



# THE NEWSLETTER

September 2017

of the **Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Inc.**

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## *Presidents Message*

The fall in New England is my favorite season of all. The cool nights, timely rain events and dry warm days are perfect for sleeping and working, but most importantly to me, the turf grass thrives. I hope everyone is enjoying this time of year and you can look back at the summer of '17 and feel good that your hard work and efforts produced results that were appreciated and noticed by your clients, members, managers/owners and anyone else who was able to visit your property.

If you have not yet, this is a great time of year to reflect on all the things you have worked on in 2017, both personally and professionally. I like to tally my successes and failures and use this information to set goals for 2018. Some of the best lessons I have learned are direct results of failures or mistakes that I made, but, more importantly, found solutions to these problems. So take a few minutes and think about your family, co workers, employees and employers. Recall the interactions you have had with these important people and take the time to set goals to strengthen these relationships in 2018, because without these people on your team, you are nobody.

Our August GCSANE meeting was held at Marlborough Country Club and like every August that I can remember, Ken Crimmings, Tim Crane and their team had the course in fantastic condition with playability making top marks from this participant. It is always an enjoyable day at Marlborough starting with the golf course and ending with a great cocktail hour and delicious steak dinner. With 10 retired members of our association in attendance, we got to share and compare war stories and learn how things have and have not changed over time. One of my highlights of the day was recognizing each one of these men who have all played a part in forming our association and profession into what we know of it today.

It is a great time of year to get out and play golf, so come to a GCSANE meeting, network with your peers and enjoy a great day out on the course. Our next meeting is at the Wianno Club on 9/26. It is a 101 year old Donald Ross golf course on Cape Cod that is a lot of fun to play. We will enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and dinner overlooking the Nantucket Sound following our round. I hope to see you there.

All the Best,

**David Johnson,**  
GCSANE President

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## *Kevin Whaley GCS- Walpole Country Club by Greg Cormier, CGCS Newsletter Chairman*



Kevin Whaley has been at Walpole Country Club for two years in November. He came to the area from Wannamoisett Country Club in Rhode Island. Kevin was born and raised in England. When knee problems prevented him from entering the British Airforce, he enrolled in Myerscough College in Preston England and chose to work towards his Associates Degree in Turfgrass Management. He worked an internship at the Royal Birkbale which hosted a Ladies British Open at the time. After this experience, he decided to stay in school and work towards his Bachelors Degree. Kevin

worked and went to school at the same time and was able to complete his degree as well as continue to gain valuable work experience. After graduation, he moved to Austria and worked at the Colony Club Gutbnhoff. After 5 years there in 2006 he was able to come work in the United States at Wannamoisett Country Club, via the Ohio State Turfgrass Internship Program. He was then hired as a full time employee, and later advanced the Assistant Superintendent position.

After applying to several superintendent positions in the area he earned the Head Superintendent position at Walpole Country Club. He followed long time Superintendent Mark Gagne. He is currently overseeing a complete replacement of the club's irrigation system. A huge time commitment and responsibility, but he knows it will be worth it in the end. Kevin lives in Attleboro, MA with his wife and two boys.

When I asked Kevin what he would tell the Assistant Superintendents in the business who are trying to get to their first Head Superintendent position he said " Keep trying, and apply to every job possible. Each interview you can get makes you better, and more prepared."

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## Thoughts From Your Executive Director by Don Hearn

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*Eric Doldt, left and Kevin Corino*

Thanks to Kevin Corvino, superintendent at Unicorn Golf Course, for playing and Eric Doldt for being the caddie and support team for the effort put forth to raise funds for the Ouimet Golf Marathon. The event was held this year at Juniper Hill Golf Club. Kevin and Eric toured the course for a personal record of 108 holes. They have been doing this for the past seven years and we're fortunate to have them invest their time and energy supporting this fundraiser for scholarships to deserving students who have worked at golf courses in Massachusetts. Kevin is also a Ouimet Scholar.

