



The Sand Blaster



VOL. XXVI, ISSUE IV

JULY/AUGUST 2019

DEDICATED TO MANAGING GOLF COURSES ... from the ground up

GCSACC Government Relations Updates

Cape Cod Commission Annual Conference

The Cape Cod Commission sponsored the Cape One Conference. It was sold out. Many State and Town Officials, environmentalists and vendors were present for the two day event.

The Captains Courses were credited for reducing fertilizer use in the Pleasant Bay watershed.

Bass River Golf Course was thanked for their help with percolation studies to determine how much treated effluent could be put there from the proposed Harwich-Dennis-Yarmouth treatment plant.

John Idman, the Commission Lawyer who worked on fertilizer regulations was pleased that our organization was writing our own Best Management Practices proactively.

We should all be proud that golf is still doing its part with environmental solutions that are needed for Cape Cod.

Ed Nash

GCSACC Government Relations Committee

Falcon GC, which is located on Joint Base Cape Cod, reached out to our association for assistance after deciding to reorganize their entire golf course operation early this summer. As many of you saw they have posted three openings with GCSACC. Additionally, there has been an outreach by members Stu Eyman, Joe Deely, Steve Carr, Parish Pina and Al Comeau to assist the three Coast Guard personnel filling in during the hiring process. If anyone would like more information on this situation contact me: Rick Lawlor, CGCS retired, rickstang302@yahoo.com.

The Town of Barnstable has decided to go "organic" with their golf course maintenance operations as of July 1, 2019. The GCSACC has been in touch with Bruce McIntyre, Director of Golf Course Operations, and offered to help in any way possible. Beyond talking regularly, no help has been accepted. Bruce did say that the completed GCSACC Economic Impact Study and state BMP's that are in process would be extremely beneficial to have in hand when it is necessary for a course to discuss this type of situation with the town in which you operate.

The steering committee for the Mass Golf BMP has scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 10:00. GCSACC members Charlie Passios, CGCS, Peter Ervin and I represent our association. The Agenda is to officially reconvene and commit to getting this important document finished. Anyone who is interested in helping can contact me.

Rick Lawlor, CGCS (Retired)

GCSACC Government Relations Committee

Email: rickstang302@yahoo.com

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EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Sand Blaster* is produced bi-monthly as an informational service to its members. Printed material does not suggest the views, attitudes or recommended practices of GCSACC, the board members or its associated committees. Industry-related articles are always welcome to be considered for publication. Articles, as well as address and/or position changes, may be sent to Julie Heston at 401-934-9901 (fax) or jheston@verizon.net.



President's Message

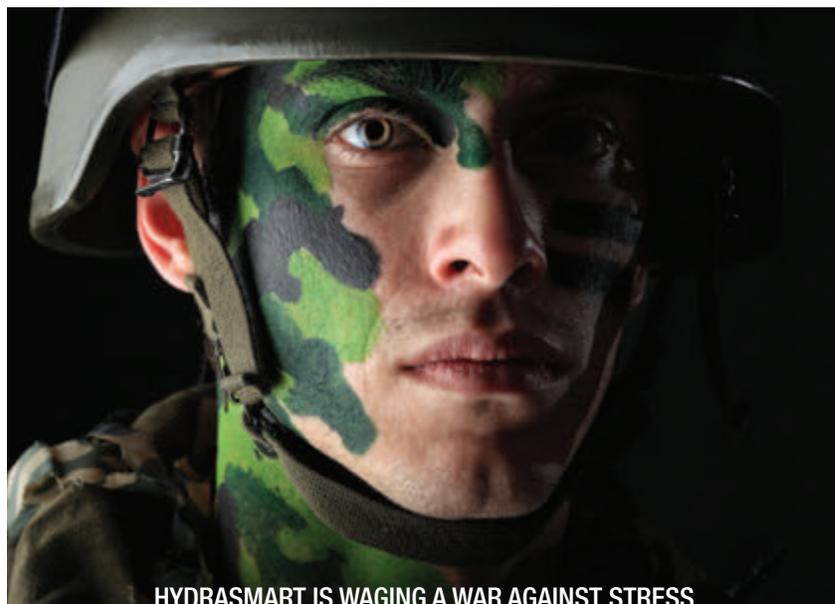
It's the time of year when all my mistakes and poorly timed applications show up to remind me that managing cool season grasses in July and August is not easy! However we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel!



