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.

President's Message

It is with a heavy heart that I write this President's message. Recently, we lost a fellow Superintendent, Past Board member, friend and huge supporter of the Association. We all know about Dave Comee and the tragic loss to his family. I was able to attend Dave's memorial service at Winchendon Golf Club on October 16th. The service was held on the 11th green at the club that Dave managed for over 30 years. It was a crisp, cool, fall morning with a calming silence in the air. The crew had arranged mowers around and on the green. A utility cart filled with flowers and photos was parked on a knoll that Dave once drove as he set up his course for the day. There were seventy golf carts lined up on the hill overlooking the 11th green with distraught golfers remembering the man that gave his everything for their enjoyment. There were approximately four to five hundred people in attendance, remembering Dave and how he had touched all their lives in some way.

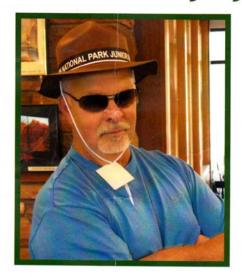
Mike Hermanson, his lifelong friend and counterpart orchestrated the day. Many others stood up and shared their stories of Dave. His wife Kathy spoke and gave us a little insight into their personal lives. She spoke about the wonderful times they had, the memorable time with their children,

Dave's love for his dogs, his passion for the game of golf and the Winchendon Golf Course. She gave us all a glimmer into the man, the husband, and the father that they loved and would miss dearly. He was an extraordinary man that touched many lives and we would all be so lucky to be revered as he was.

The service ended with a 21 golf ball salute and as the echo of tee shots bounced off the brightly colored fall leaves, my eyes filled with emotion for my friend Dave. I personally will miss Dave's quickwitted sense of humor, his joking about his "Winchendon Bentgrass" (poa!) and his dedication to this Association. Dave, wherever you are, we miss you! Keep smiling buddy and keep them all wondering what you're up to! •

Jason Adams President, GCSANE

A Celebration of Life



Dave Comee

1951-2011

October 16, 2011 Nine o'clock 11th Green The Winchendon School Golf Course

"The mountains are calling and I must go" - John Muir

Father



Husband and Best Friend



"I asked for miracles and found you...."

A Mountain of a Man.... A Man of the Mountains

Introduction - Mike Hermanson
Welcome - John Kerney
Comments and reading - Pam Blair
Perhaps Love Performed By Debbie Maloney,
Written By John Denver
Remembering Dave Comee - Mike Hermanson
Another Perspective - Jim Fitzroy
Other Comments— Organized by Mike Hermanson
Comments - Kathy Comee
In This Life - Colin Raye
Blessing - Pam Blair
Amazing Grace - Performed by Patrick Tevlin
21 Golf Ball Salute
Final comments, Mike Hermanson

"There is a destiny
That makes us brothers
None goes his way alone
All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own..... "Edwin Markham



"Dogs are our link to paradise.... To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring--it was peace."

Milan Kundera



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Julie Heston

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Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England

Meeting Announcement

Wednesday November 9, 2011
Needham Golf Club
Host- Tim Hood, Superintendent

Reservations required by Friday, November 4th Nine Holes - Cost \$35, \$20 for Retirees

8:30 am: Registration

9:00 am: Shotgun

11:30 am: Meeting and Education

12:30 pm: Lunch and Prizes

Golf Format: Four man scramble, Call in your own team, If you do not have a team you will be assigned one.

Education: Dr. Pat Vittum "Pest Management Update"



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The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England Hires an Association Manager

By Michael Stachowicz, GCSANE Vice President and Association Manager Search Committee Chair

After a four month search process, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England has hired Don Hearn, Certified Golf Course Superintendent as Association Manager to replace Sharon Brownell who is retiring after twelve years at the association.

Hearn has been a long time member of the golf and greenkeeping community with well-regarded stints at Weston Golf Club and Vesper Country Club. Hearn has also been a leader in golf course maintenance having served as President of both GCSANE and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. In addition he has served on various state wide and national committees for the green industry and golf.

