



# THE NEWSLETTER

August 2019

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

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300 Arnold Palmer Blvd., Norton, MA 02766  
774-430-9040  
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### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Greg Cormier  
Tom Irwin, Inc.  
11A Street, Burlington, MA 01803  
978-846-1133  
Email: gregcormier@tomirwin.com

### GCSANE Headquarters

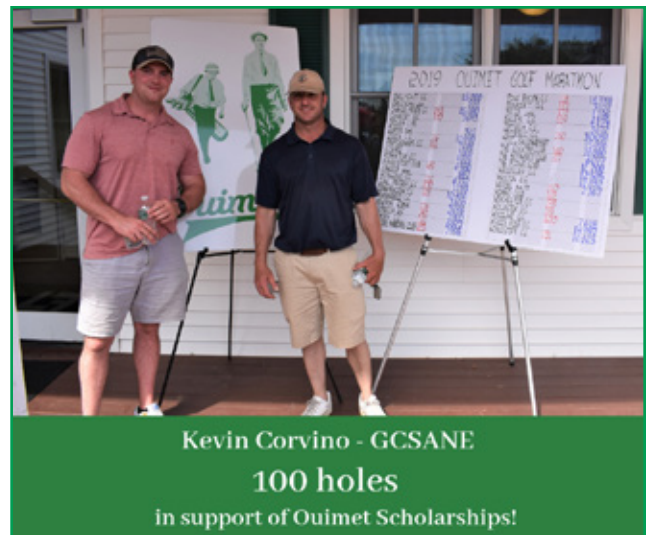
300 Arnold Palmer Blvd., Norton, MA 02766  
Tel: (774) 430-9040  
Web Site: [www.gcsane.org](http://www.gcsane.org)

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## Thoughts From Your Executive Director by Don Hearn

This year we were represented at the Ouimet Marathon by Kevin Corvino, superintendent at Wayland Country Club, and his caddie Eric Doldt. Kevin is a recipient of a Ouimet Scholarship, which helped him finance his education. Kevin and Eric have been doing this on our behalf for 12 years. The event was held August 5 at the Juniper Hill Golf Course where GCSA of New England Member Bob Cullen is the superintendent. We are lucky to have Eric and Kevin devote a day to

this fundraiser for scholarships for deserving individuals who work in golf. Courses our members manage are represented by some of these young women and men. Donations are still being accepted to help recognize Kevin's and Eric's dedication to help with the fundraising. If you would like to make a donation you can do so by clicking on this link <https://give.classy.org/KevinCorvino19>



Kevin Corvino - GCSANE

100 holes

in support of Ouimet Scholarships!

*Eric Doldt, left and Kevin*

The GCSA of New England's Scholarship and Benevolence Tournament will be played this year September 30 at the Wachusett Country Club. This year's memorial honoree will be Donald "Donnie" Marrone, Jr. Donnie was a wonderful person who was known as kind, generous, loyal and caring. Donnie passed away in November 2017. His generosity to the GCSA of New England was significant. He was involved with the beginning of the Scholarship and Benevolence Tournament by hosting the first two tournaments. Over the years, a total of six have been held at Wachusett Country Club. This

tournament, raffle ticket sales, sponsorships and donations are the source of funds granted for scholarships and to members who need a helping hand during a difficult time in their life. You are encouraged to support this event by participating in it, or by making a donation to it. If your son or daughter received a scholarship from the Association, consider passing it forward by supporting this event so others may be fortunate to receive a scholarship. Any size donation is welcome. Keep in mind that your participation in this event is one of the criteria considered for granting a scholarship to your daughter or son.

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# OBSERVATIONS FROM THE RECENT UMASS FIELD DAY



*David Stowe sent along his observations from the UMass Field Day held at The Dr. Joseph Troll Turfgrass Research Facility in South Deerfield, MA, July 17. [The researchers, support staff and technicians put a lot of time and caring into the plots and the descriptions of each of their respective areas of expertise. We, the beneficiaries of their efforts, should help support them by attending this every-other-year-event.]*

I took the trip to the Joseph Troll Research center on Wednesday and wanted to share some of the details.

