



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.

June 1990

The Masters... Where Golf Magic Lives



Bob Matthews went to The Masters the other month. Of course, he knows who won the storied tournament; but, believe it or not, the fact that Nick Faldo became one of only two golfers to register back-to-back victories was secondary.

"Just being there," the Marshfield Country Club superintendent emphasized, "that was the magic. If I could nail down a description of The Masters and Augusta National, I'd sum it up as the Disney World of Golf Tournaments."

Matthews took advantage of a neat arrangement the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America sets up for its members. It provides a complimentary ticket and all the education a golf course super could glean from the experience of a two or three-day stay at the citadel of championship layouts.

"We were there Friday, Saturday, and Sunday—the three days when the golf action really heats up," Matthews told. "It's an experience I recommend for all superintendents. Just walking along the fairways is something else. This is an opportunity of a lifetime."

Bob was part of a five-man contingent from the NEGCSA that took in one of sport's prime time events. Joining him there were superintendents Joe Rybka of Thorny Lea, Len Blodgett of Kittansett, and Charley Dickow of Heritage Hill—along with Club Car representative and Marshfield member Dave Farina.

JULY MEETING

Monday, July 9, 1990
Worcester Country Club
Worcester, MA

9:00 am Director's Meeting
10:30 am Regular Meeting
12:00 noon Lunch
1:00 pm Golf, Shotgun Start

Superintendent Championship

Host Superintendent
Mike Nagle, CGCS

Reservations Required
by July 5, 1990
(617) 527-6968

Indicate if you want a caddy!

Mike is presently in his eighth year of serving as superintendent at Worcester CC. He had previously held the super's position at Bonnie Briar CC in Larchmont, NY. He graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture in 1978. Mike served as newsletter chairman for the GCSANE in 1985, and achieved Certified Golf Course Superintendent status in 1988. He and his wife Kathleen reside in Holden, MA with daughters Sarah and Elise, ages 8 and 4. In his spare time, Mike is an avid hunter and fisherman.

DIRECTIONS

From the Mass Turnpike, take exit I-290 to the Plantation St. exit and take a left at end of exit. Go through two sets of lights. Approximately 1½ miles past the second set of lights, WCC property begins on the right, marked by a cyclone fence with cedar lats. The Club entrance (Rice St.) is on the right at the end of the fence.

While Matthews was impressed by the play of the world's top golfers, the heavy side of his attention level focused on the maintenance program at Augusta National and how its clockwork methods stand out as the ultimate model for the superintendent's profession.

"Right off the bat I was virtually overwhelmed by the equipment the maintenance staff has available to it," Bob disclosed. "All I can do is relate its expanse to the typical country club setup back here. For example, when I learned we'd get our second light-weight fairway mower at Marshfield, I was thrilled. How many do they have at Augusta National? I stopped counting when I reached 11."

Preparation for The Masters is a huge undertaking. Again, by the numbers, some 50 crew members are aboard as the tournament approaches. Then, during tournament week, a group of 20 volunteer superintendents joins the work force to provide expertise of the magnitude no golf tournament can match.

"It's almost over-refined, the way the course is pampered during the tournament proper," Matthews commented. "One of the more famous aspects of the Augusta National course during The Masters is the way the greens are groomed to reflect some of the fastest putting surfaces in the world."

"Greens are mowed before and after play of that particular day—at dawn and at dusk. The size of the greens is another eye-opener. They're big and

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slick. No water is applied to them beginning with the start of tournament week. The only time the greens are syringed is during severe weather conditions. Otherwise, they're baked out and get faster as play progresses."

Some of the mowing patterns intrigued Thomas who admitted he's planning to try some of the tricks of the trade he observed at Augusta National on the Marshfield real estate.

"Some of the methods are spell-binding," Bob noted. "Like putting stripes in the rough with mowers and defining the areas where the grass ends and the woodlands begin. I mean it, every time I looked up there was an army of mowers on the golf course."

Thomas reported that the maintenance people at Augusta National were a little disappointed because of the premature peaking of flower beds there—the azaleas and rhododendrons that complement the majestic setting of the course the great Bobby Jones built.

