

of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Inc.

Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund – Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

After starting out at just a dollar-an-hour, Dave Clement plans a comfortable retirement

Back when he was just knee-high to a weed-whacker, Dave Clement learned the cycle of work-and-reward on the golf course that would drive his entire career.

"If only I could make one dollar an hour, that would really be something," he told himself as he approached a menial job on a local golf course in his hometown of Tyngsboro, Mass.

So, Dave went to work, pulling down \$48 a week for putting 12 hours a day of himself into a four-day week. And that was heaven . . . until that little voice within staked out the next financial goal at one hundred dollars a week.

As the saying goes, "the rest is history." A few months ago, bearing down on his 62nd birthday, Clement told his board at the Framingham Country Club that he was walking into retirement at what he called the right time in his life. At that time, his annual salary had peaked at six figures. Success story? You betcha!

Clement is and was a grass roots golf course superintendent. His father, Edward, was molded in the Manny Francis era. Francis, one of the patriarchs of the profession, took Edward under his wing and his protege profited from the association through a succession of head jobs at Oak Hill, Westminster, and the Nashua Country Club. Then, when Dave was ready to put his hand into the superintendent's cookie jar, Francis was there to give him and fellow neophyte, Bert Frederick, a big boost while they took basic training at the Vesper Country Club.

That was in 1959, just before Dave went deep with his career by putting

together a golf course from scratch. The next year he took over at the Crystal Springs layout in Haverhill where a grocer from Salem, N.H. by the lyrical name of George Gelt had parlayed a matching grant from the federal government into a growing golf enterprise.

"Those were interesting years for me," Clement told. "The year before I got to Crystal Springs, Ron Kirkman had built the front nine. Then, when he took the head job at Needham, I was hired to replace him. I spent the first year taking care of the front nine. But Mr. Gelt had big ideas. He hired Geoff Cornish to draw up specs for a back nine and turned them over to me and another superintendent-type, Bill Bailey."

So, Dave was pulling double duty. He and Bailey cleared 35 acres and set out to building the back nine while also taking care of the front side. One of the major

"I think the five years at Framingham were the hardest for me because of the workload I took on. I did a monstrous job of refurbishing and restoring bunkers to their original design and state."

Dave Clement

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feats of the endeavor was installing an irrigation system by hand. Another big accomplishment was building the greens, using the stolonization system of propagating Vesper Velvet Bentgrass. That system, seldom used today, proved to be the backbone of the successful development of turf at Crystal Springs.

Clement's stay at Crystal ended in 1966 when his financial vibes began perking again at the thought of taking over as top man at the Woodstock Country Club. His salary inched upwards and his knowledge followed suit.

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continued from page I

"I always had good communication with people," Dave explained how he was usually one step ahead of the crowd when opportunity knocked. "I'd been at Woodstock three years when I got a call from Joe Troll, my turf guru at the Stockbridge School. He told me the Crestview Country Club (Agawam) was looking for a superintendent and thought I should apply.

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"The Crestview job was attractive, both in the matter of improving my salary status and as a challenge to my capabilities, because it was a fairly new course," Dave continued. "I seemed to hit it off in an interview I had with the golf chairman, Ken Baru, and an agreement was set in place. I liked it there. In fact, I stayed at Crestview for 13 years, or until Joe was on the horn again."

Clement was making \$16-18,000 at Crestview when Dr. Troll advised his star former pupil that his alma mater has issued a summons. It meant, of course, that Woodstock was in the market for a new superintendent. Dave was the logical choice for an opening offer of \$24,000 per year.

One must understand Dave's overview of his career, which was set on an eventual course leading to a retirement, stuck somewhere between affordable and lucrative, depending on how the planning turned out. But that part was easy for Dave. His wife, Shirley, took expert care of that part of their partnership. When Dave says he couldn't have done it without her, his words aren't blowing in the wind. Shirley definitely has a keen financial head on her shoulders.

Nevertheless, the second go-round at Woodstock was another winner for Dave. He endeared himself to ownership and management there in another 13-year hitch that saw his salary balloon to \$50,000.

"I figured Woodstock would be my final stop," he said. "But I was wrong. This time Bert told me that the Framingham job was open and they were interested in me. That was in 1994. It was a perfect fit for both parties and my starting salary went up.

