



# THE NEWSLETTER

February 2006

of the **Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Inc.**

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## **Jack Hassett found his home at Mount Pleasant C.C. after experiencing many other points of the compass**

By Gary Trask

Jack Hassett never gets tired of the compliments.

The veteran Mount Pleasant Golf Club superintendent is no stranger to receiving thanks for the primo condition of his course, whether he's out and about on the course, in a downtown restaurant having dinner with his wife, Brenda, or on the operating table.

### **MONTHLY FEATURE**

Yes, that's right. The operating table. "I was in for back surgery in '92," Hassett explains with a laugh. "The nurse found out who I was and what I did for work. I was literally just about to go under the knife when in the middle of everything she stopped to say how much she and her husband appreciated how well-kept the course was. Kind of an unusual place to get a compliment, but I'll take it."

Hassett, 55, has been accepting kind words about the pristine shape of Mount Pleasant since 1984. That was the year his career came full circle and he was put in charge of maintaining the club

that he worked at as youngster growing up in Lowell.

"I never imagined that I'd be back here to become superintendent for 20-plus years," says Hassett, whose intimacy with the club is exaggerated by the fact that he lives in a house neighboring the private nine-hole course. "I played a lot of golf here when I was younger and I worked on the grounds crew. So as you can imagine, it's a special place to me."

Hassett may be plying his trade on the course he grew up on, but he is by no means a Lowell-lifer. In fact, in the years before his return to Mount Pleasant, he lived as far away as Texas, where he earned his degree at North Texas State University and sold sod for the Manderley Corporation, and Canada, where he helped build a golf course in Montreal back in the early 1970s. It was those experiences, he says, that prepared him to come home and take charge of the club where he learned to love the game of golf.

During the last 20 years, Hassett, who some call the "Unofficial Mayor of Lowell" because of his popularity

**"I played a lot of golf here when I was younger and I worked on the grounds crew. So as you can imagine, it's a special place to me."**

**Jack Hassett  
Mt. Pleasant C.C.**

around town, has helped modernize the course. He has overseen the reconstruction of all nine greens, including totally replacing three of them. He has added bunkers and changed the aesthetics of the course, just to "keep up with the times," he says.

And making the last two decades worth every ounce of the blood, sweat and tears he has produced are the compliments that he inevitably receives on what seems like a daily basis, no matter where he might be.

"I'm in a great situation because the people I work for and the people that play here are all appreciative of what my crew and I do," Hassett says affectionately. "It's a real personal satisfaction to have people tell you they appreciate your efforts. That's something I'll never take for granted because I know it doesn't happen in many professions." ■

**"I'm in a great situation because the people I work for and the people that play here are all appreciative of what my crew and I do."**

**Jack Hassett  
Mt. Pleasant C.C.**



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# GCSANE Presidents perform a passing of the gavels at 2006 Annual Meeting



The GCSANE elected its new slate of officers and board members at the Annual Meeting Jan. 30 at Nashawtuc C.C. in Concord, Mass. Exchanging the presidential gavels above are outgoing GCSANE president **Michael Hermanson** (at left), receiving the plaque recognizing his two years in office; and new GCSANE president **Pat Kriksceonaitis** (at right), shown receiving the gavel he will put to work during his two-year term.

## GCSAA elects officers & board members for 2006 at annual meeting in Atlanta

**Sean A. Hoolehan**, CGCS, of Wildhorse Resort & Casino in Pendleton, Ore., was elected president of GCSAA at the association's annual meeting Feb. 10 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Hoolehan has been on the board of directors since 2001, was GCSAA's vice president last year, and is currently chairman of the chapter relations committee, conference & show resource group, the industry advisory council, and the diversity task group.

**Ricky D. Heine**, CGCS, general manager at The Golf Club Star Ranch in Austin, Texas, is the new vice president. Heine has been on the board of directors since 2001. He is chairman of the finance committee and vice chairman of the chapter relations committee, conference & show resource group, and industry advisory council.

**David S. Downing II**, CGCS, of Rivers Edge Golf Club in Shallotte, N.C., was elected as secretary/treasurer. He has been on the board since 2002, is chairman of the strategic communication and tournament committees, and a member of the finance committee.

