



# THE NEWSLETTER

February 2007

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

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## **GO EAST, YOUNG MAN** **Charles River's Blanusa makes smooth transition** **from Pacific Northwest -** **He's now a confirmed New Englander**

By **DICK TRUST**

The desire to get out from under an umbrella and into the sunshine drove Paul Blanusa and his wife, Sarah, clear across the country.

Blanusa was assistant superintendent at The Plateau Club in Sammamish, Wash., near Seattle, and could have taken the head position at a club nearby before drier heads prevailed.

"Sarah didn't want to live in Seattle anymore because of all the rain," said Blanusa, now happily situated as head superintendent at Charles River Country Club, an 18-hole private golf course in Newton, Mass.

"We were dating, and the year she lived in Seattle (the school year 1999-2000), we had 93 days in a row of measurable rain. The month of January had four hours of sunshine. She couldn't handle that. And she missed her family (Sarah hails from Foster, R.I.).

"I had lived in the state of Washington my whole life (but) I have a sister who lives in Needham (Mass.), so I thought I'd try something new. I'm here for good now. It's been a great move for me."

Blanusa said "we actually get more measurable rain here, but in Seattle it's just gray and cloudy and you'll get this

mist for months, from November to May. It's kind of deceiving. I know two years ago they didn't have rain from May 20 to September 20, something like that. You get fairly dry summers; in the summer it hardly ever rains there. But it's not as



*Pictured above: Charles River Country Club's 9th Hole*

cold in the winter. You don't get snow there."

Entering his fifth season as superintendent at Charles River after two years as assistant there, Blanusa, 33, is glad to have time in the winter to prepare the course for the demands of its membership. He and his reduced, offseason crew can go about their business of tree removal and pruning, and doing what-

ever else is required before warmer weather signals the onslaught of tee times.

"It's nice to be here where you do have three or four months of a little bit of down time," he said, "whereas in Seattle it's raining all winter and golf is still going on. It's kind of nice here where you do have some kind of a break. I like it here a lot better."

Blanusa is thankful that the weather this winter was relatively mild with little snow. "It helped a lot," he said. "Charles River is a very undulating golf course, up and down, so to do any tree work or anything like that, if there's no snow on the ground, it makes life a lot easier to get to areas. We've been able to get a ton of things done.

"In the early 2000s we lost some greens because of ice and cold weather. The biggest challenge is just getting the course through the winter."

While that challenge besets many a New England golf course superintendent, Blanusa has balanced his workload with that of being father to a

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Affiliated Chapter

**PRESIDENT**

Russell E. Heller, CGCS  
41 Clifford Street, Melrose, MA. 02176-0140  
617-983-2786 Fax: 617-983-2786  
E-mail: Rheller@gcsane.org  
Franklin Park Golf Club

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Patrick J. Daly, CGCS  
P.O. Box 2284, Framingham, MA 01703-2284  
508-872-9790 Fax: 508-872-5383  
E-mail: Pat@framinghamcc.com  
Framingham Country Club

**SECRETARY**

Jason S. Adams  
27 Cherry Street, Wrentham, MA 02093  
781-326-3801 Fax: 781-326-3801  
E-mail: Norfolksuper@hotmail.com  
Norfolk Golf Club

**TREASURER**

Michael W. Stachowicz  
68 Westfield Road, Westwood, MA 02090  
781-326-7860 Fax: 781-326-0664  
E-mail: Mstach@dedhamclub.org  
Dedham Country & Polo Club

**TRUSTEE**

Scott Lagana, CGCS  
22 Sherborne Circle, Ashland, MA 01721  
978-342-6451 Fax: 978-342-0421  
E-mail: Grounds@oakhillcc.org  
Oak Hill Country Club

**TRUSTEE**

Peter Hasak  
154 Tedesco Street, Marblehead, MA 01945  
781-592-5764 Fax: 781-631-6530  
E-mail: PHasak@tedescocc.org  
Tedesco Country Club

**TRUSTEE**

Ronald P. Dobosz  
P.O. Box 541, Ludlow, MA 01056  
413-589-9487 Fax: 413-583-4686  
E-Mail: Rdobosz111@aol.com  
Ludlow Country Club

**FINANCE CHAIRMAN**

Michael Luccini, CGCS  
10 Griffin Road, Franklin, MA 02038  
508-520-3615 Fax: 508-528-1885  
E-mail: Mluccini@verizon.net  
Franklin Country Club

**GOLF CHAIRMAN**

James A. Small, III, CGCS  
690 Pine Street, Bridgewater, MA 02324-2116  
508-697-4816 Fax: 508-279-3355  
E-mail: jasi118@yahoo.com  
Olde Scotland Links Golf Club

**EDUCATION CHAIRMAN**

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30 Western Avenue, Natick, MA 01760  
617-789-4631 Fax: 617-789-4631  
E-mail: Newtonmaint@aol.com  
Newton Commonwealth Golf Club

**NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN**

Mark Gagne  
233 Baker Street, Walpole, MA 02081  
508-668-3859 Fax: 508-668-9989  
E-mail: Mgagne@walpolecc.org  
Walpole Country Club

**PAST PRESIDENT**

Michael J. Hermanson  
140 Ryan Street, Gardner, MA 01440-0145  
978-632-2713 Fax: 978-632-2713  
E-mail: hermo68@hotmail.com  
Gardner Municipal Golf Course

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Sharon K. Brownell  
P.O. Box 566, Mattapoisett, MA 02739-0566  
508-758-6474 Fax: 508-758-3688  
E-mail: Sbrownell@verizon.net

**GCSANE Headquarters**

300 Arnold Palmer Blvd., Norton, MA 02766  
Tel: (800) 833-4451 Fax: (508) 758-6474  
Web Site: www.gcsane.org

**Newsletter Committee**

Julie Heston, Business Manager  
Phone: (401) 934-3677 Email: jheston@verizon.net  
John Eggleston, Kernwood Country Club  
Andrew Eick, The Kittansett Club  
Rich Gagnon, Segregansett Country Club  
Ethan Tease, Woodland Golf Club  
Mark Gagne, Editor, Walpole Country Club

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Paul Blanus  
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newborn. Matthew Blanus was born Jan. 6, joining sister Katy, 3, in the household.

