



THE NEWSLETTER

October 2003

of the **Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Inc.**

Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund – Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

Jason Adams keeps improvements coming at member-owned 9-hole Norfolk Golf Club

Jason Adams is out of a familiar stable of what seems to be an endless line of young "would-be's" who wonder whether they should spend the rest of their lives playing the golf course or pampering it.

Obviously, he made the right choice . . . uh, the latter. Adams is the five-year superintendent at the Norfolk Golf Club, a nine-hole hidden gem in Westwood that rang to life in 1896. The course is unique in that it has never been touched by a golf course architect. That duty was assumed by the six Westwood neighbors who each donated a piece of property, then mapped out a design for nine golfing holes.

"Sounds funny but it's true," Adams chimed. "We have the same playing layout we had 107 years ago. Sure, there have been improvement to greens, tees and fairways. Bunkers have been reshaped and a few added. But the original concept remains. It's popular, too. From what I hear, there have been a lot of good players who made a point to play here."

One comes to mind. Bob Toski, the PGA Tour's leading money winner in 1953 and first winner of the World Golf Championship (that paid \$100,000 to its champion), always played Norfolk when he was in the area. So the place comes with a certified stamp of approval.

Funny thing also, Adams might have missed all of this golfing lore. Jason was a would-be playing pro when he was on the high school golf circuit as No. 1 player for Maher Regional in his native Orange. Then he hit the career crossroads.

"I thought about what I wanted to do with my life a long time," Adams recalled. "But my practical side won out. I'm the

"We started (the improvement project) with two bunkers and they (members) liked what they saw. In the fall, we really hit paydirt, doing 14 more."

**Jason Adams
Norfolk G.C.**

kind of guy who likes to get his hands dirty when he works. Another thing, there's nothing like watching the sun come up out of the mist and over the hump in the wee hours of a golf course. It's kind of a silent moment that grabs you."

Norfolk had to wait several years before Adams came aboard as superintendent in 1998. His career move was set in motion when he completed the two-year course at the Stockbridge School. Next came a two-year stint on the maintenance crew at the Oak Hill Country Club. He moved up to assistant superintendent at the Shattuck Golf Club where he remained six years before answering the Norfolk call.

Since he took the Norfolk post, Jason has been leaning on his expertise and energy to virtually change the face of the

course into a Donald Ross-type masterpiece. The truth is, though, that the transformation never would have come to fruition if not for Adams' confidence in himself and his working associates.

When Jason arrived, Michael Drake of the Drake Construction Company had refurbished a few bunkers. However, course improvement money was tight and the project appeared dead in a pool of red ink.

"Our course is member-owned, so I went to the members and asked them to give me a chance to keep the improvement project going," Adams said. We started with two bunkers and they liked what they saw. In the fall, we really hit paydirt, doing 14 more."

Adams continued to pick up the pace on making Norfolk more challenging. All the while the nine-hole syndrome made his task just as challenging.

continued on page 2

INSIDE . . .

	Page
Calendar of Events	2
From the President	3
GCSANE News	3
From the Forum	3
Hosting a Meeting	4
Turf Management: Summer 2003	5
Scenes from Charter Oak C.C. .	5
Divot Drift	6
Turf Science: Frost	8



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continued from page 1

"Maintaining a nine-hole course involves just as much input, maybe more, than working an 18-hole layout," Jason explained. "In fact, there's more turf repairing all around. Don't forget, those greens take a double pounding every day. We've put out as many as 30,000 rounds a season. So the abuse is apparent. I have a 10-man staff during the summer, cut down to four in the spring and fall. Therefore, the responsibility gets a little tight."

Norfolk, its 300-membership, and the course seem to be a good mix for Adams. However, the thought of taking on an 18-hole job is always in the back of his mind.

"To be truthful, I thought this (Norfolk) would be a stepping stone in my career," Jason leveled. "I figured I'd stay about two years and then move on. But when I decided to take over the improvement project, I got excited and wanted to see it through. Lately, I've been too busy to think about anything except what I have to do here, that and enjoying my family. (Wife Cathy and daughters Emily and Lindsey)."

This year has been as busy as Jason can get because of the negative condition Norfolk was left with after the winter of 2003. The damage was overwhelming . . . four acres of dead fairways, all nine greens stripped bare, and three tees wiped out.

"The cleanup and restoration really tested me and my crew," Adams told.

