



THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents

Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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April 1997

Golf course restoration is a way of life for Salem C.C. superintendent Kip Tyler

It began as an isolated project. Wear and tear had finally taken its toll on the 54 remaining bunkers (originally there were 60) at the Salem Country Club. Golf course superintendent Kip Tyler was assigned the task of restoring them to the approximate state that famed architect Donald Ross left them after designing the championship layout in 1926.

That was almost three years ago, the fall of 1994 to be precise. Course restoration seems to have become a way of life for Kip Tyler. He came to Salem in 1982 after a three-year stint as day-to-day supervisor of the championship course at the nationally renowned Medinah (Ohio) Country Club.

"I think that's it," Kip sighed the other week while reviewing the past 30 months of priming and primping what has become a golf course of its members' dreams. "You probably know this already, that



Before and after . . . A view of the restored 16th green bunker at Salem Country Club, Salem, Mass.

restoration is an ongoing thing. Right after you finish and figure you're near perfection, there's another form of deterioration starting somewhere else. It never ends on the golf course."

The latest bunker restoration accomplishment has directed the spotlight on Tyler, who has now become a much sought-after speaker in this particular aspect of golf course maintenance. Kip has appeared at seminars and conferences as a headliner in Albany, N.Y., the USGA gathering in Bolton, Mass., Penn State University, and at an international meeting of turf management minds in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Usually, bunker restoration is a bit and pieces endeavor and is taken care of by in-house personnel and methods. Salem's project however, involved an outside contractor specializing in bunker work. The first ground breaking was made

in the latter stages of the 1994 golf season. The final sweeps of the finishing rake completed the job the following spring.

"My main contribution was to order materials, decide in what order the bunkers would be restored, and keep the sod alive," Kip explained. That part was masterpiece in the making because Salem members never missed any considerable

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"You wouldn't have believed this place last July. It looked like a bomb explosion experimental site."

**Kip Tyler
Salem C.C.**

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**“As things turned out,
we took a four-year plan
and got through it in
eight months.”**

**Kip Tyler
Salem C.C.**

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playing time while the project was in progress. “They (members) just kept on playing and we kept on working.”

The bunker restoration was realized in a relatively short period of time. The waning days of one season spilling over into the next. However, as Tyler suggests, restoration was not completed and put into storage. Improvements in other areas followed the bunkers’ cosmetic surgery. On January 5, 1996, Jerry Deemer began a four-year plan that would upgrade the course just in time for hosting the 2001 USGA Senior Open. The main thrust of this project was the removal of 300 trees, rebuilding of every tee, and construction of new tees on selected holes.

“I think we came in ahead of schedule,” Kip commented. “As things turned out, we took a four-year plan and got through it in eight months. When we looked over the fruits of our labor last October, the job was ready for delivery.”

Included in the plan for the preparation of the Senior Open field were miles of refurbished cart paths, relocation of some of those paths, construction of a driving range facility, and construction of a short-game practice area.

“You wouldn’t have believed this place last July,” Tyler said. “It looked like a bomb explosion experimental site. Those cart paths are very close to perfection. We hot-topped all of them and greened them up on the sides with seeding and sod (17, 500 sq.ft). All this time the members had a golf course to play and, may I add, a good one.

It’s virtually understood that Salem’s members could expect nothing less from their golf course superintendent, who possesses a commanding eye, mind, and perceptive touch for everything he attempts.

Kip has done similar projects when he vaulted into a responsible post at Medinah C.C. during his second year out of college

(Ohio State). It seems he has the knack for tackling the impossible and turning it into reality.

One of his gems reveals itself every month on these pages. At the opening of the GCSANE business year in 1990 Kip took over the organization’s newsletter as editor-in-chief. And, true to his potential, he took over in grand and convincing style.

From the start, Kip was into new ideas. He began the side feature of profiling Friends of the Association, increased the publication’s size, and went full throttle in the area of *The Newsletter* content.

When he bowed out three years later, Kip had some glib comments about the experience. “I figure I made 216 trips to the printer in my three years as editor,” he told. “That breaks down to six trips a month, either to the printer or the photo store. I learned what newspaper deadlines and commitment are all about. It taught me not to look at a job and tell yourself this is something that’ll wait until tomorrow. No way.”