"It's going well," Blanus said. "We're fortunate in that the club has given us a home to live in (off the 10<sup>th</sup> tee), so if there's ever any problem, I'm just a cart's drive away. And my wife is a stay-at-home mom."

That wasn't always the case. Sarah was a teacher who coached high school basketball in San Mateo, Calif., just south of San Francisco, and at Foster High School in Tukwila, south of Seattle. After moving to Massachusetts, she taught at Jeremiah E. Burke High School in Dorchester for three years. That was before Katy came along.

While Paul is a familiar figure on the Charles River C.C. landscape, you're not apt to see Sarah on the course. "She's not a golfer," Blanus said. "She doesn't have the patience. When she does something, she wants to be Tiger Woods the first time she goes out. Golf is too slow for her."

There was nothing slow about Sarah in high school – she played basketball and volleyball and ran cross country. In fact, her Ponaganset High School girls hoop team of North Scituate, R.I., won the state championship. In pursuing her career in teaching, she received her master's in literacy at Boston College.

Paul gets to play golf, but infrequently. "I do get out," he said, "but with a young family, that's not really my priority right now. I don't have a lot of free time. I might put in 12 to 14 hours a day at the club and I'd rather spend my free time with my family and watch them grow and be there. I used to play quite a bit, but since having a family it's hard for me to be involved more with the association (GCSANE) or even play. I'd rather spend time with (his family) and give my wife a hand."

Born in Buckley, Wash., at the base of Mount Rainier, outside of Tacoma, Paul Blanus grew up in a sports-oriented family. His father, Lloyd, was basketball coach at his high school, where Paul was all-state in baseball (pitcher) and football (quarterback) before going on to Western Washington University and playing quarterback for two years. He transferred to Washington State University, from which he graduated in 1998

with a Bachelor of Science degree in Crop Science with a turfgrass focus. "When I started working at a golf course out there, and really enjoyed it, I knew I wanted to be around sports my whole life," Blanus said.

"I was always around sports. I grew up playing golf. My father is still a big golfer, with a 6 or 8 handicap, and he's 78 years old. (He once shot his age, when he was 62.) So I've kind of been around golf my whole life."

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## CALENDAR...

April 30	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Lexington C.C. Host: Bob Dembek 9-Hole Tournament
May 29	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> TPC of Boston S & B Tournament Host: Tom Brodeur
June 6	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Pocasset G.C. Joint Meeting w/GCMACC Host: Stephen Carr
July 16	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Belmont C.C. Host: Arthur Silva, CGCS
Aug. 21	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Marlborough C.C. Individual Championship Host: Kenneth Crimmings, CGCS
Aug. 25	<b>GCSANE Family Night</b> Brockton Rox Baseball Campanelli Stadium Brockton, MA
Sep. (TBA)	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Ludlow C.C. Team of Two Tournament Host: Ronald Dobosz
Oct. 1	<b>Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Education Fundraiser</b> The International Honoring Geoffrey Cornish Host: Brett Johnson, CGCS
Oct. 22	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Pleasant Valley C.C. Member/ Guest Tournament Host: Donald D'Errico
Nov. (TBA)	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Brockton C.C. 9-Hole Tournament Host: Justin Bousquet

Blanus was assistant superintendent for a year at Dedham Country and Polo Club before arriving at Charles River the next season, in 2001. Before Dedham, he served two years as assistant at The Plateau Club, which counted Seattle Mariners baseball stars Ken Griffey Jr. and Jay Buhner among its members.

Charles River is home course to pro golfer James Driscoll, who'll turn 30 in October.

"He'll come out here a couple of times a year when he has some down time, and his family is still members here, but a lot of the time he's on tour and is not in the area," Blanus said.

"It's funny. I'll drive by the range and see this pile of golf balls in a four-foot radius about 200 yards out there and I'll be like, 'What the heck are the cart kids doing?' Then I'll see James on the range tee and I'll know it's him, hitting to that spot. You've never seen anything like it.

"Or I'll drive down the second fairway and I'll see a drive that's out there 320 or something. I'll be like, 'Who the heck hit that?'"

"There are a lot of good players here. It's a very good golfing membership. Charles River has about 40 golfers with a 5 handicap or lower."

Opened for business in 1921, Charles River C.C. is a par-72 layout of 6,596 yards from the longest tees. The course gets plenty of traffic.

"We have an extremely busy golf schedule," said Blanus. "I think we had 220 days of the golf season last year and we had 218 events."

Organizers of high-profile events like to book blocks of time at Charles River. In 2003, the club hosted the USGA State Team Championships, won by Tennessee golfers.

(The top three players from each participating state competed.) Last year, Charles River hosted the Massachusetts Open, won by Geoff Sisk.

"It seems like we have one big tournament a year," Blanus said.

Such big events put the pressure on Blanus and his crew, which numbers as many as 22 during the season.

"Everything has to be in place and be organized," he said. "You want your work and your golf course to reflect positively on the club and on yourself. You put a lot of pride in your work and you want to give the membership and the golfers the best golf course they've ever played."

"Charles River has always had the philosophy that we want the fastest greens around, and that puts a lot of stress on you, trying to obtain those conditions."

Blanus and crew must be doing something right: Charles River was ranked No. 6 in the state by Golf Digest for 2005-06.

That selection is a reflection on Blanus's personal philosophy, which is: "It's how it (the course) plays, not necessarily how it looks. We want it firm and fast and keep in mind that golf is a game. It's not a park; it's not an arboretum. It's a golf course. And it's a game that should be played under the right conditions."

