



THE NEWSLETTER

January 2007

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

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Hasak Poised to Step Up and Serve GCSANE

By: Gary Trask

Ask Peter Hasak what he likes most about his job and his answer is quick and concise, but strikingly sincere.

"Everything," responds the vehement Hasak as he gets set to begin his 20th season as head superintendent at Tedesco Country Club in Marblehead, Mass.

When asked to be more specific, the 50-year-old is happy to pontificate.

"I really love what I do," he says with even more fervor. "I love the diversity of working with growing things in and around Mother Nature. I love being outdoors. And I really enjoy working with the membership. Tedesco is a very special place and I feel very fortunate to have been a part of it for so long."

Past history shows that when Hasak dives into something, he goes full tilt. Whether its his job at Tedesco CC, the devotion to his wife of 15 years, Kerri, and their three kids (Spenser, 13, Sam, 11, Morgan, 9), or the winterkill study he took the lead role in almost four years ago, Hasak is known for putting his all into everything he does. The newest benefactor of his passion is the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England. In January, Hasak was named to the association's Board of Directors as a trustee.

"It's something that I take a great sense of pride in," he says of his new position. "I've been a member for a very long time, but with three young kids it just wasn't appropriate for me to be more active. But now that my kids are getting closer to their teenage years, I feel that I now can give the position the necessary time it deserves."

Hasak's major function on the board will be to act as the government relation's liaison, a task he takes very seriously.

"The most important thing we have to do as an industry on a continual basis is educate the public," says Hasak, who lives in Topsfield, Mass. "There are a lot of things that we simply aren't going to get the activists to change their minds on. But if we can get them to understand that we look at ourselves as environmentalists, it will be a big help.



Pictured above: Peter Hasak

"We need people to realize that we're doing everything we can to enhance the environment. We know how to handle these products and we know what we can and cannot do. It's important that people know this."

Also of great interest to Hasak is the Winter Injury Initiative Group that he spearheaded back in 2003. The group is

heading towards a multi-year research project, under the guidance of Dr. Michelle DaCosta, that is attempting to identify specific causes for winter-related turf grass damage and, more importantly, how to prevent it.

"There's so much out there that we need to know," he says. "It's been a lesson in patience for me. But it's an important result we're trying to achieve. The winter damage in the Northeast hasn't been that bad the last couple of years, but the memories of 2001 and 2003 are still pretty vivid in my mind. That's what keeps this project going."

Hasak grew up in Fairfield, Conn. and it was at the Country Club of Fairfield that he realized what he wanted to do with his life. A then-17-year-old Hasak was working on the grounds crew at the club when an intern from the UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture pulled him aside for a brief conversation that had a huge impact on Hasak.

"He told me if I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do with my life, just give this one try," remembers Hasak. "I decided to take his advice and I've never looked back."

Hasak graduated from Stockbridge in 1978 and got his first superintendent job at Amherst Golf Club, where he spent two years. Following another two-year stint at Hickory Ridge Country Club, also in Amherst, and four years at Hampden Country Club, Hasak found what would be his home for the next two decades.

Continued on page 2



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New Era for President's Message

Newly elected GCSANE President Russ Heller, CGCS would like to make full use of our newly updated web site. Instead of a monthly President's message, Russ would like to refer members to the blog-format on the web page. Please visit: www.gcsane.org for more information.



Peter Hasak
continued from 1

"Like I said, Tedesco is a special place," he says fondly of the North Shore gem that opened its fairways way back in 1903. "The amount of commitment I get from the membership is something that I don't think you see very often. And I've always been a historic course type of guy. The modern designs don't really thrill me. Being around a historic place like this really gives me a charge."

What also gets Hasak's heart pumping is the end result of the work he and staff does on a daily basis.

"The most pleasing part of the job is the reward of putting out the product for the membership," he adds. "We try to go quietly about our business, but when you walk out and see the results yourself, that's the greatest reward that you can ask for."

CALENDAR...

