



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.

September 1992

A strange mix becomes a reality for newly-retired Leon St. Pierre

October Meetings

(No Regular Meetings)

Superintendent-3 Club Officials
Monday, October 5, 1992
Metacomet C.C.
East Providence, R.I.

Host Superintendent
Keith Gavin

Keith Gavin has been superintendent at Metacomet since March of this year. He has been in the golf business for several years, having started his career as an assistant pro at Nashawtuc Country Club in 1976, working under Charles Volpone. From there he went to Framingham Country Club, working on the course as a laborer. Keith worked his way up to an assistant superintendent position at Alpine Country Club in 1979. He then went to Pinebrook Country Club in 1980, serving as an assistant there for nine years before becoming the superintendent in 1989. Metacomet Country Club is a fine Donald Ross course, having hosted such events as the Rhode Island Amateur, 1991 Rhode Island Open, and the 1992 U.S. Amateur trials. Keith resides in Rehoboth with his wife Susan and their two boys, Matthew, age 5, and Brett, age 2.

Registration forms and directions were sent out in late August.

GCSANE Research Tournament
Tuesday, October 13, 1992
International G.C., Bolton, Mass.

Host Superintendent
Ron Milenski, CGCS

Registration forms were sent to members.

As autumn began its stretching exercises one day not too long ago, Leon St. Pierre did a double-take. He also turned over in bed, took an extra snooze, and kicked off a new life. After putting a spiffy shine on the Longmeadow Country Club as its legendary golf course superintendent for the last 37 years, Leon called it a day and distinguished career. That's when the strange mix of Leon St. Pierre and retirement took hold.

St. Pierre is legend on two fronts. Arguably, he's the best super Longmeadow ever had and they threw away the mold after he stepped down from a three-year term as President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England in 1967.

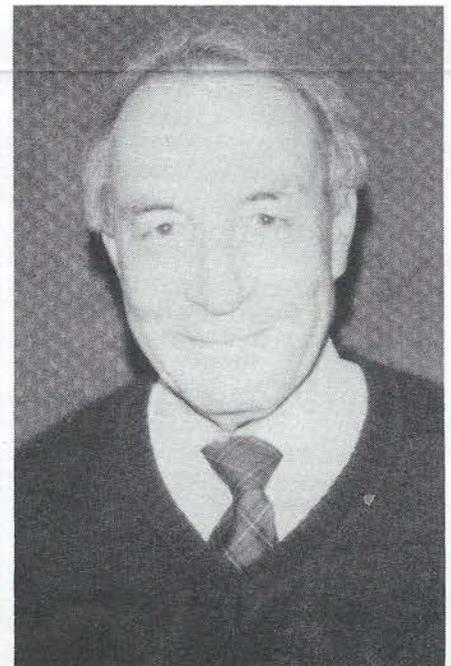
Leon is 67 years old. That's his calendar age. In mind and body he's still the same enthusiastic golf course groomer who turned his back on a career in forestry, cut his super's teeth at Tatnuck, sharpened them in a six-year stay at the old Oxford Country Club in Chicopee Falls, and came on full bore at Longmeadow.

"I may even get to play some golf without having some out-of-place blade of grass bother me and my game."

*Leon St. Pierre,
on his retirement*

In fact, Leon even fiddled with another vocational violin before finding his niche. "It's true," he sighed and smirked at the same time. "I once worked for an undertaker and toyed with the idea of making that my life's work. But, frankly, I couldn't handle all the grief and sorrow that go with funerals. And the calls to the morgue. That was too much."

You might say St. Pierre was a natural in his natural field. He took a crew job at Tatnuck and learned the ropes so fast that the next thing he knew he was listening to and absorbing Lawrence Dickinson's turf
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maintenance message at the old Mass. Aggie complex in Amherst. Soon after, Oxford recognized his strong potential, and he gave that course his best conditioning workout before getting the call from Longmeadow in 1956.

"When I came here (Longmeadow)," we had dry areas all around with burnt grass and other unsightly conditions," Leon remembered. "They had the old snap-valve irrigation system, so there was a lot of hard work to do. Eventually, everything fell into place and we got into all kinds of construction or rebuilding tees, bunkers, and putting a new face on the fairways of a golf course that lent itself to tradition as a product of the master designer Donald Ross."

