

# RHODE ISLAND SURF 'n' TURF

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



## 2019 NERTF Show: Moving Forward

Since 1998, the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show events have opened on Monday's and have concluded on Thursday's. When things first began, we thought a 4-day program was just what the industry was excited for. 15 years later, communications suggested we could service the industry better by shortening our show schedule. So, we did. In 2016, we decided to compress the schedule by starting at 1pm on Monday, and then end a little earlier on Thursday, which we hoped would make it easier for individuals to come on Monday afternoon and stay till Thursday. This was met favorably but it wasn't long before we heard some of the same concerns and that we should have gone further. Education has always been our highest priority and what we believe that separates us from other shows. To balance in-depth education, enough trade show hours and enjoyable social activities is a challenge. As we listened to comments and concerns, just three years later, we are informing everyone that it is time to go a little further and do a little more refining of our conference and show.

Below are the highlights of changes to our 2019 show schedule March 5-7, 2019:

- First, there will be no show activities on Monday, March 4.
- In 2019, all 2 & 4 hr. seminars will be held on Tuesday, March 5 starting at 8am and ending at 5pm. There is no other planned education scheduled on Tuesday.
- Exhibitor Move-In will begin early Tuesday Morning.
- The 2019 trade show will open at 10am on Wednesday, March 6 and close at 5pm.
- Staggered Education Sessions will begin at 8am and 9am on Wednesday, and again at 1pm & 2pm in the afternoon.
- The show auction will begin at 3pm and end at 4pm on Wednesday.
- Thursday's Education Sessions will begin at 8am
- The Thursday Trade Show will open at 9am and will close at 2pm
- There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> education session on Thursday at 2pm in the afternoon.
- Education hours, trade show hours, credits and social opportunities should still remain the same even with a shortened schedule.

Our goal continues to insure the same quality filled event for the future to attract any and all turfgrass managers and their crews. Today's reality is that with the incorporation of computers, cell phones and texting we are never inaccessible. Fast-paced lives include many responsibilities that are important to your success. Having more than a three-day and two-night event doesn't fit the schedule for many as easily as it may have in the past. We are confident that through this compacted schedule attendees will receive all the value they have received in the past. As has been stated in the past, this show is your show. Your comments and feelings are important to us in deciding the future of "your" show. Bottomline: We are making these changes because we heard your concerns. We appreciate all your support over the last 22 years. Please stay tuned as we work at processing all these changes and add in all the variables to make the best "Show on Turf" even better!

New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, Inc.

# RIGCSA

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## President's Message

Dear Members,

June is over and we are heading into my favorite time of year; I know some disagree. Since the last letter we have had two meetings: one at Alpine and one at Pawtucket Country Club. Both had great weather and great golf courses, thanks to Scott Gabrielson and Mike Whitehead.

I would like to thank Dean Chase for his many years of service on the board; it has been a pleasure to serve and spend some quality time with Dean. I would also like to thank Mike Verkonyi for filling in on short notice. I only had to make one phone call, which was much appreciated.

Many thanks go out to Jim Ritorto, Mike Carignan and Tom Hoffer for organizing family day. I couldn't attend, but I heard that there was a great turnout and it was an enjoyable day for all.

The golf schedule looks great and I hope everyone attends as many meetings as they can. Participation in these meetings benefits you and is essential to the health and longevity of the association. I know everyone is busy this time of year, but don't forget to save some time for family and friends. It is important to have some balance.

Thank you  
Chris Coen  
RIGCSA President

*Tom Irwin*

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Greg Misodoulakis | 508-243-6166 | greg@tomirwin.com

# RIGSCA Family Day – June 3, 2018

## Mulligan's Island Golf & Entertainment Center



## RIGCSA May Meeting 2018 – May 7, 2018 Alpine Country Club

The RIGCSA awarded the Distinguished Service Award for 2018 to David Wallace. Dr. W. Michael Sullivan introduced and presented Dave with his award. Jerry Noons was also a 2018 DSA recipient who was honored at the March meeting. The RIGCSA also recognized Al LaPrise as a 50 year active member of the RIGCSA.



