



THE NEWSLETTER

April 2019

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

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GCSANE Superintendent Profile

by Eric Richardson

Alexander Daly

Golf Course Superintendent – Wenham Country Club



Tell us a little about yourself?

I grew up in Sudbury Massachusetts close to the Nashawtuc Country Club, which I have to admit was the first spark for my interest in the turfgrass industry. As a kid, I remember driving past the club and admiring the beauty, and calmness of the property. I would ask my parents to take me to watch the hustle and bustle of the Bank of America Championship which included checking out the cool equipment in the shop yard. My parents were CEOs but came from very humble origins. I would spend my summer on my grandparent's farm on Prince Edward Island, which is where I first learned to appreciate hard work, thoughtful stewardship of the land, and the love of working outside. I currently live in Watertown, Massachusetts near Oakley Country Club with my partner. I like to think I have interesting hobbies, but honestly, they are like any other 31-year-old guy. I enjoy

playing golf and tennis with my friends, I have a classic car from the 60s that we actively show and enjoy, and I am a certified USSA ski racing coach. I coach and race all winter long which keeps me out of trouble in the offseason. I have an undergraduate degree in history and education from Saint Lawrence University in New York and a Turfgrass Management Certificate from Rutgers University. My internship was at the Waverly Country Club in Portland Oregon, and after graduation, I spent one year at Nashawtuc C.C. as an Assistant Superintendent. Following my time at Nashawtuc I was fortunate to spend four successful seasons at Lexington Golf Club as an Assistant Superintendent. I am starting my first year as the Golf Course Superintendent at Wenham Country Club in Wenham, Mass.

How and why did you get involved in turf?

After graduating from Saint Lawrence and failing to start my teaching career at 22, I moved back in with my parents who had retired to Woodstock, VT. Even though my teaching career did not work out as planned, I was lucky due to my continued interest in golf maintenance. A family friend and neighbor was the manager of the Woodstock Inn and Resort at the time. He looked me right in the eye and said: "I'm tired of your parents complaining about you being unemployed and at home, show up at the course tomorrow and get to work!" So, I went to the

course the next day and started as a general course busy body. Several weeks later hurricane Irene hit Vermont, and the damage to the golf course was significant. During the cleanup efforts, I started to shine because I was excited and curious about all the work we had to do. I was always asking questions and trying to do as much as I could. The next season I became the Assistant Superintendent and was learning a great deal from my mentor Tim Stanwood, the longtime Superintendent. Tim was great and encouraged me to go to turf school the next year. Tim and his wonderful wife took the time to have dinner with my parents to explain that there was a career in turf maintenance and the benefits of going to turf school. To this day I try to stay in contact with Tim. He has always been encouraging and willing to give advice whenever possible. I'll never forget my time at Woodstock because it is where I found my passion and purpose, and a wonderful career.

What has surprised you the most about the turf industry?

The size of the industry and the number of people in the industry was surprising. At first glance, the industry seems too large and cold, but having been in it now for nine years, I couldn't have been more wrong. In one way or another, we all know each other, and we are willing to help each other in whatever ways we can. I believe we all share the same passion for the game of golf and the systems that support it and keep it alive and constantly evolving. I learned this at Lexington Golf Club watching longtime superintendent Bob Dembek. Under his leadership, I was afforded many opportunities to learn and grow as an Assistant Superintendent and interact with his friends and colleagues who are a wealth of knowledge and experience in the industry. My time at Lexington showed me the power of associations and networking. Without my experience at Lexington, I wouldn't have had the confidence to take the next step and become a Superintendent.

What kind of challenges do you face at your current facility?

We face the same challenges as almost every course; doing as much as we can with the limited resources at our disposal. Our two biggest pests are ABW and nematodes on our putting greens which are difficult to manage with a limited budget. Since this is my first year, I haven't figured out what I need to do to manage them efficiently, yet. Thankfully the past Superintendent from Wenham, Eric Still of the Meadows at Peabody, has been very outgoing and helpful. Eric has made himself readily available for quick phone calls to discuss strategies.

What is your turf management philosophy? How do you like to present your golf course?

The best defense is a good offense. As we all know, the healthier the plant, the more tolerant to stress it is. Plant health starts from the roots up, so we are doing everything we can to have the healthiest root system possible.

My goal is to present the golf course as one that can offer something for everyone. The golf course is small and narrow and a little aged, but it has a great layout. WCC offers challenging shots and lots of variety. It's a great place to come and practice and even better place to learn the game. WCC is going into its 120th season as a golf course, and we are looking forward to making some changes and improvements that will carry us into the future and allow everyone to enjoy this historic club for many more years.

Is there a story or message you would like to share with the association members?

Whatever kind of golf course you work at, whether its a small municipal course or Pebble Beach, we all work incredibly hard to make the game of golf enjoyable. We should all continue to support each other, and if there is anything I can do to help a colleague in need, I hope they will reach out.

A thank you to Alex for stepping up and participating. If you are interested in having your story in the newsletter, please contact Eric Richardson at erichardson@essexcc.org



Thoughts From Your Executive Director by Don Hearn



Mid-March is the time a board member and I travel to GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, KS for the annual Chapter Leader/Executive Symposium. This year Eric Richardson made the trip with me.