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The 2017-2018 Membership Directory has been mailed to all members. Please check your listing to be certain it is correct. If there's something that needs to be changed send your corrections to donhearn@gcsane.org. I've also had a few directories returned because people have moved. It's easy to forget to let us know if you change your address, but if you don't there's a chance you may not receive the directory. If you haven't received one please contact me. The directory is also available online on our website at gcsane.org. You must log in to access it because it's only viewable on the Member Home link on the Association's website. To log in for the first time, enter your email address on file then click the "Forgot password" link. You will be issued a password from the website automatically.

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Congratulations to Tom Brodeur, superintendent at the TPC of Boston on completion of another successful tournament. This year's Labor Day weekend tournament underwent a name change. It is now the Dell Technologies Championship. Tom and his team of talented staff members and dedicated volunteers had the course groomed to as close to perfection as I've seen. The players were unreserved with praise for the course conditions.

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A few weeks ago, I was talking with Mel O'Kelly, long time superintendent at Marshfield Country Club, and a retired seventy-year member! We got to talking about our experiences and his family. Mel told me that his daughter Beth is currently active as a teacher of the game. Mel and Beth have won the Massachusetts Golf Association's Father & Daughter Championship four times over a six-year period. Three were in succession. His son David has been active in the golf business for many years and is currently golf professional and manager of a club in Florida. David was a top amateur player before turning professional. Son Jim was a superintendent before leaving the business for an unrelated position. During our conversation, Mel proudly told me how his grandson, Jim's son, as a graduating senior, had given the undergraduate commencement speech at UMass Amherst this past May. Knowing Mel for so many years, and knowing his children, made me think that others might want to share Mel's pride by reading his grandson's speech. [Please click this link](#) to read what Conor James O'Kelly had to say to his classmates.

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The August meeting was held at Marlborough Country Club where superintendent Ken Crimmings, CGCS and assistant Tim Crane and their staff had the course in the usual excellent condition. This meeting is the one where our retired members are invited to attend as guests of the Association. This year ten retirees attended and enjoyed a day of fun and catching up with others. It was good to see these pioneers who have helped make our Association successful. Of the ten retirees attending (including me), five were past presidents of the GCSA of New England and two were past presidents of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Please see the photos of those retirees who attended elsewhere in this issue.

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Among the attendees at the CNYGCSA August meeting was Ian Daniels from Teugega CC in Rome, New York. I had visited Daniels in June and we had discussed his becoming a Grassroots Ambassador, a role which he later accepted. I learned on the Monday of the CNYGCSA event that his visit with Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (R-22 NY), once cancelled, had been rescheduled to the following day. I offered to join Daniels for his visit, and he seemed happy to agree.

It didn't take long to learn that Tenney was an avid golfer from a family of avid golfers, multiple year club champion (nine years) at nearby Yahnundasis Golf Club, and even one time club champion at Daniels' own Teugega CC. While much of the meeting revolved around golf and area golfers, Daniels touched on the Grassroots Ambassador program and his role as a resource for the Representative Tenney and staff on issues facing our industry now, and in the future. WOTUS and labor items in Tenney's leave-behind package were discussed. Both items are important to Tenney and we shed light on the significance of each to GCSAA members near and far. Tenney stated that she was a co-sponsor of a bill which would enable seasonal workers on permits to remain in the U.S. if they could retain employment with another sector in need of seasonal labor. It was a very good visit with a congress member who supports our sport and industry.



(L to R: Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (R-NY 22), Ian Daniels, Kevin Doyle)

Daniels did an excellent job interacting with Rep. Tenney, and will undoubtedly be more effective as he works with the congresswoman and staff moving forward.

This process took two emails and two hours, and quite simply may have moved the needle on issues important to members here in Massachusetts and across New England. Ian Daniels has no political science background, he maintains a golf course just like you do. This experience was admittedly out of his comfort zone and it might be that way for most superintendents, but speaking about our role as a golf course superintendent is not. It is what we do, and who we are. That is over 90 percent of the message!

There are still four congressional districts in Massachusetts, 1 & 2 (Worcester area to the west) and 5&6 (North Shore to the

Merrimack Valley), that could be filled. Assistance and training are provided, no one is asked to do this alone.

