



THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents

Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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August 1997

It's just business-as-usual for Bob DiRico as he prepares Brae Burn for USGA event

A couple of weeks into July and only less than a month from what could be his shining (or darkest) hour, Bob DiRico addressed the obligatory question: How was he up to the pressures of preparing the Brae Burn Country Club course for a USGA's showcase event, the Women's National Amateur Championship?

"It's nothing special," the seasoned Brae Burn superintendent and GCSANE president understated his position on the hot seat. "What I mean is that this is the same course the women will be playing next month (Aug. 4-9). We have our annual three-day member-guest tournament going on now. Condition-wise, it's where I always like to have it. The same goes for the USGA event."

In other words, what Brae Burn members and their guests were seeing and playing in the middle of July is what the USGA and its stellar field would be experi-

encing some three weeks down the road. DiRico prides himself on his perennial productivity, that of giving his members the best possible playing conditions year after year after year.

"And I'm not alone in that kind of attitude," DiRico stressed. "What we're getting, my fellow superintendents and I, is a non-stop demand on our expertise and whatever we can squeeze out of Mother Nature. What golfers want are top-notch playing conditions. It's not just at certain times of the season. It's an everyday thing. What we do every day as superintendents is what I'll be doing to produce that effect for the ladies."

At the time DiRico was in an affable and pleasant mood. He had just come off an aerial survey and television overview of the Brae Burn course. That was scheduled for presentation during ESPN's telecast of the women's championship, or specifically, a close-up look at the make-up and play at holes 7 through 18. It was something new for the superintendent, who admitted any experience in the art before that was confined to homemade, family-oriented videos.

"The television people have been great," Bob revealed. "They came in and staked out the areas for the shooting towers. They set up a compound to store the equipment, and made preparations for a mobile studio for the announcers. They used to erect studios around the televised area and have to come back and tear them down. Then someone got the brainstorm to put together a mobile unit. That's the setup here."

Actually, the playing of the women's national amateur was two years in the making. USGA officials visited the course that far in advance, working with DiRico to arrange Brae Burn to meet the specific event's physical needs.

"The most important of those were to rebuild the 16th and 17th tees," Bob explained. "That was no problem because the project was needed anyway. Other than that, they set up the yardage with only one change on the card, making No. 4 a par five instead of a par four, to increase overall par from 72 to 73. The idea, too, was to have the ladies tee off from the middle of the men's driving areas.

The idea of the overall undertaking also came with sentimental and traditional attachments. This being the 100th anniversary of Brae Burn, it seemed fitting to

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The Super Speaks Out

This month's question: How do you manage overtime in your maintenance program?

Rob Larson, Pine Ridge Country Club: "This is my 10th year as a superintendent, but only my first at Pine Ridge. However, in most club and golf course budgets, one of the built-in rules is to keep overtime at a minimum.

"But we all know that sometimes it is impossible to get certain projects completed up to standards without stretching the time clock.

"One of those projects is mowing at peak growing periods. I handle this by using four employees on weekends, mowing both days with a triplex mower. During the week all greens are hand-mowed which is done by a split crew of full and part-timers.

"Because the combination of weekend and weekday mowing this time of year requires more time than non-peak periods, I rotate the overtime hours. The total in this project is 12 hours of overtime a week.

"Aerification is another procedure where my crew has to double up on assignments and put in more time. So, in the three or five days of aerifying, it means that employees are working 10-hour instead of eight-hour shifts.

"That does it for overtime. Our owners understand the situation and are satisfied that any overtime needed to do those jobs is justified. They approve it without any questions.

"This year we had one other overtime-needed project that began before I took over for John Kotoski (Rob's predecessor). John started the finishing touches on completion of a new automated irrigation system last November. But the project ran over to this spring, and I had to complete the final eight holes of the system.

"Therefore, it was necessary to use a couple of part-timers on a full-time basis in April and May. That constituted overtime. Once the system was in place, the part-timers went back to their 24-hour per-week schedule."

Dean Loomis, Holden Hills Country Club: "I'm in a constant battle of the hours. We're an 18-hole public course and the word from the owners is simple, yet firm: No overtime.

