



# THE NEWSLETTER

September 2010

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.

## The Super Speaks Out

### This month's questions:

*Has your club understood the challenges you and your staff have faced this year?  
If you need to renovate any turf areas, what are your recovery strategies?*

**Pat Daly, CGCS**  
**Framingham Country Club**

My club has been very understanding this past summer. Most have home lawns and had water restricted by their towns which helped out. We worked at keeping the lines of communication open to let them know what we were dealing with. I am fortunate to have a very hard working staff so they knew we were giving our best effort to keep the course alive under some very difficult weather conditions.

We have been aerifying since September started. I'm very lucky that the damage was kept isolated mostly to collars, where double cutting compacted them and caused some thinning. Tees and approaches were aerified the first two weeks of this month (fairways were aerified in the spring) and we begin our drill and fill and core aerification program on greens starting the end of September. We will then aggressively overseed our collars and continue to incorporate seed into the fall to increase our bentgrass populations. It should be a busy fall.

**David Donahue**  
**Long Meadow Golf Club**

I have found that almost, let me repeat, almost 95 % of my members understand and have voiced their condolences to me this year because of the weather, but it's the 10% that I have to spoon feed information constantly to help them understand what is going on and either they don't want to listen, are too stupid to understand (trust me I have dumbed it down for many) or just enjoy having something to complain about and use it to flap their lips about. I think it's the last one if you want my opinion. Those 10% really made this year one for the books. Other than that group my members are great.

My recovery on greens was raising the HOC for a little while, overseeding (which was going to happen anyway) and solid tining any areas of poa that thinned out. Some low spots on my fairways had been scalded by the July rain so we spot aerified, overseeded, topdressed, and fed them a little bit extra. I wish it was as easy as that to help my 10% see the light. I guess we all have our 10% to deal with. It could be worse.

**Michael Rose**  
**Belmont Country Club**

Here at Belmont CC, our members have been very understanding of the difficult conditions this summer presented. Overall they have been very complimentary of the conditions we have been able to maintain. Our main focus this fall will be to re-sod some bunker faces which burned out during August and to aerate and overseed several fairways that were hit hard by summer patch disease. We have added a little additional money to our grounds budget to cover the cost of the recovery.

**Michael Stachowicz**  
**Dedham Country and Polo Club**

1. Golfers have been very understanding this year. The difficulties of this year resonated with people not in the business as their lawns suffered far more than the golf course. Another big help was from the USGA who did a great job of publicizing the challenges across the country at golf courses. Weather made headlines everywhere all season long starting with the floods in March and continuing with the record number of 90+ degree days to date.

*continued on page 2*

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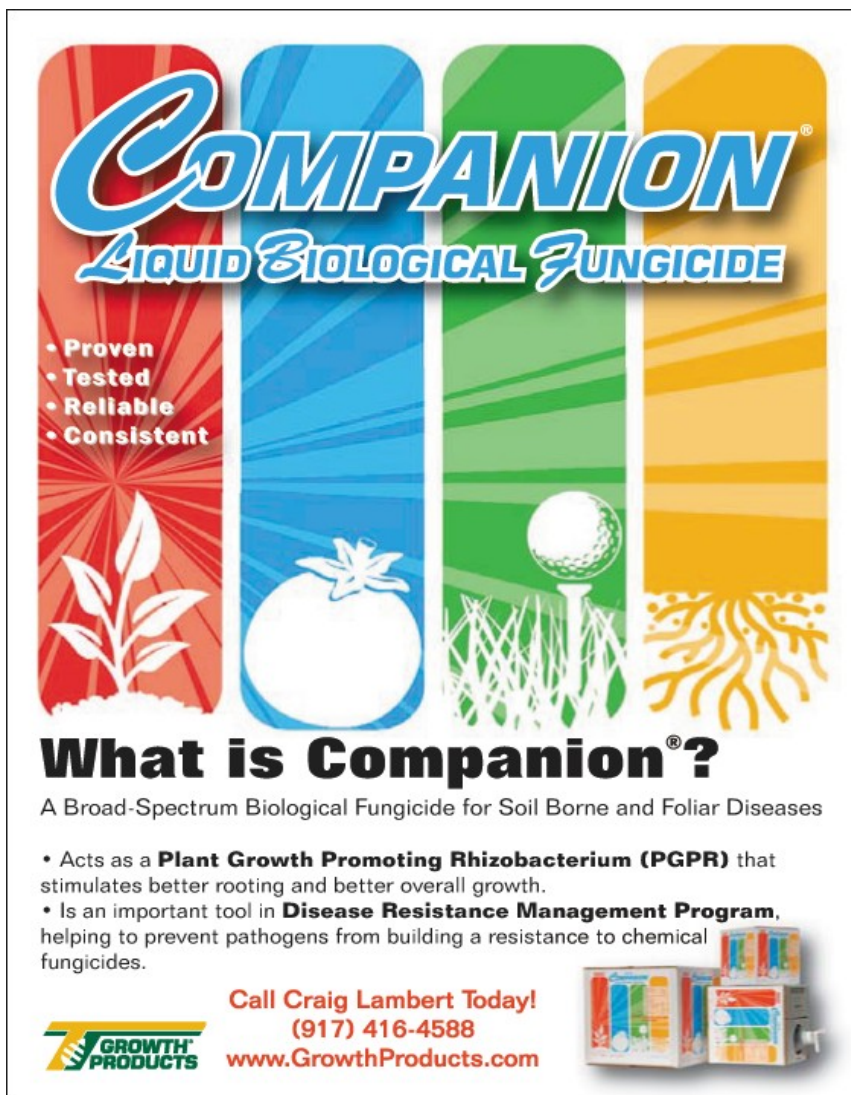
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## Super Speaks Out - continued from page 1

