



# THE NEWSLETTER

April 2008

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

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## Essex County Club to Host the 2010 Curtis Cup

By: Eric Richardson, GCS

The tournament, officially titled the "Women's International Cup," is the most famous team competition for amateur women golfers, co-sponsored by the United States Golf Association and the Ladies' Golf Union. The Curtis Cup is a biennial women's amateur team competition played between eight-member teams from the United States of America, Great Britain, and Ireland. Currently the United States leads Great Britain and Ireland 25-6-3. The Curtis Cup has strong roots at Essex County Club. The Match is named in recognition of the efforts of two Essex members, Margaret and Harriot Curtis, in starting the event. Both sisters were U.S. Women's Amateur champions. Harriot won in 1906 and Margaret won in 1907, 1911 and 1912. The Curtis Cup is presented to the winner of the tournament and engraved on the cup is a statement that best represents the Curtis Cup: "To stimulate friendly rivalry among the women golfers of many lands." Essex County Club hosted the Curtis Cup Match in 1938, won by the United States team. The Curtis Cup will be held at Essex County Club June 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> of 2010. This year it is being held at the most historic of places, St. Andrews, May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>. A saying that has become popular is that "the Curtis Cup is coming from the home of golf to the home of the Curtis sisters"

This will be the fourth Curtis Cup to be held in New England; Essex County Club in 1938 and 2010, Brae Burn Country Club in 1958 and 1970. This is

an amateur event so you may not recognize many of the participants. In a few years, they may end up becoming some of the most prominent names in women's golf. Just for starters, Nancy Lopez, Michelle Wie, Juli Inkster, Paula Creamer, and Dottie Pepper have all participated in previous Curtis Cup matches.

In my mind, Essex County Club is the perfect setting for this tournament. I believe this not just because of the Curtis sisters, but because there is, not unlike many other clubs in New Eng-



**Margret Curtis with fellow competitors during the 1896 Ladies Club Championship at Essex**

Photo Source: Essex CC

land, a rich and storied history attached to Essex County Club. Although the St. Andrew Club in New York and the Country Club in Brookline brought golf to the U.S. and New England, Essex opened in 1893 and was the first nine hole golf course in New England. A delay in the 1893 U.S. mail prevented Essex from becoming one of the five charter members of the



**18<sup>th</sup> Hole at Essex County Club**

Photo Source: Essex CC

USGA (Essex was admitted 6<sup>th</sup>). In 1917, Essex expanded to 18 holes when Donald Ross finished his work at Essex. Ross was also the Club Professional, beginning in 1909.

In preparation for the tournament, the club has pushed forward with an extensive restoration project. When Essex received the Curtis Cup the USGA stated "we can play the golf course as is", but under the direction of the Essex's architectural consultant, Bruce Hepner of Renaissance Golf Design Inc., and with the approval and support of the Greens Committee Chairman, Val Somers, and Club President, Lincoln Morison, implementation of a master plan originally adopted in 2002 has quickly moved forward. The restoration projects dealt with many areas that will make Essex shine on TV and to any who attend the Curtis Cup. Until this past fall, much of the focus, and rightly so, was placed on drainages and infrastructure. Start-

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### Essex CC - continued from page 1

ing in October of 2007, there have been many cosmetic changes to the golf course. We removed 600 trees, renovated bunkers and rebuilt some tees; to name a few of the projects. This will continue for another year. The track taken by the club is to restore the golf course to it original design/ intent. Shown here are some before and after pictures. The top picture (before) is a picture of a hill behind #11 green which was a lost feature due to a planting of pine trees four or five decades ago. As you can see in the bottom picture (after) there has been some dramatic changes. Many of the restoration projects have also decreased the agonomic issues in each area.

