



THE NEWSLETTER

September 2002

of the *Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Inc.*

Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund – Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

Dean Robertson retains peak enthusiasm as he celebrates 25 years at Kernwood C.C.

The ride has been long but comfortable, even relaxing at times. Dean Robertson is heading into his 25th year as golf course superintendent at the Kernwood Country Club admitting he may have lost something over those years, but his enthusiasm for his job and club members is at an all-time high.

Like many of us, Dean can't believe how fast the time has flown since the day he walked into the Bradford Country Club as its head superintendent. "I think that was in the early '60s," he tapped his memory bank for a clue. "Yeah, it was my first job. I never was an assistant. Anyway, the course was a nine-hole and one of the owners was the pro, Ernie Doherty, a good player around the New England circuit."

"I stayed there four years and I was one of the new kids on the block. It was a rewarding stay. I learned a lot and jumped right into the action in the New England superintendent's group. They turned *The Newsletter* over to me, I took it on and ran things for 10 or 11 years. A few years later (like 10), someone else took over for me and they made me president. The one thing I remember about being newsletter editor? After I left, it became a stress job!"

Robertson, with Leon St. Pierre prodding him to put some life into the publication with provocative articles, made *The Newsletter* a best-seller not only on the local front but also around the country.

The main theme then was boosting the position of golf course superintendent. It didn't take long for the superintendent to gain recognition either. Eventually, the position shot to the top of the country

"We kept on telling the members we were true professionals and pretty soon it sank in with everyone outside the profession. Now, we keep improving our image and it shows in our performance."

**Dean Robertson
Kernwood C.C.**

club administrative totem pole. Dean's successors have followed his lead and helped the superintendent hold that place.

"I'm not one of those guys who keep on harping about the good old days," Robertson remarked. "But those early association meetings at the Waltham Field Station just won't go away in looking back over the years. Those were the days of \$3.75 meal meetings. We kept on telling the members we were true professionals and pretty soon it sank in with everyone outside the profession. Now, we keep improving our image and it shows in our performance."

If Dean's mindset was always on the go, so was his career development. He spent four years at Bradford and another two years at Old Newbury Golf Club. Dean spent 10 years at Chestnut Hill C.C., and commuted all that time from Newbury, where he and his wife, Judy, settled in to raise a lovely family. Then, when Kernwood called in 1978 (the same year Dean was elected GCSANE president), his career maturation had hit full stride.

Dean's hookup with longevity at Kernwood comes naturally. His personality is such that it's almost impossible to envision anyone taking issue with his job approach, expertise, or ethics. Frankly, he's a hard guy not to like. Not that he professes that his way always is the right or only way. He can be persuaded to accept change or alteration but he's also very persuasive when it comes to championing his causes and opinions.

continued on page 2

INSIDE . . .

	Page
Calendar of Events	2
From the President	3
GCSANE News	3
Remember When?	4
GCSAA News	5
Government Relations	5
Divot Drift	6
Host Superintendent Profiles . . .	8



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continued from page 1

Apparently, Kernwood has a history of knowing and keeping a good thing when it comes along. The club, approaching its 90th year, has had only three superintendents: Abe Mitchell, Lester Allen, and Dean.

This proves both sides of the equation have been doing things right.

"The members here are considerate, care-giving people," Dean explained. "I'm not trying to fool anyone. Obviously, there are those who think the course should be better condition-wise. But I think most of my members realize how fickle condition-inducing influences can be. I think it gets a good rating over the long run. That's what I've been pushing here all these years."

Through those years, Kernwood has undergone subtle changes and noteworthy improvements. Dean's been through major projects like installing one and one-half irrigation systems, restoring greens, tees, roughs, and even a tree-planting program that's done a full 360.

"Oh, that," Dean quipped. "It goes back some years when our perennial green chairman, Martin Goldman (Bozi for short) spearheaded a tree-planting drive that was really necessary as part of our overall program. But now we've had to remove some of them to encourage an influx of sunlight and air into turf enhancement. It only proves that what goes around eventually comes around."

