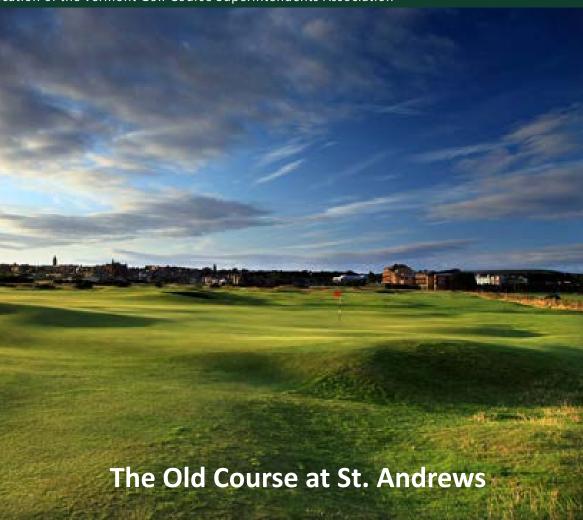


A Publication of the Vermont Golf Course Superintendents Association

#### IN THIS ISSUE

My Perfect Golf Course	Pg. 1,3,4
Director's Message	Pg. 2
Industry News	Pg. 5
VGA News	Pg. 6
VGA Golf Schedule	Pg. 6
Meeting Sites	Pg. 6
Upcoming Events	Pg. 6
Vermonter in the News	Pg. 7
Nor'easter Ski Day	Pg. 8
Trade Show	Pg. 9
Annual Meeting	Pg. 9
Superintendent Tournament	Pg. 9
GCSAA Future P	g. 10, 11
GSCAA Field Staff Report	Pg. 13
GCSAA Resourses	
and Deadlines	Pg. 14
Industry News	Pg. 15
Membership News	Pg. 16
New Members	Pg. 16
Congratulations	Pg. 16
Frank Lamphier Jr.	Pg. 16
Executive Secretary Update	Pg. 17
E-News	Pg. 17
Supporters	Pa. 18



# **My Perfect Golf Course**

By Geoff Ogilvy, Golf Australia

2014 It hasn't been built yet. And it probably never will be; the perfect golf course, that is. But we've come close a few times, with the Old Course at St Andrews the nearest so far. Ironically, that might have something to do with the fact that the Home of Golf is the course that has seen the least input from humans. It just evolved into the 'perfect' course, which is, by its very nature, the way of evolution. Sadly, the Old Course isn't perfect any more. Not for leading professionals anyway. We hit the ball too far these days. So the definition

of 'perfect' has changed. Plus, if I were told I had to choose one course to play every day for the rest of my life, it probably wouldn't be one at St Andrews. I would opt for something not quite so close to such extreme elements. I'd like some nice weather every day. The Old Course at St Andrews is as near to perfection as you can get, according to Ogilvy.

For me then, the perfect course is probably a combination of all the best features of, say, the top courses on the rankings. Ideally, I'd amalgamate the common attributes of Pine Valley, Oakmont, the Old Course,

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# **DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**



**By Kevin Komer** 

The VTGCSA board of directors, myself included, and the VTGCSA president, Jason Shattie are faced with an exciting challenge within a small industry association such as ours, as we are faced with maintaining relevancy within an ever-changing modern culture. It is easy to see that modern society is always in a state of change and continues to move forward at a rapid pace. The VTGCSA is committed to adaptation as social, cultural, and recreational interests change as well as the policies for land management practices change. Maintaining

and improving our relevance as a resource and value to you and the golf industry is vital to our future. The Board is excited to proactively react to these challenges and so it takes rolling up our sleeves, looking under the hood, and going to work. The culture of hard work is something that golf course superintendents embrace on a daily basis and we as a board similarly embrace with running the association.

Our Mission is clearly stated, "The VTGCSA provides exceptional programs and services to its membership, with an emphasis on the importance and impact of golf in Vermont". Simply stated, we are committed to you the superintendent and the golf course industry in Vermont.

Our current work involves developing and implementing a strategic plan that will set the VTGCSA on a successful course to the future. We are meticulously reviewing all of our programs and services to determine their current value to the membership. Some of this review involves our relationship with the industry partners. We are working on a program that will ensure the future success with these partners. The meeting schedule and structure is being reviewed to best provide for our members. Meetings are an integral part of the VTGCSA and the board of directors is dedicated to the success of these events. The association newsletter, Green Mountain Greens, continues to develop as a member resource. It has become clear that an electronic newsletter is the best avenue to reach our members and the next four issues for 2015 will be in this form. The format for the e-newsletter will take time to develop and will improve as we move forward.

At the state level, governmental relations and advocacy programs continue to develop and improve. From my own personal experience, the VTGCSA presence in the state house is very important for the golf industry. Having a seat at the table with stakeholders is crucial for maintaining our positive working relationship especially with the Agency of Agriculture. This constructive relationship is ever more important due to the upcoming Nutrient Management Plan requirements, pesticide use permit revisions, and continued proposals for legislation that have the potential to negatively impact golf.

