



THE NEWSLETTER

September 2014

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.

Member Profile: Jason Paradise Cyprian Keyes Golf Club

Jason Paradise got his start in the golf business out of necessity. "I was working at Ski Ward in Shrewsbury and the ski season was over. I needed a job and thought the golf season was approaching." That is when Jason began working at Juniper Hill Golf Course.

Jason was born and raised in Northboro Massachusetts. He grew up like many American boys playing baseball, football and hockey. He attended Algonquin Regional High School. Out of High School he began working doing bathroom remodeling. That wasn't much fun he admitted and thought he might like something outside. That was when he started at the ski area.

When the ski area closed for the season, and Jason started at Juniper, he knew he liked what he was doing. He worked there from 1997 until 2000. In 2000 Jason went to work at Cyprian Keyes and he has been there ever since.

Jason started there as a laborer and worked his way up. "You know, the old school way" he added. Jason admitted that moving his way up the ranks wasn't without its challenges. "At one time I was working side by side with the guys and then I became their manager. Some of our senior crew members took a while to accept that." "Being a young man and directing people who were my father's age was a little different for me."

While noting its difficulties, Jason was quick to mention the help that his mentor Dick Zepp gave him. "None of this would have been possible without the help of Dick and owners of Cyprian, the Frem family. They helped me get my UMass Winter School Certificate and promoted me." Jason mentioned that having Dick is a huge help when he takes a vacation. "You know everything is going to be in good shape when you get back while Dick Zepp is watching the place." Jason noted that his annual July vacation to Cape Cod may not be possible without Dick.

Jason told me that his favorite part of the job is being outside and watching the course go through the seasons. "It's nice to see the course awaken in the spring, take shape in the summer and then make its transition towards winter."

On the personal side, Jason is 36 years old. He told me that when he is out of work he really enjoys spending time with his family and friends. He continues to make his home in Northboro with his wife Stacey and their two daughters Maria age 8 and Layla 4. He mentioned that his brother Dan

is in the business working for LaCorte Equipment as a salesperson. "We have a close family he added"

When Jason does have some time to himself he likes to make his own beer. "I used to play some pick-up games of hockey but that changed when the kids came along." Jason also enjoys watching the Bruins, Patriots and the Red Sox even though the Sox didn't give him much to cheer about this year.

Jason said that if he hadn't gotten into the golf business he could see himself owning or managing a brew pub. "I've always liked a good old fashioned steak and would like to sell my own beer." When asked if he won the lottery he said "I would buy a 200 acre piece of land, put a house in the middle of it and live there." I'm sure with an open invitation to family and friends. Maybe a steak or two on the grill and some of his own beer in the fridge. ❖



Jason Paradise

By Tom Albert

GCSANE Member /Guest Tournament

October 14, 2014

Dedham Country and Polo Club

Host: Kevin Corvino

Registration: 10:00 AM
Lunch: 10:30 - 11:45 AM
Shotgun Start: 12:00 noon
Hors d'oeuvres reception following golf

COST: \$240.00 per two-person team

FORMAT: Two-person team. You can register as a foursome and will be paired as two teams in the same foursome.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE - Noon, Friday, October 10

Register Now!

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Mark Gagne
233 Baker Street, Walpole, MA 02081
508-668-3859 Fax: 508-668-9969
Email: Mgagne@walpolecc.org
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Email: slagana@oakhillcc.org
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Email: mluccini@verizon.net
Franklin Country Club

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Djohnson.wgc@verizon.net
Wianno Club

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508-530-2113
Email: donny@springvalleycountryclub.com
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GOLF CHAIRMAN

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Earl T. (Tom) Albert
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Douglas, MA 01516
508-990-6682
Email: black72nova@hotmail.com
Hopedale Country Club

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Jason S. Adams
27 Cherry Street, Wrentham, MA 02093
781-828-6540 Fax: 781-326-3801
Email: jadams@bluehillcc.com
Blue Hill Country Club

ASSOCIATION MANAGER

Donald E. Hearn, CGCS
300 Arnold Palmer Blvd., Norton, MA 02766
774-430-9040 Fax: 774-430-9101
Email: 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: (774) 430-9040 Fax: (774) 430-9101
Web Site: www.gcsane.org

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President's Message



Many thanks to the Renaissance Golf Club for rolling out the red carpet and hosting our September meeting. The weather was cooperative and the golf course was a pleasure to play. It was easy to see how Greg Tower and his team have created a fine reputation for conditioning of their golf course.

The Massachusetts Golf Hall of Fame Celebration Gala will be held on Thursday evening, October 16, 2014 at Blue Hill Country Club. The event has been organized by The Massachusetts Golf Association and our Association Manager Don Hearn serves as a member of the selection committee. The event will announce and recognize the induction of Ted Bishop, The Curtis Sisters (Margaret & Harriot), Joanne Goodwin, Paul Harney, Bob Toski and Fred Wright. Members of the GCSANE board will be in attendance to support this new event.