- Feb 22 **UMass Reception**
Anaheim Hilton
5:00 - 6:00 pm
- Feb.28 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Framingham C.C.
Host: Patrick Daly, CGCS
- March 5-8 **10th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show**
RI Convention Center
Providence, RI
- April 30 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Lexington C.C.
Host: Bob Dembek
9-Hole Tournament
- May 29 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
TPC Boston
S & B Tournament
Host: Tom Brodeur
- June 6 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Pocasset G.C.
Joint Meeting w/GCMACC
Host: Stephen Carr
- July 16 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Belmont C.C.
Host: Arthur Silva, CGCS
- Aug. 21 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Marlborough C.C.
Individual Championship
Host: Kenneth Crimmings, CGCS
- Sep. (TBA) **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Ludlow C.C.
Team of Two Tournament
Host: Ronald Dobosz
- Oct. 1 **Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Education Fundraiser**
The International
Honoring Geoffrey Cornish
Host: Brett Johnson, CGCS
- Oct. 22 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Pleasant Valley C.C.
Member/ Guest Tournament
Host: Donald D'Errico
- Nov. (TBA) **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Brockton C.C.
9-Hole Tournament
Host: Justin Bousquet

Survey to be sent to members in mid-March

Third phase of GCSAA's National Golf Course Environmental Profile project coming soon

Widespread participation of GCSAA members and non-members is needed for continued success in the third phase of the association's Golf Course Environmental Profile Project. The results will be used to provide an accurate portrayal of nutrient use on golf courses.

This phase will collect data from golf course superintendents on the amount of nutrients applied to golf courses. Surveys will be distributed beginning March 19 in both hard copy and electronic forms, with the cutoff date for the receipt of information April 27.

"We have been pleased by the response rate of the first two phases," GCSAA Director of Research Clark Throssell, Ph.D., said. "It is important that we have strong participation by both GCSAA member and non-member superintendents to compile the necessary data. It is vital that we get data from

all types and sizes of facilities. The information will help GCSAA to better serve them in managing their facilities."

The survey is part of a multi-year project being undertaken by GCSAA that will evaluate environmental performance on golf courses. The Golf Course Environmental Profile project is designed to collect information that will allow superintendents and other facility personnel to become better managers, help them operate more efficiently and lead to GCSAA developing more valuable programs and services. Such information will include details about playing surfaces, natural resources, environmental stewardship efforts and maintenance practices on the golf course.

Throssell indicated the data are still being analyzed from the first two phases, one focusing on the physical

profile of a golf facility and the other on water use and conservation. The first comprehensive report of the first two phases will appear in a peer-reviewed scientific journal this year. The Environmental Institute for Golf funded the first two phases of the project thanks in part to a grant from The Toro Foundation.

The Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA, is a collaborative effort of the environmental and golf communities, dedicated to strengthening the compatibility of golf with the natural environment. The Institute concentrates on delivering programs and services involving research, education and outreach that communicate the best management practices of environmental stewardship on the golf course. For more on The Institute, visit www.eifg.org.



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By Ethan Tease



Assistant's Corner

Editor's Note: *The following is the first of what we hope will become a regular feature in The Newsletter, written by our assistant members. This month, Ethan Tease, 2nd Assistant at Woodland Golf Club, kicks off the concept and offers his experiences.*

From One Assistant to Another

Assistant Superintendents play important roles in the various aspects of golf course maintenance. Of course, job one for an assistant is, as the name suggests, assisting the Superintendent in the seemingly endless duties that are required to maintain and improve a golf course. This may range from simply assigning daily jobs, to handling an irrigation break spouting a 30 foot geyser on the 8th fairway. Assistants often assume the extra hours that are necessary to maintain a healthy, respected golf course. Though there are difficult days, frustrating days, they make those

precious early morning moments when the course is quiet and perfect all worthwhile.

Assistants should take advantage of every opportunity to learn and improve the necessary skills in order to one day land that dream Superintendent position. While most learning comes from seminars, field days, superintendents or that "wise man" with 20 years experience, there are few opportunities for assistants to pass knowledge to other assistants. This new column in the GCSANE Newsletter encourages assistants to write articles offering advice or sharing experiences. This is an excellent opportunity to share thoughts and opinions with fellow assistants and the golf course maintenance community.

From Hard Work to Network

Hard work and dedication are important attributes to have as an aspiring Superintendent. To supplement these traits are the benefits found in networking and activism. One of the easiest ways to network with different

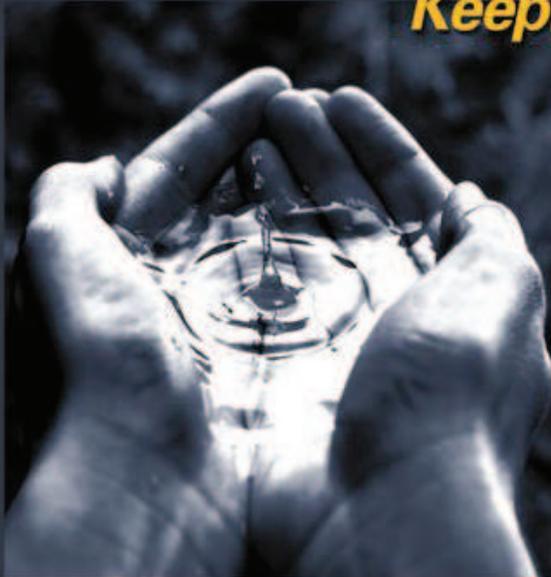
people in the industry is by serving summer internships at various courses. Whether it be the Superintendents, Assistants, or even the other interns, each person becomes an excellent reference tool for advice or future jobs. Another great way to meet influential people in the industry is by volunteering at golf tournaments. By volunteering at the 2004 U.S. Women's Open at the Orchards Golf Club, I was able to network and secure an internship there the following summer.

