



THE NEWSLETTER

November - December 2023

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

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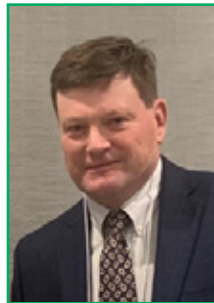
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President's Message by Brian F. Skinner



Finally!

Congratulations, you have made it through another year! I'm sure by now everyone has seen a drop in play on their course if not closed for the season. What a great feeling! Personally I love it. Mostly because I feel rewarded for all of the hard work and sacrifice it takes to run a golf course that operates 7 days a week for about 8 ½ months a year. It is truly a grind. High expectations are assumed and results are expected on a daily basis. That is the reality. Constant scrutiny and even criticism are part of the job. A break from those stresses and pressures are necessary and knowing that I

have been fully committed and have given 100% throughout the season assures me that it is well deserved. Hopefully it is for you too. Enjoy your down time!

As we enter into this offseason, I am writing to you in one of my last columns as GCSANE President. From what I have observed over the past few years is an organization filled with young, up and coming stars. Although not completely familiar with all of the names and easily confused by all the new faces, it is evident to me that support, energy and vigor are truly present. All are traits required to be successful in this industry. I particularly enjoy seeing that energy at the Board level and the initiatives that have been undertaken to ensure our members' industry awareness, knowledge of opportunities and exposure to our stakeholders. Specifically, efforts to increase dialogue around salaries and compensation. I am optimistic that our December meeting will prove to be a forum that will inspire a healthy compensatory discussion. The spirit of the meeting will include negotiating strategies and ways to increase your value. The following links include tips on how to navigate through those very important conversations.

<https://peoplemanagingpeople.com/topics/effective-employee-compensation-discussions>

<https://www.bamboohr.com/blog/compensation-conversations-tips>

I am also very pleased that our job postings now require salary requirements and our efforts in the tech schools have afforded young students an awareness of careers in the golf industry. These are just a few of the many workings within the Association and I would like to thank the current Board and our Executive Director for all of their efforts. Without this incredible team effort, the Association would not function as it does today. I would also like to encourage those that haven't served to participate if at all possible.

Finally, as my term concludes, I would like to thank all of my peers and colleagues that make this industry unique and very special. The many friends, awesome experiences, travels and camaraderie have been incredibly rewarding. It has truly been my pleasure to serve GCSANE as President. Thank you for the opportunity. I wish you all the best and a safe and happy Holiday Season!

Best Regards,

Brian Skinner
GCSANE President

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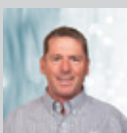
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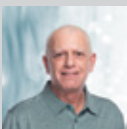
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CONGRATULATIONS TO

Ben Bouchard on his selection as superintendent at Blue Hill Country Club

Craig Sullivan on his selection as superintendent at Pocasset Golf Club

Patrick Gleason on his selection as superintendent at Shining Rock Golf Club

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Martin Fitzgerald, Assistant Superintendent, Long Meadow Golf Club, Lowell, MA

We now have GCSA of New England clothing and merchandise for sale. To view the catalog click [here](#). The merchandise can also be viewed on the Home Page of the GCSA of New England's website at gcsane.org.

Back Issues!



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

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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For more information, please contact Don Hearn at 774-430-9040 or donhearn@gcsane.org

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Thoughts From Your Executive Director *by Don Hearn*

You may have asked yourself, or others, “What do my dues support when sent to GCSAA?” I’ve attached a link to the Priority Issues Agenda that lists the issues that GCSAA is currently tracking. Please take a look at what they are monitoring.

2023-2024 Priority Issues:

- Value of Golf
 - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Water
 - Water Quality
 - Water Quantity
- Labor and Immigration
 - H-2B Visa Program
- Pesticides
 - State Preemption/Pesticide Bans
 - Pesticide Regulation
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Pollinators
- Fertilizers
- Power Equipment

Please [click this link](#) to read more detail about each of these topics.



from left: Mike Luccini, Matt Ponte, Craig Resley, Rob Larson

Our last outdoor meeting of the year took place November 6 at Tatnuck Country Club in Worcester, MA. The weather was in our favor with a relatively warm temperature and sunshine. The course, managed by superintendent Craig Resley and his team of turf experts was in excellent condition. Golf Professional PJ Breton had all in place for the group before we arrived and GM Fran Ventura made all feel welcome.



