



THE NEWSLETTER

November 2009

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.

Life on the Golf Course a Natural Fit for Kirkbrae's Richard

By: Gary Trask

Mark Richard is a self-professed “golf course rat.” And it’s been that way ever since he was a young boy in Warwick, RI growing up across the street from Valley Country Club.

As an 8-year-old, Richard began caddying at the club, even though he could barely lift the golf bags over his shoulder. He spent countless hours in the pro shop learning about the game and to this day he still remembers the first time he was allowed to drive a golf cart. He worked a few summers on the grounds crew and in the winter he and his friends would play football or go sledding on the course. He’d also make extra cash during the offseason washing dishes in the club’s kitchen.

“I have no idea why the good Lord arranged it for me to grow up next to a golf course, but looking back it was the best thing that ever happened to me,” says the 54-year-old Richard, who has continued to spend the majority of his life at a golf course thanks to spending the last three decades as a superintendent. “I’m very lucky. To me, being on the golf course has always been second nature. I still love it to this day.”

Kirkbrae Country Club has certainly reaped the benefits of Richard’s fondness for spending long days at the golf course. Richard just finished his 17th season as the head super at the private course in Lincoln, RI and has played a major role in changing the perception of the club and making it one of the best in the state.

“We’ve come a long way and I’m

proud to have been a part of it,” he says. “From Day 1, the people here have been committed to making the club the very best that it could be. They have been progressive thinking and I’m a progressive type of guy. So it’s been a great fit.”

After graduating from Toll Gate High School in 1973, Richard worked for head super Lou Colardo on the



Mark Richard, CGCS

grounds crew at Valley CC. After a couple of years, Colardo made the move to Potowomut Golf Club in East Greenwich and asked Richard to come along with him as his assistant.

“I learned so much from Lou,” Richard remembers. “He was kind of a grumpy old guy, but he had a common-sense type of approach. He focused on the little things like keeping things

on the course real neat. He was never sloppy and he never took short cuts and I still think of him today when I run my course.”

Colardo encouraged Richard to go to the University of Massachusetts winter school and basically taught him everything he knew. Unfortunately, Colardo’s health took a turn for the worse a few years later and he had to spend long periods away from the course, leaving Richard in charge. When Colardo passed away in June of 1980, the club gave the 24-year-old Richard the chance to prove himself as the head man. He did not disappoint.

“I’m forever grateful to Lou for giving me a start in this business and to Potowomut for having the confidence in me as a young kid to take over for Lou,” he says.

Richard spent 10 years at Potowomut and the lessons he learned as the head super there set the table for a long career in the industry. A job on a bigger stage, so to speak, eventually came calling for Richard when he was hired at the prestigious Wannamoisett Country Club in Rumford, a classic Donald Ross layout that is annually on *Golf Digest’s* Top 100 list. Richard spent five years at the course, but it was a much different atmosphere than what he was accustomed to.

“There was a tremendous amount of pressure on my staff and I there,” he

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Richard - continued from page 1

says. "We were expected to do a lot with a little. But it was nothing we couldn't handle. I learned a lot while I was there. It was a great learning experience for me. But once the opportunity to go to Kirkbrae came along, I just knew it would be a better fit for me."

Kirkbrae approached Richard and told him that they wanted someone to come in and "put them on the map." They made him a considerable offer, immediately increased the budget by \$100,000 and leased new equipment. They gave Richard full control and he took the proverbial ball and ran with it.

"They've been good to me; no doubt about it," he says. "They've given me a great measure of respect. They've given me the tools to make this a great course and they've got out of my way and let me do things how I like them to be done. They've given me things I didn't even ask for and the end result is that we have a very successful club right now."

A new 8,000-square-foot maintenance building was constructed in 1995. The club built a new clubhouse with banquet facilities and a health club. Membership applications swelled and the course, which features panoramic views of Northern Rhode Island's Blackstone Valley Corridor, became one of the best in the area.

Richard credits his crew for helping him make Kirkbrae what it is today. Many members of his 20-man in-season staff have been with him the entire 17 years.

