

NEWSLETTER



MAY 1984



Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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Masters Nice but Misleading

A noted golf course superintendent once mused that the Masters Tournament was nice, a blessing to the game and a promotional tool for golf without equal.

"However," he added. "It's also an ogre in disguise, because of its overpowering beauty and playing condition. An ogre can take many forms. This one feasts on the expectations of the millions of golfers watching the Masters on TV. It can bring out the beast in them."

What our observer-at-large referred to was the misleading effects the Augusta National Golf Club (site of the Masters) has on the average country club member. What he sees in Augusta in April he expects to see in Andover in April.

From an aesthetic standpoint, few courses in the world come close to the attractive lines of Augusta National. It is the product of a myriad of experts in every phase of the game of golf and underwritten by a financial force worthy of unlimited credit.

For example, its tees and greens were lowered into their final resting places only after extensive experimentation by one of Augusta National's founders - the great Bobby Jones. It's said Bobby hit more than 100 drives before determining the best location for the eighth tee. Therefore, it is bathed in expertise and patience.

Obviously, the flower arrangements and other plant life adorning the course didn't happen by accident. Their cultivation and care were provided by the Berckmans family of Augusta. The Berckmans were highly-regarded nurserymen. One - Louis Alphonse - was chosen by the Rockefellers to select and set out all the trees and plants in Radio City, New York.

Therefore, long before the Masters became a showcase for the rolling terrain, velvet greens, exploding azalea buds and eye-catching dogwoods in bloom it had been vested in impressive roots. That was in 1932 when, incidentally, some of the labor on the course came at the ridiculous price of 50 cents a day.

Since then, Augusta National has become the last word in beauty and challenge for leading golfers. It also has exposed itself as a challenge to the unsuspecting golf course superintendent, some of the species still battling the effects of winter with the reverse of them only a click of the dial away from his severest critics.

So, it is not surprising that many supers prepare themselves for the annual march on their sanity or the inquiries from members as to why their course pales in comparison to Augusta National.

As a matter of fact, coming down inquisitively on the superintendent at Masters time is one of the surest signs of spring in the Northeast. At certain clubs, the event has be-

come ritual. In fact, it wouldn't be April if a super weren't grilled to his cross while Jack, Arnie, Steve, Ben and the rest of the boys tiptoe through the azaleas and dogwoods digging for golfing gold in Georgia.

This is brought up here, not in defense of the superintendent, but in the interests of logic, reason and sanity.

Actually, few country members expect their course to measure up to the aesthetic and artistic brilliance of Augusta National. However, there is a tendency - especially at this time of year when the golf itch surfaces - for members to be inspired by what they see while watching PGA Tour events on television.

They forget where their courses are and under what kind of flip-flop weather conditions their superintendent must apply his skills in time for their first rounds of the season. Not all, but some demand the smoothest path to the hole or the most perfect lies from which to launch an approach shot. After all, "if Nicklaus can carve his way to a par without course-grooming complications, why can't I?"

The Masters, then, is a two-faced harbinger of spring. Certainly, it is a breathtaking experience to view Augusta National at the peak of its splendor. But, on the other hand, that scene can transfer into uncalled for demands by country club members on their golf course superintendent.

What's needed here is proper perspective. At this time
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Next Meeting

May 14, 1984

Green Harbor

Marshfield, MA

10 am	Directors Meeting
11:15 am	Regular Meeting
	Educational Program -
	Dr. Richard Skogley,
	University of Rhode Island
	Subject - Grasses for golf
	course use
12 noon	Lunch
Golf	Shotgun
	Blind Draw
Host	Dahn Tibbett

Eric G. Shiel named Director, Regional Affairs, of the USGA

FAR HILLS, N.J. — Eric G. Shiel, of Marietta, Ga., has been named Director of Regional Affairs, of the United States Golf Association, effective April 1.

Shiel replaces Jeffrey L. Rivard, who has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Golf Association of Michigan.

Shiel's primary responsibilities will include relations with state, district and regional golf associations, communications with USGA Committee members, membership administration and the supervision of a staff of three Regional Managers, with offices in Chicago, Pebble Beach and Atlanta.

Shiel, who joined the USGA staff in August 1981, will work out of Golf House in Far Hills, N.J.

