

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1972



*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.

## A NEW HURDLE

Now that the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has convinced most of its members a certification program is a giant step toward raising their status on the professional ladder, a new wrinkle may be on the horizon.

Part of the certification operation involves a periodic examination for those who have passed the original test. It means that a man must re-enter the sweat chamber every five years in order to retain his rank as a certified superintendent. Is this asking too much?

Dr. Paul Alexander, whose contributions to the educational aims of the organization have been marked with success, doesn't think the periodic examination places that much of a burden on the super. He claims the test will be a means to keeping a man current with the times. He cites the re-examination requirements of such people as air line pilots and certified public accountants — to name just a couple. And he even lays out evidence concerning certain members of the American Medical Association as support for the bone-up or bow-out call on the superintendent.

The AMA case is interesting. It stems from an incident involving delinquent members of the Oregon Medical Association who refused to keep up with required refresher courses. Eleven of them were found guilty of renegeing on the specified yearly amount of 50 educational hours and they were suspended. Subsequently, they also were suspended from the AMA whose requirements include membership in a doctor's local association.

What Dr. Alexander fails to remember, though, is that the medicos are required only to show proof that they have spent 50 hours of the year keeping up with medical advancements. Nowhere does it mention that a re-examination be given them. And perhaps this is where the superintendents might have cause to question the situation.

Re-examination and educational study are two different animals. In many ways a superintendent meets the 50-hour demand of the Oregon medical group and then some. Attendance at a national conference, for instance, could knock that off in one quick whack.

Dr. Alexander does admit that perhaps the re-examination could turn out to be too severe. But he thinks the golf course superintendent has reached a stage in his professional maturity where he could be the leader in re-establishing stricter certification or license guidelines.

"This is a time for the superintendent to demonstrate to the golfing public that he is on top of the educational ball", Dr. Alexander says. "Why shouldn't he keep one step ahead of things? It just may be that we are one step ahead of the times. I wouldn't be surprised to see other professions follow our lead once they see how it works. In that respect we would be pioneers."

In opposition to such thoughts is a prevailing feeling by some members of the supers' groups that perhaps the national is biting off more than it can chew with the call for a periodic re-examination. It's no secret that some members are being scared away from the certification because of feeling that the original exam is extremely difficult. And it just might be that others, who were leaning toward trying for it, could change their minds if it means the same struggle every five years.

The Newsletter is inclined to agree with the theory that the certification program should be applied to members in acceptable enough proportions to attract the masses. The idea of demanding similar exams every five years is really too sophisticated for so young and so untested a venture. Only time and response to the certification program will tell whether or not we are in over our heads.

— Gerry Finn

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

When you pick up Dr. Joe Troll's program for his 1972 Turf Conference, you get to thinking that maybe the good professor might be Swedish. Whatever the source of his inspiration, he's lined up a smorgasbord of events which can't help but hit everyone right smack in the middle of his appeal.

Joe's not too sure whether or not this is the 42nd or 43rd time around for the gathering of green thumbs. It doesn't matter. What does hit the right notes is the fact that it will run March 1-2-3 at the Highpoint Motor Inn in Chicopee Falls, Mass. And, Joe adds, "if you haven't made your reservations there by this time, bring a tent."

There is a list of experts in related fields a Jack Nicklaus tee shot long. Joe thinks this could be his greatest assortment of speakers and he's keeping his fingers crossed that they turn out to be the best in the 10 years he's been affiliated with the project.

A special bit of interest could be churned out of the program when Leonard J. Goldwater, an M.D. by the way, of the Duke University Medical Center presents his lecture on mercury.

The time for this particular piece of enlightenment is 1 p. m. on Thursday, March 2. "There's been a lot of static about mercury in the past few months", Dr. Troll says. "I'm pretty sure we're going to hear a different version of its effect. This lecture is one nobody will want to miss. It will be a standing-room-only job."

Some intriguing subject titles dot the lineup card. One should bring some startling response when Dr. Stephen Verro of Ecology, Inc. clues us in on the "Possible Use of Garbage for Turf Fertilization." Another, the "Possibility of Golf Greens on Mars — As Seen Through the Eyes of a Potential Astronaut" — featuring Dean John Denison of UMass — is scheduled to account for most of the laughs at conference banquet time Thursday evening.

