



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.

August 1993

August Meeting

Monday, August 9, 1993
Thorny Lea Golf Club

Host Superintendent
Joseph Rybka, CGCS

9:00 a.m. Board Meeting
10:30 a.m. Regular Meeting
11:00 a.m. Education
Golf and Lunch to follow
Golf & Lunch - \$35.00
Lunch Only - \$18.00

Reservations Required
Call by August 6, 1993
(617) 328-9479

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

Joe has been superintendent at Thorny Lea Golf Club for 29 years. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois. Joe resides in Whitman with his wife.

Directions to Thorny Lea Golf Club: North and South: Take Route 24 to Brockton Exit (Route 123). Route 123 is Belmont Street. Travel for 1.2 miles going through four traffic lights. At the fifth traffic light and turn left onto West Street. Shaw market is on the left. On West Street travel 1/10th of a mile to the first traffic light and turn left again. This is Towey Street. You will now be traveling behind the Shaw markets. The club is 4/10ths of a mile on the right.

Andy Langlois takes giant career steps in stride

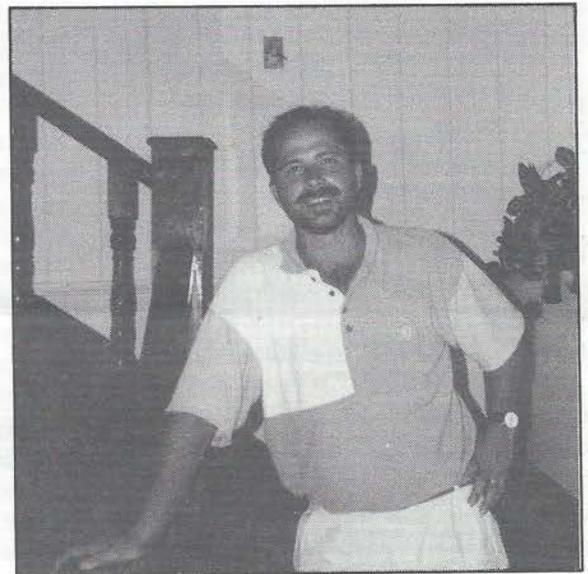
If Andy Langlois has learned anything since leaving the relatively calm life as superintendent of a private 18-hole golf course for the more upbeat and busier surroundings of a 36-hole public layout, it's that the man in charge is only as effective as the people around him.

"That's for sure," Langlois emphasized in between pulling the trigger for the maintenance moves at the Stow Acres Country Club. "Nowadays I have to rely much more on my peripheral personnel. There are 26 on the staff here and I spend a lot of time just shuffling them around to keep my grooming schedule on track. So, directing this operation involves constant change."

Langlois changed jobs in January. He came to Stow from the Foxboro Country Club where he had served five years, the last four as head superintendent. In fact, those five years constituted his entire experience in the profession. At Foxboro one year (1988) he was the assistant super, the next he was top man on the maintenance totem pole. So, he must be good.

"Hey, I caught a lucky break," Andy explained. "I got involved in a big project at Foxboro, a new irrigation system, it picked up the condition of the course and I guess a reputation followed. When someone told me about the opening at Stow, I applied. However, I never thought I'd get it."

Langlois doesn't mean to put down Foxboro in describing the job change. "That was a great place," Andy said of his first position. "I was able to get a handle on



He's taken a liking to his new home at Stow Acres.

virtually every phase of golf course maintenance. First hand, that is. I did a lot of the jobs many crew members do. I set up the golf course three times a week. I wanted to familiarize myself with every corner of that course and getting out where the work load was made possible."

So far, Andy hasn't had much time to "get out into the field," as he describes his work habits at Foxboro. His main input at Stow is planning and organizing the maintenance program and he virtually agonizes over it.

"I never was a good planner," he explained. "A good organizer? Yes. So, I have to work harder on my weaker suit. Which means long hours. My day starts any time between 3:30 and 4:30. When my crew arrives about five, I'm ready for them. Teeoff

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times here are very early, too. Golfers start playing at seven weekdays and five on weekends. And it's one continuous flow. That's why I'm going 12 or so hours a day...seven days a week."

Play at Stow Acres never seems to end. Besides hosting a regular stream of outings, the popular course has a number of regular golfers spread through a several pass-holding categories. Then, there are walk-ons, many of whom make up the rank and file of public link players. "I'd say there's almost one outing a day here," Andy informed. "It's nothing to have 350 or more golfers go around the course in one day. That's a little different from Foxboro where the entire membership was around 350. Oh, don't get me wrong. It was busy there, too, but not like this."

