cup events and we are fast approaching the semi-final matches. The winners will be worthy champs!

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Study #1 Key Findings

- No significant difference in organic matter control between DryJect and core aeration
- Firmer surface with less root zone compaction below 2" depth

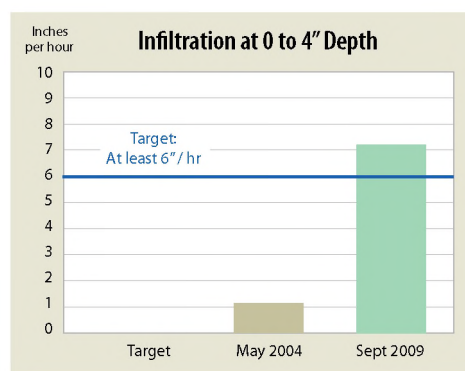


Organic Matter (report quote)
"There was no significant difference in organic matter control between DryJect and core aeration."

Research performed at North Olmsted Golf Club, North Olmsted, Ohio, Matt Welch Superintendent.
 Research conducted by Dr. Ed McCoy, Ohio State University.

Study #2 Key Findings

- After a 5-year program, the DryJect-treated green shows greatly improved infiltration, air porosity and water retention
- A key variable in the improvements is the lower percentage of organic matter in the top 4"



Infiltration Rate (report quote)
"Green #3's current infiltration rate at 7.04 in/hr, which has improved dramatically since 2004, is very good for a 1st tier (0-4 in.) of an older sand-based or push-up green."

Research performed from May 2004 to September 2009, at Philadelphia Country Club, Mike McNulty Superintendent.
 Research conducted by ISTRC.

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Managing Putting Greens Under Stress and Optimizing Recovery Efforts

by Adam Moeller, USGA

Managing putting greens during the summer is never easy, and the weather of 2010 made it close to impossible. During the summer it is common to have 2-3 week stretches of environmental stress followed by a lull in temperatures. This year, many parts of the Northeast had a 10 week stretch of temperatures \approx 5-10 degrees above average, many days > 95 degrees, only a few nighttime lows below 70 degrees, 4-5 weeks without rain, and occasional heavy thunderstorms. It is safe to say putting green stress was through the roof, perhaps the highest in the past two decades!

Putting greens can be exposed to abiotic (i.e. temperature, drought, traffic) and biotic (i.e. pathogens, insects) stress at all times of the year. In the summer, these problems often combine and can cause putting green turf decline. Superintendents cannot control the weather and often have very limited control of play volume. Unfortunately, these factors are often the biggest causes of stress on putting greens which is difficult to explain when problems arise. Several management practices can be used to help putting green turf survive under conditions of stress.

Mechanical stress, which is a form of traffic, is usually the first place to start when turf density/health starts to decline. Ultra-low mowing heights are major factor in putting green stress tolerance. Raise the mowing height to help combat stress. Research has shown that higher mowing heights can be used with more frequent mowing and rolling can produce equal green speeds and less anthracnose and plant stress than lower mowing heights. When putting green turf is under significant stress, all cultural practices used to promote green speed may need to be scaled back. Walk-mow as often as possible, use solid front rollers instead of grooved, and alternate mowing and rolling. After all, slow greens are always better than dead greens.

Turf on greens is more commonly injured from too much water than too little. Modern overhead irrigation systems have excellent uniformity compared to antiquated ones. However, even the best new system is far from perfect.

Soil drying is also never uniform which complicates reliance on overhead irrigation. Hand watering is the best means of managing soil moisture on putting greens, especially during the summer. Putting greens can be overwatered just as easily with hand watering so thorough staff training is important. Moisture sensors are a great tool to help dial in watering needs and aid in training. Frequent syringing multiple times throughout the day is necessary. Syringing greens with annual bluegrass is extremely difficult. One mishap or missed opportunity can be lethal.

Regular applications of soluble nitrogen and plant growth regulators should be used to maintain plant vigor without exhausting plant energy reserves. Chelated iron might also be helpful. Fungicide applications may need to be applied more often and can be mixed with nitrogen and plant growth regulator materials. During periods of hot weather, DMI materials can over-regulate putting green turf and need to be used with caution.

