

New York Chapter

GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

READING THE GREEN

SPRING 2021 EDITION

THIS ISSUE INCLUDES:

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

CONTACT INFORMATION

DATA FOR THE MODERN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT- PART 1- BY FRANK ROSSI, PH.D AND CARL SCHIMENTI

NYGCF UPDATE BY KEN BENOIT

MESSAGE FROM CHAPTER ADMINISTRATOR

Feature Article

How a project sparked by improving agronomics eventually returned Oak Hill Country Club's famed East Course to its Donald Ross beginnings.

by Guy Cipriano

Golf Course Industry's editor-in chief

ROOT HEALTH PROGRAM

Your remedy for year-long root health.

Harrell's Root Health Program will aid in promoting stress tolerance, root mass and length, and uniform distribution of moisture. EarthMAX® Organic, Root Enhancer, Seaweed A+E, and Fleet® are your best friends when it comes to root health.



Are you ready for year-long healthy roots?

Visit www.harrells.com or contact your sales rep today.



CHRIS MAKOWSKI
cmakowski@harrells.com
(585) 749-4598



FRED MONTGOMERY
fmontgomery@harrells.com
(518) 813-7814



JIM SEAMAN
jseaman@harrells.com
(518) 365-5409



www.harrells.com | 800.282.8007
Employee-Owned



GCSA OF NY

MEMBER-GUEST TOURNAMENT

Thursday May 27, 2021

Wildwood Country Club -Rush, NY

10am shotgun

\$150 per team includes golf, cart and steak dinner

Register now on the website at gcsaofny.org

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

**President- Brian
Conn, CGCS**



As the season begins again at warp speed we find ourselves dealing with life in different ways than last year but we have yet to return to “normal”. I for one am not sure that there will ever be a normal as we once knew it. The GCSANY joined with fellow associations across the state to request updated Covid guidelines from the Empire Development Corporation which refer to our industry. I continue to pray for the health and well-being of our members, their families, and employees. Let us be the example for everyone around us to follow. That of strength, patience, and understanding. I believe this will continue to shine a light on us as the steady, reliable entity at our facilities and in our homes. And this we can be proud of.

The Board of Directors, working alongside our wonderful Chapter Administrator and committee members; continue to offer great value to our members. We hope you have been enjoying the weekly Cornell webinars that we have been guiding you to, they are timely, interesting topics that can help in your daily work life. We thank those of you who were able to donate to Rounds for Research which channels funds toward valuable university research. Please thank your club for their generosity. We have formed committees and continue to take on the task of providing education for our members, strengthening ties to government bodies by promoting high environmental standards for our industry, increasing membership, promoting research, and scheduling future events. If you are interested in playing a part in what this association does please consider becoming a committee member or better yet a future board position.



We began the year offering an Ice Fishing event on Lake Luzerne and our schedule continues to fill out nicely. A Golf League has begun where you and a partner can play against others from the association while never having to travel outside of your region. In May we will hold a member guest tournament at Wildwood Country Club which will be accompanied by a wonderful dinner. July will take us to Attica's 10th Hole and Golf Course which should be a wonderful way to get us over the hump of summer burnout and headed happily toward the Fall. Our Scholarship Tournament will be held at Turning Stone Casino and Resort which is always an enjoyable opportunity to join with peers and vendors alike.

We continue to plan exciting Fall events and look forward to post season opportunities. Please take advantage of the opportunities that this association offers. If you are fulfilled by your experience with us, please help to peak the interest of someone else around you. Bring a staff member as a way of building morale at home or make new friends by inviting a fellow Superintendent. Our job is a pretty tough one! Don't try to do it alone.

How a project sparked by improving agronomics eventually returned Oak Hill Country Club's famed East Course to its Donald Ross beginning.



It had always been about the next major championship. Who could argue with the approach?

The pedigree, accommodating membership and unyielding community support netted Oak Hill Country Club a seemingly endless supply of big golf events on its East Course, even as the mega-associations started outgrowing quaint and proud places such as Rochester, New York. The 1950s and '60s brought a pair of U.S. Opens. The 1980s brought a U.S. Open and a PGA Championship. The 1990s included a raucous Ryder Cup remembered for a rally.

The 2000s gave western New Yorkers a chance to celebrate likely the greatest moments Shaun Micheel (2003) and Jason Dufner (2013) will ever experience on a golf course. Another PGA Championship, the club's third this century, is just two years away.

Standing on the 10th tee of the famed East Course with former club president and turf advocate Jim McKenna on an idyllic fall morning last October, Oak Hill manager of golf course and grounds Jeff Corcoran observes the scene. A day later, the club will close the course until spring 2021, ending the first season of its post-restoration existence.

Like every day since the course reopened 4½ months earlier, the fairways are filled with members, guests and employees. The pandemic cleared schedules for more golf, the restoration of a Donald Ross course piqued curiosity. For the first time in decades, the people within Corcoran's and McKenna's view sparked the revamping of the better known of Oak Hill's two Donald Ross-designed golf courses.

"The majors had been the impetus for every single change that had been done here over time," says Corcoran, an upstate New York native who has passionately led Oak Hill's grounds department for 18 years. "This project was driven by the members more than anything else. We wanted to give them a better product day in and day out. Did we consider the 2023 PGA? Sure, we would be crazy if we didn't. But that really wasn't the impetus for doing this."

The pitching, planning and executing of the Oak Hill East Course restoration suggests a philosophical flip occurring at many clubs within the upper echelons of the industry. In different times, challenging elite players and securing championships convinced club leaders to pursue course enhancement projects.



These days, it's primarily about providing the best possible conditions and most pleasant experience for as many golfers as possible.

Early internal returns on the Andrew Green-guided restoration are overwhelmingly positive. Oak Hill ended 2020 with more members than when the year started and it wasn't uncommon for the East and West courses to support a combined 400 rounds on weekend days, according to current club president Dr. David Fries.

"If you do something well, you tell people about it," Fries says. "If you do something really well, they tell you. And the members have come and told us, 'We love how enjoyable it is now to come and play this.'"

