

New York Chapter

**GCSAA**

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

# READING THE GREEN

SPRING 2022 EDITION

## THIS ISSUE INCLUDES:

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

CONTACT INFORMATION

WHAT'S UP AT CORNELL,  
FRANK ROSSI, PH.D.

NYGCF UPDATE BY KEN BENOIT

MESSAGE FROM CHAPTER  
ADMINISTRATOR

## Feature Article

Engineering the  
Rhizosphere with  
NEW Surfactant  
Technology-  
Excalibur





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# ***MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD***

**President- Steve Kurta,  
Tuscarora Golf Club**



As winter disappears in the rear view mirror, give yourself a minute to take stock of your operation, family, and self before we collectively shift into those upper gears that we don't get to downshift from for the next 4 months. From a meteorological perspective there's 92 days of summer. Many wives, significant others, and partners know this season as the time we enter that space of being unavailable.

It's fun at first. After a long winter and the mud season of spring, the ground firms up, unirrigated areas start to go dormant with the heat and the course takes on that seemingly bulletproof veneer. Things are good. Golfers are happy and we get a brief sense of ease that this job isn't so bad after all.

Before that feeling changes, try to enjoy it. Take a step back and enjoy what you've produced and the happiness it brings people. What we do as a profession takes resilience and pride in your work. We don't get to call it in when doing it right and often we forget to let ourselves feel valued because we're too busy focusing on what harsh word someone said, or a perceived slight that doesn't matter in the long run.

A great way to share the good we create with each other is to make some of our monthly events. It's unlikely you'll make every one, but if you can make one or two you'll see the value in taking a minute to let your hair down and join your peers in stepping back to take stock in this unique profession. We hope to see you out there this summer.





P.O. Box 295  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
716-471-1535  
gcsaofny.org

## 2022 Event Calendar

May 12th- The Links at Greystone - Walk and Talk with Frank Rossi

May 26th- Member-Guest Tournament- Beaver Meadows Golf Club

June 8th- Bellevue Country Club- Walk and Talk with Frank Rossi

July 12th- Social Golf at Corning Country Club

August 30th – POA Tournament & Fundraiser- Turning Stone Resort

September- Couples Wine tour- Finger Lakes - TBD

October 4th- Transit Valley CC- Walk and Talk with Frank Rossi

October – Social Golf- Irondequoit CC - TBD

December 7th- Education Day/Annual Meeting- Speakers- Kaminski,  
McGraw

December- Country Club of Buffalo- Shooting Event- TBD







GCSA OF NY PRESENTS:

# MEMBER-GUEST TOURNAMENT

THURSDAY MAY 26, 2022  
BEAVER MEADOWS GOLF CLUB  
185 BARNARD ROAD PHOENIX, NY  
10AM SHOTGUN

*Cost is \$75 per person and will be limited to  
the first 50- 2 man teams.*

*Format will be a best ball shamble.  
Dinner with a cash bar to follow.*

*Trophy, tee prizes and skill prizes will be  
awarded.*



## **Exciting opportunity for the GCSANY membership**

The board of directors is offering current members the opportunity to send any member of their facility to the Great Lakes School of Turfgrass Science. This a great chance to build upon your, or your staffs current knowledge as a golfcourse manager.

The Great Lakes School of Turfgrass Science

<https://www.mgcsa.org/resources/Documents/web%20insertGLTS%20Flyer%202021%20Cool-Season%20Golf.pdf>

is a 12 week online program that will make any turf manager better at their job. Use this offer to improve your skillset and add value to your professional credentials as well as become a greater asset to your employer.

With the current labor market it's getting harder to find qualified individuals to fill the rolls available on our crews. Giving that dedicated employee a shot at an education in turfgrass science while being able to promote from within is good for everyone in your organization. Empowering our members and affiliates to be the best they can be is part of our mission at the GCSANY and we feel this opportunity is consistent with that goal.

The GCSANY has committed the monetary resources to send up to 10 individuals, current members, or a sponsored member to attend the program. First come will be first served with this offer. You'll receive a fantastic education from some of the brightest minds in the business and all from the comfort of your own home.

If you have any questions about this program please contact Suzanne Mis or any other board member with the GCSANY.

Board of Directors  
GCSANY





**New York Chapter**

**GCSAA**

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

## **Tuition Reimbursement Program**

### **I. Purpose:**

To provide tuition reimbursement to a current or future student at the Great Lakes Turf School who is a current member of GCSA of NY or sponsored by a current GCSA of NY member.

### **II. Tuition Reimbursement Awards:**

1. The scholarship committee will choose the recipients of the tuition reimbursement program based upon the information provided.
2. An applicant can only receive one scholarship.

### **III. Eligibility:**

1. Applicant must be a current GCSA of NY member or sponsored by a current GCSA of NY member
2. Must provide a Certificate of Completion from the Great Lakes Turf School.
3. Must provide proof of payment with the amount and date of tuition paid.
4. A typed letter of recommendation from an employer or sponsor.
5. A one-page statement describing why you wanted to take this course and how taking this course has or will benefit you in your future endeavors.

### **IV. Basis for Selection:**

1. Applications and supporting documentation must be sent to the Chapter Administrator who will then forward to the Scholarship Committee without name and address of applicant. Only applications that include all the supporting information will be forwarded to the reviewing committee. The committee will then review the information and select the winner/winners based upon the information submitted.



