

**25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Anniversary**

Rutgers Turfgrass Research  
**GOLF CLASSIC**  
Monday, May 4, 2020  
Fiddler's Elbow Country Club  
Bedminster, NJ

**New Jersey  
Turfgrass Association**  
50th Anniversary  
1970 - 2020



## clippings

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*Photos in issue Courtesy of  
Shaun Barry and Matt Sweatlock.*

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# President's Message: Rob Johnson

Rob Johnson  
NJTA President



I am truly honored and humbled to be elected the New Jersey Turf Association (NJTA) President. A little bit about myself: As a Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management Program graduate and someone who has made his career in and around the state of New Jersey, it is very fulfilling to come full circle and have the opportunity to give back to a turf program that has given me so much. I remember a conversation with a guidance counselor in high school when he asked me to discuss my "future" I quickly replied that I would be working in the Golf Course Maintenance industry. He adamantly encouraged me to come up with a second option, as he insisted there was no future in that career path. Now a 25 year veteran of the green industry, I say the future could not be brighter. I say thank you to the rewarding career I chose and the life it has provided me. I say thank you for introducing me to my best friend and wife, and our three beautiful daughters, who continue to challenge me and change my life every day. I say thank you for the countless friends and colleagues I have made over the past 25 years. And I look forward to the next 25 years.

Under *Dave Schell's* tenure as President, the New Jersey Green Expo was another outstanding success, setting the bar very high for 2020. On behalf of NJTA I would like to thank all the speakers and instructors for making the educational slate the best in the nation year after year. I would also like to give a heartfelt thank you to all of the 2019 sponsors. Without your support over the years, this event would certainly not have grown into the most attended conference of the year. Lastly a very special thanks to *Chris Carson*, Event Chair, and *Keith Kubik*, Vice Chair, along with the entire Green Expo Planning Committee. I know all the effort these individuals put into making those days successful. Please take a moment to thank them for their dedication when you see them out and about.

Looking toward Spring, imagine an event where you can network with over 400 of our very best industry leaders, innovators and colleagues; enjoy a great round of golf at one of the best courses New Jersey has to offer; bid on great items in the silent auction; and contribute to the continued success and growth of one of the finest turfgrass research programs. Well we have been planning it over the past year and it is now right around the corner. The Rutgers Research Classic will be held on Monday, May 4th at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club. This year's event is sure to be very special, as we are celebrating the 25th Anniversary. The Classic has raised over 1.9 million dollars over the past 24 years for education, research, scholarships, construction of new facilities contributing to the advancement of the Rutgers Turfgrass Program. It goes without saying that this event would not be the overwhelming success it is without our gracious sponsors over the years and the hard work of *Dr. Bruce Clarke* and *Dr. William Meyer*, as well as the efforts of our two Golf Classic Co-Chairs, *Shaun Barry* and *Dr. Karen Plumley*. I look forward to seeing everyone there on May 4th.

Thank you again for this opportunity and I look forward to an exciting and fulfilling year expanding our awareness and working with the Board to explore opportunities to further our programs.

## MEET a BOARD MEMBER: JOSH KOPERA



Hello NJTA members!!! I am extremely excited to serve you on the New Jersey Turfgrass Board. My name is *Joshua Kopera* and I have had the pleasure of working for Harrell's LLC for the last 12 years. Harrell's LLC is a customer-specific turfgrass solutions company to help our golf course superintendent and sports turf partners achieve sterling results.

I have been involved in the golf industry since the age of 14 after working at the local country club for a free golf membership. I'm a Graduate of UMass Amherst and the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. After college and some amazing internships in NJ at Ridgewood Country Club and Maplewood Country Club, I had the privilege of growing in two golf courses on the east end of Long Island, East Hampton Golf Club and The Bridge Golf Club. Following the completion of The Bridge, I returned to Maplewood Country Club to work for one of my mentors and succeeded Greg Nicoll as Superintendent for a period before starting with Harrell's.

I am blessed with an amazing family including my wife Amanda and two children. Jack is a high school freshmen who is looking forward to the upcoming high school baseball season, and Katelyn is a 12-year-old seventh grader who keeps us busy with being a three-sport athlete. We usually spend our weekends shuttling kids from state to state and from one tournament to another. I enjoy watching my kids play sports, golfing and traveling the world. Fun fact alert... my daughter plays for the Avalanche Softball Program run by Jim and Annemarie Drury, members of the NJTA and owners of Royal Lawns of NJ. Annemarie's father Joseph DeSantis was also a member of the NJTA, President in 1985-86 and inducted into the NJTA Hall of Fame in 1997. It truly is a small world!



## A Year of Celebrations!

**Your Executive Director**  
**Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP**

“Time marches on”, and 2020, will be celebratory. It is the 50th Anniversary of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association, 1970 - 2020. It is also the 25th Anniversary of the Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic, 1995 - 2020. And, it is the 45th Anniversary of the Green Expo Turf and Landscape Conference. 1975 - 2020. What milestones these are!

