

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

# Now Is The Time To Begin Winter Preparations By Jim Skorulski , USGA Senior Agronomist, Northeast Region

# September 18, 2013

I am not one to push the seasons but it was hard not to think of the winter as I scraped the first frost off the car windows this week. Like it or not, it is coming and now is the time to begin preparing the golf course for the winter season ahead. The shorter days and cooler temperatures trigger the winter acclimation processes in plants. A major part of that process involves the accumulation of carbohydrates that are stored in the roots and crown tissues and utilized to protect the cells from the effects of cold temperatures and hydration events. Plants that are low in carbohydrates entering the winter season will be less likely to survive extremely cold temperatures and multiple freeze/thaw events. Management priorities on more northern golf courses should begin to shift towards promoting vigorous plant growth to help the plants maximize carbohydrate accumulation. This does not mean raising the height of cut to ¼" and mowing three days per week. But, more northern golf courses should try to maximize sun exposure, raise mowing heights even slightly and make sure the grass plants are receiving sufficient levels of nutrients for sound growth. It is time to keep the grass plants happy and hope that Mother Nature takes care of the rest.

This is also the time to begin planning and preparation if winter cover systems will be utilized. The covering systems used to protect annual bluegrass putting greens from cold temperature and ice are comprised of both permeable and impermeable covers and usually some form of insulation. They are used most frequently in areas where there is a history of cold temperature injury. Greens with poor surface drainage are vulnerable to cold temperature injury and are good candidates for the cover systems. Those who already use cover systems will soon begin pulling covers and insulating materials out of storage to check for damage and determine what needs to be replaced. While those contemplating the first time use of a cover system will need to decide if and what system best meets their needs and order the materials if they have not yet done so.

The use of covers does not guarantee success! Timing the installation and removal of the cover systems can be tricky and labor intensive and monitoring conditions beneath the covers is an acquired skill. However, their use on northern golf courses has saved annual bluegrass more times than not. I have attached the link to two articles and a Podcast that provide additional information that will be helpful for winter preparation programs, understanding cold temperature injury and the winter cover systems. We also encourage you to contact your Green Section agronomist to discuss any of these issues further.  $\diamond$ 

# Source: www.usga.org



For a quick overview of one method of covering greens be sure to watch this video. Winter Protection Covers - How It's Done Presentation

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# **President's Message**



#### **Allied Associations**

You may have heard that Joe Sprague recently left his post as Executive Director for the MGA to take on a new role as USGA Director of Northeast Regional Affairs. While we will miss seeing Joe at the many MGA events each year, we wish him the best in his new position. Joe will be working out of the USGA Golf House in New Jersey and will serve as a liaison between golf's governing body and regional and state golf organizations from Maine to Pennsylvania. Joe has been a friend and supporter of superintendents throughout Massachusetts during his tenure at the MGA

and he has assured me we can still look forward to seeing him involved in our part of the golf business in his new capacity.

Congratulations and thanks to Kevin Corvino of Dedham Country and Polo Club and his co-fundraiser Nat Binns of Turf Products Corporation. Kevin made it around 104 holes at Stowe Acres Country Club in August to represent GCSANE and raise funds for the Ouimet Scholarship Golf Marathon. The marathon was one of several events the Ouimet Fund has held throughout the region to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Francis Ouimet's victory in the US Open at The Country Club. I would encourage you to promote the opportunity of a four year renewable Ouimet scholarship to your crew members. Applicants can visit <u>www.ouimet.org</u> to request an application in advance of the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Ouimet Scholarships are based in large part on financial need and the Ouimet Fund estimates it its average annual award is \$6,000.

