



# Tee to Green

Jan./Feb. 1987

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## Winter Injury Can Cause Summer Problems

by Kenneth A. Flisek  
Golf Course Superintendent  
The Apawamis Club

SERIALS

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In the past few weeks my thoughts have started to change from how am I going to spend my vacation to what type of condition will the golf course be in after the winter. I had begun to wonder if I had done everything to ensure the healthiest turf possible. Had I maintained the turf going into the winter at a height that would strike a balance between being high enough to insulate against dessication and low temperature kill while low enough to guard against moisture retention which may promote disease? Are the fertility levels what I thought necessary to ensure winter root growth and spring recovery while not being excessive enough to promote disease? Did the late fall topdressing provide adequate insulation or should I have covered some of my problem greens?

I feel comfortable with all of the management decisions that I had made. However, one decision that I did not make has me worried. Perhaps the most important factor affecting the condition of the greens in the spring is the decision to play alternate greens or not. Unfortunately, at Apawamis, like a few other clubs, the regular greens are played year-round. (See survey on page 4.) The decision to keep the greens open was made by the Golf Committee several years ago and is not even open for discussion.

Everyone realizes that certain problems in the spring can be attributed to winter play on regulation greens, but I wonder

what percentage of the membership is aware of the increased maintenance costs and season-long problems that result from year-round play on greens. Had I educated as many members as possible to the best of my abilities, or did I not stand up for my convictions on this issue? Can the resultant damage be worth the allies lost in a battle as heated as this? The answer to this question is difficult as every course is unique because of the physical properties of the soil, the moisture retention properties of the soil, the environmental conditions of that course, the amount of

trees around the greens, and most important, the amount of play during the winter months.

The argument I most often hear is that "a few spring topdressings will make the greens putt as true as ever." If that were the case, I would not be concerned. The fact is, however, winter play on greens has a much longer and much greater impact during the entire season. Let me mention some of the problems that may not be communicated properly to the golfing public.

(continued on page 4)



"Look Ed, there goes one of those ski nuts!"





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**Safety**

**President's Message**

Here in the Northeast, the winter months provide time to "bone-up" on the latest technological and research discoveries impacting our industry. We are fortunate to have so many educational opportunities available to us and our staff in the form of seminars, service schools, turf management short courses, field days, and various regional and international conferences and shows. The TEE TO GREEN Committee, chaired by Ken Flisek and John O'Keefe, is working to continue to make our publication an extension of this information.

One issue being mentioned more and more is safety in the workplace. At a recent meeting of the TEE TO GREEN Editorial Committee, safety in the workplace surfaced as one of the many topics for consideration to write about this year. Attending that meeting gave me a renewed determination to focus more emphasis on the safety aspect of our operation here at Innis Arden. At this writing the "how to" part of accomplishing this has not yet come to me, but it will.

Here then, for the "what-it's-worth department" are some areas I will be concentrating on this season:

**Personnel Training** – Providing adequate training for the various jobs our workers are asked to perform. Films, manuals and cassettes are becoming available to aid in this endeavor. Each equipment operator will be required to read the operator's manual as a bare minimum requirement.

**Pesticide Requirements** – Existing laws governing licensing, storage, application, right to know, disposal, etc.; all must be complied with. There is no shortage of information available on compliance requirements.

**Fire Protection** – Maintenance facilities and equipment should comply with existing fire safety laws. The club's insurance underwriter could be helpful in arranging an inspection of the workplace for the purpose of improving safety.

**First Aid** – How do we handle emergencies? What about first aid supplies, eye wash stations, showers, contacting para-medics, poison control center telephone numbers, lightning policy for course personnel, etc., etc.

This message raises questions, while not answering any. Because they need to be answered, they will be. As professionals, we are responsible for a valuable piece of real estate; but more importantly, for discharging our responsibilities. We are also responsible for providing a safe workplace for those individuals who work with us.

Safety in the workplace is receiving more attention. If you have a situation at your course where safety was improved, or a hazardous problem solved, please share it with us. TEE TO GREEN is an excellent vehicle for sharing ideas and solutions to problems with fellow superintendents. Please contact Ken Flisek, John O'Keefe, or anyone else on our Editorial Committee. Thank you.

– Patrick Lucas, CGCSA  
President

# Take Care of Your Trees

by **Tony Baviello**  
Golf Course Superintendent  
Pelham Country Club

Trees are one of the greatest assets on a golf course. Their usefulness lies in diversity. Not only can a tree be used for beauty and landscaping purposes, but also for directing a player where to hit the ball.