**New York Chapter**

**GCSAA**

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

**Contact Information:**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applications and supporting documentation must be mailed to:**

**GCSA of NY**

**P.O. Box 295**

**North Tonawanda, NY 14120**

**Or email to [gcsaofny@gmail.com](mailto:gcsaofny@gmail.com)**



# New 2022 GCSA of NY Members

Paul	Baich	Wanakah Country Club	paulb@wanakahcc.com	716-472-0418	Class C- Assistant Superintendent Member
Nick	Balliet	Corning Country Club	nicholas.a.balliet@gmail.com		Class C- Assistant Superintendent Member
Adam	Brueggeman	East Aurora Country Club	adam.brueggeman@eastauroracc.com	716-652-9100	Class C- Assistant Superintendent Member
Ben	Cunningham	Wildwood Country Club	cunningham33.bc@gmail.com	607-382-6921	Class C- Assistant Superintendent Member
Matthew	Devine	NorthRiver Yacht Club	matt.devine@honourgolf.com	205-533-0363	Class A - Golf Course Superintendent Member
Brian	Fairchild	Potsdam Town & Country Club	bfairchild@potsdamgolf.com	518-651-1624	Class B - Superintendent Member
Josh	Fontaine	Saratoga Golf and Polo Club	joshua@saratogagolfpoloclub.org	802-380-9400	Class B - Superintendent Member
Gaeton	Foos	Ontario Golf Club	gfoos98@gmail.com	585-746-0714	Class A - Golf Course Superintendent Member
Chris	Hyman	Blue Heron Hills Golf	C.hyman9900@gmail.com	585-434-8669	Class A - Golf Course Superintendent Member
Greg	Johnson	Twaalfskill Golf Club	gregjohnson12401@gmail.com	845-532-3927	Class B - Superintendent Member
Tim	Lane	RaNic Golf Club	trlane05@yahoo.com	607-342-0941	Class C- Assistant Superintendent Member
Renee	Lantz	Transit Valley CC	lantzrenee@gmail.com	716-860-0180	Class C- Assistant Superintendent Member
Jeff	Lee	Tuscarora Golf Club	jeffrey19672002@yahoo.com	315-374-8786	Class D - Associate Member
Brenton	Lewis	Atunyote Golf Club - Turning Stone Resort Casino	brenton.lewis@turningstonecasino.net	315-335-4419	Class A - Golf Course Superintendent Member
Kevin	Lynch	Country Club of Buffalo	klynch711@gmail.com	315-730-0289	Class C- Assistant Superintendent Member
Kevan	McDonald	Wanakah Golf Club	kevanm@wanakahcc.com	716-785-2527	Class C- Assistant Superintendent Member
Chris	Merrell	Niagara Falls Country Club	chris_merrell@ymail.com		Class C- Assistant Superintendent Member
Shaun	Moffe	Orchard Creek Golf Club	smoffe13@gmail.com	518-231-0728	Class A - Golf Course Superintendent Member
Mark	Montebella	Canandaigua Country Club	markmontebella@yahoo.com	585-313-5331	Class A - Golf Course Superintendent Member
Steve	Nacewicz	Crestwood Golf	snaz@pga.com		Class A - Golf Course Superintendent Member
Mike	O'Neill	The Osteaga's Leatherstocking Golf Course	moneill@otesaga.com	315-708-3580	Class A - Golf Course Superintendent Member
Robert	Peterson	Fox Valley Golf Club	rpeterson@foxvalleyclub.com	716-866-6264	Class B - Superintendent Member
Brandon	Platt	Owasco Country Club	platt_brandon@yahoo.com	315-982-4318	Class B - Superintendent Member
Geoff	Reingold	Arrowhead Golf Club	gm@arrowheadwny.com	716-570-2021	Class A - Golf Course Superintendent Member
Steve	Schuster	Niagara Falls Country Club	stevecsis60@gmail.com		Class C- Assistant Superintendent Member
John	Shannon	McConnellsville Country Club	jpschannon29@gmail.com	325-245-1157	Class A - Golf Course Superintendent Member
Kyle	Shaw	RaNic Golf Club	kyle@ranicgolf.com	607-244-0200	Class A - Golf Course Superintendent Member
Michael	Simmons	Country Club of Buffalo	msimmons@ccofbuffalo.org	307-763-8268	Class C- Assistant Superintendent Member
Christopher	Sitko	Cornell University	crs259@cornell.edu	610-468-8448	Class B - Superintendent Member
John	Sweeney	Irondequoit Country Club	js395@live.delhi.edu	315-576-9796	Class C- Assistant Superintendent Member
Alan	Tomlinson	Crestwood Golf	mrst719@outlook.com	315-335-0224	Class A - Golf Course Superintendent Member
Greg	Tudor	City of Troy	greg.tudor@troyny.gov	516-351-7383	Class A - Golf Course Superintendent Member
Adam	VanBrocklin	Carlowden Country Club	vanbrocklin.adam@gmail.com	315-405-2545	Class A - Golf Course Superintendent Member
Henry	Wason	Partridge Run CC	Wasonskipa@yahoo.com	315-261-1823	Class A - Golf Course Superintendent Member

# From the GCSA of NY Board



**Andy Eick**  
**Mohawk Golf Club**  
**Director of Facilities and Agronomy**

As an assistant at Locust Hill Country Club (Rochester, NY), one of the other assistants (Matt Carlascio) developed a PMA (Positive Mental Attitude) quote of the week. He would write it down on the job board and each Monday would explain what the quote meant. His quotes that he used could be useful for tasks at hand for the week, what we dealt with in prior weeks or just random funny ones. I thought they kept everyone focused on the task at hand and gave meaning to the week. When I left Locust HillCC and came to Mohawk Golf Club (Albany, NY) this was one of the things I implemented. It became a staple for the staff and if I don't have a new one up for Monday morning, they let me know about it.

One of my favorite quotes by Henry Ford is:

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success!"

This quote embodies what the GCSA of New York has done since its inception. We began this new adventure with 3 associations coming together as one, surviving our 1st year in the middle of a pandemic and working together as a solid unit to continue to grow our association.

One of the first things we did as a board was to develop a Mission Statement. We wanted to find something that explained why we exist and what is our overall goal. The statement came quite easy as our conversation grew:

**The GCSA of New York is dedicated to serving its members, promoting the profession, and advancing the art and science of golf course management.**

This became the way the association conducts its business, as it began to grow into itself.

With every Mission Statement there should be a Vision Statement to go with it. Typically the Vision Statement is an inspirational statement of how things should look and how the organization should interact with members. This is the Vision Statement that was developed for the GCSANY:

**To be a unifying body in the golf industry by engaging every member of the association.**

This statement is the ultimate vision of what we want to see this association achieve.

This industry takes a special group of individuals to achieve the given expectations that are set on us both personally and by our employers. We all know that we can not do this alone, as we rely on our staff, vendors and colleagues for help and support. This comradery is what sets us apart from other associations, as everyone is willing to give a helping hand to each other. This is why I enjoy being a part of this association as I get to meet new people or see old friends when I attend events.