"For three months it was re-seed, re-seed, re-seed. Our members were patient. But we didn't look like our old self until the end of June. We were about 90 percent back then. Now, we're 99 percent. All that mess, the work, and I wound up about \$5,000 over budget. I'm thinking miracle but I don't know what my members think. I think they're pleased."

Adams, in his second year on the GCSANE board of directors, likes the involvement with fellow superintendents and his first steps in the administrative world of his profession. He's chairman of the membership committee and looks to take on more assignments. "I plan on sticking around for awhile," Jason revealed. "Just as long as my job allows. I think I made the right decision way back when . . . even though I've gone from a two to 12 (handicap). But I can live with that."

GERRY FINN

Norfolk Golf Club Fact Sheet (November meeting site)

Club Name: Norfolk Golf Club
Superintendent: Jason Adams
Golf Professional: Dana Janis
Number of Members: 300
Terrain: Rolling hills
Architect: None
Year Organized: 1896
Par: 35
Regular Yardage: 5736
Ladies Yardage: 5388
Championship Yardage: 5936
Greens (yardage & type): 50,000 sq. ft.
(Bent, Poa)
Tees (yardage & type): 30,000 sq. ft.
(Bent, Poa, Rye)
Fairways (acres & type): 10 acres
(Bent, Poa, Rye)
Roughs (acres & type): 15 acres
(Blue, Fescue, Rye, Poa)
Carts: Yes (20 carts)

CALENDAR . . .

Nov. 3 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
Annual 9-Hole Meeting
Norfolk Golf Club
Norfolk, Mass.
Supt. - Jason Adams

Dec. 12 **GCSANE Holiday Gala**
Brae Burn Country Club
West Newton, Mass.

GCSAA

EDUCATION • THE BEST FOR THE BEST

Brought to you by the

GCSA of NEW ENGLAND

Developing a Comprehensive Turfgrass Management Program

Tues., Nov. 18, 2003, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(268-3B-3RS)

and

Budgeting Essentials Workshop

Wed., Nov. 19, 2003, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(272-1B-3RS)

at

The International, Bolton, Mass.
Nov. 18 & 19, 2003

Member Fee: \$130 per seminar
Non-Member Fee: \$195 per seminar
Education Points: 0.7 per seminar

GCSAA seminars are presented in partnership with

JACOBSEN

For more information or to register,
call (800) 472-7878.

An update on PDI, Gary Luccini scholarship, and GCSANE S&B Fund from President Fitzroy

Many thanks to USGA Regional Agronomist Jim Skorulski and our Newsletter editor, Michael Stachowicz, for the enlightening question-and-answer article featured in our September issue. This is the third consecutive year that we have withstood extreme weather in one form or another, and I think Jim did a wonderful job outlining the effects of these extremes on our golf course management practices.

As announced in September, our board of directors directed Sharon Brownell to record PDI points for our members when the event was sponsored by GCSANE. I was recently informed by GCSAA headquarters staff that the pilot program

for this system ran into some problems and will not be online until April 2004. At that time we will record GCSANE activities for our members. Until then,

FROM THE PRESIDENT

please visit the Member Central area of the GCSAA website to record and review your PDI progress. I apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this has caused.

R. Scott Woodhead, GCSAA's Director of Membership, will be our guest at the November 3, 2003 meeting at the Norfolk Golf Club in Westwood. Scott will provide information regarding the Professional Development Initiative and I'm sure he'll be able to answer any questions about this important development for our profession.

The family of Gary Luccini is honoring his memory with a scholarship to be awarded annually in his name. We are pleased to support this effort with the insert in this month's Newsletter, and hope you will direct the information to anyone who you believe may qualify for the award.

Congratulations to this year's GCSANE Scholarship Award winners: Jaclyn Ruszala, Tyler Carr, Brenna Brink, and Kara Smith. As a member of this association, you should be proud of our Scholarship & Benevolence Fund and the good work we can accomplish with these funds. I personally thank all our members, affiliates, and friends, who year after year support this fund. Our 2004

event is being planned right now and we will be playing our event at the Pine Brook Country Club. So please keep this in mind when you are making your golf and meeting plans for next year. Pine Brook is a wonderful private club and a great host to this kind of event. And special thanks go to Mike Iacono for stepping forward and obtaining his club for this event.

Finally, I hope everyone is having a successful and productive fall season.

**James R. Fitzroy, CGCS
President, GCSANE**

S&B Committee announces awards

The Scholarship & Benevolence Committee has announced the scholarship awards recipients for 2003.

