



May 1984

Published monthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

Vol. XIV, No. 4

Meeting Notice

Date: Tuesday, May 15, 1984
 Location: Greenwich C.C., Doubling Rd, Greenwich, CT 06830

Host
 Superintendent: Paul Caswell
 Club Manager: John Moreland
 Golf Professional: Jerry Coats
 Greens Chairman: Samuel Stowell
 President: John Stanger

Telephones:
 Supt., 203-869-1000
 Clubhouse

Golf: 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Carts: \$16.00
 Caddies: \$12.00 plus tip

Format: Better Ball of 2 w/full handicap
 Pick a partner before May 15th
 \$7.00 Fee/player
 Team Competition:
 MGCSA vs. CAGCS

Lunch: 11:00 a.m. on from menu - sign chits
 Social Hour: 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., hors d'oeuvres
 Dinner: 7:30 p.m. \$25.00, tax, tips incl., sign chits

Program: Brian Silva-Cornish & Silva Architects.
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Directions: Merritt Parkway to exit 31 - North Street - turn right (south) on North Street. Travel 2.9 miles to Doubling Rd. - on left. Turn left onto Doubling Road, follow signs to club.

July 10 MGCSA Summer Social, Fairview C.C.
 July 11 Cornell Univ. Field Day
 Orange Cty. Sod Production Area
 MGCSA Meeting
 July Family Picnic, Woodway Beach Club
 August 20 MGCSA meeting, Innis Arden G.C.
 September 27 MGCSA meeting - Green Chairman/
 Superintendent, Whipoorwill C.C.
 October MGCSA Annual Meeting,
 Fairview C.C.
 Nov. 15 NYS Turfgrass Association Conference
 and Trade Show, Syracuse, NY
 Nov. 7-9 MGCSA Christmas Party
 Dec. MGCSA Invitational, Stanwich Club
 June 6, 1985



Our host for the May meeting is Paul Caswell, Superintendent of the Greenwich Country Club in Greenwich, Connecticut. See page 11 for his profile.

Coming Events

May 15 MGCSA Joint Meeting with CAGCS
 (date change) at Greenwich C.C.
 June 4-10 Westchester Classic, Westchester C.C.
 June 11-17 U.S. Open, Winged Foot Golf Club
 June 28 MGCSA Invitational, Mount Kisco
 (Date/Club change)

MGCSA News

At this point, 1984 is shaping up to be very similar to the record setting rainy spring of 1983. Again, maintenance has been curtailed, and capital projects delayed. Let's hope that by the time you read this *Tee to Green* the situation has changed. (for the better)

Your Board of Directors has been busy implementing our



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

MGCSA Management Research Project. A newsletter committee has been established and has held several meetings to discuss all aspects of *Tee to Green*. Serving on the Newsletter Committee are Ted Horton, Pat Lucas, Steve Cadenelli, Dennis Petruzzelli, Rachel Therrien and Jim McLoughlin. Very soon all MGCSA members will be receiving a survey regarding several aspects of *Tee to Green*. Please respond!

The Tournament Committee has been meeting regarding golf events and future plans. Serving on this committee are Jim Fulwider, Larry Pakkala, Tim O'Neill and Jim McLoughlin.

It should be noted here that President Chuck Martineau has stressed that membership input is desired in developing this Management Research Project. Anyone having ideas they would like to share are encouraged to communicate their ideas with the Board of Directors.

At a recent Board of Directors meeting the following applications were acted upon:

Paul Veshi	Class B to A
Byron Johnson, Jr.	Class A to C
Mike Oleykowski	New Class C member

WELCOME TO THE MGCSA

Again, Ted and I ask for any articles you may have, bits of news, turf tips, etc. to share with your fellow members.

Remember our next meeting at Paul Casell's Greenwich Country Club on May 15th.

Pat Lucas

Blue Hill Golf Club Meeting,

April 19, 1984

Frank Bevelacqua, Host Superintendent

Golf Results

We had a total of 36 players in the tournament. Nineteen from the Met GCSA, 10 from the Hudson Valley, and seven guests.

The Hudson Valley Association were the winners with an average gross score of 87.9 for their 10 players. The Met GCSA tallied an average gross score of 90.9 for the 19 players.

