

# THE GREENERSIDE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY



**George Pierpoint IV**  
Superintendent  
Harbor Pines Country Club  
Egg Harbor Township, NJ  
April 24, 2017  
*Inaugural 'Civil War' Meeting*





Presented in partnership with The Toro Company.

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Auction Dates: May 1-7, 2017

The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of GCSAA.

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Please provide details for these additional items: \_\_\_\_\_

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Questions? Call us at 800-472-7878. Fax this form to 785-832-4448 or email it to rounds4research@gcsaa.org



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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Richard West, Class B**  
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**Jill Seymour, Class B**  
*Monmouth County Parks - Hominy Hill Golf Course*

**Robert Swanekamp, Class AF**  
*Kube Pak Growers*

**Miguel Ortega III, Class C**  
*Preakness Hill Country Club*

**Raynor Paulsen, Class C**  
*Beacon Hill Country Club*

**John Meyer, Class C**  
*TPC Jasna Polana*

**Patrick O'Brien, Class C**  
*Arcola Country Club*

**Richard Blanchard, Class B**  
*TPC Jasna Polana*

**Elizabeth Holmes, Class C**  
*TPC Jasna Polana*

**Bill Cimochofski, Class AF**  
*Seeton Turf Warehouse*



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*Courtesy of Shaun Barry*  
*Cover Photo from Harbor Pines Golf Club, Egg Harbor Township NJ*



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



As I write this, it is already the 21st of April, and the year seems like it is literally flying by! The weather is warming, and the grass is growing – fast! The busy times are upon us once again.

A few weeks ago the Board of Directors of the GCSANJ met with representatives of GCSAA for a strategic planning meeting, and I can tell you that we have an excellent group who are all very excited and dedicated to making our Association one for which you can be proud. We as an association have come up with some very bold plans for our future to ensure that the GCSANJ will not only be recognized as the foremost association in New Jersey golf, but the nation as well. It is truly gratifying to be a part of the long-held traditions and continuing to serve our membership.

There is something special about the GCSANJ. I sincerely believe that we are indeed fortunate to have such a great, tight-knit membership, making our chapter both strong and unique among the other Associations I have seen.

While I know things are busy especially now that the season is upon us, please do your best to keep involved in the Association whether its volunteering or just attending the meetings. We want to see and hear from you. After all, an Association is only as good as its members. And remember when you buy, try to support our Affiliate Members whenever possible. Without their generous support throughout the years, none of our events would be possible.

We have some great things coming up, beginning with one of our newest events on April 24th -- the newly minted Civil War at Harbor Pines Golf Club. This event is replacing our annual War at the Shore and we are excited to get this event going and starting a new tradition for our members to enjoy. We also have plans to host some other fun summer activities and golf events that I think you all will enjoy. Keep an eye out for those, and check the website for more information as it becomes available.

One final note, please be engaged and active in our association. We, as an association, cannot stress enough the importance of an engaged membership. While the Board will work tirelessly to represent you with integrity and pride, we cannot in any way survive without the engagement and involvement of EVERY member of the GCSANJ. Our doors and phone lines are always open if you need anything, want to suggest something, or just want to catch up on the happenings of the association.

Once again thank you for allowing me to serve you as your President and best of luck beginning your seasons at your respective facilities.

*Russell Harris*

**Russell Harris**

GCSANJ PRESIDENT



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www.gcsanj.org

## SIGN UP FOR FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS!

**MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MAY 31, 2017**

Scholarships are only for GCSANJ members, spouses, and children -

2 year, 4 year, or graduate class.

Application Evaluated on Criteria: Academics, Extra-Curricular Activities, Essay,

Overall Presentation. Find Application On Website:

Go to: The Foundation/Scholarship Application



## GIVING IS GETTING...

Of course that sounds like an oxymoron\*\* and it certainly could be.

So many people have said it in different ways:

- "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." *Winston Churchill*
- "For it is in giving that we receive." *St. Francis of Assisi*
- "Life isn't about getting and having. It's about giving and being." *Kevin Kruse*
- "Giving opens the way for receiving." *Florence Scovel Shinn*

It seems that every day someone is asking something 'more of you'... to do one more thing at your job, to do one more task at home, to donate one more round, to attend one or two more meetings, to sponsor one more level, to be part of just one more committee, to train one more assistant, and so on, and so on. It can get to be tiring, upsetting, and even exasperating.

But stop for a minute and turn your thinking around.... think about what you are actually getting out of doing that one more thing....by doing one more thing at your job, you're learning a new skill to advance your career; by doing one more task at home, you're helping ease a burden someone else has; by donating one more round, you're helping a foundation or a group to reach a goal; by sponsoring one more level, you're gaining more company recognition and helping the chapter or group meet financial goals; by joining one more committee, you're strengthening your skill sets, gaining leadership skills, and contributing to the overall goals of the association; by training one more assistant, you're paying it forward with the expertise you've learned in the business. You may not think so at the time, but you should feel a sense of satisfaction for the role you have played in the giving.

We all might love to travel the world, or live quietly on the beach enjoying sun and have no worries, but that probably won't happen. So, while we have the chance to, why not give as much as we can while we can... in all the small ways we can. We certainly get back way more than we ever give. And we won't even know when all that giving comes back to us...just believe that it will, and that it does.

Okay...don't believe it? Well, here's a small example...the next time someone gives you a hug - you will just have been thanked for something you have given someone else.  
\*\* two seemingly contradictory words are used together for effect.



## 2017 CALENDAR

Check calendar for updates and signup info.

### April 24, 2017 • Monday

"The Civil War" - NJ North vs South  
Harbor Pines Country Club  
Egg Harbor Township, NJ

### May 8, 2017 • Monday

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic  
Fiddler's Elbow Country Club  
Bedminster, NJ

### May 17, 2017 • Wednesday

Members Social Event  
Top Golf, Edison NJ

### June 19, 2017 • Monday

GCSANJ Foundation Shootout  
Rumson Country Club  
Rumson, NJ

### July 16-21, 2017

International Turfgrass Research Conference  
Rutgers University

### July 25, 2017 • Tuesday

Rutgers Research Field Day - Golf & Fine Turf  
Hort Farm 2, N. Brunswick, NJ

### August 8, 2017 • Tuesday

District I & II  
Rolling Greens Golf Club, Newton, NJ

### August 15, 2017 • Tuesday

District III  
Jumping Brook Country Club, Neptune NJ

### September 11, 2017 • Monday

Chapter Championship  
Arcola Country Club, Paramus, NJ

### September 26, 2017 • Tuesday

District IV  
Burlington Country Club, Mt. Holly, NJ

### October 12, 2017 • Thursday

Pro/Super Nine & Dine  
Ridgewood Country Club, Paramus, NJ

### October 23-24, 2017 • Mon/Tues

CanAM Cup  
Baltusrol Golf Club &  
Canoe Brook Country Club

### December 5-7 2017 • Tues - Thurs

Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference  
Borgata Hotel & Casino, Atlantic City, NJ

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2018 Curtis Cup: June 8-10, 2018  
Quaker Ridge Golf Club  
Scarsdale, NY

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

for Details and Registration forms

# Congrats to Les Carpenter, CGCS



# MGA Arthur P. Weber

## Environmental Leader in Golf Award

# GCSANJ STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

- by Jeremy Hreben, Indian Springs Country Club

What is a mission statement, a vision statement or even a strategic planning meeting?