Former chairman and CEO of General Electric, Jack Welch once stated, "If the rate of change on the outside exceeds the rate of change on the inside, the end is near". The VTGCSA takes Mr. Welch's observation on business strategy seriously. Will all of the new ideas and programs work? We hope so, but in reality some will succeed, some will fail, and some will just be OK. Finding the successes is truly the exciting part. It is the pursuit of innovative solutions and the commitment to success that will keep the VTGCSA strong and viable long into the future.

### **Church Pews at Oakmont Country Club**

Shinnecock Hills, Royal Melbourne, The National Golf Links, Augusta National and Cypress Point. With one or two exceptions, these courses are not generally that difficult until the weather turns nasty or the pins are placed in really tough spots. That makes them – again generally – perfect course is going to incorporate width off the tee. It isn't going to be too long. And most of the challenge will be found in the shots to the greens." That's why courses like Augusta National, Cypress Point and Royal Melbourne are playable for al l. The real challenges there are around the greens. They aren't much of a ball-striking test if all you want to do is get close to the putting surface in regulation. So bogeys are relatively straightforward if that is what you aim for. Pars, birdies and eagles call for more precision and correctness, which is as it should be. As soon as you start taking risks, things should get more difficult or dangerous. But if all you want to do is play to your handicap, then that should very achievable. The church pew bunkering on the 3rd hole at Oakmont Country Club, site of the 2007 US Open.

So my perfect course is going to incorporate width off the tee. It isn't going to be too long. And most of the challenge will be found in the shots to the greens. My greens will be large and incorporate interesting undulations. Nothing too silly though. They will be firm. Golf is infinitely more interesting when the ball bounces and rolls after it lands on the ground. And, while I'm not one who pays much attention to Stimpmeter readings, my greens will be slower than today's accepted standard. We need to get away from the modern obsession with ultra-short grass on both the greens and the fairways. All that does is create so many unnecessary issues. I have to think, for example, that just about every superintendent the world over would really like to see his greens running two feet slower than has become the norm. So my greens will be firm and run at, say, no more than ten feet on the Stimpmeter, which is, as I think about it, just about what you see on a seaside course in the United Kingdom when it is set up normally. Firm enough that the ball will roll nicely. And firm enough that, when you are coming in from the wrong angle, you are faced with a bit of a predicament. Nothing impossible, but enough to make you think. On the fairways, I'd want some undulation too. Golf is so much more interesting when you have to hit balls off slopes. If the grass is cut too short you lose that, the balls running to the bottom of the slopes. Hitting from flat lies time after time is not nearly as much fun as when the ball is either above or below your feet. That's true around the greens, too. Geoff's course will have a halfway house serving sausage sandwiches just like they do at Sunningdale. As an aside, I'm betting that chipping yips hardly existed in golf before fairways were cut too short. Nowadays I see all kinds of players having all kinds of problems playing from lies that are way too 'tight' for their ability level. That's fine for the pros, but the average guy finds golf difficult enough playing in a big flat field in which he has a perfect lie every time. So there is no need to add difficulty with hyper-fast greens and fairways, crazy-deep bunkers and thick rough, which is why my perfect course will have none of the above. As for bunkers, they will be difficult but easy to avoid if you want to avoid them. Yet again, the Old Course and Royal Melbourne are my models here. If your goal is not to hit into a bunker you can go months without doing so. But if you challenge the course and take on the bunkers, the penalty is at least three-quarters of a shot. And, once you are in the sand, any difficulty will be presented by the shot, not the lie. I like hard shots from easy lies rather than easy shots from hard lies. Moving right along, I think carries are a great part of golf, but I don't think they should ever be forced upon the player. Going for it or not should always be a choice. The Old Course has all kinds of temptations. You can go for the 'hero carry' on so many holes. But



if you don't want to, there is a different route available. That's perfect. The same is true at Augusta National. Take the par-5 13th hole. The 'hero carry' is there for you on the second shot. But you can also bumble up short of Rae's Creek then chip over it. You just have to be prepared to add one shot to your score. The average guy can shoot 90 every day on a course like that and have the time of his life. So there will be no forced carries on my perfect course. Unfortunately, much of modern course design is actually going the other way. Courses that are 8,000 yards long and narrow, with perfect, soft greens are really not that difficult for the average PGA Tour professional. But they are unplayable for an 18-handicapper. My perfect course will also be part of a welcoming and friendly environment. There will be no cart girls, but there will be a Sunningdale-type halfway house where sausage sandwiches will be available. There will be a small range where you can hit a few 5-irons before you wander to the 1st tee, carrying your own bag. At the end of the round, you will be able to get your own car from the carpark and you will be able to walk around with your dog on a leash if you so wish. I don't know why we don't do that in Australia. In other words, on my perfect course there will be no wasted manpower, no wasted energy and no wasted money. Speaking of which, my perfect course will be playable with a half-set of clubs. Don't get me wrong though, I want to be able to go out with my 14 clubs and have a great time. But I also want to be able to play in three hours with four clubs and have just as much fun. My perfect course will cater to whatever version of golf you want to play. The best attributes of Augusta National would also find a way into Geoff's perfect course.