First Low Gross:	77 Jerry Kane, Hudson Valley
Second Low Gross:	81 Bruce Jensen, Hudson Valley
First Low Net:	67 Mike Leal, Met GCSA
Second Low Net:	71 Scott Niven, Met GCSA
Third Low Net:	71 Larry Pakkala, Met GCSA
First Low Gross:	81 Dan Dina

(guest)

Our Par Excellence speakers for the evening were Sherwood Moore and Ted Horton who gave an interesting presentation on "Preparing for a U.S. Open."

Our thanks to Host Superintendent Frank Bevelacqua and everyone involved for making this a successful meeting.

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Suppression of Poa Annua Seed Heads

by **Bill Gaydosh, Superintendent**

Edgewood Country Club, River Vale, New Jersey

During the fall of 1979, trial applications of Embark were made to try to suppress poa annua seed heads in the forthcoming spring. I have always been a user of growth retardants such as Maintain, and MH30 around trees, steep banks and stream banks, to help eliminate hand work on the golf course.

When Embark was introduced by the 3M Company, it was claimed that it would stop seed head production in any plant, so I became interested in attempting to suppress seed heads on poa annua with this product.

Applications were made at a rate of 16 ozs. per acre on different fairways on the golf course during the middle of November, 1979. The treated turf discolored badly, and in the spring of 1980 there were very little seed heads but also there was some turf loss in the treated areas, which was mostly poa annua.

During the middle of November 1980, application of 12 ozs. and 8 ozs. were applied. There was the same discoloration but in the spring of 1981 there were many seed heads in the treated areas. The loss of turf was not as great as with the 16 oz. rate. It was decided to switch to a spring application during the following season.

In early April, 1982, applications of 12 ozs., 8 ozs. and 4 ozs. of Embark per acre, were applied to different fairways on the golf course. The 12 oz. and 8 oz. rates looked extremely good. There was just slight discoloration in the beginning, but within two weeks these areas looked greener than the untreated areas and had no seed heads. The 4 oz. rate did have some seed heads and did not look as good as the areas treated with the higher rates.

In early April, 1983, ten acres of fairways were treated with the 8 oz. per acre rate of Embark, along with two tees and the back of one green. The results were quite drastic. There were no seed heads in the treated areas, and the contrast between treated and untreated areas was like night and day! These treatments worked so well that all fifty acres of fairways and three acres of tees will be treated in 1984.

The following observations should be noted:

1. The application should be made early in April or when turf is first greening up. This is important since seed heads develop almost at the same time that the poa annua starts to grow.
2. It is necessary to make sure that the sprayer is calibrated correctly, with new nozzles on the boom. Make sure all screens are clean inasmuch as any misses will be extremely visible.
3. Spray when there is dew on the turf, or use some type of marking system so there will be no misses during application.
4. When the grass plant starts to come out of the chemical reaction around the end of May, the plant has excellent color and growth. No fertilizer should be applied at this time or any other time during the procedure.
5. If leaf spot is a problem or blue grass varieties are being treated, a fungicide must be applied. The treated turf is more susceptible to leaf spot at this time.
6. If low wet fairways are a problem an application of Embark at the 8 oz. rate will not only reduce seed heads, but will also eliminate 50 to 70% of mowing required in these areas.
7. The grass does seem healthier in June when there is no longer any reduction in growth.

In closing, the treatments to date have worked well, and our program will be expanded in 1984.

For TG Authors –

Publication Deadlines:

June Issue	June 1
July Issue	June 29
August Issue	July 27
September Issue	September 7

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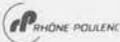
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Memo from GCSAA: Rule Decisions

Several important Rules Decisions have evolved as a result of the revision of the *Rules of Golf* for 1984. These Decisions are included in the Consolidated USGA-R&A Decisions Book now available. The Decisions in question are listed here in their entirety.

* * * * *

20-2c/1.5 Dropped Ball Rolling Nearer Hole Than Original Position

Rule 20-2c(vii) states that a dropped ball shall be re-dropped without penalty if it rolls and comes to rest nearer the hole than is permitted by the Rules. It is not clear what "than is permitted by the Rules" means in certain situations.