One of the most important things to look at is the value of the tree. Some trees are between 50 and 200 years old. These trees are priceless. The only way a tree of this size can be replaced is with time, so it is imperative to start taking a good look at them. In order to preserve their beauty and value, I would recommend implementing a pruning, inspection and planting program.

Pruning is more than simply making a plant beautiful. Trees can change the condition of your course. Dry areas on greens and tees may be caused by stands of trees taking needed water and nutrients from areas. Most of the water absorbed by trees are transpired. Therefore a combination of pruning both branches and roots will help considerably in changing these dry areas. Pruning can actually strengthen the tree which will help prevent breakage and allow air movement. Therefore, you can change the climate of the tree, making it less susceptible to attacking organisms that need a denser foliage. A good pruning should be done when needed or as often as your tree program permits.

A good inspection of at least the key trees should be done. Have a trained person look for insects, fungus and mechanical or natural breakage. An inspection of the root flair should also

be done. Too often, visible signs of stress are ignored. Gurtling roots, for example, eventually strangle a tree but are usually overlooked. The absence of a root flair would mean that either the tree was planted too deep or regrading may have occurred without having taken into account that it may severely inhibit the growth of the tree, possibly even resulting in the death of the tree. The overall growth habit of the tree should also be inspected. If you notice smaller growth trends from one year to the next, this indicates that there is something interfering with the normal yearly growth. A good inspection is needed to properly diagnose the program.

The final area a golf course manager should be finely attuned to, is the need for replacement and addition of trees. They should be placed where trees have fallen, where the life expectancy of a weak tree is limited, or to clearly define a hole. Additionally, certain trees can be instrumental in solving drainage or very moist area problems. Trees such as sourwoods, weeping willows and swamp maples tolerate extremely wet conditions and adding the right amount could alleviate the problem. Since the method of water absorption is so great, why not put it to your advantage?

I hope that golf courses and golf course managers everywhere take the time to assess the trees already on their courses, realize the potential of additions and start recognizing trees for the valuable asset that they are. ■

## Coming Events

### FEBRUARY

18	NJGCSA Winter Seminar	Cook College Student Center
19	Terre Company Seminar	Robin Hood Inn Clifton, NJ
24 & 25	GCSAA Regional Seminar Golf Course Construction & Project Management	Sheraton Airport Inn Albany, NY
25, 26	Rutgers Turfgrass Seminar	Cook College New Brunswick, NJ

### MARCH

3-5	Massachusetts Turf Conference	Springfield Civic Center Springfield, Mass.
11	19th Annual Professional	Nassau Mem. Coliseum
11	Turf Plant Conference	Uniondale, NY
25 (Wed.)	Met GCSA Business Meeting	Elmwood CC
26 (Thurs.)	USGA Seminar	Sleepy Hollow CC

## GCSAA Election Results

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## Winter Injury (continued from page 1)

During the late fall, as the frost begins to enter the ground, grass blades become frozen and brittle. Traffic under these conditions can break or crack the leaf tissue, rupturing the cell walls. This discolors the turf, but more importantly it slows down recovery in the spring.

As winter sets in, the grass plant becomes dormant. The turf then becomes more susceptible to wear because there is no regenerative growth to replace worn-off leaf tissue. This lost tissue can no longer serve to insulate the critical growing points, thereby making the plants more susceptible to death from dessication, low temperature kill or disease.

When the frost comes out of the ground in the spring, usually the same time most golfers come out of hibernation, the turf and underlying soil are the most damaged. Roots can be sheared off between the soft upper inch of the soil and the frozen layers below with even a minimal amount of foot traffic. At the same time, the upper soil surface is compacted resulting in footprints on the putting surface. The depressions can be filled by topdressing but the damage to

the soil by compaction is permanent. The conditions most conducive to this type of injury can change daily, even hourly on a warm spring day, and even vary across the course. It becomes imperative to close the greens during these critical times.

Most of the injuries mentioned are highly visible, but there are equally as many problems which may not become evident to the casual golfer until much later, if at all. With any winter injury, whether it be dessication, disease, ball marks, foot-printing or soil compaction,

the end result is generally an increase in the amount of *Poa Annua*. As we know all too well, more *Poa* means more summer headaches, more syringing, more fungicide applications, more dollars spent and a greater chance of turf loss during the height of the golf season.

