



THE NEWSLETTER

July 2002

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.

Donald Nunes keeps everybody happy . . . even neighbors . . . at Chicopee Municipal G.C.

At Chicopee Municipal Golf Course, they're turning its signature fifth hole into a dogleg, restoring some of its bite. So now all is well with the world

Things hadn't been straight up for the popular Geoff Cornish-designed public layout of late. Certified golf course superintendent Donald Nunes thought the bottom was falling out for a while, until and Cornish came up with what they view as a solution to problems with the course's neighbors.

A little background music should be piped in at this point. It seems that errant shots had been hitting the house and grounds of Matthew Fafard. Mr. Fafard was concerned about the safety of his wife and infant daughter. His fears of possible serious injury escalated to the stage where he said his family couldn't enjoy the yard and were being forced to stay inside the house.

The situation filtered down to the city's golf commission and subsequently the Board of Aldermen when Nunes sought funding for the cost of redesigning and reconstructing the hole in addition to installing higher buffer fences.

"We tried a temporary corrective solution," Nunes explained, "and shortened the hole from 450 to 344 yards. Many of our golfers were disappointed with the change. Even local radio talk shows made it unanimous. They concluded that the fifth hole and its reputation as a fierce challenge to golfers were being sacrificed to avoid what appeared to be headed for the courts and a class action lawsuit."

Nunes took some heat for the situation and admitted that the short-ranged solution of easing the difficulty of the fifth hole

"I'd like to say that there was never any animosity between the course and Mr. Fafard. Actually, he had just bought the house and wasn't aware of the situation of potentially finding golf balls hitting his grounds."

**Donald Nunes, CGCS
Chicopee Municipal G.C.**

took the Fafard house and yard out of play but piqued golfers used to attacking one of the area's more challenging holes. That's when he and Cornish got together with plans to reshape the fifth and bring it back to fighting length.

"I guess there's truth to the old saying that suggests for every action there's a reaction," Nunes quipped. "Shortening the hole took something away from its impact on the golfers who play the course frequently, even those not playing it on a regular basis. We've always been known as one of the finest municipal courses in the state. Therefore, we had to get it back as close as we could to its original design and degree of difficulty."

The redesign and reconstruction were an easy sell to the commission. However, with budget crunches in spread formation all over the country, its members had the task of convincing Chicopee Mayor Richard J. Kos and the Board of Alderman that the golf course dilemma was a special case. Both the mayor and board came to the

conclusion that the overall cost of \$45,000 was worth it. They approved the funding, even going further in high praise for the combined efforts of Nunes and Cornish. "I'd like to applaud them (Nunes, Cornish) for taking this initiative, Alderman Donald Roy told The Springfield Union-News.

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THE NEWSLETTER

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"I'm happy we were able to convince the city this was in the best interests of both sides."

**Donald Nunes, CGCS
Chicopee
Municipal G.C.**

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"I'd like to say that there never was any animosity between the course and Mr. Fafard," Nunes emphasized. "Actually, he had just bought the house and wasn't aware of the situation of potentially finding golf balls hitting his grounds. Both sides were civil to the other. I think we acted in a calm, collected manner. I'm happy we were able to convince the city this was in the best interests of both sides."

Nunes figured the work would take a few months and targeted July 1 as the start of tree clearance and other preliminary measures. Cornish recommends removing trees along the right side of the fairway, realigning the fairway, tee, and utility poles, plus planting more trees along the fence line. According to Cornish, the dogleg should bring the fifth hole's yardage back to 450 and re-establish the challenging accompaniments.

The fifth hole had been the source of mild protest from neighbors as far back as 1998. That's when some earlier redesigning eased things a bit until Mr. Fafard brought his case to the golf commission.

Since then, with more houses being built and new neighbors coming aboard with property lines stretched to the golf course's boundaries, some complaints have surfaced. One almost reached the courts before an out-of-court solution stifled that probability.