Restoring . . . rebuilding . . . redesigning . . . rejuvenating. All are in the Kip Tyler lexicon, and part of a glittering resume. When he comes in more than three years ahead of schedule, you know it can be done. You also know that Kip Tyler’s calling card came with it.

GERRY FINN

Calendar

April 22	Pro/Media/Superintendent Tournament Walpole Country Club Walpole, Mass. Supt. - Mark D. Gagne, CGCS
April 28	GCSANE Monthly Meeting Juniper Hill Country Club Northborough, Mass. Supt. - Thomas L. Ackley
May 5	GCSANE Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament Cohasset Country Club Cohasset, Mass. Supt. - James Carrol
June 9	GCSANE Monthly Meeting Eastward Ho Country Club Harwich, Mass. Supt. - Brian Cowan, CGCS
July 7	Team of Two Championship Tedesco Country Club Marblehead, Mass. Supt. - Peter Hasak

The Super Speaks Out

This month's question: How do you take on the attack of the dreadful legions of Canada geese, and how is that battle going?

Steve Lewis, The Georgetown Club:

"We're on the hit list of all unwanted fowl, but Canada geese seem to be the most brazen of them all.

"They like the short grass and places close to the water. One of our greens, fronting a hazard, gets hit the hardest. At times it is completely covered with droppings.

"I'd say we average around 50 to 75 geese a day during the season. We've had some success with bottle rockets shot over their heads. I've also used a gun that gives off a loud explosion that scares and shocks the birds. It has the sound of a huge fireworks going off.

"We use this gun every so often, maybe once every three weeks. However, we're thinking of getting a dog . . . collie or Labrador retriever. That might be the way to go, because some of those geese are getting used to the explosives. They're getting smarter all the time."

Dave D'Andrea, Juniper Hill Country Club:

"You're talking to a person who's eaten Canada geese. We've thinned out the flock using hunters who are licensed to work geese-infested areas like ours. You only eat the breast, you know. Other than that, those birds are all muscle.

"Anyway, the hunters take care of some of the culprits (we have as many as 200 at a time here). Another method is allowing river and pond edges to grow. The geese don't like to walk through it. Unfortunately, it does make the overall view of the affected holes look ragged.

"Still one more deterrent is to string fishing line in a grid pattern along the water and other hazards. We'll try anything, since one goose is capable of producing as many as three pounds of excrement a day. You can't use it for fertilizer, either.

"All of those things aren't the cure-all though. According to what I've heard and

experienced, the best thing to get is a border collie. I have a friend who walks his collie in the vicinity of our club, and you can tell the difference in the amount of geese here when he's around. Yeah, I think getting a dog may be the answer."

Ken Crimmigs, Marlboro Country Club:

"Up until last year we had around 100 live-in Canada geese. They just took residence on the course and nothing or nobody was going to move them off.

"We went through the many methods of keeping them off the property. We tried the explosive gun bit and used fishing lines to string along the edges of water hazards. The favorable results were very few. What's more, they didn't last. The geese didn't like them, but it didn't keep them away permanently.

"Then last April the club purchased a border collie. His name is Wisp and he came trained to keep the geese off the property. The breeder, I believe it's a lady in North Carolina, has 100 dogs doing this same job. They're spread throughout the Northeast, and all the reports say they do the trick.

"Our experience has been right on the money. Wisp stays in the kennel at the club and comes home with me. He's a good pet, not vicious, and hardly makes a sound. He's a medium-sized dog weighing about 50 pounds.

"Since we started using him the geese have kept away from the course. When they think of flying in, I either give Wisp the command to go after them, or if he sees them first, he takes off on his own.

"The dog is trained to leave golf balls alone and not bother players. In fact, he's just as gentle as can be with people. I don't know how the geese react or why, because he doesn't make a sound when he's at work. All he has to do is take off in the bird's direction and they beat it out of here. It's really amazing."

Mike Luccini, Brookmeadow Country Club: "This course has had a double experience with dogs, trying to get rid of Canada geese.

"Before I came here another dog was tried. I want to say that it was a Labrador retriever, but I'm not sure. It turns out he wasn't aggressive enough and he couldn't get the job done.

