

Connecticut Clippings



AFFILIATED CHAPTER
GCSAA

Volume 50, No 3

September 2016

LESSONS RELEARNED

*Jim Skorulski, USGA Green Section
Agronomist, NE Region*

The summer has been long and even brutal for some. The start of the season was uneventful, with dry, mild weather, contented golfers and hardly a sign of annual bluegrass weevils. The availability of water started to become an issue for some facilities due to below average rainfall, but those with a dependable water supply were fine. Temperatures and humidity increased and the first cracks in the armor started becoming apparent across non-irrigated roughs where the first signs of wilt and disease activity were noticed. Small concerns transitioned to serious concerns later in July when the rains came. Wet, compacted soils + persistent high temperature + humidity + shallow rooted turf = big problems most of the time.

The following are lessons relearned from a stressful summer many will be happy to forget.

- Experience, anticipation, sufficient resources, and sound judgement are required to survive a difficult season. However, never underestimate the role luck plays in this business or in any agricultural enterprise. Those areas of the state that received the heaviest rains in July and early August experienced the greatest difficulties. Even the direct and indirect impacts of unforeseen events or the timing of a club tournament can mean the difference between success and failure in difficult seasons.

- Turf growing in marginal growing

environments rarely experience stress when weather conditions are ideal. But how that changes when the weather gets tough. Turf weakened from morning shade or a lack of adequate air circulation struggles most when the weather conditions deteriorate. Never underestimate the importance of good growing environments.

- Drainage, drainage, drainage. Good drainage is an absolute necessity for consistently producing good playing conditions. Surface drainage is king. Collection swales that hold water and low lying pockets are prone to injury during a wet, hot summer. Internal greens drainage and a strong commitment to soil cultivation practices and topdressing pay handsome dividends in a difficult summer season.

- Yes, *Poa annua* is your friend until it is not. Managing the always adaptable but weaker rooted grass is a challenge in the heat and humidity we have experienced this year. In all fairness, annual bluegrass grows where other grasses do not so it will always have a place on northern golf courses. But if there was ever a year to manage bentgrass... Just saying.

- There is no margin for error during a hot, stressful summer like this. Playing defense was the name of the game when weather conditions worsened during July. This includes sticking to the tried and true programs, raising mowing heights, reducing mowing and rolling frequency, managing traffic, and focusing on the fundamentals of maintaining grass. A defensive posture obviously

requires support from the green committee or ownership, and hopefully a light tournament schedule in the mid-summer season. Be proactive not reactive and remember, golfers have a way of remembering dead greens longer than slow greens that they putted on.

- The art of communication is critical at all times but especially in a year like this. Those who are proactive in communicating the potential problems ahead and are open and honest are the most successful when conditions become difficult. Staying attuned to regional conditions with <http://www.usga.org/course-care.html> can be helpful while social media can help get the word out.

This business can be humbling. Sometimes there is little positive that can be taken out of a difficult year outside of having gained the experience from going through it, and a renewed commitment to deferred maintenance and the infrastructure improvements. Lessons learned and relearned again.

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Eric Morrison, CGCS

The President's Message

Well the 100 days of Hell I mentioned in my last President's message was definitely all of that and more (it went well past 100 unfortunately) as we experienced one of the hottest and driest summers on record. I saw a report that over the past three years the entire state of Connecticut is roughly 20" under normal precipitation levels...that's what we have had to deal with. As I sit here writing this, we might finally get some much needed relief in

the way of some precipitation and cooler weather. Even though it doesn't feel like it yet, Fall is around the corner and hopefully will provide much needed relief for us and the turf we maintain.

During the summer, the association has had several successful events. The CAGCS Benevolent Fundraiser was held at the Torrington Country Club on July 14; thanks to Steve Curry and to the club for hosting the event; I wasn't able to attend as I was prepping for the CT. Senior Open, but I heard it was a very good day. In August, we had our annual family day at Lake Compounce that over one hundred people attended. It's always a fun time that my daughter looks forward to every year. This year it wasn't ridiculously hot which made it very enjoyable. On September 15, Rockrimmon Country Club hosted our Member Guest Tournament. The night before a microburst hit the property

and downed limbs and spread debris everywhere. Thanks to Tony Girardi and his staff for getting the course cleaned up for our event...you couldn't even tell what happened the previous evening. Thank you to the Plant Food Company and Tom Irwin for being the presenting partners for the July and September meetings respectively, and thanks to all of the other sponsors for supporting CAGCS at these events.