The 2024 Dog Days of Golf calendar has arrived. The calendar is sponsored by Lebanon Turf in cooperation with GCSAA. The cover features Clover a 1 ½ year old black tri color Australian shepherd. GCSANE Member Mike Hughes is Clover’s owner and superintendent at Tedesco Country Club in Marblehead, MA.

Another GCSANE member who had their dogs featured is Erik Anderson, superintendent at Wampatuck Country Club in Canton, MA. His three dogs Milo, a miniature dachshund; Gus, a black and tan French bulldog; and Mabel, a brindle French bulldog enjoy their days at the course and are golfer-friendly.

Thanks to the online company, Tee Commerce, GCSA of New England logoed merchandise is now available! The catalog of items can be viewed [here](#). You can also view the catalog on the homepage of our website at gcsane.org.



front row from left: Greg Cormier, Steve Boksanski, Karen Connelly

rear from left: Virginia Wood, Eric Richardson, Don Hearn, Andy McDuff, Steve Bukoff, Ted Wales, Chris Connors, Rich Bradley

Recently the GIA (Green Industry Alliance) met to review legislative issues that could effect some of what we do on our courses and facilities. Of concern is a change in the state’s pre-emption of pesticide usage. Some parties are trying to do away with pre-emption. If successful, this would take away the statewide regulations of pesticide usage and let each community make their own rules for usage. As you can imagine, this could create lots of confusion as to what products can be used and how they can be used. Other topics discussed were the legislative calendar, irrigation contractor legislation and irrigation system interruption devices (rain shut off devices).

Thoughts *(continued)*



This year's Pro-Superintendent Invitational was played at the Tedesco Country Club, October 16. Superintendent Mike Hughes and his team had the course in excellent shape and all were impressed with the conditions. The Weston Golf Club team of Michael Esworthy, PGA and Griffen Wise and the Wedgewood Pines team of Pete Maki, PGA and Tim Johnston carded the low rounds of the day in the team gross division, with impressive eight-under, 62s tie for the title at the 2023 NEPGA Pro-Superintendent Invitational.

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2023 Delegates Meeting Report

The GCSAA 2023 Delegates meeting was held at the National's headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas on October 24 – 26.

I was fortunate enough to attend this meeting to hear about the many new changes that are coming our way.

85 delegates representing 87 chapters met in person at GCSAA Headquarters and the Hilton Kansas City Airport.

First-day highlights included updates and information from CEO Rhett Evans on "Relentless Focus." He mentioned membership has eclipsed the 20k mark and that GCSAA as an association is doing well coming out of the pandemic. Delegates were asked to encourage participation and engagement in the industry from their staff and colleagues, while GCSAA continues to recognize the accomplishments of its' members.

A government affairs update was provided, informing attendees of potential legislative and regulatory advances that will impact the golf industry. The priority issues of the association are:

Values of Golf – Americans with Disabilities Act
Water – Quality and Quantity
Labor and Workforce Development – H-2B Visa Program
Pesticides – State Preemption/Pesticide Bans, Pesticide Regulation, Endangered Species Act, Pollinators Fertilizers – Restricting or ban use altogether
Power Equipment – No longer being able to use, purchase or manufacture gas and diesel powered equipment. A full description of GCSAA's stance on each is on the website under the Advocacy tab.

If you haven't already, please create a Best Management Practices Manual for your facility. This is a must and is extremely important with some of the legislation that will and or could be coming out in the next few years. The GCSAA has manuals on its' website for every state already and you can tailor it to fit your course and property. Ask others to look at theirs for help, we are all in this together. The BMP will help in a number of areas in the future including permitting and pesticide product decisions. Whether you are a member or not these will be required in the future and we should spread the word to everyone in the business. The EPA has praised Golf's BMP initiative but wants answers to 2 questions. Who's doing it? And how do we know? By not having an answer we could be faced with loss of products and greater government oversight.

The Endangered Species Act webinar should be watched to see how we got to this place. You can earn credits on a cold winter's day. Visit My Learning Hub-Enter Learning Hub-under courses select Government Affairs to find the link to register and view.

If you are interested in becoming a Grassroots Ambassador, the program is open to everyone and there is not a cutoff limit on the number of participants.

