



THE NEWSLETTER

October 2008

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.

National Treasure

By: **Rich Gagnon, Editor**

So who happens to be the most distant fellow member of our Golf Course Superintendent's Association of New England and where is he working you may be asking? He happens to be located in Southhampton, New York (Long Island). If Southhampton sounds familiar it just so happens to be the home of some very famous golf courses and one of our very own has been proudly maintaining the conditions at one of them. Bill Salinetti III has spent the past 6 years as head superintendent at one of the highest rated and most impossible golf courses to be allowed to play: National Golf Links of America.

National Golf Links of America is a links-style course located on scenic Long Island. The National is a Scottish style course with 365 sand bunkers and endless flowing long fescue grasses. Many holes feature blind shots, and ponds come into play on at least five separate occasions. The golf course's most recognizable landmark is the mammoth windmill that overlooks many of the challenging holes. National is currently rated 13th in the United States in Golf Digest magazine and is a constant in GOLF Magazine's ranking of the Top 100 Courses in the United States. National Golf Links of America was opened in 1909 and designed by renowned golf course architect Charles Blair Macdonald who presided over the development of the course over its first 30 years. Perry Maxwell and Robert Trent Jones have done redesigns. National currently has 14,000 rounds per year roll through

including 82 outings. These outings I was told were "member outings" and were small groups.

Salinetti's journey to National started here in Massachusetts where he originally was enrolled at the University of Massachusetts as a business major between 1989 and 1991. A change of heart and educational major landed him in the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and the four year pro-



**National Golf Links of America,
Superintendent Bill Salinetti**

Photo Source: Mark Gagne

gram at the University of Massachusetts from 1989 to 1991. Also in 1991 Salinetti took his first golf course job at the Winged Foot Golf Club in New York where he remained for eight years, six of which were as assistant superintendent. Bill got his first taste of what it takes to be a head superintendent in 1998 where he moved back to New England and accepted the superintendent position at Portsmouth Coun-

try Club where he remained for five years. During this period Bill joined the GCSANE (2000). In 2003 National Golf Links of America called on Bill to take over as their superintendent where he currently manages a crew of 30 people.

The United States Golf Association recently announced that it has awarded the 2013 Walker Cup to National Golf Links of America, the site of the first-ever Walker Cup Match held in 1922. "The USGA is very excited to take the Walker Cup back to its birthplace," said Jim Hyler, chairman of the USGA Championship Committee. "That first American team included Chick Evans, Bob Jones, Francis Ouimet, and Jess Sweetser so National Golf Links of America has an irreplaceable connection to golf history. The course dates back to the beginning of golf course architecture in this country, but has a design that has successfully stood the test of time." "National Golf Links is delighted that the Walker Cup will return to the place where it all began," said S. Parker Gilbert, President of National Golf Links. "The Club and its members look forward to hosting a magnificent match."

The initial installment of the Walker Cup Match in 1922 was led by captain William C. Fownes Jr., the United States won the inaugural Match, 8-4. National Golf Links of America was the home club of George Herbert Walker, USGA President in 1920 when the plan for the event was conceived and

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GCSANE Proposed Bylaw Amendment

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The following proposed Bylaw Amendments are being proposed in accordance with Article XIII of the GCSANE Constitution and Bylaws. These proposed bylaws will be voted on at the next Annual Meeting. They may be passed by a two-thirds vote of the regular members present at that meeting.

Article IV

Section 8 – Affiliate Members

1. An Affiliate Member is a person employed by a company that is a "Friend of the Association". He or she shall have all the privileges of the Association except to vote and hold office. He or she shall be able to be elected as the Affiliate Trustee Member of the Board of Directors.

Article V – Government

Section 2

Change three trustees to four trustees and add the following:
The Affiliate Trustee shall be a member of good standing of the Golf

Course Superintendents Association of New England.

Section 3

Add the following:
The Affiliate Trustee shall be elected for a term of two years.

Article VII

Section 5

1. Add "plus one Affiliate member of the Association."

Article VIII – Committee

Sections 2 – Standing Committees

1. Add k. Affiliate/Friends
11. Affiliate/Friends Committee. This Committee will consist of three Affiliate members, one of which is the Affiliate Trustee.

a. This committee shall act as a vehicle to bring Affiliate/Friend issues to the Board of Directors.

b. Affiliate/Friend Committee shall submit one Affiliate member name to the Nominating Committee.

