



# THE NEWSLETTER

April 2006

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

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## **Ever mindful of history, Dave Comee aims to preserve classic Donald Ross layout at Winchendon School G.C.**

**By Dave Nordman**

When debating the best Donald Ross layouts in New England, Worcester, Essex, and Salem Country Clubs often top the list.

The Winchendon School Golf Club? Well, it often doesn't even make the list.

### **MONTHLY FEATURE**

According to the Donald Ross Society, the transplanted Scotsman designed or redesigned 413 courses in the United States, but the organization does not recognize Winchendon.

"I don't know why that is, I have discussed the matter with the society on a few occasions, but nothing has changed," says Dave Comee, the club's superintendent since Aug. 20, 1979.

One reason might be the club's many name changes. It has been called the Tow Town Tavern, The Treadway Inn, Simplex Country Club, and now The Winchendon School Golf Club. "We probably got lost in all of the changes."

During its heyday as the Treadway Inn it was a summertime destination for the upper-class from Boston and New York.

Winchendon School G.C. is located off Route 12 just north of Gardner, measures just 5500 yards, and draws most of its play from North Central Massachusetts and the Monadnock region of New Hampshire.

"We're off the beaten path, and we don't advertise much, so many people who aren't from the area don't know we're here," says Comee, a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Stockbridge. A lifelong Gardner

resident, Comee grew up around the corner from former GCSANE president Michael Hermanson, the longtime superintendent at Gardner Municipal. They learned to play the game of golf on a homemade course around and between their houses.

A coffee can in the ground for one hole, a clothes line post for the next, and maybe the corner of a garage for the next. Comee reminisces, "It was fun, kept us out of trouble, and only an occasional broken window. Mike never could hit it straight, and still can't."

According to Comee, the first nine holes at the Winchendon School G.C. were built around 1892, but Ross plowed over most of the original tees, greens, and fairways, and expanded the layout to 18 holes in 1926.

The result is classic Ross – tight, rolling, tree-lined fairways, and small, pushup greens sloping from back to

front, very few larger than 4000 sq. ft. Like most superintendents at Ross courses, Comee has done his best to preserve these features, while enlarging almost every tee and improving Winchendon's overall condition.

"We are very mindful of the course's history," Comee says. "The layout hasn't changed much."

Instead of making substantial changes to the course, Comee has worked hard to create better definition between the fairways and rough, while installing an automated irrigation system, in house, on all but seven holes. "I was advised not to attempt the irrigation project myself, but I didn't listen. I didn't see it as being all that difficult. Another lesson learned. When the time comes, someone else will complete the project."

"When I first started here, everything but the greens were cut with the same Jacobson F10," Comee says. "If the terrain allowed access with the F-10, the grass was cut. If not, it was allowed to grow. We had two Jake walking greens mowers, and a couple of rotaries and blue tractor and a flail mower. That was about it. I did what I could, made a few changes aesthetically, and most members were happy."

The golf club's relationship with the Winchendon School presents its own set of challenges for Comee and his crew of four full-time, year-round employees. They are responsible for the exterior of the entire 320-acre campus, not just the 110-acre golf course. That includes maintaining and preparing three

**"People are surprised after playing the course for the first time. They see it's only 5500 yards and think it's going to be a walk in the park, but it's not."**

**Dave Comee  
Winchendon School G.C.**

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athletic fields, keeping up the school's tennis courts and swimming pool, and maintaining all of the school's vehicles.

"It's a huge undertaking," Comee says. "We're very busy."

The golf club's old pro shop used to double as the school store until a new shop and dining facility were built a few years ago. "The new digs are very nice."

"The basic design hasn't changed much," Comee says. "Sure, we'd love to make it longer, but there's just no room." Comee thinks the private prep school which owns the course could do well if it promoted the Donald Ross design.

The 18th hole – a 165-yard, par-3 over a large ravine – is a gem of a finishing hole. Still, the golf club did over 25,000 rounds last year.

"People are surprised after playing the course for the first time," Comee says. "They see it's only 5500 yards and think it's going to be a walk in the park, but it's not. Sure, you're hitting a driver, and quite often a wedge to the green, but the greens can look like the size of a dinner plate. Leave your ball above the hole in August and sometimes you're happy with a three putt. First time players walk away shaking their heads. It's a challenge and fun at the same time." 🏌️

**"We are very mindful of the course's history. The layout hasn't changed much."**

**Dave Comee  
Winchendon School G.C.**

## CALENDAR . . .

- May 8 **Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament**  
Wachusett Country Club  
West Boylston, Mass.  
Host: Donald J. Marrone, Jr., CGCS
- June 16 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**  
The Meadows at Peabody  
Peabody, Mass.  
Host: Richard Duggan, CGCS
- June 21 **UMass Turf Research Field Day**  
University of Massachusetts  
Joseph Troll Turf Research Center  
South Deerfield, Mass.
- July 10 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**  
Juniper Hills Golf Course  
Northborough, Mass.  
Host: Thomas L. Ackley, CGCS
- August 22 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting Individual Championship**  
Marlborough Country Club  
(permanent yearly site)  
Marlborough, Mass.  
Host: Kenneth Crimmings, CGCS
- Sept. 18 **Superintendent / Club Official Tournament**  
Winchester Country Club  
Winchester, Mass.  
Host: Dennis Houle
- Oct. 2 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**  
Vesper Country Club  
Tyngsboro, Mass.  
Host: Donald E. Hearn, CGCS
- Oct. 23 **Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Education Fundraiser**  
Westchester Country Club  
Westchester, N.Y.  
Host: Joseph Alonzi, CGCS
- Nov. 6 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting 9-Hole Meeting**  
Harmon Golf  
Rockland, Mass.  
Host: Christopher Tufts
- Nov. 15 & 16 **GCSAA Seminars**  
Cyprian Keyes Golf Club  
Boylston, Mass.

