



THE NEWSLETTER

March 2011

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.

Not Just a Round, but Another Success!

By Gary Sykes, NERTF Executive Director

The 2011 New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show concluded on March 10 at 1pm. As I stand in the middle of the Exhibit Hall watching everyone begin their breakdown of exhibit space I reflect on this great week! The feelings are very similar to watching the last putt of major tournament that you just spent many months preparing for and then it is over! Our Monday qualifier was a day full of seminar attendees viewing a variety of topics including Basic Turf Management, Irrigation Conservation, Computer Training and even life-saving training for AED Equipment. More than 300 seats were taken as new and old management concepts were shared and instructors fielded questions to fulfill the needs of the audience.

Our opening round included a full-field hearing several topics directed by the USGA, including remote broadcasts, all to benefit of superintendents and those they work with. The NERTF President, Mike Buras, reminded attendees that the show continues to focus on its objectives and that attendees should understand that the show is “their” show and all suggestions and comments are important to the foundation. The day peaks with a highlighted keynote and then a few opening hours on the trade show floor with a welcoming reception and the opportunity to initiate conversations with vendors. Tuesday is nice day without many distractions or decisions other than where to find lunch. As the players gain confidence while visiting vendors, those first day butterflies diminish. A boost by Olympic Hockey Gold Medal Team Captain Mike Eruzione comes as he helps those in attendance realize that with hard work and focus on their goals, that they too can be a champion!

As Wednesday approaches, attendees prepare for a full day that can feel much more like 36 holes from start to finish. There are four tracts of education in the morning to consider. The tradeshow heats up starting at 10am and going until 5. There are more education and credits to pick-up in the afternoon and if you are looking for some friendly competition, come and challenge the field at the show auction where you can put yourself in a better position as you approach the final round. At the end of the day, there was the annual social

event sponsored by Syngenta and Harrells to relax and consider how the day played-out. If you are lucky to be around for the finale, then also some time to plan. Many weren't done yet though, as this year's special events included a dinner in honor of Dr. Joe and Lonnie Troll. This historic event seated more than 100 in attendance and cited the creation of the NERTF Distinguished Service Award given to them for the many years of personal attention that they have given to the turf industry and for the many whose careers have benefitted

by being educated and fellowshipped by the Troll's. It was special to be a part of and with Joe and Lonnie in attendance will be a landmark event always!

As the final round is here, the field is thinned out and the opportunity to spend quality time on the trade show floor is still possible. Two hours of high level education with appealing topics is scheduled. Networking continues as the field can anticipate the approaching finish. Conversations tend to be more about the events of yesterday than what to do about today. The clock hits 1, and the week is, as Jim Nantz would



Pictured (L-R): Michael Buras, NERTF President; Mary Owen, UMass Ext., Director; Joseph Troll, Lonnie Troll, Gary Sykes and Robert Ruzala.

continued on page 2

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NERTF - continued from page 1

say, one for the history books! The exodus has begun on the floor! With 53 hours of education and 13 hours of tradeshow time during the week, it takes a lot of planning and commitment to make it all go smoothly. We thank all sponsors, attendees, exhibitors and presenters for your vital support. We appreciate everyone who has worked so hard to continue to be as strong a conference and show you can find in the industry. We thank you for your compliments and your suggestions. Keep them coming! Don't forget to mark your calendar, as in 2012 we will surprise many with an earlier show. The planning has already begun. Our dates are February 6-9th and before you know it,....it will be here and gone! ❖

New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show Wishes to Thank the Following Sponsors



A Note of Thanks from Joe Troll

I just returned home to Florida after having attended the New England Turf Grass Association Conference in Providence, Rhode Island. At the conference, I gave a talk that I hoped expressed my gratitude to all my students and colleagues who enriched my life over my many years at the University of Massachusetts. There were people I am sure I neglected to mention, no excuses but I am going to be 91. However, there is one person, Steve Curry, who I wanted to recognize and thank for initiating ATG which continues to raise money for turf research. Steve, I am glad you came into my life.

Sincerely,
Joe Troll

New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show 2011



President's Message

Well if you haven't noticed, spring is just around the corner. The quick melt has revealed the aftermath of a harsh winter. Numerous tree limbs and snow mold in the roughs are in abundance. The turf however looks good and will soon be ready for another season.

Last week the annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference was held in Providence, Rhode Island. I would like to congratulate the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation for yet again operating an extremely successful event as the trade show floors and the seminars were full. The professionally operated event is second to none. On Tuesday morning the Umass Turf Alumni group held their annual breakfast where I had the pleasure of announcing that Peter White was this year's recipient of the Dr. Joseph Troll and Lawrence Dickinson Scholarship. Congratulations again Peter!

