



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.

March 1990

Lianne Larson...Golf Course Her Office

You could call her "the voice that's always there."

After all, it was the dead of winter, nothing stirring except the snowflakes outside, and one short ring brought Lianne Larson to the telephone.

"Now you know why I'm not able to make those meetings (GCSANE monthly sessions)," the Milford Country Club superintendent chirped. "It seems like I'm always here (which she is). But it's that kind of job. Help doesn't come rushing out of the walls here. However, for me it's a step upward. All these hours are going to pay off...I hope."

So, the golf course is Lianne's office where she works, perhaps an exaggerated 24 hours a day.

"You don't believe it?" she laughed. "You should come around in July. By that time I'm your typical, raving maniac."

Milford is the second head super stop for the 27 year old, one-time pride of the Milford High School golf team. Before that she spent three and one-half years at St. Mark's after getting her feet wet in the profession as assistant at Blackstone Valley (now in the process of becoming the New England Country Club).

All of this progress without formal education along turf lines. Oh, Lianne is a graduate of Dean Junior College and business major. She tried to take advantage of it, too, but after nine months in a cooped-up office she decided to tackle the wide world of golf.

"I tried to get into the winter school at Stockbridge," she explained. "But I was placed on a wait list. In the meantime I read every book on golf course maintenance, went to every seminar I could find, and enrolled in the hard school of knocks (experience)."

Of course, Lianne also had an extensive background in golf as a player and closed in on turf maintenance by operating her own landscaping business to finance herself through Dean. That's how she developed her exemplary work habits.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 9 - Walpole C.C.
Regular Meeting

May 7 - Woodland C.C.
Regular Meeting

June 11 - Belmont C.C.
Supt. - Chairman

The 1990 Maine Turfgrass Conference and Show will be held March 19-20 at the Holiday Inn, downtown Portland. A partial list of speakers includes Patty Knaggs, Dr. Lois Stack, Dr. Karl Dannenberger, Brian Silva, Pat Lucas, and Dr. Noel Jackson.

"Right," Lianne told. "For three years my days were spent with the landscaping business, my nights in school. I suppose that's when I discovered I could get by with as little sleep as possible."

Her first solo flight as head superintendent at St. Mark's was a good launching pad for Lianne who grew up next door to the Milford CC (then a public course) where she played to a seven-handicap and held the No. 3 position on the boys' high school golf team.

"They tell me I'm the first woman ever to play on a boys' golf team in Massachusetts," she remarked. "However, it had nothing to do with a feminist attitude, nor has it anything to do with my attempt to compete in a profession heavily populated by men."

Lianne, who also pulled a stint as grounds manager of Milford Hospital as part of her college fund drive, thought she was ready to move up the superintendent's ladder after her results at St. Mark's swelled the membership from 85 to 475.

"There was no salary improvement, so I started to think about applying for something else," Lianne revealed. "Funny thing, though. Before I even tried, Milford called and offered me the job. At first I was hired as a consultant while the course was being revamped and eventually they asked me to stay on as superintendent.

"Naturally, again there was a matter of salary to be discussed. I wasn't going to give my expertise away. I thought I deserved a salary in line with what I had accomplished. Yet I was surprised

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when they gave me what I wanted. I call this an upward move but by no means does it reflect a feeling I've reached the top."

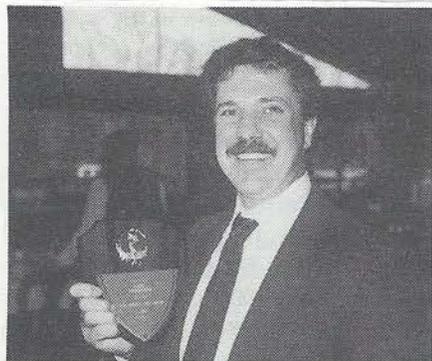
Lianne, who lives in her own home in Hopedale (she also has a real estate broker's license), has no problem directing men workers, and her presence at Milford doesn't turn any heads. In fact, she says it was harder to win over the members than the people who had to take orders from her.

She still has goals, too.

