



EDITORIAL STAFF

Pat Lucas, *Co-Editor* Office 203-637-3210
Home 203-637-3939
Ted Horton, *Co-Editor* Office 914-967-6000
Home 914-937-3613

OFFICERS

President Robert Alonzi, Fairview Country Club
Office 203-531-8910; Home 203-531-1930
Vice-President Michael Maffei, Back of Beyond Golf Course
Office 914-279-7179; Home 914-279-7895
Secretary Paul Caswell, Greenwich Country Club
Office 203-869-1000; Home 203-661-8949
Treasurer Sherwood Moore, Winged Foot Golf Club
Office 914-698-2827; Home

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

MGCSA NEWS

At the Board of Directors meeting held at the Fairview Country Club on March 13, Gus Powell was voted a Life Member and Mike Caravella was voted a Class A member.

Michael Nagle, former assistant at Fenway is now Superintendent at Bonnie Briar.

Our March 26 meeting at Mark Millett's Westchester Hills Golf Club had an excellent turnout. Our three speakers were Bill Brewer of the USGA Green Section, Dr. Martin Petrovic of Cornell University and Fred Marshall of the Westchester County Cooperative Extension Service. Coverage of their presentations has been done by Scott Niven and can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

At this writing, (April 5) the dry winter has been replaced with a wet spring. Although dessication was thought to be a possible problem, at this point most areas are beginning to green up nicely. I have noted some bleached grass, mainly on the collars with high sand content. —Pat Lucas

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Something to Think About . . .

"Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved."

—William Jennings Bryan



President Bob Alonzi and USGA Green Section Agronomist Bill Brewer at the March MGCSA meeting.

COVERAGE OF THE MARCH 26th MGCSA MEETING AT WESTCHESTER HILLS

By Scott Niven, Superintendent, St. Andrews Golf Club

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE USGA?

Agronomist Bill Brewer addressed the superintendents of the metropolitan area as collectively possessing, "the greatest store of turf knowledge in the world," and thought we should be informed about the USGA's plans for the future because of our good support in the past. Currently, many younger men are moving into higher positions of the USGA's executive committees and bring with them many new ideas. The result of these changes has been some programs which have helped improve the USGA's service to us, such as the associate program, the Green Section Record being printed in color, a reduction in the price of the turf advisory service from \$360 to \$200, and the regional Green Section meetings. The USGA is still looking for more new ideas to determine what changes can be made to help them serve us better. To accomplish this, questionnaires were made available to superintendents who wished to fill them out, and one was sent to a random sample of golf clubs throughout the U.S. So with our support the future of the USGA will be a progressive one, with improved service and better relations toward all those connected with the golf industry.

GYPSY MOTH

Fred Marshall of the Cooperative Extension Service informs us that the gypsy moth has reached epidemic proportions in various parts of the Westchester area this year. Egg masses containing from 200 to 1000 moths each can be seen on tree trunks and the undersides of branches. Good control of the leaf eating caterpillars can be obtained with Sevin, Orthene, Methoxychlor, Imadan, and Bacillus Thorensiencous. Sprays must be applied at least 250 feet from residences and success depends primarily upon timing. Fred recommends the first spray be applied about May 10th to 15th and a second spray 10 days later. He also warns that control may be a losing battle in highly infested areas.

SOIL TESTING RESEARCH

In the past, soil testing labs have used extracts which give valid information for only certain types of soils. Consequently, the results of tests on N.Y. soils may not be as informative as they could be with exclusive extracts and methods which would favor only them. Dr. Petrovic of Cornell University is beginning research to determine just what testing methods are best suited for our N.Y. soils and plans to set up a new lab in this area. His tests will give indications of Ph, nitrogen, potassium, phosphorous, and soluble salts, as well as recommendations for fertilization and liming procedures to correct any problems. A soil testing service such as this would be very beneficial to us, and subsequently Dr. Petrovic has asked for our support with this rather large research project. He needs financial support to the tune of \$20,000 a year for 3 years and sites typical of this area to take samples from. If you would like to provide sites for soil samples or have any questions, please call Dr. Petrovic at Cornell.

