



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.

January 1999

GCSANE prepares for 75th Anniversary; Bob Healey chronicles profession's growth

You might call it golf's latest diamond in the rough. Or you might just circle your social calendar, even star December 3, 1999, because that's the date the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England celebrates its 75th birthday.

In fact, the celebration is all encompassing as far as 1999 is concerned. Plans are in the works to stage a 75th birthday golf tournament in July, thus leading to the gala banquet and blowing out the candles in December.

However, for the purists reading this, perhaps February 24 will become the most significant date of this year. History tells us, along with the association's unofficial historian and fact finder Bob Healey, that on that date the GCSANE was born.

"Only it wasn't 'superintendents' in those days," Healey informs. Then, the man responsible for the maintenance of the golf course and other grounds was known as the 'greenkeeper'. All the

founding fathers of the association were greenkeepers, and some fought the evolution of the term 'superintendent' right down to a close vote to change the organization's official name."

Thank heavens for people like Bob Healey, who has been tracking the formation and development of the GCSANE for several years. His involvement is curious in a sense because Bob is not a golf course superintendent, but close to the profession as owner of association "Friend" Irrigation Management and Services. And as a matter of pursuing the subject further, Bob once answered to the title of assistant superintendent at the Chestnut Hill Country Club.

Healey's research has uncovered some interesting events since that day in February of 1924 when 41 greenkeepers marched into Cortelle's restaurant in Boston, experienced its cuisine, and eventually munched on their words in a rap session that produced an association, its officers, and its constitution. How's that for a one-night stand?

Some of the association originals were caught with their memories making sparks during the GCSANE's 50th birthday bash 25 years ago at the Lantana restaurant in Randolph. Their descriptions of the early times varied.

Guy C. West remembered that the first meeting was held "somewhere in Boston at a luncheon." Howard Farrant recalled that in the 1920s most people thought greenkeepers got their "know-how" from

The Farmer's Almanac. And Joseph Oldfield, ever the unintentional comedian, added that he chose his labor force by offering a man a shovel and hiring him if he picked it up by the right end.

Those were pioneer times, if you will. Those were the times when greenkeepers up and told the golf world it was about time they got together and made people realize they weren't just a pick and shovel gang.

Golf course maintenance problems in the 20s and 30s were just about the same as they are today, according to the association's charter members.

"I remember once I put a fresh cut through the middle of the area between the tee and the rough," Elmer Fuller told.

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"All the founding fathers of the association were 'greenkeepers', and some fought the evolution of the term 'superintendent', right down to a close vote to change the organization's official name."

**Bob Healey
Irrigation Management
& Services**

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"In those days there always was a piece of rough in front of the tee to make the drive more demanding. Anyway, some of my members used to line up their drives with that strip just in case they topped the ball. They wanted a good lie. But that's the whole of it. Golfers always expect the best of conditions and the best positions for their next shot. That's where we come in, I guess."

"... Joseph Oldfield, ever the unintentional comedian, added that he chose his labor force by offering a man a shovel and hiring him if he picked it up at the right end."

– notes from the GCSANE 50th Anniversary

One of Healey's findings centered on the start-up of the association's *Newsletter*, its contents over the years, and the periodical's fight for survival during World War II.

"The first *Newsletter* was published in May of 1929," Bob revealed. "That was five years after the association's first tournament, held at the Brae Burn Country Club. Anyway, the editions of the 20s and 30s were all editorial pieces. No pictures were used, and sometimes the *Newsletter*, published once a month, ran eight to 12 pages in length.

"In those times the superintendents did all the writing. It was nothing for a superintendent to make an educational presentation that ran a couple of pages long. Thus, the *Newsletter* became an important educational tool for association members. It seemed that everyone wanted to write articles. There was one penned by Donald Ross when he was working at Concord."

