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Kevin Osgood The 2015 Distinguished Service Award Winner

by Jeff Urquhart

"Even though my roles have changed, I'm still honored to say that my profession will always be that of a golf course superintendent."

Kevin's career started as a caddy slash soda machine filler slash golf cart washer slash pro shop helper and finally on the grounds crew at Claremont CC in New Hampshire. The superintendent saw Kevin's interest and pointed him in the direction of turf school, which he then pursued once he graduated high school. Before entering Stockbridge School of Agriculture, he spent time at Woodstock CC in Vermont and then during college he chose travel to New Jersey to Howell Park and Hominy Hills GC for placement positions.

After Kevin graduated he was approached by his former boss in New Jersey that was pursuing the head superintendent position at Newton Commonwealth to get back in the Boston area. He asked if he'd like to be his assistant but shortly there after Steve found out that Newton Commonwealth wasn't financially stable so he backed out of the position, and after only one season as the Assistant, Kevin was offered the Head position by then manager, Kenny Campbell.

Kevin's passion was also in the business end of things. He stated, "My first jump into business was with good friend Scott Reynolds, now superintendent at Charter Oak." Does anyone remember the company "Modern Aeration"? Kevin and Scott formed a hydroject service company that lasted 4 years. They found it wasn't worth the time and the revenue just wasn't what they had hoped. Kevin learned a lot from that experience and grew from it.

Kevin mentioned, "After fourteen years honing my skills as a superintendent, and having been thrown into many other aspects of the business management side of running the golf course, I liked the idea of owning my own business, so started up Sterling Golf Management, and started bidding on golf course leases." He now manages 7 courses; which include The Shattuck GC, Newton Commonwealth GC, Chelmsford CC, Norwood CC, Maynard GC, Rockland GC and Fore Kicks GC. one of which he owns. Like most of us,

his day starts early and ends late, he works weekends, he hates being in the office where the piles never seem to go away and enjoys driving or walking the course to jot down ideas to make the property better.

Kevin has served 12 years on our Board, working with Paul Miller, Steve Chiavoroli, Chip Brearley, Bob DiRico,



L-R: Jeff Urquhart with Kevin and Caroyln Osgood

Don Hearn and Bob Ruszala. He mentioned that entering the Board was one of the best experiences he has had. He truly enjoyed meeting new people in the business. Soon after leaving his service with us he was asked to join the board for the NE Golf Course Owners Association and has been with them since 2002 serving as President from 2009 to 2010. In 2012 Kevin was nominated to the MGA Board and is always finding ways to contribute. I asked Kevin if he had any advice for the next generation. He quickly replied, "Get involved, volunteer your time!"

When I asked Kevin if he had any mentors in the turf industry, my pen couldn't keep up. Alan Niblick of Claremont CC, Dick Blake of Woodstock CC, Steve Fennimore of Hominy Hills and Dave Pease of Howell Park GC. He ended with, "I owe a lot of gratitude to Dick Blake, from my time with him at Woodstock Country Club, he ran a very organized "tight ship" operation, and his direction got me off on a good foot in the industry."

Lastly, Kevin resides in Westford MA with his wife Carolyn and Will who is a freshman in high school. He has two other sons, Alexander who is wrapping up at Northeastern University and a freshman at UMass Amherst named Benjamin. ❖

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BUSINESS MANAGER, THE NEWSLETTER

Julie Heston Phone: (401) 934-7660 Email: jheston@verizon.net

GCSANE Headquarters 300 Arnold Palmer Blvd., Norton, MA 02766 Tel: (774) 430-9040 Fax: (774) 430-9101 Web Site: www.gcsane.org

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From the Editor...

I am happy to now be serving on the Board of our association as the Newsletter Editor. I am looking forward to contributing and helping out with all that GCSANE does for our members. I hope to bring interesting content to our Newsletter and I am always open to suggestions on what our members may want to hear more about. If you have any ideas please feel free to bring them to my attention.

One of the new sections I hope to add to each month is a "Friend of the Association Profile" this will help our members learn more about the companies who help sponsor our association as well as any other company who wishes to be featured in one of the Newsletters. We often know who sells what, but it is sometimes nice to learn more about the company and what they bring to the table.

