

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.

Peter Hasak turns to Mother Nature . . . and lots of overseeding . . . for course recovery

As Yogi Berra, the master of malapropism, has been heard to say on more than one occasion, "It's déjà vu all over again." And laughter follows.

However, when Peter Hasak, battletested superintendent at the Tedesco Country Club, declares, "it's like 2001 all over again," it's not a laughing matter. Instead, it means Hasak is in the midst of trying to effect his golf course's recovery om a veritable winter wipeout. What's more, the clock is ticking on that recovery, since Tedesco hosts the Massachusetts Open championship beginning the week of June 16.

As if on cue, there are more complications. This is the 100th anniversary of the Massachusetts Golf Association, the championship's sponsor and caretaker since its inception. The event also coincides with an interesting aside to the situation because the MGA and Tedesco Country Club share the same birth date.

Although the circumstances of 2003 trigger a stronger challenge for Hasak, they mirror the early spring conditions of Tedesco two years ago when a winter of no-quit snow and ice caused widespread damage throughout the course. A large percentage of the playing surfaces were damaged.

"It was very similar to what we saw when the course woke up in March of this year," Peter explained. "However, the 2001 hit brought with it more of a rotting out of turf. There even was a 'garbage' nell to it. This time it's mainly direct low amperature kill of poa annua and ryegrass. The remedy is virtually the same.

Lots of overseeding and hopefully lots of help from Mother Nature."

In golf course condition terms, the winter of 2003 drew a reaction line between inland and coastal layouts. "They (inland courses) got snow from

"It's a struggle.
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get over that
temperature hump.
For example, at
4 o'clock this
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here it was 47 and
my hands were
freezing. Those
coastal winds make
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Peter Hasak Tedesco C.C. the get go and a form of turf protection," Hasak explained. "We (coastal courses) got rain, sometimes an inch or so, before the freeze and snow arrived. According to the USGA, the storms were a killer for coastal courses. Coastal Rhode Island and Connecticut were hit, but one of the worst hits came here, on the North Shore on into southern New Hampshire."

Turf damage at Tedesco was staggering. Hasak, speaking with *The Newsletter* in late April, had a horror story ready for openers. Greens, tees, fairways, and roughs came out of winter with a spring coat the color of wheat. Some greens were 50% or so lost. Only eleven holes were open, with members playing two temporary greens when the course finally

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opened April 30 – the second-latest opening in its history. Three fairways were a complete shambles, the rest suffering 30% or so turf loss. Roughs? Same thing.

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Another setback loomed as we spoke. Early spring in all of New England appeared to still be in the grasp of winter. Temperatures refused to budge much above 40 and 50 degrees in daytime. The turf's mind was set to assume a growing position but its body couldn't respond because of the weather.

Since overseeding is Hasak's chief weapon in the fight to restore his course to the stately condition presented its players year after year, Mother Nature has become a key player in the ordeal. At that particular moment she was being cantankerous.

"It's a struggle," Peter reported. "We can't seem to get over that temperature hump. Here it is the last week in April and we've just gone through eight or nine hard frosts. For example, at 4 o'clock this afternoon (April 25) it was 63 degrees at my home in Georgetown. Back here it was 47 and my hands were freezing. Those coastal winds make it seem even colder."

Hasak has a regular crew of 13 and is supplementing it with a contracted staff. "It's virtually the same process that we implemented two years ago," he described the recovery plan. "We'll be doing our second overseeding May 12. Right now we're hoping there won't have to be a third treatment but we're prepared to do it if it's needed. The experience of having gone through almost the same thing in 2001 has been a big help . . . and we can use all the help we can get."

Manpower means so much in the attempt to get Tedesco back on its feet. However, Hasak notes that his overseeding machine (BLEC) also has been a positive factor. It introduces seed to the soil so effectively that he's seen germination in seven to ten days . . . even in unkind weather conditions.

Meanwhile, as Peter thinks, "Open, Open, Open," he's dealing with a very understanding membership that has been patient and supportive through the recovery process. Tedesco in its 100 years has been a course of tradition and triumph. Overseen by such distinguished architects

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as Donald Ross and Skip Wogan along the way, it's proven a club of distinction in all aspects.

