



THE NEWSLETTER

February 2011

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.

Jason Adams

Husband, Father, Mentor, GCSANE President, Golf Course Superintendent, Carpenter, Men's Club Champion?

An interview of GCSANE incoming President Jason Adams

By Jeffrey Urquhart

I know, the last one is tough to swallow. It's true, Jason Adams, your current President holds the Club Champion title for 4 years at Petersham Country Club in Petersham, Massachusetts. I didn't ask if they were back to back, now that would be an accomplishment. That's where it all started for Jason. At the age of 15 he was cutting greens, doing golf course set up and, as time went on, he also was responsible for the night watering. Jason would use the time between watering cycles to practice his golf game before it got too dark.



Jason Adams

Initially Jason was focused on becoming a Head Golf Pro, completing the paperwork to enter the golf instruction side of the business through the PGA of America, but his interests were too great in the maintenance aspect of golf. He would then spend 3 years on the crew at Petersham before deciding to attend the Stockbridge School of Agriculture.

After graduating from Stockbridge, he returned to Petersham for one more summer. In the early 90's Jason became the Assistant at Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg, Massachusetts and then moved to the Shattuck Golf Course as the Assistant in Jaffrey, New Hampshire. It was at the Shattuck where Jason truly sharpened his skills to put him where he is today. Within the first few weeks he was given the task of developing a fertilizer program for the entire year. The Superintendent was thrilled with what he came up with and used the program that season. While at the Shattuck he was also responsible for several projects, which included tee construction, bunker construction, the construction of new put-

ting greens, a new parking lot and also developed a plan for a new maintenance facility. I asked Jason who designed the tees and putting greens that he constructed. He laughed and said, "The owner hired Al Zikoros from Maine to help with the project. The design looked like he traced playing cards on a topographical map. Once we removed the trees and boulders we built the tees and greens to fit the land and resemble the existing course. They were nothing like the plan. The architect came down just before we seeded everything and said, looks good, nice job kid!" He then took these skills to Norfolk Golf Club in Westwood, Massachusetts where he was the Superintendent for 9 years. The timing was great because Norfolk was scheduled to undergo some of the similar projects that he had completed at the Shattuck, such as a new maintenance facility, an update of the irrigation system and several bunkers were still to be renovated. Thing would change dramatically in 2008 when the number of hole he was responsible for would be tripled.

He accepted the position at Blue Hill Country Club in Canton, Massachusetts and has been the Superintendent there for 3 years. With over 350 acres to manage, Jason has a good support team to handle the task. His Assistant at Norfolk Golf Club, John Zolkowski, took the same position with Jason at Blue Hill along with 13 other crew members. "John has been instrumental in running the staff on a day to day basis, we're a good team." Jason has always been a hands on kind of guy, but now finds himself having to delegate more than in the past. Disorganization was the biggest hurdle to jump at Blue Hill. In the first couple of weeks on the job Jason made maintain the equipment more efficient, which helped the successful grooming of the golf course. Working with the equipment technician, 4 dumpsters were filled with out dated supplies, tools, parts and un-used small equipment. The club also accepted a proposal on a overdue equipment package with John Deere and has committed itself to the yearly financing of equipment. Through

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Adams - continued from page 1

aggressive aeration practices, over seeding and tree removal (700 so far), Jason has improved the turf health, which has aided in decreasing the turfs chemical dependency. "We've reduced that Chemical/Fertilizer budget by \$70,000 a year." In 2002 Blue Hill went through a major course renovation, which included new tees, bunkers and the installation of a new irrigation system. "There were still some scars from the renovation that were still visible and were very irritating to the members. We have focused a lot of time on the green surrounds and bunker banks. We are now focused on the carts paths and have renovated 4 holes so far." All the paths that are being installed are 8 foot path to allow for construction vehicles and maintenance equipment. While discussing the reason for making the paths wider Jason mentioned the club's interest in hosting the LPGA once again. They haven't played there since the 90's and it would mean a lot to the club if the LPGA would make them a regular stop on the tour, but finding a sponsor has made it difficult. Although feeling that he has "elevated conditions pretty quickly in 3 years time", Jason is convinced that the club will require 6 more years of work to get them to where they deserve to be.