Joining and being active in national and local associations, as well as attending industry shows and seminars are other great ways to network. Networking provides an excellent opportunity for impromptu interviews. In such situations it is important to use professionalism and enthusiasm in order to make a quick, yet lasting impression. While it is a cliché, there is only one opportunity to make a good first impression.

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February Meeting - Framingham Country Club, Framingham, Massachusetts

February 28, 2007

Host: Pat Daly, CGCS

Framingham Country Club was founded in 1902. The original nine holes were laid out by Orrin E. Smith. Donald Ross was said to have had a hand in building the course, but the extent of his involvement is unknown. The back nine holes and practice area were designed by William F. Mitchell and opened in 1960.

FCC is a founding member of the MGA and has hosted numerous state opens and amateur championships. This year, the club will be hosting the USGA Senior Amateur Qualifier event, along with The NEPGA Pro-Pro Championship.

In 2001, FCC installed a new Toro LTC Plus irrigation system with a Flowtronex pumping station. This year they are in a process of building a new pro shop and grillroom, with cart storage underneath. Pat has served as "clerk of the works" for the project, which is scheduled to be completed by June. They are also in the beginning stages of reconstructing some bridges along Willow Brook, which is located on the back nine of the course.

Jeff Urquhart has served as Pat's First Assistant and has recently taken the job as Superintendent of the Milton-Hoosic Club. Brian Daigneau was working as the Second Assistant and has moved up to the First Assistant. Mitch Angle is Pat's current Second Assistant.

Pat is currently at his 7th year as Superintendent of FCC. He previously was Superintendent of the Milton-Hoosic Club and Assistant at Pine Brook Country Club. He received his Bachelor's Degree from The University of Rhode Island. When not working Pat enjoys coaching his daughter's softball team. He also enjoys spending time with his two daughters Emma and Caroline, son Nathan, and wife Judy.

*Pictured to right:
Framingham Country
Club's 13th Hole*

Format:	
Registration:	10:30am
Meeting:	11:00am
Lunch:	12:00pm
Education:	1:00pm

Education:

Paula Goudsmit "Effective and Fulfilling Goal Setting for Maximum Impact"

We are either moving toward what we want (career, money, relationships, health, work/life balance) or away from it. If we do not make a conscious effort to keep our end goal in sight, the pressures of day-to-day life keeps us in a holding pattern. That's okay if the holding pattern lasts for a short period of time. Yet for many, that holding pattern is a permanent state of being, where the pressures of work and life leave little time to focus on what replenishes versus depletes us. We rarely have time to gain clarity on where to best use our time and resources, and our "to do" list is filled with items that give us the illusion of progress, yet in fact, bring limited satisfaction and fulfillment.

This interactive presentation will begin with a simple yet profound individual assessment tool that will enable participants identify priority focus areas for positive momentum toward goals. Once clarity is established, participants

will learn tools, tips and techniques to stay focused on the areas that will bring maximum impact.

Paula Goudsmit, CPCC, ACC "High Impact Executive Coaching and Consulting"

Paula is a Certified Professional Coach and Principal of High Impact Coaching and Consulting who specializes in executive coaching and customized consulting projects. Paula helps improve individual and organizational results and effectiveness.

Over the past 10 years, Paula worked as a Worldwide Channels Program Manager in the Lotus Software brand within IBM, while simultaneously coaching executives responsible for bringing in deals in excess of \$100m to IBM. These individuals were in various business units of the organization ranging from Sales and Distribution, Procurement, Legal and Operations and resided in North America, Europe and Latin America.

Paula participated on the team that developed the vision and mission statement for Lotus Software, and has led and participated in a variety of executive roundtable forums, organizational change initiatives, mentoring programs, and coaching programs on both the strategic and tactical level within IBM.

Paula holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Assumption College, Worcester, MA and a Master of Science degree from Boston University, Boston, MA. Additionally, Paula is a Certified Professional Coach through the Coaches Training Institute, San Rafael, CA and an Associate Certified Coach through the Internal Coach Federation, Washington, D.C.

