



THE NEWSLETTER

August 2009

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.

The Superintendent's Champion *Tufts Captures Individual Champion Honors for 2009*

By: Rich Gagnon

Chris Tufts wasn't so sure he had posted a good enough score to win at Marlborough Country Club in the annual superintendent's individual championship. Tufts was keeping close tabs on fellow competitor and friend Ron Dobosz who was playing one group ahead of Tufts. With Tufts starting on hole #9 and Dobosz starting on hole #10 Tufts thought he was one down to Dobosz right down to the last hole. "I felt a whole lot better about things knowing Ron had to par the impossible 9th hole to beat me." Sure enough the 9th hole proved to be the difference. "After I finished my round I noticed Ron looking for his ball down the left side of the 9th hole. Soon after that Ron was seen heading back to the tee to reload a provisional ball. I think he took a 10 on the hole." said Tufts.

His 76 was good enough to take the gross division. This wasn't the first individual championship that Tufts has won. He has won this title on 6 occasions according to Tufts. Tufts honed his golf skills as a kid growing up playing the Beaverbrook Golf Course in Haydenville, a public 9-hole facility in . From there he played golf for Northampton High School. Chris graduated from Northampton High School in 1979. Tufts got his first golf course industry experience while taking a job on the crew that was building Willowbend Country Club back in 1987. Soon after that he was building another golf course in Bourne called Brookside Golf Club in 1988-1989. Tufts graduated from the University of Massachusetts

winter school in 1990 and then landed back at Willowbend as their superintendent from 1990 to 1998. From Willowbend it was on to Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton where he remained for three years before



Chris Tufts

Photo Credit: Rich Gagnon

working for HarmonGolf between 2002 and 2006. While at Pleasant Valley Country Club Tufts had the responsibility of preparing and hosting an LPGA event in 1999. The Country Club at New Seabury is what Chris calls home these days as he has been the superintendent of the Dunes course there for the past 3 years.

Tufts had a good feeling about his

round as he started with a par on the difficult 9th hole. "Making par on number 9 was a big relief as historically I have had a hard time on that hole." said Tufts. From there he birdied holes 12 and 14. The back nine was a bit of a rollercoaster as he had bogeys on holes 11, 16, 17 and 18 and a double bogey on hole 15. Once Tufts made the turn it was steady going as he recorded one bogey and 8 pars for a 40-36 total of 76. "I always have a hard time breaking 75 here at Marlborough. The greens are always so good and fast that you can get in trouble quick if you are on the wrong side of the hole. My goal was to keep the ball under the hole all day. It was like US Open conditions out there that day".

When Tufts is away from the game and the course he spends most of his time with his 3 children: Alex 18, Savannah 17 and Nicholas 13. Alex recently finished up the summer working for his dad before heading to UMass-Boston. Tufts also spends a lot of time watching Savannah play soccer and lacrosse for Mashpee High School as well as traveling with his son Nicholas' baseball team.

Congratulations to Chris and the other winners at Marlborough Country Club including Garrett Whitney the gross division affiliate winner. Hats off to Ken Crimmings, CGCS and his staff for an amazing job on the golf course. It is a treat for all to play Marlborough Country Club every year for this event. I look forward to next year already. ❖

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The Latest Insect Report from UMass - White Grubs August 14, 2009

As a result of the cool, wet weather of the summer, Japanese beetle adult activity has been slow to appear. But I have seen some pretty good flights of beetles in the last week or two - in the Amherst (MA) area and in central New Hampshire.

Normally European chafer grubs prefer drier locations, but we have not had many of those in most of New England. (Some golf courses have reported 18 inches of rain since 10 June.) Chafer adults appeared to be close to "on schedule" for emerging and laying eggs, but time will tell how well the grubs do in the wetter than normal soils.

Oriental beetle adults appeared to be close to "on schedule", first appearing in Amherst in the third and fourth week of June. But again, the steady wet weather may have caused females to delay egg laying.

Japanese beetle adults were at least a week or two behind normal on emergence. They are much more ac-

tive on sunny days, and those have been few and far between until the last week, so many of the beetles have been biding their time, waiting for soils to dry out and for the sun to appear. They are busy laying eggs now.

In general watch for grub activity in areas that are usually high and dry. Because of the wet summer weather, many females are seeking drier areas to lay eggs. So don't just look in the usual places, but keep an eye on any areas that have drained well and have not retained moisture as much as other areas.