Mike Stachowicz and I had the pleasure of attending the Distinguished Service Award reception Wednesday evening for Lonnie and Dr. Joseph Troll. About a hundred people attended and a number of people spoke on the life changing experience that Dr. Troll had on their lives. The event was very touching as I couldn't have been more proud to be able to witness Dr. Troll and Lonnie's reaction to the standing ovation and gifts they received.

On Wednesday, March 30th is the second annual New England Golf Summit that will be held at Andover Country Club. We are encouraging all Superintendents, Golf Pros, General Managers and club officials to attend. All allied associations will be speaking on a number of topics and will be

a benefit to all who attend.

My old stomping grounds of Norfolk Golf Club will be hosting our first golf meeting of 2011. The event will be held on April 25th with nine holes of golf and education hosted by Superintendent Kevin Corvino.

In May we will be holding our annual Scholarship and Benevolence tournament at Cohasset Golf Club hosted by Superintendent Glen Misiaszek, CGCS. We are asking for donated rounds of golf for our annual raffle. Please forward all donations to David Stowe, CGCS at Newton Commonwealth Golf Course. This is one of our premier golf events of the season and is a great opportunity to showcase our Association to our guests. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Well with the smell of spring in the air, crews will be returning and golfers will be chomping at the bit to play. Even as hard as last season was, I know all of you are eager to get back out there and do what we do best. Enjoy the next few weeks of normality and spend as much time as possible with your friends and loved ones! ❖

Sincerely,
Jason Adams
President - GCSANE

"Another obstacle confronting the greenkeeper, in a few well known clubs, is the interference of club officials in the maintenance problems of the golf course. It would be far better for them to sit back and let the man whom they have hired, with knowledge and experience, handle the particular problems and be responsible."

November 1947 A.J. Sperandio



Thinking About It

By Don Hearn



It was nice to read about Jeff Carlson in the March issue of Golf Digest. In an article titled "Risk Takers" Jeff was highlighted for his maintenance practices at The Vineyard Golf Club on Martha's Vineyard. The Vineyard Golf Club, designed by Donald Steel and Tom Mackenzie, is a rare example of a course maintained without the use of synthetic based products. Jeff is managing what is considered to be the most

environmentally sensitive layout in America. He's considered a pioneer in this effort, having worked his magic at the Widow's Walk Golf Course in Scituate, MA before going to the Vineyard Golf Club. As far as I know, Widow's Walk, a layout designed by Mike Hurdzan, is considered the first environmental demonstration course in the the United States.

Jeff has told me it was a difficult sell at first to convince members that what they were experiencing would, over time, pay off for the club and the environment. Now that the owners and management of the club have proven there's merit in the concept of "less than perfect can be good" there's a sense of pride that's filtered through the membership.

For a more complete picture of the club and Jeff's accomplishments I suggest you look tab the club's website at

www.vineyardgolf.com.

Well, you might have thought you've seen it all, but wait - here's another must-have app for those needing to add to the close to 300 thousand existing apps for your iPhone or iPad. It's called the iStimp. Yup - the iStimp. Now, this is something every superintendent has been waiting for. A stimpmeter for your iPhone! If you're interested it will cost you 99 cents to download. Unfortunately, I don't think it will put the stimpmeter out of business. Fortunately, I don't think we have much to worry about as far as golfers using it to determine green speed at your course. The world is full of clever people and the iStimp proves there's always someone trying to improve on what exists. Who knows, maybe in the future an updated version of the iStimp will become useful in a way I can't imagine right now.

Congratulations to our own Jim Fitzroy on the completion of his term as President of GCSAA. He'll serve one more year on GCSAA's Board of Directors as Past President. The past year was a very busy one for Jim and all the members of the board. There wasn't much time for sitting around the campfire and telling stories. The search for a new CEO, staff reductions, budget cuts and the economic downturn made for a trying time. Jim handled it well and, hopefully, will be able to take life at a less hectic pace. Thanks Jim for all you've done during your years on the board. ❖



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Send your *BEST* photos

I have added this photo section to the Newsletter to promote some laughter, a touch of embarrassment, a lot of “What the heck was that person thinking?” and also some helpful tips to learn from. It will be published monthly, but that will be based upon your participation. Please add a brief description of the content in the photo, where it was taken and what you did to fix it. They can be of turf problems, equipment failures, operator errors, vandalism, and Mother Nature at her best or her worst. Please send your photos to jmartin101@gmail.com.

Milton Hoosic, Canton, MA number 2 green surrounds. When asked why the machine was in the bunker, he replied, “I didn’t want to weedy bunkers.” My assistant pulled him out with the tractor with little to no damage.



