

NEWSLETTER



Golf Course Superintendents Association
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

MARCH 1973



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

1973 TURF CONFERENCE

"Better Turf through Research and Education"

MARCH 7, 8, 9, 1973

BAY STATE WEST MOTEL
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

— Morning —

11:00 Registration—6th Floor, Lobby

— Afternoon —

GENERAL SESSION

Springfield Room

Chairman: Robert Grant, Superintendent
Brae Burn Country Club

1:00 Welcome

—Dr. Joseph Tröll
University of Massachusetts/Amherst

1:15 Artificial Turf vs. Natural

—Dr. Stanley C. Plagenhoef
University of Massachusetts/Amherst

2:00 Drainage.

—David Clement, Superintendent
Crestview Country Club, Inc.

2:45 Break

3:00 Converting Fairways to Bentgrass

—Joseph R. Flaherty, Superintendent
Baltusrol Golf Club

3:45 Converting to Kentucky Bluegrass
Fairways

—Thomas Rewinski, Superintendent
National Golf Links of America

4:30 Massachusetts Turf and Lawn Grass
Council

—Membership Meeting

— Evening —

Free — A good time to look up old friends.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

— Morning —

GOLF COURSE SESSION

Springfield Room

Chairman: Wayne Zoppo, Superintendent
Agawam Hunt

9:30 Grass and Our World

—Dr. Thomas R. Soderstrom, Associate
Curator
National Museum of Natural History

10:15 Safeguarding Workers on a Golf Course

—Harold Smith, Area Director
OSHA, U. S. Dept. of Labor

11:00 Pine Valley

—Eb Steiniger, Superintendent
Pine Valley Golf Club

11:45 Lunch

— Afternoon —

1:00 Grooming the Golf Course

—Melvin Lucas, Jr., Superintendent
The Garden City Golf Club

1:45 Turf Diseases of 1972 — Controls and
Prevention for 1973

—Stan Zontek, Agronomist
USGA Green Section, Northeast
Region

2:30 Non-selective Weed Control

—John E. Gallagher
Amchem Products, Inc.

3:15 Break

3:30 Soil Factors Affecting Arsenic Toxicity to
Poa annua

—Dr. Robert N. Carrow
University of Massachusetts/Amherst

4:15 Necessity of Golf Cart Paths and Traffic
Regulations

—William Buchanan, Agronomist
USGA Green Section, Northeast
Region

— Evening —

Springfield Room

7:00 Banquet

Fertilizing Your Sense of Humor for 1973
—Samuel H. Ramsay

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

GOLF COURSE SESSION

Springfield Room

— Morning —

Chairman: Prof. John M. Zak
University of Massachusetts/
Amherst

9:30 Keeping Records

—Al Barauskas, General Manager
Avalon Golf, Inc.

10:00 Planning Capital Expenditures

—Sherwood Moore, Superintendent
Woodway Country Club

10:30 British Golf Course Architecture

—F. W. Hawtree
Golf Course Architect

11:00 North American Golf Course Architecture

—Geoffrey S. Cornish
Golf Course Architect

11:30 Question Period

Sponsored by
Massachusetts Cooperative Extension Service
Massachusetts Turf and Lawn Grass Council
Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England



Golf Course Superintendents Association

UMASS CONFERENCE . . . EAT IT UP

Dr. Joseph Troll, the man who makes it all happen, advises members of the New England Association of Golf Course Superintendents of his annual happening — the 1973 UMass Turf Conference March 7-8-9 at the Bay State West Motel in Springfield.

As usual, Dr. Troll is enthused. "We have a new site for the conference and lots of new faces to present those people interested in turf", Dr. Troll tells. "I think that we can look forward to another record-breaking crowd for our show. At least, I'm hopeful."

The conference stands as a monument to the task of undertaking such a venture. The UMass presentation always has been the hit of the winter season. Somehow, Dr. Troll always manages to come up with a speaker or two who overshadows anyone seen on the conference trail. He's pulled this caper a number of times. Who can forget that it was Joe who lured John Campbell away from the hallowed grounds of St. Andrews to take part in his show a few years ago? Since that time, everyone has followed suit. John Campbell has become a perennial in the field of outstanding conference speakers.

This year Dr. Troll is going to the same British shores to come up with his star attraction. That would be F. W. Hawtree, famed golf architect from the other side of the Atlantic, who is scheduled to present his views on locating holes and hazards during an eventful windup session on Friday, March 9.

To complement Mr. Hawtree's presence, Dr. Troll has gone next door — so to speak — for a presentation by the United States' high-rising plotter of doom for the divot digger, Geoffrey Cornish. The latter has his main office in friendly Amherst, Massachusetts. He and Dr. Troll have grown up together at UMass — each going his own and successful way in the business of uplifting the sport of golf.

This will be a first for conference-goers to take a look at

the "new Springfield" with Bay State West as the hub of modern construction in the City of Homes. Previously, the conference was conducted on the outskirts of the city, but with the addition of the new Civic Center and other forms of cultural development, Springfield is headed toward becoming one of the leading convention centers in New England.

