

RHODE ISLAND SURE 'n' TURF

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



Bee Survey and Forage

By Elizabeth Varkonyi, Olivia Barsoian and Steven R. Alm University of Rhode Island

Thanks again to all of the superintendent's and courses who took part in the 2019 bee survey (RIGCSA July/August newsletter). We are very encouraged that you recognize the importance of bees. You also have the agronomic knowledge and the tracts of land to increase forage which could make a substantial difference in all bee populations.

The 2019 survey methods consisted of hanging three different bee traps in a rough alongside the edge of a fairway for three days every three weeks during the summer. The findings in 2019 indicate that of the 11 species of bumble bees found in Rhode Island in the 1900's only six species were found in the 2019 survey. Due to the limited number of habitats we sampled (i. e. golf courses), our failure to collect all 11 species could very likely be due to our limited sampling. We hope to expand the survey in 2020 to include courses that we did not sample in 2019 as well as target more diverse bee habitats. If you are willing to have us place two traps in an out of the way location on your course, please email Elizabeth Varkonyi at evarkonyi@uri.edu with your contact information.

The other way you may want to help declining bee populations is to plant forage for bees. This could consist of a few plants around tee boxes, the club house, etc. (our favorites: purple coneflower, Walker's low Nepeta, Boneset, Narrow leaf Mountain Mint, Anise hyssop, New York aster) or larger plantings (of self-heal, red clover, or a wildflower mix) in out of play areas.

Seed Corner <https://seedcorner.com/prunella-self-heal-common-prunella-vulgaris-seeds/>

Heal-all (Prunella vulgaris) seeding rate is 20 seeds per 1 sq ft; 200 seeds \$2.99 10 sq ft; 1,000 seeds \$9.99 50 sq ft; 2,000 seeds \$14.99 100 sq ft; 20,000 seeds \$69.99 1000 sq ft; 100,000 seeds \$249.99 5,000 sq ft

Star Seed <https://www.gostarseed.com/catalog/0/product/Clover-Red/1097/> Red clover (Trifolium pretense) seeding rate: 10-15 lbs. per acre; Package Type Price bulk \$5.00/LB; \$13.50/ 5 LB; \$25.88/ 10 LB; \$112.50/50 LB.

Ernst Seeds <https://www.ernstseed.com/> also has a lot of seed mixes for specific soil types.

If you try any of these mixes, please let us know evarkonyi@uri.edu so we can monitor the bees.

We are also collecting bumble bees that you may find dead (see attached flyer). Place dead bees in a pill bottle and shoot us an email. Finally, regarding honey bees and Varroa mite control, we are looking at some novel chemistry with Professor Matt Kieseewetter, URI Dept. of Chemistry, as well as some organic techniques (powdered sugar, pheromones and heat treatments). More on this research in the future.

We are also always looking for sites to conduct annual bluegrass weevil control experiments. Let us know if you have a fairway to test new products.

Have a great 2020!

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President's Message



As we turn the corner on this decade, I was looking back through some things that I didn't realize were that "old." For example, The 75 Year History of the RIGCSA. That was 15 years ago. It doesn't seem that long ago. For any history buffs, it is still a great read. And for any members that joined after those were distributed, and there are many, Julie Heston was able to contact the printer and get us a digital copy that she will put a link to on our website. I hope if you have not seen it, spend some down time looking back.

Also, this time of year might be a good time to complete the Green Certification Program. The link to this program can be found on the home page of our website at www.rigcsa.org. It would be great to get as many RI courses as possible to participate in this program. This will help all of us in the long run.

Looking forward, the board has remained the same, with some shuffling to follow the recent by law changes. The golf committee portion of the board is always looking for volunteers to assist with registration and at times some scoring. If you think you can be early for a meeting and would like to assist, feel free to let us know even if it is only for one meeting. It is a good way to meet some of the new members or if you're new to meet members.

