



TEE TO GREEN



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Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

Looking Back at 1990

A productive year for the MetGCSA

As I complete my first term as president and reflect on its outcome, I feel it's been a productive and fruitful year. But of course, our many successes are due, in large part, to the active participation of the MetGCSA board and committee members. I'd like to thank them—and all our MetGCSA members—for another successful year. Here's a quick look at several of our 1990 accomplishments:

1. *Attendance at our monthly meetings has soared, thanks to our members' more active participation.*
2. *Membership numbers are up significantly from last year. We can attribute that growth to a few factors: We seem to be attracting more members from outside the Met area, such as New Jersey, and our Class C and CS categories have grown.*
3. *As you've probably noticed, we're ending the year with a new look to the newsletter. Though we won top honors in last year's GCSAA Chapter Editor's Contest, there's always room for improvement. One area the contest judges recommended we improve is the masthead on our front cover. So the newsletter committee consulted with an outside designer and settled on the solution you see in this issue. Editor Tim Moore and Managing Editor Pandora Wojick have been doing a tremendous job putting (continued on page 2)*

Special Feature

Scheduling for Success

Ted Horton, Westchester Country Club's Director of Sports and Grounds, offers a simple approach for avoiding conflicts between your maintenance schedule and the club's calendar of golf events

At last count, U.S. golfers were teeing up to the tune of 500 million rounds a year. In the Met area, that averages out to about 22,284 rounds per private course—not including outings. And believe it or not, these numbers are rising. (See accompanying piece on page 4 for statistics.) Though the soaring interest in golf is great for club revenues, for the superintendent it presents a whole host of new—and not necessarily welcome—challenges. Among them: continuing to produce top-quality conditions on a course taxed by intensified traffic—and securing enough time in the club's golf calendar to do it.

The key to meeting both these challenges, I believe, is communication. The superintendent must communicate and work with club board members and committees to minimize conflicts among golf outings, member play, special events, and course maintenance.

In short, as superintendent, it's your job to ask the club to periodically review and adjust its schedule of play to accommodate your maintenance needs.

Here's a four-point discussion plan I've used with great success at Westchester Country Club. With a little nip and tuck, it could work at your club too—and perhaps spare you a few scheduling conflicts down the road.

1. *Determine the exact level of maintenance your membership wants—and is willing to pay for—and whether it can be worked into the club calendar. You should be well aware of the direction your club wants to go with its course conditioning. Once that's understood, you'll naturally communicate the costs—equipment, materials, labor—involved in various levels of maintenance. But equally important is that you ensure your club understands the time involved in special maintenance (continued on page 4)*

Also in This Issue

- ② A Look at Where MetGCSA Research Dollars Are Going
- ② Get Your 1991 Scholarship Application Forms
- ③ All About the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation
- ④ A Statistical Look at How Golf Has Grown
- ⑤ Member Notables
- ⑦ Why Chemicals Cost So Much
- ⑦ Educational Opportunities

Looking Back at 1990

all this together. We hope you'll find the time in '91 to offer your ideas for future articles or enhancements.

4. *To offset our increasing expenses and replenish our association's diminishing funds—without raising dues—the board decided to resurrect the Turfgrass Field Day.* Held this past September for the first time since the '70s, the event was a complete success thanks to Bob Lippman and his hardworking Field Day committee. Also important to the event's success, however, was the help and cooperation we received from Westchester Country Club staff, including MetGCSA members Patty Knaggs (superintendent) and Ted Horton (director of sports and grounds).

In addition to recognizing the board's and committees' contributions, I'd like to thank a behind-the-scenes person who's been crucial to the day-to-day running of the association's clerical affairs: Executive Secretary Jan Russo. Let's give Jan a round of applause for her undying dedication to our group and to improving our operations whenever she spots an opportunity.

I'm looking forward to serving another year as MetGCSA president and will continue to represent our association to the best of my ability. Here's to another great year—and a very merry holiday season.

LARRY PAKKALA, CGCS
President

Info Alert

A Look at Where Our Research Dollars Are Going

At the Annual Meeting, November 8, the MetGCSA Board of Directors approved the three research awards for 1990. Here's a brief description of the recipients' projects:

- \$2,500 is going to the Tri-State Research Foundation (see article on page 3), which will use the money to fund ongoing patch disease research being conducted by Dr. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers.

- \$1,500 will go to Dr. Richard Cooper of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, who is evaluating 25 bentgrasses that show promise for putting green turf.

- \$3,655 has been awarded to Dr. Joseph Neal of Cornell University for his work on goosegrass control in creeping bentgrass turf.

An additional \$3,000 of available funds will be left in our research fund for future considerations.

