

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

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President's Message

Dear fellow GCSANE members:

The 2015 peak golf season is right about at its midpoint and hopefully you're all experiencing success with your operations thus far. There have been a lot of great success stories circulating which you may or may not have heard about. After meeting and speaking with many golf industry leaders, word has it our membership is knocking it out of the park so to speak after experiencing a long and harsh winter which brought less than ideal golfing conditions to start the season. The fact we're still talking about the winter of 2015 now and dealing with remnants of it underscores the challenges many of our members faced and by all accounts, conquered.

Last month's golf meeting at Cyprian Keyes featured a large field of almost 90 players. Our hats are off to Dick Zepp and Jason Paradise for hosting the event on an outstanding golf course. I would also like to note when we arrived for the tournament there were dozens of smiling kids crossing the parking lot with big smiles on their faces and golf bags on their backs. A big tip of the cap goes to the Cyprian Keyes folks for their continued commitment to promoting and growing the game of golf at a grassroots level.

We also have several exciting upcoming events planned for the remainder of the 2015 golf season. Our August meeting will be held at the Wayland Country Club on August 10 with host Harris Schnare. The 2015 Scholarship and Benevolence tournament will be held on September 14 at Vesper CC with host Stephen Hicks and the October member/ member event will be held at Tedesco CC on October 5 with host Peter Hasak. Meeting attendance year to date has been very good at our events. In fact, it's the best we've experienced in many years and I would like to thank all of you who have attended an event or are considering attending an event for your continued support and participation in GCSANE. Last, I'd like to mention the recent passing of Dr. Joseph Troll. Dr. Troll was a true industry legend, innovator, friend and mentor to many of us. There isn't enough space here to recognize all of his contributions to our industry. He was most proud of his students, many of who became successful industry leaders. I'm told it was commonplace to receive a hand written letter of congratulations from Dr. Troll upon acceptance of your first Superintendent or green industry position. On behalf of our association and industry, I'd like to pass back very sincere thank you to Dr. Troll for being a man of great integrity, passion and commitment. You'll be missed, but surely not forgotten. 🔹

Best Regards,

Michael D. Luccini, CGCS GCSANE President



GCSANE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT Michael Luccini, CGCS Franklin Country Club 672 E. Central Street, Franklin, MA 02038 508-528-6110 Fax: 508-528-1885 Email: Mluccini@franklincc.com

VICE PRESIDENT David W. Johnson Wianno Club 155 West Street, Osterville, MA 02655 508-428-6981 Email: Djohnson.wgc@gmail.com

TREASURER Jason VanBuskirk Stow Acres Country Club 58 Randall Road, Stow, MA 01775 978-568-1100 ext. 121 Email: įvanbuskirk@stowacres.com

SECRETARY Jeffrey Urquhart Milton Hoosic Club 70 Green Lodge Street, Canton, MA 02021 781-828-2953 Fax 781-828-3220 Email: jmartin101@gmail.com

TRUSTEE - Membership Kris Armando Sassamon Trace Golf Course 233 South Main Street, Natick, MA 01760 508-745-8555 Email: karmando8@gmail.com

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Greg Cormier, CGCS Nashawtuc Country Club 1861 Sudbury Road, Concord, MA 01742 978-369-5704 Email: gcormier@nashawtuc.com

PAST PRESIDENT Mark Gagne

Walpole Country Club 233 Baker Street, Walpole, MA 02081 508-294-5326 Fax: 508-668-9969 Email: Mgagne@walpolecc.org

ASSOCIATION MANAGER Donald E. Hearn, CGCS 300 Arnold Palmer Blvd., Norton, MA 02766 774-430-9040 Email: donhearn@gcsane.org

BUSINESS MANAGER, THE NEWSLETTER Julie Heston Phone: (401) 934-7660 Email: jheston@verizon.net

GCSANE Headquarters 300 Arnold Palmer Blvd., Norton, MA 02766 Tel: (774) 430-9040 Fax: (774) 430-9101 Web Site: www.gcsane.org

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The Belmont Volunteer Experience-2015 Constellation Senior Players Championship

Bernhard Langer proved to be on his game and the best player at the Seniors Tour winning the Constellation Senior Players Championship. He led the tournament from start to finish. Start to finish was another story for Mike Rose and the grounds crew at Belmont Country Club as preparation for the June 2015 event took many months and ground work was planned more than a year in advance to host the Championship. Hats off to Superintendent Mike Rose and his management staff of Charlie Dickson, Dan Hart, Eric Horrocks and equipment manager Ken Dasilva.