The decision to restrict traffic on greens during the winter is an easy one agronomically. However, the burden is on the superintendent to continually educate the public on the benefits of temporary greens and the resultant expenses if they are not used. The extent of the problems caused from winter play are directly proportional to the amount of play. It is up to individual memberships to determine, after consultation with their superintendent, what amount of play on that course will cause more damage than would be acceptable to the entire membership, and then decide what action, if any, should be taken to prevent excessive damage. Perhaps, if we, as superintendents can communicate well enough, and at least keep traffic to a minimum during the most crucial times, our job may be easier in the summer and the course will look even better for it. After all, isn't that what the golfers want to? ■

## Winter Play Survey

January 12, 1987

The purpose of this survey was to determine how many clubs are using alternate greens.

responses	46	
alternate greens	30	65%
regular greens:		
little or no play	9	20%
heavy play	7	15%
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## Superintendent Profile

Reported by John O'Keefe

Pio Savate is host Golf Course Superintendent for the Met GCSA Business Meeting on March 26 at Elmwood C.C.

Pio has been employed at Elmwood for the past 27 years. He began in 1959 as Golf Course Mechanic, moving on to Assistant Superintendent and then in June of 1976 he was appointed Superintendent.

Born and brought up in Italy, Pio studied at the Vatican for 7 years preparing for the priesthood. He first came to America in 1955, when at the age of 21, and because of his father's American citizenship he was drafted into the U.S. Army.

Pio's turf education was achieved by working his way through the ranks of his employment and attending seminars and meetings enabling him to exchange ideas with his peers.

Away from work Pio enjoys watching the game of soccer, something that brings him back to his childhood in Italy where soccer is the way of life for a young boy.

The biggest pride in Pio's life, of course,

is his family. In 1958 Pio married his bride Celia and they have three sons, Larry (27), Edmund (24), and Damian (21). ■

## 2 Fishermen Hook A Corpse

FORT PIERCE, FLA. – Two New Yorkers angling for bluefish felt something tug on the line and discovered they had hooked the body of a murdered man, police said yesterday.

An autopsy showed that Timothy Nolan Yoder, 30, had been shot twice in the head at close range. Yoder had moved from Riverside, Calif., to Fort Pierce within the last six months.

There are no suspects. Medical Examiner Leonard Walker said Yoder probably was thrown off a boat because water was found in his lungs, indicating he had breathed after going into the water.

Vacationing New Yorkers Charles Martineau and William Gaydosh dragged the body 150 yards through the water on a 15-pound test line that had hooked Yoder's clothing, cops said.

– United Press International ■

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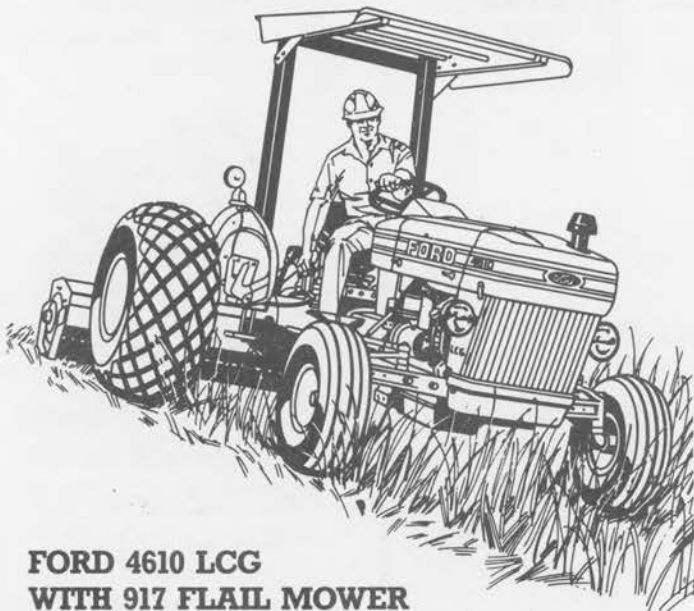
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## New Code of Ethics

The GCSAA Board of Directors has adopted a new Code of Ethics. It reads as follows:

**As a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, I accept and fully agree to abide by this Code and pledge myself to:**

