



SPRING 2017

# GREEN MOUNTAIN GREENS

A Publication of the Vermont Golf Course Superintendents Association

## 2017 MEETING SITES

### July 19th

Fun-B-Q North @ West Bolton G.C.

### July 31st

Helena Educational Seminar  
@ Vermont National Country Club

### August TBD

Fun-B-Q South @ The Hermitage Club

### September 19th

Trade Show Mtg @ Neshobe G.C.

### October 4th

Annual Mtg & Member/Guest  
@ Country Club of Vermont



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## GCSAA'S BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INITIATIVE

By Ken Lallier

GCSAA's BMP Planning Guide and Template is an online resource that provides for the development of golf course best management practices (BMP) programs at the state level. The need for state-level BMP programs and, ultimately, golf facility-written BMP plans for nutrient, drought, and water management and integrated pest management (IPM) is greater than ever. Considering the change driven by increases in nutrient regulations, scrutiny of golf courses, and of areas like the Chesapeake Bay and the Gulf of Mexico that were targeted by policy/regulations, and the impacts of regional droughts, it is critical that the industry promote BMP. GCSAA-affiliated chapters in Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New York, Oregon, and Virginia have been actively engaged and provide excellent examples, demonstrating the success and importance of developing state-level BMP programs.

BMP programs help superintendents manage golf facilities in an efficient manner while providing quality playing surfaces and protecting the environment. They also enable the golf course facility to operate where regulatory pressures exist, and they offer the industry a significant platform for advocacy, education, recognition, and demonstration of professional land management. In order to encourage the implementation and use of up-to-date agronomic and environmental BMP at golf facilities, GCSAA and EIFG have been providing funding opportunities to

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# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**By Larry Keefe - President**

Hello Everyone,

With another year under our belts I believe that the Board has made some significant advances with the Chapter. This is due largely to our Sponsorship Partner Program that was developed to streamline our VTGSCA events. I would like to give a BIG THANK YOU for their support now and in the future.

This past year we switched our Newsletter to an e-mail format which simplifies the publication process. We are always looking for new articles from the Membership and Sponsor Partners.

The website has been upgraded and re-vamped to keep continuous updates regarding meetings, VTGSCA events and Sponsor's business meetings. PLEASE go to this website on a regular basis to keep up on monthly events that are happening. Feel free to contact any Board Member with advice, comments etc. that you may have.

There is a nutrient management plan currently being implemented by the State this year. We have had a couple of informative meetings for the Membership. These meetings helped us understand what the State of Vermont is looking for. Our website will have available for you a power point presentation from these meetings as well as forms to help us build up our management plans. Any additional information from the State will also be available as it comes in.

The future is putting more pressure on our profession. We need to have a healthy membership and chapter. For those who opt not to reach out become more isolated from important information and good camaraderie, give it a try!

Looking forward to working with you this season. Have a great year!

Sincerely,

Larry Keefe

President



# GCSAA's Best Management Practices Initiative

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GCSAA-affiliated chapters to develop state-level BMP programs. GCSAA's field staff have promoted and worked with chapters in conjunction with this initiative.

The BMP approach has been recognized by both turfgrass scientists and professionals in golf. In their article in the June 2005 issue of Golf Course Management magazine, Robert Carrow, Ph.D., Ronny Duncan, Ph.D., and their co-author David Wienecke, M.S., CPAg, said, that each golf course should be encouraged "to adopt and implement BMPs approaches not just in response to mandated regulations, but as a proactive environmental stewardship business policy, that is, the best operations strategy for sustainability of the environment and the golf business."

State golf organizations, including GCSAA chapters and universities are now able to develop and implement uniform/standard BMP programs throughout the U.S. Each state will adapt its program to incorporate state regulations, regional agronomic practices and data and pertinent environmental protection. Individual facilities can then access this resource and utilize their state template

to produce a BMP plan for their facility.

