



# THE NEWSLETTER

July - August 2022

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

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## President's Message by Brian F. Skinner



Why GCSANE?

As we contemplate why we do what we do during these tough times and wonder if it is worth it, the question comes to mind, "why does the Association do what it does?" Why does GCSANE exist, what is our purpose? As a 25 year member, I have thought about this very question once or twice. Although I believe I have a fair understanding of the answer, I realize there is no single answer. Every member will have a different outlook. This has led to some curiosity about the Associations' mission statement or "why" statement only to discover there is not one. To the best of

my knowledge, there is not a mission statement for GCSANE and if I'm mistaken please let me know.

As we work to update our website, we would like to include a mission statement that defines our purpose so that visitors to our site can easily connect to our purpose. We feel this is very important not only for our website but for the overall good of the Association. We have begun to explore several possibilities to create such a statement and we know how big a task this is and do not intend to rush it. We will be in touch with a cross section of the membership to gather input and in one or two sentences (maybe three), create our mission statement. We feel this is a critical part of our Industry Promotional Initiative and are excited to take on this task. I would sincerely like to encourage any input from all our members. Please feel free to contact me or Jonathan Wilber with any thoughts and ideas. Jonathan is on board to help gather feedback and formulate questions that will best define our purpose.

I hope everyone is hanging tough and remember Thanksgiving is right around the corner!

Best Regards,

Brian Skinner  
GCSANE President

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For more information, please contact Don Hearn at 774-430-9040 or [donhearn@gcsane.org](mailto:donhearn@gcsane.org)

## Thoughts From Your Executive Director by Don Hearn

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In case you missed an article published by Mass Golf featuring the Concord Country Club and its turf maintenance team led by Peter Rappoccio, CGCS [here is a link](#) to it. It's an interesting piece about some of what has taken place since Peter's arrival at Concord 13 years ago and details the many changes that have been made during this time. The GCSA of New England and its members have been fortunate to have Mass Golf's support and recognition of superintendents' efforts to help make courses throughout the state better for golfers and the environment.

I believe there are around 100 events conducted yearly by Mass Golf. Many of these events take place at courses managed by our members. This gives us the opportunity to express our interest and offer assistance to the Mass Golf staff when they arrive to set up what's needed for conducting the event. A friendly "welcome to the course" goes a long way to help make everybody's day or days at the course more pleasant. Don't hesitate to be the one welcoming them to your course!

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*From left, Colin McGuire, Brian Skinner, Len Curtin, Tom Colombo, Don Hearn, John Dolan.*

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Colin McGuire, Executive Director of the Ouimet Fund extended an invitation for our participation during the 19th Annual Investing in Lifetimes Reception held at the Wellesley Country Club, June 21. Speakers were Tom Colombo, superintendent at Hyannisport Club; Len Curtin, superintendent at George Wright Golf Course; and Brian Skinner, superintendent at Bellevue Golf Club. Tom and Len are past recipients of Ouimet Scholarships. It was a wonderful evening and interest was high for what they had to say relating to course conditioning. I think this was particularly so because of the positive coverage of the course conditioning at The Country Club where the US Open Championship had concluded 2 days earlier. John Dolan hosted the panel discussion, and all went smoothly. John has been the emcee at past Ouimet Fund Banquets and is an avid golfer interested in what we do. Thanks to Colin and the Ouimet staff for making us feel welcome and for the opportunity.

As an aside to this event, it was interesting to read the Ouimet

Fund's 2021 Annual Impact Report and note that 55% of scholarship recipients work at courses as caddies, 38% work in golf shops and only 7% work on courses. The Ouimet Fund exists to provide scholarships to young people who work in golf operations. As superintendents, you should make sure those who work on your teams are made aware of the Ouimet Fund and its scholarship opportunities. If you would like to read more about the Ouimet Fund [click here](#).

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*From left, Dan Fuller, Dan Vetere, John Robinson, Craig MacDonald*

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The June meeting was held at Brookmeadow Country Club in Canton, MA. Our host Superintendent Dan Vetere welcomed us and provided beautiful weather after a few clouds passed by. He and his team had the course in wonderful condition. All had a great time at the course. The MacDonald family, owners of Brookmeadow, made sure everyone had a good time.

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The US Open Championship was in the forefront of most of the excitement that took place during the month of June. I spent 2 weeks at The Country Club involved with the Volunteer Program in a very small way. In addition to the sponsors of the volunteer program, BASF; Tom Irwin, Inc; and The TORO Company – Paul Lazar, retired GM from Winchester Country Club and Nick Cyrus, Grounds Administrator at The Country Club made all items associated with the volunteers' comfort proceed like they had done this many times. In fact, some suggested Paul and Nick make themselves available for future volunteer programs throughout the country. I saw how they handled things and was truly impressed with their level of caring for the needs of the volunteers. I watched the course volunteers perform their duties and was amazed at the level of skill each devoted to whatever their assignment was. I think it's a shame, when thanks is given to all the volunteers at a tournament, there seems to be little recognition for the volunteers who perform the tasks on the course that make

## Thoughts (continued)

it so beautiful. Even though all volunteers are important, I'll wager there are very few volunteers who handle the spectator crossing areas, and the "QUIET PLEASE" signs who could perform the tasks of the turf maintenance volunteers. I'll also wager that all the turf maintenance volunteers can perform the tasks of the non-turf maintenance volunteers. With the recognition given to Dave Johnson, Director of Grounds, for the outstanding course conditions, maybe this is the start of something that will help change things.



