



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 1989

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 16, 1989
Blue Hill Country Club

- 9:00 am Director's meeting
- 11:00 am Regular meeting
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Educational, Mass Pesticide Representative

Host Superintendent— Dave Barber

Reservations Required—Call by
March 10, 1989 (617) 828-2000

Dave has been the course superintendent at Blue Hill C.C. since 1980. Prior to Blue Hill Dave was superintendent at Wayland C.C. for 16 years. He is a graduate of Stockbridge, Univ. of Mass, lives in Canton and has four children. Dave is past president of GCSANE and has been a board member for 16 years.



Directions to: From 128 take exit 2A (Rte. 138 Stoughton) go to 1st set of lights and bear right (Washington St.) go approx. 1 mile and take a right on Pecunit St. (Sign will say BHCC) club is on the left approx. 3/4 mile.

Newsletter Makes It to Top

"Blow thy own horn—on occasion."

The above will not be found in the scriptures but it suffices on this particular occasion or the announcement that The Newsletter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England is

Continued on page 2

Patty's Magical Ride Reaches Top at Westchester

The magical career ride of Patty Knaggs picked up speed last month.

Smack dab in the middle of it—January 16th to be precise—it reached for the stars and landed at the Westchester Country Club where Patty began her first day on the job as head golf course superintendent.

Patty, of course, is known to one and all along the profession's rialto in these parts of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England. For the last four years, she's brightened up the scene at The Country Club as chief assistant to head honcho, Bill Spence who saw all of this coming the day he hired his valuable aide.

"There never was any doubt that Patty was the right person for the job when I hired her," Spence recalled. "I knew she could handle the work and as it turned out she far exceeded my expectations. I feel the same about her move to Westchester. They also picked the right person for the job there."

And big job it is.

"Westchester is quite a place," Patty remarked. "It's a real challenge, too, because of the size of the course (45 holes) and accompanying responsibilities. But I'm ready to tackle it."

Westchester, of course, is one of the prestigious country clubs along the trail of the nation's high level country clubs. It has been the scene of major tournaments and has been a regular stop on the PGA Tour for many years. It's also wrapped in history and tradition, much like The

Country Club where Patty found the foundation to what has evolved into a burgeoning career.

The position of head superintendent became available when nationally acclaimed Westchester super Ted Horton was promoted to the post of "director of sports and grounds". Patty says she reports to Horton and the club's "green and golf committees". And...she's in charge.

"I'm really excited about this," she said. "It's something everyone looks forward to in a career move. I'll be supervising an enormous staff. There are 14 full time people on the maintenance crew, three assistants and another 16 that work on a seasonal basis. And there could even be more, according to our schedule of events."

There's an added chore that goes with the Westchester program in that the maintenance department is responsible for a 45-acre beach club on Long Island Sound—about three miles from the golf course.

"I won't have to look long or far for things to do," Patty quipped. "The beach club has a salt water pool, skeet shooting area and sailing facilities. So, my duties will run the gamut."

Patty's experience as Spence's assistant at TCC, especially in the overall realm of preparing the course for the U.S. Open, turned into the stepping stone she took to Westchester.

"The value of working with Bill for four years can't be measured," Patty told.

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PATTY' MAGICAL RIDE

Cont. from page 1

"The last two years were actually a head superintendent-training situation for me. Bill's priorities were dictated by his involvement in the Open. When they reached the stage where the Open was his top priority, he turned over the day-to-day operation of the maintenance department to me.

"That's when I reassured myself that I'd be able to move on to my own job and be able to meet its responsibilities just as I had at The Country Club. Actually, I made a four-year commitment when Bill hired me. I wanted to stay there through the Open even if it meant putting a hold on my long range goal of becoming a head superintendent. It was a commitment I'll always look back on as the turning point in my career."

Patty, who didn't become interested in golf course maintenance until she worked at the West Point Golf Course next door to her hometown of Cornwall on the Hudson, says she'll always have a spot in her heart for the Boston area and the NEGCSA.

"It all started here (New England)," she said. "Brian Cowan (super at Eastward Ho) gave me my first job, then directed me to the right people and places when I decided this was going to be my life. From there, everyone was supportive. Now, here I am and it's just...just fantastic."

The Patty Knaggs story just seems to get better at each writing. Success stories don't come any better than this one.

GERRY FINN

NEWSLETTER MAKES IT TO THE TOP

Cont. from page 1

one of six publications to be cited for excellence.

Our own little epistle won honors in the Best Original Editorial Content category.

This marks the second time in recent years that the NEGCSA Newsletter has won honors in the contest. The other citation also was for best original editorial content.

