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

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Farland Scores Touchdown at Cohasse

By: Bill Doyle, Worcester Telegram and Gazette

Todd Farland, superintendent at Cohasse CC in Southbridge, begins each day by huddling with his crew to hand out assignments. Sometimes, he even diagrams detailed instructions.

What else would you expect from a former quarterback who is the son of a former football coach?

Farland, 37, is from a family of cuarterbacks. He played quarterback at Itasqua. So did his brothers Rick and Scott. Their father, Dick, coached the team. Rick went on to play quarterback at WPI and served as captain. Scott played defensive back at WPI. Their cousin, Greg Farland, played quarterback for Southbridge High and the University of Rhode Island. These days, he's head golf pro at Quaboag CC in Monson.

Dick Farland and his brother Jack both played quarterback for Mary E. Wells High in Southbridge. Each went on to play for Boston University, Dick as a defensive back and Jack as quarterback. The MVP trophy presented after the Southbridge-Tantasqua game is named after Ted Farland, Todd's late grandfather and a former pro football player.

Yes, football runs in his family.
"With the influence of my father,"
Farland said, "I run my crew very much like a coach would run a team. I'm a bigtime diagrammer. Ask my guys. I love to make little drawings in the sand in front

'he shop to tell them what I want to do.
ery morning we kind of do have
huddles, we stand in a circle."

In his fourth season as superintendent at Cohasse, Farland must please a membership of 207, including his father, brothers and a cousin, Tom Brodeur, who serves as the club's secretary.

"It has its interesting moments," Farland said. "You have to work hard to be impartial. You don't want to look as if you're playing favorites."

Since Farland joined Cohasse, he's overseen the installation of a new irrigation system, a new chemical and fertilizer program, and bunker restoration. Flooding last fall caused more than \$100,000 in damage and kept his crew busy repairing bridges, bunkers and cart paths.

"It's a difficult job because you're working with the environment," Farland said. "There are a lot of variables that go into every day — sunny, rainy, cloudy, soil temperatures, air temperatures. They all affect the course in a fairly extreme way. It's my job to try to keep the course consistent with inconsistent weather patterns."

Farland's own yard is also well-kept, but he credits his wife, Natasha, for that. He doesn't spend a lot of time landscaping or talking golf when he's at home. A 6 handicap, Farland no longer plays much golf. He's too busy taking care of the course. Since April, he's had only four or five days off.

"It's an agriculture job," Farland said.
"It's not the kind of job you can walk
away from at any time. You kind of have
to be there all the time."

As an escape, Farland has taken up dirt bike riding and he's even competed in a couple of New England Trail Riders Association races in Connecticut.

Farland played keyboard for a few rock bands in Worcester, most notably

"Stone Soup," before attending the agriculture school at UMass Stockbridge. He served as an assistant for three years at Tatnuck CC, then two years as superintendent before moving on to Cohasse where his family had belonged for many years.

"Tatnuck is a membership that really likes to have fun," Farland said. "Golf isn't necessarily the most important thing at Tatnuck. It's really a social atmosphere and a family-oriented golf course. I had fun there. Cohasse is a much more intense golf situation. Tatnuck was more relaxed."

"With the influence of my father, I run my crew very much like a coach would run a team. I'm a big-time diagrammer. Ask my guys. I love to make little drawings in the sand in front of the shop to tell them what I want to do. Every morning we kind of do have huddles, we stand in a circle."

Todd Farland

Cohasse has no pool or tennis courts, but is trying to reach out more to families. The club already has plenty of serious golfers, many of them with low handicaps who know when the greens aren't fast enough.

Farland's sons Alex, 9, and Michael, 7, may carry on the family's quarterback tradition. They started flag football this fall.

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What Are Those Rings?

By Keith Happ, Senior Agronomist, USGA December 1, 2006

Calls have been coming into the Pittsburgh office questioning the appearance of yellow rings on fairway turf and greens. The symptoms have been reported on a wide variety of close-cut golf course turf. As has been stated many times, the best way to get to the bottom of the issue is to send a sample to a diagnostic laboratory to confirm the exact cause of the problem before any corrective procedures are enacted. The yellowing rings observed in the Pittsburgh area are Rhizoctonia cerealis, also known as Rhizoctonia Yellow Patch or Cool Season Brown Patch. This particular organism is a fairly common occurrence at this time of year, and the recent cool, moist weather provides perfect conditions for this organism to proliferate. The disease symptoms can occur suddenly and can be damaging to Poa annua. Efforts should be made to control the infection in important play areas before we get to winter weather as damaged turf will be slow to heal. Most superintendents have or are about to implement measures to control winter diseases such as pink (Microdochium Patch) and gray (Typhula spp) snow molds. Most of the products used to control snow molds will also offer control of Cool Season Rhizoctonia.



