



THE NEWSLETTER

August 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.

Dr. Gail Schumann moves to Marquette U., but won't abandon GCSANE superintendents

As this is being written, Gail Schumann is in transit. Right. Dr. Schumann, pathologist, researcher, teacher and the best weapon against turf disease New England golf course superintendents ever had – has resigned her position in the department of microbiology at the University of Massachusetts and is headed toward new challenges in the field of biology at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Dr. Schumann admits she carries a heavy heart to her next career level because of her long and rewarding association with UMass. But after 19 years in the lab test trenches at Fernald Hall where she supervised the pursuit and defeat of countless turf demons, Gail is returning to her Mid-western roots with her home state of Michigan only a ferry ride across the lake.

"Oh, there's more to it than that," Dr. Schumann reassured herself in a recent chat with *The Newsletter*. "This is sort of a

double-edged opportunity move for me and my husband. Actually, the decision-making came in stages. Michael (husband, Michael Switzenbaum) was offered a department head post in civil engineering at Marquette. Then, my parents are just 40 minutes away from that ferry ride. We couldn't pass it up."

However, Gail indicated there were several factors clawing at her in an attempt to have her stay put. Her reputation as an outstanding diagnostician in turf diseases

and accompanying distinction developing cures for them brought fears from those in the field that progress would hit a dead end. Another setback-in-waiting was the distinct possibility her UMass position might not be filled because of drastic budget cuts.

"Moving never was a snap decision," Dr. Schumann continued. "For me, the situation at UMass was the perfect job. Through the years its importance always was on the upswing and the feeling of accomplishment from any success we generated made life that more enjoyable. But I lined up a list of goods and bads on moving. The list of goods outnumbered the list of bads and that was that."

As expected, budget shrinking did eliminate Gail's position at UMass. However, she made another move in anticipation of such an eventuality. There is an arrangement in place between UMass and Marquette in which, for the next two years, Dr. Schumann can continue to accept soil samples and the like from turf people and research them at Marquette just as she had at UMass.

"So, no, I'm not abandoning the research and cure development stage of my profession," she stressed. "Overnight delivery (for samples) means overnight. My friends and colleagues in the turf field are welcome to send as many samples as they wish. There's still a lot to be done in fighting turf diseases and I'm still in the thick of it."

Which is good news for New England superintendents, some of whom have come to know Dr. Schumann as their own, personal turf disease diagnostician.

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Dr. Gail Schumann

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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: Jfitz39@rcn.com
Presidents Golf Course

VICE PRESIDENT

Michael J. Hermanson
140 Ryan Street, Gardner, MA 01440
978-632-2713 Fax 978-632-2712
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 781-647-2602
E-Mail: thebrook18@aol.com
Pine Brook Country Club

TRUSTEE

Patrick S. Krikseonaitis
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
Norfolk Golf Club

TRUSTEE

Russell E. Heller
41 Clifford Street, Melrose, MA 02176
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: Silvagcgs@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@notmail.com
The Winchendon Club

EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

Patrick J. Daly, CGCS
P. O. Box 2254, Framingham, MA 01703
508-872-9790 Fax 508-872-5393
E-Mail: Pat@framinghamccc.com
Framingham Country Club

NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN

Michael W. Stachowicz
100 Ranch Club Road, Southwick, MA 01077
413-569-9333, ext. 211 Fax 413-569-9332
E-Mail: par5n2@yahoo.com
The Ranch Golf Club

PAST PRESIDENT

Robert Ruzala
69 Gelinias 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@verizon.net

**GCSANE Headquarters**

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

Newsletter Editor **Michael Stachowicz**
Contributing Editor **Gerry Finn**
Business Manager **Julie Heston**
(E-Mail: jheston@verizon.net)

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"The people in the association (GCSANE) have been my sounding board in sorting out the variables leading the way to recognizing the disease and eventually coming to a conclusion on its cure," Gail explained. "I get phone calls, e-mails, letters from the superintendents. Anything they feel will help. And it does. We swap what I call disease messages."

