



# THE GREENERSIDE

*Spring 2011 • Volume 35 Number 2*

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

Plainfield Country Club  
Plainfield, NJ  
Hole 9



## Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey

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### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

|   |   |  |                             |
|---|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Name  | Home Address  |  |                             |
| Nickname  | City  |  |                             |
| Spouse's Name   | State   | Zip  |                             |
| Club/Affiliation  | Home Phone  |  |                             |
| Business Address  | ** Current Email Address  |  |                             |
| City, State, Zip  | ** As of 1/31/09, Email is primary vehicle of contact. Events Form will also be on chapter website – <a href="http://www.gcsanj.org">www.gcsanj.org</a> |  |                             |
| Business Phone  | When we mail, your Preferred Address: Home Work   |  |                             |
| Business Fax  | Number of Years at present club or position:  |  |                             |
| Cell Phone  |   |  |                             |
| <b>* As of July 1, 1997 all applicants for Class A or SM Membership MUST also be a member of GCSAA.</b> |   |  |                             |
| GCSAA Member? Yes No  | GCSANJ Membership Class applying for? Select one below  |  |                             |
|   |   | _____ Class A (\$150)  | _____ Class AF (\$150)      |
| GCSAA Class   | GCSAA ID #  | _____ Class SM (\$150)   | _____ Class NR (\$ 75)      |
| Certified (CGCS)? _____Yes _____No  | _____ Class C (\$ 75)   |  | _____ Class ST (\$ 25)      |
| * As a member of GCSAA, do you wish to have your vote cast by the GCSANJ Delegate? _____Yes _____No     |   | _____ Class Associate (\$50)   | _____ Class L (Life) (\$ 0) |
|   |   | _____ Reclassification from Class _____ to Class _____   |                             |
| Member of Another Chapter? _____Yes _____No   |   | Class A & SM Members Only – Answer question below  |                             |
| Chapter name _____ Class _____  |   | Do you wish to have your Green Chairman and/or President receive <i>The Greenside</i> Newsletter? _____Yes _____No |                             |
| Pesticide Applicator? _____Yes _____No  |   |  |                             |
| State(s) of _____ License # _____   |   |  |                             |
| <b>Please notify GCSANJ Office immediately if there are any changes to your information.</b>            |   | *Go to " <a href="http://www.gcsanj.org">www.gcsanj.org</a> " for list of District Directors                       |                             |
|   |   | District _____1 _____2 _____3 _____4   |                             |
|   |   | Director's Attest _____ (signature)  |                             |
|   |   | Date _____   |                             |

PLEASE NOTE: Application must be signed by two (2) Class A members from your District (*except Reclassifications*)

*\*Class A members are Superintendents with 3 or more years experience*

*\*Dues must be included with application and forwarded to GCSANJ Headquarters*

**Mail with Check to: GCSANJ, 25 US Highway 46, Wayne, NJ 07470 • Fax with Credit Card Info on page 2**

Class A Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Class A Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





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#### COVER PHOTO

**Hole 9 at Plainfield Country Club, Plainfield NJ**  
Courtesy of Travis Pauley, Superintendent

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## **Welcome New GCSANJ Members!**

**Daniel Farr, C, Metedeconk National Golf Club**  
**James Casazza, A, Farmstead Golf & Country Club**  
**Christopher DeSalvia, C, Forest Hill Field Club**  
**Mark Beaumont, AF, Culti-Pro Sports Turf**  
**Arlene Dolly, AF, Dolly Enterprises**  
**Mark Johnson, AF, Fisher and Son Company**  
**George Derrick, AF, Langan Engineering**  
**Chris Kastner, C, Arcola Country Club**  
**Joe Alvare, AF, Genesis Turfgrass Inc.**  
**Mike Del Biondo, AF, Genesis Turfgrass Inc.**  
**Mark Merrick, AF, Genesis Turfgrass Inc.**

## President's Message

Paul Dotti, Arcola Country Club

Summer is here and I wonder what Mother Nature has in store for us this year. This spring has been anything but easy with all the rain we had to endure and even some early hot weather. Unfortunately our May meeting was cancelled due to rain at Forest Hills Field Club and I know Frank was working hard to get the course ready for us. Mendham is a few weeks away and I hope many of you can sneak away for a fun afternoon of golf.

That old saying "we all talk about the weather but nobody does anything about it" is so true. Friends and family call to ask me what the weather will be for an upcoming event etc., like I am some kind of expert. I am like everyone else, I check the weather daily to see if it will affect upcoming events at the club or if I should have syringers ready for the weekend. I also know when most people are excited about a nice sunny hot weekend ahead most of us are thinking about wilting turf. If we look at all the tragedies around the world with earthquakes, tsunamis and even tornadoes, wilting poa and soggy fairways are really not the end of the world and we still have a house to go home to after a stressful day.

During times of tragedy it is amazing how people will step up to help others, even if they never met them before, by donating money, food, clothing or other needs. Our Foundation does that very same thing, helps our members in the time of need, by making their lives a little easier in the times of trouble. We have several ways of raising money for the Foundation with our Summer Social, raffles and the RTJ Tournament, which also helps in raising money for the EIFG. Try to support Foundation activities as much as possible as it may one day help one of your fellow members in the time of need.

Now that we are heading into the 100 days of hell, we are all going to be concentrating on our turf a little more and spending a little less time for ourselves. Try to attend the June 20th meeting at Mendham if you can get away and also try to support your District Meeting in August. Last but not least, our Championship is at Alpine CC in September. If you have not had the opportunity to play this golf course you should, it is a great Tillinghast track with some of the toughest greens around.

I am going to conclude my Presidents Message here as I have been off the course for over an hour now and I have to go back out and check for wilt. 🌱

Paul Dotti, President, GCSANJ



## From Your Exec Director

Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP  
Executive Director



Are you happy with your Association? What do you like or what do you think we can do better? Do you attend meetings, read the Greenerside, visit the website, read the emails, network with other members? Are you getting the best value for your investment and does your membership benefit you professionally?

At the end of March, we sent our first survey this year via Constant Contact to assess your comments about our education programs, your ability to attend, cost structures and limitations, and we asked for your candid comments in the survey questions. We were very pleased to receive over 100 completed surveys with valuable input, and we thank you for taking the time to respond.

Another survey will be sent soon about our education programs. Please take the time to give us your honest feedback.

And we're not stopping there. The GCSANJ office will be contacting each member by phone and asking for your input -- it's a 'Thanks for Being a Member' and 'Member Satisfaction' phone call...and we know you will be candid - we expect no less.

Have you visited our Facebook page yet? If so, don't forget to 'like' us. If you haven't, this is a page for members to stay in touch with other members and write about what's going on at your course.

Not everyone is as tech savvy as other members, but we'll share some information about what members are doing with blogs in a future issue.

Thanks in advance for sharing...can't wait to talk to you.  
Cece

**"Nothing can add more power to your life than concentrating all of your energies on a limited set of targets." Nido Qubein**



# The Barclays at Plainfield CC

*by Travis Pauley, Superintendent, Plainfield CC*

Plainfield Country Club's desire to host a major championship had not waned since the cancellation of the US Senior Open to be held in 2005. While the cancellation was a blow to the club at the time, a realization was made that Plainfield may not be all it could be, and improvement could and should be made before pursuing another event. All major tournament groups (USGA, PGA of America and PGA Tour) had been contacted, but the initial reaction from all parties was that there were considerable challenges to hosting a large scale event at Plainfield. The property was too tight and capital needs were quite extensive relative to other sites competing to host a large tournament. To be competitive, the club felt it best to prioritize projects that first, benefitted the membership at large, but would also address the fundamental changes needed to host a large scale event at Plainfield.