"That means I have to have a good crew because we are a manual irrigation course. Fortunately, my people understand that some of the intangibles, like working outside, make up for a little juggling of working hours. They have to pull early, early morning shifts, but they know they'll be compensated for it with time off during normal working hours. It's a struggle for me to get the schedule lined up to be fair with everyone. Somehow, I do it.

"I rotate the weekend work of watering and mowing which usually ends up with a person pulling chores on the weekend mornings only. It's one of the givens here. When I hire someone, it's understood that some work on weekends is expected of the whole crew, myself included. Hey, this is my fifth super job. I'm used to putting in a million hours a week.

"My biggest headache, then, is to set up a schedule that will compromise both ends, the golf course and the workers. True, some things suffer. However, my general manager is happy with the results and the condition of the course. I take that to mean I'm doing my job.

"Whatever the situation or the particular project, the rule is laid out here for

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**Dean Loomis
Holden Hills C.C.**

everyone on the crew. Everybody works 40 hours, straight time. Believe it or not, my guys like it this way."

Eric Newell, Rockland Golf Club: "I've been here 16 years and this is the only superintendent's job I've ever had. I mean it. I came out of Stockbridge School straight to this job and the grass never has looked greener on the other side of the fence.

"I only mention this because Rockland is a par-three course. But don't let that fool you. We're as busy as most courses. We have members, we have tournaments, and the course is expected to be razor-sharp even though the greens take beating with all those direct hits.

"There is some overtime and this is dictated by the elements. If more time is needed to maintain acceptable conditions, I'm allowed to pay some overtime as the situation dictates.

"Naturally, our owner makes it a point to stress keeping overtime to a minimum. However, because there's so much hand-watering involved in my maintenance schedule, there has to be some concessions made.

"I try to get around the overtime with that schedule. Give a guy a day-off during the week to make up for a morning weekend shift and rotate the extra work when the course has to be at its best at tournament time. I like to think the extra money a worker earns is more of a bonus than anything. It's for work beyond the normal expectancy.

"My crew is mainly part-time: retired people and students. My assistant is on salary, which means he can do the 45-50 hour week without overtime. The same goes for me. So, I have to be very selective and give things a lot of thought when excessive worker input is necessary. Again, in my position, I have to keep everybody happy. That's the key. Keep the crew happy and ownership happy. It's not that easy, but I'm doing it."

GERRY FINN

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Planning irrigation system retrofit: Part II

by Joseph Sarkisian

(Part II; Part I ran in our July issue.)

When converting to a double-row system, determine the width you need to maintain and assume only 75% effective coverage towards the roughs. If you make a mistake in sprinkler selection and try to maintain more than 75% of the radius towards the rough by increasing run time, you will create overwatering between sprinklers. Select sprinklers that use mid-sized nozzles in the original design. Then, if field adjustments are needed, they can be made by nozzle changes rather than conversion to larger or smaller sprinkler heads. If you cannot get proper coverage with double-row design, consider triple-row or multi-row.

High or low pressure at the sprinkler can cause dry spots, wet spots, and lack of coverage towards the rough. When retro-fitting, consider valve-in-head sprinkler designs that offer pressure regulation in the operating range for your system.

When locating sprinkler heads, consider wind direction and compensate for wind effect. Consider topography and soil conditions. Use smaller sprinklers with slower precipitation rates to irrigate slopes or areas of heavy, slow-draining soils. Don't discount the fact that wet spots or dry spots could be caused by compact soils or a heavy thatch layer. If coverage in these areas is known to be good, try fracturing the ground with one of the hydraulic aerating machines.

Try to maintain individual sprinkler head control on greens. There is a lot of elevation change on greens, and puddling or dry spots are hard to control with multi-head operation. Green surrounds will seldom get proper watering from green sprinkler overthrow. Set up separate sprinklers for watering green surrounds.

Control systems are where most innovations have been in the past 15-20 years. Older electro-mechanical control systems have been replaced by computer-driven systems. These systems offer more control, programming flexibility, and efficiency, especially when coupled with weather monitoring equipment. Systems come in many shapes and sizes and offer communication via hard-wire and radio (the latter making retrofit quite simple).

