

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 1970



Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the GCSA of N. E. will be the annual Super-Pro tournament at the Brae Burn C. C., Newton, Mass. The date is October 26, 1970 and starting times are after 9 a. m. Superintendent Grant promises that the oak leaves will be cleaned up and should not be a problem for those who insist on playing in the rough. Remember, either the Pro or the Super must be a member of the PGA or the GCSA of N. E. in order to qualify for this event. Bob also advised that you bring along your own caddy.



Bob Grant

SUPER CHAMPION RESULTS

Dick Blake had Mt. Pleasant in excellent condition for the Championship and the weather was in the low 90's with high humidity — hard to believe for this late in September. Bill Carter of Foxboro shot a 74 to win the tournament and Leo Brown shot a 72 to win the senior tournament.



Leo Brown

Other results —
2nd Low Net Ted Murphy
3rd Low Net Mell Wendell, Ron Kirkman,
Jack Cronin, Ken Gendall

PESTICIDES . . . NOT AN ALSO-RAN

While you're keeping score on the great issues of our time, don't overlook the one most often overlooked.

The latest rating probably goes something like this: 1 — Vietnam. 2 — Youth unrest. 3 — Drugs. 4 — Pesticides (both overlooked and underrated).

Recently the commonwealth of Massachusetts stressed the importance of the effect of pesticides on its people in enacting legislation banning the sale of pesticides harmful to the environment.

The burgeoning awareness of the issue came into focus with the disclosure that the bill was the final measure enacted by the House and Senate before final adjournment in late summer. Furthermore, the essence of immediate action was emphasized in the fact that the session actually was prolonged in order to have the bill placed into channel for the signature of Gov. Francis W. Sargent.

In the workable definition of the bill, it directs the Commissioner of Public Health to revoke the registration of pesticides which the Pesticide Board finds "constitute a hazard."

According to Sargent's interpretation of the bill, the measure puts new teeth in ridding the state of harmful pesticides. The governor says revoking the registration of the said pesticide brings about the ban of its sale. This replaces the simple prohibition of outdoor use wording which actually didn't do too much in curbing its use.

The language of these bills apparently has been challenged to the point that a private war rages over how strong certain terms are. In the beginning of the fight to eliminate 2, 4, 5T, distribution wasn't affected because of the word "cancel" attached to registration of the pesticide.

When it was discovered "cancel" did nothing to halt the

flow of 2, 4, 5T the word "suspend" was substituted. If registration is suspended, interstate shipment of the chemical must halt immediately. With that fact established, the channels of distribution withered and a successful battle to eliminate it took sensible form.

In the beginning when research traced the use of pesticides to a cause of immediate danger to women of child-bearing age, three federal departments — Interior, Agriculture and Health, Education and Welfare — swung into action to combat specifically 2, 4, 5T.

Since then the list of harmful pesticides has grown. Eventually, the lineup mushroomed to what was known as "the Deadly Five" . . . consisting of DDT, Dieldrin, Aldrin, Lindane and Benzene Hexachloride. Now the fight has been stepped up to the latest call of "Ban the Deadly Nine." Added to the previous rundown were Chlordane, Endrin, Heptachlor and Toxaphene

In certain areas drives to collect the aforementioned pesticides have resulted in the storing of huge amounts of them in air-tight vaults. Their final resting place was not known at press time.

Naturally, the superintendent plays an important role in the battle to save the environment, a conflict that includes the ultimate elimination of all harmful pesticides. Because he is primarily interested in the treatment and preservation of soil, the super has to participate in the action against this known evil.

Pesticides, then, are hardly an also-ran on the list of top-priority issues in the United States. Indirectly, they stand as a determinant in the preservation or destruction of our very own life blood. They are an issue not to be overlooked.

— Gerry Finn

Golf Course Superintendents Association

SOUND OFF !!!

(Here it is again, the opportunity for readers of the monthly Newsletter to let their hair down and let loose with views and comments about the golf world. Letter-writers are reminded to include their full name and address when they add their efforts to the mail bag. No matter what bugs you, it doesn't keep the Newsletter editors from being interested. So come up with your gems or germs. Send them to Newsletter Mail Box, 24 Riverview Drive, Newbury, Mass. 01950. The Newsletter reserves the right to comment on all letters published.)

* * * *

"I have just read your August Newsletter and after looking over Gerry Finn's Hyperodes on the Move article I hope that we of the N. Y. area will still be allowed at the U. Mass. Conference.

