



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.

November 1996

Public course owner-superintendents put spikeless issue on the front burner

It looks as though the spikeless golf shoe world might be expanding.

"I hope so," mused Charlie Dickow, who wears two hats at Poquoy Brook Golf Club, Lakeville, in southeastern Mass. "However, what we're into right now is only the formative stage of a plan to see all public golf courses go spikeless."

Dickow, the Poquoy Brook owner-superintendent, is one of several members of the New England Golf Course Owners Association who has taken the initiative to do something about public layouts joining the growing number of private clubs promoting the use of spikeless or soft spikes golf shoes. They met at a meeting in late September to see if there was enough interest to pick up the pace in the rising tide of courses pledged to effect the death of traditional metal spiked shoes.

The effort promises to be a lengthy one. Dickow said that this group probably will need more meetings this winter to

explore ways of convincing public course golfers that spikeless is the way to go.

"It's not going to be easy," Charlie said. "There are a number of things necessary for the spikeless policy to happen. We have to get a solid commitment from some of the so-called 'high profile' public

courses. We can't move without them. Above everything else, the key is the number of public courses that take the spikeless stand. We have to be 100 percent behind this."

The spikeless trend has become a burning issue in the grand and ancient game. One of the pioneer courses to announce a ban on metal spikes is the Willowbend Club in Mashpee on Cape Cod. It is a private club, but is also a one-owner club. That owner happens to be Reebok CEO Paul Fireman. He simply declared Willowbend was going spikeless at the end of 1994 and that was that. A year later, players marveled at the consistency and smoothness of Willowbend greens.

Its superintendent, Chris Tufts, looked at the results of a full season of going spikeless and talked in terms of the move going national, even though only one percent of the nation's golf courses had lined up on the spikeless side. Now, one year later, other courses are falling in line, giving members an inexpensive opportunity to switch from metal to soft spikes, while vowing that the traditional type of shoe would not be tolerated on their greens.

That's the big hang-up in our attempt to get rid of metal spikes," Dickow said. "Private clubs have more control over golfers who play their courses. They can make restrictions and members must adhere to them. We in the public course sector have a revolving door type player. It's tough to dictate to them. Sometimes



"We can't get this in motion without other people joining the movement . . . We need advertising, endorsements from high-profile players, and full commitment from high-profile courses."

**Charlie Dickow
Poquoy Brook Golf Club**

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they don't hear you and there's nothing you can do about it. That's why we have to think this thing out."

Even more cautious about trying to make public course golfers believers of the spikeless shoe gospel is another two-hatter, Wachusett Country Club owner Don Marrone of West Boylston. He's already into promoting the move.

"At the beginning of this season we gave a set of soft spikes to each of our associate members," Marrone disclosed. "There are over 300 of them and they're a part of the many public course golfers flooding Wachusett. We even offered to put the spikes on for them. The results? Who knows? Frankly, there weren't too many of them who went the spikeless route. We didn't make it mandatory. We felt we couldn't. What we did do was endorse spikeless shoes. Did we enforce their use? No. Will we do that in the future? Good question."

Marrone, like Dickow, is convinced golfers would probably accept a spikeless edict if they saw the effects of their mandatory use. They must try playing at courses where metal spikes are banned. In this case, seeing - and playing - is believing.

Dickow admits he had to experience the same revelation before he became a bona fide booster of spikeless golf.

"That's right, I wasn't a believer until this year," Charlie confessed. "But we played in a tournament at Oak Hill where

metal spikes were not allowed. What a difference! Every green was a pleasure to putt, and that meant for the first group of players and the last. That's when I wondered how much better my greens would be under spikeless conditions. I'm talking about greens that take a 40-50,000 round-a-year pounding."

But adopting a spikeless policy is contingent on many factors for public courses. Dickow would like to see more PGA Tour players wear soft spikes and make it known that they welcome a mass switchover to them. He'd also like to see golf shoe companies ship their products with soft spikes already on them.

"Let's face it," Charlie advised. "We can't get this thing in motion without other people joining the movement. The tour pros are the role models, and you can see from the sale of certain clubs how much their input affects the buying and usage habits of the public. We need advertising, endorsements from high-profile players, and full commitment from high-profile courses. Some important people and courses have to take the lead."

Regardless, the public course owners are headed in the right direction. "I'm willing to go spikeless," Dickow stated. "But I'm no Lone Ranger. We have to get in on this together. Right now it's on our association's front burner. Next, we have to turn up the heat."

