



THE NEWSLETTER

November 2005

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.

Superintendents are willing to 'go to the mat' with opinions of L-93 bentgrass in New England

**By Anthony Pioppi,
Contributing Editor,
Golfdom Magazine**

When L-93 bentgrass made its debut it was heralded as the next great grass: disease-resistant, wear tolerant, and able to hold off *Poa annua* in a single bound. One advertisement goes so far as to call it, "The worldwide choice for bentgrass." Some said the introduction of L-93 spelled the end for Pennncross.

New England superintendents would beg to disagree. Their unofficial motto for L-93 might be, "Don't Believe the Hype."

Although they say there are some good points to the variety, most superintendents who have it on their greens readily list off negatives before positives. Thatch buildup is the most common complaint. Some superintendents go so far as to say that if they had to do it all over again, L-93 would not be the grass of choice.

It appears as if New England superintendents are the only ones who have not embraced L-93 and who are complaining about thatch according to, among others, USGA Green Section regional agronomists.

"It's a very difficult grass to get good speed on," said Cape Cod National superintendent Steve Cadenelli. "It wants to thatch up very quickly and develop a pretty dense mat."

Cadenelli uses an extremely aggressive program to manage the thatch on the sand greens.

Cadenelli purchased a Graden and uses it once a year. He Verticuts every three to four weeks and top dresses prior to that.

"It's a very difficult grass to get a good speed on. It wants to thatch up very quickly and develop a pretty dense mat."

**Steve Cadenelli, CGCS
Cape Cod National G.C.**

"It's hard to get the top dressing into it," he said, echoing complaints of other superintendents.

Cadenelli also dryjects as part of his regular regime.

Although L-93 touts itself as a good cold weather grass, Cadenelli had not found that to be true.

"It doesn't like the cold weather at all," he said. "It's very slow to green up in the spring and slows down quickly in the fall."

Charles "Bud" White, senior agronomist for the USGA's Mid-Continent Green Section, is perplexed by the complaints.

"It's very unusual to hear that," White said. "L-93 is one of the most versatile bentgrasses we've had in 20 years."

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Editor supports discussion of L-93 topic, but takes issue with author's conclusions

Editor's Note: I would like to thank all of those superintendents who agreed to be interviewed for this article- having grown L-93 myself, I agree with all your comments and challenges concerning the management of it. This grass was being touted very highly, and maybe rightly so, but I felt, like most things in turf management, you trade one set of problems for another different set. For all these reasons I wanted to do a story.

The author, for whatever reason, chose to interview the Mid-Atlantic

USGA agronomist and wrote an article that wasn't very kind to the practical point of view of the New England Superintendents. I don't know why guys in the Mid-Atlantic like the grass more than we do, and would love to explore that further, but there are many superintendents who share the same management concerns about L-93 as all of us.

Steve Cadenelli, CGCS, obviously well-respected in the turf management industry has "worked with ISTRIC

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An agronomist for 25 years, White's territory includes Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Arkansas and runs the gamut of climates from oppressively hot in south Texas to New England-like in the upper elevations of New Mexico.

Drew Cummins just finished his third season at Red Tail Golf Course in Devens. While he would like to be as aggressive as Cadenelli, the fact that 35,000-plus golfers made their way over the layout last season hampers his efforts. Every other Sunday afternoon the course is closed early so Cummins can Verticut in two directions and topdress with a light application.

"It's hard for me to find the time to do all I need to," Cummins said. He has golfers lining up at sunrise most days.

He said because of the heavy play he couldn't keep the greens as dry and firm as he would like, nor could he back off his nitrogen applications.

At The Captains Golf Course, Steve Mann has 36 holes 18 that were built in 1998 with L-93 and are about 40 percent Poa, and 18 built in 1985. Originally Pencross, Mann said the older ones are now about 90 percent Poa. Ten of the new greens are on the Port Course with the other eight on the Starboard Course. The newest 18 are straight sand while the originals are a sand-soil pushup design.

Mann has no doubt in his mind which grass he likes better.

"If I had to do it all over again, I'd put down Pennncross," he said. In fact, he is overseeding his L-93 greens with Pennncross.

Mann said the problem might be the grass is too good. With nearly double the shoots of Pennncross, L-93 logically would have to produce more thatch because of its density.

Others say that L-93 has lived up to its reputation of being disease-resistant, in part as a result of the density. More plants means less chance of Poa making inroads and with fewer Poa plants, there is less chance for any disease that plays on it.

There are good points about L-93 besides disease resistance.

Steve Tibbels at Acushnet Valley Golf Course said once he eliminated the thatch problem, his greens handled the lower height of cut very well, as low as .1 in some cases. He plans to cut his greens at .125.

"If I had to do it all over again, I'd put down Pennncross."

Steve Mann, CGCS Captains Golf Course

Part of his plan to hold off thatch involves backing off the water.

"It responds well to keeping it dry," he said. "It wilts a little bit, but it comes right back."

