

NEWSLETTER

February 1984



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.

Bob Johnston Crosses Border



Bob Johnston slipped over the border a couple of months ago and thought the act would go unnoticed.

"It's no big deal," Johnston noted. "I just got myself a better job, a bigger challenge. It happens every day."

Johnston, in fact, has taken a big step forward in his career as a rising golf course superintendent. He now holds

that position at the prestigious Wampanoag Country Club in West Hartford, Conn. after serving the satisfied folks at the Hampden Country Club (Mass.) for the last 10 years.

The move means that Johnston will become a two-letter man, if you will. He intends to retain his membership in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, but he'll also join the Connecticut branch of the professional cult.

"True, I won't be as active in New England as I have," he informed. "But I'll be dropping in on a few meetings. I've made too many friends in our organization to drop out. After all, it's been my home ever since I got interested in the business."

Johnston has been a GCSANE member for more than 10 years and has been a visible and viable part of its recent resurgence. At the end of this season, he completed a long and productive stint as a director and finance chairman.

"The association really has been on the upswing," he said. "I think the people running it are top-shelf. It seems that participation has expanded and everything takes a positive look. It's been a learning experience for me, one that's helped me in my goals."

Johnston's roots are firmed up in the section he's leaving. Bob was brought up in Concord, attended high school there and sort of stumbled onto the realization that golf course grooming was right up his alley.

He was introduced to the profession in 1965 by Dave Barber who was running the show at Wayland.

"Dave was the guy who headed me out of the darkness," Bob revealed. "When I went to Wayland, I didn't know what I was going to do for the rest of my life. But I fell in love with the job from the first day and I was hooked on it."

Johnston spent two years at Wayland and then moved on to work for Wayne Ripley at Blue Hills and Walpole. All the time he was hitting the books and looking towards the opportunity to take over his own job.

After graduation from Stockbridge in 1969, Johnston clicked for four years as head superintendent at Wennesuket in South Bellingham.

"That was my first real challenge," he recalled. "It was a small club but just the right size for me to find out if I were really cut out for the profession."

Obviously, the experience was to Bob's liking. He spent four years at Wennesuket, then accepted the call to Hampden in 1974. He was just turning the corner of his 10th season there when Wampanoag reached out for his expertise in December.

"This is the kind of job I've been pointing for," Bob disclosed. "Not that Hampden wasn't an important step in

my career and a good place to work. However, there are some long-range projects in the forming stage at Wampanoag. It's a course with heavy play and a membership that seeks top performance and rewards it."

Wampanoag, in fact, is a creation of famed architect Donald Ross. That, in itself, intrigues Johnston.

"I've already dug out the original blueprints and maps Donald Ross used when the course was laid out in 1926," Bob told. "I'm going to get them framed, spruce up the office and make it look like we're here for bigger and better things."

There won't be much of an adjustment for Bob, although he'll have a closer relationship with the green committee at Wampanoag. His arrangement at Hampden was such that he was virtually on his own since that club was operated by a single owner.

"I'm already working on my public relations here," he added. "That's the philosophical approach I'm taking - one I've always stressed. I think a superintendent has to take the first step in forming a solid relationship with members. I've already walked the course several times, hoping to meet members. I want to know them and for them to know me."

Bob, who just passed re-certification shortly after his 38th birthday, and his wife, Bette, have moved to East Granby - about 10 miles from Wampanoag.

"So far, so good," Bob said of his new life. "I can't wait for spring to pop. I want to make it here, make it big."

Not to worry, Bob. Off your track record, you will, you will.

Gerry Finn

Next Meeting

Monday, February 13, 1984
Franklin Country Club
Franklin, Mass.

Host - Gary Luccini

Directors Meeting - 10:30 a.m.

Lunch - 11:45 a.m.

Regular Meeting

Educational Program - following lunch

Guest Speaker - Warren Shepard -
Pesticide Update on Certification

Directions From Rt. 495 take King St. exit. Head toward Franklin to Rt. 140. At Rt. 140 take a right, club will be on right approx. 1¼ mile.

