



# THE NEWSLETTER

October 2009

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.

## Alumni Turf Group 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic Honors a Living Legend: Leon St. Pierre

By: **Scott A. Mackintosh**

Ranch Golf Club, in Southwick, Massachusetts was host for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic, sponsored by the Alumni Turf Group and the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of New England. The event took place on October 8, 2009.

This year's honoree was Leon St. Pierre, retired superintendent of Longmeadow Country Club. He served as Longmeadow's golf course superintendent from 1956 – 1993. Prior to his 37 years of exemplary course management, he served as superintendent for six years at Oxford Country Club, in Chicopee, MA. He was baptized in the business at another classic old course in Worcester, MA, called Tatnuck Country Club. He received his education from Dr. Lawrence Dickens while attending the University of Massachusetts under the newly formed GI bill. Jed Newsome, Golf Course Superintendent of the Ranch Golf Course had a great time hosting the event and enjoyed seeing Mr. St. Pierre, "it's amazing what he accomplished in the business. To be at one golf course for that long well, that's amazing." To Jedd's credit and the maintenance staff, the Ranch Golf Club was in great shape and fun to play.

Like many of us, Leon wanted to give back to an industry that gave him so much. He served on several committees for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England

and became its strident president from 1965 – 1967. His platform during his tenure and years after until his retirement was simple; show the golf course superintendent as a professional, not just a hired ditch digger or greens



**Leon St. Pierre**

Photo Credit: Rich Gagnon

keeper. He wanted more for himself and his fellow superintendents. Showing the drive and tenacity no doubt learned on the front lines during World War II, he stayed true to his ideal. Detractors did not deter him. He was always dressed in a suit for GCSANE meetings, spoke eloquently and acted professionally. He along with the help

of many GCSANE members initiated the newsletter as a means of increasing education and communication for all.

To further elevate the superintendent's status in the golf community, Leon met with the Massachusetts Golf Association board of directors as a means to increase education and communication for all. That meeting carved a seat on the MGA Executive Committee for Leon and future GCSANE Presidents. Today that relationship still exists; which has lead to educating golfing members throughout Massachusetts for over 40 years.

Thankfully Leon sought a higher place in society for all golf course superintendents. His determination and professionalism lead to the mutually beneficial relationship that exists today. Good friend and colleague, Mr. Geoff Cornish remembers meeting Leon, "I met Leon over 60 years ago at the University of Massachusetts. It was an era of flux with millions of service men and women returning from overseas where 17 year old Leon had served with distinction with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. I saw Leon removing many feet of debris from greens at Oxford Country Club following a severe flood in the early 1950's; I saw

*continued on page 2*

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## St. Pierre - continued from page 1

him enhance already great Longmeadow Country Club; I witnessed his outstanding contributions to the Golf Course Superintendents of New England and to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. I am proud to have known Leon, I admire him and I still look on him as a young friend. Yet I realize that he was one of those dynamic men that made the nation great." Leon St. Pierre sustained several gunshot wounds while in action on the side of mountain in the Alps and had to ski down the mountain to receive treatment. For his service and bravery he earned both a purple heart and bronze star!

Even though Dr Joseph Troll and Lonnie Troll could not attend the fundraiser, he had plenty to say, "I have known Leon for 51 years and am aware of his many contributions to the GCSANE. His meetings with the MGA, which always included a discussion on the importance of the Superintendent, helped to elevate the recognition of the position. He not only successfully

served as President of the New England's Superintendent's Association, his expertise as a Golf Course Superintendent was visible at the beautiful Longmeadow Country Club. He was also instrumental in hiring a professional journalist to write articles for the New England Superintendent's Newsletter. And one cannot forget the top-notch speakers that he brought in for the Superintendent's meetings. Lonnie and I wish you much happiness and good health in the future."

The first Troll Classic fundraiser was held in 2004 at Hickory Ridge Golf Club, thanks to Bob Ruzala, host golf course superintendent and many other dedicated UMASS alum. The purpose of the fundraiser was to raise money for the new Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Research Center at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. The fundraiser was a huge success with UMASS alum and faculty reuniting and joining together to honor Dr. Joseph Troll's commitment to the University and to the countless students he assisted throughout his long celebrated career.