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the man for whom the trophy is named. The Walker Cup Match is contested by male amateur players - one team from the United States and one team from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales - every two years, alternately in the U.S. and Great Britain/Ireland. The teams consist of not more than 10 players and a captain. The United States leads the all-time Walker Cup series with a record of 33-6-1.

Home to the first collection of "all-star" holes in the United States, this museum piece in the Hamptons is also renowned for serving the best lunch in American golf. National is also known for its character and its ability to remain unchanged. If you are looking for yardage markers on the tees or sprinkler heads you won't find any. Just swing away and guess like they used to do. And if you are looking for lights in the distant halfway house located on the 10th tee you won't find that either.

There hasn't been electricity to that building in almost 100 years. Wandering amid the windmills, punchbowl greens and views of Peconic Bay, is a membership that values its privacy. Just take it from a couple of PGA Tour winners who asked to come tee it up after missing the cut at the 1995 U.S. Open at nearby Shinnecock Hills.

"Certainly," they were told. "Who is the member with whom you'll be playing?"

I highly encourage anyone who has the chance to see this amazing golf course to do so. It is easy to see why it is one of the greatest golf courses on earth and we should be proud that one of our own is at the helm. ❖

References:

www.worldgolf.com

www.golf.com



National Golf Links of America and the famous windmill off in the distance

Photo Source: Rich Gagnon



National Golf Links of America 17th hole

Photo Source: Rich Gagnon

Surviving and Thriving

By: Pat Jones

Ironically, Steve Curry's father, a noted oncologist, was one of many who told him not to worry when he began to feel weird a couple years ago and fretted about the possibility of having cancer.

Unfortunately, the senior Curry was wrong on this occasion, and Steve found himself facing one of the most serious medical challenges imaginable – a brain tumor. Now, after facing down cancer, chemo and the prospect of his own mortality, the Berkshire Hills (Mass.) Country Club superintendent has a different outlook on his life, job and profession.

Steve Curry says he's vaguely from Connecticut, but his dad's career led the family from New York to North Carolina, Texas, Pennsylvania and other stops along the railway line of life in medicine.

But one constant along the way was his dad's love of golf, which quickly rubbed off on the young Curry. During the family's time in Hershey, Pa., he got his first glimpse of the big time.

"The old LPGA Keystone Open was played at Hershey Country Club, and my sister had a swim meet there during the week of the event," he says. "I wandered off from the pool, and there was this lady out on the putting green. She asked me if I wanted to join her, loaned me a putter and showed me some things. Pretty soon, my dad came looking for me. He was pretty irate and barked at me for bothering her. Turns out it was Joanne Carner."

Like many, Curry ended up in golf course management through a round-about route. A typical kid, he mowed many lawns and eventually got to know the greenkeeper at a little nine-hole facility in Litchfield, Conn., near his family's home. He worked there summers before heading off to college to study engineering. Then, at about the same time, a college friend changed majors to turfgrass management, and a hometown acquaintance, Rick Christian, landed the head superintendent job at the famed Pine Valley Golf Club in New Jersey. "All of a sudden, I realized this could be a serious career option for me," he says.

Curry transferred to UMass and, in between undergraduate classes, worked with Rich Cooper, Ph.D., and Pat Vittum, Ph.D., on research projects. He received a coveted internship at Pine Valley for one summer and was torn between returning to do graduate research and staying in academia or continuing as a superintendent. Eventually, the lure of being at a course every day helped him make up his mind, and he began his career as an assistant at Hominy Hill Golf Course, the well-known rounds-factory course in Monmouth County, N.J.

"It was one of those places you hear about where guys would sleep in their cars overnight to get a tee time," he says. "I even had to do it once when a friend wanted to play there."

Curry had married and had a daughter at that point, but the union didn't work out, and his now ex-wife and child were moving to Massachusetts, so he decided to follow. He took his first superintendent job at Egremont Country Club, a small low-budget place Curry describes as kind of a home-brew course that needed some tender loving care.

"It was great because I got to do everything," he says. "At Pine Valley, we had professors flying in to consult and every resource at your disposal. Egremont required Yankee ingenuity. I loved working with my hands and taking stuff apart, so I was happy. It was management by trial and error." Curry had learned an important credo along the way: Greens come first.

