



THE NEWSLETTER

July 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.

Communicating Sustainable Use of Pesticides

By Kyle Miller, Senior Technical Specialist,
BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals

Superintendents are faced with all kinds of job-related questions, particularly about the agronomics of using pesticides and other chemicals on their courses. Many are having a hard time clearly explaining the benefits of chemical use to curious golfers and community members, and as a result, sometimes avoid the topic. However, communicating with the public is no longer optional; superintendents must address questions, ease concerns and take part in community education programs on a regular basis in order to continue building and sustaining community confidence.

Many people assume pesticides are toxic and harmful to their health. That belief, however, is rarely grounded in science. Antibacterial soap, dishwasher soap and laundry detergent are technically toxic pesticides because they kill germs; however, when used correctly, they do not harm humans. The same goes for chemicals that are used to protect plants. Just as soap controls harmful pathogens that humans encounter, fungicide controls pathogens that damage plants.

Simply put, plants – like people – get sick. For example, when their systems get overrun, plants can suffer from environmental stress that creates conditions for pest pressure and disease. When that happens, medication in the form of pesticides is required to nurse the plant back to health. Like human drugs, pesticides today are highly targeted to specific problems, including fungi, weeds and insects.

The need for plant medication, so to speak, is understood by most people. But they may need more explanation about the science behind responsible chemical use.

The Safety Stance. Scientifically proving with reasonable certainty that a pesticide will not harm people or the environment is a fundamental part of the product-approval process. The United States has one of the strictest registration processes in the world. Federal law requires that before selling or distributing a pesticide in the United States, a person or company must obtain registration, or license, from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Before registering a new pesticide – or a new use for a registered pesticide – the EPA must first assure the public that the pesticide is considered safe, when used according to

label directions. To make such determinations, the EPA requires more than 100 different scientific studies and tests from applicants.

Even before they go through government review, these chemical compounds are tested for toxicity by non-biased, third-parties. If a pesticide receives a “strike” against it at any point during testing process, the manufacturer does not approve it for government testing.

Once the product is registered, it is selected and applied by highly trained professionals. Just as a pharmacist would recommend medicine for a specific ailment, superintendents work with industry experts – including chemical applicators with years of formal education – to prescribe a pesticide for a specific problem.

Not all pesticides are equal. Toxicity levels vary by product and instructions for use are clearly outlined on each pesticide’s label. Labels are designed to explain the correct application procedure, so the chemical has little or no direct negative impact on organisms beyond the targeted pest. As a rule, chemical experts consistently stress the importance of reading and following the pesticide label.

As a precautionary measure, most pesticides cannot be bought over the counter. Some products also require applicators to post signs or flags that alert the public that a given area has been treated recently. The signs, which usually are left standing for 24 hours, are simply informative, since no danger to humans or animals exists after application. In many cases, the majority of pesticides break down naturally in the soil after controlling target pests.

What is your role? Some superintendents have taken a proactive communication approach to combating the general public’s misperceptions and fear of pesticides. Superintendent Jed Spencer, CGCS, for Chenal Country Club in Little Rock, Ark., participates in monthly Greens Committee meetings and now hosts annual open houses to give all members a behind-the-scenes look at how he maintains his course. In addition to addressing topics such as chemical

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President's Message

Greetings everyone,

Well summer is definitely upon us. I hope you all are doing well. For a season that started out pretty easy things have seemed to turned pretty quickly. I have heard of numerous reports of pump problems, root pythium, nematodes, bacterial wilt and hyperodes. The good news is that there is only 5 weeks till labor day and aeration will be here before you know it, so hang in there!

We recently had our July meeting at Whitinsville Golf Club. We had 34 for golf and I am told that Dave Johnson had the course in immaculate shape. Thanks Dave!

The Ouimet Golf Marathon is coming up August 10th. Kevin Corvino, superintendent at Norfolk Golf Club, will be representing the association with Nat Binns as his caddy. Please support Kevin with donations so we can continue to support the Ouimet Fund. Please contact me at jadams@bluehillcc.com if you would like to make a pledge.

The next meeting will be our Individual Championship at Marlboro Country Club on August 9th. I would like to give Ken Crimmings, CGCS many thanks for continuously hosting this event. It is the meeting that I look most forward to every year!

Take care and think about the cooler days ahead!