I truly believe that you get 10x the amount back when you give back and this is why I have been a part of this association for the past 3 years. If you haven't had a chance to attend a meeting, serve on a committee or be involved on the board, I highly recommend you give it a chance. The relationships you build during the process will last a lifetime. I will leave you with another quote that I look at periodically from Warren Buffet and try to adhere to:

“Surround yourself with people that push you to do and be better. No drama or negativity. Just higher goals and higher motivation. Good times and positive energy. No jealousy or hate. Simply bringing out the absolute best in each other.”

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rholfoth@ccrochester.org  
585-943-6045



Nicholas Perrucci- Special Director Class C  
Teugega Country Club  
6801 Golf Course Road  
Rome, NY 13440  
teugegaassistant@gmail.com  
315-380-0431



# Thank You



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A guide for environmental sustainability

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.

[Click here](#) for NYS Golf Courses BMP

[Click here](#) for Second Edition BMP

Club Car

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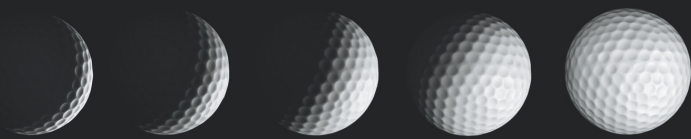
# Bowling



High Score- Scott Howard 238  
Low Score- Aaron Allen- 70







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# *news*

## *FROM YOUR CHAPTER ADMINISTRATOR*

Suzanne Mis

---

Spring is finally here! I hope you are all looking forward to the warmer temperatures, leaves budding and the spring flowers. I am looking forward to all the GCSA of NY events we have planned for 2022.

Your board of directors met in March with Steve Randall and Kevin Doyle from GCSAA for a strategic planning meeting. This was the first strategic planning meeting since consolidation and was very productive. During the meeting we went through the S.C.O.R. analysis (strengths, challenges, opportunities, and risks) and produced a few short term and long-term goals for the association. We revised our vision statement from being a unifying body in the golf industry, viewed as a leading professional organization in the region to being a unifying body in the golf industry by engaging every member of the association. It is a priority of the board to make sure all our members find value in their membership and increase the participation of our membership at events. You are important to us.

I hope everyone has received our calendar of 2022 events. We work hard to come up with ideas that will get everyone engaged and to be spread out across the state. We hope to see you at one or two events this year. I am always willing to take suggestions for events and as always if you are interested in hosting a walk and talk, shop tour or golf event, please reach out to me. I can start putting the 2023 calendar together! Our first major golf event is the Member-Guest tournament. This will be hosted by Superintendent Ash Gough at Beaver Meadows Golf Club. Please note the venue change on the calendar. We will have a maximum of sixty -2-man teams. Registration is open so make sure to reserve your team a spot.

The Golf League will start matches this month. We have nine teams registered so far and we are looking forward to getting our matches started. Everyone who played had a wonderful time of golf and fellowship. This is a chance to play at different courses in the area and meet new superintendents and vendors.

A new event this year is a couple's wine tour event in the fall. For this event to happen, we will need couples to commit to attending prior to booking the tour. This event includes tour, transportation, and entrance and tasting fees to four wineries. You have the option to stay for dinner and even spend the night. This will sure be a fun, relaxing time for all who attend. If you are interested, I will need to know as soon as possible. These tours book up fast!

Now that the weather is getting nicer, golf courses will open and your schedules will get busier, make sure to put our events on your calendar so you don't miss out. As always, I am available if you have questions, comments, or need assistance in registering for an event or donating for Rounds 4 Research. I am only a click or phone call away.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Suzanne

## Engineering the Rhizosphere with NEW Surfactant Technology – Excalibur™

Technology advances in research and surfactant technology

Technological advances have paid dividends for turfgrass managers over the last several years.

Technologies

allowing better control of pests. Mower and sprayer technologies providing cost savings measures and better

playing surfaces. In 2021, AQUA-AID Solutions launched Excalibur™. Excalibur is a new proprietary, unique, high-performance coactive chemistry that features PHT Technology™ or Potentiated Hydrophobe Technology™.

This past April, AQUA-AID Solutions presented a webinar, Engineering the Rhizosphere, showcasing new advances in the study of the rhizosphere – that very thin (1-3 mm) thick soil region surrounding the roots. Research published as recently as 2021 provides a deeper understanding of the rhizosphere and the function

of both root and microorganism exudates. Through this published research and recently completed demonstration trials, the PHT Technology in Excalibur is proving to change how these exudates or biopolymers

behave in ways that benefit soil and plant health.

The “Big Picture” view of plant and microbe exudates

The ability of roots to extract water and nutrients is controlled by interactions in the rhizosphere where the biology, chemistry, and biophysical properties of the soil are influenced by the roots. The rhizosphere is an area of intense biological and chemical activity as a result of compounds exuded by the root (particularly mucilage, which is a complex lipid-containing polysaccharide) and by microorganisms (they produce exopolysaccharides). This polysaccharide-laden zone represents a platform of intense cross communication between plants and the root microflora in that rhizosphere. Moreover, it modifies the habitat for the root microbiome and serves as a carbon source for root inhabiting microbes. From a plant perspective anything that needs to enter the plant via roots, and specifically via root hairs, must first pass through that rhizosphere.

So, why are we just hearing about mucilage? Well, while researchers have known of its existence, it really wasn't until few years ago that scientists began to further explore the rhizosphere which resulted in an explosion of new discoveries over the past 2-3 years. We've learned that plants through production of mucilage and microorganisms through the production of exopolysaccharides (biopolymers) modify the biophysical physical properties of the soil and soil solution to create a network that mediates flow processes across that rhizosphere. Mucilage is the key component to maintaining root to soil contact and access to vital

water and nutrients. As soils and mucilage dry, the physical contact to soil particles is lost, compromising water movement, but more importantly, leading to collapse roots and root hairs, loss of connectivity, loss of hydraulic conductivity, and a collapse in transpiration that may be visualized as wilt and compromised of turf

quality and root viability.

Wetting and drying cycles common to irrigated and rain-fed turfgrass can result in bulk soils that remain wettable, while the rhizosphere becomes hydrophobic, compromising water movement, impacting soil microbial dynamics, inhibiting nutrient mineralization and transport, and plant and soil health.