"That's when we had a similar development on our 11th hole," Nunes explained. "It cost the city \$40,000 to settle the complaint and possible court action. What it did was give us the right of entry at the

particular place of crossing lines. Funny, when it appeared the lawsuit would be fought to a finish, a judge ruled that 'golf balls were guilty of trespassing'. It sounds weird but that was the ruling. The settlement followed."

The Chicopee experience with golf shots landing or rolling onto private property doesn't constitute an isolated one. Other Western Massachusetts courses have had to make changes, additions, and other arrangements to eliminate differences with property owners. An interesting aside to the Chicopee incident brought an amusing comment from Commission chairman James Low who said the problem with the Fafard property developed because technological improvements in golf balls and clubs have led to longer drives.

Whatever, Nunes is glad he can concentrate on the redesigning project. "I'd like to say we'll have it ready in six or eight weeks," he said. "But in all probability, we won't be back to where the hole once was until the 2003 season. Regardless, I now see a light at the end of the tunnel."

GERRY FINN

CALENDAR . . .

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| July 15 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Joint Meeting with Rhode Island
Fall River C.C.
Fall River, Mass.
Supt. - Tom Ohlson, CGCS |
| August 19 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Individual Championship
Blue Hill Country Club
Canton, Mass.
Supt. - Vincent Iacono |
| Sept. 23 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Supt./Club Official Tournament
Wellesley C.C.
Wellesley, Mass.
Supt. - David Barber, CGCS |
| Oct. 7 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Team-of-Two Championship
The Ranch G.C.
Southwick, Mass.
Supt. - Mike Stachowicz |
| Nov. 4 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Nine-Hole Meeting
Whitinsville G.C.
Whitinsville, Mass.
Supt. - Paul Wilson |

When it comes to ants, UMass never says 'uncle': Dr. Pat Vittum gives an overview of turfgrass ants

Many turf managers and homeowners have been asking about ants in turfgrass this spring. In most cases the ant in question is '*Lasius neoniger*,' which has been named the turfgrass ant unofficially. This ant begins nesting and creating mounds as soil temperatures warm in the spring. We have begun to see (April 15) significant mounding already in southern New England.

Turfgrass ants cause several kinds of damage. First, the mounds themselves (which sometimes exceed an inch or two in diameter) are unsightly and can suffocate turfgrass underneath the mounds of soil. In addition, soil that has been kicked up into the mound accumulates on the rollers and results in an uneven cut, or abrades and dulls blades, resulting in an uneven cut.

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In addition, the soil that has been kicked up into the mound accumulates on the rollers and results in an uneven cut, or abrades and dulls blades resulting in an uneven cut.

We have conducted several field trials over the past five years, concentrating on chlorpyrifos (Dursban) and the various synthetic pyrethroids. We found that applications of any of these materials in the spring, as soon as mounding becomes apparent, provide four to six weeks of

TURF MANAGEMENT

"protection," as measured by reduced mounding activity. However, as the warmer months of summer ensue, subsequent applications usually only reduce ant activity for a couple of weeks. (Dursban is still available for use on golf courses, although the application rate is limited to one pound active ingredient per acre.)

My colleague, Dr. Dan Potter (University of Kentucky), has conducted several field trials targeting turfgrass ants over the past three or four years. He recently published an excellent article in *Grounds Maintenance* (February issue, golf section), describing his results. He has been concentrating on some new products which are formulated as ant baits, which normally are applied by sprinkling granules directly on the ant mounds. (Apparently, broadcast applications over larger areas like golf course fairways would be very expensive.)

Dr. Potter reports that two ant bait formulations look particularly promising and there appears to be nothing on the label to preclude use on golf courses or other turf areas. (Note that updates on the UMass web site are directed toward turf managers in Massachusetts. I have not yet confirmed with our Department of Food and Agriculture whether these products have been cleared for use in Massachusetts. Turf managers in other states must check their own state labels to determine which, if any, products are cleared for use.)

