



# THE NEWSLETTER

June 2000

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.

## MGA-commissioned economic impact study: Golf is a giant industry in Massachusetts

Stories taking the “boom” out of golf’s surging growth and popularity have been circulating the country of late. These dispatches, emanating from respected points of journalistic origin like The Wall Street Journal, suggest that interest and participation in the game have leveled off. Some even claim golf has or is about to enter a period of decline. Heavens, can extinction be far behind? Not if you take your golf to Massachusetts.

According to an economic impact study prepared by the National Golf Foundation (NGF), the game’s grass is growing greener and greener within the Bay State. The study, commissioned by the Massachusetts Golf Association (MGA) and the Alliance of Massachusetts Golf Organizations (AMGO), is intended to help private and public sectors to better understand the golf market in the Commonwealth and the contribution of the golf industry to the state’s economy.

The results of that study reveal that golf must be counted among the giants of

Massachusetts industries and towers over many of them. For example, golf’s gross output of \$1.6 billion compares favorably with such industries as chemical products (\$1.8 billion), hotels and lodging (\$1.6 billion), trucking and warehousing (\$1.4 billion), personal services (\$1.3 billion), and paper products (\$1.2 billion).

Other highlights of the study reflect nothing but flattering accounts of golf’s presence within the state. Golf courses and golf-related businesses generate 19,000 full and part-time jobs and over \$400 million in yearly wages. Further projection of golf’s economic influence works well for state and local coffers to the tune of \$69 million in state taxes and \$44 million in local taxes.

Additional impressive and encouraging figures are topped by facts that the game of golf was played by an estimated 700,000 Massachusetts residents in 1999, a 12.7 percent participation rate that is higher than any other Northeast Atlantic state. The NGF also estimates that 500,000 visitors to the Bay State play golf each year and that those visitors account for \$48 million in on-course and off-course golf-related sales.

The study delves into other facets of direct and indirect effects golf has on the state’s economy, including a telling relationship of golf facilities and real estate, plus hands-on involvement of the state’s 20 golf product manufacturers, headed by Titleist & FootJoy Worldwide in Fairhaven and Spalding Sports World-wide in Chicopee.

Obviously, the study’s sponsors are pleased with the results of the study and in some respects overwhelmed by the numbers emphasizing the importance of golf to the state’s and down-the-line to the national economy.

Tom Landry, executive director of the MGA, was nothing but smiles when he got his first look at the study’s results. To

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*“It’s a calling card for us to municipalities and lawmakers. It reinforces golf’s position as a big business. It also might tell the state that promotion of the game should be included when funding for tourism and travel is on their agenda.”*

**Tom Landry**  
**MGA Director**

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his knowledge, this was probably the first study pinpointing authentic figures to confirm golf's tremendous impact on the state's economy.

"Most of the figures exceeded our expectations," Landry said. "That gross output \$1.6 billion figure is staggering. I knew we (Massachusetts) would be right up there because of the presence of two major manufacturers in the state. I was thinking \$1.2 billion at best. But to be in the same ballpark figure as hotels and restaurants? That has to open a few eyes."

Landry disclosed that the NGF people, conducting the study, were astounded by some of their findings. "They sort of looked twice when they learned that there are 234 golf-related companies in the state," he told. "They also were impressed by the 60 percent response rate to the study. In fact, they said that the impact by the state was the second largest. Only California's report was bigger in the history of these kinds of surveys."

The MGA official added that the report is a great entry tool for his organization. "It's a calling card for us to municipalities and law makers," he explained. "It reinforces golf's position as a big business. It also might tell the state that promotion of the game should be included when funding for tourism and travel is on their agenda."

Former GCSANE president Kevin Osgood, a member of AMGO's board of directors, was just as enthused over the report.

"It's a wonderful picture of golf's position as an economic contributor to the state," Osgood remarked. "I have to admit that I was shocked by some of those figures. I never thought we (golf) were that big, that important. This is going to help everyone in the game, including all of us in the superintendents' profession."

"Those numbers help justify money being spent in the growth of the game. Maybe they'll help convince the office of travel and tourism that golf deserves a high place in their planning. Just think how impressive those visitors' numbers are with only a minimum of promotion. I'd say there should be better marketing of Massachusetts as a golf destination after digesting those figures."

