



Golf Course Superintendents

THE NEWSLETTER

Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

March 1992

Building a green can get complicated

The USGA lays it out in black and white: When building a green, do it our way or suffer the consequences.

It appears there are some golf course superintendents who are willing to take their chances, implement either drastic or subtle changes in the green building or rebuilding process, as advocated by the USGA Green Section, and wait for those

consequences to either present themselves or never make an appearance.

Examples of pro-USGA method and con-USGA method experiences will be covered and explored in next month's Newsletter. This edition will only analyze the issue, especially in the area of the Green Section's insistence that their specification in the working steps of drainage, gravel and coarse sand layers and preparation of the root zone mixture be met without compromise.

In its approach to the subject, the USGA is aware of the tendencies to cut corners to eliminate certain steps in the building process with the interests of financial savings in mind. Therefore, it warns that relying on the gravel layer to provide sufficient drainage is one of the pitfalls of cost-conscious green builders.

Rather, it stresses that the installation of tile lines is the only sure method of preventing water damage in the event of heavy rains and excess irrigation. In other words, the USGA insists proper drainage cannot be achieved unless tile lines and a gravel layer are treated as integral parts of the construction schedule.

Jim Leighton, who has studied the question of strict adherence to USGA specs, reports he has had experience with both sand-based and soil-based greens at Framingham Country Club where he hangs his hat as the superintendent.

However, Leighton wants to make one important note clear in his discussion of the issue. This is the fact that none of his greens at Framingham were built according to USGA Green Section specifications. Therefore, all of his comments refer to greens unaffected by the building process proposed by the USGA.

Ironically, there are 14 greens at Framingham that are basically products of a soil-built mentality. They are the course's

"Regardless, the amount of sand used appears to be the issue. Some superintendents might come up with a better ratio than the (USGA) lab does. The only way to know is to try it and see."

**Jim Leighton,
commenting on USGA
green building
specifications**

older greens and Leighton says they're doing better than the four sand-based greens which were built before he took over there.

"Since I wasn't here when our sand greens came into being, I can't comment on the root zone mixture which seems to be the major concern here (the USGA issue)," Jim said. "The only thing I can rely on are the records kept when the greens were built. According to them, the mix was 90 percent sand, 10 percent peat. How that combination came about is a mystery to me. However, it might have been a trial and error decision."

Leighton suspects age has something to do with the results of the sand-based building method. Two greens that are entering their fourth season seem to be very slow maturing and holding a satisfactory condition while the two greens in their fifth season are developing much better.

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April Meeting*

Monday, April 13, 1992
Blue Hill C.C., Canton, Mass.
(* PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE!)

Host Superintendent - Dave Barber

Guest Speaker
Mr. Richard Egan, Jr.
MacIntyre, Fay and Thayer
Insurance Agency
Golf Course Safety, Security,
and Risk Management

9:00 a.m. Board Meeting
10:30 a.m. Regular Meeting
Education
Lunch
Golf

Reservations Required
Call before April 9, 1992
(617) 328-9479

You must pay by check - no cash!!

Dave has been the course superintendent at Blue Hill C.C. since 1980. Prior to Blue Hill, Dave was superintendent at Wayland C.C. for 16 years. He is a graduate of Stockbridge, Univ. of Mass., lives in Canton, and has four children. Dave is past president of GCSANE and was a board member for 16 years.

Directions: From 128 take exit 2A (Rte. 138 Stoughton). Go to first set of lights and bear right (Washington St.). Go approx. one mile and take a right on Pecunit St. (sign will say BHCC). Club is on the left approx. 3/4 mile.



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 (H) 617-631-7910 — (W) 508-369-5704
 Club Affiliation - Nashawtuc C.C.



KIP TYLER, CGCS
 Newsletter Editor
 PAUL JAMROG
 Business Manager

JAMES REINERTSON
 Associate Editor
 GERRY FINN
 Contributing Editor

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The USGA reports that the root zone mixture is so critical its make-up must be determined by laboratory testing. So, naturally, it is in this step where green-building, according to USGA specs, can become complicated.

Such variables as infiltration and percolation capacity, porosity, bulk density, water retention capacity, and particle size are considered when a mix is tested. Under that circumstance, it's possible superintendents or whoever does the green building might have to submit a number of sand-component combinations before the most advantageous mix is determined.

