



THE NEWSLETTER

August 2012

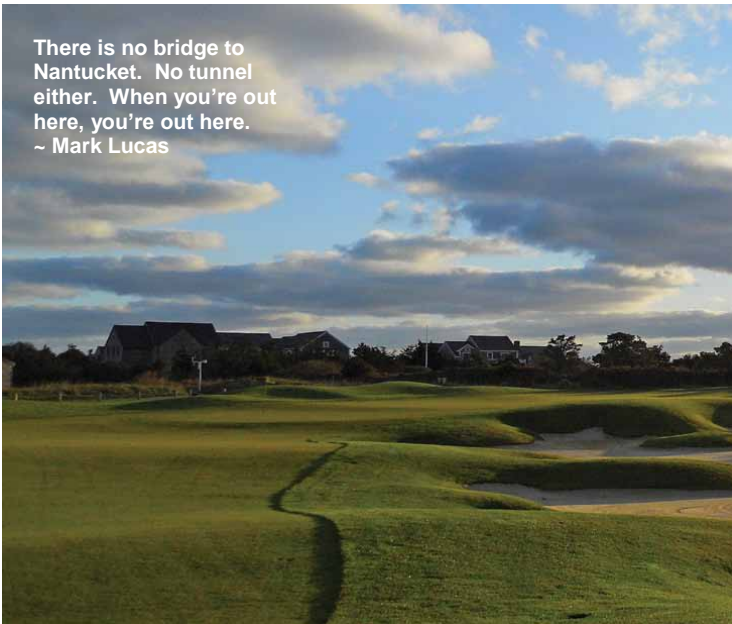
of the **Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Inc.**

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Remote Possibilities

By Howard Richman

There is no bridge to Nantucket. No tunnel either. When you're out here, you're out here.
~ Mark Lucas



The cobblestone streets that line Nantucket can be charming, a throwback to generations past at this quaint, serene Massachusetts hideaway.

They are, however, not speed bumps, more like turtle-backs, arched and sturdy, obstacles that should make shock absorbers very afraid. The streets are the only factor that LaCorte Equipment's Bill Rockwell laments, with good reason. When he needs a company to transport hundreds of thousands of dollars in equipment to a golf course there, which he actually did a few years ago, it legitimizes his concern.

Anybody who has had dental work should tread lightly, he warns.

"The only thing that drives me nuts is those stone roads," says Rockwell, sales representative for the John Deere Golf distributor. "They will knock a filling out."

Yet those cobblestone streets are key to the lifeline that keeps golf course superintendents at Nantucket facilities such as Nantucket Golf Club, Miacomet Golf Club and Santaty Head Golf Club humming.

Oh, there are others in the same situation in the U.S. (except for the cobblestone factor), isolated in their own right. A sampling of them in the U.S. includes Riviera Country Club on Anderson Island in Washington; and Haig Point and Melrose Club (its superintendent, five-year GCSAA member Nick Bright, was featured in the July issue of GCM) on Daufuskie Island in South Carolina.

None of these courses is in a place where streets — whether constructed of stone, brick or good old-fashioned cement — make it easy to reach. That's why they're such sweet spots for the rich and famous, or those who have retired to lounge in cottages to bask in privacy.

In these special instances, they are accessible only by plane or boat.

Many of those who manage golf courses in island settings realize that dollar spot is a given, but cold-calling salesmen ... well, not so much. They know SPF 50 is a must, and



Miacomet GC on Nantucket is a links-style course that features 98 bunkers. Photo courtesy of Miacomet GC

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Nantucket - continued from page 1

that fog is a blanket that reduces golf courses into veiled landscapes. They work in places where constant ocean breezes cause a double whammy of bad hair days and an irrigation tech's worst nightmare, a combination that is not good for the meek.

Or, for that matter, anybody who has a fear of flying over water or who needs to pop Dramamine pills like they are M&Ms to survive a ferryboat journey like the one to Nantucket, where the island and mainland are separated 30 miles by the Atlantic Ocean.

"How are we different than superintendents on the mainland? Completely different everything," says Sean Oberly, the GCSAA Class A superintendent at Miacomet. "Even the wind is different. This wind pushes you ... like really pushes on you, and there's nowhere to hide out here."

You aren't necessarily stranded on these islands, but they aren't exactly replicas of what superintendents encounter if they work, let's say, in Illinois or Colorado.

"There is no bridge to Nantucket. No tunnel either," says Mark Lucas, the GCSAA Class A golf course manager at Nantucket GC. "When you're out here, you're out here."

They face challenges most superintendents on the mainland cannot fathom, such as when the tides are in their favor to receive a shipment, or budgets that may stretch into nearly six figures, much in part because of freight and shipping expenses.

Island golf courses, however, are priceless as far as famed golf course architect Rees Jones is concerned. He designed Nantucket GC and Haig Point, which is the site of the annual Rees Jones Invitational that attracts top college teams.

