



THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents

Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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

April 1998

Roy Mackintosh & family: Golf course maintenance might be “in the genes”

Roy Mackintosh admits, “it must be in the genes.”

Or why else would siblings Deneen, Scott, and Greg follow in Dad’s footsteps? After all, it hasn’t been that bad of a journey. Roy, golf course superintendent and general manager of the Twin Hills Country Club, is one of the pillars of his profession. So, he’s not a bad act to follow.

But follow the Mackintosh kids did, and today Dad and they just might comprise America’s first family of golf course maintenance. But wait. Throw in granddad, Alan, who once was a pro-greenskeeper and is still going strong at 86 as a teacher-starter in Florida, and the genes theory picks up steam.

For the record, Deneen calls the greening shots at the Pompey Country Club located just outside Syracuse. She is, in fact, the first-ever woman golf course superintendent in Central New York, and stars her presence as a member of the section’s board of directors.

Scott, who has held positions with Turf Specialty and the Turf Research Department at the University of Wisconsin, is the assistant superintendent under former GCSAA president Steve Cadenelli at the Cape Cod National Golf Course.

Greg, youngest of the turf-turning trio, is also its veteran, with several years under his belt as golf course superintendent at Tara Hyannis.

The years and profession have been good to Roy Mackintosh, and he has responded with a career representing the best there is in professionalism and accomplishment. This is his 35th year as a superintendent, and most of those years have been spent at Twin Hills, where he is held in high esteem. Not only is he the club’s general manager, he is a member of its governing executive committee.

Yet, Roy clings to his working roots. “My main thrust is still on the golf course,” he explained. “I have a great assistant in Mark Christianson, but I get out there and get my hands dirty just as I did when I was working with my dad.

I guess that’s another gene thing. I get my work ethic from my father, and I think I’ve passed it on to my children.”

Roy worked for Alan Mackintosh, starting with the thankless jobs at the Wilbraham Country Club. He put in some time in the pro shop, looked at the four walls there and pleaded with Dad, “let me outta here!” Soon, Dad got the message and Roy became Wilbraham’s first golf course superintendent. From there, his rise in the profession was swift . . . on to Twin Hills, a brief stint as construction super in the Berkshires, and then a return to Twin Hills to stay as its general manager. Today, the beginning of the last word in golf course grooming starts at Roy’s first assignment of the day. Twin Hills basks in brilliance because of his expertise.

Roy and wife, Fran, never had to look twice for their kids in the growing up stage of this remarkable family. “My kids always knew where to find me if they wanted to spend time with me,” Roy told.

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“My kids always knew where to find me if they wanted to spend time with me. When they were young, they’d come to the golf course, and like a good boss, I’d put them to work.”

**Roy Mackintosh
Twin Hills Country Club**

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THE NEWSLETTER

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"When they were young, they'd come to the golf course, and like a good boss, I'd put them to work."

Right," Greg interjected. "I was one of the original weed whackers at Twin Hills. But as I went along I got to like it. Still, I had other things in the back of my mind as far as a profession went. I was just on the doorstep to get a

"I suppose I'm full of advice like most parents. But the only thing I stress to them is to treat people the way they would like to be treated. I've always maintained the key to the whole deal in this profession is communication. When you have that, it leads to respect and cooperation."

Roy Mackintosh Twin Hills Country Club

business degree when I caved in. I was bit by the outdoor bug. I guess this (golf course maintenance) is in my blood."

Even though she strayed from the path, becoming a paralegal for a few years, Deneen discovered she was in a rat race. So, she came home to dad, opted for the winter turf school at UMass, and settled into the golf course. Last June she was one of seven to interview for the Pompey job, and landed it. "I wish I had done this 10 years ago," she remarked. "I'm so enthused about my job. But I've been lucky. Just consider the first man I look up to in my profession."

Scott had some weed-whacking to do, himself. It was more like weeding-out. At one time he considered the golf business, but as a player. He had solid bouts of instruction from his grandfather and area pros like Henry Bontempo, John Raimondi, and Art House. "I was the 'fifth' in their foursome," he cracked.

