

In This Issue

President's Message
Matt Fiorentino

[Editor's Message](#)
Justin Santos

[Legislative Update](#)
Matt Fiorentino

[Education Day is Back!](#)
Pat Lanman

[Tournament Recaps](#)
Justin Santos
EJ Chea

[NERTF Show Prep 2023](#)
Gary Sykes

[NHGCSA Website Update!](#)

[For Those That Teach](#)
Vince Matics

[News from Syngenta](#)

[GCSAA Update](#)
Kevin Doyle

[Turf Tips: Harrell's LLC](#)
Dr. Paul Giardano



TurfTalk

Fall 2022 Edition

A publication of the New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents Association



Hello everyone,

I am honored to be the NHGCSA's incoming president, the opportunity to lead the Association is truly special to me. My four years of board service have brought me to this position, and this has only been made possible due to the guidance of many experienced and dedicated individuals who have worked tirelessly for many years on the board. I

would like to thank Dave Ousterhout, EJ Chea, Rob Horn, and Sid Chase for their efforts ensuring a successful future for the NHGCSA.

During 2022 we successfully launched our new website on the StarChapter platform. With a fresh new look and enhanced features our website will better serve the membership and provide improved administrative functions. It is very exciting to have this new system in place!

What's in store for 2023?

Along with the new website comes the idea of expanding our use of technology. We are exploring how to make meetings and events more accessible. It seems accessibility is an increasing issue whether it may be due to timing and/or location. Therefore, the goal is to be able to conduct meetings and events in a hybrid format, offering in-person and virtual attendance via a platform such as Zoom when possible.

After three years of Covid, many ongoing conversations amongst the board, and a recent strategic planning session with GCSAA, I believe it is very clear how our association will benefit from a holistic review. The time is now to assess, develop, and make the necessary changes to better conduct business, create new avenues for meetings, events, fundraising, and educational opportunities for continued success in the foreseeable future. There is much more to come as this process is just getting underway, so stay tuned!

I see this as an exciting time for the Association. The times are changing; this surely does not mean anything negative, but more of an opportunity to simply strive for continued excellence. We have a great group of individuals that make up the board and I hope everyone is just as excited for the future as I am.

Lastly, I hope everyone has had a great fall season and was able to take advantage of the abundance of warm weather, it certainly was a fantastic growing season. Yet, winter is here and it sure did set into place quickly! That means next up is Education Day and I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

As always, if I can ever be of assistance in any way, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

President's Message

Matt Fiorentino

Matthew Fiorentino, Profile Club
NHGCSA President

[Email me](#)

UPCOMING
EVENTS



Board meetings are held monthly at the Common Man in Concord unless noted. Start time is 4pm and all NHGCSA members are welcome.

Reach out to info@nhgcsa.com to confirm meeting place and time.

Other Upcoming Meetings and Events

NHGCSA Annual Turf Education Conference
December 7, 2022

Grappone Center, Concord

More information on page 3

New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show
March 7-9, 2023

Providence, RI

From the
Editor

I would like to congratulate Matt Fiorentino on becoming NHGCSA's next president! Special thanks to Dave Ousterhout as well for the many years of leadership and time he has had on the board. And a welcome back to the board to Andy McHugh. We appreciate all of you!

Here's the leadership team for 2023. We have openings for superintendent directors. If you are interested in helping out, please reach out to anyone of us.

President	Matt Fiorentino	Profile Club
Vice President	EJ Chea	Pease Golf Course
Treasurer	Ben Clark	Dublin Lake Club
Secretary	Patrick Lanman	Beaver Meadow Golf Club
2-Year Director	John Gabbeitt	Owl's Nest Golf Club
2-Year Director	Zach Fleeger	Wenworth Golf Club
2-Year Director	Andy McHugh	Green Meadow Golf Club
AC-Affiliate	Justin Santos	SGS Turf Care
AC- Affiliate	Connor Cinque	Harrell's LLC
C- Assistant	Brian Thompson	Laconia Country Club

Justin Santos
SGS Turf Care

Legislation Update

The 2022 legislative session continued its trend of being quiet for any required action by our association. As reported earlier in the year the only bill to follow introduced in 2022 was HB 1168. The bill passed the house, senate and was signed in by Governor Sununu. After such time a committee was formed, The Committee to Study the New Hampshire Law Relative to Soil Conditioners.