Because of the computer-driven system's unique ability to monitor and adjust system flow, these control systems can be retrofit to older irrigation systems with limited water supplies and pipe sizes to make them more efficient, even with sprinklers added for more coverage. The piping system should be in good repair (and mainline sizes known) for optimum results. A major consideration for retrofitting control systems is to make sure the 115-volt power wire to the system satellite controllers and the 24-volt wiring to solenoid valves from the satellite controllers are large enough to allow the system to function properly and deliver all its features and benefits. Generally, some wire-size upgrades are necessary.

When considering the control system retrofit, take a hard look at present and future needs. A retrofit may be required to operate a simple single-row system, and may not require too many bells and whistles. However, future plans may call for a complete retrofit of sprinklers and some piping. At that time, more control and system management requirements may be necessary. In this situation, you don't want to over-buy up front, but you don't want to be limited in the future. Many systems are upgradable for this reason.

The pipe is the most difficult part of an existing system to assess with respect to continued use or total abandonment. As mentioned, poorly regulated pressure from the water source can cause weakening of the PVC pipe, which surfaces as cracks along the sidewall. Once this problem begins, chances are it may never go away. The failure rate can be slowed down, but damage will never heal. Other than stress cracks along the sidewall, PVC fittings have been known to cause problems in older systems. Tees and elbows will break. If the problems are persistent and the failure rate is increasing, perhaps a new system is the most prudent choice.

If you decide that your piping system is in fairly good shape and you have committed to improved pressure regulation and air release valves at system high points, then you must consider the quality of swing joint fittings, valve assemblies, and pump station piping material.

Galvanized pipe is no longer specified for use in irrigation systems. The material begins to decay the minute the system is turned on for the first time. If you are retrofitting sprinklers and valves, replace the swing joints with the new prefabricated PVC type, and if possible, use copper and brass in places where PVC nipples don't provide enough impact strength. Also, it might be wise to install a quick coupling valve before the first main line valve from the pump house. By doing so, you can flush the pump station each spring before you pump water into the irrigation system. This is recommended, because pump stations are sometimes plumbed with steel pipe and galvanized nipples.

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Ouimet Fund News

Ouimet Fund aims for another record

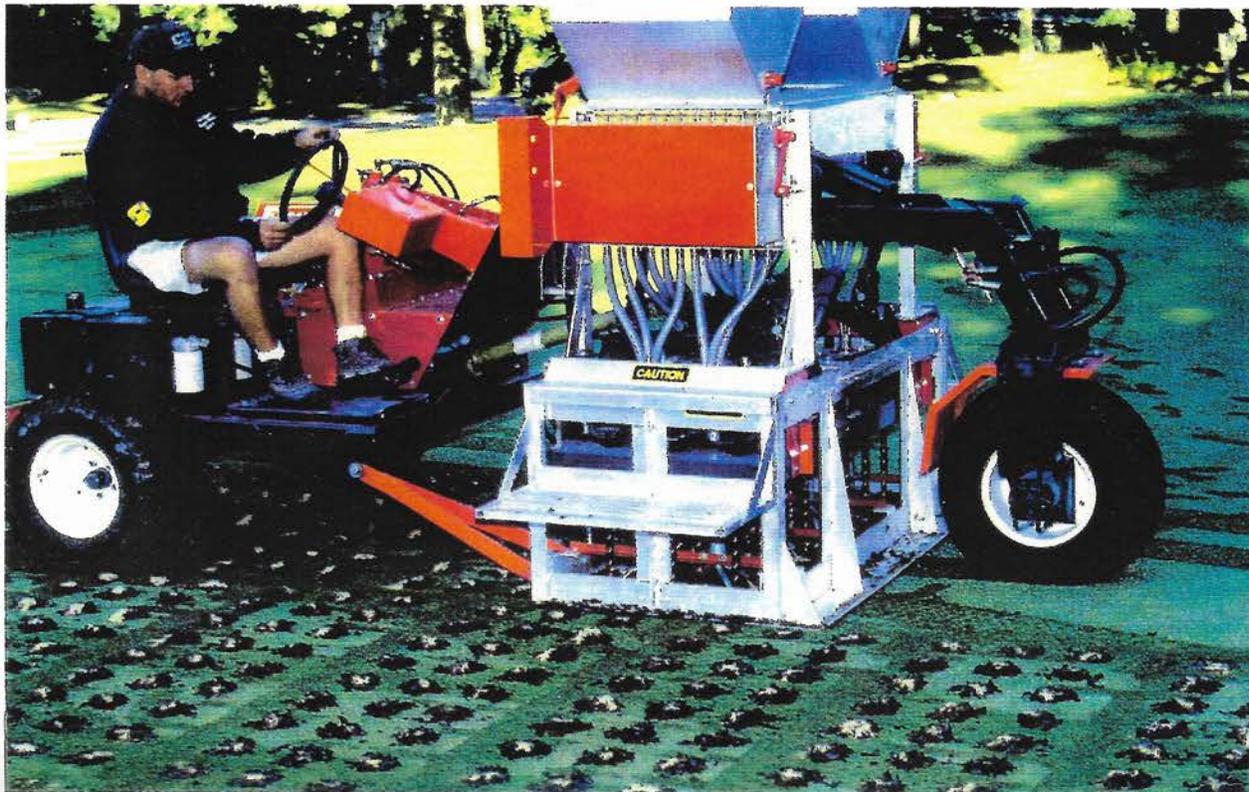
The Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund announced it will break its own record for the fifth consecutive year, with plans to award \$550,000 in scholarships in 1997-98.