For example, a player taking relief under Rule 24-2b(i) (Obstructions) or Rule 25-1b(i) (Casual Water, Ground Under Repair and Certain Damage to Course) must first determine the point nearest to where the ball lies which (a) is not nearer the hole, (b) avoids interference by the condition and (c) is not in a hazard or on a putting green, and he must then drop the ball within one club-length of that point on ground which fulfils (a), (b) and (c).

Rule 20-2c(vi) allows a dropped ball to roll and come to rest up to two club-lengths from where it first struck the ground without it having to be re-dropped.

Q. If a dropped ball rolls and comes to rest nearer the hole than its original position, but within the limit allowed by Rule 20-2c(vi), may the player play it?

A. No. Unless a Rule or Local Rule specifically permits otherwise, a ball dropped under the Rules must be re-dropped if it comes to rest nearer the hole than its original position. Such specific permission is not given in either Rule 24-2b(i) or Rule 25-1b(i).

26-1/15 Ball Dropped Under Rule 26-1c Comes to Rest Nearer Hole Than Position of Original Ball in Lateral Water Hazard

A player's ball lies in a lateral water hazard alongside a green. The point (point X) where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard is nearer the hole than the place where the ball lies in the hazard. The player opts to proceed under Rule 26-1c(i), drop-

ping a ball outside the hazard within two club-lengths of Point X, and the ball comes to rest slightly farther from the hole than Point X but nearer the hole than the position of the original ball in the hazard.

Decision 20-2c/1.5 states that, unless a Rule specifically permits otherwise, a ball dropped under the Rules must be re-dropped if it comes to rest nearer the hole than its original position.

Q. In view of this Decision, must the player re-drop his ball?

A. No. Rule 26-1c specifically provides that a ball dropped under that Rule must come to rest nor nearer the hole than the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard, i.e., Point X. Since Rule 26-1c makes this specific provision, Decision 20-2c/1.5 is not applicable in this case. The player's ball is in play where it lies not nearer the hole than Point X and must not be re-dropped.

26-1/1.5 Dropping Ball Behind Water Hazard

Rule 26/1b states that, when dropping a ball behind a water hazard, the player must keep the point at which the original ball last crossed the hazard margin directly between himself and the hole, i.e., position himself on an extension of a line from the hole to the point. A player positions his body on the line, but he drops the ball an arm's length to the left or right of the line. Or the player positions himself an arm's length to the left or right of the line, but drops the ball on the line.

Q. Do both procedures satisfy the requirements of the Rule?

A. Yes. (Note: the principle in Decision 26-1/1.5 applies with respect to dropping a ball under Rule 28c behind the spot where the original ball lay unplayable.)

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Superintendents Change Standards for Tour Play

Our thanks to Jim Snow for sending in this article.

If the PGA Tour came to Eagle Trace, Bay Hill or Doral or any other of the "tournament course" in mid-August, would the players find the same course conditions they do in February or March when the tournaments are held? Are the PGA and LPGA tour courses – of which there are now approximately 20 in Florida – in acceptable tournament condition 12 months of the year?

In most cases, the answer is, "No." Tour professionals play under much different conditions than the average golfer. The conditions that exist for the tour player are ones that club members and the general golfing public find somewhat undesirable. These include very closely mowed fairways, long rough and extremely "fast" greens. These conditions are also very difficult and very expensive to maintain on a year-round basis. Turfgrass that is mowed very low, as the tour players like it, is generally under much greater stress.

Tour players are strong, highly talented professionals with consistent, nearly perfect swings. They have a great deal of golfing finesse, including a putting stroke and touch that can benefit from – and score well on – extremely "fast" greens. Their wood and iron play takes advantage of the tightly mowed fairway grass. These conditions exist consistently on a week-to-week basis for the tour players, and because they are the best players in the world, their talents are best displayed when these conditions exist.

The course standards for tournament play are prescribed by the PGA and LPGA tours. Each tour has turf professionals who meet and work with the golf course superintendent at each tournament course. It is the superintendent's job to make sure that tournament golf course conditions are met. There are guidelines for fairway widths, types of sand traps and how they should be raked, and procedures governing mowing heights for tees, fairways, rough, collars and greens on a daily basis.

