

# THE GREENERSIDE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY



MEET THE SUPERINTENDENTS  
L TO R:

Eric Kelley, Rob Wagner,  
Nate Spence, Alex DeHaven

2017 U. S. Women's Open  
Trump National Golf Club Bedminster



# Presidents Cup comes to Liberty National “Start Spreading the News!”



Liberty National Golf Club will be host to the Presidents Cup September 24<sup>th</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup>. We are seeking volunteers to help prepare the golf course for the week of the tournament.

A volunteer form will be distributed in April 2017. If anyone is interested, please contact Jessica Santiago at 201-333-4105 x305 or [Jessica.Santiago@libertynationalgc.com](mailto:Jessica.Santiago@libertynationalgc.com).

The Liberty National Agronomy Department will host a Hospitality Tent available to all visiting superintendents and volunteers for the upcoming tournament. We are looking for sponsors to help support this event.

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## WELCOME **NEW MEMBERS**

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*Liberty National Golf Club*

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As the start of the golf season is upon us, I just wanted to take a minute and reiterate the importance of not letting our work and jobs get in the way of what's really important. Enjoying our life.

Yeah sure, I know we are all worrying about moisture levels, disease pressure, and green speeds. But at the end of the day, does all that time spent worrying and fretting really change the end result? We are all educated and seasoned enough to let our talents and instincts take over so we can enjoy our time away from work with family and loved ones doing what makes us happy. For me personally this all comes to light due to some significant personal loss over the last couple of years which has truly made me realize that life can be over in a split second.

And if and when that day comes I'm trying my best to make sure I don't leave with any regrets of not spending my days doing what's most important to me with the people I choose to be with. Of course, there will always come a time when work will trump all other things; it is at the end of the day however we support our way of life for those same people. But we all need to realize that if we only worry about work and not the other things in life by spending countless hours at our respective facilities, are we really being productive enough to ensure its success? And when it's said and done can Mother Nature ever really lose? Or does she just give and take from us whatever she wants regardless of the fight and defenses we put up?

I guess what I'm really trying to say is that regardless of how important we think our jobs are, they are still just that, a JOB. It's a way to support the people we love and ourselves, most of us are just extremely lucky to be doing something we truly love to do. So, remember when you're working your 72nd burr or 7th day in a row, you're probably not doing anything or anything good by that point. Take a day and do something you en-

joy away from work. Spend time with your family, coach your kid's little league team, or maybe take your wife or significant other somewhere. Whatever you decide to do you, your family and your place of work will be much better off because of it.

Don't let work get in the way of life, allow work to support living your life.

Yours Truly,

*Russell Harris*

**Russell Harris**  
GCSANJ PRESIDENT



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## How to Become An Awesome “Go To” Person?

*Want to improve your time management skills? Looking for ways to create more effective communication? Or do you want to be known for producing professional results under aggressive deadlines to give your career more momentum? If you answered “all of the above” then this is your time to become a ‘go-to’ person.*

*Being a good go-to person can make you indispensable (and powerful) to your company or golf course. Here are a few pointers on how.*

### 1. Take notes.

Take some quick notes on questions you have before you discuss project requirements to outline all the information you’ll need before you start. After these are answered, take an extra ten minutes to make a timeline. When you have project timeline, you can immediately contact other colleagues involved to let them know when you’ll be looking for their final input.

### 2. Listen first.

When you’re trying to be helpful, it’s easy to jump to conclusions or to present an instant solution. Hear out your colleagues first to avoid missing important details or causing offense. Then use your trusty notes to keep all of the information at your fingertips.

### 3. Ask questions.

If you still need more information after you’re given the full rundown, don’t hesitate to push for more details with specific questions. Taking an extra five minutes to pin down specific requirements or expectations can help avoid last minute emails or phone calls to get answers.

If you get vague responses, ask more specific questions to avoid guesswork. If your colleague can’t provide the details, find out who can. Remember, even when it seems tedious, being thorough will help you keep the project on target.

### 4. Be organized.

You never know when you’ll need to reference an email or forward it on if questions come up. Keep your inbox in order with separate folders for projects, making them simple to locate later.

Managing your inbox with relevant folders can also prevent you from getting derailed at the growing amount of messages every time you open your email.



## 2017 CALENDAR

Check calendar for updates and signup info.

### 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 10, 2017 • Thursday

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

# MY OFFICE....



JUNIOR CHAMPIONS



# ROUNDS 4 RESEARCH IS A WINNER FOR NEW JERSEY

- by Les Carpenter, Jr. Rounds 4 Research Coordinator, NJ Chapter

When Superintendents ask and Superintendents respond positively, what more could be better? The New Jersey Chapter once again participated in the national initiative, Rounds 4 Research and we want to thank all the Superintendents and their management for the generous donations made for this auction that was held May 1 - May 7.

We were able to increase our participation by 20% this year, which placed us 6th in the country!

The auction raised over \$12,000 in donations for NJ rounds, and over \$200,000 across the country. Our chapter will receive over \$10,000 for our participation, which will go directly to the GCSANJ Foundation to be used for the scholarship program.

The monies raised across the country will be used for various research projects as well as to support programs like the Melrose Leadership Academy, which sends superintendents to the Golf Industry Show.

Thanks to all of you who participated!

- Alpine Country Club, Demarest NJ
- Ash Brook Golf Club, Scotch Plains NJ
- Bala Golf Club, Philadelphia PA
- Ballyowen Golf Club, Hamburg NJ
- Berkshire Valley Golf Course, Oak Ridge NJ
- Bey Lea Golf Course, Toms River NJ
- Black Oak Golf Club, Long Valley NJ
- Blue Heron Pines Pines Golf Club, Egg Harbor City NJ
- Brigantine Golf Links, Brigantine NJ
- Brooklake Country Club, Florham Park NJ
- Cranbury Golf Club, West Windsor NJ
- Crystal Springs Golf Club, Hamburg NJ
- Farmstead Golf & Country Club, Lafayette NJ
- Fiddler's Elbow Country Club, Far Hills NJ
- Flanders Valley Golf Course, Flanders NJ
- Galloping Hill Golf Course, Kenilworth NJ
- Galloway National Golf Club, Galloway NJ
- Hanover Golf Club, Wrightstown NJ
- Hollywood Golf Club, Deal NJ
- Indian Spring Golf Course, Marlton NJ
- Jumping Brook Country Club, Neptune NJ
- Maplewood Country Club, Maplewood NJ
- New Jersey National Golf Club, Basking Ridge NJ
- Newton Country Club, Newton NJ
- Oak Hill Golf Club, Milford NJ
- Pebble Creek Golf Club, Colts Neck NJ
- Pinch Brook Golf Course, Florham Park NJ
- Preakness Hills Country Club, Wayne NJ
- Roxiticus Golf Club, Mendham NJ
- Royce Brook Golf Club, Hillsborough NJ
- Seaview Golf Club, Galloway NJ
- Somerset Hills Country Club, Bernardsville NJ
- TPC Jasna Polana, Princeton NJ
- Trump National Golf Club - Colts Neck, Colts Neck NJ
- Woodlake Country Club, Lakewood NJ

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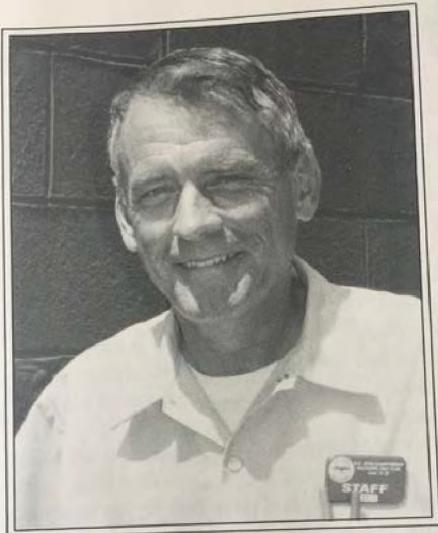
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## GCSANJ THROUGH THE DECADES - by Ken Kubik, Grass Roots PART THREE

