

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1968



Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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

"On To The Country Club"

It's on to the famous battlefield where a skinny kid immortalized himself on a solemn September day. On to The Country Club come the third day of this June for the annual tournament of the golf course superintendents of New England and the golf club-slinging overseers of their artistry, the grounds and green chairmen.

But what of this skinny kid? Francis Ouimet, that was his name. The name of the event was the United States Open and it was American only by identity of the host. For those, who collected medals, money and championships, the British were still coming and coming on strong.

Those were glorious times for proper Bostonians who crowded the membership book at the sacred playing area of The Country Club. Ouimet turned their heads on that afternoon of September 20, 1913. He had tied the British bullies, Harry Vardon and Ted Ray, at the end of regulation play with the Open title sent into overtime. It was Ouimet against the world, or so it seemed to be because the British were favored to tan his hide.

However, Ouimet grew tall on the tee and accurate on the greens. He whipped the two invaders in a three-headed playoff to become the first United States amateur to master the Bulls and bring home the bacon. Through the streets of Boston that night his name could have been John L. Sullivan. Ouimet had licked "anyone in the house."

It is for this feat that The Country Club lies as a monument to American golfing genius. And through the succeeding years, even though it has retained its crusty facade of social superiority, the course has become an integral part of golf's continuing rise in this country.

The Country Club has had its moments of embarrassment. A Connecticut swinger, who had brought plaudits to New England for another success in the Open, once was denied admission to the golfing grounds because he wasn't in company of a member. Some time later Julius Boros didn't have to have anyone sign for him at the pro shop. If he had been required to gain clearance, all of the membership would have claimed him as a personal guest. At that moment Boros was in the midst of capturing his second National Open, crack-

ing through the fierce attack of Arnold Palmer and the stubborn staying power of Jacky Cupit. Boros was king of a second three-way playoff, exactly 50 years after the Ouimet ascension to glory.

The Boros photo-finish victory at The Country Club came on the heels of other interesting asides to the tournament. One was a rather unkind assessment of the tricky layout which was to be the early burial place of defending champion Jack Nicklaus, a 36-hole casualty in missing the cut at a score of 153. Nicklaus didn't voice the remark. But it went like this . . . "The Country Club? . . . That's where the elephants go to die." (No pun intended on the size of Nicklaus).

Before any of the 1963 swings, however, a hero of another breed came forth to earn hurrahs and applause. Early that year the USGA pondered the idea of moving its Open to another course. The winter had been bitter to The Country Club's condition. Superintendent John Kelty would have no part of surrender. He told USGA executive director Joe Dey he would bring back the fairways and greens.

Those were hard times for everyone at the club. It would have been an absolute permanent stain on the sacred scroll which houses the Country Club's history. Members engaged in a prolonged vigil to cheer on the progress of Kelty and his crew. When finally the tournament dates arrived, the course was presented to the field in sparkling state. Kelty had worked a minor miracle. The Country Club members could throw their noses into the air once again because their course superintendent had come through in shining colors.

Kelty no longer is part of the scene. Jim Macdonald, who will be the guide for the touring supers and chairmen June 3, has taken over in noble style. Jim has been at The Country Club for four years, two of them as assistant to Kelty. He's carrying on in the same tradition of furnishing an impeccable product for the membership. He promises he'll have the same type of battlefield set for his colleagues in this much-awaited event.

So, supers and friends, it's on to The Country Club. And, a closing note to the members of this Taj Mahal in the middle of the starched collar district . . . "If anything, we promise not to drink the water from the finger bowls."

— Gerry Finn

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at the Country Club, Brookline, Mass. The date is June 3, 1968. This is the annual Superintendent-Greens Chairmen meeting and tournament. Let's bring the chairmen to a delightful meal and then a best ball golf match. Plan to be at the Club about 11:15.

Social Hour	11-12 P. M.
Buffet	12-1:45 P. M.
Golf	1 P. M.

This is for the superintendent and greens chairman only.

