



# 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.

September 1995

## Perseverance pays for Giverson & Taylor

### September Meeting

**Monday, September 11, 1995**  
**Team-of-Two Championship**  
**Westminster C.C.**  
**Westminster, Massachusetts**

**Host Superintendent**  
**Bob LeBlanc**

9 a.m. Board Meeting  
10 a.m. Coffee & Donuts  
11 a.m. Speaker  
General Membership Meeting  
12 noon Golf - Shotgun Start  
4:30 p.m. Cheese & Crackers; Cash Bar  
5:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner & Prizes  
Cost: Dinner only - \$17;  
Golf & Dinner - \$40

**Reservations Required**  
**Call by September 7, 1995**  
**(508) 632-0252**

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

Bob LeBlanc is currently in his 32nd year as a golf course superintendent. Westminster C.C. is owned and was designed by Bob's father, Al LeBlanc. Since 1957, Westminster has been a totally family run operation. Bob's wife, Sharon, and his brother Don manage the clubhouse and banquet facilities. Bob and two of his sons, Robert (30), and Tom (23), manage the golf course operations. Bob's youngest son, Mike (22), is the assistant golf pro at the club. Bob also has a daughter, Laurie (31). He has five grandchildren, who take up most of his spare time.

**Directions:** From Boston take Rte. 2 west to Exit 24A in Westminster. Go right at end of ramp. Follow approximately one mile to stop sign. Take second right after stop sign onto Nichols Street (across from Cumberland Farms). Club is approximately one mile on right. From western Mass., take Rte. 2 to Exit 24. Take right at end of ramp and follow directions above.

This is the tale of two golf course superintendents . . . what might have been a tale of woe, too, after they were cut from their profession when their service contracts were terminated. Instead, theirs is a joint story of perseverance and unstinting will to land on their feet in what amounts to beating the system that often finds many superintendents hanging on the edge of their livelihood.

Rick Giverson is one of those supers who was forced to turn up his resolve a notch when he was fired from his post at the Westover Golf Course in 1993. The unexpected dismissal sent shock waves through Giverson and his family since he had spent all of his career at Westover - six years as assistant to former superintendent Jack Pluta and 10 as the head man.

There followed two years of uncertainty and uneasiness even though an old friend, Phil DiRico of the Hampden Country Club,

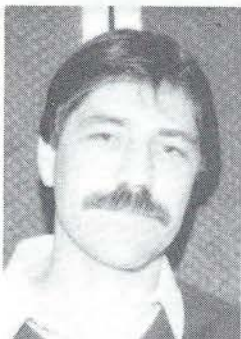
hired Rick as assistant super and relieved some of the economic pressure.

In fact, Giverson credits DiRico and his fellow supers in the western Mass. area for much of the support that carried him through those tough and traumatic times. "I can't say enough about those guys," Rick said. "They all rallied behind me and I really appreciate their interest."

However, Giverson couldn't settle down to the life of an assistant and decided to strike out on his own in a new venture. Thus was American Turf Aeration & Overseeding born.

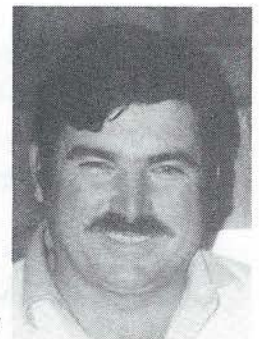
"I kept sending out applications for jobs but there weren't any bites," Rick explained. "I'd done side jobs to keep things going before Phil made me his assistant. But I wanted to be my own boss, so I invested some of my retirement money in

*continued on page 2*



**"I can't say enough about those guys (western Mass. supers). They all rallied behind me, and I really appreciate their interest."**

**Rick Giverson**



**"... For the next 14 months I worked as a bartender, did some landscaping, and even hooked up with a courier service ..."**

**Mark Taylor**

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equipment, got my son (Richard) to join me and the business was on its way. Funny. I left Hampden on a Friday and we were working our first job on Monday."

