

NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 1967

Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND



Sponsors and administrators of the Lawrence S. Dickenson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

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Golf Course Superintendents Association

AUGUST MEETING

With a turnout of 114 people for the Clam Bake at Sam Mitchell's Easton Golf Club, I would say that this was a huge success. After talking with a few of the members I think that the general feeling is that we should make this event an annual affair.

The Nominating Committee was appointed and Joe Butler was appointed as Chairman. The rest of the committee are as follows: Tom Curran, Manual Francis, Sr., Ronald Kirkman, and Wayne Ripley. New applications to be voted on at the next meeting:

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

James MacDonald — Anthony J. Kruckas

GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

1st low gross (tie)	77
Gary Luccini, Mel Wendell	
1st low net	65
Norman Beaureguard	
2nd low net	67
John Petraitis	
3rd low net	70
Nary Sperandio	
9 Hole Tournament	
1st low gross	40
John Morse	
1st low net	36
Ray Washburn	

NEXT MEETING — September 11, 1967

The next meeting will be at Wanamoisett Country Club, Rumford, R. I. Mel Wendell is the Superintendent.

Nominating Committee	10:45 a. m.
Directors' Meeting	11:00 a. m.
Regular Meeting	11:30 a. m.
Lunch	12:30 p. m.
Golf	1:30 p. m.

Directions to Wanamoisett: South on 128 to Rt. 95 south to Rt. 1A in South Attleboro, go past Narragansett Park to Third set of lights and go right. Then proceed to Hoytt Street and look for Club.

August 6, 1967

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE NUMBERS' GAME

Have you ever played a horse or the treasury pool on a hunch? Some of the Superintendents and fertilizer manufacturers are doing exactly this with the multitude of new fertilizer formulations that have glutted the market.

A number of new formulations were offered this spring, leaving out phosphorous P205. For example, 10-0-5 and 20-0-10 without proper research, blending and trial period, before they were hastily put out on the market, for the golf course trade.

The idea is sound for our infested Poa-annua turf and the excessive build-up of phosphorous in our soils. The problem here is the blending of these formulations, which left a lot to be desired.

Some companies still have the colossal nerve of not stating essential information, even though required by law, (on the bag) the ratio, the percentage of water insoluble nitrogen and water soluble nitrogen, nor the sources by which they are derived from.

Time has come to stop this farce of gimmick fertilizers and twisting the numbers on the bag.

Fertilizers should not be applied on a hunch, but on scientific fact.

I congratulate the fertilizer manufacturers for their attempt to blend a fertilizer tailor-made for Poa-annua turf. This was only a half-hearted try in order to capture the market which so badly needed this type of blending.

Some Superintendents have been serenaded by sweet-talking salesmen into buying materials which they did not need, and even in some cases, caused them problems.

The 1967 season had the Superintendents reach in their files for the cold, wet and humid turf maintenance plans. In plain English, *moderation* was the key word. Heavy applications of fertilizers were not part of these plans.

During the past decade it has been fashionable among the people in our profession to overload turf areas with fertilizer . . . "color me green" was their motto.

Impatience and nature are not compatible. This year is a good one to re-evaluate some of our cultural practices, and you, the Superintendent, be the diagnostician and not someone that has a product to sell.

Leon V. St. Pierre
President

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

By Gerry Finn, Springfield Union, July 13, 1967

According to tournament law at the Longmeadow Country Club, this is the day members gaze upon the fairways and greens and give themselves the "this is my own . . . my native land" treatment. Then, they take hold of their favorite four-ball partner and set out in pursuit of a respectable score in the qualifying round of their private pull for 19th hole immortality — the annual Longmeadow Invitational.

Spoon-Fed Course

It is deemed automatic that the course, on which they shall frolic for the next four days, coincide with the importance of the moment. Not only must the host player be exposed to the most immaculate of conditions, his partner in the premeditated crime of slaying par should be impressed enough to come away from it all Sunday night with the realization Longmeadow stands as the citadel of spoon-fed courses.

Such a strong aside to the actual playing of the event constitutes the inspiration Leon St. Pierre acquires some 10 days or so before everyone swoops down on the real estate for their general battle with par and ensuing particular struggles in the match play phase of things. St. Pierre is the greens superintendent at Longmeadow and a short visit with him in these times of strife solidifies the theory that here is a man sitting on a powder keg.

