

Connecticut Clippings



Volume 42, No 3

September/October 2008

TURF FIELD DAYS

This year our turf industry was treated to 3 Turf Field Days. Starting in June the UMASS Turf Field was held at the Joseph Troll Research Center in South Deerfield, MA. July saw the inaugural UCONN Turfgrass Field Day at Storrs and August the venerable URI Turf Field Day was held at the Richard Skogley Research Facility in Kingston RI.

All 3 Field Days saw perfect weather, well laid out turf plots, knowledgeable turf researchers, and interesting research studies. Most attendees were commercial representatives and green industry representatives from sports turf and landscaping. It is too bad that few golf course superintendents were able to take advantage of the favorable weather and attend one or more of these local Field Days. The Field Days are a lot of work for the staffs at these University Research Facilities. I am sure they were disappointed with the overall turnout.

The standout this year was Dr. John Kaminski and company at UCONN. They went up and beyond the usual Field Day. The turf plots are much more extensive than most imagined. Only a couple of years ago some of us had the pleasure to visit and were now pleasantly surprised at the transition that has taken place in Storrs. The possibilities with such a large facility are endless. They went up and beyond the usual Field Day. A Porta John with Men's and Ladies rooms, hand washing sinks, A/C, and music, WOW!

The day was topped off with a superb lunch served on china under a large white tent. Recently it was announced that John is leaving for Penn State University and although he will be sorely missed UCONN plans to continue with a biannual Field Day event. John we will miss you.

2008 CAGCS INVITATIONAL GOLF RESULTS

Gillette Ridge Golf Club; Tuesday, August 12

1st Gross

The Tradition Golf Club at Wallingford - 67
Kevin Collins – Steve Fontanella
Joe Dinatale – Nick Rykoski

2nd Gross

Highfield Country Club – 69 mc
Chris Mauro – Bill Murray
Mike MacDonald – Chris Orsini

1st Net

Old Lyme Country Club - 56
Brian Skelly – Helene Nichols
Russ Bingham – Robert Barbeau

2nd Net

Suffield Country Club - 58
Peter Gorman – Robert Shea
Armand Regalbuti – Robert MaKay

3rd Net

On Course Construction - 59
Greg Moore – Keith Lemieux
Jim Costanzo – Tom Rodden

Long Drive:

Chris Orsini, Highfield CC

Closest to the Pin, Hole #8:

Bob Shea, Suffield CC – 3'8"
Betty Davis - 11"

Closest to Line:

Bill Murray, Highfield CC 9"
Helene Nichols, Old Lyme CC 3'

1st Low Pro

Nick Rykoski, The Tradition GC at Wallingford – 74

2nd Low Pro

Jack Powers, Aspetuck Valley CC – 79

3rd Low Pro

Chris Kenney, The Paterson Club – 81



The Tradition GC at Wallingford



Old Lyme Country Club

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Christian P. Mauro, President

The President's Message

and you are now looking forward to the cooler October days. For me this summer was pretty typical except for one experience.

August 22, 2008 is a day I hope none of us has to experience, for me it was a typical Friday in this business, get in early get everything done and get out of the members way but for a close friend this day changed everything. My friend's eleven year old son went to bed Thursday evening for the last time as he passed away sometime during the early morning hours on Friday. Jordan was eleven years and 299 days old and was the type of kid that made everyone around him better just for knowing him. We have all experienced the loss of love ones in our lives, for my friend he not only lost his son but his best friend, these two did everything together. When I

rain soaked days or day after day on the sprayer, for me it will be that one Friday.

As a husband and as a father of a nine, seven, four and two-year old that Friday taught me more about this profession than all my years in this business every could. I have always said my family comes first, but in reality that only happens 4 to 5 months out of the year depending on the weather. Remember what you want from the summer and learn from it what you will, for me it will be the summer that Jordan taught me that everyday means something, enjoy your family and enjoy the time you have because tomorrow might just not be there.

