



RHODE ISLAND SURF 'n' TURF

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

2017 RIGCSA Scholarship Recipients



Austin Cabral



Lauren Callahan



Lily Chalifour



Nathan Eichner



Randi Tella

The Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association awarded \$28,000 in scholarships for the year 2017 to the following students. Each student received a scholarship of \$2,000.00.

RIGCSA Scholarship Recipients:

- Austin J. Cabral Community College of Rhode Island
- Lauren Callahan University of Miami
- Lily Chalifour Eastern Connecticut State University
- Emma Colombo University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Nathan D. Eichner Methodist University
- David Mihailides Community College of Rhode Island
- Randi Tella Rhode Island College

Ryan Reynolds Legacy Scholarship

- Catherine Felicetti Ithaca College

The C. Richard Skogley Memorial Scholarship will be awarded in March to Andrew Garcia who is a student at the University of Rhode Island.

At the 2016 event in October, the Scholarship & Research Committee awarded Sara Tucker with the Dr. Noel Jackson Research Fellowship for \$10,000. Sara is a graduate student working with Dr. Steven Alm at the University of Rhode Island. Her project is titled "Bee Forage and Habitat for Rhode Island

Golf Courses." She will be working on this project over the summer of 2017 and 2018.

Save the date for the 35th Annual Scholarship and Research Tournament on October 3, 2017 at Carnegie Abbey Club with Dean Chase as our host.



2017 RIGCSA Scholarship Recipients Scholarship recipients David Mihailides and Catherine Felicetti pictured with S&R Committee Chairman Mark Richard, CGCS

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President's Message



Just when you thought we would have a mild winter and the 2017 golf season may have an early start, BOOM! As we are all used to, Mother Nature has other plans. The blanket of snow is good for keeping winter play off the course and at this date it should not last long enough to cause any damage. Enjoy some time away from the course because the challenges of a new season always come on faster than you think.

I am honored to be trusted with the responsibility of leading your association. With the challenges of "living in interesting times" I am lucky to have a group of dedicated professionals who have volunteered for board service. I am indebted to all of the past presidents but specifically the leadership of Immediate Past-President Bill Coulter, CGCS.

As he steps away from his board commitments I want to thank Mike Whitehead, CGCS for his years of leadership and dedication to the RIGCSA.

Thank you to Mark Richard, CGCS and Peter Wood for hosting our annual meet at Kirkbrae Country Club. We have some great meeting sites for the 2017 season, most of them are listed on the new website. As many members know, meeting attendance and networking is the greatest benefit of your membership, please check the website and choose some meetings you are able to attend. The relationships I have gained through this association are much more valuable than the time commitment of attending some meetings!

Our March meeting will be held at Hillside Country Club on March 29th. Henry Olstynski will be our host and the meeting will feature Nicole Belk of the National Weather Service, discussing the status of the drought in the north east, 2017 Distinguished Service Award and 50 year membership awards.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the 20th New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show, March 6th – 9th in Providence.

Sincerely,

Drew Cummins
RIGCSA President

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RIGCSA Winter Gala February 18, 2017 Providence Biltmore Hotel



January 19, 2017 Kirkbrae Country Club



Photo Credit – Michelle Maltais



RIGCSA Annual Meeting

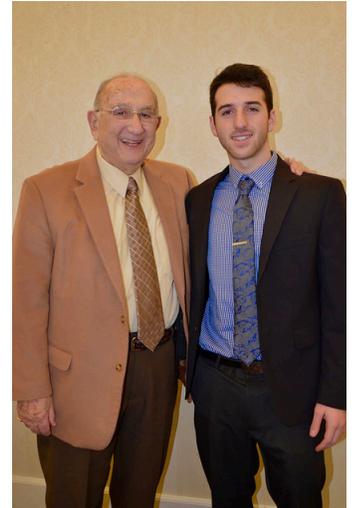


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Kevin's GCSAA Corner

By Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Northeast Field Rep.



In case you missed the wrap-up of GIS in Orlando, the following is a brief overview from many of the GCSAA media outlets of how things played out. Thank you to all who attended and made the event the success it was. I hope you are looking forward to San Antonio in 2018 already!

