



THE NEWSLETTER

November 2008

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

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Kernwood's Eggleston Comes Full Circle

By: Gary Trask

John Eggleston is living proof that home is indeed where the heart is.

How else can you explain the implausible journey that this 42-year-old has been on for the last two decades?

"It's incredible," admits Eggleston. "It's almost surreal to think that things panned out the way they did. But I'll tell you one thing, I wouldn't change a thing."

And why would he? After 10 years of traveling the world building golf courses, Eggleston is living back in Rowley in the home he grew up in. He's got a wife, a nine-month-old son, Athan, and he's working in what he refers to as his "dream job" as the head superintendent at Kernwood Country Club in Salem, Mass.

It all started with an off-the-cuff conversation with a classmate at Triton Regional High School back in 1984. Eggleston, who was the No. 1 player and captain on the school's golf team as a senior, mentioned to a girl in one of his classes that he was attending Stockbridge for turf management. The girl's father – Dean Robertson – just so happened to be the head super at Kernwood CC and told John that she could set him up with an interview for an internship.

Eggleston jumped at the chance and in turn he formed a close bond with Robertson. Twenty-two years later, when Robertson made the decision to step down after a 30-year tenure, Eggleston was hand-picked as the man to replace him at the esteemed

course and he became just the fourth head super at Kernwood CC since it opened its fairways way back in 1914.

"It's very rewarding," says Eggleston. "This course is such a special place. I just want to be able to hold the course up to the incredible standards that Dean has held it up to over the years."

One season into his first year on the job and Eggleston feels he's done just that. He said that he tried to take "baby steps" this year and not try to do

call away," Eggleston says. "I'd be a fool not to use him as a resource. He knows so much about the business and about this course. I try to get his advice as much as I can."

Of course, the news of Eggleston taking over for Robertson was not exactly a surprise when it was officially announced last year. Eggleston was the first assistant at the TPC in Norton for two years when in 2004 he heard Kernwood CC was looking for a first assistant.

"I picked up the phone and called Dean," he remembers. "He told me to get my application in right away. It obviously helped a lot that we already had known each other for 20 years."

Eggleston was hired in 2005 and the idea was to groom him to become Robertson's successor.

"It just made the whole transition for everyone involved that much easier," he says. "It was a smart idea to do it that way. I'm just glad I was the guy they chose."

Life as a head superintendent back in the area he grew up is quite a change for Eggleston. After graduating from UMass-Stockbridge in 1987, he went on to get his bachelor's degree in Plant and Soil Science at UMass. During the summers while attending UMass, he worked at Essex County Club. Then two weeks after graduating he got a job with the renowned Wadsworth Golf Construction Company.



**Kernwood Country Club
Superintendent John Eggleston**

Photo Source: John Eggleston

too much different. He incorporated a lot of the same things that Robertson had done at the course, but he hopes to make a few "subtle changes" as the years go on. And he's been fortunate to be able to lean on Robertson for advice.

"Dean's still around a lot, and if he's not here, he's always just a phone

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PRESIDENT

Russell E. Heller, CGCS
41 Clifford Street, Melrose, MA. 02176-0140
617-983-2786 Fax: 617-983-2786
E-mail: Rheller@gcsane.org
Franklin Park Golf Club

VICE PRESIDENT

Patrick J. Daly, CGCS
P.O. Box 2284, Framingham, MA 01703-2284
508-872-9790 Fax: 508-872-5393
E-mail: Pat@framinghamcc.com
Framingham Country Club

SECRETARY

Jason S. Adams
28 Pecunit Street, Canton, MA 02021
781-828-6540
E-mail: jadams@bluehillcc.com
Blue Hill Country Club

TREASURER

Michael W. Stachowicz
68 Westfield Road, Westwood, MA 02090
781-326-7860 Fax: 781-326-0664
E-mail: Mstach@dedhamclub.org
Dedham Country & Polo Club

TRUSTEE

Scott Lagana, CGCS
22 Sherborne Circle, Ashland, MA 01721
978-342-6451 Fax: 978-342-0421
E-mail: Grounds@oakhillcc.org
Oak Hill Country Club

TRUSTEE

Peter Hasak
154 Tedesco Street, Marblehead, MA 01945
781-592-5764 Fax: 781-631-6530
E-mail: PHasak@tedescocc.org
Tedesco Country Club