"Now, we have two other dogs. One belongs to the club pro and he's a Sheltie, which is another name for a Shetland sheepdog. He works the course along with my dog, a border collie named Dino.

"With those two roaming the grounds, the geese don't have a chance. Before our dogs took over the job of putting the birds to flight, the course would experience days when a few hundred geese were on board.

"I like my dog, probably because I trained him myself. I got him through a want-ad. He was four months old at the time, and I paid only \$100 for him.

"The clean-out schedule goes like this. Dino's out on the course before the sun comes up and he stays there until I bring him home. He reacts to signals and knows where to go to find the birds. He seems to act by instinct rather than to the ways I've taught him. Either way, he's terrific.

"He's become very popular with our players, too. Sometimes you see a golfer playing with him while waiting to tee off. He's certainly a welcome addition here. He's our hero when it comes to keeping geese off the course and out of the way. For a hundred bucks we've licked what once was a big problem."

GERRY FINN

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**Mike Luccini
Brookmeadow C.C.**

Turf Science

What's the big deal? It's only sand, right?

by Greg Fredericks
 Manager, Golf Operations
 Nardone Sand & Gravel Co., Inc.

What's the big deal? It's only sand. You just dig it out of the ground, right? Not Exactly!

Unfortunately, as sand producers, we hear this all too often. You as golf course superintendents and managers probably hear it, too, when trying to justify the cost to your membership or owners. Sand, regardless if it is used for bunkers, top-dressing, or a child's sand box, must meet certain gradations to be fully effective. Golf sands that are not properly washed and graded can interfere with play, damage mowing equipment, and in some cases, kill turf. With these possible negative ramifications, selection of the proper sand is not only important, but essential.

To fully understand the process of sand production and classification, we must first go back over two million years ago to the Ice Age in North America. It was during this period that glaciers of ice over 10,000 feet thick covered the land. As the glacier began to melt and move, it pushed with it sand, soil, rocks, and debris like a giant bulldozer. In its wake were left the mountains, valleys, and ridges that shape the landscape as we see

it today. It is within these ridges (eskers) that we find the complex mix of raw materials necessary to produce the many different sands and gravels of today.

The source and mix of the raw material can vary greatly in a relatively short distance. It is essential to locate a source that contains enough of the correct site particles that will ultimately make up the finished product. It is equally important to find a source that is large enough to insure consistent color, texture, and gradation for many years to come.

A typical sand and gravel processing plant cannot magically transform the wrong material into the right material. However, it is possible to improve on what mother nature gave us. By using specific processing equipment, we are able to size, separate, wash, and mix various sand particles into the correct gradations required for a particular use. If the goal is to produce a finished product where all particles fall between 1.00 mm and 25 mm, it is the duty of the processing plant to wash and separate the desired particles from the undesired particles, leaving behind the correct product ready for use.

In the golf industry today, there are various sands in use. Each one has own specifications formulated to achieve a desired result. Bunker sand, for example, is

comprised of specifications derived from the following considerations:

(1) Color. Will the sand be aesthetically pleasing? Will the color hinder the golfers' play?

(2) Drainage. Will the bunkers drain quickly and efficiently after heavy rain or irrigation?

(3) Particle Size. Will the sand be fine enough not to impede play, damage clubs, or damage mowing equipment?

(4) Stability. Will the sand be firm enough to not shift under the player's feet? Will the ball sit up when hit into it?

The USGA has specified a gradation for bunker sand where all particles should be in a range of 1.00 mm to .25 mm, with a majority falling between .25 mm and .50 mm. Sand of this gradation is extremely uniform and fine. Although this sand will have excellent drainage capabilities, it will, because of its uniformity, resist compaction, remain live, and increase the chance of "fried egg lies."

Demands by players for a bunker sand that is firm enough to resist "fried egg lies," but still soft enough to allow proper club follow-through were common. This posed a unique problem. A recipe had to be created to produce bunker sand dense enough to compact, yet uniform enough

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GCSANE News

"Remember when?": People & events of GCSANE's past

Remember when? recalls GCSANE's significant events and individuals of the past.