A native of Carnoustie, Scotland, Shiel was a member of the Committee of management of the New Taysmouth Golf Club in 1954-55 and the Carnoustie Golf Club in 1955-58. He was also on the Handicap Committee at the Bush Hill Park Golf Club in London and served as secretary/treasurer for the Middlesex County Golf Alliance from 1969-1971. He has also assisted the Virginia State Golf Association with the Rules of Golf.

An accomplished player, Shiel won four club championships in England and competed in both the British and Scottish Amateur Championships. His current handicap is six.

Shiel is a member of the Carnoustie Golf Club in Scotland, the Bush Hill Park Golf Club in London and the Rivermont Golf Club in Alpharetta, Ga.

The United States Golf Association, which was formed in 1894, is a non-profit organization of more than 5,000 member clubs and golf courses. The USGA, among other activities, conducts 12 national championships annually.

"Guide to Seed and Sod in the U.S. and Canada" now available

Marie Pompei, Research Agronomist with Lofts Inc. announces the 5th edition of the "Guide to Seed and Sod in the U.S. and Canada" is now available to anyone who has an interest in the growing and maintenance of turf. The guide which she co-authored with Dr. Richard Hurley, Lofts Director of Research, is a ready reference presenting complete information for grass adaptation, recommended uses, and planting rates and dates in a clear and concise format.

For your free copy contact: Karen Ciosek, Lofts Inc., P.O. Box 146, Bound Brook, NJ 08805, (201)560-1590.

GCSAA News

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the United States Golf Association have joined together in a joint effort to raise funds to support turfgrass research.

GCSAA supports the unprecedented research project initiated by USGA to develop and produce quality golf turfgrass that will thrive with minimum water and maintenance. GCSAA President James W. Timmerman, in a message to superintendents, said, "Accelerated research leading to the development of grasses that are drought tolerant, less costly and easier to maintain are crucial to golf's survival."

The first phase of this research is being implemented in 1984 through a \$332,000 commitment by the USGA. Over the next ten years, \$5 million will be needed to accomplish this much needed research.

GCSAA and USGA are jointly urging their members and all others interested in the future of golf to contribute to this research to insure that green golf courses and the game of golf will always be a part of our lives.

"It is really important to us in working with GCSAA on this joint project. It is the greatest cooperative effort ever between USGA and GCSAA — it is truly a new era. The joint project is important, not only to us, but the cementing force is what it will bring to the future of golf," so said William H. Bengeyfield, National Director, USGA Green Section.

The members of the Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N.J., felt so strongly about this research and fund raising effort that each member will donate \$2.00 annually to the USGA Turfgrass Research Program. A jointly-signed letter by GCSAA President James W. Timmerman and USGA President James R. Hand has been sent to all golf clubs via the golf course superintendent urging each to consider donating funds to this vital research program in much the same manner as the Baltusrol Golf Club.

The USGA Green Section's Turfgrass Research Committee developed the plans and recommendations for this Turfgrass Research Program. GCSAA's Associate Executive Director James C. Prusa, CGCS, is a member of this committee.

Individuals or organizations interested in supporting turfgrass research may wish to contact Mr. Don Spencer, USGA Golf House, Far Hills, N.J. 07931 for further details on this joint effort.

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of year, Augusta National is a view of another planet if you take your seat in the Northeast TV room. The real world of low flooding, freezing nighttime temperatures, reluctant plant growth and every other aspect attached to the wakening of spring is here when the grass isn't green - yet!

Ah, June and July can't come too soon - eh, Mr. Superintendent?

Gerry Finn

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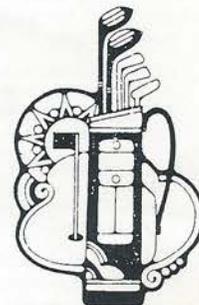
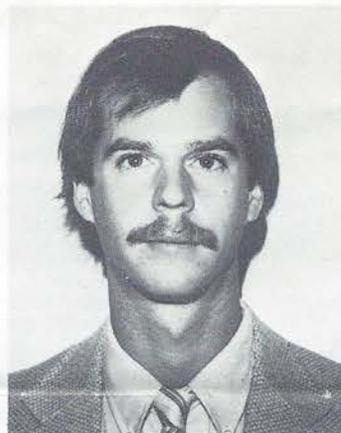
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Announcement

Nary Sperandio of Concord Country Club has announced he will be retiring from his position of golf course superintendent, effective January 1985. Anyone interested should contact: Mr. Everett Parker, 116 Monument St., Concord, MA 01742.

