

Super's "Lady Bug"

The golf course superintendent has a new friend - a "lady bug," if you'll pardon the pun.



Pat, at work taking a sample.

She's Pat Vittum, an assistant professor of entomology at the University of Massachusetts extension, operating out of the Waltham Field Station.

Translated, this means that Pat is trying to gain a handle on the control of those pesty insects which raise havoc with golf turf. Among those in her sights are the mouthful-to-pronounce hyperodes weevil and that beast without a conscience, the Japanese beetle.

Because she has become so interested in ridding the golf course of these turf-destroyers, her UMass extension superiors allow Pat to spend 40 percent of her working time on turf research. The mission sends her out into the field where she tracks down disease and destruction much to the aid and comfort of the superintendent.

"I've really come to appreciate the problems the golf course superintendent faces and the input he has in overcoming them to produce outstanding playing conditions," Pat remarked recently. "At first, I was like most of the uneducated, I thought all the superintendent did was water the grass and watch it grow. Wow, was I mistaken."

Pat became interested in the super's plight while doing summer work at the Geneva, N.Y. experimental station in the midst of graduate studies at Cornell University.

"That's when I became acquainted with our old friend, the hyperodes weevil," she told. "I set up field headquarters at Winged Foot and worked closely with Ted Horton (super there). Hyperodes was an active bug, all right, since it was responsible for feeding and destroying annual blue grass up to 80 percent on some fairways."

Not only did Pat become involved in finding ways to combat the insects running amok on golf turf while at Winged Foot, she also took up the same.

"It was a great release for me," she explained, "When my day was done, I'd go out and play seven or eight holes instead of fighting New York traffic. It was a help in two ways. It alleviated my driving woes and gave me a better perspective on the condition of the golf course. I think anyone connected with turf, should play golf. It presents a better feel for your work."

Since coming to New England, complete with her PhD, Pat has extended her projects into acid content of turf.

"I've made some interesting discoveries concerning soil acidity which seems to be high in Massachusetts," she disclosed. "When measuring acidity a neutral rating is 7. Many courses have turf with numbers showing exceptionally high amounts of acid, so we counter that with application of lime. The more lime, the sweeter the result."

Pat has worked with several superintendents in Massachusetts. They include Don Hearn at Weston; Ken Milenski, ITT Bolton; Tom Schofield, Wellesley; Kip Tyler, Salem; Sandy Sanderson, Juniper Hill; Chuck Lane, Framingham and Doug Johnson, Pine Brook.

"Each one of these gentlemen has been very cooperative with my projects," she said. "They give me the right of way in digging up samples and offer any assistance that

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NEXT MEETING

Monday, September 13, 1982
Andover Country Club
Andover, Ma.

10 am - Directors meeting
10:45 am - Regular meeting, Educational Program - lunch to follow
Golf - team of tour blind draw
Host Superintendent -
Tony DeBettencourt

Tony is in his third year at Andover C.C. as superintendent. Prior, he was assistant superintendent at Vesper C.C. in Tyngsboro, under the watchful eye of Bert Frederick. Since joining the association Tony has been very active and currently serves as the Educational chairman for GCSANE.



We all look forward to a fine day.

Directions - From Boston - Rt. 128 to 93 to 495N. Exit 41A. Go to lights take a right, then first right (Canterberry St.) to club.

Important - Please make a reservation by Sept. 10. Call Tony at 475-6638.

Three Heads Better Than One

The golf course superintendent, the clubhouse manager, the home professional - three diversified professions that become closely related when they're plunked in the middle of the country club's operational arrangement.

How's that relationship going these days?

"It's still getting along without too many hitches," Brae Burn's Bob Grant disclosed recently. "The rest of the country seems dedicated to promoting a general manager-type setup. But, for the most part, New England remains happy with the three department-head operation, proving that it can work without bringing a fourth party into the picture."

Ironically, Grant finds himself in a rare-for-this-section-of-the-country general managerial operation. He runs the show at Brae Burn but admits that he's still very much involved in his first vocational love of the golf course superintendent.

For an understandable reason, the clubhouse manager often winds up as the odd man out in the country club triumvirate.

"That's because the immediate interests of the superintendent and golf professional revolve around the condition of the course," Grant explained. "The super's main function is to provide members with acceptable playing conditions. The pro is in daily contact with the members and invariably the condition of the course becomes a topic of their conversations. Therefore, the super and pro have a common bond."

Because the clubhouse manager is sometimes isolated from the activity on the course, he usually works by his lonesome in tending to the social needs of the member. However, this doesn't mean he cares less about the way the ball's lying in the fairway or how the greens are putting.

"The increase in tournament play on private courses has brought the clubhouse manager and superintendent closer together," Grant viewed. "Theirs is slowly evolving into a common ground because they have to work together in tournament situations."