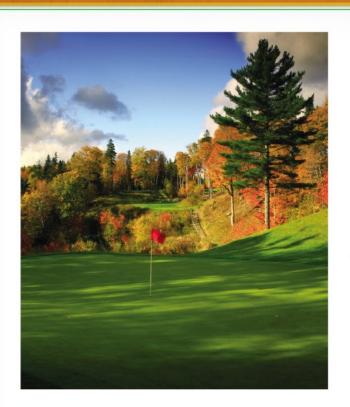
While interviewing the candidates, it became clear that Don has the history, the understanding, and the passion to serve this association and help it improve. We will see his mark immediately with outreach, communication, and participation of members, new members, and affiliates. Don has always been the unofficial ambassador of the association... almost everyone in GCSANE has a story from their first meeting about how Don has introduced himself to them and made the association meetings feel that much more

welcoming.

The search committee, comprised of Mark Gagne, Scott Lagana, Jim Fitzroy, Bob Ruszala, and Chris Peterson, all voted unanimously to recommend Mr. Hearn to the Board of Directors. The Board then approved the recommendation unanimously as well.

Don will start on November 1st working with Sharon until the middle of December. This will give Don an opportunity to learn the job's details from Sharon, giving the association as smooth a transition as possible.

Our association doesn't really have an official mission statement, but we came up with one for this job search. I would like to close this update with it because it sums up the goals and direction of your Board and your new Association Manager: "The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, founded in 1924, seeks to foster camaraderie among those who care for golf courses; further their education, offer professional development, employment support, and support them in their family life. GCSANE is a leader in the Massachusetts golf industry in government relations, environmental stewardship, research support, and communication."





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SODCO History

An Affiliate Press Release By Pat Hogan

Located in Slocum, Rhode Island, SODCO was started in 1981. Situated on 500 acres of some of the finest farmland in New England, SODCO has grown into one of the largest sod producers in the area. Along with Four Star Farms Inc., our 250-acre sister farm in Northfield, Ma., SODCO has become known as the producer of "New England's Finest Sod".

SODCO has been participating in various community projects over the years. In our local community, SODCO donated sod to URI for their field hockey field ands also regularly donates to South County Habitat for Humanity. Through out Southern New England, SODCO has worked with the New England Sports Turf Managers on four different "Field of Dreams" projects. We have also participated in "Extreme Makeover" shows in Peabody, Ma., Medfield, Ma., and Warwick, RI. "Homes for Our Troops" has been another project on which Sodco has worked. For the past 25 years SODCO has supplied the sod to various "This Old House" projects. In 2002 the Southern RI Conservation District presented SODCO with the Outstanding Conservation Farmer award for outstanding accomplishments in the conservation of soils, water and related resources. At the 2005 New England Regional Turf Show, Pat Hogan was awarded the inaugural award for Sports Turf Vendor of the Year by the New England Sports Turf Managers Association. Linda Tucker, owner, was named RI Local Agriculturist for 2007 by the Grange.

Automation of the farm was taken to a new level in 2007 when SODCO purchased the Trebro Autostack harvester. It is the only one in New England and one of the 220 in the world. Not only does it provide a more consistent, uniform and neater looking pallet, it is very fast.

In 2009 with the downturn in the economy (and particularly building) it did not make good business sense to have 750 acres of sod. After much deliberation, SODCO decided to diversify by adding corn and rye seed to their production. As a result, **Blazin' Corn** was born. We now grow about 150 acres of corn for pellet stoves and boilers. The corn is harvested, dried and bagged on site. The farm is now heated with a corn boiler and the oil truck has not made a delivery here in two years.



autostack harvester

Our main focus is sod and will continue to be so. The corn and rye seed are secondary. The upside to the slow economy is that by reducing our sod acreage, we are able to rotate the crops and reinvigorate the fields with important cover crops. As a result, we are able to produce a better, younger, healthier sod for our customers.

The fall of 2010 saw a change in managers at SODCO with the hiring of John Eidson. John brings an extensive knowledge of plant and soil science as well as many years experience growing turf grass. He is known in the golf industry through Fair Play Turf Services, where he is a partner.

Due to a shortage of greens height bentgrass in New England, SODCO in the fall of 2011 planted New Penn, which should be ready for mid-spring of 2012. In addition to the greens height bent, SODCO also has fairway bent, shortcut blue and turf type tall fescue for the rough.