Healey also detailed the *Newsletter's* hard times during World War II when there was a paper shortage and many supers went to war themselves. That part of the story told of one-page editions,

publication every other month, and the input of association member Phil Cassidy in keeping the periodical going.

At the organization's 25th anniversary in 1949, it should be noted that the GCSANE was awash with achievements for the good of the membership and golf.

It had accomplished: the first outdoor show of maintenance equipment, the publishing of its own professional newsletter on a regular basis, regular meetings in the interest of turf culture, close cooperation with turf schools, the financial support of turf research, educational aid to members, and programs promoting sound relations with the golf professional and club manager.

Along the way, too, the professional status of the golf course superintendent has soared to dizzying heights. Most of that recognition reverts back to the formation of the GCSANE. Updating on this and other advancements for the good of the profession will follow as the birthday celebration countdown continues to tick toward that day when you hear . . . "and a happy 75th to you, sir."

GERRY FINN

Calendar

- January 11 **GCSAA Seminar**
Enhancing Your Value as a Professional Golf Course Supt.
Manchester, N.H.
- January 12 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Franklin Country Club
Franklin, Mass.
Supt. - Gary Luccini
- January 19 **GCSAA Seminar**
Advanced Weed Management
Rockport, Maine
- Feb. 8-14 **70th GCSAA International Golf Course Conference & Show**
Orlando, Fla.
- Feb. 23 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Heritage Hill Country Club
Lakeville, Mass.
Supt. - Brian Linehan
- March 2-4 **New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show**
Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence, R.I.
- March 15 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Hickory Ridge Country Club
Amherst, Mass.
Supt. - Robert Ruzsala

The (Retired) Super Speaks Out

This month's question: *With the 75th anniversary of the GCSANE this new year, how do you reflect back on your career and your part in the association's coming of age?*

Lucien Duval: "I guess one of the most memorable revelations in my career came at the beginning of it, when I worked for my father-in-law at the Manchester (N.H.) Country Club. Believe it or not, I was making as much money as he was - 50 bucks a week. So that's how the superintendent had to beat off the bill collectors in those days.

"Actually, the government paid part of my salary because I had entered a special education program under the GI Bill of Rights. Regardless, it didn't make sense at the time and it only points out just how much a strong association was needed to rectify such ridiculous circumstances.

"Naturally, the club refused to upgrade my father-in-law's salary, so it was left to me to make the move, first to the Hillcrest Country Club, where I was the head superintendent at the ripe old age of 23. From there the moves continued until I was locked into the GCSANE as treasurer while I ran the maintenance program at Chestnut Hill.

"As far as the credibility of the association goes, I think its direction and operation were on the helter-skelter side until people like Tony Caranci, Bob Grant, Dick Blake, and Leon St. Pierre served as president. That came in the 1970s, and almost everyone would have to agree that era was the turn-around stage for the association, from casual to formal, solid, and professional.

"I was also on hand in the period when the profession went through the long and rigorous process of changing its name from greenkeeper to superintendent. Really, there were some old-timers in the group who were adamant about making the change. There were some real dragout arguments at meetings when the two sides almost came to blows over the issue.

"Anyway, my years as a member of the GCSANE were happy ones and ones when we turned the corner in matter of being recognized not only by our employers but by the rest of the industry. In the end, I

worked in the game for 50 years, finishing it with the last 25 at the York Golf and Tennis Club. The association and myself really grew up during that half-century."

Max Mierzwa: "It was a good life . . . life as a golf course superintendent. And, for me, I'm fortunate to have been around when a lot of changes took place, changes that laid the groundwork for what we have today.

"My introduction to the profession was unique. The year was 1946 and I had just come out of the Marine Corps when I bumped into a friend, Paul Bigos, who had been hired as superintendent at the Springfield Country Club. We shook hands, he offered me a job, and that was the beginning of close to 50 years of golf course employment.

"The association was close to me for many years. In fact, I served a few terms as a director. However, the early-hours travel became too much for me, going from one end of the state (west to east) to another at ungodly times, and I settled in as a solid, association-minded member.

