



THE NEWSLETTER

September - October 2023

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

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President's Message by Brian F. Skinner



We are getting there!

The window is slowly closing on daily set up, course prep and applications. To me, it can't come soon enough. This season seems to have had persistent pressure in all phases of the game to quote Bill Belichick. It seems like we have had to pay closer attention than normal for this time of year. At any rate, we will soon be on to projects and construction without disruption!

Hopefully the Board too will enjoy this unimpeded period by shifting its focus back on the Association business that includes the continuation of our promotional initiative that we began several years ago. As we develop new ideas that shed light on our profession, we are challenged with ways to implement our message. Social media has been our number one preference but has been challenging to put into place. We will continue working on this until we feel we have it right. The good news is that we have a strong foundation and several tools in the toolbox that will help deliver our message to those outside our industry.

Additionally, our efforts continue with all other Association business and many thanks to all those involved in making sure things run smoothly. So much goes on behind the scenes and our volunteers deserve much appreciation for all their efforts. Please take a moment to say thank you and feel free to step up and inquire about participation at any level if the time is right for you!

Best Regards,

Brian Skinner
GCSANE President

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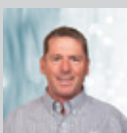
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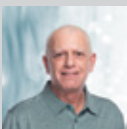
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Thoughts From Your Executive Director *by Don Hearn*

On August 30, representatives of the Green Industry Alliance (GIA) met with the new Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and her team, most of whom have been at the department several years. This meeting allowed us to meet the commissioner, Ashley Randle, and members of her team to help us have a good working relationship with the commissioner and her team.

In addition to Commissioner Randle, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Staff Alisha Bouchard, Director of Crop & Pest Services Taryn LaScola, Chief Pesticide Inspector for Crop & Pest Services Michael McClean, and Deputy Commissioner/Legislative and Policy Director Winton Picoff were in attendance.

The meeting was cordial and collaborative. There was a strong sense that they are in alignment with us on many issues related to pesticides and fertilizers and agree that more education and awareness among the public and legislators is important. We also heard that the Department is going to be a little more involved in helping to educate/inform legislators. This is a positive shift from the way things worked in the previous administration.

Cox, Rich Gagnon, Joe Gallagher, Willem Geldenhuys, Mike Nagle, Dave Rice and Steve Thys. The team finished in fourth place and had a wonderful time at Point Judith interacting with others in our profession.

Recently we arranged with Tee Commerce to make available a line of clothing and accessories with the GCSA of New England logo displayed. To access the catalog you can view it on the homepage of our website at gcsane.org. This link will also bring you to the catalog <https://gcsane.teecommerce.shop/>. There is merchandise available that will fit your budget and show your support of the Association.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE	181
MAINE	147

The New England Superintendent Championship took place October 2 at the Point Judith Country Club in Narragansett, Rhode Island where Brett Johnson is superintendent. Brett and his team had the course in exceptional condition on a beautiful day for golf and camaraderie. Eight players from each of the 7 New England associations made the trip to Point Judith and were treated to a perfectly conditioned course with hospitality to match. The GCSA of New England was represented by Mike Bach, Jeremy



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Thoughts *(continued)*



Jim Conant, CGCS at the Country Club of Pittsfield, who will be retiring from the club at the end of the year, was recently recognized for his many years as Superintendent as the guest of honor at an event held to recognize his contributions to the club's success. Many Club members attended a festive day and evening at the club to help honor him. Jim was presented with an honorary membership and words of recognition from club officials. He mentioned he

will enjoy playing the course without the pressure of maintaining excellent playing conditions that members and guests have enjoyed during his tenure. Jim has been a contributor to our profession, a supporter of the Stockbridge School at UMass, and is a recipient of the GCSA of New England's Distinguished Service Award. We wish Jim a happy and healthy retirement.

The New England Golf Course Owners Association (NEGCOA) held their outing at the Marlborough Country Club, October 5, 2023. Over 100 people attended to learn more about the business of golf and issues of ownership. After a discussion of examples associated with wet weather, course abuse, labor and insurance the group had a wonderful barbeque lunch then headed off to the course for a shotgun start. After golf there were appetizers, prizes, a raffle and mingling with attendees.



Brian Cowan with son Chris, wife Joan and daughter Jen



*From left: Jim Staszowski, Bob Ruzsala, Doug Zeytoonjian, Michael Fox, Dean of the UMass College of Natural Resources.
Photo by Shaun Barry*

The 2023 edition of the Joseph Troll Turf Classic was held October 4, 2023 at the Pine Hills Golf Club in Plymouth, MA. Joe Felicetti and his turf team had the course in great shape and all commented in glowing terms about what they experienced.

This annual event is hosted by the Alumni Turf Group (ATG). The ATG was formed in 2005 to enhance the funding of turf research and education at the University of Massachusetts.

This year's honorees were Brian Cowan, CGCS, retired superintendent of Eastward Ho! where he spent 44 years as Superintendent and Jim Staszowski, a 40+ year manager at Turf Products Corporation, the local TORO distributor. Both are well known and highly regarded for their contributions to the profession and industry in which we specialize.

The ATG is already planning for the 2024 event!