I've always thought those were terms for Fortune 500 companies, organizations who want to turn a profit, not small non-profits such as GCSANJ. Boy, was I in for a rude awakening.

With the help of Kevin Doyle, GCSAA NE Region Field Staff Representative, and Steve Randall, GCSAA Chapter Outreach Director, your Board of Directors conducted a strategic planning session in late March on behalf of the Association. I was skeptical for sure, but kept an open mind. We set aside five hours of undisturbed brainstorming. The goal was to revisit our mission statement and strategic planning outline previously completed in 2006. This new gathering was well overdue considering most associations and companies complete this process every two to three years.

We first went through a SCOR analysis. We evaluated our Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities and Risks as a board and for the Association. Lists were made for all categories. From those lists, items were then prioritized. Those at the top of each list were then used to help identify a mission statement, a vision statement and action items needed to achieve short and long-term goals. Expectations were raised for all.

## So, what is a Mission Statement?

It is defined as "a formal summary of the aims and values of a company, organization, or individual."

A Mission Statement answers "What business are we in?" and "What is our business for?" Going forward, the Mission Statement will be used as a guide for everything we do.

I was very proud of the dedication, determination and enthusiasm everyone attacked this task with. It was not an easy negotiation. There was passionate discussion, parsing each and every word. However, we came to a final conclusion that we are honored to present and hope our members will appreciate.

**"The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey exists to serve the golf course superintendent by advancing the profession, offering professional development and fostering relationships for all members."**

This Mission Statement encompasses everything we do for our members. It is the backbone of the Association. The Board stands by this Mission Statement and will do everything in our power to execute it.

Our next task was to create a Vision Statement. Defined as "an aspirational description of what an organization would like to achieve or accomplish in the mid-term or long-term future", our vision created an aggressive and lofty goal for the Association.

**"The Golf Course Superintendent's Association of New Jersey strives to be the state and regional leader in the golf industry."**

I am sure we can agree that the most vital component of each of our properties is the golf course. We are the stewards of that component. We plan to work in conjunction with our allied associations to show them, club members and course patrons the importance of our presence and our value to our properties.

No longer will we stand in the shadows of our peers, the golf professional, the controller and the club manag-

er. We don't just want a seat at the dinner table...we plan to sit at the head of the table. This will not happen overnight. It will take years of dedicated public outreach and education. Rest assured though, the Board will be working tirelessly to this end.

I would like to thank the members of this great association for giving the Directors the opportunity to serve you and a chance at improving GCSANJ.

I would also like to thank the current and past board members for the time, dedication and effort they all have given our association by representing us in a devoted and professional manner.






- 1931: Seventy-five turf managers enjoy equipment demonstrations, turf plot tours and camaraderie during first field day sponsored by New Jersey Experiment Station in New Brunswick, NJ. New Jersey greenskeepers establish rapport with the Golf Greenskeepers Association of Great Britain. They exchange technical bulletins, trade magazines and agronomic techniques.
- 1941: A survey on New Jersey golf course labor wage scale sent to members reveals that the average pay is 50 cents/hour. The association treasurer reports there is \$325.86 on deposit in the bank.
- 1951: John Anderson, the founding father of the association is made a Life Member of the association. He had left the state three years earlier for a job in Virginia. John had been both president of the New Jersey and National Associations during his professional career. Ed Casey, Baltusrol Golf Club, GCS is the president of the New Jersey Greenskeeping Superintendents Association. Nick Florio, GCS Somerset Hills CC wins the association golf championship at Homestead CC where Mel Lucas, Sr. is the GCS.
- 1961: Association dues are raised to \$15/year. The association golf championship is held at Spring Brook CC where Lew Wortman is the GCS. Plainfield CC hosts the NJSGA Open. It is the 40th Anniversary of the event.
- 1971: The GCSANJ Invitational is won by the Oak Hill Golf Club Team led by Dave McGhee, GCS. It is played at Navesink Country Club, Paul Bozelle is the GCS. The Association Management Corporation is retained to manage the NJGCSA to provide better personal service and help professionalize the NJGCSA. Jack Martin, GCS Shackamaxon, is the President of our association. Harry Harsin is the NJGCSA Golf Champion. He wins the championship at Montammy CC where Mike Leary is the host GCS.
- 1981: Ed Walsh, GCS the Ridgewood CC, is editor of the "Greenside" which is awarded the GCSAA Overall Best Newsletter. Shawn Barry wins the GCSANJ Commercial Golf Championship. Statewide drought puts a critical pinch on NJ golf courses. Water use restrictions are initiated for NJ golf courses. GCSANJ representatives Jack Martin, GCS Shackamaxon CC, and Jim Gilligan, GCS Benders Brook GC, lobby the Governor's Water Task Force to ease water restrictions to state golf courses.
- 1991: Ken Krausz, GCS Paramus GC is the chairman of the Public Committee, which is formed to help members deal with unique problems faced by public golf. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary for Golf Courses is established. Dave Pease, Monmouth County Park System is president of the GCSANJ. Ian Kunesch, GCS Rolling Greens GC is the GCSANJ golf champion. The tournament is held at Alpine CC where Steve Finamore is the GCS. Ed Walsh, GCS at the Ridgewood CC wins the GCSANJ Distinguished Service Award. Ed is the youngest GCSANJ/DSA winner to date.
- 2001: The GCSANJ 75th Anniversary Tree Planting is held at Crestmont CC, Peter Pedrazzi, Jr. GCS. The tree is dedicated in honor of the small group of greenskeepers that met at Crestmont CC under a big tree next to the barn to hear John Anderson, GCS Crestmont CC lecture on the need to join together for the common cause. The 62nd Senior PGA Championship is held at the Ridgewood CC. The GCS is Todd Raisch, CGCS and the winner is Tom Watson. This tournament probably is the first to solicit sponsorships to provide a hospitality area for Grounds Department Volunteers and industry guests. The GCSANJ goes online. Steve Kopach, GCS Mountain Ridge CC develops the first website for the GCSANJ. Steve's efforts result in him winning the GCSANJ Member of the Year. Plans for an association 75th Anniversary cruise around Manhattan are aborted due to the tragedy of 9/11.