How has the wet weather affected insecticide applications?

I have had a couple of turf managers ask me whether the heavy rains of June and July would have washed any of the neonicotinoid applications out of the root zone. (The neonicotinoids include chlothianidin, available as Arena™ or in the combination product,

continued on page 3



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President's Message

I would like to apologize for not having a President's Message in last month's newsletter. Sometime between the June and July newsletters the hard drive in my laptop crashed. It took two weeks to get my laptop back (along with another visit to the Mac store for a new fan) and I am now just catching up with many of the missed e-mails, newsletters, and other tasks that I missed. I hope my situation is a good reminder to everyone that it's a good idea to regularly backup your computers.

Our thoughts go out to Joe Rybka and his family on the passing of his sister, Tom Harrington and family on the passing of Tom's father, and Tom Ackley and his family on the passing of longtime GCSANE member and Marlborough Country Club Superintendent Glenn Ackley. The Scholarship and Benevolence Tournament on September 28 will be played in memory of Glenn and Richard Blake. I hope everyone has had the opportunity to sign up and donate rounds of golf for the event, which is being played at Bob DiRico's Brae Burn Country Club. This tournament raises funds for not only scholarships but also benevolent aid which is given to members in their time of need. I would like to thank Bob in offering his course and thank Carl

Miner and his committee for all the hard work on behalf of the entire membership. I hope to see everyone on the 28th.

Our Assistant Superintendent initiative is progressing well. In case you hadn't heard, we are offering in 2009 the opportunity for clubs to sign up their Assistants without paying the initiation fee. I think you would all agree that being a member of a local association is a great networking tool for these young men and women and enables them to further their continuing education at monthly meetings. Please save the date for this year's Assistant Appreciation Day. All of our Assistants will be meeting on October 19th at Oak Hill for golf, education with Dave Fearis, CGCS from GCSAA, and after golf networking. Thanks to Scott Lagana, CGCS and his Assistants John Paul Micklus, Sean Keating, and Nick Welch for helping out on this day.

Some things that you should know this month:

Nat Binns completed 100 holes recently for this year's Ouimet Marathon. Nat and his caddie Carl Miner participated at Stow Acres and did us all proud in raising over \$4,000 for this great fund. Well done.

Congrats go out to Chris Tufts and Garrett Whitney on their Individual Championship wins at Marlborough Country Club. For those of you who were not there, Ken Crimmings and his staff had the place in fabulous shape for what turned out to be one of the hottest days of the year. Thanks Ken for continuing to host us during the month of August.

I would like to wish Tom Brodeur and his staff the best of luck in preparing for this year's Deutsche Bank Championship over Labor Day weekend. Pledging has begun for the Birdies for Charity which offers those who pledge a chance to win two season tickets to the 2010 Boston Red Sox or a trip for two to Las Vegas to see the Tiger Jam in 2010. More information can be found under Charity at www.deutschebankchampionship.com.

Until next month, may the simple pleasures of life including good friends, family, health, happiness and peace be with you and your families. ❖

Patrick J. Daly, CGCS
GCSANE President

White Grubs - continued from page 2

Aloft™; Merit™ and the generic formulations of imidacloprid, as well as the combination product, Allectus™; and thiamethoxam, available as Meridian™).

I asked my Bayer representative, and he assured me that as long as the application was in place for at least a day or two before a drenching rain, the product should be just fine. Much of it would be absorbed into the roots within the first couple days, and should be available to control grubs later in the season.

Is it too late to use a neonicotinoid this year?

This is a tougher question. While the labels suggest that neonicotinoids are most effective if applied when beetles are laying eggs, there appears to

be some field evidence that chlothianidin and thiamethoxam, at least, can be used a little later in the summer with good success. I would still try to have the applications completed by the end of next week (21 August) if at all possible. Remember that the neonicotinoids take five to twenty days to become active (depending on active ingredient and soil temperature), so the longer you wait, the larger the grubs will be when the active ingredient releases.

At least the soils have dried out enough in most locations so that you can water the application in! ❖

Submitted by: [Dr. Pat Vittum](#)

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USGA Green Section Northeast Regional Update (Part 1)

Can You Believe It???

