

NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

FEBRUARY 1972



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

THE NATIONAL CALLS

This is the time. The place? Cincinnati. And the occasion . . . the 43rd annual International Turfgrass Conference and Show.

This really is the time, then . . . the opportunity for the grass-growing, green-bent brothers of the golf course superintendents' profession to get together and bring out the best in one another, because conferences begin and end with the individual. What he takes out of the well-planned program amounts to what the whole thing's all about. That's why being part of this worthwhile venture is next to necessity.

New England should be proud of its part in the conference. This year the section will send a national president to the conference front in the person of Dick Blake. The last time Blake zoomed out of the section it was in pursuit of the presidency at Denver. Since then he's become one of the real do-it-alls at his post. Under his direction the association has done a complete turn in the direction of self-respect.

They'll toast Blake out during this year's ceremonies. He pulled the usual one-year term and now stands prepared to slip back into the vast membership while another takes his place. And for this reason . . . the changing of the guard, New England association members owe it to themselves to be on hand for this phase of the conference action.

Such a close feeling should suffice as reason for a healthy outpouring of New England representatives. After all, how many times does one of the brothers bow out in the afterglow of a job superbly executed? This is Dick Blake's fate. Everyone in the New England wheel of the profession should be on

hand to mark his farewell.

Aside from the personal involvement, the conference is still another avenue of cementing the relationship of superintendents from near and afar. There are no definite figures available at this writing, but it is expected that superintendents in excess of 3,000 will converge on Cincinnati to see what their profession is all about.

There is always something new and different at the conference site and supers should take advantage of this off-season study of the ways and means to a better-conditioned golf course. The program committee has arranged an attractive schedule whereby the superintendent is able to partake of practically every sprig of his profession.

Exhibits and displays also will be sure to catch the fancy of those in attendance. It is an automatic assumption that the super can go to the national and expect to view the very latest in equipment, sometimes even before it is off the assembly line.

The biggest lure, though, is the comradeship which the conference offers. At this one time in the year a super from Texas becomes involved with a super from Rhode Island or where have you. They have this one lone opportunity to swap ideas and opinions. It is the only time, in fact, that the national becomes national . . . when members from all corners of the country get together as if they lived a chip shot away.

The international conference is a must, an integral part of the superintendent's never-ending grasp of education. It brings us all together. This is a sign of wonder in itself.

— Gerry Finn

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the G.S.C.A. of N. E. will be February 2, 1972 at the Holiday Inn, Newton, Mass. Please note the change of day to Wednesday, not on a Monday. Ronald Kirkman, secretary read the minutes of the last meeting and also noted that he received a letter from the National stating that Arthur Anderson and Sam Mitchell are now members of the G.C.S.A.A. Quarter Century Club. Phil Cassidy is home from his recent stay in the hospital after a leg operation.

Directors' Meeting	10:45 a. m.
Regular Business Meeting	11:15 a. m.
Lunch	12:00 p. m.
Educational Program	1:00 p. m.

President Grant reminded the members that the new up-to-date bylaw books are ready and you can get the new copy by turning in your old copy. The Board of Directors appointed Max Mierzwa to serve as a trustee for the remainder of Ron Kirkman's term.

The following is the list of committee appointments made by President Robert Grant at the recent association meeting.

- Membership Committee — Chairman, Tom Curran; Wayne Zoppo, Ron Kirkman
- Finance Committee — Chairman, Nary Sperandio; Lou Duval, Phil Cassidy, Norman Mucciarone, Tom Schofield
- Educational Committee — Chairman, Larry Bunn; Don Hearn, John Hudyka
- Golf Committee — Chairman, Julius Aksten; Bob Mucciarone
- Newsletter Committee — Chairman, Dean Robertson; Leon St. Pierre, Donald Hearn
- Welfare Committee — Chairman, Arthur Anderson; Max Mierzwa, Tony Caranci, Charles Garden, John O'Connor, Bob Mucciarone, Dick Blake, Joe Silk
- Employment Committee — Chairman, Tom Curran; Dale Barber, Brian Cowan, Joe Rybka, Al Auger
- Publicity Committee — Chairman, Norman Mucciarone, Arthur Washburn, Leon St. Pierre, John Sperandio
- Turf Research — Chairman, Bert Fredricks; Dr. Joseph Troll, John Dolan, John O'Connell, Lou Duval, Charles Gardner
- Scholarship Committee — Chairman, Phil Cassidy
- Pre-Conference Planning Committee (National) — Co-Chairmen, Bob Grant, Tom Curran; Dick Blake, Dean Robertson, Leon St. Pierre, Nary Sperandio
- Parliamentarian — Tony Caranci

Golf Course Superintendents Association

MUSCLES ON WAY OUT

You're a golfer and not prone to pulverizing the ball. Nowadays, that's the next thing to being a tennis player. Muscle, muscle, muscle. That's the name of the game. You either beat the ball to death or you die in the trying.

That's how it is now. How about the future?

