

Connecticut Clippings



AFFILIATED CHAPTER
GCSAA

Volume 49, No 2

June 2015

HOPE FOR THE BEST BUT PREPARE FOR THE WORST

The summer is here and while we hope for benign weather, we must also prepare for extended periods of heat and high humidity. This is especially true at golf facilities that are transitioning from the recovery programs implemented to repair winter damaged greens. Areas of juvenile turf are not yet fully developed and are often more vulnerable to mechanical and weather related stress.

A combination of extreme weather and mechanical injury can cause significant turf damage and there are few things more disheartening than witnessing the demise of turf in recently recovered areas. The following article outlines management options to help deal with various forms of stress.

Environmental Stress

Heat and moisture stress can have significant impact on turf in early summer. The high temperatures impact the energy balance in the plants and decreases root vigor. An early bout of heat occurs at a time when annual bluegrass has finished seeding and is in its weakest state. Periods of high temperature and high humidity are also hard on the plants. High humidity levels increase disease pressure and reduce the plants' ability to cool itself. Combine higher levels of traffic or mechanical injury with the temperature stress, nitrogen induced growth flushes, and elevated disease pressure and the "perfect storm" is created. It can result in severe turf decline, and the following list of management practices can be used to combat these stresses.

- Manage water carefully! Too much water is as bad as too little. The popularity of TDR moisture probes and increased ability

to hand water greens should provide for more precise water management. Monitor greens through early evening for heat and wilt stress. Staff members responsible for hand watering must understand the difference between syringing and hand watering practices. Utilize wetting agents to maintain more uniform soil moisture and to help rewet any water repellent soils.

- Remove trees and underbrush to increase air circulation over pocketed greens. Even a 2-3 mph wind can provide a significant cooling effect and help dry the surface. Utilize stationary or portable turf fans to provide air movement. Keep fans adjusted to maximize air flow on the putting surfaces. Leaf blowers can also be used to temporarily lower temperatures in pocketed areas, but they should be moved frequently during the day.

- Use needle tines to vent soils. This should be done periodically to maintain drainage and gas exchange in the root zone. Venting can also help in drying saturated soils. Complete venting or other cultivation practices on weak surfaces in the early morning or evening, when temperatures are cooler.

- Disease pressure increases as plants become weaker and temperatures and humidity rise. Even normally weak pathogens such as bacteria wilt can become a problem where annual bluegrass is severely stressed. Maintain a strong fungicide rotation and utilize products that are safe in the heat and that have minimal growth regulation effects. Use fungicides and combination sprays you are comfortable with. This no time to experiment with new products. Fungicide spray intervals may have to be shortened

to combat higher disease pressure under the more stressful conditions. Use at least 1.5 gallons of water carrier per 1,000 sq ft. to obtain good plant coverage.

- Applications of trinexapac-ethyl (Primo) can be helpful in the later stages of recovery programs. The growth regulator can encourage higher tillering to improve plant density. The growth regulator can also improve stress tolerance in mature plants. However, some work also shows that the growth regulator can be phytotoxic to young bentgrass seedling plants especially in warmer weather. Reinitiate the growth regulator applications 8 weeks after initial plant emergence and when turf cover over the surfaces is nearly complete.

- Avoid stimulating too much growth with fertilizer. This may result from the accumulative effect of the fertilizer programs and especially controlled release forms of N applied during recovery programs.

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Donald Beck

Wow what a spring! Hopefully everyone is on the road to recovery. In the 30 years I have been in this business I can't recall a year with more winter damage. Personally, I had damage on 18 of my 19 greens and after close to a thousand plugs, hundreds of pounds of bentgrass seed, and countless hours of hand watering, they are finally close to being back to normal. As humbling as this experience has been it has completely reaffirmed how great our association is. I can thank my peers and commercial representatives enough for their support through a difficult time. I am sure some of them are as happy as I am that my greens are recovering so they don't have

The President's Message

to pick up the phone again. In all seriousness I can't encourage each of you enough to reach out to one another in times of need. We have a wonderful network of support within our association. Whatever you are going through I am sure someone else has been through it and more times than not will be willing help.

