



RHODE ISLAND SURF 'n' TURF

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

34th Annual Scholarship & Research Tournament

By Richard Lombardi



Wanumetonomy Golf & Country Club



Host: Ted Ellis, CGCS

helped out on the day of the tournament which are Tim Berge, Bill Coulter, Joan Fandetti, Julie Heston, Michelle Maltais, Tom Ohlson, Alicia Pearson and Gary Sykes. The committee also extends a special thank you to Julie Heston for her assistance, dedication and strong administrative support.



Dr. Noel Jackson Research Fellowship recipient Sara Tucker pictured with from L-R: Mark Richard, CGCS; Richard Lombardi and Dr. Steven Alm

At this event, the Scholarship & Research Committee awarded Sara Tucker with the Dr. Noel Jackson Research Fellowship. Sara is a graduate student working with Dr. Steven Alm at the University of Rhode Island. Her project is titled "Bee Forage and Habitat for Rhode Island Golf Courses."

To our annual sponsors, who play a key role in the tournament's success, the committee extends its gratitude. Please see the full list of sponsors for this event on the following pages.

Special recognition is also extended to Ted Ellis, CGCS and the entire team at Wanumetonomy Golf and Country Club. The superb conditions of the course and the facility coupled with excellent service provided by the staff greatly contributed to the day's success.

In closing, the unconditional support and efforts of all participants will allow the Scholarship & Research Tournament to remain a key event representing the RIGCSA's strong commitment to educational enhancement.

Sincerely,
Richard Lombardi, Chairman
Scholarship and Research Committee

The Scholarship and Research Committee sponsored another successful event with the 34th Annual Scholarship & Research Tournament held at Wanumetonomy Golf & Country Club on October 4th.

Organizing this event requires dedication and hard work of the committee members and staff early in the year to achieve rewarding results. Recognition goes out to the entire S&R Committee. We would also like to thank the volunteers that

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President's Message



It's been nice to say goodbye to the summer of 2016 and welcome in the Fall. How can you not love Fall weather? Gone is the heat and humidity and in comes the beautiful and comfortable temperatures that are just perfect for golf. Hopefully you are all using your irrigation systems less and your golf clubs more.

As luck would have it, the rains finally came on the day of our September meeting at Cranston CC. Thank you to Arthur Tella for prepping the golf course on the toughest of weather days. About a dozen brave souls did brave the rain and play a qualifying nine holes to establish a team for the New England Championships. Thanks Arthur for allowing us to play the golf course and for being a gracious host.

Our annual Scholarship and Research Tournament was held at Wanumetonomy Golf and Country Club and hosted by Ted Ellis, CGCS. Ted and his staff had the place in excellent shape and had bounced back miraculously from a season with severe irrigation water shortages. The greens were challenging and in perfect condition. I am very proud of our S&R Committee and the work that they continue to do to support both college scholarships and turfgrass research. I thank Chairman Richard Lombardi and the entire committee for their dedication and their commitment to this fine event.

We were fortunate to again have Newport Country Club host our October Superintendent/Assistant tournament. I appreciate Chris Coen and his willingness to host and allow us to play such a great golf course every year. We've had a run of great weather the past few years and it's always our best attended meeting of the year.

Please join us for our November meeting at Midville. It's been a long time since our last visit and can't wait to play it again. We've had some fun adding a November golf event and I hope many of you will join us that haven't tried it. Thank you all for your participation this year and for making the RIGCSA a strong association. Our members helping each other and lending support makes us all better.

Bill Coulter, CGCS
RIGCSA President

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September Meeting Cranston Country Club

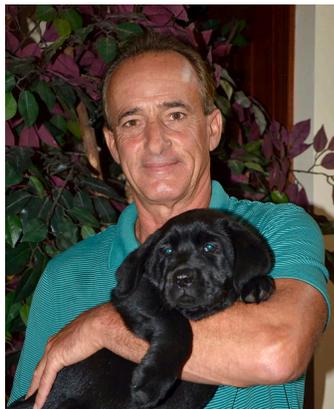


Photo Credit – Michelle Maltais

Scholarship & Research Tournament



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Wanumetonomy Golf & Country Club

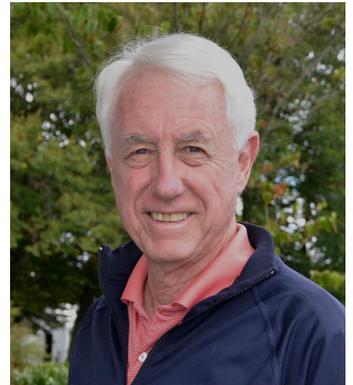


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Kevin's GCSAA Corner

By Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Northeast Field Rep.