2. The only places we had damage were on some green expansions that were only a few years old. We raised them back up to collar height and they actually recovered through August. These areas do not quite have the soil structure that the rest of the greens do and that is why they declined. We will be working to modify those soil areas with aeration and top-dressing so they can be as healthy as the rest of the putting green acreage. In addition, there will be a little tree work for some sun and air circulation. I guess these are really prevention strategies more than recovery strategies. ♦

***“Golfers have been very understanding this year. The difficulties of this year resonated with people not in the business as their lawns suffered far more than the golf course.”***

***Michael Stachowicz  
Dedham Country &  
Polo Club***




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# President's Message

It's raining as I write this month's President's Message and my staff is trying to get the golf course cut prior to heavy rain entering our area from the south. What's not happening here at Framingham today is our scheduled Drill and Fill on greens. I have 24 pallets of bagged sand in my shop with another 12 scheduled for delivery later today. This officially puts the tag of lousiest season of all time on the summer of 2010 for me.

What is going on behind the scenes though is something that we often don't consider. The contractor I am using now has to juggle their schedule to fit my greens in. Most likely they have others, maybe you, scheduled later in the week for green, tee, or fairway aerification. The rain that is making my members happy (the greens are always the best all year the weekend before aerification) is bound to cause delays farther down the line.

For many of our Friends and Affiliates this is nothing new for the 2010 season. It's been tough for them as well with increased competition caus-

ing many of them to work harder to make ends meet and match what they have sold in years past. I ask that you continue to support those who support our Association. Dave Wallace, the Affiliate Trustee for GCSANE, has included an informative article about how to have a beneficial relationship with your suppliers. It's a must read for all Superintendents (and Assistants) out there.

Some things you should know about over the coming months:

- It's never too early to start thinking about nominating a worthy member for the 2011 Distinguished Service Award. Please review the notification in the newsletter and send your nomination to Membership Chairman Rich Gagnon.
- Our next golf event is the Member-Guest on October 18 at Charles River. It's a can't miss event as Paul Blanus and his staff are sure to have The River in great shape for us.

- The Assistant Superintendent initiation has been waived again for 2010. The Board believes that this Association offers each Assistant an avenue for education and builds camaraderie for their future as Golf Course Superintendents. Membership applications can be found on the website under the "Membership" tab or by calling Sharon. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Assistant Superintendent Tournament is being held at Franklin Country Club on October 20 where Trent Lynch assists Mike Luccini.

