



RHODE ISLAND SURE 'n' TURF

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

2020 RIGCSA Scholarship Recipients



Pictured from L-R: Back row: RIGCSA President – Michael Varkonyi; Hans Bengtson, Scholarship & Research Committee Chair – Mark Richard, CGCS
Front row: Margaret Drohen, Jessica McLeod, Sydney Pellerin, Ashley Cromack, Cara Cummins

The **Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association** awarded \$19,800 in scholarships for the year 2020 to the following students. Each student received a scholarship of \$2,200.00.

RIGCSA Scholarship Recipients:

- Hans P. Bengtson** Johnson & Wales University
- Christopher Bresnahan** University of Vermont
- Jillian M. Cabral** Bridgewater State University
- Cara Cummins** Roger Williams University
- Margaret Drohen** University of Massachusetts
- Adam Kroian** University of Rhode Island
- Jessica McLeod** Haverford College

Ryan Reynolds Legacy Scholarship

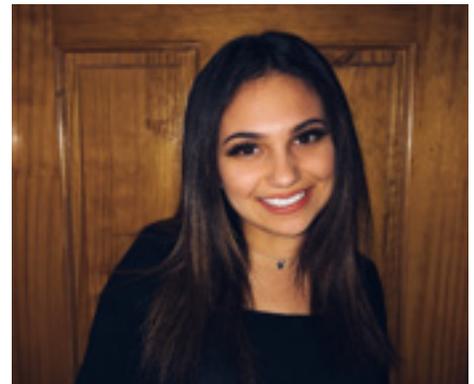
- Ashley Cromack** Montclair State University

The **C. Richard Skogley Memorial Scholarship** was awarded to **Sydney Pellerin** who is a student at the University of Rhode Island.

Save the date for the 38th Annual Scholarship and Research Tournament to be held at Pine Brook Country Club in Weston, Massachusetts on October 6, 2020. Michael Iacono, CGCS will be our host for this event.



Christopher Bresnahan



Jillian Cabral



Adam Kroian

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President's Message



The Winter that wasn't.

How else to describe our local conditions from December through the beginning of March? Maybe we can finally experience a "true" Spring this year. Is the mild weather going to change timing of applications, cultural practices or is it going to increase insect populations and severity of Spring time diseases? Members and the common golfer don't always see or understand how we need to be flexible to change on the fly due to events out of our control. Communicating to them about how your cultural practices may/ will be changing may stop some of the questions like: Why are you spraying in late March, you never spray in March?

Hopefully most of you have joined the Facebook page/group of our association, if you're on FB. I'd like to thank Peter Fish and Michelle Maltais for developing and getting it off the ground in less than a week. Hopefully our membership utilizes this as many have done with other groups on Facebook. It is and can be a great tool for all for answers or help.

Last week was the 23rd NERTCS. I believe it was another success. The auction took in the most ever. The seminar I attended had sold out. Talks had people coming and going and the show floor seemed consistent. The structure was a little different and as we all are creatures of habit, it probably took this year to figure it out. Gary Sykes continues to pull it all together with David Rosenberg and his team. Thank you, Gary, for your hard work.

Our schedule is set for the year and looks exciting. Those interested in hosting a meeting next year, please contact John Lombardi.

The different allied groups that make up the Rhode Island Golf Council will be setting up on May 13th in the RI State House to make a push with legislators to approve a statewide "National" Golf Day. And then work on our economic impact in the state. Pat Hogan is the backbone for us on this issue. Many thanks Pat.

And not to ignore the Coronavirus, hopefully by the time you read this, more has been solved, less have been affected and we can worry about one less thing. If the weather is nice, the March meeting might be my shortest ever, as my clubs will be with me.

As we are all dealing with the effects of the coronavirus, with closures, cancellations and quarantines let's hope there is an expedited solution so we can get back to some normalcy.

Respectfully,

Mike Varkonyi
RIGCSA President

Annual Meeting - January 15, 2020 – Fall River Country Club



Annual Meeting - January 15, 2020 - Fall River Country Club



Photos by Michelle Maltais





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Spring Irrigation Pump Station Service

By Matt Faherty, Winterberry Irrigation

In the Northeast, we have completed painting tee markers, benches, etc. ... only a month away from getting out and cleaning up the course from a long winter - and we can't wait. But what about the pump station?