Orlando by the numbers:

The 2017 Golf Industry Show, presented by GCSAA and the NGCOA, proved a resounding success, with attendance numbers rising across the board. Total attendance rose to 13,600, including nearly 600 first-time member registrations. The education conference filled 5,800 seminar seats, the highest number since 2008. The 250,000-square-foot trade show drew 6,300 qualified buyers to view the latest golf facility solutions and interact with 569 exhibitors.

Voting updates:

Bill H. Maynard, CGCS, was elected GCSAA's 2017 president during the annual meeting in Orlando on Feb. 9. Other 2017 board members include: Darren J. Davis, CGCS, vice president; Rafael Barajas, CGCS, secretary treasurer; Peter J. Grass, CGCS, immediate past president; and Kevin P. Breen, CGCS, John R. Fulling Jr., CGCS, Mark F. Jordan, CGCS, Kevin P. Sunderman and John Walker, directors. In addition, a \$5 dues increase for Class A, B and C members passed, as did a change to Article I, Section 2 of the GCSAA Bylaws, amending the definition of equipment managers in the bylaws.

How the schools fared:

Penn State University's Team #10 took first place in GCSAA's Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition, presented in partnership with John Deere Golf. The foursome of Thomas Goynes, Derek Buganza, Curt Moore, Kevin Heimann, along with advisor Ben McGraw, Ph.D., will return to State College, Pa., with the traveling trophy and prize award. Second- and third-place honors went to Team #55 from Cal Poly Pomona and Team #23 from Auburn University, respectively. Fifty-eight teams, composed of 204 students from 36 different schools, competed in the event. While none of the New England universities managed to get stage time, the Northeast region did great! Tied for sixth was University of Guelph, and finishing fourth was SUNY-Delhi!

Regional members highlighted:

Several members from the Northeast region were selected to attend GIS as grant recipients. They received this opportunity as part of the Melrose Leadership Academy program, which sup-

ports the professional development of GCSAA member superintendents. It is administered through the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (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. Congratulations to:

- Chris Frielinghaus, CGCS at Glen Falls Country Club in Queensbury, N.Y.
- Scott Hellerman, at Pitman Golf Course in Sewell, N.J.
- Richard Lawlor, CGCS at Town of Yarmouth Golf in West Yarmouth, Mass.
- Matthew Simon, at Thendara Golf Club in Thendara, N.Y.
- Michael Whitehead, CGCS at Pawtucket Country Club in Pawtucket, R.I.

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already

GCSAA investigating a political action committee
GCSAA is exploring the launch of a political action committee in 2017. During 2016, government affairs staff presented the concept of a GCSAA PAC to the Government Affairs Committee, GCSAA Board of Directors and chapter delegates, and are now seeking feedback from membership. Before April 15, please watch the GCSAA PAC videos, read the PAC brochure and provide online feedback here: <http://cqrcengage.com/gcsaa/gcsaapac>

Advocate for golf: National Golf Day, Washington D.C.

WE ARE GOLF, a coalition of golf's leading organizations, will host its 10th annual National Golf Day on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

"We look forward to celebrating the 10th anniversary of National Golf Day by educating our country's lawmakers about the game's significant impact," said Steve Mona, Chief Executive Officer of World Golf Foundation, administrator of WE ARE GOLF. "As we await a new Presidential administration this month, we are optimistic about the momentum for golf in 2017 and also pleased with the strides our industry has made on Capitol Hill in the last decade to ensure that golf's interests are effectively represented."

Deadline to register is Wednesday, March 1, 2017. For information and to register visit [We Are Golf](#)

Scholarship Season is HERE NOW!

Par Aide's Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grant Program

The goal of this program is to assist GCSAA members' children in funding their education at either an accredited college or trade school. It is available to the children of GCSAA members who have been an active member for five or more consecutive years. Applicant must be a graduating high school senior and be accepted at an institution of higher learning for the upcoming year. The annual deadline is March 15.

GCSAA Legacy Awards

Knowing the costs of higher education will continue to rise, the Environmental Institute for Golf developed this program to provide scholarship assistance to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members who have been active Class A, Class B, Class C, Class A-Retired, or Class AA members for five or more consecutive years. Honorees receive a \$1,500 award. Applicants must be enrolled full time at an accredited institution of higher learning, or for high school seniors, they must have been accepted at such an institution for the next academic year. In addition, award winners are ineligible to apply the year following their award, but can reapply after a one-year hiatus.