October is a great month for golf and perhaps the last time to get some rounds in before the season winds down. Our annual Member/Guest event will be hosted by Kevin Corvino at Dedham Country and Polo Club on the 14th. Another great event and a great way to reward your Assistants for a job well done is to send them to the Assistant's tournament on the 22nd at Franklin Park, hosted by Russell Heller. Our final golf event of the season will be on November 6th. That is our fall 9 hole event held at Sassamon Trace Golf Course and hosted by Kris Armando.

Best of luck to everyone as we transition from summer to shorter days, leaf removal and fall projects. I hope to see you at one or all of our events in the coming months.

Mark Gagne
GCSANE President



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Meet Lianne Larson

White Cliff Country Club Golf Course Superintendent Lianne Larson is the only female golf course superintendent in the region. Here's a little background on this local powerhouse.

WHO: Lianne Larson is the newest and first female president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Cape Cod. She began her working career as a financial analyst and said she found "life in a cubicle" unbearable. She called in sick one day and searched frantically for a job that would take her outside. She found one at a golf course, and the rest is history.

HER DAY: Larson's day at White Cliffs Country Club starts at 3:15 a.m. and can run until 9 p.m. She oversees the 110-acre course and half a mile of private beach. But what many don't know is that she also oversees 435 housing units, a clubhouse, a tennis court, a pool and a wastewater treatment plant.

THE PERKS: Larson has two dogs – Riley, an 8-year-old golden retriever, and Birdie, a 2-year-old Stabyhoun dog, a rare breed from Holland – who she takes to work with her. If you like the beautiful gardens at White Cliffs, thank Larson; she's the landscape artist behind them. She said she loves getting her hands dirty working outside.

THE TOUGH PARTS: Larson said the weather never bothers her; she loves working outside in the sun or rain. However, difficult people can pose a bit of a challenge, and her commute helps her unwind at the end of the day and keep things in perspective, she said. ❖

By Emily Clark/eclark@wickedlocal.com



White Cliffs Country Club Golf Course Superintendent Lianne Larson is the only female golf course superintendent in the region.

Wicked Local photo/Emily Clark

*This article appeared in the September 12, issue of *Wicked Local Plymouth*. Lianne is also a long time member of the GCSA of New England.

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Thoughts From Your Association Manager

To help you get the most out of your disease management tactics, The American phytopathological Society (ApS) has introduced the Turf MD app, available for iPhone and iPad (iOS) devices. Turf MD is part of the new "Plant health" family of apps. It offers diagnostic and decision support tools designed for turf professionals, including golf course superintendents, sports turf managers, park and landscape managers, turfgrass producers, and anyone responsible for turfgrass health.

What sets Turf MD apart from other apps is its high-quality information. It is peer-reviewed by PhD-level university experts on turfgrass diseases and management, so users can trust the app's management recommendations, images, decision support tools, and other important information. The app is laid out in a non-technical format and includes a photo gallery, identification tools, decision support tools, an index of turfgrass diseases, and recommendations to help users identify and treat diseases. Specific features include:

- Scientifically peer-reviewed disease images
 - Decision support tools, including diagnostic keys that help users to identify diseases based on turfgrass variety, temperature, and physical symptoms
 - General guidelines and steps for disease identification
 - Control strategies for the management of turfgrass diseases
 - A directory of state turf extension resources for more information and to connect with local university specialists
 - Fully downloadable content. No internet or cellular connection is needed to operate the app once it is fully downloaded
- Users can also find the app by searching for "Turf MD" or "Plant health" in their iPhone or iPad's app Store.

Recently I had the pleasure to take a tour of a truly unique facility that includes a golf course. This facility, called The Preserve at Boulder Hills is like nothing else I've seen. The course owner is Paul Mihailides, son of Manny and brother of David Mihailides, both Affiliate Members of the Association. Dave is also the owner of DGM Systems, one of the Association's Friend Members. Paul has a dream to make



From left: Paul Mihailides, Adam Stewart, Superintendent, Manny and Dave Mihailides

the site a home away from home for families and outdoors types. In addition to the golf course, there will be zip lines, hunting and hiking trails, snow sledding, mountain biking trails, fishing ponds, rock climbing, on site accommodations, tennis courts, a swimming pool, clubhouse, and more. The large property will have bison, elk, sheep and many native animal species roaming the extensive grounds in areas set aside for grazing that are integrated into the golf course. While riding around the steep hills on the course with Superintendent Adam Stewart, and Manny in the rear seat of the ATV, it was amazing to listen to Adam describe what has been done so far to bring Paul's vision to reality. You can read more about The Preserve at Boulder Hills in the August-September issue of *Southern New England Golfer* at www.snegolfer.com.