Helping to keep Charles River C.C. in the right condition is Blanus's staff, which in the winter includes assistants Jeff Wood and Sean Parsons, and mechanic/equipment manager Alan Roberts,

"I have a great staff," Blanus said. "They make my life a lot easier, especially having a young family. If I do need to take some time off, I feel like I can. We don't skip a beat. They do a great job."

## 2007 GCSAA Board of Directors Elected at Annual Meeting - Congratulations to Jim Fitzroy, CGCS!

Ricky D. Heine, CGCS, was elected president of the association at the annual meeting and election February 23, 2007.

Also elected were vice president David S. Downing II, CGCS, and secretary/treasurer Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS. Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, and James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, were re-elected to the board. Keith A. Ihms, CGCS, was newly elected as a director. Sean A. Hoolehan, CGCS, will serve on the board for one year as immediate past president. Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, and Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, both enter the second year of their terms as directors.

In addition, all amendments to the GCSAA bylaws were approved.



The 2007 GCSAA Board of Directors: (front row) Downing, Heine, Kuhns, Hoolehan; (back row) Randquist, Finlen, Fitzroy, Queen, Ihms.

## Assistants Corner

By Andrew Eick



**Editor's Note:** *This month's installment of the Assistant's Corner is written by Andrew Eick, Assistant Superintendent at The Kittansett Club. Credit also goes to Andrew for providing last month's profile on the meeting host Pat Daly and Framingham C.C. All assistant members of GCSANE are encouraged to submit articles for the Assistant's Corner; it is a great opportunity to test your writing skills and to build on your professional portfolio.*

### Securing Interns for the Upcoming Season

Student interns have become important crew members for many golf course operations. Their eagerness to learn and willingness to help in each aspect of course maintenance can be motivating to all employees.

Facilities may compete against each other for the supply of interns. The need to set your course ahead of surrounding competition is crucial in order to be

successful. Students have many more opportunities for serving internships than in the past. This in turn may increase pressure on the superintendent interviewing these aspiring turf managers. As much as the superintendent is interviewing the candidate, in turn the candidate may be interviewing the superintendent. Interns are looking for the best opportunity to gain both hands on and management experience, and at a facility that will help build their resume.

During my experiences as an intern and an assistant I have developed some ideas that could help in securing interns for the upcoming season. First, start looking for interns sooner rather than later. Send out internship postings in the middle of September and first part of October. This will give you a head start over other area golf courses that may normally start searching after Thanksgiving or December.

Develop a description of their job requirements. A checklist could be helpful so they know exactly what to expect and learn as the season progresses. Housing has become a very helpful resource in obtaining interns. By providing housing, the source of candidates can be expanded nationally,

instead of being limited to students in your immediate area.

Consider creating a website where you can post pictures of the golf course and the types of jobs interns will be performing. This will give better insight to potential candidates who may not have an opportunity to visit the course.

Developing a good rapport with university officials is essential in helping land interns. Offering to speak to university turf clubs will help with promoting your facility and yourself. Students are interested to learn from your personal knowledge of developing golf course budgets or putting together an agronomic program for the year.

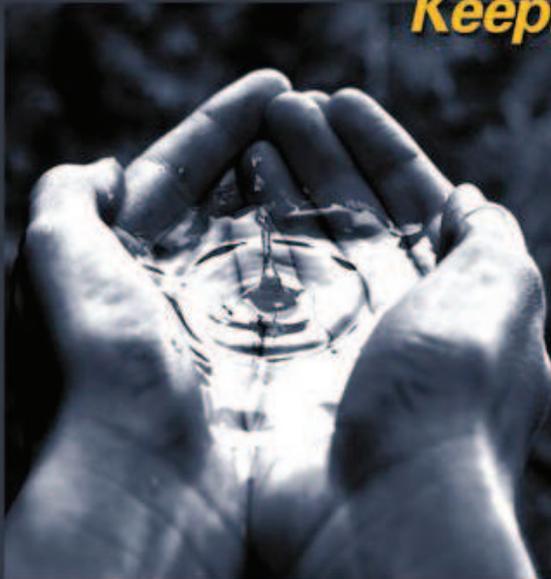
Perhaps the most important step in the process is for candidates to visit your golf course and see it in person. A tour of the golf course and meeting crew members can help in completing the picture.

These are a few ideas to help secure interns for this upcoming season, which in today's market, has become very competitive. Being creative in your approach to hire quality interns may ensure your golf course a fine summer crew and positive learning experience for all.

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# GCSANE Member Survey Results

By Mark Gagne

Last December, a survey was sent to all members, soliciting input on meeting attendance. The survey was designed to help guide the Board of Directors in making changes that will hopefully increase member involvement and meeting participation. The results of the survey were shared with the membership at the Annual Meeting in January, and are outlined below:

**There were 129 respondents in total to the survey, with the breakdown as follows:**

<b>Superintendent members</b>	<b>59.2%</b>
<b>Assistant Superintendent members</b>	<b>10.8%</b>
<b>Affiliate members</b>	<b>23.1%</b>
<b>Associate members</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
<b>Retired members</b>	<b>3.1%</b>

**The 129 respondents represent:**

**32% of the total GCSANE Superintendent members**

**19% of the total GCSANE Assistant members**

**30% of the total GCSANE Affiliate members**

**How many GCSANE meetings in total did you attend this year?**

<b>0</b>	<b>36.9%</b>
1	17.7%
2	13.1%
3	10.8%
4	2.3%
5	6.9%
6	5.4%
7	3.8%
8	3.1%

*The survey appears to have reached the target audience; members who typically do not attend meetings. Over 54% of the respondents attend no more than 1 meeting a year.*

**Do you consider yourself an active member of GCSANE?**

Yes	43.8%
<b>No</b>	<b>45.4%</b>
Other	10.8%

*Given the response to the previous question, the result here is not surprising.*

**Do you attend other association meetings (RIGCSA, GCM of Cape Cod, etc.)?**

Yes 44.6%      **No 55.4%**

*With the geographical overlap between other associations in our area, there are many options to attend meetings for those who are members of one or more associations. The average of those who did attend meetings of other associations this year was 5.5 meetings per year.*

