



# THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents

Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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

January 1995

## Winchester C.C.'s Dan Higgins restores a Donald Ross "original"

### Annual Meeting

Monday, January 9, 1995  
Franklin Country Club  
Franklin, Massachusetts

Host Superintendent  
Gary Luccini

8:30 a.m. Board Meeting  
11:30 a.m. Regular Meeting  
12 noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Election of officers and presentation of awards  
(In lieu of a formal educational segment, an open discussion of the membership will follow.)

Reservations Required  
Call by January 5, 1995  
(617) 328-9479

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

GCSANE winter meetings require jackets and ties.  
Compliance is strongly encouraged.

Gary Luccini has been the golf course superintendent at Franklin Country Club for 25 years. He graduated from Stockbridge in 1962 and worked as the assistant superintendent at Dedham for five years. Gary helped build Pine Oaks C.C., a nine-hole course in Easton, Mass., before moving on to Franklin. In 1989 he was a consultant to the Hale Irwin Golf Services during the construction of New England C.C. Gary and Kathy Luccini have four children: Michael (24), Brian (23), Cheryl (22), and Beth (15). In his spare time Gary enjoys golf, auto racing, and hockey. He is the voice of Franklin High School hockey on Cable Channel 10 in Franklin.

**Directions:** Take the King Street, Franklin exit from I-495 and follow Rte. 140 South for 3.5 miles. Club is on the right.

Donald Ross is alive and well. That is, Donald Ross golf course architectural genius is alive and well. In fact, it is immortal.

Ross, the patron saint of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, had a designing hand in countless courses throughout the United States. He dealt a heavy hand in New England during a career that spanned 50 years, or from the time he emigrated to Boston from Dornoch, Scotland in 1898 until his death at Pinehurst, North Carolina in 1948. Many of his gems were set in Massachusetts, 35 in all, and one of the real sparklers is the Winchester Country Club.

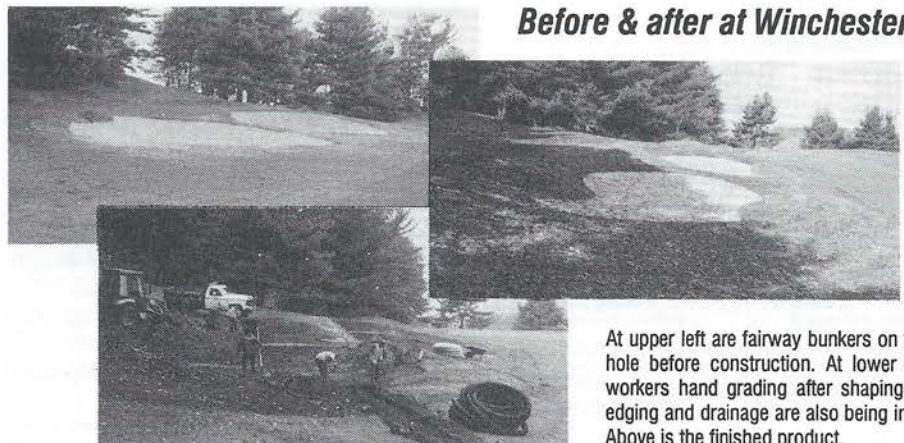
That's where Dan Higgins comes in. Higgins, now in his sixth year as the golf course superintendent at the prized Winchester layout, is painting a Donald Ross "original", so to speak. He's just put the finishing touches on a restoration project that brings Winchester back to the same

shape and style Ross intended it to be at the outset in 1903 and the remodeled form it took when he returned to add a few more brush strokes to the original in 1928.

It's been more than one full year of taking the wear and tear out of Winchester for Higgins, who worked off an aerial photo (circa 1935) and the technical knowhow of architect Stephen Kay, to complete the job.

"All of this was new to me," explained Higgins, who could be termed a Donald Ross devotee, since his last head super position before Winchester was the Cohasset Golf Club, where he spent four years. "Oh, that's a Donald Ross course, too. So I had some idea where the refurbished look was coming from when we got down to the nuts and bolts of things at Winchester. Regardless, virtually starting from scratch or from hole to hole isn't

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**Before & after at Winchester C.C.**

At upper left are fairway bunkers on the first hole before construction. At lower left are workers hand grading after shaping. Wood edging and drainage are also being installed. Above is the finished product.



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something a golf course superintendent does every day.”

The idea behind the project and the burning theme was always to go back to the blueprint Ross worked from when he put the course together in 1902. Naturally, that treasured document wasn't available, so Dan used the 1935 aerial photo and other visual aids to get his work on the right track.

