



# THE NEWSLETTER

March 2016

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

Dear fellow GCSANE members:

It appears we're in the midst of an early golf season here in New England, which I'm sure is a welcome happening for all of us. Just one year ago today we were sitting beneath 30" of snow in many locations. Word on the street is many of us have opened their facilities and are finding turf conditions very much to their liking. I have a few items to report on and then I'll let you get back to business.

First off, the recent NERTF show in Providence was deemed a success by all those who attended. The floor was quite busy and most of the vendors I spoke with were pleased with the turnout. I'd like to congratulate the NERTF board for their efforts in making this event a success. Given last year's weather challenges it was great to see a big rebound in 2016.

Upcoming events worthy of note are the New England Golf Summit which will be held at Blue Hill Country Club on March 29. A full slate of highly regarded speakers will be presenting everything from rules of golf info to turf management items. Previous events have been very well attended and this year's event will be no different. Everyone is encouraged to attend from club officials to greens staff members. Mark the date on your calendar and I hope to see you there.

Our 2016 golf season will also be kicking off shortly. Jim Small and the folks at Old Scotland Links will be hosting this year's Bear Cup on April 26. Additionally, our joint meeting with the RIGCSA will be held at Franklin CC on May 23. I can tell you the greens staff at FCC is very excited to be hosting this event and we'll also be unveiling our new state of the art practice facility for you all to enjoy.

Seeing the temperatures are expected to reach 70 degrees today (duty calls) I'll end this month's message right here by wishing you all a productive 2016. As always, don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything we can provide you in terms of service or support. ❖

Best Regards,

Michael D. Luccini CGCS  
GCSANE President



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## Save the Date: May 16th, 2016 The 12th Annual Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Classic Pinehills Golf Club, Plymouth, MA Joseph F Felicetti, CGCS Hosting Honoring Paul F. Miller, CGCS



Pinehills Golf Club was created to rival the country's most prestigious golf clubs, bringing world class, daily fee golf to New England. Pinehills Golf Club is spectacularly set on over 300 acres of rolling hills punctuated by dramatic, glacially carved kettles and kames.

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# Thoughts From Your Association Manager

At the recently concluded New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show Trol - Dickinson scholarship awards were presented to students from UMass Amherst. These awards were presented to Daniel Anastos, Jeremy Langlois and Alan Michael Turner. Thanks to Trustees Bob Ruzsala, Carl Teschke and Jason VanBuskirk for taking the time and having the interest to continue the awarding of these scholarships to students each year. It is also nice to meet the students who are recipients of the awards. At this year's UMass Breakfast, Daniel and Jeremy were recognized. Alan had a school commitment and was unable to attend the breakfast. President Mike Luccini made the introductions and presented the certificates.



From left Daniel Anastos, Bob Ruzsala, Michael Luccini, Jeremy Langlois

As you may know, Mark Gagne, the Immediate Past President of the GCSA of New England, is now the Massachusetts Golf Association's Director of Member Services. Mark began his new position February 22. While Mark's office is in the "east wing" and mine is in the "west wing" of Golf House we see each other as a matter of routine. Those who know Mark realize the commitment he brings to his new position and the dedication he adds to the talented staff of the MGA. All of us wish him well and look forward to working with him in his new role.

With the golf season at our door, I want to remind you that one of the benefits of your membership is the ability to obtain a GHIN card from the Association. There is no additional charge for this. If you need a GHIN card please let me know and I will add you to the system.

This is a reminder that Superintendent, Assistant and Associate Members' dues should be paid by now. Virtually all invoices were sent by email during January. For the few who have not provided their email address a paper invoice was sent by mail. Some Affiliate Members have received invoices. Others haven't because they are included in their company's Partner Participation Program (PPP) sponsorship or are still pondering if they will be joining this program. The same is true for some Friend of the Association Members. The PPP enrollment period ends at the end of this month.

Companies that are not enrolled in the program by March 31 will receive invoices for their 2016 dues and Affiliate Members employed by these companies will also receive invoices at that time. Please contact me if you have any questions about your payment status.