### **GCSAA News**

Dave Johnson of Whitinsville Golf Club will represent GCSANE as its Chapter Delegate at the GCSAA Delegates Convention in October. Dave will participate in meetings with the GCSAA Board of Directors, as well as the GCSAA management team. Any comments, suggestions or feedback regarding GCSAA may be brought to Dave's attention at djohnson.wgc@verizon.net

I also want to thank Kevin Doyle, our GCSAA Regional Representative for his participation in our association. In recent months, Kevin has attended a GCSANE Board of Directors meeting, several of our monthly events and has also weighed in along with Don Hearn at regional meetings to represent our interests in light of pending regulation on the use of fertilizer by turf managers in Massachusetts.

# Upcoming Events

Mike Fontaine will be our host at The Ledges Golf Club on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The event is our Team of Two Championship. The fall foliage should be showing some color in South Hadley by that time and we are looking forward to what will be our first meeting at Mike's course.

A memorial golf tournament will be held in honor of Dave Comee on October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Winchendon School Golf Course. Dave was the long time superintendent at Winchendon and a very active member of GCSANE. Proceeds of the event will benefit the David Comee Scholarship Fund. Please contact Don Hearn if you are interested in participating or contributing.

The annual Pro/Superintendent event with be held October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Black Rock Country Club, hosted by Chuck Welch. I always find this is an excellent opportunity to spend some time away with my golf professional and to strengthen a relationship that is so important to the success or our facility.

Thanks to Jeff Urquhart for inviting us to the Milton-Hoosic Club on November 4<sup>th</sup> for a 9-hole event. Our Education Chairman Patrick Van Vleck is lining up a speaker for the day with more details to follow.

I think it's safe to say it has been a challenging summer, what with the excessive rain and heat in June, followed by more heat in July. Thankfully, August was relatively mild and allowed for some quick rebound to stressed turf and superintendents alike. I'm looking forward to enjoying some fall golf and hope to see everyone at the many events before the season comes to an end.  $\diamond$ 

Mark Gagne

# Hard work pays off for Forest Park's Blake By John Reitman

As one of a handful of women golf course superintendents, June Blake is an outsider in what clearly remains a man's world.

Still, the 33-year-old Blake, who since July 2012 has been superintendent of nine-hole Forest Park Country Club in Adams, Mass., believes that dedication and passion for her craft should be enough to prove she belongs.

Part of me likes to think that I don't have to go out and prove myself every day. I try not to look at it that way, said Blake, 33. I like to think that hard work will pay off no matter what field you are in even if you are the minority of the group.

Results on the golf course don't hurt either.

Our greens are the best they've ever been, said Forest Park manager Bruce Cardin. I play a lot of golf, and they are the best in the county. They don't play second fiddle to anybody's.

Blake did not grow up playing golf, but as a three-sport star in high school, she always spent a lot of time outdoors. When she sought her first part-time, summer job during her high school days, an uncle who had crewed on a local golf course told her to consider a similar vocation. Blake, who never was one to work indoors, jumped at the chance to avoid afternoons and weekends that consisted of flipping burgers and making fries.

I needed a summer job, and there weren't a lot of options, said Blake, now the superintendent at Forest Park Country Club, a nine-hole facility in Adams, Mass. Most jobs were at fast-food restaurants or things like that. And that wasn't going to work for me.

And she never dreamed that those summers mowing turf and raking bunkers at Wahconah Country Club in her native Dalton, Mass., would one day become a career opportunity.

That summer job continued throughout Blake's high school years and during summers home from Western New England University in Springfield, Mass., where she was studying business management. When she realized after graduation that jobs in that field weren't as fulfilling as working outside, she abandoned pursuit of an office job for a return to the golf course.

Without a formal turf career, Blake continued to learn the intricacies of turf management first at Crestview Country Club in Agawam, and during her second stint at Wahconah.

She credits folks like former Wahconah superintendent Mike Gunn who hired her the first time in 1998 and his successor, Jeremy Stachowicz who rehired her, for her onthe-job training.

I've learned everything there from weeding to mowing, then stepping up to bigger equipment, she said. I worked closely with Mark Reardon, who is a great mechanic and

taught me a lot. Over



Forest Park CC superintendent June Blake. Photo by Berkshire Eagle

the years, I've gathered a lot of information there that has helped me get to where I am today.

