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September 1982

Published monthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

Vol. XII, No. 8

Meeting Notice

Day & Date: Tuesday, October 19, 1982
Location: Wee Burn Country Club,
 410 Hollow Tree Ridge Road,
 Darien, CT 06820
Host Superintendent: Chuck Fatum
Host Club Manager: Werner Weber
Host Golf Professional: Roy Pace
Greens Chairman: Bert MacMannis
Club President: Tom Cannon
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Social Hour: Cocktails 6–7 p.m. – hors d'oeuvres
Dinner: 7:00 p.m. \$25.00 including tax
 and gratuity – Signing Privileges
 Soup, Salad, Prime Rib, Glass of
 Wine, Dessert and Coffee

Directions:
From Merrit Parkway — Take Exit 36, then south on Rt. 106 past Woodway to 1st light (greenhouse on right) and turn left onto Camp Avenue. At end of Camp Avenue, turn right onto Hollow Tree Ridge Road — Clubhouse ½ mile on left.
From Connecticut Turnpike — from West — Exit 10 — turn left over turnpike on Noroton Avenue to 1st light at West Avenue.

From Connecticut Turnpike — from East — Exit 10 — bear to left after coming off turnpike to end of Ledge Road. Turn right onto Noroton Avenue and go to 1st light at West Avenue. At light at West Ave. turn left and go to next light and right onto Hollow Tree Ridge Road. Go approximately 1½ miles to Clubhouse entrance.

Please note: A reservation card for Golf/and/or Dinner must be returned to Chuck Fatum by **Saturday, October 16th, 1982** to assure your dinner reservation. The above will be strictly administered. If no dinner reservations are made, you will not be served.

A Letter to the MGCSA President

As Chairman of the Nominating Committee for 1982–1983 I propose the following slate for consideration at the Annual Meeting (date and place to be announced).

President	Charles Martineau
Vice President	Peter Rappoccio
Treasurer	Sherwood Moore
Secretary	Scott Niven
Director for Two Years	James Fulwider
	Harry Nichol
	William Gaydosh
	Craig Wistrand

(three to be elected)

Cordially yours, Robert U. Alonzi

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Coming Events

Sept. 30	Chapter Team Championship, Ridgewood C.C. (contact Dennis Flynn for details)
Oct. 5	GCSA of New Jersey Field Day, Rutgers Stadium Piscataway, NJ
Oct. 19, Tuesday	MGCSA Meeting — Wee Burn G.C.
Nov. 9-11	NYS Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show, Rochester
Dec. 6-9	NJ Turfgrass Association Expo, Resorts International Atlantic City, NJ
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

GCSA of New Jersey

18th ANNUAL TURFGRASS EQUIPMENT IRRIGATION and SUPPLIES FIELD DAY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1982

(Rain Date — October 6)

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(Registration Beginning at 9:30 a.m.)

Rutgers Stadium and Golf Course
 Rt. 18 (River Road), Piscataway, NJ



EDITORIAL STAFF

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 Home 914-937-3613

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

MGCSA News

Well it looks like the good Lord has blessed us with another fine year. Plenty of rain, a July that wasn't to bad, and an August, oh what an August!

In spite of dubious weather, we had a fine MGCSA Family Picnic at Steve Cadenelli's Country Club of New Canaan. Thanks to Steve and Linda for a great time. Steve's report follows in this issue.

We then journeyed to the famous St. Andrews Golf Club at Hastings-on-Hudson for the first round of the Superintendent's Championship Tournament. Superintendent Larry Pakkala had the course in great condition. Larry briefed us about the impending restoration work to begin at St. Andrews this fall.

Al Radko, retired Director of the USGA gave us a historical summation about past maintenance practices on the early golf courses. We've certainly come a long way since those early days of trial and error. Al was then presented with a plaque by the MGCSA acknowledging his contribution.

Our thanks to Larry Pakkala and everyone at St. Andrews for a fine day.

Just a short reminder, the MGCSA rosters are for MGCSA members use *only*. They are not to be given out to anyone for commercial purposes.

Our next MGCSA monthly meeting will be at Chuck Fatum's Wee Burn Country Club on TUESDAY, October 16th. Your reservation card must be received by Wee Burn by October 16th at the latest. The policy of the club is that if **no** dinner reservations are made, you will **not** be served.