Our schedule looks exciting this year along with the RITF outing in April and the Scholarship and Research Tournament at Pinebrook CC. But one of the biggest events will be the US Senior Open at Newport CC. The CVS Charity Classic has kept RI in a small spotlight for many years, but it hasn't been since 1995 when the US Amateur was held at both Newport CC and Wanumetonomy GC. Chris Coen has enlisted Tom Hoffer to organize and run the volunteer workers for the tournament. If you can help or send someone, it is a great opportunity for experience and to help Newport CC and Chris put their best foot forward.

But before that we have the Green Industry Show and the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show. And then it is Spring.

Respectfully,

Mike Varkonyi
RIGCSA President

RIGCSA Holiday Networking Meeting - The Dublin Rose



Photos by Michelle Maltais

RIGCSA Holiday Networking Meeting - The Dublin Rose



RIGCSA November Meeting - Louisquisset Golf Club



Meeting Host: Mike Varkonyi



Photos by Michelle Maltais



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



Sometimes it is a struggle to develop a new topic to include in association newsletters. Add to that, a highly fluctuating travel schedule, and there are issues where I unfortunately fail to deliver content. I really appreciate all the regional newsletter editor's patience with me, and feedback I get from members regarding my content. The topic for this

article was born on Thanksgiving Day. It gives you a little look at how I tick, and the thoughts on overall team efficiency. It is a rant with a message that hopefully you will find useful.

My wife and I make a good team. She is a middle school special education teacher who relies heavily on structure to function personally and professionally. She plans and makes lists. We work well together because I can read and follow lists. We share most family duties including cooking. When it comes to large functions it is my kitchen and her support role is critical to get things from the oven to the table. It's a good team approach.

We hosted Thanksgiving which was planned for twelve. Two backed out last minute, causing angst for the planner. The missing mouths led to more uneaten food than expected. That caused me strife because it exposed an inefficiency that flat drives me nuts!



I fear the cabinet that holds our food storage containers. In my humble opinion, nothing ruins a wonderful meal like struggling to find a lid to match the container I just placed the leftovers in. For some strange reason, it happens to me every time! My teammate (wife) sees no issues with the current setup. So, as a superintendent, I stated my case regarding this perceived inefficiency in real-life research based scientific format. I dismantled the cabinet and counted everything to see if my perception met reality. Here is what I found:

- 49 containers
- 54 lids

Those numbers were closer than I expected, but I was undeterred. I then paired up the lids to match the containers:

- 43 containers with matching lids
- 6 containers with no lid
- 11 lids that fit no container
- 1 cracked container that had a lid (a refrigerator cleaning waiting to happen)
- 1 container with a broken lid



So even I would consider the numerical results a bit disappointing. I had honestly figured there would have been a much larger disparity. But as often happens with good research, I wanted to add an additional layer of inquiry. Of the 43 containers with matching lids, there were 17 different brands in the sample. That means there is a 40% chance the lid I would select would not match the container to begin with regardless of similarities!

Now picture the table covered with your irrigation parts, spare equipment items, or even the small tool area. Shop makeovers are not easy. Parting with pieces that may be useful can lead to future expense and increased downtime. Neither situation is desirable. However, ensuring the items are still viable, well-marked, and in working order can increase the efficiency you and your team must rely on in the critical moment of need. If you aren't specifically

responsible for the inventory, be sure to engage your staff and ask how they would streamline their process.

My research led to a positive result in my household. I threw away what didn't match while my wife was at work. I'll pay for that later. If my employer finds out I cleaned out my container cabinet during work hours I might get in a little trouble for that too. While it was done in the name of pure scientific research in order to accomplish a business-related task, please don't tell them just in case.

Enacting small changes like these can take a prohibitively long time to achieve. However, if an equipment manager can immediately grab the exact belt he needs, or an irrigation technician easily communicating from the field the correct part needed for a repair to a fellow staff member leads to a faster more effective process, that would be a massive benefit every time. Engaging the staff for feedback could be a motivating factor, it might also remove some frustration from those responsible for their areas of expertise. More engagement, less stress, and more efficient sounds like a winning combination to me.

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

Scholarship season is fast approaching:

Scholarships have been a part of the EIFG's focus since 1955 when the organization was first founded as the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Fund.