Ok, now that we've touched on three out of the seven titles that can be used to describe the incoming President, it's time to tackle the other four. We then discussed the real reasons why he goes to work every day. Jason is supported at home by his wife Cathy and three daughters; Emily, Lindsey and Taylor. Jason and Cathy have known each other for 20 years and have been married for 15. When not on the course he is at home spending valuable time with them and also trying to squeeze in some well needed house renovations. Cathy and Jason bought a "fixer upper" 6 years ago and have fully gutted the entire house almost doubling the square footage. The house also includes an in-law apartment where Jason's retired parents now live. "My father and I have done all the work on the house including the framing, wiring, plumbing and roofing and Cathy and my mother have performed miracles with the gardens and plantings. It has been a lot of hard work but has been great experience together!" Carpentry has become a passion of his adding, "We have a wood-working shop that most guys would drool over."

Would you believe that the current GCSANE President almost left the Board of Directors? He was convinced to stay by other members of the Board and most importantly through the support of his wife. Jason hasn't looked back since, moving up the ranks as Membership Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and now President. "Being a member of the Board has been one of the best things I have ever done!" One of the many goals that Jason has as President is to carry what the GCSAA is doing at a national level down to the local level. Golf Course Superintendents have broken down the image that most golfers have of us. The "caddy shack" syndrome is becoming a thing of the past and Jason hopes to continue that trend. "Through education we can continuously elevate our members in the eyes of our clubs." The association should be proud that we have Jason as our President for the next two years. For the rest of our members and myself, I would like to wish Jason all the best. ❖

President's Message

It's February and has been one of the snowiest winters in quite some time. Even though it feels like we're all in the snow removal business, I hope all of you have enjoyed the winter after the 2010 brutal summer. Taking time for yourself and with your families is well deserved after the record year.

I am sure all of you are doing the same thing as we are at Blue Hill. Trekking out to the greens and digging down to see how things look. We are currently looking at a solid 3 feet of snow on the ground and things look good so far. The massive amounts of snow have helped absorb any rains we have had keeping ice from developing on the greens surfaces. The abundance of snowfall will also be a good test for any new chemistry you might have used in place of PCNB.

Some of you are probably returning from the recent Conference and Golf Industry Show in Orlando and hopefully brought back warmer weather for everyone. March is now just around the corner allowing for more education to our members. The New England Regional Turf Foundation is holding its annual conference on March 7th through the 10th

in Providence and on March 30th, the New England Golf Summit will be held again at Andover Country Club. I hope you all take advantage of these professional events. As a reminder to all of our members, the Board of Directors has decided to waive the 2011 initiation fee for all new assistant members. It is a great opportunity for Superintendents and clubs to get their assistants involved at an affordable price into our association.

I would like to thank the members of the association again for giving me this opportunity to serve as its President. We have an incredible line up on the Board of Directors that I will have the pleasure of working with over the next two years.

I wish all of you a great season to come but hope it doesn't come too quickly! ❖

Jason Adams
President, GCSANE

"It is pleasing to see new names on our membership list and particularly gratifying that young greenkeepers are among the newcomers. Vitality, vim and vigor in young veins means good health for the organization. New thoughts, new ambitions and new outlooks molded together with the older, conservative and experienced ideas should produce a stronger association. These young men guided by the traditions and ideals of the club which they will absorb as time goes on will all too soon be the leaders of the Greenskeepers Club of New England. So, be patient with them, help them and encourage them to be stronger and better members than we older ones have been." H. Darling, The Newsletter, October 1950

Randquist Elected GCSAA President

Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, director of golf course and grounds at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, Fla., was elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) at the association's annual meeting Feb. 11.

