



THE NEWSLETTER

November 2017

of the **Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Inc.**

Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund – Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

Connecticut wins 2017 Met Area Team Championship

by Andy Drohen

For the 4th time in the past 11 years, the team from the Connecticut GCSA wins the Met Area Team Championship. Arguably the closest event in the 37 years the championship has been held, Connecticut won by a single shot over Long Island and New Jersey! In fact, the top 5 teams were only separated by 3 shots!

Dave Dudones, Director of Golf and Grounds and current president of the MetGCSA, and his management staff consisting of Joe Gikis, Aaron Crouse and Andrew White hosted the 37th Annual MET Team Championship on October 16th at Westchester CC in Rye, NY. They had Westchester's Championship West course in tremendous shape with greens running at US Open speeds! Players from as far away as Maryland and Cape Cod made the journey to Westchester and were just raving about the conditions! Westchester put on an amazing brunch and dinner before and after the golf, and made for a great end of the year get together for the 13 superintendent chapters and affiliates that attended.

The Walter Travis design opened in 1922 where almost 1,500 members joined paying a \$25 initiation fee. Westchester played host to The PGA Tour for over 40 years and recently hosted the LPGA's PGA Championship. Dave has undergone a major tree management program over the past few years, opening up vistas and site lines that were lost over the years. He's also done some green restoration work and added fescue areas making Westchester one of the top courses in the MET area!

The team from Connecticut included Mike Dukette, Eric DeStefano, Ed Grant, Andrew Hannah on the Gross side and Kevin Collins, John Parmelee, John Garcia and

Neil Lajeunesse on the Net side. The 2-man team of Collins and Parmelee fired the lowest NET score of the day at 67 and solid performances by the rest of the team's pairings helped secure another Connecticut title!

Once again, the Met Area Team Championship was made possible by our 7 major sponsors who have stepped up year after year to make this one of the best events across North America! Please join me in thanking BASF, Bayer, The Care of Trees, Koch Turf & Ornamental, Ocean Organics, Syngenta and Toro as they continue to support this wonderful event.

The Met Area Team Championship continues to raise money each year to help those in our industry going through difficult times. Over the past 7 years we have raised over \$9,000 and have supported superintendents, industry representatives and their families in times of need. Last year we donated \$2,000 to the superintendents at The Greenbrier in West Virginia after the devastating flooding and this year we donated \$1,500 to the South Texas GCSA to help families affected by Hurricane Harvey. Thank you to all that support these efforts with the 50/50 raffles!

Thanks again to all our sponsors, Dave Dudones and his entire staff and all the folks at Westchester CC for another successful championship! A special thank you to our local GCSAA representative Kevin Doyle for help with photos and Rob Johnson working as our hole in one spotter! We look forward to seeing everyone next year, so stay tuned for announcements over the winter!

Note: Please save the date for the Nor'easter Ski Day at Killington Mountain on March 1st, 2018!!

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2017 MET Area Team Championships

Westchester CC Par 72 October 16th, 2017

Team Scores Par 288

1st	Connecticut AGCS	298	7th	Philadelphia AGCS	308
2nd	Long Island GCSA		8th	GCSA of Cape Cod	311
	low gross tiebreaker score 76	299	9th	Pocono Turfgrass Assoc	314
3rd	GCSA of New Jersey		10th	Northeastern GCSA	323
	low gross tiebreaker score 77	299	11th	Eastern Shore AGCS	327
4th	Hudson Valley GCSA	300	12th	Rhode Island GCSA	328
5th	Central New York GCSA	301	13th	GCSA of New England	335
6th	METGCSA	307			

Skill Events

Closest to the pin hole #5,
sponsored by Ocean Organics
Tim Walker 4'-7" – Hudson Valley GCSA

Closest to the pin hole #10,
sponsored by Koch T&O
Mike Turner 8'-1" – Toro

Closest to the pin hole #7,
sponsored by The Care of Trees
Blake Halderman 11'-10" – METGCSA

Closest to the pin hole #15,
sponsored by BASF
Steve Wall 3'-5" – Central NY GCSA

