



THE NEWSLETTER

May 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.

For Vin Iacono at Blue Hill Country Club, it's a brand new vista everywhere he looks

**By Jim McCabe,
The Boston Globe**

New golf season, new optimism. For superintendent Vin Iacono, it even feels like a new place of work, even if he is still reporting for his duties at Blue Hill Country Club in Canton, Mass., just as he has been for nine years.

Why the fresh enthusiasm? For Iacono, it's simple. The birth of a new golf season provides the chance to unveil the "new-look" Blue Hill C.C. because the bulk of a major restoration project has been completed. Surely, the work made for a hectic and demanding 2003, but Iacono firmly anticipates that 2004 will bring with it rewards.

"The response from the members has been very good," said Iacono. "It keeps things exciting. I mean, it's not something I would like to go through every year, but it's quite a change from the day-to-day routine, I will say."

Everywhere he turns, Iacono gets a view of Blue Hill C.C. that is different from what he was used to, but he isn't objecting. Opened in 1925, the course had stood pretty much untouched for decades. Perhaps a new tee here and a rebuilt green there, but other than that, it was in 2002 a course not much different than the one that hosted the 1956 PGA Championship (won by Jack Burke, Jr.) or those annual LPGA Tour events.

"It was getting old," said Iacono. "There wasn't much drainage. The bun-

kers needed to be redone. The faces were starting to fall apart. We needed all new tees. We had to add some meat to the par-5s. Those holes never had fairway bunkers on them, but now they do. We needed a new irrigation system; the old one was 35-40 years old, but the

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**Vin Iacono
Blue Hill C.C.**

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To pull this project all together, the Blue Hill C.C. membership hired Ron Prichard, a well-respected architect who takes great pride in restoring Donald Ross gems. While Blue Hill C.C. wasn't designed by Ross, it is credited to another New England legend, Skip Wogan. By all accounts, Wogan was a disciple of Ross's and Blue Hill C.C. very much has the Ross feel to it.

A key point to the restoration, said Iacono, was the work around the greens. "Three greens were rebuilt, and bunkering around all the greens were rebuilt so that the greens are the highest point of the entire green complex, to achieve a bold look."

Also, Iacono said Prichard paid close attention to the new bunkers, determined to make them blend into the character of the course. There had been some bunker work done back in 1984, "but they were totally out of character with the course," said Iacono.

The project began in November of 2002, which proved to be a nightmarish winter. That made 2003 even more hectic, but Iacono said there was one big advantage for Blue Hill C.C. – the club's nine-hole "challenger course."

Those holes were also factored into the restoration project, but while "we had our ups and downs, we were always able to keep 18 holes open," said Iacono. "We were fortunate on that front."

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"It was a great learning experience to be involved in. I've always liked the architectural part of the game and I've learned a lot from this experience."

Vin Iacono
Blue Hill C.C.

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Of course, when Wogan oversaw the building of Blue Hill C.C., he didn't have the restrictions that exist today. As there is everywhere, wetland and environmental concerns are prevalent at Blue Hill C.C., and working around those areas has been a big part of the job. The 2003-04 winter, while not as ferocious as the one before it, still brought enough bitter cold to slow down the construction, leaving Iacono and his staff to focus on the always-crucial tree work.

"We got to about 1,500 trees," said Iacono. "So it was an OK winter."

Even better now that it has given way to spring and Iacono and others can get out and absorb a better view of the work. The course will have to be measured again for yardage, slope, and a rating, and Iacono laughs because he knows there will be those who will argue that the layout is tougher.

"We have added a few back tees and you can stretch it 200 yards more than before and we've added 30 bunkers," said Iacono. "But I think all of the changes have been good changes."

What isn't up for debate is how much fun Iacono has had with this project. "It was a nice twist," he said. "It was a great learning experience to be involved in. I've always liked the architectural part of the game and I've learned a lot from this experience." ■

CALENDAR . . .

- June 10 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Joint Meeting with Golf Course Managers Association of Cape Cod Woods Hole Golf Club Woods Hole, Mass.
Supt. - Thomas Flaherty, CGCS
- 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 Ruszala
- Nov. 1 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Scramble Bear Hill Golf Club Stoneham, Mass.
Supt. - Richard French



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GCSANE President Hermanson shares a letter received from Affiliate Liaison Bob Healey

I hope that those of you with low temperature kill on greens, tees, and fairways have had warm weather and



great recovery. Those of us repairing our irrigation systems are just beginning to stop cursing the frost from this past winter. Better days are coming!

One of our veteran members brings up a good point. Since we are all gentlemen, when we are at out meetings, please do not wear your hat while indoors.

