



THE NEWSLETTER



September 2015

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.

President's Message

Dear fellow GCSANE members:

Fall has finally arrived and hopefully the change in weather to more seasonable temps finds you all well. Our recent Scholarship and Benevolence tournament was held at Vesper CC on September 14 with recently passed members Joe Rybka, Bob Grant, and Gerry Finn being our honorees. Our host for the day was GCSANE member Steve Hicks and his talented greens staff. The 110 plus attendees were treated to an impeccably prepared golf course in addition to a perfect day of golfing weather which featured sunny skies and temps in the upper 70's. Following the golf portion of our event, the families of Joe Rybka and Bob Grant were recognized and presented with tokens of remembrance from the GCSANE membership.

Our bylaws overhaul is nearly complete and you should be receiving a copy of the proposed changes very shortly. Extensive effort and detail have gone into this project in an attempt to bring our bylaws up to date and account for industry and technological changes which have taken place since the 1920's. The bylaws committee consisting of Bob Healey, Jim Fitzroy, Mike Hermanson, Dick Zepp, and Don Hearn deserve a standing round of applause for their tireless efforts on this project.

The 2015 MGA green section golf course operations survey has been completed and emailed out to all participants. In another huge undertaking, the MGA staff in conjunction with GCSANE has produced a document which features budget and course operations data from over 80 area clubs. A big thank you goes out to several folks from the MGA including Jesse Menachem, Peter Costello, Scott Whitcomb, and especially Becky Blaeser, who collected, sorted, organized, and delivered the superbly produced document. All participating clubs received the survey free of charge and non-participating clubs may purchase the survey for a mere \$30. What a value

There's still time to make it out for an association golfing event if you haven't done so yet this year. Our upcoming October meeting is the team of two championship and will be held on October 5 at Tedesco CC with GCSANE member Peter Hasak our host for the day. Tedesco is another New England gem which we're extremely fortunate to have the privilege of playing and is a former site of our annual Scholarship and Benevolence tournament. I hope to see you there.



Best Regards,
Michael D. Luccini CGCS
GCSANE President



University of Massachusetts Alumni Choose Dr. William Dest as 2015 Honoree

Press Release

August 31, 2015

For more information contact: Scott Mackintosh, President Alumni Turf Group,
Scott@atlanticgolfandturf.com Cell: 774-551-6083
Entry forms available at www.alumniturfgroup.com

On April 20, 2015 the Tournament Players Club of River Highlands played host to the eleventh annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic where Dr. William Dest was honored by the Alumni Turf Group. Unfortunately the golf was rained out.

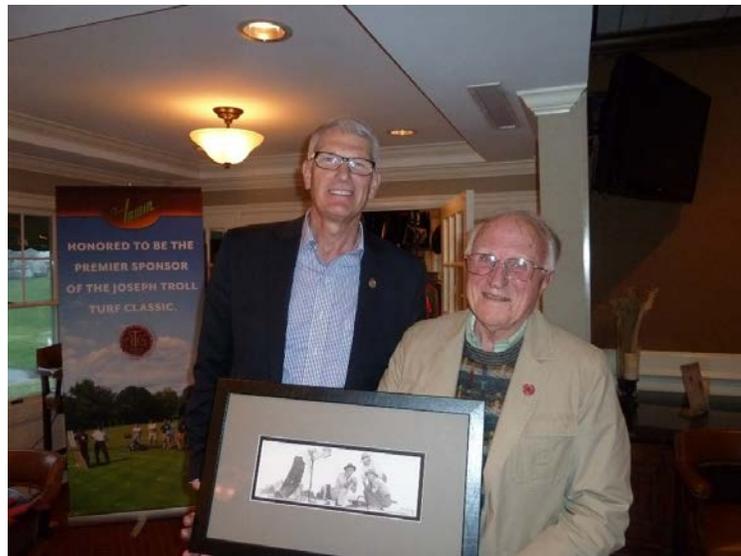
According to ATG President Scott Mackintosh, that didn't seem to dampen the enthusiasm or the turnout for Dr. Dest and the event.

