



THE NEWSLETTER

December 2007

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.

Misiaszek Living out a Life-Long Passion at Cohasset Golf Club

By Gary Trask

He's been showing up to a golf course as a way to make a living for 20 years now. And while his responsibilities have increased dramatically, Glen Misiaszek is just as happy now in his role as head superintendent at one of the oldest private clubs in New England, as he was back when he was a teenager scrubbing clubs in the bag room of the local club as a way to earn some extra coin.

"I just love being at the course, it doesn't really matter what the task at hand may be on that particular day," says Misiaszek, who just finished up his fourth season at the esteemed Cohasset Golf Club in Cohasset, Mass. "I feel fortunate to be able to do something that I love every day. I know there are a lot of people out there that can't say that."

Not only does the 34-year-old Southbridge, Mass. native work in a field that he is passionate about, but he gets to do so in a setting that is ideal for his personality and keen sense of golf history. Cohasset GC is a classic Donald Ross design that opened in 1894. It's located on Boston's South Shore, less than a mile from the Atlantic Ocean and has a membership that embraces Misiaszek's ideas on how to operate a championship golf course.

"It really is the perfect place for me and my family," says Misiaszek, who

jumped at the chance to come to Cohasset GC after spending six years at Shaker Hills Golf Club in Harvard, Mass. "My wife (Tessa) is from Sandwich, which is on the water, and while I was at Shaker Hills she missed living close to the ocean. On top of that, the chance to be at a place like Cohasset that has so much history and prestige really made it a great fit."

During his short time at Cohasset GC, Misiaszek and his crew have

want to do is come in and ruin the integrity of what was already here. We're real cautious about everything that we do, but at the same time we push the golf course to be the best it can possibly be."

The membership made an important move toward allowing Misiaszek to achieve that goal when it green-lighted the construction of a new maintenance facility back in 2004. The 6,500-foot structure houses the crew's offices and

locker rooms and features an equipment technician area as well as an additional 3,000 square feet of cold storage. It's a far cry from the previous maintenance building, which was "a little metal house," according to Misiaszek.

"It's a perfect example of the kind of commitment the membership has made to making the golf course the best it can be," says Misiaszek, who credited Cohasset GC member Tony Messina for his expertise during the construction of the facility. "It takes a lot to build something like this but the membership funded it and got it done. Even though they don't get a direct return on it, they still made it a priority. It's an awesome place to come to work everyday."

Misiaszek says that there are



The 1st Tee at Cohasset Golf Club

made a tangible impact. There has been an extensive amount of tree removal and some adjustments to the contours of the greens, some of which have also been expanded. He is also currently going through the somewhat hectic process of acquiring the proper permits to resolve the flooding problems that have plagued three fairways on a regular basis.

"The goal since I've been here is to make sure we keep the course looking like a traditional Ross design," he says. "This course was here for a lot of years before I came along and the last thing I

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Misiaszek - continued from page 1

times when he sits in his new office and thinks back to his days at Cohasse Country Club in Southbridge, Mass. That's where the idea to make golf his profession was embedded in him. He worked in the pro shop and the bag room cleaning clubs at the age of 14 and then began laboring on the grounds crew under Dan Higgins when he turned 16.

"I loved everything about it," he remembers. "Growing up I hung out a lot with my grandfather (Schaff Elias) and he was a 'jack-of-all-trades' type of guy and taught me how to use my hands. The golf industry gave me a chance to be outside, work with equipment and deal with people on a daily basis. It had all of the things that I love to do."

After graduating from Southbridge High, where he was a member of the golf team, Misiaszek went off to the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and secured an internship at Quaker Ridge Golf Club in Scarsdale, N.Y. It was there where he got his first taste of getting a course ready for "big time" events.

"It was a tremendous experience," says Misiaszek, who eventually became an assistant super at Quaker Ridge, where he was able to oversee the preparations for the 1997 Walker Cup while also volunteering with the crews at nearby Winged Foot Golf Club for the PGA Championship, also in '97. "I stayed in New York a few years longer than I had planned, but the stuff I learned being around those types of events was experience I couldn't have received anywhere else." Misiaszek began his trek east toward the ocean when he accepted the assistant's job at Shaker Hills in November of 1997. One year later he was named head super and then the opportunity at Cohasset GC found him in 2003. Misiaszek has put his extensive experience at all of his former clubs to good use at Cohasset GC.