Directions: From Route 128 follow Route 9 south towards Boston — go right at the Lee Street exit near reservoir and then take second right on Clyde Street (about 1½ miles). Club is on left.



Jim MacDonald

Golf Course Superintendents Association

LIST OF DIRECTORS

President Anthony Caranci	V. President Robert Grant
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UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION
Green Section, Eastern Region

DESSICATION — SEVERE THIS WINTER

Golf courses in parts of the Northeastern and Middle Atlantic States suffered severe dehydration overwinter. This was the first time this area was blasted so severely in years; in fact, it is the most severe case since 1933 according to some of the veteran area superintendents. DESICCATION resulted because of the lack of protective snow cover, the lack of precipitation, and because of the high, drying winds that blew incessantly during January, February and March. This caused the shallow rooted *Poa Annuua* and bentgrasses to dry out, become weak, and turn a crisp brown color. At this writing (in mid-April), recovery has been only fair because of the continued strong, drying winds and lack of warmth and rain. High areas are mainly affected, while greens protected by terrain or trees came through with hardly a blemish.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT? For the most part recovery should be good but it will be slow . . . slower than in a normal spring . . . possibly four weeks slower. In the meantime, it is advisable to syringe greens daily using the same technique as for summer wilt. Weak areas may also require brushing, renovation in the form of spiking or aeration, or light grooving prior to seeding, fertilizing and topdressing. Then syringe lightly until germination is complete — this will also help the weak grasses to recover. Weak areas on fairways mainly require light irrigation, but some renovation here may also be necessary.

We trust this will be helpful in understanding the problem and to say that in dealing with it, PATIENCE is the byword.
Alexander M. Radko, Eastern Director

May Meeting

The first outdoor meeting was held at Joe Rybka's Thorney Lea in Brockton. We all enjoyed a fine meal and a good round of golf. At the business meeting various communications were read and then we had an open discussion period about the various problems at hand. Snowmold prevention methods were discussed by Nary Sperandio of the Concord Country Club and also he explained the problems of skimobile damage at his course. He told of the dead areas left by the ski tracks. Matt Spokas told us of his liquid fertilization program where-by he applies 7 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to his Marion fairways a year at the Middleton Golf Club. Leon St.Pierre read the bill that had gone to the State House on vandalism on golf courses. However, the bill was turned down because the fines were thought to be too severe. We will try for this again next year.

GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

1st Low Gross	—	Bob St. Thomas	77
1st Low Net	—	Dean Robertson	66
2nd Low Net, Tie	—	Joe Rybka	70
		Ted Murphy	70

The tournament was highlighted by Dave Barber's eagle 3 on the long par 5 eleventh hole.

Superintendent — Press Tournament

This new event will take place at the Twin Hills C. C. in Longmeadow, Mass. on July 8, 1968. Each superintendent is expected to invite a member of the press from his own town. Remember you send them the Newsletter so they will be waiting to be invited as your guest for the day. There will be a banquet after golf and prizes will be awarded then. Let's make this a real success.

THE ELM TREE

The elm trees in New England have been of concern to us since about 1941 when it was noticed that many of them were dying. A great deal of research and study have gone into the cause and to try and save the elm. You have probably read much about the Dutch Elm Disease caused by the fungus, *Ceratostomella ulmi*, and spread by the bark beetles, threatening our elm trees. Most of us know the symptoms of the disease including: wilting, curling, yellowing, and early falling of leaves, and the brown streaking of the infected wood. Trees may die suddenly or gradually. A wood-staining fungus living in the water conducting channels causes the disease. Death of the trees results from a toxin produced by the fungus and gummosis in the water-conducting vessels. The small European and native elm bark beetles serve as carriers of the fungus and they engrave breeding galleries in weakened trees and later the young emerge to feed in tender green twigs. Other means of spreading include direct contact between diseased and healthy trees, natural graft of roots, etc.

