

Another Hit for "Joltin' Joe"

Chalk up another hit for "Joltin' Joe." No, not DiMaggio - the one, the only Joltin' Joe.... Dr. Joseph Troll.

Joe's at it again, as always, in the best interest of the golf course superintendent. His name will be added to the scholarship fund which supports continuing education in turf-related subjects. From here on in, it will be called The Troll-Dickinson Fund.

Originally, the endeavor honored the philosophical input of Dr. Lawrence Dickinson and it succeeded in the effort to encourage outstanding students to enter the turf field. "And stay there," Dr. Troll quipped.

Since its inception in 1968, the fund has awarded some 35 scholarships. Thus, it has been an important link between higher education and the golf course superintendent profession. It has also been on-going, but because of only one man - Dr. Troll.

"Hey, if it weren't for Joe Troll, who knows where the scholarship fund would be today?" New England Golf Course Superintendents Association president Don Hearn remarked. "To be frank, he is the fund. He's its biggest booster and contributor. Having it named after him is something we should have done years ago."

Although stressing that the change has no intent to detract from Dr. Dickinson's impact on the fund, Hearn added that it was in need of identification update.

"This ties the generations together," Hearn explained. "Certainly, there are those of us who relate to Professor Dickinson and those who are more familiar with Dr. Troll. It was a natural course to follow and the association backs it 100 percent."

The fact is, Dr. Troll accepts the association with the fund and Dr. Dickinson with some reluctance. As everyone knows, Joe doesn't need or aspire to any ego trips to enhance his creditability with the superintendent or the turf field. That's built-in and understood.

Dr. Troll is anticipating retiring from his position as professor in the department of plant and soil sciences at the University of Massachusetts in August. Therefore, he will add the scholarship fund to his growing list of stepped-up projects.

"I really didn't want this to happen," Joe told. "Believe me, it was not my doing. But you people (superintendents) more or less said that it was something that has to be done. I just hope it adds to the overall effect the fund was intended to generate - improvement and advancement in the turf field."

Joe will be joined on a scholarship fund committee by two former NEGCSA presidents - Tony Caranci and Dean Robertson. The three will redraft the trust agreement, make it nice and legal-like and let Joe take over (a mere formality since he has been the fund for several years).

Actually, Joe's involvement in the field of education



Annual Meeting

January 21, 1984 (MONDAY)

Franklin Country Club

Franklin, Mass.

Directors' Meeting -	11:00 a.m.
Lunch -	12 noon
Annual Meeting -	1 p.m.

Host -	Gary Luccini
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and input in the scholarship awarding process makes everything a natural move. But he plans changes in that area, too.

"It's only because this has become a major award," Joe explained. "In the past, I was a committee of one to select the recipients. Now, I think there should be an expansion of the process. Certainly, it should include personal interviews and the like."

Dr. Troll, of course, emphasizes that his goal is to make the scholarship fund self-sustaining - and he's virtually there.

Before he became the fund's central figure, it operated with Joe on the fringes. Awards were in the three to five hundred-dollar range and keeping it going was next to keeping the fund alive.

However, Joe came to the rescue through his directorship of the UMass Turf Conference. In fact, donations from that worthwhile venture have pumped up the fund's principal to \$50,000. With it has come an increase in award money and addition of a third recipient.

continued on page 2

Golf Course Superintendents Association

From the Editor

Being my last newsletter, I would like to thank Gerry Finn for working with me the last 3 years.

The newsletter chairmanship is like "doing time." You go so long and then you're paroled. It is both endless and thankless, a combination that leads to overstating the shortcomings of its office holder.

Those who are the most vocal about wanting to see change in the newsletter do nothing to help. It's time to contribute. Good Luck Mike and Mike.

Doug Johnson

December Meeting

Our thanks to Mike Hannigan and Brockton CC for hosting our December Meeting. Also our thanks to Ian Oppenheim for his presentation on pesticides.

No big changes planned for TCC

THE GROUNDWORK is already being laid at The Country Club for the 1988 U.S. Open, but any rumors you've heard about major changes in the renowned layout have been blown out of proportion.

It's true that Jack Nicklaus has inspected the course and suggested some changes, but it hasn't been etched in stone that his Golden Bear Enterprises will get the contract. There will be changes, but they'll hardly be noticeable unless you're extremely familiar with the course.

