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GCSAA Names Kevin Doyle as Northeast Field Staff Rep



Kevin Doyle GCSAA Northeast field staff representative

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has selected Kevin Doyle as the association's field staff representative for the Northeast region (New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Ontario) effective March 13. He will be based out of Milford, N.H.

Doyle, a GCSAA Class A member, comes to GCSAA after having served as golf course superintendent at Londonderry (N.H.) Country Club since 2003. During his time, he instituted several facility changes including drainage,

design and grow-in of new golf holes and tees, irrigation improvements, and development of best management practices for minimizing inputs. He also served as superintendent at Amherst (N.H.) Country Club and was an assistant at Green Meadow Golf Club in Hudson, N.Y.

A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1995 with a B.S. in biochemistry, Doyle also earned a master's in business administration from Southern New Hampshire University in 2010. He has authored articles in various trade magazines, including GCSAA's GCM (Doing More with Less: a Statistical Analysis of fertilizer costs, December 2011). Doyle has also volunteered as the facilities director and facilities expansion chair for the Milford Community Athletic Association, the Lowell Professional Hockey Booster Club president and a coach for Kids in Disability Sports (golf).

"We are pleased to have Kevin join the GCSAA team and continue the implementation of the very popular field staff program," said GCSAA President Sandy Queen, CGCS. "Kevin has an impressive background with a great knowledge and understanding of facility management, volunteerism and professional development. He will be a great asset

to GCSAA, and our members and chapters in the Northeast." To assist in the effort of serving members through chapters, GCSAA has continually added resources to facilitate an enhanced relationship between the association and its chapters, including the expansion of the GCSAA field staff program. Initially a pilot program designed to help chapters utilize GCSAA programs and services to a fuller extent, it has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from chapters that are staffed with representatives. These chapters report a greater connection with GCSAA, an enhanced ability to utilize GCSAA programs and services, and access to additional resources to advance chapters in a strategic manner.

In expanding the field staff program, GCSAA divided its chapters into nine regions with plans to place a field staff representative in each. Having resident field staff resources on the ground will help chapters implement programs developed by GCSAA, and will serve as a direct communication link back to GCSAA to share the successful practices chapters have implemented. The program is designed to be mutually beneficial for the association and its chapters.

GCSAA's resident field staff representatives include John Miller, CGCS, in the Great Lakes Region (Kentucky, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio), Brian Cloud in the South Central Region (Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico and Louisiana), Jeff Jensen in the Southwest region of the country (California, Hawaii, Nevada and Arizona), and Ralph Dain in Florida. GCSAA plans to fill the Northwest (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado), the Southeast (Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi) and Mid-Atlantic (Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, Virginia) regions later in 2012; and the Central Plains region (Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Missouri) in 2013.

Source: GCSAA Press Release

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Thoughts From Your Association Manager

Thanks to Bob Ruszala for all the time and effort he put into the Nor'easter Hospitality Room at the GIS in Las Vegas. While most of us take pleasure in seeing old friends and meeting new ones while enjoying the food and beverages, Bob is busy behind the scenes making sure the food, bars, seating, tables, audio visual equipment, signs and other items are ready before the first guest arrives. During the event he's always on the lookout making sure all goes as planned. Thanks to Bob, this event is always a success. Of course, this event wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our neighboring Associations and the companies listed here. To all of them – a sincere thank you!

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Congratulations to Jeff Carlson for being a member of the Gil Hanse Olympic golf course design team. Gil and his partner, Jim Wagner, won the competition to design the course that will host the 2016 Olympic golf venue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Jeff has been a member of the team lending his expertise to the environmental aspect of the project. Jeff is currently the superintendent of the Vineyard Golf Club on Martha's Vineyard and has won many awards for his ability to manage golf course turf in an environmentally friendly way. A couple of Hanse-Wagner projects in this area are the Boston Golf Club in Hingham, MA and the revamp of the TPC of Boston in Norton, MA. One of our past presidents, Bob DiRico, has been associated with Gil Hanse and Jim Wagner for many years and has experienced first-hand the talent of this partnership. Bob was the project manager for the highly acclaimed rework of the North Course of the Los Angeles Country Club and he recently finished as the project manager for the revamp of Waverley Country Club in Portland, OR. Currently, Bob is working his magic in the southern part of the country.

