



# THE NEWSLETTER

June 2004

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.

## **Dennis Houle enjoys a happy homecoming as superintendent at historic Winchester C.C.**

**By Jim McCabe,  
The Boston Globe**

Even now, in the cold and the drizzle and the miserable dampness of spring, these are good days for Dennis Houle.

The homecoming, after all, provides a built-in blanket of warmth, and the intangibles that come with it are enough to keep him happy.

### **MONTHLY FEATURE**

For instance?

"Now, I can turn on my TV and root for the Red Sox and not have to watch the Yankees. For 17 years, my favorite team was whoever was playing the Yankees."

Houle, you see, has returned to his native Massachusetts, albeit at the other end of the state. Born and raised in Chicopee – the "home of the world's longest kielbasa," he'll proudly tell you – the 40-year-old Houle accepted the superintendent's position at stately Winchester Country Club late last fall and if you bump into him and see him smiling, it's because so much has fallen into place for him.

"It's a great golf course. It's just phenomenal to have this opportunity," said Houle. "To get the chance to work on a [Donald] Ross course? I'm thrilled."

Just don't get the idea that he was scanning the industry newsletter, searching madly for such an opening. He wasn't. Except for that dreaded influence of Yankee propaganda in the Nutmeg State, Houle for 17 years was settled in

nicely at a series of Connecticut golf clubs.

There were a few years as an assistant at Brooklawn Country Club in Fairfield, then two years as superintendent at one of the grand layouts in New England, Yale University Golf Club in New Haven. It's a Charles Blair Macdonald-Seth Raynor design that is saturated in an unmistakable aura.

"Rees Jones was on the selection committee when I got hired at Yale," said Houle, and there is irony in that because the next move took him to Redding Country Club in Redding. That's one of the first golf courses you'll find on Jones's resume and it's where Houle was very happy for 10 years.

The only thing is, the chance to work at Winchester was too good an opportunity to pass up. Yes, because it's one of Ross's great pieces of work, but also because not only is Houle a Bay State native, so, too, is wife Cindy.

"She's from Chelmsford and has relatives in Somerville," said Houle. "She lived in Newton at one time and we always said we'd like to get back. It was a goal of both of ours."

Of course, life is different than it was when Dennis and Cindy first headed to Connecticut, back in those years just after he graduated from the Stockbridge school (1983) and the University of Massachusetts (1985), and right after he did a year's internship at Springfield Country Club.

For one thing, "I took her to Connecticut with no children and I brought her back with three." Their names are Maggie, 6; Kate, 5; and Jack, 3.

While Houle was at Brooklawn, it hosted the US Senior Open (Gary Player won) and while at New Haven, there were a couple of stops by what was then called the Nike Tour. So he's been around courses held in high esteem,

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**"Now, I can turn on my TV and root for the Red Sox and not have to watch the Yankees. For 17 years, my favorite team was whoever was playing the Yankees."**

**Dennis Houle  
Winchester C.C.**



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**"There is no such thing as status quo at a golf course. Everyone in the business knows that."**

**Dennis Houle  
Winchester C.C.**

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making it a comfortable fit at Winchester. Founded in 1902, Winchester's history is rich and storied, from its famous Father-Son Tournament, to a list of winners there, names such as Francis Ouimet (1919 State Amateur), Glenna Collett (1921 women's State Amateur), Fred Wright (1931 State Amateur), Jim Browning (1965 State Open), Dana Quigley (1985 NEPGA), and Fran Quinn Jr. (1986 State Amateur). Legendary men such as Harold "Jugs" McSpaden and J.L. "Tex" McReynolds have had significant stints as head professional there.

In other words, it's a club with heritage and great substance, and Houle feels fortunate to have returned to Massachusetts with such a position, though the realities of the job go beyond the nostalgia. Though he's still learning the quickest route "to the clubhouse," Houle is prepared for what Mother Nature has for him.

The winter was cold, but not entirely brutal, "except that our poa took a beating," said Houle, who inherits a classic golf course, but also the daily problems that are common in the industry.

"There is no such thing as status quo at a golf course. Everyone in the business knows that."

