



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.

April 1995

Today's relationship between supers and salesmen is right on course

April Meeting

Monday, April 17, 1995
Pocasset Golf Club
Pocasset, Massachusetts

Host Superintendent
Stephen Carr

9 a.m. Board Meeting
11:30 a.m. Regular Meeting
12 noon Lunch
1 p.m. Golf
(Cocktails & hors d'oeuvres to follow. Cost: lunch, golf, & hors d'oeuvres, \$45; lunch only, \$15.)

Reservations Required
Call by April 13, 1995
PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE!
(508) 632-0252

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

Steve Carr has been the golf course superintendent at Pocasset G.C. since 1975. He is a 1974 graduate of Stonehill College and the Turf Winter School at Stockbridge in 1975. Steve is a former board member and past president of the Golf Course Managers Association of Cape Cod. He and his wife, Lois, reside in Pocasset and have one son, Tyler, age 10. Besides golf, Steve enjoys skiing, hiking, and bicycling.

Directions: Take I-495 South where it joins Rte. 28. Continue on I-495/Rte. 28 to and over Bourne Bridge. Take Rte. 28 south toward Falmouth. After three miles, turn right toward Pocasset on Barlows Landing Road. At first traffic light, turn left onto County Road. Proceed one-half mile to club. Sign is on right.

Jack Peterson's memory bank bulges with chuckles when he recalls his first encounter with his first potential golf course customer, the course superintendent.

"Oh yeah, I was really into golf," The Tom Irwin Co. chief executive chortled. "The only greens I knew about were the ones you put in salads. And a tee (tea)? That was something you drank. But, my oh my, how that first impression has changed."

Thirty-six years later, Peterson reflects the mentality of all those caught up in a unique relationship between the folks who serve up the equipment and services of their trade and the folks who utilize them. It is as solid as the grand and ancient game itself.

Steve Butler of the Larchmont Irrigation Company has been swapping stories with and throwing out sales pitches to supers for 31 years. How does he rate the profession? "I give 'em all a 10," he declared. "How could I not? I see them give their all for the golf course, deny their families all that time in the height of the season. I just look up to them. I hope club members, course owners, and the like realize they're dealing with managers, not grass cutters. Some of the demands on these guys are just unreal."

***"Their causes are our causes;
their goals are our goals."***

**Jack Cronin
R.F. Morse & Sons**

Dick Gurski, who deploys his selling skills for the Charles C. Hart Seed Company, is relatively new to the business of dealing with the superintendent, even though he draws from 25 years of experience in the wholesale lawn end of it. But he's learning of the bond between the salesperson the super fast.

"It's funny," he offered. "Before I got into direct contact with the superintendents, I always thought I knew more about this business than my customers. Not true now. It's amazing. I never knew how professional the supers were until I started dealing with them. You go to a golf course and you look around at all the facilities but no superintendent. Where is he? Out in the middle of the course doing the most important work around the club. He's the real hero there."

The recognition factor always has been a constant flaw in the mental makeup of country club members. All too often they simply assume that the condition of the golf course follows two philosophies. If the condition is good, the credit goes to the weather. If the condition is bad, the blame falls on the superintendent.

"That's something I'm trying to correct, straighten out," explained Jeff Rogers of the Robert Baker Companies. "I belong to a club and we have initiated a superintendent appreciation day. I think that because the condition of the golf course is a top priority with most members, they should spend some time to learn just what the supers do. They should get out on the course and get first-hand information about the conditioning process and the

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variables that go into determining what that condition will be."

One of the more interesting salespersons supporting the causes of the superintendent is a "deserter" from the profession's ranks - Jack Cronin of the R.F. Morse and Sons group. Actually, Jack decided to switch from super to salesman when he was at the top of his game, so to speak, when he opted for a new challenge.

"One of the side effects of that change has been the opportunity to view the superintendents' profession from the other side of the street," Cronin said. "And the first thing I can say is that demands on the position are ten times broader in scope than they were when I worked the golf course."

Cronin likes to characterize golf and the part he has in it in tandem with the superintendent as a close knit business. As an affiliate member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, he attends group meetings, plays in summer tournaments, and develops something more than just a working relationship with the people who oversee the making of enjoyable playing grounds.

