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

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THE GREEN SPEED SURVEY

By: Mark Gagne

Of the many issues we face in managing our facilities each day perhaps one of the more common and reoccurring challenges is meeting our member or golfer expectations for green speeds. Earlier this month, all GCSANE superintendent and assistant members were asked to participate in a web-based survey on managing greens speeds. The questions were designed to sample and evaluate the many factors affecting green speeds and to help in comparing your practices relative to other facilities in the region. The survey received more than 88 responses, which represents 37% of GCSANE member clubs.

Here are the results:

What type of facility do you manage?	
Private	69.4%
Public	16.5%
Municipal	11.8%
Resort	2.4%

How many holes do you manage at your facility?	
9	10.7%
18	73.8%
27	7.1%
36	7.1%
37 or more	1.2%

What is your anticipated operating budget for 2008 (excluding depreciation):	
\$300,000 or less	9.8%
\$400 - \$500,000	15.9%
\$500 - \$600,000	12.2%
\$600 - \$700,000	11.0%
\$700 - \$800,000	4.9%
\$800 - \$900,000	9.8%
\$900 - \$1,000,000	9.8%
\$1,000,000 - \$1,100,000	8.5%
\$1,100,000 - \$1,200,000	6.1%
\$1,200,000 - \$1,300,000	2.4%
\$1,300,000 - \$1,400,000	2.4%
\$1,400,000 - \$1,500,000	1.2%
\$1,500,000 or more	6.1%

What is your average green speed for regular daily play during the golf season?		
less than 8 ft	2.4%	
8 to 8.5 ft	5.9%	
8.5 ft to 9 ft	18.8%	
9 to 9.5 ft	16.5%	
9.5 to 10 ft	24.7%	
10 to 10.5 ft	21.2%	
10.5 to 11 ft	8.2%	
11 to 11.5 ft	2.4%	
greater than 11.5 ft	0.0%	

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How does the majority of your membership/golfers view your average green speeds?		
The majority would like to see the green speeds faster	24.1%	
The majority likes the green speeds as they are	75.9%	

The majority would like to see the green speeds slower

How do you measure your green speeds?	
Stimpmeter	94.1%
Other (please specify)	12.9%

About 7% of the respondents use more than just the stimpmeter for gauging greens speeds. Other methods included putting the greens and watching ball roll.

0.0%

How often do you measure your greens with a stimpmeter?	
More than once a day	0.0%
Daily	13.1%
More than once a week but not daily	28.6%
Weekly	28.6%
Monthly	6.0%
Less than 6 times per season	22.6%
Never	1.2%

Please indicate which type of root zone describes most of your greens.

Soil based (push up)	63.9%	
Modified - mixed on site	12.0%	
Sand based	24.1%	

Do most of your greens have internal drainage (drain pipe)?

5	
Yes	24.4%
No	75.6%

CALENDAR

Mar. 3-6	New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show RI Convention Center Providence, RI
Mar. 20	GCSANE Monthly Meeting

Joint meeting with HFTP Woodland G.C.

Host: David Mucciarone

GCSANE Monthly Meeting April 24 Joint meeting with GCMACC Pinehills G.C.

Host: Joe Felicetti, CGCS

What is the turf composition on most of your greens?	
% Annual Bluegrass	39%
% Creeping Bentgrass-L93	12%
% Creeping Bentgrass-A or G series	14%
% Creeping Bentgrass-other than L93 and A or G series	31%
% Velvet Bentgrass	5%

Which type of mower do you most commonly use dur- ing the season (May-September)?	
Bunton Walk Behind	0.0%
John Deere 180C	2.4%
John Deere 220C	4.8%
John Deere 2500 series triplex	4.8%
Jacobsen PGM 22"	4.8%
Jacobsen PGM 19"	2.4%
Jacobsen TC-22	3.6%
Jacobsen E Walk	0.0%
Jacobsen Eclipse 122 (fixed head)	0.0%
Jacobsen Eclipse 122F (floating head)	1.2%
Jacobsen Greens King 500 A Series 18"	0.0%
Jacobsen Greens King 500 A Series 22"	2.4%
Jacobsen Greens King IV/IV Plus triplex	3.6%
Jacobsen Greens King V triplex	2.4%
Jacobsen Greens King VI triplex	3.6%
Jacobsen E Plex II triplex	1.2%
Jacobsen G Plex III triplex	0.0%
Toro GM500	4.8%
Toro GM1000	10.8%
Toro Flex 21	32.5%
Toro Flex 18	7.2%
Toro GM 3000 series triplex	21.7%
About 15 of the respondents reported using more than one type of greensmower during the season.	