“There was a lot of bunker work involved,” he said. “In the beginning the Winchester design allowed for 76 bunkers. Another nine had been added over the years. Therefore, we had to put a spit and polish on more than 80 bunkers, most of which had taken a beating for over 90 years. There was a lot of bull work to go with the fine tuning type of labor that was necessary to bring the bunkers up to Donald Ross specifications. In fact, the overall process of restoring the traps took just about half the time of the entire project.”

The project actually began in the fall of 1993 with tree planting and path work. That time span also was used to plot the bulk of the course reshaping that took place this past year.

“The restoration also coincided with the installation of a new irrigation system,” Higgins told. “It replaced a system that was put in during the 1950s, so in terms of modern day equipment it was antiquated, an arrangement of old cast iron sprinklers and whatnot that drained a lot of manual labor from my work schedule.”

Higgins said that the irrigation installment was a quick job, but it also touched on another concern: source of water. “The system depends on town water,” Dan disclosed. “And that could be a problem should we get into a drought condition. However, there are plans to prepare for such a possibility. It involves pumps and wells, and could be the next big project. Meanwhile, we hope our members can enjoy the fruits of this one before having to tackle something else.”

As it is, the new irrigation system increases and improves coverage while helping to conserve water. “The refinements in the system will minimize the amount of water we use and cut down on time expended to make the system effective. I'm looking for a savings of 15 or 20 percent across the board,” Higgins noted.

While the key to redefining the design-ing look of Ross is the vast input of time, money, and labor into rejuvenating Winchester's 80-plus bunkers, other side effects will make the completed project all the more attractive to members.

“Two elements, related to more modern-design courses, have been put in

place,” Dan explained. “We've added forward tees to accommodate those golfers whose games are sapped by the demands of longer shots and we've also put some emphasis on proper alignment of all tees. Those improvements were started a little late and probably won't be ready for delivery this spring. However, the complete package should be in full swing by June.”

Higgins, a Bellows Falls, Vermont native, but now solidly entrenched in the Greater Boston area, already has seen positive results along condition lines with the immediate effects of the streamlined irrigation system. That has given his hopes a lift as he looks forward to taking the wraps off a Donald Ross course headed into the 21st century.

“So far, I like what I see after a really full year of cosmetic surgery that's brought about a face lift for our course,” he concluded. “And I can appreciate our members' concern to retain the original Donald Ross look. It is fascinating at that. No wonder his name dominates the conversation when it's centered on golf course architects. He is No. 1.”

GERRY FINN

## Calendar

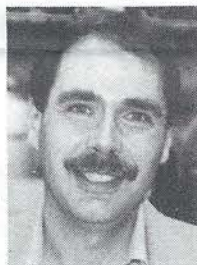
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|------------|--|
| Jan. 2-5   | <b>Northeast Weed Science Society Conference</b><br>Marriott Copley Place, Boston, Mass.                 |
| Jan. 9     | <b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b><br>Franklin C.C., Franklin, Mass.  |
| Jan. 12-13 | <b>New Hampshire Turf Conference</b><br>The Center of New Hampshire<br>Manchester, N.H.                  |
| Feb. 8     | <b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b><br>Brae Burn C.C., W. Newton, Mass.  |
| Feb. 20-27 | <b>GCSAA 66th International Golf Course Conference &amp; Show</b><br>Moscone Center, San Francisco, Cal. |
| March 6-8  | <b>Mass. Turf Conference &amp; Industrial Show</b><br>W. Springfield, Mass.                              |
| March      | <b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b><br>Thomson Club, North Reading, Mass.                                      |
| April 13   | <b>USGA Regional Conference</b><br>Colonial Hilton, Wakefield, Mass.                                     |
| April      | <b>Joint Meeting of GCSANE &amp; GCMA of Cape Cod</b><br>Pocasset C.C., Pocasset, Mass.                  |
| May 5      | <b>Pro-Media-Supt. Tournament</b><br>Essex County Club, Manchester, Mass.                                |
| May 22     | <b>The Memorial Tournament</b><br>(Scholarship & Benevolence)<br>Poquoy Brook G.C., Lakeville, Mass.     |

# The Super Speaks Out:

**This month's question: Why are you going, what will you look for and what do you expect to gain from the experience of attending the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show in San Francisco?**

**Bill Spence, The Country Club:**

"First, let me say that they're expecting somewhere between 15,000 and 20,000 people to show up for the conference. That fact alone sets it apart from anything the superintendent has available to him in the matter of getting a better perspective on his profession.



"Those numbers are staggering. Needless to say, I think I'll see a lot familiar faces among those 20,000 on hand. So that's one big reason just by itself to be there. All that golf course maintenance knowhow gathered together in one place. It's the opportunity of a lifetime.

