



# THE NEWSLETTER

July 2016

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.

## GCSAA Update by Kevin Doyle



The challenges during long stretches with little or no rainfall are well documented and extremely stressful. Seemingly endless days of sun seem to make every moment revolve around keeping turf strong and healthy. I have been asked by Brian, a long time GCSAA member, to write a reminder newsletter article on just such a situation, sunny days and health, but not turf related, turf manager related!

Some of you may recall an article written by Steven Best. Best, a 24-year member of GCSAA at the time of his death in October 2011 from melanoma, was honored for his story, “Surviving skin cancer,” which was published in the July 2011 issue of GCM. Best was the recipient of the 2012 GCSAA Leo Feser Award, which is presented annually for the best superintendent-written story published in GCM. The story detailed Best’s journey through a battle with Stage 4 melanoma and his call for increased awareness of skin cancer and ways it could be prevented among his fellow superintendents.

I immediately thought of Best’s article when the topic was mentioned (linked here, or simply search the GCM archive for “Surviving skin cancer”). Discussions with Brian took another very enlightening turn, as he does see a dermatologist regularly and has had some items removed over time, albeit for precautionary reasons. He told me that not only does he get checked regularly, he knows other superintendents in the area that do as well. In my 17 years on the course, I had never visited a dermatologist for a screening. Have you?

While avoiding sun exposure during the heat of the day is not going to happen in our industry, please heed the suggestions of experts at Dana-Farber:

- Avoid unprotected sun exposure and seek shade when possible.
- Wear sun protective clothing, such as a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and shirts with long sleeves.
- Apply the recommended amount of broad-spectrum (blocking UVA and UVB rays) sunscreen with a SPF of 30 or above when

going outside. Be sure to check expiration dates.

- Reapply sunscreen every two hours, or as needed.
- Finally, check your entire body for changes in your skin on a monthly basis.
- Click here to read the original article.

Also be aware that you are not alone in this! Everyone on the staff will undergo similar sun exposure, and as your maintenance team’s leader, you may need to remind them regularly as well. GCSAA has an archived webcast that may help you accomplish that goal: <http://gcsaa.tv/webinars/education/archive-files/sun.wmv>. Perhaps viewing at a staff meeting on a rainy day will help accomplish that, should we ever have one!

I hope this reminder assists to ensure you remain safe during these long hot days. Best of luck keeping both you and your turf strong and healthy this summer!

### GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

**you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already:**

### Results from nutrient survey show significant reduction in use!

Thank you again to all who took the time to participate in the Environmental Profile Survey regarding Nutrient Use! The results are in and again show the tremendous environmental stewardship utilized by golf course superintendents! Information regarding the results can be found at the link here.

### Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award

The GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award (DSA) is presented annually to an individual or individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent’s profession. The contribution must be significant in both substance and duration, and may be, or have been, regional in nature. Individuals must be nominated by a GCSAA member, an affiliated chapter or a qualified golf association. The nominee must not have been a recipient of this award in the past 10 years. The award was first presented in 1932 and has been presented annually since 1975. The GCSAA Board of Directors se-

(Continued)

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## GCSAA Update by Kevin Doyle (cont)

lects the recipients of the Distinguished Service Awards during its fall board meeting. The award is presented during the annual Golf Industry Show.

Nominations for the 2017 DSAs are open through July 31, 2016.

### Calling all Dogs!!!

Submit a photo by Aug. 1, 2016 to share your best friend with the world! From the submissions, 14 dogs will be selected. The winner's owner will receive a \$500 prize and \$3,000 for his or her GCSAA-affiliated chapter. A \$1,000 charitable donation will also be made by GCSAA and LebanonTurf in honor of the winner.

Be stop by LebanonTurf's booth at the Golf Industry Show next February in Orlando to place your vote for 2017 Dog of the Year.

