



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.

December 1992

Pollution problem over for Pat Lewis

Annual Meeting

Monday, January 11, 1993
Franklin C.C.
Franklin, Mass.

Host Superintendent
Gary Luccini

Education - Open Discussion

10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
11:30 a.m.	Regular Meeting
12:00 noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Education

Reservations Required
Call by January 7
(617) 328-9479

You must pay by check—No Cash!!
Checks payable to GCSANE

Gary Luccini has been superintendent at Franklin C.C. for 23 years. He graduated from Stockbridge in 1962 and was then assistant at Dedham C.C. for five years. Gary then built Pine Oaks in Easton, Mass., a nine-hole course, before moving on to Franklin. In 1989 he was consultant to the Hale Irwin Golf Service in the building of New England C.C. Married to wife Kathy, they have two daughters (Cheryl, 20, and Beth, 13) and two sons (Mike, 22, and Brian, 21). Both boys are in the turf management program at Stockbridge. In his spare time, Gary enjoys auto racing, golf, and hockey. He is the voice of Franklin High School hockey on Cable Channel 10, coaches a high school summer hockey league, and also for the spring Europa Cup.

Directions to Franklin C.C.: From the north - 128 South to 95 South to 495 North. Take Franklin-King Street exit. Take left at ramp and follow 1-1/2 miles to set of lights. Take a right and follow for two miles. Club is on the right. From the south - 495 to Franklin-King Street exit. Take right off ramp. Follow to set of lights and take a right. Club is two miles on right.

Two years ago, the Portland, Maine Country Club and golf course superintendent Pat Lewis were wallowing in a pollution problem. Long before Lewis took over the grooming chores in 1987, a strange toxic buildup had hit three connecting ponds at the venerable club, established in 1895, and choked all life from them.

"The ponds were being taken over by cat-o'-nine-tails," Pat explained. "They were the only form of life in them. I had heard stories of how Portland was famous for the huge turtles that lived in the ponds. I never saw them. When I got here, they were gone along with the frogs and muskrats they shared the ponds with. It was a sorry sight, a sad situation.

Then along came the Lambda Bioremediation Company of Columbus, Ohio, specialists in pollution cleanup. Bioremediation is an exclusive process used to eliminate toxic agents from contaminated areas. "It's actually a secret method," Lewis advised. "The company's still waiting to receive a patent for bioremediation. So, in a way, it's a hush-hush thing. Regardless, it's had a positive impact on the golf course."

The process introduces microscopic bacteria into the affected water or soil. They are encouraged to multiply and

"It's actually a secret method. The company's still waiting to receive a patent for bioremediation. So in a way, it's a hush-hush thing."

Pat Lewis

eventually they break down the digestive properties of the pollutants.

Over a period of time, the cat-o'-nine-tails at Portland gradually disappeared and the ponds were restored to their natural state. In fact, they have been reclassified as being in drinking-water state. The turtles, frogs, and muskrats also have given the back-to-live condition their approval. According to Lewis, they've again taken up residence in the one-time poisoned ponds.

That's a capsuled form of the ways and means the Portland Country Club used to clean up its environmental act. But it was not all that finger-snapping easy.

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Editor's Final Note:

After three years of putting together *The Newsletter*, I am turning over the controls to Jim Reinertson, Wayland C.C. I hope you have found *The Newsletter* to be informative and entertaining.

Thanks to past and present business managers Ron Milenski, CGCS, and Paul Jamrog. Many thanks to Gerry Finn who did much of the writing (he has been writing for GCSANE for about 25 years). And a final thank you to Zip Type Service of Newburyport. Sheila, Reg, Russ, Sue, and Carol did an excellent job of printing not only our publication but all our Association's printed material.

KIP TYLER

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PAUL JAMROG
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GERRY FINN
Contributing Editor

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GCSANE proposed officers for 1993

Proposed GCSANE Slate of Officers and Trustees for 1993:

President - Stephen A. Chiavaroli, CGCS, Tatnuck C.C.; Vice President - Edward L. Brearley, Bay Pointe C.C.; Secretary - Robert DiRico, CGCS, Brae Burn C.C.; Treasurer - Paul Jamrog, The Orchards G.C.