Some of the other luminaries on hand include Warren Bidwell of Congressional Country Club, Evan L. Lemley of Rutgers University, Lee Record of the USGA Section, Fred C. Galle of Callaway Gardens, Dr. William H. Daniel of Purdue University and the man who gets the prize for coming from the

(Cont'd p. 2)

# Golf Course Superintendents Association

## 1972

## TURF CONFERENCE

"Better Turf through Research and Education"

**MARCH 1, 2, 3, 1972**

HIGHPOINT MOTOR INN  
CHICOPEE FALLS, MASS.  
(Exit 5 - Mass. Turnpike)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1**

— Morning —

11:00 Registration - Lobby

— Afternoon —

**GENERAL SESSION**

Hall of Fame

Chairman: Robert Grant, Superintendent  
Brae Burn Country Club

1:00 Welcome

— Dr. Ernest M. Buck  
Assistant Dean of Agriculture  
University of Massachusetts/Amherst

1:15 The Superintendent - Buying or Selling

— Warren Bidwell  
Manager - Golf Course and Grounds  
Congressional Country Club

2:00 The Future Outlook for Pesticides

— C. L. Dunn  
Hercules, Inc.

2:45 Break

3:00 Possible Use of Garbage for Turf Fertilization

— Dr. Stephen Varro  
Ecology, Inc.

3:45 Arsenic and Its Relation to the Environment

— C. E. Kerr  
Rhodia, Inc.  
Chipman Division

4:30 Massachusetts Turf and Lawn Grass Council

— Membership Meeting

— Evening —

Free - A good time to look up old friends.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 2**

— Morning —

**GOLF COURSE SESSION**

Hall of Fame

Chairman: Brian Cowan, Superintendent  
Eastward Ho Country Club

9:30 Personnel Management

— Dr. William D. Tunis  
University of Massachusetts/Amherst

10:00 Simple Contracts

— Prof. Deane Lee  
University of Massachusetts/Amherst

10:30 Letters and Reports

— Dwight Little  
University of Massachusetts/Amherst

11:00 Motivation

— Evan L. Lemley  
Rutgers University

11:45 Lunch

— Afternoon —

1:00 Mercury

— Leonard J. Goldwater, M.D.  
Duke University Medical Center

1:45 Experiences with Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Turf

— Holman M. Griffin, Director  
USGA Green Section  
Mid-Atlantic Region

2:30 Experiences with Mid-Continent Golf Course Turf

— Lee Record, Director  
USGA Green Section  
Mid-Continent Region

3:15 Break

3:30 Nitrogen-Water-Poa annua

— Dr. Eliot C. Roberts  
University of Rhode Island

4:15 Programming Fertilization for Turf Vigor

— Dr. R. E. Schmidt  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute

— Evening —

Room ABC

7:00 Banquet

Possibility of Golf Greens on Mars -  
As Seen Through the Eyes of A Potential  
Astronaut

— Dean John Denison  
University of Massachusetts/Amherst



**FRIDAY, MARCH 3**

— Morning —

**GOLF COURSE SESSION**

Hall of Fame

Chairman: Thomas Curran, Superintendent  
The Country Club

9:30 Nutritional Investigations and Their Effects on Fine Turf

— Dr. R. L. Goss  
Washington State University

10:15 PURR-WICK Green Construction and Comparison

— Dr. William H. Daniel  
Purdue University

11:00 Correcting Construction Deficiencies

— Frank Sirianni  
Superintendent - Golf Course  
Pennsylvania State University

11:45 Unique Problems Related to Golf Course Turf

— Charles Wilson  
Milwaukee Sewage Commission

12:30 Question Period

Adjourn

### SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE (Cont'd.)

greatest distance — Dr. R. L. Goss of Washington State Univ.

The wide spread topics are enough to satisfy the interests of all. They cover arsenic and its relation to environment, personnel management, tree and shrub maintenance, nitrogen-water-poa annua, future look for pesticides, contracts, letters and reports, turf equipment preventative maintenance and correcting construction deficiencies.

Dr. Troll is hoping that his all-time attendance record of 740, established two years ago, will fall this time around. That figure is a far cry from the outpouring of some 20 people when the first Turf Conference was staged those 42 or 43 years ago.

A number of people are responsible for this worthwhile venture starting with the sponsors — Massachusetts Cooperative Extension Service, Massachusetts Turf and Lawn Grass Council and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England. Then there are such individual aides as Dick Blake, Tom Curran, Lu Duval, Leon St. Pierre, Fran Downey, Charlie Murk . . . topped off by the man who pulls all the strings — Dr. Joe Troll.