The transition from working at a private club to taking over at a public course has been a smooth one, simply because Andy prefers the latter type of operation. "There's more politics present in the private club's operational structure," Langlois remarked. "The superintendent has to assert himself at the political level. He has to work through committees, committee chairmen and then the board of directors. I'm not knocking that. It's just the way of life at the country club."

"My situation here eliminates most of the lost time trying to get projects going because of the long chain of command in the private sector. I do what the owners want and work with them setting up an overall maintenance program. And there are only two of them. Mostly, I'm in contact with Walt Lankau. He's the on-site owner. On-site in this case means being here 15 hours a day, seven days a week. It's a more comfortable arrangement from my end."

Langlois makes light of it but his happens to be an amazing success story. As recently as six years ago, Andy wasn't sure where he was going career-wise. "When I got out of high school (Easthampton), I thought about making sports and such part of my life but in the field of physical education," Andy disclosed. "So, I enrolled at Springfield College."

Two years later, Andy started to waffle on his life's work intentions. He bounced around the college circuit, made a stop at Westfield State and eventually settled in at the University of Massachusetts where exposure to a possible career in the turf field pointed him to



On top of being a good superintendent, Andy is a good golfer.

the golf course...again.

While in high school, Andy was the No. 1 man on a very good Easthampton team. It captured two Western Massachusetts team titles and one state championship. And competition on the golf course led to summer stints working on it. Thus, when Andy graduated from UMass in 1988 and the assistant job offer came from Foxboro, he grabbed it. Happily, his star has been rising ever since.

"I really love this job," Andy told. "It's time consuming but it's a big challenge and it falls right into my work ethic. Two years from now we'll be hosting the USGA Public Links Championship and I'll be right in the middle of it. There's where I want to be...in this office. Hey, it's not the oval office but it's perfect fit from where I am."

A perfect fit all around. Andy Langlois and Stow Acres. They fit like a glove.

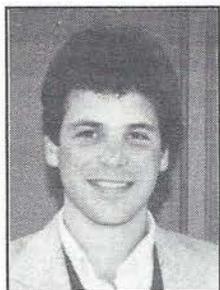
GERRY FINN

Calendar

August 9	Thorny Lea
August 24	Wachusett C.C. <i>Memorial Tourn.</i>
Sept. 13	Hatherly C.C. <i>Member/Member</i>
Sept. 27	Willow Bend <i>Research Tourn.</i>
October	Ferncroft C.C. <i>Pro/Superintendent</i>

The Super Speaks Out:

This month's question: *How do factors consistent with weather conditions at oceanside golf courses affect your maintenance methods and schedule?*



Tom Colombo, New Seabury Golf Club:

"We are pretty much a seaside oriented golf course even though our 36 holes are divided into a so-called inner layout and outer 18. Naturally, the most important aspect of trying

to maintain optimum playing conditions in areas on or near the ocean is the wind. To put it in simple terms, we are at the mercy of the wind."

"Therefore the direction and velocity of the wind virtually dictates our watering, pesticide-spraying and fertilizer-laying schedules. Those factors vary at oceanside course around New England, but here at New Seabury it's a chancy situation once the winds pick up, usually sometime after eight in the morning."

"All of those maintenance aids, then, are scheduled as early as we can get on the course. In this case, early means no later than 5:30 a.m. If we can stay ahead of the weather and the pickup of winds, we've won the watering and spraying battle for that particular day. Because the winds are constant in the oceanside areas, there is more probability of plants drying out. So, I find there is more syringing activity necessary in that area of course maintenance."

"One of the popular assumptions among those interested in oceanside maintenance is that the superintendent is always on the lookout for sea spray and the effect it can have on all course plant life. There is evidence of salt spray after big storms and the immediate counteraction is to apply heavy doses of water to the affected parts of the course. The extreme case here is a situation such as the storm of 1991 (Hurricane Bob) that did a job on a number of Cape Cod courses."

"The problem with Bob was the lack of rain accompanying the storm. Worse yet, we were without electricity for several days. This meant we had to run manual spray rigs over the course to combat the sea spray that discolored practically everything on the course that grows. Overall, my approach on both 18-hole

courses considers the wind factor in all maintenance plans. On the ocean or just near it poses the same potential danger. As I said, we are at the mercy of the winds."

