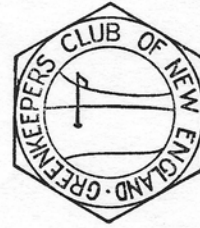


# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1954



Henry Van Dyke once said that the first day of spring and the first spring day are not always the same. Surely it didn't feel very spring-like Sunday, March 21, 1954, the date of the equinox. The time when the sun crosses the plane of the earth's equator making night and day all over the earth of equal length. Spring will be with us until June 21, the longest day of the year, then the long turn back to the shortest day of the year, December 21. That is just about the limit of the golf season in our part of the country, March 21 to December 21. Nature goes to sleep the remainder of the year and supposedly wakes up the first day of spring. Every Greenkeeper likewise has to be wide awake during this active span to keep pace with nature's many challenges. That is why our monthly educational meetings during the winter help us to be alert for new ideas, new methods, and correct procedures in conducting the many phases of our work.

The last meeting at Waltham, March 1, and the Amherst conference, March 11 and 12 were no exceptions in this respect. The subject at the Waltham meeting was *Fairway Watering* ably conducted by Orville Clapper and elaborated upon by architect Orrin Smith, Hydraulic engineer J. B. Starkweather, and installation expert Al Zikoris. The golf course contemplating the installation of a fairway water system has many questions to ask. What about the source of water supply? If it is to be city water make sure they can supply your needs and when you want it. Don't take their word for what they can supply. Have an expert check. The City may not be talking your language. A booster pump may be necessary. Consider the spot for the pump house. Check with the power company for the supply of electricity. A centrifugal pump is usually used. Wells are expensive to install. Plan the water system to supply sufficient water to the farthest and highest sprinkler at required pressure. Shall a contractor or the course crew make the installation? What is the total estimated cost? (See a banker). Editor's Note: If we can believe certain scientists who claim that we are in a long dry cycle and that the summers will continue to be hotter and

dryer, then fairway watering will hold the spot light. Woe to the small course with little capital.

Speaking of spot lights, a focus was directed upon a most unprecedented occurrence at the last Waltham meeting. We had the honor and privilege of being a host to three generations of greenkeepers—Robert Mitchell, Sam Mitchell and Sam Mitchell, Jr. We wonder if this has ever occurred in this country before. Perhaps Agar Brown can inform us. Here is a challenge Agar. The traffic was quite heavy in the membership application department at the March 1 meeting. The following will be voted upon at the April 5 meeting: Richard Blake, Whitinsville; Sam Mitchell, Canton; Ed Curran, Lexington; Omar Dudevair, Jr., Weston; John O'Connor, Peabody, and John Senkarik, Milford. Attendance prizes went to Mike O'Grady, Ted Swanson, Dick Finnerty, and Jack O'Connor.

The Amherst Conference was very well attended. Everyone seemed highly pleased with an excellent program of timely subjects presented by the Amherst staff in a masterly manner. The Connecticut Greenkeepers nearly outnumbered those from Massachusetts in attendance. It is a credit to Prof. Dickinson to experience this widespread keen interest in the annual Amherst conference.

## DATES TO PUT IN YOUR BOOK

May 3, Greenkeepers Meeting — New Bedford Country Club. One of those famous — yum, yum, barbecues. Ladies invited.

April 24, Testimonial dinner for Ray Koon. See Narry Sperandio at the next meeting for tickets.

April 5, Regular meeting at Waltham Field Station. Lunch at 12:30. Directors meeting at 11:00. Special guest speakers, Dr. DeFrance and Stewart W. Hart.

Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday and all is well.

H. DARLING, *Editor*

# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1954



"April Showers Bring Mayflowers", so the saying goes. The 3.6 inches which fell here April 16 and 17 was quite a shower. Over night the warm rain has changed the long stationary Spring to an active, lively green growth. How appropriate that Easter morning should awaken with bright clear skies, and all about renewed vigor and life. Bursting buds, opening flowers, and fast growing plant life as if to commemorate this day of resurrection. By the way, how do they establish Easter Sunday on the calendar? It's the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or next after March 21, the day of the equinox.

With the Easter parade over and that bonnet put away for another fine day what happened at the April 4th Greenkeepers Meeting at the Waltham Field Station. Dr. DeFrance and Stewart Hart of the Rhode Island Experiment Station had the top billing for the day. Chemical Control of Clover and Chemicals For Retarding Growth of Grass were the subjects discussed, substantiated by mimeograph copies of the Experiment Station data plus additional facts on Chemical Control of Mature Smooth Crab Grass in Lawns. Boiled down for the editor's comment it appears that decidedly the best time of the year for the control of clover is in the fall of the year. Endothal and 2,4,5 T, 1-2 quarts per acre gave the best control, in the 1953 work. In relation to retarding the growth of grass with chemicals, Dr. DeFrance stated that Maleic Hydrozide was used. For all practical purposes chemical treatments to retard growth of turf on greens, tees, and fairways just doesn't seem to be good Greenkeeping practice. There appears to be no good reason for the ideas. However, there may be a place for such treatments on certain types of rough, such as hard to mow places, etc. Those who heard these interesting talks should refer to the literature received for further reminders of the details.

The attendance prizes won at this meeting went to Tony Caranci, Jr., Chet Baldwin, Dick Silvar, and Guy Tedesco. At the business meeting the following were voted a club membership: Sam Mitchell, Jr., Omar Dudevair, John O'Connor, Edward Curran, and John Senkarik. An application for new membership was received from John Almonte, Worcester Country Club. The Tournament Committee announced the following schedule for the summer:

May 3—New Bedford C.C.; Barbecue and Ladies' Day.

June 7—Worcester C.C.; Green Chairman Meeting.

July 12—Agawam Hunt G.C.; Memorial Tournament.

Aug. 2—Manchester C.C.

Sept. 13—Bear Hill C.C.

Oct. 4—Brae Burn C.C.; Greenkeeper—Pro.

Oct. 25—Hyannis Port C.C.; Championship.

Your editor attended the Rhode Island Greenkeepers meeting, April 19, at the Wannamoisett C.C. to learn something about Nematodes. Dr. Tarjan of the Rhode Island Station gave an interesting talk, "Nematodes—What they Are and What They Do To Your Greens." Massachusetts Greenkeepers not familiar with Nematodes had better ascertain if their greens are infested. It is apparent that they could be a source of considerable trouble weakening the grass to such an extent that it opens the door to many difficulties. The editor is experiencing such a situation at this time. Dr. Tarjan would be a good speaker for our December meeting.

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WANTED—Parts, especially for a differential, for hand lift sickle bar for Worthington tractor. Homer Darling.

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The Directors of the Greenkeepers Club of New England have been somewhat concerned regarding visitors and friends playing at our tournaments. They feel it might be an imposition to the host clubs who assume it is for Greenkeepers only. The Directors therefore, suggest to the membership, that unless otherwise specified, our tournaments are for members only.

On to New Bedford is the slogan at this moment for a while of a time, this being the city so famous in the old days for its thriving whaling business. Many of the relics are being preserved and may be seen in the Whaling City Museum. The ladies who attend this meeting may be taken there as part of their entertainment. But be sure to be on hand for the barbecue. That will be something to remember. Have you sent the return card to Mike O'Grady? He will need this to make plans for the meal. Somebody is likely to go short if all cards are not mailed. It's Monday, May 3rd, at the New Bedford Country Club. Will you be there? Thar She Blows.

There will be a demonstration of equipment at 11:00 o'clock.

H. DARLING, *Editor*