# Augusta National Golf Club

Most of the golf at my perfect course will be match play. There will be a monthly medal so that everyone can maintain a handicap but no more than that. There will be no obsession with numbers on cards. In my experience, everyone is much happier when they play match play. Stroke play is a necessary evil for professionals, but for amateurs it should be the exception not the rule. Adding up scores isn't often fun. And everyone will walk. Courses that can only be played in a cart, where you have to smash a driver off every tee and take five hours to get round because it is so long are anathema to me. Perfect golf is as much about the social experience as it is about the playing. Hiking from green to tee is not my idea of fun. It is, in fact, horrible. To sum up, my perfect



course will be a beautiful place to be, a nice environment for spending time with friends, a great place to walk around and fun for all golfers – testing for me and 'easy' for an 18-handicapper. I don't want to feel bad for someone for whom long rough and long carries are too difficult. I want everyone to have a good time. That would be simply perfect. See more at:

http://www.golfaustralia.com.au/perfect-course-geoff-ogilvy/#sthash.r5MXormi.dpuf



# **Industry News**

Rain Bird Golf Irrigation has a new home in New England at Northeast Golf & Turf, a division of Northeast Nursery, Inc.

Previously distributed by Boston Irrigation Supply Co. (BISCO), the Rain Bird move comes as a result of John Deere Landscaping's acquisition of the former in early October, 2014. Due to the non-transferability of the Rain Bird agreement with BISCO, the sale resulted in a competitive application period by numerous companies seeking the privilege of representing the Rain Bird Golf Irrigation line.

After thorough research and an intensive investigative process, Northeast Golf & Irrigation Supply was chosen by Rain Bird to represent and distribute their premium golf irrigation line. Citing solid company structure, previously established strongholds throughout New England, and a willingness to fully embrace and grow this new market through personnel and infrastructure investments, Rain Bird saw a natural fit for both sides.

In an effort to create as seamless a transition as possible for current Rain Bird customers, Northeast Golf and turf has hired essential BISCO team members throughout New England:

- <u>Bill Stinson, Golf Irrigation Manager</u>: Bill will also be the direct sales contact for Worcester County and the four Western counties in Massachusetts.
- <u>Jeff Brown, Sales</u>: Jeff will be the sales contact in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and Essex and Middlesex counties in Massachusetts.
- <u>Dan Fuller, Sales</u>: Dan will be the contact in Rhode Island, Southeastern MA and Cape Cod.
- Greg Hennessy & Tom Hoffer, Service: Greg & Tom will continue to provide service across New England.

The Northeast Turf & Irrigation team looks forward to continued service of current Rain Bird customers in addition to helping new customers with their unique irrigation needs.

Located in Peabody, Ma, parent company Northeast Nursery has been servicing green industry professionals for over 32 years. With significant investments in their turf and irrigation segment in recent years through the acquisition of premium products and industry expertise, Northeast Nursery is poised to offer premium services to customers in the golf irrigation field. With a new facility opened in Londonderry, NH and plans to expand with other locations in the coming years, Northeast continues to position itself to fully service the New England market.





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#### **2015 VGA GOLF SCHEDULE**

**June 2** Tater Hill Golf Club

Girls High School Championship

**June 4** Green Mtn. National

Boys High School Championship

**June 9** Country Club of Barre

Senior 4 Ball Championship

**June 15-17** Lake Morey Country Club

Vermont Open

**June 24** Country Club of VT

VT-Am. Qualifier

June 28 Rutland Country Club

VT-Am. Qualifier

**July 2** Rocky Ridge Golf Club

VT-Am. Qualifier

**July 14-16** Champlain Country Club

Vermont Amateur

**July 21-23** Baker Hill CC, NH

New England Amateur

**Aug 20-23** Dorset Field Club

Vermont Mid-Amateur

# POSITION AVAILABLE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

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### **2015 Meeting Sites**

#### March 18th

Annual Ice Buster

Gonzo's Indoor Golf/ South Burlington

May 19th

Williston Golf Club

w/ Speaker - Pesticide Credit

**Early June** 

Joint Meeting w/ NEGCSA

**June TBD** 

**Location TBD** 

Agency of Agriculture Presentation

1.0 Pesticide Credit

July 22<sup>nd</sup>

Annual Summer Stress Buster

West Bolton Golf Club/ 9-Hole Event

September TBD

Location TBD

w/speaker - Pesticide Credits

**October TBD** 

Location TBD

Member-Guest Tournamnet

#### **Upcoming Events Calendar**

GCSAA National
Championship & Golf Classic
San Antonio, TX • Feb. 21-23, 2015

GCSAA Educational Conference &
Golf Industry Show
San Antonio, TX • Eeb. 23-26, 2015

San Antonio, TX • Feb. 23-26, 2015

New England Grows
Conference & Trade Show
Boston, MA • Feb. 4-6, 2015

### **Vermonter in the News**

By Kyle Darbyson, Golf Business Magazine

Editor's Note: Dave Bennet is a Stowe, VT native. He was the PGA Proffesional at Stowe Country Club and Stowe Mountain Club from 2003-2007. Bennet won the Vermont State Amatuer Championship in 2000 and 2001.