"The main reason for writing is to clarify the control of the turfgrass weevil (*Hyperodes weevil*). We on Long Island have battled this problem for the last six years and on some courses 12 years. My control measures resulted with total renovation and a bentgrass seeding thus eliminating the host. The insecticides as reported, Dursban and Diazinon, are the best materials to use.

"Dursban has been somewhat of a problem to obtain. Diazinon, as reported by Scott Cameron, is doing a fine job in control, but here is the point I would like to make. Diazinon 14 G (granulated) is the material that has proved most effective and the Diazinon 500G will not do anything to the evil weevil.

"I hope you had top weather for your outing last month.

MEL LUCAS, JR.
Garden City, N. Y.

Hope your weevil remedy is better than your weather wishes. We got drenched at the outing.

* * * *

"I was very interested to see that the golf course superintendents print such letters as the Laura Simmons complaint about men slowing down play on her course.

"Furthermore, I was pleased to see that you people are not among those practicing discrimination of the fair sex when it comes time to call a spade a spade, especially in this common area of slow play.

"Most of the blame, I'm afraid, for most of the slow play is just what Laura cited in her appeal to the senses. Of course, the real culprits are the touring professionals whose every move, at a snail's pace . . . too, is emulated by the awestruck amateur.

"It is my humble opinion that television shows of the pros should be edited in such a manner that the dead parts are snipped out, so that there will not be a mimic response to the crawling style by the male audience.

"Isn't there some way you people can influence the TV people to do something in this direction?"

CYNTHIA HALL
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Before we turn to that problem, we would like the TV people to give proper recognition where it is due, like complimenting the superintendent for the condition of the course — not the pro!

* * * *

SUPER CHAMPIONSHIP SHOTS AT MT. PLEASANT



"Being a long time fan of the Greater Hartford Open, I was pleased this year to find that the Wethersfield Country Club course was in about the best condition ever in the 19-year history of the professional tournament.

"Since I came away from Wethersfield, noting that almost every pro had a kind word for the condition of the course, I was wondering if you could clue me in on the name of the person responsible for the absolutely beauty-parlor plush

(Continued on next page)

President —
RICHARD C. BLAKE
211 Sewall Street
Boylston, Mass. 01505
Phone 869-2737
Club Affiliation
Mt. Pleasant Country Club

First Vice President —
ROBERT GRANT
22 Patricia Road
Sudbury, Mass. 01776
Phone 443-2671
Club Affiliation
Brae Burn Country Club

Second Vice President —
THOMAS CURRAN
153 Fisher Street
Walpole, Mass. 02061
Phone 668-7221
Club Affiliation
The Country Club

Secretary —
WAYNE ZOPPO
48 Barbary Drive
Seekonk, Mass.
Phone 399-7141
Club Affiliation
Agawam Hunt Club

Treasurer —
LUCIEN DUVAL
R.F. No. 5 Gault Road
Bedford, N. H. 03105
Phone 472-3454
Club Affiliation
Manchester Country Club

Trustee —
RONALD KIRKMAN
25 Green Street
Needham, Mass. 02192
Phone 444-8412
Club Affiliation
Needham Golf Club

Trustee —
ROBERT MUCCIARONE
465 Summer Street
Westwood, Mass. 02090
Phone 329-9682
Club Affiliation
Dedham Country and Polo Club

Trustee —
NORMAN MUCCIARONE
101 Alban Road
Waban, Mass. 02168
Phone 332-3056
Club Affiliation
Woodland Country Club

Finance Chairman —
NARY SPERANDIO
Concord, Mass. 01742
Phone 369-4723
Club Affiliation
Concord Country Club

MEMBERS OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ENGLAND

Glen E. Ackley**
Westboro C.C.
131 Brigham St.
Northboro, Mass. 01532
393-2201 366-7501

Julius J. Aksten*
St. Marks
6 Main St.
Southboro, Mass. 01772
485-8885 485-9816

Albert Allen*
Kernwood Country Club
Kernwood Rd. Box 106
Salem, Mass. 01970
744-7783 744-7783

John Almonte*
Worcester Country Club
2 Rice St.
Worcester, Mass. 01606
853-5231 same

Arthur E. Anderson°
358 Fuller St.
West Newton, Mass. 02165
527-0536

Antonio Asguino+
Sun Valley CC
880 Veterans Memorial Pkwy
East Providence, R. I. 02915

