



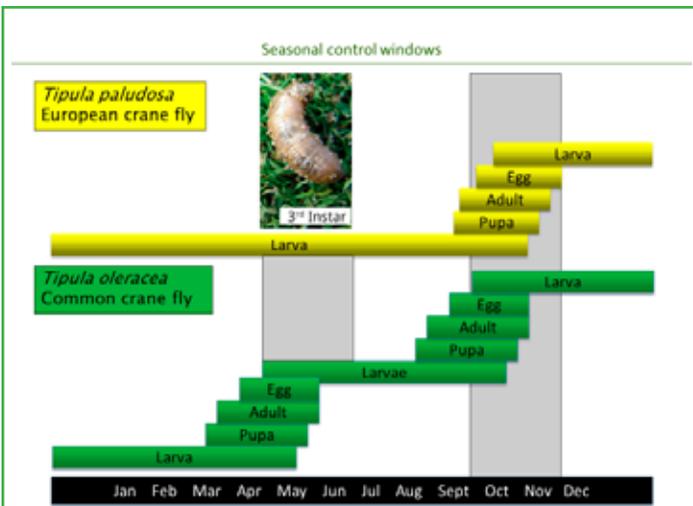
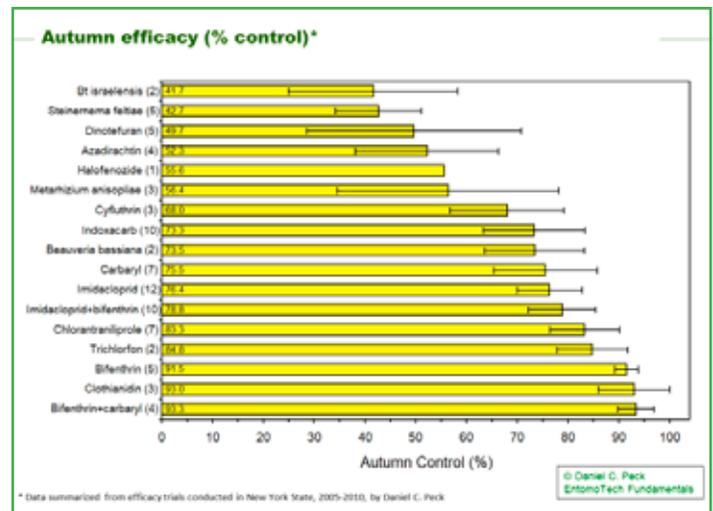
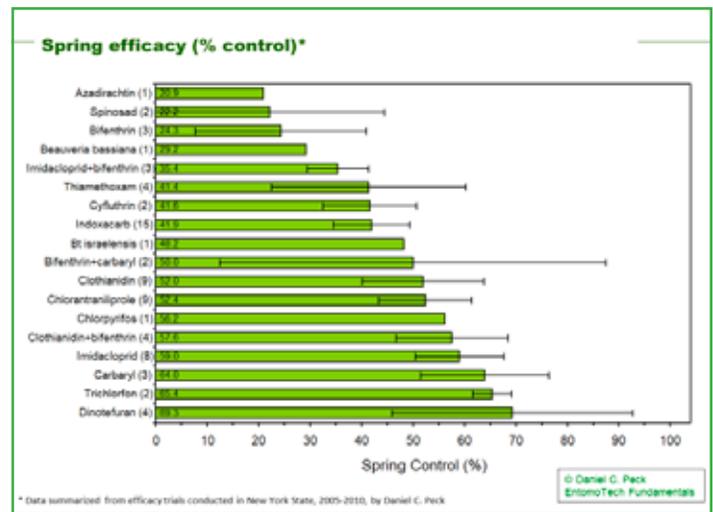
RHODE ISLAND SURE 'n' TURF

