



THE NEWSLETTER

February 2005

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.

Generous nature trumps tough exterior, leading to Distinguished Service Award for Donald Marrone

**By Bill Doyle,
Worcester Telegram & Gazette**

**MONTHLY
FEATURE** Matthew Marrone once asked his father Donald why they didn't hire someone to redesign the bunkers, build new tees, remodel the clubhouse and do all the major renovation work at their beloved Wachusett Country Club instead of doing it themselves.

"Because half the fun is doing it yourself," Marrone replied. "It's like restoring an old car."

Unlike some who restore vintage automobiles, Donald Marrone, CGCS, wouldn't consider selling his prized possession. Wachusett C.C., a Donald Ross design that opened in 1927 in West Boylston, Mass., has been in the family since Marrone's grandfather, Joseph, bought it out of bankruptcy in 1938. Ownership passed down to Marrone's father, Donald Sr., and Marrone's two uncles, Edward and Richard, then to himself in 1990 upon his father's death.

With no formal turf management education, Marrone served as Wachusett's superintendent for a quarter century until Matthew, a graduate of Michigan State's turf management school, took over a decade ago.

"He could grow grass on a parking lot if he wanted to," Matthew said.

"I have a love for being a superintendent," Marrone said. "I understand what the superintendent goes through."

Marrone, 54, was never afraid to call fellow superintendents for advice and

worked into the night to get the job done right.

"I've tried to make it my own little Augusta National," he said.

Donald Sr., an ex-Marine, could act like a drill sergeant if you crossed him.

"My father had a reputation of being real tough," Marrone said. "Sometimes, I do, too. People say that I'm tough to work for, but I pay people real good money and I expect a lot out of them. My father would always ask people nicely to stop if they were doing something wrong, like driving their cart in the woods, but if he caught you again two holes later, he was not nice. I saw him handle people here and it was unbelievable. I'm not as tough as he was, but there are some days you can't hold yourself back."

"My father had a reputation of being real tough. Sometimes I do, too. People say that I'm tough to work for, but I pay people real good money and I expect a lot out of them."

**Donald Marrone
Wachusett C.C.**

The Marrones treat Wachusett as if it were their own backyard because it actually is. Marrone lives with his wife, Pam, in the house where his father used to reside, near the club's maintenance building. Matthew built a home near the club's driving range and rides a cart home for lunch. Marrone's two other sons, Michael, who assists on the grounds and in construction, and Nick, the director of golf, live in the former greenskeeper home just off the fourth green. Marrone's daughter, Cara Cullen, lives in Worcester, but she serves as clubhouse manager.

Having a father for a boss does help Matthew's job security – he survived even though some of Wachusett's greens didn't last spring – but it can be demanding as well.

"He's that much more critical," said Matthew, "because he knows when the turf is looking good and when it's not. But all in all, it's definitely a benefit."

Marrone, like his father before him, has his soft side as well.

"He's got a big heart, probably too big sometimes," Matthew said.

If a friend of the family dies, Marrone may offer the clubhouse's banquet hall at no charge for the post-funeral get-together. If a loyal member is short of money, he may tell him to pay his dues when he can. The Marrones help irrigate the town's athletic fields and sod the police station's lawn. Marrone helped start a fund-raising organization to benefit the town parks and elderly.

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PRESIDENT

Michael J. Hermanson
140 Ryan Street, Gardner, MA 01440-0145
978-832-2713 Fax 978-832-2713
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, CGCS
41 Clifford Street, Melrose, MA 02176-0140
617-883-2786 Fax 617-883-2786
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

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

TRUSTEE

Jason S. Adams
27 Cherry Street, Wrentham, MA 02093
781-326-3801 Fax 781-326-3801
E-mail: Jayadams35@hotmail.com
Norfolk Golf Club

TRUSTEE

David A. Comes
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
617-484-5440 Fax 617-484-6613
E-mail: Asilva@belmontcc.org
Belmont Country Club

GOLF CHAIRMAN

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

EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

David Stowe, CGCS
30 Western Avenue, Natick, MA 01760
617-789-4631 Fax 617-789-4631
E-mail: Newtonmaint@aol.com
Newton Commonwealth Golf Club

NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN

Michael W. Stachowicz
68 Westfield Road, Westwood, MA 02090
781-326-7860 Fax 781-326-0664
E-mail: Mstach@dedhamcc.org
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: JFitzroy@presidentsgc.com
Presidents Golf Club

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sharon K. Brownell
P.O. Box 566, Mattapoisett, MA 02739-0566
508-758-6474 Fax 508-758-3688
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
Business Manager Julie Heston
(401-934-3677; E-mail: jheston@verizon.net)

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"You always get back more from doing good, but I don't like people knowing about it."