Ross enthusiasts insist the restoration was decades in the making. For those seeking to attempt something similar, the Oak Hill experience demonstrates pushing a major project past the finish line often requires more than a half-decade of tactical and physical work.

And to think, it all started with agronomics. A project nearly 30 years ago that commenced with noble intentions to convert the East Course greens to bentgrass resulted in the fumigation of venerable, hardy and proven *Poa annua*. A course that had become overcrowded with mature trees further complicated matters.

Regardless of the agronomic talent and quality tools Oak Hill accumulated, a mix stand of annual biotype *Poa annua* and bentgrass emerged and placed limitations on the greens.

"It didn't offer the playability that Oak Hill was looking for," Corcoran says.



About those greens

Later during the October morning, Corcoran performs a walk-and-talk on the 14th hole, an uphill par 4 with fewer oaks and sycamores lining the fairway and more heroic options from the tee. The walk from the back tee to the green is just 320 yards. Upon reaching the green, Corcoran's purposeful strut becomes a series of gentle steps. He knows what happens on this green and 17 others will determine the long-term success of a restoration that consumed his team for a year. "Our money is on our greens," Corcoran says.

Bentgrass now covers the East Course greens. Oak Hill's stable of trained turf managers experienced rapid on-the-job bentgrass education last summer. Even Corcoran had never maintained predominantly bentgrass greens until 2020. "There are times when less is more on the bent vs. the bent/Poa," he says. "You don't have to do as much to these greens to get them to roll as fast."

To give the bentgrass sod a chance to flourish, the club rebuilt East Course greens, which average 4,700 square feet, using a variable depth USGA greens construction method with a mix consisting of 85 percent sand and 15 percent profile. Bentgrass for the project was grown atop the new mix at Boyd Turf's western Pennsylvania farm.

"There's an 11 on the Stimpmeter when it's wet and you're sticky, and you don't have rollout. And then there's an 11 when you're firm and fast, and the ball rolls out faster," Corcoran says. "You have height of cut and then you try to dry your greens down. One aspect of that is that you're always managing your grass at the edge, because you don't have inherent firmness and you're trying to get that by reducing moisture. What we tried to do with this mix is to put the firmness in the greens inherently, so we weren't relying on the moisture aspects. So, in theory, you could keep your grass healthier, but you still have a firm surface."

The way Corcoran views greens reconstruction — and, again, remember what sparked the entire restoration — below-surface decisions are as critical as any decision a restoration/renovation team will make. "The most important part of the project from my standpoint — and we obviously had Andrew's input on it — was the greens mix," he adds. Manufacturing elite green speed, firmness and consistency without the proper subsurface elements isn't for the weak, yet amazingly Oak Hill members putted on slick bentgrass/Poa annua greens for decades. The quality of the greens became more astonishing when trained agronomists looked toward the sky.

Removing trees in the spirit of turf health remains a challenge for private club superintendents, especially those working at a course with a pleasing variety in its name.

Fries lauds Corcoran and former East/West Course superintendent Kevin Taylor, now the director of agronomy at The Club at New Seabury on Cape Cod, for their ability to use small examples, most notably near the 13th and 15th greens on the West Course and the second green on the East Course, to demonstrate how calculated tree removal can

can boost turf health. “To Jeff’s and Kevin’s credit, they gave us a couple of spec homes before we bought the whole thing,” Fries says.

Significant tree removal started in 2013, McKenna says, and the club held annual meetings to communicate methodology and future plans to the membership. Corcoran used multiple tools, including mobile apps designed to track sun and shade, to provide the club with data analyzing how specific trees were affecting turf quality and performance. The hiring of Green in 2014 formalized a three-year tree management program.

“There’s a balancing point,” says Green, who also used Ross sketches to restore lost hole locations on edges of greens. “Oak Hill will always have majestic oaks, but it was always about finding the best trees and the trees that were best suited not only for the game, but for the turf.”

Once the restoration commenced on Aug. 6, 2019, around 80 percent of the tree work had been completed. The final 20 percent of trees were removed over the next four months. Neither Green nor committee members envisioned an East Course entirely devoid of its treasured oaks. Calculated tree removal complemented the subsurface work occurring on the prized putting surfaces.

“We feel like we have the environments to produce high-quality bentgrass greens — and that’s our goal,” Corcoran says.



Meanwhile ...

Oak Hill values its history like a mechanic treasures a proven engine. Nearly every conversation about the club eventually pivots to its past.

Preparing for the next major championship usually meant further distancing the East Course from its Ross beginnings. The club traces the architectural origins of both courses to Ross, although the West Course developed a reputation as the layout possessing more Ross-like features and character.

With Green involved and the need to rebuild greens apparent, a group of members, including the club's architectural review committee, wondered if the digging would be worth the hassle without attempting to return the course to its Ross roots. Using input from Rochester native and major champion Jeff Sluman, Green developed a bold plan that included:

- Rebuilding bunkers to make them reflective of a Ross style. "There was thought that the bunkers needed to play more like hazards, especially given that the tree removal widened corridors," Green says.
- Creating a new par-3 fifth hole with an elevated green surrounded by severe bunkering inspired by Ross's original sixth hole.
- Using Allen's Creek as a natural feature to build a new par-4 sixth hole inspired by Ross's original fifth hole. "The hole that sat on that property from Ross's time was always well-respected," Green says. "It was even thought of as one of the best par 4s in the country at the time. Finding a way to put it back together was certainly important to me."
- Removing a greenside pond on the par-3 15th hole. "The hole only functioned well on Sunday of a major championship where you would hold your breath to take a swing," Green says. "It never really worked well for the membership."

Under Green's plan, the new fifth hole would take the place of a practice hole at the club's entrance and the new sixth would use the same land as the previous fifth hole. The pond at 15 was installed by George and Tom Fazio in the late 1970s.

"I remember talking to Jeff on the phone and it was like, 'If we don't redo those holes, is it worth doing this?'" McKenna says. "It's spending a lot of money and not doing what's right for Oak Hill and the course. It was almost one of those depressing calls, thinking, 'What are we going to do if the membership doesn't want to do this? Why would we do any of this if we aren't going to do what's right for the course?'" The uneasiness ended when two-thirds of the membership voted to proceed with the project, "which at a country club is almost impossible to get on anything," McKenna adds.

