



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.

October 1999

When the Luccini family gets together, “turf talk” is always the favorite pastime

The day the voice on the telephone made three visits to the Luccini's it was raining cats and dogs . . . and kennels. Yet, the sun was shining at the Franklin Country Club, the same at the Brookmeadow Country Club, ditto at the Laurel Lane Country Club.

Well, at least the voices on the other end of the phone were radiant because these days life on the golf course exudes sunlight for Gary Luccini and sons Mike and Brian. They are sort of a first family of golf course maintenance, since Gary is the longtime superintendent at Franklin, Mike is in the middle of a renaissance at Brookmeadow as its superintendent, and Brian is sharpening his creative skills as head man at Laurel Lane.

This father-sons professional evolution strikes a unique chord of support for family bonding. One of their favorite pastimes is just sitting around the pool at dad's house, sharing the day's work and

“I've been around golf for as long as I can remember. And I knew right off that I wanted to become part of it in later life. My father was neutral about me joining him in the profession. But, yes, becoming a superintendent was there for the taking for Brian and me.”

**Mike Luccini
Brookmeadow C.C.**

maybe catching up on the solution to a problem or two. Turf talk never had it so good.

As a matter of fact, Gary Luccini got into the golf business much like his sons because he had a sports relationship with his father, Nello, an outstanding semi-pro baseball pitcher on the old pride of Franklin diamond lore, Benny's Oilers.

“They were really a top-notch team,” Gary told. “They were so good, so full of talent that six members of the team went on to play minor league baseball. That's how I got connected to sports, through my dad. We expanded on it, too, when I caddied at Franklin and played as my dad's partner in father-son, four-ball tournaments.”

After that, Nello couldn't get Gary off the golf course. Gary joined the maintenance crew at Franklin for four summers before deciding that was the life for him. Next stop was UMass and the start of a successful career.

“I had some nice background work after I completed the turf course,” Gary revealed. “In 1962 Bob Mucciarone took me on as his assistant at Dedham and three years later I had my first head job at the Pine Oaks Golf Club, a nine-holer which was the first course Geoff Cornish designed. That was my last stop before I came to Franklin.”

And, as everyone knows, Franklin was more than a stopover for Gary and his wife, Kathy. The year was 1970 and Gary, who calls himself the club's “godfather”, has been improving on the product ever since. It began with a 10-hole addition in 1974 and coincides with his family additions of daughters Cheryl and Beth and, of course, sidekick siblings, Mike and Brian.

Gary didn't have much to do with directing his sons to the golf course professionally other than to expose them to the game and let them find their own way. “In fact, in the early days we did more fishing together,” Gary said. “But I could tell they were interested in what I was doing and how it was done. I couldn't feel better about it. I hear so many good things about them, how they're making the grade as superintendents.”

Mike and Brian actually came to dad's rescue, along with Gary's right-hand man,

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assistant Brian Cromack, when they took over preparations for the State Four-Ball Championship last May at Franklin. Gary was hospitalized at the time and the young brigade bailed him out with a stellar maintenance performance. This is par for the course where the Luccini's are concerned.

Mike Luccini isn't sure which came first, being able to walk, or hit a golf ball.

"Just for the record, I've learned more from my father than any library of turf publications."

**Brian Luccini
Laurel Lane C.C.**

"I've been around golf for as long as I can remember," Mike disclosed. "And I knew right off that I wanted to become part of it in later life. My father was neutral about me joining him in the profession. But, yes, becoming a superintendent was there for the taking for Brian and me."

It didn't take Mike long to climb the professional ladder. He hit the books at UMass in between trying his hand at golf course construction at Maplegate and New Seabury. He prepped under Jim Reinertson at Dedham, then took the big step as head superintendent at Brookmeadow. He started there in 1995 and is up to his neck in a five-year plan that includes a new clubhouse, on-course improvements and upgrading of other facilities. All this under the ownership of Betty Simoni who has provided the wherewithal and virtual free hand Mike has completing the project.