Well, with winter just around the corner, some of us may start thinking of temporary or alternate greens for the winter. We've dug some information out of our files on considerations for use of alternate greens and are reprinting for your use.

Also, the return card to Chuck Fatum will contain a survey regarding temporary greens at your club. We'll publish the results of the survey this fall.

— Pat Lucas

Turfgrass Conference Program Focuses on Industry Concerns

The New York State Turfgrass Conference, being held on November 9-11, 1982 in Rochester, NY, will focus on the concerns of the entire turfgrass industry and offer pesticide certification credits as well. The Trade Show and Education Programs will be held in the Rochester War Memorial.

The opening program on November 9 will address the "news" in turf diseases, fungicides as growth regulators and weed control research. Tuesday afternoon topics include turfgrass management research reviews and a look at turfgrasses for the future.

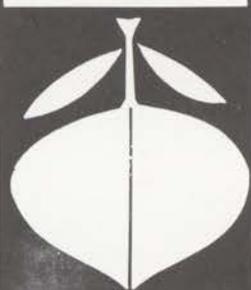
Wednesday morning is devoted to *maximizing your resources*, with presentations on managing equipment, time, employees and people. That afternoon, there are three break-out sessions with emphasis placed on the *golf, athletic fields and lawn care* segments of the industry. Topics include sand top-dressing, maintenance of tennis courts, controlling *Poa annua*, choosing turfgrass for athletic use, drainage of athletic fields, renovating, contracts, bill collecting, and aerifying.

Thursday, November 11 is an all-day *workshop on pest and pesticide education* which will culminate in the pesticide certification exam and provide recertification credits.

Between the education sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday, the *Trade Show* will be open, featuring Rochester's largest turfgrass show and the latest in equipment, chemicals and supplies. On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, there will be complimentary beer and wine served at the trade show, and drawings will be held for valuable prizes.

For more information and registration information, contact NYSTA Executive Director Ann Reilly, 210 Cartwright Blvd., Massapequa Park, NY 11762. (516) 541-6902.

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Results from First Round of Superintendent's Championship at St. Andrews

Championship Flight

C. Fatum — 70
M. Millett — 82
J. Fulwider — 83
A. Savone — 84
V. Pentenaro — 85
L. Pakkala — 90

First Flight

S. Niven — 78-65
M. Leary — 83-68
A. Caravella — 87-70
S. Sharples — 84-72
D. Verrille — 86-72
C. Martineau — 87-72
F. Bevelacqua — 86-73
R. Phipps — 86-74
P. Caswell — 89-76

Second Flight

D. Flynn — 88-68
W. Gaydosh — 89-69
P. Rappaccio — 89-69
R. Alonzi — 90-70
M. Fuller — 89-71
T. Moore — 98-78
R. Tosh — 103-82

Flight "B"

P. Veshi — 81-70
E. Millett — 89-79
A. Grasso — 97-79
D. Petruzzelli — 98-85
T. O'Neill — 99-85

Third Flight

F. Scheyhing — 92-67
T. Palidor — 94-68
J. McNally — 100-70
R. Bruce — 100-74
T. Mulligan — 106-78
D. DiMarzo — 110-80
J. O'Keefe — 134-108

Flight "C"

D. DeSanctis — 87-67
L. Guidel — 89-70
D. Cancellari — 86-72
T. Smith — 93-75
J. Apple — 101-76
W. Barrett — 97-77
J. Moran — 115-79
R. Lippman — 108-80
S. Smith — 101-81
J. Wistrand — 113-83
G. Mullane — 115-83
W. Somers — 99-84
D. Callahan — 114-86
A. Andrasko — 116-86

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NOTE: Players are requested to make up foursomes within their flight for the final round at Wee Burn.

Thanks,
Dennis Flynn

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for making this issue of *Tee to Green* possible.

Superintendent Biography

Scott Niven — Siwanoy C.C.

The July meeting for the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association was held at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, New York. Hosting Superintendent was Scott Niven.

Scott is originally from Virginia and raised in New Hampshire. Judging by his youthful looks, he doesn't appear to be a man with twenty years of experience in Golf Course Management. While a youngster, Scott worked with his father in their family operated golf club. His father was self taught in managing the club, grounds and also the pro shop. Scott took an interest in the golf course management facet of the business and decided to continue his education. He attended the University of New Hampshire for one year and three years at the University of Rhode Island. After graduation, he accepted an Assistant Superintendent's position at Greenwich Country Club in Connecticut and remained there for three years. Scott then pursued a Superintendent's position and received the job at St. Andrews Golf Club in Hastings-on-the-Hudson, New York. Two seasons had passed before Scott made his recent move to Siwanoy Country Club. He has been there for two years.

