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More information about the Alumni Turf Group available at [www.alumniturfgroup.com](http://www.alumniturfgroup.com)

## **University of Massachusetts Alumni Honors Brian Cowan, CGCS and Jim Staszowski at 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic**

Pine Hills Golf Club in Plymouth, Massachusetts played host to a full field of University of Massachusetts Turf Program Alumni and turf industry professionals at the 17th annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic where Stockbridge Alumni Brian Cowan and Jim Staszowski were honored. The event raised over \$47,000 to support the turf program at University of Massachusetts.

Jim Staszowski spent his career at Turf Products Corporation in Enfield Connecticut as a Toro Representative starting in 1981 and ended his career there as Vice President of Commercial Sales. He is a founding member of the Alumni Turf Group having graduated Stockbridge in 1978 and UMass in 1980.

Brian Cowan, a 1965 graduate of The Stockbridge School of Agriculture, spent 47 years at Eastward Ho! Country Club, widely recognized as one of the top golf courses in the United States. He has served as President of both the Cape Cod and the New England Golf Course Superintendents Associations.

Bob Ruzala, President of ATG, stated, "We are thankful to the many Friends, Alumni, and members of the UMass turf family for our success. The Pine Hills Golf Club and its Superintendent Joe Felicetti were gracious to support our success on this day. We truly appreciate everything they did for us, and the staff was fantastic. The Alumni Turf Group is grateful to all of our friends, sponsors, supporters, and family of the UMass/Stockbridge Turf Grass Program for the successful Dr. Joseph Troll Classic fundraiser held at Pine Hills Golf Club. The level of support and participation by all is truly appreciated. Our goal is to continue to strengthen the turf program and with your help we will keep the program at the forefront of turf education."

Dave Pease, ATG Executive secretary speaking at the event said "The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Joseph Troll Turfgrass Classic was a tremendous success. Over the past seventeen years the ATG mission has been promoting the turfgrass industry through turfgrass research, industry logistics, and human resourcing through recruitment, training, and development at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and the University of Massachusetts. As a result, the Troll Classic at the Pine Hills Golf Club continues the steadfast dedication to the mission and has provided support for programs that ensure a brighter future for all the Sports Turf, Landscape Turf, and Golf Course industries. The UMass Alumni Turf Group thanks all the participants who supported this event, especially the sponsors for their most generous support.

"Every dollar raised through our initiatives goes directly to the Turfgrass Research Program at the University of Massachusetts. This brings the total raised over the past 17 years to well over \$1.5 million,

including 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. "

Plans are currently in place for the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic to take place at Fenway Golf Club in Scarsdale, New York on October 10. Brothers Bob and Joe Alonzi, both Certified Golf Course Superintendents, will be the honorees.

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](http://www.alumniturfgroup.com).