The read on Brian Luccini follows almost the same pattern. Brian tried a brief fling at radio communications after attending Dean Junior College but slowly turned his attention to the golf course. Once there he became interested in expanding his creative skills. One of his pet projects came with Dave Barber in re-shaping and re-building 30 bunkers at the Wellesley Country Club where Barber waves the superintendent's magic wand.

"I've gone through all the stages of development in the superintendent's

field," offered Brian. "I've been at Laurel Lane three years and we're making progress. I want to make this the best possible golf course I can and we're getting there."

Brian admitted that he's still a bookworm. "I'm hooked on the educational part of the profession," he said. "I can't get enough of all the tradition found in designing and constructing golf courses. Eventually, that's where I'd like to channel my creative skills. However, just for the record, I've learned more from my father than any library of turf publications."

The Luccini golf trifecta seems to be in place. Gary remains the bearing father of two prospering sons while Mike and Brian take pride in the professional legacy passed on to them by their dad. The way the profession and they have all come together makes for an interesting and heartwarming story. It's a must reading for all of us.

GERRY FINN

Calendar

- October 20 **Pro/Supt. Tournament**
The Willowbend Club
Mashpee, Mass.
Supt. - Mark Casey
- November 1 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Brae Burn Country Club
The Highland Course (9 Holes)
Supt. - Bob DiRico, CGCS
- November 16 **GCSAA Seminar**
Human Resource Management
The International
Framingham, Mass.
- November 17 **GCSAA Seminar**
Budgeting & Forecasting
The International
Framingham, Mass.
- December 3 **75th Anniversary Gala**
Blue Hills Country Club
Canton, Mass.
- December 13 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Lexington Golf Club
Lexington, Mass.
Supt. - Leonard Curtin
- January 10 **GCSANE Annual Meeting**
Cyprian Keyes Golf Club
Boylston, Mass.
Supt. - Dick Zepp, CGCS
- Feb. 14-20 **GCSAA 71st International
Golf Course Conference & Show**
New Orleans, La.

The Super Speaks Out

This month's question: How do you cope with the incidence of vandalism, trespassing, and other sources of nuisance at your golf course?

Jeff Houde, Furnace Brook Golf Course: "First of all, you have to consider the most important factor when you're talking vandalism and other illegal acts around here. We're right in the middle of the city (Quincy) and that's probably the biggest source of all our troubles.

"The troubles hit both extremes, from trivial to major damage or from stealing pins to totaling golf carts.

"It's hard to put a dollar figure on the damage done over the years. Last year was a heavy one for vandalism. We had 12 to 14 incidents when serious infractions occurred. If you want a ballpark figure, I'd put it in the \$10,000 range. And that's just physical damage. It doesn't take into account what it costs us in repair and preventive measures. In fact, we don't have a budget big enough to include adequate security which runs about \$160 a day. That's huge when you stretch it over a long period of time.

"For some reason, and I really can't pin it down, we haven't been hit as hard and as often this year. It could be that we have a good rapport with the police department. It also could be that I patrol the course every weekend. If that helps ease the problem, I'm out there.

"One of the other problems we have is what to do with the vandals, most of whom are teenagers, when we catch up to them. It's almost impossible to prove a party guilty unless they're caught in the act. And then it boils down to age and other physical factors. I think there might be a way to put a crimp in their style by prosecuting the parents. However, that makes for another problem, one I can't get involved in.

"The whole situation is frustrating because I have enough to do around here to keep the course in good playing condition without having to worry about and spend time handling vandalism. Things like having 1/4-inch steel-plated water jugs encased in concrete foundations aren't things I prepared for when I decided to be a golf course superintendent. Strange, isn't it?"

J.C. Girouard, Fresh Pond Golf Course: "There's a string of acts vandals have piled up here on a course that averages 63,000 rounds a year and gives me all the problems I need to give players top conditions.