Giverson did no advertising, relying on word of mouth to get started and his performance to expand committed jobs. Right now he's working on repeat contracts for next year.

The service is a relatively new one since it is restricted to aerifying fairways. The equipment (bought on the installment plan) is sophisticated and expensive enough to influence golf courses to use outside means for the project rather than invest in costly equipment.

We take two days to complete the job - nine holes a day," Rick told. "It's also a dawn-to-dusk operation and many nights I'm walking into my house at 10 o'clock or later. But it's worth it even though I'd still return to the supers' field if the right opportunity presented itself."

American Turf's territory knows no boundaries, since Rick has worked courses and sports fields from Greenwich, Conn. to Manchester, Vt. Regardless, the most important aspect of his recovery is that Rick remains in turf-related work. He says that's where he belongs.

Mark Taylor is another strong example of a profile in perseverance.

"It happened to me five years ago," Mark said, remembering the telephone call he received from officials at the Haverhill Country Club, giving him two weeks to pack his bags and clear that area. "There wasn't even a face-to-face meeting after I had put 11 years into bringing a dying golf course back to life. The cut was simple. They hired someone for less money."

Money, or income, to be precise, was to become a problem for Mark, who kept getting close calls in efforts to get another head superintendent position but always seemed to be the runnerup.

"That's when it got a little touchy," he explained. "My wife, Caryl, went back to work and I did anything that would bring in a paycheck. For the next 14 months or so I worked as a bartender, did some landscaping and even hooked up with a courier service between Wilmington and Hartford. That's when I heard about Rockingham."

Rockingham, a small nine-hole golf course near Durham, N.H., was looking for an overall director of operations after its recent new owner, Joanne Hauschel, took over management chores. So, Mark applied and he's been there ever since.

Now in his fourth season, Taylor dedicates every waking hour to what has developed into a unique challenge. Not only is Mark responsible for the condition

of the golf course, he serves as pro, clubhouse manager, and virtually every administrative step on its service ladder.

"I've even given a few lessons to golf beginners," Mark cracked. "Hey, I used to be a 4-6 handicapper. As for the other jobs, I've had experience managing a hockey rink, working behind a bar and sniffing around the restaurant business. Mrs. Hauschel was looking for a well-rounded individual and I guess I was it."

Taylor has a small maintenance crew (three people, including a night watering man who was pretty busy this summer). He works the three top supervisory jobs on the course, in the pro shop and in the clubhouse. That means many days without end, or 6 a.m. starts and 9 p.m. finishes.

However, the input has paid off. Rockingham growing in play with an emphasis on seniors and students (from nearby U. of N.H.) and the course is improving with each stroke of Taylor's conditioning skills.

"I'm making it here," Mark remarked. "I get 10 weeks off in the winter, so the long hours of summer have their rewards. Whatever, I'm still in a golf-turf-related working atmosphere. It's a job I know and love. That's a combination of circumstances that's easy to live with."

Rick Giverson and Mark Taylor. They were knocked off their perch but didn't land with a thud. Instead, they're back on their feet, taking steps in the right directions. Nice story, huh?

GERRY FINN

## Calendar

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|------------------|--|
| Sept. 11         | <b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting &amp; Team of Two Championship Tournament</b><br>Westminster C.C.<br>Westminster, Mass.          |
| Oct. 16          | <b>GCSANE Turf Research Tournament</b><br>Salem C.C.<br>Peabody, Mass.   |
| Oct. 18          | <b>Shanahan Memorial Pro-Superintendent Tournament</b><br>Willowbend Club<br>Cotuit, Mass.                                 |
| Nov. 6           | <b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b><br>Hopedale C.C.<br>Hopedale, Mass.  |
| Nov. 28-29       | <b>GCSAA Regional Seminar</b><br>Golf History, Theory, Construction, and Maintenance<br>The International<br>Bolton, Mass. |
| Jan. 15-17, 1996 | <b>65th Mass. Turf Conference &amp; 20th Industrial Show</b><br>Boston Marriott - Copley Place<br>Boston, Mass.            |

# The Super Speaks Out:

*This month's question: With the heat on the golf course and superintendent in more ways than one this summer, how did you manage to beat it?*

**Joe Rybka, Thorny Lea Golf Club:** "Needless to say, we were boiling . . . literally, that is. The course was boiling on the outside. The super was boiling inside."

