



THE NEWSLETTER

April 2003

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.

Health crisis helps Brian Cowan learn how to shrug off the stresses of a superintendent

The temperature seemed to have nowhere to go except the low 30s with the wind coming out of the northeast pushing along at a 20 mph clip. Heavy cloud cover crowded out any hope of sunlight and a rude dusting of two inches of snow capped the beginning of another miserable spring day at the Eastward Ho! Country Club.

"Weather could be better," Brian Cowan, the course's 36-year superintendent, said in the remnants of his Maine accent. "Just went through the worst weather a Cape Cod winter can deliver. Worst since I've been around here, and spring's looking to be just as ornery. Let's see. This is Tuesday (April 8) and they're playing the New England PGA assistants championship here Thursday. I already told them they've got two options – golf carts or cross-country skis."

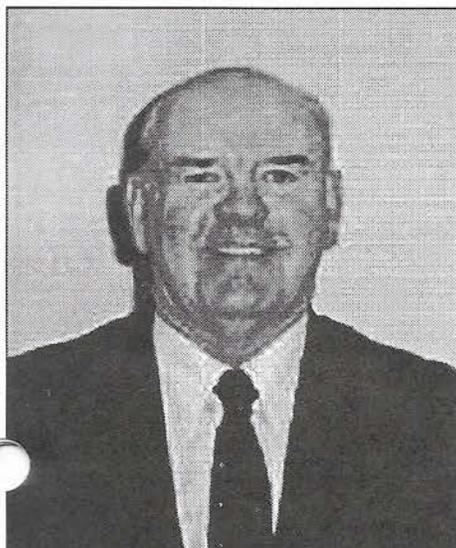
Which meant Brian was in a pretty good mood for someone with a plateful of responsibility staring him down. On April 22, the boys from the New England PGA are scheduled to return to Eastward Ho! for a pro-am tournament. The following day, Brian hosts the GCSA of New England and the Golf Course Managers of Cape Cod, gathered for a joint meeting to kick off their "summer" slates.

Fittingly, most of the occasional visitors to the area feel almost compelled to return, especially golfers. "That's why we (superintendents) have these joint meetings and golf days with people from other parts of New England. The Cape has something special to offer even on these cold blustery days in spring.

These days Cowan takes on the challenge of course grooming under less than ideal conditions with a reconstructed attitude. When he thinks the job might be coming down too hard on him, he shrugs it off and continues to count his blessings. His mind slips back in time to March 18, 2002 when he suffered a heart attack and experienced some anxious moments before walking out of Brigham & Women's Hospital with an internal defibrillator in place to regulate what had been an erratic heartbeat.

"Going through that gave me a new outlook on life," Brian said. "I try to be as positive as I can these days. I found out just how lucky I am to be here and how much I like the Cape and enjoy my position

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"When I first returned to the job, it was on a restricted basis, but I did all the things the doctors told me to do, and it paid off."

*Brian Cowan
Eastward Ho! C.C.*

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PRESIDENT
James R. Fitzroy, CGCS
357 W. Squantum Street, North Quincy, MA 02171
617-328-1776 Fax 617-328-9479
E-Mail: Jfritz39@rcn.com
Presidents Golf Course

VICE PRESIDENT
Michael J. Hermanson
140 Ryan Street, Gardner, MA 01440
978-632-2713 Fax 978-632-2713
E-Mail: Hermo68@hotmail.com
Gardner Municipal Golf Course

SECRETARY
Ronald P. Dobosz, Jr.
1137 Park Street, Stoughton, MA 02072
781-341-8564 Fax 781-341-8564, *51
E-Mail: Rdobosz111@aol.com
Cedar Hill Golf Course

TREASURER
Michael V. Iacono, CGCS
50 Newton Street, Weston, MA 02493
781-899-7913 Fax 781-847-0602
E-Mail: thebrook18@aol.com
Pine Brook Country Club

TRUSTEE
Patrick S. Kriksceonaitis
4 Lakemans Lane, Ipswich, MA 01938
978-526-4600 Fax 978-526-8333
Essex County Club

TRUSTEE
Jason S. Adams
11 Woodcrest Lane
Blackstone, MA 01504
781-326-3801 Fax 781-326-3801
E-Mail: Jayadams35@hotmail.com
Nortfolk Golf Club