"Looking back and coming up to the present time, and because I just retired a couple of years ago, I'd have to say the superintendents of today have it tougher than we did in matter of condition demands.

"In my early years at Springfield and Chicopee Municipal, golfers were content to have nice greens and fairways where the ball rolled a mile because there was no irrigation. Nowadays everything has to be manicured and pampered, not one blade of grass out of place. That's demanding.

"The GCSANE enabled me to make friends with a lot of good people. It also opened my eyes to a lot of things, including the stress factors in the job, the need for a break from the pressure, and an understanding of etiquette when it came to changing jobs . . . things like that. Being part of it was an enjoyable experience for me. It deserves to have a happy 75th birthday."

Phil Cassidy: "You're talking to one of the grandfathers of the business and the GCSANE. When did they start the association, 1924? Well, that was the year of my first job (at construction) at the Needham Golf Club. Four years later I was the head superintendent there (Needham) and I stayed 20 years before winding down with a 27-year stay at the Weston Golf Club.

"Through that span I suppose I've been part of the transformation of a lackey job (greenkeeper) into a highly respected profession (superintendent). This says a lot for the people who went through that time with me and for those who have continued to keep the association going upwards and forward.

"Do I love the profession? My bank book probably answers that, because during the war years I worked at Raytheon, had a chance to stay there after the war, but instead took a \$100-a-week pay cut to get back to the golf course. And I've never regretted it.

"My input in the association went without saying. I went up through the ranks to become president, and was around when some of the big changes, like association expansion, took place.

"However, my biggest contribution came during the war when I kept the GCSANE *Newsletter* going. It was a one-page, typewritten sheet, but it came out on time. Actually, many people think keeping the *Newsletter* alive kept the association alive. I think they're right.

"Regardless, most of my memories of the GCSANE are fond ones. I remember hanging in when I couldn't get a raise to make mortgage payments, so bad I had to rent for a long time. I also remember things getting much better as recognition for the superintendent's involvement in golf escalated. Seventy-five years? That's a long time and I'm happy to say I was around for all of them."

GERRY FINN

Turf Science

1998 BioJect System field trials, Part II

by John J. Bresnahan and Andy Drohen

(Part I (Introduction, Dollar Spot Control, and Results) appeared in last month's Newsletter.)

Discussion

The BioJect unit used for this study consistently produced high populations of *P. aureofaceans* Tx-1, averaging 1×10^8 cfu/ml throughout the length of this study. The temperature sensor failures associated with the BioJect unit last year appear to have been corrected by Ecosoil, Inc. With the exception of an inoculum pump malfunction early in June, the field BioJect unit operated consistently throughout the season.

There was significant dollar spot pressure at two of the study sites to evaluate the ability of the BioJect solution to suppress disease incidence. Within this study, the BioJect solution was applied at 1×10^8 cfu/ml and significantly suppressed dollar spot compared to the control plots (table 1). Graph 1 illustrates the significant differences between the control treatments and the BioJect treatments, suggesting that the BioJect solution can suppress dollar spot when applied at 1×10^2 cfu/ml. Graph 1 also illustrates that the action threshold of five dollar spots per plot to initiate a fungicide application

in the threshold treatments was never reached during the course of this study, illustrating the potential to reduce fungicide applications on golf course

through a golf course irrigation system. Samples were taken at two golf courses which were actively using the BioJect System: Eastward Ho!, Chatham, Mass.;

More studies need to be conducted to determine the minimum rate of BioJect solution needed to suppress dollar spot and how that rate will reflect on the ability of the BioJect System to distribute the product through a golf course irrigation system.

fairways. The results of this study suggest that the BioJect solution applied nightly at 1×10^8 cfu/ml can suppress dollar spot on fairways under a typical golf course maintenance schedule.

