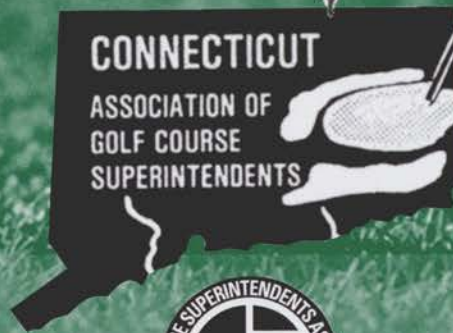


# Connecticut Clippings

Volume 36, No. 2



May/June, 2002

## Michael Wallace, CGCS

### Preserves to Become GCSAA'S 66th President

Follows in the footsteps of former CAGCS members  
Charlie Baskin, Bob Osterman and Steve Cadenelli

A hands on Golf Course Superintendent, Mike would rather be at the controls of a D-6 shaping a tee or green, than sitting at a desk. As Superintendent at Hopmeadow CC for 17 years he saw it all. The last two years were the most demanding in that Mike was responsible for the maintenance of the entire infrastructure of the club.

This Mike states was the beginning of the end of his tenure at the club. The what have you done for me today expectations of members brought up in the corporate structure does not fit into the every day operation of a golf course. Many believe that a golf course superintendent has control over their environment. Last years ice damage and now this years drought, shows how difficult it can be dealing with mother nature, and the golf business.

Mike was first introduced to the golf business by his father, Roger a former superintendent at the CC of Farmington. His interest in the profession brought him to apply for a GCSAA Scholarship. With the financial aid in hand Mike received in 1970 an Associates Degree in Turf

Management from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture.

A four year stay as assistant at Tunxis Plantation, then on to Rockledge GC in West Hartford as superintendent. Mike credits his work within the town infrastructure for teaching him the ways of business. You must be able to stay within a budget, work with other governmental departments, and may have to deal with union issues.

Al Adaskaveg, Golf Course Superintendent, who succeeded Mike at Rockledge GC stated that "Mike is the type of individual who would do anything to help others". On occasions he would find the time in his busy schedule to stop in and see how I was doing or come over if I needed help (irrigation problems, equipment questions or turf issues). Some mornings we would meet over breakfast and discuss maintenance programs, personnel issues, or life in general. Al goes on to state that Mike is always willing to help, give advice, or just listen whenever needed. With the type of job we hold as golf course superintendents it is comforting to know you have someone else up the



Michael Wallace, CGCS

street that has some of the same problems and issues that you do and is willing to help.

Now Golf Course Superintendent at Fairview Farm GC in Harwinton, Mike is looking forward to laying the ground work for next years implementing of the Professional Development Initiative (PDI). The future role of GCSAA will be involved with expanding the superintendent's educational process beyond agronomics.

The CAGCS Board of Directors and membership wish you the best.

*Excerptions from Golf Course Management, March 2002*





Jud W. Smith, CAGCS President

### First Things First

There was a time not too long ago that I lived the adage "Turf is Life.....All the rest is just details." In fact, I tried to instill that philosophy in the greens staff at work and also reminded them that no one rises to low expectations. As time marches on and events such as illness, death of a loved one, birth of a loved one or 9/11/01 occur, all of a sudden, priorities, philosophies and outlooks start to change. Some how Living to Work flips to working to live. That adage "Turf is Life" changes to Life is Life and all

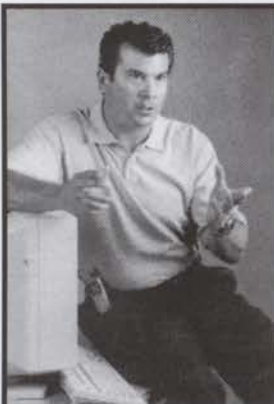
the rest is just Turf!

It is not my intent to go down this road of introspection. I could talk about the drought or now the 7+ inches of rain in the last two weeks or I could talk about basal anthracnose and all the peril associated with it. For some reason however, that is too vanilla for me, too black and white, in short...not very thought provoking. I will do some CAGCS housekeeping before the conclusion of this message but in the meantime... .

All we, as human beings have, is our word. Our job could go, the house, the spouse, the money, etc. all could be taken from us. What can't be however, is our integrity! - what we believe in, our morals, our values' our principals. I can choose to give away my integrity but someone can not take it unless I allow them to! One of the most unique characteristics of this thing called integrity is that we and we alone, as individuals, determine our own level. We can have as much or as little as we wish, it's our choice! Of course with integrity comes accountability and responsibility

two small, minor elements that make up one bigger one, or are they?