William A. Ash*
Goffstown Country Club
R.F.D.#1
Goffstown, N. H. 03045
774-3812

Albert R. Auger*
So.Shore Country Club
6A Fort Hill St.
Hingham, Mass. 02043
749-2272 749-1720

Mark Azza*
Highland C.C.
303 Washington Rd.
W. Barrington, R.I. 02890
245-5405 222-6208

David J. Barber*
Wayland Country Club
1 Muriel Rd.
Chelmsford, Mass. 01824
256-4417 358-4882

Norman Barnes**
Salem Municipal Golf Course
29 Appleton St.
Salem, Mass. 01970
744-4897

A. M. Barney*
Wampanoag Golf Course
142 Old Providence Rd.
No. Swansea, Mass. 02777

Paul N. Barratt**
Ludlow Country Club
91 John St.
Ludlow, Mass. 01056
583-3632 583-3434

Norman H. Beauregard*
Oak Hill Country Club
147 Oak Street
Gardner, Mass. 01440
632-3889 342-6451

Richard C. Blake*
Mt.Pleasant C.C.-Boylston
211 Sewall St.
Boylston, Mass. 01505
869-2737 869-2328

Donald Blakeley**
Harwichport Golf Club
Laurie Lane
Harwichport, Mass. 02646
432-2732

Leonard L. Blodgett*
Kittanesett CC
644 Point Rd.
Marion, Mass. 02738

Manuel Braga°
Bristol County Golf Club
120 Crane Avenue
Taunton, Mass. 02780
822-2852

Sime Braio°
Worcester Country Club
2 Rice St.
Worcester, Mass. 01606
853-5231 Same

William Brennan*
Pine Brook CC
50 Newton St.
Weston, Mass. 02193

Leo R. Brown*
Thomson Country Club Inc.
89 Elm St.
No. Reading, Mass. 01864
664-2819 664-3125

Nicholas Bruno*
1100 East St.
Dedham, Mass. 02026

Edward J. Buecher°
Manchester Country Club
R5 Patten Road
Bedford, N. H. 03102
623-3862

Joseph E. Butler*
U.S.C. C.C.
3 Ridgewood Terr.
Beverly, Mass. 01915
922-1263 922-8511

Carmen D. Capozzi*
Norfolk Golf Club
43 Dwight St.
Dedham, Mass. 02026
326-7672

Joseph Capozzi*
Brockton Country Club
43 Dwight St.
Dedham, Mass. 02026
326-7672

Anthony B. Caranci, Jr.*
Ledgemont Country Club
22 Hill View Drive
North Providence, R.I. 02904
723-1688 761-6520

William Carter*
Foxboro C.C.
33 Walnut St.
Foxboro, Mass. 02035
543-5338

Philip I. Cassidy*
The Weston Golf Club
45 Grosvenor Road
Needham, Mass. 02192
444-4127 894-5906

David A. Clement*
Woodstock Country Club
South Road
Woodstock, Vermont 05091
457-2540 457-2412

Daniel S. Collins*
Winchester CC
68 Hutchinson Rd.
Winchester, Mass. 01890
729-2073 729-1181

Nicholas Commuso*
Runaway Brook CC
Spring Hill Rd.
Sterling, Mass. 01564

Brian Cowan^{oo}
Eastward Ho CC
Robbins Way
Harwich, Mass.

Thomas G. Curran*
The Country Club
153 Fisher St.
Walpole, Mass. 02081
668-7221 544-0240

Douglas Dadeau^{oo}
Hatherly CC
17 Alachua Rd.
E.Weymouth, Mass. 02189
335-1421

Clayton E. Daly*
Haverhill Golf & Country Club
58 Brickell Hill, Box 250
Haverhill, Mass. 01830
374-4100

R. Joseph Dandurand^o
30 Concord St.
Maynard, Mass. 01754
897-7924

Robert Dill**
Franconia Mun. Golf Course
34 Gary Rd.
Springfield, Mass.

James Diorio*
Augusta Country Club
RFD #5
Augusta, Maine 04330
395-4861

Patrick Dipietro**
Topsfield CC
64 Lincoln Ave.
Lynnfield, Mass.

