



THE NEWSLETTER



April 2015

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

Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund – Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

President's Message

Dear fellow GCSANE members:

This past winter will unquestionably go down in the record books in a number of weather categories. I was passing through Myles Standish State Forest last night (April 3) and noticed there was still ice on many of the lakes. The snow pack seemed deeper than anywhere I've been in recent weeks. Most years I've already donned the waders and taken a few casts at a favorite pond in search of that first spring bass. With golf season just getting underway for a few of us and golf activity pending for the rest of us it's a good time to put things in perspective with regard to golfer expectations and the coming season.

I feel as a profession right now we have a huge opportunity to put our skills on display and demonstrate our value to the northeast golfing community. For the most part the bar has been lowered by Mother Nature and golfer optimism is at an all-time low for this time of year. It would be easy for many of us to cite the weather issues as the sole excuse for less than ideal conditions right now as we tend to do it all the time. Too hot, too wet, too humid, too much ice, no water, insects, El Nino, you name it and we've used it as an excuse.

Despite what type of shape your course or business might be in after emerging from this winter you can still ask yourself, "What role can I play in leading my club or business back to prosperity?" There are many people counting on us right now whose livelihoods and happiness depends on our actions

and the door is open for us to shine. I've had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with many of our industry allies recently and they're all of the opinion we'll be the people holding the cards very shortly.

Once the doors finally open at your facility it's likely you'll need to perform some critical course maintenance such as aeration and /or seeding in the coming weeks. Maybe certain portions of your properties will remain unplayable for a while. Have you prepared the stakeholders at your club for this event? It's likely you'll hear, "The course just opened and now you're going to mess the greens up again?" Right now is a good time to communicate this possibility to all those who might be affected. Is there a less invasive approach you can employ? Can you get by with 3/8" holes instead of 5/8" holes to help things heal more quickly? Are there other opportunities to get things back to normal quickly without over leveraging your club or using the weather as a crutch?

Ben Franklin once said, "He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else." I'm personally looking forward to the coming weeks and whatever challenges lie ahead. My gut tells me I'm not alone. ❖

Full steam ahead,

Michael D. Luccini CGCS
GCSANE President



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Massachusetts Golf Day

March 20, 2015 was Massachusetts Golf Day at the State House. We were represented by GCSA of New England board members Mike Luccini, Dave Johnson, Brian Skinner, Peter Rappoccio and Greg Cormier. Don Hearn attended representing our Association as a member of the Economic Impact Study Task Force. Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Northeast Regional Representative attended and was a keen observer. The intent of the day was to point out the value of golf in the state of Massachusetts



Photo by David Colt

and how much affect golf has on the Massachusetts economy. Golf's direct economic impact in Massachusetts was \$2.7 billion in 2012. The state's golf industry supports 25,500 jobs and \$796.8 million in wage income. Massachusetts is home to more than 370 golf courses with more than 70% open for public play. The Massachusetts Golf Association spearheaded this event with support from the following industry organizations -Deutsche Bank Championship, Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund, Golf Course Superintendent's Association of New England, New England Club Managers Association, New England Golf Association, New England Golf Course Owners Association, New England PGA, and the Women's Golf Association of Massachusetts.

There was a press conference at the start of the in which Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito spoke on behalf of the golf industry. The following excerpt was taken from the MGA press release. "This is an industry that is very strong. A lot of people discount the Northeast for having good golf, but here in Massachusetts it is a long-time tradition," said Massachusetts **Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**, who addressed attendees in the Nurses Hall. "[It generates] 25,000 jobs and is a multi-billion dollar industry. That is all very impactful. The part that I love most about it is that it spreads across our Commonwealth in every region of our state."

Following the press conference, legislators participated in practicing putting on artificial turf inside the statehouse and hitting balls into a practice net. Local NEPGA professionals were on hand to help lawmakers improve their golf swing. Overall, the day was a success and brought some good attention to the impact our industry has on the Massachusetts economy. To view all of the data please go to www.massgolfeconomy.com




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What would I do if I wasn't a superintendent?

Golf Course Superintendents often think "what would I do with my career if I were no longer a superintendent". I used to struggle to answer that question. I believe the answer is that a superintendent can do almost anything he or she wants to. There are so many different skill sets that we use on the job, which can be applied in other industries.