When reminded that the equipment and services industry had become solid contributors to such superintendent-oriented causes as the Turf Research Tournament and Scholarship and Benevolence events, Cronin said "It's virtually a given that we share the same kind of indulgence in those things that the super does. After all, the way we exist with these guys is a two-way street. Their causes are our causes; their goals are our goals."

A keen observer of the salesperson-super scene is Bob Brown, who has seen the remarkable relationship of the two factions take hold during his 20 and more years with industry patriarch, Sawtelle Brothers.

"What really impresses me is the way the superintendent has had to become a man of many hats," Brown told. "These guys have been forced to a higher level on many fronts. They have to be technological giants, communications experts, financial geniuses, and executives in order to get their job done and their message understood.

"As for the relationship from our point of the game, we in the industry enjoy a fun part because we're able to associate with these guys away from the strain of doing business with them. When we play in their tournaments and see them in action during meetings and seminars, we come to appreciate the fact that both of us have the same thought: what can we do to improve the golf course?"

Peterson wound up the analysis of the relationship with a proverb that should be passed along to all those naysayers who insist the golf course superintendent contributes only to the dark side of their golf games. "Remember," Jack quipped, 'there are no bad players, just bad courses.' The super lives and has lived under that dictum ever since I discovered what his part in golf is all about. Now you know why we support and cheer them (supers). Do they deserve it or what?"

GERRY FINN

Calendar

- April 13 **USGA Regional Conference**
Colonial Hilton
Wakefield, Mass.
- April 17 **Joint Meeting of GCSANE & GCMA of Cape Cod**
Pocasset C.C.
Pocasset, Mass.
- May 5 **Pro-Media-Supt. Tournament**
Oakley County Club
Watertown, Mass.
- May 22 **The Memorial Tournament**
(Scholarship & Benevolence)
Poquoy Brook G.C.
Lakeville, Mass.
- June 19 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Pittsfield C.C.
Pittsfield, Mass.
- June 29 **Superintendent - Green Chairman Tournament**
Wachusett C.C.
West Boylston, Mass.
- July 10 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Indian Ridge C.C.
Andover, Mass.
- Aug. 14 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Ponkapoag G.C.
Canton, Mass.
- Sept. 11 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Westminster C.C.
Westminster, Mass.
- Oct. 16 **GCSANE Turf Research Tournament**
Salem C.C.
Peabody, Mass.
- Oct. 18 **Shanahan Memorial Pro-Superintendent Tournament**
Willowbend Club
Cotuit, Mass.
- Nov. 6 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Hopedale C.C.
Hopedale, Mass.
- Nov. 28-29 **GCSAA Regional Seminar**
Golf History, Theory, Construction, and Maintenance
The International
Bolton, Mass.
- Jan. 15-17, 1996 **65th Mass. Turf Conference & 20th Industrial Show**
Boston Marriott - Copley Place
Boston, Mass.

The Super Speaks Out:

This month's question: What are your thoughts about the maintenance program at your club while you live out the last days of winter, and what are your immediate plans when the golf course grooming season resumes?

Ron Hansen, Eastman Golf Links: "That's kind of a funny question for me up in the New Hampshire hills and in charge of a spreading complex with 60 miles of road to keep in shape.

"I mean funny because I really don't have much time for thinking about what I'm going to do when I get back to the golf course chores because those 60 miles of road have to be plowed and maintained. Even though we had a soft early winter I always have in the back of my mind a certainty that it's going to get cold again and the real winter will return.

"In fact, the winter job is so diversified here I have a full-time crew of 10 people on the payroll.

"As for the golf course, we have a unique situation because of the short or what I like to call 'prime time' golf season. It lasts only three months, which increases the pressure to perform, because before I know it the growing period is here and gone.

"I never really think about how I'll attack the golf course maintenance program until after March 1. Usually, we don't have any serious golf played before the last week in April, so I spend most of the parts of two months cleaning up the mess left from the snow and other storms.

"In the end, I know I'm going to face the same spring as always - waiting for the soil temperatures to rise to resemble something like a growing season and then giving my members the best possible playing conditions for those three vital months of the

"My thoughts in winter are divided between staking out improvements for the course and hoping for weather when I can open for play..."

Mike Videtta
Norwood Country Club

season. In most cases, most years, the warming trend doesn't hit until around the first of June. In the meantime, I have no big projects on the agenda and a master conditioning plan that's still on hold."

