

Course Superintendents Are the 'Bottom-Line, Hands-On Managers'

They Make the Decisions on Golf Course Management,
What Products Are Used in That Management

An in-depth look at the environmental and regulatory aspects of designing and operating golf courses brought senior golf industry officials and government representatives face to face in a forum sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Leaders from golf's professional associations heard presentations from regulatory and congressional officials on subjects ranging from pesticide use to wetlands management. The day-long forum, "Golf Course Management, Government Regulations and the Future," was held in Arlington, Va., in late June.

Representatives from the United States Golf Association, PGA of America, PGA Tour, American Society of Golf Course Architects, Golf Course Builders Association, National Golf Course Owners Association, National Golf Foundation, Club Managers Association of America and the National Club Association were among those in attendance.

In opening remarks, GCSAA President Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, explained why the association felt it was important to take the lead in addressing environmental concerns.

"The superintendent, after all, is the bottom-line, hands-on manager," Cadenelli said. "We make the decisions on how the golf course is managed and what products are used in that management. It is GCSAA's role to serve as a source for the latest informa-

tion through its publications, educational opportunities and forums like we are having today."

Eight key regulatory officials briefed forum attendees on current proposed rules affecting golf. Lewis Crampton, associate administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), urged the golf industry to continue its environmental efforts and to be environmentally conscious.

"Golf courses have to be environmentally friendly places if the industry wants to continue to grow," he said. "Golf, however, is doing a number of positive things in the environmental area," Crampton continued. "Those include pesticide reduction, better environmentally designed courses and underground storage tank replacement. We would like to make this a win-win situation, but the golf industry must continue to respond."

Crampton lauded GCSAA and the EPA for the cooperative public service announcement entitled "Think Before You Apply," which was produced to educate homeowners on the proper use of home lawn-care chemicals.

Also addressing the forum was Congressman Jimmy Hayes (D-La.). Hayes is the sponsor of House Resolution 1330, a wetlands bill that would allow use, value and function criteria to determine the classification of wetland sites. The present wetlands policy, according to Hayes, is confusing and may not let landowners know for years whether they are in violation of a wetlands law.

Following the formal presentations, representatives of the allied associations of golf participated in a round-table discussion of the government regulations and the challenges that are facing the game of golf.

November Conference Trade Show Is Rapidly Taking Shape

The 1991 Annual Conference and Trade Show sponsored by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association rapidly is taking shape.

Several outstanding speakers have been lined up for the session to be held November 20-21-22 at the Northland Inn, which proved to be a tremendous site for the conference a year ago.

"Heavy hitters" already on tap for the three-day gathering, according to Chairman Shane Andrews, Hudson Country Club, are:

- **Dr. Paul Rieke**, Michigan State University;
- **Dr. James Watson**, The Toro Company;
- **Bobbie Gee**, highly-respected motivational speaker;
- **Ward Stienstra**, expert on the use of mercury.

Other speakers and presentors will be announced in the October issue of *Hole Notes*, along with the complete program.

Registration forms for the November conference and trade show will be mailed in October.

Dr. Watson will be the keynote speaker following registration on Wednesday (November 20). Bobbie Gee is scheduled to address attendees before the business meeting that afternoon.

Dr. Rieke will speak on both Thursday and Friday, the day when Ward Stienstra will provide updates on the use of mercury.

The Trade Show will be held on Thursday, and times and subjects were in the process of being confirmed when this issue of *Hole Notes* went to press.

Pesticide Application—

(Continued from Page 10)

Rinse pads likely will be required in areas where concentrated pesticides are routinely transferred. This regulation would affect golf courses that do most of their mixing in the same location.

"Even though the storage requirements may not affect golf course superintendents, they should provide good standards to those courses who are building or remodeling their pesticide storage facilities," Zidik said.

What to Consider For Snow Mold Management Before the Mercury Ban of 1994

By Ward C. Stienstra, Extension Plant Pathologist University of Minnesota. Department of Plant Pathology

Winter problems for Minnesota golf turf is a two-part problem: one is disease and the second is injury.

For most, the disease management aspect was well under control and even the injury aspect was being managed. The disease problems are also multiple and several fungi are present during the winter. The most common fungi are Typhula and Fusarium, Grey and Pink snow molds. The Grey Snow Mold species most common is *T. ishikariensis* and it is the most difficult to manage with chemicals. The other *T.* species is *incarnata*, and it is more susceptible to fungicide management.