The Curtis Cup will be televised on the golf channel and the club expects attendance to be anywhere from 2,000 to 3,000 patrons. It is a "Ryder Cup" format match play tournament. I will be attending the Curtis Cup in Scotland in May and they are expecting 15,000 patrons to attend. This may be due partly to the venue, but this tournament seems to resonant more in England and Ireland than here in the United States. In 2010, the Curtis Cup should be a forum to show the world what New England has to offer. The Curtis Cup also offers an opportunity for people to discuss the very rich championship golf history that has and continues to be made in this area, not to mention the great golf courses. This event will be seen world wide (110 media credentials, so far). That is why myself and the club will need all the help we can get. I will begin the process of trying to recruit grounds volunteers this time next year with a more formal process than this article. The club and I are hoping to have the support from all of you with this tournament. If you would like to speak to me about any assistance you can offer please contact me, my information is listed at the end of this article.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to ask everyone to put David Heroian, CGCS, Myopia Hunt Club in their thoughts and prayers. He has recently been diagnosed with cancer, the outlook is positive. David has not only been a mentor of mine and but is good friend to not only me but to all of you. He has and continues to do an amazing job at Myopia for 21 years, but more importantly he has conducted himself with integrity, professionalism



11th Hole Essex County Club, before and after  
Photo Source: Essex CC

and kindness.

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#### References:

- Caner Jr., George C. (1995) History of the Essex County Club 1893-1993, published by Essex County Club
- The Curtis Cup 2006 Archive, <http://www.curtiscup.org/2006/history/>
- The Curtis Cup 2006 Archive, <http://www.curtiscup.org/2006/history/>

## CALENDAR

May 29	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Easton Country Club Host: Matt Ponte
June 16	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament Tedesco C.C. Host: Peter Hasak
July 28	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Walpole C.C. Host: Mark Gagne
Aug. 19	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Individual Championship Marlborough C.C. Host: Ken Crimmings, CGCS
Sept. 15	<b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b> Twin Hills C.C. Team of Two Championship Host: Matt Kowal



# Gardner Losing Hermanson

Final Year for Remarkable Reign

By: Bill Doyle

In 1972, **Tiger Woods** hadn't been born yet, such local golf courses as Cyprian Keyes, the Woods of Westminster, Kettle Brook and Red Tail were decades away from opening, and Gardner Municipal Golf Course hired **Mike Hermanson** as superintendent.

No other superintendent in the state has worked for the same club for as long, but Hermanson's reign will end next year. Hermanson has informed Gardner's mayor and golf commission of his decision to retire in 2009. He may leave as soon as February, but could end up staying on a few months longer if he's needed.

"It's time," Hermanson said. "I see too many people work and work, then retire and the next year they're dead."

With members so demanding and Mother Nature cruel at times, most superintendents don't last more than a handful of years at a club. Hermanson enjoyed the security associated with being a Civil Service employee, but he still treated Gardner as if it were his own backyard. His alarm rang at 5:30 a.m. seven days a week. He's respected so much by his peers, he's a past president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England.

For 71 of the 73 years that Gardner Municipal has been open, the club had just two superintendents, **Dan Donovan** and Hermanson. Donovan served as superintendent from 1936-1968. **Laurie Blacchiere** held the job from 1969 until **Steve Zadak** took over midway through the 1970 season.

Donovan returned for 1971.

Hermanson worked on the grounds crew at Gardner while attending Gardner High and worked two summers at Oak Hill CC in Fitchburg while attending the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts.

He was substitute teaching in Gardner when he was hired as superintendent in March of 1972.



"They took a chance on a 21-year-old kid with little experience," Hermanson said, "and I still enjoy going to work every day."

On Hermanson's first day, he discovered that only one of the club's 30 pieces of mechanical equipment — tractors, mowers, trucks, utility vehicles — started.

Without a mechanic on staff, Hermanson and his crew somehow got everything in working order. Except for

the greens, grass over the entire course was cut at the same height before Hermanson added definition to the course by growing rough and fringe about the greens. Play at Gardner has doubled from 20,000 rounds to 40,000 rounds since Hermanson came on board.

Hermanson oversaw hundreds of projects, including the construction of a 14,000-square foot practice green and a 10-acre driving range across the street from the course. He was a driving force behind the formation of Gardner Municipal Golfers Inc., a private fund-raising organization which has raised \$400,000 to pay for such projects as the irrigation system.

"When I started here, it was all hoses and sprinklers," Hermanson said. "All we could water was greens and tees."

Some of Hermanson's early dates with his future wife **Susan** were spent watering Gardner's greens by hand at night.

Hermanson's most recent project was performing major drainage work on the 11th hole to keep Crystal Lake from flooding the fairway.