- 1933: Due to the Great Depression, drastic salary cuts continue for the area greenskeepers. New Jersey greenskeepers are considered agricultural employees and do not come under the general code. John Anderson, CGS Crestmont CC, a founder of the Greenskeeper Association of New Jersey, is President of the Association. He would three years later become President of the National Association.
- 1943: Greenskeeper Association of New Jersey meetings were dispensed with for the duration of World War II. Gasoline rationing affects greenskeepers ability to maintain their golf courses. New Jersey defense plants call for all available manpower which depletes golf course maintenance staffs. Many golf courses close. No Association dues are collected.
- 1953: The National Association's Conference comes to the Ambassador Hotel in Atlantic City, NJ and it is deemed a tremendous success. It is the only time the National Conference is ever held in New Jersey. Grass Clippings, the Association bulletin with Al Foster as editor, is sent to the membership. The Association changes its name to New Jersey Golf Course Superintendents Association. Association dues are raised to \$10/year which is equivalent to about \$90/year today. Sherwood Moore is President of the NJGCSA and he would become President of the National ten years later.
- 1963: Association Secretary Peter Pedrazzi, Sr. of Suburban GC processes 27 membership applications bringing the NJGCSA total to 163, an increase of 17%. The Thunderbird Classic is again held at Upper Montclair CC and is won by Arnold Palmer. Rutgers University Golf Course and Navesink CC both open in 1963 and were designed by Hal Purdy.
- 1973: The association fights for controlled open burning of organic waste with a letter writing campaign to NJ state legislators. Maurice "Skip" Cameron, GCS Canoe Brook CC, is President of the association. The National Public Links Golf Championship is held at Flanders Valley GC. Tim McAvoy, CGS Fox Hollow GC loses to Craig Stalter, the winner of the event, on the 21st hole of the US Amateur.
- 1983: The phrase "green speed" becomes a hot topic. The GCSANJ has a seminar on the Stimpmeter. The LPGA Chrysler-Plymouth Classic is held at Upper Montclair GC. GCSANJ president, Bob "Red" Dickson, CGCS is the golf course superintendent. The Association's newsletter "The Greener Side" garners the GCSAA "Overall Best" newsletter. Ed Walsh, CGCS at the Ridgewood CC, is the editor. This is one of four GCSAA "Overall Best" newsletter awards won by "The Greener Side" under Ed's editorship. The USGA Women's Amateur Championship is held at Canoe Brook CC, Maurice "Skip" Cameron is the golf course superintendent. The USGA Junior Girls Championship is held at Somerset Hills CC, Les Stout is the golf course superintendent.
- 1993: The inaugural Arnold Classic NFL Golf Classic is held at Upper Montclair CC. Bob Dickson, CGCS is the golf course superintendent. Angelo Petraglia hosts and wins the Sherwood Moore Cup at Deal G & CC. GCSANJ members volunteer in force at the US Open at Baltusrol GC to aid Joe Flaherty, CGCS and the grounds department in the daily tournament preparations.
- 2003: GCSANJ President, John O'Keefe, CGCS Preakness Hills CC on behalf of the association donates \$20,000 to Rutgers University for the Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Education Center. Mark Kuhns, CGCS Baltusrol GC is elected to the Board of Directors of the GCSAA. The GCSANJ website is rebuilt and managed by Todd Raisch, CGCS the Ridgewood CC.

- 2013: John O'Keefe, CGCS Preakness Hills CC is elected Secretary/Treasurer of the GCSAA. The first Assistant Golf Course Superintendent Roundtable is held at TPC at Jasna Polana hosted by Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Matt Castagna. The Barclays, the first stage of the Fed Ex Cup is held at Liberty National GC, Greg James is the GCS. Matt Ceplo, CGCS Rockland CC, earns the National Environmental Award from the GCSAA. The American Littoral Society certifies Bea Lea Municipal GC as a Barnegat Bay friendly business, Joe Kinlin is the GCS. The 18th Annual Golden Cutter is held at the Walkill CC, Rich Fodor is the GCS.

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



**JOSEPH R. FLAHERTY, CGCS  
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 Paramus Golf Club: Paramus, NJ  
 Pinch Brook Golf Course: Florham Park, NJ  
 Rolling Greens Golf Club: Newton, NJ  
 Saratoga Springs Golf Course: Saratoga Springs, NY  
 Shawangunk Country Club: Ellenville, NY  
 Sunset Valley Golf Course: Pompton Plains, NJ  
 West Hill Golf Course: Middletown, NY

Valley Brook Golf Course: River Vale, NJ  
 Arcola Country Club: Paramus, NJ  
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 Hollow Brook Golf Club: Cortland Manor, NY  
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# A GOOD START FOR 2017



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# DAYS ON E BY *by Jack Martin*

Lance Rogers recently asked me to write an article about the “old days” in the business. Since I’ve been there over fifty years (40 as a golf course superintendent) and I can still walk, talk and chew gum, I guess that qualifies me.

I started back in the late 1950’s and early 1960’s. To me that is considered the golden age of golf. It was the inception of Arnold Palmer and golf on TV. This is when the golf industry boomed. There were more golf courses being built than there were qualified golf course superintendents. That was great for kids like me coming out of UMass and others from Penn State and Rutgers.

Every young aspiring superintendent should have a mentor to teach and guide him. Mine was Pete Pedrazzi, long time superintendent at Suburban Golf Club and Crestmont Country Club. The “smart ass” kid he plucked out of the caddy yard was me. He taught me and when I was floundering, sent me up to UMass and Joe Troll. Almost all of the young hopeful kids that came out of turf school at that time

got superintendent jobs very quickly. The main reason was that there were very few superintendents in their 30’s and 40’s. I can think of just a few: *Al Caravello, Skip Cameron, Pete Pedrazzi and Ken Morrison*. I know I forgot a few. The majority of the others were in their mid 50’s and 60’s. That left us, the kids in their 20’s! *Al Rathjens, Joe Flaherty, Jim Gillian* and me. All of us came out of school at the same time and we got superintendent jobs right away.

In the beginning, all the other young guys and myself worked for the “older superintendents” and those guys were tough! It was said to me many times..”you college kids need to learn the hard way, the way we did”, and so we learned. When you were joining the Association and even as young superintendents, you basically stood at attention and listened when they spoke. Later in life we would appreciate this type of discipline. I remember the 1st association meeting I went to with another young superintendent, Richie Brown of Maplewood CC (he drives a cab in San Francisco now). It was an annual meeting at the Mountainside Inn on Rt. 22. *Continued on page 17*

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# Nine and Dine at Skyway Golf Course



MATT CASTAGNA HOST AND GC SUPT



# HOW ARE THINGS DIFFERENT TODAY WHEN DOING A MASTER PLAN COMPARED TO THE EARLY 1990's? - by Stephen Kay, Golf Course Architect, LLC

Golf courses that were doing Master Plans in the 1990's had either been built during the 'golden age of golf course design' (historically 1915 to 1930) or during the 1960's. Prior to the late 1980's most clubs viewed sand bunkers as hazards, but as TV (especially the Masters) displayed highly maintained bunkers, many clubs realized that their superintendent's were correct and needed to rebuild their bunkers. Note at a Donald Ross designed Club in Connecticut that hired my firm in the early 1990's to do a Master Plan (with bunkers being the first priority) found in minutes of end of the year meetings for a period of 30 years (yes starting in 1965) that superintendent had been asking to rebuild bunkers. The minutes each and every year said "Put a fresh one inch of sand in the bunkers to clean them up". Needless to say when we started to restore the bunkers we found 2' to 4' of bunker sand in them.

During this 1990's time period the main focus was bunker conditions and bunker locations. But we were commissioned to provide a total Master Plan so it did not just involve bunkers; it would make suggested improvements for drainage, tees size (especially size of tees for par 3's) cart paths and of course trees. And it is the subject of trees that is the big difference between a Master Plan in the 1990's and today.

In the 1990's my first set of preliminary plans for almost every club would indicate a need of trees to be removed but when I presented these plans the Master Plan Committee basically had a heart attack. "Oh these trees make the hole!" "The golf hole would be too easy". Basically the vast majority of the Clubs then were tree huggers. It was not until the late 1990's when it became public knowledge that Oakmont had been removing trees for a few years (in the middle of the night) and then Winged Foot followed suit after they held the 1997 PGA Championship (remember Davis Love the 3rd and the rainbow). Even though these two top Clubs were removing trees by the handful (if not thousands) most Clubs stayed 'Tree Huggers'. Nationally tree removal was slowly starting to be acceptable.

I noticed this first in 2002 at The Seawane Club (Brian Benedict - GCS). I finally had a club that wanted to take down the mass amount of trees. In fact Seawane took down almost all the trees. Note that Seawane was a 1927 Devereux Emmet links design did not have any trees until a member who won the demolition of the 1964-1965 New York World Fair brought them to four thousand trees to Seawane. We removed 95% of them. But many Clubs were still only allowing a handful of trees to be removed (historically trees behind or to the side of greens and tees). At the Leewood Club in Westchester County, NY, our first set of plans had 500 trees to be removed that they removed about 20. (I hear they finally removed most of the trees a few years ago).

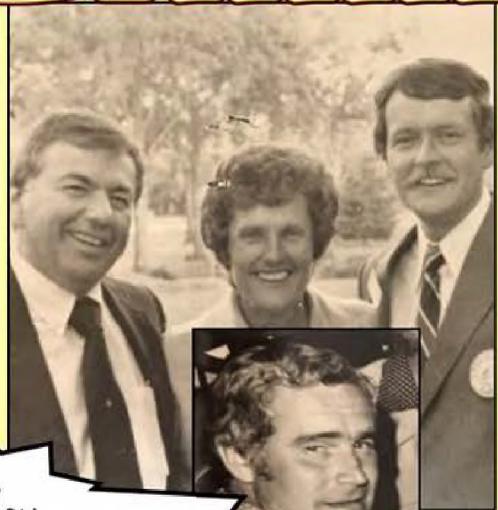
At Filberts Elbow CC in Bedminster NJ, the Donovan family and Matt Willigan, GCS, have been great to work with. We have taken down hundreds of trees (maybe a thousand) and the views we have opened up are just wonderful.

That golf course architects who were working in the 1980's and 1990's had great difficulty trying to convince Clubs to remove their trees. Younger golf architects who started their business ten to fifteen years ago have had a much easier time to remove trees.

Most Clubs doing a Master Plan today are trying to attract members; hence from a golf course architect's point of view I find it easier today than in the 1990's because:

- 1- clubs realize trees need to be removed
- 2- speed of play is more important than making a golf course more difficult,
- 3- members are not as bothered today when construction impacts play (even though most of the time it is off-season (late Sept to late April)).