What type of front roller is your greensmowers equipped with most of the time from May to September?	
Solid	21.7%
Machine groove 34.9%	
Whiele 43.4%	
A few respondents will switch between types of rollers during stressful periods.	

What is the typical bench setting for your greensmowers for the period of May to September?	
.150 or higher	6.0%
.140 to .150	13.3%
.130 to .140	14.5%
.120 to .130	26.5%
.110 to .120	21.7%
.100 to .110	13.3%
.090 to .100	4.8%
lower than .090	0.0%

How many days per week do you typically single cut greens?	
0	2.4%
1	0.0%
2	0.0%
3	3.6%
4	6.0%
5	10.8%
6	31.3%
7	45.8%

How many days per week do you typically double cut greens?	
0	48.2%
1	20.5%
2	19.3%
3	7.2%
4	2.4%
5	0.0%
6	1.2%
7	1.2%

How do you typically set the reel to bed- knife adjustment on your greensmowers?	
No contact	21.5%
Light contact	74.7%
Moderate contact	3.8%

How many times during the season do you grind your greensmower reels?	
0	10.8%
1 to 5	61.4%
6 to 10	21.7%
11 to 15	3.6%
16 or more	2.4%

Hearn Recognized Nationally for Distinguished Service

By Rich Gagnon

When Donald Hearn got the call last fall from GCSAA President Ricky D. Heine, CGCS, he thought: "There must have been some sort of a mistake. You must have dialed the wrong number." Once the reality set in that he was actually the winner of the annual GCSAA Distinguished Service Award for 2008 he was pleasantly surprised and a bit shocked. Hearn said: "I was dumbfounded. I didn't even know I was nominated." Heine didn't dial the wrong number and most would agree that Don is as deserving as any for this great award.

Hearn was acknowledged at the Opening Session (Jan. 31) of the 2008 GCSAA Education Conference in Orlando, Florida with his wife Joan in attendance as well as many supporters from his local chapter the GCSANE. In front of a packed house Hearn sat down and talked about his very first experiences on a golf course with



Pictured from L-R: Don Hearn and Greg Norman at the Golf Industry Show

Photo Credit: Rich Gagnon

GCSAA President Ricky D. Heine, Stephen F. Mona, CAE, and event host, Adam Barr of the Golf Channel. Hearn recalled a time when the world of golf was completely foreign to him. "I remember caddying for my father Don Hearn Sr. back at the Woburn Country Club when I was 9 years old. I remember thinking I was losing my mind when the cup in the green seemed to be in a completely different spot than the week before. I asked the golf pro and he explained that the cup gets moved on a regular basis. I couldn't conceive of a hole being moved. That's impossible. How do you move a hole? I had no clue back then."

Hearn has certainly come a long way from his days at Woburn Country Club where he eventually ended up working in the golf shop for Ernie Doherty during the summer months. In



Do you typically roll greens?	
Yes	75.9%
No	24.1%

If yes, which type of greens roller do you typically use?	
DMI Speedroller	11.8%
Graden	1.5%
Salsco	19.1%
Smithco	16.2%
Triplex mounted - non vibratory	26.5%
Triplex mounted - vibratory	10.3%
Tru Turf	13.2%
Weighted walk behind greens mower	0.0%
Other	1.5%

How many times per week do you typically roll greens?	
0	16.9%
1	13.0%
2	18.2%
3	26.0%
4	19.5%
5	5.2%
6	1.3%
7	0.0%

How many times per year do you topdress greens (including after aerification)?	
0	0.0%
1 - 5	33.8%
6 - 10	42.9%
11 - 15	11.7%
16-20	9.1%
21-25	1.3%
26-30	1.3%
30 or more	0.0%

Which type of equipment do you most often use to topdress your greens?		
17.1%		
1.3%		
9.2%		
25.0%		
7.9%		
1.3%		
18.4%		
9.2%		
2.6%		
2.6%		
5.3%		

