

# Connecticut Clippings

Volume 41, No 1

March 2007

## LES KENNEDY, JR. CGCS – 2006 CAGCS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

The Superintendent of the Year award is our association's highest honor. This award is special because you, his peers, choose the recipient. We have asked each of you, by your vote, to choose who is most deserving of this very special designation.

This year's superintendent is a long-term veteran of the business, who grew up in a family where golf paid the bills. He has worked as both an assistant superintendent & as a superintendent at 7 different golf courses since the early 70's.



He has been a member of the GCSAA since 1979 and a member of the Ct. Association of Golf Course Superintendents since 1984 and has always been an active member. He has also been a member of the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association since 1984 and rejoined the Rhode Island Association of Golf Course Superintendents in 2001.

He has served on the CAGCS Board of Directors for 3 years as the Government Relations/ Public Relations Director and for 2 years as Treasurer. He has represented us at GCSAA as our voting delegate and has also volunteered his time to take photographs for the Ct. Clippings. With all the time he has given our association, he has also served on numerous committees with the GCSAA, including the Ambassador Speakers program. He did a talk in 1987 at the GCSAA Conference and Show on "Major Renovation in a New Position"; in 1992 did a talk in Spain at their Promo Verde on "Golf Course Maintenance in America" and also published an article in the USGA Green Section Record (Jan/Feb 1992) titled "Washed Sod, A Viable Alternative in Greens Construction". He has also participated in the GCSAA golf tournament for over 20 years. He has been a Certified Golf Course Superintendent since 1986. He is also a lifetime member of the Golden Tee Club.

His humble beginnings started work-

ing for his dad, in the bag room at the Pawtucket Country Club. It didn't take long to realize that working out on the course, was the place to be and he joined the grounds crew in 1972 and eventually took his first superintendent position at this club in 1976.

After leaving Pawtucket Country Club in 1981 he worked at Ledgesmont Country Club as the Assistant Superintendent for one season under Anthony Caranci, Golf Course Superintendent. The following year he worked at Belmont Country Club as the Assistant Superintendent for one season under Arthur Silva, Golf Course Superintendent.

In 1983 he became the Golf Course Superintendent at Oak Lane Country Club and resided there for 11 years.

*Continued on Page 3...*

### IN THIS ISSUE...

President's Message.....	2
Superintendent Of The Year.....	3
A Letter From Les.....	4
Winter Seminar Collage.....	5
Grasscatcher.....	6-7
UCONN Turf Students.....	8
Environmental Profile Project..	10
New England Regional Turfgrass Conference.....	11



*Keith Angilly, President*

# The President's Message

solid schedule of events for the year, highlighted by our Scholarship and Research Tournament being held at Lake of Isles (Curtis Tyrell, CGCS) and a return to the Great River Golf Club (Sean Flynn) for our Annual Invitational. I would like to thank all of the host Superintendents and their Clubs for hosting us. It has become increasingly difficult to secure sites, as outing dates are few and far between.

online. Joe is a good friend to our group and I would like to thank him, as well as Sean for their efforts.

Finally, I was provided the opportunity to speak at the CT Section of the PGA's Spring Meeting. As usual, they provided me with a warm reception. I would like to thank Tom Hantke, their Executive Director for having me. Their group is very interested in being a more significant part of our Invitational, so I would ask that our members try to include them for the day.

The 2007 golf season is now upon us. It's time to get the staff cracking, fill up those irrigation systems, and do what we do best. Hopefully we will be dealing with a kinder and gentler Mother Nature this year. Our Education chairperson, Mark Mansur, has put together another

Sean Flynn, our golf chairperson, has been working with Joe Parrillo, of the CSGA, toward returning to the GHIN system that we have used in the past. There will be a laptop on site at our events and all scores will be recorded the day of the event. Members will still be responsible for posting non-CAGCS event scores, which is very easy to do

I hope everyone has a productive spring and look forward to seeing you at our first meeting at the Fox Hopyard Golf Club.