And there you have it, the season has changed. Gone are the days of 90-degree heat and 80 percent humidity and now come the moderate temperature days, and cool and frosty nights. Of the many seasons in New England, this one seems to be the favorite of the golf course superintendent. With mud season, black fly season, syringe season in the past, now begins leaf season and the challenges it brings. Here are a couple of things to keep in mind when considering your leaf management strategies.

What do you do with the leaves you harvest off the golf course? Leaf litter can be added to other course debris to make an excellent compost material. Shredded leaves with untreated grass clippings make an excellent start, with many other options that may be available. The sustainability session at 2016 GIS in San Diego was an excellent opportunity for superintendents to trade ideas, one of which was composting. Utilizing waste from the food and beverage and on-course containers was an initiative undertaken by one presenter. While actively managing a compost pile will significantly decrease the time needed to achieve a nutrient rich product that can be utilized on your property, even an unmanaged process will eventually be beneficial. Think of the yards of leaves you manage to maintain playability returning to the course as deep rich compost! Site selection and protection of water resources also play a big role in mindful composting. It would be a great project for an ambitious assistant or incoming intern. For more about composting, visit the UMass Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment resources page on Organic Waste Management.

While composting may not work within your leaf management strategy, one item to be aware of when blowing leaves to tree-lines or property edges is the environment that this litter establishes. Often researched as a wonderful overwintering site for annual bluegrass weevils, it may also be contributing to an increase in tick populations. Last year Joellen Lampman, School and Turfgrass IPM Extension Support Specialist, with the New York State IPM program reached out to golf courses in her region to study the effects of different leaf management practices and the relationship on the tick population. An unseasonably warm winter in 2015-2016 led to an explosion in the tick population this year, and hopefully some additional research will assist golf courses to develop strategies to manage both leaves and ticks successfully! If you think your leaf litter strategy might

be creating increased spring tick population issues, Lampman included some information on testing your site for ticks in her Community IPM factsheet. Keeping ourselves, staff and golfers safe is always a priority.

Whether blowing, mowing, or picking them up, leaves create an additional labor constraint on our budgets and inconvenience to our golfers. By developing a sustainable composting practice, the property could benefit greatly from the reuse of an otherwise undesirable by-product. With research, we can also gain a better understanding of the implications of our management strategies on non-desirable species. Best of luck with leaf season, and as we have all come to learn here in New England, keep your eyes on the cars around you when on the roads. Leaf peepers make very poor drivers!

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already

Planning for the Golf Industry Show

These resources offer tips to minimize expenses and garner a higher return on investment. We'll help guide you through the steps for communicating with your employer about the importance of attending the Golf Industry Show and the GCSAA Golf Championships. Resources can be found at www.golfindustryshow.com.

Energy use survey now open

The latest Golf Course Environmental Profile survey is open through Nov. 11. The Energy Use and Environmental Practices Survey will gather critical information on energy conservation practices, energy audits, written plans, and behavioral, design and other conservation changes. Please visit the www.gcsaa.org under the "Environment" section to take the survey.

GIS housing now open!

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Golf course superintendents from Canada and U.S. to compete in first CanAm Cup

GCSAA and the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association will be sponsoring the first CanAm Cup, Oct. 23-24, 2017. This fledgling competition will be held over two days, with more than 200 golf course superintendents from Canada and the U.S. participating. The competition will be held at Baltusrol Golf Club (Upper and Lower courses) in Springfield, N.J., and Canoe Brook Country Club (North and South courses) in Summit, N.J. Watch for details on how you can be a part of this first ever event!