"The club takes care of my staff and I and in turn we give them 100% every day we're at the course," Richard says.

One of the reasons Richard thinks he's lasted so long in the business is because of the people he works with -- not just his staff or the people at the course, but his fellow superintendents.

"Of all the years I've been in the business, I can't remember a single superintendent that I've met who I didn't like," he says. "It's really a great group of people. As I get older, it's tough to see some of my



contemporaries walk away from the industry for a variety of different reasons. The industry is changing and for some reason I've been able to adapt and survive."

Richard still spends long hours at the course, something that has gotten a bit easier to handle, as his kids have grown older. Back when his kids were younger, his wife of 30 years, Susan, and his children Kelly, now 24, and Craig, 22, had to adapt to summers without having Richard around too much.

"Back then it was unusual for people to work weekends, so it was difficult on my wife at times," he remembers. "But she's always handled it great. She's put up with a lot. We just had to realize that we wouldn't be going on too many summer vacations like everyone else. Instead we went to Disney World in the winter, which wasn't a bad consolation prize."

Richard, who doesn't typically play much golf during the season, says at 54 years old he still feels energetic and up to the challenge of putting in the long hours his job requires. He adds that when that flame starts to burn out, he'll know that it's time to walk away.

"I say all the time that if today was my last day, I'd tip my cap, thank everyone for a great ride and then walk away with no regrets," he says fondly. "If you don't enjoy what you do and you have to drag yourself to work everyday, you're not going to last."

"I still love coming to the course. It's so peaceful and beautiful in the morning. Every day is different. Every day is a challenge. I enjoy it. And until I stop getting that feeling every day, I'm going to continue to show up ready to go every day." ❖

Chapter Delegates Meeting Offers Insight and a Look Ahead

Ninety GCSAA chapter delegates, representing 95 chapters, convened in Lawrence, Kan., and Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 9-11 to participate in a wide range of discussions, including the state of the golf economy, association governance, golf's relationship with the environment, and membership growth and retention.

"I was extremely impressed by the preparation and engagement of the delegates," said Jim Fitzroy, CGCS, meeting chairman and GCSAA vice president. "The questions asked were appropriate, and the discussions were thoughtful. That makes for a healthy meeting and gives me great confidence that the delegates will go back and communicate to their members so that they have a deeper understanding of what GCSAA is doing on their behalf and on behalf of the game."

Candidate presentations

In addition, candidates for president, vice president, secretary/treasurer and two open director positions met with the delegates. A shortened version of the candidate presentations will be available on GCSAA TV in the near future. Fitzroy, Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Club in North Quincy, Mass., is running unopposed for president; as is Bob Randquist, CGCS at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, Fla., for vice president. Current directors Sandy Queen, CGCS at City of Overland Park, Kan., and Pat Finlen, CGCS at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, Calif., oppose each other for secretary/treasurer. Both of their two year director terms expire this year. Four candidates are vying for two open director positions: Bob Farren, CGCS at Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort; Todd Lupkes, CGCS at Palouse Ridge Golf Course in Pullman, Wash; Bill Maynard, CGCS at Milburn Golf and Country Club in Shawnee, Kan.; and Mike Wooten, CGCS at Cedar Ridge Country Club in Broken Arrow, Okla.

"The nominating committee did an excellent job in providing the membership a solid slate of candidates for the

election in February," Fitzroy said. The feedback from the delegates is there will be some difficult choices, but all are extremely worthy of service."

Association operations and financial update

Thirty-one of the 39 new chapter delegates participated in an orientation session to learn more about their role and in greater detail how GCSAA functions as an association. The full contingent of delegates heard a state of the association presentation from GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Mark Woodard, CGCS. He noted GCSAA has been challenged financially by declines in industry advertising, trade show space, and conference and show attendance. However, he said GCSAA is in a better position than many associations because of a healthy financial reserve, a supportive industry, a loyal membership and no long-term debt.

Woodward also said the association's solid footing is buoyed by its participation in numerous allied association initiatives and by the importance owners and influential golfers place on the golf course superintendent.

