



THE NEWSLETTER

November 2019

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

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Thoughts From Your Executive Director by Don Hearn



The GCSA of New England Team from left:

Bob Healey, Matt Lapinski, David Stowe, Bob Dembek, Brian Skinner, Ryan Emerich, Mike Hermanson, Mike Luccini (photo by Shaun Barry)

The Connecticut AGCS wins 2019 Met Area Team Championship at Morris County Golf Club

For the second time in the past 3 years and the fifth time in the past 15 years, the team representing the Connecticut AGCS wins the MET Team Championship at Morris County Golf Club in Morristown, NJ. Connecticut dominated this year's event, winning by 13 strokes with a well-balanced team. Kevin Collins and Eric Morrison led all Net teams with a score of 66 and the team of Mike Dukette and Eric DeStefano were just one off the low gross score at 72. Overall the 8-person team was just +3 with Jason Dowgiewicz and Andrew Hannah at 75 gross and Jay Popko and Tim Nadeau at 70 net rounding out the Connecticut champions.

Host Superintendent Jon Heywood and his team had Morris County in pristine conditions with everyone praising the recent renovation work they have done on the course. Morris County Golf Club is a Seth Raynor gem founded in 1894 and at the time was the first club planned, organized and operated by women. Morris County was one of the early members of the USGA and the first club in NJ to host a national championship.

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– Mike Dachowski, Superintendent



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– Keith Wood, Superintendent



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Thoughts From Your Executive Director *continued*

While Connecticut seemingly ran away with this year's championship, the battle for second was extremely close. The defending team from the MetGCSA lost a match of cards to New England for second and third place, and Long Island finished just one shot back in fourth place. It just goes to show you, every shot counts out there!

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, Koch Turf & Ornamental, Ocean Organics, Plant Food, Syngenta and Toro as they continue to support this fantastic 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 9 years we have raised over \$10,000 and have

supported superintendents, industry representatives and their families in times of need. Last year we donated \$1,000 to the Scott Wiiki memorial Rutgers Scholarship. Scott was the superintendent at Mill Creek in Rochester, NY and suddenly passed due to a brain aneurism at the age of 28. Thank you to all who 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, Jon Heywood and his entire staff and all the folks at Morris County GC for another successful championship! A special thank you to our 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/gp/185020654@N02/Z52e5G>

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 27th, 2020!!

2019 MET Area Team Championships

Morris County GC

Par 70

October 8th, 2019

<u>Team Scores</u>	Par 280 (Ties broken by lowest gross scores, then net)	<u>Score</u>
1 st	Connecticut AGCS	283
2 nd	GCSA of New England	296
3 rd	MetGCSA	296
4 th	Long Island GCSA	297
5 th	GCSA of Cape Cod	299
6 th	Pocono Turfgrass Association	299
7 th	GCSA of New Jersey	303
8 th	Philadelphia AGCS	305
9 th	Central New York GCSA	307
10 th	Hudson Valley GCSA	309
11 th	Northeastern GCSA	312
12 th	Rhode Island GCSA	334

