



# THE NEWSLETTER

July 2018

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

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## *Thoughts From Your Executive Director by Don Hearn*



The June meeting was held at Ledges Golf Club in South Hadley, MA. The day and the course were beautiful. Our host, superintendent **Mike Fontaine** had witnessed an extremely heavy rainfall late the day before the meeting and his team spent considerable time getting the course in condition for all to enjoy. The format was a two-person scramble. The winning teams were **Cindy O'Dell** and **Amanda Fontaine** from Ledges Golf Club and **Donny D'Errico** and **Keith Tortorella** representing KOHR Golf and Country Club Enterprises respectively. It was nice to have so many attend this event in the western part of the state.



*From left:  
Andy Gay, Amanda Fontaine, Cindy O'Dell, Mike Fontaine*



The quarterly meeting of the GCSA of New England Board of Directors was held at Golf House, July 10, 2018.

Participants included, from left; **Jeff Urquhart, Dave Johnson, Keith Tortorella, Bob Dembek, David Stowe, Don D'Errico, and Greg Cormier.**

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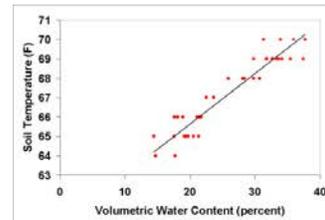
**Gazing in the Grass**

Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D.

As predicted much of the Eastern US experienced severe high temperature and high humidity over the weekend. This was after a cooler than normal week, leaving plants not well acclimated to heat stress conditions. In many cases drought stressed turf was set back further and if not treated with fungicide are likely more susceptible to additional biotic stress from foliar pathogens that are active during periods of high humidity, especially noteworthy on susceptible cool season grasses such as perennial ryegrass (see image).

Soils at the 2" depth are reaching into the low 80's! Widespread reports of hydrophobic soils, especially sand-dominated rootzones. Keep in mind that wet soils hold more heat. See the graph below from Dr. Larry Stowell at PACE Turf in CA. There is a linear relationship between %VWC and soil temperature. During periods of high humidity, water management becomes more complicated as it often is held in the system but symptoms of wilt can still occur. My colleague in Missouri, Professor Lee Miller describes the persistent wet soils as "boiled root soup".

Most cool season grasses are experiencing natural root decline with high soil temperatures at this time. As a result, plants will be shallow rooted, areas with high surface organic matter will have higher %VWC, and foliar pathogens that thrive on prolonged leaf wetness will be more active. These are periods where air movement is the key on high value golf, sports and lawn turf. Research at Auburn University found that fans blowing air across the turfgrass canopy increase water movement through the system in the form of evaporation from the soil or transpiration from the plant (ET). Increasing ET leads to cooler canopy conditions and some relief of heat stress. Use of fans reduces canopy moisture and disrupting leaf wetness period, a factor that can be most valuable in the evening hours when fungal pathogens can be more active.



**Heat stress periods are a good time to consider skipping mowing for a day or two!**



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# Restoration Has Made George Wright And Franklin Park Golfing Jewels

By Ben Volin, Globe Staff July 03, 2018



The memories of George Wright and Franklin Park golf courses aren't kind.

Len Curtin, superintendent at George Wright Golf Course for the last 14 years, remembers a course where grass wouldn't grow on the putting greens on holes 3, 4, 10, and 15. He says nearly half of the course's 970 sprinkler heads were not working when he arrived in 2004, and a maintenance shed had only two working light bulbs.

Russ Heller, superintendent at Franklin Park since 2001, recalls an old manual irrigation system that didn't work well, tee boxes that were too small, and bunkers that hadn't been touched since the 1980s.

Mark Mungeam, a golf architect who was hired in 2003 to create a master plan for the restoration of both Boston courses, remembers greens in rough condition and cart paths that looked even worse.

Matt Parziale, the amateur golfer from Brockton who qualified to play in this year's Masters and US Open, hated George Wright as a kid.

"I'm not one to talk about how difficult or easy a course is; I rank courses by how much fun I have on them," Parziale said. "I don't really remember liking it too much when I was growing up."

But Boston's two public courses have experienced a renaissance over the last 15 years. Thanks to support from then-mayor Thomas M. Menino and current Mayor Martin J. Walsh, the city reclaimed control of the courses in 2003 and has invested significant resources into restoring the old classics.

Anyone who played Franklin Park or George Wright in the 1980s or '90s would be blown away by the current condition of the courses. They look immaculate this summer, with 3-inch

rough, perfectly groomed bunkers, and barely a blade of grass out of place.

Both courses are now booked solid on the weekends, hosting upward of 37,000 rounds of golf each year — about 10,000 more than a decade ago, according to the city, though records are spotty. And both courses can be played for just \$45 (plus \$20 for a cart).



