



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.

May 1990

Supers Have to Make It Happen



On a recent day our leader said it best.

"We have to keep banging away at our members about the importance of turf research," New England

Golf Course Superintendents Association president Paul Miller leveled. "One day we'd like to make a donation that could open all kinds of doors for the research people, maybe to the point where we provide new facilities to bolster the research effort. That's how big this thing has become."

So, the challenge is out there for superintendents to pick up and deliver the eventual victory to the golf courses they tend--the means for research that could make golf an even greater game than it is at the present time.

One super in particular already has picked up that challenge. He's Kevin Osgood of the Newton Commonwealth Golf Club. At the end of the 1989 golf season Kevin launched a drive at the city's public course. When all the returns were in, he had collected \$1,200 which went into the research fund's growing pot.

Frankly, Osgood's initiative sparked what might be a role model project for the rest of his colleagues. He just sat down, wrote his regular (associate) members a letter and waited for their response.

It was heartwarming, not to mention overpowering.

"I just got a club mailing list on one of those rainy days we often encounter, drew up a letter and sent it out." Kevin disclosed. "It wasn't anything fancy,

just a plain-fact explanation of how vital turf research is to vitually everything that touches the game and how it would benefit golfers in the long run.

"There were some 300 names on the list and the project cost me about \$50

JUNE MEETING

Monday, June 11, 1990
Belmont Country Club
Belmont, MA

Tournament
Superintendent/Green Chairman
Championship

11:30 am Buffet Lunch
12:30 pm Shotgun Start
5:30 pm Cocktails and
Hors D'oeuvres
7:00 pm Dinner

Host Superintendent
Arthur Silva

Reservations Required

Field limited to the first 64 teams registered. Separate registration form will be mailed.

Art has been Superintendent at Belmont C.C. for the past eight years and has been employed there for a total of 19 years. He achieved the status of Certified Golf Course Superintendent in 1988. Art was born in the Azores off of Portugal and moved to the States in 1960. He and his wife Mary currently reside in Tewksbury and have two children, Marc, 16 and Christine, 11. Art is an avid soccer fan.

DIRECTIONS

From Route 128, take Route 2 East to the Winter Street exit and bear right. Belmont C.C. is located 1/4 mile on the left side.

which came out of my budget. Before I knew it, people were coming up to me, pushing bills and checks into my hands. I'd say about one-third of the members came through with donations. I consider that very successful. You know, our golfers are public linkers. So, it was a response from the man on the street."

At first Kevin was surprised. However, after giving it second thoughts, his reaction changed to one giving him much pleasure. He said the donations ranged from two to fifty dollars; the average worked out to \$12 a response.

Osgood came up with the idea after learning that club donations for research hadn't lived up to the expectations of Miller and his predecessor, Dick Zepp of Whitinsville.

"I think you people had a story about donations in the Newsletter," Kevin told. "And, as I recall, the figures weren't too encouraging--something like 30 clubs contributing \$200 apiece for a total of \$6,000. That didn't seem like much to me."

That's what gave Osgood the urge to go ahead on his own and conduct a personal rsearch drive.

"The key to the way I decided to take a more active part in research was the method," Kevin explained. "Instead of talking to members one at a time or in small groups, I touched all of them with that one letter. It was my way of selling the research fund to golfers who like to think they're interested in helping improve playing as well as

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maintenance conditions. Well, my members don't have to think they're interested now. They proved it with their response."

The turf research fund is the responsibility of the superintendent and Osgood is just one example of the super who steps to the front and makes something constructive happen.

"Oh, we have to get into this (research fund drive) because of our long-going relationship with the cause and what it means to the game," Kevin said. "And, remember, this was just something that came spinning off the top of my head. I'm sure there are superintendents who have just as good, if not better ideas to raise money."

Miller certainly hopes so. He was pleased with the results of the first Turf Research Golf Tournament last season at the Dedham Polo and Country Club. However, he was just as displeased with the "weak" showing in the club donation effort.

That goes for Zepp, too. The former NEGCSA president made the research fund one of his top priorities during his tenure, and Miller has the same feel for it as the group's present prexy.