"I've been blessed with outstanding green chairmen," Hasak related. "And their stature carries over to the membership. One of the traits I admire about the club is its vision. I mention this because of our practice facility, part of a master plan that has served as a bridge between facing our dilemma and opening the course. Our members have been able to get in their swings in the interim and that's important."

The MGA was scheduled to visit
Tedesco to check out conditions and the
like on May 8. Hasak was determined
they'd go away happy. "I have every bit
of confidence Tedesco will live up to its
reputation as a top notch tournament
site," he remarked. "I'm still looking for
those 70-degree days and 50-degree
nights. We're leaning on experience,
know-how and a strong will to succeed.
I look for this centennial year to be a
good one, all around . . . for the MGA, the
club and all our golfing friends."

GERRY FINN

CALENDAR . . .

June 23 GCSANE Monthly Meeting Shattuck Golf Club Jaffrey, N.H. Supt. - Paul Lautner

July 28

GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Supt./Club Official Tournament
LeBaron Hills Country Club
Lakeville, Mass.
Supt. - Mark Klimm

August 26 GCSANE Monthly Meeting Individual Championship Marlborough Country Club Marlborough, Mass.
Supt. - Kenneth Crimmings

Sept. 22 GCSANE Monthly Meeting Townsend Ridge Country Club Townsend, Mass. Supt. - David Copeland

October 6 GCSANE Monthly Meeting Juniper Hills Golf Course Northborough, Mass. Supt. - Thomas Ackley, CGCS

November

GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Annual 9-Hole Meeting
Norfolk Golf Club
Norfolk, Mass.
Supt. - Jason Adams

Winter-kill not as widespread as 2000-2001, but some damage was severe, reports Fitzroy

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After one of the coldest, snowiest, winters in history, reports of winter-kill are not as extensive as the winter of 2000 - 2001. But where there has been damage, it is severe. It seems that locations near the coastal plain seemed to have sustained the most damage. Of course, with the predominant offshore spring wind direction, the temperatures needed for re-growth and seed germination have not yet occurred. I hope all of us that have seen damage this year can get the cooperation necessary from our members and golfers to get the courses back in condition as soon as possible.

On behalf of the entire association, I want to extend best wishes to Dr. Gail Schumann and her family as they move to Marquette University. It certainly is a great loss to our industry having Gail leave the University of Massachusetts.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

She is one of the premiere turf pathologists in the country. Gail has indicated she will still serve our industry needs here in New England during the transition. Please check the University of Massachusetts web site for details if you need diagnostic services.

I recently received a call from GCSAA President Jon Maddern asking me to serve on a newly formed resource group to study the feasibility of relocating GCSAA Headquarters. I have always had a personal belief that an organization was only as good as the people who worked for that organization. In that regard, I'm concerned about the staff turnover that may occur during a relocation. On the other hand, the long-term goals and benefits to the association must be weighed. It is certainly going to be an interesting assignment and I want to encourage all members of GCSANE to feel free to air their thoughts and concerns regarding this important issue.

Finally, as we begin our peak season, I hope everyone has great success this year.

James R. Fitzroy, CGCS President, GCSANE

Gary Luccini Memorial 4-Ball Championship

- Round I & 2 / Quarter-Finals / Semi-Finals / Championship Match -



Dave Comee warns about eye damage from the sun

Something happened to me recently that I think everyone in this business of ours should at least give some thought. Without any prior warning, one morning about three weeks ago, I awoke with a sore right eye. It was very red and very inflamed. I am 52 years old and to this point I do not wear glasses.

Three hours later, the optometrist informed me that I had a condition known as "Pinguecula." Not only did I not know

HEALTH

what it meant, I had never heard the word. Definition: "A non-malignant, slow growing proliferation of conjunctival connective tissue in the eye." In layman's terms, I have a callus growing in my eye. Lucky me, I have it in both eyes.

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Remember When? A look back at GCSANE's past

Remember When? is a monthly look at the people and events of GCSANE's past.

25 Years Ago

The buzz of superintendents attending this year's UMass Turf Conference concerned the presence of Bob Williams and the impression he left as president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Williams thrilled his audience with recall of his teeth-cutting days in the superintendent profession when he studied under Professor Lawrence Dickinson at the University of Massachusetts. Those memorable classroom lectures seem like only yesterday but they were delivered some 40 years ago.