The remaining seats on the board are filled by:

- Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J.
- James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Course, North Quincy, Mass.
- Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, Boca Rio Golf Club, Boca Raton, Fla.
- Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, The Olympic Club, San Francisco, Calif.
- Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, Overland Park (Kan.) Golf Club
- The immediate past president is Tim O'Neill, CGCS at the Country Club of Darien (Conn.).

## CALENDAR . . .

March 6-9 **9th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show**  
Rhode Island Convention Center  
Providence, R.I.

April 27 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting Joint Meeting with Golf Course Managers Association of Cape Cod**  
Old Scotland Links  
Bridgewater, Mass.  
Host: James Small III, CGCS

# New GCSANE President Pat Kriksceonaitis recognizes outgoing board members and sets his first two goals

## Dear Members,

It is an honor to be elected as president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England. As one of the first organized groups in this profession, it took vision and leadership to get us started. From the beginning with John Shanahan in 1924 until today, there have been 39 presidents of this chapter. I hope to carry on the tradition of all who have come before me and lead us for the next two years with resolve and dedication.

I'd like to thank three retiring board members. Each has served the association with distinction. Arthur Silva, CGCS, has recently served as treasurer. He kept a close watch on our financial well-being and kept us on the positive side of the ledger sheet. Dave Comee has been the main driving force behind the Scholarship & Benevolence Tourna-

ment. There is over \$120,000 in the fund now, which is quite an accomplishment. Running the tournament is a long and thankless job. Dave and his committees have done a tremendous

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

job. Last, but not least, is a man who is retiring from the local board and moving onto a larger assignment, Jim Fitzroy, CGCS. Jim has led this association, led the employment committee, and has shown all of us on the board how to conduct business in a respectful and strong manner. I've learned a lot from all of these men. I'd like to thank you all for serving so well.

As the incoming president I have set two goals. The first concerns our monthly meetings. The meeting attendance is less than desirable. Why is this? Is it the time constraints we all have? Is it the lack of education? Is it a loss of camaraderie? I think it is all of the above. I'd like to give our members a reason to attend each meeting. How many of you can dedicate 12 hours during the summer for golf and a meeting? Not many. Even in the winter, will you travel two hours just for a good lunch? Not very often. The association needs a renewed commitment to provide quality education when possible. This can take many forms, whether it is a university professor or a roundtable discussion of our peers doesn't matter. There are many talented individuals in our profession that are underutilized. We also need to explore different formats to allow our members

to attend, perhaps a dinner meeting or barbecue during the summer. Golf could still be possible, but maybe as an option. It will be hard to make many changes this year, since a lot of work has been done setting up meeting sites. But we need to start making changes so that when we leave a monthly meeting we take home something of value. If we can do this, the odds of attending next month will be greater.

The second goal is to help get the University of Massachusetts turfgrass program back on its feet. I'm old enough to remember when it meant something to go through the university and earn a turf degree. I'm not too sure it is as meaningful today. We need a strong university program to keep the industry up to date and vibrant. How do we do this? The newly formed Alumni Association may be the lead group to accomplish this. It most likely will be a cooperative effort from all concerned. It will take some discussion to formulate a strategy. I'm not sure of the best route but I'm willing to help in any way possible.

If you have any thoughts on how to help achieve these two goals please don't hesitate to call me or another board member. We are always willing to hear your views.

Next month I'll introduce you to the three new board members who have come on board and the assignments we have all agreed to tackle.

Sincerely,  
Pat Kriksceonaitis  
President, GCSANE

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# A superintendent resolves another 'Heavy Issue' and learns the fine print of state law in the process

By Rick Lawlor, CGCS

A year ago I conducted an annual performance review for one of my full-time employees. It was a very positive appraisal. At its conclusion the employee put me on "notice" that he would be seeking a job reclassification with the Personnel Board. What's a "Personnel Board?" Well, that's another story all together.

## GOVT. RELATIONS

My work environment is municipally owned and operated. All full-time employees belong to an organized labor union. All jobs with the municipality carry a complete, detailed description and are "scored" by their requirements to achieve a pay range or classification. The reclassification request would ask an appraisal agency to consider a higher pay range for the job description presented, based on new or previously unrecognized requirements within the job.