Osgood also uses the report as an aid to superintendents when they face state regulation issues. "I think it gives superintendents a little clout when they have to

face lawmakers' questions on maintenance methods. We should have a louder voice in the state legislature after this. I'm just elated over the whole thing, from giving the game a boost to supers having ammunition when they go into their annual budget discussions."

Golf on the decline? It ain't happening here!

**GERRY FINN**

## CALENDAR . . .

- June 21 **UMass Turf Research Field Day**  
South Deerfield, Mass.  
For more information  
call Mary Owen at (508) 892-0382.
- July 10 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**  
**Supt./Club Official Tournament**  
Pleasant Valley Country Club  
Sutton, Mass.  
Supt. - Chris Tufts
- August 14 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**  
Acushnet River Valley Golf Course  
Acushnet, Mass.  
Supt. - Lionel Mello
- Sept. 25 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**  
**Team of Two Championship**  
Country Club of Pittsfield  
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 Mgmt.  
The International Golf Club  
Bolton, Mass.
- Nov. 15 **GCSAA Seminar**  
Turfgrass Traffic Stress Mgmt.  
The International Golf Club  
Bolton, Mass.
- Feb. 11-18, 2001 **GCSAA 72nd International**  
**Golf Course Conference & Show**  
Dallas, Texas



# The Super Speaks Out

## This month's question:

*How does the staging of golf outings on your course affect your maintenance program?*

### **Terry Baker, Cohasse Country Club:**

"So far the golf outing craze (some might call it a curse) hasn't hit this course. That's a blessing because we are a nine-hole facility with heavy play, especially on the weekends. Therefore, since Monday seems to be the popular day for outings, being able to maintain top playing conditions for my members would be a strain on me.

"Although my schedule isn't set in stone, the fact that we're able to close the course until 1 p.m. on Mondays gives me a little edge in staying ahead of conditioning problems. As you know, nine-hole courses are under the gun during prime time playing periods. The course takes a pounding, especially the greens, and anytime I can give them a rest it turns up as a plus in my efforts to obtain quality playing conditions from one part of the week to the other.

"When I say that outings aren't popular here, I don't mean that we don't host outside tournaments. We do that but only for charity events or something special concerning our membership. I'd say that we have about six or seven of these kinds of tourneys each year.

"Preparing for something like a charity event doesn't really affect my maintenance approach. Because my focus is on giving my members the best possible playing conditions, what the outside tournament players see when they play here is what my members get every day. That's been my philosophy ever since I took over the superintendent's job. I've always tried to do more than everyone expects as far as satisfying the membership goes. That's the way it should be. After all, our first obligation is to our members.

"I don't see this club doing anything out of the ordinary in the future as to seeking revenue through making the course available for more outing-type events. We don't solicit outside tournaments and we don't encourage outside play other than welcoming guests of our members. In

fact, in that respect, a guest may play here only if playing with a member.

"That's the way it is here. My members give me quality time to keep my maintenance schedule on track, and I do everything I can to give them quality playing conditions in return."

## THE SUPER SPEAKS

### **Neil Loomis, Clearview Country Club:**

"I've been on the golf course since I was 10-years-old, and I can speak from virtually every perspective of the course. I was and still am a golf course superintendent. I had a golf management company until I bought this place with my partners, and I've experienced the growth of outings and other outside events as my personal input changed with my connection with the game.

"Since we are a public course, you know that our goal is to turn over as much revenue as we can while giving our customers the best playing conditions possible. Right now I'm overseeing the operation here but my mentality always has and always will be one of a superintendent in regard to the course.

"Our main involvement in outside play is the 65 leagues that use our course on a regular basis. They are important to our operation, but we don't do anything special in the way of maintenance effort. We do the same for them as we do for our daily fee players.

"We do outings of any size. However, they usually take up the course early in the season and in the fall when most of them take place. Overall, I'd say we do 25 to 30 outings a year. Add those to our leagues and you get a good chunk of our play even though we are a semi-private club with a membership of 100.

"The maintenance schedule is set up to operate around the league and outing play. We do that to accommodate the players and give them as pleasant a playing area as we can provide. But, again,

we don't give them any special priming up of the course. Everyone plays the same course here.

"Although we always look for outside play, especially in late fall when regular daily fee play slacks off, we do not need outings to meet our financial objectives. We still have to keep a 'business as usual' attitude whether the tee-times book is brimming over or full of open spaces."

### **John Allen, Pine Meadows Golf Club:**

"We are part of a moderately large golf course management company, so generating revenue is one of our main objectives in what has become a very competitive golf facility world.