Cummins, who was superintendent at Country Club of Avon in Connecticut prior to Red Tail, said he is amazed at how aggressive L-93 can be.

"Roots? I've got roots," he said.

Still, the good points do not outweigh the bad in most people's eyes.

Mann is succinct when others ask his opinion of L-93.

"I don't tout it," he said without hesitation.

Conversely, the USGA's White said many superintendents are finding a 50-50 blend of L-93 and Crenshaw to be the turf-of-choice for new greens.

White calls L-93, "an upper-middle class grass." He said although it does not have the elite status of the As or the Gs, nor nearly the thatch buildup, it is far better than Pennncross or Pennlinks.

White said superintendents should not be pointing fingers at L-93, but rather looking in the mirror.

"That's a management thing, that's not the grass; (they're) not being as aggressive with aerification as they should be," he said of the thatch issue. White also surmised too much fertilizer is being put down.

According to White, on courses in his area that are open year-round, superintendents use very little nitrogen and aerify three times a year using 3/8- or

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CALENDAR . . .

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Dec. 16 | GCSANE Holiday Gala
Belmont Country Club
Belmont, Mass. |
| Dec. 20 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Thorny Lea Golf Club
Brockton, Mass.
Host: Joseph Rybka, CGCS |

Pleasant presidential duties: Representing the GCSANE at Troll fund-raiser . . . and celebrating Joe Rybka's career

What a pleasure it was representing GCSANE at the Dr. Joseph Troll Fund-raiser held October 20 at Cape Cod National Golf Club. What a great golf course in absolutely perfect condition. Nice job Steve Cadenelli! Steve Curry chaired the event and a lot of money was raised for a great cause. It was also nice to visit with this year's honoree, Mr. Sherwood Moore, CGCS.



I would also like to thank Ed Eardley and the Wampatuck Country Club for hosting the Annual 9-Hole Meeting November 1. A great job was done by Ed and his staff. I would however, like to apologize because some people, myself included, had to attend a ribbon-cutting for the new building at the Joseph Troll Research Center. We tried to move the ribbon-cutting date, but unfortunately it was one of the few days that fit into UMass Chancellor Lombardi's schedule.

On November 5, approximately 200 friends, relatives, Thorny Lea members, and many fellow superintendents attended Joe Rybka's retirement party. I

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

had the pleasure of speaking at this event and recognizing Joe's 40-year career as a golf course superintendent. One of the highlights of the evening was a speech given by Joe's best friend in the business, Lennie Blodgett. Lennie, as you know, is retiring at the end of the season after a great run of 42 years as superintendent at The Kittansett Club. To see

Lennie there after his recent successful major surgery and listening to him speak emotionally about his good friend was a special part of the evening.

There are two events of note coming up in December. On Dec. 16, the Annual GCSANE Holiday Gala will be hosted by Arthur Silva, CGCS, at Belmont C.C. and on Dec. 20, Joe Rybka, CGCS, will host his final GCSANE monthly meeting at Thorny Lea G.C.

Hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving.

**Best Wishes,
Michael J. Hermanson
President, GCSANE**

Michael Stachowicz on Newsletter Editor job: 'Not as bad as everyone thinks it is . . .'

Being editor of *The Newsletter*, is one of the most challenging and rewarding of the board positions. There is a monthly deadline to meet, but the internet has made this job much easier from when Russ Heller, Ron Kirkman, or Kip Tyler did it. It was those predecessors that had the real tough job. Typewriters? Couriers? Mimeographs? Printing Presses? No spell check? No cut and paste? Please . . .

Working with newspaper and magazine sportswriters across the state, the editor tries to line up stories several months in a row. The hardest part is coming up with story ideas that haven't been done before. I sometimes think that a story has been done on everybody with the association at least twice. But we still manage to find some new stories and angles. The goal of this is to get members of our association to network with the sports media. A great example of this paying off is when *North Shore Golf* editor Gary Trask, after writing some stories for us, dedicated a whole issue of his magazine to Superintendents.

Other content comes from universities, the USGA green section, GCSAA, press releases, and members. I try to keep the content to items that don't appear in any other magazine. I try to avoid just filler, I would rather (and have) sent out a smaller newsletter than waste space and increase postal costs. However, more

often than not we end up with more content than needed.

Julie Heston, the business manager for *The Newsletter*, pulls together all the content the editor sends her and the all the ads sold for the month and works with the printer to produce the newsletter. Julie may have made the job of editor even easier than the internet did.

Our goal with the ads is to actually have the ads pay for the magazine. It is probably because of those ads and the economies achieved at *The Newsletter* that we have avoided dues increases over the past couple of years.

Yes there have been pushes to go to color, bigger and better, etc. But I view *The Newsletter* as a way to keep us in touch with each other, the universities, and our local golf community. There are many trade magazines that can educate us much better than we can, but local issues and providing a forum for discussion is where the strength lies within this publication. I would continue to encourage you to write to *The Newsletter*, or for it, so that it keeps its character and interest. Time in and time out the articles that get the best response are the ones by superintendents. In this day and age of glossy publications, *The Newsletter* stands out, and hopefully will for many years to come.

