



# THE NEWSLETTER

September 2006

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

Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund – Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

## **Steve Curry and the Alumni Turf Group – Working Together with UMass to Restore the Turf Program to its Former Prominence**

By **ANDREW MERRITT**

Steve Curry is on a mission.

By day, Curry is the Superintendent at Berkshire Hills County Club in Pittsfield, a 6,778-yard layout tucked into Berkshire County. But once the work is done there, Curry takes on a different role. He is also the President of the Alumni Turf Group (ATG), an organization dedicated to furthering the turfgrass program at the University of Massachusetts through assistance with the program itself as well as alumni relations.

A 1993 UMass grad, Curry finished his work at the prestigious Stockbridge School of Agriculture in 1991. Since then, in addition to furthering his own career, he has worked to strengthen the ATG, as well as the UMass turfgrass program.

Curry, 38, was born in Syracuse, and spent some of his childhood years living near Hershey Country Club in Pennsylvania, with the perfect backyard: a nine-hole golf course.

"I grew up running around there as a kid, watching the guys mow the greens and fairways," he says. "In the '70s, Hershey Country Club hosted the Ladies Keystone Open every year, and that was a big to-do. That was right when Nancy Lopez was in her prime, so I often volunteered for the tournament, and that was part of how I got involved in the golf business."

What ultimately swung his interest from the golf side to course mainte-

nance was a little bit of star-gazing, aimed at a familiar face.

"What actually put me in the business was working at a club when I was in high school and college. Then, I heard about a guy from my hometown that had landed the superintendent's job at the No. 1 golf course in the world (Pine Valley Golf Club) and the talk around town about that really peaked my interest in the profession."

Rick Christian is still the superintendent at Pine Valley in Clementon, N.J., and is a large part of that club's reputation as one of the best in the world.

"Rick was interviewed by one of the turf magazines about getting the job," he adds. "I remember reading that and thinking, 'I could do this for a living!'"

Curry's family moved to Litchfield in 1980, and he enrolled at UMass in 1989. That began his relationship with the Stockbridge program, and specifically turfgrass management.

"At the point in time when I went to school I never looked beyond UMass. UMass was known as the place to go for turf management" he says. "It was where [Christian] had gone, and there was a coworker at the club I was at who was also attending the UMass Turf Program."

Now, Curry is one of the leading voices of advocacy for a renowned UMass program that he says needs "reinvigorating" since the 1986 retirement of Joe Troll, the program's "king-pin."

"Dr. Troll was very well connected in the industry, and worked very hard to keep the turf students motivated," Curry says. "Once he retired, I don't want to say the program faltered, but it didn't continue on the same track. It lost some of its strength, because he really pushed it, kept it strong. At the same time that happened, the programs at schools like Rutgers, Penn State, and Michigan State all got stronger."

"So basically we were looking at a weakened position in the industry for the UMass turf program."

Through fundraisers and other events, Curry and the ATG are trying to strengthen both the program that today's undergrads are in, as well as the alumni's relations with it. On October 23rd, the group will hold its biggest event of the year, the annual Joseph Troll Fundraiser, at Westchester Country Club. Originally intended to raise funds for a new research facility at UMass (since completed and named for Troll), the event now raises money for the general support of the turfgrass program at the school.

The fundraiser also provides a chance for alumni all over the Northeast to reunite and retain the connection between the school and program.

"We raised enough money for the new turf building, and we thought that we should stay together to keep raising money and bolster the turf program," Curry says. "In part, it's to keep every-

*continued on page 2*



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continued from page 1

body connected and together. It's basically the premise of a normal alumni program, but it's aimed toward the turf program."

The Alumni Turf Group is currently in the process of applying for 501c3 status, which would allow the organization to be recognized by the government as an official non-profit agency. With that status, Curry hopes the ATG will grow and become an integral part of the turfgrass program.

That group has already begun, and the group has built a strong relationship with the UMass Plant and Soil Sciences department, headed by Professor Peter Veneman. Veneman credits Curry with the group's ability to create a strong connection to alumni that have in the past been somewhat fickle in their support.

"There's a lot of people that have been left unreached for various reasons, who don't want to give money until they see it has some impact," Veneman said. "The alumni group provides an intermediary between alumni and the school. It's a crucial role, and there are some very dedicated people involved."

"Steve has been doing an extremely good job," Veneman continued. "He has a tremendous number of alumni scattered all over the country, and the organization brings them together, and provides a tool for fundraising. I think we would be kind of lost without him in that role. When they [ATG] get together, he's the driving force."

