



Connecticut Clippings

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GCSAA

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YALE UNIVERSITY GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT SCOTT RAMSAY SPREADS INDUSTRY MESSAGE AS GRASSROOTS AMBASSADOR

Program matches Golf Course Superintendents Association members with members of Congress

Craig Smith, Director, Communications and Media Relations, 800-472-7878, csmith@gcsaa.org

Lawrence, Kan. (March 22, 2016) — Most fathers help shape their sons' interests. But for Scott Ramsay, certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) at Yale University Golf Course in New Haven,



Scott Ramsay

Conn., it was his son Bennett's decision to pursue a political science degree that led the elder Ramsay down a path of political activism.

Ramsay is one of 237 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) members who volunteer as Grassroots Ambassadors for the association. The program matches members of GCSAA with members of Congress to build trusting relationships between them. Ambassadors serve as the "go-to" people for lawmakers and their staffs on golf course management issues.

Ramsay has spent more than three decades in the golf course management industry and has overseen operations at Yale since 2003. While he had been actively involved in his local GCSAA chapter, the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents, it wasn't until his son picked a college major that his interest in the politics of the industry began.

"Bennett went to the University of South Carolina to study political science, and I wasn't even sure exactly what that would mean for him, so I started learning more about it," Ramsay said. "I always thought political advocacy was outside of the (superintendents') cause. I slowly came around that the best way to advance our profession and the industry was through this advocacy component."

Ramsay was serving on GCSAA's government relations committee just as the Grassroots Ambassador program launched in 2014. Through the

Grassroots Ambassadors program, he is matched with Rep. Rosa DeLauro, a Democrat who has served Connecticut's 3rd District since 1991. Ramsay works through her staff on concerns facing the industry, such as water restrictions and labor issues.

"It's time that we became a leader in our messaging for the golf industry and have a voice to speak for ourselves about the good work we are doing as stewards of the land," said Ramsay.

Grassroots Ambassadors like Ramsay receive training and resources from GCSAA to assist in their efforts. For the last two years, Ramsay has attended National Golf Day in Washington, D.C., as part of GCSAA's coalition, meeting with lawmakers to share the positive impact golf courses have on the communities they serve and discussing challenges facing the industry.

"It is a tremendous opportunity," Ramsay said of National Golf Day. "It's amazing how open Washington, D.C., is. *Continued on page 15...*

IN THIS ISSUE...

President's Message.....	2
2016 Nor'easter Event Recap.....	3
Kevin's Corner.....	4-5
Grasscatcher.....	8-9
Schedule of Events.....	11



Eric Morrison, CGCS

The President's Message

What a difference a year makes...definitely a nice change considering the last few winters we have had. Courses have opened up far earlier than in previous years and stole away some of Shennecossett's off season revenue (we still made out ok!). Despite losing our corner on the golfing market, it's great that everyone was able to get an early jump on getting their courses cleaned up and ready for the upcoming season. Putting out seedhead suppression sprays and thinking about annual bluegrass weevils could have waited a little longer!

I would like to thank Scott Ramsay, CGCS, Government relations chair, and everyone else who attended meetings or testified in March in regards to the Pollinator Health and Habitat bill that was introduced into the legislature. Fortunately, the end result will not affect golf too much, but as we all know there will always be new bills introduced trying to limit or remove tools that we utilize to maintain healthy turf. I also want to thank the CGSA for providing the funding to retain Michael Dugan from Capitol

Consulting as our lobbyist, ensuring that golf has a strong presence in Hartford. Our first golf meeting of the season is right around the corner on April 25 at the Norwich Golf Course. Bruce Morse, the greatest superintendent in the Northeast, has hosted the CAGCS April meeting every other year since he has been Superintendent at the course. Big thanks to Bruce and his staff for welcoming us to their course again to kick off our 2016 season. This meeting will also determine the seeding for the Two Person Team Championship, so if you haven't signed up yet find a partner and join us there.

As always, if you are interested in hosting a meeting or helping out on the board in any capacity, contact a board member or give the office a call. I wish everyone a successful 2016 season and I hope to see you at the April meeting.