Venting aeration is another useful tool for managing putting greens under stress. Gas exchange and soil drying will be temporarily improved with venting practices. Lightweight putting green aerifiers equipped with 1/4" solid tines is a popular means of venting. Using 1/4" hollow tines would likely provide the most benefits but caution needs to be taken when pulling a core from weak turf. Venting too frequently with heavy water-injection units can be injurious to plant roots so be careful with this method.

Light verticutting and grooming should be delayed until plant health improves. Light topdressing will bury plant crowns and protect them from mechanical injury and traffic. However, brushing could prove to be too abrasive on weakened turf. Heavy topdressing equipment might also cause some injury. Push spreaders are a safer option for topdressing putting greens under stress.

Putting green microclimates can be easy to overlook until it is too late. Sunlight and airflow are basic needs for all turf. Tree and brush clearing can solve a lot of turf problems. Pocketed greens will perform better when fans are installed to

Continued on pg 19

Managing Putting Greens Under Stress...continued

ensure airflow is adequate. Tractor mounted or pull behind blowers can improve airflow across greens temporarily if oscillating fans cannot be installed. Putting greens located on the edge of the property line, where tree removals are difficult, are often the problem greens. In this case, or other locations where tree removals are very sensitive, computer software for sunlight analysis or time lapse photography may be necessary.

Recovery

Perhaps the most frustrating part of managing putting greens is sometimes you can do everything right and still lose turf. Recovery on injured putting greens starts with alleviating plant stress so the damage does not continue. Establishing new turf in these damaged areas can be accomplished through seeding, plugging, or sodding.

Seeding is the preferred method of establishment. The first step in overseeding is to create a seedbed to optimize seed: soil contact for seedlings. Job-Saver attachments on putting green aerifiers are a very popular choice for seedbed preparation. Shallow aeration with 1/4" hollow tines on a quad spacing is also common. Similar techniques with a ProSeeder, Blec Uni-Seeder, etc. should also work well. Use these tools in multiple directions if surface has enough stability. Slit seeders are also good options, especially when they can be used in multiple directions. Hand spikers for small damaged areas can be used as long as they can penetrate through the surface layer.

Use an improved cultivar of creeping bentgrass treated with Apron at 0.5-2 lbs of seed per 1,000 sq. ft. Multiple seedings may be required depending upon initial germination. Additional fungicides to prevent damping off may be necessary. Preplant fertility should be used to correct deficiencies that may exist in the soil. A natural organic fertilizer to provide a slow feeding of nitrogen and phosphorous is always helpful when establishing turf. Apply soluble nitrogen regularly to promote vigor and establishment

Plugging and sodding provide the appearance of instant recovery but this can provide a false sense of security for golfers. Plugging out small areas usually does not require adjustments in normal management if the plugs are > 3" deep.

Sodding is a different story because root development needs to occur for the turf to survive once trafficked. If sodded areas are not given ample time to mature, turf decline can be rapid.

Light topdressing can smooth any surface irregularities that exist during recovery. Moderate/heavy brushing following topdressing could cause injury to juvenile turf, especially seedlings. As a result, light topdressing with push spreaders is probably the best option.

Recovery will always be more successful when traffic is kept to a minimum. Temporary greens are warranted in some situations. Prepare temporary greens thoroughly with several topdressings to smooth the areas as much as possible. Extra preparation and imagination with the location can take some of the salt out the wound from temporary greens.

Putting green turf loss is always frustrating and the fact that it has been widespread this year does not make it easier to tolerate. Use this experience in a positive way. Turf loss usually identifies infrastructure problems such as poor microclimates, excessive organic matter, inadequate drainage, poor irrigation techniques/capabilities, water quality issues, etc. Correcting infrastructure problems will pay off when similar environmental stress occurs again.



Image 1: Environmental stress was excessive this year and required adjustments in management practices to keep turf alive.

