



THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.



DATES TO REMEMBER

February 5-13

International Golf Course Conference & Show
Washington, D.C.

February 15

News Deadling for March "Newsletter"

February 19

GCSANE Meeting, Franklin C.C. Franklin, MA
Pesticide/Certification Updates-Pat Vittum

March 2

Massachusetts Golf Association
Annual Spring Conference
The Marriott, Newton, Mass.

March 5-7

Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference and Show
Springfield Civic Center, Springfield, MA

March 15

News Deadline for April Newsletter

March 20-21

Maine Turf Conference, Portland, ME.
No regular meeting of GCSANE in March

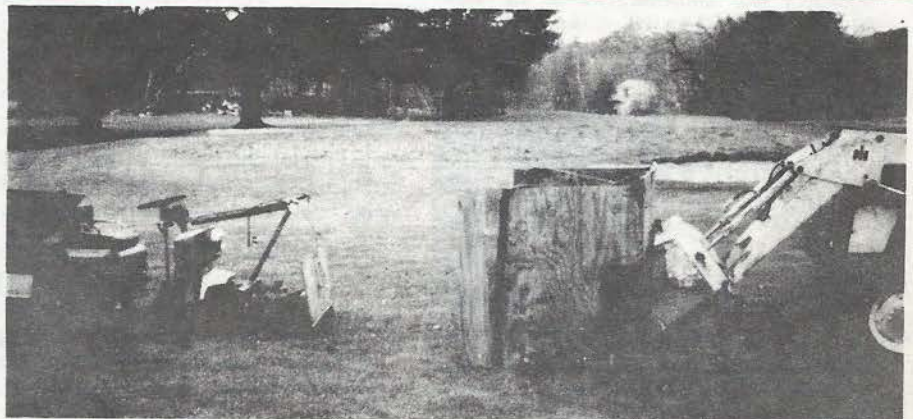
April 1 & 2

GCSAA Computer Seminar
Bluewater Resort, Bass River, Mass.

April 15

Qualification Round-
Guy Tedesco Scholarship Tournament
Oyster Harbor Club, Osterville, Mass.

Condolences are extended to the family of Bill Caputi (Hampshire C.C., Mamaroneck, N.Y.) who recently passed away.



Apparatus invented by Ellis to cover his greens includes 4'x8' bucket and plow with brush attached to bottom... #4 green in background covered with salt marsh hay and pine needles.

Pine Needle Covering of Greens

At Lexington Golf Club

I decided to try covering two of my problem greens during the winter of 1978. These areas had a history of winter damage, and I felt that I had nothing to lose. The 4th green (2,800 sq. ft.) had always suffered because of sleds, skiers, and ice. The 9th green (4,000 sq. ft.) had always experienced severe desiccation during the winter. Lexington Golf Club is a nine hole course.

I try to stop cutting the greens that are to be covered around the end of October, so that the turf will reach $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " in length. I topdress with $\frac{1}{4}$ " of sand. This helps to protect them from play, diseases and ice accumulation around the crowns under the needles.

Fungicide treatments start in mid-October with 26019 @ 3 oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. (or Bayleton @ 1 oz. per 1,000 sq. ft.) and Teremec SP @ 6 oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. This application is repeated in mid-November. Just before covering greens I apply Calo-Gran @ 6 lb. per 1,000 sq. ft.

Insecticide treatment includes granular Dursban (Scott's Insecticide III) @ 3 lb. per 1,000 sq. ft. to help protect turf from Hyperodes Weevils that are found in the pine needles.

It takes approximately one day to cover two greens (two men). Use of the bucket and leaf plow (see photo) make the job of accumulating enough needles possible. The PTO blower forms piles of needles, and the plow pushes them into the bucket.

In early December the accumulated pine needles are applied to the greens at 3"-4" thick. It is difficult to get an even cover when using less than 3". Not covering the greens too soon, but covering them before the first snowfall, is very difficult. The needles can, however, be applied if the snow melts and it's before January 1st.

