

Connecticut Clippings



Volume 41, No 2

June 2007

SCOTT RAMSAY, CGCS RECEIVES GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM GOLF SUPERINTENDENT MAGAZINE.

The Course at Yale superintendent Scott Ramsay is the first superintendent from Connecticut to receive the award which is in its' seventh year. Previously superintendent at Tower Ridge in Simsbury and The Orchards in Holyoke, Massachusetts, Scott has been at Yale since August of 2003.

Improvements at the course have not gone unnoticed. The Course at Yale is now ranked the # 1 college course in America. Ramsay credits his staff, Jimmy Burgh, Larry Mingione, Vinny Capobianco and Mike "Mo" Moran with willing to try new ideas and procedures. Ramsay also credits Golf

Director Peter Pulaski and the Yale Athletic Department.

A member of CAGCS since 1984 Scott presently serves on the Board of Directors and is our Government Relations Chairman.



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Keith Angilly, President

The President's Message

a few hours of sleep before going to the hospital! Anyway, as the stress level of our jobs starts to increase remember to take of yourself. I know from my own experience, it is real easy to get caught up in the pace of the season and not eat right and take care of our health.

On May 9th I was invited to attend the CSGA media day at New Haven CC. For most of us, it is almost instinctive to avoid the media and the spotlight in general. Hopefully we can continue to improve in this area. It was an interesting event and had I the opportunity to play golf with a couple of sports writers from down here in the Fairfield area.

At the time I am writing this, we have had a couple of meetings so far. Both events were excellent. Shawn Daigle, our host

superintendent at Fox Hopyard Golf Club, and Curtis Tyrell, our host Superintendent for the S&R at Lake of Isles, did outstanding jobs preparing their courses for the meetings. Our June meeting will be held at long time member Al Adaskaveg's golf course, Rockledge Country Club followed by our July meeting at new member Bryan Barrington's golf course, The Golf Course at Oxford Greens. Finally, August will mark a return to our golf committee chairman Sean Flynn's golf course, Great River Golf Club, for the annual Invitational. Thanks go out to all these members for stepping up and volunteering their courses for our meetings. If you have never held a meeting, please consider doing so. It is a rewarding experience.

Good luck,
Keith Angilly

Everyone once in a while we are reminded how fragile life really is. Our good friend and past President Wayne Urban recently had a heart attack. Thankfully it was a minor one and served as wake up call to make some changes in his lifestyle. Only Wayne could have a heart attack and get

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Brown Ring Patch (aka, Waitea Patch)

Brown ring patch is a relatively new disease that has been appearing throughout the region for the past few years. Symptoms are often confused with yellow patch and fairy ring. The disease appears to be most severe during the late spring and early summer months as temperatures begin to increase. For more information on brown ring patch, please visit www.turf.uconn.edu/factsheets.shtml. Photo courtesy John Kaminski, University of Connecticut.

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Calendar

- June 20 UMASS Turf Field Day at Joseph Troll Research Center
- July 16 The Golf Cub at Oxford Greens, Supt. Brian Barrington
- July 19 New Britain Rock Cats (Minnesota Twins Affiliate) vs. Trenton Thunder (Yankees Affiliate)
- August 15 CAGCS Invitational, Great River GC, Sean Flynn, Supt.
- August 22 URI Turf Field at Richard Skogley Research Center
- September 9 Family Day Lake Compounce
- September 11 Gillette Ridge GC, Supt. John LaBrie
- October 9 Watertown GC, Paul Bonini, CGCS
- November 5 Annual Meeting The Club at River Oaks, Chuck Walnoha III, Supt.