I can't think of a better way for all of us to expand our networks than to attend our monthly meetings. In this day and age when everything in right in front of us on our computers and smart phones I think many of us lose sight of the value of old fashion face to face conversations. I encourage each of you to try to go out of your way and attend an extra meeting or two that you otherwise might not have attended this year. Our Education Chairman Peter Gorman has done an outstanding job putting together a great schedule of events for us.

I wish all of you a successful season and I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event.

All the best,
Donnie

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Connecticut Clippings is an official publication of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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Continued from page 1...

Use a spoon-feeding approach with very light rates of soluble nutrients at least until the stressful weather conditions break. Keep in mind that nitrogen will mineralize from organic matter in the root zone and become available to plants as soil temperatures warm.

Mechanical Stress

Mechanical stress can result from many elements including close mowing, abrasion and foot traffic. Mechanical stress is often chronic and its effects accumulative. However, combine mechanical stress with severe heat stress, an ill-advised chemical application, succulent turf plants and the effects may be immediate. Some mechanical stress factors can be managed more easily than others, and some will require the cooperation of the golfers.

- Take a conservative approach with mowing especially when temperature stress is high. Do not lower mowing heights of young turf prematurely. Adjust bench- setting height downward gradually and in smaller increments of .05 inches as mowing heights decrease.

- Avoid scalping new turf even if it requires temporarily raising mowing heights or suspending mowing. Utilize solid rollers on mowing equipment to minimize wear injury and reduce scalping damage on younger plants.

- Avoid double cutting practices on already weak or juvenile surfaces especially when plants are growing under more severe weather stress. Roll in place of more aggressive mowing. Avoid turning mowing equipment or stopping and starting rollers on recovering areas. Utilize turning boards and make sure staff understands the importance of careful equipment operation when turf is under stress.

- When stress levels are extremely high, skip periodic mowing treatments and roll the greens with lightweight rollers. Good playability can be maintained as long as the turf is adequately regulated.

- Topdressing is an important agronomic practice and component of the recovery programs. However, sand is abrasive especially where traffic will be heavy. Suspend topdressing and more aggressive brushing practices during periods of early season heat stress if the turf is weak.

- Stress from golfer traffic may be the most difficult to manage. Large tournaments and outside outings can take their toll on still young plants recovering in higher traffic areas. The added preparation for those events can also create a significant amount of stress. A strong communication program and golfer support, are important here. The best solution is to address the traffic issue early in the

recovery plan. That should include looking at options for rescheduling larger early summer events to later dates if at all possible. Use ropes and signage to route traffic away from weaker areas. Utilize hole-locations as far from the damaged areas as possible. The golfer expectations for surface conditioning should also be realistic, understanding that the recovery process is not yet complete.

A combination of mechanical stress factors and early summer heat can be challenging when working with younger plants, especially as pressure from the golf calendar grow. The worst case scenario for juvenile turf arises when the combination of heavy play, high temperatures, and rain events occur in concert. The results can be devastating. Although it will be extremely unpopular, the best course of action may be to close the greens through the stress period to avoid damage that could take weeks or months to recover from. Superintendents should remain alert to mechanical and weather stresses and be flexible and preemptive in their management approach when weather conditions become difficult. We always hope for the best but need also to anticipate and plan for the worst when working with natural systems.

Jim Skorulski
Agronomist United States Golf Association

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APRIL MEETING RESULTS
ELLINGTON RIDGE RESULTS
APRIL 27, 2015

.....

1st Gross – 156	Eric Morrison, Shennecossett GC Ward Weischet, John Deere Golf
2nd Gross – 157	Kevin Collins, Tradition GC at Wallingford John Parmelee, Indian Springs GC
3rd Gross – 158 mc	Dave Blovish, Ellington Ridge CC Joey Trenholm, Ellington Ridge CC
1st Net – 138	Peter Tyrell, The Care of Trees Mario Calcagni Jr, The Care of Trees
2nd Net – 139 mc	Neil Laguenesse, Read Custom Soils Ryan Segrue, Shorehaven CC
3rd Net – 139 mc	Bruce Morse, Norwich GC Bob Silva