TRUSTEE
Russell E. Heller
41 Clifford Street, Melrose, MA 02126
617-983-2786 Fax 617-983-2786
E-Mail: Rheller@gcsane.org
Franklin Park Golf Course

FINANCE CHAIRMAN
Arthur Silva, CGCS
35 Pennacook Road, Tewksbury, MA 01876
781-484-5440 Fax 781-484-6613
E-Mail: Silvagcs@aol.com
Belmont Country Club

GOLF CHAIRMAN
David A. Comee
65 Marquette Street, Gardner, MA 01440
978-297-1223 Fax 978-297-0911
E-Mail: Dcomee@hotmail.com
The Winchendon Club

EDUCATION CHAIRMAN
Patrick J. Daly, CGCS
P. O. Box 2264, Framingham, MA 01703
508-872-9790 Fax 508-872-5393
E-Mail: Pat@framinghamcc.com
Framingham Country Club

NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN
Kenneth D. Crimmings, Jr.
101 Maple Lane, Northborough, MA 01532
508-450-8933 Fax 508-460-8943
E-Mail: Kcrimmings@charter.net
Marlborough Country Club

PAST PRESIDENT
Robert Ruzsala
69 Gellinas Drive, Chicopee, MA 01020
413-256-8654 Fax 413-256-8654
E-Mail: Hrcc40@aol.com
Hickory Ridge Country Club

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Sharon K. Brownell
P. O. Box 566, Mattapoisett, MA 02739
508-758-6474 Fax 508-758-6474
E-Mail: Sbrownell@attbi.com



GCSANE Headquarters
300 Arnold Palmer Blvd., Norton, MA 02766
Tel.: (800) 833-4451 Fax: (508) 758-6474
Web Site: www.gcsane.org

Newsletter Editor **Kenneth Crimmings**
Contributing Editor **Gerry Finn**
Business Manager **Julie Heston**
(E-Mail: Jeh25@aol.com)

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here at Eastward Ho! I feel like I'm in the middle of a fresh new start."

Brian's renewed enthusiasm has expanded itself into energy due to his remarkable recovery. "When I first returned to the job, it was on a restricted basis, but I did all the things the doctors told me to do, and it paid off. Now I feel better than ever and I'm raring to go."

That's why the winter that wouldn't quit in the spring put a little limp into the fast-break offense he hoped for, getting ready for the high season months of Eastward Ho!'s activity. We're about three weeks behind the pace I'd like to be at this time of year," Brian explained. "The snow is the real culprit. It prevents us from working outside. And the forecast isn't all that great. We need sun. We've already cut twice, so there's a lot of life in the turf. It's just covered up. Funny, this past Sunday we had 100 players in a tournament of local tradespeople. Two days later, we can't even see the fairways for the snow."

Eastward Ho! is one of those courses with an endless season. Cowan reports that the club has a membership top heavy with people who follow the sun in the winter. However, there are others who stay on the Cape and play whenever they can get the weather to cooperate. "This year the cold and snow made it tough to enjoy winter golf, but the course got through it with a minimum of damage."

Since his recovery, Brian has renewed his interest in the workings of his profession. He holds memberships in the New England, Cape Cod, and Rhode Island superintendents groups. In fact, he was president of the Cape Cod association in 1979-80 and headed GCSANE in 1982-83.

"I like to participate in all the events that are of interest to golf course superintendents and the causes they support," he told. "I really have strong feelings for the rest of the guys, how they handle the job, and all the benevolent practices they get into. I also like to take my members to other courses. It's an educational tool for all of us."

One of Brian's favorite getaways is the annual trek to Quechee, Vermont with a half-dozen club members to play in the "Coon Dog Invitational" hosted by Eastward Ho!'s Ed Crowell. They join other golfers from all over the Cape to

raise scholarship funds for students interested in joining the veterinary profession. "I'm happy to participate in this great tournament which has helped deserving students by raising over \$200,000 in its 20-year history," says Cowan.

Away from his immediate responsibilities at the golf course and other efforts for the profession, Brian is proud and enamored of his wonderful family. Certainly, they're a reason for living . . . wife Joan, a registered medical technologist; son Chris, who works for R.F. Morse & Sons; daughter Cheryl, who's in the restaurant business in Naples, Florida; and daughter Jennifer, a service manager for Merrill Lynch.