GERRY FINN

GCSANE News

GCSANE announces '97 slate of officers

The GCSANE Nominating Committee has announced the slate of officers and board of directors for 1997.

They are: Robert DiRico, CGCS, president; Kevin Osgood, vice president; James Fitzroy, CGCS, secretary; Robert Ruzsala, treasurer; Michael V. Iacono, CGCS, educational chairman; James Conant, CGCS, finance chairman; Michael Hermanson, golf chairman; Wayne LaCroix, CGCS, newsletter chairman; and David Comee, trustee for three years.

The members of the 1997 nominating committee are: David Barber, CGCS, chairman; James Fitzroy, CGCS; Kevin Osgood; Arthur Silva, CGCS; and Daryn Brown.

Calendar

November 4	GCSANE Monthly Meeting Nabnasset Lake Country Club Westford, Mass.
December 9	GCSANE Monthly Meeting Marshfield Country Club Marshfield, Mass.
December 15	GCSANE Christmas Party Brae Burn Country Club W. Newton, Mass.
January 9 1997	GCSANE Annual Meeting Brae Burn Country Club West Newton, Mass.
Jan. 13-15, 1997	Mass. Turf Conference Hynes Convention Center Boston, Mass.
Feb. 6-12, 1997	68th GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show Las Vegas, Nevada

The Super Speaks Out

This month's question:

Do you employ outside contractors for certain types of golf course maintenance, and what is the reasoning behind it?

Jim Fitzroy, Presidents Golf Club: "I try to limit my outside contractor work to those areas where completion of the job becomes more cost effective when I put it out to bid.

"This year my outside work consisted of a deep tine aerification treatment and late-season spreading of fertilizer on fairways and other places where wear and tear had thinned the turf.

"The deep tine business is almost automatic for me. I've convinced myself and my budget that it's more practical to contract the job because of (1) the high cost of purchasing equipment to do the job, and (2) the man hours that contracting frees up to concentrate on other maintenance projects.

"The fertilizing outlay again is more practical because it always falls on a late date when much of my part-time help (college students) has left for the season. Also, the contractors are in and out of the course in no time at all and they do a clean job.

"The situation of outside help falling into my budget plans follows a recent trend of growth in specialized golf course maintenance companies. As the competition to land accounts increases, the cost to clubs looking for outside maintenance decreases.

"There is no problem with the county commission that oversees my maintenance program. It gives me an overall budget to work with, and I do what I feel maximizes all of my financial and physical resources.

"Therefore, when my crew is not at full strength, such as the time slot for heavy duty fertilizing, it is more effective for me to go to outside help so that regular maintenance can remain on schedule.

"Since Presidents is a public course, maintenance expense can be a ticklish subject. However, when the commission puts all factors in place it realizes that outside contracting adds up to effective and effi-

cient budget makeup. All sides here agree on this arrangement."

Dan Higgins, Winchester Country Club: "We're not really into much outside contract work other than our recent restoration project where time and effect had to be factored into the overall expense of the job.

"Right now the only time I use outside help is when I feel we need a deep tine aerification application. And that's just a now-and-then situation. So, for the most part, my crew and I are on our own. It's not a problem, either. Everything's working out fine."

Dick Duggan, Concord Country Club: "Outside contracting has to be based on the expense involved, along with the quality of the finished job compared to the same factors when the golf course crew tackles the same project.

"That's how the formula has worked here, and usually, we go to outside compa-

"The one area where outside help is a must (and it's included in my overall budget) is the aerial bucket work. I try to keep my crew out of trees, and I also make it a point to make sure tree pruning is done by someone who knows what he's doing."

**Dick Duggan
Concord C.C.**

nies for three items: verti-seeding greens in June and August, overseeding fairways in the fall, and all tree work requiring use of an aerial bucket.

"So far, we've found that using outside contractors for those projects results in saving both money and time. In addition, the seeding process on the greens and fairways winds up being a clean and effective operation.

"Our aerification has become a regularly scheduled item on my maintenance program. Having our own Hydroject and one man operating it, we aerify about every three weeks and stay away from the need for deep tine aerification expenses.

"The one area where outside help is a must (it's included in my overall budget) is the aerial bucket work. I try to keep my crew out of trees, and I also make it a point to make sure tree pruning is done by someone who knows what he's doing.