"We are very pleased to be able to plan this level of scholarships," said fund president Steve Buckley. "We have grown each year, and \$550,000 will represent a cumulative increase of 38% over the last three years. Our scholars can receive \$10,000 to \$15,000 or more over four years." The increase will bring the fund to \$8.3 million in awards since its founding in 1949.

Students and families should call (617) 891-6400 now for applications, which will be mailed Sept. 1 (due Dec. 1). Students with three years service to golf as caddies or helpers in pro shop or superintendent operations in Massachusetts are eligible.

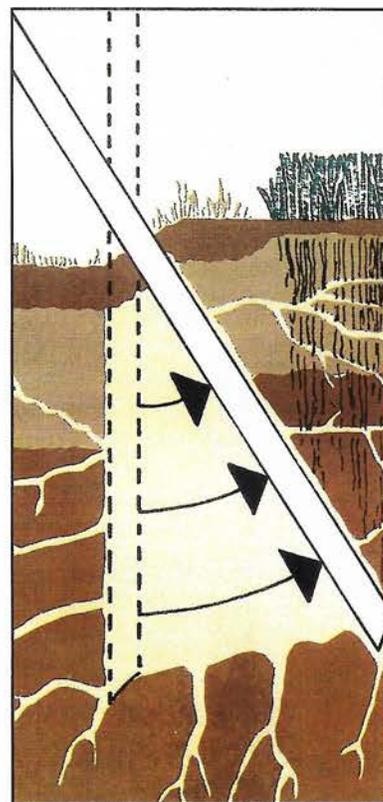
The fund awards need-based undergraduate college tuition grants to young people who have given three years "service to golf" at courses in Massachusetts. Awards range from \$500 to \$5,000 per year. In 1996-97, 263 students from 109 clubs won scholarships.

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Summary of Pesticide Disclosure Act (S. 1062)

The following is a summary of content and changes to the Pesticide Disclosure Act (S. 1062) as of July 3, 1997.

SECTION 1. Goals of the Act.

Acknowledges the fundamental right of Massachusetts citizens to know about pesticide use, the toxicity of pesticides, the current lack of a useful compilation of data on pesticide use, and that Massachusetts citizens are being denied their right to know about pesticide use in the Commonwealth. States policy goals of the act as the creation of an accessible database and the provision of advance notice to the public about pesticide applications so they may reduce their exposure.

SECTION 2. Reporting.