Skill Events

Closest to the pin hole #3, sponsored by Ocean Organics

Closest to the pin hole #13, sponsored by Bayer

Closest to the pin hole #15, sponsored by Toro

Closest to the pin hole #17, sponsored by Koch T&O

Steve Stephens 1'-5" – Philadelphia AGCS

Eric DeStefano 5'-3" – Connecticut AGCS

Jason Criss 14'-6" – Philadelphia AGCA

Brian Bontemps 5'-9" – Morris County GC

Long Drive

Hole # 11: Gross Division sponsored by Syngenta

Hole # 11: Net Division sponsored by BASF

Hole # 11: Sponsors Division sponsored by Plant Food

Andrew Hannah – Connecticut AGCS

Steve Aspinall – Northeastern GCSA

Matt Kerns – Plant Food

Low Gross Team

Luke Knutson & Shawn O'Sullivan from Long Island GCSA

Score of 71

Sponsorship Team Winner

Jon Heywood & Brian Bontemps from Morris County GC

Score of 63

Most Honest Teams

Net **Drew Cummins & Nick Burchard** – Rhode Island GCSA

Score of 88

Gross **Steve Lafazia & Dan Wolf** – Long Island GCSA

Score of 85

November 2019



Thoughts From Your Executive Director *continued*



This year's member guest was played October 15 at Pleasant Valley Country Club. The course was in excellent condition due to the tireless work of superintendent Nate Henry and his hard working team. This course has hosted 32 PGA Tour and 13 LPGA Tour events over the years. Nate's skills were highlighted in a recent newspaper article where it was stated the course is "...always maintained in outstanding condition." The staff at Pleasant Valley made everyone feel comfortable and all had a good day at Pleasant Valley.

from left: Todd Henry, Nate Henry, supt. Craig Resley, Rob Larson



Our last outdoor meeting of the year took place November 7 at Bear Hill Golf Club, in Stoneham, MA. This was the annual 9-hole event and all who played had a good time. Kevin Richardson, our host, has done a lot to maintain the course in great condition during his time at the club. The enjoyable time at the club was enhanced by the coordination of golf professional Jeff Wirbal and food and beverage manager Peter Ginivisian. The weather was overcast, a bit chilly, but without precipitation. The event was won by the team of Melissa Gugliotti, Mark Casey, Dave Johnson and Brad Gale.

from left: Kevin Richardson, Brian Skinner, Brian Juneau

The logo for Atlantic golf & turf. The word "Atlantic" is written in a large, bold, green, sans-serif font. To the left of the "A" is a stylized green grass tuft. Below "Atlantic" is the phrase "golf & turf" in a smaller, green, cursive font.

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The Newsletter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11/15/2019



Harrell's Growth Continues with POLYON® Acquisition

LAKELAND, FL Harrell's, LLC has acquired one of the green industry's signature brands – POLYON®– from Koch Agronomic Services.

The sale, which is effective at the close of business November 15, includes the POLYON® controlled-release fertilizer brand and related technology, patents and manufacturing capability. More than 70 veteran team members from the landmark Sylacauga, Alabama, POLYON® production facility officially become Harrell's employee-owners.

"This is a great day for Harrell's," said CEO Jack Harrell Jr. "We've always wanted to own POLYON® and finally the time was right for everyone. Now we're going to do everything we can to bring this superb technology to more customers and markets."

Harrell's has distributed POLYON® in the golf, lawn care, horticulture and specialty ag markets for three decades in a supply relationship that originally began with Pursell Industries in the early 1990s. "We've been so closely associated with it that folks mistakenly thought we already owned it," said Harrell. "Those little green BBs have been at the heart of our business and a big part of our growth and success over the years," said Harrell.

POLYON® is a unique, highly efficient fertilizer with a reactive coating technology that diffuses nutrients based on soil temperature and coating thickness. It provides consistent, predictable, dependable feeding to turfgrass, ornamental plants and a wide variety of specialty crops.

"It's a foundational product for so many growers in so many markets," said Harrell. "We believe in a Balanced Approach agronomic philosophy that combines nutrition and plant protection and POLYON® is the perfect start to the process."

Under the agreement, Harrell's will also custom manufacture POLYON® for Koch Agronomic Services, LLC, which will continue to hold exclusive rights to POLYON® in certain international markets.

Harrell's LLC, an employee-owned company founded in 1941, is a national leader in supplying innovative and effective agronomic products to professional growers. In addition to being one of the nation's largest distributors of specialty fungicides, herbicides and insecticides, Harrell's produces POLYON®, the industry's leading controlled-release fertilizer technology and other top-quality, custom blended fertilizers, specialty liquid nutrients, and wetting agents. Harrell's guarantees stringent quality control procedures, tight manufacturing specifications and careful selection of raw materials for each product that carries the Harrell's name. For more, visit www.harrells.com.