While we are in Lawrence we meet others in our profession, tour the headquarters building, meet staff members, learn what new programs are being discussed, learn what the current state of GCSAA is and receive an overview of our national association. At the end of our first full day, I usually suggest to the board member I'm traveling with that we take a trip to the original headquarters building down the road a few miles from the current headquarters. It's amazing how we've grown from a 20+ person facility to the 100+ person facility of today. The original headquarters looks like a large home, rather than what was our national headquarters at one time. Situations change and this is proof of it.

The photo of Eric Richardson and Kevin Doyle standing aside the sculpture of Old Tom Morris is typical of one I take each



Eric Richardson, left and Kevin Doyle

year of the board member who attends and Kevin. Not only to feature them, but to point out that the sculpture is a creation of a golf course superintendent. We know there are a lot of superintendents who have interesting hobbies and avocations, but sculpture is not one that I've heard much about. The Old Tom Morris sculpture was created by Bradley J. Pearson from Nebraska. Brad passed away April 1, 2019. He was a past president, a retired member of the Nebraska GCSA and a talented artist. You can read more about Brad's life and career by clicking [this link](#).



Leann Cooper left, and Mary Jo Kennedy

A person who was recognized at the symposium for her many contributions to our profession and the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents was Mary Jo Kennedy. She has been the Connecticut Association's Chapter Executive and staff member for 25 years. Leann Cooper, Senior Manager, Chapter Services took time to congratulate Mary Jo on her many years of service and dedication. Mary Jo will be retiring later this year. She and her husband Les, who recently retired as superintendent at the Blind Brook Club in New York, will be loading up their RV and traveling to parts unknown. Mary Jo will leave a large pair of shoes to fill.

One of the benefits of GCSA of New England membership is the opportunity to obtain a GHIN handicap. Our friends at Mass Golf make this possible. If you're interested in obtaining a GHIN handicap, please contact me at donhearn@gcsane.org and we'll make sure you get enrolled.

With the warm and, hopefully, sunny weather coming don't forget to put on sunscreen. For many, it's a hassle to do so, but you'll be happy later in life when you don't have to have growths removed from your years outdoors without using sunscreen.

Enrollment in the Association's Partner Participation program (PPP) remains strong and we're pleased to share the news that, as of April 6, 32 companies are participating in this program. Companies offering this enhanced level of support are listed elsewhere in this issue of the NEWSLETTER. Please support those who support you.

In addition to companies enrolled in the PPP, they and others listed on the back pages of each month's issue of the NEWSLETTER offer valuable support and assistance. Their representatives are available to you and offer their expertise to help you with your needs. Please support them.

The companies listed here are participants in the Partnership Promotion Program (PPP) and offer enhanced support for our Association and its Members.*

* as of April 6, 2019

Please consider them when making your choices this season.

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***While at the GCSAA Symposium last month I was made aware of certain situations where a person could unwittingly cause some problems for him or herself and wanted to make you aware of them
– Don Hearn.***

Best Business Practices: Networking Events

GCSAA and Chapter sponsored networking events are a great way for our members to foster and enhance relationships in our industry and with your peers. As with all professional or job-related functions, we all must act responsibly and respectfully to ensure all feel welcome and enjoy the event. Unprofessional or disrespectful behavior can make others feel less welcome – and can damage relationships and careers. As such, we offer the following helpful best management practices to ensure all of us continue to enjoy our networking events:

TIP No. 1: This is a Business Event

Socializing with industry peers or colleagues at GCSAA and Chapter events is not equivalent to having drinks and enjoying time with friends or family. As such, attendees should keep in mind the conduct expectations they have at work and act accordingly. Remember that you are representing your employer and the golf course management profession.

TIP No. 2: Drink Responsibly

Excessive drinking of alcohol is never professional. Nor is it a defense for inappropriate behavior, harassment, bullying, or other misconduct.

TIP No. 3: Help Others

If you see a colleague acting badly or unprofessionally step in and explain to them what they are doing and how it appears to other people. This is one time where your intervention can save a colleague's reputation and protect the culture of the event, thus continuing to foster a welcoming environment. When in doubt, follow the Golden Rule, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

TIP No. 4: Intent is Irrelevant

Regardless if your comment or behavior was intended to be jovial or comical it could unintentionally offend someone. Examples include offensive language, jokes, or other physical, verbal, written, or pictorial conduct relating to the team member's sex, race, religion, national origin, age, disability, or other factor protected by law that would make a reasonable person experiencing such behavior feel uncomfortable or would interfere with the person's ability to network with their peers. This should serve as a good reminder to know your surroundings and audience before engaging in potentially offensive behavior. If you have any concerns about the above-mentioned tips or if you become concerned about behavior at a GCSAA or Chapter event immediately contact a GCSAA or Chapter staff member.

Let's all continue to enjoy networking events in a fun and professional environment!

Ag Day Recap- by Greg Cormier, Newsletter Editor

Brian Skinner, Rick Lawlor, Jim Favreau and I attended Ag Day at the Statehouse on March 27th. We met at the office of BCB Government Relations, the lobbyist firm that the Green Industry Alliance (GIA) works with. GCSANE is a member of the the GIA along with several other allied associations. While meeting with other members of the GIA before going to the Statehouse, we learned that we are all working towards a common goal. That goal is to educate the public and legislators on what the different sectors of the Green Industry do to provide safe, healthy, turf, landscapes and trees. We are all stewards of the land, and we want what is best for the environment and our communities.