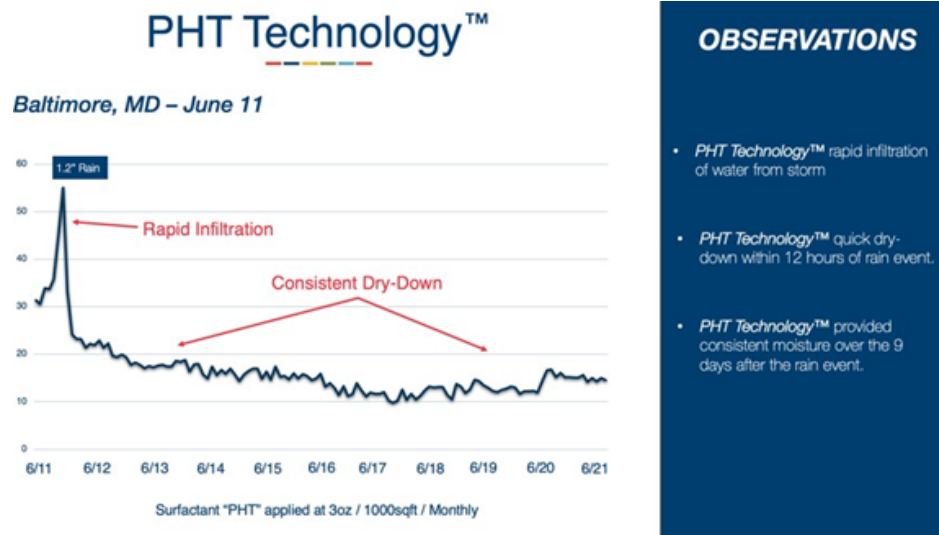
The proprietary technology in Excalibur, PHT Technology™ has been shown to change how these biopolymers behave to benefit soil and plant health by:

- Increasing the speed at which the rhizosphere rewets after drying.
- Limited diffusion of mucilage resulting in better root to soil contact.

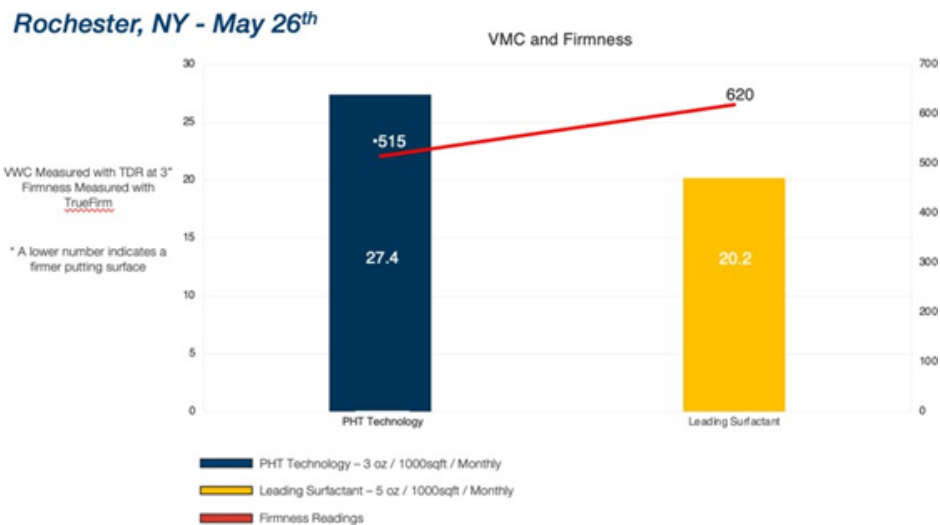
What turfgrass managers have experienced with Excalibur and PHT Technology™

Through turf manager testimonials and additional demonstration trials in the Northeast US, we can provide real world evidence of the research conclusions discussed above.

Rapid infiltration and consistent dry-down will be experienced with an Excalibur program. This golf course in Maryland experienced a rain event on the evening of June 11th. The green easily accepted the rain that evening and quickly dried-down and maintained a consistent moisture level with no supplemental irrigation for 10 days:



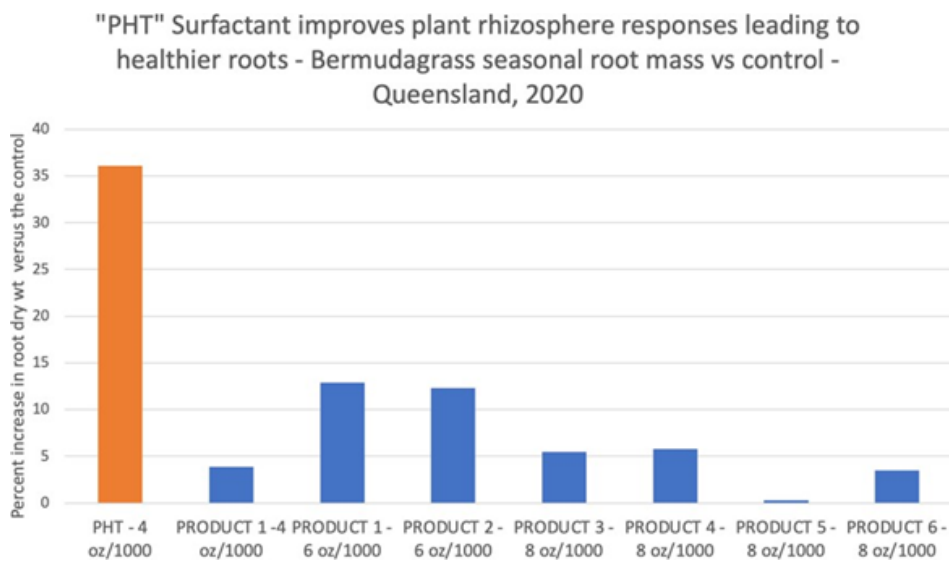
Turf managers experienced a measurable increase in surface firmness while incorporating Excalibur into their agronomic program. A superintendent in New York, when evaluating Excalibur in use, noticed the green treated with Excalibur felt firmer under foot than his others treated with another industry leading soil surfactant. Upon evaluation with both a USGA firmness meter and a TDR, it proved there was greater hydration in the Excalibur-treated green, yet a firmer putting surface over the leading soil surfactant:



Dr. Bruce Martin, Emeritus Professor at Clemson University, concluded in a research trial in 2021, “What I see is that Excalibur has a stronger influence on turf density and quality than Divanem alone. I am sure it does not affect nematode populations. The combo is superior and is the strongest treatment effect I have ever seen from Divanem and a wetting agent.”