"They are windswept places, places you know where you are," Jones says. "You know you are at a special place, somewhere hard to replicate."

Yet island life for golf course superintendents, where they are surrounded by water and pounded by wind, is no day at the beach.

"I'm on an island, and I'm shipping in sand. For some reason, shipping sand to an island really agitates me," says Oberly, a 13-year member of the association. "It shouldn't be that way, but I can't find a local source."

Still, Lucas cannot imagine being anywhere else.

"Living on an island presents its challenges for sure," Lucas says, "but I love it here, and this is where we want to raise our kids. If you take advantage of what Nantucket has to offer, to me, there is no better place to work and live."

"It ain't a little deal"

So you want to be a superintendent on an island? Craig Walsh has some advice. "If you're not a planner and an organizer here, you're done," says Walsh, Haig Point's director of agronomy and a 16-year GCSAA member.

Apparently, you also have to have a bit of ship captain in you; at least that's what it sounds like when Riviera's GCSAA Class A superintendent Ron Hall, a 23-year association member, says this: "We have to make sure the tides are right, plan ahead when we order something like topdressing because what happens with the tides matters so much."

Roger Myers, owner of Chatahoochee Turf Products, says, "Their situation is just very different. A superintendent on land just can call his local distributor. On an island, well, you can forget that."

Ned Mullis, territory manager for Harrell's, says, "It's a weird dynamic. Those guys have a tough job. It takes an hour by ferry to get over there (for him, that means



Mark Lucas is the golf course manager at Nantucket GC.
Photo by Howard Richman

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Dedham Country and Polo Club Played Host to a Stellar S&B

A GCSANE riddle: What has 224 legs, needed 1,120 fingers to hold golf clubs, helped raise thousands of dollars for Scholarship and Benevolence, and will affect the lives of several scholarship recipients? The answer is YOU!! This year's event was supported by 112 GCSANE members who gave their day towards the S&B. The number of participants has been slowly growing over the years with the most recent one being the highest in quite some time.



Above (L-R): Fran Ventura, Scott Lagana, Keith Tortorella and Steve Thys



Above: Kathy Comee speaks about her husband Dave.



Russ is upset that there are no more appetizers left for him ...or he just ate them all.

Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament Results

1st Gross: Ron Dobosz
John Cieplik
Jim Teatreault
Matt Lapinski

2nd Gross: Steve Murphy
Mike Marks
Mike Hichey
Dave Travers

3rd Gross: Ed Eardley
Tom Lennon
Bill Cohen
Jim Mahoney

1st Net: Joe Gallagher
Ed Doherty
Bill Ritchie
Fred Clark

2nd Net: Jason Adams
Jim Marano
Skip Belski
Gary Feldman

3rd Net: Keith Tortorella
Steve Thys
Scott Lagana
Fran Ventura

Closest to the Pin

#3 Jim Mahoney 6' 6"
#5 Ron Milenski 6' 4"
#12 Joe Gallagher 2' 6"
#14 Tom Rowell 25"

Longest Drive #4 Matt Lapinski

Straightest Drive #15 Patrick Sullivan

a trek to Daufuskie Island), a couple of hours to unload, then you have to play the tides right. There are only certain days you can deliver because of the tides. If he (Walsh) calls tomorrow and says he needs a little color, there's no quick answer. It's going to be a week. It ain't a little deal."

There was nothing little about that super-sized delivery of John Deere Golf equipment that Rockwell oversaw in 2009 for Nantucket GC. This was a \$500,000 deal, including equipment, freight and shipping from the mainland at Hyannis, Mass., according to Rockwell. It arrived via steamship at the dock in Nantucket, where five truckloads were unloaded to navigate those cobblestone avenues.

All of this occurred after an extensive demo program that John Deere Golf and LaCorte underwrote to ensure that Lucas and his crew were able to see, test and choose the right equipment.

The order was placed months before the actual delivery, which is standard operating procedure for superintendents on islands. When they order fertilizer, the procedure is to stack the pallet to ensure there is enough and that it will last, just in case a delivery is delayed.

Weather-related issues can hamper a superintendent's schedule on an island, often on a daily basis. Lucas recalls the initial grow-in at Nantucket GC when a portion of construction was halted because bunker sand didn't arrive on time. Deliveries being placed on standby are common occurrences in the summer, at a time when the steamships are usually packed, another reason why it is imperative to order early.

"One time the harbor froze solid and they had to bring in an icebreaker from Nova Scotia," says Oberly, who recently got his Toro ProPass 200 greens topdresser in a shipment, "and it took six or seven hours to get a boat over here. That's not good. If things get out of hand and you don't have supplies, you're done."