The challenge is to engage enough people to make that message clear to people outside of the industry. Steve Boksanski could not stress enough the importance of getting people to establish relationships with legislators. People need to get out and promote what we do as an industry, not wait for a bill to ban a pesticide or a fertilizer is proposed to show up and oppose it. There are plenty of mis-informed people who show up in large numbers to encourage legislators to ban the important tools that our industry relies on. However, they aren't hearing from our

industry until a bill is drafted and moving through the process. If we can be out front as an industry these bills either won't get support or legislators will be able to as their constituents for an opinion on the proposed bill, if they know you as a resource in this area of expertise.

While at the Statehouse Brian and I teamed up to meet with the legislators or staff of legislators in each of our districts. We introduced ourselves and talked about the science behind golf course management. Brian is going to host one of his State Representatives for a course tour at his home course in Melrose. This is a great way to help educate the legislators in your district. We were able to leave behind the attached list of bills that we support and some we have concerns with.

Please reach out to your legislators and make an appointment to meet with them during their district hours in your city or town. Here is a link to find out exactly who is in your district for the state legislature. Be sure to meet with the legislators that represent the district you live in. They will want to hear from you and hear about the industry you work in.

<https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>



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AG DAY – MARCH 27, 2018

WHO WE ARE

The Green Industry Alliance of Massachusetts is comprised of the Massachusetts Arborists Association (MAA), the Massachusetts Association of Landscape Professionals (MLP), the Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals (MALCP), the Irrigation Association of New England (IANE), and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England (GCSANE). Our mission is to promote awareness and educate the public and elected officials in the Commonwealth on best practices and professional standards in integrated pest management, lawn care and turf management, landscape design and maintenance, irrigation, arbor and golf course care.

These industries represent hundreds of small and mid-sized companies that span the Commonwealth, employ thousands of residents, and account for nearly \$3 billion of economic activity annually. The people of the GIA are professionals who have been trained and certified by the state; who take their jobs seriously; and who recognize they are stewards of the environment. They strive to provide their services in sustainable and safe methods, delivering what their customers want in ways that are good for the environment.

WE SUPPORT

H.2943/S.413 – An Act Relative to Sustainable Water Conservation Practices

Sponsor: Rep. David Vieira (R-Falmouth)/Sen. Vinny deMacedo (R-Plymouth)

- This legislation requires irrigation contractors to meet initial and ongoing educational requirements and to register with the state.
- This legislation will improve water conservation and management and reduce undesirable runoff.
- A properly designed, constructed, and maintained system can produce dramatic savings.
- Healthy lawns and tress naturally purify the environment and provide stable areas for groundwater recharge. Proper maintenance, including watering, is essential to their long term health.
- The bill received a favorable recommendation by Committee and is pending before the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Rain Sensor Regulations

- Section 12 of Chapter 259 of the Acts of 2014 directs the DEP to develop regulations that require all newly installed or renovated irrigation systems to have a rain sensor or other system interruption device to suspend watering when sufficient moisture is present. These devices can help manage outdoor watering, increase efficiency and reduce unwanted run-off.
- The DEP has begun a series of stakeholder meetings to gather feedback and input from various stakeholders
- The DEP will develop draft regulations in the coming weeks and begin the regulatory process with the hope of finalizing the regulations by the end of the year.

ISSUES OF CONCERN

S.405 – An Act To Restrict The Use Of Pesticides Around Children Sponsor: Sen. William Brownsberger (D-Belmont)

- This bill seeks to add areas that are currently restricted under Chapter 132B – property occupied by the Department of Children and Families, facilities of the juvenile courts, facilities of the Department of Youth Services and sports fields for town youth sports, as well as abutters of all facilities.
- Certified and licensed professionals take great care when using any pesticide and can understand a product's benefits and hazards via the label
- These additional restrictions will increase costs and decrease efficiency; adding to a program that has shown little or no real benefits

H.4041 – An Act to Protect Massachusetts Pollinators Sponsor: Redraft by the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

- We are concerned with the idea of having the Legislature make decisions on specific products when there is a robust, existing process for analyzing and approving such products within state government. The main objective of the Pesticide Board is to handle these decisions and is made up of informed stakeholders who judge decision on science.
- MDAR has done an excellent job in promoting best practices to sustain apiculture by providing support to honey beekeepers, pesticide applicators, farmers, land managers, educators, regulators and government officials.
- UMass Extension Center for Agriculture is the leading academic resource for agricultural and landscape pest management issues and has conducted research projects and educational programs related to pollinator protection.
- The GIA supports the efforts of the Pesticide Board, the DAR and UMass Extension and prefers more focus on existing programs than a commission that could be politicized
- This bill is pending before the House Committee on Ways and Means

Municipal By-Laws

Chapter 132B gives the DAR statewide authority over the regulation of pesticides. In addition, Chapter 262 of the Acts of 2012 gave the state (MDAR) statewide authority over the regulation of fertilizers and nutrient management, with the exception of the Cape & Islands which was granted authority to develop their own bylaws through the Cape Cod Commission. The linchpin of the agreement in pursuing this law was the requirement that all such regulations be consistent with UMass Extension School guidelines, which are science-based and can evolve over time much more easily than a statute or regulation. The DAR process was deliberate and collaborative and it ultimately led to a final version that incorporated many of the suggestions and modifications that came from the GIA. We appreciate that process which was also evident when the Cape Cod Commission developed a model bylaw. However, some towns primarily on Cape Cod, continue to push for ever stricter rules that are not consistent with UMass Extension School guidelines, the CCC bylaw or the DAR regulations.