Good luck,  
Keith Angilly

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P.O. Box 3678  
Woodbridge, CT 06525  
Mary Jo Kennedy  
Telephone 203/387-0810  
Toll Free Tel: 888/561-7778  
Fax: 203/387-7866  
e-mail: cagcs@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editors  
Bob Chalifour, CGCS (Ret.)  
Heather Garvin

**Newsletter Committee**  
Dave Basconi & Les Kenedy, Jr. -  
Photography, John Garcia,  
Edward Goodhouse, Ron Holcomb,  
Mike Mooney and Jud W. Smith

Newsletter Designer  
Marysia Brejwo

[www.cagcs.com](http://www.cagcs.com)

The Clippings is open to all commentary. Please send your comments to:  
Bob Chalifour, Newsletter Editor  
39 First Street  
Groton, CT 06340

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*Continued from Page 1...*

Next, he moved on to become the Superintendent at the Country Club of Waterbury where he stayed for 4 years, before moving on to his present position at The Blind Brook Club in Purchase, NY where he is in his 8th year as the Superintendent there.

Most of you by now, know who this years recipient is, but you may not have known his history. You may only know him as the relentless seller of CAGCS Scholarship and Research raffle tickets! As you now know, there is much more to this dedicated superintendent.

There are some special people in his life who have mentored him over the years that must be mentioned –

The mentors in his life - his dad, Les Kennedy, Sr., formerly Golf Professional and Superintendent at Pawtucket CC, Manuel Frances formerly the Golf Course Superintendent/owner at Green Harbor Golf Course, in Marshfield, MA & Tony Caranci formerly the Golf Course Superintendent at Ledgemont Country Club, Seekonk, MA.

We all know the woman behind the man, Mary Jo, and they have been married for 25-years! They have one daughter, Katie who is attending Northeastern University, in Boston, majoring in Accounting, with a minor in Red Sox baseball.

His hobbies: He enjoys playing golf, tinkering with his 1971 MGB, traveling, reading a good suspense novel, watching sports - doesn't matter what sport, he'll watch them all!

Ladies and Gentleman, it is my honor and pleasure to present this award to our 2006 CAGCS Superintendent of the Year, Mr. Les Kennedy, Jr. CGCS.



*From left to right: Charles Bumgarner, Mary Jo, Les & Mary Bumgarner*

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**A LETTER FROM LES**

Thank you all so much for voting me your 2006 Superintendent of the Year. I am honored and truly humbled to receive this great award. Having taken the Blind Brook Club job in nearby New York 7 years ago, the last thing I ever expected was to be recognized by this group. As a member of 3 local chapters (the RIGCSA, where I started my career, the MetGCSA where I currently work, and the CAGCS that I joined in 1984 when Mary Jo and I first moved to CT) I have been blessed with many great friendships in all three groups. But as I stand before you today to receive your highest honor I consider myself to be a CT guy! Thanks again for this honor means so much to me.

I could not accept this award without speaking of my father, Les Kennedy, Sr. He was golf professional at Pawtucket CC in RI and he taught me this great game that everyone in this room is associated with. Without the game of golf we would all be doing something different. I was raised to be a player, the son of the pro destined to become a pro himself one

day. But a funny thing happened along the way. My game needed help, I did not enjoy practicing and a future in the golf shop was not very appealing!! As the head professional my Dad also took on the responsibilities of the greenkeeper (as we where know in those days) and in 1972 offered me the chance to move onto the course maintenance staff to see if a different part of the golf world appeal to me. My career as a golf course superintendent had begun. Later in life my Dad would joke that it was a good thing I could grow grass for a living because I would have been a very hungry (not very good) golfer!! I lost my Dad to cancer in 2000 shortly after my Mom had passed in the same year. I miss them both greatly and I know they are here with us today and are very proud of their son. For everyone here whose parents are still with us, cherish them while you can for one day they too will be gone.

