

1968 Celebrating 50 Years 2018



Connecticut Clippings



Volume 52, No 2

June 2018

THE CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS IN PRINT

The Connecticut Clippings is 50 years young in 2018 and it has been a work in motion since the beginning. Thanks go to the board of directors in 1968; President Mike Ovian, Vice-President Charles Baskin, Secretary Karnig Ovian, Treasurer Charles Traverse, Board Members Roger Barrett, Alfred Hawkins, Jr., George Christie, Chester Rue, Pierre Coste, Robert Tosh and John Perry, for deciding that the association needed to have an avenue to share information with its members efficiently and back then, the home computer and cell phone were only a dream.

There have been eight editors in the 50 years and the first few didn't have the luxury of Executive Secretaries like Pauline Streeter or Mary Jo Kennedy to help with the production. Thank you to all the editors who put in the hours it takes to publish an issue of our newsletter.

The Connecticut Clippings Editors:
 Charles Baskin 1968-1971
 Robert Osterman 1972-1975
 Steve Cadenelli 1976-1980
 Greg Wojick 1981-1986
 John Streeter, CGCS 1987-1997
 Bob Chalifour, CGCS 1998-2010
 Steve Smith, CGCS 2011
 Heather Garvin 2011 - present

We will feature photographs and events from the past in each issue throughout the year and hope you enjoy recognizing some of our present members and the fashion styles of the eras. We begin with the 50th Anniversary of CAGCS.

In 1979, the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents celebrated 50 years as an association at Tumble Brook Country Club in Bloomfield. The program from the day and a group picture are on page 10, thank you to Robert Osterman for sharing this with us.

CT CLIPPINGS COVERS THROUGH THE YEARS!



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Marc Weston, CGCS

The President's Message

shorter days, and a chance to catch our breath – but it still seems a long way off.

So, why do we do it? Is it because we love the game of golf? Is it because we love working at one with nature? Is it because we love the challenge agronomically, to show off what we've learned in school and through our years of experience? For me, it's a little of all of these, but my main reason is definitely the people it has brought into my life.

Looking back, I don't remember which specific summer I had ABW damage, dollar spot I just couldn't control, or a drought. What I do remember, and I'm sure always will, are the people who are part of my day -- and the stories they brought with them. One member played 9 holes every morning one summer before his chemo treatments. He told me it gave him something good to think about during the rest of his challenges that day, and that he'd look forward to his 9 holes the next morning. There are some full members serving on committees at the club who I remember as kids when I first started. I remember the first time I was asked to play on a Sunday morning by a group of members. Then, of course, are those who I've been grateful to work beside all these years. One of the best, Bobby C, is looking down at us now, but he is still with us every day (especially because we have one of his work shirts framed in our building).

My "why" is simple: to give people the ability to spend time together and have some fun. To take a walk in a peaceful setting, to forget about their problems for a few hours. To me, a round of golf offers so much to people in so many different

ways. You never know what people are dealing with personally or professionally, and giving them a quiet, fun space is a powerful thing. There are 45,000 golfers in Connecticut with a GHIN numbers (and many more who only play a couple times per year) who count on us to provide the best conditions we can. As we all prepare for another summer, think about your reason why – and I'm sure it will get you through even the toughest days.

Have a great summer,
Marc Weston, CGCS
President, CAGCS

Here we are again, at the start of another summer on the course. It's hard to believe I'm beginning my 15th summer as the Superintendent of Indian Hill. (They say time flies when you're having fun!)

We know all too well the challenges and the stress that come along with this job. We wake up way too early, put in long hours, and sacrifice time away from our family and friends. By the end of each season, we are mentally, physically, and emotionally exhausted. Today, we can look ahead to September in the hopes of cool nights,

Connecticut Clippings is an official publication of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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The Clippings is open to all commentary. Please send your comments to:

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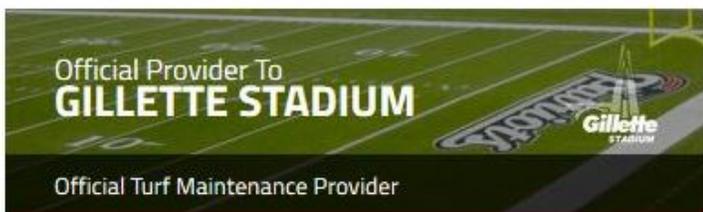
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KEVIN'S KORNER

The Power of Personal Notes

To be brief, this is a message about the power of a personal note. I have written about the power of using the phrase "thank you" in the past; this is a little different. I have always tried to incorporate the use of such notes, and encourage others to do so too. The notes you will read below are special. They are real, come from an interesting source, and touch on a very important subject to those who received them. Some are very funny, others are very deep in meaning. All are a special way of thanking a golf course superintendent for exposing them to the game of golf, and more specifically, the role of a superintendent.