Sincerely,
Jason Adams
President, GCSANE

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GCSANE Starts Process to Hire Chapter Executive

By Michael Stachowicz, Vice President, GCSANE

In June, GCSANE's longtime Executive Secretary Sharon Brownell notified the Board of Directors that she, after much thought and many conversations with her husband, has decided that she will retire from the association effective December 16th, 2011. Sharon has been dedicated to the association for 14 years and finding a replacement for her will be no easy task. The President has appointed me to head the search committee for a new executive.

There has been a great deal that has changed since Sharon was first hired and she grew and changed with the association and the times. This is why as our first step will be to develop an accurate job description. Information for this will be solicited from other organizations and former board members. By identifying all the tasks that it takes to run the association we can then look at the skill set required to run our association effectively. This document will be pre-

sented to the Board at the August meeting for their approval.

Concurrently, a search committee will be assembled and will start work right after the August meeting at Marlboro. There will be a wide range of association talent on this committee that will come up with a job announcement, identify how and where to advertise for the position, and post the job by the end of August. The interview process should take part of September and into October. Hopefully we will have settled on someone by the end of October leaving 45 to 60 days for a transition with Sharon's help.

We will endeavor to keep the lines of communication open without sacrificing the process, so keep an eye out for updates in this Newsletter. The search committee will be very open to ideas and comments during the process, so please feel free to contact me at mstach@dedhamclub.org.
❖

*The golf course is his hobby where he tries to excel,
For without a good course a club has little to sell,
His work has no glamour he doesn't strut in fine clothes,
But his skill and club value is recognized by those,
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February 1952, Jack Counsell

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Thinking About It

By Don Hearn



Recently I watched a GCSAA video on the web and one of the topics was golfer complaints. It got me to think about some of the complaints (and whining) I've heard over the years.

How about "The bunkers aren't consistent." I'll bet not many of you have heard that before. Yah, sure you haven't. I wonder how many dollars have been spent to remedy this supposed injustice. Countless labor hours spent

raking, trimming or naturalizing the edges, trimming around slopes, watering, applying wetting agents, replenishing sand, rebuilding edges, restoring to the original architect's intent, changing the type of sand, moving to accommodate the longer game, repairing washouts, removing stones, power tamping, removing leaves and, in some cases, daily raking have helped create maintenance monsters.

Let's be real. First, do bunkers need to be consistent? Second, is it possible to have every bunker play the same? Or, is this more an issue of a demanding clientele continuing their unreasonable ways? I believe it's more an issue of demanding clientele promoting unreasonable demands. Surely I can be way off base on this one but after many years trying

to keep people happy and meet their expectations, I believe their enjoyment on the course has very little to do with "inconsistent bunkers." It's obvious that I've yet to read the Manual of Consistency, otherwise I would by now have read the section decreeing that all areas of a golf course must be consistent for the game to be played. To be serious, I doubt that bunkers can be made consistent. It might be a goal, regardless how unreasonable, for some to reach but surely the cost to get there is way out of line.

I think a lot of the drive to produce consistent bunkers is a belief that what golfers see when they watch golf on television or when attending a TOUR event is what they should experience where they play. What many don't consider is the wide difference between them and those who play professionally. For example, the handicap of the average male golfer is somewhere around sixteen. On the PGA TOUR it's plus five. A huge difference! The way I see it, an amateur golfer's handicap or enjoyment of playing the game isn't going to change based on the consistency of bunker sand.

We should stop fooling ourselves and let those who control the purse strings know that trying to provide consistent bunkers is a waste of resources - financial and personnel wise. There should be an effort to lessen the quest for perfection and more emphasis on playing the course as it is. ❖



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and fertilizer use, maintenance and even golf etiquette, his crew operates equipment for participants, allowing them to get a firsthand look at what his crew does and how they do it. Spencer's goal is to educate the community, and show members the purpose behind his crew's actions.

"The response to our communication efforts has been extremely positive," Spencer said. "Community members really appreciate the visual component. It reduces concerns about the possible effects our treatment plan could have on them and their surroundings."

Spencer has taken additional steps to show his concern for the environment, which the community has applauded. Three years ago, he formed a partnership with Ducks Unlimited to establish a wood duck colony on the course, which helps attract the birds and allows his crew to manage the population. He also maintains a chemical building on his property that houses a 1,000-gallon storage tank for recycling chemicals.

