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

November 1993

December Meeting

Monday, December 20, 1993 Newton Commonwealth G.C.

> Host Superintendent Kevin Osgood

9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting	
1:30 p.m.	Education	
	Lunch - \$12.00	

Reservations Required Call by December 19, 1993 (617) 328-9479

You must pay by check - No Cash! Checks payable to GCSANE

Kevin Osgood is a graduate of the Stockbridge School. Upon graduation he accepted the superintendent's position at Newton where he has remained for fifteen years. This year he accepted the lease from the city and now oversees all operations. Kevin has been a GCS ANE board member for four years. He enjoys spending time with his son Alexander, 18 months, and his wife Carolyn.

Directions to Golf Course from Boston via Mass. Pike: Take Mass. Pike west from downtown Boston, Exit 17 staying in left lane. Go through first set of lights, take left over the Mass. Pike (following Newton Center sign). Follow directions below "at your third light".

Direction to Golf Course from West, North, or South of Boston: Take Mass. Pike East, Exit 17 and go through stop sign. *At you third light take a right (following Brighton sign). Drive 100 yds. and take a left onto Tremond St. (at Brighton sign), drive 300 yds. and take right at light onto Waverly St. Drive 1/2 mile and take a fit at the light onto Kenrick St. The clubhouse entrance ill be 1/2 mile on your right.

will have the wheel to look of

Wayne Zoppo still setting trends in "Super" world

It's called going the distance. Obviously, Wayne Zoppo's getting there - always on track, always going the extra mile. A quick refresher course. The time 1976, when Zoppo took a quick handoff from outgoing Golf Course Superintendents of New England Association president Tom Curran. The prexy's gavel was his, to pound and keep

for the next two years. Zoppo was 33, an "outrageous" age for that prestigious position. However, his situation was a sign of the times - the passing of GCSANE official high office from one generation to another. A trend had been set in motion.

Ten years before, although unaware of it, Zoppo was embarking on another change in the ways and means of establishing a presence in his profession. After only two years in the field, as an assistant at the Mt. Pleasant Country Club, he took over the head golf course superintendent post at Agawam Hunt. That promotion was Wayne's first venture into the golf course superintendent's world. The year was 1966. He's been at Agawam Hunt ever since.

"I'd like to stay another 10 years, maybe more," Zoppo said last month. "It would mean that my professional career will have been spent at one club, with only one golfing family. That's a trend I wouldn't mind being part of. If it speaks well of me, it speaks well of the profession I proudly represent."



Those 27 years at Agawam Hunt, where Wayne's work world runs the gamut from maintaining a tender-cared-for golf course to four equally pampered squash courts, have seen him swept up in a spiral of technological improvements. And, as they say down at the computer corner, he's gone along with the program very nicely,

thank you.

"It's almost hard for me to believe that I'm from the old school of tractors and gang mowers," Wayne told. "You know, it wasn't so long ago that the emphasis on golf course maintenance was giving members the best of greens period. Nowadays we treat fairways the same way we treated greens 20 years ago. Here at Agawam Hunt, we actually have two fairways that are cut with greensmowers. That would probably prompt people to think we have one hell of a track. And that's what I'd call good thinking."

Zoppo's involvement at Agawam Hunt is so complete that he underscores the meaning of a 20th century professional phenomenon, the 12-month golf course superintendent. "I guess there was a time when it might have been appropriate to say that the golf course superintendent worked his fingers to the bone in spring and summer, then was rewarded by having the winter off," Wayne remarked. "But that's only 50 percent correct now, if you know what I mean. This is

continued on next page



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Gerry Finn Contributing Editor Matthew Crowther Associate Editor

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continued from page 1

an around-the-year job. Oh, we get time off. But we are here 12 months a year. When you think of plowing, maintaining indoor tennis and squash courts and repairing equipment, sometimes you might wonder where the winter goes."

Grooming the Agawam Hunt golf course is Wayne's baby, so to speak. Through the years that relationship of super and course has evolved into a love affair. "As I said, the improvements in equipment and maintenance methods have turned the golf course conditioning process full circle," Zoppo said. "It's been a matter of keeping up with the demands of the sport. Twenty years ago we had very little play here. Today, it's another story. We have an increased amount to the extent that weekend action winds up second sometimes to outings. We have them Tuesdays and sometimes Thursdays."

