



# THE NEWSLETTER

September 2016

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

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## *President's Message- September 2016*

Dear fellow GCSANE members:

In just over a month or so frost delay signs will be adorning our properties. Without question we'll begin reflecting back on a challenging 2016 and plans for 2017 will be laid. Many of our member clubs and properties have been faced with record heat, drought, traffic, and the resulting havoc these factors have wreaked on the properties we manage as well as the entire golf industry.

Remember your staff members have most likely worked harder, longer, and perhaps with less recognition for their efforts than ever before. Maybe you're at a facility with less than ideal resources and burdens have been placed on their backs which they've never experienced before. Have you taken the time to acknowledge and thank them? Do communications with your members and clientele include accolades for your staff and their efforts?

Several weeks back my former greens chair at FCC showed up on a hot Friday afternoon in August to congratulate the FCC greens staff for the effort and resiliency they showed in the face of some tough weather, in addition to a relentless golf schedule. Shortly before he arrived I received a phone call from him saying, "Mike, I'm bringing pizzas over for the greens crew this afternoon and would like to offer them some personal thanks on behalf of our membership." Clearly, this is a person who gets it. Having worked with him for quite a while it's no surprise he took time out of a busy schedule which includes running a successful corporation, to drive 45 minutes over to FCC from his office and offer up a simple thank you to the FCC greens staff. Need I say any more?

As we enter the fall golf season be sure to take some time from your schedule and attend a GCSANE monthly meeting or participate in an allied association event. "I'm too busy" is no excuse. Given the work and time demands many of us face each season, the networking opportunity provided at these gatherings is an invaluable way to connect with your peers who are likely dealing with many of the same challenges. A fun day of camaraderie can make all the aforementioned mountains seem like molehills once things are put in context and you realize you're not alone in this business.

Long and short the weather has been tough, but as a profession we're tougher than anything mother nature can dish out. As always, I believe the success stories will emerge far greater in number than the failures. At some point we'll be begging for the rain to stop! It's one big cycle if history has taught us anything.

Keep things in perspective.

Michael D. Luccini CGCS

GCSANE President

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# Long Term Care Insurance, Why Planning Is Important by Vincent Cahill

In America today millions of us are living into our 80's, 90's and are even attaining 100. With our living a long life there is a high probability we will need the type of care referred to as Long Term Care. Needing long term care does place an emotional and physical strain on loved ones. This is why having a plan is so important. Incorporating Long Term Care insurance into your financial plan can help you protect your assets. It can reduce the burden of care that would otherwise fall to family members and enables us to receive care in a residential setting. Most of us find it hard to see ourselves needing hands on assistance with basic living activities like bathing, getting dressed and eating. So we avoid thinking about it all together. The U.S. government reports that 70% of people reaching age 65 will require long term care services at some point in their lives. I choose to see it as either 0% or 100% chance of needing care. The bigger question relates to length of time I will be receiving care. My plan must take into account that I may need care for years not just days. Also, we must remember that if we are married our spouse needs a plan too. So if my cost of care is \$60,000/year and lasts for 3 years it will have cost me \$180,000 and if my wife needs care the total bill will be \$360,000. What is the best age to start planning? You will never

be younger than you are today when you maybe able to qualify and obtain coverage. You may even be able to receive a good health discount and reduce the cost of your coverage and that discount remains in place even if your health declines.

**Worth noting:**

Applicants rejected for unacceptable health conditions				
Ages	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+
	14%	23%	45%	80%

**Why is it important for women to plan?**

Women are the recipient 67% of all long term care insurance benefits paid.

**Why buy something I might never use?**

If you think about it people hope never to file a claim on their homeowner, auto or life insurance policies, but that doesn't stop from owning coverage that protects against the real risks. The same is true for Long Term Care Insurance. The financial risks are just too high and the potential burdens to loved ones are to great to do nothing.