We also have *Gerlachis nivalis* (Fusarium) present to some extent every year. The cause of snow molds varies from year to year and from North to South. In seasons of heavy snowfall and cold long winters Snow Scald is present, especially in northern locations; in seasons of cool, wet, cloudy periods, especially in the fall, pink may be the major problem. Since it is not possible to predict with any great accuracy which organism will

predominate, and since all are capable of doing extensive damage to fine turf areas, preventive measures are taken in the fall. We seldom have the luxury of a mid-season winter treatment to make up or cover up for a failure.

Present recommendations for snow mold are to apply a mixture of products or apply three fungicides. Mercury as Caloclor at 1 oz., with Chloroneb (Teremec SP) at 2 oz. and PCNB (Terraclor) at 2 oz. has provided 98 to 100 percent disease control for several years at the northern testing location. The better two-way combination of these three products is Mercury plus PCNB or Chloroneb, and the weakest two-way combination was PCNB plus Chloroneb. The performance of other products in winter disease-testing has always been poorer, and results are more varied. The northern testing location (Duluth) is an area prone to snow cover and is mostly *Poa* turf. Sites with more bent and less snow cover should be able to be managed with this program.

Those who wish to try other products for winter disease management should consider the following. Treatments with mercury are the most reliable, and I expect other programs to allow 5 to 10 percent disease development. The next most consistent product is Daconil at 8 to 16 fl. oz. This rate was tested several times, and little difference was seen. Daconil does not have as much residual control and may run out before the season is over.

This lack of long term control may explain the variability of its control. It also does not have the range of control, and combinations with Daconil may improve the level of control. It needs help with Fusarium, and addition of benomyl (Tersan 1991) at 2 oz. should help reduce pink snow mold. Daconil appears to be a product to try in your winter disease program. It can be applied in conjunction with Fungo 50 at 2 oz. or Chipco 26019 at 4 oz. Scotts FFII has performed well for many people, and other formulations of PCNB need to be tested. Reports of Chloroneb used alone often include failure as it does not do well against *T. ishikariensis*.

Those of you who have experience with other control products are encouraged to write me and share your success stories. I suspect the more southern courses have had success with alternate fungicide programs. Those with experience with covers are also on my list to be heard. Has disease been a bigger problem with covers or has the standard fungicide program provided a disease-free environment under covers? My experience is that covers increase the severity of disease and the mercury programs have adequately managed the problem.

Remember that regular mowing in the fall until growth has stopped and avoidance of fertilizer applications that stimulate fall growth will reduce winter disease.

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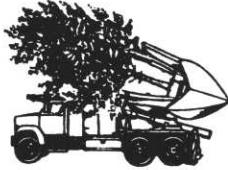
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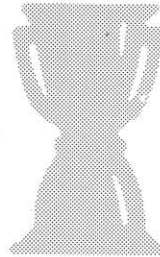
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GCSAA Responds to New York Attorney General's Report, Calls It 'Unsupported by Fact, Inaccurate and Misleading'

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), responding to a report recently published by the New York State attorney general's office, called the report "unsupported by fact, inaccurate and misleading."

The report, *Toxic Fairways: Risking Groundwater Contamination From Pesticides on Long Island Golf Courses*, is based on a survey of 52 golf courses on Long Island, N.Y. The report claims that the golf courses surveyed are treated with as much as seven times more pesticides per acre than are used to grow food crops. The report implies that the chemicals could pose a risk to local groundwater supplies.

GCSAA President Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, stated, "A number of points from the report are unsupported by fact, inaccurate or misleading. The primary thrust of the report seems to be that simply because these materials are applied on golf courses, they will *de facto* enter groundwater. Yet, no scientific evidence is cited in the report to support this notion. In fact, actual monitoring and sampling studies suggest that there is very little movement of materials applied on courses—even in more vulnerable soils than those found on Long Island."

A major independent study completed on Cape Cod, Mass., and other university studies at Cornell and Pennsylvania State University show that golf course chemicals do not pose a threat to groundwater supplies when properly applied.

"Any suggestion that turf chemicals, when professionally and properly applied, will enter groundwater under golf courses in any amount sufficient to pose risks to humans is without foundation in science," Cadenelli said.

