



THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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

February 1987

Dates to Remember

March 2 - 5
U. Mass Turf Conference
Springfield, MA

March 7
MGA Spring Conference
(See President's Message)

Next Meeting
February 23, 1987
Franklin C.C.
Franklin, MA

Host Superintendent Gary Lucini
9:30 Directors Meeting
11:00 Regular Meeting
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Education Session
(See President's Message)

Reservations Required
(617) 528-6110

Directions

From Route 495 take King St. Exit.
Go north to traffic light and turn
right on route 140. Club is about
one mile down on right.

Mel and Marshfield a Mix for the Ages

Mel O'Kelly was winding down his 43 years at the Marshfield Country Club the other day when he suddenly realized that he was headed for the end of a perfect romance.

"You know, except for three and a half years in the Navy, this has been it for me," he remarked. "And my family. This has been sort of a second home for us. Not bad, huh?"

Not bad, indeed.

Officially, Mel retires after those 43 eventful years of turning over maintenance magic at Marshfield -- the last 40 as golf course superintendent.

Unofficially, he'll stay on in an advisory capacity for one more year, making sure his 23 year assistant Roy Davis is comfortable in his new job as Mel's successor.

Mel O'Kelly and Marshfield. What a mix. A mix for the ages, if you will.

Heck, even before he got to pushing around hand mowers and seeing to it that member's putts hugged a straight line, Mel was a Marshfield regular.

"Started in 1931, Mel mused. "I was only nine years old when I began caddying. I guess that's when the golf bug bit."

And it was love at first bite. As the years rolled on, golf and the O'Kelly family exchanged affectionate glances.

Mel's wife of 35 years, Virginia, became an avid golfer, son Jimmy got on board and eventually followed father's footsteps as a golf course superintendent (Brae Burn), another son Dave turned it up a level as a top notch player with experience on the PGA Tour and daughter Beth continues the family tradition as an outstanding collegiate player (University of Hartford).

"You know, I think Beth's the best player of the bunch," Mel told. "Of course, I have good reason to blow her horn. We've been MGA father-daughter champions the last three years. That's one more thing the guys razz me about."

True, Mel's one of the venerables of the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association - one of its fabled treasures. Therefore, he's the target when the supers get together for a little, playful turning of the screw.

"There's a saying around the association," Mel quipped. "That any time I want to win the super's championship, I just have the event scheduled at Marshfield. We've played it twice here. Ah, guess who won, uh, both times?"

Mel's tenure at Marshfield rode all kinds of waves, beginning in 1939 when he worked on the course.

An interruption of sorts (World War II) sent him into the Navy where he engaged in another love affair - with the USS Baltimore, a cruiser working the Pacific Ocean beat. Along the way, or in and out of island ports (which Mel never visited), he spent 22 straight months on the ship. That's 22 months without ever stepping on land.

Continued on page 2

"Not a bad boat ride, eh?" Mel characterized that experience.

Back from the wars, Mel returned to Marshfield in 1945, worked on the course again and woke up one day in 1947 as its head "greenkeeper".

"There was no such thing as superintendent in those days," he said. "In fact, members didn't mind playing on brown grass. Fact is, there wasn't much of anything. Hey, my first budget was \$6000. And that included my salary!"

Mel made it up to U Mass for a 10-week course under Lawrence Dickinson whom Mel remembers as, "a man who thought there was nothing wrong playing holes where the grass wasn't green."

That was Mel's formal education in the profession. However, he is a strong advocate of the ongoing emphasis on upgrading educational requirements within the field. "I had to learn the hard way," he quipped. "I relied on the old-timers of my day for help. And they came through."

Just as Mel did at Marshfield.

"We kept tapping for water until we got enough to feed that irrigation system," Mel described the long haul through the technical advancement in his maintenance trials at Marshfield. "We just hung in there all these years and it paid off. I think we have a course everyone can be proud of."

And now, when Mel looks back on everything, his hand goes up there scratching at his head. "My, how those 43 years flew by," he sighed. "I can't believe it. But I know one thing. You can't do everything wrong and stay in this business for 43 years. That's my feeling."

Also, the feeling of one and all. Mel O'Kelly. He's a walking monument to the sunny side of the golf course superintendent's profession.

