



THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.



May - 1985

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 6

GCSANE Regular Meeting-Wollaston G.C.

May 12

News Deadline for June Newsletter

June 3

GCSANE Superintendent-Greens Chairman
Tournament - Woodland C.C.

June 14

Guy Tedesco Scholarship Tournament
Country Club of New Seabury

June 24

Club Manager-Superintendent Tournament
Rhode Island C.C.

June 26

U-Mass. Turf Research Field Day
So. Deerfield, Mass.

July 8

GCSANE Regular Meeting-
Dedham Golf & Polo Club

"The Newsletter's" contributing editor, Gerry Finn, has scored again in the annual golf writing competition sponsored by McGregor and administered by the Golf Writers Association of America.

Finn took down third place in the column-writing division with a piece, entitled, "Jan Stephenson Puts Pretty Foot in Pretty Mouth."

The column had special meaning to the New England golf course superintendent's scene since its focal point was the Tara-Ferncroft Country Club and Jan's claim that it was "too short and too easy". Much of the material was gathered at Tara-Ferncroft and featured reaction by its superintendent, Paul Johnson.

This was the sixth time Gerry Finn has captured honors in the annual contest which draws entries from all of the country's major newspapers. It appeared in the Springfield Republican.

Getting to "Know" Right to Know Law Tough

Some people claim the Right to Know Law was passed just to test the powers of confusion.

In fact, there are some skeptics who insist the term, "right to Know", is a misnomer. They sass semi-obscenities like: "The bill should be written and headed, 'just try and get to know what right to know means and you're back to square one'."

Well, there's some truth there. After all, seven phone calls in search of the clue to unravel the mystery of the Right to Know Law qualifies as confusion and frustration - especially when they're futile.

However, there is some firm matter to the law which was passed last November and scheduled for implementation in April - and that was a month ago, as we all know.

Its intent is clear. That is to police and control the use of toxic and hazardous chemicals in the workplace. And, since the workplace is the superintendent's name for the golf course, it is important that the profession be aware of the law's impact on it.

Some of the law's declarations follow:

"Employers must provide employees with information on the identity and effects of toxic and hazardous chemicals in the workplace." In other words, golf course maintenance personnel must be cognizant of which chemicals they're coming in contact with.

"Community residents have the right to know about the chemical and hazardous substances that are being used in their community that may have an adverse effect on their health." Which means private citizens may file written requests with town or city governments seeking explanation of chemical use when they believe public health of safety is being endangered.

That's the law in a nutshell. But apparently, the nutshell hasn't been cracked yet.

Admittedly, there are requirements laid on employers (superintendents) and manufacturers of toxic materials as to listing of them as a visual aid to employees and the like.

There is no need to elucidate on those aspects of the law, because the process requires official explanation.

The best and only way to clear the picture for superintendents and other persons in a responsible position is to get closer to the source of the law.

"That would be workshops being set up all over the state," says Phillip Hall, a respected member of the board of directors of the Hampden County Farm Bureau. "I'd advise that anyone connected with the practice of using toxic materials owes it to himself to attend one of these sessions."

Hall also contends that the law shapes up as a complicated one which will leave most people confused until clear-cut methods of implementing it and prosecuting violators are made known.

"It's going to be a real problem," he adds. "It could be that it's devised to beef up the licensing process, to make sure anyone dispensing materials knows what he or she is doing

"Right now, I'd say it would be an advantage to be able to whip out a license if any questions along those lines arise. As for how penalties will be set up, it's anyone's guess. I imagine it will start with fines and go on from there."

Hall stresses attendance at workshops, though.

"You know (sic), you can read laws over and over again but not get their full meaning unless there's somebody there to expound on details," he concludes.

"Getting to Know"- cont. on page 5-

Golf Course Superintendents Association



Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund - Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

—The Super Speaks Out—

(Welcome to The Super Speaks Out - a monthly feature which offers the golf course superintendent a forum to express his views on issues and topics relating to his profession.)

This month's question: In light of the golf course damage wrought by golfers, themselves - which are the areas where a little more attentive behavior on the part of golfers would help improve playing conditions?

Scott Reynolds, Charles River Country Club: "There are two things that really stand out in my mind. First, the way some golfers run wild in golf cars and second, why many of them can't remember to repair ball marks on the green.

"I've seen examples of reckless driving that boggles my mind. We put up signs and sometimes they even run them down. I don't think any of this is intentional, though. It's simply a case of being careless and unaware of how much damage a golf car can do.

"As for ball marks, they never seem to cease to exist. We had an extremely bad year for them in 1984. What can we do? We use every means to remind golfers to fix them. I really don't know what the answer is, other than to say we just have to live with them."

Neil Wendell, Wannamoisett Country Club: "No doubt about it. Not fixing ball marks is No. 1 on my hate parade.

