

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1981

January 1982



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.



Dean Does It Right

An era of its own making comes to an end this month when Dean Robertson finishes his final tour in the role of director on the board of the Gold Course Superintendents Association of New England.

The event is worth noting because it marks the passing of meaningful and official participation in NEGCSA matters from one generation to another.

Robertson doesn't wish to convey the feeling that "old timers" relationship with the association diminishes and disappears with the decision to allow younger members to assume the major responsibilities of conducting its operation. However, he realizes that he's reached a state in his professional career when it's time to accept the role of observer, maybe critic.

"I came onto the board almost from the day I joined the NEGCSA," Robertson remarked. "My first job was Newsletter Chairman. I kept at it until I took the natural route up the line and topped it off by serving as president. Now, I'm ready to bow out and let others follow that path."

Robertson, perhaps, was the most visible and effective Newsletter Chairman in the history of the organization. He was responsible for its present format whose main purpose is to spread the word and work of the golf course superintendent to areas outside the confines of the membership.

"I think the change we made in the type of articles written and their presentation has been a major factor in the recognition of our profession," Dean opined. "I can remember when we were treated like second-class citizens and that wasn't too long ago. Now, I think everyone will agree that the superintendent has reached a professional plateau in keeping with his contribution to the country club's stature."

Robertson was a whippersnapper member in 1964 when he plunged into the NEGCSA's operational waters. Seventeen years later, he still retains the enthusiasm of his youth.

"When I took my first course job, no one knew who the

superintendent was," Dean said. "I mean no one could tell you his name at any country club. The old image of some guy with a hose wrapped around his neck, a lawn mower in one hand and a spray gun in the other was still there. But we banged away at that image and here we are — at the top of the heap.

Of course, that change rates high on Robertson's list, but others have come about since he took his first superintendent's steps.

"I remember that most of the superintendents were middle-aged men," he informed. "When I began, the average age of the super was somewhere around 38. Those older guys had to do something to make it attractive. I think what we did was just build on what they started."

Robertson is especially impressed with the job stability the profession has promoted over the years.

"Some of our guys don't realize just how good they are," he mentioned. "Take my present job at Kernwood. I'm only the third superintendent the course ever has had. You want a comparison? I've been there almost four years. In that span, the club as had six different club managers."

Dean also notes the change in relationship between superintendents and club members.

"There was a day when the super wouldn't dare step foot in the clubhouse," he told. "He was strictly an employee who wasn't to be seen or heard, just produce top playing conditions. Now, I take my meals in the clubhouse and very often with members. We're a visible part of the country club and the whole atmosphere has benefitted because of it."

Although he's a strong believer in the professional advantages that come with membership in the NEGCSA, Robertson still believes the superintendent should depend on his individual talents and personalistly to improve his particular position.

"The association gives us the opportunity to improve our knowledge of the job and refine our skills," he ex-

continued on page 2

NEXT MEETING Annual Meeting

Jan. 5, 1981

Andover C.C., Andover, Mass

Host Superintendent: Tony DeBettencourt

9:00 Directors Meeting
10:00 Regular Meeting

Directions: From 495 northbound take exit 41 A. As you come off, stay on that road to first set of lights. At lights take a right onto 133, Continue to Canturbury Street, take a right and club is at end of street.

Salary Survey – A Must

It's private, it's confidential and in some circles it might be considered controversial. Yet, Don Hearn and his task force of putting some punch into the professional input of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England are on their way to accomplishing one aspect of that goal.

Hearn has been assigned the job of conducting a survey among his peers. Its purpose is twofold, to update and validate heretofore vague information concerning the salary structure of the golf course superintendent and make it available to people seeking to fill that post and to make area superintendents aware of the salary level they should seek in applying for a new position.

If you are a NEGCSA member, you will or already have been contacted by Hearn in regard to supplying your individual rundown on the compensation you receive as a golf course superintendent.