In order to achieve these results, golf course superintendents must possess a great deal of knowledge about the different grasses and how different maintenance practices are used to achieve desired results. They must understand how different weather

conditions cause grasses to grow or not to grow, when to fertilize, when to irrigate and when and how to apply properly numerous types of pesticides.

They also must understand the highly technical equipment that is used to fine tune courses to desired specifications – equipment that costs from \$2,500 for a walk-behind greensmower to \$45,000 for a hydraulic powered fairway mower.

Most importantly, they must be able to relate how each of these practices comes closer to attaining course conditions that tour professionals consider ideal.

Overall course condition can affect the winning score of a tournament by 8 to 10 strokes, if not more. A green that does not put well can cause even the best of players to miss putts. A fairway that has longer grass than is ideal for professional expertise can reduce the amount of good shots that hit and hold on the green. If a golfer cannot hit a shot with a backspin on it, the ball will not hold on the green. This explains why, when a golfer hits a shot out of the rough, television commentators will say, "He hit a flyer." The golfer was not able to get any backspin on the ball. The ball was in deep rough and he was not able to get all of the clubface on the ball.

Course conditions, if less than ideal, can cause unfairness of the test of the tour golfer. Golf is a game based on skill. If there are course conditions that do not test and reward a well hit shot, and instead involve luck, then these conditions are undesirable. Granted, there is a certain element of luck. Golf courses are not always perfect for the pros, and golf course superintendents cannot make everything perfect, but it is part of their job to minimize these occurrences.

For example, if a golfer putts the ball with a *perfect* stroke, at *perfect* speed, the ball should go into the hole 90 percent of the time or better. An imperfect green might only allow the ball to go into the hole 75 percent of the time or less. Greens that are not smooth and lack good speed can cause the number of putts per round to be higher than a nearly perfect green. The superintendents at the tour courses have an obvious talent to be able to create some of these extraordinarily smooth, true putting surfaces.

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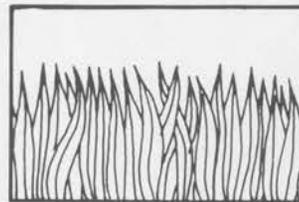
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and the golf course itself rests with the golf course superintendent. He is the individual who can ultimately provide a fair test and provide the tour golfers with conditions that test their true expertise. He also is the same individual who best understands what type of course conditions are best suited for the non-professional golfer, and must be able to adapt maintenance practices to achieve these standards.

Today's golf course superintendent must be a versatile, progressive turf professional who not only has the knowledge of the golf course environment, but also has the ability to create conditions effectively to test each skill level suitably and fairly.

—Credit: Florida Golfweek, March 1, 1984



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NY Turfgrass Conference Expands & Relocates

The NY State Turfgrass Association will hold its 1984 Conference and Trade show, in Syracuse, NY from November 7-9, 1984 following the record breaking success of its 1983 Conference and Show held in Rochester, NY.

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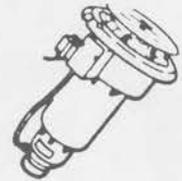
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– Superintendent Profile –
Paul Caswell
 Greenwich Country Club
 by Pat Vetere
 Superintendent, Canyon Club

The May meeting of the MGCSA will be held at Greenwich Country Club. Host Superintendent is Paul Caswell.

Paul was born and raised in Southern Rhode Island. As a youngster growing up, Paul got his first taste of golf caddying at Point Judith Country Club in Narragansett, RI. At this time and during his college years at the University of Rhode Island, Paul had no interest in golf course maintenance. He earned a major degree in Ag. Business with a minor in Ag. Science. While interviewing for jobs his senior year, Paul decided that he wasn't an Ag salesman or interested in anything else available. It was at this time that Dr. Skogley convinced Paul to take an assistant superintendent job at Woodway C.C. under Sherwood Moore. Paul stayed there two and half years before landing his first superintendent's job at Oronoque Village Golf Course in Stratford, Connecticut. The Golf Course was still under construction and therefore provided many challenges and problems most superintendents would not have come across on established courses. Paul feels strongly that every superintendent should have the opportunity to view a new course come into being and deal with the many problems. For example, all the endless hours of removing rocks and stones that appeared in the fairways because of frost, ground settling and smoothness of seed bed required. Paul stayed four years at Oronoque Village before moving on to Greenwich Country Club in 1974 and he has been there ever since.