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

Crane Flies in Rhode Island by Steven Alm, University of Rhode Island

Crane flies have been a problem in turf in Oregon and Washington since 1966. They were first reported in New York State in 2004 and have since spread out to the New England states. There are two species of crane flies, The European crane fly (ECF), *Tipula paludosa* and the Common or Marsh crane fly, *Tipula oleracea*. The reason you would want to know which species you have is for pest management options. The adults are fairly easy to tell apart, the larvae are not. The European crane fly has wings shorter than the abdomen while the Common crane fly has wings longer than the abdomen. The European crane fly has one generation per year, emerging from September into November while the Common crane fly has two generations per year, emerging as early as March through May and again from late August through November. I have confirmed that the Common crane fly is present in Rhode Island. A distribution map of crane flies in Rhode Island would be useful to everyone who has started to battle these new pests. If you have seen crane flies in your turf and are willing to disclose your location, shoot me an email stevealm@uri.edu and I will compile a map of the distribution for a future newsletter. If you would rather remain anonymous, I will honor that, but it would still be good to know how far and wide the crane flies have become in Rhode Island. Dr. Dan Peck has done the most experimental work regarding control of crane flies (Fig. 1 modified and used with permission from Peck).

Control trials (used with permission from Dan Peck).



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President's Message



In February and early March, I think most of us were getting ready for a really nice Spring. The mild Winter was morphing into a warm Spring. The NERTCS was another success. And then our worlds got turned upside down, backwards and down paths we don't know where we will end up. The virus has attacked members, family and friends. We probably all know several that have been stricken and even some who have been lost. On a personal note, stay as safe as possible during this time.

As an association the RIGCSA Board of Directors has convened via Zoom. Our next meeting/event will be at Potowomut GC on June 1. Certain restrictions have been lifted to allow for this. There are still some that exist that will be directly impacting our event. The exact details are being finalized and will be on the meeting notice. We ask that all attendees follow the guidelines that are being created. We all have probably been working tirelessly under conditions never experienced before and I am sure there are many that are looking forward to this day.

The Scholarship and Research Chairman, Richard Lombardi, has also been developing thoughts on what we may be faced with for our event at Pine Brook CC this October. As soon as something occurs in MA, like the opening of courses to golf, host Michael Iacono will be contacted, the committee will meet via Zoom and something will be worked out. Richard has expressed the desire to ensure that some event is held to maintain the continuity of one of the best Scholarship and Research Tournaments in the country.

The Board also recognizes that many members clubs may be in some cash flow situations. We don't think it is the time to aggressively pursue recent outstanding invoices. We are an association built on cooperation and assisting of our peers. If you have any outstanding invoices or dues, just contact Julie Heston and let her know when things are righted, it will be tended to.

Hopefully moving forward, we slowly return to some resemblance of normalcy.

Until we meet again!

Mike Varkonyi
RIGCSA President

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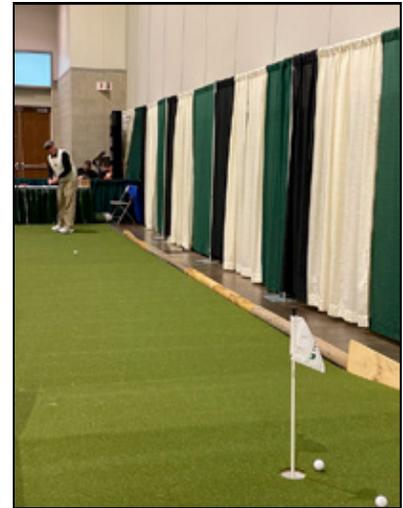
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New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show - March 3 - 5, 2020



New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show - March 3 - 5, 2020



Photos by Michelle Maltais

Turf Show 2020 By Gary Sykes, Executive Director, NERTF, Inc.



If you have ever been out on a golf course trying to get a job done or finish a round in the path of a severe thunderstorm on the horizon, you would know how it felt as we watched the news of the mounting threat of the Coronavirus, or COVID-19. We knew it was coming and it was going to affect a lot of people, but what we didn't know was that by the time this thunderboomer arrived it was going to be more like a category 5+ hurricane from coast to coast! Luckily, our show dates were March 3-5. If they were the 10th-12th, the outcome would have been much, much, less successful and if they were March 17th-19th the entire show would have been cancelled for 2020! Never, did any of us think that we were going to feel like the squirrel that just ran through 5 lanes of traffic during rush hour unscathed, but by the end of the week, it is fair to say that many of us were all very glad to get the show over with very little damage caused by the Coronavirus storm....