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- 1 Biological Disease Control in Turf: A Unique Approach Utilizing Newly Developed Carrier Technology for a New Anti-Pathogenic Activity Bacterium, Dr. William A. Torello, University of Massachusetts
- 2 Biology and Control Of The Annual Bluegrass Weevil On Golf Courses Dr. Patricia J. Vittum, University of Massachusetts
- 3 Cultivar Development and Management of Velvet Bentgrass Dr. Ruemmele, Dr. Jackson, Dr. Nathaniel Mitkowski, University of Rhode Island
- 4 Evaluation of Reduced Mowing Heights vs. Wear on Cool-Season Turfgrasses, Dr. Bridget Ruemmele, University of Rhode Island
- 5 Biology of *Microdochium nivale* and Management of Fusarium Patch (pink snow mold) in New England (and parts of New York)* Dr. Gail Schumann, University of Massachusetts
- 6 Reduced "Golfer/Recreational" Exposure to Turfgrass Pesticides By Mgmt, of Post-Application Irrigation and Application Rates Dr. John Clark, University of Massachusetts
- 7 Integrated Pest Management of Turfgrass in Massachusetts Mary Owen, University of Massachusetts
- 8 Seasonal History and Chemical Control of European Chafer in Relation to Degree-Days in New England Turf Dr. Stanley Swier, University of New Hampshire
- 9 Potential for Use of Anhydrous Ammonia as a Nematicide, Fungicide, and Fertilizer on Golf Greens Dr. Steve Alm, University of Rhode Island
- 10 Interactive effects on N and K on Drought Avoidance of Turfgrass Maintained as Fairway Turf Dr. Scott Ebdon, University of Massachusetts
- 11 Characteristics in Diverse Wear Tolerant Genotypes of Kentucky Bluegrass** Dr. Scott Ebdon, University of Massachusetts
- 12 *Leptosphaerulina* spp. as a Pathogen of Turf on New England Golf Courses Dr. Nathaniel Mitkowski, University of Rhode Island
- 13 Evaluating Turf Tolerance In Poorly Drained Soil Covered By Ice Dr. John Roberts, University of New Hampshire
- 14 Biology of *Xanthomonas translucens* pv. *Poa* and the Identification of Related Epiphytes on Golf Course Putting Greens Dr. Nathaniel Mitkowski, University of Rhode Island
- 15 Seeking Alternatives to Nema-cur: Evaluation of Natural Suppression and Testing of New Products. Dr. Robert Wick, University of Massachusetts
- 16 Reduced Golfer Exposure to Turfgrass Pesticides by Management of Post-application Irrigation, Application Rates and Coverage Area (Ext. to #6) Dr. John Clark, University of Massachusetts
- 17 Managing Pesticide Exposure from Treated Turf Dr. John Clark, University of Massachusetts
- 18 Entomopathogenic Nematodes, Milky Spore Disease and Pheromone Disruption for Control of Oriental Beetle Dr. Steve Alm, University of Rhode Island
- 19 Wear Stress Mechanisms in Cultivars of Creeping Bentgrass and Velvet Bentgrass Dr. Scott Ebdon, University of Massachusetts
- 20 Symposium: Specification, Design and Construction of New and Renovated Sports Fields Mary Owen, University of Massachusetts
- 21 University of Massachusetts Turf Research Building, Joseph Troll Research Center (\$35,000/yr. for 5 years)

- 22 University of Connecticut Turfgrass Diagnostic Laboratory
Dr. John Kaminski, University of Connecticut
- 23 Impact of Nozzle-type, Application Timing, and Fungicide
Resistance On Dollar Spot
Dr. John Kaminski, University of Connecticut
- 24 A Survey of the Fungicide Resistance Spectrum of
Anthracnose In New
England and Development of a Preventative Fungicide
Resistance Model
Dr. Nathaniel Mitkowski, University of Rhode Island
- 25 Relationship Between Cell Wall Components and Nitrogen Use
Efficiency In Dollar Spot
Resistance In Agrostis Species and Cultivars, Drs. DaCosta, et
al, University of Massachusetts
- 26 Managing Reduced Risk Pesticide Exposure from Treated Turf
Dr. J. Clarke, University of Massachusetts
- 27 AgroNeem and NeoTrol for Efficiency against Plant
Parasitic Nematodes
Dr. Robert Wick, University of Massachusetts
- 28 Strategies for Managing Turfgrass Ants on Golf Courses in
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Dr. Patricia Vittum, University of Massachusetts



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Eric Kostak, Class C
Country Club of Waterbury

Condolences

James Pillion, passed away on 4/29/06 at the age of 90. He was a member since 1967. He was a past Superintendent of Goodwin Park Golf Course. Contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association in his memory.