Thank you to Greg Tower, Superintendent at Renaissance for the beautifully conditioned golf course we played September 8. Greg and his team have made tremendous improvements to the course during his time at the Club and it was evident that there have been continued upgrades to the facility. Head Professional, Stuart Cady and Assistant Professional, Ian Kelley, took care of the tee assignments and scoring and made sure all went without a hitch on the course. Ben Tyler, son of Kip Tyler, Superintendent at Salem Country Club, is also part of the golf shop staff at Renaissance and was very helpful with the day's activities. Holly Vose and her staff in the clubhouse took care of all our needs at registration, lunch and after golf. Chef Dawson Frock prepared the delicious food that all remarked was wonderful. It was great day for all at Renaissance!

Recently I read a President's Message from a neighboring association lamenting the lack of participation by members at monthly meetings. This prompted me to think about our own Association's lack of meeting attendance. This isn't something new, but it's very sad. Many of our members don't come to the monthly meetings and it's become a guessing game as to why. Numerous excuses and some legitimate reasons have been put forth as to why some don't attend. The one I've heard the most is that people used to come to the meetings to gather information, but with the web and technology being what it is, it's no longer necessary to attend because information is available at your fingertips. The part about the technology being at your fingertips is true, but there's more to being a member than just sharing information.

Supporting your fellow superintendent and your Association is, or should be, a very important part of your life as a superintendent. For those who have hosted events where 80 to 100+ people have attended I'm sure they felt pretty good about the turnout. But how about those who have had a turnout so low the event was cancelled. I'm sure they didn't feel very good. More than likely they were upset. Upset that so few felt the need or desire to support efforts that a fellow superintendent put forth to make the course available and to have it in first class condition. The team of

continued on page 5

people who work with you probably tried their hardest to make it look good for your peers, and they surely are disappointed.

Over the past few years I've had people offer their ideas as to what is needed for more attendance. A few have said they would attend if it were a nine-hole meeting in the afternoon. That way they could get to the course in the morning to get things going then play nine holes in the afternoon. Some have reversed that thinking and said they'd like to play nine holes in the morning and get back to the course in the afternoon to be sure all is OK. Some said they'd like the choice to play either nine or eighteen holes and have a barbecue. Some have said they'd like to attend a meeting where it was just a barbecue and golf would be optional. Well, last year we tried to accommodate all these options in one meeting. Guess what. The event was cancelled because we had 15 people register!

Frankly, I doubt that some of the reasons put forth to capture a member's participation are based in fact. I think some of the reasons expressed are nothing more than window dressing on poor excuses. I believe some are in the habit of attending and some are not - pure and simple. Why not try to get in the habit of attending? What's wrong with showing support for another superintendent? Why not come to let the person hosting the event know you care. Let him or her know you care enough about what that person did to make your visit to the club a pleasant experience. How

about supporting the commercial people who attend the meetings to mix with friends, customers and prospective customers. How about showing support for your Association.

Some who don't attend might have two or three assistants, a few interns, maybe an assistant in training, a mechanic and assistant mechanic, a foreman, a spray technician and others. So, with all this support staff it's hard to imagine someone can't break away from the course for a day or a portion of a day. What would happen if you got sick and couldn't go to the course? Would the course close down? Of course not. What would happen if you went to a meeting? Would the course die? Of course not. Guess what. The course was there before you arrived and it will be there after you leave. So, why not show some respect and caring for your fellow superintendent. Leave your course for a day, or a portion of a day, and attend a few meetings. It's not expected that anyone attend every meeting, but attending a majority of them would be wonderful. If you don't play golf you can still come for lunch or dinner and take a walk around the course. Let the host superintendent know you care enough to take a few hours away from your course to take a look at what all the hard work and long hours have produced.

❖

By Don Hearn



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Be Courteous to your Fellow Superintendents

This isn't a typical etiquette article although it does address some ways to act appropriately, show courtesy, and how to conduct yourself when it comes to dealing with others in our profession.

There seems to be some confusion as to how being a guest at another superintendent's golf course should be handled. There is no one policy that is the standard but there is one policy that should not be ignored. That is – always be courteous and respectful of your fellow superintendent and his or her position at the club.

Facilities have different policies as to how superintendents are to be treated as a guest. There are some clubs and courses that flat out do not honor guests. While you might not think this is a wise policy, it's up to the club to determine what's wise.

At clubs that allow guests, in my experience, I've found that the guest policy is generally decided by agreement between the golf professional and the superintendent. At some facilities the superintendent is allowed a certain number of guests or guest tee times per month. Who plays is left to the discretion of the superintendent. At others, the golf professional is the sole arbiter of who plays and when. Also keep in mind that no one is entitled to complimentary or reduced rate green fees or golf car fees just because they're in the business.

