



THE NEWSLETTER

May - June 2023

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

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AMGO Honored at 2022 Economic Impact of Golf Forum *By Don Hearn*



We were represented at the recent announcement of the 2022 Economic Impact Report of Golf in Massachusetts held at the William J. Devine Golf Course at Franklin Park in Boston, MA, May 12. A copy of this report has been sent out to the membership. If you need another report let me know and I'll send one to you in electronic form. Our president, Brian Skinner, CGCS; Industry Representative, Greg Cormier, CGCS, Legislative Agent, Steve Boksanski and myself attended the announcement of the report. I gave a brief presentation of our role as superintendents and caretakers of the environment. Others made presentations regarding their respective roles in our world of golf. Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kimberly Driscoll issued a citation recognizing the Alliance of Massachusetts Golf Organizations (AMGO) for their contributions to the Commonwealth. They also issued an announcement declaring Massachusetts Golf Weekend (May 12-14) and recognizing AMGO for their contributions to golf and the well-being of the state's residents.



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Back Issues!



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

As in the past, *The Newsletter* continues to invite
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May - June 2023



Thoughts From Your Executive Director *by Don Hearn*



Since the last issue of The Newsletter was published, I've seen some examples of appreciation for our members that I want to share. The first is the naming of the maintenance facility at Gardner Municipal Golf Course in Gardner, MA

in honor of Mike Hermanson the long-time superintendent at the course. Mike was the superintendent at Gardner for 37 years before retiring in 2009. Some of the many improvements undertaken during Mike's time there include the expansion of the parking areas, the acquisition of 68 acres of land, the construction of a new putting green, the addition of a 10-acre practice facility and the construction of a new maintenance facility. These improvements were all part of a large project undertaken at the course. The only other maintenance facility I'm aware of being named in honor of a course superintendent is the facility at Woodland Golf Club in Auburndale, MA. That facility is named in honor of Norman Mucciarone who served as Woodland's superintendent before handing the reins to his son, David, who recently retired as the second generation Mucciarone to serve as superintendent at the club.



Another club that paid tribute to their superintendents is Mt Pleasant Golf Club in Lowell, MA. During a course rating visit to the course I saw two plaques dedicated to the superintendents who preceded current superintendent Chuck Malatesta. Meindert "Red" Schults, who passed away, and Jack Hassett, who retired, collectively spent 55 years tending the turf at "MP" as the club is affectionately called. Red was the superintendent at Mt. Pleasant from 1959 to 1981.



Jack was superintendent from 1984 to 2017. The plaque at the base of a tree carved by a chain saw artist and dedicated to Jack Hassett reads "Jack Hassett, Superintendent, Mount Pleasant Golf Club, 1984 to 2017." The plaque honoring Red Schults reads "In Memory of Meindert "Red" Schults, Golf Course

Superintendent, 1959 to 1981." It's nice to see the club recognize the service of both former superintendents in this way.

This year we were once again presented with a Golden Passport booklet by the New England Golf Course Owners Association (NEGCOA). The offers in it include rounds of golf for two (and sometimes four) at a wide range of courses throughout the region. When redeemed the players do not pay green fees, however, most coupons do require a cart fee to be paid. This year all 200 booklets sold out in 2 hours and the cost was \$399.00

For over ten years, the Golden Passport to New England Golf has provided an outstanding playing opportunity for golfers to play at different locations. Every round in the Golden Passport was donated by New England courses. This year 46 courses participated.

This year's lucky bidder was a person from Townsend, MA who bid \$540.00 for the booklet. The proceeds from this kind gesture by the NEGCOA will be added to our Scholarship and Benevolence fund. Thanks to Elaine Gebhardt, Executive Director and the NEGCOA board of directors for their generosity.



from left: Robert McNeil, Dave Johnson, Gary Young (photo by Tom Hoffer)

Another club that recently honored a superintendent is Whitinsville Golf Club in Whitinsville, MA. The occasion was to honor three people who spent time at the club during the early years of their careers. Robert McNeil, Dave Johnson and Gary Young were honored for their success in the world of golf.

The following italicized text was written by Affiliate Member, Tom Hoffer.

It's not often that someone in our industry is awarded a Lifetime Honorary Membership, but that happened at Whitinsville Golf Club and it wasn't just one of us, it was two!

