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GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

Getting to know Manny 'Joe' Oliveira By Michelle Maltais



This month's superintendent profile is about a real down to earth genuine guy, that started in the industry at the age of 12. Joe told me that his father was Manny Senior, so he's gone by the name of Joe since he was knee high. "Sometimes in class the teacher would call me Manny- that usually meant I was in trouble." Joe, who happens to love the color green, grew up in Somerset, MA with his parents, 2 older sisters and older brother.

"I grew up across the street from Suspiro's Country Club. Joe Suspiro was the superintendent and Manny Raposa was his assistant. I had started playing golf around the age of 12 and knew most of the guys that worked there. One summer they asked me to help push plugs after they aerified greens and that was the start of my golf career. I worked at the country club for the next several years for Joe Suspiro and my dad eventually leased the course from Mr. Suspiro." A graduate of Somerset High School, Joe went on to take classes at Bristol Community College in Fall River. During the time that Joe's family leased the course from Joe Suspiro, Manny Raposa had moved to another club, Green Valley in Portsmouth RI, and this meant Joe would be running Suspiro's CC as the superintendent. In the late 1980's the Oliveira family found out the golf course was going to be sold for a housing development and Joe would once again seek employment with his original mentor, Manny Raposa, at Green Valley. "I had gone to see Manny Raposa for a job and found myself in a make shift interview with Gary

Sykes. I was hired on the spot under the recommendation of Manny Raposa. Gary Sykes would go on to see that Joe attended the winter school at UMass. "The year after I attended winter school, I came back as the assistant superintendent to Gary." Joe said. Joe would go on to work as the assistant for almost 10 years and when Gary left for the position with the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, Joe was promoted to superintendent. Joe credits a great amount of his professional knowledge and skills from those early years spent with Joe Suspiro, Manny Raposa, and Gary Sykes. "They really taught me a lot, and they were all great teachers and role models."

It's evident in the way Joe treats his staff that he learned things along the way that you just can't learn in turf school. Those early years of influence with his mentors taught Joe not only how to care for the golf course but the entire grounds staff. He fosters the feeling in which crew members are part of a work family. The staff will sit and enjoy meals together -you just don't see a lot of that anymore, it can't be learned in a book- it's a way of life. One of Joe's favorite moments of being a golf course superintendent is hosting golf meetings for the RIGCSA." I love to see and feel the camaraderie. Manny (Raposa) would be proud if he were still with us. He taught me that it's an honor to have all your friends come and play your course and enjoy themselves. I know Gary (Sykes) feels the same way too." As a superintendent, Joe really enjoys when people come to his golf course, play, and have fun.

When he's not on the golf course you can find Joe cheering for NASCAR or racing 1/32" slot cars (he collects slot cars). He also enjoys R.C. drones, R.C. airplanes, and R.C. boats (he collects Radio Control devices), playing guitar (he collects guitars), and playing piano (his wife is happy he doesn't collect pianos). He likes to travel in the U.S. and has been to Amsterdam, Mexico, and South America but his favorite trips have been his honeymoon in Hawaii and his trips to the Azores where he enjoys playing golf in the town of Furnas with his wife. His first car was a red Toyota Corolla hatchback, and his perfect meal would be seafood paella with an ice cold beer and something chocolate for dessert. Joe lives in Charlestown, RI with his wife Sandy, his black rescue lab mix Kima and Taz the cat.

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President's Message



Who does not want to be in the Ocean State in June? Great weather, great golf courses in peak condition and great golf. The CVS Charity Classic and the Northeast Amateur were both recently completed. Congratulations to Steve Thys and Mark Daniels for successful 2017 tournaments.

The golf season is in full swing and while we have had two heat waves and a wet spring, it has generally been a good growing season so far. Right now, we have day time temps in the high 70's and nights in the high 50's which I think we are all enjoying.

During this time of year, it can be hard to find a decent family/work balance. Don't forget to spend some time away from work for yourself and the people you care about. A great way to spend time with the family and away from work is our Family Day which took place in early June. Thanks to Jim and Danielle Ritorto for organizing and preparing all of the food for the day. This event is graciously hosted every year by Mulligan's Island.

Our joint meeting with the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association was held in May at Lake Of Isles. Another thank you goes out to Jim Ritorto for hosting this event and having the course in excellent condition. The June meeting took us to Aquidneck Island and Green Valley Country Club where Joe Oliveira had the course in perfect shape! Thanks Joe!