Long Drive

Net Division sponsored by Syngenta
Matt Beckman – Long Island GCSA

Gross Division sponsored by Toro
Andrew Hannah – Connecticut AGCS

Sponsors Division, sponsored by Bayer
Kevin Seibel – Century CC

Low Gross Team

Steve Whipple & Tim Walker from Hudson Valley GCSA Score of 75

Sponsorship Team Winner

Jim Staszowski & Mike Turner from Toro Score of 69

Two Man Team High Score

Gross

Net

John Lombardi & Dean Chase –
Rhode Island GCSA Score of 89

Rich Sweeney & Jon Urbanski –
Philadelphia AGCS Score of 84



2017 MET Scores

	Handicap	Hole	Score
MET GCSA			
Sean Cain			84
Steve Loughran			
Tom Ashfield			81
Chip Lafferty			
Blake Halderman	9.5		71
Doug Drugo	9.9		
Ryan Batz	12.8		71
Jim Swiatlowski	8.1		
			307

GCSA of Cape Cod			
Chris Tufts			84
Joe Felicetti			
Ed Gianni			78
Kurt Calderwood			
Joe Deely	12.5		76
John Bresnahan	10.7		
Ben Whiting	6		73
Brian Smoot	8.7		
			311

Rhode Island GCSA			
Chris Coen			85
Mike Whitehead			
John Lombardi			89
Dean Chase			
Drew Cummins	17		75
Pat Hogan	16.3		
Bill Coulter	15.6		79
Nick Burchard	15.5		
			328

Hudson Valley GCSA			
Dave Lippman			77
Grover Alexander			
Steve Whipple			75
Tim Walker			
Bob DeMarco	10.5		73
Reese Wasson	8.0		
Josh Kopera	8.4		75
Mike Aube	14.6		
			300

Philadelphia AGCS			
Andy Drohen			79
John Lermond			
John Gosselin			77
Steve Stephens			
Rich Sweeney	8.7		84
Jon Urbanski	8.3		
Rob Nolek	16.9		68
Jason Criss	7.9		
			308

Eastern Shore AGCS			
Tom Tipton			87
Ryan Howard			
Rusty McClendon			88
Steve Sweiderk			
Todd Cowing	15.8		75
Mark Merrick	18.0		
Bill Reil	18.0		77
Matt Krukiel	18.0		
			327

Long Island GCSA			
Shamus O'Connor			83
Shawn O'Sullivan			
Steve Lafazia			76
Chad Valkuchak			
Eric O'Neill	10.3		71
Matt Beckman	7.0		
Ken Lochridge	7.0		69
Luke Knutson	8.2		
			299

Pocono Turfgrass Association			
Les Lear			81
T.J. Hart			
Jeff Koch			86
Ron Garrison			
Steve Chirip	17.1		76
Paul Brandon	10.8		
Greg Boring	14.0		71
Jerry Decker	13.6		
			314

GCSA of New Jersey			
Rob Arnts			83
Fred Carmona			
Jeff Haas			77
Alan Bean			
Ron Simpson	15.4		70
Jeremy Hreben	13.4		
Mark Miedler	7.7		69
Tom Weinert	5.5		
			299

Connecticut AGCS			
Mike Dukette			78
Eric DeStefano			
Ed Grant			77
Andrew Hannah			
Kevin Collins	8.6		67
John Parmelee	7.5		
John Garcia	15.7		76
Neil Lajeunesse	16.5		
			298

GCSA of New England			
Brian Skinner			87
Mike Luccini			
Scott Lagana			89
Dave Johnson			
Mike Hermanson	15.1		81
Bob Healey	15.1		
David Stowe	15		78
Don D'Errico	15.5		
			335

Central NY GCSA			
Dave Hicks			76
Rick Kraus			
Steve Wall			81
Jim Castle			
Mike Warner	9.6		73
Joe Vanderwerken	14.0		
Matt Simon	9.7		71
Dave Neuser	12.2		
			301

Northeastern GCSA			
Brian Goudey			89
Phil Klaiber			
Chris Strong			85
Murray Tynan			
Joe Lucas	14		75
Josh Yerdon	11		
Craig Cochran	12.2		74
Marc Prosser	17.8		
			323