Many of you probably know Andrew Langlois from working with him while he was at BISCO (now John Deere Landscapes, but the Rain Bird Golf distribution landed with North-east Nursery). Andrew started out at Foxborough Country Club after completing his education at UMASS Stockbridge. After Foxborough C.C. Andrew held superintendent positions at both Stowe Acres and Shaker Hills before deciding to explore other options in the industry. He accepted a sales position at BISCO as his first move. During his 15+ years at BISCO he progressed from sales representative up to Chief Operating Officer in 2013.

Andrew had always liked to learn technology as a hobby while working in the turf industry. In 2014 when BISCO was going through a transition and was acquired by John Deere Landscapes, Andrew made another move to start his own business. His new venture stems from his passion to help

others accomplish their goals in the turf business; while being able to utilize his technology skill set. Now he is helping small businesses leverage cloud based solutions to work more efficiently with his new company, Synergy Business Solutions, LLC.

One sector of the marketplace that Andrew is focusing on is the Golf Industry, on the Pro Shop and Clubhouse side of the business. The two articles below describe Andrew's story and his new company. ❖

[Click here to read Metro Daily West article.](#)

[Click here to read Worcester Telegram article](#)

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Etiquette - Time for a Laugh

I thought it might be time to lighten up this section of the NEWSLETTER by adding a piece that was sent to me by a friend. If you can read these and not laugh, then you're not human.

Steven Wright grew up in Burlington, MA and went to college in the Boston area.

If you're not familiar with the work of Steven Wright, he's the famous comic who once said: "I woke up one morning, and all of my stuff had been stolen and replaced by exact duplicates." He sees things differently than most of us.

Here are some of his gems:

- I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.
- Half the people you know are below average.
- 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- I almost had a psychic girlfriend, ... But she left me before we met.
- OK, so what's the speed of dark?
- How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
- Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
- Hard work pays off in the future; laziness pays off now.
- I intend to live forever... So far, so good.



- Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."
- Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?
- If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.
- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
- The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.
- The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.
- If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

And the all-time favorite -

- If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?

By Don Hearn



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Thoughts From Your Association Manager

Thank you to those who have completed the online Membership Information Form. It takes only a few minutes to supply the information requested. The result is an accurate listing in the Membership Directory and in the Association's files. You should have received an email January 21 or 22 that had a link that took you directly to the form to be completed. If you haven't completed the form or can't find the email that was sent to you, contact me at donhearn@gcsane.org and I'll send you another.

Dues invoices are payable thirty days from the date on the invoice. All the dues invoices were sent in late January and early February. If your dues haven't been paid yet, you're overdue. A statement was recently sent to all with overdue amounts. If you received a statement, please send your dues promptly. Those who have not paid dues by May 1st, will be delinquent and may not be listed in the Membership Directory.

Congratulations to Mike Fontaine, Superintendent at The Ledges Golf Club in South Hadley, MA for spearheading a meeting of Superintendents last month to discuss the prospect of winter damage from the prolonged snow and ice cover. Dr. Michelle DaCosta from the University of Massachusetts and Jim Skorulski from the USGA discussed what might be expected and how to deal with the loss of turf. The group also discussed their ideas on how to deal with the issue of removing snow and ice from surfaces.



**Noni's Wood-Fired Pizza & Catering
The Cadenelli's - Steve, Linda, Matt and Matt's
wife Marijke**

Ever wonder what interests a person may have and how they fulfill their passion? If you're Steve Cadenelli, former superintendent at Cape Cod National Golf Club, you start a family business named Noni's Wood-Fired Pizza & Catering. Recently I spent some time with my friend Steve and his family in the desert city of Indio, California. While Steve is still in the business plying his trade at The Lakes Country Club in Palm Desert, CA he and his wife Linda are creating a new business they intend to grow as word spreads about their fantastic pizzas, salads and varieties of Rustic Italian food. While Steve does the "heavy lifting" Linda is the face and promoter of the business and son Matt is the chef. Matt's wife Marijke (ma REE kah) adds sunshine, calm and a perfect presence to the team and lends her expertise as her time allows. Interest is high, and the future looks good for Noni's presence in the desert.