This year at the Golf Industry Show, several field staff representatives took part in a First Green field trip in conjunction with a GCSAA seminar. It was a great opportunity to participate in another field trip, my third, and see how others operate their student learning curriculums. After the on-site portion of the First Green trip, the group got to meet back at the convention center and hear from a panel of superintendents who have run trips at their facilities recently.

One of those on the panel was Ryan Kraushofer, general manager of Westminster National Golf Course, Westminster, Md. Kraushofer shed light on his course's success with schools in his county and also noted the benefits he received as a turfgrass professional. Some of those benefits were at the personal level.

Within days after hosting his First Green field trip consisting of fifth graders, Kraushofer was to marry the love of his life. As a thank you, the students who visited had the ability to send their First Green host "Advice for the Newlyweds from a Fifth-Grader." Kraushofer was kind enough to share some of the personal notes he received from the students. As a reminder, this is marital advice from **fifth-graders!**

Dear the Kraushofers,

One of the things I recommend is to not talk about grass all the time your wife will get annoyed.

Dear Ryan,

Always make the wife happy. If you are in an argument, if you know you are wrong admit it. If you know you are right, still admit you are wrong. If you have a happy wife you have an easier life.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kraushofer:

Be nice to one another. I know it can be hard but at least try. Also, you should never argue either but if you do, admit it if you are wrong if you don't it could end in more arguing. You should also go do sports that's fun and enjoyable unless you are playing with competitive 5th graders, I should know. Golfing sounds good and where have I heard that before.

Dear Ryan,

Don't always try to defend yourself. Also, don't purchase pants without the wife's consent.

Have a good time and always offer to help. Shower her with pedals after the wedding.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Kraushofer,

Hello. Here is some advice to have a happy life together.

- 1. Don't go to sleep angry, if you fight resolve it as quickly as possible*
- 2. Talk about important decisions before making them*
- 3. Forgive each other. Remember that you love each other and that sometimes people make mistakes*
- 4. Don't use technology during potentially nice*



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moments such as dinner or vacations
5. Remind yourselves how lucky you are!

Dear Ryan,

If you want good advice, keep on reading! (I've happened to go to a lot of weddings, so I know a thing or two!) First of all, you should get a 5- to 7-year-old girl to throw the pedals, because everybody will go: awwww! Also, use some breath freshener before you kiss, because if your breath smells bad, it would be awkward (don't ask why, I just know). Otherwise, I'll wish you good luck! Hope everything goes well; also, be a happy couple!

Dear Ryan,

Remember some of this advice on your wedding day:

1. Whenever your wife says, do I look good always say yes. Never yeah you look fine always say you look fantastic or gorgeous or wonderful.
2. Tie your shoes. While dancing you don't want to go face first on the floor. Trust me, it's very embarrassing...
3. Always listen to your wife. Remember anything you do can ruin a perfect relationship

so be the greatest husband you can be.

The one message I'm about to say is directly to Mr. Ryan, make sure you have about the same love for your golf course and your wife. Ok? Make sure to get everyone a gift on Valentine's Day! A lot of money will go into this and a lot of time will go into this!

Dear Mr. Kraushofer,

You've got to make sure to buy the Mrs. lots of shoes. She will be so happy. I know my mom is happy when my dad gets her flowers. Be sure to keep her happy because the first time you make a mistake, she will be very angry, so keep her very very very happy!

Dear Mr. Kraushofer,

- Forgive your wife
- Love your wife
- Help your wife
- Party with your wife
- Kiss your wife

These notes were a simply a way to say thank you for a school visit to a golf

course. If you talk to Kraushofer, you will find that those notes took on a much deeper meaning. In fact, he told me they were some of the best wedding gifts they received, and they shared many of these notes with their guests!