The BMP Planning Guide and Template provides information on getting started, identifying funding resources, and carrying out key processes. This information, which is based on the experience of those who have developed existing programs, saves money and resources by providing a starting point for golf facilities. The information is pre-loaded, editable, and easy to use. State programs are stored within a database and available for updates and facility adoption.

In 2015, GCSAA received financial support from the USGA through the EIFG to develop this resource. GCSAA hired professional scientists from the University of Florida with turfgrass/horticultural disciplines and experience with the Florida BMP program to compile BMP from existing golf-centric programs, survey state leaders, and provide the foundation of information within the BMP Planning Guide and Template. The BMP Planning Guide and Template was further developed through a task group consisting of superintendents, GCSAA chapter leaders,

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# GCSAA's Best Management Practices Initiative

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university scientists, environmental professionals, golf course architects, and other industry representatives. This product now provides the foundation, or starting point, for BMP programs within states. It is not a static document, but one that will be continuously managed to remain current and practical. State leaders must do the same with their specific programs.

## Best Management Practices Planning Guide Template

The Planning Guide Template is based on agronomic research and geared toward providing healthy turfgrass and quality playing surfaces in light of environmental protection. Not all aspects of golf course operations are addressed as they would be within an exhaustive environmental management program or environmental management system (EMS).

These tools have different purposes. The focus is on the golf course and landscape and associated agronomic operations and not the entire facility. GCSAA and EIFG recommend that facility leaders adopt environmental management programs or an EMS appropriate for their circumstances.

The resource does not provide specific state or federal regulations, but does allow state leaders to input regulatory requirements within each BMP category. Additionally, state-level agronomic and environmental information should be incorporated or referenced accordingly to ensure compliance and healthy turfgrass landscapes.

This document is not intended to be all encompassing, but to provide the platform for developing practical and functional BMP programs. Additional resources and information for golf course management can be obtained from the GCSAA and the USGA. Design best practices can be obtained from the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

## Download the BMP Planning Guide and Template

[BMP Planning Guide and Template – print version](#)

Superintendents will be able to access the Vermont BMP Manuals once available. Please download the print version above until then.



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# IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT TIPS FOR THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

By Trent Nelson, Aquatic Specialist and former Assistant Golf Course Superintendent

When the golf season moves in to full swing, it's important to address the irrigation needs of your course. Turf health is highly dependent on the irrigation source and delivery system. While there are a multitude of management techniques that dictate the amount of irrigation water needed, there are also a handful of strategies that can be used to benefit your turf and help ensure that your water bodies remain healthy.

Healthy lakes and ponds equate to superior, reliable and predictable irrigation water quality. Conducting an Audit of your irrigation system may be the best place to start when developing techniques to maximize the efficiency of your irrigation water supply. This audit should include documenting and repairing any leaking or malfunctioning irrigation heads, checking and confirming the overall output of the system, and adjusting any site-specific needs for dry or wet areas by reducing or increasing the application time of these areas. In addition to conducting an audit of your irrigation system, collecting samples of your water sources and testing the water quality can help uncover any underlying water chemistry problems or nutrient imbalances.

Timely irrigation can be one of the more overlooked techniques for proper irrigation application. Sometimes tournaments, golf outings, and other member play can interfere with proper and timely irrigation applications. However, by irrigating based on the plant's needs rather than other factors, you can often lower water use and have healthier turf.

Accurate knowledge of lake volumes allows the turf manager to determine precisely how much irrigation water is available at any given time. In a world where fresh water seems to be more and more valuable, it is critical to know how much water is available.

Bathymetric studies of the lake are the best way to accurately determine the actual water volume of your irrigation lake. Installing a water level measurement device in the lake combined with the bathymetric data will provide water availability information during all climatic conditions. When combined with an audit of the output of your irrigation system, exact application amounts can be determined as well as the amount of water left in reserve for future applications.