So you ask, what was new? Operating a front end loader, with the proper licensing that is mandated by Massachusetts General Law, Section 520 CMR 6.00: "The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Public Safety (DPS), Hoisting Engineer License, shall apply to any hoisting machinery where the height of the lift exceeds ten feet or the weight of the load exceeds 500 pounds or the capacity of the bucket exceeds 1/4 cubic yard capacity." You may recall people talking about a "hydraulic" or "heavy equipment license" which is the same thing. This licensing requirement was not listed in the job description, although it was obviously necessary, as the operation of this equipment is listed.

But golf courses are exempt, right? Wrong. MGL 520 CMR 6.0 is applicable to all hoisting machinery used on private or public property – except when being used for agriculture. "But, we're agriculture, right?" Wrong. Many years ago golf courses were reclassified by the DPS as "recreation/entertainment." Why didn't the Commonwealth inform us? It is the obligation of the operator to know what laws apply to each piece of machinery that they use during the course of their work. And the licensed employee that put me "on notice" knew the law.

Just to make sure, I contacted our own Julie Heston and asked her to send out an e-mail to the membership seeking those of you whom might have had a similar experience. The response was rapid, but limited. Obviously there were not many of us who have had to deal with this legal issue. But, for those who had, I now knew that what had been presented to me was valid.

Well, that really put a crimp in the cable. Actually, it shut down that part of the operation. You see, the employee expressed willingness to make a phone call to the DPS and file a complaint that we had unlicensed operators running hoisting machines. Even though ignorance of the law is never an excuse, it would've been my only plea if I was forced to deal with the DPS. And now that I was informed, I needed to get my employees licensed.

So here's what I had to do. All of the loader and backhoe attachments were removed from the tractors. That was the only way that the tractors could be used for other work. I went to the [www.mass.gov/dps/](http://www.mass.gov/dps/) website and clicked on "Licensing" and then "Hoisting License" and appearing before me was all of the information that would be required to earn a license. To be eligible for a "Hoisting License" a person must be 18 years old, possess a valid and current driver license to operate a motor vehicle, have a good moral character, complete an application to test, pass a D.O.T. medical examination, and pass a written examination.

When completing the application it is critical for you to know what category (class) of license is required for the type of machine(s) that you operate. For simplification, the license can be all-encompassing or it can be very restrictive. If all you have is a front end loader on a tractor with tires, then you could get away with category 2C. Let's say that the tractor also has a backhoe attachment. That would mean that you need to get a 2B. And, if the tractor has skid (track) steering, then you need to get a 2A. On the plus side, if you possess a 2A license then you could legally operate any type of machine that is defined in 2B and 2C, but none of the machines defined in category 1, 2 and 4.

*continued on page 9*

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# With long-term goal of minimizing winter injury, collaborative study reports on 2004-2005 results

By Mary Owen,  
UMass Extension Turf Program,  
and  
Dr. Scott Ebdon,  
Dept. of Plant, Soil,  
& Insect Sciences,  
College of Natural Resources  
and the Environment,  
University of Massachusetts

Over the course of the past few years that included several seasons of severe winter injury to greens, a working group of northeast golf course superintendents has been taking an increasingly active role in looking at the question of winter survival. The need for research addressing this problem at a local level was identified, and researchers were included in the discussion. In 2004 a project steering committee was formed. This committee set a long-term goal: to assess winter survival and identify practices and conditions that are primary in minimizing winter injuries of annual bluegrass-creeping bentgrass greens.

The Steering Committee, in conjunction with the Extension Turf Program and the Department of Plant, Soil, & Insect Sciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, successfully pursued support for a preliminary study that combined field work done on golf courses with laboratory and greenhouse study at the University. This project is: *Winter Survival of Annual Bluegrass and Creeping Bentgrass Greens in the Northeast, 2004-2005*.

Superintendents, their assistants, and staff from the following golf courses participated in this project: Charles River C.C., Newton Centre, Mass.; Rochester C.C., Gonic, N.H.; Bass Rocks G.C., Gloucester, Mass.; Glens Falls C.C., Queensbury, N.Y.; Walpole C.C., Walpole, Mass.; Tedesco C.C., Marblehead, Mass.; The Essex County Club, Ipswich, Mass.; Quechee Club, Quechee, Vt.; Woodway C.C., Darien, Conn.; Kernwood C.C., Salem, Mass.; Worcester C.C., Worcester, Mass.;

Salem C.C., Peabody, Mass.; and Manchester C.C., Bedford, N.H.