How many acres of greens do you maintain?	
Acres of greens:	3.32

How much topdress sand do you typically apply to ALL of your greens PER APPLICATION during the season (excluding post aerification topdressing)?

less than 5 cubic yards per application	29.7%
5 - 10 cubic yards per application	28.4%
10 - 15 cubic yards per application	12.2%
15 - 20 cubic yards per application	9.5%
20 - 25 cubic yards per application	6.8%
25 - 30 cubic yards per application	4.1%
30 - 35 cubic yards per application	4.1%
35 cubic yards or more per application	5.4%
1	

Based on the average greens acreage of 3.32 from the previous question and an average of 5 cubic yards per application, most respondents topdress about .03 yards per 1000 sq ft, or .17 yards per 5,000 sq ft green per application.

How many times per year do you verticut greens?	
0	5.3%
1 - 3	49.3%
4 - 6	32.0%
7 or more	13.3%

Do you use turf groomers on your greens?	
Yes	39.2%
No	60.8%

If you use turf groomers, how often do you use them during the season?	
Daily	3.4%
Several times a week	13.8%
Weekly 27.6%	
Several times a month 13.8%	
Monthly 27.6%	
Less than 6 times per year 13.8%	

How many times per year do you core aerify, deep tine, or drill your greens?		
None	1.4%	
1	14.9%	
2	52.7%	
3 25.7%		
4 or more	5.4%	

How many times per year do you typi- cally "vent" greens (spike, slice, hydroject, dryject, solid tine)?		
0	10.7%	
1	8.0%	
2	21.3%	
3	20.0%	
4	14.7%	
5	6.7%	
6	1.3%	
7	2.7%	
8	2.7%	
9	0.0%	
10	4.0%	
more than 10	8.0%	

Approximately what percent of the irrigation water is applied to your greens by sprinkler heads and by hand watering?	
% Sprinkler heads 76	
% Hand watering 24	

Do you apply growth regulators to your greens at regular intervals throughout the season?	
Yes	86.5%
No	13.5%

your greens on a routine basis during the season?	
Primo, Cutless and Trimmit	3.7%
Primo and Cutless	14.8%
Primo alone	77.8%
Cutless alone	0.0%
Trimmit alone	3.7%

At what rates do you typically apply growth regulators to your greens?	
Primo (in ozs per acre)	5.52
Primo and Cutless Mix (in ozs per acre) 5.42 / 3.98	
Trimmit (in ozs per acre) 7.00	

At what frequency do you apply growth regulators to your greens during the season?	
Every 1 to 6 days	0.0%
Every 7 days	7.8%
Every 7-10 days	15.6%
Every 10 days	3.1%
Every 10-14 days	29.7%
Every 14 days	17.2%
Every 14-21 days	15.6%
Every 21 days 7.8%	
More than 21 days 3.1%	

How many lbs of N,P,K,Ca and Mg do you apply to greens per 1000 sq feet for the ENTIRE year?	
#N	3.2
#P	1.3
#K 3.3	
#Ca 2.3	
#Mg	1.0

What percentage (in terms of lbs of N) are the fertilizer applications to your greens made with granular or liquid formulations?	
% Granular	46
% Liquid/water soluble	54

During the season, what is the typical amount of nitrogen used per application to your greens?		
less than .05#N	4.8%	
.0509 lbs N	21.0%	
.1015 lbs N	54.8%	
.162 lbs N	1.6%	
.2125 lbs N	11.3%	
.263 lbs N	0.0%	
.3135 lbs N	1.6%	
.364 lbs N	1.6%	
more than .4 lbs N	3.2%	

the spring and fall he worked on the golf course under the watchful eyes of Dickie and Bobby Connolly. His journey into the golf course management business started when he completed his education at the University of Massachusetts in 1968 and landed the assistant superintendent job at Lexington Golf Club. Two years later, Lexington CC superintendent Ted Murphy bought his own golf course and recommended Don for the position and the window was opened for Hearn's first head superintendent job. After three more years at Lexington it was on to Weston Golf Club where he remained superintendent for 28 years and then 6 more years as the superintendent at Vesper Country Club.

