



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 1990

AR as in Almost Retired

For Al Sanders, it's an even swap.

"That is, I'm trading in a headache for peace of mind," the 'almost retired' Juniper Hill Golf Club superintendent explained his unique professional status. "When the owners here decided to step up to 36 holes, I stepped down as the man in charge. Actually, I thought at my age and all the time I've spent on the job, this wasn't the time in my life to double my responsibility."

Sanders, then, is easing himself out of the golf course superintendent profession after 45 years...at the same old stand...under the same family ownership—the Dowlings.

Actually, Sanders turned over his position to his assistant, Tom Ackley, last December.

"I just told him, 'let's switch jobs,'" Al flapped. "He's a young, energetic, very capable member of the profession, and I'm...well, I'm at that point in my career where I still want to work but would rather take orders instead of give them."

Therefore, as of December of 1989, Ackley became top gun at Juniper and Sanders retreated to a lesser role, or as he described it, "I went back to the 8 to 5 shift and, this is very important, with all winters off."

This is not to suggest that Al has packed it in. "Oh, no," he emphasized. "I'm 62 years old and I'm still able to pull my load. It's just that after 45 years of carrying the load, I want to spend the next two or three years getting on one end of it. Really, if Homer (Homer D. who took over for Juniper Hill's original owner and builder Homer C. Dowling) hadn't decided to add

AUGUST MEETING

Monday, August 6, 1990
Newton Commonwealth Country Club
Newton, MA

8 to 10 a.m. Tee times
Make own foursome or will be teamed up
— No Regular Meeting —
Board meeting to be announced
Lunch served after you finish the round.

Host Superintendent
Kevin Osgood

Reservations required
by August 2, 1990
(617) 527-6968

Kevin is a graduate of the Stockbridge School, UMass Amherst, class of 1979. Upon graduation, he accepted the head job at Newton where he has remained for 11 years.

Born in Claremont, New Hampshire, he began his golf course career at Claremont C.C., then spent a year at Woodstock C.C. in Vermont, and served an internship at Howell Park G.C. in New Jersey.

Presently our Educational Chairman, Kevin is residing in Hyde Park and in his spare time enjoys both types of skiing, hiking, and playing golf.

DIRECTIONS

From Boston:

Take 90 West (Mass Pike) to exit 17 Newton. Stay left through lights and take a left over the Pike at the Newton/Boston sign. Follow the Pike east directions after the stop sign (below).

From West:

Take Mass Pike (90 East) to Newton exit 17. Go through stop sign and take a right at the 3rd set of lights (Brighton sign). Follow and take a left onto Tremont Street (Brighton sign) and a right at the 1st light, Waverly Street. Follow 1/2 mile to lights and take a left onto Kenrick Street. Club is 1/4 mile on right.

another 18 holes, I would have remained the head super. But taking on what amounts to a second golf course wasn't in my plans."

"That's funny because Al Sanders, like the Dowlings, is an institution at Juniper Hill. Ever since he started cutting greens there at the age of 16, he's been an integral part of the public course. He's been its overseer, so to speak, through two generations of ownership and still remains on the scene as a third generation Dowling prepares to assume control of the Northboro layout.

Although his first contract with the Dowling family came as a classmate of Homer D. Dowling in the Northboro middle school, Sanders has seen his career grow year by year, hand in hand, with Juniper Hill.

"Old Homer built the first nine holes more years ago than I'd want to say," Al told. "I got involved because of my friendship with his son. Before that, I had no inclination for golf or the maintenance field. It's strange how I became the head super, too. I started working as a member of the crew and before I knew it Homer had put me in charge."

Sanders' early days maintaining the course traces the progress of the superintendents' profession.

"Did you ever hear of 'Pony Mowers?'" he set the motion going for an historical trip through maintenance methods. "That was my first job. Those things were what we'd call hand mowers today. You had to push them, and most of the time you had to go over

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the job to correct your mistakes. I can't remember how many greens I could mow in one day, but I do know I couldn't do them all."

Sanders refers to himself as being from the old school in matters of golf course maintenance and status of the golf course superintendent.

"I've never been one of those executive types when it comes to getting the job done," he laughed. "Maybe that's one of the reasons I handed over the super's position to Tom (Ackley). You know, once the course branched out to 36 holes, I'd have been expected to wear a shirt and tie to work every day.