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CALENDAR...

Jan. 31 GCSANE Annual Meeting
Walpole Country Club
Walpole, MA

Host: Mark Gagne

Feb. 16-21 GCSAA National
Championship &
Golf Classic / Four Ball
Palm Springs, CA

Feb. 19-24 Golf Industry Show 2007 Anaheim, CA

March 5-8
2007
England Regional
Turfgrass Conference
& Show

RI Convention Center Providence, RI

President Kriksceonaitis Thanks GCSANE Board Members for their Service

2006 has come and gone and with it change is in the air. My presidency is coming to an end sooner than expected but because of the strong board behind



me the handoff to Russ Heller will be seam-less. The other nine board members will shuffle their chair assignments so there will

be little disruption to our services. We are fortunate to have Peter Hasak of Tedesco Country Club coming on board for the one open position. Peter has been a leader in the effort to find causes and solutions for the winter injury problems we all incur. It's comforting to leave the ard knowing the high quality of people reft to lead the association.

This has been a year of change and I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the people behind the scenes who made it

happen. First is the dynamic duo of Russ Heller and Pat Daly. They both picked up the pieces of several issues and worked quietly to help our members. I see nothing but great leadership in the future of the association because of their dedication and hard work. The changes to both the newsletter and website have been a team effort by Mike Luccini and Mark Gagne. It's not easy bringing new technology to an old dog but they have done it and we are much better off because of it. Mike Stachowicz has had the dual role of liaison to the Alumni Turf Group and Finance Chairman. He has succeeded in getting our accounting in order and putting us on firm ground for the future. Jason Adams as our treasurer has handled a couple of fires successfully. It's not easy keeping track of an association's money when there are ten people telling you what to do with it. Another team is Ron Dobosz and Jim Small. Jim arranged for all the golf meetings and Ron arranged to win them (just kidding). Jim works hard to secure sites for our summer meetings. This gets more difficult every year with clubs having tighter schedules. Ron has the tough assignment as the S&B chairman and

this is a delicate position. At times we have members in need and it must be handled carefully. In these cases, Ron has represented us well. Scott Lagana brought a fresh new voice to the board this year. As the government liaison, he helped us through the proposed water rule changes and tracked other developments on the government radar screen. And last but not least is Mike Hermanson. As Past President and mentor Mike has been invaluable. He has long been a strong advocate for superintendents and while supporting our recent changes has never let us lose sight on why we are here. And while the aforementioned men all played crucial roles in the running of our organization we all know the real work is done by Sharon Brownell and Julie Heston. Both are true professionals and we would be lost without them.

May this New Year be kind to all of you and I hope to see you down the road.

Sincerely, Pat Kriksceonaitis President, GCSANE

Candidates set for GCSAA Board of Directors

The Golf Course Superintendents
Association of America has announced the official slate of candidates for its 2007 elections. Voting members will elect three officers and three directors at the 2007 Annual Meeting, Friday, Feb. 23, held in conjunction with the 2007 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show, Feb. 19-24, in Anaheim, California.

The following individuals will appear on the ballot:

For president:

Ricky D. Heine, CGCS, general manager and director of grounds at The Golf

**D Star Ranch in Austin, Texas

or vice president:

David S. Downing II, CGCS at Rivers Edge Golf Club in Shallotte, N.C.

For secretary/treasurer:

James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, director/ superintendent at Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Club in North Quincy, Mass.

Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, director of grounds at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J.

For director (electing three):

Keith A. Ihms. CGCS at Country Club

Keith A. Ihms, CGCS at Country Club of Little Rock in Little Rock, Ark.

John C. Miller, CGCS at The Golf Club at Yankee Trace in Centerville, Ohio Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, director of golf course and grounds at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, Fla.

Roger M. Ruff, CGCS at Mountain Dell Golf Course in Salt Lake City, Utah Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS at the Country Club of Darien (Conn.), is retiring from the board of directors after serving the last year as immediate past president. Sean A. Hoolehan, CGCS at Wildhorse Resort & Casino on the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon, will serve on the board for one year as immediate past president. Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, manager of golf operations for the city of Overland Park, Kan., and Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, director of golf course maintenance operations at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, both enter the second year of their terms as directors.



Golf's Environmental Pioneer

Passios experienced at working through environmental issues

By Jon Rossitto, Golfweek's SuperNews

When Charlie Passios operates a golf course, he makes it a community affair.