25 years ago

GCSANE president Robert Grant presented a plaque to Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship winner Allen Fogarty, a senior at Stockbridge School of Agriculture, during the April meeting.

One month earlier, at the Mass. Turf Conference at the Highpoint Motor Inn, Chicopee Falls, Mass., four other Stockbridge students received GCSAA Scholarships from National Director Charles Baskin of Waterbury (Conn.) C.C. Those students were Frederick Cheney, Irwin Nash, Niels Oleson and Frank Santos.

15 years ago

The GCSANE was well represented at the annual MGA Mass. Spring Conference at the Marriott in Newton, Mass.

Brian Cowan enlightened an appreciative audience on the intricacies of golf course irrigation installation. Dave Barber was the featured speaker in a presentation on communication between club members and superintendent. Another interesting subject was preparation of a golf course for a USGA championship. Pete Coste did the honors on that one, explaining his management program for course conditioning of The Country Club for the United States Amateur Championship.

5 years ago

The MGA hailed two GCSANE members for outstanding course preparation. Cited were Bob DiRico of Brae Burn C.C. for bringing that course to peak condition for the 1991 state amateur championship, and Salem's Kip Tyler for treating Mass. Open contestants to top golfing conditions.

Speaking of the MGA, GCSANE president Steve Chiavaroli announced that the state's governing group approved a grant of \$2,500 to help fund GCSANE participation in the Green Industry Council for 1992. Steve said Don Hearn and Eric Newell would represent the association on the council's government affairs committee.

GERRY FINN

Turf Science

The latest research on optimizing washed sod

by **Bridget Ruemmele**
University of Rhode Island

It is with pleasure that I write regarding our efforts in optimizing washed sod establishment and maintenance. The support of the Lonnie Troll/GCSANE Turf Research Fund has been instrumental in conducting washed sod research at the University of Rhode Island for the past three years. Dr. Noel Jackson and student assistants have been cooperators with this project.

Establishment using soilless sod increased dramatically with introduction of equipment to strip soil from turf prior to shipment and establishment. This is beneficial for establishing sod in locations containing soil types differing from those on which it is produced. Removing original soil avoids deleterious interfaces between the two soils, which may impede water infiltration and proper rooting. Washed sod also weighs less, reducing shipping costs, and may establish faster than sod with soil attached.

Although benefits to washed sod exist, potential difficulties need to be addressed. Minimal research has been reported on washed sod establishment. Heating in transit, as well as management after laying the washed sod, may be problematic. Included in the latter may be disease, and the need for topdressing, fertility, and water management different than conventional sod.

Pre-1996 Experiments

Experiments conducted at the University of Rhode Island examined establishment timing after harvest, rooting media, fungicide applications, fertility levels, golf shoe wear, topdressing frequency, and interactions among the above.

Placement of turf greater than 40 hours after sod harvesting may also result in unacceptable turf quality under conventional shipping conditions. Successive planting onto the same sand:peat mix also resulted in reduced turf quality.

Fungicide treatments to control pythium and dollar spot invasion were investigated on native soil (silt loam) and 80:20 sand:soil/peat bases. Significant differences were noted in rooting depth, root mass, color, density, and vigor among the fungicide-treated and untreated sod strips. Topdressing improved turf quality across all fungicide treatments.

Fertilization every other week at a rate of 225 pounds actual nitrogen per acre (26-7-12 analysis fertilizer) significantly improved turf vigor and density without affecting rooting.

Golf shoe traffic significantly reduced quality and recovery regrowth compared to plots receiving no shoe traffic within two months after establishment. Fungicide-treated plots generally withstood golf shoe traffic better than untreated plots.

1996 Results

Experiments in 1996 focused on soil amendments, fertility, topdressing, surfactant, and wear stress management effects on establishing washed sod. Dollar spot control continued to be important in turf establishment. Quality significantly decreased without use of fungicides. The second resodding of site one occurred as a result of unexpected response to windy conditions the day after sod was installed. Although plots typically required three irrigations per day during summer establishment, a particularly windy day after the July installation resulted in sod completely drying. Watering and manipulation of the sod enabled the plot to be recovered, but the site was reestablished within one week so as to not interfere with experimental treatments. Adjacent extra sod did, however, recover from the extreme drying.

