



THE NEWSLETTER

November 2018

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.

Presidents Message

Just when you think things are going to dry out, the next storm rolls in and drops another inch of rain. This extremely wet weather pattern has been a challenge following a very stressful summer season. Trying to carry out any cultural work for recovery or to complete any improvement projects has proven to be almost impossible. Crews are worn down and the cool wet weather is driving morale into the gutter. Challenges on all fronts, but we all find a way to make it through and persevere.

Winter is now closing in, aeration is complete, irrigation systems are winterized, and final applications are being planned and applied. As the season winds down be sure to mark your calendars for the winter GCSANE educational meetings. We will meet at Warrior Ice Arena for Bruins practice and The Stockyard for lunch with guest speaker, Steve Boksanski on December 3rd. This has been a great meeting over the past couple years, so grab your assistant and/or your neighbor and come join us for this day of fun, education and camaraderie. The most popular GCSANE Annual Meeting will be at the Renaissance Hotel at Gillette Stadium on January 10th., hope to see you out there, it is always a full house.

Following a grueling 2018 remember to finalize your winter plans before the Holiday Season is here. Plan your Family Vacation and getaways, GIS and your trip to the NERTF show in Providence. Lastly, I hope the winter months provide some rest and relaxation to you and yours.

Best Regards,

David W Johnson, GCSANE President

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METGCSA *by Andy Drohen*

The METGCSA wins 2018 Met Area Team Championship at Hamilton Farm GC

In what could possibly be the first time in the history of the championship, the MetGCSA wins the MET Area Team Championship at Hamilton Farm Golf Club in Gladstone, New Jersey! The championships continue to be highly competitive and this year was no different! The MetGCSA, led by the low gross team of Steve Rabideau and Sean Cain narrowly defeated the defending champions from Connecticut by 2 strokes!

Jason Harrison, Director of Golf and Grounds at Hamilton Farm Golf Club hosted this year's championship and despite non-stop rain all year long had the golf course in fantastic shape! Jason and his team had the greens smooth and slick which proved to be challenging to many competitors this year!

Hamilton Farm, one of the premier courses in New Jersey was designed by famed environmental architects Michael Hurdzan and Dana Fry and was sculpted into the rolling terrain of central NJ just 50 miles outside of New York city. Hamilton Farm has some beautiful vistas and architecturally stunning looks shaped by the bunkering of Fry. The 6th hole was recently selected by Golf Digest as part of the best 18 holes around the New York area!

Rabideau and Cain teamed with Steve Loughran and Tom Ashfield on the gross side and Steve McGlone, Dave Conrad, Josh Haugh and Blake Halderman on the Net side. All 4 groups provided solid performances for the METGCSA, breaking 80 in every pairing with McGlone and Conrad shooting 2 under on the Net side.

Year after year, the Met Area Team Championship was made possible by our 7 major sponsors who continue to step up 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 8 years we have raised over \$10,000 and have supported superintendents, industry representatives and their families in times of need. Last 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! If you know of anyone in need please let us know.

Thanks again to all our sponsors, Jason Harrison and his entire staff and all the folks at Hamilton Farm GC for another successful championship! A special thank you to or local GCSAA representative Kevin Doyle for help with registration and Shaun Barry for the great photos as usual! Photos can be found at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/165914522@N02/shares/2g9994>

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 February 28th, 2019!!**



Thoughts From Your Executive Director *by Don Hearn*



This year's member-guest was played at the Vesper Country Club, October 15. The day started on a dreary note with a brief shower just as play was to begin. This didn't last long and the round began with a shotgun start at noon. Fortunately, the rain held off and the field stayed dry. The staff at Vesper made everyone feel at home with their friendly attitude and ability to accommodate last minute changes. The course was beautiful. Superintendent Ryan Emerich and his team had put an extra shine on the turf. All who played remarked on the excellent conditions and the beauty of the course. The day's winners were: Low Gross – John Sadowski, Superintendent at The Golf Club at Turner Hill and Griffin Brown, 64. Low Net – Brian King, North Shore Hydroseeding and Brandon Pratt, 64. Closest to the Hole – Kevin Bracken, Superintendent at Nabnasset Lake Country Club, 5 inches. Yup – inches! A good time was had by all.