- 2011: The GCSANJ joins forces with the NJTA at EXPO in Atlantic City. Paul Dotti is the president of the GCSANJ. Northern New Jersey GCS's suffer extreme winter damage on annual bluegrass greens. Plainfield CC, Travis Pauley GCS hosts the Barclays, which is shortened to three rounds due to Hurricane Irene. The tournament is won by Dustin Johnson. Tremors from an earthquake centered in Washington DC are felt at Plainfield CC during the tournament.

Article edited by Ken Kubik credits also to Doug Vogel for initial historical research.

**GCSANJ 1983 Executive Committee Nominees**

 <p><b>President - Bob Dickison, CGCS</b> Bob has been at Upper Montclair C.C. for the past 22 years. He became the course superintendent in 1971 upon Carl Ostberg's retirement. Bob attended the Rutgers Winter Turf Program which he completed in 1963. He attained CGCS status in 1977 and recertification in 1982. Bob has served on the GCSANJ Board for six years, first as director and then as our vice president from 1978-1979 and again in 1982. Bob and his wife, Cindy, reside in Verona, NJ.</p>	 <p><b>Secretary - Wayne Foster</b> Wayne is the course superintendent at Roselle Golf Club, Rosell, NJ. He started at Roselle as assistant super in 1967 and assumed the position of Course Superintendent in 1969. Wayne is presently serving as the District 3 Acting Director until a permanent director can be elected. Wayne and his wife, Ingeborg, and their two children live in Roselle.</p>
 <p><b>Vice President - Bob Ribbans</b> Bob is finishing his third year as Superintendent at Fairmont Country club in Chatham, NJ. Before this he spent four years as course super at Roxiticus Golf Club, Mendham, NJ. Bob is a graduate of the Rutgers Winter Turf Program (1972). He served as Director of District 3 for three years and has been the GCSANJ's secretary for the past three years. Bob, wife Helen, and one child reside in Somerville, NJ.</p>	 <p><b>Treasurer - Ed Walsh, CGCS</b> Ed is the Greens and Grounds Superintendent at Ridgewood Country Club, Ridgewood, NJ. He has held that position since 1976. Before Ridgewood, Ed spent three years as course super at Colonia Country Club, Colonia, NJ. He attended the Rutgers Winter Turf Program (1971) and the Rutgers Winter Program for Landscape Design and Maintenance (1968). Ed attained CGCS status in 1978. Ed served as GCSANJ treasurer in 1982 and as District 1 Director in 1978-79 and again in 1981. Ed and his wife, Mary, and three children live in Monroe, NY.</p>



**About Our "Civil War" Event Superintendent Host: George Pierpoint IV**

I come from a golf family. My grandfather Al Durland was the superintendent at Stony Ford golf course in Goshen NY. My Dad, George, was a superintendent for 42 years retiring from Ardsley Country Club and my Mom, Ineke, was the executive secretary for HVGCSA, MetGCSA as well as GCSANJ at one time. I started at Harbor Pines in September of 2006. I came from Middletown NY, where I was the superintendent at Orange County GC since 1997. I have been married to my beautiful wife Jennifer since 1995. We have 3 handsome young men. My oldest son Travis is 20 and serving in the Marine Corps and is currently stationed outside of Seattle, Washington. My middle son Logan is graduating high school this spring and will be attending Rowan University this fall with the goal of becoming a physics teacher. My youngest son Ryan is currently a freshman keeping busy with his friends and school. I would like to thank the Gurwicz family for their support the last 11 years as well as that of the manager Alan Greenman. Most importantly, thanks to my wife for putting up with me and keeping the family going while I am at work.



## HOW IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP DOING? *by James Cadott, Pebble Creek Golf Club*

Have you ever asked yourself, “How is my relationship with my boss?” Meaning the one person who is responsible for my employment...or unemployment. This is a tricky question to answer since we all have different employment structures. Many superintendents answer to a board member or members, while others answer to a general manager or public official. I answer to an owner (Ray Longobardi) of a daily fee, privately owned golf course without a general manager or even a PGA pro on the staff. This chain of command is very direct and clear, which I would think could help myself answer the question, “How is my relationship with my boss?”

Back in 2013, I would have answered this question with a confidently strong response. I feel that I do my job well, since the golf course is busy with steady, regularly returning customers. The budget is on the lower end of the scale, and we seem to accomplish more with less. But in the Fall of that year, my relationship with not just the owner, but everybody involved with Pebble Creek Golf Club, would be tested to the max.

In September of 2013, I experienced the beginning of a crisis that I hope nobody in this industry will ever have to experience. On September 9, some

way, some how, enough glysohate found its way into the spray tank, and was applied to 2 acres of turf...or ten greens and approaches. Nobody realized this occurred until a couple of weeks later, when that “look” started to appear. Even at this time, I had some others look at the greens and we figured it was a residual growth regulator effect. As the greens continued to decline, I knew something was very wrong. A tissue test later, and it was confirmed that glysohate, albiet a small amount, was the culprit.

My first thoughts were of confusion, anger, and helplessness...a great combination! I called two people, Dave Pease, and Joe Kennedy of Grass Roots, to help figure this whole thing out. Once a timeline of what happened, and what will happen, was set, I sat down with the owner of the golf course and explained the situation. It reminded me of the movie scene in Titanic when the boat designer told the girl (Kate Winslet) ...“Yes Rose, she will sink”... Yes Ray, they are going to die. It would be an understatement to say that this would be the ultimate test of our relationship.

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## HOW IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP DOING? *Continued from previous page*

So I have thought about this crisis many times over the last few years, and a number of things come to mind....personalities, character, timing, support, communication, and even a little luck. But the most important revelation I took from this was that my relationship with Pebble Creek was saved not because of the rapid recovery of the greens after, but of the strong foundation that was built the prior 13 years of my employment before. I guess this would be the part where the personalities and character mesh together. I was hired in the Spring of 2000, and ever since then I feel like I have done a very good job handling the craziness of a daily fee golf course, and this helped build confidence towards myself and subsequently strengthened the owner/employee relationship. But like any other boss, Ray would still question some things. And this is where support from your colleagues comes in. I was fortunate to have Dave and Joe make site visits whenever necessary, and speak with Ray about what was going on with the golf course. So when this crisis unfolded, these were the guys that I leaned on not just for agronomic advice, but emotional support also. I trusted these guys, so whatever was said by one person was said

by all, and that helps tremendously. At times, I even offered for Ray to speak with Dave or Joe without me being present, just to show that we were all on the same page.