Be sure to pay attention to our meeting notifications of educational opportunities. Pat Hogan, our Government Relations and Education Director, is arranging great educational portions for many of our meetings. Please take a look at the upcoming meeting schedule and choose at least one meeting you will attend. Your presence will be a benefit to you as well as everyone else who attends.

Sincerely,
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RIGCSA President

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June Meeting - Green Valley Country Club





In my travels around the Northeast and throughout the country, I've noted that the status of the golf industry continues to be a hotbed topic of conversation. As an industry we are continually addressing issues related to the environment, player growth, agronomic practices, regulatory pressures and many others, but we have always been united in our support of outreach and education. Our commitment is evident in countless community and national programs, and strengthened immeasurably by the involvement of every golf professional, facility and allied organization.

The success of the 2017 National Golf Day exemplifies the value of collaboration within our industry and the progress that can be achieved by working together. While this massive undertaking every year encompasses all the allied groups we are most familiar with: CMAA, GCSAA, NCGOA, PGA TOUR, The PGA of America, USGA, U.S Golf Manufacturers Council and the World Golf Foundation, it is important to understand that they are not the only ones benefitting or advocating for our game and turfgrass management.

Below is a small collection of initiatives that too often fly under the radar but with further support, could be even more amazing and beneficial to all of us who love the game.

Wee One Foundation

The Wee One Foundation was founded in 2004, when friends of Wayne Otto, CGCS, banded together to financially assist him in his battle with cancer. Wayne was a pioneer in the turf industry, always searching for new and better ways to produce a finer playing surface. As Wayne learned more about his disease, he applied those same pioneering principles to overcome his illness.

Through the perseverance and hard work of several of Wayne's friends, a mission was developed to help those in need. Founded on the principle of assisting golf course management professionals (or their dependents) who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship or who are without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources, the Foundation has evolved into a cause that goes way beyond its initial reason for existence.

Since its inception, the Wee One Foundation has gifted over \$1,000,000 to those in need. The Foundation raises money through its membership, golf outings and sponsorships. If you need help or know someone who does, visit the Foundation website at www.weeone.org

The First Green

The First Green is an innovative environmental education outreach program that uses golf courses as environmental learning labs. The program has extensive resources for golf course superintendents, including online lesson plans, and facilitates connections between golf courses and local schools and science/horticulture teachers.

Golf superintendents, course staff and/or local industry representatives (such as regional associations and members) host students on field trips, where they test water quality, collect soil samples, identify plants, preserve wildlife habitats, assist in stream-bed restoration and learn about the ecology, conservation and environmental aspects of golf courses. The kids also visit the practice green or hit balls at the driving range – giving them their first taste of the game.

First Green has been providing STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning labs since 1997. To learn more about The First Green, or to read about a 2013 field trip, visit The First Green (www.thefirstgreen.org) or the Connecticut Clippings newsletter (www.cagcs.com/pdf/ctclippings_june13.pdf).

Project EverGreen

Project EverGreen is a national non-profit organization committed to creating a greener, cooler earth by supporting the creation, renovation and revitalization of managed recreational and athletic green spaces that result in healthier, happier people. Initiatives include GreenCare for Troops, SnowCare for Troops and "Healthy Turf. Healthy Kids."

Project EverGreen's GreenCare for Troops and SnowCare for Troops programs provide complimentary lawn and landscape services, and snow and ice removal services for the families of currently deployed military personnel, as well as post 9/11 disabled veterans with a service-connected disability.

Studies confirm there is significant value in having children spend time outdoors playing, and Project EverGreen's "Healthy Turf. Healthy Kids." has its sights set on restoring and revitalizing green spaces, including sports fields and parks, for children to play, exercise and connect. To learn more about Project EverGreen and how you can participate, visit www.projectevergreen.org.

The Grass Roots Initiative

The U.S. National Arboretum's Grass Roots Initiative is a four-year, in-depth look at the science behind this familiar, but often misunderstood, landscape plant.

The exhibit opened in October 2014 with 12 interactive displays, and two more were added the following year. Each section provides information about the uses of turfgrass, its importance to modern society, its history and best management practices for maintenance. Among the displays are a compact golf hole, sports fields, lawn areas with swards of six warm-season and four cool-season turfgrass species, more than 30 different ornamental grass species, and a rain garden showing the ability of grass to absorb water and nutrients. To learn more about the National Arboretum's turf display, visit www.usna.usda.gov/Education/turfgrass.