This is the ninth year of giving these awards. This year the committee awarded \$6,000 to three deserving students. A grand total of \$45,000 has been awarded

GCSANE NEWS

in all nine years. This year the Scholarship & Benevolence recipients are:

Jaclyn Ruszala, Schofield Award Winner, \$2250. Jaclyn is the daughter of Robert Ruszala of Hickory Ridge C.C. She is attending Mount Holyoke College and majoring in English.

Tyler Carr, \$1250. Tyler is the son of Pocasset superintendent Steve Carr. Tyler is an engineering major at George Washington University.

Brenna Brink, \$1250. Brenna is the daughter of Indian Ridge C.C.'s Roger Brink. She is a business and marketing major at the University of New Hampshire.

Kara Smith, \$1250. The daughter of Ron Smith, Kara is attending Boston College and majoring in marketing.

Congratulations to all the winners of this year's scholarships.

A selection of forum postings

Editor's Note: www.gcsane.org has a forum on the website. Month to month we will reprint select postings from the forum to help them gain a wider audience.

Fescue - Natural Areas

(Jason Adams, posted At 17:40:31 09/22/2003) In the last couple of years we have let some natural areas grow in. We

FROM THE FORUM

mow them down every fall and fertilize them twice a year. Over the past five years they have really thickened up. The problem we're having now is that the weeds are thickening also and making it very tough to find balls. Does anyone have any suggestions of something to treat these areas with (without hurting the fescues) or companies that do controlled burns? Any help or suggestions would be helpful.

(Russ Heller, posted At 06:38:01 09/24/2003) Jason - I mow mine down in the spring. The tall grasses overwinter better when left alone. I have not sprayed weeds (yet), but have heard Confront mentioned as a product. I guess it depends on what you are trying to control. Roy Sibley from Hart Seed could give you good advice on how to handle your fescues.

As member of this association, you should be proud of our Scholarship & Benevolence Fund and the good work we can accomplish with these funds.

'We're all in this together' says superintendent, listing benefits of hosting a meeting at your club

**By Jerry Coldiron,
Superintendent,
Boone Links &
Lassing Pointe Golf Courses**

Maybe you're a young superintendent, or a "veteran" superintendent who is new to the area and hesitant to host a local meeting. Or maybe you're like me and have been in your current position awhile but drifted away from your local superintendent organization due to other priorities or interests (family, in my case). Either way, my goal today is to promote the concept of hosting a local chapter meeting at your facility. Each year seems to be getting more difficult to find sites, and your local board desperately needs some help.

Hosting a meeting is a golden opportunity to showcase your facility and staff to your peers in the industry, while promoting our industry to your internal organization. The satisfaction you and your staff will feel is an added bonus. Chapter meetings are generally run like any typical outing your club hosts many times each year. With planning and proper communication, it is really pretty simple. Organization, planning, and marketing are what we do every day!

The first step should be done a year or so in advance, usually in the early winter months. That is now. Contact the chapter board (don't wait for them to contact you), see what dates are available, and then

check with your club official and internal calendar. Discuss with your club official what format would work best for the club. This is critical! Carefully consider what is least burdensome for your facility, and choose a date when you might normally be closed or slow. This will vary depending upon what type of facility you manage, i.e. private, daily fee, municipal etc. Put

GCSAA NEWS

everything in writing, be professional, and be sure you understand and communicate what type meeting you are putting together. Options abound!

Don't be afraid to think "outside the box" a little and then go to work on cost and detail. Education options can vary; you might have something specific in mind, or simply leave that up to the education chairperson. Again, communicate your ideas!

Traditional meetings are lunch (either on your own or sponsored by a commercial affiliate), golf, and dinner (or heavy hors d'oeuvres). The educational session can be before or after lunch, or after dinner. Plan the program the way it would best fit your facility, and communicate your ideas with the meeting chair. Anything is possible, and they will work with you to fit your facility's best interest first.

Talk to your internal officials to drive the best deal for the association without giving away the farm. Typically, golf and/or carts are provided at no charge, with food and beverage somewhat discounted. It helps if you have taken your local official to a prior meeting, or they are at least familiar with the concept. If not, this is where your homework, marketing skill, and understanding of what might work best for your club will come in handy.

Over the years, (yeah, I'm getting old) I've heard (and used) most excuses for not hosting a meeting. Costs, worry about what my peers will think, time involved, facility restrictions, and so forth can all arise as stumbling blocks. Hogwash! The bottom line is we are all in this together, our superintendent industry needs promotion, professionalism, and education.

