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Clippings

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Award Honors Crew Who Make Golf Greener

Diehard golfers want it green and want it fast. They want the ball to roll quickly eight or ten feet at a tap of their club. And sure, Dave Catalano and his staff want it fast too. But for the crew at Bethpage State Park’s world-renowned golf courses, it’s about more than play...they’re out to prove something. They are part of groundbreaking research to develop, test, and fine-tune techniques that steeply cut pesticide and fertilizer use. In other words, they want to green up golf.

Golf courses are often faulted for heavy pesticide use. Yet the Bethpage project has cut environmental impact up to 96 percent over conventional practices...and this in a climate where weather conditions and heavy foot traffic from 250,000 golfers each year ensure constant disease pressure. Home of the 2009 US Open, Bethpage State Park comprises five separate golf courses on its 1,500 acres in the heart of densely populated Long Island, just 25 miles east of the New York City line.

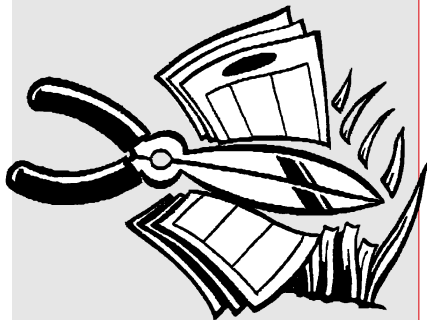
For their involvement in nearly a decade of research at Bethpage, Catalano, Andy Wilson, Craig Currier and Kathie Wegman have earned an Excellence in IPM award from the New York State Integrated Pest Management (NYS IPM) Program at Cornell University. Integrated pest management seeks least-toxic ways of

dealing with pests.

“We can’t emphasize enough how important long-term, real-world research is,” said Jennifer Grant, assistant director of NYS IPM, who coordinates turf IPM research. “You don’t get truly useful results until you’ve tested your work over time, keeping what works and incorporating promising new practices and products.”

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When Wilson is out on the green with his stimpmeter or moisture probe and a golfer asks what he’s up to, the conversation could easily cut to the new tactics and products the crews are testing to deliver quality conditions with lower inputs. Wilson supervises Bethpage’s aptly named Green Course, where core IPM practices are developed. That stimpmeter, for example, measures how fast the ball rolls, something golfers care a lot about. It tells Wilson more – it tells him whether IPM greens provide the same level of play. But when Wilson talks to other golf-course superintendents, he cuts to the essential ingredient in high-level IPM - careful



New York State Turfgrass Association Calendar of Events

2009

December 7-11

Cornell Turfgrass Short Course
Cornell University Campus, Ithaca, NY

2010

January 12-14

Empire State Green Industry Show
Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY

February 23-24

Southeast Regional Conference
Holiday Inn Suffern, Suffern, NY

March 1

Western Regional Conference
Millennium Airport Hotel, Buffalo, NY

March 18

Adirondack Regional Conference
Crowne Plaza Lake Placid Resort, Lake Placid, NY



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recordkeeping. "It keeps your mind sharp, helping you think through alternate solutions to typical problems instead of falling back on the tried and true," Wilson said.

Just as essential is scouting - monitoring greens and fairways for insect, weed, and plant disease pests. "Scouting can be as low-tech as flushing insects from the turf with a lemon soap solution, or as high tech as looking at root pieces through a microscope to precisely identify a disease," said Kathie Wegman, Bethpage's IPM specialist. "We find out where the hot spots are and treat them, which lessens or even eliminates the need to spray."

Linehan Receives NYSNLA 2009 CNLP of the Year Award

David Linehan, Jim Girard Landscape Maintenance Corp., received the New York State Nursery and Landscape Association and Certified Nursery and Landscape Professional Program CNLP of the Year Award. The award is given to an individual who has made outstanding and unselfish contributions to the nursery and landscape industry in the State of New York.



Dave has been a CNLP for 27 consecutive years and became a Lifetime CNLP in 2007. For many years, Dave has kept NYSTA members informed on the urgent matters that affect their businesses by providing detailed legislative reports. He received the NYSTA Citation of Merit award in 2002. He has also served as Chair of the NYSNLA's Legislative Committee.

The CNLP of the Year award was presented at the 2009 New York State Fair in Syracuse at an opening day ceremony held Thursday, August 27, 2009 in the Court of Honor.

But can steeply cutting pesticide use really produce satisfactory play? "Surveys consistently show high golfer satisfaction with IPM-managed greens at Bethpage," said Frank Rossi, professor and turf specialist at Cornell University. "This has been a monumental project, both in scope and impact."

Catalano, Currier, Wilson and Wegman received their award on behalf of all their colleagues on August 12, 2009 at the Cornell University Turfgrass Field Day at Bethpage State Park in Farmingdale, NY. To learn more about IPM, go to www.nysipm.cornell.edu.

Mary M. Woodsen

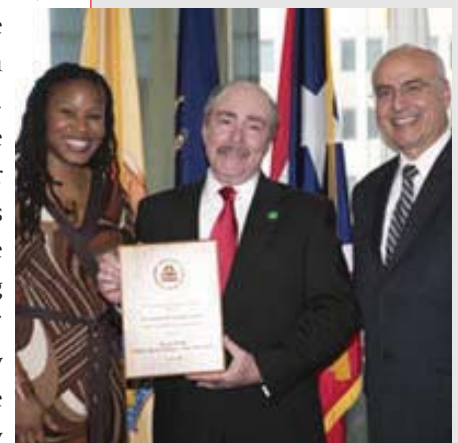
Trotta Receives Environmental Quality Award

Global Sports Alliance-New York team captain, Kevin Trotta, has been honored with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Quality Award, the highest regional recognition the Agency presents to the public. In honor of Earth Day, the US EPA recognizes individuals and organizations who have dedicated time and energy to "protecting and enhancing environmental quality" in EPA Region 2, which includes New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and seven federally recognized Indian Nations.

Kevin was selected for his efforts in promoting environmental awareness and action in the world of sports and recreation. Projects have included local, regional and national initiatives to link sports-related activities with environmental stewardship and to introduce and advance GSA's Ecoflag campaign.

"I am honored that the EPA has recognized the work of GSA-New York," said Trotta. "and honored also to be an Ecoflag ambassador and member of the GSA family of environmental champions around the world."

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Pictured from left to right are environmental advocate Majora Carter, Kevin Trotta and EPA Administrator George Pavlou.