I prefer to use pine needles instead of salt marsh hay for several reasons. The needles are easier to work with, they do not freeze to the turf as easily, and they're free. The only problem I have found with pine needles is that some years there is not a sufficient quantity to cover the number of greens.

Removal of the needles is the most critical part of the operation. After the first week in April, if fairways and aprons are greening up, it is probably safe to uncover the greens. If fairways and aprons are still brown, it becomes necessary to check under needles daily on each green. If turf blades become chlorotic, thinning of the needles is required. They should be thinned out so that the turf is visible, but thick enough to insulate against nighttime temperatures.

Approximately one week after needles are removed, turf will show a gradual decline in color and density. Within a few more days, however, the turf will resemble the greens that remained uncovered.

I consider the covering of greens to be very beneficial. Over the past seven years, I have increased the number of greens to be covered to five.

Orrin Ellis, Supt.
Lexington Golf Club

Orrin Ellis

Golf Course Superintendents Association

From the Editor:

A very sincere THANK YOU to Orrin Ellis from Ed's Mike & Mike for taking the time and effort to help set the course for our first at the helm of "The Newsletter".

It sure would be nice to have each issue headlined with an article written by one of our own GCSANE members. Certainly there are those among us who owe some part of their professional success to the written word, such as in Orrin's case, a well documented report on a maintenance project; long range planning reports; or closer to home, successfully written budget presentations.

The Newsletter does offer an opportunity to get constructively involved in our organization by sharing your ideas, and we the editors do encourage your participation.

Mike Nagle and I are really excited about the 1985 Newsletter. Along with the continued editorial guidance and contributions of Gerry Finn, we plan an expanded Divot Drift column, a monthly President's Message (yes, he did agree with only a lightly applied half nelson). Dates to Remember: GCSAA Monthly updates; and hopefully letters from our fans. *Best of luck to everyone this season!*



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President's Message

Donald Hearn



With 1984 behind us now is the time to be thinking of what you will be doing better or more efficiently in 1985. In other words, now is the time to reflect on your successes or failures of the past year.

I have the feeling that 1984 was overall a good year for most. The early part of August was a "crusher", but otherwise courses were in excellent condition.

1984 was also an excellent year for our Association. A successful GCSAA regional seminar on Golf Course Design Principles was held in Natick.

Publication of articles from our NEWSLETTER are now appearing in U.S. GOLF NEWS. Plans are underway to have superintendent profiles appear in future issues. A very gracious "thank you" has been extended to publisher Roy Livingstone for showing interest in the golf course superintendent and what he is all about.

We have worked closely with the other members of the Massachusetts Golf Association Executive Committee, Executive Director Dick Haskell and Tournament Director Dick Crosby to again put together the Green Section portion of their upcoming Annual Spring Conference. This year's conference will be held March 2nd at the Newton Marriott. Program speakers will include Brian Silva and James Prusa. Brian is considered one of the country's most knowledgeable experts on the life and work of Donald Ross. He is an associate of Geoffrey Cornish and his topic will be "What Isn't New In Golf". Jim Prusa, Director of Education and Associate Executive Director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will be speaking about the new generation of superintendent managing today's courses. He has been the main thrust behind the

"Come Out of That Closet"

As you can see from the changes on the pages before you, this is another trial - another time in the so-called trials and tribulations of the NEGCSA Newsletter.

From time to time, from this space will emerge what the slicks in the business call, "a commentary". It is one man's opinion about a myriad of topics which touch the every day working life of the golf course superintendent and perhaps those in his immediate environs.

Formats (for everything) come and go; they even go full cycle and have a way of reappearing to make the informational world go 'round.

Presently, we are on a chit-chat kick - a return to newsy type of writing, intended to inform and, on occasion, entertain. So, if your wife gave birth to quintuplets or your son won the Heisman Trophy in recent times, we'd like to hear about it.

educational programs developed by our National Association. I'm sure all superintendents and club officials will find these gentlemen informative and their subjects very interesting.

The Massachusetts Golf Association will also be making a presentation to the superintendents who hosted their Open and Amateur Championships during 1984.

