



Service to the Turfgrass Industry
is a Family Business -
Ken and Keith Kubik
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Ph: (440) 582-8540
jason@burlseed.com
Seed

DLF USA [Page 15]

Sean Chaney
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Ph: (541) 369-2251 • dlfinfo@dlfna.com

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keith.kubik@griturf.com • ken.kubik@griturf.com

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jeremy@pratuncoop.com
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Chris Marra
8 Highview Avenue, Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927
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Christopher.Marra@syngenta.com

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Jeremy Schumer
430 Montclair Avenue
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442
Ph: (201) 588-6274
jeremy@turgogolf.com

From the President: JASON OSTERHOUDT

Hello everyone!

I am humbled and honored to now serve the NJTA as President. I have spent the last 23 years working in the golf industry serving as an intern, assistant superintendent, and finally Golf Course Superintendent at Metuchen Golf and Country Club. In 2017, I was asked to join the Board of Directors fulfilling a promise I made to my two mentors, Chris Carson and Mark Kuhns. A promise that I would give back to an industry that has provided me with a career I love.

The NJTA's ongoing support of Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science has kept the Center at the forefront of turfgrass research and breeding, allowing Rutgers to attract the best candidates to fill legendary roles in the program. We are excited to support all the professors and notably Rutgers new Plant Pathologist Dr. Ming-Yi Chou. We are expecting great things to come out of his lab in regards to new ways to evaluate disease management in cool season grasses.

Dr. Chou will also be able to secure top level graduate students thanks to the outstanding efforts of Chris Carson and Keith Kubik, and others. When Dr. Clarke announced his retirement, the two of them had a vision to raise funds to support an endowment fellowship in his honor. The Bruce B. Clarke Endowed Graduate Fellowship was formed. This fellowship will fund a Graduate Student in Turfgrass Pathology in perpetuity, cementing Rutgers commitment to the turfgrass industry beyond the foreseeable future! To date, with the generous support of our industry sponsors, the total pledged amount is nearly \$1 million. We are quickly approaching our \$1.5 million fundraising goal. Great Work!!

The New Jersey Turfgrass Association is known as one of the leading Green Industry associations in the country due to the leadership of our Board of Directors, generous support from our industry sponsors, and most importantly YOU!! Our members.

We need your help in continuing to grow this premiere association. If you know anyone who isn't a member, ask them to join. With membership you gain access to value driven science-based education and events that promote our industry, while supporting the Center for Turfgrass Science.



Jason Osterhoudt
NJTA President

We are always looking for dedicated people who can make a difference in the Green Industry. Serving on a committee is a great way to get involved and learn the inner workings of the NJTA. You get the experience of making a difference and meet great leaders in the process. All you have to do is ask! Always remember many hands make for light work!

As this year progresses, the NJTA Board of Directors and all our volunteers look forward to seeing you at our three major events.

- Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic on May 6th, 2024, at Fiddlers Elbow Country Club, Bedminster, NJ
- Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days on July 30, 2024, at Hort Farm 2 in New Brunswick, and July 31, 2024, at Adelphia Farm in Freehold.
- Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference on December 10, 11 & 12, 2024 at the Borgata Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City.

So mark your calendars now and help support the cause!!!

- XPO WINNERS - ONE NIGHT AT THE BORGATA

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&
Congratulations to
Gary Wood
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pay it
FORWARD

You've heard the phrase 'Pay It Forward' -- a purposeful way to say a word of kindness to someone you do not know or even to someone you do know, to share a thoughtful gesture, to honor and applaud those who have set the way for us, to uplift someone with positive words and actions.

Pay it forward is an expression when the recipient of an act of kindness does something kind for someone else rather than simply accepting the original good deed. The phrase and concept come from literature, media, and humanitarian organizations.

New Jersey Turfgrass Association and New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation share this philosophy. Our mission is to promote the Turfgrass Industry and enhance the environment through education, professionalism, leadership, and our partnership with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. * [NJTA By Laws, Article II - Purpose, Section 1]

We also have the purpose to gather together all the turf interest in the State of New Jersey into a cooperative group for the collection, preservation, and dissemination of information pertinent to the development and maintenance of turfgrass areas. * [NJTA By-Laws, Article II - Purpose, Section 2]

Giving Scholarships to Turfgrass Students annually falls in this philosophy to Pay It Forward; so do the annual events we host -- Rutgers Turfgrass Golf Classic, Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days, and Green Expo Turf and Landscape Conference. With the greater goal of 'Pay It Forward', as an Association and a Foundation, we do our best to pay it forward with purpose.

As a member of this association, we know you also pay it forward by sharing your talents, encouraging and sharing tips and education with your colleagues and friends. NJTA will continue to do our best to make this industry the very best it can be, and we are honored to know you will do the very same. Examples of this concept are within this issue of *Clippings*. Make today a Pay It Forward Day! You will be so glad you did.

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GOLF CLASSIC..Another Great Day to Enjoy!