"We did get through it, though, and with as little damage as you'd care to endure under the circumstances. Why? I think because of a new wetting agent I tried this year. I think, too, that it helped to control the dry spots and hold the moisture close to the surface."

"In our area, the combination of heat and humidity was intense and very constant. They tell me that we had temperatures of 90 and above for 14 straight days. Sure, it was tough, but I remember worse conditions . . . like Black Saturday in 1988 when most of us got wiped out."

"Regardless, the help of the wetting agent plus judicious watering pulled us out of the doldrums. We suffered a few areas of burnout and some dollar spot on the fairway."

"I'd say my feeling during the siege was one of anxiety more than fear. Again, I report that I was very careful watering because of the danger of serious disease when the heat would turn excessive watering into pockets of turf that boiled."

"Then when relief came, I resumed my regular irrigation schedule. The warm, dry days that followed gave that anxiety hold a release message. Before that the heat was on but the course beat it . . . just barely."

**Linda Kelley, Bedrock Golf Course:** "We're a golf course with a new owner (1992) and as a nine-hole course we know the turf will take a beating . . . big heat or not. We do 25,000 rounds a year so you multiply that by two and you get heavy traffic."

"This year the turf had more pressure than usual because of the heat and humidity. Predictably, we had some disease problems but what's most important in our situation was the way the greens held up."



I think they survived and actually thrived because of our disease control program."

"That program was in practice throughout the green (fairways) areas and the big difference was a pruning project I conducted in the off-season. It created a more effective circulation process, and that pulled us through the high heat and humidity periods."

"I don't know really, but it seems to me that we're in an on-year, off-year cycle. The last three odd years (1991, 93, 95) have been either very dry or very hot weather seasons. One thing's for sure. When the heat and humidity gave up and relaxed while we had a few cool days, I cooled down with the change. The pressure was off all-around. That in itself is a relief."

**Dean Robertson, Kernwood Country Club:** "I've heard this was the driest golf season ever, but I think we've had worse. Maybe it's a sign of my growing experience or the fact that I'm at that stage when everything in the past was either better or more pressing on the superintendent."

"Anyway, two factors came to light during the long heat wave this summer. One was the relief of knowing the club had made one of its most important investments 15 years ago when we put in a new well from an underground reservoir from the White Mountains as its source of water. The second was my reliance on the Hydroject system of aerating greens and the regular program of utilizing it that I initiated this year."

"Before we got that well we had to rely on city water for our irrigation water and that means we were subject to restrictions. Now, we have plenty of water and we're revamping the irrigation system to increase the scope of the coverage. For instance, the improvements read that we'll have water every 80 feet from tee to green with heads that throw water 160 feet in diameter."



"As for stress on me. I didn't have any in the high heat and humidity times. Ah, but there always was that little bit of wonder in my mind about the possibility of a pump letdown. It never happened but it was cause for concern. Regardless, the way we beat the heat was with plenty of water and Hydrojecting our greens on an every other week schedule."

**John Kotoski, Pine Ridge Country Club:** "I don't care when there's a lot of humidity, like we had during July and August, that little nervous bell in your own system goes off. And . . . it's also a caution bell."

"We went two weeks without anything coming out of the sky. And my greatest source of uneasiness stemmed from the day-to-day shrinking of our irrigation ponds. When the rains finally came, we were down to three-and-one-half feet of water in our main pond which runs about an acre in size. It was at that point that we were investigating the probability of purchasing water."

"So, water supply was my big hang-up during the drought. And having to be more selective in its use caused some damage that included brown patch and dollar spots on the fairways. Consequently, I was saying to myself, 'fill those ponds, fill those ponds' when the skies opened up."