Mike Videtta, Norwood Country Club: "As you probably know, I lease this club, and pretty well confine myself to taking care of the financial arrangement end of the business. That leaves my super, Joe Piana, to take care of the regular winter job of refurbishing and getting the equipment ready for spring.

"My thoughts in winter are divided between staking out improvements for the course and hoping for weather when I can open for play - no matter what time of year it is. The harder the ground in winter the better for me.

"The improvements will be marked by a project in spring that will wind up with a putting green for my customers. That and a new fairway mower to be set in place. My aim is to upgrade this place from year to year. Sometimes it's a struggle but I'm holding my own after seven years.

"So, in effect, my golf season never ends just as long as players can use the grounds without the danger of inflicting damage to the turf. Therefore, my winter priority is to stay open as long as I can so that I can funnel the rewards into making the course a better place to play."

Bill Zuraw, Crumpin-Fox Club: "I guess the main thrust of my thoughts all winter is to hope for lots of snow cover to prevent our turf from getting confused about what actual weather season it is.

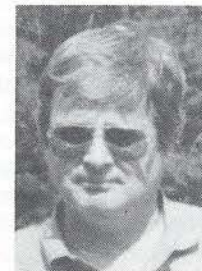
"The early part of this winter was a screwy one because of the changing weather patterns. One day we'd have puddles, the next we'd have snow and slush, then switch to ice before turning full circle back to bare ground again. If I'm confused about that cycle, think about the turf.

"In pointing to the grooming season, my goal is to make Crumpin-Fox a better golf course as time goes on. We came out of a May-June drought period counting on im-

provement and the course responded so that it really was in top shape when the season ended.

"There always are big projects around here. This year top priority is the expansion of tees to accommodate the varying abilities golfers bring to what is reputed as a challenging layout. I'm getting by with four off-season full-timers, and we'll add to that as the growing season arrives."

Dick French, Long Meadow (Lowell, Mass.) Golf Club: "I have a built-in spring chore situation that was launched at the end of the playing season last year when a company came in, pruned some trees, and left the remains there. That's what awaits me, a big clean-up project, when my active season begins.



"I usually start the serious clean-up and get-ready-for-play stuff around the first of March. When there's snow still on the ground, I plow the greens and wait for Mother Nature to take care of the rest of the course. Then, it's a look at other little items, like seeing if we need to re-edge traps and perhaps replace lost sand.

"I'm coming off a very good grooming season, and I consider myself very lucky in light of what some other courses suffered because of bad winter damage and carry-over drought conditions in 1994. I just pushed the right buttons at the right time and results showed in pretty fair playing conditions. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that the same thing happens this year.

"My concentration points for the season are two tournaments - the City Tournament in June and our member-guest event in July. I key in on that time period and the planning takes place right now.

"We have an active group here, 375 members on a nine-hole course. It's a challenge to keep them happy with playing conditions, but I have a good, dependable crew, and frankly, the gods have been good to me. I hope for the same this season."

GERRY FINN

"That's what awaits me, a big clean-up project, when my active season begins."

Dick French
Long Meadow G.C.

Modern golf course maintenance: Good or bad?

by C. R. Skogley, Prof. Emeritus,
Plant Sciences Department,
University of Rhode Island

During past years I was a frequent contributor to newsletters. Perhaps it was part of my job. I have always enjoyed writing when I thought I might be contributing to our profession.

Since retirement, I have found it difficult to sit still long enough to put my thoughts on paper. Perhaps I have taken a break and, in the future, can again become a contributor. I do know that newsletter editors have to scramble to find interesting and worthwhile articles for their publications.

Since retiring I have continued some research and have been able to maintain my office at the turfgrass research farm at U.R.I. I continue to do a small amount of consulting but of most interest has been my continuing effort in grass collecting. Most of these trips have been at the request of a plant breeder friend in the Pacific Northwest. During 1993 I spent about three weeks collecting grasses in Greece and during 1994 I concentrated on winter-damaged courses from Rhode Island to Maine. Also during 1994 I visited a number of courses in Massachusetts with velvet bentgrass greens. The purpose for these visits was to council with the superintendents on their successful management programs. Just before retirement I turned over materials for an improved velvet to an Oregon seed company. The first seed of this new variety (S.R. 7200) reached the market in 1994. I did write a paper on what I consider proper velvet management and, hopefully, it will appear in a publication before long.