Greens superintendents are tragically in need of proper recognition. Their image hasn't shaken the hand-me-down effects of yesteryear when most people considered them to be nothing more than backyard gardeners with two green thumbs. At one time the universal appraisal of the greens superintendent's task (in a long span when his title lost all executive flavor in the peasant-sounding "greenskeeper") was written off as elementary seed spreading. The belief prevailed that he picked up his fertilizer, tied his lawn mower behind him, shoved a sprinkler head into his back pocket and set out to make the brown grass green and the bare spots the breeding place for new growth. He was said to come equipped with rain-making devices, acquired in trade with the Indians and be blessed with a certain power to inspire success where other less fortunates had produced drastic failure.

Formulas and Remedies

St. Pierre has shades of this breed strung through him but also reeks of the new, bold look in greens superintendents. He is professionally trained to perform a highly-specialized art. His head is stuffed with formulas and remedies to bring a sick and dying golf course back to sparkling life. He, and the rest of the fraternity of fairway fondlers, have finally been accorded a place in the technical family of life's ambitions. And with the recognition has come the best conditioned courses this side of Forest Lawn . . . and there I go, waving the flag again.

Anyway, St. Pierre gets the message when names start to trickle on the big entry board for the four-ball. His aim, nurtured by a secret mental jab from the membership, is to turn Longmeadow into Augusta National — a feat which he knows is impossible. Nevertheless, he goes about his business with that lofty goal as the driving force behind the green movement.

Leon has 11 full-time workers on his crew and they are briefed on the situation about two weeks before the tournament. Some say goodbye to their families for that length of time. Others prime themselves for the long hours ahead with a last social fling. The situation is something akin to the departure date for those summer vacations at Camp Drum.

The big headache this year for the St. Pierre team has been what the boys in the know refer to as "a nitrogen explosion." The cold spring we encountered a couple of months ago is responsible for this "damn-it." The breakthrough of sudden heat releases the nitrogen in such a manner the plant gets so lush it wilts out. So, restoration of the afflicted grasses takes up the time and medicine allocated for the usual snipping and shining of trees and greens.

Moisture Needs Control

The one thing you don't want to do in these dire times is to ask St. Pierre how his "helminthosporium" is doing. "Helminthosporium" sounds like a dirty word, and it is. Straightened out, it is another term for leaf spot. Such a malady is the result of high humidity and too much moisture . . . the weather conditions which have drained Western Mass. of late. This little devil affects all grasses and must be treated in the early stages. "Most people think a lot of water and plenty of sun are all a course needs," Leon advises. "But we like to control moisture. We'd rather apply water when we want it . . . not when nature wants it."

Of course, there's always "public enemy No. 1" to give St. Pierre a strong bout in the middle of all his other tasks. This would be "Poa-annua," the cancer of the greens superintendent's glossary of golf course diseases. The treatment of this malady is eternal. It has to be phased out with a series of knockout chemicals and the introduction of bent grass in the planned areas of its death.

Today, then, is the beginning of the Longmeadow members' finest moments. They shall arrive on the tee, expecting the usual miracle of the feast of the transfiguration. For the next 96 hours they and their guests shall know what it means to play Augusta National, and St. Pierre can cast a prayer toward the sky, breathe easier and say "amen."

FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Abbott Spray and Farm Equipment Co.
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Lexington, Massachusetts

Dr. Burton R. Anderson
Golf Course Architect
Turf and Golf Course Consultant
Route 5
Augusta, Maine

The Clapper Co.
1121 Washington Street
West Newton, Massachusetts

Geoffrey S. Cornish
Golf Course Architect
Fiddler's Green
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The Charles C. Hart Seed Co.
Wethersfield, Connecticut

Fuel Activator Chemical Corp.
C. F. Barbour — Regional Director
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Grounds Equipment Co., Inc.
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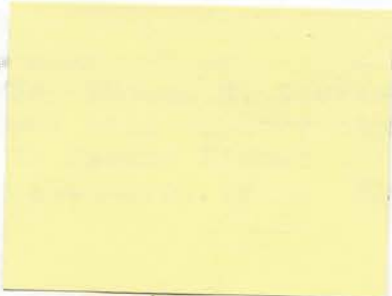
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