Dr. Potter looked at two baits in particular. Maxforce Professional Insect Control Fine Granule Insect Bait (available through Chlorox Company) contains hydramethylnon as an active ingredient. Advance Granular Carpenter Ant Bait (available through Whitmire Micro-Gen) contains abamectin as an active ingredient.

Both baits worked well in the Kentucky field tests, but Maxforce appeared to be better suited for use on putting greens because the smaller, darker granules are less conspicuous. A small amount of bait, sprinkled around each mound, will eliminate a nest in about two days.

Lasius neoniger workers forage 24 hours a day, so a bait can be applied whenever convenient. However, once baits get wet they are less attractive, so do not apply materials before a forecast of rain, and withhold irrigation for at least 24 hours after application. A few final points: Note that there is another product (Advance Granular Ant Bait) that is similar in name but not as effective against the turfgrass ant. Also there is relatively new product under development that contains fipronil. This active ingredient has been shown to be quite effective against the red imported fire ant in the Southeast. A single application in fall to early spring controls fire ants for up to a year. Turfgrass ants are also on the label, but our New England trials thus far are inconclusive regarding how effective fipronil will be against our ants species.

Ant baits probably hold the key to successful ant control in turfgrass in New England. We will be testing several of these products, along with synthetic pyrethroids, throughout 2002.

Dr. Pat Vittum

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Ron Kujawski retires from UMass Extension

Ronald Kujawski, nursery specialist for UMass Extension's Landscape, Nursery, & Urban Forestry Program, retired June 15, 2002 after 25 years with the system.

"We won't see another Ron again. He's been a unique resource for the nursery industry in Massachusetts for a long time," said Don Ward, owner of Ward's Nursery in Great Barrington, Mass.

At UMass Extension, Ron provided educational programs to the commercial horticulture industry, and has been consultant to 400 wholesale nursery growers and 7000 private and municipal grounds managers. He spoke, wrote, taught, conducted research, and was available by phone and site visits, answering questions regarding business planning and economic development, environmental practices, and conservation strategies, particularly water and soils. His expertise includes fertility strategies and remediation for nursery fields, container soils, and landscapes.

Ron Kujawski was hired in 1977 as a Community Resource Development Specialist by the Hampden County Extension Service. Responsibilities included providing horticulture information to businesses and the public. As a talented teacher, speaker, and leader, Ron developed a program responding yearly to over 20,000 home gardening questions. He was instrumental

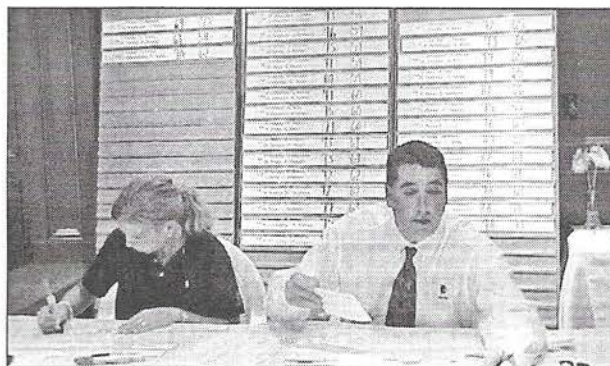
UMASS NEWS

in developing the first Master Gardener program in Massachusetts. This volunteer corps grew to over 100 trained people working in the community and staffing the UMass Gardening Hotline. Ron also directed and produced a weekly program that aired every Monday night on Channel 22 News for nine years. He is also one of the original (1979) co-authors, with former extension specialist Dick Boyce, of the annual UMass Garden Calendar.

He has been actively involved with state agencies and industry leaders regarding international export opportunities and the invasive plant issue. Ron has served on numerous regional and state committees addressing Green Industry issues, and has been an active member in professional organizations. He is currently on the board of the International Plant Propagators Society, and a member of the Mass. Invasive Plant Committee, Mass. Native Plant Advisory Committee, and Mass. Nursery & Landscape Association Research/Education Committee.