Trees affected with Dutch Elm Disease may appear similar to elms afflicted with other troubles. It has been brought to my attention that there is a disease known as "Wet Wood" or "Slime Flux", (*Erwinia Nimipressuralis*); (Pirone, Dodge, and Rickett). It is a bacterial disease appearing as wilt and the branches die back. The general health of the tree is greatly affected, as there is considerable fermentation pressure built up in the tree, it may build up as much as 20 pounds pressure, and the tree tends to bleed at any weak point on the trunk or branches, particularly at the crotches. This makes a gray, white streak running down the outer bark of the tree. This is one easy way of telling if the disease is present.

There is no cure for the disease but the tree can be kept alive and effects of the disease kept to a minimum by boring a tap hole at the base of the tree to release the pressure, about the same as you would tap a maple tree). Fertilizing the tree at this time is advisable, to help the tree regain its health and growth.

In addition to the tapping and fertilizing, a third and optional benefit is cutting out the diseased area in the crotch or base where the bleeding occurs and painting the area to prevent further spread of the bacteria. The first two steps are by far the most important.

There may be other insects or diseases affecting the trees in your area and it is a good idea to show interest in this problem and do something about it. You should contact the right people to help you. When you see this happening to trees in your area, you should contact your Town or State agency, or the Department of Natural Resources in your area. Get him to come out and have a look, and follow his advice.

We should all try to take care of the trees we have already, because as we well know, it takes years to grow another and it will never be the same as the old one was.

My thanks to Mr. "Dick" Stevens, Skyline Garden Center, Springfield, Vermont and to Mr. Malcolm O. McKenzie, University of Massachusetts for the information I gathered to write this article.

David Clement, Supt.
Woodstock Country Club



New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents Association, Inc.

Editor — George Hauschel, Supt. Rockingham Country Club, Newmarket, N. H.

THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT INVENTOR, INNOVATOR

By John Barry, Superintendent Abenaki Golf Club

On most golf courses today the primary problem is finding adequate help to maintain the course as it should be; add to this the new construction and the repair of worn areas and the problem becomes out of hand.

It is for the above reasons, and for the fact that when equipment breaks down the parts are not often right at hand, that this article is written.

Today the golf course superintendent is getting more recognition for his abilities as a professional in the turf industry, in respect to maintenance of large areas. Unfortunately, more often than not, many people do not realize what goes on in the maintenance garage when the equipment is in storage.

Most superintendents today keep a precise record of the condition of their equipment but the unexpected always arises, and just when you need that particular piece of equipment most. If a repair part cannot be found in a relatively short time there is only one thing to do: rework another part to fit.

Many labor-saving devices have been invented in the past few years by the superintendent because of the drain on manpower created by industry. Today, work that at one time required three men requires only one or two men for the same results or, in most instances, a better job.

By invention and innovation, I do not only mean with respect to equipment, but rather with regard to equipment and course maintenance. Every golf course is an individual and has to be treated as such; thus no two golf courses require the same equipment. If one golf course has a large area to maintain that requires a special piece of equipment, it would be practical for it to buy that piece; but if a superintendent has only a small area to maintain, it would prove to his benefit to rework an old piece of equipment, or redesign the area.

Many changes in equipment have been suggested by the superintendent to the salesmen of various companies, in order for equipment to be safer and more efficient to use. As a result, research has increased sharply in the equipment industry.

At the same time, the design of golf courses has taken on a new consideration: maintenance. No golf course can be beautiful unless it can be maintained sufficiently. Most golf courses being built today have a construction superintendent who will stay on after the course is built, to maintain it, and no superintendent wants additional headaches because of improper construction or design.

NEW MEMBERS

At the February meeting, Dr. Jesse De France of O. M. Scott and Sons, was elected to our association.