The committee formed has been tasked with assessing RSA 431: Soil Conditioners to better align the RSA chapter with current industry standards, terminology, modernized data technologies, and a means to better fund administrative costs for registration processes under RSA 431:4.

Currently there is no change concerning turf fertilizers.

A final report is due in November and its recommendations are expected to be use as framework for legislation to be filed next legislative session.

Matt

Matt Fiorentino, President NHGCSA
Profile Club

Education Day is Back!

Patrick Lanman
NHGCSA Secretary
Education Day Chairman

Welcome
New
Members

Annual Education with Pesticide Credits Wednesday, December 7 at Concord's Grappone Center

The NHGCSA is excited to announce we will once again be holding Education Day at the [Grappone Center](#) in Concord. The event will take place on Wednesday, December 7 and will feature vendor tables along with four excellent speakers that will cover a range of currently relevant topics.

Check-in begins at 8 a.m. with the opportunity to visit vendor exhibits and to catch up after the long season. Education seminars will begin at 9 a.m.

As mentioned before, we have lined up an exciting slate of speakers this year.

Steve Loveday

Product Development Manager Target Specialty Products

Topic: *A Better Understanding of Plant Physiology and Biostimulants for Reduced Water and Pesticide Usage*

Matthew Bosiak

New Hampshire Pesticide Commission

Topic: *Overview on the State of New Hampshire Rules and Regulations which Protect Surface and Groundwater from Pesticide Contamination*

Don Hearn

GCSANE

Topic: The Ins and Outs of My Time In the GCSAA

Dr. Janel Hanrahan

Northern Vermont University

Topic: *Understanding Climate Change in the Northeast U.S.*

There are 3 NH Pesticide Credits Anticipated

After the conclusion of the seminars we will have an always excellent lunch provided by the wonderful staff from the Grappone Center.

Registration Fee:

Seminar/Expo/Lunch	\$125 Member \$150 Non-Member
Vendor with Expo Table	\$250 Gold Level Sponsor (includes seminar registration)
	\$275 Silver Level Sponsor (includes seminar registration)
	\$300 Affiliate member (includes seminar registration)

We hope everyone will register to join us for what will be a great day!

Patrick Lanman

[Email me](#)

Jeffrey Sandison, C-Asst.
2nd Assistant Superintendent
Nashua Country Club

Congrats!

**2023 Board of Directors
President**

Matt Fiorentino

Profile Club

Vice President

EJ Chea

Pease Golf Course

Treasurer

Ben Clark

Dublin Lake Club

Secretary

Patrick Lanman

Beaver Meadow Golf Club

Directors

Zach Fleeger

Wentworth Golf Club

John Gabbeitt

Owl's Nest Golf Club

Andy McHugh

Green Meadow Golf Club

AC-Affiliates

Connor Cinque

Harrell's LLC

Justin Santos

SGS Turf Care

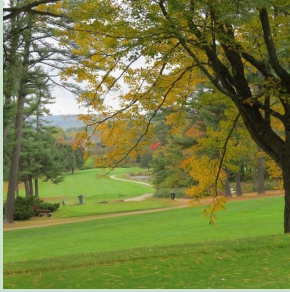
C- Assistant

Brian Thompson

Laconia Country Club

Thank you for serving
your Association!

Tournament Recaps



Annual Gold Ball & Scholarship Tournament

Justin Santos
NHGCSA Board of Directors

This year's tournament took us to the west side of the state to Keene Country Club. The weather was excellent for

September 27th, it was warm enough for shorts!

This was my first time at Keene County Club and it was a treat. It's definitely a challenging course to play and Superintendent Derek McAllister had the course in great shape! A thank you also goes out to Golf Pro Barry Pearson, his staff, and the clubhouse staff for hosting us and running a smooth tournament.

Congratulations to all the winners and special thanks to Rob Horn for helping out on the Mark Taylor hole!

First Place

Barrie Robertson, Jenn Steel, Tom Kimball, Greg Dubois, Jr.