In addition to the fundraising and other effects of ATG's success, the group contributed to the process of hiring two new faculty members to the department. Turf physiologist Dr. Michelle DaCosta was hired in the beginning of May, and turf pathologist Dr. Geunhwa Jung was added to the staff later that month. Both of the new hires have bolstered the research arm of the department, which is a special area of interest for the ATG.

"[The group] played a very active role in the hiring process, and had at least one representative on the search committee," Veneman said. "They were meeting with the industry reps, and could ask any questions they wanted to. They were very instrumental in hiring, and were very enthusiastic about both candidates. Both hires came here because they felt there was support by

the industry, with the new building and the money that has been raised. The candidates looked at that as very positive thing."

The program, which both Curry and Veneman agreed has needed reinvigoration in recent years, is well on its way, and Curry and the ATG is a major reason for that.

"We've made a pledge to the University that we're going to raise \$500,000 in the next five years. We would like for UMass alumni to join our efforts by becoming members of ATG, and to help us hold a successful fundraising event every year."

"The ultimate goal that I have in mind is for UMass and Stockbridge to become as strong and well-represented in the turf industry as it was when Joe Troll was there."

It's probably a safe bet that someone like Curry will be able to accomplish that mission.

Andrew Merritt, is a sportswriter for the Berkshire Eagle.

## CALENDAR...

October 23	<b>Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Education Fundraiser</b> Westchester Country Club Westchester, NY Host: Joseph Alonzi, CGCS
Nov. 6	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> 9-Hole Meeting Harmon Golf Rockland, MA Host: Kurt Calderwood
Nov. 15 (Wed.)	<b>GCSAA Seminar</b> <i>GPS/GIS Tools for Effective Course Management</i> Cyprian Keyes Golf Club Boylston, MA
Nov. 16 (Thurs.)	<b>GCSAA Seminar</b> <i>Solving Your Drainage Problems</i> Cyprian Keyes Golf Club Boylston, MA
Dec. 5	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Woodland Golf Club Auburndale, MA Host: David Mucciarone
Dec. 9	<b>GCSANE Holiday Gala</b> Essex Country Club Ipswich, MA Host: Pat Kriksceonaitis
Feb. 16-21 2007	<b>GCSAA National Championship &amp; Golf Classic / Four Ball</b> Palm Springs, CA
Feb. 19-24 2007	<b>Golf Industry Show</b> Anaheim, CA

# **President's Message - Dennis Houle and Winchester Country Club Roll out the Red Carpet for GCSANE**

I've just returned from the Superintendent/ Club Official Tournament at the Winchester Country Club and it couldn't have been a better day. I learned a little



bit, had some fun with our fellow superintendents, and made a presentation to the University of Massachusetts. The course was magnificently prepared by Dennis Houle and

his staff. There wasn't a blade of turf out of place. Dennis had recently opened the new maintenance center at Winchester and allowed us to tour the facility. There is more space in the lunch room than there is in my combination lunch/locker/workshop room. What a great base of operations. It had to take a lot of planning and political skill to accomplish this project. After golf, the

club provided a great dinner (the raw bar was a meal in itself).

To finish the day we made a presentation to Dr. Peter Veneman, head of the UMass Plant & Soil Sciences department, for the Dr. Joe Troll Research facility. This was our annual installment of a seven year pledge to the center. Peter then introduced the two new professors in the turf program, Drs. Michelle DaCosta and Geunhwa Jung. It was exciting to hear both doctors speak on their training and future ambitions. If you have a minute, give them a call and introduce yourself. They will need both our vocal and financial support to build the program.

There are some events coming up that you may want to mark on your calendars. David Stowe has arranged for two GCSAA one day seminars for November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. The first is "Solving your Drainage Problems" and the second is "GPS/GIS Tools for Effective Course Management". After this year I'm sure most of us have found

a few spots in need of better drainage and a way to map it properly. If you are interested in either give David or Sharon Brownell a call, or better yet, pull it up on our new website.

Speaking of websites, our new site is up and running. It's a major change in the presentation of our association. It will take a month or two for all of us to come up to speed on how to keep the input fresh, but we are moving in the right direction.

Another event to mark on your calendar is our annual Holiday Gala, to be held the evening of Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at Essex County Club. The club always puts on a great meal and we will be entertained by John Keegan and his band, Madhouse.

I hope all is well with your families and I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events.