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# Getting to know Ouimet Society & Mass. Golf Assn. is worthwhile, says GCSANE President Kriksceonaitis

Dear Members,

Spring has come and we are all multitasking. We've always done this but it's only recently that a name has been put to it. Winter projects are being finished. Spring projects are starting. The turf is starting to get mowed. New staff members are being trained. Equipment and fertilizer are being delivered to dozens of places each day, all the while that demo's are being shown to the managers who just recently got approval for the purchase. Ah, springtime in the golf business.

In addition to our own little personal hectic schedule, I thought you should know a little about two of our allied organizations which are a big part of our business and work just as hard as we do. They are the Ouimet Society and the Massachusetts Golf Association.



Both allow our association's president to sit on their executive boards.

The Ouimet is a group of hard working people dedicated to providing scholarships to people who work in the golf industry. Their selected profession could be in any chosen field. What started out as a scholarship fund for caddies now includes caddies, golf staff, and grounds staff. Anyone who has worked on a course for two seasons is eligible. Last year a million dollars was given to students. This year the goal is \$1.2 million. The money is raised in several different ways, but there is one common denominator: each fund raising activity is run by a group of hard working people. Over 90% of all donations go to scholarships. The overhead is kept to a minimum. The bag tag program has 100% of the money raised used for scholarships. If you want to be part of a worthwhile cause, give the society a call.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The MGA is the organization that administers the game of golf in the Commonwealth. Whether it is rating your course, running the many different state events, bringing youngsters into the game via the first tee program, or helping with ruling decisions, the MGA is the silent partner behind the scenes.

The impression I get from attending their board meetings is that both organizations have a great deal of respect for what we do for the game and are appreciative. If you have a question for either group give them a call. They are more than willing to help. If you'd like to get a message to them you can call direct or give me a call and I'll relay the message. The more we work together the stronger we all are.

Good luck in the upcoming season.

**Pat Kriksceonaitis**  
**President,**  
**Golf Course Superintendents**  
**Association of New England**

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The Alumni Turf Group presents  
the 3rd Annual

# Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Education Fundraiser

October 23, 2006

Westchester Country Club  
Rye, New York  
Joseph Alonzi, CGCS, Host

Entry forms, additional information for this event,  
and ATG information are available online at  
[www.alumniturfgroup.com](http://www.alumniturfgroup.com)

The field is limited to the first 248 players that sign up.



# Turf physiologist Dr. Michelle DaCosta will join UMass Turf Program staff in September 2006

**By Peter Venemen  
Department Head,  
Plant & Soil Sciences,  
University of Massachusetts**

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Michelle DaCosta has agreed to join us as a turf physiologist starting on September 1, 2006. We think that she will be an excellent addition to our turf program and are looking forward having her as a colleague. The following is a brief summary of Dr. DeCosta's experience and accomplishments.

Dr. Michelle DaCosta graduated with a B.S. degree from Rutgers University (2000, with honors) and recently completed her Ph.D. degree, also from Rutgers University. Her dissertation was entitled *Physiological and Morphological Characteristics Associated with Drought Resistance in Bentgrass Species*. Her major advisor was Professor Bingru Huang, a well-known turf physiologist.

Dr. DaCosta, although just starting her academic career, has already published two book chapters, two refereed publications, and has another two papers in press, and two in review. She has published 12 abstracts, six technical reports, and made presentations at nine scientific and 12 outreach meetings.

Dr. DaCosta has considerable experience with both field and laboratory research, as well as with fundamental and applied research, but she recognizes the importance of relating

her research objectives to the needs of the turfgrass industry. She has excellent teaching credentials, performing the duties of teaching assistant for several courses. Her references spoke very highly about her abilities as a teacher and public speaker. While a student she won second place in both the graduate student oral and poster competitions in the C-5 Division of the Crop Science Society of America in 2002, and placed first in both categories in 2003.

Dr. DaCosta will start her employment at UMass on September 1, 2006, and she is planning on attending the UMass Turf Field Day on June 21, 2006. ■

Dr. DaCosta has considerable experience with both field and laboratory research, as well as with fundamental and applied research, but she recognizes the importance of relating her research objectives to the needs of the turfgrass industry.

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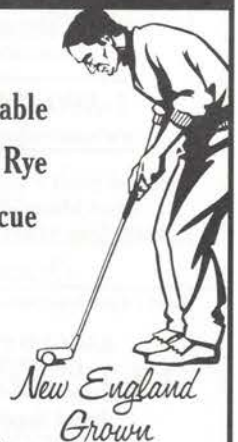
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# Westchester C.C. set to host UMass Turf Program fund raising tournament Oct. 23, 2006 in Rye., N.Y.