The GCSANE Board of Directors has reduced the late call-in fee from \$25.00 to \$15.00. Please call in on time so the late fee does not have to be assessed.

The following is a letter that I received from Bob Healey, Affiliate Liaison:

Dear Mike,

Getting back to my office Monday afternoon, I found three phones messages from Friends of the Association, one of who referenced your giving him my name to contact as the association's Affiliate Liaison.

I returned the phone calls from three Friends of the Association, whom I subsequently found out, had talked to several other of their fellow Friends. All the calls referenced the front page featured in March 2004, issue of *The Newsletter*, written by the editor, Michael Stachowicz.

The reaction from these Friends of the Association, to the "non-paid two page advertisement," is not positive. These Friends questioned the front page treatment, stating they never remembered a front page featured article about a particular vendor before in *The Newsletter*. All had the same basic first impressions, after the raised eyebrows:

"How did Turf Links rate the free front page ad?"

"I didn't know you could do this."

"How do I get my company on the front page?"

"We give back to the Association too, but without the horn blowing."

"We're all competing for the same business, for one company to get this free leg-up isn't fair."

I recalled to the callers my memory, that *The Newsletter*, with Kip Tyler as editor, ran for a few years, a monthly "Meet the Friends"

section, that Friends submitted articles introducing themselves to the Association. Most Friends remembered those features and noted those were fine since everyone had the same access.

The gist of the comments centered on the impression of an uneven playing field and a special treatment for this particular vendor over others.

One of the callers indicated you had talked to Mike. You informed him that Mike's intent was to highlight the establishment of the scholarship and that in hindsight, Mike realized the articles' placement could have been handled better.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Letter from
Bob Healey,
Affiliate Liaison

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BASF

Team approach pays off in fund-raising campaign for the Joseph Troll Turf Research Center at UMass

When we started to put the pieces in place for the UMass turf building campaign, we knew it would require a team effort. It wouldn't be about any one person, but would be about all of us stepping up to the plate in a low-key way to make this long-awaited need a reality. We also knew that this team was ready to make it happen.

Given the business we're in and the pressures we're all under, the kind of positive response that we've seen from alumni, friends, golf courses, and the commercial side over the last six months has been incredible. And this is only the beginning. The research that's going to come out of the university will be coming out of the Joseph Troll Turf Research Center at the University of Massachusetts, and Joe's name and legacy will live on. We have been given an opportunity to be a key part of that.

The torch is in our hands now, and it's a very, very exciting time. Stockbridge,

Winter School and UMass alumni are stepping up to play a greater role in the turf program at the university, both through this campaign and with ideas for future research projects, the hot-but-tions in the industry that we need to know more about.

The following list of individuals and businesses are all those who have sent in a gift or pledge for the new turf building, and there are dozens of others who know that they will commit but just haven't sent in the details yet. We are currently over the \$550,000 mark, and the UMass Turf Team will have a new building to move into by this time next year, thanks to the generosity of everyone who has stepped up to support this project.

The list of donors will be updated for Field Day on June 23 when we will officially dedicate the turf facility in honor of Joe Troll. Join us if you can, and stay tuned for more news on the building plan itself. This campaign is the start of something new, and it shows a solid commitment from alumni and the industry that will

mark the resurgence of the turf program that has given so many of us our start.

Paul F. Miller, CGCS
Campaign Chair

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* In memory of Edward J. Troll

UMASS NEWS

positive response that we've seen from alumni, friends, golf courses, and the commercial side over the last six months has been incredible. And this is only the beginning. The research that's going to come out of the university will be coming out of the Joseph Troll Turf Research Center at the University of Massachusetts, and Joe's name and legacy will live on. We have been given an opportunity to be a key part of that.



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As condition reports filter in, USGA agronomists discover winter injury more widespread than originally thought

By David Oatis, Director,
and Jim Skorulski & Jim Baird,
Agronomists

Reports of winter injury continue to filter in to our offices, and the damage is more widespread than originally thought. This is of little comfort to those who have experienced severe winter damage and

TURF SCIENCE

are looking at temporary greens for the next six weeks. Annual bluegrass and perennial ryegrass was damaged most severely in areas of upstate New York, Long Island, central and coastal New Jersey, Cape Cod, Boston, central and northern Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Quebec, and eastern Canada.

Superintendents Bruce Peeples and Peter Hasek shared some of the weather data collected in the field in New Jersey and Massachusetts. The dramatic temperature swings during early January are when much of the damage may have occurred. Temperatures were in the mid 40-50 range and plummeted into the single digits on three occasions between January 3 and 25 in New Jersey. There were even more instances in Massachusetts when canopy temperatures fell into ranges that are lethal to annual bluegrass and ryegrass. Whether it was one severe temperature drop or several lesser ones, the result is the same: death and damage from direct cold temperature and crown hydration to annual bluegrass and perennial ryegrass.