Like virtually every other golf club in the country, Winchester is dealing with projects. Right now, it's a water supply issue and eventually there'll be the need to go to work on the irrigation system. But of more immediate concern is the transformation from winter to spring and Houle knows what that means in New England, Winchester not being that much different than Redding.

"We've overseeded," he said, "but we need someone to turn on the heat a little. We want to start. People are anxious. Me, too." 🍷

## CALENDAR . . .

- July 13 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**  
Team of Two Championship  
The Meadow at Peabody  
Peabody, Mass.  
Supt. - Richard Duggan, CGCS
- August 24 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**  
Individual Championship  
Marlborough C.C. (permanent site)  
Marlborough, Mass.  
Supt. - Kenneth Crimmings
- Sept. 20 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**  
Supt./Club Official Tournament  
Tedesco Country Club  
Marblehead, Mass.  
Supt. - Peter Hasak
- October 5 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**  
Stockbridge Fund Raiser  
Tournament  
Hickory Ridge Country Club  
Amherst, Mass.  
Supt. - Robert Ruzsala
- Nov. 1 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**  
Scramble  
Bear Hill Golf Club  
Stoneham, Mass.  
Supt. - Richard French



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# It's nothing but glowing presidential reviews for S&B Tournament and Woods Hole meeting

If you missed the Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament held in May at Pine Brook, you missed a great golf course and you missed a great day. Hats off (per Brian Cowan) to Michael Iacono, CGCS, and his staff for some of the finest conditions at any site we've visited in my 33 years as a superintendent. To top it off, it appears that we will net around \$15,000 for our S & B fund.



We then had the pleasure of meeting jointly with the Cape at Woods Hole in June. The day and the golf course had many in attendance commenting that they couldn't remember two better meeting sites back to back. Thomas Flaherty, CGCS, and his staff did their usual stellar job. Thank

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hats off (per Brian Cowan) to Michael Iacono, CGCS, (Pine Brook C.C.) and his staff for some of the finest conditions at any site we've visited in my 33 years as a superintendent. To top it off, it appears that we will net around \$15,000 for our S & B fund.

**Mike Hermanson  
President, GCSANE**

you to Pine Brook and Woods Hole for hosting the GCSANE! By the way, Tom Flaherty asked this president if we could have a Woods Hole only rule? It would allow hats to be worn indoors, but Past President Brian Cowan said "no way," with a few expletives deleted.

While I'm rambling: GCSANE Past President Richard Zepp, CGCS, and others have requested some clarification on what we charge our retirees at each monthly meeting. As everyone knows we run a raffle each month. Half the money goes back to the members in prizes and the other half pays for the retirees' lunches. The only month that is an exception is August when all retirees are invited in writing to attend and pay no cost at all. If there is any money left over each month, it either goes into S & B or is used for trophies and awards presented at the Annual Meeting. If a monthly meeting cost is \$70 and lunch is only \$30 then the retirees cost for that month would be \$40. I hope this eliminates any confusion on this matter.

Getting back to the Woods Hole meeting, I would personally like to thank Bob York and BASF for all that they did. BASF donated \$2000 each to the Cape and New England's S & B fund. They also ran a raffle for many free prizes and Stu Eyman, superintendent at Highland Links, was the low net winner with 66. He will advance to Pinehurst with the

possibility of playing on ESPN against either John Daly or Gary McCord. It was also very interesting and educational to listen to several of our superintendents discuss the results of their field trials of various BASF products.

Just a note, in lieu of a regularly scheduled October meeting, everyone is invited to participate in a fund-raiser tournament for the Joseph Troll Turf Research Center Building. This event will be

*continued on page 9*

**I would personally like to thank Bob York and BASF for all that they did. BASF donated \$2000 each to the Cape and New England's S & B fund.**

**Mike Hermanson  
President, GCSANE**

## Unanimous vote of GCSANE board determines breach of ethics code

**GCSANE NEWS**

As a result of James Reinertson's conviction on four counts of larceny against his former employer, Charles River Country Club, the Board of Directors of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of New England has voted unanimously that a breach of our code of ethics has occurred.

Specifically, Article III, Section 1, which states "a member shall be deemed to have violated the code by: acting and speaking in a manner which would cause discredit to our profession and Association" has been breached.

