



# THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents

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May 1996

## Recent move to Golf House office streamlines GCSANE operations

The move has been made. And it's a good one. "And it's long overdue," quipped Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England president Bob DiRico. "I mean, now we (GCSANE) have an address . . . a return address, whatever."

DiRico was talking about the GCSANE's recent operations move to Golf House from where the association's administrative paper work will be handled by secretary Janice Vance. The building, located in Weston, is a three-sided partnership since it is shared with the Women's Golf Association of Massachusetts and the Ouimet Golf Museum.

DiRico, lead conductor in streamlining the day-to-day operations of the supers' group, thinks the whole wrap – joining administrative housemaking with the WGAM and Ouimet people – is a natural. "We've been working out of a revolving telephone booth for a long, long time," he said.

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***"With the association enjoying an ongoing growth period, we felt it was necessary to keep up with that growth by having an administrative home of our own."***

**Bob DiRico**  
**President, GCSANE**

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"Now, this comes along and the setup is perfect. Janice also is executive director the women's golf association and brings a wealth of experience and know-how to her work for us."

"This has been on the board of directors' table for quite a while. With the association enjoying an ongoing growth period, we felt it was necessary to keep up with that growth by having an administrative home of our own. It gives us a base of operations for all of our functions. Before we made this move, the paperwork involved in running the GCSANE constituted an awful burden on the job of treasurer. From now on, that job is in Janice's capable hands."

The hiring of an administrative secretary and leasing space from which administrative decisions and association

news are passed on to members is nothing new in the spiraling world of the golf course superintendent. DiRico reminds that many regional wings of the GCSAA are doing business in the same manner, adding another touch of professionalism to the supers' status. In fact, there are some who have gone the route by hiring full-time executive directors to take over all administrative aspects of running operations.

"People don't realize just how much time and effort go into getting things to run smoothly," DiRico explained. "Those phones in the homes of our board (of directors) sometimes are ringing off the hook when a question concerning the membership comes up. Then there's the correspondence that goes with making meeting dates, sites, and what not, setting up reservations and getting those member tournaments in working order. Janice has had experience in all phases of association business. I think we're lucky she's available. I know it's going to be another plus for us. And it's surfacing already from the number of calls coming into our new office."

Which is old hat for Janice, who virtually grew up on the golf course when her late father, Larry Gannon, was head professional at the old Happy Valley layout. And therein lies another story. Janice's father was such a storied fixture there that the powers-that-be renamed Happy Valley the Larry Gannon Municipal Golf Course.

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"That's kind of where I come from," Janice looked back at the days when she was introduced to golf. "I was brought up with a golf club in my hands and I played in a lot of junior tournaments around the area. I did all right, but I did other things, too. My game's still decent, though. I think I'm playing to a 10 handicap these days . . . not working on it, just at it."

It didn't take the wheels of communication too long to spin in Janice's direction when Bob DiRico and GCSANE directors were looking for a person to run the Golf House office. DiRico contacted Ann Marie Tobin, a noted golfer and WGAM official, who recommended Janice without hesitation. That's all DiRico needed and the "deal was done".

Although Janice doesn't make much of her athletic background and prowess along those lines when she was into sports seriously as a participant, she actually under-rates herself. And that active ability on the field has crossed over to her job with the women's golf association, and now with the game's unsung heroes – the golf course superintendents.

"Being so close to the golf course when my father was at Happy Valley, I can appreciate what the superintendents have done and are doing for the game," Janice remarked. "They're usually placed in the background when talk about golf courses comes up. But, in reality, they're the backbones of the game. All you have to do is look what golf course conditioning has turned into. It's practically an art, and these are the guys making it happen."

Janice will be serving the association on a part-time basis, since her executive

***"Being so close to the golf course when my father was at Happy Valley, I can appreciate what the superintendents have done and are doing for the game."***

**Janice Vance  
Administrative Secretary,  
GCSANE**

director's chores with the WGAM keep her busy. There are over 2,000 WGAM members, which means the job of crossing all the t's and dotting all the i's in the paper work corner doesn't leave Janice much time for taking well-deserved bows.

"I do get away sometimes," she revealed. "One of those times is Mothers Day, the only day in the year I insist that my daughters play golf with me. We tee it up and anything goes."

By the way, Janice's daughters can hold their own on the sports field, too. Betsy is a graduating senior and All-American field hockey player at Northwestern University and Amanda is a freshman and aspiring soccer star at the University of Wisconsin.

