



TEE TO GREEN

Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

Give, and You Shall Receive

It seems every time I pick up a newspaper or turn on the TV, the media is either doing a piece on the pros of organic gardening and lawn care—or the cons of chemical use. Unfortunately, where chemicals are concerned, the media prefers to give overzealous environmentalists more press than those who really know about how pesticides interact with the environment. (Did any of you happen to catch Ted Koppel's *Nightline* on ABC May 10?) The result, as you know, is that a growing number of people are fighting hard to have pesticides—and even fertilizers—either banned altogether or severely restricted.

Right now, a pesticide ban could spell disaster for golf courses, and golf course superintendents. Completely eliminating the use of chemicals—even in the near future—would severely affect turfgrass quality. And although researchers are making progress toward uncovering biological and genetic controls for many golf course pests and problems, they still have a long way to go. None, so far, have proved nearly as effective as the chemicals we're currently using.

So what is a superintendent to do? Well, you can't wait for the problem to disappear. It won't. You can't take on the media. They're far too strong. But you *can* support industry research—research devoted to (continued on page 2)

Special Feature

MetGCSA to Honor Cornish With 1991 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award

Canadian-born Geoffrey Cornish, who's had an awesome impact on golf course architecture worldwide, is the recipient of the MetGCSA's coveted John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award for 1991.

Cornish's selection was announced by Scott Niven of The Stanwich Club, chairman of the supers' Awards Committee. Cornish will be honored June 10 as a highlight to the MetGCSA's annual Invitational Tournament at the Patterson Club in Fairfield, CT.

Author, professor, lecturer, advisor par excellence, in addition to architect, Geoff Cornish has designed 241 courses over a most distinguished career, including two currently in the design stage in Milan and Florence, Italy. Many of Cornish's designs are scattered throughout New England, but his architectural signature or imprint stretch clear across the Metropolitan New York district.

Someone once said of Cornish that "his golf courses are works of art, works of diligence and time," and that "he obviously walks with the Good Lord in



Geoffrey Cornish, the Met's 1991 Reid Award recipient, studies plans for one of his many golf course designs.

Also in This Issue

- ② Here's Looking at Your May Meeting Host
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- ④ New Members
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- ⑦ Arcola Scramble: The Winners
- ⑦ Upcoming Events

Give, and You Shall Receive

finding controls that are *unquestionably* safe for the environment, whether they be natural or synthetic.

In our industry, there are plenty of opportunities to support research. There's the NYSTA Poa Annual Golf Tournament, our own association's S&R Fund, and the Tri-State Research Foundation, to name just a few. Today, funding these endeavors is more than "the benevolent thing to do," it's a

necessity, particularly if we're going to continue to produce the kind of golf courses that we, and our memberships, have grown accustomed to.

Keep in mind, you don't have to make a donation that'll break the bank, but *do* give something to help preserve an industry that, quite frankly, has given *so* much to you.

LARRY PAKKALA, CGCS
President

Spotlight

The Host—and Club—Behind the May Meeting

If you attended the May 23 MetGCSA meeting and annual Manager-Superintendent Tournament, you've no doubt had the pleasure of playing Ridgefield, Connecticut's Silver Spring Country Club—and meeting veteran Superintendent and Property Manager Peter Rappoccio.

Peter's been with Silver Spring for 13 years. He started as superintendent in 1978 and, six years later, was promoted to property manager, which meant assuming the additional responsibility of maintaining the tennis courts, pool, and clubhouse grounds.

Peter's golf course experience began at an early age. At 15, he took a job on the crew at Fairview Country Club and worked through the course's construction phase alongside others who went on to become superintendents: Bob Alonzi, Bill Gaydosch, and the late Gene Grady, to name a few.

After graduating high school, Peter enrolled in St. Francis College in Maine, received a bachelor's degree, and was offered a position as a rehab counselor. It was then that he decided to pursue a career in golf course management.

He returned to Fairview Country Club, and soon after completing a two-year degree in Turf Management from Rutgers, he became assistant superintendent. That was in 1975. Three years later, Peter accepted the position as superintendent at Silver Spring.

Right now, Peter's juggling three major projects on the course: He's renovating his bunkers—four holes are completed so far—installing cart paths, and rebuilding his maintenance facility. None of them small undertakings, these are projects he says he'll be living with for the next few years—at least.