By David A. Oatis, Director

Updated 8-15-09

Every year has its own character, and seasons often are “memorable” for one reason or another. Usually they are memorable for all of the wrong reasons: i.e. bad weather (heat, humidity, drought, monsoon...). I will always remember the summer of 1988. It was the toughest year of any I can remember, and I saw more dead grass that summer than I had in my entire life to that point. We had it all that year, and if the heat, drought or floods didn't cause you problems, the atrazine contaminated fungicides did. Not surprisingly, all other years are measured against 1988 in my mind.

Well, 2009 has certainly been a peculiar year, but not for the normal reasons. It started with winter injury in many areas, and Murphy's Law suggests this should have been followed by a cold spring. Oh wait, it was! Then, we should have had a really hot summer with loads of rain and tremendous disease pressure! Okay, here is where Murphy's Law was not followed. Rain-

fall has been abundant (ridiculously so) in most of the areas I've traveled in this year (especially on Long Island in June!), but temperatures have been mild for most of the summer!

In fact, this has been the best summer I can remember for those growing *Poa annua*! Bent always fares better than *Poa* in the summer, but not this year! Surprisingly, temperatures have been so mild, and we've had so much rain and so many overcast days that *Poa* has actually performed better than bentgrass in many areas. Thus, a few courses with lots of bentgrass have had some problems, and this has been a function of the moisture and lack of sunlight. We have certainly seen drainage problems and there has been plenty of mechanical damage (caused by rolling and mowing under wet conditions). Dollar spot pressure has been high and some courses have struggled with root *Pythium*. Moss populations have taken off (or rebounded if you've had it before), but in general, annual bluegrass has performed well this

year, and thankfully, widespread turf problems have been absent thus far. Let's hope it stays that way!

As I write this update, the temperatures and humidity levels are just about at their season long highs, so perhaps I'm jinxing us all. However, once we're past the August 15 point, pressures usually abate a bit. Maybe we're in for a stretch of tough weather, but hopefully it won't last long. Aerators are getting tune-ups and many courses are getting ready to start the fall cultivation work. After years of research, I have concluded that for most golfers, there is no good time to aerate. However, cultivation is vitally important to turf health. Short cutting cultivation programs now will increase your chances of having problems in the future. The old oil filter commercial is especially apropos: “pay me now or pay me (more) later!”

Have a great fall season and don't hesitate to call if we can help you out.

❖

USGA Green Section Northeast Regional Update (Part 2)

Oh My Gosh I Believe It!

By David A. Oatis, Director

Updated 8-19-09

Alright, I admit it, I jinxed us. I was in my basement office Sunday morning typing out my update, writing reports, and generally trying to get caught up. I was thinking about what a weird year it had been. I didn't check the weather for the upcoming week, and even though it was pretty hot and humid last week, I really hadn't seen many major problems. I was thinking, maybe hoping, that we were out of the woods for the year. Well guess what, the problems have arrived! Monday morning I visit my first course of the week and there is our old friend summer patch staring at me. No major turf loss, but

plenty of the disease. Next visit, the combination of poor drainage, combined (finally) with some heat, and we have a bunch of dead grass. Later, I meet a superintendent who brandishes my update in my face (with a hint of a smile) and he's got dollar spot so bad it looks like it snowed! And then, I find some weevil damage... Oh, and then a few courses aerated last Monday (when it was hotter than H E double hockey sticks), and NOW guess what! Yep, more summer patch.

Okay, it's been that kind of week; maybe it's that kind of year. I apologize, I jinxed us. Even with all the rain (trust me, after the Open, I twitch when

it starts to rain) it was looking like we were going to escape the year without major issues. I was wrong and again, I apologize.

So here is my advice (borrowed from Diane who many of you know) “if you have a good idea, sit down till it goes away.” What does that mean? Slow down, think about the weather and think about your susceptibilities. Summer patch requires moisture to produce the infection. We've had the moisture. Then it needs stress. Recent heat has produced the stress, and if you've mowed low and rolled a ton

continued on page 5

UMass Update: Nematodes

August 24, 2009

Subject: Damaging Nematode Populations

The [UMass Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab](#) has seen some unusually large nematode populations in golf course greens this summer. The symptoms of nematode injury are not specific like a patch disease, but are a general thinning and decline of turf. Particularly heavy infestations will result in wilt despite adequate moisture in the root zone. Nematodes are small (generally microscopic), non-segmented roundworms which are ubiquitous in all soils. Most nematode species feed on microscopic animals and plants like algae, fungi, bacteria, insects, and other nematodes. Plant parasitic nematodes require a living host and are equipped with a specialized feeding structure, the stylet, which punctures plant cells and withdraws their nutrients.