Based on this breach, the board has also voted unanimously to proceed with the expulsion of Mr. Reinertson without prejudice on May 25, 2004 as outlined in our bylaws under Article IV, Section 14.

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# Beginning in fall 2004, GCSANE will record education points online & service points via code

GCSAA-affiliated chapters now have the ability to record education points and service points online for their members. If your chapter chooses this option, you will need to designate one individual to record the points for your members.

(GCSANE Executive Secretary Sharon Brownell will begin recording education points in the fall, and for now a code will be given at the meetings for service points.)

## GCSANE NEWS

Through the new tool, your chapter's representative will be able to:

- **Register a chapter meeting.** Chapter meetings that have not been pre-approved for education points will earn attendees .10 service points.

What if our chapter chooses not to record points for members? If your chapter decides not to record service points for its members, your chapter's representative will still need to register the meeting. Please provide your members with the chapter meeting code and

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**GCSANE Executive Secretary Sharon Brownell will begin recording education points in the fall, and for now a code will be given at the meetings for service points.**

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instruct them to complete the online service point affidavit to receive credit.

For all chapter meetings after June 1, your chapter's members will be responsible for entering the code on the service point affidavit. If your members still need to record points for events that occurred prior to June 1, they can submit the

service point affidavit for meetings in which a code was not required. They will be directed to a special form to submit points for those past events.

- **Note: Your chapter can apply for education points through the chapter administrative tool.** If your chapter has a meeting eligible for education points, or is hosting some kind of education event (separate from a chapter meeting) then your chapter's representative must complete a chapter external education application. This process has not changed, but the application form is now available online and we have added a link to the online application for your convenience.

Upon receipt of the application and supplemental information, GCSAA staff will review the information and, if the program meets the criteria, education points will be awarded. Your chapter representative will be sent an approval code notice with the event approval code. This notice should be distributed to attendees for their records.

If your chapter elects not to record education points, please provide members a copy of the approval code notice and instruct them to complete the online education point affidavit to receive credit.

- **Recording attendance.** This is strictly voluntary. If your chapter chooses to provide this service, your chapter representative will log on to the chapter administrative tool and select either the

*continued on page 9*



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Division  
Representative

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**The points, service or education, will automatically post to each member's record and transcript. Members can access their transcript to verify points were recorded.**

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# Weevils are on the move, reports Dr. Vittum of UMass: An update on Annual Bluegrass (*Hyperodes*) Weevil

By Dr. Pat Vittum,  
Dept. of Entomology, UMass

**H**yperodes weevils (a.k.a. annual bluegrass weevils) are causing headaches for golf course superintendents up and down the Atlantic seaboard, and even into western Pennsylvania. We have had reports (unconfirmed but numerous!) of

weevil damage in the Philadelphia area, south Jersey, and West Virginia, as well as western Pennsylvania and many locations in New England.

We just analyzed samples from Westchester County, N.Y., earlier today. Samples were taken from plots that had about 150 larvae per square foot last week, and the larvae had been evenly distributed at that time — small, medium, and large larvae. I had expected to see a lot of pupae in today's samples, but was surprised to continue to see lots of small larvae, along with medium-sized larvae and large larvae. There were a few pupae, but not as many as I had expected.

## PEST REPORT

Here's what I think is going on: First of all, something about the conditions this past winter and early spring was very favorable for weevil survival, so populations are higher than we have seen in a long time — at least in many locations. Obviously, the adults survived the winter very well.

Here's what I think is going on: First of all, something about the conditions this past winter and early spring was very favorable for weevil survival, so populations are higher than we have seen in a long time — at least in many locations. Obviously, the adults survived the winter very well.

The spring temperatures were variable, with stretches of warm weather followed by cooler conditions. It appears that some adults got an early start and began laying eggs about "on schedule," while others were delayed. As a result, we had a very extended period of egg-laying in most locations. This means we are already finding all sizes of larvae and pupae in the same site. While we often see overlap later in the season, it is a little unusual to see such a spread this early in the summer.

