



December 1984

Published monthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

Vol. XIV, No. 10

### Coming Events

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Dec. 8     | Christmas Party, Fairview C.C.   |
| Dec. 11-14 | Pennsylvania Turfgrass Conference<br>and Trade Show, Hershey, PA<br>(Info: 814-355-8010)                                     |
| Jan. 8-11  | Eastern Regional Nurserymen's<br>Association Convention,<br>Concord Hotel, Kiamesha Lake, NY<br>(203-872-2095)               |
| Jan. 9     | Met GCSA Winter Educational Seminar<br>Westchester C.C.  |
| Feb. 5-13  | GCSAA Conference and Show,<br>Washington, D.C.   |
| March 4-7  | 54th Turfgrass Conference<br>and Industrial Show,<br>Springfield Civic Center<br>(Contact Dr. Joseph Troll,<br>913-545-2353) |

### New Officers and Directors

At the MGCSA Annual Meeting held November 15th at Fairview CC, the membership elected the following officers and directors:

President:	Peter Rappoccio
Vice-President:	Pat Lucas
Secretary:	Scott Niven
Treasurer:	Bob Alonzi
Directors (2 years):	William Gaydosh
	Ted Horton
	Mel Lucas, Jr.

Our original published slate indicated that four directors were to be elected, 3 for 2 years and 1 for 1 year. Due to the number of resignations and appointments over the past year, our director cycle was thought to be in error. However, with further study, Harry Nichol's position was determined to have 1 year remaining, and therefore only three director positions had to be filled by election.

A. Michael Maffei, Nominating Chairman

### Reaching Out Committee

Please contact Mike Maffei or Bob Bruce if you have any usable toys or clothes which can be distributed to make Christmas a little happier for some children and families in need.

### MERRY CHRISTMAS



*A candle's but a simple thing  
It starts with just a bit of string  
Yet dipped and dipped with patient hand  
It gathers wax upon the strand  
Until complete and snowy white,  
It gives at last a lovely light.*

*Life seems so like that bit of string  
Each deed we do a simple thing;  
Yet day by day if on life's strand  
We work with patient heart and hand  
It gathers joy, makes dark days bright,  
And gives at last a lovely light.*

The Officers, Directors and Staff of the Met GCSA  
wish you and yours a Merry Christmas  
and a Blessed and Prosperous New Year.



1985 Met GCSA Board of Directors (left to right): Larry Pakkala, Director; Ted Horton, Director; Chuck Martineau, Past President; Bob Alonzi, Treasurer; Harry Nichol, Director; Pete Rappoccio, President; Jim McLoughlin, Executive Director; Mel Lucas, Director; Scott Niven, Secretary; Bill Gaydosh, Director; Pat Lucas, Vice President.

Not pictured above are the three new appointments to the Met Board of Directors: Tim O'Neill will fill the one year unexpired term of Pat Lucas, Dennis Patruzzelli, Class B representative, and Bob Mullane, Class C representative.





#### EDITORIAL STAFF

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<i>President</i>	Peter Rappoccio, Silver Spring Country Club Office 203-438-6720; Home 203-431-3990
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<i>Secretary</i>	Scott Niven, The Stanwich Club Office 203-869-1812; Home 203-629-2594
<i>Treasurer</i>	Robert Alonzi, Winged Foot Golf Club Office 914-698-2827; Home 203-531-1930
<i>Executive Director</i>	James McLoughlin, 914-769-5295

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

#### For Sale

1970 John Bean, 200 gallon, rubber tire spray tank. \$800.00  
1975 Jacobsen 84" Turf King. \$1,500.  
1972 National 84" Mower with new reels. \$1,500.  
Call Bill Caputi  
(914) 698-4610 (club number) or  
(914) 698-6131 (office number)

#### For Sale

Cushman Spiker.  
Contact Pat Lucas, Innis Arden Golf Club, (203) 359-0133.