It was good to see Mike Stachowicz at the Providence Show. Mike is employed by the U.S. Park Service as their Chief Agronomist. Prior to this position he was the superintendent at the Dedham Country and Polo Club in Dedham, MA. He made a very informative presentation about the rebuilding and preservation of the lawn on the Mall in Washington, DC. Many refer to this area as the nation's front yard. Mike is early into the beginning of his fourth year in this position and has brought a degree of knowledge and professionalism to the Park Service as its first Chief Agronomist. To read more about Mike and his work [click this link](#).

❖

By Don Hearn

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# New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show Comeback Show of the Year?

Following our Snow Fest of 2015, we had many concerns including weather as we prepared for our 19<sup>th</sup> annual show. We have to admit we have had some great luck all around for the first 17 years, and just the worst on the 18<sup>th</sup>. So, even with the odds with us, why be nervous? Well as you know, even our best plans can be spoiled by the weather which we don't have any control over. We can be prepared to the hilt, but things like that are out of our hands. Our focus the last 12 months was to prepare what we can control. Like schedules and speakers. Then, be as ready as we can for whatever the forecast was to be. What a relief to approach our dates with as great as a forecast as we had!

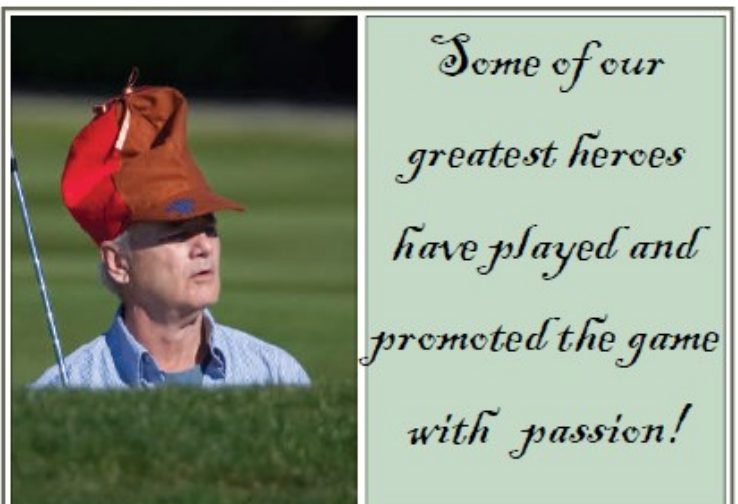
Were there things that were different in 2016? I hope that you did notice. The biggest change was that we compressed our schedule. We started with seminars at 1pm on Monday and carried them over thru Tuesday morning. This delayed and shortened the USGA program. Sorry to those who didn't catch that in the program and showed up early Tuesday looking for education to begin at 9am. Creatures of habit we are! This helped to eliminate Sunday overnights and early morning departures. We also provided more 2 hour seminars that you could mix and match and cover more topics. This added up to the largest crowd we have had for seminars in our history. We think this was a good choice and we will continue to make Monday and Tuesday better!

Another slight change we made is that we shortened Thursday by starting earlier. This also felt like a good choice as education rooms were well attended and the trade show had better feel to it over other Thursdays. This benefitted the exhibitors with a head start on the road as we closed at 12 noon. Many have asked if Thursday is worth the time. As I scanned the show floor many times Thursday I saw many exhibitors engaged in conversations with attendees. We have invested in an event over the years with two good overnights (Tuesday & Wednesday). Remember the days when we were 4 shows and in 4 states and all the expense and time commitment that went with it? Whatever you're feeling about Thursday, it is the anchor that keeps Wednesday afternoon and night the peak of the show. We thank our exhibitors and sponsors for your help and making the best of it you can. We will continue to look at ways to make it even more worthwhile to all in the future.

The other focus was on our education program. Hot topics and speakers are sometimes hard to come up with, but with input from industry members and with Mary Owen's leadership we continue to have some of the best education in the industry. This is our greatest priority and our pledge to always keep education first as we plan for the future. We thank all our speakers for their quality presentations and the pertinent information they shared. We look for input for our 2016 program too! If you have recommendations, please let us know.

