



THE NEWSLETTER

November 2001

of the *Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Inc.*

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

Mike Murphy takes care of the golf course, the environment, & two town commissions

You can't blame Mike Murphy if he sees double every time he has to deal with an environmental issue.

The first-year Sassamon Trace Golf Course superintendent's dilemma is unique in the sense that his environmental responsibility is split between two towns, Natick and Sherborne, and each has its own conservation commission. Therefore, Mike makes two, separate appearances before those groups which means his plate is full when there's an issue on the table.

Sassamon Trace, named after a legendary Native American who is said to have roamed the land where the golf course now stands, is somewhat two-faced in itself because of its logistics. Four of its holes are carved out of a capped landfill in Natick, the other five wind their way through an apple orchard in Sherborne. So, at least in a stretch of the imagination, the course's owner (Town of Natick) has converted garbage into golf.

Murphy came aboard the project last April when Sassamon Trace was caught up in the final phases of construction. "I came here when the grass was just starting to look lush on the lower holes," he told. "I had a lot of irrigation heads staring at me and a lot of drainage work on the agenda. In fact, the course used most of this year to mature and we didn't open until September first. We're still open now (early November), so we'll get in a little less than three months of play, since we expect the week of Thanksgiving to be our last."

The maturation of Sassamon Trace coincides with Murphy's long climb from a smattering of interest in golf course maintenance to full-fledged grasp of the profession and his future in it.

Actually, Mike broke into golf as a nine-year-old hanger-on at the Little Harbor Country Club in his hometown of Wareham. "I did anything they wanted me to do just to be around golf," he informed. "I swept floors in the pro shop, shagged balls and developed a half-decent work ethic at a young age. All the time my feeling was that I'd have to get into the maintenance end in order to be part

of the golf business. Eventually, I started doing landscaping work with the superintendent and gradually worked myself into the crew."

Mike went from Little Harbor to Kittansett, where he gained valuable experience. In fact, he spent nine years there and even put a couple of winters in Florida into his learning years before he decided to make it official by attending a two-year turf course at Rutgers University. "My work ethic picked up there," he remarked. "It was a very intense program. I kept busy and the professors kept pouring it on. It was full time, 8 to 4 and sometimes to 6. I really got a lot going for me when I went there."

Next on Mike's serious swing into the superintendent's world was an important stint at Pine Brook Country Club, first as a crew member, then second assistant and finally, first assistant.

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"Those commissions had set a limited use of fungicides to satisfy their professional outlook. They allowed three fungicides, three herbicides, and one insecticide. That was OK at first, but it didn't cover all the bases."

*Mike Murphy
Sassamon Trace G.C.*

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PRESIDENT

Robert Ruzala
69 Gellinas Drive, Chicopee, MA 01020
413-256-8654 Fax 413-256-8654
Hickory Ridge Country Club

VICE PRESIDENT

James R. Fitzroy, CGCS
357 W. Squantum Street, North Quincy, MA 02171
617-328-1776 Fax 617-328-9479
Presidents Golf Course

SECRETARY

Michael V. Iacono, CGCS
42 Newton Street, Weston, MA 02493
781-899-7913 Fax 781-647-0602
Pine Brook Country Club

TREASURER

Daniel P. Higgins, CGCS
68 Hutchinson Road, Winchester, MA 01890
781-729-3809 Fax 781-721-1561
Winchester Country Club

TRUSTEE

David Comee
65 Marquette Road, Gardner, MA 01440
978-297-1223 Fax 978-297-0911
The Winchendon Golf Club

TRUSTEE

Patrick S. Kriksceonaitis
4 Lakemans Lane, Ipswich, MA 01938
978-526-4600 Fax 978-526-8333
Essex County Club

TRUSTEE

Robert O. Larson
28 Pleasant Street, North Oxford, MA 01537
508-892-9110 Fax 508-892-4509
Pine Ridge Country Club