"I'd like to think that we have the course in 'tournament-like' conditions every day," says Misiaszek, who mentioned that maintaining his staff of 24 people during the season is one of his biggest challenges and credits the work of his assistant, Bill Whittaker, in helping him do that. "That way when we do have a tournament or a special event, there's really not a lot of extra work that needs to be done. We had

the Mid-Amateur here this year and that week was no different than any other week because we already had the course in the best possible shape. That's what makes the job fun."

"Fun" is something that most superintendents don't have a lot of time for during the season. And Misiaszek is no different. But his philosophy toward the job – and the grueling hours that come with it – has changed over the years, particularly since he became a father to his two sons (Braden, 3, and Max, 1).

"I've done the 100-hour work week thing and it's just not for me anymore," says Misiaszek, who carries a 13-handicap and plays about 20 rounds a year, but also has a number of other interests including wood working, brewing his own beer and riding his Triumph motorcycle. "Believe me, we work hard when we're here and sometimes there just aren't enough hours in the day to get everything done. But for my crew, I don't want them coming in at the beginning of the day thinking they've got to put in 14 hours. We've got 24 guys on the crew and if things are planned correctly there's no reason that on most days we can't come in, work our eight hours and then get home to our families."

"I'm a firm believer in that. I think it makes everyone on the crew have a better outlook on things and then nobody gets burned out by the time August rolls around. It's something that has worked for us so far, and that's how I plan to keep doing things."

CALENDAR

Jan. 8 2008	GCSANE Annual Meeting Andover Country Club Andover, MA Host: Wayne LaCroix, CGCS
Jan. 19 2008	GCSANE Holiday Party The Four Points by Sheraton Norwood Norwood, MA
Jan. 28 - Feb. 2 2008	Golf Industry Show Orlando, Florida
Mar. 3-6 2008	New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show RI Convention Center Providence, RI

Breaking the Ice: What Facility Managers Need to Know About Ice Melters

By James Brower

The noise surrounding the sale of ice melters seems to have reached an all-time high with more brands than ever before on the market. Complicating matters, they all claim "safe on vegetation," "less tracking," or "low-temperature effectiveness" if used as directed. Most newer brands are actually only blends involving one of the more common deicers.

When you understand how ice melters work, a lot of the mystery of what they are unfolds. Granular ice melters work by dissolving in the ice/snow, forming a brine. The salt-brine solution has a freezing point lower than water. This brine solution will penetrate/melt to the surface to break the bond between the surface and the ice layer, making for easier ice/snow removal.

Basically, five products go into ice-melter production:

1. Sodium Chloride
2. Potassium Chloride
3. Calcium Chloride
4. Magnesium Chloride
5. Urea

Ice-melt products are either straight products listed above or a combination of several of these. This combination can be in either a granular form or a liquid form. Typically, you see a liquid calcium or magnesium chloride sprayed onto a pellet of sodium chloride or onto potassium chloride. The liquid calcium or magnesium will quickly form a brine by pulling moisture from the atmosphere, causing a faster melting action. We call products that pull water from the atmosphere "hygroscopic." Remember that all ice-melt products have to form a brine in order to start the melting process.

WHICH ICE MELTER IS THE BEST?

Real confusion usually sets in when trying to determine what ice melters to use. I like to use the following criteria to help people determine

what product to use. Ask yourself, what desirable characteristics are most important to you? Consider:

- Product availability
- Desired melting temperature
- Quick or slow melting speed
- Product longevity on the ground
- Application ease
- Environmental friendliness
- Cost effectiveness

To elaborate a bit on the above: The product of choice should be readily and locally available. When you're out and need to replace it, Mother Nature is not going to wait. Also consider that for most people, storage space is at a premium. Consider the melting temperature of the product; it is important because if it is 5° below zero and your ice melter is not working, YOU are. Melting speed is important because the faster the product works, the faster you can clean the snow up. However, some slower-melting products will stick around and give you grit or traction. Consider product longevity—will the product wash away or will it stick around for the next storm event? Application ease is important; if the product has a lot of fine particles that clog your spreaders, rendering them unusable, what good is the product? Workers also need to see the products (i.e., spread pattern) to speed product application and to reduce waste.