**Please select 3 of the most important factors in your decision to attend an association meeting:**

<b>Ability to take the time that particular day to attend</b>	<b>66.9%</b>
Desire to network with peers	43.1%
Time of year	41.5%
Travel time to meeting location	33.8%
Desire to play the golf course	33.1%
Quality of educational opportunity	30%
Day of the week	17.7%
Cost	10%
Other	9.2%

*The main reasons the respondents cite for wanting to attend meetings (networking, playing golf and education) are weighed against the time related issues of the particular day and time of year each meeting is held, along with travel time to the meeting location.*

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**Please select the 3 most typical reasons for NOT attending a meeting:**

<b>Too busy</b>	<b>73.8%</b>
Conflict with date, otherwise would have attended	57.7%
Attendance required too much time out of day	43.8%
Travel time to meeting location	36.2%
Cost	20.8%
Other reasons	15.4%
Did not want to play the golf course	12.3%
No educational opportunity	8.5%
Not interested in education offered at the meeting	6.9%

*As expected, time and time related factors weigh heavily in the decision to not attend a meeting. Many members commented that work and family obligations made it difficult to dedicate most of a day to attend.*

**Do you feel there is enough advance communication about information relating to each meeting?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>91.5%</b>
No	8.5%

**When do you typically make the decision to attend a meeting?**

<b>When the postcard notice arrives</b>	<b>60.8%</b>
On the deadline for signing up for the meeting	13.8%
When the schedule of meetings is announced for the year	10.8%
I don't attend meetings	10%
When I read about it in the Newsletter	7.7%
Other	4.6%
The day of the meeting	1.5%

**If offered, would you attend a late afternoon/early evening meeting during the golf season?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>36.9%</b>
No	35.4%
Depends	27.7%

*Many of the comments favored a late afternoon/ early evening meeting once or twice during the year. However, comments indicated that the meeting time, travel time, golf course and speaker would all weigh in the decision to attend.*

**What types of educational sessions/speakers would most interest you at a meeting?**

<b>Turf Researcher/University Educator</b>	<b>62.3%</b>
Fellow superintendents sharing their experiences/projects	53.8%
Topics to earn pesticide credits	36.2%
Regulatory Agencies	36.2%
Turf Consultant	33.1%
Roundtable discussions	33.1%
USGA Representative	30%
Management topics - communication, computers, public speaking	30%
Personal finance topics	19.2%
Golf related personality, not necessarily on a turf topic	16.9%
Industry/Supplier	16.2%
GCSAA representative	13.8%
Contractor	13.8%
Club officials - President, Green Chairman, Owner, GM	12.3%
Other	4.6%

*Despite the numerous opportunities offered by vendors and conferences for education provided by turf researchers (especially during the off-season), the respondents still ranked this area as the most interesting. Ranking a close second was fellow superintendents sharing their experiences. Write in comments from respondents favored a variety of speaker types to keep educational sessions fresh and stimulating.*

**Did you attend this year's Scholarship and Benevolence tournament at Wachusett CC in May?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>84%</b>

*This year's S&B tournament fielded 124 players, which included 20 members who also participated in this survey.*

**If yes, do you believe the fee of \$300 per 2 man team/\$500 per foursome offered value for the price?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>79.5%</b>
No	20.5%

*Evaluating the value for the S&B may be difficult a difficult question as all of the proceeds go to the fund that supports members in need. Despite this, most felt the fee was appropriate.*

**If no, why did you not attend?**

<b>Too busy</b>	<b>29.7%</b>
Conflict with the date, otherwise I might have attended	25.7%
Cost	23.8%
Other reasons	18.8%

Bad time of the season for me, otherwise I might have attended	17.8%
Location and travel time	10.9%
Required too much time to participate	7.9%
No desire to play golf	5.9%

Several comments indicated that the change in date for this year's S&B date impacted their ability to attend. Additionally, members of one or more associations commented that they choose to participate in only one association's S&B each year.

**Did you attend this year's Superintendent/Club Official event at Winchester CC in September?**

Yes	11.2%
<b>No</b>	<b>88.8%</b>

This year's Superintendent/Club Official tournament fielded 64 players, which included 14 members who also participated in this survey.

**If yes, do you believe the fee of \$350 per 2 man team/\$700 per foursome team offered value for the price?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>58.8%</b>
No	41.2%

For those who attended, most agreed the fee was worth it. It was unfortunate that more members did not or were not able to participate. The golf course was in outstanding condition, the meals were plentiful and offered great variety, and it was a great day to spend time with the decision makers at our facilities.

**If no, why did you not attend?**

<b>Cost</b>	<b>35.5%</b>
Other reasons	29.9%
Too busy	24.3%
Conflict with the date, otherwise I might have attended	15%
Required too much time to participate	13.1%
Bad time of the season for me, otherwise I might have attended	12.1%
No desire to play golf	7.5%
Format - Did not want to play golf with club officials	5.6%
Location and Travel time	5.6%

For a variety of reasons, host clubs are unable to provide the level of "courtesy" discounting for these events compared to past years, and this has been reflected in increased fees. Here again, members of one or more associations commented that they can participate in a limited number of such events due to budget constraints.

**Would you be in favor of changing the format of the Supt./Club Official tournament to a Supt./Guest tournament, allowing superintendents to bring whomever they like as a partner or foursome?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>69.6%</b>
No	30.4%

This event has seen a steady decline in attendance over the past five years, and the respondents favored a change in format. The respondents included 79 Superintendent members and of that group, 68% answered the above question with a yes and 32% with a no.

**Would you be interested in attending more social oriented events, like the Boston Rox baseball outing held in August?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>58.4%</b>
No	32.8%
Depends	11.2%

Last year was the first attempt at a "Family Night" outing, and it attracted over 50 members and their guests. It turned out to be a great night and received a very positive response from those who attended. Respondents in favor of more social events cited timing and location of future events as important in their ability to attend.

