



THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents

Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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December 1997

Charles River C.C. 'polishes the jewel' in restoring its Donald Ross golf course

If you're a superintendent at a Donald Ross-designed golf course (and there are 35 of them in Massachusetts alone), don't look now, a restoration project may be in your future.

Putting the "original" look back into the famed golf architect's tree-lined, bunker-dotted creations has become an eventual way of life for the superintendent trusted with keeping Ross' jewels, well, gem-like. Once they've lost their sparkle it's only a matter of time before club members decide to blow the dust off their course's original blueprints.

At the Charles River Country Club where Scott Reynolds applies his expertise to a Donald Ross layout that recently turned the corner of its 75th birthday, its members doubled up in the facelift department. Not only did they stamp their approval on restoring the golf course to 1921 specs, they tackled the job of renovating the clubhouse.

Obviously, the two-pronged project put a little variety into their golfing lives. "They had to put up with pro shop and clubhouse trailers for a long time," Scott disclosed. "Yes, it was sort of an inconvenience to our members. However, they were determined that the overall operation wasn't going to be a quick-fix thing. They wanted to do it right and go the whole route."

Much of the restoration work centered on Charles River's 70 bunkers. Oddly enough, the bunkers had undergone repair work eight years before. But that in-house, fast-finished project was nothing more than a band-aid applied to a hemorrhaging wound. The bleeding never stopped until the club's long-range committee jumped in with the cure-all remedy.

"The committee started working on this a couple of years ago," Reynolds told. "There were inside meetings, meetings with the Donald Ross Society, and a lot of heated debates before plans were put into place. A lot of thought went into it. That group was strongly focused.

The first step was to hire Ronald Pritchard, a respected architect who has had much experience working on Donald Ross restoration projects. It was also decided to hire the Michael Drake Construction Company for the bunker work. Then it was into studying aerial photos (circa 1938) and gathering information from a succession of superintendents and veteran club members.

That left the first ground thrust schedule to be drafted, and work began in

September 1996, carrying through to the end of June 1997 when the bulk of the work was completed.

There had to be some luck involved, and it surfaced in a wide-open winter of

"Quality comes with a price, and I think our members realize that."

**Scott Reynolds
Charles River C.C.**

1997 when there was a shortfall of snowstorms. This gave the Drake people a couple of months of bonus time. Reynolds says it was the difference in bringing 80 percent of the job home free at the projected time of completion. However, working under less than ideal conditions had its problems.

"The problem had nothing to do with the Drake input," Reynolds emphasized. "In fact, they were artists in their own right. They were painstaking in their approach to what turned out to be fine-line work. They were great. Anyway, the problem had to do with a tractor."

The glitch occurred when 'somehow' the tractor buried itself in a fairway while the Charles River crew staked out new routes (away from the fairways) for cart paths. In the end, it took Scott and his staff two days to straighten out that mess

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The Puzzle

Look up, down, forward, backward, and diagonally to find each of the following courses that hosted a meeting or tournament this year:

- Andover
- Blue Hills
- Brae Burn
- Cohasset
- Dean Junior College
- Eastward Ho
- Juniper Hill
- Longmeadow
- Pine Brook
- Tedesco
- Walpole
- Willowbend
- Winchester

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and repair the damage. But such are the fortunes of restoration.

On-course restoring also had to do with expanding greens and retracing the makeup of several tees. It seems that World War II had a hand in some of the scarring of the Ross original. Because of financial cutbacks and labor shortages during the war, greens were made smaller to facilitate proper maintenance. Expanding greens was another part of the restoration picture.

Charles River members let tolerance and patience be their guides through the heavy restoration period. They played the course without relying on normal conditions, which is to say all bunkers were out of play. They even had the sense to use a special "bunkerless handicap system" to pull them through tournament play while the bunkers were under restorative assault.

"I think one of the key factors in bringing this to a successful conclusion was the great rapport between the club green committee and the membership," Reynolds noted. "They had to be in tune with each other. Also, another comforting factor was the effective working relationship between the Michael Drake Company and my staff. They were always on the same page. Everything had to fall in place and it did."

The results of the project were well-received by the Charles River membership. Many supported the financial outlay because they wanted the "best" when it came to course conditions, appearance, and Donald Ross originality. They had to

bite the financial bullet and continue to do so.

