

# RHODE ISLAND SURE 'n' TURF

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



## A few words concerning a Wonderful Man by Gary Sykes



*Manny Mihailides*

I must take a minute and comment on the passing of our wonderful friend, mentor and true gentlemen of the industry, Manny Mihailides, who passed away May 13, 2020. Our condolences go out to every member of his family and friends. I saw him last at the show as he was greeting everyone with his patented smile. If you knew him, you could

not help but enjoy him. His love and dedication to his family was apparent any time he spoke of them. Not only did he and his family step up to bring us the suggestion of hosting a live auction at the show, they also manned, organized, and trained the rest of the participants to ensure its success! It is hard to express the amount of appreciation and great love for Manny that so many of us have. We just knew that we were far better off as individuals by knowing him, and greater even for being considered a friend. His warmth was immediately felt in his presence, and his gentlemen energy was infectious.

The industry will always be so grateful for his interest in making the show a great success and especially the raising of research funding through the auction each year including 2020. After this year's event the auction had surpassed

\$300,000 in fundraising. Manny has been there for every dollar raised and he thanked graciously every donor who contributed. He handled every aspect of it like it was his offspring. Right after our first auction in 2005, he was excited and already talking about what we could do the next year to make it even better. He encouraged me to start planning it, the sooner the better he said to me, "And don't forget the five P's Gary!" I asked, "which 5 P's?" He quickly said, "Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance." That became our goal for the auction ever since. Manny and Danny to me were a pair that could beat anything else in the deck and will always be legendary in our auction memories. They were always so glad to give of their time for the industry, as will be our gratitude that they did.....for a very, very, long time.

We will miss you Manny....Till we meet again!

# RIGCSA

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## President's Message



As I am sure most of you have seen, the Scholarship and Research Committee has decided to cancel this year's tournament. Too many unknowns, along with variables that we did not have any idea when we would be given some guidance on the easing of restrictions. But isn't that what 2020 has turned everything into? Talking to Cameron Quinn from West Warwick CC the other day, I said something kind of tongue in cheek, but the more I thought about it, the truer it seemed. I suggested that all the major state elected offices should be filled by superintendents (I'll amend it to RIGCSA members.) We as a group and as individuals always seem to get our jobs completed, no matter what hand we are dealt. Lack of employees...no problem. Minimal pesticide budgets---get creative. Equipment issues---beg, borrow or change units over.... Doesn't matter what it is, we all seem to get it done. This year being no exception and probably one of the most noteworthy that backs up my statement. I've been to a few different courses this year and from what I have seen, it seems that all of them are possibly having their best turf season in a while. Tip of the hat to all of you.

As of now, our joint meeting with the Cape is still on for Crosswinds on July 20, 2020. Hopefully MA opens up for Phase 3 and allows us some semblance of a normal meeting.

There really isn't that much more association business happening as Golf Day was postponed until next year. As we can open more, I am sure we will keep all members informed. Also, if you are interested in hosting a meeting in 2021, please contact John Lombardi.

Hopefully July and August are cooperative with turf, as we deserve it.

Respectfully,

**Mike Varkonyi**  
*RIGCSA President*

*Tom Irwin*

# OUR PASSION IS YOUR SUCCESS

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## May Meeting Photos (2011) - Melody Hill Country Club