Her lack of a turf degree didn't seem to be much of a hurdle for the committee that interviewed and hired her.

Sometimes book smart is not the only thing you need to be successful in this business, Cardin said. Every course is different, and she is doing a fantastic job.

It's not clear how many women superintendents there are nationwide, but GCSAA counts only about 60 among its membership.

Although she acknowledges she is in the minority, Blake doesn't view herself as a pioneer.

I knew it was going to be tough because there are not a lot of women in this industry, she said. But if you love it and have a passion about it, there is no reason why women can't go out and succeed.

I just don't think a lot of women realize there is an opportunity out there because it's always been men in this business. �

# Source: www.Turfnet.com



# **Thoughts From Your Association Manager**

The Scholarship and Benevolence Tournament is over and it was a wonderful success. Eric Richardson, Superintendent; Essex County Club; golf professional Tom Waters; general manager Bryant Lemire; and the entire staff at Essex treated us in a way that made all feel comfortable and welcome. Eric spent many hours to help make the tournament a fantastic event. He and his staff did an outstanding job preparing the course. All agreed it was excellent.

The clubhouse staff made an outstanding presentation of food and warm hospitality. The chef's talents were on display as all present enjoyed delicious and plentiful food. The



golf shop staff made sure all was in place for the day's event and made last minute adjustments with a smile and handled details with efficiency.

The funds raised from this event will be used to provide scholarships and aid to family members of

our members. To all the sponsors, participants, committee members, those who sold raffle tickets, those who bought raffle tickets and others who made personal donations thank you for caring about others needing financial help with a college education or a personal set back. For those who didn't donate this year, next year's event will provide you the opportunity to lend your support. If you can't play in the tournament maybe raffle tickets will be the easiest way to help out. We've been very fortunate to have commercial representatives and their companies help support this event over the years. They have been a large part of the event's success. To all who supported the event this year, thank you.

The following is a plug for a fellow superintendent who is promoting a faster pace of play. Steve Southard, CGCS has released his second book titled GOLF – The Complete Guide to Mastering Pace of Play. Steve's book systematically addresses golf course operations including maintenance practice, clubhouse policies, training systems, course flow, course design, and misconceptions in the sport of golf that contribute to long playing times. To create immediate interest, the first 52 pages of the book are available as a free downloadable PDF at <u>paceandproduction.com</u>. For more information on the new book release or free PDF download contact:

Steve Southard, CGCS, CPRP steve@paceandproduction.com 970-593-2584

I suggest you take a look at Steve's free download to see if there are areas that might interest you.

The GCSA of New England will host the New England Superintendents Championship this year at the Sterling National Country Club where Tim Gerzabek is the superintendent. The event promotes a friendly competition among the Associations from Connecticut, Rhode Island, Cape Cod, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont and New England.

This year the team members are:

John Winskowicz Patrick Van Vleck Mike Parks Tim Crane Mike Luccini Russ Heller Ken Mooradian Jim Fitzroy

We wish them luck bringing home the title.

The Seventh Annual Assistants Appreciation Day was held at the Wedgewood Pines Country Club in Stow, MA, September 25. Hosts Dave Ferrantino and David Leonardi welcomed all the assistants with a beautiful day, a course in



very good condition in spite of two greens that suffered during the summer stretch of high heat and humidity. General Manager Brian Moffett made us feel welcome and made sure all went as planned. Golf professional Chris McMillan handled the pairings and scoring and made sure

everyone was part of a team. The event was a scramble and the Assistants playing had a day of fun away from their course. It was a nice way to get to meet others in the same business, see another course, and swap stories about their bosses! The winning team of Andrew Lamy, Nashawtuc CC; Joe Lieneck, Nashawtuc CC; Matt Gajda, Kernwood CC; and Timothy Johnson, Charter Oak CC took low honors in the scramble format with a 59. Alex Martin from Blue Hill CC won both closest to the hole contests. The long drive was won by Glenn Johnson from Dedham Country and Polo Club. We were fortunate to have sponsors provide prizes for closest to the hole and long drive competitions. Thank you to Mark Casey and MTE; Mike Turner and CCE; and John Callahan, Dennis Friel and The Cardinals for their generous support of the event. �

