



TEE TO GREEN

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Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

Environmental Stewardship

In an era when our chemical programs are under intense scrutiny, we can't afford to ignore IPM practices or pass up an opportunity to support research that seeks viable nonchemical controls for our many turf problems.

It's in our best interest to do all we can to demonstrate to the public that we're concerned about more than just creating a perfect playing surface for our members, but also about protecting and enhancing our courses' wildlife habitat and water resources. There are two simple, yet largely overlooked ways superintendents can demonstrate their concern for the environment.

Certifiably Concerned About the Environment

The first way is to participate in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP). Cosponsored by the New York Audubon Society and the USGA, the ACSP offers a well-respected vehicle for validating and publicizing our environmental contributions. Basically, the program encourages you to work toward becoming a "Certified Cooperative Sanctuary" by meeting the criteria in the following six achievement categories:

1. **Environmental Planning**, which involves documenting your plan for increasing habitat types on the course, conserving water, and increasing IPM measures.
2. **Public Involvement**, (continued on page 2)

Special Feature

Inspection-Proofing Your Operation

Mike Cook, a Former Inspector With the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Gives You the Straight Story on Surviving a DEC Pesticide Inspection

You've just dropped by the shop for a quick cup of coffee and an unfamiliar face makes an appearance at the door. As you're preparing an "I'm too busy to talk" excuse for what you believe to be a new sales rep, the fellow flips out a photo ID and identifies himself as a pesticide enforcement inspector with the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation)—or DEP (Department of Environmental Protection), if you're in New Jersey or Connecticut.

The jig's up. Your operation is about to undergo a surprise inspection for compliance with federal and/or state pesticide regulations.

If you think this is one of those "it'll never happen to me" scenarios, think again. All it takes to prompt a DEC inspection is a call from a disgruntled employee or a neighboring homeowner who believes chemicals are being misapplied or mishandled.

On rare occasions, you'll receive a warning call. But more often than not, an inspector will just show up at your

door. The reason is obvious: The DEC wants to see how you *really* operate.

To help you inspection-proof your operation, Mike Cook of Alpine, the Care of Trees draws from his past experience as a pesticide inspector for the New York DEC to offer insight into what to expect—and how to conduct yourself—when an inspector calls.

First Things First

When a DEC inspector walks through your door—and it's usually during the thick of the season, when you're at your busiest—your worst mistake would be to treat this person as an unwelcome guest. Work hard at being cordial and cooperative. And know that you'll be expected to drop everything—even if your greens *are* wilting—for the duration of the inspection.

Inspections are generally a minimum of one hour but will vary depending on the size of your operation, the readiness of your records, and the overall appearance of your facility. (continued on page 4)

Also in This Issue

- 2 Two March Events
- 3 Clip-and-Save Meeting/Event Guide
- 4 Top 10 Violations on the DEC Hit List
- 5 Scholarship Raffle Winners . . . Members on the Move
- 6 Reid Award Candidates . . . Scholarship Forms Ready and Waiting

Environmental Stewardship

which requires that you establish a committee with at least one nonmember and work to publicize your ACSP involvement and actions.

3. Integrated Pest Management, which requires that you document what you do to reduce chemical applications.

4. Wildlife and Habitat Management, which involves describing how you provide adequate food sources and safe havens for a variety of wildlife.

5. Water Conservation, which means describing your efforts to reduce the amount of water used to maintain your course.

6. Water Enhancement, which involves documenting any efforts to enhance the water quality for various wildlife species.

Though many of us are already meeting a number of these criteria, no one in New York has achieved "Certified Co-operative Sanctuary" status, and only one golf course in Connecticut has met all the criteria. That's Woodway Country Club, under Larry Pakkala's direction. Congratulations, Larry, for leading the way.

I've stepped up my activity to get certified, and I hope more of you out there will too. Even becoming involved in the program and achieving certification in several of the six categories will go a long way toward demonstrating your environmental awareness and concern. For more information on the program, call the Audubon Society of New York at 518-767-9051.

Investing in Environmentally Sound Maintenance Practices

The second measure you can take to show your support for environmentally sound maintenance practices is simpler yet. It just requires that you allocate

\$150 from your budget annually to the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation.

The foundation supports research concerned with finding *environmentally safe* controls for turfgrass problems specific to courses in the tri-state area.

Guided by representatives from the MGA and the Metropolitan, Long Island, Hudson Valley, Connecticut, and New Jersey superintendent associations, the foundation currently solicits funds from golf clubs in New Jersey, Connecticut, and New York.

Though more than 450 clubs are on the foundation's mailing list, it received contributions from only 82 clubs in 1994. That's only 18 percent involvement.

