

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH 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.

### President's Message

The miracle men in the field of Labor-Management are about to embark on a most critical phase of golf course management — the hiring of a golf course maintenance crew for 1968. At a time in our country's history, when the unemployment rate is at its lowest; 3.4 per cent, the golf course superintendents must be miracle men to be able to hire a crew, offering them the least attractive positions in the labor market. Least attractive — where wages per hour, hours per week, days per week and fringe benefits are concerned.

The dedicated old timers, who enjoyed outside work and were accustomed to living on the low wages they received and yet took pride in their work, have been forced out of the picture by time, death and inflation.

Shortly, the golf course superintendent, must organize a crew for his 1968 golfing season. This is the situation he must and will face: The United States Department of Labor reported the following wage averages from thirty large cities in the United States:

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	
Common Labor	\$3.15	3.25	3.45	3.65	3.85	per hour
Skilled Labor	\$4.40	4.50	4.75	4.90	5.15	per hour

With these ever-increasing rates per hour, where does the golf course maintenance man fit into this picture?

In New England the United States Department of Labor Statistics stated that the "NEW ENGLAND ECONOMY IS ON THE RISE." New England had a record high in employment in 1967 and it looks like more of the same in 1968, with the Vietnam War, the Space-age Expenditures and Consumer Spending. Statistics indicated that, in the Boston Area, Electricians were paid \$5.40, Plumbers \$5.85, Bricklayers \$5.60, Carpenters \$5.15, Plasterers \$5.15, Painters \$4.75 and *Building Laborers at the rate of \$3.85 per hour.* Another record was set by these statistics in that a Boston Family of Four needed \$10,141.00 annually to live moderately. This is for the average family consisting of a husband, 38 years old, a wife, a boy 13 and a girl 8 years old.

Where do these factual statistics leave the Golf Course Superintendent to draw his crew from in this labor market? When the Superintendent interviews a prospective employee and offers him nine months work, without any fringe benefits, working practically seven days a week plus Holidays, for a rate per hour ranging from ten to thirty per cent above the minimum wage, whom can he possibly attract to work for his country club? Can he attract a competent, energetic punctual, dependable man, with a family of four, who will assume responsibility?

Time has approached when the country clubs must evaluate increases and earmark a greater portion of the membership dues toward the golf course maintenance payrolls. Year round employment, Blue Cross, pension plans and higher wages are some of the answers. The demands of the golfer today have resulted in extremely high levels of golf course maintenance. The wages available for the maintenance crews have not kept up with the Golfers Demands or the Cost of Living. With the



Mr. Richard Sears (left), Massachusetts Golf Association Executive Board, with Ben J. Chlevin (right), Executive Director of the GCSAA.

### MGA DAY GREEN SECTION SEMINAR

At Harvard Club, Boston, Sat., March 16, 1968, 10:00 A. M.

J. Barry Driscoll, *MGA Green Section Chairman, Moderator*

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION: "Better liason between Green Chairman and Golf Course Superintendent."

MAIN SPEAKER: Ben J. Chlevin, *Executive Director GCSA of America, Desplaines, Illinois.*

Subject: The Superintendent — Planner and Administrator"

PANEL:

Richard Crosby, *Green Chairman, Brae Burn Country Club*

Subject: "What can the Chairman expect from the Superintendent?"

Robert H. Marchese, *Green Chairman, Springfield Country Club*

Subject: "Whose responsibility is the decision on the use of golf carts when conditions are unfavorable?"

Anthony B. Caranci, Jr., *President GCSA of New England, Superintendent, Ledgemont Country Club*

Subject: "The Green Committee chain of command and Club Management responsibility shared equally three ways: Superintendent, Professional and Manager."

Richard C. Blake, *Superintendent, Mt. Pleasant Country Club*

Subject: "What can the Superintendent expect from the Chairman?"

mechanized era and the most efficient golf course operation, we still require good dependable men for our golf courses.