**Donald Marrone
Wachusett C.C.**

continued from page 1

"You always get back more from doing good," Marrone said, "but I don't like people knowing about it."

Marrone also helped the Golf Course Superintendent Association of New England's Scholarship & Benevolence Fund get off the ground by offering his course at next to nothing for the first two years of the fund's benefit tournament. The association has an open invitation to return whenever in need of a site. The fund has awarded more than \$75,000 over the past decade in scholarships and aid to families of superintendents in need.

Part of Marrone enjoys protecting his tough image, but he grudgingly traveled with his family to Thorny Lea in Brockton on Jan. 25 to accept the GCSANE's Distinguished Service Award. He's the 10th recipient.

"He was more responsible than any other single individual," GCSANE president Michael J. Hermanson said, "to get our scholarship and benevolence account up to where it is today, which is well in excess of \$100,000."

"He's not the type of member who comes to a lot of meetings," Hermanson said. "He prefers to work behind the scenes. Those people are just as important as the ones who show up at every meeting. You need people like Don Marrone for the association to flourish."

Last year, Marrone erected a plaque near the fourth tee in honor of Vin O'Bey, his former confidante and Wachusett's longtime head pro. O'Bey came to Wachusett just before the start of World War II and didn't leave until he died in November of 2003 at age 90.

"It's lonely without him," Marrone said. "I experienced that when my father passed away. I'd always be in here with my dad discussing things about what we

were going to do for the year or with the members. Then I'd discuss things with Vin."

When Marrone's father was dying, he urged his son to sell the golf course because he had put enough time into it. Marrone couldn't do it.

"Maybe I should have," Marrone said, "but what would I have done with myself? I love to work with the ground."

Marrone doesn't want a plaque to be erected in his honor.

"I've always told my wife," Marrone said, "that when I'm gone to sprinkle my ashes over my worst green." ■

CALENDAR . . .

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| March 2 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Framingham Country Club
Framingham, Mass.
Supt. - Patrick Daly, CGCS |
| April 25 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Segregansett Country Club
Taunton, Mass.
Supt. - Richard Gagnon |
| May 23 | Superintendent/Club Official
Worcester Country Club
Worcester, Mass.
Supt. - Steve Thys |
| June 16 | Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament
The Country Club
Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Supt. - William Spence |
| July 11 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting Team-of-Two Championship
Gardner Municipal Golf Course
Gardner, Mass.
Supt. - Michael Hermanson |
| August 23 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting Individual Championship
Marlborough Country Club
(permanent yearly site)
Marlborough, Mass.
Supt. - Kenneth Crimmings, CGCS |
| Sept. 19 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting Joint Meeting with Golf Course Managers of Association of Cape Cod
Eastward Ho! Country Club
Chatham, Mass.
Supt. Emeritus - Brian Cowan
Supt. - Frank Hancock |
| October 6 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting Join Meeting with the Northeastern GCSA
Berkshire Hills Country Club
Pittsfield, Mass.
Supt. - Stephen Curry |
| Nov. 1 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting 9-Hole Meeting
Wampatuck Country Club
Canton, Mass.
Supt. - Edward Eardley |

Questions arise about GCSANE member categories & voting delegates – and our President has answers

It was nice to see the 130 of you at our Annual Meeting at Thorny Lea. Thanks to Joe Rybka, CGCS, for doing such a great job in hosting this event. Everyone who attended should be commended for



having to fight all of the traffic problems that morning. What should have been an hour-and-forty-five-minute ride for me took me three hours and forty-five minutes. Thanks to Russell Heller for doing such a great job in running the Board meeting while Pat K. and I sat in traffic.

I would like to answer a couple of questions that were asked after the Annual Meeting. If we have 231 voting members, why am I, as the GCSANE Delegate, only casting 163 votes in Orlando? The answer is quite simple. There are 54 joint members who vote with other chapters, and 14 who vote as individuals.

