



THE NEWSLETTER

December 2013

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.

We all know landscaping...but goatscaping?

By Johanna Seltz, Boston Globe South Correspondent

COHASSET — Glen Misiaszek was griping at a family gathering about the perils and pain of attacking the poison ivy and brambles at the edges of the Cohasset Golf Club, where he's the course superintendent.

"You should rent a ruminant," a relative told him.

"You're kidding," he replied,

"No, rent a goat," she said.

So he did, taking advantage of a small but growing cottage industry that uses four-legged critters to manage vegetation in places ranging from the Google campus in California to the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Misiaszek leased a crew of four — Geisha, Skylark, Zoe, and Chloe — from the Goatscaping Co. in August 2012, becoming the first customer of the Plymouth-based enterprise that now wrangles 30 goats along with four borrowed sheep. When they're not working, the goats stay at the Colchester Neighborhood Farm in Plympton.

"We've got most of our goats booked up and working through this month and into November, depending on the weather," said Jim Cormier, company cofounder and chief goat herder.

At their work sites, the animals are enclosed by about 100 feet of portable solar-powered electric fencing, which is moved as needed. On average, four to five adult goats can clear about an acre of brush, up to about 6 feet high, in a week, Cormier said. Because of their agility, goats can reach rocky or ledge areas that are difficult to mow, he said.

Goats don't like to eat grass, but thrive on poison ivy, poison sumac, blackberries, nasty vines, and briars — the type of vegetation that ordinarily requires heavy machinery, herbicides, or intense encounters with personal pain to manage, Cormier said.

"What's garbage to us is dessert to them," he said.

And goats leave behind no trash, according to Cormier's partner, Elaine Philbrick, a Duxbury resident who owned the company's original four goats as pets.

"There's no debris, no hauling away, or burning," she said. "And their bio-waste is indistinguishable from deer's. It's odorless and degrades in a week or two."

The company charges \$10 per goat per day, requires a minimum of four goats for one week, and asks that custom-



Photo Source: Goatscaping Co.

ers put out daily water and a "little bit" of provided hay and grain. Socializing with the goats is not mandated, but appears inevitable with the friendly animals, each of whom has a name.

Goatscaping's customers include Misiaszek in Cohasset, Black Rock Country Club in Hingham, a state agency, Duxbury, Planet Subaru in Hanover, and numerous individual homeowners who turned to goats to tackle landscaping headaches after more traditional methods failed or were deemed environmentally problematic.

In Duxbury, the Department of Public Works opted for a crew of goats to get rid of vines, brush, and masses of poison ivy on a 5-acre waterfront property that the town bought in 2011. The former Blairhaven Retreat Center, which had been owned by a Swedenborgian church in Cambridge, is being converted to a park, according to the DPW's director, Peter Buttkus.

The goats arrived the first week of September for a two-month trial, and Buttkus said he's sold on the five animals. He said the town could have used heavy equipment to clear the site, but the goats were a gentler solution.

"They're very quiet, and they're doing a great job," he

continued on page 3

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Any opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author

President's Message

Thanks to Mike Luccini of Franklin Country Club for hosting our December meeting. Our featured speaker was Mike Burkman from Univest, who gave an informative presentation on some new options for financing equipment purchases. We also heard from Marina Brock about the new requirements from OSHA for Hazard Communication training. Details are being finalized, but it looks like Marina will be offering a seminar on January 8th at Crosswinds Golf Club in Plymouth to fully educate us on the new requirements. We are looking forward to our Annual Meeting, which will be held on January 7th at Cyprian Keyes Golf Club and hosted by Richard Zepp, CGCS and Jason Paradise. Our speakers at the Annual Meeting will be Dave Frem, Owner of Cyprian Keyes and President of the NEGCOA and Jesse Menachem, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Golf Association.

Jason Adams and his nominating committee have finalized the slate of candidates for next year's Board of Directors. Two of our current directors have decided to step down; Mike Rose and Patrick Van Vleck. I want to thank Mike for his years of service on the Board as our Government Relations Chair. Mike represented us well at the State House for events like State Agriculture Day, and worked with our legislative consultants to protect green industry interests and concerns. Mike also hosted our 2010 Scholarship and Benevolence golf event at Belmont Country Club. Patrick had completed his first year as Education Chair and we hope he will re-join the Board at some point in the future. The nominating committee has selected Tom Albert and Brian Skinner, CGCS as new Board members and I want to thank Tom and Brian for stepping forward and offering their time and talents. Congratulations are in order for Dave Johnson, who will be leaving Whitinsville Golf Club soon to take over the reins at the Wianno Club. We were also pleased to hear Dave's decision to stay on the Board as Secretary.