"They just got a shot of summer too soon," Bob explained. "In the past, they used to ice down the beds to hold back the bloom. But this year there just wasn't any way to keep them from bursting into brilliant colors a week before the crowds came out for the tournament. Other than that, there wasn't a flaw to be found anywhere."

Thomas, in his third season at Marshfield after spending nine years on Long Island and five in New Jersey, said his members were all for his making The Masters trek because of the educational spinoff the trip is sure to inspire.

JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 9 Worcester C.C.
Supt. Champ.
August 6 Newton Commonwealth

"I had their support and also a capable assistant (Rob Hendrickson) to lean on while I was away," Bob concluded. "I brought back some new ideas about golf course maintenance and some helpful hints that will pay off for Marshfield in the long run. You can't measure the professional benefits a super receives from those few days at The Masters. My advice to one and all is get there while the getting's good...and easy."

GERRY FINN

The Super Speaks Out

This month's question: *In the ever-changing world of the golf course superintendent and need for improved facilities, how does your maintenance building shape up to accommodate the ramifications such change triggers?*



Steve Murphy,
Larry Gannon
Municipal Course:

"The present building here is about as big as it will ever be, and for one reason. The course is located in tight quarters and, frankly, the only way we could expand is to build straight up.

"However, there's been a lot of beneficial foresight practiced by our DPW Commissioner (Gene Dooley, who happens to be a former golf course superintendent) and implemented by the City Council.

"In the beginning, a WPA project was responsible for the building of a beautiful stone facility that goes back so far as to have been heated by a wood-burning stove up until 1976.

"The need for more room prompted the building of two additions—one in 1978 and the other in 1983. Each runs 30 by 50 feet and is built on one and the other side of the original.

"Again, the fact that the course is a municipal venture and a solid money-maker gave us somewhat of an edge in improving maintenance equipment storage space and work areas. In fact, the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (since eliminated) provided us with workers to complete the expansion buildings.

"One circumstance should be understood, and, again, because we are municipal. There are no toilet or shower facilities in any of the maintenance areas, but employees are allowed to use the clubhouse for those purposes.

"Regardless, we're just about at capacity for getting the job done now. Every time a piece of equipment is replaced, we get rid of it. It's tight, but we're making it. We have to."

Jim Leighton, Framingham Golf Club:

"Fortunately, the people here did something about the maintenance setup just before I came on the job. They built what they thought was going to be a new cart barn five years ago. But somewhere along the way, they decided to store the carts in the old maintenance building and turned the new place over to my department.

"Good thing, too. There's nothing around us except private residences, so any further expansion is out of the question. From here on in, we'll have to go with what we've got.

"The maintenance building became multi-purpose last year and in a way it was a good thing. It made our membership aware of the importance of having a facility that serves as my work place and a backup in case of emergency.

"Such an emergency showed itself when a golf tournament and clam bake ran into foul weather. The bake was scheduled outdoors, but it rained so hard it was impossible to go that route. So, what happened?

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"Someone suggested that we move the equipment out of the maintenance building and have the clam bake there. Since there were about 250 people involved, the clubhouse was out of the question. Therefore, we came to the rescue, so to speak.

"It was the first time many of my members even saw the maintenance building, so it gave me a chance to give them a look at what goes on behind the scenes and what they're getting for their money. The place smelled like hell for a week because the cooking was done inside, too, but everything worked out well. That's what I call a learning experience."

Bill Gilson, Hickory Golf Club: "I think I win the prize for the oldest maintenance building in the New England section. How do turn-of-the-century barns and an old horse stable rank in our area?"

"There really hasn't been much change along maintenance equipment storage and work area in the 21 years I've been here. However, I haven't made it an issue because I'd rather have the club owner put money in new equipment than a place to house outdated equipment.

"Hickory Hill is a public golf course, so members have nothing to do with what is spent in the maintenance wing of operating it. I have no doubt the owner would come around and update the facilities if I put up a stink about it. But I'm from the old school I guess. I have what I need and that's it.

"Funny thing, too. There's plenty of room to construct new buildings here. We do have a cart building that's only 12 years old, so it's not a question of ownership not being aware of the situation. The biggest factor is myself. I can get along with things just as long as they're workable. Who knows? Maybe we'll do something about the matter this year. Then again, maybe we won't. I'll keep you posted."