David Bennett recalls the moment as if it were yesterday. It was less than two years ago, and Bennett stood outside a town hall meeting, collecting his thoughts and preparing for the questions that were certain to follow before making the kind of announcement most club management professionals only imagine in their worst nightmares. After a deep breath, the managing director at Winchester Country Club northwest of Sacramento, CA stepped inside and announced to dozens of his members that their greens had been accidentally killed, and the course was immediately closing to allow new turf to grow in. "It's frankly one of the worst situations a golf course could ever face," he recounts.

But in the midst of a monumental crisis that would have dealt a deathblow to many clubs, something remarkable happened: The bond between members and ownership actually strengthened. "And a lot of that, I think, is thanks to how we responded," Bennett says.

Wells Fargo held the note on the property and hired California-based ValleyCrest Landscape Companies to maintain the course while a buyer was found. True to their fiduciary responsibilities, the bank invested the bare minimum in upkeep, and the once proud course began to fade. It took several years for a savior to appear. Real Capital Solutions, a Colorado real estate investment firm, purchased the club in early 2013. They immediately injected \$1.7 million into the course and clubhouse. "It was all in the name of adding value to the real estate," Bennett notes. The investment also included a substantial increase to the maintenance budget.

Membership, which had sunk below 200, grew steadily as a result of the investment. Things were finally starting to look up for Winchester. Then, a simple cultural practice went very wrong and put the future of the club in jeopardy. The area's damp climate means any bentgrass greens become infested with inferior Poa annua. To combat Poa's spread, the maintenance crew had been applying the growth regulator Primo at Winchester several times a season for years. But on one fateful late February day, a

trained and licensed spray technician from ValleyCrest accidently added Prosecutor (a genaric glyphosate) into the mix thinking it was "Primo" and applied it to all 18 greens, the putting green and nursery. Problems started appearing just days later.

"It was pretty obvious something wasn't right" Bennett says.

"It was pretty obvious something wasn't right," Bennett says. "The color was really off."

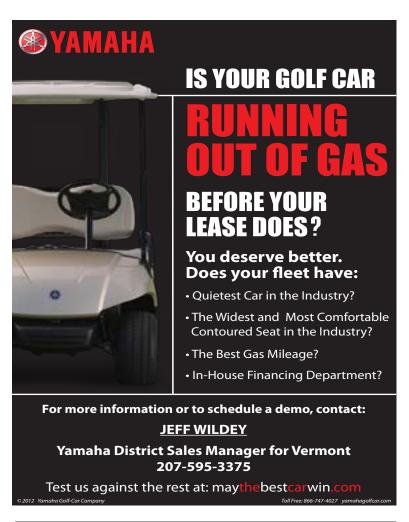
Officials sent samples to the lab, and the results were catastrophic. In a matter of days, Bennett and other stakeholders made a painful decision—one most courses have years to plan for: They would immediately cease operations and completely rebuild all putting surfaces. "It was human error, plain and simple," Bennett says. "Whenever you have the human element involved, there's the chance something could go wrong."

But after that initial mistake, all involved parties seemed to do everything right. Bennett went into full-blown crisis mode, starting with the aforementioned town hall meeting. He used that opportunity to explain what had happened and what the club planned to do. Members were understandably upset. Meanwhile, ValleyCrest made an immediate offer to cover all losses for the club. Making it right in this case cost somewhere between \$700,000 to \$900,000. As the project progressed, Bennett continued to inform membership with daily emails, then weekly updates during the grow-in period. "I knew I had to be open and honest," he says. "It's the only way to eliminate rumors that inevitably boil up."Soon, the mood changed from disbelief and anger to optimism. "We focused on the positive," Bennett says. "We were getting new greens!" In this case, the putting surfaces were seeded with Pure Distinction, a new bentgrass variety that was perfectly suited for Winchester's growing conditions.

Almost six months after the incident, the back nine opened for limited play. For two days, Bennett sat on the first tee and thanked each member that came through. All 18 holes are now open, and rave reviews are rolling in. Whether it's the handling of the ordeal or the quality of the new greens, Bennett says members are once again becoming advocates for the course. "We didn't lose a single member throughout this crisis, and I'm extremely proud of that."Winchester Country Club has weathered the economic crash and the loss of all 18 of its greens. Now, David Bennett has the club on track for long-term success. With safeguards in place to avoid a repeat, Bennett is focusing on a bright future.