While you hope to convey a message when writing a note of thanks, what may in fact seem simple to you the sender may well have a much deeper and more profound effect on the recipient!

Kevin F. Doyle
Field Staff-Northeast Region Golf Course
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NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL TURFGRASS FOUNDATION, INC., MAY 15, 2018

The New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation recently held its 21st Annual Meeting on May 14, 2018 where a new Executive Board was elected. Jeffrey M. Urghhart, Golf Course Superintendent of the Milton-Hoosic Club in Canton, MA has been elected as the 22nd President of the Foundation, succeeding Randy S. Weeks of Laconia Country Club, Laconia, NH.

Jeff, has represented the Golf Course Superintendent Association of New England on the NERTF Board since 2014. Peter J. Rappoccio, CGCS of the Concord Country Club also of GCSANE will serve in the vice-president's seat for this upcoming year. Mark Mansur of Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield, CT will serve as the Treasurer for his second year. Robert B. Searle of the Abenakee Club of the MGCSEA has been elected to serve as secretary. Randy

will continue to serve on the board as the Immediate-Past President. The foundation consists of 2 delegates from each of the 7 GCSAA Chapters located in New England, 1 delegate from the Sports Turf Managers Association of New England (NESTMA) and 1 delegate from the Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals (MALCP). There are two advisory seats filled currently by the University of Massachusetts and the University of Rhode Island respectfully.

The 21st Annual Conference and Show was held in Providence, RI on March 5th through March 8th, 2018. The 2018 winter weather cooperated nicely on Monday and Tuesday opening the doors for attendees and exhibit booths whose sales were very strong. Monday/Tuesday seminar attendance was at its second highest number since seminars were added. The weather did become a challenge to the show goes on Wednesday. Matt Light, retired Patriot and 11yr Offensive Lineman for the team, inspired a large crowd during his keynote address. 71.5 total hours of

Education for all attendees was available during the 4 days and the trade show was open a total of 13 hours. The 2019 show dates for the 22th annual show are: March 5-7, 2019 in Providence, RI. For more information on the show and New England Turfgrass Research please visit our website: www.nertf.org.

In other NERTF news, the 7th annual Tee-Up New England rounds of golf auction took place April 9-16, 2018. 112 rounds of golf across New England and one day of tennis at the Longwood Cricket Club were auctioned off. Rounds were collected for the auction by the NERTF and ATG (Alumni Turf Group). All rounds were sold, and little over \$32,000 was raised towards turfgrass research in New England. We thank greatly all of the courses who participated in 2018 and wish to thank everyone for supporting turfgrass research. A list of courses that participated is located at www.tee-upnewengland.com.

Gary Sykes, Executive Director



2018-2019 NERTF Executive Board
(l to r): Peter J. Rappoccio, CGCS (Vice-Pres.), Jeffrey M. Urquhart (Pres.), Randy S. Weeks (Immediate Past-President). Robert Searle (Secretary) and Mark Mansur (Treasurer) were not at the meeting.



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Thank You from Tee-Up New England!



To all the CAGCS members and clubs who supported Tee-Up New England in 2018 and over the last 7 years.

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Congratulations!

Jim and Stephanie Wierzbicki on the birth of their daughter Lorelei on April 13, 2018.

Dennis Petruzzelli on accepting the position of Golf Course Superintendent at Oronoque Country Club.

Andrew Fries, CGCS, H.Brownson CC and Steve Rackliffe, CGCS, UCONN, on renewing their certification in January with GCSAA – GCSAA offers a professional certification program that enables golf course superintendents to be recognized for their high level of achievement in golf course management. The professional designation, Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS), is bestowed upon those who voluntarily meet the stringent requirements.

The CGCS designation is the most widely recognized in the golf industry and the highest level of recognition that can be achieved. Approximately 25% of GCSAA Class A members are certified golf course superintendents.