Skill Prizes:
Closest to line #5 – Bob Silva
Longest Drive – Ryan Segrue, Shorehaven CC
Longest Putt #9 – 28’3” – Eric Destefano, Twin Hills CC
Longest Putt #12 – 30’ – Larry Pakkala, Silvermine GC
Closest to Pin #4 – 4’9” – Tim O’Neill, CC of Darien
Closest to Pin #7 – 3’5” – Tim Nadeau, Rockledge CC
Closest to Pin #15 – 7’ – Dave Conrad, Plant Food Co.
Closest to Pin #17 – 2’1” – Kevin Collins, Tradition GC at Wallingford



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Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2015, Location: UMass Joseph Troll Turf Research Center, South Deerfield, MA

Support the UMass Turf Program and join us for a morning of education and insight... on our turf! Take a short break from your busy schedule and hear the latest on current research at the Joseph Troll Turf Research Center and beyond. Take a guided research facility tour, talk turf with UMass faculty, staff and graduate students, network with colleagues, and earn pesticide and professional certification credits. The half-day program will feature a trade show with industry exhibitors, continental breakfast, and an All American barbecue lunch.

Current UMass research includes studies on the biology and integrated management of turf-damaging diseases

and insects, short- and long-term weed management, fertility, and drought management, as well as a range of National Turfgrass Evaluation Program fine turf trials. In addition, several on-going projects focus on best management practices and natural resource conservation, particularly water. For complete program information, research

presentation topics and attendee and exhibitor registration, visit extension. umass.edu/turf.

Questions? E-mail fieldday@umassturf.org, call 413-545-2965 or 508-892-0382. Sponsorship opportunities are available, please inquire.



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Congratulations!

Marcus Ranaldi on accepting the position of
Golf Course Superintendent at Pequabuck Golf
Club.

Ed & Christina Downing on the birth of
their son Anthony Edward on April 18, 2015
weighing in at 7 lbs 7 ozs.

Paul Bonini, CGCS, Watertown Golf Club, on
renewing his certification with GCSAA

Chris Ellsmore on accepting the position of golf
course superintendent at
Mohegan Sun GC in Baltic, CT. Chris was
formerly an assistant at Shelter Harbor
CC, in Rhode Island.

To the VTGCSA on their victory at the 2015
Nor'easter Ski Day at Killington Ski
Resort.

Harry Ward on his retirement from The
Town of Watertown - Crestwood Park, he
was employed there for 17 years. Before
that he worked at Sunningdale CC seasonal
for 10 years, Woodway CC for 2 years, H.B.
Brownson CC for 6 years and the City of
Norwalk, Oak Hills Park for 10 years. We
wish Harry the best on his retirement.

Condolences

To the family of Francis E. Johnson, 98,
who passed away on January 1, 2015 at
home. He was the loving husband of

Mildred "Millie" Johnson of 76 years. He retired
from the State of Connecticut as a Highway
Superintendent and began his second career
as the Golf Course Superintendent at Norfolk
Country Club where he worked until he was 70.
He was a member of CAGCS since 1976.

Matthew & Patricia Howland (Berry) on the
passing of her mother on April 11, 2015.

Larry Della Bianca and family on the passing
of his mother Grace on April 26, 2015. Please
visit her obituary at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/record-journal/obituary.aspx?n=grace-della-bianca-lodovico&pid=174730563&fhid=4183>

On the passing of Jerry Marin, 67, on April 27,
2015. Formerly of Floratine Products Company
and Hart's Seed Company. Jerry was a member

of CAGCS from 2009 -2010 he known by a
lot of people in the green industry. He was
active in the New Hampshire and Vermont
associations. Please visit his obituary at
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ctpost/obituary.aspx?n=Jerry-Marin&pid=174754908>

QUIGLEY, Robert J., 84, of Granby and Forest
Creek Villas in Bonita Springs, Florida passed
away peacefully at home on April 28, 2015.
Bob cherished 60 years of employment at
Wampanoag Country Club, where he was a
steadfast employee, working side by side with
Course Superintendant Gregg Stent right up
until the age of 84. Please visit his obituary
at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/hartfordcourant/obituary.aspx?n=robert-j-quigley&pid=174767100>

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UConn After Hours 2015

Check it out: Tuesday, July 21

Golf turf research. Convenient evening event. Pig roast. After hours
was developed as an outreach educational opportunity for golf course
superintendents and their assistants. Come to Storrs to see and hear
about current golf turf research results that you can use. Learn about a
new dollar spot prediction model, hear about ongoing UCONN fairway
renovation research, see which new fungicides provide the most effective
control of common turfgrass diseases, and other projects.