"Frankly, we try to put on a prettier face as far as condition of the golf course is concerned when we are hosting outings. There's a little more effort into preparing the course for new clientele. It presents an opportunity for us to impress new, different players and maybe make things attractive enough so they can't wait to come back and play the course again.

"The outing schedule follows the trend of our daily play. Our high season runs from the first of May through September. Therefore, outings in that time period are usually small. Then, in late September through the rest of the fall the outing player numbers get much bigger.

"We also try to spread the outing participation. During the busy season we may put out 50 to 100 people in an outing setup on the weekend. However, we do this type of thing every other weekend. It all depends on the personality of our regular players. We don't infringe on our regular players' habits. Our motto is to keep everyone happy.

"One other thing, we are not a socially-bent operation. We're strictly a golf business. Our only place of business is the golf course. We make it as pleasant as possible. We want our players coming back, again, again, and again."

**GERRY FINN**



# GCSANE campaigns for Ouimet Fund support

In June and July GCSANE will be raising funds for the Ouimet Scholarship Fund. This fund sponsors scholarships for students that attend college.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The requirements for the scholarship are that the individual has worked on a golf course for three years. The student may work in the pro shop, clubhouse area, as a caddy, or on the grounds. The student also must fill out an application and will also be required to have an interview.

Our Ouimet chairman, Jim Fitzroy, and his committee will be conducting a phone-a-thon to raise funds for these excellent scholarships. There are usually a few

hundred scholarships given each year. Dick Duggan is our representative for GCSANE in playing the Ouimet Marathon to also raise funds. So when a representative of our association calls, please contribute to the fund raiser.

Our association is looking for a site for the annual Christmas Party for this coming

season. The preferable time is in early December. If anyone can help us out be having his or her club host this fine event, please contact me at (413) 256-8654 at work, or (413) 592-5790 evenings.

Sincerely,  
Bob Ruzsala

*When a representative of our association calls, please contribute to the fund raiser.*

**Bob Ruzsala**  
GCSANE president

## MGA plans Mass. Golf Hall of Fame

The Massachusetts Golf Association (MGA) announced plans for the Massachusetts Golf Hall of Fame to be located at the entrance to the new Tournament Players Club of Boston in Norton, Mass. The land donation was made by FleetBoston, a partner in the TPC development group.

The donation of two acres of land in the Great Woods area of Norton provides for a 12,000 square-foot headquarters building to house governing bodies of Massachusetts amateur golf and the Golf Hall of Fame. The new Golf Hall of Fame, expected to open in 2002, will include unique collections, memorabilia, and exhibits; and preserve a rich legacy that includes such golf legends as Francis Ouimet, Donald Ross, Pat Bradley, and Fred Corcoran.

In addition to the MGA, the new building will house the office of the GCSANE.

Other organizations that will share space include the Women's Golf Association of Mass., the New England Golf Association, the New England Golf Course Owners Association, the Alliance of Mass. Golf Organizations, and Hickory Shafts.

## GCSANE NEWS

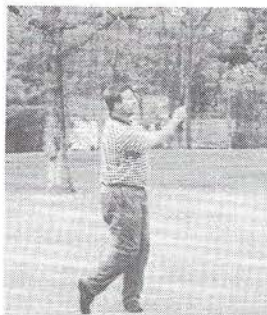
"The establishment of a golf hall of fame is desperately needed and long overdue, considering the great legacy of Massachusetts golf and the many people that have contributed to the game's vitality," said Tom Landry, executive director of the MGA. "We are very grateful for the land to create The Massachusetts Golf Hall of Fame, as well as a place for all of our golf organizations to unite under one roof for the betterment of the game."



### Frederick gets clocked!

Bert Frederick accepts his retirement clock from GCSANE president Bob Ruzsala.

### Poquoy Brook G.C. hosts joint meeting with Cape Cod GSA May 23, 2000



Mike Parks shows his form.



Mike Hermanson explains the golf format.



A golfer tees off on the first hole at Poquoy Brook.



# Fungal endophytes in grasses are a menace to ranchers, but they can help turfgrass managers

By Dr. Bridget Ruemmele  
Associate Professor,  
University of Rhode Island

Several years ago, farmers "down under" noted a behavior from their sheep. The animals appeared disoriented, staggering about ill from some unknown cause. As the disease progressed, hooves fell off and some sheep died. Investigation determined that fescue grass the sheep ate resulted in their illness. The disease became known as "fescue staggers" or "ryegrass staggers".