It was just about that time that St. Pierre took his built-in administration skills to the GCSANE, serving on a number of boards and in various positions until he was elected president in 1965.

Many people, most supers of that era and succeeding ones, believe the St. Pierre presiding years were the foundation years of the association, the basis on which the success of the group assumed an air and look of professionalism that brought it so much needed recognition and respect.

"I don't know if all of that appeared in the short space of three years," Leon wondered out loud. "But I think it was a step in the right direction. Certainly, some of the things I did weren't popular with some of the members, but they turned out all right. We just had to teach ourselves that we were a professional group and not a pickup squad of workers. I thought it was the right way to go and I think it developed into a positive part of the association's character."

Although St. Pierre thrived on making improvements from within the GCSANE, like teaming with Dean Robertson to produce a Newsletter that made members and green chairmen think, he might have got his most satisfaction from his involvement with professional politics at the national level.

"I think you mean the time we upset the apple cart at the national convention and got Dick Blake elected president," Leon explained. "That was one of the highlights of my many trips to that affair. We actually bucked the nominated slate and won."

"It's still fresh in my memory. We didn't like the choice of the nominating committee for president, so we proposed Blake from the floor. It was the first time something like that was done. Dick agreed to it, we got the ball rolling with rallies, cocktail parties, models—the works. And we pulled it off."

St. Pierre always was an innovator. When he was GCSANE proxy, he worried about the identity of the golf course superintendent. He wondered about the super being sort of a second class citizen in golf's pecking order. Not only did it anger him, it inspired him.

"Oh, that's when I got tired of people looking at us as a bunch of unskilled laborers with a rake in our hands and a hose wrapped around our necks," he said. "I just called down to the MGA, asked the director or whoever if he'd like to have lunch on us, and pretty soon the recognition was coming on with a rush."

St. Pierre, who could have stayed on at Longmeadow until he's 70, reiterates the solid relationship he always enjoyed with members there. He also admits he fell in love with the Longmeadow course he raised to the level of groomed excellence and also admits the course remains close to him.

"But it's time for me to do other things, hit the 50th reunion of the 10th Mountain Division, things like that," Leon told. "I may even get to play some golf without having some out of place blade of grass bother me and my game. It's just that time for me."

That time should be the best of times for one of the giants of this profession. If anyone deserves as much, it's Leon Pierre.

GERRY FINN

Calendar

Oct. 5	Metacomet C.C. East Providence, RI Supt.-3 Club Officials
Oct. 7	Woods Hole G.C. Falmouth, MA Seminar-Technical Training for Your Spray Technician
Oct. 13	International G.C. Bolton, MA GCSANE Research Tournament
Oct. 20	Ferncroft C.C. Middleton, MA Superintendent-Golf Professional Tournament
Oct. 26	The Sheraton Leominster, MA Seminar-Negotiating
Nov. 5	Whitinsville G.C. Whitinsville, MA Regular Meeting

The Super Speaks Out:

This month, another switch in operations takes place in the form of interviews with superintendents (who shall remain unidentified) that reveal unguarded thoughts on the working state of the profession.

Super A: "I admit, the future of my job may be at the mercy of a whim. However, I still feel secure here and that's why I've never asked for a contract. Besides, who says contracts are valid anyway? Or haven't you heard of the word 'loophole'?"

"As far as I know, and this comes from the president, I'm No. 1 in the pecking order when it comes to country club staff. I don't know. Maybe I've cast a spell over everyone here.

"One problem I do see, though, is one down the road where we're going to need more expertise along environmental lines. Who's supposed to provide that expertise? Me? I'd like to know."

"The future of my job may be at the mercy of a whim."

Super "A"

Super B: "I think the pressure is an ongoing thing for the superintendent to give his members top playing conditions. One of the biggest reasons for this is a form of peer pressure on the part of members. Everyone wants their club to have the best conditions. That's unfair to the superintendent.

"Another problem occurs at clubs where the clubhouse doings take precedence over what goes on on the golf course. What this usually amounts to is 'don't spare the expense in the kitchen or bar but cut back where you can on the golf course'.