So, the USGA doesn't have a set line-up of sand-component percentages as a guideline for the proper root zone mixture. Reviewing the 90-10 ratio on his sand-based greens, Leighton emphasizes that it just might be the mix that could have met USGA specs.

"Who's to say whether our course and those newer greens would have been better off with an 80-20 sand-peat mix, or even 70-30?" Jim added. "One combination could do the job here and not do it across the street. That's why the USGA came up with the analysis idea. Personally, I think it's the way to go.

"Regardless, the amount of sand to be used appears to be the issue. Some superintendents might come up with a better

Nematode problem topic of Feb. meeting

Our February meeting at Walpole C.C. was attended by 60 people. Thanks to Supt. Mark Gagne and manager Gerald McDonald for a fine day.

Guest speaker Dr. Rob Wick from the Univ. of Mass. talked about a very interesting topic which has many superintendents thinking about how nematodes affect their turf.

Dr. Wick stressed that having an assay done will help determine the economic threshold which will help you decide if you are going to use a nematicide or not.

Dr. Wick talked about the use of nematicides. The use of Nematicur is the product which has given the greatest results. Wick is working on a product called Margosan-O which is derived from neem oil (a natural botanical). He also handed out data on a test he did comparing nematicur and margo-san-o on hopicalmus nematodes at The Orchards C.C. in 1991.

Wick ended his talk by saying he is aware of the problems on the issue of DFA Zone II usage of nematicide.

JIM REINERTSON

ratio than the lab does. The only way to know is to try it and see. However, when we get to rebuilding some of our greens down the road, I'd be inclined to go the USGA route, step by step and dollar by dollar. After all, the green is the most important part of the golf course; so, it's no place to skimp. If you do, you're only short-changing yourself."

Whatever, building greens (rebuilding, too) has hit a turn in the road called controversy. More on it next month.

GERRY FINN

GCSANE 1992 committees

The following are the GCSANE committees for 1992:

Membership Committee: Stephen Chiavaroli, Edward Brearley, Robert DiRico, Robert Ruzsala; **Finance Committee:** Robert Ruzsala, Paul Jamrog; **Education Committee:** Kevin Osgood, Richard Duggan, Scott Reynolds, Michael Nagle; **Golf Committee:** James Fitzroy, Richard Arzillo, Richard Tworig, Larry Anshewitz; **Newsletter Committee:** Kip Tyler, Editor; James Reinertson, Associate Editor; Paul Jamrog, Business Manager; **Welfare Committee:** Richard Duggan, Eric Newell, James Reinertson; **Employment:** Edward Brearley, Robert DiRico, Robert Ruzsala; **Publicity:** Paul Miller, James Fitzroy, Stephen Carr; **Government Relations:** Eric Newell, Chairman and GCSAA Liaison; Don Hearn, GCSAA Rep. on Gov. Affairs Committee; James Reinertson, GCSANE Rep. on the GIC Exec. Board; **By-Laws Committee:** Richard Zepp, David Barber, Don Hearn; **MGA Liaison:** Stephen Chiavaroli; **Turf Research Committee:** Edward Brearley, Chairman; Paul Miller, Tournament Chairman; Richard Duggan, Owen Regan, Michael Nagle, Richard Cooper; **Mass. Turfgrass Conference Committees - Speaker Committee:** Edward Brearley, Patricia Vittum, Kevin Lyons, Richard Duggan; **Advertising Committee:** Mark Gagne, Owen Regan; **Audio/Visual Committee:** Donald Levangie.

Calendar

April 13	Regular Meeting Blue Hill C.C. Canton, Mass. (Note change of date.)
April 27	NEPGA-GCSANE- Members of the Press George Wright G.C. Hyde Park, Mass.
May 11	Nashawtuc C.C. Supt.-Pro-Manager- Club Official Concord, Mass.
May 18	Regular Meeting Pine Brook C.C. Weston, Mass.
June 1	Regular Meeting Kittansett Club

The Super Speaks Out:

This month's question: With the electronic age settled in and gaining converts all the time, how much computer input is involved in your everyday operation, and how is it working?

Randy Kehres, Pleasant Valley Country Club: "You're really talking to a computer illiterate, yet I can see the day when the computer will be a key aspect in the entire operation here.

"So far, my irrigation system has responded well to being taken over by the computer. I've plugged in as much information as I want and the results are very good.

