



# THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

file

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

June 1987

## —NEXT MEETING—

Monday July 6, 1987  
Belmont Country Club

9:30 Directors Meeting  
10:30 Regular Meeting  
11:30 Lunch

Directions to Club: 128 to Rte.  
2 east take Winter Street exit & bear  
right club is 1/4 mile on left.

Host Superintendent - Art Silva  
Reservations Required -  
(617) 484-5360

## Echoes From the Past

1960, March Newsletter - Suprenant Golf Course - now called International C.C., Bob Grant, superintendent. Greens are velvet bent and we cut 4 times a week at 1/4 of an inch. Total Nitrogen for the year is 4.6 lbs. Greens are topdressed twice a year. Fairways consist of Kentucky blue, Chewing fescue, Creeping fescue, Colonial bent and Rey grass. Due to watered fairways and a low cut of 7/8 of an inch we notice the bent grasses taking over. Fairways are cut two or three times per week. This was considered a high standard of maintenance. Bob has been at Brae Burn C.C. for the past 22 years, 15 as superintendent and the last 7 as general manager. I'll bet you readers would like to know what height the grass is cut now, wouldn't you? 1987, Ron Milenski, superintendent, International C.C. - Fairways cut 5 days a week at 7/16 of an inch and greens are cut 7 days a week at 1/8 of an inch. Today, this is also considered a high degree of maintenance.

## Patty Brings Refreshing Presence to Job

At first, money was the lure.

There was Patty Knaggs, plunk in the middle of 1978, pulling down six bucks an hour on a golf course — as a laborer.

If you were a political science major at Syracuse University, as was Patty at the time, who could ask for anything more from seasonal work?

However, that one season at the West Point Golf Course, next door to Patty's hometown of Cornwall on the Hudson, N.Y., did much to change her bead on a professional future.

"It took me about three days to decide that I'd never be happy working inside," said the assistant golf course superintendent at The Country Club. "Hmmm. That's less time than it takes me to decide if I like a guy after our first date."

Therefore, what better place to stake out a career in the outdoors than the golf course?

"Right," Patty concurred. "After I graduated from Syracuse I got serious about pursuing a career in golf. I couldn't play (she does now but admits she's no threat to Pat Bradley), so I inquired about getting started in the superintendent's field and I got lucky."

Brian Cowan, in fact, was that lucky strike. The Eastward Ho super, and one of our former illustrious leaders, hired Patty and took an interest in her desire to join the profession.

"You know, I got a lot of those 'no opening' responses from other courses before Brian hired me," Patty recalled.

"So, I was pleased when he turned out to be so supportive. He was so helpful. It really gave me a lot of encouragement.

"In fact, the people at Eastward Ho were so nice, the green chairman there offered to co-sign a loan I needed to attend turf school (Stockbridge). That was two weeks before classes started, when my student loan was held up. It finally came through, though, but it certainly was a wonderful gesture."

After two years at Eastward Ho and study at Stockbridge, where Dr. Joseph Troll became a source of strength to Patty in her quest to climb the professional ladder, she had her next stop at Mt. Kisco Country Club where head superintendent Fred Scheying supervised her job placement season and also helped steer her to better things.

Actually, Patty's first assistant's job was a challenge and some of the two years she spent at the Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield, New Jersey proved an awkward experience.

"Needless to say, there were some fish eyes when the crew learned I was not a man," Patty told. "The workers were a bunch of guys from Downtown Newark, but I learned some more about the job and sent out applications trying to better myself."

Patty hit the jackpot in 1985 when Bill Spence, just taking over at The Country Club as head superintendent, liked what he saw and learned about Patty in an interview that lasted more

Continued on page 2

## -Dates To Remember-

June 25, 1987

### Turf Research Field Day

University of Massachusetts  
Turfgrass research Center  
South Deerfield, MA  
CONTACT: Dr. Rich Cooper  
Dept. of Plant & Soil Sciences  
Stockbridge Hall  
Amherst, MA 01003  
Phone: 413-545-2353

## PATTY

Continued from page 1

than four hours.

"We had a number of applicants for the assistant's job," Bill said. "But there was no question that Patty was the one for it. Frankly, Patty's the first woman assistant I've ever had. It's worked out just great. Her performance has far exceeded my expectations."

Patty, who is 32 and still single ("it would be very difficult to be a wife, mother and super"), makes it clear that her decision to enter a field where men are the dominant management species does not represent an equal rights statement.

"I'm not here to prove that women are better than men at this job or any job," she emphasized. "I have enough to do without thinking of that stuff. I'm in this to do the job, not to prove a woman can do it."