All of which makes for a good mix at Golf House . . . Janice Vance, the WGAM, Ouimet Museum, and GCSANE. Score one for the good guys.

**GERRY FINN**

## Calendar

May 21	<b>GCSANE Scholarship &amp; Benevolence Tournament</b> Green Harbor Golf Club Marshfield, Mass.
June 10	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Larry Gannon Golf Course Lynn, Mass.
July 16	<b>GCSANE Joint Meeting with RIGCSA</b> Agawam Hunt Club West Barrington, R.I.
August 12	<b>Superintendent / Green Chairman Tournament</b> Oak Hill C.C. Fitchburg, Mass.
September 23	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Twin Hills Country Club Longmeadow, Mass.
October 1	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Stow Acres Country Club Stow, Mass.
October 23	<b>NEPGA/GCSANE Shanahan Memorial Pro-Supt. Tournament</b> Willowbend Club Cotuit, Mass.
November 4	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Nabnasset Lake Country Club Westford, Mass.
Jan. 13-15, 1997	<b>Mass. Turf Conference</b> Hynes Convention Center Boston, Mass.

# The Super Speaks Out

**This month's question: With winter anything but a fond memory for most superintendents, how did this year's deluge of snow and ice affect your golf course and conditioning agenda?**

**Dino Frigo, Veterans & Franconia Golf Courses:** "After the rough year I had in 1995 (drought conditions), it's hard for me to grit my teeth after all the snow that fell this winter (over a record 100 inches). Maybe that's because I was promised a new automatic irrigation system.

"Anyway, the best part of all the snow is that the storms came early and gave us a blanket covering. The worst is that a thaw came in February when diseases were most active. Regardless, I prefer the heavy snow seasons over the open winters like we had in 1994-95.

"What I came out with this time was a little bit of erosion and some snow mold. But I opened in late March and spirits are good because I think we're going to see some money put back onto the city courses. And because of that, I'm looking for a good season."

**Dan Higgins, Winchester Country Club:** "Let me say that this was the longest winter I've ever spent. It was spent around the club, too, because every storm seemed to fall on weekends. So, put two and two together . . . long weekends and long winter, thanks to what seemed to be about every snowstorm measured by the foot, not the inch.

"The end result to the golf course was not too bad, but by the numbers, again we had ice damage to 1½ greens. What hurt was the February thaw. That's when we were at the snow with shovels and at the ice with axes. The results of all the storms, thaws, and iceovers were that it set back my spring cleanup program (opening was set for mid-April) and kept me behind a plow for the better part of four months. Otherwise, it was normal."

**Manny Viveiros, Glen Ellen Country Club:** "This was sort of a know-nothing winter for me because I didn't come here

to a new job until the middle of March, when most of the snow was history.

"However, the course appears to have come through the winter in pretty good shape. The setbacks consisted of a little snow mold and five square feet of ice damage on one green.

"On the plus side, we opened the last week in March and were cutting fairways the first week in April. On the not so plus side, ahead are thoughts of next winter and eight function rooms, whose access roads must be kept open year-round. During the winter here only the super and mechanic are on the payroll, so I suppose there's a lot of plowing in my future if next winter's snowfall comes even close to what it was this year."

**Andy Gay, The Orchards:** "My course's reaction to the crazy winter we had is, I think, a little unusual. First, our greens and tees came through so well it was unbelievable. On the other hand, there's no other word for it: we got creamed on the fairways.

"Those fairways really concern me, too. I hate to start the season in the hole, so to speak. I like to start even with the weather and all that comes with it. The handicap of having to catch up, like we will with the snow mold on the fairways, is something I'd rather be without.

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***"I prefer the heavy snow seasons over the open winters like we had in 1994-1995."***

**Dino Frigo  
Veterans & Franconia G.C.**

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"That was the the sum and substance of the winter here and the golfers' result was that I was aiming for an April 5 opening.

"However, I'd like to add that my heart bleeds for people who had to plow this winter. I heard there were supers who spent more time around the course in the winter than they did in the summer because of the plowing. In my case, the college (owner Mt. Holyoke College) takes care of all the plowing on the premises. Otherwise, my heart would be bleeding for myself, too."