Longtime colleague Kathleen Carroll commented that "Ron's expertise and dedication will be a huge loss for the University of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Green Industry. We will miss his broad depth of knowledge, professionalism, and energy as well as his interesting good humor and easygoing manner. We extend our best wishes to him for a healthy, enjoyable and long retirement."

Region's superintendents powwow at Indian Pond G.C.



Scenes from GCSANE's Joint Meeting with Cape Cod GCMA June 10, 2002 in Kingston, Mass.

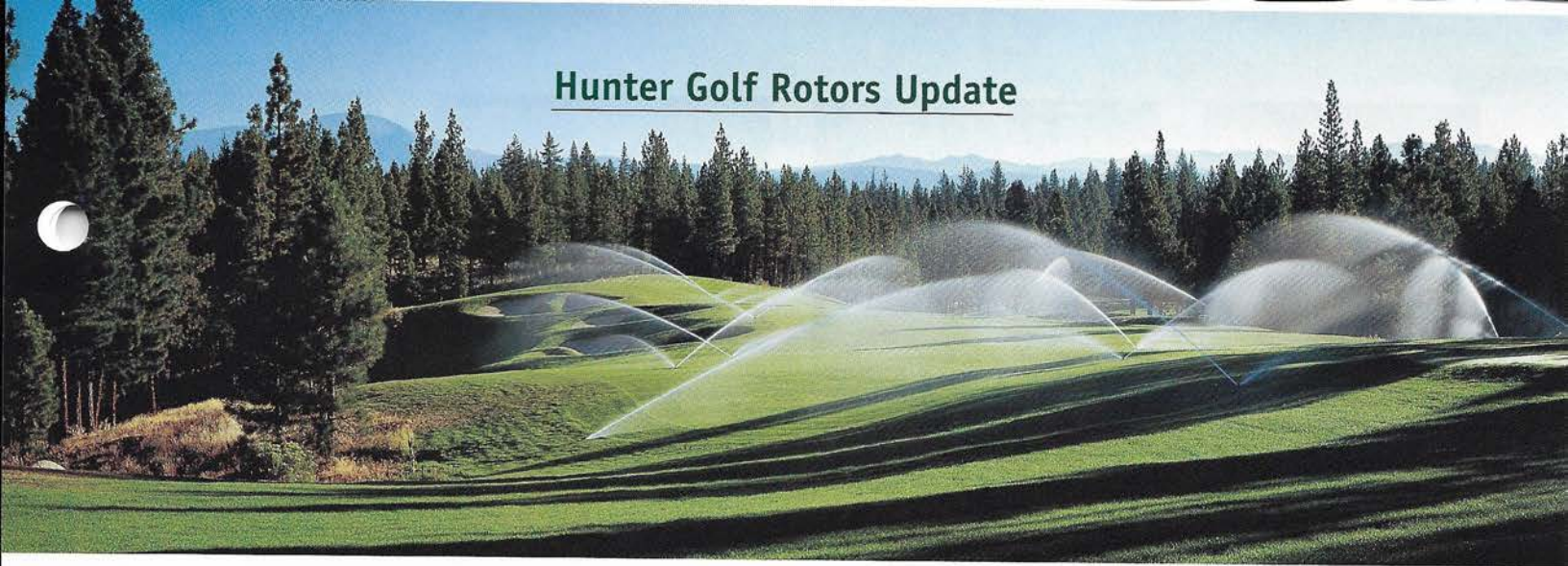
At right, all are having a good time during the before-and-after festivities at Indian Pond Golf Club. Above, two club staff members tally the golf results. Winners are listed below.

Tournament Results

1st Gross: Joe Farina, Charlie Dickow, Rich Tworig, & Steve Murphy, 69
2nd Gross: Jason Adams, Russ Heller, Greg Misodoulakis, & Rob Donovan, 70
3rd Gross: Joe Groulart, Al Comeau, Dick Zepp, & Jim Beane, 71
1st Net: Joe Rybka, Len Blodget, Greg Fredericks, & Dave Donahue, 55
2nd Net: Manny Mahalides, Joe Piana, Carl Teschke, & Lianne Larson, 58



Hunter Golf Rotors Update



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Hunter G800 Rotor Close-Up

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- 50' to 67' radius
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Russ Heller earns GCSAA environmental certification

Russell Heller, golf course superintendent at Franklin Park Golf Course, Dorchester, Mass., has earned an environmental management specialist certificate from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) for completing a specialization program in Integrated Pest Management.