The microenvironment of a golf course green is ideal for nematode growth and reproduction; the sandy texture, regular irrigation, and uniform presence of susceptible hosts facilitate nematode movement and population development. Nematodes are present in all turfgrasses, but damaging populations are present only on golf course greens.

Nematode populations tend to occur in clumped colonies in the top

three to four inches of the soil. Populations from different cores of the same green will vary according to depth of the soil, depth of the root system, and depth of the accumulated sand from topdressing. Nematode populations in soil decline during the winter months and their reproductive potential increases as the soil warms. In New England, nematode populations generally peak from mid-June to late August.

Nematodes damage turfgrass roots by feeding on them or burrowing through root tissues. Symptoms on roots include swollen tips, galls, lesions, inhibition of root elongation, and short, stubby roots. Nematode populations are evaluated in context of species and numbers of nematodes present, depth of sample, depth of the root system, soil texture, species of turfgrass present, the occurrence of other stresses, and the extent of damage. The nematode population level which justifies the implementation of control measures is termed the threshold. Threshold levels are dependent on the variables already noted.

Presently, application of fenamiphos (Nemacur™) is the most effective method for controlling plant parasitic nematodes in turf. Nemacur™ is no longer available for purchase, but stockpiles of the material can be used. Nemacur™ provides protection immediately by preventing nematode feed-

ing; it may require four weeks for nematode populations to decline. Research is underway at UMass by Dr. Robert Wick for effective alternatives to Nemacur for nematode control. Cultural practices that encourage healthy root system development including reductions of thatch and soil compaction, adequate nutrition and irrigation, and the temporary raising of mowing height are recommended as a first line of defense against nematode pressure. Healthy turf can withstand higher nematode populations than turf that is stressed.

A good specimen for a nematode assay is a composite sample. Collect 20-25 soil cores with a one inch diameter soil probe to a depth of four inches and bulk them together. Collect cores randomly throughout the green. Remove turfgrass and thatch, fill sampling holes with topdressing, and use turf to plug sampling holes. Place soil in a container to prevent desiccation and send next day to the [UMass Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab](#). Do not subject the sample to high temperatures, refrigerate or deliver as soon as possible. Be sure to clearly mark the outside of the container, as paper tags placed in contact with the soil will deteriorate rapidly. ❖

Submitted by: [M. Bess Dicklow](#)

USGA Update - continued from page 4

lately (to pick up green speed lost to the d__m rain) you're set. Or rather summer patch is set. August aeration can work out really well many years. Good growing weather promotes rapid healing; however, stress, rain and aeration... you get the picture: summer patch (or anthracnose or mechanical injury.....)

You all get the picture. I jinxed us. I apologize. Now be smart and be careful. Treat, prevent, play defense. Have a good fall...d ❖

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Adam Moeller, Agronomist amoeller@usga.org ;

Jim Skorulski, Senior Agronomist jskorulski@usga.org.

WATER MANAGEMENT ACT PERMIT RENEWALS FOR GOLF COURSES

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has started the process of renewing the 20-year Water Management Act (WMA) permits that authorize water withdrawals above the threshold of nine (9) million gallons over a consecutive three (3) month period. For golf course operators with WMA permits, this will be your opportunity to renew your permit for another twenty years. .

To date, MassDEP has issued 59 WMA permits to golf courses. According to Water Management Act Regulations (310 CMR 36.00), a permit holder wishing to continue above threshold withdrawals and/or use unregistered sources must file a renewal application. The following table provides the permit expiration dates by basin, the time period to submit renewal applications for those basins, and the number of golf course permits issued in that basin.

Basin	Permit Expiration Date	Filing Period for Renewal Applications	# of Golf Course Permits in the Basin
Blackstone River	February 28, 2009	November 1-30, 2008	3
Charles River	February 28, 2009	November 1-30, 2008	4
Ipswich River	August 31, 2009	May 1-May 31, 2009	1
North Coastal	August 31, 2009	May 1-May 31, 2009	3
Boston Harbor	February 28, 2010	November 1-30, 2009	6
Taunton River	February 28, 2010	November 1-30, 2009	5
South Coastal	August 31, 2010	May 1-31, 2010	5
Cape Cod	November 30, 2010	August 1-31, 2010	8
Islands	February 28, 2011	November 1-30, 2010	3
Buzzards Bay	May 31, 2011	February 1-28, 2011	4
Concord River	August 31, 2011	May 1- 31, 2011	1
Westfield River	November 30, 2012	August 1-31, 2012	1
Chicopee River	May 31, 2013	February 1-28, 2013	2
Connecticut River	November 30, 2013	August 1-31, 2013	7
Nashua River	February 28, 2014	November 1-30, 2013	1
Merrimack River	November 30, 2014	August 1-31, 2014	3
Parker River	February 28, 2015	November 1-30, 2014	1
Narragansett River	May 31, 2015	February 1-28, 2015	1