The Rounds4Research program was a topic where we are looking for more participation. The mission of the program is to secure funding and support to strengthen advocacy, education, and research that advances the work of golf course management professionals. The program gave back \$424,659.00 to participating Chapters with GCSANE being one of them. There were 2032 registered bidders, 1547 rounds donated, 1471 rounds purchased with the average price of a round at \$381.00. The funding for the program helps us all as members and we are being asked to consider a donation of a round of golf or a monetary contribution. The funds would go a long way to assist with education expenses-like the December meeting or annual meeting, advocacy efforts, or into the S&B for additional scholarship funding.

Delegates also received information on the 2024 GCSAA Golf Championships and Conference and Trade Show to be held in Phoenix. First time it's been back to Phoenix in roughly 30 years. Check the GCSAA website for more information on the golf tournament and trade show.

Through GCSAA there are Certificate programs for Assistant Superintendents, Equipment Managers and other staff to help them in their career growth and development. It's a chance to possibly develop some employees from within our own staffs and get their careers started or advance others in the turfgrass industry.



2023 Delegates Meeting Report (continued)

We were reminded that the GCSAA staff are available and happy to help members with any career guidance that is needed.

We were informed about the Workforce Development initiatives. Youth outreach programs such as the First Green Program are continuing to grow where youths from 45 states were invited to various golf courses to learn all about what golf has to offer. GCSAA's goal is to have all 50 states participate in the program. If you would have any interest in hosting an event there are people to help you with the process. Having participated in one recently it just takes some time to prepare and it should be kept simple. The kids seem to really enjoy most of it, except the math part, understandably, and you get to have some fun too.

GCSAA members and staff have attended the Future Farmer's of America Conferences and it is starting to gain some traction. In their first year attending they got a lot of who are you? And there are careers like that? To this year hearing "I was hoping you were going to be here." Every state has its own organization and GCSAA is always looking for volunteers to go to these conferences and represent. This organization has members ages 12-21 and there are roughly 946,000 of them nationwide. You can learn more at massffa.org.

The Jobs for America's Graduates program or JAG is a nationwide, non-profit organized in State Affiliates. The state of New Hampshire seems to be the only one with a program at this point. Their mission statement is, The Mission of Jobs for America's Graduates - New Hampshire is to cultivate youth success through academic, leadership, and workforce opportunities in collaboration with business and community partnerships. JAG - NH achieves this by offering year-round, individualized services that are competency based, incorporating Project Based Learning, Resiliency Skills Training, Support Services and Employer Engagement throughout the program. You can learn more at jagnh.org.

The GCSAA website offers support through its' Labor Hub page where it has several recruitment tools available.

There will not be a dues increase in the upcoming year. The Association increases dues using the CPI (Consumer Price Index)

which usually happens every other year. The discussion was brought up that doing it this way just makes the Association break even with no way to grow or expand programs or staff. It is not a sustainable model and therefore a larger dues increase may be necessary in the future.

GCSAA will be turning 100 years old in 2026. The mission statement is "honor the past 100 years... and inspire continued greatness into the next century". The timeline at this time is to unveil the logo in Phoenix 2024, have a public relations campaign begin late 2025, a member kickoff in Orlando 2026, unveil a statue of Colonel John Morley, (GCSAA founding president), September 13th 2026 at GCSAA Headquarters and close out the celebration at the show in New Orleans 2027. They ask if you come across anything of history pertaining to Golf Course Maintenance that you think is of interest to please let them know about it. They are working on digitizing all of the documentation concerning green-keeping. They asked if members and chapters would be interested in Brick Campaign as a way to collect donations for the project.

The position of Secretary/Treasurer is open and the candidates are Doug Dykstra - Arizona and Paul Carter - Tennessee.

There are technically 3 Directors positions open with 2 of them having been occupied by candidates who have been on the board multiple years working through the process. In the end I believe there will be only 1 seat up for grabs for a 1-year term. The candidates are Ryan Kraushofer-Maryland, Greg Jones-Nebraska, Chris Reverie-Pennsylvania and Mark Weston-Connecticut.

In closing they asked that if anyone has any interest in volunteering for a committee or task group, to please do so either at the National level or your local Chapter. It's easier than you think and with technology nowadays it's more efficient. Please consider it if you find in your life at the moment you think you may have some time to give back.