The second question asked is what is the difference between a retired member and a life member? A retired member was a member for less than 25 years. A life member is retired, but was a member for 25 or more years.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to welcome the newly-elected David Stowe, CGCS, to the

A retired member was a member for less than 25 years. A life member is retired, but was a member for 25 or more years.

GCSANE Board of Directors in his capacity as Educational Chairman.

I would like to congratulate Donald Marrone, Jr., CGCS, the recipient of the GCSANE Distinguished Service Award.

By the time you read this, we all should be back from Orlando, and I'm confident that GCSANE Past President Jim Fitzroy, CGCS, will have been elected as a Director of GCSAA. More on that next month.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the passing of a true legend in this business, Ken Turner. Many years ago Ken and Bob Flanagan founded Turf Specialty. For those of us who knew Ken, he will be missed.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference this March in Rhode Island.

**Best wishes,
Michael J. Hermanson
GCSANE President**

Vice President Pat Kriksceonaitis enumerates the duties of his office

As Vice President of GCSANE, I serve as representative to the NERTF by chairing the research committee, where I introduce various research topics to the board and GCSANE membership.

I also serve as chairman for the Ouimet Committee. I get involved with GCSAA by acting as the alternative Chapter Delegate. I also become the liaison between any special projects and the members of the association. I serve as the contact to inform our members of

the special projects and keep them updated with progress reports. An example of this is the current project headed by Peter Hasak on Winter Injury.

Besides working on these various committees, I also learn and help the president with any other issues that arise, and start to prepare for my next role as president.

**Patrick Kriksceonaitis
GCSANE Vice President**

I serve as the contact to inform our members of the special projects and keep them updated with progress reports. An example of this is the current project headed by Peter Hasak on Winter Injury.

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Golf courses wrestle with sledding policies

By Emily Sweeney
& Douglas Belkin,
The Boston Globe, 1/6/05

On Monday afternoon, Abington police raced to the Strawberry Valley Golf Course after receiving a call that two girls had possibly fallen into a frozen pond on the property.

The search was called off at 5:30 p.m., when the girls were found to be home, safe and sound. They had spent the day sledding at the town's public golf course, which had been turned into a wintry playground by the season's first major snowstorm.

Though it was a false alarm and no one was hurt, the incident highlights a challenge facing golf course operators today: Should they allow the winter pastime on their slopes?

Two years ago, Plymouth C.C. banned sledders, skiers, and deer hunters from its 161 acres in order to prevent lawsuits and damage to the course, said Allen R. Tassinari, who serves on the greens committee for the private club.

"We don't allow sledding. We have in the past, but there was considerable damage done to the greens," said Tassinari. "And it's a case of liability. We have some very steep hills. We want to be good neighbors, but we're just trying to protect ourselves."

It's the same worry elsewhere. North of Boston, Merrimack G.C. in Methuen and the North Andover C.C. also prohibit sledding.

"It's a shame. We don't want to do it, but the insurance rates have gotten too high," said George Kattar, who bought the Merrimack G.C. with his brothers 30 years ago but planted a "No Trespassing" sign on the course for the first time last month. "It's not like we want to be Scrooge, but we have to do this."

Not all courses have adopted the strict stance. Parents can still tote their youngsters to the slopes at the Scituate C.C., and sledders continue to be welcome at the town-owned South Shore C.C. in Hingham, and Presidents G.C. in Quincy.

"We don't ban sledding at all," said Carl Miner, assistant superintendent at Presidents, whose notoriously hilly fairways flummox golfers but are always good for a slide in winter.

"It's always been a popular spot," Miner said. "It's a fun time everyone really enjoys the hills out here. If there's enough snow covering them, it doesn't affect anything. There's really no long-range effect [on the greens], as far as I've seen."

The activity is more "a liability issue that affects everyone," said Michael Stachowicz, a board member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England and the director of greens and grounds at the Dedham Country and Polo Club, where sledding is only allowed on certain parts of the course.

"We try to put up a snow fence to keep them off areas where we don't want them and make it accessible to members only," said Stachowicz. "If you can't control where they're sliding, it can lead up to ice buildup, and those greens will take longer to get into play in the spring. The

snowboarders like to go and use bunkers as well, and that can lead to damaging the integrity of them."