Though managing the course keeps him plenty busy, Peter still finds time to serve the association he once led. He was MetGCSA president in 1985 and 1986 and now serves on five of the association's committees.

Despite the magnitude of his professional duties, Peter still seems to be able to maintain balance in his life. He enjoys golfing, hunting, fishing, and, most recently, running. Though he says he doesn't have time to train seriously, he enters local races now and then, and manages to run 20 to 30 miles a week.

A father of two sons—Peter, 12, and Tim, 9—Peter's actively involved in their extracurricular activities. He's coached Pop Warner Football for the past three years and officiated for his sons' baseball and basketball teams. Peter's also an active participant in their school's PTA, now as past president. Peter's wife, Birdie, also plays an important role in the Ridgefield school system—as a registered nurse.

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Lyme Disease: It Can Happen to You

A fellow superintendent's trials with the "great imitator"

Lyme disease, because of its ability to mimic a wide variety of other illnesses, has been dubbed the "great imitator." And few people know that better than Superintendent Dave Pijnenburg (Redding Country Club in Redding, CT), whose symptoms were misdiagnosed until the disease had reached its more debilitating, later stages.

What follows is an account of his ordeal with the disease—a story he hopes will spare others from serious complications that can arise when the Lyme disease bacterium—*Borrelia burgdorferi*—isn't treated promptly. By the way, Dave never spotted the offending tick or the telltale rash that frequently warns people they've been infected.

Last July, while I was preparing the golf course for our annual member-guest tournament, I started feeling exhausted in the afternoons. At first, I shrugged it off, figuring it was because I'd been putting in a lot of long hours.

Wrong. Two weeks after the tournament had passed, I felt even weaker. I'd go home around 11 a.m. and take a two-hour nap, just so I could make it through the day. I went to the hospital; they ran all kinds of tests but couldn't come up with anything. Their diagnosis: Probable virus. Their prescription: Get plenty of rest.

The next week, I began having constant headaches and dizzy spells. I almost passed out at the wheel one afternoon. I went back to the hospital. This time they took spinal fluid to check for meningitis or Lyme disease. Once again, their tests came back negative. They gave me aspirin for my headache and told me to take it easy for a while.

By the beginning of September, I felt extremely weak. Then, just after Labor Day, I woke up and the left side of my face was numb. I returned to the hospital, and after another spinal tap, I was diagnosed as having Lyme disease.

Because the disease was now in a later stage, I was admitted to the hospital and put on intravenous antibiotics. The next day, the right side of my face—and body—was paralyzed. I couldn't move my lips or blink my eyes.

After four days, I was released from the hospital and given a new antibiotic—Ceftriaxone—to take, once a day for 14 days. My health slowly improved, and by the end of October, I had regained full control of my facial muscles.

I've been in good health since, but I do have to go back to the hospital every three months to be sure I haven't had a relapse—one of the hazards of having contracted Lyme disease.

After all this, I can't emphasize enough that prevention is the best medicine for Lyme disease. Educate your employees. Now's a good time to start. Because we had a mild winter, ticks are bound to be more plentiful and active this year. With that in mind, here are some tips that'll help you and your crew guard against this serious health threat.

If you're going to be working around

wooded or tall-grass areas on the course:

- Wear light-colored clothing so ticks will be more visible.
 - Tuck your pant legs into your socks or boots and your shirt into your pants.
 - Tape the area where your pants and socks meet to keep ticks from crawling under your clothing.
 - Spray your pants, socks, and shoes with an insect repellent. Those containing DEET (diethyltoluamide) will repel ticks for hours. Permanone is a new insecticide that kills ticks on contact. Unlike DEET, Permanone cannot be applied to skin, and it's not approved in all states—New York, among them.
 - Check your body and clothes for ticks throughout the workday. (See "Tick Tips" below.)
- DAVE PIJENBURG
Redding Country Club

Tick Tips

Here are little-known facts about tick activity, detection, and removal from Dr. Durland Fish of New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY.

1. Know your risk. Be particularly vigilant in June and July, when nymphs, which are no larger than a poppy seed, are most prevalent. Nymphs are responsible for the majority of Lyme disease cases. About 25 percent are infected.

Larval ticks, which are even smaller than nymphs, are most abundant in August. But so few are infected (less than 1 percent) that they don't constitute much of a risk.

Adult ticks, most common in spring and fall, have a higher infection rate (50 percent) than nymphs. But their larger size—similar to an apple seed—makes them more likely to be felt and removed before the infection can be transmitted.

