



THE NEWSLETTER

July 2017

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

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Presidents Message

I hope this message finds you well now that we are in the busiest, most stressful time of our season. It has been an up and down roller coaster ride this summer with multiple heat waves, numerous days that were below average temperatures, heavy rains and some dry stretches. The turf is somewhat unprepared and confused, so don't take it personal.

On Friday 7/7 our three day member guest at Wianno was scheduled to start at 12:30 pm. We had worked countless hours to prepare the property and had the golf course polished and ready. The rain started at 12:20pm and by 3:00pm we had 5 ½ inches of rain on the ground. The course obviously went underwater and the 16th green had over 5 ft of water on it. We got to work right away and had the course ready to play at noon on Saturday.

We all have our war stories, and the fact that we can look back, learn and make light of tough situations is what makes us all successful in this business and life. I know war stories don't make me feel better, but they do put it all into perspective. I wish you all great success this roller coaster season and hope to catch up at the next GCSANE meeting.

Best Regards,

David Johnson, President GCSANE



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Thoughts From Your Executive Director *by Don Hearn*



Kip Tyler, left and Jim Skorulski

The June meeting at The Ledges Golf Club was cancelled because the day's weather forecast included lightning and heavy rain. Mike Fontaine, Superintendent, was to be our host and we had a good contingent of area members registered for the event. Based on what we had been seeing for weather, and keeping in mind the need for people to make plans, we thought it best to cancel rather than take the chance of having players arrive and then have to cancel the event. Whenever this type of decision is made it makes for a second-guess betting pool, but we did make what we thought was the best choice at the time.

My congratulations and utmost regard go to Kip Tyler, Superintendent of Salem Country Club, his dedicated and knowledgeable staff, and the volunteers who donated their time and talent to assist Kip and the club in preparation for this year's U.S. Senior Open Championship. Their expertise and commitment to excellence helped make the U.S. Senior Open Championship a successful event. Many times we hear about the volunteers who give their time and talent at events on the PGA TOUR, USGA Championships and other events held each year, but it's usually in the context of those who serve as course marshals and those involved with player assistance. I have high admiration for all volunteers at these events, but highest admiration for those involved with the preparation and care of the golf course. I know the sacrifices many make and I'm in awe that they help produce such a beautiful product. I also want to give recognition to the USGA staff who are intimate partners with Kip and his team before and during the Championship. This year, three agronomists spent considerable time onsite to help insure conditions would be as the USGA deemed appropriate for the Championship. Jim Skorulski, Larry Gilhuly and Darren Brevard handled their responsibilities with professionalism and an abundance of respect for what "Team Tyler" and the USGA were trying to accomplish.

This year, we will again be fortunate to have Kevin Corvino and his able caddie, Erik Doldt, represent the GCSA of New England to help raise funds for the Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund. If you'd like to donate to the fund, please click this link <http://fosf.convio.net/goto/KevinCorvino>

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Thank you letter to U.S. Senior Open Volunteers

July 11, 2017

Dear Volunteers,

We want to thank all 72 volunteers and the numerous vendors that contributed to making the 2017 U.S. Senior Open such a huge success. We can't thank you enough for taking time away from your busy schedules and jobs to help us at Salem Country Club two weeks ago. Kenny Perry prevailed as the champion and the feedback on the golf course was tremendous. Even Joe Buck and Paul Azinger commented on the amazing work of the staff and volunteers during the Fox Sports live broadcast on Sunday. Every volunteer and employee should take pride in the fact that they contributed to the success of this huge event. Of the 72 volunteers we had 11 Superintendents, 9 Assistants, 4 former employees and 10 returning volunteers from the 2001 U.S. Senior Open. The most represented club was Meadow Brook Golf Club in Reading with 5 and the most represented company was Country Golf, Inc. with 6. The longest distance traveled was the 3-man team from the future site of the 2019 U.S. Senior Open, Warren Golf Course, in Indiana (Notre Dame) with 3.

We also want to thank Harrell's for the pullovers, Bayer & New England Specialty Soils for the golf shirts and Par Aide & The Cardinals, Inc. for the hats. A big thanks for the meals that were provided by BASF, Syngenta, PBI/Gordon, NuFarm, Foster Materials Inc., Tartan Farms, Northeast Nursery and Shrewsbury Landscape. Lastly thanks to TPC, Lacorte Equipment, MTE and Country Club Enterprises for supplying the equipment needed to get the job done.

We hope that the 2017 U.S Senior Open experience was as memorable for you as it was for us. Thank you once again for all your efforts and generosity. It is greatly appreciated.