Edward Fanfesti, passed away on 6/28/06 at the age of 95 on Cape Cod. He was a member since 1947. He was the Golf Course Superintendent at Wallingford Country Club for many years until his retirement. His life was devoted to his work on the golf course.

On the passing of Philip Donovan father of Shawn Donovan.

Congratulations

Bob Goglia on his new position as the National Marketing Manager for Syngenta's Lawn & Landscape business. He will be based out of Greensboro, NC.

John LaBrie formerly Supt. at Traditions at Wallingford is now Superintendent at Gillette Ridge GC in Bloomfield.

John Ruzsbatsky, CGCS, on his hole-in-one on the 18th hole at the CC of Farmington on May 24th. John was playing 9 holes with his assistant Ryan O'Neal when his four iron shot on the 211 yard par 3 hit in front of the pin and then

went in. The hole just opened that day after being rebuilt by John and his staff last fall.

Best Wishes

Best wishes to Wayne Urban on his recent surgery. "Just a quick note to let you know that I am doing just fine. It was a mild heart attack, which was a definite wake up call. I appreciate all of your kind thoughts & prayers. Thank you for the wonderful get well card, it brought tears to my eyes." - Wayne Urban

Ouch! Wishing a speedy recovery. Gary DePaola is recovering from a ruptured achilles tendon.

Recovering from operation, Dwayne Aoytte, mechanic at Pequabuck GC.

News!

Glen Moore has informed CAGCS that he has placed his business, Glenmore Landscape Service up for sale due to health and personal reasons. He is now employed with Valley View Greenhouses in South Salem, NY. Wishing you the best in your new endeavors!

Kevin Collins formerly at Traditions at Windsor is now at Traditions at Wallingford.

Check out Connecticut Golfer feature about Gary, Tom and Kevin DeVaux.

GCSAA Class A Update. Congratulation to the following members of the Connecticut Association of GCS who were assigned to the initial four-year Class A renewal cycle and have successfully completed all the requirements for maintaining their Class A status. These individuals have obtained at

least 4.0 points, a minimum of 1.6 coming from education points and have demonstrated environmental stewardship by possessing a pesticide license in the state of their employment or successfully passing GCSAA's IPM exam.

Mr. Thomas M. DeGrandi, Mr. Edward M. Goodhouse, Ms. Cindy J. Johnson, Mr. Gregory Stent, Mr. Michael Sullivan, Mr. Ted J. Tighe, Mr. Harry D. Ward, and Mr. James E. Weiland.

At the current time, 48% of all GCSAA Class A members who were assigned to the initial four-year renewal cycle have successfully completed all the requirements.

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April Meeting Results

*Fox Hopyard Golf Club
Monday, May 1, 2007*

1st Gross:

Jud Smith, Orange Hills CC
Michael Dukette, HTS
Wayne Urban
Sean Flynn, Great River CC

2nd Gross:

Keith Angilly, Mill River CC
Tom Wechal
Matt Howland, Shawnmark Ind.
Jesse Blackmere

3rd Gross:

James Stafstrom, Club Car, Inc.
Mark Osborn, Steven Willand Inc.
Marc Maxim, Candlewood Valley CC

1st Net:

Heather Garvin, Chas. C. Hart Seed Co.
Philip Neaton, Black Hall Club
Brian Skelly, Old Lyme CC
Sandy Marcks