"I was just a red-headed squirt running around the golf course when my direction changed," Scott explained. "Suddenly,

the turf business appealed to me. I had these other jobs and they were great. But being a superintendent was something I felt I had to do. Now, I'm real fired up, working with Steve Cadenelli at a gem of a golf course."

Obviously, Roy is pleased with his children's choices. He never really tried to influence their professional decisions. All he hoped for was to have them be successful and happy in any field they decided to try. As for their time spent working for him on the golf course in the early days, he thought of it only as the planting of a seed to develop a strong work ethic.

"I suppose I'm full of advice like most parents," he described his present relationship with his fellow supers. "But the only thing I stress to them is to treat people the way they would want to be treated. I've always maintained the key to the whole deal in this profession is communication. When you have that, it leads to respect and cooperation."

That sounds like the story of the Mackintosh clan. As Deneen noted, "we're only doing what comes naturally."

Looks like those genes are working . . . working real well.

GERRY FINN

Calendar

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 27 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Juniper Hills Golf Course
Northborough, Mass.
Supt. - Thomas L. Ackley, CGCS |
| May 18 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Scholarship & Benevolence
Tournament
Wellesley Country Club
Wellesley, Mass.
Supt. - Dave Barber, CGCS |
| June 11 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Marlborough Country Club
Marlborough, Mass.
Supt. - Kenneth Crimmings |
| June 24 | Turf & Research Field Day
UMass Turf Research Facility
South Deerfield, Mass. |
| July 20 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Joint Meeting with
Golf Course Managers
Association of Cape Cod
Marshfield Country Club
Marshfield, Mass.
Supt. - Robert A. Matthews, CGCS |

The Super Speaks Out

This month's question: What are your impressions of the recent New England Regional Turf Conference, and what do you see in its future?

Carl Teschke, Amherst Golf Club: "First, let me say that I was very pleased with the site of the conference . . . the new building and everything so nice and clean. It's definitely a plus being in Providence.

"The show was top notch. Being from the sticks, sometimes I am unable to see the full line of equipment from distributors that serve this part of the state. That puts me in a bind because it means that my choices for new equipment or innovative supplies are limited.

"So, being in Providence and exposed to everything that's up to date in terms of equipment, services, and the like, was a big plus for me. It gave me a good opportunity to see distributors that don't even hit my area. I was especially impressed with the landscape companies. Talking to people in chat line gave me a lot of ideas for spiffing up my club's landscape arrangement.

"Even more specific, I'm in the the market for a turf vehicle. The line of them at the trade show also opened up new possibilities in that department. In a word, everything I wanted to know about equipment and other work aids I found at the show.

"I stayed overnight once, and found the accommodations to be right up there with what I had expected. So, the combination of a triple-A facility, easy accessibility, outstanding educational program, and equally outstanding trade show . . . plus the accommodations . . . made it well worth the trip and expense to cover a two-day stay.

"The overall trip to Providence was just about the same as it is for me to get to Boston. However, the resemblance ends there in the matter of other factors.

"For example, I paid six dollars to park for 11 hours. I'm not sure, but I'd say it would be at least double that in Boston. There's also the prices in other areas . . .

hotel, meals, etc. And the traffic control has to be superior in Providence.

"That's what I see in my future look at the conference. Which means I think maybe the conference should stay in Providence where there's still more room to expand. Yeah, this conference worked out well for me."

Ken Lallier, Quechee Country Club:

What can I say? This conference had to exceed all expectations of a successful show. The facility was great, the turnout excellent, and the educational benefits had to reach new heights.

"There's no question, the regional concept and how it was worked into the program made this conference better than any other in the history of the event. Certainly, it proved that this was the way to go, and only better things will happen as that concept takes hold.

"One of the added features of the event was the coupling of a GCSAA seminar with the New England conference. It gave superintendents a chance to pick up re-certification credits while at the same time contributing to the overall effect of a regional gathering. I know I took advantage of it. It was like killing two birds with one stone.