"It takes a village," said Passios, CGCS.

Or, more accurately, a township, regional planning commission, state regulatory agencies, local zoning board and dedicated employees and consultants. Those are just some of the entities involved in approving, permitting and overseeing The Golf Club at Cape Cod in Falmouth, Mass., an environmentally sensitive site where Passios is project manager.

Passios, 49, owner of The Passios Group and Moors Inc., is a course manager and consultant with a track record of completing projects awash in red tape, and there were several hurdles to clear at the Falmouth facility. When it opens next spring, the private Rees Jones design will reflect Passios' sensitivity for the environment as much as it does Jones' vision.

The Falmouth site presented challenges in protecting nearby saltwater estuaries and Cape Cod's only freshwater aquifer.

"Charlie is definitely a pioneer in environmental stewardship," said Mark Lucas, who worked under Passios on the Cape at the Hyannisport Club and then at Nantucket Golf Club, where he now is superintendent.

"He was one of the first superintendents to really work with environmental and conservation groups." Plans first had to be approved by the township of Falmouth, then by the Cape Cod Commission and Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency. The project also had to clear the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act before going back to the Falmouth zoning board of appeals for final approval.

A minimalist plan finally was approved after more than two years of working with environmental consultant Kelly Cardoza of Avalon Consulting. The course has just 76 acres of maintained turf.

The natural characteristics of the area were left in place. Wooded corri-

dors were maintained along fairway perimeters with large areas of fescue and native shrubs in between wooded and in-play areas. Two manmade wetland areas were created to catch irrigation and storm runoff. Established with native wetland vegetation, the areas eventually will be home to a variety of wetland wildlife. A mile-long trail borders much of the course as well, giving local residents access to land that previously consisted of old logging roads.

Passios' skills at navigating through the seas of environmental and regulatory guidelines have been a long time in the making.

His learning curve started in 1985 as superintendent at Cummaquid Golf Club in Yarmouth Port, Mass.

"When I got there everything was mowed everywhere with unnecessary areas to take care of," he said. "I introduced outer fescue areas to give it a linksy feel. It was then I realized, 'Geez, this is a new way to save a few bucks.' "Two years later, Passios moved to the Cape's Hyannisport Club, and eventually helped the course achieve certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Under his direction, Hyannisport was the first course in Massachusetts and the second in New England to earn certified status.

With the help of Lucas, serving a summer internship, Passios wrote a book that logged all of the management practices at Hyannisport during its certification process.

"Charlie was definitely a mentor as far as environmental concerns," Lucas said.

The certification process, Passios said, was a tremendous learning experience.

"It was an eye opener for us," he said. "I'm a true believer that less is more. I had a longtime superintendent tell me to let Mother Nature takes its course. If there's any advice for someone coming into the golf business, it would be just that: Let Mother Nature take its course." As part of the process of creating healthy turf naturally, Passios implemented a program of using less

water, fewer chemicals and time-tested agronomic practices. He also relied on records to determine the timing of fungicide applications based on historical data collected on the site during conditions of varying stress.

"Sometimes an ounce of prevention is better than a gallon of curative," he said.

His Passios Group provides consulting and management services to private clubs and other entities, while Moors Inc. offers management and consulting services to daily fee operations.

He already was a veteran in environmental affairs in 1996 when he became project manager at Nantucket Golf Club, a Rees Jones design that opened in 1998. He worked with the GCSAA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the early 1990s on a report about the interaction between Cape courses and local ground-water. A former GCSAA board member, Passios also served on a U.S. Golf Association research committee.

"Charlie really, really understands the whole process of the protection of the grasslands and the individual plants, some of them the size of a pencil," said Howard Maurer, an architect who worked with Passios on the redesign and expansion of Miacomet Golf Club on Nantucket Island. Passios' experience came in handy on Nantucket, where nearly 70 percent of the island is preserved as open space, he said. Rare plant species, most notably the bushy rockrose and St. Andrew's cross, dotted the land on which the course was to be built. Passios and Chris Holland, Nantucket's restoration and nursery manager, under a special permit granted through the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, were able to move the protected plants from in-play areas. Nearly 300 St. Andrew's cross plants have been pro-pogated at Nantucket from nine original plants.

Surrounding land also was home to the endangered northern harrier, a ground-nesting raptor also known as the marsh hawk. In 1996, Passios, in partnership with the Nantucket Conservation Foundation and the Massachusetts Audubon Society, was instrumental in establishing and implementing the Partnership for Harrier Habitat Protecn, a vegetation management program sesigned to reestablish and foster breeding grounds for the birds at Nantucket Golf Club.