TRUSTEE

Mark Gagne
233 Baker Street, Walpole, MA 02081
508-668-3859 Fax: 508-668-9969
E-mail: Mgagne@walpolecc.org
Walpole Country Club

FINANCE CHAIRMAN

Michael Luccini, CGCS
10 Griffin Road, Franklin, MA 02038
508-520-3615 Fax: 508-528-1885
E-mail: Mluccini@verizon.net
Franklin Country Club

GOLF CHAIRMAN

David Stowe, CGCS
30 Western Avenue, Natick, MA 01760
617-789-4631 Fax 617-789-4631
E-mail: Newtonmaint@aol.com
Newton Commonwealth Golf Club

EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

Timothy Hood
49 Green Street (Billing Box 214), Needham, MA 02492
781-444-5548 Fax 781-444-4258
E-mail: hood.timothyb@verizon.net
Needham Golf Club

NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN

Richard Gagnon
85 Gulliver Street
Taunton, MA 02780
508-823-0466 Fax 508-823-3915
E-mail: sccturf@hotmail.com
Segregansett Country Club

PAST PRESIDENT

Michael J. Hermanson
140 Ryan Street, Gardner, MA 01440-0145
978-632-2713 Fax: 978-632-2713
E-mail: herm068@hotmail.com
Gardner Municipal Golf Course

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sharon K. Brownell
P.O. Box 566, Mattapoisett, MA 02739-0566
508-758-6474 Fax: 508-758-3688
E-mail: Sbrownell@verizon.net

GCSANE Headquarters

300 Arnold Palmer Blvd., Norton, MA 02766
Tel: (800) 833-4451 Fax: (508) 758-6474
Web Site: www.gcsane.org

Newsletter Committee

Rich Gagnon, Editor, Segregansett Country Club
Mike Cassidy, Fencroft Country Club
Andrew Eick, The Kittansett Club
Ethan Tease, Woodland Golf Club
Julie Heston, Business Manager
Phone: (401) 934-3677 Email: jheston@verizon.net

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GCSANE Proposed Bylaw Amendment

The following proposed Bylaw Amendments are being proposed in accordance with Article XIII of the GCSANE Constitution and Bylaws. These proposed bylaws will be voted on at the next Annual Meeting. They may be passed by a two-thirds vote of the regular members present at that meeting.

Article IV

Section 8 – Affiliate Members

1. An Affiliate Member is a person employed by a company that is a "Friend of the Association". He or she shall have all the privileges of the Association except to vote and hold office. He or she shall be able to be elected as the Affiliate Trustee Member of the Board of Directors.

Article V – Government

Section 2

Change three trustees to four trustees and add the following:

The Affiliate Trustee shall be a member of good standing of the Golf

Course Superintendents Association of New England.

Section 3

Add the following:

The Affiliate Trustee shall be elected for a term of two years.

Article VII

Section 5

1. Add "plus one Affiliate member of the Association."

Article VIII – Committee

Sections 2 – Standing Committees

1. Add k. Affiliate/Friends

11. Affiliate/Friends Committee. This Committee will consist of three Affiliate members, one of which is the Affiliate Trustee.

a. This committee shall act as a vehicle to bring Affiliate/Friend issues to the Board of Directors.

b. Affiliate/Friend Committee shall submit one Affiliate member name to the Nominating Committee.



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During a span of more than 10 years, Eggleston helped build courses in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Nevada, Colorado and Mexico. He would live in a different location, sometimes for a few weeks, sometimes for three months. He learned everything there is to know about building and maintaining golf courses.

But after wrapping up the Newport National project in Rhode Island in 2001, he decided that not only did he want to settle down, but he wanted to move back into golf course maintenance and he wanted to do it in New England.

He spent a year at Newton Commonwealth and then got the job at the TPC, where, not so ironically, the man he worked for at Essex CC – Tom Brodeur – was the head super. During this time Eggleston met and married his wife, Melania, and they bought the house in Rowley where he grew up with his eight sisters and one brother.

“I’ve come full circle,” he says fondly. “It’s been quite a change for me. But change in a good way.”

Eggleston says the key to being a great superintendent is to never let the “little things go unnoticed.” He says “details matter” and he learned that from Robertson, who was as hands on as a head super can get.

“When Dean would drive by a brown spot on the course, he wouldn’t just keep going and just wonder why it was starting to wilt,” explains Eggleston, who doesn’t get to actually play the game as much as he would

like, but still carries a 12 handicap.