We had a great *Free-B-Que* hosted by the Stearns family at Southers Marsh this month. The course was in great shape and the food was good as always. Thanks again Will for your hospitality! We have our September meeting and New England Qualifier coming up at Bayberry Hills hosted by Scott Gilmore and Josh Lyon on 9/4. Our championship tournament will be 10/17 at Pinehills hosted by Joe Felicetti.

Lots of great golfing weather coming up, and we hope to see more of our members at these great venues.

David Stott



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“INSIDE THE LEATHER”

Congratulations to Jim Skorulski who recently retired from the USGA after serving as the Northeast Agronomist since 1989. Thank you to Jim for all his expertise and assistance over the years.

Congratulations to John LeClair, CGCS GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at Poquoy Brook Golf Club 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 Matt Cornuet, Assistant Superintendent at Pinehills Golf Club, who qualified and competed in the The Mass. Public Links Championship at Bayberry Hills Golf Course in August. Matt shot a 71 the first day with a two hour rain delay. After two inches of rain Scott Gilmore, Josh Lyon and their crew cleaned everything up and had the course back in great shape. Matt then shot 74 on the second day to finish 4th.

Our condolences are extended to Brian and Karen Giblin and family on the passing of Karen’s mother on July 17, 2019.

The GCSACC September 4th meeting is the New England Superintendents Championship Qualifier. There are 8 slots available which will consist of 2 from our affiliate membership and 6 from our superintendent/assistant membership. Each year one of the New England Superintendent chapters hosts a special tournament for all 7 New England chapters to compete. This year the Maine GCSA is hosting this event on October 10 at Boothbay Harbor Country Club. Registration starts at 10:00 am with access to the driving range, Lunch and pre-tournament announcements at 11:30 am and Shotgun Start at 12:00 pm. Dinner and awards will follow golf at 5:00 pm.

If you or your club/company has been recognized or awarded a distinction, please send us an email at jheston@verizon.net or seyman55@ymail.com. We will mention it in an upcoming edition of *The Sand Blaster*.

Here are a few photos of the 140 and counting trees that were damaged in the recent tornado that hit Harwich in July.

Bob Kingsbury, Superintendent, Harwich Port Golf Club



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University of Massachusetts Turf Field Day 2019

By Stuart Eyman

The UMass Field Day was held July 17 at the South Deerfield Research Facility with a very good crowd attending in spite of the heat. After opening remarks, from UMass Extension Specialist Mary Owen attendees were sent off to the featured research plots to listen to the various researchers talk about them.

Topics covered turf insect monitoring and scouting by Dr. Olga Kostromytska, new Entomology professor at UMass, the field efficacy of SDHI active ingredients on multiple SDHI resistant field isolates of *Scelrotinia homoeocarpa* by Dr Jung. Mr. Randall Prostack showed how well various pre-emergent grassy weed control products worked. Other topics included drought research on various cultivars of ryegrass, bluegrass, and tall fescue, new products for the selective and nonselective control of weeds in turf, and the effect of turf rolling to control fairway dollar spot. The day concluded with an excellent cookout lunch.



*Photo Credit:
Stuart Eyman, CGCS*

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August 12, 2019

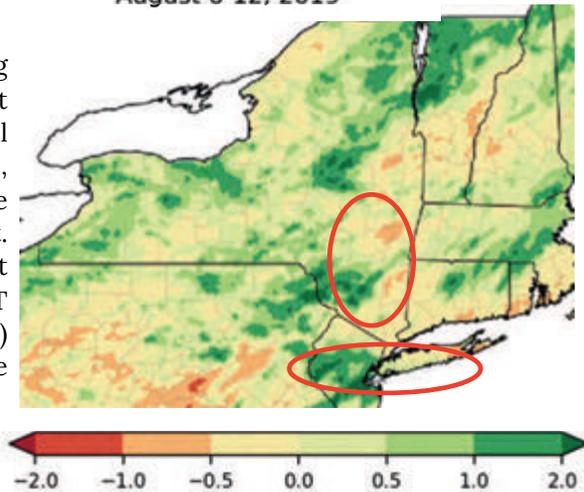
Volume 20:10

Gazing in the Grass

Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D.