This year's Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament at Essex County Club was a great success and many thanks go to David Stowe and the S&B committee for all the work they put into this important event. Bob Healey has participated on this committee for many years and has served as its unofficial historian. The S&B has always directly benefitted our members in need for many years and Bob's latest report notes that the fund has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships and nearly \$150,000 in benevolent aid since its inception. Those figures represent a significant investment in our membership and underscore the need for importance of the fund.

When I was growing up around the Thanksgiving Day table, my parents would request that my brothers and I recite one thing that we were thankful for. In that spirit, I find I am thankful for many things on the job this year, including: un-August like weather in August, curative abw controls that actually worked, fans, chainsaws, new ways to treat salty irrigation water, and a talented team of assistants and crew that were committed to producing the best conditions possible. As I reflect back on the Association this year, I also want to thank our Friend members who stepped up to participate in the first year of our Partner Promotion Program. We hope you realized that convenience and value that we hoped to provide through this new opportunity. Our Affiliate Trustee Mark Casey has been working on responding to suggestions and improving the program for next year. I'm also very thankful to be working with our Chapter Manager, Don Hearn. Don has quickly become the "face" of our group and the go to guy for all things GCSANE. He is a consummate professional and works tirelessly to help our members in whatever ways they may need.

The Board of Directors established several goals at the beginning of the year and we have worked hard to make progress towards them. Some of these goals may take several years to achieve. Perhaps one of the most important of these goals is to find ways to increase participation in our events. I know from interacting with leaders from other GCSAA chapters around the country that GCSANE is not alone in this regard. Many chapters are struggling with downturns in membership and participation. There are many reasons for this, from the ease of electronically networking, to increasing demands on our time at home and work. However, the Board is working hard to make GCSANE more relevant to our members and make it easier to participate. We have and will continue to look at the timing, cost and quality of our services and events in order to make progress towards this goal.

The time of year has arrived for continuous improvement through education and preparing for the next season. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando and at the Nor'easter reception, which will be held on February 5th at BB King's Blues Club. The GIS will be followed by the New England Regional Turf Conference, held in Providence from March 3rd to the 6th.

Best wishes to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and safe and happy New Year.

Mark Gagne

Goats - continued from page 1

said. "And they're so easy. All you have to do is install a small portable electric fence, and pretty much turn them loose. It's a lot less invasive than bringing heavy equipment in and ripping everything apart."

The goats "very quietly munch everything down," Butt-kus said, "and then we can get in and do the finish work."

Goats earned similar raves from the state's Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance, which in June hired 15 goats and a few sheep for just shy of \$5,000 to clear vegetation from the grounds of the closed Westborough State Hospital.

The weeds were a fire hazard and impaired sight lines needed for security surveillance, according to agency spokeswoman Rachael Neff. But the debris on the site and dense vegetation posed a hazard for human landscapers, so the state decided to try the ruminants, she said.

The trial "was a huge success," Neff said, with the site cleared without any harm to humans, goats, or sheep. "They ate everything to as high up as they could reach; it was simply amazing to watch the transformation" of the property, she said.

"I want to emphasize that they ate everything — poison ivy, thorn bushes, thickets, leaves. Seemed like the more menacing . . . the plants, the more delicious the goats found them," she added.

And using goats instead of machinery also had the environmental benefit of leaving no carbon footprint, Neff said.

Sandra Moll chose goats to clear poison ivy from her property on the North River in Hanover partly for environmental reasons. She could have used herbicides, Moll said, but there was "no way I'm going to put poison down next to the North River." And a lawn crew would have had to do some major cutting to get to the pesky plants, she said.

She did some research online, discovered the Goatscaping Co., and for two weeks had four goats addressing the problem. When they were done, the goats moved down the street to help a neighbor who also had a fierce patch of poison ivy. Moll said she plans to bring back the goats next year, and more neighbors are interested.

"They're charming little animals, and they did a very good job," she said. "They eat with a little staccato effect, but it's definitely not slash and burn. The other thing is they're cheap compared to a lawn service. I got estimates that it would have cost \$1,000 to \$1,500, and I paid like \$450 for the goats. So it was considerable savings, far less damage to the property, and they're kind of cute."

The golfers at Black Rock Country Club also are getting a kick out of the four leased goats that have been working there since May, according to course superintendent Chuck Welch. "They're unbelievably friendly; they love to be petted," Welch said.

