



THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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December 1989

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 18, 1990
Nashawtuc C.C., Concord, MA

9:00 am	Director's meeting
10:30 am	Regular meeting
12:00 noon	Lunch
1:00 pm	Annual meeting

Host Superintendent—
Paul Miller

Reservations Required—
Call by Friday, January 12, 1990
508-369-6420



Paul has been superintendent at Nashawtuc C.C. for 2 years. Prior to Nashawtuc Paul was superintendent at Tedesco C.C. for 11

years. Paul received his Associate Degree in Agronomy from the Univ. of Mass and is currently Vice President of GCSANE. Paul resides in Marblehead, MA with his wife Sally, and children Jonathan, age 17 and Jennifer, age 13. In his spare time Paul enjoys golf, tennis and skiing.

Directions: From Rte. 128 to Rte. 2 west, follow 2 west to Rte. 117 exit, cross Rte. 117, club is on your left.

Those who are playing
in the GCSAA
Tournament in Orlando,
please contact
Bob DiRico for Chapter
team status.

Word's Out—Charlie Likes it at Top



Charlie Passios likes what he sees—in his future.

He wants to expand his turf.

"Right, I'm running for national director,"

the shoot-from-the-hip Hyannisport Club superintendent confirmed his entrance into higher political fields. "Why? I like being involved. I think I have some ideas that will strengthen the golf course superintendent's place on the professional ladder, as well as helping our national association keep climbing in the right direction."

Passios has no platform as such.

"I suppose my calling card when they get ready to elect a new board of directors at the convention (February in Orlando) will be my burning interest in the profession," Charlie explained. "Right now I'm just trying to set up a plan to get the word out that I'm a candidate."

Passios, of course, has been a dynamo in bringing the golf course superintendent's story to the Massachusetts state house, introducing the position and its far-reaching effects on the environment to the state legislature and educate lawmakers on how the super works with Mother Nature rather than against her.

"The last few years have been an education for me, too," Charlie referred to his major role of letting state legislators know where the superintendent stands on issues affecting his conditioning procedures. "It's been a case of bringing people up to date on what we do and what effect

it has on the environment. Before we got on the ball and presented our ideas, many of those legislators were misinformed."

One of Charlie's goals, if elected or not, is to influence better cooperation between the national association and local chapters on endeavors like better understanding of environmental regulatory measures. His thought centers on the necessity of cross-involvement by the two parties.

"This is more of a communication factor," he told. Sometimes a local chapter is up to its neck in a local issue that could eventually have national repercussions. Take our (Cape Cod) long fight over the ground water controversy. We could have gotten help from the national, some direction when we were setting up a defense of our profession. I don't mean this as criticism. It's simply citing my feeling that the national should be aware of regional problems or whatever."

The national did enter the Cape Cod ground water situation, along with the Cape Cod group and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England (that's us) when it reached a make or break level.

"Actually, it was the golf course superintendent profession that stepped in and saved a study that will benefit the interests of Barnstable County and the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)," Charlie informed. "Funds from the three superintendents' groups saved it when it was about to be abandoned. We finished it and the results will be released in January."

Continued on page 2

CHARLIE LIKES IT AT TOP

Cont. from pg 1

Passios didn't go into detail but implied that the superintendent—all parties for that matter—will be impressed with the study. Its findings are positive, the question of materials used by the golf course superintendent resurfacing in ground water is resolved and, in a nutshell, the superintendent is "cleared".

All of this was accomplished with Passios at the helm. In fact, the Cape Cod ground water situation developed so much national interest it was considered "the hottest question" on the University of Michigan turf problem hotline.

Passios can relate to that hot issue in addition to other subject matter covered and illuminated by his input at all levels of local and state government.

"That's the message I have to get across when I get to Orlando," Charlie touched on his political strategy. "Most of the campaigning will be by word of mouth and most of that will come from my mouth. This isn't like a town, state or national public election. There's no funds, no announcements, no television appearances. I have to go out and button-hole people and that's what I intend to do."

Naturally, Charlie has much support from his Cape Cod colleagues and NEGCSA friends who'll be walking the aisles and spreading the Passios gospel in Orlando. Then, there's a "meet the candidate" session where Charlie hopes he can attract votes.

"I've been practicing that speech all fall and I'll be working on it right up to the point when it's my turn to talk." Charlie quipped. "I really want to win, I want to serve my fellow superintendents and I want to make a positive contribution to my profession. That's it."

Hopefully, that's what makes for a winning campaign.

GERRY FINN

The Super Speaks Out

Welcome to **The Super Speaks Out**—a monthly feature which offers the golf course superintendent a forum to express his or her views on topics and issues relating to their profession.

This month's question: *With the coming of winter the golf season seems to disappear in many parts of New England but how is the golf course conditioning climate on Cape Cod and how do you deal with it?*

Tom Flaherty, Woods Hole Golf Club: "If you mean, do we still keep the conditioning light on later than courses north of Boston and beyond, the answer is, 'yes'.

"Well, you're calling me now and just the other day (Nov. 1) we had a Cape Pro-Am League tournament here. This meant that on the first day of November we were still cutting greens and fairways. But that's no big deal. We're still cutting into November every year.