# **Elevator Etiquette**

This month's etiquette article deals with the correct way to go about carrying on your business while using the elevator. You might be wondering what etiquette has to do with riding an elevator. Well, as you'll see, proper etiquette is important when using the elevator. Thinking what to do and knowing how to do it aren't the same. It's important to know what to do and what to expect others to do. When this is mastered, you'll be a confident user.

The person closest to the door in a crowded elevator, man or woman, should step out first. Keep going, if that's your stop. If not, step aside as passengers exit and then step back in. It's always nice to reach back to hold the door for the people after you. If you remain in the elevator, one of the nicest things you can do for fellow riders who are exiting is to engage the "doors open" button to hold the doors, especially if you notice the doors are starting to close.

What about inappropriate conversations in elevators. It is virtually impossible to carry on a private conversation in an elevator without being heard by others. Avoid conversations of a confidential nature such as employee qualifications, gossip (which shouldn't be engaged in anywhere), or issues with suppliers.

The same goes for cell phone calls. People are frustrated enough by having to listen to other people's cell phone conversations, but the confined space of an elevator magnifies the problem. If your phone rings, send the call directly to voice message or answer and ask the person to wait until you exit the elevator.

Other ways to make elevator rides pleasant for everyone:

■ When entering move to the back.

■ If you're near the control panel, ask others which floors they would like to go to and press the buttons for them.

Mirrors help to visually expand the space, but they shouldn't be used for personal grooming.

If the elevator that just arrived looks jammed, take a pass and wait for the next one rather than cramming yourself against other riders.

■ A quick greeting "Hello" is pleasant, but avoid engaging in drawn-out conversations.

I know there aren't many who have elevators in their facility where this kind of etiquette would be required, but there are many times that we ride in elevators away from the job where these tips might come in handy.  $\clubsuit$ 

# By Don Hearn



# **2014 UMASS Winter School**

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. This highly acclaimed certificate program runs for seven weeks, beginning January 6, 2013 and concluding on February 21.

Winter School is especially suited for those who desire to take their career in turf management to the next level, but are unable to schedule a two or four-year degree program. Some Winter School students have several years of experience in the turf industry and simply want to sharpen their skills. At the same time, the course is appropriate for folks just getting started, and those who are seeking a career change.

Winter School provides 32 hours of intensive, expert instruction each week for 7 weeks, covering general turf management, pest management (insects, diseases, and weeds), turf physiology, personnel management, irrigation, and much more.

For complete information on the program and application materials, refer to:

# http://extension.umass.edu/turf/education/turf-winterschool

# GCSANE Calendar of Events 2013

October 7 The Ledges Golf Club Monthly Meeting

October 15 Sterling Country Club New England Supt. Champs

October 23 Black Rock Country Club Pro/Super Championship

> November 4 Milton-Hoosic Club 9-Hole Tournament



Thank you to Kevin Corvino (pictured on right) and his caddie Eric Doldt (left) in representing GCSANE in the Ouimet Golf Marathon that took place in August.



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# **GCSAA Awards Scholarships**

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has awarded its 2013 Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grants to Kristen Sauer, Catherine Felicetti, Christopher McAvoy, Samantha Bradley and Kaci Whitehead. The Garske Grant was established in honor of Par Aide company founder Joseph S. Garske. It is funded by Par Aide, a golf course accessory company, and administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of GCSAA. The program assists children and stepchildren of GCSAA members to fund their education at an accredited college or trade school with one-time, one-year grants awarded to five winners without renewals. Grants are based on community service, leadership, academic performance and a written essay.