Thoughts (continued)

On Friday, April 14th WGC bestowed this achievement to Dave Johnson and Robert McNeil, who are known to many of us. Also honored was Gary Young, Sr. Vice President of Rules, Competitions and Administration for the PGA TOUR.

Many of you know Dave as he just hosted the 122nd U.S. Open at The Country Club in Brookline, MA. Before his time at TCC, he grew up in Dudley, MA and learned the game of golf at Dudley Hill Golf Club. He earned a degree in Plant and Soil Science from UMASS in 1997 and secured his first post graduate job at Wachusett Country Club.

In 2004 Dave was hired at Whitinsville Golf Club and was the Superintendent for 10 years. During this time, Dave was instrumental in transforming the course from an under the radar 9-hole layout to one of the most highly rated golf courses in the country. This was accomplished by hiring Gil Hanse to perform a golf course restoration in 2009 that was carried out in-house by expanding greens and fairways to original size and scope, cutting down a bunch of trees and improving turf conditions to top level performance.

Dave was hired by Wianno Golf Club to become Superintendent following the 2014 season and then continued his ascension to TCC a few years later. He is a longtime GCSAA member and also locally of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Cape Cod (GCSACC) and Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England (GCSANE).

Robert McNeil has committed his life to the game of golf since designing and laying out his first golf course in his backyard while growing up in Northbridge, MA. He became a Junior Member at Whitinsville in the late 1970's and was on the mythical 1984 Northbridge High School state championship golf team! He went on to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Business Admin from Bryant University in RI and then his Master's in Landscape Architecture from The Ohio State University.

Rob's lifelong goal was to become a golf course architect and worked hard to fulfill this goal by working for Bird/Houk Land Planners and Architects and next for Keith Foster Golf Course Design. Rob's big breakthrough came in 1996 when he created his own firm that he continues to operate to this day, The Northeast Golf Company. Over the next 25+ years Rob built and renovated many golf courses across the world, including Kernwood in Salem, MA, Mohegan Sun Country Club in Baltic, CT and two new layouts in Romania!

Rob is a distinguished member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) and a member locally of the Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association (RIGCSA).

Next time you see Dave or Rob, please congratulate them on their Honorary Memberships!


Gary comes from the golf professional side of our business. He grew up in Northbridge, MA and played golf at Whitinsville

with Robert McNeil. Currently he is Sr. Vice President of Rules, Competitions and Administration for the PGA TOUR. He became a first-team All-America golfer at Bryant University before playing the Sunshine Tour in South Africa from 1988-1990. He worked at Pleasant Valley CC in Sutton for 22 years, first in the bag room, then as an assistant for four years and then as head golf professional and director of golf for a dozen years.

The club presented each with a testimonial of their honorary membership and an engraved wooden case with a personalized bag tag.




A First Green event was held at the William J. Devine Golf Course in Dorchester, MA, June 8. Founded in 1997, First Green is the only STEM education and environmental outreach program in the United States and Canada that uses golf courses as learning labs. First Green, a Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) program, pairs golf courses with local schools for unique Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning opportunities. To read more about the program click this link

Students from a local school visited the course and were treated to an insight on procedures and some of the technical side of our



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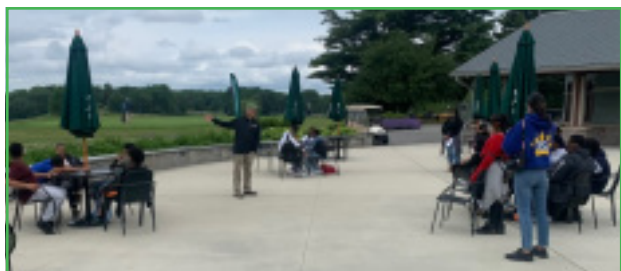
Thoughts *(continued)*



profession. They rotated through learning stations featuring soils, insects, equipment, area calculations and had a putting lesson.

Thanks to Russell Heller, superintendent for being the host of this, his second First Green event. Also helping to make this a great day for the students were the following GCSA of New England members: Brian Skinner, President of the GCSA of New England and Superintendent of Bellevue Golf Club; Chris Donato, Superintendent of Bass Rocks Golf Club; Ed Downing, Director of Material Sourcing for Read Custom Soils; David Stowe, Superintendent of Newton Commonwealth Golf Course; Mike Murphy, Superintendent of the Robert T. Lynch Municipal Golf Club. Putting lessons were given by Kevin Frawley, Golf Professional at the facility.

Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Northeast Regional Staff Member for GCSAA was a tremendous help during the day and assisted with the set up and learning experience for the children.



Russell Heller welcoming students to the course



Kevin Frawley, far right, teaching the basics of putting.



Chris Donato kneeling while explaining the functions of mowing and grooming equipment and being observed by Brian Skinner and Russ Heller.



David Stowe reviewing the various insects found on golf courses.



Ed Downing explaining the different soils and mixes used on golf courses and sports fields.



Mike Murphy, left with Kevin Doyle calculating area measurements.



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Press Release By Gary Sykes



May 26, 2023

The New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation recently held its 26th Annual Meeting on May 23, 2023 where a new Executive Board was elected. Robert B. Searle, Golf Course Superintendent of the Abenakee Club in Biddertord Pool, Maine has been the President of the foundation for the past two years. Bob has succeeded over Mark Mansur of the Westmoor Club on Nantucket and represents the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Benjamin J. Polimer of the Town of Weston, who represents the New England Sports Turf Managers Association (NESTMA), will be seated as the Vice-President/Secretary. Ben joined the board in 2020.

Ryan Walsh, of the Woods Hole Golf Club and who represents the Golf Course Superintendent Association of Cape Cod will serve as the new Treasurer. The foundation continues to be in good hands!

The Foundation consists of 2 delegates from each of the 7 GCSAA Chapters located in New England, 2 delegates from the Sports Turf Managers Association of New England (NESTMA) and 1 delegate from the Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals (MALCP) for a total of 17 members. Advisory board members consist of Mary Owen (UMass) and John Inguagiato (UConn).

The 26th Annual Conference and Trade Show was held on March 7-9, 2023. Many great speakers and presentations were received by those attending. More than 1700 attendees spent time in seminars, in sessions and on the trade show floor. Pesticide recertification credits were available from nearly all the seminars and sessions. The highly energetic Trade Show was well attended, and you couldn't help but appreciate the activity on the show floor. Many of the area's industry vendors contributed generously to the 3-day program through sponsorships helping to enhance the attendee experience with three days of food and receptions. The Show's live auction was very well supported by Vendor donations. A new record of \$31,625.00 was raised for turfgrass research from the auction. The foundation is planning the 27th annual Conference and Show in Providence on March 5-7, 2024. For more information on the show and New England Turfgrass Research please visit our website: www.nertf.org or call 401-841-5490.

In other NERTF news, the 12th annual Tee-Up New England rounds of golf auction was held April 10-17, 2023. 103 rounds of golf, a Day of Grass Tennis at Longwood Cricket Club and a Golden Passport to New England Golf donated by the New England Golf Course Owners Association were auctioned off. A record \$49,755.00 was raised to help fund turfgrass research for the NERTF and ATG. The 2024 Tee-Up New England auction is planned for April 15-22. The foundation recently cleared a milestone, with Tee-Up New England's help, the foundation has funded more than \$2.6M of turfgrass research in New England since March 1998! The first New England Regional Turfgrass



2023-2024 New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation Board

R to L seated: Mary Owen, David & Nancy Rosenberg, Ben Polimer, Mark Mansur, Robert Searle, Ryan Walsh, Mike Buras and Gary Sykes R to L standing: Mark Richard, Peter Rappoccio, Randy Weeks, Phil Neaton, Rick Lewis, John Clark and Cliff Drezek

Conference and Show was held in March 1998, and the first University research proposals were submitted later that year. The foundation continues to focus on turfgrass research here in New England for the New England Turfgrass Industry. We thank everyone for their support!



May - June 2023



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New England GCSAA Assistant/Equipment Technician Tournament