Shaun Barry
Chairman, Golf Classic

When it comes to fundraising for turfgrass research in America, there are many successful efforts designed to financially support the work of universities that have a long history of constantly improving all facets of the industry.

Rutgers Turfgrass Program is one of the leading programs dealing with cool season turf. Their Center for Turfgrass Science's scientists are world renowned because they are and have been leaders in the industry. They are also known for their impressive postgraduates and their field staff that are committed to making things better and finding answers to the never ending issues that challenge turf managers.

For Rutgers to continue their efforts to improve quality and reduce problems, the CTS has been able to rely on many outside sources of revenue. This support has absolutely been a cornerstone of their success.

One of these outside sources has been the Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic. The Golf Classic is run by the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation. They have been running this fundraiser for 27 years and will once again host the 28th Golf Classic on May 6, 2024. Through the years the Classic has netted 2.3 million dollars and every dollar raised will be given to support the Rutgers CTS in whatever way is needed.



The Classic has become a “can’t miss” fundraiser. Each year there are around 372 golfers who come from every section of the industry. If you have a question that you need an answer to, there will be someone there to answer that question. The food and the golf courses are outstanding and you will find an impressive silent auction offering a great variety of items to bid on and hopefully get a bargain.

Come join the fun especially knowing that you are helping to support those who support your industry.

**REGISTRATION
BROCHURE
ON PAGES 12 & 13!**

THANKS TO THE 2023 PREMIER SPONSORS BELOW!



Scholarships for Rutgers Students

from the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation

The Annual Turfgrass Student Awards Reception was held on Wednesday, December 13, at the Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Educational Center at Hort Farm II in New Brunswick, NJ. \$91,700 in scholarships were awarded.

This event is hosted by the NJAES (New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station), CTS (Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science), and OCPE (Office of Continuing Professional Education).

This recognition reception honors the 2023 scholarship recipients. The named scholarships are listed below:

- New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association
- Golf Course Superintendents Assn of New Jersey
- New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation
- Henry Indyk Fellowship
- Peter S. Loft Memorial
- Paul Des Champs Memorial
- Ralph Engel Scholarship
- Sports Field Managers Assn of New Jersey
- Ralph Geiger Scholarship
- Joseph Bianco Turfgrass Alumni Assn
- Edward V. Lipman Jr.
- David Bentley Carson Memorial
- Super Scratch

New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation 2023 Scholarship Recipients

CHALLENGE

Sean McBride, Graduate Student

HALL OF FAME

Ping'an Zhang, Graduate Student

LOU VASVARY MEMORIAL

Jennifer Halterman, Graduate Student

NJTF

Katherine Diehl, Graduate Student

WILEY MINER

Mark LaBarge, Graduate Student

DAVID BENTLEY CARSON MEMORIAL

Dominick Candeloro, Two Year Student

DAVID BENTLEY CARSON MEMORIAL

Treor Swanson, Two Year Student

PAUL DESCHAMPS MEMORIAL

Dalen Stolen, Two Year Student

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE STUDENTS!
VERY WELL DESERVED...**

2023 ANNUAL AWARDS

Member of the Year: Jason Osterhoudt, Metuchen Golf & Country Club

Recognition: Ken Griepentrog, Jersey Seed

Environmental Steward: Stephen Bross, NJDEP

Allied Association Award

Bill Murray, retired superintendent and 27 year member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) was recently named the recipient of the association's 2024 Col. John Morley Award.



This award, named after GCSAA's founder, was elevated to GCSAA's pinnacle level alongside the Old Tom Morris Award in 2021 and is presented annually to an individual who is, or has been, a GCSAA Class A or B superintendent member and has made a significant contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession.

Rutgers Scholarship Recipients Event , 12/13/23



Paul Des Champs Memorial Scholarship: Paul Des Champs was an active member of the NJTA and recipient of the NJTA Hall of Fame Award.

Ralph Geiger Scholarship: Mr. Geiger was an avid golfer and established these awards to support the education of students studying turfgrass management at the School of Environmental Sciences (SEBS). His vision was that these scholarships be awarded to students enrolled in undergraduate, graduate, or two-year Professional Golf Turf Mgmt programs. Students must have a 3.0 GPA and can receive it again.

New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation Scholarships: NJTF is the benevolence arm of the NJTA. NJTF supports student scholarships, research, and facilities upgrades at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences to the benefit of the turfgrass community of New Jersey.

Scholarship Recipients share their Thanks to NJTF

Dear Mr. Kubik,

I wanted to personally extend my gratitude and thank you for the NJ Turfgrass Foundation Wiley Miner Scholarship. It is an honor and privilege to be a part of the Rutgers turfgrass program and to receive the Wiley Miner Scholarship. Your contribution to the program at Rutgers and to me individually is greatly appreciated. As a member of the turfgrass program at Rutgers, I am placed in a position to learn, gain experience, and succeed in the turfgrass industry. Receiving this scholarship also helps place me in a better position to succeed and share my research at conferences, field days, and symposiums.