Thanks
Chris P. Mauro

Labor Day has come and gone, the days are getting shorter, aerification has been completed and the leaf blowers are being tuned up for another fall season. With the majority of our staffs back to school this past summer for most of us is now nothing more than the notes recorded in our daily logs and a larger than normal number of pages in our spray journals. This summer for most was no different, you survived the challenges and enjoyed the triumphs, you learned from your experiences

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ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE IN MASSACHUSETTS

Discovery and positive identification

The Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) was discovered in Worcester, MA in early August 2008. It is estimated that the population has been in existence there for a minimum of 5 years. The USDA Regulated Area for this infestation is now approximately 33 square miles and includes portions of 5 towns / cities. This hardwood tree killer is native to China and arrives in North America in wood packing material such as: pallets, crates and large wooden spools. Once here, the adult beetle seeks healthy, live hardwood trees for laying their eggs. After several years of infestation within a tree, the tree dies. This infestation marks the first time that this destructive pest has been found in such close proximity to a forested area where it must not be allowed to invade.

Currently, huge efforts are underway to:

- delineate the exact range of this infestation
- educate the public
- remove all infested trees
- remove susceptible tree species in close proximity to infested trees
- prevent the further spread of the insect
- eradicate it from Massachusetts

Common deciduous host trees are:

- all maple species (sugar, red, silver, Norway, etc)
- birches
- elms
- horsechestnut
- willow
- however, many other hardwoods can occasionally be attacked



ment of woody debris, lumber, firewood, and nursery stock that could host ALB infestations will need to be contained. This will keep the beetle from moving via human transport. Companies that work with host material will be contacted by officials. Only cursory surveys have been conducted thus far and the exact area regulated would change if more infested trees are found. Organized and thorough survey work will begin soon. The estimation, right now at least, for how long this beetle may have been active at this location is thought to be 5 years given its range and visible damage. Affected trees will be cut down and either chipped or burned in the regulated area. This will not begin until after the first hard frost kills any remaining adult beetles. To take trees down before the hard frost risks spreading the infestation. This is a sound practice, as adult beetles tend to stay on the same tree unless that tree is severely infested.

Definition of state and federal regulated areas

As result of the detection, portions of Worcester and portions of the towns of Shrewsbury, Boylston, West Boylston, and Holden are now a regulated area for the movement of woody plant material. A Federal Order will be issued soon that parallels the state regulated area. As part of the process of eradicating the ALB from Worcester, the move-

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IF YOU WERE A SPRIG OF GRASS WITH ROOTS & LEAVES...

... You would not think too highly of the recent weeks. Sure, at first the warming trend of summer is an invigorating change from long stretches of cold weather, a welcome boost that produces better growth and a healthy glow of vibrant green. Lingering weakness from the passing spring melts away and suddenly all of your friends in the turfgrass neighborhood look and feel a whole lot better!

But when temperatures suddenly jump above the point of being beneficial, to an extreme of record heat with little chance to prepare yourself, the pressure mounts. There is a good chance of you becoming unhappy fast, with roots unable to absorb water or nutrients efficiently and leaves that won't support enough photosynthesis for needed energy. Under these draining circumstances, you can foresee injury from traffic damage and wonder about falling prey to some type of turf disease looking for a way in. If this pressure is kept up for too long, well, there goes the neighborhood!

Except that's when the golf course management team steps in and helps you through the difficult times. Cooling becomes a prime objective, and grooming tools are traded in for hoses to syringe greens and tees. You understand that as warm as the air might feel, temperatures are actually even hotter on the ground – and you recognize that they fall to a

more comfortable range when a light mist of syringe water quickly evaporates.

On large areas like fairways, it's often easier to operate sprinklers for a few minutes but the idea is the same and you welcome all of this extra attention with open stems.

If even more relief is needed you would want the management team to reduce physical stresses as well. Maybe mowing and rolling could be skipped for a day here and a day there, to reduce the potential for damage from repetitive use of maintenance equipment. Heights of cut might be raised slightly, to provide more leaf area and compensate for biological processes that aren't working so well. Topdressing and other putting surface grooming techniques could be paused when there is a chance of doing more harm than good. In

general terms, you would simply want to be treated a little more gently for a while so all of your resources could be directed towards staying strong.

