



THE NEWSLETTER

April 2004

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.

Steve Thys prevails over 'take-all' patch, earning vote of confidence at Worcester C.C.

By Dave Nordman,
Worcester Telegram & Gazette

Being superintendent of a championship golf course is sort of like being manager of the Boston Red Sox – nobody talks about you when things go right, only when they don't.

Steve Thys knows a little about baseball – he played in high school and was the last player cut from the team at Northeastern University – and a lot about golf course maintenance.

But nothing – not his engineering background, not his degree from UMass-Stockbridge, not his summers at Oyster Harbors, not his five years as superintendent of Worcester Country Club – could have prepared him for what he experienced last year.

Well, maybe his last job, at FedEx, whose slogan is "When it absolutely, positively has to be there overnight."

Overnight – that's how long it took for four of WCC's Donald Ross greens to go from velvet to virus.

"On July 17, I had one of my greens chairmen tell me that they had just played Oak Hill (N.Y.) and Pine Valley and that our greens were equally as good as those two courses," Thys said.

That was a Thursday. The next day it rained from dawn 'til dusk, a cold, soaking rain, the type that has the animals lining up two by two. On Saturday morning, Thys went out to change cups and found the four greens infested with take-all patch.

"It's tough on your pride to have that happen," said Thys, who grew up in Barnstable, Mass. and now lives in Spencer.

Take-all patch is extremely rare on older courses such as WCC. It's usually only found on newly constructed bentgrass greens which lack the antagonistic or competing microorganisms that are built up over time.

Some of WCC's greens are a hundred years old, but the four that were lost were renovated less than five years ago. That relatively new turf, combined with the heavy rains, poor drainage, a manganese deficiency in the soil, and the high pH of WCC's irrigation water, cultivated the disease.

It was the perfect storm.

"It didn't look anything like the text-book take-all patch. It was a light apple green," said Thys, who immediately sent a sample of the damaged turf to Gail Schumann at UMass. She helped him control the problem and assured him it would not spread. Officials from the USGA also viewed the WCC greens.

"They said they had never seen anything like it," Thys said.

"They told me 'You've been here five years. You've seen everything. You know this place better than anybody. We're going to give you a chance to maintain the golf course without any projects going on.'"

**Steve Thys
Worcester C.C.**

That provided little comfort to the membership, which wanted to know how Thys could lose four greens less than three weeks before the state Senior Four-Ball. They didn't want to hear about other courses that lost 10-12 greens, high pH, poor drainage, or Mother Nature.

"They were like, 'You still lost grass, pal, and we're not happy about it.'"

WCC's irrigation water has an average pH of 8.4. Optimal levels are between 5.5-7.0.

"At times last summer, it was up around 10," Thys said.

WCC had a sulfuric acid injector included in its new irrigation system, which was

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**PRESIDENT**

Michael J. Hermanson
140 Ryan Street, Gardner, MA 01440-0145
978-632-2713 Fax 978-632-2713
E-mail: herm068@hotmail.com
Gardner Municipal Golf Course

VICE PRESIDENT

Patrick S. Krikseonaitis
4 Lakemans Lane, Ipswich, MA 01938-2505
978-526-4600 Fax 978-526-8333
E-mail: Grounds@Essexcc.org
Essex County Club

SECRETARY

Russell E. Heller
41 Clifford Street, Melrose, MA 02176-0140
617-983-2786 Fax 617-983-2786
E-mail: Rheller@gcsane.org
Franklin Park Golf Course

TREASURER

Ronald P. Dobosz, Jr.
1137 Park Street, Stoughton, MA 02072-3728
781-341-8564 Fax 781-341-8564, *51
E-mail: rdobosz111@aol.com
Cedar Hill Golf Course

TRUSTEE

Leonard F. Curtin
6 Louis Avenue, Sudbury, MA 01776
781-862-5167
E-mail: lfrina2@peoplepc.com
Lexington Golf Club

TRUSTEE

Jason S. Adams
11 Woodcrest Lane, Blackstone, MA 01504
781-326-3801 Fax 781-326-3801
E-mail: Jayadams35@hotmail.com
Norfolk Golf Club

TRUSTEE

David A. Comee
65 Marquette Street, Gardner, MA 01440
978-297-2339 Fax 978-297-0911
E-mail: photoC@hotmail.com
Winchendon School Golf Club

