



# THE NEWSLETTER

September 2019

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

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## Thoughts From Your Executive Director by Don Hearn



From left, Tricia Serio, Mary Owen, Bob Ruzsala



From left: Dr. Pat Vittum, Melissa Gugliotti, Heather Garvin, Vickie Wallace

The Alumni Turf Group (ATG) held the annual Dr. Joseph Troll Classic at the TPC of Boston, September 3. A beautiful day on a magnificently conditioned golf course was capped off with a presentation to this year's honoree, Mary Owen. As many know, Mary is an integral part of our industry as well as the New England Sports Turf Managers Association (NESTMA) where she serves a special advisor. Speakers Ben Polimer, president of NESTMA, Bill Spence, retired superintendent of The Country Club, and Dr. Pat Vittum, retired professor from UMass helped the attendees learn more about Mary and her many contributions to the turfgrass industry within our state and region. Many of Mary's associates from the UMass Turf Program attended to honor her. Tricia Serio, Dean of the UMass College of Natural Sciences helped Bob Ruzsala, President of the ATG present Mary with her award.

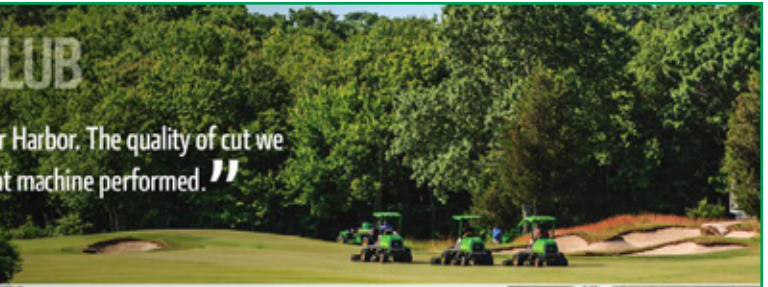
In addition to the beautiful course, expertly managed by superintendent Tom Brodeur and assistant superintendent Chris Hurley, the clubhouse and golf shop staff went out of their way to be certain everything was top notch and made all feel welcome and comfortable.

Thank you to Dave Pease, Executive Secretary of the ATG and all the board members and volunteers who spend considerable time and effort putting together the many details that result in a great day for all the participants and supports the turf research program at UMass.

## SHELTER HARBOR GOLF CLUB

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## Thoughts (con't)

The August meeting was held at Wedgewood Pines Country Club in Stowe, MA. Our host was Tim Johnston, superintendent. This meeting serves as the qualifier for the New England Superintendent Championship and is the time of year when all retired members are invited to be guests of the Association for the day. In addition to being our guests, a brief biography of each retiree in attendance is read. This helps remind us that these are the people who have helped our profession move forward. They were also the innovators and experimenters who added to our collective knowledge. When you take a look at the turf you're responsible for managing keep in mind that much of the base from where you started was created by those who went before you.



### RETIRED MEMBERS

*Seated from right: Wayne Zoppo, Arthur Silva, Ron Kirkman.*

*Standing from right: Tom Ackley, Steve Murphy, John Paul Jones, Rick Arzillo, Ken Mooradian, Mike Nagle, Jack Hassett, Artie Miller, Jim Fitzroy, Dick Zepp, Mike Hermanson, Don Hearn*

### HOW NOT TO ACT!



*From left: Lou Bettencourt, Andy Ingham, Tim Johnston, Jeff Urquhart*

Those who will be representing the GCSA of New England at the Boothbay Harbor Country Club, October 10: Ryan Emerich, Andy Ingham, Pete Jacobson, Alex Martin, Mike Nagle, Dave Parson, Joe Piana, David Rice. We wish them success and a fun filled day.

Results for the day at Wedgewood:

Low Gross Matt Lapinski 75

Low Net Pete Jacobson 69

Low Gross Sr. Jack Hassett 80

Low Net Sr. Dennis Friel 68

Closest to the Hole Tim Crane 20"

Long Drive Tim Johnston too long to measure

Skills Challenge Alex Martin



## TIM CLARKE TO JOIN TANTO MANAGEMENT TEAM

**ELMSFORD (SEPTEMBER 9, 2019)** - TANTO IRRIGATION, LLC WELCOMES MR. CLARKE TO ITS MANAGEMENT TEAM AFTER HAVING SPENT THE LAST 11 YEARS OVERSEEING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF IRRIGATION AT AUGUSTA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB. BORN AND RAISED IN UPSTATE NEW YORK WHERE HE GRADUATED FROM DELHI UNIVERSITY, TIM NOW RETURNS HOME TO HIS ROOTS.

POST GRADUATION, TIM SPENT TIME HONING HIS TURF AND IRRIGATION SKILLS AS ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT AT WYKAGYL COUNTRY CLUB IN NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK, PRIOR TO MAKING THE MOVE TO GEORGIA IN 2008.