Grant believes that any friction among the three department heads finds its roots in job definition.

"This is where problems in the working relationship of the three surface," he told. "Realistically, the superintendent is responsible to the green and grounds committee - the pro is responsible to the golf committee and the clubhouse manager answers to the house committee. When either of these factions cross over the other's boundaries, disorder hits the fan."

Therefore, job definition and delegation of authority in particular areas are all important in the quest for a smooth operation.

"Once in a while one or the other department heads attempts to assume responsibility for his counterpart's job," Grant continued. "The pro will try to overrule the super when the course has been closed because of unplayable conditions or the clubhouse manager attempts to dictate the starting times of a tournament in order to arrange his eating schedule. That's when cooperation, rather than lack of communication, is needed to avoid the conflict."

That cooperation is slowly surfacing, as evidenced by joint-meetings of the separate associations housing the business needs of the three professions and an easing of

the tension caused by the stir to create a general manager operation in New England.

"There's no doubt in my mind that the clubhouse managers feel they are most qualified to run the whole show," Grant advised. "This has been proven around the rest of the country where the general manager concept is on the upswing with the clubhouse managers as its instigators."

However, the department-head method prevalent here is improving to the point where combining the three under one authority is seldom discussed. Of course, one of the roadblocks is expense. When you add a general manager, you add another salary and most economics can't cushion that shock."

So, the relationship among the golf course superintendent, the clubhouse manager and home professional is on the upswing. It simply boils down to each faction sticking to its responsibilities and working in unison with the other when it's necessary. The three can and are living together - and it's becoming a happy arrangement.

GERRY FINN

To be voted on as New Members

Arthur Silva of Belmont Country Club, Belmont, Ma.
Gary Dulmaine of Westborough Country Club, Westborough, Ma.
Franklyn B. Chaffee of Wayland Country Club, Wayland, Ma.

Congratulations to the following new members

Richard W. Caughey of Meadowbrook Golf Club
Andrew L. St. Pierre of Ould Newbury Golf Club

might facilitate my work. Sometimes, I get in the way of their daily schedule but they give me the run of the course. It's just great."

Pat also noted the cooperation and encouragement offered by Dr. Joseph Troll at the University of Massachusetts.

"Joe has been on my side from the start of this thing," she remarked. "Now, what I'd really like in that area is some kind of financial resources to get the turf research really rolling. The extension gives me the time and I'm grateful for it. However, the project could be upgraded with funds to complement the physical input."

The golf course superintendent, then, should be aware and appreciative of the work Pat Vittum is doing for the cause of turning over the turf in his favor.

"Sure, but it works both ways," Pat concluded, "I can't say enough for the work the super puts into his job. I never knew how many decisions he has to make in a single day, decisions that play a big part in making the difference between an enjoyable and less enjoyable round for the golfer. This is an education in itself."

Pat Vittum, She's the golf course superintendent's favorite "lady bug." Turf research has come a long way because of dedicated professionals like her.

GERRY FINN

PRESIDENT

Brian Cowan CGCS
Robins Way
Harwich, Mass 02645
Home Phone 432-9041
Office Phone 945-9230
Club Affiliation
Eastward Ho

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Donald Hearn CGCS
4 Topeka Rd.
Chelmsford, Mass 01824
Home Phone 258-6709
Office Phone 894-5906
Club Affiliation
Weston Golf Club

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

David Barber CGCS
145 Dedham St.
Canton, Mass. 02021
Home Phone 828-7266
Office Phone 234-2533
Club Affiliation
Blue Hills C.C.

SECRETARY

Richard C. Zepp
27 Fowler Rd.
Northbridge, Mass. 01534
Home Phone 234-8490
Office Phone 234-2533
Club Affiliation
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TREASURER

Pete Coste CGCS
121 Granite St.
Medfield, Mass. 02052
Home Phone 359-7247
Office Phone 566-0240
Club Affiliation
The Country Club

TRUSTEE

Tom Schofield CGCS
290 North Rd.
Sudbury, Mass. 01776
Home Phone 443-3712
Office Phone 235-7333
Club Affiliation
Wellesley C.C.

TRUSTEE

Paul Miller
173 Salem St.
Swampscott, Mass 01907
Home Phone 581-2808
Office Phone 595-3107
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TRUSTEE

Stephen A. Chivavoroli Jr.
100 Airport Dr.
Worcester, Mass. 01602
Home Phone 752-6031
Office Phone 791-5373
Club Affiliation
Tatnuak C.C.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN

Robert Johnston CGCS
128 Wilbraham Rd.
Hamden, Mass 01036
Home Phone 566-3075
Office Phone 566-3096
Club Affiliation
Hamden C.C.