To date the growing season has remained within week of the 30 year average for growing degree days (GDD), suggesting that temperatures have been at or close to normal for much of the season. The last few weeks, except for a short-lived high temperature stretch at the end of July, have been pleasant. Moisture on other hand remains complicated at the extremes. A quick look at our FORECAST maps for Precipitation minus ET (inset image) demonstrates the extreme dry areas East of the Hudson River where a 4"+ difference in moisture exists within 30 miles. The same is true for the NY Metropolitan area where it seems the majority of precipitin is falling on our colleague over at Rutgers!

Precipitation Minus PET (inches)
August 6-12, 2019



These moisture extremes create diverse challenges for maintaining natural grass in poor soils, high levels of surface organic matter that restricts drainage causing roots to boil or become hydrophobic if allowed to dry down too far, and of course safe playing surfaces for our returning student athletes at all levels are more challenging with too much or too little moisture. These conditions highlight drainage issues when wet and irrigation delivery system issues when dry.

The one aspect of this growing season that continues to persist at very high levels is foliar disease pressure, especially in NY Metro area and south. The season began with persistent *Microdochium* Patch then as temperatures increased, widespread high levels of red thread in landscape, sports and golf turf. Starting in late June, and since July 2nd (about 45 days), 55 percent of the days have had high risk of conditions favorable for dollar spot infection, 45 percent for Brown Patch, very low risk of Pythium blight, but amazing Foliar Anthracnose Risk 85 percent of the days since July 2 have been high risk.

About 20 percent of the days in the NY Metro area have been conditions of high heat stress. This is likely why severe Pythium blight outbreaks have not been widespread. However that is expected to change in the next few days as temperature and moisture levels will increase and create high heat stress and high risk for Brown Patch all the way north into the Adirondack region and persist for several days. Be mindful of brown patch susceptible grasses.

High foliar disease pressure is creating a new challenge for lawn, sports and golf turf managers—Gray Leaf Spot. The disease is present and currently on display during the Rutgers Fine Turf Field Day waiting for conditions to become favorable. It appears that even resistant varieties from a few years ago are no longer resistant. Preventative fungicide use might be required on high value ryegrass and tall fescue.

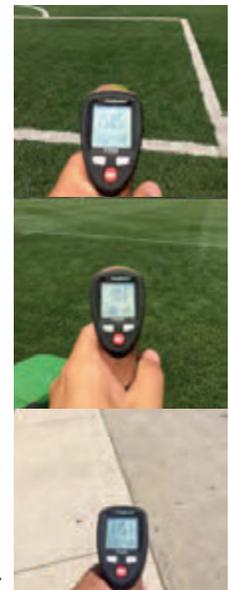
Also, if planning any aggressive ryegrass overseeding in the next few weeks, be sure to select the most GLS resistant seed available (there are many new choices on the market today).

From a distance, initial gray leaf spot outbreaks resemble drought stress. Affected turf often assumes a blue-gray cast and is noticeably thinned by dead and decaying leaf blades. Close inspection reveals blighted leaves, some with distinct lesions. Because the epidemic progresses so rapidly, the leaf spot symptom may be short-lived. When leaf spots are apparent, they may be confused with symptoms caused by the other leaf spot diseases, therefore, accurate identification is critical. The importance of obtaining an accurate identification as soon as possible cannot be over emphasized. The disease spreads so fast and control is so expensive that a delay in identification can be very costly. From a maintenance perspective managing leaf wetness is an effective means for minimizing gray leaf spot in all hosts. Schedule irrigation early in the morning, before sunrise, and never in the late afternoon or evening. Prune or remove trees, shrubs, or other barriers to increase air movement and sunlight penetration.