Let's ask golf course architect Al Zikorus who has laid out a beast or two in his time.

Zikorus is all against muscle. His whole profession is against muscle. "In the future", says Al, "there will be an increasing demand on skill rather than on strength. That's the way it has to be."

The veteran architect lays his whole plea on logic and the times, especially the times when land is becoming the most precious item on a designer's board.

"Let's face it", squares Zikorus. "The land situation is getting tighter and tighter. What we have to do now is build a compact course, one which doesn't make so many demands on length. We're down to the point where we have to think of skill rather than strength."

In recent years the new course wasn't considered in vogue unless it measured at least 7,000 yards. There are examples of this, from one section of New England to the other. However the results of putting the country club member in the position of potential blacksmith hasn't turned out as rosy as it was once deemed.

"Right now we're thinking in terms of a course length of 6,500 to 6,800 yards", Zikorus reveals. "In the past we were dreaming up par four holes of 420, 430 and 440 yards. I really think we took the game out of club golf. Personally, I think having to hit two wood shots on a par four hole takes all the joy out of golf."

Zikorus admits that the whole concept of golf architecture might have got out of hand for a while. "I am not criticizing any particular builder", he states. "I am probably as guilty as the next man. But I think we sort of lost our heads when we were concentrating on size . . . from all aspects."

One of the big, bigs in this respect was the sudden switch to enormous greens. Zikorus has some commentary on this. "They (the greens) have grown all out of proportion", he discloses. "I think they'll come back to reality in size. The greens just followed the trend of trying to give the golfer everything in relation to being huge. There's no reason for a green to be as big that it invites four putts."

Zikorus, citing the restrictions placed on an architect these days because of the land shrinkage, thinks the task of building a golf course has magnified because of it. "There are so many things to think about", he tells. "The site usually is drawn to the point that it takes a lot of planning to allow for such things as the clubhouse, pool, tennis courts, paddle tennis courts and other conveniences. That's why the size of the course has to be brought back to reason. We have to make players realize this is a skill game, not a game of strength."

Thus, the changing times. In recent years the emphasis seemed to be on building the biggest, toughest course in the area. But now that land has become something akin to a gem, the trend is leaning to forgetting the muscle and accentuating finesse. The cycle has come around to its source. Muscles are out. Knowhow is in.

— Gerry Finn



Left to right: Ronald Kirkman, secretary, Lou Duval, treasurer and President Robert Grant of the G.C.S.A. of N. E.

The files of the secretary show that the following newsletters are missing. Can you help us to complete the files? If you have any of these please notify Ronald Kirkman.

- 1929 — May
- 1940 — December
- 1941 — February - November - December
- 1942 — February - August - December
- 1943 — January
- 1944 — March - May - June
- 1947 — November
- 1948 — November
- 1949 — April - November
- 1950 — April - July
- 1951 — November - December
- 1952 — March
- 1953 — January - February - April - May - June - August - September - October - December
- 1954 — January - March - May - September
- 1955 — October
- 1956 — October
- 1958 — May - June
- 1959 — January
- 1960 — January - September
- 1961 — October - November
- 1962 — January - February - March - April - May - June - July - August - September - October - November - December
- 1963 — May - June - July - August - October - November
- 1964 — January - February - March - April - May - June - July
- 1965 — January

New Applications

Charles R. Lane, Associate, No. Andover Country Club, 12 Washington St., No. 58, Methuen, Mass. 01844.

Robert W. Johnson, Associate, Winnesucket Country Club, 277 Wrentham Road, So. Bellingham, Mass.

JOB OPEN

9-hole Municipal Course
Contact: Mr. E. A. Wagner
22 Avalon Road
Melrose, Mass. 02176

President —
ROBERT GRANT
22 Paticia Road
Sudbury, Mass. 01776
Phone 443-2671
Club Affiliation
Erie Barn Country Club

First Vice President —
THOMAS CURRAN
153 Fisher Street
Walpole, Mass. 02081
Phone 668-7221
Club Affiliation
The Country Club

Second Vice President —
WAYNE ZOPPO
48 Barbary Drive
Sutton, Mass.
Phone 299-7141
Club Affiliation
Agewam Hunt

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

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

Trustee —
MAX MIERZWA
106 Crestwood Street
Chicopee, Mass. 01020
Phone 594-4976
Club Affiliation
Chicopee Country Club

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

Trustee —
BERT FREDERICK
45 Stoney Brook Road
Naticket, Mass.
Phone 453-1231
Club Affiliation
Vesper Country Club

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

SOUND OFF!!!

(Ready or not, it's time for Sound Off..... that Newsletter feature which brings out the very best in the form of comment and opinion from our favorite people, the readers. Sound Off is published for all of the golfing public. Anyone is invited to partake here, whether in a moment of agreeing or disagreeing. Just jot down your views and send them along to Newsletter Mail Box, 24 Riverview Drive, Newbury, Mass. 01950. The Newsletter reserves the right to comment on all letters published.)