The UMass Conference will run the gamut of interest. Everyone on the program looms as an interesting speaker and well-versed in his particular field. The show opens with an old but always interesting question — whether the choice bit of land lies in artificial or natural turf. Dr. Stanley C. Plagenhoef of the University of Massachusetts will run the audience through the paces for this one.

Other interesting subjects, to be covered in the three-day session, include Safeguarding Workers on a Golf Course; Turf Diseases — Their Controls and Prevention; Necessity of Golf Cart Paths and Traffic Regulation of Same; Cemetery Maintenance (for those with solid stomachs); Planning Capital Expenditures and, of course, the back-to-back presentations by Messrs. Hawtree and Cornish.

The UMass Conference is the result of planning and staging by three successful organizations — the Massachusetts Cooperative Extension Service, the Massachusetts Turf and Lawn Grass Council and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England. Members of the GCSAAE taking part in the show include Richard Blake, Robert Grant and Leon St. Pierre.

This, then, is surely the place to be this winter. Dr. Troll and his associates are looking forward to the conference with the high hope that it will exceed efforts of the past — a very high anticipation. It's good show, a four-beller by any standard.

— Gerry Finn

NEXT MEETING

April 4, 1973, Holiday Inn, Newton, Mass.
 Directors' Meeting 10:45 a. m.
 Regular Meeting 11:15 a. m.
 Luncheon 12:15 p. m.
 Educational Program 1:15 p. m.

Saturation . . . Not an Unreachable Point

There is a strong feeling, within the inner circle of the golf course superintendent, that society (in the form of turf management schools) is producing more superintendents than the field can absorb. Furthermore, there is a sneaky feeling that the country club will undercut its budget by replacing established, well-paid superintendents with the yearlings who don't demand the accepted living wage of the profession.

This fear has reached the point where certain sectional associations are thinking about abandoning their turf school scholarship programs. They would, instead, take the money and invest it in turf research. In a word, the profession is running scared.

There are two schools of thought here. One comes from the people operating turf management institutions. They insist that their graduates are not traveling a rigid road leading to the position of golf course superintendent. They maintain that they do not graduate bona fide golf course superintendents. What they do produce are turf-oriented young men who can pursue their careers on the golf course or away from it.

On the other hand, the existing golf course superintendents preach the gospel that turf management schools are placing into their field more people than the profession can take. They point to the fact that new golf course construction is lagging behind the amount of aspiring superintendents and that golf course owners and country club officials will take advantage of the situation by hiring watered-down help in the form of a so-called "rookie" superintendent.

Such a situation triggers the need for more concentration by the established superintendent in acquiring advanced education. This form is available through the institution of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America certification program. The on-rushing tide of acceptance of this venture makes it inevitable that in the near future a man will have to prove himself . . . on paper.

There have been isolated examples of the country club seeking to cut costs by dumping the established superintendent and replacing him with the recent turf management graduate. These instances, though, have to reflect a dissatisfaction with the present conditioning program of the golf course. It would be ridiculous, obviously, that a well-groomed layout even think of replacing its superintendent. Nevertheless, the grounds are there for the "old pro" to become concerned.

Actually, there is nothing that the local association or the national can do about established superintendents getting axed for a younger man for the sake of economy. This rekindles

(Continued next page)

President — ROBERT GRANT 22 Patricia Road Sudbury, Mass. 01776 Phone 443-2671 Club Affiliation Brae Burn Country Club	First Vice President — THOMAS CURRAN Fox Chase Road South Sutton, N. H. 03273 Club Affiliation Eastman Golf Course	Second Vice President — WAYNE ZOPPO 48 Barberry Drive Seekonk, Mass. 02771 Phone 399-7141 Club Affiliation Agawam Hunt	Secretary — RONALD KIRKMAN, CGCS 25 Green Street Needham, Mass. 02192 Phone 444-8412 Club Affiliation Needham Golf Club	Treasurer — LUCIEN DUVAL R.F. No. 5 Graft Road Bedford, N. H. 03105 Phone 472-3454 Club Affiliation Manchester 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 Nabunnet, Mass. 01861 Phone 453-1231 Club Affiliation Vesper Country Club	Trustee — MAX MIERZWA 106 Crestwood Street Chicopee, Mass. 01020 Phone 594-4996 Club Affiliation Chicopee Country Club	Finance Chairman — NARY SPERANDIO Concord, Mass. 01742 Phone 369-4723 Club Affiliation Concord Country Club
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SOUND OFF!!!!

(Here we are again, folks. This is that time of the piece when all readers get their chance to speak up, out or whatever their pleasure. Whenever indicated, names will be withheld. Comments may be sent to Newsletter Mail Bag, 24 River-view Drive, Newbury, Mass. 01950. The Newsletter reserves the right to comment on all letters published.)

* * * *

"I am an out of stater but very interested in golfing during the winter. Up here we don't get much chance to play the game . . . sometimes having to wait until June to get rid of the snow.