Photos by Michelle Maltais

## Scenes from the June Meeting (2012)- Fall River Country Club



## June 4, 2013 Meeting - Green Valley Country Club

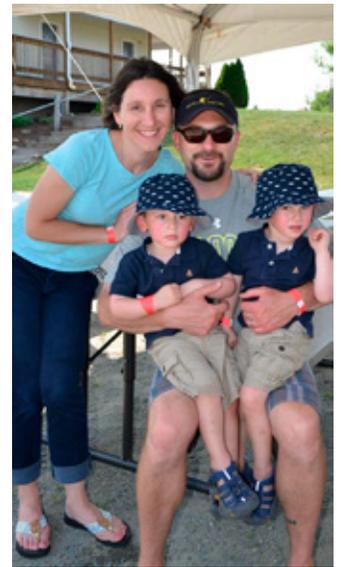


Photos by Michelle Maltais

## April 2014 Meeting - Reservation Golf Club



## RIGCSA Family Day 2015 - Mulligan's Island



Photos by Michelle Maltais



# Press Release

## New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, Inc.

June 22, 2020

The New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation recently held its 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting on June 17, 2020 where a new Executive Board was elected. It was Zoom Meeting due to the restrictions. Peter J. Rappoccio, CGCS, Golf Course Superintendent of the Concord Country Club in Concord, MA has been elected as the 24th President of the Foundation. Peter had served as the 23<sup>rd</sup> President, but because of the current economic, social and event uncertainty, it was decided unanimously with the backing of the board to keep the current executive board of the NERTF in place until May of 2021. Randy Weeks, of Laconia Country Club will replace Jeffrey M. Urquhart of Helena Agr-Enterprises, LLN, Inc. as the Immediate Past-President as Jeffrey has finished his term of representing the GCSANE on the NERTF Board.

Peter has represented the Golf Course Superintendent Association of New England on the NERTF Board since 2014. Mark Mansur, of Wintonbury Hills Golf Course representing the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS), will serve as the vice-president/treasurer for this upcoming year. Robert B. Searle of the Abenakee Club of the MGCSA has been elected to serve as secretary for a second year. Randy will serve for one year as Immediate Past-President.

The foundation consists of 2 delegates from each of the 7 GCSAA Chapters located in New England, 2 delegates from the Sports Turf Managers Association of New England (NESTMA) and 1 delegate from the Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals (MALCP) for a total of 17 members. Advisory board members are invited from state universities in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The board usually meets every other month avoiding the hot days of the summer.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference and Show was held in Providence, RI on March 3<sup>rd</sup> through March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The winter weather was cooperating nicely and it looked like it was favorable to be an early spring. Concerns were just starting to focus on Covid-19 as



### 2020 NERTF Executive Board Changes

*(l to r): Peter J. Rappoccio, CGCS (President), Jeffrey M. Urquhart (Leaving Board Member) and Randy Weeks (Acting Immediate Past-President)*

1 person in the state was known to be infected. Tuesday seminars attendance was very good with nearly 700 attendees taking advantage of various topics. The show in 2020 included a trade show lunch on Thursday again, was very similar to the 2019 show. 76 total hours of Education for all attendees were available during the 3 days and the trade show was open a total of 13 hours. The 2021 show dates for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Show are March 2-4, 2021 in Providence, RI. For more information on the show and New England Turfgrass Research please visit our website: [www.nertf.org](http://www.nertf.org) or call 401-841-5490.

In other NERTF news, the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Tee-Up New England rounds of golf auction was cancelled for 2020. It was first moved to June 22-June 29 and then it was decided to cancel it entirely for this year. We hope to prepare for our 2021 dates which are April 12-19. Lots of foursomes for golf across New England and one day of tennis at the Longwood Cricket Club were to be auctioned off. Rounds were collected for the auction by the NERTF and ATG (Alumni Turf Group). A complete list of courses that will participate in 2021 will be located at [www.tee-upnewengland.com](http://www.tee-upnewengland.com) at a later date as we approach the auction.

Gary Sykes, Executive Director

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- Improves irrigation efficiency
- Enhances the efficacy and control of fertility & pesticide programs (reduces leaching)
- Can be sprayed or injected

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



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- Enhances the efficacy and control of fertility and pesticide programs

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



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- Faster color response
- Better and sustained growth

SeaBlend® Plus with SynGen is also available in fairway grades (12-0-12 and 12-4-5).