*Franklin Park is booked solid on weekends.*  
David L. Ryan/Globe Staff

"Anybody who had ever played George Wright always said it had so much potential," Mungeam said. "The bones of the golf course are phenomenal. It's a great layout. The city is so fortunate to have such a great golf course."

The Massachusetts Golf Association certainly has taken notice. The Massachusetts Amateur Championship is almost always held at an exclusive private club — i.e., The Country Club, Charles River Country Club, or The Kittansett Club — but this year's tournament is one for the people. The 2018 Mass. Amateur will be held at Franklin Park and George Wright from July 9-13, marking the first time in the 110-year history of the event that it is played at a daily-fee, public-access facility.

It also represents a remarkable turnaround for two historic courses that had fallen into significant disrepair over several decades.

"They've put so much money into it," said Parziale, 31, of George Wright. "It's been in much better shape in recent years than it was when I was growing up."

Franklin Park will host the first day of stroke play in the Mass. Amateur, and George Wright will host the second day of stroke play and all five rounds of match play.

The city will forgo about \$20,000 in revenue by shutting down George Wright for a week, but both courses will remain open



*Mayor James M. Curley (left) opened the season at Franklin Park Golf course on April 17, 1931, and George Wright (right), a big league baseball player and golf course designer, on Dec. 26 1934. Boston Globe file and Sport Parade*

through the day before the tournament.

The MGA's Women's Amateur Championship also will be played at George Wright July 30- Aug. 2.

"This is really a long time coming for our association," said Jesse Menachem, executive director of the MGA. "We've held several qualifying events there, but we felt, what more can we do to get these two courses exposed and bring them to the level that the city feels they should be?"

### Teeming With History

The city didn't invest in the courses so they could host the Mass. Amateur. The Mass. Amateur just happens to be the reward of a decade-plus of hard work.

"It's not the impetus behind our work, but it's nice to kind of look forward to this Mass. Amateur," said Mungeam, whose past work includes helping prepare Olympia Fields (Ill.) for the 2003 US Open.

"I feel that George Wright is right up there with some of the best courses I've worked on. With each passing year, spending a little bit more money and improving things, it gets better and better. I love George Wright."

The MGA certainly chose two courses teeming with history.

Franklin Park is the second-oldest public golf course in the country, opening in 1896. The legendary Bobby Jones honed his game there in the 1920s while studying at Harvard, and famed golf architect Donald Ross redesigned the course late in that decade.

More of an open, country-meadow course, Franklin Park plays only at about 6,000 yards and has an unusual 34-36 par setup (no par 5s on the front). But a stiff wind can make it tough to keep the ball in the fairway, and the back nine has significant elevation changes and blind shots.



*Men played on the 11th fairway in July 2010. Pat Greenhouse/Globe Staff/file*

George Wright opened in 1936 amid great fanfare, a Ross design that required 60,000 pounds of dynamite, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and \$1 million in funding. Though it originally was intended as a private club, the city took over the land in 1929 after the stock market crash.



*Golfers gathered at the first tee of Boston's newly opened \$1 million municipal George Wright Golf Course and country club circa June 1938. Arthur Griffin/Globe Staff/file*

George Wright's par-70 course can stretch to about 6,700 yards, shorter than most championship courses, but it makes up for a lack of length with a bevy of blind shots and a challenging terrain. The course was built into the side of a granite ledge, and golfers rarely have a flat lie on their second shots.

And while the current conditions at George Wright are excellent, golfers are reminded every time they hit from the rough that they're not playing at a fancy private club.

"The rough is penalizing," said Curtin. "It's really not like private-club rough. It's really gnarly. There's depressions and deep spots and it's really irregular."

Both courses fell on hard times during World War II thanks to a manpower shortage, and never really recovered until now.



Golfers crossed a small creek on 18th hole at George Wright Golf Course. Lane Turner/Globe Staff

The city leased the management of the courses to outside vendors, but the courses went neglected for decades.

At George Wright, terrible irrigation ruined several holes, and trees overgrew much of the property. The course was open through the winter, and golfers would trample all over the swampy terrain during a thaw in February or March. In the 1970s, then-mayor Kevin White wanted to sell George Wright to use for public housing.

“The city really didn’t do anything to the golf course for decades,” Curtin said. “Maintenance wise, it’s a bad thing. But the good news is they didn’t do anything to it. Nobody disturbed the contouring and the lay of the land.”

Fortunately, the golf courses had a supporter in Menino, a lifelong Hyde Park resident who lived near George Wright. He encouraged the Parks and Recreation Department to take control of the courses from outside vendors and put the city of Boston back into the golf business.