Sponsors Group			
Matt Luce	13		76
Joe Goncalves	12.7		
Pete Jacobson	8		74
Zac Brooks	10		
Lee Kozsey	12.7		73
Tom Wilchak	18.0		
Jim Staszowski	7.2		69
Mike Turner	8.3		

Dave Dudones	13.1		76
Jeff Wentworth	11.6		
Mike Cook	13.2		71
Joe Alonzi	16		

Kevin Collins	12		74
Kevin Seibel	12		
Jeff Weld	17		75
Brian Giblin	18		



Thoughts From Your Executive Director by Don Hearn

Elsewhere in the NEWSLETTER you'll read about the New England Superintendents Championship hosted this year by the GCSA of Cape Cod. Something not mentioned was the hole in one made by Ron Dobosz. Congratulations Ron. His teammates were Tim Crane, Robin Hayes, Jack Hassett, Matt Lapinski, Garrett Whitney, Mike Nagle and Mark Pendergast



Jason Van Buskirk explaining the website

The October meeting was held at the Walpole Country Club and our Host was Kevin Whalley. Kevin had the course in excellent condition and has an ambitious project underway with the installation of a new irrigation system.

Our speaker was Jason Van Buskirk who made a presentation on the navigation of the new website. Input from those in attendance was appreciated and all went away with a better understanding on the functions of the site.



from left: Tim Johnston, Lou Bettencourt, Dave Wallace, & Kevin Whalley

The American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) has presented their Design Excellence Awards and I'm pleased to mention that Mark Mungeam was one of those receiving the recognition of the ASGCA. Mark's accomplishment was in recognition of work done at Wellesley Country Club.



MTE Turf Equipment Services held an open house to show customers the new facility located in Derry, New Hampshire. The building and offices are well suited to provide full service to customers.



From left: Bob Dembek, Jim Cohen, Joe Lazaro, Brian Giblin

The November nine-hole meeting was hosted by Bob Dembek, Superintendent. This was our last outdoor meeting of the season. The day was overcast and unseasonably warm. The warmth was appreciated by all who teed it up at Lexington Golf Club.

The course was in great condition and all who played had an enjoyable time. Bob has begun a project of facing bunkers using artificial turf as the stacking product. He would be pleased to have you give him a call or stop in to see the project and learn the technique involved in the building of the bunker walls.


Jesse Diamond, Pesticide Inspector for the Massachusetts Division of Agricultural Resources made a presentation pointing out the specifics of what is involved during an inspection. He emphasized that the reason for his visits are not to penalize, but rather to help us stay up to date with the rules and regulations of the department. He made it clear that he is a resource, not someone to be feared. He is an asset for us to use in our quest to store and apply products safely and properly.

Irrigation System Winterization Checklist

By: Tom Hoffer, Irrigation Service Manager, Northeast Golf & Turf Supply

It's every Superintendent's favorite time of year, irrigation system blowout! Here are a few tips and tricks to help complete a successful blowout and get your system ready for startup next year:


- There are two different theories on blowout, some guys like to drain the system before blowout and some like to leave it full of water. Both ways are fine, use whatever method works best for your golf course from past experience.
- Most equipment manufactures recommend blowing out between 50 and 60 PSI. Going above this range can cause damage to rotors and create air/water hammer in the piping network. Use a pressure regulator during blowout to keep the PSI between 50 and 60. Excessive heat is generated by the compressor at the point of connection, use a length of 2" galvanized pipe to dissipate the heat prior to entering the irrigation piping network.
- Go thru the system one time until all rotors are blowing a fine mist. Refer to your rotor manufacturer recommendations, some want you to go thru a second time and others only once unless you remove some internals throughout the system. Follow your manufacturer recommendations to prevent damage to rotors and internals.
- Perform satellite maintenance: test communication; clean out all cobwebs and mouse nests; check cables and wires for mice damage; check grounding resistance. There are three products I've found to work well keeping mice out of satellites; Irish Spring soap, Comet, and cattle ear tags. Keep these products fresh and change them once or twice a year. Satellites can be kept on or off thru the winter. Keeping them on keeps electrical components inside warm, but also attracts mice. Use whichever method makes most sense for your course.
- Winterize pump station: remove or winterize transducer, pressure gages, and cooling components. Drain all water from pumps and piping network inside pump house. Consult with a pump tech for more detailed info on pump house winterization.
- Do an inventory of your irrigation parts room. Make sure you have enough repair fittings/couplings, swing joints, rotors, valves, Teflon tape, glue/primer, DBRYs, etc. on your shelf going into spring startup.
- On your irrigation computer: perform a virus scan; delete temporary internet files; defrag your C: drive; perform a data base backup; check grounding resistance. Plugging your computer tower, monitor, interface, and radio system into an Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) will help against lightning strikes and power surges. Try to dedicate your irrigation computer to only running the system, check email and browse the internet on a separate computer if possible.
- While the information is still fresh, have a staff meeting with your key team members to access strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats to the irrigation system for next year. Create a budget for next year's irrigation repair line item based off of this information.