"Funny thing, I relate some of the ball mark problem to the golf car since using the cars often is a distraction. In the old days, players would take a path to their ball that would make them walk by their ball mark. That way they'd be reminded

"The Super Speaks"—con't. on page 5—



"Presentee" and "Presenter"
Sherwood Moore (L) and Dr. Joseph Troll

Massachusetts Turf Conference

Over 1,600 people attended the 54th Massachusetts Turf Conference and 9th Industrial Show this past March 5-7 at the Springfield Civic Center, according to Dr. Joe Troll. About half of the attenders were golf course superintendents, the remainder being landscapers, park supers, cemetery managers and turf students, he said. The industrial show in the Exhibit Hall housed approximately 150 booths, an all-time high.

The turf conference actually opened with a pesticide seminar on Monday, March 4th. Dr. Pat Vittum from the Suburban Experiment Station in Waltham, Mass. conducted the one day class which applied credit towards pesticide recertification. About 350 people attended the course.

The conference was dedicated to Sherwood A. Moore CGCS, superintendent at the Captains Club, Brewster, Mass. Dr. Troll, praising him said, "There is no one more deserving than Sherwood Moore." He is a graduate of Stockbridge, has been a golf course superintendent since 1939, and a certified golf course superintendent since the inception of the GCSAA program. He has been superintendent of several clubs, most notably the Hollywood Golf Club, Deal, N.J., Woodway Country Club, Darien, Conn. and the Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, N.Y. where he hosted

two U.S. Opens and the inaugural U.S. Senior Open. He has been an attender and speaker at conferences, an author for golf magazines, and has conducted research and experiments at courses where he has worked. Moore has served as president of the New Jersey G.C.S.A., the Metropolitan G.C.S.A. and also as president of the G.C.S.A.A. in 1962.

His awards have included the G.C.S.A.A. Distinguished Service Award in 1982 and, most recently, the New York State Turfgrass Association's Citation of Merit.

Dr. Troll described Moore as "tireless" in his fights against Poa annua. He also said that he (Moore) has taken more students and/or assistants and turned them out as superintendents than anyone in the country. Troll said that one of Moore's greatest attributes is "his character. He is a true gentleman."

MICHAEL F. NAGLE

U Mass Nematode Survey

Soil samples taken from golf greens in New Hampshire and Massachusetts during a 1984 study by Drs. Pat Vittum, Stan Swier and Rob Wick yielded high counts of some nematode genera. The three met recently to discuss unanswered questions about turf nematodes, such as the number of

U Mass—con't. on page 3—

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Donald E. Hearn, CGCS
4 Topeka Rd.
Chelmsford, MA 01824
Home Phone 256-8709
Office Phone 894-5906
Club Affiliation
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Office Phone 234-2533
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Office Phone 235-2487
Club Affiliation
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Home Phone 581-2808
Office Phone 595-3107
Club Affiliation
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Worcester, MA 01602
Home Phone 752-0031
Office Phone 791-5373
Club Affiliation
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Mark J. Klimm
P.O. Box 480
Mashpee, MA 02649
Home Phone 477-3516
Office Phone 477-0919
Club Affiliation
C.C. of New Seabury

Golf Course Superintendents Association

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—U Mass-con't. from page 2

nematodes it takes to cause visible damage to turf, how population of nematodes interact with other stresses (disease pressure, draught, compaction, etc.), and applications of nematicides.

There is concern among the three scientists about incomplete information pertaining to nematodes and nematicides. Some superintendents could use a controlling agent when it may not be necessary because the "threshold level", that varies with turf condition and nematode genera has not been established.

Drs. Vittum, Wick and Swier concluded that a nematode survey in the Northeast would be necessary to help answer questions about these insects. Samples would be collected bi-weekly from a few selected sites from early April through late October for at least three years.

Because this is a major undertaking, involving the processing of many samples during the year to obtain a reliable data base, purchase of a centrifuge to extract nematodes from the samples and the hiring of a summer assistant, money is needed. \$4,000.00 is the minimum required for 1985 to help the program get off the ground. The eight Golf Course Superintendents Associations in the Northeast, which would benefit directly by this survey, are being solicited for support.

The G.C.S.A. of New England, at its February Board of Directors meeting, voted to donate \$400.00 to help fund this project. Hopefully, the other G.C.S.A.'s will follow suit and assist in supporting this worthwhile program.

