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SURF 'n' TURF

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



Survey of Bees on RI Golf Courses

by Steven Sipolski, M.S. and Steven R. Alm

Value of Surveys

Pollinators are experiencing declining numbers of species and population levels at an alarming rate. Surveys allow us to document population shifts over time as well as determine species that may be saved by conservation efforts. Vermont and New Hampshire have conducted state-wide bee surveys to document native pollinator diversity. However, no such project had been attempted in Rhode Island leaving a gap in knowledge regarding the diversity and abundance of our state's native bee pollinators.

Survey Methodology

From May 9 to August 26, 2019, we visited 18 golf courses throughout the state to deploy traps that sampled bee populations. Three different traps were used at each site; blue (Fig 1A), yellow (Fig 1B), and clear vane traps (Fig 1C). The traps were hung from poles 1 meter above ground and spaced 10 meters apart. The deployment site was situated along tree lines and near forage where possible. We visited each location every three weeks (5 or 6 times) and set out the traps on Friday and collected them 3 days later.

Bee Hotspots

While some courses we visited such as Pinecrest and Point Judith produced high numbers of bumblebees, many courses proved to be valuable habitats for other types of bees. Louisquisset and Midville yielded high numbers of small carpenter bees. Other courses such as Green Valley and Wanumetonomy are populated by many types of digger bees. Bumblebees and small carpenter bees were recorded at every course surveyed. Six species of bumblebees were sampled across all the courses. The most abundant species was the Common Eastern bumblebee (*Bombus impatiens*), this species was also found at every site visited. Low captures of bees do not necessarily mean that all populations at that site are suffering. We made many observations of bees foraging on surrounding foliage yet not being attracted to the traps. Newport National for example, was one location with an abundance of forage and bees in the immediate area

of our traps. This forage was most likely out-competing our traps. Future sampling with nets would increase the numbers and diversity of species collected. Additionally, the traps were repeatedly deployed in a single location on the course meaning that populations of bees elsewhere on the course could have gone unsampled. We suspect that different locations on each course would differ significantly in bee populations.

Continuing the Survey

Moving forward with this bee survey, we plan to seek out habitat types known to support rarer bee species. For example, historically, 11 species of bumblebees could be found in Rhode Island however recent collection efforts since 2014 have found only 6. Wetlands are cited as being the preferred habitat of some species of bumblebees that have been historically documented in Rhode Island yet have seemingly disappeared in more recent years. Our goal is to determine whether these species have in fact been extirpated from Rhode Island or if they have been able to survive in decreased numbers. Extending our survey to precise habitats would likely increase our chances of encountering species of bees that were not documented in this or other studies.

Other methods of surveying bees exist and have proven successful in other studies. Pan trapping, sweep netting, and trap nesting are among the most common methods. We incorporated trap nests in our study by setting out five trap nests consisting of paper tubes of varying diameters (8, 9 and 10 mm diameter) inside of a piece of PVC pipe (Fig 2) hung from poles at some courses and left undisturbed for the duration of the season. There was a low acceptance of these nests and further research is needed. This technique may prove more successful in different habitats or during different seasons. Sweep netting at sites with healthy bee populations would yield additional species that were not captured in traps. This sampling method would allow us to target known host plants of bees which may attract different bee species than our traps attracted.

(continued on page 8)

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President's Message



Having reached September, I hope all of you made it thru the summer unscathed by any major issues. No matter where you are, what the budget, what your preparation may be, there is always something that will rear its ugly head at the most inopportune time. For me it was a Saturday afternoon when the weather forecast (by many) was to reach a high of 80, with some humidity and light wind. Well it was 88, the humidity plummeted and wind, well it didn't matter at that point...

As we recover, there was a bright spot. It was an article in the Providence Journal. Hopefully all of you have clicked on the link Julie has sent out. Having known Joe and Harriet Mistowski for 30 years, there was no better an article about a great family, that truly deserved it.

They have fought personal battles, political battles and most recently effluent water battles. And every time I have seen or talked to them, they have done so with a smile or a laugh, and then they get back to their hard work.