By: Colby Major, The Kittansett Club

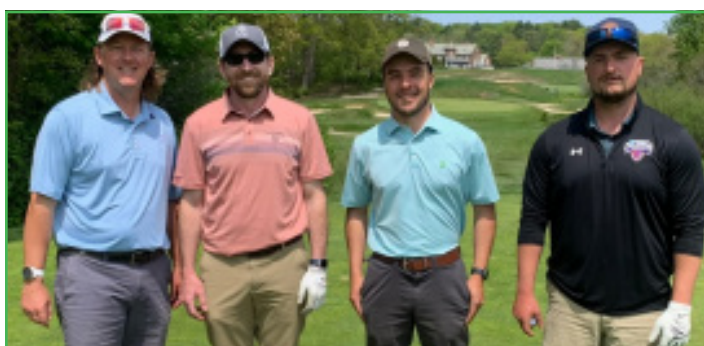
The Annual New England GCSAA Assistant/ Equipment technician tournament was held at Essex County Club in Manchester-by-the Sea, MA on May 15th. Essex County Club played host to over 70 Assistants, AITs, Equipment Technicians and industry affiliates. The round commenced mid-morning and golfers were welcomed back to the clubhouse with beverages, a stellar BBQ lunch from The BBQ Broker, raffle, and winning prizes.

Last year we were fortunate enough to have the Assistant/ Equipment Tech tournament on Martha's Vineyard and play Vineyard Golf Club. It was a great turnout even with the difficulty of getting out to the Island. This year's turnout was even better and the caliber of the course didn't disappoint. Hosting this tournament would not be possible without the overwhelming support from our affiliates. We are grateful for your continued support and will use the funds for hosting more events in the off season for Assistants to gather, network and maybe learn a thing or two.

The conditioning, hospitality and camaraderie from Essex staff was outstanding and we owe a special thank you to Eric Richardson and his team. Eric has been an integral part of the success of the Assistant committee since its inception in 2022. He has been on board with us from the very start to make it so Assistants can expand their skill set and knowledge in this profession through networking with other Assistant and industry professionals, continuing education and participating events like this and many more to come. Assistants are the future of this industry and the sooner we can get involved, the better.



from left Mike Donovan, Robin Hayes, Patrick Custy, Daniel Peterson, Joseph Woods



from left Tom Hoffer, Jim Favreau, Tommy Chicoine, Max Davis



from left Matt Ponte, Jordan Koester, John Raikos, Jackson MacPhearson



from left Joe Lazaro, Peter Jacobson, Mark Mello, Zach Farney



from left Jay Popko, Ryan Boudreau, Brad Gale, Mike Leahy



from left Pat Seigny, Derek O'Dea, Anthony Massello



from left Garrett Whitney, Jake Donohue, James Tyler, Alex Foster



from left Scott Mackintosh, Colby Major, Andrew Travers



from left Chris Phillips, Steve McCormack, David Bailey, Brian Lescrinier



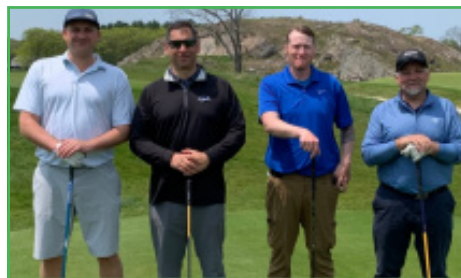
from left Patrick Hennessy, Patrick Simmons, Chase Dembek, Joseph Costa



from left Melissa Gugliotti, Chuck Bramball, David Miethe, Benjamin Boepple



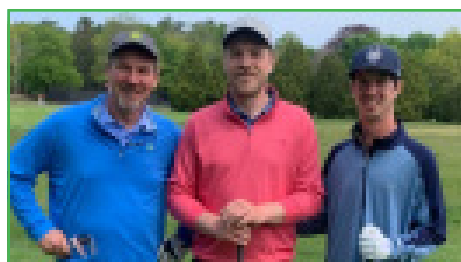
from left Jeff Kinney, Chris Grady, Sam Evans



from left Ben Petersen, Greg Cormier, Ryan O'Neil, Glenn Pergamo



from left Jeff Brooks, Kyle Franey, William Baker, Matt Aufiero



from left Mark Casey, Andrew Feder, Jason Gerich



from left Lou Bettencourt, Dylan Deotte, Jonathan Matte, Brendan O'Neil



from left Mike Turner, Jake Gartley, Andrew Stem, Matt Campbell

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Assistant Superintendent Spotlight: Andrew Travers, Essex Country Club

Interviewed by: Colby Major, The Kittansett Club



Give the readers a background of how you got involved and interested in the turf industry and your path on how you got (back) to Essex.