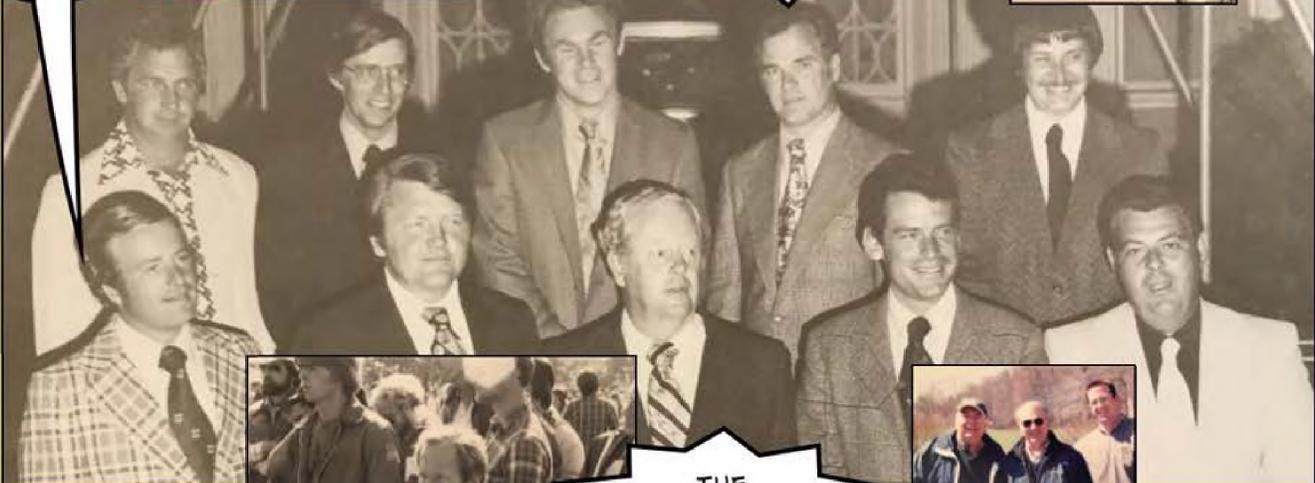
# DAYS GONE BY.....



IS THAT  
GLENN  
GALLION?



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CAMERON



THE  
"LEGEND" PETE  
PEDRAZZI



INFAMOUS  
ROOT!

Ed Walsh exiting Grass Roots booth after conferring with Willet Wilt.



## DAYS GONE BY - Continued from page 12

We were sitting and watching the meeting when one of the “old timers” came over and asked who we were and what we were doing there. We told him that we were new superintendents and at that moment we were abruptly told to go get the beer, and we did. As we walked up I said to Richie, “if I’m going to stay in this group, I’m going to run it.” Then we got the beer. As time went by, the “old timers” dropped out for health reasons or retired. They had taught us well and now it was time for the “young guns” to assume the leadership roles. We brought many new ideas and new technology with us.

We had many good presidents over the years, but I think Don Marshall stands out above the crowd. He was one of the first to also become general manager at Montclair Golf Club. I believe he was the one who really professionalized the Association and brought us into the modern or big league era. He installed a permanent paid executive director, improved the newsletter, cleaned up the regular meetings, wrote letters to the press and associated groups and encouraged most of us to join the national association.

Not many of you knew him and he did all of this at a young age. Ed Michelson, now deceased, was his long-time assistant and also a past president. Don and I had many disagreements but he taught me how to run an effective organization.

As time has gone by, the Association has had its ups and downs, but mostly ups. Another president that stepped up when the association was slowing down, much later of course, was Chris Carson. He brought many new ideas and energy to the group. Don Marshall and Chris Carson were not the most popular guys in our group, but were two of our best and most progressive leaders. Dave Pease is another that comes to mind and was always sharp as a tack. How could I forget Ed Walsh, who was not only president, but the one who really made the Greener-side into one of the top industry publications in the country? By the way, I appointed Ed to that position and he was also my assistant back in the “horse and buggy days”. For all those other presidents I did not mention, I apologize, I just don’t have enough room.

*Continued on page 18*



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# DAYS ON E BY *Continued from page 17*

When I was president, *Paul Boizelle* and *Bob Ribbons*, both past presidents, introduced the “district concept” that we still have today. It took a little fine tuning but still works. *Skip Cameron*, another past president, almost single handily brought our field day back to profitability when it was faltering badly. That was our only money maker back in the day. *Jim Gillian* was on the Board for many years, also ran the newsletter and spent a lot of time in Trenton on our behalf during the first water crisis.

We could not write an article like this without mentioning the sales people who have always supported our association. In the early days there were very few chemicals on the market. Fertilizer, topdressing and hard goods were their biggest lines. Automatic irrigation was none existent. There were also only a few equipment dealers. Many of the chemicals in the beginning were discovered and/or developed by my personal friend and I think the “best chemist ever”, *Dr. Paul Sartoretto*.

Among his earliest discoveries and/or developments were PMAS, DSMA, Cadmium, Thiram and others. Later in life he made FLUFF liquid fertilizer. Dr. Paul worked for and later became president of the Cleary Company. He was also a great Liars Pok- er player and always ready to help a superintendent.

Some of the sales people in the “old days” were: *Leo Cleary* at The Cleary Company, *Jim Roach* of Ferti-Soil (later his own business), *Paul Boizelle* from Ferti-Soil (later superintendent at Navesink), *Chet* (“yes yes”) *Huey* at Doggett Fison (later his own business), *Danny* (“back me up”) *Gallazo* from New York Toro, *Ray Hanson* of Pierson’s Mill (later superintendent at Essex County), *Bob Dobbie* at Pierson’s Mill (later superintendent at Navesink), *Bill Koonz* from Doggett Fison (later his own business and Rain Bird).

*Bill Koonz* was the youngest Mayor of Springfield, NJ and one of the greatest salesman ever made. He retired a short time ago. *Continued on page 19*



**Noted GCSANJ members at the movie opening with Kevin Cook, author of “Tommy’s Honour”**

**Kevin & his wife Pamela wrote the screenplay for the movie.**

Left to Right:  
Doug Vogel  
Kevin Cook  
Rob Finnesey

## How to Become An Awesome Go To Person?

Continued from page 6

Scan any print documents to PDF so they're easily accessible on your computer to send at a moment's notice. Papers are easy to lose and harder to share. If you don't have capability to scan-to-file or put in a google docs or drop box folder, arrange documents by project in binders.

Use dividers to separate past, present and working files so they're simple to locate. Recycle any papers you don't need so they're not taking up valuable space.

**5. Stay on deadline.** That extra hour or two can make the difference. Also, make sure you're managing your day-to-day schedule in order of priorities.

**6. Don't be afraid to admit when you're wrong.** It shows you're accountable. Address the issue, make sure you know the best practice moving forward and move on.

Don't over apologize. It's good to give a genuine apology when warranted. "I apologize" lets colleagues know that you do. An "I'm so sorry" or three of them can make your mistake look more significant than it really was.

Don't let a little slip derail you either. Remember that everyone makes mistakes occasionally. The important take-away isn't what went wrong, but what you can do better in the future.

### **7. Be confident.**

It sounds cliché, but even if your work is flawless, your manager won't believe it unless you believe in yourself. Keep your body language relaxed and professional with your shoulders back and your head up. Make direct eye contact, and while you want to keep conversation articulate and professional, your voice should hold the same calm tone you use with family and friends.

Acting insecure or stressed out makes even the best workers look unreliable. It can also make you a prime target for workplace bullying.

### **8. Don't get overwhelmed.**

When you're tight on deadline and short on patience, ask yourself "What is the absolute, worst possible outcome and what would I do if it happened?" Then ask yourself how you're going to prevent the absolute worst from happening by getting upset.

You'll soon know that stressing out doesn't help.

You can figure it all out...one step at a time. Believe you can become that 'go to' person... and you can.

## DAYS ON E BY

Continued from page 18

Later came:

From Storr Tractor *Bob Dwyer, Gene Tarulli and Phil Scott* who all later became superintendents, *Dennis DeSanctis* now of Doulæ D, *Marty Futyma*- owner Fertl-Soil and longtime superintendent of Glen Ridge, *Rob Finnesey* owner of Tree Tech, *Glenn Gallion* at Wilfred MacDonald and long-time superintendent at several clubs. Glenn now qualifies as an "old timer" and of course, *Shaun Barry*, my close personal friend and who worked for several manufacturers and has worked tirelessly for many years on behalf of the Association. Thank you all.

Long time favorites include Grass Roots Inc. owned by *Bert Jones* and *Ken Kubik*. Bert died many years ago. Ken and his son Keith now run the business. Ken and Bert knew every customer on a personal basis and their service was second to none.

Wilfred MacDonald has been around since before the beginning. *Jim Pelrine* owned the business and did an excellent job with the company. His son *Mike* now runs the business.

Storr Tractor has been around a long time as well. *Paul DesChamps*, founder and owner, was one of the greatest leaders and mentors I have ever met. He could take ordinary people and mentor them into top notch salesmen, managers, service people, etc. They all loved him. I cried at his wake. *Mary Lou DesChamps*, his very caring wife, ran the company for a long time with help from long time general manager, *Paul Strani*. I know that I have forgotten some others for which I apologize, but I'm getting old!

Now let's get to the end. In the "old days" before my era, the superintendents drank hard played hard and most of all worked hard! My group kept up the tradition somewhat. Today's young guys have it a lot harder. There is much more technology now and the demands are greater. There is the ever present..."we need to take it to the next level."

I think the camaraderie was closer in my day. It seems a lot more like everyman for himself now.

Just a reminder to all you youngsters, start saving early. Most of you don't have pensions or 401k's. Start your own now!! Most of us older guys, especially those who lived in houses on the course, never saved enough. I have seen many older superintendents go out with almost nothing after long careers. Don't you be one of them.