At the March meeting, the following members were elected to the NHGCSA: Mr. Lucien Duval, superintendent, Manchester CC., and Mr. Fred Schoenfield, superintendent, Crystal Springs Golf Club, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

At the April meeting, the following members were elected: Mr. Charles Doherty, sales manager for The Clapper Company, and John Lyon, of the John Lyon, Inc. Seedsmen and Consultants, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

At the May meeting the following were elected: Paul Kimball of the Kimball Farm, Exeter, N. H., and John Barry, superintendent, Abenaki C. C., Rye, N. H.



Phil Friel, 3rd from left, owner of Green Meadows Golf Club, Hudson, New Hampshire, greets some guests at the May meeting. (l. to r.) Herman Hauschel, Rockingham Country Club, Newmarket, N. H., Charlie Pullen, Nashua Country Club, Nashua, N. H., and on the right, Dr. Jesse DeFrance, O. M. Scott and Sons.

Phil started construction of his course in 1959; the first nine holes opened for play in the spring of 1960 and the second nine in the fall of 1960. Construction of the next 18 holes began in 1963 and they were opened for play in July of 1967. Green Meadows is a public course and has no memberships. Phil has been in the golf course business all his life and before building Green Meadows was pro at Nashua for 10 years, also pro at Woburn Country Club, and Belview in Melrose, Massachusetts.

Phil is married and has three children and makes his home in Nashua, New Hampshire.

MAY MEETING

The May meeting was held at the Thunderbird Golf Course in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts. After the meeting we adjourned to the Green Meadows Golf Club in Hudson, New Hampshire where owner Phil Friel gave a short talk on the history, and general problems that were encountered during construction of the 36-hole layout. After his talk Phil invited all of those who did not wish to play in the golf tournament to a tour of the course.

Winners of the nine hole event were: 1st low gross, Len Chace; 2nd low gross, Bob Hale; 1st low net, Bob Flanagan; 2nd low net, Roland La Chance.

JUNE MEETING

Next Meeting,	June 12
Directors' Meeting	10 A. M.
Regular Meeting	11 A. M.
Dinner	12:15 P. M.
Buffet lunch will be served	
Educational program	1:15 P. M.

On June 12th (WEDNESDAY) the meeting will be held at the Cocheco Country Club, Dover, New Hampshire; host superintendent will be Robert Flanagan. Bob is going to show slides that he took during the construction of the new nine at Cocheco. Following the educational program there will be a nine hole golf tournament for those that wish to participate. Directions on how to get to the club: Take the Silver Street exit off the Spaulding turnpike and follow Route 4 through Dover, turn right on Atlantic Avenue and you will pass the club. Look for the barn with the large checkered door.



Golf Course Superintendents of Maine

Editor — Dr. Burton R. Anderson, Route 5, Augusta, Maine

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Association will be held on Tuesday, June 4, at the Phillippe Restaurant in downtown Biddeford. (Take Exit 4 from the Maine Turnpike). The meeting will start at 11 A.M. to be followed by lunch. Golf will be available at the Dutch Elm Golf Course in Arundel during the afternoon.

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Members are reminded that dues must be paid by May 31 to remain in good standing. Dues not paid to the Treasurer within a week after this notice will become delinquent and be dropped from Association mailing lists.

* * * * *

The May meeting was held at Howard Johnson's in South Portland during which everyone participated in a discussion of winter injury to turf.

During the afternoon some of the members played golf informally at Willowdale Country Club. The Association is grateful to Fred Nanny for being host.

Contrary to predictions by the editor and other illuminati, winter injury in Maine has been rather severe. In addition to loss of annual bluegrass in many areas, loss of basic grasses in greens, tees, fairways and home lawns has been most pronounced. The injury appears to be located in hollows and caused by a ice layer, but the thickness and duration of the ice layer this year were much less than usual. During December there was a lot of time when the ground was uncovered and some cold winds swept over frozen ground. It is possible that a combination effect of early desiccation and later ice layer cover has produced such widespread damage. It was agreed that our understanding of winter injury is very incomplete, and that were it better we would unlikely be able to have coped with conditions to any great extent, especially when most courses operate seasonally.

