



THE NEWSLETTER

April 2005

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.

Scott Lagana's years as fully-involved assistant prepared him well for top job at Oak Hill C.C.

By Dave Nordman

Any successful projects require a team effort in which each person is committed to getting the job done right. Within that team structure, though, are leaders capable of executing specific tasks necessary to achieve the end result.

By honing his skills at The Country Club, Scott Lagana developed those leadership skills.

"I think the business is so competitive now, and the demand is so high, you really have to work at a place like that," said Lagana, an Ashland resident who left TCC in Chestnut Hill four years ago for the top job at Fitchburg's Oak Hill Country Club.

At TCC, Lagana and the club's other assistant did the bulk of the hiring, directed the crew's daily operations, and dealt with those persistent salesmen. That left superintendent Bill Spence to oversee the entire operation as TCC's quasi director of golf. The system worked well for the club and Lagana, who gained valuable on-the-job training.

"When I got (to Oak Hill), there was virtually no learning curve," he said. "I would find it very difficult to be at a course that had lesser resources (than The Country Club). The learning curve would be a lot greater."

Instead, Lagana hit the ground running, which isn't always easy to do at a private, member-owned club. Especially one with the tradition, and in the condition, of Oak Hill, a 6,660-yard, 18-hole

layout established in 1921. Oak Hill also has dining facilities, function rooms, tennis, and a swimming pool, but most of its 400-plus members play golf, and play it well.

"I think this is one of the better golfing memberships in the state along with Charles River," said Lagana, who encourages feedback from all players, sending them weekly e-mail updates on the course's condition.

"I received so many e-mails back, saying 'Thanks for letting us know' about this or that," he said. "They appreciate the input."

And Lagana's staff appreciates the compliments.

"I print out a lot of the comments and put on the board for the guys on the crew to see," he said. "It's important for them to receive positive feedback."

Lagana enjoys working at an older course such as Oak Hill. While superintendents at newer courses know the location of drainage and irrigation, Lagana is

often left to research and guesswork. Lagana has also reached out to the membership and former Oak Hill superintendents for information.

"You try to go back in time and figure out what guys before you did," he said. "What kind of chemical program did they use? What did they use for fertilizer? When were certain projects done?"

Since taking over in 2001, Lagana has photographed and logged his crew's work, which has included tee and bunker restoration and expansion. A new maintenance facility and cart barn are in the planning stages.

While he admits the atmosphere is more laid back at Oak Hill – after all, he helped prepare The Country Club for the Ryder Cup in 1999 – it's no less demanding. Like any other good superintendent, he knows his nitrogen from his phosphorus, but Lagana prefers to keep things simple. He follows the same philosophy

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**Scott Lagana
Oak Hill C.C.**



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whether he's preparing for a major state tournament (Oak Hill will host the Mid-Amateur this year) or the smallest member-guest.

"The biggest thing is attention to detail," he said. "It's all the little things. We send guys up and down the road and check for trash. The little things go a long way. We make sure the ball washers are always full, the benches are clean, and the trash emptied. People notice those things, the neat appearance of the golf course."

Lagana didn't always notice. He grew up in Dedham and learned to play golf at Ponkapoag in Canton where the superintendent's job fell under civil service and maintenance was not a top priority.

"I didn't know any better," said Lagana, who attended Catholic Memorial High School where he was a member of the golf team. "I looked at that kind of life (golf course maintenance) and said to myself, 'I don't want to do that.'"

So, after high school, Lagana enrolled at Wentworth Institute of Technology for construction technology. It wasn't until he took a summer job at The Country Club that he turned his attention to turf grass management.

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Scott Lagana
Oak Hill C.C.

"That summer job at The Country Club opened up a whole new world."

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Oak Hill C.C.

"I've been working at golf courses my whole life," Lagana said. "But I like working with my hands and construction was always my thing."

Lagana took Spence's advice and made a career change, transferring to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

"That summer job at the County Club opened up a whole new world," Lagana said. ■

CALENDAR . . .