The Annual Meeting of Mass Golf took place October 18, at the Framingham Country Club. We were welcomed by Bunk Read, President of Mass Golf and Jesse Menachem, Executive Director/CEO. In addition to the business that accompanies this meeting, the first meeting of Mass Golf's Advisory Committee was held. This committee is made up of representatives of virtually all the associations and groups that are involved in the game in our state. We, the GCSA of New England, are a part of the group and made a presentation on some of the technology that is now part of how we manage turf today and a brief glimpse of what we might be looking at in the future. The story of the rebranding of the Massachusetts Golf Association (MGA) to what is now Mass Golf was presented by Becky Blaeser, Director of Communications. The journey culminating with the new brand, was an impressive undertaking and involved a lot of staff and volunteer time to end up with the impressive new brand. Kevin Eldridge, Director of Rules and Competitions; Laura Nochta, Manager of New England Golf Association Operations and USGA Qualifying; Cathleen Beach, Director of Women's Events & Player Development and Mark Gagne, Director of Member Services made presentations about their respective areas of responsibility. Congratulations to the entire staff at Mass Golf for a job well done. Your tireless efforts on behalf of the GCSA of New England and all gofers in Massachusetts are recognized and appreciated. Thank you!

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I traveled to Manchester Country Club for the New Hampshire Golf Association's first Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. One of the honorees was Bill Barrett, a golf course superintendent known to many as a sales person and technical representative for companies that serve our industry. Bill's career was focused on various aspects of the golf industry. He obtained his degree in turf management from UMass and shortly thereafter became the superintendent at Fresh Pond Golf Course in Cambridge, MA. He was later hired to be the construction superintendent at Nashawtuc Country Club in Concord, MA. His next stop was at Portsmouth Country Club in Greenland, NH. In 1965 Bill and fellow superintendent Bob Flanagan, founded the New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents Association. Bill also helped establish the New Hampshire Turf Conference and was



a presenter for many years. After his time at Portsmouth he became a sales person and technical representative for companies servicing the golf industry. Accepting this posthumous honor was his son Brian who spoke about his dad's friendliness, humil-

ity and equal treatment of all he met. It didn't matter your station in life, Bill treated you with respect and kindness. He treated everyone as if they were a big deal. Our thanks to the New Hampshire Golf Association for recognizing Bill.



The Met Team Championship representatives of the GCSA of New England. Left to right: Jim Fitzroy, Brian Skinner, Bob Dembek, Mike Hermanson, Russ Heller, Lou Bettencourt, David Stowe, Mike Luccini. Photo by Shaun Barry



*Jason Harrison, left and Don Hearn
Photo by Shaun Barry*

The Met Team Championship event was played at Hamilton Farm Golf Club in Gladstone, New Jersey. Jason Harrison is the superintendent at this beautiful facility. Jason was the superintendent at Worcester Country Club prior to his time at Hamilton Farm. Thirteen Associations sent teams to the event for a day of fun and camaraderie. The Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association is the host of this event and the members of this association along with Andy Drohen and Blake Halderman make sure everything associated with it is first class.

Due to the wet and cold weather forecast, this year's Assistants Meeting at Charter Oak Country Club was cancelled. Scott Reynolds, host Superintendent had the course ready for play, but the weather didn't cooperate. The forecasted weather may have been a deterrent for registrations. The anticipated turnout was low and disappointing. It's disheartening to have a low turnout when we all know how important it is that these key staff members be recognized for the significant roles they play. Superintendents should be encouraging participation in this event to show you care enough to give them a day away from the course to spend with others who share the same burdens and responsibilities. It offers a chance to talk with others about their experiences and helps to let them know that many of their challenges are common. There's a lot to be said about sharing experiences – both good and bad. Please consider what they mean to you and your course when the notice of next year's event is received. As stated in the past by our President, Dave Johnson, "without them, you're a nobody."

The New England Team Championship was held at the Black Hall Club in Old Lyme, CT where Phil Neaton is the superintendent. The GCSA of New England was represented by Rich Gagnon, Frank Kulig, Alex Martin, Jim Fitzroy, Ron Dobosz, Ryan Emerich, Harris Schnare and Andrew Updegrave. They played well and finished in second place. Thank you to the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents for organizing this year's event. Thank you to the sponsors of the event. Without them, this event wouldn't have been the fun day it was.

The teams and scores:

1st Place – Vermont 160

Tom Ayer/Chris Saylor 32
 Nate Dyer/Greg Bean 38
 Alden Maddocks/Chris Cowan 44
 Adam Poplawski/Al Choiniere 46

2nd Place – New England 155

Alex Martin/Jim Fitzroy 32
 Ron Dobosz/Ryan Emerich 34
 Frank Kulig/Rich Gagnon 36
 Harris Schnare/Andrew Updegrave 53

3rd Place–Cape Cod 154

Frank Carpenito/Matt Crowther 33
 Alex Stimpson/Matt Cornuet 37
 Joe Deely/Ryan Anderson 40
 Chris Tufts/Pat Smith 44

4th Place–Rhode Island 153

Matt Lapinski/Gary Sykes 34
 Garrett Whitney/Tom Hoffer 35
 Joe Oliveira/Matt Edmond 37
 Mike Varkonyi/Richard Silva 47