Second Place

John Clark, Pete Mann, John Allard, Dennis Verge

Third Place

Jeff Toomey, Ed Ball, Jim Moreau, Dylan McDonough

Closest to the Pin #3

Derek MacAllister - 21"

Closest to the Pin #8

Jared Fischer - 3" 10"

Closest to the Pin #17

Declan Daubney - 2' 10"

Closest to the Line

Ken Howe (1" from it)



New England Superintendents Championship

EJ Chea
NHGCSA Board of Directors

The NHGCSA hosted this year's NE Golf Course Superintendent Championship. Every year one of the 7 chapters in the Northeast host this event. Past NH hosts of this event have been the Mt. Washington Golf Course and Abeniqui Country Club. This year's event was hosted by Portsmouth Country Club.

Players arrived at the event under a blanket of fog and seasonal temperatures. As players were warming up and checking in they were greeted with the sound of bagpipes carrying across the course. Just as play started the fog lifted and the sun came out. The golf course was spectacular. All turf conditions were great, the greens rolled fast and true, and the views of Great Bay and the foliage could not have been better. After the round, players had a banquet dinner followed by the awards. After tallying up all the scores from each chapter the Cape Cod chapter was declared the winner. Thanks to all who came out and played.

Special thanks to Portsmouth Country Club. Greg Dubois and his staff had the course in fantastic shape. The club embraced the opportunity to host this event and it showed. All staff starting with the GM Jason, the golf shop staff, and food and beverage were all very professional and a pleasure to work with.

RESULTS

Team competition

1. Cape Cod GCSA
2. New England GCSA
3. Rhode Island GCSA
4. Connecticut GCSA
5. New Hampshire GCSA
6. Vermont GCSA
7. Maine GCSA

Closest to Pin

- #5 Chip Fitzgerald
- #8 Greg Holder
- #13 Chip Fitzgerald
- #16 Tom Hoffer



NERTF Show Prep 2023

Gary J. Sykes

Executive Director, NERTF



Even before the floors were swept at the 2022 New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show, thoughts, notes and ideas are already projecting forward to what we can do in 2023 to improve the show. Which speakers should we approach? Which companies were missing and should have been there? What topics will be of interest and needed in 2023? What were any gaffs that we need to correct? How do we avoid lines on Wednesday morning? A lot goes through your mind after our event, and it includes thoughts like: how can we put it all together for next year but do it better? In 2023 our basic footprint will remain the same for March 7-9, 2023. It is planned that we will host (12) 2 & 4 hr. seminars on Tuesday, March 7 with many great topics and instructors. Booth sales have begun, the trade show remains strong and will be open on Wednesday and Thursday for 12 hours over the 2 days. Education for 2023 is locked in with the help of several in the industry, education will be high quality and applicable. Similar tracts are scheduled each day like we did in 2022 with speakers from across the country and with some locals too. It is all gearing up to be another great show and educational experience for everyone who attends and exhibits!

To be a successful turfgrass manager in 2023 your personal education is fundamental and it needs to be a continuing process throughout your career. Having a good broad education base in our business is a real starter, but like so many other industries, if you are not progressing then you are falling behind. The problem is that not only is the turf industry getting more complicated, but it is also that the industry is getting more specialized. Think about what is contained on many of today's golf courses. Under the ground we have an expensive sophisticated irrigation system that has more heads than a lettuce farm being powered by engineered pumps controlled by delicate computer equipment. Systems costing as much as 2 million dollars have

been installed giving superintendents pinpoint control of all artificial precipitation. Wires are buried all over the property electronically controlling each head and the pumphouse to boot. Most systems now have handheld control that you can even program at your kitchen table. Now this sounds all well and good until you take a lightning strike the week before your member-guest. You may need a technician trained by dig-safe who knows where all the wires and pipes are buried and who can chase the electrical failure(s) and replace any burned valves and controllers or other damage. Superintendents were usually expected to be able handle controller failure and repairs, but with so much involved it is much tougher. The title of irrigation technician on southwest golf courses was common but now even in New England individuals are specialized to be at the ready. These individuals need training and support.