Some Cape Cod communities are frustrated with the practices of utilities and how they manage vegetation in and around the rights-of-way and have sought ways to impact a change. However, allowing varying rules for each town, as proposed in H.3927 – An Act Empowering Towns to Protect Their Environment and Resident From Harmful Pesticides, and repealing the statewide preemptive authority of the DAR goes in the opposite direction of the framework that is working. This is not an appropriate solution for this situation and if passed it would take the decision making out of the hands of the experts and lead to bylaws grounded in misinformation and emotion rather than science.



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April 2019



April 8, 2019

Volume 20:1

Gazing in the Grass

Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D.

Welcome to our 20th season of Cornell Turfgrass ShortCUTT (Cornell University Turfgrass Times) newsletter. Our 20th year demands some recognition for the my wonderful colleagues whose observations inform my weekly musings, so please allow me to thank a few folks.

For 20 years the newsletter has emanated from a weekly conference call. The following professionals have shared their Thursday Mornings from 7:30 to 8:00AM ET (I have been known to be in a few different time zones over the years) with myself and experts from around the world. These colleagues are Cornell Cooperative Extension county-based faculty Walt Nelson, CCE-Monroe County, David Chinery CCE-Rensselaer County, Jennifer Lerner, CCE-Putnam County, Jerry Giordano CCE-Westchester County, and Marie Camenares CCE-Suffolk County, as well as Joellen Lampman, NYS Community IPM.

We are fortunate to have Regional experts willing to listen to and laugh with this New Yorker once a week; big thanks to Victoria Wallace UConn-Extension, Randy Prostack, UMass Extension Weed Specialist, and Rich Buckley, Director of Diagnostic Services at Rutgers University. We have seen a few colleagues move on or retire over the years including Tom Kowalsick, CCE-Suffolk County, Amy Ivy and Emily Selleck CCE-Essex County, Rick Harper, CCE-Westchester County and others. We have also had the pleasure of adding many new voices and observations over the years and Professor Nick Menchyk at SUNY-Farmingdale is our most recent addition and a keen observer and educator.



The growing season is off to a rather normal start weather-wise, following a rather normal, if not slightly warmer than normal, mostly snow-less winter across the Northeast US. Root growth has been active in plugs taken from fields and putting surfaces from Central NY to Long Island. As of this writing, soils are firmly in the upper 40's low 50's at the 2" depth as far south as Philadelphia, PA. This is expected to increase this week, as historical soil temperature data indicate that soils will reach 55F by mid-week on Long Island. The expected

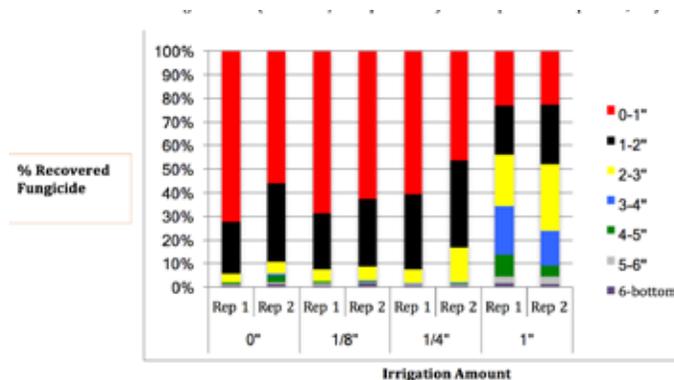
increases. Keep this in mind as you begin to consider soil targeted applications that must penetrate into root zone. **△**

Soil temperature can be considered the gate valve for biological activity in the soil that leads to nutrient release, weed seed germination, insect activity and soil born pathogens. Soil temperature and soil moisture are key data points to correlate growth and development as well as monitoring for pests and making well-timed pesticide applications of the lowest risk products (we use EIQ-what do you use?). In 2019, the Cornell Turfgrass Program will be focusing on data-driven management. The newsletter will highlight data to inform management decisions. This week it is soil borne pathogen management.

Data driven management for **soil borne pathogens** such as summer patch (annual bluegrass, Kentucky bluegrass and now fine fescues shown to be susceptible) and take-all patch (mostly on bentgrasses) MUST include the soil temperature data. The predictive infection model suggests ideal timing of applications should occur when soils are 65F at 2” for five days. Interestingly, ideal growth of the fungi that cause these root infections are synchronized with ideal growth temperatures for cool-season turfgrasses.

Next, these are "drench" applications, that require adequate water be applied to move the fungicide downward into the root zone so it can move upwards in the plant (acropetally in the vascular tissue) and protect the root system. If you do not get the fungicide deep enough the roots BELOW the application are likely to become infected if the area has a history of the diseases.

Again use soil moisture probes and observations to determine the wetting front in the soil and then use that data for water quantity for these types of soil drench applications. To further this point, Professor Jim Kerns from NC State has done some excellent work (see inset image) looking at amount water needed to get fungicides to the proper depth for efficacy. See that reporting at (<https://tinyurl.com/y2fdl5wp>)



Soil borne pathogens (often refereed to ectotrophic root infecting fungi (ERI)) have been particularly troubling pests the last few years with very wet and warm soils allowing for significant infection periods. Following successful colonization of the root system the roots become dysfunctional. Typically, the symptoms will be obvious with the first signs of dry conditions, intense traffic, or other pest predation such as from Annual Bluegrass Weevil. (Speaking of ABW, there are reports of adult activity to the far south of the Northeast Region.)

