



# 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.

July 1987

## —NEXT MEETING—

Monday August 10, 1987  
Duxbury Yatch Club

9:00 Directors Meeting  
10:30 Regular Meeting  
11:30 Lunch  
12:15 Club Championship 2nd round

**Directions to Club:** 128 to Rte. 3 south take exit 11 (rte 14) follow rte 14 east to rte 3a (traffic lights) bear right on 3a and follow to Harrison Street (about 3/4 mile) bear left on Harrison and Club is 1/2 mile on right side.

Host Superintendent - Tom Morris

Reservations Required - for buffet lunch and also for golf cars  
(617) 934-2578

## Those Toro Professionals

This is not an endorsement for any company. It is actually a personal experience.

Have you met any of the 1987 Turf Professionals wearing their white jerseys or the red sweaters? Maybe they have a lapel pin bearing the name "Tomah." The 1987 Turf Professionals are a group of 37 golf course superintendents representing approximately 32 Toro distributorships throughout the United States, Canada, and England. I'm not sure how each was selected, but Mike Cornicelli of Turf Products called me one morning in early



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## Ferncroft Has it All, Plus Paul Johnson

It was a nice start to another busy day.

One day last month Paul Johnson mopped his brow and took a bow.



Up on the announcement board was a spirit-lifter—"Paul Johnson Manager of the Year for Tara-Ferncroft Properties."

That gave the popular, not to mention premier golf course superintendent about two shakes of a donkey's tail to enjoy the limelight. Three shakes and he was gone, back to continue preparations for this month's Boston Five Classic.

"It's nice (the award)," Paul said. "I get an all expenses trip to Florida for two. Wonder if I'll ever get there?"

Of course, this was only exaggerated reaction to these special times at Tara-Ferncroft when Johnson and his crack crew put the finishing touches on one of the most popular courses on the LPGA Tour.

"We're hoping to give the girls a course they've come to expect and enjoy," Paul offered. "I think we'll be all right, too, even though this has been a non-stop spring and early summer for us. Matter of fact, the golf tournament is only half of it."

For one thing, Tara-Ferncroft's on the move to bigger and better things. The hotel has expanded, a two million-dollar health club has been added to the

resort and 34 lots are in the process of being primed for more pleasurable moments and life on the Middleton-Danvers line.

"Right," Paul interjected. "And there's also the television. In, around, over and under everything else popping here is arrangement for ESPN to televise the last three rounds of the tournament. Uh, that's taken a little of my time."

ESPN's decision to join the big show at Tara-Ferncroft is another step towards making the Boston Five one of the prestigious stops on the ladies' golf tour. Certainly, it's presence lends itself to the scene as does an increase in the purse (\$300,000 range) that lifts the event into the top three in money.

The job of accommodating ESPN and a crew of up to 100 people falls into Johnson's capable hands.

"I had a new maintenance building when I walked in," he laughed. "But I'm turning it over to the TV network for the tournament. I'll operate out of the old facility."

The new building is part of a face-lift around the golf course that includes a new clubhouse and transfer of the pro shop to the old one. All of a sudden, Tara-Ferncroft has emerged as a giant in its field of providing the best in resort facilities.

Making way for the telecast (it includes two hours the second and third rounds, plus another two-to-the-conclusion of the fourth round) has kept

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**-Dates To Remember-**

**56th ANNUAL TURFGRASS  
FIELD DAY**

University of Rhode Island  
Wednesday, August 26, 1987  
Agricultural Experimental Station  
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881  
Contact: Dr. C. Richard Skogley

**Schedule of Events:**

9:00-12:00 noon Registration & Demos  
12:00-1:00 Luncheon Barbecue  
1:15-4:00 Tour of Research Plots

**FERNCROFT**

*Continued from page 1*

Johnson and his 17-person work force hopping.

The two sponsors of the tournament, Tara-Ferncroft and the Boston Five, became partners in another venture or providing the \$28,000 for new and permanent power lines.

"That was a smart decision, to put in the power lines instead of renting a special generator for the week of the tournament," Johnson disclosed. "It's a one-time expenditure and we'll be using the lines other than for the tournament. When you consider the generator rent (\$20,000), it's even better for us."

Johnson reports that he got through the winter in pretty good shape. "Lucked out," he smiled. "Just a little winter kill on one green and that was it. Now, all I need is some more luck and some co-operation from the weather."

Heavy rain is the culprit when the weather snaps at the Tara-Ferncroft conditioning program. Three years ago, a sneak storm hit the course in June (a 9 1/2-inch fall) and lightning cooked some of Johnson's irrigation timers.

It was red-alert for quite some time, the topper coming when Paul had to transport equipment to some of his back-nine holes by boat.

But, would you believe, out of that came a golf course the girls praised

when they played it. "I've never seen it in better shape," gushed Patti Rizzo.