Bozi Goldman and Dean have proven to be Kernwood jewels. Bozi is a 75-year-old attorney who's served the club several times as green chairman and president. He's probably the club's biggest booster and benefactor. One of his projects deserves national recognition. He started a scholar-

ship program for Kernwood employees and their families, complemented by an annual golf outing resembling a college-like reunion. This year alone the program presented more than \$40,000 in scholarships. That's only one of Bozi's babies.

"Things like the scholarship program emphasize the wonderful relationship between Kernwood, the people of Salem, and other surrounding communities," Dean noted. "It's almost as if we have an alumni association among present and former employees. Working in an environment like this has to be a plus."

Three years ago Dean and Judy sold their home in Newbury, and now live on the property of Kernwood C.C. Dean and Judy will eventually retire to their home in Freedom, N.H. "It's been perfect," Dean commented. "I haven't received one telephone call concerning the course since we moved in. I know this arrangement isn't popular in our profession, but it works for me and the club."

So, is this the story of one happy camper heading into the twilight of his career? "Not really," Dean concluded. "It's simply the way my relationship with Kernwood has developed over the years. Maybe we pressed all the right buttons. I don't know. Whatever, it's made for a happy and rewarding career."

GERRY FINN

CALENDAR . . .

- Sept. 23 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting Supt./Club Official Tournament**
Wellesley C.C.
Wellesley, Mass.
Supt. - David Barber, CGCS
- Oct. 7 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting Team-of-Two Championship**
The Ranch G.C.
Southwick, Mass.
Supt. - Mike Stachowicz
- Nov. 4 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting Nine-Hole Meeting**
Whitinsville G.C.
Whitinsville, Mass.
Supt. - Paul Wilson
- Dec. 13 **GCSANE Holiday Gala**
Belmont Country Club
Belmont, Mass.

"I'm not one of those guys who keeps on harping about the good old days . . ."

**Dean Robertson
Kernwood C.C.**

Gratitude overflows for Dr. Schumann, golfers, tournament host, & GCSANE's brand new home

It's the end of August, the temperatures are in the 60s, and the forecast doesn't have any 90-degree weather in the near future. The noise you hear is the collective sigh of relief of the members of the GCSANE.

Having been a superintendent for over 35 years, there are certain seasons that stand out in my mind. In 1988 we had "Black Saturday" with heavy rain and 90-plus temperatures that literally steamed the turf. In 1995 we set records for heat and lack of rainfall. Personally, it was my worst season here at the Presidents Golf

A special thanks goes to Dr. Gail Schumann for taking time out of her schedule during this busy summer to speak at our August meeting. With the difficult disease pressure we have experienced this season, to have Gail with us was certainly timely.

As a profession, we are extremely fortunate to have access to someone of her ability and knowledge.

**Jim Fitzroy, CGCS
President, GCSANE**

Course. The winter of 2000-2001 will long be remembered for winterkill. And July and August of 2002 will be remembered for the extended stretch of 90-degree days. Depending on your

FROM THE PRESIDENT

location there were between 9 and 12 consecutive days that exceeded that 90-degree mark, in many cases setting records. I hope you all managed to keep your courses intact and your sanity at the same time.

A special thanks goes to Dr. Gail Schumann for taking time out of her schedule during this busy summer to speak at our August meeting. With the difficult disease pressure we have experienced this season, to have Gail with us was certainly timely. And it sure was refreshing to hear about snow mold control! As a profession, we are extremely fortunate to have access to someone of her ability and knowledge.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2002 Superintendents Championship. Jack Hassett and Len Curtin won gross and net respectively in the superintendent division. Mel O'Kelly won the senior gross

championship at the age of 80! Way to go Mel. Joe Rybka prevailed as the net winner in the senior flight. Darin Eddy and Greg Misodoulakis were the gross and net winners in the affiliate division. And a special thanks goes to our host superintendent Vin Iacono. August is certainly a difficult month to host a meeting and Vin did a wonderful job preparing the course for us. And of course, thanks to the members of Blue Hill Country Club for hosting the August meeting.