Gerry Finn

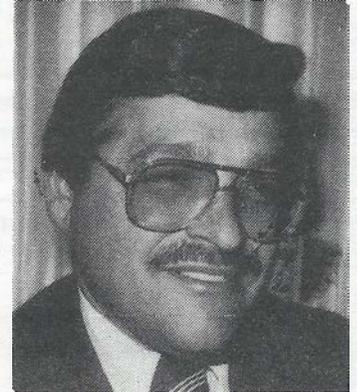


The first stage toward doing something, is to know what is wrong.

Ian Nairn

President's Message

The annual meeting was held at Franklin C.C. January 5, 1987. It is my pleasure to welcome and congratulate two new Directors elected by the membership. Doug Johnson CGCS - Finance Chairman and Charles Passios CGCS Trustee (3 years). Special thanks to Mark Klimm and Joseph Mondor former Trustee and Finance Chairman for their time and effort while serving on the board.



I would like to give my personal thanks to Ron Kirkman, Bert Frederick and Joe Rybka for their excellent presentation on Greens Construction at our Educational Portion of this meeting.

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR 1987

Our February 23 meeting at Franklin C.C. will feature Professor Clifford Chater. He will speak on Shade Trees and Ornamentals which is category 36 on your Mass. Pesticide license. Also, Mr. Paul F. Gosselin - Supervising Inspector, Mass. Pesticide Board will address regulation 333 CMR 10.03 (30) (31) "Posting of Signs" on treated property. This will affect each and everyone of us and our golf course. It would be in your best interest to attend this meeting. Also, you will receive credit points toward your Mass. Pesticide license.

The 56th Mass. Turf Conference and Show Springfield, Mass., March 2-5 promises to be an excellent program.

The MGA Annual Spring Conference

March 7 at the Newton Marriott - The greens section of this program will cover the different aspects of tri-plex mowing. "Is It Right for You?" - Ted Horton CGCS, Westchester C.C., New York, will be the main speaker on this timely and interesting topic.

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

VICE PRESIDENT
Richard Zepp, CGCS
27 Fowler Rd.
Northbridge, MA 01534
Home Phone 234-8490
Office Phone 234-2533
Club Affiliation
Whitinsville G.C.

SECRETARY
Paul Miller
1 Leicester Rd.
Marblehead, MA 01945
Home Phone 631-7910
Office Phone 595-3107
Club Affiliation
Tedesco C.C.

TREASURER
Thomas Schofield, CGCS
290 North Rd.
Sudbury, MA 01776
Home Phone 443-3712
Office Phone 235-2487
Club Affiliation
Wellesley C.C.

TRUSTEE
Kip Tyler
P.O. Box 671
Peabody, MA 01960
Home Phone 745-8089
Office Phone 532-2236
Club Affiliation
Salem C.C.

TRUSTEE
Stephen A. Chiavaroli, CGCS
100 Airport Dr.
Worcester, MA 01602
Home Phone 752-0031
Office Phone 791-5373
Club Affiliation
Tatnuck C.C.

TRUSTEE
Charles T. Passios CGCS
P.O. Box 182
Yarmouthport, MA 02675
Home Phone 362-5869
Office Phone 362-2275
Club Affiliation
Cummaguid G.C.

GCSAA Regional Seminar - "Environmental and water issues in the northeast: Part II" April 6-7 - Red Jacket Beach Resort, Bass River, Mass. The program will focus on issues on the quality and quantity of water in the northeastern U.S. If you missed part I of this seminar, I strongly recommend that you partake of part II. There was legislation that was passed in 1986 by the State Water Resource Board that becomes effective in 1987, which will affect all golf courses.

David Barber

New Hampshire Turf Conference Report

That time and hard work still reap dividends was in evidence at the recent New Hampshire Turf Conference held in Manchester. With the Conference Committee consisting of Mark Taylor, Steve Hale, Tom Kimball, John Roberts, Bill Barrett, Paul Power and John Morrill working behind the scenes, the two day conference moved along with nary a hitch.