*To Dave's right is his wife Maryann, and his daughters Val and Sammy. They are surrounded by very happy and proud members of the turf maintenance team.*

Now that I've mentioned Dave, I have to say "thank you" to the USGA for instituting the EJ Marshall Award presented to him in recognition for the outstanding course conditions presented for this year's Open Championship. A dedicated group of people under Dave's direction worked many long days preparing for the event and all should be proud of what they accomplished. The exceptional talent on board at The Country Club had the course in a condition that was recognized in a way that brought pride to all who are part of our profession and industry and made people feel that their hard work and diligence had finally been recognized. This has been a longtime coming and has helped create an atmosphere where all sides seem to want each to succeed. Again "thank you" to the USGA for their support and recognition. If you missed this presentation [click this link](#). I've watched it several times and each time I do it seems more impactful. Also attached is a [news release](#) from GCSAA detailing more about the award.



*Matt Smith, left, and Don Hearn, holding the US Open Trophy*

On a personal note, I had the opportunity to meet many of the volunteers at the Open. One in particular was Matt Smith. Matt is on the turf maintenance team at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club and I believe is the fourth generation of Smith's to have worked at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club on Long Island, NY. I knew his uncle, Peter Smith, who had been superintendent at Shinnecock. And I met Matt's grandfather, Elmer Smith, who also had been superintendent at Shinnecock. I had the pleasant experience of meeting Matt's father, Mike, during the week of the Open. Mike also worked at Shinnecock. It was enjoyable talking with Mike about the time I met his dad, Matt's grandfather, Elmer, during the 1977 Walker Cup played at Shinnecock and the history of the Smith family's connection with the course.

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## Thoughts (continued)

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I tried to take photos of as many of the volunteers from the GCSA of New England and others associated with the event as I could. Of course, what I tried to do and what I was able to do weren't the same. So here are the photos I was able to gather.

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*Putting together the volunteer packages.*



*Listening to the early evening assignments*



*at left, John Daniels USGA Agronomist  
Adam Bennett, Superintendent*



*Paul Lazar, left & Nick Cyrus*



*Colin Smethurst*



*Justin Gagne*



*Jake Donohue, left and  
Shaughn Mitchell*



*From left, David Stowe, Hunter Mott, Eric Richardson*

# Thoughts (continued)



The Team



at left, Don Hearn, Dave Johnson



at left, Ryan Boudreau,  
James Tyler



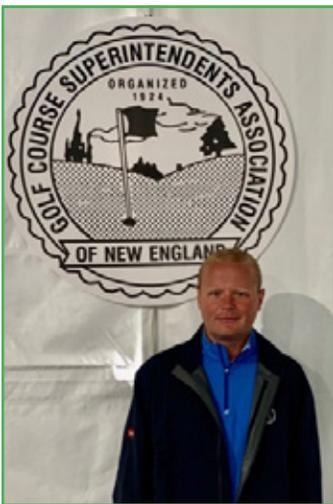
Darren Brevard, USGA  
Championship Agronomist



Greg Cormier



Chris Cyr



Kyle Franey



Anthony Howard,  
Superintendent



from left, Craig Resley, Mike Murphy, Len Curtin,  
Rich Gagnon, Troy Noble

## July - August 2022



## Thoughts (continued)



from left, Scott Mackintosh, Tim Hood, Mark Casey, Mike O'Connell

The following was written by one of our now-retired members in response to a post by a superintendent who was faced with the choice of moving to a 9 or 18-hole course. Our member felt it would be unnecessary to include the poster's name. This response is being published to help show the benefits our member received at a 9-hole course. It was written in 2012.

Greetings Mr. John XXXXXXXXXXX

I do realize I am a bit late in answering your post. I think there is somewhere between 4000 and 5000 nine - hole golf courses in the U.S. And I fully understand it is a difficult situation for you to accept a superintendent's position on a nine - hole golf course from your recent employment on a 18 hole course. You should not get discouraged. Unlike years ago, there are a lot of good paying jobs on a nine - hole course along with benefits. You just give the golfers the best conditions you can whether it's a public or private golf course. 9 holes or 18 holes or more. Your job is to please the golfer. It's that simple. And, the more holes you have, the more help you have. I will agree with you that a person cutting greens on an 18 - hole golf course makes more money cutting greens than a person cutting greens on a nine - hole golf course. I could never figure that one out. Don't worry about your peers, you will be well respected. I am going to give you a history lesson about my experience at Needham Golf Club, Needham, MA a nine - hole golf course.

I only mention the next paragraph to show you when I first started at Needham G.C. 50 years ago I knew that only one third of the fairways had some kind of irrigation. I figured if I could get the 1<sup>st</sup>. fairway watered the membership would be ecstatic.

In 1962, my full - time man and I installed a double row manual water system on our par 5 - 1<sup>st</sup>. hole using galvanized pipe. He had a friend with a backhoe. Those were the days of fun, cutting and threading that pipe. The membership really appreciates having green grass on the fairway. In 1963 I painted the bottom of the flag sticks black about two feet up. The poles were yellow. We did this because of the glare of the sun. It was much easier now to see the hole and you could judge the distance better. I firmly believe we were the first club to do this. OK - I know you don't want to read the BS of what we accomplished on the golf course but you'd rather hear about the pay, benefits, understand the politics, and keep your sanity all those kinds of things.

Now, we can't all be superintendents at Pebble Beach, Augusta and all the other great golf courses we see on TV every week. But, we can respect each other those that got the break and those that didn't. I think we all want a decent job, a good life, respect and camaraderie.

When I started I think my pay was a hundred dollars per week and I lived in their house and I paid the utilities except for water. After one year I received a \$5.00 per week raise and a \$250.00 Christmas bonus. The following three years raises were hard to come by. However, I talked the green chairman into a three year deal paying



left, Kevin Doyle, Dick Duggan



## Thoughts (continued)

the electric bill. The next year the oil bill and the next year blue cross and blue shield. That deal is still in effect today.

In 1972 I received my Certification (CGCS) and I was one proud puppy when I received my certificate along with about 15 other superintendents on stage at the GCSAA Conference in Cincinnati. For reasons I won't get into, I never renewed in 1977 but wish I had.