"No one could fault the facility. It was right at the top in accessibility, size, and convenience. And bringing everything under one roof certainly was a winner.

"No doubt there will be some thought to making Providence a permanent site for the conference. At the moment, it seems Providence would be the choice over Boston. Considering things like traffic control, parking, and accommodation prices. However, we also have to consider that Providence gives us an adequate size at the moment. But, if the conference grows, is it big enough? I think other sites must have a chance to see what they can do."

Patty Knaggs, Bass Rock Golf Club:

"Having been away from the area for awhile, this was my first conference back home since 1990. In the past I always enjoyed and took advantage of the educational content of the Massachusetts conferences. But, now? Now, I'd say it's at the next level with the regional concept and overall improvement.

"This may seem trivial, but I was really impressed with the literature on the conference. The brochure was full of information, useful things that I could use before and during the show.

"I've been involved in these types of things in Minnesota and New York. Therefore, I know how much work goes into them. I worked on a Minnesota project for three years. When we started, we were a one-room information stand. Eventually, we moved into a civic center operation. Something like that doesn't get there by itself. The New England effort was fantastic.

"The conference gave me an opportunity to broaden the educational aspect and view of my Bass Rock crew, so I took one crew member to one of the sessions. Needless to say, that exposure will pay off in the future.

"As for the future of the conference, at first glance it appears we should build on what we have in Providence. The site there is terrific. The convention center fits into the city's downtown area. The logistics and amenities are superior. I was extremely comfortable there.

"However, I understand there are other sites to be considered. That's something in which I'm not involved, so I don't want to sound like I'm opposed to other cities hosting the conference. As far as that goes, I've always thought Boston to be a wonderful city.

"All I can say for now is that the committee working the conference came through with shining colors. As far as I'm concerned, this conference was superior to anything I've attended in the past."

GERRY FINN

" . . . this conference was superior to anything I've attended in the past."

**Patty Knaggs
Bass Rock Golf Club**



Research Report

1997 Turfgrass Nematode Studies: Part I

by Robert L. Wick
and Truth Nissenbaum,
Department of Microbiology,
University of Massachusetts

Acknowledgments: I Thank the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England for support and Robert Nielsen for his generous cooperation.

A note about the statistics. Nematodes are not evenly distributed in the soil. This means that there is a lot of variability in populations when soil samples are examined. To minimize variability, composite samples are taken from each plot, and the treatments are replicated five times. Despite these precautions, large differences in numbers from one treatment to the next may not prove to be statistically different. It may be that the treatment had an effect but it could not be proven by statistics. However, large differences from treatment to treatment could also be due to chance (unequal distribution) rather than from treatment.

Timing of Nematicur Applications for Management of Cyst Nematodes, 1996-1997:

The purpose of this study was to determine if two properly timed applications of Nematicur, in one year, would provide suppression of cyst nematodes into the following growing season. A putting green in Bedford, N.Y. was chosen for the trial because of a relatively high population of the cyst nematode, *Heterodera iri*. The turf was a mixture of annual bluegrass and bentgrass. The putting green, approximately 70 years old, was built on native soil and top-dressed with a sand-based material for approximately 20 years. Mechanical analysis of the top 4" of soil showed it to be 79% sand, 15% silt,

and 6% clay. USDA criteria identify this as a loamy sand based on the sand subfractions. The green was mowed, fertilized, watered, and cared for consistent with standard golf green management practices. Plots were 6' x 6', five replications per treatment, and completely randomized. In 1996, Nematicur treatments were as follows: a single application on April 18, an application on April 18 followed by another application to the same plots on June 24, and an application on April 18 followed by another application to the same plots on August 12. Five additional untreated plots served as controls. Nematicur was applied at the rate of 2.3 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. per application date. For nematode assays, 10 subsamples per plot were collected with a 1" soil sampling tube to the depth of 4", bulked, and extracted. Nematodes were recovered by wet sieving/sugar flotation and identified to genus. Lance, ring, needle, and cyst nematodes were counted. Only data for cyst nematodes is presented here. The data was subjected to a one-way analysis of variance and a test of LSD.