"I have to say I earned it, too. I think the five years at Framingham were the hardest for me because of the workload I took on. I did a monstrous job of refurbishing and restoring bunkers to their continued on page 6

CALENDAR . . .

April 24 GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Chicopee Municipal G.C.
Chicopee, Mass.
Supt. - Don Nunes

May 2 Pro/Media/Supt. Tournament*
The International Golf Club
Bolton, Mass.
Supt. - Ron Milenski, CGCS
(*Register through NEPGA)

May 8 Pro/Supt./Manager/President
Tournament*
Wellesley Country Club
Wellesley, Mass.
Supt. - David Barber, CGCS
(*Register through Club Mgrs. Assoc.)

May 23

GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Joint Meeting with Cape Cod
Poquoy Brook Golf Club
Lakeville, Mass.
Supt. - Mike Cummings

June 6
Scholarship & Benevolence
Tournament
Franklin Park Golf Course
Dorchester, Mass.
Supt. - David Laffey

July 10

GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Supt./Club Official Tournament
Pleasant Valley Country Club
Sutton, Mass.
Supt. - Chris Tufts

August GCSANE Monthly Meeting TBA

Sept. 25

GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Team of Two Championship
Country Club of Pittsfield (tentative)
Pittsfield, Mass.
Supt. - Jim Conant, CGCS

October 2 GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Individual Championship
Mt. Pleasant Country Club
Boylston, Mass.
Supt. - Todd Sauer

October 18 John Shanahan Memorial
Pro/Supt. Tournament*
Willowbend Country Club
Mashpee, Mass.
Supt. - Mark Casey
(*Register through NEPGA)

November 6 GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Annual 9-Hole Meeting
Lexington Country Club
Lexington, Mass.
Supt. - Len Curtin

Nov. 14 GCSAA Seminar
Integrated Environmental Mgmnt.
The International Golf Club
Bolton, Mass.

Nov. 15

GCSAA Seminar

Turfgrass Traffic Stress Mgmnt.

The International Golf Club
Bolton, Mass.

The Super Speaks Out

This month's question:

With the economy flourishing and unemployment reaching bottom, how do you address the task of filling your crew for the high golf season?

ason Adams, Norfolk Golf Club:

"There's no doubt that there exists a pretty strong competition for help, especially in the case of the golf course where much of it comes on a part-time basis. I've felt it here. In fact, near the end of last season I lost two of my people to a landscape company that was offering 10 to 12 dollars an hour.

"We're a 9-hole course and that gives me somewhat of an advantage in that instead of having to round out my crew at 18 or 20 people as they must in an 18-hole situation, I can get along with six or seven. This means that I can pay a little more and my returning workers can expect to make nine bucks an hour.

"Right now I have the basis for a solid crew, starting with a couple of guys in their mid 30s who don't mind the part-time status because of their setup here. They work 10 months of the year and average 46 hours a week. This makes them eligible for unemployment benefits the two months they are out of work and they can live with that.

"Those two semi-regulars are the strong point of the crew because they have experience and come right in and become productive the first minute of their employment. Add to them another so-called regular who's retired on a disability and assigned the small chores that have to be done. He's a valuable addition, too, since he's reliable and does the things that would otherwise tie up another member of the crew.

"This year I also have a couple of college kids lined up to join us on vacation break. One of them is a son of a member, which helps a lot. The other shows a willingness to learn his job. Both of them welcome the chance to earn money in a more attractive environment than four blank walls.

"There's also another favorable circumstance in my situation when I look to make additions to the crew. Fortunately, there's an agricultural high school down the road from the course, so I have a well to draw from there. It all adds up to a pretty healthy climate as far as the labor market goes. Sure, it's a competitive market and I feel I'm competing very well."

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THE SUPER SPEAKS

Jeff Brown, Souhegan Woods Golf Course: "Souhegan Woods is one of the courses owned by the Friel family which gives us sort of a jump on such things as squaring off with higher-paying companies in the battle for part-time help. The Friels have been doing this for years and hand down the experience and know how on the subject. That's a big plus for me.

"The equalizer for us and for me is the ability to offer our part-timers an opportunity to play free golf and schedules that are compatible with what they want to do with their free time. In fact, the scheduling of work times for my crew probably is the key to winning the parttime help war.