The SODCO team has some of the best drivers in the industry. Most have been with the company for 20 years or more. They are very familiar with the intricacies of sod deliveries to difficult places. Installation services are available for both "Big Rolls" and pallets. Our salesmen and office staff are very experienced and look forward to making your sod purchases as pleasant and efficient as possible. Our goal is to supply the customer with the finest quality product at a competitive price in a pleasant, reliable and honest manner. We look forward to serving you. •



storage, drying and bagging operation for the corn fuel



combine



newly seeded bentgrass

Send your BEST photos

Please send your photos to imartin101@gmail.com. I have the ability to scan photos for those who might have older material that cannot be sent via email. They can be mailed to 70 Green Lodge Street, Canton, MA 02021.

New Segregansett tee marker???

Photo Submitted by: Rich Gagnon Golf Course Superintendent



UMass Extension Symposium: Topics in Sustainable Landscape Design & Management

Date: Thursday, December 1, 2011

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Sturbridge Host Hotel, 366 Main Street,

Sturbridge, MA 01566

Current trends increasingly stretch the boundaries of the traditional landscape picture of lawn areas interspersed with tidy ornamental plantings. Designers are challenged to meet sustainability and management reduction goals for residential, commercial and recreational spaces, as well as public and private grounds, while simultaneously creating a functional aesthetic. Following the design and establishment phase, managers are faced with the task of maintaining the appearance of each landscape with fewer inputs and an eye towards natural resource conservation and minimal environmental impact. In meeting these challenges, there is a particular need for proper specification and establishment of plant material to increase the potential for positive project outcomes and long-term success.

Please join us for a symposium that will introduce the principles of sustainability and highlight the importance of proper specification and selection of plant materials for lawns, meadows, conservation areas, and sites that support grazing as well as the impact of input reduction for management of these areas. Specific topics covered will include:

- Evaluation and Use of Composts
- Turfgrass Selection and Establishment
- Turfgrass Alternatives
- Meadows and High-Mown Areas
- Pastures and Conservation Areas
- Management of Invasive and Undesirable Plants

Landscape designers, architects, managers, technicians, business owners, public & private grounds personnel and all others interested in sustainable landscape design and maintenance are encouraged to attend. **Pre-registration is required due to limited seating.** Pesticide and professional certification credits will be offered.

For complete information about this program and online or mail registration, refer to:

http://extension.umass.edu/turf/events/suscon_2011

Alternatively, contact Mary Owen at 508-892-0382; mowen@umext.umass.edu or Jason Lanier at 413-545-2965; jdlanier@umext.umass.edu

Sponsorship and limited exhibition opportunities are available, please inquire. ❖

Mendenhall and MacCurrach Award winners selected GCSAA awards 13 collegiate scholarships

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has awarded scholarships to 13 college students as part of the GCSAA Scholars Program administered by GCSAA's philanthropic organization, The Environmental Institute for Golf.

Michael McNamara is the first place winner in the competition. He receives a \$6,000 scholarship and is honored as the Mendenhall Award Winner. McNamara is from Lutz, Fla., and is a student at Penn State University.

The second place winner, Royal Healy, receives a \$5,000 award and is designated as the recipient of the Allan MacCurrach Award. The MacCurrach Award is funded by the PGA Tour. Healy is from from Marshfield, Vt., and attends the University of Massachusetts.

Both McNamara and Healy also will each receive an all-expense-paid trip to the 2012 GCSAA Education Conference (Feb. 27-March 2) and Golf Industry Show (Feb. 29-March 1) in Las Vegas.

Wayne Shane Lee, an international student at Penn State University, was awarded a \$2,000 Ambassador Award. Other recipients include:

- Clinton Steketee, Michigan State University, \$2,250
- Peter White III, University of Massachusetts, \$2,250
- Tyler Manly, Michigan State University, \$2,000
- Tyler Patton, Penn State University, \$2,000
- Dustin Bernau, University of Wisconsin, \$750
- Anthony Minniti, University of Connecticut, \$750
- Matt Carstens, Washington State University, \$500
- Colton Fees, Oklahoma State University, \$500
- Jake Halak, Ohio State University, \$500
- Jason Von Engen, Iowa State University, \$500

The GCSAA Scholars Program, funded by the Robert Trent Jones Endowment, was developed to recognize outstanding students planning careers in golf course management. Winners were selected to receive scholarship awards based on the final ranking in a competition judged by GCSAA's Scholarship Committee. Factors considered were academic achievement, potential to become a leading professional, employment history, extracurricular activities, and recommendations from a superintendent with whom the student has worked and a current academic advisor.

