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1982



August 1982

Published monthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

Vol. XII, No. 7

Meeting Notice

Day & Date: Thursday, September 9, 1982
Location: St. Andrews G. C., Jackson Ave.,
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706
Host Superintendent: Lanny Pakkala
Host Club Manager: Bob Schmidt
Host Golf Professional: Thomas Forrest
Greens Chairman: Jack Nicklaus
Club President: Phillip Mitchell
Telephones:
Superintendent: (914) 693-1966
Club House: (914) 478-3500
Golf Shop: (914) 478-3670
Golf: 12:30 on. Carts: \$15.00
Caddies: \$12.00 + tip
Lunch: 11:30 a.m. \$5.50
Social Hour: 6:00 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres
Dinner: 7:00 p.m. \$18.00 plus gratuity
You may sign for these charges.

Directions:

South — Take Sprain Brook Parkway North to Jackson Ave. exit. Turn left at light as you come off ramp. Continue about ½ mile to severe left fork in the road. (**Do not go around this left hand curve.**) Simply continue straight onto Old Jackson Ave. Club entrance about 100 ft. on right.

From West — Pick up Sprain Brook Parkway from Route 287 east. South to Jackson Avenue exit. At bottom of ramp take a right. See above directions.

From Connecticut — West on 287 exit 2 (Elmsford). At the bottom of the ramp take a left, at the first light take another left. This brings you back on 287 going East. Take Sprain Brook Parkway South to Jackson Avenue exit. At bottom of ramp take a right. See above directions.

Coming Events

August 25 Univ. of RI Field Day, Kingston
Sept. 9 MGCSA Meeting — St. Andrews G.C.
Sept. 30 Chapter Team Championship,
Ridgewood C.C. (contact
Dennis Flynn for details)
Oct. 19 MGCSA Meeting — Wee Burn G.C.
Nov. 9-11 NYS Turfgrass Conference & Trade
Show, Rochester

Dec. 6-9 NJ Turfgrass Association Expo,
To be announced
Dec. 11 MGCSA Christmas Party
Brae Burn C.C.
Feb. 19-25, 1983 54th International Turfgrass
Conference & Show, Atlanta, GA
Feb. 28-March 3 Penna. Turfgrass Conference &
Trade Show, Hershey, PA

Notice

Enclosed in this issue are new stickers to update your roster. If there are any questions or corrections, please contact Scott Niven, Roster Chairman.

Tom Watson, Tom Kite, Dean Beman Honored

Tom Watson, Tom Kite, and Dean Beman were among the many National and Metropolitan Golf Winners honored at the 1982 National Awards Dinner sponsored by the Metropolitan Golf Writers and Golfcasters, on June 22, 1982, at the Rye Town Hilton.

Tom Watson, fresh off his 1982 US Open victory at Pebble Beach, was honored as Player of the Year. Tom Kite was the recipient of last year's "Most Improved Player" award.

The 1981 "Golden Tee Award," the highest award given by the Golf Writers, was presented to Dean Beman, commissioner of the TPA Tour. Commissioner Beman was the driving force behind the development of The Tournament Players Course, the permanent home of The Tournament Players Championship.

Other award winners were: The Manufacturers Hanover Westchester Classic, recipient of "The Bing Crosby Award," Garden City Golf Club, "Club of the Year," Ray Volpe, formerly of the LPGA Tour, "Distinguished Service Award," and the Lou Mattiace Family, "Golf Family of the Year."

All Metropolitan Area Gold Championships were also honored.

Representing MGCSA at the affair were, President Mike Maffei, and Secretary Peter Rappoccio. Representatives of Long Island, New Jersey Superintendents Association were also present.

Jack Whitaker, of ABC Sports, was Master of Ceremonies. Mr. Whitaker is presently serving as President of the Golf Writers and Golfcasters.

—Peter Rappoccio



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Publication deadline for *Tee to Green* is 21 days before the regular meeting.

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How Plants Kill Each Other

The lowly but beautiful sunflower may soon become one of our most potent weed killers.