GCSAA NEWS

GCSAA is addressing the environmental impact of golf course maintenance and the increasingly complex training needs of golf course superintendents by offering specialized training through its Environmental Management Program (EMP). GCSAA's EMP consists of six specialized certification programs: Integrated Pest Management; Habitat Development and Management; Employee Safety and Right-To-Know; Water Quality and Application; Golf Course Development; and Storage, Disposal and Recycling.

The Integrated Pest Management specialization focuses on finding effective methods of reducing reliance on pesticides and increasing the use of biological, mechanical and cultural pest management techniques.

Golf course superintendents may choose to complete one or more of the EMP specializations, each of which is composed of a series of relevant continuing education seminars. The program is open to all golf course management professionals seeking further environmental training and expertise.

The superintendent who successfully completes the required coursework in a specialization receives a certificate and special recognition from GCSAA. In addition, the superintendent who earns this valuable credential demonstrates a personal commitment to preserve and protect the environment.

GCSAA News Release

Gary Luccini Memorial 4-Ball Championship — Round 1 Results / Round 2 Matches —

ROUND 1	ROUND 2 (6/1 - 6/15)	QUARTER FINAL	SEMI-FINAL	CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL
1 Crimmings (11.4) - Cullen (6.1)	Misodoulakis - Skinner			
17 Misodoulakis (7.6) - Skinner (10.8)	Match won by forfeit. (family medical emergency)	A Misodoulakis - Skinner (3-and-1)		
16 Heller (17.3) - Stowe (15)	Heller - Stowe			
13 Gurski (9.5) - Sawin (6.5)	Gurski - Sawin (Bye)		I	
12 Anshewitz (8.2) - Fitzroy (7.5)	Anshewitz - Fitzroy (Bye)	B Gurski - Sawin (One-up)		
5 Cromack (16.1) - Small (18.3)	Eardley - Piana			M
21 Eardley (13.7) - Piana (11.7)	(One-up)	C Eardley - Piana (5-and-4)		
24 Hogan (35) - McLeod (23.8)	Hogan - McLeod		J	
8 Matt Howland - Mike Iacono	(4-and-3)			
9 P. Daly (12.1) - Reinertson (6.7)	P. Daly - Reinertson			
25	(Bye)	D P. Daly - Reinertson (One-up)		
20 Dobosz (6.2) - Gianni (6.7)	D'Errico - M. Luccini			
4 D'Errico (19.4) - M. Luccini (12.0)	(4-and-3)			
3 Lazaro (12.3) - Rybka (11.9)	Lazaro - Rybka			
19 Curtin (4.9) - Miller (3.9)	(One-up)	E Lazaro - Rybka (3-and-2)		
10 Ferrantino (11) - Parks (12.8)	Ferrantino - Parks (Bye)		K	
7 DiRico (16.6) - Wallace (9.3)	Cowan - Mackintosh			
23 Cowan () - Mackintosh ()	(3-and-2)	F B. Luccini - Mooradian (7-and-6)		
22 LeClair (9.2) - Snyder (6)	B. Luccini - Mooradian			
6 B. Luccini (19.4) - Mooradian (7.1)	(4-and-3)			
11 Hayes (9.8) - Healey (11.4)	Hayes - Healey			
	(Bye)	G Ruzsala - Tesche (One-up)		
14 Ruzsala (21.2) - Tesche (12.6)	Ruzsala - Tesche (Bye)		L	
15 M. Daly (13.8) - Thys (12.7)	M. Daly - Thys (Bye)			
		H M. Daly - Thys (5-and-3)		
18 Comee (7.3) - Hermanson (10.1)	Barker - Whitcomb			
2 Barker (6.7) - Whitcomb (2.7)	(19 holes)			N

CHAMPION

Remember When?: Taking a look back at GCSANE's past

Remember When? looks at the individuals and events of GCSANE's past.