Consider the long-term economic effects of your ice-melt product. Is your primary concern more environmental, such as turf or trees, or is it your concrete walks, brick work or multimillion-dollar parking garage? Do your storm drains empty into irrigation ponds? The next thing to consider is how cost-effective the product is in light of all of the above. Is the bag price of your product your main concern? Remember that the same weight of calcium chloride will melt twice as much ice as sodium chloride will at a lower temperature. Did you know the biggest cost of winter maintenance is actually labor?

Each of the individual components of ice-melt products has some benefits depending on what your needs are. Sodium chloride bears the lowest price tag and it's most available. It figures into most blends and works down to 20°F. Remember that when using a blend of ice melting ingredients, the blend is always diminished by its weakest ingredient. Below 20°F, sodium chloride needs traffic to generate heat to help it on cold mornings. Make sure that if you buy bagged material, it is Halite brand [heat-treated to dry it] and that it has been screened to remove the small particles from it.

Potassium chloride is a slow-melting particle. It is commonly used in blends but in small quantities due to the cost of most fertilizer products increasing over the last couple of years. This melter works down to 15° and because of its particle size, also gives some grit or traction on icy days.

Calcium chloride works quickly, drawing water from the atmosphere, and creates its own heat. Because of this, it will work below 0°. It is commonly used as a liquid to activate other products, such as sodium chloride and potassium chloride.

Magnesium chloride, like calcium chloride, works quickly, even below 0°, and is also commonly used as an activator on other products. It is user-friendly and frequently appears in pet-friendly blends of ice melt.

Urea is not commonly used as an ice melter except in specialty locations such as airports or parking garages where anything with chloride molecules—which may pit aluminum airplane bodies, turbines or metal rebar—cannot be used. The chloride molecules will penetrate through concrete and attack certain metals.

In conclusion, all products that are used as ice melters bring certain benefits to the table. The most common concern with ice melters is the potential damage to concrete. All concrete, whether old or new, will be damaged if it is not properly poured, mixed or cured. The natural freeze-thaw cycle

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TURF 2008: USGA Day a Great Day for Communicating!

With less than three months before we head to Providence for our 11th New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show, this year's program we feel is a special one to be looked at with interest.

On Tuesday, March 4, 2008, we like to call this the USGA Day. The NERTF teams with the Regional Directors of the USGA, Jim Farrell (N.E. Regional Affairs) and Jim Skorulski (USGA Green Section) to organize a program that is geared to attract not just Golf Course Superintendent, but Assistants, Club Officials, Greens Committees, Golf Club Managers, Golf Course Owners, Golf Association Members, and Golf Professionals. This is a chance for superintendents to be accompanied by their golf course members, greens committee or club managers, and owners to share information, socialize and communicate their golf course concerns. These topics are patterned to attract, inform and to instruct individuals who are looking for new golf management ideas, techniques and equipment. This year's morning topics will focus on using new digital technology for communicating and presentation purposes. The afternoon program will address a variety of topics including global warming, equipment leasing, and bunker concerns. It is a fantastic program that superinten-

dents can't miss if they are looking for ways to improve their presentation abilities, communicating skills and then show their guys around the show floor! Our Keynote Speaker is going to be Mike Vrabel, a very popular player from the New England Patriots. Then the day will end with a reception on the trade show floor for all attendees!

TURF 2008 has also organized a record 7 seminars being offered on Monday, March 3rd. A full-day on the "Intermediate Rules of Golf", which should address all questions superintendents have concerning how the rules of golf and maintenance management practices affect each other. Also another homegrown seminar, "Turf Insects of New England" will be headed up by with Drs. Pat Vittum, Steve Alm, Stan Swier, and Albrecht Koppenhöfer (Rutgers University). We'll also be offering Power-Point and Excel once again. Three all new seminars this year will include, "Managing Turfgrass Root Systems in the North (Dr. Keith Karnok)", "Financial Skills for the Superintendent (Cleve Cleveland CGCS)", "Golf Course Energy Conservation and Pollution Prevention Opportunities (Joe McCleary, CGCS (Saddle Rock GC) & Caitlin Rood (Tetra Tech EM, Inc))". A variety of topics all with GCSAA credits and some with pesticide credits to boot!