Scientists have long known that certain plants and trees have the ability to poison neighboring plants with toxic secretions from their leaves or roots - a process called allelopathy. Such common flora as the black walnut tree, creosote bush and wild cherry tree possess the trait.

Now scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture are testing the highly allelopathic sunflower to see just how it can knock out such insidious weeds as Johnson grass and ragweed and how, through crossbreeding, this ability can be enhanced.

U.S.D.A. plant physiologist Gerald Leather said that it may be possible one day to extract the key weed-killing chemical directly from the sunflower or, more likely, to develop a synthetic compound that's similar. Or sunflowers could be planted along with certain immune crops to help control late-season weeds.

Nielsen Confirms NGF Figures Concerning Golf's Growth

The good news in the world of golf is that the A.C. Nielsen Company has just released figures showing that the number of golfers in America has grown by 9.2% since 1979 - to 17,367,000.

Those figures confirm information released earlier by the National Golf Foundation, which showed that as of January 1, 1982, there were 17,100,000 golfers in the United States - or 7.6% more golfers than in 1979.

The National Golf Foundation, which is recognized as the research center of golf, says that early indications are that golf play in the first half of 1982 will also show an increase.

GOLFERS

Year	A.C. Nielsen	NGF
1976	16,568,000	16,000,000
1979	15,897,000	15,900,000
1982	17,367,000	17,100,000

Credit: National Golf Foundation



Swans
are now available

Canadian Geese can be a problem all over your golf course. In and around water hazards, around greens, on fairways, etc.-The extra grooming, to cleanup after the geese, costs money. It's a problem that doesn't seem to go away. Here's what Walter Maguire (Sterling Farms Golf Course, Stamford, CT) did.

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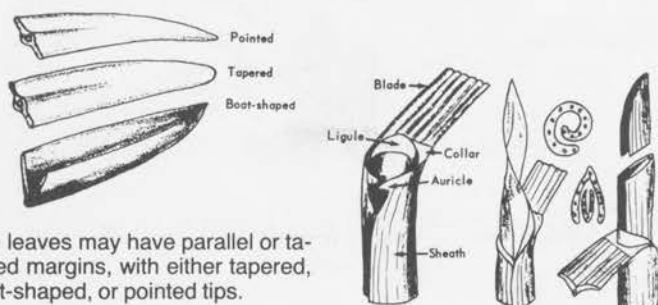


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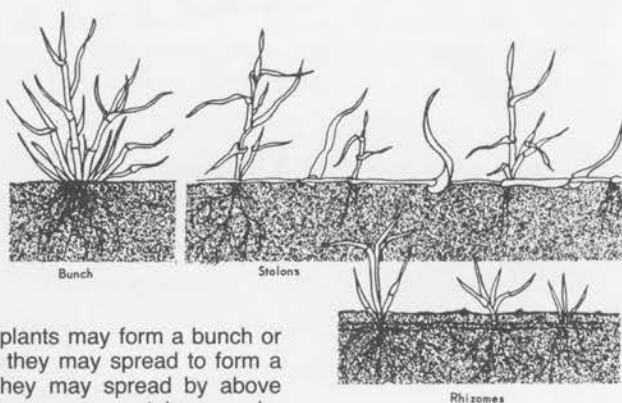
Vegetative Characteristics of Turfgrasses

The leaf consists of several parts. The leaf sheath is a cylindrical portion surrounding the stem and its growing point. The sheath arises at a node and ends in a pale-colored region, the collar. The collar is transitional to the outer, usually flat portion of the leaf — the blade. The collar usually has a membranous outgrowth or ligule. In ryegrass and certain other grasses, the collar produces small, clasping outgrowths, which are the auricles.



The leaves may have parallel or tapered margins, with either tapered, boat-shaped, or pointed tips.

Before the leaf unfolds, the new leaf blade may be either rolled in the bud or folded.



Grass plants may form a bunch or tuft, or they may spread to form a sod. They may spread by above ground runners or stolons, or by under ground rhizomes, or both.

How to Turn Complaints To Your Advantage

How do you handle complaints from golfers? Nobody finds it easy to take criticism, especially when the gripes come from someone whose only turfgrass experience is his dandelion-free lawn. Unfortunately, golf courses were built and superintendents hired for the benefit of golfers, a situation which often necessitates a kid-glove approach to complaints.