We have a few more events to close out the calendar year, so I hope to see you at one or more of them. There still are some openings on the calendar for 2017 meetings, so if you are interested in hosting a meeting please contact Steve Curry, another board member, or Mary Jo at the office. Good luck to everyone with recovery from summer stress, fall aerification, and other projects this fall.

Eric Morrison, CGCS

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

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THE FOLLOWING ARE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2016 CAGCS SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr. Richard Skogley Scholarship recipient: Lily A. Holm, daughter of Erick Holm, she is attending Springfield College.

CAGCS Scholarships were awarded to:

- Austin A. Anderson, daughter of Jay Anderson, she is attending Colgate University
Jesse S. Anderson, IV, he will be attending Lafayette College
Benjamin K. Bednarczyk, son of Paul Bednarczyk, he is attending Loyola University /Maryland
Samantha Bradley, daughter of Gregory Bradley, she is attending Central Connecticut State University
Colleen Callahan, daughter of John Callahan, she is attending Davidson College
Lauren Callahan, daughter of John Callahan, she is attending University of Miami
Lily Chalifour, granddaughter of Robert Chalifour, she is attending Eastern Connecticut State University
Michael E. Decker, son of Michael R. Decker, he is attending University of New Hampshire
Daniel K. DeVaux, son of Kevin DeVaux, he is attending Wentworth Institute of Technology
Whitton R. DeVaux, son of Kevin DeVaux, he will be attending Springfield College
Skylar L. Dorsch, daughter of Robert Dorsch, she will be attending Arizona State University
Nicholas M. Girardi, son of Anthony Girardi, CGCS, he will be attending University of Wisconsin-Madison
Michael D. Grace, son of Peter Grace, he will be attending Merrimack College
Timothy T. Grace, son of Peter Grace, he is attending James Madison University
William C. Hull, son of Peter Hull, he is attending Maine College of Art
David G. Mihailides II, son of David Mihailides, he is attending Community College of Rhode Island
Korey Moller, daughter of Peter Grace, she is attending Goodwin College
Caroline Perry, daughter of Glenn Perry, she is attending Easter Connecticut State University
Maribeth C. Stent, daughter of Gregory Stent, she is attending Endicott College
Erin D. Sullivan, daughter of Michael Sullivan, she will be attending Salve Regina University
Julia A. Vitali, daughter of Christopher Vitali, she will be attending Eastern Connecticut state University
Zachary J. Weiland, son of James Weiland, he is attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Kelesy M. Weischet, daughter of Ward Weischet, she is attending Roger Williams University
Christopher C. Wojick, son of Gregory Wojick, he will be attending University of Connecticut
Patrick S. Wollenberg, son of Paul Wollenberg, he is attending Central Connecticut State University

A Memorial Scholarships was awarded to Christopher Steffen. Christopher works for Rock Ridge Country Club, Steven Loughran, Golf Course Superintendent.

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.

CAGCS AND THE DROUGHT OF 2016

The summer that will not end!

Connecticut is currently in a Severe Drought Condition.

The protracted drought has caused the CT DEEP to ban fishing in some rivers due to the low flows, which cause the fish to congregate in limited areas. In Tarriffville an all time, record low flow of the Farmington River has been recorded (ever in recorded history). This is a serious and unprecedented situation.

There are now six towns in Connecticut that are being served by the Aquarion Water Company (AWC) that is under "severe" water restrictions. The towns under the restrictions are Stamford, New Canaan, Darien, Greenwich, Mystic, and Stonington. The restrictions enable golf courses to water greens and tees only, fairways cannot be watered.

We have also been informed that several golf courses with diversion permits are adjusting to low stream flow totals.

Please communicate with CAGCS if you have any questions or further drought limitations. We would like to know how any drought restrictions may impact your properties, we have developed many resources and relationships that maybe able to help in the future. Many members of the CAGCS BOD have been fielding calls and directing these calls to the folks with the answers. We are also actively participating on a statewide drought plan (there is not one currently); our representative on this committee is Pete Gorman. Golf is well represented with Pete's involvement and crafting any future legislation. We have established a perception as good stewards and trusted professionals which helps promote our cause thanks to decades of superintendent participation.

This is a serious situation in the lower corners of the state. In Greenwich, a 1 1/2 mile above ground transfer line is being installed just to ease the short-term delivery deficit. AWC is very aware of the value of golf and just how important water is to protecting our greens and tees.

Thankfully, it is the first day of fall and most of the state received some precipitation this week. Please reach out with questions, concerns, or even solutions. That is what makes our industry unique.