Michael Stachowicz, Editor

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Part II of information discussed at Kansas meeting from GCSAA Chapter Delegate Pat Kriksceonaitis

GCSAA Chapter Delegate Pat Kriksceonaitis shares more information discussed at Kansas meeting.

Impact on Golf Facilities

Golf has survived centuries of change and we expect it to survive the 21st century as well. In fact, social, demographic, and technological trends offer the possibility to grow participation in the game in creative new ways and types of venues.

Opportunity to Expand Choice in Golf Experience

Golf needs to develop a greater variety of business models in multiple market niches in order to maintain and grow participation levels both in terms of number of players and number of rounds played.

Currently, most golf facilities are grouped into only four markets: private country club, high-end daily fee courses, basic municipal/daily fee courses, and practice facilities. According to Joseph F. Beditz, President and CEO of the National Golf Foundation, 25 percent of the U.S. inventory of golf facilities was built in the last 12 years and much of that was in the niche of high-end facilities (better conditions translate to higher green fees).

Discussions about opportunities for greater market differentiation observed:

- There may be a counter movement to the time crunch to "unplug" and be outdoors: go fishing, play golf.
- There may be faster growth in social golf, couples golf and family activities at golf facilities than in competitive golf.
- There may be faster growth in competitive golf in non-white populations that are historically less familiar with the game.
- There may be growth in golf/fitness facilities along the model of Harmon Brothers Golf in Mass. (a gym and 9-hole course with pay-as-you-go monthly memberships, designed for stopping in on the way home from work).
- Facilities may need to offer health club, flexible playing time, and advanced practice facilities.

Golf Business Challenges

The demand for perfection, concerns about costs, and environmental awareness will continue to create tension in the golf industry. Unless the game can create significant growth in numbers of players, numbers of avid players, and numbers of rounds, these pressures will continue to significantly increase economic pressures on golf facilities.

Observations included:

- About 12-15% of avid golfers don't care how much golf costs, while 10-12% love to play the game, walking and won't pay more than \$20 for a round; the rest will change their decision on where to play to save \$5.
- For about 7 million avid golfers, the choice is whether to play golf at Course A or Course B. For 18 million other golfers, the choice is whether to play golf or do something else, and time and money are key elements of that decision.
- Most golf marketing today is set up to compete with other golf courses, rather than to compete with other sports/leisure choices such as soccer, baseball, etc.

Predictions included:

- More golf courses will be converted to residential use because of the underlying value of the land.
- There will be fewer private golf courses, especially as a percentage of the total, due to economic pressures, social pressures (exclusivity is no longer perceived as a positive) and social change (country club membership is no longer seen as the "the pinnacle of success").
- Golf courses will develop new reward and affinity programs to encourage customer loyalty. These will have to be personalized to be successful.
- Golf courses will develop additional options for recreation/fun.
- Golf courses will develop more options for play at reduced cost/time.
- Golf courses will provide players with options to use the course in

alternative ways (3-holer, play & practice, etc.)

- New golf facilities and current facilities will have to be managed in a sustainable way in terms of water use. New developments put increasing pressure on existing facilities.

Player Development Challenges and Opportunities

Observations included:

- There is a lack of facilities for beginners. Beditz noted that annual course opening are now about 125/year, about the same as before the 1988 NGF strategic plan developed with the McKinsey report.
- Many current practice facilities were constructed as afterthoughts and are becoming obsolete – and creating liability concerns – because of longer drive lengths.
- There is difficulty in overcoming the perception (and perhaps reality) of the relatively high cost, in terms of time, money and frustration, of becoming proficient in golf compared to other activities.
- Balls that go farther make learning more enjoyable for junior golfers.
- Today, most children's sports and activities occur as organized practices and events, rather than pickup games.
- Many golf courses somewhat discourage junior play because of a perception that they will slow play, although today seniors and juniors typically play as fast or faster than adults.

Ideas and projections included:

- Organized activities to introduce golf to elementary students - when they are being introduced to basketball, soccer, baseball, etc. – instead of waiting until high school, will be important for growing the game.
- Golf course operators will need to stop viewing and treating women and children as drains on the facility's revenues.
- New golfers will be able to learn on courses with "bumpers" of some type, like gutter guards at bowling alleys. 🏏

In search of 'The Next Level'

By Paul Miller, CGCS

How many times have we heard these expressions? "We have decided to go in a different direction" and "We want to take it to the next level?" Well, having been a golf course superintendent for 30 years I am a bit befuddled. Where do I look to find the right direction, and once I find it will it take me to the next level?