### Upcoming FREE webcasts:

July 26: Globally Harmonized System & SDS Labels at Your Golf Course

Aug. 30: Planning a Snow Mold Prevention Program

Sept. 28: Time Management & Goal Setting for Success Now  
- Equipment Management Series

Oct. 27: Drilling Tools and Techniques  
- Equipment Management Series

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

Kevin Doyle  
GCSAA Field Staff  
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**PYTHFUL or BLISSFUL?**



## Thoughts From Your Executive Director *by Don Hearn*



*from left: Kevin and Erik*

holes played by Kevin would be quite a bit less. Nat helps Kevin with fundraising. Kevin does the playing. Last year over thirty teams played 100+ holes each and raised more than \$300,000 for Ouimet Scholarships. Recipients of Ouimet Scholarships include those who have worked on many of our members' courses. If you would like to support Kevin in this fundraising quest, please go to the Ouimet site at <https://shar.es/1JVoaF> to make a donation.



*MGA Executive Director, Jesse Menachem, left and Adam Moore*

flow, training and motivating the staff, and worrying about what could mess up all the great work needed to showcase the course and the exceptional staff who do so much to help make the event a success. I have to give a big "thank you" to the Massachusetts Golf Association for their coverage of the course maintenance team in the summer issue of Mass Golfer magazine.



*Ed Downing explaining a process at NESS*

"Team Corvino" will again participate in the Ouimet Golf Marathon. This year's event will be played at Stow Acres Country Club, August 10. The team consists of Kevin Corvino, superintendent at Unicorn Golf Course, Nat Binns, sales representative for Turf Products and Erik Dolt, longtime caddie for Kevin.

Without Erik, the number of

The recently concluded Massachusetts Open played at Worcester Country Club was a success by all measure. Without exception, everyone I came in contact with was hearty with praise for the course conditions. Superintendent Adam Moore, Assistant Superintendent Shaun Mitchell and their team had prepared the course to the level of perfection. I sometimes wonder if there's much lasting appreciation for all the long hours spent planning the work

New England Specialty Soils (NESS) held a Lunch and Learn event last month at their plant in Lancaster, MA. All who attended came away with a better understanding of how sands are produced for use on turfgrass. It was very interesting to learn about the various pieces of equipment – screeners,

loaders, trucks – and the specialized functions they have. I was amazed at the logistics required to produce the various sands and sand-soil mixes to customer specifications required for golf and sports turf.

Engineered soils, produced to meet specifications for building site grounds, is an aspect of the business I hadn't been aware of. After the tour of the plant the group traveled to Red Tail Golf Club for lunch and an educational presentation about soils by Bob Oppold from the International Sports Turf Research Center (ISTRC) and New Mix Labs. After lunch some played golf. Others sat with Bob to talk about soils, construction mixes and other topics of mutual interest. It was a great experience and our gratitude is extended to NESS representatives Ed Downing and Bob Doran, and Steve Boucher, owner of NESS, and Bob Oppold for the time and caring they put forth to make this a superb learning experience.



*The NESS processing facility*

(Continued)

**N.E.S.S.**



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## Thoughts From Your Executive Director *(CONTINUED)*



From Left:  
Tom Berkel, MGA Exec. Committee;  
Mark Gagne, MGA;  
Elaine Gebhardt, Executive Director  
NEGCOA;  
David Frem, GM, Cyprian Keyes GC

The 24th edition the Scholarship and Benevolence Tournament took place June 27 at Cyprian Keyes Golf Club in Boylston, MA. Our commercial representatives and their companies contributed, along with those who played in the event, to lend their support to this year's fundraiser. Donors and supporters of the event are listed on the homepage of the Association's website. I encourage you to go there ([gcsane.org](http://gcsane.org)) and take a look to see who has helped raise funds for scholarships and benevolent aid for members and their families. Please support the people and companies who support you and your industry. Keep in mind that without support from the commercial sector of our business, we might not be as successful as we are.



All the NEWSLETTERS published by the Association have been scanned and are now available to view online. The first NEWSLETTER was published in May 1929. The scanned issues were uploaded to google by Jason VanBuskirk and can be found by clicking or entering this link <http://bit.ly/GCSANEnewsletters>. Reading them provides insight and interesting information about our profession and Association. While you'll read about the

evolution of equipment, products and practices, you'll also read about issues that have been topics of conversation from the beginning of our profession. The link to the publications is also posted on the homepage of the Association's website at [gcsane.org](http://gcsane.org).



