



THE NEWSLETTER

January 2012

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.

Mike Hermanson Honored for Distinguished Service by the GCSANE

By Rich Gagnon

After a call for nominations, a lengthy review of the nominees by the Distinguished Service Award Committee, and approval from the board of directors of the GCSANE the call came into Mike Hermanson's phone on December 17, 2011.

Hermanson was told he was the winner of our association's most prestigious award, the Distinguished Service Award for 2012.

A surprised and modest Hermanson responded with an appreciative "That's Fantastic, I'm so honored." How did Hermanson's road to such a high honor begin? His love for golf started before he was ten years old when he would team up with best friend from 2 doors down in his Gardner neighborhood, Dave Comee, for a frequent round of golf. They would play Gardner Municipal Golf Course on a regular basis and his love for the game of golf had started.

Before ever landing a head superintendent position Hermanson worked for 2 summers at Gardner Municipal Golf Course while in high school in 1968. After high school Mike enrolled in the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and was able to start and complete an internship at Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Upon graduation from Stockbridge in 1970 Mike was facing a draft position of #21 for the U.S. military. Rather than wait for the inevitable Mike decided to beat Uncle Sam to the punch and enlisted as a U.S. National Guardsman for 6 months of active duty followed by 6 years of part-time service. In 1972 Gardner Municipal Golf Course was advertising through the Civil Service Program that they were looking for a head superintendent. The previous superintendent, Dan Donovan, had been the superintendent for 36 years. Whoever landed this job had some huge shoes to fill and Mike realized this. Hermanson landed an interview and was going to have the opportunity to sit in front of the 3-person commission that was going to decide who the next head superintendent was going to be for Gardner.

One interview led to a second and the day following his second interview he got the call. Mike Hermanson was asked to be the next superintendent of Gardner Municipal Golf Course. But wait, it wasn't that easy. Mike was told he had to

complete a successful "6-month probationary period" before it was official. A member of the green's committee back in 1972 was Bernie LaFortune, a friend of Mike's to this day who still plays a regular round of golf at Gardner. As it turns out, childhood golf partner Dave Comee was also carving out a nice niche as a superintendent himself eventually landing at The Winchendon School Golf Club.

The next year Mike joined the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England. After settling in as a fixture at Gardner Mike was approached by fellow superintendent Jim Fitzroy in 1992 and was asked if he would like to serve on the board of directors for the GCSANE as the golf committee chairman under President Steve Chiavaroli.

Mike had no idea that this would be the beginning of a 16 year stint on the board of directors. Hermanson spent 9 years as golf chairman before eventually working his way all the way to president of the GCSANE in 2004-2005.

Hermanson says the most influential people during his time on the board were Jim Fitzroy and Bob Ruzsala. "These are the guys that made me excited to represent this association, especially at events such as MGA conferences etc." When asked what his two most memorable moments were while at Gardner he said "Winning the 1981 Gardner club championship is at the top of the list. My handicap was about a 3-4 back then and being considered a full member of the



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E-mail: Pat@framinghamcc.com
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Donald E. Hearn, CGCS
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800-833-4451 Fax: 774-430-9101
E-mail: donhearn@gcsane.org

BUSINESS MANAGER, THE NEWSLETTER

Julie Heston
Phone: (401) 934-7660 Email: jheston@verizon.net

GCSANE Headquarters
300 Arnold Palmer Blvd., Norton, MA 02766
Tel: (800) 833-4451 Fax: (774) 430-9101
Web Site: www.gcsane.org

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Mike Hermanson - continued from page 1

“I want to thank the board, the Distinguished Service Award Committee and all the people that supported me. If I had one message for younger members, it’s to get involved. Join a committee, host a meeting and attend meetings regularly.” Mike Hermanson

club was a privilege. Also, my second most memorable moment while at Gardner was being able to host a United States Public Links National Qualifier for the USGA in 2005. There were some huge names in that field including Anthony Kim who finished 2nd and Jimmy Renner who finished 3rd. I am also very proud of the fact that I hosted 3 GCSANE events.” Who would have imagined Mike Hermanson would have had a longer tenure as the head superintendent at Gardner than his old boss who was there 36 years. Mike totaled 37 years at Gardner Municipal.

