

Joe's Honor - Just Super

As the song goes, "Happiness is a thing called Joe!" "Sure, I'm happy," Dr. Joseph Troll beamed after learning it was off to Atlanta and acceptance of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Distinguished Service Award. "When I heard about it I was higher than a kite. I'm very pleased ... and appreciative."

Actually, the honor comes as no surprise. Joe Troll has been a friend and benefactor of the golf course superintendent ever since his emergence in the turf field. A full professor in the department of plant and soil sciences at the University of Massachusetts, Joe has been the lifeline between the start and fulfillment of many a superintendent's career.

"I'm proud of my guys," Joe gushed. "Here at UMass, we've been a leader in the field. Some of my students hate me while they're here but most meet me later on and confess that all the hard work was worth it. We (UMass) have more Class A supers on the job than any other school in the country. I just hope I've had some input in that outstanding record."

The latter is an understatement. Joe's in his 26th year at UMass and never has a notion to start counting the days. He's an institution in the golf course superintendent's profession.

Although there are a few strays who enter other vocational avenues, most of Joe's students go into the golf course grooming business. In fact, he's aware of some of its pitfalls and says so.

"I've always contended that the superintendent has one of the toughest jobs there is," he explained. "Therefore, sometimes I try to talk certain people out of trying it. I'm only thinking of their welfare because it takes a solid person to take on a superintendent's work load."



Dr. Troll receiving plaque for Distinguished Service Award from GCSAA president Jim Wylie.

Joe emphasizes business management and communications in his UMass classes.

"Those are two attributes that are hallmarks of a successful super," he told. "A super has to sell himself. There's no one there to do it. What the member sees on the course is the result of what the super puts into conditioning it. I really am amazed at how well some of them do their jobs."

Dr. Troll's association with the superintendent doesn't begin and end at the in-school academic level. As director of the University of Massachusetts Turf Conference, Joe is in constant touch with supers all over New England and the country, for that matter. Many of his featured lecturers are former students, coming back to the old prof to strut their stuff.

"The conference really is a blueplate special for everyone in the turf industry," Joe remarked. "It is an on-going educational boom and continues to be popular with the superintendent. At least, the supers seem to come out in droves whenever it goes on the educational schedule."

"I recall one session several years ago. We put it on during three days of intense ice storms. I couldn't believe my eyes when people started showing up. We had 500 over three days. Even Canadian members came down. And some of them had to stay another three days before travel was safe enough for them to get back home!"

Over the years, Joe has brought some of the turf world's finest minds to the conference, as well as some of the most entertaining speakers for the event's banquet. He even goes overseas for his expertise. Among seminar leaders gracing the conference have been English golfing figures Fred Hawtree and John Campbell.

"We bring them in from anywhere and everywhere,"

continued on page 2

NEXT MEETING

MARCH 21, 1983
Franklin Country Club
Franklin, Mass.

HOST - Gary Luccini
Directors meeting - 10am
Regular Meeting - 11am
Lunch

Educational Program -
Buddy Young from Country Club Enterprises.
THE RULES OF GOLF.
Pat Vittum from the Waltham Field Station.
INSECT UPDATE.

DIRECTIONS - From Rt. 495 take King St. exit. Follow to Rt. 140. Take right, club will be on the right approx. 2 miles.



It Could Happen to You

If you are a golf course superintendent reading this, don't give it the once-over and toss it into the trash pile because garbage, it isn't.

"Superintendents, who think pesticide regulations are for someone else and ensuing charges from the state Pesticide Board can't happen to them, should think again," Ian Oppenheim warns. "In fact, a result of such charges could mean the loss of a superintendent's job."

That's a strong lead-in but necessary. According to Oppenheim, a Halifax attorney who has an encyclopedic knowledge of pesticide regulations and their ramifications, superintendents might be playing with fire in their every day use of chemicals for the cause of repairing and refurbishing turf.

Oppenheim was the guest educational speaker at the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association annual meeting, not overly attended by members because of inclement weather. However, those on hand marveled at his grasp of the pesticide problem. "We went into overtime during the informal question and answer period," notes NEGCSA president Brian Cowan.

There are many coalition groups, using the "rational approach to pesticides' use" as their rallying call for more stringent and meaningful regulations. Two hearings are scheduled in March, hearings that could produce new laws designed to protect the population from any and all after-effects allegedly stemming from chemically-based turf maintenance.

For example, there is one prospective regulation that would prohibit the use of pesticides in an area that's accessible to children. Another would require pesticide applications to provide an application schedule to those residents whose land abuts the area to be treated.

"Those are only two on the agenda," Oppenheim told. "That's why it's important that superintendents attend those hearings — if not to oppose proposals, to become aware of how they would affect them. The hearings are tentative, so interested parties might do well to check

with the Department of Food and Agriculture to get their dates and sites."

Oppenheim stresses the social-economic position of the country club in the critical situation.

"We're dealing with the masses," he said. "There are still people out there who think golf is played only by the rich. They look at the greening of the golf course as an offshoot of luxurious living, so they aren't willing to risk the incidence of a supposed health hazard for the sake of having others chase a little white ball around a stretch of pesticide-treated land."

More than anything, though, Oppenheim's message to superintendents and country clubs is to have an awareness of pesticide regulations and the consequences of being found guilty of violations.

"At this point, the fines for violations are \$50 for each separate offense," he disclosed. "However, they could add up to an appreciable sum, perhaps in the area of \$2,500. The board isn't interested in just who applies the pesticides, either. They draw a correlation between the superintendent and his employer. That's where the loss of jobs could surface."