“He’d immediately jump out and check the surrounding area. He made sure all the nozzles in that section were working. He’d get to the bottom of it, not ignore it. That’s what I’m trying to do.

“When I go to another golf course I always look around and notice what kind of shape that it’s in. But even if a course is immaculate, I always say to myself, ‘This is nice, but it’s not Kernwood-nice.’ That’s what I want people to continue to say now that I’m the guy in charge.”

While Eggleston can’t predict the future, he knows how he would like this newest chapter of his life to play out. He would like nothing better than to be the next guy to retire from Kernwood CC after a 30-year career.

“That seems to be the formula here and it’s because the membership is so loyal and treats us so well,” he says. “I’d love to be here 30 years. That would be fine with me. It’s an indescribable feeling to be involved with a game you love so much and to be able to work at a course that means so much to you. I was lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time to get this job so I’m going to do everything in my power to make sure I take advantage of the opportunity.” ❖



Kernwood Country Club

Photo Source: John Eggleston

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Chain Saw Safety

By: Ron Smith, MBA, CPSI

We are currently in the time of the golf maintenance season where chain saws are used on a much more frequent basis than other times of the year. Collectively, more than 40,000 people are injured by chain saws each year.

When a chain saw is at full speed, more than 600 teeth pass a given point per second. A muffler on a chain saw can reach as much as 900 degrees F. Frequently chain saw work involved trees standing 50 feet or tall and weighing several tons. When you combine all these factors, it is not surprising so many people are involved with chain saw accidents.

The average chain saw injury requires 110 stitches and cost \$5,600 in medical costs. The two most common places for injuries are the front left thigh and the back of the left hand. The most common cause of chain saw accidents is kickback. One in 5 chain saw injuries are from kickback.

With a basic understanding of your chain saw and how it is intended to be used, you can reduce the chance of experiencing a chain saw accident and eliminate the element of surprise from kickback or other unexpected reactions. You will also be able to maximize the life and utility of the saw and its cutting attachments.

GENERAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR USE OF CHAIN SAWS

1. Before using any chain saw, thoroughly read the manufacturer's operating and safety instructions.
2. Do not operate a chain saw when you are fatigued, if you have been drinking alcoholic beverages, or if you have been taking prescription medication or non-prescription drugs.
3. Use safety footwear, snug-fitting clothing, protective gloves, and eye, hearing, and head protection.
4. When cutting, hold the saw firmly with both hands, with thumbs and fingers encircling both chain saw handles. Grip the saw with the right hand on the rear (throttle) handle and the left hand on the front handle, even if you

are left handed. A firm grip will help you maintain control of the saw in the event of a kickback or other unexpected reaction. Keep the chain saw handles dry, clean and free of oil or fuel mixture to avoid slipping and to aid in control of the saw.

5. Chain saws are designed to be run at full speed. To maximize your productivity and to reduce the fatigue you experience maintain a full throttle setting while cutting.

6. Cut while standing slightly to the side, out of the plane of the cutting chain and guide bar to reduce the risk of injury in the event you lose control of the saw.

7. Carry the chain saw with the engine stopped, the guide bar and cutting chain to the rear, and the muffler away from your body. When transporting your chain saw, always use the appropriate guide bar scabbard.

8. Do not overreach or cut above shoulder height. It is very difficult to control the saw in awkward positions.

9. Do not operate a chain saw in a tree or from a ladder unless you have been specifically trained and are equipped to do so. There is a risk that you can lose your balance because of cutting forces on the saw or movement of the material being cut.

10. Some cutting tasks require special training and skills. Remember, there is no substitute for good judgment. If you are in doubt, contact a professional.

11. To avoid the risk of kickback, make sure that the area in which you are cutting is free from obstructions. Do not let the nose of the guide bar contact a log, branch or any other obstruction while you are operating the saw. Do not cut near chain link fences, wire fences, or in areas where there is loose or scrap wire.

12. Do not start cutting trees until you have a clear work area, secure footing, and a planned retreat path from the falling tree.

13. Be careful in the event the wood closes in and pinches the saw. The 'push' force which is exerted when the top chain is pinched can add unexpectedly to any 'pull' force you may use when attempting to pull the saw free. You may pull the moving chain into yourself.

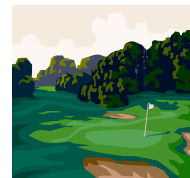
14. Use extreme caution with cutting small-size brush and saplings because slender material may catch the cutting chain and be whipped toward you or pull you off balance.