As always, special thanks to Julie Heston for all her hard work on making *The Newsletter* happen. Until next month, may the simple pleasures of life including good friends, family, health, happiness and peace be with you and your families. ❖

Patrick Daly, CGCS  
GCSANE President

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## **GCSANE Member/Guest Tournament**

**Monday, October 18, 2010**

**Charles River Country Club**

**Host Superintendent: Paul Blanus**

Two-Man teams will compete for gross and net prizes.  
A member may bring three guests, but foursomes must play as two-man teams.

**Cost is \$240 per two-man team.**

### Schedule:

10:30 am: Registration and Lunch  
12:00 pm: Shotgun Start  
5:00 pm: Cocktail reception, dinner and prizes

**Deadline for Entries is Wednesday, October 13, 2010. Field is limited to 124 players. Applications will be processed in the order they are received. Premier golf events that may oversell will be waitlisted by regular meeting attendance. The outgoing message will reflect availability as the field fills. Contact Sharon Brownell for more information 1-800-833-4451.**

## **Golf Quiz:**

What do over 200 New England Golf Course  
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**Answer: Their source for consistent quality and value when ordering USGA soils.**

# Using Your Affiliate Members Effectively

By Dave Wallace

Having spent a large portion of my professional life playing in the golf supply arena, I thought I'd share some thoughts and observations.

A clear communication to your vendor as to when it is convenient to interact is important. Some superintendents find it disruptive to be disturbed by unannounced visits at certain (or any) times of the day. This should be articulated not necessarily just by a sign so your supplier knows when you find it convenient for an appointment. This can help avoid awkward interaction when it is truly inconvenient to spare some time and will help your supplier understand your relationship. It is just as disruptive for the affiliate to waste time as it is for you.

Affiliates can and should be used as an information source. They are visiting lots of golf courses on a daily basis and can give you an overview of some of the challenges other peers are experiencing. This shouldn't be confused with gossip, which I consider truly unproductive. If, however, you are having a particular challenge, your affiliate may have already seen the problem several times and can give you valuable input as to other's experi-

ences attempting to deal with the same situation.

Affiliates are also a source of information about new products or other's experiences with established products you've not yet tried. This can certainly increase your odds of success when you are considering a change in your maintenance program.

In the past, I've noticed there can be an assumption that a product is ready on the shelf when it is needed. This isn't necessarily always true. An old friend once told me of the 7 P's ( Proper prior planning prevents pathetically poor performance). If you have a capital improvement project, however large or small in scope, lining up mix, seed or sod early can help avoid some potential pitfalls. When there is high disease pressure at your course, assume it's happening everywhere. A sales rep is certainly aware of the crisis but can only be in one place at a time. Some communication with your rep about inventory management (yours and theirs) can help make a crisis more manageable.

If an affiliate is calling on you, chances are he or she is calling on others that are in close geographic proximity. Those folks are likely deal-

ing with the same micro climate and other challenges as you. Just touching base to get a lay of the land can be quite useful. If you now know of several others that are experiencing similar issues the opportunity for comparing notes presents itself. Your affiliate can be a good set of eyes and ears for you.

Always remember your suppliers are out there doing the same thing as you – trying to make a living in a difficult industry. The expectations of players and members often are unrealistic. These expectations, coupled with the fact that members are generally uneducated in turfgrass management, just add to the difficult job of the golf course superintendent. Articulate your pressures and expectations to your suppliers. If they are to be utilized as a problem solving tool, an appointment is critical for you both so you both have time to prepare for your meeting. Having time to discuss and show your concerns will lead to a quicker and more thorough solution. Utilizing your affiliate members as an integral part of your management and information system might just make your job a little easier. ♦

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# BORDEN LAUNCHES NEW PRODUCT

As the nights get cooler and the days get shorter, it's time to think about 2011 and budget preparations. Hopefully, it has been a successful golf season at your facility and you are finally getting a break from syringing, and praying your water source will be adequate to finish the year.

The Borden Company has been very active as well this year. In our 49 years of providing quality lime applications to over 300 golf facilities we are expanding our product line to include a native, white bunker sand. We have access to a sand source that is local to Massachusetts, falls within the USGA sieve recommendations, and has a color similar to silica sand.