Distribution Study

Also included in this study was a survey of the ability of the BioJect System to distribute *P. aureofaceans* Tx-1

Table 2:
Results of Tx-1 distribution survey at Eastward Ho!

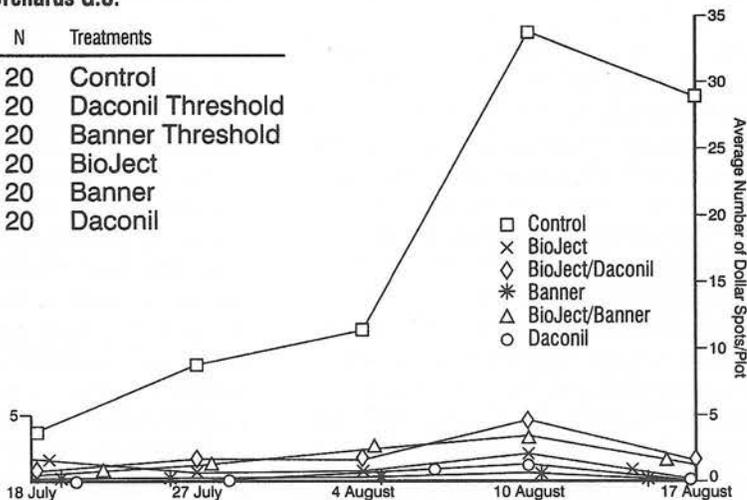
Sample ID	Result cfu/ml
3rd Green	1×10^2
4th Green	2×10^2
6th Green	1×10^1
9th Green	1×10^1
10th Green	1×10^1
11th Green	8×10^1
12th Green	1×10^2
13th Green	1×10^1
14th Green	1×10^1
16th Green	3×10^1
18th Green	1×10^5
Brew Tank	1×10^9

and Woods Hole Golf Club, Falmouth, Mass. Samples were obtained from sprinkler heads at various distances from the BioJect unit. For example, samples were collected from areas closest, midpoint, and farthest away from the location of the pump house, and the BioJect unit samples were collected by placing sterile collection cups on the turfgrass before the irrigation cycle began. After the irrigation cycle ended, the cups were collected and transported to the diagnostic laboratory. Samples were analyzed for the presence of *P. aureofaceans* Tx-1. The distribution survey results from Eastward Ho! are listed in Table 2. *P. aureofaceans* Tx-1 was detected at each sprinkler head tested, and results ranged from 1×10^1 cfu/ml to 1×10^5 cfu/ml. The solution sample taken from the Eastward Ho! BioJect tank was 1×10^9 cfu/ml. While some samples appear low, it is encouraging to find that *P. aureofaceans* Tx-1 was recovered from each sprinkler head sampled.

Table 1: Overall analysis for dollar spot ratings at The Orchards G.C.

Duncan Grouping	Mean	N	Treatments
A	17.4	20	Control
B	1.6	20	Daconil Threshold
B	1.1	20	Banner Threshold
B	0.8	20	BioJect
B	0.5	20	Banner
B	0.4	20	Daconil

Graph 1:
Recorded dollar spot ratings for the Orchards G.C.



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GCSANE News

Remember when?: A look at GCSANE's past

Remember when? looks at significant individuals and events of GCSANE'S past.

25 years ago

Because of the current energy crisis, some country clubs are in the process of increasing the number of recreational facilities for their members. The thought behind this approach comes as a result of limited sales of gasoline on weekends, thus restricting people to short runs when they anticipate filling their leisure hours.

As a result of this mentality, tennis courts are sprouting up, platform tennis stagings are rising and plans are in the works for staking out ski touring routes on the golf course. One country club has even cleared brush and other obstacles for a cross country operation.

All of this reaction places an added burden on the golf course superintendent who has the responsibility of maintaining all recreational facilities at the club. If the crisis should worsen, those facilities will

be taxed to overflowing proportions and the superintendent will be asked to keep them in top condition. Will he come to the rescue? Only time will tell.

