

RHODE ISLAND
SURF 'n' TURF
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



37th Annual Scholarship & Research Tournament

By Richard Lombardi



The Scholarship and Research Committee sponsored another successful event with the 37th Annual Scholarship & Research Tournament held at Fall River Country Club on October 1st.

Organizing this event requires dedication and hard work of the committee members and staff early in the year to achieve rewarding results. Recognition goes out to the entire S&R Committee. We would also like to thank the volunteers that helped out on the day of the tournament which are Bill Coulter, Drew Cummins, Joan Fandetti, Brian Giblin, Michelle Maltais, Kelly Ohlson, Alicia Pearson, and Gary Sykes. The committee also extends a special thank you to Julie Heston for her assistance, dedication and strong administrative support.

To our annual sponsors, who play a key role in the tournament's success, the committee extends its gratitude. Please see the full list of sponsors for this event on the following pages.

Special recognition is also extended to Tom Ohlson, CGCS and the entire team at Fall River Country Club. The superb conditions of the course and the facility along with excellent service provided by the entire staff from start to finish greatly contributed to the day's success.

In closing, the unconditional support and efforts of all participants will allow the Scholarship & Research Tournament to remain a key event representing the RIGCSA's strong commitment to educational enhancement.

Sincerely,

Richard Lombardi, Chairman
Scholarship and Research Committee

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President's Message



As we are finish putting the courses to bed (and sod farms) and finalize your EOP I would like to thank all members for their participation at meeting and especially for hosting. It is not always easy finding a venue that works with our dates. John Lombardi has filled the calendar for next year and will begin looking for sites for 2021. Don't be afraid to volunteer this early.

Since our last newsletter we have had a meeting at Foxborough, the Scholarship and Research Tournament at Fall River, Superintendent/Assistant Tournament at Newport and a couple of multi-association events and a freeze out at Louisquisset. Thanks to Mike Poch, Tom Ohlson, CGCS and Chris Coen for some great conditions.

If you couldn't attend the November meeting, we had Ann Battersby from the RI DEM come in for the educational portion of the meeting. Ann is the contact and coordinator for DEM and the Greens Certification Program. Ann stated that she also helps with permitting processes in the case that you may need it. If you are working on your Greens Certification and a violation is found, they aren't there to fine you (as long as it was not like a blatant pouring of a pesticide into a stream) but there to help fix the issue along with permits possibly necessary to perform the fix. I cannot ask for more member participation without also stepping up and entering the program. This is a perfect time to print up program and start. Please see more information about this on the following pages.

The more participation we have as a state, when it comes to regulation (in order to restrict) that some of our elected officials put forth (with no practical experience) it is better to be out front demonstrating that we are stewards for the environment along with trying to give the best conditioning possible.

This leads to the next request. Pat Hogan and myself, Drew Cummins previously, have been working with the RIGA and club managers and the NEPGA about getting National Golf Day off the ground. We need to do this to get funds to help offset the cost of an economic survey that every single course needs to combat the past and future introduction of bills to begin more taxing of work performed on the course. Last year, many courses contributed and some took it upon themselves to hire lobbyists in order to defeat one such bill. The economic survey, when completed will hopefully show our state Reps that our industry contributes a lot more than they know and that we can't afford to have increased taxes and can't afford to keep paying lobbyists to fight these unfair bills.

We are looking for some volunteers to assist getting this off the ground as the RIGA is a much smaller operation and Bob Ward can't do it by himself. If we have a handful of volunteers, it will mean that the work will be spread out amongst volunteers.

See you at the December meeting, which is also our Holiday Party.

Respectfully,

Mike Varkonyi
RIGCSA President

RIGCSA Scholarship & Research Tournament - Fall River Country Club



Our host for the day - Tom Ohlson, CGCS



Photos by Michelle Maltais

September/October 2019

RIGCSA Scholarship & Research Tournament - Fall River Country Club



Photos by Michelle Maltais

RIGCSA Scholarship & Research Tournament - Fall River Country Club



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September/October 2019





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RI DEM Green Certification Program Reminder

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Green Golf Course Certification Program has been in existence since 2011. The program is built upon the foundations of pollution prevention as it pertains to land use with a specific focus on the reduction on non-point source pollution.