There are so many old stories us "old timers" have to tell. It's been a great career for me. Make yours great too. Always try to keep it on the lighter side!

P.S. Bill Murray is a new "Old Timer" and Lance you're right behind him.

## FIFTEEN QUESTIONS WITH TOM HIGGINS, GCS JUMPING BROOK COUNTRY CLUB



After several years at Toms River Country Club, this year's District III meeting is going to 'jump' to Jumping Brook Country Club. Golf Course Superintendent Tom Higgins recently took the time to share a few things about himself, his career and Jumping Brook.

1. Where are you from?

*I grew up in Alexandria Township in Milford New Jersey, which is along the Delaware River in Hunterdon County. It has some of the most beautiful views and countryside in New Jersey.*

2. How long have you worked at Jumping Brook?

*I'm going on my eighth year at Jumping Brook and tenth working for Matrix Golf.*

3. What major changes have you seen at the course since you began there?

*Great question and tough one as we've done a lot of improvements. I would say the definition of the golf course and overall aesthetics. When I started, my goal was to incorporate more naturalized areas and focus on getting the short turf looking the best it could. It's a great sight to see all the short turf striped up and with our naturalized areas golden brown during the summer. It just makes the property more beautiful with the enhanced definition. We've made many improvements and changes but that sticks out the most over the years.*

4. What is your favorite aspect of working on a golf course?

*My office is a golf cart or sprayer and I bring my dog to work every day. This may shock some, but I enjoy dealing with people and the ever changing drama of our profession. Every day brings a new challenge or issue to resolve. I enjoy my job mostly because of the people around me. I have a great staff that makes my day easier and allows me to focus on keeping members and management happy in addition to keeping the long term direction and visions of the golf course.*

5. What are your interests outside of work?

*Baltimore Orioles, Dallas Cowboys, Golf, Hurricane Harbor with my wife, Bass Fishing, Ice Fishing, NASCAR, Home Improvement, Netflix.*

6. Tell us about your family?

*I've been married to my understanding and beautiful wife for two years. My brother Doug works at Woodlake CC. My sister Carolyn lives with my parents helping them keep up the many chores of owning a three acre lot and house in Milford where I grew up.*

7. Why did you become a superintendent?

*I'll be honest here again and I'll keep it short. I got lucky and it happened. I started working for Tim Christ at Hamilton Farms during the grow-in. I was a grunt laborer making pennies on the hour, but enjoyed the lifestyle and challenge. I guess I was good enough that Tim pushed me to Rutgers Turf School and got promoted. I really started falling in love with the profession around then and I just put my head down and worked. I just hoped that one day I could be get to that superintendent position. The passion came from mowing the lawn and yard work from my father. I saw a lot of grass growing up, mowing two plus acres with a 22-inch walk behind with no traction assist as a kid.*

8. What are the unique aspects of Jumping Brook's course?

*Jumping Brook is known for its greens and surrounds. The course is considered challenging, but fun. It brings a lot of different shots and clubs out of your bag, especially in the short game.*

9. What should people know before they play golf at Jumping Brook?

*The wind can wreak havoc at points as Jumping Brook sits atop the tallest point around which makes club selection of the utmost importance. It was designed by A.W. Tillinghast in collaboration with Willard Wilkerson in 1924.*

10. Any special projects going on at the course now or in the near future?

*In the past three years we have renovated all but four holes of our green side bunkers with the Matrix System. We plan to finish the rest next spring. The past two years has involved Belgium block installation around greens, tees and other traffic areas. New steps with pavers have been installed on several tees. A redesign and landscaping of the proshop area has including an asphalt addition, low voltage lighting and a Koi Pond.*

*Continued on next page*



## FIFTEEN QUESTIONS WITH TOM HIGGINS, GCS JUMPING BROOK COUNTRY CLUB

*We're exploring plans to build a sunken fire pit on our small putting green this coming fall. As always, we continue our tree removal program as needed. U.S. Aqua Vac will be on-site to vacuum our irrigation pond in early May to remove about 18" of sludge and muck that has built up over the years.*

### 11. Any changes or projects that you would like to see at Jumping Brook

*I can't really ask for too much more except for a new wall to wall irrigation system or new maintenance facility. How about both? That would be awesome! On a more serious note, we're really going to focus on improving our rough areas with strategic seeding of tall fescue and ryegrass along with sprinkler additions this fall and coming spring. Also, we plan to reduce/redesign our irrigation around tee complexes where we developed naturalized areas so as to only irrigate the teeing surface.*

### 12. Who / What have been your major career influences?

*Tim Christ and John Topakas in no particular order. If it wasn't for these guys I wouldn't be where I am today. I owe a lot to Tim for giving me an opportunity and sticking with me. I learned a lot from John about the day-to-day process, not just golf course business, but in life too. I can't thank these guys enough for molding me into who I am today. Thank you so much. I'll never forget you guys and everybody associated!*

### 13. Why did you decide to run for the Board of Directors of the GCS ANJ?

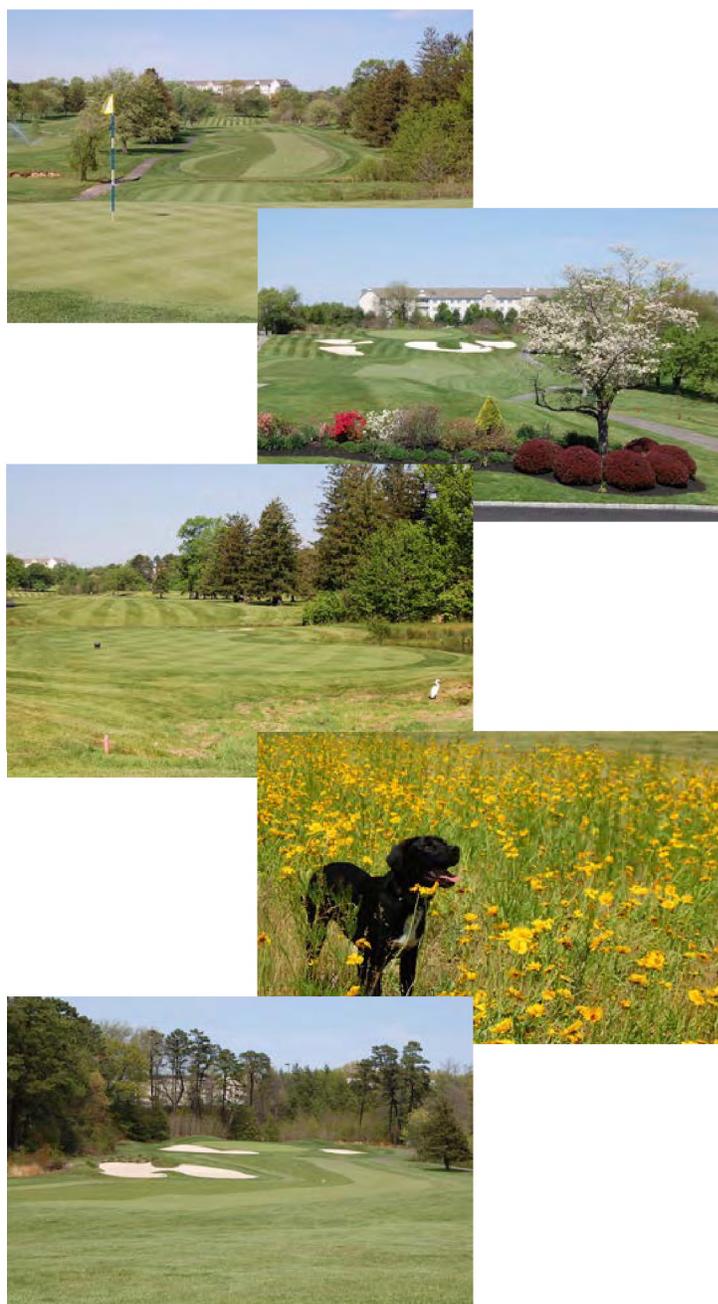
*I just thought I could help out and give a different perspective on the issues. I also thought it would be a good way to meet new people and hear different voices on many subjects. I enjoy working towards a goal and I believe the Association is heading in a great direction on many areas. It is an honor to be a part of it.*

### 14. What is the most difficult part of your job?

*I'm always on the phone or texting! The one thing I love the most is also the hardest and that's dealing with people. You get a lot of different personalities, attitudes and viewpoints during the day. It's an ongoing challenge to keep everybody happy and keeping yourself focused, centered and balanced.*

### 15. What are four things we don't know about you?

- *I was a USCAA All American soccer player for Unity college in my freshmen year.*
- *I lettered all four years in high school for wrestling, baseball and soccer.*
- *Cal Ripken is who I try to emulate on a daily basis and is the best shortstop ever.*
- *I came extremely close to drowning in a kayaking accident with my friend Ronny and our old friend Molly who's not around anymore. I'll never forget that day, it wasn't my fault, I swear.....*



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# HOW ARE THINGS DIFFERENT TODAY WHEN DOING A MASTER PLAN COMPARED TO BACK IN THE EARLY 90'S?

- by A. John Harvey

Right off the bat I would say that advancement of information technology with readily available planning tools for studying the golf course and preparation of Master Plans is the biggest difference. The time spent getting to know the golf course property and course superintendent, management and committee members is the same, but the resources available to aid with the investigation and analysis of the golf facilities have evolved and improved dramatically during the past 20-25 years.