Of course, green speed might be temporarily affected so it is important for a reasonable balance to be determined and communicated – a balance that can serve your welfare and still provide acceptable standards of play. Different maintenance methods must be employed or avoided as circumstances change. It is clear to you that this story can replay itself many times on the golf course throughout a summer, to varying degrees depending on the severity of heat and its duration. One thing remains constant though: If you were a sprig of grass, you really would be grateful for all of these protective steps!

by Mike Reeb, CGCS, CC of New Canaan



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Condolences

To John Napier CGCS on the passing of his mother Mary on May 30, 2008.

Condolences to Jim Santoro on the passing of his mother Patricia A. "Trish" McNally Santoro in Leominster, MA. Donations may be sent to: Beacon of Hope 62 West St. Leominster, MA 01453 or Diversified VNA Hospice 25 Tucker Dr. Leominster, MA 01453.

Mark Chevrier, 60, a member of CAGCS from 1995 – 2004 passed away on September 4th at his home. He was the husband of Joan (Zentek) Chevrier. Mark was born in Waterbury, CT. While a member of the association Mark was a Superintendent at Highland Greens Golf Course. He also was the owner of Colonial Irrigation & Landscaping.

To Catherine Mahoney and family on the passing of her husband, David W. Mahoney, on September 27, 2008. He was the Golf Course Superintendent at Siwanoy Country

Club for over 20 years. He was member of MetGCSA and a past president. Contributions can be made to the American Heart Association, Westchester/Putnam Region, 3020 Westchester Avenue, Purchase, NY 10577.

Congratulations

To John Bresnahan, BASF on his Hole in One on #4 at the September 11, 2008 meeting at Pequabuck Golf Club.

Lara and Gordon Kauffman on the birth of their son G. Louis Kauffman. G. Louis (Louie) was born Thursday, June 5th weighing in at 8lbs 11ozs.

To Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS at the Country Club of Darien has completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent with GCSAA. Tim has been with the Country Club of Darien since 1981, member of CAGCS since 1990 and a member of GCSAA for 27 years and a past president. Approximately 2,000 golf course superintendents worldwide currently hold the "CGCS" status.

Paul Bonini, CGCS on his hole-in-one at Manchester Country Club on the 10th hole. He was one of three members of the Watertown Golf Club staff that made this remarkable feat in the month of June.

Eric Morrison GCS Shennecossett GC on becoming an Audubon Sanctioned Golf Course.

CAGCS Awards Annual Scholarships

The following are recipients of the 2008 CAGCS scholarships, which are awarded an-

nually to immediate CAGCS family members and to employees of members who are majoring in turf management.

Dr. Richard Skogley Scholarship recipient: Brittany Staszowski, daughter of James Staszowski. She is attending Simmons College.

CAGCS Scholarships were awarded to: Austin Adaskaveg, son of Alexander Adaskaveg, he is attending Western New England College; Maggie Ball, daughter of Ed Ball, she is attending Penn State; Adam L. Burnham, son of Peter Burnham, CGCS, he is attending New England Culinary Institute; Ryan Chalifour, son of Robert Chalifour, CGCS, he is attending Toronto School of Traditional Chinese Medicine; Emily DeVaux, daughter of Gary DeVaux, she is attending University of Connecticut; Laura Ann Donovan daughter of Shawn Donovan, she is attending Eastern Connecticut State University; Veronica Fabrizio, wife of Joseph Fabrizio, she is attending University of Connecticut; Alexandra & Benjamin Flowers are the children of Michael Flowers; Alexandra is attending University of Rhode Island and Benjamin is attending Ohio State University; Todd Gennings, son of Scott Gennings, CGCS, he is attending Saint Michael's College; Thomas Lund, son of Peter Lund, CGCS he is attending Quinnipiac College; Elizabeth Malay, daughter of Joseph Malay, she is attending Liberty College; Michael & Robert Neaton, sons of Philip Neaton, Michael & Robert are attending University of Hartford; Justin H. O'Neill, son of Timothy O'Neill, CGCS, he is attending Brown University; Rachel Pope, daughter of Brian Pope, she is attending Northeastern University; Kevin Rackliffe, son of Dan Rackliffe, CGCS, he is attending Pennsylvania College of Technology; Kathryn Wallace, daughter of David Wallace, she is attending University of Connecticut.

A Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Michael Casey, who is employed at Wallingford Country Club, Scott Gennings, CGCS.

The Board of Directors and members of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents want to congratulate all recipients, and wish them the best in their scholastic endeavors.

GCSAA Room Block Reminder!

2009 GCSAA Education Conference & Golf Industry Show in New Orleans, LA. Housing forms are now available. Please call the office or email a request. Deadline for forms to be returned to office is OCTOBER 31.

Dogs of Summer

Sorry to hear "Auggie" Jud Smith's dog and companion passed away in August.

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STUDY: INSECTICIDES NOT A THREAT TO GOLFERS

New research from the University of Massachusetts Amherst shows that residues of two widely used insecticides picked up by golfers during a typical golf game do not pose a health risk. "After extensive monitoring, estimated exposures to golfers following full applications of two turfgrass insecticides that are used throughout the northeastern United States were 19 to 68 times lower than levels set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designed to protect human health," says John Clark, a professor of veterinary and animal sciences who specializes in toxicology.

Results were published in the July 2008 issue of the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry. Additional researchers on the project include Raymond Putnam of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Jeffrey Doherty of the Massachusetts Pesticide Analysis Laboratory.

According to Clark, there are more than 16,000 golf courses covering at least 2.4 million acres in the United States, and more than 66 million private lawns. Add to that the amount of turfgrass found in parks, athletic fields and commercial lawns, and it becomes clear that turfgrass is a major part of the American landscape. Maintaining the turfgrass so that it looks attractive and is suitable for recreation requires the application of nutrients, pesticides

and herbicides at rates that can be several times higher than those used in agricultural settings. According to the 1998 and 1999 Pesticide Industry Sales and Usage Report, golf courses were professionally treated with 15 million pounds of the active ingredients found in pesticides each year, and 85 million pounds of active ingredients were applied by consumers to residential lawns.

"This widespread and extensive use of pesticides has raised concern regarding the potential exposure of recreational users on turfgrass environments," says Clark. "Because of the large amount of time people spend in turf environments, exposure to pesticides from treated turf is a potentially significant exposure pathway."

In order to study pesticide exposures, the team established a turfgrass plot at the UMass Amherst Turfgrass Re-search Center in South Deerfield. The plot was mowed and watered like a real fairway. Sevin SL, an insecticide which contains carbaryl as the active ingredient, and Dursban Pro, an insecticide which contains chlorpyrifos as the active ingredient, were applied at the maximum U.S. EPA-approved label rate and followed with irrigation.

Two groups of volunteers were then used to play 76 standardized rounds of golf on the test plot following eight applications of chlorpyrifos and two applications of carbaryl. In each round of simulated golf, the volunteers walked 6,500 yards, hit a ball 85 times and

took 85 practice swings over a period of four hours. One group was entirely covered with a "whole body dosimeter" consisting of cotton clothing, baseball caps and veils, which could be removed and tested for pesticide residue. This group also wore personal air samplers to measure how much pesticide could potentially be inhaled. A second group went through the trial wearing short sleeve shirts, shorts, ankle socks and golf shoes.

According to Clark, each group of volunteers had a different purpose. "The group wearing the cotton clothing was used primarily to determine the different routes of exposure, including how much pesticide was potentially absorbed through the skin, inhaled or ingested by each volunteer," says Clark. "By analyzing urine from the second group for the breakdown products of both pesticides, we were able to estimate the total doses actually received by golfers during a round of golf." The results of the study, which represents a worst case scenario, show that estimated exposures to golfers following full rate and full course applications of carbaryl and chlorpyrifos were 19 to 68 times below current U.S. EPA values designed to protect human health. "This study, which also included measuring insecticide residue transfer from treated turfgrass and airborne insecticide residue, provides a novel and complete database on golfer exposure," says Clark.