"Such communications have been going on for several years. I think at certain stages of discovery and development the superintendent is out there looking for some glimmer of hope, some clue that maybe we're on to something positive. I can almost sense a feeling of relief when I tell some superintendent that 'no, your sample is not disease-infested.' To them, it's a great feeling."

Dr. Schumann and GCSANE members have collaborated on many projects in recent times. One of those had to do with the tracking and isolating of gray leaf spot, a deadly attacker of perennial ryegrass. The battle was launched three years ago after gray leaf spot had migrated north from the southern section of the country.

"We're crossing our fingers on this one," Gail informed. "This is August and so far the incidence of gray leaf spot has been rare in these parts, if even seen at all. However, September always has been a critical month. The key is recognition of the disease. Often, it's mistaken for pythium and treated the same. Needless to say, that treatment doesn't work."

Another pet project with Dr. Schumann and regional superintendents is the recognition of and relief from pink snow mold. Happily, Gail reports the project is finished with success in both phases of the battle.

"We have come a long way in the development of effective and friendly fungicides," she offered. "The snow mold project has prospered on this account. We now have a list of effective fungicides superintendents can put down and we've pinpointed an open window to do it. That window opens when grasses stop growing in fall. The superintendents seem to have agreed that mid-November is the most opportune time."

That kind of turf-thoughtful association between superintendents and Dr. Schumann will continue for at least the next two years. "I'll be juggling my lab work with teaching for those years," she revealed. "Eventually, I'd like to concentrate on

teaching. It all depends on the opportunities in that aspect of my field."

Dr. Schumann, a model interviewee, is not without a show of emotion as she separates herself physically from the New England turf scene. "I've made a lot of friends in all parts of the turf world," she said. "The turf people were part of my personal fight when I had a serious disease two years ago. They were so supportive, so wonderful to me. I can't say how much they meant when I beat that thing."

Gail repeats she has feelings for all the people with whom she's been associated over the memorable 19-years stay UMass. "I really have the best of memories, and the golf course superintendents are right in the middle of them," she added. "I want to stay in touch, and they can be assured I'll be working those samples as they pour in. I mean it when I say 'overnight is overnight.' We know turf always will be a mystery but we can solve it together."

So Gail Schumann has the best of both worlds. She's going home to the Midwest, yet remains here in spirit, via the internet, telephone, and overnight delivery.

The GCSANE and its members wish only the best for Gail, who always gives her best in the interests of the golf course superintendent and the turf world that both live in.

GERRY FINN

(After Labor Day Dr. Schumann's contact information will be: Gail Schumann, Marquette University, Dept. of Biology, Wehr Life Sciences 206A, 530 N. 15th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233; (414) 288-7793; gail.schumann@marquette.edu.)

CALENDAR . . .

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 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 |

President applauds both winners & volunteers and volunteers to run for GCSAA director post

Congratulations to Andy Drohen for his great win at the MGA State Amateur tournament held at The County Club in Brookline. As you know, Andy represents Pursell Technologies Inc. (Polyon) and is a GCSAA member. Of course, Bill Spence and his staff had the golf course in wonderful tournament condition. The tournament and Andy's win will certainly be a highlight of the MGA's centennial celebration.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in our recent Superintendent/Club Official tournament at LeBaron Hills C.C.. I believe that there are many qualities and aspects of the game of golf that make it the greatest sport man has created. And one aspect is the number of tireless people who volunteer time and efforts for the games and the clubs or courses that they play. This annual GCSANE event is a chance for us to say thank you to those people who help us do our jobs. But more importantly, this event gives our club officials an opportunity to see the GCSANE on a first-hand basis. Mark Klimm had the new golf course in perfect condition, and many thanks to Charlie Dickow for his hospitality.

Our association is involved in many charitable endeavors. In addition to our own scholarship and benevolence program, we participate in the Ouimet Fund Golf Marathon, support the Black and White on Green tournament at Franklin Park in Boston, and for a number of years have been a participating sponsor in a Jimmy Fund tournament held at Nashawtuc Country Club. However, this year the board has opted to support the Jimmy Fund directly. Because studies have shown an elevated cancer risk to people in our profession, and because literally everyone has been touched in some way by the terrible disease of cancer, it was a pleasure to present a check directly to the Jimmy Fund the night of the Club Official tournament.