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"Some of the stories going around might imply that our members were trying to hide the pollution problem here," Lewis told. "On the contrary, they were just as concerned about correcting it as anyone in the area. I have to stress that spending the money for the project was a self-motivated action by the membership. No one was holding a gun to their heads.

"The ongoing question from the day the members realized something had to be done about the ponds was how to find a solution that would be permanent. We could have gone into dredging, added salt water to kill the spread of cat-tails, or tried continuous spraying. None of these remedies would do."

So, the situation was at a standstill until a Portland member heard of Lambda and decided to investigate the possibilities of hiring the company to bring the three dead ponds back to life.

When the membership agreed to the lambda involvement, Jo Davison, a research director for the company, was flown in from Ohio to take samples from the ponds to determine what kind of toxic agents were present.

"I remember the day she was here," Lewis recalled. "It was November of '89 and it was unusually cold for that time of year. But she didn't seem to mind. The next thing I knew, she was talking about burlap bags, charcoal, and how the bioremediation process would be activated. They just threw about a hundred bags of the 'formula' into the ponds and waited for the cleanup to happen."

And it did.

"I've been keeping a log on the condition of the ponds since the start of the process, including taking pictures of the gradual improvement," Pat disclosed. "It's amazing. So far so good. Everything seems to be in good shape, both from an ecological and cosmetic standpoint. The cost was in the \$30,000 range and, definitely, it was worth it."

Today, Lewis is relieved that the pollution problem is behind him and the club, even though its cause remains an un-

known. "We never got around to pinning down the cause," he explained. "I guess we were so engrossed in correcting it that the cause became secondary."

The lifeless ponds were there when Pat arrived at Portland for what is his first job as a head superintendent. Consequently, he got his feet wet early, but shrugs off the burden of tackling a big problem at the beginning of his career.

Actually, Portland with its 650 members (350 active golfing members) is the challenge Lewis always wanted from the time he became fascinated with the game while caddying for his father. Dad is Ken Lewis, a former Vermont state amateur champion and the bloodlines surface in the fact that Pat carries a four handicap.

Lewis prepped for the Portland job after assistant super stints in Connecticut and a three-year pull at Quechee under its former head man, Mark Fuller.

"I'll be starting my sixth year here next spring," Pat said, "and I suppose you could say I've never had a dull moment. But I love it. The pond experience is something you can't measure. Every time I see one of those turtles enjoying life here, I feel a sense of satisfaction. I understand we are a landmark in the pollution cleanup world, as far as golf courses go. It's nice to have played a part in it. But...I'm glad it's over."

GERRY FINN

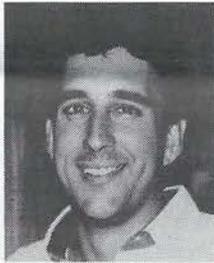
Calendar

Jan. 11, 1993	Franklin C.C. Franklin, Mass. Annual Meeting
Jan. 23-30	GCSAA International Golf Course Conf. & Show Anaheim, California
Feb. 8	Franklin C.C. Franklin, Mass. Regular Meeting
Mar. 22	Franklin C.C. Franklin, Mass. Regular Meeting

The Super Speaks Out:

This month's question: How do you handle changing cups and other related functions with that responsibility.

Rich Tworig, Cedar Hill Golf Club: "Hey, I'm a third-generation golf course superintendent, so I know the importance of where, when, and how in taking care of the cup-changing chores. I had that drilled into me by my dad and grandfather. After all, they were just as fussy about cup location as club members because they played the game with the same kind of enthusiasm.



"Prime time of the season means the cups get changed almost on a daily basis here. Actually, they are moved six times a week. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are must days.

"Everyone on my crew is involved in cup changing. It's just a matter of who's available when the job has to be done.

"The pattern of change is a given. We use a right, left, center schedule, but some of my members dig me a little about the center part. I'm known as 'never in the middle Tworig' when it comes to locating cups.

"We use the two-cut method with push type cutter and always, but always, top dress the plugs. That's another carry-over from my family ties with the profession.

"Tournament days are special for the players at Cedar Hill, so I make it my duty to do all the cup-changing when the round seems to carry a little more importance than usual. Of course, since the golfers take a stronger view of their games during tournaments, I oblige them by making the course stronger with more difficult cup location. Ninety-five percent of our greens are flat, so making the course a bigger

challenge on tournament days goes with the program.