Size: 50 lb bags



Contact Kevin Collins —  
(914) 621-1151  
kevin@oceanorganics.com

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



Think of how many times we need and use leverage in our jobs. Those pesky irrigation fixes with no wiggle room or using heat and a pry bar to ask mower parts nicely to return to their original form are two that come to the forefront. More importantly, superintendents often use a wet season to sell drainage or cart path projects and dry seasons

(like this one so far) for significant upgrades to pumps and irrigation. Covid-19 and the resulting economic stress has delivered a significant blow to our industry but has perhaps offered areas for superintendents to use leverage of a different kind. Let us look at how you may have developed leverage and ways to benefit you and your facility by communicating these to your decision makers.

With the onset of Covid-19 closures and Executive Orders springing up across the country, advocacy by you, your colleagues, and your local and national association played a significant role in allowing golf course maintenance (and in rare cases like RI) playing golf to continue. Understanding the impact no maintenance would have on our specialized performance turf and effectively communicating through advocacy absolutely saved hundreds of small businesses across our region.

Once that advocacy hurdle was cleared in RI and facilities were able to keep maintaining the property with restricted golf play, changes to staffing and budget no doubt followed. At arguably the most critical time for Northeast golf courses, spring, courses found themselves with entire properties being maintained by a reduced staff; in some cases, as few as one. No doubt, you and your reduced staff persevered. Were you responsible for acting as security during the quarantine time as well? With so many residents not working, or working from home, were you responsible for acting as security removing trespassers or stemming off potential vandalism?

While golf was permitted with restrictions, were you or your staff responsible for implementing those restrictions? Changes to the course set-up notwithstanding, were you involved in sanitation of pull carts or golf carts? Maybe you were responsible to ensure social distancing on the course, or again, security to break up post-round lingering?

Struggle to justify your GCSAA dues, or travel to GIS? From GCSAA's senior staff and government affairs working tirelessly on Executive Orders and supporting the opportunity to play in Rhode Island with all of our allied groups, GCSAA communications pushing out helpful materials on CDC practices for Covid-19 safety measures in a critical time, to education and GIS teams looking to adapt a national show to the new normal. GCSAA has

and will continue to work hard for you and deliver value to all our members in Rhode Island. There is no better time to communicate those benefits.

Attending RIGCSA meetings and events not a top priority for the decision makers at your facility? The association put every effort into ensuring that golf could remain as close to normal in Rhode Island and did an amazing job of communicating those efforts. They worked seamlessly with the RIGA to ensure that changes were updated to you and your facilities. The collaboration of the RIGCSA and RIGA did what few allied golf alliances could, they kept golfers golfing. Make sure those at your club understand the role the RIGCSA played in this important process.

Struggle to get a round donated to Tee-Up New England, would you consider donating a round to GCSAA's Rounds 4 Research, wish you could free up the few minutes a week to serve on an RIGCSA board or committee? Is the golf industry the same now as it was in 2019? Obviously not, however the facility is much better positioned now due to your efforts, the hard work of the RIGCSA, and support and resources provided by GCSAA. If you see the value in these types of efforts but your club does not, now is the time to act.

You have worked hard during this unprecedented time to earn the leverage you need to improve the image of you and your staff at the club. Communicate those accomplishments to your decision makers wisely and you may just get more of what you need to benefit you and your facility.

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

#### Las Vegas update

The world is a much different place than when we gathered in Orlando in January for the 2020 Golf Industry Show. It seems much longer ago than just five months. And as many of you have had to adjust or adapt your business operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so has GCSAA. Each summer, we begin revving up planning for the next conference and trade show. 2021 is no exception to that, but as we look toward Las Vegas, it is with a much different lens than in other years.

Our usual work of coordinating the gold standard education, networking opportunities and industry innovations you have come to expect continues, but we are also driven by the key question in the face of an uncertain world:

Can we produce a quality experience that meets the safety recommendations for COVID-19?

To help us prepare, we are developing five scenarios and mapping

out what every activity would look like in each scenario. The five scenarios are based on potential pandemic threat levels.