Continued on pg 22

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MENDHAM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The skins event did give an advantage to the teams but *Pat Dolan and Phil O'Brien* won a single skin on their own. The *Alexanders* also had one skin but they had to split the prize. We had 2 teams make an eagle so that *becomes a double skin*. *Tom Ashfield and Tom Weinert* made one of those eagles as did *Bob Prickett and Harry Harsin*.

Many thanks to the boys from district 4 who helped in registration. *Wendell Beakley, Kevin Driscoll and Phil O'Brien* joined *Cece and myself* in making things run very smoothly. Congratulations to *Chris and Ian* for their vision and for organizing such a fine event but thanks and congratulations to Chris and his staff for all of the work that they did in preparing for this gathering. The course was in wonderful shape and I know that I can speak for everyone in saying we were treated like special guests and I hope we can return for another day of fun, relaxation and camaraderie. 🙏


BAMM HOLLOW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

It was a great day. We learned a lot and there were many laughs that will help erase the tears and sleepless nights that have been so common this year. I hope you put it on your calendar next year.

As this report comes to an end I wanted to again thank you Matt for being such a wonderful host. Please let Mr. West, Patsy, Devin and all of the folks at the club know that we really appreciated their efforts. It was a terrific day and we hope to do it again. 🙏

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Managing Putting Greens Under Stress...continued from pg 19



Putting Green turf loss has been widespread this year.



Hand watering and frequent syringing is crucial when managing putting greens under stress.



Putting Greens located in poor microclimates suffered the most injury, regardless of the causal agent.



Tractor mounted or pull behind blowers can increase airflow around pocketed greens under stress.



Oscillating fans may be necessary if trees/brush cannot be removed around pocketed greens.

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Willet Wilt Says: The Endless Summer

The summer of '87 brings to mind certain movies from the past -- "The Endless Summer," "High Anxiety," and "Gone With the Wind." It was like trying to grow grass in Atlanta, but the grass that we were trying to maintain can't survive in Atlanta.



You knew things were tough this year when you had to issue a hunk of Astro Turf on the first tee in order to play Summer Rules. A preferred lie this year for the Golf Course Superintendent would have been under some tree by a stream in Maine.

The summer was a boxing match for the Golf Course Superintendent this year -- except there were a couple of rule changes. You were to go fifteen rounds, but there weren't going to be any breaks between the rounds to rest, and you weren't going to be told whether or not there would be a couple of rounds added on in the end.

Every morning the Golf Course Superintendent would look to the skies to see what kind of battle he was going to have that day. And every night the Golf Course Superintendent would look at the "Whether" (weather) Map in the newspaper and try to figure out whether or not the turfgrass could be coaxed to survive another day. He realized that he was going to lose a couple of battles, but still hoped to win the war.

Finally, there is one accurate and concise job description for the Golf Course Superintendent: pressure in a pastoral setting. It is a profession in which you are driven crazy in a parklike setting.

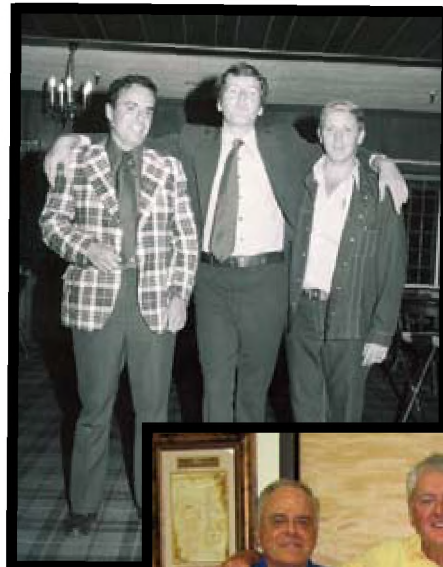
Available for the summer of '88 will be the Willet Wilt Red Card System. It seems that there are times during July and August when the Golf Course Superintendent is being pulled in too many directions at once. It is just then that someone decides it is time to make one more

remark to drive another nail into the coffin. That is when the Golf Course Superintendent whips out the "Yellow Card" which serves as a warning that this is not a good time to express one's opinion about the quality of work or course conditions. If the same individual approaches the said Golf Course Superintendent a second time within the week and again goes for the jugular, the Superintendent whips out the "Red Card" and the individual is out of the game for a week. These cards can be obtained by writing Willet Wilt c/o Ken Kubik, P. O. Box 336, Mt. Freedom, NJ 07970. ↓

Deja Vu..