I am currently a dual-degree student at Rutgers University pursuing a PhD in plant biology and a master's in environmental science. My research project is a comparison of bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, and creeping bentgrass fairways in New Jersey to potentially provide turf managers with more sustainable turf options. This research is aimed at increasing the sustainability of golf course turf to foster preservation of the environment and allow future generations to enjoy the game. It will also provide sod growers and turf managers with information on turfgrass selection, economic costs, and environmental impacts. I am also an instructor in the 2-year turfgrass management program at Rutgers and enjoy teaching future golf course managers. Your contribution helps enhance my research and aids in sharing the findings with the turfgrass community.

I want to thank you again for your generous contribution to the program and to me. It is extremely appreciated, and I am grateful to be the recipient.

Sincerely,

Mark La

Mr. Keith Kubik
NJ Turfgrass Foundation
25 US Highway 46 West
Wayne, NJ 07470

Dear Mr. Kubik,

I want to thank you so much for awarding me the \$750 scholarship. I am in the process of finishing my 2 year certificate program at the Rutgers Golf Turf Management Program. I started classes on January 3 and this money was very useful during the transition. I was able to put the money towards my first tuition payment and I did not have to worry. This scholarship has helped my dream of completing college even more of a reality.

I want to reiterate again how important an education is to me and how grateful I am that you were so generous. I am finishing up my second semester of the Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management Program, and still plan on becoming a superintendent. I look forward to seeing what the rest of the program holds. The transition to Rutgers has been an amazing and great opportunity that I enjoy more every day.

I will continue to work hard this semester to ensure that the scholarship you choose to award me with is used with gratitude. Thank you so much for your kindness and support. Have a great year, as I know I will!

Sincerely,

Trevor Swanson

Trevor Swanson



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GREEN EXPO SNAPSHOTS



Pictures courtesy of Shaun Barry and Matt Sweatlock, NJTA Directors.



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Rutgers Research Golf Classic Event Monday, May 6, 2024

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 Opens
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 at stations 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 2023 Premier Sponsors!

We are proud to thank these 2023 Premier Sponsors of the Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic.

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POST & FOLLOW: #RUGolfClassic

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NJTF Tax ID: 22-3270805 • Ph: (973) 812-6467 | Fax: (973) 812-6529 | www.njturfgrass.org

Monday, May 6, 2024

RUTGERS TURFGRASS RESEARCH GOLF CLASSIC

Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
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Bedminster, NJ 07921

THANKS 2023 PREMIER SPONSORS!



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Hosted by the NEW JERSEY TURFGRASS FOUNDATION

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- One Room Upgrade to Suite at 2024 Green Expo • Listing on Sponsor Sign at Grand Reception
- Tee or Green Sign - each course.

☐ **EAGLE @ \$5,000***

- **TWO (2) GOLF FOURSOMES** • Display Company Banner & Product Literature or Samples at event
- Company name on Sponsor Banner & Signage • Tee or Green Sign - each course.
- Listing on Sponsor Sign at Entrance to Grand Reception • Three (3) Additional Reception Tickets:
- RECEPTION: Name 1 _____ Name 2 _____ 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 @ \$2,250***

- **ONE (1) GOLF FOURSOME** • Signage Recognition • Tee or Green Sign
- Listing on Sponsor Sign at Entrance to Grand Reception
- One (1) Additional GRAND RECEPTION Ticket: Name _____

☐ **GRAND RECEPTION @ \$4,000 (Exclusive!)**

☐ **LUNCH ON THE COURSE @ \$2,750 [No Golf Included]**

- Signage Recognition • Tee or Green Sign • Listing on Sponsor Sign at Grand Reception
- Two (2) Additional GRAND RECEPTION Tickets
- RECEPTION: Name 1 _____ Name 2 _____

☐ **BREAKFAST @ \$1,750 [No Golf Included]**

- Signage Recognition • Tee or Green Sign • Listing on Sponsor Sign at Entrance to Grand Reception
- One (1) Additional GRAND RECEPTION Ticket: Name _____

☐ **HOLE @ \$600 [No Golf Included]**

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Register Online: www.njturfgrass.org • DEADLINE to Register - April 15, 2024

RUTGERS Golf Classic Registration Form - April 15th Deadline

Fax: (973) 812.6529 to NJTF Office. Online: www.njturfgrass.org • Ph: (973) 812.6467

COMPANY _____

CONTACT _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

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E-MAIL for Confirmation: _____

Select Sponsorship, Golfers Only, or Reception Below:

- ☐ **PREMIER @ \$7,500*** ☐ **EAGLE @ \$5,000*** ☐ **BIRDIE @ \$3,500***
- ☐ **PAR @ \$2,250*** ☐ **Lunch @ \$2,750** ☐ **Breakfast @ \$1,750** ☐ **Hole @ \$600**
- ☐ **Golf Course Research @ \$325** ☐ **Reception Only (after Golf) @ \$145 pp**
- ☐ **GOLFERS ONLY:** *Includes Green Fees & Golf Cart • Breakfast
• Lunch on Course • Grand Reception • Silent Auction
- ☐ **1 @ \$395*** ☐ **2 @ \$790*** ☐ **3 @ \$1185*** ☐ **4 @ \$1580***

Print GOLFER FOURSOME Names Below. SEND NAMES OF ADDITIONAL GOLFERS.
Need ALL GOLFER Names by April 15, 2024. No Handicaps Needed.