How about turf equipment repairs? Forty years ago, many superintendents did all the equipment repair work plus sharpen and service their mower units. It was mostly tractors and gang mowers for roughs and fairways, a tee mower, something to mow banks with, and of course a greens mower or two. Other equipment might include a trap rake, aerifier, top-dresser, sprayer, a few utility carts, and a trim mower. Nothing too complicated, but each piece was essential. Today, courses are expected to be freshly cut and trimmed before the early groups hit the fairways. Now, not only do most courses have multiple fairway units, rough units, green and tee units, and several carts and complicated trucksters, but look closer and this new stuff may include a fleet filled with on board computers, some are considered hybrids equipped with wiring galore, bunches of electric valves and relays to deal with. Equipment costs have more than tripled in the last forty years with equipment that is more complicated than an Apollo Space Capsule. Diagnosing and repairing some of the onboard problems takes trained knowledgeable individuals. Jimmy-rigging is no longer an allowable artform especially with liability issues. To keep up, the equipment techs need education and instruction so not to make a new problem even larger by probing sensitive components incorrectly. I remember the day of having to drag a sophisticated fairway unit off the middle of one of our fairways and onto a trailer not because the engine died, or the hydraulics leaked, or the transmission jammed, but only because the onboard computer had somehow shorted?! I don't believe we need computers to cut grass, but the market allows for it,

Continued on next page...

...NERTF continued from previous page

and so the equipment technicians will, without a doubt, need to be ready for it when “it” happens! Whatever it is? Therefore, training and education will be needed for your personnel and should be looked at as an investment for your facility. This March we will enjoy having Jim Nedin in our Equipment Tech’s session making two presentations. Jim has worked in the industry for more than 50 years and has seen it all and has taught even more. We have been trying to get Jim for years, and we are glad to have him finally here in Providence in 2023. Our industry needs more opportunities for equipment techs, with the quality of speakers the New England Conference has, it truly will be a must attend event.

So, this brings me back to our show and 2023 show prep. I have learned it is better to embrace technology rather than ignore it. Not that I always want the newest toys, it’s more about being as efficient as anyone else out there. In our program this year we have tried to tie many presentations into the theme of “Technology and Turf”. There will be presentations focused on new technology available in the industry, artificial turf, and sprayers technology, electrical troubleshooting, and of course new agricultural products with the idea that by keeping up with technology, you will keep up with the demands of your position. Our annual show was formed not just to make money for turfgrass research, but to also educate members of the turfgrass industry so that you might have a leg up on the competition and be favored in the eyes of those that gave you the position to begin with. These are some of the great reasons to attend the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show in Providence on March 7-9, 2023! Our postcard is on the way, and our brochure will be sure to follow soon after. Our online registration will begin Monday, December 19. Remember we are a Turfgrass Conference and Show, we have education centered on Golf, Sports and Grounds, Lawn Care and Landscapes and Turfgrass Equipment Technicians too! So, come to the 26th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show, bring your Crew and be prepared to learn a few things!

Gary

Gary J. Sykes, Executive Director
New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, Inc.



Thank You and a Reminder

Thanks to all who have hung in there with us during the last few years. The pandemic affected us all. Some of you kept up with dues, others have lapsed. **Others may have missed the communication about the new website and how membership renewals will be managed. You can read that [here](#).**

For those that have lapsed, renewal emails will be going out over the next two weeks. We appreciate your attention to your dues payment to become current. **Lapsed members not renewed by December 31, will be moved to a non-member status and will need to reapply to gain access to member-only website sections and member pricing for events.**

What you should know:

Paper invoices are no longer sent if you have a valid email address on file with us. Please take the time to be sure you add info@nhgcsa.com to your email address book. The new system will allow payment directly online or if you prefer, you may print out the invoice and send a paper check. If your club pays for your dues, PLEASE request that they send back a copy of the invoice with the payment and note your name in the memo.



**THE ASSOCIATION
EMAIL ADDRESS
HAS CHANGED**

The new email address is

info@nhgcsa.com

Effective January 1, 2023 email addressed to nhgcsa@comcast.net will no longer be delivered.

Please be sure to take note and update your email address book. Thank You!

For Those Who Teach

Vince Matics

Retired (but still working)



Well, we made it through our first experience with a hurricane. We had some minor debris and loss of power for three days, and the golf course where I work sustained a few large tree losses and several days without power but other than that, we are back to normal. The generator I brought with us from New Hampshire saved our bacon among other refrigerated perishables, and the exceptional crew I work with had the course cleaned and ready for the club's premier member-guest tournament that was played two weeks later. Champions Tour first stage qualifier up next in mid-November. The Fort Myers area and other areas

south of us were not so lucky and are still recovering. Hope this was the last of it for the year.

