



The Sand Blaster



VOL. XXVIII, ISSUE V

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

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

“Order to Complete”

Wading Through DEP’s Water Management Act 20 Year Permit Renewal

Rick Lawlor, CGCS

First off, I apologize for missing the deadline for continuing this important coverage the last issue. I know that many of you felt that I was sitting on my buttocks for the two month leave from work, but it wasn’t like that. . . I was laying down most of the time.

I reported that the biggest stumbling block for the **NEW** Permit Application was the explanation of why we’re using more water than our withdrawal permit allows, even though we have for more than 20 years, but that doesn’t matter to the commonwealth so you have to put the explanation in a written response. The next thing the state wants is a “little something for the effort” which is called a Mitigation Plan. In short, please present a written plan that the permit holder is willing to invest for the benefit of being provided a larger water volume permit from MA DEP.

The Town of Yarmouth, with the assistance of the consulting engineers, submitted a fourteen page document in response to DEP’s OTC. In the document we explained:

1. Why the Town of Yarmouth warrants such an increase in the permit application.
2. The Town of Yarmouth will comply with permit amounts at Bass River GC.
3. The Town of Yarmouth will adhere to water conservation requirement by:
 - A. Using sound cultural practices.
 - B. Introduce drought tolerant grass species.
 - C. Adjust mowing heights during dry weather.
 - D. Explain the function of our automatic irrigation systems.
 - E. Take non-essential areas out of maintenance.
4. Seeks credit for the use of utilizing reclaimed water on 7 holes at the Links course and will report the total used, as well as time which the reclaimed water was unavailable to the course and ground water was require for continuing irrigation on those holes.
5. Seeks credit for the following mitigation plan;
 - A. \$70,000 budgeted for the design and construction of a vegetative sand bed to receive rinse water from spray equipment, wash water from an equipment cleaning pad and storm water in major rain events.
 - B. Seeks credit for the use of at least 3 MG annually from recovered storm water.
 - C. Seeks credit for the use of computer controlled, individual sprinkler head irrigation for more than 4,000 units installed at two sites.
 - D. Seeks credit for employee education/certification.
 - E. Seeks credit for membership/certification in Audubon International.
 - F. Seeks credit for land acquisitions for conservation purposes.
6. Satisfactorily responded to the concerns of abutters, the Cape Cod Commission and the Town of Yarmouth Conservation Commission.
7. Submits expert analysis from two engineering firms that the requested withdrawal amount on the permit will have no negligible effect (drawdowns) which impact Priority Habitats for Rare Species.

As of this writing, we just received another inquiry from MA DEP for further clarification on this response which we submitted on August 22, 2016. The plan is to discuss this response with our consultant and submit it soon.

Continued next issue:

“Response to the response about the response”

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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 \(fax\)](mailto:jheston@verizon.net) or jheston@verizon.net.



President's Message

It is the fall and in my opinion it is the best time to play golf. The weather has been outstanding and as I sit here on October 19th the thermometer in my office is reading 82 degrees. We still could use some rain. This is also the time of year when we can find sometime for ourselves. I hope you can take advantage of the opportunity to decompress.

I would like to thank Brian Smoot and his staff at CrossWinds for hosting us at the beginning of September. We all had a great time. The association's championship was held at the Boston Golf Club on October 11th. I could not attend but heard it was a spectacular day. Thank you to Rodney and his staff for having us there. The day after GCSACC's championship was the New England Superintendents Championship in Quechee, Vermont. The tournament was held on the Lakeland course of the Quechee Club. It was an awesome day and GCSACC beat Vermont by four points. Congratulations to the team.

Our annual meeting will be held December 1st at the Brookside Club. We are looking for meeting sites for 2017. Again if you have any items or stories that would like to share for GCSACC's 50th anniversary next year please contact me.

Regards

Paul



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"INSIDE THE LEATHER"

Welcome New Members:

- Katherine Arcari, Affiliate, Winding Brook Turf
- Paul Lorusso, Affiliate, Cape Cod Aggregates
- Craig Olson, Assistant Superintendent, Marshfield CC

Announcements:

- Our condolences are extended to **Greg and Celeste Misodoulakis and family** on the passing of Celeste's father Rosaire "Ross" Morin who passed away on August 10, 2016.
- Our condolences are extended to the **Gardner family** on the passing of Charlie Gardner who passed away on Sunday, September 11, 2016. Charlie was a Life Charter member of GCSACC and the first president of GCSACC (formerly known as Cape Cod Turf Managers Association). He was also a long time superintendent at Oyster Harbors Club.
- Our condolences are extended to **Stuart Eyman and family** on the passing of Stuart's mom on September 22, 2016. *Stuart Eyman and his family thank everyone who expressed sympathy on the passing of his mother.*
- Our condolences are extended to **Pat Hogan and family** on the passing of Pat's wife Jane on September 26, 2016.
- Our condolences are extended to **Joe and Tara Felicetti** and family on the passing of Tara's mother, Donna Londergan, on October 4, 2016.
- Our condolences are extended to **Doug Hopper and family** on the passing of Doug's wife Brenda on October 9, 2016.
- Our condolences are extended to **Alan Vadala and family** on the passing of Alan's father, Anthony J. Vadala who passed away on October 23, 2016.