Best Regards,
Scott Ramsay, CGCS
CAGCS Governmental Relations

KEVIN’S KORNER

The challenges during long stretches with little or no rainfall are well documented and extremely stressful. Seemingly endless days of sun seem to make every moment revolve around keeping turf strong and healthy. I have been asked by Brian, a long time GCSAA member, to write a reminder newsletter article on just such a situation, sunny days and health, but not turf related, turf manager related!

Some of you may recall an article written by Steven Best. Best, a 24-year member of GCSAA at the time of his death in October 2011 from melanoma, was honored for his story, “Surviving skin cancer,” which was published in the July 2011 issue of GCM. Best was the recipient of the 2012 GCSAA Leo Feser Award, which is presented annually for the best superintendent-written story published in GCM. The story detailed Best’s journey through a battle with Stage 4 melanoma and his call for increased awareness of skin cancer and ways it could be prevented among his fellow superintendents.

I immediately thought of Best’s article when the topic was mentioned (linked [here](#), or simply search the GCM archive for “Surviving skin cancer”). Discussions with Brian took another very enlightening turn, as he does see a dermatologist regularly and has had some items removed over time, albeit for precautionary reasons. He told me that not only does he get checked regularly, he knows other superintendents in the area that do as well. In my 17

years on the course, I had never visited a dermatologist for a screening. Have you?

While avoiding sun exposure during the heat of the day is not going to happen in our industry, please heed the suggestions of experts at Dana-Farber:

- Avoid unprotected sun exposure and seek shade when possible.
- Wear sun protective clothing, such as a

wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and shirts with long sleeves.

- Apply the recommended amount of broad-spectrum (blocking UVA and UVB rays) sunscreen with a SPF of 30 or above when going outside. Be sure to check expiration dates.

- Reapply sunscreen every two hours, or as needed.



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- Finally, check your entire body for changes in your skin on a monthly basis. <http://blog.dana-farber.org/insight/2013/05/how-to-enjoy-summer-without-raising-your-cancer-risk/>

Also be aware that you are not alone in this! Everyone on the staff will undergo similar sun exposure, and as your maintenance team’s leader, you may need to remind them regularly as well. GCSAA has an archived webcast that may help you accomplish that goal: <http://gcsaa.tv/webinars/education/archive-files/sun.wmv>. Perhaps viewing at a staff meeting on a rainy day will help accomplish that, should we ever have one!

I hope this reminder assists to ensure you remain safe during these long hot days. Best of luck keeping both you and your turf strong and healthy this summer!

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

Results from nutrient survey show significant reduction in use!
Thank you again to all who took the time to participate in the Environmental Profile Survey regarding Nutrient Use! The results are in and again show the tremendous environmental stewardship utilized by golf course superintendents! Information regarding the results can be found at the link [here](#).

Nemacur deadline reminder
In 2014, the EPA granted GCSAA’s request for an extension on the use of fenamiphos (Nemacur nematocide) existing stocks labeled for use on golf courses until Oct. 6, 2017. Golf course superintendents must deplete their existing stocks by that deadline.

ELGA applications are now open
The GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship. Presented in partnership with Syngenta and Rain Bird, ELGA applications are due Sept. 30.

Upcoming FREE webcasts:
[Aug. 9: Modern Fine Fescue Secondary Rough Management](#)

[Aug. 25: Emerging Technology in Golf Course Equipment](#) - Equipment Management Series

[Aug. 30: Planning a Snow Mold Prevention Program](#)

[Sept. 28: Time Management & Goal Setting for Success Now](#) - Equipment Management Series

[Oct. 27: Drilling Tools and Techniques](#) - Equipment Management Series

[Nov. 3: Benefits of Golf Courses: A Case Study in Auckland](#)

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

Kevin Doyle
GCSAA Field Staff
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UMass Extension’s 2016 GREEN SCHOOL, a comprehensive 12-day certificate short course for Green Industry professionals taught by UMass faculty and Extension Specialists, is now accepting registrations.

The turf curriculum of this popular course, offered every other year, is designed for turf and landscape professionals who wish to gain a basic understanding of horticulture fundamentals and strategies, but can’t fit a full academic course into their schedules. Green School students come away with research-based knowledge that is indispensable for making agronomically sound and environmentally appropriate decisions.

Green School runs October 24 - December 12, 2016, twice a week from 9:00 AM to 3:15 PM in Milford, MA. Students choose one of three “specialty tracks” when registering: Turf Management, Landscape Management, or Arboriculture. The registration deadline is October 7, or until the classes are full. Space is limited, so apply early. Register by September 23 to take advantage of a significant early bird price incentive.

Pesticide recertification contact hours will be offered for all New England states.