But weather and storms are not the focal point of this presentation. I wanted to talk about educational inspirations and those who were most responsible. I am sure we can all point to a professor or educator during our college years who became that mentor or guide in the beginnings of our careers. I had been recently reminiscing about my time at Penn State and the Turf Management Program. This was essentially my last opportunity to do something within the game that I love. I was incredibly fortunate to be under the tutelage of the three most renowned educators in the business, Dr. Joseph M. Duich, Dr. Donald V. Waddington, and Gary's brother, Dr. Thomas Watschke. My introduction to Penn State began when my supervisor, Bill Lansdowne, one of the first Certified Superintendents in the country had scheduled a site visit by Dr. Herb Cole, Turf Pathologist, another exceptional researcher, and educator at PSU, invited me to attend the course tour as I was the main applicator. My interest in the aftermath of the tour had peaked and I was hooked.

I am sure we can all point to a professor or educator during our college years who became that mentor or guide in the beginnings of our careers. I had been recently reminiscing about my time at Penn State and the Turf Management

My first class was with Dr. Duich. We were all in awe of him. After all, as a grad student working with Dr. Burton Musser, he developed Penncross Creeping Bentgrass, the gold standard for northern putting green turf. As a turfgrass breeder and researcher, he would go on to develop Penneagle, Pennlinks, A1, A2, G1, and G2 Bentgrasses among others and was the advisor when Augusta National converted their greens from Bermuda to Bent. One of my classmates was involved in the initial project to convert the Par 3 course. Dr. Duich taught the Agronomy course from a practical, real-life point of view and his exams were more a test of how we would react in a real situation to resolve the problem. He also had a specifications, construction, and renovations course. The exams were challenging and you had to be able to explain why you followed a particular approach. A significant part of our grade was a written report on our summer internship encompassing all the aspects of our responsibilities. In explaining the parameters of what was required to be in the report, he made it clear that he did not want to see techno-babble or technical terms no one would understand. He said that he wanted anyone, even if they were not familiar with golf or never heard of agronomy, to be able to read the report and by the end, to be able to understand what you did for a living and what your responsibilities were and why. A lesson I have tried to follow through the years. (My report was 110 pages and he gave me a 99 on it – he read every word – found one misspelled – Smith Corona). As a follow-up, we had to deliver an oral report on some topic pertaining to our work. (Just so happens there was a movement by a disgruntled employee to form a union so I talked about what had transpired.) He even had a grass seed test in which we had to ID the seed and what variety – once again, the practical. One class he passed out applications to join the GCSAA.

Continued on next page...

...Teachers continue from previous page

I naively asked him if we join, what do we get out of it. In his own direct no bones about it way, he responded “You get out of it what you put in to it!” I am now into my 45th year as a member. One of the regrets I have to this day, is on the day I was leaving Penn State I stopped by his office to bid farewell and thank him. He asked me if I would like to have lunch with him in town, and I said I could not, that I was on my way to my first superintendent’s job. I often wonder what the conversation would have been about. Would he have suggested to continue my education? I will never know. I had the opportunity to see him at the Las Vegas conference before he passed and thanked him once more for giving me the chance for the life I lived.

I delivered a two-page explanation as to why a pound of sand weighed more than a pound of clay. Now I am sure in some universe or dimension, that may be true, but not on this planet or galaxy. He gave me an A for the course anyway but I am sure he was laughing all the time while he was reading it.

Dr. Waddington was the main Soils course instructor. Dr. Norm Hummel from Cornell was one of his grad students at the time and I remember him proctoring one of our exams. Soils was the most technologically challenging program for me and required an intense amount of study and attention to details. Speaking of which, a problem posed by Dr. Waddington in class was what weighed more, a bucket of sand or a bucket of clay. According to the facts, a bucket of sand weighs more because it has less pore space than clay. Sand has macropores, but clay, even though it seems more densely packed has many more micropores and that air space renders the clay lighter. Well Dr. Waddington also had a wry understated sense of humor. After a night of studying and cramming for the final exam and getting all keyed up for it, sure enough the question was on the exam – almost. He phrased it what weighs more, a pound of sand or a pound of clay. Now you must understand, all night, study, focused, etc., I delivered a two-page explanation as to why a pound of sand weighed more than a pound of clay. Now I am sure in some universe or dimension, that may be true, but not on this planet or galaxy. He gave me an A for the course anyway but I am sure he was laughing all the time while he was reading it. I wondered how many others did the same thing. Moral of the story – READ THE QUESTION!