"As for the contracting process, I simply call the company of my choice for the job (based on past relationships) and the job gets done."

Dave Barber, Wellesley Country Club: "In our business there are certain types of jobs that are handled more effectively by outside contractors. In the long run those jobs are completed more efficiently and less expensively.

"Depending on the equipment needed, I usually opt for outside help for tree work, deep tine aerification, overseeding and an occasional dose of fullcover lime.

"The latter is about a five to eight-year gap need. Regardless, it's a tough, time consuming job when you don't have specialized equipment. It's cheaper, and the outside crew is in and out very quickly.

"The same specialized equipment factor goes into the decision for using contracted help for overseeding and deep tine aerification. And the same result is there after the applications (cheaper, more effective).

"Of course, tree work is a no-no for my crew. I don't want anyone falling out of trees, period.

"All of the outside contracting expense is covered in a budget contingency fund labeled 'outside contractor account'. So, actually, outside help is part of the overall budget. But, as I said earlier, in the long run it pays for itself. I'm sold on it."

GERRY FINN

ASGCA News

American Society of Golf Course Architects holds design contest for superintendents

To help mark its 50th anniversary, the American Society of Golf Course Architects has announced a golf course design contest for golf course superintendents.

Dubbed the "ASGCA Golden Anniversary Challenge," the Society invites superintendents to submit entries to be evaluated by ASGCA members Jack Nicklaus, Art Hills, and Rees Jones. The winning designs will be announced and reviewed during the society's educational session at the 1997 GCSAA Conference and Show. Nicklaus, Hills, and Jones will explain what they liked and disliked about the three winning entries session scheduled for Monday, Feb. 10, 9 a.m. to noon.

According to Denis Griffiths, president of the ASGCA, the contest spotlights the society's golden anniversary, and gives superintendents a fun opportunity to try their hand as architects. "On a daily basis, members of the GCSAA manage existing golf courses and even grow-in the new ones, but how often do they get to design one?" he asks. "Here's their chance."

"On a daily basis, members of the GCSAA manage existing golf courses and even grown-in the new ones, but how often to they get to design one?"

**Denis Griffiths
President, ASGCA**

All proceeds from the contest (\$100 entry fee) will go to the ASGCA Foundation, which funds numerous programs for the golf industry. Created in 1973, the foundation has in recent years helped fund activities such as turfgrass research and the development of informational literature such as the popular booklet, "An Environmental Approach to Golf Course Development."

Contest Details. Superintendents can register for the contest by filling out a registration card and sending it, along with a check for \$100, to the ASGCA Foundation. Registration cards are available by contacting the ASGCA, Attention: Golden Anniversary Challenge, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601. (Phone 312/372-7090, or fax 312/372-6160.)

Upon receipt of an entry form and payment, contest participants will receive a "Golden Anniversary Challenge" package that will include the materials upon which to base their designs. These include: topographic map, sheets on which to sketch a design, a description of the property (topographic, climatic and meteorological conditions), and complete contest evaluation criteria. The deadline for receipt of the contest entries is Dec. 31, 1996.

The entries will be judged by the Nicklaus, Hills, and Jones design teams during the month of January. Each team will choose a winning design entry that will be announced at the GCSAA educational session. The three-hour educational session will permit each architect to discuss, praise, and critique the entry he has chosen as the winner.

The winners will be invited on stage to be recognized, and will receive their layout framed and autographed by Nicklaus, Hills, and Jones. They will also receive an autographed copy of *Golf Has Never Failed Me: The Lost Manuscript of Donald J. Ross*, recently published by the Society as a 50th Anniversary project.

Award Criteria. The exact criteria used to evaluate the entries will be spelled out in the registration packets. In addition, Griffiths offers the following advice: "We'll be looking for layouts that take maximum advantage of the natural elements present on the site; minimize disturbance to the environment; account for the prevailing wind and other site conditions; challenge golfers while not treating them unfairly; and generally offer a golfer a pleasurable, memorable golf experience."

GCSANE News

Mass. Turf Conference set for January 13-15 at Boston's Hynes Convention Center

The 66th Massachusetts Turf Conference and Trade Show will be held January 13-15, 1997 at the Hynes Convention Center, Boston, Mass. Conference headquarters will be at the Marriott Copley Place.

