



# THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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

October 1987

## —NEXT MEETING—

Tuesday November 3, 1987  
Needham Golf Club

8:00 Directors Meeting  
Regular Meeting after golf  
Golf - Quota - tee off 9 to 10:30  
Lunch - off menu

Directions to Club: Exit (18) Great Plain Ave. - off rte. 128 - go toward Needham and take 4th left Green Street. Club located 1/2 mile from 128.

Host Superintendent - Ron Kirkman

Reservations Required -  
(617) 444-5548

## Divot Drift

The team of two - Superintendents championship was held at the Orchards Golf Club. Host superintendent Paul Jamrog, had the course in excellent condition. Over three inches of rain inundated the golf course the day before (remember the Patriot and Dolphin game at Foxboro). Paul had no choice but to refrain from use of golf cars.

With the recent completion of the USGA Girls Jr. Championship at the Orchards, Paul had not reinstalled the 150 yard markers. I mention this because some of us are great advocates of eliminating distance markers from golf courses. However, after hitting 5 irons 50 yards over greens and stroking 7 irons 50 yards short of the putting surfaces, I'm beginning to wonder. As we get older do we lose our depth perception, or are we so used to 150 yard

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## Fast Greens, Fast Food and Other Headaches

First it was fast greens, then it was competition with the fast food eateries for labor.

So, what's the next headache for the golf course superintendent?

"Let's clear up Headache No. 2, first," chuckled Tedesco's Paul Miller.

Miller falls in line with the rest of the New England supers who are having their hands full getting extra hands to keep the conditioning process on schedule. Seems a burgeoning economy can have some backlash.

This is just the case with the golf course labor market. It shrank when potential workers "couldn't make it on \$4.75 an hour". It may be disappearing altogether with the advent of the six and seven-dollar offer (often a plea) from such popular quick-bite establishments as McDonald's, Burger King and whom-ever.

"I'm going to have to prepare my next budget with the idea of focussing attention on the labor problem," Miller continued. "The wage structure has to be increased. Sooner or later, country club members have to realize this is a problem that won't go away."

Labor appears to be just part of the building strain on superintendents.

"The hardest part of my job is to satisfy the best interests of the majority of my members," Miller told. "It's hard because there's always that small group on the

other side of the coin, the 20 percent or so whose demands go beyond realistic boundaries."

Therefore, these days, getting the golfing playground in shape's no piece of cake. Right, John Petraitis?

"Agree," commented the 28-year superintendent from the Crestwood Country Club. "My labor problem is so bad that I'm going seven days a week. I have to do it to give my members a quality golf course. However, I don't think anyone in the profession should have to do that."

Petraitis, who still depends on a manual irrigation system, feels the labor pinch more than most. The system doesn't operate by itself, so the labor shortage could send all his work up in smoke.

"The people here are starting to realize there's a lot of competition in the labor market, especially when you consider that much of the jobs I offer are seasonal," Petraitis disclosed. "When you start talking about a four percent pay raise, it doesn't cut anything. It has to be more, much more."

"My situation is critical. I used to draw my help from the Taunton area which was described as a depressed area. But they don't come from there anymore. They're getting seven bucks an hour at McDonald's. So, what kid wants to get up at six o'clock on a Sunday morning and cut greens for four seventy-five?"

Crestwood play is up which doesn't help Petraitis in his on-going effort to keep course conditions razor-sharp.

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**FAST GREEN** *Continued from page 1*

"We have golfers who play until dark," he informed. "I'm not complaining about that, but it makes it tough to get my work done, work that has to be squeezed out sometimes because I don't have enough help to complete it under normal conditions."

Mt. Pleasant's Jim Beane has the same labor problem and hopes he can combat it with what he calls, "the coming thing in golf course maintenance staffs."



"What I'd like to do is increase my full-time staff," Beane told. "It would make for a stable situation and in the end it probably would be more of a value to members than the present setup of trying to hire seasonal help without being able to dangle enough financial lure on your line."

Beane finds that he has his most success in the part-time field with state or federal retirees who are not covered by social security.

