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

August 1987

-NEXT MEETING-

Monday September 14, 1987 The Orchards G.C. South Hadley

9:30 Directors Meeting 10:30 Regular Meeting and educational

Team of 2 - Supt. Championship Educational - Aerial Photography Mr. Alistair Catto

Directions to Club: Mass Pike to exit 5 Chicoppee - After toll, bear right and follow approx. 1/2 mile to rte. 33 North. Stay on 33N for 4 1/2 miles to rte. 116 North and follow 116N for 2.2 miles and entrance to club on right.

Host Superintendent - Paul Jamrog Reservations Required - (413) 536-4195

Divot Drift

Are you doing your rain dance? We understand Kip Tyler has contacted the good witches of Salem to help end the drought.

The first round of the club championship was completed at beautiful Belmont C.C. Weren't those Velvet greens gorgeous! The entire golf course was in magnificent condition. First round leader in the superintendents championship is Charlie Passios from Hyannisport Club with a gross 77. In the seniors division Mel O'Kelly, retired, Marshfield C.C. with a gross 81. The commercial division finds Ron Ryan from Sawtelle Brot. out in front with a sizzling 76. Our golf chairman reminds us that besides the championships there will be at least four other divisions which will be net scores. The refresh-

Continued on page 2

Puttin' on the Dog at Pleasant Valley

Paul Veshi has a word for it—the correct word.

When the PGA Tour steps off at Pleasant Valley, the



playing pros are going to see the popular course at its playing, creative and cosmetic best. It's what Paul calls, "puttin' on the dog."

Which is another way of saying the golf course superintendent has gone beyond the call of duty (and then some) to produce playing conditions the likes of what his members seldom experience.

"That's what tournaments are all about," Veshi explained in a rare free moment the other week. "We know it, the members know it, the public knows it. We prime the golf course for special events, whether it's the Bank of Boston Classic or the club member-guest invitational. There are times when nothing less than the best possible conditions are acceptable."

And that's the way it should be—in the special world of Paul Veshi and supers who work under the demands of hosting tournaments that are showcase events.

Veshi seems to revel in those demands.

Last year, he took over the superintendent's chores at Pleasant Valley June 9 or 12 weeks before the Bank of Boston Classic.

"I didn't have time to think about how the work crew, the members or anyone else would receive me after a kind of abrupt change in command," he recalled. "The only thing on my mind was to give the Tour players and PV members the kind of conditions in keeping with the standards of the past. It wasn't up to its potential and it was my job to get the course back where it belonged."

Recent history relates that Veshi and his goals meshed just in time for a successful 1986 Bank of Boston Classic.

Paul labels his part in giving the pros a perfect playground one of the great juggling acts of his career. Others insist it was a matter of his expertise exceeding everyone's expectations.

"Come on," he declined invitation to stardom. "What happened was a rejuvenation in work attitude. My guys took pride in what they did and that approach overcame a lot of problems some people thought I might have getting the right kind of effort from them. They wanted to be identified with the playing conditions, so they may have upgraded their input. Regardless, it worked out just fine."

Veshi spearheading the Pleasant Valley return to commendable playing conditions had an appealing aside or local boy makes good additive.

After all, Paul is a Worcester native and once worked as a laborer at Pleasant Valley during that time in his life when he sought career direction.

That was 1975. The following year he took the short turf program at stockbridge, took time for some placement work at International and straight work-it-out stints at Innis Arden and Greenwich Country Clubs before deciding to go the full route or earn a four-year degree at the University of Massachusetts.

Continued on page 2

-Date To Remember-

56th ANNUAL TURFGRASS FIELD DAY

University of Rhode Island Wednesday, August 26, 1987 Agricultural Experimental Station Kingston, Rhode Island 02881 Contact: Dr. C. Richard Skogley

Schedule of Events:

9:00-12:00 noon 12:00-1:00 1:15-4:00 Registration & Demos Luncheon Barbecue Tour of Research Plots

PUTTIN' ON THE DOG

Continued from page 1

Paul then became the assistant superintendent at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville in 1981. Two years later, he was elevated to the head post and remained there until he called Ted Mingolla to interview for the PV job last year.