2. Scan your body for ticks. Favorite attachment sites for nymphs are the groin, underarm, and behind the knee. Adult ticks commonly attach in the head—often behind the ear. But no part of the body is out of bounds.

3. Don't delay tick removal. It takes

nearly 24 hours for a tick to transmit the infection, so daily tick checks are critical to Lyme disease prevention.

The best way to remove a tick is to grasp it with a sharp pair of tweezers as close to the skin as possible and then pull it away from the skin. Never use petroleum jelly, mineral oil, or a hot match to dislodge the tick. These methods can do more harm than good.

4. Be aware of the symptoms. The most common indicator of Lyme disease is a skin rash, which resembles a bull's-eye, blotch, or red spot and appears two to 10 days after the bite. Because only 60 percent of patients get a rash, however, it shouldn't be your only means of diagnosis. Other early indicators are fatigue, headache, stiff neck, jaw discomfort, muscle or joint aches, fever, chills, or swollen glands.

Weeks or months after the tick bite, you might also experience irregular heart beats, Bell's Palsy (facial muscle paralysis), weakness in arms and legs, depression, and arthritis.

If you experience any of these symptoms, seek prompt medical attention.

MetGCSA to Honor Cornish

is constantly undergoing change, moving in circles and always in upward spirals. And we're getting better at it all the time.

"Happily," he adds, "we seem to be getting back to what I like to call the old North American Inland Style courses. And it's a blessing to see this trend rekindled.

"The universally accepted design features of the Inland Style layouts," Cornish explains, "are broad fairways, big yawning bunkers, and large greens...features that are joyously welcomed with open arms by golfers everywhere."

Past president and honorary member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, Cornish credits another renowned Canadian, Dr. Stanley Thompson, for both his initial interest and success in the design field. Robert Trent Jones also is a student of the legendary Thompson, he points out.

This elegant gentleman of golf has designed, redesigned, refined, revised, altered, and contoured so many courses across the land that he's lost count.

A graduate of the University of British Columbia, Cornish received a master's and then, in 1986, an honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Massachusetts. He resides in Amherst, MA.

Pressed to name his favorite among all the courses he's designed alone or with his loyal associate, Brian Silva, he politely declines. "Pick a favorite? No way," he laughs. "When you've got one, great big happy family, you don't single out your pet choices. Partiality can be painful at times," he warns.

Some of Cornish's original designs include Connecticut Golf Club ("on an impossible piece of land"), Sterling Farms, Heritage Hills of Westchester, Millbrook, Bowling Green, Brooklake, Fiddler's Elbow, and another 100 scattered across New England. Two of the most talked about are the super Captains Club and Cranberry Valley on Cape Cod, two of the best public courses in America.

But the Cornish imprint has also been stamped across such Metropolitan

area courses as Winged Foot, Westchester (the super fairway contouring), Quaker Ridge, Woodway, Wee Burn, Fairfield, Rockaway Hunt, Woodmere, Hollywood, and too many others to itemize here.

Suffice it to say that Geoff Cornish has been well occupied over the past half-century and more, obviously adhering to the Lord Byron philosophy: "The busy have no time for tears."

Surprisingly, Cornish has kind words for the entry of golf professionals in the field of course architecture. He is particularly impressed with the design work of Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Ben Crenshaw, and Tom Weiskopf.

"These professionals have added a unique dimension to the profession," he opines. "And we are the beneficiaries of their talents. They've studied golf course architecture, and their new facets, new thoughts are being widely imitated.

"Nicklaus, for example, has such a keen eye and feel for the art that he can look at a tee and recognize immediately that it's a foot too low. That's a design fault that some of us veteran designers might not notice for days. It is a natural instinct with them. Surely, it's a gift from within," says this modest giant of the game.

Among Cornish's awards and honors are the Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the Donald Ross Award from the American Society of Architects, and the Outstanding Service Award from the National Golf Foundation.

If, as they say, the learned understand the reason of a particular art, then the unlearned (that's us) sense the pleasure and pure emotional joy whenever we play a Cornish course, providing said course is maintained by the green-thumbed giants of the MetGCSA.

GUIDO CRIBARI

Guido Cribari is the retired executive sports editor for the Gannett Westchester Newspapers, Inc. He is also an honorary member of the MetGCSA and the first recipient of its John Reid Award.

