

NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

NOVEMBER, 1968



Sponsors and administrators of the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

1968—A MOST DIFFICULT YEAR FOR GRASSES



By
ALEXANDER M. RADKO
Eastern Director,
USGA Green Section

You name it and we've had it in '68. This has been a most difficult year for golf turf and unquestionably one of the toughest of all time for courses in the Northeast.

WINTER

Desiccation caused severe weaknesses on several areas of most golf courses, greens in particular were badly affected. Recovery was extremely slow, greens were not up to their usual standard until mid-summer.

SPRING

The rains came and the skies were *overcast* for most of the spring, the sun shone very little. Grasses grew soft and weak, they never really "hardened off." This put them at a decided disadvantage going into the summer.

SUMMER

The sun, high temperatures, high humidity (at nighttime too) caused grasses to be extremely susceptible to wilt and disease. It was impossible to irrigate *without overwatering* if the grasses were to be saved. Superintendents who had automatic systems were able to get around more quickly to syringe. CONTINUOUS GREEN AND FAIRWAY SYRINGING WAS THE ORDER OF THE SEASON. This was very unusual that fairways should need this sort of attention. The period beginning the second week in July through early August was most critical. Every day, week-ends included, constant and uninterrupted syringing was required in the attempt to save the grasses. *Poa annua* in particular. Golf car use these weeks proved to be damaging. Tire marks turned into brown streaks and weeds encroached. This was one period when fairways suffered badly from car use and this unquestionably added to summer weaknesses.

Diseases ran rampant, insect activity was high, and where weaknesses developed, weeds were quick to encroach. Crabgrass invasion was particularly severe. In effect the crabgrass belt moved north this summer, and the Northeast experienced the kind of invasion that courses in the crabgrass zone normally experience. (The so-called crabgrass zone normally extends from upper Virginia to St. Louis, Missouri, to Philadelphia). It will take concerted effort on the part of superintendents over the next year to control this weed.

All in all, it was one of the poorest weather years, and as a result, one of the most difficult management years on record for golf turfgrasses.

President's Message



Now that the Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson trust fund has been officially established by the Golf Course Supt. Association of New England, I hope that all our members will respond in setting a precedent by making a substantial donation to this trust fund. The sole purpose of this fund is to increase the amount of money that will be available for scholarships to enhance aspirants in our field.

This trust fund will allow us to increase the number of awards given each year, and will make the awards more substantial.

Golf Courses are still being constructed at a faster rate than qualified Golf Course Superintendents are becoming available. For this reason golf clubs themselves should be anxious to contribute also. Contributions are tax deductible, so make every effort to make a generous contribution as soon as possible.

Send contributions to our treasurer: Lou Duval, Box 3256, Manchester, N. H. 03100.

Anthony B. Caranci, Jr.
President

NEW LEGISLATION

The Massachusetts Golf Association has sponsored legislation which has just been enacted by the Legislature (1968 Acts, C. 653) exempting most golf carts from the necessity of registration under the motor vehicle laws. In the past, golf carts should have been registered as motor vehicles if they crossed a public way, even though it was for the purpose of going from one portion of a golf course to another portion of the same course.

The new statute reads in part as follows:

"... and except that a motor vehicle designed for the carrying of golf clubs and not more than four persons may be operated without such registration upon any way if such motor vehicle is being used solely for the purpose of going from one part of the property of a golf course to another part of the property of said golf course, provided that the owner of such motor vehicle shall have filed with the registrar a public liability policy or bond providing for the payment of damages to any person to the amount provided by section thirty-four A due to injuries sustained as a result of the operation of such vehicle . . ."
M.G. LA. C. 90, §9.

This legislation will be effective October 15, 1968.

All clubs which own golf carts which must travel on public ways should consult their insurance representatives to make certain that their comprehensive liability policies include golf cart liability. If the club itself does not own the golf cart, the individual owner should consult his insurance representative for proper insurance coverage.

Golf Course Superintendents Association

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on November 4, 1968 at Sam Mitchell's Easton Golf Club. There will be a luncheon and a nine hole golf tournament. Also chairman John O'Connor of the nominating committee will post their slate for the 1969 season. If you have any recommendations for the committee, it is your duty to contact John O'Connor or hold your tongue for a year.

Directors' Meeting	10:15 a.m.
Regular Meeting	11:00 a.m.
Lunch	12:15 p.m.
Golf	1:15 p.m.

Directions to Easton Golf Club: Route 128 south to Rte. 24. Then follow Rte. 123 towards Easton and take 138 south to Purchase St. Club is a half mile on right. See you, rain or shine.