2nd Net:

Bob Chalifour, Holliston Sand Co.
Richard Cook
Al La Prise, Allens Seed Store, Inc.
Robert Good, Leggette, Brashears & Graham

3rd Net:

Marc Weston, Indian Hill CC
Kenneth Ainsworth, Indian Hill CC
James Wierzbicki, HTS

Closest to Pin #4 - Jim Stafstrom, Club Car

Longest Putt #15 - Eric Hulland,
Troon Golf Lake of Isles

Closest to the Line - Jay Booth, Woodbridge CC

Longest Putt #8 - Richard Cook

Closest to the Pine #11 - Phil Neaton, Black Hall

Longest Drive - Sean Flynn, Great River CC

Kicker #1:

Shawn Daigle, Fox Hopyard GC
Michael Lorch, Golf Club of Avon
Chris Cowan

Kicker #2:

John Ruzsbatzky, CC of Farmington
Paul Bonini, Watertown GC
Ryan O'Neal, CC of Farmington
Curtis Tyrrell, Lake of Isles

Kicker #3:

Kevin D'Amico, Westwoods GC
Shawn O'Sullivan, Metro Turf Specialists
Mike Streckfus, Rolling Greens GC
John Napier, Stanley GC

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LAKE OF ISLES



North Stonington, CT
 CAGCS - S & R Tournament
 Monday, May 21, 2007



Director of Agronomy: Curtis Tyrell, CGCS
 Superintendent, North Course: Eric Hulland
 South Course: George Harris
 Director of Golf: Robbie Leming
 PGA Professional: Brian Kelly
 General Manager: Archie Cart

The Scholarship and Research Tournament was held early this year and on one of our state's newest golf courses. We have the opportunity to play the South Course of Lake of Isle, which is the private of their two courses. They are Rees Jones designs that opened in 2005, are managed by Troon Golf and owned by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.

The two courses were built on 220 acres across Rt. 2 from the Casino's entrance, and are laid out around a 90 acres lake which comes into play on many holes, whether it's the forced carries off the tee over environmentally sensitive areas or on the shots into the green. The South course signature hole is one such hole #11, the par 3 requires a 165-yard tee shot to an island green. The tees and fairways are Seaside II bentgrass which were used because it will accept the water from Foxwoods' effluent treatment plant, the first in the state. The greens are Pennlinks and are quick but not unputtable. Rees chose this grass so he could build the greens he wanted and not have the grass dictate the design.

Our host is Curtis Tyrell, CGCS, is Director of Agronomy and with Superintendents, George Harris and Eric Hulland, have worked together on these courses since the beginning of the project in 2003. Curtis credits Eric and George for much of the success and progress of the two courses. Their hard work and dedication has been the cornerstone of their programs. Curtis is a native of Maryland and began working at golf courses in high school and through college where he received a Bachelor degree in History. While working at the CC of Woodmore for mentor Mike Evans, after graduating from college, he realized this was

going to be his profession and went to Penn State for the 2-year turf program. Upon completion, Curtis went to work at PGA West for Virgil Robinson during the construction of the 5th course. The opportunity to be assistant at the 36 hole Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, which hosted the Senior Tour's Tradition Tournament, took him to Arizona for three years. The Superintendent's position at Anthem CC in Henderson outside of Los Vegas brought him to Nevada. The Troon Company acquired management of the course in 2002 and when they were looking for a Superintendent to build Lake of Isle, Curtis took the opportunity to get back to the East coast.

Curtis and his wife, Bridget, live in Colchester with their daughters Kaylie, 8, and Meredith, 4. Bridget is a stay at home Mom. In his free time, Curtis enjoys spending time with his family, taking part in the girl's sports, playing golf and guitar, and following the Red Sox. Now that the course is maturing, Curtis looks forward to getting to meetings and becoming acquainted with CAGCS and its members.