#### For Sale

1979 Toro Pro "84". Good condition. \$8,000.  
Contact Jim Medieros, Golf Club of Avon, (203) 673-3570.

#### For Sale

Continental Shop Hoist. 3 Ton capacity. Never used. 2 Year warranty. \$600.00.

Contact: Dave Heroian  
Rockland Country Club  
(914) 359-5346.

#### Plans for 1985 Winter Seminar Complete

January 9, 1985, the date; 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the time; and Westchester Country Club, the place for MGCSA's Annual Winter Seminar. An exciting array of speakers are set to stimulate the brain cells of those in attendance. Topics to be presented include: Selecting Grasses for Golf Course Use; The Art of Supervision; A New Look at Fungicides; Tree Selection; A Look at the Experimental Growth Inhibitor, "Cutless," and a thought or two on Alternative Spraying Techniques. Dr. Houston Couch of VPI heads an all star line-up of speakers that includes: Dr. Richard Hurley of Loft's Seed Company, Mr. Frank DiLucia of the Finance America Co., Ray Korbobo of J.A. French Associates as well as several other interesting speakers.

Mark your calendar now so as to be sure not to miss a really fine educational format. Be sure to bring club officials, assistants and other valuable crew members . . . much will be learned.

Watch the mail for program and registration materials. Advance registration will save you several dollars and help your planning committee to boot!!

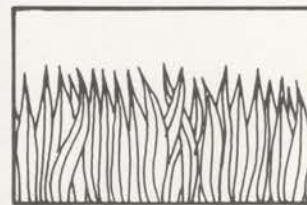
— Steve Cadenelli

#### Recertification of Applicators

As the state certification of applicators program approaches its sixth year, there is an increased interest on the part of commercial applicators in the recertification process. In order to be certified initially, an applicator must pass a written exam given by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Passing that examination qualifies the applicator for six years provided the annual renewal fee is paid. At the end of six years, an applicator must be recertified. An applicator will be eligible to be recertified if he or she has earned sufficient recertification credits to qualify in the major category of certification (see end of article for credit requirements).

The certification system now in place became fully operational in September, 1978. Thus the first recertification cycle ended in September, 1984. Any applicator who obtained initial certification in the fall of 1978 or earlier will be due for recertifi-

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cation at the next renewal (Fall, 1984.) Anyone who first obtained certification after that time will be due for recertification on the sixth anniversary of their original certification.

Any applicator who has been unable to obtain the needed credits for recertification will be able to take a recertification exam in their major category. The exams are designed to test for the increased skills and knowledge that would be expected if the individual had obtained training in their major category. The purpose of the exams is to acknowledge that a significant amount of self education and training can take place through independent reading and through interaction among professional applicators. Because the exams are an alternative to formal training, they are designed to be significantly more difficult than the initial certification exams.

Specific information about certification exams will be sent to applicators 4-6 months before their required recertification date, but the following provides some information.

Applicators who meet the training requirements in their Category (that category which requires the most credit hours), will be considered recertified in all of the categories that they are currently certified upon payment of fees.

Applicants failing the exam will be required to retake the recertification exam or opt to earn recertification credits. There is no time period required between taking exams.

The time limit on the exam will be 3½ hours to answer 100 questions.

Applicators will not be permitted to take the exam prior to the last full year in their recertification cycle.

A fee of \$10 will be required for each exam. Applications who are classified as "fee exempt certification" will also be fee exempt for the recertification exams.

Some additional changes that are going to be made in the recertification programs are that effective April 1, with no exceptions after September 1, courses for recertification credit must be approved and assigned credits by the Department prior to the issuance of the conference notification. Also beginning September 1, 1984, the Department of Environmental Conservation will no longer be responsible for keeping records on the number of recertification credits earned by each applicator. In-

dividual applicators will be required to keep track of their own credits and will be required to present proof of credits earned at the time of recertification.