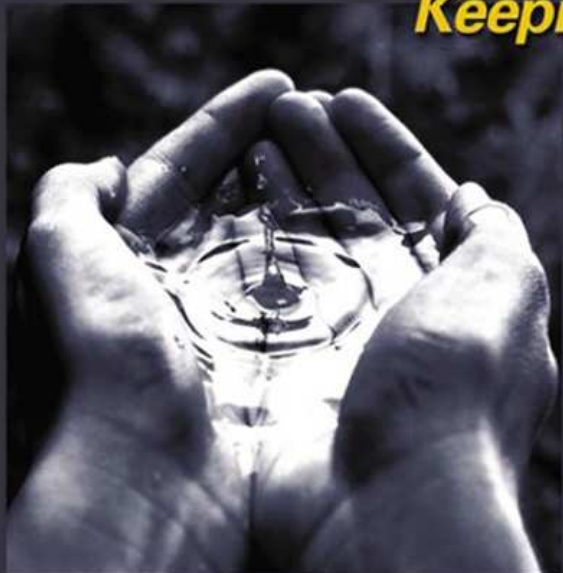
Wednesday and Thursday programs are scheduled with many different areas of presentations with a special Wednesday morning session centered on water use and regulations. Turfgrass diseases and weed control issues will be addressed among many presentation topics. Many different turf industry education sessions will be offered. This year's mechanic session will be 3 hour "1-on-Many" Hydraulic and Electronic troubleshooting sessions. John Deere, Textron and Toro have all agreed to send representatives to address these two topics exclusively for their company products. This is a chance to speak directly with these company service representatives in a more private setting and to learn! The trade show is shaping up nicely as booths sales continue to approach last year's numbers. Again, there is much to do and think about, including the possibility of winning a Kawasaki Brute Force ATV or a 50+" wide screen TV. To make it a little easier, we are installing an online registration process. Go to www.nertf.org, everything you need is there to sign up today!

*Gary J. Sykes, Executive Director
New England Regional Turfgrass
Foundation, Inc.*

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will damage poorly laid concrete. It will do so even if ice melters are not in use. Anything that increases the freeze-thaw cycle, including water, can induce spalling in concrete.

In turfgrass situations, it is common for decision-makers to choose fertilizer products such as urea and potassium chlorides. The thought process is that they will do less damage. Remember, however, that a typical ice-melter application of such products is much higher than a typical fertilizer rate. Damage to turf will occur if applied 12 or 15 times a year to frozen turf areas because the product cannot leach through the frozen soil. The best results that I have seen regarding minimizing turf damage are the use of the calcium-coated ureas, such as with a product called Power Melt, and the use of magnesium chloride.

The best ice-melt programs I have seen are those that realize that all ice melters have potential risk. Train your crews on this. Make sure you follow proper application rates. Most ice melters are overused and this is where we see damage to turf areas. Always remove the slush once the ice/snow has melted. Always remove snow/ice to the curb away from the vegetation. Inquire as to what's in your bag of ice melt. Blends don't list percentages of ingredients. Even MSDS are vague on the exact percentages. Most importantly, minimize risk by following proper application procedures. This includes removing the snow before applying your ice-melt product and removing the slush afterwards. If you have questions or want to get more specifics on any of your ice-melt programs, please contact specialists in the use of these products.

Common Ice-Melting Components

Ice melters are commonly available as either single materials or combinations of them. The following overview reviews the dynamics of the basic ice-melting components and how these characteristics determine their overall effectiveness relating to performance and value. References regarding melting temperatures are derived from practical use-rate applications.

- **Sodium Chloride**

Sodium Chloride (or "salt") is the traditional "rock salt" and the least expensive ice melter available. Soils and plants can be damaged by high concentrations of sodium chloride. It is also highly corrosive to metals and should not be applied where tarnish or corrosion may damage metal or result in unsafe conditions, such as near aircraft, electrical boxes and other similar locations. Unscreened salt for roads (cheapest) usually contains slate with other foreign and off-sized materials. Sodium chloride melts effectively to approximately 12°F.

- **Potassium Chloride**

Potassium Chloride is a common fertilizer nutrient that offers more safety to plants than sodium chloride. Compared to salt, this material is not damaging to the soil structure and will corrode metals to a lesser degree. Potash (KCl) is usually screened and sized for use in granular applications and melts effectively to approximately 20°F.