# Nor'easter Ski Day

It's that time again. The Nor'easter Ski Committee is happy to announce the 2015 Ski Day is once again going to be held at Killington Ski Resort and the date this winter is **March 5th**, **2015**. Killington will again honor their great ticket and lodging rates through that weekend so if you have a group of friends or family that are ready for a good trip and a great event come on down...or would that be up? Come enjoy one of the last fun filled actiities before the next growing season starts.

This has been a successful event for many years made even better by the increasing numbers of attendees from all over the region and as far away as Pennsylvania and New Jersey. We have put together another great day of fun with friends and family which will include downhill activities as well as a great Apre reception once again at **The Wobbly Barn.** 

The "Battle for the Cup" between VtGCSA and NEGCSA will continue as well as our open competition between all associations for "The Nor'easter Cup". We've got separate race divisions for skiing and boarding in all age brackets. But if you don't race that's ok too. Just come on up and enjoy the late winter snow.

Cost for the day includes lift ticket, race if you want to, a lunch voucher good anywhere on the mountain, and our over the top Apre reception which is well supported by our generous sponsors. If you ask anyone who's been in the past you'll hear great things about this event so please join us.



# **Meeting Recap**

#### **Trade Show**

On September 9<sup>th</sup> 2014, the VTGCSA annual trade show was held at Woodstock Country Club. A big thank you the Tim Stanwood for hosting the event. The sun was shinning for a great day in Woodstock, VT. Attendees toured the exhibitor booths in the morning, had lunch, then played golf. Thank you to all the sponsors that made this a great event.

#### **GROSS**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Bill Evans/Troy Evans	68
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Greg Bean/Larry Kelley	69
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	John Winskowicz/Draw	72
NET		
1st Place	Ben Clark/Justin Leombruno	57
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Shelly Isrealson/Fred Murray	60
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Alan Anderson/Steve Bridgewater	61

### **Annual Meeting**

On October 21<sup>st</sup> 2014, the VTGCSA annual meeting was held at The Quechee Club. Thank you to Ken Lallier, Ken Glick, and Brett Bailey for hosting this event. The weather was typical wet October weather that shortened the golf event to 9-holes. The annual meeting was led by VTGCSA President, Jason Shattie. Gary Crothers, CGCS commented that the meeting was, "a good meeting".

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Al Choinier/Greg Bean/Laurie Griffen	26.2
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Jim Gernander/Kevin Doyle/ Kevin Komer	27.15

# New England Golf Course Superintendent Tournament

On October 7<sup>th</sup> 2014, The Vermont team traveled to the Mount Washington Resort in Bretton Woods, NH to compete in the New England Golf Course Superintendents Tourney. Due to rain the event was shortened to 9-holes. This event brought out the best in the Vermont team and they brought home the championship. Vermont has positioned itself as the team to beat in the last few years of this event. Let's keep the good golf going for the 2015 event. Great job team!

#### Vermont Team

1st Division Greg Bean/Bill Evans

2<sup>nd</sup> Div Scott Rossi/Brant Slayton

3<sup>rd</sup> Div Al Choiniere/Howard Nosek

4th Div Ken Glick/Chris Cowan

#### **Team Results**

Vermont	115
New England	96
Conneticut	94

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# **Delegates** discuss inclusive membership as the future for GCSAA



VTGCSA voting delegate, Kevin Komer, CGCS, along with 86 other chapter delegates attended the Chapter Delegates Meeting at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, KS on October 14-15. A considerable amount of time was spent on discussing the proposed model to update both member classifications and member standards.

The member classification proposal:

- Is still centered on education
- Maintains CGCS as the pinnacle of continual education attainment
- Provides tools for members to market themselves and their individual attainment
- Allows for the association to promote the profession

"The board did a good job of explaining the membership issues we have and why we need to change the focus to be a more inclusive association," said Dale Kuehner, CGCS, superintendent at Seven Springs Golf Course in Elizabeth, Pa., and a representative of the Greater Pittsburgh GCSA. "They showed the steps we need to take to strengthen the membership as a whole and move forward.

"I was on the original Member Standards Resource Group, but this model makes more sense in the whole of the golf community. I think GCSAA has decided what it wants to be, and it has made a choice to be an inclusive association. I like what I heard from this meeting."

The proposed membership model has five classifications and, while education will remain a cornerstone of GCSAA membership, emphasis within the classifications will be placed on experience. The proposed model does not affect the current certification process or

its individual components. The board of directors will work with staff and appropriate task groups to collect additional feedback over the next year before a formal proposal will be put to a membership vote at the 2016 Golf Industry Show.

"Education will continue to be at the center of what we provide to our members, but it will be driven by competency rather than classification," said Keith A. Ihms, CGCS, GCSAA president. "Member standards has been a priority for this board for the last few years, and we have evaluated our association model from every angle. This proposal focuses on the value of a well-educated superintendent and promotes the strength of the profession over any single classification."