1. Scenario One (low threat): Business as usual.
2. Scenario Two (minimal threat): Live event in Las Vegas with social distancing and large-gathering restrictions in place.
3. Scenario Three (moderate threat): Hybrid with a live event in Las Vegas and virtual event options.
4. Scenario Four (substantial threat): An all virtual event.
5. Scenario Five (significant threat): Event postponed or cancelled.

We were very fortunate that the 2020 GIS had already taken place before the virus took hold in most of the country. Many similar gatherings were postponed or cancelled this year, and we have been able to watch and learn from others. GCSAA will continue to keep you informed of decisions as the process progresses.

## 2021 Dog Days of Golf Calendar

sponsored by **LebanonTurf** in cooperation with GCSAA  
**Submit your entry today »**

Submissions for the 2021 Dog Days of Golf Calendar will be accepted through **Aug. 3, 2020.**

From the submissions, 14 dogs will be selected. Owners of the selected dogs will be notified in September, and the calendar will be distributed with the November issue of *GCM* magazine.

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

**Kevin Doyle**

GCSAA Field Staff

[kdoyle@gcsaa.org](mailto:kdoyle@gcsaa.org) Follow me on Twitter @GCSAA\_NE

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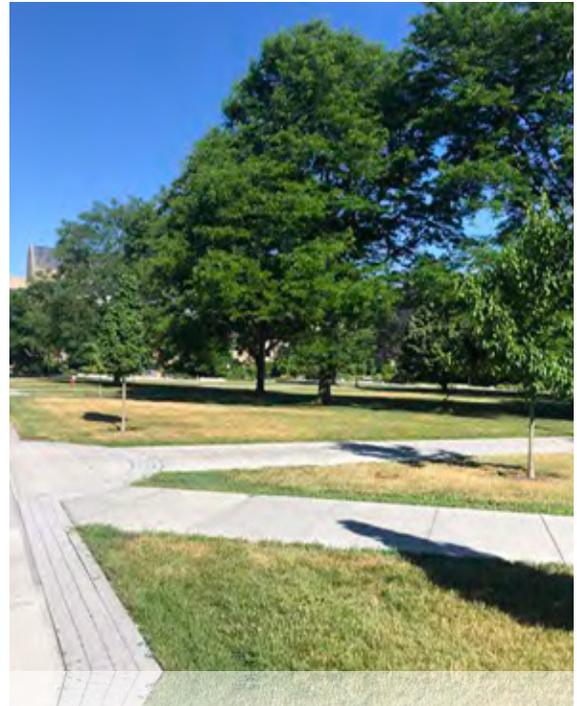
June 29, 2020

Volume 21:8

## Gazing in the Grass

Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D.

“The first widespread dry period in the Northeast US over the last several years is beginning to reveal weaknesses in turfgrass management systems from golf, sports and grounds. Following some scattered intense thunderstorms over the weekend there will be “winners and losers” as dry and warm conditions begin entering early July. The recent rainfall will provide some reprieve but expect root growth to slowly decline as soil temperatures rise into the mid-70’s. It is all down hill from here for most cool season root systems. The bentgrasses and tall fescues may persist with some rooting however this is also the time when we begin to observe our first round of root pathogen problems. Take-all patch of bentgrass has been diagnosed as has some persistent anthracnose



and ABW damage on many annual bluegrass areas under stress. As temperatures have been rising and moisture continues to be limited summer patch samples are flowing into the diagnostic labs as roots that have been infected during the early season infection period will now become a “drag” on the annual bluegrass. The recent periods of high evaporative



Summer Patch on Annual Bluegrass Collar

demand have revealed significant drought stress issues that could be related to root pathogen infection. Curative fungicides can be effective in further limiting the fungus as are regular applications of MnSO<sub>4</sub> as shown in CT and NJ turf research. There are clear benefits to having dry turf conditions when good irrigation programs are implemented on high value turf. In general turf holds up under wear better when dry than when wet. Dry turf also means effective water management remains the signature practice at this time of year.