"They're doing a really nice job," he added. "They've cleaned a couple of rocks that were pretty infested with poison ivy. I'd put my crew in there, and somebody was always bleeding from the cat briar or getting poison ivy. This year we put the goats in, and didn't have a single case of poison ivy."

The number of cases of poison ivy has also plummeted at Cohasset Golf Club since the goats arrived there, according to Misiasek. And the amount of herbicides he's used on the property is down "almost to nothing," he added.

The club recently swapped out its goats for four sheep — which, unlike goats, like grass and are neater eaters — to

help with the fall grass mowing, he said.

"With a golf course, especially an old one like Cohasset, it's all about being as natural, as raw as you possibly can — letting the golf course speak for itself," he said. "And

having sheep and goats out here eat some of our grasses and help with some of these difficult areas — to me it's so natural. I think it's a great concept."

Not everyone is a fan, though.

Philbrick tried to interest NStar in using goats instead of herbicides on the utility's right-of-way corridors on Cape Cod. But NStar spokesman Michael Durand said the company prefers an "integrated vegetation management" system, which combines limited mowing and herbicide applications targeted at killing invasive species and encouraging the spread of low-growing meadow plants.

"Goats are indiscriminate eaters," Durand said. "They're ineffective at creating the low-growing, self-sustaining environment that we want."

Despite that, Philbrick and Cormier said they are confident enough in the market for the company's services that they're planning to grow their herd over the winter.

It's a turn of events they both acknowledge was surprising, considering neither came from farm backgrounds or had experience with livestock.

Cormier, who lives in Plymouth, had been in the book business, and Philbrick owns a brokerage company in Rockland and her husband is an executive with Ernst & Young.

But both became involved with Colchester Neighborhood Farm, where Philbrick kept the four goats she got as pets for her two young children. From there it was a leap of faith to start a goat landscaping business, which Cormier now does full time.

"Maybe a month ago, I was filling out an application and it asked my occupation — and I actually wrote goat herder. And I loved it," he said. ❖

Johanna Seltz can be reached at seltzjohanna@gmail.com. The Goatscaping Co. can be reached at www.gogreengoat.com

Sidebar: Why goats?

- ▶ On average, four to five adult goats can clear about an acre in a week.
- ▶ Goats can eat practically any vegetation, including poison ivy, poison sumac, blackberries, briars, and other invasive and thorny weeds and brush.
- ▶ They should not eat nightshade, rhododendron, pachysandra, and some other ornamental plants.
- ▶ Delicate eaters with extremely mobile lips, goats move from the outside of a plant toward the center; they can snag a tiny bud off a branch but also can eat whole twigs.

SOURCES: Oklahoma State University; An Peischel at University of Tennessee; the Goatscaping Co.; GoatWeb



Photo Source: Goatscaping Co.

Thoughts From Your Association Manager

A Member of the GCSA of New England, Robert McNeill, has been featured in the Winter 2013 issue of BY DESIGN, the official publication of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). Robert was featured for his work at the Mohegan Sun Country Club and has been honored in the Design Excellence Recognition Program. To read more about the Program, Robert's work and other interesting articles about golf course architecture [click here](#).

HERE ARE SOME THOUGHTS FOR YOU TO PONDER:

If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, then doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men?

Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do, write to them? Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen can look for them while they deliver the mail?

Why do banks charge a fee due to insufficient funds; when they already know you're broke?

The statistics on sanity say that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends. If they're OK..? (then it's you!)

Why is it that when someone tells you that there are one billion stars in the universe you believe them, but if they tell you there is wet paint you have to touch it to check?

You should be able to relate to this:



By Don Hearn

GCSANE Annual Meeting Cyprian Keyes Golf Club Tuesday, January 7, 2014

**Hosts: Dick Zepp, CGCS - Director of Maintenance
Jason Paradise - Superintendent**

8:00 AM	Board of Directors Meeting
9:30 AM	Past Presidents Meeting
10:30 AM	Registration
11:00 AM	Membership Meeting, Election, Awards
11:45 AM	Guest Speaker: Dave Frem, President, New England Golf Course Owners Association
12:00 noon	Lunch
After Lunch	Guest Speaker: Jesse Menachem, Executive Director, Massachusetts Golf Association

Cost: \$45.00 / Retirees: \$20.00

Registration Deadline: 12 noon on Tuesday, December 31, 2013 [Click here - Register Now!](#)

Dress Code: Business Casual (sport jacket, collared shirt, slacks)