Shaded turf or turf at sites with a northern exposure suffered the most. As expected, low pockets took the brunt of the damage too. Areas where snow cover was lost prior to the coldest weather also were damaged. Perforated covers offered little winter protection as damage was fairly widespread even where those covers were in place. Some of the annual bluegrass observed in early spring was partially damaged with a compromised root system. Those plants declined in some instances and in others improved.

Perforated covers are ideal to use in early spring on damaged greens for

protecting the severely weakened turf until it has a time to develop a more extensive root system. The covers also begin the process of warming up the soils for the inevitable over-seeding work that is to follow.

Recovery requires time, good growing weather, and good growing environments. The weather has begun to cooperate with soil temperatures reported in the 60 range (at a one inch depth) this week. Some seed germination has been observed in the Boston area. Aside from all of the agronomic

strategies superintendents can employ, keeping traffic off of the damaged areas is the single most important thing golfers can do to speed the recovery. Regardless of whether your turf experienced thinning and damage or outright kill, a little patience now will yield big dividends later in the year. Weakened turf that is subjected to heavy traffic will suffer even more damage, and you can expect that greens put in play right off the bat to have double or triple the recovery time than greens that are kept out of play. Too much play, too early, also will increase chances of experiencing more problems later in the season and next winter! Remember the old oil filter commercial: "pay me now, or pay me later!"

The winter injury this season may prove to be especially difficult from a political standpoint because it is more widespread and has been reoccurring with greater frequency. Expect to hear the questions such as: Why here and not

Golfers and superintendents alike must understand that this is a weather-related phenomenon that cannot be controlled.

Continued on page 9



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The Newsletter adopts a slightly new look for 2004

By Mike Stachowicz,
Editor, The Newsletter

The Newsletter has undergone a facelift for 2004. It is nothing dramatic, just a few tweaks to the image of The Newsletter. The redesign was done at the editor's

**GCSANE
NEWS**

request by publication designer Reg Bacon of Zip Type Printing Services, Inc., with input from the GCSAA newsletter seminar in San Diego, as well as from the GCSANE Newsletter Committee.

Overall, The Newsletter stands out because it isn't printed on glossy paper, doesn't use Microsoft clip-art, and it isn't in color. The Newsletter is meant to inform the members of GCSANE of the activities in the world of turf in New England and news from within our own association in a concise, clear, and professional manner. With those things in mind, we have chosen to stay out of the business (and expense) of selling magazines, and have decided to continue the understated look of The Newsletter and focus on the quality of content.

What follows is an edited copy of an e-mail correspondence from graphic designer Reg Bacon:

"As we discussed some weeks ago regarding your interest in a redesign of The Newsletter, an organizational publication may already have a solid professional design, but it is still a good idea to trot out a new look every few years, if only to let readers know the publication/organization is alive, and not stagnant. In making the design changes, my first consideration was retaining the readability of the publication. It is not prudent to add questionable graphic 'bells and whistles' at the expense of readability, just for the sake of some change, any change.

"I looked back at previous redesigns of the GCSANE Newsletter. I believe we (Zip Type Printing Services, Inc.) began printing The Newsletter in 1990, and at that time our charge was to provide an exact replication of a previous layout that was provided to us. I don't know how long that design had been used. I became involved in the spring of 1991 and redesigned The Newsletter for then-editor

We have chosen to stay out of the business (and expense) of selling magazines, and have decided to continue the understated look of The Newsletter and focus on the quality of content.

Michael Stachowicz
Editor, The Newsletter

tor Kip Tyler. This was a complete overhaul that gave The Newsletter a contemporary and professional look. That design remained in place for five years, until I redesigned once again, this time for editor Mike Nagle in March 1996. This is when we added the 'grass' headers & footers, the green drop-shadow boxes, and 'department' headings (in black with a ruling line above each article). This design remained in place for four years, until early 2000, when I redesigned both the nameplate and The Newsletter for editor Russ Heller. This design has been in place for a little over four years. So, yes, it may be time for a change.

"Given that the publication must undergo last-minute changes to layout and content, I have always redesigned with the idea of layout flexibility in mind. Maintaining the three-column layout provides that flexibility, saving time and money. While it may be tempting to try the custom article layouts and the collections of multiple boxes and borders seen in the glossy newsstand magazines, adopting such a design inevitably adds cost, makes last-minute changes more difficult, and in many cases reduces, rather than enhances readability. To go the other direction, to a two-column layout with all headlines the same size, would be a regression to the lackluster 'newsletter-as-container' design, i.e., 'just take the content and pour it in until it's full.'