And what a difference a change of venue made!

"Yeah, like going from 13,000 to 40,000 rounds a year," he compared the amount of play at Siwanoy and PV. "That's about tripling the load, but I was prepared for it. Besides, coming here was coming home. I also liked the idea of having the opportunity to prepare the course for a PGA Tour stop. It was like dangling a carrot in front of a rabbit."

Paul is very much at home at PV, though. However, some of the change still gets his eyes to popping.

"Just think," he laughed. "Here, we have double-shotgun tournaments on Mondays. Back where I came from (Siwanoy), we used to close the course on Mondays. It's sort of an upbeat thing for me."

The Bank of Boston Classic runs

through town and PV next month and Veshi looks forward to the visit—even though he'll be juggling again what with some of his crew working college studies and course grooming into their time schedules.

"We'll be knocking down the length of fairway grass and the cut on the greens," he said. "We'll be intensifying operations which is what we should be doing for this kind of event. We'll do everything to make all people associated with this place and the tournament proud of the golf course. My motto always has been, however good the condition it can always be better."

At Pleasant Valley, it will be, too. Paul Veshi will see to that. After all, he has an eye for the best because he's one of them.

GERRY FINN

DIVOT DRIFT Continued from page 1

ment wagon was driven by our host Art Silva and sponsored by Dennis Friel, Tom Irwin Co., Steve Butler, Larchmont Eng. and John Lenhart, Sawtelle Brot. It was a pleasure to see Manny Francis Sr. and Manny Jr. at Belmont. They were getting a few pointers from Art Silva and Bert Frederick.

It's good to see Mike Cornicelli, Turf Products Corp. back to work again after a brief bout with mononucleosis.

Bill Allison, president Francis Ouimet Caddy Scholarship Fund informed us that students employed on a golf course, clubhouse area and pro shop are eligible to be recipients if they meet the financial aid requirements.

Don Hearn, president GCSAA presented a check for \$2400 to the Massachusetts Special Olympics. This was done at the closing ceremonies of the LPGA Boston Five Classic at Tara Ferncroft C.C. Speaking of the Boston Five it was observed that Brian Silva, Golf Course Architect was giving chipping lessons to LPGA tour player Amy Alcott, after the third round.



People Magazine Photo: Oliver Stone, center with platoon buddies in 1967-68 and Tony DeBettencourt, superintendent Andover C.C. third from left, Tony served with Stone in Viet Nam. Stone wrote and directed the movie Platoon. Picture taken from Time and People magazine.

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 topics and issues relating to his profession.

This month's question: Away from the USGA Green Section Turf Advisory Service, a number of golf course superintendents and others provide the same kind of service. What do you think of this practice and the idea your club might engage the service?

Bob Dill, Hopedale Country Club: "When I first heard the question, I could think only of the friendly tips a super might get from a colleague. So it didn't bother me.

"However, when I realize that you're talking about other superintendents getting paid to offer me professional advice, the only reaction I have is 'unethical'.

"This is my first year in this area, so I have welcomed any form of nonsolicited advice I can get from supers who have courses in the vicinity. Hey, somebody's going to need help sometime. I don't care who he is.

"But, we are supposed to be professionals, hired on that basis and having a club seek professional turf services elsewhere is a slap in the face.

"It just so happens I once worked at a club where one of the members of the green committee took it on his own to have a commercial lawn service draw up a maintenance schedule for the superintendent who was me! I couldn't believe it.

"As it turned out, the schedule never materialized but it was evident that ethics and that committee member were miles apart.

"I've worked from the ground up in this profession, even cleaning latrines at one point. And I've gotten to the stage where I'm confident I can handle my job. My employer should have that same confidence in the decision to hire me."

Bob Mucciarone, Dedham Polo & Country Club: "What? Are you saying

another superintendent would be hired to do the job my club hired me to do?

"That's crazy. Don't get me wrong. I'm all for supers swapping ideas and theories. We do it all the time. But I wouldn't expect that any money would be involved. That's for the birds.

"Besides, I'm a firm believer in the Green Section services. I've always had a great relationship with the USGA. In fact, it's been a good friend of the golf course superintendent. The USGA's even known to have gone to bat for certain supers in getting equipment, things like that.