As you may know, Bob Grant, a Past President of the Association and a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, passed away March 20, 2015. Bob was a wonderful person with a calm demeanor who represented our Association and Members with class and garnered respect and admiration from all who came in contact with him.



He was one of the first Superintendents to become a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS). Bob came to the Brae Burn Country Club in West Newton, MA as the Golf Course superintendent and left as the General Manager – a testament to his many skills and ability to work with people.

Bob was a mentor to many who went on to become superintendents and always enjoyed having students from Stockbridge work their placement training with him.

Prior to his time at Brae Burn, he was the construction Superintendent at the International in Bolton, MA. At the time, and maybe still, it was the longest course in the world. One of the greens was close to 25,000 (not a typo) square feet in size! It was a large project that required the skills that Bob possessed. It was a remarkable and distinctive course.

During his time as a Superintendent, and later as the General Manager at Brae Burn, he was highly regarded as a leader in course conditioning, a respected speaker, and an inspiration to younger people like me when I started out as a Superintendent. I was a frequent visitor of Bob's always probing and looking for better ways to do things. He was highly skilled in the art and science of golf course construction and maintenance and later expanded his horizon with the additional duties of General Manager at Brae Burn. A different set of skills was required and Bob had what was needed.

Congratulations to Jason Harrison, former Superintendent at Worcester Country Club, who left to become the Superintendent at Hamilton Farm Golf Club in Gladstone, New Jersey. And congratulations and continued success to Adam Moore, formerly the Assistant at Worcester who is now the Superintendent.

As some know, Jim Fitzroy, a Past President and Retired Member of the Association, is a photographer and captures golf related, as well as other types of photos, as one of his passions. The photo shown on page 7 was taken by Jim at the thirteenth hole at Augusta National Golf Club and is a sample of his talent. This is also the cover photo of the March issue of *Superintendent Magazine*.

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Agriculture Day

On March 31, 2015 the state of Massachusetts celebrated Agriculture Day at the Statehouse in Boston. GCSANE was represented by several members and attended as part of the Green Industry Alliance (GIA). The GIA is comprised of several associations which include lawn care, irrigation, and arboriculture professionals. Below is a press release from the Governor's office.

State Officials Celebrate Massachusetts Agriculture Day
Local farming, food and community service honored at State House celebration.

Peter Rappoccio, CGCS
GCSANE Trustee-Government Relations

BOSTON - March 31, 2015 - Governor Charlie Baker, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton, and Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux today joined state agriculture officials, farmers and students to celebrate Agriculture Day at the State House.

Agriculture Day, organized by the Massachusetts Promotional Board and Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, brings farmers and agricultural organizations together to showcase locally grown food and farm products and to educate legislators about issues affecting the agricultural community.

"Agriculture Day is an important opportunity to discuss the unique issues of the Commonwealth's 7,700 farms, which produce clean, healthy food for Massachusetts' citizens," said Secretary Matthew Beaton. "This is an exciting time for agriculture in our state as the number of farms in Massachusetts continues to grow, and the Buy Local movement builds momentum."

"Today is a day that we not only thank and recognize the farmers and food producers in the Commonwealth, but it is also an opportunity for farmers and community members to come together to discuss the important issues that affect them," said Commissioner John Lebeaux.

During the celebration, Governor Baker announced that the Department of Energy Resources would provide \$1 million to support a two year expansion of the existing AgEnergy Grant Program, which funds clean energy projects for agricultural operations.

The GIA was well represented and executive director Karen Connelly added the following: "The GIA with our lobbyist group shares information keeping us all abreast of current information and the historical journey that led us to where we now stand. Many of us met with legislators and aides at their offices discussing pertinent issues and allowing them to see that we, as individuals and members of associations, are involved and knowledgeable. Some of us chatted with legislators and aides who stopped by the GIA booth. A few of us encountered Commissioner LeBeaux as he toured the room. Other members of the Agriculture community got to learn a little more about the valuable role of the Green Industry. A question was asked about what the governor was going to do regarding burdensome regulations once the pause period was over. In a separate press release, the Governor announced the following:

In a separate press release:

"Governor Charles D. Baker signed an executive order today initiating a comprehensive review process for all

regulations enforced by the Executive branch and leaving in place the regulatory moratorium announced by the administration earlier this year. The order requires state agencies to ensure that existing regulations are clear and concise and that any newly proposed regulations are measured for their potential impact on businesses of all sizes.