Kevin Doyle - GCSAA Updates



Need GCSAA points to achieve Class A or recertify? There are many ways to achieve those points. Here is one you might not have known about:

You Get
Cool
Stuff
Already from your
Association

Hazard Communication, the Globally Harmonized System & Your Golf Course:

OSHA's MSDS safety system as we know it now is GOING AWAY! Any facility that has hazardous chemicals on the property was required to train all staff on the new system by December 1, 2013. GCSAA members have access to a **FREE** 90-minute webcast designed to answer many of the questions OSHA has received in this first year of Hazard Communication 2012 implementation. The webinar is also available to non-members for a fee. This valuable webcast is linked [here](#) for ease of access, and the web page also includes forms designed to document your employees as they are trained.

Golf Industry Show:

Registration for the 2014 Golf Industry Show and related events is now open to the general public as well as GCSAA members. Make plans today to attend the event, Feb. 1-6, in

Orlando. Don't forget, several golf events sold out last year. Register early to avoid the waiting list! GIS registration information is linked [here](#).

Regional Pages:

The latest addition to the GCSAA communications vehicles are the GCSAA Regional Pages. The regional pages feature several dynamic elements including a field staff blog, member transitions, job board postings, regional forums and resources relevant to members right here in the Northeast Region! Give it a look [here!](#)

2014 Ski Day

The Nor'Easter Ski Day will again take place at Killington Resort. This event last year garnered rave reviews, and the committee is working hard to replicate that success again. Put the Nor'Easter Ski Day on your calendar now for January 16th (NEW DATE!!!!) and join over 100 golf industry peers from across the region on the mountain in Vermont. Visit [VTGCSA.com](#) for information and registration.

Upcoming FREE webcasts:

- Jan. 9: Predictive Modeling for Turfgrass Performance and Health
- Jan. 16: Making PGRs Work for Your Turf
- Jan. 14: Benefits of Slow-Release Phosphorus: Understanding Citrate-Solubility and Advancements in Nutrient Management
- Jan. 23: Golf Course Marking: Why we do it this way
- Feb. 19: Update on Fairy Ring Control

Again, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me. ❖

Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Field Staff, kdoyle@gcsaa.org
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Affiliate Update

Dear Affiliate member participants of the Partnership Promotion Program;

A final thanks for your participation in the Partnership Promotion Program for the 2013 Season. It was well received and the participation level a great success for the inaugural program. We had 15 great companies help to make a super showing!

Thank you personally for your participation to **Patron Partners**: Joe Lazaro and LAZARO's / HAMMOND PAINT & CHEMICAL, Dave Wallace and TARTAN FARMS, Keith Tortorella and COUNTRY CLUB ENTERPRISES, Andy Langlois and BISCO, John Winskowicz and JOHN DEERE, Melissa Gugliotti and SYNGENTA, Brian Giblin and BAYER, Jim Favreau and MATRIX.

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Working with the board, I know your personal commitment and that of your company to sponsor the GCSANE is recognized as meaningful, appreciated, and has contributed to the financial stability of the organization in an important way. As the season is winding down plans for the coming year are in progress.

For those unfamiliar with the program, the Partnership Promotion Program enables your company membership dues for Friends & Affiliates packaged with advertising bundles in the Newsletter, Website, Membership Directory, at greatly discounted rates. In the coming weeks, you will receive membership renewal forms that will provide descriptions and benefits of each sponsor level. Feedback has been generally positive about the program & we hope to grow even better participation for the coming season!

Enjoy the Holidays.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Casey
Affiliate Trustee GCSA of New England
MTE ~Turf Equipment Solutions

HazCom/GHS Compliance Training January 8, 2014

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Cape Cod (GCSACC) is sponsoring a seminar to help those responsible for training to better understand Hazardous Communication (HazCom) and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification (GHS) requirements. The GCSACC has graciously invited the members of the GCSA of New England to participate in this educational seminar.

The speaker will be **Marina Brock**, Senior Environmental Specialist with the Barnstable County Department of Health and the Environment. Marina will provide training to help meet the requirements established by OSHA.

Registration	9:30 AM
Compliance Training	10:00 AM
Lunch	12:00 PM

Our host will be **Brian Smoot**, Superintendent
Location: **Crosswinds Golf Club**, 424 Long Pond Road
Plymouth, MA 02360

Cost: \$25.00 - checks payable to the "GCSACC"

[click here for more registration information](#)

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How to Conduct Yourself as a Professional

A superintendent-friend of mine from St. Louis, Mike Vogt, writes a blog and this is one of his most recent articles. Mike is currently an independent consultant affiliated with the McMahon Group, Inc. I contacted Mike and he gave me permission to share his thoughts. I've slightly modified what he wrote but the context remains the same. I believe what he has to say is important. I also believe some superintendents are "missing the boat" when it comes to acting like a professional. The following lists some of the points that certainly can be helpful for all of us.