Read about the beginnings of the Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic on page 11 in this issue...from it's early ideas to earn for the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the NJTA, to a continued and quite successful 'event not to miss' that raises \$100,000 or more each year to support science-based research at Rutgers, provides scholarships to noteworthy students, assists in other needs of the Rutgers University Turfgrass Program. To host this event annually and have 402 golfers is a statement in itself about the largest fundraising golf event in the world, and maybe in the universe too. Drs Bruce Clarke and Bill Meyer start each year by re-engaging sponsors across the country. Over the years, a well-appointed silent auction has been added, fun mulligans, fantastic food and drink throughout the day, and professionals in the turfgrass industry come to play golf and stay for the fun. Help us celebrate this milestone and sign up for the event.

A planning session in 1969 followed by eight organizational meetings between Rutgers staff and turfgrass industry representatives led to the formation of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association. On November 18, 1970, the association held its inaugural meeting at the Forsgate Country Club. The NJTA attracted nearly two hundred charter members in its first year. The mission was to create a member drive association to serve the turfgrass professional. Fifty years later the association has grown from 200 to nearly 1000 members and continues to promote the Turfgrass industry and enhance the environment through education, professionalism, leadership, and partnership with Rutgers.

The 3 events that NJTA host each year [Golf Classic, Field Days, Green Expo] support that mission and will continue to do so for years! Thanks for helping us celebrate these milestones in 2020.

## MEET a BOARD MEMBER: AARON KURDYLA

My name is *Aaron Kurdyla* and I am honored to be a new member of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association Board. I am a proud graduate of Rutgers, The State University, where I also played on the Division 1 Lacrosse team. I am an active alumni with Rutgers which makes this opportunity with the NJTA even more exciting for me. I have worked in the commercial landscape industry for more than 20 years. I am in an ownership position with Garden State Landscapes, Inc., a full service landscape company that services both residential and commercial clients. Garden State Landscapes, Inc. is a growing company that is my second home. People say when you love what you do it does not feel like a job - I am happy to say that I feel as if I have not worked a day in my life. I have met many great people in this industry and they have been the key to my success for the past 20 years.



I am married to my amazing wife of 19 years; Erin, who I am proud to say is the greatest person in my universe. Together we are trying to figure out how to properly raise our 4 young men: Brady, Colin, Cameron and Declan, ranging in age from 11 to 16 years old. Life is full of mainly football, basketball and lacrosse, and if one of those events is not taking place we enjoy spending time as a family doing something outside in the sun. My family is my world and if you have met me before, I am sure to have spoken to you about them.

I am excited to serve on the board of the NJTA and meet many of the members of this organization. I look forward to providing my experience in the landscape industry to the needs of the association. Thank you!!



# GREEN EXPO 2019 WRAP UP

by Chris Carson, Expo Chairman  
Echo Lake Country Club

When the Expo Committee gets together to discuss how to make our conference and show better, we first take a hard look at how the most recent show did, and I am pleased to report that our show performed very well indeed in December 2019.

Attendance was up, our business partnerships grew, and sponsorships were at historic highs... but what interests us more than our numbers is if our 1200 attendees enjoyed themselves and received value from being present. With that in mind, throughout our three days in Atlantic City, the NJTA Board solicited feedback from our vendors and attendees, and I am pleased to report that the responses received from those queries were very positive indeed. It was great to hear from first-time attendees that the show exceeded their expectations, and that they will be back “for the high quality education” and the “chance to meet and interact with industry leaders” that are helping to lead the way in improving our turfgrass and green industry profession. Long-time attendees told us that they “wouldn’t miss the chance to get together with friends to talk turf, and to discuss their needs with business vendors who have solutions to their problems.” And business partners expressed the view that “this show is a must-attend conference, where we have the chance to socialize and talk business with so many of our existing customers while also getting to talk about our services with people we’ve never met.”

Allied Associations have leveraged the opportunities made available by Expo to strengthen their groups as well. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of NJ had a Monday afternoon Board meeting to discuss board responsibilities and objectives, for example; and the Sports Field Managers Association had a similar get together on Thursday. Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education held a nice social hour on Tuesday evening, as did our friends at the NJ Landscape Contractors Association. These happenings, in addition to longstanding events like the Allied Association Luncheon, the Rutgers Turfgrass Advisory breakfast and the GCSANJ Wednesday night social, illustrate the value of a large conference like [www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

Expo: when the entire industry gets together in one place, a lot of important work can get done in an efficient manner. And let’s not forget that, as always, the Grass Roots Wednesday night Mix ‘n Mingle was packed, and this event, open to all, has become the keystone social event to Expo.

In short, Expo 2019 was a great place to strengthen old business relationships and develop new ones, and for attendees to hone their professional skills in the classroom by learning from some of the best educators and scientists in the country.

