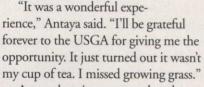
'I Missed Growing Grass'

Kathy Antaya

ANTAYA LEAVES USGA GREEN SECTION; WANTS TO GO BACK TO BEING A SUPERINTENDENT

By Anthony Pioppi

year and a half after becoming the first and only female regional agronomist for the USGA Green Section, Kathy Antaya has decided to return to being a superintendent. Her last day with the Northeast Region was Nov. 8.



Antaya has since returned to the

Grand Rapids, Mich., area, where she lived before moving to Pennsylvania after taking the USGA job. She has not yet found a new job.

"She'll be missed," said Dave Oatis, director of the Northeast Green Sec-

> tion. "She did a very good job and I was impressed with her work ethic."

According to Antaya, she enjoyed visiting golf courses and learning from, as well as helping superintendents, but the report writing aspect became tedious. "That pretty much tipped the scales for me," she said.

There was also the guilt factor of not being able to take her 4-year-old mutt Jack to work, like she did while a superintendent.

"I spent a lot of evenings promising

him he'd have a job again," she said.

Oatis said there are not plans to fill the vacancy created by Antaya's resignation.

Antaya, former superintendent of Meadows GC in Allendale, Mich., once recalled when she and another female student were the only two women in the turf program at Michigan State University. She said a respected professor and a distinguished superintendent attempted to convince her that a superintendent's job would be too difficult for her. At that point, Antaya said she felt more determined than ever to prove them wrong.

Antaya once said: "Rarely am I reminded of my minority status, but it's a fabulous advantage at large professional gatherings — there are no lines for the bathroom."

Pioppi is a free-lance writer from Middletown, Conn.





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