Also at the Brookline course, new greens superintendent Bill Spence is getting ready to set up shop. Spence comes to The Country Club highly recommended from the Kansas City C.C.

How highly recommended, you ask? Well, there was a group of people sitting around the pro shop one day this fall when the phone rang. The caller asked if he could be connected with greens chairman because he wanted to recommend Spence. The caller? Someone named Tom Watson. Spence got the job.

It will be sort of a homecoming for Spence. His wife is a Lexington native and he did his college study at UMass.

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Mass Golf Assn. executive director Dick Haskell reported in from the MGA's palace in Weston. "Plans are being made for the Spring Conference, March 2 at the Newton Marriot," Haskell said. "The major point that we'll be stressing is the new slope handicap system and we're now setting up seminars around the state for different clubs to help them implement the system."

Courses already set on the MGA tournament schedule are Myopia for the State Amateur, Brae Burn for the U.S. Open Qualifying and Wellesley for the 75th Mass. Open.

In conjunction with the State Open's Diamond anniversary, the MGA is hoping to have the venerable Gene Sarazen act as the honorary chairman. The event will mark the 50th anniversary of Sarazen's Mass. Open crown won in 1935 at Oak Hill.

Credit Boston Herald
Dec. 9, 1984
Jack O'Leary



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Congratulations to Bill Spence. Good Luck.

New Member

Congratulations to Brad Guillerme of Furnace Brook.

Joltin' Joe *continued from page 1*

Obviously, all this is because of Dr. Troll.

"I don't know about that," Joe offered. "Anyway, my ultimate goal is to see the fund hit the \$100,000 mark. That means doubling the present amount and getting the awards up to \$1,500 - maybe even \$2,000. Why not shoot for the moon? Anything in-between is only dead space."

The Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund, then, is on the rise - all the way to the moon, as Joe Troll tells it. And the new title at the top of its golf course superintendent-tainted purpose is the icing on an outstanding career's cake.

So, chalk up another hit for Joltin' Joe. Why not? And let's make it a home run while we're at it. Right? You got it.

GERRY FINN

PRESIDENT
Donald E. Hearn, CGCS
4 Topeka Rd.
Chelmsford, MA 01824
Home Phone 256-8709
Office Phone 894-5906
Club Affiliation
Weston Golf Club

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
David Barber, CGCS
145 Dedham St.
Canton, MA 02021
Home Phone 828-7266
Office Phone 828-6540
Club Affiliation
Blue Hill C.C.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Pierre Coste, CGCS
121 Granite St.
Medfield, MA 02052
Home Phone 359-7247
Office Phone 586-0240
Club Affiliation
The Country Club

SECRETARY
Richard C. Zepp, CGCS
27 Fowler Rd.
Northbridge, MA 01534
Home Phone 234-8490
Office Phone 234-2533
Club Affiliation
Whitinsville Golf Club

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

TRUSTEE
Paul Miller
173 Salem St.
Swampscott, MA 01907
Home Phone 581-2808
Office Phone 791-5373
Club Affiliation
Tedesco C.C.

TRUSTEE
Stephen A. Chiavaroli, CGCS
100 Airport Dr.
Worcester, MA 01602
Home Phone 752-0031
Office Phone 791-5373
Club Affiliation
Tatnuck C.C.

TRUSTEE
Mark J. Kimm
P.O. Box 480
Mashpee, MA 02649
Home Phone 477-3516
Office Phone 477-0919
Club Affiliation
C.C. of New Seabury

Winter Injury

With winter kill, soil temperature is the cause. This is a low temperature injury to the lower crown. Irrigation in the spring helps keep new roots coming. Cut a longitudinal section through the crown to see if the tissue is brown inside.

Adjustments for cold hardening off occur at from 55 to 65 degrees F. The following temperature ranges have been correlated with turfgrass growth:

60 - 75° F	- Optimum shoot growth;
45 - 60° F	- Shoot growth declines;
35 - 45° F	- Plants harden;
32 - 35° F	- Winter dormancy;
25 - minus 15° F	- Low temperature kill.

Hardening off is accompanied by increases in carbohydrate reserves and a decrease in tissue hydration to 60-65 percent.