Fall seeding is best as we all know, but if you have to seed in Spring/early summer Tenacity @ 5oz per acre or DriveXLR8 @ 1.45 oz/1000sq ft right at the time of seed-



ing can really cut down on the crabgrass competition.

Control Nutsedge early in the year because like cutting down trees, if you wait too long in the season, what you kill are the mother plants that then release the nuts and you get 7 new plants that emerge.

No good replacement exists for Roundup. Compared with Finale (glufosinate) and Paraquat the Roundup had a much more complete kill.

Plant trees & shrubs at the right height "too low—sure to go" backfill hole with native soil unless it's really bad—clay, rocky etc.

Jim Skorulski our USGA agronomist retired on June 30 after 30 years and is moving back to Utica NY area.

Organic lawn, field establishment is possible, takes 10 years for the plots to look the same, when fertilized regularly (4-6 applications per year) with compost the phosphorus in the soil goes really high and they had to eliminate one treatment per year to not kick the P into the extremely high/toxic range.

Best/easiest way to monitor ABW adults are in the greens mower clippings (other heights won't work because they can hide) 60% of those caught in the mower basket will survive and march right back if you spread clippings close to the green.

2 times per week rolling reduces Dollar Spot—changes the upper soil profile compacts the thatch and creates a plant defense response (more to it than just removing the dew)

So far, 7 different isolates of Dollar Spot have been identified, and are being tested for resistance and new chemistries to control. Dr. Jung predicts many more to be discovered in the future. Says if you want to develop resistance keep spraying the same thing over and over.

One other thing I heard not at field day was that the neonicotinoids recently removed from the market (Aloft being the most recognized one) was a behind the scene deal with the EPA and the chemical companies—they agreed to take some off the market to keep others.



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**August 2019**



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# ***Should You Let People “Pick Your Brain”? By Don Hearn***

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Hi (fill in the name) could I ask you a question about my lawn? Have you heard this before? I'm sure you have. Have you ever thought you should not be looked at as the turf guru giving away your knowledge? If you have, read on.

You have knowledge. Now someone wants to tap into that knowledge. For free. How do you respond?

The person is looking for help. The person may, or may not know that you charge for this kind of advice if you're a consultant. But he doesn't seem to care. What's a couple questions, anyway, between friends?

So, what do you do when this situation occurs? You can be gracious. How about this move: you thank the person for asking and offer whatever advice you can.

You earn a good salary. You're doing fine. Yes, of course you'd like to be doing better. And yes, it's human nature to not want to give something away for nothing. And sure, there will be some people that will take advantage of your kindness. But you're fortunate. You are making a living and here's a person that is asking you for help. And you genuinely may be able to help this person. So, help him.

Let him pick your brain, because two things will come out of it.

1. You'll feel better about yourself because giving is always better than getting. That's your humanitarian and benevolent side. You're a good person. And you care about others. This is doing something nice.
2. That person will appreciate your advice and think you are so smart that he'll be calling you first thing the next day to offer a million-dollar contract and lifetime tenure at your course. Not really. That won't happen. But what will likely happen is that he'll eventually walk away appreciating your help and valuing your knowledge. He will tell others. He will remember. Someone in his network of friends will have a similar lawn question and ask him for a recommendation or remember that he liked you. What comes around really does go around.

So, let people pick your brain. Give your advice away for free. Don't get defensive and don't be annoyed. Be grateful instead. This is not a burden. It's an opportunity to help. You'll get your compensation someday.

The logo for Atlantic golf & turf features the word "Atlantic" in a large, bold, green serif font. To the left of the "A" is a small graphic of three blades of grass. Below "Atlantic" is the phrase "golf & turf" in a smaller, green, cursive script font.



July 29, 2019

Volume 20:9



## Gazing in the Grass

Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D.