Less than a decade ago, when they added the second nine holes at Miacomet GC, it was a stressful time. "We had 76 tractor trailer loads (of turf) that had to get here from Rhode Island," Oberly says. "They were staged there (deliveries were made over a six-month period), had to get across to here on time, lay it down, all in the same day. That was really tough."

In 2006, Nantucket GC renovated five acres of bunkers to make the layout more heathland style. The journey began in Ohio, where bunker sand was stored in rail cars and sent to Massachusetts, where it was placed in barges before being shipped to Nantucket. "It took at least a month to plan," says Lucas, a 21-year member of GCSAA. "I worked with the barge company to make sure the barges were totally cleaned out, perfectly clean, because that sand cost a lot of money by the time it got here (\$100 a ton for the sand, after all the freight and shipping expenditures)."

Oberly learned a few tricks to defray shipping expenses, although that method is pretty rare. "If we hear 'free freight' and we sniff that out, we jump all over it," he says. "A (shipping) company may ask you for your zip code to get free shipping, not knowing we are on an island. They end up having to eat (pay) whatever you have shipped over; it was like we made out like bandits."

Funny, isn't it, that Lucas and Oberly both have a similar



Top: A dorm at Nantucket GC is an affordable option for maintenance staff. Photo courtesy of Mark Lucas

Right: Mike Petrosino oversees maintenance at Miacomet GC. Photo by Howard Richman



fantasy, fit-for-print, juicy stuff that any superintendent probably can understand.

"I would love to see one of those Lesco trucks (now operating as John Deere Landscapes) pull in one of these days," says Oberly, who noted that his budget is \$840,000. "Back when I was in Connecticut, you'd be sitting there and they'd roll in, see if you need some hoses, nozzles, stuff like that. Nope, that's not going to happen out here."

Often, these clubs will share equipment, etc., when the need arises. It happens on Daufuskie Island. It definitely happens on Nantucket. These superintendents may work at different clubs, but they are comfortable making a call to each other when in need.

"If we need to order sod, I might call Mark and say, 'You want to jump on this?' We sometimes split loads that way," Oberly says. "That's huge. I know what he's going through, and he knows what I'm going through. That really helps."

Vendors and suppliers also will often go out of their way to ensure their island clients don't feel forgotten, too. Lucas recalls one January when he was on the fence about a mower, so Rockwell made the journey there to support a client in need. "I hadn't made up my mind," Lucas says, "and I wanted to mow myself. Bill came over, and it was pretty cold. He went the extra mile for us."

Those relationships come in handy when plans go astray because of things beyond their control, such as when FedEx and UPS deliver. That is no guarantee packages will arrive on time. "Next day doesn't necessarily mean next day on Nantucket," Lucas says, "especially if we have fog and they are coming by plane."

As the commercial says, that's logistics.

"They (island superintendents) have to have more bullets in their gun," says Kevin Doyle, GCSAA field staff representative for the Northeast region. "If they need pesticides, parts, they have to make adjustments on the fly unlike some superintendents who aren't on an island."

No wonder, then, that the presence of a good mechanic or maintenance technician is essential. Guys like Mike Petrosino (Miacomet) and John Cammon (Riviera) are as important as anybody.

"You don't have time for failure here," Petrosino says. "If you let maintenance get behind, automatically you're three weeks behind. If you're on the mainland, you almost can wait until something breaks before you fix it. Out here? No way. You have to keep in mind you're not near anything. You can't just run over to the NAPA store."

Cammon, who has spent more than 22 years at Riviera, has a stash of supplies on stocked shelves, knowing full well sales reps don't just drop by on a regular basis. He also has to be an innovator, and it showed eight years ago when he rebuilt a Jacobsen LF100 fairway mower, which he finally replaced this year.

Time is of the essence on an island, and they take it seriously at these spots. Haig Point superintendent Troy Taylor can rattle off several reasons why. It starts when you take a ferry to work, which is unusual to say the least for most golf course superintendents.

"You have to plan around the time the boats run. If you've got two more greens to fertilize and it's 3 o'clock, well, most of the staff leaves at 3:40 to catch the ferry, so some of us will stay and finish up what they started," says Taylor, a three-year GCSAA member. "At times, this job is great. Lots of scenery, views I probably may never get again in my career. I also see it's preparing me for my next job because so many things are thrown at you out here."

Help wanted

It may sound pretty cool. Not everybody, though, is forming a line to work on an island.

"Putting an advertisement in the paper is not going to get it done," says Lucas, a native of Lafayette, Ind., where he was a Chicago Cubs fan, enough so that as a youngster he tried to grow ivy on his backyard fence to make it look like the trademark ivy that adorns the outfield walls at historic Wrigley Field.

Nantucket can be an expensive place to live, particularly for an intern or assistant golf course superintendent. Miacomet assistant Frank Duda, an eight-year GCSAA member, pays more than \$800 a month for a studio apartment.

