



# 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.

January 1989

## NEXT MEETING

Monday, January 16, 1989  
Annual Meeting GCSA of N.E.

9:00 am Past President's meeting  
10:00 am Director's meeting  
12:30 pm Lunch  
1:30 pm Regular meeting

Host Superintenden—Ron Milenski

Reservationsw Required—Call before  
January 12, 1989 (508) 779-6911

Ron has been superintendent at International G.C. for the past 11 years. Prior to International he was superintendent at Greenock C.C. in Lee, Mass. for four years. Ron has an A.S. degree in physical education from Berkshire Community College and attended the Univ. of Mass. winter turf school. Ron lives in Princeton, Mass.



Directions to ITT: Rte. 495 to Exit 27 (Bolton). Follow the International signs through center of town, Then bear left to the International.

## 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 question: *In light of overheard suggestions that our usual meeting time of Monday may not be the most popular with members, which day do you prefer?*

*Continued on page 2*

## Zepp Implores, "Dig Down Deep"



Dick Zepp didn't want to run over into overtime.

"So, let's not talk about the weather," the two-term president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England took a breath at the halfway mark of his administration. "Seriously, we could spend hours on the summer we had to put up with."

Zepp, in fact, pinpointed the weather, along with the renewed involvement in pesticide legislation as the key topics coating his first year in office during a state of the association discussion. He also looked ahead to the upcoming season when he hopes members get behind him in a push to fund turf research.

But, let us start at the beginning... and the weather.

"There has been more than the usual number of job changes, job losses after what our veteran superintendents call the worst conditions in 30 years," Zepp said. "When someone loses his job, it's always sad. However, I'd hate to think anyone was fired because of the problems caused by the unusual weather we had all summer."

Zepp labels any relationship between loss of employment and the plant-killing conditions as bordering on catastrophe.

"I wrote an article on the subject for the MGA," Dick mentioned. "And, in my way of thinking, the courses that suffered the most damage didn't suffer the damage because of anything the superintendent did wrong. I know, it sounds trite. But there were circumstances out there be-

yond our control."

The survivors? Those who got through the long siege of humidity, hip-high rainstorms and broiling heat?

"Those who came out the best did it because of a combination of luck and good programs," Zepp told. "Actually, if your course drained well, your chances of survival were much better than supers without good drainage. But drainage projects are costly. Good programs are related to the cost factor. Maybe that's a hint for future budgets, both to the superintendent and the club membership.

"It was tough on all of us, though. I can remember an August meeting at Thorny Lea where (super) Joe Rybka really had it rough. We were there to play and you know how nice it is to get out with your colleagues. But that time there was a sea of long faces. Joe had been one of the unlucky ones. Hey, we were all depressed."

Seems that the association was also persuasive.

"Darn right," Zepp explained. "The association did a good job being heard and getting results during hearings on pesticide control. I have to be candid at this point and say that Charlie Passios (Hyanisport Club superintendent) really did a bang-up job leading the way for our cause and totally immersing himself in the fight to resolve this issue fairly.

"What happened in the hearings amounts to good reflection on our profession. Once and for all we made people realize we are not against pesticide control. However, we also made it known that legislation must be based on scientific

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## ZEPP IMPLORES

*Cont. from p. 1*

fact, not emotions or the drum-beating by special interest groups. Fair and effective. That's our stand on pesticide legislation."

This year's pet project, that of concentrating on the golf course superintendent's obligation to turf research fund-raising, sets Zepp off on a temporary run of fire and brimstone.

"Simply stated, it's time for us to wake up to the fact that turf research should be one of the top priority items concerning things to do this year," Dick leveled. "The superintendent has sat back long enough and let others put turf research on their front burner.

"I'm only starting here but I intend to get the ball rolling, turn it into a snowball effect. We have to go to our clubs, get them thinking turf research and the money it takes for it to succeed. Think about it. If we could get one dollar from each member of every New England club and course, we're talking fifteen to twenty thousand.

"It shouldn't stop there, either. We should dig down deep into our own pockets, too. There are so many ways for us to become involved. We have to look at all options, like a turf research tournament — association-wide. We have to set dollar amount goals and go after them."

Zepp, then, isn't about to make this his coasting year as NEGCSA president.

"Sure, there's lots to be done," he added. "And we're the ones to initiate the effort. Our profession really has gained in stature and recognition in recent years. That image is really beginning to shine at all levels — from national to regional and down the line. Therefore, we have to live up to it. Worst thing we could do now is rest on our laurels."

Dick Zepp. There's no letup in this guy. Nice to have him pounding the gavel for another year.