"I only hope our members react to this venture with as much enthusiasm as we had setting it up," Hearn explained. "I understand this was attempted in the past and the response came up way short of expectation. This time around I'm looking for 100 percent cooperation all the way down the line."

Presently, the NEGCSA is almost in the dark when it comes time to assist country clubs and other golf course agencies in their pursuit of a qualified superintendent. Invariably, association officers and directors are contacted by potential employers who seek a salary guideline when a position becomes available. And, other than figures gleaned from their personal experience, they are unable to provide such information.

Hearn emphasizes that the information will be kept confidential.

"We're not trying to pick anybody's brain or create cause for embarrassment," he told. "Our profession, or its New England segment, remains in the dark as far as being able to provide a valid salary picture — to both those

continued from page 1

plained. "However, it's up to the individual to impress his employer. One thing I've always stressed is to be a working superintendent. I make myself seen on the golf course and it's not always with a notepad and pen. Besides, I love my work. Getting my hands dirty is all part of it."

Robertson says he'll attend as many NEGCSA meetings as he can and warns that he won't be content to be a silent member.

"I'm going to speak up when I don't think things are going right," he cracked. "Every now and then they'll know I'm here. One thing I would like to see, though. That's more ex-presidents at meetings. I think we can still offer our own brand of expertise and experience. Otherwise, I'd say the association's in good hands and I wish those hands well."

Dean Robertson. He's bowing out but not fading out of the picture completely. He's that certain kind of member every association needs.

seeking to hire a superintendent and those superintendents who are seeking to better their present station."

Presently, the Massachusetts Golf Association remains the only official source of information pertaining to superintendents' salary figures. However, those numbers are suspect in as much as they have been provided by everyone except the superintendent, himself.

This fact isn't stated to demean or discourage the efforts of the MGA. On the contrary, the NEGCSA welcomes that august body as a partner in aiding the efforts of employers and employees. However, our association feels that it should be the main source of information when the financial status of its members is involved.

"What we're trying to do is eliminate hearsay and guesswork as the basis for what a certain superintendent's job should command in salary and fringe benefits," Hearn added. "We're starting slowly, asking only the elementary questions pertaining to a superintendent's remuneration. Eventually, we'd like to come up with something along the profile of a super."

Hearn makes a special plea for cooperation from those superintendents who choose to divorce themselves from the NEGCSA in matters of this kind.

"Unfortunately, we have members content to hide away in some corner and operate as if they were in a secret organization of their own," Hearn said. "Maybe that worked in the past. However, we are working out of a new generation setting with new ideas. You can't stick your head in the sand and be oblivious to what's happening to others in the profession."

Realistically, the survey is another step to adding another touch of professionalism to the golf course superintendent's world.

"I think it ridiculous that we can't tell a potential employer or an aspiring super what they should be talking about when it comes down to salaries and accompanying benefits," Hearn continued. "I can't think of one profession that can't provide this information. And, honestly, I can't explain why we're not able to emulate other fields of endeavor."

The survey carries a voluntary response tag. And this is why it's essential that NEGCSA members be aware of its value as a means of upgrading the association and furthering the financial aims of its members.

"I'd have to say that everyone will be the winner if we get an appreciable return from our members," Hearn concluded. "As a matter of fact, this is one way to make sure that some supers aren't being shortchanged. I know I'd like to be able to throw out a realistic figure if I were applying for a job. And I'm positive the people with whom I'm negotiating would appreciate the knowledge of what each side should be seeking in coming to a salary agreement."

The salary game ball, then, has been tossed in the golf course superintendent's court. Response to the salary survey should become a top priority with NEGCSA members. In the end, it's for their benefit and for the good of the association. It is required reading and writing.