Dr. Watschke’s course focus was weeds and control measures and a course of more intensive turf management procedures. With the weed course we had weekly weed walks around campus to identify the various weeds we talked about in their natural state. He would call

on students to identify the various weeds, and would count as part of the grade. For some reason he always picked the smallest, gnarliest looking weed for me to ID. Even had me identify a rough stalk bluegrass plant in patch of *Poa annua* which to his dismay I got it right. He said how do you know, and I responded because it is and we let it go at that. I still have the weed report I did that summer between semesters (45 years later) where we had to dry and press complete live weed samples, intact and write a page about each one including Common name and scientific name etc. He began every class with a 20-question quiz so by the time the final exam came, cramming for the test was not necessary. In fact, the time was spent relaxing and having a bite at the Corner Room or having a pitcher of beer and a tray at Highway Pizza, or visiting the Wine Cellar. Anyway, we were well prepared. I had the opportunity to see him at one of the GCSAA conferences where he received a well-deserved award and thanked him. Dr. Tom was my favorite teacher and I was shocked and saddened at his untimely passing.

These remarkable educators gave me the foundation for working within the game that has given me so much and I have a connection to a special institution. I am sure my daughter chose to go there based on the way I talked about my experiences there and she developed the same affection for PSU albeit in a different field of study. I understand the necessity of the online study program, especially for those who wish to further their education but cannot afford to be away from their job, home, or family. But I also thought, and I wrote it in feedback at the time, that I felt part of the education would be missed without the “weed walks” or the “twig walks” that were part of the Ornamentals course, or just the face to face give and take with the professors and classmates, but I digress. I was privileged to be a part of this program and educated by these giants of the industry. The program continues on in excellent hands and all I will say now to all of the other Turf alumni is “WE ARE.....PENN STATE!”

Vince

Vince Matics, CGCS Retired
(But still working)





Syngenta announces new sales and technical team members for golf, lawn care and aquatics

“With years of experience in this industry, our new team members are well-suited to provide exceptional support to professionals across the country,” said Dave Ravel, head of sales for Syngenta Professional Solutions. “We’re excited to have their many years of experience and see their commitment to our industry and our customers. They step into their new positions as we say thank you and congratulations to retirees Michael Agnew, Larry Feller, Gregg Schaner and Lee Kozsey who, combined, have dedicated approximately 150 years to serving the green industry and supporting the Syngenta technical and sales teams.”

New technical services representative:



Lisa Beirn, Ph.D. has been named technical services representative within the turf business. Beirn completed her Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and doctorate from Rutgers University. Since January 2016, she has been an integral part of the Syngenta field development team as a research and development scientist, coordinating various turf field and lab trials in the Northeast such as dollar spot.

“Having been an R&D scientist, I have a deep appreciation for how much hard work, time and resources are put into developing and testing new chemistries. Our customers can rest assured knowing that when a new product is available, it is high quality and has been thoroughly researched,” Beirn said.

In addition to her extensive dollar spot research and support in launching Posterity® brand fungicides, Beirn spent over six years developing annual bluegrass weevil solutions.

“We are excited to have Lisa join our experienced team of regional technical managers including Lane Tredway, Ph.D., Dean Mosdell, Ph.D., and Matt Giese, M.S.,” said Mark Coffelt, head of technical services for Syngenta Professional Solutions.



Northeast District:

Chris Marra is now serving as the turf territory manager in northern New Jersey, eastern New York and Vermont. Marra holds a Bachelor of Science in turfgrass science from Penn State University. Before joining Syngenta, Marra was the superintendent at Maplewood Country Club in New Jersey.

New key account manager positions created for Syngenta Professional Solutions:

Additionally, **Gracee Hendrix** has been appointed to the newly created role of key account manager. After graduating with her Bachelor of Science from Virginia Tech, Hendrix joined Syngenta in 2017 as a research and development specialist at the Vero Beach Research Center. In 2020, she became a territory sales manager for the coastal southeast. In this new key account manager role, her focus is on key growth areas within Syngenta.