Westchester Country Club in Rye, New York, will host the third annual Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Education Fundraiser,

**UMASS NEWS**

sponsored by the Alumni Turf Group and the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendent's Association. The event will take place on October 23, 2006. Joseph Alonzi, CGCS, is the host superintendent.

This year's tournament honoree is Edward C. "Ted" Horton, CGCS. Horton learned his craft under the wing of last year's honoree, Sherwood Moore, CGCS, at Winged Foot, then took over as superintendent. After 14 years he moved to Westchester, where he oversaw a complete renovation of the facility. In 1993, as superintendent for Pebble Beach, Inc., Horton moved into the national spotlight again, this time as an environmental steward, winning several awards and forming the historic "Golf and the Environment Summit," a landmark meeting between golf and environmental groups.

"It is an absolute thrill to be able to honor Mr. Horton," said Steve Curry, President of the Alumni Turf Group.

"To put this into further perspective, it is remarkable that a venue such as Westchester Country Club and a group such as the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association are hosting this year's Joseph Troll Fundraiser. This gives clarity to the magnitude of Ted's success and the importance of this event."

Of the award, Curry stated: "This will continue a great annual tradition of honoring inspirational and accomplished alumni of the turf programs at the University of Massachusetts. In this case, it is especially poignant that he is

the next honoree after his mentor, Mr. Moore."

The fundraiser was initiated in 2004 as a means to raise money for the new Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Research Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The Alumni Turf Group has continued the fundraising efforts to support the turf program at the University. Last year, the event was held at Cape Cod National Golf Club and raised in excess of \$45,000.

The Alumni Turf Group (ATG), formed in 2005, is made up of turf professionals who are graduates of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and the University of Massachusetts. Through fundraising, ATG hopes to further research and education, promote UMass alumni in the turf management profession, and instill pride and commitment in the turf programs at the University of Massachusetts.

Entry forms, additional information for this event, and ATG information are available at [www.alumniturfgroup.com](http://www.alumniturfgroup.com).

**This year's tournament honoree is Edward C. "Ted" Horton, CGCS.**

## 14th Annual Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament

**Monday, May 8, 2006  
Wachusett Country Club  
West Boylston, Mass.**

In Memory of Leroy Allen  
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Host Superintendents:  
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# Some new products – and an old practice – to consider working into your own Canada Goose control program

by Mark Gagne,  
Editor, *The Newsletter*

I will admit to trying a number of tactics when it comes to controlling the Canada Goose from damaging our golf course.

## PEST CONTROL

Over the years, we have used coyote decoys, floating alligator heads, fishing line strung around the pond, grape irritants sprayed on the turf, pyrotechnics, and of course, goose chasing dogs. Each tactic seemed to work well for a period of time and each has its pros and cons. A multi-pronged approach that keeps the geese guessing seems to provide the best results. With this in mind, the latest in geese control technology is available for your consideration.

*AwayWithGeese.com* offers a device that floats in your pond and emits a blinking light that the manufacturer claims, "is barely noticeable by golfers, especially during the day. However, the light is extremely unnerving to geese, as they are very critical about their nesting areas and choose to not reside by a consistent annoyance". The manufacturer goes on to state "the unit disrupts geese sleep patterns, causing them to move to another pond, and one unit will cover three acres of unobstructed area". The light is solar-powered, works 24/7, and can be purchased on the web site for \$335 (including shipping and handling) per unit.

Another new product that uses laser light to scare the geese is the Avian Dissuader®, by SEA Technology. The Avian Dissuader® is a handheld gun that emits a red laser light beam, designed to

be used between dusk and dawn, to deny birds their desired roost. Forcing birds to a different overnight roost usually means that they go somewhere else to forage during the day. SEA Tech claims, "Simply point the Dissuader in the general direction of the birds you are targeting. The reflection of the beam spot off of foliage, water, or even other birds is what frightens them away. Once the roost is completely clear, the birds will not normally return that night."

Field testing by SEA Tech has shown that three-to-seven nights of using the laser to deny the desired roost has a substantial impact on subsequent daytime and nighttime population. How often the laser must be used to control the targeted population depends on species, location, and other dynamics such as alternative roosting sites and/or alternative food sources. "Generally though, after introducing the laser for sufficient nights to break the roost, the birds will leave and only send their 'scouts' back periodically to see if the roost is now OK. Re-introducing the

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Over the years, we have used coyote decoys, floating alligator heads, fishing line strung around the pond, grape irritants sprayed on the turf, pyrotechnics, and, of course, goose-chasing dogs.

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Perhaps the most effective control of geese is to prevent them from reproducing on your site.

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laser to these 'scouts' will prevent the flock from returning." The manufacturer claims that field-testing by customers and the USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services have not shown any tendency of nocturnal birds to learn to ignore the laser. However, SEA Tech advises that "The Dissuader is most effective when used in conjunction with another tactic such as pyrotechnics, dogs, etc."

I know of at least one golf course on the South Shore that is using the Avian Dissuader with positive results. The unit retails for around \$1000 and is distributed by Lazaro's Golf Course Supplies & Accessories.