"So, you see, I have a lot to be grateful for," added Brian. "It's a brand new day, a brand new golf year . . . and I'm thrilled to be part of it."

GERRY FINN

CALENDAR . . .

- April 23 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting Joint Meeting w/Cape Cod GCSA**
Eastward Ho! Country Club
Chatham, Mass.
Supt. - Brian Cowan
- May 12 **Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament**
Wachusett Country Club
West Boylston, Mass.
Supt. - Matthew Marrone
- June 23 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Shattuck Golf Club
Jaffrey, N.H.
Supt. - Paul Lautner
- July 28 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting Supt./Club Official Tournament**
LeBaron Hills Country Club
Lakeville, Mass.
Supt. - Mark Klimm
- August 26 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting Individual Championship**
Marlborough Country Club
Marlborough, Mass.
Supt. - Kenneth Crimmings
- Sept. 22 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Townsend Ridge Country Club
Townsend, Mass.
Supt. - David Copeland
- October 6 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Juniper Hills Golf Course
Northborough, Mass.
Supt. - Thomas Ackley, CGCS
- November **GCSANE Monthly Meeting Annual 9-Hole Meeting**
Norfolk Golf Club
Norfolk, Mass.
Supt. - Jason Adams

The Super Speaks Out

This month's question(s):

(1) Are you making adjustments in programs/products to combat anthracnose? We all know that we can use the lowest label rates for preventative treatments, as opposed the highest rates in a curative situation. How do you balance when to apply preventatively, as opposed to curatively?

(2) What is your feedback on this year's conventions in Providence or Atlanta? Do you have any thoughts on the city of Atlanta, costs, courses, talks, hospitality suite, or trade shows?

Stephen B. Tibbels, CGCS, Northeast Regional Superintendent, Valley Crest Golf Course Maintenance, Acushnet River Valley Golf Course:

Regarding anthracnose, I have not experienced any problems with the disease at Acushnet. Although, through conversations with other superintendents and educators, it appears as though anthracnose problems can be compounded by cultural practices such as mowing, top dressing, dragging, brushing, and possibly verti-cutting. In light of this, we have made the following changes: (1) Particular attention is paid to quality of cut and reel maintenance. (2) Frequent topdressings are done at a rate which does not have to be drug or brushed in. (3) Dragging, brushing, and vertical cutting practices are terminated once air temperatures exceed 80 degrees F. Our goal in making these

changes is to maintain healthier plants with fewer instances of weakness during periods of stress from climate and play.

THE SUPER SPEAKS

I thought both conferences were well attended. At the national I like to visit new vendors to view products new to the industry or new twists to old methods or equipment. The Providence conference is an opportunity to talk with local vendors about additions to their product lines in preparation for the year's purchases. I also like the Providence conference because you get to visit with your peers within the New England Associations and renew some contacts with past employees.

Thomas Colombo, CGCS, The Ridge Club: There is no question that my biggest concern on putting green turf is the persistence of basal crown rot of anthracnose. I have battled this disease on and off for the past two years on a handful of greens (50-60% poa/bent). I have thrown everything and a combination of ?????? at this disease with hit or miss results. It seems that the high rates of fungicides only go so far with little or no success once you have the disease. In reviewing my cultural practices, some of the things that I have implemented include: (1) Foliar feed 1/8 # N every other week in season. (2) Regular monitoring of nutrient levels via soil & tissue testing (keep the turf actively

growing). (3) Monthly spiking/seeding of bent followed by light topdressing followed with a syringe cycle – no dragging! (4) Raising the hoc(? height-of-cut?) on affected greens slightly. Turf appears to respond to hoc adjustment better than anything else. Golfers, however don't appreciate the slower green speed. Hand mowing is a given. The bentgrass does not appear to be affected by the disease. I am going to dryject this spring to limit the mechanical traffic/damage on the surface. I sent out three plugs to Gail Schumann on March 25. The damage on the older tissue from the fall was still evident. The surrounding grass tissue was healthy with no active disease. I applied Edorse/ Ultrex two days later as a preventative. Edorse has shown some promise in recent studies. I feel, as did Dr. Schumann, that the cold freeze we experienced this winter could be beneficial in terms of anthracnose activity this year.

"At the national I like to visit new vendors to view products new to the industry or new twists to old methods or equipment."