Do you have anything to add to the discussion? If so, the Expo planning committee wants to hear from you! Please let your thoughts be heard by contacting any member of the NJTA Board, or by reaching out to me by email at [echolakecc@aol.com](mailto:echolakecc@aol.com). We’ve already received a number of excellent suggestions that will be incorporated into our planning for Expo 2020, including some thoughtful ideas on reducing waste in our attendee packets and shaking up some of our food presentations on Tuesday night. We really do want your ideas, big or small, so please make your voice heard with an email or phone call.

Our planning for the next several Expos is already well underway, and we also have important events to consider, including the 45th anniversary of Expo, the 50th anniversary of the founding of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association, and the rapidly approaching retirement of several key members of the Rutgers Turfgrass Faculty. These milestones will be honored and celebrated, as will the important role that the entire New Jersey green industry has had in shaping and contributing to the strong partnership that exists between the industry and Rutgers. Stay tuned for updates on these important landmark events, and be assured that planning for Expo 2020 and beyond is continuing with one dedicated purpose: to advance our profession by making our show and our Association as strong as possible.

**2020 Dates: December 8-10**  
**Borgata Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ**





# New Jersey Legislative Update

by Matt Lindner, Legislative Chair  
SavATree

During the 2019 EXPO, various Allied Associations members met and reviewed the concerns and legislative issues facing New Jersey and our industry. The issues are many on a national state and local front. I want to thank Ben Graziano from State Street Associates, the lobbying body through the New Jersey Green Industry Council, for submitting the update below on which issues are currently in New Jersey.

"On Monday, January 13 the 218th legislative session closed. First and foremost legislation that would ban the use of neonicotinoid pesticides was not passed. Senate Bill 2288: Smith (D17) and Assembly Bill 4562: Calabrese (D36) - Would direct the DEP to classify neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use pesticides. These bills are opposed by many sectors of the industry since banning Neonics is not based on peer reviewed science. Neonics were developed to be safe for mammalian species and are a great alternative to older chemistries that would replace them if banned. We anticipate that these bills will get new life in the next legislative session."

"Similarly, Assembly Bill 5494 Mukherji (D-33)- Legislation that would prohibit the application of neonicotinoids on State, county, or municipal property. The bill did not move in the session and never gained a Senate sponsor. However, in meeting with Assemblyman Mukherji regarding this legislation, he expressed his desire to look at the border issue and move forward with legislation that would address the environmental concerns associated with the use of Neonics. It was clear this legislation will be reintroduced in this new legislative session begins and we need to continue to be proactive in addressing this issue moving forward."

"Additionally, through NJGIC, we engaged on Assembly -2558 DeAngelo (D14)/S2505 Oroho (R24) - "Vegetation Management Response Act"; concerns vegetation management related to electric public utility infrastructure. This bill has been opposed by arborist and Shade Tree Commissions. Industry groups have sent recommended amendments to the sponsors to address industry concerns."

2020 plans to continue to be a challenge. New legislators bring new ideas and concerns regarding our environment and our work. It is through involvement with your respective associations, that you learn what these issues may be and how you can educate yourself for the future. Become involved; join NJTA or at least your respective allied association and become active. Start 2020 off by becoming active. Don't sit back and say I should have done more, after the fact!

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*by Donovan Maguigan, Silent Auction Chair  
Springdale Golf Club*

If you are a shopper on the Amazon online site, you can shop **and also support** the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation through your purchases. You'll need to sign up for AmazonSmile (easy to do) and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible AmazonSmile purchases. AmazonSmile is the philanthropic division of Amazon, and only requires a few clicks to setup. Here's how:

1. Go to **<http://smile.amazon.com>**. On this page, you will be asked to login to your existing account (or you will need to open an account).
2. After logging in, you can search and select "New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation, Inc."
3. On the AmazonSmile home page, you will see below the search bar: "Supporting: New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation." Clicking on this link will show you how much you have donated yourself through your purchases, and see the total amount donated to the NJTFoundation.
4. That's it! Continue to shop at AmazonSmile as you normally would. The shopping experience, prices, and availability will be the same.
5. Be sure to **bookmark** **<http://smile.amazon.com>**. If you return to the normal amazon.com webpage, your account will not be donating to the foundation.
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## GREEN EXPO 2019 SNAP SHOTS







## More GREEN EXPO 2019 SNAP SHOTS





# The Birth of a CLASSIC

In 1996 several members of the NJTA decided they needed to find a way to raise money to support the needs and goals of the Rutgers Turfgrass Program. The NJTA had been started in 1970 with the sole purpose of supporting the program. Whatever funds were raised were to be held until money was needed within the program. That Mission Statement has not changed since the day it was created.

In that 1996 meeting, several proposals were put forth. Even though there were people on this committee from many segments of the industry, the conversations eventually led to doing something with golf. One proposal was to run a raffle with the winner receiving tickets to a PGA Tour Golf Tournament. This definitely would raise some money but the committee had an eventual goal of \$10,000. It was decided that the raffle would never get them to their goal. They decided it had to be a golf tournament. Something like this would attract sponsors and would be viable for at least 10 years.