New Members

Dave Basconi, Class C, D & S, Cheshire, CT

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William Jones, Class A, The Creek Club, Locust Valley, NY

David Knobloch, Class B, Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

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Ray Beaudry Hosts Upcoming Invitational

Those of you participating in the June 10 MetGCSA Invitational Tournament will have the pleasure of playing one of Fairfield County's finer private courses: the Patterson Club in Fairfield, CT.

Designed by Robert Trent Jones, the course opened in 1947. Host Superintendent Ray Beaudry became part of the club's history nearly 30 years later—in 1976—shortly after he got word that Patterson was looking for someone to train as an assistant.

Though he'd had no previous turf management experience, Ray contacted then superintendent Bob Clarke and, soon after, signed on as a laborer. "I had been working in the tree care industry," says Ray, "and after four years, I began to realize there was little opportunity for advancement."

Patterson proved to be the advancement opportunity of a lifetime. Ray rose through the ranks at record speed,

moving from laborer to assistant to superintendent in just two and half years. A year before taking over as superintendent, Ray completed the UMass Winter School program.

For the past three years, one of Ray's pet projects has been deep aerifying his greens with the club-owned Verti-Drain Deep Tine Aerifier. "I have 18 greens, and they're all different," says Ray. Yet his goal for each is the same: to improve the soil structure. So far, so good. According to Ray, Verti-Draining has made a noticeable difference.

But that's not the only area of the course where Ray will be making a mark. He's currently working with one of Patterson's committees to establish a long-range master plan for the club. And though nothing's been etched in stone, there's a good chance he'll get the go-ahead to rebuild two of his greens this year. Right now, he's

got his sights set on green numbers 6 and 18.

It's variables like these that Ray says keep his job interesting. "No two seasons on the course are the same," says Ray, "so I've got little time to get bored."

When he's off-duty, he enjoys fishing, yard work, and playing an occasional game of golf. But from Ray's track record, you'd gather he's something more than a casual golfer. The past two years, he's played on the winning team from Connecticut at the GCSAA Championship Tournament. We'll see if he—and the Patterson team—can keep that winning streak going at the Invitational.

Ray lives in Danbury, CT, with his wife, Karen, and their son Ryan, who's 5. Ray also has two daughters: Christie, 20, and Stacey, 16.

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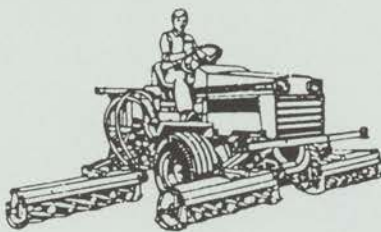
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A Winning Day—for 19 Players

Eighty-three golfers teed it up at the April 17 Arcola meeting. The scramble format, which required that everybody's drive be used at least twice, put a few teams in compromising situations. One foursome—who shall remain nameless—had to play their second shot from behind the ladies' tee. Other teams were able to use the format to better advantage, making the competition extremely close. We had to match cards to determine both gross and net winners. Here's how the players fared:

Low Gross Winners

- 1st D. Arel, *Tamarack Country Club*;
J. DeLibero, *Landscape Supply Co.*;
J. Farrell, *Lofts Seed*; C. Quazza,
Haledon Nurseries
- 2nd M. Mongon, *Arcola Country Club*;
L. Pakkala, *Woodway Country
Club*; R. Schock, *Wee Burn
Country Club*; G. Stanley,
Rockrimmon Country Club

Low Net Winners

- 1st J. McNally, *Greenrock Corp.*;
T. Powers, *Pound Ridge GC*;
W. Remo, *Rock Spring CC*;
S. Tibbles, *Sterling Farms GC*
- 2nd W. Gaydosh, *Hackensack GC*;
R. Mullane, *Alpine Tree Care*;
E. Rizzo, *Turf Products Corp.*
- 3rd M. Fuller, *The Quechee Club*;
J. Kennedy, *Irra-Tech*; S. Kopach,
Mountain Ridge CC; J. O'Keefe,
Preakness Hills CC

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks again to Arcola Superintendent Mike Mongon, Manager Charles Kelly, and Pro Bill Burgess.

MATT CEPLO

Westchester Hills Golf Club

Meeting Reminder

Invitational Tournament

Monday, June 10
Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT
Host: Ray Beaudry (See Spotlight, page 5.)

Meeting Calendar Update

Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 14
Apawamis Club, Rye, NY
Mark your calendar with this newly finalized meeting date.

Special Event

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