For more information specific to Green School, or to have a registration form mailed, call UMass Extension at 413-545-0895.

UMass WINTER SCHOOL FOR TURF MANAGERS immerses students in a full-time program, focused solely on the management of fine turf and taught by UMass faculty and staff. Winter School is a comprehensive certificate program designed to furnish turf managers with the fundamental concepts essential to maintaining high quality turf, while instilling a sense of environmental stewardship and fiscal responsibility.

Winter School 2017 runs January 9 - February 17, 2017, at the UMass campus in

Amherst, in a new, time-efficient six week format. Classes are scheduled: Mon-Th 8 AM - 5 PM, and Fri 8 AM - noon. This schedule is designed to accommodate weekend commuters who may want to stay in the Amherst area Mon-Th evenings but head home on the weekends. Some area hotels offer special packages for UMass Winter School students.

The international student application deadline is September 15, 2016. Application review for US students will begin in early September, with a deadline of October 31, 2016 (late applications may be accepted

pending availability of seats). Space is limited.

Pesticide recertification contact hours will be offered for all New England states, and 20.4 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are offered.

For more information visit <http://ag.umass.edu/turf>, and click on Education and Events, call (413) 545-5202, or email academicprograms@contined.umass.edu.



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- Daniel Paradise, Class Commercial
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- Cody Scott, Class C
Golf Club of Avon

University of
Massachusetts Alumni
Honor Paul Miller at
Pinehills Golf Club

On May 16, 2016, the Pinehills Golf Club in Plymouth, MA played host to the twelfth annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic where Paul Miller, CGCS was honored by the Alumni Turf Group [ATG].



l-r Dean Steve Goodwin & Paul Miller,
CGCS, Honoree

Condolences

To Michael McDermott and family, on the passing of his father, George "Mickey" McDermott. Please follow the link to read more: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/hartfordcourant/obituary.aspx?n=George-E-McDermott&pid=181266221>

Reminder!

CAGCS Christmas Party
J. Timothy's Taverne
Thursday, December 1st
From 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm



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2016-2017 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS		
October 3 Monday	HOP MEADOW COUNTRY CLUB 2 Person Best Ball <i>Superintendent/Assistant Tournament President's Cup & McLaughlin Trophy</i> PRESENTING PARTNER	 William DeMur Host Superintendent
October 12 Wednesday	Quechee Club New England Superintendents Championship	Ken Lallier, CGCS Host Superintendent
October 18 Tuesday	SILVERMINE GOLF CLUB CAGCS Class C Tournament PRESENTING PARTNER	 Chris Vitali Host Superintendent
OCTOBER 27 Thursday	PINE ORCHARD YACHT & CC 9-hole Scramble ABCD CAGCS Annual Meeting PRESENTING PARTNER	 Peter Gorman Host Superintendent
November 10 Thursday	THE PATTERSON CLUB MET / CAGCS Fall Seminar	Jason Meersman Host Superintendent
November 22 Tuesday	CTEC ANNUAL MEETING & EDUCATION PROGRAM Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville, CT	
December 1 Thursday	J. TIMOTHY'S TAVERNE CAGCS Christmas Party PRESENTING PARTNER	
January 10 Tuesday	MYSTIC MARIOTT CAGCS Winter Seminar PRESENTING PARTNER	
February 6-9	GCSAA GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW Orlando, FL	
March 6-9	NERTF CONFERENCE & SHOW RI Convention Center	
April 25 Monday	TRADITION GC AT WALLINGFORD	Kevin Collins Host Superintendent
May 15	GREATHORSE COUNTRY CLUB Joseph Troll Research Classic	David Rafferty Host Superintndent
June 19 Monday	H. B. BROWNSON CC	Andrew Fries, CGCS Host Superintendent

JULY MEETING RESULTS
TORRINGTON COUNTRY
CLUB, BENEVOLENT
FUNDRAISER, JULY 14, 2016

1st Place Gross - 71
Jason Dowgiewicz, Plant Food Company
David Rafferty, GreatHorse

2nd Place Gross – 72 mc
Todd Appgar, Metro Turf Specialists
Ward Weischet, SiteOne Landscaping Supply

3rd Place Gross – 72 m/c
Andrew Fries, H.B. Brownson CC
Ken Parisi, guest

1st Place Net – 57
Anthony Grosso
Mike Mallack, guest

2nd Place Net – 59 m/c
Al Adaskaveg, Rockledge GC
Marc Weston, Indian Hill CC
3rd Place Net – 59 m/c
Jake Green, Metro Turf Specialists
Mike McDermott, Twin Hills CC