"Keeping the cost down is tough," Reynolds remarked. "With all the improvements to the golf course and around the clubhouse areas, I find that I need two more people to maintain the course and grounds. For example, before restoration it took 130 hours to maintain our bunkers. After restoration, that figure is up to 170. Quality comes with a price and I think our members realize that."

As for Scott, the project has been somewhat of a strain ("my golf game is gone," he moans) because of its enormous impact on his job responsibilities. "I couldn't go home and forget it," he said. "But, it's self-rewarding. I live on the property, so part of the course is my home. Now, if I look real long and hard, I can almost see Donald Ross creating his masterpiece. It happens to every Donald Ross course superintendent, doesn't it?"

GERRY FINN

Calendar

- January 14 **GCSANE Annual Meeting**
Woodland Golf Club
Newton, Mass.
Supt. - Dave Mucciarone
- February 19 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Thorny Lea Golf Club
Whitman, Mass.
Supt. - Joseph L. Rybka, CGCS
- March 25 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Pleasant Valley Country Club
Sutton, Mass.
Supt. - Randy Kehres, CGCS

The Super Speaks Out

This month's question: How do you handle layoffs and what are your other remedies in maintaining an effective winter staff?

Len Curtin, Lexington Golf Club: "We're a nine-hole club, a close-knit club. We're even a 100-year-old club. We have 250 members, but we don't have enough money to carry a full-time staff year-round.

"Presently, there are three of us on the payroll around the yearly clock, my assistant, mechanic, and myself. The regular crew works out to six people, from mid-March until late in season or when we run out of golfing weather.

"We do have a problem, though. Those three people who work nine months a year are very valuable in that they are returnees with much-needed experience. I can't say enough about being able to get a restart in the spring with a crew that's been here before and can get right into the job of getting the conditioning system going without a break-in period.

"But the problem is that those three people aren't guaranteed to return. Worse yet, this year we had one of them apply for unemployment compensation. It didn't set too well with some of our members, but what's the solution? I want to hire back the semi-full-timers but I can't.

"There are no permanent ways around the problem, but I do have the opportunity to use my snow removal money on the laid off people. That's a help. The funny thing is that there is plenty of work to do here in the wintertime.

"The whole arrangement really puts us in a difficult slot. Besides the six 'almost' full-timers, I also hire two more crew members at the height of the season. Turns out these also are valuable people. I try to keep in touch with them after they're laid off by seeking jobs at other places of business, and I also make sure I bring them back as soon as possible.

"Right now (mid-November) our course work consists of preparing for spring, putting on greens covers (after Thanksgiving) and the horrendous, ongoing job of leaf cleanup. The ideal situation would be a full boatload of experienced help when spring rolls around. Maybe some day?"

Eric Brox, Hickory Hill Golf Course: "I've always concentrated on getting along with my crew and making every effort to see that they enjoy the atmosphere and conditions here. I treat them as well as I can because I go by the old saying that suggests that a happy crew is an efficient crew.

"We're an 18-hole, daily fee course, and the theme is to get as many people around the course as possible. That also means keeping the course in a condition that attracts the fee-paying players.

"I run between eight and 12 people on the staff during the summer. Then I gradually lay off crew members until we get down to the winter full-time group of my assistant, mechanic, and myself.

"Remember, the downsizing is gradual and I keep as many as I can on the payroll until we run out of golfing weather. That's usually around Christmas. Right now (November) we're still getting play and I'm down to six people. That's not bad when you think of it. However, I like to keep everybody working all of the time.

"Some of the laid off people get unemployment benefits. That is understandable because of the circumstances. But I'm fortunate in a way because so far I've had four laid off workers return in the three years I've been here.

"Overall, I've also been lucky keeping the nucleus of my help. Some of my crew have been here six years. That's the key to conditioning success. It's much easier when we don't have to train new people every year. The more returnees the easier it is on the superintendent and the golf course."

Bob Matthews, Marshfield Country Club: Some of the golf clubs in New England are going with the idea that a core of experienced people is necessary to get the new golf season into swing

without a maintenance hitch. We're one of them.

"I'm able to keep seven people working full-time, year-round. That's on a regular 40-hour week basis. The full-timers include myself, my first assistant, second assistant, mechanic, and three grounds men.

"This eliminates getting a staff lined up in time to get the regular maintenance program rolling at high gear around March 15. The only way you can do that is to be assured your experienced workers will be on hand when those vital conditioning times of spring hit the course.