Since taking over in 2003, the city began allocating about \$200,000 a year into each course, and the improvements have been gradual but noticeable.

### Getting Notice

Over time, the George Wright team did complete tee-to-green renovations on holes 1 and 13. They renovated 25 of the course’s 34 bunkers, and expanded 10 of the tee boxes. They installed a new irrigation system. And they cut back some of forest that had overtaken much of the property, reopening angles for golf shots, and providing beautiful sightlines of the signature 3-mile stone wall that encircles the property.

“We brought the course back to the original size and shape and put bunkers back in where they belonged,” Curtin said. “They didn’t touch a tree on this course for 80 years, so we’ve had

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*About \$4 million has already been invested into structural improvements to the clubhouse at George Wright. Lane Turner/Globe Staff*

to prune and re-prune and remove some trees just to take back the course.”

The city also invested in a multiphase renovation of George Wright’s massive Norman-style clubhouse. About \$4 million has already been invested into structural improvements to the building and refurbishing a grand back patio that overlooks the course and hosts Hyde Park community events.

“They’ve restored so much of what Donald Ross did — even the stone wall that runs the property,” Menachem said. “It’s a special place that is going to be put on a really neat pedestal.”

Franklin Park has also undergone an extensive bunker renovation and expansion of tee boxes.

“Some things just hadn’t been touched since the late ’80s when they refurbished the course,” Heller said. “There were a lot of things that we could do, and whatever we chose, you really couldn’t go wrong.”

The golf world has certainly taken notice of the work put into both courses. By 2009, George Wright was named the 14th-best municipal course in the country by Golfweek, and was hosting a qualifier for the Mass. Amateur. It now annu-

ally earns a spot on Golfweek’s “Best Courses You Can Play” list, and this year was named the eighth-best course in Massachusetts, public or private.

“The golf course shouldn’t be this good with the budget we have,” said Scott Allen, head pro at George Wright. “The city has just been so behind it, putting money right back into the course. Every year we’ve done something.”

Franklin Park has started earning acco-

lades, as well, and showing up on its own “top 10” lists. It earned a top-10 ranking in Golfweek’s 2018 list of best courses of Massachusetts, alongside George Wright.

“Just getting that course on the list is a fantastic achievement by all involved,” said Dennis Roache, director of administration for Boston Parks and Recreation, who oversees both courses. “George Wright gets a lot of the publicity, being a Donald Ross layout, but Franklin Park is as good of a golf course, and we wanted to make sure we were able to showcase it this year.”

In 2015, George Wright and Franklin Park hosted the Massachusetts Four-Ball Championship, and the event went so well that the MGA announced shortly thereafter that the courses were ready for the signature event, the Mass. Amateur.

“That was kind of that ‘aha moment,’” said Menachem. “A lot of players hadn’t played either course in several years, and we had some really high-level amateur golfers saying, ‘Wow, these two venues are tremendous.’

“The city had done so much to get them where they are conditions-wise, and a lot of the feedback was, ‘I hadn’t played here in 20 years, what a difference. I can’t believe I’m in the city of Boston right now.’”



*The clubhouse at Franklin Park. David L Ryan/Globe Staff*

The courses look great, but the projects will never cease. Bunkers at public courses last only 8-10 years, and they will need to be redone soon.

The staff at George Wright wants to flip the tee to the other side on the 12th hole, clear out some rock for a new tee box on 17, and install a new irrigation system.

“The city’s been very good about letting us operate these places and just supporting us financially, not telling us what to do,” Curtin said.

For George Wright and Franklin Park to be in championship condition is a testament to the hard work and resources put into both courses over the last 15 years.

“It’s truly phenomenal,” said Menachem. “It’s just so impressive what the two superintendents have been able to accomplish.

“And I’m just so thrilled that we’re able to showcase what they’ve done, and have this be our first ever opportunity to do that.”

Note – both Russ Heller and Len Curtin are members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England (GCSA of New England).

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### My “Open” Experience

It’s a catchy title and I think it tells a lot about volunteering at large-scale golf events. Since my very first volunteering experience at the U.S. Junior Amateur at the Golf Club of New England in 2012, I have come to learn that your experience is exactly what you make of it. I have also learned that every event offers differ-

ent opportunities. The 118th United States Open at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club was my twelfth-time volunteering, fifth major. I’d like to tell you a little about my Open and how the people involved really shaped my experience.

Volunteer orientation was scheduled for 5pm on Sunday June 10th, almost exactly one week before the 118th US Open champion would be crowned. Our host, Mr. Jon Jennings, addressed the group and noted that out of 600 volunteer applicants, we nearly 200 were selected. He was extremely gracious in thanking everyone for taking the time away from family and out of their busy lives to assist in preparing the golf course for our nation’s championship. This was a standard Jennings set, and referenced every time he spoke to the volunteers. It was clear that he sincerely meant it.