This white angular sand is available in 4 different consistencies - All figures are % Retained (Cumulative):

Sieve	Washed Sand*	C-33*	Bunkerwhite*	Bunkerwhite-Processed*
16 Mesh	13.9	14.1	11.1	11.1
20 Mesh	34	37.2	32.3	32.3
30 Mesh	56.1	60.1	54.6	54.6
40 Mesh	75.5	78.9	73.3	73.3
50 Mesh	88.6	90.7	86.2	86.2
70 Mesh	95.3	96.7	93.9	93.9
100 Mesh	97.7	98.6	97.1	97.1
140 Mesh	98.5	99.1	98.2	98.2
200 Mesh	98.9	99.3	98.8	98.8
-200 Mesh	1.1	0.7	1.2	1.2

We at The Borden Company have reached out to Paul Miller, CGCS, a forty-year retired golf course superintendent, to help us evaluate this new product. Paul was immediately impressed with the angular distribution of the particles and was quick to point out that all four samples fell in the low to high 90's cumulative in the 16 (1mm) to 60 (.25mm) mesh sieve range. We are presently looking for interested golf facilities to investigate and try this product. According to Paul, it is difficult to evaluate from a sample of how the sand will perform until actually in a bunker. However, to quote Paul, "the particle shape and with better than 70% of the product in the 40 mesh range I would find it hard to believe that there would be many embedded (plugged) lies."

The Borden Company is excited about this new product and look forward to continuing to serve the golf course industry. We would be happy to send samples of the sands to prospective customers and interested parties.



**Jack Borden**  
The Borden Company  
114 Summer Street  
Maynard, MA 01754  
978-897-2571

**Paul Miller, CGCS**  
1 Leicester Road  
Marblehead, MA 01945  
781-258-1700  
paulmiller924@verizon.net



# Call for Nominations - 2011 GCSANE Distinguished Service Award

By Rich Gagnon

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England (GCSANE) annually selects an individual or individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession. This is your chance to nominate a fellow GCSANE member that you feel is worthy of the Distinguished Service Award for the year 2011. 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 2011. Nominations must be received by **December 1, 2010**.

Submit nominations to:  
Rich Gagnon  
Membership Chair, GCSANE  
Segregansett Country Club  
85 Gulliver St.  
Taunton, MA, 02780  
sccturf@hotmail.com

## 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**

**2010- Brian Cowan**



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# GCSANE Meeting Results

**September 29, 2010**  
**Team of Two Tournament**  
**Franklin Park Golf Club**  
**Host: Russell Heller, CGCS**

**Low Gross: 70**  
**Garrett Whitney / Ernie Ketchum**

**2nd Low Gross: 71**  
**Mike Poch / Jason Kennedy**

**Low Net: 58**  
**Kevin Osgood / Dave Stowe**

**2nd Low Net: 61**  
**Lou Bettencourt / Mike Parks**

**3rd Low Net: 62**  
**Dave Mucciarone / Chris Donadio**

**4th Low Net: 62**  
**Joe Piana / Ed Eardley**

## **Closest to the pins:**

**Hole 4: Mike Poch, 6 feet,**  
**Hole 8: Bob Barnicle, 30 inches**  
**Hole 13: Nat Binns, 3 inches**  
**Hole 15: Joe Piana, 10 feet**  
**Long Drive: Bob Dembek**



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<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page ( <i>vertical; 7.5" wide x 10" deep</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 760.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1080.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1440.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2040.00

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

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our condolences are extended to Greg and Celeste Misodoulakis and family on the passing of their son Gregory Misodoulakis on September 3, 2010. Memorial gifts may be given to the Gregory G. Misodoulakis Memorial Scholarship, c/o Apponequet Regional High School Guidance Department, 100 Howland Road, Lakeville, MA 02347. Please make checks payable to FLRSD with Gregory Misodoulakis' name on the memo line.

Moffett Turf Equipment wanted to announce that their Equipment brands will now be available to all Municipal customers for purchase on the new MA State Contract FAC-71 for Turf & Grounds Equipment beginning September 1, 2010.

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.

### **Free Video by PACE Turf Explains the Down and Dirty of Aeration**

To golfers, "aeration" is the dirtiest of words. For superintendents, it is the practice that draws the most golfer complaints and the greatest need to explain what aeration is and why it is so necessary. "[Aeration: A Breath of Fresh Air for Greens](#)," a new video from [PACE Turf](#), helps you explain to golfers what aeration is, why it is performed and how it benefits not only turf, but also the game of golf. The video features plant pathologist Dr. Larry Stowell and is available for free on YouTube.