If your golf course falls in these districts, and you wish to receive more information about the program, please reach out to me or GCSAA Government Affairs Manager Michael Lee. If you know someone who might be a good fit for the program, please drop me a note. For many in the program all it took was to be asked, and I can do the asking!

## GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

**you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already**

### Register now for the Can Am Cup....

Deadline September 22nd



Canadian and U.S. golf course superintendents will face off in this point-quota competition to be held in New Jersey, Oct. 22-24, at two championship golf clubs: Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield and Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit. Bayer Environmental Science is the presenting sponsor of the event. Education will be provided, with networking opportunities as well!

Club in Summit. Bayer Environmental Science is the presenting sponsor of the event. Education will be provided, with networking opportunities as well!

## GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards

Applications are now being received for the ELGA! Presented by GCSAA and Golf Digest in partnership with Syngenta, the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship. For more information on how you can be considered for the stewardship at your facility, please visit: <https://www.gcsaa.org/about-gcsaa/awards/environmental-leaders-in-golf-awards>

## 2017 GCSAA Research Grant Program

The GCSAA Research Grant Program is dedicated to funding applied agronomic, environmental and regulatory research that will benefit golf course superintendents and the golf courses they manage. Submissions for proposals for 2017 are due by Oct. 2, 2017.

## Excellence in Government Affairs Award

Apply for the 2018 EGAs by Oct. 15



The GCSAA Excellence in Government Affairs Award recognizes and honors an individual, chapter or coalition/alliance that demonstrates

outstanding advocacy or compliance efforts in government affairs. For more information visit [GCSAA.org](http://GCSAA.org) GA page [here](#).

## Upcoming FREE webcasts:

- Sept. 19: [Plant Growth Regulator Effects on Winter Stress Tolerance of Annual Bluegrass Putting Greens – presented by Intelligro Emily Merewitz, Ph.D.](#)
- Oct. 17: [Disease Management in Tall Fescue: All Things Considered – presented by the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission Jim Kerns, Ph.D.](#)
- Oct. 18: [Nuts and Bolts of Golf Course Sprayers – equipment management series Zane Raudenbush, Ph.D.](#)
- Oct. 19: [Under Construction Episode 1: Greens & Tees Jan Bel Jan, Rob Kloska, Jason Zimmerman, CGCS](#)
- Nov. 2: [Under Construction Episode 2: Irrigation Jan Bel Jan, Peter Brooks, CGCS, Jason Zimmerman, CGCS](#)
- Nov. 9: [Under Construction Episode 3: Bunkers Jan Bel Jan, Bob Randquist, CGCS, John Curran](#)

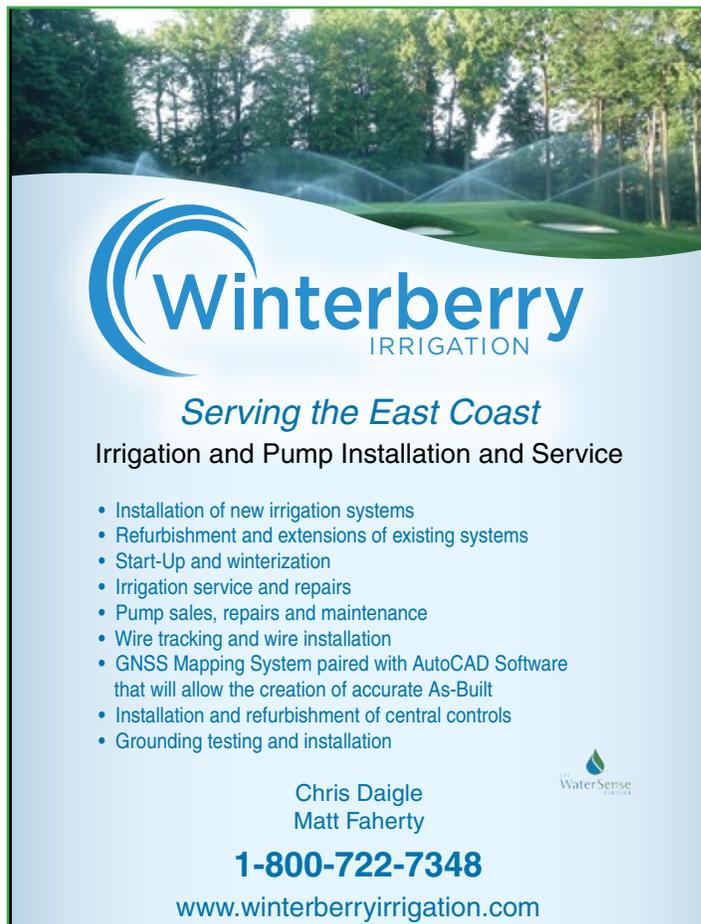
Again, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