First, club officials felt the long standing Master Plan developed in 1999 by course architect Gil Hanse had to be completed. As of 2005, over half the bunkers on the golf course had not been renovated in 20+ years. Drainage and sand quality needed improvement and the golf course needed to be presented in a consistent architectural theme. Previous versions of bunkers were of a flashy nature, rather than the flat bottomed and grass-faced versions Donald Ross intended. These changes, in the Board of Directors' eyes, were far easier to justify to the membership than new back tees, as every member that plays golf would receive the benefit immediately. In early 2008, the club overwhelmingly approved a small assessment to essentially finish the Master Plan and work began that fall and was finished in the spring of 2009.

Another problem with staging a major golf tournament was the overly aggressive tree plantings. Plainfield is a smallish property by large tournament standards, as the main course occupies only 140 acres. Affording spectators good sight lines, moving them around the course, and erecting hospitality structures would have been nearly impossible as the course existed in the early 2000's, due to the superfluous tree plantings. In 2004, a massive tree removal program as proposed by Hanse's Master Plan and previous superintendent Greg James, began in earnest. Very aggressive tree removal continued into 2005 and 2006. Green backdrops were axed and walls of trees dividing holes were nearly cross cut.

Being a pine or spruce tree during this time meant almost certain death. By the time negotiations with the PGA Tour had commenced in 2008, over 1200 trees had been removed. Besides the obvious agronomic benefits, the club felt we now had enough room for the structures necessary to hold a large scale event.

With these 2 obstacles tackled, the club felt there were no large-scale projects a willing partnership could not overcome. At nearly the same time we finished the Master

Plan and tree removal, the announcement of Ridgewood and Liberty National as future Barclays hosts gave hope to partner with the PGA Tour as a host site in a multi-course rotation. Negotiations began almost immediately after the event at Ridgewood in 2008. Quickly realizing the golf course was short by the Tour's standards, plans were drawn to lengthen the course by constructing new tees where possible. There were several holes where lengthening was just not an option.

Another issue was that some of the existing tees were not level. They were crowned and pitched at slopes of 2% and greater towards the tournament teeing areas near the back of the tees. Most did not have internal drainage. In the event of inclement weather, the course could quickly become unplayable, as the rules of golf do not permit relief from casual water on teeing grounds. While fine for member play, the PGA Tour felt they could not host an event with the tees as they existed.

After contracts were signed for Plainfield to host the event in 2011, tee renovations were started. This work began in 2009 and was completed in the fall of 2010. A sand-based root zone and internal drainage were installed in all tees to be used by the Tour that did not have such. In total, 11 holes were affected; some were complete complex rebuilds and others a simple back tee was added. The course now plays just over 7100 yards at par 71 and nearly 30,000 square feet of new tee complexes were built.

The PGA Tour also requested that some narrowing of fairways be completed. Our Master Plan has greatly widened fairways over the last 10 years to recapture playing angles originally intended by Ross. The Tour was concerned that the existing widths on many holes would yield scores lower than both they and the club would accept. Ever cognisant of Ross' vision for the course, the



*Continued on page 6*



# The Barclays...continued from page 5

club's position was narrowing could only occur where it would minimize impact to members. The focus was therefore areas 280-320 yards off the tee, beyond where the average member hits their drives. Areas to be narrowed were stripped and resodded, as bentgrass predominates our fairways and produces an unacceptable rough at 3". Another factor complicating the fairway shifts was our "hard line" rough irrigation. Our fairway perimeter rough heads follow the contours of the fairways and had to be shifted with the fairway lines. This work was completed in-house during the fall of 2009.

In addition to narrowing fairways, the club recognized that our roughs were not reliable enough for a late August event. The decision was made to begin a large scale overseeding program in conjunction with herbicide applications to eliminate the weak stand of *Poa annua* that predominated our roughs in 2009. All areas surrounding fairways not previously improved in some way were scalped, aerified, verticut and seeded at 10 lbs/1000sqft. with GLS ryegrass varieties. Two (2) weeks after seedling emergence, the herbicide Prograss was applied at the high label rate with incredibly effective results. We now have a stand of rough able to withstand a punishing summer and still provide significant resistance to scoring, all without breaking the bank. Other preparations for the tournament included building a practice facility for the players. Our existing range did not meet the needs of the Tour. Our teeing area is not wide enough for a full-field Tour event and the range is not long enough to allow Tour players to hit driver without significant netting (and cost). The decision was made to build a new facility at the club's adjoining West 9 facility, which is now the home of The First Tee of Plainfield. The tees built benefit both parties; they will be used by the Tour for The Barclays and The First Tee for instructional golf programming. Approximately 26,000 sqft. of sand root zone teeing area was constructed last fall and seeded. Rather than parking on our West 9, the club's current range will be used for parking. It is irrigated and will be easier to repair any damage caused by parking cars than the mostly un-irrigated West 9 course.

Last fall's final major project was the renovation of the 18th hole. This was the last and most controversial part of Hanse's Master Plan.

The hole was a very severe dogleg left with a significant wooded area left of the fairway. This project came to the forefront because there was concern by all parties associated with the event that the hole wasn't up to the standard set by the rest of the course. Gil Hanse was contacted to review his previous Master Plan recommendations and make suggestions on how to improve the hole. At the same time, there was a strong desire by the PGA Tour to have a drivable par 4 somewhere in the last 5 holes to produce an exciting finish. The initial talk was to make 15 drivable, but as the conversation progressed, 18 made more sense to everyone. Late last September, the decision was made to indeed make 18 drivable by removing 24 large oak and gum trees inside the dogleg, add significant bunkering and recontouring the

fairway and approach to give the players a chance to drive the green. A new forward tee was constructed to make the hole play 280 to 295 yards, a perfect temptation for a player to go for the green. It should make for a very exciting finish to what will be a very exciting event.



The last 3 seasons have been a very rewarding time for me and my staff at Plainfield. We have experienced

a transformation few will ever get the chance of being involved with. We are excited about showcasing Plainfield and the best New Jersey golf has to offer this August. But even with all the work completed, we cannot show this gem in the best light without a significant core of volunteers such as you this August. Without the generosity of previous volunteers, The Barclays would not have become what it is today, one of the PGA Tour's preeminent events on the calendar. We hope to continue this tradition started by fellow New Jersey hosts Ridgewood and Liberty National in making this a truly memorable event for all involved, from the best players in the world, to the nearly 2000 volunteers, to the viewing public throughout the world. If you wish to be part of something truly special, please contact me at the address below. All the best for a great (and hopefully cooler) summer. 🏌️

*Travis Pauley*

*Golf Course Superintendent*

*travispa@plainfieldcc.com*



# The GCSANJ and PAGCS Rekindle Their Friendship at Hidden Creek Golf Club

by Shaun Barry

Wendell Beakley started his search for our 2011 joint meeting with the PAGCS in November of 2010. There were discussions with many of the courses in the Atlantic City area. This is a good place for our friends from Philly and they as an association travel very well to this area. The weather is usually a little bit warmer and the turf conditions have gotten an earlier start than on the other side of the river.

