



THE NEWSLETTER

January 2011

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.

“The Dean of Turfgrass” Robertson wins Distinguished Service Award for 2011

By Rich Gagnon

The Distinguished Service Award committee made up of Richard T. Gagnon (Chairman), Chris Donato, Brett Johnson CGCS, Patrick Manning and Donald Hearn had one of the most significant yet easiest decisions to make last month as they were going to make their selection for the Distinguished Service Award of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England for 2011.

The nominations were in and there were many qualified and worthy nominees for this year's award. The field of nominees was reduced to 4 and each of the finalists was awarded a score ranging from 1-4 with 1 being the lowest a 4 being the highest by the 5 DSA committee members. The lowest possible combined score being a 5 and the highest possible combined score being a 20. With a staggering score of 19 the winner was clear. To put things in perspective the second highest score was an 11. This year's winner of the Distinguished Service Award of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England was Dean Robertson.

When the call came in telling Robertson he had been selected for this monumental award his gracious response was “Well how about that?” Surprised, humbled and honored are the best words to describe Robertson's reaction.

At the annual meeting held at Brookmeadow Country Club in Canton, Massachusetts on January 4, 2011 the DSA was presented to one of its most worthy recipients. Dean Robertson has been a member of the GCSANE for the past 40 years, was president of the GCSANE from 1978-1979,



Dean Robertson

was the superintendent at Bradford Country Club, Chestnut Hill Country Club, Old Seabury Golf Club and for 30 years was the superintendent of Kernwood Country Club in Salem Massachusetts.

On hand to take part in the special day were several of Dean's friends and former colleges including John Eggleston, Ted Zubiel and Martin “Bozie” Goldman. It was clear to see that Robertson had established many close relationships at Kernwood and it was evident by the appearances of these special guests, most notably Martin Goldman. As a humbled Robertson took the podium at the annual meeting he talked about how Martin Goldman hired him 33 years ago and how Goldman “Always had my back” Robertson explained. “Not only was Goldman Kernwood's President but he also was Dean's green's committee chairman for 25 years! Robertson said: “Bozie would go to the Board at Kernwood for 20 years and ask for money every winter so we could plant trees everywhere. The money was always approved but what the Board at Kernwood didn't know was that the trees were already in the ground. After 20 years of planting trees Bozie was the biggest advocate for cutting the trees all down.”

It was also great to take a walk down memory lane with Dean and hear about the good old days. Robinson talked about the old days of the association when they would host all their meetings at the Agricultural Field House in Waltham and never at a country club and how the superintendents would be in an uproar because they had to pay \$3.25 for their lunch at the meetings. It was also great hearing about his days as a new superintendent and how his crew was made up of himself and one 16 year-old kid. That 16 year-old would have to strap a tee mower to his back and walk to every tee and mow all day that way as Dean mowed rough

continued on page 2

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Robertson - continued from page 1

and fairways with the same pull behind gang-unit mower which required the height to be changed between mowings. As it turns out that 16 year-old kid went on to not only play in the National Hockey League but was the General Manager of an NHL team. Dean is still friends with him today.

Congratulations to Dean Robertson on being awarded our association's most prestigious award. Well Deserved. ❖

Brookmeadow Country Club hosts GCSANE Annual Meeting

By Jeffrey Urquhart



On Tuesday January 4th G.C.S.A.N.E held its Annual Meeting at Brookmeadow Country Club in Canton, Massachusetts. The meeting included a Past Presidents gathering, a changing of the guard and a great open forum discussion emceed by David Johnson. There were over 100 of our members present at Brookmeadow. A huge thank you to the host Superintendent Brian Linehan and the Event Coordinator Ginger Cullen and her staff for orchestrating the first meeting of 2011. They certainly set the bar high for the rest of the year.

While the members were signing in with the two volunteer desk jockeys, Nat Binns and Kris Armando, there was a Past Presidents meeting being held downstairs. A total of 12 former Presidents made the trip to Canton to discuss several association topics.