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 23 | Superintendent/Club Official
Worcester Country Club
Worcester, Mass.
Supt. - Steve Thys |
| June 16 | Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament
The Country Club
Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Supt. - William Spence |
| July 11 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting Team-of-Two Championship
Gardner Municipal Golf Course
Gardner, Mass.
Supt. - Michael Hermanson |
| August 23 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting Individual Championship
Marlborough Country Club
(permanent yearly site)
Marlborough, Mass.
Supt. - Kenneth Crimmings, CGCS |
| Sept. 19 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting Joint Meeting with Golf Course Managers of Association of Cape Cod
Eastward Ho! Country Club
Chatham, Mass.
Supt. Emeritus - Brian Cowan
Supt. - Frank Hancock |
| October 6 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting Join Meeting with the Northeastern GCSA
Berkshire Hills Country Club
Pittsfield, Mass.
Supt. - Stephen Curry |
| Nov. 1 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting 9-Hole Meeting
Wampatuck Country Club
Canton, Mass.
Supt. - Edward Eardley |

GCSANE president recaps effect of winter weather, and looks forward to spring tournament season

I'd like to recognize Peter Hasak from Tedesco Country Club, and his group of volunteers; and Mary Owen and Scott Ebdon from UMass for collecting and



analyzing all the data from this year's winter injury study. Unfortunately, from an injury study standpoint, this winter seems to be one of the least severe in recent memory.

Every superintendent I've talked to certainly doesn't mind not having to reseed dead turf and play temporary greens this spring. Projects like this will go a long way towards educating our golfers on what we can and can't do in dealing with the effects of Mother Nature.

What this winter did do, however, was to dump record snowfall amounts on the Cape, Islands, and coastal areas. Winter and early spring play was virtually nonexistent. This will cause a decrease in revenue especially at public and semi-private courses. Hopefully, this will not have a negative effect on our operating budgets.

The Scholarship and Benevolence Committee has been meeting to go over the final details of the S & B tournament

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

taking place this June at The Country Club. With a limit of 120 players at this venue, the field will certainly fill rapidly. Several different options on signing up are pres-

With a limit of 120 players at this venue, the (S&B Tournament) field will certainly fill rapidly. Several different options on signing up are presently being explored.

ently being explored. No matter what or how we do this, some people are certainly going to be shut out from this event. Let me apologize in advance, but understand this, the S & B Committee will do the fairest and most equitable registration process that will treat all members equally. The S & B Committee hopes to once again have as much vendor support as possible. Remember that scholarships and benevolent aid is available to every member of our association.

Around the time you receive this newsletter, we should be beginning sign-ups for the Superintendent/Club Official tournament being held in May at Worcester Country Club. As I have recently mentioned, spots will be available for Affiliate members. We are working with Affiliate Liaison Bob Healey to do this in the proper manner.

**Best wishes,
Michael J. Hermanson
President, GCSANE**

Association's treasurer Ron Dobosz, Jr. reports on the responsibilities of his office

I would like to first say that it is an honor to represent the GCSANE as a board member, and give back to a profession and an association that has been so good to my friends, peers, and me. Responsibilities of the treasurer are no secret; I am responsible for the day-to-day accounting of the association, no different than the treasurer or accountant of your golf club. The treasurer has the following duties:

- Receive and disburse all association funds
- Keep records of all financial transactions
- Prepare monthly balances for the board and membership
- Responsible for association credit cards

- Oversee and advise on the Scholarship & Benevolence Fund, and the Troll and Dickinson Scholarship Fund.

- Serve as a member of the Finance Committee.

The treasurer's position has been greatly helped by the addition of an executive secretary to help oversee the association's finances and well-being. With that said I would like to thank our executive secretary Sharon Brownell for her professional assistance and her continued dedication to me and all the members of the GCSANE. I wish everyone a successful 2005 season.

**Respectfully submitted,
Ronald Dobosz Jr.
Treasurer**

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Turf industry leaders convene in Amherst to establish UMass Alumni Turf Advisory Board

A group of turf industry leaders gathered at Stockbridge Hall at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst last month to found the University of Massachusetts

**UMASS
NEWS**

Alumni Turf Advisory Board. The intent of the Board is to provide support for the University's turf programs, including the Winter Turf School, and the associate's and bachelor's degree programs. The Board plans to increase communication and awareness, raise funds, and interface with the University in an advisory capacity.