We have now completed our 23rd New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show and would like to take a moment to thank all our attendees, exhibitors, volunteers and sponsors for all your support. The show is very appreciative of each of you and your support provides the fuel to the foundation's ability to fund turfgrass research. The three days in Providence were jammed packed with educational opportunities, trade show interaction, receptions, an auction, and other specially designed activities. The overall format was very similar to 2019. At the start there were 12 seminars on Tuesday, more than 700 seats were sold that covered many different topics of interest to attendees. The Trade Show and Conference followed on Wednesday and Thursday. Education started at 8am, the trade show opened at 9 and the show floor was buzzing until 4pm when the auction began. It was our 16th annual auction and with enthusiastic buyers it set an income record with more than \$25,000 raised for turfgrass research! Thursday morning began like Wednesday, but with the always present calm feeling of the last day of any event. Less crowds, less excitement, less energy but still a great opportunity to view the lines of equipment and products that would be available for 2020. Finally, awaiting everyone just before the finish was a trade show lunch! The board had decided to close 2020 an hour earlier than 2019 to help travelers get a head start. So, if you came for the 3-days you were kept very busy if you wanted to be. Each night there were receptions and privately organized events to keep you up as late as you wanted to go! Adaptations to the common handshake were introduced to keep the potential spread of this oncoming hazard to a minimum while keeping the conversations light, though the potential impact to our lives was in the back of our minds, it never seem to get fully in the way of a good turf show experience. Little did we know what was coming.

Since the end of the show, over the last 13 days, we have experi-

enced many shutdowns, cancellations, delays and closures. Schools have closed and are scrambling to come up with an online curriculum and families are adapting to all sorts of disruptions. We have been asked to not congregate in groups of more than 200, and then 100, 50, 20, now 10. I know a few families that have 10 kids, you got to wonder what they are going to do? Our churches are not having Sunday services, no full funerals or weddings, you can only purchase take-out food from restaurants and fast food places, zero school sports are being played and the list is growing. My buddy owns a bar/restaurant, and he is trying to start a take-out business just to generate some income. Not to mention the cancellation of NCAA Basketball, a delay for the MLB, the Master's is being moved to the fall, the cellar floor of the stock market is giving out and just when you thought it could not get any worse, Tom Brady becomes a free agent and will not return to the New England Patriots after 19 years?! Life, my friends, as we have known it, has changed! At least temporarily. One thing I did notice, Tom's departure is not such a big deal after all with everything else that is going on. I don't know about you, but I can't wait for the grass to start turning green again to help take my mind off all these other things! Let's all do our best to keep ourselves, our families and our friends healthy in all ways.

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FAVORITE PETS

We asked our members to send in a photo of their favorite pet (s) and we got a great response.



Peter Fish's dog Bunker



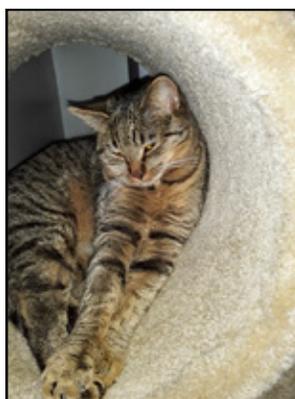
Alicia Pearson's dog



Mike Iacono and pets



Alan Vadala's dogs - Nala, Lacy & Bayley



Vinnie Iacono's cat Lolita



Mike Whitehead's dog Stan



Dan Golding's dog Bronson



Dave Ferrantino's dogs - Salem and Sonoma



Matt Emond's dog

FAVORITE PETS

We asked our members to send in a photo of their favorite pet (s) and we got a great response.



John Callahan's dog Charlotte



John Callahan's cat



Wayne Zoppo's dogs Hannah & Hunter



Ed Keye's dog Sammy



Ed Keye's dog Lola



Joe Felicetti's dog Howard



John Carlone's dog Gracie



Dean Chase's dogs Johnny & Lucy



Pat Hogan's dogs Octane, Bernice & Rebel

FAVORITE PETS

We asked our members to send in a photo of their favorite pet (s) and we got a great response.



