



The Sand Blaster



VOL. XXVI, ISSUE I

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

DEDICATED TO MANAGING GOLF COURSES ... from the ground up

Government Relations Update:

We recently forwarded an email from one of our members, Peter Ervin, Superintendent at The Captains Golf Course.

- The first document is a copy of the Town of Marblehead, Board of Health, Organic Pest Management regulations.
- The second document is from POCCA-Protect Our Cape Cod Aquifer and it is titled - Process to Voluntarily Eliminate the use Glyphosate and Other Chemical Products from Town Owned Properties.

To view these documents, please click on this link <https://gcsacc.org/news/7190230>

Below are responses and information from Ed Nash and Rick Lawlor (GCSACC Government Relations Committee)

From personal experiences, I have seen some problems with totally organic or untreated athletic fields.

In 1982, the D-Y Red Sox of the Cape Cod Baseball League could not play on their home field. Insects had eaten the roots off the turf and destroyed the playability of the field. The safety of their players was at risk. Huge liability and court cases would have been predicted had a player been injured. A State approved pesticide was applied by a licensed applicator to kill the insects. The field was renovated. A slow acting organic insecticide was applied to keep out future infestations and the fields have been good ever since. The staff was sent to a winter school for horticultural education.

Some years later, I was asked to evaluate some baseball fields in another town. Their field was having the same problem with insects eating the roots. The field was unplayable. Rather than treating and fixing the existing field, the town had already built a brand new field next to it. The insects had found their way to the new field and they were destroying it! Had they sprayed the field in time, they could have saved themselves the expense of building a new field.

Well educated, licensed staff needs to be hired by every town to maintain their properties. Stop diseases and insects from killing your trees and lawns before they become an issue, rather than after. It is much cheaper to save a lawn than to replace it. Organic products should always be the first line of defense, but just like any living thing, sometimes a fast acting medicine is needed. State approved products that are properly used by a licensed applicator are still needed just as is a doctor prescribing a fast acting medicine to save your life.

The State Pesticide Board should be the place for towns to find the answers on what is safe for use on Cape Cod. They have the scientists that study products in great detail and inform us on their use.

Towns would incur huge liabilities if their baseball, football, soccer and other playing fields deteriorated and children or adults were injured.

When one product is being singled out, we may have chosen not to fight the battle. When all pesticides are being banned, it is time for us to take action before Towns make a big mistake.

Ed Nash

The Proper Response to Pesticide Inquiries

Concern about the use of Roundup (glyphosate) has been controlling headlines for years. Recently a special interest group known as POCCA, *Protect Our Cape Cod Aquifer*, has been getting themselves on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen Meetings of each town in Barnstable County and they present glyphosate, and other chemicals, as public health concerns. They ask that the

Continued on page 4

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The Sand Blaster is produced bi-monthly as an informational service to its members. Printed material does not suggest the views, attitudes or recommended practices of GCSACC, the board members or its associated committees. Industry-related articles are always welcome to be considered for publication. Articles, as well as address and/or position changes, may be sent to Julie Heston at 401-934-9901 (fax) or jheston@verizon.net.



President's Message

Happy winter everyone! I hope you are enjoying some down time. This past season was very challenging with weather extremes and heavy rain late in the season. At CYCC, the golf season started slowly and gained momentum, but sputtered out with the heavy fall rain. I know most of us are looking forward to a more normal 2019. The association would like to thank Brian Smoot for his tenure as President of GCSAACC. Brian did an excellent job leading the association and running our events with a solid and relaxed attitude. He will continue serving us as Past President and as a new board member of The NERTE.



Thank you to Ben Whiting and the staff at Plymouth Country Club for hosting a very successful Winter Education Meeting. As well as Northeast Golf & Irrigation for helping to defray the cost of lunch. Our winter meeting continues to grow in popularity. Ryan Anderson organized an excellent line up of current topics and speakers. Scott Gilmore is currently working on setting up our Winter Education Meeting for January 2020.

Peter Lanman has arranged some excellent meeting sites for the upcoming golf season. Joe Felicetti has booked the 2019 Scholarship & Research Tournament at Cummaquid Golf Club. Dana Hancock hosted the 2017 S&R that was cut short by a monsoon! We are grateful for the opportunity to play at this great venue in May.

