Franklin C.C.'s Mike Luccini looks back on a year without his father, mentor, & friend

On the first anniversary of his dad's passing, Mike Luccini was stuck in a pensive mood. His reflections of "Dad" — Gary Luccini, the Franklin Country Club golf course superintendent whose compelling demeanor and personality won him countless friends and admirers — were running wild.

"It's been a little more than a year since his passing, and I feel pretty good again," Mike said. "Of course, the fact that I have succeeded him as superintendent at Franklin has helped me get over the emotional hump. He was my father, my mentor, and most importantly, my friend. We did many things together and a lot of him stayed with me. Becoming the giant figure he was on and off the golf course is something I could only hope to come close to."

Indeed, Gary was a giant and cast a long shadow on the golf course superintendents' profession. He brought Franklin to the top of the heap with his skills as a turf-grooming wizard, and was a model for his peers in the delicate department of pleasing country club members. That's where his personality took over. He had that magic touch. To know him was to love and respect him.

As all who knew him know, Gary had two sides to his persona. He was gruff in a way that intrigued, yet gentle in the final run. If you had him as a friend, you had a friend for life. By the way, there never has been reported a sighting of a Gary Luccini enemy. As Dave Barber, former GCSANE president praised, "you might try and try but you'd never hear a bad word about Gary. He was loving and loyal . . . a real man."

Mike Luccini runs into comparisons with his dad. He doesn't mind that natural reaction to the fact he now wears his father's shoes, so to speak.

"There are differences," Mike noted. "My father was from the old school. He was outgoing and never bashful. He was like a lot of the other old-timers in our business. They all have their own personalities. That's an admirable trait. We younger guys are probably a little more cautious and reserved with our relationships with members."

Mike also thinks the old approach has many good merits. "I can't put my finger on it exactly," he continued. "But a lot of the veteran superintendents were forced to do a lot more with a lot less than what we have today. Many of them have that"

"I'm proud to be a member of a profession with so many good people. The respect my father's peers had for him was tremendous."

Mike Luccini
Franklin C.C.
continued from page 1

certain charisma that you don’t see as much today, and they weren’t afraid to make their views known even if they weren’t popular. There was also a stronger tendency to do many things in-house that we contract out today. For my father, it was an insult to him to have a contractor on the site for any course-related improvements.”

However, there also was a flip side to the Gary Luccini method of getting things done. “He never rushed into new ideas about his craft,” Mike told of his father. “He accepted change but he was always mindful of those horror stories about experiments that went wrong. He was cautious about trying something different without giving it a lot of thought. That conservative split with his gung-ho approach to life was always there.”

The comedic side of Gary Luccini comes through Mike’s reflections when talk of Gary’s avocation of televising Franklin High School hockey games revs up the conversation. “Anyone who watched the hockey telecasts was treated to the Franklin High School hockey version of Johnny Most. He knew what! mean,” Mike admitted. “Regardless, I’m happy to carry the torch for him here, to continue the tradition he established.”

“Also, I’m proud to be a member of a profession with so many good people. The respect my father’s peers had for him was tremendous. The outpouring of affection by his “brothers” in the profession is something my family and I appreciate and hold dear, and will never forget. They really stepped up to the plate when it counted. The aftermath of his passing has lifted us all up. Those guys (superintendents) never took a step back during the entire ordeal. I can carry on, to continue the tradition he established.”

Mike feels honored to have followed Gary as the top man at Franklin. “It’s an honor to be here, and it is something I’ve always wanted to do, although it came a lot sooner than expected if you know what I mean,” Mike admitted.

“Of course, I was in the same boat as my father. ‘It’s an honor to be here, and it is something I’ve always wanted to do, although it came a lot sooner than expected if you know what I mean,” Mike admitted.”

“All the same, I’m happy to carry the torch for him here, to continue the tradition he established.”

Also, I’m proud to be a member of a profession with so many good people. The respect my father’s peers had for him was tremendous. The outpouring of affection by his “brothers” in the profession is something my family and I appreciate and hold dear, and will never forget. They really stepped up to the plate when it counted. The aftermath of his passing has lifted us all up. Those guys (superintendents) never took a step back during the entire ordeal. If my father can see all of this now, I know he is impressed and pleased.”

GERRY FINN

CALENDAR . . .