I am looking forward to this opportunity and working with the group of talented and dedicated professionals who make up our Board. .

Greg Cormier, CGCS



GCSANE Annual Meeting 2015

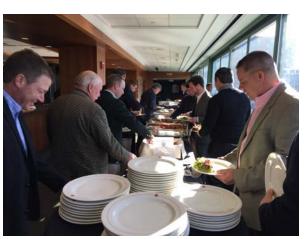
The Annual Meeting for GCSANE was held in the EMC Club at Fenway Park. It was a great day with over 140 people in attendance. The meeting was more than just business. Kevin Osgood received his own framed Red Sox jersey as a gift for the Distinguished Service Award. We had a great presentation from Steve Keating with the Toro Company. He spoke about 360 degree Leadership and shared many tips and insights on how to become a better leader. I would be surprised if everyone who attended didn't leave with at least one new idea on how they can be a better leader. The food was impressive and the view of the park was one that never got old. All three World Series trophies were on display and Wally the Green Monster even stopped by for a little while. Many attendees took a tour of the park after the meeting and all comments were positive. The Board is making an effort this year to try and boost attendance at meetings and create more value and interest within our association. This event was a great way to kick off the New Year and set us off on the right track. ❖

by Greg Cormier, CGCS











Thoughts From Your Association Manager

Congratulations to Tom Ackley and Bob Cullen. Tom retired January 1st as the long time Superintendent at Juniper Hill Golf Course in Northboro, MA and Bob has been promoted from Assistant to Superintendent. Good luck and success to Tom and Bob.

If you haven't been receiving electronic communications from the Association please let me know. Over the last month the NEWSLETTER, job openings, meeting notices and other mailings have been sent. If you've changed your email address and/or haven't been receiving the documents mentioned send an email to me at <a href="mailto:done-en-align: letter-document-en-align: letter-docume

The Massachusetts Golf Association and the New England Golf Association have published their 2015 Championship schedules and I've listed sites where GCSA of New England members are responsible for providing excellent playing conditions for these events.

MGA FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP May 12-13 George Wright Golf Course, Hyde Park William J. Devine Golf Course, Dorchester - Russ Heller, CGCS, Supt.

MGA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP July 13-17 Oak Hill Country Club, Fitchburg – Scott Lagana, CGCS, Supt.

MGA BOYS JUNIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP July 30 Norfolk Golf Club, Westwood – Jon Zolkowski, Supt.

MGA FATHER & DAUGHTER CHAMPIONSHIP August 19 LeBaron Hills Country Club, Lakeville – Mark Klimm, Supt.

MGA MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP September 8-10 Marlborough Country Club, Marlborough – Ken Crimmings, CGCS, Supt.

MGA SUPER SENIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP September 21-22

Bass Rocks Golf Club, Gloucester – Chris Donato, Supt.

TRI-STATE MATCHES October 20-21 TPC Boston, Norton – Tom Brodeur, Supt. .

by Don Hearn





How to Handle Yourself in Casual Conversation

There are times when you are asked to attend a function at the club or course and this could be a time to shine or fade like a shooting star. Striking up a conversation or chit chatting at an event doesn't have to be dreaded, intimidating or boring.

It is necessary to engage in casual conversation, which is often referred to as chit chat or small talk, in many social situations. This can happen with a friend, acquaintance, club member or stranger at a corporate event, birthday party, restaurant or at the club. While chit chatting with an individual you do not know well can be uncomfortable, following some simple tips can help you to engage in natural, interesting conversation at your next event.

Here are a few ideas:

• INITIATE CONVERSATION

Greet the person you are about to engage in conversation with a smile. Introduce yourself and ask the other person how he or she is doing. This helps to break the ice and assess whether the other person is interested in having a conversation.

If the event is at the club, most people will know who you are. One of your challenges is to remember who they are! I've noticed during my time in the business that many are interested in what is happening on the course, but there's not a lot more they seem to be interested in talking about. I believe that's because they think there's not much more you are interested in talking about. Just because someone you meet is a golfer doesn't mean they don't have other interests in life. Yes, golf and the club is a large part of their life, but other diversions might also be of mutual interest. I've met a painter, an author, a professional photographer, a racecar driver, a wine lover (a few of them), a mountain climber and others. It's nice to talk with those who have a zest for life and I've found they are very willing to talk about what they love to do.