Thoughts (continued)



From left: Mary Lou Tyler, Ben Tyler, David Stowe



From left: Greg Cincotta, Peter Rappoccio, Sr., Peter Rappoccio, Adrien Marcoux

The annual Scholarship and Benevolence Tournament was held at the Concord Country Club in Concord, MA, October 10. This year 112 players registered for the event and enjoyed a good weather day coupled with a club that did all they could to make the event one of the best yet. The golf course, under the management of Peter Rappoccio, CGCS and his team of experts, had the course in fantastic condition and all I spoke with raved about the course conditions. General Manager Greg Cincotta and Assistant Manager Sarah Killilea had all in order upon arrival until the last person left the event. Golf Professional Dave Poplyk, Assistant Golf Professional Adrien Marcoux and Outside Services Manager Glenn Sullivan took care of the pairings, golf cars, and scoring

with a smile and friendly attitude. The food preparation under the direction of Chef Tim Schutt was delicious and all enjoyed their meal. The entire club staff made the day a very pleasant one for all who attended the event.

The day was capped off by the presentation of a crystal vase to Mary Lou and Ben Tyler, widow and son respectively of Kip Tyler. Kip was the longtime superintendent at Salem Country Club and this year's memorial honoree who passed away after a courageous battle with glioblastoma.

Without the sponsors, players, donors and support of so many who contributed to the event's success, there would be no scholarships available. We owe each our appreciation and recognize them here:

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Thoughts (continued)



The Scholarship and Benevolence Committee led by David Stowe, Chair, and committee members Greg Cormier, Bob Dembek, Jim Fitzroy, Bob Healey, Don Hearn and Mike Hermanson contributed their time before, during and after the event to help make it a success.

The Annual Meeting of Mass Golf took place at the Winchester Country Club, October 12. There was a full room of member club representatives, Mass Golf staff and officials. Some staff and committee members made presentations to the group and informed us of the programs sponsored by Mass Golf. There are many. Mass Golf is now the second largest golf association in the country. Only the Southern California Golf Association is larger.

The meeting was conducted by Alan MacDonald, outgoing president and “all around nice guy” who has represented Mass Golf as President the past two years. He will be followed by Megan Bearce, who was elected the first woman president of Mass Golf.

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Coffee's Brain-Boosting Effect Goes Beyond Caffeine *By Megan Brooks*

Coffee's ability to boost alertness is commonly attributed to [caffeine](#), but new research suggests there may be other underlying mechanisms that explain this effect.

"There is a widespread anticipation that coffee boosts alertness and psychomotor performance. By gaining a deeper understanding of the mechanisms underlying this biological phenomenon, we pave the way for investigating the factors that can influence it and even exploring the potential advantages of those mechanisms," study investigator Nuno Sousa, MD, PhD, with the University of Minho, Braga, Portugal, said in a statement.

The study was [published online](#) June 28 in *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*.

Caffeine Can't Take All the Credit

Certain compounds in coffee, including caffeine and chlorogenic acids, have well-documented psychoactive effects, but the psychological impact of coffee/caffeine consumption as a whole remains a matter of debate.

The researchers investigated the neurobiological impact of coffee drinking on brain connectivity using resting-state functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

They recruited 47 generally healthy adults (mean age, 30; 31 women) who regularly drank a minimum of one cup of coffee per day. Participants refrained from eating or drinking caffeinated beverages for at least 3 hours prior to undergoing fMRI.

To tease out the specific impact of caffeinated coffee intake, 30 habitual coffee drinkers (mean age, 32; 27 women) were given hot water containing the same amount of caffeine, but they were not given coffee.

The investigators conducted two fMRI scans – one before, and one 30 minutes after drinking coffee or caffeine-infused water.

Both drinking coffee and drinking plain caffeine in water led to a decrease in functional connectivity of the brain's default mode network, which is typically active during self-reflection in resting states.

This finding suggests that consuming either coffee or caffeine heightened individuals' readiness to transition from a state of rest

to engaging in task-related activities, the researchers note.

However, drinking a cup of coffee also boosted connectivity in the higher visual network and the right executive control network, which are linked to working memory, cognitive control, and goal-directed behavior – something that did not occur from drinking caffeinated water.

"Put simply, individuals exhibited a height-

ened state of preparedness, being more responsive and attentive to external stimuli after drinking coffee," said first author Maria Picó-Pérez, PhD, with the University of Minho.

Given that some of the effects of coffee also occurred with caffeine alone, it's "plausible to assume that other caffeinated beverages may share similar effects," she added.

Still, certain effects were specific to coffee



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drinking, “likely influenced by factors such as the distinct aroma and taste of coffee or the psychological expectations associated with consuming this particular beverage,” the researcher write.

The investigators report that the observations could provide a scientific foundation for the common belief that coffee increases alertness and cognitive functioning. Further research is needed to differentiate the effects of caffeine from the overall experience of drinking coffee.

A limitation of the study is the absence of a nondrinker control sample (to rule out the withdrawal effect) or an alternative group that consumed decaffeinated coffee (to rule out the placebo effect of coffee intake) — something that should be considered in future studies, the researchers note.

The study was funded by the Institute for the Scientific Information on Coffee. The authors declare no relevant conflicts of interest.

Front Behav Neurosci. Published online June 28, 2023. [Full text](#)



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