Education, research, conferences, & holiday gala are President Fitzroy’s topics of the season

Congratulations go to Michael Stachowicz for having his course featured on the cover of the October issue of Golf Course Management. And what a great turnout we had for our October meeting at Mike’s course, the Ranch Golf Club. Those who made the trip to western Massachusetts were certainly treated to a unique course with wonderful design features and magnificent turf conditions. I also need to congratulate Michael Marshall for his first ever hole-in-one on number 17; even though he beat out my closest-to-the-pin shot!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

GCSANE Trustee Pat Kricskeconaitis will give a talk on golf course preservation at the Golfweek Magazine conference on course restoration in Old Williamsburg, Virginia. The venerable superintendent told the members in attendance at the Ranch Golf Club he actually had golf carts on the Essex County Club the other day!

With the approach of cooler weather, we begin to plan for conference and educational meetings. GCSANE Education Chairman Patrick J. Daly, CGCS, has two great seminars scheduled for November at the International in Bolton, Mass. Both seminars will allow members the opportunity to earn continuing education credit for both certification and class-A status. Our association is sponsoring Weather Answers and Techniques for Golf Course Management, presented by Sarah Croke. This seminar will help the superintendent analyze weather data, satellite images, and radar data. Lightning safety will also be discussed.

The second offering, presented in conjunction with the GCSAA, is Golf Course Safety, Security, and Risk Management. In the 1980s, one of the Norfolk County Commissioners would always ask me if the Presidents Golf Course was “lawyer proof”. In today’s litigious society, we can all serve our employers well by reducing the potential liability issues that face all of us today. This seminar will be presented by Ted Horton, CGCS; and Robert Hedberg. Of course, Ted is familiar to many of us in the northeast, having attended Stockbridge and served as superintendent at some fine venues in the metropolitan New York area.

The Stockbridge School at the University of Massachusetts will be initiating a capital campaign to construct a new state-of-the-art research facility. The building will be named after Dr. Joseph Town, who was a mentor to so many of us in the industry. The goal is to increase leverage to obtain research grants for cutting-edge turfgrass research, quick response extension services, and to create the Endowed Professorship of Turfgrass Management. Todd Audyatis of the UMass staff will head the campaign.

And finally, Arthur Silva, CGCS, will chair the Annual Holiday Gala to be held at Belmont County Club. So save Friday, December 13 for what promises to be a great evening of celebration and holiday cheer.

Jim Fitzroy, CGCS President, GCSANE

6th annual N.E. Regional Turf Conference & Trade Show set for March 18-20, 2003

The New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation announces its 6th annual Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show, March 18-20, 2003 at R.I. Convention Center, Providence, R.I. Plans for the education program are being finalized and booths are on schedule for another fabulous event.

TURF CONFERENCE

Pre-conference half-day seminars on Monday, March 17 include (1) Annual Bluegrass Management (GCSAA), by Dr. Frank Rossi, Cornell University; (2) Bunker Maintenance, Placement, and Construction, by Craig Schreiner, Golf Course Architect; and (3) CPR and ADD Training, by local CPR trainers.

On Tuesday, March 18, the conference will host “A Day with the USGA.” The USGA Northeast Regional Office’s David Oaties, Jim Skorulski, and Jim Baird (along with Jim Farrell) will put together a Rules Seminar in the morning and specialized presentations in the afternoon to draw not only superintendents, but club officials and pros as well. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to bring those from your club that might help enhance your situations. After the USGA session, our keynote speaker will be popular former NFL player and head coach Mike Ditka! Already there seems to be a lot of interest in coach Ditka being at the show this year.

Speaking of sports, Tuesday will also offer a great opportunity for those managing sport turf areas. Paul Zwaska of Beacon Ballfields will present a 3-hour seminar on Infield Construction, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Local Little League and Babe Ruth League officers might want to be there! This will mark the first time we have tried to have two days of education for those who manage sports fields. Help us pass the word!

Everything is on track for this to be an even bigger and better conference & show than last year. Several speakers have committed, including Dr. Frank Rossi, Dr. Robert Carrow, Dr. Bruce Clark, and architect Mark Mungeam. The popular bookstore and the silent auction will be back again too! The trade show floor is filling up fast!

One last reminder to all retired members: If your name is listed in any of the local chapters of GCSAA, MALCP, or NESTMA membership directories as a retired or honorary member, then you are invited to come to the conference free of charge for one or all three days! We hope everyone in the turf industry in the New England area, past and present, has an opportunity to be a part of this year’s New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show! You gotta be there!