Sledding bans on public and private courses alike are being an issue as development in Greater Boston has seeped into nearly every available nook and cranny, stealing many of the out-of-the-way hills children enjoyed freely a generation ago. For hills that are still open, insurance premiums jumped "anywhere from 30 to 100 percent since 9/11," said Richard Look, spokesman for Venture Insurance in Pennsylvania, which covers more than 1,000 golf courses across the country.

At the same time, after a boom in the 1990s, the golf industry has begun to slump. While the number of U.S. golf facilities has increased three percent from 2000, the number of rounds played decreased 5 percent, according to the National Golf Foundation.

The resulting decrease in revenue and increase in expenses has left course managers scrambling to cut costs. Since sledding doesn't add to the bottom line but exposes golf courses to significant risk, many courses are posting bigger and bolder "No Trespassing" signs and policing the rules more seriously in the hopes the reduced exposure will lower premiums.

The number of accidents each year depends on the amount of snow, according to Mark Ross, a spokesman for the US Consumer Product Safety Commission. Last year there were 30,300 sledding-related accidents treated in emergency rooms across the country. In 2000 that number was 38,500, and in 2002 it was 25,000, according to the commission.

But as people have become quicker to sue, the fear of lawsuits and the expense of defending against them has jumped markedly, said several lawyers and insurers who specialize in golf course coverage and litigation.

Litigation costs for insurance companies soared in the last 12 years from \$130 billion in 1990 to \$233 billion in 2002, according to the Insurance Institute of America, based in New York. A single exorbitant jury award can echo across an industry, said Michael Kraker, a Minnesota lawyer who specializes in golf course litigation.

More GCSANE sledding advice:

Wayne Zoppo of Agawam

Hunt: "We put out signs around our ponds stating 'Beware of Pond.' This was in response to a cross-country skier a few years back who had skied onto a snow-covered pond and fell through the thin ice. It is a distinct possibility that he did not know he was even on a pond."

Pat Daly of Framingham C.C.:

"I drop the level of my ponds before winter..."

Roger Brink of Indian Ridge

C.C.: "Our golf course is landlocked by surrounding private property owners. We send letters out annually to the abutters advising them that IRCC does not allow sledding. This paper trail, I feel, gives us a legal defense."

Pat Kriksceonaitis of The Essex

County Club: "The club reviews its liability insurance on an annual basis with the club's legal team. Then we post signs that indicate where ponds are located and 'Sledding at your own risk.'" Additionally, Pat added, open holes from drainage, irrigation, etc. would be considered negligence.

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Player #1, Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: Day _____ Home _____
USGA HCP INDEX: _____ GHIN# _____ **

Player #2, Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone: Day _____ Home _____
 USGA HCP INDEX: _____ GHIN# _____ **

- (Official use only) Date _____ Check # _____ TEAM # _____

Gary Luccini 4-Ball Championship Committee report praises competition, but seeks more participation

Congratulations to Paul Miller, CGCS, and Scott Mackintosh, winners of the fourth annual Gary Luccini Memorial Four-Ball Championship. Paul and Scott secured their title over the team of Joe Lazaro and Mark Gagne by a 6-and-5 victory at Pleasant Valley last September.

Last year's tournament played out with the smallest field in the four-year history of the Four-Ball Championship. The nine-team field required a pigtail match to qualify for the eight-team first round.

The pigtail match, played at Woods Hole during the June meeting, resulted in a 3-and-1 victory by Paul Miller and Scott Mackintosh over the team of Dave Comee and Mike Hermanson.

The four first round matches played in July were tight contests. Match #1 paired Miller and Mackintosh against Ron Milinski and Kevin White, and Miller and Mackintosh continued their run to the championship by winning 2-and-1

As noted at the annual meeting, unless the committee receives entries from a minimum 16 teams for 2005, the championship lapses.

at The Oaks. Match #2, paired the 2001 championship team of Ken Crimmings, CGCS, and Bob Cullen against Jim Fitzroy, CGCS, and Larry Anshewitz, contested at The Oaks, with Crimmings and Cullen winning 2-up. Match #3 paired the 2003 championship team of Pat Hogan and Scott McLeod versus Mike Turner and Joe Felicetti, CGCS. The match, played at Pinehills, resulted in a 1-up decision for the defending

champions Hogan and McLeod. Match #4 paired the team of Joe Lazaro and Mark Gagne against Robin Hayes and Bob Healey. Played at Belmont, the match was all square after seventeen, with Lazaro and Gagne winning 1-up on the last hole.