"You get more for your money from those people," he explained. "For one thing, usually, you can have them for as long as you need them and they show up every day on the hour they're supposed to show."

"As for my members, they seem to be happy with the course conditions and really aren't interested in things like light-weight mowers (triplex) that are an added expense. The reaction I get is, 'the fairways are just fine the way they are.' So, we leave it at that."

For the first time in years local country

**1988 Nominating Committee**

- Chairman Thomas Schofield  
Richard Zepp  
Arthur Washburn  
Robert Mucciarone  
Norman Mucciarone

club members have felt the presence of "less than perfect" conditions on some of the courses showcased on television by the PGA Tour. In fact, two of the "TV courses" (Palm Beach Gardens, Firestone) were something less than lush when major tournaments were played there. Now, members know those other supers are human, too.

"Yeah, but we didn't hear any negative comment about those courses from those members who are usually raving about the TV courses," Miller added. "Regardless, now they know how tough it can be to keep a golf course in A-1 condition. Maybe they've come to realize our group (New England superintendents) isn't all that bad, after all. And that's a step in the right direction."

**GERRY FINN**

**DIVOT DRIFT**

*Continued from page 1*

markers that we forget how to judge the distance. I guess course knowledge might be the answer. Whatever, no golf cars and distance markers did not deter the team of Doug Johnson (Pine Brook C.C.) and Paul Miller (Tedesco C.C.) from capturing first gross with a routine 75. Max Mierzwa (Chicoppee C.C.) and partner John Hudyka (retired) tied Bob DiRico (Bellevue C.C.) and Norman Mucciarone (Woodland C.C.) with a sizzling 63 net. By agreement, a hole was drawn and matching of cards from that hole on would declare the winners. As luck would have it the duo of DiRico and Mucciarone were the net champions. Third net went to Charlie Dickow and Bob Garrity both from Heritage Hills C.C. In the sales division John Lenhart (Sawtelle Brothers) and Kevin Lyons (Turf Specialty, Inc.) seized first place with a smooth 66 net.

Doug Johnson was able to collar 35 players in the skins game and the winners were Mel O'Kelly (retired) - Steve Chiavaroli (Tatnuck) - Ron Kirkman

**-NEW MEMBER-**

David Copeland  
Monoosnock C.C.

(Needham) - Jim O'Kelly (Brae Burn) - Tom Schofield (Wellesley) - Norman Mucciarone (Woodland) - Bob Garrity (Heritage Hills) - Jack Hassett (Mt. Pleasant, Lowell) and John Lenhart (Sawtelle Brothers).

Don't forget the Pro - Superintendent tournament Monday, October 19, 1987 at Brae Burn C.C.

If anyone is interested in playing hockey this winter, contact Kip Tyler, north shore area. John Lenhart, south shore area. Jim O'Kelly, Boston area. Brian Silva, Worcester area. The season begins in November.

Is there anyone out there out of our 500 readers that may have an idea or subject that you would like to see in Super Speaks Out? If so, please send it to your editor. Also, feel free to write a feature article or an editorial.

The golf tournament at Needham will be an individual quota. Make your own foresomes. Tee off from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. After golf, lunch will be available from the menu in the grille room and the meeting will take place there.

**Commercial News**

"Sawtelle Brothers, Inc. of Lawrence, MA will be hosting on Thursday, October 22, an all day Open House at our new facility in conjunction with a Field Day to be held at Andover Country Club. Notices will be mailed to all accounts in the state of Maine. This is for your information to mark your calendars."

Sincerely,  
SAWTELLE BROTHERS, INC.  
Robert E. Brown  
Executive Vice President

**PRESIDENT**  
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145 Dedham St.  
Canton, MA 02021  
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Office Phone 775-5116  
Club Affiliation  
Hyannisport Club



## The Super Speaks Out

Welcome to **The Super Speaks Out**—a monthly feature which offers the golf course superintendent a forum to express his or her views on topics and issues relating to their profession.