"The weather outside was 55 degrees and rainy but inside the 2015 Honoree, Dr. Bill Dest, brought his supportive, fun and boisterous family along to celebrate his amazing career. His family's presence also made it possible to see the respect, love and admiration they have for their Father," said Mackintosh. "Throughout the evening every attendee caught a glimpse of his passion for turfgrass research and education. When I try to define agronomist I now think of Dr Bill Dest; he epitomizes the word."

Dr. Dest was a 1957 graduate of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, a 1969 graduate of the University of Massachusetts, received his MS from the University of Connecticut in 1974, and his PhD from Rutgers University. He has held various positions in the golf industry with superintendent stints first at Cohasse Country Club and then at Wethersfield Country Club, the longtime host to the Greater Hartford Open, a PGA Tour event. Eventually he progressed to professor until he retired in 1996 from the University of Connecticut where he maintains the academic status of Associate Professor Emeritus. In retirement, he continues to work on research projects at UMass and is busy as a consultant to municipalities and golf courses.

The annual golf tournament rotates locations throughout the northeast in an effort to keep as many alumni connected to it as possible. It also acts as the main fundraiser to support turf research at the University.

"I think the incredible support that ATG has received by the corporate sponsors, friends, and allied associations over the past eleven years is testimony of the great



L to R: Steve Goodwin Professor & Dean, College of Natural Sciences University of Massachusetts and Dr. William Dest Professor Emeritus University of Connecticut.

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Beekeeping for Golf Courses

By Greg Cormier, CGCS

Beekeeping is becoming more and more popular among golf course superintendents around the country. Honeybees are struggling more than ever with CCD or Colony Collapse Disorder making the national news in recent months. Nobody has a definitive answer to why this is happening, but scientists say there are several contributing factors. One of the most discussed factors is the effect that neonicotinoids, such as Merit, have on the bees. Many people want to blame these chemicals and the operations that use them; however scientists have proven that although any insecticide could negatively impact an insect, it isn't the chemicals that are the sole reason for CCD.

I had a neighbor accuse me for the collapse of his honeybee colony two years ago. He claimed that whatever I was applying to the golf course was killing his bees. He was 3 miles away which is inside the area that a honeybee will travel. I kindly told him that when we apply our grub control the product is watered in immediately to the soil and not applied to any flowers. I also pointed out that there were several other users of these products within a 3 mile radius of his house, but he was choosing to blame the golf course.

This past winter I attended bee keeping school through the Acton, MA adult education program. I got the membership to approve paying for the classes and the beekeeping equipment. This process started as a way to prove a neighbor wrong, but quickly turned into a much bigger thing. The crew was excited to take turns checking the hives with me. The membership is constantly asking about the bees and how everything is going. It elevated the value of the Grounds Staff because we were doing something that the membership found interest in as well. The members realized we were brave stewards of the environment. Being in Concord, MA anything that is related to farming, nature, or helping the environment is always popular. Beekeeping and producing all natural honey from the land falls right into line with what many people in the area would consider a good thing.

The state hive inspector paid us a visit in late August. He was so impressed with the amount of land and food sources we had for honeybees that he was hoping that I would go from 2 hives to about 12 hives. He said the two hives we have are very healthy and strong and that they were some of the best hives in the area. He also showed me what I could take out for honey without hurting the bee's food reserves. The very next week we pulled three frames of honey out of the hives.

The most rewarding part of beekeeping so far was straining the honey off of the wax and then filtering it and bottling it. One of our veteran crew members named "Doc" did the sticky job of getting the honey from the frames to the bottles. We ended up with about a gallon of fresh honey from the hive. I gave about a quart to the Executive Chef and he will be featuring the honey on the menu for the members. He was impressed with the quality and taste of the honey. For any of the superintendents in the area looking to start a fun new hobby and do something beneficial to the environment, I highly recommend you give beekeeping a try. It is a positive thing for everyone involved.

For more information please feel free to email me at gcormier@nashawtuc.com. ❖



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significance of the UMass brand of research,” said ATG Executive Director Dave Pease, which include “logistics to accomplish a better way to maintain sustainable perfection and to support those who steward the management of fine turf.”