Experiments one and two evaluated peat mixes enhanced by topdressing. The sod rooting measured in the spring of 1996 occurred on sod installed November, 1995. This sod did not initiate rooting until the following spring, yet establishment was successful. There were trends for Irish peat to have enhanced rooting in the spring experiment. While topdressing generally enhanced turfgrass growth, this was not as consistently obvious as in 1995 experiments. Aeration with and without topdressing is a key treatment that has yet to be investigated. This is planned for 1997.

The summer experiment showed an interesting result with the 10% Irish peat. Although among the highest root mass in spring, it had the lowest root mass in summer. This may at first appear contradictory until one looks at root lengths. The 10% Irish treatment had the longest rooting. One explanation for the reduced root mass of this treatment may be that deeper roots made up a significant portion of this treatment's root mass, but were not recovered by the sampling process.

Experiment three wear results showed the most significant reduction in rooting and turf quality occurred when walking commenced two or four weeks after sod installation. Six week wear treatments were much less severe on rooting and quality reduction compared to the two and four week treatments. Previous experiments conducted in 1995 showed that addition of fertilizer and topdressing could enhance turf growth to overcome some wear stress, thereby permitting earlier acceptable use of washed sod establishments.

Experiment four results indicated that initially the Naiad treatment responded best, although its effect dropped off sooner than that of Primer and AquaGro-L with respect to rooting. Observer ratings varied widely. Some perceived the initial darkening caused by AquaGro-L as a positive attribute, while others perceived it as a stress, the latter of which is what is normally attributed to this product. Surfactants may enhance washed sod establishment, but additional trials are needed to confirm this.

Experiment five results are not complete, since some are being done in conjunction with another company. Some general observations indicate

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Friend of the Association Profile

Meet Cedar Lawn Tree Service, Inc.

Cedar Lawn Tree Service Inc., located in Ashland Mass., has provided arboricultural services in the Boston MetroWest area for over 43 years.

Our approach has always been to deliver professional plant care services using modern horticultural practices. New technologies are evaluated and employed based on scientific research combined with practical field experience. Client satisfaction, our highest priority, is achieved through the successful implementation of this philosophy into day-to-day operations.

The staff at Cedar Lawn includes nine Massachusetts Certified Arborists. We encourage the continued education of our personnel through college course work, professional seminars, and involvement in professional organizations such as the

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Cedar Lawn is fully insured and equipped to meet an array of landscape needs including: shade tree & ornamental pruning, tree removal, plant health care, fertilization, large tree cabling & transplanting, and landscape design & installation.

Cedar Lawn has a historical commitment to professionalism and provides diverse arboricultural services to meet the needs of our clientele. For more information regarding Cedar Lawn Tree Service Inc., call Bill Maley at (508) 881-2622.

It's only sand . . .

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to drain. Through the use of classification equipment, a blend of large, medium, and small particles was produced ensuring required stability and proper drainage.

During a typical production cycle, all bunker sand is tested throughout the day to maintain a proper level of consistency.

This constant testing allows us to make small adjustments when needed and catch any possible contamination. In the case of topdressing and rootzone sands, further analysis by outside laboratories for pH and physical property testing is routine.

By now you may have realized that sand, like many things in this world, is more complex than it first appears.

Whether it's bunker sand, topdressing sand, or rootzone sand, selection of a top quality source is critical to golf course maintenance practices and the overall enjoyment of the game.

So the next time you hear someone say "What's the big deal, it's only sand," tell them it's not only a big deal, it's a great deal!

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

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed for membership: Kevin C. Balocca, Assistant Superintendent, Country Club of Fairfield, Fairfield, Conn.; Edward J. Gianni, Assistant Superintendent, Ridder Farm Golf Club, somewhere in New England.

Welcome new members: Brian F. Skinner, Assistant Superintendent, Bellevue Golf Course, Melrose, Mass.; Matthew Grady, Superintendent, Groton Country Club, Groton, Mass.; Scott Gabrielson, Superintendent, New England Country Club, Bellingham, Mass.; Gregory Mackintosh, Superintendent, Tara Hyannis Hotel & Resort, Hyannis, Mass.; Bay State Organic, Friend, Charlestown, Mass.