"The local county allied golf association had an outing at Egremont, and many people came because they'd heard about our greens. My trick there was an ancient, three-barrel greens roller filled with concrete. The greens could be cut at a ¼-inch, and after you were finished rolling with that thing, they were like pool tables."

Curry's success at Egremont earned him a shot at the job at Berkshire Hills, an area gem. He's been there since 1998 and has established a reputation for a running a high-quality facility and having a no-nonsense attitude. That attitude – and the love of family and many friends throughout the industry – might have

been one of the biggest factors in taking cancer head on and not only surviving, but thriving.

How's your season been?

Very busy and the wettest I've been through. The upside is that we've had less stress and hand-watering. But, we've lost rounds. Personally, my energy level is significantly higher than the past few years, which is great. Because of that, I'm working and playing more and sleeping less. That shows in the course. It sounds egocentric, but I was dragging last year. My guys did an outstanding job of keeping up because I was much more tentative than usual.

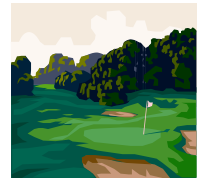
Tell me something new you've learned lately about the business.

I've been amazed firsthand and secondhand by the caring and generosity

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of the wonderful people in and around the game of golf. With my situation, there was a tremendous outpouring of prayers, well wishes and support. I recently attended the Bob Labbanche fund raiser (Labbanche succumbed to Lou Gehrig's disease late this summer) and experienced the same energy directed toward him and his family. I also followed along closely with Greg Rita's (a Tour caddy in Florida) progress and am amazed at the level of support he has experienced. I'm jealous he was invited to throw the first pitch at a recent Red Sox game, but I'm glad because it sounds like he did much better than I would have.

On the agronomic side, I'm always surprised about how much we think we know, but then years like this come along, and you find out new stuff. A year ago, anthracnose was believed to

be brought on by topdressing. Joe Vargas, Ph.D., and Bruce Clarke, Ph.D., say light topdressing actually helps more than it hurts. You find out everything you thought was right yesterday is wrong today. The bottom line is you have to be dynamic and be able to flow with change.

How are clubs in your area defying the odds and being successful?

By staying as thrifty as possible and, at least from our perspective, having a vibrant banquet business. You have to be diversified. It's not a huge factor overall, but our banquet revenue has been consistent. Even in a bad economy, people still get married, have anniversaries and die.

Tell us about that big old scar on your noggin.

A few years ago, I started to notice my energy wasn't there. I told people for a long time, including my father, I had

cancer, and they said I was full of crap. I finally went to the doctor just about two years ago, and they found a large brain tumor in my right frontal lobe. After surgery, radiation and chemo, I've been weed free – to put it in turf terms – for almost two years.

The scar is a small price I've paid. My hair is still quite thin from the radiation, which I pass off as having survived a nuclear attack. All told, I'm thankful for the experience. I had always told whining staff or children, "If it's tough, it's good for you." Well, I got a taste of my own medicine. As they say, what doesn't kill you only makes you stronger, and pain is fear leaving the body. I'm a much stronger and more driven person today than I was prior.

How else did it change you?

It definitely made me feel there's a God or a higher power. Beyond that, the experience has greatly increased my connection with my family and my desire to focus on time with them.

What's your advice to young folks considering a career in the profession?

It's a tough business, and at the moment, it's extremely competitive. Unless you have common sense and drive, you might as well head in a different direction.

Also, think about taking a position at a club with unlimited resources then, at some point, one with very little. I've found my time at Pine Valley was invaluable as well as my time at Egremont. At Pine Valley, I was immersed in everything new and exciting. While at Egremont, I learned how to achieve as much with very little. Each of those experiences has been essential to my achievement.

Tell us about the consulting work you do outside the club.

It started a few years ago when I was called by a division of General Electric to consult on lawns they had remediated for PCBs, and they failed. I asked my green chairman and was given the go ahead with the caveat that it wasn't to interfere with my performance here at Berkshire Hills. I'm a workaholic, so this wasn't a challenge.

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2009 Turf Early Order Program



The BASF Early Order Program provides significant savings to Turf Professionals and an advantage on current pricing prior to scheduled price increases which will be effective on December 13th, 2008. Turf Professionals should complete this form and provide it to their agent to execute the order. **Note: Agent Sales Representative – Keep this original form for your records and make a copy for the end user.**

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October 1, 2008 to December 12, 2008. In order to qualify for the BASF Turf EOP, products must be purchased and delivered between the program dates.