"Well, that's not my cup of tea. I've always been one of those supers who did more talking with his hands than with his mouth. When there was something to do on the course, I got out there and pitched in with the rest of the crew. I never could picture myself turning my back on physical work. But I can understand the modern ways, especially when 36 holes are involved. The old school wouldn't work under those conditions."

So, Al Sanders has backed off and taken a place in support of his former assistant. "That's a funny situation, too," he added. "When the decision was made to expand to 36 holes, everyone just assumed I'd go along with it and continue to call the shots. That's when I suggested hiring Tom and grooming him to take over for me. Otherwise, I'd still have the headache and the responsibility I don't need at my age."

Instead, the down-to-earth 45-year-veteran of the turf wars is engaged in on-the-job training...for retirement. That's his way to go. Maybe he's caught on to something.

GERRY FINN

A thank you to the Cardinals Co. and Turf Specialty for their donations of flags and flag poles for our golf outings!

The Super Speaks Out

This month's question: *With the growing popularity of golf opening up new avenues of golf course maintenance comes the ever-increasing use of the on-course driving range. How do you handle this added responsibility and how much of a drain is it on your work schedule?*



Mark Taylor, Haverhill Golf and Country Club: "You hit what's becoming an active nerve in the golf course maintenance program.

"First of all, because there are more people playing golf, there are more people practicing. Therefore, most clubs are not prepared for the influx of golfers priming their games for the round of the day or just for the sake of improving them.

"Here, the biggest problem is the need for more room. Presently, our practice area runs about 10,000 square feet. I say we need about 10 acres. We've had consultants from the USGA in for a look and they estimate somewhere in the eighty to ninety thousand square feet area.

"It's really tough to maintain our practice range because of the size. However, I re-seed as often as I can, using rye grass and forcing growth with an overload of fertilizer. But, really, because of the heavy use, about 80% of the hitting area winds up being just plain dirt.

"Recently we brought in four AstroTurf mats to take the pressure off natural turf. It's more of an experiment than anything and they haven't been down long enough for me to get any significant results.

"In the end, though, it boils down to the priority level our members want to apply to the practice area at budget time. The area is a pro shop administrative responsibility and money paid by the members to hit balls is tied into the pro's compensation.

"My suggestion is that we make the practice area self-sustaining. In other words, any money it takes to maintain it should come from the revenue its use turns over."

SUPERINTENDENT — WANTED —

Maynard C.C., Route 27, Maynard, MA. Nine hole, semi-private, par 34. Send resumes to:

P. O. Box 237
Attn: Green Comm.
Maynard, MA 01754
(508) 897-9885

Leave message for Ted Kauppi

Position open immediately

SUPERINTENDENT — WANTED —

Bradford C.C., Bradford, MA. An 18-hole, Cornish/Silva design. Opened nine holes in Spring 1990 and will open the other nine in September. Pencross greens and tees. Pennway fairways. Interested applicants should contact Mike or Chip Curran at (508) 372-8587.

Bradford C.C.
201 Chadwick Road
Bradford, MA 01835

Dave Clement, Woodstock Country Club: "We have a unique situation with our practice area since the club has decided to make it available to non-members, or make it open to the public.

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Chicopee, MA 01020
Home Phone 413-592-5780
Office Phone 413-256-8654
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Hickory Ridge G.C.

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"So, it's almost like those driving ranges you see on the highways. Here, we kind of keep it low key, though. We don't advertise it as such, but the public knows they are welcome to use it as they will.

"My maintenance program is pretty well set to follow the same pattern I use for maintaining our tees. I move the roped-off areas to different levels as the wear and tear dictate and keep the golfers off the areas I'm trying to refurbish.

"I use a lot of rye grass and fertilizer, water the areas under the same system I use for greens and the rest of the golf course, and cut the areas three times a week.

"Our pro uses the practice area to give lessons and he also has a crew that helps keep it in shape. His compensation there is part of the budget, so his interest in keeping the practice area groomed actually is in his best interest.

"My biggest problem is finding time to give the practice area my attention. And, frankly, that's the hardest part of maintaining it."

—NEW MEMBER—

Brian Howard
Associate Member
Lexington G.C.
Lexington, MA

**Univ. of Rhode Island
Turf Field Day**

Hold Wednesday, August 22, 1990 for URIs Turf Field Day. Machinery exhibits and demonstrations begin at 9 a.m. Tours of the research plots will follow a barbecue lunch. For registration and lunch reservations, contact Dr. Noel Jackson, 234 Woodward Hall, Department of Plant Science, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881, telephone (401) 792-2932.