As I continue to visit golf courses, talk with superintendents and golfers, and hark back on my experience, I have continued to formulate opinions about current expectations for our turf and the management thereof. I am convinced that we have lost our perspective about the game of golf and the turf conditions necessary to play the game. I haven't determined whether it is the golfer or the superintendent who has created the feeling of need for perfection at all times. If the need is real, perhaps it would be simpler, and less costly, in the long run, to install a green carpet!

The development and maintenance of turf that is adequate for an enjoyable round of golf in New England should not be as difficult and costly as we have made it. During my nearly 40 years as a turfgrass agronomist I have seen radical changes in management methods and much of the change has not been good agronomics.

I believe we have given up on some of the grasses that have naturalized in our region and, instead, have created soil conditions unfavorable to them. We have created ideal conditions for annual bluegrass and a host of uncommon diseases. I also think we have come to ignore the value or necessity of developing or maintaining

healthy soils. We cut our grass too close and use too much water. To create the increasing quality of turf that we think is in demand we continue to create new problems. Thirty years ago we had few root diseases and Pythium was most uncommon. Gray snow mold (not very damaging) was common, but now we are faced with the more damaging pink snow mold. Why these changes?

I have theories and convictions as to why we have so many current problems. I believe many of our current practices and management procedures are responsible. I believe we are ignoring some of the important practices that were important to earlier generations of superintendents. If there is interest I would be glad to again take pen in hand and discourse on my agronomic views and philosophies. Perhaps it is time to determine who is the most demanding of perfection - the golfer or the superintendent.

The newest dirt on washed sod

by Dr. Bridget Ruummele
and Dr. Noel Jackson, U. of R.I.

Since the 1950s, when sod production began flourishing, numerous changes have been implemented. The "newest" trend is the use of washed sod for selected sites, such as on sand-modified greens, tees and athletic fields.

When sod was first sold, customers were advised to install sod on a site with soil similar to the site from which it was harvested. Unfortunately, this is not always possible. Since soils vary immensely, removing the soil from the sod prior to installation could reduce or eliminate the interface boundary problems that sometimes occur when sod with one soil is placed on soil of a different texture, for example, a sandy loam sod on a clay soil.

A device to wash sod was actually patented nearly 17 years ago, but it took until the past few years for such equipment to become available in the United States. New England sod producers were among the first to take advantage of this equipment and are even revolutionizing soil removal from sod in ways which may become available in the near future.

Washed sod is lighter to handle, tends to root as fast, if not faster, than sod with soil attached, and reduces management

problems that may occur with soil incompatibilities in the sod and soil on the site to be sodded.

Some concerns about washed sod include the possibility of increased disease susceptibility during establishment and the need for quick and thorough knitting of the sod with the soil on site to keep the sod from sliding back and forth. There is also a question as to whether establishment and maintenance procedures need to differ from standard sod establishment and maintenance

In conjunction with Tee and Green Sod, the University of Rhode Island has initiated experiments to address some of the concerns and questions noted above. To date, we have assessed the value of preventative fungicide applications during the establishment of washed sod on 70:30 sand:soil mix (new), 80:20 sand:soil mix (previously planted with turf) and a native silt loam soil site.

Sod in the first experiment was laid 24, 40, or 48 hours after washing, while sod in the second experiment was laid 24, 48, or 56 hours after washing. The sod in the second experiment was harvested from Long Island, N.Y., trucked to Rhode Island for washing, then trucked to Hastings, N.Y., and back to Rhode Island to be laid. This was done to determine if the trucking had an affect on the sod. The second experiment was established on the 80:20 sand:soil mix plots only.

A combination of triadimefon (Bayleton) and chlorothalonil (Daconil) was used to suppress dollar spot, while fosetyl-Al (Aliette) and mancozeb (Fore) were used in

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Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program Resource Inventory: An essential first step

Reprinted from
Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary
News, Winter, 1995

The Resource Inventory is a critical first step in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. The main function of this form is to help you describe your course's current habitat and management practices so that we can learn more about your course. New York Audubon then uses the form to make recommendations for ways to improve and enhance your course and become certified. Your Resource Inventory will also help us to document and publicize the positive things golf courses are doing for the environment.