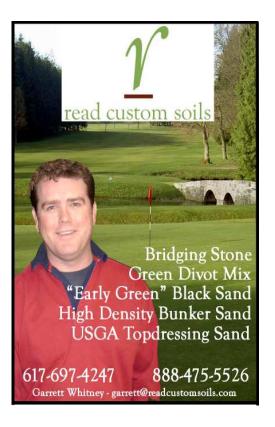
Hearn's list of accomplishments doesn't stop there. He was President of the GCSAA from 1986-1987 and was President of the GCSANE from 1984-1985. He has also served on the USGA Green Section Committee and is a past member of the Massachusetts Golf Association Executive Committee. "Don, is most deserving of the Distinguished Service Award," said

GCSAA President Ricky D. Heine, CGCS. "He made outstanding and significant contributions to the advancement of the golf course superintendent profession as well as to the game of golf. GCSAA is richer because of his dedication."

The entire Hearn family including wife Joan, and children Donnie, and Kristen should be extremely proud of Don and all he has done for the superintendent profession.

"He made outstanding and significant contributions to the advancement of the golf course superintendent profession as well as to the game of golf. GCSAA is richer because of his dedication."

Ricky D. Heine, CGCS Immediate Past President GCSAA



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OSHA Safety Training Documentation Requirements

By Ron Smith

One of the questions I received regarding last month's article on OSHA's new personal protective equipment (PPE) regulations was the documentation requirements for the training performed with the employees in conjunction with the issuance of the various PPE items. It was a great question and it made me think about safety training documentation requirements in general. My review of many of the golf industry related OSHA standards yielded the following observations.

Which OSHA standards require training documentation?

The fact is that while many OSHA standards require employee training, most do not require that you document that training. Several key general industry standards that often apply to golf maintenance operations that do indeed require you to document (or "certify," as OSHA usually says) that training has been conducted include:

- Hazardous Waste Operations (HAZWOPER), 29 CFR 1910.120(p)(8) (iii)(C)
- Personal Protective Equipment, 29 CFR 1910.132(f)(4)
- Respiratory Protection, 29 CFR 1910.134(m), which does not specifically use the word "training," but refers to "written information regarding medical evaluations, fit testing, and the respirator program."
- Permit-Required Confined Spaces,
 29 CFR 1910.146(g)(4)
- Lockout/Tagout, 29 CFR 1910.147 (c)(7)(iv)
- Powered Industrial Trucks, 29 CFR 1910.178(I)(6)

Similar standards for the construction industry also require documentation of training.

What do you have to document? Most of the training documentation requirements are pretty much the same from standard to standard. Here are a few examples:

 PPE training: "The employer shall verify that each affected employee has received and understood the required training through a written certification that contains the name of each employee trained, the date (s) of training, and that identifies the subject of the certification."

- HAZWOPER training: "The employer shall certify that each covered employee has attended and successfully completed the training required in paragraph (p)(8)(iii) of this section, or shall certify the employee's competency at least yearly. The method used to demonstrate competency for certification of training shall be recorded and maintained by the employer."
- Forklift training: "The employer shall certify that each operator has been trained and evaluated as required by this paragraph (I). The certification shall include the name of the operator, the date of the training, the date of the evaluation, and the identity of the person(s) performing the training or evaluation."

The wording differs a little from standard to standard, but the required information is basically the same:

- Name of the employee (signature is not required, but is OK with OSHA, if that's what you want to do)
- Name and signature of the trainer
- Date of training
- Subject of training
- Proof of competency (results of some kind of evaluation, such as a test or demonstration of ability) and date of evaluation

Documentation must be written and filed.

If you use computer-assisted training programs, you can take advantage of learning management systems (LMS) that allow you to track and document employee training and evaluations. Whatever documentation system you use, however, you have to be able to produce your safety training records on demand any time OSHA wants to take a look.

How long you should keep training records?

You should certainly keep training records on each employee for as long as that person is employed by your organization. Beyond that, it's wise to hang on to training records for a few more years in case the employee is reemployed, for example, or files a disability claim.

Why it matters.

Failure to document employee safety training when required by OSHA can lead to citations and fines. Even when documentation is not required, keeping good records of safety training helps you assess future training needs and keep track of employee progression through training programs. The documentation can also help protect the club, and yourself, in workman compensation claims and occupational injury lawsuits.