GERRY FINN

President's Message



Pesticide usage is fast becoming a target of interest in the state of Massachusetts. On May 15th, I attended a press conference called by the Green Industry Council and Gus Schumacher, Commissioner of Food and Agriculture on IPM in the state of Massachusetts. Pat Vittum voiced strong support of IPM and as we all know has been a proponent for many years. Integrated Pest Management or the minimized usage of pesticide has been practiced by golf course superintendents for many years. If not for budgetary reasons, research is showing that effective control can be accomplished by smaller quantities of pesticides tank mixed. On Tuesday, with support from Phyllis Gillespie, GIC, Pat Vittum, Charlie Passios, Ed Nash, and myself, I had the strong feeling that our message was heard and understood by the Commissioner. I think he is aware that we are aware that fungus and insects are the absolute and golf course superintendents only apply to keep them at an acceptable, manageable level.

I feel the pendulum is swinging in our direction. With documentation like the Cape Cod study and Watske Work on pesticide runoff at Penn State, we are building strong factual information pertaining to the lack of mobility of pesticides. We are very fortunate to have people like Phyllis Gillespie to monitor legislation and coordinate materials that would be pertinent. If you happen to come across any material that may be available to help support our cause of continued usage, please send a copy to Phyllis.

I thank all who have contributed time and money to our turf research drive. Funds from last year made the pesticide storage building possible. We hope this year will be even more successful.

PAUL MILLER

Divot Drift

Brian Howard is the new superintendent at Lexington Golf Club, Lexington, Massachusetts.

Jim Connolly of the USGA gave a brief presentation in May on the extent of damage to turfgrass from this past winter. Many greens have 30 to 50% kill.

Mr. Bob Doiron and Mr. Richard Shaw of John Hancock spoke on financial planning at our May meeting.

Richard Tworig moved from Halifax Country Club to the superintendent position at Cedar Hill Golf Course in April. Also, his wife Lisa had a baby girl on March 26. Her name is Ashley and weighs 8 lbs. 9 oz.

Mike Cornicelli and his wife Jo Anne welcomed their new child Sammi Jo to the world on April 24, 1990. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 5 oz.

WELCOME —NEW MEMBERS—

Robert Chisom
Regular Member
Ridder Golf Club

Pat Lucus
Regular Member
Innis Arden G.C.

PROPOSED —NEW MEMBER—

Brian D. Howard
Associate Member
Lexington Golf Club

New Communications from the University of Massachusetts Turf Specialists

Some new sources of information are available from the UMass turf researchers. "Turf Notes", a quarterly newsletter, was initiated last fall, and the third edition will be distributed in June. The purpose of Turf Notes is to improve communication between turf professionals and the University turf specialists. It provides a rapid system for distributing new research results and important pesticide updates. To receive Turf Notes, send your name and address to Mary Owen, Worcester County Cooperative Extension, 759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524. Please also send her suggestions for the kinds of information you would like from the newsletter, and she will pass on your requests to the appropriate specialist. We welcome your comments and questions.

For more timely information, a Landscape and Turf Pest Message phone line has been initiated for this season. The message contains information about plant growth stages, pest outbreaks, disease development, degree day accumulation, and other information that might be useful. The message changes each Wednesday. Call (617) 894-3115 to hear the recorded information. Let us know if this is helpful and what additional information you would like.

EDUCATIONAL SPEAKER

July 9, Worcester C.C.

Mr. Dan Nason, Great Salt Lake Minerals & Chemical Corp. Speaking on Potassium Sulfate.

Turf disease diagnostics in Massachusetts are going through some modifications with the move of Dr. Robert Wick from Waltham to Amherst this summer. He will continue to evaluate nematode samples, but Dr. Gail Schumann will generally be taking care of other turf disease samples. During this transition time, you can continue to bring samples to either location, but feel free to contact Dr. Schumann with turf disease problems. Overnight deliveries are most successful. Samples sent through the mail, even "priority" mail, go through the campus mail system and can take three days to arrive in the lab. It is often helpful to call first to discuss whether it is worth sending in a sample and the type of sample to select. I look forward to working with you.