The delegates spent the remainder of the meeting discussing items such as:

- Rounds 4 Research
- Member dues
- Golf Industry Show
- Advocacy

The board also presented a proposal to advance the profession through adding an equipment manager classification. The delegates were receptive to this new classification, given its positive impact at the facility. Also brought before the delegates was a \$10 Class A/SM and \$5 Class C dues increase based on the Consumer Price Index. Both of these issues will be placed before the membership for a vote during the 2015 annual meeting in San Antonio.

"I think this was a good meeting and there was a good exchange of information," said Jeff White, CGCS, superintendent at Indian Hills Country Club in Prairie

Village, Kan., and a member of the Heart of America GCSA. "As we look at ourselves with an eye toward the future, we must continually make adjustments that will assist us in gaining ground in the industry."

GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans shared updates on the We Are Golf allied coalition that focuses on general advocacy for the golf industry. "In many areas, we have work to do to change the perception of golf from what that perception is to what it should be," said Evans. "We have to maintain visibility with all legislators to let them know that the golf industry is a driving force in the economy."

The We Are Golf coalition is composed of golf's leading organizations, all working together to communicate to Congressional leaders the economic, charitable, environmental and fitness benefits of golf. In addition to GCSAA, the group includes the USGA, the PGA Tour, PGA of America, National Golf Course Owners Association, World Golf Foundation, Club Manufacturers Association of America and the U.S. Golf Manufacturers Council.

The collective voice of superintendents was heard

in Washington, D.C., as GCSAA's stepped-up advocacy efforts yielded two important decisions on behalf of the profession in the past three months. First, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted a threeyear extension on the use of Nemacur stocks through Oct. 6, 2017. Second, the House of Representatives voted nearly 2-1 to halt the proposed regulation of "Waters of the U.S." The EPA proposal, however, is still alive and will have a comment period through Nov. 14, 2014, before getting attention from the Senate. If adopted, WOTUS could come to include all drainage ditches, storm water ditches and water storage or treatment ponds on golf courses. "We are making a difference, and our voices are being heard in Washington, D.C.," said Chava McKeel, associate director, GCSAA government relations. "And we hope to involve more members for advocacy through our new grassroots ambassador program."If you would like to be a grassroots ambassador, visit www.gcsaa.org to learn more.

Delegates also had the opportunity to hear from all the candidates running for the 2015 GCSAA.



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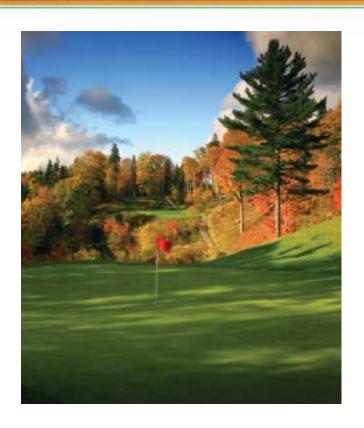


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### **GSCAA'S FIELD STAFF REPORT**

What is all the buzz about? From Europe to Washington, D.C., State to Washington State and nearly every place between, the plight of honey bees has been on the main stage. After attending the Pollinator Summit (presented by the New Jersey Green Industry Council) and Dr. Daniel Potter's keynote address at the New York State Turfgrass Association Turf and Grounds Exposition, I have come to learn a lot about the critical role pollinators play in our world. Like turf, there are internal and external stresses that can upset the balance of the hive and industry. Oh and there are politics, lots of politics. There is also science, emotion and a host of other factors involved in the discussion. While the issues continue to swarm, let's take a quick peek at golf's footprint in this issue.

What role does turf play in the pollinator discussion? Neonicotinoid class insecticides (neonics), often used as a preventative for white grubs, have been shown to have adverse effect on pollinators. The degree to which they affect the beneficial insects often has more to do with which side of the political issue you wish to argue. While this situation is unfortunate it definitely can create disruption in turf right here in the Northeast region. Just this past year alone, legislative measures took place in New Jersey, New York, Vermont, and Maine to ban the use of neonics. Beekeepers in Vermont joined one superintendent at the committee hearing to assist in educating the legislators as to the minimal role neonics play in pollinator issues. Stephanie Darnell, technical development manager, Bayer CropScience, cited a survey of beekeepers that placed pesticides as the seventh most important stress factor to those in the bee industry, with varroa mite at the top of the list.

While none of the above mentioned legislation efforts

were successful, it opens up the "what if" discussion. Without this useful tool, turf managers could be pushed to use more volatile chemicals, such as organophosphate and carbamate insecticides, to control the same pests. These options are much less environmentally friendly, more costly and potentially more harmful to non-target pests. What can turf managers do with regards to our friendly pollinators?

**Develop stewardship practices:** Learn about our role as land managers and the stresses regarding honey bees. Develop spray programs with the sensitivities of pollinators in mind.