Passios' develops integrated course management plans, construction specs and startup procedures. "You look at the whole property," he said. This includes sound construction techniques, proper fuel storage, turf selection, integrated pest management, how materials used will interact with soil and water, use of woodland corridors and nesting boxes for wildlife.

Implementing these plans can be a challenge, and Passios credits Cape Cod's director of golf operations Greg Hollick and superintendent James McGrail for executing the day-to-day tasks associated with grow-in. He said Cape Cod has turned into a beautiful example of what can happen when everything comes together and is done responsibly.

"Water and open spaces are a precious commodity, and if we are going utilize them for golf, let's utilize them in an environmentally sensitive manner," he said. "We absolutely can produce fine golf course conditions and still be responsible to the ecosystems around us."

Lebanon Turf to offer Webinars

LebanonTurf is again offering webinars worth 0.15 EPs free of charge to all who wish to participate. In addition to the webinar on potash which features Dr. Karl Danneberger of Ohio State University and the webinar on foliar nutrition which features Dr. Beth Guertal of Auburn and Dr. David Gardner of Ohio State, we have added a third session. It covers all the basics of cool season turfgrass species and features Dr. Bill Meyer and Dr. Stacy Bonos, both of Rutgers.

These are noncommercial one-andone-half hour seminars that are designed to be informative and relevant. They offer superintendents and assistants the opportunity to attend from the comfort of their office or home, without travel and at a charge. The only requirement is the computer needs to be Windows based with Windows 2000 or newer. Broadband is very helpful but we have had people on

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Where Does The Time Go..... Can It Be 10 Years Already?

Gary Sykes, Executive Director, NERTF

The New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show is preparing to celebrate its 10th annual show this upcoming March. Over this time much has happened all over the world on grass and especially in the world of golf. Tiger Woods had turned pro in 1996 and won his first major event at the April 1997 Masters, since then he has won 11 more majors! Quite an achievement we all agree! After 86 years the Red Sox finally did it in 2004! The U.S. finally won another Ryder Cup in our own backyard at The Country Club in Brookline. The roars of Justin Leonard's 75 foot clinching putt and the memories Payne Stewart's last major public appearance will always accentuate that great event in 1999, and ease the pain of Ryder Cup shutouts since!

But, here in New England since the first New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show in 1998, certainly

have much to be proud of and to plaud! First, we have one of the most successful Regional conferences and trade shows in the United States. Our show is among the top three regional events, if not the best in the country. Each year we receive many compliments from several individuals who attend many shows across the country to tell us that N.E. is the best! The quality of our education conference program continues to attract individuals

across the northeast and outside the region. Our list of past keynote speakers is like a list of who's who that has a connection to teamwork on grass! And the list of memorable events over the 10 years associated with the show is priceless.

The question that comes to my mind is: how has the Conference and Show helped the turfgrass industry in New England? Here are three ways I feel. you may have more! First, with 10 years of promoting, networking and educating of the industry at the show turfgrass professionals have been informed. taught, and shared a lot of information over these years. All of the top educators and many of our best colleagues in the industry have shared valuable turf management information to thousands of our peers. Second, the trade show has allowed companies across the globe to display their goods and again thousands of industry professionals have taken advantage of the opportunities on the trade show floor. These same companies have sponsored many of our events to help expand the list of spotlighted activities that occur during the show. The list includes our trade show lunch and early morning refreshments. to our keynotes and receptions, as well as others. Not to mention all the sponsors of our silent and live auctions. With many generous donations they have

help to make these events a true success. Thirdly, with the proceeds of all our conference and show activities going back into the industry in the form of funding research projects and related needs; the turfgrass industry has seen a renewed commitment of the universities towards their turf programs. We have seen new hires at UConn, UMass and URI in turf to replace open positions or to create new ones! School administrators have been involved and are interested in our activities. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been directed at the schools for several research projects that have helped to benefit turfgrass managers in many ways. University support seems to be increasing in many ways including more diagnostic capabilities, turf intern placement, field day promotion, information exchange and more and more.

So, ten years has gone by quickly, but not without success. The best part of it all has been the friends we have made along the way, and the ability to help make the industry better. Thank you all for your support, commitment, and suggestions. Lets all enjoy where we have come from, but continue to keep our eyes on the horizon together as more opportunities come our way! You know it's what Tiger will be doing!

