



THE NEWSLETTER

January 2009

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.

Norman and Robert Mucciarone Honored as Distinguished Service Award Winners for 2009

By Gary Trask

The similarities between Norman Mucciarone and Robert Mucciarone are quite remarkable and the parallel between their lives goes well beyond the fact that they are twin brothers.

After growing up together in Franklin, Massachusetts in the 1930s, Norman and Robert decided to attend school together at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass. They did so on a whim, not realizing that it would seal their fate as golf course superintendents.

"We had no idea what it would turn into," Norman remembers. "We just did it because the super at Franklin Country Club, where we worked, thought it would be a good idea. So we gave it a shot."

Both Norman and Robert worked short stints at a few different clubs after graduating from Stockbridge, but both ended up finding jobs as head supers at clubs that obviously struck a chord with them. In the mid-1950s, Norman landed at Woodland Golf Club in Auburndale, Massachusetts while Robert took up shop less than 10 miles away at Dedham Country & Polo Club.

Both men remained at their respective positions for the next four decades.

So it was only fitting last month at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England's annual meeting that the 82-year-old brothers were on stage together at Wellesley



Russ Heller, CGCS pictured with DSA Honorees Robert and Norman Mucciarone

Photo Credit: Rich Gagnon

Country Club to accept their awards as co-recipients of the association's Distinguished Service Award, which goes annually to "a superintendent who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession."

Outgoing GCSANE President Russ Heller, CGCS thought the Mucciarone brothers fit the bill quite nicely.

"I never worked with them personally, but whenever you hear their

name, you always hear good things," Heller says. "If we're talking about contributing to the association and profession, Norman and Robert are great selections."

Norman's son David Mucciarone said the entire family was thrilled with the announcement that the two brothers would receive the award.

"It was a great thing to watch," remembers David, who took over for his father as head super at Woodland GC back in 1991. "Take it from someone who was around them quite a bit during their careers. Those two guys deserve this award, for sure."

David has fond memories of growing up in a family that was consumed by a golf course superintendent occupation. He is one of nine kids of Norman and Blanch Mucciarone while his Uncle Robert and his wife Pauline had three kids of their own. During the summer months, both families would get together at a cottage in Wrentham.

"It's funny, they didn't talk much about work when the families got together," David, 51, recalls. "But that didn't mean they weren't dedicated. Early every morning the two of them would get up without complaint and get to the course. After dinner, they'd both go back to their course to water the greens or to give the place one final look before nightfall. Their work ethic

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Sharon K. Brownell
P.O. Box 566, Mattapoisett, MA 02739-0566
508-758-6474 Fax: 508-758-3688
E-mail: Sbrownell@verizon.net

GCSANE Headquarters

300 Arnold Palmer Blvd., Norton, MA 02766
Tel: (800) 833-4451 Fax: (508) 758-6474
Web Site: www.gcsane.org

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Mucciarones - continued from page 1

was incredible. They just don't make 'em like those two guys anymore."

Norman said the key to his success and longevity was indeed his ardent desire to keep his course in top-notch condition, no matter how many hours it took.

"That comes with the territory," he says. "You can't not put the hours in and expect to have a decent golf course. But it was always a nice feeling to see the result of your hard work or to hear people say nice things about your course. That kind of kept me going through the years."

Norman said that it was also helpful to have his brother nearby to use as a sounding board, and vice versa.

We'd run things by each other, try to help each other with our own problems," he says. "It was nice to have him close by. It still is, even in retirement."

Further proof of the Mucciarone's commitment to the job is the fact that they were both dedicated to the GCSANE.

"They never missed a meeting and they both served on a number of different boards over the years," David says. "The association was always very important to them. It still is."

"They took the profession very serious. They thought it was crucial that all of the superintendents supported each other and it shows. Any time someone hears my last name, they always have great things to tell me about my father and my uncle. That's always nice to hear."

David said that it was tough to replace a legend as head super at Woodland, even if it was his old man.

"At first, it was difficult because of the expectations," he says. "But I worked with him at Woodland for 35 years before I took over. I knew the ropes and he's always been there to help me with anything I need. The membership still loves him and remembers him. They named the maintenance garage in his name, which although he won't admit it, I know really meant something to him."

Even at 82, Robert still gets his hands dirty on a part-time basis working for his son's irrigation company while Norman has been completely retired for two years now after finally giving up his part-time gig at Brae Burn Country Club. He says that passing the time in retirement has been the most difficult thing to overcome.

"Sometimes you go crazy with all the time on your hands," laughs Norman, who, along with his wife, was given an honorary golf membership at Woodland GC, which he uses on a weekly basis during the season. "You know, you do something for 40 years, you'd think you get sick of it. But I gotta admit, I do miss it at times. I miss the people. I miss being there with the crew. I miss just being out on the course."