July meeting at Dedham

What a great day and crowd for golf. The golf course was in fine condition despite all of the early summer rains. The new team of two champions are Dick Duggan of Maynard and Paul Jamrog of Unicorn. They had a net 13 under par 57 to nip Steve Murphy of Gannon G.C. and Doug Johnson of Pine Brook by one shot. Third place in a match



A foursome of fun. (L-R) Jimmy Diorio of Manchester GC, Norm Mucclarone of Woodland GC, Ronny Kirkman of Needham GC and host Bobby Mucclarone of Dedham C.P.G.C.

DIVOT DRIFT - We had new champions in the team of two event at Dedham. Dick Duggan and Paul Jamrog dethroned the two time defending champs Kenny Mooridian and Gary Lucini. This was the first time in three years that Mooridian and Lucini have tasted defeat. Gary didn't seem to mind until the chopping team of Steve Murphy and myself beat them for second place. He couldn't believe that he could get beat by a couple of mat beaters. Oh well Gary, there's always next year.... What a fine job Paul Johnson of Ferncroft did for the LPGA Boston Five Classic. Everyone had nothing but praise for the condition of the golf course.... Larry Bunn, former superintendent at Blue Hill and Salesman for R.F. Morse is now with Turf Products Corp. of Worcester. Congratulations to Larry and best of luck.... Don Hearn of the Weston Golf Club and vice president of GCSANE is running for Director of the GCSAA. It has been a number of years since anyone from GCSANE has run for election in the GCSAA. The election will be at the convention in Atlanta in February. We all wish Don the best of luck.... One face that was hard to recognize at Dedham was that of Ron Kirkman of the Needham Golf Club. Ronny has lost about 40 lbs. He must be in training for either a title fight with Sugar Ray Leonard or for running the Boston Marathon... Thanks to Mike Hannigan of Lakeshore for his presentation at Dedham as part of the educational program.... After all kinds of publicity "Give me a six" McKoan was a no show at Dedham. An unconfirmed report has filtered in that he has quit the game of golf for tennis.... Finally, our thanks to Bobby Mucclarone and the staff at Dedham for a wonderful day.

of cards went to defending champions Ken Mooridian of Hopedale and Gary Luccini of Franklin. The gross prize went to Brian Cowan of Eastward Ho and Bob St. Thomas of Hyannisport with a 70. In the sales division for the third year in a row it was Steve Butler of Larchmont and Larry Bunn of TPC.



Golf Chairman Steve Murphy congratulating Bob St. Thomas and Brian Cowan (hat on for obvious reasons).

Important Notice

Dear Member:

The By-laws Committee is recommending a change in a membership by-law.

The present by-law, Page 8, Article IV, Section 5, Item 1 states:

Any regular member's assistant employed at a golf course that is under the direct supervision of a regular member shall have the right to become an assistant member, but shall not have the right to vote or to hold office. He shall pay such initiation fee and annual dues as established by the association. The regular member shall be responsible for the conduct and all indebtedness incurred by any member in his immediate employ.

The proposed by-law would state:

Any member's assistant employed at a golf course that is under the direct supervision of a member shall have the right to become an assistant member, but shall not have the right to vote or to hold office. He shall pay such initiation fee and annual dues as established by the association. The member shall be responsible for the conduct and all indebtedness incurred by any assistant member in his immediate employ.

The intent of this by-law change is to allow both a superintendent and his assistant to join the association without the assistant having to wait as long as three years before being eligible for membership. The present by-law makes no provision for this.

By-laws Committee

Stephen Chiavaroli
Thomas Schofield

Arthur Washburn
Donald Hearn, Chairman

GOLF CHAIRMAN
Stephen M. Murphy
75 Woodland Ave.
Lynn, Mass. 01904
Home Phone 592-2554
Office Phone 592-8238
Club Affiliation
The Cannon G.C.

EDUCATIONAL CHAIRMAN
Antone DeBettencourt
7 Country Club Ln.
Merrimack, N.H. 03054
Home Phone 503-424-5380
Office Phone 475-6638
Club Affiliation
Andover C.C.

NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN
Douglas W. Johnson, CGCS
50 Newton St.
Weston, Mass. 02193
Home Phone 894-7377
Office Phone 893-8264
Club Affiliation
Pine Brook C.C.

PAST PRESIDENT
Ronald Kirkman
25 Green St.
Needham, Mass 02192
Home Phone 444-8412
Office Phone 444-5548
Club Affiliation
Needham Golf Club

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Golf Course Superintendents Association
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.



DOUGLAS JOHNSON
Newsletter Chairman
50 Newton St.
Weston, MA 02193
Home Phone 894-7377
Office Phone 893-8264
Club Affiliation
Pine Brook C.C.

PETE COSTE
Business Manager

GERRY FINN
Contributing Editor

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DOUGLAS JOHNSON
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Weston, MA 02193

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