Gerry Finn

PRESIDENT

Ronald Kirkman
25 Green St.
Needham, Mass. 02192
Home Phone 444-8412
Office Phone 444-5548
Club Affiliation
Needham Golf Club

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Brian Cowan CGCS
Robins Way
Harwich, Mass. 02645
Home Phone 432-9041
Office Phone 945-9230
Club Affiliation
Eastward Ho.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Donald Hearn CGCS
4 Topeka Rd.
Chelmsford, Mass. 01824
Home Phone 256-9709
Office Phone 894-5906
Club Affiliation
Weston Golf Club

SECRETARY

David Barber CGCS
145 Dedham St.
Canton, Mass. 02021
Home Phone 828-7266
Office Phone 828-6540
Club Affiliation
Blue Hills C.C.

TREASURER

Pete Coste CGCS
121 Granite St.
Medfield, Mass. 02052
Home Phone 359-7247
Office Phone 566-0240
Club Affiliation
The Country Club

TRUSTEE

Meindert Schults
737 Princeton Blvd.
Lowell, Mass. 01851
Home Phone 458-7605
Office Phone 452-8228
Club Affiliation
Mt. Pleasant G.C.

TRUSTEE

Melvin O'Kelly
345 Plain St.
Marshfield, Mass. 02050
Home phone 834-4229
Office Phone 837-3321
Club Affiliation
Marshfield C.C.

TRUSTEE

Tom Schofield CGCS
290 North Rd.
Sudbury, Mass. 01776
Home Phone 443-3712
Office Phone 235-7333
Club Affiliation
Wellesley C.C.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN

Robert Johnston CGCS
128 Wilbraham Rd.
Hampden, Mass. 01036
Home Phone 566-3075
Office Phone 566-3096
Club Affiliation
Hampden C.C.

A Book Review

I recently had the opportunity to get my hands on a copy of *The Golf Course* by Geoffrey S. Cornish and Ronald E. Whitten. This is a truly commendable book, detailing the history of golf course architecture from day one. The text alone is great, but is further enhanced by page upon page of excellent photos and sketches. I am sure that there is no other book like this in existence and in my opinion would make a welcome addition to any golf library.

The last portion is extremely interesting; as it contains biographical sketches of almost every golf course architect that ever lived. Each sketch includes a list of courses the architect has designed or help design. Also listed is almost every golf course ever built, and the names of all the architects involved. This section makes it extremely easy to trace a club's architectural history, from the beginning to the present.

Geoffrey tells me that this book is now available in the local bookstores (or can be ordered through them). There is also a toll free number to call for ordering, 800-526-6318. It is my understanding that the bookstores are much faster, even if they have to order it for you. Details for ordering purposes are as follows: *The Golf Course* by Geoffrey S. Cornish and Ronald E. Whitten, published by the Rutledge Press Division of W.H. Smith, 112 Madison Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10016.

I would not hesitate to recommend this book for both reference and pleasure reading. No self respecting golf library should be without a copy.

Chuck

The nominating committee has come up with the following slate of officers for 1982. This slate will be voted on at the annual meeting. Nominations from the floor may also be made at that time.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| President | Brian Cowan |
| First Vice President | Donald Hearn |
| Second Vice President | David Barber |
| Secretary | Richard Zepp |
| Treasurer | Pierre Coste |
| Trustee | Paul Miller |
| Finance Chairman | Robert Johnston |
| Golf Chairman | Stephen Murphy |
| Education Chairman | Tony DeBettencourt |
| Newsletter Chairman | Douglas Johnson |

Job Opening

H.B. Brownson C.C. Shelton, Conn.

Contact: Ed Reberkenny, Greens Chairman
125 Hilltop Circle
Trumbull, Conn. 06611

To be voted on at next meeting:

Joseph G. Mondor
Crestview C.C.