So, looking back at this year's show, we must thank all our exhibitors and attendees for coming back after the disaster of 2015. We are back on our favorite dates in the first week in March for the foreseeable future. As we continue to look forward, we appreciate input on what we can do to continue to make our show even better. We had more than 1800 attendees and larger exhibitor space than we have had over the last couple of years. It feels good to be back on our feet again and making progress! We are as large as any regional show in the industry. We fund more than \$130,000 in turfgrass research annually and show support to more schools and programs in the industry than others do. Our attendance has been solid in a stagnant industry, and we have not pulled back in fear of the future. We thank each association board for providing good people to represent them on our board. They guide the foundation for all of us. They must be doing a few things right, but the biggest thing is that we are all doing it together! Thank you for helping us be the Comeback Show of the Year! ❖

Gary J. Sykes, Executive Director  
New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, Inc.



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# How to Handle the Check When You Assume the Other Person is Paying

Has it ever happened to you where you weren't sure who would be picking up the tab for a meal? I'm sure you've experienced this. Read on to learn some ways to make what can be a very uncomfortable situation turn out to be OK.

But, before you continue, please read this story of what happened to me a few years ago when dining out with other people: We met at a very nice (pricy) restaurant and had a wonderful meal a few cocktails and traded stories for awhile. When the check came I reached for it. I didn't do so to make me look like a big spender. Rather, I was the one closest to it. Anyway, I looked at it quickly with the intention of suggesting we split the cost among couples. Well, hastily, one of the couples offered to pick up the tab. I choked since I knew what the total was and I knew the couple wouldn't have been so generous if they knew what they would be paying. So, I passed the check along to the couple who I knew would be terrified when they looked at what they had just offered to pay for. I remember thinking "how is this going to end up?" As I thought – when they looked at the bill I could see the terror in their eyes. Jeez, what a predicament! I knew the couple was trying to figure a way out of this and I knew what was happening. After enough time had passed, (I could see their minds wandering and their credit card taking a huge hit) I strongly suggested we split the bill and their response was, "Well, if you really want to, it would be OK with us." So we ended up sharing the bill among all the couples.

How this ends up depends on at least 4 variables:

- Your confidence that the other party also understands that

they are paying.

- Your tolerance for embarrassment or awkwardness. (This is likely related to who the other person is and how important your future ongoing relationship is.)
- Your financial tolerance for eating the check if you get stuck with it.
- Your preference for appearing gracious or generous.

At certain end points, a dominant strategy is clear:

- Re #1, if you are absolutely certain that the other party will pick up the check, then you might as well do the fake reach kabuki. There is no financial downside, and you get the benefit of looking gracious and generous.
- Re #3, if you have absolutely no tolerance for eating the check, then you shouldn't reach for the bill and hope for the best. If the other party also doesn't reach for the bill after a painful period of time, you can offer to split and see what happens.
- Re #4, if it's absolutely critical to appear gracious, then fake the reach and take the risk that you get stuck with the check.

Generally speaking, this is an "at the table" call. In general, you are trading off uncertainties re: financial cost vs. the appearance of social grace. ❖

By Don Hearn

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# March Horticulture Tips

By Jim Diermeier, CGM Horticulturalist, Winged Foot Golf Club

Spring arrives by mid-March and the frequent sunny days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of landscape maintenance tasks. It's time to prepare landscape beds, prune winter shrubs, complete major shade tree pruning before bud break and start a 'spring cleanup' of all your landscape areas. This is an important time of the year when 'golf pressure' is at a minimum. Take advantage of it.

## General Landscape

- Remove winter mulches from planting beds
- Dig beds in preparation for spring planting as soon as earth is friable
- Add compost in four to six inch layers and work into planting bed soil
- Remove protective cover from evergreens
- Reset frost-heaved plants
- Apply horticultural oil sprays to dormant trees and shrubs before buds open and if there is no danger of night frost

## Planting

- Plant deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs, weather and soil conditions permitting
- Plant perennials, spring annuals and Roses
- Divide and transplant summer-blooming perennials
- Soak bare-root plants before planting
- Talk with greenhouse growers and garden centers about your summer color programs and plant availability.