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# The Tool Every Golf Course Superintendent Should Have

By: Rich Gagnon, Editor

With everything in the world changing around us it can be difficult to keep up with the latest and greatest when it comes to technology. With the birth of plasma televisions, GPS navigation systems, iPhones and wireless internet access, along comes a technology that every golf course superintendent should take advantage of; digital photography. With this technology being a few years old, camera companies competing for your business, the decreasing cost of a digital camera, and the user-friendly improvements associated with this technology, there should be no reason to procrastinate when it comes to buying your first digital camera. Photography in general has been a valuable tool over the years for superintendents but lately it has become easier than ever to produce high quality photos thanks to this great technology.

I decided to write this article because I have had a passion for photog-

raphy going back as far as I can remember. I have used my camera as a



**Salem Country Club**

Photo by: Rich Gagnon

valuable tool in the past few years as a golf course superintendent and wanted to share my basic knowledge on the subject and hope that some fellow superintendents can learn something. I am by no means a professional pho-

tographer nor am I a professional writer for that matter. With that being said, I needed to at least be familiar with the subject if I am going to educate others in writing. So what better place to start my amateur research than a trip to the Barnes and Noble book store and getting my hands on the most obvious book for the occasion: *Digital Photography for Dummies*. As I thumbed through the 700 page guide I figured this would be a gold mine of information on the subject of golf course photography. I flipped to the section on "golf" and found only one sentence on the subject. I was quickly reminded that the book was written for "dummies" and is very appropriately named. The two important (and only) tips they offered were to: 1) never take a picture of a golfer as they are swinging because you will make them mad, and 2) never stand directly in front of a golfer as you could get

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“The course is fabulous, year in and year out,” Gardner golf pro **Mike Egan** said. “I don’t know how he does it with the budget he works with. We’ve got private club greens basically.”

This is Egan’s 32nd year as Gardner’s head pro. When Egan was an assistant pro at Alpine CC in West Warwick, R.I., the head pro and superintendent there did not get along.

“It was horrible,” Egan said. “But since day one Michael and I have gotten along, we travel together, we communicate well with each other and he always knows what I’m doing and I know what he’s doing. That’s so important. We literally talk every day and he’s been super to work with.”

Egan and Hermanson twice finished second in the New England PGA

Pro-Superintendent Tournament. Hermanson won the club championship in 1981 and another of the club’s major events, the DeLay Memorial, in 1976, but he hasn’t played much in recent years.

Hermanson spent 25 winters refereeing high school and women’s college basketball, but last January he vacationed in Naples, Fla., and fell in love with it. He plans to winter in Naples with Susan and spend much of the rest of the year golfing at Gardner. What will he do if he doesn’t care for the course conditions at Gardner after he retires?

“I’ll keep my mouth shut,” he said.

Source: telegram.com

A megapixel is 1 million pixels, and is a term used not only for the number of pixels in an image, but also to express the number of image sensor elements of digital cameras or the number of display elements of displays. The more megapixels the better. Generally any camera with megapixels above 6 is going to take good pictures. I would hope that every superintendent would at the very least have one of these cameras and take advantage of all they have to offer.

The second kind of camera is called the SLR (single lens reflex) or DSLR (digital single reflex) camera. A digital single-lens reflex camera is a digital camera that uses an automatic mirror system and pentaprism or pentamirror to direct light from the lens through the viewfinder eyepiece.

These cameras offer a wider range of advanced features including interchangeable lenses, higher megapixels, manual controls, and interchangeable accessories such as filters and flashes. The cost for a good SLR camera can range from \$500 to \$5000. You can get a fantastic camera for around \$1000. There are many camera manufacturers and all of them are good, but the long-time leaders seem to be Canon and Nikon. You can’t go wrong if you decide to go with either of these brands. Before you leave the store make sure you have the proper memory card for your specific camera. Memory cards are measured by giga-

injured while taking their picture. It looks like I will have to rely on my personal experiences and recall information that I learned from some of the pros who have taught me over the years.

**What kind of camera should I buy and what do I look for?**

These are the two questions I get asked the most. There are two basic kinds of cameras. The first is what is

called the “point and shoot” style cameras which take a lot of the guess work out of picture taking. They can be very effective, very handy and fit comfortably in your pocket. The prices for this type of camera generally range from \$150 to \$350. Even though the cost is reasonable and they are very user friendly this camera does have its limitations. You can’t change the lens, the zoom features are few, the settings are not advanced, and there are no manual controls. If this is your camera of choice try to make sure the camera features a high amount of megapixels.