Please understand that this is not a plea to support each of the above initiatives. In some form or fashion, GCSAA already has a relationship with these groups, so you as members do too! This information is offered simply to keep you informed of the resources available to you and benefitting you.

Should you need help as you get started growing the game by hosting a local school, or working to benefit a local service member, just understand you are not alone. There are resources and people ready, able and quite willing to assist you in achieving your goal. Now you know who and how to ask!

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

GCSAA welcomes Bayer Environmental Science as presenting sponsor for Can Am Cup golf event

Bayer Environmental Science will be the presenting sponsor of the Can Am Cup, the upcoming Canada versus United States golf competition between golf course superintendents. The point-quota competition will be held in New Jersey, Oct. 22-24, at two championship golf clubs: Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield and Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit. Registration will open online at 1 p.m. (Eastern), June 20, for members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA). Look for more information at www.thecanamcup.com. Space is limited and will be capped at 240 players. The participants, who will be paired according to USGA or Golf Canada official handicaps, will enjoy two rounds of golf and have the opportunity to earn education points.

GCSAA Investigating Political Action Committee

GCSAA is exploring the launch of a political action committee in the fall of 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 the general membership on a GCSAA PAC. More information, and to view videos follow this link. BE SURE TO PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK!

GCSAA partners with Columbia Sportswear for member discounts

GCSAA and Columbia Sportswear Company, an industry leader for outdoor apparel and products, have joined in a partnership to bring savings to association members and their facilities. Columbia is offering a 50 percent discount to GCSAA members on outdoor wear purchases. [Read more](#)

2018 Dog Days of Golf Calendar

Submissions for the 2018 Dog Days of Golf Calendar will be accepted through Aug. 1, 2017. 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.

Plan now to stop by the LebanonTurf booth at the Golf Industry Show in February to place your vote for the 2018 Dog of the Year. The winner's owner will receive a \$500 prize and \$3,000 for his or her GCSAA-affiliated chapter. A \$2,000 charitable donation will also be made by GCSAA and LebanonTurf in honor of the winner. <http://www.gcsaa.org/dog-calendar/submit-dog-calendar-photo>

Upcoming FREE webcasts:

July 6: Impacting Agronomic Practices on a Daily Basis from Your Shop – equipment management series
Ed Nangle, Ph.D.

Aug. 3: How Turf Fans Impact Putting Green Health
David McCall, Ph.D.

Sept. 12: First Green & Equipment Managers: Growing the Game – equipment management series
Karen Armstead, Ph.D. and Cathy Relyea

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

Kevin Doyle
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Update from the Legislative/Public Relations Side By Pat Hogan



Some of our members need to justify to their clubs the reason to attend meetings. The board is trying to make our meetings more than just golf and networking. We are trying to bring in speakers that have a relevant topic for that time of year.

In March before all the rains came, drought issues were a concern. We brought in Nicole Belk, from NOAA, who puts together the drought status reports for the National Weather Service. These reports are then sent to the RI

Water Resources manager to post. Nicole spoke at Hillside Country Club.

We had Glenn Field from NOAA speaking at the June meeting. His topic was on lightning safety.

We will have a representative from the RI Health Department come speak about sun exposure and skin cancer for our joint meeting in July.

An invitation to Lt. Governor Dan McKee to speak has been extended for our September meeting at Kirkbrae Country Club.

In May, I attended Ag Day representing the RIGCSA. I had the opportunity to speak to several legislators and the Lt. Governor. I talked to them about the Green Golf Certification program. I told them that GCSAA would like all 50

states to have a BMP in place by 2020. I explained that RIGCSA had a BMP program in place since 2010. All were very happy to hear that RIGCSA was leading the way.

At the May meeting, the board threw out the challenge to all RIGCSA member clubs to make our participation in the Green Golf Certification Program 100% by 2020. Right now about 40% of the clubs have participated.

Jim Ritorto and I will be on a regional committee to help get a BMP for all New England states. We have sent Ann Battersby from RI DEM, the GCSAA BMP template. She is the contact person for the Green Golf Certification Program. The RI program will probably have to be tweaked a little to bring it in line with what GCSAA is looking for.

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Recent Advancements in Irrigation Technology

By: Tom Hoffer, Irrigation Service Manager, Northeast Golf & Turf Supply

One of the exciting things about our industry is the advancement of new technologies, whether its maintenance equipment, fungicides, insecticides, or fertilizers, these new products help Superintendents by giving them more options to choose from in their maintenance practices.