New Applications to be voted on at the November 4, 1968 Meeting:

- Regular Membership — Stanley Sablak
77 Belchertown Rd., Amherst, Mass.
Amherst Golf Club
- Associate Membership — Glenn Achley
131 Brigham St., Northboro, Mass.
Westboro Country Club
- Associate Membership — Raymond King
Warren Ave., Plymouth, Mass.
Plymouth Country Club
- Assistant Membership — Donald E. Hearn
121 Garfield Ave., Lexington, Mass.
Lexington Golf Club
- Assistant Membership — Kenneth Gendall
26 Marie Street, Tewksbury, Mass.
The Country Club

COMING EVENTS

- First Winter Meeting — December 2, 1968
Election of Officers
- National Convention, Miami Beach, Florida
January 19-24, 1968
- University of Massachusetts Annual Turf Conference
March 5, 6, 7, 1968

AUTUMN EXPECTATION

No stirring could sever the stillness of leaves,
Brick red tulle splashed with sun, frozen thick
In the yolk light of dawn to raw ripples that edge
Wind rolled ring of lake waters. Smeared slick
Is the buttery spread of brown bobbing lilies
That cling to sun topped waters, shirred
Of their beauty by wailing cold on rapid wings
That, wheezing and whining, has whirled
Frost beaked, through full life that snapped.
Now this stillness is waiting, despairing. This soon
Will be swept beneath tons of soft snows, all remaining,
The wild, lonely wail of the loon.

— Jessica Jane Stuart

IN MEMORIAM

Our sympathy is extended to Sam Mitchell and family on the recent death of his wife.

ROOM FOR RECOGNITION

Sure, we're finally being recognized as something apart from the natural growth on the golf course. But the golf superintendent need not end here in seeking his rightful due.

So, in the vein of a suggestion, there is a proposal here to the national organization to set up and conduct an annual "Superintendent of the Year" competition.

No, this is not intended to cast a bellow across the country in accusing the national of dereliction of duty. On the contrary, it is merely another way of upgrading the profession, keeping it in the public eye and bestowing a well-deserved honor on a fellow-member.

There is something akin to such an honor, the special award which follows a bang-up job of conditioning at sites of national championships. However, this is not the pure form of competition groups like the PGA operate in a dual search for the professional golfer (player) of the year and golf professional (home pro) of the year.

As a matter of fact the superintendents might follow the format of the PGA in selecting the home professional. It is rather simple to conduct because of the cooperation from the various sections of the group.

Here's how it works. Each section stages its own form of competition, selecting its particular champion for the season. He is singularly honored by his own group and his name entered in national competition. A committee then reviews the resume of each sectional winner and votes on the naming of the national champion.

Most of the ground work would have to be done by the individual groups or chapters of the national supers organization. This might entail visits to courses for on-the-scene inspection of tees, greens, fairways and bunkers. It also could include a set of judging standards, arranged so that wealth of a particular club wouldn't affect the overall mark of its superintendent.

Obviously, this is presented in the barest of sketchy forms. What is most important is the realization that such a competition should be initiated. After that, the details can be ironed out.

Would this be something new in the profession? Hardly. In Scotland an annual contest is conducted and very successfully. Over 100 courses submit entries to the competition with cash prizes and trophies going to the winner and runnerup.

So, this is not to be construed as some top-of-the-head brainstorm without an ounce of practicality on which to stand. Usually, the British or their next of kin are miles behind us. In this matter, though, it looks like we have some catching up to do.

National . . . take note.

— Gerry Finn

LIST OF DIRECTORS

President, Anthony Caranci	V. President, Richard Blake
V. President, Robert Grant	Secretary, Thomas Curran
Treasurer, Lucien Duval	
Norman Mucciarone	Edward Murphy
Robert Mucciarone	Wayne Ripley
Philip Cassidy	Dean Robertson
Albert Allen	Leon St. Pierre

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

9-holes. Contact Mr. Albert Ficco, Greens Chairman, Franklin C. C., Franklin, Mass.

27-holes. Contact Mr. John Goodrich, Greens Chairman, The Country Club, Brookline, Mass.



Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association

Editor — Dr. Burton R. Anderson, Route 5, Augusta, Maine

LAST MEETING

The last meeting was held on October 1 at Riverside Golf Course in Portland. It was an equipment field day and several dealers brought out their wares.

The highlight was a demonstration of the triplex greens-mower newly manufactured by Jacobsen. Chet Sawtelle mowed the large practice green in less than ten minutes and attracted the attention of numerous golfers passing by.