We all enjoy the socializing, camaraderie, and golf. Plus, as I mentioned earlier, this is an opportunity to not only showcase your accomplishments, but also promote our great industry to your officials. Hosting a meeting has always been positive and satisfying for me, my staff, and club officials – who understand the value of continuing education, appreciate the opportunity to attend one of these meetings, and are usually proud to host one!

I hope you will seriously think about hosting a meeting, and pick that phone up right now. With all the great facilities in the Tri-State, we should be able to set up a liberal rotation and not impose on anyone too frequently. Moreover, we might just get that little job or detail accomplished that only a fellow superintendent might notice!

Reprinted from
Green Breeze, a publication of
the Greater Cincinnati GCSAA

GCSAA benefits include free life insurance

Did you know the GCSAA provides free life insurance to members? As a benefit of membership, all members, excluding student, affiliate company, facility outreach, and non-U.S. citizen members, are automatically enrolled into the dues term life insurance policy.

GCSAA pays for this benefit. It is important to have a beneficiary designated and on file with GCSAA. If a beneficiary is not named, state law will govern the distribution of funds. To review and/or change beneficiary information, contact Jana Wiley at (800) 472-7878, ext. 480. You may also purchase additional coverage for yourself, spouse, or eligible children.

Personal accident and disability income insurance are also available for purchase. For information, visit Marsh Affinity Group Services' web site (<http://www.seaburychicago.com/cwp.asp?assn=GCSAA>), or call (800) 773-0126.

Hosting a meeting is a golden opportunity to showcase your facility and staff to your peers in the industry, while promoting our industry to your internal organization.

THE GARY LUCCINI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION FORM

To be awarded to a currently enrolled turf student who has worked under the supervision of a member of the New England or Rhode Island G.C.S.A.

REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Applicant must be at least a second year turf student, and provide verification of full time enrollment at an accredited college or university.
- B. Must have worked at least one year, preferably two, on a golf course for a member of the New England or Rhode Island G.C.S.A.
- C. Must provide a letter of recommendation from the golf course superintendent where employed who is currently an active member of either association.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Phone Number: _____

Is anyone in your family affiliated with the G.C.S.A.? _____

Please complete the above information, attach the required verifications and submit to:

The Luccini Family
115 Forest Street
Franklin, MA 02038

no later than December 31, 2003. Scholarship to be awarded in January, 2004.

Summer of 2003 a warning against complacency, according to USGA Green Section agronomists

By David Oatis, Director;
& Jim Skorulski and Jim Baird,
Agronomists (Updated 9-19-03)

This summer season will long be remembered, but not for the right reasons. The wet weather and high humidity in July and August have taken a toll on golf courses and superintendents throughout the Northeast. And just when it seemed like the worst was past, a hurricane named Isabel steadily tracked northward, threatening the region once more.

If your golf course suffered from disease, wet wilt, scald injury, or mechanical damage, you're not alone. A large number of golf courses throughout the region suffered turf damage from the wet and humid weather. A tough year on the golf course is a painful experience that makes for a long year. However, the painful experience may not be so bad if it is used in a positive fashion to improve the golf course in the long run.

One common example magnified by this season's wet weather is drainage. Putting off drainage work is an easy thing to do in a dry season. However, it is the wrong thing to do because it always

comes back to haunt the golf course in wet years like this one.

A difficult weather season also magnifies the importance of sound cultural practices such as core cultivation work. Its importance is debated in many grill rooms when the weather is easy.

TURF MANAGEMENT

However, throw a curve ball season like this one and the debate ends quickly, especially at golf courses where the native soils are poorly drained or there is excessive thatch. The same can be said in regards to tree removal work that is not especially popular with the golfers. It is easier to persuade even the most reluctant golfer that trees need to come down when dead grass is staring them in the face.

Green speeds follow a similar vein as demands for tournament-fast greens on an every day basis are heard more and more. Sure, it may be possible to meet the unrealistic expectations for short periods of time and when Mother Nature cooperates; but the same cannot be expected in difficult weather years when

maintenance practices have to be adjusted to compensate for the softer surfaces and greater turfgrass stress conditions. The unfortunates who pushed forward (often because of an ill-timed tournament) often experienced the most damage from disease or mechanical injury. Those who were able to follow a more defensive approach and make some minor adjustments may have heard some grumbling in the grill room, but those same rooms are quieter today.

The winter, spring, and summer of 2003 will be remembered by many. However, these types of seasons are going to occur and remind us all never to get too complacent. Try to make something positive out of the year.