Plant hardiness zones and maps show the location of differences throughout the United States.

Differences in low temperature kill are often difficult to explain. A green may be OK, while the approach is dead. In this case, the green may be Pennncross, which is hardy, and the approach, Poa annua, which is not.

The following differences in cultivar tolerance have been noted:

	OK at Soil Temperature
Pennncross bentgrass	- 10
Toronto bentgrass	- 10
Poa trivialis	- 10
Merion bluegrass	- 5
Poa annua	- 5
Pennlawn fine fescue	0
Common perennial ryegrass	5

In general, the bents and Poa trivialis have excellent cold tolerance.

The question still remains - at what soil temperature can winter kill be expected? There is no one answer. It depends on:

- plant hardiness level;
- degree of hydration;
- rate of freezing - more rapid, more kill;
- rate of thawing - more rapid, more kill;
- number of freeze and thaw cycles;
- length of time frozen.

Of all these, the hydration level is the most important.

What can be done? Check the following:

- provide rapid surface drainage;
- provide adequate subsurface drainage;
- cultivation.

Soils thaw from underneath where warm soil is located. An ice cover will trap water underneath.

Grass may die from increase in hydration. As crown hydration increases, hardiness declines in late winter and early spring (March). In low spots, where water stands, low temperatures kill occurs because of water standing.

Prevent low temperature kill by checking the following:

- use moderate nitrogen;
- use high potassium;
- cut higher;
- eliminate thatch;
- avoid excessive irrigation.

For bluegrasses, use more potassium to balance increased nitrogen - 2 to 1 or 3 to 2. For bentgrasses, the nutrition is not as important because these grasses have more inherent tolerance to cold.

For bluegrasses, cutting heights of from one and one half to two inches is usually good. More carbohydrates accumulate and there is more biomass. Crowns are protected because of greater insulation.

The principles are the same for warm season grasses. More winter kill is observed at low mowing heights.

More winter kill is often observed where herbicides are used - particularly the pre-emergence type.

Thatch raises the crown above the soil. Thatch also holds water and increases the hydration level.

Leave aeration holes open to prevent low temperature kill.

Never let an ice sheet stay on the alfalfa more than twenty days for it dies of suffocation. Injury from ice on turf is not due to suffocation, but to the probability of increased hydration. May remove ice and get winter kill from crown hydration. Bentgrasses, bluegrasses and Poa annua have been kept in ice for as long as seventy five days with no injury. At ninety days, Poa annua dies. Bentgrass and bluegrass have survived up to 150 days in ice.

Traffic on frozen slush injures turf. This pushes water into the crown area and increases hydration so that low temperature kill is realized. Snow mobiles cause no injury to the turf as long as there is one inch of snow cover. Snow mobiles on frozen slush cause increased low temperature injury.

Another type of winter injury is caused by winter desiccation. During dry, open winters on sandy soils, turf injury may be significant. This type of injury is of less importance than low temperature kill.

Grasses that are more salt tolerant are also more tolerant of desiccation. For example, Seaside bentgrass. Thus, cultivar variation does exist.

Higher rates of nitrogen in the fall favor winter desiccation injury.

The presence of thatch increases the likelihood of winter desiccation.

Open aeration holes favor the development of winter desiccation injury.

Covers protect turf from adverse winter conditions. Fungicides help prevent winter diseases.

Soil warming also prevents injury from low temperatures.

Desiccation affects the crown meristematic tissue. The crown must survive if the plant is to live. Cells in the lower crown are larger. When they are killed, roots are dead. Tops may be alive. If roots are not regenerated quickly, tops will also die.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN

John Streeter, CGCS
86 Fashion Dr.
Warwick, RI 02886
Home Phone (401) 738-8386
Office Phone (401) 943-0059
Club Affiliation
The Alpine C.C.

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Stephen M. Murphy
4 Juniper Rd.
Lynnfield, MA 01940
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Club Affiliation
Larry Gannon Municipal G.C.

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279 Torrey St.
Brockton, MA 02401
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NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN

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

PAST PRESIDENT

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

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Golf Course Architect
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NEWSLETTER

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.
THOMAS SCHOFIELD
Business Manager
GERRY FINN
Contributing Editor

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DOUGLAS JOHNSON
50 Newton St.
Weston, MA 02193

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