In this particular trial, plots treated with Excalibur alone developed a longer, more dense root system than Abamectin-treated plots alone. Plots treated with Excalibur tank-mixed with Abamectin showed increased turf quality and density over the period of the study. You can visit the full study here – [Research Review with Dr. Martin – Evaluation of Excalibur on Performance of Divanem Nematicide](#)

Evaluation of PHT Technology™ and other leading soil surfactants in 2020, specifically looking at the effects of root mass, resulted in PHT Technology™ proven to increase root dry weight 35% over the control and 20 percentage points greater than the next best.



For a deeper dive into the understand of rhizosphere engineering, we encourage you to watch the webinar [Hey! What's going on down there?](#) Presented by, Dr. Stan Kostka, Dr. Mike Fidanza, and AQUA-AID Solutions' Bill Brown, CGCS.

For more information or to contact us regarding Excalibur or any other product, please contact [info@aquaaaid.com](mailto:info@aquaaaid.com).



# Thank you to Dr. Frank Rossi and Joe Lucas and staff for an informative Walk and Talk at Saratoga National



People...Products...Knowledge..



# Walk and Talk



With Dr. Frank Rossi, from Cornell CALS

May 12th- The Links at Greystone- **New Date!**

Event sponsored by Helena and GCSA of NY



June 8th- Bellevue Country Club- **New Date  
and Venue**

October 4th at Transit Valley Country Club

Cost is free to GCSA of NY members and \$25 for guests  
You must register to attend





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## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The Grass IS Greener on the Other Side

By

Dominic J. Morales, NYSTA Board member and Professor Emeritus, SUNY-Delhi

The New York State Turfgrass Association, on behalf of the green industry, provides educational opportunities, networking, advocacy and policy development, research support, youth outreach and career development, while advocating for environmentally responsible management.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2020 Industry Outlook

- Presently Over 200,000 Technicians Supervisors, Managers, etc.
- Predicts in the next 10 years over 55,000 career opportunities will be created per year
- A much-touted statistic is that nearly 99% of graduates who earn a certificate, or a degree are successful in securing full time employment right out of an Apprenticeship or degree program—few industries can rival that success rate!

NYSTA's newest workforce initiative will offer Registered Apprenticeship for golf courses, sports turf, and turf businesses in New York State. The program will help NYSTA employer partners find and secure talent for specialized skilled positions as there is a significant shortage of industry trained and educated professionals. NYSTA has developed a strategic partnership with Tyler Bloom Consulting to create statewide apprenticeship program for the turfgrass industry.

The goal of this project is to provide a career pathway for job seekers throughout New York State for golf courses, sports facilities, athletic fields, lawn/landscape, and other turf-oriented businesses. The outcomes will help create better paying jobs, increase access to continued education, career readiness training, and support recruitment initiatives to underrepresented communities.

Continued funding through our TEF annual grant request will also enable us to translate the program for primarily Spanish speaking individuals, the development of a Pre-Apprenticeship programs offered at New York State high schools that have Agriculture Education and are FFA chapter schools and assist with continued marketing efforts.

Three registered apprenticeship programs have been developed and submitted to the New York State Department of Labor-Workforce Development office for approval and certification.

- Groundskeeper II-Golf Course
- Groundskeeper II-Sports Turf
- Turf Equipment Technician

These programs will offer a formal on-the-job training program (4,000 hours), plus additional education, and certificates (144 hours) from the following related instruction cooperators over a 2-year period:

- OSHA-10 Certification
- GCSAA Assistant Certificate - Environmental Stewardship
- GCSAA Assistant Certificate - Leadership and Communication
- SFMA Sports Field Turfgrass Science Webinars
- NY State Pesticide Applicator's License
- NYSTA Webinar Series
- 15-college credits from SUNY-Delhi in turfgrass management, soil science, etc. towards an AAS degree.
- Penn Foster Automotive Service Technician Certificate -



**Groundskeeper II Apprentices (Golf Course and Sports Field) will receive 4,000 hours of on-the-job training including competencies in the following areas:**

- **Small engine and diesel engine equipment operation**
- **Pesticide usage, safety and record keeping**
- **Golf course and sports field preparations**
- **Project management skills in drainage, slope, sodding**
- **Tree management care**
- **Irrigation philosophy and best management practices**
- **Horticulture and landscape installation and management**
- **Soil management**
- **Pest management**

**Equipment Technician Apprentices will receive 4,000 hours of on-the-job training including competencies in the following areas:**

- **Small engine and diesel service**
- **Computer literacy for record keeping and documentation**
- **HVAC preventative maintenance service**
- **Four stroke engine service and repair**
- **Welding and fabrication**
- **Mower set up and service**

### **Summary**

**NYSTA Apprenticeship Program is a State and National Occupational Credential. Completion of the program results in a state and nationally recognized credential which guarantees to employers that:**

- **Trained individuals are qualified for the job through training and educational programs. Individuals complete a combination of on-the-job training, classroom instruction, and professional development to earn a Certificate of Completion in Apprenticeship, awarded by the NYS and U.S. Department of Labor.**
- **The certificate is commonly referred to as a journey worker credential. The apprentice is extended the privilege of earning income as a full-time employee while he or she learns a skilled craft.**

### **The NYSTA Apprenticeship Program:**

- **Connects motivated workers with experts in the turf industry.**
- **Provides comprehensive training to advance skills and qualifications on a state and national level.**
- **Builds a trusted workforce of turfgrass professionals.**
- **The apprentice works with a mentor for 4,000 hours or more where knowledge is acquired by the apprentice.**
- **Apprenticeships are a partnership between the employer who offers on-the-job training, the apprentice works for the employer with the support of NYSTA.**
- **Apprenticeship programs have been used by many industries for attracting and training employees for decades.**
- **There has been a resurgence in the importance of apprenticeship programs.**