30 Years Ago

Wally Burnett says the superintendent and green chairman should walk hand-in-hand, not fist-in-fist.

Burnett, a Mass. Golf Assn. official and Longmeadow C. C. member, spoke at a meeting of New England superintendents and green chairmen at Crestview C.C.

"The green chairman is the representative of the membership," Burnett said. "And it is his job to relay the feelings of the members to the super. What I mean is that the member shouldn't go around mouthing off about the course to the super. That's the worst thing that can happen. In the end, there should be meaningful conversation between the super and green chairman and a constructive exchange of ideas. It'll work, believe me."

20 Years Ago

The National Weather Service reports that 12.08" of rain fell during the rainiest June in history. The past record (9.42") was set in 1931 and was eclipsed on June 13. Rain fell on 20 of the first 24 days of June, including five Sundays in a row. June's record is the third-heaviest of any on record, behind 17.09" (August 1955 and 13.38" (May 1954).

REMEMBER WHEN?

Supt.-Green Chmn. Tournament results:
1st gross - Carter/ Congdon, Foxboro; 2nd gross - Mooridian/ Consoletti, Hopedale;
1st net - Zoppo/ Wheeler, Agawam Hunt;
2nd net - Miller/ Feran, Tedesco; 2nd net - Brearley/DeStefano, Segregansett; 4th net - Morton/ Casanova, Braintree Municipal;
4th net - Kirkman/Phillips, Needham; 4th net - Cowan/Sampson, Eastward Ho.

10 Years Ago

The Superintendent-Green Chairman Tournament at Mt. Pleasant C.C. seemed to have it rain everywhere but on the course. Thanks to Jim Beane, CGCS, for a great course, manager Dino Latuga for a fine lunch and dinner, and golf pro Art Harris.

Among the gross winners: Hassett/Walsh, Mt. Pleasant (Lowell); Nagle/Marrone, Worcester C.C.; Iacono/Herscot, Pinebrook C.C.; Misodoulakis/Ingeni, Bellevue C.C. Net winners were Langlais/Hacumda, Foxboro C.C.; Tyler/Nekorski, Salem C.C.; Diorio/Lamb, Purpoodock G.C.; Rybka/Nota, Thorney Lea; Barber/Shuman, Blue Hill C.C.

A reception to honor retired superintendents-to-be Leon St. Pierre and Robert Healey will be held on August 20 at Twin Hills C.C.

GERRY FINN

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

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed for Membership: Tom Rowell, CGCS, Affiliate, R.F. Morse & Sons; Bourke & Lannery Turf Care dba "Dryject", Brighton, Mass.; Rory Bourke, Affiliate, Bourke & Lannery Turf Care.

Welcome New Members: Nicholas Burchard, Assistant, Winchester C.C., Winchester Mass.; Jason P. Grela, Assistant, Indian Ridge C.C., Andover, Mass.; James R. Wilkes IV, Affiliate, Lesco, Strongsville, Ohio; J. Greg Tower, Superintendent, Sterling C.C., Sterling Mass.; Christopher J. Thackery, Assistant, Weston G.C., Weston Mass.

INFORMATION

Thank you to Tom Harrington and the entire staff (all 500? of them), at Indian Pond Country Club for hosting the June meeting. The golf course was terrific, as was the weather and the service.

Congratulations to Ed Gianni of Ridder Farm Golf Course in Whitman, Mass., on recently becoming a Certified Golf Course Superintendent.

The Association of Massachusetts Wetland Scientists (AMWS) is holding several wetland-related workshops this summer, including Botany of Grasses (July 12), Role of Soils in Wetland Mitiga-

tion (July 19), Wetland Plant Selection and Bioengineering on the Connecticut River (July 26), and Botany of Sedges (September 13). For more information on these workshops, visit <http://www.amws.org/workshops.html>, or call Robin Reiner at (978) 667-4340.