Spring season has been almost unprecedentedly early, with snow gone in late March, ice-out on lakes very early, and the occurrence of many days of sustained fair weather and moderate temperatures. Courses were opened for play as early as April 6, much earlier than the usual season kick-off at Brunswick Golf Club on April 19. At this writing exfoliation of trees is well along and two weeks earlier than usual. Rainfall has continued about normal.

* * * * *



Left to right: Harvey Lamontagne, Northern Area Vice President, Rockland Golf Club; Lloyd Ruby, Southern Area Vice President, Portland Country Club; John Davis, President, Riverside Golf Course; Ernest Hawkes, Secretary-Treasurer, Gorham Country Club.

IS WHITE PINE THE ONLY TREE FOR GOLF COURSE PLANTING?

Maine is called the Pine Tree State for good reason, since white pine seems so abundant, at least in the southern half of the state, and the history of lumbering is largely that of harvesting the great primeval stand of huge white pine trees for ship masts and planking.

Upon visiting Maine's golf courses one sees that this species has long been used for planting into groups to separate holes, protects tees and greens, etc., and that selection of this pine continues unabated for use on newer courses. Since they are "free" for the digging, it is understandable that they are used almost exclusively.

Aside from the monotony of using one species for planting, white pine has the disadvantage of being hard to establish on open windswept areas, which new golf courses usually are. It is not uncommon to see 50-75% loss of transplants, and those that will make it grow rather slowly compared with those in a full stand growing naturally.

Red or Bull pine (*Pinus resinosa*) is native to Maine and deserves planting on open golf course areas. It has a much fuller bole when young, is more tolerant to dry soil and windy conditions, and not so subject to breakage from wind or snow. The best stand known to the editor is that at the "Orchards" golf course in South Hadley, Massachusetts. The great beauty of this golf course is due in large measure to this stand of red pine.

Scotch pine (*P. sylvestris*) is a smaller European tree that is fully hardy in northern Maine and rarely seen on New England's golf courses. Its smaller stature, silvery green foliage and ruddy bark make it a beautiful tree indeed.

Colorado blue spruce is the best spruce to put out in open areas and fully hardy. It makes a striking stand, as seen on the Lake Sunapee golf course, although slow growing.

While these other species are not free for the digging, small plants are available for a low price from the state forestry or commercial wholesale nurseries and can easily be lined out for future planting on a golf course.

"A NEW HEADACHE"

From all apparent signs, it appears the golf course superintendent shall have to exist in the same world with a sworn enemy . . . the mechanized monster, the golf cart.

The life expectancy of this renegade of the machine age has far surpassed the initial and hopeful expectations of the super. Thus, it looks as though it shall join other such 20th century comforts as being immortal.

So, just as long as it doesn't expand the boundaries of its original purpose, we must learn to live with it. In the same light of acceptance the golfer, too, must learn of its deadly properties in regard to the well being of the golf course. If he doesn't abuse the use of it, the super can cope with its presence.

That fact established, country clubs now must take notice of a new creeping inequity which seems to be accompanying increase in number and likewise a staggering hike in the use of the golf cart. The new problem constitutes sort of a sneak punch. It concerns the task of maintenance, so far only a local instance of occurrence but definitely a threat to become a universal burden on the superintendent.

A quick survey of the New England Association reveals that country clubs and public courses are running about 50-50 in placing the responsibility of upkeep and its surrounding duties on the superintendent. In the same show of hands it also is interesting that the count leaps to 100 percent in matter of the superintendent receiving additional compensation for an additional item on his daily agenda. That's 100 percent in the negative!

One particular case should be cited so as to point out the possibility that the superintendent must take a vigorous stand against this unfair exchange of services rendered and returns given. The case super suddenly has been presented the care and upkeep of some 30 golf carts. His budget has been increased to the tune of enough money to provide the working hours involved in transporting the carts to and from their

storage area. He only wishes the new drain on his attention started and stopped there.