Nuisance algae and vegetation control should be at the top of the list for anyone that has a waterbody on their property, especially if that waterbody supplies your irrigation pump house. Nuisance vegetation, if left unmanaged, can clog irrigation intake screens, damage pumps and valves, and ultimately make its way into the hundreds, or even thousands, of irrigation heads on a golf course. Clogged foot valves, rock screens, and nozzles reduce the overall output of the irrigation head, ultimately reducing the amount of water received by the turf. Continued cleaning of these heads can take valuable time away from other duties around the course and can often times be solved by proper treatment and prevention of nuisance algae and submersed aquatic vegetation. Many times nutrient imbalances, specifically high nitrogen and phosphorus levels, can lead to these nuisance vegetation and algae problems.

Submersed aeration combined with nutrient remediation strategies have shown to significantly reduce freely

[continued on page 7](#)



[continued on page 6](#)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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# Irrigation Management Tips

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available nitrogen and phosphorus levels. This reduction can ultimately lead to lower growth rates of algae and aquatic weeds in nutrient rich waterbodies. Proper fertilizer and pesticide application is one of those concepts drilled into turf manager's heads in school, during pesticide certification courses, and through real world experience as they learn and grow professionally. Proper fertilizer application allows the turf to perform optimally when growing conditions allow. Over-fertilization can require excess water for the turf to keep up with the available nutrients, yet under-irrigation may leave nutrients unavailable for the plant to uptake. With the price of fuel, labor and fertilizer, it is important to stay in the middle of the fertility scale.

Pesticides, including herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides are vital in producing high quality turf. Once again, water plays a key role in the application of these pesticides. However, applying too much water over extended periods of time can lead to disease, requiring the application of a fungicide as well as increasing weed pressure such as sedge growth where water may collect.

The installation of beneficial buffers, beneficial shoreline plantings, and buffer management is one of the single most important things anyone with a waterbody can do. A maintained buffer of dense turf that extends 3-6 feet from the water's edge can greatly reduce nutrients from entering the water during and after heavy rain events.

Maintained buffers also help to reduce sediment loss from erosion along the shoreline. Beneficial buffer plantings, or shoreline plantings such as pickerel weed, arrow arum, and or duck potato help to stabilize the shoreline, use available nutrients in the benthic region and attract wildlife to your pond's edge.

Overall, proper water management creates high quality turf and vice versa. While there are so many items that require the attention of the Golf Course Superintendent these days, finding the right balance must include optimization of the irrigation system and application techniques. If you find this balance, you will undoubtedly make your life and the turf you manage far better.

*Trent Nelson is an experienced Aquatic Specialist with SOLitude Lake Management, an environmental firm providing a full array of superior lake, pond, and fisheries management services and solutions. He can be reached through the website [www.solitudelakemanagement.com](http://www.solitudelakemanagement.com).*



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### [Tick Borne Diseases](#)

by David Morrison



### [Vermont's Golf Course Premitting Program](#)

by [vermont.gov](http://vermont.gov)



### [Vermont Pollinator Protection Committee](#)

by Ken Lallier



# VERMONT GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT'S TO-DO LIST 2017

## Spring & Summer:

- ✓ Write your Nutrient Management Plan (NMO) and have it ready by renewal time (Fall 2017)
  - Start soil testing 1/3 of the course (only areas that will receive fertilizer applications) if not already doing so
- ✓ Start using the new Daily record keeping forms for;
  - All Pesticide Applications
  - All Fertilizer Applications

## Fall 2017:

### Golf Course Permit Renewal

- ✓ Forms will be mailed to the golf courses in September to start the annual renewal of permit, beginning with calendar year 2018
- ✓ Return completed renewal forms to Matt Wood including;
  - Acknowledgment that IPM plan and NMP are complete and current
  - Include a copy of completed Pesticide usage form
  - Include a copy of completed Fertilizer usage form
  - Sign affidavit (superintendent and golf course officer)
- Confirm that the active ingredients and approved amounts are correct (make corrections or additions before renewing)