Eric Morrison, CGCS

March 31, 2015 - Opened the back 9 at Shennecossett for the first time since we closed in January due to snow.

March 31, 2016 - Closed out a month in which we did over 2000 rounds and the course was open most of the winter.

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

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The Clippings is open to all commentary. Please send your comments to: Heather Garvin, Newsletter Editor heather.hartseed@gmail.com or CAGCS P.O. Box 3678 Woodbridge, CT 06525 203/387-0810

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2016 NOR'EASTER EVENT RECAP

This marked the third year of the "New Look" Nor'easter, and this year our group enjoyed the weather in sunny Southern California. This year's event took place at Florent Restaurant & Lounge in San Diego's historic Gaslamp Quarter. Members from 11 GCSAA Chapters across the Northeast enjoyed great food, live entertainment, outstanding hand-rolled cigars, and a wonderful night of re-connecting with old friends. In all, nearly 400 people were in attendance, and everyone seemed to have a great time. This event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and participating associations: GCSA of Cape Cod, GCSA of New England, Hudson Valley GCSA, Connecticut GCSA, Rhode Island GCSA, Vermont GCSA, Long Island GCSA, Metropolitan GCSA, New Hampshire GCSA and Ontario GSA. If you haven't already, be sure to thank them for their continued support of this event. A special thanks to Aquatrols for additional funding towards the live entertainment, and John Deere/LaCorte for also funding the cigar roller. Planning has already begun for next year's event in Orlando, so mark your calendars for Wednesday February 8th, 2017. Details to follow. MET Board member Brett Chapin, Aquatrols' Kevin Collins, and I continue to run the committee responsible for organizing this event and welcome feedback, ideas, and additional sponsors.....feel free to reach out to any one of us!

John Garcia, Atlantic Golf & Turf

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KEVIN'S CORNER

Hopefully at this time of year you recently have enjoyed some much needed time off, followed by a stretch of workload that falls well below the typical summer stress line. The nature of this profession allows us to build a seasonal quality of life that often leads to a matching imbalance. Experienced superintendents and industry workers have developed a network of supporters and a system of routines to deal with the nature of the job. How did you accomplish those tasks? If you are like me when I was new to the industry, you worked hard for a very long time to adjust, and those closest to you, friends and family, needed to adjust with you to strike that balance. What about your new employees, who is assisting them to find a balance? What steps are being taken at your facility to help employees be as successful outside of the workplace as they are within? There are often similar steps taken to acclimate new employees into the team at your facility. Training and encouragement bolstered by proper compensation and benefits are basic tools to get the process moving. Recognition and empowerment by you and staff can increase the likelihood of a new employee succeeding as part of a team within the workplace. What steps are taken to help with the work-life balance beyond the out-of-bounds stakes?

I continue to hear of younger, talented professionals moving out of the industry to different careers. While lack of upward job mobility may well be a reason, don't overlook the difficulty of work-life balance. Traits of the younger generations do little to mirror the needs and historical workload of our industry. How would you describe the hours you put in at the course when you began? Would all day-every day be accurate? Time and flexibility are a priority to the employees entering our industry. As much as we value our personal time and family needs, the younger generations entering the workforce most likely will have to have it. Flexibility may well be the key to making that happen. Working sun-up to sun-down is more indicative of a



superintendent's passion than a profession. Developing the golf industry as a passion may not happen in the first week, month or year. By then, the work-life balance may well be out of whack. Do you make it clear what the expectations are when they begin? Your recognition of their needs, and their understanding of your expectations should be on the table at the start. Can you be creative enough in scheduling for a promising young turf talent to thrive and attain that passion that drives us all?

Leadership and motivation are important tools of successful superintendents, and understanding generational traits of employees can assist with their use. Encouraging employees to be creative, empowering them to utilize their talents, and respecting them as people will go a long way towards their inclusion as a team member. Just knowing that what they value most could be the one thing that creates success for a new hire. While personal time might be the hardest item to provide, it may

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just end up being the most critical to your people.