As the 1968 Golfing Season begins to come upon us, the Golf Course Superintendent (the miracle man) must meet this challenge and draw from the 3.4 per cent hard core unemployed. I do hope that our Country Clubs accept this challenge and initiate action to resolve these conditions.

Anthony B. Caranci, Jr.

# Golf Course Superintendents Association

## IT ALL BEGINS HERE . . . .

Country club members often lose sight of a fact which gets shoveled under the debris of fabricated success. The awful truth is comprised of the knowledge that without a golf course there would be no country club.

Take most establishments. The first ingredient for luring members is not a fancy fixture in the 19th hole. It is the architect and course superintendent plotting the use of the land, burning the midnight oil and wearing out the drawing board pencils to create nine, 18 or 27 holes of reason for belonging.

Through the years it has been a popular occurrence to take the grounds and those whose task it is to improve and insulate them against disease for granted, this in the manner of looking upon the job as some kind of elementary endeavor.

True, it takes several agencies to blend together in the establishment of a prestige-bathed country club. There have to be club managers, fancy-stepping waiters, foreign-speaking chefs, slick-haired pros and the rest.

Now, where does the course superintendent fit into this network of responsibility? Unfortunately, for the most part his contributions have been minimized because of unfounded assumptions that a golf course . . . more or less . . . takes care of itself.

This is both a physical and moral blunder in the thought processes of those who have the authority to delegate respon-



Ted Murphy (left), Mr. Baird (right).

## February Meeting

The Feb. 5 meeting of the GCSANE was held at Holiday Inn in Newton. The scheduled guest speaker was to be Allen H. Morgan, Executive Vice President of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Mr. Morgan was ill and was capably replaced by Mr. James Baird of the Society.

Mr. Baird gave, with the aid of some fascinating slides, a very interesting and truly informative talk. With more than 75 Superintendents and guests present Mr. Baird informed us that the Audubon Society's picture of "the old woman in sneakers" has changed to today's enrollment of over 13,900 members.

Mr. Baird in his discussion touched upon such subjects as wet land problems, the excessive use of chlorinated hydrocarbons, mosquito control and air pollution. A few interesting statistics were that a smoggy day in Boston has approximately the same equivalent of inhaling 40 cigarettes per person. The major cities of America are becoming warmer because of motor vehicle exhaust, factory wastes and smog conditions aren't allowing the sun's rays to return skyward. Some cities are already 10 degrees warmer than their immediate suburbs.

As the program progressed many different and varied questions were handled expertly by Mr. Baird. It was certainly an afternoon well spent.

*Edward J. Murphy  
Educational Committee*

## DICK BLAKE WAS RE-ELECTED TO THE GCSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

sibility and recognition. In present times there seems to be some form of warped logic spent in heavy concentration on the clubhouse and pro shop while the superintendent is accorded fifth-wheel treatment.

The history of failures in the golf business has been highlighted by this lopsided distribution of attention. In many cases country clubs have focussed their words, work and money on a restaurant-type operation. In the end, the course usually suffers in malnutrition and the paying bodies drift away to greener greens and grassier fairways.

Oh, it is all so nice to have the very best in appointments when one gathers his guests in the dining room or 19th hole. But, the actual reason for such luxury items being there in the first place is the design of the club golf course and the condition maintained by the superintendent and his staff.

There's an amusing story which passes the rounds of golfers and country club members. It just so happened that one of the leading clubs of a certain area experienced a devastating fire. The president of the club was out of town at the time and was informed of the sudden catastrophe in telephone conversation. He was told that the clubhouse, pro shop . . . everything in the way of buildings . . . were wiped out by the flames. "And the golf course?" the club president anxiously pleaded for information. "Nothing happened to it", was the report. "Oh, I'm relieved," the president breathed easier. "We can always build another clubhouse. But we could never replace that layout."

This happens to be a true measure of the importance of the golfing grounds and the men who service them. However, the appreciation of same often must be scraped from the possibility of losing them before it becomes a reality.