He referred to the volunteer handbook several times, a spiral bound wealth of information including photos of senior staff, uniforms by day, food menu, and a list of volunteers including the clubs they represented.

Jennings praised at length the work of assistant superintendent Lindsay Brownson who, with office manager Anna Alvarez, coordinated the application process, travel, housing, uniforms, food, and probably a million other items for the 200 volunteers. Brownson’s efforts were outstanding and, despite any issues that may have arisen, appeared seamless.

The work on the golf course operated like a well-oiled machine. Thanks to the patience of the regular Shinnecock Hills staff, 200 newcomers figured out our duties, the course layout, and gained the understanding of our roles. Just like the players, it takes a couple practice rounds. My tasks were mowing fairways 10-18 in the morning, and filling fairway divots in the afternoon. Both great opportunities to develop as a team and watch the process unfold around us (@HoosicGrounds all mowing is like riding a bike, you never forget how to do it). Thanks to Diamond sponsor Toro, there was more than 15 trailer loads of red equipment working hard with the volunteers. Platinum sponsor BASF provided food and other amenities to get 200 folks through a grueling summer week too. Quite an impressive gift by them and our thanks will always go out to every sponsor for assisting!



The Clubhouse



Eric Richardson left Rodney Hine right



Fairway Crew

But again, as with every other volunteer opportunity before this, it was indeed the people who made the event special. From every corner of the US, Canada, Ireland, and elsewhere across the globe, turf professionals gathering to prepare one singular reason builds a bond that we will all share for a lifetime. Old friends and volunteers from previous events were on hand. An assistant-in-training from my days at the US Amateur, chatting with a bunker buddy volunteer from the 2013 Women's Open helped remember old times. I was even fortunate to fill divots with the superintendent and his daughter from Sebonack where that Women's Open was held. I made a new friend from Canada who went to school with Will Stearns of Southers Marsh, hung out and worked with my new mates from Ireland, and caught up with a member and the grounds staff at Citi field, home of the NY Mets.

Connecting with GCSANE members and others from across my region helped make a challenging process extremely fulfilling. We have many opportunities in our immediate area to get involved with two recent US Senior Opens, a US Amateur, the CVS Charity Classic and a regular PGA playoff tour stop in our neighborhood. I urge you to take the opportunity to commit yourself to volunteer at an event, if only one time. These events are as special as all the people who make them happen and adding you to that list of individuals will only make it better. I think they even play some golf at these things too?

## GCSAA Resources and Deadlines you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already

### 2019 Dog Days of Golf Calendar: Sponsored by LebanonTurf in cooperation with GCSAA

Submissions for the 2019 Dog Days of Golf Calendar will be accepted through Aug. 1, 2018. From the submissions, 14 dogs will be selected. Owners of the selected dogs will be notified in September, and the calendar will be distributed with the November issue of GCM magazine.

### Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award

The GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award (DSA) is presented annually to an individual or individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession. The contribution must be significant in both substance and duration, and may be, or have been, regional in nature.

Individuals must be nominated by a GCSAA member, an affiliated chapter or a qualified golf association. The nominee must

not have been a recipient of this award in the past 10 years. The award was first presented in 1932 and has been presented annually since 1975.

The GCSAA Board of Directors selects the recipients of the Distinguished Service Awards during its fall board meeting. The award is presented during the annual GCSAA Education Conference.

Nominations for the 2019 DSAs are open through Aug. 10, 2018.

## Did you miss these FREE Labor-related webcasts:

### OSHA 101

Matthew Linton

### I-9 Compliance and Worksite Enforcement in 2018

Christopher Thomas

Again, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

### **Kevin Doyle**

GCSAA Field Staff

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# Robotic mowers come to the Boston area

By Greg Cormier, Newsletter Chairman



You may have seen the RG3 Cub Cadet robotic mowers in a magazine or at a trade show, but have you ever seen them actually mow a green? I recently had the opportunity to see one of these mowers in use at Lexington Golf Club right here in Lexington, MA. Superintendent, Bob Dembek along with Assistant Superintendent, Alex Daly and Equipment Technician, Rob Higgins have been trying out the RG3 Cub Cadet mower on a few of their greens. It is pretty wild to watch one mow all

by itself out on the course. The mowers are becoming more popular as courses struggle with finding labor and trying to accomplish several things ahead of play while being under staffed. Other benefits that I had not thought of are the fact that the consistency is much improved over a walk mower operated by a human that will naturally vary in speed and spacing. The RG3 has a constant frequency of clip unlike many of the mowers in the industry. The RG3 has 2 rollers not including the cutting unit's front and rear rollers