Jeff Urquhart
GCSANE Newsletter Editor



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UMass Turf Club Students Take 3rd Place in the 17th Annual Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition at the GIS in Orlando

The University of Massachusetts Amherst Turf Club sent 10 students to the National Collegiate Turf Bowl competition in Orlando, FL on February 10, 2011. This year's event included 87 teams comprised of 320 students from colleges and universities from around the country, which was the highest number of participants in the Turf Bowl since its inception 17 years ago. One of the UMass teams placed 3rd in the competition, which gave UMass a top three finish in the last two years! The other two UMass teams also did very well, placing 22nd and 25th in the competition.

The extensive three hour exam tests the students' knowledge in various areas of turfgrass science and management. The questions were focused on turfgrass growth and development, physiology, soils and fertility, pest management, environmental issues, calculations, and business and personnel management. To help prepare for the exam, students signed up for a one-credit course during the fall semester that is focused on major topics in turfgrass management. The course is organized by Dr. Michelle DaCosta and is a collaborative teaching effort by the UMass Turf Program faculty and staff, including Dr. Scott Ebdon, Dr. Geunhwa Jung, Dr. Pat Vittum, Dr. Prasanta Bhowmik, Jason Lanier, and Randy Prostack.

John Deere Golf has sponsored the competition for the past two years, and awarded cash prizes to the turf clubs whose teams finished in the top 10 at the competition. In addition to cash prizes, a Collegiate Turf Bowl Traveling Trophy was created with the names of the first place team, which this year went to Iowa State University. The UMass Turf Club received \$1,000 for their 3rd place finish in Orlando. The UMass Turf Club raised over \$7,000 to send students to the Turf Bowl Competition in Orlando. In addition, the Turf Club also sponsored an additional three students to participate in the Student Challenge at the Sports Turf Manager Association Conference in Austin, TX. To obtain the sponsorships the students spent several weekends during the fall semester performing fundraising activities, which included leaf cleanups, fertilizing and renovating home lawns in the Amherst area. All in all, participation in these conferences has proven to be a great opportunity for the students to meet and network with turfgrass industry professionals from around the country.

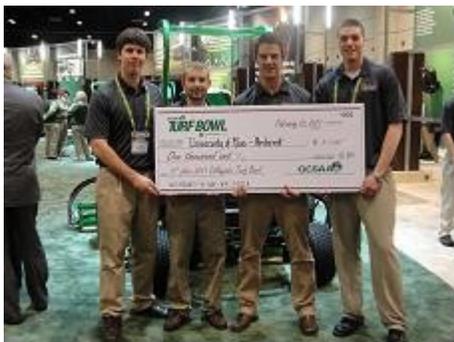
We are all very proud of our students and look forward to continuing the strong tradition of the University of Massachusetts Turf Program.

The 22nd place team included Alden Maddocks, Ryan McGillivray, and Peter White.

The 25th place team included Edward Coffin, William Crosby, and Scott St. Pierre. ❖



UMass Turf Club from (L-R): Royal Healy, Robert Fitzgerald, Michael McCormick, Scott St. Pierre, Eric Cronin, Edward Coffin, William Crosby, Peter White, Alden Maddocks, Ryan McGillivray



Pictured L-R: The 3rd place team Robert Fitzgerald, Eric Cronin, Michael McCormick, Royal Healy



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"The New England Golf Summit was such a success in 2010 that we wanted to continue the momentum in 2011," said **Joe Sprague**, the MGA's executive director who was instrumental in the development of this event. "Our goals are still to provide great education and networking opportunities for all of golf's major stakeholders in the region. And after our long winter, it should provide a nice kickoff to the new season."

Headlining the program of events will be four leaders in the industry, including **David Oatis**, the USGA's Director of the Northeast Region Green Section, who has traveled nationally and internationally addressing key issues facing golf course superintendents.

Also presenting that day will be **Brad Steele**, vice president of government relations and general counsel for the National Club Association, **Greg Nathan**, senior vice president of membership at the National Golf Foundation, and Steve Gogolak of Cramer Productions who will discuss the impact of social media on small businesses.

Continental breakfast and a networking luncheon will be included and continuing education points will be awarded to all GCSANE members who attend. The New England Golf Summit will be held on:

Wednesday, March 30 at Andover Country Club.

Online registration, a schedule of events and speaker bios are available at
www.negolfsummit.org

BORDEN LAUNCHES NEW PRODUCT

The Borden Company has been very active as well this year. In our 49 years of providing quality lime applications to over 300 golf facilities we are expanding our product line to include a native, white bunker sand. We have access to a sand source that is local to Massachusetts, falls within the USGA sieve recommendations, and has a color similar to silica sand.