**Stephen Tibbels, CGCS
Acushnet River Valley G.C.**

"It seems that the high rates of fungicides only go so far with little or no success once you have the disease."

**Thomas Colombo, CGCS
The Ridge Club**

President proud to report on winter schedule; sad to report on the passing of Philip Cassidy

March 10 marked our last "winter" meeting of the year and over 130 members enjoyed a tour of the new William Connell Golf House and Museum as well as a tour of the maintenance facility at the TPC Boston course. The meeting was a fitting conclusion to our most successful winter schedule ever. Please join me in thanking Pat Daly and his Education Committee for a wonderful job setting up this phase of our meeting schedule.

On a sad note, we all mourn the passing of Philip I. Cassidy, CGCS. Phil was the longtime superintendent at the Weston Golf Club and was the GCSANE President in 1948 and 1949. But our association will forever be in his debt for his efforts to hold the group together during World War II. One of my fondest items of memorabilia is a picture of Phil presenting me the Lawrence Dickinson Scholarship in 1968.

It's not too early to send in your application to play in our Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament on May 12, 2003. This year we again take our event to the Wachusett Country Club. For those of

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you who haven't played in one of our events there, it is a fantastic Donald Ross course with spectacular views. Wachusett is truly a gem that doesn't get much

FROM THE PRESIDENT

notoriety inside of 128; but it has become one of my favorite courses. However, the most important reason for participating in this event is that the proceeds are available to assist our own members both in scholarships and benevolent aid when there is a time of need. And the Marrone family has priced the day very favorably for our association. Even if you play poorly, the prime rib dinner after golf will make the trip worthwhile.

Congratulations to Gary Sykes and the entire board of directors of the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference for another successful event. The speaking program was as good as any I've attended. Mike Ditka, the keynote speaker, was inspirational and entertaining, and the trade show outstanding. This has become one of the premiere regional events and a "don't miss" for everyone's calendar.

Finally, on behalf of the entire board of directors, I hope everyone came through the winter without damage and has a great spring.

**James R. Fitzroy, CGCS
President, GCSANE**

Gary Luccini Memorial 4-Ball Championship – Round I & 2 / Quarter-Finals / Semi-Finals / Championship Match –



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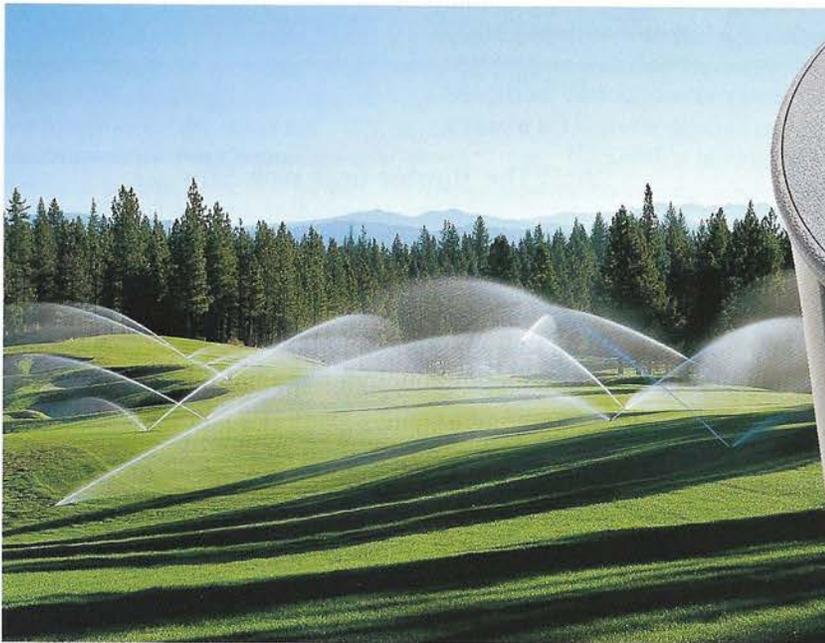
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New England Regional Turfgrass Conference recap: Conference education a priority, says Gary Sykes

As many of you know, I have enjoyed being a part of the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show each year for the last six years. There are many reasons and many people who create an interest in me to work on the show to continue to make it a great event. I have greatly enjoyed meeting many golf course superintendents, assistants, grounds managers, exhibitors, a few celebrities, students, many owners of businesses related to the turf industry and many others over the years who have an interest of one kind or another in turf. It has been fun!