Neil Wendell, Point Judith Country Club:

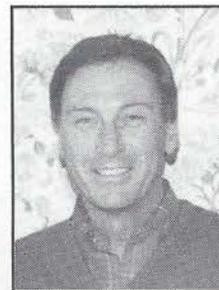
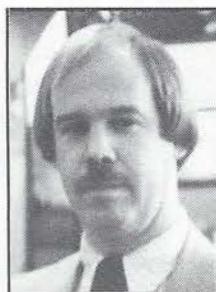
"Our wind pickup schedule is the prime difference between maintaining an inland course and one that sits near the ocean."

"Point Judith is just close enough to the ocean that we usually are out watering as early as 5 a.m. That gives us about a five-hour edge on the arrival of winds. They usually hit the course between ten and noon."

"We are on a manual irrigation system, so it's essential that my program get started on time...at all times. However, that work load should be less stressful since we are in the middle of a massive project or the planning stage of a new irrigation as well as drainage system. Once that gets going there'll be a feeling of relief all around."

"There are a couple of factors, other than the wind, that have to be considered in planning my maintenance schedule. For example, we never can cut roughs in the early morning unless we want to put up with the additional problem of eliminating huge grass clumps. Of course, other weather conditions control the drying out process where the dew is concerned. So, in a word, the dew can be a pain in the neck."

"Storms have been another danger to think about, such as the one in December that downed about 20 trees. With the storms come salt spray. Then, when the hurricanes come, all we can do is pray. Oh, there's also another part of the games superintendents play that keeps me hopping. We have 14 grass tennis courts to be maintained. The same deal goes with them, plus keeping them smooth and hard. Otherwise, we live a quiet, peaceful life at Point Judith."



Len Blodgett, Kittansett Club:

"The byword here is watch the wind first, then get on with the maintenance schedule. Our irrigation systems respects the situation, too. Usually, all the watering is done between one

and four in the morning. According to our records and experiences, that's when the wind is the lightest."

"Kittansett is what I call a half-and-half course. One half is inland, the other on the point (oceanside). Se, we get our share of ocean-type winds and the big ones when the storm season arrives."

"The salt spray triggered by storms has hit us hard in the two most recent hurricanes. But we've been hit so many times some of the plants have become immune to the damage salt spray inspires."

"Water. That's the only weapon to combat salt spray. In fact, we have one island green whose exposure calls for drastic measures. If need be, I'll flood it after there's evidence of a salt spray visit."

"Because of those salt spray invasions, I do a lot of overseeding. I'm constantly feeding the plants. It's just something we have to do and something that works."

"There's one other wind-influenced move I should mention. It (wind) affects the position of the tee markers. We usually know by 9 (a.m.) what the wind will be for that day. Most of the time I have to move markers up. So, the wind at Kittansett is a factor from a player point of view as well as the golf course superintendent."

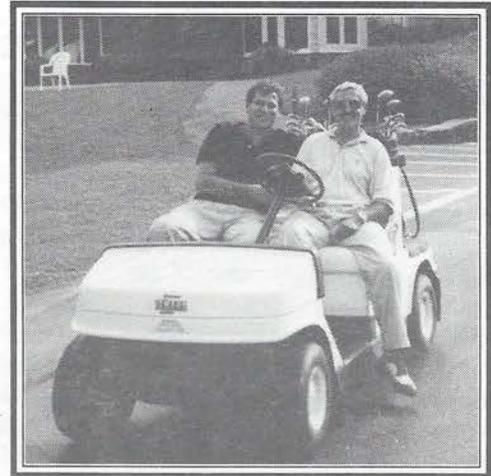
Tournament results of the Supt. Chairman

LOW NET

- 1st Longmeadow C.C.
- 2nd Presidents G.C.
- 3rd Salem C.C.
- 4th Wampatuct

LOW GROSS

- 1st Franklin C.C.
- 2nd Stowe Acres C.C.



"You're Gonna Like This Guy"

UW-Madison Hires Scott Mackintosh to Manager the Noer Facility

By Dr. Frank S. Rossi

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I introduce to you the new Station Manager of the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, Scott Mackintosh. Scott received the offer as a result of a rigorous national search and interview process conducted by the UW-Turfgrass Group (Dr.'s Meyer, Koval, Kussow, & Rossi) with Dr. March Finner and Tom Harrison presiding. As I write, Scott is completing his M.S. in Turfgrass Science at the University of Massachusetts under the guidance of Dr. Richard Cooper (himself the former Research Station Manager at Ohio State). We expect Scott to officially join us by June 15th.