The return to seasonable weather over the weekend allowed for observation on the level of stress tolerance present in a turfgrass stand, or *not*. The image above is a good example of unirrigated lawn conditions in full sun areas without irrigation. Often there is enough moisture for summer annual weed success (crabgrass and goosegrass) and broadleaf plantain, but not enough to sustain active cool season turfgrass growth. Clover populations under these conditions are also starting to decline following a month-long flowering period. At this point in the season regular mowing serves as the best management practice for weed control.

The record heat passing through last week either brought very warm, humid and dry, or for many, wet conditions. Rainfall amounts

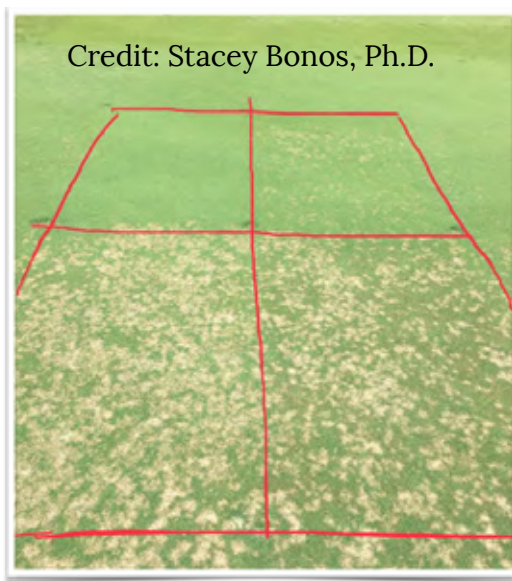
exceeded 4" in some places and <0.75" in others. ET levels are very high with almost 0.20" of water lost per day. GDD accumulations are within 7 days ahead or behind north and south of NYC. Heat stress was widespread last week, reaching high levels in the Adirondack region and now about to return this week. Several days this week expected to be warmer than normal with slight chance of rain.

Soil temperatures continue rise into the mid 70's to low 80's after several warm and steamy evenings from last week. This will place additional pressure on areas with a history of root pathogen problems. Rutgers Diagnostic Director Rich Buckley has indicated the first few samples of summer patch are "trickling" into the lab. Anthracnose samples are arriving to the lab at a regular pace, in spite of spray records that indicate significant fungicide use. *It seems unlikely we can spray our way out of these problems.*



The foliar disease models found on the FORECAST website are indicating high risk mid-week for brown patch, pythium, dollar spot and foliar anthracnose. With several weeks of heat and pest pressure ahead expect a decline in more susceptible plants, in spite of the regular use of fungicides. Fungicide intervals are likely at their tightest these days even when applied at highest label rates.

The benefits of modern turfgrass varieties are clear when bred with increased levels of disease resistance. The adjacent image from Professor Stacey Bonos (@staceybonos) of Rutgers University demonstrates the various levels of resistance in modern creeping bentgrass varieties. Turfgrass managers report significant reductions in fungicide use on large areas when planted to more resistant varieties. Additionally, managers that have allowed some pest damage to occur in their stands of annual bluegrass have also been selecting for more disease resistant “ecotypes”.




Credit: Stacey Bonos, Ph.D.

Underground, root pathogen pressure is about to peak with increasing amount of heat and drought stress conditions. The persistent wet and warm (>65F) soil conditions leads to more prolonged infection periods. These root infecting fungi live along the root surface, strategically penetrating the root and over time rendering the root non-functional. Failure of preventative controls is likely due to improper timing of fungicide drench, too low rate, or not enough water used to move fungicide down. At this point with soil temperatures above 80F, do not expect much recovery. For curative activity, Professor Lee Miller (@MUTurfPath) states in his monthly Disease Report: *Briskway, a multiple action DMI and QoI fungicide is suggested at the high 0.75 fl oz/M rate. A small dose of ammonium sulfate (~0.15 lb N/M) may also aid recovery, but should be used with some care in summer and properly watered in.*