FINANCE CHAIRMAN

Arthur Silva, CGCS
35 Pennacook Road, Tewksbury, MA 01876
978-484-5440 Fax 978-484-6613
E-mail: Asilva@belmontcc.org
Belmont Country Club

GOLF CHAIRMAN

James A. Small III
690 Pine Street, Bridgewater, MA 02324-2116
508-697-4816 Fax 508-279-3355
E-mail: jas1118@yahoo.com
Olde Scotland Links Golf Club

EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

Patrick J. Daly, CGCS
P. O. Box 2284, Framingham, MA 01703-2284
508-872-9790 Fax 508-872-5393
E-mail: pat@framinghamcc.com
Framingham Country Club

NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN

Michael W. Stachowicz
68 Westfield Road, Westwood, MA 02090
781-326-7860 Fax 781-326-0664
E-mail: par5n2@yahoo.com
Dedham Country and Polo Club

PAST PRESIDENT

James R. Fitzroy, CGCS
357 W. Squantum St., N. Quincy, MA 02171-2758
617-328-1776 Fax 617-328-9479
E-mail: Jfritz39@rcn.com
Presidents Golf Club

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sharon K. Brownell
P. O. Box 566, Mattapoisett, MA 02739-0566
508-758-6474 Fax 508-758-6474
E-mail: Sbrownell@gcsane.org

**GCSANE Headquarters**

300 Arnold Palmer Blvd., Norton, MA 02766
Tel.: (800) 833-4451 Fax: (508) 758-6474
Web Site: www.gcsane.org

Newsletter Editor Michael Stachowicz
Contributing Editor Gerry Finn
Business Manager Julie Heston
(401-934-3677; E-mail: jheston@verizon.net)

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installed in 2002, but a wet spring and early summer made its use futile.

"It rained so much we couldn't use it," Thys said. "Otherwise, it would have made the place too wet."

With the take-all patch in remission, Thys' first task was to re-grow the damaged turf. He sliced seeded them in two directions and fertilized them at a heavy rate. It didn't help that WCC didn't close the damaged greens – the club championship was going on – until over a week after the initial diagnosis.

"I knew I wasn't going to rebuild them (before the Senior Four-Ball)," Thys said. "But I knew I needed to get some grass on them. I thought maybe I'd get some good weather and some luck from the gods."

Two of the four greens were open in time for the state tournament. By late September, all four were fully recovered and stimping between 10 and 11.

"The rest of the summer went extremely well," said Thys, who went to extremes to assure the take-all patch was gone for good. In August, he could be found aboard a mini-excavator, trying to improve drainage by removing the roots from a 140-year-old oak tree from under the 10th green.

Hard work, like ill fortune, is nothing new to Thys, who coordinated a multi-million dollar dredging project last winter at WCC. In between snowblowing 108 inches of snow off at-risk greens and checking things off his normal winter agenda, Thys and his crew helped clear four ponds, build bridges, construct a new pump house, dig a wet well, lay hundreds of feet of drainage line, build roads, and pave cart paths.

"My biggest concern was getting the pump house up and running," Thys said.

The project lasted from Thanksgiving through the end of May during which time Thys' top assistant quit. His replacement didn't last five months. Thys' irrigation tech has also since left.

"Personnel has been a problem," he said.

In May, Thys and his wife adopted a baby from Korea. Soon after that, Thys had arthroscopic surgery on his knee. A week later, he was walking – make that limping – around the course, doing his best to contribute to a tee and bunker renovation project that was supposed to be included in a three-year restoration project set to begin in 2005.

"Everything was completed by July Fourth," Thys said. "We looked real good at that point."

Then came the rain, the take-all patch and the heat – not high temperatures, but pressure from the higher-ups at WCC.

"I never really felt that my job was secure," Thys said. "They want results."

In the end, that's what Thys feels saved his job.

"I think they looked at all the good things I've done since I've been here," he said. "They told me 'You've been here five years. You've seen everything. You know this place better than anybody. We're going to give you a chance to maintain the golf course without any projects going on.'"

Thys is looking forward to that.

"Last year is one I'd like to forget," he said. "You learn from it and move on. That's all you can do."

CALENDAR . . .