### Credit Requirements

	Recertification by	Credit Hours
1a. Agricultural Plant	workbook	10
1b. Agricultural Animal	training	10
2. Forest	training	10
3. Ornamental and Turf	workbook or training	10
4. Seed Treatment	training	10
5a. Aquatic Vegetation	training	10
5b. Aquatic Insect	training	10
5c. Fish	training	10
6a. Highway ROW	training	13
6b. Railroad ROW	training	13
6c. Utility & Pipeline ROW	training	13
7a. Structural & Rodent Control	training	20
7b. Fumigation	training	10
7c. Termite Control	training	13
7d. Lumber & Wood Products	training	10
7e. Construction	training	10
7f. Food Mfg. & Processing	training	20
7g. Cooling Towers	training	10
7h. Other	to be determined	
8. Public Health	training	13
9. Regulatory	workbook and training	10
10. Demonstration	workbook and/or training	10
11a. Pilot	training	10
11b. Aerial Agricultural	subcat. 1a. requirements	10
11c. Aerial Forest	subcat. #2 requirements	10
11d. Aerial Public Health	subcat. #8 requirements	10

Source: Cynthia D. Harmon, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Credit: Cornell University  
Commercial Floriculture &  
Ornamental Horticulture Newsletter  
Cooperative Extension Association of Westchester County

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## Notice

Dear Met GCSA Member:

Your Association is considering sponsoring a GCSAA Regional Education Seminar in our area. We have several potential topics to choose from as listed below. If you would be interested in having a specific topic presented, please contact Scott Niven and let him know your choice.

### Potential Seminars

Title	CEUs	Days
Basic Turfgrass Botany and Physiology	2	2
Computers in Golf Course Management	2	2
Irrigation Equipment Technology and Operations	2	2
Golf Course Design Principles	2	2
Golf Car Fleet Operations	2	2
Human Resource Management	2	2
Familiarization with Food and/Beverage Management	2	2
Intermediate Rules of Golf	1	1
Plant Nutrition	2	2
Disease Identification and Control	2	2
Insect Identification and Control	2	2
Union Relations and NLRB Regulations	2	2
Ornamental Pest Management	2	2
Personnel Policies and Procedures	2	2
Familiarization with Accounting Procedures	1	1
Budgeting and Forecasting	1	1
Financial Management	2	2
Personal and Managerial Productivity	1	1
A Historical Overview of Golf	1	1
Newsletter Editor's Seminar	1	1
Communication, Assertiveness and Self-Promotion	2	2

\* We can also custom design a seminar to meet the needs of your members.

## Not Even a Gold Watch

*Current evidence indicates that there is a wide spread lack of pension plans for superintendents. Many superintendents, upon retirement, are finding themselves with nothing to show for their years of loyal service.*

by Fred V. Grau

Having concentrated on helping people grow turf for so many years, I must confess that I have not given adequate attention to the very important consideration of pensions and retirement benefits for golf course superintendents. Only recently have I become painfully aware of serious deficiencies in the "system." I now ask the rhetorical question, "Is there a problem? just for openers.

In developing a background for an honest answer to the question, I have contacted leaders in Pennsylvania and across the nation by letter, by telephone and in face-to-face conversations. My real contact with golf course superintendents started in 1935 when I began my 10-year travels in Pennsylvania helping the "greenkeepers" to understand the basics of producing better turf. I've made a lot of friends, many of whom now are about to retire or have retired. Some, of course, have preceded us into eternity with little or no recognition. Those whom I first knew have now been in the business for 40 years or longer.

Most of us recall a man who was a loyal employee of a railroad or some industrial firm. At retirement time, he was given a testimonial dinner, an engraved gold watch and many admonitions to "stay healthy." At that point he was considered unemployable and, in many cases, when forced in unaccustomed idleness, he just "dried up and blew away." I knew one who died the day before his "retirement party." As I receive reports from friends in turf, I gain the distinct impression that many long-time superintendents have been summarily retired or released, often without the customary dinner, watch and admonitions. What a pity!