The best advice Dave gave throughout was ...'just throw yourself on the sword'. No matter what happened, he would say, you are the captain here and it happened under your watch. Ouch! But I think it worked, and I believe it showed Ray that I took full responsibility, but also I will do whatever is necessary to fix the situation. At the same time, we kept pounding away at the recovery effort. Joe recommended Dr. Gordon Kaufman to set up the agronomic program and we all agreed. Several site visits later, progress was being made.

Timing was important because this crisis happened at the end of the season. You can also throw luck in there also. We were able to close the greens by November 1 and keep them closed all winter. We were able to borrow green blankets from Due Process (thanks Tony), and along with purchasing our own, we covered all the greens. *Continued on page 18*



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## ADOPTION: OUR STORY *by Tom Weinert, Plant Food Company*

It was a mid-November day in 2011. The weather was nice in the low 50s and I was on my way to visit Baltusrol Golf Club. My wife sent a text message as I was walking into the appointment. It was a very different text than I have ever received before. She asked me a question about a conversation we had with friends three weeks earlier on a Sunday afternoon. As a good husband I said, "I remember", when really I was a little unsure of what we had been talking about three weeks prior. But as I read the words of the next text spring up on my phone, I suddenly remembered exactly the conversation that she was referring to. You see, a friend of ours was over the house that day and was talking about foster care and encouraged us to get involved.

On that day my response was "Sure, that sounds like a great thing." I never intended to carry through on the conversation. But, here I was, in shock, reading that text message from my wife. It read "Well, I'm bringing home a baby." My own response was, "Okay." That day was the beginning of a five-year journey of fostering and adopting quite a few children.

The first couple of weeks that Kyra was with us, I was not too excited about holding her, because I was afraid of getting attached and hurt. I was not overly excited about going through the process all over again with a six-week old child. At that time, I was 43 years old and my life was cruising along quite nicely. I really did not want to be inconvenienced with raising more children. We already had four children and, my goodness, the thought of being 60-years-old and going to my daughter's graduation was unthinkable. Sometimes, God has different plans for us than what we choose. It is awesome to watch how these children have changed me in so many ways.

Since November of 2011, there has been a total of 11 children come through our home. Two of them we have adopted. Kyra, who is now 5, came into our home at six-weeks-old. Sammy, who is now 4, came to us at eight-months-old.

Our youngest, Kalli, who just turned one on December 22nd, came to us December 23, 2015. She is still in the foster care system and we hope to adopt her in the next year. Kalli is a biological half-sister of Sammy. The others have all returned home to their biological parents. We have had no control over what happens to them after they leave us, although we were able to make them feel safe and loved for a period of time. We have kept in contact with several of the children, and it is wonderful to see when their story has a happy ending.

I hear a lot of people tell me we are doing amazing things for these children, but it is the exact opposite. I am amazed how these children have changed our family dynamic and have made us rethink our priorities in life.

I'm writing this to encourage anyone who has thought about fostering or adopting, to step out and invest in a life that you could change forever.

Nothing in life worth having comes easy, however, in the end, it is so worth it.



*The day we adopted Sam at the courthouse.*

# 'CRAZY' OR 'STRANGE' THINGS DURING PROJECT DESIGNS

by Stephen Kay, Golf Course Architect, LLC

## Kingdom of Bhutan

I was approached by a non-golfing member of a club I was doing a Master Plan for in the mid-1980's who was the President of 'People to People Sports' - a non-profit that helped Third World Nations in sports (for instance they would pick up the expenses for athletes to go to the Olympics). He asked if I was willing to design a golf course for the Kingdom of Bhutan (north of India, south of Tibet just to the east of Mt. Everest for free but they would pick up all expenses). Two months later I was 1.5 miles up (air was pretty thin) where the stars at night are unbelievable. They had a golf course but with 'browns' and golf holes that crisscrossed each other (talk about unsafe). The greens had been rototilled with used motor oil mixed in (so nothing would grow). I stayed for two weeks, came up with a 9 hole layouts (only about 60 acres) and we build one hole - green complex with two sand bunkers and two tees. Then back in the USA I did a construction drawing for the remainder of the course, and they were mailed to them from the United Nations via 'diplomatic pouch'. I went back the next year to see the completed product and met a PGA pro who People to People Sports sent there to coach a team for the Asian Games (they badly wanted to beat China, which they did). And talk about a small world. The PGA pro was Carl Marinello whom I had never met or heard of before, but it turned out we were both from Whitestone, Queens; we knew a lot of the same people but we had never met, yet we meet half way around the world.

The seed was donated by Lofts and the two walking greens mowers by Jacobsen. Irrigation (all quick couplers) and all other mowers came from India. (Where, by the way, the first golf course was built outside of Great Britain - the Royal Calcutta Golf Club by the British troops in 1829.)



Soil heavy clay but no sand to amend; used saw dust and diking in then rototiller - got it about 9 inches deep.



One year later Golf Pro Carl giving lesson - note green in distance



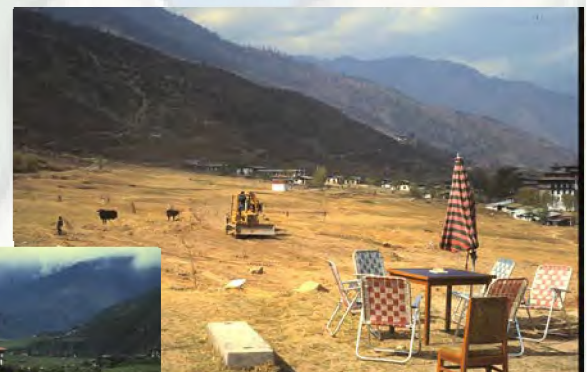
Original 'Brown' when I got there.



Layout plan I drew while there.



BHUTAN under construction



Tee under construction.

# THERE'S MORE TO GOLF COURSES THAN GREENS, TEES, AND FAIRWAYS

- by Matt Ceplo, CGCS, Rockland Country Club

I remember a number of years ago debating with a fellow superintendent and friend GCSAA's proposal to change our job title from golf course superintendent to property manager. At the time, I thought, no, our prime responsibility is, and always will be, managing greens, tees, fairways for the game of golf. In fact, we won't be in business for very long, nor will we stay employed, if golf is not our main focus.