Condolences

George Christie – CAGCS Member since 1959 – passed away in May 2018. George was a native of New Jersey. He attended Stockbridge School, class of 1958 and worked for Bill Dest as a placement student at Wethersfield Country Club. He was superintendent at H.B. Brownson for two years. In 1962 he built Crestbrook

Golf Course in Watertown and work there until he retired. In 1975, the Scholarship + Research Committee was formed by Bob Viera, Dick Hosking, George Christie and Bob Phipps. He leaves his wife Janice and three children Kim, George & Cheryl.
Written by Ron Holcomb

To Wayne Urban and family on the passing of his mother Statia Urban at the age of 101. Please visit her obituary at: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/Statia%20D.-Urban-obituary?pid=189147101>

To the family of Dr.Noel Jackson Ph.D, an honorary member of CAGCS who passed away on May 29, 2018. Please visit his obituary at: <http://www.averystortifuneralhome.com/obituary/noel-jackson-phd>

News

UConn Turfgrass Field Day
Tuesday, July 17, 2018
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Early registration deadline is June 29.
For more information and to register Visit 2018 UConn Turfgrass Field Day: <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=2162484>

The next session of **UMASS Winter School** is scheduled for January 7 - February 15, 2019 on the UMass campus. Additional general information about the program is available at <http://ag.umass.edu/turf/education/turf-winter-school>. Application materials are not yet available but are expected shortly.

Also upcoming this fall is the **UMASS Green School**, which only comes around every other year. Green School attendees can choose one of three tracks to focus on... Turf, Landscape, or Arbor. Green School meets approximately twice per week and the 2018 dates are October 29 - December 17. The location will be Milford, MA. More information is at <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/education/umass-extensions-green-school>, but please note that the curriculum information on these pages has not been finalized yet.

The Alumni Turf Group (ATG) has put together this year's annual fundraiser for UMass Turf Research.

The **2018 Dr. Joseph Troll Turfgrass Classic** will be held on Tuesday, September 4th at the Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, New York, site of the 2020 U.S. Open.

This year's Honoree is Stephen Rabideau, CGCS, Superintendent at Winged Foot.



Stephen Rabideau, CGCS

Go to <https://www.alumniturfgroup.com/> to register, for sponsorship opportunities and more information on about ATG.

Please contact Dave Pease, Executive Secretary - Alumni Turf Group, through the link above, if you have any questions.

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I first met Dick Cook at a University of Rhode Island Turfgrass Field. The URI Turf Field Day was held in late August and was well attended. Out of approximately 400 attendees Dick somehow found out that, I was the newly announced Golf Superintendent for Shennecossett GC. Dick introduced himself, said call me "Cookie" and informed me that he was the Construction Superintendent, and now Golf Superintendent at the Robert Trent Jones designed Black Hall Club in Old Lyme. Dick welcomed me to Connecticut and said, "When you get settled in give me a call and I will take you to a Connecticut Superintendents meeting." I said what is your phone number? Dick replied "same as the year." Ok, it was 1969, but I still needed the exchange. I had just heard my first "Cookism." These would continue for years. Meet you at the computer parking lot, is not a typo just "Cookism."

Over the years, we would travel to many CAGCS meetings and events. Dick at one time had a handicap of 2 and would play golf at the meetings with other low handicap players, and winning the McLaughlin trophy several times. I did not play much golf with Dick until much later in life when he joined the senior golf league that I was in. He also joined a duckpin bowling league that I had joined years earlier. Golf, bowling, CAGCS meetings and events as well as a trip to the Masters, we were very active. I am still glad though that Dick did not ask me to join his pinochle league.

A career that started at Norwich GC as a foreman led Dick to a superintendent's position at Old Lyme CC. From Old Lyme to Black Hall Club to Hunter Memorial in Meriden and as a retiree back to Black Hall Club to work part time. When Phil Neaton, Golf Course Superintendent was asked what Dick did at the club, Phil answered "whatever he wants, he does it the way it should be done, and he does it right".

Although Dick did not serve any CAGCS office, he did serve on the golf committee. Dick was an excellent example of what epitomizes what a golf superintendents association is about in his record of attendance at meetings and events. We will miss a great member, mentor, friend, and a World War II Veteran who served in the US Navy.

For the obituary visit theday.com

Bob Chalifour
(Paul Bednarczyk and Phil Neaton contributed to this story)

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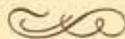
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**Connecticut Association
of Golf Course Superintendents**



50th Anniversary

1929 - 1979



Tumble Brook Country Club
Friday, September 28, 1979

The Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents was organized in February 1929. The first meeting was held at the Wethersfield Country Club, with seven Charter members present. Officers were elected and the first set of By-Laws of the Association were drafted. The first president was J.O. Campbell of Wethersfield.