November 2019



Government Relations Update

By Greg Cormier, CGCS Newsletter Editor



I attended a hearing on November 12th at the Statehouse in MA regarding several proposed bills being considered by the Joint Committee on the Environment and Natural resources. The list of bills are below. There were well over 200 people there in favor of banning pesticides, starting with glyphosate and neonicotinoids. There were 6 of us there to explain that we need these pesticides and all pesticides as tools.

One of the most supported bills was to let each local town or city make their own decisions on pesticide use and basically get rid of the current system where the state has jurisdiction through MDAR over what is approved for use statewide.

There were all kinds of emotional testimonies from a pregnant woman and her kids to a teacher with 4th graders reading off a script, to a lady with a gas mask saying she can't leave her house without wearing it because of the pesticides in the environment.

As the season slows down it's a great time to schedule a meeting with whichever legislators are in your district at the state level and establish yourself as a resource. Also invite them to tour your facility and see the science that goes into your job. Show them moisture management, buffer zones and that you calculate all of your inputs on the golf course.

It was scary to see how loud the voices of concerned people were who think all pesticides are bad and should be banned.

When we spoke the legislators listened and seemed interested in hearing our side of the story. They appreciated our calm and respectful science based testimony. Thank you to Ted Wales, Rick Lawlor, Rich Bradley, Bob Mann, and Russell Holman for testifying and representing the Green Industry Alliance which GCSANE is part of.



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

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S 463
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Weather Station for the Budget Minded

By Ryan Green, Crystal Lake Golf Club

As golf course superintendents, weather affects us in so many ways. From course conditions to our mental state of mind during stressful times of the season. Having accurate weather data for the micro-climate of a particular golf course is critical to decision making for golf course maintenance including turf applications, watering, pro shop communication and many more facets of our profession. As we all know, weather conditions can be different at two courses, sometimes even courses within the same town. Relying on weather apps showing data from the local airport can be far from what is happening at your facility.

There are many different situations that every golf course superintendent faces. In regard to choosing a weather station, I encourage those facilities that can afford a high-end weather station, which is possibly synced into a central control system, to take

advantage of your local distributors who support our association. However, for those courses looking for accurate weather data on a very low budget, I would recommend looking into one of the homeowner-based stations.

A few years ago, I did as much internet research as I could on these affordable weather stations. Brands such as Accu-Rite, Ambient Weather, Davis Instruments and Rain Wise are in this class of weather station, with prices from \$100 to \$500, and can easily be found online. I considered all of the options, and pros and cons of online reviews and settled on an Ambient Weather WS-2902. It was a decision based on the reviewed accuracy of each weather sensor on the station. For only \$160, this weather station has 10 different weather sensors sets of accurate data. The big ones on my list were temperature, humidity, precipitation,

wind, solar radiation and UV, all of which affect turfgrass so much during the season.

The big advantage of this particular low-cost weather station is the ability to connect to a WiFi network. It came with a color display, so my crew can see the data in the breakroom. The same display connects wirelessly up to 500 ft away to the weather station itself, which gives updates every 30 seconds to the display, and also stores data over the year. Ambient Weather also has a phone app which sends the information to a smart phone or tablet. As an added bonus, this unit (and many other brands of weather stations) are able to send the information to the weather website, Weather Underground (wunderground.com). This way your club members, the pro shop and the general public can see live weather at your course. I have found this to be particularly helpful so the pro shop staff