I recently received a call from GCSAA Past President Tommy Witt. Tommy asked me if I would consider running for director of our national association. After much consideration and the support of the Norfolk County Commissioners and my

wife Maureen, I decided to make the run for office. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has been a vital part of my career, providing identity as a

FROM THE PRESIDENT

golf course superintendent, the vehicle of certification, and a source of continuing education. I have been privileged to serve GCSAA on the committee level and as

chapter delegate from the GCSA of New England. I am looking forward to continuing to serve our association as a member of the board of directors and appreciate all of the support I have received from GCSANE.

Finally, I hope you have all had a great season and hope to see everyone at the fall events scheduled.

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

GCSAA member Andy Drohen wins 2003 Massachusetts State Amateur title

Ninety years ago a young caddie named Francis Ouimet walked through the gates of The Country Club and captured the 1913 U.S. Open Championship in what was one of the most memorable sporting moments of all time.

On this afternoon, a former caddie from The Country Club, Andy Drohen (St. Anne C.C.) delivered one of the greatest upsets in recent Massachusetts amateur golf history by defeating four-time Richard D. Haskell MGA Player of the Year Frank Vana, Jr. (Marlborough C.C.), 1-up, in the final match of the 95th playing of the Massachusetts Amateur Championship at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass.

With the victory, Drohen's name will be etched on The Massachusetts Cup, a trophy that has been claimed by such golf legends as Francis Ouimet, Jesse Guilford, Frederick Wright and Ted Bishop.

Playing on a course that he made many a loop on during his tenure as a caddie, Drohen played with confidence and consistency during the early stages of the 36-hole match and jumped out to a 5-up lead after 24 holes. The two players battled hole-for-hole throughout the first 18 holes. Vana, who started off the morning with a bogey on the 446-yard, par 4 1st hole, found himself trailing by three holes at the turn.

The door of opportunity opened for Vana as he found himself only 1-down on the 18th tee. An errant tee shot, however,

sailed far right and into the pine trees behind the 15th green. A double bogey on that hole – Drohen had made a routine par – dropped Vana to 2-down at the break.

Drohen's momentum continued even

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after the brief lunch break as he captured that 5-up advantage thanks to a birdie on the 310-yard, par 4 24th hole. Following a brief rain storm that suspended play for an hour, Vana began an incredible – and what would have been a historic – comeback. Vana posted birdies on three of four holes to pull within two holes of Drohen heading into the final seven holes. As the rain began to threaten once again, the two competitors walked onto the 36th tee with Drohen holding onto a slim 1-up lead. Drohen looked to be in trouble when his second shot landed in the left bunker short of the hole, but he came through with an outstanding shot out of the sand that left him with a 15-foot putt for par. Vana then missed his birdie putt – one that would have forced extra holes – and watched as Drohen calmly sunk his par putt to close out the match and earn the title of 2003 Massachusetts Amateur Champion.

Editor's note: Andy is a sales representative for Pursell Technologies, Inc. and GCSAA Member. Information for this article is from an MGA press release

Remember When?: Looking back at GCSANE's past

Remember When? takes a look back at the people and events of GCSANE's past.

25 Years Ago

Sustaining the good health of a golf course was the subject of a recent overview of a projected major problem in course maintenance – shortage of water – by the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. The gist was to point out the longevity of bluegrass compared to bentgrass and poa annua when supplies of water become limited, restricted, or even banned in maintaining golf course turf.

That bluegrass is superior to bentgrass in water-stressed situations is based on knowledge and experience. Since some courses are succumbing to the requests of touring pros to change over to bent because of the frequency of so-called "fliers" hit off bluegrass, danger lurks for the golf course superintendent who makes the change from blue to bent.

The conclusion: During certain periods of drought, bent and poa annua plants will die. On the other hand, Kentucky bluegrass may look to be completely dead under the same conditions, but after a good rain it comes back to its original living state. So states the MAGCS.