"Of course, the potential for expanding commands is almost limitless. The computer is that much of an improvement over the old system that it can be programmed to handle all the variables in a watering schedule which were handled manually in the past.

"For example, it reacts automatically to controlling the amount of water to be dispensed according to the stress factors of the area being treated. We have high-need moisture areas and low-need areas and the computer can be programmed to cover those areas as the need arises.

"I have to admit the whole idea of working off a computer overwhelmed me at first. It's not like playing video games, but I've attended seminars on computer operation and I'm beginning to feel comfortable punching out all those commands.

"So far, my irrigation system has responded well to being taken over by the computer. The results are very good."

Randy Kehres

"We're not into doing payrolls or compiling man-hours data. However, I can see the day when the computer will be involved in those parts of the operation. It's just a matter of time.

"Oh, and yes, I have made arrangements for a back-up system to override the computer in case of the system crashing or being down for a good length of time. That (crash) hasn't happened yet, but I'm ready if it does."

Bill Spence, The Country Club: "Yes, I'm happy to see we're part of the modern design movement and there's no doubt about it; operating most of the superintendent's operation off a computer is a coming thing that will continue to catch on until just about everyone makes the switch.

"My irrigation system is deep into depending on the computer for every aspect of watering the course. It does just about everything, from keeping irrigation records to monitoring usage and even keeping service records for our pumps. It does it all.

"All budget, man hours, and maintenance schedules are plugged into the computer."

Bill Spence

"Personally, my involvement in computer programming has been made easy by the Turf Products people. Their representative, particularly Mark Loper, Bill Connolly, and Tim Berge, have been a big help to me. Their support has been responsible for a smooth changeover from the old method of programming the irrigation system.

"I've gone the entire route in computer usage. All budget, man hours, and maintenance schedules are plugged into it. We're buying different control panels and other software to facilitate changing from partial manual to all electronic.

"The overall impression here is that computer programming runs the gamut of providing a near-perfect operational aid. Everything is right on the button, exact timing, and precise response to commands.

"There is always the possibility of a crash and we have a back-up arrangement in place to meet that problem. In fact, we did have a power outage. The first fear was that I'd lost everything in the computer storage. But we managed to retrieve everything. So, no harm, no foul."

Peter Hasak, Tedesco Country Club: "We went at the idea of converting to computer usage slowly, and we just completed the first phase of a tryout period that covered only nine holes.

"Needless to say, we'll be phasing in the rest of the course this spring because it worked so well in the testing stage.

"When the computer was in full swing, it was doing a variety of jobs for the irrigation system. With the help of the people from P.I.E. (supply), we converted without too much trouble. And, when I had a problem, there was always technical assistance to be had over the telephone.

"The computer hook-up has a number of attractions to improve the overall efficiency of the irrigation system. I can call up programs to meet every type of soil condition and weather pattern. It just puts the water where it's supposed to go and tempers the output according to what the treated area will bear. It's terrific.

"My only reservation about the computer is the time I put into programming it and making changes."

Peter Hasak

"Of course, there is the initial financial shock or the cost of computer programming. Two or three thousand (dollars) get you going and there are sporadic outlays for certain software and other aids.

"The computer will take care of everything regarding records and the like in time. It'll be a sort of right hand man in setting up and breaking down budgets and probably will pay for itself in the end.

"My only reservation about the computer is the time I put into programming it and making changes. I don't want it to take me over, so I'm training a couple of staff members to pitch in and learn how to bang those keys. It's really easy, too. Nothing like trying to get a VCR to do the things you want it to do."

GERRY FINN

A message from the President: To better our public image

I would like to ask you, as a golf course manager, to consider the possibility of subscribing to and participating in the USGA's Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Past President Paul Miller introduced this program to our membership at our Association's December meeting at the Nashawtuc C.C., and I feel that we can promote our profession and the golf industry by increasing the number of courses that are actively involved.

Public often questions our practices

As we all know, oftentimes the public does not view our profession's practices all that favorably. So I'll ask, what better way is there to enhance our public image than to demonstrate that we are professionals who are interested in promoting wildlife and conservation practices? I feel that if we were to participate on an individual basis with this program, that the golf course maintenance profession in our area might soon be regarded by the general public as being true supporters of environmentally responsible concerns.