"We're a city course and that means it's automatic that the vandalism problem is acute. Our biggest headaches are people in the 12 to 14-year-old range. They will try anything to get their kicks or thrill just causing damage and creating havoc. They're also hard to catch red-handed. That's the only way we can come close to controlling the problem.

"The acts of vandalism are the familiar ones. They slash tires on golf carts. I think that happened 17 times last year. They dig up greens. They did that three times a year ago. They throw plastic tee markers into ponds, steal rakes and pins, and would steal everything that's not nailed down.

"Our culprits are even into criminal acts. Recently, one of them ambled onto the course and stole a ladies pocketbook out of a golf cart. A chase followed with the police involved and that case hasn't been resolved yet. Regardless, it shows what goes on here.

"I think you could name any kind of vandalism that happens on golf courses and I'd come back with the fact that it's happened here. In fact, I almost live in fear that something new and more damaging is just around the corner.

"The City of Cambridge provides us with police help, even using night vision glasses in their patrol jobs in the dark. But nailing down the guilty party is very, very difficult. Sometimes it boils down to the hope that what vandalism has happened won't turn into something more serious rather than catching the vandals in question.

"It's almost an unbelievable situation. With so much play on the course giving it an around the clock look, it follows that my maintenance time should be the same. But it isn't because of vandalism and other related incidents. It's not an ideal situation here."

Mark Williams, Wianno Club: "We're a wide-open golf course, a very private club and prone to a lot of trespassing by people who don't appreciate the finer things they have around them. The trespassers, then, are our biggest problem. They come with all kinds of weapons, too.

"For example, once we had kids come onto the course wearing soccer cleats. Naturally, they went for our most vulnerable spot, the greens, and stomped them into huge divots. Another time a four-wheel drive vehicle got on the grounds and dug its claws into a couple of greens. Although most of the incidents here don't turn out that drastic, they are annoying and present problems that hinder maintenance. Because of the layout of the course, where there is easy access to it, there's nothing we can do to control wholesale trespassing.

"It has reached a stage where we are content to put up with minimal damage, and has gone beyond reason to the point where we don't pursue the vandals because of a fear of retaliation. Sounds crazy, but that's the way it is here.

"I've always said that vandalism on a golf course is the product of opportunity. The physical makeup of the course expands that opportunity for those looking for the warped thrill of creating damage. And because we can't control it, we hope to contain it. It's as plain ridiculous as that."

GERRY FINN

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**Mark Williams
Wianno Club**

A Message from the Editor

More member-written articles needed

I recently had the opportunity to browse through some old copies of *The Newsletter*. These issues went back well into the 1930s and earlier, and even included the original issue. I was amazed to notice two things that really differed from *The Newsletter* of today. The first was the advertisements (today we produce one of the few newsletters with no advertising) and secondly, almost all of the articles were written by association members.

The tradition of member written articles has decreased almost to the point that there is nothing written by members. I am putting out a call for more member-written pieces. If there is one thing that is true about today's golf

course superintendent, it is that everyone has an idea or opinion to share. It is time for you, an important member of the

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Russell Heller
Editor, *The Newsletter*

GCSANE, to share your thoughts, ideas, innovations or whatever with your fellow superintendents. Take the time to sit down and write up something. It does not need to be a grand undertaking. Simply write a short article on whatever is on your mind. You may have found a better way to perform a task, some insight on the latest technology, or maybe you need a soapbox to sound off on the latest controversy.

Take the time. *The Newsletter* is your publication. With your help, it will continue to improve.

RUSSELL HELLER
Editor, *The Newsletter*

Remember When?

Remember When?: Taking a look at GCSANE's past

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

25 years ago

All conditions are go for the upcoming celebration marking the 50th birthday of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England. And if any organization deserves to kick up its heels in noting its accomplishments, the GCSANE fits the category.

The celebration will consist of a social hour and banquet at the Lantana Restaurant in Randolph. Since the start of the GCSANE during a dinner-rap session on February 25, 1924, the ensuing period has been one of achievement, brotherhood, advancement, improvement and every other kind of performing accolade.