"In my first 15 months on the job I have had the opportunity to travel all over the nation and meet with a broad spectrum of the industry," Woodward said. "Two things stand out: First, golf has never been more unified and committed to strengthening the game; and second, the recognized value of the GCSAA member is at an all time high. GCSAA has its challenges, but the leadership really looks at the situation as one of opportunity. We are in a strong position and much of the credit for that goes to the membership."

Sustainability

Delegates were also updated on the work of GCSAA and The Environmental Institute for Golf in sustaining the game. Chief among the efforts is the Golf Course Environmental Profile. GCSAA Director of Environmental Programs Greg Lyman explained that the nutrient survey results would be released in early December, building on

the land use and water use/conservation reports issued over the past two years. Lyman noted that the data from the surveys has been crucial in working with lawmakers, media and allied golf associations in detailing golf's environmental footprint. Lyman also discussed the importance of the development of the new superintendent competencies, which will include an element of environmental management.

Perhaps the highlight of the meeting was a presentation on sustainability by University of Kansas Professor of Journalism and Mass Communications Simran Sethi. An internationally respected authority on sustainability and contributor to NBC Nightly News, Oprah Winfrey Show and Planet Green Channel, Sethi spoke about the sustainability with a focus on the triple bottom line: people, planet and profit. She applauded GCSAA, its members and The Institute for their commitment to transparency and continuous improvement in managing facilities.

"It's a challenge for you, and I realize that," Sethi said. "You have to serve your employers and you are pressured by golfers for perfection. You must have patience in this effort. Communications will be important. You will have to demonstrate why a change of behavior is important. Use the tools out there that are available to help. I think what the association and you are doing is wonderful. As long as the association and you are committed to transparency and continuous improvement, then you can be successful against detractors."

First timers impressed

A format change that focused on creating opportunities for small group discussions, expanded time with the candidates and more opportunities for networking was well received, especially by first-time attendees.

"I was blown away," said Daniel Salois, GCSAA Class A member at Highland Meadows Golf Club in Toledo, Ohio, and delegate for the

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Northeast Region Golf Course Superintendents: *As the Dust Settles*

By David A. Oatis, Director

November 20, 2009

2009 will go down as "the hardest easiest year" I can remember - at least since 1995, for those of you around long enough to remember. That was another one of those sneaky years where lots of turf was lost even though the weather didn't really seem to have been all that bad. It is just one more in a long line of examples that show the strengths and weaknesses of golf courses are always exposed by the various weather patterns.

A rainy year can be a godsend for a well-drained course with a weak irrigation system, but a drought will wreak havoc with that same course. As the dust settles from the season, and focus switches from the daily grind of keeping turf alive to fall and winter project work, keep in mind the lessons learned this year. Just as lightning really does strike twice, failure to address the fundamental problems that caused this year's problems is a guarantee that it will happen again.

As I drive to and from work in the dark, I'm reminded this is a great time

to reconsider sun angles and to update your list for winter tree work. Keep in mind what it takes for turf to properly harden-off in the fall: dry weather, cold temperatures, proper (not too much) fertility, and sunlight. While the weather can't be controlled, we can influence sunlight insofar as shade is concerned. Shade from October through March increases the potential for winter injury.

Remember:

- o Reduced light inhibits the turf's ability to store carbohydrates and harden off properly.
- o Succulent turf is much more susceptible to winter injury and disease.
- o Winter shade increases the duration of snow and ice cover.
- o Shade in the late winter prolongs melting, and this increases the potential for the lethal freeze/thaw cycles that produce the Northeast Region's most common type of winter injury, crown hydration.
- o Turf that goes into the winter thin and weak isn't likely to come out any better.

Improving chances for success next year starts right now. Hopefully you've already performed your fall cultivation work; if not, get started quickly. Next, assess the reasons behind the turf performance this year and make the necessary adjustments. Check your growing environments and make sure they are adequate.

Please take a minute to fill out the questionnaire in the most recent issue of the *Green Section Record* (Nov/Dec 2009). Your feedback is appreciated. Have a great Thanksgiving and enjoy the beginning of the holiday season.

