



# 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.

November 1991

## Seasons never end for Dave Heroian

It was a different kind of stress period for Dave Heroian.

Last July, the East Coast Open took over the Myopia Hunt Club. No, Dave didn't have to spiffy up and slicken the course's greens, nor was he in a dither over placing tee markers and pins. The East

Coast Open has nothing to do with drives, approach shots, or putts.

"But replacing divots is part of it," Heroian interjected. "Man, you ought to see the size of some of those suckers."

Heroian is the golf course and grounds superintendent at the stately North Shore club, with the emphasis on grounds. And the East Coast Open is only one of several world-class polo events played at Myopia Hunt. His job? Keep those polo fields in top-top condition.

This is Dave's first year in the polo field-maintenance business. It all came about when Dick Ford, a veteran in the unique profession, retired. Myopia Hunt officials wanted continuity in the supervision of all its outdoor activity facilities and Heroian was the logical choice to fit that purpose.

Myopia Hunt has five polo fields, two on the main club property, and three on private property in Ipswich. Heroian is in charge of all five, and that makes for quite a spread formation in the task of setting up his crew for work schedules.

"When Dick was doing this job, he was hired on a six-month basis and had as many as eight people on his staff," Heroian explained. "Now, I have about six crew members working the polo field beat and I increase that to as many as 12 when there's a major tournament or similar event coming up. I also have a foreman with whom I work very closely in setting up the daily conditioning program. He's Ray Woodbury. He was there under the old system and he knows his business. So, I didn't have to come into a relatively new venture cold."

The polo season runs from Memorial Day through October 15. That means the season is almost as long as the golf season and runs concurrently with it. This keeps Heroian on the go, dividing his time between maintaining the golf course and making sure the polo fields are playable.

There are similarities in the maintenance programs of both sports. Dave sets up a schedule for aerating, seeding on the polo fields just as he does for the golf course. However, perhaps the key area in

*Continued on page 2*

### December Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 1991  
Nashawtuc C.C., Concord, MA

Host Superintendent: Paul Miller

Guest Speakers:  
Natalia Clifton and Mary Owen  
from Co-Op Extension UMass

Subject: Public Drinking Water  
Protection from Pesticides  
(Pesticide credits available.)

9:00 a.m. Board Meeting  
10:30 a.m. Regular Meeting  
(Education Session  
and lunch to follow  
regular meeting)

Reservations Required  
Call before December 6, 1991  
(617) 527-6968

Paul has been superintendent at Nashawtuc C.C. for three years. Prior to Nashawtuc, Paul was superintendent at Tedesco C.C. for 11 years. Paul received his Associate Degree in Agronomy from the Univ. of Mass. and is currently President of GCSANE. Paul resides in Marblehead, MA with his wife Sally and children Jonathan, age 18, and Jennifer, age 14. In his spare time Paul enjoys golf, tennis, and skiing.

Directions: From Route 128 to Route 2 west, follow 2 west to Route 117 exit. Cross Route 117, club is on your left.



*"After a match, we probably devote 30 to 40 man hours just replacing those divots. Those horses really do a job on the turf ... We're talking about an area about 300 yards long and 100 yards wide."*

**Dave Heroian**



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Newsletter Editor

RONALD MILENSKI, CGCS  
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GERRY FINN  
Contributing Editor

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polo is the job of replacing divots and maintaining a certain degree of firmness for the fields. Those could be termed the facets of the conditioning program that demand much of Heroian's attention.

"After a match, we probably devote 30 to 40 man hours just replacing those divots," Heroian said. "Those horses really do a job on the turf. There's the constant churning over the turf, plus the sudden turns, stops, and starts. After all, we're talking about an area about 300 yards long and 100 yards wide."

Replacing divots is just half the job. Heroian reports that the fields must be rolled, sometimes four to seven times a week, and mowed to a height of 1-1/4". There also are prime stress areas that require special attention.

"The area between the goal posts get the heaviest traffic and they get chewed up pretty good," Dave told. "That's where most of the digging in and whatever else the horses do to change directions occur. It's sort of like pampering a green. That goalpost area has to be just right."