This year's conference features educational sessions led by nationally respected experts in golf course turf management, athletic field construction and management, and other lawn and grounds care. Turf and grounds management mechanics can attend sessions on machinery, preventive maintenance, and troubleshooting.

The trade show includes commercial suppliers from all aspects of turf management. Both the educational sessions and the trade show provide attendees with an excellent opportunity to learn about the

latest in research, industry innovation, and product development.

For information on attending or exhibiting, contact: Mr. James Conant, Co-Chair, Massachusetts Turf Conference, 606 River Road, Marstons Mills, MA 02648 (tel: (508) 362-1136, fax: (508) 362-8666.)

The Massachusetts Turf Conference is sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, in cooperation with the Golf Course Managers Association of Cape Cod, the UMass Extension, the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents, the Massachusetts Turf & Lawngrass Association, the New England Sports Turf Managers Association, and the Golf Course Mechanics Association.

Golf Course Superintendents Association

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GCSANE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday Evening, December 15, 1996

Brae Burn Country Club

326 Fuller Street
West Newton, Massachusetts

Come join us for a celebration of the holidays

Cocktails 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Dinner 7:30 p.m.

Dancing 8:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Cost: \$50.00 per couple

Reservation Deadline: December 10, 1996

Directions to Brae Burn: *From Rte. 128 North*, take Exit 21B (Rte. 16 East). At the Rte. 30 (Commonwealth Ave.) traffic light, turn right. Club is 1/3 mile on the right. *From Rte. 128 South*, take Exit 24 (Rte. 30 East). Stay on Rte. 30; the club is three miles on the right.

Attendees: _____

Please make checks payable to GCSANE.
Mail to: GCSANE, Golf House, 190 Park Road, Weston, MA 02193

GCSAA News

Hurdzan tapped for GCSAA President's Award

World-renowned golf course architect Michael Hurdzan, Ph.D., has been selected to receive the 1997 GCSAA's most prestigious environmental honor, the President's Award for Environmental Leadership.

The award was established in 1991 to recognize "an exceptional environmental contribution to the game of golf: a contribution that further exemplifies the golf course superintendent's image as a steward of the land."

GCSAA President Bruce R. Williams, CGCS will present the award to Hurdzan during the 1997 International Golf Course Conference and Show.

One of Hurdzan's most celebrated designs is Widow's Walk Golf Course on

Nantucket Island, Mass., a facility planned in cooperation with environmental advocates. The course promotes water conservation, wetlands preservation, wildlife habitat, and integrated pest management practices. Numerous Hurdzan courses have received environmental recognition.

"GCSAA is truly pleased to recognize Michael's achievements," Williams said. "His commitment to designing environmentally sensitive golf courses and his contributions to the golf course superintendent profession are exemplary."

In addition to design work, Hurdzan is a popular GCSAA seminar instructor, currently teaching "Design, Construction, and Restoration for IPM." He teaches a

two-day course at the Harvard School of Design on "Environmental Impacts of Golf Courses." Hurdzan is a frequent speaker and author on golf and the environment. He participated in writing and editing sections of the Environmental Principles for Golf Courses in the United States.

"This award validates the whole nature of collective stewardship, and that all of us in the golf industry can make as great a contribution as golf course superintendents do on a daily basis," Hurdzan said. "I will use this recognition to further intensify my efforts and set examples of how to make golf courses pleasant, safe havens for golfers and nature."

Hurdzan serves on the GCSAA education committee. In 1995, he was awarded the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award. He was a panelist in the 1996 GCSAA conference Environmental General Session.

Previous winners include the Cape Cod Study participants in 1991; the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses administered by Audubon International and sponsored by the USGA in 1993; William Timothy Hiers, CGCS at Collier's Reserve Country Club in Naples, Fla., in 1995; and the USGA Environmental Research Program in 1996.

GCSAA News

CGCS program celebrates 25th year

The educational process, the foundation of the GCSAA's existence, is spotlighted this fall as the organization's certification program celebrates its 25th year.

Established Sept. 1, 1971, the original nine-member GCSAA Certification Committee was charged with developing a program to promote the professionalism of golf course superintendents and make it recognized worldwide. The Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) designation is bestowed upon completion of the project, recognizing achievement of professional excellence. As the game of golf, the golf industry, and the superintendent profession has changed, so too has the certification program. To ensure the program addresses industry changes, GCSAA's Certification Committee is constantly evaluating the requirements.

