



FEBRUARY 1976



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.

Our Man Behind The Gavel

Wayne Zoppo had just taken a handoff from Tom Curran. He took the gavel in hand and made a rather pertinent comment. "I don't look upon the job of president of the New England Golf Course Superintendents as one where I will rule," he quipped. "To me it's one where I will represent my fellow supers."

Good start, right there.

Zoppo is taking over from Curran who just completed a two-year stint at the head of the group. In fact, Zoppo signals the passing of official high office from one generation to another. From here on in, the new breed will be front and center . . . the old in the background.

The 33-year-old Zoppo also has something to say about that.

"Sure, the new slate of officers reflects a major change in makeup of titles in the NEGCSA," he explained. "But this doesn't mean that we will dominate the association. We're coming in with plenty to learn and a record of accomplishments to follow. I'd like all veteran members of the association to know that I welcome their comments and criticisms at any and all times. There are certain people in that category that I will depend on for advice and guidance. I'm no one-man show. No one is."

Zoppo expects to implement a program of total involvement by the membership. "That's why I was in favor of bringing salesmen into the association," he told. "I was aware of the situation. They came to the site of meetings and couldn't sit in on them. In that vein, they were simply second class citizens. Now they are eligible and I see no reason why they can't contribute."

The stress by Zoppo will be to get all members in on the ground floor of all decisions. He has a special fondness for the educational program of the association and intends to work closely with educational chairman Pete Coste in bringing about attractive meetings for members.

"I'm going to work in close contact with Pete, just as I will with the rest of the officers," Zoppo disclosed. "I look down the list and I can see some powerful shoulders for me to lean on. We're all young and we're eager. I just hope we don't get swallowed up by complacency. We have a big job to do for the association."

Zoppo also is pleased with the outlook for more social events on the NEGCSA calendar. "I think we can stage more events like the Christmas party," Wayne explained. "We're already to go with a resumption of our summer clam bakes. And there could be more. I really believe that the more we can get together, not just on an official basis, the better we'll get to know each other. And from this closeness will come the opportunity for more frequent exchanges of ideas."

The man from Agawam Hunt is entering his 10th year as a full-fledged superintendent. And oddly enough, he was virtually built into the profession. "When I was living in Holden, somebody built a golf course right next to our backyard," Zoppo recalled. "That really put the job on my doorstep. I started caddying, got interested in turf work and before I knew it, I was out there doing it."

Wayne points to three men who had much to do with his career. They are familiar association stalwarts Bob Grant and Dick

Blake and the career cradle rocker for Wayne — Jud Edwards of Holden. Enroute to Agawam Hunt, Wayne studied at Stockbridge and followed the usual trail of apprenticeship, assistant and finally head superintendent.

"I love the profession and hope I can repay all those who have helped me by having a constructive and successful tenure as association president," Zoppo concluded. "I want to restate my case, though. I'm here, ready to hear, I'm all ears. And I'd like to hear from everyone. All of us should contribute to the good of the association. I only hope others feel as I do."

Gerry Finn

President's Message

I would like to thank the members of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of New England for electing me their president for 1976.

I accept the responsibilities of the office that I now hold and pledge to uphold the high standard of excellence the association has had in the past.

I would also like to urge all the superintendents of the association to attend as many local meetings and conferences as possible this winter. With the ever changing economy, it is the responsibility of every superintendent to look for better ways of serving his membership and what better way to do this than to attend local meetings, the USGA meeting in New York Jan. 30, the National Turf Conference in Minneapolis Feb. 8-13, and the University of Massachusetts Turf Conference in March. These conferences and meetings serve as a tool to help you plan more efficiently when ordering supplies and setting up programs for next year.

It also is the responsibility of each club to provide financial support, so "your" superintendent can attend these educational programs.

Wayne Zoppo, President
GCSA of New England

NEXT MEETING

FEB. 2, 1976

- DIRECTORS' MEETING 10 AM
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN 12 M
MEMBERSHIP MEETING 1 PM
EDUCATIONAL SPEAKER 2 PM

SPEAKER - CHET SAWTELLE
TOPIC REMEMBER WHEN?

Golf Course Superintendents Association

No One Sleeps In The Winter

Contrary to unfounded rumor, neither the golf course superintendent nor his equipment sleeps during the winter. And that's a fact.

In fact, one of the real tasks of winter for the superintendent brings an ironic twist into his existence. That would be the occasion of the winter roundup of golf cars — those mechanical monsters who have proven a Jekyll-Hyde addition to the country club scene.