The 22nd annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show in Providence, RI will be held March 5th- 7th and we look forward to catching up with everyone at our booth and on The Trade Show floor.

Rick Lawlor continues to gather and organize information for our Chapters contribution to The New England BMP's. Thank you to the 17 different members who are contributing their expertise to each of the sections currently under review.

David Stott

Tom Irwin

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Greg Misodoulakis | 508-243-6166 | greg@tomirwin.com

“INSIDE THE LEATHER”

• Welcome New Members

- **Blaine Doherty, Superintendent, Wianno Club**
- **Liam Doherty, Assistant Superintendent, Hyannisport Club**
- **Matthew Tierney, Assistant Superintendent, Plymouth Country Club**

• Announcements

Our condolences are extended to Dave Johnson and family on the passing of Dave's sister, Kelly Sanders, on February 10, 2019.

Well wishes go out to Kirk Whiting for a speedy recovery on his recent back surgery.

We would like to thank **Northeast Turf & Irrigation Supply** for sponsoring the lunch portion of our Winter Education meeting held on January 9th at Plymouth Country Club.

• Directory Updates:

Congratulations to **Steve Thys** on his new position as sales representative for MTE Turf Equipment Solutions covering the Cape Cod and Islands area. Steve's new contact information is (978) 857-3726 and sthys@mte.us.com

Congratulations to **Peter O'Brien** on his new position as superintendent at LeBaron Hills Country Club. Peter's new contact information is (508) 923-5715 and greens@lebaronhills.com

• Membership/Website updates:

Last year the GCSACC Board decided to make the membership cards and directories available online through the website. If you would like a printed copy of either of these items, please contact Julie Heston. We will also be emailing a form that you can fill out to request either or both of these items.

If you login to the website using your email and password, you will see your membership card that you can print as a pdf file. Instructions on how to do this can be found on the website under the “Contact” tab and then “Website Help.”

You can also download the Wild Apricot **Membership app** to view directory information for all GCSACC members and update your own membership information.

Downloading and Using the Website Membership App

The website platform that we use for www.GCSACC.org is called Wild Apricot. You can now download a website membership app to your phone for ease in registering events, looking up the membership directory or updating your member profile information.

This app requires Android version 5.1 or later. This app was designed for the iPhone but is compatible with the iPad and iPod touch, and requires iOS version 10.0 or later.

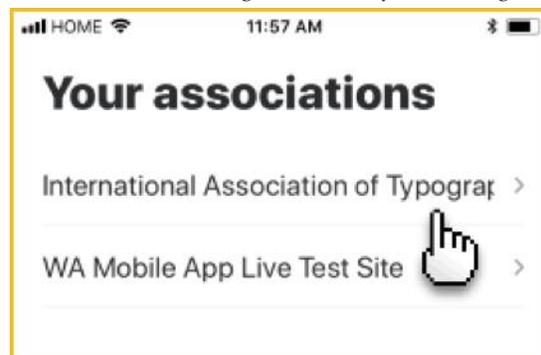
What can you do with the member app?

- View membership directory
- View an event calendar and event details
- Add event to your calendar app
- Register for an event and pay the registration fee
- View your existing event registrations (my tickets)
- View your member profile and update

Logging in

When you first open the member app, you will be asked to agree to the terms of use. Next, you will be asked to log in using the same email address and password that you use to access www.gcsacc.org.

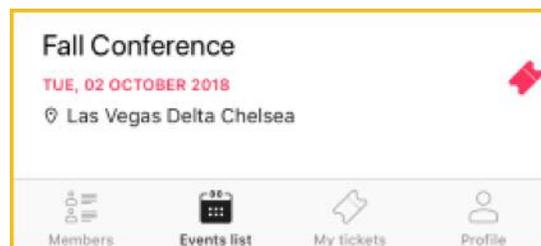
If there are multiple Wild Apricot accounts associated with their email address and password, members will be then asked to choose the organization they want to log into.



Members can log out of the app from their profile screen.

Navigating the member app

The app will consist of the following tabs: Members, Events, My tickets, Profile. To jump between these modules, tap the module name at the bottom of the screen.



Any questions, please feel free to contact Julie Heston at (401) 934-7660 or admin@gcsacc.org

towns voluntarily remove glyphosate from their grounds maintenance programs in order to strengthen POCCA's argument with the public utilities and MDAR as they continue to strive to remove this chemical from Right of Way maintenance.