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## NESS Field Day by Jason Vanbuskirk

New England Specialty Soils hosted a fantastic field day on Wednesday, June 15th. It was held directly at the soil pit in Lancaster, MA attended by approximately 50 turf professionals. Ed Downing, on behalf of NESS, was a tremendous tour guide; bringing everyone around the exquisite property on a makeshift wagon attached to a dump truck. There were periodic stops made throughout the tour; specifically at the sifter, popular sand piles, and specialty soil piles. This allowed for thorough explanation of how each material is created and what is done at each area. Ed also shared the typical customers that may be focused on purchasing this specific material. He covered topics such as machines on property, amount of time it takes to make certain materials, and how they cycle through different parts of the pit. The entire tour duration was about 1 hour and offered an opportunity for continued education and great networking.

Once the tour of the pit was completed, we headed over to Red Tail Golf Club in Devens, MA for more education, lunch, and golf. Lunch was also sponsored by New England Specialty Soils, a real treat! Directly following lunch, we were honored to have Bob Oppold, COO of ISTRC New Mix Lab, LLC give a presentation on how to read a soil report from greens to bunkers. He focused on topics such as the proper plug to take and what it looks like down to the actual numbers in the report and what may or may not be

truly meaningful. He was particularly thorough in bunker sand reports, which was obviously intriguing as we just had the tour at the NESS pit. He covered the differences on angular to sub-angular bunker sand and the interaction in the actual bunker. This presentation was also fantastic; being very thorough and educational, it was also assured that the seminar was good for some CEU credits with the GCSAA! Bob is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to soil and sand specifics!

Bob's presentation was followed by 9 holes of golf at Red Tail and some more thorough networking amongst those that chose not to play. The day ended at approximately 4pm. This field day/demo day was certainly unique, but one that should definitely be done next year! The whole day was filled with fun, education, and great company. Thanks New England Specialty Soils, Bob Oppold, and Red Tail Golf Club for your hospitality!

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# NEWSLETTER

November, 1980



Now that we have access to all of the past editions of the NEWSLETTER, I thought it would be fitting to share the November 1980 cover story that was written after a summer like we are having now.

Superintendents Association

AND, INC.

Sponsors and administrators of the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

## Summer Went on the Wagon

If you are a golf course superintendent and irrigation systems are among those items your club labels "things to install tomorrow," your summer has been a test of your ingenuity, patience...and luck.

This was not the driest golfing season on record in the Northeast. But it ranks right up there with the meanest. Across the New England area, there were stretches of rainless days that turned many a lush and lovely fairway into a slab of overcooked bacon.

For example, the month of August produced a 15-day span in which a total of .15 inches of rain fell. From the 16th day of the month to the 30th, only traces of precipitation were recorded. And that .15 inches came in one swoop, on August 31.

Superintendents, under the disadvantage of having to groom their courses without what has turned into the luxury of an irrigation system, found themselves cursing the skies and taking emergency measures to save greens and tees.

"I was out day and night with tanks, hoses and everything at my command to keep my greens cooled down," one super reported. "And I'm not talking about producing moisture just for the sake of looks. I was in a desperate position, faced with the possibility of losing everything with grass on it."

The critical burn-out months of July and August were indeed just that. July did total 2.70 inches of rainfall. However, that figure is deceiving in the fact that more than half of it came during a thunderstorm on July 29 that produced 1.38 inches. Therefore, the remaining 30 days of the month brought only a little more than one inch of rain.

Weather forecasters were especially concerned with the continuation of the drought in September. Normally, the autumn kickoff is accompanied by cool nights and humidity-short days.

"That's when I thought our course would snap back," informed another super who has to depend on Mother Nature for his main source of water. "But, instead of getting better, conditions got worse. This is the last day of the month (September) and I have never seen my fairways as brown. It's worse than that. They're parched."