We as golf course managers are constantly trying to balance playability and agronomics. We must be careful not to allow one of these two conditions to compromise the other. If we are influenced by the egotistical chairman who insists on green speeds that rival the Masters, does that get us closer to the next level or just a thin, diseased,

putting surface with six-hour rounds? Conversely, is producing an emerald green, lush landing area that stimps at six feet and satisfies the president's wife steer us in the new direction? On the outset this may seem quite silly. However, this year I have witnessed two 40-year veteran superintendents fall prey to these two clichés. Did these two accomplished professionals all of a sudden require a compass or just loose track of what level they were on?

I think the solution is more about good communication and realistic expectations than direction and levels.

The direction of the club is the responsibility of the officers and board of directors of the club. The communicating of that direction to the superintendent normally is delivered by the green chairman or general manager. Hopefully that communication will be in a set of maintenance guidelines and job descriptions that both parties can agree on with an appropriate budget established. Once this is accepted, the direction is set and the level of maintenance is identified. In a long-term relationship, a superintendent will deal with many different chairmen and boards. If the direction of the new board changes, the level of maintenance will be adjusted as will the budget. It all seems so simple to me, but where is the next level?

In order to get to the next level, I would have to assume that a club has the capabilities to identify at what level they

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'Action Alerts' and Graden vertical mower are subjects of postings to GCSANE forum

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

have already set up a meeting next Tuesday to discuss the bills. I'll call you with some questions on our official position. It was really a quick response. Everybody should try it. It was easier than I thought. (Pat Kriksceonaitis)

Topic: Action Alerts
Pat Daly

(Posted 10/25/2005)

Hopefully you all have noticed the Action Alert banner on the GCSANE home page (Thank You Russ Heller). If you follow the link, it will direct you to pending legislation in Massachusetts for 2005 and 2006. I have been working with the staff of the GCSAA on this and they will continue to update the bills and their progress over the remainder of the year. The highlighted bills might affect all of our clubs and our operations so please review them. You have been given the option of sending your state representatives either an e-mail or a letter on your club's letter head. Please take the time to comment (both positively or negatively). It might make a difference. Pat.

Response:

- Pat, I used the action alert and contacted my local representative. We

**Topic: Graden
Rich Caughey**

(Posted 09/28/2005)

We may do some Graden work on greens this fall. Looking for some information on the machine and results short and long term.

Responses:

• Rich, Just got finished using the Graden on greens. We went 3/4" depth over the top of 1/2" quadra-tines. We picked the plugs clean after aerifying then used the Graden and blew the greens off with two push blowers and two backpack blowers. We have roughly four acres of greens and the complete process took about 27 hours, one 14-hour day and one 13-hour day. The Graden makes quite a mess but the finished product is well worth the effort. (Paul Hallock)

- Hey Rich, A Graden vertical mower with a 9/64" blade at 1" spacing will

impact 14.10% of the surface area. A 5/64" blade at 1" will impact 7.80% . . . Good luck. (Matt Ponte)

- I know Jim Small at Olde Scotland Links has had great results with the Graden. Give him a call, Rich. (Ron Dobosz)

Correction to October Forum article: The original submission (Topic: *So where do we get our Jacobsen/ Textron Parts?*) was from Scott Reynolds and not Scott Lagana as listed. 🙏

GCSANE announces nominations for 2006

The following individuals are on the GCSANE nomination ballot for 2006:

President Patrick S. Kriksceonaitis
Vice-President

..... Russell E. Heller, CGCS

Secretary Patrick J. Daly, CGCS

Treasurer Jason S. Adams

Trustee Scott Lagana, CGCS

Trustee Michael Luccini, CGCS

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Finance Michael W. Stachowicz

Golf James A. Small III, CGCS

Education David Stowe, CGCS

Newsletter Mark Gagne

Past-President . . . Michael J. Hermanson

Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Education Fund-Raiser brings in over \$40,000 in support of UMass turf program

UMASS NEWS
Cape Cod National Golf Club in Brewster, Mass. played host to the second annual Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Education Fund-Raiser. Stephen Cadenelli, CGCS, was the host superintendent. The event was sold out and is expected to have raised in excess of \$40,000 for the turf program at The University of Massachusetts.

This year's tournament honoree was Sherwood Arlington Moore, CGCS. University officials were on hand to present him with the award. Moore is perhaps the most prominent Stockbridge School of Agriculture alumnus in golf course management.

The 92-year-old Moore's family and friends were in attendance at the Wequasset Inn tournament dinner.

"In addition to several outstanding honors and decorations, Sherwood Arlington Moore, CGCS, is without question one of our greatest Massachusetts turf alumni and arguably the greatest golf course superintendent ever," said Steve Curry, president of the Alumni Turf Group.

Of the award Mr. Curry stated "This is going to be the start of a great annual tradition of honoring inspirational and accomplished alumni of the turf program at the University."

The fund-raiser was initiated last year as a means to raise money for the new

Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Research Center. The Alumni Turf Group has continued the fund-raising efforts to support the turf program at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Last year, the event was held at Hickory Ridge Country Club, and brought in \$72,000 (through a university matching program) for the new research building.