Even if complaints are supposed to go to your green chair man, chances are you'll still have to field a few questions and comments from golfers who catch you on the course. Generally, they will be friendly, but there are always a few who aren't.

The first rule is keep your temper. Some people actually enjoy hassling an employee, and others have to find someone to blame for a bad round. However, if you stay cool, he will soon realize he is out of line.

Hear him out. Many people who have honest complaints only reveal portions of their grievances because they are afraid you don't have time to listen to them. When you've heard the whole thing, try to give a thorough explanation. Above all, don't cut him off abruptly, even if you are in a hurry. Try to set up a time when you can go into the problem in detail if you think it is necessary.

Don't try to laugh it off. If he is serious about his complaint, he probably won't be very receptive to a joke about it. After all, he may have a point.

Don't try a cover up. Even if it's your fault, he'll be more impressed with your forthrightness than with a slick, superficial explanation which blames everything from the weather to last month's ladies tournament.

There are some positive steps you can take to head off complaints. You can keep members informed of construction, maintenance operations and other problem areas on the course by posting signs in the pro shop. If your club has a monthly newsletter, you can use it to keep members informed of upcoming operations and explain why they are necessary. Some superintendents have found it helpful to compile regular reports of their operations so that everyone, including club employees, knows not only what and when but also why an operation is taking place.

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You also can train your crew to successfully deal with problems on the course. Make sure they have enough information to handle the problem and that they realize they are representing you and the club when they handle a complaint or answer a question.

Credit: GCSAA Fore Front

The Poor Neglected Golf Course Employee

The end of the summer is a prime time to re-evaluate your employee benefits and working conditions. Bringing about effective changes within your operation results from observation of your labor productivity, working conditions, regulations, and compensation. Compare the club benefits to what the club house employees receive as compared to your grounds crew. Ever notice how few of the benefits are applicable to the grounds crew? The meals and uniforms, 15 minute breaks, etc.; are rarely part of the ground crew benefits. An exception to this would be uniforms, as they are rapidly becoming more prominent.

You are the supervisor. You and only you can provide improved working conditions for your men. Certainly no one else will investigate a change or improvement, especially if less money spent is a result of a proposed change. You, as supervisor, may reward a subordinate, or fail to; give understanding, or fail to; promise security, or instill fear; recommend pay increases, or fail to; provide a good working environment, or not; give a man hope, or kill it.

The God-like power any supervisor or manager has over life of a subordinate is awesome. Strive for improvements for 1983 budget and you will be rewarded by a better qualified work force.

The following table was published by the American Management Association. It reveals the gap between what workers really want and what supervisors think they want.

Job Conditions	Worker Rating	Supervisor Rating
Appreciation for good work	1	8
Feeling "in" on things	2	10
Help with personal problems	3	9
Job security	4	2
Good wages	5	1
Work that keeps you interested	6	5
Possibilities for promotion	7	3
Personal loyalty to workers	8	6
Good working conditions	9	4
Tactful discipline	10	7

Much above would apply to our work forces. Try this test on your employees on some rainy day.

WELFARE: Please contact Bob Alonzi, 203-531-8910 (office) or 203-531-1930 (home) regarding any hospitalizations, etc. of members of the MGCSA.

Think About It . . .

There is neither rhyme nor reason to the people we trust and do not trust, blame and do not blame. We do not trust congressmen, but we trust weathermen. Weathermen lie to us at least as much as politicians do.

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Think About It . . .

"The easy way is efficacious and speedy – the hard way arduous and long. But as the clock ticks, the easy way becomes harder and the hard way becomes easier. And as the calendar records the years, it becomes increasingly evident that the easy way rest hazardously upon shifting sands, while the hard way builds solidly a foundation of confidence that cannot be swept away."

—Credit: USGA Journal by Daniel Rand

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Metz's Rules of Golf for Good Players (or How to Lower Your Score Without Trying)

By Rudy Hempe

Courtesy of Dennis Petruzzelli

1. On beginning play, as many balls as may be required to obtain a satisfactory result may be played from the first tee. Everyone recognizes a good player needs to loosen up but does not have the time for the practice tee.