Are You a Golf Superintendent and a Business Professional or a Business Person that's a Golf Superintendent?

You have expended a lot of time and money to earn your degree and labored extensively as an assistant superintendent. Now you are representing a club that has not only weathered the economic firestorm of the past several years but has managed to add membership and increase club usage. Your golf course is impeccably cared for and of course, you are putting in long hours and hopefully earning a good salary in return.

However, to be successful in the golf business today, you must have more than a great education and a pedigreed employment history. If you desire to move up the ladder of success in the golf management field, that means being thoughtful and engaging with those around you. In fact, the attention you pay to detail is the ingredient that differentiates you from evolving from a golf businessperson to a golf business professional.

Where are you in your evolution from business person to business professional? Picture yourself in the following situations to find out:

1. You sent an e-mail message to a club board member only to realize that you have transposed two letters in a word.

A Golf Business Person hopes the board member realizes that keyboarding is not their best strength.

A Golf Business Professional sends a revised message correcting the error.

2. You are invited to the annual club Christmas Party with your spouse who feels uncomfortable since she will not know anyone there.

A Golf Business Person approaches the members making sure that his spouse is next to him/her.

A Golf Business Professional briefs his spouse about members that may have similar interests and then makes a point of introducing her to them.

3. You are meeting with a long range planning committee member with whom you spoke by phone one week ago.

A Golf Business Person goes to the meeting at the appointed time.

A Golf Business Professional confirms the meeting details 24 hours in advance.

4. You have a 3:00 p.m. conference call scheduled with a golf course architect and a golf course builder for an important sand bunker project.

A Golf Business Person dials into the conference call at 3:00 p.m.

A Golf Business Professional dials into the call a few minutes prior to the designated time.

5. Saturday morning on the first tee, while performing your usual PR, you meet a new member whose name is difficult to pronounce.

A Golf Business Person avoids using the name in conversation.

A Golf Business Professional asks for assistance to correctly pronounce the name.

6. You are attending a meal event welcoming new members from India and have been seated at the new members table. You would like to order beef as your entree.

A Golf Business Person orders the beef dish.

A Golf Business Professional honors the culture of his new member by also choosing a vegetarian meal.

7. You are invited to your manager's home for a casual gathering.

A Golf Business Person verbally thanks his manager for being included in the get-together at the end of the evening.

A Golf Business Professional recognizes that a verbal thank you does not take the place of a written note.

8. You believe it's important that you to send holiday cards to your board members, committee members, employees and other business contacts that help you during the busy season.

A Golf Business Person signs his name on each card.

A Golf Business Professional adds a short personal note with each card.

continued on page 8



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9. Your assistant is on vacation and you are going to be on the course all day. A Golf Business Person checks voice-mail at the end of the day to prioritize which calls need to be returned.

A Golf Business Professional updates his voice-mail message to reflect his schedule.

10. You are invited to an early Monday morning meeting at the club.

A Golf Business Person picks up a cup of coffee and takes it into the meeting.

A Golf Business Professional drinks the coffee before arriving at the meeting rather than walking into the meeting with the cup in hand.

11. You are at a member reception and are handed a bottle of beer from the bartender.

A Golf Business Person thanks the bartender and moves on.

A Golf Business Professional requests a glass for the beer.

12. You drop by the office of the club's accountant who makes time to talk with you.

A Golf Business Person gets the colleague's feedback and then continues to make idle conversation.

A Golf Business Professional gets the answer to the questions and then leaves unless he/she is encouraged to engage in further conversation.

13. You have been asked to participate in a 10:00 a.m. Webinar.

A Golf Business Person downloads the webinar as he/she dials into the call.

A Golf Business Professional does a test download the day before to avoid any unexpected delays at the time of the meeting.

14. You have promised a return telephone call to a Green Committee Member by noon and are waiting for a document from a company that supplies bunker sand who cannot be reached.

A Golf Business Person returns the call to the committee member as soon as he has all of the information and explains the delay.

A Golf Business Professional keeps his word by getting back to the committee member a few minutes before noon and updates the member with the information he does have.