Regardless, someone had to show New England supers the way and Osgood provided the example. In fact, Kevin's already thinking of this year's drive at Commonwealth. Hopefully, it's taken a front burner position with the rest of the NEGCSA gang.

GERRY FINN

JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|---------|--|
| June 11 | Belmont C.C. Supt.-Chairman |
| June 21 | U. of Mass. Field Day S. Deerfield, MA |
| July 9 | Worcester C.C. Individual Championship |

The Super Speaks Out

This month's question: *With environmental clout bringing change after change to the maintenance mode of the golf course superintendent, what has been your experience with fluctuating codes and regulations affecting the use of underground fuel tanks?*



Dick Zepp, Whitinsville Golf Club:

"We've already approached the problem of facing annual tests and the like and completed replacement of a 500-gallon fuel tank a year ago. The cost, \$9,000, was reasonable in light of the fact that I understand it's risen since we got into it and will continue to rise as more and more clubs are virtually forced to replace underground tanks.

"Maybe I shouldn't use the term, 'forced'. Rather, I should say coming in with new tanks is the more practical method of solving the problem as opposed to undergoing yearly tests which follow the natural curve of going up and up as the need for them increases.

"Our old tank was 25 years old and, therefore, eligible to undergo testing every year. There wasn't much of a selling point to my members needed. I just advised that we replace the tank before there was a problem.

"I really don't have any quarrel with the requirement that old tanks be tested on a regular basis or be replaced. However, I can only wonder how long it will take for the powers that be to put a set of permanent regulations in place, so we don't have to worry about conforming to new ones that might undo what we've accomplished using present codes and regulations as a guideline.

"One other gripe. There continues to be too much politics involved in this

issue. Certain groups are exempt from tests and replacement expense, and the golf course, among other businesses, has to suffer for it. This should be a fair-share venture, nothing less."



Rick Arzillo, Unicorn Golf Club:

"I'm all for the program of replacing underground fuel tanks and have been fighting a financial battle with the Town of Stoneham for over two years trying to get the funds to do the job.

"Sad to say, this is where the municipal golf course concept comes up short when matters of money and budget are concerned. Like most towns these days, Stoneham feels a financial crunch and every department has to pay for it.

"I've preached and preached about the feasibility of and necessity for replacing our tank, which is more than 20 years old. Last year we had a test at a cost of \$750. I can't begin to think how much more it will cost the next time. Therefore, replacing a tank at a cost of from twenty to thirty thousand dollars makes sense over the long run.

"Let's face it. Sooner or later all of us (superintendents) are going to have to replace underground tanks. The smart thing is to do it now while the costs are at a level most clubs can afford.

"As for the municipal supers, we have to feel for each other. Consider Unicorn. Last year we had 57,000 rounds and turned over a \$270,000 total in receipts and profits. However, that money goes into the town's general fund. How much of it comes back to us is always a struggle.

"So far, my pleas for a new tank have fallen on unreceptive ears. But I'm going to keep making town officials aware of this problem. They have to respond. They have to come up with the money sometime and the longer they wait the more it'll cost the town in the end."

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Dick Duggan, Concord Country Club: "We have conformed to the underground tank edict and I think I speak for the club when I say replacing

two tanks, not one, was the best environmental move we could possibly make.

"Believe me, ours was a big job, big and expensive....in the low 40s as a matter of fact. We buried a 1,000-gallon tank for regular fuel and another of 550 gallons for diesel fuel, and it was done in the dead of winter -December.

"We also went to pains, expensive or otherwise, to see that we were providing protection to both the club and town. Because a source of town water is 2,000 feet from the club we used double-walled steel tanks and lowered them into a concrete vault. We even made provisions to make subtle mechanical adjustments should codes and requisitions change. We all know that happens more often than not.

"It was a lot of money to spend but my members understood the need for such expense, especially after my greens chairman was very supportive of the project. We also met with town officials (health, planning, etc.) and went by their recommendations when we finalized our construction plans.

"One of the interesting offshoots to the whole thing was the condition of the old fuel tank. It was 40 years old. But when it came up, it looked in good shape. There was a little rust here and there. However, I'd say it was in remarkable condition for its age.