From L-R: Dave Wallace and Dr. W. Michael Sullivan



From L-R: Dave Wallace, Vickie Wallace and Vinnie Iacono



From L-R: Chris Coen and Al LaPrise



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**G**olf courses are often misunderstood, tagged as hazards to the environment. Much effort is put into setting the record straight. One way to differentiate higher standards is through specifically designed environmental programs. Before GCSAA's 50 by 2020 best management practices initiative,

some state and local programs were already in place. One such comprehensive program developed in conjunction with Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is the Rhode Island Golf Course Green Certification, a collaboration with the Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association (RIGCSA).

In 2010 the RIGCSA, led by then president John LeClair, CGCS, worked hard to develop the voluntary point-based program and have touted the benefits ever since. With a score of 300 points need to achieve certification, and a further 350 points required to recertify, these totals are indeed lofty goals. More than simply turf, this program looks to touch all aspects of the golf facility and you are rewarded with points for practices or changes that are positive for the environment. As always, the benefits of environmental programs come from the resulting data, and I recently learned that the data does indeed impress!

GCSAA class AFC member Pat Hogan, government relations director for the RIGCSA, updated the group at a recent chapter meeting on RI DEM data. Ann Battersby, Senior Environmental Scientist at the DEM, compiled information from seven golf courses recently recertifying through the Golf Course Green Certification program. Here are some of the highlights:

- Pesticide reduction: 32 pounds
- Fertilizer reduction: 98,690 pounds
- Water reduction: 243.8 million gallons

Hogan's employer, Sodco, is also a noted environmental business earning Sustainable Turf Farm Certification designation. Sodco's recertification numbers are stunning as well:

- Pesticide reduction: 61 gallons
- Fertilizer reduction: 103,455 pounds
- Water reduction: 129.2 million gallons

As of February 2018, 13 courses in Rhode Island are Golf Course Green Certified:

Point Judith CC	Agawam Hunt Club
Potowomut GC	Pawtucket CC
Weekapaug GC	Newport CC
Button Hole GC	Shelter Harbor GC
Goddard Memorial Park GC	Alpine CC
Rhode Island CC	Sakonnet GC
Wannamoissett CC	

Whether by using your current or future BMPs, state sponsored programs (as RI has done), or utilizing lake/river friendly opportunities, the intrinsic or perceived value of environmental programs and their recognition is real. When voluntary efforts large or small can result in differences as noted above, it continues to prove the stewardship of our industry. Kudos to the seven recertified Rhode Island Golf Course Green Certification on their accomplishments and I look forward to the data 13 courses can develop in the future! Want to learn more about the program? [Check out the Rhode Island Golf Course Green Certification workbook link here.](#)

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

### Class A toolkit

Tools you can use to promote your Class A membership

Use this toolkit to share your great achievement with employers, golfers, and community members. You can share the news about your Class A status in a variety of ways.

#### Letter to your employer

GCSAA will send congratulatory letters to up to three employers announcing your Class A status. The personalized announcement will be mailed to the contacts and addresses provided and copies of each correspondence will be sent to you via mail.

#### Class A Member certificate

Display your achievement with a Class A member certificate. Complete this request form to receive your certificate in the mail, and please provide your name as you would like it to appear on the certificate.

#### Class A member logo

Use the GCSAA Class A member logo on business cards, stationery, websites or other items.

#### News release

Create a personalized press release to share your Class A member status. To develop a press release, complete the news release form, either for new Class A members or renewed Class A members. The information provided will automatically pre-populate into a personalized press release that you can distribute to various media outlets.

#### Newsletter article

Highlight your achievement in your facility's newsletter. Two versions of the special Class A newsletter article are available for use, either as a PDF or Word version.

## Did you miss these FREE Labor-related webcasts:

OSHA 101 Matthew Linton

I-9 Compliance and Worksite Enforcement in 2018 Christopher Thomas

Kevin Doyle  
GCSAA Field Staff  
kdoyle@gcsaa.org

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## Wireless Valve Control using your Existing Irrigation Controllers

By Matt Faherty, Winterberry Irrigation

How many times have you heard?

“I just took over this job and I need to repair or add some irrigation control valves (valve-in-head) sprinklers, and I do not know where any of the existing wires / infrastructure”

or

“If I could get a wire or wires to an area on the course, I could vastly improve the conditions”.