The club timed the project to begin after the 2019 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, giving the restored course three full playing seasons before the 2023 PGA Championship. The pond on No. 15 was drained in early July 2019, one month before a large crew from LaBar Golf Renovations reported to Rochester. Thanks to good weather, LaBar had completed its work by late November 2019.

Watching golfers hit into the sixth green 11 months later, Corcoran, Fries and East Course restoration committee chair Tim Thaney reveal how they were personally affected by the project. The morning sun is lifting, causing the verdant green and transparent creek to sparkle.

“I felt more pressure with this than I have with the championships that we have done here,” Corcoran says.

“You didn’t show it,” Thaney responds.

“Honestly, I told most people that my own true reflection on this project would be probably right now,” Corcoran adds. “Get through a season and see how everything performs. Now that I’m there, it’s like, ‘We have more work to do.’ I don’t think there was a whole lot of margin for error.”

Corcoran is an employee, albeit one who wields enormous respect and responsibility. Fries and Thaney are members. Their professional careers weren’t at stake, but they knew the results would shape their reputations at a place for which they care deeply.

“The people who were responsible for the Fazio changes, they took grief for the rest of their lives,” Thaney says. “They were always on the defense about it and it was sad.

They did what they thought was right at the time, but they took grief, not only from the members, but they heard it from people outside the club.”





By listening to a deep team of agronomic and architectural experts, Fries always believed they were steering the club in the right direction.

“You might have had some sleepless nights,” he says. “But every book that was out there and every architect that you talked to — and it wasn’t just Andrew — was telling you this is what you need to do. We were doing everything we should, we were following best practices, doing everything we should be doing for the health of the course. It had to work because 20 other people who were experts in the industry were telling you that you were doing the right thing.”

Guy Cipriano is Golf Course Industry’s editor-in-chief.

HD: Oak Hill East Course restoration: By the numbers

- **60,000-plus labor hours**
 - **2,000 tons of sand**
 - **3,700 tons of gravel**
 - **6,700 tons of greens mix**
- **175,000 square feet of bentgrass installed on greens and approaches**
 - **Distance from the front tees: 5,265**
 - **Distance from the championship tees: 7,360**

FORTIFY
YOUR FOUNDATION.
UNLEASH
THE POTENTIAL.



PROOF

Grow stronger, more resilient turf with Orbix®, a next-generation foliar nutritional. Orbix strengthens plants by activating turf's natural defenses to chemical, biological and environmental stresses. Enhanced with ENC® Formulation Technology, it provides critical nutrition with more efficient uptake and utilization. Fortify your foundation, and unleash your turf's potential with Orbix.

To achieve the quality you desire, contact your local Helena representative or visit HelenaProfessional.com.

Bill Ross (315) 521-3301

RossW@HelenaAgri.com

Louis Bettencourt (978) 580-8166

BettencourtL@HelenaAgri.com



Important: Always read and follow label instructions. Some products may not be registered for sale or use in all states and countries. Please check with your Helena representative to ensure registration status. Helena, ENC and Orbix are registered trademarks of Helena Holding Company. © 2011 Helena Holding Company. HP200217

BECAUSE
YOU
DON'T GET A
MULLIGAN.



JOHN DEERE
GOLF

FINCH

 @FinchTurf

Learn more about the full line of John Deere Golf & Sports Turf Equipment at www.finchturf.com

Brian Conn, CGCS - President
Preferred Seed
575 Kennedy Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14227
connbrian734@gmail.com
585-409-0961

Joe Lucas- Director
Saratoga National Golf Club
458 Union Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
jlucas@golfsaratoga.com
518-583-2109

Steve Kurta- Vice President
Tuscarora Golf Club
2901 Howlett Hill Road
Marcellus, NY 13108
greensforged@gmail.com
315-604-6298

Andy Eick- Director
Mohawk Golf Club
1849 Union Street
Schenectady, NY 12309
aeick@mohawkgolfclub.com
774-210-0455

Ash Gough- Treasurer
Beaver Meadow Golf Club
185 Barnard Drive
Phoenix, NY 13035
Ashgough97@gmail.com
302-650-0946

Scott Dodson, CGCS- Director
Park Country Club
4949 Sheridan Drive
Williamsville, NY 14221
scott@parkclub.org
716-818-1126

Matt Simon- Secretary
Thendara Golf Course
151 5th Street
Thendara, NY 13472
mattsimongcs@gmail.com
207-595-0330

Michael Tollner- Director
Bellevue Country Club
1901 Glenwood Ave
Syracuse, NY 13207
mike@bellvuecountryclub.com
315-475-1272

Chris Richter- Director
Wildwood Country Club
1201 Rush West Rush Rd
Rush, NY 14543
crichter@golfwildwood.com
585-208-6577

Nevin Hess- Director
Midvale Country Club
2387 Baird Road
Rochester, NY 14526
nhess19@yahoo.com
570-441-6962

Rich Holfoth, CGCS Special Director- Past
President
Country Club of Rochester
2935 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14610
rholfoth@ccrochester.org
585-381-1844

Jim Frey- Special Director- Class C
Park Country Club
4949 Sheridan Drive
Williamsville, NY 14221
jim@parkclub.org
716-698-2637

Greg Gagen- Special Director- Affiliate
Andre & Son
ggagen@andreandson.com
315-317-4728

Soil composition drives performance characteristics, including firmness, water retention, and drainage.

Get to know your course better with testing from

Turf & Soil Diagnostics

Informed superintendents are successful superintendents.

Contact our New York lab at:
855-796-4231 or
lab@turfdiag.com

www.turfdiag.com



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

A guide for environmental sustainability

GCSAA's BMP Planning Guide and Template is an online resource that provides for the development of golf course best management practices (BMP) programs at the state level.

[Click here](#) for NYS Golf Courses BMP

[Click here](#) for Second Edition BMP

Club Car®

CARRYALL 502

BY SUPERINTENDENTS, FOR SUPERINTENDENTS

Management Life Uninterrupted.