"Over the years, the term CGCS has taken on worldwide importance for superintendents and their employers," said GCSAA President Bruce R. Williams, CGCS. "It truly is a measure of professional excellence in our industry."

To begin the certification process, individuals must be employed as a golf course superintendent, have completed a level of post-secondary education, possess superin-

tendent experience, and pursue GCSAA seminar CEUs. After meeting those requirements, the applicant has one year to complete a six-part examination and go through the attesting process. The exam covers the areas of GCSAA knowledge; the game and rules of golf; turfgrass management; pest control, safety, and compliance; financial management; and organizational management. In addition, two certified golf course superintendents evaluate the applicant's course conditions, maintenance facility, recordkeeping, and communication skills.

The popularity of the program is measured by a growing number of participants, from 47 certified the first year to 144 in 1995. Of 2,175 certified in the last 25 years, 1,609 are active, maintaining certified status. To renew certification, superintendents must complete a recertification program every five years. This is attained by completing 100 hours of GCSAA CEUs, or successful completion of the initial certification examination.

The Certification Committee will recognize those certified in 1996 and those with 15-, 20- and 25-year anniversaries at the International Golf Course Conference and Show in Las Vegas.

GCSANE News

GCSANE announces '96 scholarships

The GCSANE Scholarship & Benevolence Committee announced its scholarships for 1996.

The Thomas Schofield Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500) was awarded to Adrienne Lee Chiavaroli, a student at Rivier College, Nashua, N.H.

Scholarship awards of \$1,000 were given to Travis Anderson, Alfred (N.Y.) University; Tara Carlson, Quinnipiac (Conn.) College; Elizabeth Derby, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass.; and Beth Mooradian, Trinity College, Hartford, Conn.

The Scholarship & Benevolence Fund has awarded \$8,000 in scholarship money in the past two years.

Don't kid yourself: What's really number one in your life?

We live in a society that tells us our worth is determined by what we do - how we earn a living. We judge ourselves and others based on career position and performance. Although jobs and performance are important, they are not the most important measuring stick. I submit that life is about people. Relationships! How we interact with those around us.

Without question, golf is a great game. We all like playing the game, and every superintendent enjoys the challenge of working with Mother Nature to condition the playing field. However, think about the big picture, which stands the test of time. How many golfers who play your course today will remember its condition five years from now? "Too long a time period," you say. "How could they?" Fine, how about five weeks, or even five days? In reality, superintendents are evaluated each day about current conditions. Yester-

day is gone, and it means very little in golf course management. How many of us remember the condition of the course upon which the U.S. Open was played ten years ago? Five years ago? Maybe a few people remember a couple details about past national championship sites, but for most golfers such factors fade quickly.

Don't get me wrong. We should take pride in our jobs and what we accomplish day to day. However, recognizing that some golfers can become a little obsessed and even emotional about course conditions, it's easy for the superintendent to get backed into a corner. The view from that corner suggests that if greens were a little faster or smoother, or bunkers firmer, or fairways greener, or . . . everyone would be happy. It won't happen. There will always be something else, something more that someone wants. Do your best and go home. It's those nurtured rela-

tionships with family, friends, and golfers that endure and make a long-term difference, not golf course conditioning. Make sure your top investment is in what will still matter in five days, weeks, or years.

I can recall thoughtful deeds of others, directed toward me, from as far back as my memory takes me. How about you? Golf course conditioning comes and goes, even for the most experienced

continued on page 8

"It's those nurtured relationships with family, friends, and golfers that endure . . . not golf course conditioning."

R. A. (Bob) Brame

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

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed for Membership: James Whitley, Regular, Maynard Country Club, Maynard, Mass.; Gregory Carr, Regular, George Wright Golf Course, Hyde Park, Mass.; Deneen Mackintosh, Assistant, Twin Hills Country Club, Longmeadow, Mass.; James Barr, Assistant, Larry Gannon Municipal G.C., Lynn, Mass.; Keith Savage, Affiliate, Larchmont Engineering, Lexington, Mass.

Welcome New Members: William D. Foley, Regular, William Devine Golf Course, Dorchester, Mass.

INFORMATION

Our sympathies go out to Paul Jamrog and his family. Paul's brother, Mark, who was the golf professional at Chicopee C.C., died in an automobile accident earlier this month.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Pierre Coste, who died in Connecticut while playing golf.

Condolences to Ken Mooradian and family on the passing of his mother early this month.