INFORMATION

Stay on the lookout for this year's raffle tickets supporting the Scholarship & Benevolence Fund. Remember, ticket sales benefit the GCSANE membership.

The following are the GCSANE Committee Assignments for 1997.

Membership: Mike Nagle, CGCS; Bruce Packard, CGCS; Dave Kahrman; and Ron Dobosz. **Employment:** Robert DiRico, CGCS; Kevin Osgood; and James Fitzroy, CGCS. **Publicity:** James Fitzroy, CGCS; William Spence; and Richard Tworig. **Conference:** Robert DiRico, CGCS; James Conant, CGCS; Edward Brearley; Charles Passios, CGCS; Kevin Osgood; Richard Zepp, CGCS; Robert Ruzsala, CGCS; and Mary Owen. **Finance:** James Conant, CGCS; and Robert Ruzsala. **Welfare:** David Comee. **By-Laws:** Edward Brearley; Donald Hearn, CGCS; David Barber, CGCS; and Richard Zepp, CGCS. **Scholarship & Benevolence:** David Comee; Edward Brearley; Robert DiRico, CGCS; Robert Healy; Dennis Friel; Kevin Osgood; and John Lenhart. **Education:** Michael Iacono, CGCS; Bob Mathews, CGCS; Peter Lanman; Mary Owen; Chuck Bramhall; and Vickie Wallace. **Newsletter:** Wayne LaCroix, CGCS; Russell Heller; Mark Casey; and John Murphy. **Government Relations**

Chapter Liaison: Arthur Silva, CGCS. **Golf:** Michael Hermanson; Dave Comee; Arthur Silva, CGCS; Ron Dobosz; Larry Anzweitz; and Bob LeBlanc. **Research:** Kevin Osgood; Daryn Brown; Robert Ruzsala; and Michael Kroian. **IPM:** Michael Iacono, CGCS; Dan Higgins, CGCS; Pat Krikseonaitis; and Daryn Brown.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Dave Barber, CGCS, from Wellesely Country Club.

Our condolences extend to Ed Ulman and his family on the passing of his father recently.

MEETING NOTES

Thanks to Vincent Iacono and the staff at Blue Hills Country Club for hosting the GCSANE February meeting on February 28. Our apologies to Vincent and his family for the profile information.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Golf Course Superintendent - Bass Rocks Golf Club, Gloucester, Mass., a private 18-hole golf course. Minimum qualifications are a Bachelor of Science degree in turf management or related studies; five years experience as either a superintendent or assistant; and experience with golf course construction, irrigation systems, and staff supervision. Full salary and benefits package available. Send resumes to: Bob Shea, Bass Rocks Golf Club, P.O. Box 303, Gloucester, MA 01930 (Fax: (508) 283-7571).

Golf Course Superintendent - Pine Ridge Country Club, North Oxford, Mass. Candidates should have a minimum of three years experience as a golf course superintendent or assistant superintendent. A two-year degree in turfgrass management is preferred. The candidate should have a strong background with automated irrigation systems. Send resumes to: Mark Larrabee, Operations Director, Pine Ridge Country Club, 28 Pleasant St., North Oxford, MA 01537.

Golf Course Superintendent - Kettle Brook Golf Club, Paxton, Mass. The position starts June/July during the construction period. Candidates should have a strong background in turfgrass management and a minimum of five years experience as a golf course superintendent or assistant superintendent. Experience with new construction of courses and/or irrigation systems is desirable but not essential. Responsibilities will include assisting in the supervision of the course construction, with maintenance beginning as the grow-in period progresses. Send resumes to: Robert E Moss, President, Kettle Brook Golf Club, P. O. Box 493, Westboro, MA 01581.