The pesticide problem, then, is an important part of the superintendent's educational arsenal. Its solution is found in a genuine effort to be cognizant of the regulations by all members of the profession. The old saw, "it couldn't happen to me," must be abandoned and replaced by an awareness second only to expert knowledge of the subject.

"This is a challenge for the supers," Oppenheim concluded. "It's up to them to get interested in the situation and abide by the rules. As I see it, involvement in the making of and adherence to pesticide regulations is mandatory for anyone who applies chemicals in turf maintenance. They can pay attention now or pay for lack of attention later."

Well put.

Gerry Finn



A FAMILIAR SCENE - Salem's Kip Tyler had more adventures in the woods than Robin Hood did in Sherwood Forest. His playing partner for all practice rounds prior to the GCSAA tournament was Paul Miller, who had to spot the Kipster a few golf balls to finish the round.

Important Date to Remember

April 11, 1983

Meeting at New Seabury

Golf meeting

more info in next newsletter

Troll *continued from page 1*

Joe quipped, "Just as long as they have something interesting and worthwhile to say. We know no boundaries. I don't think any ever were established."

In his spare time, Joe also manages to maintain a rewarding association with the NEGCSA. He attends many meetings, banging the drums for turf research and continuing educational endeavors from his boys. If there is something pertaining to advancement in the golf course conditioning process, you can be sure Joe's had a hand in some segment of it.

Therefore, the Distinguished Service Award is well-deserved. Happiness absolutely is a guy named Joe and the superintendent's profession extends a warm and glad hand to its long-time friend for achieving it. Joe Troll. He's in that hard-to-attain "one and only" category. Well done, friend.

Gerry Finn

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Editor's Note

The search for a name for our newsletter has been halted for the time being. The board of directors has decided that our first step will be to investigate the possibility of a new format. Anyone with any ideas or opinion drop me a note. Also I wish to thank Paul Miller and Don Hearn for writing an article for the newsletter for 1982. 2 out of 130 superintendents is not a very good batting average. I'm sure many more of you must have something to say. Again, drop something in the mail to me and we'll put it in.

Divot Drift

..... GCSANE had a good showing for the golf tournament at Myrtle Beach as well as the show in Atlanta. Frank Lamphier does one heck of a job running the golf tournament and should be congratulated. The show in Atlanta was also a first class operation. Every year it gets better. A fine job by Jim McLaughlin, Zahid Iqbal and the entire GCSAA staff Pete "the helicopter" Coste showed why practice doesn't make perfect when he teed it up at Myrtle. The poor guy had a net set up in his cellar and had practiced hitting balls into it every night for two hours. Then when tournament time rolled around took the gas. I won't mention any names, but he got clubbed by an eighteen handicapper without giving any shots When Tony "The Nail" DeBettencourt gathered the booby prize at the golf tournament it brought back memories of last years winner, who oddly enough was Tony's roommate this year The Mass. Turf Conference in Springfield was again a great success. Fine job by Joe Troll.

Hearn Elected

Don Hearn of the Weston Golf Club was elected to the position of director of the GCSAA. The election took place at the International Conference and Show in Atlanta on February 24, 1983. GCSANE is very proud of Don and wishes him congratulations and good luck. We all know that Don will do a fine job and will represent us equally as well.

GCSANE at Myrtle Beach

We had 14 participants in the GCSAA golf Tournament this year. The tournament was a two day affair with one round each at Myrtle Beach National and Arcadian Shores. The first day was wet but both courses were in great shape for the field of 250. We had 3 winners from our association. Paul Miller of Tedesco won third gross in the black flight, Steve Murphy of The Larry Gannon Club won 4th new in the red flight and yours truly, Doug Johnson won 2nd gross in the blue flight. Below is a listing of our participants with their respective (in some cases) scores.

Paul Miller 78-79 157	Tom Schofield 102-84 186
Steve Chiavoroli 77-86 163	Joe Rybka 109-79 188
Bob Connolly 88-80 168	Bert Frederick 91-99 190
Steve Murphy 85-87 172	Kip Tyler 90-100 190
Doug Johnson 85-92 177	Dave Clement 94-102 196
Dave Barber 94-83 177	Don Hearn 91-Injured
Pete Coste 87-97 184	Tony DeBettencourt 107-111 218



Photos By Ron Kirkman, Needham GC



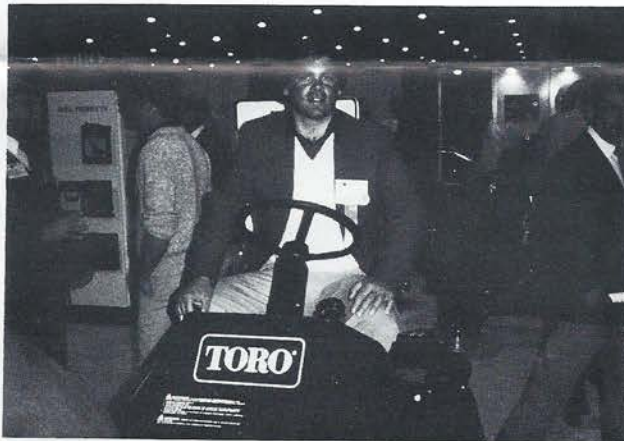
54th International Turfgrass Conference and Show Atlanta, Georgia



TALKING TURF - (L-R) Frank Adams of Wianno, Charlie Gardner of Oyster Harbor and Jack Nugnes of Dunfey's.



BREAK TIME - (L-R) Sally Miller, Paul Miller, Carolyn Murphy, Steve Murphy under the watchful eye of Bob Brown, Sawtelle Bros.



Test Drive - Doug Johnson of Pine Brook

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