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Turfgrass Diseases of New England ~ 8am-5pm

Financial Planning: The Grass Can Be Greener ~ 1pm-5pm

Computer Training - MS Excel 2003 ~ 1pm-5pm

American Heart Assoc.: Heartsaver & AED Training ~ 1pm-5pm

Sports Turf Seminar

Tuesday, March 6 • 1pm-3:30pm

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Keynote Speaker -

March 6 • 3:45pm

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New England Patriots

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Wednesday, March 7 • 10am-5pm

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Bob Ruzala and the Nor'Easter - A Conference Tradition

By Bob Chalifour, CGCS (Ret.), Editor, Connecticut Clippings

Look around the room when you visit the Nor'easter Hospitality Get Together at the GCSAA Conference in Anaheim, CA. People are conversing, eating, drinking, sitting and standing. What a great place to go and socialize. One person however is doing all that and a lot more.

Meet Bob Ruzala our host chairman. As you enjoy the evening greeting old friends and meeting new ones, Bob is watching out that the hotel meets its' obligations. Is the room adequate (you never know exactly how many will attend) is the food served as ordered, are there enough servers, are there enough bartenders, and oh yes, are the bartenders skimming?

Now five years into this, the seasoned golf course superintendent (22 years) of Hickory Ridge GC in Amherst, Massachusetts has contacted the Hilton hotel in Anaheim. The Nor'easter room is planned way ahead of the event and ready to go. Back in August when no one wants to think about anything but their golf course, Bob is on the phone negotiating with a hotel rep to organize a get together for nine golf course superintendent associations.

A couple of years ago the UMASS Stockbridge alumnae decided to host a similar event. Oops conflict, not anymore. Chairman Bob straightened that out. Bob has assured me that the UMASS event will be held from 5-6PM and the Nor'easter will be 6-10 PM. Both will be held in the Hilton, GCSAA headquarters hotel on Thursday, February 22, 2007

The payment of the Nor'easter room is based upon the amount spent. At Orlando which had a large crowd there was a discrepancy as to the amount of liquor sales. The hotel rep claimed that our group was below their quota by a few hundred dollars and would have to pay a whopping \$2,500 more for the room. Undaunted, Bob challenged the rep, and was able to show that the bartenders were skimming. "Just look at the wad of bills that they are claiming as tips", Bob exclaimed! Paper work from past Nor'easter functions were enough to pull in the reins on this potential expensive problem. Bob went on to

caution the hotel rep that their employees by not using cash registers were probably costing them thousands of dollars each year. Who else would have thought to bring along a paper trail?

In addition to the nine associations that contribute proportionately to the Nor'easter Room several companies have signed on as Friends to help with the expenses. This is an expensive endeavor, partly due to the 27 1/2 % taxes and gratuity that is added to the bill. If you wish to contribute please contact Bob Ruzala at Hickory Ridge GC.

Bob, on behalf of everyone thank you for all your work and diligence, in

making the Nor'easter Room a premier event.

Participating associations are:

Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents
Golf Course Managers Association of Cape Cod
Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England
Long Island Golf Course Superintendents Association
Metropolitan Golf Course Association
New Jersey Golf Course Superintendents Association
Northeast Golf Course Superintendents Association
Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association
Vermont Golf Course Superintendents Association

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Pictured above: Bob Ruzala



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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:

Mitch Angle, Assistant, Framingham Country Club; Jonathon Zolkowski, Assistant, Norfolk Golf Club; Trent Lynch, Assistant, Franklin Country Club; Nicholas Beaulieu, Student, UMass; Nathaniel Binns, Affiliate, Turf Products Corporation; Valley Green Inc., Friend, Holyoke, MA

Proposed for Membership:

Daniel Tower, Assistant, Boston Golf Club; On-Course Golf, Friend, Acton, MA; Southwest Putting Greens of Boston, Friend, Westford, MA; Seth Germain, Assistant, Ludlow Country Club; Matthew Santos, Assistant, Ludlow Country Club;

The following are all students at UMass applying for student membership with GCSANE: Nathan Salmore, Matthew Cronan, Ryan Dehlinger, Torey Moughan, Ryan Avery, Gregory Atanasio, Kevin Haslam, Joseph Durell, Edward Ledgard, Matthew Stearns, Richard Walworth, Matthew Koylowski, Tyler Stafford, Ryan Messier, Ben Polzin, Weston Neff, Anthony Delaiarro, Eric Still, Shawn Specer, Tim Kurr, Student

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Paul and Sarah Blanusia on the recent birth of their son, Matthew.