The drop in cysts in the control was due to emergence of juveniles during August. Populations of juveniles showed a similar trend as the cysts, but statistical differences were fewer (Figure 2). On July 15, the April and April/August treatments were significantly less than the control; on September 23, the April/June treatment was significantly less than the control.

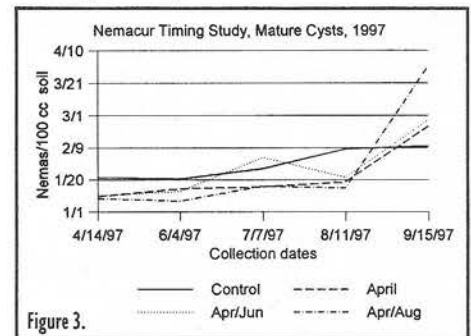


Figure 3.

No additional treatments of Nematicur were made in 1997. On April 14, 1997, cysts were significantly lower in all Nematicur treatments compared to the control (Figure 3). On August 11, cysts were reduced in the April and the April/August treatments at the 0.1% confidence level. By September 5, the April/August treatment had a higher cyst population than the control at the 0.1% confidence level. Populations of juveniles showed a similar trend as in 1996 but there were no significant differences on any of the collection dates at the 0.05% confidence level (Figure 4). The juvenile population for the April/August treatment was also up, and this would be expected since mature cysts were up. These data indicate that two applications of Nematicur in 1996 resulted in suppression of cysts into the beginning of 1997, but that continued suppression did not occur over the second season.

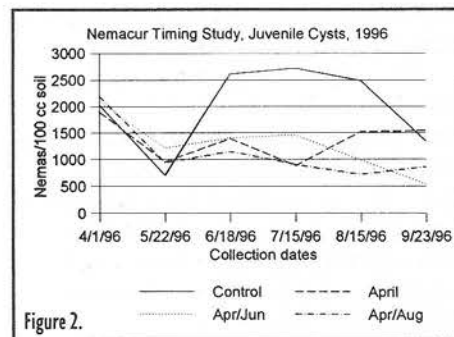


Figure 2.

Results. During 1996, cysts with eggs were more numerous in April and declined through late May (Figure 1). This was expected since previous studies showed that cyst juveniles emerge during this period. The April/June Nematicur treatment plots had a significant reduction of cysts by June 18, although the second Nematicur application had not yet been made. On July 15 and August 15, cysts were significantly reduced in all Nematicur treatments. By September 23, none of the treatments were significantly lower than the control, but the control population dropped to half the August 15 collection.

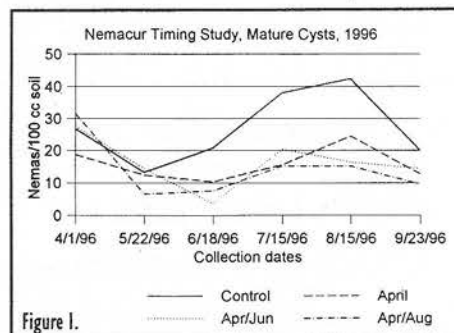


Figure 1.

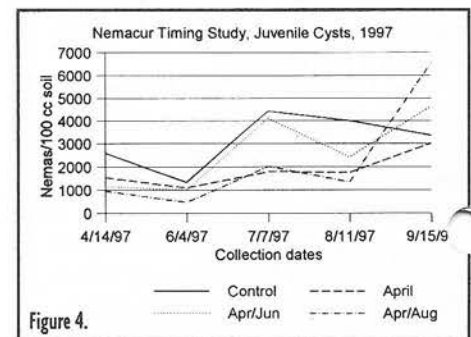


Figure 4.

GCSAA News

A report on GCSAA certification changes

by Peter Lund
GCSAA Certification Committee

In April of 1997 I was asked to serve on the national certification committee. I accepted not knowing much about the committee or its responsibilities. Shortly after accepting I started to receive the correspondence and minutes of previous years committee meetings. After reading all of the information, I started to understand the ideals and obligations of this position, which is to uphold the ideal, to the best of our ability, that entering the

certification process is a challenging, career enhancing experience.