There are many reasons why the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program Resource Inventories don't get filled out. You may be having a busy season, renovating a few greens, or simply believe that the Resource Inventory is just too complicated and would take too much time. So to help you fill out the Resource Inventory and fully benefit from the program, we have the following suggestions:

First things first. The best way to start out any form is to fill in the information you already know. Leave things that you don't know or are unsure of for later.

Take it in pieces. Many projects can seem overwhelming if you try and do them all at once. Take your time. Remember, your answers do not have to be long in explanation. Spend ten minutes everyday, such as at lunch, and fill out one page. In a week you'll have the whole Resource Inventory completed.

Answers to common questions about the Resource Inventory: "What is the ACSP looking for?"

- **Acreage.** Don't be intimidated by having to write down the amount of acreage for different habitats of your course. We are not looking for exact numbers, but your best guesstimate. Another hint is for courses that are part of a larger property, such as a resort or park. When filling out acreage, specify whether it refers to the total property or just the course, and try and include both where possible. For example, Total # of Property Acres: course = 150/resort = 2000.

- **History of site.** We are curious about the habitat at the site (i.e. forest, farmland, wetland, etc.) prior to golf course development.
- **Photos/slides.** Photos or slides, whatever is easiest for you to include, are always helpful in illustrating a course's natural environment. Pictures of water features and any natural areas, along with the number of the nearest hole, are especially useful.
- **Maps.** Including a map of the course, especially one with hole numbers included, can help us describe possible locations for projects.
- **Wildlife information.** Many people are overwhelmed by this question, but be assured we're not looking for a list of every species that ever occurred on the site. Just list a few of the major species that you have seen. If you don't know what something is, look in a field guide, send us a picture or omit it. Endangered and threatened species: If you know of endangered or threatened species, be sure to list them. If you are not sure whether or not you have any endangered or threatened species on your course, just write "I don't know."

What to do when you don't know. Feel free to write "I don't know," if needed. The important thing is to get started. We'll

The best way to start out any form is to fill in the information that you already know. Leave the things that you don't know or are unsure of for later. Feel free to write "I don't know" if needed. The important thing is to get started.

**Audubon Cooperative
Sanctuary News,
on filling out ACSP
Resource Inventory**

help you learn more through the program. Call the ACSP anytime between 9am and 5pm EST, Monday - Friday, at (518) 767-9051. If you ever have any questions about filling out the Resource Inventory, please call us. We're here to help.

The next step: What to do after receiving your report. Approximately four weeks after sending in your Resource Inventory, you should receive our report describing different projects to enhance your course's environmental quality. Once you review the report and the corresponding materials, we recommend that you take the following steps to create a successful golf course sanctuary and apply for certification:

Step 1: Let people know you're an ACSP member. We include a press release with your report to help you announce your participation in the ACSP. Feel free to send it to local media that your club deems appropriate or simply use it in your club newsletter.

Step 2: Form a Resource Advisory Committee. Gather a small working group of interested employees, regular golfers or members, and representatives of local groups with expertise in wildlife or plants to help you formulate plans and implement projects.

Step 3: Formulate an Environmental Plan. Use the Cooperative Sanctuary Report for suggestions and guidance in setting goals and deciding which projects you'd like to do. In each certification category, review what you've already done and choose projects that will help you start or expand your environmental management of the course.

Step 4: Obtain Detailed Certification Guidelines. If you are ready to begin the certification process, call us for a copy of the detailed Certification Guidelines or submit your "Report Form" included in your report packet.

Step 5: Apply for Certification. If you've completed your Environmental Plan, you can apply for certification in this category right away. As other projects are undertaken, you can apply for certification in the other five categories (Wildlife and Habitat Management, Member/Public Involvement, Integrated Pest Management, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management).

The newest dirt on washed sod

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tandem against pythium in both experiments. Control plots received no fungicide.

Approximately two weeks after establishment, 3 X 3" plugs were removed from each plot to measure longest rooting and total root mass. Dollar spot damage to leaves was severe in the first experiment, with both the control and pythium-treated plots devastated. Pythium symptoms did not appear in the first experiment. No disease symptoms were in evidence at the time of the second experiment and prior to root measurements.