After Hours is an evening program designed to accommodate
superintendents demanding summer season while providing an
exceptional opportunity to view real world research results. The event
consists of a short tour of the research plots followed by dinner featuring a
pig roast, and conversations with other Connecticut golf turf professionals.
Hope to see you in Storrs on Tuesday evening, July 21. Check out CAGCS
announcements for additional details on this upcoming event.



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GCSAA UPDATES

With the two weeks of spring now out of the way, summer has practically set in. This is the transition season that superintendents have waited all winter for. For those who came into the golf season in great shape, the course is set and standard practices are underway. For those less fortunate, the recovery process is in full swing, and often more aggressive cultivation and agronomic practices are dominating the job board. No matter the spring outcome, this part of the season is dominated by stress. How you handle the stress and pressures of your job will go a long way toward your success, and the success of your staff.

I have recently completed the three-day Applied Leadership Institute offered by the University of New Hampshire's Professional Development and Training department. I hope to include many of the topics that were covered in the program here in CT Clippings from time to time. For those of you who attended the CAGCS Winter Seminar in the past, you heard Steve Keating of the Toro Company speak on 360 degrees of leadership. He is a tremendous speaker with a powerful message. I will not look to recreate his message, but more to give you items to consider at pertinent times of the season.

Spring time means staffing time and that can be stressful in itself. Those returning from previous seasons are often relied on to pick up where they left off, with very little training. Often, changes made in the off-season need to be discussed and put into action. For some team members, change is looked at as positive and embraced, but not all staff will feel that way. Will you get pushback? Will they comply for a time, and then revert back to the old ways? How will you handle this? Communication can be used to engage those who are non-compliant, but it may come down to you as a leader making a decision to commit to the change, or to the non-compliant team member. Will you be ready to choose?

How will your new employees fit into your team and facility plans? You will tell them, and they will certainly learn what you expect of them. But what will they expect of you? Feel free to ask them, you might be surprised at what they tell you! Proper training and support will be the key to their (and your) success. Competitive wages are important, but studies often show that financial benefits are not always on the top of the list. Think of what else might matter. Job-life balance is often critical to success. Does your new hire have a wife, family, or even just a life outside of work? These many areas of concern will dictate mood and effort. Actively working with staff to balance these needs will help ensure team success. These will be new eyes asking questions about some very standard practices. Often we get set in our ways and new ideas can lead to improved processes. Listen, encourage questions, and reward creative thinking. An eager employee is a terrible thing to waste! Work to engage them with other staff members. A new job can be intimidating enough when they do not know others around them to socialize with. Your staff veterans will often help answer the questions new hires are too afraid to ask. Empower them when they are ready to perform duties for you and the team. Lastly, and above all, respect them through the learning process. Not everything they are asked to do will be easy, and there will be mistakes along the way. Show respect for them as a person, and they will respect you for it.

Please let me know if you found this helpful, or if there are other staff related items you thought should have been included. I would really appreciate any feedback!

GCSAA RESOURCES AND DEADLINES
you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already

GCSAA.org has a new area for Equipment Management resources
Whether your facility has a full-time equipment manager or another member of the team spearheads equipment maintenance, GCSAA has developed a vast collection of educational opportunities, tools and resources to help

courses manage and maintain their equipment. Check it out HERE: <http://www.gcsaa.org/course/resources-for-equipment-maintenance-and-management>

Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award open for nominations
Nominations are now open for the 2015 Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award. The award recognizes an individual or individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession. Individuals must be nominated by a GCSAA member, an affiliated chapter or a qualified golf association. Applications are due by Aug. 31. Winners will receive the DSAs at the 2016 Golf Industry Show in San Diego in February.