Credit: Shawn Askew

Finally, high levels of crabgrass are obvious throughout the landscape. Areas treated with preemergence herbicides for crabgrass have been reporting breakthrough. The adjacent image from Professor Shawn Askew (@VTTurfweeds) indicates effectiveness of the correct product applied at the correct time at the correct rate. There could be more rapid breakdown of products under warm and moist soil conditions, or as UMass Weed Specialist Randy Prostack often states, “early down, early gone”. However, additional reasons for failure include poor application coverage, low turf density, and

the emergence of goosegrass, a more difficult to control summer annual weed. At this stage of the season, many will opt to simply mow crabgrass and maintain a uniform stand. However, larger crabgrass plants are not flowering yet, and can be controlled with the active ingredient quinchlorac (not available in Drive on LI). Acclaim Extra will not be effective on larger plants. Do not reseed these areas for a few weeks to avoid Pythium and GLS issues if using TF and PR. 





Naming seasons can be fun. James Taylor crooned, “winter, spring, summer or fall.” Many near me add “mud season” and “black fly season.” Down south, they have “hurricane season.” Many other geographic regions have named and recognized seasons relative to their climate. In the Northeast golf industry, “golf season” and “off-season” are the well-used monikers. While golf education is typically found in the off-season for

superintendents, universities work hard to provide research and results all year long. Recently, I was fortunate to see how it all begins.

Rutgers University weed scientist Matt Elmore, Ph.D., reached out to me in early June looking to connect with superintendents in USDA plant hardiness zones 5 or lower. These zones are in western Massachusetts, much of New York, Vermont, inland New Hampshire, and almost all of Maine. Elmore, having only joined Rutgers in the recent few years, did not have many contacts in these areas. Communications began regarding his needs and I offered to join him during the travel.

Elmore needed some superintendents who would be interested in donating sample of annual bluegrass from their golf course fairways and roughs. Of special interest was those who have used plant growth regulators (PGR) (e.g., Trifluralin) or herbicide programs to manage the annual bluegrass over the years. The USDA grant research was to look for herbicide resistance. In addition, they would check for PGR efficacy, and develop an annual bluegrass seed bank for future use.

We traveled from Albany up the Northway, over to Burlington, Vt., across northern New Hampshire, into the Portland, Maine, area. Sixteen superintendents hosted us, albeit briefly, and donated nearly 50 samples of turf. Conversations covered poa control, winter kill, native area challenges, weed infestations, and many more.

Fast forward three weeks at Rutgers Field Day, where graduate students explain to attendees the USDA project that is beginning. They explained that the annual bluegrass has recently been planted in the greenhouse, the general overview of the expectations of the research, and that they should have data come this time next year.

Turf specific universities play an important part in our industry. They provide critical research and give continuing education presentations that help superintendents do their jobs better. Many universities offer further educational opportunities in-season by opening their research plots to us so we can see the work in progress. Many nation-wide are assisting in developing Best Management Practices manuals that superintendents can use to advocate for our industry.



*Owl's Nest Resort & Golf Club's superintendent John Gabbeitt (left), and The Mountain Course at Spruce Peak's Kevin Komer, CGCS, (right) both graciously hosted Matt Elmore, Ph.D., and assisted with his annual bluegrass collection*

Researchers also rely on superintendents for sample donations (like Elmore's Northeast #TakeMyPoaTour), or real-world research areas on your golf courses. Both are critical to developing the cutting-edge research from which superintendents ultimately learn.

These important relationships are nothing new to our industry. Recently, GCSA of New England Life Member Jack Hassett reminisced visiting Ag researchers in the Ottawa area early in his career with turfgrass samples. The benefits he received from their expertise, while they enjoyed delving into a different plant species, were extremely valuable. For our universities to continue delivering industry-changing results, they need all the support that golf course superintendents can provide. By offering turf samples or data from your facility, supporting field days by attending, and providing your questions and feedback during educational seminars, this often-symbiotic learning process can continue to grow and prosper.



## **Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation donates \$500,000 Endowment to support GCSAA's First Green**

The Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation has donated \$500,000 to the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). The endowment will support First Green, which provides hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education at golf courses.

## **Melrose Equipment Management Experience**

The Melrose Equipment Management Experience supports the professional development needs of GCSAA golf course equipment manager members by providing select individuals the opportunity to attend the Golf Industry Show.

