

# NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER

1976



## Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

Sponsors and administrators of the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

### An Educational Gold Mine

It's not that far off, not the distant future. . . to be sure.

But come some pre-game planning and maybe a snowfall or two and the 48th International Turfgrass Conference and Show of the GCSAA will be sitting there on the other side of the mountain - Rockies, I think.

Anyway, the educational gold mine waiting in Portland, Oregon shapes up as the most significant item on the golf course superintendent's continuing education agenda. The dates are February 6-11 and from the looks of the program, those days will be filled with worthwhile transfer of information and knowledge.

Some 70 experts in the field of turfgrass will be on hand to exchange know-how, implementation of same with what figures to be a collective audience in excess of 5,000. And, as GCSAA President Richard Malpass, emphasizes, "This is the most important turfgrass event of the year." We second the motion.

The GCSAA conference planners are sure to receive on-the-spot commendation when Heywood Hale Broun kicks off the week as the event's keynote speaker. The erudite Broun is known for his command of the language and unique presentation of it. His topic . . . "The Role of Big Games in Society." This should be an experience in itself.

This only serves to gather up the probing steam for the rest of the speaking program, because the topics are spread out from opening to home hole and hold special interest for everyone at one phase or another.

Some of them deserve advance notice.

Richard H. Hurley, super at Tavistock Country Club in New Jersey, should have an audience eager to hear of his thoughts on "A Superintendent's View of the Professional Golf Tour."

One close to home will feature Bob Osterman of Connecticut's Golf Club at Aspetuck. His topic should draw a crowd: "Hard to Maintain Golf Courses in the New England Area."

There is something for everyone interested in today's environmental problems in the subject matter of two superintendents on the speaking card. Gary Grandstaff of Waterwood Natural Country Club in Texas has chosen: "Maintaining Nature Within the Course" while Maurice A. Spence of Hillcrest CC, Nebraska tells of: "A Superintendent's Responsibility to the Environment."

Richard Trevarthan, super at the Prestwick Country Club in Illinois will touch on a familiar problem — "Wet Wilt." And George Prieskorn of Burrroughs Farm Golf Club, Michigan is sure to brighten some futures with "The Superintendent: A Promoter."

The esteem, pride and value of it all will come to light when Alexander Radko of the USGA Green Section embarks on: "Great Golf Courses and What Makes Them That Way."

New England will have more local flavor in the undertaking with our own Don Hearn of Weston on the Turf Management conference board and Tony Caranci of Ledgemont working on the Thinking Superintendent segment. And, old friend Dr. Joseph Troll will be a panelist in "Another Look at Nematodes in Turf-grasses."

In addition to the on-scene offerings, the Portland area gives visiting superintendents the opportunity to take in living topics. Since the climate in winter brings an unusual amount of rainfall,

the golf course tour should enlighten visitors on drainage and irrigation. These problems are synonymous with the downpours experienced in New England.

Then, there is the free tour of the Oregon Seed Industry. Viewers here will get a look at seed cleaning, plots and different types of grasses under various maintenance conditions. This is a must since Oregon is one of the leading grass producers in the world.

From top to bottom, the conference leans toward being an educational experience conference-goers will long remember and refer to in the common work occurrences back home. The GCSAA must be congratulated for what looms as, indeed, the turfgrass event of the year. All superintendents should make a special effort to attend this one.

Gerry Finn



#### To Be Voted on at Next Meeting

Assistant Member - Anthony DeBettencourt, Vesper C.C.

#### Tournament Results-Milton Hoosic G.C.

Bruce Petrelli	First Net	69
Lynn Blodgett	Second Net	71
Ron Kirkman	Third Net	72
Brian Cowan		
Pete Coste	Fourth Net	76
Guy Tedesco	Low Gross	79

## Christmas &

## New Year Greeting



# Golf Course Superintendents Association

## Review from Nov. '76 "Golf Magazine"

The following is a review of an article taken from "Golf Magazine" the November 1976 issue. The article titled "An Amateur Replies to the Pros" written by Frank Hannigan. Mr. Hannigan joined the USGA in 1961 and has been its Assistant Director until recently, but now will head its Special Projects program. He has been a frequent contributor to the USGA's Golf Journal, and his satirical piece of a decade ago "Golf through TV Eyes" is regarded as a classic.

The article refers to the over abundance of complaints from touring pros playing in the U. S. Open held at Atlanta Athletic Club this past summer. The pros found fault with the course conditions in addition to leveling criticism of the USGA for not being capable of running a tournament of this stature. (The USGA has run the tournament since 1894).

The USGA not only recognizes but also agrees that the pros are entitled to the best playing conditions that are possible. If these conditions are not met the USGA feels the pros are entitled to make their feelings known.