The administration will encourage public input on proposed regulations. Business and competitiveness impact statements will be made available on the commonwealth's Web site.

Baker identified regulatory reform as an economic priority during a speech to the AIM Executive Forum last November.

"This will be an intensive process that ultimately makes Massachusetts a more efficient and competitive place to live and work, while driving economic growth," the governor said in a statement today.

Added Secretary of Administration and Finance Kristen Lopoere: "We will ensure that all regulations administered by the Executive Department benefit the Commonwealth without undue burdens or costs and serve a legitimate purpose in making Massachusetts a safe, healthy, and effective place to do business."

The two regulations which are tied closely to the green industry and golf, are the water infrastructure and nutrient management bills. Essentially they are in a holding pattern until further notice. GCSANE will continue to work with our lobby group (SFBC) and the GIA to help regulators understand how burdensome and inaccurate some of these regulations are to the green industry. ❖

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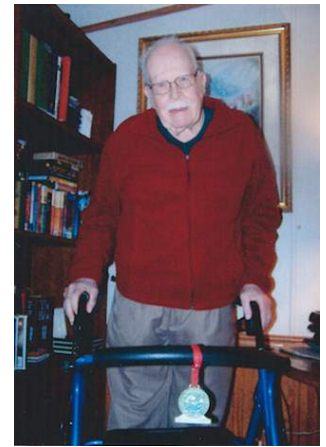


Photo taken by Jim Fitzroy at 13th hole at Augusta National GC

I attended the GCSAA Chapter Leader/ Executive Symposium in Lawrence, Kansas, March 23-25. This was a fact-filled gathering of peers and chapter leaders from across the country. We also had the opportunity to spend time with our respective Field Staff representative. In my case it was Kevin Doyle. Kevin is always full of energy, good thoughts and practical wisdom and helped make my stay in Lawrence memorable. In addition to the opportunity to meet fellow chapter leaders and executives, it opened my eyes to similar challenges virtually all associations face. Low meeting attendance and lack of member involvement are two topics that all present agreed are disappointing and real dilemmas. It was an opportunity to learn from other chapter leaders and staff and share successes and failures. Items discussed were varied. David Norman, the Virginia Chapter Executive Director discussed how the chapter developed BMP's and the resources required to complete the project. Mischia Wright discussed the Rounds for Golf program. Craig Smith and Russell Sypowicz from the Communication and Marketing departments and Scott Hollister, Director of Publications presented the most recent efforts to promote GCSAA members. Chava McKeel and Kaelyn Seymour discussed the Grassroots Ambassador Program and the need to be aware and proactive with legislation and the importance of letting your views be known to legislators. Sue Courtney from the company handling some of our chapter insurance addressed the need to have various insurance coverage and the liability issues of chapters. The symposium was capped off by a leadership presentation by Jack Litzelfelner. He is a dynamic speaker with an effective message that all agreed was a perfect way to end the day. Jack also comes from a golf background. His father and brothers developed, own and operate the Bent Creek Golf Course in Jackson, MO. Jack told us about the many days he spent on the course and how that has given him a strong appreciation of what we deal with.



I received a packet of information and articles from one of our Honorary Members, Dr. Eliot Roberts. I'm sure many of you have seen Dr. Roberts' name listed in our Membership Directory and may have wondered who he is. Well, Dr. Roberts was a contemporary of Professor Lawrence Dickinson, the founder of the UMass Winter School for Turf Managers. He also was a contemporary of Dr. Joe Troll, another of our Honorary Members, at the Stockbridge School at UMass sixty years ago. This was when tuition for the Winter School for Turf Managers was \$40.00 and room and board for eight weeks was \$208.00! During his career he was Chairman of the Plant and Soil Science Department at the University of Rhode Island, Turfgrass Specialist at Iowa State University and Director of The Better Lawn and Turf Institute, which relocated from Marysville, Ohio to Dr. Roberts' farm in Pleasant Hill, Tennessee. This is where he and his wife live with their large family. Dr. Roberts has shared a supply of articles about UMass, his experiences at UMass and elsewhere and information about Lawrence Dickinson. If anyone would like to read about some of the history of our profession and the progress of the Stockbridge School in the training of Golf Course Superintendents please contact me and I'll send them along to you. I can copy and mail or scan and email what I received.



