



THE NEWSLETTER

March 2007

of the **Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Inc.**

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Nothing 'routine' about the Roberston Era at Kernwood CC

By **GARY TRASK**

Dean Robertson likes to call it a “daily routine.” His superiors describe it as “dedication.” Either way you look at it, the work of Robertson at Kernwood Country Club during the last three decades as head superintendent has been nothing short of spectacular and for proof just ask anyone who has ever walked the revered Donald Ross layout in Salem, Mass.

“Kernwood is a very special place, and a big part of it is the conditions that Dean and his crew have consistently kept the place over the years,” says Kernwood CC’s General Manager Tim Lynch. “Dean has never been one to work the normal 7 to 3 type of day. You can ride through the club after dark and he’ll still be out there doing something to get the course ready for the next day. People always tell us how great the course’s condition is and it’s not by accident. It’s because of Dean’s dedication that the course is the way it is.”

Comments like those are the reason the entire Kernwood CC community will close the curtains on the 2007 season this fall with a pang of melancholy. Robertson announced earlier this year that he would retire after this season. It’s a move that he feels he and his wife, Judy, of 43 years are both ready for him to take.

“I’m going to be 65 this fall and I just figured it was time,” Robertson says of his decision to step down. “I’m going to miss the daily routine of it all. It’s some-

thing I’ve really enjoyed doing. It hasn’t always been easy, but the results have been rewarding and that makes all the work you put into worth every second.”

Amazingly, Robertson is just the third head superintendent in the history of the club, which opened along the banks of the Danvers River way back in 1914. Robert Mitchell (1915 to 1938)



Pictured above: Dean Robertson
Photo credit: Rich Gagnon

and Lester Allen (1938 to 1978) preceded Robertson, who takes great pride in the fact that you can count the number of superintendents that the club has had on just one hand.

The Kernwood CC management must have known they were getting someone special to be superintendent No. 3 if you consider when he took over.

Robertson’s first season on the job came directly after the ruthless Blizzard of ’78, something he has never forgotten.

“The damage that was done at the course in ’78 and ’79 was the worst I can remember,” says the Stoneham, Mass. native. “Being right on the river, the tidal waters were unbelievable. But part of the beauty of the course is its setting right on the water. You just have to take the good with the bad.”

Robertson graduated from UMass-Stockbridge in 1962. He started his career on the grounds crew at Belmont Country Club, where he worked for three months before accepting his first head super job at Bradford Country Club in Haverhill. Four years later he moved on to Ould Newbury, a nine-holer in Newbury, where he spent a little more than year. The next stop was Chestnut Hill Country Club, which is now Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, for 10 years before stepping in at Kernwood in 1978.

Robertson has proven his dedication to his craft in more ways than simply showing up for work each day for the last four decades. He was also very active in the GCSANE, volunteering as newsletter editor, vice president, first vice president and president during the early days of his career. In addition, he has been a trustee for the Troll

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Affiliated Chapter

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

Patrick J. Daly, CGCS
P.O. Box 2284, Framingham, MA 01703-2284
508-872-9790 Fax: 508-872-5383
E-mail: Pat@framinghamcc.com
Framingham Country Club

SECRETARY

Jason S. Adams
27 Cherry Street, Wrentham, MA 02093
781-326-3801 Fax: 781-326-0664
E-mail: Norfolksuper@hotmail.com
Norfolk Golf Club

TREASURER

Michael W. Stachowicz
68 Westfield Road, Westwood, MA 02090
781-326-7860 Fax: 781-326-0664
E-mail: Mstach@dedhamclub.org
Dedham Country & Polo Club

TRUSTEE

Scott Lagana, CGCS
22 Sherborne Circle, Ashland, MA 01721
978-342-6451 Fax: 978-342-0421
E-mail: Grounds@oakhillcc.org
Oak Hill Country Club