"Yeah, we've been on a roll condition-wise," Johnson flapped. "But I keep my fingers crossed all the time. This year, we're paying a little more attention to the finishing holes (16,17,18). They'll be the playoff holes, if we need one. Gotta make it pretty for TV."

And making it perfect for the players and gallery is just what Johnson has done for the eight years the Boston Five Classic will have played Tara-Ferncroft at tourney's end. Tara-Ferncroft has it all and more—it has Paul Johnson. So, what golf resort could ask for anything more?

**GERRY FINN**

**TORO PROS**

*Continued from page 1*

April. The conversation went something like this: "Hey Dean, how would you like to go to the Toro Company in Minneapolis for four days at the end of April? I know it's a busy time, but you will have a great time. They have a program that includes presentations, seminars and work sessions for superintendents to get together and exchange ideas with the Toro brass. You will stay at the Marriott Hotel. I said, "Why not, it has been a lousy spring and maybe the break will do me some good."

After getting approval from my Green Chairman, I was set to go. Special thanks to Debbie Sampson of Turf Products Company in Worcester for making all the travel arrangements.

Arrival at Minneapolis was a real shock on April 26 when the local temperature was 82°, trees were in full bloom and annuals planted everywhere. The area was about a month ahead of us here in New England.

I checked into my room and then proceeded to the local registration area

for the Toro group. Frank Buschini, Golf Development Manager, Rich Dillon, Director of Sales and Service, George Champeny, National Golf Sales Manager, Dr. Jim Watson, Vice President of Customer Relations, and many of the Toro top brass were there to greet us during the Happy Hour. By the time dinner was over, we were all somewhat acquainted. I knew some of the Supers who were there. Roland White of Bald Peak Colony, New Hampshire; Jim Bertoni, Coto De Cazo Golf Club, California; Dan Jones, Banyan Golf Club, Florida; and Paul Mechling, Sylvania Country Club, Ohio.

Breakfast was 6:30 to 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 27 followed by presentations from all the top Toro people. President Ken Melrose explained why he thought Toro was the leader in the industry. Toro was founded in 1914 as the Toro Motor Company building engines for the Bull Tractor. The first power mower for the home owner was introduced in 1939. Rotary mowers began in 1948 with the Whirlwind; 1951 was the first snow thrower; 1962 brought irrigation systems. Today Toro mowers range in size from 21" to the H.T.M. 175" that operates seven reels hydraulically. Ken went on to tell about

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**-POSITION OPENINGS-**

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Minimum 3 years. experience  
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Resumes sent to same address, deadline for resumes July 31, 1987

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"Don't talk to me about ecology. I've been replacing divots since before you were born."

## TORO PROS

*Continued from page 2*

the new Reelmaster 450D and even mentioned a new "Walk-Behind". Dr. Jim Watson was on the morning program and talked of Toro and the golf industry today.

After lunch we boarded busses to tour the World Wide Parts Distribution Center in Lyndale, the special testing departments, engineering departments with all those CAD-CAM computers. Just imagine an engineer can draw a machine on a computer, display it in 3-D and test the strength of it. The material is then printed and even sent to a machine in the engineering area. All this was hard to believe for this average golf course superintendent. We passed machines that were covered with tarps. I'm sure one was a large three-gang rotary mower.

Monday night we went on a dine-around with seven groups of superintendents and all the top Toro personnel. Our group went with Dick Hargarten, Vice President of Physical Distribution, Ken Melrose, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Rich Dillon, Director of Sales and Service.

Six a.m. came early on Tuesday as we all met for coffee and danish in the Marriott lobby and left by bus for the local Amtrak station where we had a private car and a dining car.

We bumped and rolled along the Mississippi on our way to the Tomah Plant in Wisconsin. From the train station it was only a short ride to a local church hall for another large lunch and then onto the plant. At the Tomah Plant, Fred Boos and his staff took us

on a tour and then we were all free to explore the plant and talk to the employees. We saw Toro Turf Pro 84's go from raw steel to the finished product on the assembly line. Everyone liked the blonde on the fork lift truck. We left Tomah about 3:30 p.m. and went to dinner at the famous Hubbel House in Manteville, complete with wood sidewalks.

Wednesday morning we had an interesting discussion with Bob Emerich of the Toro irrigation department of Riverside, California. He discussed the latest features in Toro irrigation and their new computerized state-of-the-art control system for golf courses which reacts to climatic conditions to regulate the application of moisture on an as-needed basis.

From 9:30 to 4:30 on Wednesday we split up into five different round-table discussion groups. The main reason for our getting together was to share our ideas and experiences with the Toro people. It was interesting to note, we were divided into groups according to different sections of the country, mine being from the Northeast with Supers from Pennsylvania to Canada. Most had the same problems and could agree on lower heights of cut on fairways and tees. Smaller machines are needed, faster aerifiers for greens and tees, and faster and larger rotary mowers.