Fred Gehrisch, superintendent for Highlands Fall Country Club in Highlands, N.C., holds educational forums for residents living on or near his course to explain what his crew is spraying and why. He also writes a regular column for his local newspaper that addresses course issues such as the scientific benefits of safely controlling disease and invasive plants on his course.

Gehrisch also is involved in a study under way by the University of Missouri on salamanders at 10 courses in the area – including his – to see how they are affected by chemical use. Along with the university, he regularly works with environmental groups, whether it is coordinating joint speaking engagements or donating his staff to support a local event.

Gehrisch says most people he speaks with are relieved once they learn the chemicals he uses are similar to everyday household products.

"I have found that using common medications as examples is the most effective way to demonstrate why they do not need to fear the products we use," Gehrisch said. "I read a list of side effects and lead them to believe it is a chemical I am using to treat turf disease when, in reality, it is aspirin."

Communicating with the public falls under the many day-to-day responsibilities of a superintendent, and more of them are taking it upon themselves to go above and beyond that duty. At a minimum, superintendents should be able to confidently explain the parallels between plant and human disease, and how science helps alleviate damage in both cases.

"We talk a lot within our inner circle about what needs to be done, but as an industry, we tend to be slower in responding to the public than we should," Gehrisch said. "For any change to happen, supers need to leave their desks and get out in front of their communities."

Despite the fact that pesticides are useful tools that can provide significant benefits to our communities, the debate over whether to use them will undoubtedly continue. By basing communications on science instead of emotion, superintendents can help community members appreciate the time, labor and money-saving benefits of environmentally sound chemicals.

Tips for Communicating with your Community

- Know your topic and know it well. Be willing to give research to back up what you are saying.
- Do not lie. A lot of the information you share is a matter of common sense; however, your audiences will fact check.
- Be as consistent as you can. Some information will change over the course of time, but the majority of it should remain constant.
- Be patient. It is important to remember that members of the community are not as versed on the subject matter as you are.
- Provide resources where people can obtain additional information. Encourage them to spend some time learning about the issues they care about. ❖

For more information on disease control and healthy plants visit <http://www.betterturf.basf.us/>, follow our Twitter at www.twitter.com/basfturf_us, or contact Kyle Miller at kyle.miller@basf.com.

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The advertisement features a photograph of a golf course under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, a white flag on a pole is positioned on the left, displaying a green logo and the text "read custom soils". To the right of the flag, the text "TEE TO GREEN SOIL SOLUTIONS" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below this text, a list of four products is presented, each preceded by a small white circle icon. The products are: "USGA Green Construction", "USGA Bunker Sand", "Tee Mix Materials", and "USGA Fairway Topdressing Sands". In the bottom right corner, the company name "read custom soils" and the phone number "888-475-5526" are displayed in a white, serif font.

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Persistent heat, drought and flooding strain golf courses nationally

Superintendents dealing with extreme conditions again this year

Extended periods of excessive heat, widespread moderate to severe drought, and pockets of flooding have beset golf courses for the second consecutive year, putting a strain on revenues, golfers and the professionals who manage the game's playing fields – golf course superintendents.

"We saw widespread turf loss last year, and the feedback from our members is that this year has the potential to be as severe," Golf Course Superintendents Association of America President Bob Randquist, certified golf course superintendent at Boca Rio Golf Course in Boca Raton, Fla., said.

Researchers, university extension agents and golf course superintendents agreed that the conditions last summer were the worst in decades in terms of the geographic scope, Randquist said. The impact of this year's weather – although not as widespread – will not be determined for a few weeks, but he indicated superintendents are pulling out all the stops to counter the wrath of Mother Nature.

Superintendents have implemented a variety of management practices such as reducing green speeds by raising cutting heights and rolling less frequently; less mowing frequency; restricting cart traffic; increased hand watering; reducing/postponing verticutting and topdressing activities; if aerifying, doing so with small tines; and reducing of fertilization programs.

"The simple fact is the cool-season turfgrasses such as bentgrass, fescue, bluegrass, annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and others are stressed with sustained high temperatures and humidity," Randquist said. "Golf courses in many parts of the country experience this every year, however what made the situation so dire last year and now have been the high levels of extended heat and humidity, and the sizeable part of the country affected.