Carryall 502 was expertly designed with a superintendent's needs in mind. Unobstructed views, spacious interior for tools or pets, and a cup caddy with two USB ports means you never have to stop managing your course — even on long days and in tough conditions.





The fungicide that holds strong for many moons.

Introducing Posterity® fungicide, the most active SDHI in the turf market that elevates the control of key diseases including **dollar spot** and **spring dead spot**. Posterity delivers power that lasts, holding stronger for up to **28 days** of dollar spot control, and setting a new standard for spring dead spot control. With Posterity, you can manage the toughest and most prevalent diseases with confidence.

Visit GreenCastOnline.com/Posterity to learn more.



syngenta.

#Time4Posterity

©2020 Syngenta. Important: Always read and follow label instructions. Some products may not be registered for sale or use in all states or counties. Please check with your local extension service to ensure registration status. GreenCast®, Posterity®, the Alliance Frame and the Syngenta logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company. All other trademarks used herein are the property of their respective company.

Your Exclusive
Rain Bird® Golf Supplier!





We look forward to helping you meet your golf course needs.

Ewing Irrigation & Landscape Supply is proud to serve as your exclusive distributor of all Rain Bird® Golf materials.

Follow us on social media:      



Your Ewing Golf Go-to-Guy for Upstate New York

Alex Ludwig | Golf Account Manager
aludwig@ewingirrigation.com | p. 585.404.5178
  @Alleygolf_cat

EwingIrrigation.com
800.343.9464



Pump Irrigation Technologies, Inc.

COMPLETE GOLF COURSE SERVICE

LET US BE YOUR COMPREHENSIVE
PUMP STATION SPECIALISTS

SAL SGROI, OWNER/OPERATOR

SALSGROI@PUMPIRRIGATION.COM

716-818-4329

- COMPLETE PUMP STATION SERVICE
- YEARLY PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS
- NEW INSTALLATIONS OF PUMP STATIONS
- PUMP STATION RETROFITS
- PUMP / MOTOR SERVICE AND REPAIR
- VFD SERVICE AND REPAIR
- POND FILL PUMPS / DEWATERING PUMPS

- IRRIGATION SATELLITE RETROFITS
- WIRE TRACKING / GROUND-FAULT LOCATING
- SERVICE AND REPAIR OF IRRIGATION CONTROL SYSTEMS
- ONSITE WELDING AVAILABLE





news

FROM YOUR CHAPTER ADMINISTRATOR

Suzanne Mis

Happy Spring everyone! GCSA of NY is ramping up for a terrific season. We already have several events planned, so I hope you can check your calendars and attend at least one or two functions.

We are sponsoring a golf league that will run from the month of May through October. The 2 man teams will face off against each other at a course and time of their own choosing and the scores will be recorded. This is sure to be a fun time where you get a chance to meet new peers and play new courses while competing for cash prizes. We already have several teams signed up, so don't miss your chance.

In May we will have a Member-Guest tournament at Wild Wood Country Club in Rush, NY. The cost is \$150 per 2 man team for 18-holes of golf, cart and a steak dinner. A Trophy, prizes and skins will be awarded in this best ball shamble format event.

Save the dates of June 23 for a social golf event at Conklin Players Club, July 22nd, a 9 hole event at Attica's 10th Hole & Golf Course, August 24th, for the POA Tournament at Turning Stone Resort & Casino and October 5th for a social golf event at Irondequoit Country Club.

Coming in June will be our very first printed GCSA of NY Membership Directory. This directory will include an affiliate section and member section. Please note, that only those affiliates and members who are paid in full will be put into the directory. Up to this point, we have been sending email updates to our entire contact list, but effective May 15th, only our dues paying members and affiliates will receive the emails and newsletters. Therefore, if you are not sure of your status, please contact me and I will update you on your status.

Also, please check to make sure all the information we have in the database is correct. If our information is not correct, the directory will be incorrect also. So please, please log in or contact me to verify your contact information.

As always, I am available to assist you at any time. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me. You can email me at gcsaofny@gmail.com and visit our website at www.gcsaofny.org.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

First Foliar Products

A complete, liquid foliar fertilizer line focused on plant health and nutrition.



First-ACE-K • First-Amino
First-Boron • First-Cal • First-Iron5
First-Iron6 • First-IronFlash
First-Mag • First-Man
First-Micros for Turf
First-Phite • First-Poly 10-34-0
First-Thio-K
First-UAN 30



CONSISTENT • ECONOMICAL • SAFE



Save the date!



9 Hole Golf Event

**Thursday July 22nd
Attica's 10th Hole
and Golf Course**

SOCIAL GOLF EVENTS

**Wednesday June 23rd
Conklin Players Club**

**Tuesday October 5th
Irondequoit Country
Club**

POA TOURNAMENT

**Tuesday August 24th
Turning Stone Resort &
Casino**



GCSA of NY logo hats are available for \$25.00 each

CONTACT SUZANNE MIS, OUR CHAPTER
ADMINISTRATOR AT GCSAOFNY@GMAIL.COM TO GET
YOURS TODAY!

Weaver Golf & Turf Solutions

PERFORMANCE SANDS AND TURF SUPPLIES



• THE PROS OF BEING A PRO •

EXPERT ADVICE

At SiteOne® Landscape Supply, you get a large inventory of leading brands, time-savings delivery service and flexible financing options. It's easy to see why SiteOne is the top choice for green industry pros.

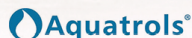


CONTACT YOUR SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Rich Joslin | RJoslin@SiteOne.com | 585.690.0801

Robert F Goring III
Sales Manager

Cell: 814-460-5712
rob.goring@weavergolf.com
1810 Industrie Dr., PO Box 1151
Jamestown, NY 14701-1151
888-932-8370
Fax: 716-664-1165
www.weavergolf.com
[@Weavergolfturf](https://www.instagram.com/weavergolfturf)



Irrigation | Lighting | Turf & Landscape Maintenance | Nursery
Golf Course Maintenance | Hardscape | Pest Control



SERVING ALL OF NEW YORK STATE

Services:

- In-house manufactured fertilizer blends
- Custom seed blends
- On-site consultations
- Contracted services
- Wide variety of specialty turf equipment
- Direct delivery options to include spyder off loading

Offering these premium products and more:



Greg Gagen
 Central New York
 315.317.4728
 ggagen@andreandson.com

Alan Siegel
 Central New York
 315.374.8443
 asiegel@andreandson.com

Jim Baldwin
 Western New York
 716-512-4711
 jbbaldwin@andreandson.com

Dan Stankiewicz
 Southern Tier New York
 607-765-0997
 dstankiewicz@andreandson.com

Andre & Son Inc
 17150 State Route 706 Montrose, PA 18801 • www.andreandson.com



.....