"You know, Professor Dickinson was 40 years ahead of his time," Williams said. "I can remember him standing up there and telling us that we had to concentrate on the business end of the profession, that we would become the most important

"You know, Professor Dickinson was 40 years ahead of his time. I can remember him standing up here telling us that we had to concentrate on the business end of the profession, that we would become the most important officials in the club and on the course."

Bob Williams GCSAA President (25 years ago) officials in the club and on the course. We had to be prepared to do something more than grow grass and keep it green."

Williams concluded his message, leaning on some of Professor Dickinson's philosophy: "The superintendent is part of the country club's most important income-generating ingredient – the golf course. That means his job is one of managing that ingredient in a businesslike manner. His decisions are the most vital made. It's time that he realized this and did something to tone his executive muscles."

REMEMBER WHEN?

Two of our former members have been voted life and honorary memberships in the GCSANE. Julie Aksten is the new life member. Julie was very active in our association the 17 years he was a member before retirement. He served on the board a number of years and was always a hard worker for the association. He was a frequent volunteer for work and his life membership is well deserved.

Richard Blake now has honorary status. He left the GSCANE when he was appointed superintendent at the Woodstock Country Club in Vermont and became a member of the Northeast Golf Course Superintendents Association. Dick served in almost every capacity in the GCSANE, right on up to president. A great leader and hard worker, Dick also served the national well as GCSAA board member and president.

15 Years Ago

The subject of this month's Super Speaks Out venture was green covers and from the response the covers came through with flying, positive colors.

Longmeadow Country Club's Leon St. Pierre summed up the favorable results with some interesting comments: "There's no doubt. The winter-cover theory works, sometimes wonders. This winter I covered 17 of 19 greens, and I'd have to say it's the best results we've had here. Those results have influenced my thinking enough to perhaps get into covering tees."

"The purpose of the cover is to reduce the effects of desiccating winds. Using it almost guarantees the green to come through the winter without desiccation. Added to the physical results is the peace of mind factor. Once you get the covers on, it's a relief to know the chances of desiccation have diminished considerably. It's like flight insurance. You take it and with it comes peace of mind."

With the U.S. Open only weeks away with The Country Club as the host, superintendent Bill Spence and his crack crew are stretching the workdays to give the field a challenging, fair test on a tournament-level groomed course.

TCC assistant superintendent Patty Knaggs has put together an "A Team" of workers with specific duties and responsibilities. They number 25, up from the regular crew of 13 members.

Patty gives this capsule look at the squad: Average age - 26.7 years with a range of 16 to 70. Average years of college - 2.18. Years at The Country Club - one month to 50 years. "A Team" subs: 10 volunteers from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England.

5 Year Ago

Michael Kennedy, Jr. of the Oak Ridge Golf Club, Agawam, has been presented the Joseph A. Morrill, Jr. Award by the Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund. Kennedy worked on the golf course maintenance crews at Oak Ridge and the Longmeadow Country Club. The Morrill Award goes to a Ouimet Scholar who is attending turfgrass or agronomy school.

Kennedy, a senior at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst, is majoring in plant pathology and has a 3.1 grade point average. He volunteers in the IPM Greenhouses and participates in intramural hockey. He also went through a prestigious internship at Disney World in Orlando.

Favorable print reaction in newspapers around New England has followed the GCSANE's decision to ban metal spikes at all association golf events. However, one negative comment (from a golf pro) offered that metal spikes help more than hurt a course because of an aerification effect. That prompted one superintendent to quip, "I must have been out that day when Joe Troll (UMass professor) explained that one in class!"

GERRY FINN

GCSAA schedules 2003 Chapter Delegates Meeting or September 6 & 7 in Kansas City, Missouri

At its pre-conference board meeting in Hilton Head, GCSAA's board of directors discussed the timing of the 2003 Chapter Delegates Meeting. The consensus was in favor of moving the Chapter Delegates Meeting back to a traditional September date. The 2003 meeting will be held on Saturday, September 6 and Sunday, September 7 at the Kansas City Airport Marriott in Kansas City, Missouri.

The reason for resuming a September meeting schedule was to ensure that chapter delegates have time to relay the outcomes of the meeting to their boards and members at chapter annual meetings and other venues. It also provides chapters and members with more time to discuss and formulate their opinions regarding issues that are voted on at the GCSAA annual meeting and election.