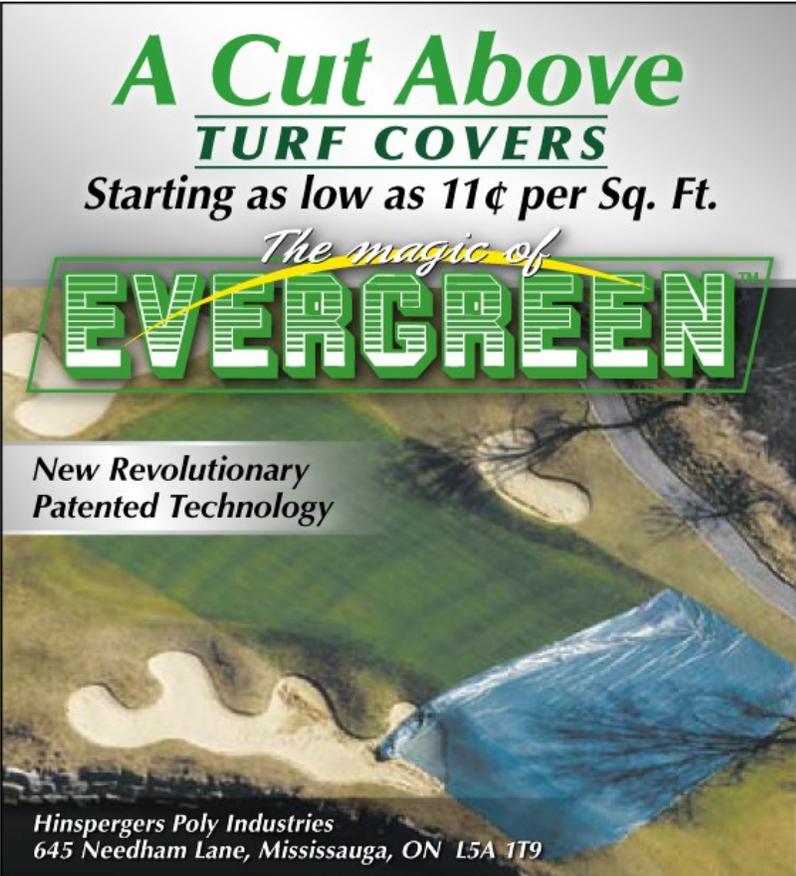
"Certainly homeowners, athletic fields and businesses suffer turfgrass damage brought on by these kinds of conditions. What makes it more difficult for golf facilities are the mowing heights are much lower and traffic is much heavier. That just adds to the stress on the turfgrass." Also unknown is what the final impact of flooding will be. Some courses were under water for extended periods of time so the turf started the season already in a compromised position.

Randquist also cautioned golfers from thinking that water, whether from rain or irrigation, is the answer to the ills. There is a difference between heat stress and drought stress. Adequate irrigation will alleviate drought stress. Adequate irrigation will not alleviate heat stress. It is not only possible, but likely, for a turfgrass plant to be adequately watered and still suffer from heat stress under extended periods of high temperatures.

Randquist urged golfers and leaders at golf facilities not to panic. Every golf course is unique and thus reacts to the weather extremes differently. Variations in soil conditions, air movement, shade, water quality and availability, and budget make course comparisons a dangerous proposition.

"We know the weather conditions will become more agreeable," Randquist said. "What is important right now is to manage the golf course in a manner so that turf can be kept alive until that point. Pushing turf too hard might result in longer term damage." ❖

Source: GCSAA News Release, www.gcsaa.org



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Thanks,
Jeff Urquhart

Here's a photo of a truck dropping into the hole for our new pool at Framingham Country Club. I should have known the project was going to be difficult when it started with this unfortunate mishap.

Photo submitted by Patrick Daly CGCS, Framingham Country Club.



July Tournament Results and Photos July 18, 2011 Whitinsville Golf Club Host: David Johnson

**Winning team at 4 under par 31:
Scott McLeod, Manny Mihailides,
Bob Chalifour and Dave Stowe**

Robert McNeil had CTP on hole 2



Herbicide Blamed for Damaging, Killing Trees

Reports have been spreading like wildfire that a chemical approved by the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection for control of broadleaf weeds in turf has been turning nearby trees into kindling at an alarming rate.

Professional turf managers and private homeowners in at least 22 states say trees have been dying like weeds since they reported using Imprelis, a Group 4 herbicide from DuPont Professional Products. Lawsuits are flying and the EPA is scheduled to conduct its own review, which, it says, could result in a revised label, additional testing and research, or even removing the product from the market completely.