Consider preventative fungicides labelled for control such as Heritage, Compass, Insignia, Daconil, thiophanate-methyl. On established stands avoid quick release nitrogen sources at this time to ryegrass, avoid prograss or dimension herbicides, increase mowing heights and remove clippings. Many fungicides offer excellent control and unless there is a history of infection then stick to curative control. Best options are strobilurin (QoI) fungicides such as Heritage, Compass, Insignia and Disarm. Resistance has been found with the QoI fungicides and if that is the case then go with 1 oz rate of Banner or Bayleton tank mixed with Daconil and then possibly a follow-up with curative QoI products to reduce the expression of resistance.

Synthetic Turf in Heat.

Several images have been circulated on Twitter showing a handheld infra-red thermometer that reveal the disparity among pavement, natural turf and synthetic infilled turf on an 85 F clear day. The pavement is 115F, the natural turf 98F and the synthetic turf at 158F. Of course this is the kind of information turf managers should be providing the users of the turf, recognizing there are not many options. This recent observation supports much of the research that has been conducted on surface heating. Mitigating these temperatures is not easy nor is it long lasting. Some have suggested a new type of infill “cool fill” as it is often referred to reduce surface heating. Others recommend irrigating the surface to reduce temperatures. The Penn State Center for Sports Surface Research has been evaluating these issues over the last several years and has concluded that there are different infill materials that do heat less but for practical purposes still warm above 135F as compared to 145F without the cool fill. Second, irrigating synthetic turf for cooling provides an immediate and short-lived benefit that mitigates the surface temperature for 15-30 minutes before it returns to its pre-wet state. It is best to offer athletes natural turf in the current warm weather conditions as there remains no solid solution for high heat stress conditions created on synthetic turf fields. **▲**



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Let's Talk New England Turf Research



The New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation has been funding research now more than 20 years with more than \$2.5 Million in funds spent as of 2019. Currently, the foundation has 8 projects being funded for 2019 that amount to \$135,131.00. Since the start of this initiative, 86 projects have been funded by the foundation. Some are multi-year projects, and some are just for a one-year

duration. Even though we are extremely proud of these numbers, it is by no means all the research that is ongoing at local universities. By making your way to a university field day, you will gain a greater understanding of the whole picture and what our New England schools mean to our industry. Here are some quick explanations of what is being funded by the foundation and researched during the growing season of 2019.

1. **Solvita™ Soil Test Kits to Categorize Golf Course Fairway Responsiveness to N Fertilization.** Dr. Karl Guillard of UConn has been working on this subject for the last 3 years and will soon be completed. This funding is partial funding of a larger project of the same name with the USGA focusing on fairway turf which is the largest part of a golf course's fertilization program. Using this method of testing could assist superintendents to adjust N-fertilization amounts depending on the response expected which can have positive benefits on their budgets and the environment.
2. **Evaluation of Fairway Rolling Frequency, Rolling Start Time, and Thatch Accumulation for Control of Dollar Spot.** Dr. Geunhwa Jung of UMass had conducted research to exam the potential of rolling for Dollar Spot control which resulted in a 40-60% reduction. This project is an expansion of that original research using rolling techniques to benefit Dollar Spot control efforts. This research will further evaluate rolling frequency, determine a seasonal start time and investigate the influence that rolling may have on thatch accumulation due to a compression effect. With all the money spent controlling Dollar Spot each year, looking outside the box and identifying steps that show reductions is a welcomed sight. This project is going beyond 2019 and data collection will be completed in the fall of 2020.
3. **SDHI Resistance in Dollar Spot, Development of Management Strategies and Detection Testing.** Dr. Jung had confirmed SDHI resistance of Dollar Spot in New England in 2017. This project will determine the extent of cross-resistance of SDHIs, determine practical recommendations to combat resistance, monitor changes in resistance and then to develop a diagnostic test to determine resistance type. The SDHI fungicide class is the largest class of fungicides on the market. Six of eight active ingredients are labeled for dollar spot, understanding the fate of an application and the potential resistance would be critical to a superintendent.
4. **The Effect of Turfgrass Seed Mixtures, Seeding Rate and Mowing Timing on Weed Productions in Establishing Pesticide-Free Athletic Fields and Lawn Areas,** Dr. Jason Henderson and Ms. Vickie Wallace of UConn are nearing the end of this 2-year project. Due to the growing number of restrictions on athletic fields associated with youth sports, this project addresses the topics within establishment to reduce weeds on pesticide free athletic fields and home lawns. Determining factors like seed mixtures, seeding rates and mower timing all could affect an acceptable outcome and better conditions for youth to play on.