In attendance were: Dr. Joseph Troll, retired Turf Professor and Program Chairman; Don Hearn, CGCS, Vesper C.C.; Mike Wallace, CGCS, Simsbury Farms G.C.; Paul Miller, CGCS, Nashawtuc C.C.; Scott Mackintosh, CPAg and Vice President of TurfLinks; Bruce Packard, CGCS, Stockbridge G.C.; Jim Staszowski, Turf Products Corp.; Bob Ruzsala, Hickory Ridge C.C.; and Steve Curry, Berkshire Hills C.C.

The new UMass Turf Advisory Board

Front row, l. to r.:
**Scott Mackintosh,
Dr. Joseph Troll,
Jim Staszowski.**
Middle row, l. to r.:
**Paul Miller, Bruce
Packard, Mike
Wallace.** Back row,
l. to r.: **Don Hearn,
Steve Curry and
Bob Ruzsala.**



An Election of officers was conducted with the following results: President - Steve Curry; Vice President - Paul Miller; Treasurer - Scott Mackintosh; and Secretary - Bob Ruzsala.

The UMass Alumni Turf Advisory Board is planning the second fundraising golf tournament, tentatively scheduled for October 20, 2005 at Cape Cod National G.C., with superintendent Steve Cadenelli, CGCS, hosting the event. Last year's event raised over \$72,000 for the new building currently under construction. Proceeds from this year's event are slated for numerous projects and studies at the Joseph Troll Turf Research Center. The mission of the UMass Alumni Turf Advisory Board is to sustain and propagate the tremendous energy and support shown by the turf alumni. For information, contact Steve Curry at (413)329-4912; fax (413)443-4545.

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The plan and intent of the Board is to provide support for the University's turf programs, including the Winter Turf School, and the associate's and bachelor's degree programs.

Eighth annual New England Regional Turf Conference reveals that combined show benefits entire region

By Peter Blais

Just as the Red Sox, Patriots, Celtics, and Bruins belong to all of New England, so, too, do the six-state area's golf courses belong to the entire region.

It is that team-first philosophy and desire to improve golf's playing fields throughout the area that was the impetus behind the development of the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show, which recently had its eighth annual run in Providence, R.I., where it raised more than \$100,000 for turfgrass research.

"We were extremely pleased with the turnout and consider this among the best conferences and trade shows we have ever produced," said New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation (NERTF) Executive Director Gary Sykes. "This is a wonderful example of the deep commitment the New England turfgrass industry has for turf research and education, and a credit to the turf managers, educators, and companies that have been involved."

Origin

For many years, the local superintendent chapters in four states (Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Maine) conducted their own annual events. Massachusetts was by far the largest. Held in Springfield for many years, it raised between \$10,000 and \$25,000 yearly in turfgrass research funds that generally went to the University of Massachusetts (UMass) turfgrass program, according to NERTF Vice President Jim Hodge. The remaining associations raised somewhat less for their state schools.

While hesitant to give up their autonomy, individual event organizers realized they could raise more money for turfgrass research throughout New England and make the show circuit easier for both attendees and distributors by combining their efforts into a single regional event (although Maine still holds its own show). Each local association pledged \$500 apiece in seed money to form the NERTF and organize the first regional show at Providence's Rhode Island Convention Center in 1998. All

seed funds were repaid within six months and NERTF has been self-sufficient ever since. The combined show's goal was to raise \$100,000 annually in turfgrass research money for New England schools and develop a \$1 million endowment fund to finance future research grants and show expenses.

"It was probably toughest on the Massachusetts folks because their show was easily the largest," remembered Hodge. "But they were willing to do it for the good of the industry."

"I worked with [well-known University of Massachusetts Professor] Dr. Joe Troll on many Massachusetts shows in both Springfield and Boston," recalled former NERTF President Chip Brearley, a representative with course builder DHT Golf Services and one-time superintendent at Bay Pointe Country Club in Wareham, Mass. "This one show made far more for research than the four separate shows did combined. In addition to the University of Massachusetts, the universities of Rhode Island (URI), New Hampshire

(UNH), and Connecticut (UConn) became very involved."

The original idea was to alternate the show sites annually between Boston's Hynes Auditorium and Providence. But the Hynes Auditorium was located in the middle of Boston and floor space was relatively pricey. On the other hand, Providence's Rhode Island Convention Center had easy access off Interstate 95 and lower floor space costs. Attendees and exhibitors also found Providence's restaurants, hotels, shopping and other entertainment options first rate. Organizers soon decided to make Providence the NERTF Conference & Show's permanent home.