Damages, according to published reports in several states, likely will run into millions. DuPont spokesperson Kate Childress did not return calls to her cell phone. But she recently told the "New York Times" that DuPont was investigating the matter and that it was difficult to say what caused the phenomenon until the investigation is complete.

Promoted as an environmentally safe herbicide, Imprelis represents a new sub class of chemistry – pyrimidinecarboxylic acid. With the active ingredient potassium salt of aminocyclopyrachlor, Imprelis is labeled for control of a variety of broadleaf weeds in cool-season and warm-season grasses, including golf courses, athletic fields and sod farms as well as commercial and residential landscape applications.

It's also still relatively new to the market.

The subject of many conversations at the DuPont booth during the 2010 Golf Industry Show in San Diego, Imprelis received label registration from the EPA last year and has been on the market since fall of 2010. According to DuPont, Imprelis is labeled for use in 49 states and Washington, D.C., with New York being the exception.

Whatever is causing these trees to die by the thousands

manifests in evergreen trees as brown or yellow needles. Trees then shed their canopy and eventually die.

The Imprelis label states: "Do not apply this product directly to, or allow spray drift to come in contact with, ornamental groundcovers, foliage plants, flowers, trees, shrubs, nearby crop plants or other desirable plants; or to the soil where potentially sensitive plants will be planted during the same season."

In response to growing claims that its product is killing trees as well as weeds, DuPont posted a **letter** on its Web site signed by global business leader Michael McDermott stating that the company is investigating reports of damage to trees and cautions users to cease using Imprelis near Norway spruce and white pine until the matter is resolved.

Many of those who seek a legal remedy, however, say that is not enough. They argue that DuPont did not do enough to warn users of the threat to evergreen trees.

"The manufacturers of this product, which was touted as being environmentally friendly, have some explaining to do," said attorney Richard J. Arsenault, whose Alexandria, La.-based firm of Neblett, Beard and Arsenault filed a class-action suit against DuPont in Ohio on July 25. "The public deserves to know whether this product is safe and all of the consequences associated with its use."

Included in parties that have filed suit against DuPont are golf courses in Indiana and Michigan.

Michigan State University offers information about how to do with trees that might be affected by Imprelis. Likewise, other universities, including **Nebraska**, **Purdue** and **Wisconsin** have established Web pages to handle Imprelis-related questions from users. ❖

Reprinted with permission from Turfnet.com

Syngenta Business Institute - Applications Due August 17

Syngenta is excited to announce for the third year they are inviting golf course superintendents across the United States to apply for the Syngenta Business Institute, the innovative professional business development program Patrick Daly, CGCS from Framingham Country Club attended last year that was developed specifically for Superintendents in conjunction with Wake Forest University.

Superintendents that are interested should go to Syngenta's online application process at <http://www.greencastonline.com/GolfMarketIndex.aspx?market=2> <<http://www.greencastonline.com/GolfMarketIndex.aspx?market=2>> .

Applications are due by Wednesday, August 17.

The unique, four-day program includes areas like financial management, human resource management, negotiating and other leadership professional development skills. New in this year's program is a session to help attendees manage the challenges presented from generational differences among their employees.

Syngenta is eager to provide a learning experience that goes well beyond the agronomic requirements of a superintendent's job. The Syngenta Business Institute will be Dec. 5-8, 2011, at Graylyn International Conference Center on the campus of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Superintendents must fill out an application, which requires them to write a 250-word essay on why they believe they should be selected to attend. The application is due by Wednesday, Aug. 17 and can be found at <http://www.greencastonline.com/GolfMarketIndex.aspx?market=2> <<http://www.greencastonline.com/GolfMarketIndex.aspx?market=2>> .