Being a small club the Board of governors and their committees managed the clubhouse. The club contracted the food out to a company and they took care of the grill room and function hall. Needham

was always a dry town but things change and we were about to get our liquor license if the voters voted it in. (they did) now, the ballgame has changed and the work became too much for the members. My treasurer then was a retired Dean of Admissions at Northeastern University. He respected education and he knew I tried to improve myself and stay up with the times and CGCS meant a lot to him. Hence, he recommended to the Board that they give me a shot at being manager. In 1974 I accepted the position with a \$4,000.00 increase in salary. I was rich! I booked the hall, ordered the spirits, hired the bartenders, set up the hall and cleaned the clubhouse banked and recorded the money. My responsibilities included everything the club needed from locker rooms to the kitchen. I was responsible for all lockers and

patrons and all kitchen equipment. I also secured the clubhouse. There were times when I would fix a toilet at 10 p. m. and the next day cut greens at 5:30 a.m.

I know there are superintendents who bitch about their managers and probably rightfully so. However, unless you have ever been on their side of the fence you would realize the Manager's job is no picnic. He/she is under a great deal of pressure dealing with so many personalities of the membership. The drink is too weak – too strong – the soup is cold – it is too hot – you get the picture. Now, the weak or unqualified manager will take out their frustrations on the staff in the clubhouse, pro shop and on the golf course. And, believe it or not this has cost a lot of superintendent jobs. The smart manager will keep peace between all department heads, will listen and communicate with the superintendent and golf pro and prevent any grievances from taking place.

Some on the Board wanted a contract. The President that hired me was a lawyer and he drew up the contract. The Board looked at it and said this favors the superintendent and that is the last I ever heard of a contract.

The club did pay my GCSAA, New England and Cape Cod Association dues. I did not join the Managers Association.

Time went on, raises got much better. I even had an IRA where the club paid me

\$166.66 per month and the max at the time was \$2000.00/year you could contribute to an IRA. I had a member open up a SEP – Simplified Employee Pension Plan. He was affiliated with Merrill Lynch. The club did not contribute but they paid the fee. I used to put in \$900 per month. This account is now with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. The SEP has been abandoned since I retired as superintendent.

When I completed 25 years of service the president, green chairman & treasurer asked me to meet them at the clubhouse. They presented me with a clock, set of golf irons and a \$2,500.00 bonus. The green chairman told me to collect the \$2,500 every year thereafter. My final check was October 2011, which is the end of our fiscal year.

When I reached 30 years the club threw a party for me. I gave the club a list of superintendents and vendors and we had a golf tournament. Superintendents & vendors played with members. The evening festivities were awesome. There were lots of accolades, speeches, you know the whole deal. Much to my surprise the club sent my wife and I on an 8 - day round trip to Hawaii, Honolulu and Maui with all hotels at the Hyatt Regency. They also paid for a rental car on Maui and a few days before the trip the chairman gave us \$600 spending money. The following is what the President of the Women's Division wrote and framed it.

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## Thoughts (continued)

### RON KIRKMAN A DEDICATED MAN

*At Needham Golf Club, there is a man named Ron  
You'll find him out on the course at dawn  
He rides around from tee to green  
Making sure the fairways look pristine*

*He works all day til the setting sun  
It seems his job is never done  
He doesn't stop til he's reassured  
That every blade of grass looks manicured*

*He manages the club with the greatest of ease  
He's always anxious to try to please  
For many a function, he's there late at night  
Making sure the clubhouse is locked up tight*

*For thirty years he's done it all  
In winter, spring, summer and fall  
In his own quiet manner, for he rarely gets loud  
He's created a course of which to be proud*

*How lucky we've been to know this dedicated man  
With his three daughters and his lovely wife, Joanne  
I'm sure everyone here will agree when I say  
Ron Kirkman's made Needham Golf Course what it is today*

*Allie Robey President Women's Division  
September 28, 1991*

My next GCSAA show after Cincinnati and Boston was the GCSAA show in St. Louis, I think the year was 1980 and following that the club picked up the tab for the next 25 years for me to attend the conference. I think I played in the golf tournament about twenty times and the club picked up most of that tab.

Before I knew it 45 years had passed and it was time for my assistant to take over the golf course. We contacted the supers and vendors once again to come and play golf and then attend a retirement party in the evening and those that couldn't play golf please come to the night party. I had to sit in the middle of the floor on a chair of course and I got roasted I mean ROASTED. I mean 45 years at one club as head super – I guess there will be a lot of stories to tell.

I still managed the club for the next few years. I guess that totaled about 33 to 34 years. The club was planning on building a new clubhouse and in November 2010 the president and vice president called me to a meeting. They informed me they were hiring a new manager. I said I know it and they wanted to know how I knew. I said you are not inviting me to a meeting to tell me you are giving me a 3% raise and you are certainly not doubling my salary. You are starting a new clubhouse and you want to take it to the next

level. I told them to relax, and I informed them that I am too old to take on that responsibility. Well, they asked me to stay through the fiscal year of October, 2011, and help out the new manager. Of course I will and I did. The new clubhouse opened in June of 2011. Come November 2011, I figured I'd work for 6 months on the golf course at only 20 hours per week and collect for 6 months. That did not happen. Why you ask? At the November Board meeting the new manager was asked what she would like, anything you want realistically. HA – she wanted Ronnie – so I said yes at 20 hours per week and no weekends. I record all the dues in quick book and bank the checks – all the bills that come in have to be signed by the appropriate department head and I file them in bills to be paid. When paid I file them appropriately in the proper file. I am a bookkeeper.

You know what? I'm on salary for 20 hours per week. My office is in the basement of the new clubhouse and the computer is in the board room on the 1<sup>st</sup>. floor. The basement is nice but I don't spend much time in there.