Behind the scenes of the plush fairways and slick greens - the daily effort to execute the agronomic plan and prepare the golf course for optimal results had been in place all season. The successful timing of product applications and cultural work to help the course shine for the one week event was evident Mother nature also seemed to agree with the dates of the tournament, since only one rain storm passed through before the pro-am, then no rain until after the final round. Mike is quick to give credit for the success of the event to the performance of his Assistants, and Mechanic, and staff. Demands were so high on equipment Manager Ken Dasilva that he took up residence on the property living in a camper for the week. Tournament support equipment arrived from MTE and Jacobsen with a Fairway 1880 mower fleet a week prior to the event. Ken's duties included additional reel grinding, daily adjustments and being available to resolve mechanical issues for other departments during tournament set-up through the truck and trailer invasion, bleacher and concessions set up, and rope and stake crews. The management teamwork appeared to be like leading a symphony with instruction. The orchestration of the many moving parts of equipment and people was both unified and harmonic, impressively producing great notable results. It was active and intense around the clock and then...... In come the Volunteers!



In part, the event was an extended family affair, with three very special volunteers included. Charlotte and Melissa Rose (Mike's wife and daughter) and Cyndi O'Connor (Charlie's Mom) teamed up for job number one – catering



arrangements and food service all week to be sure there was ample food and refreshments for the volunteers at the Turf Management tent. Great job ladies! Mike's son Evan serves on the Belmont Grounds staff for the summer and his cousin Pete Rose, was also on site to assist golf course preparations. I was assured by Pete there was no gambling at Belmont during the tournament!

The volunteer list consisted of 65 individuals most of whom have golf experience as Superintendents or Assistants and are working both in and out of the industry. The organization and delegation to such a large group to work in unison was impressive to witness. Volunteer Staff assignments were found on a permanent job board posted in the tent where the crew gathered each morning. With military precision, Charlie announced the daily schedule and routines to adopt in response to course conditions and feedback from the PGA for single or double cutting and rolling. Coordination of crew assignments and daily motivational pep talks provided by Mike, Charlie, Dan and Eric got everyone out the door and headed in the proper direction prior to the sun rising. Having new individuals on the golf course working with unfamiliar equipment could be a recipe for disaster. Add darkness and the risk is compounded. Mike praised the skill and adept performance of the volunteers who brought their expertise on loan to Belmont for the week of the tournament. "The skill level of the volunteers and familiarity of the property is what made it go like clockwork" said a humble Mr. Rose. "Volunteers are generous to give their time, and those that were here multiple days- quickly became part of the regular crew and were relied upon with confidence their job would get done well and on time ". Mike and his staff of long time employees committed to Belmont Country Club deserve all the credit. The many volunteers I spoke with agree, the golf course was outstanding and shining on the day the Volunteers arrived, and we just needed not to make any mistakes!

Thoughts From Your Association Manager



Mike Rose

Belmont Country Club was the site of the Constellation Senior Players Championship June 11-14 this year. This PGA Tour event was contested over a beautifully manicured course tended to by Superintendent Mike Rose and his hard working team. Many volunteers made up of superintendents, assistants and commercial representatives supplemented the team. I spent some time with Mike and toured a few holes of the course. I've played Belmont many times and have always been impressed by the

excellent standards of maintenance that have been produced by the superintendents who have plied their trade at this beautiful venue. During my time in the business I have played Belmont while under the direction of Manny Francis, Jr., Al Silva, Arthur Silva and now Mike Rose. A very interesting fact is that before becoming superintendents at Belmont, Al Silva, Arthur Silva and Mike Rose were assistants to their predecessor.



Arthur Silva (left) and John Lenhart

Congratulations to Eric Fontaine who has recently taken the superintendent's position at the Country Club of Billerica. Prior to this position Eric was the assistant superintendent at Nashua Country Club in Nashua, NH.

Recently I spoke with Manny Francis, a Retired Member of the Association who has been ill. He's been dealing with leukemia, and spent some time in the hospital. Manny is now home and undergoing treatment. He feels pretty good, although his strength is not what he would like it to be. He has to limit physical contact with people (no hand shaking) since his system is weak and the risk of further infection is still high. All of us wish Manny a speedy recovery.