New technology in irrigation is especially exciting, due in no small part to the recent advancements in computers and smart phones. Desktops, laptops, and smart phones keep getting smaller and more compact, but get smarter, faster, and more durable with each new generation that comes out. The iPhone you hold in your hand now has more memory and computing speed than the popular Apple iMac desktop from the year 2000.

Software has also made huge advancements in the past few years, Windows 7 and 10 have been almost bullet proof in their operation and reliability. Gone are the days of the dreaded blue screen in Windows 98 and 2000 after those software programs crashed in the middle of the night during your overnight irrigation cycle.

Most golf course irrigation systems that have a central computer can now also be operated remotely via smart phone or lap-

top. This technology allows the operator to turn heads on/off, make changes to overnight programs, check system status, or troubleshoot all from your mobile or smart device.

Due to the advancements in central performance and reliability and mobile operation, two-wire or decoder systems have gained in popularity over the past five to ten years. Decoder systems have been around since the late 1970s, but have always lacked in popularity to satellite systems. This was due to the poor performance of centrals and the preference of Superintendents to have the backup capabilities of field satellites. Recent market trends in the industry show that 80% of new systems being designed by irrigation consultants are two-wire systems. Compare that to five years ago when only 20% of new systems were being designed two-wire.

Where do we go from here? The integration of sensors, weather stations and drones into your irrigation system are all either currently possible or coming very soon. The ability to measure flow or monitor moisture, temperature or salinity via smart rotors is also very possible. With each new generation of computer and smart phone, new doors are unlocked and this trickles down to the golf course irrigation world.



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RIGCSA Member News

Welcome New Members:

Mark Cunningham,
Affiliate, New England Golf Cars

Charles Cross,
Assistant Superintendent, Silver Spring Golf Course

Congratulations to **Stephen Tibbels, CGCS** GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at Acushnet River Valley Golf Course who has recently completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Congratulations to **Roger Turcotte** who received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the RIGCSA at the June meeting. Pictured below: Roger Turcotte and his wife Valerie



Tournament Results:



May 23, 2017–Lake of Isles
Joint meeting with GCSANE

Format: Team 2 RI with 2 NE members in a best two of four ball tournament

1st Gross: Jason Dowgiewicz, Mike Ferrara, Matt Lapinski, Ron Dobosz

1st Net: Nick Burchard, Andrew Cummins, Scott McLeod, Kevin Doyle

2nd Net: David Mihailides, Dan St. Laurent, Jason Adams, Melissa Gugliotti



June 20, 2017 Green Valley Country Club
Member/Member Tournament

Low Gross: Tom Hoffer, Dan St. Laurent 74

Low Net: Richard Lombardi, Mark Richard 67

2nd Net: Joe Oliveira, Mike Kroian 68 / Jamie Codega, Jeff Francis 68

Closest to the pin #12 Mike Cornicelli

Closest to the pin #5 John LeClair

RIGCSA July Meeting Announcement

RHO–COD CUP
(Joint Meeting with the GCSACC)

Monday, July 17, 2017
Allendale Country Club

Host: Dan McDermott

11:00 am: Registration
12:00 pm: Business Meetings; Speaker: Kelly Smith, RI Dept. of Health to discuss skin cancer risks and sun protection

1:00 pm: Shotgun Start with box lunch
Buffet dinner and prizes following golf (approx. 6:00 pm)

Format: 2 RI vs. 2 Cape play off low handicap of group. If teams are uneven, we will even them up by switching players who are members of both associations. Also the format will be 2 man best ball for prizes, gross and net.

RIGCSA Member News

****Please register with your twosome (if you have one), handicap and specify if you are playing for Rhode Island or Cape Cod. ** Please bring USGA GHIN card.**

Cost: \$90 for day; Retired Members: \$35 for day; Lunch Only; \$10 Dinner Only: \$40
Checks payable to "RIGCSA"
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Register online at www.rigcsa.org and click on "Events"

Save the date:

RIGCSA Scholarship and Research Tournament will be held on October 3, 2017 at Carnegie Abbey Club with Dean Chase as our host for the day

Industry Event:

The 2017 UMass Turf Research Field Day

Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Location: UMass Joseph Troll Turf Research Center, South Deerfield, MA

For complete program information, research presentation topics and attendee and exhibitor registration, visit ag.umass.edu/events/fieldday17

Questions: E-mail fieldday@umassturf.org, call Jason Lanier at 413-545-2965 or Mary Owen at 508-892-0382.

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