**The Apprentice Program is an investment, remember that growing your staff and the turfgrass management profession is an investment. It will take both time and money. Use some of your recruiting budget or your marketing budget to help. Your employees are your biggest investment. Keep in mind, participating and developing as many of these recruiting activities is essential to your success. Information on the apprenticeship program should be a constant in your recruiting. The continued success of our profession depends on all of us promoting the benefits of turfgrass management and the profession.**

### **What Are the Benefits of Becoming a NYSTA sponsored Apprentice?**

- 1. Hands-on career training provided by an experienced mentor with additional classroom and “on-line” training offered at no charge.**
- 2. An education and the potential to earn college credit paid for by your employer.**
- 3. An opening to a successful long-term career with a competitive salary, and little or no educational debt.**
- 4. A paycheck from day one, guaranteed to increase as you master new skills.**
- 5. A certification you can take anywhere in the United States, opening doors for re-location.**

### **What do Apprentices do?**

- 1. They create and maintain safe and beautiful playing surfaces where people can play, compete, and enjoy.**
- 2. More specifically they study to be turfgrass professionals trained in a variety of skills**
- 3. Not everyone has what it takes to become a turfgrass management apprentice. These apprenticeships are reserved for those who enjoy the outdoors and like working with their hands. They are for those who relish working as part of a team and take pride in seeing a project completed... those who aren't afraid of hard work or rolling up their sleeves to get a job done. They are for men and women who don't want to stay in the same job.**

**For more information visit the NYSTA website at**

**<https://www.nysta.org>**

**G C S A O F N Y  
P R E S E N T S :**



# *Social Golf*

---

**Tuesday July 12th  
at Corning Country Club  
Registration opens at 10am**

**Lunch at 11am**

**Golf at noon**

**\$60.00 per person**

**includes lunch on the patio, golf, cart, pizza &  
wings afterward**

**Registration limited to the first 50 players**

**Register at [gcsaofny.org](http://gcsaofny.org)**

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## **2022 BMW Volunteer Opportunities**

**August 15th-21st**

**We invite you and/or your team members to aid in the preparation of the South Course for the 70 best players on the PGA TOUR.**

**Please click on the registration link below to sign up:**

**<https://forms.gle/TkfVymKgNcph5BCSA>**

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GCSA of NY wants to feature your dog in our newsletter

## DOGS OF GCSA OF NY



Send in a picture of your dog on the golf course and submit to Suzanne at [gcsaofny@gmail.com](mailto:gcsaofny@gmail.com)

Picture must be in a jpeg or png format. Please include the dogs name and the name of the golf course.

DO YOU HAVE ANY

## Life Events

THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE IN THE GCSA  
OF NY NEWSLETTER

CONTACT OUR CHAPTER ADMINISTRATOR AT  
[GCSAOFNY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GCSAOFNY@GMAIL.COM)



## **New York Golf Course Foundation Update We have been busy!**

**by Ken Benoit, CGCS  
Executive Director, New York Golf Course  
Foundation**



First, I'd like to welcome a few new members to our board of directors; Steve Kurta (New York Golf Course Superintendent Association), Evan Weymouth (Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendent Association), Tim Benedict, CGCS (Long Island Golf Course Superintendents Association) and Jesse Shannon, CGCS (Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association). On behalf of the foundation board, I'd like to say welcome, and thank you for volunteering your valuable time to our superintendent operated foundation.

Because spring is here, now is a good time to remind you how the NYS Golf BMPs can be used to achieve your spring agronomic goals in a way that protects water resources and, you don't have to spend much time looking on the foundation's website or YouTube channel to find the information. Whether you are treating for ABW, putting together a nutrient management plan, preparing your irrigation system for the season, or trying to figure what chemical is the most effective on a pest while having the least impact on the environment (EIQ), and anything in between. There is no doubt that the NYGCF's various content driven mechanisms will have an answer for you.

We recently completed several Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund (TESF) tasks, and most should be available for you to peruse by the time this article goes to press. Carl Schimenti and Frank Rossi completed two publications for the TESF, Using Predictive Models for Controlling Dollar Spot and Converting Fairways to Bentgrass. These publications will be available in print form and handed out at specified association meetings. A downloadable form will also be available on our website, [nysgolfbmp.cals.cornell.edu](http://nysgolfbmp.cals.cornell.edu). By the way, the newly updated website format should be up and running by the time you read this article...we'd love to know what you think of the new site. The New York Golf Course Foundation YouTube channel has recently had a ton of content added, including a How to Develop a Nutrient Management Plan video created by Carl Schimenti and a How to Develop a Surface Water Quality Testing Program video, created by yours truly. Both 10-minute videos are full of helpful information. We also added a lot of content from interviews I recorded last summer while riding my bike around the state of NY as a part of my Connect to Protect, NY Tour. In these interview-based videos, you will find your peers discussing their perspectives about the value of facility adoption of BMPs and why BMPs are critical to the future success of our industry. They also provide specific examples of BMPs they've incorporated into their own management programs. Participating superintendents and researchers in your area include Rick Holfoth, CGCS, Steve Kurta, Larry Checho, Ian Daniels, Ricky Stefanski, and Dr. Frank Rossi. A big thanks to all these guys for helping to provide perspective and encouragement to us all. In addition, we completed a "How to" series of videos describing, in detail, the process for using the GCSAA tool to download our state's BMP template, which is the first step in creating your facility's own BMP document. Our hope is that we will create a workshop designed to give superintendents an opportunity to easily create their own BMP document during the one-day seminar...look for more on that later.



We are still waiting on a few lab results from our honeybee evaluation project, but the early returns look very promising. Look for an in-depth blog post describing the project and its conclusions after we get the remainder of the results back from Cornell's testing lab. The foundation has also spent time putting together it's strategic plan for the next five years. This plan is ever evolving but the foundational drivers will continue to be education, research, and outreach.

Information moves fast and what was once current becomes outdated in a flash. With that in mind, look for us to continually update our content and stay in front of the changing times but remember, our purpose will not change. Our mission will always be simply stated as: To protect and preserve New York State water resources and sustain and enhance open space using current scientific advances in golf turfgrass management.

Here's to a great 2022 season and remember, do what you can do to protect our water resources.