The Alumni Turf Group (ATG), formed in 2005, is made up of turf professionals who also are alumni of the University of Massachusetts and the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. Through fund-raising, ATG hopes to instill pride in, and further the turf programs at the University of Massachusetts. ■

(Source: ATG press release)

GCSAA explains the intricacies of Professional Development Initiative

By R. Scott Woodhead, GCSAA

GCSAA NEWS
Imagine if you could influence how the leaders at your golf course see you. You can. PDI offers you the opportunity. By taking personal responsibility to continually improve your skills and abilities, you will raise your credibility and perceived authority. With a commitment to being the best that you can be; by embracing continual learning and the knowledge gained from competency-based education, you will create expectations for your performance with your employer and then deliver on those expectations.

These standards have afforded you an important opportunity to confirm your commitment to life-long learning. By adopting standards, GCSAA members very publicly committed to the golf world that they want to validate their achievements and competencies. Previously, there was not a way to document the skills, knowledge and abilities of a Class A superintendent and market them to employers as consistent within the profession.

The result: recognition and reward for your effective management of the golf

course and the golf experience you provide for golfers.

If you have questions concerning your Class A status, contact R. Scott Woodhead, Senior Manager of Governance & Member Standards at 1-800-472-7878, ext. 4418, or Stacie Adams, Membership/PDI Coordinator, at ext. 3687.

Still Plenty of Time!

It's possible that you recently received a Class A Renewal Update from GCSAA and were awakened to the fact that you are in the initial 3-year renewal cycle and need to acquire a combination of education/service points in order to remain a Class A member when July 1, 2006 rolls around. With less than a year remaining, is this still possible?

A couple of things to remember:

- There is still plenty of time to easily fulfill the required three education/service points, keeping in mind that a minimum of 1.2 points must be "education" points.

- Everything from attending a local chapter meetings with approved education, to participating in one of the numerous GCSAA webcast opportunities from the comfort of your office or home, to attending the 2006 Golf Industry Show and GCSAA Education

Conference as a full-pack registrant and much, much more; will earn you education points. And do not forget to record credit for serving on a local community board, coaching your son/daughter's soccer team, or giving a presentation to the local flower club, which are just three of the many ways to obtain service points.

- To review a full list of education/service point opportunities, as well as recording education/service points and posting pesticide license information, please go to the "My Member Central" tab on the GCSAA web site or request information and affidavits by calling the GCSAA's Fax-On-Demand line at 1-888-838-4419.

So exactly how do I record points?

Be sure to visit Member Central on the GCSAA Web site at www.gcsaa.org. Member Central is your one-stop shop for managing your Class A requirements. It will allow you to record education and service points, as well as view your transcript for either your current renewal cycle or a comprehensive, lifetime record.

- Education points for pre-approved non-GCSAA educational events. An event approval code will be announced at some point during the program. To record attendance, you must submit the event approval code to GCSAA by using either the online education point

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USGA News Update offers a seasonal reminder of Mother Nature's unique way of balancing things out

By Jim Skorulski,
Senior Agronomist,
Northeast Region, USGA
Green Section

(October 21, 2005)

Never fear, Mother Nature has a unique way of balancing things out. The flooding rains that soaked the region and golf courses for past two weeks are one more example of powers of nature. The floods have caused significant losses on a number of golf courses, but those pale in comparison to the losses in human life and personal property. Flood debris can always be cleaned, bunker sands replaced, and washouts repaired. The clean-up process continues at many golf courses and has added insult to injury to what has already been a very difficult season.

A continued pattern of wet weather and above normal temperatures will impact the grasses ability to gain cold

temperature hardiness in preparation for the winter ahead. The truth is the weather has a greater influence on plant hardening than any cultural practices that can be implemented. The weather pattern later in fall will have the greatest impact on the plants. A period of cool, dry days and cold nights will really accelerate the process. Several days of below-freezing temperatures in early winter will maximize the hardiness. Wet weather will keep the plants hydrated and not allow for maximum cold temperature hardiness.

What steps should turf managers consider to improve the grasses cold temperature hardiness this winter?

- Raise the height-of-cut of putting green turf to maximize the plant's ability to capture sunlight and undergo photosynthesis.
- Fertilize with potassium to eliminate any potassium deficiencies. The potassium fertilization should ideally be completed throughout the season to eliminate the deficiency. Several lighter applications can be made beginning in

September to overcome known deficiencies. Fertilizing with K beyond sufficiency levels will probably not provide any benefit, and some research has shown that excessive K levels can increase the incidence of snow mold.

- Avoid high applications of N especially in October when the weather can remain warm and stimulate unwanted shoot growth. Withhold the granular applications until mid-November and use a spoon-feeding approach with soluble fertilizers if necessary for mid-fall feedings.

- Note any dense shade patterns on greens, tees, and fairways, and take action to increase the quantity and quality of sunlight reaching the turf. The sun is critical for plants to gain maximum cold temperature hardiness.