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

GIS: Still teaching

Whether you made it to San Diego or not, you can still learn from GIS! The GIS presentations have been uploaded to GCSAA.org for your viewing pleasure. Be sure to check them out at: <http://www.golfindustryshow.com/gcsaa-education-conference/sessions/2016/2016-session-presentations>

Top celebrities support 2016 "Thank a golf course superintendent" campaign

Celebrities who enjoy playing golf, like Grammy award-winning entertainer Justin Timberlake and NBA Hall-of-Famer Charles Barkley, have joined the promotion to "thank a golf course superintendent." The tagline will be used in television and radio commercials, as well as 2016 print and online advertising by GCSAA. The 30-second commercials will again air on the Golf Channel beginning in April. There will even be a sweepstakes to offer golfers the opportunity to win a trip to the American Century Celebrity Golf Championship in Lake Tahoe, Nev., in July, by personally thanking a golf course superintendent. Visit the following to watch the video and listen to the radio spot: <http://www.gcsaa.org/community/chapter-leaders/managing-your-chapter/materials-for-chapter-outreach>

Help us gather key data: Take the latest GCEP survey

The Property Profile and Environmental Stewardship Survey is now open. This latest survey in the Golf Course Environmental Profile focuses on collecting information regarding land use, turfgrass species and other non-turfgrass landscapes to compile data on overall property use on golf courses around the nation. Your participation provides vital information needed to advocate for the golf industry and superintendent profession. The GCEP is sponsored by the USGA in conjunction with the EIFG. To take the survey click here.

GCSAA 2016 Member Engagement Opportunities

Want to volunteer at the GCSAA level? It

is not too late yet! GCSAA is encouraging those interested in 2016 committee/task group service to apply. Contact Kevin Doyle to find out how.

Upcoming FREE webcasts:
Apr. 20: Waste Risks Solutions and Opportunities - Equipment Management Series
May 5: Waiting for the Other Limb to Fall - Minimizing Tree Liability
May 10: I Wanna Be More Social

May 11: Managing Bentgrass under Summer Stress Conditions
May 26: Empowering Your Career - Equipment Management Series

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

Kevin Doyle
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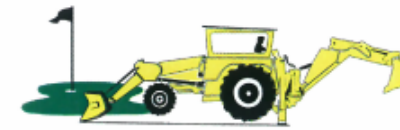
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Grass Catcher

Congratulations!

To Diana and Ishmael Franco, Superintendent at Highland golf club, on the birth of their daughter Mika Siobhan Franco. She was born on January 28, 2016 weighing in at 8 lbs 12 oz's.

To John Inguagiato and Michelle DeCosta, UCONN Turf Pathologist and UMASS Turf Physiologist, on the birth of their son, Michael Costa on April 1, 2016, weighing 8 lbs 4 oz and 20 inches.

Kevin DeVaux on accepting the position of Golf Course Superintendent at Stanley Golf Course.

Condolences

On the passing of Dan & Steve Rackliffe's father Dr. Robert L. Rackliffe. Please visit his obituary at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/hartfordcourant/obituary-print.aspx?n=robert-l-rackliffe&pid=177039944>

On the passing of Joseph "Joe" R. Heller Jr., 72, of Enfield entered into eternal peace Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016, surrounded by his family. The son of the late Joseph and Edna (Higgins) Heller, Joe, also known as Jay, was born in Hartford and was raised in East Hartford. He lived in the Enfield community since 1966, where he raised his family. He was employed for the town of East Hartford at the East Hartford Golf Club for over 40 years retiring as golf course superintendent. Joe loved the outdoors, especially deer hunting and fishing. He enjoyed spending time in

upstate New York catching monstrous king salmon on the famous Salmon River, as well as deep sea fishing in Long Island Sound in search of lunger stripers and blues. He was a member of CAGCS since 1972. Please visit his obituary at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/journalinquirer/obituary.aspx?n=Joseph-R-Heller&pid=177779637>

On the passing of Royal Dana Sibley, Jr. 86, of December Drive passed away Wednesday morning at his home. He was born September 9, 1929, in Providence, RI, son to the late Royal D. and Alice (Chadwick) Sibley, Sr. On March 17, 1973 in Cranston, RI he married Dianne (Millar) Sibley. She survives him. Royal honorably served his country in the US Army during the Korean War and was a member of the Jewett City VFW Post#10004. He attended the University of Rhode Island where he received his bachelor's degree. He worked for many years for Charles Hart Seed Co. in Wethersfield, CT and was the owner of South Count Nursery in W. Kingston, RI, where he spent many happy days. He was a members of CAGCS since 1975.