And Patty really can do the job Spence knew she could. In fact, with the demands on Bill's time increasing in that area where preparations for TCC hosting the 1988 U.S. Open move to the top of his priority list, Patty has assumed a lot of his day-to-day responsibilities.

"We usually meet to set up the daily work schedule," Spence describes the arrangement, "then Patty takes over and supervises the crew. I'm 100 percent confident things will get done with

Patty running the show. Would I recommend her for a head superintendent's job? Without even stopping to think about it."

Patty, who was accepted by two other clubs as an assistant super the same year she was hired at TCC, is very happy there. She's hired a couple of girls for the work crew and everything's worked out just the way she would have dreamt they would.

She even plays golf with some of the guys ("I've won a couple of six-packs and lost a couple") and has earned the respect and admiration of everyone at the club.

Patty is, then, what she appears to be — a refreshing presence in the superintendent's profession. Nice, nice success story.

GERRY FINN

## Divot Drift

Need I mention the weather, which has defied every attempt to resemble spring? By the latter part of April, most golf courses were finally cleaned up after the ruthless winter, except for those still under water. We all remember April 28, when we received 7 to 18 inches of snow. This heavy wet stuff crumbled huge tree limbs like tooth-picks and the cleaning process started all over again. As we head through mid-May the grass is still not growing and the winter injury is still visible. It has been heartening, nevertheless, to witness the calm, positive professional behavior of my colleagues as they strive to re-gain control of their golf courses.

Jeff Carlson had the welcome mat out for us at Ocean Edge and as the typical golf course superintendent, he had us playing from the back tees and the pin placements were in, shall we say, testy areas? Sometimes, Jeff confuses the GCSANE with the NEPGA. This day, May 4, was 39 degrees with a cold,

raw east wind, drizzle and then rain. One brave group lasted 14 holes and the rest barely made 9 holes. Because there were no completed rounds, names were drawn to represent the GCSANE in the Guy Tedesco memorial tournament to be held at New Seabury C.C. the winners were; Don Levangie, Leroy Allen, Kevin Osgood, Steve Murphy and Bob Brown. The gross winners of the 9 hole tournament were; Russ Bragdon, 34 - Dave Farina, 36 - Jim Amor, 37 - Tom Colombo, 37 - Dave Barber, 37 and Jeff Carlson, 38. How about those for gross scores on a day that was neither fit for man nor beast.

The golf tournament at Belmont C.C. will be for the championship. Best Bet - Champion, Tom Colombo; Seniors champ, Mel O'Kelly; Sales rep, Ron Ryan.

Make your own foresome. The final round for the championship will be held at Duxbury Yatch Club in august. Jim O'Kelly, golf chairman will arrange all foresomes and flights according to scores from belmont.

## -POSTION OPENINGS-

### Brookmeadow C.C.

Assistant for 1987 and take over as Superintendent in 1988

Contact: Mr. Leroy Allen after 4 pm - (617) 828-0018

### Cedar Hill G.C.

Contact: Mr. Philip Farrington  
Town Manager, Town Hall, Stoughton,  
MA 02072 - (617) 341-1300

### Assistant Greens Superintendent Manchester C.C., Manchester, VT

Looking for Assistant Greens Superintendent for balance of 1987 season. Good performance in 1987 will assure head Superintendents job beginning January, 1988.

Contact: Mr. G. Cantini, Chairman -  
Green Comm. Box 2003, Manchester,  
Vermont 05255 with resume.

#### PRESIDENT

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145 Dedham St.  
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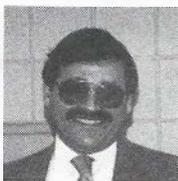
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Worcester, MA 01602  
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## President's Message

On May 12 the Board of Directors of the GCSA of New England joined the New England PGA in a dinner meeting at the Colonial Hilton restaurant. The purpose of this meeting was to share ideas for a better understanding of both associations. A variety of topics were discussed and it was agreed that *communication* was the most important.



A subject which received much discussion was the setting up of the golf course for Pro Ams. Many professionals will bring the average club member (18 HCP), so the question was asked, why set up the course so difficult? Communicate with your pro and discuss setting up the course for this particular tournament. Another way to communicate would be to play a round of golf with your pro.

A Fall seminar is planned that will join the superintendent and golf professional in the hope of improving relations between the two associations.

*Dave Barber*

### —NEW APPLICANTS—

Dave Robinson  
Associate member  
The Captains Golf Course  
Roger Brink  
Assistant  
Worcester C.C.