Continued on page 9

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UMASS TURF RESEARCH FIELD DAY 2004

Wednesday June 23, 2004
Joseph Troll Turf Research Center
South Deerfield, Massachusetts

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From the South: From Route 91 take Exit 24. Turn right onto Route 5 North. Turn right onto Route 116. Follow Route 116 to River Road (on the left just before the Connecticut River Bridge). Turn left onto River Road. The Center is on the corner of Route 116 and River Road.

The UMass Turf Program is continuing the longstanding tradition of a summer Field Day. Take advantage of this opportunity to meet with the members of the UMass Turf Team, and to hear about and *see* current turf research underway at UMass. The half-day agenda includes a trade show; several green industry product and equipment vendors will be on hand with exhibits and demonstrations.



This year, Field Day will be a particularly special occasion on which we will recognize Dr. Joseph Troll, the longtime leader of the Turf Program at UMass. In light of ongoing major improvements, and in anticipation of a new building, we will officially dedicate the facility as the Joseph Troll Turf Research Center. Please join us in honoring Dr. Troll for his longstanding and continuing dedication to turf science and education.

QUESTIONS ABOUT FIELD DAY 2004? E-Mail fieldday@umassturf.org

See our NTEP trials at Field Day! See and touch our National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) sponsored turfgrass trials at Field Day 2004. Plots will be labeled for recognition of individual cultivars:

- 2000 Kentucky Bluegrass Trial
- 2001 Tall Fescue Trial
- 2003 Fine-Leaf Fescue Trial
- 2003 Fairway-Height Bentgrass Trial
- 2003 Greens-Height Bentgrass Trial

Visit our web site for further UMass Turf Research Field Day information, as well as information on:

- **UMass Extension's Green School** – 60+ hour training program in October – December 2004. Register early, space is limited! Application deadline is September 24, 2004.
- **Winter School for Turf Managers** – Intensive 7 week short-course held annually in January – February. Application deadline for 2005 session is September 17, 2004.
- How to sign up for the **free TurfTalk e-mail list**, with timely turf **Management Updates**.

<http://www.umassturf.org>

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS TURF RESEARCH FIELD DAY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2004

To be held rain or shine at the Joseph Troll Turf Research Center, South Deerfield, Massachusetts

8:00-9:00 Registration - Trade Show - Equipment Demonstrations*

9:00 Welcome

9:15-11:15 Research Presentations

- Managing the Broadleaf Weed Complex: A Challenging Task
- Update on Ant Control in Turf
- NTEP Kentucky Bluegrass Variety Trial: Wear Tolerance Results
- Managing Pesticide Exposure from Treated Turf
- Current Disease Pressure: Early Summer 2004
- Weed ID: Know It Before You Control It

11:15-11:30 Open Forum with the UMass Turf Team

11:30 *Turf Research Center Dedication* – Join us as we honor Dr. Joseph Troll

11:45 Lunch - Trade Show - Equipment Demonstrations*

12:00 Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals Monthly Meeting

* VENDORS/EXHIBITORS – Equipment demonstrations must be arranged in advance with Thom Griffin, (413) 545-3066

2 contact hours in commercial certification category 37 (turf), category 32 (sod), category 49 (demo & research), the dealer license, and the applicator's license have been approved for all New England states.

For more information contact: Jason Lanier at (413) 545-2965, Mary Owen at (508) 892-0382, or e-mail fieldday@umassturf.org

REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-registration deadline: June 18, 2004. Return this form with your check payable to *University of Massachusetts* to: Turf Field Day, UMass Extension, French Hall, 230 Stockbridge Road, Amherst, MA 01003

FOR ATTENDEES:

_____ attendees @ \$40 each* = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ _____

FOR VENDORS/EXHIBITORS:

Vendor/Exhibitor registration** = \$ **150**

_____ additional lunches @ \$15 each = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ _____

*Attendees please note: \$5 additional charge for on-site registration June 23. Lunch is included in the registration fee.

**VENDORS/EXHIBITORS: Fee includes 2 lunches, a table, and two chairs. Additional lunches are extra. You may set up after 6 a.m. on June 23. If there are any special requirements, or if you wish to set up June 22, please contact Thom Griffin at (413) 545-3066.

Name _____

Business Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Daytime Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

PO Number _____

PEOPLE ^{vs.} THE PROS

Exclusive Opportunity

The Golf Course Managers Association of Cape Cod and The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England are in an elite group of only 10 other chapters throughout the US to participate in the People vs. The Pros event.

