



RHODE ISLAND

# SURF 'n' TURF

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

## From the Grill: We posed this question to our membership and here are the responses.

What is your favorite holiday movie that you like to watch during the winter season?

*"A Christmas Story"*  
Michelle Maltais

*"There's only 1. It's a Wonderful Life!!!"*  
Greg Misodoulakis

*"It's a toss-up between It's a Wonderful Life and Home Alone."*  
Jerry Noons

*"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation is always watched once or twice each year during the holiday season."*  
Tom Hoffer

*"Not a contest-It's a Wonderful Life period. One of the best movies ever made. It stands the test of time."*  
Matt Crowther, CGCS

*"It's a Wonderful Life" or any of the many "A Christmas Carol" movies...my favorite was Mr. McGoo"*  
Gary Sykes

*"Home alone gets me in the Christmas spirit. So many good lines that make you laugh during a stressful time of year."*  
Jim Santoro

*"Without a doubt...Miracle on 34th Street (the original of course)! Always a family night must see....and this year, Mrs Field Staff and I had to have the "other" talk with our youngest daughter. What better way to reinforce the need to "believe"!!!!"*  
Kevin Doyle

*"Christmas Vacation"*  
Jamie Codega

*"Christmas Vacation"*  
John Callahan

*"It's a Wonderful Life...Christmas Vacation... Elf"*  
Jim Ritorto

*"Jingle All The Way with Aaahold!!"*  
John Carlone, CGCS

*"This movie holds lots of wonderful memories.....WHITE CHRISTMAS starring Bing Crosby"*  
Joan Fandetti

Save the date  
for

# RIGCSA Winter Gala

Saturday, February 18, 2017  
The Providence Biltmore Hotel

More details to come.

# RIGCSA

## Board of Directors

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### Newsletter Editor

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Atlantic Golf and Turf  
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### Chapter Executive

Julie Heston  
phone: (401) 934-7660  
fax: (401) 934-9901  
jheston@verizon.net  
www.rigcsa.org

## President's Message



As I sit to write my last President's message and wrap up my term as RIGCSA President, I'm reminded of just how quickly time passes. Tom Ohlson asked me many years ago if I would consider serving on the Board and my quick answer was "sure, as long as I never have to speak in front of the group!" I always was the guy who could barely introduce myself at roll call and certainly felt I could never overcome those fears. As I moved through each chair on the Board my confidence grew and my passion for this association and everything we represent did as well.

I'm very thankful for the many past presidents who have guided me along the way. Mike Whitehead taught me well and inspired me along the way. You will be missed Mike.

Paul Jamrog once told me that Board service makes you a better superintendent by teaching you how to handle yourself professionally in meetings and in larger groups and I believe that's very true. My message to any of you sitting along the sidelines and wondering if you should get involved is very simple, just do it. I've gained so much from this personally and professionally and I'm positive many of you would as well.

Thanks to John and Richard Lombardi for their hospitality at the November meeting. We had a great lunch and a good time at Midville. Unfortunately we weren't able to play golf and I hope we can reschedule that again someday. Thanks also to Dean Chase for welcoming us back to Carnegie Abbey for the December meeting. It's the perfect site for a winter get together. Ann Battersby of the Rhode Island DEM explained the green golf certification program and it was our privilege to have her attend a meeting. The RIGCSA's participation in this program will help to strengthen our position as environmental leaders in the industry.

It has been a pleasure to serve as President and I am grateful to each of my fellow Board members for their hard work and dedication. The RIGCSA will be in good hands with Drew Cummins at the helm. I know he will lead us well and continue to showcase our profession and our standing in the golf community. I hope to see you all on January 19th at Kirkbrae Country Club for our annual meeting and scholarship presentations.

Sincerely,  
**Bill Coulter**, CGCS  
RIGCSA President

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Photo Credit – Michelle Maltais

October 24, 2016 Newport Country Club

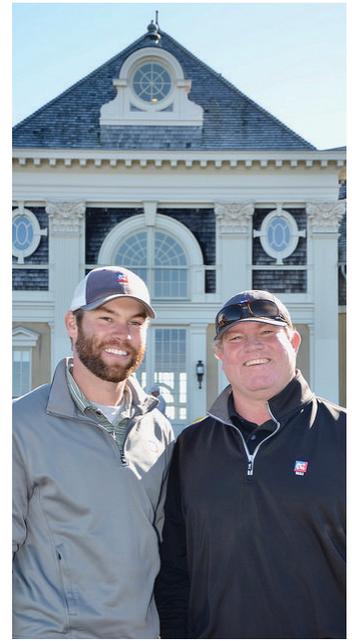


Photo Credit – Michelle Maltais

## Superintendent/Assistant Tournament with Affiliate/Other Division



*Photo Credit – Michelle Maltais*

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# Kevin's GCSAA Corner

By Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Northeast Field Rep.