The importance of the Chapter Delegates Meeting will continue to grow as the association and its members look toward the future. The opinions and ideas shared this annual meeting guide the GCSAA

board in making decisions that serve the best interest of members, and help superintendents advance in their profession.

GCSAA NEWS

Affiliated chapters are required each year to send one representative to the Chapter Delegates Meeting. Chapters are asked to send either their voting delegate or an officer to represent their association at the meeting. The representative should be an actively involved and experienced chapter leader that has a great awareness of the association initiatives and issues that will be discussed at the Chapter Delegates Meeting. Chapter delegates carry the following responsibilities:

- Listen to presentations made by the 2004-05 GCSAA Board of Directors candidates and visit with them during the "Meet the Candidates" session.
- Take detailed notes during the meeting and openly express the viewpoints and

ideas of your chapter members during the discussions.

- Present a comprehensive oral report of the meeting outcomes to your chapter members at your next monthly meeting or annual meeting, conveying the true spirit of the meeting.
- Write an article for your chapter newsletter that summarizes the outcomes of the meeting. (Delegates are encouraged to use post-meeting outcomes provided by GCSAA to help write the article). List your telephone number and e-mail address in the article so members may contact you directly to discuss the issues.
- Listen to feedback from your members regarding the meeting outcomes and share those issues and concerns with GCSAA board members or staff.

An invitation and registration form for the 2003 Chapter Delegates Meeting will be mailed to chapter leaders in May. Attendees will be asked to register for the meeting by early August.

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Dave Comee warns about risk of eye damage from sun

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Pinguecula affects the sclera (white of the eye) and the conjunctiva. They appear as small, raised, thickenings of the conjunctiva, almost like a wart. They almost always appear on the nose side of the iris. This condition can exist for some time without any knowledge of the problem until they become irritated and inflamed. Then it feels like part of Hampton Beach is in your eye and it won't come out.

If not taken care of they may develop into a "Pterygium" (a similar but more aggressive type of affliction). They may have blood vessels associated with them and could grow into the iris and therefore affect the vision. Pterygium stretch and distort the cornea and cause astigmatism.

According to the doctor, and what I have found on the net, the cause is unknown. They are more frequently found in people who work outdoors. The frequent and long-term exposure to

wind, dust, pollen, and UV light seems to increase the chance of occurrence. The simplest way to protect yourself is to have an eye exam and be diligent about wearing a quality pair of sunglasses all the time. I will have to live with this problem for the rest of my life. Be smart, schedule an eye exam, and do what you can to prevent it from happening to you.

DAVE COMEE

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

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed for Membership: Donald Brooks, Superintendent, Sagamore Spring G.C.; Mark J. Christianson, Superintendent, Twin Hills C.C.; Peter M. Van Heest, Superintendent, Norton C.C.; Nathan G. Walker, Superintendent, Ould Newbury G.C.; Sean Oberly, Assistant Superintendent, Nantucket G.C.; Jason Paradis, Assistant Superintendent, Cyprian Keyes G.C.; Charles P. Sorblom, Assistant Superintendent, Nantucket G.C.

INFORMATION

Congratulations to Mike Parks and his wife who are the proud parents of a new baby boy, Ryan Thomas who weighed 7 lbs, 4 oz.

UMass Turf Research Field Day will be on Wednesday, June 18, 2003 at the UMass Turf Research Facility, River Road, South Deerfield, Mass. Pre-register by June 13 or on-site the day of the event. For more information visit www.umassturf.org or contact: Mary Owen, Extension Educator, Turf (508) 892-0382, mowen@umext.umass.edu.

UMass laboratory diagnoses turf and landscape problems. Accurate diagnosis for a turf or landscape problem can often eliminate or reduce the need for pesticide use. The UMass Extension Urban Forestry Diagnostic Laboratory provides analysis, identification, and ecologically sound management strategies for diseases and insects of woody plants, turf insects, and weeds in turf, landscapes, and nursery operations. Identification of turfgrasses is also offered. The laboratory is available to commercial landscape contractors, turf managers, arborists, nurseries, and other green industry professionals. Weeds, turf and woody plant insects, and woody plant disease samples, as well as turfgrass samples for identification are accepted. UMass Extension specialists provide accurate problem diagnosis and offer pest management strategies that are research based, economically sound, and environmentally appropriate for the situation.