Nantucket GC addressed that issue in part by erecting an on-site coed dormitory that sleeps 42. Those who stay there pay a Nantucket-friendly \$80 a week, and it includes wireless Internet, cable TV, a pool table and basketball court.

"I was having a tough time getting interns," Lucas says. "We had to step it up a little bit, so the club made improvements to the dorm, such as WiFi."

There are rules in the dormitory: no alcohol or visitors on the premises.

"In the summer all you do is sleep in there anyway," says Joe Tardif, second assistant at Nantucket GC and a four-year member of the association. "At first it was like I was liv-



Left: Sean Oberly is the superintendent at Miacomet GC. Photo by Howard Richman

Above: Golfers do their thing at Nantucket GC. Photo courtesy of Mark Lucas

ing in a college dorm again."

Recruiting young, good help, whether interns or full-time staff, can be tough for reasons Lucas understands, and that's why he says he pays them a few dollars more per hour than somebody might make on the mainland. Their options beyond work at the golf course can be limited, and that can be a deciding factor for some people.

"Hey, I miss being able to go to a (Boston) Red Sox game. I can't get in my car and go to Fenway Park," Lucas says. "Even if I go, I probably can't get back (to Nantucket) by the time the boats are running or the planes are flying, so I have to stay the night. It gets back to overall planning for everything. You have to know boat schedules, plane schedules, ferry schedules ... it just is not that easy."

Attending chapter meetings also is a travel issue, although Oberly hosted one in June. Of course, during the summer and fall, his staff can get off work and be surfing in a matter of minutes, which is a nice perk.

"I like the outdoors, and it's a beautiful place," says Miacomet assistant Ryan Scotto, a six-year association member. "Barring hurricanes and fog, it's a good place to work and grow grass."

It also can be a good spot to stay healthy. If fast-food chains are your weakness, Nantucket isn't for you. They are forbidden there, which challenges even a veteran superintendent.

"Sometimes I just want a Big Mac," Lucas admits.

Earth, wind and ... mole crickets

Mole crickets are fuzzy brown creatures that look like roaches, their busy, destructive little hands out in front, putting their best stranglehold on island superintendents

in South Carolina.

On Nantucket, dollar spot is the feisty beast.

Yet is there a bigger issue for island superintendents than the wind?

"I've wanted to fertilize the last five days now, but the wind has been unreal," says Nantucket GC senior assistant superintendent Kevin Banks. "It can get frustrating."

Oberly says, "Everything you do out here is affected by the weather. We've got fog, rain, hot, cold ... it's all over the place. We don't have possums or skunks, but we've got wind and dollar spot, which is unbelievable out here. We almost could grow it all year because for days everything is wet and you can't dry it off."

The environmental considerations are enormous on Nantucket. Some of the most rare plants on earth are located on Nantucket GC property, including New England blazing star and St. Andrew's cross. The Nantucket Conservation Foundation indicates more than two-dozen rare and endangered species exist in that region, including 80 percent of the world's sand plain grasslands. When Nantucket GC was constructed, it was routed around the rare plants; some of the plants were removed and relocated.

"We do groundwater testing every three months for nitrates and phosphorus, test annually for any chemicals that we use," Lucas says, "so that's a first for me, being that regulated. We're a half-mile away from the wellhead, so the public's water supply is right there."

In the Low Country of South Carolina, they continually try to control mole crickets, but it is a frustrating battle.

"It never gets cold enough on the island to knock your (mole cricket) population back," Walsh says. "We put out preventive insecticides, but some of them always find their way through it. They kill mounds and bunker slopes. They can annihilate those fairly quickly, to the point we have to re-sod all of it."

Bright, who during leaner times used a molasses-based concoction to alleviate his mole cricket issue, has a whatever-it-takes mentality in his setting.

"It's different on an island, that's for sure," Bright says. "Here, sometimes it takes something a little different to get things done."

Pros, cons of island life

Chances are a major championship never will come to Nantucket, Daufuskie Island or Riviera CC (although some mornings, if there is a dead calm, they can hear noise coming from across Puget Sound at Chambers Bay, site of the 2015 U.S. Open).

Walsh, who has become a staple at Haig Point, hopes his time on an island golf course doesn't diminish his chances of one day having the opportunity to stage a U.S. Open or PGA Championship. Fewer than 12,000 rounds are played annually at Haig Point, he says.

"It's a challenge to build a name for yourself because not a lot of people see your work," says Walsh.

Are golfers missing the (ferry) boat by not taking the time — and spending the money — to play an island golf course?

"It's a real treat, from the views to the seclusion," says British native Mark Houghton-Berry, who has a home on Haig Point. "Normally, most people throw their clubs in the back of their cars and drive somewhere. When you come over here, it's more of an all-day outing, and that's what really makes it an occasion. Playing golf on an island is a real pleasure."

Lucas, who arrived on Nantucket in 1996 from Greenwich, Conn., wondered at first what he had gotten himself into.