Heroian's job starts long before the opening of the polo season. Early in May or just when the golf course is starting to turn the weather elements corner, Heroian and his polo crew are busy setting up the fields for the start of play Memorial Day. There's a heavy two-week concentration when side boards are set in place and the field gets much priming.

The same procedure, only in reverse, tops the agenda at the end of the polo

season. After that, the attention switches to repairing equipment, just as it does in golf's off-season.

Tournaments like the Eastern Open get special attention. That's when Dave adds six men to the polo duty roster. The full crew of 12 really gets into virtually around-the-clock divot-replacing and rolling. Also on the agenda is the chore of setting up temporary stables for visiting players from all over the world. Since each player has six horses, the grounds are saturated with some of the finest equine beauties in all sports.

The Eastern runs for two weeks during which there could be as many as 15 to 20 games a day spread over the five fields.

"There's a lot of travel involved and my budget breakdown becomes a finely-tuned item at that time," Heroian explained. "I'm talking about taking an hour and a half just to do the weekly payroll."

"Polo players (there are about 30 member players at Myopia Hunt) have their complaints just like golfers," Dave disclosed. "Mostly they have to do with the turf. If it's too firm the horses can suffer shin splints. If it's too soft, they could slide and fall. That part of the job is critical."

And what of the deposits the horses leave behind?

"That's not a problem for me so far," Dave laughed. "Cleaning up and carting it out is under contract to a private company. Frankly, my crew and I don't have a nose for that job."

GERRY FINN

## Golden Tee Club membership grows

Golden Tee Club membership is open to individuals who contribute \$100 or more annually and corporations, clubs, chapters, and other organizations that contribute \$1000 or more annually to support GCSAA Scholarship and Research. During the past fiscal year, contributions to the Club totaled almost \$20,000.

Massachusetts residents and clubs who held individual memberships in the Golden Tee Club:

David J. Barber, CGCS  
James D. Calderwood  
Brian M. Cowan, CGCS  
Donald E. Hearn, CGCS (life)  
Robert A. Matthews, CGCS  
Sherwood A. Moore, CGCS  
Kevin F. Osgood  
Dean Robertson  
Weston Golf Club  
Bob Bullard (life)  
Geoffrey S. Cornish

Charles I. Gardner, CGCS  
Peter A. Lund, CGCS  
Ronald Milenski, CGCS  
Ronald C. Muckle  
Charles T. Passios, CGCS  
Brian Silva (life)

## Calendar

Dec. 11	Regular Meeting Nashawtuc C.C. Concord, Mass.
Long Range:	
March 7, 1992	MGA Seminar
March 24, 1992	USGA Regional Conference Wakefield, Mass.



# The Super Speaks Out:

*This month's question: Do you have a tree planning and maintenance program, is it included in the overall budget or a separate item, and how is it working?*

**Arthur Silva, Belmont Country Club:** "Except for the great debate over the future of our big oak tree that defines the dogleg on the 13th hole, tree talk seldom comes up, and money for specific use of tree maintenance never is written into the budget."

"This isn't to say that our trees go unattended. What we do is set aside time and man hours for normal pruning, reasonable-level cutting, and leaf cleanup. Otherwise, we let Mother Nature take care of them [trees]."

"Hurricane Bob put a slight alteration on that attitude when the big limbs and branches sticking out onto the 13th fairway and actually defining the dogleg went down with his visit. Now, all we have left is half-a-tree and a great conversation piece."

**"Except for the great debate over the future of our big oak tree, ... tree talk seldom comes up."**

**Arthur Silva**

"Hurricane Bob not only split the tree, he split the membership on what to do about that old oak. Some think we should save it, others believe now is the time to get rid of it. In my opinion, it makes the hole, but I'm only one voice. And there the question remains, to restore or to replace? This is really the only tree talk around here."

**Michael Legere, New England Country Club:** "Since we're a new golf course (opened this summer), the maintenance budget is at a minimal point and, naturally, tree work doesn't have a place in it."

"This is a heavily wooded area, actually a course that's been redesigned to make up the front nine, and a back nine that's virgin territory as far as overall maintenance is concerned."