## High ET Stresses Roots, Now Humidity Stresses Leaves!

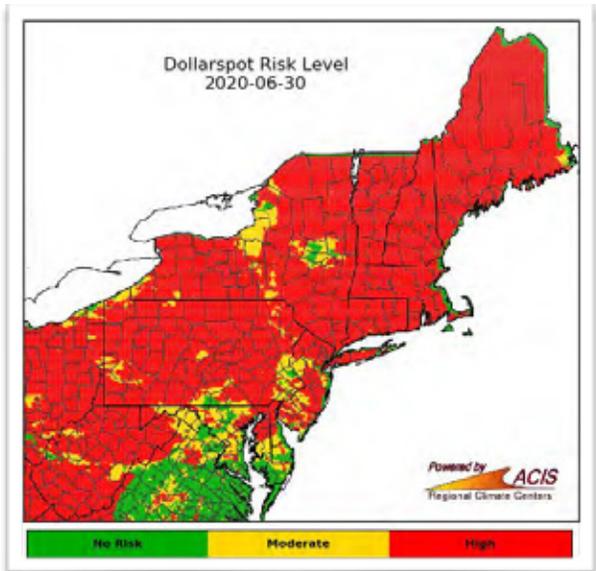
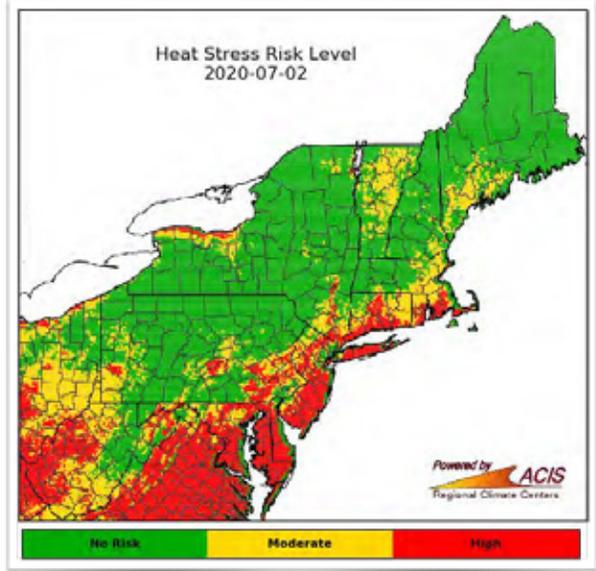
As soil temperatures begin to reach into the mid 70's, especially in more sandy areas, any further drying will create stress. While generally good to allow for SOME moisture stress and deeper rooting heading into summer, care should be exercised that additional stress from infection of take-all on bentgrass and summer patch of annual bluegrass, as well any heat stress (as indicated by our FORECAST models), can lead to plant injury.

Using stress to aid long term turf performance is an important management strategy but there are limitations of such an approach when there are KNOWN stressors such as heat or moisture, when there could be UNKNOWN stress from root pathogens. Hopefully those who struggle with root diseases have some protection in place and if so have more flexibility. If you have a history of root pathogen problems be careful.

General putting surface decline has begun at many courses that have not been able to properly manage surface organic matter. These conditions create additional stress and often severe drought stress. Research at the University of Kentucky investigated a number of tank mix fungicide programs for bentgrass and annual bluegrass putting green turf through the heat of the summer to prevent drought stress. Sprays were applied every two weeks. Weather was highly favorable for disease development. Factors affecting turf quality in the plots included **brown patch, anthracnose, drought stress due to fairy ring**. Signature + Chipco 26GT alternating with Signature + Daconil Ultrex, Renown, and Tourney provided better control of the complex of anthracnose/brown patch/fairy ring-induced localized dry spot. *At the end of the trial plots treated with products that did not control anthracnose and fairy ring showed more drought stress damage than plots that did control anthracnose and fairy ring.*

The dollar spot models are indicating HIGH risk across the Northeast. Long associated with low nitrogen levels, there are now an array of maintenance practices recommended to reduce the incidence and severity of dollar spot. Often dollar spot is pressure is worse when a dry period is followed by wet conditions including heavy dew. Dew removal and general disruption of leaf wetness through air movement are effective at reducing dollar spot pressure.