Thank you for hosting our Scholarship and Research Tournament. We had a great day and successful fundraiser.

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S&R MEETING RESULTS

Lake of Isles
Monday, May 21, 2007

1st Gross:

Eric Morrison, Shennecossett GC
Ward Weischet, LESCO
Kevin Collins, Tradition at Windsor
John LaBrie, Tradition GC at Wallingford

2nd Gross:

John Gallagher, Race Brook CC
Peter Bly, Brooklawn CC
Jud Smith, Orange Hills CC
Christopher Mikita, Oak Lane CC

3rd Gross:

Chris Mauro, Highfield CC
Bill Murray
Tim Broderick
Mike McDonald

1st Net:

Heather Garvin, Chas. C. Hart Seed Co.
Kimberly Heyl, Fenwick GC
William Goewey, Sharon CC
Alexander Simpson, Sharon CC

2nd Net:

Thomas DeGrandi, TPC River Highlands
Noel Hall, TPC at River Highlands
John Kaminski, Ph.D., UCONN
Eric Hulland, Troon Golf Lake of Isles

3rd Net:

Thomas DeVaux, Hunter GC
Gary DePaola, Hunter GC
Kevin DeVaux, Stanley GC
David Ryan, Madison CC

Closest to Pin#4:

Alex Simpson, Sharon GC

Closest to Pin#10:

Mike McDonald

Longest Drive #5:

Kim Heyl, Fenwick GC

Longest Drive #12:

Patrick Flynn

Closest to the line #10:

Carl Boyhan

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THE JUNE SWOON

Jim Skorulski, Senior Northeast Green Section Agronomist & Dave Oatis, Director, Northeast Green Section

The June swoon, is unfortunately an all too familiar term to many of us New England baseball fans. Regrettably, many golf course superintendents are familiar with another type of June swoon; one that involves annual bluegrass (AB) on golf courses, especially on putting greens. The decline of AB is anticipated in early-mid June when the plant has completed seeding and the first wave of hot weather arrives. Depending on the weather and seed head production, fertility, soil temperatures, etc. it can range from being fairly minor to quite severe. Usually, the weakest biotypes of annual bluegrass are most affected, and the swoon can signal the onslaught of various diseases such as anthracnose and summer patch.

Several factors are responsible for the decline of annual bluegrass in early

summer. The true nature of the plant itself dictates that the potential for summer decline is likely. As a winter annual, annual bluegrass germinates and grows rapidly in the cooler temperatures of late summer, fall and spring, produces a heavy seed crop and then is expected to die once exposed to stress and heat. Much of the plant's energy is expended to produce seed, and between the rising temperatures and expended energy, there is a dramatic and corresponding die back in root systems. The weakened plants are more vulnerable to disease infection and heat and drought stresses that increase the likelihood of decline and/or failure later in the summer.

To make matter worse, June is usually the time when maintenance is intensified for the annual member-guest tournament or special outing that requires elevated green speeds and firm, dry conditions. Mowing heights often are lowered, mowing frequency increased, and top-dressing and vertical mowing practices implemented to ready the surfaces for the special event. Sometimes the prac-

tices cause no long term plant damage. However, a spell of severe weather during this same period can quickly change things, leading to a painfully long and potentially humbling experience.

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What can be done to avoid the June swoon and remain a winner through the long summer season? Here are a few things to think about:

1. Never take basic agronomics for granted. Drainage, organic matter management, good growing environments, fertility practices, and sound irrigation must be in place if good quality, reliable playing surfaces are to be maintained consistently! Unfortunately, there are no short cuts here and weaknesses in any of the above categories eventually catch up with even the best managers, usually when they are pushing the playability envelope.