VISIT WWW.GCSACC.ORG

October 11, 2016

Boston Golf Club

Individual Championship

Superintendent Division

1st Place: Rene Vadeboncoeur

Associate Division

1st Place: Mike Turner

- GCSACC Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1st at The Brookside Club. More details to come. GCSACC elections will also be held at this meeting for the 2017 Board of Directors.
- GCSACC is looking for meeting sites for sites for 2017. If you are interested in hosting a meeting, please contact Paul Doherty or any Board member.

Directory Update:

Congratulations to John Bresnahan on his new position with Syngenta. Please see below for his new contact information.

John Bresnahan

Syngenta territory manager

John.bresnahan@syngenta.com

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Philadelphia wins 2016 MET Team Championship at CC of Scranton

The 36th Annual MET Team Championship was held on Monday, September 26th at The Country Club of Scranton in Clarks Summit, PA. Host Greg Boring, who recently took on the role of General Manager on top of his Superintendent duties had the golf course in absolutely spectacular shape after one of the driest and hottest seasons on record in the Northeast. Players from up and down the east coast were equally impressed at how fast and smooth the greens were at Scranton!

The 1927 Walter Travis original has undergone a massive tree management program, opening up sight lines and restoring views on the golf course, as well as opening up golf holes and allowing the course to be played the way Travis intended it according to Greg. In 2010 the club hired Tom Marzolf of Fazio Design to complete a master plan, restoring bunkers and bringing greens back to their original shapes and sizes.

Scranton is a perennial top 100 classical golf course and has hosted several major events, including the men's and women's State Amateurs Championships over the years. Scranton is a true gem of a course and by all accounts, another great course on the MET Team Championship rotation!

This year's championship was one of the closest battles ever contested with just 6 shots separating the top 5 teams! For the 4th time in the past 12 the Philadelphia AGCS came away victorious after narrowly beating Connecticut by just one stroke with a score of 292! The team from Philadelphia included John Gosselin, Andy Drohen, Joe Owsik and Chet Walsh on the Gross side and Rich Sweeney, Jon Urbanski, Sumner Cross and Rob Nolek on the Net side.

Once again the MET Team Championship was made possible by our 7 major sponsors who have stepped up year after year to make this one of the best events across North America! Please join me in thanking Aquatrols, BASE, Bayer, Care of Trees, Koch Turf & Ornamental, Syngenta and Toro as they continue to support this event.

The Met Team Championship continues to raise money each year to help those in our industry going through difficult times. Over the past 6 years we have raised over \$7,500 and have supported superintendents, industry representatives and their families in times of need. This past year we donated \$2,000 to the superintendents at The Greenbrier in West Virginia after the devastating flooding that took place there this summer.

Thanks again to all our sponsors, Greg Boring and his entire staff and all the folks at The Country Club of Scranton for another successful championship! A special thank you to Shaun Barry, our perennial photographer! We have uploaded all of Shaun's photos here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/118804232@N02/albums/72157673518202591>.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year, so stay tuned for announcements over the winter and look for information about the Nor'easter Ski Day coming soon!

2016 MET Area Team Championships CC of Scranton • Par 72 September 26th, 2016

Team Scores	Par 288	Score
1st	Philadelphia AGCS	292
2nd	Connecticut AGCS	293
3rd	GCSA of New Jersey	295
4th	Eastern Shore AGCS	297
5th	Long Island GCSA	298
6th	Poconos Turfgrass Association	303
7th	GCSA of New England	305
8th	METGCSA	307
9th	GCSA of Cape Cod	309
T10th	Northeastern GCSA	313
T10th	Central New York GCSA	313
12th	Mid-Atlantic AGCS	315
13th	Hudson Valley GCSA	316
14th	Rhode Island GCSA	318

Skill Events

Closest to the pin hole #3, sponsored by Koch T&O
Closest to the pin hole #5, sponsored by BASF
Closest to the pin hole #11, sponsored by Toro
Closest to the pin hole #17, sponsored by Syngenta