Ken Mangum, committee chair, runs our meetings in the standard way according to Robert's Rules. This committee makes recommendations to the board of directors, of which Ken is also a member. The board approves or denies our recommendations. That's democracy!

Now that you have an understanding of how it works, let me tell you what has transpired since my involvement. We had a conference call with a preapproved agenda involving all 13 committee

members. Information to review was sent to me prior to the conference call. During the conference call we considered appeals of members applying for leniency regarding their individual circumstances, and discussed topics for the October meeting.

In October we had meetings at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. Two days of meetings (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) took place, and some new decisions were made. One decision was to change the terminology for tested CEUs and untested CEUs, and add the terminology of external CEUs. Tested CEUs will stand for tested classes from GCSAA seminars. External CEUs will allow superintendents to receive CEUs from non-GCSAA seminars as long as they are approved by and meet the strict criteria of the education committee. Check with them before you take such a seminar. Untested CEUs will now be Professional Development Units (PDUs), which are assigned by the Certification Committee to count towards renewal. If this sounds confusing, call Penny Mitchell at headquarters, or me.

This is important because eligibility and renewal for certification have changed. The sliding scale requirements for the GCSAA Certification Program will now accept no more than half of the required GCSAA seminar CEUs from an external CEUs approved course. *This includes some winter school programs.*

Example:

No degree or recognized certificate:
Experience as GCS: 8; GCSAA Seminar CEUs: 31.5

As of July 1, 1998:
Experience as GCS: 8; Max. Ext. CEUs: 15.4;
Min. GCSAA CEUs: 16.1; Total Required: 31.5

The committee also decided to recommend more objective scoring of the 30 areas evaluated during a course visitation, combining both attestor's scores and requiring 85% cumulative score for passing. Also, an attestor training video is being prepared for next fall.

This year the CGCS Owner Manual (a white three-ring book) was developed and sent to every certified superintendent. Please take time to read through it and use the ideas in it.

I hope this will help explain some of the new changes in education.

GCSANE News

Remember When?: GCSANE's past

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

25 years ago

No matter how you slice it, slow play is slow play, whether on a golf course in the United States or across the pond in Great Britain. F.W. Hawtree, the British version of Robert Trent Jones in the golf architecture field, touched on the controversial subject during his stay and presentation at the Mass. Turf Conference last month in Springfield.

Hawtree reminds one and all that slow play shouldn't be traced to the combined forces of the golf course architect and golf course superintendent.

"I think we all know who started the whole thing of taking all day to play a round," Hawtree said. "The professionals began it all and it transferred to the play of the amateur. Now, everyone's doing it."

Hawtree, whose father founded the British Greenkeepers Association in 1912, thinks the golfing public has to be re-educated in the matter of slow play. "They must bring golf back to the level of it being a game," he said. "We, the architects and superintendents, will do our part to speed it up. But it's up to the player to make it effective."

5 years ago

The outdoor meeting calendar is upon us with everyone anxious to tee it up. In the meantime the association wishes to

thank Gary Luccini and the people at the Franklin Country Club for their hospitality as hosts for our winter meetings.

Congratulations to Mark and Linda Klimm on their new addition to the family, daughter Cynthia.

One of the positive bits of news coming out of the national turf conference in Atlanta was the election of Don Hearn to the board of directors of the GCSAA. Hearn, superintendent at the Weston Golf Club, was elected to a two-year term, and seems headed for bigger and better things at the national level.

Playing golf is educational. So says Steve Murphy of the Gannon Golf Course and current golf chairman for the GCSANE. Therefore, he invites all GCSANE members to take part in tournament play as the association heads into the outdoor meeting season. "What we learn from playing golf and observing other courses would be hard to put a price tag on," Murphy said. "I really believe a superintendent can't afford to miss this opportunity."

5 years ago

Welcome to new members Ken Mooradian (friend, affiliate); Jim Girourd (asst.), Winchester; Ron Dobosz (asst.), Presidents; Tom Wilson (friend, affiliate); Michael Cassidy, (asst.), Tedesco; and Tom Grover, (asst.), Ipswich.