Results from last month's association play at Mt. Pleasant C.C.: first place: Ron Kirkman, Tom Schofield, Leroy Allen, Brian Cowan - 63; second place (after match of cards): Bill Carter, Steve Murphy, Steve Hosington, Frank Marean - 63; third place: Doug Johnson, Paul Johnson, Norm Mucciarone, Buddy Young - 64.

The new member voted in at the last meeting is Richard Arzillo. Richard is head golf course superintendent at the George Wright Golf Course.

Here's a chance for GCSANE members to spread their wings and learn how the four winds of the profession work. The event is the first joint meeting of New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Northeast, and New England golf course associations. It all gets together Oct. 17 at the Woodstock Golf and Tennis Club, Woodstock, Vt.

15 Years Ago

GCSANE president Dick Zepp presented a captain's chair to Bill Spence, superintendent of The Country Club, in recognition of the outstanding job Bill and his staff did at last June's U.S. Open.

The endless Miami weather has taken its toll on golf courses in the Northeast. Day after day excessive heat, oppressive high humidity, and monsoon-type rains have made life miserable for the golf course

REMEMBER WHEN?

superintendent. As we enter the second week of August, the suburbs north, south, and west of Boston have experienced over 30 days of 90-plus degree temperatures.

For many clubs, turf started to deteriorate at the end of July. Some courses suffered from severe infestation of Pythium on the greens. With such an excess of humid weather and upwards of a foot of rain in some areas, fairways appeared to be blanketed with slime.

The following week the battle was lost when poa annua and other grasses went

into remission. Some superintendents said their fairways and tees were lost because of Pythium, Fusarium, Summer Patch, and an overabundance of moisture. A few insist that fairways were damaged by a strange looking Brown Patch. It appears more blight materialized in the areas receiving higher amounts of rain. It was, indeed, Miami weather at its worst.

Congratulations to Bob Garrity of Heritage Hill, our new GCSANE champion. Bob shot 73-75-148 at the Thorny Lea G.C. Doug Johnson finished second with 77-74-151. Jack Hasset of Mt. Pleasant (Lowell) picked up third place at 76-77-153. Mike Hermanson of Gardner Municipal captured net honors, while in a well-stocked skins game field the winners were Jim O'Kelly, Brae Burn; Ron Kirkman, Needham; Tom Flaherty, Woods Hole; Cameron Quinn, Turf Products; and Garrity.

GERRY FINN



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New England Regional Turf Foundation welcomes suggestions for new research topics

By Gary J. Sykes,
Executive Director, NERTF

It's July 21 and it feels like we are riding the wave-crest of one of the oddest years on record for growing turf. We've had it all: cold, snow, cool, rain, warm, rain, and hot and dry. It sounds normal, but the combinations and durations seemed extreme to say the least.

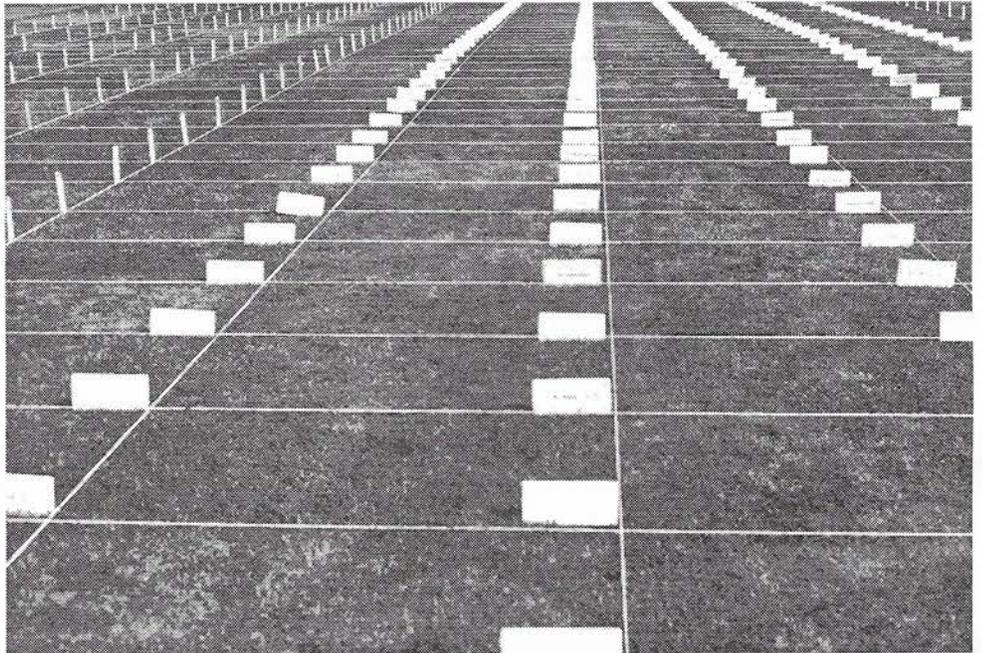
Regardless, it seems each year unique issues arise and challenge the best minds in turf. This year's insect generations and