The program began with a strong partnership between the RIDEM and the **Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association**. Over the course of many years, the program expanded to include other turf management sectors such as landscapers and turf farmers which lead to a comprehensive sustainability program for all sectors of turf management. The RIDEM has gained support from multiple organizations such as Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA) and the Rhode Island Turf Foundation (RITF).

The goal of this program is to give golf courses an opportunity to implement best management practices, measure environmental performance, and recognize achievements. The focus areas of the program are reductions in three key categories:

- water use for irrigation,
- fertilizer use,
- and pesticide use.

The program was assisted with the award of a pollution prevention grant in 2014. The grant program was implemented from 2014 to 2017 and during this time significant reductions in non-point sources of pollution were measured. Over the course of the 3-year grant program, RIDEM collected metrics at golf courses, turf farms, and landscapers in four key categories water use, fertilizer use, pesticide use, and greenhouse gas reductions.

In total from 2011-2017:

- Over 242,000 lbs. of fertilizer were reduced
- Close to 373,000,000 gallons of water were reduced
- More than 540 lbs. of pesticide were reduced
- Nearly 1,430 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent were reduced

These successes were only accomplished by the dedicated participation of the golf courses, landscapers, and turf farms that participated in the program. To see a complete list of program participants see the link under certified businesses.

The RIDEM Green Golf Course Certification Program reflects the **US Golf Course Superintendents Association best management practices program**. By becoming part of the RIDEM program, golf courses can measure their environmental performance over time and use it to educate members and market their sustainable efforts. In conjunction with our RIDEM **Green Events Program**, the annual CVS Charity Classic golf tournament has been hosted at a RIDEM green certified golf course. This golf tournament

is also a certified green event through the RIDEM Green Event programs.

Become a green certified golf course! You can find all the resources you need by visiting

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/customertech/green-cert-programs/green-golf.php>

Any questions, you can also contact Ann Battersby: Phone: (401) 222-6822 ext. 7284 or email ann.battersby@dem.ri.gov

Source: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management website <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/customertech/green-cert-programs/green-golf.php>

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



Whether good or bad, we find ourselves working in a relationship business. Many of us didn't sign up for the career with the knowledge that we would need to manage turf with the same vigor as personal interactions, but alas, here we are. I don't want to focus on turf, or even people — one of my favorite topics. I want to ask

how you balance the one thing that we all rely on whether you are a superintendent or in sales. We all depend on the sport of golf, and it depends on us.

The industry has seen a building boom, the Tiger craze, and the economic regression followed by course closures. Hundreds of Massachusetts facilities and thousands of employees were taken on that same ride, whether we wanted to or not.

Member expectations seemed to have missed any regression or corrections. As the turf speed limit continues to get pushed and demand for perfection continues to ramp up, pressure continues to escalate on all of us. Technological advances in products and devices that fostered new groundbreaking solutions that previously helped achieve the desired conditions while saving time, money, or labor, are now simply achieving the new normal.

With the industry continuing to dictate the cornerstone of our lives in a manner we simply can't seem to impact no matter what we do, how do you balance golf? Do you put in your time and maximize your effort on the job and leave it all behind when you "punch out," if that is possible? Do you golf often, watch golf on television, and take vacations to play in far off lands? There is no correct way to balance, and I have no intention of pontificating on how you should approach golf. We all develop an approach and hopefully manage the impact it has on us in a positive way, and often changes in our personal lives can affect change on our approach.

What I want to touch on is a word you just read and probably glossed over quickly: "positive." Above were challenges in our daily lives that are dictated to us, many beyond our control. There are many more negative items that can be added that we in the industry have no control over. Can a focus on some of the positives in our golf world help overcome some of the challenges?

Are rounds up this year? With added revenue might come a new piece of equipment, approval for a beneficial project, additional dollars to the labor budget; items that can help ease the burden on the work aspect of golf.

Did your staff complete a successful season; help you deliver a good product to your membership or customers? It is now cultural practices season, meaning the grind of another season is over. As you assess the impact of 2019, what positives came from it that you can build on in 2020?

Have you had the chance to play golf? An enjoyable round of golf with friends or colleagues can be a wonderful reminder of what makes the game so great. We depend on the positive impacts the sport has on all of our players to survive as an industry. Taking the time to play yourself should find its way on your to do list, even if it is a rare occasion.