Greens with a history of winter injury were identified and a pre-project survey detailing historical, environmental, and cultural factors was completed. The selected greens were monitored for temperature and cold hardiness from December 2004 through early April 2005. Temperature data and turf samples were submitted to the University of Massachusetts for analysis for primary and secondary plant survival as well as percent crown moisture.

We met the three objectives we set out to accomplish in this single season study:

- Protocols and procedures for data collecting and sampling in the field regarding assessment of winter survival of annual bluegrass-creeping bentgrass greens with a history of winter injury were refined.

- Superintendents and staff gained proficiency in the use of data loggers and associated software for monitoring temperature.

- Laboratory and greenhouse protocols and procedures for grow-out of turf samples and for determination of percent crown moisture were refined.

A report detailing the results of the 2004-2005 study has been provided to the cooperators and the funding agencies.

Several of the cooperating golf courses are continuing to monitor both canopy and air temperatures for their own information and comparisons.

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**Several of the cooperating golf courses are continuing to monitor both canopy and air temperatures for their own information and comparisons. Some courses are also pulling turf samples to watch for signs of plant mortality.**

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Some courses are also pulling turf samples to watch for signs of plant mortality.

Our intent now is to use what we learned in the 2004-05 study, examine and analyze what is already known in the scientific body of literature, and, with the Project Steering Committee and a focused group of cooperators, determine the best avenue for research projects that will lead us closer to achieving the long-term goal: minimizing winter injury.

We are grateful for the tremendous support and enthusiastic encouragement from so many organizations and individuals. Thank you to the many golf course superintendents, assistants, and crew for the hard work, determination and commitment in carrying out the fieldwork! Thank you to the UMass students and staff who assisted so ably in the lab, greenhouse, and other aspects of the study!

We are especially grateful to the organizations that provided and facilitated funding: Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Golf Course Managers Association of Cape Cod, Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association, New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, New England Sod Producers Association, New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents Association, and the Vermont Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

The Steering Committee will be meeting later this month. Your suggestions, comments, and input are more than welcome. Please do share them with any members of the committee: Peter Hasak, Tedesco Country Club, ([tccgrounds@aol.com](mailto:tccgrounds@aol.com)); Mary Owen, University of Massachusetts, Amherst ([mowen@umext.umass.edu](mailto:mowen@umext.umass.edu)); James Skorulski, United States Golf Association ([jskorulski@usga.org](mailto:jskorulski@usga.org)); Dr. Scott Ebdon, University of Massachusetts, Amherst ([sebdon@pssci.umass.edu](mailto:sebdon@pssci.umass.edu)); Patrick Kriksceonaitis, Essex County Club ([grounds@essexcc.org](mailto:grounds@essexcc.org)); and Dr. John Roberts, University of New Hampshire ([John.Roberts@unh.edu](mailto:John.Roberts@unh.edu)). ■

# Former GCSANE Newsletter editor Mike Stachowicz shares an upbeat article from his club's publication

**Editor's Note:** We all have to sit down every month to write articles for our club newsletters. We are looking to provide examples of club newsletter articles for our members. Our sixth article in this series, "News from the Greens & Grounds Department," is by Michael Stachowicz, superintendent, Dedham Country & Polo Club.

by **Michael Stachowicz, GCS**

The grounds staff is currently very busy readying the course for winter. Leaf removal is a huge effort this year with the trees holding on to their leaves for so long. This fall's wet weather has forced tee and approach aeration well into November to keep the staff doubly busy.

The last week of November and the first week of December will be spent preparing the greens for winter. There will be a deep tining of the greens to facilitate drainage, deep rooting, and thatch dilution through the winter. A dormant seeding will be done and a heavy layer of topdressing applied to the greens. This heavy layer of sand will not only do its normal job of diluting thatch and smoothing the putting surface, but will provide the turf with protection and insulation from winter.