"We appreciate the longtime support of Par Aide and congratulate these young members of the extended GCSAA family," said GCSAA President Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS. "The Garske grants are a testament to the camaraderie within the golf course management industry."

Sauer, from Boylston, Mass., is a student at Provi-• dence College and earned a \$2,500 scholarship. Her father, Todd A. Sauer, is the GCSAA Class A superintendent at Mount Pleasant Country Club in Boylston, Mass.

Felicetti, an Ithaca College student from Forestdale, Mass., earned a \$2,000 scholarship. Her father, Joseph F. Felicetti, is the GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at The Pinehills Golf Club in Plymouth, Mass.

McAvoy, a Fordham University student from West Hempstead, N.Y., earned a \$1,500 scholarship. His father, Thomas O. McAvoy, is the GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at Old Westbury Golf & Country Club in Old Westbury, N.Y.

Bradley, a University of St. Joseph student from Plainville, Conn., earned a \$1,000 scholarship. Her father, Gregory Bradley, is the GCSAA Class A superintendent at Farmington Woods Country Club in Unionville, Conn.

Whitehead, an Indiana University/Purdue University of Fort Wayne student from Syracuse, Ind., receives a \$500 scholarship. Her father, James B. Whitehead, is the GCSAA member superintendent at Maxwelton Golf Course in Syracuse, Ind.

"We believe it's important to recognize golf course superintendents for their tireless dedication to the game of golf," said Steve Garske, Par Aide president. "It's great to be able to give something back to superintendents and their children." 🔹

Source: GCSAA Press Release

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# **GCSANE Looking for DSA Nominations**

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England annually selects an individual or individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent profession.

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. You will also be receiving an on -line form pertaining to this, simply follow the directions and submit it once completed. The nominee must not have been a recipient of this award in the preceding ten years. The Membership Committee welcomes recommendations for nomination.

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

# Submit/email nominations to:

Jeff Urquhart, Membership Chair, GCSANE Milton Hoosic Club 70 Green Lodge Street Canton, MA 02021 email: jmartin101@gmail.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, CGCS and Phillip I. Cassidy 2003 – Leon St. Pierre 2004 – Donald E. Hearn. CGCS 2005 – Donald Marrone 2006 – Gerry Finn 2007 – Ronald Kirkman 2008 – Robert Ruszala 2009 – Robert and Norman Mucciarone 2010 – Brian Cowan, CGCS 2011 – Dean Robertson 2012 – Mike Hermanson 2013 – James Fitzroy, CGCS

Scholarship and Benevolence <u>Tournament Results</u> September 23, 2013 Essex County Club Host: Eric Richardson

<u>1st Gross</u> 71 Jack Hassett and John Griffin <u>2nd Gross</u> 72 David Johnson and Artie Fitzgerald <u>3rd Gross</u> 73 Patrick Van Vleck and Brian Golden

<u>1st Net</u> 65 Melissa Gugliotti and Blake Berger <u>2nd Net</u> 66 Matt Lapinski and Mark Casey <u>3rd Net</u> 67 Fred Murray and Greg Misodoulakis

> Longest Drive Matt Lapinski and Jeff James

<u>Closest to the Hole</u> Dan Dacey and Fred Murray



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# 3rd Annual GREG'S RUN 5K - October 5, 2013

To benefit the Gregory G. Misodoulakis Memorial Scholarship Website: <u>www.gregsrun.org</u> E-Mail: <u>gregsrun10@gmail.com</u>

The **3rd Annual** *Greg's Run 5K* will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2013 at 10:00 am at Apponequet Regional High School (ARHS). This run/walk event 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. Greg died unexpectedly a few days prior to beginning his freshmen year at UMass A

Gregory Misodoulakis. Greg died unexpectedly a few days prior to beginning his freshmen year at UMass Amherst. The financial and in-kind support of local businesses and community members is vital to ensure the success of this event.