Some of the advancements in technology I like to tap into while embarking on the master planning journey include:

1) Historic Aerials from HistoricAerials.com have been available since 1999. Imagery from this database can help to paint a picture of the changes to the course over a period of time. Details related to golf hole alignment /routing, green and bunker complex sizes, shapes, fairway/grassing lines and locations and vegetative patterns are all helpful when studying the evolution of the golf course.

2) LiDAR is a surveying method that measures distance to a target by illuminating that target with a pulsed laser light and measuring the reflected pulses with a sensor. Differences in laser return times and wavelengths can then be used to make digital 3D-representations of the target. The name LiDAR is sometimes considered an acronym of Light Detection and Ranging. Accurate topographical mapping, digital elevation data and other colored related imagery is typically the information that is relevant for golf course architectural use, while additional applications are available for other professionals. At this time NOAA and individual State and County Agencies around the U.S. are funding data recording for public and private use. However, this data set can be expensive to obtain depending on the source of the LiDAR data.

3) Digital photography has become more of the way to go for taking pictures of the golf course grounds. I recall my first digital camera was a Kodak 3.1 megapixel with a built in zoom lens I picked up in the mid 90's that took impressive images at the time, being my first non-traditional 35 mm film camera. Today, you don't even need to carry a camera to the job site since smartphones can take high resolution pictures and videos of 8-12 megapixel clarity for preparing reports, preparation of master plans, using for marketing material or posting on social media and websites.

4) CAD - Computer Aided Design has become more common since the early 1990's. Although this is the case, personally, I still like to do some master plans, green and bunker feature sketches and renderings by hand when it makes sense. I really like the hands-on approach to plan prep, but realize CAD does allow quicker plan production, accurate calculations, estimating quantities and ease of making adjustments or corrections during the design and permitting process. Having said that, nothing beats a hand rendering of a master plan!

5) The Computer - Certainly, I can't forget the day-to-day use of the computer for emailing, conference calls, document preparation, report writing, specification/bid sheets, research work and PowerPoint presentations. Without question, the computer is really the "hub" of enhanced communications today. While I can recall the first use of the facsimile with rolled thermal paper and sending routing plans out the door using FedEx, emailing attachments as pdf's or other formatted files in many instances have ultimately replaced the aforementioned transmission systems and techniques. The internet can be a category all in itself, but I will mention it here. The information available on-line today is quite simply amazing...actually scary!

*Continued on page 25*

**We Asked and You Listened.** We requested pictures of your Golf Course in the last issue of the Greenside.... Patrick Quinlan, Superintendent of Fairmount Country Club in Chatham NJ, submitted this gorgeous picture. It's the 18th hole, a 432 yard par 4, a difficult finishing hole with a stream that runs across the fairway, second shot played uphill to a green guarded by bunkers.



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# HOW ARE THINGS DIFFERENT TODAY WHEN DOING A MASTER PLAN COMPARED TO BACK IN THE EARLY 90'S?

- by A. John Harvey

Continued from page 23

6) Drones – The use of imagery with pictures and videos are quickly becoming an important tool at a designer's disposal during analysis of undeveloped property, an existing golf course and as a publicity tool during construction and after renovations have been completed. Information obtained by the use of drones is becoming indispensable to the golf architect. Recently, the FAA has required the operator to obtain license for a nominal fee.

7) Smart Tool 48" Level is a digital level for use in the field for a quick reading of gradient or slope. This tool has an easy to use calibration guide that creates accurate precise measurements every time in percent slope, inches per foot or millimeters per meter. I like to use this as a quick guide for measuring green surface slopes and drainage swales, but nothing beats the laser instrument.

8) Laser Surveying Systems can be used for laying drainage pipe, checking grades during green construction to setting specific grade while laser-leveling tees. During the site investigation and due diligence phase of work, shooting grades of greens and bunker features with a laser, GPS or 3-D Scanner (LiDAR System) can help document existing grades, especially for historic preservation/renovation projects

While it's important to take advantage of technology as tools during the journey of meetings with a client, walking the course, town hall presentations, communications, preparing a master plan and during the construction process, to me it's vital to keep the human element of "artwork" from decisions made on paper to shaping in the field as part of the classic "look and feel" of the design with the lay of the land. This hands-on process echoes the origin of nature as creator of the link to man's tailoring of ground features to simulate and augment natural golf forms in the landscape.

Ironically, some of the world's most famous golf courses built during the last 50 years were conceived as sticklike route plans scratched on the back of cocktail napkins. The point here is, as much as technology can serve as tools to aid in the inventory, analysis and design phases for the golf architect, the real essence and finesse of the design becomes evident in the field under the watchful eye of the seasoned golf architect and construction team.

HAVE A QUESTION OR TOPIC YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THAT WE CAN ASK OUR ARCHITECTS TO TALK ABOUT? SEND AN EMAIL TO US AND WE'LL ASK THEM: [EXECDIRECTOR@GCSANJ.ORG](mailto:EXECDIRECTOR@GCSANJ.ORG)

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**Brad Simpkins**, recently retired from Plant Food Co, shares his time between Florida and NJ, with his wife, Linda, who works at Blue Heron Pines Golf Club while in NJ, and remotely when in Florida. They have been hosting an annual charity golf event to raise funds for the National Organization for Disorders of the Corpus Callosum. (NODCC)

This disorder has hit close to home. Six years ago, their granddaughter, Alyssa Grace, was diagnosed with ACC - Agenesis of the corpus callosum. Alyssa was missing the largest part of her brain, the corpus callosum, which is comprised of 200 million fibers whose function is to facilitate communication between the right and left hemispheres of the brain.

Both Linda and Traci, Linda's daughter and Alyssa's mom, and are on the board of the NODCC and have seen first hand how the funds have helped Alyssa learn to cope with the condition and grow into an amazing, energetic, creative, articulate, happy little girl. But the organization has many families with children to diagnose and assist with research, with therapies and techniques to teach and help these children learn and grow. The NODCC is a non-profit organization that does just that.

If you know Brad and Linda, you know that they have always been an active part of the chapter, supporting any other fundraising events for other members and their family members. If you can support this event, please set aside **Thursday, October 5, 2017**. Come to golf, be a sponsor, or simply donate. Every dollar raised goes to the NODCC to help in their mission to help the families and children and adults with ACC. For more information or to register, please contact Linda Simpkins at: (909) 65-1800 x3 or email Linda: lindasimpkins58@gmail.com





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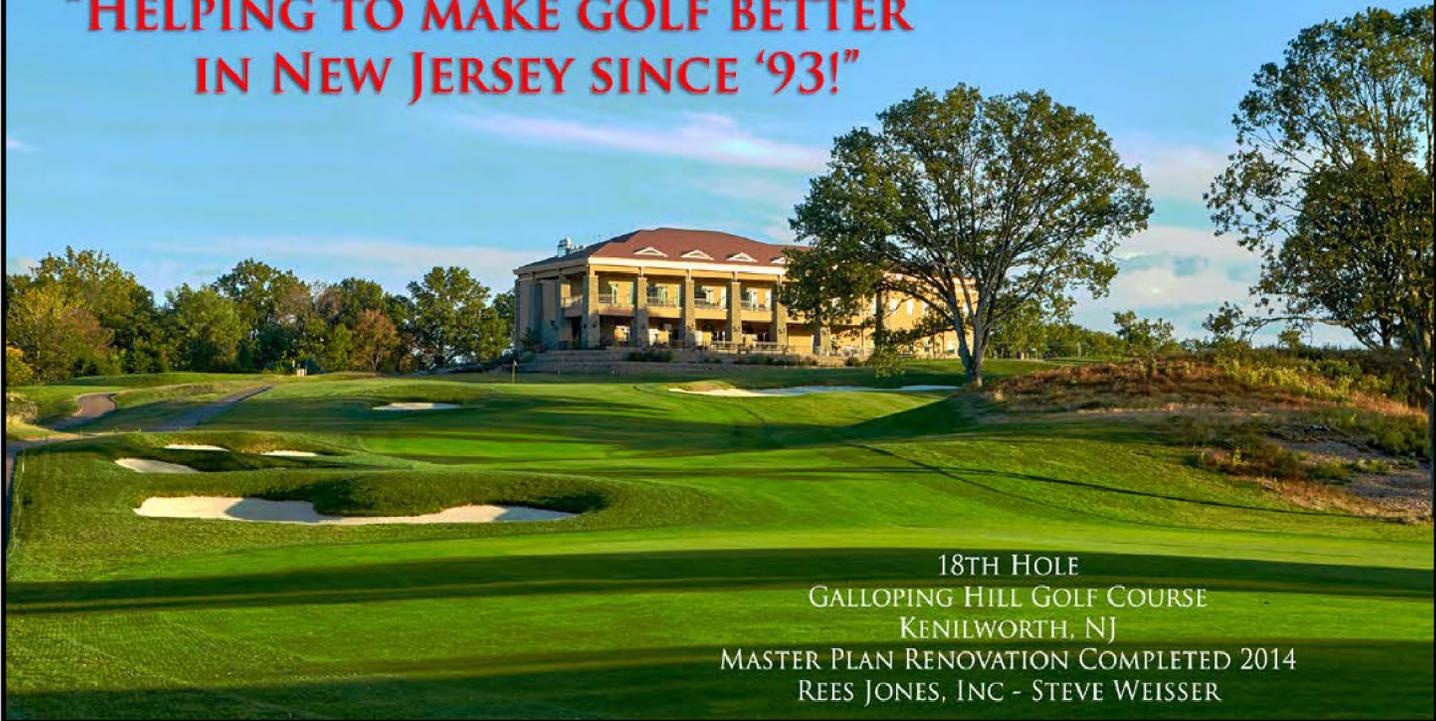
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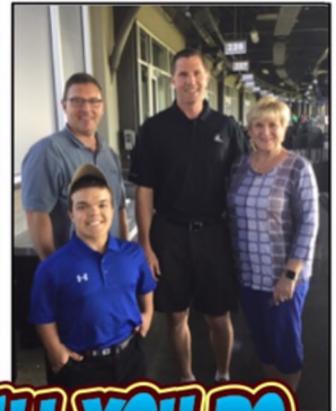
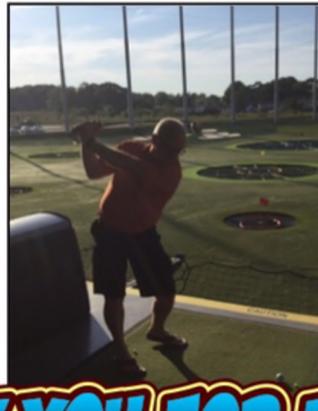
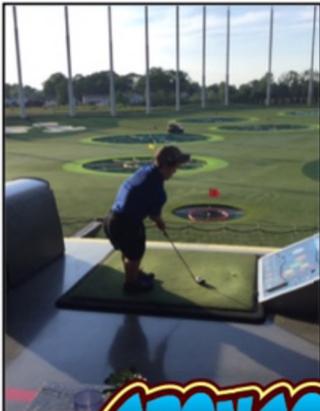
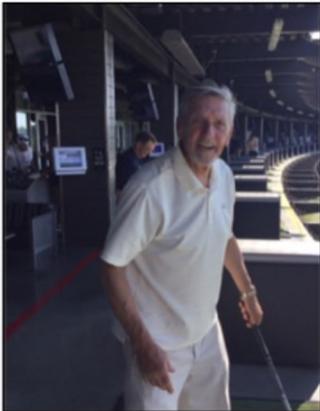
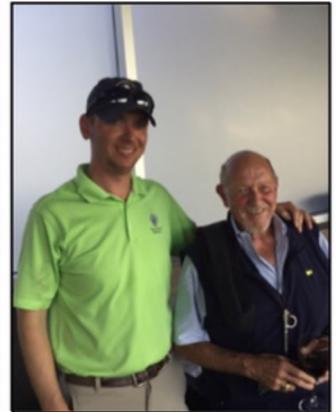
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# CIVIL WAR...THE SOUTH WINS