"I've almost got my part-time arrangement down to a science. My crew for the summer is broken into two groups, one of eight men in their late 50s and early 60s and all retired; the other four schoolteachers. All of them are from the Nashua area and all of them play golf.

"And this is where benefits become more important than dollars and cents. These guys don't even think about what they're going to be paid. So, I can pay them reasonable wages and get top-rate returns because the important part of our contracts, if you will, is that they can play

a lot of courses (those owned by the Friel family) for nothing.

"The retired people don't mind getting up early and they're usually on the job at 4:40 a.m. Most of them work until late morning or noon and then they're off for the golf course to play. The teachers, most of them recruited by a friend whom I play with, are in the same state of mind. In fact, they come in on the weekend very early to mow greens and they're out there almost before our heavy play begins.

"Actually, this system was handed down to us by Phil Friel, who knew a thing or three about retaining good help and keeping them happy. My guys are a real loyal group, plus being capable on the job. When one leaves, there is someone waiting to take his place. I consider myself pretty lucky in terms of getting the part-time help when the competition's waving big bucks at them."

Edward Gianni, Ridder Farms Golf Course: "We're a public facility and in competition for golfing as well as clubhouse function revenue. Which brings about the fact that I have to have a crew that's dependable as well as being able to perform at top-level efficiency.

"And, to be honest, that's where our perks kick in. For the past two years this approach has been working successfully. That's reflected in the fact that we've had little or no turnover in our part-time help.

"The major perk, of course, is offering our people golf privileges. Frankly, if we weren't able to do this, putting together a crew for the summer would be one tough job for me. That, plus my part in the equation, or providing as pleasant working conditions as possible, keeps our crew humming along.

"We operate with a crew that peaks to about 15 in the heavy playing months with their ages ranging from 15 to 62. The emphasis on weddings, outings, etc. is such that I have three workers assigned to cosmetic-related duties. So, I try to create a setting where my people enjoy working here while not expecting to make a lot of money doing it. Cookouts, outings of their own? That's part of the deal for my crew.

"And is it working? Absolutely. It's working just fine."

GERRY FINN

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GCSANE president urges participation in Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament

The GCSANE Scholarship and Benevolence endowment is presently \$77,000. The purpose of this fund is two-fold. One is

FROM THE PRESIDENT

to provide undergraduate scholarship aid to our children, grandchildren, or spouse. The second is to provide financial assistance to members in urgent emergency situations.

Conference on climate change & golf courses

Climate change and its effect on the future golf course management was the main subject of "On Course for Change", a conference organized by the Royal and Ancient Golf Course Advisory Panel.

Held in St. Andrews, the conference drew nearly 200 delegates from golf clubs, environmental and wildlife groups, green-keepers, and course architects & builders from France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

John Pethick, professor from the Marine Science Department at the University of Newcastle, led the debate on climate and warned it was impossible to oppose the changes, but we can anticipate them and learn to adapt.

Dr. Mike Hulme of the Climatic Research Unit of the University of East Anglia predicted more hot summers and wet winters with intense storms that could exaggerate the effects of rising sea level and coastal erosion.

The two-day conference also discussed water, planning, chemicals, levels of play and the environment. A full report on the conclusions of the conference is being compiled by the World Scientific Congress of Golf Trust. Key areas from this report will be featured in coming weeks on the R&A web site, www.randa.org.

Since its inception in 1993, 19 college students have received help with scholarships totaling \$21,750, and three families

"Since its inception in 1993, 19 college students have received help with scholarships totaling \$21,750, and three families have been assisted during difficult times."

Bob Ruszala GCSANE President have been assisted during difficult times. Benevolent aid comes in many forms. If you have a need or know of someone who does, please let us know. We may be able to help.

On June 6, 2000 the Eighth Annual Scholarship and Benevolence Golf Tournament will be held at Franklin Park, with Kevin Osgood and David Laffey as our hosts. The course, part of the famed "Emerald Necklace", where golf legend Bobby Jones honed his skills while attending Harvard, proudly boasts a new \$3.4 million clubhouse with all the appropriate amenities. We would like to see all our members be a part of this day, be it playing this great course, selling raffle tickets, or contributing gift certificates for rounds of golf for four at your course.

We need your participation!