And that is what this business is really all about, battles on many fronts, and to succeed you need the perseverance that the Mistowski family has shown all of us. Thank You to all of you.

Upcoming is a busy time for our association. We have the Scholarship and Research Tournament at Fall River CC, the Superintendent & Assistant Tournament at Newport CC and several multi association events.

Good luck to all and keep an eye open for the date and time for our December meeting.

Respectfully,
Michael Varkonyi

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RIGCSA Meeting - August 20, 2019 Stress Buster Day- Reservation Golf Club



Thank you to our meeting host
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RIGCSA Meeting - August 20, 2019

Stress Buster Day – Reservation Golf Club



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Survey of Bees *(continued from page 1)*

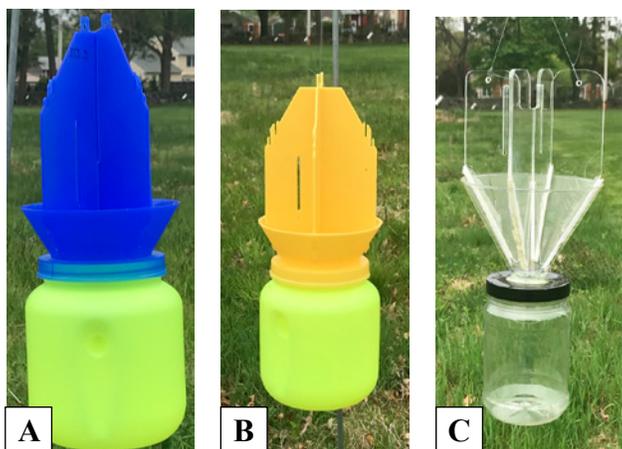


Figure 1. A) Blue vane trap, B) Yellow vane trap, C) Clear vane trap Figure 2. Trap nest with paper tubes inside of PVC pipe

	Bumblebees	Carpenter bees	Honey bees	Digger bees	Small carpenter bees	Cuckoo bees	Miner bees	Yellow faced bees	Sweat bees	Leafcutter bees	TOTAL BEES
Misquamicut	26	0	3	2	1	0	21	0	20	0	73
Shelter Harbor	11	1	2	0	11	0	1	0	8	2	36
Pinecrest	72	0	0	2	7	0	0	1	6	0	88
Potowomut	19	0	1	7	6	0	6	1	27	1	68
Midville	31	0	3	10	39	1	4	0	22	1	111
Agawam Hunt	15	0	6	14	25	4	31	0	24	1	120
Rolling Greens	12	0	0	1	3	0	4	0	9	0	29
Coventry Pines	42	0	4	3	3	0	2	0	1	0	55
Foster	18	0	0	3	20	0	0	0	14	2	57
Crystal Lake	10	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	13
Glocester	33	0	0	3	15	1	3	0	16	2	73
Kirkbrae	26	0	0	2	29	0	0	0	9	1	67
Louisquisset	34	0	4	3	42	0	4	0	18	3	108
Point Judith	153	0	1	2	7	0	1	1	71	0	236
Jamestown	36	0	0	8	4	0	0	0	7	0	55
Newport National	6	0	5	15	3	0	2	0	8	3	42
Wanumetonomy	13	0	3	20	6	0	1	0	66	1	110
Green Valley	6	0	3	40	12	0	2	0	12	0	75
East Farm	83	0	5	3	14	0	1	0	23	0	129
TOTAL	646	1	41	139	248	6	83	3	361	17	1545

Figure 3. Total captures of bees from each course sampled.

We thank the NERTF for support and the cooperation of all of the golf course superintendents and course members.

RIGCSA

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September 2, 2019

Volume 20:11

Gazing in the Grass

Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D.