FINANCE CHAIRMAN

Arthur Silva, CGCS
35 Pennacook Road, Tewksbury, MA 01876
781-484-5440 Fax 781-484-6613
Belmont Country Club

GOLF CHAIRMAN

Michael J. Hermanson
P. O. Box 145, Gardner, MA 01440
978-632-2713 Fax 978-632-2713
Gardner Municipal Golf Course

EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

Ronald P. Doboos, Jr.
1137 Park Street, Stoughton, MA 02072
781-341-8564 Fax 781-341-8564, *51
Cedar Hill Golf Course

NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN

Russell E. Heller
One Circuit Drive, Dorchester, MA 02121
617-983-2786 Fax 617-983-2786
Franklin Park Golf Course

PAST PRESIDENT

Kevin F. Osgood
14 Inman Lane, Foxborough, MA 02035
617-630-1950 Fax 617-969-8756
Newton Commonwealth Golf Course



GCSANE Headquarters
175 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02494-3034
Tel.: (781) 453-8668 Fax: (508) 758-6474
Web Site: www.gcsane.org

Newsletter Editor **Russell Heller**
Contributing Editor **Gerry Finn**
Business Manager **Daniel P. Higgins, CGCS**

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"When the Sassamon Trace job opened up, I figured it would be an ideal first head superintendent job for me," Murphy revealed. "I live in Millis and it's exactly seven miles from there to the course's front door. Sterling Golf Management runs the place, so I talked to Kevin Osgood about coming here and we worked it out. I'm enthused and excited about this golf course."

As the critical stages of the course's development appeared, Murphy found himself in a tight situation on the environmental side of the street. "Those commissions had set a limited use of fungicides to satisfy their professional outlook," Mike said. "They allowed three fungicides, three herbicides and one insecticide. That was okay at first, but it didn't cover all the bases."

"The heat pushed up when August rolled around and pythium made a grand entrance. It threatened to wipe out everything that had grown in so nicely. I took running photos of its progression and went to both commissions with a plea to use another chemical before the pythium took over the entire course. It was a tough sell but they agreed to let me use it on greens and tees. That actually stopped the pythium in its tracks. It saved the day."

Murphy thinks of Sassamon Trace as sort of a comfort zone for golfers who may want to sharpen their games and also a place where families can play together in a less stressful atmosphere. It's definitely geared to the average golfer since it plays to a par of 32. It has five par threes, three par fours and one par five. As Mike notes, however, the course isn't a dead-bang pushover. In fact, the shortest of the par threes runs 147 yards.

"The layout is just what you'd expect because of its contrasting set of playing ground," Mike explained. "The landfill holes are more wide open and the orchard holes tend to be tight. Furthermore, there are restricted areas off the fairways which means accuracy comes into play more often than not. Also, the 'bend' of the target areas makes it difficult for slicers to negotiate. I'd say hitting it right is virtually death on almost every hole."

There are two water holes (seven and eight) and 18 bunkers dot the course.

"I've seen a lot of familiar faces on the course, so we're getting repeat business."

Mike Murphy
Sassamon Trace G.C.

The environmental side play also enters the conditioning picture, since two greens are 100 percent organically maintained. In addition, one entire hole is maintained under the strict order of using only organic materials.

The early read on Sassamon Trace's popularity is good. Play has been brisk on good weather days and there have been some banner turnouts when days soar into warmer levels. "One day the tee sheet was completely filled until 2:30," Murphy reported. "What's more, I've seen a lot of familiar faces on the course, so we're getting repeat business."

Coexistence, then, seems to be one of the key features at the course Mike Murphy maintains. The environmentalists are happy the way he's running things and Murphy is enjoying the fruits of his labor. It's a nice mix.

GERRY FINN

CALENDAR . . .

