

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1971



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.

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

One of the interesting outshoots of the golf course superintendent's daily agenda concerns the pool of talent he assembles to put a spit and a shine on the layout each summer.

Except for three or four fulltime employes, the superintendent must enlist part-time help which often leaks over into double figures in its number. Where do they come from?

Many are plucked from the retirement ranks and their number often is matched by college students seeking to help soften the financial blow which has made earning a degree gosh-darned expensive.

The retirees form a cross-section of working backgrounds. One fellow, whose duty is restricted to keeping sand traps in decent blasting condition, turns out to be a one-time computer expert. "How come he went from computers to a rake", his super was asked? "Well, he's one of these people who have always yearned to do something with their hands rather than their brains", came the answer. "There are many former office personnel who would give their right arm to be able to work outdoors.

In a certain area, noted for the country club's well-kept bed of flowers and shrubbery lacing the clubhouse, there works a little old man who handles the pruning shears much like a surgeon fingers a scalpel. "He's one of the most popular men on my staff," the course superintendent tells. "In fact, I have a heck of a time keeping here. More than one member has tried to steal him from me for work around his home. Sometimes I find that I have to fight them off. He's good. Fortunately, he informs them that he'll work only for me."

Often the superintendent finds help right under his nose. "I remember when labor was hard to get," another super discloses. "I used to see this man walking on the road adjacent

to the course and he seemed interested in what was going on when my crew was working a green or trap. He approached me for a job and said he lived only three houses away. He didn't have any experience but he turned out to be a cracker-jack man with a tractor. I think he worked most of his life as an accountant.

College students have proven to be a heavy source of talent, especially this summer because of the scarcity of part-time jobs. "I've had them start out the job just as a lark," a super revealed. "And by the time they're entering their junior year, they're thinking of going into the field full time. Some even have switched their majors."

With the woods full of young men, who are on the fence in regard to molding a future, some superintendents think it would be the thing for state golf associations to offer turf management scholarships to those people who become enchanted with their summer jobs. The ranks of supers certainly would be enriched by luring college grads to the field.

What kind of workers are these men who don't earn overpowering wages? "I find that most of them really put their hearts and souls into the job," a well-stocked super advised. "Some of them take a dedicated interest in their particular task and feel a sense of pride when the golf course is deemed to be in top playing condition. It really is gratifying to see some man of 66 apply himself to his fullest for a couple of bucks an hour."

The talent pool of the superintendent, then, is a story in itself. It takes a lot of people to put that spit and shine on a golf course. Each and every one has a right to be button-popping proud when some member approaches the super and praises the condition of the course.

—Gerry Finn

OCTOBER MEETING

The next GCSA of NE meeting will be October 5, 1971 at the Juniper Hill Golf Club in Northboro, Mass. Golf will be during the day and an evening meeting is planned at the White Cliffs Restaurant. Dinner will be at 6:30 p. m. Homer Darling is the owner and Albert Sanders is the superintendent.

Directors' Meeting	5:00 p. m.
Regular Meeting	5:30 p. m.
Dinner	6:30 p. m.

DIRECTIONS TO JUNIPER HILL

From Rt. 495 take Rt. 20 north toward Northboro (Marlboro exit); take Brigham St. opposite White Cliffs Restaurant, and follow to course.



Al Sanders

The Association was saddened by the recent death of Carmen Capozzi, superintendent at the Norfolk Golf Club.

Golf Course Superintendents Association

CHALK ONE UP FOR OUR SIDE

Golf tournaments, those that dot the PGA schedule, are packed with dramatic moments, big decisions and sometimes disastrous results.

One of the decisions in the recent Greater Hartford Open was planted in the trusty head of Fred Bachand, the man who makes the green grass grow and the sand traps purr at the Wethersfield Country Club. Each year the GHO lands at Wethersfield on Labor Day Weekend. And Bachand must be prepared . . . ready or not.

Bachand, now in his second year at Wethersfield, faced a hairy problem two days before the course was to be closed to members for a full eight days. It was Saturday and golfers were looking forward to some of their last licks before the pros took over.