The sun angle has shifted 15° from its peak in late June and this marks a shift in mindset for many turfgrass managers from maintaining quality, safety and performance to recovery and rejuvenation of thin, weedy, poor turfgrass conditions. Growing conditions have been excellent with adequate moisture (some excessive wet/dry spots) and cooler evening temperatures. Soils have cooled quickly into the low-mid 60's north and low 70's south in response to moisture and lower temperatures. Dry conditions are prevalent in Western NY, especially Rochester and much of Nassau and Suffolk counties. Massachusetts, especially the Cape are close to drought monitoring conditions. In fact, 70% of topsoil is low or very low soil moisture, when the 10 yr average is only 30% at this time of year. All of this data is visible at our Cornell Turfgrass FORECAST website (<http://turf.eas.cornell.edu/app>)

Diagnostic labs are reporting a variety of disorders associated with grass under persistent stress from pests, mechanical wear, temperature and moisture. Anthracnose is still dominating the sample count as many continue to maintain low N that consistently leads to increased incidence

and severity of the disease. Many times this is not obvious UNTIL conditions become adequate for growth and plants are unable to access available N and begin the decline to basal rot. The favorable weather conditions expected should allow for recovery, however many will still need preventative control based on stress level. The next few pests on the horizon include Fall dollar spot pressure that appears high this week and beginning phases of white grub feeding. Time to scout areas and consider alternative curative controls available for small instar grubs.



Lawn Closed



Putting Surface Perennial Poa Rooting

Credit: Mike Hadley

Scholastic sports fields heading into Fall seasons of soccer and American football **and** the perennial golfing season will continue to require high levels of maintenance. Cool-night conditions will allow for excellent rooting if soils are functioning properly. Plants will respond well to additions of Nitrogen as conditions for growth continue to improve. Good dense turf is more wear tolerant, insect and disease resistant and capable of competing successfully with weeds.



The last two months of the growing season, often referred to as the shoulders of the season, present unique challenges. Any excessive rainfall alters soil conditions and as growth slows traffic persists and the turf thins. Be prepared for turf thinning by starting now with good initial turf density, An adequate topdressing layer would be ideal for maintaining safe and playable surfaces well into November.

In comparison, damaged turfgrass areas at this time require recovery-rest from excessive wear or thinning from pests/stress. This should also include some form of rejuvenation, i.e., soil modification and drainage, re-establishment to improved species and varieties, or tree removal to improve light and air flow.



Similar to 2018, crabgrass populations have challenged pre-emergence herbicide efficacy. Widespread failures reported from areas treated early and the herbicide concentration remaining in the soil is unable to provide control for the length of crabgrass germination. These germination periods are extended due to the warming climate to as many as 18-20 weeks in NYC Metro area. Most pre's won't last that long in a single application. Furthermore, widespread germination throughout the landscape from the last 12 months of plentiful rainfall, if allowed to go to seed, assures more pressure for the years to come. It would

be wise to consider some means of preventing crabgrass from producing viable seed in managed areas. Scalping, selective and non-selective herbicide options (even OMRI certified options) can all aid in reducing annual weed seed rain.

As society continues to grow uneasy with widespread chemical use, pressure to explore non-chemical options will increase. Our research at Cornell on non-chemical weed control has found that weed seed bank and annual weed seed rain management is critical to both chemical and non-chemical strategies. Now is the time to consider these strategies.

A more ecological approach will be required as emerging weed problems such as goosegrass, false-green kyllinga and Japanese stilt grass quietly invade Northeastern managed landscapes further north. In the case of goosegrass, it is a story of our pre-emergence herbicide preferences in this area of the country over a long period of time. The southeast US turfgrass industry relies heavily on oxadiazon (Ronstar-goodgoosegrass/not crabgrass) for pre-emergence control while the Northeast uses primarily dithiopyr (Dimension-no good goosegrass/good crabgrass), some dintroaniline materials like pendimethalin and prodiamine are only slightly better on goosegrass. The introduction of topamazone (Pylex) will aid in post-emergence population-based approach and offer some pre-emergence control. Turfgrass Weed Science Professor Matt Elmore at Rutgers University has two excellent resources on these weed issues at <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1309/> and <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1290/>. **△**



Kevin's GCSAA Corner By Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Northeast Field Rep.



Naming seasons can be fun. James Taylor crooned, “winter, spring, summer or fall.” Many near me add “mud season” and “black fly season.” Down south, they have “hurricane season.” Many other geographic regions have named and recognized seasons relative to their climate. In the Northeast golf industry, “golf season” and “off-season”

are the well-used monikers. While golf education is typically found in the off-season for superintendents, universities work hard to provide research and results all year long. Recently, I was fortunate to see how it all begins.