We are moving with the Massachusetts Golf Association to the new William F. Connell Golf House and Museum located at the TPC Boston in Norton. The move is scheduled for September 13, 2002. Please watch for our new address and phone numbers. This is an exciting time for all the allied golf associations in the Commonwealth. For the first time ever we will all be housed in the same location. If you are in the area, please make sure you stop by to visit the new facility. They have done a wonderful job creating a home of which we can all be proud.

**Jim Fitzroy, CGCS
President, GCSANE**

Scholarship & Benevolence Committee announces award recipients for 2002

The Scholarship and Benevolence Committee announces the scholarship award recipients for 2002.

This is the eighth year of giving these awards. This year the committee awarded \$5500 to three deserving students. A total of \$39,000 has been awarded in all eight years.

GCSANE NEWS

This year the Scholarship and Benevolence recipients are:

Tavis Comee, Schofield Award Winner, \$2500. Tavis is the son of Dave and Kathy Comee. He will be a junior at Bridgewater

State College and is majoring in business management with a concentration in information systems.

Grant Smith, \$1500. Grant is the son of Ron and Patty Smith. A recent graduate of Braintree H.S., he will be studying history and English this fall. He plans to attend law school after college.

Laurel Stachowicz, \$1500. Laurel is a departure from the typical award winner. She is the wife of superintendent Mike Stachowicz. The mother of two will attend Smith College to finish her education.

Congratulations to all the winners of this year's scholarships.

Remember When?: A look back at GCSANE's past

Remember When? is a monthly feature that looks back at significant individuals and events of GCSANE's past.

20 Years Ago

Are three heads better than one? Bob Grant thinks so, even though he finds himself in the rare-for-this-section-of-the-country position of country club general manager at Brae Burn.

"The relationship of the golf course superintendent, clubhouse manager, and home professional is still getting along without too many hitches," says Grant, who runs the show at Brae Burn but relies on the combined expertise of the three diversified professional people under him. It seems New England is satisfied with the three department head operation, proving it can work without bringing a fourth party into the situation.

"Job definition and delegation of authority are all important in the quest for a smooth operation. The three heads report to three different committees. And they represent three different phases of operation in the club. Just as long as everyone knows where their areas of operation begin and end, everything is fine. You simply must know your role and know how to play it."

The golf course was in fine condition despite early summer rains as the team-of-two champions were crowned at the July meeting at Dedham Country and Polo Club.

Dick Duggan of Maynard and Unicorn's Paul Jamrog had a net 13-under 57 to nip Steve Murphy of Gannon and Doug Johnson of Pine Brook by one shot. Third place in a match of cards went to defending champions Ken Mooridian of Hopedale and Franklin's Gary Luccini. Brian Cowan of Eastward Ho and Bob St. Thomas of Hyannisport fired an even-par 70 for gross honors.

15 Years Ago

It's good to see Mike Cornicelli, Turf Products, back to work again after a brief bout with mononucleosis.

Don Hearn, president, GCSAA, presented a check for \$2,400 to the Massachusetts Special Olympics. The

presentation was part of closing ceremonies of the LPGA Boston Five Classic at Tara Ferncroft Country Club. Speaking of the Boston Five, it was observed that golf course architect Brian Silva was giving chipping lessons to LPGA tour player (and future Hall of Famer) Amy Alcott after the third round.

Allendale Country Club in North Dartmouth was the site of last month's John Deere PGA Pro-Superintendent Championship. Thirty-six professionals and 108 amateurs made up the field that also included club presidents and club managers.

REMEMBER WHEN?

Based on team score, the Essex Country Club won the tournament with a par 45 and will play for national honors in Florida. The Essex team consisted of pro John Wells, superintendent Tom Brodeur, president Pearce Coues, and manager Dana Bent.