At this point, I will answer my own question unequivocally and without hesitation or fear of contradiction. *Yes, there is a problem.* The problem is not just in Pennsylvania or in Kansas or in California. It is very nearly universal. Details are not a part of this editorial. They will be documented in a later article from

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*Golfdom.* In the meantime, it is my hope that club officials will have read this piece and will make a meaningful start toward establishing an adequate pension retirement program for the golf course superintendent. It is later than you think! WHAT? NO PENSION?

A good friend of long standing, a retired golf course superintendent now living in Florida, wrote to me recently. After 26 years of devoted service to the club (and he had many good years of service left) he was 'retired,' actually dismissed, without a pension of any kind. I know the man and I know the club. He introduced innovations in equipment, fertilizers, ground covers and many other things. What I don't understand is how the businessmen for whom he worked could so callously turn him out to pasture without the thank you and the courtesy of some sort of pension or endowment. It is a bit like unharnessing the horse, opening the pasture gate and giving him a slap on the rump.

This friend is understandably bitter, soft-spoken as he is. It is too late to turn back the clock for him, but his experience, which is shared by many, should guide present and future negotiations between club and superintendent. Surely there must be some guidelines that can help the new or old superintendent achieve a just and honorable contract, which will help to sustain him when he retires. Club officials should bow their heads in shame if they do not insist upon some such stipulation in the contract. One may safely assume that nine out of 10 businessmen in the club have made sure that they will have a retirement income. Shouldn't they also do the same for one of their most devoted employees?

I have just talked to another good friend who has been at his club since it was built in about 1952. He has tried to negotiate a retirement benefit for several years, but each time he is told that he is being selfish in wanting something just for himself. These short-sighted officials one day will wonder, "Why can't we attract good men?" The horse is not likely to be drawn to an empty feedbag.

You can help Dr. Grau by writing him directly at Drawer AA, College Park, MD 20740. Tell him what kind of a pension plan you have, or if you presently have no plan, let him hear about it.

Individual letters will be kept in the strictest confidence.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Well done, Fred. This is only part of the problem. Another relates simply to "job security." Due to the Committee structure and frequent turnover within most clubs, apathy and neglect on the part of these Committees may be the fundamental problem.

Credit: Northwest Turfgrass Topics, September 1984

## Management Factors Affecting Green Speed

by Dr. Joseph M. Duich

Steven Langlois

Pennsylvania State University

*In 1983 MGCSA provided partial funding for the research project "Management Factors Affecting Putting Green Speed." The project is being conducted at Penn State under the direction of Dr. J.M. Duich and his research assistant, Steven Langlois. What follows is a progress report that was issued to MGCSA this summer.*

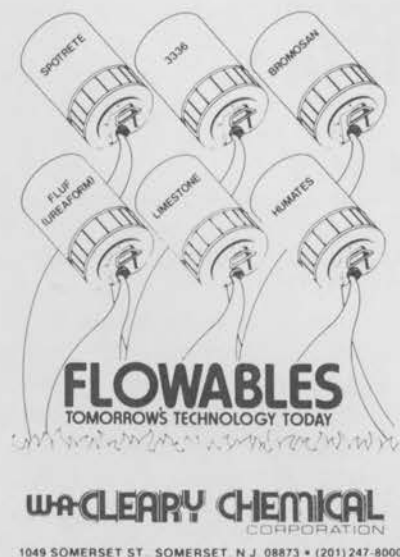
Putting green speed continues to receive much attention because of the Stimp meter. This instrument now allows superintendents to quantitatively measure the speed of greens in a quick simple procedure. The increase in attention has made it necessary to understand how all management practices affect green speed. This Progress Report presents results on the second phase study on management factors affecting putting green speed conducted at The Joseph Valentine Turfgrass Center at The Pennsylvania State University.

The study began with these objectives:

- 1) To learn how management factors affect putting green speed. Therefore, we designed experiments to study the effect of height of cut, watering, topdressing, verticutting, brushing and mechanical rolling.
- 2) To determine how the firmness of a putting surface affects speed.