and weighs between 600 and 700 pounds, giving the green both a cut and a roll in one single pass. You also have the option to program mow angles so that every green has the same angle and operator error will not cause for a mix up in mowing direction, or a similar angle two days in a row. One of the toughest things for a new greens mower operator (and sometimes an experienced one) to get right is the cleanup pass. The RG3 will cut the same cleanup every single time eliminating skips and scalps from different people mowing the cleanup pass. The RG3 is 100% electric and is very quiet making those early morning greens next to the neighbors house easy to finish ahead of play. The RG3 has no gas, hydraulic fluid or tires to worry about. If there is an issue you simply plug the machine into an ether-net cable and a technician can connect to the machine remotely to diagnose the problem and potentially even fix it. The height of cut is adjusted while the mower is on the trailer, so you don't need to move it around the shop and get it on a lift table or lay on your back on the floor to access the cutting head.

I asked Bob about the process of getting the mower setup for his course and he shared the following facts. It takes about 2 hours per green to get all the measurements done, establish where the four beacons will be placed each time the green is mowed, program the "Keep Out"





zones where you would not want the mower to turn or travel and input data into the RG3 . To be able to cut a cleanup pass a tracer wire needs to be installed in the ground similar to an electric dog fence. This adds another 30 mins to the setup. Once the initial setup is done, any data changes are done on a computer and input into the machine via thumb drive.

The mower has been effective so far at Lexington Golf Club. They are able to maintain a hand mow look with out having an employee walk mow the green. The employee that sets up the mower can change cups on the 3 holes, move tee markers and empty trash on 4 holes and rake the bunkers on 1 hole all while the RG3 mows a green. This has been helpful especially on weekends when they have a smaller crew. The RG3 can mow 30,000 square feet of green on a single charge. Bob, Alex and Rob seem to really like the mower and they will be hosting a “lunch and learn technology day” for people to come and see the mower in action. A company representative will be there from MTD Products to answer any questions. The event will run from 10:30am to 1:30pm. There is no cost for the event and attendees are free to drop by at anytime. There will be a complimentary BBQ Lunch as well as demonstrations from Green Sight Ag and Helena. More information can be found on the GCSANE homepage.



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*July 2018*





## 2019 NERTF Show: Moving Forward

Since 1998, the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show events have opened on Monday's and have concluded on Thursday's. When things first began, we thought a 4-day program was just what the industry was excited for. 15 years later, communications suggested we could service the industry better by shortening our show schedule. So, we did. In 2016, we decided to compress the schedule by starting at 1pm on Monday, and then end a little earlier on Thursday, which we hoped would make it easier for individuals to come on Monday afternoon and stay till Thursday. This was met favorably but it wasn't long before we heard some of the same concerns and that we should have gone further. Education has always been our highest priority and what we believe that separates us from other shows. To balance in-depth education, enough trade show hours and enjoyable social activities is a challenge. As we listened to comments and concerns, just three years later, we are informing everyone that it is time to go a little further and do a little more refining of our conference and show.

Below are the highlights of changes to our 2019 show schedule March 5-7, 2019:

- First, there will be no show activities on Monday, March 4.
- In 2019, all 2 & 4 hr. seminars will be held on Tuesday, March 5 starting at 8am and ending at 5pm. There is no other planned education scheduled on Tuesday.
- Exhibitor Move-In will begin early Tuesday Morning.
- The 2019 trade show will open at 10am on Wednesday, March 6 and close at 5pm.
- Staggered Education Sessions will begin at 8am and 9am on Wednesday, and again at 1pm & 2pm in the afternoon.
- The show auction will begin at 3pm and end at 4pm on Wednesday.
- Thursday's Education Sessions will begin at 8am
- The Thursday Trade Show will open at 9am and will close at 2pm
- There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> education session on Thursday at 2pm in the afternoon.
- Education hours, trade show hours, credits and social opportunities should still remain the same even with a shortened schedule.

Our goal continues to insure the same quality filled event for the future to attract any and all turfgrass managers and their crews. Today's reality is that with the incorporation of computers, cell phones and texting we are never inaccessible. Fast-paced lives include many responsibilities that are important to your success. Having more than a three-day and two-night event doesn't fit the schedule for many as easily as it may have in the past. We are confident that through this compacted schedule attendees will receive all the value they have received in the past. As has been stated in the past, this show is your show. Your comments and feelings are important to us in deciding the future of "your" show. Bottomline: We are making these changes because we heard your concerns. We appreciate all your support over the last 22 years. Please stay tuned as we work at processing all these changes and add in all the variables to make the best "Show on Turf" even better!