By participating in the joint meeting June 10, 2004 at Woods Hole Golf Club

superintendents will have the opportunity to qualify to play against either John Daly (49 and under) or Gary McCord (50 and over) and possibly win \$100,000. BASF Turf and Ornamental will sponsor the event and make a donation to the Cape Cod and New England GCSA chapters.

What Is It?

With the help of The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England and The Golf Course Managers Association of Cape Cod in partnership with BASF Turf and Ornamental we present the People vs. The Pros. The People vs. The Pros is a unique national golf competition that will ultimately allow two amateurs to go head-to-head with a famous pro on national television for a chance to win \$100,000.

Where Is it?

Pinehurst #2 in Pinehurst, NC Rated one of the top 10 courses in the world and is the site for the 2005 U.S. Open Championships.

How Does It Work? When Is The Tournament?

During the first week of August, 140 amateur golfers under the age of 50 and 140 amateur golfers 50 and over will play in a three-day, stroke-play competition that will yield one amateur champion in both Regular Division and Senior Division. On the fourth day the 2 qualifiers will play an 18 match against the Pros with \$100,000 going to the winner and \$50,000 to the loser of each division. The final tournament will be August 6-9 and will be broadcast on ESPN

ESPN

How Do You Fit In?

One Superintendent (it could be you) from the June 10 meeting at Woods Hole Golf Club will win a trip for 2 which includes airfare, 5 days / 4 nights lodging and a rental car to The People vs. The Pros tournament. You will play in a 3 day stroke play qualifying tournament, with the winner going on to play in a 18 hole stroke play round with the Pro and a chance to win \$100,000. BASF Turf and Ornamental will also provide a BASF golf bag, apparel and golf balls for use in the tournament.



Where & When
The New England and Cape Cod Joint Meeting
June 10, 2004
Woods Hole Golf Club
Falmouth, MA 02541
Host; Tom Flaherty, CGCS
Make Your Plans Today To Play



BASF

GCSANE Forum postings touch on timely topics

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

L93 Spring Color

(Scott Reynolds, 4/26/04). Every spring our L93 looks like its having a bad mower day for a month! It looks like leaf spot but nothing seems to work. Anyone have any ideas?

(Dan Higgins, 4/27/04). Scott, I do not have L-93, but we are getting ready to plant our greens with it sometime this year. In talking with other supers who have L-93 greens, this seems to be one of the drawbacks along with the mat or excess thatch that develops. I have heard that applications of ammonium sulfate might help to kick it in a little. Do you have the same problem when you get later into the fall season? Can you or anyone add to the pro and con list for this grass. Also any maintenance practices that have been helpful. Thanks, Higgins.

(Dobz, 4/29/04). Hi Scott and Dan, I don't have any L93, hardly any bent to speak of. Check with Jim Small or Joe Felicetti, they both have L93 and I am at Smally's course quite a bit and I don't see the problem you are talking about Scott. Give those guys a call maybe they can help! Dobz.

(Scott Reynolds, 4/30/04). Well after an application of Roots 123 some liquid 29-6-16 and some Iron they don't look so off color. Dan, the other problem I notice with the 93 is a "0" tolerance for shade.

Temporary Greens

(Greg Tower, 4/23/04). Would just like to know how many other courses are having to use temporary greens and how many temps do you have? We currently have four that we are keeping play off of. Just curious, thanks.

(Pat Daly, 4/23/04). Greg, I've got five temps and one practice green closed and no golf carts so far this year. Hopefully with a little growth we'll be open by next weekend. Pat.

(Dobz, 4/24/04). We have two temps this spring, and have had carts out only twice this far. The two closed greens have been recovering nicely, seeded to A4, and some L93. Has anyone had any good luck with any other new bents? Looking for the quickest germinator!! Dobz.

(Capt. Kirk, 4/24/04). Dobz, In the olden days, Red Top was always a great filler until the greens recovered. It is quick. Don't know if it's still around. Yes, it will die off as the Poa and bents recover.

Water System

(Capt. Kirk, 4/07/04). Greetings, Anyone turn on the water system yet? Do you have any breaks? So far we have discovered two fairway heads gone, Toro 690, just broke at the swing joint. Also, about 20 feet of pipe around our first green. Just curious how the rest of you are doing. And, I hope it's going well for you.

(Rich Caughey, 4/08/04). Hey Ron. We have spent the past few days replacing pipe swing joints & about 20 heads!! Heavy clay soils. Lots of movement this

past winter. Looks like more of the same next week. Rich.

(Bob Healey, 4/08/04). Rich, Try replacing heavy clay soils when you back-fill with gravel sand mix around the swing joint assembly. This method has been known to work most of the time in trouble areas. Bob H.