* * * * *

"Let's say I'm from that side of the street that says I don't want to be identified. I mean I want to be Mr. X.

"What I am is a chairman of the green committee. And I know that with this admission I have to be classified as one of those hard-headed members of the country club set. To which, I say . . . 'forget it.'

"My gripe here is not with you people but with my club. And this may startle everyone reading this. But . . .and what this is all about is this . . .

"I am the chairman of the green committee at my club . . . and I don't know what I'm supposed to do. This really is a secret revelation. The results of our club elections aren't supposed to come out until the middle of the month. But when I realized that I was supposed to step in and take charge of our golf course superintendent, I really didn't know what to do. So, this is why I'm writing to you people. Maybe you can give me some kind of inkling as to what I should say and what I should do when I meet our superintendent. To be honest with you, I never knew the man existed until I was elected to this position.

"Perhaps you can clue me in on what I'm supposed to do. Our club president just tapped me on the shoulder and said I was to be the green chairman. Where do I go from here?"

Name Withheld
Also the Club

Introduce yourself to the superintendent and make like he was a human being!

* * * * *

"I am a member here at a very far-out club, and I can't think about anything pertaining to our course other than the ragged condition it was in when last we played. (A long time ago, since the snows have been puffing about here for the last few weeks.)

"I'm wondering whether or not the superintendents' group has come up with some kind of remedy to take the curse out of playing golf in the middle of winter. We have some real high-grade snowstorms in the winter, but we always seem to bounce back without too many mishaps on the highway. In between time the golf course just sits there without any response. Most of the time there is snow on the fairways, but not enough to keep anyone from playing.

"What I want to know is: How come our superintendent doesn't come out to the course and make it playable. The conditions are not that bad . . . just a little snow and a little slush. I think it's darn right indecent of him. I think he should be fired."

CHRIS CURRAN
Round Top, Utah

Your super has been fired. That was two years ago. So far, your club hasn't had any takers yet!

Golf Chairman —
JULIUS AKSTEN
6 Main Street
Suffboro, Mass. 01772
Phone 485-9885
Club Affiliation
St. Mark's Golf Club

Educational Chairman —
LARRY BUNN
145 Dedham Street
Canton, Mass.
Phone 428-9467
Club Affiliation
Blue Hill Country Club

Newsletter Chairman —
DEAN ROBERTSON
24 Riverview Drive
Newbury, Mass. 01950
Phone 462-4540
Club Affiliation
Chestnut Hill Country Club

Past President —
RICHARD C. BLAKE
211 Sewall Street
Boylston, Mass. 01505
Phone 867-2737
Club Affiliation
Mt. Pleasant Country Club

"I am a club member who doesn't really give a damn whether or not the economic situation puts us in a financial drag or not. To me, it doesn't mean that much.

"Anyway, I just thought I'd like to write about the doldrums of country club life, the life I've learned to accept while picking up the pieces of my past here.

"The life is nothing. I come and go as I please and no one seems to be bothered about it. There is not much social life and I am just about at the end of my rope concerning that.

"Regardless, I would like to say that the golf course superintendent here has done a magnificent job. I am not at liberty to tell you his name but would hasten to brag about his work. What I would like to know is this: How do we tell our super he is SUPER?"

TRES ADDLER
Parody, Miss.

Tell him like it is . . . that he's a super-super and that he's the most important guy between the first tee and the 18th green!

* * * * *

"Don't blame me for moving in here with a late accolade. "You don't know me and I don't know you, but . . . I have enjoyed every bit of writing that has appeared in the New England Newsletter for the past three or four years.

"The content really doesn't mean that much. I'm interested in it, but I get more enjoyment out of the quality in the words throughout the paper. I think you people should climb aboard the merry-go-round and maybe put out a paper that would appeal to everyone. What do you think about such a brazen idea?"

DREW DOWNING
Setback, Ariz.

We have certain appeal. We'd rather let it stay at that.

* * * * *

(That puts the curtain down on another session with some very interesting readers. Don't let the live ammunition slay you. It's all for fun. It's for real, too)

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

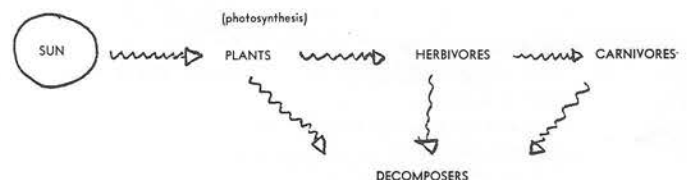
BASIC PREMISE: The only way to know what is going on in the natural world is to measure the total amount of energy consumed and the efficiency with which it is used.

COROLLARIES: Pollutants are resources out of place.

Any material or energy that has not participated in the evolutionary history of plants and animals is to be suspect as a source of environmental stress.

There are no ecologically sound technological solutions to environmental problems: there are some technological solutions that are more ecologically sound than others.

A technological ecosystem cannot be substituted for a natural ecosystem.



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617-297-0941

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* Contributors to the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund

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FIRST CLASS