TRUSTEE

Peter Hasak
154 Tedesco Street, Marblehead, MA 01945
781-592-5764 Fax: 781-631-6530
E-mail: PHasak@tedescocc.org
Tedesco Country Club

TRUSTEE

Ronald P. Dobosz
P.O. Box 541, Ludlow, MA 01056
413-589-9487 Fax: 413-583-4686
E-Mail: Rdobosz111@aol.com
Ludlow Country Club

FINANCE CHAIRMAN

Michael Luccini, CGCS
10 Griffin Road, Franklin, MA 02038
508-520-3615 Fax: 508-528-1885
E-mail: Mluccini@verizon.net
Franklin Country Club

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508-697-4816 Fax: 508-279-3355
E-mail: jasiii188@yahoo.com
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EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

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

NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN

Mark Gagne
233 Baker Street, Walpole, MA 02081
508-668-3859 Fax: 508-668-9969
E-mail: Mgagne@walpolecc.org
Walpole Country Club

PAST PRESIDENT

Michael J. Hermanson
140 Ryan Street, Gardner, MA 01440-0145
978-632-2713 Fax: 978-632-2713
E-mail: hermo68@hotmail.com
Gardner Municipal Golf Course

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sharon K. Brownell
P.O. Box 566, Mattapoisett, MA 02739-0566
508-758-6474 Fax: 508-758-3688
E-mail: Sbrownell@verizon.net

GCSANE Headquarters

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

Newsletter Committee

Julie Heston, Business Manager
Phone: (401) 934-3677 Email: jheston@verizon.net
John Eggleston, Kernwood Country Club
Andrew Eick, The Kittansett Club
Rich Gagnon, Segregansett Country Club
Ethan Tease, Woodland Golf Club
Mark Gagne, Editor, Walpole Country Club

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Dean Robertson
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Dickinson Fund since 1968, something he has found to be especially gratifying.

"We've given out a lot scholarship money over the years and it always feels good to give back," he says of the Troll Dickinson Fund, which awards scholarships to students heading to UMass-Stockbridge. "I've never been one to sit still. I like to stay active and those were just some things that I liked to do in order to stay involved."

Considering he's not much of a player and never even stepped on a golf course until his senior year in high school, Robertson finds it ironic that he's spent his entire adult life working in a field that is one of the most vital to the entire golf industry.

"I've always loved the versatility of the job," he says fondly. "Every day is different. And there's always something you can do to make the course better. That's always been something I've told my crew. We can always make the course better for the next day. All of the little things that you do to make the course look better really do add up."

As for his longevity, Robertson credits his ability to adapt to all the new technology and his knack for getting along with the members.

"Things have changed a great deal since I started in the business," says the father of three daughters and the grandfather of five. "You can't fight change. You've got to change with the times if you expect to keep your head above water."

"And you've always got to remember that this is the members' course. The demands of the members have increased over the years because they all play more courses nowadays and they like their course to look like the ones on TV. But you've got to keep them happy. You've got to try and keep up with their demands, as hard as that may be. That's your job whether you like it or not."

The fact that Kernwood CC is consistently kept in pristine conditions will aid Robertson and his staff this spring as they prepare for the playing of the 98th Massachusetts Open in June. This will be the event's third appearance at Kernwood CC and the eighth state championship overall.

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CALENDAR...

- April 30 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Lexington C.C.
Host: Bob Dembek
9-Hole Tournament
- May 29 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
TPC of Boston
S & B Tournament
Host: Tom Brodeur
- June 6 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Pocasset G.C.
Joint Meeting w/GCMACC
Host: Stephen Carr
- July 16 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Belmont C.C.
Host: Arthur Silva, CGCS
- Aug. 21 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Marlborough C.C.
Individual Championship
Host: Kenneth Crimmings, CGCS
- Aug. 22 **URI Turfgrass Field Day**
C.R. Skogley Turfgrass
Research Facility
Kingston, RI 02881
- Aug. 25 **GCSANE Family Night**
Brockton Rox Baseball
Campanelli Stadium
Brockton, MA
- Sep. (TBA) **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Ludlow C.C.
Team of Two Tournament
Host: Ronald Dobosz
- Oct. 1 **Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Classic Fundraiser**
The International
Honoring Geoffrey Cornish
Host: Brett Johnson, CGCS
- Oct. 22 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Pleasant Valley C.C.
Member/ Guest Tournament
Host: Donald D'Errico
- Nov. (TBA) **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Brockton C.C.
9-Hole Tournament
Host: Justin Bousquet