On the first day of the tournament, shortly after play had started it became apparent that the fairways, which had been cut the night before, were mowed about 1/4 of an inch too high. The USGA and the golf course superintendent looked into the problem and found that the new wheels that were installed on the fairway mowers were 18 inches instead of 17 inches which the superintendent had ordered. When the mowers were set for the 1/2 inch cut the USGA wanted, the setting used was based on 17 inch wheels. The USGA recognized the error, apologized, and the only consolation was that everyone played the same golf course.

On Friday, the second day of the tournament, an adjustment was made to mow the fairways at the 1/2 inch that everyone expected. After all the complaining from the pros about having to play the "flying lie" (a new expression learned by millions of golfers) there seemed to be little difference from the scores posted on the first day when the conditions were lousy as compared to the scores posted on the second day, when the conditions were judged superior. The average score in the second round was 17 one hundredths of a stroke lower than during the first round! Last year, when the Open was held at Medinah C.C. where the fairways were the same height every day, the average scored dropped 1/2 a stroke in round two. Also, on the first day there were 230 birdies as compared to 224 when the pros didn't have any "flying lies!" Another noteworthy fact is that amateur Mike Reid shot 67 the first day. Fairway height didn't seem to bother his round.

The reaction of some of the players to the explanation given for the error of height of cut was very questionable. Frank Beard felt the USGA did it on purpose to keep the scores high. Don January, Bruce Devlin and Hale Irwin were among those who didn't buy the explanation. Charles Coody felt the USGA's explanation insulted the intelligence of him and the rest of the players in the field.

The USGA or the superintendent is not above making an error, the same as anybody or any business. But to accuse the USGA of "trickery" is totally out of line. The USGA runs the tournament with a highly qualified staff and would be foolish to operate any other way. Take a look at some of those people on the staff that ran the tournament.

P. J. Boatwright, USGA Executive Director, 17 years with the USGA. Primarily responsible for the setup of Open courses. Good enough as a player to have made the cut in the U. S. Open and set two of the course records in Pinehurst. Knows more about the Rules of Golf than any man alive.

Jim Gaquin, USGA Tournament Relations Manager. Has spent 8 years with the USGA and serves as direct and continuing liaison

between the host club and the USGA. He lives at the club nearly 2 months preparing a tournament. Was the first PGA tour secretary, later ran the PGA tournament bureau and was Executive Director of the Royal Canadian Golf Association.

Al Radko, National Director of the USGA Green Section. He has spent 30 years with the USGA. He is cited here only symbolically because the USGA agronomist who lives and dies with the Open may be Radko or one of four other regional directors. All are expert beyond belief.

The list goes on and on. As you can see, the USGA is quite qualified to run the U. S. Open.

Some of the pros do not like how the USGA determines the starting field of 150 golfers. Maybe 25 or 30 players do not have to qualify. The rest of the starting field has to qualify at the local and sectional level, many at just the latter.

The USGA feels that this method will truly keep the U. S. Open everyman's championship, pro and amateur alike. They feel this gives them a solid field of not just the touring pros, but the club pro and amateurs. There's a rub, those club pros and amateur.

George Thomas, a club pro from South Bend, Indiana who survived the qualifying rounds, was told by a young touring pro that he had no business being in a U. S. Open field that lacked the presence of Roger Maltbie. Back in 1967, when the Open was played at Baltusrol, an unknown assistant pro by the name of Lee Trevino picked up a check for \$6,000, and then joined the tour. Look at the thousands he has entertained while also being a credit for the touring pros. Not all the best golfers are playing the tour.

On the other hand, there is John Schlee who is a tour regular. He had to qualify at Los Rios C. C. in Dallas. After failing to make the cut, he preceded to blister the course as one unworthy of a U. S. Open sectional event. The members at Los Rios were very upset. The course architect's reaction has not been reported. He is Don January.

Touring pros versus amateur golfer. What an inappropriate pairing! Should Winston Churchill be reincarnated as a golf writer and examine the current state of affairs in big money golf, it is likely that he might file his first piece with the lead, "Never in the course of human events have so few owed so much to so many."

Larry Bunn  
Newsletter Editor

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Dear Gerry:

The criticism expressed in your Editorial on the Certification Syndrome makes me wonder where you were during the time many of us were developing the Program. It should come to no one's surprise that those "Certified" by GCSAA had certain obligations to maintain Certification Status. The program was designed to encourage superintendents to continue to grow by attending seminars, conferences and to read. Several choices are given to make it as easy as possible for the person to renew his Certification.