Reprinted from:

<http://www.usga.org/green/index.html>

This is the Green Section's homepage, where they post monthly updates. The Northeast Region Green Section: Dave Oatis, Director (doatis@usga.org), Jim Baird, Agronomist (jbaird@usga.org), and Jim Skorulski, Agronomist (j Skorulski@usga.org).

Views of Charter Oak Country Club reflect the season



Scott Reynolds of Charter Oak Country Club sent *The Newsletter* some photos that we can all relate to after this season. At left, a member of Scott's crew found himself correcting a mistake the construction company left behind: the catch basin isn't in the low spot. Scott and his crew ran an extension from the existing catch basin to the low spot and installed another catch basin. Below, constant bunker washouts led to labor hours being gobbled up for repairs. Despite the superintendent's best efforts, this led to soft conditions and many "fried eggs" in the bunkers all season long.



DIVOT DRIFT...announcements...educational seminars...job opportunities ...tournament results...and miscellaneous items of interest to the membership.

GCSANE NEWS

Congratulations to Jamie Pavlas, golf course superintendent at Paul Harney Golf Club, East Falmouth, Mass., for being designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Congratulations to Kip Tyler, golf course superintendent at Salem Country Club, for being recertified as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The GCSANE Holiday Gala is set for Dec. 12, 2003 at Brae Burn CC.. Mark your calendars.

Should you have a problem registering due to phone issues at GCSANE headquarters the alternate number is 508-758-6474 (phone & fax). If you would rather register by e-mail the address is Sbrownell@gcsane.org or Sbrownell@verizon.net.

GCSANE now offers website-only job postings. The cost is \$100. For more information, contact Sharon Brownell at (800) 833-4451.

GCSANE needs sites to host monthly meetings in 2004. Please contact Dave Comee at 978-297-1223 if you wish to help out.

Plan now for your 2004 advertising options with *The Newsletter*. We offer many ad options including full page, inserts, 1/2 page, 1/3 page, or 1/6 page. It's an effective way to reach over 650 golf course superintendents, owners, green chairmen and more. Contact Julie Heston at (401) 934-3677 or jheston@verizon.net for more information and to schedule your ad.

The Gary Luccini Memorial Scholarship application is now available. The Luccini Family has put together a scholarship program for turf students in honor of Gary Luccini. The qualified applicant must be a current turf student who has worked under the supervision of a member of the GCSANE or the Rhode Island GCSA. See the enclosed application for more information. The application deadline is December 31, 2003.

GOVERNMENT NEWS

The Rhode Island minimum wage will increase from \$6.15/hour to \$6.75/hour effective Jan. 1, 2004. S.B. 204 became law on Sept. 31 without the governor's signature.

Massachusetts Pesticide renewal forms are out. They are due back at the Pesticide Bureau with proof of insurance and \$100 by December 1.

UMASS NEWS

UMass Extension's Landscape, Nursery, Urban Forestry and Turf Programs are sponsoring a workshop series called *The Realities of Organic Lawn and Landscape Care*. Green industry professionals are expected to meet an increased demand for organic and low-impact lawn and landscape care. This eight-session series provides landscapers, lawn care operators, and grounds managers with knowledge needed to provide healthy, functional, and environmentally responsible lawns and landscapes. The workshops offered: October 27 - *Soil Basics and the Components of Composting*; November 12 - *Selecting Woody Ornamental Plants and Turfgrasses for Ecological Landscapes*; December 1 - *Using Organic and Other Fertilizers Effectively*; January 21 - *Current Trends in Insect, Disease, and Weed Management in Woody Ornamentals*; March 10 - *Current Trends in Turf Insect and Disease Management*; March 26 - *Renovation and Establishment of Lawns and Other Turf Areas and Weed Management in Turf*; May 7 - *On-Site Planting and Pruning Demonstration*; May 25 - *Scouting for Turf Insects and Weed Identification*; and June 3, 10, 24 - *Scouting for Pests and Problems of Turf and Woody Ornamentals*. For workshop descriptions and a printable registration form, visit: <http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/upcoming.html>. For additional information, call (413) 545-0895.

GCSAA NEWS

New GCSAA members who have never attended the conference & show are entitled to a one-time offer of a free full conference registration package (\$250 value). In order to take advantage of this great new member benefit, call GCSAA at (800) 472-7878 for complete details and instructions on registering by mail.

2003 Chapter Delegates Meeting presentations are available online at: <http://www.gcsaa.org/members/community/delegatesmtg/2003/presentations.asp>.