Sincerely, Robert Ruszala, President

Donald Blakeley, superintendent at Harwich Port G.C., dies at 62

Donald Blakeley, 62, a resident of Harwich Port, died Saturday, Feb. 19, at Cape Cod Hospital, Hyannis.

He was the husband of Jane V. (Stone) Blakeley.

OBITUARY

Born and raised in Northboro, Blakeley was a 1956 graduate of Northboro High School and also graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Stockbridge Agriculture Division, with a degree in turf management in 1959.

He began his career as a superintendent of the Crown Point Country Club in Springfield, Vt., where he worked for two years before becoming superintendent at the Merrimack Valley Golf Course in Methuen. He worked there until 1961, when he became superintendent of the

Harwich Port Golf Club, where he was working at the time of his death.

Blakeley was a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting, Nauset Beach, Crow's Pasture, and boating to Monomoy.

Surviving besides his wife are three sons; Donald C. Blakeley of Yarmouth, and Steven W. Blakeley and Richard P. Blakeley, both of Harwich Port, a daughter, Brenda Blakeley Weeks of Harwich Port; and four grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association, Massachusetts Affiliate, P. O. Box 1221, Framingham, MA 01701; or the American Lung Association of Southeastern Massachusetts, I Abbey Lane, Middleboro, MA 02346.

Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection plans policy for Water Management Act permit

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is finalizing its policy for determining when golf course water use requires a Water Management Act Permit. In the near future the department will send a survey to all golf courses in the Commonwealth. This survey form should be filled out by all courses, whether permitted or not. The survey is intended as a data-gathering tool.

The department is charged with the implementation and enforcement of the Massachusetts Water Management Act (MWMA) that regulates large quantity

water withdrawals. The "threshold volume" for regulation under the act is defined as "an average daily volume of 100,000 gallons for any period of three consecutive months, from a total withdrawal of not less then 9,000,000

GOVT. RELATIONS

gallons; or an average daily volume of 100,000 gallons for periods which exceed three consecutive months, calculated by dividing the total withdrawal by the period of operation."

Until this time there has not been a trigger mechanism for the department to use to implement the act. After several meetings with the Golf Course Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and several revisions, the policy is formulated and ready to be put into use.

This survey form should be filled out by all courses whether permitted or not. The survey is intended as a data-gathering tool.

Until this policy, there was no way for the department to accurately determine if a course needed a permit. Presently, of the 212 18-hole courses in the state, 94 are of an unknown quantity (not permitted). The new policy states that if your existing course has 35 irrigated acres of turf, or your proposed course has 24 acres of irrigated turf, then the Department will

These assumptions are based on an application rate of 1.12 inches of water per week on an existing course during the peak irrigating season and an application rate of 1.5 inches of water for a new course during the grow-in period. When multiplying the rate x acreage x time period, the 9,000,000-gallon threshold is crossed.

assume you require a permit.

This policy is part of an ongoing effort by the department to get a handle on water use throughout the state. At this time they really don't know how much water is in each water basin or how much is being used. The department states that this survey will be used to assess whether a course triggers the MWMA, and will not be the sole basis upon which the permitted volumes are permitted. It is a starting point for them.

If you have any questions contact Duane LeVangie of the DEP at (617) 292-5706.

PAT KRIKSCEONAITIS

GCSAA board of directors approves Professional Conduct Guidelines

GCSAA's board of director's approved the Professional Conduct Guidelines, introduced by the standards/bylaw committee, during its preconference board of directors meeting in Mobile, Ala., Feb. 9-11.

While the following guidelines may not be enforced with membership sanctions, they should be nonetheless promoted,

GCSAA NEWS

practiced and encouraged by GCSAA members as a companion document to GCSAA's Code of Ethics. Changes made to the Code of Ethics will be in the April issue of Newsline.

- I. A member should always contact a fellow superintendent prior to visiting his/her course, regardless of the reason for the visit.
- 2. Applications for employment should only be sent to an employer if the applicant has contacted the current superintendent to determine whether the position is available, or if the applicant is responding to an Employment Referral Service announcement.
- **3.** A member should only accept an interview for a job currently held by a

fellow superintendent if the applicant has contacted the current superintendent to verify the position is open, or if the applicant has learned about the opening in an Employment Referral Service announcement.