2. Develop an annual management plan for the putting greens that includes mowing, rolling, cultivation, topdressing, fertilization and disease management programs. You have to play the hand that is dealt you whether it involves limitations with available resources, staffing, or the greens' infrastructure. Implementing an unrealistic management plan may be successful in the short term but will not be sustainable in the long run. The plan must also be flexible to permit changes to be made based depending on the status of the turfgrass or unusual weather conditions. The program should be presented to and agreed upon by the green committee or owner prior to the season's start. Just about all golf course superintendents will have such a plan, but the key is following it as closely as possible. It is easy to slip into a "deferred" maintenance program whereby important but sometimes disruptive practices are put off. While this may please golfers in the short term, it invites disaster in the long run.

3. With more and more emphasis being placed on surface conditioning, it is probably unrealistic to think that mowing heights will be appreciably raised. However, if greens do not meet the basic agronomic requirements then even slight upward adjustments or a switch to smooth rollers during times of stress can be critical in regards to success or failure. The height of cut probably has the greatest impact on ball roll, but it is not the only means to obtain faster ball

roll! Results from Rutgers University anthracnose research have shown that double-cutting and rolling can be used with higher mowing heights to provide similar ball roll and less stress/disease pressure as compared to greens maintained at lower heights of cut. A frequent topdressing program through all but the toughest weather and careful water management will also help to keep the surfaces smoother, firmer and faster at a higher height of cut. A little management and communication creativity will be necessary to meet the conditioning goals in a sustainable fashion.

4. Consciously reevaluate your current management programs weekly beginning in June to determine whether to continue with current practices or if adjustments (i.e. raise cutting heights, switch to solid rollers, reduce mowing frequency, etc.) are necessary. Mark the dates on the calendar if that's what it takes to complete the exercise! Setting firm dates for regular re-evaluations is a great way to keep on top of the most critical decisions.

5. Utilize growth regulators to suppress seed heads in spring. This will help the plants conserve their energy and will leave them better able to tolerate the stresses ahead. Primo applications should be commence following the seed head suppression applications, and Primo usage should continue throughout the summer at spray intervals of 1-2 weeks. The regular and continued use of the growth regulator has been shown to reduce the potential for anthracnose and to improve the stress tolerance of annual bluegrass.

6. Expose the turf, and yes that includes the annual bluegrass, to some drought stress to precondition it for the summer season. This falls more or less into a philosophy of more conservative water management. The key is not to dry things down to permanent wilt point, but let the plants struggle a bit early in the season when the soil temperatures still remain favorable for growth. Some of the more shallow rooted biotypes may bow out early, but that is not such a bad thing as long as it is kept under

control. A "controlled-burn" approach, so aptly named by a superintendent last year, is always preferred over a wildfire. This philosophy will slowly swing the scales in favor of the stronger and more dependable grasses on the greens.

7. Cultivate the greens in June after the annual bluegrass completes seeding and prior to the summer stress. A less disruptive "venting" with microtines, water injection, or air injection will help alleviate surface compaction, encourage water infiltration, improve gas exchange, and stimulate the plants. Consider the less aggressive forms of cultivation similar to giving the team a day off before a grueling road trip.

8. The grass has to have proper nourishment to survive as well. However, early summer is not the time to apply large quantities of nitrogen or potassium. Initiating a spoon-feeding program with nitrogen is most effective for putting green turf at this time of year and through the warmer summer months to maintain vigor without stimulating excessive shoot growth and burning the plants carbohydrate reserves. Nitrogen is by far the most important nutrient for the turf at this point, but potassium deficiencies may also occur if the greens are composed or heavily modified with sand. A complete soluble fertilizer, containing phosphorous, potassium and micronutrients can be used for the early summer applications when the annual bluegrass is at its weakest. Keep in mind that research continues to show that nitrogen deficiencies and anthracnose are strongly correlated.

It is inevitable that annual bluegrass will experience The June Swoon to some degree. However, a well thought out management plan based on the greens' agronomic condition, their growing environments, and the available resources is the best means of maintaining annual bluegrass through a potentially difficult period. Avoid the June swoon and chances are a good summer season will follow.

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