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# CIVIL WAR CONTINUED



THANK YOU TO OUR HOST...GEORGE PIERPOINT IV



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HEY BRAD HOW'S RETIREMENT?



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# CIVIL WAR RESULTS

HOST SUPERINTENDENT - GEORGE PIERPOINT IV

TEAM EVENT - SOUTH 10 1/2  
NORTH 6 1/2

## INDIVIDUAL EVENT

1ST - JEFF HAAS, GOLF CART SERVICES - 73  
2ND - TRAVIS PAULEY, PLAINFIELD CC - 74  
3RD - JOE SCIOSCIA, SOMERSET HILLS - 75 MOC

## CLOSEST TO THE PIN

#3 - MIKE LINKEWICH, SEETON TURF  
#8 - MARK MIEDLER, MAPLE WOOD CC  
#11 - JOHN CARPINELLI, MOORESTOWN FIELD CLUB  
#15 - JEFF HAAS, GOLF CART SERVICES

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60+ YEARS OF AGE - STEPHEN KAY  
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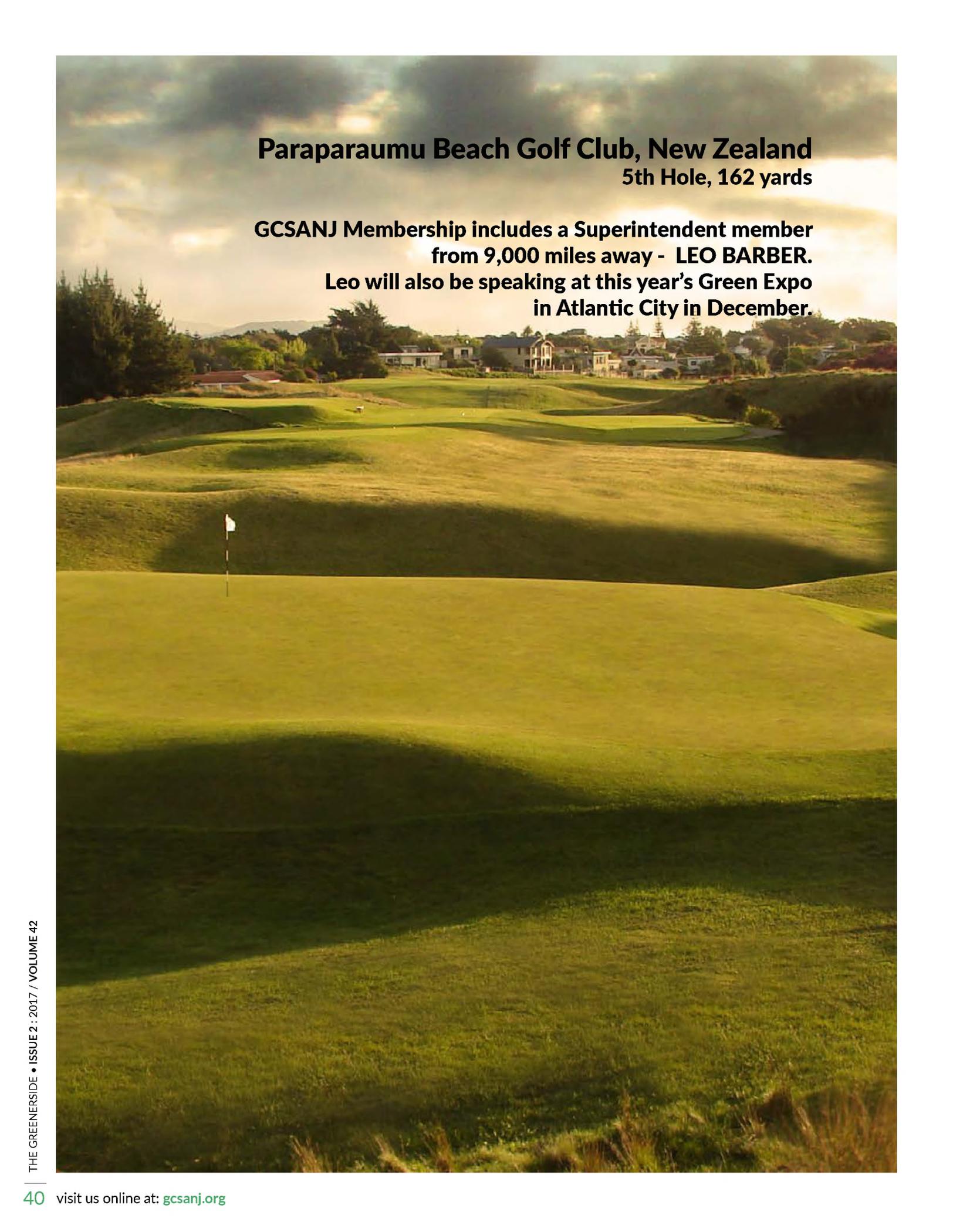


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  - Seminars tailored to the superintendent, led by Rees Jones, Doug Carrick, Laura Katen, and Bayer's Green Solutions Team
    - \*Attendees to the educational events will receive education points/Canadian CEC's

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Leo will also be speaking at this year's Green Expo  
in Atlantic City in December.**



## PROPER COURSE MARKING LEADS TO EFFICIENT PLAY

- by Tracy Parsons and David Staebler, USGA

Golf is unique among sports because the area in which the game is played is never the same. While specific dimensions and boundaries exist in other sports to create consistent playing fields, differences in golf course design are celebrated. Even rounds played at the same venue on consecutive days are unlikely to yield the same shot progression because of changes in weather conditions, wind direction and speed, yardages played, hole locations, heights of grass and the lie of the ball. The possibilities are endless.

With the variety that exists, confusion can occur for players if they are unable to interpret how to play the course. Attentive golf course marking should be considered in daily maintenance decisions so that players can properly apply the Rules, play the course in a timely manner and enjoy themselves.

Whether you're conducting a competition or preparing for regular daily play, players often need to know which part of the course their ball is located on in order to apply the Rules of Golf correctly. Rule 33 makes the Committee responsible to "define accurately the course and out of bounds, the margins of water hazards and lateral water hazards, ground under repair and obstructions."

### Out of Bounds

With out of bounds margins of the course typically coincide with property lines. Other frequent uses of out of bounds are around club houses, parking lots and practice areas. Boundaries most often are defined with white stakes, fence posts or white lines. When a course uses stakes, it is important that players are able to sight from stake to stake. If long grass, brush or trees intervene on the sight line, it can be difficult or impossible for a player to determine whether their ball is in or out of bounds. When white stakes are used, it is

recommended that the stakes be placed approximately 15-20 paces apart, especially in areas where balls are likely to go out of bounds.

### Water Hazard

Water hazard (yellow) and lateral water hazard (red) should also be properly marked because most of the one-stroke penalty relief options require players to use as their starting point for taking relief the point where their ball crossed the outer margin as it entered. In general, the hazard margin should be placed where the ground breaks to form the depression containing water; however, other considerations, such as slope and playability of the grass outside the water hazard where relief will be taken, can influence the margin's location.

