

# NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1974



*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.

## THIS IS WHERE IT'S ALL AT

Buffet...shotgun start...attested handicaps in effect...golf carts available...play from middle tees...etc. etc. etc.

That's the bill of fare for most golf tournaments and supposedly staunch owners of golf swings that come out of hiding every so often will look upon the Superintendent-Green Chairman event June 3 at the Longmeadow Country Club as just another tournament. But, wait up. This is where it's all at. For your information, this is the most important production of the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Why? Simple and elementary, Dr. Watson. It brings together the guts of the golf course...the heartbeats of the golf course, just in case you prefer Old English. Naturally, they are the superintendent and the green chairman. On their shoulders rests the burden of giving the club member or the public participant the best playing conditions.

Host superintendent Leon St. Pierre thinks the joining of supers and green chairmen at the buffet table (11:30 starting time) and on the golf course (shotgun blast set to explode at 1) presents one of the rare opportunities for exposure to a prime educational aid—the exchange of ideas. And, after all, the life of a superintendent should be one unending attempt to continue his personal educational process...this according to national president Charles Baskin.

So, the educational value of making the scene is understood. Supers and chairmen will get together with their contemporaries and engage in an old fashioned bull session. In this case, that's what learning's all about. It is a seek and you shall find venture and any superintendent who takes the tournament lightly by treating it as just another monthly stop on the social calendar is certainly out of bounds.

In addition to the practicality of meeting with fellow superintendents and green chairmen, the gathering will be treated to one of the finest golf experiences in New England...a stab at the Longmeadow Country Club layout. It is, indeed, located on a high rating floor with golfers throughout the section.

Longmeadow is 52 years old and the product of an architectural giant, Donald Ross. It has been the site of many regional and sectional championships including the state open and amateur title events. Local golfers look upon an invitation to

play there as a special event in their lives. A recent survey by Yankee Golfer placed Longmeadow right near the top in popularity with New England golf enthusiasts.

The club is laced in tradition. Two of its former professionals have been recognized as nonpareils during their tenures. J. Victor East was one of the original pros at Longmeadow and has been hailed as an expert in explaining the games intricacies. Another bright light in the pro shop was Ben Loving, a craftsman in all phases of golf until his untimely death in World War II.

More tradition can be found in the membership ranks at Longmeadow. One of the more illustrious was the late, great Bobby Jones who had a locker there when he was actively affiliated with A. G. Spalding, Inc. At one time Bobby held the Longmeadow course record.

Tournament participants will be interested to see the results of St. Pierre's poa annua suppression program in addition to viewing the overall picture of modernization with retention of natural topography which the course presents. Thus, the situation speaks for itself. This is where it's all at. Superintendents and green chairmen should have the time of their lives.

Gerry Finn

## Next Meeting...

### June 3, 1974

Event — Super Chairman Tournament  
Place — Longmeadow Country Club  
Time — Buffet 11:30

Shotgun Tournament at 1:00 p.m.  
Directions — Mass. Pike to exit 6. South to Longmeadow exit. Take route 5 south to route 192. Take Shaker Road at Church. Club is one and a half miles on right.

## Notice

Members who are not up to date on their dues are not allowed to participate at monthly meetings. If you don't have a current card you are in arrears.

# Golf Course Superintendents Association

## SEAGULLS AND OTHER BIRDIES

It takes some doing to overcome the doings of seagulls, but at the Country Club of New Seabury--where Guy Tedesco wrestled with these particular birdies--mind has triumphed over matter once again.

Tedesco is a unique fellow, perhaps the epitome of what the profession of the golf course superintendent labels its supreme success story. He is the superintendent and director of golf at the fashionable resort housing 36 holes including a seaside links which has been acclaimed as one of the best in the world. At one time he was in charge of the entire operation. He backed off some of the responsibilities in that post, though, only because his heart and soul resided on the golf course which turns New Seabury's maize of real estate into a showplace.