For a summary of each of these research projects, you can either contact me at Country Club of Darien, 300 Mansfield Avenue, Darien, CT 06820, 203-656-0600, or write the MetGCSA at P.O. Box 396, Mamaroneck, NY 10543.

TIM O'NEILL, CGCS
S & R Chairman

1991 Scholarship Application Forms Are Ready and Waiting

Applications are now available for the 1991 MetGCSA scholarship awards. The Scholarship and Research Committee will select recipients based on leadership, maturity, scholastic capabilities, activities, and commitment to a chosen career.

To be eligible, candidates must be

either a member of the MetGCSA or a dependent of a member. You can receive application forms by writing the MetGCSA at P.O. Box 396, Mamaroneck, NY 10543, or by contacting me at CC of Darien, 203-656-0600.

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In the Name of Turfgrass Research

Tri-State Turf Research Foundation formed to fund critical turfgrass research

A year ago, the presidents of the Long Island, New Jersey, and Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Associations, along with Metropolitan Golf Association staff, joined forces to formulate a local turfgrass research foundation. On November 5, 1990, the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, as the group is now known, was officially voted into existence, with the election of a 12-member board of directors.

The foundation, started with MGA funds, is controlled solely by the three local golf course superintendent associations. Its primary purpose, as the bylaws state, is to fund and coordinate research that will benefit the quality of turfgrass conditions at golf courses located in the greater New York Metropolitan Tri-State area. But the research actually accomplishes much more. In addition to helping improve turfgrass quality, it also aids:

- superintendents in applying pesticides safely and cost-effectively. Case in point: With a \$25,000 donation from the foundation in 1989, Dr. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers has made great strides in unraveling the patch disease mystery. He's pinpointed for superintendents not only the chemicals effective in controlling the debilitating disease, but also when and how much to apply. Before his research, superintendents could easily overuse or apply the wrong chemicals in their search for a solution to patch disease—both missteps at the expense of the turf and budget constraints.
- the discovery of safer, more effective means of controlling turfgrass

pests and problems. In addition to experimenting with various new chemical controls, research is being conducted to find biological controls for turfgrass pests, insects, and fungi. In the November issue of *Golf Course Management*, in fact, there's a piece on two researchers' success in combating grey snow mold with another fungus not pathogenic to turfgrasses. Other research is being conducted to uncover genetic controls, such as breeding plants resistant to various insects and diseases.

To continue to fund research valuable to Met area golf courses, the four founding member organizations will contribute \$2,500 annually. We'll also be asking each area club to contribute \$150 a year.

That's where your help, as a superintendent, is critical. Although the foundation has sent a mailing to green committee chairmen, it's up to the superintendent to support and explain the value of this fund-raising effort. Just think, every time you spray the course, you're spending about \$1,500. An annual contribution of \$150 is only one-tenth of the cost of one pesticide application. Even if the donation comes out of your budget, that's a small price to pay for the benefits you'll receive in return: the knowledge to perform your job more effectively, more safely, and, quite possibly, more economically.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any of the other board members. They're listed below for your convenience.

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Woodway Country Club

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Scheduling for Success

efforts—and is willing to clear the golf calendar to get this work done.

2. *Make your board aware of the timing of critical maintenance procedures.* Be sure to map out basic maintenance procedures critical to the growing season, such as aerification, insect control, disease prevention, topdressing, and fertilizing. Then ensure that the golf schedule permits ample time for these critical maintenance programs to be completed—without compromise.

3. *Review the club's major golfing events, and suggest that they be scheduled when the course can look and play at its best.* If you don't speak up, your club's golf events will grow to fill all available time and space. The drawback to an overcrowded golf schedule, as you know, is twofold: The course won't have time to recover between events, and your staff won't have the time—or enthusiasm—to adequately ready the course.

One of the most efficient ways to guard against "overcrowding" is to first categorize your club's major golfing events and then examine how they might mesh with a sensible maintenance schedule. Here's how we rank golfing events at Westchester Country Club:

- *Special Events:* In this category, I include such events as a Buick Classic PGA Tournament, a three-day Member-Guest, or a Hoffhine Memorial. You'll want to secure enough time in the golf schedule to not only prepare for these tournaments, but also clean up and recover after they're over. That way, you can guarantee the best possible publicity for your club while minimizing the negative impact to members.

- *Special Club Events:* Here, I'm talking specifically about Club Championships (Men's, Ladies', Seniors', Juniors'). I call these *special* club events because I believe they should be treated as nothing less than special. Recognizing a club's most talented golfers is important, so be sure to bargain for adequate time to prime the course.

- *Featured Events:* Club groups, such as Elbow Benders and Rug Beaters, have become popular at many clubs.

Allow a little extra prep time for their events to keep them exciting.