And while I still believe that is true, since becoming Audubon certified, my perspective has changed somewhat. I now see that, as stewards of the environment, there are opportunities to manage and cultivate areas beyond the golf course as well.

The areas I'm referring to are those that are out of the range of play and just waiting to be cultivated into areas attractive to a variety of native plants, insects, birds, and wildlife.

At Rockland Country Club, our members welcome these areas, recognizing their value in providing food and habitat for our wildlife. Our meadows, wild flowers, and wooded areas are actually quite beautiful.

## The Awakening of Our Out-of-Play Areas

Building a wildlife habitat at Rockland began with a few bluebird houses. The bluebird, which is the New York state bird, likes open space, making golf courses a prime habitat. Though a native species, bluebirds are relatively scarce, so helping them thrive will, undoubtedly, provide good publicity.

Once we provided the bluebird with a nice house to nest in, we turned our attention to what they eat. Interestingly, 68 percent of a bluebird's diet is made up of insects: grasshoppers,

crickets, beetles, spiders, and caterpillars, to name a few.

The remaining 32 percent of the bird's diet is made up of fruit or berries from dogwoods, holly, mulberry, wild grape, Virginia creeper, poke-weed, and Viburnum. We made sure to add these plants to our landscape. I discovered that bluebirds eat more insects than fruit while fledging because insects have a lot of protein that the young need to grow. So anything we could do to encourage insects became a priority. This is when things became interesting, and complex—especially when it came to the caterpillars.

## The Beginning of a Butterfly Habitat

A significant inspiration in my journey to create an insect and wildlife habitat was John Lampkin. John was not only involved in the Rockland Audubon Society, but also an accomplished piano player and teacher, author, crossword puzzle designer (he has a few in *The New York Times*), photographer, and butterfly guru. Quite an impressive resume!

The day we met, he was asked to come and photograph purple martins that had taken up residence by our pond. When he saw the habitat we had created, he asked if he could come back and do a butterfly count. As they say, the rest is history.



John came at least once a month, and I would tag along with him, soaking up his vast knowledge. I became what he called his "grasshopper." Like most people, we have planted flowers for nectar and pollen. We focused a great deal on the butterfly and not so much on the caterpillars. But of course, if you don't have caterpillars, you won't have butterflies. Because of this and the fact that caterpillars are also a valuable food source for birds, it was a no brainer to try and encourage them.

One day, John spotted a couple of spicebush butterflies. They, actually, are quite common and we regularly saw several every time John was here. When I asked him what their host plant was, I was a bit embarrassed when he said, "Why it's spicebush, my little grasshopper."

John pointed to a small wooded area to the right of our 12th hole where there was a large patch. On further inspection, several of the spicebushes were being strangled by oriental bittersweet and burning bushes, both invasive species.

Over the next several months and, now, at least a couple times a year, we go into that area with a machete and chop away these pesky plants to allow the spicebushes to grow.

The spicebush is a good plant for pollinators, and many birds and small mammals eat the berries it produces. Once an area that we would blow leaves into during the fall, it is now a great habitat for all kinds of wildlife.





# THERE'S MORE TO GOLF COURSES THAN GREENS, TEES, AND FAIRWAYS

- Continued from previous page

## Keeping the Natural in Naturalized Areas

Think about this: There are 33 different kinds of grass skipper butterflies that, no surprise, use grasses as their host plant. These native butterflies' prime food source are true native grasses such as blue stem, panicum, Indian grass, switch grass, tridens, side oats gramma, and broom sedge.

A grass that is common in golf course native areas is fescue. Ironically, most fescues are not a native grass. We have two native fescues in our area (*F. obtusa*—Nodding Fescue, and *F. rubra*—Red Fescue, the latter a host plant for Sachem and Indian Skipper). I would bet that your "native" areas are not these. Most of the grasses we use in our lawns are brought over from Europe and aren't native either. That means they're not an attractive food source for our native butterfly caterpillars.

Over the years, here at Rockland, we have added native plantings to provide food for our butterfly caterpillars. Most of the common butterflies have more than one host plant, which explains why they're common. Some of the more rare butterflies have very specific preferences, which explains why they're rare.

Monarchs, for instance, have evolved to lay eggs only on milkweed. Technically, any milkweed variety will serve as a host plant to Monarch butterflies, but I, personally, have found caterpillars only on our common milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca*. As far as I can tell, Monarchs seem to prefer that

variety to any of the others.

Lucky for us, it is a pretty common plant and one that just sprung up when we stopped mowing several areas a number of years ago. Now we encourage this particular milkweed whenever we can. It's a great plant for many of our pollinators, as well, and has a sweet fragrance when in bloom.

It fits in a native, perennial meadow area, but as the name implies, it does come across as a weed and, as a result, has been "weeded out" of most highly visible or well-groomed areas. With milkweed—the Monarch's breeding ground—becoming scarce, Monarch populations, too, have been declining. Fortunately, we have been able to showcase the milkweed's importance in the landscape and rarely, if ever, hear members complain about it.

*Here is a suggestion for preserving milkweed on your course:* If you find milkweed in your grassy fields and you're getting complaints about it, don't spray it! Just cut it down below the height of the grass, and let the grass hide it. It will grow back, and the new leaves will provide a good, tender food source.

The more I research plants, the more I am finding out that our native species are here for a reason. Everything has a purpose. Nature doesn't just happen; it has evolved over centuries for reasons we are just now starting to understand. With that said, we would all do well to do everything possible to encourage and maintain naturalized areas for our insect friends.

Just look back at your seventh grade earth science book to see, again, that the little guys get eaten by the bigger guys that get eaten by the even bigger ones, and the cycle goes on. So if you are trying to encourage bluebirds, hawks, fox (20 percent of a fox's diet is composed of insects), owls, or other wildlife to visit or make your properties their home, don't forget the little guys . . . our insects.

## How Naturalized Areas Enhance the Game of Golf

If I've heard what I'm about to say once, I've heard it a million times: "Matt I'd love to start building natural habitats like yours, but my membership just doesn't care about the environment. They don't care about butterflies or bluebirds. They just want to play golf."

To that I say, "Of course they care. They just haven't thought about it." As long as golf is played outside, the environment will be one of the most important aspects of the game. In my opinion, it makes golf the greatest game ever played.