Jason Whitecliffe has also been appointed to the newly created role of key account manager. He joined the Syngenta team in 2005 as a territory manager for turf. During his 17-year career at Syngenta, Whitecliffe has been a key contributor to the success of the company and will continue to be a trusted resource for key accounts across the business.

“Gracee and Jason have been fundamental members of the Syngenta Professional Solutions team, providing consistent support to our customers across the country,” Ravel said. “We are fortunate for our exceptional growth that has allowed us to create these new roles, and we can’t wait to watch these individuals excel.”

For more information about Syngenta, visit [GreenCastOnline.com](https://www.greencastonline.com).
Join the conversation online — connect with us [@SyngentaTurf](https://twitter.com/SyngentaTurf).

GCSAA Update

Kevin Doyle
GCSAA Field Staff



With thermometer readings sliding off summer highs and into fall lows, calendars will also change from meeting and event golf season to indoor education season. Chapter education, vendor events, regional conferences, and of course GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando are being announced and updated almost daily now. As a quick add: Don't miss the NEW interactive facility Learning Tours in Orlando where hands-on activities will be highlighted! This year's conference offers more opportunities for staff including assistant superintendents, equipment managers and staff members. With our often-understaffed teams, it's critical to arm everyone with the education needed to maximize their skills.

GCSAA, along with so many other education providers, learned how to deliver online education during the pandemic. The online 2021 conference and show was the first opportunity your association took to target education for maintenance team members outside of superintendents and assistants. The resulting feedback was excellent! The ease of use regarding the online platform and level appropriate information were noted by many members. The more eyes that are trained to alert of potential issues, the better.

Equipment manager (EM) education and resources continue to grow. More local associations are building education days specifically for member EMs. Add in the long-time running, full-day agenda offered at the New England Regional Turfgrass Show in Providence, and there are several resources available in the Northeast Region. Education at the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show continues to be robust and growing, including EM specific receptions developed for connecting EM peers and growing their network. With the GCSAA Equipment Manager Certificate Program and now EM Certification opportunities, the ability to educate, develop, and recognize this critical part of the golf maintenance leadership team is growing in importance and easier than ever to accomplish.

Educating assistant superintendents seems to always have been an integral part of building a successful team. Local and regional resources are widely known and utilized. As a reminder, the GCSAA Assistant Superintendent Certificate Series is a targeted learning opportunity developed by assistants for assistants to offer these up-and-coming professionals the chance to differentiate themselves among their peers. Agronomy, business, leadership and communication, and environmental stewardship education will assist in building the skills needed for success in the future.

There is little doubt that education can be costly, and travel hasn't gotten any cheaper either. Have you had the opportunity to discuss the value continued education brings to your facility? If any member of your staff can keep one issue or pest problem from becoming more costly to correct, is that a value? With the supply chain struggling to provide timely parts deliveries (if at all), would a more highly trained and connected EM be in a better situation to develop a fix and get equipment back on the course?

Finding and keeping talented staff is an industry-wide concern. The ability to offer education to your staff at every level can only help in developing your team and benefit your facility. It might take time, funding, and lots of communication with decision makers at your facility to make this important investment in your people. If your staff is valued as the asset they deserve to be, educational opportunities will bring both tangible returns to the club and your team. A true win-win situation.

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

Kevin

Kevin Doyle
GCSAA Field Staff

kdoyle@gcsaa.org

Follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_NE

Turf Tips: Maximizing Product Performance

Dr. Paul Giardino, Harrell's LLC

Plant protectants and other turf health products make up a significant portion of a golf course or lawn care company's operating budget. They are also investments that pay dividends when used properly by improving the playability, aesthetic value, and overall health and performance of the plants and surfaces to which they are applied. But are we always getting the MOST out of these products? Are they getting on or into the plant the way they should? Are they targeted to the proper part of the plant or soil environment? Are they at high enough concentrations to deliver the desired effect? Below is a quick rundown of a few things to keep in mind to help optimize your product performance.

The Right Rate

Most products have a rate range which often leaves the end-user with a decision to make. A general rule of thumb for plant protection products (fungicides, herbicides, insecticides) is when using them in a preventive manner, the low-to-mid labeled rates will typically suffice. Conversely, if using products in a curative manner, when disease, weed, or insect infestations are further progressed, higher rates will be required for adequate control. Product rate will often correlate directly with longevity of performance - thus, the higher the rate, the longer the control or effect will last. This, however, is not a hard and fast rule, especially when it comes to products like growth regulators where increasing product rate increases regulation intensity but does not necessarily extend growth suppression duration.