*continued on page 3*



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**St. Pierre - continued from page 2**

From that success a new organization called The Alumni Turf Group (ATG), was formed in 2005, as a 501c3 organization made up of turf professionals who are graduates of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and the University of Massachusetts. The ATG's mission is to fundraise and distribute those funds for educational programs, research and student activities in the turf management profession and recognize the achievements of successful individual alumni through annual events

Sherwood Moore, Ted Horton, Geoff Cornish and George Thompson were recognized for their individual achievements to the turfgrass profession at annual events over the past five years. During that time the ATG donated over \$100,000! "We are certainly off to an exciting start, said Steve Curry, President of the Alumni Turf Group. However we can always use help from interested alumni. As more people get involved the more support

we will be able to provide. This year's honoree, Mr. St. Pierre, is a remarkable person and he crowned yet another successful Troll Classic and proudly joined our previous honorees. I am continually in awe with these leaders that changed our profession, so much for the better."

The ATG website can be found at [www.alumniturfgroup.com/turf](http://www.alumniturfgroup.com/turf). New members are welcome and appreciated as Jedd Newsome stated, "I think the ATG is a great way to get more involved in my profession. I also felt it was a great tournament that celebrated Mr. St Pierre's accomplishments." The Alumni Turf Group was very proud to carry on the tradition of honoring those such as Mr. St. Pierre to whom we are indebted for the advanced place our profession has reached. ❖



**Photo Credit:  
Rich Gagnon**



# President's Message

Fall is finally here. I am sure many of you are busy beginning projects, chasing leaves, preparing to blow out irrigation systems, and putting your golf courses to bed for the year. Many of you are also enjoying down time with your families, and in the case of Glen Misiaszek from Cohasset, running the NYC Marathon in 3:29:58. Well done Glen! This is also the time when we begin to review the year, looking at what worked in our maintenance plans, and beginning the budget process for 2010. I wish you all the best of luck with your plans for 2010.

I recently had the opportunity to address representatives from the MGA at their Annual Meeting. I was impressed not only with how well the event was run but also the outpouring of support for the members of our Association. On more than one occasion I was approached by someone from the MGA expressing appreciation for all that we do, especially considering the weather issues we dealt with this

year. I hope that everyone has heard the same from members at your clubs. I can't discuss the MGA without thanking Executive Director Joe Sprague for all his support this year. This past August, when the weather turned against many of us, Joe agreed to post an USGA update by Jim Skorulski detailing what exactly was happening in the northeast. Joe also took it upon himself this past October to post an article found in Golf Digest that discussed water issues faced by Superintendents out west. If you have a chance, please let Joe know how much we appreciate the support of the MGA.

The Scholarship and Benevolence Tournament was played in memory of Glenn Ackley and Richard Blake on October 15<sup>th</sup> at Hatherly. Even with a change of venue the event was a success thanks to the efforts of host Superintendent Rich Caughey and S&B Chairman Carl Miner. Great job guys! As I have said before, this tournament raises funds for not only scholarships

but also benevolent aid which is given to members in their time of need. Through your support, we were able to give out \$7,000 in scholarships and continue to build the reserves in the S&B account for benevolent aid. Thanks to the players, sponsors, and those who donated rounds of golf.

This year's Assistant Appreciation Day was a great success. Assistants met at Oak Hill for golf, education with Dave Fearis, CGCS from GCSAA, and after golf networking. Thanks to Scott Lagana, CGCS and his Assistants John Paul Micklus, Sean Keating, and Nick Welch for helping out on that day. Our nine hole meeting is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup> at Milton-Hoosic. I hope to see everyone there hearing from Jim Skorulski on winter hardiness and enjoying Jeff Urquhart and his staff's beautiful golf course

Until next month, may the simple pleasures of life including good friends, family, health, happiness and peace be with you and your families. ❖

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# 2009 Northeast News Update

By Jim Skorulski, senior agronomist, Northeast Region Green Section

October 9, 2009

The cooler temperatures and forecasts for snow showers quickly bring the reality of winter preparations to mind. One of those preparations for many northern golf courses involves covering greens to protect the annual bluegrass from crown hydration and cold temperature injury. The cover systems usually consist of an impermeable cover placed over the green complex either with or without insulation. The concept behind the use of covers is to try to prevent plant hydration during winter and early spring, and to maintain a fairly constant temperature at or just below freezing. In a perfect world, the covers are placed over the greens in late fall after the final top-dressing and fungicide applications are complete and the ground is partially or near frozen. We then keep our fingers crossed for a layer of snow and some seasonably cold temperatures through winter.