- Dec. 3 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Pleasant Valley C.C.
Sutton, Mass.
Supt. - Chris Tufts
- Dec. 16 **GCSANE Holiday Gala**
Wellesley C.C.
Host - David Barber, CGCS
- January 14 **GCSANE Annual Meeting**
Ridder Farm G. & C.C.
Whitman, Mass.
Supt. - Ed Gianni
- Feb. 3-10, 2002 **GCSAA 73rd International Golf Course Conference & Show**
Orlando, Fla.
- Feb. 12 **Stockbridge School Job Fair**
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, Mass.
- March 5-7 2002 **New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show**
Providence, R.I.

Turf Conferences: Are they a professional opportunity, or just a waste of time?

by Pat Gross, Southwest Region

Winter is the time when several educational opportunities arise for superintendents to attend turf conferences and seminars. With so many seminars and meetings to choose from, it is possible to spend a substantial amount of time away from the course. This can prompt managers and course officials to start wondering if the seminars are a legitimate educational opportunity for the superintendent or just a chance to waste the club's time and money for relaxation away from the course.

For some courses with tight budgets, it is difficult for the superintendent to justify the time and expense to attend conferences and seminars. A recent article in the New Zealand Turf Management Journal by Mr. Richard Odgers offers some great points regarding the importance of attending seminars and helping to justify such attendance to your club management.

Time off

Some may argue that attending seminars is simply time off. True, it is time off, but for the purpose of professional development to allow superintendents to do a better job. It is so easy to get tunnel vision when looking at the same golf course day after day. A seminar, conference, or simply visiting another course down

Don't forget to thank your employer for the opportunity to attend the conference and seminar, and let them know what a valuable experience it was for you and your club.

the road provides an opportunity to challenge your current method of operation, pick up new tips, and compare notes with other professionals.

Work

Attendance at a seminar is definitely work-related and should not be considered personal time. Skeptical managers or course officials might object that you went to the same conference last year or that the expense of the seminar is just more money spent on nothing. Mr. Odgers

EDUCATION

related an old story about Albert Einstein, who asked one of his students to hand out the weekly test paper he just finished writing. After the papers were handed out, one of the students spoke up and informed Einstein that the test contained the same questions as last week. "True," replied Einstein, "but this week, the answers are different." The point is that as superintendents, you are faced with many of the same challenges and high expectations, but you are expected to come up with new and innovative answers to solve those problems and produce even better golf course conditions. Attendance at a seminar and collaborating with colleagues can help you come up with some of these answers, and possibly help you learn from someone else's experience or mistake.

Value

The money spent on attending a seminar is a good value to the course and your employer. Many industry professionals including company representatives, consultants, featured speakers and fellow superintendents are typically in attendance, providing a great opportunity to ask questions and pick their brains either during the formal presentations or in casual conversation during the breaks or lunch. Chances are, somebody in the audience has experience with the same problems facing you. It is also important for you to report back to your committee

or employer on what you learned at the conference. You may wish to make a short written report outlining the important information gathered at the seminar and how it might impact your staff and golf course maintenance operation. Also, don't forget to thank your employer for the opportunity to attend the conference and seminar and let them know what a valuable experience it was for you and your club.

When conference season is in full swing, it is important to schedule your time to make the most of the available educational opportunities. Information is changing at a rapid pace, and it important for superintendents to tap into all the available resources at their disposal. Trade journals and the Internet are a good starting point, but these references cannot provide the valuable personal interaction, camaraderie, and enthusiasm of attending a conference in person.

It is so easy to get tunnel vision when looking at the same golf course day after day. A seminar, conference, or simply visiting another course down the road provides an opportunity to challenge your current method of operation, pick up new tips, and compare notes with other professionals.

President Ruzzala gives thanks of the season for support received during tough year for turf

Our Holiday Gala will be held at Wellesley Country Club. Dave Barber will be our host superintendent. Arthur Silva has been working hard to make arrangements for this party. Thank you Art for your dedication and for planning on having the Marine Corps representatives present to accept our gifts for the children who really need our help at this holiday season.