### —NEW MEMBERS—

Gregory Carr reg. member  
George Wright G.C.  
Robert Dill reg. member  
Hopedale C.C.  
Mark Fuller reg. member  
Quechee Club, Quechee, Vermont  
Edward Amor Jr. reg. member  
Far Corner G.C.  
Robert Garrity assistant member  
Heritage Hill G.C.

## In Search of the Perfect Strain

Dear Ron,

I have commenced a six month sabbatic leave during which time I will be collecting grasses from throughout the Northeast for use in our grass improvement program. We have increased our effort in recent years in attempting to develop better grasses. I am particularly interested in the bentgrasses and fine fescues but don't overlook other species when I'm collecting.

Perhaps you could spread the word, via your newsletter, that I will be roaming the region. I am particularly interested in grasses that I might find growing under low fertility conditions - areas that have been mounded or grazed for years but fertilized lightly or not at all.

I also collect from dry sites. If any of the Supers are aware of patches of grasses on their courses, or elsewhere, that have done well with little attention, perhaps they could drop me a line (Plant Sciences Department, Woodward Hall, URI, Kingston RI 02881) or call and leave a message with a secretary (401-792-2570).

I hope to visit many courses throughout New England during the next few months and would greatly appreciate any leads.

Very best wishes

Sincerely,

C.R. Skogley  
Professor Turfgrass Management

## GCSAA News

Donald E. Hearn, CGCS, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), has announced the winners of the organization's first-ever Golf Writers award.

The annual contest is open to members of the Golf Writers Association of America. The purposes of the GCSAA competition include recogni-

zing and encouraging excellence in golf journalism and developing the golfing public's understanding of the professional role of the golf course superintendent in the game and industry.

Bob Carney, senior editor of *Golf Digest*, was named the first-place winner for his article "Take My Golf Courses, Please." He will receive a cash prize of \$750.

The second-place prize of \$500 goes to Bucky Albers for his story entitled, "Maintenance Crew Real Champions at NCR South."

The third-place award goes to Larry Kieffer for his article, "Killing Pine Trees... With Kindness."

Carney's article appeared in the March 1986 issue of *Golf Digest*; Albers in *The Journal Herald* (Dayton, Ohio); and Kieffer's, in the May 1986 issue of *Florida Golfweek*.

The prize money and plaques will be presented to the writers by President Hearn during a GCSAA hospitality event June 18 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott, during the U.S. OPEN Golf Championship.

Entries were independently judged on the basis of journalistic merit by faculty members of the University of Kansas School of Journalism.

## Political Waste

At last week's meeting of the town council in Brookline, it was agreed to hire an independent environmental study (for \$3,500) to investigate the feasibility of parking on Putterham Meadows during the US Open. Talk about wasting money. If the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America isn't good enough to figure out where to park automobiles on a golf course, no group has the credentials to work the details out. The GCSAA has made major strides in the last 20 years on the use of chemicals, insecticides and fertilizers in the environment. They were tuned to the environment before it became the "in" thing.

—Paul Harber's Golf Column  
*Boston Globe*  
May 10, 1987

# Synopsis of the Massachusetts Water Management Act - Chapter 21G

Enacted in December 1985, the Water Management Act (WMA) results in major changes in the way surface water and groundwater withdrawals are to be regulated. All existing and future water withdrawals exceeding an average of 100,000 gallons per day for any quarter during a year are now controlled by two mechanisms: registration and permitting. A brief summary follows.

## Registration of Existing Withdrawals

Owners of facilities which withdraw surface or groundwater exceeding an average of 100,000 gallons per day for any quarter during the period from January 1, 1981 through December 31, 1985 must file a registration form with the Massachusetts DEQE by January 1, 1988 in order to reserve the right to continue the withdrawal. Renewal registration forms will be required every 10 years. Forms will be available from DEQE by May 1, 1987. The minimum content of the forms will include:

- use of withdrawn water
- location of the withdrawal
- identification of the water source
- volume of the withdrawal and seasonal variations if they exist
- conservation measures (existing and to be implemented)
- discharge point(s) of the water
- metering of the withdrawal

## Permitting of Withdrawals Established After January 1, 1986

Owners of water supplies developed after January 1, 1986, and which have withdrawals that exceed a daily average of 100,000 gallons during any quarter of the year, will be required to file a permit for approval to continue or initiate such withdrawals. The permitting process will begin in 1988. The regulations for implementing the permit process have yet to be developed by DEQE; however, the Act specified the following minimum information to be filed:

- impact on hydrologically interconnected water sources
- anticipated seasonal withdrawals
- reasonable maintenance of water used, land values and investments that rely on previously permitted withdrawals
- proposed water use
- town or city water management plans
- DEQE/State water resources management plans
- conservation measures
- reasonable protection of public drinking water quality and supplies, wastewater treatment capacity, waste assimilation capacity, groundwater recharge areas, navigation, hydropower resources, water-based recreation, wetland habitat, fish and wildlife, agriculture and floodplains
- metering of the withdrawals

## Status of Regulations

After a series of public hearings, DEQE regulations on registration of existing withdrawals (310 CMR 36.00) were submitted and approved by the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission on March 9, 1987. DEQE will be developing regulations for the permitting process specified in the Act during the remaining months of 1987.