Should you document training even if OSHA doesn't require it?

The best policy is to document all formal safety training for each of your employees. You can also document additional information not required by OSHA. For example, it might be useful to keep track of the following safety training data:

- Past training on the same safety topic
- Next scheduled training date
- Summary of training content (objectives, key training points)
- Reason for nonscheduled retraining (for example, an accident or deterioration in safety performance)
 Safety orientation dates for new employees and orientation program content.

If you have any questions regarding safety training records and/or safety training in general please contact me via

ronmith@sportsclubmanagement.com or 877-848-5978.

During the season, how often do you apply nitrogen to your greens at the rate selected in the previous question? ess than 7 days 0.0% 14.3% Every 7 days Every 7-10 days 19.0% 4.8% Every 10 days 28.6% Every 10-14 days 12.7% Every 14 days 12.7% Every 14-21 days Every 21 days 4.8% More than 21 days 3.2%

Do you apply any nutrient, adjuvant, or pesticide (other than growth regulators) that you believe increases your green speeds:

Silica based products	10%
Wetting Agent (4 out 6 named Cascade)	7.5%
Micronutrient formulation	5%

What do believe are the three most important management practices or techniques that help you to maintain your target green speeds?

1. Water Management
2. Rolling
3. Use of growth regulators

A Closer Look

Although only 24% of the respondents believe that the majority of their golfers/membership would like to see faster green speeds, it seems we as superintendents are often comparing practices and methods to increase speeds. We thought it would be interesting to take a closer look at some of the responses from the group that indicated their greens speeds averaged 10 feet or more during the season. This group includes 27 superintendents or 31% of the total respondents and here are the statistically significant results specific to the 10 feet or more group:

- 90% manage private facilities
- 59% anticipate a 2008 operating budget of \$1m or more
- 81% said the membership/golfers liked the green speeds as they are
- 52% have soil based root zones
- Average turf composition:

31% Annual Bluegrass

14% L93

22% Creeping bent – A or G series

29% other creeping bent

4% Velvet bent

- 28% use Toro Flex 21 mowers
- 68% use Whiele front rollers on their mowers
- 24% bench set their mowers at .110 to .120 inches
- 64% single cut their greens 6 or 7 days a week
- 28% do not typically double cut their greens
- 72% set the reel to bedknife with light contact
- 56% grind their greensmower reels 1 to 5 times per season

Continued on page 10

Although not part of the green speed survey, we took the opportunity to poll the membership on interest level for GCSAA regional seminars, given the reduction in attendance over the past few years:

Which GCSAA seminars would you be most interested in attending in the fall/winter of 2008 at a Massachusetts location? Environmental Check Up - How "Green" is your facility? 41.3% Financial Essentials for the Superintendent 23.8% Modern Lake Management 11.1% Watershed Planning 14.3% Advanced Weed Management 22.2% Cutting Edge Disease Identification and Management for Cool-Season Grasses 65.1% Taking control of Green Speed 46.0% Strategic Career Planning for Superintendents and Assistants 25.4%

During what time frame would you most likely be interested in attending these seminars?				
Early to mid November	23.4%			
Mid to late November	6.3%			
Early to mid December	35.9%			
Early to mid January	51.6%			

GCSANE Monthly Meeting— March 20th Woodland Golf Club Host: David Mucciarone

GCSANE and HFTPA (Hospitality, Financial and Technology Professionals Association) will meet together, at Woodland Golf Club, to learn how to effectively work towards creating a more "green" environment. The speaker is Joellen Zeh, a staff ecologist for Audubon International. Joellen is also the Programs Manager for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs. In this role, she oversees all aspects of ACSP education and certification for members. She received her degree in Natural Resources from Cornell University. Joellen will be giving a presentation on "The Business Value of Environmental Stewardship".

mental stewardship. Learn how planning, implementing, and documenting an environmental management program will help you more effectively manage environmental risks and opportunities, promote environmental achievements, save money, improve your professional image, and promote the golf course industry as a model for sustainable resource management.