New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, Inc.



# 2018 Distinguished Service Award

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The following letter was read by Kathy Comee at this year's Annual Meeting as a tribute to her husband, Dave Comee, who passed away in October 2011. Dave was posthumously awarded the 2018 Distinguished Service Award and was an active, longtime member of the Scholarship and Benevolence Committee.

This year's Scholarship and Benevolence Tournament will be held at the Kernwood Country Club in Salem, MA, September 24. Publishing Kathy's letter is a way of showing how the Association can make a difference.

Your support of the upcoming S&B Tournament is important and helps not only members and members' family members with scholarship assistance, but also helps members who can use a helping hand with personal situations when a quiet donation may be helpful during a time of need. If you or a family member has received a scholarship from the Association, please consider a donation to the fund. Any amount is appreciated. It can make a difference.

More information about the tournament, sponsorships and donations will be sent out as the date gets closer.

## 1/11/2018-Distinguished Service Award.

*It amazes me how quickly the mind can experience so many emotions all at once. Learning of Dave receiving this honor, it was shock, tears and gratitude.*

*We live in a society where people crave recognition, but Dave wasn't like that; he would be uncomfortable with this. When he would speak at his course, he would compliment his crew. Dave might have been the one who received the praise but he always remembered how he got there and who helped him achieve the glory. To me that speaks volumes of his character and I'm sure if he were here he would speak about the men and women who worked tirelessly alongside him to make the S&B tournament successful. He saw how powerful the organization is and how it changes lives.*

*I can attest to that. In the days after his death, I'd tell myself to just think of it as his being on golf trip. Shortly after I had a call from Mike Hermanson telling me that he, his wife Susan, and Jason Adams who was then the president of GCSANE wanted to visit. I didn't ask why and as the day grew closer I began to wonder. It wasn't until after Mike and Jason left the room when Sue asked if I had any inkling of why they had come. I told her when they walked thru my door, I looked to see if there was a 4th person. I looked for Dave. I had hoped the GCSANE was bringing him home and that he really had just been out golfing.*

*I knew it wasn't going to happen. People struggle with death, especially when it is unexpected; you grasp at anything just trying to get through the day. Sometimes the only thing friends and family can do to show a strength of support is to just let the person grieving feel your presence. That is what the GCSANE did. It is your organization,*

*your support system for each other, yet you did not walk away from me or Dave; you held his family. When I needed to feel the men and women who Dave spent so much time with, you comforted me. Your coming to my home showed me you cared. You're allowing me to continue to attend the national conference told me you were there standing at my side. You helped me heal by letting me stay close to something that was very dear to Dave. You have no idea how much your presence has meant to me and for that I am very grateful.*

*Those that knew Dave, knew his sense of humor and he would joke about being married forever. Privately he was proud of it. Now when I look at friends or family and see their struggles with health issues, I always say the same prayer I said that day on the mountain as Dave battled for life; that they be granted "A little bit more time." It wasn't for us, but it doesn't stop me for wanting it for others.*



# Reading The Greens: Dully, Eggleston Locked In At Kernwood

By Gary Larrabee

The following article was written by Gary Larrabee, the well-known and popular golf writer and historian who is a long-time contributor to the book of golf knowledge on the North Shore. This article appeared in the June 29, 2018 issue of the *Salem (MA) Evening News*.

Working at the “managerial” level at a five-star country club is more challenging than ever in 2018.

In an ongoing-battle to keep the financial bottom line in black (profitable) numbers, running such a club is a major business venture for the invested members; members who historically retain their top help, i.e. their head golf professional and course superintendent, with three-year contracts — at best.

An exception to this standard is Kernwood Country Club in Salem, which recently extended the contracts of head golf professional Frank Dully and course superintendent John Eggleston for an additional five years each beyond 2018, locking them in through the 2023 seasons; a rare membership expression of confidence and appreciation.

When informed that Dully and Eggleston were provided five-year extensions, Michael Higgins, executive director of the New

England PGA, and Don Hearn, executive director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, were delighted, and at the same time not all that surprised, based on the personnel involved. They know Kernwood boasts two of the very best in the region at their jobs.

Moreover, no one knows this better than the Kernwood membership. They realize they have outstanding talents and do not want to lose them; thus the “major league” contracts.

“We understand we’re fortunate to have such extraordinary professionals as Frank and John at our club,” says Kernwood president Bruce Bial. “So it’s easy to understand why we wished to extend their contracts with us. We — the Board and membership — could not be happier about it.”

For all the potential disagreements that can fester among members at any top-notch club, Kernwood’s 275 members are unanimous in their high regard for Dully and Eggleston.