"I do have a pruning program set in place and there's a lot to do in that respect."

"I'm working on a secondary clearing program and going through everything, hole by hole. In fact, the pruning is such that it will have to be carried over into the wetlands on the course."

**"This is a heavily wooded area, actually a course that's been redesigned to make up the front nine. I do have a pruning program in place ... working on a secondary clearing program."**

**Michael Legere**

"I'm sure that in the future we'll be having to concentrate on strategic places where definition of doglegs, fairways, and the like are determined by location and condition of trees. There are some 50 and 60 year old oaks I know will have to go. In that case, we'll let that work out to a private company."

"Right now (early October) I'm thinking of the bumper crop of pines we have here and the cleanup that goes with them. Also, I'm looking at a major leaf removal project. That will keep me busy until we get into a serious tree planning and maintenance program."

**Dean Robertson, Kernwood Country Club:** "There's a definite line item in my budget for tree planning, but it doesn't stop there. We're into adding, shaping, pruning, and pampering trees so much, you could say we have everything to go into the tree business."

"But I say that with a sense of pride and satisfaction because our program has an aesthetic and practical value that may make Kernwood unique along those lines."

"The reason for all the attention on a tree program is one man. He's our president, Martin Goldman. He's been something more than that for the last 30 years, too, as our appointed, maybe self-appointed tree person. He lives for the oppor-

tunity to add a tree or make a change in the placing of it in order to keep the golf course the showplace it is."

"As for the line item. It's \$3,000 and is a given in that it pays for an arborist who does much of the maintenance work. But the planning is another thing. That's left to our president and resident tree-lover. Why, it's nothing for him to come over the the course in the wee hours, grab me by the arm, and take the two of us on a walk around the course to scout out new planting places."

"The amount of planting has been unbelievable. Since I've been here we've planted 54 trees on our 13th hole alone. And that type of thing goes on all over the course. The frequency has been an influence on the golfers, too. Because of certain plantings, they've had to change their plan of attack."

**"We're into adding, shaping, pruning, and pampering trees so much, you could say we have everything to go into the tree business."**

**Dean Robertson**

"Our tree person's always thinking. For example, recently we were informed that Kernwood had become a member of the Elm Research Institute. A spinoff from that is the shipment of 100 young elm trees to our grounds. Arrangements were made for local Boy Scouts to plant them on a 100 square foot parcel of ground. Eventually, they will be donated to city parks and other civic organizations."

"So, it's not a matter of joking when I say we could be in the tree business. And I love it, although it makes for one large amount of leaf work at this time of year. We spend eight hours a day, working three sweepers and a blower to get rid of that mess. Therefore, you'd have to say our tree planning program is thriving."

**GERRY FINN**



# Rock removal vs. mower breakage: One super tries "expanding cement"

by Richard McHugh,  
Assistant Superintendent,  
Framingham C.C.

To all golf course superintendents, assistant superintendents, and mechanics, not to mention equipment operators, the sound of metal against rock can send shivers down your spine. We usually cross our fingers hoping for just a bent blade or nick in the bedknife instead of having the whole machine down for a lengthy period of time.

The former superintendent at Framingham Country Club, Mr. William H. Whitley, CGCS, inquired and received some information from a local contractor, Bob Drake from Chester Drake & Sons, on how to deal with his rock problem. This information led to the use of an "expanding cement" used for rock removal. This applies to rocks so large they can't be pried as a whole by humans or even machines.

## Thanks from U. of Mass. for research support

11 October 1991

Mr. Edward Brearley, Chairman,  
GCSANE Research Committee

Dear Chip:

Greetings from Amherst. Just a short note to thank you for your recent letter and check in the amount of \$7,800 intended as a grant to support turfgrass management research. During these tough economic times, the support of organizations such as GCSANE is instrumental in allowing us to maintain productive research programs.

I certainly appreciate the Association's continued support and look forward to working with you in the future. If the opportunity arises, please express my thanks to the other research committee members.

Sincerely,  
Richard J. Cooper  
Associate Professor  
Turfgrass Management  
University of Massachusetts

This removal consists of three steps:

First - These problem rocks are drilled using a compressor and a rotary jackhammer to a depth of 2-3" below the desired grade level.