I have yet to hear someone complain about the fox that ran across the fairway or seeing the bald eagle soar overhead. We are blessed to be able to get outside and enjoy all of nature's splendor. In fact, numerous studies have shown that natural beauty can elicit feelings of awe, relieve stress (even if you've just double-bogeyed the last hole), reduce inflammation, boost our immune systems, improve mental health, and stimulate anti-cancer proteins. Now if that's not a case

*Continued on page 19*

## HOW IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP DOING? *Continued from page 12*

This gave us a bit of a breather and some time to formulate the Spring opening plan. I have to say here that I do believe the situation may have been tremendously different if this event occurred in June, July or August.

Of course Spring came slowly in 2014, and everybody was trying to be patient. But I knew that this would not satisfy Ray, as he was beginning to be concerned with rounds, revenue, outings, and reputation. This became the toughest stretch of my career, and it was beginning to show. I have to admit, there were a couple of times when a customer was trying to be funny and made a joke about the course, and I was ready to pounce...fortunately, cooler heads and de-caf coffee prevailed. I noticed something else also, and that was that the owner had my back on this.

Ray would explain to the customers that the golf course would be up and running soon and he never put the blame on anybody. What was said in private might be a different story, but that was ok. And speaking of private, your personal relationships can

also be affected in these situations. My wife and family had my back also, and even made trips to the golf course to check progress as we went along. We all know each other's families here at Pebble Creek, and this seems to add a more human touch in the employer/employee relationship.

By the middle of May, the greens were open and no outings or tee times (reduced rates) were cancelled. The Summer rolled in and just a little public relation patchwork remained. What happened was behind us, and logistics were improved so it may never happen again. Was everybody happy?...never. I realized we lost revenue in the Fall and early Spring, and did what we could to make up for the loss by trimming the budget where we could. But through it all, Ray never complained to me about revenue, or even the cost of recovery. I believe that he saw the effect this crisis had on me, and how hard the team was trying to put it back together as quickly as possible. I think most superintendents portray themselves as committed professionals who are extremely passionate about their career. *Continued on next page*



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## YOUR RELATIONSHIP...

*Continued from previous page*

Not only did I “wear it on my sleeve”, but so did my fellow colleagues who helped along the way. Dave Pease, Joe Kennedy and Grass Roots, Dr. Gordon Kaufman, Tony Hooks, Tim Mariner, and everybody who attended the Beakley outing in the Fall of 2013 showed not only me (I already know), but also Ray and Pebble Creek Golf Club the quality of people we have in the golf course business in New Jersey.

So, relationships? We are all different and sit at different levels of employment, so my only advice would be to build your relationships in life so when they are tested, they will be strong enough to help you manage any adverse situation you may encounter.

Remember that a strong relationship takes a good amount of work, but a relationship that is strong enough to survive a crisis, comes more naturally than anything else.

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## MORE TO GOLF COURSES

*Continued from page 17*

for cultivating visually pleasing naturalized areas, I don't know what is!

And by the way, you can have a great golf course and manage it in an environmentally responsible way. In fact, the two go hand-in-hand. In an era of environmental activism and awareness, what owner, member, or green chairman would want you to manage their golf course any differently?

Why not get the environmental ball rolling on your golf course by inviting a local Audubon group to come to your club and conduct a bird count. Find out where and who is involved in your watershed and invite that group to do a water study. The North American Butterfly Association (of which I am a member and have learned a lot from) is based in Morristown, NJ. Google them and ask if someone from the local chapter would like to do a butterfly count on your course. This group is always looking for new spots to survey.

By pursuing these initiatives, you will learn a great deal and, at the same time, demonstrate to members and the community that golf and golf courses can set the standard for developed landscapes.

In the end, as large land managers, we all have a great opportunity and responsibility to manage our “total” properties in a way that maintains the balance of nature and establishes a welcoming habitat for the plants, insects, and animals around us.



*Thanks to Pandora Wojick, John Lampkin, and Sharon Wander for their contributions to this article.*



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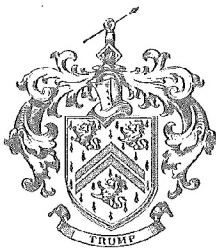
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## STRANGE THINGS DURING CONSTRUCTION - by A. John Harvey

### Celtic Manor

In the early 1990's while I was working with Robert Trent Jones, Sr., ASGCA, and Roger G. Rulewich, ASGCA, with Robert Trent Jones Companies based in Montclair, NJ and Fort Lauderdale, FL, we began the design process for two golf courses at Celtic Manor Resort in Newport, Gwent, Wales.

During the site investigations of the property initiated with local authorities and engineers, we came across some real interesting and historically significant features involving the Roman Empire.

Today, both the Roman Road and Coldra Woods golf courses are part of a three-course resort facility in Southern Wales. The Roman Road course was aptly named when, during construction of this championship caliber, 18-hole, par 70 course, remnants of an old Roman road were found which now serves as a portion of a cart path. The construction of a par 3 necessitated clearing about two acres of a unique "ancient woodland" forested area that had never been cleared by man. Only a few such areas remain in the U.K. and are highly protected. A quarry was also found that was one of the sources used by the Romans to supply stone for constructing the fort, spa and coliseum in the nearby Town of Caeleon and for local road building. The course was routed along the crest of a broad hill and provides wonderful panoramic views of the surrounding Welsh countryside.

The Coldra Woods Course is a continuous 18-hole short-course layout, consisting of par 3 and par 4 holes. The layout skirts around a large ridge and earthen landform that once was the site of a Roman Military training encampment and fortification overlooking the Rivers Usk and Severn. A portion of the course also was constructed within valuable farmland classified as "3A land." This land is some of the most productive and level farmland in Wales. Because of this natural phenomenon, only subtle grading was allowed to construct the golf course features in case the government ever decided to turn the soil over to grow crops during times of war or famine. Every year the Welsh Open is held at the resort. The facility was selected to host the Ryder Cup in 2010 that was played on

the newest golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. The Resort's golf courses and its extensive practice facility also serve as the home for the Welsh Golf Federation.



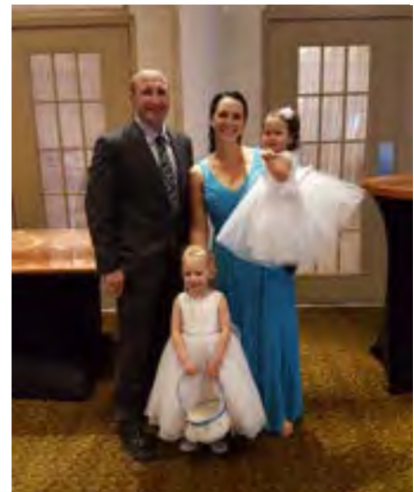
Image of the stone quarry found on-site that was used by the Romans to supply raw material for their construction efforts.