### Research Facility

The Joseph Valentine Turfgrass Research Center has approximately two acres of creeping bentgrass maintained as putting greens; one half of which is used for our study. All of the re-



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search was done on Penncross and Penneagle creeping bentgrass. The turf received preventive fungicides, 2½ lbs./1000 sq. ft. of nitrogen for the year and regular maintenance watering.

### Results of Management Practices

1) We continued measuring seasonal speeds on Penncross and Penneagle creeping bentgrass mowed at ⅓", ⅔", and ⅞" six times a week. Putting green speed increased significantly from 8.0 feet to 10.0 feet as the mower was lowered from ⅓", to ⅔". However, the ⅔" cut only further increased speed approximately 4". This was not always significant and suggests that it may not be advantageous to mow that close for the additional speed. These speeds were recorded on both varieties with no significant difference between the two.

2) In July 1983, 10 rain-free days with temperatures in the upper 80's allowed us to conduct additional moisture effect on Penneagle mowed at ⅔". Water treatment received daily measured irrigation applied to provide surface saturation, whereas the non-watered was only syringed to sustain grass. The non-watered areas never exceed the watered by more than 4" over an 8-day period. These data further confirm preliminary results that withholding moisture does not substantially increase putting speed. Results are opposite the common belief that dry surfaces are faster. Wetting agent at 6 oz. per 1000 had no significant effect on speed over five consecutive days following application.

3) A fine sand, 90% remaining on a .10mm sieve, was used to study the effects of topdressing on speed. On an area mowed at ⅓" rate 1, 40 lbs./1000 sq. ft. of sand applied approximately once a week, and rate 2, 400 lbs./1000 sq. ft. of sand applied in the spring and fall, were compared to a check. The area chosen for the experiment was an 8 year stand of Penncross and Penneagle high in thatch. The sand applications on this type of surface failed to change the speed. Therefore, we decided to more effectively firm the surface. In September 1983 we heavily verticut, aerified and topdressed with sand, and the same procedures are planned for 1984.

4) Verticut and brushing treatments, alone and in combination, were applied to Penncross mowed at ⅓" and ⅔". Near weekly treatments consisted of double "nip" verticutting with a Hahn at high rpm. and/or brushing with a Bunton rotary brush. Prime interest was in the higher, ⅔" cut. At this height, the frequent light verticutting increased speed an average of 12" over a 10-week period, whereas brushing alone was near identical to the check. Combined brushing and verticutting was similar to just verticutting.

At ⅔", verticutting only increased speed about 3" over the control, and the combination treatment was similar. Brushing alone was slightly slower than the check for five weeks, and only slightly faster for the next five. The quality or trueness of ball roll is being studied in this test, and another on multiple varieties. It is difficult to quantify trueness of ball roll.

5) Mechanical rolling effects were studied using an "Augusta" sand box and frame weighing 70 additional pounds mounted on a Jacobsen walker mower. Treatments on Penneagle at ⅓" consisted of single and double rolling after rolling for 2 to 6 consecutive days. Single rolling increased speed from several inches to approximately a foot proportionate to number of days rolled; whereas double rolling increased from 12 to 18 inches, also proportionately. In all cases rolling effects subsided

to control levels the second day after rolling ceased.

6) Quantification of firmness. It is assumed that firm green surfaces roll faster, but subjective measurements of firmness has never been achieved. Preliminary results using an Instron compression analyzer are very promising. Continuous compression at variable weight pressures appear capable of measuring just the foliar deformation, as well as thatch or other underlying materials under the canopy at higher pressures. In 1984 we plan to use this instrument to further refine firmness under various management variables, and hopefully to correlate firmness and speed.

All aspects of this year's work were continued in 1984, as well as other variables or modifications.