Sincerely,  
Pat Kriksceonaitis  
GCSANE President

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# Alumni Turf Group

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual**

**Dr. Joseph Troll**

**Turf Education Fundraiser**

**October 23, 2006**

**Westchester Country Club**

**Rye, New York**

**Joseph Alonzi, CGCS, Host**

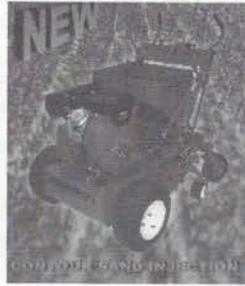
Entry forms, additional information for this event, and ATG  
information are available online at  
[www.alumniturfgroup.com](http://www.alumniturfgroup.com).

*Field is limited to the first 248 players that sign up.*

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# EPA Evaluates The Future Use of PCNB

By **PATRICK J. DALY, CGCS**

As I am sure you all know the EPA has recently issued the Re-registration Eligibility Document (RED) for PCNB. Its uses are in Terraclor and Turfcide fungicide used primarily for snow mold control. Users of this fungicide know how cost effective and valuable this product has been. As part of the re-registration process, the EPA is required to provide a 60 day period for us to submit comments challenging the Agency's conclusions in the RED.

**Please note that the public comment period for PCNB has been extended until November 1. It is not too late to act.**

These challenges must address the technical benefits that will be used in the reassessment process.

Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>

In the search screen, simply enter the ID no. EPA-HQ-OPP-2004-0202 into the Keyword or ID field and click Submit. You will be taken to the next screen where you will choose "Add Comment" found in the far right column.

Some key things to consider for comment about PCNB:

- Its cost effectiveness
- Its proven Pink and especially Grey Snow Mold Effectiveness
- How losing PCNB will affect you
- It only takes about 10 minutes to complete and a few hundred comments can keep PCNB in our arsenal.

**Individual Championship  
Marlborough Country Club  
Host: Kenneth Crimmings, CGCS**

### Superintendent Division

1st Place Gross: Chris Tufts 74  
2nd Place Gross: Jack Hassett 76  
1st Place Net: Dave Donahue 66  
2nd Place Net: Tim Crane 69

### Affiliate Division

1st Place Gross: Garrett Whitney 79  
2nd Place Gross: Scott Mackintosh 86  
1st Place Net: Jeff Stouffer 72  
2nd Place Net: Rob Larson 76

### Senior Affiliate

1st Place Gross: Ken Mooradian 79  
2nd Place Gross: Jack McNulty 95

### Senior Superintendent

1st Place Gross: Dave Comee 77  
2nd Place Gross: Jim Fitzroy 84



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# November Meeting – Harmon Golf, Rockland, MA

**Date:** November 6, 2006

**Format:**

- Tour of Swing Analyzer Technology with Tom Cavicchi, Director of Golf
- 9-Hole Golf Tournament
- Lunch
- Meeting
- Education

**Education:** Drs. Geunhwa Jung and Michelle DeCosta

Update on current turf research and future direction of the turf management program at the University of Massachusetts.

**Host:** Kurt Calderwood

Kurt is completing his first season as Superintendent at Harmon Golf.



*Kurt Calderwood*

Previously, Kurt held the Assistant Superintendent position at Dedham Country and Polo Club for six years. He also worked at Berlin Country Club as the Superintendent. Kurt's father was in the business his whole life, and he aspires to follow in his father's footsteps. Kurt received his degree in Turf grass Management from The University of Massachusetts – Stockbridge.

Kurt plays to a 6 handicap and when not working or playing golf, he is spending time with his wife and two daughters.

**Site:** Harmon Golf

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# A Stellar Day at Winchester Country Club for the Superintendent / Club Official Tournament

**Golf Results**  
**Superintendent / Club Official**  
**Tournament**  
**Winchester Country Club**  
**Host: Dennis Houle**

**1st Place Gross: 71**  
Tom McIsaac and Jim Gerrish  
**2nd Place Gross: 71**  
Brad Stewart and Mike Luccini

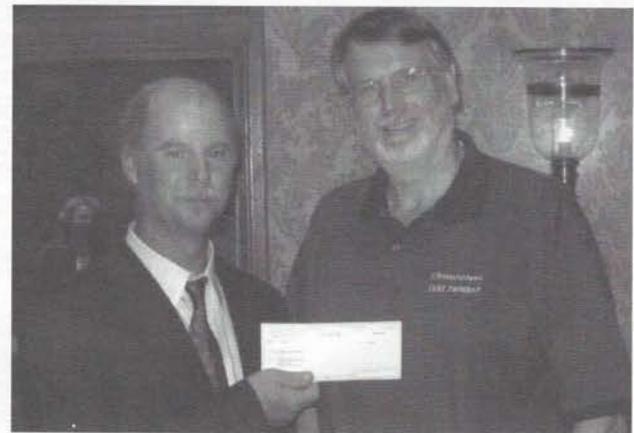
**1st Place Net: 58**  
Jim Small and Tom Rioux  
**2nd Place Net: 63**  
Mark Gagne and Tom White 63