"Being with all those people makes it easy to renew old acquaintances and get caught up to date on what they're doing. Naturally, striking up conversation with old friends and colleagues leads to an exchange of ideas. I would imagine that more than one particular conditioning problem has been solved just at the mention of it between conference goers.

"On the grand scale or the formal part of the trade show, there's really opportunity to get in step with technological improvements in the profession. There's probably every piece of machinery a golf course superintendent will use in two lifetimes of maintaining and improving playing conditions. There probably is so much it's impossible to get a working explanation of each one in the five or six days you're there.

"As for the seminars, they cover everything from putting a dependable work crew together to letting off some of the steam you might accumulate from a more stressful day on the job. Again, they cover everything. If it has to do with turf, it's there to be learned and made ready for practical use back at your own course.

"Personally, going to San Francisco is something special since we (family) lived in

the area when I was working out there. It means somewhat of a reunion for me and one of the nicest parts of the country. Therefore, there'll be a lot of sight-seeing on my agenda.

"I won't be looking for anything in particular as far as turf problems or other job-related subjects go. What I plan to do is drink it all in or as much as I can hold. Regardless, in matter of dollars and cents value, there's nothing like this conference. Everyone there is somebody in sports turf. It's just the place to be at this time of year."

**Bob Ruzala, Hickory Ridge Country Club:**

"No doubt about it. When it's snow time in these parts, it's time for me to hit the conference. I've been there every year since 1985. So, I guess I'll be going for an attendance pin. Just kidding.



"I just like going, too, because everything I want to know or get up to date on is right at my fingertips. I'll be taking in all the latest equipment and taking in the seminars pertaining to those projects I have lined up for myself back home.

"This year I'm especially interested in drainage and sand trap restoration. I'll get

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***"In a matter of dollars-and-cents value, there's nothing like this conference. Everyone there is somebody in sports turf. It's just the place to be this time of year."***

**Bill Spence  
The Country Club**

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the answers to my questions on those subjects either in seminars or conversations with experts on them. The top people are there. It's just one endless source of information.

"I can't list, item by item, the benefits my club and I have realized because I attend the conference. However, everytime I return from it I feel a little better about my personal expertise and the input I can make. And, believe it or not, over the long run it results in a monetary savings for the club. That makes it worthwhile. That's why I wouldn't miss it."

**Andy Langlois, Stow Acres Country Club:**

"I'm five for five. That's perfect attendance for me. It goes with my thinking. This is the best aid a golf course superintendent can get at these prices.



"Seriously, going to the conference is the biggest part of my winter program, and getting there is a must. It's the first time for me in San Francisco. I've heard so much about that part of the country. I know, the conference has been in Anaheim. But it's not the same. San Francisco is something special. It goes with the event because the conference is something special, too.

"One of the things at the conference that always intrigues me, even puts me into kind of a spell, is the trade show. I remember the first one I went to. I saw all that beautiful equipment - all those up-to-date products - and my mouth began to water, just looking at it.

"I really don't get involved in solving personal professional problems by design. But it just seems that I'm always picking up little things that will help where I am down the road. Just a couple of years ago I ran into some people praising a particular reel grinder. I was sold on it and eventually it found itself in my equipment room.

"I'm not much into formal seminars at the conference. I usually chase them down at regional conferences. However, I take in the USGA turf tip sessions and just rely on unscheduled conversations with other people to take something worthwhile back home with me.

"Even more interesting to me are some of the other facets of the game and people representing them, people who take in the conference. I get a lot from listening to experts like golf course architects. In a word, I just take it all in and hope I benefit from what I hear. I can't wait to get there."

**GERRY FINN**

# GCSAA honors three individuals with distinguished service awards

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) board of directors has selected Milt Engelke, Ph.D., Ali Harivandi, Ph.D., and Michael Hurdzan, Ph.D., to receive the association's 1995 Distinguished Service Awards.

The three will receive the awards in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the advancement of the superintendents' profession and as an expression of gratitude by GCSAA for the recipients' many efforts and achievements.

The awards will be presented Thursday, Feb. 23, during the Opening Session of GCSAA's 66th International Golf Course Conference and Show in San Francisco.

GCSAA President Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS, said: "On behalf of our members, the GCSAA board of directors is very proud to honor these three with our Distinguished Service Award. Their dedication and outstanding contributions embody the highest traditions of this award."

**Dr. Milt Engelke**, professor of turfgrass breeding and genetics at the Texas A&M University Research and Extension Center in Dallas, has made considerable contributions to science and the turfgrass industry. He has been published extensively in research journals and textbooks, and has participated in local, regional, national, and international conferences and symposiums. Among the many professional and scientific organizations he participates in, Dr. Engelke is a member of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, the International Turfgrass Society, and the Turfgrass Breeders Association. He has served as associate editor of the *Journal of Turfgrass Management* since 1992.