Golfer 1. _____ [No Hdcp Needed]

Golfer 2. _____ [No Hdcp Needed]

Golfer 3. _____ [No Hdcp Needed]

Golfer 4. _____ [No Hdcp Needed]

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Service to the Turfgrass Industry is a Family Business - Ken and Keith Kubik

"Turfgrass owes me nothing. Turfgrass has put food on my family's table."

With these opening words, Keith Kubik delivered an emotional acceptance speech in front of friends, colleagues, fellow NJTA members, and most importantly his family, as he was presented with the 2023 NJTA Hall of Fame Award at the New Jersey Turfgrass Green Expo. Keith's acceptance speech (included in this issue), recounts how turfgrass has shaped his relationship with his friends, family, Rutgers University, and especially his father, Ken Kubik. His qualifications as outlined by Past President and Expo Chairman Chris Carson are:

"He rapidly proved to be a loyal son to his alma mater and a dedicated supporter of NJTA's mission to support our profession through our support of the Center for Turfgrass Science at Rutgers. His involvement continued even after completing his service on our Board and then as Foundation President; he works now as co-chairman of Expo, on the NJ Turf Foundation (including an unprecedented second term as president), and as a vital member of the steering committee that is two-thirds of the way toward raising a \$1.5 million endowed graduate fellowship honoring the legacy of Bruce Clarke. For these reasons, and many more, NJTA presented Keith with our Hall of Fame Award in December, and I was given the honor of making that presentation on behalf of all NJTA members."

This award marked another milestone of recognition for a family rooted deep in the support of turfgrass in New Jersey and at Rutgers University. A family name that is synonymous with the link of New Jersey Turfgrass Association, the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation, and Rutgers University. A family whose company again and again steps forward to provide funding for events, support for research, and devotes time in service of its industry. Carson sums this service up in a single sentence, "The Kubiks are much more than smart and successful businessmen - they give back way more than their fair share."

Encompassing over 50 years of service, Ken and Keith Kubik have been a standard of service to the industry through volunteerism, sponsorship, advocacy, and board involvement. In recounting their shared service, Ken Kubik explained their motivation in simple terms, "Having been on the golf course starting as a caddy in 1960, then coming off the golf course and going to the sales side, I wanted to give back. And you find yourself doing things all the time." Described by Dr. Henry Indyk as having a "fertile mind", Ken's involvement began early, joining the New Jersey Turfgrass Association in 1971, a year after its founding. Joining the board of directors in 1974, he served until 1979, including several years on the membership committee. He also served as a board member of the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation from 1998 until 2004. Ken provided and continued to provide resources and funding to assist turfgrass managers in New Jersey, from funding agronomy volunteer comforts at professional golf tournaments, hosting the annual Grass Roots Mix & Mingle at the NJTA Green Expo, and providing top level sponsorship dollars to the Rutgers Classic and NJ Turfgrass Green Expo. Ken was honored with NJTA's Hall of Fame Award in 2005 in addition to also receiving the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey's Distinguished Service Award in 1993 and Member of the Year in 2005.



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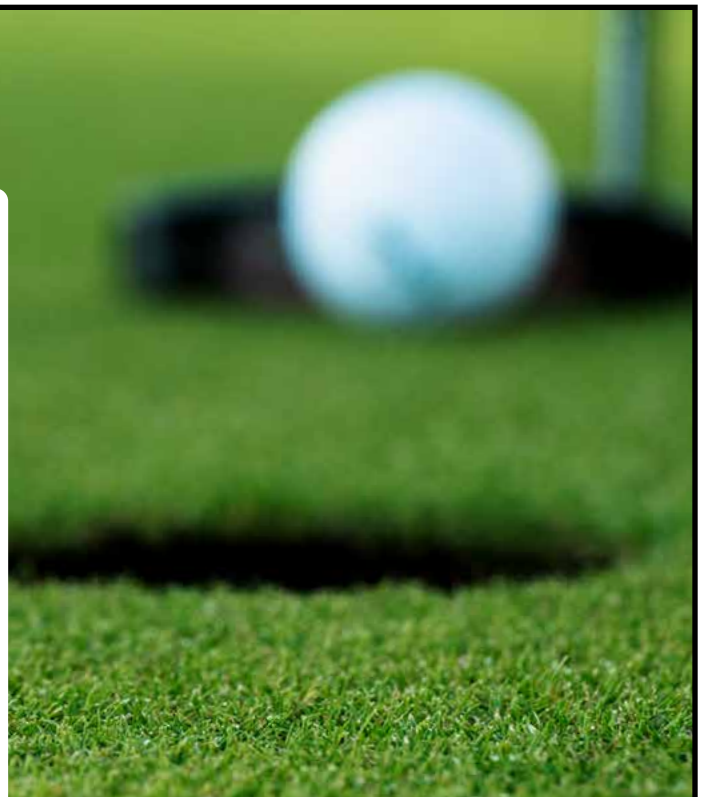