Image of a greensite on the Roman Road Course overlooking the River Usk Valley towards the Town of Caeleon.

## THE GOOD LIFE - by Jesse Dowdy, Assistant Superintendent, Liberty National Golf Club

When I got into this business at age 16, I never would have guessed that 18 years later I would still be in it. Enjoying what I do day in and day out is something that makes me feel lucky to have found the right career for myself so early in life. Although it started as only a job at first, I quickly realized that I was going to put the time in and work my way through the ranks. To be honest I had never played or knew anything about the game of golf. I grew up playing other sports and riding dirt bikes. By age 23 I had already worked at top level clubs - Plainfield Country Club, Winged Foot Golf Club, Augusta National - and had just landed an Assistant position at Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City. I couldn't be happier working the crazy hours that so many of us in the industry do. Now at 34 years old, we've hosted 2 PGA Tour Playoff events at Liberty, and with the 2017 President's Cup just around the corner, I'm still having fun, learning every day, and looking forward to the future.



Some of my focus has changed over the last few years since getting married in 2012 and having 2 daughters (Mackenzie 3 and Aubrey 1). Most of you reading can attest that priorities change a little as we get older. I believe having a life outside of work is only possible for me because of the people I have worked with over the years and the product we have produced. Having a great crew that I trust allows me to schedule time off each week for everyone. My time off allows me to spend more time with my family which we love spending at the race track whenever we can. If not spectating some form of motorsport, I enjoy being out on track doing trackdays on my EBR 1190RX. Most of the trackdays I do are in Millville, NJ, at New Jersey Motorsports Park. "Going 150+ MPH into turn one really helps to clear the mind from work." I think it is important for everyone to find a balance between work, family, and fun. Too much of one can really affect the others. Over the years I have found multiple golf course guys that are also into motorcycles. It is nice to be able to meet up with other people in the industry at the race track and have some fun, clear our heads, and bond over a common hobby. It is very easy to get overwhelmed with the daily grind of a golf course job. That is why I feel it's important to have an outlet or a hobby that you can enjoy. Find something outside of work that you love to do and make time to do it.



# STRANGE THINGS DURING CONSTRUCTION - by A. John Harvey

## Berkshire Valley

On a more local note, when I was with The Roger Rulewich Group, the consulting team of the RBA Group and the RRG was awarded the contract to design a championship caliber, 18-hole golf course to be the most recent addition to the stable of courses owned and operated by the Morris County Park Commission. The site selected for the course was an abandoned sand and gravel pit in the northwest portion of the County. The property was fallow for twelve years prior to the start of course construction in 2000. During active mining, siltation ponds were created by wet excavation and dragline mining. During mining operations, not only were these ponds used to collect profitable material from wet excavations, they were also used to capture soil and sediment to prevent it from leaving the site and entering the adjoining pristine Rockaway River. Over time, these excavations became colonized by opportunistic, invasive wetland and transitional vegetation. The design team prepared a comprehensive development package from site feasibility to construction inspection for this golf course and practice facility on four hundred acres of challenging, yet dramatic property in northern New Jersey.

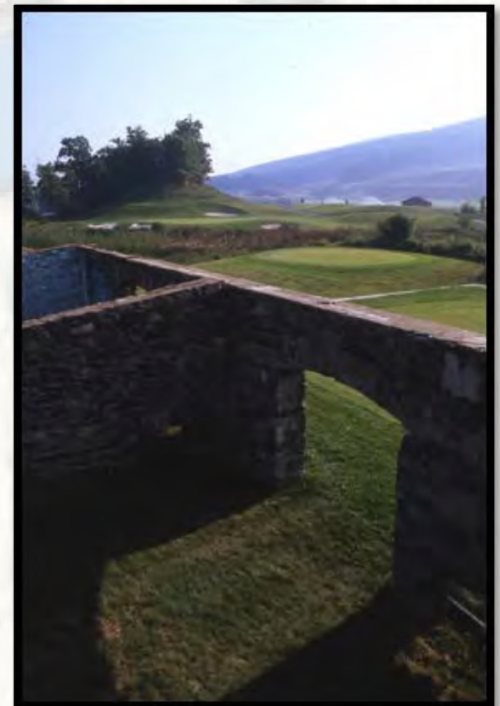
Our team evaluated all of the environmental constraints including wetlands, buffers, floodplains, soils, vegetation, endangered species, water quality, groundwater, zoning, and utilities. Based on these constraints, we obtained the required permits and came up with several layouts. Final design plans and construction documents were then prepared for the continuous course layout to include a clubhouse, maintenance facility, halfway house, pump house, and rain shelter. Due to the aggressive mining of the previous land use, we had to import 230,000 cubic yards of recycled fill material to supplement earthwork volumes and shaping needs. We incorporated one of the more unique historic landmarks in the area, the stone ruins of a building that once housed the Ringling Brothers first traveling circus elephants in America, into the par 3, 12th hole to serve as part of the wall containing the tee complex. The hole plays over the Rockaway River and related wetlands corridor to a green complex bordering the river and a waterfall created as part of iron mining operations in the late 1800s. Incidentally, it was recently announced that Ringling Brothers/Barnum & Bailey will cease circus entertainment operations in May of 2017.

The challenge of this project was to balance the opportunities and constraints of this property and weave a golf course layout around the property to take advantage of the spectacular scenery without compromising the ecosystem that encompasses the development, while at the same time creating a strategic sequencing of playable holes that are both enjoyable and memorable.



*Colored Graphic Rendering of the 12th Hole at Berkshire Valley with tees positioned alongside the elephant building playing to the green on the opposite side of the Rockaway River.*

*Photograph of the building ruins along the 12th Hole. The hole plays as a 120-190 yard par 3.*





## 2017 Shop Tours: Tuesday, February 23rd

Liberty National Golf Club, Jersey City.

Host: Greg James

Skyway Golf Club at Lincoln Park, Jersey City.