GCSANE Annual Meeting - Walpole Country Club, Walpole, MA January 31, 2007 Hosts: Mark Gagne and Mick Echard

Meeting Format:

10:00 am: Registration 11:00 am: Annual Meeting

12:00 pm: Lunch After lunch Open Forum

Open Forum Topics:

esults of GCSANE meeting survey
Board position for Affiliate member
Other matters of interest from the floor



Originally founded in 1927, the existing course at Walpole Country Club was designed by Al Zikorus in 1974. In 1994, the Club retained architect Ron Forse to develop a master plan, and numerous improvements have been made since then in accordance with the plan. In recent years, tee reconstruction and expansion has been the focus of projects on the course.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members: Mark McEachern, Assistant, Eastward Ho! CC; The Northeast Golf Company, Friend, Saunderstown, RI

Proposed for Membership: Mitch Angle, Assistant, Framingham Country Club; Jonathon Zolkowski, Assistant, Norfolk Golf Club; Trent Lynch, Assistant, Franklin Country Club; Nicholas Beaulieu, Student, UMass; Nathaniel Binns, Affiliate, Turf Products Corporation; Valley Green Inc., Friend, Holyoke, MA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Tom Flaherty, CGCS of Woods Hole Golf Club who recently completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Tom is a 29-year GCSAA member and he initially achieved his certification in 1987.

Our thoughts go out to Steve Curry who has recently undergone surgery to remove a brain tumor. He came out of surgery very well but will still need to undergo follow-up treatments.

Well wishes to Dave Comee on a speedy recovery from a torn achilles tendon.

We wish Ron Smith a speedy recovery from his recent knee surgery.

Our condolences are extended to the family of John Hudyka, GCSANE retired member who passed away on December 17, 2006.

Save the date for The Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Education Fundraiser will be held at The International on October 1, 2007. This tournament will honor Geoffrey Cornish.

AUDUBON UPDATE

New Maintenance Facility BMP Checklist Available

SELKIRK, NY- A new tool is now available from Audubon International to help golf course superintendents, managers, and owners evaluate environmental performance at their maintenance facilities. The Maintenance Facility BMP Self-Assessment Checklist offers a quick and easy way to assess best management practices and infrastructure for chemical storage, mix/load areas, fuel storage, wash pads, and general areas.

The new, free resource was developed by Audubon International with input from the United States Golf Association Green Section, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and superintendents. The checklist is a userfriendly starting point for evaluating the maintenance facility and prioritizing areas that need to be addressed. Whether working from an old barn or a state-of-the-art natural resource management center, golf course superintendents can follow the checklist, in combination with state and local regulations, to help ensure that the hub of all maintenance activities is safe for workers and the environment.

The checklist is available online at www.auduboninternational.org/e-source/. Audubon International program members can also call Jen Batza, membership coordinator, at (518) 767-9051, ext. 10, to request a copy.

Effective with the January 2007 issue, *The Newsletter* will be available online and will not be mailed to the members unless requested.

Members without internet access or email service may contact Sharon Brownell at 1-800-833-4451 to request that *The Newsletter* be mailed to them.

GCSAA NEWS

GCSAA Surveys:

Recently Class A and Superintendent Members received a letter from Sean A. Hoolehan, CGCS, president of GCSAA's Board of Directors about surveys that will be distributed through March 2007.

- The bi-annual Compensation and Benefits Survey was distributed beginning January 10th. All members who complete this survey will receive a free comprehensive report in return.
- The next survey will be distributed to all who participated in the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show. This survey will be distributed March 1St and will take no more than 15 minutes to complete.
- Finally, Part 3 of the Golf Course Environmental Profile project will focus on inputs used to maintain the golf course. This survey will take approximately 20 to 30 minutes to complete and should be distributed on approximately March 19th. Again, the information will be used to document and publicize the positive environmental practices implemented by superintendents and measure environmental improvements over time.

In recognition of the time it takes to complete these surveys, GCSAA will award .25 service points for each completed survey. The surveys will be anonymous, but proof of participation will be recorded.

GCM's Ask the Experts

November 1st signaled the launch of a new GCSAA member benefit, "GCM's Ask the Experts," a free, interactive, Web-based GCM feature that allows GCSAA members to submit questions to industry experts on topics covering categories from irrigation to bunkers to herbicides to mowers and more, with the questions and the experts' answers posted exclusively online.

Simply go to www.gcsaa.org/gcm/ask and post your question. Questioners on the site will be identified only by their first name and state (for example, — Janet, NE). One or more experts from companies involved in that category will receive your question and have an answer for you within three working days. The expert's answers also will be archived, so you can view all the questions and answers posted in each category.

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