The annual deadline is April 15.

Upcoming FREE webcasts:

- Feb. 23: **Oxygen Acetylene Welding, Cutting and Brazing - equipment management series**
- Mar. 1: **Sodium and its Management for Turf**
- Mar. 15: **Managing Irrigation for Turfgrass Health**
- Mar. 22: **On the Subject of Sole**
- Mar. 29: **Carbon, Carbon Everywhere**
- Apr. 11: **Diagnosing & Managing Nematodes - The Latest in Nematode Control**

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

Kevin Doyle
GCSAA Field Staff
kdoyle@gcsaa.org

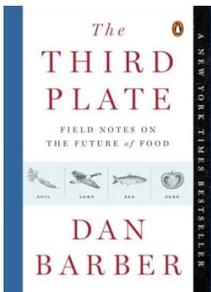
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The Calvin Cycle By Matt Klaphor



As the snow melts it begins the time of year where we start to think what does our soil need? During the summer we are all going crazy just trying to keep up with mowing, watering, and making every little detail perfect for our members. The fall begins aeration and leaf clean up and before you know it it's all covered in snow again. The spring on the other hand is a slow beginning that allows us time to do a couple of projects, clean up from our New England winter all while waiting for the turf to perk up on its own time. Also it is a great time to take a deeper look into what our course needs and to refresh our minds with a little continuing education. I always look

forward to finding out new ways of doing what we've been doing for over 100 years in the golf business. A new look always brings a little excitement to start a new year and what improvements can be made, whether it's a small or big change we are making.

I was given a great book by a friend I wanted to share with you "The Third Plate" by Dan Barber. Dan is a famous chef that has been on a long journey to find the best tasting food available to us and why.

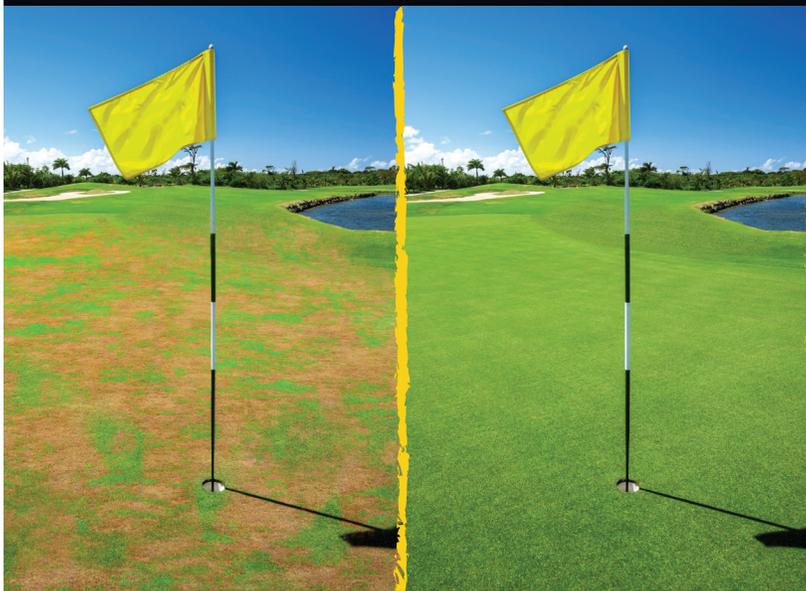
The first section begins with soils and farming practices that are familiar with what we do out on the golf course which is what got me interested in the book to begin with. The three other sections describe land, sea, and seed. The book is full of cultural practices of how our food

is brought to our tables each night.

For those of you who know me, know that I'm not the type to recommend books and it's tough to find the time to actually sit down and read them with all we have going on. But I am the type to further my education whether it's reading articles in our turf magazines, watching YouTube videos, or just playing a round by myself and looking at every little detail to get a better idea of what is going on in our industry. I wish all of you the best of luck this season and hopefully you can share your ideas on what drives you to learn more or do what we do more effective and efficiently.