GERRY FINN

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

INFORMATION

The Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture web site is now online. Information about the Pesticide Bureau can be found at the recently launched Department of Food and Agriculture web site, MASSDFA Online. The page, which quietly went online at the beginning of January, can be accessed at the following URL: <http://www.massdfa.org>.

The site can be navigated in a number of ways: through options on the home page menu, through the *Search the Site* page, or through an alphabetical index found in the *Programs and Services* page. Features of the site include a message from the commissioner, a directory of employees with email addresses and phone numbers, and a guest book to register comments. The site is linked to information on the Division of Agricultural Development's web site MASSGROWN, which includes a growers discussion forum, a buy/sell page, and jobs/internship listing.

The Pesticide Bureau page can be accessed from the Department of Food and Agriculture home page, or directly by using the following URL: <http://www.massdfa.org/pesticide.html>

The Pesticide Bureau page provides both background on all bureau programs, and up-to-the-minute news and features. The page makes it easier and faster to access bureau information. For example, the page opens with a ticker tape-like marquee that tells the time, place, and location of the next pesticide exam. Directions to the exam location are provided in a linked page.

One potentially useful section of the site is the *Pesticide Bureau Publications* page. Here are publications which can be downloaded, copied, and distributed. Among the publications are *The IPM Kit for Building Managers*, and *A Homeowners Guide to Environmentally Sound Lawncare*. *The Pesticide Bureau News*, along with back copies, is also available online.

A section on *Frequently Asked Questions* is in development and should (hopefully) answer most questions. If not, there is a link from each program to a contact who can help you. You can send email to the contact or call them at the number posted.

Ultimately the site is for you, so please let us know what you think. If there is information you think should be included, sign our guest book, or email the department with comments. Our hope is you find this home page to be engaging, informative, educational, and above all, a valuable resource.

Congratulations to Amherst Golf Club Superintendent Carl Teschke and wife Cathy on the birth of their son Carl. He tipped the scales with a weight of 6 lbs. 4 oz., and was 18.5 in. long.

A reminder about the Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament. Please try to sell all your raffle tickets. For more tickets contact Dave Comee.

If you would like to purchase tickets to the 1999 Ryder Cup matches at the The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, please e-mail your name and address to Linda Ackincklose at the PGA of America ticketing department. Linda's e-mail address is Lackinckl@pgahq.com. The tournament department will mail ticket information directly to you when it is available. Applications for tickets will be mailed on June 1, 1998. They are accepting names at this time to be put on a mailing list. Please be aware that there is an extensive waiting list. For more information you may call 1-561-624-8400.

Our condolences to Arthur Miller, superintendent, Nabbasset Lake Country Club, and his family on the passing of his father.

MEETING NOTES

A "Thank you" to Randy Kehres and the staff at Pleasant Valley Country Club for hosting our March meeting.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Assistant Superintendent. The Wianno Club in Osterville, Mass., is seeking a qualified individual for the position of assistant superintendent. Individuals must have extensive knowledge of staff supervision and training, application of fertilizers and pesticides, and irrigation system maintenance. Must have a two or four year degree in turfgrass management or related field. Must have two years of experience as an assistant, current Mass. pesticide license, and Mass. driver's license. A comprehensive benefits package is offered. Send resume to: Mark J. Williams, Superintendent, The Wianno Club, P. O. Box 249, Osterville, MA 02655.

2nd Assistant Superintendent. Agawam Hunt, an 18-hole championship golf course in Rumford, R.I., is searching for a qualified person to assume the duties of 2nd assistant superintendent. Applicants should have at least three years of experience, a winter school certificate or two-year degree in turfgrass management, and attain a R.I. pesticide applicator's license. Wage will be commensurate with position. Benefits include health insurance, Christmas bonus, life insurance, vacation, pension plan, and golf privileges. Send resume to: Wayne Zoppo c/o Agawam Hunt, P. O. Box 4817, Rumford, RI 02916; or fax to 401-435-5271.