As fall gives way to winter, and the New Year is ushered in, the golf season gives way to education season. This is a time of year when folks find the time to get off property and join colleagues at meetings and events across the region. These agendas are truly valuable for maintaining pesticide licenses, and building our knowledge of many other subjects. It is also a key opportunity to network. I was recently asked during a student group presentation “how do you network?”

Before I made comments pointing out common sentiments linking the Millennial generation and lack of face-to-face communication, I forced myself to think about the question. It's hard to sell students that you need to approach people you don't know, introduce yourself, and begin a conversation. What did resonate was the meeting-after-the-meeting concept.

How many times have you attended a meeting, concluded business, only to engage in conversations upon completion that seem to have more meaning and lead to more accomplishments than the meeting itself! Why does this happen? Conversational interactions with like-minded peers can often break down barriers that strict guidelines can suppress. That is what I used to explain networking to the students. While engaging total strangers can be difficult, having a common interest can make a conversation easier to start, and who is more motivated to learn than students.

When we attend chapter meetings or educational events, it is a location full of golf-centric colleagues looking to gain knowledge and perspective, and often a simple question or comment can lead to meaningful conversations. Networking can be a direct benefit to us and our facilities. Learning from others, and assisting our peers in the golf community is one reason why our industry is so great.

As we head into a new year, consider adding a couple items to your resolution list. First, consider attending one more chapter meeting or event than you did this year. Not only do you benefit from the networking of others, they also benefit from the input you add to conversations. Others cannot have a conversation with you if you are not there. Second, make a point to engage with students. They will be at many events with you during this education season. They may not know how, or be comfortable

engaging with those of us around them. Please take the time and make the effort to network with them. Help expand their networking horizons and I am sure you will learn something from them too.

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

### GCSAA 2017 Member Engagement Opportunities

The GCSAA Board of Directors invites you to submit your name for consideration for a 2017 committee/task group service. We still need more help! Resources are located here.

### Energy use survey now open

The latest Golf Course Environmental Profile survey has been extended through December 12th! The Energy Use and Environmental Practices Survey will gather critical information on energy conservation practices, energy audits, written plans, and behavioral, design and other conservation changes. Follow this link to assist with the effort.

### All GIS registrations now open!

Want the best housing choices, booking early will help

Get the most desirable education seminars now, before they sell out. The GCSAA Golf offerings had the most participants last year than the previous 4 years.....don't get left off the tee-sheet. Click here to begin your journey to Orlando!

### How Might Election 2017 Impact Golf?

Quarterly call: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/191996394>

Newsroom article: <http://www.gcsaa.org/newsroom/news/gcsaa/2016/will-trump-administration-be-good-for-golf>

## Upcoming FREE webcasts:

www.gcsaa.org click on "Education" section for webcasts

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

**Jan. 24:** Fine Fescue as a Putting Surface

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

**Feb. 1:** Mobile Weed Manual—A Portable Resource

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

**Kevin Doyle**  
GCSAA Field Staff  
kdoyle@gcsaa.org

Follow me on Twitter @GCSAA\_NE

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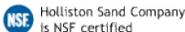
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## Chapter delegates discuss member growth, BMP guide at annual event

### Eighty-two delegates from 84 chapters convene at GCSAA headquarters

Lawrence, Kan. (Oct. 18, 2016) – Membership engagement and growth, advocacy efforts and an upcoming best management practices guide were among the key topics of the 2016 Chapter Delegates Meeting. The 82 delegates from 84 chapters also heard from nominees for the 2017 GCSAA Board of Directors. The two-day meeting, held Oct. 11-12 in Kansas City, Mo., and at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., also offered delegates the chance to discuss issues and provide input in small group sessions and during a “town hall” session.

While one third of attendees were first-time delegates, many of the veteran delegates return for the opportunity to make a difference for the association and profession.

“It’s good to come and meet new people,” said Sean Wilson, CGCS at The Club at Falcon Point and delegate for the South Texas GCSA. “You feel like you are truly a part of changing things for the better.”

For five-time delegate T.A. Barker, CGCS at Fore Lakes Golf Course and a member of the Intermountain GCSA, the annual delegates meeting allows him to hear about the different challenges and the common concerns superintendents face around the country.

“We are all a family,” Barker said. “We come here facing different issues, but we are a family and we come together to help each other out.”