"Even though we managed to keep damage to a minimum with all that heat and humidity grabbing and refusing to let go, it still wasn't a very fun time to be a superintendent. My feeling was that disease was ready to pop at the next moment of increased humidity. For my money and peace of mind, the rains came just in time. It was starting to get scary all right."

GERRY FINN

*"The pruning project created a more effective circulation process, and that pulled us through the high heat and humidity periods."*

**Linda Kelley  
Bedrock Golf Course**

# **Topdress for success: Selection of materials is critical**

*by Norman W. Hummel, Jr.  
Cornell University*

The practice of spreading soil, sand, organic matter, or some combination of these onto a turfgrass area goes back many, many years. In the early part of this century, golf course superintendents would mix their own topdressing from soil, sand, and manure, often keeping their formulas a secret.

More recently, topdressing is becoming as much a standard practice on high maintenance turf areas as fertilization. As routine as it seems, I often get the sense that many don't fully appreciate the impact this practice may have on their turf, good or bad, and the importance of selecting the proper topdressing material to achieve your goals.

## ***Why do we topdress?***

The reasons for topdressing golf greens and athletic fields are many. The primary reasons are to control thatch, to provide a smooth putting surface, and to modify the surface soil characteristics.

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***An application of topdressing helps minimize thatch by preventing the formation of a physical separation between the soil and the plants.***

***Topdressings are also used to smooth or level the surfaces of greens and athletic fields. The putting surface of greens are kept smooth by light frequent topdressings.***

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Topdressing is a means of biologically controlling thatch. The application of a topdressing helps minimize thatch by preventing the formation of a physical separation between the soil and the plants. The mixing of a topdressing material with the thatch as it accumulates actually provides an ideal environment for the decomposition of the organic matter. In some cases, the topdressing may actually serve as a microbial inoculum that further enhances decomposition.

Topdressings are also used to smooth or level the surfaces of greens and athletic fields. The putting surface of greens are kept smooth by light frequent topdressings. Irregularities in grade on larger areas, such as athletic fields, can be removed by applying topdressings and floating or regrading the affected areas.

## ***What should I topdress with, and how often?***

The topdressing material you use will depend largely on the goals of your topdressing program. If your primary goal is to prevent thatch, or to remove subtle irregularities in grade, and the soil existing on the site is suitable, the area should be topdressed with a soil very similar to the existing soil.

Unfortunately, athletic fields are often constructed with heavy soils found on the site, and not well suited for high traffic. The surface physical properties of these fields can be improved through a topdressing program. Frequent, heavy topdressings with a sand or sand mix will build a more permeable cap on the surface of the soil that will expedite surface drainage, and improve the compaction resistance of the soil. The field should be topdressed at least twice a year with a high sand topdressing a rate of 0.5 to 1 cubic yard of topdressing per 1,000 square feet. Topdressing should always follow core cultivation to further amend the soil surface.

The success of a program to amend surface soil characteristics will only be as good as the sand selected to topdress with. The sand should be uniform in particle size with most of the sand particles falling into the medium and coarse size fractions (0.25 to 1.0 mm). Table 1 lists a recommended

particle size distribution for a sand topdressing for athletic fields.

Many theories exist on the selection of topdressing materials for greens, the most controversial being sand vs. sand mix. The proponents of straight sand topdressing argue that there is sufficient organic matter in mature greens, so that additional organic matter is unnecessary. Furthermore, straight sand is less expensive than sand peat mixes, and much easier to apply.

Proponents of sand based mixes argue that straight sand can become hydrophobic, and that it is biologically sterile. Furthermore, research conducted at the University of Rhode Island several years ago showed better turfgrass quality with sand:soil topdressings compared to sand alone.

Newly constructed greens should be topdressed with the same mix used for construction; this normally being a sand:peat or sand:soil:peat mix. New greens constructed to USGA Recommendations or similar specifications have very little cation exchange capacity (CEC); an 80:20 sand sphagnum peat mix rarely having a CEC of more than 2 meq/100 grams.