"Oh, there's plenty to do for the seven guys here year-round. The big job of winter is getting the equipment ready for another season. Here, we have the luxury of having people familiar with that equipment when it comes time to steam-clean it and get it ready to be overhauled. On that score I'd like to report that 99 percent of our overhauling work is done in-house. That's a pretty good rate of doing the work yourself.

"The other off-season chores include closing down the irrigation system, covering select greens, and battling the leaves. The latter is an ongoing proposition. There always seem to be leaves that need clearing.

"Our membership likes to keep golf a year-round sport just as much as I like to have year-round help. We accommodate them as best we can, allowing them to use regular greens as long as conditions make that feasible.

"I do offer a few part-time winter jobs, mostly to high school kids who put in three-hour shifts (no overtime scheduled) for shoveling snow and using a small snowthrower. But, as I said before, the key to a successful getaway on the maintenance trail is to have that hard core of experienced workers ready to give it the big push come spring."

GERRY FINN

Research Report

Turfgrass Nematode Studies '96, Part II

by Robert L. Wick,
Department of Microbiology,
University of Massachusetts

(Submitted Jan. 29, 1997)

(Part IV, V, and Conclusion)

IV. Effect of the Plant Growth Supplement, 3D, on Plant Parasitic Nematodes.

Introduction: It is becoming increasingly important to find alternatives to organophosphate nematicides for use in turf. Due to concerns for the environment, and public awareness in general, rates of these nematicides have been reduced. Also, due to the potential risk to the applicator, there is reluctance among some golf course superintendents to apply nematicides. Safer alternative materials that would reduce nematode populations below damaging levels would be of great benefit to the golf industry. The plant growth supplement 3D has been shown to reduce *Hoplolaimus* nematodes in greenhouse trials. Based on these findings, 3D was trialed in 1995 and again in 1996 on the same plots.

Methods: Quaboag Country Club in Monson, Mass. was selected because of a history of high populations of *Tylenchorhynchus* (stunt) nematodes, and a moderate population of *Hoplolaimus* (lance) nematodes. On Green #5, 15 plots were established. Plots were 6'x6' and completely randomized. There were three treatments replicated five times. Treatments consisted of one application of Nematicur, seven applications of 3D, and an untreated (water) control. Nematicur was applied once at the rate of 2.3 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. 3D was applied at the rate of 2.3 oz. a.i./1,000 sq. ft. for each of eight applications. The first application of Nematicur and 3D was on May 31; six subsequent applications of 3D were on June 13 & 28, July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22, and September 15. Stunt, lance, and needle nematodes were monitored, but due to low populations of needle nematodes, only stunt and lance populations are reported here.

On October 3, 1996, root dry weight was assessed for each treatment by removing five 1/4" cores from each plot.

Results and Discussion: Stunt populations started out the season very high; approximately 3,000/100 cc of soil. The control plots had stunt populations of about 3,700 by June 28 while the 3D and Nematicur plots slowly declined during the course of the year. Nematicur resulted in a significant reduction in nematodes compared to the control, but the difference ended by August as the populations declined. Lance nematode populations remained relatively stable over the season except for a dip in the Nematicur treatment on July 28. No conclusions can be drawn from the lance population data because the numbers at the beginning of the season were not equal. The data indicate that Nematicur resulted in a drop in stunt nematodes, but the suppression was short lived.

Root dry weights were significantly greater for the untreated controls than for the Nematicur or 3D treatments. It is likely that five cores per plot is not a statistically valid number of subsamples to carry out a reliable assessment.

V. Effect of the Biocontrol Agent Diterar on Nematodes.

Introduction: Ditera is a biocontrol agent derived from the fungus *Myrothecium*. The product is a fermentation product rather than a living fungus. It has shown very promising results in the field for plant pathogenic nematodes of vegetable crops.

Methods: A putting green in South Hadley, Mass., was chosen for the trial because of a relatively high population of *Hoplolaimus*. Data was also collected for *Tylenchorhynchus*, *Criconemella* and *Longidorus*. The turf was a mixture of annual bluegrass and bentgrass. The putting green, approximately 70 years old, was built on native clay soil, with an upper layer of 3-4" of sandy soil. Mechanical analysis of the top 4" of soil demonstrate it to be 83.6% sand, 11.9% silt, and 4.5% clay. USDA criteria would classify the soil as a loamy coarse sand based on the sand subfractions. Plots

were 6'x6', six replications per treatment, and completely randomized. The treatments consisted of: (1) no treatment; (2) Nematicur at 2.3 lbs./1,000 sq. ft.; (3) *Myrothecium* WP at 100 lbs./A; and (4) *Myrothecium* WP at 50 lbs./A. Applications were made on June 10, 1996. Ten subsamples per plot were taken at each harvest date, bulked, and extracted. Nematodes were recovered by wet sieving/sugar flotation and identified to genus. The data were subjected to a one-way analysis of variance and a test of LSD.