Having chosen the vehicle for their fundraising they now had to settle on the details. Most of the non-golf members were concerned about charging too much while the golf members were concerned about charging too little. They knew that starting at a low cost would set the floor low and that would make it hard to move up. They wanted a premium location that would attract golfers. They chose Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Bedminster, NJ, because it was private and most people had never played there. Fiddler's would offer a first class experience and it would be expected that they would charge more for this experience. It may have been done with trepidation but eventually everyone agreed.

Fast forward to May 4, 2020, and the visionaries who started this event would never have believed what has grown from the seeds they planted. The Rutgers Turfgrass Research Classic is in a class of its own. No other Turfgrass Fundraiser has enjoyed the

*by Shaun Barry, Golf Classic Chair*

support from all facets of the industry that this event has received. Even during some tough economic years the industry support did not wane.

I believe that there are several reasons for this success. It starts with the scientists at Rutgers. Through their research and hard work they have become known as the best in the world. Everyone knows Drs. Bruce Clarke, Bill Meyer, Stacy Bonos, Jim Murphy, Bingru Huang, Matt Elmore, Albrecht Koppenhofer and also Rich Buckley and they are supported by many of the industry's future leaders.

All of these scientists volunteer and are fully committed to doing whatever they need to do to support the Classic because they know the dollars raised will only ever be used by Rutgers. I have enjoyed being the Chair of this event for many years, and thank my Co-Chair Dr. Karen Plumley for her

commitment to make this a successful event.

One of the other main reasons for the success is the strong relationship between these scientists and the industry. Rutgers' scientists are always ready to take your phone call to help you with a problem. The best way that you can return their help is to support the Classic.

**25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Anniversary**



## THANKS TO LAST YEAR'S PREMIER SPONSORS!

**As of this writing, most Premier Sponsors  
are committed to support the 2020 event!**







Photo of the Rutgers 2020 Turf Bowl Team: Andrew Petryna, Thomas McDaniel, Matthew Cavrak, Kelly Shields, Alexander Hague, Liam Ryan, Maxwell Lyons, and adviser Brad Park.

### Scarlet Knights Compete in the GCSAA Turf Bowl: 2-Year Certificate Students Rep Rutgers at the Golf Industry Show (GIS) For the First Time Ever!

Wearing matching polo shirts, seven students from Rutgers University represented the Scarlet Knights at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) annual Turf Bowl event in Orlando, Florida last week. Studying for the Turf Bowl.

The GCSAA Collegiate Turf Bowl is an academic tournament designed to test students' knowledge of agronomy, business, communication, environmental management, and leadership. The contest consists of physical and visual identification of samples, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, essay, short answer, and matching questions.

For the past twenty years, only matriculated students enrolled in undergraduate/graduate turf programs could participate. In 2020, for the first time, the GCSAA allowed 2-Year Certificate students to compete and Rutgers is thrilled to have sent an inaugural team! Congratulations!

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# 25<sup>th</sup> Rutgers Research Golf Classic Event

## Anniversary Monday, May 4, 2020

Rutgers University and the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation represent a formidable alliance in support of the Turfgrass Industry in the State of New Jersey and across the country. The Foundation is a non-profit organization which accepts and manages tax-deductible monetary donations and the proceeds from events such as this Golf Classic.

Proceeds from the Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic have been used to provide support for New Faculty, Research Grants, Scholarships, Equipment, and Funds for Special Projects (e.g., Steve Hart Pavilion, Turfgrass Economic Survey) as well as new research greens & upgraded irrigation and drainage at Hort Farm 2.



### SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

- 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Registration
- 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Breakfast for All & Driving Range Open
- 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Silent Auction Hours
- 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Golf Shotgun - Scramble format (Be on Carts by 10:45 AM)
- Lunch on the Course
- 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Grand Reception on Patio
- 4:30 p.m. Silent Auction Closes
- 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Golf Awards & Announcements

## Thanks to the 2019 Premier Sponsors!

*We are proud to thank these 2019 Premier Sponsors of the Twenty-fourth Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic:*

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# Monday, May 4, 2020

## RUTGERS TURFGRASS RESEARCH GOLF CLASSIC

Fiddler's Elbow Country Club

811 Rattlesnake Bridge Road, Bedminster, NJ 07921

**Join Us to Celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

# 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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- Tee or Green Sign - each course.