Mike is still involved with many committees including 15 years on the S&B committee with Bob Healy and Dave Commee, 4 GCSAA committees including the Election Committee, the Tournament Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Strategic Communications Committee. Mike is also involved with the University of Massachusetts Alumni Turf Group. Since the untimely loss of best friend and fellow superintendent Dave Comee, the past superintendent at The Winchendon School Golf Club, Mike has dedicated his time to mentoring Winchendon’s next superintendent Corey Murphy as he adjusts to his new role.

As it turns out, Dave Comee wrote not one but two letters of nomination for Mike Hermanson for the DSA award in 2011 and verbally asked permission for his nomination letters to be valid for the nomination process in 2012 after Dean Robertson was named the eventual winner. Permission was granted and other nomination letters rolled in to validate Dave’s wishes. “I had no idea that Dave nominated me.” Mike said.

“I want to thank the board, the Distinguished Service Award Committee and all the people that supported me. If I had one message for younger members it’s to get involved. Join a committee, host a meeting and attend meetings regularly. I also want to thank Sharon Brownell for all her hard work during my years serving on the board. She made my job much easier.”

Congratulations to Mike Hermanson, Distinguished Service Award Winner-2012. Well deserved! ❖



GCSANE Elects Board of Directors for 2012

NORTON, Mass. – The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England elected its new slate of officers for the 2012 season.

Jason S. Adams of Blue Hill Country Club as President; Michael W. Stachowicz of Dedham Country & Polo Club as Vice-President; Mark Gagne of Walpole Country Club as Treasurer; Michael Luccini, CGCS of Franklin Country Club as Secretary; Scott Lagana, CGCS of Oak Hill Country Club as Finance Chairman; Richard T. Gagnon of Segregansett Country Club as Trustee (Membership Chairman); David Stowe, CGCS of Newton Commonwealth Golf Course as Trustee (Scholarship and Benevolence Chairman); David Johnson of Whitinsville Golf Club as Education Chairman; Carl Miner of Presidents Golf Course as Golf Chairman; Jeffery Urquhart of Milton-Hoosic Club as Newsletter Chairman; Michael Rose of Belmont County Club as Trustee (Government Relationship Chairman); Patrick J. Daly, CGCS of Framingham County Club will serve as Past President and Mark Casey of Moffett Turf Equipment (MTE) as the Affiliate Trustee.

Founded in 1924, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England is dedicated to serving its members, advancing their profession and enriching the quality of golf and the environment. ❖

For more information contact:
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WE ARE GOLF Goes to White House to Announce 2012 Summer Jobs Commitment for America's Youth

January 5th, 2012

Washington, DC – **WE ARE GOLF** today helped spearhead the White House's announcement of **Summer Jobs+**, a new call to action for businesses, non-profits, and government to work together to provide pathways to employment for America's youth in the summer of 2012.

Top executives from the PGA of America, the Club Managers Association of America, the National Golf Course Owners Association, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America joined Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis and other senior Administration officials in a commitment to do all they can to strengthen the economy and make sure America's young people have the opportunity to earn the skills and a work ethic that come with a job.

In addition to making commitments for the summer of 2012, WE ARE GOLF was honored by the Department of Labor for its strong participation in the Administration's 2011 summer jobs initiative.

A conservative estimate of WE ARE GOLF's commitment to the 2012 summer jobs effort shows the coalition's members plan to fill tens of thousands of jobs this summer. In response to the White House call to action, for example, the GCSAA announced an average increase in maintenance department hiring this coming summer from 7.0 jobs per course to 7.2, meaning total maintenance department jobs open to youth will increase from 104,300 in 2011 to 107,280 in 2012. Nearly three-quarters of PGA of America-staffed courses report they will also be hiring this summer, filling on average 14.6 summer positions, for an estimated total of more than 110,000.

"This was a challenge we were happy to take on," said World Golf Foundation CEO and WE ARE GOLF Board Member Steve Mona. "The young people for whom we create summer jobs today become the golf industry leaders of tomorrow. One of the most rewarding aspects of our industry is the opportunity to improve the lives of the teenagers and young adults who choose to work for us – to help provide the work and life skills that will make them and their future employers more prosperous down the road. I want to thank golf's leading associations for joining this important call to action."