This year's show we feel went real well. Attendee numbers were about the same as last year (We were afraid the late dates and spring weather had the potential to hurt the attendance badly). Economics did take a bit of a toll finally, and booth numbers were down a bit from last year. We knew we wouldn't grow every year! Many great comments have come my way since the show, and we appreciate all of them.

A couple of items caught my attention, and I wanted to share some of them. Ever since I became involved eight years ago, a statement of advice for the show still rings true in my ears. "The Conference always needs to be first," was that bit of advice. The education that is available is what makes the show unique every year, and is what makes the attendees know they have to be there. "Build it and they will come!" In my book the trade show is actually part of the education program as well. I feel I learn a lot on the floor, and I enjoy being on the floor as much as a kid in a candy store. The trade show floor is a great place to acquire new ideas. This business is ever-changing, and a good turf professional has got to stay on top of his game. The combination of education and trade show is a great way to do that. When we count heads in the education sessions or down on the show floor, we know there are a lot of professionals who also think this way, and I congratulate you on that. Seminars and sessions were in some cases overflowing. Trade show traffic looked busy and many exhibitors

said they had a great show. I hope that everyone will continue to use the show as a resource.

CONFERENCE NEWS

The other thought I had was how surprised I was with Coach Ditka. His talk on the word "ACE" was just what I needed to hear. Three very important factors in life, "attitude", "character," and "enthusiasm" can help make a person successful. Our business is very demanding and these three traits can put you over the top or hold you down. Some of us

have all the tools we will ever need, but do we use them? At the end of the day are we content with "the man in the glass." A great message I thought, and we hope that all those who were at the show this year gained something and left Providence feeling better for coming. We plan on a even better event next year, just as we plan on better turf each year. We wish to thank all sponsors, exhibitors, attendees, and guests for participating in this year's show and conference. Here's to a prosperous growing season to all!

GARY SYKES

Scholarship & Benevolence Chairman explains importance of participation

According to GCSAA data, the largest percentage of superintendents are in their 40s. Many of these people have families and children that are thinking about college. I have spoken with several superintendents that are astounded at the cost of higher education. With tuition as high as \$30,000 a year, it is a wonder parents can make ends meet. GCSANE is here to help.

GCSANE NEWS

As most of you know, GCSANE awards scholarships to members' children each year. The award won't pay for an Ivy League school for a semester, but it will help take care of books and other necessities.

Most likely fewer of you realize that GCSANE provides benevolent aid to members. From time to time, personal issues arise that leave a person in dire straits. Over that past several years, our Benevolent Fund has aided many superintendents and their families. It is done quietly, but the results speak loud and clear to those in need.

To finance these acts of goodwill, GCSANE holds a golf tournament each year. Most of you know this and play in it regularly. The Scholarship & Benevolence

Tournament is the sole fundraiser for the S&B Fund. Without the monies raised from this event, the fund would dry up and aid would disappear.

How can you help? Play golf. Donate a prize for the raffle. It's as easy as that.

The tournament this year will be held May 12 at Wachusett Country Club. Wachusett is a terrific Donald Ross course located just minutes from Route 2 and I-290. It takes less than an hour to get there from Boston. It is a first-class event that includes buffet lunch, a dinner of prime rib or swordfish, open bar, and 18 holes of championship golf. This is not an event to miss.

So please register now. Sell all your raffle tickets. Donate that round of golf for four at your course. Help us raise money that may come back to you later. This event is for you and cannot be done without you.

Please contact me if you need help. My number is (617) 983-2786 and my e-mail is rheller@gcsane.org. Thank you.

Russell Heller
Chairman,
Scholarship & Benevolence
Committee

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

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members: Sean Keating, Assistant Superintendent, Oak Hill Country Club.

INFORMATION

Condolences go to David and Vickie Wallace and family on the recent passing of David's sister, Janet (Wallace) Huff.

Condolences go to Ron Tumiski and family on the recent passing of Ron's father, Charles Tumiski.