GARY SYKES
Climax of GCSANE golf season includes
Gary Luccini Memorial 4-Ball Tournament
& New England Superintendent Championship

At left, the team of (l. to r.)
Ed Eardley & Joe Piana
congratulate the winners of
the Gary Luccini Memorial
4-Ball Tournament, Brian
Luccini & Ken Mooradian.
The finals match was held
Sept. 24 at Franklin C.C. At
right, above, Ron Kirkland
displays the photo of the
host club presented to
the winning GCSANE golfers at
the N.E. Superintendents
Championship Oct. 7 at
Worcester C.C. At bottom
right are Pat Daly, CGCS,
and host superintendent
Steve Thys, who defected
back to his roots, playing for
the Cape Cod association.

UMass continues turf research to determine best strategies for control of winter snow mold

Dr. Gail L. Schumann,
Professor of Plant Pathology,
Dept. of Microbiology,
University of Massachusetts

This is another in a series of reports of
research to determine optimal fungicide
recommendations for snow mold control
in the winter months. We are looking at
both fungicides (and combinations) and
timing of application. In this experiment,
we ran two tests. In one area, we inocu-
lated the turf with Microdochium nivale
(the pink snow mold pathogen), and in
the other area, we inoculated the turf
with Typhula incarnata (the gray snow
mold pathogen). If you would like more
details on the experimental protocol,
please contact me.

Results. No Typhula blight (gray
snow mold) developed in any of the plots
inoculated with T. incarnata. This is not
surprising given the warm and dry
weather conditions. Fusarium patch (pink
snow mold) did develop in some plots
inoculated with M. nivale, but there was
less disease in the nontreated plots than
expected from past experience due to
the warm, dry winter. However, the
amount of disease that developed was
commercially unacceptable, so the results
of this trial demonstrate effective fungicide
applications. Eighteen treatments resulted
in no disease on either application date.
Sixteen additional treatments resulted in
only trace amounts of disease (2% disease
on both application dates). Applications
of Insignia alone, Chipco 26GT + TADS
12529, or TD2390 resulted in disease
development that was commercially
unacceptable. No phytotoxicity or other
quality differences were observed in any
of the plots. There were no significant
differences in disease development at the
two applications dates with the exception
of plots treated with TD2390.

TURF RESEARCH

This year, no phytotoxicity or other
effects were observed on the turfgrass in
response to the chemical applications.
Note below that combinations of chemical
ingredients often give better control. To
interpret the results, use the LSD-least
significant difference. If the difference
between treatment results is less than the
LSD number, then they are statistically the
same. They are only statistically different
when the difference exceeds the LSD.

This is used to help determine if treatment
results are really different because there
is always a certain amount of variability
in the amount of disease among the
replication plots.

Conclusions. These results show that
you can get winter-long control from a
single application if you choose the right
fungicides. It appears best to wait until
the turf leaf blades have stopped growing,
but they are still green and capable of
absorbing the penetrant (systemic)
fungicides. It is also important to use
enough water in application to get good
coverage. We used 2.5 gal/1000 sq. ft.

Special thanks to: Graduate Research
Assistant: Richard Anair, Jr./UMass Exten-
sion Turf Program Assistant: Jason Lanier.
Student Assistants: Mark Bornas, Kenneth
Burke, Jason Dowgiewicz, Jason Griffeth,
Steven McCormack, David O'Neil, Dar-
ren Salley, and Nick Welch.

This work is part of a larger snow
mold research project funded by CAGCS,
GCMACC, MEGCSA, NEGCSA, NERTF,
NYSTA, and VTGCSA.

For additional information about snow
mold research at UMass, contact Dr. Gail
Schumann at (413) 545-3413; E-mail:
schumann@pltpath.umass.edu.
GCSAA Seminar
Sponsored and administered by the GCSANE

Weather Answers and Technology for Golf Course Management

Wednesday, November 20, 2002
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

The International
Bolton, MA

Superintendents should leave this seminar with a clearer understanding of how to assess their unique weather concerns. Attendees should have a multitude of appropriate resources and an improved ability to critique both the resources and their technological delivery systems. Weather forecasting will be stressed.

Instructor(s)
>Sara Croke
Meteorologist and founder of Weather or Not, a Blue Chip Enterprise Initiative winning company that offers complete weather services for businesses. She has extensive experience as a broadcaster. As a business owner, Croke works with Major League Baseball, golf clubs and park and recreation departments to solve their weather information challenges through customized solutions and services.

Textbook
No recommended or required textbook for this seminar. Handouts will be provided.

Quick facts:

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<th>Full Day seminar</th>
<th>CEUs: 0.7</th>
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<tr>
<td>Member fee: $130.00</td>
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Register through GCSANE by Phone or Mail
(800) 833-4451
CHAPTER SEMINAR
Weather Answers and Technology for Golf Course Management
Registration Form

Name: ____________________________________________

Current Position: __________________________________

Business / Course Name: __________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________

City, State, ZIP: _______________________________________

Daytime Phone: ____________________ Fax: ______________

GCSAA Member Number: __________________________________

Cost: GCSAA Member Fee: $130.00 Non-member Fee: $195.00
Lunch is provided.
No textbook is recommended or required.