**Applications for the 2020 Experience are due by Sept. 15, 2019.**    [Apply Today](#)

The experience is open to applicants who meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be a current Class EM member in good standing.
- Must not have attended the Golf Industry Show in any of the previous two years prior to selection into the program (San Diego 2019 or San Antonio 2018).
- Past recipients are not eligible.
- Active Equipment Manager Task Group volunteers are not eligible.
- EM members working for current members of the GCSAA Board of Directors or the EIFG Board of Trustees and immediate family of GCSAA staff members shall not be eligible.

Class members will receive the following:

- Golf Industry Show full package registration
- Education and leadership sessions
- Airfare
- Five nights hotel accommodations
- \$200 spending money
- Financial support to complete the Equipment Management Certificate Program (EMCP) Level 1 and 2 exams.

## **Melrose Leadership Academy**

The Melrose Leadership Academy supports the professional development of GCSAA member superintendents by providing individuals the opportunity to attend the Golf Industry Show. The program provides up to 20 scholarships every year.

**Applications for the 2020 Academy due by Sept. 15, 2019.**    [Apply Today](#)

The academy is open to applicants who meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be a current GCSAA Class A or Class B member and GCSAA Chapter member in good standing.
- Must be a Class A or Class B member for five or more years.
- Class A or Class B members working for current members of the board of directors or the board of trustees, and children of GCSAA staff members shall not be eligible for the Melrose Leadership Academy.
- Past recipients are not eligible.
- Attendees of the Golf Industry Show in the last five years are not eligible to apply.

Grant recipients will receive the following:

- Golf Industry Show full package registration
- Education seminars and leadership sessions
- Airfare
- Five nights' hotel accommodations
- \$200 spending money
- Following the conference and show, grant recipients will continue to receive communications recommending education, tools and resources offered by GCSAA to keep class participants engaged.

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## GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards

Presented by GCSAA and *Golf Digest* in partnership with Syngenta, the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship.

In 2018, the ELGAs were updated to recognize more superintendents in more focused areas of environmental sustainability. The ELGAs are based on the environmental [best management practices](#) that GCSAA recommends all courses utilize.

There are four ELGAs available:

- Natural Resource Conservation Award
- Healthy Land Stewardship Award
- Communications and Outreach Award
- Innovative Conservation Award

There will be one winner and two runners-up recognized for each award. GCSAA members may apply to one, two, three or all four awards in a single year. However, an individual can only win one award per year.

All applicants will be notified by December whether or not they have been selected as a winner. Winners will be recognized at the Golf Industry Show.

## Upcoming Webinars

Sept. 10 @ 10 a.m.

[Pesticide Selection BMPs](#)

J. Bryan Unruh, Ph.D.

Sept. 18 @ 10 a.m.

[Developing Engaging Presentations and Enhancing Your Delivery](#)

Rick Capozzi

Oct. 8 @ 10 a.m.

[Manage Insects More Effectively and Develop IPM Resources within Your Course's BMP Manual](#)

Adam Dale, Ph.D.

Oct. 10 @ 10 a.m.

[Redox Potential and the Black Layer](#)

Lee Berndt, Ph.D.

Oct. 15 @ 10 a.m.

[Annual Bluegrass Seedhead Suppression in Putting Greens presented by Intelligro](#)

Matt Elmore, Ph.D., and Zane Raudenbush, Ph.D.

Oct. 30 @ 10 a.m.

[What About Wetting Agents?](#)

Doug Karcher, Ph.D.

Nov. 6 @ 9 a.m.

[Cómo construir un equipo más fuerte utilizando el golf como una estrategia](#)

Jorge Croda, CGCS

Nov. 19 @ 10 a.m.

[Water Management BMPs](#)

J. Bryan Unruh, Ph.D.

Read more: <https://www.gcsaa.org/education/my-learning-hub#ixzz5wh5P1Jlt>

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

Kevin Doyle

GCSAA Field Staff

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*August 2019*

## Congratulations

John LeClair on his recent recertification

## Back Issues!



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