He served on GCSAA's Technical Research Advisory Committee (TRAC) from 1987 to 1992. Dr. Engelke also has been a member of the United States Golf Association's (USGA) Turfgrass Research Committee since 1984. Dr. Engelke has been a member of GCSAA since 1979.

"Dr. Engelke and his research program are internationally recognized as one of the top turfgrass breeding programs in the world," Baidy said. "One of his many accomplishments, the release of his 'Prairie' Buffalograss variety (known for its water-efficient growth characteristics), has had a tremendous impact in the industry."

**Dr. Ali Harivandi**, professional educator and environmental horticulturist with the University of California Cooperative Extension, has a strong standing in the industry stemming from his applied research programs, extensive publications, comprehensive educational background, and a high level of participation in local, regional, and national industry affairs.

His research, publications, educational programs, and community and professional commitments have been recognized by numerous organizations. Among his many awards, Dr. Harivandi is the 1982 and 1992 recipient of the Northern California Turfgrass Council's Research and Education Award. He was named Educator of the Year by the Pesticide Applicator Professional Association. He also received the 1990 Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California.

In 1988, Dr. Harivandi was a member of the first GCSAA TRAC appointed by the association's board of directors.

"Dr. Harivandi has established himself as an authority in all aspects of turf and water management and is always available to assist a superintendent with a problem," Baidy said. "His dedication to golf course superintendents and the game of golf deserves recognition."

**Dr. Michad Hurdzan** is a golf course architect and past president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. His golf course designs include two highly acclaimed courses in Toronto, Canada: Devil's Pulpit and Devil's Paintbrush.

With degrees in turfgrass physiology, environmental plant physiology, and landscape architecture, Hurdzan also has worked as a golf course superintendent and landscape architect. His accomplishments during the past 25 years include writing more than 100 articles for various turf magazines, organizing and teaching GCSAA seminars, and speaking at golf and turf meetings throughout the world. Hurdzan also has amassed an extensive library of golf books and a large collection of clubs and balls from past eras. He intends to establish a golf museum with the golf paraphernalia.

Hurdzan is a past board member and past regents member of the National Golf Foundation, a past committee chairman for the American Society of Landscape Architects, and a past committee member for the USGA's Green Section.

Hurdzan currently is working on a book on golf course architecture, which will be available through the GCSAA Bookstore. Profits from the book are earmarked to fund a GCSAA Foundation scholarship in Hurdzan's name and to establish Hurdzan's golf museum.

"No one has championed the idea of architect and superintendent working together more than Dr. Hurdzan," Baidy said. "With his educational and professional background in turf studies, Mike continues to freely share his knowledge and experiences with golf course superintendents."

GCSAA members, affiliated chapters, and allied associates submit nominations for the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award. GCSAA's board of directors selected the recipients at the fall board meeting.

## GCSANE announces 1995 officers

By unanimous vote, the Nominating Committee of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England proposes the following slate of officers for 1995:

President - Edward Brearley; Vice President - Robert DiRico, CGCS; Secretary - Kevin Osgood; Treasurer - Robert Ruzsala; Finance Chairman - James Fitzroy, CGCS; Newsletter Chairman - Michael Nagle, CGCS; Golf Chairman - Michael Hermanson; Education Chairman - Richard Duggan, CGCS; and Trustee (three years) - Scott Reynolds.

Respectfully submitted by the 1995 Nominating Committee: Richard Zepp, CGCS; Kevin Osgood; Scott Reynolds; Arthur Silva, CGCS; and Joseph Rybka, CGCS.

# GCSAA's *Par for the Course* TV show returns this season on ESPN network

## 30 episodes are scheduled for 1995 season

*Par for the Course*, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's national television program, will be moving to ESPN beginning January 1, 1995.

GCSAA will air 30 episodes of *Par for the Course* on ESPN, the total sports network that reaches more than 63 million households. Beginning Jan. 1, *Par for the Course* will air on 19 Sunday dates and on 11 Thursday/Friday dates (see schedule) throughout the year.

In 1995, ESPN will be launching a golf "block" of programming that will air on Sunday mornings. In addition to GCSAA's show, *Inside the PGA Tour* and *Inside the Senior PGA Tour* also will be part of ESPN's Sunday golf block. *Par for the Course's* Thursday/Friday dates will be adjacent to ESPN golf tournament coverage.

In addition to the show, GCSAA also will be producing a series of feature segments for ESPN that will appear during the network's televised PGA tour and Senior PGA Tour golf tournaments. These short segments will highlight issues and trends in golf course management in an entertaining and informative way.