This brings up a common question for grounds staff: What do you do during the winter? It depends on the weather. Tree, facility, and equipment maintenance really take up the bulk of our time. At Dedham our winter responsibilities are greater than many places because of indoor tennis court maintenance, paddle courts, trap shooting, skating, and snow removal. If the weather allows we will continue to work on the drainage system to insure that it works efficiently. If the weather is particularly harsh, indoor projects include working on Audubon certification, application programming, training, program development, and professional development. (It is during this time of year when we are able to earn pesticide education credits to keep our licenses in good standing.)

As far as tree removal this winter, we are looking at many diseased ashes

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## This brings up a common question for grounds staff: What do you do during the winter?

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needing to come down. The ashes in this region are going through a harsh decline and many are evident here at the club. We will continue to tailor our tree program for turf health, tree health, and to show off our natural assets such as the rock outcroppings. We will also be pruning trees for health and safety such as the oaks on the sixth hole, the maples between the 18th hole and the range, key oaks on the 7th and ninth holes, and the willows on 14 and 15. These are key specimen trees and we are happy to see them get the care they

need in order to thrive and be an asset to the club for years to come.

Work is starting on the skating hut, and this time we are more optimistic. With contractor problems behind us and with the town of Dedham in the loop with this restoration, it looks like we are set up for success. The other new items down in that area include improved lighting and new hockey boards. There are many people who are looking forward to this improved area for families and hockey players alike. All of this will be ready for the winter skating season.

I am very happy to have finished my second season here. I feel as though we have laid the groundwork for very successful upcoming seasons. With drainage restored, the irrigation operating correctly, several hundred tons of sand applied, a good dedicated staff, and the fairway and green mow lines restored, we should have nothing but a very good outlook. ■

### MEMBER ARTICLE



### Rybka & Mackintosh recognized at Annual Meeting

Retiring GCSANE members **Joe Rybka** (left), and **Roy Mackintosh** (right) were recognized for their years of service to the organization at the Annual Meeting Jan 30 at Nashawtuc Country Club in Concord, Mass. In the center is outgoing GCSANE president Michael Hermanson.

# Eight GCSANE members maintain 3-year Class A status through GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative

By R. Scott Woodhead,  
Senior Manager, Governance  
& Member Standards, GCSAA

The Professional Development Initiative (PDI) was implemented on July 1, 2003.

**GCSAA  
NEWS**

This initiative was designed to provide GCSAA Class A members with the means to demonstrate to employers and to the industry their commitment towards enhancing their skill and knowledge levels to meet the demands of this dynamic marketplace.

The following members of the GCSA of New England were assigned to the initial three-year Class A renewal cycle and have successfully completed all the requirements for maintaining their Class A status. These individuals have obtained at least 3.0 points, a minimum of 1.2 coming from education points and have demonstrated environmental stewardship by possessing a pesticide license in the state of their employment or successfully passing GCSAA's IPM exam.

The GCSANE members maintaining Class A status: Richard P. Tworig II,

At the current time, 31% of all GCSAA Class A members assigned to the initial three-year renewal cycle have successfully completed all the requirements.

Roger W. Brink, Todd A. Sauer, James Girouard, Eric A. Sinisalo, Stephen Carr, Anthony D. Grosso, and Stephen J. Curry.

At the current time, 31% of all GCSAA Class A members who were assigned to the initial three-year renewal cycle have successfully completed all the requirements.

Congratulations to these members on this accomplishment, as well as promoting the value of obtaining and maintaining Class A status. ■

## UMass announces conference & workshops of interest to superintendent community

The University of Massachusetts announced several workshops of interest to the golf course superintendent community:

*Bilingual (English/Spanish) Education: Basic Lawn Care and Pruning of Woody Ornamentals.* The program will be held Thursday, March 16, 2006 at Regis College in Weston, Mass. The program will be given in both English and Spanish. For information, visit [www.umassgreeninfo.org](http://www.umassgreeninfo.org) and [www.umassurf.org](http://www.umassurf.org), or call Randy Prostack at 413-577-1738 or Mary Owen at 508-892-0382.