Closest to Pin #3 – 2’0”
Mark Cravanzola, Bulls Bridge CC
Closest to Pin #6 – 3’8”
Heather Garvin, Hart Seed
Closest to Pin #11 0 8’2”

Todd Olovson, Sleeping Giant GC
Closest to Pin #17 – 1’5”
Bill Goewey, Sharon CC
Longest Drive #1
Mark Cravanzola, Bulls Bridge CC
Closest to Line #18
Ken Parisi, Guest
Longest Putt #5 – 12’3”
Ed Goodhouse
Longest Putt #15 – 18’10”
Tim Gerrish, Gardner & Gerrish LLC

2016 CAGCS
CHAMPIONSHIP

1st Flight 0-12
Gross – 156 Eric DeStefano, Twin Hills CC
Net – 151 Kevin Collins, The Tradition GC
Wallingford

2nd Flight 13-19
Gross – 187 Scott Ramsay, The Course at
Yale
Net – 154 Rob Giampietro, Bull’s Bridge GC

3rd Flight 20+
Gross – 198 Bruce Morse, Norwich GC
Net – 129 Anthony Grosso

Senior Flight
Gross – 199 Al Adaskaveg, Rockledge CC
Net – 157 Peter Grace, H. Smith
Richardson GC

Commercial
Gross – 158 Jason Dowgiewicz, Plant Food
Company
Net – 144 Brian Pope, Turf Products



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SUMMER THOUGHTS



In our industry, we have all types of people of all walks of life that have come from various backgrounds. At some point in our time we developed a fondness for grass. It may have started as we ran and tumbled our way around our back yards after learning to walk, possibly when playing little league, or at some point having the responsibility to mow our family's yard. Maybe we lived close enough to a golf course and got to spend some time there caddying and playing. Wherever and whenever this occurred, it could be that we were pointed in a career direction that focused on growing grass. Grass areas are included in all favorably landscaped areas around the world and in many different climates. Even the Almighty had a special appreciation for green, as he appointed the first biological organism on the earth to be just that....grass. He must have been worried about erosion. Many are convinced that it had to have been Poa!

Through the ages, grass management may be one of the oldest professions of man. Sheep herders grazed their flocks on it and farmer's livestock took care of it around the homestead. It wasn't until the middle of the 1800's that official turf management research was recorded in the US. About that time, Old Tom Morris was hired by the St. Andrew's Golf Club to be what some call the first golf course superintendent. Modern scientific analysis tells us that grass produces oxygen in abundance and has many uses that enhance our communities. The grass plant has participated consistently in the development in many of our outdoor sports that we enjoy today at the highest levels due to well managed grass. It has come a long way just like man has. So, where do we go from here?

As the industry has grown, or as some might feel, overgrown, we see rethinking concerning the need for the quality of the playing surfaces to be practically flawless. We also see the encroachment of artificial surfaces filling some of the voids caused by over-scheduled use of facilities. Budgets have also taken hits due to economic challenges at many industry levels. Through all this and other specifics including new ownerships, we see the industry continue to move ahead making adjustments and corrections. Turfgrass managers have had to take on the load of these issues making many feel the pressures of doing more with less. This may include over-worked equipment and crews, the loss of products, never-ending weather challenges, not to mention the introduction of new or increased pest problems. We haven't even discussed those demands of the people who use your facilities. That, we probably want to save for another day! As gloomy as it may sound, it isn't all bad.

I would like to take a minute to cite the good news....We, as an industry, have never enjoyed greater prosperity. Never has the industry had better equipment available, better scientific support, a better educated workforce, better

opportunities to keep yourself up to date, a better ability to communicate and to network, better salaries, better tools to manage with, and finally, better grasses to work with. Resources are out there, opportunities are available, they are tools and you must grab hold of them just like you would a screwdriver to use them. Attending the UConn Field Day was one opportunity to use an invaluable resource, and the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show would be another great example that can help you in many ways. If you couldn't make these events in 2016, put them on the calendar for 2017. (UMass Field Day will be July 25, 2017 and the show will be March 6-7, 2017). Networking and building relationships will always be a valuable way to

help you expand your resources if challenges do arise. Wonderful education opportunities are available here in New England at all levels. Whatever your story or background, I hope you realize you are not alone in this industry. Use the resources that are available and another point for you to consider....be a resource to others you know in the industry. Your experiences could be just what the doctor ordered for them. All turfgrass managers have good years and bad, these resources could help to tip the scale in your favor. Just some thoughts as we continue to plod through the rest of the summer! Best of Luck!

Gary Sykes, Executive Director
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