Audubon Sanctuary Program offers positive opportunity to promote wildlife & conservation

Please consider a subscription to the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP), sponsored by the Audubon Society of New York State and the United States Golf Association. "The USGA is committed to increasing environmental awareness and enhancing wildlife habitat through proper golf course management programs. The cooperative effort between the USGA and the Audubon Society increases awareness about the positive benefits of golf courses."

The purpose of the Program is to: 1) Enhance wildlife habitats; 2) Encourage conservation programs (IPM); 3) Recognize golf courses as important open spaces

with people participating in environmentally responsible projects; and 4) Educate the public and golfing community on the benefits of golf courses.

Register, develop a plan, and form committee

To proceed with the program, the golf course manager must: 1) Register his Club at a cost of \$100 per year; 2) Develop a plan of action; and 3) Form a resource committee (with one person possibly being a member of the local Cooperative Extension Service).

In return, your Club will receive: 1) An ACSP certificate number plus signs for display at the golf course; 2) Media pre-releases highlighting the golf course's environmental conservation efforts; and 3) The program's newsletter, Field Notes, plus all the help you may need from the N.Y. Audubon Society in making your program work for you. More information on this program can be obtained by calling 518-767-9051.

Many clubs already participating

The following Massachusetts Clubs are currently participating the program and you may have a question or two for the superintendent in charge of these facilities: Acoaxet Club, Allendale G.C., Cohasset C.G., Eastward Ho, Farm Neck G.C., Fresh Pond G.C., Kings Way C.G., Nashawtuc C.C., Oyster Harbor G.C., Pleasant Valley C.C., Sagamore Springs G.C., Stockbridge G.C., Tatnuck C.C.

In summary, if more individuals were to convince their clubs to participate, I feel that the public image of our entire group could be enhanced as we gain more and more exposure, as being a major environmentally sound profession. Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

STEPHEN CHIAVAROLI
CGC

Newell attends seminar in Kansas: the first annual GCSAA Legislative & Regulatory Training Conference

Establishing and maintaining the superintendent's credibility as an environmentally-concerned "authority" is key to successful government and public relations programs, GCSAA liaisons were told during a two-day seminar held in late January in Lawrence, Kansas. More than 30 superintendents from 26 GCSAA chapters attended the organization's first annual Legislative and Regulatory Training Conference. Eric Newell, CGCS had his trip sponsored by GCSANE and Cape Cod Turf Managers Association.

The sessions stressed the need for understanding local government organization and personalities while creating "win-win" situations in dealing with regulatory issues; Explained the process of creating, altering, and enacting state regulatory statutes, as well as fostering legislative information sources; Demon-

strated how to use the media to shape public opinion; and Examined environmental issues of regional importance to various GCSAA chapters.

"The consistent theme of all presenters was that we should take a more active role in informing officials and the general public," said Randy Zidik, CGCS, GCSAA board government relations liaison. "Our education and hands-on experience with turfgrass management techniques, including the use of chemical enhancers and pesticides, gives us a high level of credibility. As the presenters suggested, we need to promote our credibility as authorities at all levels of government and within our own publics. Hopefully, this will allow lawmakers to use us as consultants when they draft legislation and regulations."

GCSAA NEWS,
FEB., 1992

Co-Op Extension has new fee for turf diagnosis

1. Diagnostic samples and nematode assays will cost \$25 on a pre-pay basis by purchase of a Turfgrass Case-History Sheet. You may buy diagnostic sheets at the Plant Pathology office, 209 Fernald Hall, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or order by mail from: Department of Plant Pathology, Fernald Hall, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003.

Checks payable to University of Massachusetts. Call (413) 545-2280 if you have questions.

2. All samples must be accompanied by a pre-paid, completed Turfgrass Case-History Sheet. It is recommended that you purchase at least one sheet in advance to have on hand if you expect to use the

diagnostic services. Information about selecting and shipping samples is printed on the back of the sheet and in the Professional Turfgrass Management Guide for Massachusetts - 1992. The sheets will not expire, so save until needed. After you have submitted a sample, purchase another sheet for future use.

If you have questions about disease samples, shipping or diagnosis, contact: Dr. Gail Schumann, Department of Plant Pathology, 209E Fernald Hall, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003, (413) 545-3413.

If you have questions about nematode assays, contact: Dr. Robert Wick, Department of Plant Pathology, 109 Fernald Hall, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003, (413) 545-1045.