*Growing Green: Strategies for Success.* This one-day conference will be held Thursday, March 23, 2006 at Stockbridge Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The conference is designed for arborists, tree

wardens, municipal managers, city planners and landscape architects involved in the management of property, both private and municipal. The keynote speakers for the conference are Dr. Roger Harris, Associate Professor in the Horticulture Dept. at Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, Va.; and Dr. Susan Day, Assistant Professor in the Forestry Dept. at Virginia Tech University. Registration is \$60. (Lunch and parking are included in the registration). Checks are payable to University of Massachusetts. Send to: Tree Conference, UMass Extension, French Hall, 230 Stockbridge Rd., Amherst, MA 01003. For more information, go to [www.umassgreeninfo.org](http://www.umassgreeninfo.org) or contact the UMass Extension Landscape, Nursery & Urban Forestry Program at (413) 545-0895, or [eweeks@umext.umass.edu](mailto:eweeks@umext.umass.edu).

*Potential Pests, Possible Solutions* will be held Wednesday, March 29, 2006 at the Radisson Hotel in Brockton, Mass. Registration is \$65. (Lunch is included in the registration). Checks are payable to University of Massachusetts. Send to: Potential Pests, UMass Extension, French Hall, 230 Stockbridge Rd., Amherst, MA 01003. For more information, contact UMass Extension at (413) 545-0895, [eweeks@umext.umass.edu](mailto:eweeks@umext.umass.edu), or Deborah Swanson, Plymouth County Extension, at (781) 293-3541, [dswanson@umext.umass.edu](mailto:dswanson@umext.umass.edu). ■

**Growing Green: Strategies for Success** is designed for arborists, tree wardens, municipal managers, city planners and landscape architects.



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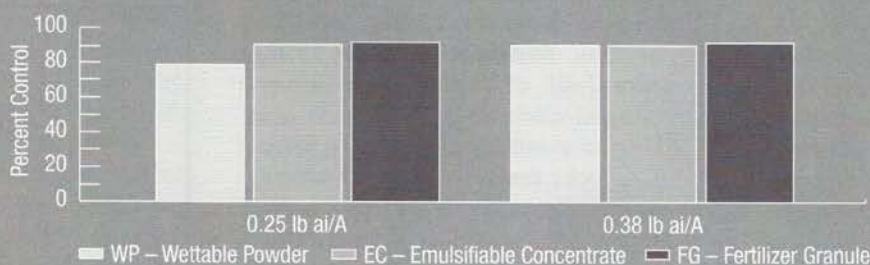
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# Superintendent faces 'Heavy Issue' – and learns fine points of law

continued from page 4

My research with other golf courses, utility companies, and the DPS led me to realize that there are schools in existence that provide training and education to help candidates achieve their licensing goals. Because time was of the essence (aerating was three months away) I decided to use the schooling option and enrolled employees with the Peterson School in Woburn, Mass. ([www.petersonschool.com](http://www.petersonschool.com)). The training session was a one-day, intense, category-specific preparation for the license examinations. I found it interesting that the "study questions" provided actually appeared on the state exam. It was money well spent. In less than three months time, we were able to license six operators at a cost of \$500 per license.

The other thing that I learned in class was just how severe the consequences could be for non-compliance. The range and authority of the DPS parallels that of another state agency that we are very familiar with in this business. That's right, the State Pesticide Bureau. They both can come to your business sites with or without cause or warning. And, they both can impose anything from warnings to business closings to jail sentences. If you're like me, you do

anything that you can to keep them away. That's the safest path.

Oh, and about renewals, the DPS is currently upgrading their renewal process to include continuing education. Instead of just sending them a check every two years, they're going to make licensees acquire so many points between renewals. Sound familiar? Another thing that you'll be pleased to find out is that the DPS is in the process of evaluating other types of equipment that we use regularly in this business, such as big mowers and trap machines. Sound like a lot of unnecessary concern to you? Me too . . . but think of the money that the state can make by this regulation.

So now you know, and if you've read this far, you are informed. The operation of "not-so-heavy" equipment must be performed by licensed people. Though I didn't feel fortunate at the time, I am glad that I came to learn about it in the way that I did instead of having an inspector show up at my doorstep. I'm glad that we have become a legal operation.