"My friends tell me that Cape Cod is one of the few spots in New England where golfers get a chance to play during the winter months. I am dying to get out since my skiing days are just about at an end. If there is any information you can give me, I would be most thankful for it. Even though we have had a light 'snowwinter' here, there is still enough to prevent me from even taking a few practice swings.

"Incidentally, I am not alone in this predicament. I have many friends, not interested in skiing but hoping to get active outdoors again before they have to wait another three months. So, you will be answering a lot of requests with your information."

CAL SOMMERS Newfane, Vt.

You probably have inquired at prime time, Cal. Cape Cod should be just about ready for some good golfing weather after the freak storm of last month. You can contact the Chamber of Commerce there and they will have all the answers you seek. Good luck on your birdie-hunting.

* * * *

"I live in the Springfield area and belong to a private club here. This winter has been another unusual one with snow, followed by rain and then fog to get rid of the filthy stuff almost in a matter of days.

"There are golf courses here that have opened in the middle of winter and I'm told that the playing conditions are not all

the interest in the profession forming a union . . . although mention of such a last-resort measure brings chills to most GCSAA members.

It is possible that the time has come for the superintendent to take a second look at himself, his accomplishments and his credentials. The thought here is that a competent super, doing the best job he can under existing conditions, need not worry about his position at his present job. If he is getting the most out of what he has to work with, certainly his members are aware that replacing him courts disaster.

Then, too, the attitude of the established superintendent can be measured by his interest in bettering his technical skills by an active form of participation in the certification program. In the early stages of this program, it has been deemed popular to ignore participation if one is sure of his present position. The threat of saturation creeping into the field must alter this approach.

There is no sure answer to the suggestion of saturation, then. It all reverts back to the original theory of the national, that an individual must behave in matters of retaining his job on the basis of his individual accomplishments . . . not on that of the profession. There always will be a job for an able superintendent . . . whether it be at his present base of operations or elsewhere. It is up to him. Hasn't it always been that way?

— Gerry Finn

that bad. I would like to try my hand at it, but my club is dead set against any play once the snow falls. I am of the opinion that this is a selfish attitude on the part of our super-intendent and would like to know if this is the rule of your entire organization.

"I figure the dues I pay entitle me to play my course any time I figure that the conditions are right . . . like now. If the other courses can allow play, why can't mine?"

NAME WITHHELD Westfield, Mass.

Evidently you belong to a course that cares and a super-intendent with foresight. Because your course doesn't open on these freaky, balmy days, it will be in the condition you want it to be in when the legitimate golf weather appears in the spring.

* * * *

"I read your Newsletter of last month and was surprised to learn that old St. Andrews course in England has finally come around to allowing the use of golf carts.

"I am a country club member and one of the diehards who believe that golf was made for walking . . . no tridding. However, in the last 10 years or so my club has become overrun with golf carts and the sight of them steaming over the course really makes me feel as though I should quit this game and perhaps switch to tennis where they still use their legs.

"St. Andrews succumbing to the golf cart urge is something I just can't understand. I realize that it has only one cart as of the moment, but that was the case when the darned things first hit our course. Can you tell me whether or not St. Andrews intends to retain its status as a bona fide golf course or will it follow suit by becoming an international highway for golfers?"

"In my many years of participating in the game, I always have looked upon St. Andrews as something sacred, something else. It has withstood the invasion of many so-called 'technical improvements' which helped turn the game into a travesty for some.

"I am a firm believer that golf is a game to be played on foot. When it comes time for me to have to ride 18 holes, I will quit the game. It just seems foolish to me. Please, if you can, use your influence to at least keep St. Andrews natural . . . from start to finish."

RICHARD CARL Plainville, Conn.

St. Andrews is fighting the golf cart drive and grudgingly those seeking golf cart golf there are American visitors. Maybe they should stay home?

* * * *

"The International Turf Conference in Boston happened to be my first experience at that type of thing, but I'm afraid I have to be regarded as an intruder since my only interest in turf is my garden and my lawn. I did enjoy the show, though, and was wondering if there are any other such presentations later in the year where I would be welcome.

"I know this may sound like an imposition on my part, but in the last couple of years I really have become interested in growing things. I find that it keeps me busy in the summer because I am a retired person. If you can fill me in on any other dates pertaining to this subject, I would be eternally grateful."

LILLIAN SILAS Chatham, Mass.

You have come to the right place . . . and at the right time, Lillian. The UMass Turf Conference is the next on the agenda and it takes place in Springfield, Mass. Check the rest of the Newsletter for details.

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

Educational Chairman —
LARRY BUNN
145 Dedham Street
Canton, Mass. 02021
Phone 628-0467
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, CGCS
211 Sewall Street
Boylston, Mass. 01505
Phone 869-2737
Club Affiliation
Mt. Pleasant Country Club

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617-297-0941

Philip A. Wogan
Golf Course Architect
21 Dunleigh Ave. Beverly, Mass.

*Contributors to the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund

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



FIRST CLASS