**This month's question:** *Not too many people have kept in mind that the golf course superintendent operated under adverse weather conditions this year, beginning with a hard sleeping winter for the turf through a rainy spring and follow-up summer drought. Just how did you survive this ordeal?*

**Len Blodgett, Kittansett Club:** "My biggest problem was how the elements and their damaging succession of changing conditions affected and put stress on my root systems.

"I'm not one to panic. It's just the way I am. However, I'd say there was a seven-week stretch in the summer where the rainfall was the lowest in 22 years. Hey, that's only four less years than I've been here.

"But you're talking to a guy who has to rebuild part of his third green almost every year on the year. When you live on the ocean, like we do, and have to keep up a course that makes the top hundred in the world all the time, you learn to roll with the punches.

"I think we rolled pretty good, too. Don't forget, we have no irrigated fairways at Kittansett. Therefore, with the drought and all, we had to think brown is beautiful around here. And, come to think of it, there's nothing wrong with that.

"It was a year that you could chalk up in favor of the weather, though. A combination of wet spring and dry summer put everyone and everything here to the test.

"In spite of it, our members played on good tees, approaches and greens. They could see what happened to other courses, so they understood the situation. They accepted what Mother Nature gave us and so did I."

**Barrie Robertson, Sky Meadow Golf Club:** "We had a winter up here in New Hampshire and it did tricks with the turf.



There was a lot of snow, a big thaw and freeze which created an ice problem. The big setback came on the greens where scald was everywhere.

"Fortunately for me, we're still in the process of building Sky Meadow. So, with new grass and all we came through the winter all right. Other places really suffered.

"That doesn't mean everything was a walk in the park for me.

"If you don't think I was sweating out that drought, you'd better think again. I haven't been around that long but I hadn't seen it that dry in over 15 years.

"My sweat came from my source of water.

"Before the drought broke, we were six inches from the bottom of our ponds. That's how close we came to burning up. In addition, we were still in the construction phase and doing a lot of seeding. I mean, that was really rough.

"Overall, though, we came through the elements much better than some of the other courses around and to the north of us. Some of those courses won't really recover until next season—and they'll need an assist from the weather to do it."

**Bert Frederick, Vesper Country Club:** "The winter? It didn't hurt us much. But what followed?



"All that rain put some punch into the Merrimack River. It overflowed, too, and we were up to 'here' in water on two fairways.

"I'd have to say that the flooding from the river was the severest in 25 years. There must have been three feet of water on those fairways at the height of the overflow.

"Nevertheless, we came through and, for the most part, the turf recovered on its own. Oh, wait. I can't give it (turf) all the credit. I sprayed my fairways twice this summer to protect against the humidity, and I think that may have been a favorable

factor.

"I suppose my biggest problem through the season was with Japanese beetles. Other than that, we had very few insects and very little disease.

"The dry weather didn't hurt, either. In fact, it was so dry it made it easier to control watering the course. But, let's face it. We have the right turf character—velvet bent greens and low poa annua content.

"And, although I know a lot of courses were burned out, Vesper actually prospered. The comment I heard most was that the course was better than it was last year. So, you can put me down as one of the survivors."

GERRY FINN

## GCSAA News

### GCSAA Participates in Foxberg Country Club Centennial

A leather-bound edition of "The Life of Tom Morris" with a special message from Donald E. Hearn, CGCS, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), was among the "golfing treasures" buried in a time capsule at the Foxberg Country Club, Foxberg, Pa., on Aug. 2.

Foxberg, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary, provided the opportunity for Hearn and GCSAA to leave a message to those golfing enthusiasts who will reopen the capsule on Aug. 2, 2087.

The message, handwritten in the front of the book, reads:

Greetings!

It is 1987 and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has had 61 years to grow from the old days of "greenkeeper" to the present era of the superintendent—a professional golf course manager educated in business and science.

Change is happening so rapidly now that I can't imagine what our industry will be like in your time. Computers are just now being utilized in many phases of golf

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**GCSNA News**

*Continued from page 3*

course management: terrain modeling, payroll accounting, equipment repair, inventory and irrigation control. Scientists are working on new cultivars of turfgrass that might lessen insect damage, heat sensitivity, water usage and be more salt-tolerant. Researchers are working on new chemicals to more effectively control turfgrass diseases.