John C. Dolan*
Rhode Island Country Club
184 Newman Ave.
Seekonk, Mass. 02771
336-7217 245-5381

Eugene Dooley*
Lynn Municipal Golf Course
73 Mall Street
Lynn, Mass. 01905
595-7058 592-8238

Lucien E. Duval*
Manchester Country Club
Gault Rd. Rt #5
Bedford, N. H. 03102
472-3454 669-6360

John Espey Sr.*
Wolferts Roost
20 James Drive
Loudonville, N. Y. 12211
899-0193 462-1358

Herbert E. Farrer*
Hopedale CC
154 Mill St.
Hopedale, Mass. 01747
473-1571 473-3508

Thomas Farrington*
Wampatuck CC
10 Sassamon St.
Canton, Mass. 02021
828-4336

Manuel Francis*
624 Webster St.
Marshfield, Mass. 02050
834-7303

Manuel N. Francis*
Belmont CC
387 Davis Rd.
Bedford, Mass. 01730
275-8830 484-6009

Bert Frederick*
Vesper CC
1949 Middlesex St.
Lowell, Mass.

Richard A. French**
Merrimack Valley Golf Club
200 Howe Street
Methuen, Mass. 01844
686-7640 683-4851

Noel Fongeallaz**
Pleasant Valley CC
818 Pleasant St.
Rochdale, Mass. 01542
892-1531 865-4809

Elmer B. Fuller^o
62 Freeman St.
Attleboro Falls, Mass. 02763
MY 9192

Charles I. Gardner*
Oyster Harbors Golf Club
70 Birchill Road
Centerville, Mass. 02632
775-9164 428-8106

Kenneth Gendall^{oo}
Chestnut Hill Country Club
26 Marie St.
Tewksbury, Mass. 01876
851-9270 254-3678

Henry W. Genthner*
Myopia Hunt Club
67 Dodges Row, P.O.Box 215
Wenham, Mass. 01982
468-1431 468-2231

Robert E. Grant*
Brae Burn CC
22 Patricia Rd.
Sudbury, Mass. 01776
443-2671 244-0680

Earl Grey*
Bellvue Golf Club
138 Washington St.
Reading, Mass.

Stephen Hannon*
Winthrop Golf Course
453 Main St.
Winthrop, Mass. 02152

Donald E. Hearn**
Lexington Golf Club
121 Garfield Avenue
Woburn, Mass. 01801
935-4864 862-5167

Robert J. Heeley**
Quaboag Country Club
3 Meadow View Road
Wilbraham, Mass. 01095
596-4983

Henry Homan Jr.*
Lake Sunapee CC Inc.
Everett Park
New London, N. H. 03257
526-6533 526-6040

John Hudyka*
Westover Golf Club
149 Fernbank Rd.
Springfield, Mass. 01129
543-2485 557-2944

Herbert E. Johnson°
2249 S.W.33rd Way
Ft.Lauderdale, Fla.33312
583-1834

Donald J. Kelleher*
Wellesley Country Club
22 Prospect Terrace
Brockton, Mass. 02401
JU6-3901 Ce5-2487

Lewis S. Kent*
Eastward-Ho
Hillcrest Road
North Chatham,Mass. 02650
945-0191 945-9230

Raymond King*
Plymouth CC
Kingston, Mass.

Ronald W. Kirkman*
Needham Golf Club
25 Green St.
Needham, Mass. 02192
444-8412 444-9723

Stephen Kristof*
Charles River CC
23 Belknap Rd.
Medfield, Mass. 02052
359-6108 332-1320

Anthony Kruckas**
Tatnuck Country Club
100 Airport Dr.
Worcester, Mass. 01602
791-0650 791-5373

John Latvis°
100 Airport Drive
Worcester, Mass. 01602
754-7164

Chas. B. Lawrence*
D.W.Field Golf Course
11 Davids St.
Brockton, Mass. 02401
587-4007 583-0311

Charles F. L'Lari, Jr.*
Misquamicut Club
Westerly Rd.
Watch Hill, R.I. 02891
348-8214 348-8812

Wayne Lorman**
Pawtucket CC
47 Sims Ave.
Seekonk, Mass.

James L. Macdonald**
New Haven CC
420 Hartford Tpk.
Hamden, Conn. 06517
248-9659

Donald MacKay, Jr.+
Mountainview RFD #2
Somers, Conn. 06071

A. Roy Mackintosh**
Twin Hills Country Club
210 Chilson Road
West Springfield, Mass. 01089
732-9530 567-0321

William Mahoney*
Framingham CC
22 Brookweld Rd.
Canton, Mass.

Albert Martin*
Holden Inn and CC
51 Carr St.
Whitenville, Mass.