As I look around and unfortunately, it doesn't have to be too far, I begin to question the level of integrity that exists or rather, doesn't. How about you? As you read this, pause and look around in the various areas that make up your life. Where is the level? I have found that integrity is dynamic depending on what's going on and who is involved. It's easy to point a finger, judge and criticize. The stark reality, however, is that we are powerless over other people but not OURSELVES! It does not matter the integrity of others. What matters is OUR OWN! We do have the ability to control our words, our actions, and our deeds. When you look in the mirror before retiring, what does you see? The answer to that can be answered by another question: How do you sleep? That's correct...in a convoluted way (are you ready?)... The quality of our sleep is directly related to our level of integrity. Again, remembering that, along with integrity come honesty,



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responsibility and accountability. So I ask the question without wanting an answer, "How well do you sleep...?" (without sleeping aids of course!!!)

It does not really matter what is going on around us, what really matters is what is going on inside of us based on that which is going on around us. Confused, don't be, 'the answer my friend isn't blowing in the wind' the answer, lies in all of us- individually and collectively. Mean what you say, say what you mean, but don't say it mean. Treat people the way you want to be treated- (the kicker) REGARDLESS, of how they treat you! Not easy, but remember... "TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE." In Stephen Covey's book The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People he suggests as a code of living... Picture yourself at your own wake, ask yourself who is there, why are they there and what are they saying about you? Live your life today with those answers in mind. Can we as Superintendents, Assistants, mechanics, fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, friends make a difference living by a higher level of integrity in the world? The answer lies in a little story Pat Lucas sent me sometime ago...As the old man walked the beach at dawn, he noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Finally catching up with the youth, he asked why he was doing this. The answer was that the stranded starfish would die if left until the morning sun. "But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish," countered the older man. "How can your effort make any difference?" The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to safety in the waves. "It makes a difference to this one" he said.

Until next time...I almost forgot...if you don't like the weather, hang around for a bit, it will change. Basal Anthracnose: 4 ounces Banner w/1/4lbs N, then 15lbs/A Ultrex every 7-10 days.

Finally, don't forget file Water Diversion Permit by July 2002!!

I have to keep the editor happy!

Peace,

Jud

**Schedule of Events**

**June 13**

Pequibuck GC ABCD, Peter Pierson, Supt. ABDC Mixer Best Ball of Four & Hot Ball

**June 17-23**

GHO TPC @ River Highlands. With CAGCS or GCSAA Gold Card, Will Call tickets at Millane's Nursery, 1/4 mile south of TPC on Rte 99. [cannongho.com](http://cannongho.com)

**June 19**

Field Days, UMass Turf Research Facility, South Deerfield, MA [umassturf.org](http://umassturf.org)

**July 22**

Shuttle Meadow CC, Robert Silva, Supt. Low Net/Low Gross by Flight 1st Round of CAGCS Championship

**August 1**

Rutgers/NJTA Golf Turf Field Day, Hort Farm II, Ryders Ln, North Brunswick, NJ. Contact Bea Johnson, 732/821-7134 Fax 732/821-8157

**August 5**

Clinton CC, Michael R. Decker, Supt. Low Net/Low Gross Blind Partner 2nd Round of CAGCS Championship

**August 21**

71st Annual URI Turfgrass Field Day, Contact Michael Sullivan 401/874-4540

**September 19**

Great River GC, Alfred Wilson, Supt. CAGCS Annual Invitational Tournament

**October 9**

Shennecossett GC, Eric Morrison, Supt. Scholarship & Research Tournament

**October 21**

H. Smith Richardson GC, Peter Grace, Supt., Best Ball of Twosome Superintendent/Assistant Tournament

**November 5**

Birchwood CC, Edward Consolati, Supt. 9-Hole Scramble ABCD Annual Meeting

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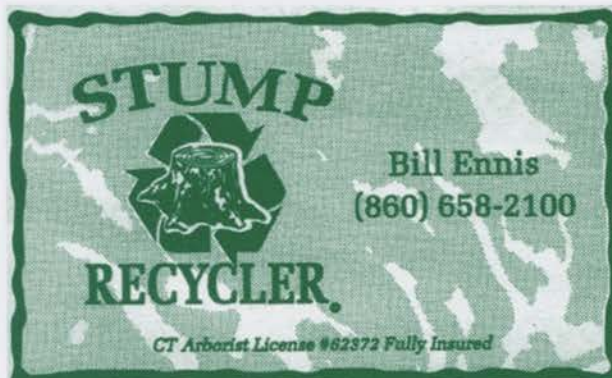
Newsletter Editor  
Bob Chalifour, CGCS (Ret.)