COMPLIMENT THE OTHER PERSON SINCERELY

This will help the person feel comfortable with you. Be ready for the inevitable question of "What do you do in the winter?" You know how to answer that.

FIND COMMON GROUND THROUGH CASUAL TOPICS

Family, work, mutual friends and diversions as mentioned above are good starting points. This will help you to relate to one another and allows the conversation to flow more easily.

• ASK QUESTIONS

Open-ended questions, as opposed to yes and no questions, provide the opportunity for you to learn more about the other person and discover more things you may have in common. Just make sure what you tell someone about yourself you don't regret later. Keep in mind you're not a member. Even though you might be told "You're part of the family" that will end sometime.

SHOW CURIOSITY AND INTEREST

Demonstrate this through your body language, such as nodding and making eye contact. A positive reaction from the other person is more likely if you display genuine attentiveness.

MAKE A POLITE EXIT

Once you sense that the chat is coming to a close, simply state that you enjoyed meeting the person and exchange handshakes. •

by Don Hearn

GCSANE Survey

Please take a moment to take a brief survey about the 2014 season by entering the address below in your browser.

The results will appear in the February Newsletter.

GCSANE Survey for 2014 review

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Z9R3DQ9



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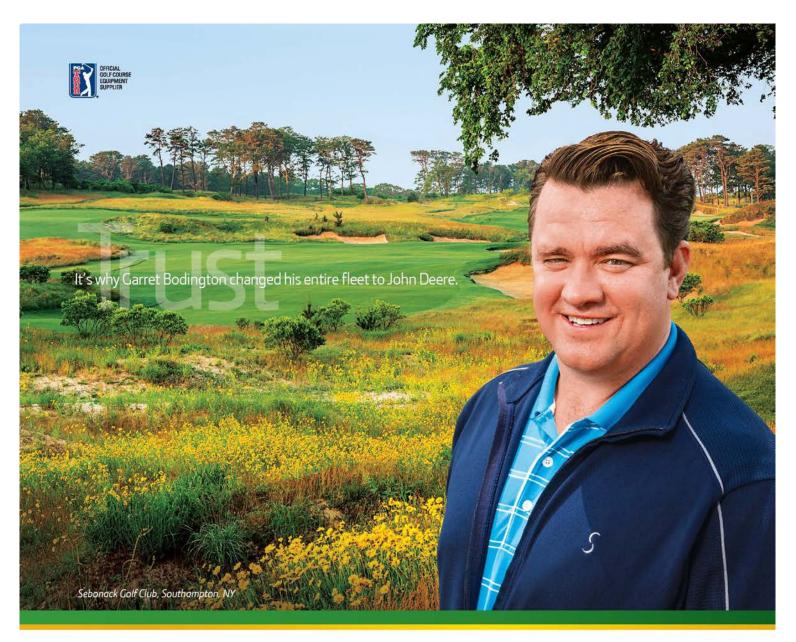
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Friend of the Association Profile

Rain Bird Golf Irrigation has a new home in New England at Northeast Golf & Turf, a division of Northeast Nursery, Inc.

Previously distributed by Boston Irrigation Supply Co. (BISCO), the Rain Bird move comes as a result of John Deere Landscaping's acquisition of the former in early October, 2014. Due to the non-transferability of the Rain Bird agreement with BISCO, the sale resulted in a competitive application period by numerous companies seeking the privilege of representing the Rain Bird Golf Irrigation line.

After thorough research and an intensive investigative process, Northeast Golf & Irrigation Supply was chosen by Rain Bird to represent and distribute their premium golf irrigation line. Citing solid company structure, previously established strongholds throughout New England, and a willingness to fully embrace and grow this new market through personnel and infrastructure investments, Rain Bird saw a natural fit for both sides.

In an effort to create as seamless a transition as possible for current Rain Bird customers, Northeast Golf and turf has hired essential BISCO team members throughout New England:

<u>Bill Stinson, Golf Irrigation Manager</u>: Bill will also be the direct sales contact for Worcester County and the four Western counties in Massachusetts.