The need to add insulation under the covers is a question we often receive. The insulation may be in the form of a foam material or rigid plastic mesh that provides some air space to buffer the more severe temperature swings. Straw and bubble tarps are used for insulation on more northern golf courses where temperatures can drop well below freezing. A heavy insulation layer is probably not necessary if you are in an area where a deep snow pack is dependable or winter temperatures are more moderate. A thin insulating material that creates an air space will be helpful where snow cover is less dependable and low temperatures are not so severe. The thicker

layers of insulation are a good idea in areas where permanent snow cover is questionable and below zero temperatures are likely.

The color of a cover also impacts the temperatures at the surface of the greens. White-colored covers have grown in popularity in areas where the greens are likely to be exposed. They reflect the sun and help to keep temperatures below the covers more stable. This is less of a concern further north where the snow is more dependable and a heavier insulation layer is in place.

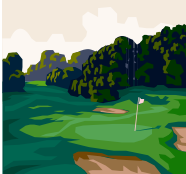

The use of covers does not always guarantee success! Water can still find its way under the covers and hydrate plants leaving them vulnerable to injury. Under the right conditions, turf can suffocate under impermeable cover systems. This usually occurs on more poorly drained greens, but also is a concern when heavy layers of snow and ice lie for extended periods above covers on unfrozen ground.

Covering systems need to be monitored and managed from the point of installation until they are removed in spring. That includes monitoring temperatures below the covers, checking for anoxic conditions (lack of oxygen), and having the ability to remove the impermeable cover and or vent greens when necessary. Only cover the amount of area that you can manage! Winter staffing needs to be available to do that effectively.

Cover systems for greens have evolved and do work to protect annual bluegrass and bentgrass from our ever challenging winter weather. The protection systems are not an exact science and have to be tailored for spe-


cific site conditions. When used properly, they provide a management tool that can make the difference between winter success or failure. Feel free to contact your Green Section office if you have any questions or concerns regarding the selection, installation, and management of winter covers. ❖

Contact Dave Oatis, Director [doatis@usga.org](mailto:doatis@usga.org); Adam Moeller, Agronomist [amoeller@usga.org](mailto:amoeller@usga.org); or Jim Skorulski, Senior Agronomist [jskorulski@usga.org](mailto:jskorulski@usga.org) for a Turf Advisory Service visit this season.



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## Efforts to Slow Down Methyl Bromide Cancellation Successful

At a meeting Oct. 29, senior officials of the U.S. EPA assured GCSAA and manufacturers of methyl bromide (MeBr) that the agency would not cancel golf course MeBr use immediately and will work with the product registrants over the next several weeks to determine a phase-out schedule.

Manufacturers had asked for MeBr to be available until the end of 2014 to allow for suitable alternatives to be developed, but the EPA denied that request. It is hoped the agency will now agree to at least a 3-4 year phase-out schedule. But even in a worst-case scenario, it is likely the phase out would be no sooner than the end of 2011. It is also likely that under any phase-out plan, end users would be able to use any packaged material until the supply is exhausted.

GCSAA members wrote letters and made calls to Congress urging their representatives to press the EPA to agree to a reasonable timetable for an orderly methyl bromide cancellation process. Thanks to these grassroots efforts by members, golf facilities will continue to have access to this important soil fumigant tool for the next couple of years. ❖

**Source: GCSAA This Week – November 3, 2009**

## 2010 UMASS Winter School for Turf Managers - Accepting Applications

The 2010 session of the UMass International Winter School for Turf Managers is just around the corner! This highly acclaimed program runs for seven weeks, beginning Monday, January 4 and concluding on Thursday, February 18. Winter School, which is administered by UMass Continuing and Professional Education, provides 32 hours of instruction each week, covering general turf management, pest management (insects, diseases, and weeds), turf physiology, personnel management, irrigation, and much more.

Some of our Winter School students are people who have several years of experience in the turf industry and just want to sharpen their skills. Others are making career changes, while others are just getting started. Discussions in the classroom tend to be lively and stimulating, as students usually are very willing to share their experiences with classmates and instructors. There are several "hands on" laboratory sessions, including identification of grasses, diseases, weeds, and insects.

The perennial goal of the UMass Winter School for Turf Managers is to furnish turf managers with the concepts essential to the maintenance of high quality turf, while instilling a sense of environmental stewardship

and fiscal responsibility. Enrollment is limited, and close-knit classes offer the opportunity to form lasting relationships with peers and memories that will last a lifetime.