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***September 2019***




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*The Newsletter*

This article was published in the September issue of CT Viewpoints. It presents a viewpoint on the bad press Roundup has been receiving. Regardless of your point of view, it's an interesting read about the product.

- [CT Viewpoints](#)
- by [Fred Behringer](#)
- [September 6, 2019](#)



Glyphosate is a key ingredient in the widely used herbicide Roundup.

Glyphosate is receiving a lot of undeserved bad press lately, and it is highly misleading. We use many chemicals in our daily lives, and they are safe most of the time because they are used below levels that are harmful. Claims that glyphosate (the main ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup herbicide) is unsafe are not supported by valid scientific studies.



Fred Behringer

The recent CT Viewpoints article, "[Use Glyphosate with Caution](#)," by Nancy Alderman was commendable, and its advice to use products as directed is certainly a welcome reminder.

However, it perpetuates many misconceptions and fears. Glyphosate is among the safest herbicides in use today. It inhibits an enzyme in plants (but not animals), it decomposes rapidly in soil, and if consumed it largely passes through the body.

Every chemical is toxic at high enough concentration. Caffeine, an organic chemical that many of us are exposed to every day, has a toxicity 10 times that of glyphosate. Because of the extreme sensitivity of modern analytical chemistry, traces of glyphosate can be found in foods, but those amounts are hundreds of times below harmful levels (just like many other chemicals we are exposed to daily).

Claims have been raised that glyphosate causes non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and Monsanto and its new German owner, Bayer AG, face thousands of lawsuits by people blaming Monsanto's glyphosate-based herbicides for their diseases. In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) added glyphosate to its list of chemicals "probably carcinogenic to humans." This analysis is flawed and plagued by conflict of interest. Its conclusion has not been supported by studies that adhere to scientific standards.

For starters, the IARC lists coffee and red meat as "probably carcinogenic to humans." It is also important to understand that, instead of "risk analysis" used by many scientific studies, the IARC uses "hazard analysis," which sets a much lower standard and has resulted in conclusions based on questionable interpretation of data.

This explains why no regulatory agency around the world (15 in all) considers glyphosate to cause cancer. This includes the World Health Organization, which oversees the IARC and which does not support the IARC's hazard analysis conclusions. In one of the most recent reviews, [Health Canada stated](#): "No pesticide regulatory authority in the world currently considers glyphosate to be a cancer risk to humans at the levels at which humans are currently exposed."

Here is a [graphic](#) summarizing the assessment of glyphosate safety from 15 regulatory agencies from around the globe, citing epidemiological data and evidence from animal studies, and saying products containing glyphosate are safe if used according to the label instructions.

Many articles on glyphosate select studies that are not supported by the scientific consensus. There have been thousands of studies on glyphosate. I could cite 20 studies that show it was associated with a reduction in cancer. This includes one from the prestigious journal, *Nature*, which purports that glyphosate may cure malaria. Are any of these significant? Very likely not! Just because something is published does not make it true. It's not uncommon for published work to be inaccurate. The tadpole and the NHL studies cited by Alderman have their shortcomings and are not representative of the scientific consensus on glyphosate safety.

One way to put this in perspective is to contrast glyphosate to alcohol. Alcohol is a known carcinogen (even the IARC and the scientific community agree on this). It causes head/neck, esophageal, liver, breast and colon cancer. Yet there is no movement to ban alcohol and probably rightly so, as the risk is relatively low. A double standard is being applied to glyphosate.



We hear a lot about “fake news,” and we also generally agree to value science and technology. However, time and time again we see sensational, unscientific and inaccurate information spread in the news media, social media and our conversations. This gets in the way of solving real problems. Pick your topic – climate change, vaccines, it goes on – for various reasons, some probably innocent but often for monetary gain, information is selectively chosen to support an agenda. The current glyphosate scare is a case in point.

Glyphosate’s risks have been [vastly exaggerated](#). Not only is it one of the safest herbicides, it has contributed to more environmentally friendly agriculture and helps combat climate change. The unfounded backlash against glyphosate will do us harm, not good.

*Fred Behringer holds a Ph.D. in plant physiology and owns Surveillant LLC, an analytical chemistry laboratory in Old Lyme.*

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*September 2019*

September 2, 2019

Volume 20:11

## Gazing in the Grass

Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D.