Eggleston, now in his 15th season at KCC and 12th year in charge, does not hold back his love for the job. “I hope to be here until I retire,” Rowley native Eggleston, 51, admits. “This is my dream job.”

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Dully, also 51, echoes Eggleston's sentiments. "I've been excited about being here at Kernwood ever since I was hired as an assistant 27 years ago," the Connecticut native and former Holy Cross golf captain, said. "I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. I feel I have the perfect fit here professionally."

"Signing Frank and John for five additional years is like signing Chris Sale and Kyrie Irving to extensions," Bial said. "Frank and John make the Kernwood experience special every day for our members and their guests."

Eggleston, only the fourth superintendent in Kernwood's 104-year history, provides a bonus talent in keeping the 120-acre, former Peabody estate property, hard by the Danvers River, beautifully manicured. He worked for 10 years on 25 different courses in the western part of the country for Wadsworth Golf, a major golf course construction firm.

"My crew and I try and make our course the best we can every day of the year, improving it every day we can; with the help of the club's architect, Robert McNeil," says Eggleston. "We appreciate every day, too, the high level of support we get from the membership, especially our Green chairman, and the pro shop. Makes a big difference."

Without exception, Eggleston has received raves during a busy stretch over the last decade-plus in which the Donald Ross-designed layout has hosted a variety of major events, starting with the 2007 Massachusetts Open and continuing with the New England PGA, the Massachusetts Amateur and 2017 U.S. Senior Open qualifying, culminating with the 2018 Massachusetts Open local qualifier.

"Expectations are always high here and we seek to meet, if not exceed, those expectations all the time," Eggleston says. "It takes a terrific crew to do that."

Eggleston and company have dealt with a gas pipeline installation, the removal of more than 500 trees and the expansion of seven greens over the years.

Dully is best known outside Kernwood for his sustained high level of competitive play during his KCC tenure, highlighted by his record-breaking victory at the 2006 Section championship at Turner Hill, where he shot 11-under 205 and beat the field by 11 strokes. His stirring head-to-head dual with eventual winner Geoff Sisk the following year, conducted at Kernwood, also made his Kernwood members proud. But his membership lauds him even more for his talents as the man in charge of the golf operation.

"There is lots of enthusiasm and passion for the game here at Kernwood among the staff and the membership," says Dully. "It's my job to maintain that enthusiasm and passion at the highest level I can through instruction, running tournaments, providing the merchandise the members want, providing a strong junior and women's program. Relationship building is an important part of it too."

In his 22nd year as the head professional, Dully is particularly proud to be working at a club that places such a high priority in giving back to the game, supporting charitable endeavors and philanthropy.

"Simply put, Kernwood gives back to the game and to people who need support in a big way. That makes me proud," Dully said. "I want to be a part of that."

*Gary Larrabee, a former sportswriter for The Salem News for 25 years, is in his 49th year overall writing about golf on the North Shore and beyond. Listen to his weekly local golf reports Saturday mornings on 104.9 FM during The North Shore Sports Desk.*

# Life's Important Trade-Offs *By Don Hearn*

**R**ecently I spent some time with a superintendent from another state on the east coast. It was the first time we had met and it was a pleasant experience. During a tour of the maintenance complex, the golf course and other facilities at the club for which he was responsible, we discussed many topics but one in particular relates to some of the examples in this article. We got to talking about the superintendent's future and choices he might have to make. He was mature enough to realize that even though he's been told he's a beloved figure at the club he knows this is the fact until it isn't. His "we've decided to go in a different direction" or "we want to go to the 'next level'" moment could happen at any time. We speculated about different scenarios for a while, talking about the good and bad parts of the business and fully realizing what happens in our industry probably happens in many others. Of course, the problem we all deal with is, how to prepare for the "what if's." What if I have the opportunity to become the superintendent at a club where I believe my talents will be utilized more fully? What if I'm offered more salary and benefits? What if I have to move my family? What if my children don't want to leave their school and friends? What if the new position isn't what I thought it would be? What if...? The possibilities are staggering.

I came across this essay by Anne Bernays and thought it would emphasize some of the tradeoffs we may face during our lifetimes.

(I've italicized text where I inserted my thoughts.)

## Don Hearn

Most of the major and a lot of the minor decisions we make as we hack our way through the thicket of life involve a salutary trade-off. If you'd rather keep yourself at a furious boil by taking impulsive risks, this fact may come as a real downer. Trust me, in the long haul, it's not.

Recently The New Yorker ran a cartoon picturing a man and woman who run into a friend on the street. The woman in the couple, smiling, explains, "Then I thought I should get real and lower my expectations, and that's when I met Evan." Smart woman: She completed her trade-off, accepting less than Romeo, before she even met the guy.