The only hitch was the fact that Hurricane Doria, or a distant relative of the energetic gal, had made a sweeping visit to the Greater Hartford area and on this Saturday Bachand stood on the first tee with green chairman Gerry Stewart viewing the aftermath. Looking over their shoulders were several members, intent on assuming their usual weekend par-attacking position.

"I knew there was only one thing to do," Bachand tells. "There were branches strewn all over the course and it was pretty soft. But at the time the sun was shining and sun means only one thing to our members. They welcome it like a kid takes to an ice cream cone."

Bachand and Stewart knew their names might be mud. But they decided to close the course for the day. "It was going to be a tough next few days for both of us", Bachand continued. "Mr. Stewart took my advice, though, and stood firm. I really felt sorry for some of the members."

As things turned out, the closing of the course gave Bachand and his crew an extra 12 hours or so to tidy up the course and put a few more finishing touches on it. The course was opened to members the following day and then came the pros.

The reaction of the golfers playing the GHO was unanimous. Everyone, even those who left their putting eyes on the last tour stop, agreed that Wethersfield was one of the best conditioned courses on the circuit.

"These greens are just beautiful", said winner George Archer. "I can't remember when I made so many short putts in a tournament. That means the greens were true. I can't say enough about the rest of the course. The people here must have worked overtime to get it in such slick shape."

Tom Weiskopf, who had a good GHO, was also high in his praise of the grounds. "One of the reasons I come here every year is that I know the course is going to be in good condition", he told. "Even though it's a short track I enjoy playing it. The superintendent did a magnificent job. He should be congratulated . . . again."

Player after player followed the words of Archer and Weiskopf with similar accolades. And in the end, the members who were shut out of that Saturday golfing date, were sitting back and sharing in the plaudits. More than one reflected on Bachand's decision and told the story of how he acted to insure top-notch conditions for the pros.

So, here was one time when the superintendent was put on the spot and came away from it smelling like a bouquet of roses. Bachand could have buckled under the strain of becoming unpopular with his members, but he pushed that possibility aside in favor of making the proper decision.

Chalk one up for our side.

— Gerry Finn

University of Rhode Island News



Dr. Richard Skogley, Professor of Agronomy at the University of Rhode Island reported an excellent turnout for the "Annual Turf Grass Days" held on August 25 and 26, 1971. August 25 was designated as the "Golf Course Superintendents Field Day." After everyone watched the equipment demonstrations and had a charcoal-broiled steak dinner, Dr. Skogley took them on a tour of the plots, showing commercial fungicide trials, fertilization, weed control, grass varieties and many other procedures used at U.R.I. to help the superintendents.

JOB OPEN

The Patterson Club, Inc. 18 hole course, complete country club facilities, watered fairways.

Contact Kenneth H. Kost, Green Chairman 3590 Main St., Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606.

MEETINGS COMING UP:

October 5, 1971 — Juniper Hill

October 26, 1971 — Brae Burn, Pro-Supt.

November 1, 1971 — Eastward Ho

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Golf Course Superintendents Association

ECOLOGY AND EVERYMAN

Perhaps the most important job facing those of us interested in enhancing the quality of our environment is how to educate literally everyone on how complex the problems of environmental deterioration really are.

For example, the use of DDT in marshes to control insects such as mosquitos in every case has meant a far greater resurgence of these forms than previously existed in the original population. The effect of spraying has been to sort out the resistant forms and to eliminate their competition and, in some cases, their prey as well. Further, we now have evidence that algae, which form the very base of the aquatic food chain from which we derive our many forms of seafood, not only selectively absorb and store DDT, but they also have their own processes of food manufacture (photo-synthesis) measurably curtailed by the compound. Evidence further points to a non-deterioration of DDT in the environment. Attempts have been made to establish a "half-life" for DDT, the time required for 50 per cent of the compound in an area to disintegrate. Instead, tests are apparently measuring the "redistribution time" of a very insoluble product which will persist, perhaps for several times the life span of the users. Coupled with this fact is the trouble associated with similar compounds. The polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) are widely used in wire insulation and other places and their wearing away adds them directly to the environment. They show the same accumulation pathways as DDT, and they also may be implicated in premature deaths of carnivorous birds living at the top of rather broad food webs.