POSITION OPENING

Golf Course Superintendent, Shelter Harbor G.C. (new construction), Charlestown/Westerly, R.I. This position is available in the fall of 2002. Architects are Hurdzan-Fry Golf Course Design, Columbus, Ohio. The founders' vision: "To create a golf course of the highest quality that will ensure a magnificent golfing experience for all levels of golf and co-exist with nature to protect and foster a better environment for wildlife, vegetation, and water quality." With 400 acres of open space in Washington County, R.I. and within 5 miles of the Atlantic Ocean, the club will include the private 18-hole golf course (five teeing areas per hole, 5,000 yards (shorter course) to 7,100 yards (pro tees), each hole separated by large natural acreage); a challenging 9-hole, par 3 executive course (punctuated with rock walls, trees, and elevation changes); a practice area (300 yard range with multiple tees; three warm-up or short game practice holes, complete with bunkers and greens); and a state-of-the-art automated irrigation system. Requirements include an agronomy/turf

management degree or equivalent; knowledge of federal, state, and local regulations including employment, safety, and environmental issues that affect golf course operations; and a minimum of eight years supervisory experience in turf management with strong concentration in construction practices and principles. Budgeting, communication, administrative, and executive leadership abilities are critical. Applicant must possess a certified pesticide applicator license. Shelter Harbor Golf Club is seeking a superintendent with expertise that will ensure the founders' visions are achieved. The superintendent, who will report to the general manager, will be instrumental in developing budgets, equipment needs, and maintenance programs. This individual's leadership, planning, and management skills will set the standard of acceptance for all tasks at hand. Salary and benefits include a base in the \$80,000/\$95,000 range, commensurate with experience, plus \$15,000 annual housing allowance, a medical plan, GCSAA and local professional expense package, a club vehicle, cell phone, retirement plan, and others as negotiated. A modest relocation/moving allowance, with cap, will be considered. Send cover letter/resume to: Club Search Consultants, Inc., c/o Don Silven, CGCS, Vice President, 86 Wickham Road, North Kingstown, RI 02852; (401) 295-4118. The deadline for Applications is July 27, 2002. Early responses are appreciated.

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A Guide to Environmental Stewardship on the Golf Course for 2002 now available from Audubon International

The 2002 edition of *A Guide to Environmental Stewardship on the Golf Course* is now available from Audubon International. The guidebook is designed to help superintendents and others interested in environmental management to blend environmentally responsible practices into the day-to-day operations of golf course management.

The book incorporates knowledge gained through Audubon International's 10 years of work to help golf courses serve as ecologically valuable green spaces throughout North America, while reducing potential environmental impacts associated with golf course operations. The 128-page guide covers a variety of topics, including environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation and water quality

management, and how to build support through outreach and education activities. Project plans, case examples, and plenty of reference material are included to help golf courses achieve their environmental goals.

AUDUBON NEWS

"*A Guide to Environmental Stewardship on the Golf Course* is a wonderful, concise reference that will help superintendents at any golf course manage a well-rounded facility," stated F. Dan Dinelli, CGCS, of Northshore C.C. in Illinois. "It's a practical tool with step-by-step guidance towards enhancing environmental management and achieving certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses."

"The Guide was written to serve as a resource for turf professionals, students, and golf course members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP)," explained Jean Mackay, Audubon International's Director of Educational Services and principal author and editor. "We hope it helps people take action to ensure that more and more golf courses are managed with sensitivity to the environment."

To order a copy of *A Guide to Environmental Stewardship on the Golf Course* contact Jennifer Batza, Audubon International, at 518-767-9051, ext. 12, or e-mail jbatza@audubonintl.org. The guide can also be ordered from Audubon International's online store at www.audubonintl.org/store. The cost is \$25.00. New members of the ACSP for Golf Courses will receive the guide as part of their new member packets.

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