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for making this issue of *Tee to Green* possible

#### St. Nick

*It's snowing  
A glistening white  
Lo!  
A glow of red  
Bridges the sky  
With a huge pack  
Upon his back  
And never amiss of chimney stack  
As a spirited ring  
Of A Child's cheer  
Awakens the still night*

— Frank Paladino

#### 1985 Tournament Filling Up

Over 100 entries have been received for the 1985 Golf Championships to be held in Hilton Head Island on February 4-5. The field will be limited to 288, so if you are interested in playing in the tournament, send your registration in NOW!

If you have registered for the tournament, but have not sent your housing reservation form to the Hyatt in Hilton Head, don't delay — send it soon. GCSAA has an adequate number of rooms blocked off at the Hyatt, but on December 31, 1984, those rooms will be released. After that, the rooms will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

#### Reminders

If you are sharing a room with another tournament participant, be certain to include all names on the housing reservation form. The Hyatt must have the names of all room occupants so that GCSAA can make sure everyone gets their \$55 room credit for staying at the Hyatt.

If you are staying at the Hyatt on Tuesday evening, February 5, 1985, your tournament banquet ticket is included in the cost of your room. If you aren't staying at the Hyatt on Tuesday and wish to attend the Tournament Banquet, you must purchase a ticket.

For more information on the tournament or if you have questions, contact Diana Green at GCSAA Headquarters 1-800-GSA-SUPT.

#### Correction

The registration fee for the 1985 GCSAA Golf Championship (February 4-5 on Hilton Head Island) is \$160 — not \$145 as reported in the September issue of *Golf Course Management*. The fee includes a \$55 room deposit. For more information, check the magazine article or call Diana Green 1-800-GSA-SUPT.

— GCSAA News

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## At the Heart of Heart Disease

### Not the Cholesterol You Eat, But the Company You Keep

If you feel socially isolated because you have few friends, are widowed, or change jobs and move away, you could be increasing your chances of getting coronary heart disease.

In fact, some researchers think, the lack of meaningful personal contacts – “social isolation” – may be a risk factor for heart disease as important as the commonly accepted hazards of smoking, elevated cholesterol levels and a high-fat diet.

“Our research and studies by others have produced data (showing) that something about relationships with other people has important consequences for health,” says S. Leonard Syme, professor of epidemiology at the University of California at Berkeley.

Syme, who presented his findings at the American Heart Association’s science writers forum, said the established risk factors for coronary heart disease do not explain all the disease that occurs.

The association has identified eight “major” risk factors. Four of them – heredity, sex, race and age – can’t be changed. But the other four – cigarette smoking, high blood pressure, blood cholesterol levels and diabetes – can be modified if people change their habits.

Nevertheless, a study found that 42 percent of the people who developed coronary heart disease in a 10-year period became ill without having two or more of these risk factors. This prompted Syme and other social scientists to begin hunting for new risk factors.

“First, we have known for some time that rates of disease were somehow higher among people who are mobile, who change jobs and move around geographically,” Syme said. “Social isolation also makes sense of another statistic we’ve known for a long time – that divorced, widowed and single people have higher disease rates than married people. It also makes sense of the Type A pattern (the striving, diligent, ambitious behavior linked to coronary heart disease). Type A people don’t have time to devote to intimate social relationships.”

Men in Japan have the lowest rates of coronary disease in the world, but those who migrate have much higher rates. Syme found that Japanese men who adopted a more western life-style – who, for example, spoke more English and broke away from the community to have more non-Japanese associates – had heart disease rates three to five times higher than those who retained their traditional Japanese way of life.

Previous research had explained this difference by a change to a western diet that was higher in cholesterol. But Syme said the higher disease rate showed up independent of the way the men ate or smoked or their cholesterol level and blood pressure.

Was the new life-style, then, a factor in the disease rate?

“The maintenance of close social ties is of paramount value in traditional Japanese culture,” said Syme. “When the Japanese say, ‘A rolling stone gathers no moss,’ it does not mean the same thing as when an American says it.”