Here's the deal – I received a contract to live in the house – no strings attached – I do work more than 20 hours per week but only get paid for 20 and that is \$13.00 per hour. That's ok something to do.

This past August they renamed the annual Member Guest Tournament after me. It is now called the Kirkman Invitational. I had to go to the opening night dinner and the president informed me that I would have to say a few words. I did a lot of thinking about it before I wrote it. Here it is.

“It is an honor to have this tournament named after me. It has been the keystone event of every golf season at Needham Golf Club for many decades. Whatever I accomplished over the years reflects the dedication, support and generosity of the presidents, green chairman, Board of Directors and members of Needham Golf Club who made it possible. Needham Golf Club has given me an opportunity for fulfilling a career and as I stand before you tonight, the word thank you seems hardly adequate enough to express my thoughts.”

I must say Mr. Tim Hood the new superintendent at Needham is doing a superb job. He has been with me for a number of years and he is correcting all my mistakes.

Start of the fiscal year November, 2011. is the month the club took over and ran the bar and kitchen. We now had a minimum for food per month and my bookkeeping days were over. The manager hired a qualified bookkeeper and another part time person to help with sending in the payroll. Also, an Executive chef and others in the kitchen, waiters and waitresses, dishwasher, etc. A full - scale operation. The people in the office were working about 50 hours per week plus the manager. I still work setting up tables for parties and cleaning and I have another person helping.



## Thoughts (continued)

Over the years we ran about six Christmas Parties for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England. The hall was decorated and we had a big Christmas Tree and Christmas Lights all over with windows painted like Santa Claus putting on a practice green. It was really awesome. The vendors picked up the tab on the open bar. The club did not charge a rental fee. No one ever got out of line those were great times.

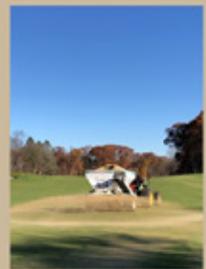
Some things that went on which you never hear too much about from other supers and their club. I would get a Christmas Tree for the club and at the same time I would buy one for my house. I would give a check to the treasurer for my tree. He would tell me his dog ate my check and I would volunteer another one and he would keep insisting his dog ate my check. After a while it finally dawned on me he doesn't have a dog. I went to a turf conference in California & I played golf in the GCSAA Tournament. Before I left the treasurer gave me \$300. In 1976, I went to Ohio to celebrate 50 years of GCSAA existence and play in the golf tournament. Before I left I was given some money by the golf chairman to help defray the costs.

Another time the treasurer said Ron tell your green chairman you need a new truck. We have the money. I have had some really good treasurers at this club.

Well, Mr. John XXXXXXXXXX go and don't look back. You have the confidence to make the right decision. And, sir, would you like to be on an 18 - hole course or be lucky enough like me to have SUPER members as I have on a nine - hole course.

Ron Kirkman  
Needham Golf Club  
Needham, MA

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*July - August 2022*



# 2022 US Open at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts

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Director of Grounds Dave Johnson and his team lead by Anthony Howard, Adam Bennett, Aidan O'Sullivan, Brad Gale, and Josh Tucker spearheaded the immense task of bringing the US Open back to Boston. Also, many GCSANE members participated in the volunteer program at the event. By all accounts, the week was an incredible success capped by a great finish on Sunday. We asked some of the agronomy team to highlight their experience during the week.

## **Brad Gale, Senior Assistant Superintendent, The Country Club**

The 2022 US Open was the first major championship I have worked in my career, and it truly did not disappoint. Here are a few takeaways from my experience.

### **1. The Atmosphere at a major championship**

The crowds of fans that came out this year to watch the best players in the world compete for a major at The Country Club were outstanding. It was so cool seeing all of the people come and enjoy the golf course. One of my favorite experiences was on championship Sunday I was standing down to the right of number 9 green. Scottie Scheffler was on 8 at the bottom of the hill hitting his 3rd shot. All of a sudden, I heard the crowd of fans on number 8 green erupt. Scheffler had just chipped in for an eagle. I can still hear the crowd and the roar that came from that corner of the golf course. Also on 18, when Fitzpatrick had won, the sheer elation from the grandstands was something I will never forget. Between the fans, players, and all those who helped make the championship possible, the atmosphere was amazing.

### **2. The Volunteers**

Our team of 36 grounds members would not have had the success of hosting the US Open if it were not for the men and women who joined us for the week of the championship. They took the time out of their busy schedule to come and help out for the week. The volunteers were individuals from all over our industry. From superintendent to assistants, college students to local sales representatives, to equipment technicians and so many others, they came and joined our team, and I cannot thank them enough for all their hard work. The friends I met and the relationships I made was something I am so grateful for. By the middle of the week there were many volunteers coming up to me to ask if they could help out with anything. The entire volunteer staff were some of the most professional and helpful individuals I had met in my career. The entire week could not have been possible if it were not for our volunteers. Thank you to all who were there to make the US Open such a memorable experience.

### **3. The Golf Course**

I have had the privilege of working at The Country Club since the winter of 2019. In the years leading up to the US Open this past June, there was a long punch list of items we as a team had to complete to prepare the golf course. To see the property evolve in the years leading up was incredible. The fairways became firmer, the greens became dryer and the rough got a whole lot thicker. To see all the construction projects being carried out and

completed in such a short window of time was amazing to see. The week of the major, the weather was incredible. A couple days there was some rain but all in all the golf course was set up very well. There is no place like The Country Club. The blind shots and the subtle contour on the greens makes it a true test for any golf at any level. But the week of the championship the conditions were outstanding. By the middle of May, the team was on cruise control, all of us looking toward the same goal. To present to the USGA, the players, and the fans, a golf course that will be ready for a major championship. The rough was thick, the fairways firm, and the greens were rolling well. Seeing true championship conditions up close and to see all of it come together made me realize what a great team and industry we are all a part of.