GROWING DEGREE DAYS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ANNUAL BLUEGRASS WEEVIL

As you may remember, I have been trying to correlate the activity of the Hyperodes with seasonal temperatures. The following abstract (written for something else, so not as clear as it could be), explains a little about what I am trying to do. In any case, the key point is that for the past four years, the summer activity of the larvae has peaked when a certain number of growing degree day units has accumulated, and had no correlation with calendar date. These growing degree day units are calculated from the daily maximum and minimum temperatures. If we keep track of the temperature through the spring, I think we will be able to predict when the worst damage is likely to occur in the summer.

Pat Vittum

Department of Entomology

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station

The annual bluegrass weevil, *Hyperodes* sp near *anthracina* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), is a serious pest on annual bluegrass, *Poa annua* L. on golf courses in the metropolitan New York area. Golf course superintendents in this area manage their courses intensively, and cannot tolerate the degree of damage this insect is capable of inflicting. Therefore, we wanted to devise an economically and environmentally sound control program. Such a program depended on understanding the biology of the insect, particularly determining when and where each stage develops and developing a method to predict insect activity.

Spring and summer population surveys were conducted in 1976-1978. Five 10.8 cm diameter plugs of turfgrass were collected weekly from each of several sites on six golf courses in Westchester County. The number of individuals of each stage in each sample was recorded. With this information, we determined the population density, the relative number of individuals of each stage, and the spatial distribution of insects throughout the growing season.

The data indicated that there were two generations and a partial third generation in 1976 and 1977, with a major portion of the population in the fifth (ultimate) larval stage (the most damaging) in early to mid June, mid July, and mid August. There was only one generation and a partial second generation in 1978, with a peak in fifth stage larvae in mid June and again in late July.

Laboratory investigations showed that the rate of development of all stages of the annual bluegrass weevil is directly related to the ambient temperature within a range from 12°C to 30°C. Rate of development was arrested at temperatures above and below this range. We wanted to determine whether there was a correlation between seasonal temperatures and the development of the insect in the field. The daily maximum and minimum temperatures for White Plains were obtained from the Westchester County Airport (a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather station). This information was used to calculate the number of growing degree day units accumulated each day with 52°F as the base temperature and plot calendar date versus growing degree day

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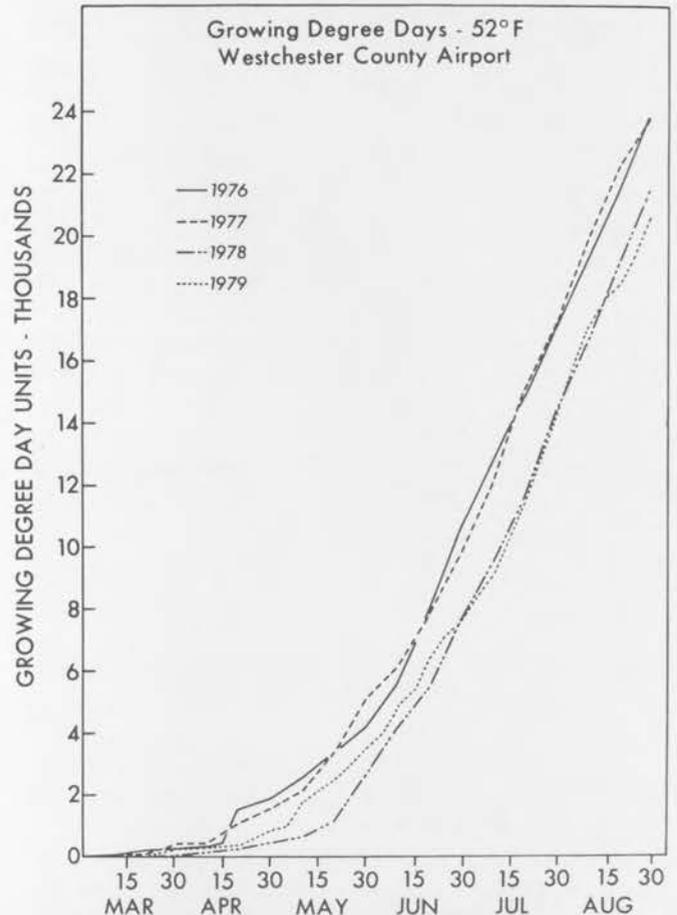
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accumulation for March through August of 1976-1979. The resulting graph indicated that spring temperatures in 1978 were substantially cooler than 1976 or 1977, while spring temperatures in 1979 were intermediate between those of 1978 and 1976. The low temperatures of 1978 occurred primarily in March, April and May, resulting in a consistent deficit of 2000 to 2500 growing degree day units compared to 1976 and 1977. Temperatures in June, July and August of all three years were not substantially different. However, because of the lower temperatures in the 1978 spring, the accumulation of growing degree day units remained 10 to 15 calendar days behind that of previous years throughout the entire summer.