Of ATG’s role with the University, Pease stated “This support for UMass has provided such tangible impacts as direct funding for research, facility equipment, and research staffing.”

When it comes to industry support, ATG Vice President, Robert Ruzala is quick to point out that “Tom Irwin has been our title sponsor through the years. They always seem to take pride in sponsoring us. We are grateful to them and all sponsors.”

Ruzala went on to add “I think as a group of Alumni we are very thankful for all the turf industry’s help and support. We are very proud and happy to be able to support the turf program at UMass. With everyone’s help going forward we can continue to strengthen the turf program.”

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

Entry forms, additional information for this event, membership applications, and ATG information are available online at www.alumniturfgroup.com.



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Thoughts From Your Association Manager

The annual fundraising tournament in memory of Dave Comee, a long time member of the Association's Scholarship and Benevolence Committee who died suddenly in 2011, will be held at the Winchendon School Golf Club, October 11, 2015. Friends of Dave conduct the tournament and the day's proceeds have been generously donated to our Scholarship and Benevolence Fund. We were fortunate to have had Dave be a part of our Association and to have supported it with his time and energy. If you would like to bring a group to help support the event, please contact me.

The August meeting, held this year at the Wayland Country Club, is the meeting where retirees are invited to attend as our guest and we had a number present. It was wonderful to have these members attend and watch them act and react with others. Some of the retirees played golf. Others came to enjoy the day, and see friends. The following retirees attended:

Steve Butler: Steve was employed as a sales representative and ambassador of good will at Larchmont Engineering for 33 years. He finished his career as a sales representative for Country Club Enterprises. He now lives in Florida most of the year and in New Hampshire for part of the summer.

Jim Fitzroy, CGCS: Jim served as the superintendent of Presidents Golf Course in Quincy, MA for 38 years. He's a Past President of GCSAA and the GCSA of New England and a recipient of the Association's Distinguished Service Award. Jim has been a Member of the Association for 42 years.

Mike Hermanson: Mike was the superintendent at Gardner Municipal Golf Course for 37 years. Mike served as Golf Chairman for many years and is a Past President of the Association. He is a recipient of the Association's Distinguished Service Award. Mike continues to serve the Association as an active member of the Scholarship and Benevolence Committee.

Ron Kirkman: Also known as Capt. Kirk. Ron was the superintendent at Needham Golf Club for 45 years. During this time he also held the position of clubhouse manager for 34 years. He served on the Association's board of directors as secretary for 4 years, and was editor of the NEWSLETTER for 3 years. Ron received the Association's Distinguished Service Award in 2007.

Norman Mucciarone: Norman retired from Woodland Golf Club after a forty-year career as superintendent. He began his career working at Framingham CC, and then went to Marlborough CC for two years, then Lexington GC for three years, then to Woodland. After retirement he worked part time at Woodland for his son David, who became superintendent upon Norman's retirement, and another five years at Brae Burn Country Club for Bob DiRico.

Arthur Silva: Arthur began his career at Belmont Country Club employed as the assistant, working under Al Silva. When Al left, Arthur became the superintendent. When he retired from Belmont he had 38 years under his belt. Arthur served for many years as a member of the GCSA of New England's board of directors. He now splits his time between his home in Tewksbury, MA and Florida.

Wayne Zoppo, CGCS: Wayne was the superintendent at Agawam Hunt Club in East Providence, RI for 41 years. He retired in 2007. He has served as a past president of both the GCSA of New England and the Rhode Island GCSA. Wayne enjoys playing golf, travel and spending lots of time with his grandchildren.

Tom Ackley, CGCS: Tom recently retired as superintendent from Juniper Hill Golf Course where he spent many years. Tom followed in the footsteps of his father, Glen, who was the long time superintendent at Marlborough Country Club.