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"We're looking forward to it," Robertson says. "But we like to keep the course in tournament condition every day so we really won't have to do that much extra.

It's always fun to be able to show off your work. It's something you take pride in. I think the MGA (Massachusetts Golf Association) likes coming here and we love hosting these types of events."

Next year at this time, Robertson, who has lived on the Kernwood CC property the last six years after calling Newbury home the previous 30 years, won't have to worry about getting up at a donut-makers' hour every morning or watering a fairway after dusk. Instead he'll be living full time at his house in Freedom, N.H. enjoying life at his own pace.

"It'll be different, no doubt about it," says Robertson, who isn't ruling out doing some sort of consulting work after retirement. "But, like I said, I'm ready for it. I'm ready to do some different things with my life. But there will always be a little part of me at Kernwood. You can't spend that long at a place without having it become something special in your life."

On September 1, 2006 Golf Course Equipment Managers and Technicians from around the world came together to form what is now the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association (IGCEMA). The Association was developed to enhance the profession of the Golf Course Equipment Manager, Technician, Mechanic or any of the other names these professionals have been called over the years.

The Association prides itself on providing education to the Equipment Managers and Technicians all over the world through various channels. Today's rapidly changing technology and the shortage of qualified Managers and Technicians requires a far-reaching program to increase the educational opportunities and the career awareness of the Equipment Manager and Technician positions.

We encourage every Superintendent, Greens Keeper, Equipment Manager and Technician to join our association and work towards finding new ways for us to help ourselves. The

association is currently free to join and is certainly worth taking the time to check out. So please visit us today at www.igcema.org and help us chart the course for the professional Golf Course Equipment Manager and Technician.

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Assistants Corner

By John Eggleston

An Interview with Tory Kovalesky of Salem Country Club

Editor's Note: This month's installment of the Assistant's Corner is written by John Eggleston, Assistant Superintendent at Kernwood Country Club. All assistant members of GCSANE are encouraged to submit articles for the Assistant's Corner; it is a great opportunity to test your writing skills and to build on your professional portfolio.

The article in this month assistant's corner is an interview with Torrey Kovalesky, the first assistant at the prestigious Salem Country Club located in Peabody, MA. This Donald Ross designed classic was built in 1927 and has hosted many national championships, including the 2001 U.S. Senior Open, along with the 1954 and 1984 U.S. Women's Open. Kip Taylor is the superintendent and has been since 1982. This article was written to find out more about what the first assistant at clubs are learning and how they are preparing to make the next step to become a head superintendent.

What is your age? 32

What is your educational background? A.S. in Turf Management at University of Massachusetts/ Stockbridge. One year of Recreation Management at Lyndon state college, Vermont. One year of Business Management at Vermont Technical College.

What is your handicap? 6

What are your hobbies?
Hunting, Snowmobiling, Golf

How long have you been first assistant at Salem?

This will be my fourth season and I'm looking forward to the spring.

Where were you before Salem?
I did my college placement at Pine Valley Golf Club in New Jersey and worked at Myopia Hunt Club as an

assistant in Hamilton, MA, and Sun and Air Learning Facility managing the driving range and par 3 course.

How large is your crew?

In summer time, it tops off at 25, 7 full time and the rest of the crew is seasonal help. We hire a lot of retired workers that are willing to do the 6:30-12 shift and they are allowed to play golf on two afternoons which is a huge motivation and keeps them coming back every year.