### Pesticide Applicator Certification Renewal (same as in the past)

- ✓ Initial, sign, & return the renewal form to the Licensing and Registration dept. (address on the renewal form), not to Matt Wood
- ✓ Include a copy of the completed annual pesticide usage report form
- ✓ Include payment fee for license renewal

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# GCSAA UPDATE

By Kevin Doyle - GCSAA Field Staff - Northeast Region

If there is one consistent part of our industry, it is transition. Seasons change both environmentally and within the business of being a superintendent. We are transitioning out of a busy education season into facilities opening, handling staff and weather challenges, and chapter meeting and events. Just because golf begins doesn't mean education is put on hold.

In a conversation with one superintendent, he told me that attends almost every meeting and plays golf when he attends. "I always try to take three things back to my facility from every meeting." He explained that through education offerings, conversations with peers, and paying attention to the maintenance practices on a colleague's course, the fact is, he never struggles to find three items to justify his attendance. He also makes a point to discuss what he learned with his employer. "We host a chapter education event every year, so my boss understands there is more to our job than standard agronomic practices. He sees that we learn from each other."

I have seen meeting attendance increase slightly at chapter events across the region in the last couple years. Chapter boards continue to look for a magic bullet to drive you, the members, to meetings. If there was one, they would have been using it! I've written about it before in this newsletter: all attendees are a resource for others. The value to all members is increased by your attendance!

That point was driven home at a recent chapter strategic planning session. This chapter will be looking to engage members who they have not seen at a meeting or event in a while. It will not be an easy goal to achieve. The board is convinced that members who attend a meeting find more value in their association, and are more inclined to engage other chapter events. The board understands that they must reach out, and actively promote and invite members to attend. Has anyone done that for you lately? Would you come to at least one more meeting if someone asked directly if you would attend?

Another colleague spent a long portion of a visit telling me how golf course

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## GCSAA Update

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superintendents need to play the game of golf. We should understand the rules, be aware of course markings, engage our customers and members and discuss the sport on every level. We are employed because of the game of golf; explain to those you answer to how important it is to attend meetings and play.

There will always be one or more reasons to not go to a chapter meeting. If you attend regularly, thank you. I know I have benefitted because you were a part of the event. If you have not made a meeting in a while, please consider breaking that habit even just one time this year. Someone will benefit from information you share, and I am willing to bet that you will gain a lot from being there, no matter where “there” is!

## GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

you **Get Cool Stuff** from your **Association Already**:

### How your Equipment Manager can get you an R&R credit!

GCSAA has partnered with R&R Products to bring a special rebate program to GCSAA members. Current EM members who pass one Turf Equipment Technician Certificate Program exam will receive a \$95 rebate from R&R Products to be used towards your next R&R Products purchase.

This program expires on Dec. 31, 2017, so take advantage of this opportunity by visiting the new GCSAA website today!

## GCSAA partners with Columbia Sportswear for member discounts

GCSAA and Columbia Sportswear Company, an industry leader for outdoor apparel and products, have joined in a partnership to bring savings to association members and their facilities. Columbia is offering a 50 percent discount to GCSAA members on outdoor wear purchases.

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# VTGCSA MEMBER NEWS

## March 28th Ice Breaker @ Gonzo's in Burlington, VT

The VtGCSA held its 3rd annual Spring Ice Breaker meeting at Gonzo's in Burlington. The meeting was attended by approx. 35 people and Matt Wood from the Agency of Agriculture went over the changes to the Pesticide regulations and the Nutrient Management plan.



*Matt Wood from the Agency of Agriculture going over the new pesticide rules and Nutrient Management program set to roll out in the fall of 2017.*

This information was shared with the association again as this program will be rolling out in the fall of 2017 with the nutrient reporting requirement and submittal of a nutrient management plan for each golf course. In addition to the management plans and reporting, he also discussed the soil sampling requirement and record keeping procedures.