### **Thank you**

To everyone who has helped make this championship possible, I just want to say thank you. I can say personally the experience was one I will cherish for the rest of my career. The 2022 US Open was one of the great majors I was able to work, and for that I am grateful to have been a part of the journey.

## **Colin Smethurst, CGCS, Hillview Golf Course**

They say the grind sharpens the ax and I believe that was put on display at The Country Club in June. Over the years leading up to the event, all the hard work that Dave Johnson and his team put into the course transformed the legendary layout into what Rory McIlroy proclaimed a "proper US Open golf course." The place was magnificent in all aspects and it really shows how an agronomy team's efforts can be evident just by observing, without even knowing the inner workings of the operation.

And then the week of the event, 100+ volunteers came together to take the course to the finish line. At the beginning of the week, it was choppy. As a leader on the bunker crew, I had to get my team of people from differing backgrounds and experience levels on the same page. I had to keep them focused but also keep it fun, all on very little sleep. Consistency is everything for bunker prep and we needed a template to follow. Once we got on the same page with the USGA and the TCC team, my team came together to treat every bunker as if the world would be watching. That's exactly what happened when Matt Fitzpatrick hit that incredible bunker shot on 18 out of a bunker that we prepared. The grind of that week prepared us for Sunday.

What a week. I came out inspired and full of new passion for the game and our profession. I would encourage anyone who hasn't volunteered at an event like this to do it. I'll always remember my week in Brookline.

## **Greg Cormier, CGCS, Tom Irwin, Inc.**

I was fortunate to spend the entire tournament week at The Country Club for the 2022 U.S. Open. It was an honor to be involved in a support role to help with the volunteer experience as well as assisting on the course. What I observed was a tour-



## 2022 US Open

nament experience like no other. This was the 7th tournament that I have been part of over the course of my career, and the 5th major championship.

The entire grounds team, led by Dave Johnson and his staff, did a remarkable job producing the best tournament conditions I've ever seen, but also having fun while doing so. Adjustments were made as the week went on, and everyone involved shared the same goal of providing superior conditions, while networking, attending education, and enjoying their time making history. I believe this tournament will be remembered as a complete success for The Country Club team, the volunteers, the players, the USGA and the golf course management industry as a whole locally and nationally. I highly encourage you to consider participating in preparation for a major championship in the future, if given the opportunity.

### Ryan Boudreau, Framingham Country Club

Without fully knowing what to expect, it was amazing to see first hand the level of organization, communication, teamwork, and detail that go into hosting an event of this magnitude. The delivery of information to over 100 volunteers to ensure precise mobilization and synchrony of our team was nothing short of amazing.

Some personal highlights over the week were connecting with the great people in our industry, a visit from golf course architect Gil Hanse, and most of all watching Dave Johnson receive the E.J. Marshall Platter on the 18th green. I think most everyone in our industry collectively thought or said "It's about damn time!", and Dave is so deserving of this award.

The biggest takeaway from my volunteer experience was the importance of teamwork, trust, and culture. As turf managers, we do our best to alter growing environments and carefully provide various inputs to give the plant the best chance to thrive, especially during unfavorable and stressful conditions. The same can be said about the environment we create at the workplace for the people we work tirelessly beside each day. We witnessed first hand the positive and supportive culture that Dave, Anthony, Toby, and others at The Country Club have created to allow all of us to succeed during the highly demanding and challenging task of hosting a major tournament.

As Dave put it, you need to surround yourself with good people because it takes a team. Volunteering was an inspiring and amazing experience, and one I will never forget.



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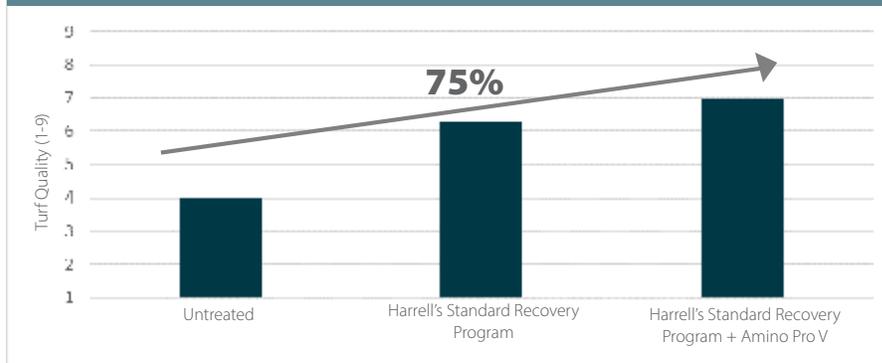


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*July - August 2022*





It seems like every year I am asked by a member to consider writing about a health-related item specific to our outdoor profession. Recently one member addressed an issue he had at his facility and inquired if I would help spread the word about proper hydration. Keeping hydrated is an extremely important health concern, and despite my personal efforts to encourage my athlete/golf course employee

daughter to drink plenty of fluids, I am no expert. So here are some tips for you and the staff from those in the know. Some tips to stay hydrated, and equally important (as the above member pointed out) concerns to look for regarding dehydration.

Nebraska Medicine: University Health Center provide some excellent advice to remain in top form when it comes to remaining hydrated.

How much water should a person drink in a day? About 20% of our daily fluid intake comes from the food we eat and the rest from the liquids we drink. The amount of water intake you need depends on the sex you were assigned at birth. According to the U.S. National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, men should drink 3.7 liters (about 16 cups) and women 2.7 liters (about 11 cups) of fluid per day. You need to drink even more water if you exercise, sweat or have an illness.