Furthermore, rolling of turf on a regular basis also has been found to reduce dollar spot. Nitrogen levels have been investigated for their role in dollar spot and it has been shown that rates required to prevent dollar spot are much higher than would be recommended for turf growth but could help recover from breakthrough. In fact, studies have shown Primo can help reduce dollar spot, but if dollar spot infestations breakthrough normal control programs then Primo can extend period when damage will be visible. When chemical control is required, we recommend using a predictive models such as the one we developed for FORECAST website and now a Smith-Kerns Model is available from UW-Madison. Once risk for disease is high selecting reduced risk products using the EIQ can provide effective control and minimize environmental impact. **△**



# RIGCSA Member News

We wanted to update you on the RIGCSA Scholarship & Research Tournament that was scheduled for October 6, 2020 at Pine Brook Country Club. It is with great reluctance that **Michael Iacono**, CGCS and the RIGCSA Scholarship & Research Committee have decided to cancel the tournament scheduled for 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and with the uncertainty of running a successful tournament, we had to make this difficult decision.

We will still be giving out scholarships to qualified candidates for 2021. The application deadline is December 1, 2020. For more information, please visit <https://www.rigcsa.org/Scholarships>

Thank you,  
RIGCSA Scholarship & Research Committee

## 2020 RIGCSA MEETING SCHEDULE

\*Please note these dates are subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic

**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)

**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)

If your club or company has received an award or distinction, please send a brief description to **Julie Heston** [jheston@verizon.net](mailto:jheston@verizon.net) or **Michelle Maltais** [nonquitt687@cox.net](mailto:nonquitt687@cox.net) and will list in the Member News section of the Surf'n'Turf newsletter.

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Phone: 401-241-5970  
Email: [BambooTool@gmail.com](mailto:BambooTool@gmail.com)



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

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# RIGCSA Member News



The University of Rhode Island has a website to assist with tick prevention and other resources. Please visit <https://tickencounter.org/>

## Tournament Results:

June 1, 2020  
Potowomut Golf Club  
Member/Member Tournament (Tee Times)

**Low Net:**  
Andrew Hannah and Peter Lund

**Low Gross:**  
David Antunes and Jim Fitzroy



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Sodco's **Shortcut Bluegrass** is a mix of Kentucky Bluegrass varieties, maintained at a height of 5/8 inch.

Our shortcut bluegrass is grown with a blend of dwarf bluegrass that is able to handle the low height of cut, which makes this sod perfect for tee boxes and fairways. A perfect substitution for areas bentgrass is not preferred.



Sodco's **007/Declaration Greens Height Bentgrass** far exceeds the overall turf performance that is expected from a traditional bentgrass. This blend combines two top ranked varieties in overall turf quality and dollar spot resistance. Sodco's 50/50 blend is guaranteed to create optimal playing conditions for your greens.



# Sun Safety Practices

## To Protect your Employees and Patrons

**The Rhode Island Department of Health's** Comprehensive Cancer Control Program is looking to engage golf course superintendents in discussions about your efforts to protect your employees and patrons from harmful exposure to the sun's UV rays. Golfers and outdoor workers who spend long periods of time in the sun are at increased risk of developing skin cancer. We can work with you to identify the most effective and feasible policy/practice changes that you can adopt to protect your employees and patrons. We'd love to meet with you to discuss the strategies below and others that you can implement on your course.

**The CDC's Community Preventive Services Task Force** recommends interventions in outdoor recreational settings, based on strong evidence of effectiveness for increasing sunscreen use and decreasing incidence of sunburns.