My wife of 25 years, Mary Jo, has been the backbone of my life. She has made it easy for me to achieve my goals in this great profession and as your Executive Secretary she has also made it easy for me to assist the association in the small ways I do. Thank you Mary Jo for making my life complete.

To everyone in this room, there is no greater honor than that which is bestowed by your peers. Thank you all again from the bottom of my heart, I am proud to be the CAGCS Superintendent of the Year!!!

- Les Kennedy

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## Condolences

To the family of Gary Bryant on his recent passing.

Tom Fletcher retired golf course superintendent from H. Smith Richardson GC on the passing of his father John W. Queen who was the former golf course superintendent at Fairchild Wheeler in Bridgeport.

## Congratulations

Ed Ball in his new position as Sports Turf Manager at East Lyme Park & Recreation formerly of Lyman Orchards Golf Club.

Peter Gorman in his new position as Golf Course Superintendent at Suffield Country Club formerly the assistant at Black Hall Club.

Guy Gurney in his new position as Golf Course Superintendent at Orange County Golf Club formerly the assistant at Brooklawn Country Club

John & Cathy Garcia on the birth of their son John Joseph on December 31, 2006, J.J. weighed in at 6lbs 15ozs.

Peter & Tara Gorman on the birth of their son Tristan Murphy on February 18, 2007, Tristan weighted in at 7lbs 7ozs.

Mark & Theresa Gostowski on the birth of their twin girls Amelia May Anna Marie on January 15, 2007, Amelia weighted in at 8lbs 6ozs and Anna at 9lbs 2ozs.

To Larry Dodge on his new position at Geo. Schofiled Co., Inc.

To Tom Watroba on his new position at Golf Irrigation Services, Inc.

Scott Ramsay on receiving this years Superintendent News, Superintendent of the Year Award.

Peter Lund on receiving this years Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Distinguished Service Award .

Congratulations to Scott Lund, Assistant Superintendent at Ridgeway CC on his recent job change and his appointment to the CAGCS Board of Directors as the Class C Representative.

To Kevin Collins in his position as Golf Course Superintendent at The Tradition at Windsor.

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Notes

Check out turfnettv.com. John Kaminski does a feature on Sprayer nozzles and Fungicides. Also a great lesson on customer service is featured.

UMASS Fungicide Chart has been updated February 28, 2007. To access chart in PDF Format visit: [www.umassturf.org/publications/onlinepubs.html](http://www.umassturf.org/publications/onlinepubs.html). Also while there visit information on winter injury.

Reminder! CAGCS Scholarship request for application deadline is Monday, April 2, 2007 and deadline for submitting applications is Friday, May 4, 2007.

The University of Connecticut's 2006 Turfgrass Research Report is now online. Research summaries included within this report are designed to provide turfgrass managers, extension specialists, research scientists, and industry personnel with information about current topics related to managing turfgrass. This year's report includes various fungicide and herbicide evaluations, updates on fairway topdressing research, and topics on fertilization and nutrient management. To view the 2006 and previous reports, visit [www.turf.uconn.edu/reports.shtml](http://www.turf.uconn.edu/reports.shtml).

# Growing A Better World...



Rodney Harrison finds Lonnie Troll one of his favorite fans on the crowded NERTC Show floor.

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### UConn Turf Students in Anaheim

By: Nate Miller, Senior in Turfgrass Science

The students in the University of Connecticut Turfgrass Science Program would like to thank the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents for funding student travel to the Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, CA. Through their generous support, UConn was able to send seven turfgrass students to the national conference and show. While in Anaheim, students were able to interact with a diverse group of turfgrass managers from across the country and the world. We also appreciated the support and interest from our local golf course superintendents who stopped by the UConn booth to "talk turf."