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Photos  
By:  
Rich  
Gagnon



Winged Foot Golf Club



Essex County Club



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bytes (GB) and the more the better. A gigabyte is a unit of information or computer storage meaning exactly 1 billion bytes. A memory card of 1GB will be plenty and a 4GB card will last you forever.

### Photography101

If you decide to buy the point and shoot camera you have very little flexibility and you have to live with whatever the pictures look like. If you buy the SLR camera you will have lots of flexibility and you will need to know some of the basic features of your camera. If you're going to be taking great pictures you need to know how to achieve the proper exposure. The two keys to successful exposure are understanding the two controls for light which are shutter and aperture. The shutter controls the speed at which the opening in your lens will open and close. The longer it remains open the more light will get through. Too long will overexpose your picture and too short will underexpose it. The aperture is the size of the opening in your lens. The wider it opens the more light will get through and the smaller it opens

the less light will get through. Too open will overexpose your picture and too closed will underexpose your picture. A small aperture will give you more depth of field which means that objects in the

aperture. If you wanted to focus on just a flower or a golfer and wanted the background blurry you would want to use a larger aperture.

### What else do I need to know?

Once you have your camera, know the basics about proper exposure and have an understanding about depth of field, you have a great foundation for taking great pictures of your golf course. There are a few tips however that will help you before you start clicking away:

- A filter is a great accessory to have in your camera bag. There are hundreds of filters to choose from but the best filter for this occasion is called a polarizing filter. This filter will really enhance the colors in your photo, darken up the grass, plus produce great sky images. This is a must for your landscape photos.
- Having a tripod is also very useful and usually inexpensive.
- The best times of day to take pictures are early and late. You want the shadows to creep in and show the mounding, contours, and features of your course.
- Shoot at an angle to the light or sun. Never shoot directly into or away from the sun.
- Take both horizontal and vertical pictures of your course. Most score cards, magazine covers, pamphlets, and books use the vertical angle. Most people forget to turn the camera sideways once in a while to get a great shot.
- Back-up your images. Once your images are on your memory card you want to transfer them to a computer and finally burn them all onto a cd. You can then delete the photos from your memory card for re-use. You now have all your photos on your computer and on a cd with a fresh memory card.
- Take advantage of the latest Photoshop software and become savvy on how to improve your photos. You can darken, lighten, crop, resize, and enhance your photos with the click of a button. You can also fix any imperfections in your photos such as a golf ball, a golfer, or the occasional patch of brown grass, goose, or stray leaf.
- Take advantage of any classes that may be offered to you. The



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Photo by: Rich Gagnon

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# The Dangers faced by New Employees

By: Ron Smith, MBA, CPSI

New employees are *five times* more likely to suffer a lost-time injury on the job within the first month than are those more experienced. Other statistics add that 40 percent of all workers injured on the job have been doing it less than a year.

Such injury rates lead to the question of why new employees are so vulnerable, and more important, what your company can do about it. The first question—why it happens—is easy to answer. The high injury rates are caused by a combination of lack of knowledge and fear.

The lack of knowledge is not only on the workers' part. They are most likely unfamiliar with the tools, conditions, and most important, safety hazards, of their new environment. But it extends to employers, too. Many times supervisors assume that new employees know more than they really do. Familiarity with the work tasks being performed can also negatively impact supervisors as certain job precau-

tions may seem like common sense to someone who has spent years on the job. However, to a newcomer these are brand new hazards never even thought about.

The fear comes in a newcomer's refusing to ask questions, lest he or she seem incapable of doing the job, which could lead to an early termination. Supervisors need to remind new workers again and again that questions are welcome at any time. In an attempt to reduce the high risk of safety accidents new employees encounter safety experts recommend supervisors take the following steps:

## Make safety training part of every worker's orientation

- include a copy of your safety policy in the new hire document pack
- stress safety features at your facility while doing the usual new hire walk-through

## Develop and deliver formal safety training as part of the orientation process.

The formal safety training program for new employees should include the following:

- **Lay out the objectives**
  - An accident free workplace
- **Note specific learning**
- **Warn against horseplay**
- **Explain the worker's role in security**
- **List safety information sources**
- **Give detailed safety information**
  - Housekeeping, fire hazards and response (including extinguisher use and technique), ergonomic cautions, safe lifting and materials handling, PPE types and use, electrical hazards and protective measures, and hazardous chemicals.
- **Ask for questions**

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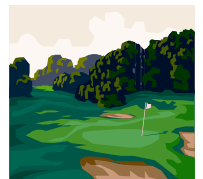
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Golf Industry Show offers a great class taught by John R. Johnson called "Comprehensive Photography Instruction for Golf Courses, Personal Images, and Projects". Johnson was a 2 time "National Golf Photographer of the Year". The USGA offered a great class at the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation show in Providence last March.

- Take advantage of when your course looks best. October when the foliage is peaking, in August when your flowers are full, and in late spring when your grass is at it's greenest are all great times to shoot.

**What do I do with all these great new photos of my golf course?**

- Hopefully you will put together a nice collection of photos of your golf course and will have many valuable uses for them. Some of the things that you can do with your digital photos:

- Provide your employer with great photos for the club's website.
- Communicate with your employer via email on any projects or equipment that you need to update them on.
- A PowerPoint presentation for your committee or board of directors is always impressive.
- Promote your golf course, tournaments, and events.
- Build pamphlets and market your course.
- Provide photos to any media outlets that may be featuring your golf course in their publication. There is nothing worse than when a reporter shows up with a photographer to do a feature on your course. Especially if it's the day you're aerifying greens! You will be happy you have them.
- Hang a few in the clubhouse and ask if you could make them available for sale. You could generate revenue for your club.
- Over time, you will have enough photos to build a great portfolio as well.

**Golf Results— 2nd Annual Bear Cup GCMACC vs. GCSANE - April 23rd**

GCMACC won the Bear Cup with 13.5 pts. To 12.5 pts.

- 1st Gross: Darin Eddy, Tom Harrington
- 1st Net: Chuck Bramhall, Chuck Welch
- 2nd Net: Mike Marshall, Matt Santos
- 3rd Net: Jim Small, Dave Shepherd
- 4th Net: Bruce Carlson, George Wise



Joe Felicetti, with Bear Cup before meeting started at Pinehills G.C.  
Photo Credit: Rich Gagnon

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**Send all Newsletter ads to:** Julie Heston, 36 Elisha Mathewson Road, N. Scituate, RI 02857

Phone: 401-934-3677 Email: jheston@verizon.net

## Woodward selected GCSAA Chief Executive Officer

Mark J. Woodward, golf operations manager for the city of San Diego has been selected chief executive officer for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). His selection by the GCSAA Board of Directors comes after conducting a national search to replace Steve Mona, who became the chief executive of the World Golf Foundation March 3. A familiar face to GCSAA, Woodward has been actively involved as a committee participant, a member of the board of directors and 68th president of the association in 2004. He is in his 30th year as a GCSAA member and first achieved the status of certified golf course superintendent in 1986. He is the first golf course superintendent to serve as GCSAA's permanent chief executive.

"We were extremely pleased with the quantity and quality of candidates that were interested in the position. Without a doubt, Mark presented the best fit for the association," GCSAA President David S. Downing II, CGCS said. "He is a talented individual with a myriad of skills and abilities that will serve him, the membership, the association, the industry and the game well. He has a strong track record of service to GCSAA and success as a golf course superintendent and an administrator. His efforts have earned him rave reviews in bolstering golf operations for the city of San Diego."

In his capacity in San Diego, Woodward developed a five year business plan that has resulted in generating an additional \$3 million in revenue from 2006 to 2007, including the implementation of the Advance Tee Time program that added \$500,000 in revenue in the first year. His department has hosted numerous high profile events including three junior world golf championships, three city amateur championships, three PGA Tour events and the upcoming U.S. Open -- on top of the three golf facilities annually hosting 260 golf outings. His plan resulted in creating 20,000 additional tee times available for the public golfer. From a golf course standpoint, Woodward has implemented a management

plan that has produced drastically improved course conditions and enhanced environmental stewardship. "Mark will begin his duties at GCSAA on July 1," Downing said. "It is important to him and to GCSAA that he sees to completion the U.S. Open. It is a wonderful celebration of the game and it is only fitting that he finishes his integral role in conducting the event." Woodward was named to his position in San Diego in January 2005 after serving 31 years in various capacities with the Phoenix suburb of Mesa, Ariz. His last position there was parks and recreation administrator, which included the oversight of two golf courses, a tennis facility, the Chicago Cubs spring training home, a minor league baseball training site, a park ranger program and a cemetery. He is a 1974 graduate of Arizona State University with a degree in environmental resources and holds a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