Details of Offer:

The Turf Professional must purchase a minimum of \$4,000 of eligible products to qualify through any authorized BASF agent.

Oct. Incentive	Nov./Dec. Incentive	Invoiced Dollars
4%	3%	\$4,000 – \$14,999
6%	5%	\$15,000 – \$24,999
8%	7%	\$25,000 +

Terms:

All Agency products invoiced between October 1, 2008 and December 12, 2008 will receive June 12, 2009 terms for the end-user.

The Turf Professional will receive an incentive on the total invoiced dollar volume of qualified products purchased from an authorized BASF T&O agent. All incentives will be issued to the qualifying agent who processed the order. The incentive will appear as a credit on the Turf Professional's account with their agent.

Qualifying Information:

- Incentive will be based upon reported sales from the BASF T&O agent.
- This program applies only to end-user Turf Professionals (Golf, L&L, Sports Turf and Sod Farms).
- The Turf Professional incentive is not cumulative.
- Multiple sales for one customer are cumulative and will qualify if ordered between program dates and from any authorized agent. Qualifying October purchases will be calculated at the October incentive stated; additional purchases in November and December will incorporate volumes and incentive and will be calculated at the highest qualifying invoiced amount on November and December total purchases.
- Non-qualifying October purchase volumes will be counted and paid under the November and December incentive.
- Orders for multiple courses that are owned or managed by one payer can be combined and rewarded at the highest level of qualifying incentive. Orders must be submitted through the normal reporting process. Notification of combined qualification needs to be supplied to BASF no later than January 31, 2009 and should include the following: course names, addresses, superintendent names and payer information.

BASF reserves the right to cancel or modify this program at any time.

Build a house. Create a future.

2009 Golf Industry Show Volunteer Habitat for Humanity Project

If you would like to give something back to the people of New Orleans, here's your chance to make a big difference. The partnering associations of the Golf Industry Show are teaming up with Habitat for Humanity to host a series of special work days before the trade show opens to help build homes in some of New Orleans' most devastated areas. No experience is necessary, and all the equipment and supplies are provided. Your time and energy can help make the dreams come true for several families in a big way.

The work days will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3, and Wednesday, Feb. 4, from 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

All volunteers will be placed in teams of 15 to work on homes within a particular area. The Golf Industry Show will provide transportation from the

New Orleans Morial Convention Center, lunch at the work sites, and plenty of outdoor necessities such as water and sunscreen. Project t-shirts will be provided to show your team spirit and build camaraderie with your peers.

If you'd like to participate in this first-ever volunteer project, you can sign up through any of the education conferences presented by GCSAA, NGCOA or CMAA. Participation requires a \$25 registration fee. ❖

For more information visit:
<http://www.golfindustryshow.com/2009/buildahouse.asp>

Curry - continued from page 5

Another example was working at the estate of a wealthy couple who hired an architect and sizable construction company to build a three-hole course in the back lawn. It was an unusual job, to say the least.

When you're not working, what's your favorite thing to do?

At the top of the list is family time. I look forward to the times when I can get away and spend time with my wife and children. My oldest daughter is 15 and mostly with her mom, but she visits us. My stepson, Spencer, is 16, so my wife and I are enjoying his teenage years, too.

My personal passion is photography. It's my break from the golf business, even though I do most of it on the course. I'm kind of an accidental photographer. I always have a camera with me. I think I have a good eye about what has value and interest to the viewer, but most of it is just being in the right place at the right time.

Right now, we're getting geared up for the USGA Mid-Am. I get so excited about what goes into the preparation, and I love capturing that awe-inspiring feeling with a camera. ❖

Source:
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www.golfcourseindustry.com
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UMass Update: Acelepryn™ Insecticide

Latest Message

Date: October 22, 2008

Category: Insects

Subject: Acelepryn™ Insecticide

We just received word that Acelepryn™ (chlorantraniliprole) received registration in Massachusetts last week. This is indeed exciting news for turf managers. I believe Acelepryn™ is now registered in all six New England states.