"I didn't see the sun for 30 days. Fog the entire time," Lucas says. "It started when I was coming over on the boat, when I lost any radio channel halfway over. I thought, 'Where am I going?' I was like, 'I don't know if this is going to work.'"

Sometimes the rain is so heavy on Nantucket that it feels like somebody is pouring buckets on top of you, Tardif says. It's a small price to pay, though, for his job.

"I don't think I could work on a course now not near the ocean," Tardif says. "I know I'm healthier out here, haven't had fast food in three years. I surf, there's beaches, tons of stuff to do."

Oberly, who worked for Lucas at Nantucket GC before taking over in 2001 at Miacomet, may have found his niche.

"If you can stop and relax for a moment, you realize where you really are," Oberly says. "It's an island. I don't know if I envisioned myself being out here this long, but I'm going to have a hard time leaving." ❖

Source - Golf Course Management

Howard Richman (hrichman@gcsaa.org) is GCM's associate editor.

Thoughts From Your Association Manager

The Scholarship and Benevolence Tournament held August 6, at the Dedham Country and Polo Club was a huge success. Our host Mike Stachowicz, had everything ready for the 112 players who enjoyed a beautiful day on a beautiful golf course with exceptional hospitality and a touching tribute to this year's honoree, Dave Comee.

Thanks to the hard work of Mike, Dave Stowe and his committee composed of Jason Adams, Mark Casey, Pat Daly, Bob Healey, Mike Hermanson, and Jeff James and the wonderful cooperation of the Club's staff, a day of fun, friendship and remembrance was had by all. And my thanks go to Mike Brown of New England Turf volunteering to help with the registration process and the drawing for the rounds of golf.

Many individuals and companies supported the event with their generous contributions of time, money and equipment. A hearty "thank you" to those listed below for their generous support.

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The clubhouse staff led my Manager Bob Pescatore and assisted by Matt Coughlin and Connor Newman rolled out the red carpet and made us feel welcome.

Golf Professional Jim Noris' staff handled the pairings, caddies, golf car assignments, and prizes without a hitch.

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Mike Stachowicz and his talented team did remarkable work preparing the course for the day's event. Congratulations for a job done well.

The day was capped with the announcement of a new scholarship named in the memory of Dave Comee, a long time member of the Scholarship and Benevolence Committee. Dave's wife Kathy and her family attended the event and she talked about Dave, his dedication to his family and friends, and his devotion to our Association. It was a touching insight about a man who was a friend to many of us. It also made me think about what's important in life.



Left to right: Kerrienne, her husband Tavis Comee, Kathy and Megan Comee

Congratulations to Andy Drohen on his latest victory. Andy recently captured the Massachusetts Amateur Public Links Championship. His win makes him the only player in MGA history to win all four non-senior amateur MGA Championships. Andy is the long time representative for Agrium Advanced Technologies, is actively involved in activities of local superintendent chapters in the Northeast and is part of the well-known Drohen golf family. Andy's father and brother have also won MGA Championships



Photo courtesy of David Colt/MGA

Wednesday, August 1, I attended the UMASS Turf Research Field Day held at the Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Research Center in South Deerfield, MA.

Viewing the plots, listening to the researchers, visiting with commercial representatives, talking with superintendents and getting a general feel for what's new, exciting, or the same, and hearing what's been happening during the

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Dr. Scott Ebdon explaining wear tolerance

season has always been something that's lured me to the Field Day. It's an excellent way to stay connected and talk with other superintendents about the season, how products are working, what the insect situation is and a load of other things that we deal with during the year.

In addition to the personal reasons, I also like to see what the researchers have been working on. Usually I key in on what's new with fungicides and preemergence herbicides. Others seem to like the NTEP Trials. Of course, there were a lot of projects to view and the researchers do a lot with the funding available.

Having the Field Day this time of year works for some superintendents and doesn't for others. There probably isn't one date or period that will work for everyone, but it seemed like it was a good date for attendees this year.

Mary Owen coordinates the event and is always available to listen to ideas, comments and discuss ways to make the event better. Let her know what you'd like to see at upcoming Field Days. ❖

Don Hearn,
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The advertisement features a background image of a golf course with a green and a sand trap. A white flag on a pole is positioned on the left, displaying the 'tee to green' logo and the text 'read custom soils'. The main headline 'TEE TO GREEN SOIL SOLUTIONS' is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. Below the headline is a list of four services, each preceded by a white circle. At the bottom right, the company name 'read custom soils' and the phone number '888-475-5526' are displayed in a white, serif font.

GCSAA Updates



As GCSAA dues renewal cycle continues, I wish to thank you all for your continued support of the industry, the profession, and your association. I hope you are all taking advantage of the resources your association brings to you. One such resource has recently undergone a facelift. I am referring to the Environmental Institute For Golf, or EIFG. This organization is the charitable arm of GCSAA and works hard to

provide you the member programs and services that directly impact your profession. With EIFG spearheading a new Chapter based fundraising initiative (Rounds for Research), I wanted to refresh you on the Institute and what it does for **YOU** the members.