1981-82 Pesticide Seminars

Dec. 15

Theory of Biological Control; Amherst, 9:30-12:00, Dr. Van Driesche

Dec. 17

Same as above; Waltham, 1:00-3:30

Jan. 26

How Do Insecticides Kill?; Amherst, 10:00-12:00, Dr. Clark

Feb. 4

Protecting Honey Bees From Pesticides; Amherst, 9:30-12:00, Dr. Lary Conner

Feb. 16

Turf Insect Identification Laboratory; Amherst, 9:30-12:30 or 12:00-4:00. Preregister for either the morning or afternoon lab session and attend the combined midday lecture. Call Dr. Vittum at 617-891-0650

Feb. 23

Same as above; Waltham, 9:30-12:30 or 12:00-4:00. Preregister by calling Dr. Vittum at 617-891-0650

Feb. 25

Same as above; Waltham, 9:30-12:30 or 12:00-4:00. Preregister by calling Dr. Vittum at 617-669-6744

March 2

Turf Insect Identification Laboratory; Bristol Co. Ag. School in Segreganset, 9:00-12:00. Preregister with Mr. Ted Kuczewski at 617-669-6744

March 4

Same as above; Cape Cod Ext Serv Office in Barnstable, 9:00-12:00. Preregister with Mr. Bill Clark at 617-362-2511 Ext 201

March 9

How to Handle Chemical Spills and Fires; Amherst, 10:00-12:00, Dr. VanDriesche

March 11

Same as above; Waltham, 1:00-3:00

March 16

Protecting Honey Bees from Pesticides; Waltham, 1:00-4:00, Dr. Larry Conner

March 25

Non-Crop Herbicides; Waltham, 1:00-4:00, Dr. John Ahrens. This seminar will cover herbicide applications to right-of-ways, landscape and industrial purposes.

Each of the above seminars is worth one credit towards recertification. Each certified applicator must earn three credits over a five year period to have his certification renewed. All of the above apply to Category 37- Turf. The locations above are:

Amherst: Rm 102F in Fernald Hall at UMASS in Amherst.
Waltham: Waltham Suburban Experiment Station Auditorium at 240 Beaver St., Waltham.

Please note that some seminars require preregistration.

GOLF CHAIRMAN

Stephen M. Murphy
75 Woodland Ave.
Lynn, Mass. 01904
Home Phone 592-2554
Office Phone 592-8238
Club Affiliation
The Gannon G.C.

EDUCATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Richard C. Zepp
86E Sterling St.
W. Boylston, Mass. 01583
Home Phone 835-4980
Office Phone 234-2533
Club Affiliation
Whitinsville G.C.

NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN

Charles Lane
5 Goodnow Lane
Framingham, Mass. 01701
Home Phone 872-7832
Office Phone 875-4490
Club Affiliation
Framingham C.C.

PAST PRESIDENT

Dean Robertson
24 Riverview Drive
Newbury, Mass. 01950
Home Phone 462-4540
Office Phone 745-7289
Club Affiliation
Kernwood C.C.

Information contained in this publication may be used freely, in whole or in part, without special permission as long as the true context is maintained. We would appreciate a credit line.

Please patronize **FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Bacher Corporation
876 Boston Road
Billerica, Mass. 01866
Tel. 617-273-0398
Turf and Snow Equipment

Baker Tractor Corp., Ford Tractors
Harley Davidson Golf Cars
Swansea, Mass
Yamaha Golf Cars

Bordens Spreader Service
Maynard, Mass.
Tel. 617-897-2574
Sales Rep. Jack Borden
Bulk Limestone Dealer

C & J Lawnmower Service, Inc.
474 Main St., Wilmington, Mass 01887
Eric Oman - Sales Representative
Tel. 617-658-2022

The Clapper Co.
1121 Washington St.
Newton, Mass.
617-244-7929

Geoffrey S. Cornish & William G. Robinson
Golf Course Architects
Fiddlers Green, Amherst, Mass. 01002

Country Club Enterprises
Club Car Golf Cars
Tennis & Leisure Equipment
P.O. Box 400, W. Falmouth, Ma. 02574
617-563-2284

C.S. Curran
T.R.C. Products, Oils and Greases
7 Linden St., Framingham, Mass.