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Julie Heston,
Chapter Executive of the GCSA of Cape Cod

Golf Course Superintendents Association of Cape Cod

2017 New England Superintendents Championship at Cape Cod National Golf Club



Thank you to Cape Cod National Golf Club and Superintendent Eric Strzepek for hosting the 2017 New England Superintendents Championship on Thursday, October 5th. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Cape Cod also helped host this event where each of the seven associations across New England was represented with an 8-man team. It was a beautiful day and the course conditions were impeccable. Thank you to all that participated!

Tournament Results

1st Place:	Cape Cod	215
2nd Place:	New England	207
3rd Place:	New Hampshire	194
4th Place:	Maine	194
5th Place:	Rhode Island	191
6th Place:	Connecticut	191
7th Place:	Vermont	168

Thank you to the following companies who helped sponsor this event.

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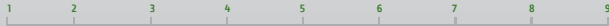
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November 2017





Labor continues to be a struggle for many superintendents in the northeast. Whether attracting them or retaining them, the process is difficult and costly. In one of my recent presentations we spoke of how hard it is managing and communicating with a multi-generational workforce. No easy feat, and challenges in dealing with younger employees dominated the post-presenta-

tion discussions. Much like our favorite sports teams, there needs to be an element of youth within our staffs and industry workforce to succeed now, and, more importantly, in the future.

This piece isn't meant to be a means to fix problems associated with attracting new and vibrant turf professionals, nor is there a magic bullet on molding millennials into the perfect future assistant superintendent. I could simply write "let them do whatever they want, whenever they want, tell them they did an amazing job and give them a participation trophy." But honestly, that sounds good to me too, and I'm far removed from my younger years. It is meant to focus on who we are trying to attract, ways we might be able to reach them, and resources available to everyone that may assist in attracting young people to our industry.

So many superintendents started working on golf courses at young ages. Whether on the grounds crew or as a caddy, the "I want to work on a golf course" seed was planted very early. Enter insurance issues and many of those opportunities are gone. Very few superintendents hire employees under the age of 18. Problem being, they have graduated high school, gotten their first or had multiple jobs, and have considered a non-turf career path that they believe they will be on the rest of their life. We need to look even younger than high school-aged individuals.

Our mission at GCSAA to "enhance the enjoyment, growth, and vitality of the game of golf" cuts right to the heart of this matter. In order to grow the game, we need to engage the younger people without hiring them. I have written about The First Green before, and will be presenting the topic to the GCSA of New England at an upcoming meeting. The First Green initiative is about opening up our courses as a science lab to young students. Access to our property and game may never happen otherwise. Showing them what we do at our facility and how we do it is a key step to a possible future with golf in it. Bring them to us.

Many superintendents are going the other direction, and headed back to school. Going to a son's or daughter's class and talking about our profession. In addition, attending career days at local schools. GCSAA has redeveloped some marketing tools to promote our profession to younger individuals. Our office might be slightly different than many others, and that may appeal to more kids than we think!

I saw a tweet recently from the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association claiming that 37 percent of those employed in golf are students. It would be optimistic to say many of them are turf stu-

dents, beginning a lifelong dream towards superintendent stardom. What I see is a large portion of your workforce that will need to be retrained when those current students pursue their actual career goals. Perhaps giving every toddler you know a Fisher Price lawnmower might be a good start. Reaching out and engaging school aged children about the passion and enjoyment we share in our industry may also reap future benefits.