Davin Macora°°
Washawtuc CC
108 Shirley Rd.
Lancaster, Mass. 01523
365-4013 369-5704

David W. Mauk
Clauson's Inn & Golf Resort
9 Deep Pond Dr.
Harchville, Mass. 02551
563-2160 563-2255 Ext.40

David L. McCarthy*
Holly Ridge GC
46 LaFrance Ave.
Hyannis, Mass. 02601
775-4482 428-5577

Frank J. Merchall*
Hill View CC
3 Elm St.
No. Reading, Mass. 01864

Max J. Mierzwa*
Chicopee Country Club
106 Crestwood St.
Chicopee, Mass. 01020
594-4996 592-9540

Frank J. Mikutajcis**
Leo J.Martin Met.Dist.Comm.
43 Crawford St.
Watertown, Mass. 02172
923-0977 969-0958

Samuel S. Mitchell++
Easton CC
15 Longmeadow Drive
Canton, Mass. 02021
828-1065 Same

Arthur Moriarty**
Andover CC
1000 Chandler Circle
Andover, Mass.

John Morse
Bass River Golf Club
154 N. Main St.
S.Yarmouth, Mass. 02664
398-6818 398-9048

Norman Mucciarone*
Woodland Golf Club
101 Alban Rd.
Waban, Mass. 02168
332-3056 La7-0667

Edward J. Murphy*
Garrison Golf Center
660 Hilldale Ave.
Haverhill, Mass. 01830
374-9380 Same

John M. O'Connell*
Blue Rock Golf Course
46 Cassidy Avenue
So.Dennis, Mass. 02660
394-5752 394-4440

John F. O'Connor*
Salem Country Club
72 Central St.
Peabody, Mass. 01960
531-5320 531-8586

Melvin O'Kelly*
Marshfield Country Club
341 Plain St.
Marshfield, Mass. 02050
834-4229 837-3321

J. B. Oldfield*
Royal Dane Drive (Apt.8)
Marshfield, Mass. 02050
834-7158

John K. Parker**
Duxbury Yacht Club
93 Washington St.
Duxbury, Mass. 02332
934-2562

John J. Petraitis*
Crestwood Country Club
Wheeler Street
Rehoboth, Mass. 02769
336-9510 336-9310

Cosmo Piantedosi*
Oakley Country Club
162 Common St.
Watertown, Mass. 02172
WA4-2128 484-2562

Edward B. Phinney*
Acoaxet Club
37 Fairway Drive
Westport Harbor, Mass. 02790
ME6-4782 Same

Harvey Powers*
Rockport Golf Club Inc.
60 South St.
Rockport, Mass. 01966
546-3504 546-3041

Charles Pullen*
Nashua CC
17 Winnhaven Drive
Hudson, N.H. 03051
882-7996

Donald W. Reynolds*
Glen Ellen Country Club
92 Orchard St.
Millis, Mass. 02054
376-8393 376-2959 ext.29

Wayne C. Ripley*
Blue Hill Country Club
216 South St.
Wrentham, Mass. 02093
384-3142 828-6540

Ralph L. Roberts*
Hatherly Country Club
North Scituate, Mass. 02060
545-4923 545-4923

Dean Robertson*
Chestnut Hill CC
24 Riverview Dr.
Newbury, Mass. 01950
462-4540 254-3678

Dino S. Ruschioni**
Simplex CC
98 Ash St.
Winchendon, Mass. 01475

Joseph L. Rybka*
Thorny Lea GC
193 School St.
Whitman, Mass. 02382
447-5900 587-9030

Harry E. Sanborn*
Hanover Country Club
Box 5
Lyme Center, N. H. 03769
795-2234 643-4117

Stanley Sablak*
Edgewood Country Club
494 Main Street
Cromwell, Conn. 06416

Albert E. Sanders III**
Juniper Hill Golf Course
220 Whitney St.
Northboro, Mass. 01532
393-8869 393-3069

Thomas J. Scannell*
Albany Country Club
Wormer Road
Voorheesville, N.Y. 12186
765-4017 765-2540

Tom Schofield*
Maynard CC
284 North Road
Sudbury, Mass. 01776
443-6126 897-8465

Meindert F. Schults*
Mt. Pleasant GC
141 Staples St.
Lowell, Mass. 01851
452-7808 452-8228

Joseph F. Silk**
Sharon Country Club
Box 231
Sharon, Mass. 02067
784-3966 784-8885

Bruce C. Silven*
Warwick Country Club
% Warwick Country Club
Warwick, R. I. 02889
737-9030

Anthony J. Sperandio+
80 Carriage Way
Topsfield, Mass.