\Sincerely,

Kip Tyler, CGCS

Rich Gagnon, Director of Volunteer Services



"The Assistant Superintendents at Salem Country Club from left to right Brendan Flynn, Matt Narey Eli DesrochAers"



Kip Tyler, CGCS Superintendent of Salem Country Club with his wife and two sons"



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Tips from SOLitude for Reducing Mosquitoes and Disease in Your Community

SHREWSBURY, MA, May 24, 2017 – Memorial Day marks the beginning of summer—and the onset of mosquito season. Cold-blooded mosquitoes thrive in balmy temperatures and can get dangerously out of hand without proper management. To limit the impact of mosquitoes during summer travel and activities, SOLitude Lake Management, an industry leader in lake and pond management, fisheries management and related environmental services for the United States, recommends the following ecologically sustainable, preventative, and proactive measures to homeowners, landowners, golf courses and municipalities.

Eliminate breeding habitats

Throughout her six- to eight-week lifespan, a female mosquito will lay about 300 eggs, often in standing or stagnant water. Clearing gutters, picking up litter and emptying buckets and small outdoor containers can help decrease the number of available habitats for mosquitoes to reproduce and thrive.

Circulate stagnant lakes and ponds

In aquatic environments such as lakes, ponds and stormwater basins, the introduction of aeration can help consistently circulate warm stagnant water and help create unfit mosquito breeding grounds. Treat undesirable aquatic plants. Stagnant water pockets in ponds can also be eliminated through the removal of cattails and

non-beneficial vegetation, which can be identified and remedied by a pond management professional.

Stock fish that feed on mosquito larvae

Stocking a lake or pond annually with Fathead minnows, Bluegill and mosquito-fish can help prevent mosquito larvae and adult mosquito infestations throughout the summer. Check with an experienced Fisheries Biologist about your state's specific stocking regulations.

Plant vegetation that attracts dragonflies

Dragonflies can feed on hundreds of larvae and full-grown mosquitoes each day. The introduction of natural, beneficial vegetation around your pond, like blue flag iris, pickerelweed, arrow arum, arrowhead, spatterdock, lizard's tail, and various types of rushes and sedges can help attract predator dragonflies to your property.

Integrate sustainable biological

larvicides If the above natural proactive management methods aren't making enough of an impact on pesky mosquito populations, a safe EPA-approved biological larvicide formulated from beneficial bacteria can be used.

Consider a proactive comprehensive

management plan An Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) program uses science, technology and environmentally responsible applications to target the



Mosquitoes, like Aedes aegypti, are responsible for the spread of dangerous diseases, but there are many sustainable and effective ways to prevent their impact throughout the summer.

insect through each phase of its lifecycle. A thorough site assessment, surveillance program, and disease monitoring are all a crucial part of a successful mosquito management program.

“Besides causing an annoying itch, mosquitoes are responsible for the spread of dangerous vector-borne diseases, including West Nile virus, chikungunya and Zika,” SOLitude Lake Management's President Marc Bellaud said. “It's critical for communities to understand this threat, educate their residents and implement a preventative management plan before peak mosquito season arrives.”

Mosquitoes are not just a threat to outdoor recreation; they can spread harmful and potentially deadly diseases that pose a serious risk to public health. But there are many



Beneficial buffers and native plants can help attract dragonflies, which are a natural predator to mosquitoes.

simple, natural and effective ways to limit and prevent their impact on your outdoor activities. Now that the days are getting longer and warmer, take some time to prepare for a mosquito problem before mid-summer hits—your bare skin will thank you.

SOLitude Lake Management is committed to providing full service lake and pond management services that improve water quality, preserve natural resources, and reduce our environmental footprint. Our services include lake, pond and fisheries management programs, algae and aquatic weed control, mechanical harvesting, hydro-raking, installation and maintenance of fountains and aeration systems, water quality testing and restoration, bathymetry, lake vegetation studies, biological assessments, habitat assessments, invasive species management and nuisance wildlife management. Services, consulting and aquatic products are available to clients nationwide, including homeowners associations, multi-family and apartment communities, golf courses, commercial developments, ranches, private landowners, reservoirs, recreational and public lakes, municipalities, parks, and state and federal agencies. Learn more about SOLitude Lake Management and purchase products at

www.solitudelakemanagement.com

Should You Turn Off Your Phone?

By Don Hearn

Researchers have warned that we are becoming addicted to our phones because of a naturally occurring neurotransmitter in the brain called dopamine. Dopamine is released into our brains when our phones buzz or alert, saying we got a text message or e-mail or Twitter mention, etc.

Most of us have heard of dopamine as the source of pleasure and addiction. But recent research is starting to contradict this view, pegging the opioid system, and not dopamine, as the source of pleasure. Meanwhile, dopamine, they say, drives our curiosity.

