

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.

May President's Message By David W. Johnson

Here we go again, off and running in an effort to get all the Spring punch list items completed in a timely fashion. At this pace Memorial Day will be here before you know it and we will shift into survival mode for the summer months. Trying to balance work with family life this time of year is a challenge. Long days on the course and evenings at the ball field seem to meld together, but we all continue to push through, and enjoy this lifestyle we live.

Things at GCSANE have been quiet with our first two golf meetings being hosted by our allies from the Cape and Rhode Island. We had a great day at the Bear Cup with the GCSACC at the Country Club of Halifax. Ed Gianni, CGCS had the course in prime condition with putting surfaces in midseason form. Although the Cape pulled off the victory and retained the Cup, we had a great day and everyone in attendance seemed to be having a lot of fun and laughs.

Behind the scenes, Brian Skinner and Ed Downing have been working diligently on the agenda and logistics of the much anticipated Demo Day that will be held June 5th at the MGA Links at Mamantapett. The venue and participation from our friends, affiliates and superintendent members will be sure to make this event a huge success. Mark your calendars and keep your eyes on your inbox for the details outlining this event.

Don Hearn, with the help of the BOD has been working to upgrade the GCSANE website in an effort to freshen things up and make it more user friendly, especially from a mobile device. If you would like to share a favorite photo of your course, we would really like to add it to the member course photo library that will scroll on the home page. Please send photos to Don Hearn, Executive Director.

In closing, if we at GCSANE can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out. If you have an opinion, good or bad, please let us know. If any member would like to get involved, please reach out and get on a committee, which will hopefully lead to the interest in a Board position. There is never enough time in your life to volunteer, but if you can make time, it is rewarding to give back to our close knit profession and will pay back to you in many ways.

David W Johnson GCSANE President

Thoughts From Your Executive Director by Don Hearn

The GCSA of Cape Cod and the GCSA of New England have joined forces to collaborate on BMP's for golf courses in Massachusetts. Representing the Cape are Rick Lawlor, Charlie Passios and Ed Nash. Representing New England are Peter Rappoccio, Donny D'Errico, Greg Cormier and myself. Rick and Peter will serve as co-chairs with Rick taking the lead for the group. These seven people will form the task force charged with developing the documents that will create the BMP. To date, Mary Owen from UMass, and the Massachusetts Golf Association have agreed to support the effort and offer expertise. Kevin Doyle, GCSAA's Regional Representative will be providing guidance and offering expertise as the process develops. Others will be asked to support and contribute to the group's mission as we progress. The first BMP we will tackle will focus on irrigation. We believe, at this time, it's the most critical category we face because of impending DEP regulations. You'll be kept updated as the process moves forward.



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Thoughts cont.



Elaine Gebhart and Dave Johnson

The New England Golf Course Owners Association (NEGCOA) held their 16th Annual Golf Outing at Ferncroft Country Club, May 2. Superintendent and GCSA of New England Member Mike Cassidy had the course in beautiful condition. Despite the wet weather, Mike and his team had the course conditioned as if it was mid-season. NEGCOA Executive Director Elaine Gebhardt created a full day of information, friendship, golf and socializing with others from all aspects of our industry. Damon DeVito, Managing Director of Affinity Management, the owner of Ferncroft, gave an informative presentation about the golf industry, his perspective on what might happen in the future and the details of the club's zero waste food composting program. Dave Frem, President of the NEGCOA handled the speaking part of the day with his usual skill and easy going manner. GCSA of New England President, Dave Johnson, and I, represented our Association and we had a great time meeting others in our industry and playing golf with those who support the NEGCOA.



Remembering Danny Calise

The New England Regional Turfgrass Industry would like to express our sincere condolences on the passing of Danny Calise who for 12

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years powered the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show Live Auction, with Manny Mihailides, teaching participants that the way into

your pocket for a good cause is through your heart. Make them friends, make them laugh a bit, then make them pay and always do it with a smile was his method. We will





miss his presence, but we will forever appreciate the opportunity we got to know him and enjoy him. Wherever Danny went, there always seemed to be a crowd made up of family and friends. His door was always open. So, if and when we get to the Pearly Gates, and if they are missing, we just might find out that Danny convinced God that the gates should be open to everyone and so he might as well let Danny auction them off!

God Speed to our friend.... Danny Calise!