In semi-final match #1, Miller and Mackintosh continued their drive to the championship, defeating the 2001 champions Crimmings and Cullen at Worcester 5-and-4. The second semi-final match played saw a championship team go down to defeat when Lazaro and Gagne defeated the defending champions Hogan and McLeod, 4-and-3 at Nashawtuc.

The match for third place resulted in a forfeit win for the team of Lazaro and Gagne.

The Gary Luccini Memorial Four-Ball Championship, started under a double elimination format, began with 18 teams in 2001, moved up to 24 teams in 2002, however dropped to 16 teams in 2003, with many forfeits.

The Four-Ball Championship Committee, responding to the difficulty of completing consolation round matches within the prescribed two week window, altered the format to a single elimination for the 2004 championship. The result is a field of nine teams. The Committee questions the association's desire to continue the championship.

As noted at the annual meeting, unless the committee receives entries from a minimum 16 teams for 2005, the championship lapses.

Under the single elimination format with 16 teams, a team plays one match a month on their march to the championship.

Look for the 2005 Gary Luccini Memorial Four-Ball Championship entry form in this issue of *The Newsletter*.

**The Gary Luccini
Memorial 4-Ball
Championship
Committee:**

**Dave Comee
Mike Hermanson
Bob Healey**

An appreciation of the late Tony Caranci from Wayne Zoppo: 'My Friend, Tony C'

by Wayne Zoppo, CGCS

I first met Tony on a January afternoon in 1967. I had heard of the "Godfather," and since I had just started as a superintendent at Agawam Hunt, I decided to go meet him. From that day forward, we started a 38-year friendship.

Tony was always there to help any superintendent, whether it was to help with a job interview or to come to your golf course to help with a problem. He started the Tony Caranci salary survey. He was a friend to all superintendents.

Tony spoke proudly of his wife, Millie, and his daughters, Patty and Maria. Patty attended Bay View Academy and then became a court stenographer. Maria excelled at Judo and is now a sheriff at the state house. Tony enjoyed traveling with Millie to Maine, the Cape, Florida, and Acapulco. He was always on the go.

Personally we have shared so many good times together.

To list a few:

- Playing golf together at the New England and Rhode Island association meetings.
- Our trips to the Cape.
- Our first trip to the National was to Houston – he sure did love oysters.
- Our telephone calls just to see how each other were doing.
- Out to dinner with Tony and Millie; Christmas Eve at Tony and Millie's for the traditional Italian dinner.
- Golf at Ledge-mont or Agawam on Friday afternoons.
- Our trips to New York for the USGA meetings.

Tony, you left us much too early. Thank you for your friendship. I will miss you.

Wayne

Winter sledding policy

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"It can have a huge effect across the board," Kraker said.

One such award came down in April when a jury ordered the town of Greenwich, Conn., to pay more than \$6 million to a urological surgeon whose sled slammed into a drainage ditch near its civic center. The victim was hospitalized for 12 days and missed five months of work. In the lawsuit, he said the town had failed to inspect and maintain the uncovered drainage ditch, and failed to warn residents of the danger.

Greenwich First Selectman Jim Lash said the town's insurance increased 25 percent and their deductible doubled from \$500,000 to \$1 million.

In Abington, fears that someone fell through the ice at Strawberry Valley G. C. last Monday proved unfounded. Local police have responded to the course in the past only for minor injuries, said Deputy Police Chief Christopher Cutter.

But sledding is "nothing we promote, or enforce," he said. "During the snow season when there's snow on the hill, especially at peak times, on the weekend and on school vacations, we generally respond to a few calls for minor bumps

and scrapes – kids crashing into each other and things like that."

For now, sledding continues at the nine-hole municipal golf course, as it has for years.

Said Cutter: "That's the hill where I went."

GCSAA Elects new officers & board for 2005

The voting members of GCSAA elected a slate of officers and directors at the 2005 GCSAA Annual Meeting, Friday, February 11, 2005.

The new president is Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS, of the Country Club of Darien, Conn. The new vice president is Sean A. Hoolehan, CGCS, of Wildhorse Resort G.C., Pendleton, Ore. Ricky D. Heine, CGCS, general manager at The Golf Club Star Ranch, Austin, Texas, was elected secretary/treasurer.

The three directors elected are: James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, director/superinten-

dent at the Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents G.C., N. Quincy, Mass.; Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, director of grounds at Baltusrol G.C., Springfield, N.J.; and Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, director of golf course and grounds at Boca Rio G.C., Boca Raton, Fla.