We have tested the material for at least three years and have found it to be very effective against white grubs (European chafers, oriental beetles, and Japanese beetles). Our field trials indicate that the product is most effective when used as a preventive application. We have seen very good control of grubs with applications as early as late May.

Acelepryn™ also works very well against annual bluegrass weevils in

some situations, but we are still refining the best strategy. Right now it appears that an application at the same time as a traditional spring adult treatment (after *Forsythia* full bloom and before dogwood full bloom), coupled with a follow up application of indoxacarb (Provaunt™) about three weeks later works very well in most places.

While I have not conducted field trials on other turf insects, all indications are that Acelepryn™ is very effective against many other insects as well, including billbugs and chinchbugs.

One other interesting piece of information ... Acelepryn™ is in a new class of chemistry (anthranilic diamides), which interferes with the movement of calcium ions during muscle contraction. The receptor site on insects happens to be much more sensitive to this molecule than are mammals, so the active ingredient has a very low toxicity

to mammals. In fact it is my understanding that the EPA did not require DuPont to include a signal word (in this case, "Caution") on the label.

The times, they are a' changin' indeed!
Submitted by: [Dr. Pat Vittum](#)

DISCLAIMER - As always, it is the responsibility of the applicator to verify the registration status of any pesticide **BEFORE** applying it. Different states have different regulations as well. Trade names of materials are provided for informational purposes only and do not substitute for a thorough and careful reading of the label and application according to label instructions. The author and the University of Massachusetts are not liable for any consequences of any pesticide recommendations. Mention of any trade name is not to be considered endorsement of a product. ❖

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Member:

- Craig Walker, Assistant, Milton Hoosic Club, Milton MA

Proposed for Membership:

- Jason Van Buskirk, Superintendent, Stow Acres CC, Stow MA.
- Patrick Manning, Assistant, Belmont CC, Belmont, MA.
- Patrick Sevigny, Assistant, Kernwood CC, Salem MA.

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For pictures and more details, go to <http://umassgardencalendar.org/>

**UMass Extension Turf Program
2008 Green School
November 6 - December 18**

LOCATION:

Sheraton Hotel
11 Beaver Street, Milford, MA
(exit 19 off Route 495)
505-478-7010

Questions: Call the Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Program at 413-545-0895 or the Turf Program at 508-892-0382

For Online Registration and more information, please visit:

www.UMassGreenInfo.org or www.UMassTurf.org

CALENDAR

October 29:

GCSANE Monthly Meeting

Country Club of Halifax
Member/Guest Tournament
Host: Edward Gianni, CGCS

November 13: GCSANE Monthly Meeting

Bellevue Golf Club
9-Hole Tournament
Host: Brian Skinner

***Plan ahead and reserve your space now
for The Newsletter advertising opportunities***

Member Rates:	Monthly Rate	4 Times Per Yr. (Save 5%)	6 Times Per Yr. (Save 10%)	8 Times Per Yr. (Save 10%)	Annual Rate (Save 17%)
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****DEADLINE for ads: The first of the month for that month's issue.***

***Send all Newsletter ads to: Julie Heston, 36 Elisha Mathewson Road, N. Scituate, RI 02857
Phone: 401-934-3677 Email: jheston@verizon.net***

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Root zone mixes, divot mixes, topdressing blends, bunker sands, cart path mixes, bridging stone, & hardscape supplies. Charlie Downing, Rob Fitzpatrick - (800) 4-AA-WILL

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Michelle Maltais - (401) 835-0287

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USGA-recommended sands, root-zone mixes, bunker & topdressing, agresoil compost, stone-dust, & pea-stone
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Antonios Paganis - (781) 648-2351;
(508) 428-3022

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Irrigation consultation, design, and system evaluation. Bob Healey, ASIC, CID - (508) 653-0625

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Offering our customers the most complete line of products, service and expertise in the industry. Ron Tumiski 1-800-321-5325 x6219

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Complete line of golf course accessories; Standard, Par Aide, Eagle One.
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Your one source tree care company. Our certified arborists specialize in plant health care as well as tree pruning and technical removals.
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NMP Golf Construction Corp.

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Golf course construction.
Mario Poirier - (888) 707-0787

Norfolk Power Equipment, Inc.

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(508) 384-0011

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118 Beauchamp Drive, Saunderson, RI 02874
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(800) 582-5959

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Andy Felix - (508) 543-5644

Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.

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