15 years ago

Our thanks go out to Ron Kirkman and the Needham Golf Club for hosting the association's annual Christmas Party. A good time was had by all and the Christmas spirit prevailed among our members and their guests. Good show.

Not only is the snow and cold a sure sign winter has set in, news from Medfield is that the "helicopter" has taken to the basement nets. That's right, old Pete is hitting 200 balls a night and is determined to avenge his embarrassing performance at last year's GCSAA tournament.

Speaking of that tournament, this year's version will be played at three courses Jan. 26-27 in the Scottsdale area. Action will take place at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club, Phoenician Golf and

Racquet Club, and the Orange Tree Club. A strong contingent from the GCSANE is expected before heading for the national conference in Las Vegas.

5 years ago

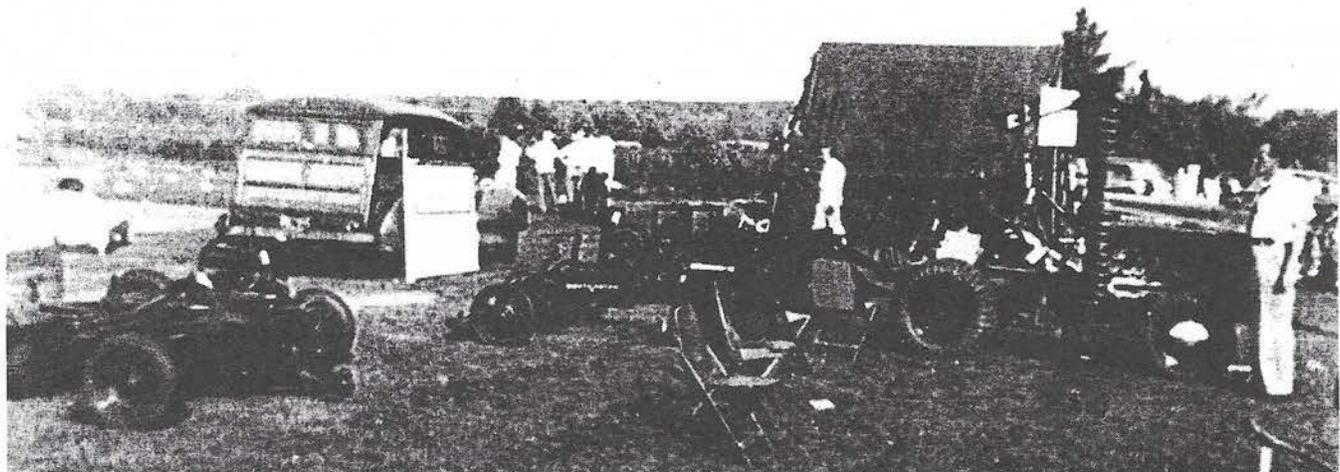
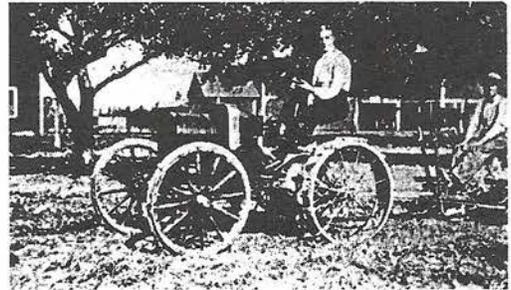
According to three of the mainstays of the golf course superintendent's profession, contracts are the only way to go in effecting a job security program for association members.

Responding to the question of supporting a contract system, Roy Mackintosh of Twin Hills, Bill Spence of The Country Club, and Paul Miller of Nashawtuc agreed that supers had to take the lead in the move that makes mandatory a contract becoming part of the hiring process. Incidentally, all three have had outstanding relationships with their present employers, a development that further solidifies the presence of contracts in a working agreement.