"I don't get too many complaints around here because we don't have as many diehards as some of the other courses.

"The hottest issue with some of my members at this time of year is when we decide to close the regular greens and set up temps. I have the backing of my board on this and when I decide when the temporary greens will be used, that's it. Last year the date was Dec. 15 and the 20 or 25 players who make it to the course in the snowless winter months stayed on them until March.

"Of course, there's a difference in approach to late-season grooming that's dictated by the type of club involved. Most of the private courses aren't geared to accommodate large numbers of golfers

in the winter. The public courses are, so they put more man hours into winter conditioning.

"It just so happens I used to be in charge of the two (public) courses in Dennis (Pines, Highlands). Play continued on the regular greens there and well into the winter. It showed (damage) in the spring but I was stuck with it."



Charlie Gardner, Oyster Harbor Golf Club: "We really don't pay too much attention to the time of year here other than to keep cutting greens until they stop growing.

"We have a membership that doesn't hang around these parts in the winter, so the season usually ends in October. When you get to November, there's a fierce drop-off in play. However, I can remember cutting three times a week that month.

"One thing, though. We never close the course unless the frost comes out of the ground and there's a danger of turf damage because of it. If you want to know about numbers, I'd say there are about 15 members who stick around and keep golfing for as long as the weather conditions allow.

"Otherwise, play fades when the weather starts to turn in October. We get a few guests, a few no-quit members. But that's all. Winter's just not that busy."

Continued on page 3

-POSITION WANTED-

Assistant Superintendent

Contact: Michael Gormley
200 Argilla Road
Ipswich, MA 01938
508-356-0579
B.S. Degree in Agronomy

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Office Phone 508-295-7010
Club Affiliation
Bay Pointe C.C.

THE SUPER, *Cont. from pg 2*



Steve Carr, Pocasset Golf Club: "All I can say as a reaction to the question is, 'what a difference a year makes'.

"Last year we were still a public course and we were seeking business. That meant we tried to keep the course in the best condition possible. We were in competition with other clubs and winning that competition turned over revenue. Therefore, our winters were quite different than those for the supers 'up-state'.

"This year we turned private, so now my winters are reserved for other things, although we still plan to cut the greens whenever we feel there's a need for it. In the past, we've cut every month except for February. This year? Who knows?

"We have no real problems of winter golf and the only question at this time of year is how many temporary greens we'll set up for the few members who think of golf as an endless season. Regardless, we're focusing on preserving what we have. Therefore, we won't expose the course to damage for the sake of golfers being able to play in the dead of winter.

"Going private is a relief, too. We shouldn't have to worry too much about snow removal. Note, I said 'shouldn't'. The open time gives me a chance to brush up on pesticide regulations and other pertinent items that go with regular season grooming. So, naturally, I won't miss priming the course for winter play. I like it this way."

GERRY FINN

-Newly Certified-
Bob DiRico
BraeBurn C.C.

**Proposed slate of candidates
for the 1990 election:**

President	Paul Miller ✓
Vice President	Charles Passios ✓
Secretary	Stephen Chiavari ✓
Treasurer	Ronald Milenski ✓
Trustee (1 yr)	Edward Brearley ✓
Trustee (2 yrs)	Eric Newell ✓
Trustee (3 yrs)	Robert Ruzsala
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Golf Chairman	Robert DiRico ✓
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Newsletter Chairman	Kip Tyler ✓

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468 Mystic St., Winchester, MA 01890
617-729-1181, Resumes Required

Superintendent
Cedar Hill G.C. 9 Holes

Minimum starting salary \$30,000,
plus benefits

Contact: Cedar Hill Golf Course
Committee—Town of Stoughton
10 Pearl Street, Stoughton, MA 02072

**Mass. Hort. Congress,
Royal Plaza Trade
Center, Marlboro, MA
January 23-25, 1990**

Sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension, the Massachusetts Nurserymen's Association and the Massachusetts Arborists' Association.

The 16th Annual Mass. Hort. Congress will feature outstanding educational seminars by nationally known consultants and industry members. Another integral part of the Congress is the largest trade show in New England displaying products and services for all commercial horticulturists.

"The Challenge of Change" is this year's theme with emphasis on business management, employee compensation, sales trends for the '90s, IPM, low maintenance landscapes and water conservation, all priority issues in the future. A new feature is an all day educational seminar for nursery production employees. Topics will include pruning shade trees, nursery weed control, insects and diseases, and handling micropropagated plants.

The Hort. Congress is the most comprehensive educational conference and trade exposition available to all horticulturists in New England. Nurserymen, arborists, landscape contractors, turf managers, grounds superintendents and government employees can all benefit from their attendance.

The conference site is conveniently located near the intersection of several major highways: Mass. Turnpike, Interstate 495 and 290, for easy accessibility and daily commuting.

Complete program details and pre-registration forms are available upon request to Mass. Hort. Congress, 715 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116. CONTACT PERSONS: Robert D. Fitzgerald, U/Mass Cooperative Extension, 562 Maple Street, Hathorne, MA 01937, Tel. (508) 777-8720 or Deborah M. Fanning, Mass. Hort. Congress, 715 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116, Tel. (617) 266-6800.

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THE NEWSLETTER

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