Most Supers want to receive more product information from Toro relating to service bulletins. They will be working on this in the future. Many times problems develop in the field and Toro remedies it, notifying the dealers but not the superintendents. Everyone hoped that Toro could work out a

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## Question Never Asked

By using riding greens mowers to cut fairways, it has been said that bent grasses will increase and annual blue grass will decrease.

By using a walking greens mower in cutting greens, why do the bent grasses decrease and the annual blue grass increase?

system so that your machine could be registered into the computer, thus the superintendent could receive product information directly. One of the discussions dealt with parts. Presently, Toro will ship a part direct from Minneapolis if the dealer is out of stock and he notifies Toro. It will be shipped the same day and you have a choice as to how you want it shipped. (You do have to pay the added cost if you want special shipping). They are also working on price reduction for certain fast mowing parts during winter service work.

Many Supers at the discussion from Pennsylvania are cutting fairways at 3/8" with GM 300's. Toro is also working out ways to improve their new aerifier. This new machine seems to have taken over the market with a storm. Most are using it for fairways as well as greens, and tees and some report having 2 and 3 machines at a single course. The best part is the low maintenance cost of the Toro aerifier.

After the round table discussions were over, we had an hour before dinner and the farewell party. I think this was one of the most rewarding experiences that most of the Supers have had in many years. My thanks to the Toro Company and to Turf Products for inviting me to spend time with them.

Dean Robertson, Superintendent  
Kernwood Country Club

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## GCSAA News

Tom Watson may be better known for his Masters, British Open, U.S. Open and other golf championship performances, but, to the many thousands of youngsters in his hometown Kansas City, he's the "man who started them in golf."

Watson's "Clubs for Kids" program was honored in Kansas City on June 6 by the Golf Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) for his "insight and vision in bringing the sport of golf into the lives of numerous youths, thereby enriching the dimensions of their experience."

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**—NEW MEMBERS—**

**Dave Robinson**  
Associate member  
The Captains Golf Course  
**Roger Brink**  
Assistant  
Worcester C.C.

**GCSAA News**  
*Continued from page 3*

With volunteer assistance from the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department, the PGA Midwest section and the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association, the "Clubs for Kids" program has become a model for other golf professionals and their home communities.

More than 1,000 young golfers attend the bi-yearly event, which includes a clinic by Watson plus club fittings and personal instruction by the area's teaching professionals.

"Tom Watson's creativity and willingness to contribute both personal time and finances into this program benefit everyone involved with the game," said Donald E. Hearn, CGCS, president of the GCSAA.

"Volunteerism is a major catalyst to the success of a program like this. The unselfish dedication by the KC Parks and Recreation folks, plus that of the PGA and GCSA, can't help but create better relationships and encourage additional growth to the game."

## 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:** What are some of the sources of frustration you encounter in the day-in, day-out operations at your club and course?

**Pat Flannery, Maynard Country Club:** "I guess the most frustration comes when I've planned my day perfectly, set up everything so that doing every job falls into place, and then something pops up to wreck all those plans.

"Of course, we do have members who think they're supers and this sort of bugs me. You know the kind. With them, nothing I do is ever right, especially when I cut the greens. They can never be too low of a cut for them. I think some of them got this game mixed up with shooting pool."

"Another source of frustration comes from the talk I hear around the clubhouse. Somebody has to be blamed for high scores, so the course is the reason which means the bottom line gets down to me.

"Do I sound like I should be looking for another job. I hope not. In fact, I like this business. You know, when you talk about golfers who don't fix divots or who drag carts across tees, you're talking about the minority. Most of my members are great.

"But just once I'd like to hear someone say that the fairways were cut just right, the greens putted smoothly and the roughs gave everyone a fair chance. Maybe that would make all my frustrations disappear."

**Tom Flaherty, Woods Hole Country Club:** "You could be talking to the wrong guy because frustration's not my cup of tea.

"I've had some trying moments, like trying to make head and tail from what two different green chairmen expect me to do in our conditioning program. It's a peculiar situation, but so far, we've gotten through it.

"If something did upset me, it would be the revolving makeup of my work force. They're always coming and going here. Sure, we pay \$6.50 an hour. But on the Cape, that's not all that great. The cost of living here is something else.

"Then, there's the type of person you might get to do the labor. In the last six weeks, I've had to terminate four people. That's not unusual, either.

"On the other hand, once in a while I come up with an employee who goes against the grain of slipshod performance. In fact, I have a 72-year-old man who does the work of three people. Everything balances out, I suppose.

"And that's about the extent of my frustrations. Things like the weather don't bother me. Hey, why worry about things you can't control?

"That's my philosophy. Maybe that's why I'd call myself frustration-free. And that's from a guy who's working at a course that's had three different supers in the last two years."