Over many years of research, it was proven that a naturally occurring fungus grows inside tissues of these plants. The association between the fungus and plant is mutually benefiting for both the plant and fungus. The fungus is protected and nourished by the plant and disseminated with the seed. The alkaloids produced by the association kill and repel some insects that feed on and destroy the grasses.

This same fungus is detrimental to other animals, including forage-feeding animals such as the sheep noted above, as well as cows and horses. This is why these fungi, known as endophytes, are not desirable in high percentages in grasses used for forage. Ranchers saw these grasses as undesirable, while turfgrass managers saw them as a viable natural means of insect control.

The question also arises as to whether eating endophyte-containing grasses could be harmful to pets that occasionally nibble on the grass. In the home lawn, dogs and cats are not likely to eat enough grass to be injured by turfgrasses containing endophytes.

Endophyte literally means "within plant" (endo: within; phyte: plant). The fungal endophytes in cool-season grasses grow within grass seeds and may be transferred into the emerging seedling and resulting mature plant of the next generation.

Commercially available perennial ryegrasses, fine fescues, and tall fescues may contain endophytes, although not all varieties within each species contain endophytes. The group known as "fine fescues" includes strong and slender creeping red fescues, Chewings fescue, hard fescue, and sheep fescue.

In nature, endophytes occur in bentgrass and bluegrass species, but no commercially

available cultivars of these species have been produced. An endophyte found in some bermudagrasses (a warm-season turfgrass) is actually a bacterium, so endophytes are not exclusively fungi.

## PLANT SCIENCE

The endophyte grows mainly within leaves and crown areas of the plant. Little, if any, endophyte has been found in roots. In mown turf where flowers are cut off before they can fully develop, endophytes are not transferred from one plant to another, since the dispersible spore stage is only observed infrequently in flowers. When spore formation occurs, the plants appear to have a whitish to gray material obscuring all or part of the seedhead of an endophyte-containing plant. This phenomenon is called "choke", because the seedhead is suppressed from emerging and producing seed.

Not all insects are affected by endophytes. Since the endophyte is largely in above-ground portions of the grass plant, surface-feeding insects are most affected. These include aphids, chinch bugs, armyworms, greenbugs, sod webworms, and cutworms.

Subsurface feeding insects not affected by endophytes include white grubs, Japanese beetles, black turfgrass atenius, mole crickets, and billbugs. The difference in insect resistance in endophyte-containing versus non-endophyte-containing can be dramatic when susceptible insects are present in significant numbers.

Endophytes have also been associated with some enhanced drought, heat, and disease resistance, the latter only in fine fescues. Dollar spot resistance of endophyte-containing fine fescues has been proven in studies at Rutgers University. Leaf spot, stem rust, and brown patch are other diseases

which have been reported to have some reduction in endophyte-enhanced fine fescues. Differences in benefits among grass species are likely related to unique endophyte species being associated with each species of turfgrass.

Endophytes should be regarded like an insurance policy. They have little value under good growing conditions where harmful turfgrass insect populations are in check. Endophytes may be useful under selected stress conditions of heat and drought. Late summer and fall are periods when the benefits of endophytes are most likely to be observed.

The endophyte is a living organism, meaning it cannot survive forever in a seed, especially when seed is stored under conditions where the endophyte would require energy to remain alive. The warmer the storage, the less time the endophyte will remain viable. Generally, after one year at room temperature, most endophytes in turfgrass seed will not be living.

No official testing or labeling exists to certify percentage or viability of the endophyte within the seed. Tall fescue cultivars have endophyte levels as high as 98 percent as reported by companies selling those varieties, while perennial ryegrasses have endophyte levels as high as 100 percent. Fine fescue endophyte levels are similar to those for tall fescue. Generally, most improved perennial ryegrass cultivars on the market will contain some level of endophyte, while many tall and fine fescues will have some endophyte. Among species, perennial ryegrasses also average higher percentages of endophyte compared to the fescues.