"I've been at Milford three years and I think I've left a mark here in the way the golf course has been maintained," Lianne said. "And I think everyone knows my next step is to land a job at an 18-hole course. I'd really like to emulate my idol's career. You know her, Patty Knaggs. She has the top job at Westchester and she's been sort of a standard bearer for women in the business. We've met at seminars and exchanged ideas. She's great. But, remember, I'm not into this feminist stuff when I say that."

Lianne Larson, then, knows where she is and where she's going. She still has a lot of mountains to climb, but she has the know-how and work ethic to scale them. Nice to have her aboard.

GERRY FINN



Mike Cornicelli picks up his award for winning 1989 commercial team of two event.



New 1990 board members. Front row left to right: Bob Dirico, Charlie Passios, Eric Newell, Paul Jamrog, Kevin Osgood, Chip Bearyl, Paul Miller. Back row: Ron Milenski, Steve Chiavaroli, Dick Zepp, Bob Ruzsala, Kip Tyler.

The Super Speaks Out

This month's question: *Are you currently engaged in a long-range tree program for your golf course, how is it funded, and to what financial extent do you go to make the program a success?*



Ron Milenski, International Golf Club: "We're very much into long-range planning in bringing size, shape, and population of trees on the golf course in line with the rest of the maintenance program.

"It all began about nine years ago when we brought in Brian Silva (golf course architect) to look at the course down the road and set up a long-range plan to retain our trees' overall contribution to the looks and playability of the golf course.

"Presently, we sort of review and reshape the program once a year. That's when I tour the course with an arborist with the purpose of what our goals should be for the next 12 months.

"In most areas we have more than enough trees at International. Therefore, removal and pruning make up the heaviest part of our tree maintenance. And it's worked out well.

"I work the tree program into the budget because we hire out heavy pruning and cutting projects to a local contractor. We have no provisions for skilled work like that so we let the professionals cut them (with the safety factor in mind) and we get rid of their drops. We have our own stump grinder. Therefore, we either grind up the cuts or burn them when it is advisable to do so.

"So far we're very pleased with this project and the course reflects all the effort and money we've put into the tree program."



Kevin Osgood, Newton Commonwealth Golf Club: "We're into an almost-ready-to-get-it-off-the-ground mood as far as a long range tree

program is concerned. I know my board is very interested, so it's just a matter of time and how far we want to go.

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"In the meantime, I'm into a program on a smaller scale where I use funds from my regular budget to plant about 20 trees a year and hire professional tree climbers to top those trees that have grown out of hand over the years.

"The trees we buy at the present are in the four to five-foot range. The average growth works out to about one foot a year. This means that we have something worthwhile in about four or five years. But, remember, we've been doing this for ten years or more and the results have been very favorable.

"We do our own pruning of smaller trees, like apple or whatever, and leave the big stuff to an outside company. They do the dropping, we do the clean-up. There's a good-sized dump on the premises, so that takes care of one removal headache. Another solution is to put grass bunkers in the trouble-removal spots.

"One problem has been solved. We stopped planting spruce trees, so we're not bothered by people coming in and cutting them at Christmas time. We lost three this year. They wound up in somebody's living or play room. Therefore, we won't replace them and invite more vandalism.

"Whatever course we take, I'm all for tree planning. Definitely, it has to have a high place on a superintendent's maintenance program."



Jim Beane, Mt. Pleasant Country Club: "You're talking to the right man when it comes to trees—both planting them and losing them.

"There's a date, made in cement, that stays in my mind—our members', too. On July 11, 1989, a tornado touched down on Boylston and went through the course something fierce. When we assessed the situation, we found ourselves shorn of 115 trees. That's instant and almost total removal.

"Yet, surprisingly, the loss of those trees didn't make much of a difference

in how our members had to play the course. There was one big change, only one, at the 13th tee where felled trees opened up what was a driving chute.

"Regardless, there still was the matter of clean-up and I had to dig \$2000 deep into my budget to take care of that, plus finding money to buy tree replacements at a nursery.

"My main replacement source, though, was the woods on the course. We've been digging up small, white pines and replanting them. They go about six to eight feet, the transplant survival rate is good, and in ten years or so they should double in size.

