



THE NEWSLETTER

July-August 2021

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

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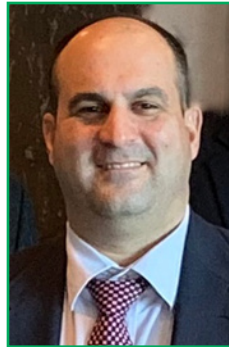
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President's Message by Peter J. Rappoccio



Dear Member,

I hope this message finds everyone well. It has been a crazy, stressful summer in terms of weather! Many of us have received well over a foot of rain in the month of July wreaking havoc on our golf courses, agronomy programs, and golf tournaments etc. The days when it wasn't raining the warmer weather, high humidity and people itching to get right out on the course has been a challenge as well. The only respite is summer is almost to a closing and many of us will begin the process of aerification and cooler weather come fall.

There is much to be excited about for the fall with a good schedule of meetings lined up on some great courses. I hope that we are able to continue to host these as the months go on and COVID does not throw a wrench in those plans. I hope to see many of you at our S & B event at Tedesco in September. Thank you to Peter Hasak and the club for offering to host us again this year as last year's event was postponed. I can tell you many of us are very excited to head there in September! We appreciate all the support from our Friends and Affiliates who help make the scholarship and benevolence tournament a great success.

We are also excited about our education meetings coming up this December and January. Ryan Emerich has been working on providing us some great education and possible new location for our event. More information to come in the coming weeks and months.

I am not sure if you have had a chance to read the Massachusetts BMP Manual but there is a lot of good information in there and a great many thanks to Eric Richardson and several others who helped make the vision a reality.

As summer is ending, fall typically marks project season on our courses. We can only hope the weather will be kinder and we can get all we are looking to accomplish done. I hope that many of you will find time to catch a break from the golf course and spend some time with family and friends. Certainly after a trying summer that is important.

Take care and hope to see you all soon!

Peter J. Rappoccio, CGCS

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Scott Vose, Affiliate, Tom Irwin Advisors

WELCOME RETURNING MEMBER

Peter Ervin, Assistant Superintendent, The Ridge Club

CONGRATULATIONS & CONTINUED SUCCESS TO

Greg Pinto, formerly Superintendent at the Cape Club, East Falmouth, MA now Interim Superintendent at Agawam Hunt, Rumford, RI

BEST WISHES TO

Bob Barrow, Accounts Manager at MTE - Equipment Solutions who is recovering from recent surgery.

Back Issues!



Past issues of the NEWSLETTER are available using this link: <http://bit.ly/GCSANEnewsletters>.

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The Newsletter

Thoughts From Your Executive Director by Don Hearn

This year's Scholarship and Benevolence Tournament will be held at the Tedesco Country Club, September 27. Superintendent Peter Hasak will be our host. The memorial honoree will be Mel O'Kelly who was the longtime superintendent at Marshfield Country Club.

This is the only fund-raiser we have that provides funding of scholarships for family members of our Association members and provides funds for those needing assistance during times of need.

It's easy to sit back and assume someone else will contribute when in fact if we all did this the fund would have zero donations. Consider this - if your child has been awarded a scholarship from the fund have you ever thought to help the next member's child by making a donation? If you haven't, you're fortunate others don't share the same thought. If they did, your child may not have received a scholarship from the fund. There are various ways to offer support: Playing in the event, purchasing raffle tickets, offering items to be included in the raffle, donating a foursome for a round at your course, making a financial donation, any of these will make a difference.

Since the inception of the Fund almost \$190,000.00 has been awarded for scholarships and another \$150,000.00 has been granted to those who have come upon some hard luck and needed a helping hand. For more information about applying for a scholarship click on the S&B tab at the top portion of the homepage on the Association's website at gcsane.org.

Details of this year's event will be sent out soon. Please support it.