Results and Discussion: Results for *Criconemella* suggest that Ditera and Nematicur showed activity starting about August 1. However, the data should be ignored because ring populations are typically very clumped in distribution to the extent that the number of subsamples taken per plot could not provide a reliable estimation of the population.

For *Hoplolaimus*, the only significant differences in treatments were between Nematicur and the half rate of *Myrothecium* on August 1 and August 29. At this time, the half rate of Ditera was significantly greater than the Nematicur treatment. I suspect this was an artifact of uneven nematode distribution rather than a stimulation of the population by the product. The full rate of Ditera appears to have suppressed *Hoplolaimus*, although the differences were not statistically significant. For *Longidorus*, the only significant difference occurred on August 29 where Nematicur resulted in a higher population than the other treatments. These numbers (of *Longidorus*) are rather low, and I was surprised to see a statistical separation. I am inclined to believe it is an artifact. *Tylenchorhynchus* populations appear to be suppressed by the Nematicur but no statistical differences were seen. This is most likely due to the low numbers and plot to plot variation.

Ditera has promise as a nematicide and should be trialed again. One reason for the lack of significant control may be the fact that the 40-micron particles have difficulties moving into the turf. Next year,

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“Remember when?”: Looking at GCSANE’s past

Remember when? looks at significant events and individuals of GCSANE’s past.

25 years ago

Waterbury C.C. superintendent and GCSAA official Charles Baskin reports that some headway has been made in effecting an adequate national retirement program for association members.

“We’re trying to encourage a plan which includes transferable vested rights,” Baskin reported to a GCSANE gathering after an appearance before the House Ways and Means Committee in Washington. “I’ve heard of many cases where a man left a job with six months left to go on his vested rights requirement. And he wound up losing it all. We have to avoid this, since we are apt to move out of a job three or four times in a career.” Baskin added that he’ll continue to lobby for transferable vested rights in an attempt to bring security into the overview of the golf course superintendents’ profession.

15 years ago

One of the giants of the golf course equipment industry was remembered as a true friend of the superintendent after the death of Orville Clapper at the age of 87.

Clapper, who founded the the New England Toro Company in Newton, served the maintenance wing of golf for 53 years, continuing the tradition of his father, John Samuel Clapper, who was founder of the original Toro Manufacturing Company. “I can’t ever remember Orville

approaching me with an idea that would not benefit my operation in the end,” retired super Phil Cassidy said. “He was interested in our profession, not from just a sales standpoint but from a genuine feeling for and understanding of the many problems we faced. He would have considered himself a close friend even if he’d sold me only one coupling.”

Among the winners of November golfing events on the GCSANE agenda were Brian Cowan (low gross), Doug Johnson (low net) and Max Mierzwa (2nd low net) in regular play at Needham, plus Kip Tyler and Billy Ziobro of the Salem

Country Club, who waxed the field in the pro-super championship at Brae Burn.

5 years ago

GCSAA president William Roberts, in a letter to GCSANE research chairman Chip Brearley, commended the New England group for being the first national affiliated chapter to commit financial support to the GCSAA study of pesticide exposure.

“If more chapters, corporations, and individuals follow the example you’ve set, we will be capable of doing tremendous work that will benefit our profession for decades to come,” Roberts wrote.

GERRY FINN

Friend of the Association Profile

Meet Irrigation Management & Services

Irrigation Management & Services was established in 1989. Bob Healey entered the irrigation consultant field with 22 years in golf course maintenance and irrigation. He has been an assistant superintendent, a sales/design engineer for a distributor, and an irrigation contractor.

Bob was certified by the Irrigation Association in 1985 for commercial design and in 1986 for golf course irrigation design, and has been a Professional Member of the American Society of Irrigation Consultants (ASIC) since 1986. He has been a Friend and Affiliate Member of the GCSANE since 1989, a member of the GCSAA since 1992, and a member of the Donald Ross Society since 1995.

He received his degree in mechanical engineering in 1974.