For one thing, the golf car has done its damage to the course. Mostly, though, the hurt has come because of irresponsible driving habits of those golfers who ignore rules and regulations. At any rate, the golf car can be a Hyde.

On the other hand, the golf car has become a major source of revenue for the golf course. In some instances its returns are right up there with green fees. Whatever the amount, the golf car has become an integral part of the golf course business. There's your Jekyll.

For the most part, too, the superintendent has been thrust into the job of providing tender, loving care for this mechanical baby which at times can be his adversary. And in many country clubs the winter brings out the best motherly qualities of the super in providing for the revenue-producing baby.

The maintenance program for golf cars certainly should be more than a short-changed checkover. Since the life of the car is important to the amount of revenue it will bring to the club, its maintenance has to be well-planned and expertly executed.

Our superintendent does the complete overhaul job every winter which means that his crew could be immersed in golf cars for the better part of one month.

This particular schedule includes stripping of each car, checking and cleaning batteries, checking and replacing tires, replacing same if needed, cleaning all wires and terminals and connections, steam cleaning the vehicle and finally painting for quick-action use in the spring.

How much does it mean to do the thorough job instead of giving the cars shabby treatment?

"It could add up to three or four more years of use for the golf car that receives proper maintenance," one super revealed. "That's a lot of money to keep rolling in. And, if the maintenance program goes the other way, it's a lot of money a course can lose."

No official statistics are available at this writing. However, the average call for a golf car is somewhere around 100 times a season. With the golf car rental fees averaged out to the 11-dollar figure, it means that a well-conditioned golf car can return \$1100 per season. And, if that car can live to be seven or eight years old, the overall return approaches \$10,000. This could be realized, minus maintenance costs, of course, from an original investment of approximately \$1500.

Another big factor in the golf car business pertains to the so-called "split with the pro" in releasing the cars to members. Most pros work on a percentage basis. However, a new form of fee for order writing has surfaced because of an apparent conflict of interest on part of the pro. Since his revenues depend on use of the cars, he would hail their use in weather when they should be kept garaged.

This has prompted some clubs to do away with the percentage arrangement and project a salary increase for the pro to include that service. In addition, this arrangement takes the super off the hook when he decides golf cars are not to be used. Since his decision doesn't take money out of the pro's pocket, the relationship between the two remains all the more harmonious.

So, that golf car plays an important part in the off-season of the super and the on-season of the pro. It never sleeps. But who does around a golf course . . . whether its the lively dawning of spring or the dead of winter?

Gerry Finn

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Would you like to change the Sound Off column to a more informative type of column? In the "old days" the Newsletter was written by the members of the association. It was used to exchange ideas and experiences with fellow members so they can learn from each other. It was used for information about the members of the association and it gave them an opportunity to express themselves on their thoughts or ideas. In doing this, out of necessity, there will be conflicting opinions. However, through discussion, solutions can be drawn that will be in the best interest of the members, the associations, and the game of golf. We want you to use this column to express yourself, to inform other members, to share your ideas, and if you prefer, to sound off! Any letter, with the request, will be printed without name or address of the writer. Contents of this column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor or the Newsletter committee. So, whether you're a superintendent, club official, commercial salesman, or a member of the golfing public, let us hear from you.

It is our pleasure to have as new members of our association Douglas W. Johnson of Framingham Country Club and William N. Turner of Nashawtuc Country Club. We hope you will both become active members of the association. Congratulations are in order for several of our members. At the last meeting, Leon St. Pierre, of Longmeadow Country Club, was presented his 25 year pin by President Tom Curran. Leon has put in a tremendous amount of time for the association over the years and it is most appreciated. Greg Deegan, of Unicorn Golf Club, was presented his Certification Plaque from President Tom Curran. To achieve the goal of certification is a distinct honor. We must thank Roger Barry, sports writer for the Quincy Patriot Ledger, for honoring several of our members. Ray King, superintendent at Plymouth Country Club, was chosen as Superintendent of the Year. Ray was commended for not only giving his members a well condition golf course but also to the participants of two fine tournaments held in Southeastern Mass., the Hornblower Memorial Tournament and the Southeastern Amateur Championship. Sam Mitchell was also honored as Personality of the Year. Sam was honored as a turf grower, course designer, and club manager. It was noted that Sam worked for both the club and the course. His support of competitions has been outstanding and hosting tournaments at Easton C.C. has made it one of the better known clubs.