Avoiding the pump station service, because of its complexities, can be a crippling mistake. Yearly preventative maintenance can save money by avoiding costly breakdowns.

The most common mistake that a superintendent can make is not to contract an authorized service technician to perform annual check-ups, diagnostics and preventative maintenance. A preventative checklist of pump station data may insure that the station is ready for the spring with the records available for comparison to prior year's services. Are the pumps producing similar flow to past years? Motor winding insulation value and resistance can be tested with a meg-ohm meter to insure that it is not degrading.

It is good idea to have a qualified technician conduct an efficiency audit to ensure that money is not being wasted on electricity in these trying budgetary times. The audit can help determine expected service life of the system and may present opportunities to optimize efficiency.

In-experience and untrained service may result in costly mistakes for the goal of saving money, such as not cleaning filters. Same with any mechanical devise. You would not think of skipping oil changes in your truck till 30,000 miles for the "savings". Preventive maintenance is good, done wrong can be more harmful than helpful.

The importance of regular service should not only be Spring or Fall, but once a week a visit to the pump house to observe the pump and motor vibrations, leaks and smells that differ from the norm. An early inspection of the balance of hours on motors, a decline in pumping capacity of the pumps or excessive vibration on the motors may literally save your position. Keep notes and a checklist of power, performance, electrical inspection and test data. Seasonal events such as algae blooms will affect filter maintenance.

Motor and pump controls should be upgraded before they fail, technical advances in PLC's and electrical components may make upgrades a smart decision. Keep the pump station clean of debris and wildlife to insure proper cooling, extending service life.

You cannot afford to have your system fail during the hot summer months – when you need the water without interruption. Spring startups and services to insure the pumping equipment is ready for the hard summer months and saving money by increasing efficiency in water usage, motor and control upgrades.

A list of services provided by that are performed and reported back to the superintendent includes:

- Vibration test on each pump
- Lube bearings
- Inspect and tighten any leaking joints
- Test, adjust pressure relief valves
- Change oil in wet sump motors only
- Meg test on each motor
- Test and review PLC operation; make corrections and updates
- Check manual valves
- Pump packing adjusted
- Inspect, clean component filters
- Control cabinet inspection, including tightening of any connection points
- Inspection/cleaning of cooling components
- Test all fuses and circuit breakers
- Dynamic flow test
- Check amp test – all motors; examine intake screens for debris
- Hydraulic valves (including Cla-Valves), need periodic service, cleaning and adjustment

Factory trained technicians can provide you with the expertise, knowledge and experience solving any issue that your system may incur.



RIGCSA

2020 Meeting Schedule

Please note: The March and May meetings have been cancelled due to concerns regarding the Coronavirus.

**Monday, June 1 - Potowomut Golf Club
(Member/Member Tournament)**

**Monday, July 20 - Crosswinds Golf Club
(Joint meeting with GCSA of Cape Cod - Rho-Cod Cup)**

**Monday, August 10 - Midville Golf Club
(Stress Buster Day)**

**Monday, September 14 - Wanumetonomy Golf & CC
(Championship and NE Champs Qualifier)**

**Tuesday, October 6 - Pine Brook Country Club
(Scholarship & Research Tournament)**

**Monday, October 26 - Newport Country Club
(Superintendent/Assistant Tournament)**

Tuesday, November 10 - Louisquisset Golf Club

**Friday, December 4 - The Dublin Rose
(Holiday Networking and Meeting)**

For more information and to register, please visit www.rigcsa.org or contact Julie Heston at (401) 934-7660 or jheston@verizon.net



GIS 2020 is in the books! Hopefully those who attended show in Orlando found the education and networking delivered value to you and your facilities. The post GIS newsletter has historically been a follow-up on those within the Northeast Region recognized during the event. In case you missed it, here are excerpts from GCSAA news

releases highlighting our regional members.

Peter Gorman earns Excellence in Government Affairs Award from GCSAA

A focus on water issues advocacy making an impact in Connecticut

Peter Gorman, technical representative for Atlantic Golf and Turf, has earned the 2020 Excellence in Government Affairs Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) for his passion and hard work in advocating for the golf course management profession. GCSAA annually recognizes a chapter, coalition or superintendent for outstanding advocacy or compliance efforts in government affairs.