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David Basconi, Heather Garvin, John Garcia, Edward Goodhouse, Ron Holcomb, Mike Mooney and Jud W. Smith

\*\*\*\*\*

The Clippings is open to all commentary. please send your comments to:  
Bob Chalifour, Newsletter Editor





## A Trip To Scotland Travel Tips

By Bob Chalifour, CGCS (Ret)

It was not until I settled into my seat on the plane that the reality of going to Scotland sunk in. I did not have the luxury of time to contemplate the adventure. When Bill Morton called and left a message wanting to know if I was interested in a trip to Scotland that I had shown some interest in, the answer was an immediate yes. And this is from someone not overly excited to fly for various reasons. One problem, ear pressure was relieved with in expensive ear planes that adjust pressure they worked well.

The original plan of the group was to attend a Turf conference in Manchester, England then on to St. Andrews for a round at the Old Course. This was changed due to 9-11. The conference along with other numerous events had been cancelled. Adventureous golf course superintendents we decided to go to

St. Andrews for a week longer time. We lucked out on the November weather. It was colder and wetter in Norwich on April 22.

The flight over the pond was fine. We flew from Boston to Gatwick on a Delta flight that holds hundreds, but now just had 25-30 passengers. No one was travelling unless they had to. After a layover in the Delta lounge (membership required) we boarded British Airways to Edinborough. Through customs and off to the car rental for an exciting 1 1/2 hour drive to St. Andrews.

Let me tell you about the cars in the British Isles. They are small, and have there controls on the wrong side of the vehicle. No matter where you sit, the feeling is strange. they will accomodate four adults and moderate luggage. We did not bring our golf clubs as we wanted to travel light. Had we brought clubs we would have had to rent a van or 2 cars. The one car, one driver, one navigator, and two astute support team worked well.

British cars are different and so are the roads. Some curvy, some narrow, and most curvy and narrow. Unlike

the cars the roads are also reversed. They drive on the opposite side of the road. Doesn't sound too bad until you want to make a turn or enter an intersection with a roundabout. I still have not calculated how to do this so I won't try to explain it to you. Veteran driver Mel Lucas Jr, CGCS did an excellent job of delivering us safely to St. Andrews via a scenic seacoast route. It was a bit ironic though that the first place we found a parking spot was at the cemetery where Old Tom Morris is burried. After a brief visit with Tom we continued on to the Old Course. I know you are supposed to contact the course superintendent before going on the course, but I think we were a little late.

The Old Course is right on the edge of town. You can walk the course and town easily in a day and after such a long flight we welcomed the chance. We stopped at the Maintenance building to visit with present course Supt. Eddie Adams but he was unavailble. Permission was given however for us to walk the course that was closed

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for maintenance after the Dunhill Cup tournament. What a thrill, a beautiful sunny day, moderate temperatures, and jets from the air base outside of town were practicing maneuvers. Who needs golf clubs?

With no pins in the green it made it difficult to find our way around, although all the tees were marked with hole number, yardage and handicap. large double greens on many holes and no tree lined fairways (a true links course) made it difficult to tell from a distance, which way to direct a shot on some holes. Newcomers are advised to hire a caddy, otherwise you may find yourself on the wrong side of the green, or in Hells bunker. On this enjoyable walk many pictures were taken along with close observation of turf, bunker construction and sand.

After traversing the cemetery, golf course and part of the town it was now time to partake of an old Scottish tradition, visit the pub. The beer is much better than our domestic brands. Popular drafts are McEwans and Tennents. In our rush to see and do so much no one had exchanged their money. Easily taken to see and do so much no one had exchanged their money. Easily taken care of, our hosts at the Dunvegan Hotel simply charged our rooms, and we weren't even checked in yet. Great deal, the room is

buying.

Early the next day while sightseeing in town we found an ATM and withdrew a few pounds. Oh that is another thing different, there money is both paper and metal dollars (pounds) so you have to look closely at the coins when making purchases. I found it easier to just use the paper pounds. The exchange rate varies, the rate while we were there was 1.43, so just use 1.5 and your calculations will be close enough. This was easier to catch on to than the roundabouts. Also, while on the subject, tipping is included in the prices paid for services. As usual, you may want to give extra for exceptional service, as we did at our hotel. Most prices were comparable to what you would expect to pay in Hartford or Providence.