**Please note: The application deadline for international students is September 15, 2009. Domestic students must apply by November 15, 2009 to qualify for the lowest program fee.**

For complete information on the program and application materials, check out these two links:

[http://www.umassturf.org/education/certificate\\_programs/winter\\_school.html](http://www.umassturf.org/education/certificate_programs/winter_school.html)

<http://www.umasslearn.net/programs/certificate/international-winter-school-turf-managers> ❖



**Third Annual Assistant's Appreciation Day  
Monday, October 19, 2009  
Oak Hill Country Club  
Assistant Superintendent Hosts:  
Sean Keating, Nick Welch, John Micklus**



**Photo Source:  
Oak Hill CC**

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual New England  
Superintendents Championship  
Miacomet Golf Course  
Wednesday, October 14, 2009  
Tournament Results**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Connecticut Assoc. of Golf Course Superintendents**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: RI Golf Course Superintendents Association**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Place: Golf Course Superintendents Assoc. of Cape Cod**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Place: NH Golf Course Superintendents Association**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Place: Golf Course Superintendents Assoc. of New England**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Place: Vermont Golf Course Superintendents Association**

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**Call for  
Nominations 2010  
GCSANE  
Distinguished  
Service Award**

**Application Deadline:  
December 1, 2009**

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England (GCSANE) annually selects a superintendent who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession. The nominee must not have been a recipient of this award in the preceding ten years. The Membership Committee welcomes recommendations for nomination.

To propose a candidate for this program, please submit a letter of recommendation to the Membership Committee Chair. The letter should summarize the candidate's contributions and leadership to the superintendent community both locally and nationally.

The GCSANE membership committee will recommend a recipient to the GCSANE Board of Directors to be awarded at the Annual meeting in January 2010.

**Nominations must be received by  
December 1, 2009.**

**Submit nominations to:**  
Scott Lagana, CGCS,  
Membership Chair, GCSANE  
840 Oak Hill Rd.  
Fitchburg, MA, 01420  
slagana@oakhillcc.org

**Past Award Winners**

**1997 – Anthony Caranci  
1998 – Richard D. Haskell  
1999 – Robert Grant  
2000 – Dr. Joseph Troll  
2001 – Geoffrey Cornish  
2002 – Richard C. Blake and  
Phillip I. Cassidy  
2003 – Leon St. Pierre  
2004 – Donald C. Hearn  
2005 – Donald Marrone  
2006 – Gerry Finn  
2007 – Ronald Kirkman  
2008 – Robert Ruzsala  
2009 – Robert and Norman  
Mucciarone**



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Our condolences are extended to Dennis Friel and family on the passing of Dennis' mother Hazel Friel on October 17, 2009.

Congratulations to Richard Duggan, CGCS of The Meadow at Peabody Golf Course and James Small, CGCS of Scotland Links who are both GCSAA certified golf course superintendents who have recently completed the renewal process for maintaining their status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Congratulations to Peter and Cherus Lanman on the birth of their son Frederick Thomas Lanman born on October 16, 2009.

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 each and every release free of charge. This is a great way to advertise for free.

**CALENDAR**

**November 16:  
GCSANE Monthly Meeting  
Nine-Hole Meeting**  
Milton Hoosic Club  
Host: Jeff Urquhart

**EDUCATION**

The **New Hampshire GCSA** has its Turf Education Seminar scheduled for **Tuesday, December 1, 2009** at the Holiday Inn, Concord, NH.

**The Program**

8:00 - 9:00 **NHGCSEA Annual Meeting**  
9:00 - 10:00 **Water Quality: The benefits of oxygen to water, and methods in which to enhance and beautify ponds and Lakes** - John Ouellette, Otterbine Barebo, Inc.

10:00 - 11:15 **Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), and specifically Tier II reporting requirements for golf courses** - Dr. Dwight Peavey, EPA

11:15 - 12:15 **Drainage Rules and Regulations Concerning Golf Courses Today** - Rich Verrier, ADS Pipe

12:15 - 1:15 **LUNCH**

1:15 - 2:15 **2009: The Year in Review** - James Skorulski, USGA

2:15 - 3:15 **Recent Controls for Insects on Golf Courses** - Dr. Stan Swier, UNH

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□ 1/3 page (horizontal; 5.06" wide x 4.5" deep)	□\$240.00	□\$912.00	□\$1296.00	□\$1728.00	□\$2400.00
□ 1/2 page (horizontal; 7.75" wide x 4.5" deep)	□\$300.00	□\$1140.00	□\$1620.00	□\$2160.00	□\$3000.00
□ Full Page (vertical; 7.75" wide x 9.25" deep)	□\$600.00	□\$2280.00	□\$3240.00	□\$4320.00	□\$6000.00

***\*DEADLINE for ads: The first of the month for that month's issue.***

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