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| May 17 | Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament Pine Brook Country Club Weston, Mass. Supt. - Michael Iacono, CGCS |
| June 10 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting Joint Meeting with Golf Course Managers Association of Cape Cod Woods Hole Golf Club Woods Hole, Mass. Supt. - Thomas Flaherty, CGCS |
| July 13 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting Team of Two Championship The Meadow at Peabody Peabody, Mass. Supt. - Richard Duggan, CGCS |
| August 24 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting Individual Championship Marlborough C.C. (permanent site) Marlborough, Mass. Supt. - Kenneth Crimmings |
| Sept. 20 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting Supt./Club Official Tournament Tedesco Country Club Marblehead, Mass. Supt. - Peter Hasak |
| October 5 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting Stockbridge Fund Raiser Tournament Hickory Ridge Country Club Amherst, Mass. Supt. - Robert Ruzsala |
| Nov. 1 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting Scramble Bear Hill Golf Club Stoneham, Mass. Supt. - Richard French |

President reports on events . . . and airs pet peeves

Those of you who attended the New England Regional Turf Show realize what a great show it is. Congratulations to Gary Sykes and the board of directors for a job well done!

The GCSANE board of directors attended Dr. Noel Jackson's retirement dinner in Providence. It was nice to hear Dr. Joe Troll and Mary Owen speak in recognition of Dr. Jackson. A spirit of cooperation between UMASS and URI can only benefit all of us.

A nice crowd attended the Stockbridge breakfast and we were updated on the status of funding for the Joseph Troll Building at the Turf Research Facility. If you haven't contributed, and you would like to, please contact Peter Hasak at Tedesco.

Now a little information and a few pet peeves: Regarding monthly meetings, the call-in deadlines and the meeting costs are set by the clubs. We have no control over this. The \$25 late-call-in fee was established by the board a while ago for one reason

and one reason only. We needed to find a way for people to make meeting reservations on or before the call-in deadline. Having been Golf Chairman for many years, I have personally known how embarrassing it is to contact the club two or three times

FROM THE PRESIDENT

because people have called in after the deadline. We even had five or six people show up for the Annual Meeting without even pre-registering. Come on guys!

While I'm venting: The dress code for winter meetings is jacket-and-tie, not jacket-and-turtleneck, jacket-and-shirt, or sweater-and-tie. If we want to be recognized as professionals, we should dress that way!

We are still trying to work out the bugs with the 800 reservation number. If you have problems with that number, please call 508-758-6476 to register. Hopefully, meeting notices and registration via email is not that far away.

Once again, get involved! Call a committee chairman or myself and volunteer to serve on a committee. Call Jim Small to

volunteer your club for a golf meeting or Pat Daly for a winter meeting.

Starting with the April meeting and concluding with the July meeting we will have a sign-up sheet at the registration table for Ouimet Scholarship Fund donations. Dick Duggan will once again play in the marathon in August representing GCSANE. Sign up and make a tax deductible pledge and Ouimet will invoice you later. Area captains will also be making calls to solicit support. For the 2005 marathon, we will be adding a line for a voluntary contribution on the annual dues statement to be mailed in December.

The Ouimet Fund awarded \$975,000 in scholarships last year. I'm sure many of us have had students working at our clubs who are scholarship recipients. My club presently has two.

Hope to see as many of you as possible at the Scholarship/Benevolence Tournament at Pine Brook in May and at as many meetings this year as possible.

Michael J. Hermanson
President, GCSANE

One more time: Trained CWS workers

(The following information was provided by Community Work Services.)

Community Work Services (CWS) provides highly trained and dedicated employees to local companies. We offer to train some of our best people to become dedicated grounds crew for your golf course. We can do this on an individual or group basis.

Our training program selects individuals willing to work diligently with dedication not seen in many employees. Work assignments may include grooming bunkers, filling divots, and general maintenance. Our organization has trained disabled individuals for over 127 years to ensure they are the best they can become.

We are targeting employees and golf courses in the metro-Boston area and others outside this area accessible by public transportation. Your members and players will be happy with the hard working, dedicated staff from CWS, as have many employers in the Boston area. In addition to helping someone into a good paying job, your organization could be eligible for significant tax credits. For information, please call Bill McCarriston at CWS (617-720-2233) or visit our website at www.cwsbos.org.



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Responding to Kirkman's 'state of the profession,' Ken Crimmings also makes a call for camaraderie

In response to the state of our industry and association, I would agree with Ron (Kirkman), "we need to redevelop our camaraderie, and continue to build our industry."

The profession has changed so much in regards to the demands on quality turf, documentation requirements, and management structure within our own staffs. The addition of the second assistant(s), or in some cases an additional first assistant, is now the norm at most facilities. We need more trained eyes on the golf course and more time in the office. Technological advances, cell phones, fax machines, e-mail, GPS, etc., should have helped to expedite the non-turf part of the job, but somewhere along the way more work was created.