Later a motorized tour of the new nine-hole section of the course was conducted by host John Davis, who has been able to keep up with the dry weather in getting a turf cover now full enough to allow spring opening for play.

* * * *

The wonderful summer weather continued right through September, but very little rainfall occurred until the first of October. Fairways are still a bit light and slow to recover from the drought and are below our usual fall quality.

This summer highlighted our worst disease problem, that of dollar spot. During August and September there were several warm-front showers that caused a spectacular outbreak of dollar spot and even some large brown patch. It is very unusual for much rain to occur with passage of a warm front in the northeastern summer; so this was a new experience for some superintendents to see how the right weather can be just perfect for virulent disease outbreak. Unprotected greens suddenly got "measles" and the underfed aprons of annual bluegrass could become badly riddled with dollar spot in just a couple of days.

Greens protected with preventive spray programs showed little damage, and observation of diseased aprons showed how well the fungicides were doing to suppress disease outbreak. It is hoped that these violent outbreaks will convert more toward adoption of preventive fungicide, for a good many got caught badly this season. The editor, considering himself a shrewd observer of weather conditions, used to restrict fungicide applications to times judged to be favorable for disease incidence, but he gave it up and adopted a preventive program after being forced occasionally to spray curatively at times not to his liking, such as Labor Day Sunday. Preventive programs are usually termed too expensive in Maine, but the "results" of this summer may change some thinking among course management policy makers.

The "fall" or "resistant" dollar spot, often identified as a *Fusarium* species, can be quite damaging in September and October when we usually think we are through with disease problems. It seems to occur with every rainfall even if temperatures are in the 40's. Controls must be applied to stop it from creating quite a bit of damage. In addition to the usual chemicals, the Diamond-alkali product, "Daconil" (tetrachloroisophthalonitile) has been very satisfactory in its first year of use here.

* * * *

Potassium — Does Source Make a Difference?

By VAUGHN HOLYOKE

Crops Specialist

Cooperative Extension Service, University of Maine

In the September issue of the Newsletter, there was information on the use of potassium in turf production. The article indicated that potassium chloride (muriate of potash) might cause a buildup of excessive salts (mostly chlorides) in the soil. In fact as I read the article, I got the impression that continued use of muriate of potash on golf greens would lead to salt problems.

It is not fair to compare a golf green with a greenhouse. Although both are intensively managed, the rates of fertilizer are quite different. For example, the potash (K2O) application in greenhouses ranges from 250 to 500 pounds per acre (6 to 12 lbs/1000 square feet). On the other hand, seldom does the potash rate on a golf green go above 2½ pounds per 1,000 square feet (100 lbs. per acre).

The amount of water applied to a soil also influences the buildup of chloride salts. In addition to 35 to 40 inches of rainfall, greens are frequently irrigated. The soil mix used in green construction is designed to allow reasonably free water movement. Thus any excess water moves through the green carrying with it some of the chloride applied in the fertilizer.

As the article indicated, there are some crops, such as tobacco, where sulfate forms of potash improve crop quality. To my knowledge there is no information to show that sulfate of potash will improve turf quality.

I think that you as a golf course superintendent should give this potash question some serious thought before you spend extra fertilizer dollars to buy your potash in the sulfate form.

Pro-Superintendent Tournament

The first Maine Pro-Superintendent Scotch Ball Tournament was held on October 18 at the Portland Country Club. The prolonged Indian summer weather held through the day as twenty teams enjoyed testing the Portland course, which was, as usual, in the best of condition.

The Association is grateful for the work of tournament chairman, Harvey LaMontagne and Lloyd Ruby, and also to host Pro, Jim Gillis and Superintendent Pete Ruby for making our tournament so successful and enjoyable.

Tournament results:

Gross 1. Harvey LaMontagne, Jr., Rockland and Dave Mazzeo	76
Tie 2. Keith Kilborn, Jordan River and Fred Salisbury	77
Allan Fox, Augusta and Jim Diorio	77
Net: (Callaway)	
Tie 1. Henry Severance, Gorham and Pete Ruby, Portland	77-70
Portland	77-70
Jim McFarlane, Woodland Terrace and Everett McFarlane	78-70
Tie 2 Doug Doane, Cape Arundel and Lucien Bourque, Dutch Elm	78-71
Bryce Roberts, Biddeford-Saco and Roger Lowell	81-71

Prize jackpot — \$300 — \$100 contributed by the Maine Professional Golfers' Organization.