The procession of accomplishments and deeds goes on, and they will continue to do so for the next 50 years and on into the next century. So, the GCSANE *Newsletter* is the first to say it, "happy 50th to us". See you when the celebration gets in full swing at the Lantana.

15 years ago

The September meeting and tournament at Charles River produced another fine turnout of members and players. The

format was a blind draw of four and the winners were Dick Duggan, Joe Rybka, Bob Mucciarone, and Bob Chalifour.

Why are the scores going down on the PGA Tour? The answer came from tour veteran Grier Jones after he fired a sparkling 69 to reside on the first page of the leaderboard in the Bank of Boston Classic last month at the Pleasant Valley Country Club.

"Pleasant Valley has the reputation of being very demanding, especially on players who don't hit it out of sight. But you're going to see some low numbers here. That's because the person getting the course ready for the tournament has done a marvelous job."

PGA Tour golfer Grier Jones, commenting on low scores at Pleasant Valley C.C., 1984

"This is a long course and you figure the scores would run high," Jones explained. "Pleasant Valley has the reputation of being very demanding, especially on players who don't hit it out of sight. But you're going to see some low numbers here. That's because the person getting the course ready for the tournament has done a marvelous job. He (superintendent Noel Fongeallaz) has the place in excellent condition. The greens are putting true and you get what you put into every shot. It's only because of the physical condition out there. But that's the way it goes most every place we play. The scores are going down because the courses are in such good shape."

5 years ago

The GCSANE tournament results at Twin Hills included a sudden death playoff and a hole-in-one. Jack Hassett and Dick Duggan won in sudden death on the second extra hole over Jim Fitzroy and Dick Tworig. The ace maker was Bob Varanks who turned his radar loose on the ninth hole.

Congratulations to Wayne and Julie LaCroix on the birth of their son, Tyler, who checked in at 8 pounds, 12 ounces on September 12.

GERRY FINN

Mass. Pesticide Bureau News

Massachusetts pesticide collection program scheduled for November at sites statewide

Seven pesticide collection events for licensed and certified pesticide applicators and farmers are scheduled to take place in November of 1999 at locations across Massachusetts.

The collection events will take place at MassHighway Depots in Sturbridge (November 5), Bridgewater (November 8), Sterling (November 10), Peabody (November 11), and Northampton (November 15). Events are also scheduled at Cape Cod Community College (November 11) and the UMass Waltham Field Station (November 12). All collections will be conducted by Safety-Kleen.

While participants will be charged for disposal, the costs are considerably less than if you had to dispose of the waste independently. All participants will be

Last November, the Mass. Pesticide Bureau collected over 32,000 pounds of waste pesticides in a similar collection program.

required to pre-register with Safety-Kleen. Pre-registration will involve mailing or faxing an inventory of your pesticides to Safety-Kleen. Safety-Kleen will then schedule an appointment for you to drop off your waste pesticides at a site nearest to you. They will also be able to let you know how much you will be charged. The

advantage of this pre-registration process is that traffic buildups can be avoided.

Last November, the Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau collected over 32,000 pounds of waste pesticides in a similar collection program. Many participants were able to use this event as an opportunity to dispose of banned and canceled pesticides such as DDT and Chlordane in a legal, controlled, and environmentally responsible manner. Many participants were from golf courses and professional pest control operations with large quantities of materials to dispose.

For additional information, call Gerard Kennedy at (617) 626-1773.

**From Pesticide Bureau News,
Massachusetts Department of Food
& Agriculture, September 1999.**

Management

Time management tips from the GCSAA

Most people are shocked when they do a time analysis of how they really spend their time at both home and work. Once they realize that they spend approximately 45 hours at work (there are 168 hours in a week) the big question is: What happens to the rest of that time? Some of the biggest time thieves at work are:

- Telephone calls
- Drop-in visitors
- Personal disorganization
- Indecisiveness
- Ineffective delegation
- E-mail
- Voice mail

Key: Focus on the things that really make a difference at work. To help you prioritize your work, try categorizing priorities:

A priorities: If you had nothing else (theoretically) to do today, what would improve your productivity in one to four weeks?