2. A ball sliced or hooked into the rough shall be lifted and placed in the fairway at a point equal to the distance it carried or rolled in the rough. Such veering right or left frequently results from friction between the face of the club and the cover of the ball, and the player should not be penalized for erratic behavior of the ball resulting from such uncontrollable mechanical phenomena.

3. A ball hitting a tree shall be deemed not to have hit the tree. Hitting a tree is simply bad luck and has no place in a scientific game. The player should estimate the distance the ball would have traveled if it had not hit the tree and play the ball from there, preferably from atop a nice firm tuft of grass.

4. There shall be no such thing as a lost ball. The missing ball is on or near the course somewhere and eventually will be found and pocketed by someone else. It thus becomes a stolen ball, and the player should not compound the felony by charging himself with a penalty stroke.

5. When played from a sand trap, a ball which does not clear the trap on being struck, may be hit again on the roll without

counting an extra stroke. In no case will more than two strokes be counted in playing from a trap, since it is only reasonable to assume that if the player had time to concentrate on his shot, instead of hurrying it so as not to delay his playing partners, he would be out in two.

6. If a putt passes over a hole without dropping, it is deemed to have dropped. The law of gravity holds that any object attempting to maintain a position in the atmosphere without something to support it, must drop. The law of gravity supercedes the law of golf.

7. Same thing goes for a ball that stops at the brink of the hole and hangs there, defying gravity. You cannot defy the law.

8. Same thing goes for a ball that rims the cup. A ball should not go sideways. This violates the law of physics.

9. A putt that stops close enough to the cup to inspire such comments as "You could blow it in" may be blown in. This rule does not apply if the ball is more than three inches from the hole, because no one wants to make a travesty of the game.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Donald Metz did his golf course stomping in Devon, Pa. I have it on unconfirmed report that Mr. Metz is no longer with us since the first time he employed the above set of rules, his foursome clubbed him to death before he reached the 19th hole.

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handy.
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From Our Files

Published monthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

JULY, 1965

MEETING NOTICE

DATE: Thursday July 22, 1965
 PLACE: Bedford Golf and Tennis Club. Rt. 22 Bedford, N.Y.
 HOST: Stanley Priest, Superintendent
 GOLF: Superintendents' Championship. All day.
 DINNER: 7 P.M.
 PROGRAM: Dr. John Corman of Cornell University will talk to us on "How To Stay Out of Trouble."
 DIRECTIONS: Approx. one mile north of Bedford on Rt. 22.

HEARD AT THE 19th HOLE

Danny Galasso and his wife Mary left on July 10 for a months trip to Europe.

The dust is flying so thickly at Skip Cameron's place in Montague, New Jersey that he can't find his way out to attend our meetings lately. Maybe his truck is still stuck below the dam.

John Traynor is serving with the MPs in Seoul, Korea.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again we had a very successful meeting at Quaker Ridge Country Club with Al Pentenero hosting. Many golf enthusiasts turned out to test Quaker Ridge's superb golf course. Over seventy stayed for a wonderful dinner and heard comments from Mr. King, Greens Chairman, and scheduled speaker, Dr. Ralph Engel of Rutgers University. The weather teased us a little that day with a light shower, but it could have poured and everyone would have loved it and exclaimed, "what a perfect day."

And a "perfect day" we are to have at Bedford Golf and Tennis Club where we always receive the "red carpet" treatment from host Stan Priest and his wonderful club. Everyone enjoys themselves at Bedford so leave your patch of dry brown turf, and head for the hills of Westchester on July 22. Note the change in date from the 21st.

We have such a busy schedule ahead of us that a list of important events is included for your convenience.

The third annual Fall Flower and Garden Show that was to be held at the County Center on September 9-12, 1965 and in which we were to participate with a booth, has been canceled because of the severe drought and critical water shortage in the Northeast.

See you on the 22nd.