"Choice of green chairmen is, yet, another testy thing for the superintendent. Often, it's the luck of the draw. Sometimes it develops into a clash of personalities. And at times, that last development becomes a factor in the super's job security. Contracts? I don't trust them.

"Believe it or not, there are still members who think conditioning a golf course means throwing out seed, watering it, growing the grass, and cutting it down to the size that makes it playable. So, how

"Another problem occurs at clubs where the clubhouse doings take precedence over the golf course."

Super "B"

long do you think a super can last playing that game?"

Super C: "Okay, here's the lowdown. Every super has about a half-dozen or so members who think they know everything, including his job. They're the ones I yes to death, then do what I want. Do you blame me? Don't forget, I'm talking about six guys. Overall, my members are nice people and very cooperative. For the most part, if I need something, I get it.

"The only thing I haven't gotten is a good pension plan. That seems to be the biggest hang-up with this job. I'm satisfied with the job security here. That three-year contract gets renewed on schedule. However, the pension bugs me. It could be better...much better."

Super D: "If we're talking security, I have something funny to say. I think my crew has more job security than I do. What I mean is that it's tougher to fire someone on my crew than it is to fire me. You figure that one out.

"Every super has about a half-dozen or so members who think they know everything, including his job. They're the ones I yes to death, then do what I want. Do you blame me?"

Super "C"

"I have the usual small percentage of know-it-alls and they are my only grief as far as complaints about the golf course go. They never will be appeased, so you know they get a lot of double-talk from me.

"I just throw up my hands and wonder if their lawns look like Forest Lawn all summer."

Super "D"

"As for the overall demands for having courses like they see on television, my members are in the normal class. They don't expect miracles but they don't want wastelands to play on. I guess they're only human, though. But when they give me that 'why can't conditions be like this all the time?' stuff at the peak of the grooming period, I just throw up my hands and wonder if their lawns look like Forest Lawn all summer."

Super E: "Sure, I got a problem with my members. They're looking for something that's impossible to produce here and also where they work. They want perfection. Know what? I can't give it to them.

"I've heard of supers who are carrying their contracts when they go out the door."

Super "E"

"Personally, I've had a complaint going against the membership for some time. There are some who think I, and that includes the crew, should be here all the time. For some reason, they have the notion that none of us have families of our own and maybe obligations away from the job. I tell myself, 'too bad they don't apply that same philosophy where they work, then, maybe I'd never see them.'

"My job security worries me, too, because I don't think I have any. There's no contract, as if it would help because I've heard of supers who are carrying their contracts with them when they go out the door. There's definitely no guarantees here. I get the feeling my members have that 'we love you for only as long as we need you' mentality. That scares me. I always feel I'm under the gun.

"But I'm still here, so I must be doing something right. I wish I knew what it was, though. I wouldn't change a thing."

GERRY FINN

American Cancer Society's briefing on signs and symptoms of skin cancer

Information presented by the American Cancer Society at our July 13 meeting in Winchester

Any unusual sore, lump, blemish, other skin marking, or change in the way an area of the skin looks or feels may be a sign of skin cancer or a warning that it is likely to occur. The skin might be crusty, scaly, oozing, or bleeding. In later stages of the disease, the skin may also feel itchy, tender, and painful. Most skin problems do not turn out to be cancer, but only tests done by a doctor can tell for sure whether a growth on the skin is a cancer or might lead to cancer.

Only those who already know what their skin normally looks and feels like and are familiar with its pattern of moles, blemishes, freckles, and other marks will be able to note any changes in their skin. The best way to become familiar with your normal skin is to examine it regularly, about every 6 to 8 weeks. The best time to do this is after a bath or shower, standing in front of a full-length mirror. A hand-held mirror can be used for those areas that are hard to see. The palms and soles, the space between the fingers and toes, and the scalp should also be examined.

Basal cell cancers often first appear as small round or oval patches, shiny and firm, usually white or gray, but sometimes pink or red. Squamous cell cancers can differ more in the way they look, but are usually small, round, slightly raised, and red and crusty. Often there is a sore in the center that does not heal.

Although melanomas can appear on any area of the skin, they often occur where there is a mole. That is why it is important to become familiar with moles and note any changes. The ABCD rule can

help tell a normal mole or other marking from one that could be melanoma.