With this in mind, Wendell chose Hidden Creek as his first choice because Clark Weld was quite willing to have the meeting there. Clark was at the course for just a few months but he knew that he and his crew would do everything possible to be ready. He also knew that he was going to be joined by friends who would understand that early season golf bears little resemblance to mid-season golf both in the condition of the course and the quality of golf that would be played. It turns out that he was wrong. The golf course was in great shape and the golf was much better than anyone had a right to expect.

We owe thanks to Wendell who was able to get the events of the day set-up and to Clark and his staff for doing such a great job in preparing the course. Many thanks also go out to Jim Mancill and Nick Weinstein for being such gracious hosts and for such a wonderful job with the food and for making us feel so welcome. It was a very successful day which I know was your goal.

Mark Kuhns CGCS had to bow out as our speaker. His dear friend, Todd Simms, passed away suddenly and Mark needed to be at Baltusrol so he could help out with anything the Simms family needed. He was missed but everyone understood and felt his loss. It was at this point that Jay Parisien CGCS, who is the vice-president for Philly, stepped in and contacted Stephen Kay to see if he could fill-in as a speaker. Stephen was going to attend the meeting already so he gladly agreed to help us out.

We also had several other individuals help us out with much appreciated support from their companies. Lance Ernst and Kevin Monaco continued their sponsorship by making Turf Equipment & Supply Co our meeting sponsor. This is the 4th year that they have done so and their support is the basis for the Challenge Cup which goes to the president of the winning association of the "Friendly War at the Shore." Lance Seeton continued his generous support in an effort to keep giving back. Seeton Turf Warehouse sponsored lunch and CULTIpro helped cover dinner expenses. Between these 3 companies we were able to

lower the cost almost \$25 a person. This is a major help and may be why we had such a large field. In addition to these affiliates we also had Rich Hendrickson and Primos Products sponsor some of the prizes and Fred Rapp and Atlantic Irrigation helped with the on-course refreshments. This is a level of help that very few associations can match and we do appreciate everything that they do to help us run a successful meeting.

Cece and Ed stayed in Atlantic City so they wouldn't encounter any traffic that could cause them to be late for registration. They did this in spite of the fact that their house was being flooded once again. This was the second time within 2 months. That is dedication and why they left after registration to see if things had gotten better or worse. We also had the good fortune of having lots of volunteers as usual. Kevin Driscoll was the second one there after Dave Mishkin who was joined by Ken Mathis. Instead of sitting at the table Dave and Ken went out on the course carefully placing signs and markers. Phil O'Brien joined us at the table but Wendell wasn't able to make it due to some back issues. Jay Parisien, Jon Urbanski and Kristen Liebsch ran the Philly registration. With everyone's help this was the best run registration that we have ever had.

At one point there were 135 names on the list. We had a limit of 120 but the club allowed us to add a few more foursomes. When it got to that 135 number, Wendell, Kevin and I decided to back-out in an effort to reduce the number of players so we could keep the pace of play up. Once the groups headed out to their starting holes the final number was 123 players which is still a wonderful showing but with these 2 associations I am not surprised. I was surprised however by the great level of play from both associations.

## LOW GROSS:

- 1st: John Garger 74 (MC)
- 2nd: Chet Walsh 74
- 3rd: Grover Alexander 75
- 4th: Brad Fox 76

## LOW NET:

- 1st: Mark Beaumont 63 (MC)
- 2nd: Rich Hendrickson 63
- 3rd: Louis Pitcock 66
- 4th: Ken Mathis 67

*Continued on page 8*



# The GCSANJ and PAGCS Rekindle...continued from page 7

## CLOSEST TO THE PIN:

Syngenta- #4 John Gosselin  
 Syngenta #7 Steve Hesser  
 Syngenta #11 Jim Cadott  
 Syngenta #14 Ken Mathis

## LONGEST DRIVES:

Seeton Turf Warehouse #1 (0-9) Grover Alexander  
 Stephen Kay #1 10- 18) Scott McBane  
 Lawn & Golf # 1 (19-40) Mark Beaumont

Davisson Golf #3 (0- 9) Jason Criss  
 Lawn & Golf #3 (10-18) Tom Currie  
 Primos Products #3 (19- 40) Brendan Byrne

Seeton Turf Warehouse #6 (0-9) Chet Walsh  
 Finch Services #6 (10-18) Dean Ferguson  
 DryJect Inc. #6 (19-40) Dave LaLena

Storr Tractor #10 (GCSANJ 55 & Older)  
 Steve Malikowski  
 Double D #10 (PAGCS 55 & Older) Charlie McGill

Fisher & Sons #16 ( 0-9 ) Brad Helcoski  
 Montco/Surfside #16 ( 10 -18 ) Tom Currie  
 Dupont Professional Products # 16 ( 19- 40 )  
 John Gruneisen

Fisher & Son # 18 ( 0-9 ) Grover Alexander  
 Montco/Surfside #18 ( 10-18 ) Bob Prickett  
 Finch Services #18 ( 19- 40 ) Frank Horan

Our skins contest was pretty amazing. For the first time that I can remember we had 3 eagles. They were worth 2 skins each. They were made by Andrew Bucceri, John Garger and Ron Gorniak. Great play gentlemen. With one skin each were Jamie Devers, Greg Hufner, Ken Mathis, Phil O'Brien, Pat O'Neill, Todd Raisch, Chet Walsh and Jim Woods. Our 50/50 winners were Jeff Wetterling, Kris Shreiner and Mark Peterson.

After a great dinner we had to make the announcement concerning the competition between the associations. It was another well-played match but NJ did defend their title from last year. That makes the series tied at 2 wins apiece. PAGCS president John Gosselin and GCSANJ president Paul Dotti had played in the same group and now they were able to stand with Lance and Kevin as the trophy presentation was made. There were smiles all around and both of these presidents spoke briefly to the group. They thanked everybody for their attendance and our sponsors and our hosts. They did a great job and you can see why they are leading their associations.

I will again say thanks to everyone and I hope to see you at our joint meeting in 2012. Wendell is working on a site already and hopefully he will be able to join us for all of the fun. 🏌️

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**INTERFACE**  
 Intelligent Turf Management



# In Cape May County, a share in a farm's crop puts food on the table.

This article has been reprinted from  
*The Atlantic City Press* and written by Brian Ianieri,  
May 12, 2011.

UPPER TOWNSHIP — Bees hover about hives at **Ken Thompson's** small farm, and his three grazing horses supply the manure that helps vegetables grow.

For Thompson, a 53-year-old golf course superintendent, his 7-acre farm in the Tuckahoe section of this Cape May County township is a hobby, albeit a time-consuming one. But it also functions as a community-supported agriculture farm, in which people buy shares of the crops the farm will produce and take home a portion of what's picked.

Interest in CSAs [community supported agricultures] has grown recently, said Esther James, secretary of Slow Food South Jersey Shore, a group based in Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland counties that highlights the importance of locally grown foods.

In his third year as a CSA farmer, Thompson said interest comes mainly from people who want to be more involved in what they eat and know where their food comes from.