Sections 1 & 2. Pesticide Use Reporting. Provides for the creation of a state-wide pesticide use computer database capable of providing accessible information to the general public about pesticide use by five-digit zip code or street address. The database will be developed and operated by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). *(Addresses concerns raised by the Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA) regarding personnel and resources. DEP has expertise and experience operating sophisticated computer data bases.)*

Section 3. Annual Report on Pesticide Use. Requires DEP commissioner to prepare annual report, submitted to the legislature, summarizing pesticide use in the state. *(Addresses concerns raised by the DFA regarding personnel and resources.)*

SECTION 3. Definition of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Defines IPM as a comprehensive strategy of pest control whose major objective is to achieve desired levels of pest control in an environmentally responsible manner by combining multiple pest control measures to reduce the need for reliance on chemical pesticides. *(Allows pesticide use "only when absolutely necessary," as opposed to "as a last resort." Addresses Dept. of Food and Agriculture's (DFA) concern that pesticides are not necessarily "a last resort;" sometimes they are necessary.)*

SECTION 4. Definition of Abutter.

Defines "abutter" as occupant of adjoining properties and properties directly opposite. *(Limits abutters to occupants, not owners. Addresses applicators' concerns that notifying both owners and occupants would be excessively burdensome.)*

SECTION 5. Definition of Standard Written Notification.

Defines "standard written notification" as including a number of types of information. *(By deleting requirement that agricultural pesticide application shall not begin prior to approximate dates specified in the annual notice and shall not conclude more than 72 hours after approximate dates in the annual notice, addresses concerns raised by farm-*

ers that they cannot predict with certainty when specific pesticides will be used.)

SECTION 6. IPM.

Requires DFA to promote IPM and to prepare an annual report, submitted to the legislature, describing efforts and progress made toward furthering the use of IPM in the state.

SECTION 7. Pre-notification for Rights of Way and Aerial Applications.

Section 6B. Pre-notification for Rights of Way and Aerial Applications. Eliminates seven day pre-notification requirement to abutters, replaces with requirement for conspicuous notice in local newspaper 48 hours in advance. Requires applicators to make available a phone number for information for right-of-way applications. *(Addresses utility and railroad concerns that individual, mailed notification would be excessively burdensome. Requirement of*

toll-free number eliminated in response to concerns that small businesses and small municipalities would not have a toll-free number or the resources to establish one. Requirement of publication in two newspapers reduced to one newspaper in response to concerns raised regarding small towns with only one newspaper.)

SECTION 8. Pre-notification for Agricultural Application; Lawn Care, Tree Care, and Landscaping; and Outdoor Posting.

Section 6C. Pre-notification for Agricultural Application. Eliminates the 48-hour mailed pre-notification requirement for golf courses and agricultural applications. Replaces with annual written notice requirement for agricultural applications, delivered by method of choice of applicator. Annual notice to abutters need not include all information, as long as that information is sent to local Board of

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GCSANE News

"Remember when?": GCSANE History

Remember when? looks back at the GCSANE's many significant events and individuals of the past.

25 years ago

A supposedly confidential profile and salary survey of members, conducted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, has been released . . . not by the superintendents group, but by the PGA Magazine. Regardless, almost 1,200 supers responded to the survey, with these interesting results:

The average salary in the profession is \$12,846, with \$8,000 the minimum, and \$25,000 the maximum.

The lowest salary range among the respondents was recorded from replies by supers employed by resort, military, and college courses, where the figure was \$3,000 below the national average.

The average age of the superintendent is 42.4 years, and nearly 50 percent of supers are second-generation followers of the profession. One out of every three have brothers in the business.

Fringe benefits (on average) include: Automobile or pickup truck expense allowance (67%), clubhouse privileges (65%), GCSAA dues (86%), GCSAA conference expenses (70%), life insurance (44%), housing (27%), pension plan (26%), meals (43%), utilities (21%) and disability insurance (20%).

15 years ago

Things got off to a rocky start at the GCSANE's individual championship tournament at Vesper when host super Bert Frederick was run over by a golf cart. Bert escaped serious injury, insisting he had sustained "only a flesh wound." Information as to who was driving at the time of the accident as not available.

Meanwhile, back at the tournament, Paul Miller of Tedesco captured the championship with a 76. Brian Cowan's 80 was good for second place. The big net winner was Steve Murphy of Gannon (66). Joe Rybka was second (67). The seniors division was a family affair, with brothers Norm and Bob Mucciarone sharing gross honors. Steve Butler took commercial Division honors, with Larry Bunn second.