NYGCF Update

By Ken Benoit



.....

The societal trend of increased environmental awareness has placed a heightened degree of scrutiny on the game of golf, particularly as it relates to the game's impact on environmental concerns such as water quality and consumption, and pollinator habitat.

This movement puts golf course superintendents between golfers and environmental groups. Enter the New York Golf Foundation (NYGCF). As a superintendent run organization, the NYGCF is here to help bridge the gap between these two groups. In fact, its leaders have been diligently working to assist golf course superintendents in their role as environmentally conscious land managers for nearly 10 years. The New York Golf Course Foundation is the sustainable 501c3 nonprofit that has evolved from the New York State Best Management Practices project. The success of the BMP efforts is a direct result of the partnership of superintendent leaders in the state and Cornell University. This project has codified standards and actively demonstrates the implementation of BMPs for the protection of natural resources on golf courses. These efforts are designed to continue expanding the reach and increasing the value of environmental stewardship to all stakeholders, regulators, and policy makers. Our latest efforts are primarily focused on helping superintendents adopt Golf BMPs at the individual facility level. In a broad sense, facility BMP adoption, will be the most important undertaking of the entire BMP initiative. It will be the driving force behind any credibility our industry might receive when being judged by environmental stakeholders. Without facility adoption, there is no credibility on this front.

So, here's a look at what, specifically, the NYGCF has been up to.

In the spring of 2020 the NYGCF submitted and received a 2020/21 TEF grant for \$41,100 but, unfortunately, the grant was put on hold by the state due to the covid19 pandemic. We recently received the good news that the grant is now back in play and we are free to start working on the following grant tasks which makeup the foundation's portion of the TEF grant.

.....



1) How to Create a Facility BMP Plan video series.

Prioritizing, documenting, and implementing BMPs is an important step for superintendents to demonstrate their commitment to natural resource protection at their facilities. Although the facility BMP template is available to the state’s superintendents via the GCSAA’s on-line tool, additional efforts need to be undertaken to encourage and assist superintendents to utilize this resource. Therefore, this task will provide superintendents the opportunity and guidance for creating their own facility BMP using available resources.

2) Develop publications “Using Predictive Models to Reduce Pesticide Use” and “Bentgrass Conversion in Fairways”

Publication 1: Using Predictive Models to Reduce Pesticide Use

Due to concerns by regulatory agencies and the general public over health issues related to pesticide usage, the demand for “Championship” conditions from golfers, and budget constraints imposed by management, golf course superintendents in New York continue to operate under extreme scrutiny. These various concerns have driven the development of sophisticated weather-based disease warning systems. Predictive modeling systems allow for more accurately timed fungicide applications which result in better disease control while using less fungicide. This publication will focus on educating superintendents on how to use a predictive model for determining pesticide applications for controlling dollar spot, a season long turf pest.

Publication 2: Bentgrass Conversion in Fairways

Fairways account for the most acreage of finely maintained turfgrass on golf courses, which require significantly more pesticide inputs than any other area on golf courses. In New York, many golf courses have a mixture of various turfgrass varieties on their fairways. However, bentgrass has proven to require fewer pesticide inputs than other common fairway turfgrasses such as *Poa annua*. In this publication, we will demonstrate to superintendents the benefits of converting fairways to bentgrass and the steps needed to achieve this conversion

3) “Creating a Nutrient Management Plan” video

Nutrient management plans can help prevent nutrient enrichment (i.e. nitrogen and phosphorus) of the state’s water resources. Increased legislative and regulatory attention on fertilizer sources of nutrients may in the future result in requirements for superintendents to develop site-specific nutrient management plans. Therefore, we will produce a nutrient management planning video that provides detailed guidance for superintendents to develop nutrient management plans. Equally important to a step-by-step approach to plan development, this video will help superintendents use nutrient management planning as comprehensive tool in planning fertilizer selections and application strategies to optimize plant responses, nutrient use efficiency, and economics.





The tutorial will be a 4 to 5 minute professionally produced video, published on the NYGCF BMP Youtube channel, already home to a previous video case study on the TESH-funded wash pad demonstration, ABW video, and a Cornell-funded pollinator video case study.

4) Strategic communications via Twitter, Blogs, etc.

During this grant period, we will publish a minimum of 6 new video log (vlog) posts on the website and BMP YouTube channel, in cooperation with Cornell University, in addition to new written blog posts as topics are identified throughout the year and superintendent guest writers provide content demonstrating the implementation of BMPs. We will utilize the Twitter feed (@NYS_GolfBMP) to communicate the availability of these new blog and vlog posts, along with tweets to direct readers to existing content, using Twitter scheduling software. The Twitter feed helps to generate interest and attract visits to the website. Metrics for this task will include analysis of website and Twitter traffic.

In addition to the social media-related efforts, we will also reprint 500 copies of the following previously TESH grant funded publications:

- Nutrient Management publication
- ABW publication
- Pollinator BMP publication
- Fact sheet series 5 fact sheets
- Graphically designed folders.

We will put all the publications, including those developed in Task 2, as well as the fact sheets, together in the folders. These will be made available to the New York GCSAA affiliated chapters, Cornell University, and New York State Turfgrass Association as needed to disseminate this information and promote the NYS BMP efforts.

5) New York Golf Course Foundation Strategic Plan update.

The New York State golf course BMP efforts began a decade ago with an initial planning meeting that set out the first objective: to create a framework and process for developing science-based best management practices to protect water quality in the state. However, publishing the BMPs in February of 2014 was only the first step in a process that requires sustained effort to increase awareness and implementation of these BMPs. Over time it became apparent that expanding the BMPs to meet emerging needs, such as protecting pollinators, would be required as these needs were identified. To achieve these goals, the NYS BMP project developed a strategic plan in 2016 that has provided a framework and direction for decision-making, in addition to communicating the vision and purpose of the project for the last five years.