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Service to the Turfgrass Industry is a Family Business - Ken and Keith Kubik

Beyond donations and board service, the relationships between the Kubik Family and Rutgers Turfgrass connect at a deeper level. Dr. James Murphy, director of the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Research, recounted his close relationship with the Kubiks, starting with Ken: "I will always remember and appreciate the gracious and warm welcome I received from Ken Kubik when I joined the faculty at Rutgers in 1991. Moving from the Midwest, Ken's graciousness helped the transition to New Jersey becoming my home all the easier."

Soon after meeting Ken Kubik, Dr. Murphy began teaching Keith while he attended Rutgers, "I had the pleasure of teaching Keith Kubik at Rutgers. It was clear then that Keith had a strong focus, drive, and commitment to developing his career." From early in their working relationship, Dr. Murphy recognized how those characteristics served the industry, "Keith applies those qualities to everything he does, including giving back to the industry. His leadership in serving the profession is an integral part of the fabric that makes the turfgrass industry of New Jersey so rewarding and enjoyable to be a part of."

Keith's entry into the turfgrass industry in 1990's was also supported by another close relationship with a Rutgers Turfgrass leader, Dr. Bruce Clarke. "Dr. Clarke had a relationship with my dad before I ever knew he existed," Keith recounted, "He sat down and talked me into coming to Rutgers University." While a student at Rutgers, Dr. Clarke helped direct Keith through his course selections to establish his core competencies in turfgrass science, "Basically from second semester freshman year on he was my de facto advisor. I would basically sit down and he'd go through all the classes with me. We figured out what I needed to say. I'd go to my official advisor, basically turn the paper over him. [. . .] and that was signed off on it, that was long and short of it." At Rutgers he would meet his wife, Chrissy, at a Cook College dorm, marrying her after graduation. Today, his wife is a lab technician for Dr. Stacy Bonos in the Turfgrass Breeding Program, whom they both met and studied with at Rutgers. Keith would complete his education at Rutgers, graduating with Honors in 1996.

Following his education at Rutgers, Keith began a career working at Grass Roots, while continuing to be actively involved in the New Jersey Turfgrass Association.

He served on the NJTA Board from 2005 until 2016, serving as president from 2009 until 2011. During his tenure on the board and beyond, he has served as a member of the Expo Education Committee, helping plan the yearly NJ Turfgrass Green Expo hosted in Atlantic City.

The legacy of service that Ken and Keith share also extends to and from the staff who work for Grass Roots through a culture of service, with staff members directly involved in multiple associations allied with the NJTA in New Jersey as well as its bordering states. Steve Chirip, who has been with Grass Roots for 22 years, also has a long established service history to the NJTA, including serving as President from 2000 to 2002. Chirip also worked as Field Days Chairman and as Co-chairman of the Rutgers Golf Classic. In addition to serving on the NJTA Board, Chirip has been recognized with both the NJTA Member of the Year Award (2005) as well as the Hall of Fame Award (2010). In celebration of Chirip's Hall of Fame Award, Chris Carson wrote in the 2010 Clippings that, "His quiet leadership as president, and his tireless work in the many committees and events he was involved in, are sterling examples of an individual who gave back much more than his share to the turfgrass profession." Chirip was awarded the inaugural Member of the Year award in 2005, the same year that Ken Kubik was inducted into the NJTA Hall of Fame.

Keith Bennett, the 2021 Environmental Stewardship Award winner, came to Grass Roots with a history of volunteering his time and efforts to turfgrass as well as legislative support through the New Jersey Green Industry Council. Keith Kubik recounted that when Bennett came to Grass Roots and they discussed the time he spent volunteering, "When he came aboard, that was a conversation, 'Do you need me to dial back from any of these things?' And it was quite the opposite, [we embraced] it and I think that that type of attitude becomes a bit infectious." When asked, Keith Kubik recounted that the company seeks candidates and employs staff who are supportive of the associations, "You surround yourself with people that you think like and think like that (serving the industry). They already had that drive and they just fit [like a] round peg in a round hole."

