

NEWSLETTER



JULY
June 1984



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.

Ferncroft Gets 'High' Boston Five

Most of the girls, playing the Boston Five Classic last month, took all the guesswork and speculation out of sizing up the Ferncroft Country Club golf course.

Never seen it in better shape," said defending champion Patti Rizzo. "I think I speak for all of the field when I say the condition of the course is the last excuse for shooting a bad score."

This was the fifth time the LPGA stopped at Ferncroft and found the expertise of golf course superintendent Paul Johnson exuding from every corner of the layout.

Johnson knows each blade of grass there by its first name. He's been directing traffic for the mowers et al at Ferncroft for the last 14 years of its life as an 18-hole spread.

And preparing the course for the fairway feds is routine, old hat for him. He simply sets all the specs for setting of tee markers and pins, cut of the rough and greens from LPGA official Jack Warfield and delivers on schedule.

Ah, but little do the gals - praising the course - know how close weather, fate and other nasty gremlins come to spoiling their \$225,000 golfing party on the Middleton Danvers line.

"If it wasn't the rain (9 1/2 inch drop), it was the lightning," Johnson grimaced. "Would you believe that up to a week before the tournament we couldn't get any equipment on No. 13, 15, 17 or 18? That was from the heavy rains.

"The lightning, that struck a week after the rains inundated us, cooked four of my irrigation timers. That means I spent three days with an electrician tracking lines and trying to get my system working again."

Not only did the lightning fracture the irrigation setup, it set off another flood. When it hit at night, it followed the root line of a tree and burst a four-inch main. Water ran all night to create another problem.

"My crew really bailed me out (no pun intended)," Johnson disclosed. "We put in over 200 hours of overtime getting things cleaned up and putting the condition schedule on the mark.

"There isn't a man here who had one day off in the three weeks before the tournament. They were all working on the days of play, too. This has to be the toughest preparation period we've ever had for the Boston Five."

Even through the hard times of sprucing up Ferncroft, some light moments softened the ordeal.

At one stage of the seemingly endless dial-a-rainstorm headache, Johnson and his hardy crew had to man a boat to transport a mower to the 13th green. It was all hands on the deck as Paul piloted his sloop through the murky water.

"This was no showboat deal," Johnson explained. "We had to get to that green and the only way was over water. Hey, the 13th and 14th holes were closed for 12 days. I just couldn't wait for things to get together."

Somehow - a miracle by any other name- things drew in at the precise moment and the Classic was assured of top-shelf playing conditions.

That's when Johnson and his crew could sit back, relax and take in all the sights, sounds, and sensational swings. Right? Wrong.

Popular assumption has it that the superintendent gets the course ready, turns it over to the LPGA and his job is done. Popular, yes. Accurate, no.

For example, on the opening day of play, Johnson was facing another intruder - a stiff breeze coming off Ferncroft's ponds. It caused wilt on two greens in particular - the sixth and eighth.

So, in the middle of the round, there was Paul plugging in hoses and directing the cooling waters on tawny spots that were showing up almost as fast as the human eye could detect.

"I expected that," Paul sighed. "We had the LPGA officials on alert, too. They agreed to let me put just enough

JULY MEETING Monday, July 9, 1984 Worcester Country Club 2 Rice Rd., Worcester, MA

Directors meeting - 10 am
Membership meeting - 11 am
Educational program - Greg Pagano,
Mobay-guest speaker

Lunch - 12 noon
Golf - 1 pm Shotgun
SUPERINTENDENTS
CHAMPIONSHIP
Hors d'oeuvres and
cash bar until 7 pm
Host - Mike Nagle

Mike is in his second year as superintendent at Worcester. He is a UMass. Stockbridge graduate who also served as superintendent of Bonnie Briar C.C. in Mamaroneck, N.Y. prior to coming to Worcester. Mike is married and lives in N. Brookfield, Mass. We all look forward to a good day at Worcester on the 9th.

water on the damaged areas to avoid total burnout. Just as soon as the last group of the day was past the first working point, we were out getting things back in shape again."

Johnson wasn't affected by the bad-mouthing the course took from LPGA star Jan Stephenson who reportedly called it, "too short and easy."