How many other assistants do you have under you?

There is a second assistant and we have a spray technician and an irrigation technician.

Do you have any interns? How do you recruit them?

We usually have one or two a year and really do not recruit very hard. Most interns call us or are from word of mouth from other superintendents who tell us about a qualified candidate they do not have a spot for. We occasionally post job openings at North Shore Community College.

What is your daily attire for you and the crew?

I wear a golf shirt and khaki slacks or shorts. The crew is given t-shirts, windbreakers and hats to be worn daily. Fulltime employees are also given heavy sweatshirts and jackets. I like having a crew that looks professional and makes the employee feel part of a team.

How does working at a "top 100" course in the country compare w/ other courses that you have worked at?

I have been fortunate to work at three top 100 courses and it really comes down to details. Having large crews and working with large budgets is great and expectations are all part of the elite courses but paying close attention to the details is what separates the good from the great.

You have a single digit handicap, how important do you think being a golfer helps with managing a golf course?

It helps out a lot and you find yourself looking at different details and features that you seem not to notice when you're working. Also being a low handicapper, I see how the greens are rolling and take note of items that have been neglected or missed.

Many golf courses hire foreign help, do you and do you speak a foreign language?

No, we do not have any non-English speaking workers but are open to having them apply. We are very fortunate to have a great bunch of guys right now that come back every year and they have friends if we need one or two more people. We seem to hire a good percentage of seasonal help from the airlines and post office.

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Do you attend GCSANE meetings?
Yes, Kip encourages me to attend as many as possible. Usually it's in the off season months that I attend. It is difficult to break away from the busy daily schedule of the growing season.

Do you help with inventory, budgets, and reports?
I do some of the inventory and have some input for the budget report but this is an area I need to work on more to feel comfortable in the future.

Do you go to green committee meetings?
No, but am anxious to attend some in the future. This is the part of the job I still have some learning to do and feel that it is valuable experience just to sit in on the meetings and learn what goes on. Kip goes over the topics covered in the meetings with me the next day but it is not the same as being at the meeting.

Do you interact with the members frequently? How does this help your job?

I speak with the members on a daily basis and it helps me in many ways. It makes me aware of any problems on the course which I attempt to fix immediately if possible and interact with guest from other clubs to get my name out there if someday their club is looking for a head superintendent.

Is being a superintendent the next step in your career?

Most definitely, I feel I am ready. Working here the past three years Kip has really helped me fine tune the skills I need to be a superintendent. I love the Northeast region for its four seasons. This gives us time to concentrate on areas we are not able to address during the mowing season such as drainage, bunker reconstruction, tree work, and equipment maintenance.



Pictured to right: Salem Country Club - the 340 yard, par 4 13th - a classic short par 4



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10th Anniversary Conference & Show another Landmark and Success!

By Gary Sykes, Executive Director, NERTF

Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved in the 2007 New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show just completed! Being the 10th show, the NERTF Board of Directors hoped to make 2007 a show to remember, and for at least one individual a show they will never forget. Mr. George Bell, equipment technician at Brown University, whose boss, Pat Vetere calls a "great guy", should have no problem remembering as he toots around in his brand new 2007 Harley Davidson Fat Boy Motorcycle that he won in the 10th Anniversary Give-a-Way Raffle. Congratulations George, drive safe and we sure hope your wife likes it too!

In an industry dealing with an ever changing work environment, the signs continue to point to education as the constant key to success. More than 275 attendees enjoyed the opportunity to attend seminars at this year's conference and show, with a whopping 175 individuals in the Turfgrass Diseases of New England seminar alone! Other education sessions over the three days had strong attendance and support from an excellent line-up of speakers from across the states including Dr. Joe Vargas of Michigan State University along with many speakers from UConn, UMass, and URI. We thank all those who made presentations during the 4 intensive days of education opportunities.