"Everything here also is uniform in the matter of flag poles. The poles are yellow with white flags and all are seven feet in length. There's a pin location indicator on every hole with a little direction flag attached to the poles according to where the hole is.

"As you can see, we don't treat cup changing lightly. No one should."

Mark Spalding, Dedham Polo and Country Club: "There's no set-in-stone schedule for cup-changing here. I approach it practically and decide when to make a change according to playing traffic. However, I'd say the cups are moved about twice a week.

"The location is mostly a matter of random selection. However, if there is a pattern, the placements usually wind up six easy, six moderate, and six hard."

Mark Spalding

"My theory on the job, itself, is that familiarity breeds success. Therefore, I designate the same person to do the job. The experience factor reduces the risk for making mistakes. That's the reason for that.

"The location is mostly a matter of random selection. However, if there is a pattern, the placements usually wind up six easy, six moderate, and six hard.

"We use the lever type of cutter and take two cuts a hole when making the change. The plugs get treatment according to how conditions dictate. Some days we top dress, some we water plugs.

"Tournament day changes are made same as normal except for the placing of cups. I leave that up to the pro shop. I prefer it that way and the members seem

to think the same. I can't see getting into a hassle over it anyway.

"All our flag poles are yellow, but length varies. Some of them run eight feet, others ten. The determining factor on that count is the topography of the course.

"The same goes for using pin placement indicators. We use the whiffle ball type, but only on holes where sighting the pin might be a problem."

"The traffic tells me when the cups have to be moved. It could be four times one week and five another."

Dave Comee

Dave Comee, Winchendon School Golf Club: "The traffic tells me when the cups have to be moved. It could be four times one week and five another. But Saturday and Sunday are change days for sure.



"We use the lever type of cutter, one man is assigned the job on a regular basis and he takes two cuts to get the job done.

"I like the one-person idea. In my case, it's developed into a matter of much pride with the man who does it here. He even invented a gadget that is attached to the cutter and makes sure every cut is identical in depth. Maybe we should think about slapping a patent on it and get rich.

"Again, I leave the pattern of pin placement up to the same person. There are only two exceptions—our Fourth of July Tournament and a Labor Day member-member event. I set the locations for them with a paint dot. But he does the actual job of changing the cups.

"More often than not I decide that the plugs will be top-dressed. So, it's very rare that they are watered. The severe weather possibility decides what we do on that score.

"The flag poles and flags are all yellow. However, length becomes a variable. Our poles usually start out at eight feet and dwindle down to maybe five and a half feet according to vandalism incidence.

"There also was a time when we used placement indicators on the poles but abandoned it because golfers were changing them. It really doesn't matter, though, because all our greens are small.

GERRY FINN

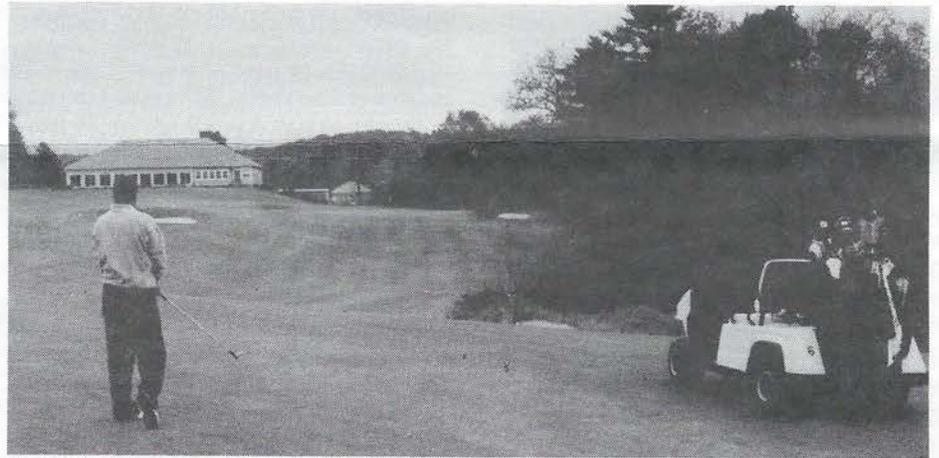
"Prime time of the season means the cups get changed almost on a daily basis here."