## Fertilization/Weed Control

- Fertilize deciduous, broad-leaved and needle-leaved evergreen trees and shrubs if not fed in the fall
- Apply fertilizer to roses as new growth begins
- Control perennial weeds before planting and carefully select flowers species for weed management compatibility. Annual weeds may be controlled with mulches, pre-emergent herbicides, frequent cultivation and hand weeding. Avoid non-selective herbicides after planting.

## What and When to Prune

- The late dormant season is best for most pruning. Pruning in late winter, just before spring growth starts, leaves fresh wounds exposed for only a short length of time before new growth begins the wound sealing process.
- Another advantage of dormant pruning is that it's easier to make pruning decisions without leaves obscuring plant branch structure. Pruning at the proper time can avoid certain disease and physiological problems.
- Prune apple trees, including flowering Crabapples, Mountain-ash, Hawthorns and shrub Cotoneasters in late winter (February-early April). Spring or summer pruning increases chances for infection and spread of the bacterial disease fire blight. Autumn or early winter pruning is more likely to result in drying and die-back at pruning sites.

*continued on page 7*



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- Some trees have free-flowing sap that "bleeds" after late winter or early spring pruning. Though this bleeding causes little harm, it may still be a source of concern. To prevent bleeding, you could prune the following trees after their leaves are fully expanded in late spring or early summer. Never remove more than ¼ of the live foliage. Examples include: All Maples, including box elder, Butternut and Walnut, Birch and its relatives, Ironwood and Beech
- Trees and shrubs that bloom early in the growing season on last year's growth should be pruned immediately after they finish blooming; Azalea, Cherry, Forsythia, Lilac, Magnolia, early-blooming Spirea.
- Shrubs grown primarily for their foliage rather than showy flowers should be pruned in spring, before growth begins: Burning Bush, Dogwood, Purple-leaf Sandcherry, Smokebush
- Shrubs that bloom on new growth may be pruned in spring before growth begins. Plants with marginally hardy stems such as Clematis and shrub Roses should be pruned back to live wood. Hardier shrubs such as late blooming Spirea's and smooth (snowball) Hydrangeas should be pruned to the first pair of buds above the ground.

**Spring Plant Selections**

This list is by no means inclusive of all annuals that thrive in cool temperatures but it offers a good selection of colorful, fragrant, easy-to-grow/maintain spring flowers.

- Calendula** (*Calendula officinalis*)
- California poppy** (*Eschscholzia californica*)
- Cerinthe major** 'Purpurascens'
- Cornflower** (*Centaurea cyanus*)
- Forget-me-not** (*Myosotis sylvatica*)
- Larkspur** (*Consolida ajacis*)
- Lobelia** (*Lobelia erinus*)
- Nasturtium** (*Tropaeolum majus*)

- Pansy** (*Viola X wittrockiana*)
- Painted Tongue** (*Salpiglossis sinuata*)
- Snapdragon** (*Antirrhinum majus*)
- Sweet peas** (*Lathyrus odoratus*)



Calendula



California poppy



Cerinthe major



Cornflower



Forget-me-not



Larkspur



Lobelia



Nasturtium



Pansy



Painted Tongue



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# Late Winter / Early Spring Irrigation Maintenance Checklist

By: Tom Hoffer, Irrigation Service Manager, Northeast Golf & Turf Supply

Even though it is still winter, irrigation startup is right around the corner. Now is as good a time as ever to get some much needed maintenance done on your irrigation system. Here are a few tips and tricks to get your season off and running:

1. On your irrigation computer: perform a virus scan; delete temporary internet files; defrag your C: drive; perform a data base backup; check grounding resistance. Plugging your computer tower, monitor, interface, and radio system into an Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) will help against lightning strikes and power surges. Try to dedicate your irrigation computer to only running the system, check email and browse the internet on a separate computer if possible.
2. Test communication between your computer and interface, and from your interface to the field. Turning on irrigation heads electrically during the winter is good exercise for your solenoids. Try to find a warm day before firing up the pump station to do this. If you have true two-way communication you can also test if satellites are communicating and individual heads are working.
3. Perform satellite maintenance: test communication; clean out all cobwebs and mouse nests; check cables and wires for mice damage; check grounding resistance. A nice mouse deterrent is buying Irish Spring Peppermint

scented soap and shaving a few pieces into a sandwich bag, leave the bag opened in the bottom of the satellites, the smell keeps the mice away. A local Superintendent has been doing this for years and swears by it.

