

RHODE ISLAND SURE 'n' TURF

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



2022 DSA Recipient Pat Hogan



By: Michelle Maltais

The RIGCSA proudly presented the 2022 Distinguished Service Award to Pat Hogan on March 24th, at Wannamoisett CC. Candidates for this award should epitomize the RIGCSA's highest standards and contribute in a meaningful and impactful way to both our organization and the game of golf. While there are many deserving candidates on the list each year, this year Pat's name stood above the others as an individual that embodies the spirit of the DSA. Pat has been advocating on the front lines for superintendents and the turf industry for many years. He joined the RIGCSA in 1997 and became a board member in 2012. During the last decade, he has tirelessly dedicated his energy and time in representing the RIGCSA in public and government relations, working both with the office of the governor and legislators to promote the green industry and turf professionals. He was instrumental in strengthening our alliances with several local professional organizations as well as the GCSAA. He has kept the RIGCSA aware of upcoming bills in the legislature and has been a supporter of the Green Certification Program. Through his work with the RIGA he helped establish and promote Golf Day in RI and worked with The BMP Committee to have Green Certification align with the GCSAA BMP guide.

Pat is a true steward of the environment, and we are forever grateful for his devotion and expertise into ensuring that the RIGCSA remains a successful organization.

Congratulations Pat, well deserved!

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www.rigcsa.org

President's Message



Hello all,

Happy spring everyone. Hope everyone came out of winter okay and is ready to get back to it. We have a full schedule of great venues coming up with a new addition, "The Bear Cup."

Hope to see as many of you as possible over the course of the year.

Sincerely,

John Lombardi
RIGCSA President

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New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show 2022



Photos by Julie Heston

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New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show 2022



Photos by Julie Heston

March 24, 2022 - Wannamoisett Country Club
Retiree Appreciation Day and Distinguished Service Award



Photos by Michelle Maltais

25 Years of Turf Show & Conference Bliss



Gary Sykes, Executive Director

1998 was the 1st hosting of the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show and as you remember it was in Providence, RI. That year, we came up with a theme of Building Together for a Greener Tomorrow. The symbolism of being greener is hard to measure, but the effort that has gone into the idea of “Building Together” has without a doubt reaped benefits for the New England Turfgrass Industry. For 25 years, the conference and show has grown its presence as a premier event in the Turfgrass Industry. The show has a strong reputation not only as an across-the-board turfgrass trade show, but also for a high-quality multi-tract education program. Since the beginning, the board has insisted that education must be the number 1 focus each year to attract attendees and secure our success. This has without a doubt been a formula for success.

Our show has been rolling forward for 25 years now and has been the main generator of our turfgrass research funding program. We have plowed through snowstorms, walked a tight rope through economic setbacks, bobbed and weaved with the GIS, and more recently dealt with covid the best we could. It hasn't always been easy, but always worth it! In the end, in our 25 years the conference and show has been the vehicle to generate \$2.5 Million of research funding in New England since 1998. This is an amazing number considering our beginning was funded by 8-\$500 loans from each founding association. It was a Hail Mary start, but there are a couple of reasons why it has been a successful one.

As I said our education has always topped the chart. Great speakers and topics each year and always great comments from attendees. These speakers and their topics just don't magically appear in our programs. Sometimes, it would take all summer and more than half the fall to complete the full program, but it always comes together! So how does it happen? We have been indescribably fortunate to have working with our board these last 25 years, Mary Owen of UMass Extension, who has been with our show since day one. Ever since our beginning, Mary has chaired our education committee and guided our ship through the challenges of good speakers and topics. Mary in 2020, announced her retirement from UMass along with reducing her responsibilities with the show. The foundation would have a hard time explaining Mary's importance because she has done so much for our show's success for the last 25

years, but it is very real that we owe Mary so much of our gratitude and appreciation for her efforts, interest, and leadership skills that she shared with us. Education has been the number one reason that so many look forward to the conference and show.

Another reason why we have reaped success, is to recognize the 25 years of working as our show manager, David Rosenberg, has kept our trade show on track. When we started, the idea was to consolidate several shows into one and giving each company a greater presence, in front of a larger audience for lower costs. The location along with David's guidance has kept the mission intact. David has been with us all these years and treats our trade show and our exhibitors like family. We have been in the best hands over these years and David has set a high bar for show managers to equal. He has taught all of us that by treating exhibitors fair and equally will pay the show dividends. His eye for detail continues to produce the high quality of an event that we are all so proud of. Each exhibitor, each reception and each attendee will receive his full attention during planning, setup and until he packs up and goes home after our show. As an event manager, David brings his team and family of Nancy and Brittany to our show along with many others over the years, making sure they all have their “showtime” smiles on representing the foundation, and keeping everyone feeling welcomed

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and appreciated. He has done all that and more and I can't imagine it would be possible to get more out of a show manager and his team during a show week.....And then just when I think I can catch a breather driving home from many shows, David will call me from his car wanting to chat about how things went and some ideas we might want to try next year! Thank you to Marketing and Events.....we look forward to 2023!