The seagulls of New Seabury are very untidy birds. What was happening was a grinder with Tedesco. It seems the guilts were using his asphalt cart paths to knock the hard stuff off captured shellfish, swoop down and pick up the meat and leave the shells. In a word, the residue was a mess. "Disgusting," recalls Guy.

Tedesco was in a bind. Some people gave him suggestions. One was to paint the paths green, the idea being that the gulls would be duped into thinking they were tossing their catches back into the ocean. The only hitch here was experience. "At first it sounded like it might be the answer", Tedesco tells. "Then, I thought of our tennis courts which were painted green. They were a mess, too, so the paint job went the way of all appreciated but unaccepted suggestions."

The problem continued for quite some time and Tedesco wondered out loud. "Maybe I should ride shotgun in a golf cart", he tried to get to the bottom of the maddening thing. "I'd just pop them off one by one and that would be the end of it."

Ah...but there are laws protecting wildlife. Tedesco was not about to break them, either. "We have good relations with the community", he reasoned. "Why jeopardize them because we have the messiest cart paths in the country? So, I'll live with it."

That was the conclusion but only a temporary one. Along came a couple of guests from that great "seaside" state of Vermont. They had played the course one day and happened to bump into Tedesco. There was the usual exchange of introductions, the golfers gave the usual pat on the back to Guy for the condition of the course and the treatment they received from Guy's golf staff and then served the meat and potatoes.

"We have a solution to that awful condition out there", the couple offered. Tedesco didn't know what condition they were

talking about. He thought the greens had been cleared of the clear-cut evidence often found when ducks hold their daily conferences on the fringes. And, according to his latest reports, the courting swans just off the fourth tee were not making any spitting noises. So, what could it be?

Then it dawned on the crafty Tedesco. Another suggestion was about to be presented him on wiping out the daily blitz attacks by the bomb-happy seagulls. He tried to hold back a smirk. What would two landlubbers from Vermont know about seagulls?

He soon found out. The couple told him to try painting pictures of seagulls on the asphalt. "It's worked at other places", one of the new advisers told. "The seagull with the shellfish looks down and thinks he sees another gull. He's afraid the 'gull on the path' will steal the meat before he gets there, so he looks for another spot to crack it open."

Tedesco thought the idea had merit. He had the paths painted with seagull portraits and...voila...the problem was solved. Now Guy has the cleanest runways around. "I'd like to take credit for it but I can't", Tedesco laughs. "Every time I tell the story people think I'm pulling their legs. They can't believe two Vermonters could come up with an idea to fool a seagull. You just never know."

At long last Guy Tedesco has learned to live with birds... and the birdies.

Gerry Finn



## PROMOTE NATIONAL GOLF DAY

What greater cause can we support than research and learning in golf course maintenance and management. For years the National Golf Fund has contributed generously to turfgrass research and scholarships through the GCSAA Research and Scholarship Fund and the U.S.G.A. Green Section Research and Education Fund, Inc. but the real benefactors are all clubs throughout the nation. We encourage you, therefore, to promote National Golf Day at your club -- it's for you, your profession, for golf and your golf course. The National Golf Fund is derived from National Golf Day.

On National Golf Day professional golfers will set the target score on June 3rd. Jack Nicklaus, PGA Champion, and Johnny Miller, USGA Open Champion, will compete to set the target score for men, while Susie Berning, Women's Open Champion, and Mary Mills, Ladies' PGA Champion, will set the target score for the ladies. Amateur golfers will be allowed full handicaps and those whose net scores are lower than the target score will receive a memento. Golfers will compete from June 8th through June 16th.

Get together with your professional and urge him to promote National Golf Day at your club.

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# SOUND OFF

(Time once again for our readers to take to their ballpoints and do some heavy riding of them for Sound Off. This column is here for just the title's implication. The reader has the right to tell it like he sees it and we can get his point by offering space for that purpose. All we ask is the name and address of the contributor. One or both will be withheld upon request. All letters should be ticketed to Newsletter Mail Bag, 290 North Road, Sudbury, Mass. 01776. The Newsletter reserves the right to comment on all letters published.)