10 Years Ago

Okay. So, who makes the best chairperson of the Green Committee . . . an engineer, an accountant, a doctor, or a lawyer?

Engineers and accountants are the worst. In their world, equations always balance, variables are well identified and can be manipulated at will to achieve the desired outcome. They have a hard time understanding why turfgrass managers (superintendents) cannot control nature, the Mother of All Variables.

Lawyers can either be great or terrible, seldom in between. If their goals and methods agree with the superintendent's, they are powerful supporters. They can argue the case for the superintendent with skill and vehemence. But they also can argue against it.

Of all the prospective candidates, doctors tend to be great chairpersons. There are similarities between the two professions since patients go to doctors to cure personal sickness and golfers go to superintendents to cure the ills of country club turfgrass. Doctors understand the plight of superintendents in that there

is no cheap, painless, quick, and reliable cure to all golfers' complaints. So, yes doctors almost always make good chairpersons.

How many superintendents scrambled around on Saturday morning, August 30, trying to water ahead of the golf after those tropical downpours from Hurricane Andrew never materialized? Hopefully, no one had a couple of thousand dollars of insecticide down Friday evening.

Thanks to Eric Newell, CGCS, for having Rockland Country Club in great shape for our August meeting. Also, thank you to the pro shop personnel and Trueman's Tarry Ho for the cookout.

Please remember our association has a dress code. Tennis shoes or the thousand variations of the same are not acceptable even if worn with shorts.

Welcome new members: Eric Sinisalo, assistant, Nehoidan G.C.; William Lewandowski, assistant, Holden Hills C.C. and Joseph Piana, associate member, Norwood C.C.

GERRY FIN.

Of all the prospective candidates, doctors tend to be great (green committee) chairpersons. There are similarities between the two professions since patients go to doctors to cure personal sickness and golfers go to superintendents to cure the ills of country club turfgrass.

10 years ago

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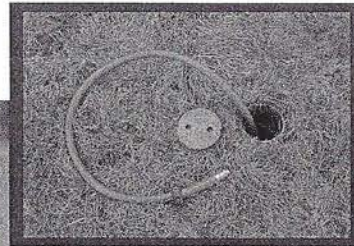
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Keep a close eye on your mailbox: Important 'PDI Scorecard' to arrive this month

To assist members with the implementation of the Professional Development Initiative July 1, 2003, GCSANE will send a series of letters to all Class A, Superintendent Member, Class C, and Inactive members this month.

GCSAA NEWS

These letters, referred to as the "PDI scorecard," are designed to answer your questions about where you stand relative to the additional Class A qualifications mandated by the PDI. Certified superintendents will not receive a letter since they will be unaffected by the additional

If you do not receive a copy of your scorecard by Oct. 15, contact the service center at (800) 472-7878.

qualifications for Class A membership (certification standards exceed those required by Class A membership).

The letter you receive will contain specific information about your current membership, and a chart that outlines the ways education and service points can be obtained. Various committee members will participate in a pilot project this November to test the different scenarios that GCSAA may encounter after the PDI is implemented.

More information on the pilot project will appear in future issues of Newslines and will be presented at the Chapter Delegates Meeting in November. If you do not receive a copy of your scorecard by Oct. 15, contact the service center at (800) 472-7878.

Mass. golf cart law amendment finally approved; law set to become effective on Nov. 4, 2002

**Ron Smith,
Sports Club Management, Inc.**

After a long and arduous journey through the Massachusetts legislative process, House Bill #4310, a petition to allow minors to operate golf carts if they are golf course employees, was approved by Acting Governor Jane Swift on August 5, 2002.

GOVT. RELATIONS

With the new amendment the Child Labor Laws will allow minors aged 16 and 17-years old, who have a valid driver's license, to operate golf carts on golf courses as part of their employment. The only exception is the golf carts cannot be operated on public ways (roads, highways, streets, etc.).