This task facilitates the five year review and update of the strategic plan to provide a roadmap for the next five years for the BMP program. We will evaluate the effectiveness of the first strategic plan, update the strategic priorities as needed, and consider the future efforts needed to continue increasing awareness of the BMPs, educational opportunities, and expanding the BMP program to encompass a variety of environmental services that can be provided by golf courses. In achieving this strategic vision, golf course superintendents will increasingly be recognized as stewards of the state's natural resources. In addition, by increasing the visibility of the project, superintendents are increasing the potential to be consulted by regulators and lawmakers at the state and local level in advance of any discussion of future regulation of the industry.

The foundation recently received the good news that there are 2021/22 TEF grant funds available. At the time of this writing, the foundation is working on the final project proposal which it will submit to NYSTA for pre-approval before heading to Albany where it will find its way to Ag and Markets for final approval. We will keep you updated on the status of this grant proposal as it progresses.

In addition to the TEF projects, the foundation has been in discussion with Scott Menrath, Director, Bureau of Pesticide Management, NYSDEC, about creating a program whereby superintendents can receive credits for formally adopting certain aspects of the New York BMPs. Superintendents are at the cusp of a groundbreaking moment in their relationship with NYSDEC. What started out as a desire to create a meaningful relationship between NYDEC and NY Golf Course Superintendents has turned into a partnership, the likes of which we could not have imagined pre-BMP. We will keep you up to date on our progress! Finally, the NYGCF recently received a call from the Pollinator Pathway (PP), a Northeast based environmental group that focuses on promoting the connection of pollinator habitats to create larger pollinator "pathway," to ask if the foundation would be interested in exchanging educational information. It's leaders were particularly impressed with the Pollinator BMP work NY superintendents completed and wanted to learn more about our industry's ability to increase safe pollinator habitat. The group admitted that some of their members still held to the belief that golf courses could not provide safe habitat for pollinators, but they are extremely interested in learning more about our industry's pollinator efforts and will keep an open mind. PP have also invited the foundation to contribute informational content to their newsletter and will be touring a local golf course this spring with the intention of learning more about what golf courses are doing to help protect the natural environment.

Here's to hoping everyone has a great 2021 season!

Ken Benoit, CGCS





Fostering Healthy Environments
where we

LIVE. WORK. PLAY.

Darrin Batsky, Area Manager
Upstate New York & Pennsylvania
(317) 402-7270 – cell/text
darrin.batsky@bayer.com



Playability Matters!



DryJect®

**DryJect
Injection**

**Core
Aeration**

Improved Agronomics

Y

Y

One Pass

Y

X

Instant Playability

Y

X

Revenue Gained

Y

X

DryJect Upstate
610-721-9791 | jeremy@dryject.us

Membership

JOIN GCSA OF NY TODAY

If you are interested in joining GCSA of NY, visit our website at gcsaofny.org and click join/renew. You can pay dues online with your credit card or submit a check to GCSA of NY at P.O. Box 295 North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Website link : gcsaofny.org

BASF
We create chemistry

TRY
EASIER.

Now registered in the state of New York! The #1 DMI in the golf market: **Maxtima® fungicide**. Spray on any turf, in any temperature, anywhere on your course. It's one less thing to worry about during your high-demand season. Get effective disease control and peace of mind by adding this tool to your arsenal.

Ready to #TryEasier? Contact your BASF representative **Pete Jacobson** at peter.jacobson@basf.com or 919-530-9062.

Want custom recommendations for your course? Fill out a CoursePower Diagnostic profile at betterturf.basf.us.

Always read and follow label directions.
©2021 BASF Corporation. All rights reserved.
Maxtima is a registered trademark of BASF.

Check with your state or local Extension Service for product registration in your area.

Maxtima®
Fungicide



GCSA of NY

Membership Directory

Don't miss out on being in our membership directory- must be a registered member with 2021 dues paid in full by May 15th



At MTE, service is our priority.

Call or visit us online today!

1-888-708-5296

www.mte.us.com

sales@mte.us.com



COVID-19

GCSA of NY wants you to keep healthy and
safe during this time
Click on the link below to take you to the
CDC website - where you can find updated
safety guidelines for your business, school
and home environment.

[Click Here](#)

A PLEDGE TO OUR INDUSTRY



Between March 1, 2021 and August 31, 2021 we will donate a portion of all Fame® SC and Rayora™ fungicide sales back to local GCSAA chapters. A special program for FMC's newest innovation, Kalida™ fungicide, will be announced later in 2021.



1. Enroll at [FMCTrueChampions.com](https://www.FMCTrueChampions.com) and indicate local GCSAA chapter.
2. Invoice purchases of all sizes of Fame SC and Rayora fungicides between 3/1/21-8/31/21.
3. FMC will donate a portion of qualified products back to local GCSAA chapters. \$250 minimum per chapter applies.



Always read and follow all label directions, precautions and restrictions for use. Some products may not be registered for sale or use in all states. FMC, the FMC logo, Fame, Rayora, Kalida and True Champions are trademarks or service marks of FMC Corporation or an affiliate. ©2021 FMC Corporation. All rights reserved. GSS-02/21



**Data for the Modern Golf Course Superintendent
Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D. and Carl Schimenti
Cornell University Turfgrass Science Program**

Part One- Clipping Volume and the Goldilocks Zone

Background

When people think of data, a first thought may be of technologies that produce and store data like cell phones or computers. For sports fans, your mind may jump to the analytics revolution that has completely transformed the way so many sports are played. Individuals tend to associate the term “data” with complex or vague numbers (how is “Wins above Replacement” calculated anyway?), but the fact is that most data is uncomplicated, simple.

Data is a numerical representation of the world around us. It provides an accurate frame of reference for which we can make decisions around. To use a golf analogy, imagine being faced with an approach shot over water. We might not think consciously about it, but we use data – a yardage marker or rangefinder – to gauge how far we should hit the ball. How difficult would it be without that data point as a reference? You might have a general sense of distance, but you’ve lost the ability to be precise... and most likely another golf ball!