ABCD stands for:

Asymmetry-One half does not match the other.

Border Irregularity-The edges of the mole are ragged, notched, or blurred.

Color-The color is not the same over all of the mole, but may be differing shades of tan, brown, or black, sometimes with patches of red, white, or blue.

Diameter-The mole is wider than 6 millimeters (1/4") or is growing larger.

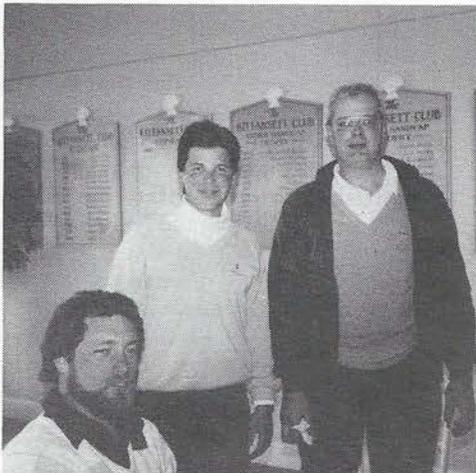
Florida GCSA sets up a relief fund for maintenance employees whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Andrew

A relief fund for South Florida-area golf course maintenance employees, whose homes were destroyed or damaged by Hurricane Andrew last week, has been established by the statewide Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association (FGCSA).

The fund was started with a \$1000 donation from the Palm Beach GCSA, and offers of help have also been received from the Carolinas GCSA and Georgia GCSA.

The South Florida GCSA is responsible for locating those employees hardest hit by the storm.

Checks earmarked for the relief fund may be made payable to the FGCSA and mailed to their association at 1760 Northwest Pine Lake Drive, Stuart, FL 34994. For further information, please contact Marie Roberts, Executive Secretary, FGCSA, (407) 692-9349.



GCSANE photo archive preserves past events

Shown at left at the Kittansett Club in Marion, Mass. on June 1 are (l. to r.) Eric Newell, Tom Colombo, and Steve Chiavaroli. Below, participants huddle with umbrellas while examining a turf plot at the U. of Mass. Turfgrass Field Day June 24 in S. Deerfield, Mass. (Photos by Kip Tyler)



Who's the best green chairman? Doctor? Lawyer? Engineer?

by George Manual and Jim Moore,
USGA Agronomists

Ok, so who makes the best chairperson of the Green Committee, an engineer, an accountant, a doctor, or a lawyer?

Engineers and accountants are the worst. In their world, equations always balance, the variables are well identified, and most importantly, these variables can usually be manipulated at will to achieve the desired outcome. These folks have little patience when they ask questions and the answer begins with, "It depends..." They have a hard time understanding why turfgrass managers cannot control Nature - the Mother of All Variables.

Lawyers can either be great or terrible, seldom in between. These folks are professional rationalizers. If their goals for the course happen to coincide with the superintendent's, they are powerful allies. They can argue the case for new equipment, rebuilding greens, and raising the budget better than anyone. Trouble is, they can argue against these things with equal skill and vehemence.

Doctors tend to be great chairpersons. One of my best friends is a Family Practitioner and Director of the clinic in which he works. While waiting for the fish to bite, over the years, Glen and I have spent

many hours discussing various aspects of our seemingly radically different vocations. There are more than a few similarities. Sick people go to the doctor and expect to be cured. They don't like it when they are told the doctor may not be able to determine exactly what is wrong. They like it even less when they hear there might not be a complete cure. They don't like hearing they may have to work hard (lose weight, quit smoking, exercise, etc.) to help cure themselves. Golfers don't like to hear that the superintendent may not know exactly why the turf died on the back of number 3 but is OK on the front. Golfers don't like to hear the greens must be rebuilt before they will ever be very good. They really don't like hearing they might have to tolerate aerification and other intensive work to improve the course. Patients and golfers want a cheap, painless, quick, and reliable cure to all their complaints. Yes, doctors almost always make good Green Chairpersons.

However, even doctors can't top a friend of mine named Ed Bentley (Green Chairman at Lakewood Country Club in Dallas) who says he has the perfect qualifications for the position. Ed says he is a retired, crooked banker, who also happens to be treasurer of the club. Now there's a powerful combination.