Perhaps the most effective control of geese is to prevent them from reproducing on your site. The adding of goose eggs is considered to be a humane prevention method. Adding is a process by which an egg ceases to be viable, and involves treating the eggs by oiling, freezing, shaking, or puncturing and replacing the eggs in the nest. As we all know, the U.S. government has in its infinite wisdom, determined that the Canada Goose is a federally protected migratory bird species. Interested parties may apply for a bird depredation permit through the Department of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The cost of the permit is \$100 annually, and applicants will be required to justify the need to control geese on their site. Once obtained, permittees are required to follow specific protocols for adding and submit an annual report on activities performed.

**Note:** *The Newsletter* and GCSANE do not endorse the devices and practices outlined above. We make this information available as it may be of interest to our members. Best of luck in your quest to control the Canada Goose. 🍷



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# 2006 Meeting Dates for the New England Chapters of Golf Course Superintendent Associations

Includes the following chapters:

Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Golf Course Managers Association of Cape Cod, Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association, New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents Association, Northeastern Golf Course Superintendents Association, Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association, and Vermont Golf Course Superintendents Association

Date	Place	Association
May 1, 2006	Taconic Golf Club	Northeastern GCSA
May 8, 2006	Wachusett Country Club (S&B Tournament)	GCSA of New England
May 15, 2006	Marshfield Country Club (S&R Tournament)	GCMA of Cape Cod
May 15, 2006	Stonington Country Club	Connecticut Association of GCS
May 16, 2006	The Oaks	New Hampshire GCSA & Maine GCSA
May 22, 2006	Vermont National Golf Course	Vermont GCSA & Northeastern GCSA
May 23, 2006	Foster Country Club	Rhode Island GCSA
June 12, 2006	Manchester Country Club	Vermont GCSA
June 13, 2006	Falmouth Country Club	Maine GCSA
June 15, 2006	Bass River Golf Course	GCMA of Cape Cod
June 16, 2006	The Meadows at Peabody	GCSA of New England
June 19, 2006	Mill River Country Club	Connecticut Association of GCS
June 21, 2006	Country Club of New Hampshire	New Hampshire GCSA
June 21, 2006	UMass Turf Research Field Day	University of Massachusetts
June 26, 2006	Colonie Country Club (Fundraiser)	Northeastern GCSA
July 10, 2006	Juniper Hills Golf Course	GCSA of New England
July 10, 2006	Christman's Windham House	Northeastern GCSA
July 11, 2006	Riverside G.C.	Maine GCSA
July 17, 2006	Country Club of Barre	Vermont GCSA
July 18, 2006	Poquoy Brook Golf Club (Rho-Cod Cup)	GCMA of Cape Cod & Rhode Island GCSA
July 24, 2006	Wintonbury Hills Golf Course	Connecticut Association of GCS
July 31, 2006	Salem Country Club	Connecticut Assn. of GCS & MetGCSA
August 8, 2006	Toddy Brook and ValHalla (Field Day)	Maine GCSA
August 8, 2006	Great River Golf Club	Connecticut Association of GCS
August 10, 2006	Twin Brooks Golf Course	GCMA of Cape Cod
August 15, 2006	Haystack Golf Course	Vermont GCSA
August 22, 2006	Marlborough Country Club	GCSA of New England
August 23, 2006	Fairways at Halfmoon (Jr. Golf Championship)	Northeastern GCSA
August 23, 2006	URI 75th Annual Turfgrass Field Day	University of Rhode Island
September 13, 2006	Stadium Golf Club	Northeastern GCSA
September 18, 2006	Winchester Country Club	GCSA of New England
September 25, 2006	Connecticut Golf Club	Connecticut Association of GCS
September 27, 2006	The Woodlands (S&R Tournament)	Maine GCSA
September 28, 2006	White Cliffs Country Club	GCMA of Cape Cod
October 2, 2006	Vesper Country Club	GCSA of New England
October 3, 2006	Agawam Hunt (S&R Tournament)	Rhode Island GCSA
October 3, 2006	Capital Hills at Albany Golf Club (Annual Meeting)	Northeastern GCSA
October 3, 2006	Hop Meadow Country Club (S&R Tournament)	Connecticut Association of GCS
October 11, 2006	Ekwanod Country Club (Annual Meeting)	Vermont GCSA
October 12, 2006	Cape Arundel Golf Club	Maine GCSA
October 23, 2006	Westchester C.C. - Joseph Troll Fundraiser	Alumni Turf Group
October 26, 2006	Oyster Harbors Club	GCMA of Cape Cod
November 1, 2006	Rock Ridge Country Club (Annual Meeting)	Connecticut Association of GCS
November 6, 2006	Harmon Golf	GCSA of New England
November 9, 2006	Pinehills Golf Club (Annual Meeting)	GCMA of Cape Cod
November 14, 2006	Sable Oaks Golf Club	Maine GCSA
December 12, 2006	Portland Country Club (Annual Meeting)	Maine GCSA



# Bayer Environmental Science announces Nema-cur phase-out

In 2002, Bayer Environmental Science and the Environmental Protection Agency reached an agreement for the phase-out of Nema-cur products in the turf industry. Due to the efforts of golf course superintendent associations, a long-term phase-out plan was agreed upon instead of immediate removal of Nema-cur from the market.