The sun angle has shifted 15° from its peak in late June and this marks a shift in mindset for many turfgrass managers from maintaining quality, safety and performance to recovery and rejuvenation of thin, weedy, poor turfgrass conditions. Growing conditions have been excellent with adequate moisture (some excessive wet/dry spots) and cooler evening temperatures. Soils have cooled quickly into the low-mid 60's north and low 70's south in response to moisture and lower temperatures. Dry conditions are prevalent in Western NY, especially Rochester and much of Nassau and Suffolk counties. Massachusetts, especially the Cape are close to drought monitoring conditions. In fact, 70% of topsoil is low or very low soil moisture, when the 10 yr average is only 30% at this time of year. All of this data is visible at our Cornell Turfgrass FORECAST website (<http://turf.eas.cornell.edu/app>)

Diagnostic labs are reporting a variety of disorders associated with grass under persistent stress from pests, mechanical wear, temperature and moisture. Anthracnose is still dominating the sample count as many continue to maintain low N that consistently leads to increased incidence

and severity of the disease. Many times this is not obvious UNTIL conditions become adequate for growth and plants are unable to access available N and begin the decline to basal rot. The favorable weather conditions expected should allow for recovery, however many will still need preventative control based on stress level. The next few pests on the horizon include Fall dollar spot pressure that appears high this week and beginning phases of white grub feeding. Time to scout areas and consider alternative curative controls available for small instar grubs.



Lawn Closed



Putting Surface Perennial Poa Rooting

Credit: Mike Hadley

Scholastic sports fields heading into Fall seasons of soccer and American football **and** the perennial golfing season will continue to require high levels of maintenance. Cool-night conditions will allow for excellent rooting if soils are functioning properly. Plants will respond well to additions of Nitrogen as conditions for growth continue to improve. Good dense turf is more wear tolerant, insect and disease resistant and capable of competing successfully with weeds.



The last two months of the growing season, often referred to as the shoulders of the season, present unique challenges. Any excessive rainfall alters soil conditions and as growth slows traffic persists and the turf thins. Be prepared for turf thinning by starting now with good initial turf density, An adequate topdressing layer would be ideal for maintaining safe and playable surfaces well into November.

In comparison, damaged turfgrass areas at this time require recovery-rest from excessive wear or thinning from pests/stress. This should also include some form of rejuvenation, i.e., soil modification and drainage, re-establishment to improved species and varieties, or tree removal to improve light and air flow.



Similar to 2018, crabgrass populations have challenged pre-emergence herbicide efficacy. Widespread failures reported from areas treated early and the herbicide concentration remaining in the soil is unable to provide control for the length of crabgrass germination. These germination periods are extended due to the warming climate to as many as 18-20 weeks in NYC Metro area. Most pre's won't last that long in a single application. Furthermore, widespread germination throughout the landscape from the last 12 months of plentiful rainfall, if allowed to go to seed, assures more pressure for the years to come. It would

be wise to consider some means of preventing crabgrass from producing viable seed in managed areas. Scalping, selective and non-selective herbicide options (even OMRI certified options) can all aid in reducing annual weed seed rain.

As society continues to grow uneasy with widespread chemical use, pressure to explore non-chemical options will increase. Our research at Cornell on non-chemical weed control has found that weed seed bank and annual weed seed rain management is critical to both chemical and non-chemical strategies. Now is the time to consider these strategies.

A more ecological approach will be required as emerging weed problems such as goosegrass, false-green kyllinga and Japanese stilt grass quietly invade Northeastern managed landscapes further north. In the case of goosegrass, it is a story of our pre-emergence herbicide preferences in this area of the country over a long period of time. The southeast US turfgrass industry relies heavily on oxadiazon (Ronstar-goodgoosegrass/not crabgrass) for pre-emergence control while the Northeast uses primarily dithiopyr (Dimension-no good goosegrass/good crabgrass), some dintroaniline materials like pendimethalin and prodiamine are only slightly better on goosegrass. The introduction of topamazone (Pylex) will aid in post-emergence population-based approach and offer some pre-emergence control. Turfgrass Weed Science Professor Matt Elmore at Rutgers University has two excellent resources on these weed issues at <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1309/> and <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1290/>. **△**



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# Atlantic

*golf & turf*

# *The Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund Names Colin McGuire As Executive Director*

NORTON, MA, September 11, 2019 – The Board of Directors of the Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund today announced that Colin McGuire will succeed Bob Donovan as The Fund’s Executive Director when Donovan retires on October 21.

McGuire, who grew up in Braintree, MA, attended Denison University as a Ouimet Scholar and graduated in 2003. He began his career with the Ouimet Fund in the fall of 2003 and has had integral and valuable roles of increasing responsibility with the organization. He has been involved in virtually every aspect of the Fund’s operations and mission during his career. McGuire, his wife Cheryl and their two sons reside in Foxboro, MA.

According to Jim Blue, President of the Board of Directors, “Colin brings outstanding energy, leadership and institutional knowledge to the Executive Director role. He will spearhead the Ouimet Fund as we embark on our next stage of growth with a focus on our major gifts program and engaging with our Ouimet Alumni and supporters.

“As a Board, we are excited to have Colin lead The Fund. He is poised and ready to help us reach our lofty goals to meet the unmet financial needs of our Ouimet Scholars,” concluded Blue.