It was through the Connecticut AGCS that Gorman first became involved in advocacy efforts concerning the creation of best management practices for courses in the state. Gorman has served as a GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador, a program that matches superintendents with members of Congress to build strong relationships between them. More than 380 GCSAA members currently serve as ambassadors.

On the state level, Gorman has made the biggest impact by his involvement in Connecticut water issues. When the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection offered the Connecticut AGCS a seat on its Water Planning Council four years ago, Gorman was chosen to represent the golf industry. During his time on the council, Gorman has met with representatives from various government, industry and environmental groups; testified in a public hearing at the State Capitol and helped develop the State Water Plan. He has spent hundreds of hours on the project.

“Originally when I went to water events, I was the golf guy,” Gorman said. “Now when I go to golf events, I am the water guy.”

GCSAA Distinguished Service Awards honor certified golf course superintendent and retired USGA course consultant

Mark Kuhns, CGCS, and John Foy will be recognized at the 2020 Golf Industry Show

Kuhns, who served as president of GCSAA in 2009, cites his beginnings in the golf industry for putting him on a path toward becoming a superintendent.

“I grew up in a family of great golfers and started out working in a course pro shop and caddying before I moved into landscaping,” Kuhns said. “I have worked with many great people, including other past presidents who have been my friends and mentors, throughout my career in landscaping and I have not missed a Golf Industry Show since 1979.”

Kuhns, first elected to serve on the GCSAA Board of Directors in 2003, was the director of grounds at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J. Previously, he was golf course superintendent at Oakmont (Pa.) Country Club; Laurel Valley Golf Club and Rolling Rock Club in Ligonier, Pa.; and Ligonier (Pa.) Country Club. Kuhns is currently the vice president of business development for Turco Golf Inc.

Kuhns has been a GCSAA member for 41 years and first earned certification in 1983. He is a member and past president of the Mountain & Valley GCSA, former vice president of the Greater Pittsburgh GCSA and currently serves as government relations chairman for the GCSA of New Jersey. He is a member of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association, the Tri-State Turfgrass Research Foundation and a past member of the Penn State University Agronomy Advisory Council.

Four Northeast Region members selected for Melrose Leadership Academy

The Melrose Leadership Academy supports the professional development of GCSAA-member superintendents. It is administered through the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), the philanthropic organization of GCSAA. The program was established in 2012 by Ken Melrose, retired CEO and chairman of the board of The Toro Co., and is supported by a \$1 million gift to the EIFG from the Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation.

Academy members are chosen through an application process based on financial need, volunteerism and a drive to advance their careers. The new class will participate in networking and leadership activities, as well as attend a variety of education seminars. Seventeen superintendents were chosen to be a part of the 2020 Academy.

[The Northeast Region members of the 2020 Melrose Leadership Academy were:](#)

- Paul Bonini, CGCS of Watertown Golf Club in Watertown, Conn.
- Darrell Marcinek, CGCS, of Somerset County Park Commission in Neshanic Station, N.J.
- David Moffett of Mosholu Golf Course in Bronx, N.Y.
- Michael Murphy of Robert T Lynch Municipal Golf Course in Brookline, Mass.



Photo credit: Montana Pritchard

GCSAA president Rafael Barajas, CGCS recognizes GCSAA past-president and current GCSA of New England Executive Director Don Hearn, CGCS for 50 years of membership.

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already

Scholarship season is fast approaching:

Scholarships have been a part of the EIFG's focus since 1955 when the organization was first founded as the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Fund.

Scholarships funded by the EIFG provide financial assistance to students who are pursuing a career in golf course management, future researchers and educators, as well as children and grandchildren of GCSAA members.

Visit www.EIFG.org/scholarships for more information.

CELEBRATING GOLF #NationalGolfDay:

National Golf Day is the pinnacle event of the year for WE ARE GOLF. As a coalition of golf industry leaders, National Golf Day celebrated its 12th year in Washington, D.C., which also included a record-setting community service project on the National Mall. We hope you can join us in supporting the golf industry this May 4-6th!

National Golf Day celebrates the game's \$84.1 billion economy, nearly \$4 billion annual charitable impact and many environmental and fitness benefits. Industry leaders will meet with Members of Congress, the Executive Branch and federal agencies to discuss golf's 15,000 diverse businesses, two million jobs impacted, tax revenue and tourism value.

Visit wearegolf.org/national-golf-day/ for more information and to register!