This year's scholarship awardees

Cole Reynolds, recipient of the Thomas Schofield Award, son of Scott Reynolds

Paulina Curtin, recipient of the David Comee Award, daughter of Len Curtin

Molly MacDonald, daughter of Brad MacDonald



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I thought it was important to include this for those who might have missed it in the latest issue of Golf Course Management (GCM) publications. There is a local connection to one of these awards. The Allan MacCurrach Jr Award. Allan MacCurrach Jr became the PGA Tour's first staff agronomist in 1974 and was the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award winner in 1994. He was a GCSAA member for 31 years and was one of the first to become a certified golf course superintendent. He was a native of Hamilton, MA, a graduate of the Stockbridge School at UMass Amherst and superintendent of the Chevy Chase Club in Chevy Chase, Maryland prior to his appointment with the Tour. Allan passed away suddenly while on a pre-tournament visit to the site of, what was called at the time, The Bob Hope Classic in Palm Springs, California. The Allan MacCurrach Jr. Award is funded by his son Allan MacCurrach III and the PGA Tour.

Allan's position with the PGA TOUR developed through his friendship with Dean Beaman, a noted amateur and professional golfer, who became Commissioner of the PGA TOUR. Beaman recognized the agronomic talent and likeable personal traits of Allan and knew these would be valuable assets moving the PGA Tour forward.

PGA Tour donates to three GCSAA programs

The organization has pledged \$300,000 to support initiatives to grow the game and strengthen the industry.

August 3, 2021 | GCM staff



The PGA Tour has announced two major donations to GCSAA through the GCSAA Foundation. The gifts will help fund three programs: GCSAA's best management practices (BMP) initiative, the First Green STEM education program, and the Allan MacCurrach Jr. Award.

Over five years, the PGA Tour will contribute \$250,000 to support BMP development and the First Green. From 2016-2021, the PGA Tour provided similar funding to GCSAA to administer grants to GCSAA chapters to help establish state BMP guidelines. The resulting [state BMP manuals](#) outline golf course maintenance practices that protect and enhance the environment and are tailored to the state's unique geographic conditions and regulatory climate. By January 2021, all 50 states had established BMPs.

Now, the initiative moves to its next phase: the creation of BMP manuals for individual golf facilities. Facility-specific BMP manuals direct and document agronomic and environmental

Thoughts *continued*

practices, and provide an accessible, detailed reference for golfers, lawmakers and community members that can give them a better understanding of the maintenance behind one of their local green spaces.

“The PGA Tour’s generosity was key in our reaching our ambitious goal of BMPs in all 50 states,” says GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans. “We thank them not only for their financial support as we move on to the next BMP step, but also for their backing of programs that help grow the game of golf and the superintendent profession like First Green and the MacCurrach Award.”

First Green provides hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education on golf courses. Each First Green field trip averages 75 students who learn about golf and the environment. For many students, these outdoor classrooms represent their first exposure to a golf course.

Editor’s note: What’s hosting a First Green field trip like? A Colorado superintendent [shares his experience](#) welcoming elementary school students to his turf.

The PGA Tour has also pledged \$50,000 over the next 10 years to the Allan MacCurrach Jr. Award, a scholarship that recognizes an outstanding nontraditional college student pursuing a career

in golf course and turfgrass management. The award is named in honor of the late Allan MacCurrach Jr., who became the PGA Tour’s first staff agronomist in 1974. The recipient receives a \$10,000 scholarship and an all-expenses-paid trip to the annual GCSAA Conference and Trade Show.

“We believe in the work GCSAA is doing to provide environmentally sustainable maintenance practices, grow the knowledge base of superintendents and introduce young people to the game,” says Paul Vermeulen, director of competitions agronomy for the PGA Tour. “We look forward to seeing these programs enhance golf’s future.”