A full share at the farm costs participants \$300 in the spring for a 15-week growing season. Those who actively work on the farm pay a reduced price.

"I wanted people to be involved. They become more than a payer. They become part of it. They're taking care of the foods they're going to eat. There's a connection," he said.

More people are inquiring about starting or expanding their own gardens, said Mona Bawgus, a master gardener and consumer horticulturist with Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Atlantic County.

*Continued on pg 10*

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*Continued on pg 91*

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[betterturf.basf.us](http://betterturf.basf.us)

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# A share in a farm's crop...

...continued from pg 9

"I've been asked to do so many more talks this spring than ever before, even in starting community gardens," she said. "It definitely seems a trend, for better prices with food going up and from people wanting to eat healthier."

Jenny Carleo, an agricultural agent in Cape May County for the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, noticed several years ago that interest was growing in gardening for food. While some people focus on growing food to save money, Carleo cautioned that doing so is not easy.

"The cost of fertilizer is so high, that's really the major issue. You can do it organically by using compost and maybe composting your own manure when you're trying to save money with your garden. You really have to make sure your soil is in top condition," she said. "You need to know how to compost and you need to know how to manage your soil without adding expensive fertilizers."

The Consumer Price Index for all food is expected to rise 3 to 4 percent this year, according to the USDA Economic Research Service. The USDA projects grocery store prices will rise 3.5 to 4.5 percent and restaurant prices will increase 3 to 4 percent. High fuel and food commodity prices, along with global food demand, are behind cost pressures of retail and wholesale food prices, according to the USDA.

Beef prices increased 11 percent from February 2010 to February 2011, while pork prices were up 9 percent during that time, according to the USDA. There were increases across the board with fruits and vegetables as well.

"I really admire people who tell me they're cutting their grocery bills by growing their own foods, but I think it's very difficult," said James, 34, of West Cape May, who bought a stake in Thompson's crop this year. She likes the community supported agriculture model and the fresh produce.

Karen Barlow, 50, of Ocean City, has a share in the farm and helps tend it. She said working there makes her feel more connected to the earth.

*Continued on page 19*



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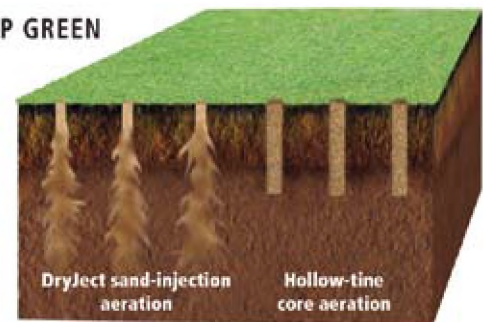
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# 2011 CALENDAR

*Check calendar for updates and signup info.*

[www.gcsanj.org](http://www.gcsanj.org)

## **Monday, June 20**

*GCSANJ Member Event*

Mendham Golf & Tennis Club

Mendham, NJ

## **Tuesday, July 12 - Thursday, July 14**

### **91st Open Championship**

Hollywood Golf Club

Deal NJ

## **Thursday, August 18**

*District III Event*

Toms River Country Club

Toms River NJ

## **Monday, August 22**

*District I & District II Event*

*"War in the Woods"*

Rolling Greens Golf Club

Newton, NJ

## **Thursday, September 22**

*Chapter Championship*

Alpine Country Club

Demarest, NJ

## **Tuesday, October 18**

*RTJ Invitational*

Metedeconk Natl Country Club

Jackson, NJ

## **December 6-8, 2011**

*36th Annual Green Expo*

Taj Mahal Casino Resort Hotel,

Atlantic City, NJ

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# Superintendents Join in Supporting the 16th Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic

by Shaun Barry

For the last 16 years an important event has taken place in May that has helped superintendents everywhere. This is when the Rutgers Turfgrass Classic has been held. It started out as an ambitious fundraiser that charged too much and had no real chance to succeed. Thank goodness the founding committee members didn't listen to those negative thoughts and so they took a chance and they started something that has turned out to be the best in the world.

This brainchild of the NJTA board members was started to help fund research projects at Rutgers, but they always knew that it needed a commitment from the local superintendent associations for it to be a success. If they didn't see the value in supporting this cause, the event would have either withered and died or it would have been a nice little fundraiser doing a good thing but raising a small amount every year.

As it turned out all of the local associations saw the potential to help support research that in turn would help them be more successful. It was a win-win situation and this part of the industry embraced the opportunity to help. At this year's event there were 77 superintendents from all over the tri-state region and there

were at least 100 people who are or were members of GCSANJ. Those numbers speak for themselves and so it appears that the future looks bright for this event.

In those 16 years over 1.3 million dollars have been raised. Every dollar will go to help support Rutgers when the need arises. They have already received over \$700,000 dollars with over \$600,000 sitting in the corpus waiting to be given to Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science. These funds will be very important projects as funding shrinks along with our economy.

This year's event had 309 players which is a record number of people playing. We had 328 players signed-up but a loss of players like this is a normal occurrence for any golf event... other than The Masters or the U.S. Open.....:-)

The day was cloudy but very comfortable. Play moved quickly and everyone seemed to enjoy the changes that were made to our reception/dinner. We are now just waiting to see where we are with dollars raised. Our gifts were more expensive this year but we still should reach or exceed our number from last year.

*Continued on page 18*

## The Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Lab

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- ▶ Insect Identification
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- ▶ Other Services Available by Contract

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- Level 2** Problem Solver (soil/plant suitability test)
- Level 3** Topsoil Evaluation

### Greenhouse

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- Level 2** Complete Test: Nutrients, pH, estimated CEC & cation saturation, soluble salt level, organic matter\* content, soil textural class
- Level 3** Sand Root Zone Test

\*Organic matter content would be determined by loss-on-ignition for golf course greens, as described by USGA guidelines.

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# RUTGERS GOLF CLASSIC



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# FIDDLER'S ELBOW COUNTRY CLUB



# COMMUNICATION: A Two-Way Street

by Frank R. Tichenor, Golf Course Superintendent, Forest Hill Field Club • Article will appear in the next issue of NJSGA Magazine

Here at Forest Hill Field Club, we believe communicating our goals and plans for the golf course are key elements of a satisfied membership, a well-received board of directors and a trusted superintendent. I will outline some of the ways we at FHFC succeed in communicating important points from both the board and the superintendents to the club members, and I will offer suggestions for board members and superintendents.

- A mind is a terrible thing to waste, but how many times have boards made decisions about club affairs without involving the superintendent? Superintendents are trained problem solvers, and boards should ask for their opinion. We're onsite more than any other employee, and we usually know what works, what doesn't, and why.

- Each month FHFC hosts an open board meeting that includes a Q&A session with the superintendent. Some months I am asked many questions, others few. Either way, the members know they will have an opportunity to voice concerns, discuss issues or just make simple requests.

- Communicating board plans is imperative for a satisfied membership. On the other hand, members must realize that the board is a volunteer team put in place to make the club a better place for all to enjoy.

- How many newsletters does your club send out? A lack of communication equals loss of interest. Loss of interest in the club affairs equals loss of interest in the club. Compare the cost of recruiting a new member to the cost of retaining a current member. Keep members informed.