1929 Charter Members

- J.O. Campbell, Wethersfield C.C.*
- J.R. Foster, Manchester C.C.*
- Thornton Griswold, Wampanoy C.C.*
- Otto Nelson, Farmington C.C.*
- Robert Smith, Indian Hill C.C.*
- Joseph Whitehead, Edgewood C.C.*
- George Weller, Tumble Brook C.C.*

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► For more information contact Bill Affinito at 508.250.3821.



Check to see if this product is registered for sale in your state.

PBIGordonTurf.com

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2018 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Presenting Partners

<p>June 12 Tuesday</p>	<p>THE GOLF CLUB AT OXFORD GREENS Host: Bryan Barrington, GCS Low Gross/Net by Flight <i>1st Round CAGCS Championship</i> <i>MET Team Championship Qualifier</i></p>	
<p>July 17 Tuesday</p>	<p>UCONN FIELD DAY Plant Science Research & Education Facility, Storrs, CT</p>	
<p>July 24 Tuesday</p>	<p>HUNTER GOLF CLUB Host: Thomas DeVaux, GCS Low Gross/Net Blind Partners <i>2nd Round CAGCS Championship</i> <i>New England Team Championship Qualifier</i></p>	
<p>August 22 Wednesday</p>	<p>THE HARTFORD YARD GOATS <i>CAGCS Social/Network Evening</i></p>	
<p>September 4 Tuesday</p>	<p>WINGED FOOT GOLF CLUB Host: Stephen Rabideau, GCS <i>14th Annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic</i></p>	
<p>September 10 Monday</p>	<p>KENEY PARK GOLF COURSE Host: Gary DeVaux, GCS <i>CTEC Golf Tournament</i></p>	
<p>September 18 Tuesday</p>	<p>SHUTTLE MEADOW COUNTRY CLUB Host: Andrew Hannah, GCS <i>CAGCS MEMBER/GUEST</i></p>	
<p>October 9 Tuesday</p>	<p>BLACK HALL CLUB Host: Philip Neaton, GCS <i>New England Superintendents Championship</i></p>	
<p>October 11 Thursday</p>	<p>TUNXIS PLANTATION Host: Charles Babcock, GCS 2 Person Best Ball <i>Superintendent/Assistant Tournament</i> <i>President's Cup & McLaughlin Trophy</i></p>	
<p>October 16 Tuesday</p>	<p>WETHERSFIELD COUNTRY CLUB Host: Ben Newfang, Assistant GCS <i>CAGCS Class C Tournament</i></p>	
<p>November 6 Tuesday</p>	<p>FENWICK GOLF CLUB Host: Daryl Aresco, GCS <i>9-Hole Scramble ABCD, CAGCS Annual Meeting</i></p>	
<p>November 8 Thursday</p>	<p>PATTERSON CLUB Host: Jason Meersman, GCS <i>METGCSA / CAGCS Fall Seminar</i></p>	
<p>December 6 Thursday</p>	<p>J. TIMOTHY'S TAVERNE <i>CAGCS Christmas Party</i></p>	

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**APRIL GOLF RESULTS
NORWICH GOLF COURSE
APRIL 30, 2018**

**CAGCS SCHOLARSHIP + RESEARCH TOURNAMENT
GREAT RIVER GOLF CLUB
MAY 21, 2018 - 18-HOLE SCRAMBLE**

1st Place Gross: 153 – David Rafferty, GreatHorse/Matt Lapinski, Greensight Agronomics
2nd Place Gross: 153 – Jonathan Charpinsky, GC of Avon/ Andrew Hannah, Shuttle Meadow CC
3rd Place Gross: 154 – Mike McDermott, Tallwood CC/ Eric DeStefano, Tallwood CC

1st Place Net: 130 – John Gallagher III, Racebrook CC/ Peter Gallagher, guest
2nd Place Net: 130 – Heather Garvin, Hart Seed Co./ Brian Giblin, Bayer Environmental
3rd Place Net: 134 – Eric Morrison, Shennecossett CC/ Ward Weischet, SiteOne Landscaping