The calendar dates of the peaks of activity for each stage of development were marked for each year. For each stage of development, summer activity occurred at the same growing degree day accumulation each year, even though there was a difference of 10 to 12 calendar days from one year to the next. For example, the peak of fifth instar larvae occurred at 15,000 units each year. Since the rate of accumulation of growing degree days was the same in each year from mid June on, it appears that growing degree days can be used to predict the summer activity of the annual bluegrass weevil. Such a predictive capability would enable the superintendent to make a single, properly timed insecticide application to selected areas of the golf course when the insects are in the most susceptible stage to prevent widespread insect damage.



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It hardly seems possible that Spring is once again upon us and as I look back over the winter months, the warmer temperatures and the spring showers are indeed inviting. To some of you the winter climate presented some problems, but to myself, this period of time was viewed as a valuable and rewarding educational experience.

During the months of January and February, I had the pleasure of attending the eight week winter school for Turf Managers at the University of Massachusetts under the direction of Dr. Joseph Troll. Unlike a two year or a four year program, the eight week winter course stayed within the boundaries of a Golf Course Superintendent's needs. Basically the courses under study were Turfgrass Pest Control and Business Management with Dr. Troll; Turfgrass Physiology and Maintenance with Dr. Hurto; Soils and Fertilizers with Professor Zak; Entomology with Dr. Tunis; Golf Course Architecture with Mr. Cornish; Trees and Shrubs with

Professor Hustar; Personnel Management with Professor Marion; Machinery with Professor Whitney; Engines with Professor Johnson; and Drainage and Irrigation with Professor Pira. Each course was professionally presented in a managerial manner.

I was fortunate to receive a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Rhode Island and I'm very pleased with my attendance at the U Mass winter school. Whether you're a Golf Course Professional or a Golf Course Superintendent, the U Mass winter school and various other educational courses offer great opportunities to further ones education. So, reach out, it's there. Try not to let these educational opportunities slip by you.

Dave Dwinell
Class B member MGCSA
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Dr. Martin Petrovic of Cornell University speaking at the March MGCSA meeting.

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POLITICS ASIDE, DEFICIT SPENDING CAUSES INFLATION

By Jay VanAndel and Richard M. DeVos
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In order to solve a problem, one must understand its cause. This is true whether repairing a car, treating the sick, or curing inflation. Statements by too many politicians and the commentary of some media experts indicate that there is distressing lack of understanding of the cause of inflation.

First, rising wages and prices were said to be the "cause" of rampaging inflation. Then came "wage and price guidelines." Inflation continued, but the blame shifted! Now it is OPEC oil that causes inflation. Wrong on both counts.

Government policy causes inflation. Nothing else. OPEC oil prices—even higher food prices induced by bad weather—cause the *cost-of-living* to increase, and these increases are worsened by the decreasing value of the dollar, but increases in the cost of living are not inflation.