Shown above is Mike Nagle, who bagged a turkey on a recent hunting trip.

A letter from the GCSANE Turf Research Fund: Support of local research keeps profession well-informed

Dear Superintendents, Presidents,
Green Chairmen, etc.:

In 1989, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England began a turf research fund. This fund has concentrated on local golf course operation needs through research emphasizing on local issues. Support from many of our clubs has been well-received since, providing funding in excess of \$45,000.

This funding realized grants for: pesticide storage building, subsurface placement of pesticides, summer patch, management of nematodes in putting greens, pesticide volatility, black turf-

grass ateniensis, and the installation of a neogen envirocaster at the University of New Hampshire.

We ask for the golf fraternity's consideration of the many needs for adequate research on local issues affecting golf course management practices. With cut-backs surrounding us in government, it is important that the industry sees to it that research programs be supplemented at the university and county extension levels. As regulations on golf course management continue to increase, these programs are critical in keeping the profession informed, especially during times of acute environmental awareness. By expanding local research, facts will be

produced, supporting our position to society that golf courses are compatible with the environment and are proper use of open space.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England asks for your continued support of the dedicated turf research as addressed and described above by a contribution to the turf research fund. Please send your contributions to: Mr. Paul Jamrog, P. O. Box 38, Belchertown, MA 01007. Thank you for your active participation.

**EDWARD BREARLEY
CHAIRMAN
TURF RESEARCH**

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

SEMINAR

Public Relations and Public Speaking -
Co-Host: Rhode Island GCSA and the Cape Cod TMA
Dates: November 11-12, 1992
Location: Warwick, Rhode Island
Facility: Sheraton Tara Airport Hotel.
Telephone registrations by credit card are welcome. For more information or to register, call 1-913-832-4444 or fax 1-913-832-4433.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Golf Course Superintendent - Ipswich Country Club, located 35 miles north of Boston, Massachusetts, seeks a talented individual as Golf Course Superintendent for this four year old Robert Trent Jones, Sr. designed 18-hole bentgrass golf course with bluegrass roughs and Toro VT II Irrigation System. Applicant must: (i) have at least five years experience as a Superintendent or First Assistant at a course with bentgrass; (ii) be well organized and planning oriented; (iii) have budgeting experience and knowledge of EPA and OSHA requirements; (iv) be a licensed chemical applicator; and (v) be a degreed agronomist from a recognizable university. Send resume along with financial requirements to Tom White, General Manager, Ipswich Country Club, 148 Country Club Way, Ipswich, MA 01938.

RECERTIFICATION

Michael Legere recently completed the certification renewal process which has earned him the right to continue using the title, Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS).

GCSAA bestows the title of Certified Golf Course Superintendent only on those people committed to professional excellence in the industry.

Successfully completing the renewal requirements of GCSAA's Certification Program is no small accomplishment. It requires individuals to participate in a minimum of 20 hours per year of continuing education to ensure that they stay up-to-date in the latest in golf course management techniques.

INFORMATION

Jack O'Leary of the Boston Herald wrote an informative article on today's golf course superintendent. Jack writes that "instead of spreading a little fertilizer around the course, today's turf manager has to be a chemist. The result: golfers get a much better conditioned golf course, and the environment is diligently preserved." Steve Murphy, superintendent at Gannon Golf Club in Lynn, was interviewed.

How many other superintendents scrambled around on Saturday morning, August 30, trying to water ahead of the golf after those tropical downpours from Hurricane Andrew never materialized? Hopefully nobody had a couple of thousand dollars of insecticide down Friday evening.

Thanks to Eric Newell, CGCS, for having Rockland C.C. in great shape for our August Regular Meeting. Also thank you to the pro shop personnel and Trueman's Tarry Ho for the cookout.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Paul Miller, CGCS on doing a fine job for the rain shortened Digital Seniors Tournament held at Nashawtuc C.C. last month.

Congratulations to Kevin and Carolyn Osgood on the birth of their son Alexander Hitchcock on Wednesday, August 26.