"But, come on. Having your club go to another superintendent for help and then have you follow his instructions is the same as saying your club has lost all faith in your ability.

"No way do I want another super solve the problems, if I have any, at my club. That's what I'm here for and everyone here should get that straight."

Frank Merchel, Indian Ridge Country Club: "I don't know. I'm a little bit on the fence about the question but only because I'd say it's up to the individual superintendent affected.

"There might be supers who would accept the situation of having their club hire another super to take over in a testy problem or whatever. We really can't speak for the whole profession.

"Personally, I think that kind of practice by a club would put its superintendent in a second-class citizen status. It would be a psychological blow to me just to think whoever's in charge of these things at my club questions my expertise.

"In the end, that's what it's all about. If your club has to go out of its own maintenance building to find somebody to solve a problem or set up a program, it makes everybody look pretty silly—the home superintendent for suffering from a lack of confidence from his members and the members for hiring someone in whom they have no confidence at all.

"In my books, this type of solutionfinding should be left with the USGA Green Section. One of the purposes of having a Green Section is to provide the same kind of services we're talking about.

"The USGA is there for that type of

work, I mean if there is still professionalism in our profession. My feeling remains firm. If I'm the professional in the matter of maintaining the golf course, let me maintain it."

GERRY FINN

GCSAA News

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) announced the "Challenge For Excellence" hole-in-one competition, sponsored by the GCSAA.

The "Challenge" will offer a prize of \$25,000 in the name of the first player to ace a specified par-3 hole during LPGA tour events.

The Boston Five Classic, July 16-19 was the debut event.

"We're very pleased that the GCSAA can participate in some of the LPGA's finest events in this manner," said Donald E. Hearn, CGCS, president of the Association. "This type of promotion wins for everybody because not only does the player receive prize money but the event charity and the GCSAA scholarship program benefit as well."

Should there be a hole-in-one on the designated hole at the Boston Five Classic, the player will receive \$12,500, the Massachusetts Special Olympics program \$7,500 and the GCSAA Scholarship Fund \$5,000. In the event no one hits the hole-in-one, GCSAA will contribute \$2,400 directly to the Massachusetts Special Olympics.

"The Ladies Professional Golf Association obviously realizes the importance of superintendents and their contribution to the game," said LPGA Commissioner John D. Laupheimer.

"Today's events are played under some of the best conditions possible, and the superintendent at each course always goes beyond the normal call of duty to be helpful and responsive. We are pleased to have this exciting and positive promotion on our Tour."

Future sites are being planned at this time for additional "Challenge For Excellence" competitions with the LPGA Tour.

Page 4

John Deere Tournament

Allendale Country Club in North Dartmouth was the site of last months inaugural John Deere-PGA Pro -Superintendent Championship. Thirty-Six PGA Clubs from Mass and New Hampshire sent teams of four golfers each. Consisting of the resident PGA Pro, the Superintendent, the Club President, and the Club Manager, 144 golfers anticipated in all with 36 professionals and 108 amateurs.

The winning team was selected by the team score. Essex County Club from Manchester, MA won the tournament

with a par 45. They will proceed to Florida to participate in the National Championship accompanied by a fifth teammate from Schmidt Golf and Turf. The Essex team consists of Pro - John Wells, Superintendent - Tom Brodeur, President - Pearce Coues, and Manager - Dana Bent.

First prize at the National Tournament in Florida will be a John Deere 856 Turf Mower-\$19,000 value. Second Prize will be a John Deere 305 Gang Mower-\$16,000 value. Third Prize will be an F935 Front Mower with 72" deck-\$12,000 value.



Essex team at awards ceremony. Besides going onto the national each team member won a power blower (\$300 value). L-R, Dennis Neslusan (Schmidt G&T), Tom Brodeur - Superintendent, John Wells - PGA Pro, Dana Bent - Manager, Pearce Coues - President.

-POSITION OPENINGS-

New England Golf Club Woonsocket, R.I.