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# GCSA OF NY

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*If you are interested  
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please contact  
Suzanne at  
[gcsaofny@gmail.com](mailto:gcsaofny@gmail.com)*



# **KEUKA LAKE WINE TOUR**

**Enjoy a day of wine tasting in the world-famous Finger Lakes region as you tour the vineyards surrounding scenic Lake Keuka. Take time to enjoy tastings and purchase new bottles for your collection.**

**Includes:**

- **Driver/guide**
- **Lunch at Bully Hill**
- **Pick-up at Hampton Inn- Penn Yan**
- **Wine tastings and educational tour through a selection of wineries**
- **Entry/Admission - Heron Hill Winery**
- **Entry/Admission - Dr. Konstantin Frank Winery**
- **Entry/Admission - Hunt Country Vineyards**
- **Entry/Admission - Bully Hill Vineyards Winery**

**Does not include gratuity**

**If interested please contact Suzanne as soon as possible- we need a commitment prior to booking and space is limited**



**SEPTEMBER 24, 2022**

**10:45AM-4:15PM**

**COST \$230.00PP**



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## What's Up at Cornell?

Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D.

It's been a busy year of golf turf research and extension education at the Cornell Turfgrass Program. Our research program currently consists of Carl Schimenti, Kyle Wickings, and me. Our Extension efforts engage several NYS IPM scientists as well as county-based faculty and staff to help reach the eighteen million New Yorkers. This is a highlight of several projects we have underway for the golf industry.

### Long Term Golf Course Operational Research

Cornell University and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation (State Parks) have maintained a 23-year relationship that began with a 13-year experiment at the Bethpage State Park Green Course, originally funded by the USGA. Since 2010 we have collected data from 15 State Park golf courses across six regions from Long Island to Oswego. This data represents a consistent public robust collection of nutrient, pesticide, soil, irrigation, tree and equipment management and use, serving as the basis for several peer-reviewed journal articles and thousands of presentations and trade journal articles. More importantly this data demonstrates a commitment to long-term environmental stewardship with demonstrated reductions in fertilizer and pesticide use and carbon emissions, as well as operational optimization, i.e., infrastructure, equipment, and labor

This program was initiated by my colleague Dr. Jennifer Grant and I, and fully realized with addition the of the late Bob Portmess in 2008 to summarize the Bethpage Project and publish the Progressive IPM Manual (available in English and Spanish for free on our website). Since Bob's passing in 2016, as many of you know, Carl Schimenti has been the Project Coordinator and has expanded our capacity and depth of knowledge with enhanced data science and analytics as well as good old-fashioned agronomics. Carl also has served as our overall Program Manager, leading efforts in written and audio/video communication, social media strategy, web design, EIQ enhancements, county-level urban grassland support, etc. If we've done it the last few years as a program, Carl has managed it!

Carl has moved on from these roles, especially the State Park role, into a new Urban Environmental Scientist position in our Turfgrass Program applying data science and analytics to the design, installation and long-term environmental stewardship of lawns, golf courses, sports fields, parks, cemeteries, school districts, hospitals, airports, and roadsides. We will be conducting a search for a new Coordinator over the next few months.

### Golf Footwear Assessment

The largest manufacturer of golf footwear, Foot-Joy, approached our research program in 2016 to address growing concern among golf course superintendents concerning golf shoe damage to putting surfaces. Over the last seven years we have developed a standard published protocol for assessing the effect of golf footwear on putting surface performance and collected more than 20,000 data points from dozens of different shoe designs.

We maintain about an acre of research putting surface at our Turfgrass and Landscape Research Center in Ithaca, NY. We can manipulate management to create different putting surface characteristics of primarily creeping bent grass on sand-based rootzone and mixed

stand of annual bluegrass and creeping bent grass on sand-modified native soil. Additionally, we have begun to travel and test shoes on different putting surfaces around the US.

Our results have highlighted the many aspects of shoe design that effect putting surface performance, including the structure of the shoe (flexible or not), spike or spike less, placement and design of spike, and the design of spike less tread. We have also shown that the person walking, the type of surface (species, firmness, initial green speed) and time of day also influence the damage a shoe might inflict.

To date we can conclude that 1) we have aided Foot-Joy in designing more putting surface friendly shoes that maintains the performance a golfer expects, 2) golf shoes with spikes cause more damage than spike less, 3) some spike less shoe designs do cause more damage than spiked designs, 4) routine putting surface rolling reduces visible damage, 5) ball roll is rarely affected in a meaningful way (usually speeds are altered less than 6-8"), 6) traffic treatments are always about 1 foot slower than non-trafficked treatments.

### **Improving Adoption Rate of Best Management Practices**

In 2020 we began a significant partnership with the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute funded by the NYS DEC and housed at the Rochester Institute of Technology. A three-year project was initiated to determine adoption rate of Best Management Practices for water quality protection on golf courses, develop educational efforts to improve adoption in areas that are deficient, and re-survey to determine the value of the education program.

We are currently in the final year of our education efforts that have included a website, publications, infographics, webinars, and field days. These educational efforts are designed to improve awareness and adoption of the BMPs to conserve water resources and prevent pollution from nutrients and pesticides. We expect to begin surveying courses again in 2023.

In addition to the BMP adoption research, we are conducting several assistance projects on data-driven management, irrigation auditing, reduced mowing, and equipment washing systems.

### **Walk and Talks**

Our in-person Extension efforts were restricted significantly during the pandemic and now have returned with our walk and talk events held monthly throughout the state. This is an old concept from the days when superintendent groups gathered monthly not to play golf, but to walk a colleague's golf course and talk turf.

This year we are highlighting several BMPs on each course we visit, as well as key aspects of site-specific management employed by our host superintendent. These events are easy to attend, do not take much time, are very low cost and often result in very lively conversation among the participants, even when I'm yacking, which warms my heart! Be on the look-out for a walk and talk near you.

### **Cornell Turf Show**

The pandemic forced many programs to adapt to a remote reality. My colleague Carl Schimenti and I decided to start a weekly 30 min webinar during the pandemic that was so popular we are about to finish our third year! For 10 weeks each spring we review the weather, highlight key issues for the week ahead and have a chat with a national expert on an important and timely topic. We have held over 50 hours of education on golf, lawn and sports turf and thousands have watched the show live, recorded webinar or as a podcast. The fastest 30 minutes in turf!