The golf industry might seem like it has all the momentum, a freight train that dictates all. Our little individual piece of that industry may simply be a railroad tie connecting the rails and responsible for moving the industry forward. With every positive step we make personally, and impact our facility adds, can change the outlook for the entire industry. Collectively, we can impact the direction of the freight train our golf industry has become for the better. All aboard!

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

Registration opens for 2020 Golf Industry Show in Orlando

GCSAA and presenting partners, the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA) and American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA), will offer a dynamic, progressive week of unparalleled networking opportunities and hands-on access to golf course and facility management solutions for golf industry professionals.

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GCSAA is offering show attendees the opportunity to reduce the cost of participating in the show by allowing GCSAA gift certificates to be redeemed for flight and hotel expense.

Redeem GCSAA gift certificates

Upcoming Webinars

Dec. 5 @ 10 a.m.

**How to Set Yourself Apart in the Golf Industry -
The Art of Self Promotion**

Darren Davis, CGCS

Dec. 12 @ 10 a.m.

Best Management Practices for the Turf Care Center
Gary Bogdanski

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

Kevin Doyle
GCSAA Field Staff
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2019 MET Area Team Championships

The Connecticut AGCS wins 2019 Met Area Team Championship at Morris County Golf Club

For the second time in the past 3 years and the fifth time in the past 15 years, the team representing the Connecticut AGCS wins the MET Team Championship at Morris County Golf Club in Morristown, NJ. Connecticut dominated this year's event, winning by 13 strokes with a well-balanced team. Kevin Collins and Eric Morrison led all Net teams with a score of 66 and the team of Mike Dukette and Eric DeStefano were just one off the low gross score at 72. Overall the 8-person team was just +3 with Jason Dowgiewicz and Andrew Hannah at 75 gross and Jay Popko and Tim Nadeau at 70 net rounding out the Connecticut champions.

Host Superintendent Jon Heywood and his team had Morris County in pristine conditions with everyone praising the recent renovation work they have done on the course. Morris County Golf Club is a Seth Raynor gem founded in 1894 and at the time was the first club planned, organized and operated by women. Morris County was one of the early members of the USGA and the first club in NJ to host a national

championship.

While Connecticut seemingly ran away with this year's championship, the battle for second was extremely close. The defending team from the MetGCSA lost a match of cards to New England for second and third place, and Long Island finished just one shot back in fourth place. It just goes to show you, every shot counts out there!

Year after year, the Met Area Team Championship was made possible by our 7 major sponsors who continue to step up to make this one of the best events across North America! Please join me in thanking BASF, Bayer, Koch Turf & Ornamental, Ocean Organics, Plant Food, Syngenta and Toro as they continue to support this fantastic event.

The Met Area Team Championship continues to raise money each year to help those in our industry going through difficult times. Over the past 9 years we have raised over \$10,000 and have supported superintendents, industry representatives and their

families in times of need. Last year we donated \$1,000 to the Scott Wiiki memorial Rutgers Scholarship. Scott was the superintendent at Mill Creek in Rochester, NY and suddenly passed due to a brain aneurism at the age of 28. Thank you to all who support these efforts with the 50/50 raffles! If you know of anyone in need please let us know.

Thanks again to all our sponsors, Jon Heywood and his entire staff and all the folks at Morris County GC for another successful championship! A special thank you to our local GCSAA representative Kevin Doyle for help with registration and Shaun Barry for the great photos as usual! Photos can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/gp/185020654@N02/Z52e5G>

We look forward to seeing everyone next year, so stay tuned for announcements over the winter! Note: Please save the date for the Nor'easter Ski Day at Killington Mountain on February 27th, 2020!!