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who has ever served the foundation, who has attended over the last 25 years, who has supported the show by exhibiting, those that have pitched in, helpers, sponsors, speakers, guests and even anyone who might have said to someone simply, "you should come to the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show. It is too good to miss." We, thank you for making our Conference and Show, not just so successful but also 25 years full of bliss for the turf Industry! See you in 2023, March 7-9!



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GCSAA participates in CropLife/RISE Regulatory Conference

by Government Affairs Team | Apr 25, 2022

Bob Helland, GCSAA director, congressional and federal affairs, recently attended the 2022 CropLife America, RISE and CPDA Regulatory Conference in Washington, D.C. This was an excellent opportunity for GCSAA to join representatives from agriculture, landscaping, and pesticide manufacturers – as well as federal regulators – to discuss latest innovations and events impacting pesticides, animal and plant health. Topics included increasing the effectiveness of regulatory comments, ongoing risk assessments under the Endangered Species Act, and efforts in the European Union that impact agricultural exports and target the use of pesticides.

Two specific sessions that were of importance to golf course management related to challenges to federal preemption under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). This includes S. 3283 (PACTPA), sponsored by Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), which would replace FIFRA's strict, science-based standards with those of localities across the country that do not have the expertise nor the understanding of how they impact golf. GCSAA is leading advocacy efforts against S. 3283 within golf and the

pesticide registrant community, and Helland got to discuss those efforts with participants. He was also sure to mention H.R. 7266, sponsored by Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL), which would prohibit local governments from regulating pesticides. GCSAA supports H.R. 7266 as it would provide certainty to golf course superintendents who follow baseline environmental compliance and then also utilize science-based agronomic and environmental best management practices (BMPs) to provide healthy greenspaces and wildlife habitat that benefit everyone. They understand that the "label is the law" when selectively using insecticide, herbicides and fungicides to protect the health of turf, trees, and other living things on their courses.

GCSAA's participation in this conference ensured that golf's voice will continue to be heard.

Compliance Assistance - Contact GCSAA's government affairs department at 800-472-7878, ext. 3619, for all of your compliance needs.

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Kevin's GCSAA Corner By Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Northeast Field Rep.



We often talk about the networking and camaraderie this industry exemplifies. Sharing knowledge among ourselves is standard practice. Mother Nature dished out anxiety to most, while some came through in good to great shape, others did not. Superintendents through a swath of central New York, the Capitol District of Albany, Western Massachusetts down through Connecticut, areas of New York and north-

ern New Jersey are dealing with damage of various proportion. On Friday April 1st, Springfield Country Club (MA) superintendent Jedd Newsome put together a roundtable meeting, as he did in 2015, inviting area superintendents with Dr. Michelle DaCosta of UMass and John Daniels regional USGA agronomist to add their input. Club officials were asked to attend and meeting content was geared towards all attendees.

DaCosta gave a summary of the winter weather including the warm December, very cold January, followed by the roller coaster February. Data sensors being utilized by ongoing research showed January soil temp (at a half inch depth) less than twenty degrees, followed by a February that included three or four events where soil temperatures reached 40-60 degrees!

DaCosta noted these swings in temperature are more in line with March, not February. Huge moisture releases were measured by the sensors in February, even under ice, creating potential for injury to poa which de-hardens easily with temperature and easily absorbs moisture.

Sensors under ice showed less fluctuation in temperature and much less moisture release, yet the drop in oxygen levels were severe. Noting how carbon dioxide levels have yet to be addressed, DaCosta engaged Mohawk GC superintendent Andy Eick regarding his green tied to this data. Eick explained to the attendees that the green under ice turned out to be the best green on the property to date.

Daniels discussed results of his many site visits from New York to Massachusetts, and many in-between. The importance of sunshine in fall turf health headed into winter and spring recovery was highlighted. Daniels stressed the importance of photos in documenting these difficult growing conditions. Use of permeable and impermeable covers was discussed. Daniels addressed the benefits of each in preventing damage, issues that can occur, and use of covers to aide in recovery. Newsome highlighted his use of covers on his historically difficult greens and the success this effort has made.

Newsome wrapped up the day by noting during his 13-year tenure at Springfield CC, he's endured six years of significant winterkill issues. He extended his thanks to the club for their patience and understanding during recovery. He stressed the need to stay off the greens until they recover while admitting the pressure on municipal and public facilities might make that impossible. Newsome's mantra for keeping the stress off the greens, by June first the golfers will all have forgotten what happened.