1. Recognize and discharge all my responsibilities and duties in such a fashion as to be a credit to this Association and profession.
2. Practice and insist upon sound business and turf management principles in exercising the responsibilities of my position.
3. Utilize every practicable opportunity to expand my professional knowledge, thereby improving myself and my profession.
4. Maintain the highest standards of personal conduct to reflect credit and add to the stature of the profession of golf course management.
5. Base endorsements, either written or verbal by means of any medium, strictly upon satisfactory personal experiences within the item identified.
6. Refrain from encouraging or accepting considerations of any value without the express understanding of all parties that said consideration is available to all in similar circumstances, and that no actions shall be forthcoming as a result of acceptance.
7. Recognize and observe the highest standards of integrity in my relationships with fellow golf course superintendents and others associated with this profession and industry.
8. Assist my fellow superintendents in all ways consistent with my abilities.
9. Abstain from the untruthful debasement of, or encroachment upon, the professional reputation or practice of another superintendent.
10. Lend my support to, and actively participate in, the efforts of my local chapter and National Association to improve public understanding and recognition of the profession of golf course management.
11. Abstain from any unfair exploitation of my Association, industry or profession.
12. Present information and participate as a witness voluntarily in all proceedings to which there exists evidence of a violation of this Code of Ethics. ■

## Moore Receives Green Section Award

Sherwood Moore, a prominent name in golf course management for more than four decades, has received the 1987 Green Section Award of the United States Golf Association.

Announcement of the award was made by Marion B. Farmer, chairman of the USGA Green Section Award Committee.

The award has been presented by the USGA annually since 1961 in recognition of distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass. Moore received his award February 2 at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Show in Phoenix, Arizona.

Moore has been an innovator in turfgrass management throughout his career. He was one of the first superintendents to use arsenicals and sodium arsenite on a wide scale, a development that for decades became the best known method of controlling poa annua bluegrass.

His work as golf course superintendent


included two tenures at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, N.Y., where he directed course preparation for three USGA championships—the 1959 and 1984 U.S. Opens and the 1980 U.S. Senior Open.

He also was an administrator, serving as president of both the New Jersey and Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Associations as well as the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Moore also passed his expertise on to others. He is credited for producing more assistants or student workers as golf course superintendents than any other superintendent in the country. As one nomination of Moore stated, "This shows Mr. Moore's true love for the game of golf and the profession of golf course superintendents."

He continues to be active in many associations in the Northeast as well as with the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Foundation. ■

**Reminder: Dues are now due!!!**



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According to the company, the program has been reviewed and accepted by OSHA and is recommended by the American Society of Safety Engineers. It is available on VHS or Betamax videocassettes and is supplemented by employee handbooks, supervisory manuals and additional materials. Spanish language versions also are available. For more information, contact Safety & Systems Management, Inc., 9 13895 Industrial Park Blvd., Suite 110, Minneapolis, MN 55441, (612) 553-9760.

- Credit: *Almost News* ■

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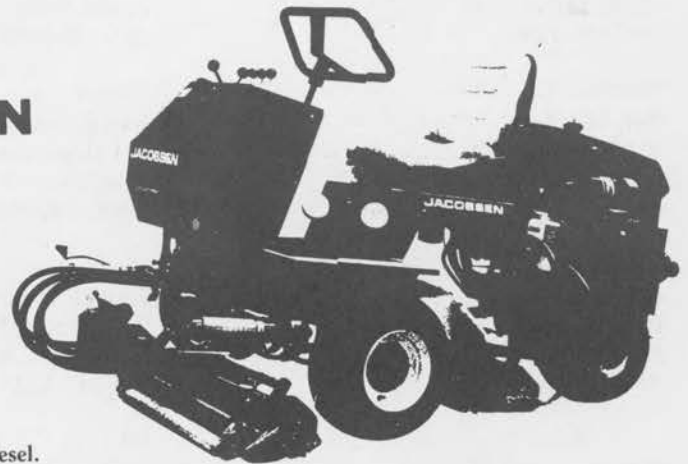
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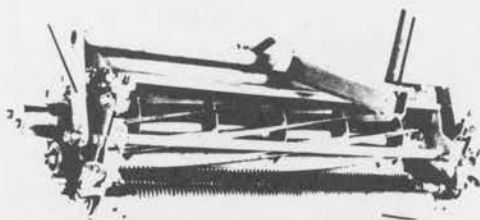
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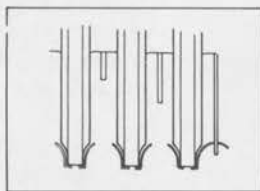
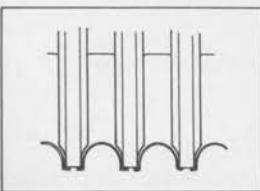
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