

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

## March — Meeting

Monday, March 22, 1993 Franklin C.C., Franklin, MA

> Host Superintendent Gary Luccini

Board Meeting
Regular Meeting
Lunch
Education

Reservations Required Call by March 18, 1993 (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, MA, a nine-hole course, before moving on to Franklin. In 1989 he was a 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 Frankin-King Street exit. Take right off ramp. Follow to set of lights and take a right. Club is two miles on right.



# Gary Luccini leads two lives on golf course, in TV booth



Gary doing play-by-play

The day may not be long enough for Gary Luccini. The days, nights or the golf and hockey seasons, for that matter. For one thing, Gary's the best golf course superintendent the Franklin Country Club ever had. His grooming touch is golden. Yet away from his vocational vortex, Gary is a star in another galaxy as the television voice of the Franklin High School hockey team.

He even contends that life in the TV booth is a one-way street. "You bet I'm prejudiced," Luccini referred to his telecasting style on Franklin's public access cable, Channel 10. "Franklin High School hockey means everything to me. So, I call them the way any Franklin fan would see them." Luccini, an affable member of the golf course superintendents' profession, doesn't pull any punches expressing his loyalty. After all, his brother, Bobby, coaches the Panthers who have been among the state's hockey powers since he took over the job 18 years ago.

"Hey, what am I going to do?" Gary cracked. "Hassle my own brother? No way.

Besides, he does a great job with the kids. High school hockey's a big thing around here and he's a big part of the reason for it. Somebody's gotta blow his horn." Of course, Gary's not aversed to tossing a dig or two at Bobby.

February 1993

"It's the power of the media," he explained. "I mean, I may be a bigger personality in town than he is. I remember being with him in a store once and a couple of ladies were nearby, I heard them say, "Isn't that Gary Luccini, the TV

announcer? They didn't even know who Bobby was. Oh, by the way, he doesn't like to hear that story, but it's true."

On a more serious note, Gary probably has done more to promote the success story of brother Bobby and the Panthers than anyone in the Franklin area. And it's all volunteer work. He's in the center of the action when it comes to running raffles and other money-raising events to improve the image of Franklin High hockey. And just think, all this from an old pond skater.

"I did all my playing for Franklin High on the football field and the basketball court," Gary said. "I played a little hockey, but it was strictly pond stuff. I left the hockey-playing, the real thing to Bobby. We really mixed it up, just like my sons. Mike played hockey in high school, Brian had more fun playing baseball and basketball."

Gary, who's starting his 24th year of greening and grooming at Franklin C.C. always had the idea of being a sports broadcaster in *continued on page 2* 



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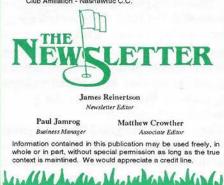
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PAST PRESIDENT Paul Miller, CGCS 1 Leicester Road, Marblehead, MA 0945 (H) 617-631-7910 • (W) 508-369-5704 Club Affiliation - Nashawtuc C.C.



#### continued from page 1

the back of his mind, from his junior high school days when he was glued to every word flowing from another non-neutral play-byplay caller, the venerable Boston Bruins booster - Fred Cusick.

However, Gary had to harness that urge to get behind the mike while he developed his skills in the golf course superintendents' field after graduating from Stockbridge. That was in 1962. Since then, Gary has built a layout (Pine Oaks in Easton), moved into the cat bird's seat at Franklin and served as a



At left is Gary Luccini, and at right is his brother Bobby who is closing in on his 300th win.

consultant in another venture (construction of the New England Country Club).

Along the way, his personal and family life have flourished. Gary and his wife, Kathy, have two daughters - Cheryl and Beth, in addition to sons Mike and Brian who aspire to superintendent careers of their own. Presently, each are enrolled in turf programs at Stockbridge. So, with everything shipshape in that direction, Gary looked for new horizons when the golf season began to unwind. That was nine years ago when the idea of upgrading media coverage of Franklin High hockey set the 1,000-watt bulbs in his head blinking.

"I got together with Al Desper and we put a telecast plan in motion," Gary explained. "Al would do all the technical work which meant he'd be manning the cameras and I'd provide the running commentary. We did our first game on a low-budget basis. It was an alumni game, fun stuff. Oh, low budget means we used borrowed equipment. We worked on that scale for a couple of seasons. Then, we went back to raffles."

Which meant more fund-raising. It was successful, too, because in no time the

Franklin Panthers were being telecast on a professional level which caught the appropriate events of an ever-increasing audience.

"I think they (viewers) like the way I call a game and conduct interviews with coaches and players," Gary continued. "Ijust try to be myself. There are no put-ons. Just straight talk. I don't butter up anybody. That way the fans can identify with the program. It's really working."