☐ **EAGLE @ \$5,000 \***

- **TWO (2) GOLF FOURSOMES** • Opportunity to Display Banner & Product Literature or Samples at event
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- RECEPTION: Name 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- RECEPTION: Name 3 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **BIRDIE @ \$3,500 \***

- **ONE (1) GOLF FOURSOME** • Company Name on Sponsor Banner & Signage
- Listing on Sponsor Sign at Entrance to Grand Reception • Tee or Green Sign - each course.
- Two (2) Additional GRAND RECEPTION Tickets
- RECEPTION: Name 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **PAR @ \$2,000 \***

- **ONE (1) GOLF FOURSOME** • Signage Recognition • Tee or Green Sign
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☐ **LUNCH ON THE COURSE @ \$2,500**

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- Two (2) Additional GRAND RECEPTION Tickets
- RECEPTION: Name 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **BREAKFAST @ \$1,500 [No Golf Included]**

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- One (1) Additional GRAND RECEPTION Ticket -- RECEPTION: Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **HOLE @ \$500 [No Golf Included]**

- Signage • One (1) Ticket to GRAND RECEPTION -- RECEPTION: Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# WINTER IN THE PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LAB

by Richard Buckley, Director  
Rutgers Diagnostic Laboratory

Winter is typically a slow time of year for all of us in the green industry. Unless it is snowing, we spend our work efforts evaluating last season and planning for next, doing equipment maintenance, infrastructure work, marketing, and attending educational meetings (I see you in the audience!). Just because turfgrass is not our primary focus, doesn't mean that everything is happy and healthy. Historically we have very few plant submissions to the Plant Diagnostic Laboratory in January and February. Samples begin to pick up in March and generally accelerate until late-July. This season we are running a bit ahead of schedule. Conditions remain moist, but temperatures have been mostly above average this year, but we have had a few very cold periods mixed in. What could possibly go wrong?

## PINK SNOW MOLD [See Photos on Page 19]

Pink snow mold is caused by the fungus *Microdochium nivale*. This disease can be found on most cool-season grasses grown in New Jersey landscapes, but is most common on highly managed turf areas like golf course putting greens, tees, and fairways. Pink snow mold is a crummy name for the disease, because snow cover is not needed and the fungus itself is rarely pink. In some areas of the country the disease is called Fusarium patch.

Pink snow mold generally appears as small circular, water-soaked patches of blighted turf. The patches are initially bronze or brown and change to light gray over time. Rarely do the patches grow larger than 12 inches, however, as is the case with any disease that forms distinct patches, they will coalesce and blight large areas of turf. The leaves of affected plants tend to mat together. Under the right circumstances, this disease can cause significant damage.

The causal fungus, *Microdochium nivale*, forms copious amounts of fungal mycelium, a white or salmon colored cottony growth that is found among the plants within the blighted patches. The reproductive structures of the fungus are fruiting bodies called sporodochia. Thousands of conidia, or the asexual spores of the fungus, are produced by each sporodochia. These conidia

are easily spread by wind, water, or man's activities. Mowers and rollers have been implicated in spreading the disease. When mowers spread the fungus, the blighted turf appears as bronze streaks.

Pink snow mold is most active during periods of cool, wet weather from the fall into the spring. Fungal growth is favored when the temperatures are between 35°F to 65°F, but optimal temperatures are around 45°F to 50°F. We have seen streaking on golf courses as late in the season as June during cold, wet springs. Periods of cold rain and snow drive the pathogen. Poor surface and subsurface drainage, excessive irrigation, shade, and poor air circulation can also contribute to disease occurrence. Snow cover is ideal, because it provides the moisture necessary for fungal development and provides an insulator against freezing temperatures, but is not necessary for this disease to occur. Pink snow mold is favored by tall, soft, and overstimulated grass. Overstimulated, succulent grass is easily penetrated by the fungus and long grass will lodge or mat down and act like a snow or leaf cover.

## YELLOW PATCH [See Photos on Page 19]

Yellow patch is caused by the fungus *Ceratobasidium cereale*. It was first discovered on Kentucky bluegrass in the early 1970's and called Cool-season brown patch. At the time, researchers believed the cause of the disease was the fungus *Rhizoctonia solani*, which is the cause of brown patch. This created quite a bit of confusion in the turfgrass industry, since brown patch was typically associated with hot, humid conditions in mid-summer. Investigators soon found that the cool weather disease was not caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*, but was caused by a structurally similar species of *Rhizoctonia*, known as *Rhizoctonia cerealis*. *Rhizoctonia cerealis* is the asexual form of *Ceratobasidium cereale* hence the name. The host range for yellow patch includes most grasses used in landscape, spots and golf turf. The disease, like pink snow mold, however, is most common on high value sports turf and golf course putting greens, tees, and fairways.

*continued on page 16*

# WINTER IN THE PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LAB

The symptoms of yellow patch usually appear as circular, light brown to yellow patches ranging from 1 inch to 3 feet in diameter. Grass in the center of the patch may remain yellow, or may eventually recover leading to a frog-eye spot with a 1-2 inch yellow or tan outer ring. These patches closely resemble damage induced by root-infecting patch diseases or fairy rings, but they occur during warmer weather.

Symptoms can develop suddenly and spread rapidly during cool, moist weather. In many instances, patches merge to form a mosaic pattern and may remain yellow for several weeks without dying. Foliar death is indeed rare, but can occur if favorable environmental conditions persist for extended periods of time. A sparse white mycelium can often be detected around the outside perimeter of the yellow rings.

