



New Jersey Golf Course Report

Vol. V, No. 1

April, 1972

President's Message

Now that 1971 has come and gone and the convention trail of "72" is behind us we begin a new and different year at our respective positions. Along with our jobs, another item to consider is *your* association. Last year we made progress in many areas; this year we hope to make even more. Most of our year has already been set up and is just getting ready to roll. Committee chairmen have been selected and are doing a fine job at the onset. The Association Management Corporation which we employed at the end of last year is being evaluated and the next few months should have great bearing on our decision as to their effectiveness.

Most of our meeting places and dates have been scheduled at this time; Bamm Hollow, Baltusrol, Monmouth Park, Montclair, and Bedens Brook to name a few. The by-laws have been re-written and sent out to each of you for your approval. They will be voted on at the April meeting. We have ordered plaques to be presented to all past presidents at a meeting later in the year. The education program looks impressive at this time also. The Association treasury as you have seen is in a very sound position. Your board has worked out a budget that we hope will continue to provide sound financial management for this Association.

Two new ideas being considered by our Association: 1. A legislative counseling service. This type of service would be that of a watchdog service in Trenton to keep us informed of any legislation pertaining to our field. The funding for such a service would naturally have to be shouldered by all related groups in our field including manufacturers, suppliers, etc. The feasibility of such a venture is being investigated at this time. Incidentally this would be handled through A.M.C. 2. Surveys — we plan to utilize A.M.C. to develop periodic surveys related to our field. Soon you will be receiving a complete "course maintenance survey," similar to the one developed by the M.G.A. Naturally in order for these surveys to be meaningful we must have a majority response.

The National G.C.S.A. now has what looks like a strong certification program. Speaking of the National, our membership is growing each year. This year we had over sixty votes in Cincinnati, but that is just a shade over half of our qualified voters. If passed, our new by-laws will require all new voting members to apply for membership in the National. This will help strengthen our Association. The New Jersey Association at this time is the strongest in the Metropolitan area and we haven't even come close to our capacity. This takes desire, hard work, and participation. We look forward to yours! With your support this could be our most progressive year ever. Best of success to all of you in the coming season.

Respectfully yours,

Jack Martin
President

N.J.G.C.S.A. Hires Professional Management Firm and Executive Director

Ever since November of last year our Association has been relieved of the daily flow of operating problems to which no fully employed member of the Board can really give full attention. While the system is on a trial basis, the bulk of minutia had been growing at such a rate that the Officers and Directors of the Association felt it advisable to turn to someone for help in order to better serve the membership. To be frank, the paper work and other details, which are usually obscured from all but the person whose responsibility it is to get the work done, were not being properly covered.

Therefore, the Executive Committee deemed it advisable to give this very important part of the Association a systematic and organized approach with a guarantee of completion. With the new method of operation we also achieved the benefits of overall continuity of the month to month and year to year operations of NJGCSA. President John Martin called the move to utilize the services of Association Man-

agement Corporation "a great step forward with the objective of doing a better job for the overall membership." Jack further indicated that the Committee was of the firm opinion that utilization of AMC would afford improved attention to the overall progress of the Association as well as satisfying the routine needs of the membership. It is both his and the Board's hope that the past changes of location and responsible parties, which always result in weak communications, will now be eliminated.

Association Management Corporation will act as Headquarters of the Association with the responsibility of maintaining files and other official records of the Association for succeeding Officers and Committee Chairmen. One of the top men of AMC, Mr. David Kreidler, has been assigned to the account with the prime responsibility of acting as Executive Director. His well oriented responsibility is that of working with the President and the Executive Committee in the capacity of an advisor. He also assures that the records, mailings, and dues payments are handled in an orderly fashion.

Those who met Dave at the December Annual Meeting were assured of an "open door" at their own headquarters anytime from 8:30 to 4:30, Monday through Friday. While all of us are often in the office "after hours," including Dave, it would be best to make a contemplated visit during the above mentioned hours.

Association Management Corporation is regarded as a multiple Association Management firm, specializing in the operation and management consultation of trade and professional associations in the State of New Jersey. Their functions include at least six major industries including oil, building materials, car and truck leasing, employment agencies, photographers, engineering, and credit associations.

All questions and comments on the business of your Association should be referred to either Jack Martin, President, or Dave Kreidler at 66 Morris Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey. Your service telephone number is 379-1100.

B. C.



Composting — A Reasonable Alternative

As agronomists, sometimes considered public enemy number one, we are continually confronted with new legislation designed to "protect society and ensure Mother Nature an even chance." Such is the case with the banning of all open burning. It is an unreasonable edict covering all bases except cigarette smoking.