15. When cutting a limb or sapling that is under tension (called a spring pole), be alert for spring back so that you will not be struck by the limb or chain saw when the tension in the limb is released.

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16. Do not allow other persons to be near the chain saw when starting the saw or cutting with it. Keep bystanders and animals out of the work area.

17. Keep all parts of your body away from the cutting chain when the engine is running.

18. Do not operate a chain saw that is damaged, improperly adjusted or not completely assembled. Be sure that the cutting chain stops moving when the throttle control trigger is released. If you are in doubt regarding the mechanical condition of your saw, consult your servicing dealer.

19. Follow the manufacturer's sharpening and maintenance instructions for the chain saw. Sharpening the cutting

chain requires two steps: sharpening of the cutting edge and adjustment of the depth gauge setting. When in doubt, see your servicing dealer for advice or repairs.

20. Use only replacement bars and cutting chains specified by the manufacturer, or the equivalent. Guide bars and cutting chains affect not only performance, but kickback safety as well.

21. Maintain proper chain saw tension. A loose chain can come off the guide bar and can strike the operator.

22. All chain saw service other than the items mentioned in the owner's maintenance instructions should be performed by competent chain saw service personnel. Improperly performed maintenance may damage the saw and present a hazard to the operator. For example, if improper tools are used to remove the flywheel or if

an improper tool is used to hold the flywheel in order to remove the clutch, structural damage to the flywheel could occur and could subsequently cause the flywheel to break.

Use caution when handling fuel. Move the chain saw at least 10 feet away from the fueling point before starting the engine. Do not smoke while refueling your saw. Use gasoline powered chain saws only in well ventilated areas.

SOME GOOD CHAIN SAW ADVICE

- Chain saws are made to cut only one thing: wood. Do not use chain saws to cut other materials, and never let your chain contact rocks or dirt during operation. Remember, your chain saw is moving in excess of 50 miles per hour. In just one second of contact with a rock or with the ground, each cutter will be impacted more than ten times.
- Never force a dull chain to cut. When it is sharp, chain saws are designed to feed itself into the wood, and needs only light pressure to cut efficiently. Dull chains produce fine wood dust, a sure sign that maintenance is required.
- To maximize the life of your guide bar and chain, maintain proper chain tension and use high-quality lubricants.
- Use only a low kickback chain saw unless you have skills and are trained for dealing with kickback.

I hope everybody has a healthy and safe holiday season!

Ron

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New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show Update

By: Gary Sykes

De·cis·ion(s) (dē sīzh'ən) *n.* 1. The act of deciding or settling a dispute or a question. 2. The act of making up one's mind.

Over the course of a growing year, the one thing golf course superintendents and crews are faced with are a lot of decisions. Water or don't water, mow or don't mow, spray or don't spray, where to put the cup or more importantly maybe where not to put the cup, move the tees up or move the tees back...etc., etc., etc. Well, we hope there is one decision that will be as simple as can be for you this winter. That is to attend the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show in March. Whether you voted for Obama or McCain, the one thing that is certain is that spring will come and the grass will grow. March is the final turn toward the winter finish line and it will soon be time to start gearing up for whatever the New Year might bring our way both agronomic and economically.

This year's show will include a wide range of educational opportunities that could help you save dollars in an already economically depressed budget environment and not to men-

tion some grass! One 6-hour and seven half-day seminars on Monday cover photography, diseases, weeds, insecticides, foliar fertilizing, computers and even CPR/AED training. Then three days of trade show and education sessions will help you find any answers you may be looking for. For our keynote, enjoy the opportunity to hear from one of the premier sport broadcasters of our time, Greg Gumbel.

The trade show covers every turf area of maintenance to supply turfgrass managers with tools and products that fit the bill and the need. Economic times are tough, forcing the industry to prioritize to the hilt and exhibitors will be eager to work together to help fill your needs. Education sessions are also designed to inform audiences by industry leaders and researchers in all areas of turf management. Just a note: If you look around an education session, you'll notice that the most successful managers rarely miss an education session! It is for your benefit to attend! During the show, it is good to point out that there are always two receptions and food vouchers to keep you nourished between dining opportunities at some of

the best restaurants in New England. To really add to the excitement, you never know...you may walk away with one of several raffle prizes.

