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More information about the Alumni Turf Group available at www.alumniturfgroup.com

University of Massachusetts Alumni Honors Jeff Wentworth, CGCS at 16th Annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic

Pelham Country Club in Pelham, New York played host to a full field of University of Massachusetts Turf Program Alumni and turf industry professionals at the 16th annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic where Golf Course Superintendent and University of Massachusetts alum, Jeff Pelham, CGCS was honored. The sold-out field raised over \$50,000 to support the turf program at UMass/Stockbridge School of Agriculture.

At the University of Massachusetts, Wentworth earned an Associate's Degree in Turfgrass Management from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and a Bachelor of Science in Urban Forestry. His early career saw him at notable courses like Hickory Ridge, Myopia Hunt Club, Ridgewood Country Club, Columbia Country Club and eventually as an Assistant Superintendent at Westchester Country Club in Rye, New York where he helped prepare for 4 PGA tour events.

Wentworth has been the Golf Course Superintendent at Pelham Country Club for the past 28 years. Since starting at Pelham, he has improved almost all the course's infrastructure constructing a state-of-the-art maintenance facility; complete irrigation system, massive drainage projects and most recently a 20-acre course improvement project, including 5 new holes, and an extensive stormwater management system.

The Metropolitan Golf Association recognized Jeff in 2021 awarding him and Pelham Country Club the Arthur P. Weber award for environmental stewardship. He is a founding member of the Alumni Turf Group.

Bob Ruszala, President of ATG, stated, "We are thankful to the many Friends, Alumni, and UMass turf family for our success. The Pelham Country Club was gracious to support our success on this day. We truly appreciate everything they did for us and the staff was fantastic. The golf course was in great shape and we are thankful to Honoree Jeff Wentworth CGCS and his grounds crew for the awesome playing conditions."

"I was fortunate to have many turf students work for me at Hickory Ridge Country Club. Most went on to Golf Course Superintendent positions. Jeff Wentworth CGCS is one who I am very proud to have had worked with me."

Dave Pease, ATG Executive secretary speaking at the event said "The event was a fundraising success thanks to industry support. Premier Sponsor, Tom Irwin has been involved with this event since its inception. We appreciate Tanto Irrigation joining us as at the Platinum level as well. In addition, crucial support came from Turf Products Corporation, Finch Services, and Harrell's at the Gold Level."

"Every dollar raised today goes directly to the Turfgrass Research Program at the University of Massachusetts. This brings the total raised in the past 17 years to well over \$1.5 million in matching funds to the

turfgrass research program which has included the construction of the Dr. Joseph Troll Research Center, underwriting major research studies, contributing to an endowment, and providing a base for educational opportunities. "

Ruszala points out that "This effort by alumni is more important now than ever as the Turf Program has lost three professors to retirement: Dr. Scott Ebdon, Dr. Prasanta Bhowmik, and Dr. Rob Wick. ATG will be meeting with UMass officials to discuss plans to replace these losses. We need everyone's help and voice to be heard so these positions won't be eliminated".

The Alumni Turf Group (ATG), formed in 2005, is a 501c3 organization made up of turf professionals who are graduates of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and the University of Massachusetts. Through fundraising, ATG hopes to further research and education, promote UMass alumni in the turf management profession, and instill pride and commitment in the turf programs at the University of Massachusetts.

Additional information for this event, membership applications, and ATG information are available online at www.alumniturfgroup.com.