House Bill #4310 was proposed by Representative Daniel E. Bosley and introduced to the Massachusetts Committee on House Rules on May 31, 2001.

Since it was first proposed, the petition has gone through a couple of iterations. The first change was to add the "public way" exception. The second change occurred after the bill was brought to

Acting Governor Swift last month. She stated that she would not sign the bill until it was amended to include the requirement of a valid driver's license. The amendment to add the driver's license requirement was adopted by the House on July 18 and by the Senate on July 30. The bill was then returned to Acting Governor Swift on July 31.

The bill will become effective on November 4, 2002. While it will be too late for the bill to help golf courses this year, its passage will certainly help golf courses in the years to come.

While it will be too late to help golf courses this year, its passage will certainly help golf courses in the years to come.

GCSAA advocates using résumé as a tool to evaluate your professional progress

Management guru Tom Peters recommends that employers encourage their key staff to update their résumés at least annually, as a way to assess their performance.

Peters contends that an employee's accomplishments are obvious résumé builders, and the process provides a positive way for employers to evaluate an

employee's performance. Although this is a non-traditional method, the concept of

GCSAA NEWS

keeping an up-to-date résumé handy for new opportunities is a good practice.

continued on page 6

GCSAA: Use résumé to measure your job progress

continued from page 5

To update your résumé, consider using GCSAA's résumé critiquing and writing services. GCSAA's certified professional résumé writer will provide suggestions on how you can improve your résumé so potential employers will want to interview you. Résumé critiquing is a free service available to GCSAA members.

You also may choose to have your résumé completely rewritten. GCSAA's certified résumé writer will interview you by telephone to create a unique

résumé that highlights your qualifications and accomplishments.

For \$55, GCSAA will develop a résumé package for you, including a computer disk with the master copy of your résumé, an original print copy and five duplicate copies on bond paper with matching envelopes. For an additional \$10, you also may have a sample cover letter developed specifically for you.

For more information on how you can update your résumé, contact the GCSAA service center by phone at (800) 472-7878, or e-mail your question to career@gcsaa.org.

To update your résumé, consider using GCSAA's résumé critiquing and writing services.

Résumé critiquing is a free service available to GCSAA members.

DIVOT DRIFT...announcements...educational seminars...job opportunities...tournament results...and miscellaneous items of interest to the membership.

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed for Membership: J. Greg Tower, Superintendent, Sterling Country Club; Christopher J. Thackery, Assistant Superintendent, Weston Golf Club.

Welcome New Members: Jeffery Urquhart, Assistant Superintendent, Framingham Country Club; Turfgrass Environmental Consulting, Friend.

INFORMATION

Thank you to Vin Iacono and the entire staff of Blue Hill Country Club for hosting the August meeting.

Mark your calendar for this year's Christmas Party at Belmont Country Club on Friday, December 13.

Our condolences go to Wayne Zoppo and family on the passing of Wayne's mother on August 24, 2002.

Our condolences to the family of Sharon Brownell on the recent passing of her father.

Our condolences go to Kevin Lyons and family on the recent passing of his mother.

EDUCATION

GCSAA will present two seminars on November 20 & 21, 2002 at The International Golf Course in Bolton, Mass. Presented on November 20 will be Weather Answers and Technology for Golf Course Management. The instructor is Sara Croke; GCSAA CEU - 0.7; Cost-\$120 (includes lunch). Presented on November 21 will be Golf Course Safety, Security, and Risk Management. The instructors are Robert Hedberg & Ted Horton, CGCS; GCSAA CEU - 0.7; Cost-\$120 (includes lunch).