Applicants must be enrolled in a recognized undergraduate program in a major field related to golf/turf management and be a GCSAA member. Undergraduate applicants must have successfully completed at least 24 credit hours or the equivalent of one year of full-time study in an appropriate major.

The Mendenhall Award is given in memory of the late Chet Mendenhall, a pioneer in the golf course management industry. A native of Kingman, Kan., Mendenhall's upbringing on an Oklahoma farm served him well. His career in working with the land began in 1920 as an employee of the Wichita (Kan.) Parks and Forestry Department, where he designed and built his first course despite

having no previous experience with the game.

In 1928, Mendenhall accepted an invitation to become superintendent at the Wichita Country Club. It was during his tenure there that Mendenhall assisted California-based golf course architect Billy Bell in designing and constructing a new course. Smitten by the process, Mendenhall entered night school to learn surveying, drafting, bookkeeping and other related subjects.

He moved in 1934 to the Kansas City, Mo., area, where he served as superintendent of the Mission Hills Country Club until his retirement in 1965. Mendenhall was a charter member of GCSAA and his service to his profession included serving as a director of GCSAA from 1940-1946, vice president in 1947 and president in 1948. He was honored by the association with its Distinguished Service Award in 1986, and by the USGA in 1990 with its Green Section Award. Mendenhall passed away in 1991 and was inducted into the Kansas Golf Hall of Fame in 1996.

Internationally recognized for his expertise in the turf management field, Allan MacCurrach began his career as a golf course superintendent at Valley Country Club in

continued on page 8



Bayer Superintendent Grant Program - Apply Today

Bayer Environmental Science has teamed with the Environmental Institute for Golf to send five golf course superintendents to the 2012 GCSAA Education Conference and the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas. This annual event features the most comprehensive education program and trade show in the industry. Bayer and the EIFG want to make sure you have an opportunity to participate. Apply online today http://enews.gcsaa.org/t.asp?

S=10&ID=5398&NL=1965&N=6367&SI=2550338&URL=htt p%3A%2F%2Fwww2%2Egcsaa%2Eorg%2Fconference% 2Feducation%2Fgrantapplication%2Easpx>

If you are a golf course superintendent and have not attended the last two GCSAA Education Conferences and Golf Industry Shows, held in San Diego in 2010 and Orlando 2011, you are eligible to apply for this program. Each grant will cover:

- expenses for airfare
- hotel accommodations for five nights
- conference full-pack registration
- two education seminars
- \$200 spending money

You can apply today online http://enews.gcsaa.org/t.asp? S=10&ID=5398&NL=1965&N=6367&SI=2550338&URL=http https://www2%2Egcsaa%2Eorg%2Fconference%2Feducation%2Fgrantapplication%2Easpx or call us at 800 -472-7878 to request an application. Applications will be accepted through Oct. 31, 2011. Winners will be selected through a random drawing and notified by November 4. https://www.apsn.gcsaa.org/t.asp?

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your professional development courtesy of the EIFG and Bayer Environmental Science. Apply today!

Source: GCSAA Press Release

GCSAA Scholarships - continued from page 7

Warwick, R.I., in 1962. In 1972, he became the 45th person to receive the title of Certified Golf Course Superintendent from GCSAA. MacCurrach became the PGA Tour's first agronomist in 1974 and played a leading role in establishing the standard of excellence for course conditioning at PGA Tour events. MacCurrach was named senior agronomist in 1988 and in 1994 received the GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award. He passed away in 1997 at the age of 57.

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus golf course management. Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 19,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Find GCSAA on Facebook, follow GCSAA on Twitter, and visit GCSAA at www.gcsaa.org.

The EIFG is a collaborative effort of the environmental and golf communities, dedicated to strengthening the compatibility of golf with the natural environment. The EIFG concentrates on delivering programs and services involving research, education and outreach that communicate the best management practices of environmental stewardship on the golf course. For more on the EIFG, visit www.eifg.org. *

Source: GCSAA Press Release



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GCSANE Tournament Results

October 24, 2011

Jason S. Adams, Host Superintendent
Jon Zolkowski, John Viscariello and Chris Sawyer Assistant Superintendents
2011 Assistant Superintendents Outing
Blue Hill Country Club

1st 73 Brian Pendergast (Wellesley CC) – Alex Brown (Myopia)

2nd 77 Dan Hart (Belmont CC) – Charlie Dickson (Belmont CC)