The 1987 superintendent constantly studies to keep up with this changing technology. As time marches toward 2087, the superintendent will be flooded with more and more new information.

Throughout all of this, I am confident, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will continue to support its members with a continuing education program, meeting the challenge of furthering the art and science of golf course management.

"It's exciting to be part of Foxberg's historical event," Hearn said. "I only wish I could be there when they reopen the capsule."

**\$50,000 Contributed To New GCSAA Fund**

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) announced the establishment of the Robert Trent Jones Endowment Fund to support the organization's ongoing scholarship and research programs.

"We have never before made this kind of commitment with any one person or even any single organization," said GCSAA President Donald E. Hearn, CGCS. "But the monumental accomplishments and lifelong service of Mr. Jones and his close working relationship with our association and its members merit prominent recognition."

In addition to Jones' own personal gift, friends and associates contributed more than \$50,000 to establish the initial funding level.

Jones, the 81 year old architect of some of the world's most famous golf courses, said of the honor: "We can build the greatest golf courses in the world, but if they are not properly maintained, they are nothing. To golf course superintendents around the world I owe a great debt, and every architect in America owes a great debt. We can only continue to provide these great facilities with well-educated professionals to maintain them. That education does not come easily to all and must be supported by every aspect of this industry."

**GCSAA To Co-Sponsor International Amateur Handicap Championships**

Donald E. Hearn, CGCS, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), today announced that the association plans to co-sponsor the upcoming International Amateur Handicap Championships.

**-POSITION OPENINGS-**

**Pine Grove Golf Club**

Contact: Gil Verrillo  
Wilson Road  
Northampton, MA 01060

**Nashawtuc C.C.**

1861 Sudbury Road  
Concord, MA 01742

Send resumes to: Joanne Tobin

**Royal Crest Golf Club**

Contact: William Vacca  
10 Rainbow Pond Drive  
Walpole, MA 02081

**Monroe Golf Club**

P.O. Box 261  
Pittsford, NY 14534

Send resumes to: Thomas A. Solberg

**Winthrop Golf Club**

Contact: Frank Pomeroy  
454 Main Street  
Winthrop, MA 02152

**Cherry Hill G.C.**

Send resumes to: Town managers office  
4 Boltwood Avenue  
Amherst, MA 01002  
Attn. Personnel Office  
For further info contact  
Phil Rollins.  
(413) 253-9373

**Wanamissett C.C.**

Contact: Ted Fogarty  
96 Hoyt Avenue  
Rumford, R.I. 02916  
Office phone - (401) 438-5290

**Assistant Superintendent**

**Cohasse C.C.**

Contact: David Jenkins  
Snug Harbor  
Duxbury, MA 02331

Contact: Dan Higgins, Supt.  
P.O. Box 567  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
Phone (617) 765-5817  
Resumes Required

**Greenwich Country Club**

Greenwich, CT 06830

Send resumes to Mr. Ray Sloan

Requirements: Graduate of Turf  
Management College and 5  
years experience as a  
superintendent or assistant.

Position includes a house.

*Continued on next page*



GCSAA News *continued*

"The amateur golfer obviously plays a vital role in the popularity of the game," Hearn said. "This championship format provides any skill level a chance to compete in a fun, 72-hole competition, just like the professional golfers."

Hearn cited a National Golf Foundation study showing that there are 18 million golfers in the United States today and that 4 1/2 billion rounds of golf were played last year.

A field of 600 amateur participants from the United States, Australia and several European countries is expected for the tournament.

The new Tournament Players Club at Scottsdale—site of the Phoenix Open—the Palm and Pine courses at McCormick Ranch and the Arnold Palmer designed Scottsdale Country Club will host the championship play. The competition will take place Oct. 25-31.

"This event also provides the GCSAA with another firsthand opportunity to promote the goals and ideals of our membership to the participants," Hearn added.