Sherwood Moore.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 22 M.G.C.S.A. Meeting, Bedford Golf and Tennis Club.
 Aug. 12 Fine Turf Field Day, Rutgers University, Nicol Ave. New Brunswick, N.J.
 Aug. 17 M.G.C.S.A. Meeting, Darien Country Club, Darien, Conn.
 Aug. 25 Field Day at Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I.
 Aug. ? Annual Picnic?
 Sept. ? M.G.C.S.A. Meeting?
 Sept. 21 Joint Meeting M.G.C.S.A. and New Jersey G.C.S.A. Green Brook C.C., North Caldwell, New Jersey.
 Oct. 5 M.G.C.S.A. Turf Equipment Field Day at Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, N.Y.
 Oct. 13 M.G.C.S.A. Meeting and Annual Supt. - Pro Tournament at Century C.C., Purchase, New York
 Oct. 26-30 Golf Conference, Concord Hotel, Kiamesha Lake.
 Nov. ? Annual Meeting Hampshire Country Club.
 Dec. ? Christmas Party, Greenwich Country Club.

FROM THE GOLF COMMITTEE

A large turnout is expected for our Superintendent's Championship tournament at Bedford Golf and Tennis Club on July 22. Hospitality has been the word in the past, and we know we can expect the same from our host Stan Priest and the club officials this year.

The tournament this year will be only 18 holes as compared to 36 last year. For the Class A Association members there will be two flights; championship and first flight with gross and net prizes for each flight. Class A members will choose the flight in which they will compete. Starting times will be given to these two flights. An attempt will be made to contact each class A member to determine in which flight he wishes to compete. Those not contacted for any reason should get in touch with Jim Fulwider, Telephone WH 9-4613 or Herb Waterous, Telephone NE 2-7336, before Friday July 16.

There will be a flight for Class B members and also a flight for Class C members. The putting contest for non-regulation golfers will be held as in the past.

We have \$500.00 for prizes thanks again to Mr. Lawrence Labriola, so the chances are good that everyone will take something home.

With the fairways a little harder than usual due to the drought, some of the short shooters will have a run at our perennial champion Chuck Fatum. The host Stan Priest is real steady this year and on home ground. Herb Waterous has been practicing less and playing better. Another New Jersey import, Larry Thompson, is interested and Jim Fulwider had a 76 at Metropolis the other day and has signed affidavits to prove it. Because of a finger injury, Sherwood Moore doesn't think he will be in top form and concedes that he may not be among the leaders.

See you on the 22nd.

Jim Fulwider

VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

Automatic Irrigation

Sunningdale Country Club is now being watered completely by an Automatic Irrigation system. This is the superintendent's dream. We started installation last November and work was completed June 30th.

We repiped eight fairways using transite pipe. We used P.V.C. in all piping around tees and greens. Approximately 300,000 feet of underground cable was used. We have 190 fairway heads each one valved separately. Three or four heads were placed around each green and about the same on the tees.

The contractor was responsible for the lifting and replacing of all turf, also trenching and cleaning up. Our own crew has not been involved at all on this project.

We have four control points on the course from which we can see all heads that are operated from that point.

I feel personally that Mr. Seligson of Aquamatic, Inc., Franklin Square, New York City has given us a very carefully designed system using Rain-Bird heads and weather matic (telsco) clocks and valves. Using city water, we can set this system up to discharge up to 3,000 gallons a minute. This is all on city pressure, no pumps.

We will be digging a lake very soon which will supply our water.

The unique part of automatic water is that there is fingertip control over the amount of water being used for each station, as each station can be set for from 1 to 60 minutes. We are using 17 and 23 station clocks and the controller can be set up on a 14 day cycle.

This system has eliminated all man hours for watering and has given a more complete water coverage and control.

I would like to have all superintendents and chairman visit us and see the system in operation at their convenience, and also see our very modern, complete new equipment building.

See you soon,

Bob Depencier.