- Turning to thoughts about superintendents, I would emphasize that they need to be available when members are looking for information. What's worse than watching a really bad tee shot off the first tee on a Saturday morning? Not being on the first tee to answer a question, especially if you've had recent concerns at your course. You may want to be out and about getting things done, but remember that the members pay your salary.



- It's challenging to keep coming up with ideas for newsletters. Ask your members. People love to express their ideas, and chances are one of those folks will have a new idea or a different take on an old subject.

- Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn definitely are not fads. These new forms of communication are here to stay. I keep members up to date on weather conditions via Twitter, and I'm not alone. Todd Raisch of Ridgewood, Jamie Devers of Canoe Brook and Patrick Quinlan of Madison are all part of a growing group of supers who communicate via new technology. I really enjoy writing for my blog, and my members seem to enjoy reading it.

- Supervisors need to be very visible, especially when things aren't going so well. If you have four inches of rain, 80-degree nights and a pythium outbreak on the third fairway, be available to explain what happened — and what's being done to fix it. Last year I had that exact problem, so I posted photos of the disease and the solution in progress on my blog. Not only did the members appreciate my being up front about the issue, but I gained credibility as I fixed the problem.

We all know that clubs are facing tough financial times. Maintenance budget cuts, capital spending reduced. What to do? Dick LaFlamme at Essex Fells always has advised spending the club's money like it was your own. Did you get a great deal on a new piece of equipment? Spread the word. Last year I was able to purchase new tee signs at an auction for one-third of retail price. I'm not sure whether I got more compliments on the tee signs or the money I saved. We superintendents are a cost-conscious bunch, so once in a while, tout your frugality. 🏌️





## MEET BOARD MEMBER: Michael Weber

I would like to thank the GCSANJ and Paul Dotti for appointing me to represent the assistant superintendents of New Jersey. I am honored and proud to be the voice of such a dedicated and hard-working group of people.

I'll tell everybody a little about myself...I have devoted eleven great years to golf course management. I got my start raking bunkers and cutting greens at Panther Valley Country Club in Allamuchy, NJ to earn some spending money through high school. I'll never forget my first time handling a greens mower. I mowed my first pass dead straight...straight through the collar and rough, and into a bunker. Who would have thought then that I was going to make a career out of this profession? After two years at Panther Valley, I worked at Bear Brook in Fredon, NJ with Jim Rusnik. Jim really got me involved in all aspects of maintaining a golf course, and that's when I really felt like this was something I could see myself doing. After that summer, I decided to pursue a career in turfgrass, so I attended Virginia Tech to obtain a degree in crop and soil science. During my studies, I interned at Upper Montclair Country Club and decided to take the 2nd assistant superintendent position there after I graduated. Shortly after, I took an assistant's position at Forest Hill Field Club with Frank Tichenor, where I've worked the last four years. Frank has been a great influence on my career, and working for him as been a pleasure.

As the assistant liaison, I hope to get assistant superintendents more involved in the association. The opportunity in networking and education far outweighs the cost of the membership. The people you meet within the association are people that are going to be there for you throughout your career, and the education meetings are always a great experience. We get to play some great courses too! We are the future of the industry, so let's get involved. Don't hesitate to contact me if anybody has any questions or ideas for the association. Thanks again to the GCSANJ for giving me this opportunity and I look forward to working with everybody. 🏌️

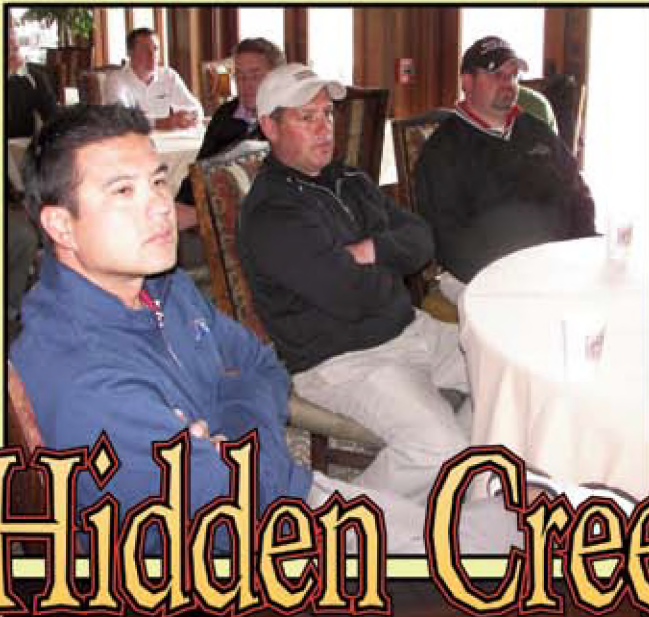




# GCSANTJ April meeting



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| AdamsEarth® Biostimulant           | 3 oz                   | 1.0 Gal              |
| Flo Thru™ Plus Soil Penetrant      | 4 oz                   | 1.3 Gal              |

| Nutrients per Application | Nitrogen | Phosphate | Potassium | Sulfur | Boron | Copper | Iron  | Manganese | Zinc  | Humic Acid | Carbo | Amino Acids |
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# Superintendents and the Rutgers Turfgrass Golf Classic

continued from page 12

Here are the winners from the event. You should recognize some of the names.

## Forest Course:

1st: Steve Chirip, Ted Huhn, Ron Garrison, Dave Schell (60)  
2nd: Jason Criss, Tom Currie, Ryan Howard, Randy Rider (63)  
3rd: Steve Craig, Brad Fox, Gordon Kaufman, Joe Kinlin (64)

## Meadow Course:

1st: George Baruch, David Bushman, Jim Grassi, Dennis Smith (57)  
2nd: Jerry Clark, Greg Moran, JP Olson, Warren Savini (63)  
3rd: Jim Byrne, Zenon Lis, Pat McClain, Vicki McClain (64)

## River Course:

1st: Pat Dolan, Ken Kubik, Tim McAvoy, Mark Mielder (61)  
MC  
2nd: Ron Gorniak, Brad Rozelle, Jim Stauring, Steve Stephens (61)  
3rd: John Kaminski, Jim Kerns, Davis McCall, Kyle Miller (63)

## Association winners:

PAGCS: Ron Gorniak, Brad Rozelle, Jim Stauring, Steve Stephens  
NJTA: Gary Arlio, Cece Peabody, Matt Sweatlock, Wendell Beakley

## Our longest drive winners:

Vicki Abella, Richard Bishop, Nancy DiRienzo, Jeff Hemphill, Ryan Howard & Denise Smith.

## Our closest to the pin winners were:

Richard Bishop: 2 ft 7 ins  
David Bushman 10 ft 1 in  
Jim Byrne 7 ft 4 ins  
Dan Callahan 9 ft 5 ins  
Dennis DeSanctis Jr. 5 ft 3 ins

All great shots but they were not able to reach the level of perfection that Tom Ashfield produced. On the 8th hole of the Forest Course he made a hole-in-one. This is the first one that we have seen at the Classic and it could not have happened to a nicer person who just happens to be a great golfer. Well done Tom. I hope there will be many more.

Thanks to everyone who supported the event and I hope you will be able to do so again in 2012. 🏌️

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# A share in a farm's crop...

...continued from pg 10

Before Thompson started his CSA farm, he grew some day lilies and strawberries and set them out in front of his farm with an honor box. But after thieves stole the food and the honor box, he decided to stop.