Jon D. Maddern, CGCS, immediate past president, and Robert J. Maibusch, CGCS, MG, director, are both retiring from the board. Mark J. Woodward, CGCS, will serve on the board for one year as immediate past president. Gary K. Carls, CGCS, and David S. Downing, CGCS, each have one year remaining on their two-year terms.

**GCSAA
NEWS**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Don Marrone, CGCS, for receiving GCSANE's Distinguished Service Award at the Annual Meeting.

Ron Kirkman was one of the six superintendents featured in the cover story in the February 2005 issue of *Golfdom*.

Golfdom Insider, January 20, 2005 also recently featured an article about the Winterkill Research Group spearheaded by Peter Hasak.

GCSANE wishes Len Curtin the best of luck as he steps down from the GCSANE Board of Directors. The pressures of a new job don't mix well with the extra pressures of serving on the board. Pat Daly will take his place as Trustee.

Welcome to David Stowe, voted to GCSANE Board. He will serve as Education Chairman.

Congratulations to Thomas Brodeur, superintendent at TPC of Boston, Norton, Mass. for being one of the 10 chapter winners awarded the GCSAA/Golf Digest 2004 Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards. He was recognized at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando on February 11. In addition, program sponsors will donate funds to The Environmental Institute for Golf in the names of all national and chapter winners.

Our condolences go to Mike and Joanne Cornicelli on the recent passing of Joanne's sister.

Condolences go out to Matt Crowther and family on the passing of Matt's mother-in-law.

Our condolences go to Bob and Allison Ranum, whose son Christopher, 21, was killed in a car accident January 17. Bob Ranum is the superintendent at the Atlantic G.C. in Bridgehampton, N.Y.

Condolences go to the family of Ken Turner, one of the original owners of the old Turf Specialty. He is an icon that will be missed.

Congratulations to Tom Harrington on his move to Marshfield Country Club.

Congratulations to Jim Fitzroy, CGCS, on his recent election as a director for the GCSAA.

Congratulations to the following members who recently completed the process to become certified golf course superintendents (CGCS) as designated by the GCSAA. They are Kenneth Crimmings of Marlborough C.C., Russell Heller of Franklin Park G.C., and David Stowe of Newton Commonwealth G.C.

GCSANE NEWS

There is a \$250 stipend for an article from a GCSANE member. The article doesn't have to be perfect – we will pretty it up if we have to. It is a great way for members make some money while beefing up their portfolio. A length of 600-700 words is all we ask, a mere two pages on MSWord in 12-point type, single-spaced.

The Newsletter would like to invite all affiliates to submit a press release about new hires or a company bio. We will print on a first-come, first-served basis.

Reminder. All retired members attend winter meetings for free. So there is such a thing as a free lunch.

Under the category "Someone Out There Must Care About This," we received a letter from the IRS stating that a portion of our membership dues is not tax deductible because it relates to our organization's lobbying and political expenditures, per IRC section 6033(e).

The 2005 GCSANE Bylaw changes passed without discussion.

INFORMATION

Turf & Surf Sweepstakes: Heritage-TL. To celebrate its new liquid formulation of Heritage, Syngenta Professional Products offers superintendents the chance to win a Caribbean trip for two in the "Turf & Surf Sweepstakes." The winner receives a five-day, expenses-paid trip to the Sandals resort in the Bahamas. In addition to the grand prize, 25 superintendents will win a GCSAA self-study course, and 50 superintendents will win a GCSAA online course. To enter, visit www.heritageTL.com. The promotion ends May 1, with winners announced June 1. Entries limited to one per month.

Please Patronize these FRIENDS of the ASSOCIATION

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Superintendents off to the races to prepare for fast-paced season

On January 11 several superintendents and affiliates suited up and raced at F1 Boston in Braintree, Mass. **Kevin Osgood** won the overall title, with second place to **Jeff Stouffer**, and third to **Mike Luccini**. Last place went to **Joe Rybka** with a stellar top speed of 23 mph (Osgood's top speed was 38 mph.). **Pat Daly** is looking into holding another race in early spring prior to our schedules getting busy at the outdoor track. Check it out at www.f1outdoor.com. There was discussion by some of our more portly members of adding weights to "even" the field. That will be a race-time decision.



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