IMS specializes in developing irrigation reference manuals and developing strategies for future upgrades and master planning. These manuals, typically 160-180 page reports, note existing conditions, soil intake rates and precipitation rates, locate all heads and valves, and make recommendations and conclusions.

This unique and extensive background of design, education, supplies, construction, maintenance, and operations in the golf and irrigation field enables IMS to offer a rare combination for system evaluation, consulting, and irrigation design to the golf course superintendent.

Turfgrass Nematode Study

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I propose to use the EC formulation and inject the material into the root zone.

VI. Concluding Remarks.

1. A single application of Nema-cur in mid-April was effective in reducing cyst nematodes. The second applications did not result in benefits during 1996. However, the benefits probably will not be known until 1997. These plots will be monitored in 1997, (no additional nematicide will be used).

2. The root-knot control studies were not conclusive; however the June

application of Nema-cur appeared to suppress the nematode. These plots will be used to evaluate the biocontrol agent Ditera in 1997.

3. *Steinernema riobravis*, formulated as Vector, did not result in a reduction in nematodes in 1995 or 1996. Nema-cur controlled stunt nematodes in these trials.

4. Eight applications of the plant growth supplement, 3D did not result in suppression of stunt and lance nematodes. Nema-cur suppressed stunt nematodes.

5. The biocontrol agent Ditera showed promising results against stunt nematodes at the higher rate. This product will be

tried again in 1997. The product would probably work better if injected into the turf. It is also possible that several applications would provide better control.

Acknowledgments: I thank the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England and Abbot Laboratories for financial support. Also, thanks to cooperators Randy Martin, Robert Nielsen, Andy Gay, Dave Bergeron, Mark Williams, Shawn Fernandez, Kevin Killoy, and Jeff Butler. Thanks also to Truth Nissebaum and Nathaniel Mitkowski for helping to collect samples, and for working long hours in the lab extracting and identifying nematodes.

GCSAA News

GCSAA monitors a range of legislative, court, & agency activity

The theory that pesticides cause breast cancer was debunked in an important new study published in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine. Government action, especially in New York, was prompted in recent years by smaller studies that made a link between breast cancer and pesticides. The author of a study often cited by activists was involved in the latest research. A summary is available on the Internet at www.nejm.org/public/1997/0337/0018/1303/1.htm.

EPA and state environmental commissioners have agreed to place more emphasis on environmental outcomes than on the level of government activities in evaluating results of their programs. A single set of core performance standards for measuring collective environmental and program progress was agreed on by EPA and the Environmental Council of the States.

Environmental crimes would be easier to prosecute under legislation recently unveiled by the Clinton Administration. The bill would increase penalties

for environmental crimes, provide heavier punishments when an environmental crime causes death or serious injury, and allow prosecution of an entity that attempts an environmental crime but is stopped before the act is committed.

The availability of some organophosphates (OPs) would be jeopardized if the EPS follows the recommendations of the International Life Sciences Institute. The Institute told EPA all 39 OPs should be considered together in one "risk cup" when the "cumulative exposure" risk determination is made during the tolerance review process required under FQPA. Under the law, some product uses would have to be eliminated by manufacturers if the total aggregate risk is too high.

Pesticide manufacturers will pay 35 percent more for annual product registrations with EPA beginning in 1998. The charge for the first registration will go from \$700 to \$950, and subsequent registration fees will rise from \$1,400 to \$1,900, authorized by the 1996 FQPA.

The use of agricultural pesticides has increased slightly while use of pesticides in homes and businesses has decreased, according to the EPA. *Pesticide Industry Sales and Usage - 1994 and 1995 Market Estimates* is available on EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides>.

EPA's widely publicized *Index of Watershed Indicators* is available to the public on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/surf/iwi>. The site has received much hype by the agency, but contains little useful information. The index has information on water quality assessments and water sources for watersheds nationwide.

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) has obtained an exemption under Phase I emission standards for "replacement" engines to fit used lawn equipment. All small gasoline engines made after Sept. 1, 1997 must be certified for Phase I emission standards. Manufacturers can produce a small number of uncertified replacement engines if they meet conditions set forth by EPA.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed for Membership: Terrance P. Baker, Superintendent, Cohasse C.C.; Kevin P. Congdon, Assistant Superintendent, Cohasse C.C.; Steve Mollieux, Assistant Superintendent, Easton C.C.