Congratulations to Brian and Alexandra Linehan on the recent birth of their daughter, Evelyn.

Note: *All members are encouraged to contact Julie Heston to announce new arrivals so that we may purchase a savings bond in recognition of their birth.*

Wishing Rich Tworig a speedy recovery on his recent knee surgery.

Wishing Jack Petersen a speedy recovery from his recent surgery.

Our condolences are extended to Don Hearn and family on the passing of Don's mother.

Our condolences are extended to Bill Spence and family on the recent passing of Bill's mother.

The Massachusetts Golf Association along with the American Society of Golf Course Architects will be conducting a Remodeling University in September of 2007. The MGA would like to know if your facility would be interested in serving as the host club for this great event. They are looking to have 150 attendees for this one-day seminar on the do's and don'ts of renovation work and feel that this might be a great opportunity to educate your members and committees should you be looking into a renovation project this Fall. Any Superintendent who would be interested in having his/her club host this event or would like more information regarding Remodeling University, please feel free to contact: Scott W. Whitcomb
Director of Field Operations
Massachusetts Golf Association
800-356-2201
swhitcomb@mgalinks.org

A Texas Hold'em event will be held on March 31st at Pinehills Golf Club to support Steve Curry of Berkshire Hills Country Club. Steve is undergoing treatments following surgery to remove a brain tumor. Steve's prognosis is very good and we wish him the best of luck in his recovery process. For more information on this event, please contact Sharon Brownell at (800) 833-4451 or sbrownell@verizon.net

Congratulations to Pat Kriksceonaitis who was recently named a merit winner by GCSAA and Golf Digest as part of the 2006 Environmental Leaders in Golf awards. The award recognizes the environmental stewardship effort of superintendents from public, private and resort facilities throughout the world, and Pat was one of only 27 superintendents receiving an award.

"Green Links" Seeking Your Environmental Case Studies for Recognition

I am currently the host superintendent of a new web feature, "Green Links", Highlights from EDGE. It is a collection of environmental success stories that have been developed over the last year. We are very excited about the opportunities this project has encountered. As we look to build our case study resource we are pleased to discover excellent environmental work from superintendents throughout the country. *Green Links* has provided a great opportunity to showcase the work of our talented members and we are looking to learn more about the members in your area. We need you help to identify those within your chapter that have shown creativity and resourcefulness in their environmental endeavors. I am inviting you to submit your case studies individually or simply give us a tip on who to talk to and we will take it from there. Members will earn 0.25 service points for submitting their case study. If you have any questions feel free to contact me, David Phipps at <mailto:dcphipps@bctonline.com> or Mark Johnson at <mailto:mjohnson@gcsaa.org>. Thank you so much in anticipation for your support. Take a few minutes to check out the case studies on "*Green Links*" at www.eifg.org.

MEMBER ON THE MOVE

Congratulations to Jeff Urquhart as he leaves Framingham Country Club to accept the Superintendent position at the Milton-Hoosic Club.

POSITION OPENINGS

Please visit our web site
www.gcsane.org
for all the details
on any current
job openings.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Walpole Country Club

January 31, 2007

2007 GCSANE Board of Directors



Ron Kirkman and Pat Kriksceonaitis enjoy a humorous moment as "The Captain" receives the 2006 Distinguished Service Award.



From left to right: Ron Dobosz, Mike Stachowicz, Jim Small, CGCS, Pat Daly, CGCS, Russ Heller, CGCS, Peter Hasak, Jason Adams, David Stowe, CGCS, Scott Lagana, CGCS and Mark Gagne (not pictured: Mike Hermanson)

Photo Credit: Rich Gagnon



Kip Tyler, CGCS with 25 year membership award.

Photo Credit: Rich Gagnon



Pat Kriksceonaitis passes the presidential gavel to Russell Heller, CGCS



From left to right: Kip Tyler, CGCS, Peter Hasak and Dean Robertson

Photo Credit: Rich Gagnon



Charles Zeh accepts the 25 year membership award from Jim Small, CGCS



The Mihailides Team
(From L-R): Manny Mihailides and David Mihailides

Photo Credit: John Eggleston

Recognized for 25 years of membership:

- Richard Caughey**
- Philip DiRico, Jr.**
- Thomas Flaherty, CGCS**
- Donald Marrone, Jr.**
- Joseph Mondor**
- Arthur Silva, CGCS**
- Douglas Stachura, CGCS**
- Dahn Tibbett**
- Kip A. Tyler, CGCS**
- Charles Zeh, Jr.**



Pat Kriksceonaitis addresses the membership.

Photo Credit: Rich Gagnon

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