According to records of local weather bureaus, September falls into a list of "the top 20" as far as instigating drought conditions. This means that the month has to go down as one of the driest since records were initiated more than 80 years ago.

In addition to being on the wagon for most of the golfing season, the summer proved to be more of a headache because of the complementing conditions it wrought. The humidity was beastly and consistent. Then, too, another danger surfaced.

"Just too many stages when the winds came out of the northwest," our plagued supers complained. "They took what moisture there was in the ground and dried it up. So, I was fighting the weather from all sides...no rain, lots of

humidity and those damn northwest winds."

Ironically, the dry summer might have been welcomed by those superintendents with irrigation systems and bountiful water supplies for employing them at their command.

"Personally, I think I can do a better job of keeping my course in good shape when we have prolonged dry conditions," one push-button rainmaker observed. "What happens in this case is that I can control the amount of moisture going to the plants."

"I fear those quick thunderstorms that drop buckets of rain, forming still water and inviting disease from the humidity. When that happens, I'm helpless. So, even though I feel sorry for those superintendents and courses that don't have irrigation systems, I do better when it doesn't rain."

The occasion of the drought through the summer months followed a pattern established last winter when the Northeast—especially New England—suffered through snowless months. That posed a danger of top soil blowing off and lengthened the turf recovery period of spring.

"We were hammered all year long as far as I'm concerned," the super praying for rain concluded. "For those of us, who couldn't control the moisture and feeding process, it was sheer hell. It has to tell my club something. Irrigation is the only way to go."

So, the superintendent had his problem this golf season. Spring was a late comer and summer lingered into fall without loosening its grip on choking conditions. As the farmer once sighed while clearing the dust from his throat, "it was so dry I had to sit on a sack of fertilizer to raise an umbrella."

GERRY FINN

### Next Meeting

**Monoosnock C.C.  
Nov. 3, 1980**

Directors Meeting	9:30 a.m.
Regular Meeting	10:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:30 a.m.
Golf	12:30 p.m.

**Directions:** From 128 or 495 take route 2 west to route 13. Turn right on route 13. Club is 7/10 mile on right.

**Reservations for lunch:** Call Leroy Allen at 342-7722 home or 537-1812 club.



# How to Write a Thank You Note *by Don Hearn*

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Because many people feel anxious or unsure of themselves when it comes to writing a proper thank-you note, it's a task that's often put off until the last minute. However, procrastinating usually just makes a bad problem worse – the longer you wait, the more stressed out you'll become. Here are some suggestions for thank-you notes.

## *Are thank you notes really that important?*

Like it or not, the value of thank you notes lies in more than just tradition. In all actuality, they help you accomplish several important goals. And yes, they are that important.

## *It's a simple way of showing gratitude toward someone who has done something kind for you.*

Whenever someone gives you a gift, they're usually giving up their own valuable resources — whether money or time — that they could have devoted to their own selves, or future. With that consideration, a thank you note is a very tangible way to show your thanks for that gift. It's something that takes little of your own time, yet clearly and permanently shows gratitude.

## *It keeps the communication loop open between you and that person.*

A thank you note extends the window of opportunity of communication with someone else, keeping your name in their mind. It's for this reason that many people advise sending a thank you note after a job interview. Simply put, when you write a thank you note, you often leave a positive, lasting impression of yourself — which can't hurt when someone is about to make a hiring decision. A thank-you note can also help keep open a cordial line of communication with someone with whom you have a strained relationship or whom you've drifted apart from over time.

## *When are thank you notes appropriate?*

A thank you note is almost never inappropriate. If you feel compelled to thank someone for a gift, a compliment, or a deed, do so. A handwritten note written from the bottom of your heart can never be a bad thing. I received a note from a golf professional who had played the course at which I was the superintendent. I don't remember the exact words in the note, but I'll never forget the person who sent it and the thoughtfulness of what he did. With that being said, here are some common situations where a thank-you note is not only common, but recommended:

## *Whenever you receive a gift, send a thank you note.*

If someone sends you a gift, a thank you note in return will almost always be expected. This is particularly true with wedding gifts, graduation gifts, and other personal gift-giving occasions.