Donovan, who has been the Executive Director of the Ouimet Fund since 1990, has guided the organization through an extraordinary growth cycle. His accomplishments include the development of The Fund’s Endowed Scholarship Program (which now exceeds 150 endowed funds) and The Fund’s distinctive Annual Banquet. The Banquet has honored distinguished individuals who have devoted a lifetime to the game of golf, including Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and U.S. President George H.W. Bush. It has become the largest golf banquet of its kind in the country.

“We would like to thank Bob for his 29 years of outstanding service as Executive Director. Under Bob’s leadership the Ouimet Fund has grown and evolved in a tremendous way. His focus on our mission of meeting the unmet financial needs of our Ouimet Scholars was always his priority,” said Blue. “He has been devoted to The Fund and became the face of the organization.”

Founded in 1949, the Francis Ouimet Scholarship is considered “The Golf Charity of Massachusetts.” The Ouimet’s Fund purpose is to help deserving young men and women, who have worked at golf courses in Massachusetts, obtain a college education. The Fund provides need-based scholarships which are renewable and worth an average of \$30,000 over the course of four years, with some Scholars receiving as much as \$65,000. Since 1949, The Ouimet Fund has awarded over \$38 Million in scholarships to more than 6,000 deserving Scholars. Ouimet Scholars have excelled and recent statistics indicate that Scholars are graduating at a 93% rate in four years, and achieving a 3.3 GPA average.



The Ouimet Fund is the largest independent scholarship fund in New England and is committed to grow the legacy of Mr. Ouimet by growing the scholarship fund he loved so dearly. Mr. Ouimet’s legacy was enhanced by Mark Frost’s book, “The Greatest Game Ever Played” and the movie that followed by the same name.

A promotional graphic for Winterberry Irrigation. The top half shows a golf course with active sprinklers. The bottom half is a white box with the company logo, name, and a list of services.

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# GCSAA Update

This article is a re-print from GCSAA in which CEO Rhett Evans updates members on what the association is currently working on.

## A message from Rhett Evans updating members on the 2019 Summer Board Meeting

In contrast to many of you who are winding down a busy golf season, here at headquarters we are gearing up for our biggest events of the year. Member registration for the 2020 GIS opens Oct. 15 on [www.golfindustryshow.com](http://www.golfindustryshow.com), and we can't wait to see you all in Orlando. Also next month, we will welcome representatives from our 99 chapters at the Chapter Delegates Meeting Oct. 28-29. Those two subjects were among the many items that the Board discussed during the Summer Board Meeting, which took place July 15-16 in Sacramento, Calif. Here is a review of items discussed at the meeting as well as updates on other key initiatives:

**Financial update:** GCSAA's overall financial position remains strong at the halfway point of 2019. Our investment portfolio is up 14 percent for the year. The Board also approved the preliminary budget and attendance targets for the 2020 Golf Industry Show.

**High School Curriculum:** As GCSAA explores ways to help ease the labor shortage in the golf course management industry, the board approved the concept of investigating a partnership with the Sports Turf Managers Association to develop a high school curriculum in turfgrass management.

**Melrose Equipment Management Experience:** The Board approved the application and Standing Operating Procedure of the Melrose Equipment Management Experience, which 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 launched Aug. 7 and will be open through Sept. 15 at [www.eifg.org/education/melrose-equipment-management-experience](http://www.eifg.org/education/melrose-equipment-management-experience).

**Social Media:** The Board underwent social media training with Uptown Studios of Sacramento and were given tips and suggested responses for dealing with negative comments.

**Affiliate Member Pricing:** The Board asked the staff to examine the pricing structure for Affiliate members, which is the appropriate classification for club management and golf professionals and is currently the same price as a Class A or B superintendent, and return to the Board with a recommendation.

**2025 Strategic Plan:** The Board was presented with a picture of all programs and services that have been initiated since 2015. This overview provided a snapshot of the number and breadth of programs and services that have been implemented with no significant increase in resources. To support the development of the GCSAA 2021-2025 strategic plan, staff has been tasked with developing an approach for the Board to evaluate all current and proposed programs, services and initiatives. The Board agrees that GCSAA should be focused in their endeavors, and programs, services and initiatives should reflect those that are the most critical for the long-term success of members and GCSAA.

Best regards,  
Rhett

Read more: <https://www.gcsaa.org/media/news/news-Items/2019/2019-summer-board-meeting#ixzz5z7KciDzX>



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Non-retouched client photo: GreenJacket System coming off in the spring!

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO

**Jack Hassett** and **Jim Fitzroy** long time members of the Association. Both qualified for the Mass Golf Super Senior Tournament. Jack shot 75 at Meadow Brook and Jim shot 77 at Wayland to qualify for the championship. The tournament will be played at Woods Hole Golf Club, October 2-3. We wish both good luck.

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