As we are struggling more and more to make the monthly meetings, we all have

the ability to send an assistant, first or second, to the meetings. I remember, as an assistant, that attending the meetings was such an honor. Eating lunch or golfing

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with guys I had read about in local or national publications. Listening to the conversations jump from the old days, to current turf issues, to "how's the family?" I was thinking "when I become a superintendent I am going to every meeting, this must be the best part of the job."

Well, ten years later, I too, am finding it hard to make every meeting myself, but in the event I cannot attend I will send my assistant. Understanding that monthly meetings can and do conflict with club

tournament preparation, maintenance practices, committee meetings, afternoon soccer games, etc., I am still challenging everyone to send someone to each of this year's meetings. We all go to work the morning of the meeting and assess the day. If you feel you cannot pull yourself away from a problem, send one of your assistants.

Well that's long enough (Mike is always looking for filler). We can strengthen our camaraderie, networking, and mentoring, but only through active participation, superintendents and assistants, at GCSANE monthly meetings, in the Luccini Four-Ball, N.E. Turf Conference, etc.

Sincerely,
Ken Crimmings
Golf Course Superintendent
Marlborough Country Club

Letter to the Editor questions March Newsletter article

The following was received by e-mail:

Dear Mike Stachowicz,

I just finished reading the March Newsletter. As a former editor of *The Newsletter* from many years ago, I don't think we should be writing articles about Friends of the Association, unless you plan on writing free advertisements for the 70-plus Friends. The direction of *The Newsletter* should be to promote superintendents, not free articles on businesses. This is only my opinion.

Dean Robertson

Editors Response:

The above letter is the only letter received by *The Newsletter* concerning last month's article on TurfLinks, however there were some rumblings and a few phone calls. Let me state unequivocally that it was not my intent to provide a free advertisement for TurfLinks. I felt that a substantial donation by a company that is only three years old; that was started by former superintendents and assistants; and employs many GCSANE members was a worthwhile story. I wanted to help publicize this to help the fund raising associated with this project. In the process of writing the story, I did not end up making the Troll

Building as big a part of the article as I should have. The story ended up being more

TO THE EDITOR

about TurfLinks than was intended. For this I apologize.

To answer some vendor issues that have been forwarded to me:

There has been a precedent set over the years with lead stories about vendors

("A-OK's Stress Buster Weekend" from a few years ago comes to mind). Checking with the editor of the time, there was no fallout from that article. I am confused by this, why the current article has caused an uproar, and the stress buster weekend didn't?

The Newsletter still has a long-standing policy of accepting Friends of the Association profiles. Let me renew the invitation: Feel

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GCSANE awards Dave Barber lifetime membership

GCSANE President **Michael Hermanson** (right) presents **Dave Barber**, CGCS, (left) with a lifetime membership in the organization.



PEOPLE ^{vs.} THE PROS

Exclusive Opportunity

The Golf Course Managers Association of Cape Cod and The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England are in an elite group of only 10 other chapters throughout the US to participate in the People vs. The Pros event.

By participating in the joint meeting June 10, 2004 at Woods Hole Golf Club

superintendents will have the opportunity to qualify to play against either Jack Nicklaus or Sergio Garcia and possibly win \$100,000. BASF Turf and Ornamental will sponsor the event and make a donation to each of the participating chapters.

What Is It?

With the help of The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England and The Golf Course Managers Association of Cape Cod in partnership with BASF Turf and Ornamental we present the People vs. The Pros. The People vs. The Pros is a unique national golf competition that will ultimately allow two amateurs to go head-to-head with a famous pro on national television for a chance to win \$100,000.

Where Is it?

Pinehurst #2 in Pinehurst, NC Rated one of the top 10 courses in the world and is the site for the 2005 U.S. Open Championships.

How Does It Work? When Is The Tournament?

During the last week of June, 140 amateur golfers under the age of 50 and 140 amateur golfers 50 and over will play in a three-day, stroke-play competition that will yield one amateur champion in both Regular Division and Senior Division. On the fourth day the 2 qualifiers will play an 18 match against the Pros with \$100,000 going to the winner and \$50,000 to the loser of each division. The final tournament will be broadcast on ESPN July 2004. **ESPN**

How Do You Fit In?