The term *deja vu* is French and means, literally, "already seen." Those who have experienced the feeling describe it as an overwhelming sense of familiarity with something that shouldn't be familiar at all.

Huh?? Okay...you figure it out....



**Pete Pedrazzi
Ed Walsh
Ken Kukik..**

**The Dynamic
Trio**

**Before (left)
and
Now (below)**





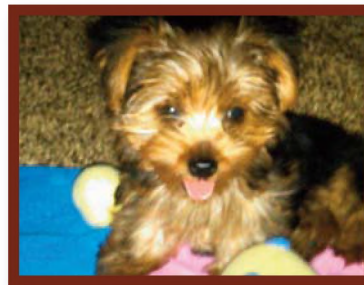
NESHANIC VALLEY GOLF COURSE RECOGNIZED AS A “GROUNDWATER GUARDIAN”

Neshanic Valley Golf Course has been recognized for environmental stewardship, earning the status as a “Groundwater Guardian Green Site” by The Groundwater Foundation. This honor follows the recent certification as an “Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” by the Audubon International program and recognition as a “River-Friendly Golf Course” by the New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA).

The Groundwater Guardian (GG) Green Site <<http://www.groundwater.org/gg/greensites.html>> program was developed to recognize the efforts of stewards of green spaces to implement, measure, and document groundwater-friendly practices. The program monitors practices related to pesticide and fertilizer use, water use, pollution prevention, water quality, and environmental stewardship. The recognition is earned after careful documentation of

GROUNDWATER GUARDIAN

the environmental impact of groundwater friendly practices including pounds of fertilizer saved annually by using lower inputs, gallons of water saved annually by using low water/maintenance plant materials, amounts of toxic substances disposed of properly, and other related items. “This is another well-earned recognition for Neshanic Valley, proving that we can maintain the highest quality golfing experience while still protecting the environment around us,” commented Darrell Marcinek, Director of Golf Maintenance. “It is a tribute to our staff and the leadership and direction provided by the Park Commissioners.” ↓



Lance and Kim Rogers welcome “Samantha”, a Yorkie, to their family....

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**From page 5, Exec Director:
More of Murphy's Laws:**

- Success always occurs in private, and failure in full view.
- Two wrongs are only the beginning.
- If you perceive that there are four possible ways in which a procedure can go wrong, and circumvent these, then a fifth way, unprepared for, will promptly develop.
- Every solution breeds new problems..
- If there is a worse time for something to go wrong, it will happen then.
- If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- Exceptions prove the rule ... and wreck the budget.
- Whenever you set out to do something, something else must be done first.
- It is impossible to make anything foolproof because fools are so ingenious.
- Left to themselves, things tend to go from bad to worse.
- Everything takes longer than you think.
- Anything that can go wrong will go wrong. †


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PROGRAM SCHEDULE



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2010 • WILD TURKEY GOLF CLUB

7th Annual Golf Classic Scramble at **WILD TURKEY GOLF CLUB**

- 7:30 - 8:30 AM** **Registration & Breakfast - Emerald Ballroom**
- 8:30 - 10:30 AM** **CORE Education Session: Rick Fletcher, Cleary Chemical Company**
(1) "Using Chemistry Properly" and
(2) "Snow Mold, Life After PCNB"
- 11:00 AM** **Shotgun Golf Scramble at Wild Turkey Golf Club**
Lunch provided at the turn
- 4:30 - 6:30 PM** **Cocktail Reception at Wild Turkey Golf Club - Emerald Ballroom**
Golf Awards *sponsored by Grass Roots*

Shuttle Service
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to and from Minerals Hotel

Note: Vendors may set up booths at Minerals Sports Court from 7 - 10 pm on Weds evening or before 7 AM on Thursday.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2010 • MINERALS HOTEL