- 4. Members should always adhere to the complimentary golf policies of other golf courses and always give as much advance notice as possible when seeking playing privileges at a fellow superintendent's golf facility.
- 5. Members should only accept a consulting assignment at a golf facility if the current superintendent at the facility is aware of such impending consulting activity.
- 6. Consulting recommendations for a facility should be made in the presence of the current superintendent or written recommendations should be carbon copied to the current superintendent.
- 7. Members should always conduct themselves in the highest professional manner at all golf-related events and other public events where the member is representing the golf course superintendent profession.
- **8.** A member should not render negative opinions or comments about fellow members.

Reprinted from the March 2000 issue of Newsline.

Dave Clement turns dollar-a-day job into a superintendent career

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continued from page 2 original design and state. I was rewarded for it, but, as I say, my time had come after this past summer. They say every man knows when it's time to retire. I knew and here I am now."

"Here" happens to be Garden City, S.C., just five miles south of Myrtle Beach. More specifically, Dave and Shirley live off the second tee of the Indian Wells Country Club. A pension plan from Woodstock pays for that charming setting. Other

carefully planned investments make for a comfortable lifestyle as they contemplate a long and happy retirement . . . a fitting end to a success story that began as a one dollar-an-hour adventure.

GERRY FINN

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

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members: Gary Kessener, Quarry Hills G.C., Superintendent; William Salinetti III, Portsmouth C.C., Superintendent; Rod Karchner, CGCS, Ipswich C.C., Superintendent; James Biundo, Oakley C.C., Assistant; Theodore Symonowicz, Winchester C.C., Assistant; Matt Elsworth, Meadowbrook G.C., Assistant.

Proposed for Membership: Andrew Streeter, Sharon C.C., Superintendent; Jack Nugnes, Oyster Harbors C.C., Superintendent; Randy Sawin, Ellinwood C.C., Superintendent; Keith Gavin, Acushnet River G.C., Superintendent; Nick De-Markis, Essex C.C., Assistant; John Bresnahan, Lofts Seed Co., Affiliate; Casey and Dupuis, Friend.

INFORMATION

Best wishes to Frank Murphy. He recently retired as longtime superintendent of the Country Club at Halifax.

That brings us to Rich Tworig. He left Ponkapoag G.C. to succeed Frank Murphy at Halifax. Good luck, Rich.

Congratulations to Richard Crosby, longtime member of Brae Burn, on receiving the Sellman Distinguished Service Award from the Mass. Golf Association.

Anyone who received Golfweek's Superintendent News should check out the March 3 issue. The picture on the cover has member Robert Healey doing his best "Where's Waldo" impersonation.

FOR SALE

Neary 100 Series Relief Grinder. Three years old with low mileage. \$850 or best offer. Call Mark Casey at (508) 539-5435.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Assistant. Milton-Hoosic is a private, 9-hole country club with Poa/bent tees, greens and fairways. Duties include scheduling and training employees, irrigation scheduling, maintenance and repair of irrigation system, pesticide and fertilizer application, and involvement in all aspects of golf course and equipment maintenance. A two or four-year degree in Turfgrass Management is required. Individual must have experience in pesticide and fertilizer applications and must have or obtain a Mass. pesticide applicator's license. Compensation includes salary, partial paid health insurance, paid annual vacation, GCSAA dues and regional seminars, and golf privileges. Send resume to David Farrantino, GCS, The Milton-Hoosic Club, 70 Green Lodge Street, Canton, MA

Assistant. Whitinsville Golf Club is a 9-hole Donald Ross course constructed in 1925. Individual must have knowledge of pesticide application, crew supervision, and equipment maintenance. Knowledge of Osmac/Sitepro is beneficial. Applicant must have a minimum of winter school certificate, a Mass. pesticide applicator's license, and a minimum of three years working as an assistant or foreman. Compensation includes salary, health insurance, national, and local association dues. Send resume to Paul Wilson, Superintendent, Whitinsville Golf Club, P. O. Box 128, 179 Fletcher Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588; (508) 234-2533.

Assistant. Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg, Mass. is seeking an applicant for assistant golf course superintendent. Responsibilities include daily record keeping, employee training and supervision, chemical application, irrigation scheduling, and all other relevant duties to the management of a championship golf course. Qualifications include a minimum of a two-year degree in turfgrass management; at least two years of experience on golf courses; strong people skills; and ability to manage a large crew. Individual must have or obtain a Mass. pesticide applicator's

license. Compensation includes salary, 90% employer paid health insurance, 401(k) after one year, paid vacation, paid local and national dues, and paid attendance to local seminars. Send resume to Oak Hill Country Club, c/o Brett Johnson, Superintendent, 840 Oak Hill Road, Fitchburg, MA 01420.