One Superintendent (it could be you) from the June 10 meeting at Woods Hole Golf Club will win a trip for 2 which includes airfare, 5 days / 4 nights lodging and a rental car to The People vs. The Pros tournament. You will play in a 3 day stroke play qualifying tournament, with the winner going on to play in a 18 hole stroke play round with the Pro and a chance to win \$100,000. BASF Turf and Ornamental will also provide a BASF golf bag, apparel and golf balls for use in the tournament.



Where & When
The New England and Cape Cod Joint Meeting
June 10, 2004
Woods Hole Golf Club
Falmouth, MA 02541
Host: Tom Flaherty, CGCS
Make Your Plans Today To Play



BASF

Newly-formed 'grass roots' research movement aims for understanding of winter freeze injury

by Peter Hasak,
Research Committee,
Tedesco Country Club

On March 3, 2004, in conjunction with the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show in Providence, the initial "Winter Injury Research" meeting was held. Attended by a representative group of superintendents from throughout the Northeast, Jim Skorulski of the USGA Green Section and Dr. Scott Ebdon from UMASS, this meeting was called to attempt to determine what avenue's of research of winter injury could benefit superintendents throughout the region.

Many potential areas of study came forward, including fall fertilization and other practices to maximize cold temperature hardiness, quantifying carbohydrate reserves, greens covering systems and managing covers and ice layers through monitoring temperatures and gases. Throughout the group, it was widely accepted that much more research is needed in dealing with this very complex issue.

Jim Skorulski was pleased to announce that Julie Dionne of the Royal Canadian Golf Association will sit on the USGA's Research Committee. Julie has been involved with winter freeze injury research and should be helpful in promoting research in this area.

Although we are in the very preliminary stages, and no specific research topic was selected for study, it was agreed to pursue the following items:

- To begin monitoring susceptible greens by data-logging surface vs. air temperatures and forwarding samples every two weeks to Dr. John Roberts at the University of New Hampshire. This will be accomplished by having two cooperators per region. Dr. Roberts would like to set up a communication network of updates and/or damage reporting through a hotline or e-mail.
- Drs. Ebdon and Roberts to communicate and forward a set of parameters for a specific research project, after performing a thorough literature search of the topic to avoid duplication of research completed or being performed.

- Creation of a timetable of events associated to the furthering of this study. Formulating a game plan and forwarding it to the proper research funding sources for "seed money."

- To continue to meet as a group on an annual basis to review progress and future planning.

TURF SCIENCE

Although the term "Winter Freeze Injury" is encompassing of many factors and at times unavoidable due to the forces of nature, it was widely accepted at this meeting that more could certainly be done to give us all improved understanding of the issue. Please communicate your support of funding this research to your local association leaders! Formulating use of improved preemptive strategies and tools through research can benefit us all.

Although the term "Winter Freeze Injury" is encompassing of many factors and at times unavoidable due to the forces of nature, it was widely accepted at this meeting that more could certainly be done to give us all improved understanding of the issue.

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NERTF director reports on conference & show, and thanks all who made the event a success!

**By Gary Sykes,
Executive Director,
New England Regional
Turfgrass Foundation**

This year's Turfgrass Conference & Show was again a great success and the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation would like to thank all the attendees, exhibitors, volunteers, presenters, and sponsors for the dedicated support that you show toward making the turfgrass industry here in New England and in the Northeast as great as it is! Without a doubt it has not been the easiest past three years the industry has seen, with Mother Nature's harassment along with the economic challenges that have been felt industry-wide. The present theme of it all may be something like, "to do the most you can with what you have, and then do a little more!" We hope that by attending this year's conference and show

it would have helped you achieve benefits in at least this capacity.

This year we had great attendance at the three pre-conference seminars, two were half-day and one was full-day, on Monday, March 1. We hope you're already looking forward to next year's.

CONFERENCE NEWS

Tuesday's collaboration with USGA has created a new industry standard and opportunity for everyone. Good attendance and participation indicates that it is on the right track to bring together more people from both sides of the aisle. We hope you took advantage of that day with your club officials and committee chairman.

We had received many favorable comments concerning David Feherty's participation. He was our first real golfer and provided many lighthearted comments, observations, and appreciation

for the golf course superintendent and staff. Wednesday and Thursday were well attended and the trade show floor had a busy buzz to it each day.