The annual meeting was held in conjunction with the [GCSAA Education Conference](#) (Feb. 7-11) and [Golf Industry Show](#) (Feb. 9-10) in Orlando. A member dues increase of \$20 annually for Class A members and \$10 annually for Class C members also passed.

Randquist will serve as president until the 2012 annual meeting and election.

Randquist is a 34-year GCSAA member, and has been at Boca Rio Golf Club since 1998. Previously, he was superintendent at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Okla., for 19 years, where he hosted the 1982 and 1994 PGA Championships, the inaugural 1987 USGA Women's Mid-Amateur Championship and the 1995 and 1996 PGA Tour Championships. Randquist has a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Oklahoma. He serves on The Environmental Institute for Golf Board of Trustees, is a member Palm Beach GCSA, and a past president of the Oklahoma GCSA. Randquist is also a member of the Florida



Robert M. Randquist, CGCS
GCSAA President

Turfgrass Association and the USGA Green Section committee.

Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, manager of golf operations for the city of Overland Park, Kan., was elected vice president.

Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, director of golf course maintenance operations at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, was elected secretary/treasurer.

Peter J. Grass, CGCS at Hilands Golf Club in Billings, Mont., **Keith A. Ihms**, CGCS at Country Club of Little Rock in Little Rock, Ark., and **John J. O'Keefe**, CGCS, director of golf course management at Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, N.J., were each re-elected to another two-year term.

Rafael Barajas, CGCS at Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights, Calif., was appointed to the GCSAA Board of Directors, filling the remaining year of Finlen's term, created by his election to secretary/treasurer.

William H. Maynard, CGCS at Milburn Golf and Country Club in Overland Park, Kan., remains on the board with one year remaining in his two-year director term. **James R. Fitzroy**, CGCS, director/superintendent at Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Club in North Quincy, Mass., will serve on the board for one year as immediate past president. **Mark D. Kuhns**, CGCS, director of grounds at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J., retires from the board after serving the last year as immediate past president. ❖

GCSAA Press Release - Feb. 2011

Thinking About It

By Don Hearn



There's an excellent short video (90 seconds long) on the USGA Green Section web site that explains, in very easy to understand non-technical language, the negative effects of playing on frost covered turf. For those interested this is the link, <http://www.usga.org/turf/articles/video/frost.html>. I think it's something you should at least take a look at. Sending it along to your members, committee people or anyone else that may be your boss can't hurt. For

those of you who communicate with these people electronically, it's about the easiest way I can think of to show them what the negative effects can be.

It was good to see Dean Robertson's long time green chairman and former Kernwood Country Club president, Martin "Bozie" Goldman at the Annual Meeting to share in the recognition of Dean as this year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Bozie is one person who will live forever when the history of Kernwood Country Club is told. Not many superintendents have had the same green chairman for twenty-five years. In fact, not many superintendents have been at the same club for twenty-five years. Working

with a person like Bozie, who is very interested in what you do and how you do it, while at the same time carrying the torch for you, is rare in these times.

So many times I talk with superintendents who are uneasy about their future. They look around and see others being let go and they wonder, "When might my time come?" There are some who are confident that, for them, it will be different. That it won't happen to them. The club loves them and the course has never been in better condition. At least that's what they've been told. In some instances this might be true. But, for those of you in this category – be careful. The group that hired you will be out of power in a few years and a new group will be flexing their muscles. The honeymoon will end. Then you might hear the phrase, "Let's bring this place to the next level." That's when to be looking over your shoulder. How many times have we heard that a club made a change because they wanted to bring it to the next level? Really, what is, and how is the next level defined? I point this out not to dampen spirits, but rather to reinforce what some already know. You have to be taking care of yourself. Don't think your employer will do it for you. And don't think that what you've done well in the past will be enough to keep you employed in the future. Think about your future before it becomes your past. ❖



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TurfNet Superintendent of the Year 2010 Finalist Profile: **Glen Misiaszek, Cohasset Country Club**

When searching for a single phrase to describe Glen Misiaszek, co-workers and members at Cohasset Golf Club in Massachusetts settled on "the complete package."