Note the tag on Dr. Roberts' walker. It's a GCSA of New England bag tag that he displays with pride.

Mark Mungeam, principal of the firm, Mungeam Cornish Golf Design was recently featured in the monthly newsletter of *Golf Course Architecture* magazine for his work at Glen Oak Country Club in Pennsylvania. Please click [Glen Oak CC](#) to read the story. Mark may be best known for his sensitive renovation of Olympia Fields Country Club outside Chicago in preparation for both the 1997 US SENIOR OPEN and 2003 US OPEN. Mark's firm is also a Friend of the Association Member. ❖



Mark Mungeam, right, with his former partner Geoff Cornish who passed away in 2012.

By Don Hearn

Friend of the Association Profile

Tuckahoe Turf Farms began growing sod with a humble beginning in 1970. We started with a small purchase of farm land in Lakeville, Massachusetts. Tuckahoe Turf has grown substantially since then we now operate farms in Agawam, MA, Wood River Junction, RI, and Berwick, ME. We deliver sod from Northern New Jersey to Canada including Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. Tuckahoe Turf grows grass for golf courses, landscape contractors, sports turf facilities, and home lawns.

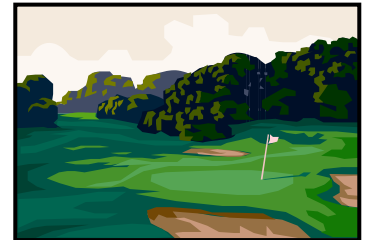
We grow several varieties of turf including, Kentucky bluegrass blends, Blue/Rye/Fescue mix, a High Fine Fescue mix, Tall Fescue, and Shortcut Bluegrasses. We also grow several bentgrass varieties for use on greens, tees, aprons and fairways. We use the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program trials to select varieties which will provide long term performance for the end users of our sod. Our objective is to provide high quality turf and to do it consistently.

Tuckahoe Turf delivers multiple truckloads of sod on pallets or in big rolls six days per week from early spring until early winter. Most sod orders are harvested and loaded the day before delivery and occasionally in hot weather we will harvest in the morning on the day of delivery, so the sod is as fresh as possible. We are very fortunate to have some very sandy native soils. This allows us to grow many of our sod products on sand which is compatible with most rootzone mixes. Most of our high sand based soils are located at our Berwick, ME farm.

We can and have contract grown sod in quantities from 1 acre to 100 acres for use in construction projects where a certain grass variety or soil type is desired. A contract grow typically requires at least a one year advance notice. Superintendents, architects, and contractors are encouraged and welcome to visit our farm operations. If you are unable to visit the farm we can provide samples of our sod for your inspection.

The farm operations, trucking and logistics are over seen by Steve Donohue, who has been with us for over 35 years. Steve got his start in the industry working on the crew at Needham CC before attending URI. He then worked for a nursery and sod grower in New Hampshire before taking over the operations at Tuckahoe Turf. Steve and his staff, some of whom have been around as long as he has, are responsible for bringing the crop from seed to harvest, and then getting it delivered to you. The knowledge and experience of Steve and his staff, are a valuable resource for Tuckahoe Turf.

Sales of the sod are managed by Chris Beasley who has been with Tuckahoe from the beginning and has been an integral part of growing the company to where it is today. We also have two sales people who spend a lot of time on the road and are available to consult and evaluate projects. Peter DeBrusk, a URI graduate in Landscape Architecture, also got started on a maintenance crew at Scituate CC in MA and has spent 15 years in landscape design and construction before joining Tuckahoe in 2003. Joe Farina has been with Tuckahoe Turf for the past 7 years and is a UMass, Stockbridge School of Agriculture graduate and has held past positions as golf course superintendent, assistant, and crew member on golf courses in Massachusetts, California, and Florida. Joe has experience in golf courses soils and construction, and can help with selections of sod applications from tees to greens. Joe has been a GCSANE member for 24 years. We have a large variety of grass blends, soil types and people to provide the best turf for your project and we are happy to help you. ❖