"If I had the chance to do it all over again, I'd probably have to think about it for a minute and then I'd go ahead and do it. It becomes more than just a job. And I think that's a great thing to be able to say about your profession."

❖

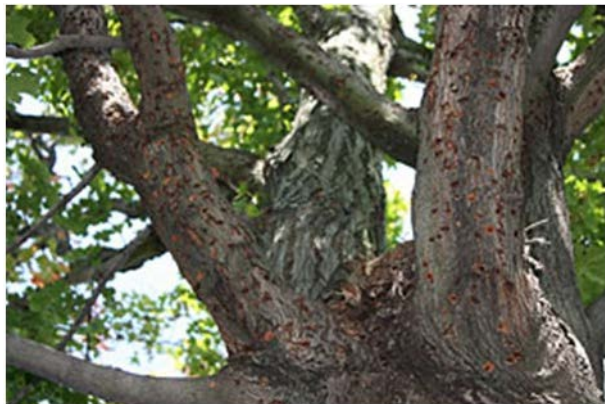


From L-R: Norman Mucciarone and his son David pictured above.

Photo Credit: Rich Gagnon

Latest News on the Asian Longhorned Beetle

The Asian Longhorned Beetle: Anatomy of an Invasion



A sugar maple heavily damaged by years of ALB egg-laying and exit holes.

Although it may have been lurking there for years, New England's first Asian longhorned beetle – or ALB – was discovered by a curious resident in Worcester's Greendale neighborhood on August 1.

By early December, nearly 4,500 infested trees had been identified and slated for removal, with the total projected at 10,000 as the infestation rate topped 28 percent and continued climbing. In October, U.S. Forest service "smoke-jumpers" were called in to join a SWAT team of tree climbers and ground inspectors, and the regulated area was doubled to more than 61 square miles. Although the beetle has not been found outside the Worcester limits, the regulated area extends beyond the Worcester city limits to the surrounding towns of Holden, Boylston, West Boylston, and Shrewsbury.

Just beyond that area are rolling wooded hills that stretch north and west to the Berkshires, New Hampshire and Vermont – blazing with the color of fall maples, harboring the sugars that will be tapped for maple syrup in the spring.

That landscape – along with the sugar, wood products and tourist industries it supports – is at stake. ALB larvae slowly kill maples. They also attack birches, elms, horse chestnut, willows, and sometimes poplars. An infested tree cannot be saved. It must

be cut down and disposed of within the infested area. In previous outbreaks in New York, New Jersey and Illinois, most of the surrounding trees have also been removed.

The Worcester County infestation is unprecedented in its impact on a residential neighborhood, its proximity to large wooded tracts, the size of the insect attackers, and the fact that they are able to kill relatively healthy trees, stresses UMass Extension entomologist Robert Childs, who responded to the crisis early on.

About 81 percent of Worcester's 17,113 street trees are maples, with a total replacement value of over \$90 million. Two thirds of those are more than 18 years old, and most are on city streets.

"It's scary," said Childs recently. "But I believe we can stop it here. We have to."

This is the way Bob Childs describes the evolution of that effort: August 2 was a hot Friday, but Patty Douglass of the USDA's Plant Protection Quarantine office in Wallingford, Connecticut was still in her office late that afternoon when the phone rang. It was Donna Massie, who had been working in her yard in Worcester's Greendale section when she began wondering about the large bug with striped antennae on a nearby tree. Massie, whose daughter had just set

her up with a new computer, photographed the critter with her cell phone and began putting her curiosity to work. Her sleuthing paid off. She not only identified the bug . . . she found Douglass.

"She was a great. A newbie, but she got through," said Childs.

When she saw the cell phone photos, Douglass immediately called Jennifer Forman Orth, Plant Pest Survey Coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, and by Saturday morning, Douglass and Forman Orth were in Worcester. By Monday, the specimen was in Maryland in the hands of the USDA's Systematic Entomology Lab, the only office empowered to make an official determination.

By then, Childs was already getting calls, and knew he needed to mobilize Extension resources to get the word out.

In Worcester, Childs found a small army of responders and researchers including Cornell's Richard Hoebeke who first identified ALB in Brooklyn in 1996, and is now studying the Worcester ALB's DNA. At the same time, Childs was concerned that important information was not immediately available to the nurseries and arborists among Extension's stakeholders. Navigating an imposing tangle of regulatory jurisdictions and authority, Childs worked with Extension's Jason Lanier to create a website that continues to assemble the latest breaking news and directives. The site has become a critical source on the crisis, working in conjunction with state and news media sites. (See our ["In Short" section](#), for a complete listing of online resources on ALB.)