Golf Course Superintendents Association

Super Gets USGA Boost

For years, the golf course superintendent has toiled in the shadow of his surroundings as if his were an isolated job set apart from the other workings of the country club.

However, no less an authority than the United States Golf Association (through its president) believes the lines of communication between supers and golfers are in need of added spark.

The USGA notes that the ideal situation presents an arrangement whereby the club membership is represented by a key person in an exchange of needs, opinions, explanations and the like of both parties.

Such a setup exists in most clubs with the green chairman assuming the responsibility of establishing a link between the members and the superintendent. Yet, terms of the arrangement often are violated by overzealous members who feel their input must be recognized in the every day operation of grooming the golf course.

For that reason, the USGA suggests that the green chairman be entrusted with the job of getting to appreciate the problems a super encounters, relate same to the membership and perhaps clear up the fallacy that course maintenance is based on a snap-judgment act by the superintendent.

Probably the most persistent complaint by superintendents, in relation to their main function of improving and maintaining playing conditions, is that there are too many bosses to deal with.

The USGA recognizes this and, in turn, advises country clubs and public courses to take a second look at their communication lines with the super.

More specifically, the USGA feels any criticism on the condition of the golf course should come from a single source (green chairman or owner). That source also should be educated in the maintenance field so as to be able and worthy to make such criticism on a constructive note.

This may sound all well and good. However, it has come to the attention of several superintendents that the designated overseer often is not qualified to either make constructive criticism or lend rallying support when it is needed.

Much too often the green chairman serves for one term (sometimes a minimal one year) and never seems to get a grasp of the overall situation until it is time for him or her to turn over the title to someone else.

Therefore, the USGA also suggests that country clubs move in the direction of establishing a green chairman (one person) on a permanent basis, provided the relationship between the super and chairman has proven satisfactory in the past.

The sad aside to dependence on a green chairman for the very important task of feeding and receiving input in the super relationship is that many appointments to the post are made on a friendship and not a practical basis.

Then, too, many clubs are not aware of another ideal situation or grooming future green chairmen under an assistantship appointment. This has proven beneficial to both the superintendent and country club when it is applied.

It has been said that more than a few supers live in a shell and prefer as little contact with members as possible. Perhaps the reason for this is job-preservation in light of the fact that some members take it upon themselves to restrict their end of a communication with the super to criticism.

Again, appreciation of the golf course superintendent's

GCSANE Election Results

President - Don Hearn
1st VP - Dave Barber
2nd VP - Pete Coste
Secretary - Dick Zepp
Treasurer - Tom Schofield
Trustees - Paul Miller, Steve Chiavaroli, Mark Klimm
Golf Chrm. - Steve Murphy
Educational Chrm. - Chip Brearley
Newsletter Chrm. - Doug Johnson
Past President - Brian Cowan

Committees for 1984

WELFARE - Paul Miller, Chmn. Stephen Chivaroli CGCS, Mark Klimm
FINANCE - John Streeter CGCS, Chmn.
EDUCATION - Edward Brearley, Chmn. James Fitzroy CGCS, Donald Levangie
GOLF - Stephen Murphy, Chmn.
NEWSLETTER - Douglas Johnson CGCS, Chmn. Pierre Coste CGCS, Ronald Kirkman, Michael Nagle
EMPLOYMENT - David Barber CGCS, Chmn.
PUBLICITY - Pierre Coste CGCS, Chmn.
TURF RESEARCH - Richard Zepp CGCS, Chmn. Dr. Joseph Troll, Dr. Richard Skogley
BYLAWS - David Barber CGCS, Chmn. Ronald Kirkman, Arthur Washburn
MEMBERSHIP - David Barber CGCS, Chmn. Pierre Coste CGCS, Richard Zepp CGCS
MASSACHUSETTS GOLF ASSOCIATION LIAISON - Donald Hearn CGCS