Mark your calendar for March 2nd. It promises to be one of the best MGA conferences ever.

However, there is more than a 'flippant approach in this first commentary, because it is not enough that a Newsletter just inform, enlighten and entertain. If anything, it must be an instrument of motivation and a source of inquiry laid in the best interests of the superintendent.

And this space probably is the best spot from which inquiry and/or rebuttal can be launched. In other words, while most of the news presented will be on a positive plane, some should and will gather at the perimeter to probe and provoke.

In the past, there have been suggestions that the Newsletter presents only one side of an issue - that of in-power association administration thoughts and nothing else. We would like to change that way of input, anonymous if be, to this column.

Also, from time time, this writer will be contacting each and every member of the association in a personal-touch gesture and a means of learning whether or not some constructive ideas are lying dormant for lack of simple communication.

Actually, we could learn from one another. There has to be some part of the system that either appeals to you to extract laudatory response or others

—Closet continued on following page

PRESIDENT
Donald E. Hearn, CGCS
4 Topeka Rd.
Chelmsford, MA 01824
Home Phone 256-8709
Office Phone 894-5906
Club Affiliation
Weston Golf Club

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
David Barber, CGCS
145 Dedham St.
Canton, MA 02021
Home Phone 828-7266
Office Phone 828-6540
Club Affiliation
Blue Hill C.C.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Pierre Coste, CGCS
121 Granite St.
Medfield, MA 02052
Home Phone 359-7247
Office Phone 566-0240
Club Affiliation
The Country Club

SECRETARY
Richard C. Zepp, CGCS
27 Fowler Rd.
Northbridge, MA 01534
Home Phone 234-8490
Office Phone 234-2533
Club Affiliation
Whitinsville Golf Club

TREASURER
Thomas Schofield, CGCS
290 North Rd.
Sudbury, MA 01776
Home Phone 443-3712
Office Phone 235-7333
Club Affiliation
Wellesley C.C.

TRUSTEE
Paul Miller
173 Salem St.
Swampscott, MA 01907
Home Phone 581-2808
Office Phone 791-5373
Club Affiliation
Tedesco C.C.

TRUSTEE
Stephen A. Chavaroli, CGCS
100 Airport Dr.
Worcester, MA 01602
Home Phone 752-0031
Office Phone 791-5373
Club Affiliation
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TRUSTEE
Mark J. Kimm
P.O. Box 480
Mashpee, MA 02649
Home Phone 477-3516
Office Phone 477-0919
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Pete's Opinions

Controversial golf-course architect Pete Dye was as outspoken as ever recently during a USGA regional conference at Plantation, Fla.

"By year 2,000 we are going to have too much water," Dye said. "The USGA says we are going to have to find ways to conserve water, but with the (increased) use of effluent (waste) water on golf courses, we're going to have to find ways to get rid of it.

"Golf is in jeopardy because of the high costs of construction and maintenance. We are going to have to get behind our superintendents and change some of the thinking of the golfers."

In other words, Dye indicated wall-to-wall grooming of America's golf courses may be out and more use of waste and natural areas may become the in thing, giving more new courses the traditional Scottish look.

Dye cited the use of waste bunkers on his renowned Casa de Campo course in the Dominican Republic. "The sand is hard, so you can walk on it and not leave footprints. You can play out of that sand and you can't lose a ball in it, so it speeds up play, and it's less costly to maintain. Grass is the most expensive thing there is to maintain."

Dye noted the reintroduction of centipede grass at the Tournament Players Club at Sawgrass and the use of buffalo grass on a course in Austin, Texas, as examples of less costly maintenance ploys as compared to bent and bermuda grasses.

—Larry Bush

Claret continued from preceding page—

that hit you as a source of irritation.

Whatever, maybe all of us can come out of the communication closet in the months and years ahead. And, perhaps, we'll uncover subjects and personal ties of interest and aid to all. In the meantime, think about it - just what is it that pleases or upsets you? It could be anything. Wouldn't it be a Newsletter-plus, if it came out of the closet?