GCSAA plans to extend its "Challenge For Excellence" hole-in-one competition to participants on the final day of the tournament. The challenge will offer a prize of \$5,000 to the first player to ace a specified hole. The actual distribution of money will be \$1,000 to the player, \$2,000 to the GCSAA Scholarship & Research Fund and \$2,000 to a charity chosen by the player.

"We're delighted to have such an outstanding organization like the golf course superintendents joining our sponsorship ranks," said Doug Mason, founder of the event and director since its inception in 1984. "GCSAA plays such an important role all over the world in making and keeping courses playable and affordable to the general golfing public that it's a natural affiliation."

Among other sponsors for the Interna-

tional Amateur Handicap Championships are Kodak, Foster's Lager, Continental Airlines, America West Airlines, Registry Resort, Foot Joy, Destination West, Iron Horse Bar & Grill, Pinnacle Peak Patio and K. Michael.

**EPA Announces Action on Cadmium**

Use of cadmium in the environment has been prohibited under a federal regulatory order announced August 10 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The sole exception to this regulatory order allows use of cadmium fungicides on golf course greens and tees under certain circumstances.

Specifically, cadmium use will be allowed on greens and tees only with a "miniboom" sprayer, and applicators must wear protective clothing during mixing, loading and application of the product. Homeowners, turfgrass managers and other users of cadmium fungicides will be forced to seek alternative materials for the control of fungi on turfgrass. Additionally, use of cadmium on fairways and other golf course areas except greens and tees is prohibited.

The decision to exempt golf course greens and tees relies in part on information provided through the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Government Relations Program. In May, members of the EPA review team were given a demonstration of the "mini-boom" sprayer at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, MD.

Originally, EPA proposed cancellation of all pesticidal cadmium use. However, as the EPA announcement noted: "At the time of the proposed cancellation, EPA assumed that cadmium was applied on golf course greens and tee areas with hand held sprayers only. Since that time, the agency has received new information indicating that most golf course applicators use power spray equipment, such as miniboom sprayers."

**GCSAA Conference Sets Sales Record Five Months Early!**

Texans have long liked to claim that their state is the biggest and the best. And the 59th International Golf Course Conference and Show—slated for Houston in early 1988 and sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)—is certainly on its way to upholding the Texas tradition.

With nearly five months to go before the doors open to the expected 14,000 attendees, the Show's exhibition space reservations are already ahead of the 1987 total.

More than 112,000 square feet of display space has been committed to various manufacturers and distributors from all over the world. This surpasses the previous record of 108,500 square feet in Phoenix earlier this year.

"We still have some space available, but it's truly incredible how quickly everyone has responded," said Tuula Wright, sales and marketing manager for GCSAA. "The industry is booming, and exhibitors are anxious to display their products to the buyers, the golf course superintendent."

The show will run Feb. 1-8 in the George R. Brown Convention Center. The event will be among the largest shows to be presented following the completion of this dramatic new facility.

The GCSAA Conference and Show is a one-stop marketplace for today's golf course superintendents from around the world. More than 60 percent of the exhibitors have indicated that they will be revealing their new product lines and services for 1988 at the Show.

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

Country Club Enterprises  
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Elanco Products Company  
Stephen C. Dolinak  
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401-789-9017

Gold Star Sod Farms, Inc.  
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617-861-1111

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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  
Ron Tumiski, 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.  
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617-295-1553

Larry Anshewitz, Rep.  
Jack Cronin, Rep.  
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\*Nardone Sand & Gravel Co. Inc.  
37 Power Road  
Westford, MA 01886  
617-692-8221  
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203-828-8905

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617-528-3120  
Don Reynolds, Rep.

Old Fox Chemical Inc.  
Fertilizers-Seeds-Turf-Chemicals  
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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  
Greg Moore, 401-683-9496

E.B. Rotondi & Sons, Inc.  
224 Forest Street  
Winchester, MA 01890  
617-729-3330  
Tennis Courts, Cart paths, Parking lots.

Sawtelle Bros.  
65 Glenn Street  
Lawrence, MA 01843  
617-682-9296

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.  
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