Since 2011, eight scholarships totaling \$7,500 have been awarded to Apponequet Regional High School graduates. It is our hope to award Greg's scholarship to deserving ARHS graduating seniors for years to come. Proceeds from this annual 5K fundraising road race will be put towards his scholarship which is managed by the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts, a **501(c)(3)** tax exempt public charity.

Please join us in making the *3rd Annual Greg's Run 5K* a memorable event that benefits current and future students of the Freetown and Lakeville communities. Any donations -- monetary, post-race refreshments or raffle prizes -- would be greatly appreciated. Attached you will find information about corporate and individual sponsorship opportunities. All sponsors will be listed according to their sponsorship level on the race webpage <u>www.gregsrun.org</u> and will be recognized during race day activities. Sponsors may set up a display table the day of the event and distribute promotional materials (if desired). Sponsors may also display a banner or logo at the event.

The deadline to guarantee sponsorship recognition on the race website and printed materials is September 14, 2013.

We are proud to support the <b>3rd Annual <i>Greg's Run</i> 5k Race</b> to benefit <b>the Gregory G. Misodoulakis Memorial Scholarship</b> . We are requesting our corporate name on all materials consistent with our sponsorship level below:
\$200 (corporate name listed on T-Shirt, subject to printing deadline)
\$100 (corporate name displayed at kilometer marker or water table)
Friends of Greg (donations under \$100, to be listed on website and noted on Race Day)
In-Kind Sponsor (raffle prizes, refreshments, other)
Name: Company:
Address:
Phone: Email:
The deadline to guarantee sponsorship recognition on the race website and printed materials is September 14, 2013. Please return this form and make checks payable to <u>GGMMS</u> : Greg's Run, c/o Kristine Donnelly, 19 Brookstone Drive, Lakeville, MA 02347 (508) 947-7126
*Please include your name, company name, address, phone number and email with your donation so that we can give proper recognition to all our sponsors.



DIVOT DRIFT... announcements ... educational seminars ... job opportunities ...tournament results...and miscellaneous items of interest to the membership.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Welcome New Members:

- **Greg Bennett**, Superintendent, The Winchendon School Golf Course, Winchendon, MA
- Ryan Avery, Assistant Superintendent, Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, NJ
- **David Mucciarone, Jr.**, Assistant Superintendent, Sassamon Trace Golf Course, Natick, MA

Our condolences are extended to John Petraitis and family on the passing of John's wife, Claire Petraitis, who passed away on September 25, 2013 at the age of 82 after a short illness.

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.







We are pleased to announce that Bill Stinson has joined BISCO as Golf Manager, effective September 9, 2013.

Bill brings with him nearly twenty years of experience in golf irrigation. He also has extensive experience with the Rain Bird product line, pumping, and the many allied

Bill Stinson

on product line, pumping, and the many allied products used in golf course irrigation.
rengths include two-wire technology as

Particular strengths include two-wire technology as well as the role that modern technology can play in modern computerized golf course irrigation systems. He has multiple certifications from the Irrigation

Association including: •Certified Irrigation Designer - Golf •Certified Irrigation Contractor •Certified Golf Irrigation Auditor Prior to joining BISCO, he spent seven years with the Rain Bird Corporation as the Northeast District Sales Manager and twelve years with the S.V. Moffett Co., Inc. in a golf sales capacity. Bill is based in western MA, with easy access to all locations in New England.

He can be reached at: •413-668-7943 •bstinson@biscoirrigation.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

## A.A. Will Materials Corp.

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# Agrium Advanced Technologies Direct Solutions

Suppliers of Chemicals, Fertilizer, and Grass Seed Jim Pritchard 401-259-8-5472 jpritchard@agriumat.com Glenn Larrabee 401-258-3762 glarrabee@agriumat.com

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# Atlantic Golf and Turf

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