A major factor which has held Scott's interest as a Golf Course Superintendent is the diversity of each year. Climatic conditions are a prime contributor to seasonal changes. Also included are the consideration of in a number of maintenance practices, for example; forecasting high temperatures prior to herbicidal applications to avoid volatilization of the chemical material. Many practices require thorough considerations for long-lasting effectiveness. These careful decisions can deter-

mine the success or failure of the practice.

What Scott likes most about being a Golf Course Superintendent is his freedom to do what ever he pleases at his job, aside from membership demands. His opinion on the most important qualities needed in becoming a successful Golf Course Superintendent is taking pride in your work and being dedicated. "Putting time into your job is a must for seeing favorable results," claimed Scott.

With substantial increases in golf course expenses and maintenance from past years, Scott stated that he "thinks economics daily." Conserving precious purchases such as fuel and oil only just a few of the many areas monitored. Comparing rates of chemicals for one specific purpose and using the lower rate product is another area encountered for conserving chemicals in the stockroom.

Scott raised an interesting point that the Superintendent should not be afraid to try new ideas and experiment. Also, staying in touch with current developments from research, help keep the Superintendent well informed. These are important tools for the Superintendent and shouldn't be ignored.

In easing the pressures of a daily work schedule, Scott looks forward to hobbies for relaxation. He enjoys anything that's fun to fill up his free time. Playing golf, tennis and skiing are his favorite sports and he also tinkers with real estate, mechanical work, carpentry and occasional winemaking.

Scott is currently single and is residing in White Plains, New York.

— Dennis Petruzzelli

NOTE — I'd like to wish Scott continued success and thank him for his time.

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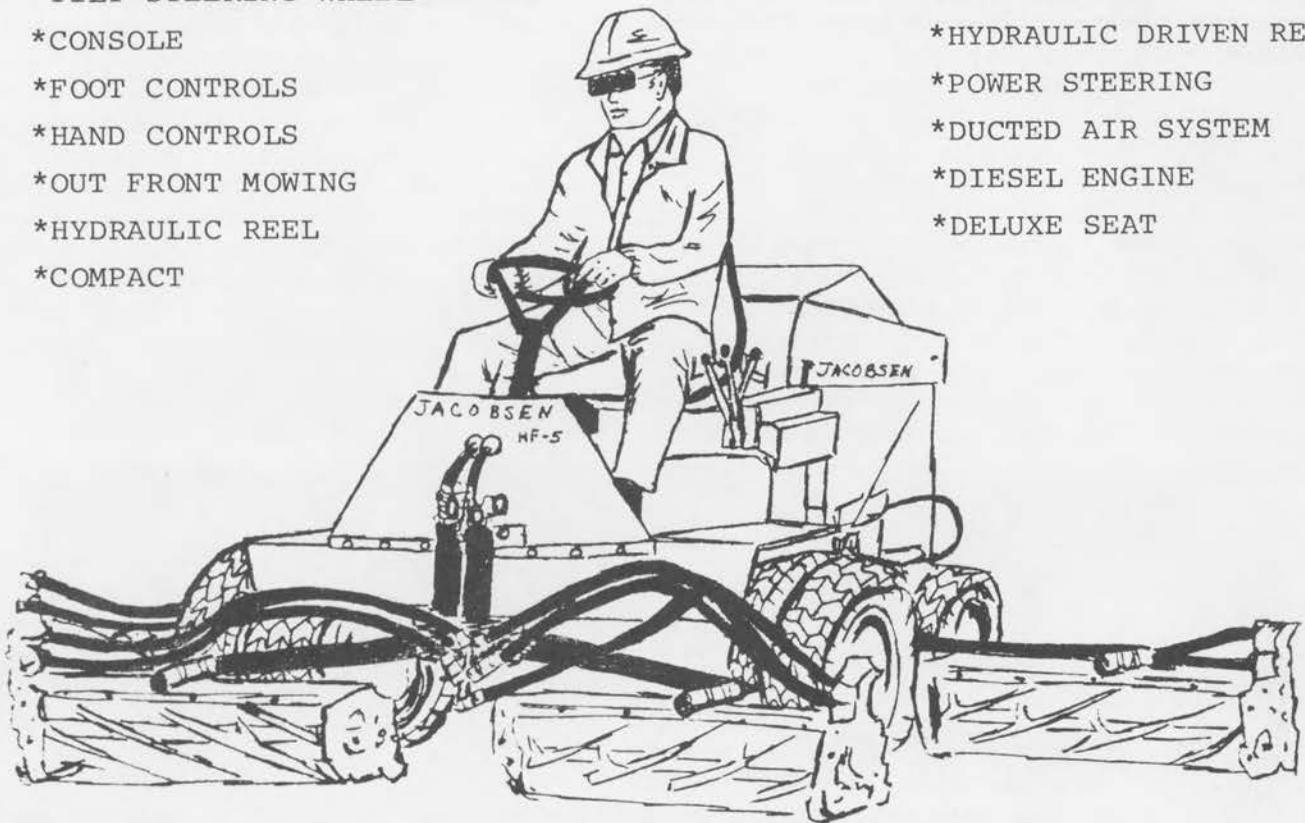
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Summer Fun — 1982