Greenwich Country Club is one of the oldest golf courses in the area. It was first founded as the Fairfield Golf Club in 1892 and was only nine holes informally laid out. In 1908 or so, it was changed to Greenwich Country Club. Many architects have done work on the course over the years to bring the course up to the layout it is today. They include Seth Raynor, Donald Ross,

Trent Jones, and Geoffery Cornish. Greenwich Country Club is a family oriented complete club. By complete, I mean they have facilities not only for golf but for bowling, squash, skeet and trap shooting, paddleball, tennis and swimming. Because of so many other facilities, Paul feels that this presents a problem when trying to obtain capital money. The money has to be spread out over so many areas of the club.

Paul has begun a minor renovation and upgrading of current aspects of the golf course layout. Last year Geoffery Cornish was brought in to take an overall look at the course. He made quite a few recommendations which will be completed within three years. They include reshaping and enlarging of traps, enlarging and contouring of present greens by mowing only, 5000 yards of drainage and a five year tree planting program. This tree planting program will not be intensive but strategic. Paul feels that an open course is easier to maintain and provides an easier layout for many club members who are not of a low handicap caliber.

Paul feels the most important quality today a superintendent can have is knowing where to set your priorities during the growing season. Long hours and total dedication are a must for success in this business.

I asked Paul, "What is the most rewarding aspect of our profession?" He responded, "Knowing in your heart that you did the best job you could and feeling proud enough to have your peers here to play golf."

Paul also feels rewarded when people who worked for him go on to successfully manage their own golf course. They include Tim O'Neil, Scott Niven, John Lensing and Barry Anes to name a few.

Paul currently lives on the property of Greenwich Country Club. He feels this is an advantage because during the early evening he can drive the course and plan the work that has to be done. He feels he can do his best thinking when the day is done.

Paul's hobbies include golf, traveling and swimming. Many thanks to Paul for this interview and good luck in the coming season.

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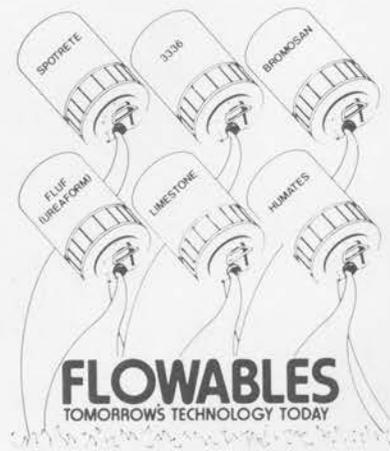
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Animal Behavior Can Teach Humans Ways to Handle Stress Effectively

Work-related stress can cause a lot of unhappiness, less-than-optimum performance and, in extreme cases, illness. Dr. Charlotte Tatro, a Florida sociologist quoted at a recent conference, suggests the harried manager can learn much from the way in which animals react to stress. Among her observations:

- Know when to retreat from a losing battle. Most animals stop fighting when there's no longer any hope of winning. Many competitive humans refuse to give up.
- Give yourself breathing room. Most animals stake out their own territory and neither allow their territory to be invaded nor invade the territory of others. Similarly, people should avoid crowded, stress producing situations.
- Avoid bad environments. When conditions turn bad in their environment, animals migrate to another. People could avoid a lot of stress by following their example, and "migrating" out of uncomfortable situations – unsatisfactory jobs, boring friends, and so forth.
- Seek support from those close to you. When animals are threatened, they huddle together for comfort and defense. Likewise, people under stress can derive comfort from loved ones.
- Simplify your lifestyle during hard times. Animals instinctively lower their birth rate when food is scarce. People faced with scarcity should pare down their spending in order to avoid the stress of having to pay for unneeded luxuries.

Credit: AmTemp

Slide Sets on Diseases, Insects and Weeds

Three different 35 mm. slide sets, one each on insects, diseases and weeds of turfgrass, are now available from the N.Y. State Turfgrass Association. These slide sets are a useful tool in the identification and diagnosis of turfgrass problems, and are of value to turfgrass superintendents of golf courses.