Since then, Childs has become part of a massive community education program that has come to include training and certification workshops for those doing business in the regulated area, and community briefings on the



ALB egg-laying site left, exit hole right.

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Worcester Country Club is wary of beetles

Imagine picturesque Worcester Country Club without many trees. That scary thought crossed the minds of WCC staff and members after destructive Asian longhorned beetles were found nearby in recent weeks.

WCC roped off several trees that it suspected of beetle infestation, but the club breathed a sigh of relief after officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture visited on Monday and found no trace of the insects.

"We're as nervous as everybody else," WCC general manager **Jeff Glesmann** said. "Our members certainly don't want to see their club become a links course, needless to say, but the USDA said there didn't appear to be any infected trees here."

USDA officials are scheduled to return Wednesday for a more extensive search.

"You can't just tell by looking from the ground," WCC superintendent **Steve Thys** said. "That's why you need to have climbers come up and take a look through some of the trees they think were suspect and evaluate it further."

City, state and federal officials are scouring the region to locate and elimi-

nate the beetles, which bore into maple, elm, willow, birch, ash, sycamore and mimosa trees and destroy them. Oak and pine trees aren't affected. The beetles are believed to have been transported inadvertently from Asia.

When the Asian longhorned beetles were found in New Jersey two years ago, USDA officials took the drastic step of removing all susceptible hardwood trees within a quarter-mile of infested trees to prevent the infestation from spreading.

"That would be terrible," Glesmann said.

When Glesman worked at Walnut Creek CC in South Lyon, Mich., three years ago, the club lost 250 of its 650 trees due to the Emerald ash borer, an Asian beetle that bores into ash trees.

Thys normally concerns himself with maintaining the club's tees, fairways and greens, and pretty much takes the trees for granted.

"You're not looking up as much as you are down," Thys said. "This is definitely new to me. Let's hope it's not what it's being made out to be. The potential is there for significant damage."

Even if the beetles did make their way to WCC, Thys isn't concerned that the club may one day resemble the 1930s photo that hangs in his office — one of the club with far fewer trees. He estimated that WCC has only 30-40 maples, but plenty of oaks, white pines, red pines and mixed locusts, none of which are affected by beetles.

Thys and club president **Don Graves** attended an informational meeting about the beetles last week at Quinsigamond Community College. WCC e-mailed its members to make them aware of the potential problem.

"Unless it is somehow brought onto the property or spreads to this property," Glesmann, "at this point in time, we're cautiously optimistic. There doesn't appear to be any infestation on our grounds."

Thys said the club could try injecting grub control chemicals into its soil and non-infested trees to ward off the beetles, but he would wait to do so until the USDA returns next week. ❖

Writer: Bill Doyle
Source: www.telegram.com
August 2008

**12th Annual
New England
Regional Turfgrass
Conference & Show**
March 2-5, 2009
R.I. Convention Center, Providence

Keynote Speaker
Tuesday, March 3,
3:15-4:00pm
Greg Gumbel

USDA Order Leads to Local Changes Concerning ALB

proper handling of wood products and yard waste, as well as on identifying infested trees.

The response is especially gratifying to Pat Bigelow, who runs Bigelow Nurseries, which, bordering the regulated area, became an early informal clearinghouse for the do's and don'ts. Bigelow initially feared that federal quarantine would shut landscape businesses in the spring. She has learned that even if the crisis required her facilities to be inspected every two weeks, the business would not be shut down. In any event, such measures are far more appealing than the prospect of failing to stop the bug.

"It could get into the woods, but I really don't think that's going to happen, thanks to the coordinated response," said Bigelow.

Still, Extension Forest Conservation specialist Paul Catanzaro says that many of the woodlot owners he works with are still "holding their breaths" and hoping for the best. The economic impact on many of those owners would be significant, he acknowledged, but that is only the beginning.

"Factors like privacy, beauty, wildlife habitat, and ecological health and stability – these are what drive many owners of forest land," he said. ❖

Source: In Focus
Volume 6 • Number 4 •
Winter 2008-2009

Credits:
Photography: Robert Childs
Writing: Wesley Blixt

While this does not apply to many of you, we would like everyone to be aware of the notice concerning the eradication of the asian longhorned beetle.