Can threatening skies or periodic thunder showers dampen the spirits of MGCSA members and families at picnic time? Not Hardly! Summer comes but once a year as does the annual picnic, so how could a few dark clouds and raindrops prevent our group from its due reward. And did we reward ourselves . . . 50 lbs. of Carriere's homemade Italian sausage, bowls of Morhardt's exquisite chilli, uncountable ears of corn, 9 cases of pop, a keg and a half of thirst quenching Mick, hamburgers, cheeseburgers and franks galore. Chips, salads, pickles, yes no one went home with an empty stomach.

In between showers and those intermittent glows of light in

the sky, a mean game of volleyball got underway as did some friendly badminton. Numerous youngsters with glowing smiles were also seen leaving the game field with awards in hand for a job well done. No doubt about it! MGCSA families won't let a little inclement weather dampen their parade.

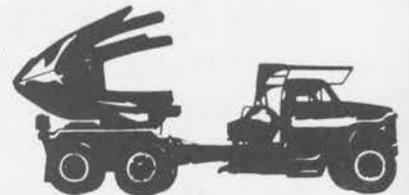
Many thanks to all who contributed their time and energy in making the picnic go so well. A special thanks to the Carriere family, Roger and Claire Morhardt, Glen Moore, Dan Canceleri, Dick and Lucille Allen, Jim and Sue Mederios, Pat and Michele Lucas and Peter Rappocio.

— Steve and Linda Cadenelli



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Winter Injury — Eastern Region

Winter injury is a general term used to describe turfgrass injury that occurs year to year as golf courses emerge from the winter. Specifically, there are these major forms of winter injury which can occur individually or in combination:

(1) Snow mold — caused by fungi — occurs in circular pattern from golf ball to basketball size. One is grey, the other is pink snow mold.

(2) Ice damage — where the ice remains on the turf for extended periods — usually in the low spots and on areas where snow accumulates, freezes and melts slowly.

(3) Desiccation — when snow cover is absent and high winds persist. This dries the turf excessively until the plant is dehydrated completely.

(4) Injury due to excessive traffic.
a Too much winter play — shows up around winter cupping areas and walk-off areas.

b. When grasses are frozen — traffic bruises brittle blades which results in footprints and more disease problems.

c. Heavy play on days when shallow thawing occurs — the top soil fraction is compressed and soil structure is impaired or destroyed.

(5) Crown hydration — excessive water intake by plants during cold weather due to poor drainage. Excessive water in plants and the freezing and thawing action that occurs within the plant (crystallization) ruptures cells and the plant collapses with the first warm days

Any or all of these afflictions can cause problems and delay recovery of the turf in early spring. The following check points are listed as reminders to help reduce winter injury:

(1) Apply a fungicide treatment or two after the leaves fall from the trees to eradicate germinating snow mold spores. Then apply preventative fungicide materials prior to the first snowfall and in mid-winter when the opportunity presents itself, when greens are clear of snow and ice cover.

(2) Feed the turf on the conservative side during the entire year in order to keep it from becoming soft and lush. Hungry turf rebounds, doesn't injure so readily. Light frequent applica-

tions are far better than any heavy treatments. Don't fertilize after August.