**Jack Pluta, Country Club of Pittsfield:** "Welcome to the Berkshires . . . and bring your snow shovel.

"How bad was it? Well, for the first time that I can remember there was no ice skating at the Country Club of Pittsfield. Why? We couldn't get the plows to the pond because of the heavy snow. This was a brutal winter.

"I suppose the hardest hit by all the snow, ice, and unusually heavy turf damage are my members. Whereas we were open and mowing one year ago April 1, this year we weren't looking to open before April 20, and didn't look to have the course in all that great condition by then.

"One of the big hang-ups here is our location as being a borderline spot when precipitation falls in late winter and early spring. It can be raining 20 miles down the road (south) while we're having a blizzard here. That's what we have to learn to live with.

"I warned my members we would be late opening this year. I sent letters to everyone in the middle of the storms, reminding that there would be no overnight magic to get the course ready for an early opening. So, I think the late opening was a little gentler on their golfing aspirations.

"Regardless, up here we really don't get into decent playing shape before Memorial Day, and being more realistic, no one expects the course to be close to top playing condition until sometime in June.

"So, yes, this was a weird one . . . the most snow ever in Berkshire County. But, then, this is the Berkshires. In the spring here, when it rains, it doesn't rain violets, like in the song. It rains snowflakes. Big ones."

**GERRY FINN**

# USDA budget alert from GCSAA: Turfgrass Evaluation Program threatened

The budget proposed by President Clinton for Fiscal Year (FY) 1997 (starting in October 1996) includes *no* funds to support the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

According to program officials, the Clinton administration and the USDA (whose leaders are appointed by the President) apparently consider this research low priority and have decided to try to abandon the program.

**The budget process.** The President's proposed budget is the first step in the budget process. The budgets for government programs are actually proposed as bills that have to be passed by Congress. If the President does not like a spending bill passed by Congress, his only recourse is to veto the bill. This happened in 1995-96, and the inability of Congress and the President to agree on spending caused the furloughs and temporary funding measures in FY1996.

**Your action is needed!  
Your U.S. Senators and  
Representatives are  
beginning to develop  
FY1997 spending bills  
for government programs.**

**Calls and letters are  
needed nationwide to  
urge Congress to continue  
funding NTEP, despite  
the President's budget  
proposal.**

**Your action is needed!** Your U.S. Senators and Representatives are beginning to develop FY1997 spending bills for government programs. Calls and letters are needed nationwide to urge Congress to continue funding NTEP, despite the President's budget proposal. The following is the information you need to make this contact. Please call GCSAA at 913/832-4490 if we can help you identify your Senators or Representative, or be of any other assistance.

**Tips and talking points.** To call, dial the Capitol Switchboard (202-224-3121) and they can connect you to your legislators' office. When you are connected, ask to speak to the staff member in charge of USDA issues. Don't expect them to know details of the budget proposal, but emphasize how important this USDA program is to you. If you want to write, follow the sample letter below.

Cover the following points in your call or letter:

- The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) is the primary means by which cultivated varieties of turfgrass are evaluated in this country. Based on tests conducted at dozens of land-grant universities, turfgrass variety recommendations are made to homeowners, sod producers, athletic field managers, park managers and, of course, golf course superintendents.
- Turfgrass is a \$30-35 billion industry in the United States.
- The turfgrass industry is growing faster than any other segment of agriculture. Many states, including Florida, Maryland, and North Carolina have documented that turfgrass is their number one or two agricultural industry.
- The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) fits perfectly into USDA objectives such as Integrated Pest Management and Sustainable Agriculture (reduction of inputs while maintaining quality). NTEP is an excellent example

of how private industry, state universities, and the federal government can cooperate to address critical issues in a cost effective manner.

- Much positive publicity has resulted from past USDA support of turfgrass research and the NTEP. This publicity is crucial to a positive image of USDA among a growing urban population.

(Source: NTEP Release, March 21, 1996. For more information about NTEP, call Jeff Nus, Ph.D., GCSAA research manager at (913) 832-4429, or Kevin Morris, NTEP national program coordinator at (301) 504-5125, or via the Internet (k Morris@asrr.arsusda.gov).

**Sample Letter** (Use letterhead with course address and phone numbers):

The Honorable  
Your Senator/ Your Representative  
U.S. Senate / House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510 / 20515

Dear Senator/Representative (Name):

"I am writing to ask you to seek continued funding of the USDA's National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP). President Clinton has proposed to eliminate NTEP funding for FY 1997."