The August meeting is also when the members of the team that will represent the GCSA of New England are chosen to represent our Association at the New England Superintendent Championship. The low eight scores from all membership categories qualify as team members. This year's event will be hosted by the Rhode Island GCSA and played at the Misquamicut Club in Westerly, RI where Bill Morton is the superintendent. The team members are: Bob Dembek, Tim Crane, Mike Luccini, Jim Fitzroy, Steve Murphy, Fred Murray, Garrett Whitney and Carl Teschke. The event will be played October 13.

Our speaker at the August meeting was Taryn LaScola, Chief Pesticide Inspector for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Taryn made an informative presentation about the new regulations that relate to non-agriculture use of fertilizer. The information she presented was well received. Questions were asked about aspects of the regulations that could have an effect on soil testing procedures and the protocol required for testing. There were also questions asked and conversations about renovation, overseeding, bare ground seeding, and other scenarios where the regulations might inhibit phosphorus applications. It was gratifying to hear Taryn's responses. She did not act like she was the new sheriff in town. Rather, her responses included suggestions as to how we could help the regulators improve current requirements to make them more practical. We have the opportunity to work as a group to make progress and make the process work better. While some may want to communicate specific issues directly with her, Peter Rappoccio, who is our representative on the Green Industry Alliance (GIA), represents us as a group. I suggest you communicate your concerns to Peter and he will move forward with the issues that need to be considered.

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The annual Ouimet Marathon Fundraiser was held August 12, at the Stow Acres Country Club where Jason VanBuskirk is the superintendent. I was able to spend some time at the event and saw first-hand the dedication so many have to help fund scholarships for those in need. Kevin Corvino represented the Members of our Association, and has been doing so for the past five years. Kevin doesn't do this alone and I had the opportunity to meet an important part of his team, Erik Doldt, who, along with Nat Binns, devotes time and energy to raise funds for Ouimet Scholarships. This year Kevin played and Erik caddied 106 holes to help the Fund. Nat raised funds and procured donations. The entire Ouimet staff, led by Executive Director Bob Donovan, spent the day at Stowe Acres where I had the opportunity to take a photo of Ross Blacker, the Ouimet Fund's Associate Director, Events and Club Relations; and Danielle Pourbaix, Associate Director, Development & Alumni Relations.



From left: Ross Blacker, Danielle Pourbaix, Jason VanBuskirk and friends

As you may know, the MGA/GCSA of New England/GCSA of Cape Cod survey has been released. There is a lot of information in the document and it was the result of more than 85 respondents submitting responses. The document required a lot of input, compilation, discussion and deliberation before it was ready for distribution. While we supplied support, the MGA's Becky Blaeser spent many hours piecing together the tables, adding the photos and creating the document. Feedback is important and we're looking for your comments about the survey. The more feedback received the better the direction we'll have moving forward. Please send along your ideas or give me a call if there's anything you'd like to discuss. ❖

By Don Hearn



Kevin Corvino, left and Erik Doldt

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Tech Tip

Symmetry between devices...

Are you reading this on your iPhone, iPad, or "desktop"? So, you've upgraded to an Apple phone, went out and bought an Apple tablet, and now you're staring at Windows every time you sit down in the office. Sure, it works just fine, but you just came back into the shop during coffee break and you want to write a blog post concerning the new tee being built on 5. You did have the convenience to take great pictures with your phone, but because you're still using Windows, you have to actually take the time to email all of the pictures to yourself. Well, I suppose you could just add them to Dropbox, [Box.net](#), or another cloud, but if you were operating an Apple desktop, those photos would magically appear in your Photo Stream.

Remember that weird photo album that popped up a year ago on your iPhone that seemed to just be copying every picture you took? Well, Photo Stream is just one of the MANY symmetrical features you experience when Apple devices are used for every platform. iMessage, iCal, Reminders, and of course don't forget iCloud in general are some of the biggest friends that interact seamlessly across each device no matter how big or small.

Now, I can already hear you stating that an iMac is \$\$\$\$\$. Yes, an iMac can be pretty expensive for the simple uses that a Superintendent will utilize a desktop for. That is why the Mac mini is the perfect option. It does need an external display, but its price and size can't be beat for the operating system you get. At only \$600, a 500GB hard drive and dimensions that are smaller (LxW) than an iPad, it can literally be brought anywhere and plugged into any display. The simple upgrade from 2GB of RAM to 8GB of RAM for only \$50 turns your Mac mini into an exceptionally fast and great machine. Now that I've convinced you to purchase one, I will explain ways to overcome the overwhelming idea that none of your files will be transferrable.