Contests

Long Drive #4 – Jonathan Charpinsky, GC Avon
Closest to Line #16 – David Rafferty, GreatHorse
Closest to the Pin #9- 20' – Brian Goudey, Bayer Environmental
Closest the Pin # 13 - 5'6" – Matt Lapinski, Greensight Agronomics
Closest to the Pin #15 - 10'7" – Michael McDermott, Tallwood CC
Closest to the Pin #18 - 6'4" – Kevin Jaracy, Ewing Irrigation
Longest Putt #15 - 57' – Andrew Hannah, Shuttle Meadow CC
Longest Putt #18 - 22'2" – Peter Tyrell, Horticultural Consultants

1st Net
Al Adaskaveg, Rockledge GC
Timothy Nadeau, Rockledge GC
Peter Bacon, Wyantenuck CC
James Staszowski, TPC

2nd Net
Les Kennedy, Blind Brook Club
Timothy O'Neill, CC of Darien
Peter Lund, Valley Green, Inc.
Michael Cornicelli, A-OK Turf

3rd Net
Brian Pope, TPC
Michael Decker, Clinton CC
Gary DeVaux, Keney Park GC
Michael Dukette, Harrell's

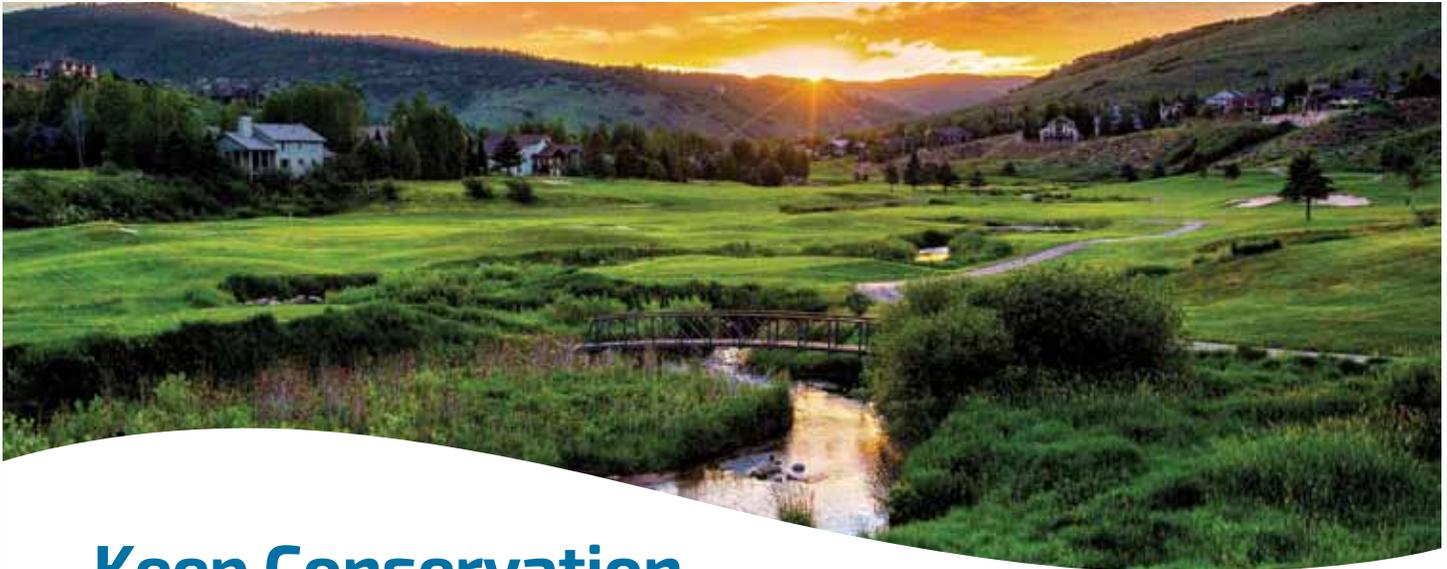
1st Gross
Sean Moran, SODCO
Alicia Pearson, SODCO
Chris Mauro, Western Hills GC
Walter Wozniak, Mill River GC

2nd Gross
Melissa Gugliotti, Syngenta
David Ziter, Topstone GC
Heather Garvin, Hart Seed
Eric DeStefano, Twin Hills CC