Interestingly, the longest roots on either mix in the first experiment tended to be on plots receiving either of the fungicide combinations. The 70:30 sand:soil root lengths were greatest on the dollar spot-treated plots, with the pythium-treated plots somewhat less and the control plots having the shortest roots. Overall, when looking at both sand:soil

mix results, plots receiving either of the fungicide treatments averaged significantly longer roots than plots receiving no treatment, regardless of the appearance of the leaves. Thus, even though the plots receiving only pythium fungicides were severely damaged by dollar spot rather than pythium, rooting was better than when there was no fungicide applied. The time of sod laying made little difference in root length in the first experiment.

Dried root weights on the 80:20 sand:soil in the first experiment did not differ significantly among the different times of sodlaying or among the fungicide treatments. The 70:30 sand:soil, however, showed dramatic differences in root weight. Plots treated with triadimefon (Bayleton) and chlorothalonil (Daconil) had more root mass than plots with fose-tyl-Al (Aliette) and mancozeb (Fore), which, in turn, had more root mass than plots treated with no fungicide. The second experiment, with longer intervals between laying, demonstrated that sod laid after 24

hours had significantly more root weight than sod laid either 48 or 56 hours after treatment. The latter two time intervals did not differ from each other, although the 48 hour treatments were slightly greater. Treatments for either pythium or dollar spot resulted in plots that had significantly more root weight than control plots with no fungicide treatment.

Future experiments will evaluate top-dressing to enhance stability (i.e. reduce slipping of the turf), the benefits of rooting enhancers during stress periods, nutrient management, and any other concerns expressed to us by users of the washed sod.

The availability of washed sod in New England has increased dramatically in the past two years and will continue to increase if market demands for it remain. We are working on management protocols to optimize washed sod establishment and will continue to keep you updated.

Reprinted from **TURF NOTES**,
Sept./Oct. 1994

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

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed: Andrew Gay, Associate, Orchards G.C., South Hadley, Mass.; Richard Lawlor, Associate, Tatnuck C.C., Worcester, Mass.; Carlton Minor, Assistant, Presidents G.C., Quincy, Mass.; Frederick Wood, Regular, Willowdale G.C., Mansfield, Mass.; Matthew Marrone, Associate, Wachusett C.C., West Boylston, Mass.; Cedar Lawn Tree Service, Friend, Ashland, Mass.; William Maley, Affiliate, Cedar Lawn Tree Service.

Welcome New Members: Thomas Bachli, Assistant, Ipswich C.C., Ipswich, Mass.; Victoria Wallace, Affiliate, Loft's Seed Co., Arlington, Mass.; Peter G. Larman, Associate, Duxbury Yacht Club, Duxbury, Mass.; J. Matthew Faherty, Affiliate, Sodco Inc., Slocum, R.I.; Mark A. Casey, Assistant, Tara Ferncroft C.C., Danvers, Mass.

INFORMATION

PLEASE NOTE The reservation phone number change: 508-632-0252!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The Scholarship and Benevolence Tournament will be held May 22, 1995 at Poquoy Brook Golf Course.

We hope the "The Nob Hill Roller", Owen Regan, has recovered from injuries sustained in San Francisco at the GCSAA convention.

Congratulations to Scott Reynolds, Charles River C.C. and David Mucciarone, Woodland C.C., who received MGA Recognition Awards for their efforts hosting the MGS Amateur and Open tournaments.

Please get those membership dues in ASAP. It will cost you an additional \$20 for reinstatement if they're not paid by May 1. If, after June 1, 1995, you still have not paid, your name will be dropped from the membership list and re-application will be required.

Jack Hassett is still accepting names or nominations for Memorial Tournament (Scholarship & Benevolence) dedication.

In the GCSAA Chapter Publications Contest at the convention, The Newsletter was Runner-up to publications from the Wisconsin GCSA and the Georgia GCSA, who were declared co-winners. Many thanks to the Newsletter staff, especially Gerry Finn, the folks at Zip Type (Reg Bacon in particular), and all members who contributed articles during this past year. Hopefully, we can match or improve this standing next year.