For those of you who are attending the GCSAA 47th International Turfgrass Show in Minneapolis Feb. 8-13, there are several superintendents and university people in our area who will be speakers. John O'Connell, from Blue Rock Golf Course, South Yarmouth will speak Monday afternoon on **Problems Associated with Short Course Maintenance**. Dr. George O. Estes, Associate Professor of Plant Science at UNH will speak Tuesday afternoon on **Growth and Chemical Composition of Kentucky Bluegrass as Influenced by N Source and K Rate**. Fred Cheny, from Wentworth Fairways, Portsmouth, N.H. will speak Wednesday morning on **The Superintendent's Obligation**. Dr. Eliot C. Roberts, Professor, Plant and Soil Science Department, URI, will speak on **Turning on Turf Responses Through Activation of Soil Systems** Thursday afternoon. Also Thursday afternoon, Dr. Owen M. Rogers, Professor of Plant Science Department, UNH will speak on **Herbaceous Perennials in the Landscape**.

Some interesting facts on the conference: expected registration is 5000, some 150 exhibitors will display nearly \$8 million worth of equipment, and 68 educational speakers will present over 40 hours of information. . . . A note out of the January 1942 Newsletter states that at the annual meeting and dance, Mrs. Phil Cassidy did an excellent interpretation of the "Bumps-a-Daisy" dance, although handicapped with a ludicrous and unskilled partner! Was that you, Phil? . . . There are some people who would like to see the association name changed to Massachusetts Golf Course

Superintendents' Association, since most of the other states have their own association such as Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Cape Cod, and a lot of the Vermont people are with the Northeast association. There are pros and cons for this idea, a lot would like to keep the tradition of the New England Association alive, and some feel that to change to Massachusetts would bring the association closer together. Maybe we can hear from you as to your thoughts. . . . Nothing will ruin a golf course quicker than to let nature take its own course. . . . Some ideas about the association, maybe the winter meetings should be moved to different locations as are the summer meetings. Once in the Boston area, once in the Worcester area, and once in the Springfield area. How about the golf clubs of each state having a tournament during the season where part of the entry fee be donated to turf research at the school of their choice? Education and research are the backbone of our profession. We need closer association with our universities. Maybe you have some ideas on this subject. . . . It is rumored that a clerk's error in shipping golf clubs instead of cricket paraphernalia to Boston in 1890 brought the Scottish game to New England. Don't forget the next meeting date, Feb. 2, try and make the meeting. We will be honoring Tony Caranci and Cosmo Piantedosi for 25 years members of the association. A reminder, please fill out the cards that you will receive, listing club president and green chairman so they will receive the Newsletter. Do this even if there are no changes at your club, we would like to bring our mailing list up to date. Also, would like your response, pros and cons, to anything in the Newsletter or whatever may be on your mind.

Larry Bunn
Newsletter Editor

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR THE GREENKEEPER

1. Thou Shalt Not Kill
The grass, by over kindness (over feeding — over watering)
2. Thou Shalt Not Steal
That which belongs to the grass (right of heritage)
3. Thou Shalt Not Covet
The greens of thy neighboring greenkeeper, but so improve thy greens that they will be the equal of his.
4. Thou Shalt Not Propagate Those Varieties
Or strains of grass not adapted to thy own conditions.
5. Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness
Against any greenkeeper, nor bear false witness regarding materials thou doth use
6. Thou Shalt Not Bow Down and Serve
False masters — standing up at all times for what you think is right — Never be afraid to say "NO!"
7. Thou Shalt Not Be Unethical
In thy profession — remembering it is only the uplifting work of all greenkeepers that the profession will reach its highest plane.
8. Thou Shalt Not Fail to Use
The tools that have been given thee (The thinking tools)
9. Thou Salt Not Fail To Remember
The teachings of thy Professors. Forgetting panaceas and depending on old reliable standards, but every trying out the new.
10. Remeber the Seventh Day
To keep it wholly for thyself. Taking one day in seven (whenever the seventh day may come) for rest, study, and self improvement.

Presented to the 1942 Class of the Winter School for Greenkeepers, Massachusetts State College, at the Recreation Conference by Carlton E. Treat, Superintendent of Golf Courses, Montclair Golf Club, Montclair, N.J.

Information contained in this publication may be used freely, in whole or in part, without special permission as long as the true context is maintained. We would appreciate a credit line.

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