It would do well for all country club members to appraise their surroundings once in a while. When they look out from the first tee, they should say to themselves . . . "It all begins here; everything else is an addition."

*Gerry Finn*

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be April 1, 1968 at the Holiday Inn, Newton, Mass. (exit 53 from 128).

Directors' Meeting	10:45 a. m.
Regular Meeting	11:15 a. m.
Dinner	12:30 p. m.
Educational Meeting	1:15 p. m.

Don't forget the 39th Annual Fine Turf Conference at the White House Inn, Chicopee, Mass: March 6, 7, 8, 1968. M.G.A. day at the Harvard Club, Boston, Mass., March 16, 1968

New applications to be voted on at the next meeting

REGULAR MEMBER	ASSOCIATE MEMBER
Robert St. Thomas 49 Robbins Street Osterville, Mass. Club Affiliation Hyannisport Golf Club	Robert Heeley 3 Meadow View Road Wilbraham, Mass. Club Affiliation Quaboag Country Club

## ASSISTANT MEMBER

David Macora  
140 Cedar Street  
Clinton, Mass.  
Club Affiliation  
Nashawtuc Country Club



## Golf Course Superintendents of New Hampshire

Editor — John Brown, Supt. Fort Devens Golf Course

### FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting was held at the Highway Hotel, Concord on February 13, 1968. Mr. Bruce Vickery of the Connell Company presented an interesting and informative lecture on aircooled motors.

### MARCH MEETING

The next meeting will be held at the Highway Hotel, Concord, on March 12, 1968.

Directors' Meeting	10:00 A. M.
Regular Meeting	11:00 A. M.
Dinner	12:15 P. M.
Educational Program	1:15 P. M.

The speaker at this meeting will be Mr. Joseph Tropeano who will present two subjects: "Snowmaking" and "Irrigating the Nine-Hole Course."

### MEMBERSHIP

At the February meeting the GCSANH was pleased to welcome into its ranks Mr. William D. Cross, Rt. 2, Box 132A, Plaistow, N. H.

At the March meeting the following will be presented for membership:

Mr. Lucien E. Duval, Manchester CC  
Mr. Fred W. Schoenfeld, Crystal Springs Golf Club

We understand that there are many qualified superintendents in the northern part of the state who do not belong to our association. We urge all present members to make a special effort to bring along to our next meeting any potential candidates for membership.

### President's Message . . .

It is conference time again thanks to the efforts of our friend, Dr. Joe Troll. As president of the N.H.G.C.S.A., I urge each member to take advantage of this program. Those of us who attend yearly, gain much in the way of knowledge which aids us through the coming year.

Perhaps just as valuable and educational is the opportunity to sit in on discussions with other superintendents, getting their reactions to the day's speeches and hearing about their professional experiences.

At this conference there is an annual reunion with friends and many new friends are made. Further it provides a "tune-up" for what is going to unfold within the future months, setting the mood, always refreshing, friendly, and informative.

If you are one of the few superintendents who feels that he doesn't have the time to attend, or if your club cannot or will not pay your expenses; then you are sadly in need of an educational program at the club level.

Do any of these topics concern you? Golf course renovation, construction, and design; labor-management relations; reduction of maintenance costs. If so, then you will find much of interest and value at this year's conference. Couple this with the opportunity to ask questions of some of the top authorities in the country, and you have an unbeatable pair of reasons why you can't afford to miss this valuable program. So let's put everything else aside on March 6, 7, and 8, in order to attend this most informative conference.

Robert P. Flanagan President

### Strictly For The Birds

By William J. Barrett

Supt. Portsmouth Country Club

During the 1967 season Portsmouth Country Club initiated a unique plan for mosquito control. We installed purple martin bird houses in strategic spots on the course! If these birds are able to cut down the mosquito population on our course, as we hope, we will have solved a costly problem and eliminated a nuisance to the general golfer.