GERRY FINN

From the GCSANE photo archives . . .

At right, Henry Ford is shown on one of many experimental tractors he built before putting one into mass production. This experimental model, which he called an "automobile plow", was built in 1907. Below is a view of a field day/equipment demonstration at Rhode Island State College in 1948. (Photos from the GCSANE archives provided by Bob Healey.)



Opportunity Knocks Dept.

Wanted: Qualified Golf Course Superintendent

Qualifications: College graduate with extensive knowledge and experience in the following fields: Turf Grass Management, Horticulture, Irrigation, Design and Repair, Construction, Personnel Management, Budget Development and Implementation, Mechanics and Public Relations.

You must be willing to work as many hours as necessary to get the job done, regardless of personal life. You must be willing to work for hundreds of bosses who will second guess every decision and program you propose. You will be expected to forecast, compensate and budget for, every whim of nature. You must be able to motivate underpaid

employees to produce top-quality work on a daily basis.

All these goals must be accomplished without interruption to play, or inconvenience to the membership. Finally, you must be willing to work in a barn.

**From Green Mountain Greens,
September/October 1998**

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

INFORMATION

The GCSAA Orlando Hospitality Suite will be held Thursday, February 11, 1999 from 6-8 p.m. at the Omni Rosen.

Our condolences are extended to Robert LeBlanc and family on the passing of his father, Al LeBlanc.

The following members have been awarded their 25-year pins: Ron Hanson, Eastman Golf Links; Eric Brown, Easton C.C.; and Mike Hermanson, Gardner Municipal G.C. Well done!

Congratulations to Jim Beane, who recently became a Life Member of the GCSANE.

Congratulations to the following recipients of GCSANE Scholarship & Benevolence Fund scholarships: Lindsay Carlson, daughter of Bruce Carlson, currently attending Quinnipiac College; Michael DiRico, son of Robert DiRico, who is attending UMass-Amherst; Amy Bunn, daughter of Larry Bunn, who is studying at Assumption College; and Daniel Higgins III, son of Dan Higgins, currently attending Middlebury College.

Friends of the Association, is your information on page 7 of the *Newsletter* correct? If you need to update anything, please send your changes to the editor.

MEETING NOTES

Thanks to Arthur Silva and the staff at Belmont C.C. for hosting the GCSANE Holiday party. A great time was had by all.

A big "Thank You" to Conor Fitzgerald and the Chelmsford C.C. staff for hosting the December meeting.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Superintendent. Outlook Farm Golf Club is an 18-hole golf course located in Berwick and S. Berwick, Maine. Eleven holes will be links on one side of the road, and the other side will be a regular New England style course. Individual must be experienced in all aspects of golf course maintenance, especially grow-in and fertigation. Compensation will be at the going rate in area. Benefits include health insurance, paid vacation, and truck/fuel. Please respond by February 28, 1999 to: Timothy J. Flynn, 135 McDonough Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801. Tel.: (603) 431-1995.

2nd Assistant Superintendent. Charles River Country Club is a private 77-year-old Donald Ross course with an extremely high standard for maintenance. The property includes 213 acres, a pool, and tennis facilities. Individual must have a Mass. pesticide applicator's license, a two or four-year degree in turf, and strong attention to detail. Individual must be skilled in all facets of course maintenance and daily setup, and must be able to manage teams of six or more. Individual must have strong communications skills and one year of experience as a foreman or 2nd assistant superintendent. Compensation includes salary, sick days, holiday pay, and vacation. Please respond by January 17, 1999 to: Charles River C.C., c/o Scott Reynolds, 483 Dedham Street, Newton Centre, MA 02459; or fax (617) 244-8553.

Superintendent. Haverhill Country Club is an 18-hole private country club with a \$550,000 operating budget and a new Toro 8000 irrigation system. Individual must have a minimum of five years of experience in golf course management. Salary is commensurate with experience and ability. A benefit package is available. Send resume by January 21, 1999 to Haverhill Country Club, P. O. Box 250, Haverhill, MA 01831, Attn.: Greens.