5th Place – Connecticut 152

Bruce Morse/Phil Neaton 32
 Jason Dowgiewicz/Eric DeStefano 38
 Kevin Jaracy/Neil Lajeunse 39
 Kevin Collins/Heather Garvin 43

6th Place–New Hampshire 148

Kevin Doyle/Steve Wilson 31
 Scott Walsh/Barrie Robertson 36
 Andy McHugh/Ben Clark 39
 EJ Chea/Jason Bastille 42

7th Place–Maine 130

Ed Michaud/Scott Cybulski 23
 Toby Young/Paul Richmond 26
 Rich Lewis/Mitch Spalding 37
 Greg Holder/Scott Lancaster 44

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Dr. Kostromytska explaining her research and future plans at UMass



From left: Jon Zolkowski, Scott Mackintosh, Chris Cyr, our host Mike Hughes



From left, Dick Zepp, Mike Hughes, Dave Johnson

The November meeting was held at the Whitinsville Golf Club. This is the annual 9-hole event and the last golf meeting of the year. This year, 60 players teed it up on a cloudy day with a few brief sprinkles. The rain didn't hamper play and everyone had a great time on a beautiful course maintained by Superintendent Mike Hughes and his talented team. We also had the good fortune to meet with and be part of a presentation by Dr. Olga Kostromytska, the new entomologist at UMass Amherst. She is looking for cooperators to help with her research efforts for developing ABW control. If you would like to become a cooperator or would like to contact Dr. Kostromytska, her email address is: okostromytsk@umass.edu. Her phone contact is: 413-577-3997. She would like to hear from you.

Three superintendents with Whitinsville history, attended the day at the club. Dick Zepp, now retired; Mike Hughes, the current superintendent; and Dave Johnson, superintendent who preceded Mike Hughes. Dick and Dave spent many years maintaining superb conditions at the club and Mike continues with his brand of high standards.

Results of the day:

Low Gross:

Ron Kirkman, Carl Teschke, Matt Lapinski, Mike Luccini 32.

Low Net:

Donny D'Errico, Nate Henry, Rob Larson, Brian Joyce 26 on a match of cards.

Closest to the Hole: Mike Murphy 4'7".



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Why Join Your Professional Association? by Don Hearn

Surely, you've heard this from non-members, "Why should I join the Association? It doesn't do anything for me other than send me a newsletter or magazine. It's too expensive." While I know that most who are reading this are probably members already, I hope those non-members who might be reading this on our website will agree with the premise set forth and change their mind about the value of membership.

How can joining an association help further your career goals? Here are some benefits of joining the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England (GCSANE) and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

ENHANCE YOUR NETWORK:

For most people, creating professional relationships is important, and joining an association allows you to have a sense of security and trust. From this, you can support and help one another in reaching your goals. The GCSA of New England sponsors events throughout the year that allow you to connect with your peers. You can share ideas, ask for advice, become a member of a committee. Attending national or local conferences, provides the opportunity to learn about breaking news in your industry, learn "best practices" or new ideas, hear about key achievers in your field and also meet and brainstorm with others who are also looking to share and learn new information. Another benefit of enhancing your network is that you may find a mentor to help you with your professional needs or you may be able to become a mentor to someone else. Passing on your knowledge to others makes you feel good, while making someone else feel it was worth the time invested to learn something new. Giving back can be a great reward and benefit. Recently I spoke with a superintendent who had experienced a tough time dealing with the extreme weather of this past season. He told me he spoke with others in our Association and found he wasn't the only one on his island of discouragement. More importantly, it made him realize others were dealing with similar issues and his phone calls made a huge difference in his approach to solving his problems. Participating in forums, chat groups or discussion boards sponsored by the association is also a great way to grow your network. This allows you to use your peers as sounding boards and often make some great friends with the same interests as you.

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR CAREER:

Another important reason to consider membership in your professional organization is to take advantage of career resources. Our Association has Superintendent job listings online available only to members. This is a great way to find targeted job postings for your area of interest. Additionally, GCSAA has career resources available such as tips on effective resumes or cover letters, job searching strategies and negotiating techniques. Other benefits include information about seminars, training or certification classes that may be suitable for you. Often these classes can be done through web or podcasts so you don't even have to leave your home. And don't forget, listing your association membership on your resume is impressive to current or future

employers as it shows that you are dedicated to staying connected in your profession. Additionally, the GCSANE and GCSAA provide sources for scholarship information, links to publications, and awards for persons achieving excellence in their field.

So, whether you are looking to learn about job postings, network in your professional community, gain access to current events in your career area, or just have some fun while meeting new people, joining your professional associations is a step in the right direction! Keep in mind that achievements and progress made by your professional association benefits all in our industry. Those who are not members ride the coattails of the doers and progressive thinkers who have made, and continue to make our industry better. Why not lend your support?