The mission of EIFG states:

“The Environmental Institute for Golf fosters sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game.”

What benefits do you the member receive directly?

EIFG is funding research to help you battle turf issues that you face every day. It also funds research that provides information on how environmentally sustainable practices will keep the game of golf, and therefore your profession, viable long into the future. What good is research if no one knows about it? That is where EIFG continues to add value to you the member. Communicating and advocating with information on your behalf, to ensure the tools you need to do your job are kept readily available. By broadcasting information

about the benefits of golf facilities as wildlife habitats, hosts of charitable events, and employers, those outside the industry can understand the vital economic as well as environmental role the game of golf plays in society. EIFG also funds scholarships as a direct benefit to members, as well as those targeting the future golf course management professionals. If you have college bound children or grandchildren, interns or employees studying to enter the profession, this is a benefit to you. In 2011 alone, the EIFG awarded 53 scholarships totaling more than \$130,000.

EIFG is driven by donations. Your dues renewal will offer you the opportunity to make a donation, or you may be asked to give at another time. Visit [GCSAA.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) and EIFG.org to educate yourself further on the benefits of membership, and the involvement EIFG plays in your membership. Hopefully, if your means allow, you will consider donating.

Rounds for Research information available at: <http://www.gcsaa.org/Newsroom/News-Releases/2012/May/EIFG-to-launch-national-golf-course-research-program.aspx>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any service! ❖

Kevin Doyle
GCSAA Field Staff-Northeast Region
816-807-3103
kdoyle@gcsaa.org

Ouimet Fundraising Marathon

Kevin Corvino did it! 103 holes played - \$3250.00 raised for scholarships. This is the third year Kevin, Superintendent of the Norfolk Golf Club, participated in the 20th Francis Ouimet Fundraising Marathon held at the Stow Acres Country Club, August 8. He represented the GCSA of New England to help raise funds for students in need of financial aid. Many of these students work on the staffs of our members' clubs and the financial aid raised by the Ouimet Marathon helps lighten the load of their educational financial costs. Thanks to all who contributed to this worthy event. Your generous support is appreciated and will help deserving youngsters with their education.

On behalf of all our members, "Thank You" Kevin for caring enough to do this. And thanks to Eric Doldt for lending his support to help Kevin make this happen.



Kevin, left and Eric at the Ouimet Marathon

Change Still Slow in Coming

by John Reitman

The golf world was abuzz with the news that after almost 80 years, Augusta National finally has admitted its first female members – all two of them.

Everyone from LPGA pioneers Peggy Kirk Bell and Louise Suggs to President Obama and presidential-hopeful Mitt Romney have weighed in on the topic, and the consensus is that it's nice to see Augusta finally has decided to join the 21st century.

Now, if only my mother-in-law's women's club can follow that lead.

Private clubs are just that – private. And they can attract and reject whomever they please. Rather than wax poetic about how Augusta's admission of former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and business executive Darla Moore as members is good for the game, golf industry insiders should be concerned with what is required to shore up business at home, not at the piney woods playground for the filthy rich in east-central Georgia.

For too long, conditions at golf courses around the country have been held to the impossible-to-meet standards of Augusta. Golf industry professionals shouldn't be distracted by the membership policies there, as well

Frankly, the political side of the story is wrought with so much hypocrisy on both sides that it makes my head hurt. I could go on about how the media take the club as a whole to task over its exclusionary policies, but refuse to hold to the same level of scrutiny individual members who encourage and nourish these policies through their own inaction. Augusta's membership includes notorious conservatives who voice their moral convictions and liberals compelled to share their views on social and political inequity.

"Do as I say, not as I do . . . and I'll meet you at the first tee."

Honestly, I couldn't care less who Augusta, or any other club for that matter, includes as members, and by the looks of the galleries each year, a lot of women feel the same way.

Let's face it, by the time the National Golf Foundation releases its state-of-the-industry report early next year, the inclusion of Rice and Moore at Augusta is not going to move the needle one bit in convincing existing golfers to play more or help drive interest in the game to attract potential new players. In fact, I'll eat my Master's cap if I ever hear a single woman say she has taken up the game "because Condi broke the gender gap at Augusta."

Instead of concerning ourselves with numbers like 12.1 and 16.4, the respective handicaps reported by Rice and Moore, familiarize yourself with figures such as 120, 3.6 and 1, which are – in order – the net number of golf courses lost, the percentage of players lost and the percentage decrease in golf revenue – all in 2011. Or, how about 340? That's the net number of golf courses plowed under since 2006.