Cadenelli continued, "The report and the news release that preceded it refer to the fact that pesticides are applied to courses for 'merely aesthetic' reasons. Plant protectants are used to control diseases, insects and unwanted plants that cause damage to a very valuable piece of property. Golf course superintendents manage golf courses in an environmentally responsible manner to ensure that there are acceptable conditions for golf

and to protect the significant investment that golf courses represent."

Golf courses are businesses: they provide thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in property taxes. The value of land around the golf course is also enhanced, creating a larger volume of tax revenues from homes and businesses located nearby.

Properly maintained turfgrass actually benefits an entire community by preventing erosion, cleansing the air of pollutants, acting as a "heat sink" that cools the atmosphere, maintaining much-needed greenspace in urban settings, providing habitat for thousands of species of birds and wildlife, and filtering pollutants from rain and irrigation water.

More and more golf courses around the country are utilizing effluent (reclaimed wastewater) for their irrigation purposes. The natural filtration properties of turfgrass allow this wastewater to be disposed of on golf courses and be cleansed before it reaches the groundwater supply.

Cadenelli said, "Golf course superintendents were putting the principles of integrated pest management into practice long before 'IPM' became a government buzzword."

Integrated pest management, or IPM, is the utilization of turfgrass management strategies that are economical and have the least possible effect on people, property and the environment. Reduced pesticide usage is an important element of any IPM program.

"Given the expense of chemicals and our own deep concerns about protecting natural resources, why would we use them unnecessarily? Modern emphasis and education is on using pesticides 'curatively,' as a doctor would use a specific medicine to treat a specific problem. Ask those who know—extension agents, pesticide regulators, educators—and they will tell you that golf course superintendents are leading the way in implementing IPM practices," said Cadenelli.

Maria Cinque, turf specialist at the Cornell Cooperative Extension on Long Island, backed up this statement. "We at the Cornell Cooperative Extension have

been teaching IPM practices for the last 10 years. Many of those practices are used by golf courses on Long Island," Cinque said. "I believe that the amount of pesticides has definitely been reduced during this period."

Cadenelli noted that superintendents nationwide are using fewer and fewer chemicals more effectively each year.

"It seems ironic that this report is issued at a time when we're using better materials in increasingly small amounts. If there isn't a problem now, I don't see how there could be one in the future," he said.

The report itself stated that "there is no reason to believe that any water now supplied to Long Island exceeds safe drinking water guidelines for any pesticides."

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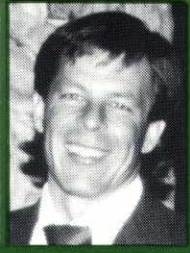
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EDITOR'S CORNER

By John Harris
The Lafayette Club



This past month I had the opportunity to speak with Jerry Murphy concerning the recent induction of the late Harold Stodola into the PGA/MGA Hall of Fame. As I am relatively young (Harris's definition of young - naive), I asked Jerry for the transcript of the speech he gave at the banquet in Harold's honor. I also referred to the '85 article in *Hole Notes* to refresh my memory on this man's many accomplishments. For those of you who knew Harold Stodola and those of us that need to know more about him, I am sure we can agree that a rewrite is in order. I would like to extend thank you's to the past MGCSA directors who had the insight and wisdom to name an event in his honor.

* * * *

The Northgate Computer Classic held at Edinburg USA proved to be an exciting match for players and gallery alike. I understand that Tom Fischer and his staff are to be commended on a fine job of preparing Edinburg for this event. The touring pros of the LPGA had many favorable comments on the condition of the course. Tom Fischer and Chris Hague should get together and take a short fishing trip. Saskatchewan maybe.

* * * *

The MGCSA Championship was held at the New Richmond Golf Club with top honors going to _____ with a low gross of _____. Thomas Johnson and his staff have the gratitude of this association in hosting this event. My assistant tells me the layout was a sight to behold and the banquet was first class.

* * * *

Should be a few smiling Superintendents around Minnesota as the din of single-cylinder engines driving 5/8" tines into the soil brings much-needed relief to the playing surface. In the weeks to come, temperatures will cool, top growth will slow and autumn colors will give our courses an added dimension of beauty. Enjoy these weeks and take time to reflect on your accomplishments during the '91 season.

— John Harris
Editor

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