Photo Left to Right: GCSANE Past Presidents: Pat Kriksceonaitis, Wayne Zoppo CGCS, Robert Ruzsala, Patrick Daly CGCS, Russell Heller CGCS, James Fitzroy CGCS, Jason Adams (incoming President), Donald Hearn CGCS, Dean Robertson (DSA winner 2011), Richard Zepp CGCS, Robert Grant, Stephen Chiavaroli, Edward Brearley.

Continued on page 3

The newest member of this group is Patrick Daly, CGCS, who delivered his last address to the membership at Brookmeadow. He was given an engraved wooden chair on which he will enjoy sitting for the next two years as a Past President of the G.C.S.A.N.E.



Patrick Daly, CGCS

The announcement of the 2011 Board of Directors also took place at the annual meeting. The newest members of the Board are Scott Lagana, CGCS as Finance Chairman and myself as the Newsletter Editor. The Board of Directors is always striving to keep the membership happy and we will continue the same trend for years to come.

The meeting ended with the second annual Open Forum Discussion hosted by the animated Education Chairman David Johnson. Being a nine hole Superintendent, David and I have become close over the past couple of years. He does a lot of preparation for this part of the annual meeting and hopes that in the future more members will share their opinions and knowledge through participating in this discussion. He also reached out to the Board for topics that would entertain some banter from the audience. Some of topics were budget cut backs, green speeds, "to cover or not to cover", earthworms, topdressing practices, communicating with memberships via the web, rewarding your staff, different watering practices, and controlling snow mold without PCNB. David did a great job sparking conversation amongst the attendees. The Board of Directors is very thankful he is willing to take on this task on every year. For those who haven't participated in the Open Forum, please be sure to sign up for the next annual meeting. ❖

Thinking About It

By Don Hearn



Writing this piece each month will give me a soapbox from which to express my opinion, make observations, and, from time to time pose questions that I hope will prompt discussion. Depending on your level of agreement or disagreement, I might hit a nerve or make a point that will prompt a response from you. Regardless of your feelings, all comments will be welcomed and I'll try to address those wanting to offer a different point of view or feel I'm wrong and want to tell me so. Feel free to let me know what you think. If you want to send me your thoughts please do so at donhearn@sprynet.com.

I want to thank Jeff Urquhart for asking me to do this. Hopefully, I won't embarrass anyone or cause grief for any member of our Association. With more than forty years as a member of the GCSANE and the luxury of being able to step back and make observations from the standpoint of a non-practicing golf course superintendent I hope I can bring a bit of sanity to what all of you do each time you go to work.

What a career: Forty-two years ago one of our past presidents, Jim Fitzroy, was the recipient of the Lawrence S. Dickinson Memorial Scholarship. It was presented to Jim by Phil Cassidy, the long time superintendent of Weston Golf Club and chairman of the Scholarship Fund, and Dr. Joseph Troll head of the Turf Program at UMass. During the presentation Dr. Troll stated, "What I like about [Jim] is that he has his two feet on the ground and has the self assurance to go along with lofty ambitions." Well, over the past forty-two years Jim has risen to the top level of both the GCSA of New England and the GCSA of America.

Jim will end his term as the President of the GCSA of America this February at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando. He has served both groups with distinction. And he'll become the fourth member of our local association to have served as President at the national level along with Dick Blake, Steve Cadenelli and myself. I hope Jim's success will inspire some younger members to get involved with the GCSANE and travel the path to service at the national level.

❖

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Pat Daly, CGCS participates in Syngenta Business Institute

Dec. 29, 2010

Congratulations to Patrick Daly, who was selected as one of 28 golf course superintendents to participate in the Syngenta Business Institute, a unique, educational program.

The Syngenta Business Institute is sponsored by Syngenta in conjunction with Wake Forest University's graduate school of business and was held Nov. 29 to Dec. 2 in Winston-Salem, N.C. While agronomic expertise is critical to superintendent success, Syngenta also recognized the need to provide superintendents with business management tools.

Syngenta worked with Wake Forest to develop a program that focused on business and financial management, human resource management, and negotiation skills.