Contact: Mr. Pat Fister Hale Irwin Golf Services, 745 Old Frontenac

Square, Suite 200 St. Louis, Missouri 63131 (314) 997-4333

Sable Oaks C.C. Portland, Maine

Contact: Arthur Nichols Project Manager (207) 883-2901 Milford C.C. Milford, MA

9 Holes including Condominiums, Good Salary, Benefits, Housing.

Contact: Dean Poillucci 178 Country Club Lane Milford, MA 01757 (617) 478-2594 (617) 473-6895

The Black Layer Problem on Greens

by Bruce Branham, Assistant Professor Paul Rieke, Professor J.M. Vargas, Professor

There have been an increasing number of reports from golf courses around the State of a black layer which forms below the soil surface on greens. In a worst case, those areas which develop a black layer can suffer significant turf loss. The turf research group at MSU has observed the problem on many golf courses and are beginning several research projects to determine more about the cause and cure for this problem.

At the present time, we have formed the following hypothesis on the development of the black layer. We are certain that the black layer is in an anaerobic state (no oxygen present - waterlogged) and this waterlogged condition can develop whenever the ground becomes saturated with water which displaces the oxygen in the soil and prevents normal gas exchange with the atmosphere. In many greens which are constructed according to the USGA greens mix and are predominantly sand, the formation of an anaerobic condition may seem contradictory because sandy soils normally have excellent drainage. However, where layers develop in a soil profile, these layers retard downward water movement and under certain conditions anaerobic areas may form.

It is our belief that the black layer forms when a layering problem causes an anaerobic condition following heavy rains or irrigation. Under anaerobic conditions an entirely different group of microorganisms become active. These organisms produce products quite different from anaerobic respiration. Gasses produced under anaerobic conditions include carbon monoxide (CO), methane (CH4), ammonia (NH3) and hydrogen sulfide

Continued on next page

BLACK LAYER continued

(H2S). Many of these anaerobic respiration products are toxic to plants. In particular H2S is the poisonous gas responsible for the deaths of over 1,500 people in Cameroon recently. The hydrogen sulfide produce by anaerobic organisms can react with metal ions such as iron or copper to form insoluble black precipitates. These metal sulfides are probably responsible for the color of the black layer. Indeed, the Black Sea derives its name from the production of vast quantities of these black metal sulfides. The precipitated materials seem to enhance the layering problem and thus once the black layer is formed it is very difficult to dry out.

What to Do

It is clear from our observations that once the black layer forms, it is difficult to destroy. Prevention of the formation of the black layer is therefore very desirable. Attempts should be made to alleviate or prevent the formation of any layers in the soil profile. Core cultivation is the best method to disrupt layers and improve downward water movement. Topdressing programs should be done correctly to prevent layering. Watering should be restricted to syringing to help dry out the black layer. In addition, because roots are usually killed by the gasses released in the black layer, the root system is so shallow that syringing is needed to maintain the turf. Our current research is aimed at developing treatments to disrupt the black layer and improve drainage. Wetting agents should be helpful in preventing the black layer from forming by improving water percolation. However once the black layer forms wetting agents would be of limited benefit.

We stress that the above explanation is only a hypothesis, but one we feel describes the current problem. Research is underway to prove or disprove this hypothesis.

Credit: Patch of Green 2/87

Sulfur and the Black Layer

by Paul Sartoretto, Ph.D.

We have been getting mixed signals from the agricultural colleges. First we were told by Dr. Goss at Washington Sate that SULFUR plays a role in the suppression of poa seed-heads when applied at relatively high rates. Then Dr. Joe Vargas, not quite sure that he was getting proper suppression of poa, was actually seeing overall improvement of turf from SULFUR applications—particularly in highly alkaline soils.

These reports were enough to get superintendents on a SULFUR kick. Sales of our flowable SULFUR soared. Suddenly, we have been getting sporadic reports from various parts of the country about a BLACK LAYER. It has been identified and described quite accurately as a scaling off of the soil to the point that air is not getting down to the root system and that an anaerobic condition prevails in which microbial action is producing toxic hydrogen sulfide. The hydrogen sulfide in turn quickly reacts with most of the salts forming black insoluble sulfides. This is especially true of iron. To complicate matters, the black iron sulfide can regenerate more hydrogen sulfide under acidic conditions.