A comprehensive look at the world of golf and golf course management are the main attractions of GCSAA's program. Every episode of *Par for the Course* takes an innovative look at the world of golf by covering cutting edge topics in an entertaining, half-hour program. *Par for the Course* seeks to entertain and educate viewers not only about how to play the game of golf, but also what goes into making the game enjoyable.

Every episode of *Par for the Course* highlights great places anyone can play, conversations with major golf figures, practical golf instruction, and trends shaping golf's future. Features about golf's environmental attributes, entertaining education on etiquette, golfers' responsi-

bilities, and rules of the game are also emphasized.

Veteran sportscaster Duke Frye returns as host of *Par for the Course*. GCSAA Public Relations Manager Scott Smith also returns as producer of the show.

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**A comprehensive look at the world of golf and golf course management are the main attractions of GCSAA's program.**

**Every episode takes an innovative look at the world of golf by covering cutting edge topics in an entertaining half-hour program.**

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Included on the *Par for the Course* production team are: Creative Communications of Kansas City, Great Plains Television (Overland Park, Kan.) and PGA Tour Productions (Jacksonville, Fla.). Each will be providing creative services, and field and post production.

Thirteen weekly episodes of *Par for the Course* appeared in 1994 on the Prime network from March through June.

The Sunday morning schedule includes January 1, 8, 15, 22; February 5, 12, 19, 26; March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2, 9, 23; July 9; October 22; November 5, 19, 26; and December 3, 10, 17.

Adjacent to weekday golf coverage will be: May 5, 1:30 p.m. (Paine Webber Invitational); May 12, 2:30 p.m. (Cadillac/NFL Classic); June 15, 4 p.m. (U.S. Open); June 30, 2 p.m. (U.S. Senior Open); July 21, 2 p.m. (British Open); September 8, 2:30 p.m. (Bell Canadian Open); and November 10, 2:30 p.m. (Senior Tour Championship).

At printing, exact times for the Sunday morning golf block were not known. Please consult local listings for show times. (All times Eastern.)

## Scholarship & Research Fund trustees vote to adopt new name to accurately reflect objectives: 'The GCSAA Foundation'

The 501(c)(3) corporation created by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) in 1956 to support education, scholarship, science, and research programs in the area of turfgrass and golf course management has a new name: The GCSAA Foundation.

The Foundation's board of trustees voted in October to adopt the new name for the former "GCSAA Scholarship & Research Fund, Inc."

"The GCSAA Foundation suggests a closer link with the association," said GCSAA President Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS. "More importantly, the new name is a

more accurate reflection of our goals and objectives."

Scholarship and research will remain primary functions of The GCSAA Foundation, but the new name also will embrace GCSAA's Disaster Assistance Fund, its non-turf-related Legacy Awards, and other programs appropriate to an institution supported by private gifts.

Baidy noted that GCSAA's commitment to preserve the association's history will become an important element within the Foundation. The Foundation plans to encourage members and others to donate items of historical significance.

# Robert Trent Jones Endowment receives major donation for students

Students pursuing careers in golf course management recently received a boost from Metedeconk National Golf Club in Jackson, N.J. Metedeconk made a \$40,000 donation to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Foundation.

The contribution, derived from the club's annual Robert Trent Jones Invitational Team Championship, is earmarked for the GCSAA Foundation's Robert Trent Jones Endowment. Once capitalized, the endowment will provide scholarships for outstanding students pursuing careers in golf course management. The fund currently stands at more than \$600,000. In the six years the championship has been held, Metedeconk has raised \$200,000 for the endowment.

The idea for the event was conceived by Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, Metedeconk general manager. Cadenelli also is a GCSAA past president.

The course itself, a Robert Trent Jones layout, was the brainchild of Richard S. Sambol. Sambol's eldest son, Herbert H. Sambol, served with Cadenelli as executive co-chairman of the event.

GCSAA President Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS, said: "Once again, Metedeconk, Richard and Herbert Sambol, and Steve Cadenelli have dedicated a great deal of their time and effort to this fund. Metedeconk has been the bedrock of the Robert Trent Jones Endowment. The club's commitment has simply been remarkable. We cannot thank the club enough for its support over the past six years."

The Robert Trent Jones Endowment is currently at about 60 percent of its capitalization target of \$1 million. The endowment was established in 1987 with a substantial seed gift from the premier architect for whom it is named.

In recognizing the need to assist future generations in the art and science of turf-

grass management, Jones noted: "We can build the greatest courses in the world, but if they are not properly maintained, they are nothing. To golf course superintendents around the world, I owe a great debt, and every architect in America owes a great debt."

"We can only continue to provide these great facilities with well-educated professionals to maintain them. That education does not come easily to all and must be supported by every aspect of this industry."