MAIL:
Make checks payable to GCSANE
P.O. Box 2284
Framingham, MA 01703-2284
Attn: Patrick J. Daly, CGCS

PHONE:
(800) 833-4451 ext. 5
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Please Note:
Registration must be received at least seven working days prior to the seminar to guarantee that the registrant is listed on the roster and receives lunch.

Cancellations received 24 hours prior to the seminar date will be charged an administrative fee of $25.00. Refunds will not be issued for nonattendance. Substitutions are permitted.

Appropriate dress is casual business attire (slacks and collared shirts for men, similar attire for women); jackets are recommended.

GCSAA reserves the right to cancel a seminar due to inclement weather or natural disasters.
Brian Luccini & Ken Mooradian capture 2002 4-Ball Tournament

The championship match (Ed Eardley & Joe Piana vs. Brian Luccini & Ken Mooradian) for the 2002 Gary Luccini Memorial GCSANE 4-Ball Championship was held at Franklin C.C. on September 24, 2002.

The Ed Eardley/Joe Piana team reached the finals by winning their first round match 1-up, the second round in a 5-and-4 victory and their quarterfinal and semi-final matches 2-and-1.

GCSANE NEWS

The Brian Luccini/Ken Mooradian team reached the finals by winning their first round match 4-and-3, the second round 7-and-6, the quarterfinal match 5-and-3, and their semi-final match 6-and-4. The match, held on a picture-perfect day, began quickly as B. Luccini & Mooradian won the 1st hole with par to go one-up. Eardley & Piana both par-ed the 2nd hole to promptly even the match. Ed Eardley won the 3rd hole with a net birdie, and when he birdied the 4th, Eardley & Piana jumped out to a quick two-up lead. The 5th hole was halved with bogies.

Brian Luccini scored a net birdie on six, Ken Mooradian par-ed seven and both par-ed the 8th to charge from 2-down to a 1-up advantage. The 9th hole was halved with par, and at the turn B. Luccini & Mooradian were 1-up.

Joe Piana's net birdie on 10 evened the match again. Here the team of B. Luccini & Mooradian went to work. Brian's natural birdie on 11 followed by a net birdie on 12, put Luccini & Mooradian 2-up after twelve. Par halved 13, and when Ken won 14 with a par, the lead moved to 3-up with four holes to play. Bogies halved 15 with B. Luccini & Mooradian now dormie. The par 3 16th was halved with par and the match ended with a well-fought 3-and-2 victory for Brian Luccini & Ken Mooradian.

A special thanks goes to Mike Luccini and the folks at Franklin C.C. for hosting the final match. We think The Bear was proud.

Bob Healey
4-Ball Committee
Remember When?: Taking a look at GCSANE’s past

Remember When? is a monthly feature that looks back at significant individuals and events of GCSANE’s past.

25 Years Ago
Family, friends, and superintendents were among the glad-handers helping Nary Sperandio celebrate his 65th birthday in a surprise party at the Concord C.C. The look on Nary’s face told it all as he realized he was the guest of honor in a setting where he has served Concord members for more than 40 years. On board for the affair were his wife Phyllis, son James Alan, daughter-in-law Linda, daughter Karen Lee, and son-in-law Dick.

REMEMBER WHEN?
Nary, a self-made success story who once was considered a prospect as a professional golfer, has been an active member of GCSANE and served in every administrative capacity in a long stretch of service to his profession. He capped it serving as association president in 1960-62.

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

MEMBERSHIP

INFORMATION
GCSANE has moved. Our new home is at TPC in Norton. Please note the address change: Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, 300 Arnold Palmer Boulevard, Norton, MA 02766; Phone (800) 833-4451 or (774) 430-9030; Fax (508) 758-6474.

Condolences to the family of Andrew Streeter of Sharon C.C. (and John Streeter of the R.I. and Conn. superintendent associations) on the recent death of their mother.

Condolences: Longtime GCSANE member Keith Gavin passed away early this month. He was superintendent at Pine Brook C.C., Sky Meadows, and most recently at George Wright. He will be greatly missed and remembered as one of the hardest workers in the industry. He was 52 years old.