Recently I viewed a tweet from Chris Donato, superintendent at Bass Rocks Golf Club that I believe deserves more than to be called a tweet. It has to do with the extremely wet conditions at Bass Rocks this season and how he has communicated this to the club’s members. Chris addresses the “why” of the course wetness – wetter than some other courses. He has included video to help the viewer better understand the situation. It is one of the best explanations of wet course conditions I’ve seen. I recommend you click the link to pick up some ideas for a presentation you might have thought about but weren’t sure how to present it. Thanks to Chris for sharing this with us. Click [bass rocks](#) to view his delivery.



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Thoughts *continued*

During a recent meeting of the Alliance of Massachusetts Golf Organizations (AMGO) the subject of wet conditions was brought up and how to address access to the course under Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. The question was asked: "What do you do if golf cars are limited to golf car paths only and a person with a disability cannot walk from the path to hit the next shot? Or, how to handle a situation if no golf cars are allowed because of wet conditions?"

Thanks to the follow-up of Elaine Gebhardt, Executive Director of the New England Golf Course Owners Association (NEGCOA) there is information attached that can serve as a guide if you are faced with this situation. Because of the extremely wet conditions for most of the state this year maybe this has already come up at the course you manage, and no issues arose. In the event you might be faced with this in the future, I recommend you read the following information received from Ronnie Miles, Senior Director of Advocacy for the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA).

"While we do recommend operators take reasonable steps to accommodate golfers with limited disabilities, such as having the inability to walk for extended distances. However, owners and operators have a right and responsibility to protect their property from damage created by golf carts on the turf.

If the owner has allowed their superintendent to make the call and they have determined carts should not be permitted off the cart path and are unable to identify selected areas that they may drive, they are not in conflict with ADA guidelines.

If the maintenance crew is able to drive their equipment throughout the course without damaging the turf the customer may have a reasonable argument but to date, we have not

heard of any claims filed to DOJ.

The National Alliance for Accessible Golf published a tool kit that may help owners understand their rights and responsibilities.

As I state above DOJ does not specifically address this temporary problem. Because they have denied all golfers access to the course with a cart, they are not violating ADA guidelines."

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Dr. Scott Ebdon explaining his research with grass tennis courts

The June meeting was held at Highfields Golf & Country Club in Grafton, MA. It was a beautiful day spent on a beautiful course. Mike O'Connell and his team had the course in wonderful condition and all were very happy to play on a day without rain! The staff members at Highfields were very friendly and we appreciated all they did to make the day so pleasant. Low Gross was won by Harris Schnare and Scott Vose. Low net was won by Melissa Gugliotti and Mike Murphy. Closest to the Hole #2 was won by Scott Vose who ended up 13' from the hole. Closest to the Hole. #11 was won by Matt Lapinski who ended up 6' from the hole. The June meeting typically has been our Government Relations Day. Our speakers were Eric Richardson, Chair of our Government Relations Committee. Eric spoke about current legislative and water management issues. Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Regional Staff Member spoke and urged all to make their voices heard to legislators who could have an impact on our industry.



From left: Mike Bach, Matt Campana, Rob Larson; host supt., Mike O'Connell

The UMass Turf Research Field Day was held at the Joseph Troll Turfgrass Research Center in South Deerfield, MA, July 21. The event started with registration at 8:15 and ended shortly after a noon cookout lunch. In addition to seeing friends and professional associates, the day was filled with presentations covering topics such as results of research on the maintenance of grass tennis courts, managing ABW (Annual Bluegrass Weevil), planting techniques for shrubs, dollar spot management techniques and many other useful topics. The staff, students and volunteers did an outstanding job setting up the research plots, handling the registration process and presenting the food and beverage offerings. It was gratifying to see many of the companies and their representatives who support our industry offer their support at the field day by supplying literature, offering expertise and insight on many situations faced by those responsible for maintaining the beautiful conditions golfers have come to expect as normal. Remember to support those who support you!

In a recently published article the work of three members of the GCSA of New England were featured. The article by Mark Wagner first appeared on the [Golf Course Architecture](#) website and featured the contributions of Mark Mungeam, ASGCA; Len Curtin, Superintendent at George Wright Golf Course and Russell Heller, CGCS, Superintendent at William J. Devine Golf Course. Please read more about the process of restoring the City of Boston golf courses [here](#).