He was selected from a talented pool of superintendents based on an application process that reviewed their educational background, industry achievements and an essay.

Daly is the golf course superintendent at Framingham Country Club, Framingham, Mass. ❖

Source: Syngenta Press Release



GCSANE's Newest Board of Directors for 2011



Photo Left to Right: David Johnson of Whitinsville Golf Club as Education Chairman; Jeffrey Urquhart of The Milton-Hoosic Golf Club as Newsletter Chairman; David Stowe, CGCS of Newton Commonwealth Golf Course as Trustee (Scholarship and Benevolence Chairman); Michael Rose of Belmont County Club as Trustee (Government Relationship Chairman); Michael W. Stachowicz of Dedham Country & Polo Club as Vice President; Mark Gagne of Walpole Country Club as Treasurer; ; Richard T. Gagnon of Segregansett Country Club as Trustee (Membership Chairman); Scott Lagana CGCS of Oak Hill Country Club as Finance Chairman; Jason S. Adams of Blue Hill Country Club as President; Dave Wallace of New England Turf as the Affiliate Trustee; Michael Luccini, CGCS of Franklin Country Club as Secretary; Patrick J. Daly CGCS of Framingham County Club as the Past President; Carl Miner of Presidents Golf Course as Golf Chairman.



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Tuesday, March 8 • 1pm-3:30pm
Synthetic Turf: Issues, Trends and Management

Pre Conference Seminars

Monday, March 7 • 8am-5pm Call (401) 841-5490
8am-12pm *Back to Basics: Strategies for Managing Turf in Extreme Years*
8am-12pm *Basic Excel Training for Turf Managers*
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1pm-5pm *Maximizing Disease Control with Modern Fungicides*
1pm-5pm *Advanced Excel Training for Turf Managers*
1pm-5pm *Got Water? Water Conservation Issues in Turf*
1pm-5pm *CPR/AED Training*

Trade Show Hours

Tuesday, March 8 • 4:30pm-7:30pm *with reception*
Wednesday, March 9 • 10am-5pm *Live Auction 4pm*
Thursday, March 10 • 9am-1pm

Educational Session Hours

Tuesday, March 8 • 9am - 4:30pm
USGA Session & Keynote Speaker Mike Eruzione
Wednesday, March 9 • 9am-11am & 2pm-4pm
Golf / Sports Turf / Turf & Ornamental / Equipment Technicians
Thursday, March 10 • 9am-11am *Golf / Lawn Care & Landscape*

2011 Special Event

Dr. Joseph and Lonnie Troll Appreciation Dinner
Wednesday, March 9 • 7pm



Keynote Speaker
Tues., March 8 • 3:45pm
Olympic Gold Medalist
Mike Eruzione

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***DEADLINE for ads: The first of the month for that month's issue.**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Members:

- Jonathan Heywood, Assistant Superintendent, Cape Cod National GC
- Atlantic Golf & Turf, LLC, Friend, Turners Falls, MA

Nor'Easter Hospitality Suite at GIS in Orlando:

Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Place: Rosen Centre Hotel

Time: 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Room: Grand Ballroom E

*Dr. Joseph and Lonnie Troll will be in attendance

Congratulations to Brad and Erin MacDonald on the birth of their fourth child Emily Grace born on December 27, 2010.

Directory Updates:

Mike Hannigan has joined Padula Brothers Inc. He will be working out their new Raynham, MA facility representing John Deere Commercial and Homeowner products to accounts in Southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod and the Islands. Contact information is (508)-728-6745 phone, and deeremikeh@aol.com email.

Joe Farina has a new mobile phone number with Tuckahoe Turf which is **774-260-0093**.

As in the past, *The Newsletter* continues to invite Affiliate members to submit a press release about new personnel, new products or a company bio. We will print each and every release free of charge. This is a great way to advertise for free.