For the past twelve seasons, we have averaged a \$600.00 a year expenditure for mosquito control on our course. This consisted mostly of having our entire 238 acre course (which is surrounded almost completely by Great Bay and its tributaries) mist blown with Malathion by a local tree company. All too often the tree company could not spray effectively due to winds, rain, soft going in the roughs, etc.

This past year, because of the extreme wetness of the course, we had \$350.00 left in our mosquito budget; so, having heard a great deal about the purple martin and his appetite for mosquitoes, we purchased ten aluminum martin houses with 14 foot telescoping rods.

Knowing quite a bit about the purple martin and having, in fact, joined a purple martin society for the purpose of receiving their literature, we truly feel that this could very well be the answer to our severe mosquito problem at Portsmouth Country Club.

We cannot say that the results will be tremendous this year or even next since it will take that length of time for the birds to find and settle in these houses in any great numbers. Each house, by the way, consists of twelve apartments and if filled with adult martins during mating season, could conceivably produce sixty young birds who *would* return the following year.

While waiting those two years, we hope to fill the houses with tree swallows which are in abundance in our area. These birds will also eat fantastic amounts of mosquitoes, and they will be forced to vacate the houses by the martins themselves upon their arrival.

We will be purchasing at least five more houses this year and, with a total of fifteen, we should be able to attract a better than average number of martins to our course.

This coming fall we will make known the results of this, our first season of dealing with the purple martin. We hope to be able to report that our mosquitoes are "strictly for the birds."

### Home Garages Offer "Juice" For Golf Carts

Townhouses in the new city of Litchfield Park, Arizona offer an unusual feature — electric outlets in the garages for recharging the batteries of golf carts.

The first section of the city is being built around a 36-hole championship golf course. Planned sections will have other recreational facilities at their center.

The golf carts also are used for transportation within the city, traveling on a system of hard surfaced pathways, that avoid main roads and join all residential areas with schools, stores and recreational areas. City planners hope residents will use their golf carts in preference to autos, reducing traffic and air pollution.

Worcester Sunday Telegram, Jan. 28, 1968



## Golf Course Superintendents of Maine

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

### Maine Winter Turf Conference - 1968

Holiday Inn, Portland, Maine

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March 20 9:30 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.

March 21 9:00 a. m. to 12:00 noon

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It appears that the 6th annual winter turf conference will be the best yet. The speakers are ready and now all we need is your participation. This conference offers the superintendents of Maine and New Hampshire a convenient opportunity to hear from some top-flight talent.

The programs are now being printed. If you would like a program, drop a note to Vaughn Holyoke, 418 Deering Hall, Univ. of Maine, Orono, Maine 04473.

Following is a brief preview of whom you will see and what you'll be hearing at the conference.

**DR. JACK HARPER**, Extension Turf Specialist at Penn State University will be on the program Wednesday to discuss some management tips in overcoming winter injury problems. In addition, Jack will speak on turf problems around the Northeast. Jack has appeared previously on the Massachusetts and New Jersey Conference programs and we certainly are looking forward to hearing him in Maine.

**TOM PERKINS**, Instructor in Turf Management at Penn State will be around to discuss the results of the extensive weed research being carried on in Pennsylvania. Of special interest will be Tom's comments on use of herbicides for poa annua control. Tom will also be discussing research results from the Penn State soil modification plots. This project at Penn State is probably the most extensive one in the country aimed at finding the best soil mixtures for golf greens. You'll be interested in seeing how some of the synthetic materials compare with the conventional sand-soil mixes.

**PAUL BOHNE** of U. S. Rubber will be discussing the potential use of growth inhibitors around the golf course. This topic always leads to a live discussion. This is your opportunity to find out where you might use growth regulators.

**GEOFFREY CORNISH**, golf course architect from Amherst, Mass., will be discussing some of the problems involved in renovating and changing certain holes on the course. Jeff's fine use of colored slides will make you feel like spring has arrived early.