Our November meeting went well at Amherst Golf Club. Host superintendent Carl Teschke had the course in excellent shape for all of us. Pro Dave Twohig helped make this day go well with his hospitality and good food. Thank you Amherst G.C. and its members for hosting us. Pat Vittum, UMass turf entomologist, talked after the golfing event on insect problems. A sincere thanks to Pat for a great presentation and for always being available to our association for answers on turf-related problems.

At this holiday time, it is time to reflect on being thankful for what each and every one of us has. We should all be thankful

FROM THE PRESIDENT

for being Americans and living in this country. We are all fortunate to have the kind of life we live. Now that our seasons are slowing down, spend more time with your loved ones and cherish this time. Take your family out for a special dinner, vacation, or other event, and tell them how you feel. The grind of the 2001 golf season is over and we survived, especially because of our families' and friend's support. Our spouses, families, and friends deserve a thank you for "being there." I would like to thank all of our families, friends, and fellow members for being so

supportive to each other in this year of most difficult years in growing turf.

The latest issue of *The Massachusetts Golfer* has 10 articles on questions that superintendents face in growing turf. Anthony Pioppi wrote these articles and did a great job of writing in terms of golfers understanding the language we use in growing turf. Thank you to Becky Blaser and the rest of the staff at the MGA for helping us educate our maintenance problems to the Massachusetts golfer. This issue would do well posted in our clubhouses and locker rooms.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of GCSANE we would like to take this time to wish you and yours a healthy, happy, and joyous holiday season. We are all proud to serve our membership. If you have any questions, problems, or comment on anything we can help you with, please let us know. We are there for you.

Sincerely, Bob Ruzzala
President, GCSANE

GCSANE announces nomination of officers & directors for 2002

GCSANE announces its officers and directors for 2002 as per its bylaws. They are as follows:

Article VI, Election of Officers and Directors. Section 1. The President, with the approval of the Directors, shall

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within sixty days of the Annual Meeting, appoint a Nominating Committee of five voting members of the association, not more than two of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. This committee shall nominate a slate of four officers in accordance with Article V, Section 2 and 3. The list so named shall be announced preceding the Annual Meeting and shall be published in The Newsletter prior to the Annual Meeting.

Article VI, Section 2. Nominations may be made from the floor by any

voting member in good standing at the Annual Meeting.

Article VI, Section 3. The election of the members constituting the Officers and Board of Directors shall be held at the Annual Meeting of the association, and shall be conducted and the ballots counted by two tellers appointed by the President for that purpose, neither of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors.

Nominating Committee: Chairman, Michael Hermanson; members: Donald Hearn, CGCS; Michael Iacono, CGCS; David Barber, CGCS; and Roy Mackintosh.

Nominees: President, James R. Fitzroy, CGCS; Vice President, Michael V. Iacono, CGCS; Secretary, Michael J. Hermanson; Treasurer, Ronald P. Dobosz, Jr.; Trustee, Patrick S. Kriksceonaitis; Finance Chairman, Arthur Silva, CGCS; Golf Chairman, David Comee; Education Chairman, Patrick J. Daly; and Newsletter Chairman, Kenneth D. Crimmings.

Gary Luccini 4-Ball Championship report

The final of the first Gary Luccini Memorial Four Ball Championship, played Oct. 10 at Mt. Pleasant C.C., matched Ken Mooradian and Brian Luccini (playing in his father's position) competing against Ken Crimmings and Bob Cullen.

With temperatures in the low 40s and winds gusting to 25 m.p.h., conditions tested the abilities of all competitors.

Crimmings and Cullen won the first hole, with par, to take a one-up lead. Holes 2-6 were halved, with each team playing one over par. The lead went to 3-up as Crimmings and Cullen won holes 7 & 8 with pars. The 9th was halved and Crimmings and Cullen went 4-up winning 10 with a par.