New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents Association, Inc.

Editor — George Hauschel, Supt. Rockingham Country Club, Newmarket, N. H.

President's Message

What is the superintendent's present image? Is he viewed as a respected, intelligent man or is he just the guy who cuts the grass, a laborer, or the boss over at the maintenance shop?

Needless to say, if you were to take away the superintendent, the golf course would suffer drastically. Not to minimize the importance of any pro or club-manager, the superintendent's work is certainly the most functionally important to the club. But of the three above mentioned individuals, it is the superintendent who is usually the least respected. Whose fault is this? In most cases the blame can be placed on the superintendent himself.

Most superintendents are not extroverted, dramatic, or "Dapper Dans." We have been taught by Mother Nature to be humble men. Even when we are being given praise by the membership (How sweet it is!), can we handle it in a professional manner? Or do we mumble, "It's all right, but it could be better." Certainly this is the way we feel, but it is not the way to respond to a compliment.

The superintendent is concerned about his members and his members' dollars, but are the members as concerned about him or his salary or budget?

In many cases, even the superintendent's name isn't known by the entire membership, not to mention his correct title or what his duties entail.

After looking at these few isolated facts, it is obvious that there is a problem of some proportions. The blame primarily lies with the superintendent and he must change his ways to solve it. He will have to dress, speak, and perform more as a *Superintendent*. Then the member will not have such a time trying to distinguish him from the crew.

He should be more active in professional associations, community affairs, and club activities, particularly within the realm of public relations.

As a superintendent I feel badly that our position isn't more highly regarded. However, with more diligent effort, I feel confident that it will not be long before the membership of country clubs will recognize this most essential individual for his true worth.

Robert P. Flanagan
President

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents Association will be held at the New Hampshire Highway Hotel, Concord, N. H., on Tuesday, November 12, 1968.

Directors' Meeting	10:00 a. m.
Regular Members' Meeting:	11:00 a. m.
Lunch	12:15 p. m.
Educational Program:	1:15 p. m.
Topic — Drainage	

The Soil Conservation Department of New Hampshire will have a speaker on the problems of golf course drainage and how to effectively combat them.

Nominating Committee Picks Slate of Officers

The October meeting of the New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents Association was held at Charmingfare Links, Candia, N. H. on Tuesday, October 15. The Nominating Committee chose the following slate of officers:

President	George Hauschel
Vice-President	Robert Hale
Secretary	David Marcotte
	Donald Bye
Treasurer	Leonard Chace
	Roland LaChance

Board of Directors: Incumbents

1. Roland LaChance
2. Donald Bye
3. Lyle Cheney
4. Charles Pullen
5. George Hauschel

Nominees

1. William Barrett
2. John Barry
3. Ronald Palmer
4. William Gilson
5. Norman Pease

Outgoing officers:

President	Robert Flanagan
Vice-President	William Barrett
Secretary	Robert Hale
Treasurer	Ronald Palmer

Winners of the Pro-Superintendent Tournament:

Joe Kendrigan	—	Low gross
Len Chace		" "
Dick Dennison	—	Low net
Norm Pease		" "

New member applications received:

Ero E. Wirta, John Cain Golf Club
Herbert Madden, Pine Valley Golf Club
Ford S. Falls, Indian Mound Golf Club
Gerard Cameron, Indian Ridge Country Club

You May Be Surprised at How Much Your Time Is Worth . . .

Knowing how much your time is worth is one key to using it to best advantage. That goes alike for business and pleasure: both involve a time investment, and you are entitled to an adequate return. This table may help you; it is based on 244 eight-hour working days a year.

If You Earn	One Hour Is Worth	One Minute Is Worth
\$ 8,500	\$ 4.35	\$.0726
10,000	5.12	.0852
12,000	6.15	.1025
15,000	7.68	.1278
20,000	10.25	.1708
25,000	12.81	.2134

— From Borden's Nutro Topics

THE HOUSE YOU LIVE IN

The house you live in. Is it owned by the country club where you tuck in the fairways and pull the covers up over the traps before they go to bed each night?

If you happen to be included among this all too slowly-vanishing breed of superintendent, perhaps the arrangement is ideal. But for the most part, what usually comes from such a togetherness existence results in added woes and discomfort for the golf course's star boarder.

The practice of throwing the super a bone in order to make the job opportunity appear that more lucrative, thank heavens, is losing its appeal.

There have been several examples of bad tastes erupting from the mouths of those who accepted such a candy-coated deal.