Only 25 Superintendents will be selected to participate. Please contact Pat Daly if you have any questions. ❖



New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, Inc. Elects New Officers and Announce Show Dates for 2011-2012

The New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation announces that Christopher Cowan of Atlantic Golf & Turf has been elected as the 15th President for the 2011-2012 Fiscal year. Chris has served on the NERTF Board of Directors since 2001 as a delegate appointed by the Vermont Golf Course Superintendent Association. Chris replaces Mike Buras, CSFM of the Longwood Cricket Club, Chestnut Hill, MA, who will continue to serve as the foundation's Immediate Past President. Scott Cybulski, of the Martindale Country Club, in Auburn, Maine will serve as Vice-President. Steve Mann, CGCS of Captain's Golf Course in Brewster, MA will serve as Treasurer for 2 years. Michael Stachowicz of Dedham Country and Polo Club will serve as the Foundation Secretary. Other board members will include: Roderick Blake, NHGCSA, John Clark, NHGCSA; James H. Connelly, MALCP; Matthew Crowther, CGCS, GCSACC, Anthony Grosso, CAGCS; James Hodge, MGCSA; Ted Maddocks, VTGCSA; Steve Mann, GCSACC; William Morton, CGCS, RIGCSA; Philip Neaton, CAGCS; Mark Richard, CGCS, RIGCSA; Robert Ruzala, GCSANE. Also serving in an advisory capacity is: Mary Owen, UMass Extension and Dr. Noel Jackson, URI.

The Foundation enjoyed a successful 14th Turfgrass Education Conference and Trade Show on March 7-10, 2011 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, RI. More than 3000 individuals attended 4 days of education conference and trade show activities. The 15th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show scheduled dates for 2012 are February 6-9th. These are unusual dates as the foundation will normally target the 1st Monday in March. The NERTF continues to fund turfgrass research in the New England Region and, since 1996, the foundation will soon reach 1.3 million dollars of research funding to New England Universities. For more information concerning the foundation, the conference and show, or funded turfgrass research go to www.nertf.org. ❖

Submitted by: Gary J. Sykes, Executive Director (401-841-5490)



2011-2012 NERTF Board of Directors:

Sitting (l-r): Steve Mann, CGCS (Treasurer), Bob Matthews, CGCS, Mary Owen (UMass Extension), Michael Buras, CSFM (Immediate Past-President), Christopher Cowan (2011-2012 NERTF President)
Standing (l-r): Bob Ruzala, Mark Richard, CGCS, Jim Connolly, Scott Cybulski, CGCS (V-President), Bill Morton, CGCS, Dr. Noel Jackson (Professor Emeritus URI), Cliff Drezek, Phil Neaton, David Rosenberg (M&E, Inc.), Ted Maddocks, Michael Stachowicz (Secretary), John Clark, Rod Blake, Jim Hodge, Gary Sykes and Jason Lanier (UMass Extension).

NEW Lower Rates to Help Make Advertising in The Newsletter More Budget Conscious

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Ad Preparation Specifications:

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Advertising Design Services: Design services are available by request and consultation and will be billed separately.

Send all Newsletter ads to:

Julie Heston
36 Elisha Mathewson Road, N. Scituate, RI 02857
401-934-3677
jheston@verizon.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our condolences are extended to Jim Skorulski and family on the passing of Jim's father, Eugene Skorulski, on May 7, 2011.

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. Who said nothing in this world is free? Free advertising to better your company, wow what an offer. Who could turn this down, you ask? I have the answer for you-ALL of the Friend and Affiliate members of GCSANE. There hasn't been one submission for years. I ask all Friend and Affiliate members to offer some advice to see how we can make a better offer. Jeff Urquhart, Editor

CALENDAR

August 9:
GCSANE Individual Championship
Marlborough Country Club
Host: Kenneth Crimmings, CGCS

September 19:
GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Glen Ellen Country Club
Host: Jeffrey James

UMass Turf Selection and Identification In Amherst, MA August 11, 2011 (8:30 am - 3:00 pm)

- Learn to match turfgrass species and varieties to site characteristics.
- Learn to select for traits like drought tolerance and disease resistance.
- Learn to recognize the principal cool-season turfgrasses.

Pre-registration is required due to limited enrollment; the registration deadline is **August 5, 2011**. Registration includes lunch and parking permit.

Five pesticide re-certification contact hours valid for all

New England states have been requested for category 37, Turf and category 00, Licensed Applicator. 1 additional contact hour has been requested for those participating in a free optional NTEP session at the Joseph Troll Turf Research Center in South Deerfield, MA.

For online registration or to download materials to register by mail, visit the following location:

<http://extension.umass.edu/turf/events/2011-turfgrass-selection-identification-workshop>



GCSANE Offers Website Banner advertising at www.gcsane.org

The price is \$500 for one year which will be re-occurring annually from your first billing unless otherwise specified.