Divot Drift...The golf season is finally getting underway. It's hard to believe May is here... A sure sign of spring is our April golf meeting, and some of spring's sounds. Examples - Pete Coste whirling a club high above the clouds, Bobby Brown smacking a drive right into a bunch of trees making that coconut sound and Ron Kirkman nicking a fairway wood just enough to move the ball 10 feet... A correction on the Ouimet bag tags, the price is \$20 and are available at the MGA office in Weston.... Poor Art Washburn. He showed up at Hyannisport to play golf and his three playing partners never showed. We won't mention any names.... Finally, thanks to Bob St. Thomas and Hyannisport for being our May host.



Patrick W. Kristy Receives TUCO Turf Scholarship

Patrick Kristy, a senior in Turf Management at University of Massachusetts, received a TUCO Turf Scholarship for 1984 from Dave Sylvester, TUCO representative. The annual scholarship is sponsored by TUCO, Division of The Upjohn Company, to assist turfgrass students in meeting their educational needs. The scholarship is awarded for scholastic ability, personal integrity, and professed career interest in turfgrass management.

Kristy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Kristy of 204 Hoyden's Lane, Fairfield, Ct.

Hyannisport Results

The May meeting at Hyannisport was the qualifying for the Guy Tedesco invitational to be held June 15, 1984 at New Seabury. The following won a spot to represent GCSANE.

Steve Chivaroli - low gross
 Tony Caranci - first net
 Ron Kirkman - second net
 Mike Nagle - third net
 Ron Lee - first commercial net

Upcoming Meeting

June 11, 1984
 Mt. Pleasant CC
 W. Boylston, MA
 Supt. Green Chairmen Tournament

New Members - Congratulations to:

Mike Hannigan, Brockton CC
 Tom Jennings, Scituate GC
 Pat Flannery, Club at Bedford

1984 CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

1984 Massachusetts Golf Association Championships

Championship	Entries Close	Qualifying Round	Date of Event	Site
Open	May 23	June 4 Crestview Crystal Springs South Shore	June 25-27	Wollaston Golf Club
Public Links	June 4		June 30- July 1	George Wright Golf Course & Ponkapoag Golf Course
Amateur	June 4	June 18 Belmont Far Corner Framingham Marlborough Marshfield Walpole Wyanteruck	July 10-14	Country Club of Pittsfield
Junior	July 6	July 23 Needham North Andover Oak Ridge Pinecrest Presidents Woods Hole	August 6-8	Cohasset Golf Club
President-Professional	August 10		August 16	Spring Valley Country Club
Four-Ball	August 9		August 23-26	Halifax Country Club
Father & Son	August 17		August 27	Essex County Club
Father & Daughter	August 17		August 30	Beverly Golf & Tennis Club
Seniors	August 27		September 10-11	Eastward Ho Country Club
Mid-Amateur	September 10		September 24-25	Country Club of New Seabury

1984 United States Golf Association Local Qualifying

Championship	Entries Close	Qualifying Round	Date of Event	Site
Open	April 25	May 21 Rabasson-Ferrcroft	June 14-17	Winged Foot Golf Club (West Course) Mamaroneck, NY
Senior Open	May 23	June 18 Pine Brook	June 28- July 1	Oak Hill Country Club Rochester, NY
Public Links	June 4	June 30-July 1 George Wright Ponkapoag	July 16-21	Indian Canyon Golf Course Spokane, WA
Junior	June 20	July 10 Woodland	July 31- August 4	Wayzata Country Club Wayzata, MN
Amateur	July 18	August 14 Oak Hill	August 28- September 2	Oak Tree Golf Club Edmond, OK
Senior Amateur	August 15	September 4 International	September 17-22	Birmingham Country Club Birmingham, MI
Mid-Amateur	August 22	September 11 Andover	September 29- October 4	Atlanta Athletic Club Atlanta, GA

1984 New England Golf Association Events

Championship	Entries Close	Date of Event	Site
NEGA Amateur	June 22	July 17-19	Brooklawn Country Club Connecticut
NEGA Junior	Invitational	August 28	Wethersfield Country Club Connecticut

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