**GERRY FINN**

## THE SUPER *Cont. from p. 1*



**Arthur Washburn, Cohasset Golf Club:** "There's the old argument of reserving light traffic days on the golf course for major

projects. And, the most likely day for play to slack off is Monday.

"Personally, I wouldn't mind seeing the meeting day switch to Tuesday or Thursday. It would fit into my maintenance schedule better than Monday. However, I realize there's no such thing as the universally accepted schedule.

"I don't have any trouble making the meetings, anyway. I make it a point to attend the summer sessions because I'm away most of the winter.

"Regardless, we're talking about one day a month. Just taking a day off should be beneficial all around, for the club and the super. In addition to the break in routine, it offers us the opportunity to beef up our educational muscles. Even talking to a fellow super might mean an improvement in my program.

"Oh, one other thing. I'd like to see attendance at meetings count as credits in the certification requirement area. Not only does it make sense, it could bring out more people to them."

**Tony DeBettencourt, unattached:** "I'm in the golf construction business at the moment but the association meetings still interest me. Besides, presently I'm on the board of directors of the New Hampshire Superintendents Association and continue to face the 'right day' dilemma.

"When I was working in the maintenance field, I looked forward to meetings even though I had to split attendance at both associations when meetings fell in the same week.

"Monday or Tuesday appear to be the best days from my point of view. Whatever the day, though, I'm convinced the monthly meetings are a source of profes-

sional education that shouldn't be missed. I benefitted from every meeting I attended."

**John Petraitis, Crestwood Country Club:** "I'm not really a meeting-goer but I'm in the Monday-Tuesday frame of mind when I feel I can make an association function.

"I'm another one of those two-association members, having to decide sometimes whether it will be New England or Rhode Island.

"My contribution here probably would be a suggestion that the different associations make their meeting sched-

*Continued on page 3*

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Mike Fair

### Assistant Superintendent

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## GCSA of New England 1989 Slate of Officers Nominee's

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Educational Chairman	Ronald E. Milenski CGCS
Newsletter Chairman	Ronald W. Kirkman

### THE SUPER *Cont. from p. 2*

ules compatible so they don't conflict. Otherwise, I enjoy them when I can make them."



**Ron Hansen,**  
**Spring Valley Coun-**  
**try Club:** "I was just  
looking at my schedule  
for 1989 when you  
called. You know,

Monday - the old outing day? Next season, we have 16 Monday outings. Last season it was nine.

"My club has no light traffic days, as you can see. So, it doesn't make much difference with me. I do have a looney idea, though. How about evening meetings? Don't laugh. We had them in New Jersey. Right. The golf course was lighted.

"Whatever the day, I have the opportunity to attend meetings because of two

The GCSANE research committee is presently defining the goals and financial structure for turf grass research. The enclosed insert is being sent through all golf channels available to us. We strongly ask for everyone's support and suggest using this correspondence as the vehicle to obtain funding.

things. I have a competent and reliable assistant and my members seem to agree that attendance is a plus for the course and its superintendent.

"As far as I'm concerned, I get more information about the profession and topics related to it at association meetings than I do anywhere. It's not a day in the country as some would have you believe. It's worthwhile."



**Paul Johnson,**  
**Ferncroft Country**  
**Club:** "It makes no  
difference for me, al-  
though if I had my  
druthers, I go for a

Tuesday or Thursday.

"My job and responsibilities dictate my attendance, no matter what day a meeting falls on.

"I make a commitment to be here to prepare for our big tournament (Boston Five Classic). That means from April to July, the association won't see me. That's the way I've set up my schedule and that's the way it's going to be.

"As for the Monday 'light traffic' situation, it appears to be a thing of the past.



G C S A A • 89

## 60th International Golf Course Conference & Show February 6-13, 1989

GCSA of New England Hospitality Suite  
Place: Anaheim Hilton  
Date: Feb. 10 & 11 (Fri & Sat.)

Golf has become a seven-day sport and it doesn't end here. The trend has caught on everywhere. Monday at Ferncroft? We call it group day. And, believe me, the groups flock here.

"So, I have my personal priorities. But I also endorse the effect of the monthly meetings. It's positive — with or without me."

GERRY FINN

## -NEW MEMBER-

Welcome and Congratulations to:

Wayne La Croix, Associate  
Ipswich C.C.

## -PROPOSED NEW MEMBERS-

Joseph Sullivan, Regular  
Stoney Brook G.C.

Ken Ross, Regular  
Pine Oaks G.C.

## -REINSTATED-

John Medvecky  
Colonial C.C.

## -NEWLY CERTIFIED-

Kip Tyler, Salem C.C.

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