The renewal application is on the web at: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/approvals/wma20yr.doc>

And the instructions for the application are at: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/approvals/wma20ins.doc>

There is currently no charge for filing a renewal application.

If you hold a WMA permit and do not file a renewal application, your permit will expire on the appropriate date identified in the table above. If this happens, you must stop the withdrawal of water authorized by your permit. Failure to renew your permit will require that you obtain an entirely new permit, including paying the \$3340 application filing fee, prior to continuing your above threshold withdrawals.

Please be aware that the majority of water allocated to golf courses in Massachusetts is authorized through the 93 WMA golf course registrations issued by MassDEP. Those WMA registrations expired on December 31, 2007 and have been renewed as requested. Golf course operations only holding a WMA registration do not have to file an application for renewal at this time. The WMA registrations will expire again on December 31, 2017, and prior to that date you will be required to file an application to renew your registration. If you hold both a WMA registration and permit, then you will need to file an application to renew the permit according to the above schedule.

If you have any questions about the permit renewal process, please contact either Duane LeVangie (duane.levangie@state.ma.us or 617-292-5706) or Beth McCann (elizabeth.mccann@state.ma.us or 617-292-5901). ❖

Meeting Results and Photos

Marlborough Country Club - Individual Championship

August 18, 2009

(Photo Credit: Rich Gagnon)

Individual Championship Tournament Results

Superintendent low gross:
Chris Tufts 76

Superintendent 2nd low gross:
Dave Comee 81

Superintendent low net:
Larry Cuoco 72

Superintendent 2nd low net:
Bob Dembek 76
(won on match of cards against
Bob Barnicle and Jason Adams)

Affiliate low gross:
Garret Witney 78

Affiliate low net:
Ernie Ketchum 69

Senior low gross:
Brian Cowan 82

Senior low net:
Norman Mucciarone 76

Long Driver: Jim Fitzroy
Closest to the pin: Ed Eardley 6'3"



August Meeting Photos (continued)

(Photo Credit: Rich Gagnon)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Members:

Chris Wuorinen, Superintendent, Lake of Isles

Daniel Brandt, Assistant, Cyprian Keyes GC

Joe Geraghty, Assistant, Kernwood CC

John Paul Micklus, Assistant, Oak Hill CC

Frederick J. Swochak, Assistant, Whitinsville GC

Josh Zolkowski, Assistant, Blue Hill CC

Proposed for Membership:

Matthew Lapinski, Super, Stone Meadow GC

Our condolences are extended to Ron and Patty Smith and family on the recent passing of Patty's sister Susan Rowell at the age of 56.

• As in the past, *The Newsletter* continues to invite Affiliate members to submit a press release about new personnel, new products or a company bio. We will print each and every release free of charge. This is a great way to advertise for free.

CALENDAR

September 28:
GCSANE S&B Tournament
Brae Burn Country Club
Host: Robert DiRico

October 15:
GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Hatherly Country Club
Host: Richard Caughey

November TBA:
GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Milton Hoosic Club
Host: Jeff Urquhart

UMASS PROGRAM

Dollar Spot Resistance Field Trials and Oriental Beetle Discussion

Date: **September 23, 2009**

Time: **10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Location: **Wianno Club, Osterville, MA**

This program will provide an opportunity to see first-hand the results of the UMass Turf Program dollar spot resistance trials underway at the Wianno Club in Osterville, MA. Management strategies for delaying resistance development or managing existing resistance will be presented and followed by a look at the field trial plots. If you are experiencing inadequate dollar spot control (shorter intervals or fungicide failure), this workshop will provide strategies to help manage these problems. The agenda will also include a discussion of insecticide resistance, particularly in regard to management of the annual bluegrass weevil.

For complete information on this program, including how to register, visit: http://www.umassturf.org/upcoming_events.html

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Non-Member Rates: *All payments must be received in full before the ad appears in The Newsletter.

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