Arthur Tella's dog Grace



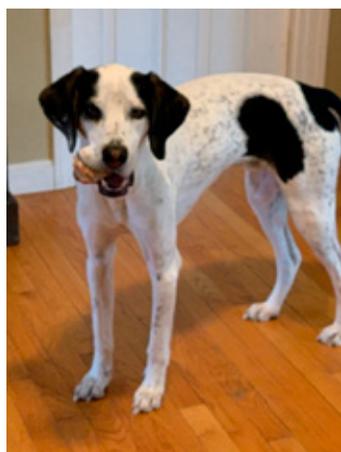
Andy Drohen's 100,000 pet bees



Bill Coulter's dog Jax



Melissa Gugliotti's pet dogs



Frank Vollaro's dog Milo



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Acoaxet Club Recognized For Environmentally Friendly Practices



On July 26, The Westport River Watershed Alliance held a reception to recognize Keith Kruger and the Acoaxet Club for their prudent environmental stewardship of the golf course and grounds of the Acoaxet Club. In particular, the WRWA wanted to recognize the design and installation of a state-of-the-art Golf Course Maintenance Facility, recirculating irrigation system and closely monitored fertilizer application program, all of which moderate the effect of nutrients on neighboring Cockeast Pond.



Keith Kruger receives plaque from Tom Schmitt



Acoaxet Club President Tom Slaight, Assistant Grounds Manager Josh DelDeo, Grounds Manager Keith Kruger, WRWA President Tom Schmitt, WRWA Executive Director Deborah Weaver.

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From the Grill

Amidst this Covid-19 Pandemic, what has been the biggest challenge (personal or professional) you have faced and what steps have you taken to overcome it?

In sales we have had to adapt, talking to people on cell or by using several available apps for virtual meetings. The most difficult part of this pandemic is what does tomorrow bring, does anyone really know?

Sales are being pushed back a few weeks but still going through for those that were waiting for deliveries. Getting new sales will depend on getting the economy going again and how much the federal government helps out to keep business moving forward, not backwards.

On family, I am blessed to have two parents who are 91 and 89 respectively. It has been tough on them. They are not in a nursing home or assisted living facility and that is probably a good thing but to be honest, they should be. But that is the last place we want them with most afflictions occurring at nursing homes.

So I help out along with a brother and sister to try to keep their spirits up the best we can.

In my opinion, we all need to keep a positive attitude because anything else will only make it more difficult for us all.

Stay Safe!
Bob Barrow,
Sales Representative, MTE

Personally I know the greatest challenge is not seeing my daughter and son whenever I want; they are grown adults and since we live in different locations and need to social distance.

Professionally there are many challenges. One is respecting my client's space by trying to stay in contact by text, emails. Also keeping up to date via using twitter or webinars on what's going on in the industry.

But truly the biggest fight is the one I have with the refrigerator door...it's the only thing I shake hands with!

Vincent A Iacono
Northeast Nursery Golf & Turf

For us here in Massachusetts it has been the lack of golfers. Today is day 39 with zero income. It is one thing to fight the weather and what that might do to revenue but knowing you are closed is another level entirely. To fight this we are trying not to spend any money unless truly essential. It is hard not to feel guilty about everything: productivity of whatever staff remains, expenses, the

future, health of your staff, the lack of routine. The weather has been the pits. Without players we have been able to mow more efficiently and get other small improvements done but motivation is elusive when it rains 5 out of 7 days. The lack of golfers takes away some of the normal routine and impetus to start the day if that makes sense?

There has been a lot of readjusting how we do things simply because we can. Why mow fairways wet and make a mess for instance. So now what do we do until the place dries out? I have tried to write more blog posts for the players taking lots of pictures since they cannot be here to see the course. Next week we add a couple of staff and now have the added stress of keeping a few more healthy. The unknown is difficult to prepare for. When will we open?, what restrictions will we have?, will we get to bring full staff back? Is the sun ever going to come out? Eventually these questions will be answered and we will settle into some sort of normal routine. In the meantime it is great to be working, have a job and be healthy.