Need to hire a fully-licensed operator? I can be reached at 508-760-4878 or [rickstang302@yahoo.com](mailto:rickstang302@yahoo.com). ■

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**Editor's Note:** Although the process of obtaining a license is clearly an onerous one, we believe it important to share Mr. Lawlor's experiences as we all strive to maintain fully compliant operations. With regard to the medical examination requirement, applicants are required to see their physician of choice for a comprehensive exam, the results of which are reported to the DPS on a 4-page form.

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## Turf Management Products

The logo for Tom Irwin Inc. features the name "Tom Irwin" in a stylized, cursive font. A vertical line separates "Tom" and "Irwin". To the right of "Irwin", the letters "INC." are written in a smaller, sans-serif font.

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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:** Billy West, Assistant, Spring Valley C.C., Sharon, Mass.; Adam J. Kushmerek, Student, University of Rhode Island; Bill Butts, Affiliate, Waverly Landscape; and Daniel Magdalenski, Superintendent, County Club of Billerica (Mass.).

**Proposed for Membership:** James Medeiros, CGCS, Superintendent, Thorny Lea, Brockton, Mass.; Jeffrey Kohn, Assistant, Myopia Hunt Club, Hamilton, Mass.; Melvin B. Lucas, Assistant, Quail Ridge C.C., Acton, Mass.; Christopher Gould, Assistant, Mt. Pleasant C.C., Boylston, Mass.; Robert Frieswick, Assistant, Mt. Pleasant C.C., Boylston, Mass.; NMP Golf Construction, Williston, Vt.; Friend, Mario Poirier, Vice President; Read Custom Soils, Canton, Mass.; Friend; Garrett Whitney, Affiliate, Read Custom Soils, Canton Mass.; and Erik Hagenstein, Affiliate, Allen's Seed Store, Exeter, R.I.

## **MEMBERS ON THE MOVE**

**Congratulations** to Michael Poch as he leaves The Country Club to accept the superintendent position at Foxborough Country Club.

**Congratulations** to Brad MacDonald as he leaves The Country Club to accept the superintendent position at Granite Links Golf Club.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Congratulations** to Thomas Ackley, who has been re-certified for the second time as a certified golf course superintendent as designated by GCSAA.

**Congratulations** to Rick Lawlor on recently becoming a certified golf course superintendent as designated by the GCSAA.

**Congratulations** to Jim Beane who was awarded a GCSANE 25-year pin at the Annual Meeting.

**Congratulations** to recently retired superintendents Roy Mackintosh; Joe Rybka, CGCS; and Lennie Blodgett, who were recognized for their years of service in the profession at the GCSANE Annual Meeting.

**Our condolences** are extended to Mick Echard and his family, after the recent passing of his father-in-law.

**Congratulations** to Scott Lagana and family on the birth of their son in December.

**Congratulations** to Rodney Hine and the Boston Golf Club, which was recently listed as #3 in the "Best New Private Course" category for 2005 by Golf Digest.

## **GCSANE NEWS**

**In anticipation** of communicating more information in the future via e-mail, we ask that all members add our Executive Secretary, Sharon Brownell, to your e-mail address book. Sharon's e-mail addresses are: [Sbrownell@gcsane.org](mailto:Sbrownell@gcsane.org) and [Sbrownell@verizon.net](mailto:Sbrownell@verizon.net). Due to firewall settings, many of our members are not receiving GCSANE e-mail messages sent by Sharon and we want to ensure all members are kept in the loop.

**Watch** the [gcsane.org](http://gcsane.org) web site for details on how to pay for meeting fees online by credit card. It has been projected that the online payment process will be available for the April meeting.

**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 for printing in GCSANE's *Newsletter*, please send to Mark Gagne, Editor, at [mgagne@walpolecc.com](mailto:mgagne@walpolecc.com), or Julie Heston, Business Manager, at [jheston@verizon.net](mailto:jheston@verizon.net). This will be helpful to other superintendents as they search for ideas for their own club newsletters.

## **EDUCATION**

**Foliar Nutrition Web Seminar.** LebanonTurf is pleased to announce that a web seminar, Foliar Nutrition on Turfgrass: What We Know and What We Don't Know, has been approved for GCSAA Education Points and will be available for registration on February 15. This webinar features Dr. Beth Guertal of Auburn University and Dr. David Gardner of Ohio State University, and is approved for 0.15 EP. In addition, LebanonTurf will make a \$25 donation to the local GCSA of every superintendent and assistant who attends. The seminars are scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 10 a.m.; and Thursday, March 9, 2 p.m. You may register for this event at [www.LebanonTurf.com](http://www.LebanonTurf.com) beginning February 15, 2006. Sign up early as space is limited.