Most of the time expectations don't match circumstances. Folks in wheelchairs cannot run; a tone-deaf person cannot sing Aida; the ideal will always remain inside your head. In the end, you either yield to a trade-off or risk wilting on the vine.

*So, you're trying to decide whether to leave your superintendent position in Boston and accept a position in Columbus, Ohio. The Ohio job means more responsibility, pays considerably better, has much bet-*

*ter benefits, and the course is being considered for a future U.S. Open Championship – one of your dreams! But you love Boston, a cool city where you have lots of friends, your family and your wife's family are from the Boston area. It's a city you know well. Columbus? It has a thriving arts festival and top notch golf courses, but you're wary of the Midwest. You don't know anyone who lives there or have friends who lived there at one time. Whatever you decide will involve some sort of trade-off. You can draw up two lists, pro and con, to help you make the "right" decision, but there will never be a fool-proof right or wrong answer for you: You must give up something here — a good position — to get something else there — potentially a loftier position — at least in the short term.*

Thinking of buying a house? I drew up a list of things to consider and stopped at 20. Things like: crime and safety, municipal services, local taxes, schools, public transportation, vulnerability to rising sea levels. These are hard-edged. Then there are the softer considerations, like neighbors (friendly or creepy), community loyalty, street noise.

But there is no perfect house in the perfect neighborhood. Lower your expectations. Buy into the worthy elementary school and give up your dream of a yard large enough for an English-style flower garden. The furnace in this house is brand new; the furnace in the last house you saw is over 50 years old and will probably have to be replaced within the year; also, the roof leaks.

A lot of the choices you make involve money. In one respect, this is easier than if you don't have mountains of it. If you know you can't afford the Lexus, then buying the Toyota is no big deal. But if you can afford the Lexus, then how do you decide?

She: I've always wanted a Lexus, ever since I was a little girl.

He: Lexuses are stolen more often than Hondas or Toyotas.

She: But they're much safer than other cars.

He: You're not the Lexus type.

She: What does that mean? You're trying to change the subject.

He: OK, if we buy the Toyota we can take the kids on that trip to the Grand Canyon. I've wanted to see the Grand Canyon since I was a little boy.

In this exchange, a lot depends on how deeply these two are committed to each other. Still, in the end, one or both of them will make a trade-off. The right to choose what you most want gives way to love, trust, and a more peaceful future.

I was married for 60 years to the same person. We hardly ever argued. But we both had a stubborn streak and had been raised to believe that the right answer is the only answer. So we would quibble over the tiniest, least important fact, like, for instance, how many days we spent in New Mexico on our honeymoon. So

he said seven and I said eight, our voices rising. Did it matter?  
How much is it worth to be “right”?

So we learned — gradually — that being right is bubkas compared with harmony. Wasn't it fun to let the other person have the last word? Didn't you feel great? The trade-off will reimburse you in both subtle and substantial ways. Living with anyone for a long time means engaging in a continual game of trade-off. They should teach this in the first grade. Known as the golden mean, this may seem dreary and half-alive to those who crave constant excitement. I, for one, prefer peace over angst.

By Anne Bernays

**Anne Bernays is a novelist, essayist, and teacher. A graduate of Barnard College, she was managing editor of *discovery*, a literary magazine, before moving from New York City to Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1959 when she began her career as a novelist.**

**Bernays has been published widely in national magazines and journals and is a long-time teacher of writing at Boston University, Boston College, Holy Cross, Harvard Extension, Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard, and MFA Program at Lesley University.**

**She is a founder of PEN/New England and a member of the Writer's Union. She serves as chairman of the board of Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown and co-president of Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill.**

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Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Issues (List month and total number): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Check: \_\_\_\_\_ (Made payable to "GCSANE")

<b>Member Rates:</b>	<b>Monthly Rate</b>	<b>4 Times Per Yr. (Save 5%)</b>	<b>6 Times Per Yr. (Save 10%)</b>	<b>8 Times Per Yr. (Save 10%)</b>	<b>Annual Rate (Save 15%)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 page (vertical; 3.75" wide x 5" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 90.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 342.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 486.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 648.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 918.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 page (horizontal; 7.5" wide x 5" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 570.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 810.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1080.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1530.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (vertical; 7.5" wide x 10" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 760.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1080.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1440.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2040.00
<b>Non-Member Rates:</b> *All payments must be received in full before the ad appears in The Newsletter.					
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 page (vertical; 3.75" wide x 5" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$456.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$648.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 864.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1224.00
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<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (vertical; 7.5" wide x 10" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$240.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$912.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1296.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1728.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2448.00

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

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