**Kevin Doyle**

GCSAA Field Staff

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September 2017



# What Does Locally Grown Mean? *By Don Hearn*

In recent years, peoples' desire for foods and other agricultural products grown and produced locally has steadily increased. Consumers like the sense of connection with farmers and growers, the often superior flavor and freshness, and the reduced carbon emissions that can come from not having to ship foods and products over long distances. Farmers markets have proliferated, and even major supermarket chains have started sourcing some produce from area farms to satisfy demand from customers.

Yet there is no legal definition of "local." An apple labeled with the term could be from down the street or from hundreds of miles away. With so many options touting their local produce, how can an aspiring locavore make sure she is really getting what she wants? Watch out for these pitfalls:

## Local-washing:

Sure, it's an awkward term, but it is a real peril. Knowing the allure of local food these days, farmers market vendors will often stock their tables with conventional wholesale produce, trusting that the market will create a "local" vibe. These tables can often be identified by the signs labeling some of the items "our own." But chances are, not everything comes from nearby. Ask questions — vendors will generally be upfront about their sourcing when asked directly

## The mixed bag:

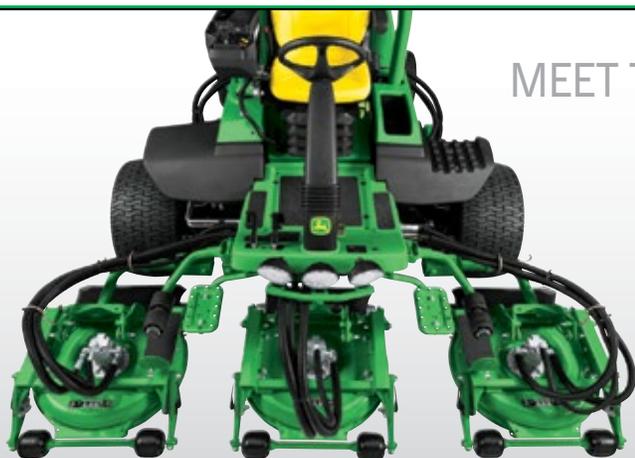
Especially at supermarkets, locally sourced produce can get mixed in with veggies from further afield. Butternut squash from Western Massachusetts might share a bin with items from Michigan. Read the stickers on individual pieces to be sure you're actually buying local.

It seems the word "local" has an undefined distance from the end user. The best way to know, is to ask the person you're buying from. Or, if in a restaurant, or a farmers' market, ask where the product was grown or produced.

What exactly does "local" mean? Just as controversy has dogged the labels, "all natural" and organic, there are real concerns that consumers may not be getting what they think when they "buy local" at the local supermarket. The label "local" is too often part marketing hype.

## But is it?

Not exactly. There's no agreed upon definition of "locally-grown," meaning no consensus on the distance from farm to shelf or whether local means it necessarily comes from small farms — and not a big ag farm. Local has become a shorthand descriptor that makes food sound high quality, fresher, more authentic, trustworthy, environmentally friendly, and supportive of the local community.



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*The Newsletter*

**SOLitude Lake Management Named to Virginia Chamber of Commerce’s Fantastic 50 List**



Ecologist & Senior Business Development Consultant Shannon Junior, second from left, and Environmental Scientist & Territory Leader Dave Riedl, far right, were joined by their guests as they accepted the award.