Pictured to left:  
The par 3 sixth at  
Winchester  
Country Club



UMass was well represented at Winchester CC:  
Pictured above (L -R) Pat Kriksceonaitis, Mary Owen, Dr. Geunhwa Jung, Dr. Michelle DeCosta and Dr. Peter Veneman



Pictured above (L - R): President Pat Kriksceonaitis presents the annual GCSANE pledge for the Dr. Troll Research Facility to Dr. Peter Veneman

## More About the Upcoming GCSAA Seminars

### GPS/GIS Tools for Effective Course Management

Participants will understand the potential benefits and features of using a Geographic Information System (GIS) in golf course management. First-hand experience will offer an opportunity to contrast and compare, providing attendees with a basis for deciding whether GIS might assist with course management. Learn how to use GPS/GIS and aerial photography to build a "living map" of your course. The many features of GIS will be demonstrated, including automated calculations of treatment areas, budgets, fertilizer purchasing and the cost-saving uses of GIS for effectively managing purchases, estimating mowing costs, tree trimming and tracking irrigation systems. Learn how an operational GIS positions you to incorporate new technologies and to build new applications as they evolve.

### Learning Objectives:

- Explain the basic concept of computer mapping software and how to apply it.
- Explain the visual and database functions of Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- Build maps using Global Positioning Systems (GPS).
- Build a database and connect it to visual features and maps.
- Calculate treatment rates, budget for fertilizer and seed, estimate mowing costs, replace irrigation parts and manage lakes through the use of GIS.

### Solving Your Drainage Problems

In order to solve golf course turf drainage problems, one must first determine the source of the water and why the excess water is not draining away naturally. This seminar will help provide participants with basic tools required for diagnosing and solving drainage problems.

### Learning Objectives:

- Utilize modern surveying instruments (laser) to perform simple surveys required to diagnose and remedy drainage problems.
- Identify the cause of a drainage problem by examining topography and subsoil conditions.
- Learn to select the appropriate type of drainage system solution to effectively remedy five different types of drainage problems.
- Design appropriate drainage systems, including pipe size, slope, drain depth, backfill to be used, drain spacing, drain restoration, surface inlets and drain outlets.
- Learn to effectively maintain your drainage system to ensure a long life of the installed system.
- Identify the problems with existing drainage systems and carry out the necessary repairs.

# **DIVOT DRIFT ... announcements ... educational seminars ... job opportunities ...tournament results...and miscellaneous items of interest to the membership.**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Welcome New Members:**

Matthew Colombo, Student, U Mass  
Frank Hancock, Superintendent,  
Eastward Ho! CC

### **Proposed for Membership:**

Sean Parsons, Assistant,  
Charles River CC  
Jeff Wood, Assistant, Charles River CC  
Jeff Truskowski, Assistant, Worcester CC  
Todd Farland, Superintendent,  
Cohasse CC

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Our condolences go out to Scott McLeod and family on the recent passing of Scott's father.

Our condolences go out to Peter Hasak and family on the recent passing of Peter's father.

Well wishes go out to Lennie Blodgett who is recovering from a sciatic nerve injury.

Wishing a speedy recovery to Bob Ruszala who is recovering at home after a recent surgery.

Our thoughts are with Robin Hayes during her mother's extended illness.

## **DR. JOSEPH TROLL FUNDRAISER**

### **Dr. Joseph Troll Fundraiser Tournament - Westchester CC**

#### **Hotel Options:**

Courtyard Rye, 631 Midland Avenue,  
Rye, NY 10580  
Phone: (914) 921-1110  
\$159 per night

Hilton Rye, 699 Westchester Avenue,  
Rye Brook, NY 10573  
Phone: (914) 939-6300  
\$269 per night

## **GCSANE NEWS**

### **Request for Club Newsletter Articles:**

We all have to sit down every month to write articles for our club's newsletter and it gets harder and harder to get inventive. If anyone is interested in emailing copies of their best articles to get printed in GCSANE's Newsletter, please send to Mark Gagne, Editor: [mgagne@walpolecc.com](mailto:mgagne@walpolecc.com) or Julie Heston, Business Manager: [jheston@verizon.net](mailto:jheston@verizon.net). This would be helpful to other superintendents as they search for ideas for their own club newsletters.