Franklin High hockey telecasts really have become a family affair with the recent addition of Brian as a cameraman and occasional

> fill-in for Gary behind the mike. "I don't like to miss many games," Gary interjected. "Brian's got a knack for this thing. Hey, I want him to follow in my footsteps, all right, but my legs aren't gone yet."

> The Veteran's Memorial Rink in Franklin is Gary's work home away from his regular stand at the Franklin Country Club. In fact, Gary was instrumental in building a first-class facility (press box) at the rink. It and the TV productions

are the envy of surrounding, local town sports programs.

"Everything has turned out just fine, Gary concluded. "What's best about it is that Kathy has been behind me 100 percent. It's nice having the whole family involved, sharing the same interests. It's what life's all about. The good life, that is, and I'm certainly living it."

#### GERRY FINN

March 1,2,3	Mass. Turf Conference
March 18	USGA Green Section
	Regional Meeting
	Colonial Hilton
	Lynnfield, MA
March 22	Franklin Country Club
	Franklin, MA
	Regular Meeting

# The Super Speaks Out:

**This month's question:** Does the coming of winter mean the end of day-today responsibilities at your club and course or are other services on the agenda when the golf season stops to take a breather?



Don Hearn, Weston Golf Club: "Although activity does slow down somewhat with the change in weather, it doesn't mean that the candle goes out in the golf course superintendent's window.

"Here, the daily schedule usually is filled with off-season chores involving equipment revitalization and any other work that might be of a less pressing nature when course maintenance is given full attention.

However, two other items come into focus during the winter. We have four platform tennis (paddle) courts to take care of and there's always the unpredictable weather dictating how nuch snow-plowing is necessary to keep club roads open. Paddle court maintenance consists of keeping the heating systems on our three aluminum courts in working order and providing snow-clearing service (snow blowers, shovels) on the fourth court which is wooden.

"Here, the daily schedule usually is filled with off-season chores involving equipment revitalization and any other work that might be of a less pressing nature when the course maintenance is given full attention." Don Hearn

The aluminum courts draw their heat (snowclearing purposes) from propane gas blowers that are activated by two sets of timers. The shorter timer (one hour) can be activated by players and probably gets the most use since courts can ice over even in snowless but damp weather. Keeping the roads open is a top priority since our membership is very active. For example, the big December storm dumped 18 to 20 inches. That was on a Saturday. Twenty-four hours later a paddle event, postned from the day before, was staged under ideal conditions. "How did we do it? Seven full-time crew members manned the plows and didn't stop until all the roads were clear."



gram.

parking lots. "This isn't to say that our members pack it in for the winter in matter of getting their outdoor exercise. On the contrary, there are three paddle courts, a few skating ponds and a cross-country skiing pro-

"This isn't to say that our members pack it in for the winter in matter of getting their outdoor exercise."

#### Dick Duggan

Dick Duggan, Con-

cord Country Club:

"Plowing. That's the only word for it and we

got hit early this year

(December). I never

knew we had so many

"Fortunately, maintenance of these facilities has been taken over by other parties. I guess my only first-hand involvement in those activities is to rope the greens to keep skiers off them. However, I have to admit that they respect those boundary lines and confine their tracking to the open spaces. It's a good thing the skating and paddle upkeep is in other hands. Like I said, plowing keeps the man hours mounting in winter, especially when storms like that December whopper plug the roads and parking lots."

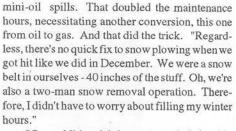
Steve Chiavaroli, Tatnuk Country Club: "Paddle tennis is the big thing around here in the winter, and for a while, taking care of them was a problem.

"About 10 years ago, our two courts were converted from wooden to

metal with oil fired space heaters used to clear ice and snow. The problem was the oil. When spigots were inadvertently left on, it triggered

"Regardless, there's no quick fix to snow plowing when we get hit like we did in December."

Steve Chiavaroli



"One additional jolt accompanied that big storm. The snow was so heavy it caused a scotch pine to fall onto the wire section of one court. That popped a light and nightime play was on hold for a spell. Incidents like that prove there's never a dull moment around the golf course ... even in the dead of winter."



Dave Heroian, Myopia Hunt Club: "Paddle tennis is very big here, so keeping up with maintenance and improvements to the playing area is very much a major part of my winter schedule.

"Of course, that's in

addition to the regular off-season responsibilities like keeping roads clear of snow, not to mention a locker room project which takes up the remainder of the working hours. But back to paddle. Presently (early January) we're redoing the lighting system. My role is to oversee the operation and zero in on the refinements that will come in handy when repairs are needed.