POSITION OPENINGS

Second Assistant Superintendent, Mt. Pleasant Country Club, Boylston, Mass. Mt. Pleasant is a private, 18-hole William Mitchell design located in central Mass. Responsibilities include employee training and supervision; irrigation system operation and repair; and pesticide and fertilization application, with record-keeping, special construction projects, and involvement in all aspects of golf course maintenance. A turf certificate or two-year degree in turf-related field are preferred. Applicant must have a minimum of three years of experience in grounds maintenance, must obtain a Mass. pesticide license immediately, and have a valid drivers license. Compensation is commensurate with experience, and includes 80% health insurance paid by club, 401(k), paid local and national dues, paid attendance to local seminars, golf privileges, and a paid off-season vacation. The position is available immediately. Please send resume to: Todd Sauer, Golf Course Superintendent, Mount Pleasant Country Club, 369 Cross Street, Boylston, MA 01505; phone: (508) 869-2328.

Third Assistant Superintendent, Willowbend Club, Mashpee, Mass. The third assistant will assist with training and supervision of staff of 35 and implement plant care applications program. Candidates should have an understanding of IPM principles and practices, team-building skills, and a desire to continue learning the golf management profession. Willowbend is a 27-hole, private, independently-owned golf and real estate development on Cape Cod. Willowbend hosts a PGA Celebrity charity event in June. We are currently growing-in nine new holes slated to open this summer. Willowbend is operated by Willowbend Golf Management, which manages golf properties across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Qualifications include a turf degree or certificate and a current pesticide applicator's license. Individual should be career-minded, with two-to-five years of golf course maintenance experience, with a minimum of one season as spray applicator on a

golf course. Spanish speaking ability is a plus. Compensation is commensurate with experience, and includes medical insurance, 401(k), optional dental insurance, uniforms, golf privileges, meal program, holidays, and two weeks vacation. Housing is a possibility. The position is available immediately. Please send resume to: Mark Casey, Superintendent, Willowbend, 100 Willowbend Drive, Mashpee, MA 02649; phone: (508) 539-5436; fax: (508) 539-5230 or 5210; e-mail: willowbendgolf@juno.com.

Irrigation Technician/Second Assistant Superintendent, Dedham Country and Polo Club, Dedham, Mass. Dedham Country and Polo Club is a private, 18-hole club that opened in 1920 with bentgrass/poa greens, tees and fairways. Dedham Country and Polo Club is seeking a highly-motivated individual to maintain a Toro Network 8000 irrigation system and assist in the daily operation of the golf course. Salary is negotiable on the basis of experience and qualifications. Also included are housing; health and dental insurance; 401(k) plan; paid annual vacation; association dues; and golfing privileges. The position is open until filled. Please send resume to: The Dedham Country and Polo Club, David J. Ferrantino, Director of Golf Course and Grounds Operations, 124 Country Club Road, Dedham, MA 02026.

Second Assistant Superintendent, The Milton-Hoosic Club, Canton, Mass. The Milton-Hoosic is a private, 9-hole course in Canton, Mass. Duties include staff supervision; fertilizing and pesticide application; irrigation system repair and operation; daily set-up; and mowing. A minimum of a two-year degree is preferred, but will train qualified winter school certificate holders. Applicant must have or have the ability to obtain a Mass. pesticide license. Compensation is commensurate with experience, and includes 100% individual health insurance, GCSAA dues, uniform, and golf privileges. The position is open until filled. Please send resume to: Stephen R. Gregg, Golf Course Superintendent, The Milton-Hoosic Club, 70 Green Lodge Street, Canton, MA 02021; fax: (781) 828-3220; office: (781) 828-2953; e-mail: sgregg13@aol.com.

Second Assistant Superintendent, Walpole Country Club, Walpole, Mass. Applicant must have a minimum of a two-year degree in turf management or related field; a minimum of one year of golf course related experience; and a Mass. pesticide applicator's license. The position involves general golf course maintenance, including, but not limited to, course set-up, pesticide and fertilizer applications, irrigation repair, project management, and record-keeping. This is an excellent career opportunity for an individual

seeking to prepare for the first assistant position. Compensation is negotiable, and includes health, dental, and life insurance; 401(k); paid vacation; uniforms; association dues; and local conference expenses. Housing is possible. The position is open until filled. Please send resume to: Mark Gagne, Golf Course Superintendent, P.O. Box 186, Walpole, MA 02081; fax: (508) 668-9969; e-mail: mgagne@walpolecc.com.