Other winners this year: The Grass Roots, Wisconsin; The Greenside, New Jersey; The Florida Green, Florida; Cactus Clippings, Cactus and Pine GCSA; and Texas Turfgrass, Texas Turfgrass Association.

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 we focus attention on the Massachusetts Golf Association's decision to build a public golf course in Sturbridge and its effect on the golf course superintendent's involvement in future MGA-sponsored tournaments.



Dave Barber, Blue Hill Country Club: "I'm not quite sure just how much tournament traffic the MGA course plans to handle, but it's reasonable to assume it will be utilized for that purpose at one time or another.

"I've had MGA events here on many occasions and I really look forward to

them. I've always thought it gives the club and superintendent an opportunity to showcase their course and also to contribute to the advancement of the game in the state.

"I'd like to say that there is added incentive for me to go beyond the limits of course preparations when an MGA event is scheduled for Blue Hill. However, there never has been the need to do anything 'special' as far as requirements are concerned.

"What the MGA gets is what my members get day-in and day-out. And apparently they like what we've given them.

"I can see the possibility of the MGA easing the burden of golf courses for things like qualifying rounds by running them at its course. Sometimes it's difficult to free up a course, especially for something that requires three or four days to complete. We're just getting too darn busy. Golf's taken off.

"Regardless, I still like to be the host superintendent for MGA play and hope this doesn't mean all events will be played in Sturbridge."

Jim Beane, Mt. Pleasant Country Club: "All I can say about the MGA and plans to build its own course is that golf is becoming more popular than anybody ever dreamed it would.

"The MGA has staged tournaments here in the past, although I wasn't a part of them. Being asked to host an event tells you something. In addition to feeling welcome at the course, the MGA is saying your course has the ingredients found in a quality layout.

"However, if the MGA is thinking of staging events on the new course in Sturbridge, it's understandable.

"The traffic on golf courses just doesn't want to quit. Therefore, members

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THE SUPER

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are getting reluctant to give up the course because of the increasing amount of in-club activity and the 'outing circuit'.

"People are playing more and are even getting to the point where they don't recognize the normal golfing season. The other day (late December) I had four golfers come into my office and ask for a broom to sweep the snow off the temporary greens.

"It's almost crazy the way golf is on the upswing. I remember when Monday was a quiet day. Heck, we (NEGCSA) sometimes have a tough time getting a course on a Monday for our summer meetings.

"But MGA events should be treated as top-drawer stuff. When you host one, you're in the spotlight. I like that."



Don Hearn,
Weston Golf Club:
"You name the MGA event and we've hosted it.

"Which probably tells the Weston-MGA involvement in a nutshell and how welcome the MGA feels when it comes here.

"My understanding is that the Sturbridge course might be used as a backup when the MGA has problems finding qualifying sites. I can't disagree with that option since everyone knows how golf has taken off the past few years. Hey, everybody wants to play.

"There's another factor here and it concerns the MGA. In all my involvement with them, setting up the course and making other tournament arrangements, I've always found its officials to be congenial, supportive and very, very short on demands.

"In other words, I like working with them. And from our participation in their schedule of events, it's obvious our members don't mind giving up the course to accommodate an MGA tournament.

"I've always looked forward to working with the MGA and look forward to our next endeavor together."

Editor's note: MGA executive director Dick Haskell informs that it's very

doubtful major events like the State Open and State Amateur will be played in Sturbridge. However, he does say it's possible less prestigious tournaments and some qualifying will be staged there. The course is scheduled to open in 1991.

GERRY FINN

Tired of the Regular Work Week

I would like to follow up on a previous newsletter article written by superintendent Ron Hansen on "Shuffling Staff."

With a few changes, I initiated the new work week this past April with much success. During the busy growing months, we started at 6:30 a.m. and finished our long day at 3:00 p.m. Listed below is a sample work week:

Monday	6:30 - 3:00
Tuesday	6:30 - 2:30
Wednesday	6:30 - 1:30
Thursday	6:30 - 3:00
Friday	6:30 - 1:30

My main goals were to: break up the routine work week, maintain a course labor budget, and to allow time off during the summer months.

As far as weekends were concerned, we split the crew into two groups on and off. If someone couldn't work that weekend, he or she made arrangements for coverage. This only happened on a few occasions. I found the quality of work to be improved with this alternating week-end schedule. Also by starting early, it enabled my staff to finish mowing the greens without interfering with the golfers.

Now that the winter months are upon us, we are going to experiment with a four day work week. Myself, the mechanic and foreman will alternate weekends if snow plowing is necessary.

I would like to thank Ron for sharing his creative ideas with us. I am glad we gave it a try!