"As the play became heavier, the requirements for a better golf course followed suit. I never dreamed I'd be cutting tees down to one-quarter inch or collecting cuttings on fairways. Nor did I ever vision the day when we spent 50 thousand dollars on chemicals when the tab for them used to be a couple of thousand. But it hasn't been all a steamroller of high tech methods. Up until two years ago four of my greens had to be hand-watered."

Zoppo's responsibilities are multiplied by the number of athletic and recreational facilities Agawam Hunt offers its members. He has to pay special attention to the club's tennis devotees whose playing conditions mentality mirrors that of its golfers.

"On the outside part of things, we have 10 grass and four clay tennis courts," Wayne explained. "Each surface requires a lot of maintenance. The grass courts can be tricky because players like that surface to be hard and green. The color is an aesthetic aspect, the hardness makes for a truer bounce of the ball. Getting both going at the same time is tough."

"In fact, up to this year everything was hard and green. However, the drought sent shock waves through most of our tennis players. What once was hard and green became hard and brown. But we got a little of the color back in late September. A little top dressing can do a lot of things going from ugly to pretty."

During the on-going transitional per: which has been the center of Zoppo's maintenance life at Agawam Hunt, he's found time to become a viable member of both the New England and Rhode Island superintendents associations, rising to the presidency of both groups. He's also become aware of the coming of future generations in the profession, young turks in the field with whom he's fallen into step without missing, uh, one step.

"The profession's on the move, improving all the time," Wayne concluded. There are a lot of good, young supers around as the group continues to upgrade itself. Because of that trend, we have a better product to offer our members. We're getting better all the time and so is the golf course. It's nice to be part of it." And also nice to be one of its trend-setters.

GERRY FINN

Calendar

Feb. 28 & March 1,2, 1994 Massachusetts Turf Conference Springfield, MA Contacts: Mary Owen (508) 892-0382 or Dr. Joseph Troll (413) 549-5295

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The Super Speaks Out:

This month's question: What kind of an equipment replacement program has been established at your club and what are the factors to be considered when decisions are made concerning replacement of maintenance equipment?



Don Hearn, Weston Golf Club: "You might say we go by the books because we replace equipment according to a life expectancy chart. When it looks like a piece of equipment is ready to go and it lives up to the expec-

tations of what it was supposed to deliver in a prescribed period of time, it's replaced."

"In my situation, the equipment replacement program becomes part of our regular budget. And since we set up our capital expenditure budget two years in advance, the cost factor involved in a change is already written into how the equipment change will be financed."

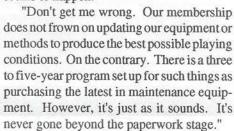
"We don't want to wait until something dies before we replace or repair it. In that light, we want to avoid emergencies."

Don Hearn, Weston G.C.

"Of course, sometimes we have to bend to dramatic technological improvements in certain maintenance aids. The case of switching the light weight fairway mowers is an example. When we saw that light weight mowing was the way to go, we found ourselves replacing equipment that probably was only a few years old. However, that was an exception."

"I think our program emphasizes a prevention philosophy when it comes to both replacing and repairing equipment. We don't want to wait until something dies before we replace or repair it. In that light, we want to avoid emergencies."

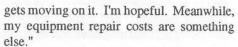
"And I have to say this approach is worksing. We have no antiquated equipment around here. That says it all. The program should remain in place." Paul Jamrog, The Orchards Golf Course: "I'd like to say that we have an etched-in-stone type of equipment replacement program but the issue seems to remain in that area where we talk a lot about it but nothing seems to happen."

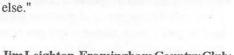


"Perhaps there is a tendency to dwell on the past when considering a change in equipment or embarking on an expensive repair program. Back in 1984 the course went on an equipment-buying binge. It involved a financial outlay in the \$100,000 range. So, maybe our members have lapsed into a feast or famine mood. But that's nine years ago. Some of the equipment purchased at that time should be headed for extinction."

"But there might be a light in the tunnel for the future. This year the members have initiated an equipment depreciation program. That's a step in the right direction and possibly the beginning of some action on the subject."

"In some instances, aesthetic purposes rule purchase of certain equipment. Generally speaking, country club members have an aesthetic mentality and some of the recent improvement in maintenance equipment reach that end. Another thing is important here. The Orchards is owned by Mt. Holyoke College. It's a unique situation. All financial outlay must go through the college. But I think the college will get behind us on an equipment replacement program if everyone





Jim Leighton, Framingham Country Club:
"I'm happy to report that our members have
put a successful equipment replacement move
into operation and the results have been almost instantaneous."