Send specimens and payment (payable to UMass) to Urban Forestry Diagnostic Lab, 160 Holdsworth Way, Holdsworth Natural Resources Center, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003. A woody plant disease analysis is \$50.00.

All insect, weed, and turfgrass identification samples are \$25.00 each. Management strategies are provided with disease, insect, and weed diagnosis. For more detailed submission instructions go to www.umassgreeninfo.org or www.umassturf.org and click on "Diagnostics" or call 413-545-3208.

Turfgrass disease samples should be directed to the UMass Turf Disease Diagnostic Lab. For more info specifically on turf disease diagnostics, contact Dr. Gail Schumann at (413) 545-3413 or click on "Diagnostics" at www.umassturf.org. UMass Extension's Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Program French Hall 230 Stockbridge Rd. Amherst, MA 01003-2910 Tel. (413) 545-0895 Fax. (413) 577-1620; www.UMassGreenInfo.org

POSITION OPENING

Golf Course Superintendent, Winchester Country Club, Winchester, Mass. Winchester Country Club is a prestigious 18-hole golf and country club located 120 miles west of Boston. Established in 1902, this classic Donald Ross designed championship course is considered one of the finest courses in Massachusetts. The club has an active golf program and a reputation for employee longevity. This position reports to the general manager. Qualifications include advanced

knowledge of agronomy and turfgrass management and practices, with particular experience with the New England environment. Applicant must have experience with various aspects of golf course construction and irrigation systems; be skilled with administrative, management, personnel, budgeting, and communication; and have knowledge of federal, state and local laws and regulations, including employment, safety, environmental and OSHA. Applicant must have a supervisory pesticide license and valid driver's license. Must have a positive and pleasant personality, with a passion for excellence and for exceeding member expectations. Salary is commensurate with experience. Compensation includes housing opportunity; health, life, and disability insurance; GCSAA dues and expenses; and retirement plan upon qualification. Deadline for application is June 16, 2003. Please send resume to: Paul Lazar, CCM, Winchester Country Club, 468 Mystic Street, Winchester, MA 01890; E-mail: tlandry@mgalinks.org.

Golf Course Superintendent, Kelley Greens G.C., Nahant, Mass. Kelley Greens is a privately run, public 9-hole golf course seeking an experienced part-time golf course superintendent to supervise greens crew, fertilizer and pesticide application, irrigation maintenance, and general golf course maintenance. Applicant must have experience as an assistant superintendent or comparable work experience, and must have or be willing to obtain a Massachusetts pesticide license. Compensation is commensurate with experience. Position open until filled. Send Resume to: Darlene or Richard Conigliaro, Kelley Greens Golf Course, I Willow Road, Nahant, MA 01908; Phone/Fax: 781-581-0840; E-mail: Tonycsgolf@aol.com. Fax or e-mail resumes are accepted.

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The Shattuck Golf Club: Host club for GCSANE's June meeting

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The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England will have the pleasure of their June monthly meeting at The Shattuck Golf Club.

The newest course under the Sterling Golf Management team, The Shattuck Golf Club is located in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, at the foot of Mount Monadnock. Brian Silva designed this course, which is surrounded by acres of natural wetlands and wildlife, with lush bent grass on every tee, fairway, and green.

This month's host superintendent Paul Lautner has been overseeing a program of course conditioning and other

HOST PROFILE

improvements to bring the course into great shape. This course gives every level of golfer a fair but challenging game.

The Shattuck G.C. Facts:

Superintendent: Paul R Lautner
Golf Professional: Mark Trantanella
Number of Members: 100+
Terrain: Hilly with marshes
granite outcroppings, and woods
Architect: Brian Silva
Year Organized: 1991

Par:	7/
Regular Yardage:	
	(Rating: 70.9)
Ladies Yardage:	4632
	(Rating: 73.1)
Championship Yardage: .	6764
144 16 13 May 18	(Rating: 73.5)
Greens (yardage & type):	2.0 Acres
	nncross Bentgrass
Tees (yardage & type): .	2.5 acres
	Bentgrass blend
Fairways (acres & type):	20 acres
	Bentgrass blend
Roughs (acres & type):	
B	luegrass & fescue
Carts:	. Gas/Club Car

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