Vincent Cahill  
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## Thoughts From Your Executive Director *by Don Hearn*

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Erik Dolt, left and Kevin Corvino

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Congratulations to Kevin Corvino, his caddie Erik Dolt and fundraiser Nat Binns for representing the GCSA of New England at the Ouimet Marathon this year. This was Kevin's sixth year raising funds for scholarships. Kevin played 107 holes and, when finished, looked like he hadn't even broken a sweat. Good to be in shape! The Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund supports scholarships for, among others, those who have served at least two seasons as staff members in course operations. There is still time left to donate to the Ouimet Fund. To donate please click this [link](#).

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The meeting at Marlborough Country Club was held August 9. This is the meeting where our retired members are invited to attend as guests of the Association. It's always good to see these members come and have fun playing the course and seeing friends of many years. Our guests this year were John Sperandio, Dave Barber, Ernie Bernard, Jim Fitzroy, Mike Hermanson, Ron Kirkman, Norman Mucciarone, Barrie Robertson, Arthur Silva and Wayne Zoppo. This is also the event where qualification for the New England Superintendents' Championship is held. Those who qualified for play at The Quechee Club, October 12 are: Tim Crane, Jack Hassett, Matt Lapinski, Robin Hayes, Greg Misodoulakis, Mark Pendergast, Mike Luccini and Garrett Whitney. Our host, Ken Crimmings, had the course in wonderful condition. His team, led by Assistant Tim Crane, had worked hard to prepare the course for the event and all the players were impressed by the condition of the course.

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from left:  
Dave Barber, Jim Favreau, Bob Cullen

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Each year we have our fundraiser for scholarships for members' family members and benevolent aid for members in need. Qualified family members are eligible to receive a scholarship. Some members have generously supported the Scholarship and Benevolence Fund with direct contributions. Others have played in the event. And many of our commercial members and companies have generously supported the fundraising activities associated with the event. We are grateful to all who have contributed.

This year's scholarship recipients are:  
Abigail Mackintosh, Thomas Schofield Memorial Scholarship  
Melissa Rose, David Comee Memorial Award  
Peter Hood

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With the drought being on the minds of all in the business, next month's speaker at the October 3 meeting at Concord Country Club will be Duane LeVangie. Duane has many year's experience in the DEP agency that oversees the permitting and usage of water. His experience in this area is extensive. I suggest you make the meeting a "must" and add it to your calendar.

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Congratulations to superintendent Tom Brodeur and his team for the superb conditions at the recently completed Deutsche Bank Championship at the TPC Boston. In addition to the full-time and seasonal employees, local volunteers and others from various parts of the country supplemented the staff. The hard work and dedication of all involved drew positive comments from the players. One was quoted as saying the greens were the best he played all year. Quite a compliment.

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## Summer Thoughts by Gary Sykes

In our industry, we have all types of people of all walks of life that have come from various backgrounds. At some point in our time we developed a fondness for grass. It may have started as we ran and tumbled our way around our back yards after learning to walk, possibly when playing little league, or at some point having the responsibility to mow our family's yard. Maybe we lived close enough to a golf course and got to spend some time there caddying and playing. Wherever and whenever this occurred, it could be that we were pointed in a career direction that focused on growing grass. Grass areas are included in all favorably landscaped areas around the world and in many different climates. Even the Almighty had a special appreciation for green, as he appointed the first biological organism on the earth to be just that....grass. He must have been worried about erosion. Many are convinced that it had to have been Poa!

Through the ages, grass management may be one of the oldest professions of man. Sheep herders grazed their flocks on it and farmer's livestock took care of it around the homestead. It wasn't until the middle of the 1800's that official turf management research was recorded in the US. About that time, Old Tom Morris was hired by the St. Andrew's Golf Club to be what some call the first golf course superintendent. Modern scientific analysis tells us that grass produces oxygen in abundance and has many uses that enhance our communities. The grass plant has participated consistently in the development in many of our outdoor sports that we enjoy today at the highest levels due to well managed grass. It has come a long way just like man has. So, where do we go from here?