So, as we prepare for what lies ahead, I truly hope there is one decision that will be as easy for you to make as.....should I take them up on that invitation to play Winged Foot?; or do you mind being upgraded to 1st Class seating?; or should I take those free tickets for opening day at Fenway?; or will it be Chicken or Prime Rib? Come to the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show March 2-5, 2009. It is your regional show! It may not be in the warmest part of the country, but you will be warmly welcomed by friends and associates! It is here to help all turfgrass managers, educators, suppliers and industry members through good times and tight times. It was created to help you to do the job that you want to be able to do. If it's not the best decision you make all year, it will be close!

Registration brochures will be in the mail in December, you can visit the website at www.nertf.org for information or call 401-848-0004. ❖

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Keynote Speaker
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Greg Gumbel

GCSANE November 13th Meeting Bellevue Golf Club 9-Hole Tournament Host: Brian Skinner



Guest Speaker - James Burke



**Michael Stachowicz tees off on
the 1st tee**



**From L-R: David Mihailides, Bob Healey and
Dennis Friel**



From L-R: Norman and David Mucciarone

Photo Credit for all photos: Rich Gagnon

New twist to 15th Chapter Delegates meeting

Delegates Experience New Orleans; Engage in Discussions

Desiring to give members as much information as possible about the upcoming conference and show, GCSAA took its 2008 Chapter Delegates meeting to New Orleans, Oct. 24-26. A total of 97 of the 100 GCSAA affiliated chapters were represented.

"We knew there was some concern about New Orleans' ability to host conference and show," GCSAA President David S. Downing II, CGCS said. "We felt the best way to address that was by hosting the delegates in New Orleans. Various association activities have been held there since Hurricane Katrina, so we were confident the delegates would be impressed by what they saw."

Not only did the meeting break ranks by moving from its traditional Lawrence/Kansas City region, but it also included a two-hour tour of the city and a briefing from local officials on the recovery from storms during the past two years.

"I thought it was great that we got to see the city," first time delegate Gary Myers, CGCS said. "I appreciate that we saw everything. There are still some areas that need to be rebuilt, but from the standpoint of attending Conference and Show, everything was fine. I did not hear any delegate say New Orleans would not be a good place for us. It should be a great event."

The agenda for the meeting was developed by GCSAA Vice President Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS. His focus was on presenting a complete picture of New Orleans, providing in-depth discussion on Chapter Effectiveness and giving attendees a look at the future of the association. The meeting also afforded attendees to hear GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Mark Woodward address the delegates for the first time. Woodward, who took over in July, shared his vision for the association. He touched on the following topics:

- The importance of chapter effectiveness.
- The need for member engagement

on the chapter and national level.

- Building relationships to advance the association and its members.
- GCSAA and The Environmental Institute for Golf's role as a leader in ensuring golf's compatibility with the environment.
- The role of the GCSAA member now and in the future.

Special attention was paid to sharing tactics with delegates how they could help their chapters to become more effective. A report on the extensive work of the Chapter Relations Committee, chaired by GCSAA Past President Tim O'Neill, CGCS was presented. The committee identified four key elements to enhancing chapters:

- Strategic Planning
- GCSAA Field Staff
- Executive Paid Leadership
- Sharing of Resources with other Chapters

Peggy Hoffman and Peter Houstle of Mariner Marketing and Management facilitated a session focused on chapter effectiveness that explored means to increase volunteer participation, enhance communications, activate memberships, improve management and engage in strategic planning, all on the chapter level. The key take-away was research indicates that more people volunteer if they are directly asked, and are offered opportunities that are ad hoc or short term in nature.

The delegates heard several presentations and engaged in discussions regarding member programs and services.

Topics included:

- Industry efforts to grow the game, focusing on the role of GCSAA and its members.
- Membership growth and retention efforts.
- GCSAA's financial picture.

- Marketing, outreach and advocacy activities.
- The importance of data for GCSAA and member input, including member needs, assessment, compensation and benefits report, and golf course environmental profile project.
- GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show.

A staple of every delegates meeting, the opportunity to meet the candidates and discuss issues of importance was also conducted.

Based on the discussions, financial issues were leading area of interest. Downing, Woodward and GCSAA Managing Director of Finance Cam Oury presented the association's financial picture as being strong with no debt, valuable assets and a solid cash reserve. Although revenues will be lower in 2008 than 2007, association leaders indicated expenses were being managed down appropriately. Delegates also asked for assistance in communicating issues during tough economic times. Staff will provide support to help members in this area regarding Conference and Show attendance and in sharing their value and the importance of golf course maintenance in light of budget cuts.