"That didn't cut any ice with me," Paul laughed. "We

Golf Course Superintendents Association

continued from page 1

could have stretched it out by more than 500 yards, but the LPGA set the yardage. Besides, most of the girls disagreed with Stephenson.

"Really, all I was concerned with was getting the course in the best shape possible. When the players raved about it, that's all I wanted to hear. I guess they liked it. Certainly, we did everything in our power to make it a pleasant four-day stay for them."

Rain, floods, lightning - even leaky boats. They couldn't stop Paul Johnson and his crew. Ferncroft was ready, spiffy and secure. It always is at Boston Five Classic time - thanks to the guy who makes it right year after year after year.

Gerry Finn

Position Openings

Supt. position - LACONIA COUNTRY CLUB

18 hole par 70
Send resume to:
Laconia C.C.
Attn. Ken Kyle
P.O. Box 6113
Lakeport, N.H. 03246

deadline - August 15, 1984

Mechanic / Groundskeeper

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DESCRIPTION

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WAGES & BENEFITS

Wages/Salary	\$14,681-16,745/yr \$7.06 - 8.05/hr
Overtime	Time Off in lieu of at 1.5
Health Ins.	BC & BS Master Med. Dental 10% Contri.
Vacation	2 weeks 1-5 yrs 3 weeks 5-10 4 weeks +10
Life Ins.	\$2,000 & options
Sick Leave	1 1/4 day/month cumulative
Personal Days	3/year
Other	Uniforms
Pension	Norfolk County
Paid Holidays	13

Control of Creeping Speedwell in Turfgrass

Creeping speedwell (*Veronica filiformis*) has recently become an important lawn pest because it is competitive in well-maintained, irrigated lawns and golf courses. While its spread is more rapid in shade, it can survive and spread in sunny areas as well. Creeping speedwell spreads by both seed and vegetative parts. During cool weather of spring and fall, cuttings are dragged by the mower to new

sites where they easily root when in contact with the soil.

Creeping speedwell was introduced into the U.S. as early as 1930 as a rock garden plant because it had an attractive blue and white flower. Subsequently it escaped into adjacent lawns. Although a somewhat localized problem, it is considered serious because of (1) its disease susceptibility, (2) lack of tolerance to extreme environments, and (3) general disruption of lawn uniformity. Most major metropolitan areas have at least one older subdivision densely infested with creeping speedwell. Often the origin of the weed in a locale can be traced back to a single homeowner who imported the weed.

Creeping speedwell is tolerant of 2,4-D, and has varying degrees of tolerance to silvics, MCPP and dicamba. In the 1950's, 1 pound per acre of endothal was found to control creeping speedwell. Higher rates were too toxic to desirable grasses while lower rates were not effective in controlling the weed. However, endothal treated areas were often reinfested within two years.

Since creeping speedwell may cover 80 to 90% of the area, chemical control measures must include methods to reestablish desirable turfgrass species. Recently, Dacthal (DCPA), Roundup (glyphosate) and Atrinal (HLR Sciences) have been found to effectively control creeping speedwell.

If site examination indicates insufficient desirable turfgrasses present for reestablishment, Roundup can kill both creeping speedwell and turfgrasses, but will allow re-seeding of the treated area soon after application.

Atrinal has been used as an experimental chemical growth retardant of turfgrasses as well as for selective control of creeping speedwell. In areas where creeping speedwell covers 80% or more of the surface, Atrinal inhibits rather than encourages remaining turfgrasses to fill in areas left vacant by the pest. Thus the role of Atrinal in controlling creeping speedwell would be in areas where pest density is 50% or less.

Dacthal is normally used as a pre-emergence herbicide for annual grasses. Surprisingly, it also is an effective herbicide in turfgrass for the selective post-emergence control of creeping speedwell. Dacthal is advantageous because it can kill creeping speedwell, prevent the establishment of annual grassy weeds, but allow perennial turfgrasses on the site to grow and spread throughout the treated area. Chemical treatment of creeping speedwell is most effective when the plant is actively growing, usually in the spring or fall.

In research trials, granular formulations of Dacthal did not control creeping speedwell, indicating that Dacthal must be applied to and absorbed by the foliage. Both the wettable powder and the flowable formulations were effective.