For more information, please contact Jeff Urquhart at 781-828-2953 or jmartin101@gmail.com

Let's Go Back To 1978

A monthly addition by the Editor



May, 1978



Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

Sponsors and administrators of the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

What Color's Your Fairway?

The old fairway wetting problem has resurfaced by way of the United States Golf Association which has been caught between breaths of a declaration that "brown is beautiful" . . . meaning, of course, that golfers prefer the high ground rather than the wetlands when playing their daily or weekly round.

The issue is simple. There are golfers, who do not take notice of the aesthetic aspect of the golf course, just as content to play off "burned" fairways as if they were beauty shop-pampered. And there are others who are willing to put up with plugged balls, soaked golf shoes and other annoying discomforts in order to look around them and drink in the green, green grass of the home club.

That's the issue. The cause has at its base, irrigation. And, as usual, the golf course superintendent is trapped in the middle of the problem. He must decide or have decided for him to either give the course a generous watering to satisfy the looks of the fairways or a sparse sprinkle while accepting the dangers of the grasses turning what used to be an "ugly" brown before the USGA offered its descriptive.

According to Bob Williams - the former president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the house is divided on the fairway appearance score. "Actually, there are golfers who really would rather have brown fairways all the time," the UMass Turf Conference panelist laughed. "It's a matter of roll with them. They get up on the tee and hit those low scalers which turn into 250-yard drives on the dry turf. That's when you find yourself in a dither. You don't know if the golfers even care about the looks of the course when they're hitting drives like that."

Along the same thought waves, the heavy lean on irrigation produces just the opposite driving effect for the golfer. Heavily irrigated fairways lose all roll. What's more, they present further playing pains by complicating the lie of the ball. Obviously, it is much harder for a player to slam out of a watery lie.

Williams and Paul Voykin - another skilled super who was part of the attractive UMass speaking program - agree that their profession went hog wild with overdoses of water when irrigation equipment exploded on the market. "We should have had 'temperance meetings' before we started using that stuff," Voykin joshed. "But, all joking aside, there should have been a gradual approach to automatic watering. A lot of us went into it without considering the new problem it might cause."

That new problem, of course, is over-watering which has resulted in something more than sloshy lies for members. In places where water collects, drainage woes became a major headache and pretty soon supers were combating plant rot.

"I'm not sure about this 'brown is beautiful' business," Voykin added. "Brown definitely is not beautiful when poa annua burns out. This is why we experience a lot of over-watering. The superintendent does not want to lose that poa. It is a disgusting sight, you know."

Williams, an old hand at super's problems, takes a scholarly approach to the irrigation issue. "Why don't we put more effort into turf research so we can get along without irrigation?" he wondered out loud. "As far as I'm concerned, there's too much dependence on artificial methods of grooming the course. We

haven't concentrated on turf research and we don't know what could be accomplished if we doubled or tripled the effort. If we eliminate the heavy dependence on irrigation, we might come to achieving the best of two conditions."

It all boils down to responsibility. . . this question of having burned fairways or green, soggy surfaces. "I wish I could get a written statement from my green chairman saying it was all right to reduce irrigation," Voykin concluded. "Then, I - we - would know what to do. The members are the ones who should decide. Do they want a course that looks good or one that plays easier? If I get that in writing, I can give them what they want without worrying about it."

Gerry Finn

**STARTING TIME FOR DIRECTORS MEETING
AT THE MAY MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED
TO 9:30.**

NEW MEMBER

Ed Picard of Woburn Country Club has been voted an Associate Member.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Paul Miller, Tedesco Country Club, Associate Member.

MEMBER RE-CLASSIFICATIONS

Les Allen, Henry Guenther, Ed Phinney retired and are Life Members. Dan Collins retired and voted a Life Member.

NEXT MEETING

**June 6, 1978
Woodland Country Club
Newton, Mass.**

Host Superintendent - Norm Mucciarone
Golf Tournament - Superintendent -
Greens Chairman

Shot Gun at 1:00 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Lunch available at the club
Carts and caddies available

Directions: Off Rte. 128 take Rte. 16 East.
Club is on the left.

Cards will be mailed to make your reservations.

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Page 1

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Tim Gould, Guy Travers (800) 313-3320, (978) 388-5110

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Specializing in quality seed and related golf course maintenance
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Gregg Allen - (800) 527-3898 Michelle Maltais - (401) 835-0287

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9 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls, MA 01376
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www.nesoils.com

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

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