- **Urea**

Urea is a fertilizer nutrient that can contaminate groundwater and runoff collection ponds with nitrates, a degradation product. Approximately 10% as corrosive as sodium chloride, urea is Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-approved as an airport runway ice melter (when chloride content is less than 200 ppm). It is also used near equipment that is sensitive to corrosion by chloride salts (electrical boxes, etc.) If using near airports or other sensitive areas, make sure the product meets the chloride specifications. Urea melts effectively to approximately 21°F.

- **Magnesium Chloride**

Magnesium chloride is a very hygroscopic salt. An open bag will leave a pool of water if left open with the remaining material subsequently becoming hard. Often used in blends with other chlorides or as a liquid spray solution on concrete surfaces. Heavy applications can be tracked to indoor surfaces, resulting in slippery flooring or oily carpeting. Magnesium chloride melts effectively to approximately -25°F.

- **Calcium Chloride**

A byproduct of chemical-manufacturing processes, calcium chloride is a traditional ice-melter product. Very hygroscopic, it forms slippery, slimy surfaces on concrete and hard flooring. Some people and pets show dermal sensitivity in the form of rashes and "burns." Handling precautions suggest the use of gloves, goggles and respirators. Calcium chloride melts effectively to approximately -25°F.

- **CMA**

Calcium-magnesium acetate (CMA) is a noncorrosive ice melter. Developed by the Federal Highway Administration and promoted as an environmental alternative, CMA is extremely expensive and has very limited melting capabilities. Its primary advantage is that it prevents ice from bonding to cold surfaces when applied prior to snow and ice accumulation. CMA is commonly used to control ice formation on bridges and overpasses as well as in areas with new concrete or where materials are extremely susceptible to corrosion. CMA is sometimes blended with chloride salts to reduce cost. CMA melts effectively to approximately 15°F.

- **Liquid Potassium Acetate**

Promoted as biodegradable and environmentally friendly, potassium acetate is available only in liquid form. Like CMA, potassium acetate is extremely expensive. Most commonly preapplied to road surfaces before snowfall. Liquid potassium acetate melts effectively to approximately -15°F.

- **MG-104**

A corn byproduct, MG-104 aids in keeping the resulting slush from re-freezing. It is expensive to use at rates that provide this utility. MG-104 is blended with other ice-melting agents.

- **Blends**

Blends are mixtures of deicing components that enhance the ice-melting capabilities of each individual ingredient. Combining the attributes of low-temperature performers like calcium and magnesium chloride with the inexpensive qualities of sodium or potassium chloride results in a product that is effective and affordable. Depending on the mixture of ingredients, blends melt effectively from 20°F to -15°F.

Don Hearn Recognized by GCSAA for Distinguished Service to Golf, Profession

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) Donald Hearn has been selected as a recipient of the 2008 GCSAA Distinguished Service Award.

He will be acknowledged at the Opening Session (Jan. 31) of the 2008 GCSAA Education Conference in Orlando, Jan. 28-Feb. 2. The Opening Session is presented in partnership with Bayer Environmental Science. Also selected to receive the award were H. James "Jim" Loke of Lancaster Pa. and Oscar Miles of Libertyville, Ill.

"Don, Jim and Oscar are most deserving of the Distinguished Service Award," said GCSAA President Ricky D. Heine, CGCS. "They have made outstanding and significant contributions to the advancement of the golf course superintendent profession as well as to the game of golf. GCSAA is richer from the dedication of these gentlemen."

Hearn, a 37-year GCSAA member, served on the GCSAA Board of Direc-

tors and was the association's president in 1987. He has also served on the USGA Green Section Committee. Hearn is a past president of the New England GCSA and is a past member of the Massachusetts Golf Association Executive Committee. A superintendent at Weston (Mass.) Golf Club for 29 years, Hearn also had stints at Lexington (Mass.) Golf Club and Vesper Country Club in Tyngsboro, Mass. He is credited with being on the forefront of the push for increased education and professionalism in the industry.