Scholarships funded by the EIFG provide financial assistance to students who are pursuing a career in golf course management, future researchers and educators, as well as children and grandchildren of GCSAA members.

Visit www.EIFG.org/scholarships for more information.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!!

Nor'Easter Ski Day 2020 will take place at Killington Resort on February 27th, 2020. Last year nearly 200 industry professionals, friends & family set an attendance record, and a GREAT time was had by all!! Be sure to mark that date on your calendar and plane to join others from Maryland to Maine! More information to follow soon.

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

Kevin Doyle
GCSAA Field Staff
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RIGCSA Member News



2020 Slate of Officers As proposed by the RIGCSA Nominating Committee

President: Michael Varkonyi
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Past President: Christopher Coen
Director: Matthew Emond
Director: Patrick Hogan
Director: Michelle Maltais

RIGCSA Membership dues renewal statements will be emailed out after the annual meeting on January 15 per the bylaws. If you do not have an email address on file, we will mail you the dues statement. You can pay for you dues online or mail in a check to the office. You can also update your membership information on the website or you can send any updates to **Julie Heston**. Any questions, please contact Julie Heston, (401) 934-7660 or jheston@verizon.net.



Newport Country Club will have the honor of hosting the **41st U.S. Senior Open Championship**. The event will take place from Monday, June 22nd to Sunday, June 28th and will be televised worldwide by Fox. Due to the size and magnitude of the event, we are in need of approximately 30 volunteers on a daily basis. We are welcoming volunteers from not only locally in the New England region, but also nationally. We are able to offer housing accommodations to our out of town guests at nearby Salve Regina University, transportation will also be provided to our guests staying at Salve. We will provide all volunteers with shirts, hats, rain gear and three meals per day. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact **Tom Hoffer**, Volunteer Coordinator at (401) 871-2916 or ncc2020senioropen@gmail.com

Our condolences are extended to **Mike Cornicelli** and family on the passing of Mike's brother, **Joseph Cornicelli**, on December 18, 2019.

Congratulations to **Jim and Danielle Studley** on the birth of their daughter **Dorothy Frances** born on November 23, 2019.

Save the date...for this season's Nor'easter Ski Day at Killington on **Thursday, February 27th**

If you were unable to attend the Scholarship & Research Tournament this year and would like to support the Scholarship & Research fund, we have some Footjoy Vests

and Footjoy Stay-Dry Hats available for sale. The price for the vest is \$44 each (retail list price of \$88) and the price for the stay-dry hat is \$16 each. You can contact Julie Heston if you are interested in purchasing or you can purchase online by going to the S&R Tournament page on our website <https://www.rigcsa.org/S&R-Tournament>.

*We will also have these items available for purchase at the January 15th meeting at Fall River Country Club.



Rhode Island DEM Green Golf Course Certification Program Reminder

This is a good time of year to work on the checklist and it might even be good practice for one of your assistants to do. The numbers generated by this program help get us recognized as a group which is doing something about environmental issues and needs to be listened to.

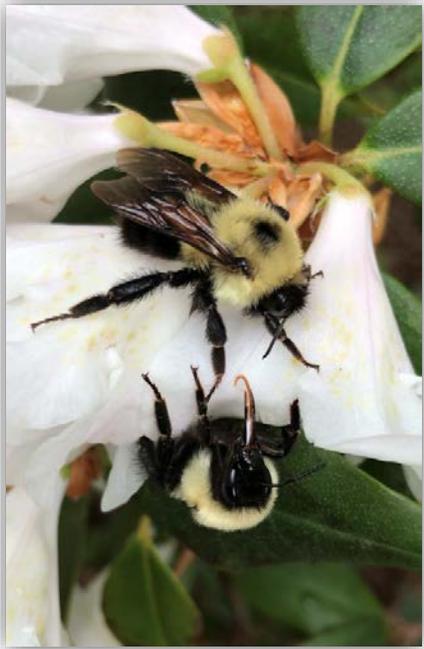
For more information about this program and how to get started, please click on the link below.
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/customertech/green-cert-programs/green-golf.php>

Below is a list of the current courses that have completed the Green Certification Program as of November 2019.