**Do you consider your membership in GCSANE important to performing your job?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>72%</b>
No	28%

Of the Superintendent members responding to this question, 68% answered yes and 32% answered no.

**In addition to the responses to these questions, many members provided valuable feedback and great ideas in the "write in" portions of the survey; ideas which were shared with the Board of Directors. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!**



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# OSHA Injury & Illness Posting Requirements

By Ron Smith, MBA, CPSI

Beginning February 1, employers must post a summary of the total number of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred last year and were recorded on their OSHA 300 Log, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). **Employers are required to post only the Summary (OSHA Form 300A)-not the OSHA 300 Log -from Feb.1 to Apr. 30, 2007.**

The summary must list the total numbers of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred in 2006 and were logged on the OSHA 300 form. Employment information about annual average number of employees and total hours worked during the

calendar year is also required to assist in calculating incidence rates. Companies with no recordable injuries or illnesses in 2006 must post the form with zeros on the total line. All establishment summaries must be certified by a company executive. The form is to be displayed in a common area wherever notices to employees are usually posted.

*One requirement added to the OSHA 300 Log several years ago is the need to record any employee when their annual hearing test (audiogram) reveals that the employee has experienced a Standard Threshold Shift (STS) in hearing in one or both ears and their total hearing level is*

*25 decibels or more above audiometric zero. An annual audiogram is required for all employees who are exposed to an average of 85 decibels or higher during their 8-hour shift (Hearing Conservation Standard, CFR 1910.95). The vast majority of golf course maintenance employees qualify for an annual audiogram.*

If you have any questions about the OSHA 300 Log requirements and/or the annual requirement for audiograms please visit the OSHA website, [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) or contact Ron Smith at 877-848-5978 or [ronsmith@sportsclubmanagement.com](mailto:ronsmith@sportsclubmanagement.com).

## UMass-Stockbridge Turf Club Representatives Make Strong Showing at GIS

The UMass-Stockbridge Turf Club recently made some noise at the Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, CA. Not only did the club raise enough funds to send eight students but two teams of four competed in the annual Turf Bowl. Out of 83 teams UMass had an impressive showing finishing 15<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup>.

Since the beginning of the fall semester the Turf Club has been very active within the school and the industry. The club participated in various fundraising activities such as: selling UMass Turf Program and Turf Club shirts to fellow students and superintendents, holding a contest at the most recent Joe Troll fundraiser at Westchester Country Club, received generous donations from the Alumni Turf Group and companies within the turf industry and fertilized home lawns of faculty and staff.

Eight students were selected to represent UMass at the Golf Industry Show and Turf Bowl: Ryan Avery, Jason Dowiegicz, Joe Gikis, Stephen Hicks, Matthew Kozlowski, Mark Mimmo, James Poro and Daniel Vetere. For two weeks prior to the competition the students received help from all of the



turf program's faculty and graduate students on such topics as entomology, weeds and turfgrass pathology and identification. In addition to the Turf Bowl the students found excellent networking opportunities at the UMass reception and the Nor'easter. "We feel lucky to have been a part of this whole experience", said Ryan Avery.

Dr. Pat Vittum, who was in attendance as well, said, "One team ended up tied for 15th, which I thought was terrific, and they were only 10 points from seventh

place!" Their success at the national show is the result of a shared effort with the alumni, faculty and industry supporters. In the upcoming weeks the club is planning to elect officers for next year and hope to continue this year's momentum into the fall semester.

More information about the Turf Club can be found at: <http://www.freewebs.com/umassturfclub/>

# Joe Sprague, Jr. Named Executive Director of the Massachusetts Golf Association

*Sprague Becomes the Sixth Executive Director in the 104-Year History of the Non-Profit Organization*

NORTON, MA - The Massachusetts Golf Association (MGA) today named Joe Sprague, Jr. as its new executive director. Sprague becomes only the sixth executive director to hold that post in the organization's 104-year history. The Bristol, Rhode Island resident takes over for Tom Landry, who resigned earlier this year after 11 years at the MGA helm.

"We are excited to welcome Joe Sprague to our MGA family as he brings a wealth of experience to our organization," said Richard P. Osborn, president of the MGA. "There is no question that Joe will be a perfect fit for the MGA

and will help us build an even stronger future for amateur golf here in the Bay State."

For the past seven years, Sprague has served as executive director of the Rhode Island Golf Association (RIGA), a position he assumed in 1999 after his father - a long-time golf administrator - retired. In that position, Sprague has managed all aspects of the operation including handicapping, championships and member club relations. He also spearheaded the launch of the Rhode Island Golf Hall of Fame and helped introduce two new tournaments - the John P. Burke Memorial Gross & Net - which provided additional competitive opportunities for state players and also raised more than \$25,000 annually for the John P. Burke Memorial Fund, a state caddy scholarship fund that was

founded by the RIGA in 1946. Prior to serving as executive director, Sprague spent nearly seven years as RIGA tournament director.

"I'm thrilled to be selected by the MGA as its next executive director," said Sprague, a Providence College graduate who prior to his work in golf administration served as a PGA Tour caddy for two years, "There will be some mixed emotions in leaving the RIGA after 15 years, but I'm looking forward to working with the MGA staff and Executive Committee to advance the game in Massachusetts."

Sprague will begin his work at the MGA in April. For more information, please visit contact Becky Blaeser at 800-356-2201 or [info@mgalinks.org](mailto:info@mgalinks.org).

Source: MGA Press Release

## Scenes from the NERTF Conference and GIS



Pictured above:  
At the recent NERTF Conference in Providence, the GCSANE Troll Dickinson Scholarship was awarded to Jason Morrow, a turf management student at the University of Massachusetts. Pictured left to right: GCSANE President Russell Heller, CGCS, Dr. Joseph Troll, Jason Morrow.  
Photo credit: Michael Stachowicz.