MICHAEL F. NAGLE

■ Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers quarterback, asked if he'd want a son of his to play a dangerous sport like football: "Not if he can swing a golf club." ■

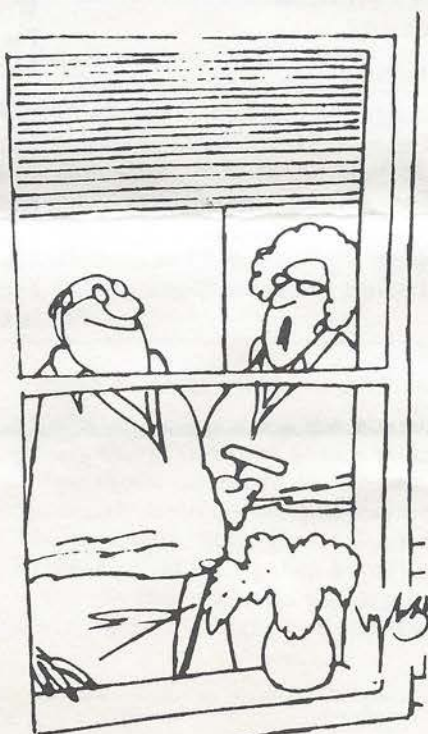
Sports Illustrated

... and so there ain't nothing more to write about, and I am rotten glad of it, because if I'd a knowed what a trouble it was to make a book I wouldn't a tackled it and I ain't agoing to no more ...

—MARK TWAIN

—Chip Shots—

... A request from the editor to all retired members - we would like to know what you've been doing since you put away the dew whippers and seven gangs! Does PMAS really preserve ones vigor in retirement? Drop me a note; we'd love to hear from you ... has anyone called Steve Chiavarli's office lately? A very pleasant surprise is that your message will be taken by his answering machine, and, according to our Golf Director, will be promptly answered! ... while on the subject of golf, Charlie Passios had better get a club handicap very soon, Murph has you on his hit list ... and speaking of Chairman Murphy - are you running for re-election? 3 western meeting sites, 3 joint meetings, all in what he says is his "last year"! ... got a real nice note from Dick Blake the other day, by the time this newsletter is out he will have moved to the Quail Ridge C.C. in Boynton Beach, Florida; Best of Luck! ... a threat to the members I started this column off with: Dean R. & Leon St. have promised me pic's of those of you who don't respond in reasonable time ... Please note two new "Friends" on our back page ... I & E Supply, Inc. and Greenway Irrigation.



"Oh stop saying 'This is golf weather.' Any weather is golf weather to you."

A GOWFER'S TALE

Hae ye tried this game o' gowff
Takes ye away frae hame and howff
It's such a grand relaxing life
And leaves behind the nagging wife.

Noo Geordie Cameron sic a man is he
Changes his mood when he steps on the tee
There's only one thing he can think
Hoo many yin putts he can sink
But as Burns did often quote
There's many a slip 'tween cup and throat.

Geordies oot for level fowers
Somebody speaks and Geordie glowers
He hits his baw sae true and straight
Fower irons, then three putts, an eight!

Then he goes to the second tee
A short hole, hopin' for a three
Fluffs his first, an iron shot
Messes up a nice approach, twa putts
A fower, that's what he got

But oor Geordie, ye must admire
At this game he'll never tire
Three or fower holes o' much the same
Geordie begins to doot his game.

"Stubborn Dod" they ca' him noo
He's oot tae get an eagle two
Wi' desperate courage he does strive
Tae straighten oot his hookin' drive
But he finds it's all in vain
He marks his caird—an eight again.

Coming up tae halfway mark
Now he knows the game's nae lark
Before he does on the tenth tee
He marks his caird at fifty-three.

Then as he starts the second half
He's heard to give a hollow laugh
On this nine I must do better
I'll play by book and also letter.

But his game has gone alee
He gets a five instead of three
He's hooked, sliced, and lost his ball
Five, six, seven, but ne'er a twa.

Noo standin' on the eighteenth tee
He's oot tae get his missing three
His drive, straight, true, and doon the middle
He'll get his three withoot a fiddle.

His second a beauty, right on the pin
He thought, my God, it's going in
But Geordie's hit it far too fast
There it goes now running past
Hi! Someone shut that gate
Six putts, good gosh, another eight.

He leaves the course quite doonhearted
Into the clubhouse he's departed
Then he gives a gleeful grin
Six, seven, eight, this time in Gin.

SPUD THOMPSON, Gullane Golf Club.

A Super's Prayer

Oh Lord,
Please forgive the "complainer"
because he probably fouled up
everything at work again today too!

Oh Lord,
Please give me the same talent to
know as much about grass as does the
chairman, the member, the golfer, and
the professional!!

WHO'S ON TOP? THE TURF MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY . . .

1 THE GREEN CHAIRMAN

Leaps tall buildings in a single bound
Is more powerful than a locomotive
Is faster than a speeding bullet
Walks on water
Gives policy to God

2 THE CLUB MANAGER

Leaps short buildings in a single bound
Is more powerful than a switch engine
Is just as fast as a speeding bullet
Walks on water if sea is calm
Talks to God

3 THE SUPERINTENDENT

Leaps short buildings with a running start and favorable winds
Is almost as powerful as a switch engine
Is faster than a speeding BB
Walks on water in an indoor swimming pool
Talks with God if special permission is granted

4 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Barely clears a quonset hut
Loses tug of war with locomotive
Can fire a speeding bullet
Swims well
Is occasionally addressed by God

5 THE EXTENSION TURF SPECIALIST

Makes high marks on the walls when trying to leap tall buildings
Is run over by locomotives
Can sometimes handle a gun without inflicting self-injury
Talks to animals

6 GOLF PRO

Runs into buildings
Recognizes locomotives two out of three times
Is not issued ammunition
Can stay afloat with a life jacket
Talks to walls

7 TURF SALESMAN

Falls over doorstep when trying to enter building
Says, "Look at the choo-choo!"
Wets self with a water pistol
Plays in mud puddles
Mumbles to himself

8 SUPERINTENDENT'S WIFE

Lifts buildings and walks under them
Kicks locomotives off the tracks
Catches speeding bullets in teeth and eats them
Freezes water with a single glance
Is God.

CREDIT—BILL SMART

—“The Super”—con’t. from page 2

it was there and it would be repaired.
 “Now, everything is short-cut. In fact, there are some clubs who expect the superintendent to fix them.

“My other bugaboo is failure to replace divots. Again, I think the haste attached to use of the golf car may have something to do with this problem. What hurts most, though, is golfers are only hurting themselves when they fail to give a little attention to maintenance aids. It makes scoring more difficult and down the road it becomes a financial drain on the budget.”

Dick Zepp, Whitinsville Golf Club:
 “The ball mark situation is my biggest headache, but I suppose I’m lucky in another way because our golfers pretty much follow the ground rules for golf car use.

“However, the ball mark dilemma is another story and I can’t understand why golfers insist on turning their backs on it.

“We try everything under the sun to keep the problem from magnifying into getting out of hand - starting with the opening letter and running through signs and whatever.

“I don’t think a lot of golfers realize they’re doing it. Maybe it’s because they get so engrossed in the most important part of the game which is putting.

“But, then, how come players usually repair them when they’re in their putting line? And how come every golfer seems to come back to the 19th hole saying something like, ‘hey, I fixed my ball marks and every other one around it?’ If that were the case, we’d never have ball marks, right? But, unfortunately, it isn’t.”

—GERRY FINN

“JUSTICE”

*The Superintendent stood at the Golden Gate
 His head was bent and low.*

*He merely asked the man of fate
 Which way he ought to go.*

*“What have you done”, St. Pete said
 “To seek admittance here?”*

*“I ran a golf course on the earth
 For many and many a year.”*

*St. Peter opened wide the gate
 And gently pressed the bell.*

*“Come in”, he said, “And choose your harp”
 “You’ve had your share of hell.”*



The 5th Green at Wollaston



**Wollaston Golf Club
 Milton, Mass.**

May 6-GCSANE Meeting - Wollaston G.C.

10:00 AM Directors Meeting

11:00 AM Regular Meeting

12:00 Noon Buffet Lunch

1:00 PM Golf-Shot Gun Start

Cost \$25.00/Person - Includes lunch, cart & Tournament Fee
 (Cocktails will be available in the bar following golf)

RESERVATIONS REQUESTED

John Coffey - 698-7361

Superintendent Profile: John Coffey has been involved w/ the Wollaston Golf Club for over 20 years, beginning as a caddy at what is now the Presidents Golf Club. He served his placement study at the old Wollaston course and graduated from Stockbridge in 1965. He has been the superintendent at the club since 1968. In April of 1975, the new Wollaston club at its present location with John still at the helm. He is a member of the GCSANE and the GCSAA. John lives in Braintree with his wife Cathy and their 3 children.

Directions to Club: From the north or south; Rte. 128 to Exit 67N (28 North). After going through one traffic light, Wollaston G.C. is appx. 1 mile on the left.

—Getting to “Know” - con’t. from front page

“There’s room in the law for a number of questions not covered in reading it. So, getting things from the horse’s mouth certainly applies in this instance.”

For those, interested in obtaining a copy of the law, rules, regulations and “material” substance list, you may write: The Secretary of State, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State House Book Store, Room 116, State House, Boston, MA 02133. Cost of the right to know package, postage included, is \$4.75.

But the above address tells it all. It just keeps running over and over - not too much unlike the Right to Know Law.

—GERRY FINN

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.

GOLF CHAIRMAN

Stephen M. Murphy
 4 Juniper Rd.
 Lynnfield, MA 01940
 Home Phone 334-4836
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 279 Torrey St.
 Brockton, MA 02401
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Michael F. Nagle
 51 Lincoln Ave.
 Holden, MA 01520
 Home Phone 829-3995
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PAST PRESIDENT

Brian Cowan, CGCS
 Robins Way
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