The seven-minute video is the latest in a new series of golfer education videos that PACE Turf has offered at no charge to the turf management community. The videos offer clear, concise and science-based explanations of topics that affect golfers, such as aeration and the role of hot weather in turf damage. A video to be posted

later this season will address frost delays.

"Our goal with these videos is to provide superintendents the scientific backup they need to communicate with lay audiences, such as golfers, managers and greens committees," said Dr. Stowell, director of PACE Turf. "Aeration is a hot topic right now. It's such an important practice for maintaining turf health, proper air and water movement through the soil and surface firmness. This video shows golfers that the short-term disruption in their play is well worth the longer-term benefits to the turf."

The PACE Turf video is suitable for viewing at greens committee meetings, in club houses or other areas frequented by golf patrons. It can be viewed on [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) at [this link](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=va98slUEjFw) or <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=va98slUEjFw>. The video can also be placed on superintendent association websites or golf course websites by clicking on the "embed" button that appears underneath the video on YouTube. PACE Turf's other golfer education and superintendent education videos can be viewed on the [PACE Turf YouTube Channel](#) or <http://www.youtube.com/user/paceturf>.

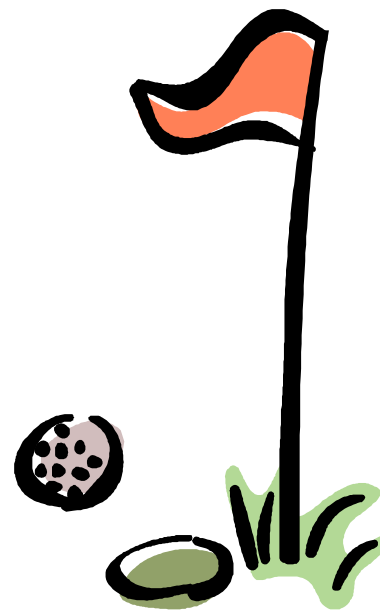
PACE Turf is a membership organization that provides breaking research news, information and expert advice on its [website](http://www.paceturf.org) [www.paceturf.org](http://www.paceturf.org). The mission of PACE Turf is to generate and share independent and objective agronomic information for turf professionals, so they may develop management programs that are effective, practical and scientifically sound.

## CALENDAR

**October 18:**  
**GCSANE Event**  
**Member/Guest Tournament**  
Charles River Country Club  
Host: Paul Blanus

**October 20:**  
**GCSANE Event**  
**Assistants Tournament**  
Franklin Country Club  
Host: Michael Luccini, CGCS

**November 1:**  
**GCSANE Monthly Meeting**  
**9-Hole Meeting**  
Mount Pleasant Golf Club  
Host: Jack Hassett



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Root zone mixes, divot mixes, topdressing blends, bunker sands, cart path mixes, bridging stone, & hardscape supplies. Charlie Downing, Rob Fitzpatrick - (800) 4-AA-WILL

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Tim Gould, Guy Travers  
(800) 313-3320, (978) 388-5110

## Ahearn Equipment

460 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562  
Full service equipment dealer. Kubota tractors, Stihl power equipment, Agrimetall, Exmark, ASV. Mike DiRico - (508) 873-4363

## Allen's Seed Store, Inc.

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Gregg Allen - (800) 527-3898  
Michelle Maltais - (401) 835-0287

## The Andersons Technologies, Inc.

26 Waite Ave., S. Hadley, MA 01075  
Manufacturer of fertilizer & control products.  
Rick Forni - (413) 534-8896

## Atlantic Silica, Inc.

P.O. Box 10, Enfield N.S. B2T 1C6 Canada  
(902) 883-3020

## A-OK Turf Equipment Inc.

1357 Main St., Coventry, RI 02816-8435  
Lastec, Tycrop, Blec, Wiedenmann, Therrien, Graden, Sweep & Fill, Baroness, and used equipment.  
Mike Cornicelli - (401) 826-2584

## Barenbrug USA

Great in Grass  
166 Juniper Drive, North Kingstown, RI 02852  
Bruce Chapman, Territory Manager  
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## BASF Turf & Ornamental