- *Golf Association Events:* Among the associations competing for club calendar time are the MGA, WGA, USGA, PGA, CMA, and GCSA. I feel each club should host its share of association events, but none should be held at the expense of the maintenance operation's activities. You might help the club select association events and then schedule them when you can best showcase the course. After all, many of these players will be from neighboring clubs.

- *League Events:* Juniors', Men's, and Ladies' League events are exciting to those who participate in them, but with increased play at Met area courses, I feel the leagues are going to have to reduce their demand for space at clubs.

- *Planned Play Days:* There are a lot of planned play days. Among them:

Seniors' Day, Ladies' Day, Nine-Hole Ladies' Day, Juniors' Day. Often, these planned days prevent maintenance activities from being completed on that day, week after week. A few solutions you might propose: alternating planned play days between courses (if your club has more than one course) or between nines; changing the day of the week; or any combination of the three.

- *Member-Guest Tournaments:* Men's, Ladies', Mixed, Seniors', Juniors' Member-Guests at some clubs are so frequent that both the golf and maintenance staff become too weary to give them the special attention they deserve. Suggest that your board carefully place them in the calendar to allow your staff to give these tournaments their due.

- *Prize Fund Events:* Like other events, these have various categories—Men's, Ladies', Mixed among them.

A Statistical Look at How Golf Has Grown in the Met Area

If you had the feeling this past season that you were spending more time dodging play than getting work done, you probably weren't too far wrong. Increased interest in golf has naturally meant increased play, not only in the Met area, but on golf courses across the country. In 1985, for instance, there were 17.5 million golfers in the U.S. Three years later, that number jumped to over 23.4 million.

For Met area courses, those numbers have translated not only into more member rounds, but also more golf outings and increased cart traffic. The MGA surveyed 100 courses in Long Island, New Jersey, Westchester, and Connecticut to see exactly how the "golf rage" has affected play in our area. Here's how the stats shaped up for 1989:

Number of Member Rounds

The average number of rounds at private courses was 22,284, not includ-

ing outings. The low was 8,250 and the high, 35,850.

Number of Outing Rounds

Outing rounds ranged from 200 to 6,667 per year. Among the clubs surveyed, 87 percent have outings. Of those, 76 percent said they're planning to schedule the same number of outings. Another 6 percent said they'll increase the number, and 18 percent, surprisingly, said they intend to reduce the number of outings held at the club.

Cart Traffic

The average club has 51 carts. In 1989, courses had an average of 6,863 cart rounds. For area clubs, that meant an additional income of \$138,638. So not only are carts here to stay, their use will probably increase. In fact, a number of the clubs surveyed said they'd like to install cart paths to allow play in adverse weather conditions.

MATT CEPLO

Westchester Hills Golf Club

My comment here would be to suggest that the golf committee examine the schedule to determine if they could pare down the number of club events. Too many events leave members little time to play unorganized golf and the course little time to recover. In the end, the membership will find it more memorable to play a few events on a quality course than to play a lot of events on a course in mediocre condition.

• *Opening/Closing Tournaments:* Whether Men's, Ladies', Seniors', Regular, or Winter, these events are a must in any club golf calendar. They're also a golden opportunity to communicate with the membership, whether it be about new staff members or course improvements.

4. *Explain the benefits of setting aside openings—at the start of the season—for outside events.* Often clubs will set up their calendar for outside events as requests from corporations and other groups come rolling in. The conse-

quence: These events may overlap—and interfere—with critical golf course maintenance procedures. It's best, therefore, to convince your club to determine, in advance, the dates available for sale—and then fill them on a first-come, first-served basis. That way, you can guide the club in scheduling special outings at a time that's good for you and the club.

There's no denying that, even with the best-laid maintenance schedule, keeping the golf course and grounds attractive and well maintained requires a lot of time and hard work. So the last thing you want to do is butt heads with your club's board and committee members over when and how you're going to find time between outings to produce the conditions they expect. Running through the four-point discussion plan I've outlined here will not only help you avoid these conflicts, it will help you and your club "schedule for success."

TED HORTON, CGCS
Westchester Country Club

Just Married

Congratulations and best wishes to **Gregg and Pat Stanley**. The two were married November 4 in Saratoga, NY. Gregg is superintendent at Rockrimmon Country Club in Stamford, CT.

Members on the Move

Tony Grasso took over as superintendent at Metropolis Country Club, White Plains, NY. Previous position: Superintendent, Willow Ridge Country Club, Harrison, NY.

Retired

Long-time Metropolis Country Club superintendent and '89 Sherwood A. Moore Award recipient **Bruno Vadala** has retired. Here's to many happy, healthy retirement years, Bruno.