(Explain who you are; where you work.)

(Describe in your own words why the program is important to you and how it helps you. If you can, use examples of how you have used information gained from NTEP trials.)

(Ask your Senator or Representative to reject the President's proposal and continue funding NTEP.)

"Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you about this important issue."

Please send copies of any letters you send or receive to GCSAA so we can track contacts made on this issue. Thank you.

From GCSAA  
Government Relations "Briefax",  
March 28, 1996

# Pesticide testing available at UMass

Whereas public concern over pesticides in the environment was formerly focused on agriculture, golf courses have recently become a focal point of this concern. As golf course construction and use continues to increase, adjoining property owners, local public health and water quality officials, and environmental groups are voicing concern over the impact that chemical turf management practices may have on lakes and streams, groundwater, and human and wildlife health.

The USGA has been proactive in addressing these concerns by funding extensive university research nationwide on the impacts of chemical use in course management practices. Individual public and private courses can address local concerns through routine environmental monitoring of turf management chemicals. Chemical monitoring gives you information to address problems before they arise. It also positions course management and personnel as "good neighbors", environmentally concerned and directly involved in minimizing negative impacts on the local environment.

The Massachusetts Pesticide Analysis Laboratory (MPAL) at the University of Massachusetts / Amherst provides analytical services and scientific expertise

regarding monitoring of pesticides in the environment. We can provide the design and execution of monitoring programs that include the analysis of groundwater and surface water samples for any pesticide used in turf management. The benefit of this testing is the solid evidence it provides that the chemical management

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## ***The MPAL provides analytical services and scientific expertise regarding monitoring of pesticides in the environment.***

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practices you are using do not negatively impact water supplies, which tend to be the primary concern over the presence of golf courses and the chemicals used there.

As an example, we recently completed a six-year, quarterly sampling monitoring program at Bayberry Hills Golf Course in South Yarmouth, Mass. This program was initiated by the Yarmouth Water Quality Board, over concerns that chemicals used on the course would contaminate vulner-

able local groundwater supplies. A series of sampling wells and lysimeters, placed strategically in and around the course, allowed MPAL scientists to collect and analyze groundwater and greens fairway leachate for chemicals used at Bayberry Hills. The results of this program have eased local concerns over groundwater, and the Water Quality Board recently approved reducing monitoring to one annual round of sampling. The Old Barnstable Fairgrounds Golf Course in Barnstable, Mass. contracted with MPAL for a one-time round of sampling. This preliminary assessment provided information for the direction of future monitoring.

MPAL can plan and execute monitoring programs tailored to specific concerns and chemicals in use on your course. Cost varies based on the number and type of pesticides tested, generally \$250 to \$400 per sample. We follow all standard Quality Assurance and Quality Control procedures to provide valid, defensible results. Courses not equipped with monitoring wells may choose to contract well installation, or limit testing to surface waters. Contact Daniel Tessier, laboratory manager, for information (Tel: (413) 545-4369; FAX: (413) 545-2115; Email: [tessier@ent.umass.edu](mailto:tessier@ent.umass.edu)).

# Michael Kennedy receives Morrill Award

Michael Kennedy, Jr. of Oak Ridge Country Club, Agawam, Mass., was presented the Joseph A. Morrill, Jr. Award by the Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund.

Kennedy worked on the course superintendent crew at Oak Ridge and at Longmeadow Country Club, and is a senior at University of Massachusetts/Amherst. The Morrill Award is for a Ouimet Scholar who is attending turfgrass or agronomy school. The award was presented at The Ouimet Fund's 46th Annual Student Banquet in January.

"Michael Kennedy is a fine student and has had wonderful experience at Oak Ridge and Longmeadow. He's made a great contribution to the golf course superintendent staffs," said Ouimet President Richard R. Stimets.

Kennedy is majoring in plant pathology and has a 3.1 grade point average. He volunteers in the IPM Greenhouses and participates in intramural hockey. Kennedy also had a prestigious internship at Disney World in Orlando, Fla. this winter.