Following application of Dacthal, the visual appearance of the lawn is improved. Creeping speedwell, normally yellow-green in color, will darken and blend better with the turfgrasses. This symptom remains for 4 to 5 weeks. At the end of that period the creeping speedwell begins to curl, wilt and disintegrate. At no time does the pest turn the yellow or brown color that is commonly associated with herbicide injury.

Dacthal applied on creeping speedwell at the recommended rate and time for preemergence crabgrass control in the spring has been found to control both pests very effectively. Fall treatments of Dacthal may not kill creeping speedwell until the following spring. The pest may still appear dark green and healthy at snowfall but will simply be nonexistent after the snow melts. The fall treatment has been used very successfully on golf courses since at no time does the golfer notice adverse symptoms.

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Getting Insects Identified

Insects can be brought to your local Cooperative Extension Service Office (see list of counties) or to:

In Western Massachusetts

Ralph Mankowsky, Department of Entomology
Room 204E, Fernald Hall
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, Massachusetts 01003
413-545-2283

In Eastern Massachusetts

Dr. Patricia Vittum
Waltham Field Station
240 Beaver Street
Waltham, Massachusetts 02154
617-891-0650

Contacting Your Local Extension Service

Your local County Cooperative Extension Service is a good source of information about exam dates, pesticide recommendations and other pesticide related concerns. For your convenience a list of addresses and phone numbers is provided:

August Meeting

The August meeting will be held on August 7, 1984, at the Concord Country Club in Concord, Mass. Please mark your calendar now as a reminder. The agenda will be as follows:

- 10 am Directors meeting
- 11 am Membership meeting and educational program
- 12 noon - lunch
- 1 pm - Golf

Please show courtesy and give our host Narry Sperandio a call to confirm a reservation. Call Narry at 369-4723.

June Meeting Results

There was a fine turnout for the Supt. - Green Chairman Tournament. It was a wonderful day and the course was in great shape. Our thanks to Jim Beane and Mt. Pleasant for being such gracious hosts. Also our thanks to Brian Silva for his fine presentation. The winners of the Tournament were:

Low gross - Don Hearn - Tom Duffy of Weston Golf Club

July 1984

Vote for a Seminar

GCSANE is planning to host a GCSAA Seminar sometime in the fall in the Framingham, Mass. area. The following is a list of topics in which one will be chosen. Now is the time to voice your choice and respond to Don Hearn on which topic you would prefer. This will also be discussed at our July meeting.

1. GOLF COURSE DESIGN
2. GOLF RULES
3. LANDSCAPE DESIGN
4. IRRIGATION
5. MANAGEMENT
6. DISEASE IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL
7. EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT

COUNTY OFFICES OF EXTENSION SERVICE

BERKSHIRE	Berkshire County Extension Service 46 Summer Street Pittsfield, MA 01201	413-448-8285
FRANKLIN	Franklin County Extension Service 425 Main Street - Court House Greenfield, MA 01301	413-774-2902
HAMPDEN	Hampden County Extension Service 1499 Memorial Avenue West Springfield, MA 01089	413-736-7204
HAMPSHIRE	Hampshire County Extension Service 33 King Street Northampton, MA 01060	413-584-2556
WORCESTER	Worcester County Extension Service 759 Main Street, Box 0248 Leicester, MA 01524	617-892-1116
MIDDLESEX	Middlesex County Extension Service 105 Everett Street Concord, MA 01742	617-369-4845
ESSEX	Essex County Extension Service 562 Maple Street Hathorne, MA 01937	617-774-0050
NORFOLK	Norfolk County Extension Service 460 Main Street Walpole, MA 02081	617-668-0268
BRISTOL	Bristol County Extension Service Center Street Segregansett, MA 02773	617-669-6744
PLYMOUTH	Plymouth County Extension Service High Street Hanson, MA 02341	617-293-3541 or 617-447-5946
BARNSTABLE	Cape Cod Extension Service Barnstable Deeds and Probate Building Barnstable, MA 02630	617-362-2511 Ext. 201
SUFFOLK	Suffolk County Extension Service Downtown Center Boston, MA 02125	617-482-0395
DUKES	Dukes County Extension Service P.O. Box 1696 Oak Bluffs, MA 02557	617-693-0694

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