Then an acquaintance from his Quaker meetings suggested he grow vegetables for a CSA.

He started with eight participants buying shares. Now he has 20 from Cape May and Atlantic counties. This year, the farm will grow strawberries, garlic, potatoes, onions, chard, lettuce, beets, arugula, bok choy, radishes, carrots, shallots, eggplant, peppers, summer squash varieties, zucchini, cucumbers, edemame, okra, bean varieties, tomato varieties, cantaloupe, cabbage and herbs.

Barlow also has 20 free-range chickens strutting around, but they are not killed for meat. The eggs are shared among the group.

"I love being around the animals. I love growing things.



Edward Lee

Stacey Davis, left of Tuckahoe and Eather James, right of West Cape May work Wednesday on Ken Thompson's community-supported agriculture farm in Upper Township, Cape May County.

Continued on pg 22





# GCSANJ SPRING EDUCATION



HOST, TYLER OTERO



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# A share in a farm's crop...

...continued from pg 19



Anthony Smedile

Ken Thompson operates a community-supported agriculture farm in which he grows vegetables and people essentially buy a portion of what he grows in the beginning of the year.

**Ken Thompson is the Golf Course Superintendent at Great Bay Country Club, Somers Point. Read more at: [greatebaycc.blogspot.com](http://greatebaycc.blogspot.com). Search internet for LocalHarvest USA to find CSAs in your area.**

I love having people come over and help," Thompson said. "It's not just one thing, there's so many things going on".

Farming is not without its risks, and that is true even for community-supported operations. But Thompson said the risk is spread among all the participants in a CSA, not just the farmer. Also, CSAs typically have a wide enough variety in crops that if one fails, other crops will come in.

And on the other side of risk that people take is the reward of a banner crop.

"You have that risk, but if you have a good year, then everyone gets more," Thompson said. 🌱

Contact Brian Ianieri:  
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[Blanieri@pressofac.com](mailto:Blanieri@pressofac.com)

A large advertisement for Pavelec Brothers Golf Course Construction, Inc. The background image shows a yellow excavator and a yellow dump truck working on a stone wall. Several workers in hard hats are visible. The text is overlaid on the image.

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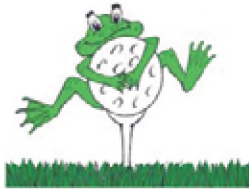
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## GCSANJ Member *news*

### NEW BABY!

**Charles  
Bedford Pratt**

**joined the family of  
Phil and Amanda Pratt  
on May 26th...**

**8.5 lbs.**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

### NEW BABY!

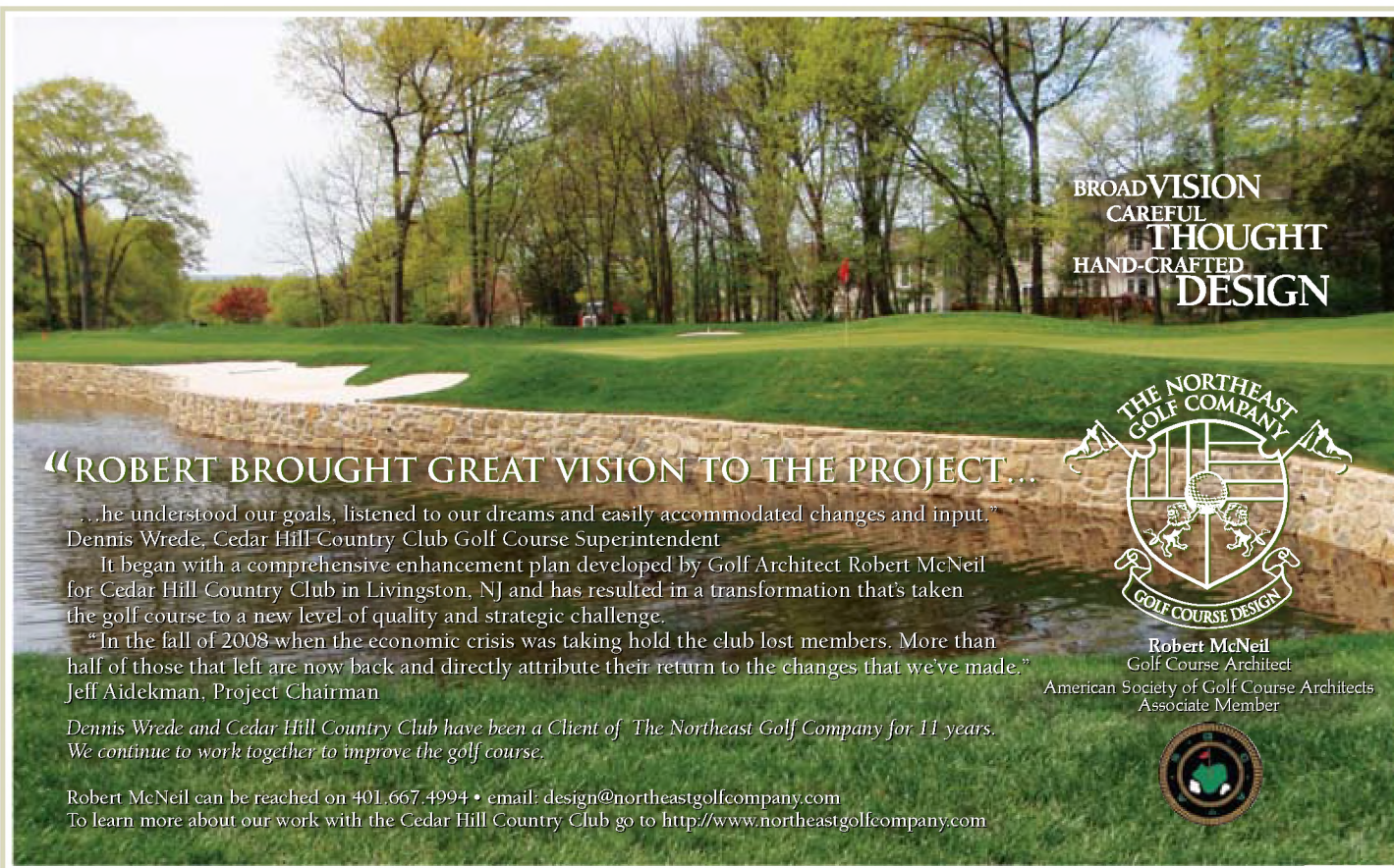
**THOMAS  
BRENDAN FOX**

**joined the family of  
Brad and Donna Fox**

**on May 13th...**

**8 lbs., 3 oz, 20.5 inches long**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



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Dennis Wrede, Cedar Hill Country Club Golf Course Superintendent

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“In the fall of 2008 when the economic crisis was taking hold the club lost members. More than half of those that left are now back and directly attribute their return to the changes that we've made.”  
Jeff Aidekman, Project Chairman

*Dennis Wrede and Cedar Hill Country Club have been a Client of The Northeast Golf Company for 11 years. We continue to work together to improve the golf course.*

Robert McNeil can be reached on 401.667.4994 • email: [design@northeastgolfcompany.com](mailto:design@northeastgolfcompany.com)  
To learn more about our work with the Cedar Hill Country Club go to <http://www.northeastgolfcompany.com>

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# Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day: Golf and Fine Turf Day

by Pedro Perdomo  
Field Day Co-Chairman

The Rutgers Golf and Fine Turf Days have become synonymous with good science for the maintenance of all fine turf areas. Over the years we have learned about the diseases that attack turf areas, and the products that are available for control. But the field days these days do more than point to products that we can use to stop dollar spot, anthracnose, or brown patch. Rutgers Faculty has explored these diseases, and other problems, to the point of becoming world renowned experts in their fields. When you listen to them for a few minutes it is like reading an encyclopedia.