"Actually, I've been very close to the paddle program. We have three courts, all aluminum. Two of them are originals, about 10 years old, and the third was installed three years ago. Personal involvement included setting up a site, testing for proper footing locations and installing the footings."

"Oh, yes. My crew also was busy recently, increasing the size of the paddle warming hut. Heating there is done with natural gas, heating on the courts is divided between oil (two courts) and propane gas. Since propane is preferred, I'd like to work a conversion item into my next budget.

"Paddle maintenance, then, gets heavy attention here. It's winter, all right, but we're into an endless season as far as keeping things in the best possible condition for our membership."

**GERRY FINN** 



# 1993 G.C.S.A.N.E. Board Of Directors

Left to Right: Trustee, John Hassett; Vice President, Edward Brearley; Past President, Paul Miller; President Steve Chiavaroli; Trustee, Eric Newell; Secretary, Bob DiRico; Trustee, Kevin Osgood; Golf Chairman, James Fitzroy; Finance Chairman, Robert Ruszala; Not in photo: Educational Chairman, Richard Duggan and Newsletter Chairman, James Reinertson.



## **1993 Meeting Schedule**

April 20 May 10 June 7 June 28 July 19 August 9 September 13 September 27 October 4 November 1 Poquoy Brook GC TBA Thompson Club Franklin C.C. Concord C.C. Thorny Lea Hatherly C.C. Willowbend (Rain Date) Needham G.C.

Superintendent/Chairman Championship

Member / Member Research Troll/Dickinson Scholorship Awards

Louis Peter Bettencourt 1570 Main Road • Westport, MA 02790 \$500.00

Mark Daly 15 Burton Street • Boston, MA 02135 \$500.00

Richard H. Gniadek 67 Elaine Drive • Pittsfield, MA 01201 \$1,000.00

Paul C. Hallock 25 Elm Street • Marlboro, MA 01752 \$1,000.00

Robert Hartley III 114 Aword Place • So. Hadley, MA 01075 \$500.00 Norman Raymond Lafaille 90 Chestnut Street • Spencer, MA 01562 \$500.00

> William B. Leger 657 Worester St., Apt. 1607 Southbridge, MA 01550 \$1,000.00

Michael Luccini 115 Forest Street • Franklin, MA 02038 \$1,000.00

Jonathan Miller 1 Leicester Road • Marblehead, MA 01945 \$1,000.00

Peter Nystrom 12 Settler's Path • Sandwich, MA 02563 \$500.00 Dennis O'Kane 100 Hoyt Street \$1,000.00

Robert S. Reichert Sherman Drive • S. Deerfield, MA 01373 \$500.00

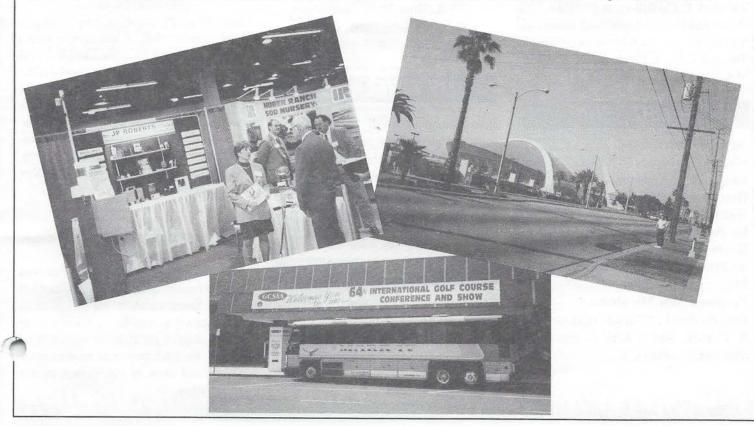
Robert Varanka 25 Edgemont Street • Springfield, MA 01109 \$1,000.00

Jonathan Zuk 86 Webster Street • Unionville, Ct 06085 \$500.00

Scholorships will be given at the Massachusetts Turf Conference

## **Pictures from the Anaheim Convention**

Left - J.P. Roberts Company, one of the New England companies with an exhibit booth. Middle - Outside the Convention Center. Right - Convention Center.



Annual Meeting in January at the Franklin C.C. On Left Joe Rybka, CGCS receives his twenty-five year pin. On the right is Golf Chairman James Fitzroy handing out 1992 Golf Tournament Awards.

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

## POSITION AVAILABLE

Golf Course/Assistant Superintndent: Tatnuck C.C., full-time position. Please send letter of application and full resume to Steven Chiavaroli, CGCS, Tatnuck C.C., 6 Birch Street, Paxton, MA 01612.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

#### New Members:

Michael Lebaron, Assistant, Indian Ridge C.C., Andover, MA; Scott A. Hurt, Assistant, Myopia Hunt Club, So. Hamilton, MA; Robert Page, Affiliate, Fairway Design & Illustration, Hardwick, MA; Ronald Smith, Affiliate, Sports Club Management, Braintree, MA.