❖

Northeast Region Green Section-
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Adam Moeller, Agronomist amoeller@usga.org;
Jim Skorulski, Senior
Agronomist jskorulski@usga.org

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Northwestern Ohio GCSA. "This was a great way for me to learn more about GCSAA and all of the resources it provides for the members. We have a very sharp staff that is committed to serving the members. I am going to go back and share with my chapter just how much GCSAA can help them and their facilities."

Jay Eccleton, CGCS at The Emerald at Maple Creek in St. John's, Mich., and Michigan GCSA delegate, challenged his peers: "GCSAA puts it right there in front of us. You cannot blame them. Shame on us the member if we do not take advantage of the resources. I learned a lot about the election process and the association overall. I am impressed."

Other discussions included:

- GCSAA governance issues, including voting procedures, dual membership and the chapter affiliation agreement, which will be renewed Dec. 31, 2009.
- efforts by GCSAA to manage its expenses and generate new revenues. While the board will approve the association budget in December, the sentiment is not to raise member dues for 2010.
- the health of the GCSAA Education Conference and the Golf Industry Show, as well as the future rotation of the event.

- GCSAA advocacy efforts with lawmakers, media and other audiences.
- best practices by chapters to increase effectiveness and engagement. GCSAA membership recruitment and retention activities. ❖

NOTE: GCSAA members may also view the [presentations from the Chapter Delegates Meeting](#). Detailed outcomes will be distributed to delegates in the upcoming weeks for their use at chapter meetings.

Source: GCSAA Press Release

2010 UMASS Winter School for Turf Managers - Accepting Applications

The 2010 session of the UMass International Winter School for Turf Managers is just around the corner! This highly acclaimed program runs for seven weeks, beginning Monday, January 4 and concluding on Thursday, February 18. Winter School, which is administered by UMass Continuing and Professional Education, provides 32 hours of instruction each week, covering general turf management, pest management (insects, diseases, and weeds), turf physiology, personnel management, irrigation, and much more.

Some of our Winter School students are people who have several years of experience in the turf industry and just want to sharpen their skills. Others are making career changes, while others are just getting started.

Discussions in the classroom tend to be lively and stimulating, as students usually are very willing to share their experiences with classmates and instructors. There are several "hands on" laboratory sessions, including identification of grasses, diseases, weeds, and insects.

The perennial goal of the UMass Winter School for Turf Managers is to furnish turf managers with the concepts essential to the maintenance of high quality turf, while instilling a sense of environmental stewardship and fiscal responsibility. Enrollment is limited, and close-knit classes offer the opportunity to form lasting relationships with peers and memories that will last a lifetime.

Please note: The application deadline for international students is September 15, 2009. Domestic students must apply by November 15, 2009 to qualify for the lowest program fee.

For complete information on the program and application materials, check out these two links:

http://www.umassturf.org/education/certificate_programs/winter_school.html

<http://www.umasslearn.net/programs/certificate/international-winter-school-turf-managers> ❖

Annual UMASS/MALCP Winter Lawn Care Conference Wednesday, January 20, 2010 (snow date Jan. 21)

The Annual UMass/MALCP Winter Lawn Care Conference is an excellent opportunity for professionals who work in the landscape and lawn care industries to attend an educational session during the off-season. Individuals registering for the 2010 Winter Lawn Care Conference will have the option to choose one of two education tracks: Business or Technical. As in the past, a cadre of expert speakers will emphasize effective and efficient turf management practices in the Technical Track, the theme of which will be Environmentally Responsible Management of Turf Damaging Insects. Presenters in the Business Management Track, geared towards owners and managers, will report on current trends and offer insight on managing a successful enterprise in the 21st century. All 2010 Winter Lawn Care Conference attendees are invited to attend an on-site trade show, and Business Track participants will have the opportunity to attend a post-conference reception.

Who should attend the 2010 Winter Lawn Care Conference? Lawn, landscape, municipal and sports turf professionals and associated staff who want to learn more about cutting-edge concepts and current issues facing the industry. Business owners and managers who want to learn from the best of their colleagues and make their businesses thrive. Anyone interested in ecologically sound, economically feasible turf management.