- **Agawam Hunt**
- **Alpine Country Club**
- **Button Hole Golf Course**
- **Goddard Memorial State Park**
- **Newport Country Club**
- **Pawtucket Country Club**
- **Point Judith Country Club**
- **Potowomut Golf Club**
- **Rhode Island Country Club**
- **Sakonnet Golf Club**
- **Shelter Harbor Golf Club**
- **Wannamoissett Country Club**
- **Wanumetonomy Golf & Country Club**
- **Weekapaug Golf Club**



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Rhode Island Bumble Bee Survey

Understanding our wild bees



Our objective is to survey the bumble bees of Rhode Island.

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 - Collect and secure each bee in an individual, crush-proof container (e.g. pill bottle).
 - Label with the date and location (i.e. nearest address, road, landmark) where collected.
- ❖ Surrounding Foliage
 - Identification of plant bee was foraging on, clipped samples, and/or clear photographs of nearby flowering plants.
- ❖ Send us specimens
 - Mail your secured bumble bee specimen(s) separately with requested information to:

Dr. Steven Alm
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Questions?

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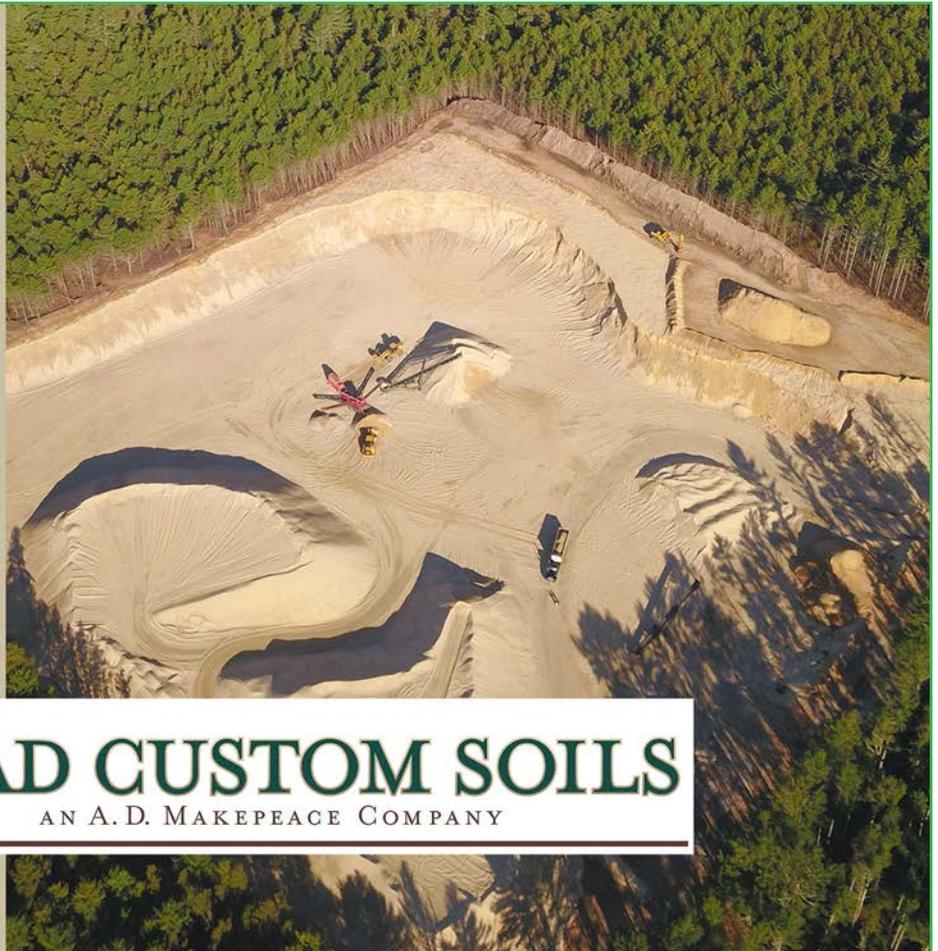
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