Submitted by
Mike Murphy, GCSAA Chapter Liaison

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Philadelphia wins the MET Area Team Championship for record 6th time at Sunningdale Country Club

On a beautiful fall day in New York, the team from the Philadelphia AGCS won the 42nd MET Area Team Championship at Sunningdale CC in Scarsdale, NY. Philadelphia, a perennial favorite won for a record 6th time, and their second time in the past 3 years, most recently at Saratoga National in 2021. The talented field was 2 over par for the day, 2 shots clear of New Jersey.

Philadelphia was led by Darren Farrar and Chet Walsh on the Gross side with an impressive 1 under par best ball score while Greg D'Antonio and Nick Lubold led the Net side with an even par 70. The entire team played excellent golf with Jeff Haas and Steve Stephens just 2 over on the Gross side and Jon Urbanski and Rich Sweeney 1 over on the Net.

New Jersey came close this year, led by the day's lowest Net score of 64 by Joe Kinlin and Jason Osterhoudt and a 1 under Net from Chris Boyle and Ian Kunesch. Last year's defending champion from Long Island finished in third place just 3 back of New Jersey with the team of Tim Falvey and Jake Reeves shooting the day's lowest gross score of 3 under, 67! On the Sponsor's side of the championship, Brian Giblin and Pat Crusty shot 5 under 65 to best the second-place team from Toro, Keith Kohlasch and Glen Dube.

This year was host Sean Cain's second MET Area Team Championship as he hosted the event in 2001 and first since the 1917 Seth Raynor gem had been redone by Mike DeVries in 2017. Mike built bold new greens on the finishing three holes that fit right into the existing design like they've always been there. The 17th is a completely new hole and the 18th an exciting finisher where any score is possible with the pressure of a championship on the line!

This year has been one of the wettest on record, including a couple inches of rain three days before the championship. Sean worked his magic though and had Sunningdale in tremendous conditions with picture perfect green surfaces rolling quickly and challenging even the best of players! Congratulations to Sean and his staff for providing championship conditions on a beautiful old classic!

This year with your support we were able to make 3 donations to help folks in our industry through difficult times. Sean Cain's employee, Otoniel Feliz Samboy suffered a tragedy no parent wants to go through when his 1-year-old son was fatally involved with a daycare in New York. We raised \$2,500 at this year's championship to donate to Otoniel's family. Two assistants from the Pocono Association's Fox Hill Golf Club were involved in a serious accident this summer when heavy rain washed out a local bridge and the two drove over together and suffered serious injuries. We were able to donate \$1,000 each to John Polak and Joe Colangelo to help with their medical bills. Thanks to all who donated so generously to the 50/50's over the years!!

Once again, the Met Area Team Championship is generously supported by our 7 major sponsors who continue to step up to make this one of the best events across the country! Please join me in thanking Allied Nutrients, BASF, Envu, Ocean Organics, Plant Food, Syngenta and Toro as they continue to support this fantastic event.

Thanks again to all our sponsors, Sean Cain and his entire staff, and all the folks at Sunningdale CC for another successful championship! A special thank you to our local GCSSA representative Kevin Doyle for help with registration and our resident photographer Shaun Barry for the great photos that can be found at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAZefp>. We look forward to seeing everyone next year, so stay tuned for announcements.



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November - December 2023

Serving Our Members For 100 Years



Dear Member

We are surrounded by history in New England. So much so that we may take it for granted. Akin to our country's history, our American professional and golf roots were established here in New England. So, it should be no surprise that GCSANE is the second oldest chapter (missed out on #1 by two months) and that we will celebrate 100 years in our industry in 2024.

GCSANE is two years older than GCSAA, and our founding members helped lay the foundation for our national association. We have had multiple GCSAA presidents, and our Executive Director guided GCSAA during its expansion into its current headquarters. Our Chapter, led by many hall-of-fame-worthy people, has survived whatever the world has thrown at it: Recessions, Depressions, Wars, Pandemics, and everything in between. We continue to rely on Golf's MVPs (you) to chart our path forward and to continue to promote the great work we all do for the betterment of the game of golf and the open green spaces that we have successfully managed for a century. The hurdles and accomplishments of our members during the last 100 years deserve celebration and documentation.

The GCSANE Board is excited to announce the details of our two-prong approach to saluting our history and future.