Matt Crowther,
Superintendent, Cape Cod Country Club

Staying in business...

Steps I've taken- started looking at any size job and expanding the services I offer to tree work, landscaping and onsite sawmill services.

Jim Studley
Green Grass Inc

The hardest part for us was the many changes we have had to make. Luckily, we got the show in just before this all exploded. My wife, who substitutes in schools, has not been able to work. My daughter who should be away enjoying college has to stay home and been taking online classes to keep up and she lost her job. We have had to be careful with my mother who is in her eighties. We have had to forget visiting relatives, especially out of state. No church, no concerts, no golf! It has made us better in some ways, but I miss the freedom!

Gary J. Sykes,
Executive Director
New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, Inc.

Blizzard Conditions Prevent Nor'easter Ski Race

Who would have thought the Nor'easter Ski Race would be the beginning of all sporting events being cancelled in 2020! Ironically enough, for the Ski Race it would be due to the weather!

This year's race scheduled for February 27th had to be cancelled due to tremendous blizzard conditions. With wind speeds gusting over 50 mph and snow coming down sideways and heavy, the Killington Mountain Race team was forced to cancel all racing activities on the mountain that day.

That, however, did not prevent the 175+ members from across the Northeast US from making the trek north to Killington for a fun day of skiing and socializing à la ski style at the Wobbly Barn! Kudos to all those that made the effort and enjoyed the camaraderie! Prizes were already secured for the race, so everything was raffled off and a great time was had by all despite the weather!

As in years past, the generous support of our sponsors and folks in attendance has allowed the Nor'easter Ski Day to raise money for those in need. This year we will be formerly making donations to Jordan Keshler, Golf Course Superintendent at Barker Brook Golf Club as well as David Cameron, brother-in-law of Stephen Hicks, Superintendent and Director of Operations at Bull's Bridge Golf Club per requests from members.

Let's all work together to support each other and help each other through these interesting times and hopefully we'll see each other soon on a golf course near you!

By default, the Northeastern GCSA will retain the Nor'easter Cup and VT Cups until we race again!

Special thanks go out to our title sponsor, the Houseknecht Family and the team at MTE for their overwhelming support of the Nor'easter Ski Day!

Please also take a moment to thank the many other sponsors we have each year for their continued support of this great event! We are including this year's sponsor board to be shared with your members.

Save the date for next year's Nor'easter as well, to be held at Killington Mountain on February 25th. More information will come later in the year.

MET Team Championship Notice:

Also, please note regarding the MET Team Championship this year. With the Covid-19 situation in one way or another affecting pretty much all the associations that participate, it's too soon to know if we will be able to hold this year's event. Most clubs spring events have been cancelled and moved to the fall wherever possible, so to take up a date on a club's calendar that could generate much needed income may be a challenge this year. Let's all see how the pandemic plays out and Blake and I will report back periodically concerning the 2020 MET Team Championship.

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RIGCSA Member News

Member News: March/April 2020

We wish speedy recoveries to **Paul Jamrog, Arthur Tella** and **Keith Tortorella**.

Our condolences are extended to **Paul Jamrog** and family on the recent passing of Paul's mother, **Lorraine Jamrog**.

Our condolences are extended to the Mihailides family on the loss of **Manny Mihailides** on May 13, 2020. Manny worked as a sales representative for his son Dave Mihailides' company DGM Systems for many years. Some of you may also remember him as the host for the yearly NERTF Conference & Show Live Auction. Manny was a very kind person and always had a smile on his face. He will be greatly missed.

Due to concerns regarding COVID-19, the RIGCSA will not be holding a Family Day event this year.

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

The Rhode Island GCSA is now offering an Equipment Manager membership for \$75 for the year.

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Visit www.rigcsa.org for more information and to apply!

Congratulations to the following members who will be receiving a golf plaque from the tournaments held in 2019. You can pick up your plaque at the June 1st event or the next event you attend.