I grew up in Lynn and started playing golf at an early age at Gannon Municipal Golf Course. In high school I worked in the Pro Shop and at that point I thought I wanted to become a Golf Pro. I'm sure glad I didn't. My brother worked on the grounds crew at Gannon and one day the Superintendent, Steve Murphy, asked

me if I wanted to work the grounds too. So, I worked grounds in the morning until lunch, then in the pro shop until close. I enjoyed working outside and was really interested in the science and art of managing a golf course. Steve told me about the Turf Program at UMass Amherst, so I applied and was very fortunate to get in. During my time at UMass, I interned for Ryan Chase and Pat Meehan at Oyster Harbors Club for one summer and spent two summers at Baltusrol Golf Club in New Jersey working for Mark Kuhns. I graduated from UMass in 2017 and was lucky to get a second assistant position here at Essex. I was promoted to Senior Assistant in my second season. In 2020, after 4 seasons, I needed a change of pace, so I decided to give Chicago a try. I spent two seasons as Senior Assistant at Sunset Ridge Country Club, which was about twenty minutes north of Chicago. I enjoyed Sunset Ridge and am grateful for my time there, but Massachusetts is home. This is where I want to be. Luckily, Eric Richardson took me back and I am thrilled to be back at Essex Country Club. It was the right move for me both personally and professionally.

Hobbies and interests outside of golf?

Outside of golf, I like to spend time with family and friends. When I can I like to get out on a boat either on the ocean or a lake and just relax.



What is your favorite part of working on golf courses?

My favorite part of working on golf courses is no one else does what we do. We wear many hats and every day we ultimately create playing conditions for our members and guests. It sounds corny but I think that's really cool.

What is your least favorite part of working on a golf course?

My least favorite part of working on a golf course is people always asking you for free golf.

Do you prefer the winter season with projects galore or the grind of summer time?

I prefer the winter season with projects galore. Things are much more relaxed in the winter. Also, when you think about it, those winter projects, most of the time will only be beneficial and make that summer time grind a little easier.

What's your favorite Golf Course you've played and what is on top of your bucket list?

My favorite golf course that I have played would have to be the Lower Course at Baltusrol. On top of my bucket list would be The Old Course at St. Andrews.

What are some ways we can get more people interested in becoming Assistant Superintendents?

One way we can get more people interested in becoming Assistant Superintendents is showcasing the industry more through different media outlets. GCSAA and GCSANE have done a good job of that, but I think we definitely could do more. Another way we can get more people interested is visiting your local agriculture high school and universities and talk to students about all that we do.

What would you like to see change within our industry to help promote Assistant Superintendents and the value they bring

to golf course operations?

I am very fortunate that my Superintendent has realized this and already taken steps to change it, but I think the biggest thing that needs to change is Assistants need to be paid more across the board. I know that's tough to hear for those who weren't making that much when they were assistants, but it needs to change. I think a better work life balance would also promote Assistant Superintendents.

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By Sarah Garone, NDTR

Be honest: When was the last time you took a lengthy, leisurely lunch break? If you're like many of us, it's been a while.

According to one 2022 survey, 40% of people only occasionally, rarely, or never take breaks during the workday. It's a situation that's not hard to understand. With more and more folks working from home or on a less-structured schedule (thanks, pandemic), the midday meal can tend to fall by the wayside. It's just so easy to shovel something in while responding to emails, writing up reports, or participating in a camera-off Zoom call.

But eating lunch away from the pressures of work has some surprising benefits for both mental and physical health. We've got six compelling reasons to make time for a daily meal away from your desk:

Taking a lunch break could improve your digestion

Been feeling bloated or crampy? A lower-stress lunch might be one key to smoother, more efficient digestion. "Any sort of stress can impair digestion," explains registered dietitian Kim Kulp, RDN. (Yes, eating in front of your computer counts as stress.)

"The parasympathetic nervous system is activated when we're calm and is known as the 'rest and digest' system. This allows gastric juices and digestive enzymes to be released so they can help with better absorption of nutrients," Kulp explains. "If you don't take a calming break for lunch, you may not digest your meal well, which could lead to stomach pain or bloating."

So step away from those client needs and let your digestive system do its thing, unimpaired by work stress. (And if you need a little extra help chilling out on your lunch break, you can always try a calming supplement with lunch.)

The afternoon slump is a legit phenome-

non—your circadian rhythm¹ naturally slows you down around midafternoon.

Granted, taking a lunch break won't alter your internal sleep-wake cycle, but Kulp says it could keep energy levels steadier in the latter half of the day.