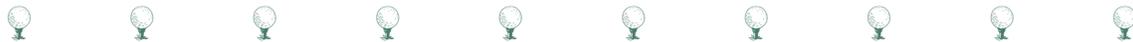
Many town's board of selectmen have started inquiries of their grounds/golf departments to see what is at stake. If this action generates enough *belief* that glyphosate is a public health concern for a town, then that town can implement local regulations. Similar steps were taken with fertilizer regulations on Cape Cod about ten years ago. However, most Board of Health Departments believe these issues are beyond their expertise/responsibility. The burden of fertilizer fell onto the state, where it belongs.

You are all aware that the products being scrutinized are both federally and state registered and regulated. Therefore you (and your towns) should direct any questions/concerns about the way you use these products within the laws to the agencies for which you are accountable:

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Crop and Pest Service
617-626-1700

GCSACC Board of Directors are in the midst of formulating a proper course of action and enlisted the assistance of GCSAA and GIA.

Rick Lawlor, CGCS



Save the Date: September 3rd, 2019
The 15th Annual Dr. Joseph Troll
Turfgrass Classic
TPC Boston, Norton, MA
Honoring Mary Owen, UMass Turf
Extension



Named by *Golf Digest* magazine as one of the “Top 10 Best New Private Clubs in the U.S.” when it debuted in 2002. The par-72, 7,241-yard golf course is home to the Dell Technologies Championship one of only four PGA TOUR Playoff Events for the FedExCup. Originally designed by legendary player/designer Arnold Palmer, TPC Boston's award-winning layout was re-designed in 2007 by Gil Hanse with PGA TOUR player Brad Faxon serving as a consultant. The golf course at TPC Boston is crafted to fit seamlessly into the natural New England landscape. TPC Boston was honored in 2011 by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf with the National Private Award.

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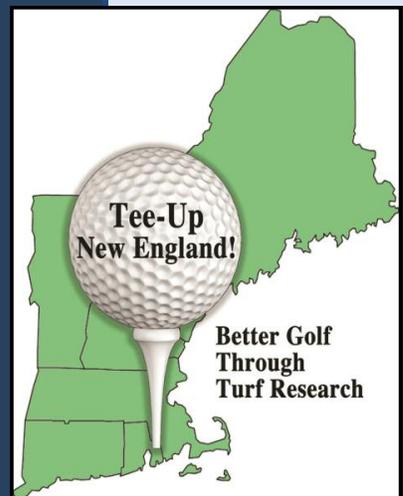
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Kevin's GCSAA Corner

By Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Northeast Field Representative

Having the opportunity to hear so many great speakers at events and meeting through the winter season is exciting. It also feeds the mind during long drives between engagements. One particular presentation, that by Henry DeLozier at the GCSA of New England Annual Meeting, sent me back to my days as a superintendent, trying my best to lead using what DeLozier referred to as servant leadership. We have all had the opportunities to work with and or lead individuals. Occasionally, one stands out for positive or negative reasons. For me, it was an employee I will call "Eddie", and I'd like to share his story.

Eddie showed up at the golf course in early spring looking for a job during the very beginning of clean-up. At that point, the course was not open, and staff numbers were kept very low. He was asked to return later in the spring. Two weeks later, Eddie showed up again, filled out an application, and an interview was scheduled. Eddie's platform was simple; he needed work, will show up on time, and will work all the hours I could give him. I hired him.

It became clear early on that Eddie would be a project. Eddie, in his own words, was "not the brightest bulb on the tree." Learning course routing was more of a work in progress than usual. Every training took longer than with most. Straight lines were optional, holidays were a given, and it was again determined that the trailer that did not fit across the bridge on 17, still did not fit across the bridge on 17. Among all this daily chore chaos, there was an employee who showed up early, worked hard, had a great attitude, and was proud of the need to put another notch in his belt because he had lost weight.

He knew his work was indeed a work in progress, but as he made progress, everyone on the staff gave Eddie his due! Mowing directions fell into place, lines straightened, no more skips, and subtle changes to the norm were taken in stride. By the middle of the season, Eddie was doing good work, a key individual for an in-house project, and spending some time outside of work with some of the staff. Eddie's positive attitude was infectious, he was extremely proud to be a member of our team and thrilled to need a new belt.