Recently promulgated emergency regulations initiated by the MassDEP's Regulations List-Serv and Commissioner's Advisory Committee

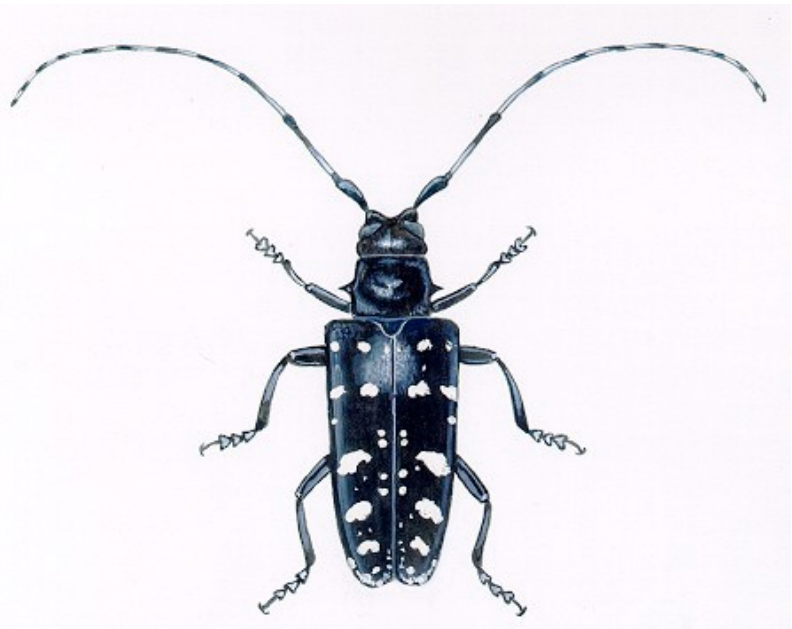
Name & Citation of Regulation(s):
Asian Longhorn Beetle Control--
Wetland regulations and Water Quality Certification (310 CMR 10.00)

Here is a Brief Explanation and Rationale for the proposed Changes: These emergency regulations expanded the Agricultural Emergencies section to allow for immediate work under the Wetlands Protection Act and Water Quality Certification Regulations for the eradication of Asian longhorn beetles in response to an order or regulation issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The regulations contain conditions for undertaking work in wetland resource areas (e.g., requirements for mapping, site meetings, staging locations, access roads, stream crossings, and ero-

sion controls). The geographic scope of the proposed change is limited to those communities that are the subject of an order or regulation issued by USDA or DCR, currently five communities in Worcester County (Worcester, Holden, West Boylston, Boylston, and Shrewsbury). The emergency regulations are in effect for 90 days from the date of promulgation.

MassDEP is in the process of preparing follow-up regulations that will ultimately make the Asian Longhorn Beetle regulations permanent. Drafts of these permanent regulations will go out for public comment soon. When promulgated, these final regulations will replace the emergency regulations.

Web Link to View Draft Regulations:
<http://www.mass.gov/dep/service/regulations/newregs.htm#emerge>



Asian Longhorned Beetle

GCSANE Annual Meeting - January 9, 2009 Wellesley Country Club - Host: Bill Sansone



GCSANE Board of Directors 2009:
From L-R: David Johnson, Patrick Daly, CGCS, Russell Heller, CGCS, Michael Luccini, CGCS, Mark Gagne, Michael Stachowicz, David Stowe, CGCS, Jason Adams, Richard Gagnon and Scott Lagana, CGCS (Board members not pictured: Peter Hasak and Carl Miner)



From L-R: GCSANE's newest Board Members - David Johnson and Carl Miner



Back by popular demand - the GCSANE Directory. The printed edition will be available in 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our condolences are extended to George Wise and family on the passing of George's father, William Wise in late December.

Our condolences are extended to the Blake family on the passing of past GCSANE President Dick Blake, CGCS. He was also a past president of GCSAA. He died on Jan. 23, 2009 and is survived by his wife Elaine. They plan to have a memorial service in the Spring. For those desiring to contact Elaine, her address is 4 Bow Center Rd., Bow, NH 03304 ph. 603-230-2099.

Our condolences are extended to Lianne Larson and family on the passing of Lianne's mother, Lucille Larson.

Our condolences are extended to Jim Conant and family on the passing of Jim's brother, Timothy Conant.

Please join the Rhode Island Turfgrass Foundation, friends and alumni of URI for a complimentary luncheon at the NERTF Conference & Show on Tuesday, March 3rd from 11:30 am-1:00 pm in the Rotunda. Any questions, please call Dave Wallace at 401-641-0306.

The publishers of *Superintendent Magazine* wanted to let you know that they now have a free posting forum for people looking to hire or for those looking to relocate in the golf market on their social community site. Please visit www.SuperintendentSite.com. This is completely free, even registration on the site is free!

CALENDAR

March 2-5
New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show
RI Convention Center
Providence, RI

April 27:
GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Whitinsville Golf Club
Golf Tournament and Education
Host: David Johnson

April 28:
Rhode Island Turfgrass Foundation Golf Tournament
Agawam Hunt
Host: Drew Cummins

May 11:
GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Joint meeting with GCMACC - Bear Cup
Franklin Country Club
Host: Michael Luccini, CGCS

June 24:
GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Member/Guest Tournament
Segregansett Country Club
Host: Rich Gagnon

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