3. Deliver disease samples to 002 Clark Hall (the Diagnostic Library). Nematode samples should be delivered to 109 Fernald Hall (Dr. Wick's office). Samples may also be brought to the Plant Pathology Office (209 Fernald Hall) or be shipped by an express delivery service. Do not send by U.S. mail or "priority mail" because samples may be delayed several days in campus mail. Turf samples for disease diagnosis will be accepted 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday only. Soil samples for nematode assay will be accepted Monday through Friday.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

GCSAA International Convention, Feb. 10-17 in New Orleans, Louisiana

These GCSANE members and associates were found wandering through hundreds of product displays at the convention center. Top row, from left to right, are John & Nancy Lenhart, Mark Grenert, and Mary & Arthur Silva; and David Farina & Mark Klimm. Bottom row, left to right, are Mark Gagne, Bill Spence, & Andy Langlois; and Wayne LaCroix, Eric Kleinsorge, & David Heroian. (Photos by Kip Tyler)



USGA Green Section supports superintendents

The time is approaching when golf enthusiasts begin serious contemplation of their favorite pastime. For those of us involved in the golf industry, it is a time to begin planning for an active season. Golf course superintendents prepare themselves mentally for the task ahead of them. The USGA can be a useful resource to the golf course superintendent and his club.

The USGA Green Section is here to assist golf clubs in many different ways. On site Turf Advisory Service (TAS) is the main thrust of the Green Section and receives the most attention because of the direct contact with the golf club and its superintendent. However, the USGA Green Section also offers several important programs that are gaining national attention. The Audubon program is one of

these programs. Through the cooperation of the New York Audubon Society and the USGA, a program has been developed that focuses on the environment and golf. Clubs joining this program find an active role in the enhancement of wildlife on the golf course and in the community. Other programs include TGIF, Turfgrass Information File. This gives you access to the largest file of information on turfgrass and golf subjects in the world.

Spending your budget effectively and developing realistic maintenance objectives are two major responsibilities of golf course superintendents. Consulting with a USGA agronomist will give you additional information and insight. A TAS visit provides an avenue by which these plans can be introduced and sold to the members.

The difficult economy has placed a high demand upon accurate and calculated decisions. We know that dealing with nature is unpredictable, but gaining knowledge can greatly enhance your ability to make the right decisions. That is why the Green Section Service is so valuable to the superintendent. You can benefit greatly from an association with the USGA Green Section. If you already have the TAS visit, you know how it can be helpful. If you have never taken the service, or it has been several years, I encourage you to sign up early this year.

The fee for the services provided in 1992 is \$700. A mere .15% of the budget for an average 18-hole golf club!!! Thank you and I wish you the best season ever in 1992.

JIM CONNOLLY, USGA

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

DONATION

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England donated \$500 to the Boston Globe's Globe Santa Charity in December. There was a nice picture in the newspaper of Paul Miller giving a check to Santa.

CONVENTION NOTES

Bill Spence, Superintendent at The Country Club, Brookline, MA, was a guest speaker at the GCSAA convention in New Orleans. His topic was "Adapting Modern Techniques and Standards to Courses From Another Time."

Thanks to Kevin Osgood, Scott Reynolds, and Mike Hannigan for running the Hospitality Suite in New Orleans. It looked like a success with the seven sponsoring associations.

MEETING NOTES

Starting with the April meeting at Blue Hill C.C., you must have a check to pay for the meeting. Cash will no longer be accepted. Make checks payable to the GCSANE.

Monthly raffle - The money collected in the GCSANE monthly raffle will be used in a new way. After prizes are given, all retired members attending will have their lunches paid for. Any remaining money will go to turf research.

INFORMATION

Mark Spaulding has taken over as Superintendent of Dedham Polo and C.C. He had been the Assistant under retiring Bob Muciarone.

David Mucciarone is the new superintendent at Woodland C.C. He had previously been the assistant under his father Norman for many years.

Paul Miller, Nashawtuc C.C., has been re-certified in the Certified Golf Course Superintendent program from GCSAA. Congratulations!

Our sympathy to Paul Brooks on the passing of his father John in late February.

Chester Sawtelle Day was proclaimed on Friday, Dec. 6, 1991 in Marblehead, Mass. by the town's board of selectmen. The honoree is the founder of Sawtelle Brothers. For the first time, as part of the Christmas Walk, the Person of the Year was also the first citizen

of the town. "It's the least we can do," said Chairman of the Selectmen Tom McNulty. "It's also the most we can do. I can't think of anything better to do for someone who loves his town as much as Chet Sawtelle." As for the man, McNulty says "He's been an inspiration from every point of view. He's never slowed down, never gotten old. Any frailties, he's just overcome them. The man just has a tremendous zest for life."