Rich Tworig



November meeting at Whitinsville C.C.

Pictured at left is John Petraitis blasting from a sand bunker. Below, Greg Misodoulakis lines up his second shot on a long par-4. Pictured on the course at right (left to right) are Mike Hermanson and Dave Comee. (Photos by Kip Tyler)



New England first in pesticide exposure support; GCSANE receives letter of thanks from GCSAA

Edward L. Brearley
GCSANE Research Chairman

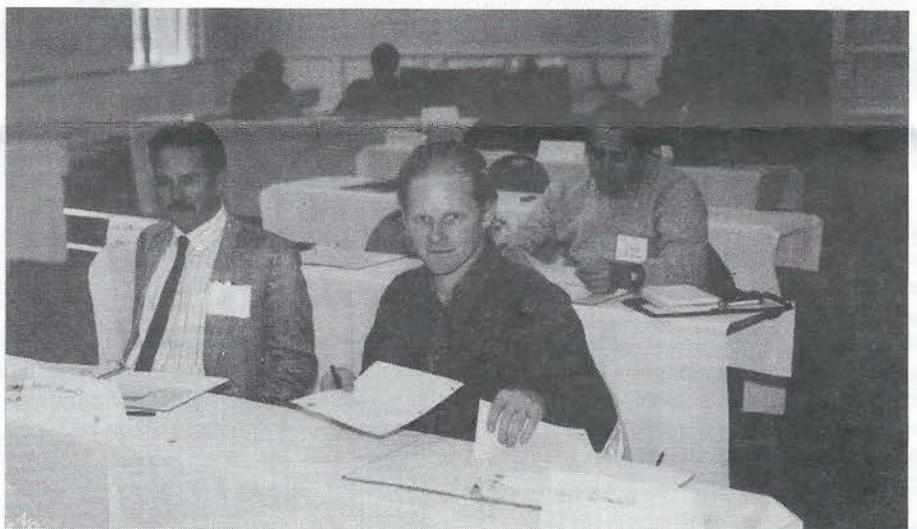
Dear Chip:

I am writing to commend the GCSA of New England for being the first GCSAA-affiliated chapter to commit financial support to the GCSAA study of pesticide exposure. GCSANE's leadership in this effort is just outstanding.

Your \$6000 contribution will be used for some of the most important work ever undertaken by GCSAA Scholarship & Research. If more chapters, corporations, and individuals follow the example you've set, we will be capable of doing tremendous work that will benefit our profession for decades to come.

On behalf of the entire board, thank you for joining us in this effort. I hope you will share this message with your fellow GCSANE members at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,
William R. Roberts, CGCS
GCSAA President



GCSAA/GCSANE Negotiation Seminar

Participants crack the books at the Negotiation Seminar Oct. 26 in Leominster, Mass. The instructor was Chuck Palmer.

“The best thing since sliced bread” ... or “Let the buyer beware”?

There are “hot” products, and then there are “hot” products.

Ever since their introduction to superintendents in February at the GCSAA conference and show in New Orleans, greens rollers haven't suffered from a lack of attention.

In addition to their exposure within the industry, the golfing public was treated to a “rolling” commentary by CBS' Gary McCord as he zipped across a green at this year's PGA Tour stop at Doral.

Marketed under names as Greensgroom, GreensIron, and TriRoller, greens roller manufacturers make claims of increased consistency, speed, and possible decreases in mowing frequency with regular use. Raising height of cut without losing green speed is another touted benefit. Too good to be true? The jury is still out and opinions are still coming in as New England's first season with, or without, its new wave of machines winds down.

“The people who own rollers are the testing ground,” said Jim Connolly, USGA Agronomist for the northeast. “There is no USGA-sanctioned testing at this time on rollers. They are very difficult to test because of the many variables involved.”

From the “testing ground”, five area superintendents shared their thoughts on greens rolling in phone interviews. Three had purchased the machines and used them this season and the remaining two had tested them and decided against purchasing a roller. All are using, or had tested, self-contained machines as opposed to add-on roller units.

Jim Diorio of Purpoodock C.C., Portland, Maine, began using a roller in mid-July on a once-a-week basis after mowing. Diorio soon switched to a twice-a-week schedule, electing to skip mowing on those two days and adding a mowing on a day he previously did not mow, effectively saving one day of mowing.