Bayer Environmental Science Senior Sales Representative Jim Santoro's company has exhibited at the regional show since its inception. "We've grown from two booths to six," he said. "We view this as one of the four shows we must attend along with the Golf Industry Expo, Golf Industry Show and Ohio Turfgrass Foundation. The location is perfect. The hotels

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Dr. Mitkowski shines a spotlight on bacterial wilt problem of annual bluegrass in the northeast U.S.

By Dr. Nathaniel A. Mitkowski,
University of Rhode Island

While bacterial wilt on annual bluegrass has only really started to explode in the past few years, it has been known to exist since 1985, when it was first isolated in

TURF SCIENCE

the lab of Dr. Joseph Vargas at Michigan State. Many people think this disease is a phenomenon limited to the East Coast, but bacterial wilt of annual bluegrass has an international impact. The Japanese have observed it for almost as long as we have, and have put a significant amount of time into researching its biology. The disease has the same causal agent in both countries, *Xanthomonas translucens* pathovar *poae*.

So what should superintendents know about bacterial wilt? And what can be done about it? The first thing to know about the disease is its host range. We have identified only two hosts that are commonly observed in the United States, *Poa annua* and *Poa trivialis*. However, we have not identified any cases of bacterial wilt from *Poa trivialis* in the field. While bacterial wilt was originally identified on creeping bentgrass in the 1970s, the organism currently wreaking havoc in New England cannot attack bentgrass. The bacterial wilt of bentgrass generally only affected one host, the Toronto C-15 variety of creeping bentgrass. It is important to keep in mind, however, that bacterial wilt normally doesn't cause a problem for the majority of annual bluegrass out there. Go out into your backyard and start looking. You'll probably find some annual bluegrass and it will probably be quite content, unaffected by bacterial wilt. This is because the bacterial wilt organism is a very weak pathogen. Under most circumstances, it spends its life as an epiphyte; that is, it lives on the outside of plants and in the tips of cut blades (not as a pathogen but a saprobe). Researchers have found it living in the leaf tips of all kinds of different bluegrasses. So in all likelihood, the bacterial wilt pathogen is present on your golf course, regardless of whether

or not you have seen any disease. Bacterial wilt only takes hold when the host plant has been so damaged and stressed, that it just can't fight the disease off anymore. We might even call it the nail in the coffin of diseased turf. On rare occasions, it may be seen in fairways. When it hits fairways, it is more of a nuisance than anything else. Commonly it will cause rapid growth and etiolated tissue (which means you may need to mow an affected fairway everyday to keep it looking neat).

Like any disease, weather has a lot to do with the spread of bacterial wilt. The bacteria grows most rapidly at 86F. But it can grow just fine at temperatures as low as 60F. So it can cause problems from April until October. It spreads best with lots of water. But it causes most of its damage during drought, when the plant simply cannot keep up water demand. The worst damage from bacterial wilt occurs when it is dry and hot. The bacteria spread most readily when it is wet and hot and the best weather conditions to slow the disease down are cool and dry. Humidity can be important too; high humidity keeps the plant from wilting but does not provide free water for bacterial multiplication. Because it can spread so easily, bleaching reels between greens is one way to slow it down.

So in all likelihood, the bacterial wilt pathogen is present on your golf course, regardless of whether or not you have seen any disease. Bacterial wilt only takes hold when the host plant has been so damaged and stressed, that it just can't fight the disease off anymore.

Bacterial wilt is often seen on greens that have experienced a lot of winter damage. We speculate that wet, dead tissue provides a good environment for the bacterial multiplication. When population levels reach a certain threshold, the bacteria essentially "spill" into the plants. We know from laboratory studies that a few bacteria won't cause disease. A very specific minimum amount of bacteria are needed before disease can be observed. In some cases, bacterial wilt is exacerbated or simply found in conjunction with cool-season *Pythium* root rot. We have yet to explain this phenomenon.

Just because bacterial wilt of annual bluegrass was identified in 1985, that doesn't mean it hasn't been around for a lot longer. Chances are it has been around forever. When diseases and their hosts live in conjunction for thousands or even millions of years, they usually reach equilibrium. From the pathogen's perspective, this makes a lot of sense. A pathogen/parasite that outright kills its hosts won't be around very long. The most successful parasites actually cause only minor disease, coexisting with their host instead of eliminating it. Of course, there are many pathogens which can exist happily in the environment decomposing already dead material. These pathogens can do as much damage as they please and not worry about their next meal. And while the bacterial wilt organism can survive in the absence of annual bluegrass, it isn't very competitive in the environment. So regardless of whether it is living on annual bluegrass or rough bluegrass or in the tips of Kentucky bluegrass, it is not trying to kill the plant it infects.