“In Japan, moss is a highly treasured plant,” Symes explains,

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"and a stone with moss is highly regarded. The only way one can acquire moss (or value) is to remain in place."

Syme and his colleagues next studied the social relationships among 7,000 persons in Alameda County, California. Syme's researchers checked health department records and found a two-to-three fold difference in the death rate of those who were relatively isolated compared to those with more extensive social ties.

A major problem remained. Were people who reported fewer social contacts already ill? If so, their poor health might be the cause of both their reclusiveness and their higher disease rate.

However, researchers at the University of Michigan recently conducted a study that apparently answered the troubling question. They followed 2,700 adults in Tecumseh, Michigan and included a clinical exam at the first interview. The study, which extended for 10 years and is yet to be published, confirmed previous surveys by finding that those reporting more social ties were far less likely to die. But, equally important, the clinical exam also found that a person's health at the onset of the study was not a factor in whether he had close social ties.

The studies seem to show that the quality of a person's relationships does not matter.

The only crucial factor is whether a person belongs to a close social network. "It's important that your're married," Syme said. "But it doesn't seem to matter whether or not you're happy about it."

### Seagulls Bomb Execs With Their Own Golf Balls

Seagulls bombarding golfers with their own golf balls have sent Smith & Wesson executives diving for cover and forced the gun company to close its newly installed driving range.

"Clearly the birds think the balls are clams," said Jim Baird, conservation director for the Massachusetts Audubon Society. "It's typical gull behavior to pick up clams and mussels and drop them again and again until the shell breaks."

Lee J. Deters, president of the unit of Greenwich-based Bangor Punta Corp., could not be reached for comment early

yesterday afternoon. His secretary said both Deters "and our man in charge of the gulls" were closeted in meetings.

However, a company official, who asked that his name not be used, said that shortly after the driving range was set up behind the gun company's sprawling headquarters complex, the birds began "cavorting with our balls."

The gulls, who are year-round residents on the cleared fields that surround the fenced and closely-guarded plant on a bluff above the Connecticut River, would swoop down, scoop up a ball and wing off with it in their beaks, he said.

But the real problems began when the birds began indiscriminately strafing whatever happened to be underneath in their futile attempts to crack open the balls.

"We viewed it as a safety problem," the company official said. "The balls would up in the parking lot, on the roads . . . We shut down the range until we can determine how to operate it safely."

The birds had no preference for white balls, he said. "They seemed to go for any color ball - green, red, whatever."

Company officials, searching for ways to solve the problem, have received a number of suggestions, including broadcasting tape recordings of sounds gulls find unpleasant or hiring a falconer, he said.

"This hasn't been known to happen before," he said. "We contacted the National Golf Association and they said that they had never heard of gulls picking up golf balls, even in Florida and along the Gulf."

"The Smith & Wesson people just need to pick up their balls faster or learn to duck," said Baird. "Gulls will zero in on any whiteish object lying on the ground that resembles a clam."

"Birds are creatures of habit. If it was the same gulls all the time, the negative reinforcement of not having the golf balls break open when they dropped them, would cause them to lose interest eventually," he said. "But if they keep getting new gulls all the time, its not a problem that will go away."

Credit: AP, The Advocate

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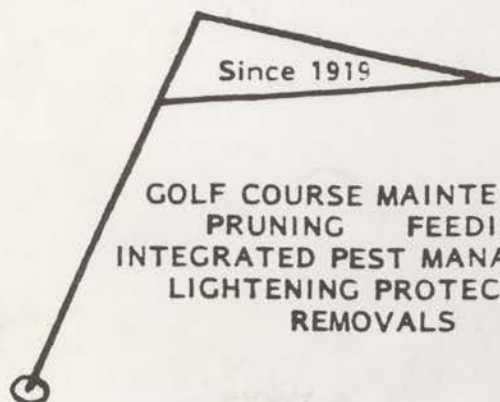
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