"Two factors went into the decision to replace equipment, some of which came out of the late 1970's and early 1980's era. That equipment, especially the cutting pieces, weren't producing the quality of cut we wanted."

"The second factor involved repair. In the end, it was decided that the money spent to repair older equipment was running higher each year and the expenditure wasn't worth it."

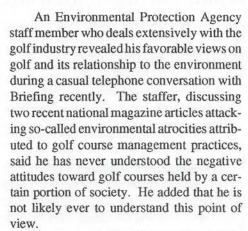
"This is my fifth season at Framingham, so I had a good handle on what equipment was holding back what I wanted to do in the matter of giving members a golf course high on the conditioning charts. I put a package together and club officials went with my suggestions."

"At this point I must say that those association tournaments, where green chairmen and other officials are invited, were a big help in selling my program. When our members saw first-hand what an updating of equipment could do to a course, my replacing needs got the boost it needed."

"After my demonstration, we got together on a five-year-lease program with Toro (replacing almost all of our cutting equipment) and had the new stuff on the job by the end of July. The results were dramatic. Everyone here agrees that we made the right move. And, obviously, it's all right by me."

GERRY FINN

EPA OFFICIAL REVEALS FAVORABLE VIEWS ABOUT GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT



"I am not a golfer," the staffer said in prefacing his remarks. "If they said that I never again could play a round of golf, that would be just fine with me. However environmentally speaking - if I was given a choice of what should be built on a particular piece of land, and my choices were, say, a shopping mall, a high-rise apartment building or a golf course, I would choose a golf course," he said. "Again, I am speaking purely from an environmental point of view."

The staffer was speaking from his own personal experiences and beliefs and not on

behalf of the agency. Because some of his remarks might be considered to be contrary to official EPA positions, we will not reveal his identity. His remarks are reported here because they are important to the golf industry.

The staffer said he would so choose because he considers the environmental benefits of golf courses to far outweigh any environmental detriments - real or imagined - caused by the playing fields. "The fact is that, if you are choosing between building a metal and concrete structure or a golf course on a piece of land, the golf course is a much better choice in consideration of the environment for a variety of reasons," he said.

"Personally, I think a golf course is a minimum test case for development," he added. "I mean, if you don't want to develop a piece of land by building a golf course on it, what sort of development would you accept. If a golf course does not meet your definition of environmentally friendly, it would seem that almost nothing else would as well."

"Why not build something that does not harm the environment and that can be enjoyed by thousands of people," he continued. He added that he readily could identify a host of environmental and social benefits provided by golf courses. For starters, he agreed with GCSAA's long-standing position that those who argue that golf courses spoil the land base their arguments entirely on emotion and that there is no acceptable scientific evidence to support their claims.

Additionally, he said golf courses provide valuable benefits to their natural surroundings, such as serving as sanctuaries and habitats for wildlife and native plants.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS Briefing

NEWS RELEASE

GCSAA to elect officers at Dallas annual meeting

Lawrence, Kan., November 2, 1993

Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS, has been nominated for the presidency of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). The association's 1994 election of officers and directors is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 7th, during its annual meeting at the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas. Baidy, superintendent at Acacia Country Club in Lyndhurst, Ohio, currently is vice president of GCSAA.

Nominees for GCSAA vice president are directors Gary T. Grigg, CGCS, of Naples National G.C. in Naples, Fla., and Bruce R. Williams, CGCS, of Bob O'Link G.C. in Highland Park, Ill. Grigg currently serves as GCSAA's secretary/treasurer and Williams is a director of the association.

Three candidates for director will be elected for two-year terms. The four nominees for director are Paul S. McGinnis, CGCS, of Union Hills C.C. in Sun City, Ariz; Charles T. Passios, CGCS, of Hyannisport Club in Hyannisport, Mass.; Tommy D. Witt, CGCS, of Bent Tree C.C. in Dallas; and R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS, of Valley View G.C. in Bozeman, Mont. McGinnis and Woodhead both currently serve as directors of GCSAA. Passios served on GCSAA's board from '90 to '92.

GCSAA's current president, Randy Nichols, CGCS, of Cherokee Town & C.C. in Atlanta, will continue to serve on the board of directors for one year as immediate past president. Two current board members, Dave W. Fearis, CGCS, of Blue Hills C.C. in Kansas City, Mo., and George Renault III,

CGCS, of Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, Md., have one year remaining on their terms.

GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show is scheduled for Jan. 31-Feb. 7th at the Dallas Convention Center. The title "CGCS," which follows a superintendent's name, stands for Certified Golf Course Superintendent. This distinction recognizes the achievement of high standards of professionalism through education and experience. More than 1,200 GCSAA members currently hold the CGCS title.