As you probably know, it was the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation that funded Dr. Bruce Clarke's breakthrough summer patch research in the early '90s. Now the foundation is supporting Dr. Michael Villani's work on biological grub controls and Dr. Noel Jackson's investigation into anthracnose/nematode relationships. These are problems in our own backyard. Finding solutions is in everyone's best interest. So how could you *not* contribute?

The foundation is looking for 100 percent participation. Please do your part in supporting this worthwhile cause—if not to demonstrate your environmental stewardship, to ensure your future success as a superintendent.

As a Tri-State board member, I'd be happy to speak to any one of you about the foundation's work. Please don't hesitate to call. But more important, please do your part to demonstrate your environmental concern and responsibility.

JOE ALONZI, CGCS
President

Upcoming Events

Educational Event

GCSAA Seminar: Irrigation Efficiency
Wednesday, March 8
Hampshire Country Club
Mamaroneck, NY

Meeting Reminder!

MetGCSA Business Meeting
Wednesday, March 15
Siwanoy Country Club
Bronxville, NY

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Clip-and-Save 1995 Meeting/Event Guide



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|----------|--|-----------|---|--------|--|
| March 15 | Siwanoy CC
Bronxville, NY
Business Meeting
<i>Dave Mahoney</i> | August 2 | Fairview CC
Summer Social
<i>Rich Marcks, CGCS</i> | | |
| April 27 | Middle Bay CC
Oceanside, NY
Two-Ball Qualifier
<i>John Carlone, CGCS</i> | August 21 | Mount Kisco CC
Mount Kisco, NY
Poa Annual Golf
Tournament
<i>Fred Scheyhing, CGCS</i> | | |
| May 9 | Bedford Golf & Tennis
Bedford, NY
Superintendent/Manager
Tournament
<i>Bob Nielsen</i> | Sept 12 | Metropolis CC
White Plains, NY
Met Area Team Champ
Qualifier, Final Round
<i>Tony Grasso</i> | Oct 17 | Westchester CC
Rye, NY
Professional Turfgrass
Field Day
<i>Joe Alonzi, CGCS</i> |
| June 12 | Fairview CC
Greenwich, CT
Invitational Tournament
<i>Rich Marcks, CGCS</i> | Oct 5 | Huntsville GC
Shavertown, PA
Met Area Team
Championship
<i>Scott Schukraft</i> | Nov ?? | Site TBA
??
Business Meeting
??? |
| July 17 | Salem GC Association
North Salem, NY
Met Area Team Champ
Qualifier, First Round
Alumni Tournament
<i>Bob Bruce</i> | Oct 10 | Burning Tree CC
Greenwich, CT
Superintendent/Green
Chairman Tournament
<i>Bill Perlee</i> | Dec 2 | Metropolis CC
White Plains, NY
Christmas Party
<i>Tony Grasso</i> |

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Inspection-Proofing Your Operation

The inspector will first want general information pertaining to your business, including:

- Type of operation: public or private?
- Certification and/or business registration numbers
- Types and quantities of equipment
- Types and quantities of pesticides used
- Type of storage area
- Disposal procedures

Digging a Little Deeper

The inspector will then begin to look a little more closely at your operation, starting with your pesticide application records. This is the portion of the inspection that, without question, generates the most violations and fines (and they can run from \$2,000 to \$5,000 for each *first* offense). If you can maintain your daily use pesticide records in a fashion required by your state regulator, you can eliminate more than 50 percent of potential violations.

Most state agencies require that your records include the following specifics:

- Date of pesticide application
- Target organism
- Pesticide used
- Dosage rate
- Total quantity used
- Place and method of application
- Use of pesticide

Next in the lineup is your pesticide application equipment. Here, the inspector will want to ensure every piece of equipment is:

- Clean of pesticide residuals that can pose a contamination problem
- Equipped with an antisiphon device
- In good running order

The added bonus of keeping your spray equipment in top-notch condition is that it presents a favorable image to the inspector and the public.

Storage Do's and Don'ts

With all that said and done, the inspector will ask to see your pesticide storage area. Though some states—such as New York—do not have specific regulations pertaining to pesticide storage, most *do* have published recommendations that will guide you in setting up a

responsible storage facility.

You could also look to the pesticide container label for guidance. It generally lists storage requirements—and, of course, instructions for proper use and container disposal.

To pass an inspector's scrutiny of your storage area, you should take the following precautions:

- Lock and eliminate unauthorized access to your storage area.
- Post warning signs in and around the facility.
- Be sure the storage area is both well ventilated and heated to prevent the pesticides from freezing—and potentially altering their potency—during the winter months.
- Store all pesticides in well-labeled, secure containers. All containers should be examined monthly for signs of deterioration.
- Post the telephone numbers of various emergency service agencies: police, fire, and the local poison control center.
- Keep sufficient spill control materials—such as kitty litter—on hand and a fire extinguisher on the inside of the storage facility.
- Follow proper protocol for container disposal, such as triple rinsing all containers before discarding them.
- Store herbicides and insecticides away from fertilizers to avoid cross-contamination.
- Store materials off the floor.