Continued on next page

5. **Evaluation of Wildflowers and Trap Nests to Increase Forage and Habitat for Bee's around New England Golf Courses.** Dr. Steve Alm, URI recently submitted this project for three years. The long-term objective is to recruit golf courses into helping local bee populations recover from the recent declines in populations by creating available pollinator habitats, shelters and minimizing the negative effects of pesticides. Golf courses and especially those that have out of play areas will be encouraged to establish bee forage plantings, install trap nests to help bees establish colonies on the property, and evaluate insecticide choices to minimize adverse effects on populations. One of the outcomes Steve hopes to make available will be a seminar introducing beekeeping to golf courses.
6. **Earthworm Species, Seasonal Phenology and Effect of Wetting Agents on Earthworm Castings and Abundance on New England Golf Courses.** Dr. Olga Kostromystka, newly appointed professor at UMass submitted this project for funding for two years. Most superintendents recognize the goodness to the soil ecosystem and the nuisance to the playing surfaces of earthworm populations. More knowledge is needed to understand the habits of earthworms and the use of registered products with possible benefits that can help prevent worm castings on the surface. Wetting agents have shown some promise but more information is needed.
7. **Exploring Methods to Enhance Biocontrol of Turfgrass Diseases.** Dr. John Inguagiato of UConn submitted this proposal in 2019 for two years. The idea of expanding biocontrol management of turfgrass diseases would greatly benefit places such as schools where they have band the use of pesticides. Sports turf also uses loads of Perennial Ryegrass which is susceptible to Gray Leaf Spot. It would be an objective to identify a product that could be used in this capacity and be permissible on restricted space. John is also communicating with Dr. Joseph Roberts at the University of Maryland.
8. **Comparing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Soil Microbial Populations from Turfgrass Fertilized with Slow-release Synthetic Fertilizer or an Organic Fertilizer.** Dr. Karl Guillard, UConn, submitted this two-year study in 2019. There is much speculation and differences of opinion of benefits of organic versus slow release synthetic fertilizers to the environment. Questions concerning soil microbe populations and the status of greenhouse gas emissions will be measured to clear up this speculation.

These eight ongoing projects as well as the final chapter's preparation of the BMP project, which are expected to be finished this summer, may increase the total funding for 2019 to \$165,131.00. If you have any questions about any of the research being presently done, please feel free to communicate with these researchers. Two activities you can attend are the UMass Field Day on July 17 or the UConn "afterhours" event on July 23rd. There is much going on, and we compliment everyone involved for their hard work and dedication.

Thank you,

Gary J. Sykes, Executive Director

July Meeting – Rho-Cod Cup Tournament

The GCSACC and RIGCSA members met for a fun yearly tournament at Potowomut Golf Club in East Greenwich, RI on July 1st. The format for the Rho-Cod Cup tournament is 2 Cape Cod members vs. 2 Rhode Island Members.

Last year the RIGCSA won the cup back but this year GCSACC gained the cup with a score of 13 -7!

Tournament Results - GCSACC Wins Cup 13 - 7

1st Gross: Scott Nickerson, Chris Tufts

2nd Gross: Ryan Anderson, Alex Stimpson

3rd Gross: Jim Dion, Rene Vadeboncoeur

1st Net: Paul Jamrog, Jim Santoro

2nd Net: Matt Crowther, Michael Van Cleave

3rd Net: Scot Godfrey, Peter Lanman

4th Net: Matt Lapinski, Steve Thys

Closest to the pin: Dean Chase

Closest to the pin: John LeClair

Longest Drive: Rene Vadeboncoeur



Pictured above (L-R):
GCSACC President David Stott with
RIGCSA President Mike Varkonyi



Photo Credit Michelle Maltais

July Meeting – Rho-Cod Cup Tournament



Photo Credit Michelle Maltais

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August 5, 2019 -Free-B-Que -Southers Marsh Golf Club



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August 5, 2019 -Free-B-Que -Southers Marsh Golf Club



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