Along with this new program, the Agency will also start issuing annual pesticide permit renewals in the fall of 2017. Sometime in the fall of 2017, we can all expect to see our pesticide permit renewal forms arrive in the mail. That would be the time to review all the products on your pesticide permit and make any additions or deletions necessary. If adding a non-prescreened product, you will still have to do the dilution calculations, but you also must make sure that all products you are reporting for use are on your pesticide permit. That includes products that are on the prescreened list. The new fertilizer reporting requirements will be in conjunction with the annual pesticide usage reporting.

It has recently come to our attention that there were some violations of existing permits during 2016 with usage of products reported that were not on a permit. The Agency

is in the process of sending letters to those individuals and if you were lucky enough to receive a letter, they just ask that you schedule a time to meet with them to discuss the issue and come up with a plan moving forward to include those products on your permit.

## June 13th Meeting @ Kwiniaska

The June meeting of the VtGCSA was held at the Kwiniaska G.C. where host superintendent Jim Gernander provided an outstanding venue and did a pretty good job with the weather as well.

There were 40+ people in attendance for the event and all were treated to a great talk given by Mr. David Morrison, who works for ProTech fire company and is a Lyme disease survivor. David spoke to the group about his adventure with Lyme disease and shared some interesting and scary information about the disease, causes and prevention measures we should all be considering when working outdoors.

A fantastic lunch followed the speaker and then it was on to the links for some fun golf. The team event lead to the following results;

1st Place with a score of 53: Host Supt. Jim Gernander, Chris Cowan, Scott Rossi, Brant Slayton

2nd Place with a score of 55: Adam Paplawski, Mike Wing, Bob Doran

3rd Place with a score of 60: Frank Barsalow, Greg Bean, Howard Nosek

A big thank you goes out to Jim Gernander and the staff at Kwiniaska for hosting a great event!



*The motley crew... I mean... winning team (from left to right) Scott Rossi, Chris Cowan, Jim Gernander & Brant Slayton. It must have been the team hats that did the trick!*



# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT - BRATTLEBORO COUNTRY CLUB

## Position Available:

The Brattleboro Country Club is looking to hire a motivated and skilled superintendent to continue course improvements and maintain consistent playing conditions for daily championship golf. Our present superintendent is leaving after 23 years with the club. Under direction of a new superintendent the BCC is expected to continue to be recognized as a great destination for golf in Southern Vermont.

## Facility Description:

Founded in 1914, the Brattleboro Country Club is a single owner, semi-private club with 18 holes and a driving range located on 150+ acres. The original 9 holes was designed by Tom McNamara, remodeled by Wayne Styles in 1929 and expanded to 18 holes in 1999 by local Vermont architect Steve Durkee. The original greens are push-up native soil and the newer expansion greens are California style with straight sand. Since the expansion to 18 holes the course has hosted a 2001 US Open Qualifier, the Men's and Women's Vermont State Amateur Championships and many other state, tri state and regional events.

Since 2015, when the club was purchased by Jack Judge and Melanie Boese, many improvements have been made to both the golf course and clubhouse. The new ownership is driven to enhance this community asset to attract new members. Prior to the purchase, for 100 years, the club was owned by its members. A double row computerized irrigation system is being installed stage by stage and is nearing completion. New turf equipment has been purchased. A new Pro Shop and Clubhouse renovation and expansion is happening. A tree removal plan is in progress to improve sunlight and air movement. Please see the club's website for further information.

## Education/ Description Desired:

2-4 year Degree in Turf Grass Management or related field preferred. Turf Program Certificate with time served will be considered. Minimum of 3 years' experience working as a superintendent or 1st assistant superintendent at a premium club is expected.