The event opened with updates from GCSAA President Peter J. Grass, CGCS, and GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans, as well as check presentations to chapters that participated in Rounds 4 Research in 2016. The second day offered staff presentations on key initiatives, including:

**Membership engagement and growth:** Plans to increase member engagement include strategies across all classifications. Contact with new members will increase, with personalized messages sent at one, three and six months after joining. There will also be focused efforts on moving Class B members up to Class A, creating new member packets specifically for the equipment manager (EM) class, and strengthening the connection between student members and local chapters. Potential bylaw changes to the definitions of the EM class and International Superintendent Members could broaden growth opportunities.

**Government affairs:** The Grassroots Ambassadors program continues to grow, and government affairs efforts are currently focused on the issues of H-2B, Mega 16 initiative, WOTUS and the overtime pay rule. Discussions were also held on engagement through the use of the #golfvotes hashtag on social media during the upcoming election season, participation in the 10th anniversary of National Golf Day in 2017 and options for expanding GCSAA advocacy efforts.

**Best Management Practices Planning Guide and Template:** Delegates got a sneak peek at GCSAA’s BMP Planning Guide and Template, which will be launched at the 2017 Golf Industry Show in Orlando. The tool will provide a road map for golf-centric organizations at the state level to develop and implement BMP programs. The goal is to have BMPs for all 50 states by 2020. Delegates were provided with talking points to help promote the program.

The business portion of the delegates meeting concluded with presentations from and breakout sessions with the candidates for the 2017 board. The election will take place on Feb. 9 at the GCSAA Annual Meeting in Orlando.

Source: GCSAA Press Release

RIGCSA



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- Equipment Technicians

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Monday, March 6 • 1pm-5pm

Tuesday, March 7 • 8am-12pm

20th Annual "Free" Seminar • 10am-12pm  
"The Importance of Being Sharp"

Call (401) 841-5490 Visit website for details

## Sports Turf Workshop

Tuesday, March 7 • 1pm-3:30pm  
*Safe Playing Surfaces with  
Minimum Pesticides*

## Trade Show Hours

Tuesday, March 7 • 4:30pm-7:30pm  
*with reception*

Wednesday, March 8 • 10am-5pm  
*Live Auction 4pm*

Thursday, March 9 • 9am-12 noon

## Educational Session Hours

Tuesday, March 7 • 1pm-4:30pm  
*USGA Session and Keynote*

Wednesday, March 8 • 9am-11am & 2pm-4pm  
*Golf / Sports & Grounds /  
Equipment Technicians /  
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Thursday, March 9 • 8am-10am  
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# RIGCSA Member News

## Welcome New Members:

**Jamie Codega,**  
Superintendent Member, Montaup Country Club

## Save the date

Save the date for the RIGCSA Annual Meeting to be held on January 19, 2017 at **Kirkbrae Country Club**. Annual elections, scholarship presentations, and voting on bylaw amendments will be on the agenda for this meeting.

## RIGCSA Slate of Officers for 2017

As proposed by RIGCSA Nominating Committee

President – **Andrew Cummins**

Vice President – **Christopher Coen**

Treasurer – **Dean Chase**

Secretary – **James Ritorto**

Immediate Past President- **William J. Coulter, CGCS**

Director – **Patrick Hogan** (1 year)

Director – **Henry Olstynski** (2 years)

RIGCSA Membership dues renewal statements will be going out after the annual meeting on January 19th per the revised bylaws. We will be mailing dues statements and also emailing them from our new redesigned website which will allow members to pay their dues online and update their membership information on the website. Instructions on how to do this will be sent with the membership dues renewal.

Congratulations to **Andy Drohen** and **Steve Thys** who were the 2016 team champions for the RIGCSA Centennial Cup. Fifty percent of the entry fee was allocated for our centennial anniversary celebration, while allowing our members to enjoy a fun new tournament.

## October Meeting Results

**October 24, 2016**

**Newport Country Club**

**Superintendent / Assistant Tournament with Other Division**

### Superintendent/Assistant Division:

1st Net: Michael Dachowski, William Farnsworth

2nd Net: Bill Sansone, Adam Bernazanni

3rd Net: Chris Coen, Brad Cheever

1st Gross: Brian Cromack, James Rustad

2nd Gross: Bill Coulter, Frank Vollaro

### Affiliate/Other Division:

1st Net: Alicia Pearson, Garrett Whitney

2nd Net: Lou Bettencourt, Jeff Sprague

3rd Net: Mike Parks, Scott Godfrey

1st Gross: John Godet, Michael Friedman

### Closest to the Pin:

#8 Brian Giblin

#13 Bill Farnsworth

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