Welcome New Members: Geoffery D. Houghton, Superintendent, Agawam Municipal G.C.*; Donald Neil, Superintendent, Hemmingford Golf & C.C.; Donald T. Nunes, Superintendent Chicopee C.C.; Stephen G. Cadenelli, Superintendent, Cape Cod National G.C.; Carl A. Oliveira, Assistant Superintendent, Andover C.C.; Timothy Hanrahan, Assistant Superintendent, South Shore C.C.; The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co., Friend, Beverly Farms, Mass.; Tom Cottens, Affiliate, Cavicchio Greenhouses; Fred Green, Affiliate, Cavicchio Greenhouses; and Paul Cavicchio, Affiliate, Cavicchio Greenhouses. (* Pending GCSAA dual membership requirements being met.)

MEETING NOTES

Thanks to Richard French for hosting the GCSANE November meeting. He and the staff at Longmeadow C.C. provided us with a wonderful golf course.

Thanks again to Robert DiRico and the staff at Brae Burn C.C. for hosting the GCSANE October meeting.

We Want You! If you would like to host a monthly GCSANE meeting, please call Michael Hermanson at (508) 632-2713. We need member input, participation, and support. We're here to serve all our members, not just a select few. Get involved.

INFORMATION

20% discount. Ann Arbor Press (121 South Main St., Chelsea, MI 48118; Phone: (313) 475-8787; Fax: (313) 475-8852) is offering a 20% discount to our members on the following books: *Destructive Turfgrass Insects: Biology, Diagnosis, and Control*, by Daniel A. Potter, U. of Kentucky (retail: \$65); *Turfgrass Management Information Directory, 2nd edition*, edited by Dr. Keith Karnok (retail: \$34.95); *IPM Handbook for Golf Courses*, by Gail Schumann, Patricia J. Vittum, Monica L. Elliott, and Patricia P. Cobb (retail: \$54.95).

The budget meeting for nine-hole golf courses will be held Jan. 15, 1998, 9 a.m., at Whitinsville G.C. If you plan on attending or want more information contact Paul Wilson at (508) 234-2533.

The Pesticide Disclosure Act, Senate Bill 1062, has been changed to Senate Bill 1886.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Golf Course Superintendent. Agawam Municipal G.C., Agawam, Mass., is seeking a golf course superintendent. A two or four-year degree in turfgrass management or related field is preferred. Seeking a highly motivated individual with a minimum of three years of experience as assistant or superintendent. Responsible for maintenance of golf course, equipment, capital improvements of course properties, budget, and purchasing. A competitive compensation and benefits package including retirement is available. Mail/fax resume to: Personnel Office, Town of Agawam, 36 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001; Fax: (413) 786-9927. Application deadline Jan. 10, 1998.

Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. Wachusett C.C., West Boylston, Mass., is seeking an assistant superintendent. Applicants must have three to five years golf course maintenance, a two or four-year degree in turf management, and be certified as a pesticide applicator in category 37 (turf). Send resume to: Matthew Marrone, Superintendent, Wachusett C.C., 187 Prospect Street, West Boylston, MA 01583.

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Host Superintendent Profile

Meet host superintendent Wayne LaCroix, Andover C.C.

The host superintendent for our meeting in December was Wayne LaCroix of Andover Country Club, Andover, Mass.

Like many superintendents, Wayne began his turf career early in life, playing in the dirt. As a happy toddler, Wayne merrily re-shaped the earth with bucket, shovel, and spoon, little realizing that he was building the foundation for his future.

While still a young boy, he learned that there was more to frolicking in the dirt than just making mudpies. He learned that grass grows in it. This revelation spurred him on to even

greater discoveries about the delicate relationships between earth, sun, wind, and water – indeed, the physical world upon which all life depends.

However, his route to becoming a golf course superintendent was not always like skipping down a rose-garden path. Take, for example, his first exposure to golf. He was riding his bike past a golf course, and wondered why all those middle-aged men were rooting through the bushes on the edge of a beautiful field, muttering angry, guttural, one-syllable words he did not understand. Years later he overcame this initial negative impression, and in fact came to embrace the game of golf. He even

learned the language of those middle-aged men, though today he is simply too nice a guy to use it.

Later Wayne had to face the grim reality that if he wanted to continue to play in the dirt as an adult, he would have to seek higher education, study hard, and learn to become a scientist, fortune-teller, engineer, and personnel manager at the same time! He did so, and the rest of the story is still being written in the evolving natural history of Andover Country Club.

In his spare time, Wayne enjoys eating, sleeping, and toiling late into the night as editor of the GCSANE *Newsletter*.



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