This conference, as usual, carries a "don't miss" label. If you don't find something that interests you on the program, you belong in another business. It is that kind of show.

— Gerry Finn

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**SOUND OFF !!!!**

*(This is the space where each month the reader turns into a writer to express his or her opinion. This time around the Newsletter presents an actual Sound Off in response to a question posed at members of the New England Association during their February meeting. The question was short and sweet. Some of the answers weren't. It was: "Do you think the certification program of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America should include a periodic examination?" Here's how some of the people reacted:)*

\* \* \* \*

**Joseph Troll (Professor of Agronomy at the University of Massachusetts and Chairman of the annual Massachusetts Turf Conference . . .**



"Yes . . . but. The but could mean a lot of things, mostly concerning the certification program itself. However, I am not here to comment on that part of the situation. We have it. We have to live with it.

"So, if we do have a certification program, there must be some kind of periodic testing of the certified superintendent. What it does is keep a fellow on his toes on subjects he doesn't come in contact with every day. It makes for a well-rounded super, meaning that the super who passes periodic exams is proven to be versed in all areas of his position."

\* \* \* \*

**Joe Butler (Folly Hill Country Club) . . .**

"No. I think one examination is enough for a man to become certified. Re-examinations are not the answer to this thing.



"What I think is that every superintendent should be compelled to attend the national conference, local conferences and meetings of his local association. I think that two supers, sitting down together and talking, get more turf education than studying a lot of books. I'm all for continuing education but not in the form of re-examination. That's asking too much."

\* \* \* \*

**Ron Kirkman (Needham Country Club) . . .**

"Yes. I have just taken the original test and it did one big thing for me. It opened my eyes to the fact that I have forgotten a lot of pertinent information since I was studying in college. I never knew how much there was to this profession before the test.



"In keeping abreast of the changing times, I think it's necessary that we be examined every five years or so. The self-education proposal is all right, but it really doesn't make enough demands on a super. It's the old story. You often study what you already know. If you had to be on top of everything, you'd have a much better picture of what's new in the business and what's going on. I'm all for re-examination."

**Phil Cassidy (The Weston Golf Club) . . .**

"No. Absolutely not. But I've only been around this business 40 years. If I have to be re-examined every five years, I'm afraid I'm not up to it.

"More seriously, though, is the fact that education of a super goes on without additional formal education. I think the old fashioned bull session is the best way to acquire this education. And I believe every superintendent, who is aware of the times, realizes he must attend local group meetings and national conferences when he can. In that way he can keep up with things. But the re-examination proves nothing until you see what its answers do on the golf course."



\* \* \* \*

**Larry Bunn (Blue Hills Country Club) . . .**

"Yes. But make that a qualified yes.

"I can see a re-examination, but only if it is given on subjects and things that have changed since the time of the original exam.



"I'm especially concerned about the changes in ecological thinking and development, so this is one area where re-examination is feasible. I am, though, against another comprehensive test, such as we'll be taking in the original form."

\* \* \* \*

**Joe Rybka (Thorny Lea Golf Club) . . .**

"No. I definitely think one examination is enough. I am of the opinion that a super keeps up with the changing times while on the job, that is if he is dedicated as I believe most of us are.

"You take a man who goes to college and graduates. He doesn't have to go back every five years and take his finals all over again. I think the same should apply here. After all, we can't expect to be running around with a book in our hand all the time.

"There is only one time when I think a re-examination is in order. That would be when a man gets out of the business for a few years and wants to come back in. Then and only then would I recommend it.



"Continuing education can take many forms. I'm very much in favor of local group meetings and conferences. I just don't think we should have to be compelled to prove ourselves on paper when the real proof of our knowledge is out on the golf course."

\* \* \* \*

*(That's it from those people affected by the re-examination syndrome. Whether it ends here or not remains a question. In the meantime the regular edition of Sound Off will be ready for you next month. So, join the contributors to our popular feature. Send your comments to Newsletter Mail Box, 24 Riverside Drive, Newbury, Mass. 01950.)*

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the G.C.S.A. of N. E. will be Wednesday, April 5, 1972 at the Holiday Inn, Grove Street, Newton, Massachusetts.

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\* Contributors to the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund

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FIRST CLASS