Data can be used by superintendents to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and most importantly, improve playing conditions. Note how the data must “be used” by someone. The criticism we hear from those reluctant to use data is that it replaces knowledge and experience. We suggest the opposite. Data ENHANCES that knowledge and experience because it provides the unblurred view of reality that allows an individual to make better decision.

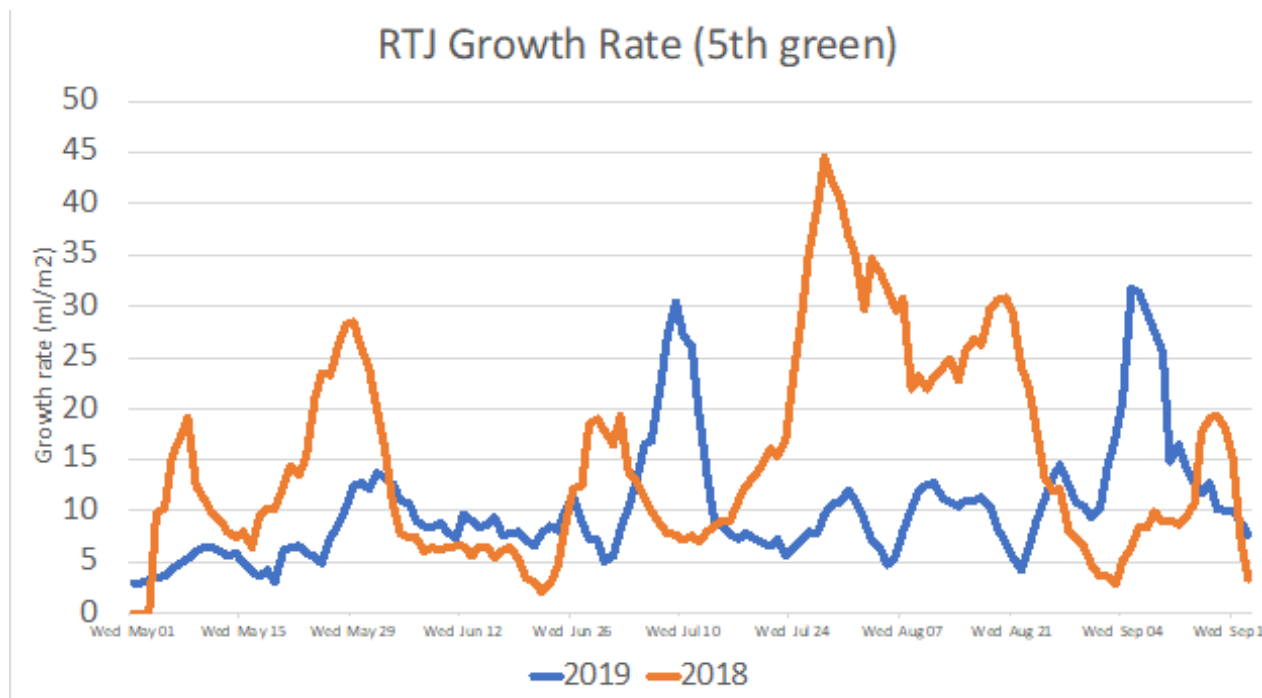
Of course, not all data is this idealistic. We go through great lengths troubleshooting emerging data collection and analysis methods to decipher those that provide the best value to superintendents. In this recurring column, we’ll highlight the data that gives you the best “bang for your buck”.

Clipping Volume

Much conversation has occurred in recent years about the collection and measurement of clippings to estimate turfgrass growth. Colloquially, this metric is known as “clipping volume”. Simply put, the clippings from a mowing event are dumped into a measuring bucket where the volume of grass can be quantified. Its dead simple, all you’ll need is a measuring bucket... and that’s it! High quality data has never been so easy to measure.

Traditional thinking was that measuring growth was for farmers. More bushels of corn equals more money. In turfgrass we care about the performance of the grass (visual quality, traffic and environmental stress tolerance, pest resistance, etc.) and not the quantity, so why measure clipping yield? As it turns out, the correlation between growth and greens quality is close enough to be useful.

Many superintendents who track clipping volume have found a “goldilocks zone” (a just right amount of) growth rate that correlates well to performance. When growth rate is in this zone, putting surfaces are expected to perform well and recover from golfer and maintenance traffic. The image below shows data from the Cornell University Robert Trent Jones golf course. Superintendent Dave Hicks began tracking clipping volume in 2018, and after the first year noted that spikes in growth rate above 15 ml/m² resulted in slower greens and unnecessary growth. In his goldilocks zone (shaded grey) he found green speeds suited daily play and a growth rate that kept turf healthy.



Compare that to data from 2019, where adjustments were made to cultural practices, fertilizer, and plant growth regulator rates. The data from 2019 shows more consistent growth throughout the year which coincided with more consistent putting surfaces. This ability to manipulate growth rate through maintenance practices is a key reason it is useful. Clipping volume is correlated with putting surface performance, yet provides a more tangible management target. This makes for a simpler approach to managing high quality putting surfaces.

In addition to the improved putting surface conditions, superintendents have found benefits to their operational efficiency from using clipping volume. Clipping volume can be used to determine if mowing is even necessary on a given day, opting to pull the mower off if clipping volume is low to prevent wear and tear on equipment and reduce turf stress. This might allow time to roll the greens or allow for other priority tasks to get accomplished ahead of play.

For some of the common questions asked about clipping volume (what bucket to use, how to store data, what units are data in, etc.) we would refer you to Dr. Micah Woods' Ebook – One Bucket at a Time

If you're interested in collecting clipping volume, it's a good idea to start small. Begin with just one green, preferably one that is representative of most on the course. It's also important to not overreact to the data at first. Pay attention to the trends in growth rather than daily variation which can be large. Take note of putting surface performance as well to develop your own goldilocks zone. It won't take long before you realize you should have been doing this a long time ago!



GIVE TO THE
GAME YOU LOVE

Donate a round and support turfgrass research
that sustains the future of golf.