3rd 79 Brian Daigneau (Framingham CC) – Mike Hughes (Walpole CC)

4th 80 Patrick Manning (Belmont CC) – Glenn Johnson (Dedham Country and Polo)

Longest Drive #12 Bill Nee (River Bend CC)

Closest to the Pin #4 Luke Charette 18'0" (Red Tail GC)

Closest to the Pin #7 Paul French 17'5" (Blue Hill CC)

Closest to the Pin #13 Jon Zolkowski 18'1" (Blue Hill CC)

Closest to the Pin #16 Brian Daigneau 37'1" (Framingham CC)

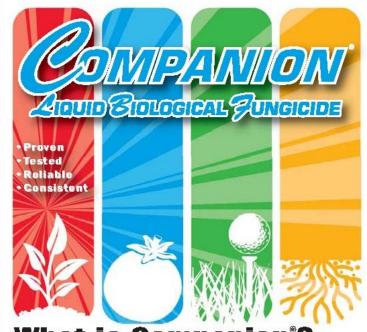
October 12, 2011
GCSANE Member/Guest Tournament
Hopkinton Country Club
Hosts: John O¹Donnell, Director of Agronomy
and
Ryan Gaffey, Superintendent

<u>1st net: 66</u>
Patrick VanVleck, Ken Munice
(winner in match of cards)

2nd net: 66 Matt Lapinski, Steve Coor

3rd net: 67 Matt Berger, Peter Karlson

Longest Drive #4 Rob Yeomans
Closest to the Pin #11 Carl Miner



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□Full Page (vertical; 7.5" wide x 10" deep)	□\$200.00	□\$ 760.00	□\$1080.00	□\$1440.00	□\$2040.00
Non-Member Rates: *All payments mu	st be receive	d in full before	e the ad appear	s in The News	sletter.
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\Box 1/2 page (horizontal; 7.5" wide x 5" deep)	□\$180.00	□\$684.00	□\$972.00	□\$1296.00	□\$1836.00
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DIVOT DRIFT... announcements ... educational seminars ... job opportunities ...tournament results...and miscellaneous items of interest to the membership.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Members:

- Jason Cuthbert, Assistant Superintendent Ferncroft CC
- Matthew Davol, Superintendent, Quaboag CC

Our condolences are extended to the Comee Family on the unexpected passing of David Comee on October 10, 2011. Dave was a friend to all and will be missed by many.

Our condolences are extended to Mike and Anita Kroian on the passing of Anita's father, Henry Pasquazzi, on September 28, 2011.

GCSANE would like to thank the following for hosting and supporting the **Assistant Superintendents Outing** held at Blue Hill Country Club on October 24, 2011.

Superintendent: Jason Adams

Assistant Superintendents: John Zolkowski,

John Viscariello and Chris Sawyer

Thank you to **Tom Brodeur** for speaking that day.

Lunch Sponsor: Tom Irwin

Beverage Cart Sponsor: BASF and John Bresnahan Closest to the Pin Sponsor: Keith Tortorella who spon-

sored three closest to the pins.

Long Drive and Closest to the Pin Sponsor: MTE

1st Annual Greg's Run was a Success

The 1st Annual Greg's Run was held on October 8, 2011 at Apponequet Regional High School. This run/walk event raised \$12,000 from corporate, community and friend sponsorships. The weather was perfect for the 374 runners/walkers that came out for the event. There were also 40 volunteers on hand to help out with the day. The money raised will benefit the **Gregory G. Misodoulakis Memorial Scholarship**, established by his family to honor the memory

of 2010 Apponequet Regional High School graduate Gregory Misodoulakis. Thank you to all that helped support this event!

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. Who said nothing in this world is free? Free advertising to better your company, wow what an offer.

Jeff Urquhart, Editor

CALENDAR

November 9: 9-Hole Meeting with Education

Needham Golf Club Host: Tim Hood

9 Hole Budget Survey



If you'd like to be involved in this year's survey, please email Jeff Urquhart at imartin101@gmail.com.



GCSANE Offers
Website Banner advertising at
www.gcsane.org

The price is \$500 for one year which will be re-occurring annually from your first billing unless otherwise specified.

For more information, please contact Jeff Urquhart at 781-828-2953 or jmartin101@gmail.com

Please Patronize these FRIENDS of the ASSOCIATION

Page 1

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