The General Session on Thursday afternoon, January 8th, included a number of topics of interest to all who attended. Arthur Lemonde, President of the Land Improvement Contractors of America gave an informative presentation on Pond Construction. Relating some of the pond construction experiences at Sky Meadow, Arthur discussed general construction guidelines such as slope of banks both above and below the water line and the need to work from the middle of a proposed pond out to the edges of the pond. As in all project work, Mr. Lemonde assured the group that it should be done correctly the first time or the second go round will cost at least twice as much. Arthur's recently completed major earth moving and pond work for Vin Bartlett at Kings Way Golf Course in Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Dr. Roy Goss, international known Agronomist from the Western Washington Research and Extension Center discussed Turf Management Strategies in the 80's. Goss suggested that golf course superintendents, in some cases, may now be leaning to using too little nitrogen in their fertilization programs. On the other hand, problems with water sources and restrictions have led many to realize that their management schemes can still produce the desired results with less irrigation, especially on fairways. In an interesting comparison, Dr. Goss outlined the similarities between athletic field construction and putting green construction. In either case, there is a great interest in the use of sand as a major component in such construction and Goss emphasized the need for selecting the proper sand for these uses. On the Annual bluegrass front, Dr. Goss discussed current research work aimed at selecting new strains of the plant for golf course use and felt then in certain environments this

much maligned plant was not as difficult to manage as it was given credit for.

The afternoon session was rounded out by Dr. Stuart Cohen, the Manager of the Ground Water Program of Biospheric, Inc., of Washington, D.C. Dr. Cohen reviewed his comprehensive testing program carried out on Cape Cod golf courses. This program involved taking water samples throughout the soil profile right down to the top of the water table. His results indicated no pesticides to be found above acceptable levels and detailed insecticide residues as those most commonly present.

Early that same evening, Dr. John Roberts of the University of New Hampshire assured me that the evening would be dominated, doubtlessly so, by intensely cerebral discussions analyzing the afternoon session and anxious anticipation for Friday's Golf Session. Early bedtimes were surely the rule of the evening!

The Golf Session on Friday morning started off with Roger Lowell and Joseph Levasseur, Maine State Fire Marshall, discussing their experiences with a devastating fire in Roger's maintenance building at Webhannett Golf Course. This presentation was extremely enlightening and detailed very useful information as to how to prevent and minimize the damage resulting from fire and the commendable manner in which Roger Lowell handled getting his operation back on the straight and narrow. Much of the discussion centered around proper storage of pesticides.

Though Brian Silva would like us to think otherwise, his presentation entitled "Here and There in Golf" did little to erode the premise that he works a couple of months a year and takes the entire winter off playing hockey and so forth. Brian briefly reviewed this past summer's US Open at Shinnecock Hills on Long Island and discussed in detail a potential golf course project that he is involved with on the island of Aruba.

"The Impact of Golf Courses on Cape Cod's Ground Water" with Ed Nash captaining the ship closed out the morning session. Ed has been intimately involved in groundwater sampling program at Bass River Golf Course in Yarmouth and has also played a key role in the engineering and permitting process involved in the Town of Yarmouth's second golf course, Bayberry Hills. Ed's presentation outlined the programs now underway that should help the golf industry rebut the concerns surrounding chemical use on golf courses and their effect on the environment.

Golf Architect Geoffrey S. Cornish kicked off the afternoon Golf Session with an interesting presentation on "New Strategies on Building or Remodeling Course." As well as showing examples of great new course work, Mr. Cornish detailed the shift back to

Scottish-style design principles evident in the contemporary golf courses and some time tested construction tips and methods that have well stood the test of time. Geoffrey also detailed the fairway renovation program at Springfield Country Club where Doug Stachura gained excellent results in converting a number of fairways to bentgrass.

Dr. Richard Cooper, the newest member of the University of Massachusetts Turf Team, made us all think quite a bit with his "Developing Your Fertility Program". Dr. Cooper cleared up a number of misconceptions regarding late fall fertilization, most specifically discussing the lack of winter damage, alluded to in much of the literature, resulting from it's practice. He also outlined the beneficial results gained from such fertilizer application and a number of specific guidelines involved in getting the most out of a late fall fertilization.

Bob Brown represented the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association with his discussions on "Legislative Measure to Protect Ground Water Futures". Bob's presentation fitted in well with those of Dr. Cohen and Ed Nash. While we've heard for years about impending water restrictions, regulated pesticide use and the like, Bob assured us that the future is here.

With a similarly interesting General Turf Session being held all day Friday as well, with topics ranging from "Athletic Field Renovation" to "A New Tree Care" to Bill Barrett's always interesting "Potpourri of Turf Tips", a good and informative time was had by all at the 1987 New Hampshire Turf Conference.