"As for pruning and high-top cutting, we do our own. Fortunately, we're able to borrow a bucket truck from the town and one of my crew is a retired tree trimmer from an electric company. He knows what he's doing and the process is working well.

"So, I don't have many complaints. Our tree planning program seems to be working, just as I had hoped it would."

GERRY FINN



GCSANE membership listens to guest speakers at Annual Meeting

APRIL MEETING

**Monday, April 9, 1990
Walpole Country Club
Walpole, MA**

9:00 am Directors meeting
10:30 am Regular meeting &
Educational Session
12:00 noon Lunch

Golf after lunch, weather permitting

**Host Superintendent —
Mark Gagne**

**Reservations Required by April 5 —
(617) 527-6968
Leave Name**

Mark is a graduate of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, UMass, class of 1986. Previous to assuming the Superintendent position at Walpole one year ago, he held the reins at Tory Pines Golf Resort in Francistown, NH for three years.

Born in Waltham, Mark currently is residing in Mansfield where, in his spare time, he enjoys a round of golf and an occasional trip down the slopes.

FROM THE NORTH

95S to Exit 9 (Rt. 1 South). Turn right at first set of lights. Follow 200 yards and go straight at the fork. Follow for 1/2 mile to the club.

FROM THE SOUTH

95N to Exit 9 (Rt. 1 South). Bear left to first set of lights. Turn right. Follow 200 yards and go straight at the fork. Follow for 1/2 mile to the club.

—SITUATION WANTED—

34 year old male seeking Assistant Superintendent position. Two year degree in Turf Mgmt. Twelve years experience on both public and semi-private courses. Recently returned from teaching small scale vegetable production in Lesotho, Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer. Am willing to relocate anywhere in the New England area. Resume available upon request. Call (617) 969-9268.

President's Message



With the season rapidly approaching, it won't be long before the smell of fresh cut grass is in the air. This is definitely a time to reflect on what the winter of 1989-90 has meant to you. I have always believed that exposure to other superintendents' courses is a great tool in critiquing my own. This winter at the GCSAA Golf Tournament, we all experienced first hand bent grass greens (Grand Cypress) as opposed to overseeded greens at most of the other courses. I can only speak for myself on that evaluation, but I'm sure that there are substantial budget differences. The architectural comparisons were also worth noting. All in all, it was a great experience for those who participated. Where playability on our courses is always an issue of membership discussion, our participation in this great game at any level is extremely important.

The conference itself was a huge success, with more than 17,000 attending. It is rapidly becoming one of the largest conferences in the country. I would encourage those who did not attend this year to budget for it in 1991.



New president Paul Miller (right) thanks past president Dick Zepp for a job well done.

We all have an obligation to our golf facilities to keep abreast of the ever changing concepts. The environmental issues are only going to get tougher and our involvement as a group is going to be vital. I ask for your input, support, and attendance at local meetings. Get involved! If you have suggestions, voice them, don't sit back and complain. Maybe we all can benefit. We on the Board are only there to deal with problems that arise or have not been already solved. In this upcoming season, let's attack these issues in a unified manner and agree to disagree. Lack of involvement helps no one.

In closing, I would like to leave you with this thought: If you are not part of the solution, you could be part of the problem.

PAUL MILLER

Divot Drift

Tom Curran has retired from Eastman C.C. and is a new Life Member of the Association.

Special thanks to the three past Board members for many years of excellent hard work for the Association. Dave Barber, Ron Kirkman, and Tom Schofield.

Twenty-five Year Pin recipients awarded in February were Lenny Blodgett, Eugene Dooley, Charlie Gardner, John Petraitis, and Dean Robertson.

Daniel Higgins is the new Superintendent at Winchester C.C. Dan was formerly Superintendent at Cohasse C.C.

Randy Kehres is the new Superintendent at Pleasant Valley C.C. He was formerly the Superintendent at C.C. at Muirfield Village, Dublin, Ohio.