In lieu of flowers donations can me made in Royal's memory to St. Paul's Episcopal Church 27 Babcock Ave., Plainfield, CT 06374. Please visit his obituary at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/norwichbulletin/obituary.aspx?n=Royal-D-Sibley&pid=177997475>

Ted Tighe's and family on the passing of his father, James "Jim" Tighe. Please visit his obituary at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/hartfordcourant/obituary.aspx?n=James-D-Tighe&pid=177958290>

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Anthony Grosso's NERTF Board Service Honored at the 2016 Conference

Anthony Grosso, one of the founding members of the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, was presented with a plaque in appreciation for his 19 years of service. In the mid 90's Maine, Mass, and RI were competing with their own state Turf Conferences. When the RI group asked Connecticut to join them in running the show in Providence, the idea of a regional show for all six New England states began to take shape. The original board members from CT were Anthony Grosso, Peter Pierson, Mike Wallace, and Phil Neaton. Anthony's input those first few years was critical in bringing all six New England state associations together for one regional show. He served as treasurer and co-chaired the research committee for many years. His involvement on the board will be missed.



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opportunity to view the research plots when they are under the greatest summer stress. Cutting edge research in the areas of lawn care, sports and golf turf management will be presented.

Attendees will have an opportunity to discuss ongoing research and management concerns with the UConn turf team. In addition to seeing the latest



research results, turfgrass professionals have the opportunity to interact with exhibitors and discuss the latest developments and challenges in the industry.

AGENDA:

7:30	Registration opens/continental breakfast
7:30-8:45	Visit with exhibitors
8:45-9:00	Welcoming remarks
9:00-11:30	Guided tour of research plots
11:30-12:00	Visit with exhibitors
12:00-1:00	Lunch
12:30	Ice cream social with exhibitors in vendor section
1:00-3:00	Visit with exhibitors
1:30-2:30	Afternoon Workshops (Separate registration required)
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2016 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

April 25 Monday	NORWICH GOLF COURSE 2 Ball Shamble	BASF The Chemical Company	Bruce Morse Host Superintendent
May 23 Monday	Clinton Country Club CAGCS Scholarship & Research Tournament PRESENTING PARTNER		Michael Decker Host Superintendent
June 8 Wednesday	ORANGE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB Low Gross / Net by Flight 1st Round CAGCS Championship MET Team Championship Qualifier PRESENTING PARTNER		Jud Smith Host Superintendent
July 14 Thursday	TORRINGTON COUNTRY CLUB CAGCS Benevolent Fundraiser Low Gross/Net Blind Partners 2nd round CAGCS Championship New England Team Championship Qualifier		Stephen Curry Host Superintendent
July 19 Tuesday	UCONN Field Day Research Farm		
August 21 Sunday	Lake Compounce CAGCS Family Day		
September 15 Thursday	ROCKRIMMON COUNTRY CLUB CAGCS MEMBER/GUEST PRESENTING PARTNER		Anthony Girardi, CGCS Host Superintendent
October 3 Monday	HOP MEADOW COUNTRY CLUB 2 Person Best Ball Superintendent/Assistant Tournament President's Cup & McLaughlin Trophy		Bill DeMur Host Superintendent
October 18 Tuesday	SILVERMINE GOLF CLUB CAGCS Class C Tournament PRESENTING PARTNER		Chris Vitali Host Superintendent
November 3 Thursday	POMPERAUG GOLF CLUB 9-hole Scramble ABCD CAGCS Annual Meeting PRESENTING PARTNER		David Golembeski Host Superintendent
November 10 Thursday	THE PATTERSON CLUB MET/CAGCS Fall Seminar		
December 1 Thursday	J. Timothy's Taverne CAGCS Christmas Party PRESENTING PARTNER		

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Continued from page 1...
The first year I was intimidated. By the second year, I went to every Connecticut congressional office to drop off literature and offer myself up as a resource to them."