Source: Golf Course Industry Magazine online

**RICH GLATZ
25 YEARS AT OAK LANE CC**

by Clay Pedigo (Superintendent, Oak Lane CC)
This September will mark Rich Glatz's 25th year of service as golf course equipment technician at Oak Lane Country Club.

The origin of Rich's employment is an amusing story that was recently shared with me by former Oak Lane superintendent, Les Kennedy. In the fall of 1983, Superintendent Ed Zenisky hired Rich as equipment technician. Rich worked two more weeks at his then current job at a local garage. During these two weeks Ed left Oak Lane for a new position so when Rich arrived to start work he was greeted by several employees who knew nothing about his hiring. Rich could have abandoned Oak Lane right then, but instead, they journeyed to the office of General Manager Alex Satmary and explained the situation. Without hesitation, Alex agreed that the club had made the commitment to Rich, shook his hand and welcomed him as the new equipment technician. Rich made the commitment to work with the new Superintendent, whoever



Rich Glatz

it would turn out to be. Les was hired later that fall.

After more than 25 years and two golf courses (Oak Lane and Orange Hills) Rich has worked with numerous individuals in the Connecticut turf industry including past CAGCS presidents Wayne Urban and Jud Smith, Oak Lane Superintendents Les Kennedy and Larry Dodge, Orange Hills owner Bud Smith and Superintendent Karl Knobloch, former Oak Lane assistants and current Superintendents Kevin Collins and Tim Gerzabek as well as Country Club of Fairfield equipment technician David Snyder. Tim volunteered "Rich taught me everything I know about keeping a greensmower sharp, from grinding to adjustment. I apply his lessons everyday."

Rich's value to Oak Lane can be demonstrated in many different ways. As turf equipment continues to rapidly evolve Rich has studied, adapted and thrived with the new technology. He is incredibly gifted in his ability to troubleshoot and problem solve. Time and money are consistently saved on the club's equipment fleet. His ability to visualize an idea and fabricate a tool or part from scratch continues to amaze me. There are numerous pieces of equipment that continue to operate at a high level due to one of his modifications.

As we all know, the turf industry these days is congested with many qualified individuals with the turf degree and pedigree to run a golf course operation. This is not the case with turf equipment technicians. Finding a man of Richie's caliber is a rarity and Oak Lane has been fortunate to have retained his services for so long.

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The golf course mechanic is a unique position at any club. Unlike most employees, Rich operates in the Maintenance Facility on the opposite side of the property; out of sight, out of mind. It is possible that there exists a segment of our membership that have never seen or met Rich. However, his work is reflected on just about every aspect of the property.

I am very fortunate on a number of levels to have the pleasure of working with Rich. He has been a wonderful link to the history of the golf course and Green Department for me. I continue to enjoy and benefit from amusing and thoughtful stories ranging from former staff members and events to the physical history of the golf course, maintenance facility, tennis bubble and irrigation. Most importantly, I benefit from the friendship and respect that has developed between us. This has contributed my overall job satisfaction. Rich's qualities as a mechanic are only exceeded by his worth as person. Before I took the job at Oak Lane numerous people told me how fortunate I would be to work with Rich. They all said, "Rich is a great mechanic and an even nicer person." They were right.

Rich and his wife, Lisa, live with their children, Joey and Autumn, in West Haven and he is an active member in his church.



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BERNHARD & CO. TO SEND 10 GCSAA CLASS A MEMBERS TO ENGLAND... FREE!

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For the third year running, Bernhard and Company, manufacturers of Express Dual and Anglemaster grinders, is sending 10 GCSAA Class A members to the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association's (BIGGA) Turf Management Exhibition (BTME), January, 18 - 22, 2009 in Harrogate, England.

Winners will have the opportunity to attend the conference and exhibition, participate in education seminars, network with greenkeepers from the UK and Europe, and visit golf courses in England.