Second - The material used is called "Bristar" which is made in Japan. This material comes in different formulations all with different air temperatures to be used in, and also different water temperatures. We at Framingham have mixed this material and water so that it is just pourable, something like "molasses" and filled these pre-drilled holes to about 1-1/2" from the rock surface.

Third - Let this cement dry to do its work, usually a couple of days will tell how it's going to perform. Sometimes the rock will crack with the grain, others against

the grain. We have then sent out people with pry bars to remove pieces that have been cracked and any material a mower could hit, even some below grade level.

These holes are then filled and seeded. There are times that this mixture didn't work, such as not completely cracking the rock or having a mixture "too hot" which results in a cloud of smoke. These holes were re-drilled and had new material added to them.

Maybe we can't break all the rocks, but we have cut down on the number of bent blades, bent reels, and even down time of the machinery.

**Editor's Note:** The opinions expressed in the above article are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the GCSANE Newsletter.

## Turf Research Tournament raises over \$14,000 for fund

On October 3, 1991, the Third Annual Turf Research Tournament was held at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts. The Tournament was a total success and raised in excess of \$14,000 for the GCSA of New England Turf Research Fund. In spite of threatening weather, the field of 128 players had a great day playing the famous Country Club course. I would like to thank the members of The Country Club for allowing us to have this tournament at their club. I also would like to thank General Manager David Shag, Golf Course Superintendent Bill Spence, and their staffs for making our day so memorable. The golf course was in great shape and the meals and clubhouse facilities were superb.

I also would like to thank the Turf Research Committee for all of the hard work that they put into making this Tournament such a success. These people, Ed Brearley, Bob DiRico, Dick Duggan, Kevin Lyons, and Owen Regan as well as volunteer Mike Cornicelli, put in many long hours of work in preparation for this day.

I would like to thank all of the companies that bought tee signs. Their contributions are greatly appreciated.

The money raised at this tournament

goes into the GCSA of New England Turf Research Fund. This fund sponsors turf research projects at area universities. The Fund has grown quickly in its first three years and has already given out approximately \$25,000 in research funds. Contributions from clubs and individuals are greatly appreciated and we look forward to continued growth and success of the Research Fund.

RICHARD ZEPP

Research Tournament Chairman

We would like to thank all of the companies and individuals that donated items for our raffle:

Turf Specialty, Titleist (also 130 sleeves of golf balls), Spalding, Wilson, Hammond Paints and Chemical, Tom Irwin Inc., Wayland C.C., Don Marrone, Jr. in memory of Don Marrone, Sr., and Charlie Dickow.

Our thanks to the clubs that donated golf for a foursome with carts:

Pleasant Valley Country Club, Salem Country Club, The New England Country Club, The Hyannisport Club, Concord Country Club, Tedesco Country Club, The Orchards Golf Course, and Thorny Lea Golf Course.



# Mower and maintenance equipment reports released by Center for Golf Course Management

from GCSAA News October 1991

Detailed information on tractors, mowers, and other course management equipment is available in a new marketing research report by the Center for Golf Course Management (CGCM). CGCM, a subsidiary of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), serves as GCSAA's marketing research division.

The 1991 Mower and Maintenance Equipment Report offers a tailored look at this key market segment within the golf industry. It presents statistics on the

market share, typical lifespan, and product ratings. These factors are cross-tabulated by manufacturers of tractors, walking and riding greensmowers, riding rotary mowers by size class, riding reel mowers (triplex and five-plex) by size class, boom sprayers, sand bunker rakes, blowers, sweepers, pumping stations, and irrigation controllers. In addition, the usage (hours per week) data and capital expense data are presented for each product category.

The report also contains course demographic information including type of facility, number of holes, and budget level.