UMass/Stockbridge Turfgrass Management Program Cooperative Work Training. (Notice from Dr. Gail L. Schumann and Dr. Scott Ebdon.) The turf faculty are working together to supervise the Stockbridge School of Agriculture Cooperative Work Training assignments. We would like to receive position listings by November 15 so students can make requests before the end of the fall semester. We recommend students complete Cooperative Work Training at a location different from where they previously worked, so they can observe a different management approach. The faculty meets during semester break to make assignments, which will be announced at the end of January. Students will then contact their supervisor to determine if they will be accepted. If the assignment is not acceptable, students will be re-assigned. All position descriptions should be sent to the Stockbridge School Office at Stockbridge School of Agriculture, Stockbridge Hall, Rm. 115, UMass/Amherst, Amherst, MA 01003. You may also list positions (including regular jobs) on the Stockbridge School website for free. (http://www.umass.edu/stockbridge). The form is on the website in the “jobs” section. We welcome comments and suggestions about the program, which would not be possible without your valuable instruction and supervision of student interns. We appreciate all who accommodate these students in the workplace and help prepare them for their careers. Please contact us if you have questions or concerns: Dr. Gail Schumann (413-545-2965); Dr. Scott Ebdon (413-545-2506); Ms. Nancy Garrabrants, Director, Stockbridge School, (413-545-2222).

GOLF RESULTS
1st Gross - Doug Johnson & Dave Farina - 70
2nd Gross - Jason Adams & Tom Huffam - 73
1st Net - Pat Daly & Dave Sullivan - 58
2nd Net - Mike Iacono & James Herscott - 64
3rd Net - Ron Mason & Don McNeice - 65
Closest to Pin: #3 - Tom Broderick, 3' 1" #16 - Jay Princiotto, 7' 1"
1st - GCSANE-155

Super-Super championship results:
Gross - Mel O’Kelly & Art Washburn, 72; Bruce Carlson & Lennie Blodgett, 73.
Net - Ron Kirkman & Bob Mucciaronie, 58; Tony Caranci & Wayne Zoppo, 62; J.P. Jones & George Machado, 64; Dave Barber & Bob Connolly, 65.

All members should be mindful of an association rule that states members may bring prospective members to one meeting. Unfortunately, we have members and Friends of the Association who bring guests to continued on page 8
Please patronize these FRIENDS of the ASSOCIATION
Remember When?
continued from page 6

meetings when they are not prospective members. The privilege of playing golf at the meeting site has been abused by such action, a black eye on the face of our association and smudge on its integrity.

15 Years Ago

The team-of-two superintendents championship at Orchards G.C. proved a routine ride for Doug Johnson (Pine Brook) & Paul Miller (Tedesco), who won with a 75 gross. The net race was a tie between the teams of Max Mierzwa (Chicopee) & John Hudyka (retired) and Don D'Errico (Bellevue) & Norm Mucciarone (Woodland) who fired a 63. A match of cards declared D'Errico & Mucciarone the champions. The Heritage C.C. duo of Charlie Dickow & Bob Garrity took third place. Sales division net winners John Lenhart (Sawtelle Brothers) & Kevin Lyons (Turf Specialty) cruised to victory with a smooth 66.

Donald E. Hearn, CGCS, president of the GCSAA, announces that the association plans to co-sponsor the upcoming International Amateur Handicap Championships.

"The amateur golfer obviously plays a vital role in the popularity of the game," Hearn said. "This championship format provides any skill level a chance to compete in a fun, 72-hole competition, just like the professional golfers."

Hearn cited a National Golf Foundation study showing that there are 18 million golfers in the United States today and that four and one-half billion rounds of golf were played last year.

A field of 600 from the United States, Australia, and several European countries is expected in Phoenix October 25-31. Three different courses will be utilized to handle the large field.

10 Years Ago

One of the highlights of the 1992 Turf Grass Research Tournament at The International was provided, and fittingly so, by Chip Brearley, who with Paul Miller headed the tournament committee. Chip the GCSANE veep, stunned the field when he aced the fourth hole to score a genuine hole-in-one in the closest-to-the-pin competition. Brearley won a set of golf clubs for this rare feat.

Bruce Packard, superintendent of the Stockbridge G.C., has been designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) by the GCSAA. Packard has been superintendent at Stockbridge since 1990. He lives in Worthington.

Welcome new members: Peter Bissei, regular member, Ipswich G.C.; David Dwinnell, regular member, Wollaston G.C.; and David Murphy, assistant member, Cedar Hills G.C.

The host team garnered gross honors with a 67 in the always-popular superintendent/3-club-official tournament at Metacomet C.C. Heritage took the net prize with 57 followed by Nashawtuc, 59; Purpodock, 59; and Salem, 59.

GERRY FINN