Las Vegas was an exciting place to be for the Golf Industry Show held late February into early March. Personally, I had the opportunity to meet with my counterparts from other Associations from all parts of the country.

Mike Luccini and I will be attending the Chapter Leaders Symposium in Lawrence, KS during the latter part of March. While there we will learn more about Association management and Chapter leadership.

PLEASE – If you change your information, particularly your email address, let me know. It doesn't take that long to drop me a note, call, or send me an email to let me know of any changes in your information. A lot of time and effort is spent by many people to provide to all members the accurate information we would all like to see associated with our names. •

Assistants Corner

By Kevin Banks, AGCS Nantucket Golf Club



Just a few weeks ago, I was given the opportunity to speak to the UMass Turf Club at the Amherst campus. When asked, I contemplated on what topic to discuss. However, after much thought it was only appropriate to do a presentation on the transition from a UMass graduate to a second or first assistant superintendent. The timing was great because a lot of the students in the club were seniors

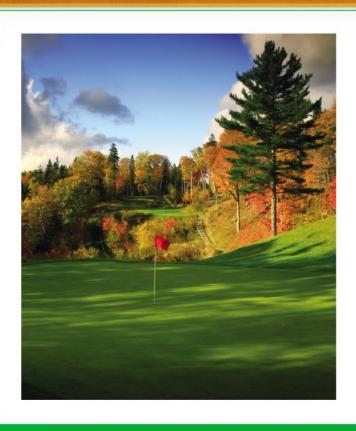
Kevin Banks of the students in the club were seniors who were coming upon graduation.

When organizing my PowerPoint presentation, I was trying to come up with the best advice to offer from what I know now compared to what I knew when attending UMass. While some topics were small, with today's competition at such a high level, I felt obligated to offer my advice. Anything I could offer would really help these students with an easier transition and in the end possibly improve their work ethic as they enter their career.

After introductions were conducted, I was off and running with my discussion. Some topics included interviewing skills and techniques, resume writing, proper work ethic, and the handling of some management skill sets such as hiring and training employees. During the presentation I stressed such issues as being properly dressed, resume appropriate email

address' (john.doe@gmail.com, not dragonboy@gmail.com), showing up early, the importance of networking, and some others just to name a few. One of the more important things I did was getting the group involved in a mock interview where I was the Superintendent and I had to interview some of the students for an Assistant position. I tried to make it as real as possible by asking them how their commute was to the interview followed by more involved with questions such as getting to know their hobbies, potential strengths in their work ethic, and why they would be the best fit for the position. After a few laughs and some great on the spot responses, I was really impressed by how the students were able to handle themselves. I hoped I was able stress the point to be as prepared as possible for an interview and how to answer some tough questions when proposed to them.

Overall, I was thrilled about my experience at UMass. It was great to see how active, organized and professional the Turf Club is. With thirty students from the club in attendance, they were not hesitant to ask questions throughout the presentation and even after it concluded. It shows promise to see how young the club is. They will be electing a new president this month, and I hope the strength of the club and drive of these students continues into the upcoming years with his or hers leadership. •





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UMass Students take 2nd Place out of 87 teams at the GCSAA 18th Annual Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition

The University of Massachusetts Amherst Turf Club sent 9 students to the National Collegiate Turf Bowl competition at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) conference in Las Vegas, NV. This year's event included 87 teams comprised of students from colleges and universities from around the country. One of the UMass teams placed 2nd in the competition, which gave UMass a top three finish in the last three years. Another UMass team placed 11th in the competition, making this the best performance since UMass first started participating in the competition in 2007. UMass also had an additional team made up of one student, who placed 59th out of 87 against teams comprised of 4 students!