As a result of the agreement, the long-term Nema-cur phase-out will occur as

described in the three steps below:

(1) As of May 31, 2007, Bayer will be prohibited from selling or distributing existing Nema-cur stock.

(2) The sale and distribution of existing Nema-cur stock by persons other than Bayer (i.e., distributors) may continue until May 31, 2008.

(3) The use of Nema-cur stock in trade channels may continue until depleted (even after May 31, 2008), except where prohibited by the label. ■

**PESTICIDE  
UPDATE**

Due to the efforts of golf course superintendent associations, a long-term phase-out plan was agreed upon instead of immediate removal of Nema-cur from the market.

Due to the efforts of golf course superintendent associations, a long-term phase-out plan was agreed upon instead of immediate removal of Nema-cur from the market.

## GCSANE Family Night Out

**Wednesday, August 30, 2006  
Campanelli Stadium  
One Fineberg Way  
Brockton, Mass.**

The Brockton Rox play in the Canadian-American Association of Professional Baseball. Visit with KO, the Rox Mascot and enjoy a night out with your family. The Rox picnic pavilion is located over the right field wall. Enjoy a pre-game, all-you-can-eat cookout with your family and friends and a night out at the ballpark.

**Rox Picnic Menu.** Enjoy the great taste of an all-American cuisine including hot dogs, hamburgers, BBQ chicken, potato salad, baked beans, cookies, tea, and lemonade.

**Schedule:**

6:05 pm .....Gates open & picnic begins  
7:05 pm .....Rox vs. Worcester Tornadoes

**Cost:**

\$20.00 per person includes picnic & ticket.  
Send your check made out to GCSANE to:

**Pat Daly  
Framingham Country Club  
P. O. Box 2284  
Framingham, MA 01703-2284**

## Plan now for 2006 GCSANE Newsletter advertising



### ADVERTISING RATE SCHEDULE

AD SIZE	SIZE SPECIFICATIONS	MONTHLY RATE	4 TIMES PER YEAR RATE (Save 5%)	6 TIMES PER YEAR RATE (Save 10%)	8 TIMES PER YEAR RATE (Save 10%)	ANNUAL RATE (Save 17% (cost of two issues!))
<b>Member/Friend/Affiliate Rates:</b>						
1/6 page	(vertical; 2.375" wide x 4.5" deep)	\$125.00	\$475.00	\$675.00	\$900.00	\$1250.00
1/6 page	(horizontal; 5.06" wide x 2.125" deep)	\$125.00	\$475.00	\$675.00	\$900.00	\$1250.00
1/3 page	(horizontal; 5.06" wide x 4.5" deep)	\$200.00	\$760.00	\$1080.00	\$1440.00	\$2000.00
1/2 page	(horizontal; 7.75" wide x 4.5" deep)	\$250.00	\$950.00	\$1350.00	\$1800.00	\$2500.00
Full page	(vertical; 7.75" wide x 9.25" deep)	\$500.00	\$1900.00	\$2700.00	\$3600.00	\$5000.00
Insert	(separate sheet; 8.5" wide x 11.0 deep)	\$500.00	\$1900.00	\$2700.00	\$3600.00	\$5000.00
<b>Non-Member Rates: (All payments must be received in full before the ad appears in The Newsletter.)</b>						
1/6 page	(vertical; 2.375" wide x 4.5" deep)	\$150.00	\$570.00	\$810.00	\$1080.00	\$1500.00
1/6 page	(horizontal; 5.06" wide x 2.125" deep)	\$150.00	\$570.00	\$810.00	\$1080.00	\$1500.00
1/3 page	(horizontal; 5.06" wide x 4.5" deep)	\$240.00	\$912.00	\$1296.00	\$1728.00	\$2400.00
1/2 page	(horizontal; 7.75" wide x 4.5" deep)	\$300.00	\$1140.00	\$1620.00	\$2160.00	\$3000.00
Full page	(vertical; 7.75" wide x 9.25" deep)	\$600.00	\$2280.00	\$3240.00	\$4320.00	\$6000.00
Insert	(separate sheet; 8.5" wide x 11.0 deep)	\$600.00	\$2280.00	\$3240.00	\$4320.00	\$6000.00

For more information about The Newsletter's advertising program, please contact  
Julie Heston, GCSANE Business Manager,  
by phone at 401-934-3677 or by e-mail at [jheston@verizon.net](mailto:jheston@verizon.net).



# Record attendance for pre-conference seminars at New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show

By Gary Sykes,  
Executive Director, NERTF

The Ninth Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show was held March 6-9 at the R.I. Convention Center in Providence.

If weather was ever a concern it wasn't at all a factor for those who did attend this year's show! That must have been a record in its own. With each year, weather has always seemed to be an issue with making a negative impact on at least one day, but not in 2006!

With the cooperation of the weather, numbers were at an all-time high for pre-conference seminar attendance. More than 280 seminar attendees experienced topics from "old school" Weed Management to the cyber world of PowerPoint 2003 training. Agronomic topics on green speed and bunker maintenance, along with basic management skills training rounded out the most extensive seminar schedule

ever offered prior to the three-day trade show and education conference.