In a letter penned by the club's office manager, Tinamarie Ricci wrote: "Today, the greenkeeper is not a person who works out of a barn and cuts grass. Most importantly, they are communicators and then agronomist, environmentalist, chemist, meteorologist, electrician, irrigation specialist and mechanic. They are doctors who diagnose and treat disease. To their staff they must be motivators, trainers and mentors. Yet their job isn't complete until they perform the duties of financial manager, purchasing agent and human resource specialist. The superintendent is the key person who is responsible for the success or failure of a multi-million dollar business. Glen Misiaszek excels in all these areas."

As a communicator, Misiaszek, 37, has been proactive in establishing and maintaining an open line of communication with Cohasset's members and administrators. That has included creating a guide of maintenance standards and conducting outreach and educational opportunities for his



Glen Misiaszek

members.

His outreach efforts even resulted in a nomination from superintendent Jay McGrail, who has had Misiaszek on his speed dial since becoming superintendent at nearby South Shore Country Club more than five years ago.

Taking an active role in creating the maintenance guidelines helps ensure, as committee members change throughout the years, that the Donald Ross design is managed in a way consistent with the architect's original intent. It also protects him in times of change.

"We worked on the course standards for a year, and they were just approve in April of 2009," Misiaszek said.

"Committees change and so do chairmen. So, even with a change in management, this document will ensure the consistency of the design of the course."

Misiaszek's philosophy at Cohasset has been to adhere to the original Ross design as much as possible. Greens complexes have been largely untouched over the past century - with only two being rebuilt since the course was constructed.

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"It's all about keeping it unique," he said. "We've restored it to how we think Ross pretty much left it."

And although Misiaszek is intent on maintaining the architect's original design integrity, he also is proactive about allaying the concerns of members who comparison shop conditions at Cohasset with those at other nearby clubs.

To that end, he conducted an open forum for members in late 2009 that included 10 area superintendents as well as agronomist Jim Skorulski of the USGA Green Section to discuss why management practices, such as aerification schedules - differ between properties.

When asked by members why he aerifies in August when some courses do not, a quick poll of other superintendents at the forum showed that those who vent in late summer work at private clubs, while those who do not are at daily fee facilities that rely on the cash business and cannot close for maintenance.

"It was a good night," he said. "It gave me a chance to show them what we're all about." ❖



Cohasset Country Club

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USGA Session & Keynote Speaker Mike Eruzione
Wednesday, March 9 • 9am-11am & 2pm-4pm
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Thursday, March 10 • 9am-11am *Golf / Lawn Care & Landscape*

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When Performance Matters.™



"The New England Golf Summit was such a success in 2010 that we wanted to continue the momentum in 2011," said **Joe Sprague**, the MGA's executive director who was instrumental in the development of this event. "Our goals are still to provide great education and networking opportunities for all of golf's major stakeholders in the region. And after our long winter, it should provide a nice kickoff to the new season."

Headlining the program of events will be four leaders in the industry, including **David Oatis**, the USGA's Director of the Northeast Region Green Section, who has traveled nationally and internationally addressing key issues facing golf course superintendents.

Also presenting that day will be **Brad Steele**, vice president of government relations and general counsel for the National Club Association, **Greg Nathan**, senior vice president of membership at the National Golf Foundation, and Steve Gogolak of Cramer Productions who will discuss the impact of social media on small businesses.

Continental breakfast and a networking luncheon will be included and continuing education points will be awarded to all GCSANE members who attend. The New England Golf Summit will be held on:

Wednesday, March 30 at Andover Country Club.

Online registration, a schedule of events and speaker bios are available at
www.negolfsummit.org

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Our condolences are extended to Tim Crane and family on the recent passing of Tim'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 each and every release free of charge. This is a great way to advertise for free.