Upcoming FREE webcasts:

www.gcsaa.org click on “Education” section for webcasts

Nov. 15: Advantages of Tall Fescue: Drought Resistance

Dec. 1: Increase Your Value: Effective Communications & Your Blog

Dec. 8: Preparing for an Active Shooter

Dec. 15: Salinity and its Management for Turf

Jan. 18: Look at Your Irrigation System’s Distribution Uniformity

Jan. 26: Carbon, Carbon Everywhere:
How carbon functions in your turgrass system

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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Irrigation System Grounding Update

by Tom Hoffer

This summer we have seen an unusually high amount of lightning activity on golf courses, especially considering the lack of rain. Because of this, grounding of central and field components has come to the forefront of our attention. A common misconception in the industry is that grounding is good forever. This is not the case! Depending on site conditions, grounding resistance can become weaker over time. Below are a couple photos of what can happen to a copper grounding rod over time:



The purpose of grounding is to provide a path to ground for any extraneous voltage/current that gets on the irrigation wiring. The specs that you see are meant to ensure that the path to ground has less resistance than the internal resistance of your irrigation components. That is, if your internal resistance on a satellite is 15 ohms, your grounding should be 10 ohms. That way, if a surge event occurs, it will follow the path of least resistance, which is the grounding network. But if your grounding network has a higher resistance, the surge will likely go into the satellite – the path of lower resistance.

Depending on the type of soil you have, the copper rod, plate, or wire may degrade over time and grounding resistance increases to a point where it's ineffective. A ground resistance reading of 10 ohms in 2010 can become a reading of 50, 100, or more ohms today. If this was a central grounding grid, a reading of 25 ohms would now be out of spec. This is why it's important to have your grounding be checked on a periodic basis. Central grounding grids should ideally be 1-5 ohms, 10 ohms at the highest. Satellite components should be at 10 ohms or lower. Decoder two-wire components should be at 50 ohms or less. If the grounding resistance is higher than these specs, the potential for significant lightning damage increases dramatically.

Tom Hoffer is the Irrigation Service Manager at Northeast Golf & Turf Supply.

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RIGCSA Member News

Announcements:

Congratulations to **John Rourke** and **Heather Davis Forman** who were married on July 30th.

Our condolences are extended to **Pat Hogan** and family on the passing of Pat's wife **Jane** on September 26, 2016.

Our condolences are extended to **Joe** and **Sandy Oliveira** on the passing of Sandy's father, **Eugene Edwards**, on September 28, 2016.

Our condolences are extended to **Joe** and **Tara Felicetti** and family on the passing of Tara's mother, **Donna Londergan**, on October 4, 2016.

Our condolences are extended to **Doug Hopper** and family on the passing of Doug's wife **Brenda** on October 9, 2016.

Our condolences are extended to **Alan Vadala** and family on the passing of Alan's father, **Anthony J. Vadala** who passed away on October 23, 2016.

Directory Update:

Congratulations to **John Bresnahan** on his new position with **Syngenta**. Please see below for his new contact information.

John Bresnahan
Syngenta territory manager
John.bresnahan@syngenta.com
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Scholarship Applications Available:

Please visit www.rigcsa.org (S&R section) for a scholarship application or contact **Julie Heston** at (401) 934-7660 or jheston@verizon.net.

Deadline to submit an application is December 5, 2016. Scholarships will be awarded at the Annual Meeting in January 2017.

Individual Championship – NE Champs Qualifier

Cranston Country Club

September 19, 2016

Due to rain, 13 members played in this event for 9 holes.

1st Net and Superintendent Champion – Mike Varkonyi
1st Gross – Other Division – Garrett Whitney

Scholarship & Research Tournament

Wanumetonomy Golf & Country Club

October 4, 2016

1st Gross: Matt Howland / Tom Wecal
2nd Gross: Tom Fox / Scott Nickerson

1st Net: John Bresnahan / Kevin Knight
2nd Net: Mike Whitehead / Chris Petropoulos

3rd Net: Pat Daly / Jim Favreau
4th Net: Jim Santoro / Scott Mackintosh
5th Net: Robert McNeil / Dave Plaziak
6th Net: Mike Kroian / Jack Greenhalgh
7th Net: Bill Coulter / Robb Martin
8th Net: Nick Burchard / Scott Godfrey
9th Net: Pete Jacobson / Tom Fair
10th Net: Brian Giblin / Joe Deely
11th Net: Mark Richard / Nick Sanmartino



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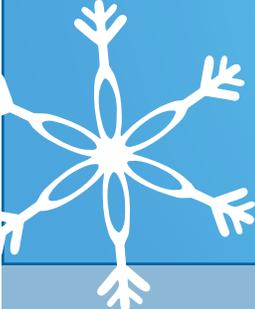


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More details to come.

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