- 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM** **Registration: MINERALS HOTEL MAIN LOBBY and**
Continental Breakfast: SPORTS COURT
- 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM** **Education Sessions: DIAMOND BALLROOM**
- 8:00-10:00 AM **Dr. Thom Nikolai, Michigan State University**
"Balancing Budgets, Turfgrass Health, and Customer Satisfaction"
- 10:00-10:30 AM Break with Vendors - **SPORTS COURT**
- 10:30-11:30 AM **Dave Oatis and Adam Moeller, USGA Green Section**
"Why Putting Greens Die?" Microclimates, Rootzone Conditions, Surface
Management
- 11:30-NOON** **GCSANJ Annual Meeting**
- NOON - 1:00 PM** **Lunch and Network with Vendors: SPORTS COURT**
- 1:00 - 2:00 PM **John Pope, The Andersons**
"Granular Fertilizers"
- 2:00- 3:00 PM **Gordon Kaufman, Grigg Brothers**
"Liquid Fertilizers"
- 3:00 - 3:30PM Break to Network with Vendors: **SPORTS COURT**
- 3:30 - 4:30 PM Tentative: **Doug Vogel, Packanack Golf Club**
"TOPIC TBD"
- 4:30 PM Adjourn
- 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM** Informal Cocktail Hour at Kites Restaurant *sponsored by GRASS ROOTS*

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12 Iron, 12-0-0, 6% Iron, 2% Manganese, .25% Mg	3 oz	1.0 Gal
Green-T® Sugar Cal Calcium	3 oz	1.0 Gal
AdamsEarth™ Biostimulant	3 oz	1.0 Gal
Phosphite 30, 0-30-27	3 oz	1.0 Gal

<u>Nutrients per Application</u>	Nitrogen	Phosphate	Potassium	Calcium	Magnesium	Sulfur	Boron	Copper	Iron	Manganese	Zinc	Humic Acid	Carbo	Amino Acids
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- **AdamsEarth™ Biostimulant:** Feeds soil microorganisms and improves stress tolerance and nutrient assimilation
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GCSANJ Member *news*

Our heartfelt condolences to **Shaun Barry (AF)**, who lost his brother, Dr. Peter Neil Barry, 69, on September 3rd in Lancaster S.C. Dr. Barry was a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at the University of South Carolina, and former Academic Dean and Department Chair of History.

Update on **James Gilligan's (LA)** grandson, Luke Gilligan:

Luke has had a brain tumor called medullablastoma since his first birthday in 2006. After a series of chemotherapy, followed by eight months in the hospital, Luke then had a stem cell transplant using his own cells. Luke's family has established a Luke Forward Triathlon to raise funds for CHOP's pediatric brain cancer research. They have raised \$18,000 to date. Luke returns to school and continues to improve.

Fran Owsik (A), Lakewood Country Club, is recovering from knee surgery. Get well soon, Fran.

Jeremy Hreben, Indian Spring Golf Club, is recuperating from having his appendix removed. Well wishes for a speedy recovery Jeremy.

We do our best to follow the news and health of our members, but if we have missed any news, please send an email to: execdirector@gcsanj.org.



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Prepping for The Barclays: August 23-29, 2010

Since the 2008 PGA Tour season, New Jersey has hosted the first leg of the Fed Ex Cup, The Barclays, beginning with The Ridgewood Country Club in 2008, Liberty National Golf Club last year and again at Ridgewood this year. Next year, Plainfield Country Club hosts the event.

While a lot of time, effort and expense goes into selling hospitality suites, attending to all of the players and organizing a group of 1,500 volunteers to man everything from scoring to transportation needs, there is a group of people working hard behind the scenes to make sure that the course is in prime condition when the tournament finally begins. At Ridgewood, that core group includes a maintenance staff of 38 and during tournament week it will swell to over 120 as turf professionals from several local and out-of-state clubs volunteer their time and expertise.