To those of us in the golf business, those are the numbers that matter most. The focus needs to be on what can be done to turn them around, not just in a year in which it appears some traction has been gained thanks largely to a record-warm winter, but for the long-term health of the game.

According to those who earn a living slicing and dicing the numbers NGF smacks us with each year, how individual facilities respond to those findings will determine whether they survive. And the search for supply-demand equilibrium in golf, barring a miracle, is a quest that likely will last another decade. That means a lot of jobs will be lost in that time, and by then no one will care a wit about who is or isn't a member at Augusta.

The real issue in golf is how to attract more women to the game at the individual facility level and how to transition junior golfers, many of whom now play for free, into lifelong customers willing to open their wallets when they reach adulthood.

That's real, not only for golf course owners, but also for superintendents, crew workers, golf pros, vendors, university turf programs and even the media. We're all in this one together.

Private clubs should be afforded some flexibility as to whom they accept and whom they do not. And that's OK.

Golf still is a game largely rooted in tradition, and nowhere is that rich history more evident than at Augusta. Links to the past are everywhere – from amateur housing in the Crow's Nest to on-course landmarks that pay homage to Dwight Eisenhower, Ben Hogan, Byron Nelson, Gene Sarazen and John Rae, who owned the property 150 years before it became a golf course.

On the other hand, there are fitness clubs and other groups around the country that cater to women. And while the General Federation of Women's Clubs doesn't have a policy of excluding men from its ranks (according to its media relations department), the very nature of its existence as well as its name doesn't exactly make me want to rush out and pledge membership.

Each year, The Masters donates millions to charitable institutions around the country. Likewise, the GFWC touts being responsible for helping fund more than 75 percent of the public libraries throughout the country, assisting in the development of kindergarten curriculum in public schools and leading in recovery efforts from global conflicts dating back as early as World War I.

The membership policies of such groups do not diminish from their good work throughout the years, nor should they serve as a distraction to what really is important. ❖

Source: Turfnet

THE 2013 UMASS WINTER SCHOOL FOR TURF MANAGERS

August 3, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The perennial goal of the UMass Winter School for Turf Managers is to furnish turf managers with concepts essential to the maintenance of high quality turf, while instilling a sense of environmental stewardship and fiscal responsibility. This highly acclaimed certificate program immerses students in a full-time, seven week course of study focused solely on the management of fine turf and taught by UMass faculty, staff and distinguished guests.

Winter School 2013 is scheduled for January 2 - February 15 at the UMass campus in Amherst. The program is especially suited for those who desire to take their career in turf management to the next level, but are unable to schedule a two or four-year degree program. Winter School is an excellent choice for professionals who seek to expand their knowledge and practical skills. The program is also uniquely suited for those who want to advance in their career, but cannot schedule a two- or four-year program, as well as career changers who want to enter the field of turf management.

The UMass Winter School for Turf Managers has been offered since 1927 and was the first program of its kind. The course provides 32 hours of intensive, expert instruction each week, covering general turf management, physiology, pest management (insects, diseases, and weeds), soils, fertilizers, irrigation, personnel management, and much more. Enrollment is limited, and close-knit classes offer the opportunity to form lasting relationships with peers and memories that will last a lifetime.

Applications are reviewed as they arrive, and since seating is limited earlier applications have a higher probability of acceptance. The application deadline for international students is September 21, 2012 to allow enough time for J-1 Visa processing.

For more information about Winter School and application materials, refer to:

<http://extension.umass.edu/turf/education/turf-winter-school>

Alternatively, call (413) 545-5202, or email academicprograms@contined.umass.edu ❖

Editor's Rant

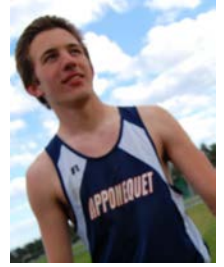
Ever think about who paved the road you travel every day, or put your vehicle together, is responsible for supplying the power to your house, made the 2x4's that support your home, the list could go on and on but you get my point. The next time you wonder why people aren't showing respect for the course or our profession; please ponder this. Have you ever thanked the town for paving your roads, called the automobile factory that built your truck, stopped to thank the power company for heating your home or found out where the wood was milled that was used to build your house? Yes, we all pay for these services, but so do all golfers when they play "your" golf course. Sometimes it really doesn't matter to them who takes care of the property, all they want to do is play golf and go home similar to how we (Superintendents) drive the roads and don't think twice who paved them. ❖

Jeff Urquhart

2nd Annual GREG'S RUN 5K - October 7, 2012

To benefit the Gregory G. Misodoulakis Memorial Scholarship

Website: www.gregsrn.org E-Mail: gregsrn10@gmail.com



The **2nd Annual Greg's Run 5K** will be held on Sunday, October 7, 2012 at 10:00 am at Apponequet Regional High School (ARHS). This run/walk event will benefit the **Gregory G. Misodoulakis Memorial Scholarship**, established by his family to honor the memory of 2010 Apponequet Regional High School graduate Gregory Misodoulakis. Greg died unexpectedly a few days prior to beginning his freshmen year at UMass Amherst. The financial and in-kind support of local businesses and community members is vital to ensure the success of this event.