3rd Gross
Neil Lajeunesse, Dunning Custom Soil
Gilberto Perez, Dunning Custom Soil
Daryl Aresco, Borough of Fenwick
Kevin Jaracy, Ewing Irrigation

Closest to the Pin:
#2 Drew Cummins, Crop Production Services
#15 Heather Garvin, Hart Seed

Longest Drive:
Chris Mauro, Western Hills GC
Chris Mauro, Western Hills GC



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UConn Turfgrass Field Day Tuesday, July 17, 2018

at the Plant Science Research and Education Facility in Storrs, Connecticut

For more information and to register, visit www.regonline.com/turfgrassfieldday2018

The 2018 Turfgrass Field Day at the University of Connecticut offers exciting educational opportunities

for turfgrass professionals of all levels.

The date of the Field Day has been selected in order to provide the best opportunity to

view the research plots when they are under the greatest summer stress. Cutting edge research in the areas of lawn care, sports and golf turf management will be presented.

Attendees will have an opportunity to discuss ongoing research and management concerns with the UConn turf team. In addition to seeing the latest research



results, turfgrass professionals have the opportunity to interact with exhibitors and discuss the latest developments and challenges in the industry.

Agenda:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 7:30 – 9:15 | Registration opens with continental breakfast, Visit with Exhibitors |
| 9:15 – 9:30 | Welcoming remarks |
| 9:30 – 12:00 | Guided tour of research plots |
| 12:00 – 1:00 | Lunch |
| 1:00 – 2:30 | Afternoon workshops (Separate registration required) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Turfgrass Disease Identification and Management Walking TourUtilizing UConn's New Technology App for Improved Nutrient Management |

Pesticide and certification credits will be available

Early registration deadline is June 29, 2018.



Lightning Protection for Golf Courses

With the latest storms that pased through our state, I thought that future consideration should be addressed as to if your course has adequate "Surge Protection."

Acting as an antenna on which surges of electricity travel with little resistance, an irrigation system's wiring-not unlike office or home-equipment wiring-is susceptible to lightning-based surges. The costly repairs and loss of productivity associated with surge damage to an office's computer network also applies to golf courses when lightning strikes. Most losses with the irrigation systems are with electrical controllers, satellites, valves and sprinklers, but well-pumps - affecting turf quality by interrupting finely tuned watering schedules. Though it is unusual for lightning to knock out an entire system, even small repairs are a setback for courses competing to attract a finite number of players. This may mean that superintendents are unable to irrigate part or, sometimes, all of their courses during critically dry periods. For this reason, several lightning countermeasures are available to protect your irrigation systems and your course's competitive edge.

The better the system is grounded, the better chance equipment will last longer. Superintendents should have ground rods checked every year, cleaning and tightening the clamps and to perform a Megger test on the ground rods. This ground insulation, or Meg test, calculates the resistance of the insulation, a measure of its condition.

It is important that both the controller and the surge arrestors are grounded to ground rods or plates with less than 10 ohms resistance however, a range of 11 to 30 ohms still means there is good grounding protection. When the resistance of the soil is above 30 ohms, this indicates poor grounding. You will need to take improvement steps. At minimum, the grounding circuit for controllers will include a copper clad steel ground rod, or copper ground plate.

Copper ground rods should be driven into the ground at a location 8 to 10 feet from the equipment or wires connected to it, at right angles to the two-wire path. Install all grounding circuit components in straight lines. When it is necessary to make bends, do not make sharp turns.

Copper grounding plate assemblies intended for grounding applications should be attached to (using an approved welding process) to a 25-foot continuous length (no splices allowed unless using exothermic welding process) of 6 AWG solid bare copper wire.

If ledge rock or rocky conditions prevent driving rods, lay the rods or No. 8 wire in a straight trench. A copper plate to be buried in an irrigated area near the controller location. Install the copper plate in a trench three to four feet deep. Backfill with good top soil and two 50 lb. bags of Ground Enhancement Material (GEM) on top and bottom.

Have the resistance checked annually. The most effective time to test resistance is during a dry spell prior to the lightning season. The lightning season is when we need the best possible surge protection and grounding system.

Matt Faherty,
Winterberry Irrigation, LLC