GCSAA Scholars Competition
These scholarships range from \$500 to \$6,000. Applicants must be enrolled in a recognized undergraduate program in a major field related to turf management, have completed at least 24 credit hours or the equivalent of one year of full-time study in the appropriate major, and be a member of GCSAA. Selection criteria for this program includes academic excellence, work experience, extracurricular activities and potential to become a leading professional in the golf course management industry.

The annual deadline is June 1. For instructions and application here: <http://www.gcsaa.org/Education/Scholarships/GCSAA-Scholars-Competition>

Upcoming FREE webcasts:
• June 16: Enhanced Coated Seed: Research and Benefits for Golf Course Turf Seed Applications

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

SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH GOLF RESULTS
NEW HAVEN COUNTRY CLUB
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2015



NET

1st Marc Weston, Indian Hill CC,
A.J. Ruwet & Duncan McGowan, Litchfield CC,
Steve Curry, Torrington CC

2nd Jason Dowgiewicz, Plant Food Co.,
Darren Wondolowski & Mike
Dachowski, Shelter Harbor GC,
Rich Sweeney, Plant Food Co.

3rd Jeff Houde, Tom Irwin Inc.,
Ed Kaufmann, Pleasantville CC
Jason Booth, New Haven CC,
Ryan Crooks, New Haven CC

GROSS

1st Kevin Collins, Tradition GC
at Wallingford,
Eric Morrison, Shennecossett GC
John Parmalee, Indian Springs GC,
Ward Weischet, John Deere Golf

2nd Mike Decker, Clinton CC,
Mike Dukette, Harrell's,
John Gallagher, Racebrook CC,
Brian Pope, Turf Products Corp.

3rd Al Adaskaveg, Rockledge GC,
Bill Goewey, Sharon CC,
Peter Bacon, Wyantenuck CC,
Jim Stasowski, Turf Products
Corp.

Closest to the Hole

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Long Drive

#1 Andrew Hannah,
Shuttle Meadow CC
#10 John Parmalee,
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2015 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS		
June 8 Monday	ROCKLEDGE GOLF COURSE Low Gross/Net by Flight 1st Round CAGCS Championship MET Team Championship Qualifier	Alexander Adaskaveg Host Superintendent
July 8 Wednesday	MANCHESTER COUNTRY CLUB CAGCS Benevolent Fundraiser, Low Gross/Net Blind Partners 2nd Round CAGCS Championship New England Team Championship Qualifier PRESENTING PARTNER	Matthew Gomes Host Superintendent
July 15 Wednesday	UMASS FIELD DAY UMASS Joseph Troll Turf Research Center	
July 21 Tuesday	UCONN AFTER HOURS Plant Science Research and Education Facility	
August 23 Sunday	LAKE COMPOUNCE CAGCS Family Day	
September 22 Tuesday	BROOKLAWN COUNTRY CLUB CAGCS MEMBER/GUEST PRESENTING PARTNER	Peter Bly Host Superintendent
October 5 Monday	COUNTRY CLUB OF AVON 2 Person Best Ball Superintendent/Assistant Tournament President's Cup & McLaughlin Trophy PRESENTING PARTNER	Jonathan Charpinsky Host Superintendent
October 13 Tuesday	N.E. SUPERINTENDENT CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT The Misquamicut Club, Westerly, RI	William Morton, CGCS Host Superintendent
October 20 Tuesday	MET AREA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT Quaker Ridge Golf Club	Stephen Rabideau, CGCS Host Superintendent
October 20 Tuesday	BLACK HALL CLUB CAGCS Class C Tournament	Christopher Konow Host Assistant Superintendent
November 3 Thursday	SUFFIELD COUNTRY CLUB 9-Hole Scramble ABCD, CAGCS Annual Meeting PRESENTING PARTNER	Rod Lewis Host Superintendent
December 3 Thursday	J. TIMOTHY'S TAVERNE CAGCS Christmas Party PRESENTING PARTNER	

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