When members receive their 1990 membership cards, turn it over! The GCSANE meeting dates are printed on the back. Thanks to Bob DiRico, we now have an answering machine to call

for all regular meeting reservations, (617) 527-6968. USE IT PLEASE!

Allen Cumps, regional manager of O.M. Scotts, is recovering from a heart attack suffered in late January. We wish him well.

Robin Hayes is now a salesperson for the Irrigation Division at Sawtelle Bros., Lawrence, Mass.

We wish Dr. C.R. Skogley the very best in his retirement from the University of Rhode Island in December.

Kevin Lyons, the commercial representative to the GCSANE Board of Governors, has been invited to attend every regular Board meeting. This will give the Board regular input about the concerns of the commercial division.

Thanks to Jack Hasset for a superb lunch at our February meeting at Mt. Pleasant. The only complaint came from Steve "Cookie" Chiavaroli who could not seem to locate...you guessed it...a big, beautiful chocolate chipper.

Waltham Field Station will be losing Dr. Pat Vittum and Dr. Rob Wick due to budget cuts. They will be relocating to the Univ. of Mass. Amherst. Also due to budget restraints, Reggie Mimms, assistant to Pat Vittum, will be terminated as of July 1990.

NEW ENGLAND GOLF COURSE MECHANICS ASSOCIATION

Attention Golf Course Superintendent and Mechanics. Any persons interested in forming a Golf Course Mechanics Association please contact by mail:

Steve Lucas—Grounds Department
Weston Golf Club
275 Meadowbrook Road
Weston, MA 02193

or

Brian Francis—Grounds Department
The Country Club
191 Clyde Street
Brookline, MA 02147

High Pressure Injection For Control of Soil Insects

Dr. Patricia J. Vittum
University of Massachusetts

Recently a new application technique has been developed which can apply turf insecticides at pressures up to 2000 psi. (For a picture of a high pressure injection unit and a description of the equipment, see my article in the November 1989 issue of *Golf Course Management*.)

We conducted several field trials in 1989 using Triumph and Dursban. In each of the Triumph trials we found that the one pound rate (half label rate) at high pressure gave us as good or better control than the two pound rate at conventional pressure. The tests involving Dursban were much less conclusive. Most of the tests indicated that even the four pound rate at high pressure did not give adequate levels of grub control. Apparently the high pressure injection technique is still not enough to push Dursban far enough into the thatch to provide acceptable grub control.

One set of studies planned for 1990 will look at the level of control obtained by watering immediately after application versus delaying for three or four days. The materials MAY be less dependent on post-treatment water, but experience in the Northeast and the Southeast indicates that PRE-treatment moisture in the thatch and the soil is critical.

One other advantage of this application technique is that the chemical is forced out of direct sunlight. In the case of Dursban in the Southeast, this seems to be one reason the performance is enhanced. I suspect we will see similar enhancement in the synthetic pyrethroids this year.

In the Southeast, commercial companies have purchased large units

(up to 1,000 gallon tanks) and offer wall to wall treatments on a contract basis. A similar procedure—or perhaps a cooperative purchase arrangement—might work in the Northeast. As far as I know, there is only one company building units which can deliver 1,500 to 2,000 psi for turf applications. They will build to your specifications—tank size, boom width, and so on. For more information, contact Cross Equipment Company, 1401 Radium Springs Road, Albany, GA 31705, telephone 1-800-342-3503.

A word of caution—high pressure injection has tremendous potential for use in golf courses and other high quality turf areas, for any material which must be moved through the thatch. (For example, we also hope to look at summer patch controls this summer.) However, there has been only one season of field tests in the Northeast and so far only three insecticides have been studied. One of those is considerably enhanced, one is not enhanced at all, and the jury is still out on the third material (Diazinon). In addition, field work in the Southeast indicates that the technique works best with materials which are available as emulsifiable concentrates, and not nearly as well with flowables or powders. This technique will not be the final solution to our efforts to control white grubs, but it may very well become an important tool in your management efforts.

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Joe Eckstrom
Glen Ellen C.C.

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Lexington, MA
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Peter Norton, Golf Professional
55 Hill Street
Lexington, MA 02173
(617) 862-9614

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