Deficit spending by the government causes inflation. Some argue that deficit spending alone is not to blame. They say that if government finances those deficits by borrowing, the currency is not affected. Perhaps not in the short term, but when government consumes much of the available capital to cover its deficits, there are insufficient funds left for industry to expand, and the economy slows down. Eventually, government must monetize its deficits by increasing the money supply (creating new money out of thin air). When that happens, each dollar is worth less.

That is inflation, and only government can cause it. Not wage increases, not price increases, not farm prices, not OPEC oil.

Think about it. If oil prices caused inflation, Japan and West Germany would have double digit inflation, too. West Germany imports about 97 percent of its oil. Its inflation rate is 6.6 percent. Japan imports 99 percent of its oil. Its inflation rate is 6.9 percent. But the United States imports about 45 percent of its oil and has controlled the price of domestically produced oil since 1971. The U.S. inflation rate is in excess of

13 percent. (Import figures from Department of Energy, Summer 1979; inflation rates from Joint Economic Committee of the Congress for 12-month period ending August 1979.)

There is little hope the problems can be solved until those leaders who now refuse to acknowledge the true cause of inflation do so.

There will be more calls for wage and price controls. The action of the Federal Reserve Board to slow the growth of the money supply will also slow the economy and bring cries for more government (deficit) spending to create more jobs in the public sector. And nothing will have been accomplished.

Many economists now predict that the U.S. will experience a modest recession during 1980, followed by a brief recovery period during which rates of inflation will reach 18 to 20 percent, then a very deep recession.

This need not be so if those in positions of leadership put political considerations aside, put a limit on government spending, and bring the federal budget into balance now.

Editors Note: Amen.

SCHEDULING FOR SUCCESS

Most of us accomplish more and work more efficiently when we are under some kind of pressure. We need to be pushed to produce our best work. As a supervisor, one of your major jobs is to keep every one of your employees busy and productive. You have to offset the natural tendency of people to slack off when they are not faced with the pressure of a deadline.

This is a situation where Parkinson's Law, which states that "Work expands to fill the time available," comes into play. If you tell one of your employees that a piece of equipment needs to be fixed or a specific maintenance task should be done, he will plan his time so that the task gets done when it fits into his schedule, which is not the same as your schedule or that of your club.

However, if you tell him that the task must be completed by tomorrow morning and the two of you agree that it can be finished by then, he will probably break his neck to get it done on time.

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Effective scheduling of employee tasks can make the difference between a department that runs like clockwork and one that always seems to be in a crisis. Schedules and deadlines give urgency to activities that, without pressure, might pile up until a time when everything must be done at once.

If you are after consistently good results from your employees, you have to be willing to devote the necessary amount of time to setting priorities and planning schedules. The more crowded, hectic and busy your own schedule, the more important it is that you take the time to plan your employees' work effectively.

First of all, you must set your priorities. You are the manager. You know what tasks must be accomplished and how important each one is. You know the reasons for each task and the way they all fit together. This is your responsibility, and the people over you care more about the completion of the tasks than the way in which you accomplish them.

To ensure that the work gets done on time, set a deadline. It is often helpful to work out a mutually acceptable deadline with the employee who will be doing the work, but you must make sure that there is a deadline and that those responsible know what it is. Put it in writing, if necessary, and enforce it.

Many supervisors and managers find it helpful to draw up a time-table. It doesn't have to be fancy, but it should include all the important tasks which must be completed within a given time period, the deadline for their completion and the name of the person responsible for each task. If this timetable is distributed to the appropriate people or posted in a prominent

place, then each of your employees can schedule his own time in order to work at peak efficiency.

—GCSAA Fore Front

FRINGE BENEFITS HAVE MANY ADVANTAGES

Fringe benefits are an important part of employee compensation, but in the last few years they have come to be taken for granted. Most employees assume that they work for their weekly or monthly take-home pay and that fringe benefits, such as health, accident and hospitalization insurance, are thrown in as an afterthought.

In today's highly competitive labor market, a good fringe benefit package is an excellent way for an employer to attract and retain key personnel. These benefits are an important part of an employee's compensation, and employers should make sure their workers know exactly what their fringe benefits are worth to both parties.