(3) Keep an eye on potash levels — apply small amounts in early spring and early summer — none in the fall.

Editors Note: Items #2 and 3 regarding fertilization have been revised. Check with your U.S.G.A. rep. for specific recommendations regarding your course.

(4) Heavy topdressing of greens just prior to closing greens for the winter is most helpful. The rate of 2 cubic yards per 5,000 square feet on all or most troublesome greens will help greatly.

(6) Correct existing drainage problems to reduce the time that water and ice remain on the turf.

(7) Keep winter play on regular greens to a minimum — use alternate greens during inclement and winter season.

To help speed recovery of weak areas:

(1) Aerate most severely injured areas where recovery appears slow or doubtful.

(2) Spike all injured areas — several times over.

(3) Topdress lightly and overseed.

(4) Soluble fertilizer applied at rates of 1/16 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per week for about four weeks will be helpful. This is in addition to the dry application of fertilizer at light rates.

(5) Syringe several times daily.

(6) Spray with Thiram (Tersan, Thimer, etc.) to keep seedlings healthy.

(7) Plug or sod as needed on areas that show no recovery by early May.

This program is recommended for courses that experience problems with winter injury year after year.

— USGA Green Section

An Open Letter to Members of Northeastern Golf Clubs

The question of whether to allow play on regular greens in winter is very difficult to answer precisely and finally because so many variables must be considered. The difficult part is that



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any one of these variables can change daily, or even hourly and play at such time could cause serious injury. At other times play could be allowed without causing injury.

Speaking from the agronomic point of view, we would say without reservation that it is best to keep winter play off regular greens and to use temporary greens for the following reasons:

(1) So many more golfers play each course now in regular season that injury due to the increased traffic is mounting and off-season play can only add to the total traffic injury problems. This was very evident during the winter-spring season of 1962-63 when many courses suffered severe winter damage. These have been documented in articles written in the USGA Green Section Record for July 1963, September 1963, and November 1964. If you do not have these, we would be pleased to send them to you.

(2) In late fall or early winter when frost enters the ground, turf becomes frozen and the upper fraction of soil becomes moistened with frost. Traffic at these times will break or crack the stiff and frozen blades of grass, weaken them, and *Poa annua* or other weeds could subsequently encroach, and so the turf is generally weakened. Traffic imposed upon moistened soil results in a cementing of the soil due to the lubricating action of the moisture. This undoubtedly adds to compaction.

(3) In winter when the ground is frozen solid, turf blades would suffer only if play were allowed while the grass, too, was frozen, as under (2) above. The danger here is that during the day while players are on the course, sufficient thawing could occur in the upper fraction of soil to cause footprints and a cementing action of the soil. This occurs when air temperature are higher than normal and, of course, these are the very days when golfers prefer to play.

(4) The most difficult time for turf is in late winter and early spring, from mid-February through March when the top inch of soil (or less) is thawing but the soil beneath is frozen. Traffic on greens at this time will result in severe compaction.

(5) Any time water stands on a green in winter, no play should be allowed. This results in extreme softness of the upper fraction of soil and turf.

One reason why some courses now have little or no *Poa annua*

in greens is the fact that they have used temporary greens for several years. When permanent turf (bentgrass) is injured by traffic, ball marks, etc., *Poa annua* quickly fills in. Members don't notice this change, but those versed in agronomy do. Members usually judge cover by green color, and only in summer when *Poa* weakens do they notice several kinds of grasses in one green. The more *Poa annua*, the more potential summer trouble.

All told, any amount of play in winter generally means more rigid management during the growing season, especially more aeration and more topdressing to true and level greens. If play is allowed on regular greens, we cannot stress too vigorously that the days must be very carefully chosen; that someone must make these day-to-day decisions; and that your course must be treated as an individual problem. It should not be kept open or closed simply because a nearby course is open or closed.

The only way to insure against possible trouble is to have temporary greens. It has often been suggested that the word "alternate" be used in place of temporary, because the latter bears a negative connotation.

Finally, Dr. Fred Grau, prominent turf authority and former Green Section Director, proposes that this sign be displayed at the club:

"Foot and wheel traffic on frozen grass causes the grass to turn brown and die. Ice crystals within the grass blades are distorted and rupture living cells, causing death.

"When the frost is thawed by the sun, the greens remain overly wet for a short time. In this condition foot traffic can cause severe damage by breaking roots, creating compaction, and footprinting so badly that pleasurable putting is not possible.