*Dr. Bruce Clarke* can tell you not only what chemical products work best, but also when and how they should be applied. A misapplication can mean that you get poor control and Bruce is more than eager to give you tips on the amount of water carrier that should be used, or when the application should begin and end to ensure the application is a success.

*Dr. Jim Murphy* comes to the field day with a cultural management point of view. We know the products that bring on anthracnose, but what are the cultural steps that should be taken? Come, listen to Jim for a 15 minute talk on anthracnose and you may pick up on a couple of tips

that can make your job a lot easier. Fertilizer source and amount, rolling, overseeding, and watering are just some of the cultural items that he may be discussing.

*Brad Park* is the “wear” man at Rutgers and will have some interesting thoughts on how well individual varieties wear. You would think that there would be only a limited amount of things to see at his stops, but wait, can that be summer patch in that one variety over there. You will also get Brad’s take on the interaction between wear and other issues you may see on a daily basis, such as disease.

*Dr. Bingru Huang* and her graduate students will hit the field day with a physiological take on things. What is happening to those grassy areas when disease, drought, etc. come in? With the rain out shelter they can evaluate the avoidance/resistance of varieties to drought symptoms. They have also shown how root growth is affected by growing conditions. So if you need information on the significance of growing turf, make sure you come ready to take notes.

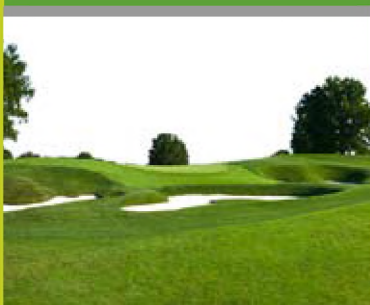
*Continued on pg 27*

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# Golf and Fine Turf Day

*Continued from page 26*

Now who did I miss? There is Albrecht Koppenhofer, resident entomologist, Steve Hart, ornamental weed scientist, Bill Meyer and Stacy Bonos are the turfgrass breeders. All these scientists come together on this day to offer you all they know about the problems that may be causing problems on your course. So whether they are providing an official stop that day or just walking around visiting with attendees, feel free to come to them and introduce yourself, you'll be glad you did.

On such a nice day it seems like a waste to go indoors, but inside is where you will get an early bird and afternoon core session. Round out your day by learn about the latest pesticide rules, safety, and equipment.

Hope you can attend the field day this year and hope you pencil it in for years to come. See you there! 🏌️



## GCSANJ Member *news*

### 2011 FACILITY SURVEY

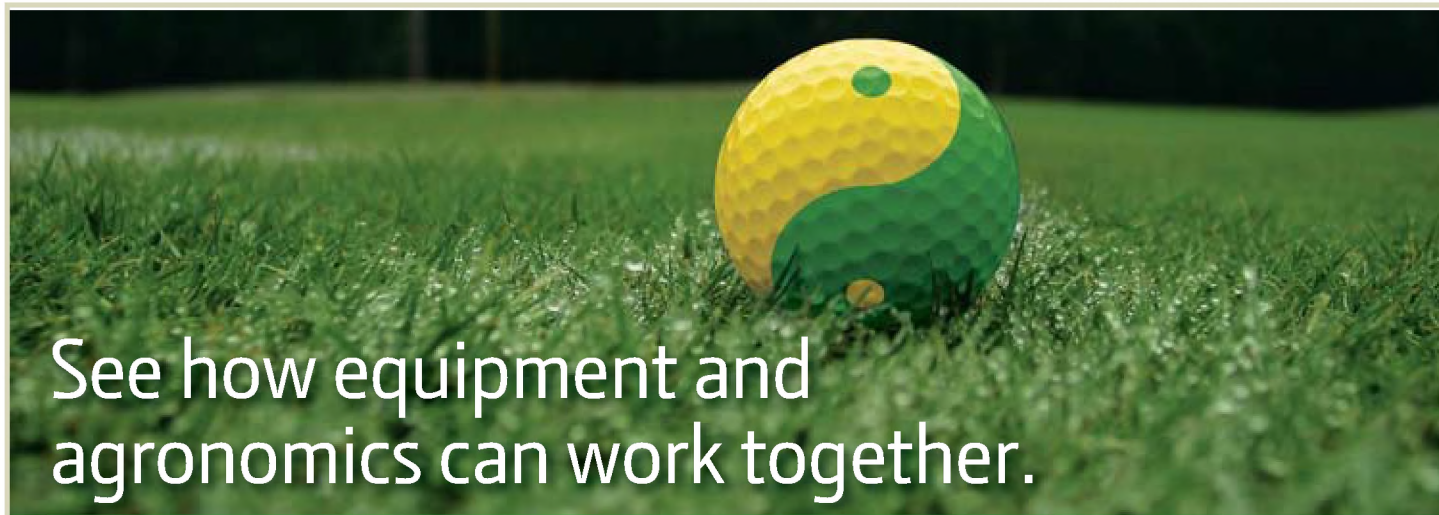
The 2011 Facility Survey will be sent out to those members that participated. At the last GCSANJ Board meeting we had a drawing for all who participated in the survey, and the winner was **Marcus Wittinger** of Haworth Country Club. Marcus won a complimentary entry fee to a GCSANJ golf meeting. He has already chosen Alpine CC, where he says he learned a lot from Steve Finamore.

Marcus had not completed the survey in the past because last year was his first year as a superintendent. What a great inaugural season for a superintendent. I communicated with Marcus via email and here are some of his thoughts on the Facility Survey: "I feel it is important to participate in this survey mainly...for the betterment of our trade to make the most amount of information that we can available to each other. This information is a most valuable tool when preparing budgets. Two golf courses in close proximity that have vastly different wage allocations or budget for labor should not expect to see similar results. You know that and I know that, but Joe Member does not know that. The survey can help shed some light on the issue of dollars for labor and help us state our cases in a more clear and concise manner."

The survey results are put together in a manner where all names and clubs are anonymous. The facility survey is meant to help a superintendent whether it is agronomical, with their budget, or regarding their own salary. In the future, think about participating and you may find the information to be valuable. 🏌️

Rolf Strobel, Sea Oaks Golf

*Editor's Note: Survey is sent out every other year to superintendents.*



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## WINNER OF THE GCSANJ FOUNDATION RAFFLE - TOM GRIMAC!



**T**he GCSANJ Foundation held its raffle drawing on May 25th at Union Landing in Brielle NJ. Most of the BOD from the foundation was at the drawing. After a couple minutes of spinning the wheel, a ticket was drawn. Winning this computer and accessories worth \$1,200 was Tom Grimal. The ticket was sold by Brad Simpkins. Since Brad sold more tickets than anyone else it is only fitting that it was one of his tickets. It was a surprised Mr. Grimal when he found out about his good fortune. Since he bought more than one ticket it may have been his extra generosity that won the prize. I am sure he will be buying more tickets in the future as the foundation tries to fund as much of its activities as possible.