**Support research:** Emotion and regulation can often

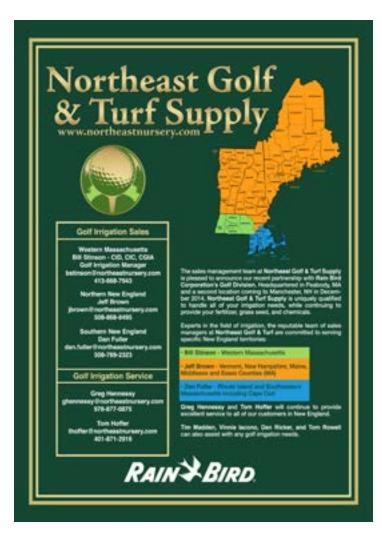
outpace research needed to answer vital questions, and this issue is no exception. Remain vigilant regarding the latest research, and adjust your practices as needed.

Be part of the solution: It is so often overlooked that the golf industry undertakes environmental initiatives simply because it is the right thing to do. The changing landscape is often a negative impact on pollinators, leaving open green space that includes pollinator friendly vegetation as a critical part of the solution. Whether you choose to work with industry partners on specifically developed pollinator friendly programs, or become conscious of areas and plantings that you could incorporate on your property, avenues are available for our industry to be part of the solution.

I encourage GCSAA chapters to reach out to your state apiarists as a resource for information. Invite that individual to a meeting or education day to spread the word about pollinators in your area. The more you learn about the role your facilities play in the issue, the better chance you have at being part of the solution.









#### **GCSAA** Resources and Deadlines

you <u>G</u>et <u>Cool Stuff from your <u>A</u>ssociation <u>A</u>lready:</u>

#### **Compliance counseling**

Are you in compliance with the laws and regulations that affect your job and the golf course? GCSAA members can contact the public policy staff for free compliance counseling, information and resources on the following laws and regulations that affect your job and the golf course:

- Employee training
- Hazard communication
- Chemical use and storage
- Environmental protection
- Workplace safety
- Wetlands protection and conservation
- OSHA recordkeeping
- Child labor laws
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Material safety data sheets
- Personal protective equipment
- Fuel storage tanks
- And many more

# New Compliance Deadline: Use of Nemacur (fenamiphos) products extended until Oct. 6, 2017

The EPA has granted GCSAA's request for an extension on the use of fenamiphos (Nemacur nematicide) existing stocks labeled for use on golf courses until Oct. 6, 2017. Nemacur is used to control the major genera of nematodes attacking turfgrass including root knot, root lesion, sting, lane and rink nematodes. Contact Chava McKeel, associate director, government relations, for more information.



# **Industry News**

### **Golf Industry Show general registration open**

Be sure to spread the word that general registration is now open for the 2015 Golf Industry Show, Feb. 21-26 in San Antonio. Visit the new website for details on education opportunities, the trade show, events and attendee resources.

### **New Golf Industry Show website launched**

#### **GCSAA Grassroots Network Building our Grassroots Army**

Advocacy is one of the most powerful ways to impact public policy. Successful association advocacy and lobbying efforts depend upon establishing strong relationships with elected officials. Ad hoc advocacy makes it hard to build strong, long-term relationships with elected officials and have a positive impact on policy decisions.

The GCSAA Grassroots Network is a new, dedicated group of GCSAA members who want to engage in the association's government relations efforts. Individuals in the GCSAA Grassroots Network also have the opportunity to serve as a GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador. GCSAA will give its Grassroots Ambassadors personalized training on building relationships with Members of Congress.

#### AMBASSADORS UPDATE BY STATE:

Massachusetts: 4 Connecticut: 5 New Jersey: 1 New York: 6 New Hampshire: 1

Vermont: 1

There is still a great need for more support of this program from all northeast states. If you have any questions regarding the program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## **Upcoming FREE webcasts:**

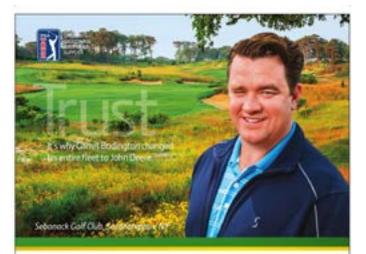
- Feb. 4: How True Are Your Putting Greens?
- Feb. 5: Talk Better, Listen Better
- Feb. 12: Grow Your Own! The Value in Veggies Establishing a golf course vegetable garden

Again, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me. Kevin Doyle

GCSAA Field Staff

kdoyle@gcsaa.org

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With the US Women's Open coming to Sebanack in 2013, Garret Bodington made the decision to go with John Deere. Why? "John Deere gave us tremendous support



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# **Membership News**

#### **New Members**

Welcome the following new members: Jason McDonough-Superintendent-West Hill Golf Club

Terry Davio-Superintendent-Lake St.Catherine Golf Club

Brendon Flynn-Class C-Jay Peak Golf Club

## **Congratulations**

Chase LaCourse from Newport, VT received the 2014 Bob Ward Memorial Scholarship. Chase was sponsored by Greg Bean, superintendent at Newport Country Club. Chase is attending the SUNY-Cobleskill Turf Management program.