<u>Jeff Brown, Sales</u>: Jeff will be the sales contact in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and Essex and Middlesex counties in Massachusetts.

<u>Dan Fuller, Sales</u>: Dan will be the contact in Rhode Island, Southeastern MA and Cape Cod.

<u>Greg Hennessy & Tom Hoffer, Service</u>: Greg & Tom will continue to provide service across New England.

The Northeast Turf & Irrigation team looks forward to continued service of current Rain Bird customers in addition to helping new customers with their unique irrigation needs.

Located in Peabody, Ma, parent company Northeast Nursery has been servicing green industry professionals for over 32 years. With significant investments in their turf and irrigation segment in recent years through the acquisition of premium products and industry expertise, Northeast Nursery is poised to offer premium services to customers in the golf irrigation field. With a new facility opened in Londonderry, NH and plans to expand with other locations in the coming years, Northeast continues to position itself to fully service the New England market. •



Save the Date: April 20th, 2015

The 11th Annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic TPC River Highlands Golf Club, Cromwell, CT

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Honoring Dr. William Dest, Professor Emeritus University of Connecticut





TPC River Highlands is a private golf club located in Cromwell, Connecticut, which is a part of the Tournament Players Club network operated by the PGA Tour. The club was founded in 1928 as Middletown Golf Club and became Edgewood Country Club in 1934. In the early 1980s it was bought by the PGA Tour. The golf course was redesigned to TPC standards by renowned golf course architect Pete Dye, and reopened as the "TPC of Connecticut" in 1984. The course underwent further remodeling in 1989, this time by Bobby Weed in consultation with tour pros Howard Twitty and Roger Maltbie, and renamed the "TPC at River Highlands".

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our condolences are extended to the Sanders Family on the recent passing of Al "Sandy" Sanders. Sandy was the retired and long time superintendent of Juniper Hill Golf Course in Northborough, MA.

Our condolences are extended to Wayne Zoppo and family on the passing of Wayne's sister, Elaine Swenson, on January 7, 2015.

Nor'Easter Ski Day 2015

The Nor'easter Ski Committee has things up and ready to go for the 2015 Nor'easter Ski Day on March 5th at Killington Ski Resort. All the information and registration links can be found on the front page of the VTGCSA's webpage at http://www.vtgcsa.com/. You can register anytime starting now!

There are rooms available at several locations at Killington, so make sure you lock in a room before they're all taken. Space is on a first come basis and certain room blocks will be released after February 6th. Last year we had over 100 participants and we're sure to grow from there.

We hope that everyone has a safe holiday season and we hope to see you in a few months at Killington Resort!!

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.

Press Release:

Mary Armstrong, formerly of New Hampshire, of Armstrong Golf Architects is pleased to announce that she has been recognized as a "TOP 20 SUSTAINABLE GOLF COURSE DESIGN PRACTITIONER" in the world by the internationally recognized Green Planet Architects.

In his email to Ms. Armstrong, Roy E. den Hoed, President Green Planet Architects wrote, "it is my privilege to announce that you have been elected to our elite TOP 20 AWARDS of Sustainable Golf Course Architects for 2014. This prestigious award is addressed to a select number of Golf Course Architects who have established a sterling reputation as practitioners of Sustainable Golf Course Architecture. We consider your practice as one of the most visionary in Sustainable Golf Course Architecture."

Ms. Armstrong has completed design work in all areas of the U.S. and internationally, but was particularly active in the Northeast. She stated, "In all, I've designed new courses or renovations for over 120 courses world-wide. While I am semi-retired in New Mexico, I still have a passion for those projects, large or small, that stir my imagination or challenge my problem solving - particularly those in New England." "I am very pleased to be recognized in what I consider to be one of the most relevant and noteworthy areas of my practice. Early in my career, I worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In large part, I owe my proficiency in this regard to the experience and knowledge I gained in those positions. I also would like to recognize the Landscape Architecture Department at Iowa State University and the emphasis they placed on stewardship in my education there many years ago."

You can reach Ms. Armstrong at 603-547-3132 or via her website at www.golfarchitect.com.



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