Assistant Superintendent. Duxbury Yacht Club, Duxbury, Mass., is a private 18-hole course with Toro irrigation. The club also includes nine clay tennis courts, Olympic size swimming pool, and two paddle tennis courts. Individual should have

a minimum of three years experience in golf course management, with a two or four-year degree in turf management. Winter school may be substituted with five years of work experience. Applicants must have a current Mass. pesticide license (37). Candidates must be highly motivated, capable of managing staff, willing to work long hours, and able to implement daily operations. Salary commensurate with experience and ability. Benefits include health insurance, dues for GCSAA and GCSANE, and expenses for attending regional seminars and conferences. Send resume to: Peter G. Lanman, Superintendent, Duxbury Yacht Club, P. O. Box 2804, Duxbury, MA 02331.

Superintendent. Tewksbury Country Club is a new nine-hole course located with Eagles Landing condo community on Rte. 38 Tewksbury, Mass. Course is 90% complete, with a June 98 opening. Individuals should have three-to-five years of experience with two to four-year degree in a turf related field. Must have a Mass. pesticide license. Salary commensurate with experience. Dues for GCSAA and regional association paid by Tewksbury C.C.. Send resume to Tewksbury C.C., c/o Marc Ginsburg, 77 New York Rd., Tewksbury, MA 01876.

2nd Assistant Superintendent. Worcester Country Club, Worcester, Mass., is accepting applications for a 2nd assistant superintendent. Responsibilities include pesticide and fertilizer applications, routine course duties, and some staff supervision. Preferred candidates will have two-to-three seasons of golf course experience, a two-year turf degree, and be willing to learn. Long hours on the course may be expected. Salary will be commensurate with position. Benefits include health insurance, holiday bonus, and golfing privileges. Send resume to: Michael Nagle, CGCS, Golf Course Superintendent, Worcester Country Club, 2 Rice Street, Worcester, MA 01606.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Jacobsen 7 gang rough unit with pull frames. Pull frames in like new condition. Best offer. Call Paul, Whitinsville Golf Club, at 508-234-2533.

1991 Ryan Mataway slice seeder, only used 2-3 seasons on greens, stored inside since; like new, \$2,500. 1988 model 93 Olathe slice seeder, only used one season; excellent condition, \$3,000. 1980s Terra 320 fairway aerator, last used three years ago; good condition, \$1,500. Gaint vac blower, front mount for Jac Turfcut; good condition, \$500. 1979 Case 850B dozer, undercarriage has approximately 70% left, six-way blade had new pins and bushings about three years ago; runs excellent, good solid machine, \$15,000. 1996 Hudson Proline equipment trailer, 8x16 tandem axle, like new, \$3500. Contact Roger Brink, Supt., Indian Ridge C.C., Andover, Mass.; (978) 475-9493.

Host Superintendent Profile

Meet host superintendent Thomas Ackley, Juniper Hill G.C.

The host superintendent for our April meeting is Tom Ackley, CGCS, Juniper Hill C.C., Northborough, Mass.

Tom started as a caddie at Juniper Hill in 1961. In 1971 he began his career in golf course management at Westboro Country Club under the direction of his father, Glenn Ackley. After graduating

from the University of Massachusetts in 1975 with a B.S. in forestry, Tom rejoined his father at Marlboro Country Club.

Three years later Tom landed his first superintendent position at Westboro Country Club. He returned to Marlboro shortly afterwards to become Glenn's assistant.

"He certainly has taught me a thing or two over the years. We had a lot fun working with the PGA Senior Tour when the Marlboro Classic was held in the early 80s," Tom said.

In 1989 the late Homer Darling called Tom one evening, asking him if he would be interested in becoming the successor to the retiring superintendent at Juniper Hill, Al (Sandy) Sanders. He accepted the challenge of that 36-hole layout (18 under construction at the time). Tom admitted to

being a bit nervous at first, but soon settled into the job at hand.

Tom became a Certified Golf Course Superintendent in 1996. He enjoys bird watching, sports, and pulling crab grass and other weeds from his lawn.

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