4. Align all part-circle heads to their proper arc. They more than likely came out of adjustment during winter blowout, now is a good time to get them back to where they need to be before pump station startup.
5. Make any necessary repairs to the system that were observed in the fall or during blowout that you didn't have a chance to get to back then.
6. Do an inventory of your irrigation parts room. Make sure you have enough repair fittings/couplings, swing joints, heads, Teflon tape, glue/primer, DBRYs, etc. on your shelf going into spring startup. Their also may be other supplies that you know you'll need from previous years' experience, don't wait until the last minute to get these necessary supplies.

If you can take care of your irrigation system now and in the early spring, your system will hopefully take care of you in July and August when you need it most! ❖

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## Friend of the Association Profile - Hillcrest Turf Services

I would like to introduce myself and give you a little background about Hillcrest Turf Services. I have worked as a member of grounds crews and as an Assistant Superintendent as well as a Superintendent at several Boston area golf clubs and courses. In 2007 I started a design--build and maintenance landscaping company called Gorgeous Gardens Landscape Management, Inc. From the day I left the golf and sports turf industry I missed several aspects of that segment of the green industry, specifically the relationships which I had formed over the nearly 20 years I worked on golf courses. It didn't take long for me to begin searching for a way to stay connected to golf and those relationships which were so valuable to me. I remained close with many of my friends and former colleagues and even experimented at performing landscaping and ornamental enhancement services with a few golf courses and institutions. This turned out to be a more difficult avenue which to remain connected to my friends and colleagues than I had anticipated. I began interviewing my friends and respected industry leaders about ideas for which I could steer my company toward the golf business. Through these conversations was borne Hillcrest Turf Services in 2012.

As a former golf course Superintendent and Grounds manager working in the turf management industry for the past 25 plus years, I feel that I understand how challenging and important a job you hold. You have a passion for grooming fine turf and providing superb playing conditions – I share that passion. I understand the difficult problems you may encounter and that they sometimes require specialized solutions, sometimes with unique cultural equipment. That is why I founded Hillcrest Turf Services. It is this passion for the turf industry that drove me to search for and invest in equipment that provides cultural solutions to some of these obstacles.

When unique and innovative solutions are required, let us use our stable of equipment to help you achieve that solution. We will perform the work in a short amount of time with a clean finish. In using our self-sufficient services, you will enjoy greater efficiency out of your own crew, maximizing the efficiency of your operation.

Thatch management, tree root encroachment, black layer and thin turf are just some of these challenges for which Hillcrest Turf Services has the solution. There are many turf related issues which are not addressed with conventional core or solid tine aeration, but require specialized approaches and innovative services. Hillcrest can help with these turf challenges through the use of specialized equipment and services: the Rotadairon Turf Surgeon; the Imants Rootpruner; the Weidenman SUPER 600; Air2G2 air injection; the Rotadairon ED 130 slice-seeder; and the Blec Multi-seeder.

The Turf Surgeon is a thatch management tool which can cover an average sized golf green or tee in 20-30 minutes while collecting the debris in the process. It collects the debris with an integrated brush and collection hopper. The debris can then be deposited however the client desires. The Imants Root-pruner can sever tree roots up to 4--6 inches in diameter with 2 parallel cutting blades. This leaves the roots in the ground while severed in 2 locations making it difficult for them to grow back. This machine also leaves little disruption behind as it does not remove any debris from the ground leaving behind only 2 small incisions. The Wiedenmann SUPER 600 has many uses. With its collection system, it can cleanly mow native grass areas, sweep aeration plugs, verti-cut large areas of turf while collecting the debris in its 6-yard hopper. The Air2G2 air injection machine is a unique soil aeration approach offering little to no surface disruption while injecting air to a prescribed depth of up to 12 inches. The Air2G2 is powered by an integrated compressor which injects air at an adjustable pressure. This fractures the soil beneath the surface thus creating pore space for water, nutrients and, most importantly, air to reach the rootzone.