In spite of what the "organic ecologists" propound, we who must deal with Mother Nature are well aware of her methods of operation: the monsoons of last year; the droughts of 64, 65 and 66; the Gypsy Moth; the ever present chinch bug; the piles of organic matter choking our dumps, etc. Unfortunately, man and his requirements do not have enough time or space to wait for her to perform. Reason dictates that man cannot wait, thus he uses fire. Legislators eliminated fire. How about legislating a solution into existence! A minor oversight, but one that will be corrected just before the last exit out of Trenton is blocked by leaves and branches.

Until Trenton is barricaded a reasonable alternative must be utilized. Richard Walters, Superintendent of Maplewood's Park Commission, addressed the New Jersey Golf Course Superintendents Association at its March meeting and described his method and apparent solution to the leaf problem — composting. One has visions of the familiar pile lying in a corner of every American yard, only on a grandiose scale; odor included. It should be remembered that Mother Nature has always used slow oxidation (burning) as her prime means of debris reduction and elimination. Half the Town of Maplewood is *not* devoted to a composting operation. In reality only 2½ acres of land are utilized to reduce to a useable product an annual crop of 15,000 cubic yards of leaves within 14 months.

The key to the operation is obviously management. Making sure Mother Nature is provided the essential ingredients — air, water and nutrients. According to Mr. Walters, the actual

amount and method of introducing these ingredients is still open to a great deal of conjecture.

Briefly, the following are some of the key points in his operation. The leaves are first watered. They are then placed into windrows about 14 feet high, keeping the piles under eight feet wide, with the sides as vertical as possible. The vertical walls are essential for proper air circulation. Fertilizer is then added. Periodic watering follows to keep them moist. They remain in this state until they are decomposed enough to be useful, about one year.

Considering that composting is eons old, it was surprising to learn that the actual amount of progress with this procedure is limited. The chemistry, while understood, has not been reduced to a highly efficient method. Mr. Walters stated that more experimentation is needed. The resulting information will allow management and technology to design equipment and procedures approaching the efficiency of a good fire. There is machinery available designed for turning, aerating, watering and restacking the windrows, however, they are highly impractical for small operations. Mr. Walters' operation is equipped with conventional machinery such as payloaders and side-dump loaders. A minimum essential item is a front end loader equipped with a manure fork attachment. It is needed to construct the windrows.

While composting may not be the final answer, for the moment it seems to be the most practical approach. Compared with some of the other available alternatives, compaction, trucking, incineration and landfill, it is the most economical and has the brightest future. It is not without its own set of inherent problems. There must be land available, preferably away from neighbors who may object. There is some odor, but that can be controlled by proper management. It does require additional labor and investment in equipment. However, the initial investment is low enough to set up the operation on a trial basis, or at least until legislators realize the necessity of

controlled open burning.

It is just impossible to effectively compost branches. Wood chips do not make good landfill and there are only so many flower beds to be mulched. Even the volume of leaves generated requires a community effort to effectively compost. This same effort and expense could be spent on a more efficient means of burning the organic debris while eliminating the particle pollution.

Until reason returns to Trenton, what does one economically do with the leaves? Compost them or as one of the characters in the cartoon strip B.C. states, "The red ones don't taste too bad."

Edward C. Nickelsen

Peter Poa Gets A Job Applicant

March 19, 1972

Dear Mr. Poa:

I've had considerable golf course maintenance experience, including a great deal of "rough" cutting on tractors equipped with gangs of reel mowers, and experience should not be under-rated if you want to avoid rut making and a few other problems — such as avoiding "dead end" areas (gangs of reels can't be backed up), and causing the least possible amount of inconvenience to the golfers, whose balls I always paid for when (very rarely) mangled by my mowers.

I've got the self-discipline and heat resistance to stick with sand trap weeding & raking even during the mid-summer heat waves. I would be willing to show up every Saturday, Sunday & holiday for substitute greens cutting. I'm *not* interested in very much greens cutting on week-days, but I would be available as a substitute on weekends & holidays because I fully realize what a terrible problem absenteeism can be for a golf course. Absenteeism & tardiness is definitely not one of my weaknesses. I provide my own rain clothes, eye shields, and transportation. I would accept part-time hours whenever there is not enough tractor driving and sand-trap work to fill out an eight hour day, but, conversely, I

would be ready, willing, and able to work many overtime hours when the grass is growing fast. During this 1972 season I would be willing to work for only \$2.25 per hour (if your commuting distance isn't too far from the area), but, under no condition whatsoever will I fill out an application blank or orally answer personal or any other redundant questions, excluding, of course, my social security number, federal income tax deduction status, and reference, which is the Country Club in New Jersey.

I worked for the Country Club for quite a few seasons, and have been self-employed for four years (raising and selling small trees — a talent which is useful on golf links too, of course), so it is apparent that I'm not a minor. My birth date is omitted from this brief resume because I consider it redundant for a variety of reasons, one of which is that I'm not interested in pension plans etc.