**Don Hearn, CGCS -
Recipient of the 2008 GCSAA
Distinguished Service Award**

Loke, the certified golf course superintendent for the past 15 years at Bent Creek Country Club in Lancaster, Pa., is a 36-year GCSAA member and has served on numerous committees for the association. He currently serves on the USGA Mid-Atlantic Green Section Committee and the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council Board of Directors. He is a past president of both the Central Pennsylvania GCSA and the Northern Ohio GCSA, and has served on the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Board of Directors. Loke has hosted numerous high level golf events, including the 1975 PGA Championship at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio; two Ben Hogan PGA Tour events at Quail Hollow Resort in Painesville, Ohio; and several major Pennsylvania amateur events at Bent Creek. He is considered one of the pioneers in using fertigation and developing a 99 percent effective *Poa annua*-free management program at Bent

Creek. Loke is recognized as an authority in both areas.

Miles, a 45-year GCSAA member, is a retired superintendent who last worked at the Merit Club in Libertyville, Ill. He has served on various GCSAA committees and hosted 13 professional golf tournaments, including 12 Western Opens at Butler National Golf Club in Oak Brook, Ill., and Olympia Fields (Ill.) Country Club, as well as the 2000 U.S. Women's Open at the Merit Club. A past president of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, Miles also served on the board for GCSAA's Indiana chapter. An industry expert who has mentored more than 75 interns, Miles is renowned for decades of soil temperature research, and he was at the forefront of the lightweight fairway mowing concept, now considered standard practice.

The GCSAA Board of Directors selects Distinguished Service Award winners from nominations submitted by affiliated chapters and/or association members. First presented in 1932, the award is given to individuals who have made an outstanding, substantive and enduring contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent profession.

*Ice Melting Components - continued from
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• Liquids

Liquid deicers are available as several ice melters in varying concentrations. Liquids are most commonly used as pretreatment before snowfall and as "hot mix" to enhance the performance of sodium-based deicers. The drawback for liquids includes heated winter storage and the added expense for spray equipment. Liquid deicers are effective from 20°F to -25°F depending on the material applied.

-Roger Ogalla
BTSI

Source: Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents - *On Course*, January 2005

"They have made outstanding and significant contributions to the advancement of the golf course superintendent profession as well as to the game of golf. GCSAA is richer from the dedication of these gentlemen."

*Ricky D. Heine, CGCS,
GCSAA President*



Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England

Holiday Party

Saturday, January 19, 2008

7:00 pm to 12:00 am

**The Four Points by Sheraton Norwood
1125 Boston-Providence Turnpike / Route 1
Norwood, MA**

*The GCSANE Board would like to invite you and a guest to join us for our first ever post holiday cocktail party. We are planning a casual night with passed hors d'oeuvres, a carving station, and a cash bar.
The evening is free, so come celebrate the start of a new year!*

**Please RSVP by January 12 to Sharon Brownell at 800/833-4451
or via e-mail sbrownell@verizon.net**

Directions to The Four Points by Sheraton Norwood

From Boston and points North Take I-93 South which turns into I-95 (Route 128) North. Take Exit 15B, Route 1 South toward Norwood. Travel 4.5 miles, the Four Points by Sheraton Norwood Hotel & Conference Center will be on your right after the Staples Plaza.

From the West Follow Mass. Turnpike (I-90) East Take Exit 14 onto I-95 (Route 128) South. (Note: From the West, this Exit is number 14, from the East, it is number 15.) Continue South to Exit 15B. Route 1, Norwood, And proceed as above.

From Providence & points South Take I-95 North to Exit 11B, Neponset Street, Norwood. Drive 7/10 of a mile and turn left onto Dean Street. At traffic light, turn left onto Route 1, heading South. The Four Points by Sheraton Norwood Hotel & Conference Center is on your right after the Staples Plaza.

New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show

March 3-6, 2008 R.I. Convention Center • Providence

Show & Conference Pass Includes

- Opening Reception • Admission to Trade Show
- Keynote Speaker • Educational Sessions
- Show Reception • Luncheon Voucher

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Pesticide Applicators Recertification Credits will be offered.