Now the pendulum has swung far to the left in the other direction. The superintendent is being told to lay off of SUL-FUR in any form — no more sulfates, no more sulfur coated urea, no more elemental SULFUR, as if this will cure BLACK LAYER.

SULFUR is not the cause, but the lack of oxygen is responsible. A layering of soil which prevents precolation and aeriation, can be rectified by aerification. This is a quick fix that remedies the situation, as I found out on one Southern California course last summer. Only two or three

hundred square feet on three greens were involved. Within a week, aerification remedied the situation. Ironically, this course had not used our flowable SUL-FUR. But one can find sufficient SUL-FUR in the soil to accommodate the BLACK LAYER effect under anaerobic conditions.

Recent experiments reporting increased use of phosphates to help the roots to develop and grow out of this stress situation are encouraging. But this, I'm sure, must be accompanied by adequate aerification.

But where does all of this information leave us? How are we to correct high alkaline and saline soils without SULFUR? Impossible — the only adequate products proposed for this correction — are SULFUR products.

The age old remedies of sulfate of ammonia or gypsum — both of which are acidic sulfates — have been used extensively. More recently, carefully metered dilute sulfuric acid through the fertigation system, is receiving extensive testing. Finally — one pound rates of flowable SULFUR - which oxidizes to sulfuric acid eventually — has shown very promising results. Most important of all, these remedies work under aerobic conditions, but could backfire under anaerobic conditions.

Isn't it sensible to eliminate the real cause of BLACK LAYER? Excluding SULFUR products is not going to solve the problem, especially if one has an alkaline saline soil. Under this condition—the use of sulfur products is not only essential—but imperative.

Credit: The Bull Sheet 7/87

-NEW APPLICANTS-

Robert Piantedosi Regular member Oakley C.C. Christopher Ryan Associate member Rockport Golf Club

FINANCE CHAIRMAN
Douglas W. Johnson CGCS
50 Newton St.
Weston, MA 02193
Home Phone 894-7377
Office Phone 899-7913
Club Affiliation
Pine Brook C.C.

Please patronize FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Agway Inc. Greg Moore Rep. Box 507 Sterling, MA Fertilizer, Seed, Chemicals 800-225-CROP (MA) 617-422-7614

Baker Golf Cars 2283 Gar Highway Swansea, MA 02777 Yamaha Golf Cars 617-678-5693

*The Bordon Company Maynard, MA Tel: 617-897-2571 Sales Rep. Jack Borden Bulk Limestone Dealer

Boston Irrigation Company Dedham, MA John Ramey - Paul Kenyon 617-461-1560 Distributor of Irrigation Supplies and Accessories

C & J Lawnmower Serv. Inc. 188 Main Street Wilmington, MA 01887 Eric Oman - Sales Rep. 617-658-2022

The Clapper Company 1121 Washington Street Newton, MA 617-244-7900

Connecticut Silica Company Ledyard, Conn. Sand, White Silica for Traps Chemically Inert Topdressing Jim Sinlowski - 203-536-2618

*Geoffrey S. Cornish & Brian Silva Golf Course Architects Fiddlers Green, Amherst, MA 01002

Country Club Enterprises Club Car Golf Cars Tennis & Leisure Equip. P.O. Box 400 W. Falmouth, MA 02574 617-563-2284

C.S. Curran T.R.C. Products Oils & Greases 7 Linden Street Framingham, MA Chester Drake & Sons, Ins. 222 Walnut Street Framingham, MA 01701 Golf Course Construction 617-875-7929

Elanco Products Company Stephen C. Dolinak C-317-309 Greenwich Avenue Warwick, R.I. 02886 401-737-0175

Gold Star Sod Farms, Inc. Sod & Pine Bark Mulch Canterbury, N.H. 603-783-4717 Lexington, MA 617-861-1111

Greenway Irrigation Company Irrigation, Drainage, Wire Laying P.O. Box 8157 East Lynn, MA 01904 John Murphy 595-3010 Steve Murphy 598-6917

Hammond & Tilton, Inc. P.O. Box 30 Exit 35 off I95 Tel: (207) 453-7131 Contact: Gary Hammond

The Charles C. Hart Seed Co. Weathersfield. Conn. Bob Kennedy, Rep. Roy Sibley, Rep.

