

'I Missed Growing Grass'

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

By Anthony Pioppi

A 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.

"It was a wonderful experience," Antaya said. "I'll be grateful forever to the USGA for giving me the opportunity. It just turned out it wasn't my cup of tea. I missed growing grass."

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 Section. "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."



Kathy Antaya

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

PAY LESS. CLIMB MORE.



Get the most out of your budget while out-mowing all competitors on steep hills and banks. Try the new 8400—the next generation of National.

- A lower center of gravity and hydrostatic drive make the 8400 the King of the Hill
- The 8400's 15" overhang is the best in the industry—dramatically reducing hand-mowing time
- All-new electric clutch gives you perfect reel and ground speed, allowing you to slow down to cut the tough spots while maintaining a high quality cut

It's time to demo the next generation of National. Call 888-907-3463 today.



SINCE 1919

www.nationalmower.com