#### **Proposed New Members:**

Greg Frederick, Affiliate, Nardone Sand & Gravel; Kevin Killoy, Associate Member, Guabug C.C.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Joseph Rybka, CGCS **Arthur Washburn Thomas Schofield, CGCS** for receiving a twenty-five year pin

### GOV'T RELATIONS

Eric Newell attended 1993's Government Relations Seminar in Anaheim on January 25th. For those of you interested, he has information on how to deal with the news media; pros and cons to pre-emption; wetland issues, and posting and notification issues.

## DID YOU KNOW?

That our golf champion Misddoulakis Greg knocked in a hole-in-one at the Walt Disney Golf Course. all alco Della hand all a human and a have

### **BYLAW CHANGE**

#### **CURRENT ARTICLE IV - Section 5** Assistant Members

Any member's assistant, employed at a golf course, that is under the direct superivision of a member, shall have the right to become an assistant member, but shall not have the right to vote or to hold office. He shall pay such initiation fee and annual dues as established by the Association. The member shall be responsible for the conduct and all indebtedness incurred by any assistant member in his immediate employ.

#### **PROPOSED ARTICLE IV - Section 5 Assistant Members**

An Assistant Member shall be employed by a golf course as an Assistant to the Golf Course Superintendent. He shall have all of the priveleges of the Association but shall not have the right to vote or holdoffice. He shall pay such intitiation feu and annual dues as established by the Association.



## Please Patronize These FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION

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Philip Wogan Golf Course Architecture 17 Walker Rd., Topsfield, MA 01983 Friends of the Association

#### Fairway Design and Illustration, Inc.

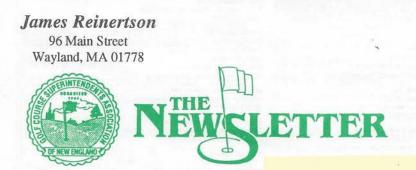
Fairway Design and Illustration, Inc. (FDI), is New Englands only granite manufacturer servicing the golf industry. With the advent of increased competition and financial concerns about ongoing maintenance expenses the granite marking systems FDI provide are making more and more sense for golf superintendents.

Each New England golf course is a blend of artistry, endurance, and practicality. Granites inanimate nature adapts to each course in a remarkably lively fashion. This unique relationship explores the permanence of granite and begins to address the concerns of vandalism, replacement, and upkeep. FDI president Joseph Martin created this important service for New England golf courses because of his love of golf and his relationship with the 65 year old Medici family business, Warren Memorial. Guido Medici began his family monument business as a sculptor and artisan. Son Don and grandson Tom have nurtured the original concept from Guido and established shops in Warren and Warwick, Rhode Island. There are generations of experience and understanding of granite and its applications at Warren

Memorial and FDI. FDI has chosen to spend time forming relationships with golf course superintendents in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and northern New England. Robert Charney of Scituate, MA. and Robert Page of Hardwick, MA., have been visiting golf courses, understanding the specific marking needs of each facility and offering customized solutions. It is clear that general marking can be accomplished in a similar fashion on most courses. There are major climate differences that impact on the installation of FDI products. For instance a 150 yard fairway marker on Cape Cod is installed differently than in Berkshire County where frost can run 4 feet deep. This understanding has placed FDI in a position to relate to superintendents concerns on the golf course and to understand the history of marking needs.

FDI offers a variety of granite applications. Surface level yardage markers from each tee box or in each fairway are suggested in 6"x6"x4" or 12"x12"x4" sizes. Mowers can roll directly over the surface and little trimming is necessary for markers to remain visible and assist in speed of play. Tee signs are adapted in a variety of shapes and sizes. There are upright 14"x60"x4" beauties with hole illustration, club logo, and yardage instruction. Also a variety of slant faced map type plates are held on pedestals and show the beauty of each golf hole. Again granite is usually seen as a gray stone with memories of lost loved ones. Not so for FDI. Rose, Dakota Mahogany, Black, and Green colors are available as well as two different shades of gray. The beauty of granite is certainly expressed through the combination of color and artistry.

"The creation of FDI is in direct relation to the local needs of golf courses in New England," states Joseph Martin. "We have a strong service history at FDI and listen to each superintendents needs. Mail ordering signs and markers need not be the norm anymore. FDI is committed to personally walking through each step from design installation. We feel proud to be members of the Golf Course Superintendents of New England and look forward to meeting with each of you in our travels." The FDI home office can be reached at 1-800-358-8337 or 401-245-7890, Fax 401-245-0971.



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