First, the Centennial Book. It has been in development for one year and is close to completion. In many ways, the publication

of the book is essential not only for celebratory purposes but also to document our past accomplishments and stories for the future leaders and members of our association. We will distribute the book by the end of 2024 to every member and retiree at no cost.

Second, the Centennial Celebration. On Friday, November 8th, 2024, a formal event will be held at Peirce Farm at Witch Hill in Topsfield, MA. The venue is secured, and we are working toward completing the event details soon. This formal event will have a small placeholder fee, and you will be encouraged to bring your significant other. The location is a few miles from I95, and several hotels are nearby. Please keep an eye out for more details after the New Year.

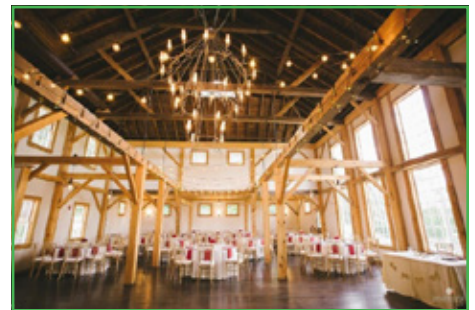
The GCSANE Board is honored and excited to celebrate the past and future of our association in 2024. While we are finalizing the book and celebration details, we will continue to work on our initiatives that advocate for our members and the betterment of our industry. You, the member, are essential to our association's short and long-term health and viability. We look forward to continuing to work hard for you in 2024 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Eric Richardson – GCSANE VP/
Centennial Chair

How GCSANE Began

After preliminary work and canvass of the Greenkeepers in the Greater Boston area by Mr. Thomas Fahey and Mr. Alec Brice, at that time Greenkeepers respectively at Winchester C.C. and Belmont Springs C.C., it was decided to hold a meeting looking toward some form of organization. From this meeting came a get-together dinner at Cottrelle's Restaurant in Boston on February 25, 1924. Forty-one Greenkeepers attended this dinner and at that time the Greenkeepers Club of New England was formed, a constitution adopted, and officers elected.



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November - December 2023



Assistant Superintendent Spotlight on Aidan O’Sullivan – The Country Club

Interviewed by Kyle Franey – Bass Rocks Golf Club

Where did you attend Turf School?

The University of Massachusetts Amherst

Previous jobs before TCC?

Greenhill Golf Course, Worcester MA- Assistant Superintendent
April 2017- November 2019

Whitinsville Golf Club, Northbridge MA - Intern / Crew Lead
June 2013- April 2019

What sparked your interest to pursue a career in turf management?

Working on a golf course starting at such a young age I enjoyed spending my time working outside, building relationships, and using my creativity. I believe this led to my passion for the industry and ultimately to where I am today.

Do you have a favorite job/task that you like to perform while on the golf course?

Projects. The instant gratification of making the property better and spending time with the crew working hard and having fun while doing it are some of my favorite times out on the property.

What is your favorite golf course?

Fishers Island

The Country Club hosted the 2022 US Open 18 months ago. Can you summarize what it’s like working at a property the year after hosting a major championship?

The USGA told us hosting a Championship is a lot like having thanksgiving dinner. Massive amounts of prep work and then out of nowhere, it’s all over. After hosting, most don’t realize this is when the heavy workload really begins. Structures and roads come down, the excitement is gone, and you are left with a golf course to restore to its prior state. Although it can be hard during the process, when all is said and done, and you look back at your work, it is an extremely gratifying experience.

With TCC being a 27-hole property and 9 holes being compromised for the event for parking, vendors, tents, etc., what was the biggest challenge you guys faced while trying to get the course back and ready to play for the TCC membership?

Some of the biggest challenges we faced were the level of disruption to the property from roadways that created high levels of compaction. We used this opportunity to not just bring the course back but make necessary improvements while we had 9 holes that were closed such as new bunker construction, doubling the size of the tees, and dredging 2 of the ponds on property. This closure and disruption gave us and the contractors the ability to use existing roadways from the open to haul material and to not have play disrupting the construction process.

Relieving compaction is an issue we are still actively attempting to minimize. We spent most of the last year sending out the



fairway deep tines every 2-3 weeks to try to help with this and are just now getting it to a place where these surfaces are performing better.

The USGA seemed very pleased with how the US Open went and have announced future events that will take place at TCC. What are those events and how soon will preparation begin for these events?