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Service to the Turfgrass Industry is a Family Business - Ken and Keith Kubik

For Keith Kubik, passing the torch to the next generation is also a valuable trait that fits his principles of volunteerism. After serving on the NJTA Board from 2005 until 2016, Keith stepped away from the board to allow for new members to join, "We've reached our natural end here on the board and it's time to get some new folks in." The author of this was invited to join the NJTA Board of Directors after Keith volunteered to create a vacancy on the board. Even off of the NJTA Board, Keith remains active as a co-chairman of the Expo committee and recently served as president of New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation. Looking back, Keith recalled, "[Knowing] the corpus that the foundation has been able to build and you realize how many people were involved to get it there and what a small piece of it you were."

Even though this journey is far from over for the Kubiks, their living legacy starting with Ken and following through Keith continues to define the future of turfgrass research, especially at Rutgers University. To honor Dr. Bruce Clarke and his contributions at his retirement in 2021, Keith has been a part of the committee for the Dr. Bruce B. Clarke Endowed Graduate Fellowship Steering Committee. To date, this fellowship grant has amassed over \$1.5 Million dollars, further funding the work started by Dr. Clarke.

With the schedule demands of the turfgrass industry, what quick lessons could the Kubiks share that could inspire the next generation? "If you're going to volunteer in this organization, you need to pick something that you think you could get behind. I saw how active Bruce Clarke was in the Golf Classic, so for me that was a natural fit," Keith recounted on his introduction. Ken shared a lesson that he learned from a past superintendent at Somerset Hills, Bob McGuire, "[McGuire] said if you want something done then give it to a busy person." The motivation and drive comes from being a part of something bigger as Keith recalled, "Whether you're supporting or serving on an Expo planning committee and you help to put together a three day event, where you know you see people that you don't even know, having conversations that you'll know nothing about, but both of those lives were now better for the time they spent together at an event that you helped facilitate. Hundreds of people get together and look forward to it on their calendar every year, and enjoy it, because you helped this out a little bit."

Where does the motivation and efforts come from with the Kubiks? It is ingrained in their family values, whether it is through turfgrass associations or any cause that they felt they wanted to dedicate their efforts to. "I grew up in a house where volunteerism was all part of what you did. So whether it was helping out at the church, my dad was very active in Kiwanis, or helping out for youth organizations." In reflecting the inspiration from his father, Keith said, "He's had that spirit for as long as I've known him, which has been exciting. My dad taught me to say 'yes.'"

The relationship between the Kubiks and the turfgrass industry runs deep and as the world benefits from the research, knowledge, and plants that originate from Rutgers University, it is impossible to overlook the contribution of these two men and what they have done for that program through their service and philanthropy. Zooming in on their efforts, you see a father and a son, linked by their love of turfgrass. In his closing remarks at his award acceptance, Keith shared, "I'd like to thank all of the past Hall of Fame Winners who have served as an inspiration to me in my career. I'm fortunate to have known many of them personally. I consider several of the past winners to be friends. There are a few that I hold up as mentors. And one that I can call 'Dad'.





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Hall of Fame Award Acceptance Speech

NJ Green Expo. December 6, 2023

Keith Kubik

- Turfgrass owes me nothing.
- Turfgrass has put food on my family's table.
- Turfgrass has allowed me to work with my Mom, my Dad and my sister, Karen. An opportunity I cherish.
- Turfgrass has given me the chance to work with the greatest Team in the Industry at Grass Roots. I'm honored to have several of my teammates here today.
- Turfgrass has provided me with a connection to the University that I love for the 27 years since my graduation from Rutgers.
- Turfgrass has given me memories I will hold onto forever like when my oldest son Tim took his first steps on the turf plots at Hort Farm 2 at the 2003 Rutgers Field Day.
- Turfgrass has let me feel like a little kid while touring Yankee Stadium (New and Old), and walking the grounds of Augusta National with my Dad.
- Turfgrass has provided me the opportunity to play some really bad golf at some really good golf courses.
- Turfgrass has led to some very strange dinner conversations with my wife.

Some of you know that my wife, Chrissy, is a Lab Technician for Dr. Stacy Bonos in the Turfgrass Breeding Program at Rutgers. I'm not sure how many people can say they have discussed endophytes in fine fescues at the kitchen table over a plate of homemade spaghetti and meatballs.

- Turfgrass has helped me form friendships across the country. Some of my best friends are here today and for that I am grateful.
- Turfgrass has given me the opportunity to be behind the scenes of countless golf tournaments including US Open's, PGA Championships and the FedEx Cup Playoffs.
- Turfgrass has allowed me to see this great country and beyond...from Hawaii to Key West, Park City Utah to Boulder Colorado, Wrigley Field to Fenway Park, Gettysburg to Little Bighorn, and from Toronto to the Bahamas.
- Turfgrass owes me nothing. And yet it chose to bless me again.

I want to thank the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association for this honor. I am truly humbled.

I want to thank my Family for putting up with the demands of an industry driven more by weather than by the calendar. My wife, Chrissy, and my sons Tim and Brian have sacrificed a lot as I have been pulled in many directions, but I was always happiest when I got home.