The GCSAA Foundation (formerly GCSAA Scholarship & Research) is a primary source of funding for scientific and educational advancement in the field of golf course management. Metedeconk has renewed its membership in the Platinum Tee Club with its recent donation. The Platinum Tee Club recognizes members donating \$5,000 or more to the Foundation.

## GCSAA's Award for Environmental Leadership goes to Florida superintendent Tim Hiers, CGCS

William Timothy (Tim) Hiers, CGCS, has been selected to receive the 1995 President's Award for Environmental Leadership from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

The recipient is chosen by the GCSAA board of directors based on exceptional environmental contributions to the game of golf - contributions that exemplify the superintendent's image as steward of the land.

Hiers is the golf course manager at Collier's Reserve in Naples, Fla. The course, which was named the first Audubon Signature Cooperative Sanctuary Golf Course, is considered a worldwide model of environmental excellence.

The award-winning course features 90 percent native vegetation, a "prescription" irrigation system, strict recycling and waste reduction procedures, and non-golf activities that include nature trails, tours for school children, and Audubon Society seminars.

The award will be presented to Hiers at GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show to be held Feb. 20-27 in San Francisco.

***The award-winning course features 90 percent native vegetation, a "prescription" irrigation system, strict recycling and waste reduction procedures, and non-golf activities that include nature trails, tours for school children, and Audubon seminars***

A member of GCSAA since 1978, Hiers is a current member of GCSAA's Government Relations Committee. He also chaired the Florida GCSA's Governmental Relations Committee. He participated in the development of GCSAA's Environmental Management Program.

Hiers was formerly golf course manager at John's Island Club in Vero Beach, Fla., and with 20 years' experience in the profession, he is a staunch advocate of Integrated Pest Management.

Hiers' recognition for environmental leadership has included citation by the United States Golf Association as an expert environmental steward, the first-ever John James Audubon Steward Award, and the 1994 Florida Region Environmental Steward Award in the private facility category. The Environmental Steward Award program, which benefits the GCSAA Foundation, is sponsored by Ciba Turf & Ornamental Products, Jacobsen Division of Textron, and Rain Bird Golf.

# Soil core analysis: a diagnostic tool

by Joe Farina  
Turf Specialist  
Read Sand & Gravel, Inc.

The turfgrass plant, much like a human being, requires a proper balance of air, water, food, and a healthy environment to sustain life and survive in its flora world. The basic teachings of turf physiology have sharpened the expertise of many a superintendent to help combat against elements that seek to upset this balance and to weaken, stress, or kill our grasses. When an adverse condition is noticed (whether a pathogen, insect, or climatic influence) the turf manager becomes a physician of sorts who analyzes, defines, and resolves the problem using diagnostic methods of on-site visual or off-site laboratory tests. Most of the time this occurs after damage has been done to some degree. We know that a weakened turfgrass plant is more susceptible to disease, stress, and parasitic invasion. Identification of what causes a weakened plant in the first place could be the key to prevention and could increase survivability of the turfgrass. A soil core analysis should be part of your check list.

True, many factors from close mowing to foot traffic or phytotoxicity can put a turfgrass plant in a weakened state, but the subsurface environment of the root zone area can set the stage for "do or die" of the turfgrass plant. Infiltration, porosity, organic content, and particle

distribution are the dynamics of a soil structure engineered for turf. Harmony and balance must exist among these root zone characteristics below the surface in order to support your cultural programs atop the surface. When a soil imbalance exists the turf cannot fully respond to applications you apply to enhance its quality and vigor. Thus the turf plant becomes weak due to the soil environment in which it is anchored. Unfortunately, by the time the weakening effects are felt, the mercury hits 90 plus, humidity is oppressive, there is a shotgun member/guest at 12 o'clock, and you cancel lunch while you grab that bottle of antacid. Sound like the summer of '94? Its "no holds barred" with Mother Nature, and the last thing on your mind is a soil test.

Spring and fall are more opportune times to conduct a soil test analysis as a diagnostic tool prior to aeration and topdressing, to help in making the proper decisions on what material you should or shouldn't be amending the root zone with. Conventional soil testing methods are good for choosing a new root zone or topdressing material for greens and tees. However, for an existing soil profile in either a new high sand or an old push up green, a more surgical approach is required to locate, pinpoint and isolate a soil malfunction within a specific area from 0" to 12" so that you can implement the proper corrective action (a "smart bomb" analogy, if you will). Such a method has been developed by International Sports Turf Research Center of Olathe, Kansas to test intact undisturbed soil cores inch by inch and evaluate the physical well-being of the soil medium

as it relates to the root system and health of the turf plant. This is especially effective on golf greens, where intense culture and abuse struggle to find an equilibrium. Now soil testing technology has devised a way to bring your golf green to the laboratory. Okay, sure, core samples have been done for years by using a cup cutter or pounding in random lengths of PVC, but never with this high degree of accuracy.