Thanks for reading!
Matt Klaphor
 Assistant Superintendent
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Getting To Know Ed Downing By Michelle Maltais



Last week I had the pleasure of interviewing Ed Downing from New England Specialty Soils. Ed grew up in Braintree MA with his parents and younger sister Catherine. He started playing golf at Braintree Municipal GC when he was in grade school and fell in love with the game. He tries to play as many rounds as his busy schedule permits. He graduated from Braintree High School in 1995 and in 1999 he graduated with a

degree in Business Marketing from Plymouth State University in Plymouth, NH. When I asked him how he became involved in the industry he smiled and told me how he would tag along with his father, Charlie Downing, to the sand pits at AA Will Materials as well as work their quarry and landscape supply yard. Ed told me he would work 10-12 hour days and worked week-ends too so it was a natural fit for him to pursue a career in this

field. "It's all I've ever known," he said.

After graduating college, Ed continued working in the sand and gravel industry putting in long hours and mastering his knowledge in the field. In January 2008 he joined a newly formed company called New England Specialty Soils. Ed is the company's Vice President and he's thrilled that they have hired two new recruits to help with increased sales and major growth in the company.

Ed and his wife Christina live in Franklin MA and have three beautiful children, Sofia 6, Gianna 4, and Anthony 2. He told me that his 4-year-old daughter thinks he's lucky to play with sand at work all day long. "She thinks I build sandcastles," he said. When he's not busy working or spending time with his family Ed enjoys running in races, attending concerts, and playing guitar. A rock and roll fan, he grew up playing drums and guitar and recently got back into playing live shows with a band as the guitarist. Of course I had to ask what his idea of a perfect meal would be. "That's easy," he said, "a steak and a Guinness."



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contact Allie Thorpe for more information 413-345-6766 / abthorpe@umass.edu

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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
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RIGCSA Member News

RIGCSA has a brand new website at www.rigcsa.org. The new mobile friendly website will allow members to access a host of online features such as:

- Event Registration
- Member Dues Renewals online
- Member Only area with online directory, photos, job postings, etc.
- Ability to update your own membership information online
- View newsletters
- And much More!

RIGCSA Membership renewals are due by **April 1st**. Any updates to your membership information can now be made on the website. You can also send any updates to Julie Heston. You will need to login to the site to update your information. If you did not receive your renewal notice or are having trouble logging in, please contact Julie Heston (401) 934-7660 or jheston@verizon.net.

Directory Updates:

Paul Jamrog of Atlantic Golf & Turf will now be covering Rhode Island as part of his territory along with Southern NH and the North Shore. Paul can be reached at paul@atlanticgolfandturf.com
Cell: 401-524-3322



Read Customs Soils is pleased to announce that **Matt Medeiros** has joined their Sales Team! Matt has enjoyed a distinguished career in the golf course industry. He was the superintendent at Allendale Country Club from 1995 through 2015. Prior to that, he was the Assistant Superintendent at Rhode Island County Club and Pinebrook

Country Club. He has a degree in Turfgrass Management from the State University of New York. In addition to golf material sales, Matt will be supporting the entire line of Read engineered soils. Matt lives with his wife and young family in Dartmouth, Mass.



Save the Date for the 13th Annual Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Classic

May 15, 2017

GreatHorse Golf Club, Hamden, MA

Host: **Dave Rafferty**, Golf Course Superintendent

Honoree: **Brian Silva**

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Dave Pease, Executive Secretary
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Congratulations to our 50 Year Members that we will be honoring at our March meeting.

Robert Chalifour, CGCS (Ret.)

G. Wayne Zoppo, CGCS (Ret.)

Congratulations to our 15 and 25 year member pin recipients:

25 Year Members:

Steve Donohue

Curtis Liston

15 Year Members:

Jonathan Cookson

Christopher Costa

Joe Felicetti, CGCS

Dr. Nathaniel Mitkowski

Jim Skorulski

Joe Sprague, Jr.

Steve Thys

RIGCSA 2017 Board of Directors

Elected at the RIGCSA Annual Meeting
on January 19, 2017

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 Next Meeting

Retiree Appreciation Day

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Hillside Country Club

Host Superintendent: **Henry Olstynski**

10:30 am: Registration

11:00 am: National Weather Service–Drought
Presentation, Nicole Belk

11:30 pm: Business Meeting*

12:30 pm: Lunch

*Presentations of the RIGCSA Distinguished Service
Award, 50 year members, golf awards and the C. Richard
Skogley Memorial Scholarship

Cost for Day: \$40 -payable to RIGCSA / Retired Members
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