Tuesday's dry and cool weather helped attendees get in place to hear a diverse set of topics during the USGA morning session. Handicap accessibility, growing the game, and course rating were topics touched upon by morning speakers. In the afternoon, as numbers continued to grow, topics were aimed at anyone that may be concerned with playability and maintenance operation challenges of the golf course. Even successful tree removal programs (hooray!), were touched upon by USGA agronomist Jim Skorulski.

The session was capped off by a very unique Martyn Jones of the National Turfgrass Foundation in Preston, England, who taught and entertained everyone with his great wit and humor on the true history of golf.

Concluding the day was the well-tanned Hall of Fame Pitcher Dennis Eckersley, who shared many personal stories about his career and life's challenges. All I can say is, if any of us were blessed with the ability to throw a ball as good as Dennis was, we'd probably be sporting a great tan in March just like him! Dennis grew up in California, and spent most of his career out of the Boston area. However, he still lives in Hopkinton, Mass. during the warm months, proving once again that when you have played in Boston, you never really want to leave! The completion of Dennis' remarks signaled the trade show opening as scheduled. A busy show floor with some tasty food for the next three hours kicked everything into high gear.

Other highlights of this year's trade show and conference included two days of excellent speakers on golf, sports turf, equipment technicians, and lawn & landscape management. Drs. Peter Dernoeden (U. of Maryland), Marty Petrovic (Cornell), Fred Baxendale (U. of Nebraska), Nathaniel Mitkowski (URI), and John Kaminski (UConn), among others, participated in this year's education programs. Wednesday morning began with the UMass College of the Environment & Life Sciences-sponsored Alumni & Friends Breakfast,

and a video presentation on the dedication of the Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Research Building. URI hosted a lunch for friends and alumni of the URI Turf Program on Wednesday. The NERTF indoor driving range was a "hit" along with the Callaway Golf representatives, who were providing demo equipment and long drive prizes for longest drives each day.

At 4 p.m. Wednesday on the other end of the trade show floor, the second annual live auction was the talk of the floor with the masterful product introductions done by Manny Mihailides and Auctioneer Supremo Danny Calise. With help from Danny's point man; Bob "How Can I Get You To Up Your Bid" Gebo, bidding excitement and sometimes competition reached new heights and in the end, a new record of more than \$19,000 was raised for Turfgrass Research. A huge "Thank You" goes out to all companies and individuals who donated items for the auctions this year! Everyone who then wanted to gathered over at the Westin for the Conference Reception, sponsored by HTS and Syngenta. Needless to say the room was buzzing! Many exhibitors have commented that this year seemed to be the busiest year yet for the trade show.

The weather continued to cooperate through and into Thursday, and many arrived early to attend the last day of education and trade show floor activity. More informative sessions on fertility and turfgrass stress management,

*continued on page 9*

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## NERTF NEWS

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## Turf Show Report

continued from page 8

concluding with a seminar on Communicating with the Environmental Community. Three-and-a-half days of continuous turfgrass education, product discussions, and socializing was coming to a close and the only thing left to do was . . . yup . . . have the foundation president Jim Hodge pull the raffle ticket for the 27" Sony Trinitron that was sponsored by The Anderson's Company. A sense of accomplishment was settling in among our show management staff. And the winner is . . . Al Choiniere of the Country Club of Vermont! Al found out in the same week that not only did he win the grand prize, but he also landed a new job as the golf course superintendent of the Champlain Country Club. Congratulations to Al. Many thanks to everyone who had a part in making this year's show another success!

The New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show has enjoyed much success for more than nine years as a great example of professionalism and cooperation within the New England turfgrass industry. The foundation is an asset to the New England turfgrass industry and continues to grow in many ways. The foundation continues to be guided by a board of directors appointed by the nine associations who make up the membership of the foundation. The mission is to improve turfgrass conditions here in the New England states. Through cooperation of the turfgrass researchers in New England, the proceeds generated by the trade show and conference are used to fund research projects that would have the greatest impact for the local turfgrass managers. These funds strengthen the turfgrass programs in New England. Each dollar that funds turfgrass research is accounted for and reported on back to the foundation. The conference is also used to disseminate research findings through presentations, postings at the show and on the website, [www.nertf.org](http://www.nertf.org). This information we hope is then used to improve turfgrass conditions.

This year, more than 3000 participants descended on Providence for nearly an entire week. The convention center fits our needs well and we are large enough to use most of the building for most of the time we are

there. This gives us privacy and identity of our worth to the city and to the local economy. We posed a question to the Providence Convention Bureau and they came back with what I thought was a surprising answer. They claim that the show is accountable for more than a \$2 million boost to the local economy. Hotels, restaurants, refreshments, parking, travel expenses, local activities of various kinds all contribute to this number that I would have guessed was much more modest. I have often wondered why we have always been treated so well by everyone in Providence and at the convention center. I just assumed they all liked grass! Thank you Providence!

The New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation and the N.E. turfgrass industry as a whole would like to thank the following companies for their generous donations and sponsorships to the Ninth Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show:

**Sponsors:** Anderson's Golf Products, Bayer Environmental Science, Floratine/Turf Enhancements, Harrell's Turf Specialty, Lebanon Turf Products, LESCO, Syngenta, Tom Irwin, Inc., Turf Products Corporation, TurfLinks, Inc.