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

Kevin Doyle
GCSAA Field Staff
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RIGCSA Member News

Welcome New Members:

- **Alexander Brake, Student, Wanumetonomy Golf & CC**
- **Luke Farrell, Assistant Superintendent, Wanumetonomy Golf & CC**

Our condolences go out to **Ed Delfino** and family on the passing of **Marion Mandeville** on January 24, 2020 at the age of 94. Marion was the previous owner of Melody Hill Country Club in Glocester, RI. She was a 50 year member of the RIGCSA as of this year and a Distinguished Service Award recipient in 2000. She was a great supporter of the association and the Scholarship and Research fund.

Thank you to all our members who donated food items and made monetary contributions to the RI Community Food Bank at our Annual Meeting in January. We collected \$370 in donations and over 160 pounds of non-perishable food items.

Congratulations to **Scott Gabrielson** on his new position as sales representative for The Cardinals, Inc.

Congratulations to **Vickie Wallace** on receiving the Dr. William H. Daniel Award with the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). This award recognizes educators who have made significant contribution to the sports turf industry through research, teaching or extension outreach.

Congratulations to **Gardner & Gerrish Landscape Architects LLC**- Their project at Payne Park in Pawtucket has been honored with the Outstanding Public Space Award by the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Planning Association.

If your club or company has received an award or distinction, please send a brief description to Julie Heston jheston@verizon.net or **Michelle Maltais** nonquitt687@cox.net and we will list it in the Member News section.

The Rhode Island GCSA is now offering an Equipment Manager membership for \$75 for the year. (\$112.50 to join which includes a one-time application fee)

- **Help grow the Equipment Manager Profession and**

- **Community in the Rhode Island and nearby areas**
- **You will have access to attend RIGCSA meetings, networking and educational opportunities**
- **Visit www.rigcsa.org for more information and to apply!**

RIGCSA 2020 Board of Directors

Elected at the RIGCSA Annual Meeting on January 15, 2020

President: Michael Varkonyi

Vice President/Secretary: John Lombardi

Treasurer: Peter Fish

Past President: Christopher Coen

Director: Matthew Emond

Director: Patrick Hogan

Director: Michelle Maltais

Congratulations to our 25 and 15 year member pin recipients.

15 Year Members:

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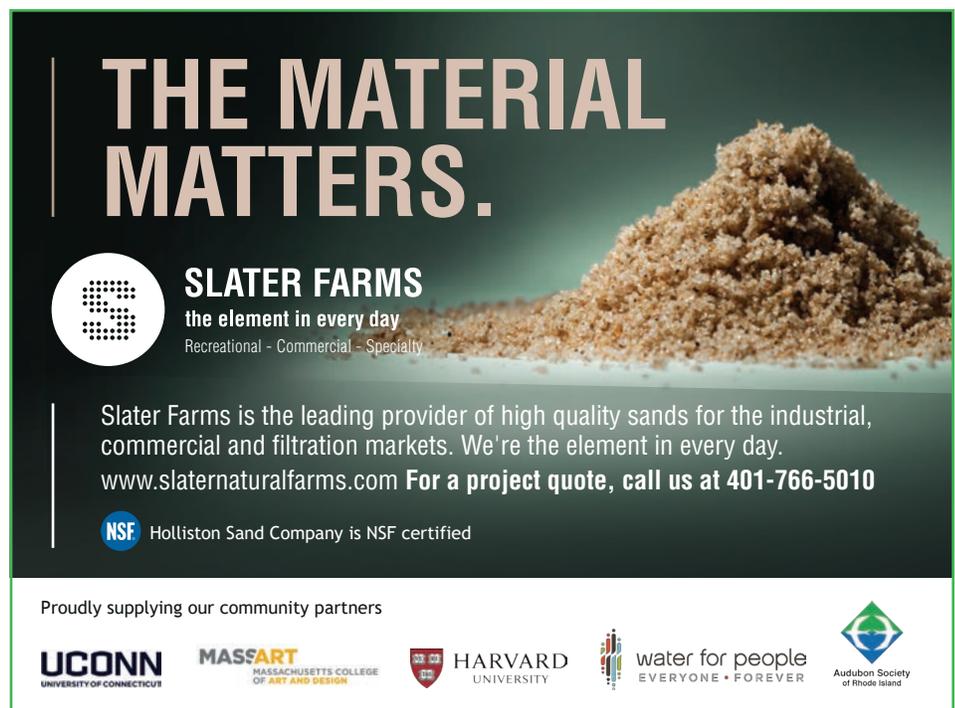
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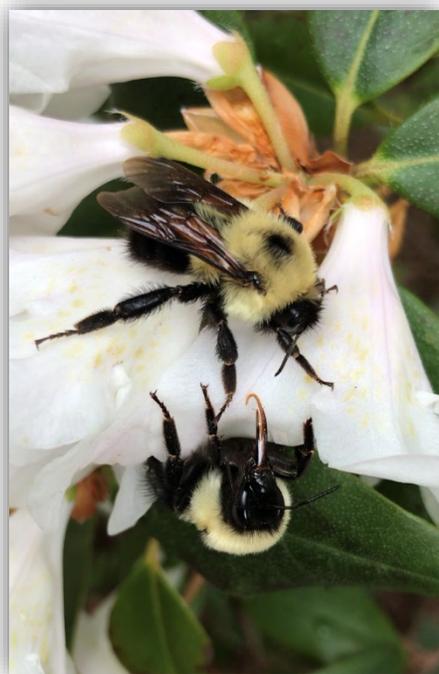
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Understanding our wild bees