The table below shows the results of tests done on tall fescue survival under varied storage conditions. Other species may or may not perform in the same manner,

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**Viable Endophyte (%) in Tall Fescue as Related to Storage Environment & Duration**

Storage Environment	Temperature (Fahrenheit)	Months in Storage					
		3	7	11	15	19	27
Freezer	-4	100	100	100	100	90	90
Refrigerator	43	100	90	85	90	95	90
Seed Store Room	50	90	100	80	75	45	25
Room Temperature	70	95	55	0	0	0	0
Seed Warehouse	70-95	95	60	0	0	0	0

(M.C. Johnson, 1984)



## Endophytes – friend or foe?

continued from page 5

since each species has a different endophyte and seed size. Fine fescues, with the smallest seed of the endophyte-containing turfgrasses we commonly use, lose endophyte viability even more rapidly.

Seed tests can indicate the presence of the endophyte within the seed, *but they will not tell whether the endophyte is alive or dead.* Seed may be viable even when the endophyte is not. Endophyte-containing seed must be germinated and new plants grown for approximately six weeks to

test whether the endophyte is growing in the new plant tissue. The bottom line: **BUY FRESH SEED**, preferably within one year of harvest, for the best success in using endophytic turfgrasses.

Reprinted from the  
March/April issue of *TurfNotes*.

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

### MEMBERSHIP

**Welcome New Members:** Michael Young, Tewksbury C.C., Superintendent; Paul Allen, Tewksbury C.C., Assistant; Kent Lemme, Vesper C.C., Superintendent; Bill Hay, Millwood G.C., Superintendent; Tony DeBettencourt, Hickory Hill G.C., Superintendent; David Farrentino, Milton-Hoosic Club, Superintendent; Michael Holton, Winchester C.C., Assistant; Rick Giverson, Tom Irwin Co., Affiliate.

**Proposed For Membership:** James Cain, Assistant, Pine Brook C.C.; Paul Onessimo, Assistant, Ferncroft C.C.; Paul LaPenna, Assistant, Ferncroft C.C.; Lionel Mello, Superintendent, Acushnet River Valley G.C.; Darren Orr, Affiliate, Country Club Enterprises; James Santoro, Affiliate, Bayer Corporation.

### INFORMATION

**Thank you** to Charlie Dickow, Mike Cummings, Mark Pendergast, Riccardi Catering, and the entire staff of Poquoy Brook G.C. The course was in fabulous condition and a great time was had by all.

**Thanks also** to Lesco, Inc. for providing the beverage cart during the May meeting.

**If anyone would like a copy of the recent Economic Impact Study** commissioned by the MGA, please contact Sharon Brownell at (800) 833-4451.

**The GCSANE is currently seeking a site** for our annual Christmas Party this year. If there are any clubs interested in hosting this event, please contact Bob Ruzsala or Sharon Brownell.

**Best wishes** to Bob LeBlanc's wife, who has been experiencing health problems recently.

**We also extend warm wishes** to Peter Hasak's wife. She has had health problems recently.

**UMass Extension and The Department of Plant & Soil Sciences will host a Field Day** for turf professionals and associated grounds management professionals on Wednesday, June 21, 2000

at the University of Massachusetts Turf Research Facility, River Road, South Deerfield, Mass. This year's field day will include vendor displays and demonstrations. The Field Day is designed to provide turf professionals with an opportunity to learn about current research projects under way, and to meet with UMass researchers and associated staff. Pesticide recertification contact hours and credits have been requested from all six New England states as well as New York. Pre-registration deadline is Friday, June 16. On-site registration is allowed, but will not include lunch. For fees, registration, exhibitor, and other information, contact Thom Griffin, Manager, Turf Research Facility, at (413) 545-3066, or Mary Owen, Extension Educator, Turf, at (508) 892-0382.

### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

**S.B. 2134**, a bill restricting pesticide use in and around schools and day care centers, as been signed by Governor Cellucci.

**Committee members may force floor debate on a FQPA implementation bill.** H.R. 1592, "The Regulatory and Fairness and Openness Act," has reached a total of 229 co-sponsors. Reports from Washington indicate that there may be a move by some Commerce Committee members to file a discharge petition with the House Commerce Committee. A discharge petition gives members of congress the ability to force a floor debate on legislation being held in committee by the chairman. The Senate companion bill, S. 1646, now has 39 co-sponsors with the addition of Senators Christopher Bond (R-Missouri), Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colorado), Connie Mack (R-Florida), and Charles Robb (D-Virginia).

**EPA has announced** the formation of the Committee to Advise in Reassessment and Transition (CARAT) to succeed the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC), formed for stakeholder input into the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) implementation process. CARAT's main focus will be to provide advice to the EPA in strategic approaches that promote sound science and transparency in the scientific risk assessments required to implement FQPA.