Mooradian and Luccini cut the lead to three, winning 11 with par. Holes 12 & 13 were halved. The match went to 2-up, as Mooradian and Luccini won 14 with par. Fifteen was halved and the match moved to one-up, as Mooradian and Luccini won

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New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation reports to New England area superintendents

by Mark A. Richard, CGCS, President, New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation

It is hard to believe that it has been over five years now since the formation of the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation and its Conference & Show. The culmination of many hours of hard, tedious negotiations, and give-and-take by all groups involved has propelled our show

and Events, and in 2000 hired a full-time administrator, Mr. Gary Sykes, as Executive Director. In Gary, the foundation board has the perfect man for the job. Gary is quite familiar with all the workings of the various universities, is a very accomplished

golfer and former golf course superintendent. Besides being well-spoken and well liked throughout the golfing community, he is a man of integrity, a family man who speaks ill of no one. What better person to represent the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, and in a broader sense, New England area superintendents.

The position of executive director was created to handle the day-to-day headaches and problems that were beginning to overwhelm the hard-working volunteer board. Besides being involved daily with the formation of each show, other duties were to be involved. We felt it important that the NERTF be seen and heard in person and so directed that the executive director would attend at least two monthly meetings of all New England area superintendents groups during the year. Executive director duties include the preparation of all bills for the signature by the treasurer, preparation for all committee and board

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NERTF NEWS

into one of the top regional turfgrass conferences in the country. We are nearly half way to our goal of a \$1 million trust to insure continued funding down the road, as well as having given out nearly \$300,000 to date to our area turfgrass schools for present and ongoing turfgrass research.

Along with these outstanding accomplishments, the NERTF group retains the services of our Show Director, Marketing

2002 Mass. Pesticide certification/license exam schedule

The following is the Massachusetts Pesticide Exam schedule for the year 2002 at the Cape Cod, Springfield, and Waltham locations.

CAPE COD
Cape Cod Community College
Rte. 132, 2240 Iyanough Road
West Barnstable, MA 02668
(Science Bldg. - Lecture Hall A)

Exam Date (snow date)	Application Deadline
March 20 (March 21)	March 13
May 21 (no snow date)	May 14

(Snow date only if the Department-Pesticide Bureau reschedules exam due to inclement weather.)

SPRINGFIELD
Springfield Technical Community College
One Armory Square
Springfield, MA 01101
(Cafeteria - Bldg. 20 on Pearl Street)

Exam Date (snow date)	Application Deadline
March 18 (March 19)	March 11
June 25 (no snow date)	June 18

(Snow date only if the Department-Pesticide Bureau reschedules exam due to inclement weather.)

EXAM SCHEDULE

WALTHAM
UMass Eastern Extension Center
240 Beaver Street
Waltham, MA 02452

Exam Date (snow date)	Application Deadline
January 17 (January 18)	January 10
February 8 (February 11)	February 1
February 22 (February 25)	February 15
March 1 (March 4)	February 22
March 8 (March 11)	March 1
March 22 (March 25)	March 14
March 29 (April 1)	March 22
April 5 (April 8)	March 29
April 19 (April 22)	April 12
April 26 (April 29)	April 19
May 10 (May 13)	May 3
May 17 (May 20)	May 10
May 31 (no snow date)	May 24
June 14 (no snow date)	June 7
June 21 (no snow date)	June 14
July 19 (no snow date)	July 12
August 9 (no snow date)	August 2
August 23 (no snow date)	August 16
September 20 (no snow date)	September 13

October 18 (no snow date)	October 11
November 15 (no snow date)	November 8
December 13 (no snow date)	December 6

(Snow date only if the Department-Pesticide Bureau reschedules exam due to inclement weather.)

Exam Times

Private and Commercial Certification exams start promptly at 9 a.m. Commercial Applicator (core) and Dealer exams start promptly at 12:30 p.m. Please arrive at the exam site at least 30 minutes before the exam starts.

Snow Times

Call 617-626-1841 for a pre-recorded message with exam dates, location, and cancellation information. In the event of bad weather, call after 6:30 a.m. on the morning of the scheduled exam and listen to the message. If the exam has been cancelled, the message will inform you and indicate that you should report on the snow date.