At the same gathering, the Foundation presented a check for \$1,000 to The Geoffrey Cornish Foundation. This should help them build the fund which will support turf students during their internships that will be great learning experiences. ♪





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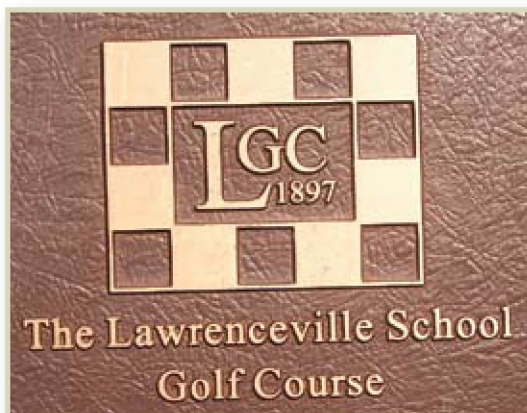
# MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

by Shaun Barry

**Bruce Peeples**, formerly at Spring Lake GC, has come out of retirement and is now the superintendent at The Lawrenceville School golf course. This 9 hole course is 114 years old and has probably never been changed in all of those years. Bruce is looking forward to making some changes in their maintenance programs and he hopes to host a District 3 walking tour in the fall.



**Pat Campbell CGCS** formerly of Panther Valley has accepted the superintendent job at Mine Brook GC. The course is close to his home and he is looking forward to staying involved in the industry that he loves.



Let's welcome **Brett Scales** who is the new superintendent at Navesink Country Club.

Welcome also to **Josh Reiger** at Spring Lake GC.

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# GCSNJ *news*

by Ken Kubik

**TODD SIMMS  
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Todd passed away suddenly on April 18, 2011. Todd was the beloved husband of Callie Simms and the proud father of Taylor and George.

Todd was the versatile Equipment Manager at Baltusrol Golf Club where his motto was "If you break it, I can fix it." He had been previously employed as the golf course mechanic at Basking Ridge Country Club and Stanton Ridge Golf & Country Club.

Todd was a member of the GCSAA and attended many of the Golf Industry Shows with the staff from Baltusrol Golf Club. He was the benchmark for the position of Golf Course Equipment Manager. Todd loved going to work and he had an intense passion for family, fishing, and life. He was a humble and simple man who never met anyone he didn't like.

He greeted everyone with a big smile and a firm handshake. Todd will be missed, and believe me, never forgotten.

Donations can be sent to the "Todd Simms Children's Memorial Fund."

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**Class A:** Applicants for membership within this classification shall have at least three (3) years experience as a Golf Course Superintendent, be presently employed and remain employed as such. Class A members shall have all rights and privileges of this association.

**Class SM:** Applicants for membership within this classification shall be employed as a Golf Course Superintendent for less than three (3) years, or not otherwise qualified under Class A. Class SM members shall have all the privileges of this association, except of holding an elected position.

**Class C:** Applicants for membership within this classification shall be employed as an Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. Class C members shall have all the privileges of this association, except that of voting and holding an elected position, except voting for Assistant Superintendent Representative and holding the position for the same.

**Class AF:** (Affiliate) Applicants for membership within this classification shall be a representative of the industry providing a product or service applicable to the Golf Course Management. Class AF members shall have all privileges of this association, except that of voting and holding an elected position, except for voting for Commercial representative and holding the position for the same.

**Class Associate** (formerly D): Applicants for membership within this classification shall be employed at a golf course represented by a Class A or Class SM member of this association. Associate members shall have all privileges of this association, except those of voting and holding elected position. Associate members may attend any of the association meetings that are made available to the membership, however, they may not play golf unless they are the guest of an A, SM, C or AF member.

**Class L: Life A** applicants for membership within this classification shall be Class A members in good standing with at least ten (10) years of active membership. This applicant must be retired from active service to the golf course industry, and have attained the age of sixty (60) years. A Life A member shall have all the privileges of this association, except that of holding the office of an elected position. A Life A member shall not be liable for the payment of annual dues or assessments.

**Life AF** (Affiliate) applicants for membership within this classification shall be Class AF members in good standing with at least ten (10) years of active membership. This applicant must be retired from active service to the golf course industry, and have attained the age of sixty (60) years. A Life AF member shall have all the privileges of this association, except that of holding the office of an elected position. A Life AF member shall not be liable for the payment of annual dues or assessments.

**Class ST:** Student- Applicants for membership within this classification shall be enrolled in a formal course of education in the study of Turfgrass Management, or a related field. Class ST members shall have all the privileges of this association, except for those of voting and holding an elected position. Class ST members may attend any of the association meetings that are available to the membership, however, they may not play golf at meetings unless they are a guest of an A, SM, C, AF member.

**Class NR:** Non-Resident- Applicants for membership within this classification shall be existing and continuing Class A, SM or C members of another GCSA affiliated chapter. Class NR members shall have all the privileges of this association, except for those of voting and holding an elected position. Class NR members may attend any of the association meetings that are available to the membership, however, they may not play golf at meetings unless they are a guest of an A, SM, C, AF member.

***\* Duties of the Class A Member: It is the Class A member's obligation to advise and keep a candidate informed of all requirements of the membership and the status of the candidate's application for membership.***



# Introducing the Greensmaster® TriFlex™ Hybrid.

Setting a new standard by which all other riding greensmowers will be measured.

We gave our engineers the ultimate challenge – design the greensmower that will redefine precision cutting. With the new Greensmaster TriFlex, they exceeded all expectations.

## Advanced cutting performance.

Imagine a rider that cuts with the precision of a walker. All Greensmaster TriFlex models give you superior contour following by combining industry leading Flex™ technology with a **double A-arm**

**suspension system** that keeps the cutting units floating freely. It prevents step cuts – particularly on the cleanup cut, with a unique “**lift-in-turn**” feature. Hybrid models also help to eliminate unsightly clip marks with an **energy storage system** that delivers instant power when you engage the reels.



## The ultimate in versatility.

The new TriFlex isn't just the best cutting greensmower, it's the most versatile. It has a new **flip-up footrest** to enable easy access to the center cutting unit. The exclusive combination of open cutting unit access and **tool-free, quick-connect cutting units** allows you to switch from mowing greens one minute to tees or surrounds the next – with the same tractor!



## Time is money.

By raising the bar on productivity, we lowered your total cost of ownership. Each TriFlex rider offers **faster travel time** between greens. The machine has **no daily maintenance** requirements. Fast cutting unit change-out, fluid tank level “windows”, and easy access to routine service areas are just a few features that will help save you time and money.



## EnergySmart™

What's good for your greens is also good for the environment. The Greensmaster TriFlex Hybrid riding mowers are the first “EnergySmart™” labeled products offered by The Toro Company. **EnergySmart™ is about efficiency with an eye on environmental and financial sustainability**, a visible sign of Toro's ongoing commitment to customer valued innovation.

## The right choice.

Experience the future of greensmowers today. To arrange for a demo of the new Greensmaster TriFlex mower, call 800-803-8676 or visit [toro.com/triflex](http://toro.com/triflex) for more information.

[www.toro.com/triflex](http://www.toro.com/triflex)

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