“The consistency is better and the roll is smoother,” said Diorio. “I toyed with the idea of raising the height of cut, but I left it alone. I'm happy with it as is.”

Before purchasing the roller, Diorio presented the concept to his greens committee and arranged a demonstration for his greens chairman and club president. To date, all is well.

“The reaction from members has been very positive,” said Diorio. “We haven't had any negative comments. I'm really satisfied with the equipment.”

Further south on Cape Cod, Hyannisport's Charlie Passios and New Seabury's Tom Colombo both began rolling programs this season.

“My greens were lower height-wise than I'd like to have them,” said Passios. “I've been able to raise the height and not lose any speed. The effect has been more trueness and the maintenance of speed throughout the entire course.”

Passios has also used a twice-a-week program, but had not cut down on his frequency of mowing. He curtailed rolling in late October.

Colombo has also been able to experiment with increasing his cutting height, and, like Passios, has seen speed can remain constant. Consistency has also increased, according to Colombo.

“I've had nothing but favorable comments from golfers,” said Colombo. “We have slower growth on some of our ocean-side greens and the rolling has made for more consistency from green to green.

“I'll be curious to see what happens with it next spring,” said Colombo, who began his program in mid-June. “We usually have complaints about bumpiness in the spring.”

Although both Passios and Colombo had trouble-free seasons with their new rollers, each voiced caution.

“It's just one of many tools in the entire maintenance concept,” said Passios. “It's not going to solve people's problems.

“Anyone who goes for rolling must ask themselves why they are doing it,” he said. “If it's just for speed, maybe it's better not getting involved.”

“I don't know what the long-term effects will be,” said Colombo. “For half a season it's been great. I hope it has its place in the industry.”

Electing not to embark on a rolling program this season were Bill Spence of The Country Club, and Mark Gagne of Walpole C.C. Each took a different route in arriving at this decision.

With Spence the practice ran opposite to his personal leanings against creating conditions that run contrary to turf health

and attempt to copy what he termed the new “baseline” for golf course grooming—that being the conditions seen on televised professional golf events.

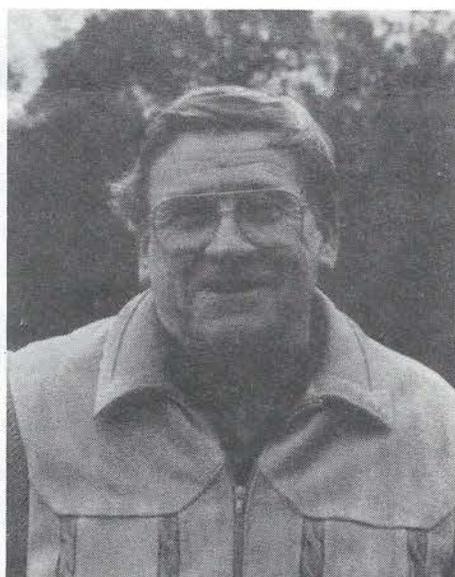
Gagne, on the other hand, had an experience that those inclined not to roll their greens may openly or secretly wish they had—his membership didn't like the harder, faster greens the rollers produced.

“The membership just did not like it at all,” said Gagne. “They felt that the roller compacted the greens and made them harder and increased spiking. It became quite an emotional issue.”

The complaints, according to Gagne, seemed to center mainly around one particular machine he tested and all came from the higher handicap members. Although more favorable results came with another roller Gagne tested, the members mindset against rolling was established and Gagne's idea of maintaining green speed while raising height of cut through rolling was put on hold.

Spence, who tested several models of rollers and saw his greens go from 8-1/2 to 9 on the Stimpmeter to 11-1/2 with one rolling felt that the focus on green speed was, and is, too great.

continued on page 6



Yes, there is a face behind the name Gerry Finn! He has written for GCSANE for 25 years.

"The best thing since sliced bread" or "Let the buyer beware"?

continued from page 6

"I feel that once a roller is in use, and once the greens committee knows that the roller is in place, it's difficult not to commit to using it all the time," Spence said.

"If you were able to buy it and use it at your own disposal, I think that would be great," he said.

Despite his reservations, Spence predicted that roller use would proliferate in an industry that will "hit the wall someday".