15. My favorite (added by me). No matter how cool you think you look, don't wear a hat or cap inside!

Mostly, the above Golf Business Professional behaviors have to do with going the extra mile, being thoughtful, and showing your business colleagues and patrons that you're the consummate professional.

Society has discarded many of the traditions and business etiquette of years past, but this shouldn't be an excuse to act in a classless or boorish manner. We've all heard this, "That's the way they do it in the business world." Not everything done in the business world is a sterling example of good behavior. Do your part to separate yourself from the "ME FIRST" leaders.

Dale Carnegie said, "When dealing with people, remember you are not dealing with creatures of logic, but creatures of emotion." ❖

By Don Hearn

GCSANE Slate of Officers for 2014

The Nominating Committee would like to present the following slate of officers for 2014:

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Mark Gagne

Vice-President

Scott Lagana, CGCS

Secretary

David W. Johnson

Treasurer

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Jeffrey Urquhart

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Education Chairman

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Newsletter Chairman

Tom Albert

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Jason S. Adams

Come to the 2014 Show!

New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show-March 3-6, 2014

It is that time of year again as all the outdoor work is winding down and winter cold once again introduces itself to the northeast to think about the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show among other activities. 2014 will be the 17th annual show to be held in Providence. The schedule is filled with quality speakers and topics that consistently affect the Turfgrass Industry in New England. We have arranged 9 seminars on Monday (7)-4 hr. and (2)-2 hr. seminars addressing topics from Dollar Spot, Professional Development, to the Rules of Golf. A new and interesting seminar will be taught by GCS Jason VanBusKirk of Stow Acres Country Club on using Google Applications to help you manage. You can go to www.nertf.org and see the complete descriptions of the seminars and online registration for all conference and show days is already up and running!

Tuesday is chock full with a full day of USGA related topics and sports turf also going on. On Tuesday at 3:45 we decided to do something different than a typical keynote speaker. We have planned a presentation on a spotlighted sporting event like a super bowl or a world series that all turfgrass managers would be interested in. Our speaker is the best in the Baseball Business, Mr. David Mellor, Director of Grounds for the Boston Red Sox. What a year for Boston both good and bad. We are excited to hear it from David's perspective. This will be a speaker you won't want to miss as he highlights the year and shows you the challenges of managing Fenway especially in the spotlight of the World Series.

Wednesday and Thursday, another 2 great days of informative speakers and topics addressing our industry needs here in New England. Professors John Kaminski (Penn State) and Jim Murphy (Rutgers), among others, as well as most of our local researchers will be participating again this year. We have also, Matt Shaffer, GCS of Merion and this year's US Open lead man will be on the program talking about his experiences on Wednesday morning, March 5.



The equipment technicians have a full day on Wednesday with important education with equipment representatives and equipment observations on the trade show floor. The trade show will again be open for 13 hours over the 3 days and we hope you will be able to accomplish whatever business you need to attend to on the floor over that time. Booth sales have been strong again as exhibitors look at these three days as important opportunities to reach out to potential customers as everyone prepares for the coming season.

As you start your planning we know you will see the values associated with this year's show and the benefits you and your team will gather from the opportunities of learning and the information available that will make your job go smoother in the year to come. There will be a lot of turf activity in Providence the week of March 3th-6th with much to take advantage of. Come be an important part of the 17th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show! ❖

**Gary Sykes, Executive Director
NERTF, Inc.**



2014 Nor'easter Ski Day – January 16th - Killington Ski

Dear Member,



For those of you that received the “save the date” note a couple weeks back, we apologize, but Killington had a conflict with the date and asked us to change the date to Thursday, January 16th.

For those that might be attending for your first time, let us provide you with a brief history. Twenty years ago four gentlemen from The Northeastern and Vermont Associations; Fred Montgomery, Tim Madden, Dave Berard and Ken Stevens started up a friendly little ski rivalry between the two associations.

Last year the associations opened up their event to all the Northeast Associations for a day of fun, racing and camaraderie at Killington Ski Resort in Vermont. This year The Vermont and Northeastern GCSAs would like to cordially invite all of you and your guests to join in the great time and see if your association can take home The Nor'easter Cup! Whether you ski or not, we'd love to see you there!

Last year's event was a huge success, with one exception; there was so much snow the day before we had to cancel the race for safety reasons. Overwhelmingly, skiers wanted to return to Killington Resort this year, so we will be holding this year's event at Killington in Vermont on January 16th, 2014. This date made the most sense with all the winter dates involving trade-shows, winter vacations and chapter events.