Gail Schumann, Turf Pathologist and Assistant Professor, Dept. of Plant Pathology, Fernald Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. (413) 545-3413

SUPERINTENDENT — WANTED —

New course under construction. Shaker Hills Golf Club, Harvard, MA. 18-hole public, all bentgrass. Send resumes to:

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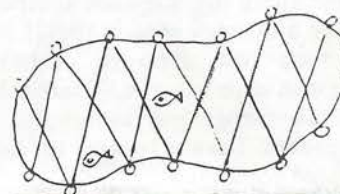
The following is a letter from Buddy Young, Tournament Director, New England PGA written to Mr. P.J. Boatwright, Jr., Executive Director, Rules & Competitions, on December 6, 1989:

"I will be attending the Advanced Rules Workshop next March at Ponte Vedra. I know that time is too valuable at these sessions to spend much of it on isolated problems; therefore, I thought it best to alert you in advance of a particular situation I shall be seeking some guidance on.

"More and more green superintendents are adopting a practice of stringing wires across ponds in a grid-like pattern in an effort to discourage Canada geese from taking up residence. The wires (in some cases ropes) are fastened to stakes driven into the banks of the pond and are fixed at or slightly above water level. The distance between them varies, but about twenty feet is common.

"What, if any, consideration should be given to this unusual situation? (Unusual now, but not for long.) The stakes and wires, for obvious reasons, are not designed to be movable and a ball lying within the hazard but oftentimes playable is rendered otherwise when interfered with by the condition. It does not seem equitable simply to treat the stakes and wires as immovable obstructions and require the player to proceed under R24-2. Is a local rule, perhaps one written somewhat in the language of Dec. 1-4/10 permissible? I feel that a formal decision covering this situation, one way or the other, is justified.

"Thank you for your considerations."



The following reply came on December 12, 1989:

"In reply to your letter of December 6, it would not be proper to adopt any type of Local Rule giving relief from the wires and stakes in water hazards installed to discourage Canadian geese. See Decision 33-8/15 which deals with a similar case.

"You state the following: 'It does not seem equitable simply to treat the stakes and wires as immovable obstructions and require the player to proceed under Rule 24-2.' I am sure you know but just overlooked the fact that a player whose ball lies in a water hazard is not entitled to relief from immovable obstructions."

Golf Courses Show Strong Compliance with Pesticide Regulations

About 97 percent of U.S. golf courses that employ members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) have at least one licensed pesticide applicator on staff, according to the findings of a recent survey.

To address concerns about pesticide use, GCSAA recently conducted the survey to gauge the degree of compliance with federal and state pesticide applicator regulations among professional golf course superintendents.

Golf Results GCSANE winners from Woodland CC Meeting in May

1st Gross 71

Dave Barber, Jack Hassett, Max Mierzwa, Mr. Leehan

2nd Gross 72

Paul Miller, Dennis Friel, Ron Kirkman, Peter Hasak

1st Net 55

Charlie Dickow, Larry Bunn, Jim Bean, Mr. Healy

2nd Net 56

Kip Tyler, Joe Rybka, Bert Frederick, Mike Cornicelli

3rd Net 57

Keith Gavin, Don Hearn, Tom Bachli, Bob Brown

"These results provide strong evidence of our members' commitment to safety and sound ecological practices," said Tom Akins, GCSAA Government Relations manager. "GCSAA strongly supports the position that only properly trained and educated personnel should be allowed to purchase and apply restricted-use chemicals. Even though most golf courses don't apply any restricted-use materials, we are pleased that the survey shows that an overwhelming majority of our membership has taken this extra step. This supports our long-held belief that golf course superintendents are among the best educated and most thoughtful users of agricultural chemicals in the country."

Of the 1,157 superintendents who responded to the GCSAA survey, 1,061 or about 92 percent hold valid pesticide applicator licenses for the state where they work. Another five percent who are not licensed themselves have someone on their staff who is licensed.

Certification for pesticide application is done in compliance with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Section 3 of FIFRA states that any pesticide classified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "for restricted use only" must be applied by or under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. It is up to each state to implement its own certification guidelines and programs as long as they comply with FIFRA.

"The importance of training and certification to individual communities really ties in to the concept of 'Think globally—act locally,'" said Akins. "The survey showed that individual superintendents take seriously their commitment to the environment and are working hard in communities throughout the U.S. to make sure that their operations are as safe as possible."

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**THE
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