**Mike Hermanson, Gardner Municipal Golf Course:** "How much space have you got to list my frustrations?

"Okay, let's start with getting a phone call at three or four in the morning, telling me somebody's driving a pickup truck all over my greens. Is that frustrating or what?

"On the other hand, I've been here 16 years. That tells something about the way I feel about this place and most of our members. And when I'm talking members, I'm talking 837 memberships which includes about 1,100 golfers

"Of all the players here, I'd say I could live with 95 percent of them. But that other five percent you can have. They're the ones who don't fix ball marks, don't know the first thing about replacing divots and leave all their trash behind them on the course. They think a green fee gives them the right to do anything.

"I think getting into a pattern gets me in the right frame of mind where I can handle any frustrating problems. We're talking about 65,000 rounds a year here. We're talking about regular foursomes showing up at 4:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays and wanting a course that's ready to play.

"Am I frustrated? Sure I am. But I get over it. I wouldn't be here after all these years if I didn't, would I?"

GERRY FINN

## Professional Guide to Landscaping with Flowers Available

At last, a guide to landscaping with flowering annuals is available for the professional user. Whether a landscape architect or contractor, golf course superintendent, parks department supervisor, cemetery director, landscape gardener, or commercial grounds manager, the professional will find, for the first time, a complete guide to flowering annuals in one new, concise and complete booklet.

"The Professional Guide to Landscaping with Annuals" has been published by Bedding Plants Inc., a non-profit association that disseminates information on flowering annuals, and written by noted horticultural writer Ann Reilly. The 28 page booklet contains 16 pages of full color photographs depicting use and identity of a large number of flowering annuals.

The booklet contains sections on use, design, color selection, plant selection, planting and maintenance of annual beds and borders. Special charts outline plant height, flower color and requirements for planting distance, soil, temperature and light. There are lists for special use plants, such as plants for shade, dry conditions, moist conditions, low maintenance and cut flowers. A sample planting plan is enclosed with calculations as to how to determine number of plants needed. There's a section on container plantings, plus a complete encyclopedia of plants with 63 photos and both common and Latin names identified.

The booklet is available for only \$1.00 PLUS a self addressed 6"x9" or larger envelope with 90¢ postage affixed. Write to "The Professional Guide to Landscaping with Flowers", Bedding Plants Inc., 210 Cartwright Boulevard, Massapequa Park, NY 11762.

## Divot Drift

Isn't it nice not to hear about the cold wet weather any more?

Now it's time to complain about the hot, dry, windy weather, skunks digging up turf looking for grubs, disease, wilt, heavy traffic, equipment breakdowns, blown solenoids and on and on. Oh well, that's what we get paid for. Cheer up, fall is just around the corner and we'll be able to grumble about labor shortages.

The Superintendent Executive Tournament was held at beautiful International C.C. The quartet from Bellevue captured 1st. gross with a 3 under par 69. Bob DiRico, Dick Shea, Sid Field and Dick Delaruso. First net at 58 went to the smooth swingers from Dedham Country and Polo Club. Bob Mucciarone, Roe Wells, Kevin Dougherty and Henry Shepaerd Jr. Second net at 59 went to Gary Lucini's team from Franklin C.C. and Steve Murphy's group from the Larry Gannon G.C. Third net at 60 was awarded to four teams and they were Steve Chiavaroli, Tatnuck C.C., Bob Johnston, Wampanoag C.C., Mark Fuller, Quechee Club and Jim Fitzroy, Presidents G.C.

Closest to the pin was won by Steve Murphy and straightest drive was won by Ron Babcock, Brae Burn C.C. Hats off to Ron Milenski, host superintendent, the golf course was just magnificent. The food was superb and the service excellent. The pro shop and golf car

## LPGA Tournament Tara Ferncroft

Your GCSAA or local association card will be honored - go to will call desk at hotel lobby and you will receive your pass.

I.D. required - No Phonies

staff did an excellent job. Our thanks to the entire staff at International. What a place to have the Superintendents championship from the back tees. Maybe, our golf chairman, Jim O'Kelly and Ron Milenski will work on that for 1988.

We have the PGA Professional's Guide To Defining and Marking the Golf Course. Courtesy of George Weymes, Executive Director NEPGA, a 28 page booklet that is a must for all superintendents. We'll have them at the next few meetings. See your editor for one. Don't forget the LPGA at Ferncroft.

## Commercial Clippings

Controlled Ecology Services merged this spring with Old Fox Lawn Care Commercial Division. All Golf Course work will be conducted out of the South Weymouth Branch, P.O. Box 299 South Weymouth, MA 02190 (617) 331-7200 Brad Guillerm (Sales).

Our services include: Aerification, Topdressing, Slice Seeding, Liquid and Dry Pesticide Applications, Complete Tree and Shrub Program and a Complete Line of Turf Care Products.



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