"Another follow-up to the job was getting rid of the old tank. As far as I know there's only one tank disposal area in these parts. We got it there all right. But I can see a problem developing along those lines should more clubs and other groups continue to replace underground tanks. I'm just glad my experience with replacement is over and done with - done with just as long as they don't go crazy with new codes and regulations down the road."

GERRY FINN

Update: Golf Course Mechanics Association— Persistence is the Key

Back in January of this year, Steve Lucas, the Head Mechanic at Weston Golf Club, made the decision to move forward on an idea that had been on the back of his mind for some time. That decision, to form a local association of golf course mechanics, is currently in the formulative stages.

Steve and Brian Francis of The Country Club have gotten together and are laying the foundation of this group in Massachusetts, if not New England. Through industry trade journals, they realized that this type of association presently exists in Illinois, Florida, and the Carolinas and felt that many benefits would be realized from a formal association in our area with its many golf courses. They see a need for communication and exchange of ideas beyond what takes place at the seminar level.



John Lenhart follows his drive with a look of concern at Walpole C.C.

With the full support of Superintendent Don Hearn, Steve is currently gathering information for the development of a set of by-laws and any other pertinent information from the associations that exist, as well as from the Lake City Community College in Florida that offers a program specifically in golf course mechanics. He plans on contacting individual mechanics in the area through a direct mailing and is planning the first meeting for the fall of this year.

Steve realizes that the success of his work will demand persistence and the support of the members of the GCSANE, much like he has received from Don. After all, we realize the value of a quality mechanic in the smooth operation of our day to day maintenance practices and we certainly realize the benefits of our own Association(s). If you haven't yet discussed this opportunity with your mechanic, now is the time. Steve can be contacted at (617) 894-2383 to answer any questions.

PETER A. HASAK

WELCOME —NEW MEMBERS—

Robert Lake
Regular Member
Holden Hills C.C.

Randy Kehres
Regular Member
Pleasant Valley C.C.

Richard McHugh
Assistant Member
Framingham C.C.

PROPOSED —NEW MEMBERS—

Patrick Lucas
Regular Member
Innis Arden G.C.

Robert Chisholm
Regular Member
Ridder Golf Club

Government Relations

Last fall, the Green Industry Council approved the formation of a committee to address our concerns and interests in legislature and with regulatory agencies. Since that time, the G.I.C. Public Policy Committee was formed. Eric Newell, Charles Passios, and Dick Zepp are the representatives for GCSANE and are acting liaisons between our association and the Public Policy Committee.

Each year 8 to 10,000 bills are filed in legislature. As a member of the G.I.C., we have an active lobbyist, Mr. Jeff Fleming, to review all legislation and report to us bills which post an impact to our industry. Currently, the Hodgkin's Bill is expected to be refiled and the Amick Bill picked up by another sponsor. Rep. Steve Angelo, House Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, plans to file a bill addressing the Massachusetts Pesticide Act to compete against Hodgkins. The Public Policy Committee is reviewing the draft of this bill. The Massachusetts Department of Food & Agriculture Pesticide Board has released proposed regulations governing the mixing, loading, storage, and transportation of pesticides by all licensed applicators. The PPC has already reviewed this bill and sent comment to Pesticide Bureau Chief, Gail Kaprielian. The bill is expected to go to public hearing after approval from the Pesticide Board. Other bills of interest include protection of public water supplies from pesticide contamination, golf

**University of Massachusetts
Turfgrass Research Field Day
June 21, 1990**

University of Massachusetts Turfgrass Research Center, South Deerfield, MA. Contact Dr. Richard J. Cooper, Dept. of Plant and Soil Sciences, Univ. of Mass., Amherst, MA 01003 (413) 545-2353.

courses being taxed as commercial property, various workmen's comp regulations, underground storage tanks, and more. Do not forget the regulation already passed last fall classifying all 2,4-D products containing 20% or more a.i. as restricted use.