As the industry has grown, or as some might feel, overgrown, we see rethinking concerning the need for the quality of the playing surfaces to be practically flawless. We also see the encroachment of artificial surfaces filling some of the voids caused by over-scheduled use of facilities. Budgets have also taken hits due to economic challenges at many industry levels. Through all this and other specifics including new ownerships, we see the industry continue to move ahead making adjustments and corrections. Turfgrass managers have had to take on the load of these issues making many feel the pressures of doing more with less. This may include over-worked equipment and crews, the loss of products, never-ending weather challenges, not to mention the introduction of new or increased pest problems. We haven't even discussed those demands of the people who use your facilities. That, we probably want to save for another day! As gloomy as it may sound, it isn't all bad.

I would like to take a minute to cite the good news....We, as an industry, have never enjoyed greater prosperity. Never has the industry had better equipment available, better scientific support, a better educated workforce, better opportunities to keep yourself up to date, a better ability to communicate and to network, better salaries, better tools to manage with, and finally, better grasses to work with. Resources are out there, opportunities are available, they are tools and you must grab hold of them just like you would a screwdriver to use them. Attending the UConn Field Day was one

opportunity to use an invaluable resource, and the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show would be another great example that can help you in many ways. If you couldn't make these events in 2016, put them on the calendar for 2017. (UMass Field Day will be July 25, 2017 and the show will be March 6-7, 2017). Networking and building relationships will always be a valuable way to help you expand your resources if challenges do arise. Wonderful education opportunities are available here in New England at all levels. Whatever your story or background, I hope you realize you are not alone in this industry. Use the resources that are available and another point for you to consider....be a resource to others you know in the industry. Your experiences could be just what the doctor ordered for them. All turfgrass managers have good years and bad, these resources could help to tip the scale in your favor. Just some thoughts as we continue to plod through the rest of the summer! Best of Luck!

Gary Sykes, Executive Director  
New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, Inc.

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## More Table Manners Tips By Don Hearn

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As mentioned in last month's column, here are twenty more tips for handling yourself at the dinner table. You might think some of these tips are a pretentious way to go about daily practices. For instance, Tip #31 Eating Soup might be a stretch for those who have done the opposite all their life. I doubt anyone will reprimand you if your spoon travels in the wrong direction across the soup bowl. These are tips, not laws.

**TIP #21: Reservations.** Call a day or two ahead; or a week or two ahead if the restaurant and day are popular. Reconfirm the reservation by calling on the day of your visit. Call the restaurant during meal hours to speak to the official reservationist.

**TIP #22: Hot Beverages.** To test the temperature of a hot beverage, take a single sip from the side of the spoon. When an extremely hot beverage is sipped, take a quick sip of water to decrease the effect of the burn.

**TIP #23: Finger Food.** When finger food is taken from a tray, place it on a plate. Don't lick your fingers; use a napkin. When in doubt about whether to use fingers or a utensil to eat a particular food, watch those about you and proceed accordingly. If you're still in doubt, use a utensil, usually a fork.

**TIP #24: Ready to Order.** To show you are ready to order, close your menu and place it on the table.

**TIP #25: Paying the Check in a Restaurant.** If you are the host, inform the waiter or maitre d' that you are to receive the check. Once the meal is finished, ask the waiter for the check. If there is no established host at a business lunch or dinner, the most senior professional is generally responsible for the check.

**TIP #26: Two Utensils.** Food served on a plate is eaten with a fork, and food served in a bowl is taken with a spoon. When two eating utensils or two serving utensils are presented together, such as a fork and spoon, the fork is used to steady the portion, and the spoon to cut and convey the bite to the mouth.

**TIP #27: Tasting Another Person's Food.** Either hand your fork to the person, who can spear a bite-sized piece from her plate and hand the fork back to you, or (if the person is sitting close by) hold your plate toward her so that she can put a morsel on the edge.