"The more people that play courses that use rollers, the more courses will have them," he said.

Spence's prediction bodes well for roller manufacturers, but the effects of roller use in the long run have yet to be realized.

"We may not see the effects for two to three years," said Jim Connolly. "The roller is another tool. If used properly and effectively, it can be another thing a superintendent can do to meet the needs of today's golfer."

"It's not right or wrong, it's how you use it that is right or wrong," he said.

Connolly listed the following four points of USGA concerns with respect to greens rolling: 1) rolling of greens during unfavorable weather; 2) rolling of greens following an abrasive maintenance practice; 3) rolling of greens to achieve synthetic green speeds; 4) the superintendent must be in control of when greens are rolled.

GLENN LACHAPELLE

DIVOT DRIFT ...announcements...educational seminars...job opportunities ...tournament results...and miscellaneous items of interest to the membership.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Assistant Superintendent, Presidents Golf Course, 357 West Squantum Street, North Quincy, MA 02171. Please send resumes to James Fitzner, CGCS. Salary plus full benefit package.

PLACEMENT STUDENTS

Need a Placement Student? Dr. Rich Cooper is on sabbatical from UMass. If you need a placement student for 1993, please contact: Mary Owen, Stockbridge Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 02003, c/o Student Placement.

BOARD MEETING

There was a special Board Meeting of the GCSANE November 19 at Wayland C.C. Many issues concerning the current and coming year were discussed. All Board members attended. Thanks to Jim Reinertson for hosting us.

MEETING RECAP

Thanks to Whitinsville G.C. for allowing GCSANE to have our November meeting there. Special thanks to golf course superintendent Dick Zepp, CGCS, assistant superintendent Paul Wilson, and golf professional/manager Jim Bombard. The guest speaker was Charlie Passios, CGCS. He spoke on proposed GCSAA by-law changes.

INFORMATION

For those superintendents looking for CGCS credits, the next GCSAA-GCSANE seminar will probably be in the fall of 1993 according to education chairman Kevin Osgood. Topic is yet unknown.

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed New Member: Peter Kearney, Assistant member, Oak Hills Park G.C., Norwalk, Conn.

RAFFLE WINNERS

Turf Research Raffle Prize Winners 1992

San Diego Trip (American Airlines) - Steve Lewandowski

Tucson, Arizona Trip (American Airlines) - Cindy Chiavaroli

One Dozen Golf Balls: Vic Vellal, Al Scalia, Bill Lewandowski, Joe Lazzaro, and Gary Luccini.

Three Ladies Golf Shirts: Jim Teller

One Titleist Golf Bag: Jim DiGeorno

One Bunton Golf Bag: Jack Hassett

One Spaulding Putter: Eric Kleinsorge

One TPM Putter: John O'Leary

One Pair Soft Joy II Golf Shoes: Mrs. Dennis Friel and Steve Murphy

Celtics Tickets: Dennis Herman

Tommy Armour Driver: John Cooney

Cobra Driver: Longmeadow C.C., Lowell, MA
Set of DCI Irons: George Demitropoulos

Rounds of Golf:

Kittansett—Dave Crowley

Hickory Ridge—Frank Santos

Thorny Lea—Jack Leamen

Thompson Club—Dr. Howard Rosenkrantz

Foxborough—Steve Robinson

Metacomet—Jack Cockroft

Wayland C.C. Four Gift Certificates:

John Lenhart, Jim Iacono, Ray Costello, and Eric Newell

GOLF RESULTS

November Meeting, Whitinsville G.C.

Quota Tournament

1st	Dick Zepp	+8
Tie 2nd	Don Levangie	+3
	Bob Mucciarone	+3
	Bob Ruzala	+3
	Paul Miller	+3
	Ed Uhlman III	+3
Tie 8th	Ron Kirkman	+2
	Paul Jamrog	+2
Closest to Pin		
#2	John Petraitis	7'2"
#7	Jim Fitzroy	1'5"

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At White Turf, Inc. we are truly pleased to be called "Friends of the Association". In 27 years of golf course irrigation, we have developed many long standing relationships with some of you and your peers. We have watched our irrigation industry grow from manual time clocks that also started your pumps, to fully computerized systems that automatically monitor and adjust to weather conditions.

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