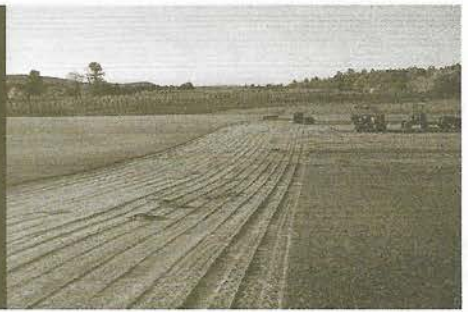
The Morrill Award was founded in 1982. It is named after the late Joseph A. Morrill, Jr., founder and longtime treasurer of the Bay State Seniors Golf Association. The Morrill Award is funded by proceeds of the Bay State Seniors Golf Association. Kennedy was presented with a plaque by Ouimet President Stimets, a member of the Bay State Seniors. A cash scholarship was presented earlier.

A total of 10% of current Ouimet Scholars have worked in course superintendent operations, and the Ouimet Fund is very

actively supported by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England.

The Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund was founded in 1949. Since then it has awarded over \$7.2 million in need-based college tuition assistance to 3,000 students. Ouimet candidates are required to give three years "service to golf" as caddies or as helpers in pro shop or course superintendent operations. In 1995-96 the Ouimet Fund enjoyed its third consecutive record year, awarding \$450,000 to 252 students who are attending 109 colleges and worked at 109 courses. The Ouimet scholarship is competitive and is considered the "Golf Charity of Massachusetts". It is supported by contributions from clubs, individuals, and corporations, and is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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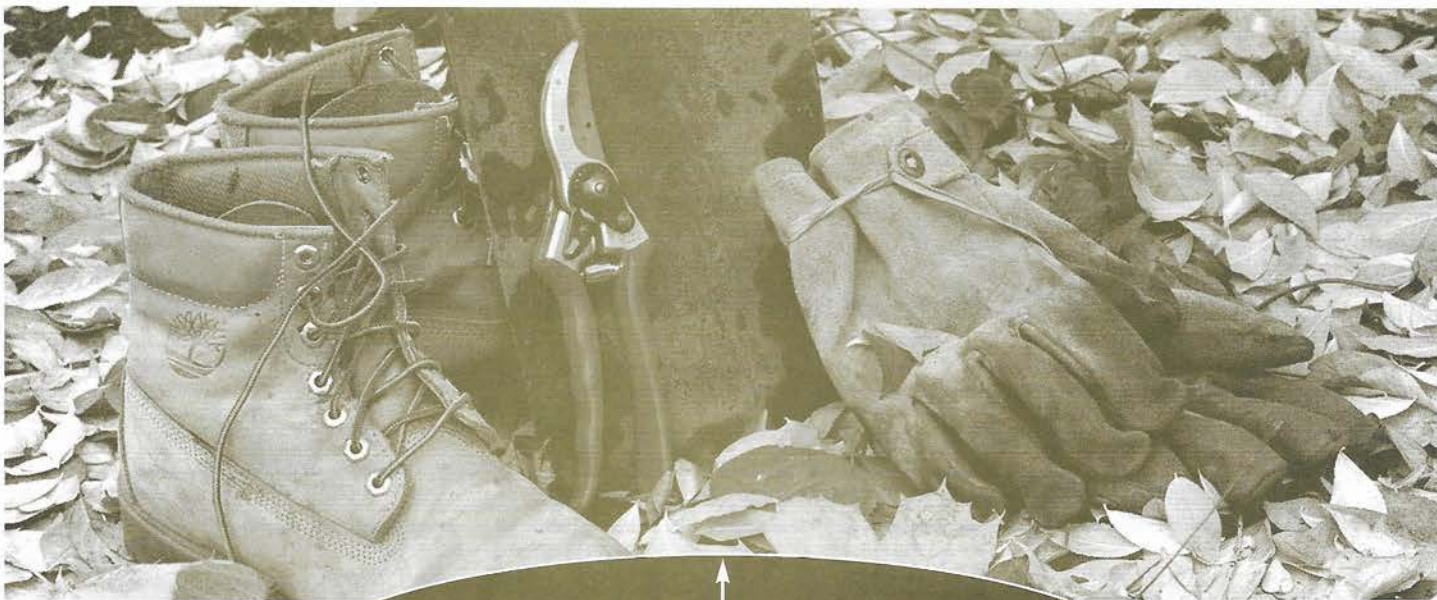
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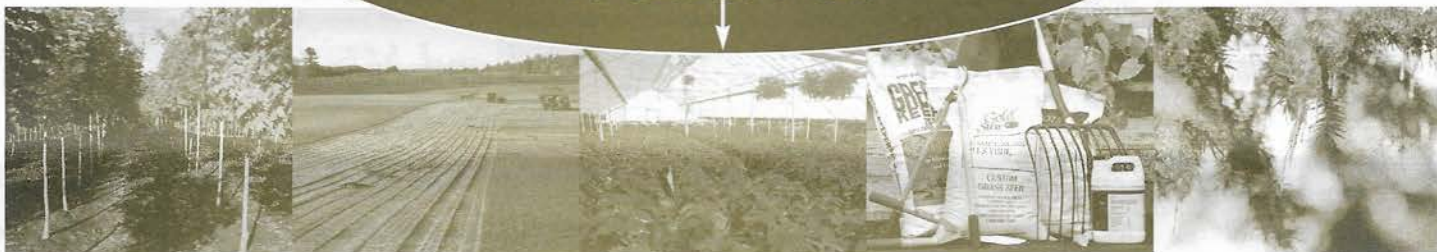
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# Winter woes: Weather extremes mean disease activity and ice-related damage