**Auction Donors:** A.A.Wills Materi-

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als Corp., A-OK Turf Equipment, ADVAN LLC, Allens Seed Store, Aqua-Aid, Aquatrols, Inc., BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, BISCO, DGM Systems, Emerald Isle, Excel Minerals, Four Seasons Signs, Franklin Paint, From Tee to Green, Grigg Brothers, Harrell's Turf Specialty, Holliston Sand & Gravel, Kemp's Reel Tech, LESCO, Liquid Fence, Marketing & Events, Inc., Millane Nurseries, New England Golf Cars, N.E.R.T.F., Northeast Golf Company, Plant Food Company, Phoenix Environmental, QualiPro Products, Read Custom Soils, Inc., S.V. Moffett Co., Inc., SODCO, Steve Willand, Inc., Syngenta, TAS Industries, Inc., Tee and Green Sod, Thrifty Car Rental, Tuckahoe Turf Farms, TurfLinks, Inc., UAP Professional Product

Thank you to all NERTF Donors and Sponsors! 🍷

### *Turf Management Products*

The logo for Tom Irwin Inc. features the name "Tom Irwin" in a stylized, cursive script. A vertical line runs through the middle of the "I" in "Irwin", extending above and below the letters. To the right of the "n" in "Irwin", the word "INC." is written in a smaller, sans-serif font.

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# **DIVOT DRIFT . . . announcements . . . educational seminars . . . job opportunities . . . tournament results . . . and miscellaneous items of interest to the membership.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Congratulations to Charles Passios, CGCS,** at The Golf Club of Cape Cod, who recently completed the renewal process for maintaining his CGCS status with the GCSAA.

**Congratulations to Eric Sinisalo, CGCS,** at the Nehoiden Golf Club, Wellesley College, who recently earned an environmental management specialist certificate from the GCSAA.

## **MEMBERS ON THE MOVE**

**David Ferrantino** is the superintendent at Wedgewood Pines Country Club in Stow, Mass.

**Congratulations to Ed Olson** as he leaves Spring Valley Country Club to accept the superintendent position at Furnace Brook Golf Club.

## **GCSANE NEWS**

In anticipation of communicating more information in the future via e-mail, we ask that all members adjust their firewall and filter settings to accept GCSANE messages. We have observed that numerous messages bounce back to our administrator without reaching the intended recipient.

**Request for Club Newsletter Articles.** We all have to sit down every month to write articles for our club's newsletter, and it gets harder and harder to get inventive. If anyone is interested in e-mailing copies of their best articles to get printed in GCSANE's *Newsletter*, please send them to Mark Gagne, Editor, at [mgagne@walpolecc.com](mailto:mgagne@walpolecc.com), or Julie Heston, Business Manager, at [jheston@verizon.net](mailto:jheston@verizon.net). This would be helpful to other superintendents as they search for ideas for their own club newsletters.

**Advertising in The Newsletter** is a great way to reach golf course superintendents, owners, green chairmen, and many others. The *Newsletter* offers flexible display advertising plans at annual, monthly, and multiple-insertion rates to fit your company's needs. For more information about advertising in *The Newsletter*, please call Julie Heston, Business Manager at 401-934-3677; e-mail: [jheston@verizon.net](mailto:jheston@verizon.net).

## **UMASS NEWS**

**UMass Pest Updates:** Pat Vittum and Rob Wick of UMass routinely issue "turf management updates" on the [umassturf.org](http://umassturf.org) web site. The updates communicate timely information and field observations on various turf pests and control measures. To subscribe to the Turftalk email list for notices of when the updates are issued, visit [http://www.umassturf.org/services/mailling\\_list.html](http://www.umassturf.org/services/mailling_list.html) for instructions.

## **EDUCATION**

**University of Massachusetts Extension's Maintaining Environmentally Sustainable Landscapes Series: Training for Green Industry Professionals.** *Insect Laboratory: Hands-on Identification & Management Strategies*, May 4, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Wareham, Mass.; Instructor: Bob Childs, UMass Extension Entomologist. In this workshop, participants will examine actual specimens in a teaching lab with the use of microscopes. Such pests as scale insects, gall formers, spider mites, leaf miners, and much more will be examined closely with different species and life stages being identified. Also, displays of preserved insect specimens will be examined in order to teach the participant how to identify and discern the important pest species in the Massachusetts landscape and nursery. This is an opportunity to hone your IPM monitoring skills and to become a better IPM and Plant Health Care practitioner. Cost: \$90. Pre-registration is required, as space is limited. Please visit: [www.UMassGreenInfo.org](http://www.UMassGreenInfo.org). (Five pesticide contact hours for categories 29, 36, and Applicators License available. ISA, MCA, MCH, and MCLP credit requested.)

## **POSITION OPENINGS**

**Assistant Superintendent,** The Golf Club at Oxford Greens, Oxford, Conn. The Golf Club at Oxford Greens is a new Mark Mungeam-designed course that opened in 2005. The 7140-yard course was recently named #3 on Connecticut in *GolfWeek*. The course is operated by Billy Casper Golf Management. The applicant must have a minimum of an associate's degree in turf or a related field, and 2nd assistant experience. Duties include, but are not limited to, assisting the superintendent in all aspects of course management, staff training, chemical & fertilizer applications, irrigation, and course set-up. Salary is commensurate with experience. The position is open until filled. Resumes may be mailed or faxed to: Bryan Barrington, The Golf Club at Oxford Greens, 95 Country Club Drive, Oxford, CT 06478, E-mail: [bb\\_oxfordgreens@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bb_oxfordgreens@sbcglobal.net).