I'd like to thank all of the past Hall of Fame Winners who have served as an inspiration to me in my career. I'm fortunate to have known many of them personally. I consider several of the past winners to be friends. There are a few that I hold up as mentors. And one that I can call "Dad".

Dad, it is fair to say that when you gave your 12 year old son a CIBA-GEIGY "Diseases of Turfgrasses" Book and hung a Rutgers Pennant in my bedroom, my career followed an inevitable path. As our friend, Chris Carson likes to say, "When you plant corn, you get corn!". Thanks for being the biggest inspiration in my life and in my career. I couldn't be happier than to share this honor with you today.

Thank you!



TECH TOOLS OF THE TRADE

The Carta Wheel

By Donovan Maguigan
Springdale Golf Club

With a course restoration starting at Springdale in the fall and the need for accurate course measurements, a tech solution to make the task of measuring the golf course easier was on the forefront of my mind. Previously, I have used the “measure” function on my GPS watch or used traditional measurement techniques, length times width. With 65 bunkers and areas of disturbance that were far from square, I looked to technology to help organize and collate the multiple measurements that I would make.

The Carta Measuring Wheel **(1)** simplifies the measuring process by combining a measuring wheel with your cell phone and bluetooth connection. The wheel connects to the app “Plott” and using the phone’s gyroscope; you can quickly and accurately measure difficult or oddly shaped areas.

The sleek white plastic body and rubber wheel is sturdy but bound to get dirty out in the field. The wheel quickly connects to the app via bluetooth and is powered by AA batteries.

After purchasing the wheel, I made initial measurements at our recently constructed short game practice area to “practice” using the wheel. The wheel has a smart phone mount **(2)** that holds your phone, which will be used to interface with the wheel via the app. The app provides a prompt to name the prescribed area before giving you options for starting the paths, colors, layers, and adjustments to the measurements.

Measuring is completed by initiating a new path on the app and walking the intended border, with the measuring wheel beeping as you return to the starting point. While measuring, it is important to keep your smartphone level as the phone’s gyroscope is used to dictate turns. I still struggle to match the end starting point exactly, but the measurements are largely unaffected.

After completing your measurement, you can access the linear distance and area. In this example, you can see the outline of the bent-grass chipping area at our new practice facility **(3)**. The center number indicates the square footage and the outside border indicates the linear feet of the border. If you plan to measure multiple paths, you can add a path, choose the color, and organize the data.

There are some drawbacks to the app and interface, including organizing multiple paths that you have measured for a project and also applying digital images with your measurements. Using our example of measuring my new practice area, after measuring each area you will end up with a bowl of noodles for your paths. **(4)**

You will have to pinch and zoom while moving the lines to their corresponding locations for the map. Moving and rotating the lines takes getting used to as images rotate on a central rotation point. This issue only applies if you intend to overlay the measurements over an aerial image. **(5)**

Over the Summer of 2023, I have done multiple measurements across the course including irregular shaped sod areas like our steam line zoysia project and preparation for our upcoming restoration. The measurements are accurate and as I hoped, measuring oddly shaped areas is much easier than length times width with averages. **(5)**

1

3

4

5

2



Cultural Choices for School IPM Law: Nurturing Healthy Turf

By Zach Holm

Turf Care Director, Central Park NYC

SFMANJ

Maintaining a safe, playable and aesthetics pleasing athletic field under the NJ School IPM Law isn't just about eliminating pests; it's about fostering a resilient, vibrant turf that naturally repels invaders and stands up to the demands of active play. Achieving this balance involves more than periodic treatments; it's a comprehensive approach rooted in cultural practices. Let's explore these key practices that ensure school grounds and athletic fields meet IPM standards while nurturing robust, thriving turfgrass.

Mowing Matters: Height, Frequency, and Playability

Selecting the ideal mowing height isn't a one-size-fits-all endeavor. It's a balance between field needs, play levels, and inputs to maintain turf quality. While higher cuts generally reduce weed pressure, they might not suit high-intensity sports. However, even a slight increase in mowing frequency can have a meaningful impact. I personally feel mowing frequency is just as important in this conversation. For instance, mowing at three inches might only require weekly mowing for compliance with the 1/3 rule, but bumping it to three times a week could significantly boost turf density and outcompete weeds, supporting a healthier lawn overall.

Fertilization: Balancing Nutrient Needs

Fertility plans can offer numerous pathways to achieve results, but a thoughtful plan is crucial. Budget constraints and application logistics impact this plan. Evaluating its efficacy yearly allows for refinements. Crucially, a well-planned fertility program empowers plants to resist pests and recover swiftly from damage. It's not a case of 'more is better'—over-fertilization can invite pest pressures like brown patch. Soil testing is pivotal here, aiding in customizing programs. My personal ethos leans towards nurturing healthy soil; a strong foundation fosters resilient plants, especially in scenarios with reduced pesticide use.