Congratulation to Rhett Evans who was recently selected as the new chief executive officer for GCSAA. Rhett has served as interim CEO since late June of 2010. He came to GCSAA in July 2009 as chief operating officer. Prior to joining GCSAA, he was the director of the parks, recreation and commercial facilities division for the Phoenix suburb of Mesa, Ariz., (population 490,000). He was elevated to that position in 2005, after serving as that city's convention center and amphitheatre director beginning in 2001. We wish him all the best!



Rhett Evans
GCSAA CEO

CALENDAR

March 7-10:

New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show
RI Convention Center
www.NERTF.org

March 30:

New England Golf Summit
Andover Country Club
Host: Wayne Lacroix
www.negolfsummit.org

9 HOLE BUDGET SURVEY

Last month, Kurt Calderwood at The Harmon Club, hosted the annual meeting for Superintendents that participated in 2010/2011 budget survey. In total 11 golf courses successfully submitted their club's information. For the second year, I have gathered all the information and prepared the survey for the meeting. The survey includes; Course Demographics, Superintendent information, Assistant information, Budget Spent To Date, Requested Budget for the next year and a short questionnaire that we review at the meeting. If you can't attend the meeting, the results are mailed to you. We do all of this free of charge although if the number of participants grows, a small fee will be discussed to help with the printing and binding costs. If you'd like to be involved in next year's survey, please email me at jmartin101@gmail.com.



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Let's Go Back To -1929-

A monthly addition by the Editor

WINTER PLAY

Fall preparation of greens to be open for winter play begins here at Wollaston about September the twentieth. At that time the machines are raised a little; and then raised successive weeks until by October fifteenth they are just clipping the tips of the grass sufficient to keep the green putting true. When growth slackens they are cut only every other day.

During the middle of October every green on the course is given a good top dressing of fine, sharp sand and compost mixed half and half. The roots of the grass will have this covering and will not be so badly injured by all the tramping, drying out, and other ills which come with winter play. The compost used in the above mixture is made of twenty per cent stable manure and eighty per cent good loam. The dressing is applied at the rate of three quarters of a cubic yard to an average

green of 5000 to 6000 square feet.

Before the ground, freezes it is a good plan to cut several holes in different places on the green, fill these holes with newspaper and replace the plugs. Then later during thaws, play can be shifted around the green by simply lifting out the inner cup and putting it into one of the holes previously made. Thus the green is saved by preventing concentration of play.

The formation of ice is guarded against by proper surface drainage. But in time of thaws followed by quick freezes ice may gather, when this occurs break it up with a wooden mallet as soon as possible and remove.

Snow mold is apt to appear along the edge of snow banks during winter thaws. Southern exposures must be watched closest. The better plan is to remove the banks of snow, but when this is not feasible the active fungus can be checked with little damage by rubbing

with the back of a rake. Do this while the ground is still moist. When the ground is dry and cold growth of the fungus need not be feared.

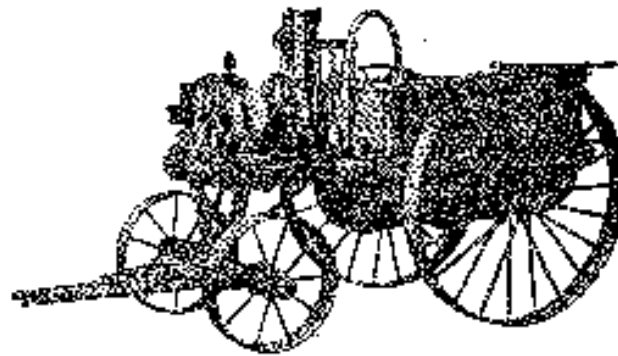
Finally it might be said that greens must be in good condition going into the cold weather if they are to survive heavy play. It has been my personal experience that the bents stand up best under hard usage; and among the bents there is little to choose between ;hg velvet, the creeping, or the Rhode Island. By spring there will be very little turf covering the roots, but with careful treatment the greens can be made to come back; perhaps from two to four weeks later than if they had not been played but they will come back as good as ever.

DENIS CROWLEY

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