It was a tight room of 800 people as Rodney Harrison of the New England Patriots addressed the crowd as our highlighted keynote speaker sponsored by Bayer Environmental and LESCO. Rodney shared some personal thoughts and laughs, and then signed what seemed like a million autographs on the trade show floor during our opening trade show reception sponsored by TPC.

This year's trade show was larger than last year, thanks to vendors support and additionally for the donations of auction items, which were sold for a record \$22,500! The annual auction has fast become a favorite event of many; as Auctioneer Danny Calise and emcee Manny Mihailides, with the help of Bobby "I'm working here!" Gebo, who entertain and convince the crowd to go to higher bids! Added to the end of the auction this year was the opportunity to enjoy a wonderful reception of food and hors d'oeuvres right on the show floor sponsored by Syngenta and Harrell's Turf Specialty! These funds will all be applied to important Turfgrass Research being investigated here in the New England States. We wish to thank all our sponsors, presenters, vendors, donors, workers and attendees for all your generosity over the last 10 years. To quote the great Henry Ford: "Coming Together is a Beginning, Keeping Together is Progress, Working Together is Success!"

With 10 years now behind us, so what's next? This is a great question. The NERTF needs everyone's help to insure that this great event continues to be on the right track. We are including a survey with this article and ask anyone who had the chance to come to this year's show to help us to evaluate how we are doing with an incentive. Please take a few minutes and fill out the 2007 New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show Turf 2007 Evaluation sheet and send it into us. Just fill it out, fold it over, tape it, stamp it and send it! That is all we ask, and if you do it before June 1st, you will be entered into a drawing for a free 3-day Conference and Show pass w/ a 2-night stay in the Westin Hotel for 2008 (\$450 value). So, please help us with good information. If you have any comments or questions concerning the foundation, don't forget you can talk to your association delegates to the NERTF Board of Directors or call our office 401-841-5490. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy the Spring!



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CLUB NEWSLETTER SERIES

Editors Note: In this edition, we have a new submission in the club newsletter article series. All members are encouraged to submit their club newsletter articles for publication in *The Newsletter*.

A Note from Your Superintendent February 2007



Rich Gagnon, Segregansett Country Club

Looks like February is behind us and the warm weather can't be too far away. What a winter we have had so far! Members have been enjoying the mild winter and warm temperatures while playing the entire golf course, including the greens, almost into February. What a treat it has been.

Unfortunately all good things must come to an end even if it's only on a "temporary" basis. I would love to keep the regular greens open all winter and enjoy all the smiling faces as our playing membership hop, skip, and jump their way to the 1st tee every morning. Even though I am very lenient with the winter play, I have to draw the line every once in a while. Even though it may not be the most popular decision I will make the best decision for the well being of the golf course and it's a decision that I take the time and effort to make correctly. The regular greens were open for a total of 309 consecutive days between March 24, 2005 and January 26, 2007 with the only exception being aerification week. It was 4 degrees on January 26.

The popular question during those rare occasions when the greens are closed is "why?". The quick and obvious answers would usually be: "It's February", "It's 4 degrees out", and "Your hurting the grass". I will take the time

now to explain a bit further why we can't have the greens open all the time.

- **Reason #1: Direct wear injury.**

Unlike during the growing season, when turf is able to regenerate new leaves and stems to replace injured tissue daily, winter weather completely halts turf growth; the grass is continually thinned throughout the winter. This thinning of the turf will encourage weeds such as *Poa annua*, crabgrass, moss, algae, and other weeds during the spring and summer.

- **Reason #2: Soil compaction.**

Soil compaction is a more important consequence of winter traffic. Because of the cold winter temperatures and lack of active turf growth, the loss of excess soil moisture through evaporation and transpiration is greatly reduced. Water does not exit off the greens in the winter as easily as it does in the summer. As the soils are pushed closer and closer together, the pore space needed for good root growth and drainage during the summer is lost. Compacted soils means harder greens, more wilting, more disease, poor drainage, and weed potential.