The myth that environmental protection and eco-

nomic benefit are mutually exclusive will be exposed as

she uncovers the hidden business value in environ-

Meeting Details

Registration: 11:30 am

Lunch: 12:00 pm

Presentation: 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm

Cost: \$40

Call for reservations 1-800-833-4451

Green Speed Survey - continued from page 9

- 100% roll their greens
- 24% use a Salsco roller
- 36% roll greens 3 times per week
- 48% topdress their greens 6 to 8 times per season
- 27% use a Dakota 410 to topdress their greens
- 27% apply 1 to 5 cubic yards of topdress sand to all their greens per application
- 41% verticut their greens 1 to 3 times per season
- 59% do not use groomers on their greens
- 43% core aerify, deep tine, or drill twice per season
- 27% typically "vent" greens twice per season
- 75% of irrigation water is applied by heads, 25% applied by hand
- 96% use growth regulators
- 91% use Primo and apply it at an average of 5.25 ozs/A
- 43% apply growth regulators every 10 to 14 days
- On average, the group applies 3.6#N, 1.4#P, 4.3#K, 2.7#Ca and .9#Mg per season
- 58% of the Nitrogen is applied in liquid or water soluble form
- 53% apply .1 to .15 Lbs of N per application and 33% apply N every 10 to 14 days

Thank you to all who participated in the survey and we hope you find the results informative and beneficial.



GCSAA Members Elect Jim Fitzroy, CGCS of Presidents Golf Course as Secretary/Treasurer

David S. Downing II, CGCS, vice president of operations and construction for Signature Golf Group in Myrtle Beach, S.C., was elected GCSAA president at the Annual Meeting and Election Feb. 1. Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, was elected vice president; and James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, was elected secretary/ treasurer. Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, and Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, were re-elected to two-year terms, and John J. O'Keefe, CGCS, was appointed to the board for a oneyear term. Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, and Keith A. Ihms, CGCS. will also continue on the board, and Ricky D. Heine, CGCS, will serve

one year as immediate past president. Members also approved a board recommendation to increase dues using a CPI-based formula. The increase will be \$20 for

Classes A and SM members, and \$10 for Class C members.

Source: GCSAA Press Release

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

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed For Membership:
Lawrence Cuoco, Assistant,
Marlborough CC, Marlboro MA
Matthew E. Narey, Assistant,
Salem C.C., Peabody, MA
Richard P. McGovern, Assistant,
Sterling National G.C., Sterling, MA
Nicholas J. Spokis, Superintendent,
Tatnuck C.C. Worcester, MA
Mike Ford, Superintendent,
Mt. Hood G.C., Melrose, MA

Welcome New Members:

Jonathan Vandale, Assistant, Essex Co Club, Manchester MA Sean M. Smith, Assistant, Thorny Lea GC, Brockton MA Mega Green, Friend, Middleton, MA Tate Asselin, Assistant, Segregansett CC. Taunton MA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Kevin Corvino as he leaves Fresh Pond Golf Club to accept the superintendent position at Norfolk Golf Club.

Congratulations to David D'Andrea as he leaves Sunday River Golf Club to accept the superintendent position at Red Tail Golf Club.

Best wishes to Scott McLeod of New England Turf on a speedy recovery from recent surgery.

Our condolences are extended to Garrett Whitney of Read Custom Soils and family on the passing of Garrett's father-in-law in January.

As in the past, *The Newsletter* continues to invite Affiliate members to submit a press release about new personnel, new products or a company bio. We will print such releases on a space available basis.

All members are encouraged to contact Julie Heston to announce new arrivals so that we may purchase a savings bond in recognition of their birth. Phone: (401) 934-3677 or jheston@verizon.net

VENDOR NEWS

Alan Vadala will now be handling equipment sales for Rhode Island as well as parts of Southeastern Massachusetts and Connecticut for R.F. Morse & Son, Inc. Alan will be promoting John Deere golf and turf products, Kubota tractors, several allied products as well as used equipment. Alan is available to answer any questions regarding EarthWorks and DryJect of New England as he will still have a role in these divisions. Alan's contact info: (c) 774-766-2516, (w) 508-295-1553, (email) alanjvadala@rfmorse.com.

TROLL CLASSIC

The 2008 Joseph Troll Classic is set for Monday, **September 29, 2008** at Lyman Orchards Golf Club, honoring George B. Thompson.
Additional details to follow and will soon be on the web site.
www.alumniturfgroup.com

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