## Requirements:

Full time salaried position. Must have or obtain a Vermont Pesticide Applicators License before 2018. Have a working understanding of;

- What it takes to maintain a golf course in exceptional condition
- Preparing budgets and staying with-in them
- Computerized irrigation, pumps, irrigation and repair, (Rain Bird)
- Turf equipment, operation and basic repair,
- Hiring, training and managing an effective work crew,
- Pesticides and fertilizer; calibration and application for cool season grasses,
- State required record keeping,
- Proposing new improvements and implementing them,
- Communicating with Pro Shop about events and course conditions,
- Overseeing snow removal and act as liaison between BCC and the Brattleboro Outing Club to prevent any negative impact from x-country skiing on the golf course,
- Communicating regularly with owner/manger

## Comments:

The Brattleboro Country Club is looking for a focused, hardworking, motivated person to continue the progress made toward improving its championship golf course. The position starts November 1, 2017. Present Superintendent is leaving after 23 years on January 1, 2017 and will assist in the transition. Superintendent reports to Owner.

## Salary Range:

To be determined based on experience

## Benefits:

To be negotiated, Golf Playing Privileges, VTGCSA Membership, GCSAA Membership included.

## Application Instructions:

Mail or E-Mail Resumes by June 21, 2017 to:

Brattleboro Country Club  
Attn: Phil Rollins  
Golf Course Superintendent  
P.O. Box 478  
Brattleboro VT 05302  
[prollins@brattleborocc.com](mailto:prollins@brattleborocc.com)

## For More Information

[Download PDF](#) or Call 802-380-1393

# SOME GOOD ETIQUETTE ADVICE

By Don Hearn, GCSANE  
Executive Director

The following are some thoughts that might reinforce what you already know and do.

Some of these could possibly open your eyes to a different approach to the way you're doing things now.

1. Say thank you, and please. The store clerk will remember that. And don't forget to say thank you when a person holds open a door for you.
2. Don't burn bridges when you quit your job. Leave like you want to return. Well, maybe not like you want to return, but at least leave with civility.
3. When someone offers you their food, take only a small portion.
4. If you are the aisle or window seat, leave the armrest for the person in the middle. Don't fight and nudge them.
5. When you visit someone's house, clean up your mess. Don't leave the bed untidy, and your plates just lying on the table, offer to help the host clean up and offer to change the bed sheets before you leave.
6. Wish your coworkers good morning. Don't be aloof, people appreciate a "good morning."
7. If another person is buying your meal, don't order the most expensive item on the menu. Seriously, would you like that?

8. Be careful with your alcohol intake. Stupid things can, and do, happen when alcohol is in control of your brain.

9. Spend time with your staff in the lunch room. This is a great way to let them know more about you and let you know more about them.

10. Don't tailgate. Just don't. If someone

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(1) Golf Car Fleet Study Conducted by Golf Datatech, L.L.C., 2015. YGC funded the research study conducted by Golf Datatech, L.L.C.

driving slow upsets you, just pass them. I know it's tempting to be on their bumper but it's a childish thing to do and it's unsafe!

11. When somebody is talking, allow them to finish. Hold your thought until they are finished. If you forget your thought, it was probably not that important!


12. Finish everything on your plate. This goes for when you're having dinner at a board meeting dining with friends. In other words, everywhere. The trick is to take small quantities and only what you will eat.



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## Educational Seminar

Presented by: Helena Chemical & Bayer

Monday, July 31st, 2017

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 8:00 am – 8:30 am  | Registration  |
| 8:30 am – 9:30am   | Dr. Brad Shaver- Helena Agronomist <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rx 360</li><li>• Turf Metrics</li></ul>  |
| 9:45 am-10:45am    | Bryan Giblin- Bayer Product Manager New England <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exteris Fungicide New SDHI!!</li><li>• Stressgard Technology</li><li>• Indemnify</li></ul>  |
| 11:00 am- 12:am    | Chris William- Helen Product Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aristocracy- New wetting agent technology</li><li>• Renova- fighting stress with Amino Acids</li><li>• Receptor- Maximize fertilizer while growing roots !!!</li></ul> |
| 12:00 am- 12:45 pm | Lunch   |
| 1:00 am- 5:00 pm   | Golf  |

**\*CREDITS PENDING\***

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