### **The Newsletter Mailing List:**

Anyone who wishes to add their green chairman or board member to *The Newsletter* mailing list, please contact Sharon Brownell at (800) 833-4451 or [sbrownell@verizon.net](mailto:sbrownell@verizon.net).

### **GCSANE Friends and Affiliates "End of Season" Advertising Special:**

Purchase 2 Full Page ads or 2 Inserts in *The Newsletter* for \$600 total price. This is a 60% savings on the original price. This offer is good for the September, October and November 2006 issues. Please contact Julie Heston, Business Manager at (401) 934-3677 or [jheston@verizon.net](mailto:jheston@verizon.net) to reserve your space.

### **2007 Golf Industry Show Room Block:**

GCSANE has rooms blocked at the Hilton Anaheim from Monday, February 19 - Friday, February 23. The Hilton is serving as GCSAA Headquarters for the upcoming show. The cost is \$210/night. All rooms are doubles (2 beds). If you are interested in reserving a room, please contact Russ Heller, CGCS at [fpsuper@comcast.net](mailto:fpsuper@comcast.net). Room availability is limited and will be handled on a first-come; first served basis. If you have any questions, please contact Russ Heller at his office number (617) 983-2786.

## **POSITION OPENINGS**

### **Golf Course Superintendent, Alpine Country Club, Cranston, RI**

Alpine Country Club is a private 18-hole golf course designed by Geoffrey Cornish. The golf course has four sets of tee boxes, between 5,964 yards & 6,864 yards, full driving range, practice green, POA/bent grass greens, tees and fairways with an average of 21,000 rounds of golf per year. Responsibilities include maintenance of golf course, driving range and clubhouse grounds. Directing and training golf course maintenance staff, maintenance of equipment, preparation and administration of operating and capital budgets. Develop a long range plan for the entire golf course operation. Compliance with regulations pertaining to employment, worker safety, hazard communication, pesticide storage and usage. Minimum requirement is a degree in turf grass management, agronomy and/or turf grass related studies. Minimum of five years experience as a golf course superintendent. Direct experience with Northeast landscape and weather conditions. Proficient oral and written communication skills. Commitment to continuing education and development programs. Experienced in playing the game of golf. Competitive salary range to be offered commensurate with experience and qualifications. Benefits include medical, vehicle allowance, vacation and expenses related to local, regional and national seminars and meetings. The terms and conditions of employment shall be specified in a written agreement. Application Deadline: October 20, 2006 Send Resume To: William E. Reed, Alpine Country Club, 251 Pippin Orchard Road, Cranston, RI 02921 Email: [billyreed@eastcoastconstruction.com](mailto:billyreed@eastcoastconstruction.com)

### **Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Quidnessett Country Club, North Kingstown, RI**

Quidnessett Country Club is a private, 18-hole club located on Narragansett Bay. The course was designed by Geoffrey Cornish in 1959. A.S. or B.S. in Turf Management or related field Minimum of two (2) years golf course experience Applicant must have knowledge in irrigation, spraying, fertilizer and daily course set up. Must be motivated, have an excellent eye for detail and a strong work ethic along with good communication skills and a positive attitude. Applicant must be able to obtain a Rhode Island Pesticide License. Salary is commensurate with experience. Benefits include health insurance, dental, 401K, national and local dues and vacation. Open until filled Send resumes to: Brian A. Cromack, Quidnessett Country Club, 950 North Quidnessett Road, North Kingstown, RI 02852 Fax: (401) 884-2306 Email: [bacromack6@cox.net](mailto:bacromack6@cox.net)

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## Michael Drake Construction, Inc.

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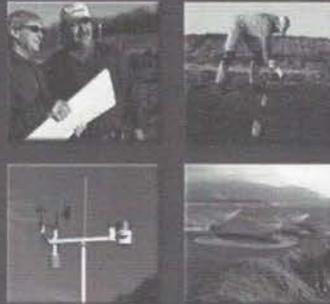
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- *Calendar*
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- *GCSAA Dues Structure*
- *Tournament Results*
- *Divot Drift*