Headquartered in Lawrence, Kan., GCSAA is a 13,000-member international professional association dedicated to promoting the principles and techniques of responsible golf course management. Its mer bers are the men and women who manage and maintain golf courses around the world.

Why Not Pure Sand Greens?

JAMES T. SNOW

National Director, USGA Green Section

Here we go again! Calls and letters are coming in from people who are going to build pure sand greens (using a uniform coarse sand, no less) instead of USGA specification greens because of some article they read recently in a widely distributed turf publication. And why not? After all, the article says that all-sand greens are easier and cheaper to build ... nice and simple. All the complicated, high-tech, unnecessary, costly steps have been eliminated. No need to worry about today's consistent organic materials, or about gravel drainage beds or intermediate coarse sand layers.

Worried about water retention? Just mix some water-absorbent polymers or other unproven inorganic amendment into the top few inches of the sand profile, place the whole 12" rootzone on top of the existing soil base with some drain lines installed in it, and grow healthy, care-free turf. Revolutionary, you say? No, it isn't. Sound too good to be true, you say? Yes, it is!

There's usually a price to pay for taking a snortcut. Our experience tells us this:

- Pure sand greens built without a perched water table are often extremely droughty and experience severe dry spot problems.
- There is no buffering capacity in pure sand greens, and wide shifts in pH can occur very quickly.
- Pure sand greens often require extremely high rates of fertilizer during establishment and for several years thereafter. Rates as high as 30-40 lbs. N/1,000 sq. ft. or more per year have been reported. Potassium, phosphorus, and micronutrients also must be applied more frequently and in greater amounts.
- Disease problems often are much more severe on pure sand greens. It is a medium with extremely low microbial activity and offers almost no resistance to take-all patch, root pythium, and other root diseases.
- Lateral movement of water through the sand rootzone to drainage tiles may occur very slowly in some sands, resulting in wet areas between tiles and dry streaks over the tiles.
- According to work by Dr. James B. Beard, pure sand rootzone construction has a significant negative effect on root hair development

I maintenance compared to a properly mixed rootzone.

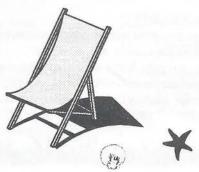
 Greens built of unmodified, round sands that fall in a narrow particle size range are unstable.
 Footprinting and tire tracking can occur for years after construction.

The grow-in layer of sloughed-off root organic material on pure sand greens is often quite dense. This layer can create a perched water table in the top 3 to 5-inch zone, and black layer frequently results.

As far as adding water-absorbing polymers and other unproven inorganic amendments into the top several inches of the profile is concerned, this is nothing more than gambling with other people's money and the golf course superintendent's job security. The Green Section specs are based on decades of field experience and university-based research. Unproven alternatives should not be promoted until thoroughly researched and field tested.

Proponents of pure sand greens and other "fast and easy" methods suggest that the golf course hire itself a good superintendent, since a top superintendent can grow grass on anything, including concrete. This is a copout! Lousy construction eventually begets lousy turf. The golf course often pays big bucks to get itself out of the mess, and the superintendent often pays with his job.

Last but not least, how can the golf industry accept pure sand greens, or any other method, that requires extremely heavy use of water and fertilizer? It's environmentally irresponsible. Who wants to be first in line at an environmental forum and be challenged about what happens to 40 lbs. N/1,000 sq. ft./year applied to a droughty, pure sand rootzone? Space in this column does not permit a thorough rebuttal to all of the misleading statements used to rationalize pure sand greens and other untested methods. The fact is, USGA greens offer the best compromise to allow a green to drain properly and to resist compaction while holding reasonable amounts of moisture and nutrients for plant growth. Don't be fooled by anyone into thinking that greens can be built easily and cheaply without having to pay for it later with interest. Pure sand rootzones and their untested modified versions should not be encouraged or condoned.



Slate of Officers for 1994

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Finance Chairman Kevin Osgood

Golf Chairman Richard Tworig

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Newsletter James Reinertson

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

James Fitzroy
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Scott Reynolds

NEWS RELEASE

Amendments proposed for '94 GCSAA election

Lawrence, Kan., November 2, 1993

Members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) are being asked to consider 15 proposed amendments to the organization's bylaws and articles of incorporation. Voting on the proposed amendments will take place at GCSAA's annual meeting, scheduled Feb. 7th, 1994, at the International Golf Course Conference Show in Dallas, Texas.