**TIP #28: Dropped Utensils.** If you drop a utensil, pick it up yourself if you can and let the waiter know you need a new one. If you cannot reach it, inform the waiter and ask for a replacement.

**TIP #29: One Thing at a Time.** Do one thing at a time at the table. If you want to sip your wine, temporarily rest your fork or knife on the plate.

**TIP #30: What to do with your Hands.** When holding a utensil, rest your other hand in your lap. When not holding any utensils,

both hands remain in the lap. Do not fidget, and always keep your hands away from your hair.

**TIP #31: Eating Soup.** Spoon soup away from you towards the center of the soup bowl.

**TIP #32: Spilled Food.** At an informal meal, the diner quietly and quickly lifts the food with a utensil and places it on the side of his plate. If food is spilled on another guest, apologize and offer to pay for cleaning (but let the other person wipe up the debris).

**TIP #33: Garnish on a Platter.** When a platter contains a combination of foods, take a moderate serving of each, including the garnish. If a course is presented that contains another food underneath, such as toast or lettuce, take the entire portion.

**TIP #34: Gesturing.** Do not gesture with a knife or fork in your hands.

**TIP #35: Servings from a Platter.** When a platter of pre-sliced food is presented, take one serving. As a courtesy to the last guest, make sure to leave enough food on the platter so he or she has a choice from several portions. Take the portion nearest to you.

**TIP #36: Assisting with Service.** At an informal meal, the guests assist with service by passing the dishes nearest to them. To avoid congestion, serveware is passed to the right.

**TIP #37: Thanking for Service.** Each time service is provided at a multi-course meal, verbal acceptance is not necessary. But to refuse service, a verbal rejection of "No, thank you," is given. At a simple meal when a serving bowl is passed upon request, say "Thank you."

**TIP #38: Complimenting the Food.** A compliment on the cuisine is always appreciated.

**TIP #39: Holding Dinner for a Late Guest.** Rather than delay dinner for everyone to accommodate the arrival of a late guest, dinner is held no longer than 15 to 20 minutes.

**TIP #40: Cocktail Glasses at the Dinner Table.** A cocktail glass is not brought to the dinner table because water and several wines are served with a multi-course meal. Leave the cocktail glass in the room where cocktails are taken.



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September 2016



# Happy No. 90 By Howard Richman

This article was originally published in the September edition of *Golf Course Management Magazine*.



Seeing double: Twins Robert (right) and Norman (left) Mucciarone turn 90 this fall. They were born the same year GCSAA was born, in 1926. Photo courtesy of GCSA of New England



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Twins Norman and Robert Mucciarone are not completely alike.

Norman is 10 minutes older. He smoked Chesterfields; Robert smoked Old Golds. Otherwise, though, they have so much in common.

"We never had arguments. Always dressed the same. Nobody really could tell us apart, especially girls," Norman says. "School teachers couldn't tell us apart either."

All they really knew was that the Mucciarones of Massachusetts shared the same birthday, Nov. 5, 1926. This year, their birthday is particularly special for the Mucciarones, and for the association they have been devoted to for so many years — an organization they helped mold, remain formidable, and stay deeply important.

This year, the Mucciarones turn 90. This month, on Sept. 13, GCSAA turns 90.

For Norman, a 53-year member of the association, that acronym means everything.

"Those letters, GCSAA, have been great to me. Whenever I see them, I feel happy," says Norman, whose twin, Robert, is a 50-year member of GCSAA.

To Don Hearn, CGCS, both men epitomize this industry.

"Hardworking, very, very sincere, extremely humble, overall nice guys," says Hearn, executive director for the GCSA of New England and GCSAA president in 1987. "To my generation, everybody knows the Mucciarones."

The Mucciarones came from Franklin, Mass., which may be best known as the hometown of Horace Mann, considered the father of universal public education. The Mucciarones caddied at Franklin Country Club as teens before joining superintendent Tony Sperandio's crew. "I loved being outside. I loved golf," Norman says. "Tony taught us everything. He was strict."