NEWSLETTER NOTES

Where are our Friends of the Association Articles this month? Once again, not just one but both Friends failed to send me any information. Maybe if we started to charge a fee for this "free" service we would get a better response.

"The Newsletter" cutoff date for submitted material is the last day of the previous month. The cut-off for the October Newsletter is September 30.

DRESS CODE

Please remember our Association has a dress code. Tennis shoes or the thousand variations of such are not acceptable even if worn with shorts.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members: Eric Sinisalo, Assistant member, Nehoidan G.C.; William J. Lewandowski, Assistant member, Holden Hills C.C.; and Joseph Piano, Associate member, Norwood C.C.

GOLF RESULTS

August Golf Results
Best of 4
Rockland C.C.

Low Gross 54
Greg Misodoulakis
Steve Butler
Steve Currie
Ed Ulman, III

Low Net 42
Mike Hermanson
Jeff Rogers
Dave Comee
Ed Ulman, Jr.

2nd Net Jim McDonald
John Cotter
Joe Farina
Norm Mucciarone

3rd Net Larry Anshewitz
Mike Legere
Bob Mucciarone
John Murphy

Closest to Pins
#4-Jim McDonald 4'6"
#7-Bruce Budrow 19'2"
#12-Don Levangie 8'7"
#14-Tom Fox 6'2"
#18-Dave Mucciarone 21'

Please Patronize These FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION

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Sales Rep. Jack Borden
Bulk Limestone Dealer

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Unionville, CT 06085
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John Callahan (203) 673-3699

Geoffrey S. Cornish & Brian Silva

Golf Course Architects
Fiddlers Green, Amherst, MA 01002

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P.O. Box 400, W. Falmouth, MA 02574
(508) 563-2284

Chester Drake & Sons, Inc.

222 Walnut St., Framingham, MA 01701
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Elanco Products Company

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(401) 789-9017

Gold Star Wholesale Nursery & Sod Farm

Bill Thompson
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Canterbury, NH, (603) 783-4717

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John Deere Golf & Turf Equipment
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Dick Gurski (413) 543-2777

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Dennis Friel (617) 938-1751 - Paul Skafas (603) 889-7177
Chris Petersen (617) 262-7586

leolite

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dba Hammond Paint & Chem. Co., Inc.
738 Main/Suite 223, Waltham, MA 02154
Joseph Lazaro, (617) 647-3361

LESCO Inc.

20005 Lake Rd., Rocky River, OH 44116
Ron Tumiski, Rep. - Mike Donahue, Rep.
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Read Sand & Gravel concludes its year-long promotion with a contribution to Ouimet Fund

Read Sand and Gravel of Rockland recently completed a year-long promotion with a contribution of \$3760 to the Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund, announced Ouimet President Dennett W. Goodrich. The gift represented the proceeds from an arrangement by which twenty-five cents was contributed for each yard of material sold to golf courses serviced by Read from August 1, 1991 to July 31, 1992.

"This is a wonderful contribution, and is a great example of a business and golf courses getting involved with the Ouimet Fund and everyone being a winner. We're

very grateful to Read. We'd also like to thank the participating courses and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England for their cooperation," said Goodrich.

"We're happy to do this with the Ouimet Fund," said Joe Farina of Read's Golf Course Division. "The Ouimet Fund helps many young people, including students working in superintendent's areas. This helped us, our customers, and the Ouimet Fund."

Read's Golf Course Division supplies the golf industry with USGA specification materials including top dressing mixes, top dressing sand, and bunker sand. The company also provides screened loam, mulch, stone, and stone dust products for drainage and cart path construction. The company delivers to country clubs, golf

courses, and driving ranges in quantities ranging from four cubic yard trucks to multiple 35 yard trailer loads.

Read's 1992-93 promotion raises funds for GCSANE research

Read Sand and Gravel has now actively launched a fundraising program for the GCSANE Turf Research Fund. For this fund Read will pledge the following:

Donation of twenty-five cents per cubic yard of any material delivered to any golf course or driving range they service from September 1, 1992 to September 1, 1993.

Contact Joe Farina, Golf Course Material Sales, Read Sand & Gravel Inc., 171 V.F.W. Drive, Rockland, MA 02370 (1-800-660-2955).

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