In addition to his past volunteer service to GCSAA, Woodward is active in the National Institute of Golf Management sponsored by the National Golf Foundation. He joined the NIGM board of regents in 1992, serving as its chair in 1999. He was a trustee for the Environmental Institute for Golf, serving as secretary in 2004.

Woodward has a strong golf course management background. He began his career as an assistant golf course superintendent at Mesa's Dobson Ranch Golf Course, helping to construct the layout. Two years later he assumed the superintendent position and then in 1987 assumed the additional duties of managing Mesa's Riverview Golf Course. His grandfather Jay is one of only three superintendents to have been inducted into the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame and was recognized as one of 11 GCSAA members to be recognized for outstanding service at the association's 50th anniversary celebration. Other family members to have served in the superintendent profession include his son Matt, son-in-law Cody Swirczynski, a cousin, Mike Pock, and his sons, Ernie and



**Mark J. Woodward**  
**GCSAA Chief Executive Officer**

Photo Credit: GCSAA

Jay.

Woodward, 55, (born September 6, 1952) is a native of Phoenix, Ariz. He and his wife Amy have six children including Mark's son Matt and his daughter Erin and Amy's daughters, Rachel, Christine, Nicole and Jessie. They currently have seven grandchildren.

For More Information Contact: [Jeff Bollig](#), GCSAA Director of Communications, 800-472-7878, ext. 4430 or 913-449-1635

Source: GCSAA Press Release

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***"He is a talented individual with a myriad of skills and abilities that will serve him, the membership, the association, the industry and the game well."***

**David S. Downing II, CGCS**  
**GCSAA President**

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# 11 Years and Running! New England Regional Turfgrass Show & Conference

By: Gary Sykes, Executive Director, NERTF

2008 was the 11<sup>th</sup> New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show! The NERTF board wishes to thank all participants. Since 1998, our Turfgrass conference and show has grown in several ways but remains as it started out, a turf show. Whatever the reason you come to the show, from students & researchers to exhibitors and attendees of all facets of the turfgrass industry, we hope you get the message that the show's objective is to help build and support the Turfgrass Industry here in the New England Region through research and education. This year 2300 attendees and more than 300 in attendance at our Monday seminars, experienced hearing some of the most qualified educators and professionals the turf industry has to offer.

Booth space expanded more than it has since 2004. New exhibitors intermixed with many vendors who have been with us for several years and worked the 14 hours of show floor time. These exhibitors come to display their products, make new contacts, interact with familiar customers, but also to participate in a well respected turfgrass event that is dedicated to the strengthening of the Turfgrass Industry here in New England Region through research and education. They do this through sponsorships and donations of more than \$29,000 in products to our show auctions. These companies allow our show to do more than it could without their interest and generosity. These include Coffee & Danish each morning before the show floor opens sponsored by Floratine, or Lanyards sponsored by TurfLinks, Inc., and the show program that is sponsored by Tom Irwin, Inc. and Lebanon Turf Products ever since we started the show in 1998!

Many individuals told me they thought the show floor seemed busier than other year's especially on Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Tuesday's USGA program was thankfully organized by Jim Farrell and Jim

Skorulski, both of the USGA. Speakers introduced more professional opportunities for the superintendent in the areas of communication and financing.



**Keynote Speaker: Mike Vrabel**

Photo Credit: Rich Gagnon

Today's superintendents are expected to be ready for presentation and communication possibilities well beyond bulletin boards and letters to the membership. New England Patriot Mike Vrabel, who was sponsored by Bayer Environmental Science, shared personal and team experiences with an appreciative audience on Tuesday afternoon. Following Mike's appearance, there was a lot of energy on the trade show floor, along with a wonderful amount of food sponsored by TORO/TPC and Anderson's Golf Products.