Virginia Beach, VA, May 10, 2017

SOLitude Lake Management®, an industry leader in lake and pond management, fisheries management and related environmental services for the United States, is pleased to be named to the 2017 Fantastic 50 list, presented by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. Honored as the 28th fastest growing company in the Commonwealth of Virginia, SOLitude was recognized at an awards dinner in Chantilly, VA, last month. The full list may be viewed here: [www.vachamber.com/2017/04/27](http://www.vachamber.com/2017/04/27)

Now in its 22nd year, the Fantastic 50 program is the only annual statewide award celebrating Virginia’s fastest growing businesses. Companies are judged on four-year total growth rates (2012-2015) and results are verified by Dixon Hughes Goodman, one of the top 20 public accounting firms in the nation. In 2015 and 2016, SOLitude was named 39th and 45th on the list, respectively.

“We’re honored to be recognized by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce as one of the fifty fastest growing companies in the state,” said Kevin Tucker, CEO of SOLitude Lake Management. “It is through the combined efforts and dedication of our entire team that we have continued to grow and provide our clients with an unmatched level of service.”

The Virginia Chamber of Commerce is the largest business advocacy organization in the Commonwealth, with more than 26,000 members. The Chamber is a non-partisan business advocacy organization that works in the legislative, regulatory and political arenas to act as the catalyst for positive change in all areas of economic development and competitiveness for Virginia.

*SOLitude Lake Management is committed to providing full service lake and pond management services that improve water quality, preserve natural resources, and reduce our environmental footprint. Our services include lake, pond and fisheries management programs, algae and aquatic weed control, mechanical harvesting, hydro-raking, installation and maintenance of fountains and aeration systems, water quality testing and restoration, bathymetry, lake vegetation studies, biological assessments, habitat assessments, invasive species management and nuisance wildlife management. Services, consulting and aquatic products are available to clients nationwide, including homeowners associations, multi-family and apartment communities, golf courses, commercial developments, ranches, private landowners, reservoirs, recreational and public lakes, municipalities, parks, and state and federal agencies. Learn more about SOLitude Lake Management and purchase products at [www.solitudelakemanagement.com](http://www.solitudelakemanagement.com)*

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## The Newsletter

**SOLitude Lake Management Offers Tips to Prevent Toxic Algae Blooms**



SHREWSBURY, MA, August 16, 2017  
Lakes, ponds and reservoirs can provide drinking water, irrigation and space for year-round recreation, but it's common for these waterbodies to develop algae blooms, especially during the heat of the summer. While many species of algae are harmless, Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) are becoming more prevalent as a result of increased nutrient-rich runoff from commercial developments, industrial parks, livestock farms and agricultural facilities.

When directly exposed to toxic algae species like cyanobacteria, which is often referred to as blue-green algae, humans and animals can experience liver and kidney toxicity, skin rashes, nervous system problems, respiratory complications and even death. Toxic algae blooms are also known to cause undesirable tastes and odors in drinking water from affected waterbodies.

“Harmful Algal Blooms can be a detriment not only to human and animal life, but also to the ecosystem itself,” said David Ellison, Aquatic Biologist and Regional Director at SOLitude. “HABs often indicate that the affected lake, pond or reservoir is suffering from some kind of imbalance.”

To limit the growth of HABs in your waterbody, SOLitude Lake Management®, an industry leader in lake, pond, reservoir and wetland management, fisheries management, and related environmental services for the United States, recommends the following ecologically-sustainable measures to homeowners, ranch and land owners, golf courses and municipalities:

**Improve your knowledge of HABs**  
The ability to distinguish between a

Harmful Algal Bloom and non-toxic green algae is critical for the wellbeing of the aquatic ecosystem and those who enjoy it. If you suspect your lake or pond has a toxic bloom, look for soupy or oily scum on the surface of the water. Depending on the waterbody, the bloom may manifest in parallel streaks or clumped dots. Other blooms may look like spilled blue, green or white paint or turn the water a bright “pea soup” green. If you're unsure of the algae species in your water, contact a lake management professional.