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population are near the top of local concerns. Winter death showed up on many golf courses again in non-consistent patterns. Summer, as always, is separating the ready from the not so ready and the recurring theme continues to be "endure to the end!"

The Mission Statement of the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation is: *Improving Turfgrass: Through Research, Education, and Environmental Stewardship.*

The NERTF wishes to communicate always that it is dedicated to responding to the needs of those managing turf in the New England Region first. In New England, we are fortunate to have great research facilities and well qualified researchers who could help in this effort. Attempts to develop and improve turfgrass with ongoing research



Pictured above is a panorama of turf research plots at the University of Rhode Island.

at state universities will add to the arsenal of all managers. The NERTF is dedicated to funding this cause, with the knowledge that the beneficiaries will be the turfgrass managers in New England.

The NERTF needs input from the turf industry on areas and topics of needed research, and encourages anyone who has concerns to contact the NERTF board or office with suggestions. We need your suggestions and concerns. It is our plan to

place those suggestions in the hands of the researchers on your behalf. The NERTF Funding Committee plans are to suggest that these issues would have greater weight when project proposals are submitted. The board is aware, however, that other research issues should always be considered, especially when they could provide a critical link to a larger problem or issue.

The NERTF is also asking anyone who hasn't made a club donation to dig out the letter sent to you in February. The letter asked for your research suggestions and a donation from your club to the NERTF for \$200 or more to help with project funding. If you cannot find your letter you can download one from the NERTF website (www.nertf.org) or request one from the NERTF office (401-841-5490). Your club's name will appear in our yearly newsletter as a turf research supporter, and all funds will go directly toward ongoing turf research projects in New England this year. The next project funded could be the one you've been hoping for!

The NERTF wishes everyone all the best in our continued common pursuit of "Improving Turfgrass!"

A new feature for the Newsletter

Editor's Note: www.gcsane.org has a forum on the website. Starting this month we will reprint select postings in order to help them gain a wider audience.

Cushman Mowing Deck (Ron Dobosz, 7/29/2003). Does anyone have an old or extra Cushman front line mower deck available? Looking for a Top Flow 60" deck model #888326. Call or email. Thanks. Dobz.

Range Nets (Pat Daly, 6/25/2003). Does anyone have a company that they use for installing range poles/nets? I have to add a few poles on my range ASAP. I have

contacted both Grattan Line Corp. and Elec.com for prices and need at least one more quote. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thanks, Pat.

FROM THE FORUM

Range Nets (Jim Fitzroy replied, 6/25/2003). Pat, We've used United Fence out of Pembroke. The contact is Ed Demersky (781 826-9655). We have used J.A. Cissel and Redden Marine nets but the thing that has held up best is coated chicken wire. Jim.

GCSAA conference hotels vs. doing it on your own

In our quest to provide excellent customer service, one of GCSAA's top priorities, we reserve blocks of hotel rooms for members at the GCSAA Conference & Show. The hotel will not reserve rooms without a commitment; GCSAA must sign a block contract. In return, they offer complimentary and discounted rooms for speakers, instructors, and staff. In Atlanta, these discounts saved the association \$163,000.

By member demand, our conference is held in popular cities that host major conventions, many at the same time as our event. Therefore, attendees of other conventions look for hotel rooms on the same dates. If GCSAA cannot prove that

we will use the rooms blocked, eventually hotels will sell the rooms to other groups.