Outlook

By E. Alan Cameron

Our thanks to John Wistrand of Metro Milorganite for forwarding this article to us. — The Editors

E. Alan Cameron is associate professor of entomology at Penn State. A native of Canada, he earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Guelph, Ontario, and his master's and doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley. His research since 1971 has been devoted to the gypsy moth. Until 1978, he was one of the leaders in field-testing disparlure, a chemical sex attractant and in basic behavioral studies. He currently studies larval movement of the pest. Cameron is at 308 Patterson Bldg., University Park, PA 16802 (phone, 814-863-2867).

The June sky is clear, the sun is shining brightly — and there is little shade from the tattered trees. Once again our forests and forested residential areas are under attack from the voracious appetites of millions of gypsy moth larvae. In 1981, Pennsylvania suffered defoliation on over 2.5 million acres; almost 12.9 million acres were stripped in the Northeast. The outlook was the same for 1982.

Few insects are as well-known to the public, but as poorly known to the scientist, as the gypsy moth. Since 1869, when this pest was brought to North America, we have jumped from one program to another, desperately trying to defeat our enemy. We have mounted labor-intensive search-and-destroy campaigns against egg masses, applied chemical pesticides, re-

leased exotic insect parasites and predators, and, in recent years, sought to coordinate agencies and programs in integrated control efforts.

Funding always has collapsed with cyclic declines in gypsy moth populations. By the time it is restored through a slow-to-respond political system, we are well into the next cycle of defoliation.

Ironically, only three years ago some people claimed that parasites had solved the gypsy moth problem in Pennsylvania. In 1979, our state recorded only 8,400 acres of defoliation — the lowest figure since 1970, when the gypsy moth was just beginning its march across the state. The claim was naive. Even in eastern Europe (where it is native and has a large complex of effective natural enemies), the gypsy moth remains "our most serious forest pest" in the estimation of my colleagues there. Parasites alone cannot control the pest; at best, they can extend the interval between population peaks from the three to four years we are experiencing to perhaps as long as 15 to 20 years.

Individual states must consider the insect to be a regional problem. Too often, programs in adjacent states are not compatible, worse, states insist on politically expedient but unrealistic eradication, exclusion, or "biological control" programs. What we need is a responsible regional program to *manage* the pest. Such management implies an awareness of economic injury thresholds. We cannot eradicate the gypsy moth, but we can (principally by using relatively safe conventional pesticides) minimize defoliation and keep trees alive.

If management is to progress beyond this rather primitive level, we must have a long-term, continuing commitment to research and development, especially at the federal level. (The

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gypsy moth is a national problem: it has now been reported in 28 states.) With such support, we might develop systems to include manipulation of forest-stand age and species composition, integrated use of parasites, predators, and pathogens, and perhaps novel approaches such as genetic manipulation.

The gypsy moth continues to move west and south, the very young larvae dispersing on the wind. The larvae also move back east and north, but this reinfestation is masked by existing populations in place. Understanding the process of airborne larval dispersal would greatly improve our abilities to predict where new outbreaks will occur, and, perhaps, help us identify source population areas for spraying.

Most funding now goes for nuisance abatement. We can continue this shortsighted approach (at accelerating annual cost), or we can support research to improve our ability to manage the gypsy moth. Scientists, administrators, politicians, and the public must agree to the second alternative, else we will remain on the unproductive treadmill where we have run so long.

Credit: June '82 issue of Research/Penn State, Health & Life Sciences

TURF TIP: Here's a handy tip for anyone having G.M. III vapor locking trouble, particularly after a hard run in the summer heat. Wrap a piece of flashing or similiar material around the frame, allowing it to hang freely. This will deflect heat blowing from the engine fan away from the gas bowl and thereby prevent vapor lock. We implemented this procedure for our G.M. III and had no further vapor locking trouble.

— Al Moore, Superintendent, Waccabuc C.C.

Swan Study Soon

The mute swan, immortalized in fairy tales as the "ugly duckling," has been called greedy and vicious by some environmental experts.

The state Department of Environmental Protection said it has received so many nuisance calls about the stately animals that it has begun a three-year program to count swans in Connecticut and study their behavior and effect on other waterfowl.

Some wildlife biologists say they suspect the large white birds with the long, curving necks are scaring away migratory waterfowl.

Connecticut Newspapers, Inc., Aug. 8, 1982

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