So, should you be worried that bacterial wilt is probably already lurking on your course? Probably not. Our research indicates that only annual bluegrass is threatened most of the time and only under the most severe circumstances. Japanese researchers have demonstrated that there are even multiple strains, some of which are very aggressive while others are quite innocuous.

Continued on page 9

Guide to Groundwater Protection Regulations for Golf Courses

Anthrachnose on putting greens is a challenging problem to manage, frequently requiring the use of the pesticide chlorothalonil. Chlorothalonil, marketed under the brand names "Bravo" and "Daconil," is a restricted use product in Massachusetts due to groundwater concerns. The state's Groundwater Protection Regulations are intended to prevent contamination of public drinking water supply wells through regulating the application of pesticide products on the **Groundwater Protection List** within primary recharge areas. The following step-by-step approach should help golf course managers determine if they need to comply with these regulations.

Step One: Are you using a product which contains an active ingredient on the Groundwater Protection List ?

The groundwater protection regulations apply only to pesticides which are on the Groundwater Protection List. The complete list can be found at the following website: (http://www.mass.gov/agr/pesticides/water/groundwater_protection_list.htm)

If you are using a pesticide on the list, for example chlorothalonil to manage an anthracnose problem on putting greens, you must establish if you are applying the pesticide in a regulated primary recharge area.

Step Two: Are you applying a product which is listed on the Groundwater Protection List within a regulated primary recharge area?

Most golf course managers know if their golf course is located within a primary recharge area. The primary recharge area is designated as a Zone II or an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA) by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). An important point to note is that the regulations only apply to public water supply wells that are permitted to pump over 100,000 gallons per day.

If you are not sure if the course is located within a regulated primary recharge area, you will need to follow one of the approaches outlined in the following section:

- (a) **Internet Option:** Go to the DEP Massachusetts Water Supply Area website at: <http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/files/wspamain.htm> and click on the link to the web mapping tool which is listed as: **Water Supply Protection Area Maps**. Use the mapping tool to determine if your application site falls within a Zone II or an IWPA. Spend some time familiarizing yourself with this mapping tool – it is an excellent resource that has the potential to save you a lot of time.
- (b) **Other Options:** If you do not have Internet access, you should contact the local water department, the local Board of Health or your regional DEP office and ask for a recent Title V map or a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) map:

DEP Boston Office: 617-292-5500
DEP Western Office: 413-784-1110

DEP Central Office: 508-792-7650
DEP Southeast Office: 508-946-2700

NERTF Auction: First-time event generates over \$11,000 for N.E. Regional Turfgrass Research Trust

**By Gary Sykes,
Executive Director, NERTF**

If you missed this year's "New Live Auction", you missed a real highlight of our eight years of show history. Over a hundred attendees gathered with

NERTF NEWS

anticipation for this new event on Wednesday, March 9 on the trade show floor. Several items were donated for this, and each were presented on the auction block.

Manny Mihailides (DGM Systems) was invited to be the auction emcee, and he did a stellar performance introducing each item – and our guest auctioneer (who happens to be his son David's father-in-law). The item was then taken over by "The Auction Master", Danny Calise, of Danny's Auction in Foster, R.I., who donated his time to be our auctioneer. A master, he is, and a masterful job he did to get the audience involved in this new event. Danny's ability to bring participants into the bidding was a work of art, and everyone enjoyed his sense of humor and professional abilities. Teamed with Manny, the auction ran smooth like a Cat diesel (a little loud with lots of power).

Each item that was put on the block went quickly, and in 45 minutes, over \$11,000 was raised for New England Regional Turfgrass Research Trust! Combined with the Silent Auction, the total raised by both was \$12,780. Many auction attendees have already stated they are looking forward to next year's event.