Please remember, for our winter meetings beginning in December, a jacket and tie are **required**.

Because of the number of "no shows" at our meetings and tournaments, the GCSANE Board of Directors has voted to invoice for the full amount anyone who makes a reservation for a meeting and

does not attend. If you are not able to attend because of a last minute problem, emergency, etc., the board will, of course, make provisions for that.

John Kotoski of Pine Ridge C.C. in Oxford, Mass. will speak at the GCSAA International Convention and Show in Las Vegas in February. His subject will be "Drainage Installation Techniques."

Finally, all ballots have been counted and we have a name for our publication! By a majority decision, the name will remain The Newsletter! Thanks to everyone who took time to mark and mail a ballot.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Plant Pathologist for Woody Ornamentals. A professional Plant Pathologist for Woody Ornamentals (Extension Educator) position is open in UMass Extension's Urban Forestry Diagnostic Lab, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. This position will provide accurate and timely diagnosis of woody plant health problems, staff and maintain operations of woody plant diagnostic lab, as well as organize and present educational workshops and training sessions for clientele and field staff. A BA/BS in plant pathology or related field and one to five years related professional experience required. An MA/MS in plant pathology and commercial experience preferred. Must have ability to maintain a diverse schedule of local, regional, and statewide activity which is not restricted by access to public or private transportation. Must have

excellent interpersonal and group process skills; must have knowledge and demonstrated ability to implement adult education theories and practices with diverse audiences. Hiring salary range: \$30,400 - \$38,000; normal starting salary: \$30,400 - \$34,200. Please send letter of application, resume, and names, phone numbers, and addresses of three references by January 10, 1996 to Search 38044, Employment Office, 167 Whitmore Administration Bldg., University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. The University of Massachusetts is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Golf Course Superintendent, Concord Country Club, Concord, Mass. Forward resumes to: Concord C.C., 246 ORNAC, Concord, MA 01742, Attn.: James MacKay.

Golf Course Superintendent, Swansea Country Club, Swansea, Mass. Forward resumes to: Swansea C.C., 249 Market St., Swansea, MA 02777, Attn.: Larry Doyle.

Assistant Superintendent, Winchester Country Club, Winchester, Mass. Must have a minimum of a two-year Turf Management degree and a Mass. Pesticide Applicator license for Turf (Cat. 37). Send resumes to: Daniel Higgins, c/o Winchester C.C., 468 Mystic St., Winchester, MA 01890-3809.

Golf Course Superintendent, Marlborough C.C., Marlborough, Mass. Send resumes to: Robert Boule, Marlborough C.C., Concord Road, Marlborough, MA 01752. Deadline is Dec. 18, 1996.

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Host Superintendent Profile

Meet host superintendent Arthur Miller, Nabnasset Lake C.C.

Our host for the November GCSANE monthly meeting is Arthur Miller of Nabnasset Lake C.C.

Artie has been the golf course superintendent at NLCC for 17 years, and was assistant superintendent there for seven years prior to that. He is a graduate of the

Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass (Class of 1968). Before entering Stockbridge, he worked at Greenmeadow Golf Course in Hudson, N.H.

Artie and his wife, Karen, reside in Westford, Mass. with children, Laura (15) and Timmy (4). In his spare time, Artie en-

joys playing golf, tuning in to The Weather Channel, visiting Dollywood Park in Tennessee, contributing to the Massapequott tribe's retirement fund at Foxwoods, and feeding the horses at Rockingham Park.

We all look forward to playing at Nabnasset Lake on November 4.

Don't kid yourself

continued from page 6

superintendents. The 1995 season confirmed this fact and brought to mind a statement most of us have heard. "There are only two types of superintendents - those who have lost grass and those who will." How true! We all want to avoid losing grass and the emotional outcry that goes with it; however, life isn't really about keeping the perfect golf course.

There are 51 references containing the word "grass" in the Bible. These references cite conditions that range from flourishing to withering. When studied more closely, the Biblical references to grass underscore something we all know, but don't like to think about. Like grass, our days are numbered. In 1 Peter 1:24 we find these words: "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers

and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever." Truly, life is a precious gift! A gift we can use either for things that endure or wither and fade.

Remember, don't kid yourself. Life is not about golf or course conditioning.

BOB BRAME is director of the USGA Green Section's North Central Region.
(From the USGA Green Section Record, Sept.-Oct. 1996)

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