Rutgers University weed scientist Matt Elmore, Ph.D., reached out to me in early June looking to connect with superintendents in USDA plant hardiness zones 5 or lower. These zones are in western Massachusetts, much of New York, Vermont, inland New Hampshire, and almost all of Maine. Elmore, having only joined Rutgers in the recent few years, did not have many contacts in these areas. Communications began regarding his needs and I offered to join him during the travel.

Elmore needed some superintendents who would be interested in donating sample of annual bluegrass from their golf course fairways and roughs. Of special interest was those who have used plant growth regulators (PGR) (e.g., Trimit) or herbicide programs to manage the annual bluegrass over the years. The USDA grant research was to look for herbicide resistance. In addition, they would check for PGR efficacy, and develop an annual bluegrass seed bank for future use.

We traveled from Albany up the Northway, over to Burlington, Vt., across northern New Hampshire, into the Portland, Maine, area. Sixteen superintendents hosted us, albeit briefly, and donated nearly 50 samples of turf. Conversations covered poa control, winter kill, native area challenges, weed infestations, and many more.

Fast forward three weeks at Rutgers Field Day, where graduate students explain to attendees the USDA project that is beginning. They explained that the annual bluegrass has recently been planted in the greenhouse, the general overview of the expectations of the research, and that they should have data come this time next year.

Turf specific universities play an important part in our industry. They provide critical research and give continuing education presentations that help superintendents do their jobs better. Many universities offer further educational opportunities in-season by opening their research plots to us so we can see the work in progress. Many nation-wide are assisting in developing Best Management



Owl's Nest Resort & Golf Club's superintendent John Gabbett (left), and The Mountain Course at Spruce Peak's Kevin Komer, CGCS, (right) both graciously hosted Matt Elmore, Ph.D., and assisted with his annual bluegrass collection

Practices manuals that superintendents can use to advocate for our industry.

Researchers also rely on superintendents for sample donations (like Elmore's Northeast #TakeMyPoaTour), or real-world research areas on your golf courses. Both are critical to developing the cutting-edge research from which superintendents ultimately learn.

These important relationships are nothing new to our industry. Recently, GCSA of New England Life Member Jack Hassett reminisced visiting Ag researchers in the Ottawa area early in his career with turfgrass samples. The benefits he received from their expertise, while they enjoyed delving into a different plant species, were extremely valuable. For our universities to continue delivering industry-changing results, they need all the support that golf course superintendents can provide. By offering turf samples or data from your facility, supporting field days by attending, and

providing your questions and feedback during educational seminars, this often-symbiotic learning process can continue to grow and prosper.

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

Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation donates \$500,000 Endowment to support GCSAA's First Green

The Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation has donated \$500,000 to the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). The endowment will support First Green, which provides hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education at golf courses.

GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards

Presented by GCSAA and *Golf Digest* in partnership with Syngenta, the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship.

In 2018, the ELGAs were updated to recognize more superintendents in more focused areas of environmental sustainability. The ELGAs are based on the environmental **best management practices** that GCSAA recommends all courses utilize.

There are four ELGAs available:

- Natural Resource Conservation Award
- Healthy Land Stewardship Award
- Communications and Outreach Award
- Innovative Conservation Award

There will be one winner and two runners-up recognized for each



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award. GCSAA members may apply to one, two, three or all four awards in a single year. However, an individual can only win one award per year.

All applicants will be notified by December whether or not they have been selected as a winner. Winners will be recognized at the Golf Industry Show.

Upcoming Webinars

Oct. 8 @ 10 a.m.

Manage Insects More Effectively and Develop IPM Resources within Your Course's BMP Manual Adam Dale, Ph.D.

Oct. 10 @ 10 a.m.

Redox Potential and the Black Layer Lee Berndt, Ph.D.

Oct. 15 @ 10 a.m.