Divot Drift ... By now the GCSAA Conference and show is over. I'm sure all who attended gained something valuable from the educational seminars and equipment show Time is now to gear for Joe Troll's UMass Turf Conference and Show at the Springfield Civic Center Feb. 28-March 1. For all who attend credit will be given towards Pesticide Re-certification Golf Chairman Steve Murphy did a fine job at the annual meeting in explaining the hat fiasco. His great presentation was made so easy by his attending a crash course of Buckwheats school of Double Talk Once again our thanks to Gary Luccini and Franklin CC for being hosts.

role in the overall operation of the club lies at the bottom of unnecessary and undeserved criticism. However, it is not to be expected that every member take the time to understand how much goes into a course grooming program and how much knowledge the super must have in order to make it succeed.

The USGA theory, then, appears to have merit. But does this mean putting a gag on every member other than the green chairman?

Not really, however, criticism should take form in a chain of command process. The individual member speaks to the green chairman who in turn takes up the complaint with the super. And that goes for praise, too.

Whatever, the superintendent doesn't have time to listen to 350 bosses. Most assuredly, neither does the member in his life away from the club. It would appear that common sense rules here and the USGA has come through with it in spades.

Now, if only the country clubs will take heed.

Gerry Finn

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New president of GCSANE, Don Hearn presenting outgoing president Brian Cowan with a gift.

Position Openings:

**Unicorn Golf Course,
Stoneham, Ma.
Send Resume to:
Personnel Dept.
Stoneham Town Hall
Stoneham, MA 02180
Reply by Feb. 17, 1984**

**Point Judith Country Club
Narragansett, R.I.
Send resume to:
Robert E. Rounds,
Greens Chairman
Pt. Judith C.C.
PO Box 252
Wakefield, RI 02880**

Upcoming dates:

**Feb 28-March 1 - UMass Turf Conference
March 19 - GCSANE Meeting Franklin CC**

53rd Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference and 8th Industrial Show

Dedicated to Arthur E. Anderson and Prof. John M. Zak
for outstanding devotion and service to the turf profession

Civic Center, Springfield, MA

PROGRAM

TUESDAY, February 28, 1984

—Morning—

9:00-12:45 INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN.
Exhibition Hall, Snack Bar

—Afternoon—

GENERAL SESSION - Banquet Room

**Chairman: Dr. Joseph Troll, Dept. of Plant & Soil
Sciences, University of Massachusetts/Amherst**

1:00 WELCOME—

Dr. David E. Leonard, Acting Dean,
College of Food & Natural Resources, University
of Massachusetts/Amherst

1:15 ECOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES OF TURF
MANAGEMENT

Dr. Donald B. White, Dept. of Horticultural
Science & Landscape Architecture, University of
Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

1:45 COMPUTER OPERATIONS SIMPLIFIED

Dr. David Wilcock, Dept. of Agriculture &
Resource Economics, University of Massachu-
setts/Amherst

2:15 APPLYING THE COMPUTER TO YOUR GOLF
COURSE MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Mr. Robert E. Grant, Supt., Brae Burn Country
Club, West Newton, MA

2:45- 3:00 BREAK

3:00 LITTLE THINGS YOU CAN DO AT YOUR
CLUB TO SECURE YOUR FUTURE

Mr. Stanley Zontek, Director, North-Central
Region, USGA Green Section, Crystal Lake IL

3:45 THE ROLE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT IN
KNOWING HOW TO PLAY GOLF

Mr. Paul Miller, Supt., Tedesco Country Club,
Marblehead, MA

4:30-6:30 INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN

WEDNESDAY, February 29, 1984

GOLF COURSE SESSION -Banquet Room

—Morning—

**Chairman: Prof. John M. Zak, Dept. of Plant & Soil
Sciences, University of Massachusetts/Amherst**

9:00 STRESS AND THE GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENT/BASIC SURVIVAL

Mr. William Smart, Supt., IBM Country Club,
Poughkeepsie, NY

9:45 ENDOMYCORRHIZAL FUNGI . . . FRIEND
OR FOE?