(James R. Fitzory, CGCS, 4/09/04). Hi all, We pressurized on Thursday. A couple of problems with original swing joints (galvy) installed back in the 70's and some small leaks around the greens and tees but it looks like nothing major. This bump that overlooks Boston Harbor dries out so quickly, I always make sure my system is up in early April. Jim Fitzroy.

(Dave Comee, 4/09/04). Have a number of heads about 6 inches out of the ground. I also have many frost heaves about two to three feet high. I've never seen anything like that before so I am sure there will be some problems with the pipes.

(Bill Yanakakis, 4/13/04). We pressurized the system the third week of March. I like to get a jump on things. I lost three heads, Toro 750, same thing broke right at the swing joints. Some of the heads and drains moved a bit but not to bad, I must be lucky! Bill Yanakakis.

(Russell Heller, 4/14/04). I'll be charging my system today and tomorrow (hopefully). If I can keep the number of broken swing joints under 250 (last years number +/-), then I'll be ecstatic. Russ.

(Pat Daly, 4/14/04). Charged my system the last two days. 30+ misc. repairs. Unfortunately, last night I had my pumps underwater during the height of the storm that brought close to 2" of rain in over 5 hours. Pat.

(Bob Matthews, 4/16/04). We had eight broken swing joints, all broken at the same elbow. Luckily our new system is still on warranty and Anderson Turf fixed them all in one morning. Lots of raised heads, we just gently pressed them back down after the frost left. Otherwise a nice tight system!

**"In the olden days,
Red Top was always
a great filler until
the greens recovered.
It is quick. Don't know
if it's still around. Yes,
it will die off as the Poa
and bents recover."**

**"Capt. Kirk"
(Ron Kirkman),
contributing to
the GCSANE Forum
discussion on
Temporary Greens**

Continued on page 8

GCSANE President shares a letter from our Affiliate Liaison

continued from page 3

I called some other Affiliate members, in the same business, to solicit their reaction, if any, to the article. The response ranged from being "very surprised," "taken aback," to being "disappointed" and "a little pissed-off."

One vendor noted, in going through his mail, "I open a request for donations to the Scholarship Tournament and raffle tickets, then moments later I read this free company plug in *The Newsletter*. My first reaction, I'm sorry to say, is screw the Scholarship Tournament."

I indicated I could understand their reaction, but remember, the Scholarship Tournament helps your kids too. So don't let something like this detract from all the good the S&B does. The response was, "Your right, but this isn't right and it's ticked me off."

During the past five years as Affiliate Liaison, this event has triggered the largest response from Friends of the Association and unfortunately the response is negative.

**Letter from
Bob Healey,
Affiliate Liaison**

I told all I talked to, as the Affiliate Liaison, I'd compose a letter and send to your attention for discussion at the next Board of Directors meetings. I was asked to convey, in the strongest terms, their disappointment.

During the past five years as Affiliate Liaison, this event has triggered the largest response from Friends of the Association and unfortunately the response is negative.

Continuing my policy as Affiliate Liaison, I do not include any company or affiliate names in this letter. Affiliates are told this during my conversations with them. This seems to open up the discussion and I'm able to gather reactions easier.

Regarding solutions, suggestions included "a note from the editor in the next *Newsletter*," and "a comment from the president at the next meeting." One Affiliate put it this way, "The cat's out-of-the-bag, but the Board needs to strongly indicate at a meeting or in *The Newsletter*, a mistake happened, it won't happen again, and no slight was intended to other Friends of the Association. The Board and the membership are grateful to all the Friends for their years of support for our Association."

On behalf of the Affiliate Section of Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, I am

**Respectfully yours,
Robert Healey
Affiliate Liaison**

Bob, as always, great job and great letter. Your letter has been discussed at the Board level. Let me first state that it is neither mine nor the Board's intent to censor *The Newsletter*. We did and will

This particular article certainly did not accomplish what it was intended to. The Newsletter editor has responded in the last issue and the Board wishes to apologize for any ill will this front page article may have caused.

**Michael J. Hermanson
President, GCSANE**

always speak to *The Newsletter* editor should any portion violate our bylaws, ethics, or moral bounds. This particular article certainly did not accomplish what it was intended to. *The Newsletter* editor has responded in the last issue and the Board wishes to apologize for any ill will this front page article may have caused. Please remember however, that all positions on this Board are our avocations and we will make mistakes. The Association will be run better and become stronger because we will all learn from this. The Board appreciates everything that all the Friends and Affiliates do for this Association.

**Sincerely,
Michael J. Hermanson
President, GCSANE**

From the Forum

continued from page 7

(Russ Heller, 4/17/04). I'm probably the only guy who could have 30 breaks and be happy about it. Russ.