If you are considering any of the following projects “Wireless Control” would be a viable option:

- Adding sprinklers or electric valves
- Renovation of small areas
- Wireless moisture sensors
- Repairing valve wire that was damaged over the years
- Adding control to your Green fans
- Controlling water features such as aerators, circulators
- Controlling booster pumps
- Needing to control lighted features, etc.

We have seen many of the projects listed above were rejected not because of the material cost but the labor cost. These projects would need construction/destruction that Board of Directors and members, and golfers do not like to see, especially during the golfing season.

The advertisement features a central white golf ball on a green grass background. The text 'Winterberry' is in the top left corner. The main title 'Wireless Control Solutions' is at the top. A list of applications is centered on the ball: Valves, Soil Moisture Probes, Green Fan, Lighting, Flow, Pond Aerators, and Wireless Pump Start. Small images of a valve, a fan, a light, and a pump are placed around the ball. At the bottom, it says 'Unique, Cost Effective, Reliable' and provides the website 'www.WinterberryIrrigation.com' and phone number 'or 1.800.722.7348'.



Save the Date: September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
 The 14th Annual Dr. Joseph Troll  
 Turf Classic  
 Winged Foot Golf Club,  
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*The very name "Winged Foot" has a sort of magic for those who know the club from afar. To them it stands for competitive golf at its highest level -- a place where history was made by Bobby Jones... and others. But for those who know Winged Foot intimately, it is much more fun and meaningful than a place of big occasions. It is a steady heartbeat of golfing pleasure and sportsmanship, where the game is the thing and where many great matches and tall tales have been spun. Winged Foot is, in sum, a temple to the spirit of golf."*

--Joseph C. Dey

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# 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).



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# RIGCSA Member News

## Welcome New Members:

**Kevin Crawford**, Affiliate, Agresource

Our condolences go out to the family of **Dr. Noel Jackson**, URI Professor Emeritus, who has passed away on May 29, 2018. He was well known by many of our members as a friend and mentor and will be greatly missed.

Our condolences are extended to the Amorin family on the passing of **Paul Amorin**, sales representative for New England Golf Cars. Paul passed away at the age of 57 on June 3, 2018 after a long, courageous battle with cancer.

We would like to thank you **Dean Chase** for his years of service on the RIGCSA Board of Directors and welcome back **Mike Varkonyi** as Treasurer of the RIGCSA.

Thank you to all that helped with RIGCSA Family Day this year including **Mike Carignan, Tom Hoffer, Jim Ritorto, Danielle Ritorto, Michael Friedman, John Godet** and the entire staff at Mulligan's Island. Also, thank you to **Brian Giblin** of Bayer for helping to sponsor this event.

We are looking for photos of our member's courses for the website. If you would like to have your photo on the website, please email them to Julie at [jheston@verizon.net](mailto:jheston@verizon.net). Also, if you are hosting an event this year, please forward a photo of your course to Julie.

## Reminder:

All members can obtain a USGA GHIN number through the RIGCSA. There is no fee for this.

New this year: If you have a GHIN number through the RIGCSA you are eligible to play in RIGA events. You would have to join the RIGA membership program which can be paid online. Everyone who plays in RIGA events has to pay the \$25 RIGA membership fee annually. Please contact Julie Heston if you are interested or for more information.

## Meeting Calendar:

**Tuesday, August 21**

Reservation Golf Club (Stress Buster Day)

**Wednesday, September 12**

Meadow Brook (Championship-NE Champs Qualifier)

**Monday, October 1**

Warwick Country Club (S&R Tournament)

**Monday, October 22**

Newport Country Club (Supt./Asst. Tournament with other division)

**Tuesday, November 6**

Louisquisset Golf Club

## Tournament Results

**May 7, 2018**

**Alpine Country Club**

**Memorial Tournament-4 man team; 2 best ball**

1st Place:

John Lombardi, Mike Varkonyi, Mike Iacono, Vin Iacono

**June 12, 2018**

**Pawtucket Country Club**

**Member/Member Tournament**

Low Gross: Tom Hoffer & Dan St. Laurent 69

Low Net: Matt Lapinski & Dave Wallace 63

2nd Gross: Chris Bengtson & Gary Sykes 72

2nd Net: Mike Whitehead & Chris Coen 63

Closest to the Pin #7 Matt Lapinski

Closest to the Pin #15 Jeff Tibbetts

## Save the date – October 5-6, 2018

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