A report from the N.E. Regional Turfgrass Foundation

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meetings, administration work that comes from setting up calls for proposals to researchers, and getting the funding to the universities and in the proper hands – the day-to-day problems of running a business, if you will. These duties have been expanded to include the formation of a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt trust for businesses and individual donations to the foundation that can be tax deductible. Also, a newsletter is in the works to report on the ongoing funded research.

Clearly, if the position of executive director was a little murky to some a year ago, it is easy to see how much more defined and involved it is getting. This is pretty much what we had envisioned the

position to be early on, a work in progress with ever-clearer responsibilities evolving. More importantly, the executive director is no more than a phone call away to help any superintendent with any questions they may have with regards to perceived problems or possible oversights in our operations. As successful as we have been, I am sure we will still be prone to a mistake or two. If that is the case, we now have a professional avenue to direct your concerns as well as handle any suggestions that may improve our efficiency. No superintendent should claim he is in the dark concerning NERTF policies or procedures. After all, this is a foundation formed by superintendents for the good of the industry. It is your foundation. Help us reach our maximum potential.

In closing, much work has been accomplished over the last five years to bring us to this point in our history. I am hopeful that the next five years can be as successful and satisfying for the foundation. With your continued help and support, the sky is the limit.

No superintendent should claim he is in the dark concerning NERTF policies or procedures.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members: John Godet, Affiliate, Turf Products Corp.; International Turf Applicators, Friend.

Proposed For Membership: Joshua White, Assistant, Brookline G.C.

INFORMATION

Thank you to Steve Carr and the entire staff of Pocasset C.C. for hosting the October joint meeting of GCSANE and GCMACC.

Please note that the Annual Meeting will now be held at Ridder Farm G. & C.C., not at The Woodland Club as reported in last month's newsletter. The date will remain January 14. We apologize for the confusion.

Erick Koskinen, formerly at Wayland C.C., is now with the Tom Irwin Co. Best wishes to Erick.

Congratulations to Fred Murray, who was promoted to superintendent at Wayland C.C.

Carl Teschke and the Amherst G.C. hosted this year's nine-hole meeting. A wonderful day was had by all. Bob Ruszala was also kind enough to have the speaker and dinner at Hickory Ridge. Thank you to Carl and Bob.

Thanks also to Dr. Pat Vittum, who spoke about the various insect troubles turf managers experienced in 2001 and what we can expect next year.

A reminder that all GCSANE winter meetings require a jacket and tie. In addition, be sure to RSVP on time. Those who do so late or show up without calling in are subject to a \$15 fine.

EMPLOYMENT

Second Assistant. Bass Rocks Golf Club is a private 18-hole golf course with a practice area and four tennis courts. Four of the 18 greens are USGA modified greens constructed in 1997. A new irrigation system was installed in 1997. Founded in 1895, the original holes were designed by Herbert Corey Leeds. It is a links style course with frequent ocean views. Candidates should have a desire to succeed in the turf industry, the ability to obtain a Mass. Pesticide license, and be a team player. Preference will be given to candidates with a Turfgrass certificate or degree and turf maintenance experience. Responsibilities include course setup, scouting, plant protectant applications, and irrigation system maintenance. Compensation includes paid winter vacation, 80% employer paid health insurance, and salary. Please send resume to Patty Knaggs, Golf Course Superintendent, Bass Rocks Golf Club, P. O. Box 303, Gloucester, MA 01930; E-mail: majormpk@shore.net.