The extensive three hour exam tests the students' knowledge in various areas of turfgrass science and management, including turfgrass growth and development, physiology, soils and fertility, pest management, environmental issues, calculations, and business and personnel management. To help prepare for the exam, students sign up for a one-credit course during the fall semester that is focused on these major topics in turfgrass management. The course is organized as a collaborative teaching effort by the UMass Turf Program faculty and staff, including Prasanta Bhowmik, Scott Ebdon, Michelle DaCosta, Geunhwa Jung, Jason Lanier, Randy Prostak, and Pat Vittum.

John Deere Golf sponsored the competition and awarded cash prizes to the turf clubs whose teams finished in the top 10. In addition to cash prizes, a Collegiate Turf Bowl Traveling Trophy was created with the names of the first place team, which this year went to Iowa State University. The UMass Turf Club received \$2,000 for their 2nd place finish.

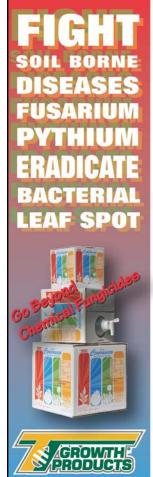
We are all very proud of our students and look forward to continuing the strong tradition of the University of Massachusetts Turf Program.

- ●The 2nd place team included Royal Healy, Edward Coffin, Scott St. Pierre, and Peter White.
- •The 11th place team included Evan Bradstreet, Christopher Freniere, Ryan Raposa, and Kevin Shewmaker. The 59th place team was comprised of one student, Sean Raposa. ❖

Source: UMass Extension web site



Top row, standing (left to right) Christopher Freniere, Kevin Shewmaker, Evan Bradstreet, Edward Coffin, Peter White, Ryan Raposa, and Sean Raposa. Bottom row (left to right) Royal Healy, Scott St. Pierre.





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Trump, Hanse Ready to Renovate Blue Monster

By Rex Hoggard, Golf Channel

March 8, 2012

Whatever it will be called, the refashioned Blue Monster that players will face when the PGA Tour returns to the South Florida staple in 2014 will be dramatically different. "It needs a lot of work. It's a little tired, but that's OK," said Donald Trump, whose organization purchased Doral for \$150 million last month and plans a \$200 million renovation of the entire property, including the golf course and resort. The centerpiece of that makeover will be the renovation of the famed Blue Monster, which has hosted the south Florida Tour stop since 1962.

Gil Hanse, who was awarded the bid to design the Olympic course in Rio for the 2016 Games on Wednesday, will lead the redesign effort, which will begin after the 2013 WGC -Cadillac Championship.

Among the highlights of Hanse's proposed redesign is additional length across the 7,334-yard layout and the creation of a peninsula green at the par-4 16th hole.

"What we thought to do was to stretch it to its maximum distance, which would be about 7,600 yards," Hanse said. "We've talked to Tour officials who have talked to Tiger (Woods) and Geoff (Ogilvy). We'll try to talk to Phil (Mickelson) today to get an idea what they feel is appropriate."

The Blue Monster was built by Dick Wilson in 1962 and was renovated in 1996 by Raymond Floyd and 1999 by Jim McLean.

Once considered one of the Tour's most feared layouts, Doral has ranked among the easiest courses recent years, posting under-par scoring averages the last two seasons. Doral's 18th hole, for example, ranked 904th last year in difficulty out of 918 holes with a 4.42 scoring average.

"Doral can be the absolute best," Trump said. "The bones of the place are phenomenal. It was laid out brilliantly."

Trump also said he plans to almost double the size of the current driving range and is considering a plan that would combine the land from the adjacent Gold and Red courses to build another championship course.

As for what the property will be called Trump said Doral will always be a part of the name. "It will always be Doral," he said. "When we've spent the money to make it world-class place then we will make a decision."