*Ceratobasidium cereale* is capable of growing over a wide range of temperatures. Mycelial growth can occur from approximately 45°F to 75°F, with optimum growth and infectivity at 45°F to 55°F. Prolonged periods of leaf wetness are needed for infection, therefore, any factor that lengthens the duration of leaf wetness such as high humidity, poor drainage, or cloudy weather will intensify the disease. Infected patches of turf usually increase in diameter until the onset of sub-freezing winter temperatures. The fungus may remain active throughout the winter as long as the temperatures are mild enough. When the temperature moderates in early spring, symptoms may reappear on infected turf. These patches continue to expand until daytime temperatures stabilize around 75°F, at which time infected plants recover and the symptoms disappear.

## Winter Disease Control

Winter diseases, like pink snow mold and yellow patch, can be minimized to a certain degree with sound cultural practice. Healthy grass going into winter will see better recovery coming out of winter. Proper fertility inputs—based on soil test results—are a good place to start. Attention to site conditions—surface and sub-surface drainage, light penetration, and air movement on the site—also helps to minimize disease activity. As temperatures warm in the spring, rake out the damage,

fertilize and seed as necessary, and off we go. Fungicides are available for high value turf areas. The best up-to-date source for fungicide selection and efficacy data is the following reference: Chemical Control of Turfgrass Disease 2020. Bruce Clarke, Rutgers University; Paul Vincelli, University of Kentucky; Paul Koch, University of Wisconsin; Greg Munshaw, University of Kentucky. PPA-1 UKY. (search turf disease, fungicides, Kentucky, 2020)

## Abiotic Stress: Crown Hydration/De-acclimation injury

In late fall, in response to gradually decreasing temperatures and shorter photoperiods, all plants including cultivated turfgrasses go through a period of acclimation to winter conditions. The process is characterized by an increase in cellular solutes—potassium ions and sugars among other things—that allow the plants to tolerate freezing temperatures. Warm weather during late fall can delay acclimation and freezing and thawing cycles typical of late-winter can reverse the process and subject the grass to damage from sudden and dramatic drops in temperatures.

Crown hydration is a common and destructive form of winter damage due to de-acclimation. During late February and March, temperatures often rise above freezing for a few days at a time. When this happens, turfgrass that de-acclimated during the warm periods absorb water and the crowns become hydrated. If a rapid freezing event follows, then ice forms inside the crowns and between the cells, which will rupture cell membranes or draw moisture out of cells and dehydrate them. Damaged plants subsequently die when temperatures presently rise.

Crown hydration injury is most pronounced on turfgrasses, like perennial ryegrass and annual bluegrass, growing in poorly drained soils. Crown hydration events are virtually impossible to predict, and there is very little turf managers can do to prevent these situations. The best way to reduce crown hydration problems is to avoid practices that force susceptible plants into early emergence from winter dormancy and to employ measures that improve surface and sub-surface drainage on sensitive sites. Once again, healthy plants on good sites going into winter are most likely to be healthy plants coming out.

# TWEET & BEWARE



Jason Ostserhoudt, Secretary  
Metuchen Gof & Country Club

As we rely on Social media more and more, it's important to watching. Your interactions on the various platforms can be for criminals, feasting on information as you feverously type and trying to hack their way into your personal life by stealing passwords, personal information and other critical information that can affect your identity. Here are some useful tips to help unwanted attacks.

1. **Use a strong password.** The longer it is, the more secure it will be.
2. **Use a different password** for each of your social media accounts.
3. **Set up your security answers.** This two factor authentication is available for most social media sites.
4. If you have social media apps on your phone, be sure to **password protect your device.**
5. **Be selective with friend requests.** If you don't know the person, don't accept their request. It could be a fake.
6. **Click links with caution.** Social media accounts are regularly hacked. Look out for language or content that does not sound like something your friend would post.
7. **Be careful about what you share.** Don't reveal sensitive personal information ie: home address, financial information, phone number. The more you post the easier it is to have your identity stolen.
8. **Become familiar with the privacy policies** of the social media channels you use and customize your privacy settings to control who sees what.
9. **Protect your computer by installing antivirus software to safeguard.** Also ensure that your browser, operating system, and software are kept up to date.
10. **Remember to log off when you're done.**

Following these tips won't completely keep you safe from attacks, but will hinder criminals enough to move onto other less secured accounts. Be smart about what you are viewing and who you are interacting with. If it sounds too good to be true, then it probably isn't true. Always remember that not everyone is as honest as your Grandmother and the internet can be a very dark place.

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## Brad Hillman Awarded NJTA's Hall of Fame

**Dr. Bradley Hillman** is the Dean of Research at the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences on the Cook Campus, and during the 15 years of his tenure in that position, he has been a strong supporter of the Center for Turfgrass Science and the turfgrass industry. At Green Expo 2019, he was awarded New Jersey Turfgrass Association's highest honor, the **Hall of Fame Award**, by NJTA President Rob Johnson.