Their ten tips look like this:

- 1. Drink a glass of water first thing in the morning.** This gets your metabolism running and gives you an energy boost. Avoid drinking water right before bed if you struggle with nocturnal urination or heartburn.
- 2. Invest in a fun or fancy water bottle.** A good water bottle can serve as a visual reminder to drink more water throughout the day. Certain bottles have marked measurements for tracking intake or have words of encouragement printed on the side as water levels go down.
- 3. Use alarms or notifications to your advantage.** Set alarms or notifications on your smart devices as reminders throughout the day. For a mental boost, set your Alexa or Google device to remind you along with verbal, positive encouragements.
- 4. Focus on your body's signals.** Be mindful of whether your body is thirsty or hungry. Sometimes we overeat because we mistake thirst for hunger.
- 5. Drink a glass of water before each meal.** It will help you stay hydrated, help your body digest food better and help

you feel full faster.

- 6. Add calorie-free flavoring.** Try fruit or vegetable infusions in your water to make it more appealing. Prepare a jug in the refrigerator to infuse overnight to make filling your water bottle in the morning easier. Pick up a water bottle that has a built-in infusion basket for flavor on the go.
- 7. Check the color of your urine.** Some people check the color of their urine throughout the day to ensure it is clear or light-colored. Dark yellow urine may be a sign of dehydration for some.
- 8. Swap high sugar drinks for sparkling water or seltzer.** Not only will you cut back on unnecessary sugar, but you'll be adding to your water intake.
- 9. Set a daily goal.** A simple daily goal can help you stay motivated and work towards maintaining a healthy habit.
- 10. Make it a challenge.** Ask your friends to join you in a healthy competition to see who meets their daily goals regularly.

Many of these tips set up well for success if the team will buy in. While the steps seem simple enough, overlooking adequate hydration during the typical Northeast summer wouldn't take long to lead to serious issues. What might they look like?

Folks at the Mayo Clinic remind us when it's hot and humid, your risk of dehydration and heat illness increases. That's because when the air is humid, sweat can't evaporate and cool you as quickly as it normally does, and this can lead to an increased body temperature and the need for more fluids.

Thirst isn't always a reliable early indicator of the body's need for water. Many people, particularly older adults, don't feel thirsty until they're already dehydrated. That's why it's important to increase water intake during hot weather or when you're ill. Working outside as we in the golf industry do, it is important to understand the heightened risk.

The signs and symptoms of dehydration also may differ by age, for adults:

- Extreme thirst
- Less frequent urination
- Dark-colored urine
- Fatigue
- Dizziness
- Confusion

Dehydration can lead to serious complications, including:

- **Heat injury.** If you don't drink enough fluids when you're exercising vigorously and perspiring heavily, you may end up with a heat injury, ranging in severity from mild heat

# GCSAA Update by Kevin Doyle

cramps to heat exhaustion or potentially life-threatening heatstroke.

- **Urinary and kidney problems.** Prolonged or repeated bouts of dehydration can cause urinary tract infections, kidney stones and even kidney failure.
- **Seizures.** Electrolytes — such as potassium and sodium — help carry electrical signals from cell to cell. If your electrolytes are out of balance, the normal electrical messages can become mixed up, which can lead to involuntary muscle contractions and sometimes to a loss of consciousness.
- **Low blood volume shock (hypovolemic shock).** This is one of the most serious, and sometimes life-threatening, complications of dehydration. It occurs when low blood volume causes a drop in blood pressure and a drop in the amount of oxygen in your body.

Remaining safe during the stressful summer months is extremely important to our entire industry. While our grounds team is typically of first and foremost concern, those playing our sport can easily fall victim to the same issues as our golf maintenance staff can. Please consider communicating the symptoms to your staff as their vigilance can easily pay dividends for others. Understanding how to save turf from heat stress is important, knowing how to save a person from heat stress can be life changing

[To read the full articles, please see the links below:](#)

<https://health.unl.edu/10-tips-staying-hydrated-summer%C2%A0>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/dehydration/symptoms-causes/syc-20354086>

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[Access the Facility BMP tool»](#)

### GCSAA Award Nominations Open!!

GCSAA award nomination season is officially underway. Criteria and nomination forms are available for the following awards DUE August 15<sup>th</sup>:

[Emerging Leader Award nominations due](#)

[Outstanding Contribution Award nominations due](#)

[Edwin Budding Award nominations due](#)

### Upcoming Education:

[Planning for the Inevitable: Drought and Water Management Planning](#)

[Becky Grubbs-Bowling, Ph.D.](#)

[Aug. 3 @ 2 p.m.](#)

[Course Marking - Local Rules & Best MARKING Practices for Your Golf Course](#)

[Todd Stice](#)

[Aug. 23 @ 2 p.m.](#)

[I Recommend This Product and Here's Why](#)

[Paul Koch, Ph.D.](#)

[Sept. 13 @ 10 a.m.](#)

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

**Kevin Doyle**

GCSAA Field Staff

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July - August 2022

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# GCSAA Legacy Award Winners Announced *By Kelsey Underwood*

Parents of three Legacy Award recipients are members of the GCSA of New England. They are highlighted below.

*Scholarship program assists children and grandchildren of association members*

Lawrence, Kan. (Aug. 9, 2022)

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has awarded 20 college scholarships as part of its Legacy Awards program.

To be eligible, applicants must be a child or grandchild of a GCSAA member. The program is funded by the GCSAA Foundation and supported by Syngenta. Each grant is for \$1,500.

“GCSAA is proud to support members in the turfgrass industry beyond their professional life by assisting members’ family in furthering their education,” GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans said. “The Legacy Awards reduce financial burden of higher education costs, make it possible for the recipients to achieve their academic goals and set them up for success in their chosen field.”

The awards are based on academic achievement, community involvement, extracurricular activities and leadership skills. Applicants must be enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher learning, or for high school seniors, accepted at such an institution for the next academic year.