The point of these findings is that we must go slowly. No one could have predicted these results, or yet another result, namely, that these two compounds together enhance the deleterious effects of either found singly in the environment.

Even in the simple matter of open space preservation, an area where everyone can become immediately and directly concerned with his or her community, we see an appalling ignorance, even among business-minded people, concerning the length of the ecological balance sheet. Let us, by way of illustration, see what happens when a sizable open space is proposed to be developed as has happened to a 100-acre golf course in a Boston area suburban town. A total of 750 housing units is proposed to be built there. The developer promises an addition to the tax base — hence lower taxes either by actual statement or by implication. How much lower? The added revenue is not all "free." Almost never considered is the depression of property values near heavily developed areas. In some cases this depression more than offsets the proposed increase in the tax base. Further, there are roads to be built and services to be provided such as sanding and plowing. There are fire vehicles and firemen to be added to the fire department, cruisers and policemen to be added to the police department. Both sewage and water supply connections may entail a considerable expense, and worse, may overtax an existing supply or treatment plant to the point of forcing further expenditures there.

Then there is the matter of schools. In many states, such as Massachusetts, schools are supported basically by the local property tax levies. The cost is generally equal to all other municipal costs, or about 50 percent of the municipal budget. The plans mentioned above make no reference to what if any effects 750 housing units will have on the school population. Just one child from each unit will require the establishment

of a new school, an expenditure of one to two million dollars, plus an annual and growing addition to the taxes collected to support its staffing and running. The use of "added industry" to support such community spending is not justified either; or else why would Boston, the most industrialized city in the state, have the highest tax rate? The balance sheet is really much longer than an increase in the tax base would lead us to believe.

Are there alternatives? There seems to be one in the case of the development proposed above. Municipal ownership of the area, running the golf course as a fee-collecting, self-supporting enterprise, plus some possible development of park and recreational facilities along the edges abutting residential areas doesn't seem to have been considered as an alternative. Yet documented evidence exists that increased property valuations occur in areas fronting or contiguous to guaranteed open spaces. Municipally-run golf courses exist which more than pay for themselves. Realistic considerations, over the long run, show that guaranteed open spaces save money and lower or at least stabilize a community's tax rate. What better reason could exist for living in an area than the fact that open, accessible space is nearby?

Many reports such as Ian McHarg's book on environmental planning, *Design With Nature*, show how one can plan a community to fit into nature without destroying the entire balance; where you should begin, where you should end; what you should do in terms of soils, in terms of education, in terms of use; placement of trunk lines, water supplies, sewage. All of these numerous interrelated points, then, turn our direction from a biological standpoint which calls attention to the disturbed natural balances that we have caused toward a larger view of methods of handling our planning. We know that we are an expanding population. We know that we must have twice as many houses or half again as many in 30 years as we have now as our population soars from its current levels. Even with all the talk on birth control and abortions, there will still be a rise in the population.

Writers such as the late Aldo Leopold, who was concerned and writing about the ethical use of land 25 years ago, have a very clear-cut and obvious message: We have to look at the land in terms of our being stewards rather than exploiters. Despite the fact that we are on an English system in which private property is held to be sacrosanct, we have gotten ourselves into this particular bind. We have so many people that an individual man can no longer do what he sees fit with a piece of land that he owns. He must think in terms of the consequences, not only to that piece of land, but to other pieces of land around it. This essentially is the ecological point of view. If you tug on one little string which sticks out, one little piece of the web — for example to destroy the mosquitoes in a marsh — eventually the repercussions are felt throughout the entire living system. The whole structure is one inter-related web.

Yet the answers do not lie in preventing everything from happening. Nor will paternal socialism solve our problems. Rather the answers lie in discussions and planning ahead, to save what is worth saving, to change eventually that which is detrimental, and to enhance neighborhoods, rather than to allow individuals to alter landscapes with no thought other than that of their own material gain.

(Cont'd other side)

Golf Course Superintendents Association

GOLFERS ARE LITTERBUGS



The cost of golf has gone up so rapidly because golfers abuse the courses they play on. From the time the typical golfer drives onto course property he is producing problems — for the golf course superintendent and his crew.