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What a long, strange trip 2021 has been. This is the time of year when the job board should be filled with double-cuts and multiple rolls followed by fans, hoses, and syringing. Instead, pumping bunkers and flood rebuild seems like a daily task. The tires getting replaced are the venting variety on the aerator, not the moisture meter. I wanted to see if there were any educational or academic

resources that could be referenced to assist in the aftermath of a summer season that was cool, historically wet with minimal sunshine for weeks on end, but I couldn't really find any? I was looking to highlight changes we might see agronomically as we transition into late summer early fall. For our academics giving the newsletter a read... consider this a hint! I did want to mention a few items including some I found when scrolling the hundreds of search mishits.

Communication will play a critical piece moving forward. Whether it is with your owner, board, or internal decision maker, be sure to take pictures and document the struggles Mother Nature has dealt you this year. Increase in disease pressure, decrease in efficient mowing practices, labor intensive flood mitigation, and many more wet-weather related outcomes can negatively affect your budget. Superintendents do an amazing job of making these struggles appear as they never happened. Be sure to photograph and document for those with short memories.

The weird weather pattern of today will overshadow the strange temperature swings of the spring. It does not mean the timing difficulties of preventative practices for insect and weed control won't rear their ugly heads. In-season curative measures that are more aggressive than usual may be needed as a result. Be sure to accurately document and communicate the challenges posed and hopefully successes your programs provided.

Working in the rain is not fun. Rebuilding bunkers is not fun. Clearing storm and flood debris is not fun. Hand mowing acres of turf due to wet conditions is not fun. Having to do each of these multiple times a week can be demoralizing. Managing the staff who are facing these challenges with you is not the normal grind of the summer season. Think of outside the box opportunities to add a sip of sunshine to their work week to keep your staff both physically and mentally healthy.

Summer in the Northeast is almost always a war of attrition and full of surprises. Being reactive to conditions that are not the norm and excelling in the face of adversity is a specialty of golf course superintendents and their staffs. Communicating these challenges and successes are often not priorities during challenging times but can become critical down the road.

If you need assistance developing or improving a communication strategy, GCSAA has you covered! Check out the resources area for information to help: <https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/research-information/secure/communication>

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines **you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already**

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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 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show.

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 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in any of the previous two years prior to selection into the program (2019 or 2020). Attendees of the 2021 virtual event are eligible.

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- Active Equipment Manager Task Group volunteers are not eligible.
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The history

The Melrose Equipment Management Experience was established in 2019 by the late Ken Melrose, retired CEO and chairman of the board of The Toro Co., and is supported by a \$1-million gift to the GCSAA Foundation from The Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation. This program will have a positive impact for each equipment manager selected and ultimately, the game of golf.

The benefits

Class members will receive the following:

- GCSAA Conference and Trade Show registration
- Education seminars and leadership sessions
- Airfare
- Five nights' hotel accommodations
- \$200 spending money

AUGUST 13: GCSAA Golf Championships registration opens

The [JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa](#) will be the host resort, with play taking place on its Valley Course. Other courses welcoming golfers over the two days of events are the [Desert Willow Golf Resort's](#) Mountain View Course and the [Indian Wells Golf Resort's](#) Celebrity Course.

The GCSAA National Championship is limited to 72 GCSAA members with a 5.0 handicap index or lower and will be played over two days. The two-day Golf Classic is limited to 120 players and will use a point-quota scoring system, with flights to be determined at a later date. Finally, the three-person team scramble fun event will be limited to the first 36 teams, or 108 players.

[GCSAA Golf Championships \(gcsaaconference.com\)](https://gcsaaconference.com) to register.

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Brian A. Aynardi, Ph.D.