“Syngenta is thankful for the GCSAA Legacy Awards as an opportunity to support golf course superintendents and their families. These scholarships provide opportunities for future leaders to gain the education and experiences that will contribute to their future success,” said Stephanie Schwenke, turf marketing manager for Syngenta.

## 2022 GCSAA Legacy Award winners (graduating high school seniors)

**Nathan Daly**, Providence College  
Patrick Daly III, CGCS, Parent, Class A member,  
Framingham Country Club, Framingham, Mass.

**Ryan Dorrell**, Ohio State University  
Chad Dorrell, Parent, Class A member,  
Springfield Country Club, Springfield, Ohio

**Cabot Ellis**, Texas A&M University  
Craig Ellis, Parent, Class A member,  
Eldorado Country Club, Indian Wells, Calif.

**Jace Fast**, University of Toledo  
Michael Fast, CGCS, Parent, Class A member,  
Delphos Country Club, Delphos, Ohio

**Abby Floyd**, Middle Tennessee State University  
Paul Floyd, Parent, Class B-retired member, Decatur, Ala.

**Palmer Hendrix**, Georgia Tech University  
Stephen Hendrix, Parent, Class A member,  
Savannah Quarters Country Club, Pooler, Ga.

**Chloe Honaker**, West Virginia University  
Brian Honaker, Parent, Class B member,  
The Resort at Glade Springs, Daniels, Wyo.

**Jake Larson**, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse  
William Larson, CGCS, Parent, Class A member,  
Town & Country Club, St. Paul, Minn.

**Meghan MacDonald**, Tufts University  
Brad MacDonald, Parent, Class A member,  
Granite Links Golf Club at Quarry Hills, Quincy, Mass.

**Jack Stone**, University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
Daniel Stone, Parent, Class A member,  
Quashnet Valley Country Club., Mashpee, Mass.



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## ***Legacy Award Winners (continued)***

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### **2022 GCSAA Legacy Award winners (college students)**

**David Anderson**, Arizona State University  
William Anderson, Parent, Class A member,  
Troon North Golf Club, Scottsdale, Ariz.

**Autumn Burnes**, Appalachian State University  
Brannon Burnes, Parent, Class A member,  
Sequoyah National Golf Club, Framingham, Mass.

**Caroline Daly**, Boston College  
Patrick Daly III, Parent, Class A member,  
Framingham Country Club, Framingham, Mass.

**Lida Dodge**, Aurora University  
Vincent Dodge, CGCS, Parent, Class A member,  
Nemadji Golf Course, Superior, Wis.

**Elliott Ische**, University of Denver  
Jeffrey Ische, Parent, Class A member,  
The Toro Company, Bloomington, Minn.

**Emily Jotzat**, Trine University  
Steve Jotzat, CGCS, Parent, Class A member,  
Lost Dunes Golf Club, Bridgman, Mich.

**Madeleine McCall**, University of St Andrews  
Michael McCall, CGCS, Parent, Class A member,  
Metropolitan GCSA, Elmsford, N.Y.

**J.T. Miller**, Clemson University  
Jeffrey Miller, Parent, Class B member,  
Brays Island Plantation, Sheldon, S.C.

**Anne Morgan**, University of Illinois  
Kenneth Morgan, Parent, Class B member,  
Ruth Park Golf Course, St. Louis, Mo.

**Tyson Warner**, Middle Tennessee State University  
Tyler Warner, Parent, Class A member,  
Aqua Aid Solutions, Walling, Tenn.

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***July - August 2022***



## The Apathies of August *By Adam Garr*

I can set my watch to this time of year. In the next ten days, the call will almost certainly come in from somewhere.

Last year, it was a 4x rate of a hot DMI applied to fairways. The year before that, it was a rinsate tank of mesotrione that ended up on someone's greens. The year before that, it was an expensive fairway spray that got washed away by 2" rain after the superintendent challenged a fast moving thunderstorm cell on the radar to a duel.

Outside of the golf course superintendent world, the dog days of summer are known as some of the best days of summer: the water is warm, the days are long, and the vegetables in the garden are ready to be picked. Inside the superintendent world, these days are marked by something else: it's called **cumulative fatigue**.

Cumulative fatigue is defined as fatigue brought on by repeated mild sleep restriction or extended hours awake across a series of days. Symptoms of cumulative fatigue that may affect the superintendent and their staff include:

- Reduced attentiveness
- Withdrawn mood
- Decreased productivity
- Routine tasks being performed inaccurately or forgotten
- Accidents

When I was a superintendent, I would circle these next ten days but for different reasons altogether. I used to call the phenomenon "August Apathy."

It was an assistant sleeping through an alarm clock on the morning of a shotgun start. Crew members bickering over the smallest things. An operator taking the tee mower out for a spin on the greens instead. Diesel going into the bunker rake instead of gasoline. A runaway fairway mower that takes out 30 feet of rough during Invite week because the operator thought it was a good idea to wedge a water bottle under the floor pedal for "cruise control" (true story). A superintendent who mistakes the fluazinam jugs for chlorothalonil and doesn't have to worry about dollar spot for the rest of the year (also a true story—and guilty as charged).

Now I know that what I thought was August Apathy, was actually the result of cumulative fatigue. At the time, I don't think I did a whole lot to address the problem besides getting frustrated. I thought my staff was just being careless. I didn't recognize the underlying effects of cumulative fatigue.

Your team is tired. You are tired. The turf is tired, too. Some people are coming off tournament weeks, and others are going into them this week.



This would be a good time to address the team and have a morning safety meeting. Remind your team to, "Take your time and do a good job." Attention to detail and safety often go hand in hand.

While you're at it, force yourself to take a day off. I know this is easier said than done, but you will thank yourself later. Do the same with your assistants. They will come back better for it.

Consider rewarding the crew with a half day on Friday and pay them for the whole day. They might come back better for it, too.