ERI fungi (summer patch and take all patch) are reduced with the use of acidifying fertilizers such as Ammonium Sulfate (as opposed to the Nitrates that do not lower pH) and is typically more severe on compacted soils that have less root mass. Research from Rutgers University also has found that Manganese or Copper Sulfate applications lead to reductions in the symptoms associated with these pathogens.

Finally, soil management practices that reduce compaction and lead to increased root mass and depth have been shown to reduce ERI fungi. However, recent work from Professor John Ingugiato of UConn demonstrated how *poorly-timed* Spring hollow tine cultivation (this study showed end of May) lead to significant *increases* in summer patch in Kentucky bluegrass.

The King of the Mountain Finally Dethroned at Nor'easter Cup!

Nor'easter Ski Day Recap at Killington

If you're a sports fan, then you know we're right in the middle of one of the best times of the year! In just a few weeks the beginning of spring in the golf world is signified by the Masters Golf Tournament and we've been witnessing heartbreak and Cinderella stories with March Madness basketball!

On February 28th at Killington Mountain Resort, where the Women's World Cup has been competing each November, Cinderella finally found her glass ski boot! In ski racing, winners and losers are determined by hundredths of a second, so it's fair to say with a margin of 8 seconds the Northeastern GCSA team demolished the defending champions from Vermont in this year's Nor'easter Cup.

In what some would compare to a 15th seed beating the number 2 seed, the Northeastern GCSA team upset the Vermont team who has won 4 in a row and 24 of the 26 races! In what is believed to be the oldest industry ski race in the country, dating back to 1993, the Northeastern group also won the VT Cup over Vermont. Vermont did all it could just to stay in the top two as the teams from the New England and MET associations were right on their boots less than a second away!

Great winter conditions drew the biggest attendance yet with 11 different associations fielding teams for the giant slalom race. Overnight saw about 5 inches of powder fall at Killington, so conditions all over were perfect for the 200 folks that came up and skied with fellow industry folks from Maine to Cape Cod and all the way down to Long Island and New Jersey.

Each team totaled their fastest three racers and prizes were given out to the fastest overall male and female skiers and boarders!

The Nor'easter Ski Day has fast become a "can't miss" event with inquiries coming in from Canada and as far away as Florida for next year's championship, so watch for the save the dates and help your association field the winning team!

Trophies and prizes were awarded to the "Kings and Queens" of the Mountain as follows:

Fastest Male Skier:

Steve Aspinall from the Northeastern GCSA 26.23

Fastest Female Skier:

Sally Vanderzee from the Northeastern GCSA 31.06

Fastest Male Snowboarder:

Steve McPartlin from the LIGCSA 37.18

Team breakdown went as follows:

Team Scores - Nor'easter Cup (Fastest 3 individual times totaled) Time

Place	Team	Time
1st	Northeastern GCSA	1:19.75
2nd	Vermont GCSA	1:27.79
3rd	GCSA of New England	1:28.05
4th	METGCSA	1:28.37
5th	GCSANJ	1:36.64
6th	Long Island GCSA	1:37.13
7th	RIGCSA	1:37.27
8th	Cape Cod GCSA	1:50.04
9th	Connecticut AGCS	2:14.35
10th	NHGCSEA	DNQ
11th	Maine GCSA	DNQ

DNQ – Did Not Qualify (did not have 3 complete runs)

If the skiing and racing did not provide enough excitement for folks, then the Après Ski party at the Wobbly Barn proved a fine ending to a competitive day on the slopes. Support from our generous sponsors helped the folks at Killington provide great food and an open bar for a few hours after skiing. Proving this is the place to be during the winter, Killington provided highly discounted ski passes for the group and affordable pricing on lodging! Make sure to watch for dates for 2019 and join your associates for a great day on the slopes during the off-season!!

As in years past, this event also serves as fundraising opportunity to help support our industry members in times of need. Over the past several years, proceeds from the Nor'easter Ski Day have helped with donations to fellow superintendents in times of need, from medical issues to times of natural disasters. The event has raised thousands of dollars so far and this year we are pleased to have increased that number. If you want to send us a message recommending someone in need, please do so to any of the board members.

We are all fortunate to be associated with such great folks and we encourage all of you to join us next year as we continue to use the event to help our own. Thanks to all that donated so generously and special thanks to Augie Young of Sipcam, who generously donated to our raffle!

Special thanks to Chris Cowan who took some great photographs at the event. Photos of the race day can be viewed at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/115230253@N04/sets/72157664643157477/>



The Nor'easter Ski Day was made great because of the overwhelming support of its sponsors!

We would like to thank the following companies for their help in making this event a huge success;

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Hope to see you next winter on the slopes!!!

Below are the complete race results with the age divisions first and overall list at the end.