Brad's strong support of the Turf Center has often taken place behind the scene, so many readers of this notice will have little understanding of the important contributions he has made. Just one example of his support can be seen in the strength and vibrancy of the Rutgers Soil Testing and Plant Diagnostic Laboratories. Brad was instrumental in reorganizing and supporting these important labs, recognizing that they are important keys in supporting the mission of the school.

Dr. Hillman will soon be stepping down from his role as Dean, and returning to his faculty position. A plant virologist by training, he is well known for his work on chestnut blight, and we wish him continued success in his career. Brad is one of the people at Rutgers University who understands the value of the Turfgrass Center, and he has been a loyal supporter of its continued growth. He's also long been a supporter of NJTA and our mission, and he has valued and supported the incredible partnership that exists between the turf industry and the Rutgers Center.

Simply put, Brad "gets it," and to honor his many contributions to our industry and to the growth of all things turfgrass at Rutgers, he is now enshrined as our latest member of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association's Hall of Fame.

Congratulations,  
and thanks Dr. Hillman!



## Keith Kubik Awarded Member of the Year

**Keith Kubik**, President of Grass Roots Inc, was named NJTA's **Member of the Year** at Expo 2019 in front of an appreciative crowd at Borgata's Music Box Theater.

Keith served on the NJTA Board for over 10 years and was President for two terms, and he followed that service with ten years (and still serving) on the NJ Turfgrass Foundation Board, including two years as president. During this long tenure, he provided an informed and steady voice to important initiatives that have helped both organizations make important steps forward, and he still contributes his counsel on key decisions as a valued advisor.

He has been my vice-chairman of the Expo Committee throughout most of the past 15 years. In that capacity he's helped Expo grow its education offerings, expand its trade show and, along with his father Ken, has been the long-time contributor of a social cornerstone for attendees by sponsoring the Grass Roots Mix 'N Mingle social on Wednesday night of Expo. Grass Roots has also been a long-time contributor to the Rutgers Research Golf Classic, being Premier Sponsors of that event as well.

The NJTA Board recognized all of these contributions during the award presentation in December, where it was noted that Keith is a true "loyal son" of Rutgers, a strong advocate of our profession, and a most deserving recipient of our Member of the Year Award.

Congratulations, and thank you, Keith!



*by Chris Carson, Expo Chairman  
Echo Lake Country Club*

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

## Rutgers Diagnostic Lab..

*continued from page 16*

Sometimes an area of grass will appear dead, but a close look with a microscope or hand-lens reveals many plants that still possess viable crown tissues. We assess recovery potential in the lab (and you can in your office) by taking plugs of the damaged turf and placing them into containers or plastic bags with a moist paper towel. We place them in a warm, well-lighted area for several days to determine if regrowth occurs. You will see new green stems emerge from the ashes. Be aware that just because a few tillers emerge from the plugs does not necessarily mean the whole turf stand will fully recover, but this method can help turf managers decide how dense the recovery will be and whether reseeding will be required. You'll also find out quickly if the damage is done by snow mold or yellow patch, because instead of grass growth, you will stimulate the causal fungi to grow and "fuzz up" around a bronze area (pink snow mold) or around a yellow ring (yellow patch). It usually only takes 24 to- 36 hours to stimulate the fungus, so it is a good thing when nothing happens. Hang in there for the grass to grow.

Only mother nature knows what is in store for the rest of the winter, but proper planning, sound agronomy, and good site preparation can minimize any curve balls she sends us. Good luck!



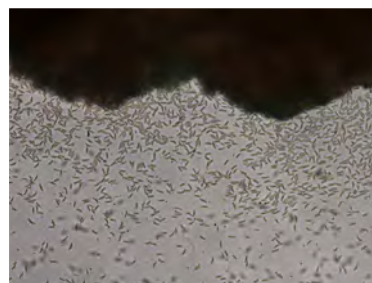
Yellow patch fuzz (*Ceratobasidium cereale*) in a moist chamber.  
Photo Credit: Sabrina Tirpak

Crown hydration injury to annual bluegrass in low K plots.  
Photo credit: Richard Buckley



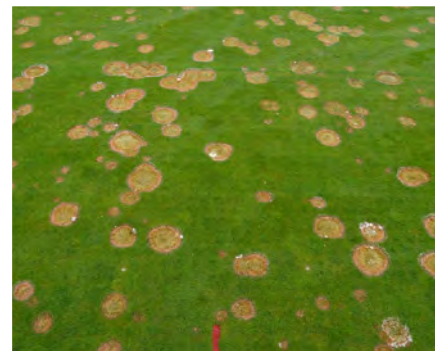
Cold temperature damage before incubation.  
Photo credit: Richard Buckley

Same plug after incubation. Note the recovery  
Photo credit: Richard Buckley



*Microdochium nivale* conidia  
Photo credit: Sabrina Tirpak

Severe outbreak of pink snow mold.  
Photo credit: Richard Buckley



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## Dean Goodman Receives Recognition Award