R.B.D

Commercial Clippings

Dr. James Watson, vice president of customer relations and agronomist of the Toro Company, Minneapolis, Minn., has been named 1986 Man of The Year by both Landscape and Irrigation and Weeds, Trees, and Turf magazines.

Watson, 66, is one of the nation's leading figures in the development of the turfgrass industry. He was the first person in the country to receive a Ph.D in turfgrass science, which he earned in 1950 at Penn State University. Since then, Watson has been one of the industry's leading proponents of the need to research water conservation and turf management.

Watson is a "fellow" in the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society, and is currently an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture for the University of Minnesota.

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Christmas Party

Ronald Kirkman, Chmn.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Ron:

As I read the various Newsletters, I see the internal struggle between Superintendents, Members and Green Chairpersons - usually positive - occasionally negative - always challenging. One of the positives occurred with your friend Bob Mucciarone this past month.

As of 1986 Bob had served DCPC for 26 years. We set up a testimonial dinner for December 4th which was fully subscribed by the membership. Bob was there with his wife, son and daughter and Bob's brother, all with spouses. All prior Greens Committee Chairmen, still members present, each of which made remarks about their very positive experiences in their years while working with Bob. The President of the Club noted the budget for 87' reflected a major contribution to get Bob's older equipment brought up to snuff, after years of patching. Prior years had been abortive because of a multimillion dollar renovation of the clubhouse and one of the reasons the 25th anniversary was put off.

Following the dinner and remarks Bob received a gold and ebony Chelsea Clock. A large number of members could not attend, but did send in contributions which were later turned over to Bob.

It was great personal testimony to Bob. I have never heard anything but laudatory remarks about him in my years at the Club and the sentiments expressed by this dinner again confirmed the members affection and respect for Bob.

Sincerely,
Roe Wells
Chairperson Greens/Grounds
DCPC



The Super Speaks Out

(Welcome to The Super Speaks Out - a monthly feature which offers the golf course superintendent a forum to express his views on topics and issues relating to his profession. This month's question: *How do you handle the task of grinding mowers and what safety measures do you take in the process?*)

Don Levangie, Norfolk Golf Club: "This is kind of an interesting question, because a grinding area's in our future as part of a new maintenance building planned here.

"Naturally, we do our grinding (sharpening) in the winter. In fact, I like to get it out of the way before Christmas. I have two people that do most of the work, but I'm familiar with it. It was one of the first things I learned as an assistant.

"There's definitely a health hazard in the process, one that really affects me because I wear contact lenses. So, I have to be very careful.

"Anyway, we use heavy gloves, goggles and dust masks. That's the direct input. However, the fact that the grinding takes place in one section of the room means that we have to be aware of proper ventilation.

"The job usually takes two weeks. And I suppose we could send it out to take it out of our hands. However, that never entered my mind because grinding is an art, really.

"You have to know what you're doing. That's why I'd rather do it myself, or be there when it's done. It's simply something that you have to get right or you pay for it when you start mowing in the spring. It's a messy job, too, but one that has to be done."

Dick Zepp, Whitinsville Golf Club: "First things first. It's one of those jobs where you're dead if you wear a shirt and tie. Get it? I mean, when you start grinding, you get out the coveralls.

"I really don't object to it, because I think it's one of the most important things we do to prepare for the maintenance program in the spring. And I'd rather do it, myself, or supervise it because I want that cut to be right when we get out there on the course in April.

"It's also a tedious job. However, we take it slow here because we want those reels to be perfect. After

all, there's no sense rushing through it. Therefore, I give myself about three weeks to complete it.

"There's definitely precautions to be taken because of all the debris, dust and other things flying around when you're grinding.

"We use every safety device we can, including face shields. We also have to use one end of the building because of the mess it causes. If we had the facilities, I'd have a separate room for grinding.

"I never really looked at the savings to the club, doing it ourselves. But for a nine-hole course, I'd say you're talking somewhere in the \$2000 range for cost of having the grinding done on the outside."

Tom Schofield, Wellesley Country Club:

"There's no doubt that grinding is one of the messiest jobs anyone thought there could be when our whole profession started.

"However, we don't have too many problems here. I suppose it's because we have the facilities and the system.