by James E. Skorulski, Agronomist  
N.E. Region, USGA Green Section

Mother nature has dealt New England another blow with a winter season full of weather extremes. The early record snowfalls, two major thaws, and more recent temperature fluctuations have resulted in unusually high disease activity and ice-related injury.

New England is not alone in this, as winter damage is being reported in many northern states. The severity of the damage may be less than was first anticipated in early and mid-March as warmer weather has stimulated new growth in *Poa annua*. This has been the case at several golf courses in the metropolitan New York region, where weather conditions have been warmer. We are not in the clear yet however, as a return of more severe weather could conceivably cause further damage, especially as the grasses initiate new growth.

Winter injury is unpredictable at best. Golf courses located near each other, with seemingly like conditions, will often experience different degrees of injury. Why is there such variability and how does the injury occur are two common questions often heard. Unfortunately, there are often no definitive answers to these questions, as there remain many unknowns regarding the injury. Let us discuss several of the processes which are thought to occur.

The turf can be injured directly by cold temperature extremes, the effects of crown hydration and ice, or a combination of these factors. A plant protects itself from cold temperature by increasing solute concentrations in the cells' cytoplasm, and by modifying the structure of cell membranes in fall. The high solute concentration lowers the freezing point of water in the cell. As the plant is subjected to freezing temperatures the water outside the cell freezes first. This pulls water out of the cell which increases solute concentrations and further reduces the freezing

point within the cell. The reduction of cellular water can result in desiccation injury to the cell and its membrane. The growing ice crystal outside the cell also exerts tremendous pressure which can cause mechanical damage to the cell. The hardened turf plant has the greatest chance to overcome these stresses as well as survive the cold temperatures themselves.

The level of cold hardiness and tolerance to ice varies between turf species. *Poa annua* and perennial ryegrass are most susceptible, while creeping bentgrass is generally the most tolerant. The hardening process occurs in fall as temperatures cool and the days shorten. Excessive soil moisture and nitrogen nutrition can delay this process. Potassium applications where deficiencies exist are thought to increase hardiness and encourage thicker cell walls. Turf growing in shaded conditions will also harden more slowly due to a reduced photosynthetic rate. Photosynthesis is critical as it produces the carbohydrates that provides energy for the hardening process. The sugars produced in photosynthesis may also serve as the solutes which help to lower the freezing point in the cells.

The turf reaches maximum hardiness in early winter. That hardiness will be reduced as the plant is exposed to warmer temperatures and thawing and freezing cycles. The degree to which a plant can re-harden is not known. This helps to

show why the turf is more vulnerable to a rapid temperature drop in late winter and spring. Snow and certain artificial covers insulate the turf to prevent the temperature fluctuations that lead to a reduction in hardiness.

Crown hydration is a term often associated with winter injury. It refers to the absorption of water by tissues in the crown of the plant. This usually occurs in poorly drained depressions, where water from melting snows and ice accumulate on the surface. The hydration will reduce the cold hardiness of cells in this critical growing point of the plant. Damage to cells in this region usually results in plant mortality. Damage from this type of injury is most likely to occur late in winter and spring when the plants are probably least hardy. However, crown hydration injury can occur earlier in winter as well, especially if a prolonged thaw is followed by a severe and rapid temperature drop. Dr. John Roberts (University of New Hampshire) provides a very good account of this type of winter injury in the article "Understanding Crown Hydration Injury", *Golf Course Management*, October 1993. Dr. Yves Desjardins (Laval University) is also researching winter injury and covering techniques which may be used to prevent such injury. Results of his work can be obtained by contacting Dr. Desjardins at (418) 656-2359.