Register online at <http://www.bernhard.co.uk/gcsaa-registration.0.html> or call (888) 474-6348. Deadline for applications is November 14th, 2008. Bernhard and Company will notify the winners by December 5th, 2008.

Bernhard and Company will cover expenses for airfare, accommodation, conference registration, education seminars and transportation.

"Every GCSAA member should apply for this unbelievably awesome opportunity to experience what golf course maintenance is like in England and how they conduct their national educational conference in Harrogate. Once you have experienced the golf course industry in England, it will make you re-evaluate the ways you do things at your own course," says Chris Gray, Director of Golf Course Operations at the Marvel Golf Club in Benton, Kentucky, a 2008 GCSAA Delegate.

"Bernhard and Company has opened my eyes to the golf course industry in England and the similar challenges they have to face every day. There are so many valuable tips that I learned from this trip that have had an immediate impact on the way that I operate my golf course, that I would never have known about if I didn't make the trip."

Register now at <http://www.bernhard.co.uk/gcsaa-registration.0.html> or call (888) 474-6348.

MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS: REDUCING WINTER INJURY TO GOLF COURSE GREENS

Date: October 30, 2008
Time: 1:15 PM - 3:30 PM (with optional laboratory tour from 3:30 - 4:30 PM)
Location: UMass Campus Center - Amherst, MA

Turf stress and damage from winter injury are increasingly pressing issues for golf turf in New England, particularly as superintendents and crews are continually challenged to provide pristine playing conditions. Diligent research, however, has begun to hone in on concepts and trends that may help to mitigate winter damage to golf course turf in the future. This session will cover what we know about winter injury causes and prevention, preparing greens for the winter, and identifying, predicting and recovering from winter injury damage. An open discussion will be included, as well as an optional tour of laboratory facilities on the UMass Amherst Campus. For complete information and to register online or by mail, visit: http://www.umassturf.org/upcoming_events.html

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DODSON MOVES ON FROM AUDUBON INTERNATIONAL

from Audubon International
Ron Dodson, the founder of Audubon International and the creator of the Audubon Co-operative Sanctuary Program, the Audubon Signature Programs and the Audubon Sustainable Communities Program, has stepped down as the CEO of the organization.

"I've been the president, CEO and served on the board of directors for more than 20 years. I have been engaged in transition planning now for nearly three years," Dodson said.

Kevin Fletcher, who has served as director of programs and administration for the past three years, has been promoted to executive director and is in charge of the day-to-day management of the organization.

To address many of the sustainability issues that Dodson has been involved with over the past 20 years, he and others have created the International Sustainability Council, a not-for-profit organization that will be where Dodson manages his efforts connected with sustainability issues.

In addition, Eric Dodson, a former AI employee, has launched Audubon Lifestyles to offer professional services aimed at facilitating sus-

tainable lifestyles for people where they live, work, play, stay and learn. Ron Dodson will serve as sustainability advisor to Audubon Lifestyles.

BAYER TO SEND SUPERINTENDENTS TO CONFERENCE & SHOW 9.8.2008

For the sixth straight year, Bayer Environmental Science has teamed with The Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), to send five golf course superintendents to the 2009 GCSAA Education Conference (Feb. 2-7) and Golf Industry Show (Feb. 5-7) in New Orleans. The purpose of the grant is to assist golf course superintendents with their professional development through participation in the annual event, which features the most comprehensive educa-

tion program and trade show in the industry. Golf course superintendents who did not attend the last two GCSAA Education Conferences and Golf Industry Shows (Orlando 2008 and Anaheim 2007) are eligible. Those interested should complete and submit the online application at www.gcsaa.org or contact GCSAA member services at 800-472-7878 to receive an application via fax. Entries will be accepted through Oct. 20, 2008. The winners will be selected through a random drawing, and The Institute will notify winners by Oct. 24, 2008. Only one application will be accepted per person. GCSAA membership is not required. Each grant will cover expenses for airfare, hotel accommodations for six nights, conference registration (full-pack), two education seminars (half-day, one-day, or two-day), and \$200 for personal expenses.

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