GCSAA NEWS

GCSAA has hotel rates in San Diego ranging from \$104-\$235. We offer three great areas: downtown, Shelter Island, and Mission Valley. Most downtown hotels are in the Gas Lamp District.

Many will consider a dot-com to book a hotel. This may provide a room at an "introductory" lower rate for a few days. Although GCSAA negotiates the best group rates, hotels will not offer the lower rate for a large block. Furthermore, rooms

booked outside the block (through a dot-com) do not count toward GCSAA's room commitment. We need your help!

Let GCSAA provide excellent customer service: no-hassle room reservations. In return, we guarantee a room will be available and not booked by other groups. Also, remember that GCSAA provides complimentary shuttle service to every conference hotel. Staying in one of the official hotels provides networking opportunities during breakfast, on the shuttle ride, and during cocktail and dinner hours. With your help GCSAA can avoid attrition issues.

Please support your association and select one of GCSAA's official hotels.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed for membership: Jeffrey M. Gudaitis, Superintendent, The Georgetown Club, Newburyport, Mass.

INFORMATION

Aquatrols announces inaugural Aquatrols Scholarship Essay Contest. The contest is open to children of turf management professionals attending an accredited college or university during the 2004-05 academic year. Entrants will compete for a total of \$4,000 in scholarship prizes awarded. Instructions, rules, and eligibility will be posted on the Aquatrols website by Sept. 15, 2003. Contact (800) 257-7797; <http://www.aquatrols.com>; mail to: info@aquatrols.com.

Applications for the 2004 GCSAA Excellence in Government Relations Awards are now available to members and affiliated chapters. The EGR Awards recognize outstanding individual and chapter efforts in government relations. Recipients are recognized for accomplishments in areas of advocacy and compliance. Nominees will be judged on how their efforts best serve the superintendent profession and golf course management. Any affiliated chapter and all Class AA, A, superintendent member, and C members are eligible to receive EGR Awards. Recipients will be selected by the GCSAA Government Relations Committee, and recognized through GCSAA publications and at the 75th International Golf Course Conference & Show in San Diego. The deadline for nominations is Oct. 15, 2003. Applications are available online. To request a hard

copy nomination form or for more information, contact Erica Brown at (800) 472-7878, ext. 453.

Website of the Month: www.Golfclubatlas.com. It features profiles of several New England courses and a discussion forum on golf course architecture. It offers a good search engine to find discussions about a golf course or architect.

GCSANE NEWS

GCSANE needs sites to host monthly meetings in 2004. Please contact Dave Comee at 978-297-1223 if you wish to help out.

Once again Dick Duggan, superintendent at The Meadow at Peabody, will participate in the Ouimet Golf Marathon. Look for sign-up sheets at meetings or contact Mike Hermanson to pledge.

Congratulations to Tom Brodeur on his new baby boy, Sammy.

Pat Daly is serving on two boards in addition to his duties at GCSANE as Education Chairman. He is on the Wading River Advisory Board, helping the MGA with their new learning facility and on the UMASS Extension Turf Advisory Board.

POSITION OPENINGS

Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. Renaissance Golf Club is a private 18-hole Brian Silva-design golf course in Haverhill, Mass. The goal at Renaissance is to develop a traditional golf course maintained to world-class standards. The Renaissance is scheduled to open in 2004. Highly motivated individuals with career goals in golf

course maintenance are desired. Applicants must have a turfgrass maintenance related degree. Several seasons of golf course experience is a must. We are searching for an individual who has the ability to manage and organize work crews and has a keen eye for details. Spanish language skills are a plus. Applicants must be prepared to work long hours. Massachusetts pesticide license required. Individual must be prepared to undertake any task necessary during the construction period. Assistant's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, employee training; mowing; and pesticide/fertilization applications. Pay commensurate with experience. Compensation includes paid vacations, personal days, health insurance, dues for national/local chapters, and golf privileges. Other benefits available as the club develops. Position open until filled. Please send resume to: Daniel Higgins, CGCS, Renaissance Golf Club, 154 East Broadway, Haverhill, MA 01830.