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2019 MET Area Team Championships

2019 MET Area Team Championships

Morris County GC

Par 70

October 8th, 2019

<u>Team Scores</u>		<u>Score</u>
1 st	Par 280 (Ties broken by lowest gross scores, then net)	
Connecticut AGCS	283	
2 nd	GCSA of New England	296
3 rd	MetGCSA	296
4 th	Long Island GCSA	297
5 th	GCSA of Cape Cod	299
6 th	Pocono Turfgrass Association	299
7 th	GCSA of New Jersey	303
8 th	Philadelphia AGCS	305
9 th	Central New York GCSA	307
10 th	Hudson Valley GCSA	309
11 th	Northeastern GCSA	312
12 th	Rhode Island GCSA	334

Skill Events

Closest to the pin hole #3, sponsored by Ocean Organics
Closest to the pin hole #13, sponsored by Bayer
Closest to the pin hole #15, sponsored by Toro
Closest to the pin hole #17, sponsored by Koch T&O

Steve Stephens 1'-5" – Philadelphia AGCS
Eric DeStefano 5'-3" – Connecticut AGCS
Jason Criss 14'-6" – Philadelphia AGCA
Brian Bontemps 5'-9" – Morris County GC

Long Drive

Hole # 11: Gross Division sponsored by Syngenta
Hole # 11: Net Division sponsored by BASF
Hole # 11: Sponsors Division sponsored by Plant Food

Andrew Hannah – Connecticut AGCS
Steve Aspinall – Northeastern GCSA
Matt Kerns – Plant Food

Low Gross Team

Luke Knutson & Shawn O'Sullivan from Long Island GCSA

Score of 71

Sponsorship Team Winner

Jon Heywood & Brian Bontemps from Morris County GC

Score of 63

Most Honest Teams

Net **Drew Cummins & Nick Burchard** – Rhode Island GCSA
Gross **Steve Lafazia & Dan Wolf** – Long Island GCSA

Score of 88
Score of 85

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RIGCSA Member News

Welcome New Members:

Ryan Bernier, Assistant Superintendent, Metacomet Country Club

Nathan Dee, Assistant Superintendent, Sakonnet Golf Club

Andrew Hannah, Superintendent, Rhode Island Country Club

Ed Keyes, Superintendent, Ledgemont Country Club

Our condolences are extended to **Melissa Hyner Gugliotti** and family on the passing of Melissa's mother, **Marilyn Hyner**, on October 7, 2019.

Our condolences are extended to **George Wise** and family on the passing of George's mother, **Marie Ellen Wise**, on November 15, 2019.

Congratulations to **Tim Berge** on his new position with DAF Services. His new contact information is phone: 860-690-1192 email: tberge@dafsvcs.com.

Reminder: The RIGCSA scholarship applications are due on December 1st. Please visit www.rigcsa.org to print a copy or contact Julie Heston.

If you were unable to attend the Scholarship & Research Tournament this year and would like to support the Scholarship & Research fund, we have some Footjoy Vests and Footjoy Baseball Hats available for sale. The price for the vest is \$44 each (retail list price of \$88) and we have 1 size large in black and 5 size large in blue. The price for the baseball hat is \$16 each. You can contact Julie Heston if you are interested in purchasing or you can purchase online by going to the S&R Tournament page on our website <https://www.rigcsa.org/S&R-Tournament>.

Thank you to **Peter Lund** who donated a portion of his winnings from the S&R tournament's 50/50 raffle back to the scholarship & research fund.

Thank you to **Michelle Maltais** for taking all the wonderful photos of the RIGCSA events. You can also view the photos from past events on our website under the "Events" tab at www.rigcsa.org. You will need to login to view the photos.

Tournament Results

RIGCSA 37th Annual Scholarship & Research Tournament
October 1, 2019 - Fall River Country Club
Host: Thomas Ohlson, CGCS

Low Net- Shaun Marcellus & Alex Stimpson	62
Low Gross- Gary Sykes & Scott Burgo	69
2nd Net- Patrick Daly & Chris Donato	63
2nd Gross- Harris Schnare & Alex Martin	74
3rd Net- Matt Medeiros & Gabriel Tavares	64
4th Net - Milt Rebello & Sean Gurry	66
5th Net - Christopher Bengtson & Zach Savell	67
6th Net - Brett Johnson & Gerry Lavallee	68
7th Net - Michael Sullivan & Ron Gagnon	69
8th Net - Joe Felicetti & Joe Deely	69
9th Net - Peter Lund & Seraphin DaPonte	70

Long Drive Member Hole- **Harris Schnare**
Long Drive Guest Hole- **Jay Snyder**

Closest to the Pin Member Hole- **Greg Misodoulakis**
Closest to the Pin Guest Hole- **Joe Deely**

October 28, 2019
Newport Country Club - Host: Chris Coen
Superintendent/Assistant Tournament with Other Division