The Membership Directory was mailed to all members last month. While a lot of time was spent to make the information up to date and accurate, mistakes can happen so please check your listing to be certain it's correct. If you see something that needs a change, please send a note to <u>donhearn@gcsane.org</u> or give me a call at 774-430-9040. While the change can't be made in this year's directory the information in the Association's records will be updated to reflect your current information and the change will be made in next year's directory. The Membership Directory is also available on the Association's website at gcsane.org. You'll need your password and username to access the directory. If you don't have a username and password or have forgotten them, let me know and I'll send what you need.



This year's Member Guest was played at Cyprian Keyes Golf Club in Boylston, MA, June 29. There was a good turnout and it was nice to see members inviting friends, business associates and other members to spend a day together in a friendly atmosphere. The golf course was in ex-

(from left) Jason Paradise and Dick Zepp

cellent condition and all had a great time at Cyprian. The conditioning team headed by Jason Paradise, Superintendent and Dick Zepp, Director of Golf Course Maintenence had heir hands full after the previous day's heavy rains had caused plenty of washed out bunkers that had to be put back in shape before play began. Lunch and dinner were well done and the staff at Cyprian made all feel welcome.

continued on page 8



Belmont - continued from page 3

Below we share some comments and views of the Volunteer experience.

Jamie Hunt: Sunningdale CC: "For me, Belmont CC was a great experience and, from what I saw in terms of conditioning, was perfect! I thought Mike, Charlie, Dan and Eric were well organized and extremely well prepared. I knew they were prepared right from the start when I received my credentials and there was a map of the golf course with a mission statement and phone numbers on the back. I have worked a lot of these tournaments and never saw that. I thought that was unique. Hats off to Charlotte, Mike's wife, for making sure we were fed. All around I thought it was a fun work environment to be in."

Jeff Urqhart: Milton Hoosic: "My task wasn't the most interesting (tee dew remover), so I was more into watching everyone else around me do their job. I toured the place with Mike Rose the previous Sunday and was in awe of what had to happen in order for the event to take place. The logistics of it all is nuts!!!!"

Ben Pacific: Nashawtuc CC: "I went into the week not knowing what it was going to be like. Waking up earlier than usual was not great but the week as a whole was awesome and I would definitely do it again. I really enjoyed the atmosphere; I loved hearing stories from the guys that used to work together and haven't seen each other in a while. I really enjoyed meeting a lot of new people in the turf industry. Everyone is great and it seems like anyone is willing to give advice and give a helping hand. The crew at Belmont is all great and did an unbelievable job getting ready for the tournament. Best part of the week is my laser lines on the greens finally got the national recognition they deserve. (Kidding, but not really!!)"

Pat Daly: Framingham CC: "I've known Chico (Mike) for years and I was happy to volunteer and help him out for the tournament. It was also great to see a lot of friends that I haven't been able to spend time with lately and meet some new people from around the area. One of my favorite things that I did was follow Jim Favreau around on the intermediate rough machine and blow off the debris he left on tees. I'm guessing that by the end of the week he learned the correct way to mow the intermediate rough."

Vin lacono: Northeast Nursery Golf & Turf; "To be totally honest, before the event I was totally miserable about having to get up at 2 am. However, I truly enjoyed every moment of it. Seeing old friends and meeting new people. Mike and his staff and of course Mrs. Rose had all the bases covered (unlike the Red Sox). Had a great time cutting cups on the practice green...and you know it all starts there. Lol." Ron Dobosz: Town of Wilbraham Parks Dept. "It was a great experience. It was great seeing old friends and meeting new people. Mike and his staff had the course just perfect." Greg Hennessy; Northeast Nursery Golf & Turf - "It truly was great meeting new folks and re-connecting with others. Especially Arthur Silva (did he find the fountain of youth?). I'm glad it's over (2:30 am wake-up) and I'm glad I did it!!" Kyle Walsh: Pine Meadow- "It is always good to meet new people and others you haven't seen in a while. Mowing the approaches was a pleasure. The course was good when arriving on Tuesday, and I hope I made the course slightly better when I left on Sunday. Interesting to see the different



ways people do things like the double clean ups around fairways, etc."

Dave Webster: Cambridge Parks - "My personal experience was probably different from some people as I worked there already so it was great to see everyone I worked with and great to be back on the course I was familiar with. It was a chance to remember a lot of good memories. Overall I was really impressed with the conditions. The way the crew was run in such a smooth manner, the organization, and the overall willingness of everyone to help out and care for the course and ultimately care how the grounds crew at Belmont was represented was very encouraging. Everyone there wanted to do a good job for all the right reasons. I think the players got a chance to play on some greens, Greenwich velvet, they haven't seen many times before which may have been beneficial to some players and made others frustrated. The greens were perfect, they could have been harder but making them easier may have allowed the players to showcase more of their skills with approach shots. Who knows if that's true but it sounds good. It was a great experience largely due to the fact that the Belmont grounds crew did such a great job preparing the course in the months before the tournament. Us volunteers just had to not screw it up."