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- Can be sprayed or injected

Size: 2x2.5 gal cases, 30 gal drums, 55 gal drums, 275 gal totes



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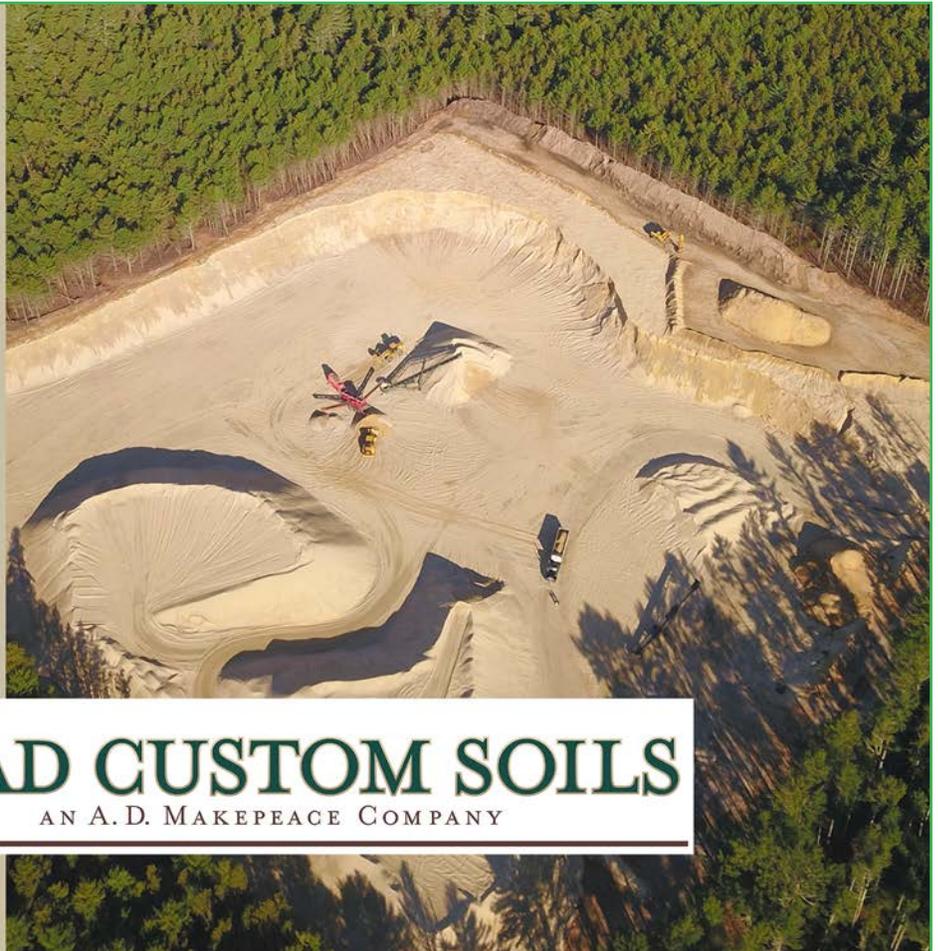
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