Superintendent/Assistant Division

1st Gross: **Dean Bozek and Josh Beland**
1st Net: **Matt Emond and Tom Hemingway**
2nd Net: **Andrew Hannah and Brian Kuchta**

Other Division

1st Gross: **Tom Hoffer and Pete Jacobson**
1st Net: **Paul Jamrog and Mike Murphy**
2nd Net: **Shaun Marcellus and Ryan Emerich**

Closest-To-Pin

#8: **Pete Jacobson**
#13: **Dick Silva**

RIGCSA Holiday Networking Event

Friday, December 6, 2019 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**Dublin Rose Irish Sports Pub
940 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA 02771**

Brief Business Meeting at 2:00 pm

Appetizers and Cash Bar

This is a free event.

Spouse/guest is welcome to attend.

RSVP by **Tuesday, December 3rd** to Julie @
(401) 934-7660, jheston@verizon.net or at www.rigcsa.org

*Please register for this event so we can plan for food.

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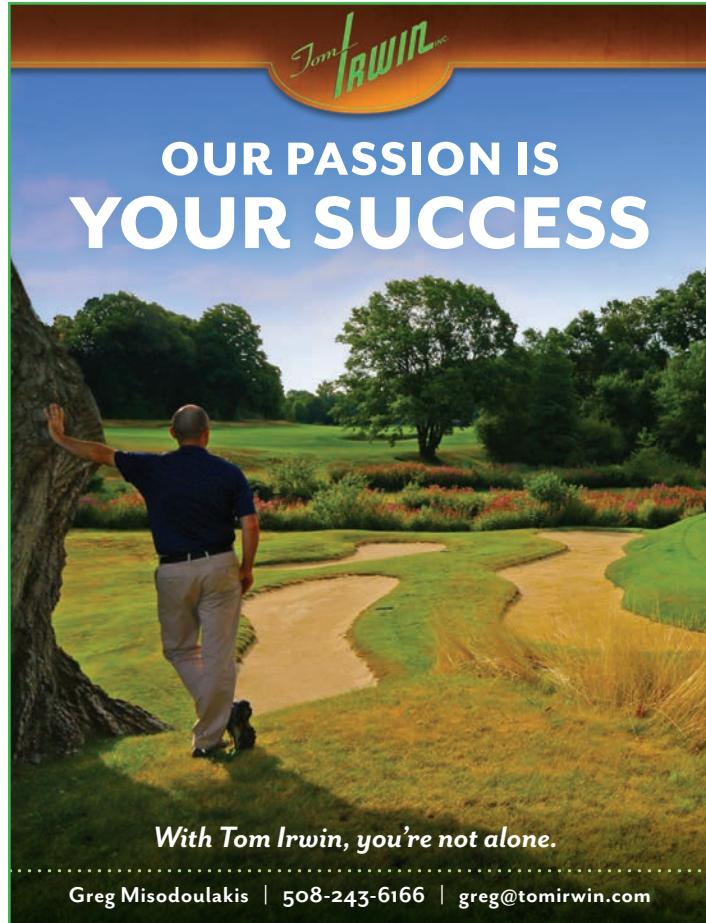
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The advertisement features a photograph of a man in a blue polo shirt and khaki pants walking away from the camera on a golf course path. He is leaning against a large tree trunk. The background shows a well-maintained golf course with green lawns, trees, and a clear sky. At the top of the ad, there is a logo for "Tom Irwin Inc." with the company name in a stylized font inside a sunburst graphic. Below the logo, the slogan "OUR PASSION IS YOUR SUCCESS" is prominently displayed in large, bold, white letters. At the bottom of the ad, the tagline "With Tom Irwin, you're not alone." is written in a smaller, italicized font. At the very bottom, the contact information "Greg Misodoulakis | 508-243-6166 | greg@tomirwin.com" is listed.

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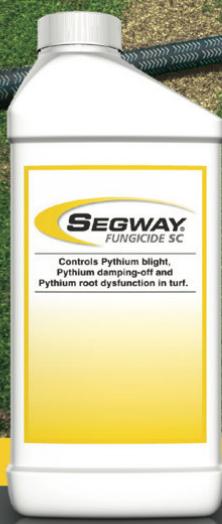
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