**Conduct regular water quality tests**

Lake and pond owners and municipality leaders often wait until after a toxic algae bloom appears to conduct water quality tests, but a proactive testing program can help identify water quality impairments related to dissolved oxygen, pH or nutrient levels before they get out of hand. Over time, water quality data can be used to predict the onset of a bloom and prevent its impact without closing the waterbody or interfering with irrigation or drinking water services.

**Establish a beneficial buffer**

Toxic algae blooms typically occur in lakes, ponds and reservoirs containing excessive amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous. Fertilizers, sewage, animal waste and organic sediment are all sources of these nutrients. To limit nutrient-rich runoff from entering your waterbody, consider cultivating a beneficial vegetative buffer 3-5 feet around the shoreline. An ideal buffer will contain sedges, rushes and perennial plants that are native to your region.

**Limit the impact of existing nutrients**

Waterbodies already suffering from high nutrient levels should consider the introduction of beneficial bacteria or phosphorous-locking technologies to the waterbody. These strategies can help render excess nutrients inactive, meaning they will become permanently unfit to fuel nuisance algae growth.

Introduce an aeration system When paired with other nutrient-limiting strategies,

floating fountains and submersed diffused aerators can help consistently circulate warm stagnant water and facilitate the conversion of phosphorous and nitrogen to nutrient forms that do not sustain toxic algae as food. Aeration also helps improve other water quality parameters that support the growth of healthy green phytoplankton.

**Consider a proactive management plan**

In order to sustainably restore a lake, pond or reservoir with a toxic algae bloom, immediate action must take place, followed by continued monitoring and maintenance. A proactive plan that includes professional water quality testing, buffer management, aeration, nutrient remediation and sediment removal can help prevent further developments of toxic algae blooms while improving the natural balance, beauty and lifespan of the aquatic environment.

If you suspect that your lake, pond or drinking water reservoir is experiencing a toxic algae bloom, immediately reach out to an experienced lake and pond management company in your area or call 888-480-LAKE for a professional referral.

*SOLitude Lake Management is committed to providing full-service lake and pond management solutions that improve water quality, preserve natural resources, and reduce our environmental footprint. Our services include lake, pond, wetland and fisheries management programs, algae and aquatic weed control, mechanical harvesting, hydro-raking, installation and maintenance of fountains and aeration systems, water quality testing and restoration, bathymetry, lake vegetation studies, biological assessments, habitat assessments, invasive species management and nuisance wildlife management. Services, consulting and aquatic products are available to clients nationwide, including homeowners associations, multi-family and apartment communities, golf courses, commercial developments, ranches, private landowners, reservoirs, recreational and public lakes, municipalities, parks, and state and federal agencies. Learn more about SOLitude Lake Management and purchase products at [www.solitudelakemanagement.com](http://www.solitudelakemanagement.com).*

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*The Newsletter*

## *Retirees at the Marlboro Meeting*

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Jack Hassett, left and Steve Murphy



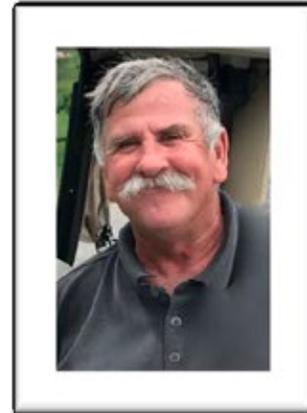
Norman Mucciarone, left and Ron Kirkman



Tom Flaherty



Wayne Zoppo



Barrie Robertson



Mike Hermanson, left and Jim Fitzroy

# Divot Drift

## Welcome New Members

### Derick Mara

Assistant Superintendent,  
Vineyard Golf Club, Edgartown, MA

### Jerry Dunklee

Superintendent,  
Sagamore Spring Golf Club, Lynnfield, MA

### Mark Guyer

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## Condolences to:

Our condolences to **Dave Pease**, Executive Secretary of the **Alumni Turf Group** (ATG) on the loss of his mother.

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