Killington has been fantastic to work with and has graciously agreed to honor the rates we have negotiated with them through the long weekend until January 20th, 2014 (MLK Day) for those that would like to bring their families for a long weekend. For ski pass prices, click on the link down below.

Killington has also worked with us to make available rooms at The Grand Summit Hotel, The Inn of the Six Mountains as well as condominiums on the mountain, so please check the information page for links to lodging options. Please note there are a limited number of rooms at each location, so we encourage you to make your reservations as soon as possible if you are interested. The room block will drop on January 1st and there is a contact name on the website, but just in case here it is again for rooms: Please reference “Nor'easter Ski Day” and call Brandi at (802) 422-6159.

Anyone wishing to attend is asked to please pre-register by January 9th, 2014, so we can plan accordingly. Refunds unfortunately will not be available after that date and there will also be a \$20 surcharge if you register after that date.

Please follow the link to the Vermont GCSA Website <http://www.vtgcsa.com/> where links are posted on the left hand side of the page. There is a link with “more information” and a link to “register.” On the registration page you can register for the day and buy more ski passes if you would like to ski on any extra days after the Nor'easter Cup, so please explore the site!

Get together with the rest of your association members and see if you can field that championship team in 2014!!

NOTE TO SPONSORS: We would be incredibly grateful if you are interested in sponsoring this event. Please note there are 3 levels. The Silver and Gold levels will have 1 or 2 attendee fees paid for. Therefore, under the “Fee” section please click the “No charge” option and then under the “Additional Items & Services” section you can choose a sponsorship level. Thank you for your support!!

We sure hope to see you there and if you have any questions please drop a line to Andy Drohen at adrohen@agriumat.com or (413) 531-6401. ❖



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Tee-Up New England! ~ 2014

Tee-Up New England is a fund-raising initiative that provides golfers with an opportunity to play some of their favorite courses while providing funding for turfgrass research in New England. Interested golfers will participate in an online bidding process (April 14-21, 2014), **linked to your course's website, to purchase a donated round of golf for a foursome.** This is a great way to showcase your facility and to open the door to attract new players. All net proceeds will go to the

New England Regional Turfgrass Research Trust (NERTRT) and toward funding turfgrass research here in New England. Turf research will continue to insure that future turf conditions on golf courses will be at the highest levels throughout the industry.

Please Support Tee-Up New England and Turfgrass Research by signing up your Golf Course for the April 2014 Auction!

For more information go to www.tee-upnewengland.com



2014 WINTER SEMINAR

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

Mystic Marriott
Groton, Connecticut

“Devoted to sharing knowledge and experience for better turf”

MORNING SESSION

Morning Session Chairperson
Richard Duggan, GCS

- 7:30 a.m. Registration – Coffee and Danish
Booths will be open
- 8:25 – 8:30 **Donald Beck,**
CAGCS President
Welcome
- 8:30 – 9:30 **Jason Henderson, Ph.D.**
Assistant Professor,
Turfgrass & Soil Science
University of Connecticut
*“Regrassing Fairways in New England: Possible but
Improbable?”*
- 9:30 – 10:00 Break – Booths Open
Election – Class C
Representative to the Board
- 10:00 – 11:00 **Brad Klein, Architecture Editor**
Golf week Magazine
*“A Career Survival Guide Through the Golf In-
dustry”*
- 11:00 – 12:00 **Jim Kerns, Ph.D.**
Turfgrass Pathologist
NC State University
*“Maximizing Fungicide Efficacy for Summer
Diseases”*
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch/Booths Open

*Applications for this program have been made to GCSAA for
certification credits, CT DEP,
NY & RI DEM pesticide credits*

AFTERNOON SESSION

Afternoon Session Chairperson
Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Representative

- 1:00 – 1:05 **Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS**
Past President
Tri-State Research Foundation
“Update.”
- 1:05 – 2:00 **Michelle DaCosta, Ph.D.**
Stockbridge School of Agriculture
University of Massachusetts
*“Physiology and Management for Winter Injury of
Turf”*
- 2:00- 2:50 **Jim Kerns, Ph.D.**
Turfgrass Pathologist
NC State University
*“Managing an Old Enemy with New Tools and
Tactics, An Updated Look at Dollar Spot”*
- 2:50 – 3:00 Break – Booths Open
- 3:00 – 3:45 **Chava McKeel, Director**
Government Relations, GCSAA
*“GCSAA Government Relations Update: You
need to Know Now; Be An Advocate For the
Profession”*
- 3:45 – 4:00 Closing Remarks
Distinguished Member Award
Distribution of credits

Jacket & Tie required

PLEASE NOTE!!! CAGCS ROOM BLOCK

Anyone who is interested making a reservation for Monday,
January 13, 2014

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/GolfCourse>

Room rate is \$105.00 plus taxes.