Assistant. Duxbury Yacht Club is a private 18hole course with a new Rainbird irrigation system to be installed in fall of 2000. The club also has clay tennis courts, paddle courts, and an Olympic-size swimming pool. Individual should have 3-5 years of experience in golf course maintenance with at least a two or four year degree in turf management. Applicant must have or obtain a Mass. pesticide applicator's license (cat. 37), and must be knowledgeable in course setup and chemical application. The candidate should be a team player, crew leader, and supervisor with a great attitude. A willingness to work long hours is a plus. Compensation includes salary, health insurance, dues, expenses for local seminars, paid winter vacations, and golfing privileges. Send resume to Peter Lanman, GCS, Duxbury Yacht Club, P.O. Box 2804, Duxbury, MA 02331.

2nd Assistant. Haverhill Country Club is a private 18-hole course built in 1925 by Wayne Stiles. Responsibilities will include employee training and supervision, chemical and fertilizer applications, maintenance of Toro Network 8000 irrigation system, and all other duties relevant to the management of a private golf course. Individual must have a two-year degree in turf management or related experience. Individual must have two years of golf course experience, have a working knowledge of an irrigation system, and must have or obtain a Mass. pesticide applicator's license within three months. Compensation includes salary, benefits, and 401(k) plan. Send resume by May 12 to Matt Behl, Superintendent, The Haverhill Country Club, P.O. Box 250, Haverhill, MA 01831.

Please Patronize these FRIENDS of the ASSOCIATION

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A-OK Turf Equipment Inc. 1357 Main St., Coventry, RI 02816-8435 Articulator, Terra Topper, Greens Groomer brush, & used equipment. Mike Cornicelli - (401) 826-2584

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Wilmington, DE Acclaim Extra, Banol, ProStar, ProGrass, Finale, Turcam, DeltaGard. David Sylvester - (860) 828-8905

Allen's Seed Store Inc.

693 S. County Trail, Exeter, RI 02822 Specializing in quality seed and related golf course maintenance supplies. Gregg Allen - (800) 527-3898

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100 First Ave., Boston, MA 02129 Manufacturer & supplier of dry organic fertilizers. Kristen Patneaude - (617) 788-4437

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Boston Irrigation Supply Company 60 Sturgis Way, Dedham, MA 02026 Distributor, irrigation supplies & accessories. John Ramey, Paul Kenyon, Robert Barbarti (781) 461-1560

Breudan Corporation

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The Cardinals, Inc.

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Meet host superintendent Donald Nunes, Chicopee Municipal G.C.

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The host superintendent for the April meeting of GCSANE is Donald Nunes of the Chicopee Municipal Golf Course in Chicopee, Mass.

This year marks the beginning of Don's fourth season at Chicopee. His prior work experience includes three years as planner in the Office of Community Devopment followed by three years as a junior engineer for the City of Chicopee.

Don's education includes an associate of science degree in landscape operations from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. He followed that up with a B.S. in landscape architecture from UMass in 1991. Three years later he achieved a master's degree in landscape architecture from UMass.

He is active in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, having completed the Environmental Planning and Wildlife/ Habitat Management programs.

HOST PROFILE

The spotlight has been no stranger to Don. He has been featured on NESN's Front Row program. In 1998 USA Today honored him for having the best public golf course with green fees under \$50.

Don likes to spend most of his free time with his wife, Terri, and their two young boys, Parker, 21 months, and Noah, 6 months. When the kids are asleep and he can enjoy some time to

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himself, he spends time making wood furniture, doing finish carpentry, and squeezing in the occasional round of golf.

Chicopee Municipal Golf Course is a Geoffrey Cornish design that was brought to life in 1965. A municipal course, it has a par of 71 and plays to 6742 yards from the blue tees. With a slope of 126 and a rating of 73.0, it is an excellent test of golf.

The greens, a mixture of Penncross and poa, average 6,000 square feet. Tees and fairways are Merion bluegrass, and the rough is a mixture of bluegrass and ryegrass.

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