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

The Par Aide's Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grant Program offers educational aid to children and stepchildren of GCSAA members. The \$2,500 award is funded by Par Aide in honor of the founder, Joseph S. Garske, and is administered by The Environmental Institute for Golf, formerly The GCSAA Foundation. Applications will be reviewed by an independent committee of three educators. All judging decisions will be final. Applicants will be notified of their status by May 15

of the year submitted. All scholarship award checks will be made payable to the applicant and his/her educational institution. For information, contact Pam Smith, scholarship and student programs manager, at (800) 472-7878, ext. 678; or (785) 832-3678; or go to <http://www.gcsaa.org/career/pursuing/scholarships/garske/garske.asp>.

INFORMATION

Golfdom needs your help. The following link is a short survey that would greatly help all of us in the understanding of the golf and turf industry. Results will be published in the December 2003 *Golfdom Report*: <http://www.golfdom.com/golfdom/form/formDetail.jsp?formId=33135>.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

Website of the Month: <http://www.gcsaa.org/members/govrel/compliance/pesticide.asp>. This site helps you find your state's pesticide applicator licensing, certification, record-keeping, posting, and notification requirements.

GOLF RESULTS

GCSANE Tournament Results

Townsend Ridge C.C.
Townsend, Mass., September 22, 2003
(Point Quota / Blind Draw)

1st place - Pat Hogan / Jeff Stouffer
2nd place - Scott McLeod / Charlie Downing
3rd place - Scott Reynolds / Todd Sauer

Juniper Hills G.C.
Northborough, Mass., October 6, 2003
(Team of Two - Best Ball)

1st - Gross / Mike Hermanson & Dave Comee - 69
1st - Net / Jim Biundo & Ren Wilkes - 57
2nd - Net / Robin Hayes & Bob Healey - 62
3rd - Net / Tim Berge & Bob Barnacle - 64

Gary Luccini Memorial 4-Ball Championship (Final bracket)

Hogan-McLeod defeated Ruszala-Teschke, 8-and-7. Hogan-McLeod, first; Ruszala-Teschke, second; and for third place, Milenski-Whitley defeated Favreau-Gregg 2-and-1.

EQUIPMENT

Jacobsen F-10 with reel units. Machine runs, was used in field in 2000. Free - take it away. Call Russell Heller, Franklin Park GC at 617-983-2786 for more information.

Please Patronize these FRIENDS of the ASSOCIATION

A-OK Turf Equipment Inc.

1357 Main St., Coventry, RI 02816-8435
Articulator, Terra Topper, Greens Groomer
brush, & used equipment.
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Frosty mornings have arrived, and Dr. Danneberger gives us a view of the science behind the process

**By Karl Danneberger,
Ohio State University**

Frost is an interesting process that occurs on clear cold nights when turfgrass plants reradiate heat (exothermic reaction). As this heat is lost to the atmosphere, the plant leaf cools, and if the plant temperature is cooler than the air temperature, then moisture from the atmosphere will condense on the leaf. If the leaf temperature is below freezing, then the water freezes and frost forms even if the air temperatures are slightly above freezing. At this time of year it is not uncommon to have frost form even if the air temperature is in the mid to high 30s.

Frost does not form as readily on cloudy nights because the clouds reflect, or absorb and then reradiate, the energy

back towards the turf. Thus, the plants receive heat from this re-radiation. Frost also does not form as readily under conditions where a breeze is present.

TURF SCIENCE

Through convection, the mixing air closest to the plant and the atmosphere buffers the leaf temperature drop (and also promotes evaporation of the water droplets from the leaf). Areas with little slope have a greater potential for frost than sloping areas. (Air moves downward resulting in a mixing.)

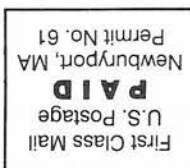
Frost will normally form early in the morning before sunrise. This makes sense because if the plants have been re-radiating energy throughout the night, the

leaf temperature should be the coolest prior to daybreak. Actually frost may continue to form briefly even at daybreak because the low angles of light coming from the sun may not directly hit the leaf.

Most damage caused by frost is generally superficial. This is not to say that traffic should be allowed on frosted turf. If traffic occurs, whether it is foot or mechanical, damage caused by crushing the leaf blade will occur. The damaged turf will then turn a straw color. If no damage occurs to the crown, recovery will occur from the generation of new leaves.

(To sign up for Dr. Danneberger's SKNotes and have them e-mailed to you, go to <http://hcs.osu.edu/sk>.)

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