The 66- slide set on turfgrass diseases, compiled by Dr. Richard Smiley of Cornell University, pictures the characteristics and effects of snow mold, leaf spot, dollar spot, rust, red thread, slime mold, striped smut, mildew, fairy rings, brown patch, melting out, fusarium and pythium. The 76- slide set on insects of turfgrass in the northeast, compiled by Dr. Haruo Tashiro of the NY State Agricultural Experiment Station, pictures a variety of chafers, beetles, weevils, sod webworms and chinch bugs and the damage they do to turf. The 80- slide set on weeds, compiled by Dr. Arthur Bing and Robert O'Knefski of Cornell University, features line drawings and identifying photos of 16 common weeds including annual bluegrass, crabgrass, goosegrass, tall fescue, nutsedge, wild onion and garlic, woodsorrel, clover, dandelion, ground ivy, plantain, chickweed, knotweed and black medic.

Each slide set is \$30 for NYSTA members and \$35 for NYSTA non-members, and includes a written key, handling and third class postage. Add \$1.50 per set for first class postage. If membership in NYSTA is desired with the slide set order, send an additional \$25 and pay the member price for the slides. Send your check made payable to NYSTA to the N.Y. State Turfgrass Association, 210 Cartwright Blvd., Massapequa Park, NY 11762.

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Golf Tournaments To Benefit Turfgrass Research

The New York State Turfgrass Association has added a second golf tournament to the already successful Poa Annual Golf Tournament held the last two years to raise funds for the turfgrass research program at Cornell University. The addition of the second tournament makes it geographically possible for anyone in the state to participate in this event.

The *Poa Annual Upstate* Tournament will be held on September 10, 1984 at Fox Fire Country Club in Baldwinsville, NY, outside of Syracuse. The *Poa Annual Downstate* Tournament will be held on September 17, 1984 at Spook Rock Golf Club in Suffern, NY. Spook Rock has been rated as one of the top 50 clubs in the country by Golf Digest Magazine. Both tournaments will have five flights, sponsorships, prizes and will include dinner.

Assisting the New York State Turfgrass Association with the tournaments will be the Central New York Golf Course Superintendents Association, The Finger Lakes Association of Golf Course Superintendents, and the Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association.

For further information, contact (Upstate) Mr. William Stark, Cortland Country Club, P.O. Box 202, Homer, NY 13077 or (Downstate) Mr. Steve Smith, I & E Supply, 66 Erna Avenue, Box 9, Milford, CT 06460.

Fund for Turfgrass Research

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the United States Golf Association have joined together in a joint effort to raise funds to support turfgrass research.

GCSAA supports the unprecedented research project initiated by USGA to develop and produce quality turfgrass that will thrive with minimum water and maintenance. GCSAA President James W. Timmerman, in a message to superintendents, said, "Accelerated research leading to the development of grasses that are drought tolerant, less costly and easier to maintain are crucial to golf's survival."

The first phase of this research is being implemented in 1984 through a \$332,000 commitment by the USGA. Over the next ten years, \$5 million will be needed to accomplish this much needed research.

GCSAA and USGA are jointly urging their members and all others interested in the future of golf to contribute to this research to insure that green golf courses and the game of golf will always be a part of our lives.

"It is really important to us in working with GCSAA on this joint project. It is the greatest cooperative effort ever between USGA and GCSAA - it is truly a new era. The joint project is important, not only to us, but the cementing force is what it will bring to the future of golf," so said William H. Bengeyfield, National Director, USGA Green Section.

Individuals and organizations interested in supporting turfgrass research may wish to contact Mr. Don Spencer, USGA Golf House, Far Hills, NJ 07931 for further details on this joint effort.

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Memo from GCSAA: Writers' Guidelines

As an association representing the golf course superintendents of America, we are looking for both scientific and general articles related to the golf course and its maintenance. Our editorial scope is wide-ranging and would embrace personality pieces on people involved with course maintenance in the present or in the past.

Mechanical: Manuscripts should be typed on a 50-space line (1st margin at 20, second at 70). Double-space between lines. We use a blend of Associated Press and magazine style for *Golf Course Management*.