The recovery process is now probably of greatest concern to those that have experienced winter injury. There have been several articles written on recovery programs for winter injured greens. Two more recent articles which are recommended reading can be found in the November/December 1994 and the January/February 1996 issues of the *Green Section Record*. Both articles cover overseeding techniques, the use of covers, fertility management, irrigation, traffic control, and other practices during the recovery process.

*continued on page 10*

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**Winter injury is unpredictable at best. Golf courses located near each other, with seemingly like conditions, will often experience different degrees of injury.**

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## GCSAA awards research grant for water quality study

The GCSAA has awarded a research grant to Environmental & Turf Services, Inc., to critically review water quality monitoring results from golf courses across the country. The GCSAA Foundation's Board of Trustees approved the grant proposal at GCSAA's Conference in Orlando, Fla.

Environmental & Turf Services, Inc., is an environmental consultant company based in Wheaton, Md. Their proposal was one of several reviewed by the research committee and recommended to The GCSAA Foundation's Board of Trustees.

The objective is to compile information from studies designed to sample surface and ground water from golf courses and then to publish an evaluation of the impacts of golf courses on water quality.

The USGA has spent millions of dollars in the last few years to fund pesticide- and nutrient-fate studies. The studies indicate chemicals used on golf courses pose little threat to the environment. These studies were conducted in lab settings and at field stations. The ETS study will take the next step, using data directly from courses.

"The university research funded by the USGA has provided a broad array of information about how the green spaces of golf benefit communities, including wildlife populations," said GCSAA President Bruce R. Williams, CGCS. "By funding ETS' metastudy, we hope to obtain more specific data on water quality that will further support findings of the USGA-supported studies on this topic."

A summary article will be written for *Golf Course Management*, GCSAA's monthly magazine. At least one technical paper will be written for a scientific journal, important for having results accepted by regulatory agencies, governmental officials, and scientists around the world.

"Providing evidence that golf courses are environmentally friendly is very important to GCSAA and the rest of the golf industry," said Dr. Jeff Nus, GCSAA research manager. "This work by ETS could go a long way in providing evidence not only to the golf industry, but to regulatory agencies and environmental groups."

Research proposals can be submitted to Dr. Jeff Nus at the GCSAA for consideration by the Research Committee.

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

### MEMBERSHIP

**Proposed for Membership:** Robert Larson, Regular, Green Hill Golf Course, Worcester, Mass.; Frank Bava, Affiliate, Sawtelle Bros., Lawrence, Mass.; Michael Johnson, Assistant, Tara Colonial Country Club, Wakefield, Mass.; John Neville, Regular, Leo J. Martin Golf Course, Weston, Mass.; Christopher Weiman, Affiliate, P.I.E. Supply, Milford, Conn.; Kenneth Brown, Affiliate, Sawtelle Bros., Lawrence, Mass.; Mark Richard, CGCS, Kirkbrae Country Club, West Warwick, R.I.; Keith Cummings, Assistant, Marlboro Country Club, Marlboro, Mass.; Ernest Bernard, Affiliate, Turf Enhancement Enterprises, Millbury, Mass.

**Welcome New Member:** Michael Guibord, Assistant, Mt. Pleasant Country Club, Boylston, Mass.

### INFORMATION

Our decision to ban metal spikes at all of our sponsored golf events in 1996 has already received some print in the Brockton Sunday Enterprise. The April 14 article by Frank Stoddard contained interviews with Joe Rybka, CGCS, Thorny Lea, and Dave Robinson of Atlantic C.C. Both Joe and Dave explained how spikeless shoes did not lift the turf and create marks on the greens. Two golf professionals from the Cape were also interviewed. Although one pro spoke of the advantages of better putting surfaces, the other actually said "Spikes can help open up the greens. Even minor scruff marks that are sometimes left by spikes can help the greens. I feel that spikes help more than hurt a course". I must have been out that day when Joe Troll explained that one in class!

In the April 1996 issue of *Golf Course Management* on page 41, there's a photograph of a familiar young family (thank goodness the kids look like their mother) at one of GCSAA's many functions at the Orlando conference. I hope that what was in the baby bottle didn't come out of one of those many empty cans on the table!