Jason Adams; Blue Hill CC: "It's funny to get the reactions of family and friends when you tell them you woke up at 2:45 am to go and work at another golf course and not get paid. They often ask, "Why would you do that, Ugh?" I asked myself the same question. It's because you do anything for family! I consider other Superintendents and Assistants in the business family. When someone asks you to help, you just do! I think I was as excited as Mike and his staff to get things ready for the event and it felt really great to be part of something special for New England Golf! The organization, professionalism of the staff and the outstanding conditions on the course made me feel extremely proud! Seeing Superintendents, Assistants, Retired Superintendents, industry vendors and Mike's staff working together as one unit was really cool!"

..... It could not be better said! *

Mark Casey MTE Turf Equipment Solutions

More photos of the day can be viewed on page 7.



Belmont Country Club













Association Manager - continued from page 4



Erik Dolt (left) and Kevin Corvino

The 2015 Ouimet Golf Marathon will take place Wednesday, August 12, at the Stow Acres Country Club. Last year 33 teams played 100+ holes each and raised \$250,000 for Ouimet Scholarships. Keep in mind that some of these scholarships were awarded to students who worked on the courses our members are responsible for maintaining. This year, as he has done in the past, Kevin Corvino, superintendent at the Dedham Country and Polo Club, will be participating to help raise money for the Fund's scholarships. His team consists of Nat Binns, fundraiser, and Erik Doldt, caddie. While Kevin does the actual playing, Erik is a huge part of getting around the course and it wouldn't be possible for the team to function without his support and the contribution of Nat, who encourages people to become donors. Our thanks go to Kevin, Nat and Erik for taking the time and caring enough to invest their energy to help make the Ouimet Golf Marathon the success it is. If you wish to support Kevin and his team and the Ouimet Scholarship Fund, please go to the Ouimet's webpage and make a donation.

As you may know, Jim Piquette, a long time member of the Rhode Island GCSA passed away July 3. Jim was a friend to many in the GCSA of New England.

He was a longtime volunteer for the Seekonk Fire Department. He was inducted into the Seekonk Sports Hall of Fame in appreciation for his generosity to the High School golf team. In 2001, Jim fulfilled his lifelong dream by building Mulligans Island Golf and Entertainment Center in Cranston RI, which he continued to successfully manage until his illness. Jim was an avid sports fan, and a very generous friend to many.

Jim grew up in Seekonk, MA where he operated Firefly Golf Course after earning a degree in Turf Grass Management at UMass Amherst. He worked at various private golf clubs before opening Mulligans Island. ❖

By Don Hearn





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Kevin Doyle - GCSAA Updates



GCSAA Resources and Deadlines you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already:

GCSAA Insurance benefits you!

Did you know that GCSAA provides free life insurance and AD&D (accidental death & dismemberment) as a part of your membership? GCSAA's administrator, SRA Benefits, brings members and their families quality insurance programs. For more info <u>click here</u>.

WOTUS final rule reached; learn how it may impact your facility (headline is linked)

The final Clean Water Rule was announced May 27 by the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers and will be effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. GCSAA is currently reviewing the rule for its impact to golf courses. The Clean Water Rule significantly expands the definition of "waters of the U.S." under Clean Water Act jurisdiction and we believe the final rule will likely have a negative impact on golf courses due to increased permitting requirements.

Help recruit new members, get rewarded

GCSAA's new Member-Get-A-Member program provides members with the opportunity to receive gift certificates for each new member that they recruit. Members will also receive one entry into the grand prize drawing for an allexpenses-paid trip to the 2016 Golf Industry Show in San Diego. Learn more about the program by <u>clicking here</u>.

The 2016 Dog Days of Golf calendar sponsored by LebanonTurf in cooperation with GCSAA

Submissions for the 2016 Dog Days of Golf Calendar will be accepted through Aug. 4, 2015. From the submissions, 14 dogs will be selected. Owners of the selected dogs will be notified in September, and the calendar will be distributed with the November issue of *GCM* magazine. Plan now to stop by the LebanonTurf booth at the **Golf Industry Show** in February to place your vote for the 2016 Dog of the Year. The winner's owner will receive a \$500 prize and \$3,000 for his or her GCSAA-affiliated chapter. A \$1,000 donation to the **Train a Dog Save a Warrior** program will also be made in honor of the winner.