"Every effort is made to keep the course continuously playable, but when Nature fails to cooperate and bring frost or floods we have no choice but to limit play. The understanding and consideration of the members are greatly appreciated."

We don't know if we've answered the problem but we hope we have provided some useful information upon which to base your decision. If any questions arise, please write.

— The Green Section Staff Northeastern District Office

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Question: Can the winter heave/thaw cycle kill grass plants? (New Jersey)

Answer: Yes, especially young ones. During normal freeze/thaw winter cycles the grass plant can literally be pushed from the soil by the expansion and contraction of the ground. This action can sever roots or elevate the plant, making it more susceptible to desiccation. When this condition is apparent, it is good practice early in the spring to roll the ground lightly to force the grass crown back into contact with the soil.

TO CLOSE ONE COURSE

Question: We have a 36-hole facility. Is it common practice to keep all 36 holes to play during the winter or is it best to keep only 18 or our 36 holes open? (Delaware)

Answer: Much depends upon the amount of play each course receives. If winter play is minimal, then very definitely it would pay to center all play on one course. When this is done, our experience indicates that the grass on the course that is closed for the winter becomes denser, undamaged roots are deeper, weeds and diseases are less troublesome and the putting surfaces are smoother the following year than the course that was played all winter. Obviously, it would pay to alternate courses for winter play annually at a 36-hole facility.

TO PREVENT WINTER DAMAGE

Question: Our golf course superintendent prohibits play when there is frost on the ground. Is this good practice and if so, why? (Ohio)

Answer: When turfgrass plants with a frost cover experience foot or vehicular traffic, permanent damage frequently occurs because walls of plant cells are ruptured. Also, it is possible that the crown of the plant may be damaged, which could result in permanent turf loss. A weakened plant provides an ideal opportunity for weed and disease invasion and a decrease in plant density for the summer stress months. The golf course superintendent has the interest of the majority of players in mind, and he is

interested in the maximum use of the course for all seasons when he faces the decision to close the course because of inclement weather.

— USGA Green Section Record
November/December 1979

SAMPLE DRAFT

December, 1982

Dear Member,

In order that you may be fully informed, below please find a listing of reasons for the present closing of our regular greens:

a. Traffic on *frozen greens* causes breaking, cracking, and bruising (cellular rupture) of the grass along with accompanying footprinting which destroys the *putting surface*.

b. Traffic on *saturated and partially frozen greens* causes compaction along with tearing of roots, rhizomes, and stolons which destroys the *putting surface*.

c. Traffic on *greens which are not growing* due to weather conditions causes injury because the individual grass plant is unable to repair itself through *healing*. Spike marks, ball marks, scuffing, etc. all take their toll on the *putting surface*.

d. Traffic on *dormant greens* reduces their vigor therefore making them more susceptible to winter diseases.

e. Traffic on *dormant greens* injures permanent bentgrasses and encourages invasion of the weed grass "Poa annua" to the *putting surface*.

Regular greens will be reopened as soon as conditions permit.

Thanking you for your understanding and cooperation I am

Yours for better turf,
Golf Superintendent

Think About It . . .

Woman, paying bills, remarks to husband: "I think we're re-establishing communication with the children, Harry. The phone bill last month was up \$97.83."

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Editors Note: Our thanks to John Wistrand for sending us this article. He read it in the August issue of Weeds, Trees & Turf, and thought it might be of helpful in making budgets for next year.

PESTICIDES

Prices May Rise Five Percent

Pesticide prices are expected to rise no more than 5% next year, according to a report from the Department of Agriculture. This prediction can be compared to the 8-10% rise of last year.

During the 60's and 70's, the use of pesticides increased rapidly, causing the prices to escalate with the demand. Now, as 90% of the major crops are being treated, the prices of the chemicals are leveling out.

Current agricultural trends are also affecting the rate of the price increase. The Integrated Pest Management technique, which requires fewer applications of pesticides, is becoming popular. On the other hand, there is a similar trend toward minimum-till farming, which requires more herbicide and insecticide. The two are expected to balance out and keep the annual rate of price increase at less than 3%.