Assistant Golf Course Superintendent - John Cain Golf Club, Newpont, N.H. John Cain Golf Club is seeking a highly motivated individual to assist in the management of an 18-hole semi-private golf club. The golf course has bentgrass greens, tees, and fairways; and a Toro VT4 irrigation system. Qualifications include a two-year degree in turf management, and two-to-four years of experience on a golf course. Send resumes to: Gary Summer-ton, Superintendent, John Cain Golf Course, P. O. Box 676, Newpont, NH 03773. (Fax: (603) 456-2486). Deadline for resumes is March 28, 1997.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Irrigation System Components: Two Berkley centrifugal pumps with 75 HP & 50 HP Lincoln motors and controls. Very good condition - \$2500. One 15 HP Weinman centrifugal jockey pump/motor combo with controls. Excellent condition - \$1000. One FINCOR 6200 VT variable speed pump control. Excellent condition - \$3500. One Gast vacuum priming system with 7 gal. tank, 2 vacuum pumps and controls - \$750. One 8"x15' flexible suction line with 2 intake floats and check valve - \$500. Call Mike Nagle, Worcester C.C., at (508) 853-6574.

Cushman Dump Truckster. Very good condition - \$1750. Cushman Runabout. Good condition - \$1250. Call Mike Nagle, Worcester C.C., at (508) 853-6574.

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Host Superintendent Profile

Meet host superintendent **Thomas Ackley, Juniper Hill G.C.**

The host superintendent for our April meeting is Tom Ackley, CGCS, Juniper Hill C.C., Northborough, Mass.

Tom started as a caddie at Juniper Hill in 1961. In 1971 he began his career in golf course management at Westboro Country Club under the direction of his father, Glenn Ackley. After graduating from the University of Massachusetts in 1975 with a B.S. in forestry, Tom rejoined his father at Marlboro Country Club.

Three years later Tom landed his first superintendent position at Westboro Country Club. He returned to Marlboro shortly afterwards to become Glenn's assistant.

"He certainly has taught me a thing or two over the years. We had a lot fun working with the PGA Senior Tour when the Marlboro Classic was held in the early 80s," Tom said.

In 1989 the late Homer Darling called Tom one evening, asking him if he would be interested in becoming the successor to the retiring superintendent at Juniper Hill, Al (Sandy) Sanders. He accepted the challenge of that 36-hole layout (18 under construction at the time). Tom admitted

to being a bit nervous at first, but soon settled into the job at hand.

Tom became a Certified Golf Course Superintendent in 1996. He enjoys bird watching, sports, and pulling crab grass and other weeds from his lawn.

Washed sod . . .

continued from page 5

enhanced fertilizer use with the surfactant included. Plots containing Axis continue to exhibit improved turf quality compared to plots without this product.

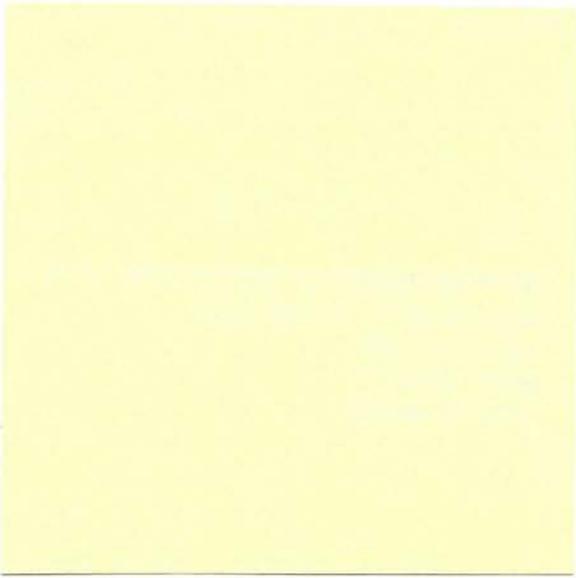
Summary of results to date

- (1) Rooting was influenced by peat mix type and percent. It was also significantly enhanced by fungicide and biweekly fertilizer applications of 112 lb. N/1000 square feet.
- (2) Wear significantly decreased turfgrass quality and rooting when initiated two or four weeks

after sod installation. The level of rooting decrease varied among experiments, possibly fluctuating with seasonal differences.

- (3) Surfactants may improve washed sod establishment where dry spots are known to be a problem.
- (4) Topdressing may improve turfgrass quality.
- (5) Dollar spot was noted on plots not treated with preventative fungicides.
- (6) Sod could be successfully laid up to 48 hours after harvest and shipping, although best performance occurred on sod laid within 24 hours of harvest.

(The University of Rhode Island 1997 research project plans will appear in next month's issue of *The Newsletter*.)



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