Age Division Results: (Prizes awarded to top 3 places)

Bracket 30 and Under Skiers: (Best 1 time determined winners)

Place	Last	First	Team	Run 1	Run 2	Best
1	Scott	Cody	METGCSA	27.08	26.83	26.83
2	McGuire	Eric	Northeastern	27.05	27.47	27.05
3	Daly	Alexander	GCSANE	27.3	27.42	27.3
4	Hunter	Collin	Northeastern	31.21	28.68	28.68
5	Daubert	Matt	GCSANJ	29.74	29.45	29.45
6	Brown	Nathan	VTGCSA	29.93	30.29	29.93
7	Holman	Ben	VTGCSA	35.41	33	33
8	Houseknecht	Craig	VTGCSA	34.16	33.29	33.29
9	Ramina	Luke	GCSANJ	33.71		33.71
10	Bigelow	Steve	LIGCSA	33.78		33.78
11	Imobersteg	Mike	LIGCSA	35.03	35.52	35.03
12	Choinski	Jimmy	LIGCSA	40.6	36.06	36.06
13	McPartlin	Steve	METGCSA	37.18	DNF	37.18
14	Elliott	Jerry	VTGCSA	40.45		40.45
15	Leombruno	Justin	VTGCSA	41.35		41.35
16	Riggs	Austin	LIGCSA	41.74	DNF	41.74
17	Morgan	Sam	Maine	42.76	48.04	42.76
18	Lapan	Jameson	LIGCSA	DNF		0
19	Kernes	Matt	METGCSA	DNF		0
20	Couceiro	Nick	VTGCSA	DNF		0

Bracket 31- 39:

Place	Last	First	Team	Run 1	Run 2	Best
1	Aspinall	Steven	Northeastern	27.41	26.23	26.23
2	Ponti	John	GCSANE	29.13	29	29
3	Isenor	Greg	VTGCSA	30.2	DNF	30.2
4	Bennett	Keith	GCSANJ	33.48	34.05	33.48
5	Alford	Morgan	Maine	34.39	34.67	34.39
6	Chapin	Brian	METGCSA	34.59		34.59
7	Guillaro	Paul	METGCSA	35.59	34.65	34.65
8	Jung	Matthew	VTGCSA	34.75		34.75
9	Bontemps	Brian	GCSANJ	36.63	34.97	34.97
10	Meyer	Tim	GCSANJ	35.56	35.51	35.51
11	Anderson	Shawn	VTGCSA	37.17		37.17
12	Heywood	John	GCSANJ	38.6	37.77	37.77
13	MacMillan	Brian	LIGCSA	38.09	38.17	38.09
14	Jacobson	Peter	GCSANE	39.31		39.31
15	Fleeger	Zachary	VTGCSA	39.8		39.8
16	Kraft	Craig	GCSANJ	41.01	43.39	41.01
17	Butcher	Tom	Northeastern	41.31		41.31
18	Martaniuk	Joe	VTGCSA	42.45		42.45
19	Aresco	Daryl	CAGCS	42.69	43.63	42.69
20	Shannon	Jesse	METGCSA	44.36		44.36
21	Lajeunesse	Neil	CAGCS	52.83	46.76	46.76

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Bracket 40-54:

Place	Last	First	Team	Run 1	Run 2	Best
1	Watelet	Scott	VTGCSA	28.36	28.25	28.25
2	Young	Augie	Northeastern	29.44	30.77	29.44
3	Bartlett	Brian	VTGCSA	29.97	29.61	29.61
4	Drohen	Andy	METGCSA	30	29.87	29.87
5	Diaz	Rob	VTGCSA	30.78	30.46	30.46
6	Gianni	Ed	Cape Cod	31.7	31.32	31.32
7	Stylarek	Thomas	LIGCSA	31.37	31.72	31.37
8	Strong	Chris	Northeastern	31.42	32.5	31.42
9	Downing	Ed	GCSANE	32.03	31.75	31.75
10	Lockridge	Ken	LIGCSA	32.25	31.98	31.98
11	Komer	Kevin	VTGCSA	32.24		32.24
12	Kelley	Chris	Northeastern	32.5		32.5
13	Lapinski	Matthew	RIGCSA	DNF	33.14	33.14
14	Kopera	Josh	GCSANJ	34.6	34.62	34.6
15	Blodorn	Paul	VTGCSA	34.72	DNF	34.72
16	Stowe	David	GCSANE	46.36	35.15	35.15
17	Berger	Jeff	NHGCSA	36.41		36.41
18	Wentworth	Jeffrey	METGCSA	36.89		36.89
19	Clifford	Dave	VTGCSA	37.83		37.83
20	Pauley	Travis	GCSANJ	41.77	40.36	40.36
21	Bellucci	Frank	LIGCSA	41.97	40.69	40.69
22	Luccini	Mike	GCSANE	43.48	DNF	43.48
23	Perez	Gilberto	CAGCS	45.94	44.9	44.9

Bracket 55 and older:

Place	Last	First	Team	Run 1	Run 2	Best
1	Vanderzee	Dave	Northeastern	26.47		26.47
2	Stevens	Herbert	RIGCSA	31.66	31.02	31.02
3	Vanderzee	Sally	Northeastern	31.31	31.06	31.06
4	Goudey	Brian	Northeastern	31.26	32.2	31.26
5	McGuire	Tom	Northeastern	31.59	38.75	31.59
6	Thrasher	Jeffrey	METGCSA	31.67	32.44	31.67
7	Berge	Tim	RIGCSA	33.11	DNF	33.11
8	Montgomery	Fred	Northeastern	33.85	34.4	33.85
9	Weld	Clark	GCSANJ	34.61		34.61
10	Murray	Steve	Cape Cod	37.9	36.07	36.07
11	Bresnahan	John	Cape Cod	43.69	42.65	42.65
12	Choinski	James	LIGCSA	48.73	45.56	45.56
13	Rogers	Lance	GCSANJ	53.03		53.03
14	Walker	Ed	LIGCSA	DNF		0
15	Lapinski	Chris	RIGCSA	DNF		0

Snow Boarders:

Place	Last	First	Team	Run 1	Run 2	Fastest
1	McPartlin	Steve	METGCSA	37.18	DNF	37.18
2	Clifford	Dave	VTGCSA	37.83		37.83
3	Elliott	Jerry	VTGCSA	40.45		40.45
4	Bellucci	Frank	LIGCSA	41.97	40.69	40.69
5	Kraft	Craig	GCSANJ	41.01	43.39	41.01
6	Riggs	Austin	LIGCSA	41.74	DNF	41.74
7	Martaniuk	Joe	VTGCSA	42.45		42.45
8	Aresco	Daryl	CAGCS	42.69	43.63	42.69
9	Morgan	Sam	Maine	42.76	48.04	42.76
10	Shannon	Jesse	METGCSA	44.36		44.36

For all individual ski results please go to Live Timing Page found [here](#).