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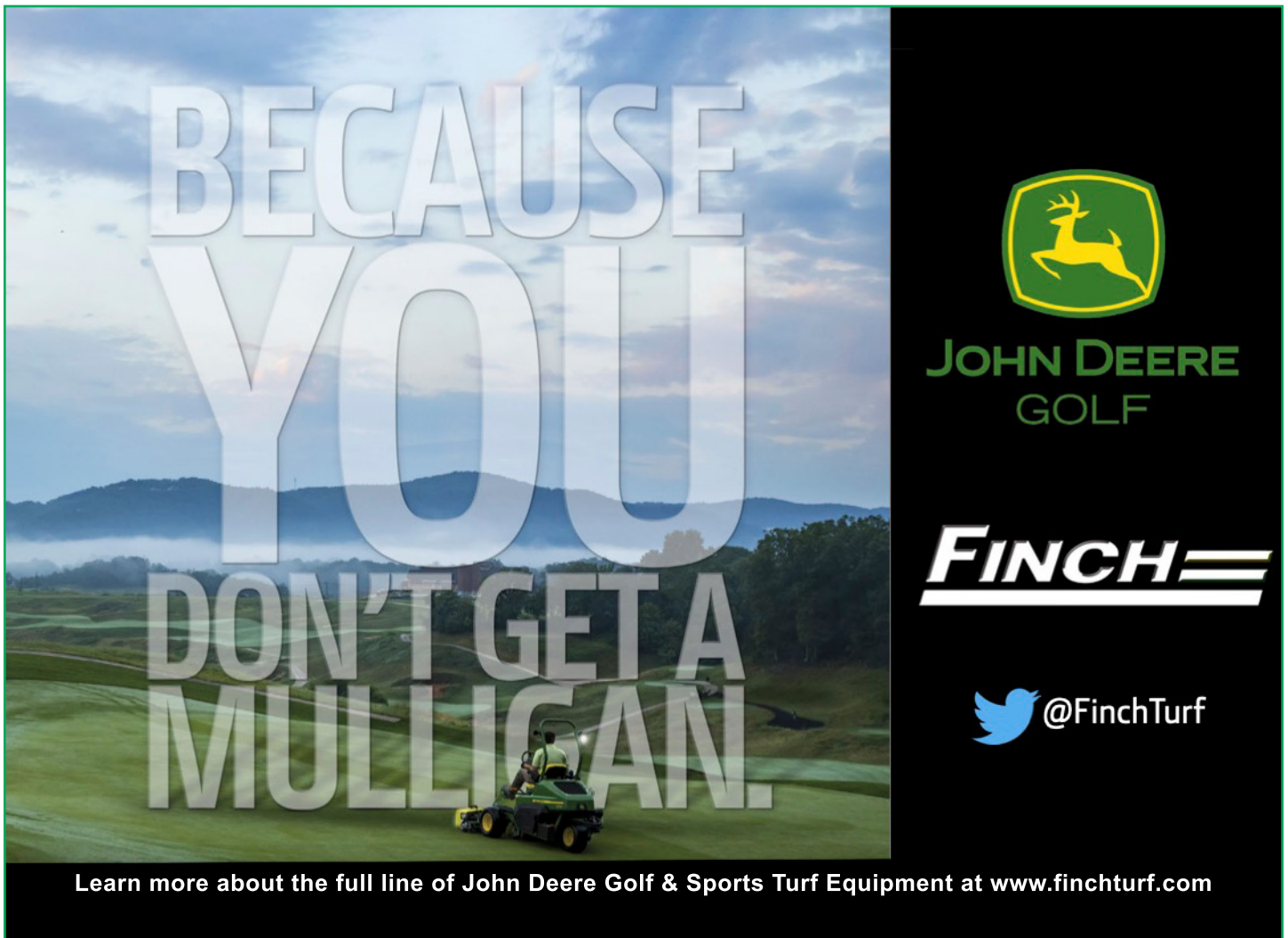
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July-August 2021



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