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed New Members: John Murphy, Assistant member, Hillview G.C.; Daniel Bartkus, Assistant member, Concord C.C.; Sean P. McCormick, Assistant member, The Country Club; Gregg R. Sanborn, Assistant member, Longmeadow G.C.; and Mark Wonallott, Assistant member, Foxboro C.C.

Welcome New Members: Brian E. McCarthy, Assistant, St. Mark's G.C.; and James L. Favreau, Assistant, International G.C.

TOURNAMENT NOTES

In the GCSAA Golf Tournament, Jacksonville, Florida, GCSANE prize winners were Paul Jamrog, net winner, first flight; and Dave Barber, third place net, first flight. Good golfing, guys!

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The Wizards of Wherewithal - a golfing parable

Once in the magical land of Greens, there lived two wizards, each highly skilled in his craft; but, alas, not held in equal regard by their peers and countrymen. For an insurmountable barrier, called the Great Budget Range, ran between their two parts of the kingdom. The near side of the range was more protected, private, and prosperous. The wizard of this side of the Budget Range worked hard and was very successful. He was known for miles around for his skill and artistry, and was praised by great and small alike.

The wizard on the farther side of the divide worked very hard also, but his part of the range was more open and less richly endowed than that of his counterpart. It was difficult for the more public wizard to maintain his side of the range in the shape he dreamed of. Most people of the kingdom thought of him as a dedicated, down-to-earth professional, but not as superlative as his colleague on the private side of the Budget Range.

Then one day, the lord of the realm decided to hold a contest of mythic proportions. He owned a small patch of unused ground, a royal bad investment made in the days of the S&L (Slice and Lie) scandal. The lord had decided to turn the property into a golf course, but had only a limited amount of gold in his treasury. Still, the wizard who could help create and maintain the finest course would win praise and acclaim across the land, as well as unlimited chits in the new pro shop.

When word came that the renown wiz-

ard from the private side of the Budget Range had entered the contest, many simply gave up and went up - all except for the wizard from the public side. He was determined to stick it out to the end.

Finally, the opening day of the contest arrived. "Your Highness," said the private wizard, "I will bring about in this barren place the most lush, green, and breathtaking course ever seen in the annals of golf. With the newest equipment, fertilizers, pesticides, and the latest in computerized irrigation, the royal family should be able to tee-off before you know it!"

The crowd cheered and cheered. Everyone expected the other wizard to merely slink away quietly but he did not. He stood up proudly and said, "Your Highness, we've never been able to afford all the state-of-the-art equipment on our side of the Budget Range. Still, what common sense, years of knowledge and experience, and a willingness to work hard can do, will be done."

No one gave the poorer wizard much of a chance; after all, he didn't have that great reputation. Soon, however, it became apparent that the match would be more even than anyone had thought. Without a lot of money at his disposal, the first wizard had to limit the amount of high-tech magic he could perform, while the second dug in, relying on his past experiences and hard work. They each worked on separate nines, and at the end of the contest, the lord surveyed their work. Lo and behold, he could find no

significant difference between them! It soon became clear to all that the less reputation of the wizard from the lower end of the Budget Range was totally undeserved. It now was evident that, considering the money he had to work with and the public nature of his course, the second wizard was equally as much a miracle worker in the world of Greens...

A little parable such as this one can only capture a small part of the picture, of course. Those superintendents, managers, and pros who work at the more expensive and/or private courses certainly do work hard and deserve all the credit in the world for their accomplishments. Yet, sometimes it is difficult to hear their counterparts at the public courses, with all their cut-backs, or at the middle-class oriented private courses receive less notice than they deserve. Perhaps their greens are a bit slower, their clubhouse operations a little less glitzy, but faced with their budgetary restraints, it is men and women like these who are the true wizards of our business—almost magically creating good golf, good facilities, and good comradeship out of cannibalized tractor parts, long hours, and stretched dollars. In these recessionary times, only the wizardry keeps the game of golf within the reach of the vast majority of us. Surely these dedicated professional deserve their own place in the story books!

NORA BERARD, Owner,
Golf Direction Assoc., Foxboro, MA



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