John T. "JT" Carney has replaced Jeff Wildey as the regional sales representative for the Yamaha Golf Car Company. Congratulations JT and good luck with your new position.

JT's new contact information is listed below:

(O) 770-254-4154

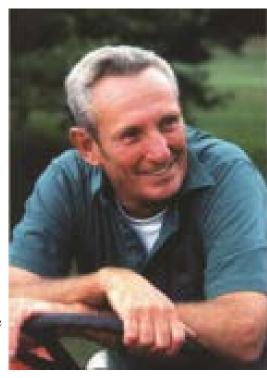
(C) 678-551-0524

jcarney@ymmc.yamaha-motor.com



# Remembering Frank Lamphier Jr.

Frank Edwin Lamphier Jr., 80, of Morrisville, VT died peacefully at his home on September 24, 2014. He was born April 6, 1934, in North Adams, Mass. Lamphier was a graduate of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst turf school. In 1957, he became the 237th individual to be certified as a ski instructor by the Professional Ski In-



structors of America. In 1987, Lamphier was chosen as superintendent of the year in Connecticut.

He worked in the golf industry his entire career. He was the course superintendent at Aspetuck Valley Country Club in Connecticut for 28 years, and also worked at a number of other courses over the years, including Copley Country Club, Woodstock Country Club and Stowe Country Club.

In 2013, Lamphier was selected for the GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award, which is presented annually to individuals who have made an outstanding, substantive and enduring contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent profession.

In 1968, Lamphier accepted the task to save the GCSAA National Championship & Golf Classic. Originally known as the National Greenkeeping Superintendents Tournament, it began in 1938. It was interrupted from 1942-45 during World War II, resumed in 1946 through 1952, and then was held intermittently until 1963. From 1964 to 1967, though, there was no tournament.

Lamphier led the charge to make the event viable and continuous. He oversaw the tournament through 1988, long enough to make it important again and a regular at the Golf Industry Show.

"Most of all, Frank really was on the ball. He was, in a way, a bull-dog," Michael Bavier, CGCS, stated last year. "That was important because it would've been devastating not to have this thing. A lot of it is for the camaraderie, for the association. We should be golfers, whether we're good or bad."

## **Executive Secretary Update**

With one full year of experience as Executive Secretary I am starting to get the hang of things. I have been surprised at the amount of things I have learned in this short time frame, from the ins and outs of Quicken to figuring out what a blessing and curse it is to work with mail merge in Microsoft Word. It has been great to meet and talk with fellow superintendents in the association. I would also like to thank the members of the Board of Directors for their support and assistance over the past year.

The next big thing on my agenda will be sending out the membership renewals. They will be sent out in mid-March. When you receive your membership, please take a few minutes to ensure that all the contact information is correct and up to date.

This information will be put in the VTGCSA's directory which will be accessible through the association's website at

www.vtgcsa.com . Please be extra vigilant with checking the email address as this will be the primary means of communication between the VTGCSA and our members.

I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's meetings and if there is anything I can do to assist you please let me know. I can be reached at vtgcsa@gmail.com.

Jim Gernander, VTGCSA Executive Secretary VTGCSA P.O. Box 8148 Essex VT 05451 vtgcsa@gmail.com

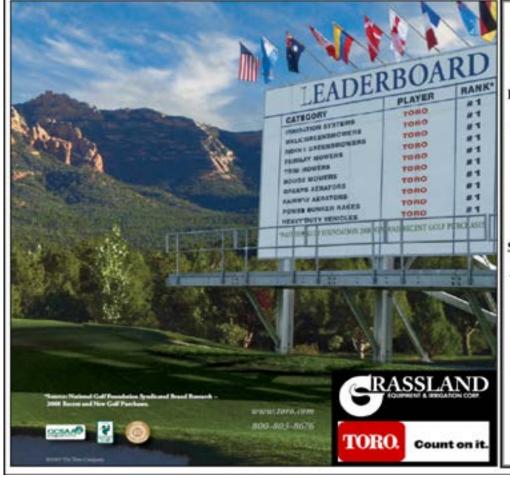
Office/Home: 802-870-7256 Cell: 802-598-8453

#### E-news

This section of Green Mountain Greens will shed some light on where to get good information on the web. Check out these web sites, e-newsletters, and apps:

Have you seen the new golf media channel trying to break into the market? It is called **Back9Network.** Check it out on channel 262 on DirecTV and on the web at <a href="https://www.back9network.com">www.back9network.com</a>

Check out this new white paper on "The Future of Golf" produced by ISC-Audubon <a href="http://goo.gl/Q7m3PU">http://goo.gl/Q7m3PU</a>





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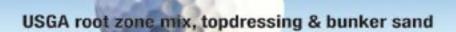
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