Not only is \$2.25 per hour an economical wage, but you could save further on labor costs by the fact that I'm in no hurry to start work this year, since I have a lot of Nursery work to do here at home (could start anytime in 1973).

Sincerely,

A. Fereal Person

Ed. Note: The above letter is absolutely authentic. It was received by a member Supt. in answer to a newspaper classified. All we really can and should say is that out there somewhere is a true golf course worker, who is stubborn, has a heart of gold, and likes long sentences. The only open item is — will he hold to \$2.25 per hour plus 5.5% in 1973?

Be Our Guest

This month's invited guest is Mr. James Smith, Jr., President of the Fertl-Soil Company of Rahway, New Jersey.

THE LOWLY SALESMAN

In the summer of 1930 at the age of 17, I became a golf course salesman offering mushroom soil just as it came from the horses — complete with horse shoes, horsehair, straw, and stones. I did not sell much mushroom soil, but I met a great many Greenskeepers. There were no Superintendents in those days. Most of these men were great fellows; a few were awful. They were a rather tough crew for a youngster to face, especially with no experience in selling and no knowledge of turf culture. It was a rough Baptism.

In the Fall of 1930 I entered Rutgers Ag. School, enrolling in a curriculum

developed by Dr. Howard B. Sprague for students who were planning to be associated with the Turfgrass Industry, but not actually managing turf or turfgrass areas. I was the first of a very few who enjoyed the benefits of this experimental curriculum.

With the turfgrass industry as a member of the Fertl-Soil Company through these forty-two years I have had the interesting experience of watching several generations of golfers, Superintendents, salesmen, experiment station personnel, and even supply houses and manufacturers come and go. It is sad to look back and realize how little personal impact the members of one generation, who have been deeply and importantly involved in the evolution of turf culture during their tenure, have had on succeeding generations in spite of the great and lasting contributions they have made to the industry. But then fame and reputation are short lived, fading rapidly into the past.

As a salesman — even though I have not been in the field for many years — I have always marvelled at the important but inconspicuous part the salesmen have played in the golf course maintenance field. Although we are only peddlers in a not very glamorous business we have been many things to many people. We are friends in time of need. We are couriers bringing new product information; more practical than technical at times. We collect data on current problems — disease and insect infestation, weather quirks, unusual situations . . . and make it available to all who want it. At times we get into trouble by saying the wrong things to the wrong person at the wrong time. We are frequently a sympathetic shoulder for a worried Superintendent — a patient listener at other times for an unhappy Superintendent. We are a very effective channel of communication between the supply house, distributor or manufacturer and the man in the field. We are pretty useful people.

Through the years I have seen efforts made to by-pass or eliminate the supply house salesman. Manufacturers have and are still trying direct selling. Others have tried to ignore the Superintendent-salesman relationship by mailings and contacts with managers, club officials and committee members. These and other practices designed to eliminate the salesman have failed because the salesman fills a very real need. Superintendents could get along without salesmen, but their lives would be considerably complicated without the friendly response from the local supply houses. May this wonderful mutual relationship never be replaced by some alleged "better way."

National Agricultural Chemicals Association Newsletter 3/15/72

Reducing potential hazards with emptied pesticide containers is easy if you follow a simple Rinse/Drain procedure by the Container Committee of the Association. By following these guidelines when filling the spray tank, containers will then be ready for proper disposal, but should not be reused.

Empty the container into the spray tank and allow to drain in a vertical position for 30 seconds. Rinse 3 times with water or solvent being used, allowing 30 seconds each time for draining into the tank mix.

Make rinse quantities easily measured; for example, for each rinse use a quart of water or solvent for a 1-gallon container, a gallon for a 5-gallon can, and 5 gallons for 30- or 55-gallon drums.

Always add the rinse to the tank to avoid contamination of soil or water and to get maximum benefit from the materials purchased.

Containers treated in this way may then be safely disposed of by the most appropriate means — sold for scrap for recycling or by crushing and burying. Don't reuse them.

Unanticipated effects can result from the introduction of species of plant and animal life, whatever the original motive.

A naturalist imported the Gypsy Moth into the United States for experiments with silk production — their escape led to current problems with defoliation in the Northeast.

Starlings brought here in attempted control of the English Sparrow have become a distinct problem themselves, not only cohabiting in many areas with the sparrows, but spreading disease organisms between feed-lots in their wide-ranging flights.

Release of Coho salmon in Lake Michigan raised fears among trout fanciers that natural trout spawning areas in feeder streams would be damaged.

Escape of an African strain of malaria-spreading mosquitoes in the Philippines threatens the anti-malaria effort in the island area.