It doesn't. He must see to it that each cart is regularly serviced which includes a multitude of checkpoints. Then, he must take care of registration, insurance and the immediate recall of those carts which break down in the middle of a round.

His reward for such a rash of his demands on his already bone-picked-dry energy and time can be counted only in complaints. If a cart should suffer a breakdown or doesn't perform according to the standards of the member, the super is to blame.

To add further fuel for an uninspired approach to this new headache the golf pro at the club is compensated for a contribution of magnanimous proportions, that of writing up the trip ticket and billing the member. In this isolated look at the situation the pro gets one dollar for every cart which goes off the first tee.

This could be construed as the extreme in the case of the supers against the golf cart. But a further study of existing conditions in relation to the maintenance of carts shows the aforementioned example to be the rule rather than the exception.

Club officials, then, should take the complete picture into mind as far as the "split of the take" on golf carts is concerned. Certainly a flagrant inequity exists in the present state of the superintendent inheriting more work and responsibility while the pro reaps the gain.

It should be remembered the super didn't want the golf cart in the first place. To compound his irritation over its presence with a gross piece of injustice on the scales of remuneration insults his already underrated integrity. This new headache will not be remedied with a dose of aspirin. Rather it should be stamped out with use of a simple equation. More work plus more responsibility equals more compensation.

— Gerry Finn

Nature's Ways SIGN OF TIMES — GREENER LAWNS

By WAYNE HANLEY
Mass. Audubon Society

BOSTON — By now, the annual obsession known as the perfect lawn has struck the average suburbanite.

While no statistics are available, most of us know how this obsession will be resolved. We have seen the average lawn after the average suburbanite has expended time, labor and money upon it. The truth is that in tenderer years we were seized by the same obsession. The results we obtained never looked like the color photo that accompanied the cure-all that we used.

Oldest Symbol

Possibly the oldest status symbol was the comparative dryness of the various caves our ancestors inhabited. But the neatly-clipped lawn must have become the mark of the successful man very early. For the lawn descends from the days when grazing animals denoted wealth. The man with plenty of sheep, goats or cattle was surrounded by clipped turf. When he owned all the grazing animals that the land could possibly support, he had the most closely-clipped lawn in the neighborhood — which was incontestable evidence of his wealth.

The development of the lawn mower made cattle barons of us all. But the lawn mower had several shortcomings, including the inability to provide the fertilizer that animal herds did.

Anyone who sets out to make a verdant prairie on a patch of New England soil has a job ahead of him. The dice are

loaded against success. The climate, soil and rainfall all favor trees rather than grass. Any year in which a New England farmer fails to cut hay, he has started his hayfield on the road to becoming a forest.

Struggle

Through most of New England's history, the struggle to keep the potential woodlot in front of the house from maturing has been a fun-thing — or a struggle, depending upon one's attitude. In recent years a new element of chemical pollution has entered the spring tussle. Such potentially dangerous chemicals as chlordane and dieldrin have been added to some cure-all formulas. It has become necessary to read the labels on the bags rather carefully.

What the potential New England lawn needs most is a better grade of soil and considerable lime. Since only the lime is readily available, one must fall back on chemical fertilizers. Since grasses have a yen for nitrogen, most fastidious lawn builders seek a high-nitrogen content fertilizer — and then overdo it in spreading the stuff. If you have a pond at the end of the lawn, you can easily tell when you have overdone the nitrogen bit. The pond will produce a dark green scum of algae.

In the end, the only persons in New England really capable of producing a golf green turf are golf club superintendents. They not only make a full-time career of the difficult task but also employ expert crews to work full time at it. Even these professionals fail often enough.

There are many lawn care manuals, but none of them touches upon the basic element of success. That secret ingredient consists of the ability to argue well enough so that the lawn in its present condition will be accepted by your wife.

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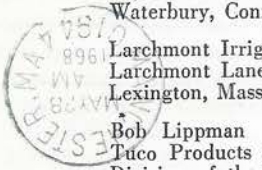
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NEWSLETTER

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