5 years ago

Dick Zepp made a smashing impression on a neighbor's window at the GCSANE championship tournament held at Winchester Country Club. When last observed, the neighbor (a club member) and Dick were engaged in a friendly chat.

Mystery shrouds the championship tournament. Six golfers - Greg Misodoulakis, Keith Gavin, Rich Tworig, Dave Barber, Pat Lewis, Charlie Dickow - tied at 82. However, no one reported the result of an ensuing playoff.

GERRY FINN

Pesticide Disclosure Act

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request direct notification of agricultural applications. (Addresses concerns of golf courses and farmers that mailed pre-notification is excessively burdensome and would disrupt IPM efforts.)

Section 6D. Pre-notification for Lawn Care, Tree Care, and Landscaping. Eliminates seven day individual mailed notice for lawn care. Replaces with 48-hour written notice to abutters, delivered by method of choice of applicator. (Addresses concerns of applicators that seven-day individual mailed notice was an excessive burden.)

Section 6E. Emergency Applications. Provides for right, on approval of department, to waive requirements of 6B through 6D if emergency application is necessary. (Addresses concern that pre-notification would disrupt emergency applications.)

Section 6F. Posting Signs. Eliminates requirement for rights-of-way and non-agricultural aerial applicators to post signs upon application. Eliminates requirements for golf courses to post on perimeter of property. Provides for posting of signs upon application of outdoor pesticides and leaving signs up for 48 hours after application, around the perimeter of the sprayed area. Provides for some sign specifications. Requires signs to be posted in entryways to golf courses. (Addresses concerns that rights-of-way and aerial applicators would be excessively burdened to post signs around sprayed areas.)

Section 6G. School Notification and Signs. Requires school committees to implement policy to provide students, parents, and employees with written notification two working days before application. Requires schools to post signs prior to and at least 72 hours after application. Includes some specifications for signs. Also allows for waiving of provisions for emergency spraying, with approval of department. In case of emergency, signs must be posted and written notice must be provided immediately prior to or immediately after spraying. Written notification not required if classes are not scheduled for five consecutive days or more. Information to be distributed must be provided to the school committee by the pesticide applicator. (Addresses concerns raised regarding seven day notification as interfering with IPM, concerns regarding cost of providing written notice when school is out of session, and burden on school committee to obtain information to be included in the notice packet.)

SECTION 9. IPM as State Policy.

Section 6H. Mandates adoption and implementation of IPM for all state buildings and grounds.

SECTION 10. Recordkeeping and Reporting.

Section 7A. Specification of Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements. Changes reporting requirements from monthly to twice yearly. Requires applicators to record and submit certain pesticide application information to the DEP. (Addresses ap-

plicator concerns that monthly reporting requirements were excessively burdensome. Addresses DFA's concerns regarding resources and personnel to process the reporting data.)

SECTION 11. IPM Consideration in Competency Exam.

Adds IPM competence to criteria for considering applications by professional pesticide applicators.

SECTION 12. Reference.

Changes General Laws language to reflect new law.

SECTION 13. Disclosure Act Fund.

Section 16. Pesticide Disclosure Act Fund. Creates fund entitled the Pesticide Disclosure Act Fund to utilize existing fees required to be paid for pesticide registration, licenses, permits, certifications, etc., to be used to cover the costs of the pesticide use database, the IPM program, and enforcement.

SECTION 14. Reference.

Changes General Laws language to reflect new law.

SECTION 15. Breast Cancer Research.

Requires department of public health to establish a plan to increase the number of applicants to breast cancer research program who propose to investigate potential link between pesticides and breast cancer.

SECTION 16. Dates.

Provides for the effective dates.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed for membership: Darren Johnson, Superintendent, Cedar Glen Golf Course.

INFORMATION

The Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament (May 5 at Cohasset G.C.) needs to add two "thank yous" to the many included last month. Thanks to Turf Specialty, Inc., a major contributor (one of the "magnificent seven"); and thanks to Bob Healey, who sponsored the hole-in-one contests.