The typical house and lot setup goes something like this: In all likelihood the house looks as though it might not stand long enough to even be condemned. Usually, it is a castoff and the little woman who inherits it as a reward for being married to the duped super suddenly discovers she should have listened to mother before taking the big step. Thus, the association of new club and new superintendent gets off to a terrifying internal spat and start.

From there, things only can get worse. There are instances when club presidents, greens chairmen and other hi-falutin' members look upon the grounds residence as a number of conveniences. With them it always is open house, a free bar and only a stone's throw from some silly complaint.



The super with the built-in house also suffers the ravages of being on call 24 hours a day. It is not uncommon to be summoned from a Sunday afternoon at home with the wife and kiddies because some club whip had his ball bruised by a sprinkler head. It should be removed at once "or the board of governors shall receive a letter" from his highness.

Even the occasion of living within wedge distance of the course makes for an unnatural feeling. As one superintendent aptly described it . . . "I don't want to wake up in the morning, look out the window and see that damn course staring at me when I have to live with it the rest of the day."

In addition to these setbacks, there are a number of other arguments to direct the super away from on-the-course living. One lesser publicized fact is the possibility of future financial sickness, because of the loss of opportunity to accumulate equity on a mortgage which sometimes acts as an incentive in owning your own home.

The sermon here is not in direct opposition to the practice, should the individual superintendent realize the pitfalls involved but still accept the lure of free housing. It is more of a warning to those, who might plunge into such a happy-sounding affair, then regret it while still having to live with it. No matter how you slice it, the word for the day on this matter is "caution." The house you live in may make the difference between a happy association with your next post along the golf course and a miserable one.

— Gerry Finn



Sept. 24, 1968
at St. Andrew's
Links Supervisor
John Campbell and
A. Roy Mackintosh

A RETURN TO NATURE

An escape from the great rat race.

That's how Roy Mackintosh nutshelled a recent visit to Scotland where he got a taste of the more patient pace of golf life.

Mackintosh, who makes the green grass grow all around at the Twin Hills Country Club, was in Scotland on a double mission . . . competing in the International Four-Ball Championship with his dad — pro Al Mackintosh of Wilbraham, Ralph Howard and TH owner John Breck . . . then taking a busman's holiday on a tour of St. Andrews with John Campbell.

Campbell directs the working traffic on the four courses at St. Andrews and conducts things as his title of Links Supervisor implies. His is all head work, supervising 27 men to keep four courses and five public putting greens just as spic and span as possible.

It would seem that Campbell is not caught in the labor shortage which we encounter. Possibly, it is because St. Andrews is the town. Everything revolves around the golf courses. And the lure from a financial standpoint has nothing to do with a full complement of skilled workers, since they average around thirty-five dollars a week.

Mackintosh played the famous Old Course at St. Andrews and was highly impressed . . . both as a super and golfer. "It was a calm day", Roy reports, "which probably had something to do with the 83 I shot. But being a seaside course or links, I can imagine the weather capable of shooting a player's ego full of holes."

There are seven double greens on the Old Course and Roy termed them in good shape. The grasses are more natural, according to the TH super. "It seems that they accept nature and its ways over there", Roy reveals. "There is not too much experimentation with types of grass. It looks as though they just take things as they are."

The weather and soil condition at St. Andrews are definitely plus factors as far as Campbell's performance charts go. While under the same pressure from members (who pay five dollars a year dues), Campbell appears to have the job well under control. Certainly with a disciplined amount of rain and lack of heavy humidity added to the rich growing area, he has a head start on achieving success.

The fairways at St. Andrews never need fertilizing, for reasons stated above. Nor are they irrigated. As for rough, it follows a wild cutting trend. It is allowed to reach four inches just off the fairway, but from there Campbell and his men let it wander to unbelievable heights.

There is one unique problem Campbell encounters. Sea gulls and crows take a liking to loose divots. "They have to reseed and top dress them", Roy tells. "Those birds just won't leave them alone."

All of the courses Mackintosh viewed had one common asset. "The terrain is just made for golf layouts", Roy says. "This was especially true at St. Andrews and Gleneagles — where I also played. I would call the country a golf architect's dream. And another thing. They don't stuff a course on a small lot. They all seem to roam as they please."

What caught Mackintosh's eye the most, though, was the living gait of everyone in Scotland. "They never seemed to be rushing", he laughs. "I don't know about the rest of the superintendents, but I'm always in climbing gear. In Scotland that gear hasn't been invented."

— Gerry Finn

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Boston, Massachusetts

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South Portland, Maine

NEWSLETTER

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FIRST CLASS



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