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**Table 1****Recommended Topdressing Particle Size Distributions**

Sand Particle Size	Sieve Mesh Size	Athletic Fields % Passing	Putting Greens % Passing
2.0 mm	10	95-100%	100%
1.0 mm	18	80-100%	95-100%
0.25 mm	60	0-25%	0-30%
0.10 mm	140	0-10%	1-10%

This inherent lack of fertility makes fertility management difficult, especially during the maturing years. It is very desirable, then, to continue to add organic matter through topdressing.

The sand used as the base of a putting green topdressing mix should be uniform in particle size, with most of the particles falling into the fine through coarse size fractions (0.10 to 1.0 mm). There is little tolerance for sand particles larger than 1 mm in diameter, since these will be difficult to work into the turf, leaving the potential for mower damage. Table 1 lists my recommendation for sand particle size for a putting green (or tee) topdressing. Some topdressing sands are very fine in texture. While this may be working out well for topdressing older, native soil greens, these sands have the potential to seal off the surface of sand based greens built to USGA or similar specifications.

Topdressing should be applied at least monthly during the growing season at a rate of 0.25 to 0.5 cubic yards per 1,000 square feet. Infrequent topdressing may result in the formation of alternate layers of thatch and topdressing, a condition that no doubt has a negative effect on water and air movement in the soil.

Working in the topdressing after it dries on the surface should be performed by an experienced worker. I saw two instances of severe turf injury this past year alone from excessive dragging of greens following topdressing. If you are topdressing during stress periods, you may consider brushing it in rather than using a drag mat.

***What type of organic matter should be used?***

There are several sources of organic matter that can be included in your topdressing material. Well decomposed products such as peat humus and reed sedge peats blend very uniformly with sand and are ideal organic sources for topdressings. Since there are many mucks being sold as peat, be sure that the peat you use is high quality. I recommend that peat used in topdressing have a minimum organic matter content of 85%, as determined by a loss on ignition test. Mucks have a high silt and very fine sand content, and will seal up sands.

Sphagnum peats are very high in organic matter and well suited for use in topdressing. Since sphagnum peat is more fibrous than reed sedge peats and peat humus, there may be some segregation of the peat from the sand, especially when dry.

There are some high quality composts being marketed in the northeast. Quality composts are available for topdressing materials, and may actually be advantageous to peat. The benefits of some composts for disease suppression are becoming well known. The main disadvantage of compost is the presence of small wood chips. A topdressing supplier can screen much of this out with a 1/4 or 1/8 inch screen. Any wood chips remaining on the turf surface will be removed with the first mowing, without damage to the mowing equipment. With the proliferation of compost products on

the market, I would recommend physical and chemical testing any topdressing mix containing compost before you topdress your greens or athletic turf.

***Can I switch topdressings?***

It is not desirable to switch topdressing materials. Unfortunately, there may come a time when you have no choice due to supply problems or economic considerations. The greatest danger in switching topdressing is the potential for layering in the profile. If you must seek out an alternative topdressing source, look for a product with a sand particle size similar to your existing topdressing material. A competent soil testing laboratory can assist you in determining similarities in topdressing materials. Switching a topdressing from one that has no organic matter to one that does (or vice versa), presents less of a layering potential than switching sand sources.

Topdressing fine turf areas can bring great improvements to high value turfgrass areas. Selecting the proper topdressing material and topdressing frequently enough to show some benefit are the keys to a successful program.

**Reprinted from CUTT, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Winter 1995, Vol. 5, No. 4.**

***Well decomposed products such as peat humus and reed sedge peats blend very uniformly with sand and are ideal organic sources for topdressings.***

***Selecting the proper topdressing material and topdressing frequently enough to show some benefit are the keys to a successful program.***

## GCSAA to sponsor environmental program for children

Schoolchildren will soon be able to learn about nature from such things as bird feeding stations, nature trails and wildlife gardens, thanks to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) sponsorship of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools.