Pictured above: The UMass booth was visited by GCSANE members during the GIS in Anaheim. Pictured left to right: Thom Griffin, Mike Hermanson, Bob Ruzsala, Carl Teschke, Peter Veneman.  
Photo Credit: Bob Ruzsala.



Picture on left: The University of Massachusetts faculty was well represented at the GIS in Anaheim. Pictured at the UMass booth, left to right: Drs. Pat Vittum, Michelle DaCosta, Peter Veneman.  
Photo Credit: Bob Ruzsala.

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

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Welcome New Members:**

Daniel Tower, Assistant, Boston GC  
On-Course Golf, Friend, Acton, MA  
Southwest Putting Greens of Boston,  
Friend, Westford, MA

The following are all new students  
members from UMass:

Nathan Salmore, Matthew Cronan,  
Ryan Dehlinger, Torrey Moughan,  
Ryan Avery, Gregory Atanasio,  
Kevin Haslam, Joseph Durell,  
Edward Ledgard, Matthew Stearns,  
Richard Walworth, Matthew Kozlowski,  
Tyler Stafford, Ryan Messier,  
Ben Polzin, Weston Neff,  
Anthony Delaiarro, Eric Still,  
Shawn Spear and Tim Kurr

### **Proposed for Membership:**

Nicole Ottani, Assistant, Fresh Pond GC  
Paul J. West, Assistant, Bass Rocks GC  
Patrick Folan, Assistant, Belmont CC  
Luke White, Assistant, Wianno Club  
Timothy W. Carpenter, Assistant,  
Dedham Country & Polo Club

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Congratulations to Ed and Erin Gianni  
on the recent birth of their daughter,  
Anna Cecelia.

**Note:** All members are encouraged to  
contact Julie Heston to announce new  
arrivals so that we may purchase a  
savings bond in recognition of their birth.  
Phone: (401) 934-3677 or  
jhaston@verizon.net

Our condolences are extended to Brian  
King and family on the recent and  
sudden passing of Brian's mother.

Looking to "clean out the barn?"  
Superintendent members may advertise  
their used equipment free of charge in  
*The Newsletter*. Please send  
information to Julie Heston at  
jhaston@verizon.net

## **GCSAA Webcasts**

- **The ABCs of Algae**, 3/29/07,  
12:00 noon
- **IPM: Starting an Effective Plan for  
Your Golf Course**, 4/5/07, 12:00 noon
- **How Do I Know if I Have Herbicide  
Resistant Weeds?** 4/10/07, 10:00 am
- **Poa Prevention and Control  
Strategy** 4/18/07, 10:00 am

For more information or to register, visit:  
[WWW.GCSAA.ORG](http://WWW.GCSAA.ORG)

## **POSITION OPENINGS**

Please visit our web site  
[www.gcsane.org](http://www.gcsane.org)  
for all the details  
on any current  
job openings.

## **MEMBERS ON THE MOVE**

Congratulations to Eric Richardson as he  
leaves Myopia Hunt Club to accept the  
Superintendent position at the Essex  
County Club.

Congratulations to Scott Gabrielson as  
he leaves Waverly Oaks G.C. to accept  
the Superintendent position at Alpine  
Country Club.

## **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Dealers are needed for the Texas  
Hold'Em Tournament to benefit Steve  
Curry. The tournament will be held at  
Pinehills Golf Club in Plymouth, MA on  
Saturday, March 31st. If you are  
interested in learning how to become a  
dealer, please contact  
Jim Small, CGCS, Olde Scotland Links,  
Office: (508) 697-4816 or  
Email: jasiii188@yahoo.com

## ***Scenes from the February Meeting at Framingham Country Club***



Professional Coach Paula Goudsmit offered a  
stimulating presentation on effective and  
fulfilling goal setting for maximum impact.  
Photo credit: Rich Gagnon



Peter Hasak updated those in  
attendance on current  
government relations issues.  
Photo credit: Rich Gagnon



# Texas *Hold'em* Poker Tournament

To benefit

Steve Curry



Sponsored by:  
GCSANE & GCMACC

Date: Saturday, March 31, 2007

Time: Registration 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Tournament begins at 6:00 pm

Place: Pinehills Golf Club, Plymouth, Massachusetts

Directions: **From Boston:** Take 93 South to Route 3 South. Take Exit 3 and bear left at end of ramp. Go 0.8 miles and turn left on Clubhouse Drive. **From Cape Cod:** Take Route 3 North. Take Exit 3 and bear right at end of ramp. Go 0.6 miles and turn left on Clubhouse Drive. **From Providence:** Take Route 95 North to Route 495, heading East. Exit at Route 44 and travel East to Route 3. Turn onto Route 3 South and proceed to Exit 3. Bear left at end of ramp. Go 0.8 miles and turn left on Clubhouse Drive.

Details: Donations are \$50.00 per person; must be 21 to play. Prizes to be determined based on number of players registered. Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails served. Limited seats are available at the door so pre-registration is highly recommended.

Send donation and form to: Jim Small, 690 Pine St. Bridgewater, MA 02324.

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Pre-Registration Form: *\*(Please make checks payable to "GCSANE")*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

# Please Patronize these FRIENDS of the ASSOCIATION

## A.A. Will Materials Corp.

198 Washington St., Stoughton, MA 02072-1748  
Root zone mixes, divot mixes, topdressing blends, bunker sands, cart path mixes, bridging stone, & hardscape supplies.  
Charlie Downing, Ed Downing - (800) 4-AA-WILL

## Accusoils

Outdoor World of New England  
P.O. Box 16477, Hooksett, NH 03106  
Topdressing sand & mixes, divot mix, greens & tees, root zone mix, bunker sand, cart path mix, stabilizer, & greens care analysis.  
(866) 222-6644

## A.D. Makepeace Co.

158 Tihonet Road, Wareham, MA 02571  
(508) 322-4092

## Agresource, Inc.

100 Main St., Amesbury, MA 01913  
Tim Gould, Guy Travers  
(800) 313-3320, (978) 388-5110

## Allen's Seed Store, Inc.

693 S. County Trail, Exeter, RI 02822  
Specializing in quality seed and related golf course maintenance supplies.  
Gregg Allen - (800) 527-3898  
Michelle Maltais - (401) 835-0287