Of all the people I could leave off the GCSAA Golf Championship list, it has to be Ron Kirkman! Congratulations to the Captain on placing 2nd Net in the Senior II Division. Ron also reminded me that a number of GCSANE members received pins from GCSAA in Orlando. Joe Rybka, CGCS, Ron Kirkman, and Wayne Zoppo, CGCS all got their 30-year pins; John Petraitis received his 35-year pin; and Bob Grant, CGCS was awarded his 40-year pin. Congratulations to all!

**Turf Research Field Day.** On June 5, 1996, the University of Massachusetts Extension and Department of Plant and Soil Sciences will host the Turf Research Field Day at the Turf Research facility on River Road, South Deerfield, Mass. This year's field day includes vendor displays and demonstrations. The Field Day provides turf professionals with an opportunity to learn about current research projects, to meet with researchers and staff, and to participate in field diagnostic and educational workshops. Pesticide recertification credits have been requested from all New England states and New York. Registration is at 8 a.m. A Welcome and the Research Presentations run from 9-11 a.m., and the trade show and demonstrations are from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Pre-registration deadline is May 25, 1996, and the fee is \$40. For more information, call Mary Owen at 508-892-0382.

Meeting sites for 1997 are being booked now. If you can host a meeting or tournament, please call Mike Hermanson at (508) 632-2713.

The GCSAA Scholars Competition applications are available from Bob DiRico. For more information on this, please call Bob at (617) 527-6968.

Let's get those dues in ASAP if you haven't paid yet. No delinquent member will be permitted to play in the Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament if your dues for 1996 are not paid!

### MEETING NOTES

A thank you to the entire staff at the Hyannis Golf Club for hosting the April joint meeting of GCMCC and GCSANE.

### TOURNAMENT RESULTS

#### Team of Four Scramble

1st - Jack Hassett, Jim Fitzroy, Eric Brox, and John Petraitis, 62

2nd - Al Lanois, Scott Nickerson, Matt Crowther, and Greg Albanese - 62

3rd - Steve Mann, J. McGill, Eric Sinisalo, and Tim Keating - 65

Closest to pin #7 - Greg Frederick

Closest to pin #11 - Russ Bragdon

### EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Jacobsen 5-gang Blitzers with frames, sharpened and ready to go! Call Ed Eardley at Wampatuck C.C. at (617) 575-9511.



**USGA Green Section News**

**Winter woes**

*continued from page 7*

Recently, seed germination was personally observed during the second week of April on winter-injured greens in southern New Jersey. Seeding was completed in late February and the greens were covered with a geotextile material. Granted, that area of New Jersey is probably two to three weeks advanced in terms of weather, but the early establishment illustrates the importance of initiating the recovery process early, and the potential benefits covers can have for hastening establishment.

Even though winter injury remains an enigma, there are several key factors which are known to eliminate or greatly reduce the injury. They involve a long-term maintenance philosophy aimed at increasing populations of more cold-tolerant creeping bentgrass and improving surface

drainage to eliminate standing water that leads to tissue hydration. Maintenance practices to improve growing environments are crucial for both the long-term conversion to creeping bentgrass, and to allow the plant to reach its maximum cold hardiness in early winter.

Covering the greens with a permeable geotextile fabric alone will have little influence on cold temperature injury especially if plants below the covers become hydrated. This fact has been observed in the field and in research work. Will removing or reducing a deep snow pack in early winter reduce injury? Probably not, as a heavy snow cover acts as a good insulator against severe temperature fluctuations which have the greatest potential for injuring turf. Removing snow in late winter or during periods of heavy thaw does have merit if surface drainage is poor and water is puddling in lower depressions. Removing ice which has formed is also

debatable. It is probably a good idea if prolonged ice cover occurs. However, mechanical injury to the turf may occur during the removal process, and the removal is in no way a guarantee that the turf has not already been injured.

Remember, there are no guarantees with winter injury. All we can do is adjust cultural programs to favor the establishment of more tolerant grasses and to help the turf reach a maximum level of hardiness. Preventing tissue hydration in the winter months will also help minimize damage. Creeping bentgrass growing on a well-drained soil stands the best chance of survival, but even that does not guarantee that injury will not occur. Good luck to those who have recovery work ahead. I hope that as the temperatures warm, the extent of anticipated damage is reduced. Finally, do not hesitate to call the office if I can be of any assistance. Best wishes for the new season.



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