- Reduce soil compaction to maximize root development. Late season deep-tine aerification has become popular to alleviate compaction and provide increased air space in the soils for the winter season.

With the stressful summer and wet fall weather, gray leaf spot has become an issue in the region once again. It has caused damage at several courses in the northeast, and this is a disease that can go undiagnosed, particularly if perennial ryegrass is mixed in with other species. It is most prevalent in roughs, on south facing slopes, and in high traffic areas. Gray leaf spot often looks like drought stress. If you notice that only ryegrass is being affected by what appears to be traffic damage or drought stress, and other species (Kentucky bluegrass, annual bluegrass, fescues, etc.) are faring better, there is a good chance that you have it. Remember, gray leaf spot can stay active until the first killing frost, so keep your eyes open.

We all have learned to respect the powers of nature in this business. But every now and then we need a wake-up call to remember who is boss. Hopefully, the surprises are over and more normal weather pattern will return in time to allow the golf courses to prepare for the winter ahead. After all, things have a way of balancing out, and we have had one of the warmest seasons on record. ■

Northeast Region Green Section

Your PDI questions answered

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affidavit available in Member Central or a traditional paper affidavit.

- Education points for educational events without GCSAA pre-approval. Submit the "Member Application for GCSAA Education Points" available in Member Central under the external education section to request a review of an education program. Applications must be submitted within 30 days of the event. If the program meets the criteria for education points, staff will record the education points to your transcript.

- Education points for GCSAA seminars & web casts. You must complete the evaluation form given at the end of the seminar and return it to the instructor. The evaluations will be scanned and the education points automatically recorded.

- Education points for attending the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show. You must be registered as a full-pack attendee in order to

receive the 1.5 education points that are awarded for attendance at the GCSAA Education Conference & Golf Industry Show. Your points will be recorded automatically following the conference.

- Service Points. Service Points can be recorded using the online service point affidavit available in Member Central or by submitting a traditional paper affidavit. A few categories require additional documentation be provided. For a complete list of the service point categories, visit Member Central.

- If you do not have access to the Internet or would prefer to use a paper affidavit, we have developed a special automated, 24-hour Fax-On-Demand telephone system (1-888-838-4419). Upon request, a blank education or service point affidavit form will be faxed to you. After completing the appropriate affidavit, mail or fax (785-832-3643) the form back to GCSAA where staff will update your transcript. You can also request these forms by calling the GCSAA Member Solutions at (800) 472-7878. ■

(Next Month: More PDI Topics)

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L-93 bentgrass may not be a good fit in New England

continued from page 2

1/2-inch tines with 1-inch centers. In cooler areas, and he suggested this for New England courses, aerifying twice a year with 1/2-inch tines with 1-inch centers should take care of the thatch issue.

With this method, greens cored out on a Monday can often show no signs of aeration come the weekend, White said.

Marie Pompei, technical agronomist for L-93 distributor Jacklin Seed, said she has talked with Jim Skorulski, USGA Green Section agronomist in New England, about the complaints.

"He seems to relate it to fertility issues, meaning thatchiness of L-93 is a result of overly aggressive fertility programs," Pompei said. "I have not heard it to be an issue elsewhere. The beauty of L-93 is that it does not need excessive maintenance for top turf quality."

Pompei said five pounds of nitrogen is far too high. "Usually less is more," Pompei said. "They try to do too much and run into trouble."

White's advice for fertilization is that N rates should be no less than 2 to 2.25 pounds per thousand square feet annually, depending on construction sand vs. soil. Higher traffic courses may

need a little more for recovery around hole locations and ingress/egress patterns.

White said tissue tests are a good monitoring tool for establishing N rates and also evaluating fertility program in terms of efficiency.

"N rates should be about six percent in the spring and about 5.25 to 5.5 percent in the summer. Bumping it back towards six percent in the early fall is used for CHO reserves and recovery," he said.

Maybe by following this advice, New England superintendents will come to love L-93 as much as the rest of the country. ■

Editor supports discussion of L-93, but not conclusions

continued from page 1

(International Sports Turf Research Center, Inc.), which is a certified soils lab, to evaluate the mat which is formed by these new turfs. We have also discussed this situation with turf managers around the country at roundtables conducted by ISTRIC. There is something to the north vs. south when evaluating L-93, as the managers down south do not have the problem of mat or thatch development." Maybe this is one reason southern managers like it. The mat layer will lead to disease, inconsistent speeds, and require more intense cultural practices — many of the issues that would lead a northern turf manager to pick a different turf (I personally wish I could still get South German Bent).

Stephen B. Tibbels, CGCS: "I spent almost an hour on the phone with the author discussing issues from poor recovery after vertical cutting to problems maintaining consistent speeds. I was quite surprised to see that he only included a comment about cutting height (which I am not sure was even mine) and cutting back on water from those items we discussed. I agree with Steve Cadenelli and Steve Mann regarding their experiences with L-93 and was surprised to hear Bud White try

to pass off those concerns as inappropriate management."