Newsome thanked the club for allowing him to host, the Tom Irwin Company for providing lunch, and all who attended. There were great questions with fantastic information provided by speakers and attendees alike. Knowing you are not alone doesn't ease any of the pain and anxiety the situation places on superintendents, it does alert others of the circle of peers with whom you can look to for assistance and support. A rising tide raises all ships, let the healing process begin.

Visit @JeddNewsome on twitter for a YouTube link to watch the event

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Once your state BMP manual is available through GCSAA's BMP Planning Guide and Template you can easily create a facility BMP manual for your facility. Access is easy with your GCSAA website member log-in using the link immediately below, then select the facility BMP icon and go. Webinars are available to assist you with this easy to use tool.

[Access the Facility BMP tool»](#)

Upcoming Virtual GCSAA Education!

Looking for the latest info on GCSAA Education? Virtual opportunities February 24-25th....You can find it ALL here: [Education \(gcsaaconference.com\)](http://Education(gcsaaconference.com))

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

Kevin Doyle
GCSAA Field Staff
kdoyle@gcsaa.org

Follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_NE



UConn Turfgrass Field Day Thursday, July 28, 2022

at the Plant Science Research and Education Facility in Storrs, Connecticut

For more information and to register, visit s.uconn.edu/TurfFieldDay2022

The 2022 Turfgrass Field Day at the University of Connecticut offers exciting educational opportunities for turfgrass

professionals of all levels.

The date of the Field Day has been selected in order to provide the best opportunity

to view the research plots when they are under the greatest summer stress. Cutting edge research in the areas of lawn care, sports and golf turf management will be presented.

Attendees will have an opportunity to discuss ongoing research and management concerns with the UConn turf team. In addition to seeing the



latest research results, turfgrass professionals have the opportunity to interact with exhibitors and discuss the latest developments and challenges in the industry.

Agenda:

7:30 – 9:15 Registration opens with continental breakfast, Visit with Exhibitors

9:15 – 9:30 Welcoming remarks

9:30 – 12:00 Guided tour of research plots including:

- Robotic mower research
- Annual bluegrass management in athletic fields
- Dollar spot management in fairways
- Turfgrass variety trials for lawn, sports, and golf
- Fungicide efficacy for summer diseases

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

Pesticide and certification credits will be available

Early registration deadline is June 28, 2022



RIGCSA Member News

Welcome New Members

Herbert Stevens, Affiliate, GrassRoots Weather

Announcements:

We extend our condolences to the entire Barratt family on the loss of **Matt Barratt**, RIGCSA member and Superintendent at Sakonnet Golf Club, who passed away unexpectedly on April 7, 2022.

We extend our condolences to **Roger Turcotte** and family on the passing of Roger's wife Valerie Turcotte on April 23, 2022.

We extend our condolences to the Lucia family on the passing of **Jim Lucia** on May 4, 2022. Jim was an Associate member of the RIGCSA and was the Director of Grounds at Bryant University for 19 years.

We would like to thank FMC and the Give Back program which donates a portion of sales back to the local GCSAA chapters. The RIGCSA was able to use the donation money received to sponsor the Button Hole Kid's program and help the URI Turf Research Lab.

Member Updates

Congratulations to **Bob Barrow** on his new position as sales representative for A-OK Turf Equipment. Bob has new contact information, his email is bobbarrowisaok@gmail.com and cell phone is 401-208-3578.

Congratulations to our most recent retired members:

Bill Ellis, former Superintendent at Lincoln Country Club

John Godet, former Superintendent at Mulligan's Island Golf and Entertainment Center

Tom Ohlson, CGCS, former Superintendent at Fall River Country Club

Save the Date: RIGCSA Scholarship and Research Tournament for 2022 will be held on Tuesday, September 27th at Pawtucket Country Club with host Mike Whitehead, CGCS.

Below are thank you notes received from our 2022 Scholarship recipients.

Hello, my name is Ben Chase and I would like to sincerely thank the RIGCSA Scholarship and Research Committee for choosing me as a recipient for the 2022 Ryan Reynolds Legacy Scholarship. As a student and athlete at Merrimack College, I have many stressors but one of them being the cost of attending school. This scholarship will help me immensely in covering my costs. I am very thankful for this scholarship!

Thanks!

Ben D. Chase

I just wanted to thank the RIGCSA Association and the Scholarship and Research Committee for granting me the scholarship. I am truly grateful for this scholarship and it will greatly help with my school fees.