POSITION OPENINGS

Second Assistant Superintendent, Ridder Farm Golf Club, Whitman, Mass. Ridder Farm is a privately-owned 18-hole public golf course with a restaurant, driving range, and function facility located in southeastern Massachusetts. It is seeking an individual eager to learn and advance in the golf course industry. Responsibilities include equipment operation, application of turf control products, and equipment repair and maintenance. Individual must be able to work flexible hours in the summer months. Candidates must have two-plus years in the turf industry, winter school education preferred (or be willing to attend), and must have (or be able to obtain) a Massachusetts Pesticide License. Salary is commensurate with experience. Benefits include partial health insurance after six months. Deadline: November 1, 2002. Please send resume to: Edward Gianni, CGCS, Ridder Farm Golf Club, P.O. Box 310, Whitman, MA 02382.

GOLF RESULTS

GCSANE Individual Championship
August 19, 2002
Blue Hill C.C., Canton, Mass.

Superintendent Division:
Low Gross - (76)
Jack Hassett, Mt. Pleasant G.C.
Low Net - (71)
Len Curtin, Lexington G.C.
2nd Low Net - (71)
Dave Mucciarone, Woodland G.C.

Senior Division:
Low Gross - (79)
Mel O'Kelly, Retired., Marshfield C.C.
Low Net - (70)
Joe Rybka, CGCS, Thorny Lea G.C.
2nd Low Net - (71)
Dave Barber, CGCS., Wellesley C.C.

Affiliate Division:
Low Gross - (74)
Darin Eddy, Country Club Enterprises, Inc.
Low Net - (70)
Greg Misodoulakis, Tom Irwin, Inc.
2nd Low Net - (72)
Scott Whitcomb, MGA

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Meet host superintendents David Barber & Michael Stachowicz

This month *Newsletter* readers get to know two host superintendents.

David Barber, CGCS

GCSANE members will have the pleasure of visiting Wellesley C.C. for its September meeting. Longtime member David Barber, CGCS, will be our host for the Supt./Club Official Tournament. Wellesley C.C. is a private, 18-hole Donald Ross and Geoff Cornish designed course organized in 1910.

Dave has been a GCSANE member almost as long as he has been in the golf business. He grew up in Waltham, Mass., and after high school attended the UMass/Stockbridge, where he earned an associate's degree. He began his career at Wayland C.C. as superintendent in 1962 and stayed for 18 years. His journey continued as superintendent at Blue Hill C.C. for the next 14 years. In 1994, he moved to Wellesley C.C., where he has been since.

Longevity seems to be important to Dave in his career choices and as a member of GCSANE. He served on the board for 16 years and was GCSANE president in 1986-1987.

HOST PROFILES

Dave enjoys reading, traveling, and playing golf when he gets a chance. He also enjoys spending time with his four children, Deborah, Jennifer, Kristin, and Hayley.

Michael Stachowicz

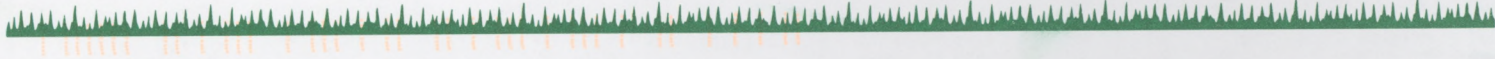
The October meeting of GCSANE takes us to one of the newer clubs in Massachusetts, the Ranch Golf Club, where our host superintendent is Michael Stachowicz.

The club has been receiving some very positive publicity, especially since being voted the best new course in New England

by the 2002 New England Golf Guide. The Ranch Golf Club was built on a historic farm located in Southwick, Mass. The developers have kept some of its original beauty by restoring two of the barns into its clubhouse.

Mike began his career in the turfgrass industry by receiving his B.S. from the University of Mass. in plant & soil science in 1993. He started as assistant superintendent at Taconic G.C. and stayed there until 1997. He stepped up to superintendent at Cranwell Resort & G.C. from 1997-1999. He then was offered the opportunity to become superintendent at the newly-organized Ranch Golf Club and has been there ever since.

Mike has been a member of GCSANE for the past four years. He resides in Northampton, Mass. with his wife of nine years, Laurel, and their two children, Molly (9) and Nyssa (5).



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