You say "What's more, the certification renewal requirements are such that they place a financial and time drain on the victim". First, no Certified Superintendent is a victim of anything. He voluntarily made application knowing what the program required. Second, if anyone does not consider that our profession is worth devoting some time and a small amount of money for self-improvement, maybe he is in the wrong business. While

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servicing on the Executive Committee the most complaints I heard from members had to do with low salaries and lack of recognition. We recognized that the Certification program would not immediately correct those weak areas, but hopefully down the road it would be a contributing factor.

In several states, doctors are required to attend a given number of hours of seminars or workshops to maintain their license.

It seems to me that the person who passed the original Certification exam and has taken advantage of all the information from local regional and national organizations would not need the \$114.00 worth of books, but what is wrong with having a library since the superintendent is making this his life work.

It seems to me that the Certified status means more if all

superintendents are not Certified. The Certification Committee recognized that many qualified superintendents would not have the desire to participate and many others who are working as superintendents do not share a genuine interest in the profession and would not see the value of any program that might help them. Have you ever seen any program get 100% participation?

As competition increases for superintendent jobs, Certified status will become more important. It is my opinion that an Editorial from you encouraging the fellows to renew their Certified status would have been more beneficial than what you published.

Yours truly,  
Clifford A. Wagoner, CGCS

## Christmas Party At Woodlawn C.C., 1930

A Christmas party was enjoyed at the Woodlawn C. C. workshop on December 23, 1930. There were 18 present, including the employees, the pro, present chairman of the greens' committee and his predecessor.

Howard Farrant, greenkeeper at The Country Club of Brookline, served as waiter at an excellent turkey dinner. After dinner, a Christmas tree held gifts for all, and a short jingle made up by Carlton Treat to fit each man, made the party more merry.

At the ping pong tournament following, the champion of Greater Boston still retained his crown, that champion being Carlton Treat.

The employees presented Mr. Treat a five year diary, and it is to be hoped that he has many pleasant items to write in it the next five years.

The menu card, a copy of which was given each man present, was headed "1930 Christmas Dinner, Greens' Gang, Woodland C. C., Auburndale, Massachusetts". The second page the following:

"A Toast to the Men who will always be seen,  
Just working away on Fairway and Green.  
Here's to the Health and a Christmas of cheer,  
May Good Luck be theirs all thru the New Year!"

The menu was given as follows:

Cream of Fungus Soup  
Rollers  
Selected Bamboo Pole Tips

---

Roast Turkey, Fairway Top Dressing  
Castor Pomace

---

Weeds	Nugreen
German Bent	Chewing Fescue

---

Compost Pudding, Easy Sauce  
Sand and Gravel Pie  
Snow and Ice

---

Worm Eradicator

All present had a fine time, and felt that such a party would be well worth while at any club.

Paul F. Hayden

## Newsletter Notes

Had a pretty good turn out despite the weather at the November meeting held at Milton Hoosic. It was a cold, windy day. Those who played golf should be given a medal for bravery! The course was reported in good condition and many thanks to Bruce Petrelli, host superintendent and the members of Milton Hoosic Golf Club for having us at your club.

There was a discussion on re-certification. Some people felt that the process of being re-certified is a little harsh. There are cases where a certified superintendent's club does not give him expense money to attend the national conference and therefore he will not be able to pick up the 2 points that are available by attending these conferences. It was mentioned that seminars in many cases are out of state or again available at the national conferences. If no expense money came from the superintendent's club, this could result in a substantial outlay of money from the superintendent's own pocket. Some people felt that 5 years was too soon to have to be re-certified.

A question was brought up about advertising a piece of equipment a club might want to sell. This could be done in the Newsletter. Also, if any member or club official has an idea for an article, please send them along. You may also write an article yourself. Just send me the information.

It was pointed out that we had considerable trouble getting

clubs for golf outings this year. This makes for very difficult planning for everyone. Please start thinking about next year. If you can have a meeting next year at your club, contact Brian Cowan.

Please make note that when driving to the winter meetings at the Dedham Inn, take exit #60 North, not South, as reported in the last Newsletter. The Inn is visible from Route 128.

The date for the December meeting, which is the annual meeting, is December 6, 1976. The membership meeting and election of officers will start at 1:00 p.m. Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarships will be presented at this meeting also.

President Wayne Zoppo has appointed Dean Robertson as the Voting Delegate to the national conference in Portland next February and Larry Bunn as the alternate. Don Hearn has been appointed to attend the Advisory Committee Meeting and Dave Barber as the alternate.

Hope to see you all at the Christmas party at Mt. Pleasant C. C. in Boylston on Friday, December 3, 1976. Cocktails at 7:00 and dinner and dancing at 8:00.

Have a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Larry Bunn  
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