### Forecast Website 3.0

The weekly ShortCUTT newsletter was initiated in 1998 and continued until 2019, a 21-year run. In 2010, our long-term interaction on ShortCUTT with the Northeast Climate Center based at Cornell led to the development of the FORECAST website. This website was the first to house prediction models and data tools to assist with decision-making for nutrient and pest management. Since then, many other commercial and university sites have popped up.

We have begun our third revision of this important collection of digital products that will continue to serve our industry. New tools are expected to be developed to enhance management decisions, especially as they relate to implementation of BMPs. We will be looking for a few superintendents to help “ground-truth” the data in the year ahead.

It's been an interesting several years for all of us. As we begin to gather again more frequently and can share knowledge, we are looking forward to hearing from you all on how our Cornell program, with a rich history of innovation, can continue to serve you over the next few years prior to my retirement. See you at the walk and talks!



Thank you to everyone who donated and participated in the auction for Rounds 4 Research. We appreciate your support. We look forward to continuing our support of the Cornell Turfgrass Program

If you are interested in donating for 2023 please click the link below or contact Suzanne at [gcsaofny@gmail.com](mailto:gcsaofny@gmail.com)

<https://www.eifg.org/research/rounds-4-research/donate-a-round/online-form>





HOSTED BY GCSA OF NY

# GOLF LEAGUE

\$50 fee per team. Competing teams would choose the location and time to play.

**MATCHES WILL BE SET UP AS SINGLE ELIMINATION.**

Registration and additional information can be found on our website at [gcsaofny.org](http://gcsaofny.org).





# Website

GCSAOFNY.ORG

***Our website includes Job listings, a place to list items you are looking to buy or sell and a message board to ask questions or discuss topics of interest with your fellow superintendents.***

***WE ALSO HAVE A MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY, CORPORATE BY-LAWS, PAST NEWSLETTERS, SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AND ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES***

***KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATED AND VISIT US TODAY!!***





## **Condolence Policy**

**The Chapter Administrator will send an expression of sympathy on behalf of GCSANY when notified of the death of a member or a member's immediate family member.**

**The sympathy expression may include a donation to charity or flowers. For the purposes of this policy, an immediate family member is defined as:**

- Spouse or partner**
- Son or daughter (including stepchildren)**
- Brother or sister**
- Grandchildren**

**The Chapter Administrator or a member of the board of directors should be notified as soon as possible when a death has occurred. Based on the wishes of the family, GCSANY will either send flowers (to the funeral home or the employee's home address) or make a donation in memory of the deceased to the family's charity of choice.**

**The Chapter Administrator will make every effort to notify members of the death of a current or retired colleague. An announcement and details related to funeral arrangements, if available, will be sent via email when appropriate. Members who learn of the death of a GCSANY member or retiree should contact the Chapter Administrator.**

### **Get Well Gifts**

**GCSANY will send flowers or a card when a member has been hospitalized or has a serious illness. Please notify the Chapter Administrator as soon as you are aware of a member in one of these circumstances.**





# GCSAA NEWS

With Kevin Doyle  
GCSAA Field Staff  
KDOYLE@GCSAA.ORG

follow me on Twitter @ GCSAA\_NE

We often talk about the networking and camaraderie this industry exemplifies. Sharing knowledge amongst ourselves is standard practice. Mother Nature dished out anxiety to most, while some came through in good to great shape, others did not. Superintendents, through a swath of central New York, the Capital District of Albany, western Massachusetts down through Connecticut, areas of New York and northern New Jersey are dealing with damage of various proportion. On Friday April 1, Springfield Country Club (MA) superintendent Jedd Newsome put together a roundtable meeting, as he did in 2015, inviting area superintendents with Michelle DaCosta, Ph.D., of UMass, and John Daniels, regional USGA agronomist, to add their input. Club officials were asked to attend; meeting content was geared toward all attendees.



DaCosta gave a summary of the winter weather including the warm December, very cold January, followed by the roller coaster February. Data sensors being utilized by ongoing research showed January soil temp (at a one-half inch depth) less than 20 degrees, followed by a February that included three or four events where soil temperatures reached 40-60 degrees!

DaCosta noted these swings in temperature are more in line with March, not February. Huge moisture releases were measured by the sensors in February, even under ice, creating potential for injury to Poa which de-hardens easily with temperature and easily absorbs moisture.

Sensors under ice showed less fluctuation in temperature and much less moisture release, yet the drop in oxygen levels were severe. Noting how carbon dioxide levels have yet to be addressed, DaCosta engaged Mohawk Golf Course superintendent Andy Eick regarding his green tied to this data. Eick explained to the attendees that the green under ice turned out to be the best green on the property to date.

Daniels discussed results of his many site visits from New York to Massachusetts, and many in between. The importance of sunshine in fall turf health headed into winter and spring recovery was highlighted. Daniels stressed the importance of photos in documenting these difficult growing conditions.

The logo for GCSAA News features a stylized green and white circular emblem on the left, followed by the text "GCSAA" in a large, bold, green sans-serif font, and "NEWS" in a smaller, bold, green sans-serif font below it.

# GCSAA NEWS

Use of permeable and impermeable covers was discussed. Daniels addressed the benefits of each in preventing damage, issues that can occur and the use of covers to aide in recovery. Newsome highlighted his use of covers on his historically difficult greens and the success this effort has made.

Newsome wrapped up the day by noting during his 13-year tenure at Springfield Country Club, he's endured six years of significant winterkill issues. He extended his thanks to the club for their patience and understanding during recovery. He stressed the need to stay off the greens until they recover while admitting the pressure on municipal and public facilities might make that impossible. Newsome's mantra for keeping the stress off the greens: By June 1, the golfers will all have forgotten what happened.

Newsome thanked the club for allowing him to host, the Tom Irwin Company for providing lunch, and all who attended. There were great questions with fantastic information provided by speakers and attendees alike.

Knowing you are not alone doesn't ease any of the pain and anxiety the situation places on superintendents, but it does alert others of the circle of peers with whom you can look to for assistance and support. A rising tide raises all ships; let the healing process begin.

Visit [@JeddNewsome](#) on twitter for a YouTube link to watch the event.



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