Congratulations to a number of GCSANE members who distinguished themselves by winning or placing at the GCSAA Golf Championships. They are as follows:

3rd Flight Gross Division Winner - Paul Jamrog; 1st Division - 3rd Place Net - Paul Miller; and Senior 1 Division - 3rd Place Net - Ron Kirkman. Also winning in the "Fun Contest" on Feb. 20 were Peter Lund, Closest-to-Pin on #12 at Quail Lodge; Wayne LaCroix, Long Drive at Poppy Hills; and John Kotoski, Closest-to-Pin on #3 at Rancho Canada. Again, congratulations to you all!

There's still plenty of room for more people on the Gloucester fishing trip June 5. Call Mike Nagle to sign up at 508-853-6574.

Kudos to Bob DiRico and Kevin Osgood for an excellent job organizing and running the hospitality suite at the GCSAA convention.

Out of roughly 1400 high school referees in Massachusetts, our own Mike Hermanson was one of only 6 chosen to officiate in the state girls basketball semi-finals at Mullins Center at UMass. Mike narrowly missed out on refereeing in the finals. Congratulations!

Applications for the Ciba Legacy Awards are available from President Chip Brearley. These scholarships are for students not enrolled in a turf-related curriculum. They must be submitted by April 15.

Congratulations to Dr. Joe Troll, who was presented the Ike Granger Award for service of over 25 years to the USGA at the Mass. Turf Conference.

Meeting Notes: A "Thank You" to Dave Kahrman and everyone at The Thomson Country Club for a fine job hosting the March Monthly Meeting.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

1 E-Z-Go GXT-800 turf truckster. Good condition. Asking \$1500. Call Mike Nagle or Joe Dumas, Worcester C.C., at 508-853-6574.

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Friend of the Association profile

TurfNet Associates, Inc.

TurfNet Associates, Inc. is a provider of information services specific to the maintenance segment of the golf course industry. Founded early in 1994, TurfNet was created to assist the golf course superintendent in keeping abreast of new products and technologies, while also acting as a forum to share the "tricks of the trade" everyone has up their sleeves. TurfNet currently has over 225 clubs involved, ranging geographically from northern Virginia to New England to Ohio.

TurfNet Monthly is the newsletter of the organization, and focuses on presenting concise, bulleted topics without hype,

sales pitch, or sugar-coating. Features include capsules of information from area university and industry specialists during the growing season, and synopses of industry seminars. Information presented is timely and focused on what is happening *at the time*, rather than three months prior. The annual Used Equipment Special Edition serves as a clearing house for used equipment, with some dramatic success stories of increased value received through selling direct, rather than trading in.

TurfNet Research Reports are available to TurfNet members on 20 categories of turf equipment, and provide an overview of every available product within each category. Specific performance advantages and disadvantages are highlighted, along with

numeric indexes of satisfaction and reliability (generated from questionnaires submitted by TurfNet members). Comprehensive User Reference Lists and Transaction Histories of recent selling prices are provided in an effort to help fine-tune purchasing decisions.

All information is currently presented in print, although plans are in place to intergrate an on-line component to the service shortly. Computer experience is not needed to participate.

TurfNet Associates is proud to be a Friend of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England. Further information can be obtained by calling TurfNet Associates at 1-800-314-7929.

Companies unite to sponsor environmental message

Corporate members of Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE) and several plant nutrition companies have joined to sponsor a special environmental message on "Par for the Course." Produced by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, "Par for the Course" is a 30-minute newsmagazine aired on ESPN that takes an inside look at the world of golf.

The special message will run in a 30-second television commercial during

"Par for the Course" and selected ESPN-televized golf tournaments. The commercial tells viewers about the community and environmental benefits of golf courses and managed greenspaces.

The following companies helped fund the special message:

American Cyanamid Co.; BASF Corp.; Ciba Turf & Ornamental Products; DowElanco; Ironite Products Co.; J.R. Simplot Co.; Miles Inc.; Milorganite; Rhone-Poulenc Ag Co.; Sandoz Agro Inc.; The Scotts Co.; Toro Probiotic Products; Vigoro Industries Inc.; and Zeneca Professional Products.

Every episode of "Par for the Course" highlights great courses anyone can play and features conversations with well-known golfers. The program also offers practical golf instruction and informs viewers about the environmental attributes of golf. Thirty episodes of "Par for the Course" will air on ESPN in 1995. Twenty-three episodes will air on Sundays, and seven episodes will air on weekdays.

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