“Dopamine causes you to want, desire, seek out and search,” according to Psychology Today. With the Internet, Twitter, and texting, you now have almost instant gratification of your desire to seek. Dopamine starts you seeking. Then you get rewarded for the seeking, which makes you seek more. It becomes harder and harder to stop looking at email, stop texting or stop checking your cell phone to see if you have a message or a new text.

According to leadership and management guru Simon Sinek, allowing this addiction to seep into a workplace’s culture is corrosive.

If you show up at a meeting and put your cell phone on the table, it says to the rest of the people in room that they are not the most important people in the room. And by the way, turning your phone upside down is not more polite. We’ve all done it.

When someone comes into your office, put the cell phone in a drawer, turn off the computer monitor and shut the laptop.

When you go out to dinner with a client, family or friend turn off your phone.

Why do so many people—especially successful people—find smartphone use in meetings to be inappropriate? When you take out your phone it shows:

Lack of respect. You consider the information on your phone to be more important than the conversation at hand, and you view people outside of the meeting to be more important than those sitting right in front of you.

Lack of attention. You are unable to stay focused on one thing at a time.

Lack of listening. You aren’t practicing active listening, so no one around you feels heard.

Lack of power. You are like a modern-day Pavlovian dog who responds to the whims of others through the buzz of your phone.

Lack of self-awareness: You don't understand how ridiculous your behavior looks to other people.

Lack of social awareness: You don't understand how your behavior affects those around you.

I’ve been an example of poor cell phone behavior and will be trying to change this poor behavior in the days ahead. I’m guessing it will be difficult at the beginning, but I’m going to give it a very serious try. I hope you’ll join me in this quest to change our behavior.



My article in the last issue of The Newsletter featured a short description of several allied organizations using the benefits of golf to make our industry better for those of us in it and those outside of golf. It was lengthy, but I hope informative. This month, I'd like to offer a couple summer snippets regarding topics that are touched on fairly frequently.

In the March issue, I wrote about the impact of using "thank you" as a manager of people. I heard feedback from many members about the message portrayed in the article. What I did not touch on was hearing that same phrase from folks above us, those we answer to, and ultimately, our end users, the golfers. I have volunteered at many events hosted by the USGA, PGA, and LPGA, and as I write this article from the U.S. Women's Open, I don't recall ever having a professional golfer visit the maintenance staff to offer thanks for the hard work, until now. The event management company partnering with the USGA for the event arrived on Monday afternoon with a "special guest," LPGA golfer Belen Mozo. Mozo was very appreciative of the efforts by the staff and lauded the conditions of the course. It felt very rewarding. Whether it is coming from a golfer playing at the highest level, board member, or avid daily fee golfer, be sure to share those positive comments you hear with your staff. It will be rewarding for them to hear and may have motivating factors too!



There are several action alerts up at GCSAA.org of which you should take note. Just taking two minutes to fill in your personal information will allow the website to populate a message, and with your approval, send it directly to your legislator. Don't think it will make a difference? I fill them out regularly and was contacted by my New Hampshire state senator's office regarding WOTUS simply because of the action alert! Let your legislator know how our profession feels about pending legislation. Visit the action alert page [here](#).

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already Register now for the Can Am Cup



Canadian and U.S. golf course superintendents will face off in this point-quota competition to be held in New Jersey, Oct. 22-24, at two championship golf clubs: Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield and Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit. Bayer Environmental Science is the presenting sponsor of the event.

2018 Dog Days of Golf Calendar

Submissions for the 2018 Dog Days of Golf Calendar will be accepted through **Aug. 1, 2017**. 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 2018 Dog of the Year. The winner's owner will receive a \$500 prize and \$3,000 for his or her GCSAA-affiliated chapter. A \$2,000 charitable donation will also be made by GCSAA and LebanonTurf in honor of the winner. <http://www.gcsaa.org/dog-calendar/submit-dog-calendar-photo>

Upcoming FREE webcasts:

Aug. 3: [How Turf Fans Impact Putting Green Health](#)
[David McCall, Ph.D.](#)

Sept. 12: [First Green & Equipment Managers: Growing the Game – equipment management series](#)
[Karen Armstead, Ph.D. and Cathy Relyea](#)

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

Kevin Doyle

GCSAA Field Staff

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Congratulations to

Dan Brandt who is now the Superintendent at Sterling National Country Club in Sterling, MA.

Steve Tibbels, CGCS who was recently recertified. Steve is the Superintendent at Acushnet River Valley Golf Course in Acushnet, MA

Back Issues!



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

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