I am constantly evaluating types of equipment which may benefit the fine turf industry. I have invested in these types of machines in order to provide solutions to unique or systemic turf challenges. Please feel free to reach out and ask me about any of my equipment or to request a demonstration.

Thank you to all of my friends and colleagues for your continued support!

Mike Parks  
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HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES



# UConn Turfgrass Field Day Tuesday, July 19, 2016

at the Plant Science Research and Education Facility in Storrs, Connecticut



For more information and to register, visit

[www.regonline.com/turfgrassfieldday2016](http://www.regonline.com/turfgrassfieldday2016)

The 2016 Turfgrass Field Day at the University of Connecticut offers exciting educational opportunities for turfgrass professionals of all levels.

The date of the Field Day has been selected in order to provide the best opportunity to view the research plots when they are under the greatest summer stress. Cutting edge research in the areas of lawn care, sports and golf turf management will be presented.



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Attendees will have an opportunity to discuss ongoing research and management concerns with the UConn turf team. In addition to seeing the latest



research results, turfgrass professionals have the opportunity to interact with exhibitors and discuss the latest developments and challenges in the industry.

**AGENDA:**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 7:30        | Registration opens/continental breakfast                       |
| 7:30-8:45   | Visit with exhibitors  |
| 8:45-9:00   | Welcoming remarks  |
| 9:00-11:30  | Guided tour of research plots                                  |
| 11:30-12:00 | Visit with exhibitors  |
| 12:00-1:00  | Lunch  |
| 12:30       | Ice cream social with exhibitors in vendor section             |
| 1:00-3:00   | Visit with exhibitors  |
| 1:30-2:30   | Afternoon Workshops (Separate registration required)           |
|             | • Handling and Field Application of Beneficial Nematodes       |
|             | • Sustainable and Pesticide-Free Turf Management               |
|             | • Turfgrass Disease Identification and Management Walking Tour |
- Pesticide and certification credits will be available

**Early registration deadline is July 1, 2016.**



Turfgrass Science Program

Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

UConn Extension

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Congratulations to these gentlemen on their new positions:

**Greg Pinto**, Superintendent at North Hill Country Club, Duxbury, MA; **Kevin Corvino**, Superintendent at Unicorn Golf Course, Stoneham, MA; **Dave Sullivan**, Superintendent at Townsend Ridge Country Club, Townsend, MA; **Kevin Banks**, Superintendent at the Vineyard Club, Martha's Vineyard, MA.

Our condolences are extended to Dianne Sibley and family on the passing of Roy Sibley on March 9, 2016. He was a long time member of the Association and a friend to many. He retired from the Charles C. Hart Seed Co. where he was a long time sales representative.

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.



**GCSANE Offers Website Banner advertising at [www.gcsane.org](http://www.gcsane.org)**

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**For more information, please contact Kris Armando at 508-745-8555 or [karmando8@gmail.com](mailto:karmando8@gmail.com)**

# Please Patronize these FRIENDS of the ASSOCIATION

Page 1

## **Agresource, Inc.**

100 Main St., Amesbury, MA 01913  
Quality Compost, Soil & Mulch.  
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Specializing in quality seed, fertilizer, chemicals, and related golf course maintenance supplies.  
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9 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls, MA 01376  
Specializing in agronomy through the distribution of fertilizer, seed and chemicals throughout New England.  
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Providing asphalt paving for golf car paths, walkways and parking lots. We also specialize in drainage, seal coating, crack sealing and line painting.

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## **BASF Turf & Ornamental**

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[www.backedbybayer.com](http://www.backedbybayer.com)

## **Beals and Thomas, Inc.**

144 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA 01772 and  
32 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360  
Civil Engineers - Landscape Architects - Land Surveyors - Planners - Environmental Specialists Contact: Sarah Stearns, 508-366-0560, [sstearns@bealsandthomas.com](mailto:sstearns@bealsandthomas.com)  
Beals and Thomas specializes in golf course site design services including irrigation pond analysis and design, drainage and utility improvements, permitting, hydrogeologic evaluations, construction administration, boundary and topographic surveys, master planning and project design.

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continued on next page



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# Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England

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