U.S. Girls' Junior Championship in 2030

The U.S. Amateur Golf Championship in 2034

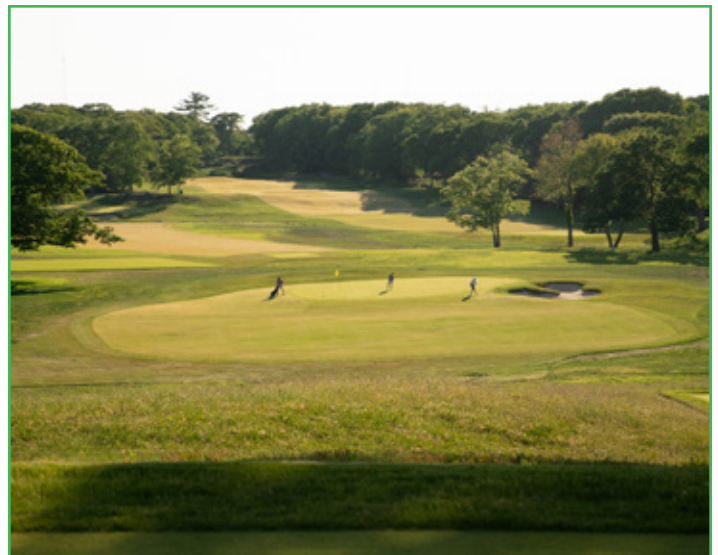
The U.S. Open in 2038

The U.S. Women's Open in 2045.

For The 2022 US Open we started our course preparation about 4 years in advance lengthening the course, adjusting fairway widths, rebuilding all the bunkers, and expanding greens. With the course now being ready to host future events and no major infrastructure changes needed to host more, I foresee our preparations for future events beginning 2-3 years in advance.

Hobbies and activities outside of work?

Outside of work I enjoy spending time with family and friends, watching sports, skiing and of course playing golf.



For The Season Is A-Changing



As we enter the end of the New England growing season, with short days and some cool weather starting to slip into our area, Mother Nature begins its own preparation for the coming changes. My squirrels look like Dough Boys wearing mink coats though I am not sure what that means. Leaves and irrigation systems have become the main focus, luckily the grass has slowed down. Some are already beginning to think of the 2024 Spring. Golf pros may have the luxury of shutting down and going to warmer areas, but for most of the green industry it is either snow service, 2024 preparation, repair, or project time with maybe some vacation time before the next green-up. It seems like we flip calendars all too fast, so planning is not optional, the earlier even the better. Time is flying, who can believe that GCSANE is already 100 years old!

As we look down the road, be it frozen or not, we are gearing up for our 27th New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show. Our 2024 Theme is: Reach for Success! Everyone in our business knows that to be successful, when it comes to turf management, you have to be on top of things, have a good staff, own the right tools, have adequate budgets, have good communication and a splash or two of good luck. So, we are hoping that you will find opportunities at this year's show to gain the information so the success you are seeking will be that much closer to your reach.

With the show everything is moving along at a quick pace. We have received a great response from our exhibitors concerning booth space. Last year we were wall to wall, and this year we may even be more crowded. We currently use about 70% of the available trade show space at the convention center. If we feel we want to expand we could move up to 85%, but then we would have to fill up another 45 booths. That is a lot of new space. Wouldn't we love to do

that! But, so far, we don't feel it would be in our best interests to commit, but we do feel we are in a good place! Even so, if you know anyone who wants to buy 45 booths, please let us know!

Education is coming along real nicely. Educators like coming to our show for the hospitality and the opportunity to share their information, we know it is not the weather! Rarely do we have a hard time filling an education spot. Good numbers of attendees that want to learn have a lot to do with it. In 2024, we have several speakers coming who have been here before and a few new faces. Dr. Jim Murphy, Rich Buckley, Dr. Bruce Clarke will all come up from New Jersey (Rutgers), Dr. Ben McGraw from PSU and Dr. Kevin Frank from Michigan State, Dr. Jim Kerns, NC State and Dr. Joe Roberts from Clemson will all be joining us. We also have Steve McDonald, Turfgrass Disease Solutions, Lori Hoffner, Supporting CommUnity, Jim Nedin and local Architect Mark Mungeam all doing seminars and others. Each year we try and use as many New England University speakers as possible, their local knowledge is essential, so we have many

that you all know. We have planned two full-day seminars for Grass Tennis and Cemeteries. We had a good response two years ago with these seminars along with many others, so we want to continue to provide all areas of the turf industry with an opportunity to collect information at our conference and show. We have two full days of Golf, Sports Turf, and Equipment Technician education as well as a full day for Lawn Care and Landscape education adding to our trade show on Wednesday and Thursday. That all adds up to more than 83 hours of education and 13 hours of trade show during the three days plus of endless networking opportunities all within your reach!