Chet Walsh 3'-9" – Philadelphia AGCS
Josh Yerdon 7'-6" – Northeastern GCSA
Ryan Howard 6'-10" – Eastern Shores AGCS
Ryan Howard 4'-10" – Eastern Shores AGCS

Long Drive

Net Division sponsored by Care of Trees
Gross Division sponsored by Aquatrols
Sponsors Division, sponsored by Bayer

Jerry Decker – Pocono Turfgrass Association
Tom Ashfield – METGCSA
Kevin Seibel – Century CC

Low Gross Team

Rob Johnson & Jeff Haas from GCSA of New Jersey Score of 72

Sponsorship Team Winner

Dennis DeSanctis & Lee Kozsey from Syngenta Score of 73

Two Man Team High Score

Gross Kevin Smith & Steve McDonald – Eastern Shore AGCS Score of 85

Net Drew Cummins & Nick Burchard – Rhode Island GCSA Score of 80



Golf Course Water Withdrawal Permit Renewals: What You Need To Know

October 2016

By Sarah W. Stearns, Beals and Thomas, Inc., GCSANE Affiliate Member and Patron Partner

At a recent GCSANE meeting at Concord Country Club, Duane LeVangie, of the MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), with collaboration from his staff, presented current and helpful information regarding upcoming permit renewal requirements for golf courses under the Water Management Act (WMA).

The WMA governs water allocation throughout the Commonwealth and after a DEP policy was enacted in June 2000, golf courses were formally required to apply for and maintain permits for water usage over 100,000 gallons per day (gpd). See DEP Golf Course Water Use Policy: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/laws/a-thru-h/golfpol.pdf>

There are two permitting mechanisms for golf courses to withdraw large volumes of surface and/or groundwater: WMA *Registrations* and WMA *Permits*. According to DEP, about 93 golf courses currently operate under WMA *Registrations*, while about 60 courses currently operate under WMA *Permits*. Superintendents should understand which category they fall under and be prepared for the renewal processes. There are a number of distinctions between these two categories:

Registrations are valid for 10 years, have fewer imposed conditions and will likely continue to operate as such unless a regulatory change is undertaken.

- Registrations were issued in the early 1980s and will renew in 2021
- Registrations are not subject to basin Safe Yield limitations

Permits are valid for 20 years and are subject to conditions

- Issued Permits are currently being renewed according to basin location: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/re-sources/n-thru-y/wloss3.pdf>
- Permits are subject to basin Safe Yield thresholds and incorporate the Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI) into the permit renewal process
- New Permit Conditions:
 1. Seasonal Demand Management Plan
 - Reduce nonessential water use
 - Drought levels will trigger irrigation reduction
 2. Protect Coldwater Fisheries Resources (CFRs)
 - If applicable, optimize withdrawals
 3. Minimization of impacts
 - Optimize well use
 - Other conservation practices beyond standard requirements
 4. Mitigation for increase above calculated, established baseline
 - Course-specific tiered mitigation
 - Direct mitigation (i.e. stormwater management system updates)
 - Indirect mitigation (i.e. Audubon Sanctuary Program certification)

DEP is taking a course-by-course approach to the permit renewal process and seems willing to discuss the process and specific requirements with superintendents and other club management. For more information, please contact me at 508-366-0560 or sstearns@bealsandthomas.com.



Kevin's GCSAA Corner

By Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Northeast Field Representative

And there you have it, the season has changed. Gone are the days of 90-degree heat and 80 percent humidity and now come the moderate temperature days, and cool and frosty nights. Of the many seasons in New England, this one seems to be the favorite of the golf course superintendent. With mud season, black fly season, syringe season in the past, now begins leaf season and the challenges it brings. Here are a couple of things to keep in mind when considering your leaf management strategies.

What do you do with the leaves you harvest off the golf course? Leaf litter can be added to other course debris to make an excellent compost material. Shredded leaves with untreated grass clippings make an excellent start, with many other options that may be available. The sustainability session at 2016 GIS in San Diego was an excellent opportunity for superintendents to trade ideas, one of which was composting. Utilizing waste from the food and beverage and on-course containers was an initiative undertaken by one presenter. While actively managing a compost pile will significantly decrease the time needed to achieve a nutrient rich product that can be utilized on your property, even an unmanaged process will eventually be beneficial. Think of the yards of leaves you manage to maintain playability returning to the course as deep rich compost! Site selection and protection of water resources also play a big role in mindful composting. It would be a great project for an ambitious assistant or incoming intern. For more about composting, visit the UMass Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment resources page on Organic Waste Management.