Annual Bluegrass Seedhead Suppression in Putting Greens presented by Intelligro Matt Elmore, Ph.D., and Zane Raudenbush, Ph.D.

Oct. 30 @ 10 a.m.

What About Wetting Agents? Doug Karcher, Ph.D.

Nov. 6 @ 9 a.m.

Cómo construir un equipo más fuerte utilizando el golf como una estrategia Jorge Croda, CGCS

Nov. 19 @ 10 a.m.

Water Management BMPs J. Bryan Unruh, Ph.D.

Read more: <https://www.gcsaa.org/education/my-learning-hub#ixzz5wh5P1JIt>

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

Kevin Doyle

GCSAA Field Staff

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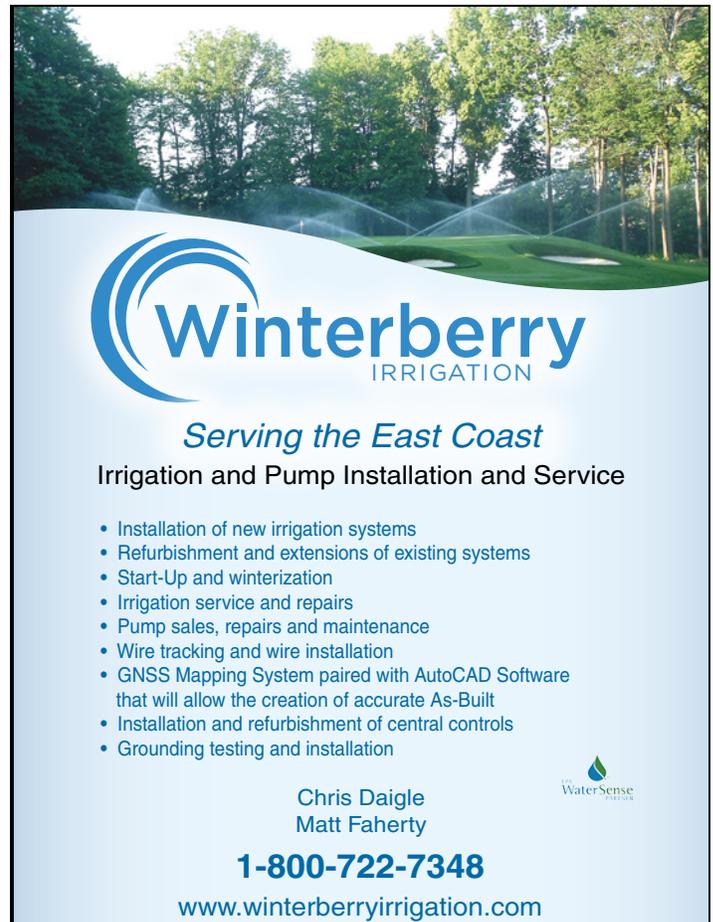
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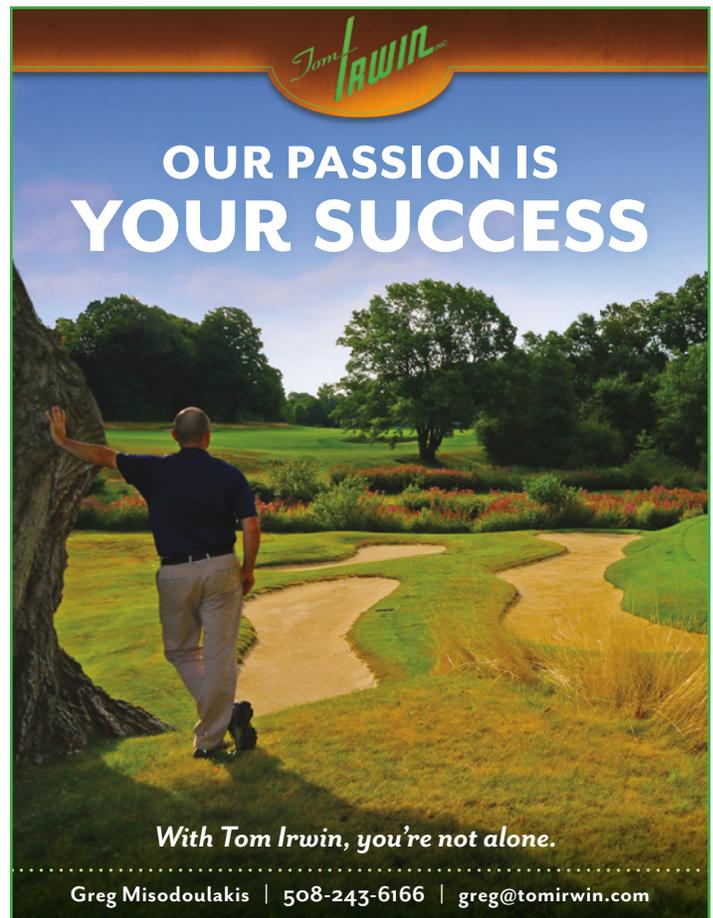
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RIGCSA Member News