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Kevin Doyle - GCSAA Updates



My guess is this issue of *The Newsletter* could be called the “Advocacy Issue.” With the chapter coming off of the first ever Massachusetts Golf Day on Beacon Hill, and the follow-up legislator visits in conjunction with Ag Day, the GCSANE has engaged in some heavy hitting government relations work. With a quick recap of high school civics, I will remind you that government has federal, state, and local levels. GCSANE has put a big fat check mark next to the “state” level this past month. GCSAA will assist all members in knocking off the federal level on April 15th at National Golf Day in conjunction with the We Are Golf coalition.

What about the local level? Remember, one age-old adage on politics states “All politics are local.” This was no more evident than at Mass. Golf Day, when I was engaged in a conversation with Christopher Yancich, Legislative Aide for Representative Jeffrey Roy of Franklin. As luck would have it, we just happened to have a superintendent from Franklin in the house! Enter Michael Luccini, CGCS, from Franklin Country Club. We were able to put the two of them together and it was magic, or at least very productive. It turns out Representative Roy is an avid golfer, Yancich plays recreationally and wishes he was better, but more importantly Yancich and Luccini shared relationships with people who both worked at FCC, and who about the property. Luccini was encouraged to reach out to Representative Roy’s office for any issue that the golf industry might need assistance with. This one interaction could develop a real, local connection that can assist in creating beneficial relationships for the golf industry should future needs arise.

Consider the following information:

We Are Golf (National)

- 465 Million Rounds Played
- \$68.8 Billion Annual Impact
- Supporting 2 Million Jobs
 - ✓ \$55.6 Billion from U.S. Jobs
- 143,000 Charitable Events Annually
 - ✓ 12 Million Participants
 - ✓ \$3.9 Billion Annual Impact

Massachusetts State Golf Day (State)

- \$2.7 Billion – Total economic impact of golf in Mass., including direct, indirect and induced impacts.
- \$1.7 Million – Total size of the Bay State golf economy.
- Nearly 25,500 Massachusetts jobs.
 - ✓ \$796.8 Million – Total wage income
- \$74.3 Million – Total amount of charitable giving attributed to golf in Massachusetts.

What your facility or company contributes matters to your local legislator too. Can you fill in the blanks?

Your Facility Here (Local)

- Rounds Played
- Total revenue generated
- Number of Jobs
 - ✓ Total wage income
- Number of charitable events
 - ✓ Total number of charitable participants

Mother Nature has dealt the Northeast region another long and arduous winter. Rest assured, the public at large will again know the grass might not be greener on the other side of the fence, but it certainly is on the other side of Rae’s Creek. As The Masters brings our industry into focus, be sure you are focused on the impact your golf facility, or even golf related company, provides to the local economy. Make sure your members and customers know as well. With national, state, and local efforts educating legislators we all stand a better chance of changing misperceptions of our industry into the reality that golf is good!

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already:

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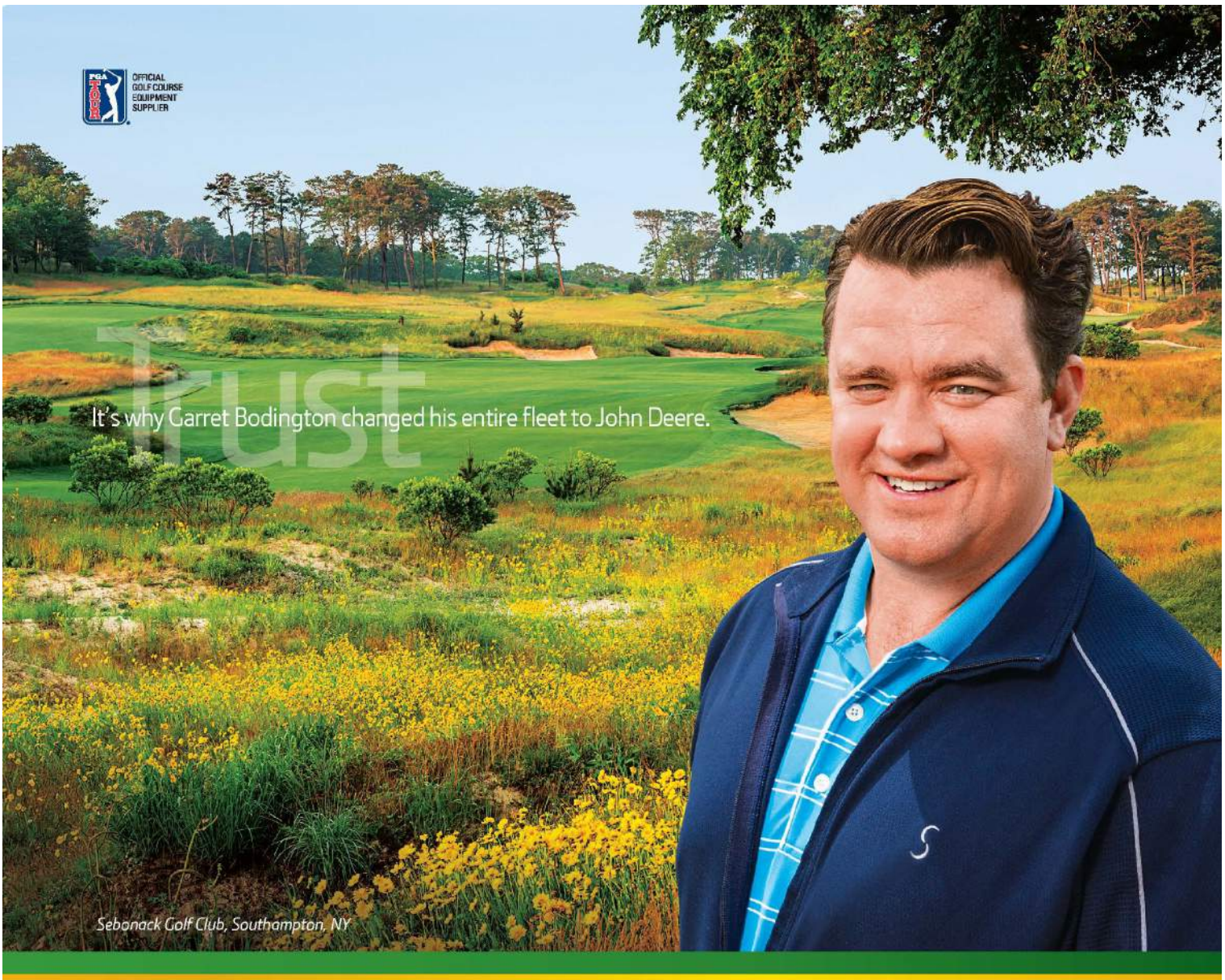


GCSAA has logos available for use by you the members on our website [here](#). Add it to your business card, email signature and many other areas to promote yourself and your industry! Do you need a different file format? To request additional file types, contact the [GCSAA Brand Marketing team](#) at 800-472-7878.

National Golf Day 2015: GCSAA contingent in D.C. April 15, members can participate at home

GCSAA leaders and members will join the We Are Golf coalition on Capitol Hill April 15 for National Golf Day. You can be a part of sharing golf’s value by visiting the [virtual National Golf Day](#) and participating in the government relations action alert to spread the word to Congress. Take part on social media with the hashtag #NGD15 and tag @wearegolf to join in the conversation.

continued on page 12



It's why Garret Bodington changed his entire fleet to John Deere.

Sebonack Golf Club, Southampton, NY

With the US Women's Open coming to Sebonack in 2013, Garret Bodington made the decision to go with John Deere. Why? "John Deere gave us tremendous support for the Women's Open, from existing equipment to loaners. Also, the E-Cut™ Hybrid technology was a big selling point. We use E-Cuts on every fairway and every green." From E-Cut Hybrid technology to heavy-duty utility vehicles, Garret trusts his entire course to John Deere. To see the difference we can make on your course and call your John Deere Golf distributor today.

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New Equipment Manager membership classification approved

GCSAA members voted to introduce an equipment manager classification for association membership. The vote took place as part of the Annual Meeting. Equipment managers will be welcomed with a complimentary introductory membership through 2015 and can register online at www.gcsaa.org. GCSAA has compiled a [collection of tools and resources](#) specifically for equipment managers.