Since 2011, five scholarships totaling \$4,800 have been awarded to Apponequet Regional High School graduates. It is our hope to award Greg's scholarship to deserving ARHS graduating seniors for years to come. Proceeds from this annual 5K fundraising road race will be put towards his scholarship which is managed by the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts, a **501(c)(3)** tax exempt public charity.

Please join us in making the *2nd Annual Greg's Run 5K* a memorable event that benefits current and future students of the Freetown and Lakeville communities. Any donations -- monetary, post-race refreshments or raffle prizes -- would be greatly appreciated. Below you will find information about corporate and individual sponsorship opportunities. All sponsors will be listed according to their sponsorship level on the race webpage www.gregsrn.org and will be recognized during race day activities. Sponsors may set up a display table the day of the event and distribute promotional materials (if desired). Sponsors may also display a banner or logo at the event.

The deadline to guarantee sponsorship recognition on the race website and printed materials is September 7, 2012.

We are proud to support the **2nd Annual Greg's Run 5k Race** to benefit the **Gregory G. Misodoulakis Memorial Scholarship**. We are requesting our corporate name on all materials consistent with our sponsorship level below:

____ \$200 (corporate name listed on T-Shirt, subject to printing deadline)

____ \$100 (corporate name displayed at kilometer marker or water table)

____ Friends of Greg (donations under \$100, to be listed on website and noted on Race Day)

____ In-Kind Sponsor (raffle prizes, refreshments, other) Description _____

Name: _____ Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please return this form and make any checks payable to GGMMS:

**Greg's Run, c/o Kristine Donnelly, 19 Brookstone Drive, Lakeville, MA 02347
(508) 947-7126**

*Please include your name, company name, address, phone number and email with your donation so that we can give proper recognition to all our sponsors.

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- **Matthew Kozlowski**, Assistant Superintendent, Dedham Country and Polo Club
- **Ben Bouchard**, Assistant Superintendent, Dedham Country and Polo Club
- **Mike Parks**, Affiliate, Hillcrest Turf Services
- **Hillcrest Turf Services**, Friend of the Association

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Jon Zolkowski, Assistant Superintendent at Blue Hill Country Club, and his wife Kerri on the birth of their daughter Lena Blair Zolkowski in August.

Our condolences are extended to Ernie Ketchum and family on the passing of Ernie's mother on August 14, 2012.

As in the past, *The Newsletter* continues to invite Affiliate members to submit a press release about new personnel, new products or a company bio. We will print each and every release **free of charge**. This is a great way to advertise for free. Who said nothing in this world is free? Free advertising to better your company, wow what an offer.

Jeff Urquhart, Editor



Please note that "Horse play" does not include taking divots out of the green.

August 28, 2012
Marlborough Country Club
Host: Ken Crimmings, CGCS
Tournament Results

Superintendent gross:
Ron Dobosz 78
Matt Lapinski 81

Superintendent net:
Kevin Osgood 70
Chris Hueman 72

Affiliate net:
Scott Makintosh 74
John Bresnahan 86

Affiliate gross
Pat Hogan 73 (card off)
Ed Downing 73

Senior gross
Ken Mooradian 82
Ernie Bernard 83 (card off)

Senior net
Wayne Zoppo 74
Mike Hermanson 76
(card off)



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www.gcsane.org

The price is \$500 for one year which will be re-occurring annually from your first billing unless otherwise specified.

For more information, please contact Jeff Urquhart at 781-828-2953 or jmartin101@gmail.com

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Page 1

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1/4 page (vertical; 3.75" wide x 5" deep) \$120.00 \$456.00 \$648.00 \$ 864.00 \$1224.00

1/2 page (horizontal; 7.5" wide x 5" deep) \$180.00 \$684.00 \$972.00 \$1296.00 \$1836.00

Full Page (vertical; 7.5" wide x 10" deep) \$240.00 \$912.00 \$1296.00 \$1728.00 \$2448.00

****DEADLINE for ads: The first of the month for that month's issue.***

Ad Preparation Specifications:

File Specifications for Ads Supplied in Digital Format: Ads may be sent either by email or by mailing a CD to the address below. Formats preferred are .GIF; .JPG and .PDF. Ads can also be accepted in Microsoft Word or Microsoft Publisher files. Full color is available with all ads.

Advertising Design Services: Design services are available by request and consultation and will be billed separately.

Send all Newsletter ads to:

Julie Heston

36 Elisha Mathewson Road, N. Scituate, RI 02857

Phone: 401-934-7660 / Fax: 401-934-9901

jheston@verizon.net