"I appreciate the delegates taking their personal time to meet in New Orleans," Woodward said. We rely on them to be the conduit to chapters. We also need them to give us feedback. The one item that was very clear to me is that when member financial challenges are great, the opportunities and the need to assist our members are at their greatest. We live by the mantra that 'Members Matter Most' and I would contend they need us more than ever right now, and we need them as well because it is truly a partnership."
❖

Source: GCSAA Press Release

2008 MET Area Team Championships

Winged Foot Golf Club

West Course – Par 72

October 27, 2008

Team Scores Par 288

	<u>Score</u>
1 st Connecticut AGCS	288
2 nd Philadelphia AGCS	291
3 rd MET GCSA	301
4 th GCSA of New Jersey	303
5 th Central New York GCSA	304
6 th Long Island GCSA	306
7 th Pocono TGA	307
8 th Mid-Atlantic AGCS	311
9 th GCSA of New England	313
10 th Central Penn GCSA	314
T11 th GCMA of Cape Cod	320
T11 th Hudson Valley GCSA	320
13 th Michigan GCSA	321
T14 th Northeastern GCSA	326
T14 th Rhode Island GCSA	326



Top: Winged Foot Shot Gun Start

Left: (L-R) Dave Comee and Mike Hermanson



Skill Events

Closest to the pin hole #3, sponsored by Syngenta	Brian Minemiar – GCSA of New Jersey 4' 3"
Closest to the pin hole #7, sponsored by Bayer	Dennis Desanctis – Syngenta 3' 5"
Closest to the pin hole #10, sponsored by BASF	Jason Werbalowsky – Hudson Valley GCSA 3' 7"
Closest to the pin hole #17, sponsored by Toro	Chet Walsh – Philadelphia AGCS 10' 1"

Long Drive

Net Division sponsored by The Care of Trees	Sean Flynn – Connecticut AGCS
Gross Division sponsored by Agrium Adv. Tech.	Paul Dotti – GCSA of New Jersey
Hickory Stick Long Drive, sponsored by Aquatrols	Chris Butler – Pocono TGA

Individual Gross

Chet Walsh – Philadelphia AGCS Score of 78

Sponsorship Team Winner

Kevin Collins and Kevin Seibel from Aquatrols Score of 70

Two Man Team High Score

Gross	Dave Lipmann – Hudson Valley GCSA	Score of 90
Net	Nick Burchard and Jerry Noons – Rhode Island GCSA	Score of 81



Scott Lagana, CGCS



Photo Credit for all photos: Rich Gagnon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Members:

- Jason Van Buskirk, Superintendent, Stow Acres CC, Stow MA.
- Patrick Manning, Assistant, Belmont CC, Belmont, MA.
- Patrick Sevigny, Assistant, Kernwood CC, Salem MA.

Condolences:

Our condolences are extended to the family of Joe and Lonnie Troll on the passing of their daughter Judy Troll Brucks.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Jim and Kathleen Small on the recent birth of their daughter Lily.

Meeting Results

October 29, 2008
Country Club of Halifax
Member/Guest Tournament
Host: Edward Gianni, CGCS

First Gross 73- VanVleck & Kline
 2nd Gross 74- Dobosz & Bacon
 3rd Gross 75- Calderwood & Campbell

First Net 63- Hood & Rooney
 2nd Net 64 Heller & Cohen
 3rd Net 66 Mucciarone & Broinstein

Closest to the pin Ken Crimmings
 9 feet 4 inches

Long drive Tom Lennon

A Note of Thanks

We want to thank you for your kind words and deeds since the loss of our daughter, Judy. We are overwhelmed with grief, not just for ourselves but for her husband and daughters. Please know your support has given us comfort.

Joe and Lonnie Troll

CALENDAR

December 15:
GCSANE Monthly Meeting
 Needham Golf Club
 Host: Tim Hood

January 9:
GCSANE Monthly Meeting
 Wellesley Country Club
 Annual Meeting
 Host: Bill Sansone

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Send all Newsletter ads to: Julie Heston, 36 Elisha Mathewson Road, N. Scituate, RI 02857
 Phone: 401-934-3677 Email: jheston@verizon.net

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Antonios Paganis - (781) 648-2351;
(508) 428-3022

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