The GCSANE Scholarship & Benevolence Committee has voted to award its 1997 scholarships. The Thomas Schofield Memorial Scholarship (\$2,000) was awarded to Kathryn E. Fitzroy, who is attending North Adams (Mass.) State College. Scholarships of \$1,250 were awarded to Elizabeth Luccini, attending Johnson and Wales, Providence, R.I.; and Daniel DiRico, attending University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass. The Scholarship & Benevolence Fund has awarded \$12,500 in scholarships in the last three years.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to URI Professor Emeritus C.R. Skogley, who is experiencing health problems.

Michael F. Nagle, CGCS, of Worcester (Mass.) C.C., earned an environmental management specialist certificate from the GCSAA for completing a program for Integrated Plant Management. The GCSAA is addressing the environmental impact of course maintenance and increasingly complex training needs by offering specialized training through its Environmental Management Program. The program consists of six certification programs: integrated plant management; underground storage tanks; employee safety & right-to-know; water quality & application; golf course development; and storage, disposal, & recycling. The Integrated Plant Management specialization focuses on discovering effective methods of reducing reliance on pesticides and increasing use of biological, mechanical, and cultural pest control.

POSITION OPENING

Golf Course Superintendent, Manchester C.C., Manchester, Conn. Applicants must have a degree in turfgrass management, and have a minimum of seven years of working experience in the golf course management industry. Salary commensurate with experience and ability. Candidates should expect to begin employment within the 1998 golf season. Interviews will be conducted during Oct./Nov. 1997. For information call (806) 684-

3434. Submit resumes by mail or in person before Sept. 30, 1997 to: Manchester C.C., Superintendent Search Committee, P.O. Box 3950, Manchester, CT 06045.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Tedesco Country Club, Marblehead, Mass.

July 7, 1997

Team of Two Championship

Superintendent Division: First Gross - Andy Langlois & Bob Dembeck, 70. First Net - Todd Lagassy & Jim Whitley, 62. **Affiliate Division:** First Gross - Joe Lazaro & Dick Gurski, 77. First Net - Dennis Friel & Paul Skafas, 65.

Winchester Country Club, Winchester, Mass.

Aug. 4, 1997

GCSANE Championship

Superintendent Division: First Gross - Jack Hasset, 80; First Net - Mark Casey, 71; Dave Laffey, 71*. **Affiliate Division:** First Gross - Ken Mourodian, 79; First Net - Dave Wallace, 70*; Bill Raymor, 70.

Closest-to-Pin: Greg Frederick, 7'5"

*Card Match

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Host Superintendent Profile

Meet host superintendent Daniel Higgins, Winchester C.C.

The host superintendent for our August meeting is Daniel Higgins of Winchester Country Club, Winchester, Mass.

Dan has been the golf course superintendent at Winchester C.C. since 1990.

After graduating from Stockbridge in 1978, he moved to Daren, Conn. and

worked for Sherwood Moore at Woodway C.C. Dan then relocated to New Canaan, Conn. and was assistant superintendent under Stephen Cadenelli at The Country Club of New Canaan. Dan then landed the superintendent position at Cohasset C.C. in Southbridge, Mass., where he was

employed for five years. He became a certified superintendent in 1996.

Dan and his wife Anne live in Winchester with their two children, Daniel and Maureen. When Dan is not working, he enjoys thinking about work (must be August) and being a rock-and-roll star.

Irrigation retrofit

Continued from page 4

If you are retrofitting your control system to a new computer-driven system, evaluate the pipe size, and if possible, try to provide more water to remote areas of the course. By doing this you help the control system work more efficiently by allowing more sprinkler groups to operate. This may require an additional run of main line pipe or more loops in the

pipng system. Each system is different and must be evaluated on an individually.

Determining the best approach to revitalize an old irrigation system can be somewhat involved. The ultimate success of the process is based on properly identifying problems, determining the best upgrade method, or, based on condition of the system components, installing a new system. The final decision will be based on the superintendent's knowledge and experience working with the existing

system, present and future course demands, developing a plan and budget that is agreeable to the owner(s), and presenting the project in such a manner that the owner(s) realize how important an efficient, properly operating irrigation system is to optimum turf and play conditions.

Joseph Sarkisian is president of Joseph Sarkisian & Associates, Inc., an East Sandwich, Mass. company specializing in irrigation systems design and consulting.

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