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- 1. Not introducing others. If you are standing with someone, and another friend or acquaintance walks up, you should make an introduction. Not doing so is rude. You might be uncomfortable if you have forgotten one of their names, but it's okay to apologize for forgetting. A simple, "I'm sorry, but I don't recall your name," will suffice. And then once you have the person's name, make the introduction.
- 2. Not sending an RSVP. When someone invites you to a wedding or social event, always send the RSVP. Not doing so can mess up the host's planning. If you are unsure if you can attend, let the host know with the promise of confirming as soon as possible. Then follow through once you are certain. Don't keep the host hanging, or you might find that you don't get an invitation the next time there's a party.
- **3. Requesting to see someone's house.** When you are a guest in someone's home—whether it's for a social event or an overnight stay—it isn't appropriate to request a tour of the whole house. The host will take you on a tour if he wants you to see it. Asking for a tour of the house is rude, an invasion of personal space, and can make the host uncomfortable, particularly if some of the rooms are closed for a reason.
- 4. **Requesting specific food.** If you are invited to someone's home for dinner, it isn't polite to ask for certain foods. However, it is fine to let the host know if you have allergies or any religious restrictions so she can let you know what is okay or not okay for you to eat. You still shouldn't expect the host to cater to your dietary needs. You can eat around whatever is available, or if it is okay with your host, bring

something to share. At least you'll know that there is one food you can eat.

- 5. Making people uncomfortable. Stop and think about how you behave in front of your friends. Are you rude to servers at restaurants? Do you tell inappropriate jokes? Do you show too much affection to your significant other in public? If you can't pinpoint anything, ask a trusted friend who'll be honest with you.
- 6. Putting someone on speakerphone without their permission. You should always tell the person that she is on speakerphone because she needs to know who her audience is. Not telling her is rude because she might say something that is meant for your ears only. Put yourself in her position and imagine how you'd feel if you unknowingly shared some sensitive information with a group of people.
- 7. Not responding to email. Even if someone sent you an email that doesn't require a response, you should send back a brief message that you received it. That is a courtesy that prevents misunderstanding or the other person having to follow up and ask for a confirmation.
- 8. **Don't be late.** Everyone's time is valuable. Everyone is important. Being a couple minutes late isn't the end of the world, but being a couple minutes early sends an important message that you care.





The Newsletter

GCSAA Update by Kevin Doyle



I f there is one consistent part of our industry, it is transition. Seasons change both environmentally and within the business of being a superintendent. We are transitioning out of a busy education season into facilities opening, handling staff and weather challenges, and chapter meeting and events. Just because golf begins doesn't mean edu-

cation is put on hold.

In a conversation with one superintendent, he told me that attends almost every meeting and plays golf when he attends. "I always try to take three things back to my facility from every meeting." He explained that through education offerings, conversations with peers, and paying attention to the maintenance practices on a colleague's course, the fact is, he never struggles to find three items to justify his attendance. He also makes a point to discuss what he learned with his employer. "We host a chapter education event every year, so my boss understands there is more to our job than standard agronomic practices. He sees that we learn from each other."

I have seen meeting attendance increase slightly at chapter events across the region in the last couple years. Chapter boards continue to look for a magic bullet to drive you, the members, to meetings. If there was one, they would have been using it! I've written about it before in this newsletter: all attendees are a resource for others. The value to all members is increased by your attendance!

That point was driven home at a recent chapter strategic planning session. This chapter will be looking to engage members who they have not seen at a meeting or event in a while. It will not be an easy goal to achieve. The board is convinced that members who attend a meeting find more value in their association, and are more inclined to engage other chapter events. The board understands that they must reach out, and actively promote and invite members to attend. Has anyone done that for you lately? Would you come to at least one more meeting if someone asked directly if you would attend?

Another colleague spent a long portion of a visit telling me how golf course superintendents need to play the game of golf. We should understand the rules, be aware of course markings, engage our customers and members and discuss the sport on every level. We are employed because of the game of golf; explain to those you answer to how important it is to attend meetings and play.

There will always be one or more reasons to not go to a chapter meeting. If you attend regularly, thank you. I know I have benefitted because you were a part of the event. If you have not made a meeting in a while, please consider breaking that habit even just one time this year. Someone will benefit from information you share, and I am willing to bet that you will gain a lot from being there, no matter where "there" is!

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

How your Equipment Manager can get you an R&R credit!

GCSAA has partnered with R&R Products to bring a special rebate program to GCSAA members. Current EM members who pass one Turf Equipment Technician Certificate Program exam will receive a \$95 rebate from R&R Products to be used towards your next R&R Products purchase.

This program expires on Dec. 31, 2017, so take advantage of this opportunity by visiting the new GCSAA website here today!