The arriving golfer wants a cigarette or gum. Down comes the car window and out goes the empty pack or wrapper. Later the same fellow drops a bottle or can on the course. The average course employs at least one

man to clean up trash and debris, at rates that figure out to \$3,500 to \$5,000 per man per year.

What about the golfer riding a powered golf car or pulling a cart? He ignores signs directing him right or left. The wear and tear around greens and bunkers from cars and carts can cost the course another \$5,000 or more in re-sodding.

Failure to replace divots keeps one worker busy with a season's wages of \$3,500 to \$5,000. Not repairing ball marks on the greens and not raking footprints out of bunkers occupies another worker all year. And here is a little tip regarding those rakes. One reason you should leave rakes inside the traps is to enable the men trimming around the greens to continue their work without having to stop. Four years ago I had my men keep track of how many rakes each man replaced each day and how long it took. At the wage scale of today it would amount to \$1,200 a year.

At some clubs it is a policy that mowers either be shut off or removed from playing areas before a player addresses his ball. I have seen some clubs where the men mowing fairways are required to move their units and wait in the rough while a foursome plays through. Again, this required time — and time is money. The man cutting fairways is being paid by the hour.

Seemingly insignificant acts add up. A player doesn't have a towel in his bag, so off comes the towel from the ball washer and onto his bag it goes. Newly planted trees are hit with a golf car, or broken because they impede the player's swing. Try to replace a 10-year-old tree today and you will discover that the cost is staggering.

If all golfers would just use common sense — the same sort of common sense they use in their own businesses — course costs could be cut. And if we all would stop and think just for a moment as to the vital part the courses in America and all over the world play in our environment, I am sure you and I would spend time protecting them, rather than abusing them.

— Norman W. Kramer



THE SOCIETY OF SURREY GOLF CAPTAINS

Bottle Cottage, Reigate, Surrey
England, May 22nd 1971

Dean Robertson, Esq.

Dear Mr. Robertson:

Thank you very much indeed for the copy of Newsletter which came safely to hand today and which has given me much pleasure in the reading. A number of my friends who were in New England last year for the Curtis Cup with me have also enjoyed reading it; who wouldn't?

I have been trying to guess which of my fellow grass-lovers were the cause of my receiving Newsletter — Arthur Anderson? Robt. Grant? I met so many friendly G. C. Supers last year; so — I give up and just say "thanks a lot and please keep me on the mailing list!"

Newsletter is a splendid idea and Mr. Finn's comments about too many conferences apply equally well to the engineering industry, consultants and political meetings — not to mention the church! I mean here too! The article about Dr. Grau was quite fascinating — I love nature, too, but he ought to come and look at our heather and whin bushes at Reigate Heath — some of our members with an eight on the card get a bit critical about nature left to itself, with special reference to pine trees and thorn bushes, although it all looks "terribly pretty" at this time of the year!

Mr. Radko's advice to plug and sod on areas that show no recovery by early May might have been written for Southern England this year, for although we had practically no snow or ice last winter and very little rainfall, we've had cold, steady East and North East winds that have dried us out and checked growth until the last few days of gentle rain, alternating with warm sunshine have started growth on bare shoulders and banks.

The bit about "anything that's good is expensive" I'm showing to friends on committees of several southern clubs — it's only too true that you only get what you pay for on a golf course!

Wishing you all a successful year

Yours sincerely,
Dell Rothschild

Col. D. D. Rothschild. O.B.E. T.D.

Ecology & Everyman (cont'd)

In short, we need a planning which takes into account the science of ecology. This basic science must be supported far better than has been customary to date. Ecology offers our best hope to find ways of altering our environment without destroying it. We need an awareness of the fact that other people exist, and that for them to lead healthy and productive lives, more than a roof, walls and a job is necessary. The "environmental amenities" as they are known in England, are quite important, perhaps more than we know, to our continued well-being as individuals. They influence directly our survival as a species. The price of disregarding the ecological balance sheet is considerably more than most of us feel the world can afford.