The Mower and Maintenance Equip-

ment Report is available at a price of \$1,500.00. Previously released reports are also available. The reports and their prices:

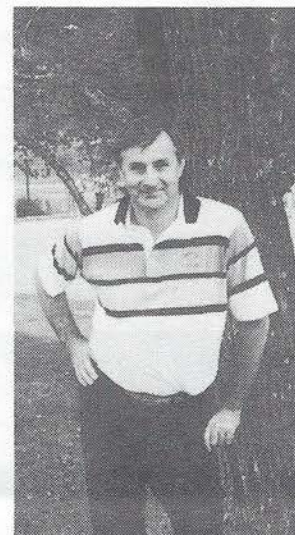
\*The Pesticide and Fertilizer Usage Report - \$2,500.00

\*The Golf Car and Turf Utility Vehicle Report - \$1,500.00

For more information on CGCM's 1991 marketing research reports, contact Robert Shively, director of marketing for CGCM and GCSAA, at (913) 841-2240.

## Third Annual Turf Research Tournament Oct. 3, 1991 at The Country Club, Brookline, Mass.

Top row, left to right: Jim Fitzroy, Paul Brooks (right) & guest, Dean Robertson (left) & guest, and Joe Rybka. Bottom row, left to right: Roy Mackintosh (left) & guest, Peter Lewis (left) & guest, Tony Caranci (left) & guest.





# New York report attacks pesticide use; GCSAA issues rebuttal of evidence

*from GCSAA Briefing, September 1991*

GCSAA has issued a rebuttal to New York Attorney General Robert Abrams' report entitled "Toxic Fairways: Risking Groundwater Contamination From Pesticides on Long Island Golf Courses". The report attacked the use of pesticides on golf courses, relying on data collected at 52 golf courses on Long Island, New York.

In a news release, GCSAA cited a general lack of scientific evidence that golf courses were polluting groundwater sources on Long Island. The release also cited the efforts taken by Long Island golf courses to reduce the amount of pesticides they use by employing integrated pest management strategies. Maria Cinque, turf specialist at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Long Island, agreed with GCSAA's assessment.

"We at the Cornell Cooperative Extension

have been teaching IPM practices for the last ten years. Many of those practices are used by golf courses on Long Island," Cinque said. "I believe that the amount of pesticide has definitely been reduced during

this period," she continued.

More information on the report and GCSAA's response is available in the September Golf Course Management magazine.

## Maine law would restrict municipal pesticide ordinances

*from GCSAA Briefing, September 1991*

If passed, a proposal before the Maine legislature would restrict localities from enacting pesticide laws that are different from those already in place at the state level. This particular piece of legislation would prohibit pre-emption of state pesticide laws in order to preserve uniformity of pesticide laws within Maine.

A copy of his piece of legislation was sent to GCSAA's chapter government relations liaison late last month. This type of legislation would nullify the effects of the Supreme Court decision this June (see Briefing, July 1991).

For a copy of this bill, please call the GCSAA communications department at (913) 832-4470.

## DIVOT DRIFT ...announcements...educational seminars...job opportunities...tournament results...and miscellaneous items of interest to the membership.

### INFORMATION

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Paul Miller's wife Sally after a serious illness.

Peter Hasak, Tedesco C.C., was married November 1st to Kerri Anne Ruane in Swampscott, Massachusetts.

Alan Cumps of Scotts had bypass heart surgery in October.

### MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members: Darrin Brown, Assistant Member, Worcester C.C., Worcester, Mass.

1st Reading New Member: Steve Mann, Associate Member, Captains G.C., Brewster, Mass.

### TOURNAMENT RESULTS

**Superintendent-Pro Championship**  
Ferncroft C.C., Danvers, Mass.

**Gross:**

72 - Bryce Roberts & Gary Laliberte, Prouts Neck.

74 - Reggie Colomb & John Ottoviano, Manchester, Vt.; Mike Medeiros & Paul Miller, Nashawtuc; Mo Guttman & Patrick Lewis, Portland.

75 - Jock Hopkins & Dick Duggin, Concord; Paul Ballard & Rich Tworig, Pembroke.

76 - Rusty Gunnarson & Jay Tougas, North Hill.

**Net:**

65 - Jim McDonald & Robert Ruzsala, Hickory Ridge.

66 - Lyle Williams & Arthur Silva, Belmont.