Kudzu, a leguminous vine from Asia, where it is widely used for hay and forage, was imported to the United States by conservationists to control erosion, and proved effective for this purpose. Uncontrolled spread, however, has led to many areas being taken over by the lush growth which will smother and kill trees and other vegetation.

Nonchemical means of pest control have been worked on for over 80 years and yet, at present, less than 5% of the insect pests can be controlled by biological means.

Turf Clippings

by Paul Boizelle

Congratulations Dept.: *Charlie Tantom* named Supt. at Pine Hollow C.C. — New Jersey's loss is Long Island's gain. New Jersey Supers also extend best wishes to *Donald McDaniel*, newly named Supt. at Monmouth County's new course — Don was formerly affiliated with E. I. Dupont, Wilmington, Delaware, where he was employed as a Supt. in their golf course system.

More musical chairs: *Bob Bocchino* leaves Fox Hollow C.C. to assume his new duties as Supt. at Metuchen Golf Club. Bob's replacement at Fox Hollow: *Bob Dwyer*, who joins us from the Massachusetts area.

Frank Votta, not too many years ago Supt. at Essex County C.C., would like to hear from old friends. Recently discharged from the hospital, Frank is now convalescing at home. Send your "get-well" cards and letters to: 20 Whitehall Rd., East Brunswick, N. J. 08816.

Al Caravella and *Sherwood Moore* were speakers at the Cornell Turf Conference. Al's topic: Care of Maintenance Equipment; Sherwood's: Poa Control via Calcium Arsenate Route.

Florida tans: *Marty Futyma*, *Art Elmers*, *Chet Huey*, *Mr. Martin*, *Glen Gallion*, and "Key West" *Ostberg*.

Bob Dobbie, last seen unpacking his suitcase at Navesink, wasted no time in getting himself elected 2nd Vice President of the Monmouth County "Clam Diggers" Association. (Wow! Does this guy Boizelle ever have news sources! *Ed.*)

We all extend our thanks and best wishes to *Leo Cleary*, who recently stepped down as President of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association. Leo, after having guided the "new" organization through its first year of "growing pains," turned the gavel over to newly elected President *Don Marshall* at the organization's Annual Meeting in January. Drawing its membership from all walks of our Industry: Golf Course Superintendents, Nurserymen, Educators, Sod Growers, Manufacturers, Supply Houses, Parks . . . the Turfgrass Association now boasts a rapidly growing "head count" of 275.

Jim Roach informed us that the Island of Trinidad is the "real" place to go. Jim and Audrey spent two weeks in that Island Paradise while Jim mended after recent surgery.

When *Phil Scott* was elected Secretary of our group a vacancy was created on the Board of Directors as Phil had one remaining year to serve as a Director. For those of you who have not been informed: President Martin appointed *Cliff Belden*, Supt. of High Mountain Golf Club to fill the vacancy.

Was good to see "*Red*" *Williams* at Cincinnati — "*Red*" is holding forth

on Cape Cod. He's no longer in the commercial world, but back as a Supt.

In the tumultuous Commercial scene faces come and go: *Allan Hunter* resigned from Storr Tractor to accept a sales position with the Orville Clapper Company — New England Toro Distributor . . . *Bob McKenna*, formerly associated with Shore (not Storr) Tractor is now representing JEP Sales as a golf course rep. . . . *Frank Carman*, formerly a salesman for Green Hill is now affiliated with Fertl-Soil in a like capacity . . . and then, of course, there's *Billy K.* and *Hubert P.*, so far all is well and they've got great stationery.

And for a change of pace: *Roy Bossolt* (Terre) is still with *Roy Bossolt* (Terre). (Come on Paul, that sounds like the kind of plug even the FCC doesn't like. *Ed.*)

The Shore Group Workshops are still a great success reports *Phil Scott*. Some 15 Supts. in that area have managed several mid-winter meetings. More "sectional areas" should take advantage of this type of venture. Informal in nature, but totally informative, they pave the way for great new ideas.

A Late Change: *Bob Green*, formerly of Passaic County is now Supt. at Roxiticus C.C.

Metro Milorganite's *Tony Grasso* is totally dedicated when it comes to the O. J. Noer Foundation and its respective Turf Research Fund. He'll match

any donation to the foundation at any time. There are one or two details, but if you don't believe us, just make a donation and see.

NEW JERSEY GOLF COURSE REPORT

EDITORIAL STAFF

Don S. Marshall, Paul Boizelle...Co-Editors
Clifford L. Belden.....Advertising Manager

OFFICERS

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Suburban C.C.
Office 201-687-2622; Home 201-686-1968
Vice President.....Maurice C. Cameron
Mountain Ridge C.C.
Office 201-226-5503; Home 201-335-6525
SecretaryPhilip Scott
Bamm Hollow C.C.
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