Thank you so much,

Ashley Cromack

Thank you so much for selecting me to be one of the recipients of the Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association Scholarship. The money will go to helping me complete my nursing degree at Boston College. I greatly appreciated your consideration and was honored to be chosen!

Stay well,

Caroline Daly

I would like to thank you again for selecting me as a scholarship recipient. I appreciate everything that you and your scholarship have provided me over the years and deeply sorry that I will be unable to attend the meeting.

Margaret Drohen

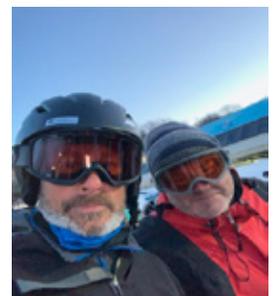
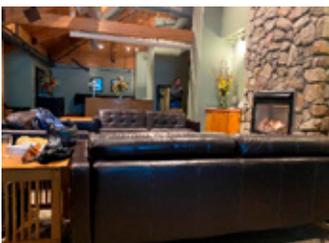
Good afternoon,

My name is Ben Wood, and I have been chosen to receive a RIGCSA Scholarship this year. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the meeting because of my college classes I have at that time.

Thank you very much for choosing me to receive this scholarship. It is a true honor.

Ben Wood

RIGCSA hosted their first Family and Friends Night Skiing at Wachusett Mountain on March 4th.





RIGCSA

2022 Meeting Schedule

Thursday, March 24 - Retiree Appreciation Day and Distinguished Service Award, Golf Awards from 2021

**Thursday, April 28 - RI Turfgrass Foundation Event -
Country Club of New Bedford**

***Please note: This is not an RIGCSA event. It is hosted by the Rhode Island Turfgrass Foundation and open to all.**

**Tuesday, May 10 - Bear Cup Tournament with
GCSANE and GCSACC - Franklin Country Club**

**Monday, June 27 - Alpine Country Club
(Member/Member Tournament)**

**Monday, July 18 - The Bay Club
(Joint meeting with GCSA of Cape Cod - Rho-Cod Cup)**

**August TBA - Whitinsville Golf Club
(Stress Buster Day)**

**Monday, September 12 - North Kingstown Golf Course
(Championship and NE Champs Qualifier)**

**Tuesday, September 27 - Pawtucket Country Club
(Scholarship and Research Tournament)**

**Monday, October 24 - Newport Country Club
(Superintendent/Assistant Tournament)**

November TBA - Jamestown Golf Course

**December TBA -
Holiday Networking and Meeting**

For more information and to register, please visit www.rigcsa.org or contact Julie Heston at (401) 934-7660 or jheston@verizon.net



JOIN US FOR THE
RIGCSA Family Fun Day

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Sunday, June 12, 2022
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RSVP by calling or emailing Julie Heston (401) 934-7660 / jheston@verizon.net or register online at www.rigcsa.org with the number of people and ages of children by Sunday, June 5th

*If anyone would like to assist or donate towards this event, please contact Dan McDermott at (401) 316-8397 or dmcldgmc@yahoo.com



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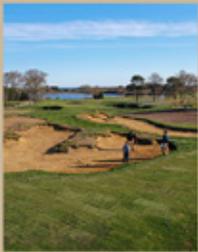


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10 Years of Tee-Up New England!

Gary Sykes, Executive Director NERTF, Inc.

At this time, I am just about wrapping up the end of our 10th annual Tee-Up New England and without a doubt it has been our best one since we started in 2013! We have had more courses before, but we have never had so much active bidding (210 individuals) and so high \$ value of bids. This year 101 courses generated total revenue of \$39,742 for turfgrass research. A few of the private courses went for some extremely high prices. I think it shows that it is hard to put a price on accessibility and they may be trying to check off some of the items on their bucket list. So, some individuals put it all out on the line to get those cherished courses.

We must thank all clubs who donated. There are 99 of them, plus the NEGCOA for donating a Passport to N.E. Golf and a Day of Tennis at Longwood. It is great when having a conversation with some of the superintendents and they remind me, that they are planning to donate our next event. I have some that are on automatic re-entry for this year! We had added some new great courses in Maine and New Hampshire this year due to the help I received from Robert Searle (ME) and Randy Weeks (NH). Their help added some new facilities to the list for 2022 and expanded our presence up north. I hope they will return in 2023!

With the obstruction of Covid-19, the Foundation was left with no choice but to not award any new funding until the trade show and conference could be reinitiated. As the dates of the 2022 show approached, the foundation announced new funding of to \$81,169.00 on three projects that have begun this Spring. Another sign we are getting back to a more normal routine. We appreciate all researchers for their patience as we work to expand funding to average levels soon. Tee-Up New England 2023, April 10-17



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