Amen.

Gerry Finn



WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 5-13, 1985

56th International Golf Course Conference & Show

The best is yet to come—GCSAA's 56th International Golf Course Conference & Show, February 5-13, 1985, Washington, D.C. The best opportunity going for anyone involved in golf course management. And, combined with the educational potential of Washington itself, it will be in your best interest to attend.

For more information or if you know of someone who should be on our mailing list, please call:

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He was the pompous executive type and made a big show of carrying a heavy briefcase home every night. One day a couple of junior members of the organization slipped a telephone directory into his case, then sealed the lock with tape.

About two weeks later the executive was heard screaming from his office, "Someone's swiped my telephone directory!"

Which came first—the ant or the picnic?

Position Opening Golf Course Superintendent North Andover C.C.

Contact: Mr. David Hepworth
39 School St.
Andover, Mass. 01810

Chip Shots

Ed "Chip" Brearley is the new super at Brockton C.C. . . . Charlie Passios has been retained as Golf Course Superintendent by Cummaquid G.C. in Yarmouth . . . Congratulations to Jim O'Kelly for his promotion to Superintendent at Brae Burn C.C. . . . the Rhode Island GCSAA recently elected the following to their B.O.D., President Mark Richard, Vice President-Jim Piquette, Secretary-Bob Ainsworth, and Treasurer-Richard Hopkins . . . Rich Caughey has moved south to Hatherly C.C. as Assistant to Ralph Roberts . . . GCSANE members Don Hearn and Dave Barber were on the program at the 1985 New Hampshire Turf Conference . . . Pat Flannery is the new super at Maynard C.C. . . . a few of our members seen at the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo this year in Atlantic City include: Jack Pluta, Westover C.C., Doug Stachura, Springfield C.C., Mike Hannigan, Brockton C.C., and Tony Caranci, Ledgemont C.C. . . . if anyone has a good, clear picture of the GCSANE logo or emblem please contact your Newsletter editor ASAP, our original has been lost and the printer would like one for our new stationary . . . our Golf Chairman is under pressure from the editor to supply a list of meeting dates for 1985, if you would like to host our motley group please call Steve and give him available dates to get me off his back . . . Paul Miller would like to thank the Hogan Golf Company for the golf bag, and Spaulding Golf Co. for the new set of irons which were both raffled off at the GCSANE Christmas Party netting \$400⁰⁰ for the Globe Santa . . . our thanks again to Norm Mucciarone and Woodland G.C. for hosting this event, a job well done and very much appreciated by those who attended.

Position Opening Assistant Superintendent Brae Burn C.C.

Contact: Mr. James O'Kelly
c/o Brae Burn C.C.
326 Fuller St.
West Newton, Mass. 01265

FINANCE CHAIRMAN
John Straeter, CGCS
86 Fashion Dr.
Warwick, RI 02886
Home Phone (401) 738-8386
Office Phone (401) 943-0059
Club Affiliation
The Alpine C.C.

GOLF CHAIRMAN
Stephen M. Murphy
4 Juniper Rd.
Lynnfield, MA 01940
Home Phone 334-4836
Office Phone 592-1433
Club Affiliation
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Edward L. Brearley
279 Torrey St.
Brockton, MA 02401
Home Phone 584-6568
Office Phone 823-0466
Club Affiliation
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NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN
Douglas W. Johnson, CGCS
50 Newton St.
Weston, MA 02193
Home Phone 894-7377
Office Phone 893-8264
Club Affiliation
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PAST PRESIDENT
Brian Cowan, CGCS
Robins Way
Harwich, MA 02645
Home Phone 432-9041
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617-297-094

Phillip Wogan
Golf Course Architect
31 Budleigh Ave.
Beverly, Mass.

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THE
NEWSLETTER

MICHAEL E. HANNIGAN
Editor

MICHAEL F. NAGLE
Newsletter Chairman
Associate Editor

THOMAS SCHOFIELD CGCS
Business Manager

GERRY FINN
Contributing Editor



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