Two special events also occurred on Wednesday in Providence. A breakfast was hosted by the University of Massachusetts for the Joseph Troll Turfgrass Research Facility Building Fund Campaign. It was announced that well over \$400,000 has already been raised toward the project's completion. This new multi-purpose structure will greatly benefit the UMass Turfgrass research, extension, and teaching efforts as well as the maintenance needs for the South Deerfield Facility. We all need to continue to support this effort to see its completion!

The other was hosted by the University of Rhode Island to acknowledge with appreciation the many years of dedicated service to the Turfgrass Industry that Dr. Noel Jackson has provided in New England. He was very impressed that over 200 would actually attend and pay for an event in his behalf! This marked the beginning of an endowment campaign in his name that will ensure that turfgrass diagnostics at the University of Rhode Island will continue to be available for many years to come! We thank everyone who is doing so much to support turf in New England!

Within David Feherty's book, *Somewhere in Ireland a Village is Missing an Idiot*, and in his address, I kept hearing, in a different sort of way, "What a great business the game of golf is." Other keynote speakers have stated similar messages, but none have ever projected as unique a perspective as David Feherty. He presented many interesting inside stories of his relationships, including opinions and learning experiences he has had as a TV announcer.

He shared with a few of us down on the show floor an interesting story concerning a caddie who scouts information at the Masters each year for CBS. He told us that this caddie had actually been scouting in the woods to the right of the 18th fairway. He explained that these scouts have to stay out of sight. The

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New England Golf Course Owners Association spreads the word on important DEP (water) issues

Editor's Note: The following alert is from Sue Curtin, Executive Director of the New England Golf Course Owners Association.

ATTENTION: All Massachusetts Golf Courses

It has come to our attention that the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection has targeted Massachusetts golf courses on two major issues:

Water management facts from the DEP

About Water Management:

- Became effective March 1986.
- The act authorizes Mass. DEP to regulate quantity of water withdrawn from surface and ground water supplies.
- Large water users had the ability to register based on existing withdrawals between the years 1981-85.
- Last day to register was Jan 4, 1988.

Permit Program after Jan. 4, 1988:

- Water consumers planning to withdraw over 100,000 gallons per day annually or 9 million gallons in any three consecutive month period.
- Existing golf courses irrigating 35 acres of turf or more, or new courses irrigating 23 acres of turf or more. (Unless you can prove to DEP that you are irrigating the above acreage but will remain under the gallonage thresholds listed above, they assume you will exceed those thresholds.)

For more information on WMA, log-on to: www.state.ma.us/dep; DEP general topic: Water Management Regulations and Guidance: Golf Course Water Use Policy, or contact Pat Rogers or Duane LeVangie.

(Thanks to Len Curtin for the above information.)

1. Public water supply (well water)
You must have a permit issued by the state for a public well water supply. Cost

REGULATORY NEWS

of such permit \$35,000, plus or minus, with a \$25,000 penalty.

2. Water withdrawal permit for irrigation (well water) of more than 9,000,000 gallons per calendar quarter. Cost of such permit \$75,000, plus or minus, with a \$25,000 penalty.

The concern is that the DEP is targeting golf facilities without providing a chance for proper response or opportunity to comply with the current regulations. If your facility has been approached by the DEP on either or both of these issues, please contact me at execdir@negcoa.org or 774-430-9030 immediately.

One of our members is currently facing fines in excess of \$50,000! Any information you have to share, please contact us

immediately. This could potentially set a bad precedent for all of us.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sue Curtin, Executive Director
New England Golf Course
Owners Association

A Newsletter Correction to Top 100 List in Mass.

Last month, while congratulating the bevy of Massachusetts superintendents who maintain Top 100 tracks, I inadvertently left out Pat Kriksceonaitis at Essex County Club.

The Essex County Club, a Donald Ross course, has been a mainstay of the Top 100 Classical courses for many years under Pat's direction. We regret the error.

Michael Stachowicz, Editor

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Gary Sykes reports on this year's Conference & Show

continued from page 6

Masters is unlike the many other tour events where many actually walk inside the ropes with the players. Not at Augusta! Anyway, Arnold Palmer was playing in his last official Masters a few years back, and he came up the right side of the 18th fairway where his tee shot had settled. This happened to be right close to where the caddie had positioned himself. Arnie surveyed and hit his second up to the green. The caddie had noticed that no one had replaced Arnie's divot, so when the crowd cleared, he ran out to repair it. As he put it back and was tamping it down, he

The game of golf is truly about making memories; we hope you made a few at this year's show too!

realized this was probably the last official divot taken by Arnold Palmer at the Masters! Recognizing the opportunity of the moment, he looked around and scooped back up the divot and put it in his breast pocket carefully. He took great care to get this unique souvenir all the way home to New York, where he prepared a spot in

his front yard and planted it! David swears that this is true and that that divot is thriving today in New York and will eventually take over this caddie's entire front yard! Talk about priceless!