The Audubon Society of New York State will administer the program with help from GCSAA. The GCSAA Board recently authorized sponsorship of the program, designed to teach elementary and secondary schoolchildren about the environment. GCSAA will provide financial support as well as professional services such as videos and training materials.

The purpose of the program is to teach students about nature, wildlife, water and waste. The children learn by participating in hands-on habitat enhancement and con-

servation projects in the classroom and on the school grounds.

GCSAA President Gary Grigg, CGCS, said he is pleased with GCSAA's involvement with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools: "GCSAA is very proud to sponsor a program that brings schools and golf courses together to teach the benefits of good environmental practices. We believe this program will help students understand the importance of greenspaces such as golf courses in their communities," Grigg said.

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

### MEMBERSHIP

**Proposed for Membership:** Robert Aronowitz, Associate, Shaker Farms C.C., Westfield, Mass.; McNulty Construction Corp., Friend, Framingham, Mass.; Michael Marshall, Assistant, Cedar Hill G.C., Stoneham, Mass.

**Welcome New Members:** Craig Hicks, Associate, Forest Park C.C., Adams, Mass.; Thomas L. DiFonzo, Assistant, The Georgetown Club, Georgetown, Mass.

**Reinstated:** Mark J. Klimm, Regular, The Ridge Club, South Sandwich, Mass.

### INFORMATION

**On October 12, 1995, the New England Championship Tournament** will be held at the Hop Meadow Country Club, Simsbury, Conn. There will be four two-man teams (by handicap) from the Rhode Island GCSA, Connecticut AGCS, Vermont GCSA, New Hampshire GCSA, Cape Cod GCMA, Maine GCSA and the GCSA of New England. The flights, by handicap, are: A - 0-8, B - 9-16, C 17-25, and D - 26-36. If anyone is interested in playing or would like more information, call Mike Hermanson at 508-632-2713 or notify him by the September meeting.

**Congratulations** to Bob (Jr.) and Sherri LeBlanc on the birth of their son Joseph Robert on August 4.

**In the May/June issue of Chapter Network** from GCSAA, proposed chapter affiliation changes were outlined. Please dig this out and read it! Kevin Osgood will be attending the Chapter Relations Meeting in Lawrence, Kansas on September 9 & 10. If there is anything you strongly agree or disagree with in these changes, please call Kevin and voice your opinion. We need your input! These changes, if passed, will greatly impact how the GCSANE operates as an organization. Kevin's phone number is 617-630-1950.

**Please contact Mike Hermanson** at 508-632-2713 if your club could host a monthly

meeting in 1996. He is trying to get the golf schedule set for next year and is actively looking for sites. If you could host a winter meeting this year, contact Dick Duggan at 508-369-0879.

**Jack Hassett wants to inform our membership again that forms are available for benevolent aid and scholarships through the GCSANE. For forms or more information, call Jack at (508) 458-7300.**

**Kim Heck, the Career Development Manager for GCSAA** and publisher of the Leader Board, is looking for a member or members to discuss employment security/value issues facing superintendents today and develop articles for Leader Board. You do not have to be a writer to participate, but you would be cited as a source for any of your ideas that are published. Any interested members may contact Kim at 800-472-7878.

**The University of Georgia** has recently announced the availability of an independent study course in turfgrass management. Through the use of detailed lesson plans, textbook, lab manual, and videotapes, an individual can earn college credits while completing this course in the comfort of their home or workplace. All the basic principles of turfgrass management for both cool-season and warm-season turfgrasses are thoroughly covered. For example, some of the topics include: turfgrass selection, soils, establishment, mowing, fertilization, irrigation, thatch control, pest control, etc. In addition, the course offers laboratory-type exercises on turfgrass and seed identification, spreader and sprayer calibration, pest identification, etc. For more information call the University of Georgia Independent Study Office at (706) 542-3243.