(Steve Curry, 4/19/04). We had about 7 swing-joint failures. Ditto on the ridiculous frost heaves. My 9th fairway had depressions deep enough to hide a golf cart. Good luck all, Steve.

(Scott Reynolds, 4/19/04). We have had no problems at any of the courses. Just kidding. COCC has 7 swing joints and

"We still have a few spots available to fill the bracket for the 2004 4-Ball Championship."

Bob Healey

6 bad heads TRCC had 12 breaks and Haystack will not need water until June 20th. Have a great season!

Luccini Four Ball

(Bob Healey, 4/26/04). We still have a few spots available to fill the bracket for the 2004 Four-Ball Championship. Get you team registered today. First round matches completed by June 15, 2004. Pairings posted on this Web site soon. 🏌️

USGA agronomists analyze reports of winter turf damage

continued from page 5

there? What are they doing that we are not? What was applied that killed the greens? What are you going to do to prevent this from happening again?

These are understandable questions that often cannot be easily answered. Golfers and superintendents alike must understand that this is a weather related phenomenon that cannot be controlled. Weather conditions can vary drastically from golf course to golf course as do site conditions and characteristics. Yes, there are management steps that should be taken to help the turfgrass gain maximum cold temperature hardiness. There are covering systems that can protect the

annual bluegrass from lethal temperatures and crown hydration injury. Canopy temperatures are being monitored more closely in the field to try to determine how and when the damage occurs. Fertility programs and other fall cultural practices will be reevaluated to determine if the turfgrass can be better prepared for winter.

But we still cannot control the weather in the fall when plants are developing winter hardiness or in winter when plants are exposed to lethal temperatures or severely fluctuating temperatures. So, if you have a golf course that is predominately annual bluegrass, is plagued with heavy fall shade, and has poor surface drainage, expect the worst or consider

yourself lucky when you survive a Northeast winter unscathed. No one should lose their job over this issue because so often there is really little that could have been done. Patience and understanding are necessary components as the damaged areas begin to recover during this difficult period.

Please give us a call if we can help you through the recovery process, and be sure to review the Northeast Regional Update (3/15/04) that discusses the recovery programs in more detail. ■

Source: Jim Skorulski/David Oatis
doatis@usga.org
Reprinted from the USGA
Green Section website.

Subtle redesign tweaks Newsletter

continued from page 6

"At first glance at these prototypes, one might say, 'What's the difference? Has anything changed? The answer: Not much — no dramatic changes, anyway. The most noticeable change is the move back to full-justified columns, instead of the ragged-right margin. The ragged-right margin used for the past several years made the text less gray and imposing. But with more ads and editorial copy, this redesign is an opportunity to switch back to right-and-left justified type in the interest of making the utmost use of space for articles. The typeface was changed as well, to a type design in the same family, but with different characteristics. The headlines in the condensed extra-bold italic version of the font have a bit more life in them. In response to the observation that the column-wide "department" boxes might confuse some readers, I re-worked those in such a way that they take up about one-third of the column, with type flowing around them. At the end of each story is a small bullet character to clearly indicate the conclusion of an article. As for the pull-quotes, the typeface has been changed, and ruling lines above-and-below have been thickened for a greater presence. My rationale is that if the full-justified body type tends to make

the page more staid and text-heavy, the bold-italic headlines and bold pull-quote bars will counterbalance this by brightening up the page."

"Just like on a golf course, many design details are transparent to the layman. But all the little details combine to make a unified, functional whole."

We have also removed the table of contents (it is a small newsletter), and

replaced it with a bulleted list of contents on the mailing address panel. We have also removed the top border of grass. Both of these were done in the interest of providing more space for content. We are always looking for more room for more information to be printed.

I hope you enjoy the new look. ■

Michael Stachowicz
Editor, The Newsletter

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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: Brian Grant, Assistant, The Meadow at Peabody; Jason W. Hamilton, Student, UMass/Amherst; Jennifer McDonald, Affiliate, S.B.I. Turf Services.

Proposed for Membership: 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, Affiliate, Syngenta Professional Products, Manchester, Conn.; Atlantic Silica, Inc, Friend, Enfield, Canada.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Directory Update: Please make the following change to your 2004 directory. The email address for Bob Matthews, CGCS, should be Bmatt29@earthlink.net.

GCSANE sends condolences to Pat Vittum on the passing of her mother.

Best wishes to Lonnie Troll for a quick recovery from a heart attack.

Best wishes to Jim Santoro for a quick recovery from his recent hernia operation.

Congratulations to David Ferrantino on his new position as golf course superintendent at MGA Links at Mamantapett.

Congratulations to Russell Heller of Franklin Park Golf Course, Dorchester for being designated as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent.