Dr. Norton H. Nickerson
from: *Tufts Review*

SOUND OFF !!!!

(Here we are again, looking through the mail bag to see what golf fans have on their minds. Sound Off is a monthly feature for the benefit of the spoken word . . . to be spoken by anyone who wishes to be heard. So, if golf is your bag and you wish to comment on any phase of it, sit down and let us have your views. Send them to Newsletter Mail Bag, 24 Riverview Drive, Newbury, Mass. 01950. The Newsletter reserves the right to comment on all letters published.)

"Recently I played at a country club in the area and was pleased to see that the floriculture there really lent itself to the natural beauty that provides a lovely background for the course.

"Evidently, the superintendent there has much more of an aesthetic outlook on things than does the superintendent at my home course. On each tee there was a floral arrangement that literally took my breath away. I think it made the course one of the most beautiful I ever have played.

"Just what can I do, as a member at our club, to get our super to decorate the teeing grounds as the aforementioned gentleman did. I don't believe it would take much effort on his part. Or does this type of thing fall under a special category?"

LAURA SEAVERS
Eastover, Delaware

It all depends on how much money and time your green committee wants to spend on such a project. For the most part, the superintendent has all he can handle to keep the course in top playing condition. He should leave the beauty angle to the natural environment.

"I was a spectator at the Greater Hartford Open during which a hassle developed when three golfers were disqualified for not teeing off from the proper spot on the second tee of the opening round.

"It seemed that the PGA has a rule that all players must tee off from the designated driving area and if there are no markers there, they are to report it to officials rather than hit. In this case the golfers apparently went to the back of the tee and hit away.

"When it was learned of the rule violation, they were disqualified which was a big jolt for one who shot a four-under-par 67. The other two had 71's and it must have hurt them, too.

"The story got around that a worker, mowing the second tee, removed the tee markers and forgot to replace them after he had finished. If this was the case, how come the players were penalized?"

JEFF JONES
Coventry, Conn.

The players were penalized because they violated the rule. It makes no difference how the tee markers were removed. Of course, the PGA should make allowance for markers being misplaced or stolen

"Someone told me that there is a professional golfer on the tour who is a son of a golf course superintendent.

"I can't recall reading about any such player, although I'm sure it's possible that there is such a touring pro. Can you help me out? Do you know of any supers' sons on tour?"

STANLEY JAZAC
Wilbraham, Mass.

The only pro we can think of who falls into your descriptive is Charlie Owens — a black pro who plays cross-handed and has a fused knee which gives him a pronounced limp. Charlie's dad was a superintendent in Winter Haven, Fla.

"I've been arguing with a buddy of mine in regard to this idea of replacing divots. He says that replacing a divot doesn't really save the spot where the divot has been taken. I disagree with him and think that an area of grass can be saved if the divot is replaced.

"Just what is the green thumb rule on this? Are we wasting our time out there replacing divots or is there some truth to fixing the mark so that the grass will come back quicker?"

JUNIOR LERNER
Brookhaven, N. J.

There is no guarantee that a replaced divot will take hold and live again. However, many times this occurs. So, the replace-the-divot rule is a sound one.

"The litter problem on our course continues to grow and no one seems to want to do anything about it.

"I, for one, am absolutely disgusted with the way some of our members treat our course like a garbage heap. There should be a law against such pigs who throw their cigarette packages, gum wrappers, apple cores and what have you anywhere they can find handy.

"I've heard of certain courses that levy fines against members caught littering the premises. It seems to me that this is one way of stopping this disgusting abuse. Are the superintendents concerned about this?"

PHILIP LORD
Danville, Iowa

The super is concerned but his hands are tied. It's up to the individual to mend his ways or report others who litter the course. Maybe a couple of suspensions, instead of fines, might curb the problem.

(That's the end of the trail for this month's version of Sound Off. You must have an opinion and this is the place where it gets to the people. So, sit down and become a part of our talk-back fun.)



Brian Cowan

Superintendent Championship results at South Shore:
Brian Cowan over Dave Barber in a sudden death on the 19th hole with a low gross of 79.
Low Net — Bill Carter, 71

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* Contributors to the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund

NEWSLETTER

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