**Tony Caranci,
Ledgemont Country
Club:** "You couldn't have brought up the subject of practice areas at a better time for me and my club.

"It just happens that this year our board of governors decided to charge members a flat fee of \$100 per season to use the range. I mean, everyone has to contribute that amount whether or not they take advantage of it.

"You probably know what's happened because of the mandatory charge. Right, the place is mobbed. If I told you there's a waiting time that goes with using the area, you'd laugh. So, wipe the smile off your face. It's true. And, here we are, with about 15 (tops) individual hitting stalls.

"Maintaining the area is just like taking care of a tee. We seed it almost every day, move the hitting stalls just like we move tee markers, and close it when we think it's unplayable because of excessive rain or other outside intervention detrimental to its upkeep.

"Now that the area is going full tilt, there's a good possibility I'll re-sod it in the fall. After all, since the area is a source of income, it probably should move up on my priority list.

"As for the pro, he uses it for his lessons and, yes, he generates income because of it. However, I consider his use of it a service to our members. Whatever, the practice area has to be considered another responsibility the golf course superintendent must assume—like it or not."

GERRY FINN

—1st READINGS—

Thomas Loring Ackley
Associate Member
Juniper Hill G.C.
Northboro, MA

David Kahrman
Regular Member
Thomson C.C.
North Reading, MA

University of Massachusetts Turf Plots at So. Deerfield, MA

July 21, 1990

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England donated a pesticide storage building to the Turf Research Program at the University of Massachusetts on this date at the annual Turf Research Field Day sponsored by the University. Richard C. Zepp, CGCS, made the formal presentation of the keys to the building to Dr. Robert Helgesen, Dean of the College of Food and Natural Resources, and to Dr. Richard Cooper, Professor of Turf Management at the University. The pesticide storage building is a state of the art storage facility that will allow the University Research Staff to safely store all pesticides in accordance with all present and foreseen future pesticide storage regulations.

This donation by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England represents the first donation from the newly formed GCSANE Turf Research Fund. The Fund was formed in 1989 to help support turf research at New England area universities. The monies for the fund were derived from donations from golf course superintendents, golf club memberships, and from the proceeds of the first annual Turf Research Tournament which was held last fall. During 1990, the GCSANE will again be requesting donations to the fund and will be sponsoring its second Research Tournament at the Nashawtuc Country Club on September 17. The GCSANE feels strongly that turf research is the key to golf course success in the 1990s and will strive to support that research on local and national levels.

DICK ZEPP

President's Message



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been supportive in soliciting their Clubs to contribute to our Research Fund.

Unfortunately, this year's contributions have been slow. However, I am confident that we will be as successful, if not more so, than last year with all of your help. The pesticide storage building that was installed at the University of Massachusetts turf plot, I hope, is only the beginning of our research efforts.

Although I could not attend, I understand that the field day was a huge success and is showing results from ongoing turf grass research related to the golf course industry. Dean Helgerson is very much aware of the size of the turf grass industry in Massachusetts and is taking measures to support the GCSANE.

The Research Committee is putting together their various sub-committees (golf, tee signs, raffle) for our research tournament. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Dick Zepp. This tournament is our biggest source of revenue and we hope, with everyone's help, we will surpass last year.

PAUL MILLER

The updated membership directory will be out shortly. Those members who did not pay their annual dues before May 20, 1990 have been excluded from this copy. Thanks to Bob Ruzala for putting this book together.

1990 Turf Research Fund Donors

Hickory Ridge Country Club
Twin Hills Country Club
Nashawtuc Country Club
Mt. Pleasant Golf Club (Lowell)
Needham Golf Club
Thorny Lea Golf Club
Whitinsville Golf Club
Cohasset Golf Club
Brae Burn Country Club
Framingham Country Club
Weston Golf Club
Mt. Pleasant Country Club (Boylston)
The Country Club
Rockland Golf Course
The International
New England Golf Course
Superintendent's Association
(Monthly Raffles)

I was wondering if any other superintendents have experienced any unusual problems on their greens. Since mid-May I have experienced damage on my greens. The damage resembles dollarspot sized infections with no mycelium. In fact, at first glance, it looks like a gas droplet has burnt the turf. These spots grow into fist sized dead spots with tails. These spots also seem to be spread by mowers and become more active and destructive during warm and dry weather.

If you have any knowledge of this problem, please contact me.

RON MILENSKI

Our sympathies to Mike Nagle of Worcester C.C. and Ed Wiacek of Turf Specialty. Both had their fathers pass away recently.