Holliston Sand Co. Inc. Lowland Street Holliston, MA 01746 Sand for Topdressing & Bunkers

I & E Supply Inc. Cranberry Highway (Rte. 28) W. Wareham, MA 02576 617-295-2362

International Golf Const. Co. Antonios Paganis, Rep. 5 Purcell Rd., Arlington, MA 02174 Golf Course Construction 617-648-2351 or 428-3022

*Tom Irwin, Inc. 11 B A St., Burlington, MA Jack Peterson Dennis Friel Phone: 617-938-1751 Wayne Ripley Larchmont Eng. & Irrig. Co. Larchmont Lane Lexington, MA 02173 617-862-2550

*Lesco Inc. 20005 Lake Road Rocky River, OH 44116 Rocky River, Rep. Mike Donahue, Rep. 800-321-5325

*Loft's Seed 20 Beck Road Arlington, MA 02174 Victoria Wallace, Rep.

The Magovern Co., Inc. 27 Lawnacre Road Windsor Locks, CT 06096 Tel.: 800-243-7718 or 203-623-2508

*D.L.-Maher Box 127, Concord Street N. Reading, MA 01864

Mobay Chemical Co. Gregory Pagano 50 Coburn Woods Nashua, N.H. 03063

R.F. Morse & Sons Inc. W. Wareham, MA 02576 617-295-1553 Larry Anshewitz, Rep. Jack Cronin, Rep. George Wise, Rep.

*Nardone Sand & Gravel Co. Inc. 37 Power Road Westford, MA 01886 617-692-8221 Specializing in Topdressing Sand

Nor-Am Chemical Co. Wilmington, Delaware David Sylvester, Rep. 203-828-8905

Norfolk Power Equip., Inc. 194 Main Street Norfolk, MA 02056 617-528-3120 Don Reynolds, Rep.

Old Fox Chemical Inc. Fertilizers-Seeds-Turf-Chemicals 66 Valley Street E. Providence, R.I. 02914 Old Fox Golf Course Div. Custom Applications, Spraying, Aeration, Top Dressing, Slice Seeding Full Line of Materials Weymouth, MA 02190 800-462-5990

Partac Golf Course Top—Dressing Kelsey Park Great Meadows, N.J. 07838 Jim Kelsey, 1-800-247-2326 Terry Synder, 617-966-1913 Greg Moore, 401-683-9496

Sawtelle Bros. 565 Humphrey Street Swampscott, MA 01907 617-599-4856

Schmidt Golf & Turf 2399 G.A.R. Highway (Rte. 6) N. Swansea, MA 02777 Tel.: (617) 379-0959 John Deere Tractors, Mowers, Aerifiers, Sprayers, etc.

Scotts Pro-Turf Div. Rep. Ed Wiacek 401-253-4284 Rep. Dave Schermerhorn 413-436-7889

Tuckahoe Turf Farms Inc. Exeter, R.I. Litchfield, N.H. West Suffield, CT 800-556-6985 Largest Producer of Penncross in New England Alan Anderson

*Turf Products Corp. 7 Coppage Drive Worcester, MA 01602 617-791-2091

*Turf Specialty Inc. 84 Merrimac Street Hooksett, N.H. 03106 Turf & Ornamental Supplies 603-485-7866 (collect) Ken Turner-Kevin Lyons-Bob Lake

Philip Wogan Golf Course Architect 17 Walker Road Topsfield, MA 01983

> *Contributors to the Troil-Dickinson Scholarship Fund



Return to: RONALD W. KIRKMAN 25 GREEN STREET NEEDHAM, MA 02192

FIRST CLASS

First Class Mail U.S. POSTAGE PAID Boston, MA Permit No. 52848

RONALD W. KIRKMAN Newsletter Editor

DOUG JOHNSON CGCS Associate Editor

THOMAS SCHOFIELD CGCS Business Manager

GERRY FINN Contributing Editor