John F. Sperandio*
Spring Valley CC
114 Newton St.
Marlboro, Mass. 01752

N. J. Sperandio*
Concord Country Club
Concord, Mass. 01742
369-4723 369-4723

Matthew P. Spokas*
Hickory Ridge Country Club
South Valley Rd.
Amherst, Mass. 01002
253-2974 256-6638

Leon V. St.Pierre*
Longmeadow CC
51 Fenwood Road
Longmeadow, Mass. 01106
567-5562 567-8733

Guy Tedesco*
Country Club of New Seabury
Mashpee, Mass. 02649

Robert St.Thomas*
Hyannisport Club
49 Robbins St.
Osterville, Mass. 02655
428-5163 775-5116

Sam Swayze*
Sankaty Head Golf Club
Box 412 West Chester St. Ext.
Nantucket, Mass. 02554
228-0578 257-6229

David Vibber**
Mt. Holyoke CC
13 Jewett Lane
So.Hadley, Mass. 01075

Arthur Washburn*
Cohasset Golf Club
520 N. Main St.
Cohasset, Mass. 02025
383-9532

George M. Webster*
47 Nauhaught Rd.
South Yarmouth, Mass. 02664
398-9118

Malcolm M. Wendell*
Wannamoisett CC
102 Tyler St.
Attleboro, Mass. 02703
222-1749 434-1200

James D. Wheeler Sr.*
Whitinsville Golf Club
23 Hillside Dr.
Whitinsville, Mass. 01588
234-5228 234-2533

Floyd N. Wiget+
10 Liberty St.
Danvers, Mass. 01923
774-4200

Ernest F. Wolfgang+
Box 34
Norfolk, Mass.
528-4833 522-9700

Wayne Zoppo*
Agawam Hunt
48 Barberry Drive
Seekonk, Mass 02771
399-7141 434-8512

Joseph E. Zoppo*
Nashawtuc CC
Sudbury Rd.
Concord, Mass. 01742
369-5704 Same

* Regular Member
** Assoc. Member
° Retired
°° Assistant
+ Inactive
++ Life Member



Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association

Editor — Norman Pease, Supt., Purpoodock Club, Cape Elizabeth, Maine

OCTOBER MEETING

On October 9th the Maine superintendents will have their annual Superintendent-Pro tournament at the Gorham Country Club. Host superintendent for this tournament is Ernie Hawkes. There will be no regular meeting, just the golf tournament. The rules will be announced at the tournament.

One rule that holds over from last year is that a pro-super must play as a pro and play with a member of the association. Let's have a good turnout.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Portland Country Club was the site of the September Maine meeting. Association president Lloyd Ruby was the host superintendent. Pete Ruby also attended just to make sure that Lloyd ran the meeting properly.

Art Booth, area representative of the Ditch Witch Co., was the guest speaker. Art gave a very informative talk on his equipment.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Please add November 3rd to your list of meeting dates. The meeting will be at the Dutch Elm Golf Course in Arundel.

POLLUTION LAW 1612

“. . . There shall be no man or woman dare to wash any unclean linen, wash clothes or throw out the water or suds of foul clothes in the open streets within the fort or within forty feet of the same; nor rinse and make cleane any kettle, pot or pan or suchlike vessel within twenty feete of the old well or new pump; nor shall anyone aforesaid within less than a quarter of a mile from the fort dare to do the necessities of nature, since by these unmanly, slothful and loathsome immodesties, the whole fort may be choked and poisoned with ill air and so corrupt (as in all reason cannot but much infect the same) and this they take notice of, and avoid, upon pain of whipping and further punishment as shall be thought meete, by the censure of a marital court.”

Posted by Jamestown Colony

POLLUTION

The principal activity of nature and of life is picking up and putting down. The wind picks up and water washes away. Volcanos and glaciers pick up and scatter unmeasured masses of matter. Plants pick up nutrients and animals that eat them drop the pickings in their movements. The sun picks up and gravity puts down a quantity which we touch on in our story on water. All this constitutes pollution, mild or severe. But nature has adapted herself to most of it and uses much to her advantage.

Only man is a special problem. He is picking up and putting down more in one year than all the birds and all the beasts have moved since Creation. His picking up, with some exceptions, is not so utterly bad, but his putting down is beyond description. It is this, and this alone, which constitutes the critical problem of our time. Young and old, rich and poor, black and white, so much subject to temperamental oratory, can't hold a candle to the crimes of pollution they are committing while they scream.