GCSAA Legacy Awards

The GCSAA Legacy Awards competition offers education aid to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members. Awards of \$1,500 each are funded by Syngenta and the Environmental Institute for Golf. [More information here](#)

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

Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Field Staff
kdoyle@gcsaa.org
Follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_NE

Tech Tip

By Jason VanBuskirk

Is the Google Chromebook for real?



I'll start off by stating that this is a post reviewing and comparing Google's Chromebook to Apple's iPad. The Chromebook hit the market in June 2011 and it was way overpriced. At \$500, the Chromebook was a neat idea but it could only operate online internet browsing and web-based document processing. No Windows software or anything similar. It is still a neat idea. Samsung and Acer became its biggest supporters and created the hardware for the operating system. In 2015 HP and Lenovo have started creating machines to operate Google's Chrome OS. The OS is 100% Google Chrome. In fact, its look is very similar to a Windows OS. It's not so much an OS as it's just a browser that allows for everything to be operated through Google Chrome. A Google account is needed, but if you are familiar with the latest and greatest that Google has to offer, then this might be your machine. For only \$199 (Acer model) and \$249 (Samsung model), this "Chromebook" offers quite a bit for the price. If you need a cheap substitute at home or in the shop to browse the web, answer emails, or manage your Google Drive account, then this price tag is a bit more affordable than a base model iPad. However, it does not have many of the same functionalities that an iPad has.

The Chromebook is a laptop, not a tablet. It does not have touch screen technology. The only apps that you can grab for it are in the Chrome store. It does not have the same support that you receive with Apple Care. Unless you are connected to a Wi-Fi connection or upgrade to a 3G version for \$50, the Chromebook doesn't really allow for much. Google Drive does allow for offline editing however, and once connected, all changes will be uploaded to your Drive. The Chromebook does have some great features for the price. The Chromebook's Wi-Fi connection is fast, it's battery life is similar to an iPad, and it's laptop functionality will out compete an iPad because it has a full sized keyboard (unless your iPad has an external keyboard). It's extremely light-weight. I had the opportunity to play with Samsung's version for a while. I'm an Apple freak, but I'm also a Google freak (strictly for their online Drive). This machine was neat. It is a very good device and especially good for the price, but...

In conclusion, it was pretty awesome using a device solely dedicated to everything Google, but I would miss my iPad way too much. I am still willing to spend the extra \$250 just to have everything an iPad has to offer.

Please click [here](#) to read a very detailed review from the professionals at TAUW.com if you are not totally convinced. ❖

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Members:

- **Alex Brooks**, Assistant Superintendent, Vesper Country Club
- **Matt Faherty**, Affiliate, Winterberry Irrigation
- **Tim Russell**, Affiliate, Five Star Golf Cars
- **Jonathan Wilber**, Superintendent, Myopia Hunt Club
- **Winterberry Irrigation**, Friend of the Association, Southington, CT

Our condolences are extended to the Grant family on the passing of Bob Grant on March 20, 2015 at the age of 90. Bob was a Past President of GCSANE and a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.

Our condolences are extended to Nat Binns on the passing of his brother Jonathan Binns on February 17, 2015. Nat Binns is a representative for Turf Products Corp.

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 18, 2015 **NOTE: THIS IS A SITE AND DATE CHANGE**
Joint Meeting with our host, the Rhode Island GCSA
Warwick Country Club
Warwick, RI

May 26, 2015 **NOTE: THIS HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FROM APRIL 16**
The Bear Cup - Joint Meeting with our host, the GCSA of Cape Cod
Black Rock Country Club
Hingham, MA

July 15, 2015
UMass Field Day
South Deerfield, MA

August 10, 2015
Individual Championship and Qualifier for New England Supt. Championship
Stow Acres Country Club
Stow, MA

September 14, 2015
Scholarship and Benevolence Tournament
Vesper Country Club
Tyngsborough, MA

October 5, 2015
Member-Member
Tedesco Country Club
Marblehead, MA

Please visit www.gcsane.org for more dates



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**For more information, please contact Kris Armando
at 508-745-8555 or karmando8@gmail.com**

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