John Deere Golf Classic

August 24, 1990, Thomson C.C., North Reading, MA. Superintendent, Golf Pro, Club Manager, and Club President. 7:30 a.m. shotgun. Superintendent and Pro will be receiving invitations.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|----------|--|
| August 6 | Newton Commonwealth
Regular Meeting |
| Sept. 11 | Ferncroft C.C.
Super-Super Tournament |
| Sept. 17 | Nashawtuc C.C.
Research Tournament |

Underground storage tanks are becoming a top enforcement priority for Federal, State, and Local governments. It is highly unlikely that your facility's existing liability insurance covers leaks from buried tanks. The EPA has extended the October 1990 mandate requiring UST financial responsibility requirements. However, coping with the substantial expense of cleaning up a spill or leak (not to mention the fine) could place any facility in financial hardship.

If these regulations become law in 1991, all golf courses will be required to demonstrate financial responsibility for UST. Virtually all general liability policies exclude cleanup costs, third party liability claims, and legal defense costs resulting from pollution. It could be reasonable to assume that golf courses will have to demonstrate financial responsibility in the range of \$500,000 per incident and \$1,000,000 in the aggregate per year.

The Golf Course Superintendent's Association of New England is making every effort to monitor and advise the golfing fraternity of all upcoming legislation. There will be basically four criteria that we feel will affect the premium for UST insurance coverage:

- Type, age, and size of tank
- Type of piping
- Type of tank monitoring
- Environmental factors

The GCSANE recommends every golf course evaluate their present UST situation. The environment is our primary responsibility, we must not abuse it!

PAUL MILLER

Superintendent Green Chairman Tournament at Belmont C.C.



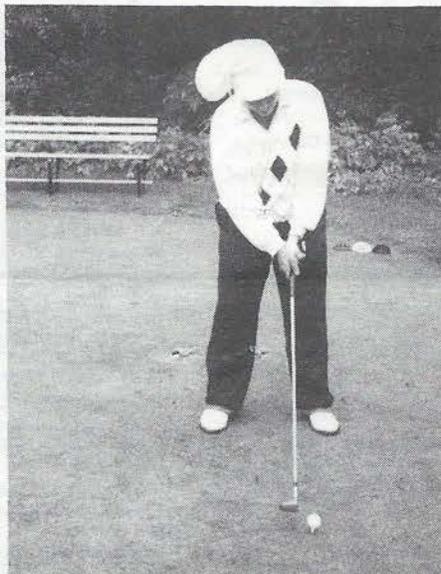
Bob Kent Jr., Green Chairman and Paul Jamrog, Supt. - The Orchards G.C.



Joe Rybka, Supt. and John Tosca Jr., Chairman - Thorny Lea G.C.



Mark Taylor (right) and his guest from Haverhill Golf & C.C.



Papa Smurf, David Farina of Club Car puts his shoe bag to an alternative use during the rains at Belmont.



Pat Lewis (right) and his chairman, Portland C.C., Portland, Maine



An excellent dinner served to a hungry group.

photos by Peter Hasak

Golf Course Supers & Greens Com. Chairmen Tournament Results Belmont CC

- Hole #5, Closest to Pin (Chairman)
Steve Poremba
Hole #15, Closest to Pin (Super)
Dave Copeland
Hole #17, Longest Drive (Chairman)
Bob Bullard
Hole #4, Longest Drive (Super)
Paul Jamrog
6th Low Net
Worcester - 67
5th Low Net
Vesper - 66
4th Low Net
Belmont - 66
3rd Low Net
Mt. Pleasant (Boylston) - 66
2nd Low Net
Bellevue - 66
1st Low Net
Wellesley - 66
2nd Low Gross
Pine Brook - 77
1st Low Gross
Mt. Pleasant (Lowell) - 72

Senate Proposes Harsher Penalties for Safety Violations

The White House has offered its support to a Senate proposal that would significantly stiffen penalties for employers found guilty of workplace safety violations. The legislation, sponsored by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), would triple potential civil penalties for safety and health violations and upgrade from misdemeanors to felonies any willful violations that cause death. The proposed policy would allow fines of \$30,000 for each violation, up from the current limit of \$10,000. The proposal vividly points out the need for a comprehensive hazard communication program at each golf course.

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Contact: Gary Hammond

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Winding Brook Turf Farm, Inc.

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*Contributors to the Troll-Dickinson
Scholarship Fund

THE NEWSLETTER

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