The practical implication of this spread of development is that it will be very difficult to figure out the most efficient way to control weevils this year. It will be more important than ever to scout

the property and know what stages you have in a given area. Larvae look like grains of rice with brown heads. Pupae are cream colored and sort of diamond-shaped, and you can see the wings developing on the back. Collect turf cores and tease apart the turf by hand,

*Continued on page 9*

The practical implication of this spread of development is that it will be very difficult to figure out the most efficient way to control weevils this year.

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# You'll encounter a veritable meeting of minds when using the association's online GCSANE Forum

From time to time *The Newsletter* reprints selected postings from GCSANE's web site forum in order to reach a wider audience.

## Rollers

(Rich Caughey, 5/18/04). My members are wondering why we don't roll our greens and have asked me to check out the latest & greatest in rollers! I am looking for some information on different rollers especially the vibratory vs. regular. Also wondering how many rollers are collecting dust?

(Peter Hasak, 5/21/04). Rich, I am still using two Salsco's now which are 10 years old. Every Saturday in the spring, 2X per week from Memorial Day forward. After 10 years, have never seen a negative effect, but never use them if conditions are unfavorable. Don't forget the added labor expense. Good luck! Peter.

(John LeClair, 5/22/04). Rich, we use a tow-behind roller, the version I have is a Chetek which I believe is now Broyhill. Machine has various attachments as well. Ours has spiking units that attach to the roller. We run the roller 2-3 times per week. This was originally purchased through Allens Seed. Take Care, John.

## S&B Tournament

(Ron Dobosz, 5/18/04). Wanted to write how wonderful the S&B tournament was yesterday at Pine Brook. A lot of people thought \$250.00 a player was expensive but for all of us that were there it was a bargain!!! Mike Iacono had the golf course in perfect condition. It's been a long time since I have played a course so perfect. Also, the food was tremendous. Great job Mike! Dobz.

(Bob Healey, 5/18/04). Kudos to Mike Iacono and his staff, on a job well done. The course set-up was superb. Toughest decision all day, which to eat first, the

lobster tail or the filet!!! Mike please extend our thanks and praise for the extra touches found everywhere all day long to your general manager and the head chef. Even the weather was perfect. Bob Healey.

(James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, 5/22/04). I'd certainly second the comments by Ron and Bob but the important thing to remember is the money raised from this event is put to great use. We have not only awarded scholarships to our members' and friends' children, we have also been able to help a number of families in their time of need. A special thanks needs to go out to not only the vendors who supported the event but those that went above and beyond the call of duty to make the event a success. Jim Fitz.

(Jason Adams, 5/28/04) Mike, the golf course was incredible!!! The place really blew me away!!! Great job to you and your crew. Thanks. 🍷

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## A letter received from former editor who did some research on past Newsletter issues

### Letter to the Editor:

This is in reference to Mr. Dean Robertson's letter to the editor about an affiliate company making the first page in our March Newsletter.

I did some research and found and determined that in two 1968 editions, Mr. Orville Clapper, (Clapper Co., Newton, Mass.) an affiliate, was featured on the first page in our Newsletter. If memory serves, the gentleman who recently took exception was the editor of our Newsletter at that time.

Regards,  
Ron Kirkman

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**Tuesday, October 5, 2004**

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# Fundraiser Tournament for the Joseph Troll Turf Research Center

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

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**Registration Deadline**  
**September 17, 2004**

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## Program

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 10:30 | Registration                                    |
| 11:30 | Shotgun Start                                   |
|       | Lunch provided                                  |
|       | Dinner immediately following<br>golf tournament |

## General Information:

- Scramble Format - Team Gross and Net Prizes.
- Spikeless shoe policy in effect.
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## Registration Form

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*Michael Iacono, CGCS, Pine Brook Country Club*

*"Turflinks provided us with a high level of professional service that was critical in the timetable we were working with. We had a small window of time to operate in and they assured us that they could get it done. They did, because of quality equipment, skilled operators and a commitment to customer service. We'll continue to do business in the future."*

*Scott McCoy, Facility Manager, Boston College Athletics*

*"I hired Turflinks Environmental Service, Inc. because of the quality of their work and dedication to service. These qualities are very important as I make the decision to hire outside contractors. What impressed me the most was the comments I received from my membership. Everyone was impressed with the quality of work, how quickly Turflinks completed the job, the professionalism of the Turflinks staff and condition of their equipment. These points have made it easier for me to continue the membership to outsource more of our agronomic services."*

*Mike Tanner, Golf Course Superintendent, Alpine Country Club*



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# Having a rough time at Marlborough Country Club



At right, a frequent GCSANE Forum contributor, **Rich Caughey**, plays out of the "rough" at last year's meeting at Marlborough Country Club. GCSANE will be back at Marlboro C.C. in August for the Individual Championship.