**FRED HUTCHINSON** of the University of Maine will be discussing some fertilizer problems. Fred, perhaps better than anyone I know, can educate and entertain you at the same time.

This is just an indication of what's in store for the Winter Conference. Hope to see you there.

### Potassium and Disease Resistance

In the past few years there have been numerous articles on the influence of potash on turf diseases. In the January 1968 issue of USGA Green Section Record, Goss and Gould of the Western Washington Experiment Station review some of the recent potash research. They cite data showing that high potassium has helped to increase turf resistance to dollar spot, brown patch, red thread, fusarium patch, and ophiobolus patch.

Goss and Gould conclude their review by pointing out that:

1. For healthy turf, nutrient balance is perhaps more important than the level of any single nutrient.
2. Nutritional programs are not the sole answer to disease control.
3. Good fungicidal programs are necessary to maintain clean, healthy turf.

Although this information comes from outside our region, the message is a good one. That is — Don't expect miracles from any one program, it takes an all-round effort to grow turf successfully.

### Steps Taken to Save Trees from Salt Injury

Many towns and cities in New England are taking steps this winter to save prized roadside trees from salt injury. Mechanical barriers and curbs are being erected to carry the melted salt away from trees, thus preventing it from seeping into soil around tree roots.

Salt used to melt ice and snow on highways has caused widespread decline of roadside sugar maples in New England in recent years . . . and all across the country intensified use of salt in winter on the highways is causing injury to nearby trees and shrubs.

Both common salt (sodium chloride) and calcium chloride are poisonous to trees in amounts. Slowly, year after year roots die. Then leaves exhibit a scorch-like symptom and die-back takes over. When the above-ground symptoms are noted many salt-injured trees have gone too far to be saved.

Most noticeable injury to roadside trees occurs at school and commercial bus stops and low places along highways where salt is washed down to tree roots. Shallow-rooted trees such as maples, dogwood and beech are harmed first. Shrubs and trees near parking lots, shopping centers and suburban stores are equally affected by salt injury.

Homeowners should avoid the use of salt on sidewalks and instead use sand, ashes or even a good inorganic fertilizer.

### Is the Great Outdoors Your Hobby?

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## "The Green Wave"

He's easily identified . . . short, stocky with Killarney blue eyes and a brogue that runneth over. His tongue is a green wave which roars on through virtually every meeting of the Golf Course Superintendents of New England; yet, it is quick and active . . . never biting or sharp. Above all, he is his own man's man.

If you think this is the promotion of candidacy of Mike O'Grady for sainthood, you are sadly mistaken. By his own admission, Mike "is no angel." He continues, "Oh, I'm a God-fearing man all right. And I'm a church-going Christian. But I'd only be lyin' if I said there wasn't a bit of the rogue in me."

Mike O'Grady has all the ginger and juice of a man who has lived his 65 years. He is a master story teller. He is like all two-fisted men . . . he drinks his whiskey dry. And he is a doer, a heavy contributor to any venture or conversation.

Love of golf and the soil is built into this lovable, affable gentleman. He started in the business over 50 years ago with an uncle, Tom Galvin, at the Rhode Island Country Club. The stribling was Uncle Tom's boy for four years before moving on to the Country Club of New Bedford where the O'Grady name has been a respected fixture for the last 44 years.

In truth the most famous landmark of the New Bedford golf course is its beloved superintendent. Mike admits he's had his scrapes and sweet words with many a grounds chairman but nothing came out of such meaty meetings unresolved. "We kick around many a problem", Mike winks. "My secret is simple. I let them all think I'm doing as they please. What's the difference, just as long as it benefits the course?"

Naturally, any and all improvements at New Bedford have been the result of Mike's direct confrontations with problems and dedicated concentration on creating new ideas and remedies to give his course the spic and span look. You review his seasons at New Bedford and you run the gamut of a superintendent's lot. He's seen it all and experienced more.