Restoration of St. Andrews Golf Club

Jack Nicklaus Design

The primary word for the St. Andrews Golf Club is "restoration" — not redesign. Nicklaus' intent is to enhance the original intrinsic charm of the Golf Club from its glory days. "We are prepared to restore the bunkers and green shapes to the design motif of the early 1900's. This, of course, is very Scottish in style and since Saint Andrews was one of this country's original courses, the Scottish flavor will be prevalent." From a technical standpoint, however, the golf course will be brought up to the most modern standards. Sophisticated automatic irrigation, United States Golf Association greens construction, and hybrid grasses will be built into the restoration. Numerous other technical improvements regarding golf course equipment and more

easily maintained putting surface contours will also be added. The routing of the course has been kept intact, with the exception of four new golf holes which have been planned into new portions of the property to facilitate overall land use. The new routing has also spread out the climbs that presently exist. In general terms, the golf course, under the new land use, should be easier to walk even though it will be slightly longer.

The Madison Avenue Tragedy

Bolted loose in the sun,
A tall hunk of metal on the run,
Pierced a crimson sky,
From 44 stories high;

A huge "kangaroo" crane,
Based — on a much travelled lane,
Appears sound and erect, —
Totters suddenly from a broken neck;
Crashes against an adjacent tower;
A shattering roar deafens the hour, —
As chunks of rock and glass — tumble, —
Stirs a mid-day crowd's rumble;
Panic! On the Street, as people shudder;
Rally — with all they can muster,
From the lure of Death's grip;
As the last puff-of-dust-now limp,
Rises into the tearful air;
Some semblance is brought to bear;

All, ran their miracle race in the sun;
Except for one young Man's dire run, —
Tells an innocent sorrow;
Deprived of the winds-of-tomorrow.

— Frank Paladino

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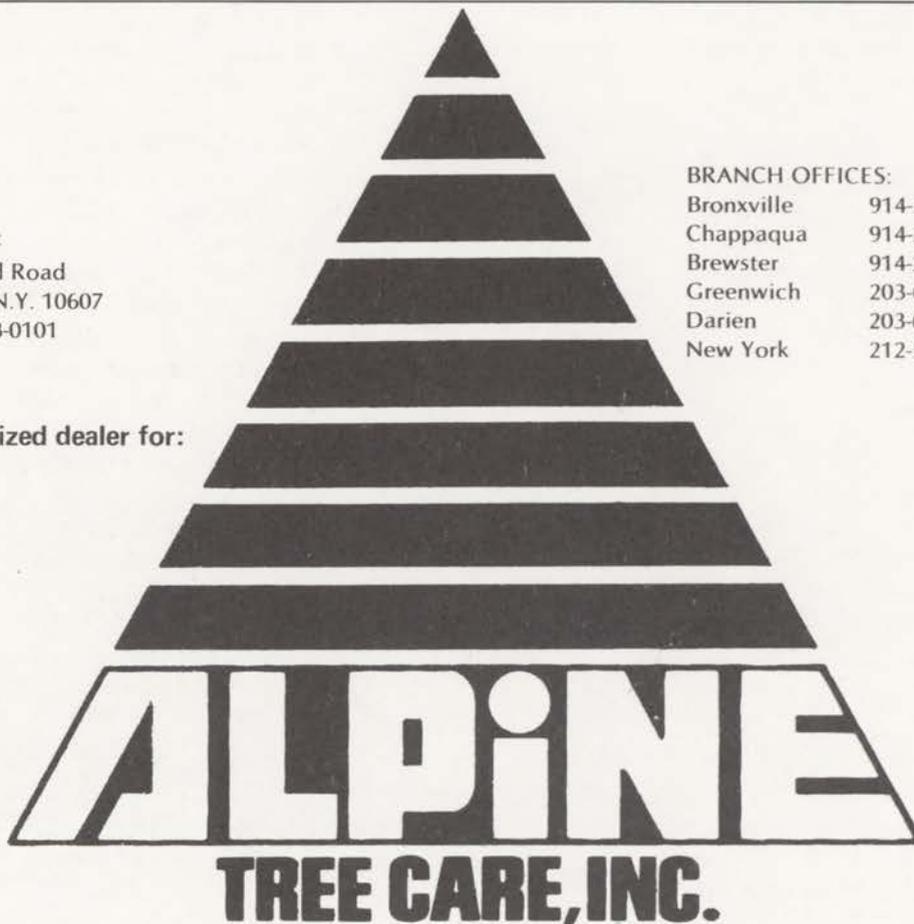
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