Upon high school graduation, the Mucciarones continued to stick together, enrolling at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. Ultimately, after completing school, they were separated by their jobs but didn't stray far from each other. Norman was a fixture at Woodland Golf Club in Auburndale,

Mass. He was superintendent there from 1951 to 1991. Robert, meanwhile, was the superintendent 10 miles away at Dedham (Mass.) Country and Polo Club for nearly 34 years.

In 2009, the Mucciarones received the GCSA of New England's Distinguished Service Award.

Another Mucciarone is carrying on the family tradition in the golf course management industry. David Mucciarone, Norman's son, is in charge nowadays at Woodland GC. A Class A superintendent, he has been there almost 40 years, having worked for his dad and replacing him as superintendent 25 years ago. As a 6-year-old, David accompanied his dad to the golf course. "I'd be up, waiting on the doorstep. If I wasn't ready to go, he'd leave," David says.

Obviously, David grew attached to the profession. In junior high, he'd thumb a ride after school to get to Woodland. He paid close attention to his father, who gained the trust and admiration of numerous employees throughout the years.

"The respect they had for him was amazing. Even people who went on to become doctors and lawyers would come back and say that of all the jobs they had, they most remember working for my father," David says.

Today, Norman still visits his son at Woodland. He plays golf twice a week. Sometimes three times. He also goes to visit his twin brother, who doesn't play anymore. Robert, who has Alzheimer's, is in a nursing facility. Speaking on behalf of his brother, Norman says their GCSAA experience was worth it.

"We'd do it all over again," he says.

As for when he visits Robert, Norman still gets a kick out of people trying to identify them. "Even the people who take care of him can't tell us apart," Norman says.



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#### **Sarah W. Stearns, PWS**

Sarah Stearns is a Professional Wetland Scientist with B+T and part of the family-owned **Southers Marsh Golf Club** in Plymouth, a longtime member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Cape Cod. Sarah has 17 years of public and private golf course experience as well as a unique understanding of the challenges of balancing course maintenance with member/player management.

Sarah has developed relationships with golf course superintendents and managers through her recent services to assist **The Country Club, TPC Boston, Cohasset Golf Club, Brae Burn Country Club, Franklin Country Club, Nashawtic Golf Club** as well as other New England clubs prior to working at B+T. In particular, Sarah had a significant role in the design, permitting and construction of **Boston Golf Club** in Hingham, which included numerous regulatory approvals, as well as a coordinated effort with the golf course architect, site contractors and club owners.

Please contact Sarah Stearns at 508-366-0560 or [sstearns@bealsandthomas.com](mailto:sstearns@bealsandthomas.com) for more information and to learn how we can assist with your golf course projects.

# Divot Drift

Our condolences to **Dave Barber** and his family on the passing of his mother **Esther**, who passed away August 13, 2016. Esther was 98.

Our condolences to the family of **Dick Gurski** who passed away August 29, 2016. Dick was 80 and an Affiliate Member who represented the Charles C. Hart Seed Co.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

### Chris Knapp

Superintendent

Blissful Meadows Golf Course, Uxbridge, MA

## Back Issues!



Past issues of the NEWSLETTER are available using this link: <http://bit.ly/GCSANEnewsletters>.

Tournament Results at Marlborough Country Club, August 9		
1st Gross Overall	77	<b>Tim Crane</b> , Marlborough Country Club
1st Gross Senior	80	<b>Jack Hassett</b> , Mt. Pleasant Country Club
1st Net Overall	73	<b>Robin Hayes</b> , Chas. C. Hart Seed Co.
2nd Net Overall	75	<b>Mike Carignan</b> , Agresource, Inc.
3rd Net Overall	76	<b>Greg Misodoulakis</b> , Tom Irwin, Inc. (won tiebreaker)
3rd Net Overall	76	<b>Joe Piana</b> , Norwood Country Club

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