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Turf 2019: Still Going Strong! Gary Sykes, Executive Director

If you attended the 22nd Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show, you would have found a different look and schedule than what you may have been used to. Some of the changes included: that it was time to condense the program to a three-day format, shift the show floor into three exhibit halls versus spread out over 4, eliminate the keynote speaker spot as costs continue to rise, and finally, the exhibit hall opening will occur at 9am on Wednesday. These were all hard decisions and well discussed over the last year and designed not to diminish the quality of the event. These changes didn't come without challenges and a commitment to put together a very strong education program and activity schedule to hold attendees onsite through the end on Thursday.

The three-day event began with a full-day of seminars on Tuesday, March 5. More than 600 seats were sold to 13 different seminar topics ranging from 2 hours to a full-day in length. This was one of the highest seminar attendances we have ever had, as some rooms neared capacity. The convention center hosted more than 200 for lunch. The seminars were followed up with a "new" light cocktail reception from 5-6:30pm. Several sponsored events were also being held at various establishments that night to add to the activities that were available to attendees.

In 2018, the foundation announced that the trade show would be opening early Wednesday, March 6 and stay open most of the day and again on Thursday. Education would begin staggered at 8am and 9am with more sessions held in the afternoon. The first day of a trade show always has a nice buzz to it and the activity seemed to be very satisfying to the exhibitors. Comments concerning education were very positive that the schedule was strong and the speakers popular. The annual auction was held with a very engaged group that raised more than \$22K from the items donated by exhibitors for turfgrass research! Following the auction, the annual Conference Reception which was sponsored by Harrell's and Syngenta at the Omni Hotel was very well attended. Wednesday seemed to be a success, but then it always has been our best day.

Thursday morning came quickly as the show, weather and program seemed to be on cruise control to this point. Education began again at 8am with a full-day lineup of great topics and speakers. An added 4th track for Lawn Care and Landscape for the day helped increase the number of new faces for Thursday. The trade show opened at 9am and activity on the floor was noticeably better than other last days. Morning education concluded at 10am and most of the more than 400 attendees in sessions came down to the trade show floor as the activity increased noticeably. At 11:30 the convention center rolled out an attractive display of food and for the first time in 22 years a co-sponsored lunch by TPC, Winding Brook Turf and Bayer was held on the trade show floor and was very well received by many attendees and exhibitors. Thursday seemed to be on track to be a success at this point. The floor kept busy and as exhibitors started to look at their watches and the exits, many attend-

ees rode the escalators back to the final education sessions on the 5th floor at 2pm. Just 3 hours later everything was done, most attendees were well on their way home and the trade show floor was totally dismantled, packed and exited.

The 22nd annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show was in the books. Highlights included the highest attendee numbers in 4 years (1666), 2nd highest ever totaled seminar participation, a definite increase in the activity on the show floor on a Thursday including a nice lunch. The changes seem to be successful, but like all events you must consider what's next to make the event even better? In between, The Foundation would like to thank everyone on behalf of the New England Turfgrass Industry, sincerely, for your sponsorships (Others not mentioned were: Tom Irwin, Atlantic Golf & Turf, Finch, Floratine, Sunbelt Rentals, Seago, BASF and Nutrien) and support as exhibitors, as speakers and as attendees to this year's show. As the foundation continues to put show profits into turf research in New England, we share the gratitude of the industry with everyone. Each registration, booth space and sponsorship will provide the industry with the resources needed to fund needed research. We hope this research will find a way to help all turfgrass managers with something to use in their effort to provide a great product.

Shows come up fast, we have already started to put together our 23rd conference and show and you can bet education will be our top priority! We hope you'll look forward to it as much as we do on March 3-5, 2020!

Nematodes on the March (or Wiggle)...

Dr. Nathaniel Mitkowski *Chair, Dept. of Plant Sciences and Entomology University of Rhode Island*

March 2019

It's about this time of year when superintendents start asking me, "When should I start sampling my greens for nematodes?" This is a difficult question to answer because it's a moving target. There really is no specific answer. Firstly, every year is different. Some springs are warm, some are cold, some are wet and some are dry. If there is still snow on the ground, it's probably not worth sampling. But that's only because you can't treat over snow. When the soil is not frozen, nematodes will be feeding, even under snow. Usually this is at a low level and not a problem but residual fall populations can remain very high throughout the winter, even in frozen soils. Last year, Russian scientists reported resurrecting nematodes that had been frozen in the Siberian tundra for 41,700 years. So nematodes are pretty hardy. If we get an early thaw or a very warm winter, sampling earlier is better. When we talk about insects, we think about "generations". ABW might have 3 generations over the growing season. Nematodes do not usually have generations. Nematode life-cycles are temperature dependent. In turf soil, they just reproduce and feed continually, in direct proportion to the amount of heat in the soil. The warmer it is, the more feeding damage they cause and the more eggs they lay. Eggs usually hatch quickly after being laid so populations can grow rapidly with warm temperatures. Unfortunately, this can even happen with nematicides in place, especially towards the end of an application interval.