"We have a separate room, used only for grinding. It's small, about 10 by 15, but it's well ventilated and that's how we handle any over-exposure to dust and other flying objects coming off those reels.

"There is a monotonous side to grinding that makes it objectionable. And we have a way of coping with it. Simply put, we do our grinding piecemeal. There's no rush because of the time period. In addition, we want to get it right for an even, smooth cut.

"I never thought of sending out this kind of work. I don't know the expense involved. However, my thoughts on grinding are more practical. In other words, the guy who runs the mower should be the guy who grinds it.

"Naturally, we take all safety measures we can. We have a vacuum cleaner attached to the grinding wheel to catch dust and whatever. We follow every precautionary rule.

"But, really, it's not a problem. Now, welding. That's another thing. Maybe you guys (Super Speaks Out) will tackle that one sometime."

Gerry Finn

Editor's Note - In checking with outside agencies, 7 fairway reels, 8 rough reels, 13 green reels, 9 tee reels - To sharpen these reels and to grind the 37 bed knives for these would cost \$3500.00. This equipment is from a 9 hole golf course.

Position Openings

The Woodlands

A George and Jim Fazio designed golf course and a year round athletic club. Position available in the spring of 1987 to work with Jim Fazio in the construction of the golf course. The location of this national caliber, private club will be in Falmouth, Maine. The maintenance of the golf course will begin in the fall after seeding has occurred. This will be a high level position with a good salary, benefits, and operating budgets.

Contact:

Mr. Robert A. DeRice, President
One Portland Pier
Portland, Maine 04101
Phone 207-871-8230

Foxboro C.C.

Foxboro, MA
Contact Mr. Tom O'Leary
5 Walnut St.
Foxboro, MA
Phone 617-543-8239
Deadline for applications March 31

Cedar Glen Golf Course 9 Holes

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Phone 617-473-2352

PROGRAM INFORMATION
**56th MASSACHUSETTS
TURFGRASS CONFERENCE
AND
11th INDUSTRIAL SHOW**

DEDICATION
to
MR. ANTHONY B. CARANCI, JR.
and
MR. MANUEL FRANCIS
for Outstanding Devotion and Service
to the Turf Profession



March 2, 3, 4, 5, 1987
Civic Center
Springfield, Massachusetts
(I-91: Exit 6 from South,
Columbus Avenue Exit from North)

Sponsored by:

- *Department of Plant & Soil Sciences,
University of Massachusetts/Amherst
- *Massachusetts Turf & Lawn Grass Council
- *Golf Course Superintendents' Association
of New England

PROGRAM

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1987

—Afternoon—
REGISTRATION: 12:30 - 2:00 PM
2:00 - 4:00 SEMINAR* - Banquet Room
WEED CONTROL IN TURFGRASS
Professor Emeritus John Jagschitz
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1987

REGISTRATION: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

—Morning—

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

—Afternoon—

GENERAL SESSION - Banquet Room

Chairman: Dr. Joseph Troll

1:00 WELCOME — Dr. Joseph Troll, Department of Plant & Soil Sciences, University of Massachusetts/Amherst, MA

1:15 PREPARING A RESUME — Mr. Dennis Collins, Management Resume Services, Springfield, MA

2:00 THE WISDOM OF EXPERIENCE — Mr. Sherwood Moore, Superintendent, Retired, Brewster, MA

2:30 - 2:45 BREAK

2:45 PLANNING NOW FOR YOUR RETIREMENT — Mr. Michael L. Levine, Certified Financial Planner, Amherst, MA

3:30 TAKING YOUR JOB SERIOUSLY AND YOURSELF LIGHTLY (HUMOR IN HANDLING STRESS) — Dr. Joel Goodman, Director, The Humor Project, Saratoga Springs, NY

4:30-6:30 INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN
Exhibition Hall

*Credit may be given toward Massachusetts recertification.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1987

REGISTRATION: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

—Morning—

GOLF COURSE SESSION - Banquet Room

Chairman: Mr. David Barber, President, Golf Course Superintendents' Association of New England, Canton, MA

9:00 RECOVERING FROM ROUND UP — Mr. John Pluta, Superintendent, Country Club of Pittsfield, Pittsfield, MA

9:40 WHAT'S BUGGING YOUR TURF? — Dr. Stanley R. Swier, Extension Entomologist, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH

10:20 DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF FUNGICIDE RESISTANCE — Ms. Patricia L. Sanders, Senior Research Associate, Dept. of Plant Pathology, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

11:00-2:00 INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN
Exhibition Hall

—Afternoon—

Chairman: Mr. Donald E. Hearn, Director, Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America, Weston, MA

2:00 MOSS CONTROL ON GREENS — Dr. Norman Hummel, Dept. of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

2:40 BENTGRASSES — Dr. Joseph Duich, Dept. of Agronomy, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

3:20 POA ANNUA - TO BE OR NOT TO BE — Dr. Donald White, Dept. of Horticulture Science, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

4:00 FACTS AND FALLACIES OF FAST GREENS — Mr. James Snow, Northeastern Director, USGA Green Section, Far Hills, NJ

4:30-7:00 INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN
Exhibition Hall

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1987
REGISTRATION: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

—Morning—

ALTERNATE SESSION - College Room

Chairman: Mr. Charles Mruk,
Turfgrass Consultant, Cranston, RI

9:00 LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE — Mr. Raymond Dotchin, Colt Insurance Company, Pittsfield, MA

9:40 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) ON TURF — Dr. Richard Cooper, Dept. of Plant & Soil Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

10:20 ATHLETIC FIELD CONDITIONS & INJURIES — Dr. John Harper III, Dept. of Agronomy, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

11:00-2:00 INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN
Exhibition Hall

—Afternoon—

2:00 EFFECTIVE USE OF NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS IN THE LANDSCAPE — Mr. Kenneth Lagerquist, Evergreen Tree Landscape Service, Inc., Seekonk, MA

2:40 PRINCIPLES OF DISEASE DIAGNOSIS AND CONTROL — Ms. Patricia L. Sanders, Senior Research Associate, Dept. of Plant Pathology, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

3:20 DON'T GET CAUGHT IN A STORM — Ms. Sara Croke, Weather or Not Forecasts for Private Industry, Kansas City, MO

4:00 HISTORY & ART OF JAPANESE GARDENS — Mr. Harry Meusel, Superintendent, Yale Golf Course

4:30-7:00 INDUSTRIAL SHOW OPEN
Exhibition Hall

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1987

—Morning—

GOLF COURSE SESSION - Banquet Room

Chairman: Mr. Edward Nash,
Superintendent, Bass River Golf Course, Bass, MA

9:00 LIME AND LIMING TURFGRASSES — Dr. John C. Harper III, Dept. of Agronomy, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

9:40 FALL - THE SECRET TO A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER — Dr. Donald White, Dept. of Horticulture Science, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

10:30 WINTER COVERS — Dr. Joseph Duich, Dept. of Agronomy, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

11:15 PESTICIDE TOXICITY — Dr. Patricia J. Vittum, Extension Entomologist, Suburban Experiment Station, University of Massachusetts, Waltham, MA

12:00 RAFFLE

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This year we celebrate our 56th Massachusetts Turf Conference and 11th Industrial Show. Our speakers are here to impart information to you and our exhibitors to present their products and equipment. The latter help to defray the costs of our expensive turf research program. Please visit each booth and talk with the exhibitors. You will please them, please us, and please yourself, because the turf research program is aimed at helping you. It's a two-way street; let's help each other.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN
Douglas W. Johnson CGCS
50 Newton St.
Weston, MA 02193
Home Phone 894-7377
Office Phone 899-7913
Club Affiliation
Pine Brook C.C.

GOLF CHAIRMAN
James O'Kelly
201 Indian Rock Rd.
Merrimack, N.H. 03054
Home Phone
Office Phone 244-0680
Club Affiliation
Brae Burn C.C.

EDUCATIONAL CHAIRMAN
Edward L. Bready
189 Mattfield St.
W. Bridgewater, MA 02379
Home Phone 584-6568
Office Phone 588-8439
Club Affiliation
Brookton C.C.

NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN
Ronald Kirkman
25 Green St.
Needham, MA 02192
Home Phone 444-8412
Office Phone 444-5548
Club Affiliation
Needham C.C.

PAST PRESIDENT
Donald E. Hearn, CGCS
4 Tropicana Rd.
Chelmsford, MA 01824
Home Phone 256-8709
Office Phone 894-5906
Club Affiliation
Weston Golf Club

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