- **Reason #3: Effects on playability.**

With the loss of turf density from winter play the greens with tend to be bumpy, hard, slow, and will be slower to develop during the spring, compared to greens that are not subject to winter play.

- **Reason #4: Poa Annua.**

The most susceptible grass to winter wear is the grass which makes up about 75% of our greens. Also called annual bluegrass, *Poa* which is played on during the winter will be the first to suffer and will be the first to be effected by weeds, disease, insects, and wilt come summertime. The best way to encourage more *Poa* is to weaken the grass which is already there. We want to maintain the small amounts of actual bentgrass we do have and keep the percentages of *Poa* down as much as possible.

- **Reason #5: Our trees.**

Greens close to large trees that suffer from shade (3, 5, 9), air circulation problems (2, 5, 16, 17), and tree root competition should not be subject to winter play. Play on these greens during the winter runs the risk of slow spring response and weakness during the summer.

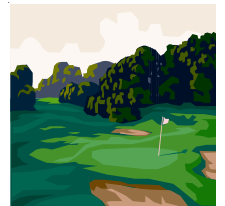
- **Reason #6: The experts agree.**

I recently talked to members of the USGA, Rutgers University, and Ohio State University and it's well documented by superintendents, turf scientists, and agronomists that it's not worth the risk and they all agree that winter play on greens "can cause an inordinate amount of damage to the health and playability of the greens." Taken directly from the Ohio State newsletter: "In general winter play is not good for turf, especially golf greens because turfgrass growth is nonexistent. The repercussion from no growth is little if any recovery from traffic or wear (especially on greens). Also, divots, ball marks and

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OSHA's 2006 Golf Safety Results

By Ron Smith, MBA, CPSI

The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) strives to improve the overall safety conditions throughout the different workplaces in America. Included in their efforts to accomplish the goal of providing safer places of work is the sharing of their inspection and enforcement results via their official website; www.osha.gov.

The data can be viewed in a variety of ways including; by industry (via *Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes*), by jurisdiction (Federal, State, or both), by location (state), and by dates. Traditionally, OSHA's official year runs from October 1 to the following September 30. However, you can view the data by calendar year with the only caveat being you have to manually summarize the results (inspections, citations, monetary penalties).

There are four (4) primary types of incidents that trigger an OSHA inspection. There are other triggers (such as Special Emphasis Program and SST), but these four initiate the bulk of inspections :

1. Imminent danger situation
2. Fatalities and catastrophes
3. Complaints and referrals
4. Programmed inspections

Using the calendar year option the Golf industry (SIC codes 7992 & 7997) had the following OSHA (federal & state) results for 2006:

- 67 clubs inspected (45 public & 22 private)
 - 30% of inspections due to employee complaints to OSHA
 - 12% of inspections due to reported accidents
- 224 citations issued (159 public & 65 private)
- Most often cited violations:
 - Hazard Communication*
 - Occupational Noise*
 - Asbestos*
 - General Duty Clause*

Respiratory Protection
Lock out / tag out
First Aid
Guarding of tools
Signs & tags
Walking surfaces

As one can see from the *Inspection* numbers the Golf industry is not a high priority item for OSHA due primarily to the fact that overall the industry has few serious accidents and even fewer fatalities. If you are contacted by OSHA about a pending inspection please keep in mind that their primary intent is to be supportive, not punitive. Provide honest answers to their questions and highlight the positive safety results you and your staff have had over the years.

For more information regarding OSHA's safety results for the golf industry please visit their website or contact Ron Smith at 877-5978 or ronsmith@sportsclubmanagement.com

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<input type="checkbox"/> 1/6 page (horizontal; 5.06" wide x 2.125" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$475.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$675.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$900.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/3 page (horizontal; 5.06" wide x 4.5" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$760.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1080.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1440.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 page (horizontal; 7.75" wide x 4.5" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$950.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1350.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1800.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Full page (vertical; 7.75" wide x 9.25" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1900.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2700.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3600.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5000.00

Non-Member Rates: *All payments must be received in full before the ad appears in The Newsletter.