## The Andersons Technologies, Inc.

26 Waite Ave., S. Hadley, MA 01075  
Manufacturer of fertilizer & control products.  
Rick Forni - (413) 534-8896

## Atlantic Silica, Inc.

P.O. Box 10, Enfield N.S. B2T 1C6 Canada  
(902) 883-3020

## A-OK Turf Equipment Inc.

1357 Main St., Coventry, RI 02816-8435  
Articulator, Terra Topper, Greens Groomer brush, & used equipment.  
Mike Cornicelli - (401) 826-2584

## Barenbrug USA

Great in Grass  
166 Juniper Drive, North Kingstown, RI 02852  
Bruce Chapman, Territory Manager  
(401) 578-2300

## BASF Turf & Ornamental

47 Falmouth Rd., Longmeadow, MA 01106  
Emerald, Insignia, Pendulum AquaCap, Curalan, Drive, Basagran, Iprodione Pro, Propiconazole Pro, Bifenoxin Pro, Plateau, Sahara.  
John Bresnahan - (413) 374-4102

## The Borden Company

114 Summer St., Maynard, MA 01754  
Bulk limestone dealer.  
Jack Borden - (978) 897-2571

## Boston Irrigation Supply Co. (BISCO)

60 Stergis Way, Dedham, MA 02026  
Distributor, irrigation supplies & accessories, featuring Rain Bird.  
Andrew Langlois, Jay Anderson III, Dan Fuller, Jeff Brown, Greg Hennessy, Chris Russo  
(800) 225-8006

## The Cardinals, Inc.

166 River Rd., PO Box 520, Unionville, CT 06085  
Golf course and landscape supplies.  
John Callahan, Dennis Friel - (800) 861-6256

## Cavichio Landscape Supply, Inc.

110 Codjer Lane, Sudbury, MA 01776  
Annuals, perennials, garden mums, ground covers, loam, & mulch.  
Darren Young - (978) 443-7177

## Charles C. Hart Seed Co., Inc.

304 Main St., Wethersfield, CT 06109  
Authorized distributor for Bayer, Syngenta, Grigg Bros., Foliar Fertilizer, & Aquatrols.  
Roy Sibley, Dick Gurski, Robin Hayes - (800) 326-HART

## Cornish, Silva, & Mungeum, Inc.

207 N. Main St., Uxbridge, MA 01569  
Golf course architects.  
(508) 278-3407

## Country Club Enterprises

P. O. Box 820, Cataumet, MA 02534  
Club Car golf cars, Carryall utility vehicles.  
Dave Farina, Darin Eddy, Darren Orr - (800) 662-2585

## DAF Services, Inc.

20 Lawnacre Rd., Windsor Locks, CT 06096  
Irrigation pumps - sales & service; northeast warehouse/distributor for ISCO HDPE pipe & fittings.  
Richard Young - (860) 623-5207

## DGM Systems

1 Snagwood Rd., Foster, RI 02825  
Your New England specialty products distributor:  
Reelcraft, POK, Allen, Kenyon, Echo, Carhart Office - (401) 647-0550  
Manny Mihailides - (401) 524-8999  
David Mihailides - (401) 742-1177

## DHT Golf Services

dba Weed & Feed, Inc.  
8 Meadow Park Road, Plymouth, MA 02360  
Golf course renovation & construction in all areas: bunkers, tees, greens, drainage, irrigation, & cart paths.  
Dahn Tibbett, Chip Brearley - (508) 746-3222

## D.L. Maher Co.

71 Concord St., P. O. Box 127, N. Reading, MA 01864  
Water supply specialists; wells & pumping equipment. (781) 933-3210

## Michael Drake Construction, Inc.

240 Walnut St., Framingham, MA 01702  
Golf course reconstruction; professional shaper.  
Michael Drake - (508) 875-8247

## E-Z-GO/Texton

EZGO golf and utility vehicles.  
Doug Hopper - (800) 234-0474

## G. Fialkosky Lawn Sprinklers

91 Freeman St., Newton, MA 02466  
Irrigation services to golf courses throughout New England. Gary Fialkosky - (617) 293-8632

## Gold Star Tree & Turf Farm, LLC

250 West Rd., Canterbury, NH 03224-2127  
Growers of turfgrass and ornamentals.  
Malcolm McPhail - (800) 648-8873;  
Canterbury Office - (603) 783-4717

## Golf Cart Services, Inc.

275 Wells St., Greenfield, MA 01301  
Club Car golf, turf, transportation, & utility cars.  
James Bernier - (800) 287-0955

## GPS New England Mapping

39 Cedar St., Cohasset, MA 02025  
Precise irrigation & drainage as-builts; wire tracking & electrical repairs.  
Greg Albanese - (781) 789-1166

## Harrell's Turf Specialty LLC

15 Londonderry Rd., Londonderry, NH 03053  
Turf & ornamental supplies.  
Chuck Bramhall, Mike Kroian, Mike Nagle, Jim Wierzbicki - (800) 228-6656

## Hartney Greymont

433 Chestnut St., Needham, MA 02492  
Tree care, landscape construction, consulting.  
Mark Tobin - (781) 444-1227

## Holliston Sand Co., Inc.

P. O. Box 1168, Tift Rd., Slatersville, RI 02876  
USGA-recommended sands, root-zone mixes, bunker & topdressing, agresoil compost, stone-dust, & pea-stone  
Bob Chalifour, CGCS (ret.) - (401) 766-5010

## International Golf Construction Co.

5 Purcell Rd., Arlington, MA 02474  
Golf course construction.  
Antonios Paganis - (781) 648-2351;  
(508) 428-3022

## Irrigation Management & Services

21 Lakeview Ave., Natick, MA 01760  
Irrigation consultation, design, and system evaluation.  
Bob Healey, ASIC, CID - (508) 653-0625