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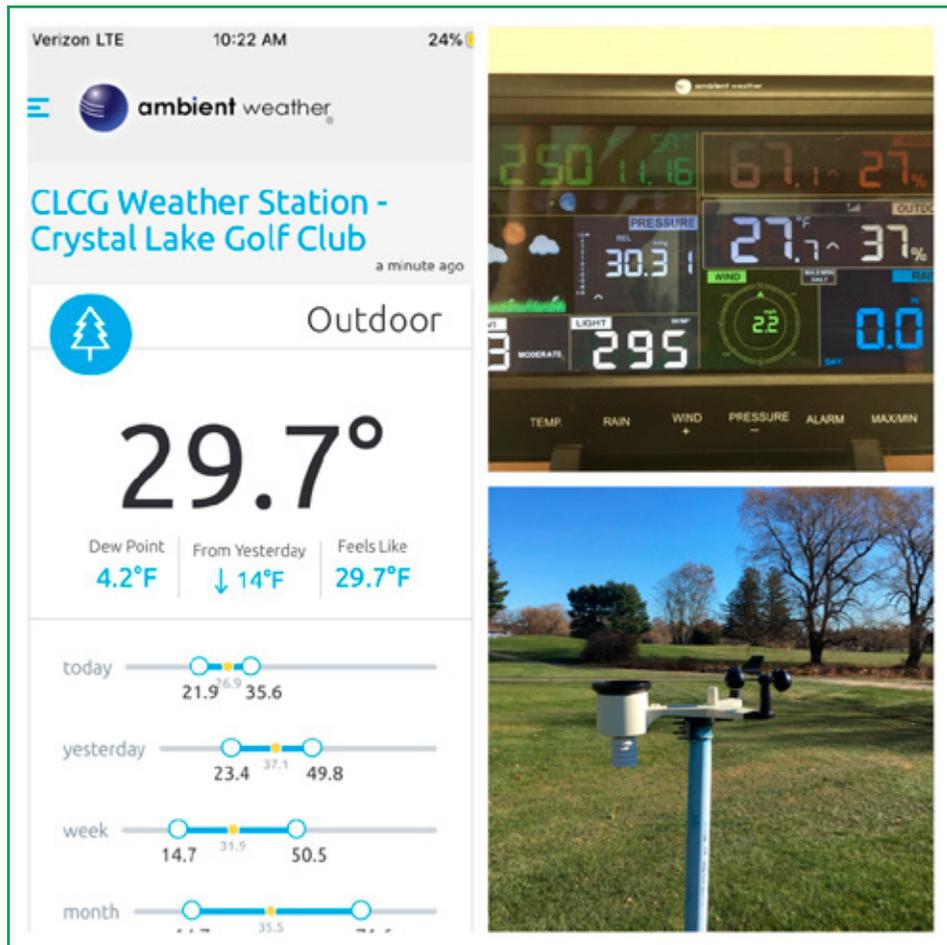
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can help communicate information to golfers such as temperature during a frost delay and precipitation to help justify things such as cart path only rules after heavy rainfall.

Additionally, customized alerts can be sent to your phone via text messages. I have my alerts set up for rainfall amounts and humidity levels. In my situation, I have an older central control system. Combined with a free remote access PC software, I may get a text alert at 1 am that I received 0.20" of rainfall. I can then go downstairs to my laptop and remotely shut off the irrigation system using the remote PC software program, and go back to sleep for a bit. Another feature I have found particularly useful is setting up humidity alerts. I have an alert when humidity drops to 40% which has been helpful in regard to drought and wilt management. A few times, when away from the property on a dry day or weekend, such an alert will prompt me to keep in contact with my staff to double check greens for wilt stress.

Overall, this weather station has not only given me the necessary data, but more so peace of mind and enhanced communication with staff, members and co-workers. Again, I encourage superintendents to look into and support your local distributor's products first, as they are much more integrated and seamless, however this is what I have found to work reliably for a very affordable cost.





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November 2019

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He has developed strong relationships in the golf course irrigation business, and we look forward to having him at DAF, as he begins his second career in the sales of pump station products.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO

Tim Berge who has taken the position of Sales Manager for DAF Services. Tim is following **Dick Young** who retired after many years with DAF.



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As in the past, *The Newsletter* continues to invite Affiliate members to submit a press release about new personnel, new products or a company bio. We will print each and every release **free of charge**. This is a great way to advertise for free. Who said nothing in this world is free? Free advertising to better your company, wow what an offer.

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November 2019