<input type="checkbox"/> 1/6 page (vertical; 2.375" wide x 4.5" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$570.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$810.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1080.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/6 page (horizontal; 5.06" wide x 2.125" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$570.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$810.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1080.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/3 page (horizontal; 5.06" wide x 4.5" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$240.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$912.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1296.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1728.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2400.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 page (horizontal; 7.75" wide x 4.5" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1140.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1620.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2160.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Full page (vertical; 7.75" wide x 9.25" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$600.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2280.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3240.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$4320.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$6000.00

***DEADLINE for ads: The first of the month for that month's issue.**

Send all Newsletter ads to: Julie Heston, 36 Elisha Mathewson Road, N. Scituate, RI 02857
 Phone: 401-934-3677 Email: jheston@verizon.net

generally tearing up the turf become potential “beachheads” for the development of winter weeds like annual bluegrass.” Taken right from the USGA Green Section Record: “It is safe to say that winter play can only harm the greens, and in many cases it has a significantly negative impact on the health and playability of the turf during the following golf season.”

Karl Danneberger, Ph. D., Ohio State, came up with this handy chart for winter play scenarios:

1. *Play on dry unfrozen soil. Although wear injury is always a potential problem, this situation will result in the least damage.*

2. *Play on frozen soil. Most likely will result in wear injury to the turf but little soil compaction.*

3. *Play on wet, unfrozen soil. The potential damage under this scenario is soil compaction, but less wear injury. At the moment, this has been the most common situation.*

4. *Play on a thawing soil (unfrozen — wet on the surface), that is frozen below. This is the worst situation to have play because both wear injury and soil compaction can occur.*

Winter golf is part of the fabric of Segregansett Country Club and no one knows this better than I do. I took the time to explain why winter golf can have a negative impact on the greens here at Seggy, I in no way would ever want to eliminate winter golf, I just want to step in when I think it may be harmful to play on our greens. I appreciate your confidence in me to make the call each and every day here at Seggy.

You can always reach me for questions or comments at sccturf@hotmail.com. Have a great March.

Rich Gagnon, Superintendent

Scenes from Segregansett

(photo credit: Rich Gagnon)



The 14th hole



The 10th hole



The 1st hole

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

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members:

- Paul West, Assistant, Bass Rocks GC
- Nicole Ottani, Assistant, Fresh Pond GC
- Patrick Folan, Assistant, Belmont CC
- Luke White, Assistant, Wianno Club

Proposed for Membership:

- Affiliate: Edward Ceasar, Gustavo Preston Service Company
- Friend: Gustavo Preston Service Company
- Assistant: Patrick MacDonald, Tedesco CC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Bill and Jackie Sansone on the recent birth of their daughter, Ayla Morgan.

Note: All members are encouraged to contact Julie Heston to announce new arrivals so that we may purchase a savings bond in recognition of their birth. Phone: (401) 934-3677 or jheston@verizon.net

Well wishes go out to Jack O'Donnell who is recovering from surgery.

Our condolences are extended to Brad MacDonald and family on the recent passing of Brad's father.

As in the past, The Newsletter continues to invite affiliate members to submit a press release about new personnel, new products, or a company bio. We will print such releases on a space available basis.

Looking to "clean out the barn?" Superintendent members may advertise their used equipment free of charge in *The Newsletter*. Please send information to Julie Heston at jheston@verizon.net

GCSAA NEWS

A reminder to complete the **Golf Course Environmental Profile's nutrient survey**. It concludes on April 27, 2007. Superintendents can access the survey at <http://survey.ngf.org/r27004/facilitysearch.asp>.