68 - Chuck Frithsen & David Kahrman, Thomson.

69 - Craig Susalka & Jim Lamorta, Passa-

conaway; Joe Videtta & Mike Videtta, Brookmeadow; Geoffrey Williams & Steve Rowell, Nippo Lake; Mike Egan & Mike Hermanson, Gardner.

70 - Ken Raynor & Greg Searle, Cape Arundel.

**GCSANE Research Tournament Results at The Country Club**  
October 3, 1991

Low Gross - J. Reinertson & D. Arvanitis - 68

2nd Gross - D. Duggan & C. Volpone - 70

Low Net - M. Gagne & S. Oldfield - 59

2nd Net - J. Rybka & B. Quinn - 62

3rd Net - E. Brearley & R. Lombardi - 62

4th Net - S. Chiavaroli & S. Gabrielian - 62

5th Net - K. Gavin & J. Eakstrom - 63

6th Net - J. Beane & D. Cotton - 63

Long Drive - Bill Kennedy - 2'3"

Closest to Pin - Dave Wallace

### PHOTO CREDITS

Photo Credit: Kip Tyler



# Please Patronize These FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION

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Bob Flanagan, Kevin Lyons,  
Dave Schermerhorn, Ed Wiacek

**Winding Brook Turf Farm, Inc.**  
240 Griswold Rd., Wethersfield, CT 06109  
800-243-0232, Alan Anderson

**Philip Wogan**  
Golf Course Architecture  
17 Walker Rd., Topsfield, MA 01983



# Friends of the Association profile

## Partac Peat Corporation

In 1973, Jim Kelsey attended a New Jersey Golf Course Superintendent's Association Field Day. At that time, his Partac Peat Corporation was a producer of top-soil, peat, sod, and sand and gravel. After learning at that field day that golf courses need a consistent supply of heat-treated top-dressings for greens and tees, he worked the next four years developing two top-dressings: one for traditional greens based upon the Rutgers guidelines,

and one for USGA-type greens based upon the USGA guidelines.

He first exhibited these in the spring of 1978 in Springfield at the Mass. Turfgrass Conference. Today, Partac's expanded line of golf course top-dressings are known nationally for their quality and are available from regional distribution centers in Great Meadows (NJ), Orlando (FL), Memphis (TN), and Reno (NV).

In addition, Partac supplies its ceramically colored "Green Sand" for divot repairs to televised golf tournaments across

the country, custom blends construction mixes for greens and tees, produces "choker" sand and bunker sands, as well as red and gray natural cart path mixes for use in place of macadam.

Partac also produces Beam Clay(R) natural sports surfaces, which are now used by over 70 pro baseball teams plus towns and schools in all fifty states. Partac also is a national distributor of various golf, tennis, and sports turf maintenance supplies such as Terra-Green(R) Soil Conditioners, Typar(R) Turf Blankets, Terra-Flow(R) Drainage Systems, and much more.

The second friend for the month did not respond.

## Ron Kirkman: A dedicated man honored for 30 years of service

In celebration of 30 years of service (and still going strong), Needham Golf Club threw a big bash for Ron Kirkman in

September. It included a golf tournament, cocktail reception, a trip to Hawaii for Ron and his wife, and a beautiful poem...



At Needham Golf Club, there is a man named Ron  
You'll find him out on the course at dawn  
He rides around from tee to green  
Making sure the fairways look pristine.  
He works all day 'til the setting sun  
It seems his job is never done  
He doesn't stop 'til he's reassured  
That every blade of grass looks manicured.  
He manages the club with the greatest of ease  
He's always anxious to try to please  
For many a function, he's there late at night  
Making sure the clubhouse is locked up tight.  
For thirty years he's done it all  
In winter, spring, summer and fall  
In his own quiet manner, for he rarely gets loud  
He's created a course of which to be proud.  
How lucky we've been to know this dedicated man  
With his three daughters and his lovely wife, Joanne  
I'm sure everyone here will agree when I say  
Ron Kirkman's made the Needham Golf Course what  
it is today.

Alice Robey  
President, Women's Division  
September 28, 1991



# THE NEWSLETTER

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