**RESERVATION DEADLINE FOR THIS RATE IS
JANUARY 2, 2014.**

FEES (Including Coffee, Danish & Lunch)

Pre-registration Deadline: January 7th - \$95 On-site Registration - \$120.00

Register by: Web site: www.cagcs.com

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Superintendents may make qualifying purchases during two select time periods: a fall purchase period, Sept. 2-Dec. 7, 2013; and an in-season purchase period, Dec. 8, 2013-Aug. 31, 2014. Purchases through Dec. 7, 2013, will generate a 2% rebate to the GCSAA chapter of your choice (Premium Value); purchases from Dec. 8, 2013-Aug. 31, 2014, will generate a 1% rebate to your chapter (Base Value).

Additionally, superintendents participating in this program must be GCSAA members in good standing from one of the following chapters: Connecticut, New England, Cape Cod, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont or Maine. To learn more on required purchases and to receive program enrollment forms, visit your local authorized Arysta LifeScience distributor.

For additional information, contact your local Northeast GCSAA Chapter or Arysta LifeScience Northeast Territory Sales Manager Eric Gerhartz, phone 570/269-6061 or email eric.gerhartz@arysta.com.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to **Linda Tucker**, owner of Sodco, Inc. who received the Conservation Farmer of the Year award for 2013 by Southern Rhode Island Conservation District. The plaque stated "For your outstanding contributions to the Mission of the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District in protecting water quality, saving soil and preserving our natural resources."

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. Who said nothing in this world is free? Free advertising to better your company, wow what an offer.

CALENDAR

JANUARY 8 - GCSACC Education Seminar – HazCom/GHS Compliance Training-Crosswinds GC-visit www.gcsacc.org for more information or contact Julie Heston (401) 934-7660 or jheston@verizon.net.

JANUARY 14 – CAGCS Winter Seminar – Mystic Marriott, Groton, CT - Pre-registration Deadline January 7th - \$95 On-site Registration - \$120.00 Register

by – Web site: www.cagcs.com; Email to: cagcs@sbcglobal.net Phone in: 203/387-0810 or 888/561-7778

JANUARY 16 – Nor'Easter Ski Day at Killington Ski Resort Please follow the link to the Vermont GCSA Website <http://www.vtgcsa.com/> where links are posted on the left hand side of the page. If you have any questions please contact Andy Drohen at adrohen@agriumat.com or (413) 531-6401.

March 3-6 – New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show, RI Convention Center, Providence, RI For more information visit www.nertf.org or call (401) 848-0004

MARCH 25- Green Section Seminar – Andover CC, Andover, MA Please visit www.negreensection.org for more information



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For more information, please contact Jeff Urquhart at 781-828-2953 or jmartin101@gmail.com

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Amount of Check: _____ (Made payable to "GCSANE")

<u>Member Rates:</u>	Monthly Rate	4 Times Per Yr. (Save 5%)	6 Times Per Yr. (Save 10%)	8 Times Per Yr. (Save 10%)	Annual Rate (Save 15%)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 page (vertical; 3.75" wide x 5" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 90.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 342.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 486.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 648.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 918.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 page (horizontal; 7.5" wide x 5" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 570.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 810.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1080.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1530.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (vertical; 7.5" wide x 10" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 760.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1080.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1440.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2040.00

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

<input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 page (vertical; 3.75" wide x 5" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$456.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$648.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 864.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1224.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 page (horizontal; 7.5" wide x 5" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$180.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$684.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$972.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1296.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1836.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (vertical; 7.5" wide x 10" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$240.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$912.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1296.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1728.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2448.00

***DEADLINE for ads: The first of the month for that month's issue.**

Ad Preparation Specifications:

File Specifications for Ads Supplied in Digital Format: Ads may be sent either by email or by mailing a CD to the address below. Formats preferred are .GIF; .JPG and .PDF. Ads can also be accepted in Microsoft Word or Microsoft Publisher files. Full color is available with all ads.

Advertising Design Services: Design services are available by request and consultation and will be billed separately.

Send all Newsletter ads to:

Julie Heston
36 Elisha Mathewson Road, N. Scituate, RI 02857
Phone: 401-934-7660 / Fax: 401-934-9901
jheston@verizon.net