While composting may not work within your leaf management strategy, one item to be aware of when blowing leaves to tree-lines or property edges is the environment that this litter establishes. Often researched as a wonderful overwintering site for annual bluegrass weevils, it may also be contributing to an increase in tick populations. Last year Joellen Lampman, School and Turfgrass IPM Extension Support Specialist, with the New York State IPM program reached out to golf courses in her region to study the effects of different leaf management practices and the relationship on the tick population. An unseasonably warm winter in 2015-2016 led to an explosion in the tick population this year, and hopefully some additional research will assist golf courses to develop strategies to manage both leaves and ticks successfully! If you think your leaf litter strategy might be creating increased spring tick population issues, Lampman included some information on testing your site for ticks in her Community IPM factsheet. Keeping ourselves, staff and golfers safe is always a priority.

Whether blowing, mowing, or picking them up, leaves create an additional labor constraint on our budgets and inconvenience to our golfers. By developing a sustainable composting practice, the property could benefit greatly from the reuse of an otherwise undesirable byproduct. With research, we can also gain a better understanding of the implications of our management strategies on non-desirable species. Best of luck with leaf season, and as we have all come to learn here in New England, keep your eyes on the cars around you when on the roads. Leaf peepers make very poor drivers!

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already:

Planning for the Golf Industry Show

These resources offer tips to minimize expenses and garner a higher return on investment. We'll help guide you through the steps for communicating with your employer about the importance of attending the Golf Industry Show and the GCSAA Golf Championships. Resources can be found at www.golfindustryshow.com.

Energy use survey now open

The latest Golf Course Environmental Profile survey is open through Nov. 11. The Energy Use and Environmental Practices Survey will gather critical information on energy conservation practices, energy audits, written plans, and behavioral, design and other conservation changes. Please visit the www.gcsaa.org under the “Environment” section to take the survey.

GIS housing now open!

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Golf course superintendents from Canada and U.S. to compete in first CanAm Cup

GCSAA and the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association will be sponsoring the first CanAm Cup, Oct. 23-24, 2017. This flighted competition will be held over two days, with more than 200 golf course superintendents from Canada and the U.S. participating. The competition will be held at Baltusrol Golf Club (Upper and Lower courses) in Springfield, N.J., and Canoe Brook Country Club (North and South courses) in Summit, N.J. Watch for details on how you can be a part of this first ever event!

Upcoming FREE webcasts: www.gcsaa.org click on “Education” section for webcasts

Nov. 15: Advantages of Tall Fescue: Drought Resistance

Dec. 1: Increase Your Value: Effective Communications & Your Blog

Dec. 8: Preparing for an Active Shooter

Dec. 15: Salinity and its Management for Turf

Jan. 18: Look at Your Irrigation System's Distribution Uniformity


Jan. 26: Carbon, Carbon Everywhere: How carbon functions in your turgrass system

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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October 11, 2016
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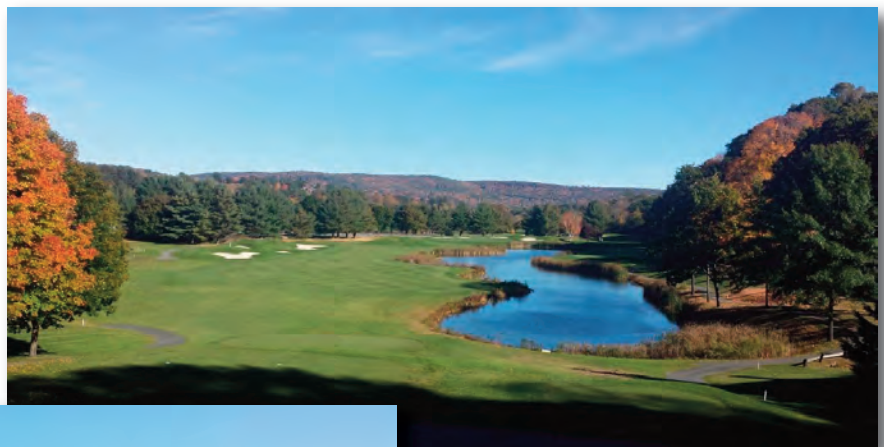
2016 New England Superintendents Championship October 12, 2016 - The Quechee Club

Congratulations to the GCSACC team for coming in first place at this event!



Team GCSACC –pictured from L-R: Paul Doherty, Brian Smoot, Rene Vadeboncoeur, Jay McGrail Matt Cornuet, John Bresnahan, Joe Felicetti and Garrett Whitney

Pictured below – The Quechee Club in Vermont



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Championship Tournament - October 11, 2016**

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