Richard Duggan, Superintendent
Concord Country Club

Program Information

**58th Massachusetts
Turfgrass Conference
and
13th Industrial Show**

**Dedication
to
Dr. James B. Beard
for Outstanding Devotion and Service
to the Turf Profession**

March 6, 7, 8, 9, 1989

Civic Center
Springfield, Massachusetts
(I-91: Exit 6 from South, Columbus Avenue Exit
from North)

Sponsored by:

- *Massachusetts Turf & Lawn Grass Council
- *Golf Course Superintendents' Association of New England
- *University of Massachusetts/Amherst

General Information

Registration

Lobby—Banquet Hall Entrance
12:30 PM-2:00 PM Monday, March 6
8:30 AM-4:00 PM Tuesday, March 7
8:00 AM-4:00 PM Wednesday, March 8

You must register to be admitted to either the Educational Program or the Industrial Show. Pre-registration is \$35, registration at the door is \$40. Use of the attached Pre-registration Form will save you both time and money.

Pre-registration means that your name tag and receipt will be ready for you at the Pre-registration Desk when you arrive at the Civic Center.

The Exhibition Hall will be open for the Industrial Show at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, March 7, and thereafter only when the Educational Program is not in session and vice versa.

Program

Monday, March 6, 1989

—Afternoon—

Registration: 12:30-2:00 PM

2:00-4:00 Seminar* - Banquet Room
Update-Turfgrass Diseases
Dr. Joseph Vargis, Department of Botany & Plant Pathology, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI.

*Credit may be given toward Massachusetts recertification.

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SHOW PROGRAM Cont. from page 3

Tuesday, March 7, 1989

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, Executive Director, Mass Turf & Lawngrass Council
- 1:15 **Annual Bluegrass-Friend or Foe**—Dr. Joseph Vargis, Department of Botany & Plant Pathology, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI
- 2:15 **Myths & Realities About Poa**—Dr. Donald White, Department of Horticulture Science, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN
- 3:00 **Scholarship Awards**
- 3:20 **Control of Poa Annua in Cool Season Grasses**—Dr. James Adams, Nor-Am, Wilmington, DE
- 4:00 **Question and Answer Period**
- 4:30-6:30 Industrial Show Open
Exhibition Hall

Wednesday, March 8, 1989

Registration: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

—Morning—

Golf Course Session-Banquet Room

Chairman: Mr. Richard Zepp, President, Golf Course Superintendents' Association of New England, Whitinsville, MA

- 9:00 **Evaluation Nematode Populations in Putting Greens**—Dr. Robert Wick, Experiment Station, University of Massachusetts, Waltham, MA
- 9:40 **Turfgrass Insect Identification & Grub Control**—Dr. Michael Villani, Department of Entomology, NY Experiment Station, Geneva, NY
- 10:20 **Shotgun Starts... & Blazon (Generically Speaking) Too! A Superintendent's Lament**—Mr. James Gilligan, Superintendent, Bedens Brook Club, Skillman, NJ
- 11:00-2:00 Industrial Show Open
Exhibition Hall

—Afternoon—

Chairman: Mr. Michael Wallace, Superintendent, Hop Meadow Country Club, Simsbury, CT

- 2:00 **Panel-Moderator-Mr. Geoffrey S. Cornish Design in an Era of Expansion**—Mr. Geoffrey S. Cornish, Golf Course Architect, Amherst, MA
- 2:15 **Alternative Types of Golf Courses to the Regular Length Course**—Mr. William Amick, Golf Course Architect, Daytona Beach, FL

- 2:45 **Golf Course Development in the Rockies**—Mr. William G. Robinson, Golf Course Architect, White Rock, British Columbia, Canada
- 3:15 **Golf Course Construction in the Maritimes**—Mr. Robert Neale, Superintendent, Grandview Golf & Country Club, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada
- 3:45 **Question & Answer Period**

4:30-7:00 Industrial Show Open
Exhibition Hall

Thursday, March 9, 1989

—Morning—

Golf Course Session-Banquet Room

Chairman: Mr. Paul Miller, Superintendent, Nashawtuc, Concord, MA

- 9:00 **How to Irrigate in a Summer Like 1988**—Mr. James Snow, Northeastern Director, USGA, Greens Section, Far Hills, NJ
- 9:40 **Approaches-Enhancing Root Growth**—Dr. James Beard, Department of Soil & Crop Sciences, Texas A & M University, College Station, TX
- 10:30 **Update Turfgrass Pesticides & The Environment**—Dr. Richard Cooper, Department of Plant & Soil Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
- 11:15 **Stress in Poa & Bent Competition**—Dr. Donald White, Department of Horticulture Science, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN
- 12:00 **Raffle**—VCR

This year we celebrate our 58th Massachusetts Turf Conference and 13th 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.