GOVERNMENT

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received an application from Aventis Crop-science USA LP for the voluntary cancellation of Ethoprop Technical and MOCAP 10% Granular Nematicide-Insecticide for use on golf course turf. Aventis has waived the 180-day comment period allowed by the EPA, which means that stakeholders will not be able to comment on the cancellation. The deletion will become effective on April 22, 2002, unless Aventis withdraws its request.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Amherst Golf Club
Amherst, Mass.
November 5, 2001

Annual Nine-Hole Meeting
4-person teams, select best drive, 2-best balls

1st Net:
K. Crimmings, B. McCarthy, L. Allen,
P. Kriksceonaitis (65)

2nd Net:
M. Hermanson, D. Comee, D. Gurski,
B. Healey (68)

3rd Net:
R. Dobosz, J. Fitzroy, E. Gianni, S. Keefe (70)

Closest to the Pin Winners: Ron Dobosz,
Bob Healey

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Gregg Allen - (800) 527-3898

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Manufacturer of fertilizer & control products
Rick Forni - (413) 534-8896

Armstrong Golf Architects, LLC

76 S. New Boston Rd., Franconstown, NH 02043
Golf course design & renovation
(603) 547-3132

Aventis Environmental Science

311 Carriage Dr., Kensington, CT 06037
Acclaim Extra, Banol, Chipco, DeltaGard, Finale,
ProGrass, ProStar, Proxy, Sevin, Turcam
David Sylvester - (860) 828-8905

Bay State Fertilizer/MWRA

100 First Ave., Boston, MA 02129
Manufacturer & supplier of dry organic fertilizers.
Kristen Patneau - (617) 788-4437

Bayer Corporation

118 Ellery Ave., Middletown, RI 02842
Bayleton, Merit, Dylox, Tempo
Jim Santoro - (800) 842-8020

The Borden Company

114 Summer St., Maynard, MA 01754-2216
Bulk limestone dealer.
Jack Borden - (978) 897-2571

Boston Irrigation Supply Company

60 Sturgis Way, Dedham, MA 02026
Distributor, irrigation supplies & accessories.
Andy Langlois, J. Anderson III, Ron Milenski
(800) 225-8006

The Cardinals, Inc.

166 River Rd., P.O. Box 520
Unionville, CT 06085-0520
Golf course and landscape supplies.
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Construction/earthmoving equipment sales
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specialists in Donald Ross courses.
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Ruszala rebuts . . . and Mona (GCSAA) responds . . . to Jim Colbert's comments about Salem Country Club

Mr. Robert Ruzala
GCSANE

9/25/01

difficult combination he had played in his career, because they seemed slow for a USGA championship despite their firmness.

Dear Bob:

I recently discussed at length your concerns about Jim Colbert's comments at the U.S. Senior Open at Salem C.C. with Jim. He indicated that his comments were merely intended to be a statement of fact. He felt that the greens provided the most

GCSANE NEWS

Jim said that he certainly did not mean to offend anyone by his statement. He also said that he did not intend to infer

that the superintendent was not doing his job well. I believe his sincerity, because Jim is a great supporter of the game and of the superintendent.

I hope the insight into my conversation with Jim is helpful. Thank you for bringing the matter to my attention and for the opportunity to address your concerns.

Sincerely,
Stephen F. Mona, CAE, GCSAA

4-Ball report . . . from page 4

16 with par. They were one down with two to play as the match moved to 17.

The 17th at Mt. Pleasant, par 3, was playing at 158 yards, uphill to a green 40 feet above the tee and into the teeth of a 25 m.p.h. wind. Luccini played hole-high to the left of the green. Mooradian's ball

was knocked down by the wind, stopping 20 feet short of the green. Crimming's ball landed 25 feet right, hole-high on the green. Cullen then hit the shot of the match. The ball, never leaving the pin, landed six feet short and rolled over the left edge of the hole, stopping 10 inches behind the hole.

After Brian and Ken chipped onto the green, Ken two-putted for par. Here,

displaying the true spirit of golf, Ken and Brian extended their hands and conceded Cullen's birdie and the match 2-and-1.

Crimmings and Cullen, the #2 seed, moved to the finals with a first-round bye, round two won one-up, quarter-final won one-up, semi-final won 2-and-1, and the final won 2-and-1.

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