SAMPLE OFFERINGS OF THE GCSA of NEW ENGLAND

Publish a printed and online Membership Directory

Monthly meetings: Golf meetings during the season, educational meetings during the non-golf season.

Access to job postings: Member-only access to superintendent position openings.

Industry regulatory representation: The GCSA of New England is a member of the Green Industry Alliance (GIA). We actively participate with the GCSA of Cape Cod and the New England Golf Course Owners Association interacting with our government relations representative - BCB Government Relations, located in Boston, MA to represent interests of the golf maintenance industry.

Monthly Newsletter: We publish a publication titled the NEWSLETTER. This is a topical view of the happenings in our industry.

Networking opportunities: Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents and Commercial Representatives share information, solve problems and learn more about our industry by attending our meetings.

OFFERINGS OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS OF AMERICA

To read more about the offerings of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America please click or paste in your browser <https://www.gcsaa.org/about-gcsaa/membership/membership-benefits>.



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November 2018



Timothy Johnston

Golf Course Superintendent – Wedgewood Pines Country Club Stow, MA



Tell me about yourself?

I grew up working on the family farm in Berlin, MA. Working on the farm helped me develop a strong work ethic at a very early age. On the farm I would do everything from plantings, picking berries and veggies, weeding crops to haying fields, running the farm stand and driving field equipment.

I was always on the go as a kid and young adult. Extreme sports (skateboards, snowboards, dirt bikes, BMX, paintball), or team sports (baseball, soccer, and golf) were a large part of my life. I enjoy relaxing on a rivers edge fly-fishing and pond fishing.

How did you get into the turf industry? What is your work history?

I always had a strong interest in golf course maintenance due to the influence of my uncle Mark Mungeam of Cornish/Mungeam Design. At 15 I attended a job fair at The International Golf Club (IGC). Ron Milenski hired me on the spot; I worked at IGC right thru my college internship under Superintendents Ron Milenski, James Whitley, Mike Zoltani and Brett Johnson. While at IGC, I was

fortunate to experience the grow-in of the Tom Fazio 18 hole Oaks Course and volunteer for the 2003 US Open at Olympia Fields. I attended Umass Stockbridge and graduated with my Associate's degree in Turfgrass Management. After graduating, I was offered a position as the Second Assistant Superintendent at Charter Oak Country Club in Hudson, MA under Scott Reynolds. I was quickly promoted to First Assistant Superintendent and held the role for 13 years. In February of 2016, I accepted the Superintendent position at Wedgewood Pines Country Club.

What kind of challenges do you face at your current facility? What actions have you taken to overcome those challenges?

The largest challenge I face at Wedgewood is the restricted budget. To keep the club as one of the more affordable private facilities in the area, we are running our operations at about half the budget of the competition. The limited budget has forced me to be creative with staffing and material purchases. Utilizing a work-release program through Concord Penitentiary for my seasonal staffing as well as having the father/son owners work seven days a week on my staff has made my operation a success.

What is your turf management philosophy? How do you like to present your golf course?

Member friendly conditions. We keep our green speeds around 10.5 throughout the season and push for 13 for our marquis events. I strive for an ascetically pleasing golf course with clean/sharp cuts that create a defined appearance.

Is there a story or message you would like to share with the association members?

Go with your gut instinct. There are some things I have tried and failed, but there has always been a way to repair these issues for the better. Don't be afraid

to try new things, put a plan in place and tackle projects. When I arrived at Wedgewood, they were wary of improvement projects and skeptical of how those projects could improve the member experience, but after some persuasive documentation and demonstration, we are now tackling multiple improvement projects a season. Yearly drainage and irrigation upgrades, a new short game/practice area, constructing new tees and other renovations are completed each year with in-house staff. The success of the projects has instilled confidence from our owners and members which resulted in more capital spending, particularly regarding equipment upgrades.

Do you have any additional comments you would like to share?

I would highly suggest that everyone jump into the social media network. It has worked wonders for my career and for seeking advice and knowledge from our peers. It has also made myself more approachable to my membership by opening an avenue for clear and concise communication. At the end of each season, I browse through my social network feed to review the year to assist in creating the next season's agronomic plan.

A thank you to Timothy for stepping up and participating. If you are interested in having your story in the newsletter, please contact Eric Richardson at erichardson@essexcc.org

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Assistant Superintendent, The International Golf Club

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK TO:

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Dan Brandt

Superintendent at Shaker Hills Country Club

Eric Still

Superintendent at The Meadow at Peabody Golf Course

Scott Lagana

Sales Representative at Turf Products

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