## **POSITION OPENINGS**

**Second Assistant Superintendent,** The International Golf Club, Bolton, Mass. The International Golf Club is a private 36-hole golf facility consisting of two highly-regarded courses. The Tom Fazio-designed Oaks course opened in 2001 and is currently ranked #7 in Massachusetts. The Pines course is currently the longest course in the world at 8,325 yards. The applicant should have a two or four-year degree, ability to obtain a Mass. pesticide license, and two-plus years of golf course experience. The candidate will assist in overseeing daily operations and a staff of up to 60 team members; implement chemical and fertilizer applications; assist with irrigation repair and maintenance; assist in record-keeping, and assist in the planning and coordination of cultural management practices. Compensation is commensurate with experience, and includes health and dental, 401(k), life insurance, uniforms, and paid time off. The deadline for applications is March 15, 2006. Please send resume to: Brett R. Johnson, CGCS, The International Golf Club, 159 Ballville Road, Bolton, MA 01740.

**Second Assistant Superintendent,** Haverhill Country Club, Haverhill, Mass. Haverhill Country Club is a private 18-hole country club built in 1925 by Wayne Stiles. Haverhill is located 40 minutes north of Boston. Responsibilities will include employee training and supervision, chemical and fertilizer applications, daily syringing, the overall maintenance of a Toro 8000 irrigation system, and all other duties relevant to the management of a private golf course. The candidate should have a minimum two-year degree in turfgrass management or comparable experience. The individual must have at least two years of golf course experience, a working knowledge of an irrigation system, and be able to obtain a Mass. pesticide license within three months. The position offers a very competitive salary commensurate with experience. Benefits include health insurance, two weeks vacation, 401(k), and local & national dues. The deadline for applications is March 10. The position is open until filled. Please send resume to: Matt Behl, Superintendent, The Haverhill Country Club, 58 Brickett Lane, Haverhill, MA 01861.

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## Allen's Seed Store Inc.

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Specializing in quality seed and related  
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## Agresource, Inc.

100 Main St., Amesbury, MA 01913  
Tim Gould, Guy Trovers  
(800) 313-3320, (978) 388-5110

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26 Waite Ave., S. Hadley, MA 01075  
Manufacturer of fertilizer & control products.  
Rick Forni - (413) 534-8896

## Armstrong Golf Architects, LLC

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## BASF Turf & Ornamental

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## Michael Drake Construction, Inc.

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Golf course reconstruction; professional shaper.  
Michael Drake - (508) 875-8247

## E-Z-GO/Texton

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## G. Fialkosky Lawn Sprinklers

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Irrigation services to golf courses throughout New England.  
Gary Fialkosky - (617) 293-8632

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## Golf Cart Services, Inc.

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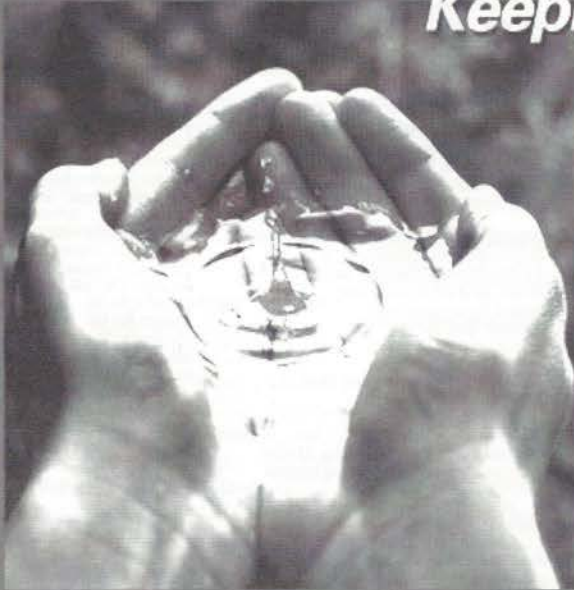
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