Like WE ARE GOLF, other businesses and non-profits can accept the President's call-to-action by directly hiring youth as well as providing corporate mentorship experiences, internship, and other opportunities that connect young people to jobs. The three key ways organizations can engage are:



- **Learn and Earn:** Provide youth jobs for the summer of 2012 in the form of paid internships and/or permanent positions that provide on-the-job training. Of the roughly 180,000 job commitments announced today more than 70,000 are Learn and Earn commitments.

- **Life Skills:** Provide youth work-related soft skills, such as communication, time management and teamwork, through coursework and/or experience. This includes resume writing or interview workshops and mentorship programs.

- **Work Skills:** Provide youth insight into the world of work to prepare for employment. This includes job shadow days and internships. More information about this initiative can be found at dol.gov/summerjobs

As the nation continues to recover from the deepest recession since the Great Depression, American youth are struggling to get the work experience they need for jobs of the future. According to the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (Current Population Survey):

- 48.8 percent of youth between the ages of 16-24 were employed in July, the month when youth employment usually peaks. This is significantly lower than the 59.2 percent of youth who were employed five years ago and 63.3 percent of youth who were employed 10 years ago.
- Minority youth had an especially difficult time finding employment this past summer. Only 34.6 percent of African American youth and 42.9 percent of Hispanic youth had a job this past July. ❖

Reprinted from the We Are Golf Coalition, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida



New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show

February 6-9th, 2012, Rhode Island Convention Center

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Here are some highlights of this year's show:

- Keynote Address by Hockey Legend Ray Bourque, Tuesday, February 7
- Educations Sessions for Golf, Sports Turf, Lawn Care, Landscape, Turf and Ornaments, Turf Equipment Technicians and Professional Development
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**Tuesday,
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Blue Hill CC

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Registration & Coffee

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Welcome and Introduction

8:45 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

Congratulations, You're on the Green Committee. What Did I Get Myself Into?

Mr. David Oatis, USGA Northeast Regional Director

9:20 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

The USGA in the 21st Century – Where We Are Going

Dr. Kimberly Erusha, Managing Director, USGA Green Section

9:50 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Where is Green Speed Taking the Game

Mr. Adam Moeller, USGA Agronomist

10:20 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

Break

10:35 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Better Golf Through Turf Research

Mr. Gary Sykes, Director NERTF

10:45 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

The Things I Wish My Superintendent Knew, The

Things I Wish My Green Committee Understood

Mr. Jim Skorulski, USGA Senior Agronomist

11:25 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.

Dealing With Ever Increasing Golfer Expectations

Panel Discussion: Moderator Tom Bagley, MGA, Jason

Adams, Blue Hill Country Club, Scott Lagana, Oak Hill

Country Club, Glen Misiaszek, Cohasset Golf Club, Bill

Spence, The Country Club, David Oatis, USGA

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Members:

- **Paul Wilson**, Superintendent, Shining Rock Golf Club, Northbridge, MA
- **Sam Elliott**, Assistant Superintendent, Framingham Country Club, Framingham, MA

Congratulations to Jeff and Jodie Urquhart on the birth of their daughter Averi Ruth born January 5, 2012.

Our condolences are extended to Ron and Patty Smith on the passing of Patty's father, Richard Grant who passed away on December 15, 2011.

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. Who said nothing in this world is free? Free advertising to better your company, wow what an offer.

Jeff Urquhart, Editor

Nor'easter Hospitality Event at the GIS

When: Wednesday, February 29

**Where: Las Vegas Hotel and Casino
(formerly the Las Vegas Hilton)
Pavilion 2**

Time: 6:00 - 10:00 pm

This will be an ideal place to meet new people, enjoy the company of others, and thank those who support our industry.

As of this writing, the following Associations and companies have committed their support to the event:

Agrium Advanced Technologies	Long Island GCSA
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Connecticut Association of GCS	Syngenta
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www.nesoils.com

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Phone: 800-451-2900 or Ernie Ketchum 508-364-4428
Website: www.newenglandturf.com

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