If both lines and stakes are present, it's the lines that define the outer margin of the hazard. The stakes, in such cases, play the role of a public service announcement, identifying the approximate location of the hazard so players can see what lies ahead from a distance. A combination of stakes and lines is considered the best practice but is also the most labor intensive and costly to maintain.

When only stakes are used the hazard line is defined from stake to stake. The biggest ongoing challenge with using only stakes is ensuring that no area that should be within the hazard is outside the margin and vice-versa. When it is difficult to proceed under the relief options outlined in the water hazard rule, it is prudent for the Committee to provide an additional option of a ball drop for players to use to keep play moving.

*Continued on next page*



# PROPER COURSE MARKING LEADS TO EFFICIENT PLAY

- by Tracy Parsons and David Staebler, USGA

Continued from previous page

## Bunker Maintenance:

Similar to other areas of the course, it is important for players to know what their ball is in a bunker because the Rules penalize players for grounding their club in a hazard but not elsewhere. A ball is in a bunker when any part of it touches the bunker. Therefore, the best practice is to always maintain a clear, identifiable outer edge.

While the Committee must decide on the placement of rakes in bunkers, the USGA recommends that rakes be placed outside bunkers in areas where they will be least likely to impact the movement of the ball. Rakes placed inside bunkers, especially on steep slopes or sticking half out of the bunker, can create additional, unintentional consequences for the player that could have been avoided had they been placed outside. Additionally, rake retrieval in these cases can cause damage or destruction to the walls of the bunker, creating maintenance issues.

## Ground Under Repair

Only two things are automatically ground under repair, holes made by greenkeepers and material piled for removal. Other ground under repair, as stated in its definition in the Rules of Golf, is "any portion of the course so marked or declared by the Committee." Before determining whether some area should be marked as ground under repair, the entire course should be surveyed to ensure consistency. Because golf is an outdoor sport, part of the challenge involves being able to play from many types of lies. While there are no hard and fast rules, bare or thin areas in the rough are generally not marked as ground under repair while similar areas in fairways frequently are considered ground under repair.

## Obstructions:

Obstructions are artificial objects that do not occur naturally on a golf course. They are classified, depending on their mobility, as movable or immovable. Most courses and clubs are inundated with obstructions: tee signs, benches, ball washers, sprinkler heads, irrigation control boxes, yardage plates, tree stakes and cables, hard stakes, etc. Although most artificial objects are obviously identifiable as obstructions, it is advisable to identify less obvious ones on a local rules sheet in order to clarify matters for players. Ideally, obstructions should be kept out of frequently played areas in order to minimize their impact they have on players' rounds. Even though players are entitled to free relief, obstructions can affect pace of play.

Every course takes pride in the condition of its facility, and no club or course would ever imagine dispensing with tee markers or flagsticks. Just like the importance of these items for knowing the starting and ending points to a hole, other important areas of the course should be properly marked as well. A properly marked golf course should not be reserved just for competitions. Ultimately thorough course marking demonstrates the same type of care as good conditioning. It is part of what every day golfers use to judge the quality of a facility.

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

*Tracy became part of the USGA team in January 2015 as part of the Rules and Competitions Department. She currently is Director, U.S. Girls' Junior and U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Championships.*

*David joined the USGA staff in 2007. He is the primary author of the PGA/USGA Rules of Golf workshop presentations.*

# 25 YEARS OF THE PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY: TRENDS IN TURF DISEASE DIAGNOSIS

- by Richard Buckley & Sabrina Tirpak

The Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Laboratory (PDL) opened for business in July 1991. Mr. Ken Krause of Paramus Golf Course was our first golf turf sample submitter. Ken brought 20 cup-cutter plugs!

Our mission is to provide New Jersey citizens with the diagnosis of plant health problems. These services are to be provided in an accurate and timely manner to meet the increasing agricultural and environmental needs of the State. The laboratory performs a number of pay-for-d diagnosis services: disease and insect pest diagnosis, plant and weed identification, insect identification, fungus and mold identification, and nematode assays. There are two full-time diagnosticians and at least one seasonal employee, who is normally an undergraduate student interested in diagnostics.

To date, the PDL has evaluated more than 50,600 samples with revenues that exceed 3.6 million dollars. Turfgrass and ornamental plants comprise 92% (Figure 1) of our sample submissions, which reflect New Jersey's status as an urban agriculture state and Rutgers University as a turfgrass research powerhouse. Turfgrass alone accounts for 40% (~20,000) of our totals (Figure 2). Certified arborists are our second largest clientele group. Golf courses from 43 states (Figure 3) use the Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Laboratory.

Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Laboratory All Samples vs. Turf Samples 1991-2016

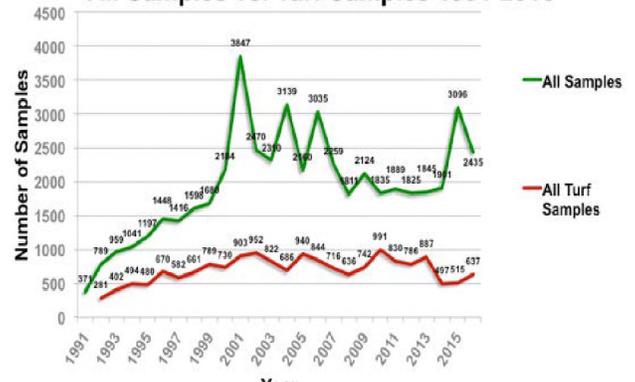


Figure 2.

Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Laboratory Turf Submissions by Origin State, 2001-2016.



Figure 3.

Plant Sample Submissions by Crop Category, 1991-2016.

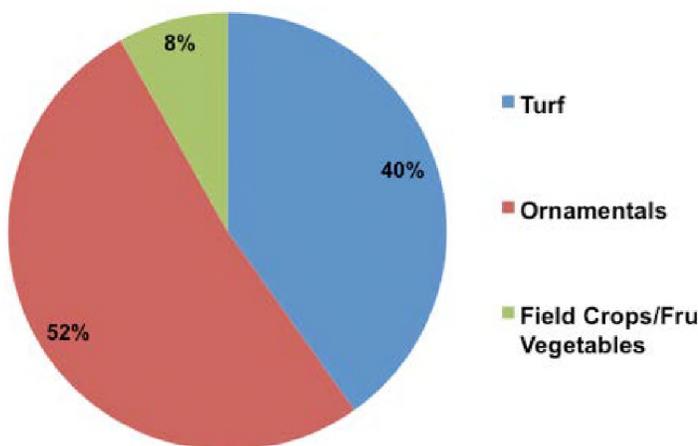


Figure 1.

Each year the outcomes of all the turfgrass samples are tallied. In any given year, the PDL diagnoses one or more samples of most turf diseases and turf insect pests. The last three years of data are listed on next graphics (Figures 4-6). The most common problems, highlighted in red remain consistent from year to year. These maladies include temperature and moisture stress, Pythium root diseases, the root-infecting patch diseases—summer patch and take-all, anthracnose, and high populations of plant parasitic nematodes.

# 25 YEARS OF THE PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY: TRENDS IN TURF DISEASE DIAGNOSIS - by Richard Buckley & Sabrina Tirpak

## Submissions by Diagnosis 2016

Temperature and moisture stress	<i>Microdochium nivale</i> – pink snow mold
Pythium root rot/dysfunction	<i>Laetisaria fuciformis</i> – red thread
Magnaporthe poae – summer patch	<i>Drechslera siccans</i> – brown blight
Nematodes	<i>Drechslera poae</i> – leaf spot & melting out
Colletotrichum cereale – anthracnose	Cyanobacteria – yellow spot
Gaeumannomyces graminis – take-all	<i>Blissus leucopterus</i> – chinch bug
Leptosphaerulina/Curvularia – blight	<i>Ascochyta</i> sp. – leaf blight
Rhizoctonia solani – brown patch	<i>Drechslera erythrospila</i> – red leaf spot
Chemical phytotoxicity/deficiency	<i>Gloeocercospora sorghi</i> – copper spot
Bacterial wilt	<i>Limonomyces roseipellis</i> – pink patch
Sclerotinia homoeocarpa – dollar spot	<i>Listronotus maculicollis</i> – ABW
Ceratobasidium cereale – yellow patch	<i>Puccinia graminis</i> – stem rust
Fairy ring	<i>Sagina procumbens</i> – birdseye pearlwort
Bipolaris sorokiniana – leaf spot	<i>Sclerophthora macrospora</i> – yellow tuft
Pyricularia oryzae – gray leaf spot	Slime mold
Neotyphodium spp. – endophyte infection	<i>Typhula</i> sp. – gray snow mold
Waitea circinata – brown ring patch	White leaf of <i>Poa annua</i>
Pythium blight	

Figure 4.