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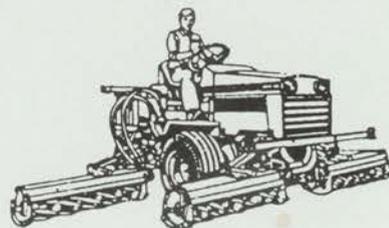
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The High Price of Environmental Stewardship

CIBA-GEIGY's Russ Nielsen explains the increasing costs associated with researching and developing environmentally sound products

Environmental stewardship doesn't come cheap—for chemical companies in particular. Due to the public's increasing concern over pesticide use, a greater percentage of chemical companies' costs are going toward researching and developing products—and manufacturing facilities—that are environmentally sound.

The result: New-and-improved products with hefty price tags. For superintendents, that may mean battling for a larger chemical budget. If that's the case, you'll no doubt need some ammunition: Here, then, is the low-down on what's behind rising turf product prices.

The EPA Price Tag

In the last decade, research costs for new pesticides have risen nearly fivefold:

- To register a new product with the EPA you have to spend four to five years generating data and two to three years processing the information and results. The total cost: approximately \$28 million.
- The EPA now requires that companies measure the impact of developmental compounds on aquatic environments, nontarget plants, bird populations, and residue levels in groundwater. Each test can take two years to conduct

and cost from \$.5 million to \$2 million.

- The demand for increased quality control in data has increased the price for testing in contract labs. In 1988, for instance, the cost of testing a compound's impact on bees was \$2,000. In 1989, that same test ran \$12,000.

Reducing Worker and Environmental Exposure

Companies are being asked to search for product enhancements that will reduce worker and environmental exposure to turf products. The result: Packaging and formulation application costs have increased 35 percent since 1988. The positive outcomes:

- Packaging innovations, such as dissolvable bags, biodegradable packages, and closed delivery systems are in the works.
- Worker and environmental safety will be improved by formulation changes that include lower use rates, capsules, gel-packs, clays, and polymers that reduce leaching.

Building a Plant That's Safe and Sound

At CIBA-GEIGY, the costs of guaranteeing manufacturing facilities are safe to workers and the environment have risen a startling 800 percent since 1984. Worse news: Costs are projected to double in 1991.

Reeducating the Public

Proposed legislation, such as the Big Green proposition and other state propositions, could mean a ban on many of the chemicals now available to superintendents. CIBA-GEIGY, and other manufacturers, therefore, must spend money educating government officials and the general public about the need to balance the benefits and risks associated with turf and ornamental chemical use.

Like many companies in the turf industry, CIBA-GEIGY Turf and Ornamental Department recognizes that we're in partnership with the golf course superintendent to protect and preserve the environment. I hope the information I've provided here helps clarify the increasing costs of maintaining environmentally sound products.

RUSS NIELSEN
CIBA-GEIGY Corporation
Turf & Ornamental Department

Upcoming Events

Cook College's Educational Opportunities for Turf and Landscape Professionals

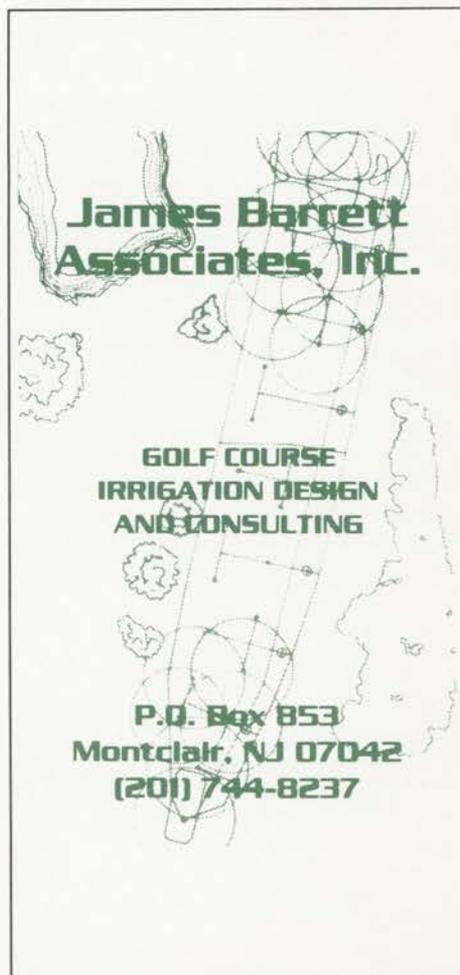
Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education offers selected courses for golf course turf managers. They range in scope from one-day seminars to multi-session courses and include such topics as "Basics of Plant Materials for Landscape Use," "Landscaping With Ornamental Grasses," and "Pruning Landscape Ornamentals."

For information on these and other Cook College continuing education courses, write to the Office of Continuing Professional Education, Cook College, P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0231, or call 908-932-9271. But don't delay, courses begin in January.

Seminar

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Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

For further information, call John Carlone,
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