Technical Track participants can choose either 5 pesticide recertification contact hours valid for all New England states for category 37 (turf) and category 00 (licensed applicator), or 4 contact hours for category 37 (turf) plus 1 contact hour for category 36 (shade tree and ornamental). Credits for the following professional certifications have also been requested for the Technical Track: the Massachusetts Association of Landscape Professionals MCLP certification, the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape

Association's MCH certification, the Sports Turf Managers Association CSFM certification and the Northeast Organic Farming Association's Accredited Organic Land Care Professional certification. Pesticide recertification contact hours have been requested for Business Track participants. ❖

For complete information on the 2010 Winter Lawn Care Conference, visit <http://www.umassturf.org>. For questions specific to the Technical Track, contact Mary Owen at (508) 892-0382; mowen@umext.umass.edu or Jason Lanier at (413) 545-2965; jdlanier@umext.umass.edu. For Business Track questions, contact Karen Connelly at (781) 274-7373; malcp@yahoo.com.

**17th Annual Scholarship and Benevolence
Tournament Results
October 15, 2009
In Memory of Glenn Ackley and Richard Blake
Hatherly Country Club
Host: Richard Caughey**

Best Ball of Twosome (80% Handicap)

1st Gross: Terry Linner-Jim Sullivan Score: 69
2nd Gross: Ernie Bernard-Steve Materia Score: 75
3rd Gross: Garrett Whitney-Bob Dembeck Score: 76

1st Net: Jason Adams-Mike McCullough Score: 66
2nd Net: Ed Eardley-George Stencil Score: 67
3rd Net: Kevin Osgood-David Stowe Score: 68 *won via card-off
4th Net: Ernie Ketchum-Dan Tomczyk Score: 68

Closest to Pin (Hole # 8): Mike Iacono 4'11"
Closest to Pin (Hole # 15): Steve Carr 17' 7"
Closest to Pin (Hole # 18): Ken Crimmings 8' 0"

Volunteers Needed for the 2010 Curtis Cup

Dear GCSANE Member,

As you may know, Essex County Club is hosting the 2010 Curtis Cup June 11-13, 2010. The event will be televised on the Golf Channel. I need your help! We are looking for volunteers for the Grounds Department. Attached is the volunteer form. If you or any of your staff are interested in volunteering for the Curtis Cup, please fill out the form by January 31, 2010 ([see form on next page](#)). A detailed information package will be sent out in March which will describe the tasks, start and end times and all other pertinent information. For more information on the Curtis Cup and Essex County Club, please visit these websites www.2010curtiscup.com and <http://golfclubatlas.com/courses-by-country/usa/essex-county-club>.

Sincerely,
Eric Richardson
Grounds Superintendent
Essex County Club



**2010 Curtis Cup
Grounds Department Volunteer Application**

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for the 2010 Curtis Cup at Essex County Club, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts June 11-13th.

Volunteer Information:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone (Primary): _____ Email Address: _____

Shirt Size: Men's: Sm. ___ Med. ___ Lg. ___ XL ___ Women's: Sm. ___ Med. ___ Lg. ___ XL ___

Days Available:

June 9th (practice round) _____ A.M. ___ Mid-day ___ P.M. ___

June 10th (practice round) _____ A.M. ___ Mid-day ___ P.M. ___

June 11th _____ A.M. ___ Mid-day ___ P.M. ___

June 12th _____ A.M. ___ Mid-day ___ P.M. ___

June 13th _____ A.M. ___ Mid-day ___ P.M. ___

Are you in need of lodging? Yes ___ No ___

A golf shirt and cap will be provided. Khaki slacks are required. A detailed information packet will be mailed to you no later than March 15, 2010.