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already

Turf Equipment Technician Certificate Program

The Turf Equipment Technician Certificate Program is a series of exams designed to demonstrate proficiency in key competency areas related to turf equipment. This certificate program is available to any and all turf equipment technicians regardless of whether you work for a golf course.

The program is made up of eight exams covering the key competency areas of:

- cutting units
- drivetrain systems
- electrical systems
- engine technology
- hydraulic systems
- metalworking and fabrication
- spray systems
- fundamentals of turfgrass operations

You can choose to take one exam or work to complete the entire program by successfully completing all eight exams in any order.

GCSAA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

The GCSAA Golf Championships, presented in partnership with The Toro Co., is a members-only event benefiting the EIFG. GCSAA Golf Championships registration is now open. Tournament registration closes Jan. 3. Any registrations processed/received after Dec. 20 will be assessed a \$50 late fee.

GCSAA has developed resources to help you outline the benefits to you and your facility of attending the 2018 Golf Industry Show and GCSAA Golf Championships. View the resource below for information specific to the Golf Championships, and access additional planning tools in the [Attendee Resources](#) section.

[GCSAA Golf Championships Justification Resource](#)

GCSAA establishes political action committee

The board of directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has approved the formation of a GCSAA Political Action Committee. GCSAAPAC will support members of Congress who support GCSAA's Priority Issues Agenda.

GCSAAPAC will be governed by a five-member board, which included the chairman and vice chairman of the GCSAA Government Affairs Committee and three at-large members. For more information about serving on the GCSAAPAC board or to learn more about the eligibility to donate, visit www.gcsaa.org/pac.

Upcoming FREE webcasts:

Nov. 30: [Dealing with Moss on Putting Greens](#)
[Fred Yelverton, Ph.D.](#)

Dec. 7: [Updated Solutions for Dollar Spot Management](#)
[Rob Golembiewski, Ph.D.](#)

Dec. 12: [For Adults Only: Civitas Turf Defense for Annual Bluegrass Weevil Control presented by Intelligo](#)
[Ben McGraw, Ph.D.](#)

Dec. 14: [Organic Matter Management, Next Steps](#)
[Roch Gaussoin, Ph.D.](#)

Again, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Kevin Doyle

GCSAA Field Staff

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November 2017



SOLitude Lake Management Awarded for Business Growth, Community Service in Hampton Roads By Tracy Fleming, Director of Marketing



Virginia Beach, VA, November 16, 2017 – SOLitude Lake Management was recognized for implementing a successful business growth model and for its company mission to serve the community during two awards ceremonies earlier this month.

SOLitude, a leading provider of lake, pond, wetland and fisheries management solutions, was named for the fifth time to Inside Business' Roaring 20 list, which tabulates the twenty fastest-growing companies in Southeastern Virginia based on revenue and employee growth. An awards ceremony hosted at The Westin Town Center recognized 2017 Roaring 20 winners for the significant contributions they make to the local economy.

All winners experienced annual revenue growth from 2014-2016. In the last year, SOLitude has more than doubled gross revenue and added more than 100 new staff members to its team.

In addition to successful business growth, SOLitude's efforts through the company's dedicated volunteering and community outreach program, The SOLution, were also recognized this month at an awards ceremony hosted by CoVa BIZ and Coastal Virginia Magazine at the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art. Community Impact Award winners were chosen through



Procurement Operations Specialist Amy Draudt, Marketing Assistant Madison Miller, and Marketing Team Leader Matt Serino accept the 2017 Roaring 20 Award for SOLitude.

nominations based on their effect on the community through innovative work programs, employee volunteering and creative business models that promote the social health of the community.

Through The SOLution, SOLitude encourages volunteering during work hours and rewards staff that support charitable causes during their free time with gift cards based on points accrued for each volunteer hour, quarterly and annual volunteering awards, and generous company-matched donations to the charities staff are passionate about. Since the program began in 2012, SOLitude's team has logged more than 7,500 volunteer hours and contributed \$183,000 in donations, goods and in-kind services to non-profits in need. Visit solitudelakemanagement.com/solution to learn more about The SOLution.