And take it from someone who learned this lesson the hard way: when filling up the sprayer, be sure to measure twice, and pour once. Do the math the day before when you're more alert, and not in a dark chem room at four o'clock in the morning.

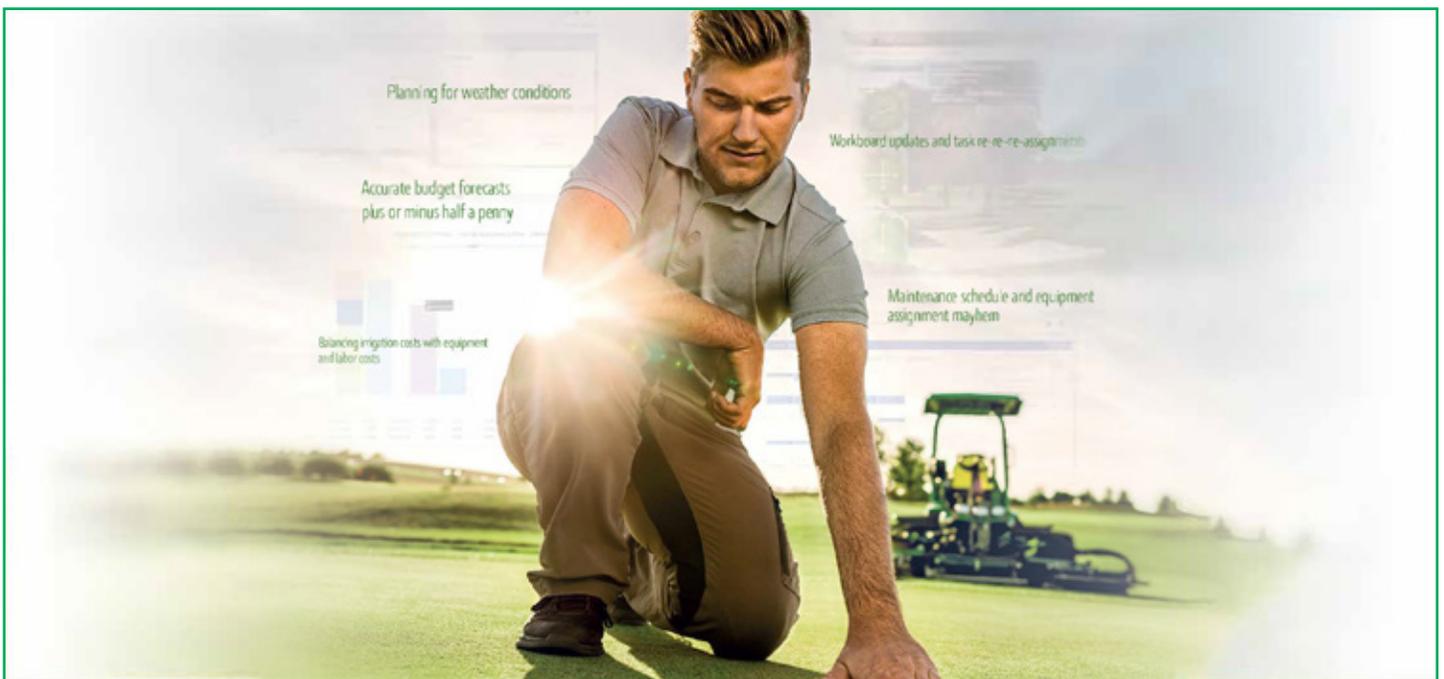
Mistakes happen, and they are going to happen. When they do, try to go easy on the person who made the mistake. The problem isn't apathy. The problem is much more likely cumulative fatigue.

*Adam is a Sales Representative for WinField United Professional in Novi, Michigan*

*You can read his blog at <https://miturfmondays.blogspot.com/>  
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*July - August 2022*



## Getting to Know Jeff Kinney, USGA

By Timothy Johnston, Superintendent, Wedgewood Pines Country Club



Nothing beats a leisurely ride around the golf course, and on this day I was able to ride around with Jeff Kinney of the USGA. Jeff may have one of the longest USGA job titles, serving as Golf Course Solutions Sales Manager. In short, Jeff works alongside the USGA Agronomy team, aiding in service with course care and the surface management tool known as Deacon. For those who don't know about Deacon, it is a tool that allows you to precisely measure all daily inputs, cultural practices, and record growth which leads to better informed data-driven decisions. Deacon consolidates all the data in

a single location, making it easy to visualize and analyze the information, whether from day to day, month to month, or year over year. Jeff took his visit to the next level by showing me a new tool developed for tracking data. Out of his pocket he pulled a small golf ball size digital ball known as GS3. This ball when rolled off the stimp-meter, measures green speed, trueness and smoothness. This ball also has the ability to collect green firmness characteristics. The data was pulled quickly and then recorded to an app on your phone. Next level in my opinion for those that track data.

Other information discussed was about the USGA and the contributions they make as a non-profit. The USGA provides funding and support for junior golf, people with disabilities, internships at state and regional golf associations, and turfgrass research. When a course visit is requested through USGA, the payment is transferred right back into Turfgrass funding, which is pretty impressive.

Jeff is a new member of the GCSANE association and I highly suggest many of our members reach out to him. We spoke over lunch mainly about USGA services but I was also able to find out a bit more about Jeff. When not working he is a low

handicap golfer holding membership at Franklin Country Club. He splits his time between Milford, Massachusetts and Cape Cod, where he enjoys casting a line out with his wife and three children, both freshwater and saltwater. Jeff has a group of private tutors (USGA agronomists) teaching him all about turf care and agronomy. He seems to take much pride in learning this side of the industry. Should you have any further questions of Jeff's position and what he can do for you and your course do not hesitate to email him at [jkinney@usga.org](mailto:jkinney@usga.org).

It was a pleasure spending time with Mr. Jeff Kinney learning more about the course services available through the USGA.



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