Green Industry Highlights

- A proposal submitted by the UMass Turf Specialists to initiate an IPM training program for the industry was NOT funded by the UMass Cooperative Extension IPM Program.
- The Right To Know office of the Department of Environmental Protection has been eliminated due to state budget cuts. This cut will reduce the outreach and enforcement of the program, but does not change your obligation as employers under the law.
- Effective July 1, 1990, the Waltham Field Station will become the UMass Educational Center for the Green Industries. The research faculty, including Dr. Pat Vittum and Rob Wick, will be relocated to UMass Amherst.
- A new newsletter for turf managers called "Turf Notes" has been published. It is authored by Dr. Vittum, Dr. Schumann, Dr. Cooper, and Dr. Bhomik. To receive, contact Mary Owen at Worcester County Cooperative Extension, 759 Main St., Leicester, MA 01524 or (508) 892-1116.
- A new video is being produced by the Green Industry Council. The video will introduce high school students to all aspects of the green industry. The 12-15 minute video will portray the green industry as progressive, technical, and a fulfilling career choice.
- Under normal weather conditions, the Quabbin should reach 92% by June. This level is enough to satisfy greater Boston's needs, occurring for the first time in 20 years.

ERIC NEWELL
Government Relations Chairman

Daconil 2787

Several years ago CBS television network ran a story on "60 Minutes" about the death of Navy Lt. George Prior. In that story they claimed the fungicide Daconil 2787 caused his death after playing golf on a course sprayed with the product. Recently CBS Nightly News referred to the case again in a segment on lawn care and continued to claim Daconil 2787 killed Lt. Prior. (During this segment, CBS reporter Rita Braver referred to Daconil as a herbicide.) The following is a statement put out by the manufacturer of Daconil 2787, Fermenta Plant Protection Company, Mentor, Ohio.

KIP TYLER

DACONIL 2787 STATEMENT

Prior v. Diamond Shamrock Lawsuit

Listed below are the facts concerning the 1982 death of Navy Lt. George Prior.

On May 9, 1988, the TRIAL COURT in the case entered judgment IN FAVOR of the defendants. These are the facts:

- Lt. Prior died from Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN), which was caused by a viral infection.
- A review of ALL medical writings regarding TEN confirmed that Daconil 2787 has never been associated with the disease.
- Daconil 2787 has been used on golf course turf for more than 18 years with over THREE BILLION rounds of golf being played without any reported incidents of TEN.

Summary Conclusion:

Extensive evidence developed for this case, including product usage information from more than 18 years, clearly demonstrated that Daconil 2787 fungicide DID NOT cause TEN, that resulted in Lt. Prior's death.

GCSAA Government Relations Briefing

EPA Extends Deadline For UST Financial Accountability

Superintendents will have some extra time to respond to the federal mandate for underground storage tank financial responsibility. EPA announced in late March that tank owners would have until October 26, 1991, to ensure that they can pay for clean-up operations if a leak should occur. The deadline—originally set for

this October—was extended to safeguard small gas stations that were financially jeopardized by the new law.

For golf courses, the deadline extension also means more time to assess and upgrade tanks before insuring them. "The extra time allows superintendents to make more knowledgeable decisions about tank replacement or upgrade," noted Pat Jones, director of communications for GCSAA. He added that superintendents must consider liability and insurance consequences when deciding whether to install a new tank. "Newer tanks are much less expensive to insure and much safer," he said.

Courses interested in GCSAA-sponsored UST insurance are still being urged to apply for the program well before the new deadline. "Superintendents need to get started on this process right away," Jones said. "It's going to be legally required next year, courses are exposed (uninsured) for a leak now, and it takes some time to check out the tank and go through the process of applying for the program."

CONGRATULATIONS

**Certified
Golf Course Superintendent**
Orrin Ellis
Pine Meadows G.C.

Al Sanders, formerly of Juniper Hill G.C., Northboro, MA, has become a retired member of GCSANE.

Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Richard Cooper on the birth of their son Albert on April 9th, 7 lbs. 14 oz.

April Golf Results Walpole C.C. (Quota Tourney)

Team

Even: Mark Gagne, Paul Miller, Mike Cornicelli, Eric Newell

-7: Don Levangie, Paul Brooks, David Comee, John Hudyka

Individual

+1 Keith Gavin
+1 Eric Newell
E Norman Mucciarone
E Mike Cornicelli
E Mike Nagle

Long Drive: Carl DeSimone
Closest to Pin: Rick Arzillo



Members of GCSANE listen to guest speaker Chris Hawthorne of Safety Strategy Co. talk about pesticide storage buildings at April meeting.

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