Fringe benefits carry a double advantage. They increase an employee's real income because he does not have to pay taxes on them. And the employer's net cost is less than the boost in salary that would be required to cover them. This is almost always the case when benefits are tax deductible and may be true even in the absence of deductions.

For example, consider these figures quoted in the Wholesale Nursery Growers of America newsletter. If an employee in the 38 percent tax bracket is given benefits worth \$500, he would

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have to receive a before-taxes salary increase of \$715 to have \$500 remaining to purchase these services. If his employer is in the 48 percent tax bracket, it would cost him \$372 to provide such a salary increase, but only \$260 for the fringe benefits.

Unfortunately, many employees do not appreciate this added income because they have never been told exactly what it is worth to them. Seldom do people in the job market consider the relative merits of each prospective employer's fringe benefit package.

When you conduct job interviews, make sure the prospective employee knows that you offer an attractive benefits package and be sure to explain it to him in detail soon after he is hired. Some employers use a form which brings together all actual earnings and benefits so their employees can see exactly how much they are being paid.

—GCSAA Fore Front

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Where the foliage rolls dense,—
And immerse ourselves deeply,
So as to feel its awakening,—
Fruitful and beautiful,
As a ripe Persimmon Tree.*

—Frank Paladino

FALLING DOWN ON THE JOB

In the next hour 19 people will be hurt or killed by a fall somewhere in this country. This figure probably increases during the winter months. At least it does on campus. Last year there was a 25 percent increase in slip and fall accidents during the months of January and February. Nevertheless, a large percentage of injuries that occur on campus are attributed to slips and falls. The following tips should sharpen your awareness of the potential hazards you may encounter both on and off the job.

1. Spot-checking—Six out of 10 falls are caused by obvious hazards. Watch out for hazards such as spills, wires, open drawers, etc. Be extra careful in poorly lit areas or areas where visibility is limited by smoke, steam or glare.

2. Don't leave hazards behind—Before leaving your work area, check to see that you haven't left tools lying around, drawers open, etc. If you see a hazard such as a spill, report it or clean it up. Don't leave hazards for others to fall victim to.

3. Always make sure you can see where you're going—Don't attempt to carry a load that's too large for you to see over. Be extra careful in unfamiliar areas and areas of poor visibility.

4. Keep your hands free—Always try to keep one hand free to break a fall should you trip. When climbing stairs, always keep one hand on the railing.



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5. Don't try to cross obstacles you could go around—If you must cross over an obstacle, be sure to keep your weight on your back leg when stepping over the obstacle, have your weight equally balanced when your feet are on either side of the obstacle, then shift your weight to your front leg as you lift your back leg over the obstacle.

6. When crossing rough or slippery surfaces—Take short steps and keep your toes pointed out. The closer you come to putting your foot straight down, the less chance you have of slipping.

7. When walking on wet stairs—Always keep your weight on your back leg.

8. If you do start to fall—Protect your head and neck from injury by looking at the spot you are about to hit. If your hands are free, you can best break your fall by keeping your wrists level with the ground.

9. After falling—Test your hands and feet for feeling. If there is no feeling, do not move or allow anyone to move you. Wait for medical help.

—UGA Flashes, January, 1980

SITE ANALYSIS IS FIRST STEP IN PLANNING NEW COURSE

Site analysis is one of the most important considerations in planning a new golf course, according to Jack Kidwell, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

According to ASGCA, the major natural determinants are topography, drainage, vegetation, soil and water.

"If there is a real problem in any one of these areas," Kidwell said, "construction costs can skyrocket and the entire project can be jeopardized. An experienced architect, however, can make recommendations and provide solutions that may turn a marginal project into a viable one."

According to Kidwell, modern construction equipment makes it possible to build attractive courses on relatively flat or uneven terrain, even that which is not suitable for residential or commercial construction.

He emphasized the importance of adequate surface and underground drainage, adding that an architect can take large runoff channels, flood plains, marshes, bogs, and other generally low areas, and, with proper drainage controls, design and engineer them into a beautiful course.

—GCSAA Fore Front

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