The game of golf is truly about making memories; we hope you made a few at this year's show too!

Letter to the Editor questions article

continued from page 4

free to write a profile and send it in. I do not anticipate, after the reaction from last month's article, putting a vendor story on the front page in the near future, but we will find a place in our Newsletter. I actually feel there is no bad place for an article in our small newsletter, as it is one of the few publications read from cover-to-cover by most members.

If you are a Friend of the Association and you have done a public service or donated money to a turf industry cause, send a press release. If I am not present to witness something, I need a press

release to be informed. There is a lot of free publicity available if you want to take advantage of it.

In the end, I am encouraged by the debate that has ensued over this issue. I have learned more about myself and about being editor of *The Newsletter*. Going forward I will try to serve the readers of this newsletter in the best possible way, by reporting on current events from our monthly meetings, promoting superintendents, and relaying news from other groups in the turf and golf industry.

Michael Stachowicz
Editor, *The Newsletter*

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

MEMBERSHIP

New Members: Robert F. Reed III, Assistant, Cohasset G.C.; Bill Whittaker, Assistant, Cohasset G.C.; Jason Kennedy, Superintendent, Butter Brook G.C.; Ryan Chase, Assistant, Myopia Hunt Club; Eric Richardson, Assistant, Myopia Hunt Club; and Thomas Rioux, Assistant, Olde Scotland Links.

Proposed for Membership: Brian Grant, Assistant, The Meadow at Peabody; Jason W. Hamilton, Student, UMASS-Amherst; and Jennifer McDonald, Affiliate, S.B.I. Turf Services.

INFORMATION

Jim Conant of the Country Club of Pittsfield and **Bob Ruszala** have been appointed as the GCSANE representatives to the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation board of directors.

Once again we are in need of gift certificates for rounds of golf, with carts if possible, for a foursome(4) for the silent raffle at Pine Brook on May 17. Proceeds to go to the GCSANE Scholar-

ship & Benevolence Fund. Please mail letters or certificates to Dave Comee, 65 Marquette Street, Gardner, MA 01440.

E-Z Go will donate a utility vehicle for the host superintendent of a monthly GCSANE meeting. The first recipient, Pat Daly of Framingham Country Club, who hosted the March meeting, has donated the use of the vehicle to the MGA Links course in Norton. Dave Antunes will be delivering the vehicle to superintendent Tom McManamin for use of the vehicle until April's meeting.

The Mass. Pesticide Bureau is late with usage reports again this year. Anyone looking to get it done before the season starts should go to the pesticide bureau's website located at: <http://www.state.ma.us/dfa/pesticides/>. Reports are due by April 30.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Tournament Players Club of Boston in Norton, Mass., where Tom Brodeur is superintendent, was recognized as the best new private clubhouse in the U.S. by *Crittenden Golf* magazine.

Anyone at the winter meeting there last year knows why. The only thing that confuses us here at *The Newsletter* is why the maintenance facility wasn't included in the award.

Dr. Noel Jackson has been given an honorary membership in the GCSANE.

Condolences go out to Alan Vadala and family on the recent passing of Alan's mother.

Condolences go out to Steve Donohue and family on the recent passing of Steve's father.

We wish a speedy recovery to Lennie Blodgett on his recent hernia operation.

Congratulations to Steve Gregg on his new superintendent's position at Scituate Country Club in Scituate, Mass.

Congratulations to Michael Parks on his new position as superintendent at the Milton-Hoosic Club.

Our condolences go to the family of Jack Leman, who was the athletic director at the University of Massachusetts, Stockbridge.

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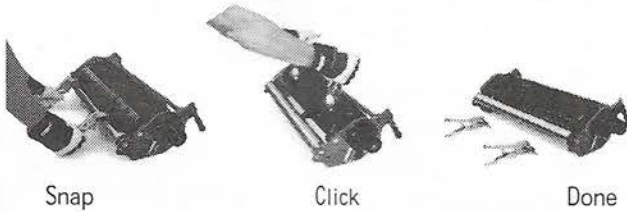
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