Tuesday, June 18, 2019 Green Valley Country Club Member/Member Tournament

Joe Oliveira and Garrett Whitney

September 17, 2019 Foxborough CC Individual Championship

Superintendent Division:
Low net and Superintendent Champion: **Joe Felicetti**
Low gross: **Mike Whitehead**

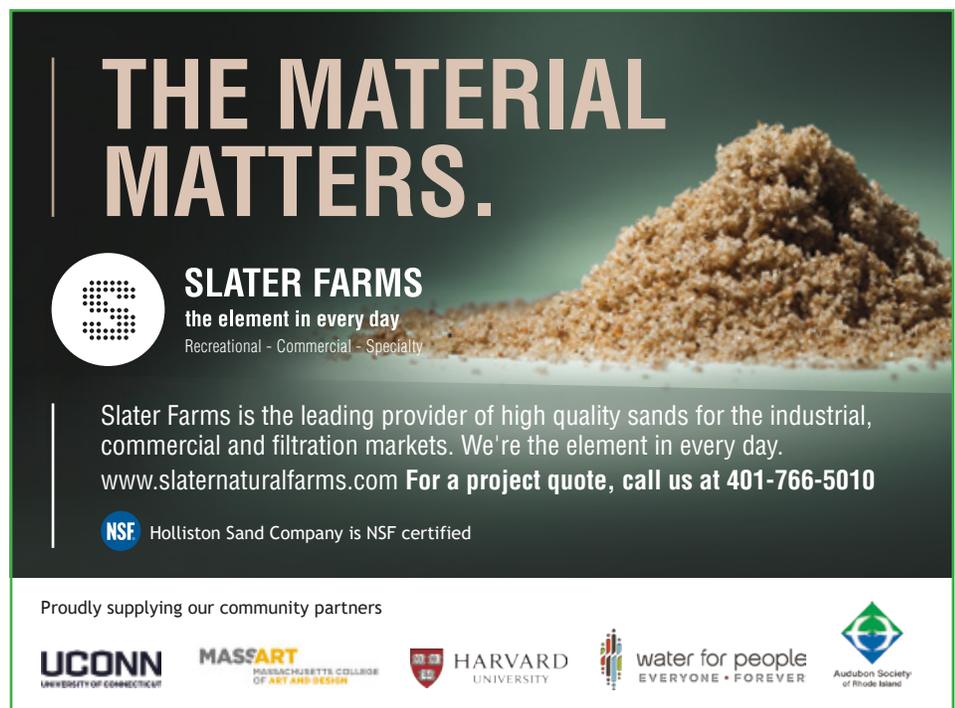
Affiliate Division:
Peter Jacobson

October 28, 2019 Newport Country Club Superintendent/Assistant Tournament

Superintendent/Assistant Division
1st Gross: **Dean Bozek and Josh Beland**
1st Net: **Matt Emond and Tom Hemingway**

Centennial Cup Winners for 2019

Tom Hoffer
Mike Whitehead



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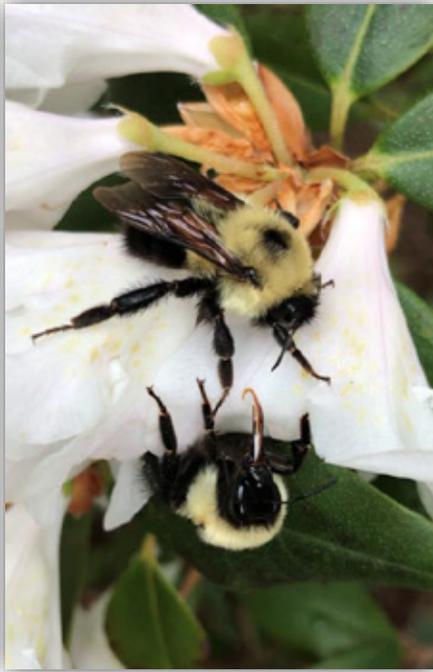
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Bumble Bee Survey

Understanding our wild bees



*Our ultimate goal is conservation.
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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
- 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



Photo Credit: www.bugguide.net

Questions?

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