Assistant Superintendent. Poquoy Brook Golf Club is an 18-hole public golf course with full driving range tee, practice facility, automatic irrigation system, and a fleet of 75 electric golf cars. Individual must possess skills to manage personnel and communicate with entire staff and public. Budget and record keeping experience is required, as is a current Mass. pesticide applicator's license. Compensation includes competitive salary, health insurance, paid vacation, and yearly local dues. Send resume to Mike Cummings, Poquoy Brook Golf Club, 20 Leonard St., Lakeville, MA 02347.

Assistant Superintendent, Newton Commonwealth Golf Course. Minimum qualifications: Individual must have a two-year degree in turf management, two years of experience in golf course management, and a Mass. pesticide applicator's license. Responsibilities/duties: Individual will be responsible for chemical and fertilizer application; record keeping; irrigation system repair; staff supervision and training; disease and insect scouting; and machinery repair. Salary & benefits: Benefits include three weeks annual vacation; paid holidays and sick time; 50% contribution toward health insurance; national and local superintendent association dues; and paid local meetings and conferences. Deadline: January 27, 1999. Send resume to: David Stowe, Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, 212 Kenrick Street, Newton, MA 02158; (617) 789-4631.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Ryan Aerator WG-24 (parts/rebuild); 3-wheel Cushman (parts/rebuild); Cushman motor and transmission, rear-end; Cushman Topdresser; Toro sprinkler heads; and 3 Flymo GCT-20 Air Cushion Trimmers (all run). Call Dan Higgins, Winchester C.C., at (781) 729-3809 for more information.

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1-800-4-AAWILL

Agr-Evo U.S.A. Co.
Wilmington, Delaware
David Sylvester - (203) 828-8905

Agirturf, Inc.
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Fertilizer, seed, and chemicals for turf.
1-800-346-5048

Allens Seed Store, Inc.
Specializing in quality seed and related
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Gregg Allen - (401) 294-2722
(car phone) - (508) 577-1001

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Steve Fournier, Doug Hooper
(508) 379-0092

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153 Rumford Ave., Newton, MA 02166
Consulting, planning, IPM MoniTor®, pruning,
fertilization, & plant appraisal
Jack Kelly - (617) 969-5990

Bay State Organic / MWRA
100 First Ave., Charlestown Navy Yard
Boston, MA 02129
Manufacturer & supplier of dry organic fertilizers
Amy Barad - (617) 241-6261

Bayer Corporation
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Baylatox, Merit, Dylfox, Tempo, Nema-cur.
Brad Herman - (401) 846-3515;
FAX (401) 846-8012

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Jack Borden - (978) 897-2571

Boston Irrigation Company
Dedham, MA
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(401) 232-3700

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1998 BioJect System field trials, Part II

continued from page 4

Previous data suggests that the BioJect solution will suppress dollar spot when applied nightly at 1×10^8 , it is unclear how effective this product will be at the lower rates sampled from the golf course sprinkler heads. Previous studies by Dr. Vargas have suggested that the BioJect solution be applied at 1×10^5 cfu/ml to be

most effective against dollar spot. It is unknown if repeated applications at lower rates will have the same suppressive effect against dollar spot incidence. More studies need to be conducted to determine the rate of BioJect solution needed to suppress dollar spot, and how that rate will reflect on the ability of the BioJect System to distribute the producer through a golf course irrigation system.

In cooperation with GCSANE, we would like to arrange a focus group or meeting to discuss individual superintendent experiences with the BioJect system this past year. It is our intention to organize a panel discussion featuring superintendents who have been successful and/or unsuccessful

incorporating the BioJect System in their disease management programs. If you are interested in participating, or would like more information concerning this meeting, please call John Bresnahan at (413) 565-5340.

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