We hope that you are excited to make a plan for our three-day conference and show. We encourage everyone to come and enjoy the time and take advantage of some of the activities we have planned like the auction and the receptions. To report, in 2023 our auction raised more than \$31,000 for turfgrass research. It is a fun time with friendly competition, we invoice your company and arrange delivery of the products, making it as easy as we can for you. Our Auctioneer



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Kevin Bruneau, who donates his time for us, is a lot of fun. Each year we always get wonderful donations from our exhibitors, all of them are good turf management products and sometimes game tickets for some of the sports teams in Boston and Providence show up. This year we hope to add a few twists to the auction to make it even more interesting and entertaining. So, we hope you will come out and be a part of the fun, part of the celebration, part of the learning, part of the net-working and part of the "Reaching for Success" at our 27th Annual 2024 New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show March 5-7, 2024! Registration will open December 15th at NERTF.org! FYI-The Spring of 2024 will be here before we know it!

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Why You Should Get To Know Your Legislator

Greg Cormier/ GCSANE Gov't Relations Committee

Government Relations on the local and national level are becoming more and more important. The Green Industry that we are all part of and so passionate about, needs your help to protect it. Golf Course Superintendents along with turf managers and all professionals in the Green Industry are experts at managing these outdoor recreational green spaces.

Most of the legislators in office are not experts in our field, and many of them know absolutely nothing about the value our industry brings to each and every community. The industry needs your help.

We all need to meet our legislators and develop a relationship with them so that we can be a resource of information for them. They want to be educated and they want to hear from stakeholders on the topics that affect our industry. Once you have a relationship built they will hopefully trust your opinion when it comes to supporting or opposing any new legislation that could impact our industry and livelihoods.

The best thing you could do is to invite them out to your golf course and educate them on how you protect the environment by

managing water, testing water and soils, providing wildlife habitat ect.

The links below will help guide you to find who your legislators are and how contact them. At the very least we should all make appointments to meet them when they have office hours in or near the town we live in.

If you want to become more involved in Government Relations on the local or national level please contact:

Eric Richardson- Essex County Club- GCSANE Government Relations Chairman

Kevin Doyle- GCSAA Field Representative

Links to find your legislator:

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

All states

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While the recent focus on pesticide products such as neonicotinoids has raged on at the state level, the federal government settled a lawsuit that may significantly alter the way we utilize pesticides in the golf industry. As with so many changes in the regulatory environment, GCSAA's Government Affairs team has been on top of the situation, quick to develop

a valuable webinar to get you up to speed and continues to communicate with regulators keeping golf course superintendents at the table. This outreach is not meant to panic our industry or shock superintendents into action. Simply put, by early 2024 use of many registered products could be quite different, and the information below will help you understand why, and educate you on the potential changes coming your way.

EPA's release begins with the statement below:

EPA Resolves Longstanding Litigation to Protect Endangered Species, Ensure Pesticides That Feed and Fuel America Remain Available

Released on September 14, 2023

This week, the U.S. Department of Justice, on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) resolved longstanding litigation covering over 1,000 pesticide products, allowing EPA to fulfill its obligations to protect endangered species while conducting reviews and approvals of pesticides in a safe and protective manner.

In 2011, the Center for Biological Diversity and Pesticide Action Network (Plaintiffs) filed a complaint in Federal Court in California against EPA alleging that it was violating the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when it registered or reevaluated the registration of 382 pesticide active ingredients, which was ultimately reduced to 35 active ingredients covering

over 1,000 pesticide products containing one or more of these active ingredients. This became known as the "megasuit" because of the number of pesticides it covered. The settlement entered by the Court this week resolves all outstanding claims.