Since there's no one protocol, I'll offer a few suggestions and ideas you might want to think about to determine who can play and when they can play on a complimentary basis at your course.

- Only those who have contacted you before arriving at the course will be considered for a complimentary green fee.
- Be very clear about the policy for a superintendent bringing a guest who is not in the business. Whether this person will be "comped" or must pay the full guest fee should be known before arrival at the course.
- If a complimentary golf car will be provided, this should be made clear.
- If you have a policy of honoring only members of your local Chapter and/or, the GCSAA this should be very clear.
- If a complimentary green fee is not possible, but a discount is available, make this very clear to those playing.
- If a fellow superintendent arrives at the golf shop without notifying the host superintendent, what is the policy? Must the person pay the green fee posted for the day? My personal take on this – no complimentary or reduced fee. No call - no reduction!
- What do you do if a superintendent shows up at the golf shop, shows his GCSAA or local chapter membership card and expects a discount because of his membership in these groups? It should be made very clear to the golf shop staff how this should be handled. Personally, I wouldn't allow a discount to anyone who acted this way. If a person doesn't have enough courtesy to contact you well before their arrival, then I certainly wouldn't have enough courtesy to allow a discount.

- How about staff from another club? While there probably aren't many requests for this kind of play it's nice if they can play. It's a friendly gesture and is usually very much appreciated.
- You should establish the ground rules for a superintendent playing your course with a member. This situation can be very dicey depending on who the member is and who the superintendent is. It's sad and infrequent, but there have been times when those in our profession have used these opportunities to offer a critique of course conditions in a way that causes distress to the resident superintendent. Other times, which is usually the case, the member is a friend of the superintendent and they're playing to have fun. Sure, a question or two might be posed, but they're not meant in a way to cause any problems. Usually it's just a curious comment or query. Should the member pay the guest fee of the superintendent? Personally, I'd waive it if the superintendent contacted me before arriving at the course. If I got a call or message from the superintendent and he or she is already on site, I'd offer no discount.
- How about suggesting to the golf professional and the golf shop staff that if anyone calls for a tee time and inquires about a reduced or complimentary rate, they must contact the superintendent and make arrangements through him or her.

Regardless of the policy of a superintendent or the course, I believe you should always make an attempt to contact the superintendent before playing a course. I believe this should be done even if the host superintendent isn't a member of the local or national Association. Courtesy has no distinctions. ❖

By Don Hearn



Pete Jacobson

(919) 530-9062

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Sebonack Golf Club, Southampton, NY

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GCSANE Calendar of Events 2014

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| April 28 | Cohasset Golf Club - 8th Annual Bear Cup
Joint meeting with GCSA of Cape Cod |
| May 5 | Worcester Country Club
Joint meeting with Rhode Island GCSA |
| May 12 | Alumni Turf Group - 10th Annual Dr. Joseph
Troll Classic - Old Oaks Country Club |
| June 9 | Challenger Demo Day
Blue Hill Country Club |
| June 30 | Walpole Country Club
Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament |
| August 12 | Marlborough Country Club
Individual Championship |
| Sept. 8 | Renaissance - Two Person Team Championship |
| Oct. 7 | New England Superintendent Championship
Omni Mt. Washington Resort, Bartlett, NH |
| Oct. 14 | Dedham Country and Polo Club
Member-Guest |
| Oct. 22 | William J. Devine Golf Course at Franklin Park
Assistants Tournament |
| Nov. 6 | Sassamon Trace Golf Course
Nine-Hole Meeting |

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

NEMACUR UPDATE

The following memo (edited for relevant content) was received from GCSAA, September 26, 2014.

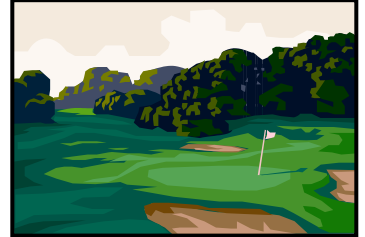
Dear Members,

I would like to share some significant news that has resulted from GCSAA's dedication to advocating on behalf of our shared membership.

Yesterday afternoon we were contacted by the EPA to let us know that GCSAA's request for the extension of the fenamiphos (Nemacur) end-use date has been granted until Oct. 6, 2017. We have been given a three-year extension of use of existing Nemacur stocks. Nemacur is used to control the major genera of nematodes attacking turfgrass. This includes root knot, root lesions, sting, lance and ring nematodes. The EPA plans to publish a notice in the *Federal Register* on the extension next week. We greatly appreciate the EPA's understanding of the needs of our industry.

While this extension is on a national level, we know that many advocacy-related issues are regional and local in nature. So, it is not just the GCSAA representatives or chapters leaders who are championing industry issues. Outcomes such as this one would be impossible without an engaged membership playing a vital role.

Rhett Evans
GCSAA CEO



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