As the opening of the course on Saturday approached, so did low pressure that would bring rain, lots of rain. A starting time is necessary for the Old course. The tee times were all taken for the one day that we would be able to play, remember the course had been closed for 3 weeks. However we were told that we could be placed on a list, in case of a cancellation. The one day that we could play was now filled, and the weather prediction was for rain Friday night into Saturday. *Our Saturday*, the one day we could play. For the first time in over 30 years I suddenly felt like a

golfer who looked forward to a round of golf, only to hear from the course superintendent that the course is closed. *To be continued next issue.*

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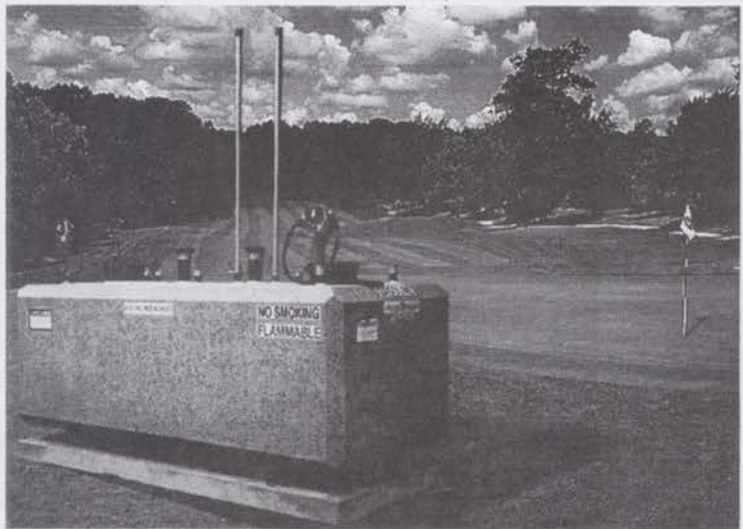


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## Welcome New Members

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John A. Gale, Class A  
Cedar Knob Golf Course

Mark Mansur, Class B  
Richter Park Golf Club

Christopher Vitali, Class C  
Silvermine Golf Club

Marc Weston, Class C  
Indian Hills Country Club

## Correction

John F. Streeter, CGCS formerly at Woodbridge Country Club is now at North Shore Country Club, Long Island, NY, not North Cove.

## Congratulations

Dan Shay, formerly at Agawam Municipal GC is now Golf Course Superintendent at Wilbraham CC, Wilbraham, MA.

Linda and Ted Tighe on the birth of their son Neil. Born March 9, 2002 at New Britain General Hospital. Neil weighed in at 6 lbs. 11 ounces.

Phil Neaton, GCS Blackhall Club on his election to President, and to Anthony Grosso, GCS Pautipaug CC on his election to Treasurer of the New England Regional Turf Conference. Note related story.

Gary Sykes, Director, New England Regional Turf Conference. On May 9, Gary aced the 157 yd. Par 3, 14th hole at Foxboro CC with his favorite club, a 7 iron. Gary was playing in a joint Rhode Island and Cape Cod Golf Course Superintendent's meeting. Gary's playing partner was Steve Clegg, GCS Milton-Hoosic Club. *(Editor) If you think meetings are getting expensive, don't get a hole in one while playing at one.*

## Condolences

Maxine T. Johns, 84, of Paris, Illinois died Monday April 1, 2002 at Paris Community Hospital. She was the assistant superintendent and bookkeeper at Fishers Island GC. Mrs. Johns is survived by her sons Robert Johns of Paris, Illinois, and James A. Johns, both retired golf course superintendents; a daughter, Lind Clapp

of Montezuma, Ind. Her husband Harlan James Johns, a former golf course superintendent at Fishers Island GC died in 1981.

Mrs. Johns for many years hosted the CAGCS Board of Directors on their annual visit to Fishers Island for a day of golf and fun. Always a gracious hostess, Mrs. Johns looked forward to this event, and then getting to meet many of our members when she and son Bob attended GCSAA Conferences. Your editor was fortunate to meet and have dinner with Mrs. Johns and Bob in Orlando, FL this past February. She reiterated to me how much she enjoyed having everyone come to visit them on the Island. In memory of Mrs. Maxine T. Johns, donations may be sent to: American Kidney Fund, P.O. Box 1837, Merrifield, VA 22116.