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" 'Tis been a long time since I've had the pleasure of having a drink with Gerry Finn—actually I think it was at the Longmeadow Country Club during the Massachusetts Turf Conference four or five years ago. Since I'm not much at letter writing, you have not heard from me praising his contributions to the Newsletter. Having read every issue since 1934, I can say without any reservation that since Mr. Finn has been a contributing editor, it has been a newsletter worth reading.

"The May issue showing a picture of the 25th Anniversary Party under the title, 'Remember When' prompted me to write to suggest continuing a 'Remember When' section. (Possibly my age is showing.)

"During the winter months, with little grass to cut, I have been putting together a scrapbook which covers golf superintending as far back as 1912, with newspaper clippings of Vardon and Ray, 1913, and more recently, personal collections from the time I started in the golf business in 1932.

"I attended the 25th Anniversary Party in 1949 and have the dinner program displayed, as well as many other interesting pictures of superintendents and early equipment showing sheep mowing fairways, horse-drawn lawn mowers etc. and thought that some of the items might be of interest to the Association...possibly a picture a month. If some complain that I was getting benefit from free publicity, I really don't care about my name being used but would gladly furnish the pictures as a matter of interest. If my idea has any merit, I would welcome any further suggestions."

CHET SAWTELLE  
Swampscott, Mass.

Suggestions like yours stand on their own merit, Chet. We can use all the "Remember When" material you have. Thanks for your interest.

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"So far the golf season has been a 50-50 deal with the superintendent as far as the weather conditions are concerned.

"Granted, we did have a mild winter. And this is one of the reasons why most golf courses got through the cold weather well. There is good reason to assume, too, that because of the bearable conditions of December, January and February this should be a fairly compatible year for grass growing and the superintendent.

"There is only one drawback. Suddenly in the latter stages of April and the early part of May, temperatures took a turnabout. It seems we had our higher temperatures in March and early April making for an unusual early period of high growth. But the return to lower temperatures and resulting reappearance of frost brought on a period of sparse growth.

"The way I see it, the combination of milder winter conditions and switchoff from 'summer' to 'fall' temperatures for the better part of the spring leaves the whole thing at a standstill. What is most important, though, is the future.

"Precipitation...and its rate of occurrence...may very well mean the difference between a good and bad season. We of the Northeast are ever so mindful of the recent outbreak of overwhelming precipitation in the midst of the golf seasons of 1972-73. The big factor then was the foresight of establishing adequate drainage systems. Those courses with it survived, those without it suffered.

"The whole point of this letter is a reminder to golfers that the possibility of future problems along conditioning lines still exists, mostly because of the precipitation factor. I would say it would be well for all golfers to hope for a normal rainfall, even pray for it. Otherwise it will be touch and go this year."

PETER FREW  
Union, Conn.

In other words, Pete, we should not use that old Boston Braves saying... "Spahn, Sain and a Day of Rain." A hatful of rain we just don't need.

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"I am writing this letter in hopes that the people who have to keep our golf courses green and spiffy will take advantage of a device which is helping to lick the over-moisture problem.

"It is a sand injection machine which relieves wet fairways and wet greens by spreading a path of moisture-soaking sand. I know of this method since it is used in England, my home. A friend sent me a magazine recently and I just happened to read about the machine in it.

"I am not sure whether or not the device is available in the United States but certainly the golf course superintendent should be made aware of its existence and perhaps inquire as to its availability.

"I am a golfing member here and have seen just how a deluge of rain can hurt the grooming plans of the golf course superintendent. According to the ad, the device can inject sand up to a depth of seven inches. It does the job in rows and is quickly blended into the topography of the fairway or green. I do believe it's worth looking into."

CARLTON CURRY  
Northfield, Mass.

Noble advisory comment, Carlton. We won't stop in this fight until the wet fairway is dead!

(That's it for now. Keep those cards and letters coming this way. They are as welcome as a sunny day in June.)

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