Dr. A. Martin Petrovic, Dept. of Floriculture &
Ornamental Horticulture, Cornell University,
Ithaca, NY

10:30 INSECT CONTROL IN GOLF COURSE TURF

Dr. Paul Heller, Dept. of Entomology, Penn-
sylvania State University, University Park, PA

11:00-2:00 INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN.

—Afternoon—

2:00 COMPACTION EFFECTS ON NITROGEN
FERTILIZATION

Dr. Robert N. Carrow, Dept. of Horticulture &
Forestry, Kansas State University, Manhattan,
KS

2:30 TURFLIFE - A NEW FERTILIZER FOR LAWNS
AND GOLF COURSES

Dr. William Mitchell, Plant Science Dept.,
University of Delaware, Newark, DE

3:00 ENDOPHYTES IN TURF SPECIES

Dr. Leah Brilman, Director of Research, Jacklin
Seed Co., Post Falls, ID

3:45 COOL, WARM, AND HOT TURF
MANAGEMENT

Mr. William Emerson, Supt., Paradise Valley
Country Club, Paradise Valley, AZ

4:30-6:30 INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN

—Evening—

7:00 BANQUET AND WINTER SCHOOL
CEREMONY

"ESP in Action" Mr. Russ Burgess, American
Program Bureau, Chestnut Hill, MA

WEDNESDAY, February 29, 1984

ALTERNATE SESSION - College Room

—Morning—

**Chairman: Mr. Charles Mruk, Agronomist,
American Aqua-Tec, Inc., North Andover, MA**

9:00 THE POLITICS OF LANDSCAPE
HORTICULTURE

Dr. Eliot C. Roberts, Director, The Lawn
Institute, Pleasant Hill, TN

9:30 FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER
LAWNCARE SERVICE

Dr. Charles Darrach, III, ChemLawn Corp,
Columbus, OH

10:00 TOUR OF THE NORFOLK BOTANICAL
GARDENS

Mr. Robert Matthews, Norfolk Botanical
Gardens, Norfolk VA

10:30 DIAGNOSING LAWN PROBLEMS

Ms. Maria Cinque, Nassau County Cooperative
Extension Service, Plainview, NY

11:00-2:00 INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN

—Afternoon—

2:00 MEETING THE AGRONOMIC DEMANDS OF
N.F.L. FOOTBALL AND NETWORK
TELEVISION

Dr. John R. Hall, III, Dept. of Agronomy,
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University,
Blacksburg, VA

2:45 RENOVATING THE LOS ANGELES COL-
ISEUM FOR THE OLYMPICS

Dr. Henry W. Indyk, Dept. of Soils & Crops,
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

3:30 DEVELOPING AN ALL-WEATHER ATHLETIC
FIELD FROM THE BOTTOM UP

Dr. Ralph White, Vice President, Southern Turf
Nurseries, Tavares, FL

4:30-6:30 INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN

THURSDAY, March 1, 1984

—Morning—

9:00-10:00 INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN

GOLF COURSE SESSION -Banquet Room

**Chairman: Dr. William A. Torello, Dept. of Plant &
Soil Sciences, University of Massachusetts/Amherst**

10:00 LATE SEASON NITROGEN FERTILIZATION

Dr. Donald B. White, Dept. of Horticultural
Science & Landscape Architecture, University of
Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

10:30 IRRIGATION SCHEDULING WITH THE
INFRARED THERMOMETER

Dr. Robert N. Carrow, Dept. of Horticulture &
Forestry, Kansas State University, Manhattan,
KS

11:00 TURF FUNGICIDES: THEORY AND USE

Ms. Patricia L. Sanders, Senior Research
Associate, Dept. of Plant Pathology, Penn-
sylvania State University, University Park, PA

11:30 IRRIGATION - HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

Mr. James Snow, Director, Northeast Region,
USGA Green Section, Far Hills, NJ

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