This new ISTRC system cores with a plunger device and extracts a 2" diameter by 3" deep intact core into a copper sleeve that is then capped and sent off to the lab. Two types of cores are extracted, which represent specific levels of the root zone for analysis. First the most crucial upper tier 0" to 3" that is subject to general aeration practices, topdressing, soil amending, surface contamination, and direct compaction. Second, the lower 3" to 6" tier that can harbor hard pan, fines build up, and is affected during vertidrain, deep tining, and hydrojet practices. Additional lower tier cores may be extracted from 6" to 9" and 9" to 12", especially when considering deep tining or rebuilding. Identification into the makeup of the soil profile with inch by inch accuracy is the intended purpose when subject to the following series of tests: USGA physical evaluation guidelines including infiltration rates; Walkley/Black organic; Particle distribution and textural analysis; Bouyoucous test; Porosity in capillary and noncapillary; Particle sphericity/angularity; and Root mass and feeder roots analysis.

Where and what are the most common soil problems found through core testing? Definitely in the upper tier 0" to 3". Buildup of organic and fine layers that seal off the root zone and impede proper infiltration, choking of the soil porosity creating an imbalance of air and water, the restriction of feeder roots from penetrating the depths of the root zone and confining the root mass to the upper portion of the root zone. What could cause all the mayhem? The cause could be as simple as using improper topdressing material. Not that your topdressing material may be bad, but it just might be too much of a good thing, such as high organics or particles too abundant in coarse or fines. Can you imagine what would happen to our cholesterol levels if we ate steak and eggs every day? Just as a blood test is a good diagnostic tool for human health, soil core analysis is a good diagnostic tool for the health of your turf.

## GCSANE participation in Jimmy Fund Tournament draws letter of appreciation from event chairmen

10-21-94

Edward Brearley, President  
Golf Course Superintendent's  
Association of New England

Dear Mr. Brearley:

On behalf of Colpitts World Travel, Pizzeria Uno, and the Jimmy Fund, we want to extend to you and your team our deepest thanks for your generous sponsorship in the golf outing held at Nashawtuc Country Club on October 3, 1994. Your contribution assisted us in achieving our goals, enabling us to raise in excess of \$20,000 for the

Jimmy Fund to be used for their continuing research into cures for cancer in children.

We do hope that you and your associates enjoyed the outing. It would truly be our privilege to have the Golf Course Superintendents Association be our distinguished sponsor next year, and we certainly hope that you will be able to join us again.

Very truly yours,  
Alan M. Krensky  
Craig Miller  
Co-chairmen

## Hyannisport Club named "Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary"

The Hyannisport Club is the first golf course in Massachusetts to achieve designation as "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, a program of the Audubon Society of New York and endorsed by the USGA.

The Hyannisport Club joined the program in 1992. The program provides information and guidance to golf courses to help them preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources.

"The Hyannisport Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental programs. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Jean Mackay, Staff Ecologist for the Audubon Society of New York.

"To reach certification status, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Mackay.

These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Public Involvement, Integrated Pest Management, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

Robert DeLaney, President of the Hyannisport Club said, "The Board of Directors are very proud of the work that Charlie Passios, Golf Course Manager, and his staff have accomplished in order to receive this significant designation.

"The club owns a beautiful part of Cape Cod which serves not only as a golf course but also as a wildlife habitat and sanctuary. Balancing both parts of the equation in perfect harmony is a rare accomplishment these days. As stewards of this property, the directors have a tremendous responsibility to maintain and improve its ecological environment. This is an important step in that direction.

"Certification comes with great pride for us at the Hyannisport Club" states

Charles T. Passios, Golf Course Manager for the Hyannisport Club. "The Audubon Sanctuary System is a perfect program to promote environmental stewardship, stimulate awareness of golf's positive relationship with the natural ecology of the property, and most importantly it is education. Education for the public, the management staffs, and the students that participate in our specific programs. This awareness is not new to the golf industry, as for years we, as stewards of these special properties, have always had a close tie to our surrounding environments, and now because of the cooperative sanctuary program we have an opportunity to document our progressiveness."

In addition to golf courses, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System also includes programs for schools, individuals, and businesses. For more information, contact The Audubon Society of New York State, 46 Rarick Rd., Selkirk, NY 12158.

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

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Proposed for Membership:** Country Golf Inc., Friend, Traverse City, Michigan; Patrick Kriksceonaitis, Regular, Essex C.C., Manchester, Mass.; Jay Snyder, Asst., Indian Ridge C.C., Andover, Mass.; Michael Parks, Student, New Hampshire.