As a facility with a small crew, I had to let Eddie go early in the fall. I reached out to a colleague and got Eddie a spot for the remaining part of the late-season. It didn't work out.

Late December of that year, I ran into Eddie at the local Market Basket bagging groceries. He was smiling wide, talking to all the customers, doing what Eddie does! He was incredibly thankful for the opportunity to work at the golf course and for giving him the chance to fill a spot at another course. I expressed to Eddie my thanks for all the effort he put in and for the positive impact he had on each member of the staff. I told Eddie I would never forget him, and despite the fact that we lost touch, I haven't.

Not every staff member learns at the same rate, brings the same attitude to the job, or works out quite as we may have envisioned. I will never forget Eddie or the joy he brought to me as I watched him (slowly) succeed in his work with a smile on his face and genuine concern for assisting others. If you have had an "Eddie" in your career, please let me know your story and the impact that employee made on you. With the hardships shrinking labor pools brings to us these days, it is refreshing to reminisce about the positive impact others have had on our past!

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already:

Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation donates \$1 million to EIFG

The gift is the second such contribution from the Melrose Foundation and will support professional development for golf course equipment managers. Check out the GCM Online link below for details of this wonderful gift to our industry.

Continued on next page

Did You Miss GIS?

Not to worry! GCM has you covered. To catch up on all the highlights, visit [GCM Online here!](#)

Did you take a seminar at GIS?

Don't forget to fill out your GCSAA seminar survey. Go to [GCSAA.org](#), log into your account and visit "My Learning Hub". There you will find the link to your GIS seminars. The deadline is fast approaching, so act fast!

Upcoming Webinars

Mar. 5 @ 10 a.m.

Combining Sustainability and Results in Fertilizer Applications presented by Koch Turf and Ornamental

Chris Derrick

Mar. 13 @ 10 a.m.

Watching Your Grass Grow: Using Clipping Volume to Make Management Decisions

Doug Soldat, Ph.D.

Mar. 21 @ 10 a.m.

Efficient Control of Warm-Season Weeds with Cooling Degree Days

Matt Elmore, Ph.D.

Apr. 3 @ 10 a.m.

Bermudagrass, Bulbs, Blooms, and Bees

Mike Richardson, Ph.D.

Apr. 10 @ noon

Off to a Good Start

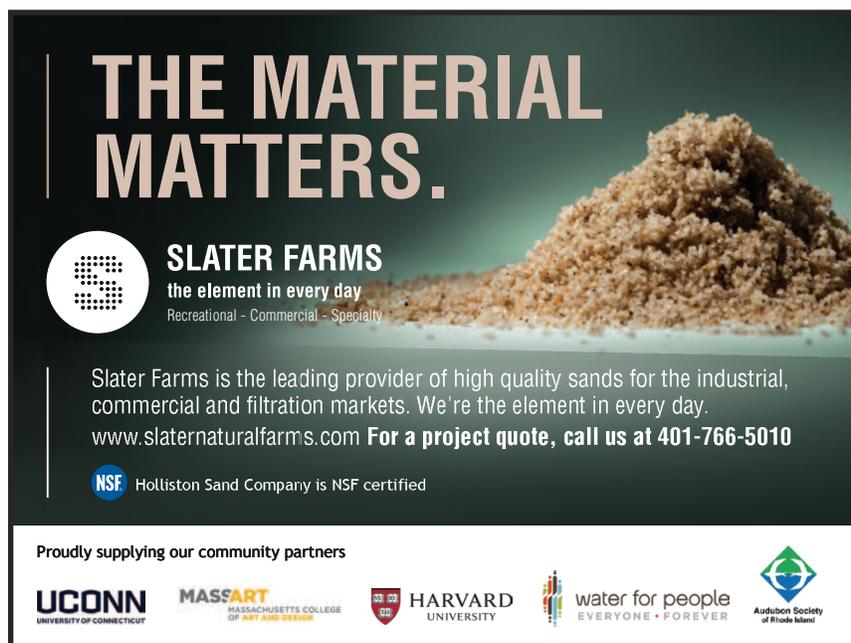
John Fech

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

Kevin Doyle
GCSAA Field Staff

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