Wednesday started much like Tuesday finished. Loud and full of energy! Education sessions met expectations as industry members filled and sometimes over-filled meeting rooms. The day on the show floor concluded

with another successful auction with more than \$21,000 destined for the NERTRT to fund ongoing turf research. We especially need to thank Danny Calise and Manny Mihailides for their coordinated efforts on our behalf as auctioneer & emcee, along with Lori Mihailides, Mary Jo Kennedy and Julie Heston for helping with the auction. We couldn't have done it without them! But, most of all we thank everyone who donated and participated in this year's auction. They are listed on our show website at NERTF.org. After the auction many attendees and exhibitors enjoyed some refreshments at the conference reception in the rotunda sponsored by Syngenta and Harrell's Turf Specialty.

As we wrap things up on Thursday with more education and a more relaxed atmosphere on the show floor, we realize the many good memories, new contacts and older reacquaintances that were made over these 4 days. As spring approaches, and warmer weather prevails, the hope is that opportunities for all participants will develop as planned. Here are three attendees who will remember this show for quite sometime. Matt Gomez, of Manchester Country Club in Ct., who took home a brand new 2008 Kawasaki 600cc ATV as our grand prize winner of our give-away! We also congratulate Carl Hughes, of New York's Apawamis Club for winning the 46" Sony HD TV and Joseph Monroe of Amherst CC in New Hampshire for winning a new set of fitted Titleist Clubs.

We, as the board of directors of the NERTF, we thank you for your participation and your interest in the future of our wonderful, but challenging industry. As we look forward to 2009, and our 12<sup>th</sup> conference & show, we hope you all have a prosperous 2008 even beyond your expectations!

# University of Massachusetts Alumni to Honor George Thompson, CGCS at the Fifth Annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic

Lyman Orchards in Middlefield, Connecticut is to host the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic, sponsored by the Alumni Turf Group. The event will take place on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

This year's tournament honoree is George Thompson, CGCS. He graduated from Stockbridge in 1963. He Moved to Pinehurst in 1983 to become Director of Golf Course Management for the Country Club of North Carolina until he retired at age 63 in 2001 to consult and teach Golf Course Management at Sandhills Community College in Pinehurst. Mr. Thompson has mentored well over 100 interns, placement trainees, and assistant superintendents. He is the recipient of many industry awards including The USGA's highest turfgrass honor - The Green Section Award, Mid Atlantic Superintendent of the Year, and Distinguished

Service Awards from the Carolina's Golf Course Superintendents, North Carolina Turfgrass Council, and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. In August 2006, he became the first career golf course superintendent to be inducted into The Carolina's Golf Hall of Fame.

People that know him well have stated: "Mr. Thompson is the consummate gentleman, a persistent teacher, and mentor who cares deeply about turfgrass education. This will continue a great annual tradition of honoring inspirational and accomplished alumni of the turf programs at the University of Massachusetts."

The fundraiser was initiated in 2004 as a means to raise money for the new Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Research Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. With the building completed, the Alumni Turf Group has

continued the fundraising efforts to support the turf program at the University.

The Alumni Turf Group (ATG), formed in 2005, is a 501c3 organization made up of turf professionals who are graduates of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and the University of Massachusetts. Through fundraising, ATG hopes to further research and education, promote UMass alumni in the turf management profession, and instill pride and commitment in the turf programs at the University of Massachusetts.

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

Source: Alumni Turf Group Press Release

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Tedd Perry who has accepted the superintendent position at Thomson Country Club.

Our condolences are extended to Dennis Friel and family on the unexpected passing of Dennis' daughter.

Our condolences are extended to Tim Strano and family on the passing of Tim's father in April.

It is with great pleasure that **S.V. Moffett** proudly announces the addition of **Ron Milenski** to our Turf Equipment sales team. Ron will be covering central Massachusetts and work from the North Reading Branch. Ron comes to S.V. Moffett with over 30 years of Turf and Sales experience, and we are very pleased to welcome him. Ron may be reached at anytime on his new cell # (978) 270-1263, or email [rmilenski@svmoffett.com](mailto:rmilenski@svmoffett.com)

## S & B Information

**16th Annual  
Scholarship & Benevolence  
Golf Tournament  
In Memory of:  
Leroy Allen and Ken Turner**

**Monday, June 16th, 2008  
Tedesco Country Club  
Host: Peter Hasak**

**\$350 per twosome  
\$700 per foursome  
Better ball of two / 80% handicap**

11:00 AM: Registration, Buffet Luncheon  
12:30 PM: Shotgun

Steak roast BBQ dinner to follow golf (golf attire for dinner)