Although his Grassroots Ambassador duties usually only take a few hours each month, his advocacy efforts go beyond the program, and he is often called on to speak for the industry at the state level. He is the Connecticut chapter's government relations liaison and was asked to serve on the board of the Connecticut Environmental Council, which is focused on the responsible use of pesticides and fertilizers. Earlier this month, he was in Harford, Conn., to testify on a state Senate bill concerning pollinator health and habitat.

Yale has been very supportive of his advocacy work and the new knowledge he has gained from it. And the experience has altered his own view on the role that superintendents can play in benefitting the golf industry.

"It started slowly for me," Ramsay said. "But then I just realized, why don't we speak up? We all need to do our part to speak up and be heard."

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2016 Meeting Dates For The Following Chapters

Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents - www.cagcs.com, Golf Course Superintendents of Cape Cod - www.gcsacc.org,
 Golf Course Superintendents of New England - www.gcsane.org, Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association - www.maineagcsa.org,
 New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents - www.nhgcsa.com, Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association - www.metgcsa.org,
 Rhode Island Association of Golf Course Superintendents - rigcsa.org & Vermont Golf Course Superintendents Association - www.vtgcsa.com
PLEASE NOTE! Check your local chapters web site for updates!

Tuesday, April 19, 2016	Siwanoy Country Club	Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Champ. Qualifer	Metropolitan GCSA
Tuesday, April 19, 2016	Foster Country Club	ABCD Scramble	Rhode Island GCSA
Monday, April 25, 2016	Norwich Golf Club	2-Ball Shamble	CAGCS
Tuesday, April 26, 2016	Olde Scotland Links Golf Club	Bear Cup Tournament - Joint w/GCSA of New England	GCSA of Cape Cod
Tuesday, April 26, 2016	Olde Scotland Links Golf Club	The Bear Cup - joint w/GCSA of Cape Cod	GCSA of New England
Thursday, May 12, 2016	Paramount Country Club	Superintendent & Guest	Metropolitan GCSA
Monday, May 16, 2016	Pine Hills Golf Club	Annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic	UMASS Alumni Turf Group
Wednesday, May 18, 2016	The Oak Golf Links	Joint meeting with Maine	New Hampshire GCSA
Wednesday, May 18, 2016	the Oak Golf Links	Joint meeting with New Hampshire	Maine GCSA
Monday, May 23, 2016	Clinton Country Club	Scholarship & Research Tournament	CAGCS
Monday, May 23, 2016	Franklin Country Club	Joint meeting w/RIGCSA	GCSA of New England
Monday, May 23, 2016	Franklin Country Club	Joint Meeting w/GCSANE -Memorial Tournament	Rhode Island GCSA
Tuesday, May 24, 2016	Wianno Club	Scholarship & Research Tournament	GCSA of Cape Cod
Tuesday, May 31, 2016	Stratton Mountain Club	Joint meeting w/NEGCSA	Vermont GCSA
Monday, June 6, 2016	Country Club of Darien	Invitational Tournament	Metropolitan GCSA
Wednesday, June 8, 2016	Orange Hills Country Club	1st Round CAGCS Champ/MET Team Qualifier	CAGCS
Tuesday, June 14, 2016	Metacomet Country Club	Member/Member Tournament	Rhode Island GCSA
Wednesday, June 15, 2016	Country Club of New Hampshire	25th Gold Ball Invitational Tournament	New Hampshire GCSA
Monday, June 20, 2016	South Shore Country Club		GCSA of Cape Cod
Wednesday, June 22, 2016	Country Club of Barre		Vermont GCSA
Thursday, June 23, 2016	Augusta Country Club	Superintendent/Vendor Champ.	Maine GCSA