Thanks go out to Manny and Danny, to everyone who was involved, and to these companies for their generous donations toward turf research:

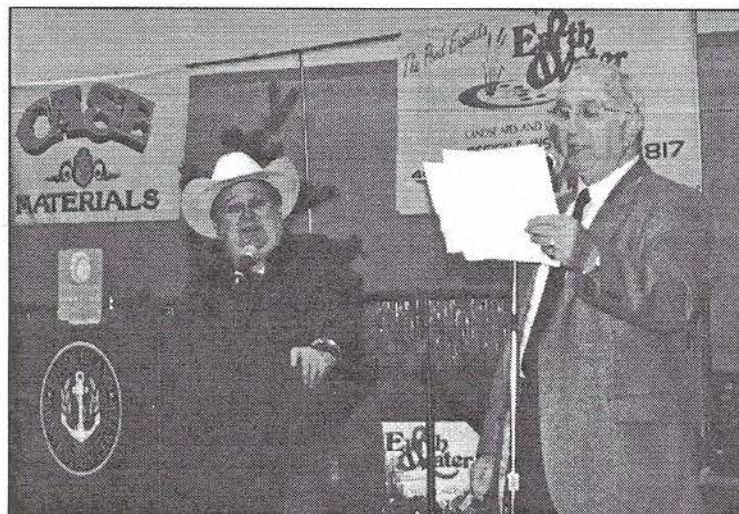
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**Teamed with Manny,
the auction ran smooth
like a Cat diesel (a little
loud with lots of power).**

**Going once ...
Going twice ...
and ... Sold!**

In the photo at right
are auctioneer **Danny
Calise** (l.) of Danny's
Auctions, and **Manny
Mahailides** (r.)
of DGM Systems,
who ran the auction
at this year's NERTF
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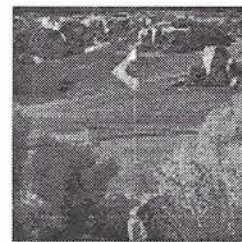
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N.E. Turf Conference serves region well

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are excellent and the restaurants great places to entertain clients. It's easy to get in and out of town. The speakers are excellent. We get good foot traffic by the booth and sell some product. It's also a way for us to give something back to the industry."

Added Anderson Technologies New England Territory Manager Rick Forni: "Superintendents are here from throughout New England. [Show Manager] Dave [Rosenberg] is very good at getting exposure for the conference and show. We sponsor a reception and co-sponsor the nine-hole challenge. Combining the smaller shows was an excellent idea. We see more people in a shorter period of time this way."

Rosenberg agreed that exhibitors feel their marketing dollars are better spent at one show that attracts buyers from throughout the Northeast and attendees from a total of 38 states. The 400 exhibi-

tors use about 100,000 square feet of floor space, leaving room for another 100 booths as the show continues to grow. Though only eight years old, the New England Show is "comparable in size to the Ohio and Carolinas turfgrass shows," the event manager added.

Nationally-known golf industry speakers this year included course architect Bill Coore, University of Georgia Professor Keith Karnok, United States Golf Association Green Section Agronomist James Baird, Rutgers University Professor Bruce Clarke, and many others. Additional educational sessions were added for landscape and sports turf professionals. This year's keynote speaker, four-time Super Bowl champion Rocky Bleier, is the latest in a line of celebrity motivational speakers that has included Joe Theismann, Mike Ditka, Doug Flutie, and broadcaster Jim Nantz.

"This is better for me than the national show," said Gerry White, superintendent at Meadowcreek C.C. under construction in Dracut, Mass. "Here you see the sales people and distributors you will actually be dealing with at your course. You see the same equipment you would

see at the national show, and it's not nearly as expensive to attend. This is a lot more personal and there is less traffic, so it's easier to talk to people. The show is very well run and the behind-the-scenes work is terrific. It has easy access from the highway. The hotels and restaurants are excellent. And the quality of the speakers is fantastic."

Research Funding

A mentioned earlier, raising additional turfgrass research dollars geared toward agronomic issues of concern to New England superintendents was the major thrust for uniting the various shows under one banner.

The NERTF is well on its way to raising the \$1 million endowment fund intended to finance at least \$100,000 in research projects annually. "The universities are submitting research proposals we are interested in funding, like how to deal with anthracnose, which is of particular concern in this area," Hodge said.