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GCSAA EDUCATION



Human Resource Management

Tuesday, November 16, 1999; 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Code: 00RS030-02; CEUs: 0.7

Member Fee: \$140; Non-Member Fee: \$210

Budgeting and Forecasting

Wednesday, November 17, 1999; 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Code: 00RS121-01; CEUs: 0.7

Member Fee: \$120; Non-Member Fee: \$180

at the
Sheraton Hotel, Framingham, Mass.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members: Andy Langlois, Affiliate, P.I.E. Supply Co.; Paul Rothwell, Superintendent, Port Royal G.C.; John Dryjowicz, Superintendent, Westover G.C.

INFORMATION

Hopefully everyone is aware of the upcoming 75th Anniversary Gala. In response to some of your questions, invitations will be in the mail the week of October 25. The RSVP date is November 12. The gala will be at Blue Hill C.C. in Canton on Friday, December 3 from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m. The dinner will be followed by entertainment and dancing. Anyone interested in spending the night in the area will have several options available for your perusal. More information will be provided in next month's issue of *The Newsletter*. If you have any questions, please call Bob Healey at (508) 653-0625.

Congratulations to Bill Spence, Jeff Baker, Greg Barker, Scott Lagana, and the entire staff of The Country Club on hosting a memorable Ryder Cup last month.

Congratulations are also in order for John LeClair of Charles River C.C. On October 10 he married the fabulous Katie Bunstein. Good luck John and Katie.

Best wishes to Dave Kahrman and family. Dave recently left Thomson Country Club and has moved to Canada.

Karl Heintzelman has accepted the head superintendent position at Thomson C.C. after spending the last five years at Ipswich C.C.

Thanks to Jim Fitzroy and the staff of Presidents G.C. for hosting the September meeting on such short notice.

Lianne Larson and the staff of White Cliffs C.C. did an excellent job of hosting the October meeting. The golf course was terrific and the views were spectacular.

Best wishes to Kevin Lyons, who recently retired from Turf Partners. Kevin plans on spending some quiet time with his family. Good luck to one of the good guys in the industry.

Condolences are extended to Dennis Friel and family on the recent passing of his wife, Carolyn. She also leaves two children, Jeffrey and Kimberly Ann; four sisters, and two brothers. Donations may be made in Carolyn's memory to the Kayla Kenney Leukemia Fund, c/o Donna Kenney, 5 Hawthorne Street, Woburn, MA 01801.

EDUCATION

The GCSAA and RIGCSA are sponsoring two upcoming seminars. *Employee Safety Training* will be on Thursday, November 4 and *The Microbiology of Turfgrass Soils* held on Friday, November 5. Both seminars cost \$110 for GCSAA members (\$165 for non-members). They will be held at the Holiday Inn Providence Downtown, Providence, R.I. from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information or to register, please call (800) 472-7878.

The GCSAA and the Connecticut Association are also sponsoring two seminars. *Bentgrass Summer Stress Management for Cool/Humid Regions* will be held Wednesday, December 1 and *Problems and Solutions: Using Annuals and Perennials in the Golfcourse* on Thursday, December 2. Both seminars cost \$110 for GCSAA members (\$165 for non-members). They will be held at The Hawthorne Inn, Berlin, Conn. For more information or to register, please call (800) 472-7878.

Earn a Turfgrass Management Certificate Online. Penn State is offering courses, accessible from your home or office, that have been approved by the GCSAA for 4.5 external CEU credits. For more information, call the Penn State World Campus at (800) 252-3592, or visit them at www.worldcampus.psu.edu.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Superintendent and Affiliates Championships September 28, 1999, Presidents G.C., Quincy, Mass.