Tuesday, June 27, 2016	Cyprian Keys Golf Club	Scholarship and Benevolence Tournament	GCSA of New England
Monday, July 11, 2016	Oriente Beach Club	Family Picnic	Metropolitan GCSA
Thursday, July 14, 2016	Torrington Country Club	Benevolent Fundraiser/2nd Round CAGCS Champ/NE Team Qualifier	CAGCS
Monday, July 18, 2016	Indian Pond Country Club	RHO-COD Cup - joint meeting (RIGCSA)	GCSA of Cape Cod
Monday, July 18, 2016	Indian Pond Country Club	RHO-COD Cup - joint meeting (GCSACC)	Rhode Island GCSA
Tuesday, July 19, 2016	UCONN Plant Science Research & Edu. Center	UCONN FIELD DAY	
Wednesday, July 20, 2016	Bedford park	Social	Metropolitan GCSA
Wednesday, July 20, 2016	West Bolton Golf Course	Fun-B-Q	Vermont GCSA
Tuesday, August 9, 2016	Marlborough Country Club	Individual Championship	GCSA of New England
Tuesday, August 16, 2016	Swansea Country Club	Stress Buster Day	Rhode Island GCSA
Sunday, August 21, 2016	Lake Compounce	CAGCS Family Day	CAGCS
, August TBA	Cotuit Highground	FREE-B-QUE	GCSA of Cape Cod
, August TBA	Mosholu Golf Course	Scholarship & Parent/Child Tournament	Metropolitan GCSA
, August TBA	The Hermitage Club		Vermont GCSA
Thursday, September 1, 2016	Crosswinds Golf Course	New England Championship qualifier	GCSA of Cape Cod
Monday, September 14, 2016	Blue Hill Country Club	Member Guest	GCSA of New England
Wednesday, September 14, 2016	Woodstock Country Club	Trade Show/Field Day	Vermont GCSA
Thursday, September 15, 2016	Rockrimmon Country Club	Member/Guest	CAGCS
Monday, September 19, 2016	Cranston Country Club	Championship - NE Champs Qualifier	Rhode Island GCSA
Monday, September 26, 2016	Country Club of Scranton	Met Area Team Championship	Metropolitan GCSA
, September TBA	Silvermine Golf Club	Nine & Dine Event	Metropolitan GCSA
, September TBA		Scholarship & Research Tournament	Maine GCSA
, September TBA		New England Team Championship Qualifier	New Hampshire GCSA
Monday, October 3, 2016	Hop Meadow Country Club	Superintendent/ Assistant Tournament	CAGCS
Monday, October 3, 2016	Concord Country Club	Member/Member	GCSA of New England
Monday, October 3, 2016		Poa Fundraiser	Metropolitan GCSA
Tuesday, October 4, 2016	Wanumetonomy Golf & Country Club	Scholarship & Research Tournament	Rhode Island GCSA
Tuesday, October 11, 2016	Boston Golf Club	Championship Tournament	GCSA of Cape Cod
Tuesday, October 18, 2016	Silvermine Golf Club	Class C Tournament	CAGCS
Tuesday, October 18, 2016	Wawenock	Staff Day	Maine GCSA
Tuesday, October 25, 2016	Newport Country Club	Superintendent/Assistant Tournament	Rhode Island GCSA
, October TBA	Rutland Country Club	Member/Guest	Vermont GCSA
, October TBA		New England Team Championship	Vermont GCSA
, October TBA		Assistant Tournament	GCSA of New England
, October TBA		Scholarship & Research Tournament	New Hampshire GCSA
Tuesday, November 1, 2016	Willowdale Golf Club	Education/Golf	Maine GCSA
Thursday, November 3, 2016	Pomperaug Golf Club	Annual Meeting	CAGCS
Monday, November 7, 2016	Milton-Hoosic Club	Nine-Hole Meeting	GCSA of New England
Thursday, November 10, 2016	The Patterson Club	Met/CAGCS Fall Seminar	Metropolitan GCSA
Tuesday, December 13, 2016	Portland Country Club	Annual Meeting	Maine GCSA
November TBA	Midville Golf Club		Rhode Island GCSA
, December TBA		Annual Meeting	New Hampshire GCSA
, December TBA			GCSA of Cape Cod
, December TBA	Holiday Inn, Concord, NH	Annual Turf Education Conference	New Hampshire GCSA

2016 New England Regional Turfgrass Show 2/29-3/3



2016 New England Regional Turfgrass Show 2/29-3/3