Sports Turf Seminar

Tuesday, March 4 • 1pm-3:30pm
Meteorology for Sports Turf Managers

Pre Conference Seminars:

Monday, March 3 • 8am-5pm Call (401) 841-5490
Managing Turfgrass Root Systems in the North ~ 8am-12pm
Computer Training - PowerPoint 2003 ~ 8am-12pm
Turf Insects of New England ~ 8am-12pm
Financial Skills for the Superintendent ~ 1pm-5pm
Computer Training - MS Excel 2003 ~ 1pm-5pm
Golf Course Energy Conservation & Pollution Prevention Opportunities ~ 1pm-5pm
USGA Intermediate Rules of Golf ~ 8am-5pm

Keynote Speaker

Tuesday, March 4, 3:45-4:30pm

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GCSANE Monthly Meeting- January 8th

Andover Country Club

Host: Wayne LaCroix, CGCS

By: John Eggleston

Andover Country Club was founded in 1926 and was designed by W.H. Follett, a protégé of renowned golf course architect Donald Ross. The private 18-hole course measures 6,635 yards from the back tees and has undergone some major renovations over the years. A new driving range facility and chipping /practice area, extensive drainage work, and clubhouse renovation are among the more recent activities. This fall the process of resurfacing the tees began and the development of housing surrounding the course continued.

Our host, Wayne LaCroix, CGCS, is responsible for coordinating between the construction company and the golf operations during all the construction going on at and around the Club. He is not only the Golf Course Superintendent but assists in Project Management. He is very modest when describing all of the responsibilities he has at the Club, which include managing the turf and overseeing the daily golf operations. Wayne credits his first assistant, Brad Morrissey, with helping man-

age the workload. He still likes the title of Superintendent the best and has been at Andover Country Club for 17 years.

A Stockbridge graduate in 1980 with an Arboriculture/Park Management associates degree, he worked as the assistant at Tedesco Country Club under Paul Miller, CGCS. He enjoyed working on the golf course so much that he went back to Stockbridge in 1982 to attend the Winter School turf program. After spending 6 years at Tedesco (3 years as the assistant), he moved on to Ipswich Country Club and was involved during the construction process and grew the course in. This is where he really learned how much he enjoyed the construction process as he worked with famed architect Robert Trent Jones. He still lists as his mentors, Paul Miller and the people at Florida Golf who helped shape his career (no pun intended).

Wayne lists the top courses that he has played as Myopia Hunt Club, located in Hamilton, Mass, and Pasa-tiempo Golf Club, near San Francisco, California. At his course in Andover he believes the best hole is the 12th, a 353

Meeting Details

- 9:00 am: Board Meeting
- 10:00 am: Past Presidents Meeting
- 10:30 am: Registration
- 11:00 am: Membership Meeting
- 12:30 pm: Lunch
- 1:30 pm: Open Discussion

yard dogleg left that requires an accurate drive that needs to be shaped around the corner. The green has a "Maxwell" roll in the middle which can cause havoc depending on where the pin is located. The way Wayne describes it, he could have been a golf course architect; which is the career he would have pursued had he not become a superintendent. Wayne lives in Andover with his wife Julie and their two sons Tyler (13) and Ryan (10), who are passionate hockey players. In his free time he enjoys spending time with his family, fly-fishing and golfing.

GCSANE Members Finn and Mackintosh are Honored

The first class of inductees to the Western Massachusetts Golf Hall of Fame included GCSANE members Roy Mackintosh and Gerry Finn. The two were honored on October 12th, along with Bob Toski, Roberta Bolduc and Dick Murphy as part of the Tournament of Champions and Hall of Fame Day at Tekoa Country Club in Westfield.

The establishment of the hall of fame has been a joint, if not overdue, volunteer effort made by members of the local golf community. It is not sanctioned, funded or affiliated with the PGA of America or any golf organization. Longtime area golf professional

Bob Bontempo teamed with Marcotte Ford Western Mass. Radio Golf Show co-host Jay Nomakeo to found and spearhead the effort during the last year. "It's not a money-maker in any way, or for anyone," Bontempo said. "We started with nothing (financially), and we just wanted to recognize and honor some of the great people in golf, those who call Western Mass. home."

Mackintosh, who has retired to West Yarmouth, was the Golf Course Superintendent and General Manager for most of four decades at Twin Hills CC in Longmeadow.

Finn, of Westfield, was honored for his golf writing and tournament coverage during his 40-year career with the Springfield Newspapers. Finn also wrote for GCSANE's *The Newsletter* for many years.