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**Condolences**

To the family of Stephen Kristoff. Steve passed away January 29, 2002. Steve retired from Charles River CC several years ago. He served as Superintendent at Manchester CC, and Pelham CC. He was also a World War II Veteran. Mike Ovian was one of Steves mentors who went on to a sucessful career in turf.

**Announcements**

**CAGCS 2002 Invitational**

The CAGCS Invitational will be held at Great River Golf Club in Milford, CT on Thursday, September 19, 2002. Willie Wilson, Superintendent will be our host. Opened in 2000, the Tommy Fazio designed course has had great reviews. The field will be limited to 36 teams-144 players, get your team together now. E-Z GO Golf Carts will again be the title sponsor.

**March 19 Meeting of CAGCS**

Hawthorne Inn  
Berlin, CT

Bob Gilmore of the Inland Water Resources Division of the CT DEP made a presentation with regards to the reporting requirements of Public Act 01-202. Bob is a Supervising Environmental analyst with extensive experience with the administration and application of the Division's regulatory programs. Bob's presentation involved the reporting forms that are part of Public Act 01-202. CAGCS supported Public Act 01-202 while the bill was in the legislative process. The two major parts of this legislation deal with updating water diversion information (if you have a water diversion registration form

1983) and submitting water use records for the past five years. If you do not have a registration or a permit for the water used on the golf course you manage, then you must submit information for your diversion under PA 01-202. This information must be submitted by July 1, 2002.

The forms for updating and/or submitting information for PA 01-202 will be available by May 1, 2002. CAGCS has sent a set of mailing labels for all A & B members to Bob Gilmore. When the forms become available, they will be distributed via regular mail. the Government Relation Committee of CAGCS will monitor the publication of these forms and keep the membership informed with up to date information.

**CAGCS Sponsored Seminars**

December 3, 2002

Annual Bluegrass Seminars presented by Dr. Frank Rossi

On December 3, 2002 CAGCS will sponsor 2 half-day seminars on Annual Bluegrass. Dr. Frank Rossi

of Cornell University will be the presenter. The Hartford Marriott Farmington will be the site of these seminars.

The first (a.m.) seminar will be titled Annual Bluegrass Biology and Ecology will be presented in the morning of Dec. 3rd. the second (p.m.) seminar will be titled Annual Bluegrass Maintenance. The presentation of the seminars comes through the involvement of CAGCS in the Tri-State Turfgrass Research Foundation. Tri-State is presently supporting research at Cornell University under the direction of Dr. Rossi.

These seminars have proven to be in high demand and CAGCS is very fortunate to be able to make this opportunity available to our membership. Participation will be limited in order to have active participation by the seminar attendees.

Mark your calendars for December 3, 2002. There will be updates on these seminars coming for the CAGCS office.



**Drought Continues  
CT Golf Courses on Water  
Use Restrictions**

*By Bob Chalifour, CGCS (Ret.)*

Golf Courses throughout the Northeast are being placed on water use restrictions even if they own their own supply. With precipitation down 12-15" throughout the state, Golf Course Superintendents are being told by local authorities that they may only irrigate greens and tees, and if conditions worsen - only greens. Even wealthy Greenwich golf courses find themselves destined to brown dormant turf, or worse on their fairways this season unless adequate rainfall is able to recharge supplies.

Meanwhile in southeastern Connecticut, golf course superintendent Eric Morisson is looking forward to utilizing a new irrigation system to water fairways at Shennecossett GC.

The 104 years old fairways at "Shenny" have not had irrigation, yet the turf adapted and survived. Shennecossett GC in The City of Groton has an ample supply of water that is pH adjusted to 7, chlorinated and fluoridated. "Shenny" fairways will now be lavished with clean water and won't have tooth decay.

Why does Groton have the water supply that others don't?

Industrialization. Pfizer, a major pharmaceutical company at one time used 50% of all the water in Groton. Years ago city authorities recognizing the increasing need by this major customer continued to deepen their reservoir (and selling the gravel) as well as purchasing large tracts of watershed (swamp) in neighboring Ledyard. Pfizer's shift from manufacturing to research has placed much less strain on his valuable resource. The City of Groton now has such an ample s water supply that a plan has been proposed to distribute and

sell water through a regional water authority to New London, Waterford and Montville.

Fairways heavy with Poa Annua and grasses not adapted agronomically may suffer from an extended drought. What can you do?