Wooden pallets, for example, can be used.

- Be sure personal protective equipment—gloves, respirators, goggles, gloves, coveralls, aprons—are cleaned after each use and stored away from pesticides.

Once the Inspection's Complete

When the inspection's finished, the inspector will ask that you sign a written inspection form. Read the form carefully, paying close attention to any violations listed and any recommendations for correcting them.

Frequently, you're expected to send in a written response at a later date, specifying the steps you've taken to correct violations cited during the inspection. Reply as soon as possible, but most definitely within the time requested by the inspector.

In the End

It's important to remember that there is no single article, publication, or seminar that will cover everything you must do to comply with federal and/or state regulations. But by constantly reading pesticide label directions, staying tuned to ever-changing pesticide regulations, and attending educational seminars, you can substantially reduce your risk of violation—or worse, a series of costly fines.

MIKE COOK

Alpine, the Care of Trees

Top 10 Violations on the DEC Hit List

1. Shoddy record-keeping
2. Storing pesticides in unlabeled containers
3. Failing to triple rinse containers before disposal
4. Pesticide spills in storage areas, particularly granular products
5. Allowing pesticide license to expire
6. Using pesticides not licensed to apply, e.g., aquatic herbicides, which

- require a specific license and permit
7. Possessing banned chemicals, e.g., DDT
8. Applying pesticides not registered for use in the state
9. Neglecting to use products according to label directions, e.g., failing to water in a product (tip-off: goose kill)
10. Failing to file annual report on pesticide use with the DEC/DEP

Seventeen Win Prizes in Scholarship Raffle

The 1994 Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, held at the December 17 Apawamis Club Christmas party, raised \$4750 for the MetGCSA's Scholarship Fund and awarded \$4,000 in cash prizes to 17 lucky ticket holders.

Many thanks to all who contributed, and congratulations to \$1,000-grand-prize-winner **Gary Rehm** of Metro Milorganite, Inc.

The other prize-winning raffle participants were:

Nicholas and Heather Niven, children of Stanwich Club Superintendent Scott Niven, \$500

Carl Quazza, Haledon Nurseries, Inc., \$500

Lupe Blancas and Pete Pedula, Woodway Country Club, \$250

Drew Bollard, Westchester Hills Golf Club, \$250

Stephen Kay, Golf Course Architect, \$250

Catherine Mahoney, wife of Siwanoy Country Club Superintendent Dave Mahoney, \$250

Bob Alonzi, Winged Foot Golf Club, \$100

Drew Campbell, Fairview Country Club, \$100

Kent Lemme, Taconic Golf Club, \$100

Bob Leslie, W.A. Cleary Chemical Co., \$100

Dave Mahoney, Siwanoy Country Club, \$100

Jenny Mentor, guest of Life member Tony Grasso Sr., \$100

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Members on the Move

Tony Baviello is the new superintendent at Yale Golf Course, New Haven, CT. Previous position: Superintendent, Pelham CC, Pelham Manor, NY.

Matt Ceplo is the new superintendent at Rockland Country Club, Sparkill, NY. Previous position: Superintendent, Westchester Hills Golf Club, White Plains, NY.

Scott Ferguson is the new superintendent at Mahopac Golf Club, Mahopac, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent, Brae Burn Country Club, Purchase, NY.

Tim Garceau is the new superintendent at the Tuxedo Club, Tuxedo Park, NY. Previous position: Superintendent, Orange County Golf Club, Middletown, NY.

Patrick E. Lucas is the new superintendent at Woodcrest Country Club, Clayton, NJ. Previous position: Assistant superintendent, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY.

Ted Maddocks is the new superintendent at Ekwanok Country Club, Manchester, VT. Previous position: Superintendent, Country Club of Fairfield, Fairfield, CT.

Patrick Sisk is the new superintendent at Country Club of Fairfield, Fairfield, CT. Previous position: Superintendent, Mahopac Golf Club, Mahopac, NY.

Steve Sweet is the new superintendent at The Mill River Club, Oyster Bay, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent, Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY.

Peter Waterous is the new superintendent at Westchester Hills Golf Club, White Plains, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent, Westchester Hills Golf Club.

Jeff Wentworth is the new superintendent at Pelham Country Club, Pelham Manor, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent, Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY.

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Time to Start Thinking About Reid Award Candidates

The Awards Committee is accepting nominations for the MetGCSA's 1995 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award. Initiated in 1986, the award is presented annually to an individual "who has demonstrated a knowledge of—and commitment to—the game of golf and the science of golf course management."