Tournament preparation for this year's event at Ridgewood began last fall with a site visit from the PGA Tour's advance tournament director, golf course architect and agronomist. ShotLink data, player comments, logistical problems and agronomical issues from the previous tournament are all reviewed and suggestions are made for improvement. Some of the things discussed and implemented during this visit included a new forward tee at the 626 yard par 5 13th in case the prevailing wind becomes too strong, the roughs lines on the same hole were pushed closer to the fairway bunker, two tees were leveled and several trees were removed for agronomic, playability and operational reasons.

After the New Year, volunteer recruitment begins at the many conferences and educational events on the superintendent winter calendar. Each morning during championship week some eighty-five plus jobs need to be completed and in the evening another forty-five must be finished. Most superintendents have their own set of problems in late August with aeration and just trying to keep their course alive so it is always amazing how many will generously offer up their time to help out when they have more pressing needs elsewhere.

Spring brings a very aggressive aeration of the golf course most notably on the greens where the tournament dates in combination with the Club's biggest member guest in late September will prevent a fall aeration. In the early spring we will also communicate with the membership about the need for backing off on the green speed, rolling and other heights-of-cut until tournament

time. Most courses with Poa annua surfaces are just trying to get through the day in one piece by late August, so it is very important that we give the turf every advantage it can get throughout the summer so we can "peak" during the last week of August. This is frustrating to both the membership and the staff, but is unfortunately a necessary evil.

Early summer brings the first of several sprays to the rough and bunker banks to prevent summer patch, insect outbreaks and to keep the rough as thick as possible. To help financially our operating budget has been increased approximately 11% to account for the extra labor, fertilizers and chemicals needed to put on an event of this magnitude.

Despite that fact that we are a 27-hole facility and have plenty of equipment, loaner equipment and rentals are still necessary to finish before the 7:00 AM tee off. We will be borrowing two fairways mowers, two triplexes, an intermediate cut mower, several vehicles, pumps and squeegees. Given the time of year the tournament is being held, rental lights will also be needed for the first hour and fifteen minutes of our morning. We will begin at 4:30 A.M. and will have approximately twenty lights spread throughout the first eight holes so we can see.

Beginning on June 30th, the first of one hundred and twenty trucks hauling the construction materials for the hospitality structures begin arriving. For the next several weeks, our staff will help with laying out the structures and policing the construction traffic throughout the course so member play is impeded on as little as possible, irrigation heads and lines are not blocked or crushed, and so the wear and tear on the course is kept to a minimum.

Certain restrictions to play begin to take place by July 1st. At that time we will stop using any paint on the course and all hazards will be marked by stakes only. A week later all play will be kept off the tournament tees until the tournament begins. This isn't just eighteen tees, but actually twenty-four as the Tour likes to move some tees around throughout the championship, most notably on the par 3's. On August 3rd, the championship course which is a composite course made up of holes from all three nines will be off limits to guests and carts. Fortunately for us we have an extra nine holes that flow nicely together and can be used for carts. During August we will begin avoiding possible hole locations.

Prepping for The Barclays:

continued

At Ridgewood our average green is only 4,400 square feet with one as small as 1,800 square feet, so it is difficult to find extra cupable space. To stay away from championship areas we will resort to using the same location on multiple days and in some cases on our smaller greens we will push the cup to within two or three feet of the edge of the green.

In the final weeks leading up to tournament time heights across the board are lowered little by little with the exception of the rough which is raised slightly. All of the landscaping is spruced up, sprinkler heads are trimmed, weeds pulled, the depths of the bunkers are checked, all reels are given a final grind for sharpness, all benches, ballwashers, etc. are removed from the course, etc, etc. The list goes on and on.

Assuming decent weather, most of the hard work will be completed prior to the start of the tournament. The week of the championship will consist of two 2.5 hour surges of maintenance, one in the early morning and one after play has completed. With any luck at all with Mother Nature, most of the crew will be able to rest during play.

While a time of celebration for most, once the champion has been crowned on Sunday night, the work for the grounds crew continues. The greens are stressed, the rough outside of the ropes is mangled and dead grass and ruts wait beneath the hospitality areas. This will all have to be dealt with in the coming weeks. Fortunately, it is September by then, the temperatures have fallen and the stress of a difficult season has long since passed.