**Entry Deadline: May16th, 2008**

*We are asking all superintendent members to solicit their club or facility to contribute a round of golf for this year's raffle. Thank you in advance for your support and we hope you will participate as the Scholarship & Benevolence Fund is an important benefit to all members in need.*

## SAVE THE DATE

**June 18, 2008:**  
UMass Turf Research Field Day  
For more information, please visit [www.umassturf.org](http://www.umassturf.org) or call (508) 892-0382.

**July 22, 2008:**  
The University of Connecticut Field Day  
For more information please visit: [www.turf.uconn.edu/fieldday08](http://www.turf.uconn.edu/fieldday08).

**August 20, 2008 :**  
The University of Rhode Island Field Day  
Pre-registration is now open. For more information, please contact Dr. Rebecca Brown (401) 874-2791.

**September 29, 2008:**  
The 2008 Joseph Troll Classic at Lyman Orchards Golf Club, honoring George B. Thompson.



# UMASS TURF RESEARCH FIELD DAY 2008

**Wednesday, June 18, 2008**  
**Joseph Troll Turf Research Center**  
**South Deerfield, Massachusetts**

*From the North:* From Route 91 take exit 25. Turn left onto Route 116. Follow 116 South to River Road (on the left just before the Connecticut River bridge). Turn left onto River Road. The Center is on the corner of Route 116 and River Road.

*From the South:* From Route 91 take Exit 24. Turn right onto Route 5 North. Turn right onto Route 116. Follow Route 116 to River Road (on the left just before the Connecticut River Bridge). Turn left onto River Road. The Center is on the corner of Route 116 and River Road.

Turf managers and their associates from across the Northeast Region are invited to help us welcome summer at University of Massachusetts Turf Research Field Day on Wednesday, June 18, 2008. As in the past, this year's event will be held at the Joseph Troll Turfgrass Research Center on River Road in South Deerfield, Massachusetts. Please join us for an update on ongoing improvements to the Center, including new research plots and a state-of-the-art rain-out shelter under construction.



As always, attendees will have the opportunity to meet and speak with the researchers and educators of the UMass Turf Team, and to hear about and *see* current turf research underway at UMass. Several ongoing studies will be highlighted at Field Day, including an array of National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) variety trials. The half-day agenda will include a cookout lunch and trade show, with several Green Industry vendors and exhibitors on hand.

**QUESTIONS ABOUT FIELD DAY 2008? E-Mail [fieldday@umassturf.org](mailto:fieldday@umassturf.org)**

**Support the UMass Turf Program with your presence at Turf Field Day 2008!** Come to learn about cutting-edge turf research, network with colleagues, and meet with vendors. Enjoy a tour of the research facility named for Dr. Joe Troll. Pesticide recertification contact hours will be available for all New England states. Morning coffee and cookout lunch are included in the price of registration. For additional information, including how to register online or by mail, visit our web site at <http://www.umassturf.org>

**Visit our web site** for further UMass Turf Research Field Day information, as well as information on:

- How to sign up for the free TurfTalk e-mail list, with timely turf Management Updates.
- Diagnostic Services – A wide range of turf diagnostic services is available from UMass, including disease diagnosis, nematode assay, turf insect identification, and weed identification.
- Upcoming Events, including future educational programs offered by UMass Extension.

**REGISTER ONLINE! <http://www.umassturf.org>**

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Ed Ceaser (978) 250-3333 or

## Harrell's Turf Specialty LLC

15 Londonderry Rd., Londonderry, NH 03053  
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We serve all your remodeling and renovation needs. You can trust your project with us!  
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## 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.

29 Gilmore Drive, Sutton, MA 01590  
Distributor of quality fertilizer, grass seed, & control products for the golf course industry.  
Kevin Lyons, Scott Mackintosh, Jim Favreau, Chris Cowan - (888) 398-TURF (8873)

## 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

## Valley Green

14 Copper Beech Drive, Kingston, MA 02364  
Phone: 413-533-0726 Fax: 413-533-0792  
"Wholesale distributor of turf products"

## 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