

NEWSLETTER



JULY, 1966

Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND



FORTY-TWO YEARS OLD — and young enough
to reach for higher achievements in turf grass
management and professional stature.

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MANUEL N. FRANCIS
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July Meeting

The July meeting was held at the Lexington Golf Club. Host Superintendent Ted Murphy had the course in fine condition.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

1st Low Gross

Frank Murphy 77

1st Low Net

Dean Robertson 99-30-69

2nd Low Net

Bill Ash 95-26-69

3rd Low Net

Phil Cassidy 88-18-70

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Rhode Island Association, August 1st, at the Allendale Country Club.

Business meeting - 11:00

Lunch - 12:00

Golf after Lunch

Supper - Possible for those interested.

The Annual GCSANE Club and Seniors' Tournament will be held at this time. Bring your best shorts with you and play.

DIRECTIONS TO ALLENDALE COUNTRY CLUB

Take Rte 24 to Rte 140 to New Bedford Center. Take Rte 6 to Stang High School. Turn left and follow for 2 1/2 miles to Allen Street. Turn right and follow to Club.

September Meeting

The September Meeting will be held at Lake Sunapee G. C., New London, N. H. on September 12.

President's Message

THE BEST SELLER

A new status symbol at country clubs today is the lack of golf car roads on the golf course. As the golf car fleet increases, the ribbon of asphalt around greens and tees becomes a concourse surrounding the playing area.

When golf cars were first introduced, one of the features was to speed up the game 30 per cent. This has had a reverse effect, slowing the game, due to more time needed for the search of lost golf balls, which previously were found immediately by the caddy.

The best seller today is a reservation for a golf car on Saturdays or Sundays, or any other busy day. The caddy is now second choice, in most cases.

Maintenance of golf cars and roads occupy a good portion of the Superintendent's time. This added responsibility might be taken in stride, if the Superintendent was given a percentage of the profits.

Leon V. St. Pierre
President



TO THE TV WEATHER MAN

Don't show me all your graphs and charts,
The highs and lows and pressure belts,
Those marks I see are Greek to me,
Though they make sense to someone else.
Your hieroglyphics, I'll confess,
Confuse and nettle me a lot -
Just tell me this - no more, no less:
It is going to rain or not?

- Stephen Schlitzer



Placement Training

An Asset In Golf Course Work

Education is a must in any business, especially in turf work. Golf courses today are as complex as many large manufacturing companies. Maintenance has increased triple fold over the past ten years. This is the reason why courses in Turf Management, being offered at universities, are so important. But without practical experience, one can not grasp the hidden intricacies of golf course work.

I enrolled in the two year course at Stockbridge in 1958, and took my placement at Runaway Brook Golf & Country Club, Bolton, Mass., under the supervision of Bob Grant. I never realized there was so many things to learn in the maintenance of golf courses.

Some of the problems such as when to water, when and how much to spray, am I feeding my greens too much and many other questions can be answered with one word, experience.

How do you get experience? Generally, by learning as much on placement training as you can. I learned a great deal because Bob took time and was interested in helping me learn the many facets of turf management. I feel if you are interested yourself, it makes a lot easier learning. Also, working on a large course there were many jobs, other than routine, that enabled me to broaden my education. I learned the proper methods in the application of water, fertilizer and spray materials. Since I had never worked on a golf course before, I had to learn how to operate and maintain various pieces of equipment, how to spot something that was wrong and correct it, also there were many other things which I had a chance to do. All these things helped make placement training very rewarding.

I also had a chance to work on new construction. They were still constructing various parts of the course, such as tees and rough. A great deal of work goes into construction. You have to have a working knowledge of Surveying, Agronomy and Landscaping

and "common sense". What you do in construction will either help or hurt you five or ten years later. Another big job we worked on was a complete irrigation system. This was one thing that really impressed me. Surprenant Mfg. Co., which owned the course, made the plastic pipe for the course. It started out as an experiment, but ended up as one of the best irrigation systems around.

I left Runaway to do my hitch in the service. After I was discharged, I went to work for Joe Zoppo at Nashawtuc Country Club. I had not forgotten the many things learned on placement training. The problems here were basically the same, but my past experiences and training helped me solve them a lot faster. Now my training will help me show the crew what has to be done and how to do it. You would not let a child play with a loaded weapon - the same thing applies on a golf course. You don't send a man out with a can of spray material to spray a green without first instructing him as to what has to be done and why.

I am now learning how to handle a crew and choosing the right man for the job. This is a hard thing to do because sometimes you are said to be playing favorites. You don't want some incompetent fellow running a piece of equipment worth \$5,000 - \$7,000. Not only will he do damage to the equipment, but he may seriously injure someone. Nor do you want some fellow who may be watering your greens at night fall asleep and forget to shut off the water system.

It takes a long time to learn these and other things, but if you get the ground work in placement training, it isn't half as hard later on.

This is why I feel placement training plays an important role in the future of a Golf Course Superintendent.

David Macora
Assistant Superintendent
Nashawtuc Golf & Country Club

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR FRIENDS

Abbott Spray and Farm Equipment Co.
Waltham Street
Lexington, Massachusetts

The Clapper Co.
1121 Washington Street
West Newton, Massachusetts

Geoffrey S. Cornish
Golf Course Architect
Fiddler's Green
Amherst, Massachusetts

Fuel Activator Chemical Corp.
C. F. Barbour - Regional Director
4300 Prudential Tower
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Grounds Equipment Co., Inc.
383 Boylston Street
Newton Centre, Massachusetts

The Hubbard Hall Chemical Co.
P. O. Box 790
Waterbury, Connecticut

The Charles C. Hart Seed Co.
Wethersfield, Connecticut

Tom Irwin Co.
Bennet Hill Road
Rowley, Massachusetts

Johns-Manville Sales Corp.
150 Causeway Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Karandrew Turf Farms, Inc.
Sam Mitchell, Sales Representative
18 Old Randolph Street
Canton, Massachusetts

Larchmont Irrigation Co.
Larchmont Lane
Lexington, Massachusetts

J. F. Aveni
Lu Soil-Soil Conditioner
Minerals & Chemicals Philipp Corp.
25 Concord Avenue
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New England Engine & Parts Co. Inc.
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