Among the current projects receiving funding and the schools are:

- Biology of Bacterial Wilt (URI);
- Cultivar development and management of velvet bentgrass (URI);
- Characteristics in diverse wear-tolerant genotypes of Kentucky bluegrass (UMass);
- Managing pesticide exposure from treated turf (UMass);
- Wear stress mechanisms in cultivars of creeping and velvet bentgrass (UMass);
- Bacteria, entomopathogenic nematodes and mating disruption for control of Oriental and Japanese Beetles (URI);
- Cold-weather survival for putting greens (UMass and 16 participating regional courses. Cold weather survival project to be funded by cooperating chapters and NERTF.)

Additional revenues from the combined conference and trade show has also allowed the NERTF to pledge \$175,000 over five years toward the construction of a new turfgrass research building at UMass, the region's major turfgrass school.

Bringing the various shows together took some individual sacrifice, but it was for the greater good of the New England turfgrass industry, Hodge said.

"That's the type of professionals we have here in New England," he concluded. ■

Bacterial wilt...

continued from page 6

This may explain why your greens are getting pummeled and the guy two miles down the road can barely find the disease. In general, you should worry about bacterial wilt if your greens are taking a beating, particularly if you have a history of Anthracnose, you have primarily annual bluegrass, you have a lot of compaction, a lot of traffic and you are cutting under 1/8-of-an-inch. If you are pushing your greens too hard, you could have a problem.

If you have bacterial wilt already, there isn't an easy solution. When we deal with fungal diseases, there is no end to the "quick-fixes." Fungicides are in abundant supply and they are extremely effective. There are no "quick-fixes" for bacterial wilt. The chemicals we do have only slow disease spread, they do not cure it. Copper fungicides are a good example. They have a wide biocidal range and will kill most microorganisms they come into contact with (the key word being "contact"). But they will not cure diseased tissue. Only antibiotics will do that, and there are none registered for

bacterial wilt. Additionally, antibiotics are highly valuable for human health. It is generally considered irresponsible to use the same chemicals for crop protection. And it turns out that antibiotics are very hot when applied to turf and will commonly do more damage than good.

The more difficult path to controlling this disease is to improve cultural management. You need to raise your height of cut, potentially increase fertilizer, reduce traffic, and aggressively try to minimize compaction. The best solution is to get rid of annual bluegrass (simple, right?) because bentgrass is just not susceptible to this disease.

Bacterial wilt is a difficult disease to manage. And it can pop up just when you thought things couldn't get worse. My lab is currently in the process of trying to figure out which chemicals and what rates are most appropriate to slow the disease down, but chemicals are not the most appropriate way to deal with it. Ultimately, we may just have to accept slower greens on those courses which have a problem with it. And while we are still a few years away, herbicide tolerant bentgrasses (currently in the genetic engineering pipeline) may provide a real long-term solution to this disease. ■

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We wish Steve Mann a speedy recovery from his recent shoulder surgery.

Our condolences go out to Mary Owen and family on the recent passing of Mary's mother.

GCSANE NEWS

GCSANE is looking for copies of The Newsletter prior to 1960 and any photos from GCSANE events. GCSANE is trying to build up its history archive and database. Please contact Michael Stachowicz if you have any of these items.

There is a \$250 stipend for an article from a GCSANE member. The article doesn't have to be perfect - we will pretty it up if we have to. It is a great way for members make some money while beefing up their portfolio. A length of 600 to 700 words is all we ask, a mere two pages on MSWord in 12 point type, single-spaced.

The Newsletter invites all affiliates to submit a press release about new hires or a company bio. We will print press releases on a first-come, first-serve basis.

UMASS NEWS

UMass Turf Building Update: Well, I promised to keep you updated on the progress of the turf building out in South Deerfield. And just like you, now that the snow is melting I'm expecting to see some real progress. However, we have hit a little bump in the road. Our site falls within the Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth and the Massachusetts Historical Commission would like to have an archaeological survey conducted on the site. We have already set this process in motion but it will probably set us back three or four weeks. So I'm going to have to wait a few more weeks before I get to see the building going up. Stay tuned, I will continue to keep you posted. Steve Goodwin, Associate Dean, College of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Massachusetts.