GCSAA partners with Columbia Sportswear for member discounts

GCSAA and Columbia Sportswear Company, an industry leader for outdoor apparel and products, have joined in a partnership to bring savings to association members and their facilities. Columbia is offering a 50 percent discount to GCSAA members on outdoor wear purchases. <u>Read more</u>

Again, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me. **Kevin Doyle** GCSAA Field Staff kdoyle@gcsaa.org

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SOLitude Lake Management Completes Nationwide Earth Day Environmental Cleanups by Tracy Fleming



Shrewsbury, SH, May 4, 2017 – SOLitude Lake Management®, an industry leader in lake and pond management, fisheries management and related envi-

ronmental services for the United States, recently helped lead or participate in more than a dozen environmental events across the nation in honor of Earth Day. SOLitude employees, family members and friends volunteered a total of 223 hours of their time to help collect 3,180 pounds of trash and debris, complete the first step of a beneficial shoreline restoration project and install 2,000 native wetland plants in local communities throughout the country.

SOLitude's Hampton Roads, VA, team and friends celebrated Earth Day by participating in the Lynnhaven River NOW cleanup and Keep Norfolk Beautiful Day, where they helped remove 142 bags of trash from beaches and streets weighing 1,800 pounds. The team also spearheaded a trash cleanup near SOLitude's Virginia Beach office and installed 80 feet of Oyster Castles along the shoreline of the Little Creek Watershed in conjunction with the East Ocean View Civic League and the Lafayette Wetlands Partnership.

Team members from SOLitude's Charlottesville, VA, office helped lead a trash cleanup with the Rivanna Conservation Society. The 13-person crew focused on the Riverview Park area and filled an entire work truck with 30 bags of trash, including a suitcase and a bucket full of concrete.

SOLitude's Mid-Atlantic team members helped with several events, including the DNREC Beach Grass Planting at Cape Henlopen State Park, DE, where a group of 10 people spent 33 total volunteer hours planting grass along the dunes to reinforce and protect the coastline from storms and high tides. The Delaware team also helped install 2,000 native wetland plants along swales in Talley Day Park in New Castle County, DE. The planting, which took place in partnership with the New Castle County Department of Special Services, will help improve drainage and water quality in the surrounding area. In SOLitude's New Jersey office, the team took part in the Musconetcong Watershed Association's Annual Spring River Cleanup for the second year in a row, dedicating a total of 33 volunteer hours to the cause.

SOLitude's New England team in Shrewsbury, MA, generated more than 22 volunteer hours through a number of events, including cleanups of Lake Street Park and the Blackstone River, which brought together a combined crew of nine volunteers that collected 220 pounds of trash. The team also helped lead a group of boy scouts on a trail cleanup of trash, fallen trees and invasive species, and volunteered to judge the annual Water Science Fair at Wells Memorial School in Harrisville, NH.

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In North Carolina, SOLitude's team members attended the Haw River Clean-Up-A-Thon where they picked up 23 bags of trash along the floodplain.



From left: Wildlife and Fisheries Scientist Jackson Minnich, Lake Management, Fisheries & Wildlife Scientist Derek Johnson, Marketing Project Coordinator Ann Marie Dorie, Environmental Scientist Kyle Finerfrock and Regional Administrator Karen Avery volunteer with the Living Shoreline Project.

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"One of SOLitude's core values is a commitment to environmental stewardship in the local communities across the country where we work and live," SOLitude Director of Marketing Tracy Fleming said. "Our 2017 Earth Day cleanup was an incredible success and exemplifies our unshakable belief in the protection and preservation of the world we all call home."

Throughout the year, SOLitude staff contribute their time to environmental protection and restoration projects through The SOLution, a company-wide program that encourages the company and all employees to strive to "create a better world" through volunteerism, community outreach, sustainability and environmental consciousness. SOLitude's company leadership feels it is important to not only be good stewards of the environment, but also to fulfill company core values to "take action and be accountable" and to "protect and respect nature." To participate or share a non-profit's goals for consideration in The SOLution, visit www.solitudelakemanagement.com/solution.

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Divot Drift

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Paul Veshi who is now superintendent at Cohasse Country Club

Welcome new members:

Chris Duffy, Asst. Superintendent, Franklin Country Club

Jason VanBuskirk, Affiliate, Turf Cloud

Marc Hansen, Affiiate, Maltby Tree

Turf Cloud, Friend of the Association

Welcome Back:

Ted Zubiel, Superintendent, Bradford Country Club

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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