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

### MEMBERSHIP

**Welcome New Members:** Matt TenEyck, Superintendent, Wedgwood Pines G.C., Stow, Mass.; Brian Juno, Affiliate, Turf Enhancement; Edward Olsen, Superintendent, Spring Valley C.C., Sharon Mass.; Peter Ervin, Assistant, Pine Brook C.C., Newton, Mass.; John O'Donnell, Jr., Superintendent, Hopkinton C.C., Hopkinton, Mass.; Syngenta Professional Products, Friend, Manchester, Conn.; Robert Goglia, representative; Robert Goglia, Affiliate, Syngenta Professional Products, Manchester, Conn.; and Atlantic Silica Inc, Friend, Enfield, Canada.

**Proposed for Membership:** Patrick S. Fallow, Assistant, Worcester C.C., Worcester Mass.; Torrey R. Kovalsky, Assistant, Salem C.C., Peabody Mass.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Congratulations to Brian Luccini** on his new position as sales representative for Turf Products Corporation.

**Best wishes to Joanne Cornicelli** on a speedy recovery from a recent operation.

**Condolences go to the family of Mark Taylor**, sales representative for Sawtelle Brothers in Maine, who passed away on June 2, 2004.

**Congratulations to Stuart Eyman**, GCMACC member and superintendent at Highland Links, who won the People vs. The Pros tournament at Woods Hole G.C. on June 10. His net score was 66. He will go on to compete against other amateur golfers in August at Pinehurst #2 with a chance to play against the Pros with \$100,000 prize going to the winner. The final tournament will be broadcast on ESPN August 6-9.

### SEMINAR

**University of Rhode Island Field Day** will be on Wednesday, August 18, 2004 at the C. Richard Skogley Turfgrass Research Center. The schedule is as follows: 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. - Seminar for youth sports turfgrass managers and coaches. Introduction to soils, turf selection, basics of sports turf management, pest control programs. 8 a.m. - 12 noon - Vendor displays. 11 a.m. - Demonstration of verticutting, aeration, and topdressing equipment. 12:30 p.m. - Barbecue lunch. 1:15 p.m. - Afternoon program with tours featuring pre-emergent and post-emergent crabgrass trials; velocity trials across different turfgrasses and environments; Poa management programs; Velvet bentgrass developments - germplasm and management programs; disease control program trials; and nitrate losses and groundwater monitoring programs. Pesticide re-certification credits are expected for those participating in the afternoon programs. For additional information contact the Richard R. Skogley Turfgrass Research Center at the University of Rhode Island.

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EVENT**

GCSANE thanks the following companies for their support of the 2004 Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament held May 17, 2004 at the Pine Brook Country Club (Host: Michael Iacono, CGCS). The net raised for this worthy cause was \$14,750.

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Bob Healey (Hilton Head condo)  
John Ferry (Red Sox tickets)

On behalf of the S&B Committee and the membership of GCSANE I would like to thank each and every participant and

contributor to this very successful event. First and foremost, Mike Iacono, for his tireless effort and a golf course as perfect as any. Thanks to Pine Brook C.C. for hosting a wonderful day. Thanks to Kevin Lyons and TurfLinks for the participant gifts. Thanks to Chris Peterson and Tom Irwin, Inc. for the Pro Shop Certificates. And thanks to all of the Platinum and Silver Sponsors (see above) whose continued support is very much appreciated.

A special appreciation goes to all of the superintendents who put forth the effort to secure golf certificates for our raffle. This at times seems like an endless chore, but it is so very important to the event. Thank you.

**Dave Comee, Chairman  
GCSANE Scholarship  
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