UMass laboratory diagnoses turf and landscape problems. Accurate diagnosis for a turf or landscape problem can often eliminate or reduce the need for pesticide use. The UMass Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab serves commercial landscape contractors, turf managers, arborists, nurseries, and other green industry professionals. It provides woody plant disease analysis, woody plant & turf insect identification, turfgrass identification, landscape & weed identification, and offers a report of pest management strategies that are research based, economically sound,

and environmentally appropriate. Send specimens and payment (payable to the University of Massachusetts) to UMass Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab, Holdsworth Natural Resources Center, 160 Holdsworth Way, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003. The fee for a woody plant disease analysis is \$50. All insect, weed, and turfgrass identification samples are \$25 each. For more detailed submission instructions go to the UMass web sites above and click on "Diagnostics" or call (413)-545-3208.

INFORMATION

The University of Rhode Island will hold its 74th Annual Turfgrass Field Day on August 17, 2005. For information contact Dr. Rebecca Brown at 401-874-2755; fax: 401-874-2494; e-mail: brownreb@mail.uri.edu.

A current membership list is available from the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Where do you find the golf course architect best suited to design or remodel your golf course? Start with the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) membership list. The recently updated, no-cost listing of ASGCA's member architects provides a valuable, easy-to-read reference of addresses, telephone, and fax numbers. The list also contains e-mail and web site addresses where applicable. To obtain a copy, contact ASGCA Headquarters: ASGCA, 125 N. Executive Dr., Suite 106, Brookfield, WI 53005; phone: (262) 786-5960; e-mail: info@asgca.org. Please provide a name, company, and mailing address when sending an e-mail request.

Welcome to Dr. Rebecca Brown, new assistant professor of turfgrass genetics at the University of Rhode Island as of January of 2005. She is busily learning all about growing grass for turf and sod, as opposed to seed, and building a research program. Trials and studies planned for this summer include a bentgrass variety trial, a low-maintenance lawn trial, and a comparative study of the resistance of bluegrass varieties to rust. Other research interests include using genetics to improve the nitrogen utilization efficiency of turfgrasses, and developing salt-tolerant grasses adapted to New England for use along roads and on coastal lawns and golf courses. In her spare time, Dr. Brown enjoys gardening and is learning to play golf.

Thiram RED document released. On February 25, EPA announced the availability of the final Re-registration Eligibility Decision document for the fungicide active ingredient thiram, which is used on nonresidential turf on golf courses, rights of way, parks, athletic fields, and sod. To reduce risks to mammals, birds, and aquatic species, the EPA and technical registrants have agreed to implement the

following environmental risk mitigation measures: Restriction of thiram use on golf courses to tees and greens only; reduction of winter golf course treatment from a maximum of four applications to a maximum of one application; reduction of summer golf course treatment from a maximum of eight applications to a maximum of three applications; restricting the number of annual applications to 47 pounds of active ingredient per acre (this corresponds to a 40% total reduction in thiram use on golf courses); and increasing the re-treatment interval from 7 to 14 days.

New labor law poster required to be posted. The federal government has added a poster to their five existing required labor law posters. All employers, regardless of size, were to display the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) poster by March 10, 2005. The USEERRA poster is available for employers to download. The Veterans Benefits Improvement Act, enacted by Congress in December 2004, mandates that employers provide the notice to "all persons entitled to rights and benefits under USERRA." Employers may meet this obligation by posting the notice in a prominent place where employees customarily check for such information.

POSITION OPENINGS

Golf Course Mechanic/Equipment Operator, Unicorn Recreation Area, Stoneham, Mass. The golf course mechanic/operator shall work under the direct supervision of the golf course superintendent and golf course foreman. The individual must demonstrate a high degree of understanding mechanized golf equipment including, but not limited to, gasoline & diesel engines, hydraulic systems, sharpening operations, welding, and machine operations. The duties are to maintain in good working order the mechanized golf course equipment; to make regular inspections, adjustments, operations, and records in regards to all equipment; to supervise personnel as directed; and to perform other related duties as required. The schedule is 40 hours per week, including weekends and holidays. The individual must have a high school education and a minimum of five years of experience in golf course maintenance equipment repairs, including technical school courses of training related to equipment operation and repair. Individual must possess a Mass. Class 3 driver's license and be "skillful" in the operation of golf course equipment. The compensation range is \$35,839 (minimum) to \$42,601 (maximum). The position is open until filled. Please send resume to: Town of Stoneham, Human Resources Office, 35 Central Street, Stoneham, MA 02180; Attn: Betty Luciano. (ADA/EEO/AA employer.)

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