Regardless of previous participation with the environmental surveys, both GCSAA member and non-member superintendents may participate. As a thank you for participation and full-completion of the survey, participants will automatically be entered into a random drawing for a \$250 gift card, one of which will be awarded for each of the seven agronomic regions. GCSAA members who complete and return the survey will receive 0.25 service points. For more information on the project, please visit: <http://www.eifg.org/programs/baselinesurvey.asp> A paper version of the survey is available, upon request.

For more information, please contact Dr. Clark Throssell, GCSAA's Director of Research, at (800) 472-7878, ext. 4429 or <mailto:cthrossell@gcsaa.org>; Greg Lyman, GCSAA's Director, Environmental Programs, at (800) 472-7878, ext. 3625 or <mailto:glyman@gcsaa.org>; or Mark Johnson, GCSAA's senior manager, environmental programs, at (800) 472-7878, ext. 5161 or <mailto:mjohnson@gcsaa.org>

Birdies and bees: How superintendents can help native pollinators

Pollinators are in decline across North America and golf courses can play a role in their conservation. These are two of the findings of the recently released National Academy of Sciences report *Status of Pollinators in North America*.

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, based in Portland, Ore., can offer information and practical advice about pollinator conservation on golf courses. To learn more about the NAS report and download detailed guidelines on creating habitat on golf courses, visit the Society's web site, http://www.xerces.org/Pollinator_Insect_Conservation. Or contact Matthew Shepherd, pollinator program director, at mdshepherd@xerces.org or 503-323-6639. Source: GCSAA press release

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Congratulations to Justin Santos as he leaves Canoe Brook Country Club, Summit, NJ to accept the Superintendent position at Manchester Country Club in New Hampshire.

Congratulations to former member Eric Newell as he recently accepted the Superintendent position at Waverly Oaks Golf Club.

Scholarship & Benevolence Committee Needs Your Help

The S&B Committee is seeking donations for rounds of golf from all member clubs to be raffled off at the S&B Tournament on May 29th.

The proceeds of the raffle will go towards the S&B fund, which benefits all members of GCSANE.

Please forward your donations to
Sharon Brownell.

POSITION OPENINGS

Please visit our web site www.gcsane.org for all the details on any current job openings.

New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show Turf 2007 Evaluation

Please join with us in evaluating this year’s conference and show by answering the following questions. (1-poor; 3-avg; 5-great!)

1. How many years have you attended the NERTC&S?

2. Do you manage: Sports Turf Golf Grounds/Schools Landscapes Other (circle)

3. Did you attend a Seminar in 2007 on Monday, March 5th? Yes No
 Comments:

4. How would rate the USGA education day in meeting your needs? 1(Poor) 2 3 4 5(Great)
 Comments:

5. How would you rate the Keynote Speaker? 1 2 3 4 5
 Comments/Suggestions:

6. How would you rate Tuesday’s Opening Reception & Food? 1 2 3 4 5
 Comments:

7. How would you rate the Trade Show in meeting your needs? 1 2 3 4 5
 Comments:

8. Did the Education Program on Wednesday meet your needs? 1 2 3 4 5
 Comments:

9. How would you rate the Wed. Reception on the Show Floor? 1 2 3 4 5
 Comments:

10. Did the Education Program on Thursday meet your needs? 1 2 3 4 5
 Comments:

11. Did you participate in either the Silent or Live Auctions? Yes No
 Comments:

12. How would you rate your hotel experience in Providence? 1 2 3 4 5
13. How would you rate the restaurants in Providence? 1 2 3 4 5
14. How would you rate the Rhode Island Convention Center? 1 2 3 4 5

15. Please rate your overall N. E. Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show experience in 2007.
 1 (Poor) 2 3 4 5 (Great!)

Additional Comments/Suggestions:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

(Fill out the reverse side and information above and send back by June 1st to be eligible for 3-day 2008 Conference and Show Registration and Two-night stay at the Westin Hotel drawing.) Only one entrant per person.

(Fold)



New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, Inc.
c/o Gary Sykes
1272 West Main Road, Green #3
Middletown, RI 02842

(Fold)