

Have you ever been to Europe? I haven't had the pleasure yet but hope to someday. I'd enjoy the opportunity to play golf there, too. Stories from colleagues have informed me that it is a wonderful experience. On the maintenance side, discussions with two U.S.-based BIGGA certified Master Greenskeepers, an assistant superintendent from Ontario who worked for a year in Holland, and a presentation done by Irish native John Dempsey, Ph.D., educated me on the challenges of maintaining golf courses without many — if any — pesticides. That's how they roll in Europe, and if Senator Udall (D-NM) and Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO) have their way, we will all have plenty of experience too!

You may have received an Action Alert from GCSAA regarding S. 4406 and H.R. 7940. These bills would undermine the science-based standards contained within our nation's pesticide laws in many ways. It would:

- Immediately ban several classes of pesticides including organophosphates and neonicotinoids
- Ban any product currently banned or otherwise prohibited by Canada, the European Union, or any one country in the European Union
- Eliminate pesticide preemption laws in every state by allowing local governments to restrict pesticide products, thereby creating a patchwork of differing regulations from town to town

This legislation is not likely to pass this Congress, but the bill is a clear blueprint of how anti-pesticide groups want to amend pesticide laws in 2021 to significantly restrict your access to these products.

These pressures are nothing new to superintendents in Maine, who have no state preemption protection, and now they aren't alone. In 2019, the town of Barnstable, Mass., without proposing an ordinance or gaining much input from the general public, banned the use of synthetic fertilizer and pesticides on city property, including the golf courses. As I write this, the City of Philadelphia is considering doing the same for their municipal properties, including multiple golf courses. Think about it: One town meeting or the two Federal bills noted above get enacted, and just like that, we are in Europe!

35-year GCSAA member Bruce McIntyre, Director of Golf, Town of Barnstable, was at the Town Council meeting in 2019 when upper management announced that the town will no longer be able to utilize synthetic fertilizer or pesticides on municipal properties, including the two golf courses. Just like that, McIntyre's world changed. Two days removed from the meeting that changed management of "Old Barny" and Hyannis Golf Course, McIntyre and superintendent Chris White unexpectedly jumped on the road to see a presentation given by Frank Rossi, Ph.D. Rossi consults with the poster child for all organic golf course maintenance just off the coast of Cape Cod, The Vineyard Club, and was beset with questions by McIntyre and White. Eventually, he signed on as a consultant.

McIntyre spent hours developing a budget and plan to attempt the transition including overseeders to deal with turf loss, increase staff for manual weed removal, and upgrading spray equipment to attempt to handle the harsher product now required. What he couldn't plan for was the impact declining course conditions would have on dismal 2020 season pass renewals. The result meant budget cuts, staff cuts, and no additional equipment allocations for the 2020 season.

On top of COVID-19 related challenges and the resulting traffic from single-rider carts, McIntyre told me 2020 brought more of the same. The variety and outbreak of weeds like you see in a textbook and so

many insects it required additional cleanup after mowing. When discussing the current status of golf in Barnstable, McIntyre speaks about the experience and education of the staff while lamenting over the inability to keep the conditions from deteriorating further.

“To come to work every day and watch your turf die is depressing.”

McIntyre has graciously offered to share his experiences with anyone in need of guidance. His contact information was forwarded to those in the Philadelphia area to assist in their advocacy work. If bills S. 4406 and H.R. 7940 manage to pass through the Senate and House respectively, I think McIntyre’s going to be extremely busy connecting with all of you! Want to keep these bills at bay and advocate for the golf industry? Take two minutes and fill out the GCSAA Action Alert located here:

www.gcsaa.org/advocacy/take-action. While I look forward to enjoying the experience of playing golf in Europe someday, I’d prefer that happen in Europe, not here!

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

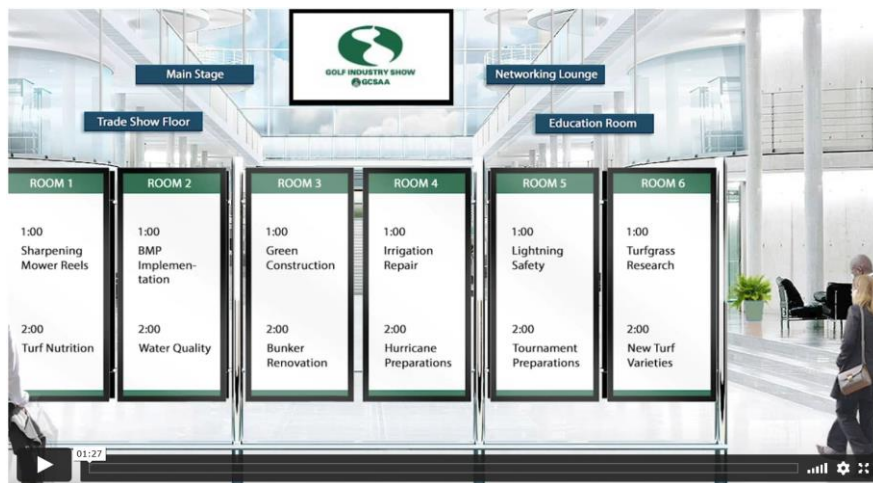
you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already:

LAS VEGAS UPDATE

The 2021 Golf Industry Show is going virtual.

Amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, GCSAA announced that the annual education conference and trade show will be presented in a virtual format instead of the previously planned in-person event in Las Vegas.

Take a tour and see the amazing interactive capabilities at : www.golfindustryshow.com/home



Registration is now open!!

Upcoming webinars

Nov. 11 @ noon

[How True Are Your Putting Greens?](#)

Doug Linde, Ph.D.

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

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