GCSAA President Randy Nichols, CGCS, says that many of the issues are similar to the ones presented at the 1993 annual meeting in Anaheim. In the upcoming election, however, each issue will be presented on a separate ballot. Nichols says this clearly defined separation will enable voters to express their wishes on specific issues, without having to consider any unrelated "riders."

The gist of each of the proposed amendments was hammered out during dialogue at a Delegates Meeting held Sept. 25-26 at the association's headquarters in Lawrence, Kan. More than 60 of GCSAA's affiliated chapters were represented at the Delegates Meeting. "A milestone in GCSAA's history" was how GCSAA Vice President Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS, described the meeting. "I was very pleased with the excellent response and discussion from the delegates and chapter representatives," said Baidy, who served as chairman of both the Delegates Meeting and the Planning Resource Committee, which first met in May to begin deliberations of possible amendments.

"The consensus of the delegates was that these proposals go to the Bylaws Committee so that they can be brought to the floor at the annual meeting," Baidy explained. "(The delegates and chapter representatives) are going to take the information back to their chapters and request their input." GCSAA's Standards Committee, as in years past, is serving as the Bylaws Committee for the purpose of formalizing the proposed amendments and submitting them to the board of directors for inclusion on ballots. Immediate past president William R. Roberts, CGCS, chairs the Standards/Bylaws Committee.

Sample ballots with exact text for each

proposal, as reviewed by the Bylaws Committee, will be mailed in December to all voting members of GCSAA as part of the official Notice of Annual Meeting. The basic issues to be voted upon include:

Membership Classifications

- Maintaining the current requirement for a two-thirds majority vote to alter the qualifications and levels of privilege for membership Classes AA, A, B and C, while authorizing the board of directors to develop Standing Rules regarding the qualifications and levels of privilege for other membership classifications.
- Simplifying the determination of Class B and C qualifications by making all golf course superintendents with less than three years' experience Class B members and all assistant superintendents, regardless of experience, Class C. This proposal would also extend voting and other "gold card" privileges to Class C members.
- Adding six new membership categories for other golf course maintenance and management personnel, who currently are assigned to Affiliate or Associate classifications, and charging the board to establish Standing Rules for privileges of such membership.
- Establishing a separate membership classification for club officials and golf association staff members, who currently are classified as Affiliate or Associate members, and requiring the board to determine Standing Rules for privileges of such membership.
- Creating a new membership class for educators and extension officers, who are currently included in the Affiliate or Associate classification; allowing the board to lower dues for Retired members; making Honorary membership permanent unless revoked; and requiring the board to set Standing Rules regarding the privileges of Affiliate members.

Dues Authority

 Preserving the membership's authority to set dues for Classes AA, A, B and C - but through regular ballot voting procedures instead of the current voice vote - while assigning responsibility for setting other membership classifications' dues to the board of directors.

Accountability

 Requiring a two-thirds majority of the board of directors to approve the execution continued on page 8





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

Varney Bros. Sand, Gravel & Concrete Concrete Golf Cart Paths Bellingham, MA 1-800-441-7373 Kenneth Mooradian, Rep.



continued from page 6

of any mortgage or loan document that would incur financial obligation for future boards of directors.

- Requiring the printing, in a GCSAA membership publication, of an official post-election report of voting records by chapter name, and by totals of individual votes and totals of proxy votes. (Note: If approved, this amendment would not take effect until the 1995 annual meeting, due to current ballot requirements.)
- Making the submission of false information on any membership application or dues statement an offense punishable by discipline or expulsion; eliminating the current reinstatement requirement of payment of all past-due amounts.

Other Issues

- Updating the organization's mission to reflect the importance of environmental awareness in golf course management, and to make the association's bylaws and articles of incorporation match.
- Changing the secretary/treasurer position from a presidential appointment to an elected office.
- Clarifying the secretary/treasurer's official duties.
- Naming the president, vice president and secretary/treasurer as trustees of the Benevolence Fund.

 Re-titling the association's chief executive employee "CEO" instead of "executive director"

NEEDHAM COUNTRY CLUB

November Results Two Man Scramble

1st	Dave Commee Mike Hermanson	-5	3rd	Ron Kirkman Jim Fitzroy	-2
2nd	Steve Murphy Bert Fredricks	-3	4th	*Jack Hassett Bob Ruszala	-1
				Ken Mooriadian Dick Zepp	-1

*Won match of cards.

Thanks to Ron Kirkman and his staff for a beautiful day of golf.



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