Please Return Completed Application to:
Essex County Club Grounds Department
P.O. Box 112
Manchester, MA 01944

Or fax to:
Fax: (978)526-8333 Attn: Eric Richardson

Milton-Hoosic Club - Nine-Hole Meeting
Host: Jeff Urquhart
November 16, 2009

Tournament Results

1st Gross: Dave Devin and Ed Gianni 35
2nd Gross: Kurt Calderwood and Chris Tufts 36
3rd Gross: Garrett Whitney and Mike Rose 37

1st Net: Bill Frank and Dick Gurski 30
2nd Net: Scott Mackintosh and Dave Johnson 32
3rd Net: Chris Donadio and Dave Mucciarone

Closest to the pin:
Joe Lazaro hole in one on #5!
Ed Downing 7'10" on #7
Long Drive won by our host for the day Jeff Urquhart

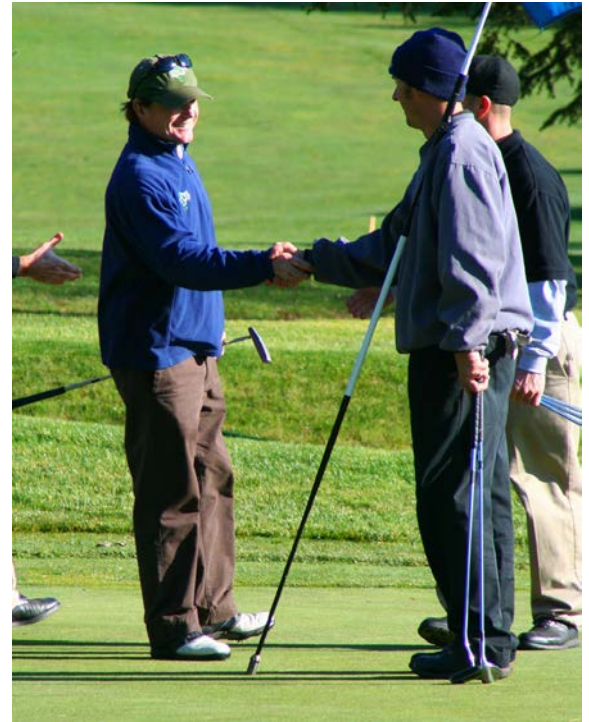


Photo Credit: Rich Gagnon



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our condolences are extended to Len Curtin and family on the passing of Len's wife Irina Curtin on December 3, 2009 after a year and one-half courageous battle with adrenal cancer. Memorial donations can be made to The Jimmy Fund or Dana Farber Cancer Institute in memory of Irina Curtin.

Our condolences are extended to the Sperandio family on the passing of Anthony (Tony) Sperandio at the age of 94 on September 23, 2009. Tony was a navy veteran. He was the superintendent at Framingham Country Club before owning a company called Grounds Equipment in Newton, MA. He then went on to own a golf course in Belmont, New Hampshire called Lakeview. He was buried at the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery.

Congratulations to Ed and Christina Downing who was married on November 27, 2009.

Please note that Steve Cadenelli has a new email address which is: sgccng@yahoo.com

Introducing a new web site: www.GreenJobsNE.org This site was developed by Brian Maynard (URI Plant Sciences faculty) and Thomas Briggs (URI Computer Sciences student). This site offers employers a place to post jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities. It is also a place for students to post their contact information and resumes. The site is powerful - employers can manage their own job postings and even post logos and announcements in any regular file format. Student information is only visible to registered employers and students also can manage all their information from any computer. The registration process is simple, just fill

out a short form, pick a password and submit for approval. Please send any comments or questions to Brian Maynard (401) 874-5372 or bmaynard@uri.edu.

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 each and every release free of charge. This is a great way to advertise for free.

CALENDAR

December 17:
GCSANE Monthly Meeting
 Framingham Country Club
 Host: Patrick Daly, CGCS

Plan ahead and reserve your space now for The Newsletter advertising opportunities

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□1/3 page (horizontal; 5.06" wide x 4.5" deep)	□\$200.00	□\$760.00	□\$1080.00	□\$1440.00	□\$2000.00
□1/2 page (horizontal; 7.75" wide x 4.5" deep)	□\$250.00	□\$950.00	□\$1350.00	□\$1800.00	□\$2500.00
□Full Page (vertical; 7.75" wide x 9.25" deep)	□\$500.00	□\$1900.00	□\$2700.00	□\$3600.00	□\$5000.00

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

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