Chester Drake & Sons, Inc.
222 Walnut St.
Framingham, Mass. 01701
Golf Course Construction
617-875-7929

Gold Star Sod Farms, Inc.
Sod & Pine Bark Mulch
Canterbury, N.H. 603-783-4717
Weston, Mass. 617-894-5474

The Charles C. Hart Seed Co.
Weathersfield, Conn.
Bob Kennedy, Rep.
Roy Sibley, Rep.

Holliston Sand Co., Inc.
Lowland St., Holliston, Mass. 01746
Sand for topdressing and bunkers

I & E Supply, Inc.
66 Erna Ave.
Box 9, Milford, Conn. 06460
203-878-0658

Tom Irwin, Inc.
118 A St., Burlington, Mass.

Lakeshore Equipment & Supply Co.
Mike Hannigan, Rep.
Abington, Mass.
800-321-5325

Larchmont Engineering and Irrig. Co.
Larchmont Lane, Lexington, Mass.
617-862-2550

The Magovern Co. Inc.
27 Lawnacre Road
Windsor Locks, Conn. 06096
Tel. 1-800-243-7718 or 1-203-623-2508
Louis C. Rogers, Vice Pres.

D. L. Maher
Box 127, Concord St.
N. Reading, Mass. 01864

R. F. Morse & Son, Inc.
W. Wareham, Mass. 02576
Tel. 617-295-1553
J. Willen Roell, Rep.
Larry Bunn, Rep.

N.E. Chapter Land Improvement
Contractors of America
Professional Conservation of Soil
and Water. Contractor in your area,
call Peter Whiting, Pres.
617-877-5323

New England Sealcoating Co., Inc.
Tennis Court Const. and Maintenance
Sealcoating Hingham Inc. Center
Hingham, Mass. 749-6800

Old Fox Chemical Inc.
Fertilizers - Seeds - Turf Chemicals
66 Valley St.
E. Providence, R.I. 02914

Richey & Clapper, Inc.
28 Rutledge Rd., Natick, Mass. 01760

Sawtelle Bros.
565 Humphrey St., Swampscott, Mass.
617-599-4856

Scott Associates, Inc.
60 Water Street, Clinton, Mass.
617-365-6341
Pumps - Sales, service
Installation - Vertical
Turbine pumps specialists

Scotts Pro-Turf Div.
Rep. Ed Wiacek 1-401-253-4284
Rep. Kevin Lyons 1-617-366-4825

Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.
Stocum, R.I., Litchfield, N.H.
1-800-556-6985
Alan Anderson, Sam Mitchell

Tuco Products Corp.
Div. of the Upjohn Co.
Kalamazoo, Mich.
David Sylvester, 203-828-3790

* Turf Products Corp.
36 Sword St.
Auburn, Mass. 01501
617-791-2091
Charles Allen, Sales Rep.

* Turf Specialty, Inc.
84 Merrimac St., Hooksett, N.H. 03106
Turf & Ornamental Supplies
Ken Turner 617-263-7526

Valley Farms Nursery & Supply, Inc.
133 Hopemeadow St., Rt. 10
Simsbury, Ct. 06070
Putting Green Sod for the Professional
Joe Bidwell Pres.
Bus: 203-651-8555, Res: 203-658-6886

White Turf Engineering
5 Summer Dr., Winchendon, Mass. 01475
617-297-0941

Phillip Wogan
Golf Course Architect
31 Budleigh Ave., Beverly, Mass.

* Contributors to the Lawrence S. Dickinson
Scholarship Fund

NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.



CHARLES LANE
Newsletter Committee Chairman
5 Goodnow Lane
Framingham, Mass. 01701
Home Phone 872-7832
Office Phone 875-4490
Club Affiliation
Framingham, C.C.

PETE COSTE
Business Manager
LEON ST. PIERRE
Co-ordinator
GERRY FINN
Contributing Editor

Return to:
CHARLES LANE
5 Goodnow Lane
Framingham, MA 01701

FIRST CLASS

First Class
U. S. Postage
PAID
Framingham, MA
Permit 209