This white angular sand is available in 4 different consistencies - All figures are % Retained (Cumulative):

Sieve	Washed Sand*	C-33*	Bunkerwhite*	Bunkerwhite-Processed*
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20 Mesh	34	37.2	32.3	32.3
30 Mesh	56.1	60.1	54.6	54.6
40 Mesh	75.5	78.9	73.3	73.3
50 Mesh	88.6	90.7	86.2	86.2
70 Mesh	95.3	96.7	93.9	93.9
100 Mesh	97.7	98.6	97.1	97.1
140 Mesh	98.5	99.1	98.2	98.2
200 Mesh	98.9	99.3	98.8	98.8
-200 Mesh	1.1	0.7	1.2	1.2

We at The Borden Company have reached out to Paul Miller, CGCS, a forty-year retired golf course superintendent, to help us evaluate this new product. Paul was immediately impressed with the angular distribution of the particles and was quick to point out that all four samples fell in the low to high 90's cumulative in the 16 (1mm) to 60 (.25mm) mesh sieve range. We are presently looking for interested golf facilities to investigate and try this product. According to Paul, it is difficult to evaluate from a sample of how the sand will perform until actually in a bunker. However, to quote Paul, "the particle shape and with better than 70% of the product in the 40 mesh range I would find it hard to believe that there would be many embedded (plugged) lies."

The Borden Company is excited about this new product and look forward to continuing to serve the golf course industry. We would be happy to send samples of the sands to prospective customers and interested parties.



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Our condolences are extended to The Petersen family on the passing of Jack Petersen, co-founder of Tom Irwin Inc., who passed away on February 17, 2011.

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

March 30:
New England Golf Summit
Andover Country Club
Host: Wayne Lacroix
www.negolfsummit.org

RI Turfgrass Foundation Golf Tournament

The 4th Annual Rhode Island Turfgrass Foundation Golf Tournament will be held on **Tuesday, May 10**, at the **Meadowbrook Golf Club**, Rt. 138, Richmond, RI. Starting time is a 1:00PM Shot Gun with lunch served at noon and dinner on, or around, 6:00PM.

Meadowbrook has been completely rebuilt and reopened for play in the spring of 2010. Owners Pete and Jason Hendrick collaborated with golf course architect Roger Rulewich to produce an outstanding track that will be challenging, fair and enjoyable.

We are pleased to announce that URI President David Dooley will be playing in this year's event and provide an update on the good things that are happening at the university during the evenings presentations. We have also invited Provost, Don De Hayes and the new Dean in the Department of Environmental Sciences, John Kirby, and expect to see them on the course or at least joining us for dinner. We are also excited to let you all know that Noel Jackson will be there to meet and greet and help out the URI Turf Students at their "Par 3 Challenge Hole".

You can sign up for this year's tournament on the RITF web page (www.riturfgrassfoundation.org) using Pay Pal or make a copy of the registration form, also on line, and submit a check made out to the RITF. The cost is \$500 for a four-some or \$150 per single player.

Ed Walsh
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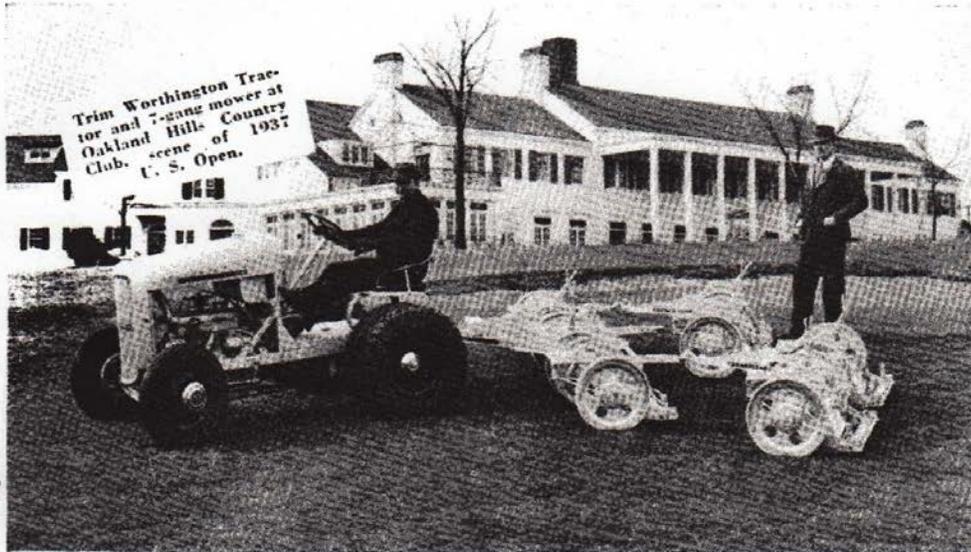
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