## *Whenever you interview for a job, send a thank you note.*

A post-interview thank you note is always appreciated — even if you don't think you'll land the job. At the very least, sending a note shows that you appreciated the interviewer's time. For many people, that means a lot.

## *Whenever someone does something to help you in your personal or professional life, send a thank-you note.*

I find these are the most powerful ones in terms of building a network of people that you can regularly connect with. When you're able to make a significant contact with a person, make sure to follow up — because those individuals may eventually become friends and important contacts.

## *Whenever you establish a new professional contact, send a thank you note.*

This doesn't mean you should send a note to every person that gives you a business card. Instead, wait for encounters that are actually meaningful.

## *When you play or visit another course and your green fees are complimentary, send a thank you note.*

Letting another superintendent know you appreciated his or her efforts to make your day more enjoyable is a time to send this type of note. It's not only good manners, it's the right thing to do. How happy do you think you'd be if you received this type of note from a fellow superintendent? In short, send a thank you note when someone does something for you that has a positive impact on your life. Avoid sending a thank you note to the same person more than once every few months; one note is appreciated, but five gets creepy.

## *How to write a thank you note that means something*

Always hand-write a thank you note: A handwritten note has an elegance that you just can't capture by typing and printing a note. Take out your pen and write down your thoughts. Don't be afraid to draft the note elsewhere first in order to minimize the risk of mistakes. Thank you notes can be written on very informal stationery. Don't sweat it too much — just pick something that you like while also keeping in mind that certain images or themes might be offensive to others.

## *Address the thank you note with care*

Start off with the word "Dear," then imagine you walked into a room and saw this person (or these people) without having seen them for a year. How would you address them? That's what you should use next. For example, if it's an old friend, use their first name. If it's one of your parents' friends that you don't know particularly well, use Mr. and Mrs. Lastname.

(Continued)

## Thank You Note *(CONTINUED)*

### *The First Sentence*

Say "Thank you for..." and state the reason. For instance:

*Thank you for the kind words.*

*Thank you for the opportunity to interview for the superintendent position at...*

*Thank you for the wonderful course conditions.*

*Thank you for the complimentary green fee.*

### *The Signature*

No matter what you do, make sure to end your note in a pleasant and friendly manner.

### *Write the Thank-You Note from Your Heart*

That's the key: When you're writing thank-you notes that are born out of sincere gratitude, you can't go wrong. So buy a basic set of cards that are blank on the inside and break out your favorite pen. But no matter what, write from the heart. When you do, your friends will notice — and they'll appreciate it.



## Divot Drift

Our condolences are extended to the Zeytoonjian family. **Fred Zeytoonjian**, long time owner and CEO of Turf Products passed away June 23, 2016

Welcome to **Mike Giles**, Affiliate Member and Sales Representative for Country Club Enterprises.

Welcome to **Eric Still**, Superintendent Member and Superintendent at Wenham Country Club.

## Back Issues!



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

As in the past, *The Newsletter* continues to invite Affiliate members to submit a press release about new personnel, new products or a company bio. We will print each and every release **free of charge**. This is a great way to advertise for free. Who said nothing in this world is free? Free advertising to better your company, wow what an offer.



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*July 2016*





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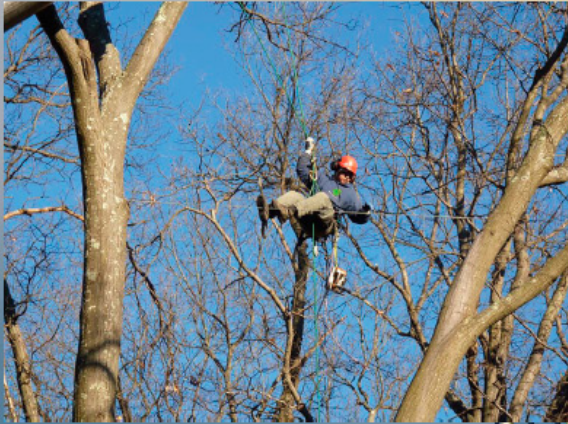
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