## **FOR SALE**

**Used Course Accessories:** (1) Par Aide ball washer, green, with post and spike brush (post is set in concrete) - \$50.00 each; we have 25+. (2) Par Aide divot mate container, green, with tall hard surface stand - \$25.00 each; we have 40+. (3) Par Aide 3/4" Tournament Tapered Flagstick, yellow - \$5.00 each; we have 18+. (4) Par Aide 1/2" Flagstick, yellow - \$5.00 each; we have 5. (5) Par Aide Jr. Flagsticks, yellow - \$5.00 each; we have 15+. (6) Eagle One aluminum fairway signs, double-sided "Carts" with arrow, white background green letters - \$2.00 each; we have 20+. (7) Eagle One engraved laminate plastic signs: 6 - "Putting Green Closed" - \$5.00 each; 5 - "Do not walk down embankment / Do not walk up embankment" - \$2.00 each. (8) Crate of various red, white, & yellow flags - \$25.00. **Used Equipment:** (1) LasTec 72" Articulator, rotary deck, 5 years old, \$450. (2) 1997 Jacobsen Tri-King 1900-D w/ 2700 hrs & buckets, with spare parts - \$4000. (3) 1994 Neary spin grinder & Neary bed-knife grinder - \$2500 for the set. (4) 1994 TORO 3000-D Tri-plex 3000 hrs no reels - \$800. (5) EZ Picker driving range ball picker w/ spare parts - \$50. **Equipment Parts:** (1) TORO 455 (quad) spare parts, please call for list - \$1000 for all parts. (2) Jacobsen Tri-King 1900-D, please call for list - \$500 for all parts. (3) Jacobsen LF 3400 - please call for list - \$125 for all parts. Contact Greg Tower, Superintendent, Sterling National Country Club, 33 Albright Road, Sterling, MA 01564; Phone: (978) 422-7870, Fax: (978) 422-8055.





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## Allen's Seed Store Inc.

693 S. County Trail, Exeter, RI 02822  
Specializing in quality seed and related  
golf course maintenance supplies.  
Gregg Allen - (800) 527-3898  
Michelle Maltais - (401) 835-0287

## Agresource, Inc.

100 Main St., Amesbury, MA 01913  
Tim Gould, Guy Travers  
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## The Andersons Technologies, Inc.

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## BASF Turf & Ornamental

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Manufacturer & supplier of dry organic fertilizers.  
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Andrew Langlois, Jay Anderson III, Dan Fuller, Jeff Brown,  
Greg Hennessy, Chris Russo  
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John Callahan, Dennis Friel - (800) 861-6256

## Cavicchio Landscape Supply, Inc.

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Annuals, perennials, garden mums, ground covers, loam, & mulch.  
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## DHT Golf Services

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Golf course renovation & construction in all areas:  
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Dahn Tibbett, Chip Brearley - (508) 746-3222

## Michael Drake Construction, Inc.

240 Walnut St., Framingham, MA 01702  
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Doug Hopper - (800) 234-0474

## G. Fialkosky Lawn Sprinklers

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Irrigation services to golf courses throughout New England.  
Gary Fialkosky - (617) 293-8632

## Gold Star Nursery & Sod Farm

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Growers of turfgrass and ornamentals.  
Malcolm McPhail, Lexington, Mass. - (781) 861-1111;  
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Club Car golf, turf, transportation, & utility cars.  
James Bernier - (800) 287-0955

## GPS New England Mapping

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Precise irrigation & drainage as-built;  
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## Lazaro's Golf Course Supplies & Accessories

dba Hammond Paint and Chemical Co., Inc.  
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Complete line of golf course accessories;  
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(781) 933-3210

## McNulty Construction Corp.

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parking areas; imprinted asphalt.  
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## Miller Golf Construction

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## S.V. Moffett Co., Inc.

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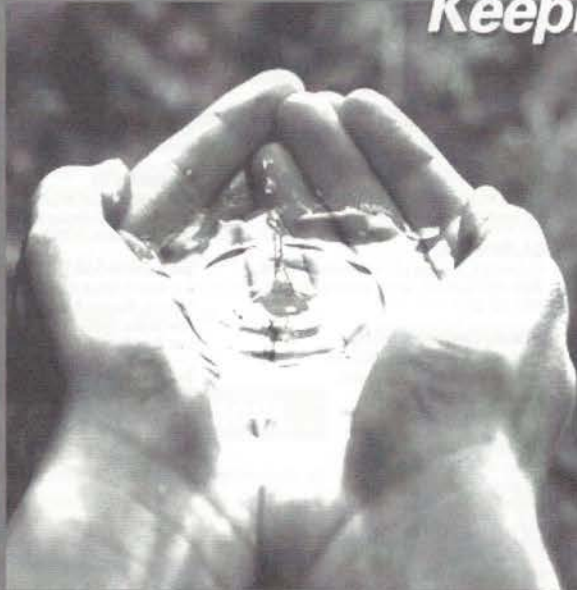
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