## Ken Jones Tire, Inc.

71-73 Chandler St., Worcester, MA 01613  
Distributor of tires for lawn & garden, trucks, cars, industrial equipment, and golf cars.  
Gerry Jones - (508) 755-5255

## Larchmont Engineering & Irrigation

11 Larchmont Lane, Lexington, MA 02420-4483  
Kevin Rudat - (781) 862-2550

## Lazaro's Golf Course Supplies & Accessories

dba Hammond Paint and Chemical Co., Inc.  
738 Main St., Suite 223, Waltham, MA 02154  
Complete line of golf course accessories;  
Standard, Par Aide, Eagle One.  
Joe Lazaro - (781) 647-3361

## Lesco, Inc.

1301 E. 9th St., Ste. 1300, Cleveland, OH 44114  
Ron Tumiski - (800) 321-5325

## McNulty Construction Corp.

P. O. Box 3218, Framingham, MA 01705  
Asphalt paving of cart paths, walkways, parking areas; imprinted asphalt.  
John McNulty - (508) 879-8875

## Miller Golf Construction

P.O. Box 1008, Essex, MA 01929  
Golf course construction & renovation.  
Jonathon Miller - (978) 768-6600

## NMP Golf Construction Corp.

25 Bishop Ave., Ste. A-2, Williston, VT 05495  
Golf course construction.  
Mario Poirier - (888) 707-0787

## Norfolk Power Equipment, Inc.

5 Cushing Dr., Wrentham, MA 02093  
Sales, service, rentals, leasing, Kubota tractors  
(508) 384-0011

## North Shore Hydroseeding

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Hydroseeding, erosion control, & tree services.  
Brian King - (978) 762-8737

## On-Course Golf Inc., Design/Build

16 Maple Street, Acton, MA 01720  
We serve all your remodeling and renovation needs. You can trust your project with us!  
We make you look good!  
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## Partac Peat Corporation

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Heat treated topdressing, golf hole targets, turf blankets, other specialty golf supplies.  
Jim Kelsey - (800) 247-2326

## Putnam Pipe Corp.

90 Elm St., Hopkinton, MA 01748  
Underground water, sewer, & drain piping sales & distribution. 24-hour service.  
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## Read Custom Soils

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Custom soil blending, top dressing sands, root zone blends, divot & cart path mixes.  
Terry Driscoll, Garrett Whitney - (888) 475-5526

## R.F. Morse & Sons, Inc.

22 Cranberry Hwy., Wareham, MA 02576  
Professional goods, services, & John Deere equipment for the golf course industry.  
Larry Anshewitz, Mike Hannigan, Kevin McDonough, Tom Rowell, Ren Wilkes, John Winskowicz - (508) 295-1553

## Sodco Inc.

P. O. Box 2, Slocum, RI 02877  
Bluegrass/Fescue, Bluegrass/Rye, Bluegrass/Fescue/Rye, Bentgrass.  
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## Southwest Putting Greens of Boston

Westford, MA  
Synthetic greens and practice facilities

## Sports Club Management, Inc.

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OSHA and EPA compliance services & training.  
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## Stumps Are Us

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Professional stump chipping service.  
Brendan McQuade - (603) 625-4165

## S.V. Moffett Co., Inc.

87 Concord Street, North Reading, MA 01864  
Rain Bird Golf irrigation distributor.  
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Bob Hobbs (603) 833-0309 (NH & ME)

## Syngenta Professional Products

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Manchester, CT 06040  
Bob Goglia (860) 716-0315

## Tee & Green Sod

A Division of New England Turf  
P. O. Box 418, Exeter, RI 02822  
Bentgrass, Blue/Fescue mixes, Bluegrass, Low Cut Bluegrass and complete installation services  
Dave Wallace, Scott McLeod - (888) 638-4657

## Tom Irwin Inc.

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Turf management products.  
Jack Petersen, Paul Skafas, Rob Larson, Chris Petersen, Greg Misodoulakis, Mike DeForge  
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## Tree Tech, Inc.

6 Springbrook Rd., Foxboro, MA 02035  
Foxboro, Wellesley, Fall River  
Andy Felix - (508) 543-5644

## Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.

P. O. Box 167, Wood River Junction, RI 02894  
Chris Beasley - (800) 556-6985

## Turf Enhancement Enterprises

6 Jessica J Dr., Millbury, MA 01527  
Floratine products, Precision Small Engine Co., Douglas Rollers, Trion Lifts.  
Tom Fox - (508) 865-9150

## TurfLinks, Inc.

16 Kane Industrial Dr., Hudson, MA 01749  
Distributor of quality fertilizer, grass seed, & control products for the golf course industry.  
Kevin Lyons, Scott Mackintosh, Jim Cohen, Jim Favreau - (866) 567-9221

## TurfNet Associates, Inc.

21 Brandywine Rd., Skillman, NJ 08558  
Cutting edge communication for the golf course industry.  
Peter McCormick - (800) 314-7929

## Turf Products Corp.

157 Moody Rd., Enfield, CT 06082  
Distributors of Toro irrigation & maintenance equipment and other golf-related products. Tim Berge, Rick Moulton, Jeff Stouffer, Mike Turner - (800) 243-4355

## UAP Professional Products

18 Legate Hill Rd., Sterling, MA 01564  
Fertilizer, seed, chemicals, & IPM.  
Glenn Larabee, Mark Miller - (800) 224-4440

## Varney Bros. Sand & Gravel

79 Hartford Ave., Bellingham, MA 02019  
Concrete golf cart paths.  
Kenneth Mooradian - (800) 441-7373

## Winding Brook Turf Farm

Wethersfield, CT 06109  
Scott Wheeler, Mike Krudwig, Sam Morgan - (800) 243-0232

## Philip Wogan & George F. Sargent, Jr.

17 Walker Rd., Topsfield, MA 01983  
Golf course architects.  
(978) 887-3672