Superintendent Division
1st Gross: Ron Dobosz (72)
2nd Gross: Ed Uhlman (76)
1st Net: Ron Kirkman (65)
2nd Net: Russ Heller (69)*
3rd Net: Joe Rybka (69)

Affiliate Division
1st Gross: Larry Anshewitz (75)
1st Net: Dick Gurski (71)
2nd Net: Charlie Downing (72)

* indicates match of cards

October 7, 1999, White Cliffs C.C., Plymouth, Mass.

1st Gross: Carl Oliveira (70)
2nd Gross: Ron Dobosz (72)
1st Net: Mike Cornicelli (63)*
2nd Net: Kevin Osgood (63)
3rd Net: Jason Adams (64)*

* indicates match of cards

Closest to the Pin: Lianne Larson (7'7")

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Superintendent. Warwick Country Club is a 75-year old member-owned family club with approximately 300 members. The course recently underwent a \$500,000 restoration. Approximately 27,000 rounds are played annually. The successful candidate must have a minimum of five years of experience as superintendent or assistant at a top-rated club. A two-year turf school graduate is preferred. Individual should have proven ability to maintain and manage a quality staff, should be focused on turf management, and should be able to work effectively with club personnel and committees. A very attractive compensation package is commensurate with experience and qualifications. Include salary requirements with resume. Send resume by October 21 to: Stephen Downes, Warwick Country Club, 394 Narragansett Bay Ave., Warwick, RI 02889.

Assistant Superintendent. Lost Brook Golf Club is a well-maintained, 18-hole golf course located in Norwood, Mass. Individual must have a minimum of three years of experience and a two-year turfgrass degree. References are not required. Compensation includes health and life insurance, dues, education, and a competitive salary based on experience. Send resume by November 1 to: New England Golf Corp., 555 High Street, Suite 201, Westwood, MA 02090.

Assistant Superintendent. Mink Meadows is a 9-hole links style golf course on Martha's Vineyard. It is semi-private and open year round, averaging 35,000 rounds annually. Individual must have a degree or certificate in turf management or related field. Must be capable of obtaining a certified Mass. pesticide applicator's license in turf (category 37). Applicant should be self-motivated and a responsible individual. Benefits include vacation, health insurance, and memberships to local and national associations. Send resume to: Matthew Crowther, RR2, Box 194, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568; phone: (508) 693-0578; fax: (508) 696-0505; e-mail: minkgc@vineyard.net.

ITEM FOR SALE

Cushman three-wheel truckster (Model 898507). Will run with minimum amount of work, or may be used for parts. \$1 or best offer. Call Russ Heller at (978) 256-5664 for more information.

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Host Superintendent Profile

Meet host superintendent Lianne Larson, White Cliffs C.C.

The host for the October meeting of the GCSANE is Lianne Larson of White Cliffs Country Club in Plymouth, Mass.

Lianne is a 14-year member of the GCSANE. She has been at White Cliffs since 1996. Her professional career began in 1981 as assistant superintendent at Woonsocket C.C. Two years later she began her first head superintendent job at St. Marks G.C. In 1986 she wore two

hats as both superintendent and general manager at Milford C.C. Six years later she took over at Glen Ellen C.C. in Millis.

She has a strong educational background, having earned an associate degree in business at Dean College and a B.A. in finance at Northeastern University. She is currently working on an M.A. in environmental management at Harvard University.

In addition to being an association member, Lianne is also a member of the GCSAA, Cape Cod Turf Managers, and is a Certified Professional Grounds Manager. She participates in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and is also active in the Environmental Management Program.

In her spare time, Lianne enjoys restoring old homes, fly fishing, gardening, antiques, mountain biking, hiking, and skiing.

Time management . . . continued from page 5

B priorities: What things must be done today?

C priorities: What things should be done tomorrow?

D priorities: What things should you not do at all?

Remember: Time management is personal. It's about knowing how you work and what you value so that you can make meaningful changes that return some sanity to your day.

Source: "A Get-Real Guide to Time Management," by Donna J. Abernathy, Training & Development, June 1999.

Reprinted from GCSAA Leader Board, September/October 1999



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