"Have I been around?" Mike declares, "I was here when a lot of these guys were still part of the shining up-above, I was part of the ground floor when we organized the New England Association in 1924, the same year the Rhode Island people started. In fact, they can't keep me quiet down there. I was just elected president in Rhode Island!"

When thoughts turn to furthering the profession's cause, Mike beams widest in his relationship with the national organization. He is one of its charter members. "And I'm still active there, too," he cracks. "It doesn't make any difference



Mike O'Grady (left), Superintendent at the Country Club of New Bedford, and Ben J. Chlevin (right), Executive Director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

where I am. I've gotten up and given them hell at the national meetings. I don't play any favorites."

While some think Mike would be married to the old school of thought in terms of job methods, his views have been streamlined to coincide with modern theories. "I'm not one of those old stick in the muds," Mike announces. "I have seen changes and gone right along with them. I can see the profession getting very scientific and at the same time very interesting. I definitely am in favor of progress, even though I might speak out of turn once in a while." And he adds another wink.

If he has been blessed with such a logical attitude, Mike also has reaped the harvest in his personal life. His is a glowing family. He has four sons. Mike, Jr. is in insurance in Texas, Robert does the same bit in New Bedford, Brian is attending a Passionist Order seminary in New York and John is carrying on the O'Grady handle as superintendent at the Petersham Country Club.

Mike is determined to see his profession attain the national recognition it deserves. "You know," he sermonizes, "we have the greatest bunch of guys in all of golf, right here in our group. What people don't realize is that if we didn't have super superintendents, there wouldn't be any super courses."

This is Mike O'Grady after 50 years in the sweat of the sun. And after those 50 magnificent turns of the calendar, he still is alive. He lets you know it at many a gathering. "Mr. President!" he will bellow. And he speaks his piece. Yes, his brogue runneth over . . . but so, too, does his heart. May the green wave roar on forever.

— Gerry Finn

## TOM CURRAN PROFILE

The same steady hand, that has brought about the tall reputation of Fitchburg's Oak Hill Country Club course, is returning for a third term as secretary of the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Naturally, the hand with the quick note-taking ability belongs to popular Tom Curran - the quiet but efficient keeper of the association records.



Curran took it upon his keen observation of vocational opportunities to land in the middle of the grass-growing country. A native of Northampton, Mass., Tom decided on a golf course career in 1954 when he was discharged from the service. There followed the two-year session at the University of Massachusetts and from there it was a foregone conclusion Tom would make it big.

Tom's first job was in Saginaw, Mich. He gave it three seasons there, from 1957

through '59. Then when Dick Silver left Oak Hill, Curran applied for the post and won it. That was in 1960 and Tom's been whipping things into shape on one of the section's leading layouts ever since.

The soft-toned speaking Curran is especially proud of his own course. Oak Hill, designed by the famed Donald Ross, has gained firm reputation as a solid test of golf. In fact, it has been the scene of two state tournaments during Curran's seven-year stay.

Curran has been a valuable asset to the golf course superintendents association. In addition to his outstanding job as secretary, Tom remains a staunch believer in the educational aims of the group . . . an area where he has toiled in helping to lift the status of the profession.

The likeable Curran is married and the father of three children. His wife, Nancy, is a former schoolteacher and chips in with the necessary moral support to keep the Curran goals in proper perspective.

The association is happy to welcome Tom Curran back to the recording table for another secretarial term. His presence there is greatly appreciated.

Gerry Finn

## Shake Hands and Say "Hi!" To Charles Martineau



Mr. Martineau was voted an associate member at the January meeting. He is a native of Turners Falls and a graduate of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, majoring in Turf Management. Charles was the recipient of the 1965 Golf Course Superintendents of America Scholarship.

Mr. Martineau is the Superintendent at the Northampton Country Club, Northampton, Massachusetts. Chuck did his tour of duty in the U. S. Marines, stationed at the American Embassy in Spain.

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