Scott Allen Mackintosh was literally born on a golf course in the Berkshire Mountains of Western Massachusetts in October of 1966. Scott's father, A. Roy Mackintosh, is a golf course superintendent and has clearly had a significant impact on Scott's professional as well as personal life. Scott's interview was filled with references to learning experiences from his years with his Dad, who Scott describes as a "working superintendent, hardworking and dedicated, committed to enhancing the professionalism of the industry." Additionally, as a result of Scott's enormous exposure to the golf course, he enjoys both recreational and competitive golf—hey, Rod, you got your wallet handy!!

Scott is happily married and his spouse Diane, is excited and supportive about the move to Madison. They are expecting twins in July!! So, Scott will make the trip to Madison on his own at first, return to Massachusetts for the birth of the children and rejoin us in time to aid with Field Day activities. Diane will venture out sometime after she and the twins recover and the Grandparents give them a few months of lovin'. With the twins in July and Julie Meyer and her husband Wayne expecting their child in August, we will be renaming the facility the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Daycare Facility!!

Scott speaks fondly of his experience with Dr. Rich Cooper, describing Rich as "easy going, with an open door policy that



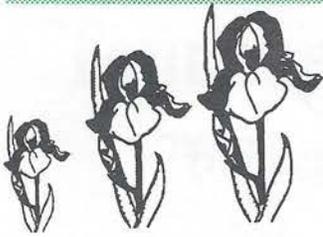
Scott and Diane Mackintosh

made for an excellent learning experience." Scott's M.S. research investigates the fertilizer potential and environmental impact of sewage sludge applied to the turfgrass system. He evaluated some experimental material and used Milorganite as the standard treatment by which to compare performance. I had the opportunity to attend Scott's presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Agronomy last November in Minneapolis, Minnesota. At the time I was thoroughly impressed by his command of the material, never thinking he would be joining us. Also, I remember thinking that I finally met someone who could talk as fast as me while making a presentation!

One of the recurrent themes in my conversations with Scott has been his soft-spoken enthusiasm for the position. He indicated how impressed he was with the open and friendly, team-based relationship among members of the Turfgrass Group. Additionally, having been working out of a mobile home trailer with used equipment for the

UMass Research Facility, he stated that the O.J. Noer Facility was the best in the country—"equipment heaven". He feels challenged by the opportunity to work with both experienced and new turfgrass researchers, as well as regular interaction with the turfgrass industry.

Help me in giving a warm Wisconsin welcome to Scott and his family, marking a new phase in the growth of the UW-Turfgrass Program!



What is it with Plant Growth Regulators?

By Dr. Frank S. Rossi
Department of Horticulture
University of Wisconsin-Madison

It may seem you like an odd title for an article, but, during my travels on the golf courses in Wisconsin, it is one of the most widely asked questions. Many superintendents do not understand this technology. It is not because we are not intelligent, not because we don't understand the concept, rather it is simply a case where technology arrives and we are not prepared to integrate it into our management schemes.

Do I use it for clipping reduction? Do I use it for *Poa* conversion? Do I use it to enhance green speed? Or do I use it because by green chairperson or owner or salesman said I should? I would like to address these topics in a two-part article; first, I want to review some basic concepts in plant growth regulation, and second, I will discuss their implication in golf turf management and inform you about some of our research in this area.

Let's start at the very basics of growth. Plants in general create biomass (leaves, stems, roots, flowers) by producing new cells from existing cells which divide (cell division). Cell division increases the number of cells. Once the plant has new cells, these cells must stretch or elongate to make new organs (leaves, roots, flowers) by a process call cell elongation. These processes are indirectly regulated by a plant hormone, gibberillic acid (GA), much like our hormones regulate hair growth and the female reproductive cycle. As GA levels increase, growth (division & elongation) occurs and the plant creates new biomass.