Host: Matt Castagna



**2017 Nor'Easter Ski Day** *by Jeremy Batz*

After getting rained out in 2016, the VTGCSA again hosted the Nor'Easter ski day and race at Killington Mountain in Vermont on February 16th. After finishing 5th in 2015, team GCSANJ had high aspirations for the upcoming race and were represented by Mike Tardogno (Greenbrier Oceanaire), Clark Weld (Hidden Creek), Scott McBane (Galloway National), Robert Wagner (Trump Bedminster), Keith Bennett (Grass Roots), Josh Kopera (Harrell's), Jeremy Batz (Trump Colts Neck), Mike Paluzzi (Wild Turkey and Cascades), and Captain Jeremy Hreben (Indian Spring). Heavy snow throughout the week created perfect, powdery conditions throughout the mountain but also slowed down the race track, which may have played to our advantage. Led by Robert Wagner with a time of 33.37, the team finished in 3rd place, losing only to the two mountain teams, Vermont and the Northeastern GCSA. We finished well ahead of the MET team (4th) and Long Island (5th). Not bad for a bunch of flatlanders! Post race après ski was again held at The Wobbly Barn where a nice spread and drinks were served. While team NJ took home no individual or team hardware, a raucous celebration was had following our 3rd place announcement. Hopefully the tradition continues in 2018 and team NJ can continue working its way up the leader board. Special thanks to Dennis Desanctis Jr. for securing our lodging in 2016, which carried over to this year due to last year's rain out. Anyone looking to sponsor or participate in 2018's event please contact Captain Jeremy Hreben.



**GCSANJ Individual Results**

<b>Robert Wagner</b>	<b>33.37</b>
<b>Keith Bennett</b>	<b>34.75</b>
<b>Mike Paluzzi</b>	<b>34.78</b>
<b>Clark Weld</b>	<b>35.78</b>
<b>Mike Tardogno</b>	<b>37.03</b>
<b>Josh Kopera</b>	<b>37.62</b>
<b>Scott McBane</b>	<b>37.84</b>
<b>Jeremy Batz</b>	<b>41.77</b>
<b>Jeremy Hreben</b>	<b>50.71</b> (snowboard)



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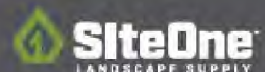
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# A LIFE WELL-REMEMBERED: MARY LOU DESCHAMPS

- Eulogy [Abbreviated] given by Danielle Centalozza, Mary Lou's Granddaughter

Good Morning. For those of you who I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet, my name is Danielle Centalozza, the eternally proud granddaughter of MaryLou DesChamps. To most of you she was Mrs. D or MaryLou, but to me, for the past 33 years, she was Nana. I know that anything I say in her honor today will never do her the justice of who she was, as she was the most remarkable human being I've ever known. At 5 feet tall and about 100 pounds, always dressed to the nines, never without her makeup, French manicure, perfectly coiffed hair and earrings in place, you'd think she was this delicate little lady, but we all know that while she may have been physically petite, on the inside, she was fierce and determined, and her heart was the size of the Heavenly sky.

Being a proud granddaughter means a lot of things: I admired her work ethic and determination in making the company as successful if not more so than how my grandfather left it 27 years ago, she had an open door policy with her employees where they could come to her as a friend or a mother figure instead of their boss and she would lend a helping hand to them, no questions asked. She believed in her company and those who wanted to learn the business and succeed. She always made time for her family and even at short notice, she would clear her calendar just to spend time with my mother and I. While my Nana took Storr Tractor Company to great heights and could have used that money to live a lavish life, she instead chose to put it back into the company so her employees were not only happy at home, but felt at home when they were in the office and knew they had a secure job to come to each day. She would do everything that she could for those who were loyal to her. It truly made her the happiest when she could bring bliss to others and that didn't stop with her family. She had extended her generosity to her employees, and even perfect strangers, who she knew needed a helping hand. My Nana truly was an angel of the living and a fairy godmother making dreams a reality for so many, those who would never have had those opportunities on their own. To name a few of her philanthropic efforts, in addition to supporting causes close to her heart, she supported a local police officer who had been diagnosed with cancer, following up with him often and sending flowers and cards of encouragement to him when in the hospital for surgery and becoming dear friends with him over the years. You see, his background hit home as my grandfather was a police officer for the Boonton Township Police Department before he led Storr Tractor Company and my Aunt Lise passed away from a long battle with cancer so she was determined to help him and better his quality of life as he reminded her of her family; she helped a family struggling to pay off student loans so they could get back on their feet; she lent a hand to one of my best friends with her flights for my bachelorette party and wedding as she was touched by her efforts to be there during the most important days of my life; she took care of the medical bills for people with terminal illnesses, many of whom she never knew, but was touched by their story and knew she needed to help; she set up a scholarship in my grandfather's name to help amputees like my grandfather get a college education and had a golf tournament in his honor to help raise the funds to go to

that scholarship; she set up a foundation in my Aunt's name to to those in need whether it was to pursue the Arts like my Aunt did or to help them ease their burden of debts.

As her granddaughter, I have countless wonderful memories with my Nana over the years and never questioned her love for me as she showed it in so many different ways. When she broke her hip 3 years ago at the airport when headed to Italy with Storr Tractor Company, she didn't let that setback take away from everything that she was. Her determination was stronger than ever, as my wedding was just 4 months away and she wanted to be able to walk down the aisle during our ceremony and dance at our wedding reception. Would you know it, that's exactly what she did. She got better and was the most beautiful woman at my wedding, with that charming smile and was able to walk on her own just like she did before this incident happened. That's how much I knew she loved me, as she worked so hard to get better so she wouldn't miss being a special part of my wedding, just like I had hoped.

Nana, you touched the lives of countless people, and the crowd of loved ones in attendance all yesterday and here this morning is a true testament to how many people are better just for knowing you. I will deeply miss all our weekend visits, holidays and vacations together, and your cooking, especially those turnips that you always made sure were perfect for me on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Most of all, I will miss just spending time with you, sitting in your living room and just catching up on everything. Those moments will stay in my heart for the rest of my life and while I know that you're at peace and reunited with much of our family in Heaven, it's going to take a very long time to find closure on not having you just a phone call away. I love you with all of my heart and miss you more than words can say. Thank you for enriching my life and always making sure I knew how much you loved me. You were the most wonderful Nana to me and I will be forever grateful for our close bond. Thank you for changing so many lives and making me the proudest granddaughter. Thank you for being the best mother to my Mom, who in turn has been the best mother to me. Thank you for being such a loving mother-in-law to my Dad. Thank you for being the welcoming and loving grandmother that my husband never had until he met you. Thank you for being the loving companion to Paul, who has always been and will always be family to us. Thank you for being the wonderful boss and friend to all your hard-working employees. Thank you for being a helpful hand to so many in need. May God bless you always and may you continue to watch over us as our guardian angel. We miss you more than you know and you will never be forgotten. You will remain in our hearts forever and be an impossible legacy to follow.



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