CALENDAR

February 7-11:
Golf Industry Show
Orlando, Florida
www.gcsaa.org

March 7-10:
New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show
RI Convention Center
www.NERTF.org

March 30:
New England Golf Summit
Andover Country Club
Host: Wayne Lacroix
Keynote Speaker: Greg Nathan,
National Golf Foundation
Breakout Sessions to follow



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Larchmont Engineering & Irrigation

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continued on next page

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Office: 978-276-3180 or Mark Casey 617-990-2427

Mungeam Cornish Golf Design, Inc.

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New England Lawn & Golf

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Distributor of Express Dual and Anglemaster Speed Roller and Converted Organics a liquid compost & fertilizer from food waste
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New England Specialty Soils

435 Lancaster, Street, Leominster, MA 01453
1mm. Top Dressing Sand, High Density Bunker Sand, Rootzone Mixes, Tee Blends, Divot Mixes, Bridging Stone, Cart Path Mix, Infield Mixes, Inorganic Amendments, SLOPE LOCK Soil.
Ed Downing - 978-230-2300

New England Turf

P.O. Box 777, West Kingston, RI 02892
Phone: 800-451-2900 or Ernie Ketchum 508-364-4428
Website: www.newenglandturf.com

NMP Golf Construction Corp.

25 Bishop Ave., Ste. A-2, Williston, VT 05495
Golf course construction. Mario Poirier - (888) 707-0787

Norfolk Power Equipment, Inc.

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Sales, service, rentals, leasing, Kubota tractors (508) 384-0011

Northeast Golf Company

Golf Course Architectural/Consultation Services
118 Beauchamp Drive, Saunterstown, RI 02874
Robert McNeil (401) 667-4994

North Shore Hydroseeding

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On-Course Golf Inc., Design/Build

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We serve all your remodeling and renovation needs. You can trust your project with us! We make you look good! Sean Hanley (978) 337-6661
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Partac Peat Corporation

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Heat treated topdressing, golf hole targets, turf blankets, other specialty golf supplies. Jim Kelsey - (800) 247-2326

Putnam Pipe Corp.

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Read Custom Soils

125 Turnpike St., Canton, MA 02021
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Terry Driscoll, Garrett Whitney – (888) 475-5526

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P. O. Box 1168, Tift Rd., Slatersville, RI 02876
USGA recommended topdressing, root-zone mixes, compost, pea stone, angular & traditional bunker sand.
Bob Chalifour, CGCS (Ret.) - (401) 766-5010 Cell: 860-908-7414

Sodco Inc.

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Bluegrass/Fescue, Bluegrass/Rye, Bluegrass/Fescue/Rye, Bentgrass.
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Southwest Putting Greens of Boston

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Synthetic turf, tee lines, practice greens, outdoor and indoor practice facilities. Douglas Preston - (978) 250-5996

Stumps Are Us Inc.

Manchester, NH
Professional stump chipping service. Brendan McQuade - (603) 625-4165

Syngenta Professional Products

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Melissa Gugliotti (860) 221-5712

Tom Irwin Inc.

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Turf management products. Jack Petersen, Paul Skafas, Rob Larson, Chris Petersen, Greg Misodoulakis, Mike DeForge, Brian Luccini, Jeff Houde, Fred Murray (800) 582-5959

Tree Tech, Inc.

6 Springbrook Rd., Foxboro, MA 02035
Foxboro, Wellesley, Fall River Andy Felix - (508) 543-5644

Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.

P. O. Box 167, Wood River Junction, RI 02894
Chris Beasley - (800) 556-6985

TurfLinks, Inc.

29 Gilmore Drive, Sutton, MA 01590
Distributor of quality fertilizer, grass seed, & control products for the golf course industry. Kevin Lyons, Jim Favreau (888) 398-TURF (8873)

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157 Moody Rd., Enfield, CT 06082
Distributors of Toro irrigation & maintenance equipment and other golf-related products. Tim Berge, Dave Beauvais, Nat Binns, Andy Malone, Tim Stays - (800) 243-4355

Valent Professional Products

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Valent Has Turf Covered Jim Santoro - 508-207-2094

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Golf course architects. (978) 887-3672