Human error often comes into play when we discuss product rates as well. Although it may be a lot easier to simply add "a couple glugs" to the spray tank, precise measurement (and double checking your math) on each product helps to ensure performance and limit over/under application mistakes.

Equipment and Output

Once in the spray tank or spreader, your products are further subjected to application variables that can affect their overall performance. From equipment calibration to nozzle selection, the tools we use to apply plant health products are a critical piece of optimizing their efficacy.

It goes without saying that **proper calibration** of spray and spreader equipment is tantamount to getting the most out of your products. Calibration should be done at least once per season but may be required more frequently depending on frequency of use and specific circumstances. Many different strategies exist depending on the type of equipment being used, but a great comprehensive resource on application equipment calibration from Purdue University can be found here - [Calibrating Turf Sprayers and Spreaders](#).

For liquid applications, the different components of the spray tank can have positive or negative impacts on one another. For instance, certain insecticides as well as other pesticidal products are subject to what's known as **alkaline hydrolysis** - a process by which the pH of the carrier water can negatively affect the stability of the product and degrade the pesticide to a non-toxic or inactive form.

A good overview of alkaline hydrolysis and the effect on various common pesticides can be found here https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/effect_of_water_ph_on_the_stability_of_pesticides. The key takeaway - check your spray tank pH often and understand the effect of this pH on the products you are using. If needed, use a tank buffering agent to stabilize the spray solution and make sure to apply the pesticides as soon as possible after mixing.



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...Turf Tips continued from previous page

In some cases, **antagonism** can occur between products when mixed in the same spray tank. While this is relatively rare, product labels will usually indicate the antagonist(s) and provide specific instructions on proper use. See the example below from the Acclaim Extra herbicide label:

NOTES FOR WEED CONTROL IN TURFGRASSES

1. Stunting and/or chlorosis may occur on succulent, rapidly growing Kentucky bluegrass. Symptoms are temporary and will subside.
2. Adequate soil moisture will enhance the performance of Acclaim Extra Herbicide. Avoid application of Acclaim Extra Herbicide under DROUGHT STRESS conditions. Thorough irrigation one to two days before or within one day after application will be helpful under these conditions.
3. Rainfall or irrigation before spray deposit has dried may cause a reduction in grass control. Allow spray deposit to dry at least one hour before irrigation.
4. Acclaim Extra Herbicide may be applied at no more than 9.0 fl oz/A on Kentucky bluegrass seedlings that have tillered and have been emerged for at least one month. Temporary discoloration and stunting of bluegrass seedlings may occur at this timing. Seedlings will recover, however; and the final bluegrass stand will be improved due to reduced competition from the annual grass weeds. Annual grass weeds must be untilled at the time of application for adequate control. Do not reapply Acclaim Extra Herbicide to previously treated seedling Kentucky bluegrass for at least two months. When utilizing Acclaim Extra Herbicide at rates higher than 9.0 fl oz/A, Kentucky bluegrass seedlings must be at least three growing months old. DO NOT apply Acclaim Extra Herbicide to seedling fine leaf fescue, tall fescue, or perennial ryegrass less than 4 weeks old.
5. Broadleaf herbicides such as 2,4-D or MCPP may reduce the effectiveness of Acclaim Extra Herbicide. Do not apply Acclaim Extra Herbicide within 21 days following a 2,4-D or MCPP application, or 5 days before a 2,4-D or MCPP application.



Now that we are ready to spray, it helps if we have the correct delivery mechanism for accurate application. **Nozzle selection** is yet another controllable variable that turf managers must consider when optimizing the performance of their products. The nozzle is a major factor in determining the amount of spray applied to an area, uniformity of application, coverage obtained on the target surface, and amount of potential drift. While some products may specify nozzle type and carrier volume for best results, not all do. It's important to select the proper nozzle for the job to be done. This will vary depending on target (turf plant, broadleaf weed, subsurface pest, soil drench) and spray equipment specifications such as boom height, spacing, and pressure. Here's a great reference from Virginia Tech University on [nozzle selection and sizing](#).

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