- Communicate with your golfers, members, owners, managers and regulators.
- Promote the economic impact of golf courses and their role in the job market.
- Contact GCSAA that has created a comprehensive information packet full of drought - related articles at 800/472-7878 for a free copy.

Does your bentgrass need as much water as you have been using? Can your height of cut be raised to encourage deeper roots? Are wetting agents being utilized? Can your watering practices be fine tuned? Have you researched articles from the USGA.org and GCSAA.org websites? Has your golf course, city or town planned to increase their supply of water for future needs?

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**CT Association of Golf Course Superintendents  
Norwich Golf Course 22 April 2002**

1st Place Gross:	Jud Smith & Greg Stent	68
1st Place Net:	William Demur & Mike Dukette	66
2nd Place Net:	Eric DeStefano & Mike McDermott	68
3rd Place Net:	Kevin Collins & Ward Weischet	68
4th Place Net:	George Corgan & Ted Tighe	68
Skins:	John Motycka & Peter Pierson	Hole #1
	Eric DeStefano & Mike McDermott	Hole #2
	Anthony Grosso & Paul Sabino	Hole #6
	Eric DeStefano & Mike McDermott	Hole #11
	Jud Smith & Greg Stent	Hole #12 (eagle)
	Keith Angilly & Ron Smith	Hole #14
	Kevin Collins & Ward Weischet Dana Garvin & Heather Garvin	Hole #15 Hole #16
Closest to pin:	Heather Garvin	Hole #9 (71")
	Kevin Collins	Hole #15 (9' 8")
Longest putt:	Phil Neaton	Hole #1 (21' 10")
	Tom Marmelstein	Hole #17 (69")
Longest Drive:	Mike Dukette	Hole #4
Closest to liner:	Steve Rackliffe	Hole #11

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## New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show 2002

By Gary Sykes

We recently held the 5th New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show at the RI Convention Center on March 5-7th. This year's show was the largest, with 466 booths representing over 200 companies and record attendance of over 2500 paid attendees. It has certainly been a successful and exciting endeavor to be part of over the last 5+ years. We have had the pleasure of seeing the show increase in size from 355 booths and 1800 attendees in 1998, and now to those numbers we have seen this year through the hard work of our show manager David Rosenberg and his staff. We have had the opportunity to listen to excellent celebrity speakers in Jim Palmer, Doug Flutie, Joe Theisman, Jim Nantz and this year with Captain Scott O'Grady. They have

shared precious experiences with us and have encouraged everyone who would listen to build professional relationships with your employers, workers and close personal relationships with your families and even have slipped in a word or two about your relationship with deity. We have seen interest grow in New York and other states about our success and quality of our education programs through an increase in their attendance. We have had many speakers across the country and world come and share their research and information with us. Sometimes we've even had four education sessions going at the same time. Over 200 attendees took advantage of the four seminars that were offered. Attendees have received many re-certification credits for pesticide licenses and association certifications programs. The receptions and social events have gotten even better each year. A conference bookstore, and the sale of turfgrass management books for discounted prices has been a

successful addition to the show. Turf management products were made available at discounted prices through our first Silent Auction. Exciting raffles of TV's and stereos and friendly competitions in the driving ranges, golf simulators and putting contests have added fun and interest to the show atmosphere.

All of these things have made certainly a show to be proud of, but the greatest benefactor, besides the individuals who have attended, has been Turfgrass Research. Since the inception of the show 5 years ago the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation has donated over \$330,000 toward Turfgrass Research and Education. We are confident that already local turfgrass managers are able to do their jobs more efficiently, more effectively, and of course with a higher degree of safety through research that has been funded through this foundation. As we wrap-up the final issues of this year's show we prepare for the next.



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Your input to the board of directors is valuable. Each association has two members on our board, please take the time to talk with them which will help the foundation continue to enjoy the success that has brought it to this point thus far. Just a reminder, it was not one man's dream that put all this together, but it has been the collaborative efforts of many people with similar vision.

The NERTF Board of Directors wishes to thank everyone who participated in this year's 5th anniversary Conference and Show, especially those who donated to our first Silent Auction. Over \$3600 was raised for turf research! We thank all our sponsors who help our efforts in making this year's conference and show second to none. The Keynote speaker, the show program, the coffee and danish near registration, the trade show lunch and other sponsorships are all very much appreciated by those in attendance. Lets work together to make our 2003 Show the best yet!!!

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This board was recently elected at the NERTF Annual Meeting on May 9, 2002.



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