GCSA of NY is proud to announce that we will be donating all the proceeds from the Rounds 4 Research Auction to the Cornell Turfgrass Science Program.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Cornell and Frank Rossi.



Donations are now being accepted for the 2021 Rounds 4 Research auction.

If you are interested in donating please click the link below or contact Suzanne at gcsaofny@gmail.com

<https://www.eifg.org/research/rounds-4-research/donate-a-round/online-form>

Annual Bluegrass Weevils Are No Match.



Now Registered In New York & Long Island



Take control of **Annual Bluegrass Weevil (ABW)** on your course by using Aquatrols' Avatar PLX Insecticide. Avatar is a proven broad spectrum insecticide for both adult & larvae forms of ABW, as well as:



- ✓ Cutworms
- ✓ Fall armyworms
- ✓ Yellow striped armyworms
- ✓ Southern armyworms
- ✓ Chinch bugs
- ✓ Sod webworms
- ✓ Leafhoppers
- ✓ Mole Crickets
- ✓ Spittlebugs
- ✓ Greenbugs
- ✓ Grasshoppers
- ✓ Black Turfgrass Ataenius (BTA)



Ready to take control of insects on your course? Contact Your Local Aquatrols Distributor or Visit:
[Aquatrols.com/AVATAR](https://www.aquatrols.com/AVATAR)



GCSAA

NEWS

**With Kevin Doyle
GCSAA Field Staff
KDOYLE@GCSAA.ORG**

follow me on Twitter @ GCSAA_NE

There is always so much emphasis on the color green. As spring ramps up temperatures, the grass does indeed come to life bringing with it that wonderful seasonal hue we all enjoy. The Masters returned to its typical April timeslot adding a green jacket to the discussion. Earth Day is approaching, a day when sustainability and protecting our environment is meant to be celebrated. I am unsure if the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, or on the other side of the aisle. It is strange how politicians now can influence turf management at your facilities even more than general managers, greens committees, or owners. When did being environmentally green turn rabid and political? Where does the golf industry fit into this new "green" model?

It seems not long ago that recycling and saving water were very important. Switching lights off to save energy and utilizing electronic documents to save paper were emphasized too. Everyone seemed happy to be making improvements to our wonderful planet. The good old days. Now, fast forward 30 seconds (it seems) and using materials that even require recycling is wasteful. Every drop of water belongs to the environmentalists. Energy must be generated by wind or solar and if not, it should be banned. You must know how your power was generated or you are part of the problem. At one point, doing the right thing to protect the environment went from a voluntary movement by the masses to a mandate by just a few. Our industry continues to see the impact of this radical activism. If the small minority of loud voices are not making the impact on society they hoped for, they channel their efforts to the political realm. Initiatives to enact their preferred changes at every level of regulation, including local, state, and federal, is now the norm.

GCSAA has expanded our industry-leading government affairs to help protect our members. Chava McKeel, Director of Government Affairs, and Bob Helland, Director of Congressional and Federal Affairs continue to advocate strongly at the federal level.

GCSAA's Manager of Government Affairs, Michael Lee, has increased efforts at the state level.

In addition to policy research and communication with members, Lee has initiated a monthly call with state lobbyists retained by GCSAA chapters. These calls have aided in sharing of ideas and resources in hopes of minimizing duplication and streamlining advocacy efforts. With nearly 20 lobbyists on the call each month, many of the regulatory and legislative pressures our superintendent members are dealing with are discussed.



Regarding efforts in New York, thanks to all of you who have already taken action regarding the chlorpyrifos ban. Another neonicotinoid ban bill, Senate Bill S699A the “birds and bees protection act,” has been introduced and if you have not been made aware of this yet, you will be. Legislators must hear from those affected by legislation and grassroots efforts like those undertaken by the GCSA of NY and peer associations are essential in accomplishing that balance. NYAFEC lobbyists Todd Vandervort, of the Vandervort Group, and Rick Zimmerman, of Zimmerman & Associates, have worked hard to ensure your point of view is considered by those legislators directly responsible for the bill, but ultimately your engagement is and will continue to be critical. New Jersey superintendents are acting on a bill that has already moved through the Senate and is being addressed by the Assembly now. It would be the most stringent neonicotinoid bill anywhere in the country. Not only would it create a drastic change to the green industry in New Jersey, it could easily cause reverberations in state houses across the bridge (that’s you!) and country. Our collective voices are our strongest asset. Please be sure your voice is included.

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

Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards Applications OPEN!!

Presented by GCSAA and Golf Digest in partnership with Syngenta, the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship.

We have moved the application period. ELGA applications are open from February 1 to April 30, 2021.

In 2018, the ELGAs were updated to recognize more superintendents in more focused areas of environmental sustainability. The ELGAs are based on the environmental best management practices that GCSAA recommends all courses utilize.

There are four ELGAs available:

- Natural Resource Conservation Award
- Healthy Land Stewardship Award
- Communications and Outreach Award
- Innovative Conservation Award

There will be one winner and two runners-up recognized for each award. GCSAA members may apply to one, two, three or all four awards in a single year. However, an individual can only win one award per year.

All applicants will be notified by December whether or not they have been selected as a winner. Winners will be recognized at the Golf Industry Show.

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



Commercial Sales

Gary Hughes - Western NY
716-570-2267
ghughes@grasslandcorp.com

Brent Lewis - Rochester NY
585-694-9948
blewis@grasslandcorp.com



Count on it.

Ian MacArthur - CNY
315-374-8444
imacarthur@grasslandcorp.com

Keith Pierce - Southern Tier
607-481-0809
kpierce@grasslandcorp.com



Irrigation Sales & Service

Sal Sgroi - Western NY
716-818-4329
salsgroi@pumpirrigation.com



Count on it.

Darren Graf - Eastern NY & VT
518-441-4753
dgraf@grasslandcorp.com

WE NEED YOU



We are looking for volunteers to serve on the following committees:

Membership
Education
Meeting/Tournaments
Scholarship/Research
Government relations/Environment

If you are interested please contact Suzanne, Chapter Administrator at gcsaofny@gmail.com