A hall of fame trophy case will house memorabilia from all five inductees and its immediate home will be at Tekoa Country Club.

Source: www.masslive.com/republican/

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Assistant's Corner

By Ethan Tease



The Crew's Director

This past November I had the opportunity to run "the show" for two weeks at Woodland Golf Club. My boss, Dave, took some well deserved time off. This was new territory for him, being away from the course before it had been buttoned up for the winter and with almost a full crew still working. Despite some obvious reservations, the two weeks went very well due to the weeks of preparation Dave and I had. Communication, pages of notes, and some "extra privileges" for the guys on the crew made the two weeks go quickly and smoothly.

There were many levels of communication that I became familiar with that kept the course running as usual. One of the more nerve wracking issues for me was issuing a frost delay. We try to let the morning golfers out as soon as possible and timing is critical in protecting the turf from damage as well as reducing the wait time. Typically I called the Pro Shop when it opened and issued the delay with the option of calling back if it cleared sooner. If it appeared that the frost would linger beyond the delay (usually 9:30 or 10:00) I could discuss options with the Green Chairman. Luckily

most frosts had lifted by 9:30 and if not, I issued temporary pins to those greens not yet cleared.

I also had the chance to handle a small construction project on our 8th fairway. I had to stay in touch with the construction crew on a daily basis to ensure that the irrigation was installed as designed, the grade was covered with sufficient top soil, and the proper materials were on hand at the site. I even had the opportunity to meet with the Architect, Green Chairman, General Manager and Club President to discuss the grade and shaping of the fairway. Essentially, I took notes and made sure that a few of Dave's concerns were addressed, but it was a good experience.

Notes were the most important tool I had for those two weeks. The weeks leading up to Dave's vacation both he and I were able to talk about certain things that needed to be accomplished. I wrote as much as I could and then tried to form a daily schedule. Something as simple as picking up the checks I penciled in for Thursday. I even kept track of everything that had been done on a daily basis making it easier to see what needed to be ac-

complished in the future. The more organized I was, the better I was able to keep the crew busy.

I was fortunate to have a group of guys who knew what to do on a daily basis, but usually just need a little direction. If I felt the guys worked well and I did not have to chase them around all day, I let them linger around longer after lunch before heading back out; after all, if Dave can enjoy two weeks away, then a hard working crew can enjoy it too. At the end of the two weeks, to thank them for making a stressful job easier I treated them to coffee and donuts.

Going into the two weeks of being "the Boss" I had images of mutiny, annoyed golfers and endless phone calls from the Clubhouse. However, aside from a large tree falling at noon of the last day which caused potential property disputes, the two weeks went very well. Everything was accomplished that Dave had hoped for, and more. The key, for me, was taking notes, both in the weeks leading up to and on a daily basis during my days in charge. As much as I enjoyed the experience, I was more than willing to return the title of 'Boss' to Woodland's more relaxed, and well tanned, Superintendent.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Member:

Jedd Newsome, Superintendent,
Tekoa CC, Agawam, MA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Nor'Easter Hospitality Room** will take place on Thursday, January 31, 2008 at the Omni Rosen Hotel in Orlando from 6 - 10 pm.

Congratulations to Chip Brearley of DHT Golf Services on his recent retirement.

Best wishes to Chris Leonard of Lesco/ John Deere on a speedy recovery from recent surgery.

Best wishes to Maureen Fitzroy, wife of Jim Fitzroy on a speedy recovery from recent surgery.

Congratulations to Tom Colombo, CGCS as he leaves the Ridge Club to accept the Superintendent position at the Hyannisport Club.

Our condolences are extended to Sharon Brownell and family on the recent passing of Sharon's Mother, Jeannette Killen.

Our thoughts are with Bruce Chapman of Barenbrug USA and family after recently surviving a house fire. Everyone is safe but there is much structural damage to the home.

Best wishes to Mike Cornicelli of A-OK Turf Equipment on a speedy recovery from recent surgery.

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of officers for the 2008 GCSANE Board of Directors:

President: Russell E. Heller, CGCS
Vice President: Patrick J. Daly, CGCS
Secretary: Jason S. Adams
Treasurer: Michael W. Stachowicz
Trustee: Scott Lagana, CGCS
Trustee: Peter Hasak
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