

BOD Outreach to VtGCSA and NEGCSA

September 20-22, 2022

On September 20th Kevin Doyle and I went to Fox Run Golf Course in Ludlow, VT. for a trade show and golf event. In the morning they had a trade show which we had a table set up to promote the First Green program. They had a great turn out for the event with Superintendents, Assistant superintendents, and Equipment managers in attendance. I had the opportunity to talk on a variety of opportunities from CGCS, Assistant Superintendent and EQ. certificate programs, First Green programs and Melrose Leadership Academy. We had lunch and golf and then I had an opportunity to address everyone in the group before golf about the many programs the GCSAA has. Everyone gathered in the clubhouse afterwards and it provide another opportunity to network and share GCSAA programs with their members. I was happy to hear that some Assistants were already delving into the Assistant Superintendent Certificate Program. I had a great conversation with Scott Watelot (President of the VtGCSA) about their chapter and he was interested in the Melrose program himself.

The next day we went to Rutland Country Club and met with Superintendent Terry Davio. Terry was a Melrose Leadership Academy recipient last year and was able to attend the Conference and show last year. He was super appreciative of the opportunity to attend both of these events. He is going to attend the Conference and show this year and is trying to get them to have his Assistant Superintendent there as well. He is also looking at starting the process towards becoming a CGCS.

We then went to Williston, VT. to meet with Larry Keefe Superintendent/owner of Williston Golf Club. Larry is the godfather of the superintendents of Vermont. He has been very active over his career with the association and encouraging other to get involved. Truly a remarkable person and would have been a missed opportunity if I hadn't had the opportunity to meet with him. He plans on retiring in the next couple of years but will remain involved with the VtGCSA and encouraging others.

Next, we were off to New York. There we first meet with Joe Lucas at Saratoga National Golf Club. In talking with Joe, we found that he like most superintendents had major issues with finding labor and the cost of employee pay rate skyrocketing to get anyone to work. Another major topic was the course has been so busy that it was hard to get maintenance tasks done.

Next, we meet with Chad Murphy at Saratoga Spa State Park Golf Course. We had the opportunity to talk about labor issues, challenges he has at his facility and working towards becoming a CGCS. He has some challenges at home right now as his wife had a stroke just two weeks before our visit with him. Thankfully it was a fairly minor stroke but has required more of his attention.

Next, we meet with the NEGCSA BOD and had a great opportunity to share many topics with them. I have included an email from their President John Risler, CGCS

Good Morning Doug

Thank you for taking the time to sit in on our NEGCSA board meeting yesterday. I hope that it was as informative for you as it was for us. I was particularly interested in the discussion with regards to the First Green, and I am hopeful that our association can take a greater interest in this by getting involved at our local level and perhaps through financial support as well. It was also good to hear about the

changes to the certification program which will hopefully allow more superintendents the opportunity to become certified without watering down the process. Thank you too for the boards continued efforts on our behalf with all government issues that can have an effect on our profession. Our executive office will be sending an email blast out to all of our members asking them to take part in the survey. Hopefully GCSAA will get some data from our area to better represent things when speaking with regulators and legislators.

Thank you again, and if you could have your chapter's executive director send me the sponsorship information for your chapter that would be great. I hope that you have a great rest of your golf season, and best of luck in 2023!

John

John A Risler, CGCS

Town of Colonie Golf Course

68 Lisha Kill Rd

Albany, NY 12205

(518) 456-1350 (O