Second Assistant Superintendent, Bass Rocks Golf Club, Gloucester, Mass. The individual will be a key player in the operation, assisting the superintendent and first assistant, and will share these responsibilities and others: pesticide/fertilizer applications; irrigation system operation and maintenance; and supervising and training seasonal employees. The candidate should have desire to excel in the turf industry and have an enthusiastic outlook on learning all aspects of turf maintenance operations. The individual will attend Greens Committee meetings and be an integral part of the turf management team. Bass Rocks is an architecturally unique, 107-year old property with frequent ocean views. A turf degree or certificate and current pesticide applicator's license is required. Salary is commensurate with experience. Benefits include medical insurance, golf privileges, two weeks vacation after first year, membership in GCSAA and local associations, and paid attendance at New England Turf Conference. The position is open until filled. Please send resume to: Patty Knaggs, Golf Course Superintendent, Bass Rocks Golf Club, P.O. Box 303, Gloucester, MA 01930; phone: (978) 283-7774; fax (978) 283-0977; e-mail: mjojormpk@shore.net.

Park Maintenance/Irrigation Specialist, City of Newton Parks and Recreation Dept., Newton, Mass. Individual will be responsible for supervising and working with small work crews involved in construction, repair, and maintenance of department's irrigation systems. Work includes directing and assisting work crews, ensuring for the quality and completeness of work performed, and assisting in the overall efficiency of project operations. Position assists in department snow and ice removal operations. Candidate should have three-to-five years of experience in recreation or athletic field maintenance or general plumbing maintenance. An associates degree is preferred. Salary is W-10, \$17.35/hour. Benefits include health and dental insurance, education incentives, retirement plan, and deferred compensation. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2003. Please send resume to: Karen Kelly, Employment Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton Centre, MA 02458.

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Meet Host Superintendent Matthew Marrone, Wachusett C.C.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England is very proud to hold the 2003 Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament at Wachusett Country Club in West Boylston, Massachusetts. Our hosts for the day will be Matt Marrone and the Marrone Family, who have successfully owned and operated this club since 1938.

Matt Marrone is a third-generation golf course superintendent at Wachusett C.C., and has been the superintendent there since 1994. Previously his father, Donald Marrone, Jr., and his grandfather, Donald Marrone, Sr., served as superin-

tendents. Matt credits everything he has learned in the business to these two men.

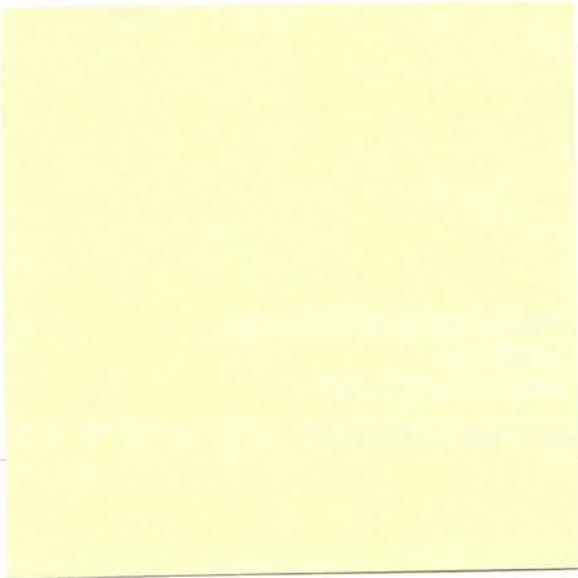
HOST PROFILE

He continues to learn each day from his father, Donald, Jr., who currently manages the club.

Wachusett C.C. Facts:

Superintendent: Matthew Marrone
Golf Professional: Tim Bishop
Number of Members: 375
Terrain: Hilltop, fairly open
Architect: Donald Ross
Year Organized: 1927

Par: 72
Regular Yardage: 6170
(Rating: 70.0)
Ladies Yardage: 5573
(Rating: 74.6)
Championship Yardage: 6567
(Rating: 71.7)
Greens (yardage & type): 3 acres
Bent Poa
Tees (yardage and type): 2.5 acres
Bent, Rye, Poa
Fairways (acres and type): 25 acres
Bent, Rye, Poa
Roughs (acres and type): 40 acres
Blue, Fescue
Carts: Club Car Electric



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