Our condolences are extended to **Ed Wiacek** and family on the passing of Ed's wife **Deborah Wiacek** on August 24, 2019. Ed Wiacek is a former RIGCSA member and known by many of our members.

Our condolences are extended to **Brian and Karen Giblin** and family on the passing of Karen's mother, **Carolyn Grosso**, who passed away on July 17, 2019.

Our condolences are extended to **Mark and Sue Richard** and family on the passing of Sue's father, **Anthony Antonelli, Jr.**, who passed away on September 7, 2019.

Our condolences are extended to **Mike Ferrara** and family on the passing of Mike's father, **Frank V. Ferrara**, who passed away on September 13, 2019.

Wishing a speedy recovery to **Paul Jamrog** who is dealing with Lyme disease and also on his recent eye surgery.

Congratulations to **Emma Daly**, daughter of **Patrick J. Daly III, CGCS**, Framingham Country Club, who was awarded with a GCSAA scholarship as part of its Legacy Awards program. Emma attends the University of Vermont. To be eligible, applicants must be a child or grandchild of a GCSAA member. The program is funded by GCSAA's philanthropic organization, the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), in partnership with Syngenta. Each grant is for \$1,500.

Upcoming RIGCSA Events:

Tuesday, October 1

Fall River Country Club
(Scholarship & Research Tournament)

Monday, October 28

Newport Country Club
(Superintendent/Assistants Tournament)

Tuesday, November 12

Louisquisset Golf Club

Friday, December 6

Holiday Networking Meeting
FREE EVENT from 2 pm – 6 pm
Dublin Rose Irish Sports Pub, Seekonk, MA

RIGCSA July and August Tournament Results

The GCSACC and RIGCSA members met for a fun yearly tournament at Potowomut Golf Club in East Greenwich, RI on July 1st. The format for the Rho-Cod Cup tournament is 2 Cape Cod members vs. 2 Rhode Island Members.

Last year the RIGCSA won the cup back but this year GCSACC gained the cup with a score of 13 -7!

Tournament Results - GCSACC Wins Cup 13 - 7

1st Gross: **Scott Nickerson, Chris Tufts**
2nd Gross: **Ryan Anderson, Alex Stimpson**
3rd Gross: **Jim Dion, Rene Vadeboncoeur**

1st Net: **Paul Jamrog, Jim Santoro**
2nd Net: **Matt Crowther, Michael Van Cleave**
3rd Net: **Scot Godfrey, Peter Lanman**
4th Net: **Matt Lapinski, Steve Thys**

Closest to the pin: **Dean Chase**

Closest to the pin: **John LeClair**

Longest Drive: **Rene Vadeboncoeur**



Pictured above (L-R): GCSACC President **David Stott** with RIGCSA President **Mike Varkonyi**