Business Manager Trina Duncan, Aquatic Biologist & Regional Director David Ellison, and Marketing & Outreach Coordinator Anne Marie Dorie accept the Community Impact Award from CoVa BIZ Publisher Randy Thompson (far left) and CoVa BIZ Editor Angela Blue (far right).

"We're honored to be recognized not only for our success as a company, but for our dedication to serving the Hampton Roads community," said Kevin Tucker, Chief Executive Officer of SOLitude Lake Management. "We're honored to accept these awards and credit the quality of our team members and our core mission to provide sustainable environmental solutions to our clients and local communities."

Find the full list of Roaring 20 Award winners at pilotonline.com/inside-business/special-reports/roaring-20

Learn more about the Community Impact Awards at covabizmag.com/community-impact-awards-reception-2017

SOLitude Lake Management is committed to providing full-service lake and pond management solutions that improve water quality, preserve natural resources, and reduce our environmental footprint. Our services include lake, pond, wetland and fisheries management programs, algae and aquatic weed control, mechanical harvesting, hydro-raking, installation and maintenance of fountains and aeration systems, water quality testing and restoration, bathymetry, lake vegetation studies, biological assessments, habitat assessments, invasive species management and nuisance wildlife management. Services, consulting and aquatic products are available to clients nationwide, including homeowners associations, multi-family and apartment communities, golf courses, commercial developments, ranches, private landowners, reservoirs, recreational and public lakes, municipalities, parks, and state and federal agencies. Learn more about SOLitude Lake Management and purchase products at www.solitudelakemanagement.com.

###

Harrell's, LLC Named One of the Best Places to Work



October 30, 2017

Tina Newberry, Director of Marketing
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www.harrells.com

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LAKELAND, FL - Earlier this year, Harrell's, LLC was named one of the Best Places to work in Polk County, FL, the manufacturer announced earlier today.

"Harrell's success is driven by the amazing people that make up our business, including our employees, and customers," said Ella Kimbrel, VP of Human Resources at the employee-owned company based in Lakeland, FL. "Our core values continue to define our company since Ormand and Lucile Harrell founded Harrell's in 1941."

Eighteen companies were recognized at the CareerSource Polk Annual Meeting and Best Places to Work Awards luncheon held on August 17, 2017 at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland, FL. Winners were determined through a statewide survey which was designed to identify, recognize and honor the best places of employment in Polk County. Companies were score on their demonstrated commitment to:

- Workplace Diversity
- Work/Life Balance of Employees
- An Educated Workforce
- Training and Development Initiatives
- Recruitment of Quality Employees
- Retention of Quality Employees

"Being selected as one of the best places to work, is a great honor. Taking care of people is one of our core values and this award means a great deal to us," said Kimbrel.

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###



Life Tips in the Form of Quotes *By Don Hearn*

I thought you might enjoy some quotes that are really a window on our everyday lives that might cause you to think a bit about some of your good and bad days.

1. "If you want something you never had, you have to do something you've never done."
2. "Do what is right, not what is easy."
3. "Do more than just exist."
4. "You are your only limit."
5. "Don't stop when you're tired, stop when you're done."
6. "There are no regrets in life. Only lessons."
7. "One day everything will make perfect sense."
8. "Everything happens for a reason, even though that reason is not clear at the moment."
9. "Your best teacher is your last mistake."
10. "You were born to be real, not perfect."
11. "It feels good to be lost in the right direction."
12. "Be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody."
13. "Sometimes you just have to let it go."
14. "Everything is going to be OK at the end. If it is not OK, it is not the end."
15. "Never apologize for being who you are."
16. "Create a life that feels good on the inside, not one that looks good on the outside."
17. "Your worst battle in life is between what you know and what you feel."
18. "Mistakes are proof that you are trying."
19. "Every day is a chance to change your life."
20. "If it was easy, everybody would do it."

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Congratulation to **Kris and Vicki Armando** on the birth of their son, **Broden Regan**, born October 6, 2017.

Congratulations to **Ed and Christina Downing** on the birth of their son, **Domenic Alexander**, born October 16, 2017

Our sincere condolences to the **Marrone family** on the loss of longtime member **Donnie Marrone**, owner of Wachusett Country Club and extraordinary supporter of the Association's Scholarship and benevolence Fund



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