There are many options available to transfer files from Windows to OS X. One major way is Google. By activating a Google account, all of your files on your PC can be uploaded straight to Google and used with your new Mac. Another

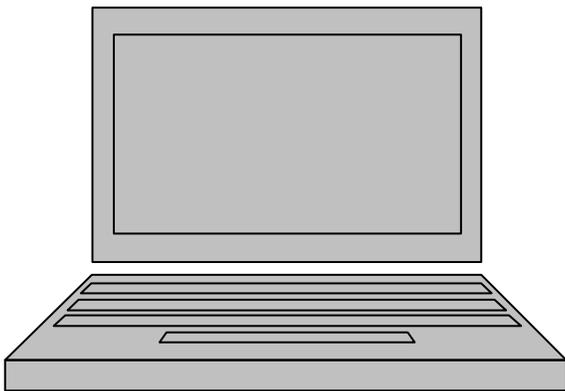


quick and easy way is to add all of your important files to Dropbox. If you do this, I suggest downloading [Openoffice.org](#) for free. This is similar to Microsoft Office and will actually allow for any Microsoft Office document to be viewed in its native format right on your new Mac.

If you're still unsure about this whole Apple desktop thing and want to periodically revert back to a Windows screen, the program, "Parallels", will allow you to switch back and forth. The most ensuring way to transfer files is to purchase an external hard drive and copy all of the files from your PC and then load into your new Mac. I have done all of these options. I even keep my PC tower plugged in and have the VGA cable ready just in case I forgot that "one" file. I have all files transferred into Google, Dropbox, and an external hard drive. My Mac mini is a base line model but it has the RAM upgrade to 8GB.

If you like your iPhone and your iPad, and you're still wondering about the idea of converting the desktop from PC to Mac, I say "do it". You won't be disappointed. ❖

Jason VanBuskirk
Golf Course Superintendent, Class A
Stow Acres Country Club



The advertisement features a background image of a golf course with several sprinklers spraying water. The text is overlaid on a light blue background. The logo for Winterberry Irrigation is prominent, with the word "Winterberry" in a large, blue, sans-serif font and "IRRIGATION" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it. Below the logo, the text reads "Serving New England and the Tri-State Area" and "Irrigation and Pump Installation and Service". The phone number "1-800-SCAPE-IT" is displayed in a large, bold, blue font. Below the phone number, the names "Chris Daigle" and "Matt Faherty" are listed. To the right of the names is a small logo for "WaterSense" with a green leaf icon. At the bottom, the website "www.winterberryirrigation.com" is listed, followed by license information: "CT License J-3 279958 | RI License M1000224 | NJ License 197246".



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Check your ego at the door

My hunch is all of us, at sometime or another in our lives, have gotten a bit too big for our britches. The following story illustrates how the real world works and how naïve we've probably been at some point in our past.

The example below was written by Bill Marriott, Executive Chairman of the Board at Marriott International.

At 22 I had a lot to learn. I didn't know it then, of course, because one of the hallmarks of being young is that you don't know what you don't know.

About that time, I was a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Navy Supply Corps and it was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I learned a great many business skills, like accounting, payroll inventory, and retail sales. I also learned about business relationships. Or, really, I learned how not to conduct business relationships.

One of my assignments was the wardroom, where officers eat their meals. I found the food was not very good, so I sent a telegram back to my dad and I said, "Send me the Hot Shoppes recipe cards," which was our Washington, D.C., restaurant chain before we owned our first hotel.

He sent me back the cards and I took them down to the stewards who were cooking the meals. I said, "Our food is not very good. It will get a lot better if you use these cards."

Well, the food got worse. I went back to the stewards and I asked, "Why aren't you using these cards?" *One of the hallmarks of being young is that you don't know what you don't know.* They looked at me. You know, they were all World War II veterans and here was this kid telling them what to do.