A disciplined decision must be made by all of us. Before any matter that is to be transported or transformed is picked up, its next resting place must be in accord with the general consensus, and if the deposit is final, also in accord with nature's principles of recycling. Thus, and thus alone, will we be able to control human pollution.

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New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents Association, Inc.

Editor — John J. Barry, Supt. Abenaki Country Club, Rye, N. H.

MEETING NOTES

The September meeting of the NHGCSA was held on the 2nd at the Kearsage Valley Country Club in Sutton, New Hampshire. Host superintendent Ron Palmer had the challenging layout in great shape for the tournament.

Tournament results were:

1st low Gross	Len Chace
2nd low Gross	Bob Hale
1st low Net	Bob Safacon
2nd low Net	Ron Palmer
	Steve Butler
	Bob Flanagan

President Bob Hale appointed a nominating committee to be chaired by Bob Flanagan. The committee will have its slate of candidates for officers and directors at the October meeting.

Our next meeting will be held at the Charmingfare Country Club in Candia on Wednesday, October 7, 1970. The annual superintendent-pro tournament will be played at this meeting.

NOTES OF INTEREST

Charlie Pullen, Superintendent of the Nashua Country Club, has informed the Association that one of his employees, Stephen McMahon, has received a McDonough caddy Scholarship to attend the Stockbridge School of Agriculture with a major in Turf Management. Needless to say the Association is pleased to see the New Hampshire Golf Association recognize the importance of trained personnel in our profession.

The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Control Board, has sent a questionnaire to each club in the state asking their cooperation in obtaining information about the use of chemicals on golf courses.

Your cooperation in returning the information as accurately and promptly as possible will be very much appreciated by the association.

TURF SEMINAR

Bill Knoop, turf extension agent from the University, has informed me that plans for the turf seminar have been finalized with the dates set, speakers arranged and format set up.

Greens Committee Chairmen and Presidents are encouraged to attend in an attempt to close the communication gap, so often separating the Superintendent from his membership.

APPLICATIONS

Two applications were read at the last meeting.

Alfred Martell, Whip-Poor-Will Country Club
Hudson, New Hampshire, Assistant Superintendent

Al has applied for an associate membership.

William E. Tenney, Claremont Country Club
Claremont, New Hampshire, Superintendent

Bill has applied for an associate membership.

TREE AND NURSERY PEST NOTES

Clifford S. Cater

Dept. of Environmental Sciences, Waltham Field Station
University of Massachusetts — Shade Tree Laboratory

OAK SKELETONIZER: Time now to control the second generation of this pest. Additional injury to the leaves by the second generation makes this pest more noticeable. Sprays at this time will prevent additional injury and prevent the small worms from spinning down between October 5-10. The worms then form small, white-ribbed cocoons beneath the tree. Carbaryl gives good control. Also, second generations of Euonymus and pine needle scale need treating now with dimethoate and Meta-Systox-R. Check black locust and treat with lindane for borer control.

Robert D. Fitzgerald
Regional Nursery & Floriculture Agent

shape of the greens, tees and fairways.

"I really think you'd be doing a service to me and all the people who echo my feelings."

FRED BAKER
New Britain, Conn.

The man who made everything at Wethersfield beautiful is Fred Bachand. We're proud of him, too.

* * * *

"Every golf season I come into fall facing the same annoying aside to my late-campaign hacking. That's the amount of leaves that seem to turn our fairways into one solid mass of brown blob.

"Since you people are in the business, I was wondering if there is any way our club can cope with such a messy and irritating setup. I realize that the beauty of the trees in the blooming summer is one asset to our course. But when the winds start to blow in fall and the leaves charge from the trees, I'm almost tempted to wish we had one of those wide-open types of golf courses. Isn't there anything we can do to keep the leaves out of the hitting area?"

CHARLES CHASON
(Club withheld)

As usual, your problem can be solved with one flick of the superintendent's budget . . . a turn upward. There are a number of aids to keeping the leaves out of play. Better check with your super and see what he hasn't been receiving in way of equipment expenses.

* * * *

"We, and I presume all dealers, face the 'back-order' problem on parts. Some customers feel this is our fault but not wholly so.

"Many of the parts are today manufactured by vendors to the equipment manufacturer and when they are out of stock the manufacturer is out too and it sifts down to us as being out as well.