## Submissions by Diagnosis 2015

Temperature and moisture stress	<i>Ataenius spretulus</i> – BTA
Nematodes	Cyanobacteria – yellow spot
Colletotrichum cereale – anthracnose	<i>Microdochium nivale</i> – pink snow mold
Magnaporthe poae – summer patch	Pythium blight
Pythium root rot/dysfunction	<i>Drechslera poae</i> – leaf spot & melting out
Leptosphaerulina/Curvularia – blight	White leaf of <i>Poa annua</i>
Gaeumannomyces graminis – take-all	<i>Ascochyta</i> sp. – leaf blight
Chemical phytotoxicity/deficiency	<i>Drechslera dictyoides</i> – net blotch
Listronotus maculicollis – ABW	<i>Drechslera siccans</i> – brown blight
Rhizoctonia solani – brown patch	<i>Exomala orientalis</i> – Oriental beetle
Waitea circinata – brown ring patch	<i>Maladera castanea</i> – Asiatic garden beetle
Bipolaris sorokiniana – leaf spot	<i>Ophiosphaerella korrae</i> – spring dead spot
Fairy ring	<i>Ophiosphaerella korrae</i> – necrotic ring spot
Bacterial wilt	<i>Sagina procumbens</i> – birdseye pearlwort
Blissus leucopterus – chinch bug	<i>Sclerophthora macrospora</i> – yellow tuft
Pyricularia oryzae – gray leaf spot	Sod webworm
Sclerotinia homoeocarpa – dollar spot	

Figure 5.

## Submissions by Diagnosis 2014

Temperature and moisture stress	<i>Puccinia graminis</i> – stem rust
Pythium root rot/dysfunction	<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> – brown patch
Nematodes	<i>Septoria</i> sp. – leaf spot
Colletotrichum cereale – anthracnose	<i>Pyricularia oryzae</i> – gray leaf spot
Magnaporthe poae – summer patch	<i>Sclerophthora macrospora</i> – yellow tuft
Leptosphaerulina/Curvularia – blight	<i>Typhula incarnata</i> – gray snow mold
Chemical phytotoxicity/deficiency	<i>Bipolaris sorokiniana</i> – leaf spot
Gaeumannomyces graminis – take-all	<i>Blissus leucopterus</i> – chinch bug
Puccinia coronata – crown rust	<i>Microdochium nivale</i> – pink snow mold
Pythium blight	<i>Ascochyta</i> sp. – leaf blight
Sclerotinia homoeocarpa – dollar spot	<i>Drechslera dictyoides</i> – net blotch
Listronotus maculicollis – ABW	<i>Exomala orientalis</i> – Oriental beetle
Bacterial wilt	White leaf of <i>Poa annua</i>
Drechslera poae – leaf spot & melting out	<i>Cyclocephala borealis</i> – masked chafer
Fairy ring	
Waitea circinata – brown ring patch	

Figure 6

All turf samples are subject to a standard protocol of observations to eliminate bias. As such, our diagnostic output reflects our sample inputs. Each of the most common turf problems we diagnose is characterized by non-descript symptom expression in the field, is root related, or has fungal signs that are not easily identified without laboratory microscopes (Photos 1 and 2). These are the problems that are the most difficult for practitioners to solve in the field, so they are the most common outcomes from samples submitted to the PDL.



Photo 1: Each sample undergoes a series of microscope observations. Consistency of observation means consistent output, which eliminates diagnostic bias. Photo credit: Richard Buckley.



Photo 2: Many samples come from turf areas with non-descript symptom expression or no obvious signs of fungi or insect pests. This turf was damaged by extreme heat and heavy rains. Photo credit: Richard Buckley.

Temperature and moisture stress is the most common issue among our sample submissions. Every change in the weather brings yellow *Microdochium nivale* annual bluegrass into the laboratory (Photo 3). The diagnosis of an abiotic stress is about attempting to prove the negative. The samples are evaluated using our standard protocol and if nothing is found they are kept overnight in a moist chamber for observation. The plugs are subject to a second evaluation the next day and if nothing is found, we respond accordingly. In many cases, however, the plugs recover overnight (Photo 4) [on next page]

# 25 YEARS OF THE PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY: TRENDS IN TURF DISEASE DIAGNOSIS - by Richard Buckley & Sabrina Tirpak



Photos 3 and 4: Heat and drought stressed *Poa annua* recovers in the laboratory incubators. Photo credits: Sabrina Tirpak.

Extreme environmental stress impacts turfgrass subject to inadequate infrastructure, on poor sites, or under extreme management in a much more significant manner than turf grown under ideal conditions. Irrigation coverage is a real problem, but root zone failures are a dominant issue for many of our submissions (Photos 5 and 6).

Photos 5 and 6: Turf damage to this bentgrass was compounded by a poor root zone. Photo credits: Sabrina Tirpak.



Diseases that are enhanced by external stresses are also frequently submitted. Summer patch (Photos 7 and 8), root-infecting *Pythium* (Photos 9 and 10), and nematode damage are worse after temperature and moisture extremes and on poor sites.



Photos 7 and 8: Summer patch, caused by the fungus *Magnaporthe poae*, is a root disease that is influenced by extreme summer stress and cultural practices that reduce root growth. Photo credits: Sabrina Tirpak.

Photos 9 and 10: *Pythium* root rot is impacted by heavy rains, super-saturated soils and poor drainage. Photo 9 credit: Richard Buckley. Photo 10 credit: Chris Debellis.



# 25 YEARS OF THE PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY: TRENDS IN TURF DISEASE DIAGNOSIS - by Richard Buckley & Sabrina Tirpak

Sample submission information can be found here: [www.njaes.rutgers.edu/services](http://www.njaes.rutgers.edu/services). Many local golf courses walk samples into the laboratory. Cup-cutter sized plugs are preferred for disease and insect pest diagnosis. For best results, select plugs with active symptoms that represent the problem well. The transition zone between dying and live plants is a good target. Each plug needs to be clearly marked. When using the USPS or one of the other delivery services, plugs should be wrapped in newspaper and secured so they do not fall apart in transit (Photo 10).



Photo 10: How not to send a sample! Photo credit: Sabrina Tirpak.

Submission forms can be downloaded from the website and are available in the laboratory. It is essential that the forms are filled out, because seemingly insignificant information regarding your individual situation may be the key to solving the problem at hand. Honest communication via the submission form aids our efforts. Furthermore, photographs are a welcome addition to your sample submission. One of the limitations associated with a laboratory diagnosis is that the diagnostician can not see the problem in the field. Photographs place the diagnostician in the field, which may eliminate the need for costly onsite consultations. Photographs can be emailed directly to the lab. Some commentary about the problem in your email is also welcome. We can't stress the importance of this—good communication is just as important as a good sample (Photo 11).

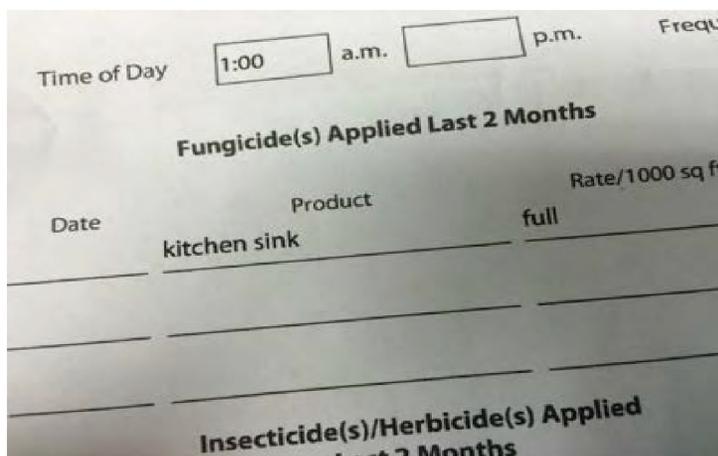


Photo 11: Sometimes less is more—we all get the point! Photo credit: Richard Buckley.

Results are sent via email and if necessary, followed up with the USPS. The response for 85% of our samples is within 3 days (Figure 7). Most golf turf samples can be processed and diagnosed in 24 hours. Each report consists of the diagnosis and the current science-based solutions for the particular problem.

The mission of the Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Laboratory is to solve plant problems. In 1991 we opened as the first turfgrass disease oriented lab in the country. Since that time, our staff has arguably evaluated more turf samples than every other laboratory in the world! The immediate acceptance of the laboratory by New Jersey's turfgrass professionals was remarkable. Your trust ensures our success. Thank you for your support! Remember, we are here to serve. Go out and kill something for us!

PDL Sample Response Time, 1993-2016.

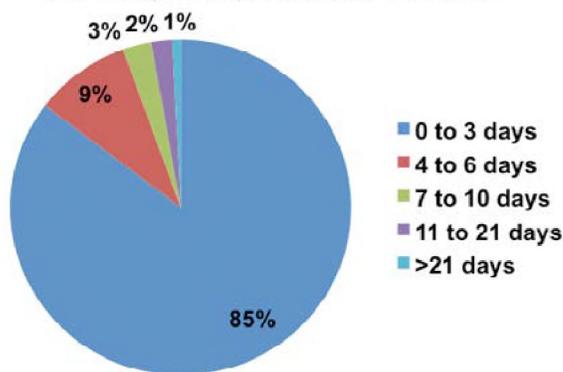


Figure 7.

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**WHAT** *Greensmaster® greens mowers  
with EdgeSeries™ reels.*

**MATTERS** *Members and guests  
raving about your greens.*



**MOST** *Compliments from  
the Greens Committee.*

**What Matters Most to You Matters Most to Us.**

**Greensmaster® Greens Mowers.** *We know that consistency, trueness and the appearance of your greens has a direct impact on player satisfaction, as well as your reputation and that of the golf course. That's why we equip Greensmaster walkers and riders with Toro's innovative DPA cutting units and EdgeSeries reels, to help you deliver a fantastic quality-of-cut and superior after-cut appearance, with the added benefits of exceptional durability and reduced operating expense.*

**Visit: [toro.com/Greensmaster](http://toro.com/Greensmaster)**



**Storr Tractor Company**

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