### For Golfers & Employees

**Increase Available Shade** - The sun's rays are strongest between 10am and 2pm

- Offer discounts for early and late tee times
- Avoid scheduling events during peak sun hours
- Equip carts with shade covers to keep golfers safe between holes

**Encourage Sun-Safe Behaviors** - Use of sunscreen and protective clothing

- Provide SPF 30 broad spectrum sunscreen to employees and patrons where they pick up cards and carts
- Stock UV protective clothing options in your pro shop
- Provide UV protective long-sleeved uniforms and hats to employees
- Remind patrons to seek shade and use sunscreen with signage around the course and messaging on score cards
- Take extra caution around sand and water, which can reflect and intensify UV rays

If you are interested in scheduling a short conversation with the Cancer Control program staff, please contact George Andoscia at (401)222-3047 or [George.Andoscia@Health.RI.gov](mailto:George.Andoscia@Health.RI.gov).



# UConn Turfgrass Field Day

Tuesday, August 18, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm



For more information, visit  
<https://bit.ly/UConnOnlineFieldDay>

**UConn** | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
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PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The UConn Turf Program will be hosting a Virtual UConn Turfgrass Field Day this summer. COVID cancelled our in-person event so we are reaching out virtually! The online webcast event will preserve the field day culture with video recorded field presentations of active research. Following each video presentation, participants will be able to engage in an online chat discussion with the researchers and event host. Presentations will be conducted by graduate students and faculty.

More information regarding the event details and registration at the above link. Pesticide and CEU's will be available.

We look forward to hosting another field day event - virtually! You will learn about the on-going research here at UConn. We are excited to have you join us online on **Tuesday, August 18, 2020 from 10:00 am – 12: 00 pm!**



Thank you,  
The Turfgrass Science Team  
John Inguagiato, Jason Henderson, Karl Guillard, Steve Rackliffe, and Vickie Wallace.

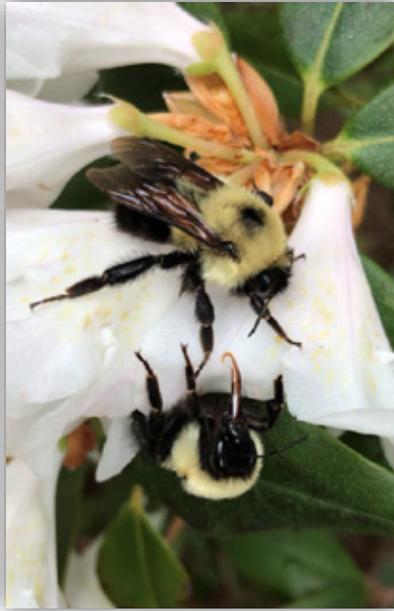


Turfgrass Science Program

Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

UConn Extension

Citizen Scientists Needed!  
(No skills or training necessary!)



*Our ultimate goal is conservation.  
Please **do not kill** live bumble bees.*

# Rhode Island Bumble Bee Survey

Understanding our wild bees



Our objective is to survey the bumble bees  
of Rhode Island.

## What We Need:

### ❖ Short Videos of Bumble Bees

- Record a bee visiting flowers for up to 1 minute (15-30 seconds is ideal)
- If possible, identify the type of flowers the bee is visiting (the free phone app Seek by iNaturalist can be helpful for this)
- Send videos with dates, locations, and flower identification to [bombussurvey@gmail.com](mailto:bombussurvey@gmail.com)
- Pictures may be submitted as well, but videos are preferred

### ❖ Video Tips

- Hold phone/camera about a foot away from the bee
- Don't zoom in
- Try to get different angles of the bee (dorsal view is most important for identification... see example below)

Please report all  
known **bumble bee nests**  
(with photographs and  
details of location) to:  
[bombussurvey@gmail.com](mailto:bombussurvey@gmail.com)



Photo Credit: [www.bugguide.net](http://www.bugguide.net)

## Questions?

E-mail us at [bombussurvey@gmail.com](mailto:bombussurvey@gmail.com)



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