Lodging

Sheraton Tara Hotel—One Monarch Place, Springfield, MA 01144 (413) 781-1010. Single or Double \$75.

Marriot—1500 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01115 Single \$79, Double \$89. Call toll-free in-state (800) 228-9290 or (413) 781-7111.

Holiday Inn—711 Dwight Street, Springfield, MA 01104 Call toll-free in-state (800) 465-4329 or (413) 781-0900. Single \$73, Double \$76.

Harley Hartford Springfield Hotel—1 Bright Meadow Blvd., Enfield, CT (800) 321-2323. Single \$69, Double \$79.

Please make your own hotel reservations

Plant Breeding— Slowly but Surely

An important Part of my research effort at URI through my years here has related to plant improvement or plant breeding. It is a slow, tedious and time consuming effort. Resulting from this effort we have released Exeter Colonial and Kingstown Velvet bentgrasses, Jamestown Chewings fescue and Georgetown Kentucky bluegrass. They have all been improved varieties and have contributed added quality to the array of improved grasses.

We stepped up the pace of our breeding effort at the beginning of the 1980's when we hired a technician to assist full-time on this facet of our program. Some of you may recall that I spent six weeks collecting grasses in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, Canada in 1982. I spent a six month leave in 1987 collecting from Northern Minnesota to New England.

When I search for improved grasses I try to find old stands that have existed under minimum maintenance. I collect from dry, sunny locations. I concentrate on fine fescues and bentgrasses as these are the species most adapted to our region.

I have collected bluegrasses, ryegrasses and tall fescue but usually send these materials to other plant breeders who specialize in them. During 1987 I sent over 400 of these materials to a plant breeder in Oregon. We ended up with over 600 fine fescues and bentgrasses for our evaluation and use.

Good things are resulting from this effort. In November of this year we officially released "Providence" creeping bentgrass. The variety is a blend or "Polycross" of five selections. The first selections included in this variety were made in 1965. You can see that this isn't a speedy program. Hopefully, some seed will be available after the 1989 seed harvest.

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PLANT BREEDING

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Many of you have seen plots of "Providence" on our research farm. It has been in trial since 1982. The following

tables give an indication of its performance with us and one year's data at North Carolina State University. It is included in other trials and on some golf greens throughout the country:

Table 1. Average Quality Scores, URI, 1983-1986

Variety	Year				4-year avg.
	1983	1984	1985	1986	
Providence	5.9	6.8	7.4	6.7	6.7
Penncross	5.4	6.1	5.6	5.9	5.8
Prominent	4.6	5.6	4.4	5.8	5.1
Manitoba	5.7	6.8	5.4	5.5	5.8

9=perfect quality Trial seeded in 1982

Table 2. Performance at URI and N.C. State University

Variety	Quality Rating			Dollar Spot	
	URI		NCSU	%coverage 10/87	No/730 cm ²
	1986	1987	1987	URI	NCSU
Providence	6.8	6.4	7.4	10	0.8
Penncross	6.0	4.9	6.9	20	5.6
Seaside	6.0	5.1	5.6	30	1.1
Emerald	6.5	5.1	6.2	15	4.6

Table 3. Avg. Number of Tillers Produced On One Inch Plugs.

Variety	No. of Tillers
Providence	165
Penncross	144
Seaside	110
Emerald	143

Evidence to date indicated that we have an improved creeping bentgrass. Hopefully it will require less feeding, water and fungicides. That is the hope for our program of grass improvement.

**C. Richard Skogley, Professor
University of Rhode Island**

-POSITION OPENINGS-

**Assistant Superintendent
Walpole Country Club**

Duties: Golf course and clubhouse grounds maintenance; training, supervising, and working with staff of 9 employees; pesticide and fertilizer applications, recordkeeping.

Requirements: Associates degree or short course in turfgrass management or related field, at least 2 years golf course experience, obtain Massachusetts pesticide license within 4 months, ability to motivate, organize, delegate and communicate with the golf course staff.

Send Resume to:

Mark D. Gagne, Golf Course Superintendent
Walpole Country Club, 233 Baker Street
Walpole, MA 02081

Assistant Superintendent

For Municipal Golf Course in Barnstable, Massachusetts on Cape Cod. Course designed by Cornish & Silva.

Superintendent to begin work April 1989 to monitor construction and to continue as Superintendent after course opens in 1990.

Send resume and salary history to:
Personnel Department, Town of Barnstable
367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601
(508) 775-1120, Ext. 150

Prior to February 15, 1989.

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-NEW MEMBERS-

Welcome & Congatulations to:

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**Ken Ross, Regular
Pine Oaks G.C.**

-PROPOSED NEW MEMBERS-

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**Michael J. Powers, Associate
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