Turfgrass growth regulation began as an idea some 50 years ago, probably by some disgruntled homeowner who was tired of mowing. One of the first products used successfully in turf was maleic hydrazide (MH). MH suppressed foliar

growth and seedhead formation of roadside vegetation. More recently, Mefluidide (*Embark & Embark Lite*) has been used primarily for *Poa annua* seedhead suppression on golf courses. Mefluidide is absorbed by the leaves, most effectively at the base of the leaves, and does not move through the plant; this makes thorough spray coverage essential. Once it penetrates the leaf it begins to affect both cell division and cell elongation. Consequently, when it contacts a flowering stem (*Poa* seedhead) during formation (this fact makes timing essential) it causes it to distort and prevents seedhead emergence from the leaf sheath. Products which exhibit this type of activity are classified as **Type 1 Growth Regulators**, of which Mefluidide is the most common.

The other popular class of PGRs are the materials which also act by inhibiting GA synthesis, but, apparently to a lesser degree than Mefluidide. This is evidenced by the suppression of cell elongation but not cell division. Products which exhibit this type of activity are classified as **Type 2 Growth Regulators**. Products in this class include Flurprimidol (*Cutless*), Paclobutrazol (*Turf Enhancer & TGR* active ingredient), and a new material-Cinmectacarb (*Primo*). Because these products primarily affect cell elongation and not division. The number of new cells is only slightly reduced while their ability to elongate is significantly altered. So, you get more small cells. This explains the altered morphology of the turf leaves (wider leaf blades) and the short stumpy appearance of the plants (reduced internode length—the distance between new leaves). There is also some experimental evidence that indicates stolons of treated plants become more

prostrate and rosette-like (like a witches broom). *Cutless* and *Turf Enhancer* are both primarily root absorbed while *Primo* is being advertised as primarily foliar absorbed. This could be a significant strategic use aspect in terms of the length and flexibility of regulation (more on this in my next article). The other significant factor in the use of PGRs is that they exhibit different degrees of regulation depending on the turf species. This is kind of a hassle for landscapers who want to regulate the growth of the entire mixed species home lawn; however, for the golf course superintendent it couldn't be a better deal. We thought.

The concept of regulating turfgrass growth goes right to the heart of what makes grass such a unique biological system. Grasses are constantly creating new biomass to replace mown or damage biomass. Therefore, when using these products a manager must understand that there are trade-offs in quality and vigor which, if not compensated for, can make for some unhappy golfers. Be clear as to why you are using them. As I mentioned in the opening paragraph, there are various reasons for using them. Some are theoretically sound, others not so sound.

In my next article I will discuss the management aspects of using PGRs for clipping reduction, green speed enhancement, and *Poa* conversion programs.

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

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New Members:

Robert Barbati, Affiliate, Boston Irrigation.

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed New Members:

David D'Andrea, Assistant, Juniper Hill G.C.; Stephen K. Lewis, Assistant, Andover C.C.

CHEMICAL INFO.

Voluntary EPA Registration Withdrawal of Calo-Clor® and Calo-Gran® Turf Fungicides.

Grace-Sierra regrets to inform you of the voluntary withdrawal of Calo-Clor and Calo-Gran with the EPA. Grace-Sierra is requesting the following withdrawal procedures with the EPA.

1. Grace-Sierra will voluntarily discontinue the manufacturing of its mercurial products (Calo-Clor and Calo-Gran) in the United States immediately and request it be allowed to sell its existing inventory through December 31, 1994.

2. Grace-Sierra distributors will be allowed to sell their inventories through December 31, 1995 to the golf course industry.

3. That Golf Course Superintendents be allowed to use their inventories of Calo-Clor and Calo-Gran until inventories are depleted.

Due to increased pressure on the only mercury compound remaining in the U.S., Grace-Sierra no longer can support the registration process of a mercury compound. The voluntary withdrawal was submitted to the EPA July 1, 1993. Grace-Sierra expects to hear from the EPA on this request shortly and will immediately inform you of the outcome.

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1st Annual GCSANE Memorial Golf Tournament

In memory of Don Marone and Joel McKeon. All GCSANE members and guest are welcome to participate. Funds raised will go toward the establishment of a Scholarship and Benevolent Fund to which all members will be eligible.

Date

Tuesday, August 24, 1993

Place

Wachusett Country Club, West Boylston, MA

Cost

\$75.00 per person • \$150 per team
(includes golf, cart, prizes and dinner)

Format

Two man best ball

8:00 AM	Registration, Coffee and Danish
8:45 AM	Shotgun Start
2:00 - 3:00 PM	Cocktails
3:00 PM	Buffet Dinner



**THE
NEWSLETTER**

James Reinertson

96 Main Street
Wayland, MA 01778

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