Golf Course Superintendent. Bass Rocks Golf Club is a private 18-hole "links" type golf course founded in 1896 and located on the ocean in Gloucester, Mass. Requirements include a turf management degree or equivalent with a minimum of five years of experience as superintendent or assistant. Individual must be skilled in administration, management, personnel, budgeting, and communication. Mass. pesticide license is required. Experience with golf course construction and irrigation systems necessary. Computer literacy is a must. Full salary and benefits package available, commensurate with experience and education. Deadline: September 3, 2003. Send resume and salary requirements to Bob Shea, Bass Rocks Golf Club, P.O. Box 303, Gloucester, MA 01930; or Fax: 978-282-7725

Please Patronize these FRIENDS of the ASSOCIATION

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Articulator, Terra Topper, Greens Groomer brush, & used equipment.
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Accusols

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Allen's Seed Store Inc.

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Agresource, Inc.

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Tim Gould, Guy Travers
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Michael Drake Construction, Inc.

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Michael Drake - (508) 875-8247

EZGO/Textron

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Hartney Greymont

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Golf course construction.
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2910 Draneville Rd., Lakeland, FL 33811
Ray Duffy - (800) 995-8720, (860) 646-0259

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Sheila Johnson - (978) 462-9358

Meet host superintendent David Copeland, Townsend Ridge C.C.

The September meeting of the GCSANE will be held at Townsend Ridge Country Club, where David Copeland will be our host for the day. David has been a member of GCSANE for over eight years. He has been the superintendent at Townsend Ridge since 1994 and was there to oversee the grow-in process.

David's experience in this business includes spending time as an assistant superintendent at the Wianno Club from 1982-1984. He then spent six years as superintendent at Monoosnock Country Club in Leominster, Mass. He traveled and lived in Portugal to oversee the Golden Eagle Country Club for two years, before returning to New England

to start work at Townsend Ridge. He received his associates degree from Stockbridge School of Agriculture in 1979.

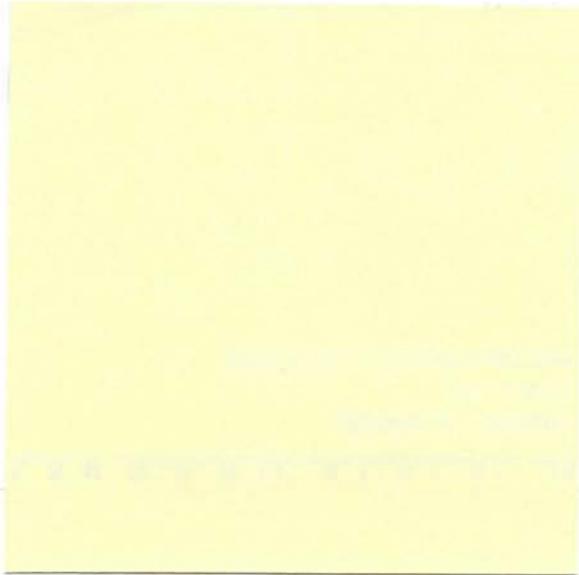
HOST PROFILE

David has many interests besides playing golf with his friends and co-workers. He enjoys spending time at home with his wife, JoAnne, and their daughter Kate. He likes to take his daughter fishing and enjoys camping with his family.

Townsend Ridge C.C. Facts:

Club Name: Townsend Ridge C. C.
Superintendent: David G. Copeland
Golf Professional: Corey Mansfield
Number of Members: 200
Terrain: Hilly/Lots of wetland

Architect: Ted Manning, Mary Mills
Year Organized: 1996
Par: 70
Regular Yardage: 5,814
(Rating: 68.5/123)
Ladies Yardage: 4,709
(Rating: 68.3/115)
Championship Yardage: 6,215
(Rating: 70.2/125)
Greens (yardage & type): 3 acres
Providence bent
Tees (yardage & type): 2 acres
rye & bents
Fairways (acres & type): 15 acres
fescue, rye, bentgrass, bent
Roughs (acres & type): 20 acres
fescue, rye
Carts: Electric



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