In addition to the trade show, students participated in the 13th annual GCSAA Collegiate Turf Bowl. This year's event was very competitive and a total of 81 teams from across the country participated. The University of Connecticut's turfgrass students did not disappoint as the top team, consisting of Chris Orlich, Brian Tencza, Marc Dubour, and Nate Miller, finished in 14th place. A second, two-man team of David McIntyre and David Golembeski also had a strong showing in the competition. In addition to the undergraduates, graduate student Alex Putman (advised by Assistant Professor John Kaminski) took the top spot among all competing graduate students. As has been the trend for the past few years, teams from Iowa State (1st and 2nd) and Purdue (3rd - 5th) finished in the top five spots.

In addition to competing in the turf bowl, turfgrass students Brian Tencza and David Golembeski received individual honors from the Association. David was recognized as a GCSAA Scholar for his academic achievements and potential to become a leading professional in the golf course industry. Brian was selected to become a member of the GCSAA's Student Advisory Board. He will serve as a student representative and work to educate students on the benefits of joining this network of professionals.

Additional financial support was provided by the College of Agriculture and Natural

Resources, UConn Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Center, and Undergraduate Student Government. Again, the Turf Club would like to thank all those that contributed to this experience. This opportunity would not have been possible without your generous support. Turfgrass students at UConn look forward to participating in next years GCSAA competition and also hope to attend the STMA conference in January. For more information on how you can support student involvement in local and national meetings, please contact Turf Club advisors Steve Rackliffe (860-486-1944) or John Kaminski (860-486-0162).



From left to right - Marc Dubour, Chris Orlich, Brian Tencza, Nate Miller

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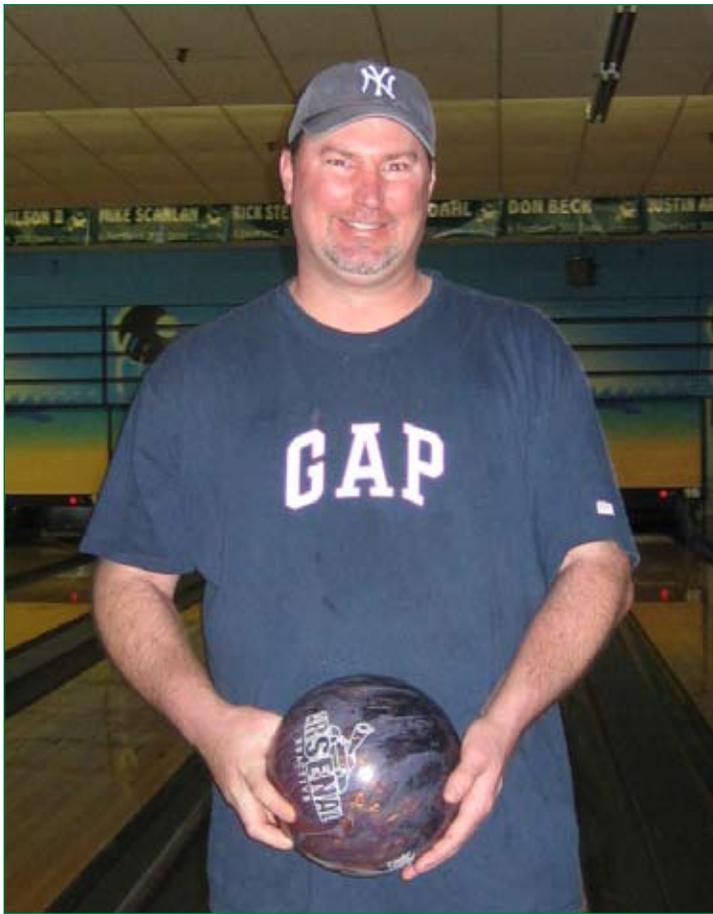
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*Congratulations to Scott Lund assistant superintendent at Mill River CC on his recent appointment to the CAGCS Board of Directors as the Class C Representative.*

**THIRD PHASE OF GCSAA'S  
NATIONAL GOLF COURSE  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE  
PROJECT COMING SOON**

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

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

"We have been pleased by the response rate of the first two phases," GCSAA Director of Research Clark Throssell, Ph.D., said. "It is important that we have strong participation by both GCSAA member and non-member superintendents to compile the necessary data. It is vital that we get data from all types and sizes of facilities. The information will help GCSAA to better serve them in managing their facilities."