Secondly, if you have sampled before and have never had a problem, you may not need to track as regularly. If you did a late fall application, your spring numbers are likely to be low and you may not need to sample until the end of May or June. And

if you have made a spring application without sampling, you may not need to formally check your numbers until the summer (although it never hurts to be prudent and check earlier). Sadly, it turns out that even after years of research, we don't have a good handle on why some courses have perennial nematode problems and others do not. We do know that push-up greens are more susceptible to nematodes. We also know that many nematodes prefer Poa and velvet bentgrass. And older courses usually have more nematodes than newer courses. But newer courses are built on sand with lots of creeping bentgrass so each one of the variables we identify is strongly linked! It's difficult to separate these factors experimentally. In general, new sand based greens rarely even see significant nematode populations within the first 10 years.

So to answer the question, my standard reply is "the end of March or beginning of April". But that could shift earlier or later, based on the weather. If it is a very wet spring, nematodes are not going to do very well and populations will remain lower for longer. But in February 2018, I tested greens from a Rhode Island golf course that had stunt nematode levels reaching 21,000 nematodes/100 cc soil. You read that correctly: 21,000. The threshold for this sample was approximately 2,000 nematodes. And at 21,000 stunt nematodes, rooting will be minimal into April and turf will be lost by July. We always hope that the winter will result in some nematode mortality but as mentioned previously, nematodes are very hardy. We don't always see a significant drop in numbers even in the coldest winters. Water may be more important than temperature.

The logo for Atlantic golf & turf features the word "Atlantic" in a large, bold, green, sans-serif font. To the left of the "A" is a stylized green grass tuft. Below "Atlantic" is the phrase "golf & turf" in a smaller, green, cursive script font. The entire logo is enclosed in a thin green rectangular border.

Sampling technique is as important as sampling timing. It is important to note that a single sampling or single green is not going to tell you much. Nematode populations change over time and they are not the same on every green. My recommendation is to pick three greens. They can be the worst quality greens but they should not be the best quality greens. Or they can all be mediocre quality greens. Avoiding the best quality greens is important because these are likely to have the lowest nematode populations or have the best environmental conditions, making them more resistant to nematode damage. Quality isn't always easy to define but you know it when you see it and you'll have past seasons to tell you who the troublemakers are. Once you have your greens picked, do three annual samplings. Start with late March/early April. If nematodes are low, great. If not, you can treat and your root mass will respond accordingly. Then check again in mid/late May. Once again, nematode populations are increasing. If they were low in April, they could still be low. Or not. Do at least one more sampling in the end of June or beginning of July. This is when populations are really going to climb. If they are low, you are probably good for the rest of the year. If they are high, treat. If the fall is very warm and long, like in 2017, additional sampling in September or October may be required. But it all depends on which chemicals you have applied and how your roots are growing. We have seen populations that were treated in June bounce back by October but this matters less if you have an actively growing root system in the fall.

While cup-cutters can be used to suggest a nematode-related issue, they are not the best strategy. If you are going to track your nematodes regularly, you need the data to be repeatable and comparable. The only way to get this type of reliable data is to take composite samples. For each green you want to sample, you need to take 20-25 cores and combine them in one bag. This

is an average, or composite sample. Cores should be taken an approximately equal distance from each other (5 foot centers is common) and they should form a grid. The more cores you take, the more reliable the data. Thirty cores is a very good number of cores, 20 is a minimum amount. In addition, every time the green is resampled, the cores should be taken from the same area of the green. Repeatability is important in comparing numbers across time.

There isn't one specific formula for tracking and treating nematodes. Almost everything happening on a golf course is primarily influenced by weather conditions and nematodes are no different. But I do not recommend treating preventatively. We treat fungal disease preventatively because we know dollar spot is going to pop up or that Pythium blight will be a problem in a certain area after a string of 90° days. But nematodes are more fickle. If you spend a lot of money treating in April, your nematicide may no longer be working in July. And you might have to do it again. And you may not have needed it in the first place. Ultimately, you may be spending a good piece of your budget and be putting an unnecessary application into the environment. The only way to know if you need to treat is to track your nematodes. And once your numbers are determined, we can talk about the right strategy based on the numbers, your budget, greens conditions and time of year.

Finally, most of what I've outlined really only applies to nematodes in the northern United States. South of the Mason-Dixon line, nematodes go from being a manageable problem to being an outright scourge. If you are fighting sting nematodes and growing bermuda grass, all bets are off. Fortunately, both of these organisms are still dissuaded from taking root in the North because of our cold winters.

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David Miethe, Jr,
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David Stowe, CGCS for his recent recertification

Back Issues!



Past issues of the NEWSLETTER are available using this link: <http://bit.ly/GCSANenewsletters>.

The advertisement features a photograph of a golfer in a dark shirt and light pants walking on a golf course, leaning against a large tree. The background shows a lush green golf course with trees and a clear sky. The text "Tom IRWIN" is written in a stylized font at the top. Below it, the main text reads "OUR PASSION IS YOUR SUCCESS". At the bottom, it says "With Tom Irwin, you're not alone." and provides contact information for Harris Schnare: "Harris Schnare | 800-582-5959 | harris@tomirwin.com".

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.

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