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"We don't make the turf. We make it better."  
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60 Stergis Way, Dedham, MA 02026  
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(800) 225-8006

## The Cardinals, Inc.

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Golf course and landscape supplies.  
John Callahan, Dennis Friel - (800) 861-6256

## Cavichchio Landscape Supply, Inc.

111 Codjer Lane, Sudbury, MA 01776  
Annuals, perennials, garden mums, ground covers, loam, & mulch.  
Darren Young - (978) 443-7177

## Cedarlawn Tree Service, Inc.

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## Country Club Enterprises

PO Box 670, 29 Tobey Rd., W. Wareham, MA 02676  
Club Car golf carts, Carryall utility vehicles.  
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## DAF Services, Inc.

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Irrigation pumps - sales & service; northeast warehouse/distributor for ISCO HDPE pipe & fittings. Richard Young - (860) 623-5207

## DGM Systems

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Your New England specialty products distributor: Reelcraft, POK, Allen, Kenyon, Echo, Carhart Office - (401) 647-0550  
Manny Mihailides - (401) 524-8999  
David Mihailides - (401) 742-1177

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Planning to proposal to completion.  
Golf construction and irrigation consulting.  
Emergency irrigation repairs.  
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Irrigation services to golf courses throughout New England. Gary Fialkosky - (617) 293-8632

## GPS New England Mapping

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Precise irrigation & drainage as-builts; wire tracking & electrical repairs.  
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## Gustavo Preston Service Company

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Spring start ups, winterization and 24 hour emergency service for all irrigation pumps.  
Ed Ceaser (978) 250-3333 or

## Harrell's

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## International Golf Construction Co.

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(508) 428-3022

## Irrigation Consulting, Inc.

4 Hotel Place, Pepperell, MA 01463  
Professional services firm providing golf course irrigation design and consulting services.  
Dedicated to the proper design of irrigation systems and related components with water conservation and energy efficiency as focal points. Aaron Gagne - (978) 433-8972 x23

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Irrigation consultation, design, and system evaluation. Bob Healey, ASIC, CID - (508) 653-0625

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Distributor of tires for lawn & garden, trucks, cars, industrial equipment, and golf cars.  
Gerry Jones - (508) 755-5255

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Complete line of golf course accessories; Standard, Par Aide, Eagle One.  
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Your one source tree care company. Our certified arborists specialize in plant health care as well as tree pruning and technical removals.  
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Asphalt paving of cart paths, walkways, parking areas; imprinted asphalt.  
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## Miller Golf Construction

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## Moffett Turf Equipment

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New and Pre-owned Equipment / Sales / Parts / Service JACOBSEN - NEARY TECHNOLOGY - HUSQVARNA - TURFCO - SMITHCO - BUFFALO TURBINE - PAR AIDE - REDEXIM - TRU TURF - GOLF LIFT - GANDY - SDI - BROYHILL - RYAN - PROGRESSIVE

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207 N. Main St., Uxbridge, MA 01569  
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Distributor of Express Dual and Anglemaster Speed Roller and Converted Organics a liquid compost & fertilizer from food waste  
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Ed Downing - 978-230-2300

## NMP Golf Construction Corp.

25 Bishop Ave., Ste. A-2, Williston, VT 05495  
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## Norfolk Power Equipment, Inc.

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## Northeast Golf Company

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Robert McNeil (401) 667-4994

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We make you look good!  
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Jim Kelsey - (800) 247-2326

## Putnam Pipe Corp.

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P. O. Box 1168, Tift Rd., Slatersville, RI 02876  
USGA recommended topdressing, root-zone mixes, compost, pea stone, angular & traditional bunker sand.  
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Cell: 860-908-7414

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Foxboro, Wellesley, Fall River  
Andy Felix - (508) 543-5644

## Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.

P. O. Box 167, Wood River Junction, RI 02894  
Chris Beasley - (800) 556-6985  
Joe Farina (401) 524-5280

## TurfLinks, Inc.

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"Wholesale distributor of turf products"

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## Philip Wogan & George F. Sargent, Jr.

17 Walker Rd., Topsfield, MA 01983  
Golf course architects. (978) 887-3672