**The City of Taunton** will accept sealed bids for the John F. Parker Municipal Golf Course Management and Maintenance Contract. The sealed bids, accompanied by a bid deposit of \$500, must be received no later than 1 p.m. on September 11, 1995 at the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 15 Summer Street, Taunton, Mass. Copies of the Invitation to Bid may be obtained for a \$25 fee, refundable upon

submission of a bid, by mail or in person at the City Clerk's Office. If in person, the Invitation to Bid may be picked up between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Friday until 12 noon. If by mail, the written request shall be accompanied by a pre-stamped self-addressed envelope. It is suggested that the postage be in the amount not less than \$3.00. John F. Parker Golf Course is a 9-hole municipal golf course with a clubhouse, bar and grille, and driving range. The contract, if awarded, will be for a three-year period. The city reserves the right to waive any informalities in, or to reject any and all bids if it deems it to be in the public interest to do so.

**As ABC was scrolling** through the final scores of the British Open, I noticed the name of Dean Robertson with a score of +7 for the tournament. Hey, Dino, not bad for only playing a couple of times a year!

### MEETING NOTES

**A special "Thank You"** to Rich Tworig and the whole staff at Ponkapoag G.C. for hosting the August meeting. In spite of the tremendous amount of play, the condition that the courses were in before he took charge, the present irrigation system that he has to work with and let's not forget what kind of summer we've had, Rich has done a great job to keep Ponkapoag alive and playable.

### TOURNEY RESULTS

**Golf results from Ponkapoag Golf Club Aug. 14, 1995** (15 blind holes)

Low Gross:

Wayne LaCroix-62, Low Net: Joe Farina-50, Mike Cornicelli-52, Eric Newell-54

Players qualifying for American Cancer Tournament October 2 at Nashawtuc C.C.:

Superintendent Low Net: Wayne LaCroix-66, Superintendent Senior Low Net: Arthur Washburn-71, Affiliate Low Net: Joe Farina-66. (These players will play with Jack Cronin.)

# Please Patronize These FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION

**Advanced Agronomic Services, Inc.**  
65 Rocky Pond Road, Princeton, MA 01541  
Specializing in Verti-Drain deep-tine aeration  
Jim Favreau - (508) 464-5159

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# GCSAA joins pesticide partnership program

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has announced it will participate in the federal government's new Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program. Under the program, GCSAA will work in partnership with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to develop a strategy that further reduces risks from the use of pesticides on golf courses.

"We are absolutely committed to using responsible management practices that pose little, if any, environmental risk," said GCSAA president Gary Grigg, CGCS. "Through this partnership, we'll be able to work with the leading federal authorities to find new and innovative ways to use pesticides effectively and safely and to minimize any potential harm to people, wildlife and the environment."

The stewardship program is the first under a commitment made by the three agencies before the U.S. House of Representatives in September 1993. The program commits the agencies to work jointly with pesticide user groups.

In a news release announcing the pesticide initiative, Carol M. Browner, EPA administrator, said, "I congratulate the companies and grower groups that are joining with us for their forward-thinking approach to environmentally sound pesticide use practices and look forward to seeing others follow their lead."

The EPA's Anne Leslie, who will coordinate GCSAA's strategy development, said, "We are very pleased that GCSAA has joined our Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program, and I look forward to working with this professional organization in developing their strategy."

The framework for the strategy emphasizes education, training, research and continued development, and careful use of pest control products that pose risks. According to Leslie, superintendents are already doing many things very well. "GCSAA has already demonstrated a commitment to educate their members in less

risky pest control methods by initiating an IPM curriculum as a part of their certification program. GCSAA has also established its own Environmental Stewardship Awards program, which highlights the efforts of individual superintendents to reduce the risk of pesticides to the environment. A large number of superintendents have enthusiastically adopted the New York Audubon Society's Cooperative Sanctuary Program, which is an important part of this," she said.

Plans call for the strategy to be developed in 1995 and announced during the Environmental General Session of the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show next February in Orlando, Fla.

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