The plaintiff in the "megasuit", Center for Biological Diversity, released (in part) the following:

Agreement Ends Decades of Pesticide Office Refusing to Comply with Endangered Species Act

SAN FRANCISCO— A historic legal agreement approved in federal district court yesterday afternoon commits the Environmental Protection Agency to a suite of proposed reforms to better protect endangered species from pesticides. The settlement, which covers more than 300 pesticide active ingredients, marks the culmination of the largest Endangered Species Act case ever filed against the EPA.

Under the agreement's terms, the EPA will develop strategies to reduce the harm to endangered species from broad groups of pesticides, including herbicides and insecticides, while taking further steps to target meaningful, on-the-ground protections to endangered species most vulnerable to harm from pesticides.

These measures to reduce pesticide harms will benefit endangered species and humans alike, as these chemicals are linked to severe health harms in farmworkers and rural communities.

"Pesticides take a devastating toll on imperiled wildlife and are a driving factor in the current insect apocalypse," said Jonathan Evans, environmental health legal director at the Center for Biological Diversity. "After decades of inaction in the face of terrible harms, the EPA is now committed to much needed actions to protect endangered species, and with the judicial oversight necessary to ensure that changing political winds don't wipe out lifesaving progress."

Today's legal agreement requires the EPA to develop a strategy



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to better protect endangered species from herbicides by 2024 and insecticides by 2025. The EPA recently released the draft herbicide strategy for public comment. The settlement also requires the EPA to address the harms of eight especially hazardous organophosphate insecticides on endangered species by 2027.

This didn't happen overnight. Lawsuits against the government for not acting upon the Endangered Species Act have piled up for DOZENS of years. Unfortunately, actionable items as it pertains to the settlement of said lawsuits seemingly WILL happen overnight.

When it comes to pesticides...**The Label is the Law.** So if we harken back to middle school math, if the Law changes...therefore the label changes. How that label changes may alter how and where you can use many registered pesticides.

From amphibians to insects, fish, birds, mollusks, and mammals, 173 species of animals and 259 species of plants are protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act as of 2020, and in Rhode Island there are ten federally listed species. The location of those habitats is paramount to the future use of products in those areas. Is your golf course within a habitat of any of those species?

There are EPA pilot programs currently being crafted to bring the agency into compliance with that settlement agreement. Concerns relating to the use of products in the golf course maintenance industry are already being voiced and resources to help you understand this freight train of change are available NOW!

GCSAA's webinar, "Endangered Species Act Workplan and Pilot Projects 101" outlines much of the above and provides the most up-to-date issues facing the golf course maintenance industry in regard to the EPA-ESA settlement. The future fall out is complex, somewhat unclear, and happening extremely quickly. On your next frosty morning follow the steps below and watch the webinar.

- GCSAA.org – Education tab – My Learning Hub – red button "Enter Learning Hub"
- Under "Courses", right side menu find "Government Affairs" – scroll and find "Endangered Species Act Workplan and Pilot Projects 101"

[Again, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.](#)

Kevin Doyle

GCSAA Field Staff

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240 Griswold Road
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Kathy Arcari (401) 639-5462
karcari@windingbrookturf.net

www.windingbrookturf.com

Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England

The Newsletter—Rate Schedule

THE NEWSLETTER DISPLAY ADVERTISING ORDER FORM

Company Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email: _____

Issues (List month or months of publications where we will publish your ad): _____

Amount of payment: _____

Payment can be made by check payable to GCSANE or by credit card using the Pay Pal link on the home page of the Association's website at gcsane.org. You do not need a Pay Pal account to use your credit card.

<u>Member Rates:</u>	Monthly Rate	3 Times Per Yr. (Save 5%)	6 Times Per Yr. (Save 10%)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 page (vertical; 3.75" wide x 5" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 285.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 540.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 page (horizontal; 7.5" wide x 5" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 165.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 470.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 890.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (vertical; 7.5" wide x 10" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 220.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 630.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1190.00
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 page (vertical; 3.75" wide x 5" deep)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 130.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 370.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 700.00
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*** Deadline for ads:** *The first of the month for that month's issue.*

Ad Preparation Specifications:

File Specifications for Ads Supplied in Digital Format: Files should be created at 300dpi at the correct size for that ad. Formats preferred are JPG and PDF. Full color is available with all ads. Please send ads to Don Hearn at the email address below. The newsletter is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

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