### POSITION OPENINGS

**Superintendent.** The Perry Hollow Golf Club, a semi-private course in Wolfeboro, N.H., is seeking an individual for the position of golf course superintendent. Interested individual should currently be a superintendent or first assistant. Salary is commensurate with experience. Send resume to Bob Flynn, Bill Flynn Golf Course Management; phone (978) 774-2695; fax (978) 352-9838.

**Assistant Superintendent.** Franklin Park G.C. is a busy 18-hole public facility originally designed by Willie Campbell in 1895. There is a long-term master plan for capital improvements (including a new irrigation system) to be completed over the next few years. The Mass. State Publinx Championship will be held there this year. Individual will be directly involved in all aspects of management, including staff supervision, training, irrigation system maintenance, chemical/fertilizer applications, and record keeping. Candidates should have 3-5 years of golf course experience, as well as some level of education in turfgrass management. A Mass. Pesticide applicator's license must be obtained. Send resume to Franklin Park Golf Course, Attn. David Laffey, One Circuit Drive, Dorchester, MA 02121, or call (617) 983-2786.

### TOURNAMENT RESULTS

**Poquoy Brook Golf Club, Lakeville, Mass.  
May 23, 2000**

Four-man teams, best three balls

#### 1st Gross:

M. Francis, Sr., M. Francis, Jr., P. Casey, J. Hassett (241)

#### 2nd Gross:

D. Farina, J. Anstelli, D. Orr, P. Whitney (243)

#### 1st Net:

G. LaChapelle, J. LeClair, B. Linehan, G. Luccini (208)

#### 2nd Net:

S. Carr, T. Flaherty, D. Comee, M. Hermanson (210)

#### 3rd Net:

S. Loomis, D. Eddy, M. Williams, P. Wilson (213)

#### Closest to the Pin:

Dave Farina (#15); Steve Carr (#8)



# Please Patronize these FRIENDS of the ASSOCIATION

## A-OK Turf Equipment Inc.

1357 Main St., Coventry, RI 02816-8435  
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brush, & used equipment.  
Mike Cornicelli - (401) 826-2584

## A.A. Will Materials Corp.

168 Washington St., Stoughton, MA 02072-1748  
Top dressing & bunker sand, decorative stone,  
landscape materials.  
Charlie Downing, Mike Read  
(800) 4-AA-WILL

## Agr-Evo U.S.A. Co.

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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  
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Roy Sibley, Dick Gurski  
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## Meet host superintendent David Laffey, Franklin Park G.C.

The host superintendent for the 8th Annual Scholarship and Benevolence Tournament of the GCSANE is David Laffey of Franklin Park Golf Course.

This is Dave's second year at Franklin Park. He most recently served three years as assistant superintendent at Newton Commonwealth Golf Course. His prior experience includes two years as field manager for Modern Aeration Service, one year as course set-up man at Tournament Players Club at Prestancia, and two years on the Charles River Country Club grounds crew.

Some of Dave's favorite activities at work include aerating, slice seeding, setting up the golf course, and fixing many of the breaks on Franklin Park's infamous irrigation system. The rumors that

architect Willie Campbell installed the irrigation system in 1895 are as yet unconfirmed.

### HOST PROFILE

Dave's educational background includes four years at Northeastern University in the Business Administration and Accounting department. He is also a graduate of the UMass Winter School.

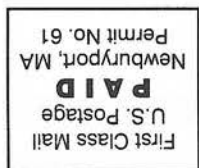
In his spare time, he enjoys skiing and carpentry. He plays golf and claims to have had a game before he devoted his attention to being a full-time superintendent.

Dave presently resides in Watertown with his wife Elen and their two children, Megan (age 4), and Matthew (age 2).

Franklin Park Golf Course (also known as the William J. Devine course) is the second oldest public golf facility in the United States. It was built in 1895 by Willie Campbell. In 1988 Phil Wogan redesigned the course to its current layout. It is currently undergoing an extensive remodeling in an attempt to capture some of its old feel. The course is presently under the operation of Sterling Golf Management.

The 6,100 yard course plays to a par of 70. The USGA rating is 69.8 and the slope is 120. The bent/poa greens are of moderate size as they average 5,000 square feet. There are 20 acres of fairway and 40 acres of rough to maintain. Fairways consist of a bent/poa/bluegrass mix.

FIRST CLASS



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