Todd Raisch, CGCS

The Ridgewood Country Club
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2010 GCSANJ Scholarship Winners!

Congratulations to all of the students who sent in applications for our scholarships. We are proud to have presented scholarships to those listed below. We hope those that won will celebrate their hard work!

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Sam Juliano (GCSANJ Scholarship)

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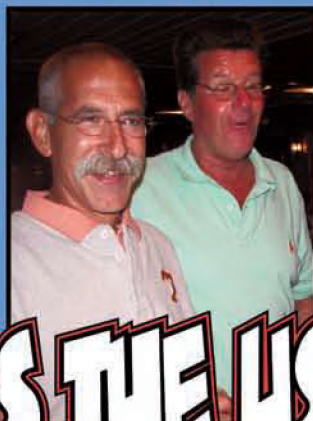
Anna Rickert (GCSANJ Scholarship)

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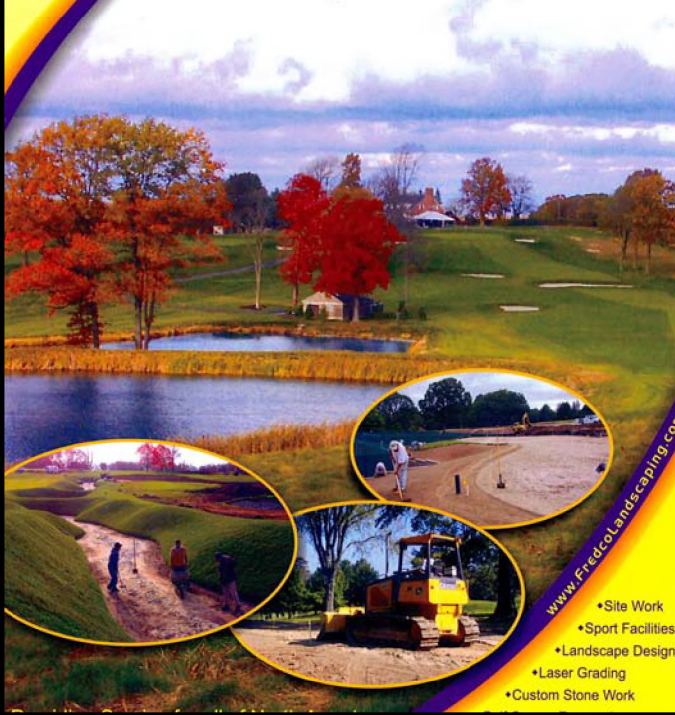
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This event brings together superintendents and representatives from golf courses along the East Coast to raise funds for environmental programs, including scholarships, turf research programs and educational initiatives. This event also serves to recognize the critical role played by superintendents in developing the vision of the golf course architect and ensuring the integrity of that vision.

The GCSANJ Foundation raises funds to support education and professional development for its members to become better stewards of the environment. In addition, its mission is to support charities with the purpose of helping children in need. For more information, visit: www.gcsanj.org.



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This event would never have come to be if it were not for the vision of Richard Sambol, founder of Metedeconk, and his son Herb who recognized the genius of Robert Trent Jones, Sr. and the interpretation of that genius by Roger Rulewich. Their decision to recognize the significant impact by the Golf Course Superintendent in developing the vision of the course architect resulted in this superb event. This event has also raised several hundred thousand dollars for turf research and scholarships.

Although it has been more than twenty years since the construction of Metedeconk, the memories of driving the course with Mr. Jones and the collaboration with Roger are still quite vivid. Memories of Mr. Jones and Mr. Sambol riding together are also quite clear as frankly how often does one get to work so closely with two legends in their respective fields of endeavor.

Please consider joining old friends in participating in this year's event at this magnificent golf course to continue the tradition of the visions of Messrs. Jones and Sambol. I have no doubt that you and your guests will enjoy a great day of golf and camaraderie. Thank you for your consideration and past support of this event.

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