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

Throssell indicated the data are still being analyzed from the first two phases, one focusing on the physical profile of a golf facility and the other on water use and conservation. The first comprehensive report of the first two phases will appear in a peer-reviewed scientific journal this year. The Environmental Institute for Golf funded the first two phases of the project thanks in part to a grant from The Toro Foundation.

The Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA, is a collaborative effort of the environmental and golf communities, dedicated to strengthening the compatibility of golf with the natural environment. The Insti-

tute concentrates on delivering programs and services involving research, education and outreach that communicate the best management practices of environmental stewardship on the golf course. For more on The Institute, visit [www.eifg.org](http://www.eifg.org).



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**10TH ANNIVERSARY  
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Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved in the 2007 New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show just completed! Being the 10th show, the NERTF Board of Directors hoped to make 2007 a show to remember, and for at least one individual a show they will never forget. Mr. George Bell, equipment technician at Brown University, whose boss, Pat Vetere calls a "great guy", should have no problem remembering as he toots around in his brand new 2007 Harley Davidson Fat Boy Motorcycle that he won in the 10th Anniversary Give-a-Way Raffle. Congratulations George, drive safe and we sure hope your wife likes it too!

In an industry dealing with an ever changing work environment, the signs continue to point to education as the constant key to success. More than 275 attendees enjoyed the opportunity to attend seminars at this year's conference and show, with a whopping 175 individuals in the Turfgrass Diseases of New England seminar alone! Other education sessions over the three

days had strong attendance and support from an excellent line-up of speakers from across the states including Dr. Joe Vargas of Michigan State University along with many speakers from UConn, UMass, and URI. We thank all those who made presentations during the 4 intensive days of education opportunities.

It was a tight room of 800 people as Rodney Harrison of the New England Patriots addressed the crowd as our highlighted keynote speaker sponsored by Bayer Environmental and LESCO. Rodney shared some personal thoughts and laughs, and then signed what seemed like a million autographs on the trade show floor during our opening trade show reception sponsored by TPC. This year's trade show was larger than last year, thanks to vendors support and additionally for the donations of auction items, which were sold for a record \$22,500! The annual auction has fast become a favorite event of many; as Auctioneer Danny Calise and emcee Manny Mihailides, with the help of Bobby "I'm working here!" Gebo, who entertain and convince the crowd to go to higher bids! Added to the end of the auction this year was the opportunity to enjoy a wonderful reception of food and hors d'oeuvres right on the show floor sponsored by Syngenta and Harrell's Turf Specialty! These funds will all be applied to important Turfgrass

Research being investigated here in the New England States. We wish to thank all our sponsors, presenters, vendors, donors, workers and attendees for all your generosity over the last 10 years. To quote the great Henry Ford: "Coming Together is a Beginning, Keeping Together is Progress, Working Together is Success!"

With 10 years now behind us, so what's next? This is a great question. The NERTF needs everyone's help to insure that this great event continues to be on the right track. We are including a survey with this article and ask anyone who had the chance to come to this year's show to help us to evaluate how we are doing with an incentive. Please take a few minutes and fill out the 2007 New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show Turf 2007 Evaluation sheet and send it into us. Just fill it out, fold it over, tape it, stamp it and send it! That is all we ask, and if you do it before June 1st, you will be entered into a drawing for a free 3-day Conference and Show pass w/ a 2-night stay in the Westin Hotel for 2008 (\$450 value). So, please help us with good information. If you have any comments or questions concerning the foundation, don't forget you can talk to your association delegates to the NERTF Board of Directors or call our office 401-841-5490. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy the Spring!



Gary Sykes, Director, NERTC (left) Presenting George Bell with 10th Anniversary Prize

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