**Dr. Robert Goodman** is a plant biologist, virologist, and an expert in soil microorganisms and plant diseases. Prior to coming to Rutgers, Dr. Goodman was on the faculty at the University of Illinois, Vice President for Research and Development at Calgene (one of the pioneering companies in plant genetic engineering), and a professor of plant pathology and environmental studies at the University of Wisconsin. For the past 14 years, he has served as Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Rutgers University, leading both the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

As Dean, Dr. Goodman has been a tremendous supporter of the turfgrass industry and the Center for Turfgrass Science. He oversaw the establishment of the Ralph Geiger Endowed Chair in Turfgrass Science, was instrumental in initiating the C. Reed Funk Endowed Professorship in Turfgrass Breeding, and has worked with the NJTA and the turfgrass industry to fill numerous faculty and staff vacancies in the Turfgrass Program. Dean Goodman has been extremely supportive of the faculty's efforts to provide science-based solutions to problems facing the turfgrass industry, and has permitted the reinvestment of millions of dollars in turfgrass seed royalties back into the Turfgrass Program to support research, laboratories and research farms, student scholarships, and an internal competitive grants program that has made faculty in the Turf Center very competitive for Federal government and private foundation grants.

Dr. Goodman has been an outstanding dean and a friend of the turfgrass industry for the past 14 years and is very deserving of the "2019 NJTA Recognition Award."



## Jim Murphy Receives Fred V. Grau Turfgrass Science Award

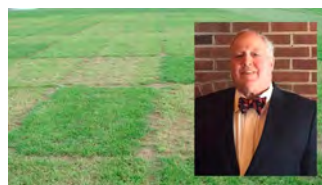
Dr. Jim Murphy was selected by the Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) as its 2019 CSSA Fred V. Grau Turfgrass Science Award recipient. He received the award at the Intl Annual meeting in San Antonio, TX. Murphy was recognized for significant career contributions in turfgrass science, including research, teaching, extension programs, both nationally and internationally. He is renowned for developing environmentally-sound management practices and is a sought-after speaker in the US and Europe on best management practices for turf management, especially golf turf. Under the New Jersey state fertilizer law, Murphy developed the standards for fertility practices and the Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification and Training (ProFACT). Murphy joins fellow Rutgers NJAES faculty members who have been past recipients of this award: Bruce Clarke (2016), William A. Meyer (1994), and C. Reed Funk (1990). Congratulations!



## William Meyer Receives USGA Green Section Award

Honoring golf's greatest ambassadors, innovators and leaders, the USGA recently unveiled its 2020 Annual Award honorees, including longtime Rutgers professor Dr. William Meyer, the winner of the 60th annual USGA Green Section Award.

Meyer was recognized for his work in sustainability through agronomic advancements. The USGA Green Section Award honors distinguished service to golf through an individual's work with turfgrass. For more than 30 years, Meyer has made a significant impact on the turf industry through his turfgrass breeding work, which focuses on developing grasses for golf and other playing surfaces that are resistant to adverse factors. As a professor at Rutgers University, he has influenced all levels of the industry at the national and international levels through seminars, research papers and trade publications.





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## **2020 EVENTS**

**Monday, May 4, 2020**  
*Rutgers Turfgrass Research  
Golf Classic  
Fiddler's Elbow Country Club  
Bedminster, NJ*

**25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Anniversary**

**Tuesday, July 28, 2020**  
*Rutgers Turfgrass Research  
Field Day 1  
Hort Farm 2, New Brunswick, NJ*

**Wednesday, July 29, 2020**  
*Rutgers Turfgrass Research  
Field Day 2  
Adelphia Farm, Freehold, NJ*

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020 -  
Thursday, December 10, 2020**  
*45th Annual  
Green Expo  
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- ◆ Insect Identification
- ◆ Fungus and Mold Identification
- ◆ Nematode Assay
- ◆ Virus Testing
- ◆ Fungal Endophyte Screening
- ◆ Pesticide Resistance Screening
- ◆ Other Services Available by Contract

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/plantdiagnosticlab/> or call  
732-932-9140 or email [clinic@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:clinic@njaes.rutgers.edu)

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 550, Milltown, NJ 08850-0550

Physical location:

Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Education Center  
20 Indyk-Engel Way, North Brunswick 08902

# RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station

## Soil Testing Laboratory

performs chemical and mechanical analyses:

- ◆ Landscape - fertility, suitability, topsoil evaluation
- ◆ Farm - fertility, pre-sidedress nitrate, full farm
- ◆ Organic Media - greenhouse media, compost
- ◆ Sports Turf - fertility, sand-based root zone
- ◆ Technical - permeability and ecological
- ◆ Individual / Specialized Tests
- ◆ Irrigation Water - pH, salts, nitrate-nitrogen, phosphorus, iron

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/soiltestinglab/> or call  
848-932-9295 or email [soiltest@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:soiltest@njaes.rutgers.edu)  
57 Rt. 1, New Brunswick, 7:30 am to 5 pm weekdays.