**Welcome New Members:** Michael Ciciotte, Assistant, Wachusett C.C.; United Horticultural Supply, Friend, Sodus, N.Y.; Glen Larabee, Affiliate, United Horticultural Supply TurfNet Associates Inc., Friend, Skillman, N.J.; Stephen Jones, Assistant, Blue Hill C.C.

#### **MEETING NOTES**

A "Thank You" to Dick Duggan and the folks at Concord C.C. for a fine job hosting the December meeting.

#### **INFORMATION**

Again, a reminder to get those DEP Water Management/Water Withdrawal papers in by Jan. 31, 1995.

By now we should all have received the MGA Canada Goose survey. Please make sure you complete it (even if you don't have a problem) and mail it back by Jan. 15, 1995.

**Mike Hermanson is looking** for meeting sites in June, July, or August. If your club could host a meeting in one of these months, please call Mike at 508-632-2713.

**Although we had a good turnout** for the December meeting at Concord C.C., it would be nice to see a few of the faces that haven't been seen at our winter gatherings for a while. (Hint, Hint!)

**How's this for a set of officials** at a high school basketball game? Jim Fitzroy and Mike Hermanson were the referees, Ken Mooradian was the timekeeper, and Dick Zepp ran the shot clock! It happened at a recent hoop game at Hopedale High. I hope there weren't any sons of golf pros playing!

**The GCSAA recently sent out its 1994-95 Professional Development Catalog.** There are a number of seminar descriptions in it. Look it over before signing up for a seminar that you're not familiar with and ending up disappointed with your choice. Also, as an insert in the November issue of Newsline, GCSAA has included a schedule of regional and technician training seminars. Take a look at it if you've missed out on one in San Francisco.

**There will be a 9-Hole Golf Course Budget Meeting** on January 18, 1995 at the Whitinsville Golf Club at 9 a.m. Contact Dick Zepp at 508-234-2533.

**Finally,** as my first year as the Newsletter chairman/editor draws to a close, I'd like to thank Associate Editor Steve Chiavaroli for all his help. I also thank our Contributing Editor, Gerry Finn, for his feature articles and "Super Speaks Out" columns. Without Gerry we'd be in dire straits to fill the Newsletter with our own articles each month. Thanks also to Reg Bacon at Zip Type Service for his help.

#### **JOB OPPORTUNITY**

**Assistant Superintendent, Plymouth C.C.** Qualifications: 3 years experience and 2-year Turf Management degree preferred. Mass. Pesticide Applicators license mandatory. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume to: Ron Sherman, Golf Course Supt., P.O. Box 3447, Warren Ave., Plymouth, MA 02380.

**Golf Course Mechanic, Franklin C.C.** Apply to: Gary Luccini, Superintendent, Franklin C.C., 115 Forest St., Franklin, MA 02038.

#### **EQUIPMENT FOR SALE**

**For Sale:** Toro Fairway Aerator, Model 09500. Less than 75 hours of use; \$8000. Contact Lianne Larson at Glen Ellen C.C. (508-378-8075).



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# John Stossel of ABC's 20/20 to be panelist at GCSAA Environmental General Session

John Stossel of ABC-TV's newsmagazine, 20/20, will be the lead panelist at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) Environmental General Session. The session, held in conjunction with GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show, will take place Sunday, Feb. 25, 1995.

"Changing Perspectives" will be the theme of the Environmental General Session. The public image of golf courses and how they are maintained will be the focus of the panel discussion. The critical topic of how media and the public perception are molded will be discussed and debated by a group of nationally recognized experts.

The panel scheduled to appear includes the following:

- John Stossel, who appeared at GCSAA's 1991 Environmental General Session, has reported extensively on risk perspectives. His 1994 special report on ABC, "Are We Scaring Ourselves To Death?" took a look at pesticides and their perceived and actual risks.
- Ron Dodson, president and chief executive officer of the Audubon Society of New York State. Dodson is the driving force behind the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.
- Paulette Pyle, director of grassroots for Oregonians for Food and Shelter. Pyle's organization is involved in educating people about balancing the facts surrounding pesticide usage.
- Dr. Kimberly Erusha, director of education for the United States Golf Association Green section. Erusha and her organization have played a lead role in environmental research efforts focusing on the golf course industry.
- A senior official from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency who will discuss the agency's perspective on golf.

Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS, president of GCSAA, will serve as moderator.

## En route to the Islands Invitational Tournament



Charlie Dickow takes nourishment aboard the Island Queen while watching Dick Duggan (right) in "pre-hurl" mode during day one of the Islands Invitational Tournament.

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