Speaking of Russ Heller, the following is a quote from this newly certified superintendent that was featured in the Golfdom Insider magazine: "I spent all night alternating between puking my guts out and burning my Bruins stuff." - Russ Heller, certified superintendent of Franklin Park Golf Course in Boston, after his hometown hockey team lost on its home ice after being up on the Montreal Canadiens 3-1 in their NHL playoff series.

GCSANE has committed to the University of Massachusetts Turf Building Fund for \$5,000 a year for the next seven years.

The New England Sod Producers Association donated \$5,000 to the UMass Turf Building Fund after a unanimous vote of the members at its annual meeting in Providence, R.I. on March 3, 2004. The New England Sod Producers believe in supporting ongoing turf

research programs that help those who grow and maintain turfgrass. (From Chris Beasley, Treasurer, NESPA.)

WORKSHOPS

Upcoming IPM Workshops at UMass: *Scouting for Pests and Problems of Turf & Woody Ornamentals*. This year's workshops will have a somewhat larger turf component than in the past. An up-close look at some of the most common cultural and weed problems and troublesome insect, mite, and disease problems of woody ornamentals. Two pesticide contact hours for categories 29, 36, 37, and applicators license available. ISA, MCA, MCH, and MCLP credit requested. Workshops are from 5 to 7 p.m. at the following three locations. Dates: June 3 - Bridgewater; June 10 - Hathorne (Danvers); June 24 - South Hadley. Cost is \$50 per person. For information see the UMass Extension Turf Program web site: <http://www.umasssturf.org>.

INFORMATION

John Deere becomes presenting sponsor of Technician of the Year Award. Announced in Golfweek's SuperNEWS, the award recognizes the important role equipment technicians play in golf course maintenance. Foley United, a sharpening equipment manufacturer, is also a sponsor of the award. SuperNEWS encourages superintendents to nominate technicians for the award at www.turfnet.com. Deadline for entries is July 1. Golfweek's SuperNEWS is a bi-weekly magazine devoted to the business of designing, building, and maintaining golf courses. It delivers the latest news and explores issues relating to golf course maintenance, development, management, construction and design.

Memberships are now available at MGA Links at Mamantapett. In addition to serving as headquarters for the MGA's ForeKids Program, MGA Links at Mamantapett is a public-play facility in Norton that is now taking memberships for the 2004 season. If you live in the southeastern Massachusetts, you should visit the course, as it offers a comprehensive list of services including league play, par 3 tournaments, and PGA instruction. In addition, MGA Links at Mamantapett offers a competitive membership program, including a \$100 junior member rate, for golfers of all ages and skill levels. If you have any questions about membership levels, or if you would like to receive a membership application, please contact the pro shop at (508) 222-0555 or visit the club's web site at www.mamantapett.com.

OSHA launches Hazard Communication Standard Initiative. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recently announced a new initiative to focus attention on hazard communication in the workplace. The two areas of focus will be on compliance assistance and enforcement. The goal is to improve the quality of hazard communication in the workplace and help employers and employees comply with the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS). The HCS, adopted 20 years ago, covers some 650,000 hazardous chemical products and more than 30 million American workers. As part of the compliance assistance efforts, OSHA has developed a hazard communication portal page on its Web site to consolidate hazard communication materials. It has also developed a model training program to assist employers in developing a hazard communication training program that is tailored to the needs of their workplace.

Jim Nantz tapes are available to chapters. If you did not attend the Opening Session of GCSAA's Conference & Show in San Diego, no doubt you heard of the inspiring keynote address by CBS broadcaster Jim Nantz. Mr. Nantz has graciously allowed GCSAA to duplicate the speech for its members to review. We are sending a copy of the speech to each affiliated chapter president so as to allow chapters to share it with members as they deem appropriate.

POSITION OPENING

Second Assistant Superintendent, Wellesley Country Club, Wellesley, Mass. Wellesley Country Club is an 18-hole private club located 15 minutes west of Boston. Wellesley was host to the 2003 USGA Women's State Team Championship. Individual should have a two or four-year degree in Turf Management or Plant & Soil Sciences; at least two-to-four years working in the field of turfgrass management. Must have or be able to obtain a Mass. pesticide license. Job includes pesticide application, fertilizing, crew management, irrigation, and other daily tasks. Year-round position, hourly wage with complete benefits package. Position is open until filled. Please send resume to: Bill Sansone, Wellesley Country Club, 294 Wellesley Avenue, Wellesley, MA 02481; (617) 828-0959; Fax (781) 235-9908; email: mphughes81@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE

For Sale: Two 1988 GM 300's - \$500 each. Call Rich Caughey, Hatherly G.C., at (781) 545-6121.

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