This year's award will be presented at the June 12 Invitational, so please submit your nominations no later than **April 10**. Just contact any one of the Awards Committee members: Tim O'Neill, Chairman, Bob Alonzi, Guido Cribari, Pat Lucas, Mike Maffei, Chuck Martineau, Scott Niven, Larry Pakkala, or Peter Rappoccio.

Scholarship Forms Available

Applications are now available for the 1995 MetGCSA Scholarship awards. The Scholarship & Research Committee will select recipients based on their leadership, maturity, scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities, and commitment to a chosen career.

To be eligible, a candidate must be

either a member of the MetGCSA or a dependent of a member.

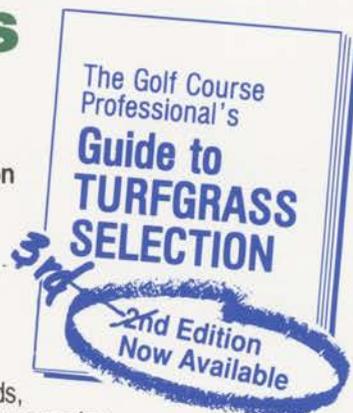
You can receive an application form by writing the MetGCSA at 49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10523-2819 or by contacting S & R Committee Chairman John O'Keefe at Preakness Hills, 201-694-0260. Note: The deadline for submission is April 7.

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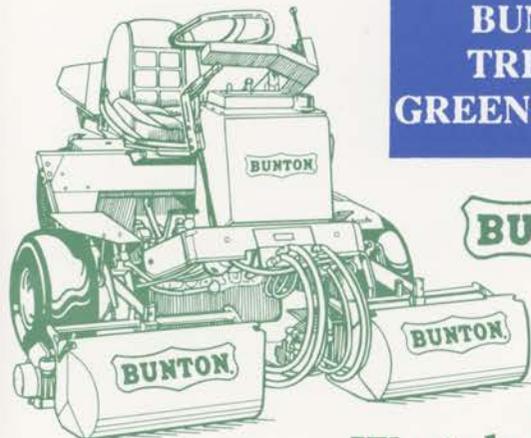


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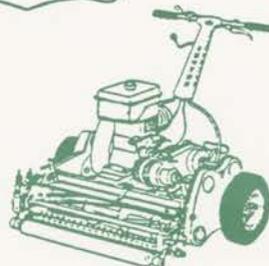
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914-666-8202
- ☆ **Shemin Nurseries Inc.**
Horticultural-Irrigation Supplies
Jim Hespe: 203-531-7352
1081 King St., Greenwich, CT 06831
- ☆ **Stephen Kay, Golf Course Architects**
Renovation, Master Planning, New Golf Courses
495 New Rochelle Rd., Office 2B
Bronxville, NY 10708, 914-699-4437
- ☆ **Steven Willand, Inc.**
Bruce Pye
23 Route 206, Augusta, NJ 07822
201-579-5656
- ☆ **Tee and Green Sod, Inc.**
Bentgrass, Fescue, Rye, Sod Blends, Washed Sod
P.O. Box 418, Exeter, RI 02822
Owen Regan/David Wallace: 401-789-8177
- ☆ **The Cardinals, Inc.**
John E. Callahan
166 River Rd., Unionville, CT 06085
203-673-3699
- ☆ **The Scotts Company**
Steve DiVito: 203-723-5190
Tom Marmelstein: 516-679-1961
- ☆ **The Terre Company of NJ, Inc.**
Byron Johnson Jr.
206 Delawanna Ave., Clifton, NJ 07014
Office: 201-473-3393 Home: 203-748-5069
- ☆ **TurfNet Associates, Inc.**
Peter L. McCormick
21 Brandywine Rd., Skillman, NJ 08558
800-314-7929, FAX 908-359-3389
- ☆ **Turf Products Corp./TORO**
George Gorton, Irrigation/Al Tretera, Equipment
P.O. Box 1200, Enfield, CT 06083
800-243-4355/203-763-3581
- ☆ **Turf Products Corporation**
Ernie Rizzio
47 Howell Rd., P.O. Box 296
Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046, 201-263-1234
- ☆ **Valley View Wholesale Greenhouse**
Frank Amodio
229 Smithridge Rd., So. Salem, NY 10590
914-533-2526, FAX 914-533-2050
- ☆ **Westchester Ford Tractor Inc.**
John Apple/Ray Baudry
Meadow St., Goldens Bridge, NY 10526
914-232-7746
- ☆ **Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.**
Bob Lippman Sr./Bob Lippman Jr.
P.O. Box 198, Lincolndale, NY 10540
Office: 914-248-7476 Mobile: 914-649-0303
- ☆ **White Contractors**
Golf Course Construction & Renovation
P.O. Box 484, Old Greenwich, CT 06870-0484
James E. Morris Jr.: 203-869-8808/914-234-0092
- ☆ **Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.**
Dennis DeSanctis/Chris Santopietro
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