I tried again, "Hey, I'm an officer and you're not. We're going to see the captain if you don't get this straightened out." They looked at me like I was an idiot.

Right then and there I learned the importance of buy-in. I learned that if you want to get people to do something, you've got to help them understand why they're doing it and how it will benefit them.

Even if I didn't get a good meal for a while, it was a valuable lesson that stuck with me throughout my career.

[With this example in mind, it should serve as a reminder that your position doesn't automatically entitle you to assume your ideas are going to work – no matter how well thought out they are. If you don't have a "buy in" by those who have to make your ideas work, nothing will change and you will become a very frustrated and angry person.] ❖

By Don Hearn

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Hartney Greymont arborists and horticulturists have long been known for their tree and shrub pruning skills. We do believe that pruning is as much art as science. To seldom done well in the trade, we prescribe pruning based on a rare understanding of plant growth and the ability to discern the role plants play in the landscape. Natural hand-pruning is a highly valued specialty and HG staff practices this art daily. Personalized service characterizes our lawn care programs. Timely and precise applications compliment the natural growing condition of turf. We offer flexible and intensive programs to clients who desire a customized lawn service approach.

Our experienced landscape design staff will ensure that any planning includes a thorough site assessment and a clarification of our client's values, desires, budget and timelines. HG installs beautiful landscapes, from the smallest courtyard centerpiece to the largest New England estate patio and perennial garden. Additionally, HG is highly experienced with large tree moving – a skill the requires pre-move planning and the right after-care.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to **Brian Skinner**, **CGCS** GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at Bellevue Golf Club who has recently completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

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.

2016 UMASS WINTER SCHOOL FOR TURF MANAGERS

The perennial goal of the UMass Winter School for Turf Managers is to furnish practitioners with concepts essential to the maintenance of high quality turf, while instilling a sense of environmental stewardship and fiscal responsibility. This highly acclaimed certificate program immerses students in a full-time, seven week course of study, focused solely on the management of fine turf and taught by UMass faculty, staff and distinguished guests.

Winter School 2016 is scheduled for January 4 - February 19 on the UMass campus in Amherst. The program is especially suited for those who desire to take their career in turf management to the next level, as well as career changers who want to enter the field of turf management.

Applications are reviewed as they arrive, and since seating is limited earlier applications have a higher probability of acceptance. The application deadline is October 23, 2015 (or later pending availability of seats).

For more information about Winter School and application materials, refer to:

<http://ag.umass.edu/turf/education/turf-winter-school>

Alternatively, call (413) 545-5202, or email academicprograms@cpe.umass.edu



October 17, 2015 - Homecoming Weekend

On October 17, we will host an open house for Stockbridge School of Agriculture alumni. The day will begin with a tour of our newly renovated Paige Laboratory, with a chance to meet members of our faculty in their research laboratories. I am sure that you'll be excited by their outstanding work and enthusiasm for their research.

After the tour, relax under our tent and listen to some wonderful local music. Willie Crosby, an alum and our instructor for mushroom culture, will give an enlightening talk on growing mushrooms.

We'll also treat you to a spectacular farm-to-table luncheon, with vegetables from our Student Farm, and you'll have ample opportunity to enjoy the company of fellow Stockbridge School of Agriculture alums.

In the afternoon, attend the homecoming football game with plenty of time to tailgate. If you prefer, student farmers will provide tours of our Agricultural Learning Center just north of campus. You also can partake of the many other homecoming activities - or just walk around the UMass campus during one of the prettiest times of the year.

Please join us. Campus will be alive with activity, and if you haven't been to UMass in a number of years, this is your chance to see how your alma mater has grown!

Cost of registration is \$25 per person, and the first 50 people to register will receive football tickets free of charge!

For more information and to register please visit: umassalumni.net/homecoming

Wesley Autio

Director & Professor -Stockbridge School of Agriculture Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst - 205 Paige Laboratory



GCSANE Offers Website Banner advertising at www.gcsane.org

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For more information, please contact Kris Armando at 508-745-8555 or karmando8@gmail.com

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