In general the weaknesses of L-93 seem to be the challenge of getting consistent speed; recovery from ball marks and cultural practices; excessive thatch; bentgrass deadspot; and cool season color. L-93's benefits include ability to take a low height-of-cut (required in order to get speed), dollarspot resistance, deep rooting, and fine texture.

I think the story took a year or nay stance on L-93, rather than superintendents sharing management challenges with their peers. I love the discussion that has ensued because of this article in pre-production and look forward to it in post-production. I give credit to the superintendents interviewed for allowing this to go to print anyway; it shows they are more concerned with sharing information with their peers than the controversy of the article. ■



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In search of 'The Next Level'

continued from page 5

are presently at. We all live in a world of comparisons. Realistic guidelines must be established for your golf facility, not the one down the street. I have seen several golf courses add fairway irrigation to play off green turf in summer, only to learn that the budget

had to be increased significantly to maintain the newly irrigated fairways. Is that the next level? Many courses in the past few years have started topdressing fairways and approaches at a substantial cost. This procedure has certainly made an improved playing surface, possibly raising it to another level, but as budgets get cut with fewer rounds and mounting expenses, will these clubs drop to a lower level? I think the solution is more about

good communication and realistic expectations than direction and levels.

With respect to my retiring superintendent friends, I wish you a farewell and thank you for your passion and resourcefulness through the years. You were leaders when I broke into the business and you never needed any GPS systems to set your direction, establishing levels that made us all proud. 🙏

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

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Member: William C. Brown, Jr. Affiliate, Country Club Enterprises, a.k.a. Northeast Golf & Utility Vehicles.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to John Bresnahan, new sales representative for BASF Turf & Ornamental. John will be covering the New England territory.

Congratulations to Bob Goglia, sales representative for Syngenta, who was recently married October 1, 2005.

GCSANE NEWS

Request for Club Newsletter Articles. We all have to sit down every month to write articles for our club's newsletter, and it gets harder and harder to get inventive. If anyone is interested in e-mailing copies of their best articles to get printed in GCSANE's Newsletter, please send them to Michael Stachowicz, Editor, at mstach@dedhamclub.org, or to Julie Heston, Business Manager, at jheston@verizon.net. This would be helpful to other superintendents as they search for ideas for their own club newsletters.

Please join us for the GCSANE Holiday Gala to be held on Friday, December 16 at Belmont Country Club.

INFORMATION

TurfLinks Scholarship Program. In an effort to promote and support the turfgrass industry, TurfLinks, Inc. and TurfLinks Environmental Service, Inc. will award two \$2,500 scholarships annually to qualified students planning a career in turfgrass management. For information and an application, visit www.turflinksusa.com. Applications must be postmarked by Dec. 1. Scholarships will be awarded each January.

Aquatrols Student Essay Contest. Topic: The role of surfactants in enhancing water use and/or irrigation efficiency. Eligibility: Children of individuals employed in a turf or landscape management capacity. Entrant must provide parent's name, title, and place of employment (subject to verification). Entrants must be accepted into an undergraduate program at an accredited institution for the 2006/2007 academic year. (Please provide school name & address). Entries must be received by midnight Wed., March 1, 2006. Entries may be submitted by mail or e-mail. Send mail entries to: Aquatrols Essay Contest, 1273 Imperial Way, Paulsboro, NJ 08066. E-mail entries to: essay.contest@aquatrols.com. Judges will select two scholarship winners for one \$2000 grand prize, and one \$1000 runner-up prize. Winners will be notified by April 15, 2006., and winning entries will be published on the Aquatrols website. For more information, visit www.aquatrols.com.

The Aquatic & Terrestrial Weed Control Symposium, sponsored by the Northeastern Weed Science Society and the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society, will be held Wed., Jan. 4, 2006, 1 - 5:45 p.m. at the Westin Providence, 1 W. Exchange St., Providence, R.I. Experts from across the U.S. will present and discuss land & water based weed control issues. GCSAA has approved 0.4 GCSAA Education Points for those attending. The agenda includes: *Orifice P. Nozzlehead's View from the Boat* - C. Layne, AERF; *Integrated Aquatic Weed Management in Turfgrass Areas* - J. Whetstone, Clemson Univ., Clemson, S.C.; *Biological Control of Aquatic Weeds: 1959-2005* - J. Shearer, U.S. ACOE, R&D Center, Vicksburg, Miss.; *The Successful Control of Japanese Knotweed in a Riparian Setting* - A. Gover, Penn State Univ., State College, Pa.; *The 2002 Farm Bill and its Effect on Invasive Plant Management in New England* - A. Lipsky, USDA/NRCS; *Aquatic Weed Resistance: Should I be Worried?* - L. Glasgow, Syngenta Crop Protection, Vero Beach, Fla.; *The IR-4 Project: New Opportunity for Aquatic Herbicide Registration in the U.S.* - Marija Arsenovic, IR-4 Project, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N.J.; *Weed & Algae ID*

Workshop. Register before Dec. 16 and pay \$30 per person. On-site registration is \$45 per person. To register, send name, employer, address, phone, fax, and e-mail to Brian S. Manley, Secretary/Treasurer NEWSS, Syngenta Crop Protection, 67 Pinewood Rd., Hudson, NY 12534; (518) 851-2122; e-mail: brian.manley@syngenta.com. Make checks payable to: NEWSS (no credit card payments accepted).