August 20, 2019

**Reservation Golf Club - Host: Matt Emond
Stress Buster Day - 18 holes or Scramble format**

1st Place - Scramble Format

Dan Golding, Pete Jacobson, Matt Lapinski, Matt Barratt

18-Hole Format

1st Net: **Chris Coen, Mike Whitehead,
Rick Lawlor, Garrett Whitney**

2nd Net: **Matt Emond, Gerry Emond,
Tom Hemingway, Tyler Hemingway**

Closest to pin

#8 **Tim Hanrahan**

#10 **Tom Hemingway**

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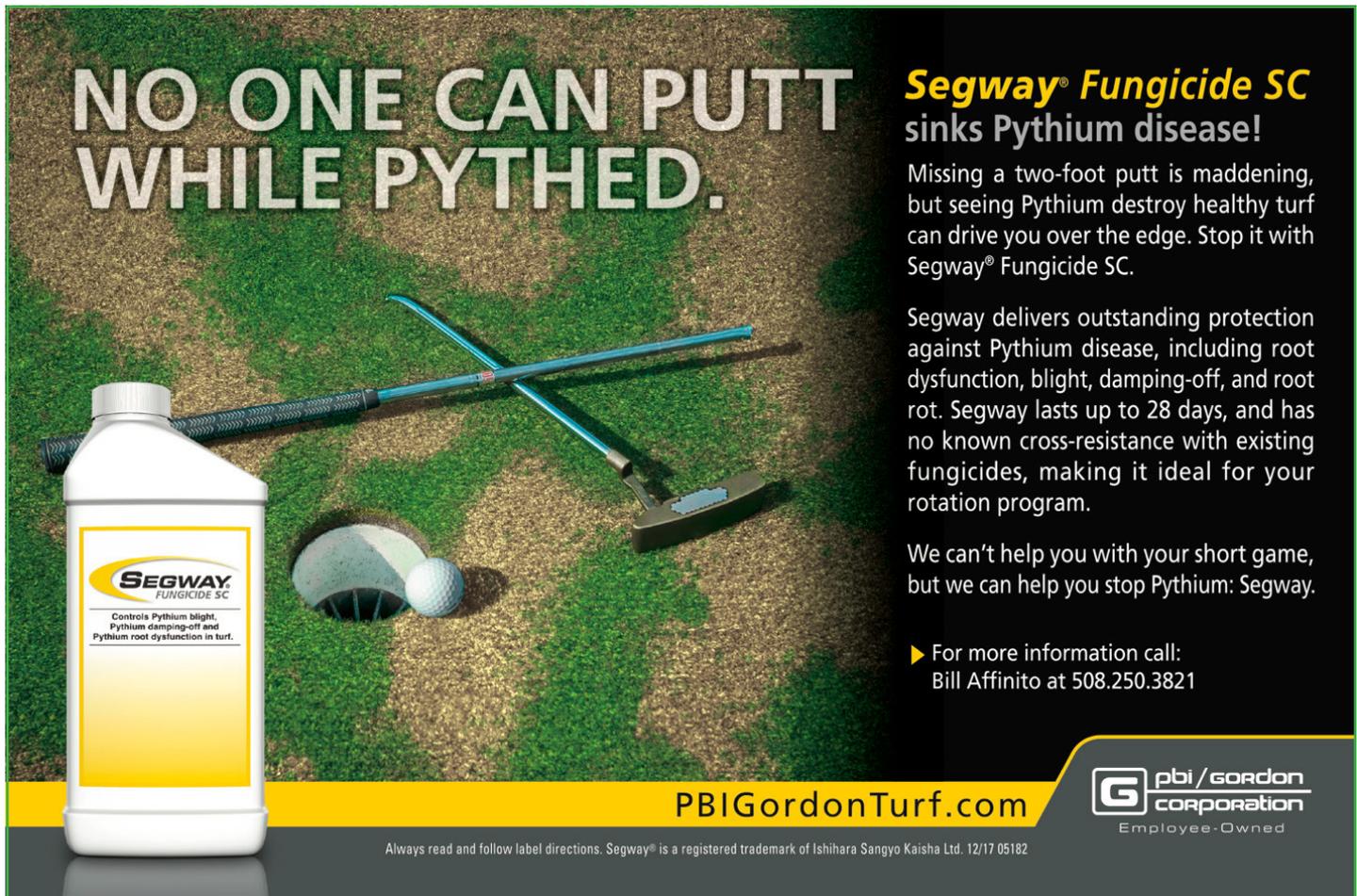
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