Language: Even the most scientific articles should be written in simple, conversational style - using verbal illustrations to make a point. We stress short sentences, short words and short paragraphs. (A mono-syllable is better than poly-syllables.)

Photographs: Both black and white and color are accepted, although we prefer color. Ektachrome transparencies or slides are preferred over Kodachrome. If the slides are of exceptional value, we prefer that you send us dupes of the slide. When this is done the dupes should be made at a custom color lab and you should order "repro-quality" dupes.

Prints should be made by a custom color lab, not quick-stop photo shops. Finish should be smooth rather than a matte.

Other art should be in ink. If you have illustration ideas but lack artistic talent, we will accept rough ideas in pencil for consideration.

Golf Course Management is planned well ahead of its 12 publication dates. To get an article in the May issue, your manuscript should be in by March 10.

Revisions to USGA Golf Handicap System Announced

The United States Golf Association Handicap System has been revised, effective April 1.

"Our volunteer committees and staff have worked hard to refine the USGA Handicap System to ensure that the USGA Handicaps issued by authorized golf clubs and amateur golf associations continue to be respected throughout the country," James R. Hand, USGA President, said.

Revisions to the USGA Handicap Manual include:

1. Consecutive nine-hole scores are to be combined and posted as an 18-hole score for handicap purposes. Previously, many golfers could not obtain a USGA handicap because they rarely played an 18-hole round. "We believe that requiring consecutive nine-hole scores to be combined and used for handicap purposes will help public course players to be able to establish USGA Handicaps and enjoy the game of golf even more," Hand said.

2. Reference to men's and women's tees has been eliminated. Henceforth, terms for tees will be Back (Blue), Middle (White) and Forward (Red). USGA Course Ratings for men and women can be assigned to any set of tees, and all golfers can play from the tees they most enjoy. Authorized golf associations have been requested to issue additional USGA Course Ratings to facilitate this change.

3. Sections on Course Rating have been rewritten in view of the new USGA Course Rating System, under which various obstacles are evaluated to determine the final USGA Course Rating.

4. A new procedure for allocating handicap strokes to the holes of a course, called "Method Based on Scores," has been added.

5. The USGA Handicap Formula for determining the number of scores to be used when less than 20 scores have been returned has been changed, effective Jan. 1, 1985. Presently, if a player has returned eight scores, the lowest four are used to calculate USGA Handicaps. Under the new formula, less than 50 percent of the best scores returned are used until the player has returned 20 scores.

6. A club which is not a member of a golf association, but follows the USGA System, must adopt the same playing season and revision schedule as the golf association having jurisdiction in its area.

7. For purposes of handicapping, definitions of a "golf association," "golf club" and "Handicap Committee" have been added, which has made it clear that clubs comprising public-course golfers can qualify to use the USGA Handicap System.

The new USGA Handicap Manual is available from the USGA, Golf House, Far Hills, NJ 07931, for \$2.

2,4-D and Agent Orange Back on Trial

2,4-D and Agent Orange are back on trial again, as the five year old lawsuit continues. This time, a new judge will be presiding over the case; Judge Jack B. Weinstein. He has set a trial date for May 7, 1984.

Until Judge Weinstein took over the case from George Pratt, who was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals, the litigation had centered on the government-contractor issue. Now however, Judge Weinstein says the question of whether Agent Orange is really to blame for the Veterans' illnesses and disorders, should be addressed first. This will also bring 2,4-D back into the trial. It is hoped, however, that as the trial proceedings begin to examine scientific data, 2,4-D will once again be deemed irrelevant to the trial.

Just last February 1983 in an Agent Orange hearing in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, the court's Special Master Sol Schreiber said "... the plaintiffs do not contend that it's material to the issue, (and to deal with 2,4-D) would be burdensome and a waste of effort and expense."

The Agent Orange litigation began five years ago with a class action suit. Nine companies and the government are being sued for alleged health disorders of Vietnam veterans and birth defects resulting from exposure to Agent Orange. Agent Orange, a mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, was sprayed from airplanes to defoliate the Vietnam jungles, thus reducing the possibility of enemy ambush.

Credit: National Coalition for a Reasonable 2,4-D Policy

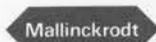
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