GOLF RESULTS

October 20, 2005

Joseph Troll

Turf Education Tournament

Cape Cod National G.C., Brewster, Mass.
Host: Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS
Gross

1st - 57: Jim Staszowski, Ed Figiela, Peter Bacon, & Tom Strycharz

2nd - 62: David Farina, Darin Eddy, Dave Wallace, & Louis Bettencurt

3rd - 64: Jason Booth, Eric O'Neill, Ed Kaufman, & Shannon Slevin

Net

1st - 57: Robin Hayes, Diane Conrad, Paul Miller, & Sally Miller

2nd - 59: Chris Cowan, Mike Stachowicz, Kurt Calderwood, & Bill Sansone

3rd - 59: Greg Misodoulakis, John LeClair, Neil Hanrahan, & Jay Snyder

Closest to Pin #8: Greg Vaughan, 1' 2 1/2"

Closest to Pin #16: Paul Jamrog, 4'10"

Long Drive #3: Randy Rickenbach, 305 yards; Ed Kaufmann 3"

November 1, 2005

Annual 9-Hole Meeting

(Scramble format)

Wampatuck Country Club, Canton, Mass.

Host: Edward Eardley

1st: Ken Crimmings, Tim Crane, Joe Lazaro, & Carl Miner

2nd: Jim Small, Ron Dobosz, Joe Rybka, & Ed Gianni

3rd: Dick French, Arthur Miller, Jack Hassett, & Mike Cornicelli

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Plan now for 2006 GCSANE Newsletter advertising

THE NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATE SCHEDULE

AD SIZE	SIZE SPECIFICATIONS	MONTHLY RATE	4 TIMES PER YEAR RATE (Save 5%)	6 TIMES PER YEAR RATE (Save 10%)	8 TIMES PER YEAR RATE (Save 10%)	ANNUAL RATE (Save 17%) (cost of two issues!)
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Member/Friend/Affiliate Rates:

1/6 page (vertical; 2.375" wide x 4.5" deep)	\$125.00	\$475.00	\$675.00	\$900.00	\$1250.00
1/6 page (horizontal; 5.06" wide x 2.125" deep)	\$125.00	\$475.00	\$675.00	\$900.00	\$1250.00
1/3 page (horizontal; 5.06" wide x 4.5" deep)	\$200.00	\$760.00	\$1080.00	\$1440.00	\$2000.00
1/2 page (horizontal; 7.75" wide x 4.5" deep)	\$250.00	\$950.00	\$1350.00	\$1800.00	\$2500.00
Full page (vertical; 7.75" wide x 9.25" deep)	\$500.00	\$1900.00	\$2700.00	\$3600.00	\$5000.00
Insert (separate sheet; 8.5" wide x 11.0 deep)	\$500.00	\$1900.00	\$2700.00	\$3600.00	\$5000.00

Non-Member Rates: (All payments must be received in full before the ad appears in The Newsletter.)

1/6 page (vertical; 2.375" wide x 4.5" deep)	\$150.00	\$570.00	\$810.00	\$1080.00	\$1500.00
1/6 page (horizontal; 5.06" wide x 2.125" deep)	\$150.00	\$570.00	\$810.00	\$1080.00	\$1500.00
1/3 page (horizontal; 5.06" wide x 4.5" deep)	\$240.00	\$912.00	\$1296.00	\$1728.00	\$2400.00
1/2 page (horizontal; 7.75" wide x 4.5" deep)	\$300.00	\$1140.00	\$1620.00	\$2160.00	\$3000.00
Full page (vertical; 7.75" wide x 9.25" deep)	\$600.00	\$2280.00	\$3240.00	\$4320.00	\$6000.00
Insert (separate sheet; 8.5" wide x 11.0 deep)	\$600.00	\$2280.00	\$3240.00	\$4320.00	\$6000.00

**For more information about The Newsletter's advertising program, please contact
Julie Heston, GCSANE Business Manager,
by phone at 401-934-3677 or by e-mail at jheston@verizon.net.**

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First Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Newburyport, MA
Permit No. 61

FIRST CLASS

Return to:
300 Arnold Palmer Boulevard
Norton, MA 02766

INSIDE . . .

- **Feature: L-93 Bentgrass**
- **Calendar**
- **From the President**
- **GCSAA News**
- **GCSANE FORUM**
- **UMass News**
- **USGA News**
- **Divot Drift**