"Taking time in the middle of a busy day to eat a relaxing meal can improve the communication between the gut and the brain," she says. "During digestion, the gut releases neurotransmitters that talk to the brain and can affect mood. Having a more relaxing lunch can lead to feeling happier and more energized."

For a lasting dose of afternoon oomph, Kulp recommends a meal that combines fiber-rich carbohydrates with protein. Try a salad with chicken, a sandwich with meat and veggies, or a bean wrap.

It promotes productivity

It's a strange but true paradox: Take time away from work and you're likely to get more work done. But according to Harvard Business Review, North American employees who take a daily lunch break report higher engagement with their work, including greater job satisfaction, productivity, and likelihood of recommending their

workplace to others.

"After about 90 minutes of productivity, our focus tends to dwindle a bit, so it makes sense to take a break and give yourself a reset before it's time to start a new cycle of productive work," says therapist Paige Reichtman, LMHC. "Clearing your head midday can help you return to work with a fresh perspective."

It might make you a more mindful eater

You can't exactly eat mindfully with your eyes glued to a screen or doing 65 on the freeway between work meetings. By its very definition, mindful eating requires slowing down and focusing on the food in front of you. A lunch break is an opportunity to tap into this unplugged, more pleasurable form of dining.

Whereas distracted eating is associated with anxiety, overeating, and weight gain², mindful eating has been linked to reduced disordered eating behaviors, better diet quality, and even weight loss. (And hey, eating at an actual table means you won't have to wipe ketchup spills off your laptop, either.)



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It's an opportunity for physical activity

All work and no play... well, you know the rest. Consider using your time out of work mode to enjoy some physical activity after your meal. It'll add to your daily movement goal and stabilize your blood sugar post-lunch. Research shows³ that just 15 minutes of walking after eating improved blood sugar control.

It could bring down your overall stress levels

It seems like our collective stress levels just keep rising higher—and staying tethered to work all day doesn't help. Pausing for lunch is a step in the direction of a less harried, hectic lifestyle.

"Taking time out of your day for a lunch break is a wonderful self-care practice that can expand into other areas of your life," Rechtman says. "If you can practice making time for yourself at work, you may find it easier to do so in your personal life as well—especially when you see how much



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This year's Bear Cup was contested May 1 at the Wollaston Golf Club in Milton, MA. The Cape, Rhode Island and New England Associations competed to win this year's event along with the bragging rights. The Cape Association won the event and will keep the trophy for the next year. Host Superintendent Tim Kurr and his talented team had the course in excellent condition. The preceding heavy rains that added to the challenge of conditioning stopped in time for the event to be played under sunny skies.

The Cape Association was this year's host and we offer our thanks to Julie Heston, Chapter Executive; Parish Pina, Golf Chair, Peter Jacobson and all from the Cape who contributed their time and expertise to help make this event a success.

1st Place - Wins the Cup - Team Cape Cod
2nd Place - Rhode Island
3rd Place - New England

Best Ball of Twosome

Gross:

1st Tom Hoffer, Pat Meehan
2nd Alex Stimpson, Matt Emond
3rd Kurt Calderwood, Ed Gianni

Net:

1st Jeff Urquhart, Brian Daigneau
2nd Mark Casey, Joe Gallagher
3rd Brian Juneau, Mike Poch

Closest to the Pin:

CTP #3 Matt Lapinski
CTP #6 Pat Meehan
CTP #12 Kurt Calderwood
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Chris Tufts, left and Peter Lanman



From left: Brian Marfione, Tim Kurr, Host Superintendent; Pat Meehan, Tom Hoffer



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For information on any aspect of UMass Turf Research Field Day, contact Jason Lanier at (413) 545-2965; jdl@umass.edu, or Ellen Weeks at weeks@umass.edu

Thank you,

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January 9, 2023

GCSA of New England
Don Hearn, CGCS, Executive Director
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Since the program's inception, FMC has donated over \$100,000 directly back to local GCSAA chapters to invest in member education and support the local initiatives of the chapters. **We look forward to the kickoff of the 2023 FMC Give Back to Local Chapters Program at the FMC booth (#2073) at the GCSAA Conference in Orlando!**

If you have any questions, please contact your local FMC Market Specialist. Thank you for supporting FMC.

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January 9, 2023

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