The goal of the Water Management Act is to better manage aquifer and river basins in Massachusetts. It will affect the day to day operation and future planning for all users exceeding the statutory threshold.

If you are affected by this new regulatory program, it is imperative that you know and comply with its requirements.

Dave Barber  
President

## 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: With the rising interest in and implementation of the triplex mowing system, what is your reaction to it and how has it affected maintenance at your club?*

**Tony Caranci, Ledgemont**

**Country Club:** "I tell you how it is with the triplex theory here. I go to the green committee with all the facts and figures. The cost factor takes hold of the conversation and everybody shrugs their shoulders and walks away.

"There's no doubt that triplex mowing is a plus in the maintenance of the golf course. However, the healthy cost of it serves as the deciding factor in how much the member golfer really wants it.

"We all know that golfers are demanding better playing conditions all the time. They see the fancy layouts on television and relate their course conditions to the ones they're watching. Thank heavens they've also been educated to the fact that everything's tied together by the amount of money they want to spend on the course.

"Here at Ledgemont, the triplex system, which is a drain on finances and time it takes to utilize it, poses other problems.

"I have so many golfers on the course, and a lot under shotgun start formats, that it would be tough to squeeze in triplex mowing. I cut the fairways every day. That's how they want it and I give them what they want.

"Another hitch in triplex for me is the added help it would take. Getting labor here is critical. No one answers my ads for help, so how could I be expected to take on a triplex system without additional workers? I mean, you just can't expect a man to get up at daybreak and pay him peanuts.

"It boils down to demand of the member. Sure, triplex mowing is great, beautiful but it's another demand to be met only if the members want to pay for it."

**Michael Legere, Holden Hills & Heritage Country Clubs:**

"You're talking to a public course operation setup which means we operate on a not too high budget. But...

"We're getting into triplex mowing gradually. Right now at Holden, we do four par three holes and two small par fours. I'm all for it, but we can't plunge into it like some of the bigger clubs.

"We're in an area with a lot of private clubs, so we try to keep up with them as best we can. It's hard but we're trying. In fact, we're into collars and approach areas with triplex.

"Funny thing, though, I find that I don't need a larger budget with a triplex operation. I mow three, sometimes four times a week and haven't had any trouble along time or labor lines.

"Of course, we cut corners, too. Right now, we're reconstructing an older machine for triplex method work and we'll probably look around for other opportunities to keep the cost factor down.

"Regardless, I'm convinced triplex is the way to go. It's here and we have to go with it."

**Leon St. Pierre, Longmeadow Country Club:** "Triplex mowing is just another example of the up-graded attitude of manufacturers to come through with equipment that makes for better conditions.

"We've been using triplex methods for several years now, mostly on our

front approaches. The concept is exciting, its values show up in appearance and it has its improvement effects on the overall condition of the grass.

"Of course, the members are the ones faced with the expenditures to insure that our conditioning programs are falling in step with the rest of the business. From what I can see they are very excited about the modern design of maintenance methods and they're prepared to pay for them.

"Triplex mowing does require a lot of things because it is a high-performance theory that produces high-performance results. You need a good mechanic because the machinery is a lot more sophisticated and you need people who know how to run the machinery.

"Sure, a club pays more money on one side but it could work into a saving on the other. Triplex mowing relieves compaction and serves as an agent to induce a better quality of grass.

Therefore, it might be a budget blessing in disguise or at least an equalizer.

"Triplex mowing? It's the only way to go. Gradually, you'll see all clubs adopt it. I'd say its future is here — now."

GERRY FINN

## Commercial Clippings

Turf Products Corporation was awarded the Mr. Toro award as the best distributor of the year at Toro's annual meeting in Minneapolis.

Turf Products Corporation has moved into a new facility at 7 Coppage Drive in Worcester, Massachusetts. This facility is a 45,000 square foot building on sixteen acres. Turf Products employs 45 people and stocks over 20,000 line items to service its Turf and Irrigation customers in Eastern Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

All members of the association are welcome to visit Turf's facility and be taken on a personal tour.

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Exit 35 off I95  
Tel. (207) 453-7131  
Contact: Gary Hammond

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