Source: www.golfchannel.com



Sandy G. Queen, CGCS Elected GCSAA President



Sandy G. Queen, CGCS GCSAA President

Sandy G. Queen, CGCS, manager of golf operations for the Kansas City suburb of Overland Park, Kan., was elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) at the association's annual meeting March 2 in Las Vegas.

The annual meeting was held in conjunction with the **GCSAA Education Conference** (Feb. 27-March 2) and **Golf**

Industry Show (Feb. 29-March 1).

Queen has been the manager of golf operations for the city of Over-

land Park (Kan.) since 1984. Previously, he served as superintendent for the city of Overland Park. A GCSAA member for 34 years, Queen is a member and past president of the Heart of America GCSA, a member of the Kansas Turfgrass Association and The First Tee of Greater Kansas City. He also oversees operations for the award-winning Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead and the Overland Park Soccer Complex, regarded as one of the top facilities of its kind in the nation.

<u>Patrick R. Finlen</u>, CGCS, director of golf course maintenance operations at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, was elected vice president. Finlen will be the host of the

2012 U.S. Open in June. <u>Keith A. Ihms</u>, CGCS at Country Club of Little Rock (Ark.) was elected secretary/treasurer. <u>Rafael Barajas</u>, CGCS at Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights, Calif., and <u>William H. Maynard</u>, CGCS at Milburn Golf and Country Club in Overland Park, Kan., were elected as directors. <u>Darren J. Davis</u>, GCSAA Class A member at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, Fla., was appointed to the GCSAA Board of Directors, filling the remaining year of Ihms' term, created by his election to secretary/treasurer.

<u>John J. O'Keefe</u>, CGCS, director of golf course management at Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, N.J., and <u>Peter J. Grass</u>, CGCS at Hilands Golf Club in Billings, Mont., remain on the board with one year remaining on their two-year director terms.

Robert M. Randquist, CGCS at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, Fla., will serve on the board for one year as immediate past president. James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, director/superintendent at Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Club in North Quincy, Mass., retires from the board after serving the last year as immediate past president.

Source: GCSAA Press Release

Notable Fact

Scotland banned golf from 1457 to 1502 to make sure its citizenry was preparing for an English invasion and not practicing its putting.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our condolences are extended to Tom Colombo and family on the passing of Tom's father, Lou Colombo, who passed away unexpectedly on March 3, 2012 in Ft. Myers, Florida.
- Our condolences are extended to Bob and Robin Matthews and family on the passing of Robin's mother and father within 3 weeks of each other in Florida.

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

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The invoice stated that it had to be paid by March 1st, the new deadline will be April 1st. Please send your payments to Don as soon as you can. Thank you very much.

Jeff Urquhart

2012 Nine Hole Budget Survey

2012 Nine Hole Budget Survey, ya want it?

With over a dozen clubs participating, the 9 hole budget survey is now complete. For those who were not able to do so we have decided to provide the valuable information to you. A small fee of 10 dollars will get you the entire prepared budget survey sent via emailed PDF. This year's survey is full of graphs, pie charts and very useful information that can be helpful to you when determining your budget. To ensure confidentiality the names of the clubs and any other personal information will be removed, it doesn't matter if it's Augusta National or Club A. The numbers alone will provide you with the information that you need for your specific situation so if ya want it, email me, Jeff Urquhart at imartin101@gmail.com.

AFFILIATE SURVEY

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The results will be reported in the April issue of the newsletter.

Many Thanks! Successfully, Mark Casey



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www.nesoils.com

New England Turf

P.O. Box 777, West Kingston, RI 02892 Phone: 800-451-2900 or Ernie Ketchum 508-364-4428 Website: www.newenglandturf.com

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Tree Tech, Inc.

6 Springbrook Rd., Foxboro, MA 02035 Foxboro, Wellesley, Fall River Andy Felix - (508) 543-5644

Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.

P. O. Box 167, Wood River Junction, RI 02894 Joe Farina (774) 260-0093

Turf Products Corp.

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