"This past season was unusual in that the truck strike tied up shipments by the vendors, manufacturers and centrals. We had shipments as much as three weeks tied up 'somewhere' by the strike. These folks rallied with duplicate shipments which brought their stocks below a workable minimum and in time created excessive back-orders.

"We use the high-low inventory method based on the sales in previous years but with no means of knowing what will be bought, the quantity and when by our customers we often miscalculate and find our inventory at zero.

"Very seldom do we back-order an item that is not already on order with our suppliers which indicates that we are alert but cannot control the suppliers shipping schedules.

"I suggest that all clubs carry on hand during the mowing season a reasonable quantity of parts that normally wear out. It will reduce the down-time of equipment if the dealer is out of stock as well as allow him some time to fill his orders."

O. O. CLAPPER

We all agree Orville, that the distributor is blamed many times for having a shortage of parts when in reality the problem lies with the manufacturer. We only hope that more superintendents will carry a larger inventory to help save down time of equipment breakdowns.

(That puts another reader reaction report to sleep for this month. But there's always a next time. So, Keep your fingers walking with those pens and pencils and keep Sound Off alive and kicking).

BUCKSHOT ATTACK, ANYONE?

One superintendent calls it "the buckshot rebellion." But no matter how it's worded, a decided increase in disregard for the preservation of the putting surface has most supers more than a little concerned.

The culprits probably are suffering from lateseason slumps or a loss of memory as far as remembering they have an obligation to refrain from taking pot shots at regular greens.

Even the presence of practice greens doesn't seem to curb this disturbance of the superintendent's calm. "I don't know what it is", a usually patient NEGCSA member reported. "But everytime we get down to the end of the golf season, our members seem to think it's okay to use our greens to sharpen up their approaches. They claim they can't see any harm in it since they'll only be playing a few more rounds before the snow starts to fly."

The same man contends the regular practice green apparently doesn't serve the complete purpose. "Some of my over-enthusiastic members tell me they like to hit from a variety of distances", he added. "They're not satisfied hitting high irons into the warmup area. They want to use every club in the bag. It's awful."

In addition to the scars on the green, the damage leaks out into the fairways. "I have come across spots where it looks like a team of bulldozers were running loose", another super revealed. "And from there it backtracked to a point where divots were flying by the hundreds from the work of three and four-woods."

What's the answer? "I guess we just have to educate them all over again", one harassed member offered. "It seems a shame, but I suppose in my case I'll have to make up a bunch of signs and set them out on the fairways. Maybe then I can get by a day without having to run a check on buckshot spreaders."

Another super claims he shouldn't have to bother with the extras of having to make signs and post them. "I have enough work to do without playing cop," he snapped. "My idea is to make an example of some of them. I think the club is relaxed about the whole situation. The Board of Governors should take notice and hand out a few two and three-week suspensions. That would halt some of the violations."

Whatever the penalties or remedies offered, it's apparent some golfers have a warped version of effective course maintenance. They can't get it through their heads that golf course etiquette is a year-round obligation on their part. It doesn't begin on the first swings of spring and relax when the last swings of fall are in sight.

It would be well, then, for golfers to remind themselves of the contribution they can make to the superintendent's never-ending war on turf abuse. The buckshot attack is an unnecessary and harmful extracurricular activity of the club member. It should be abolished no matter who's on the firing line.

— Gerry Finn

JOB OPEN

Abeniqui Country Club

Contact: James Weldon, Green Chairman, c/o Abeniqui Country Club, Rye Beach, N. H.

Golf Chairman —
JULIUS AKSTEN
6 Main Street
Southboro, Mass. 01772
Phone 485-8885
Club Affiliation
St. Mark's Golf Club

Educational Chairman —
ALBERT AUGER
6 A. Fort Hill Street
Hingham, Mass. 02113
Phone 749-2272
Club Affiliation
South Shore Country Club

Newsletter Chairman —
DEAN ROBERTSON
24 Riverview Drive
Newbury, Mass. 01950
Club Affiliation
Chestnut Hill Country Club

Past President —
ANTHONY CARANCI, JR.
22 Hillview Drive
No. Providence, R. I. 02900
Phone 723-1688
Club Affiliation
Ledgefont Country Club

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NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.



DEAN ROBERTSON
Newsletter Committee Chairman
24 Riverview Drive
Newbury, Massachusetts 01950
Phone 462-4540
Club Affiliation
Chestnut Hill Country Club

LEON V. ST. PIERRE
Business Manager

GERRY FINN
Contributing Editor

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