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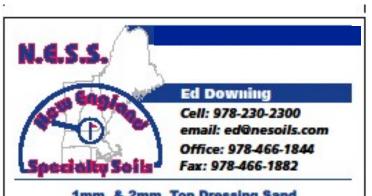
Don't forget to sign up your equipment manager for this limited opportunity to enjoy full, complimentary membership in 2015. In February, GCSAA members approved the new membership classification, and equipment managers can now take advantage of benefits and resources available to GCSAA members, including new education opportunities tailored specifically for equipment managers. <u>Sign up your</u> equipment manager here for free membership through 2015

Upcoming FREE webcasts:

- July 22: 360 Degree Teamwork and Leadership -Equipment Management Series
- <u>Aug. 5: Poa annua Control and Resistance Manage-</u> ment in Warm-Season Turf

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



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What to Expect When You're Down

Many times we get ourselves upset at the perceived lack of caring by others when something major happens, such as a job loss. Many people will come forward to make sincere offers of help. But others, who you thought would call or stop by never do. Keep these points in mind if you ever find yourself in a situation where you wonder, "where have all my friends gone?"

Everybody wants something

Almost everyone acts out of self-interest (especially when they claim they don't). Often the people most eager to offer advice or help will want the most in return.

Assume all career or business assistance is part of an expected exchange, either now or in the future. Then you won't be disappointed. But keep in mind that occasionally a few people just want to help others. So don't get too cynical. Occasionally you'll meet those rare people who like to help simply because it makes them feel good. Those people are hard to find, though. When you find someone truly and genuinely giving, make him or her a permanent part of your life.

Everything before "but" is bull

This is so true and I know I've preceded countless times, a statement or idea by saying "I don't mean to be critical, but...," "I'm not trying to tell you what to do, but...," "Please don't take this the wrong way, but...," Yes you do, yes you are, and yes I will. Disclaimers are anything but and usually indicate the true meaning behind what is said. **Don't expect to get back what you give**.

Favors will not be returned. Sacrifices made for others will not be rewarded. Few of the people you mentor, develop, promote, and work with are going to call you when, years from now, you're suddenly without employment.

When you give, give because you want to or because it's the right thing to do. Then you will never be disappointed.

I know this sounds like a cynical piece, and it is. The intent is to create a reality that most of us don't deal with regularly. Also to reinforce the fact that you will be disappointed if something drastic happens and so few of those you thought were long-time friends will be around to help. *

By Don Hearn



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting location change - August 10 meeting will be at Wayland Country Club, not Stow Acres.

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.



This information is being sent on behalf of Jim Conant, CGCS, Superintendent of the Country Club of Pittsfield and a member of the Association. Jim is also a member of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture Advisory Board.

Many of our members are Stockbridge graduates and will find the changes at the school exciting and eyeopening. This is a good way to reconnect with the school and see what's new.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Jim at <u>ccopjc@verizon.net</u> or 413-841-4459.

Hold the date! - October 17, 2015 -Homecoming Weekend

On October 17, we will host an open house for Stockbridge School of Agriculture alumni. The day will begin with a tour of our newly renovated Paige Laboratory, with a chance to meet members of our faculty in their research laboratories. I am sure that you'll be excited by their outstanding work and enthusiasm for their research.

After the tour, relax under our tent and listen to some wonderful local music. Willie Crosby, an alum and our instructor for mushroom culture, will give an enlightening talk on growing mushrooms.

We'll also treat you to a spectacular farm-to-table luncheon, with vegetables from our Student Farm, and you'll have ample opportunity to enjoy the company of fellow Stockbridge School of Agriculture alums.

In the afternoon, attend the homecoming football game with plenty of time to tailgate. If you prefer, student farmers will provide tours of our Agricultural Learning Center just north of campus. You also can partake of the many other homecoming activities - or just walk around the UMass campus during one of the prettiest times of the year.

Please join us. Campus will be alive with activity, and if you haven't been to UMass in a number of years, this is your chance to see how your alma mater has grown!

Please look out for future notices; you will be able to register in August.



Wesley Autio Director & Professor Stockbridge School of Agriculture University of Massachusetts Amherst 205 Paige Laboratory



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