Species and Cultivar Selection: Tailoring for Success

The right grass species is pivotal for play surfaces. Once selected (e.g., Kentucky Bluegrass or Tall Fescue), leveraging NTEP data for robust cultivars is key. This tool offers insights into turfgrass quality, reduced inputs, and pest resistance. In New Jersey, we're fortunate to have Rutgers University's localized data through NTEP, providing clarity on how these species and cultivars thrive in our unique climate.

Cultivation: Aeration for Plant and Soil Health

Cultivation or aeration plays a vital role in nurturing a healthy turf ecosystem. Compaction can disadvantage turf while favoring certain weed species. Aeration can help mitigate this, promoting a more competitive turf environment, reducing weed pressure.

Moisture Management: Striking the Right Balance

Managing moisture levels is pivotal for turf health. Too much invites one set of problems, while too little leads to thinning and weed intrusion. Emerging moisture management technologies offer insight into soil water content, aiding informed irrigation decisions.

Compliance with the NJ school IPM laws necessitates a holistic approach. It's not just about pest control; it's about creating an environment where healthy turf thrives. By embracing these cultural practices, we cultivate vibrant, resilient turf that not only meet compliance but also provide safe, enjoyable spaces for school activities.





AUTONOMOUS MOWERS

By Donovan Maguigan

As young kids, we were all amazed by the visions of life changing technology in 2015 that were depicted in the film *Back to the Future II*, with auto lacing shoes, flying cars, and shrunken pizza that instantly cooked to full size in seconds. As the calendar approaches ten years past the setting of that film, we see that technology has not quite approached the level of our creative imagination. Short of building your own C3PO or R2-D2, a droid is not going to step on your property and start mowing your greens nor are we close to replacing our staff with a fleet of obedient machines. GPS technology, moisture sensors, drones, and cloud based computing are our current best tech on the market for golf courses and while we may not have flying golf carts on our courses autonomous mowers are starting to emerge as the next best thing to droids and hoverboards.

As labor remains short across the nation, the prospect of robots or automation making our jobs easier feels less like science fiction and more a viable practical solution to a real problem. The addition of a single autonomous or potential fleet of mowers could provide superintendent's with a much needed labor saving force. These machines that are either guided by buried wires or advanced GPS systems can reduce the amount of labor needed to mow a particular area, freeing resources elsewhere. In New Jersey, superintendents are already starting to put these autonomous mowers into action on their properties. While not a complete end to the labor problem, these mowers are already providing solutions.

For Todd Raisch, Director of Grounds at Ridgewood Country Club, the decision to purchase autonomous mowers was initiated by the construction of a new practice facility and the labor associated with it. Raisch recalled that, "Last fall, we began the construction of a 2 acre, 5 green short game practice area. While telling a colleague about the expected challenges and concerns of daily maintenance of the area and having ready by

7:30 am each day, he suggested that autonomous mowers may be a possible solution." The solution was a small fleet of mowers powered by Husqvarna and controlled by Greensight's TurfCloud software. The mowers were ordered and delivered in less than a month with a few more weeks for initial setup due to the current demand as Raisch stated, "Autonomous mowers are growing in popularity very quickly and I believe it is hard for the distributors to keep up with demand." The silver lining to this according to Raisch, "In reality, compared to how long it takes to get traditional equipment, the wait wasn't too bad."

Utilizing cloud software, the mowers are remotely controlled and mapped to guide themselves through the desired mowing areas. For this particular model, the mowers can mow as low as 0.250" with small replaceable razor blade-like decks, which have enough strength to slice through divots. The mowers are calibrated to make slight adjustments to the mowing paths each day and can be adjusted utilizing GPS mapping. Smartphone notifications allow the managers to be alerted of potential issues and to monitor their progress.

"There is a learning curve to these mowers. It took us about three weeks to feel comfortable with them and work out the kinks. They are not 100% autonomous. Someone does need to be around for unexpected issues that will arise. 97% autonomous isn't bad though," Raisch said at a recent demo at Ridgewood this summer. During the demo, the short game area mowing was shown even as players were actively using the facility, with little disruption. In addition to showing their operation, general maintenance and charging stations for the fleet were shown against the backdrop of a new indoor hitting facility.

AUTONOMOUS MOWERS...*Continued from page 23*

Looking back at the first season of operation at Ridgewood, Todd is optimistic and looking towards the future as the technology improves, "What is available now is a nice first start. The quality of the cut is good, but not great. That's why we have focused on the practice facilities and clubhouse lawns initially. The mowers are perfect for these areas. It would be nice to use this same technology for blowing and in the bunkers as well." Beyond the new short game area, the future is bright for autonomous mowers at Ridgewood, "We will be expanding from the practice areas to the clubhouse grounds and eventually onto the golf course itself."



As Ridgewood plans for the future, another New Jersey golf club is also making the decision to begin building an autonomous mowing fleet and staying ahead of the times. Mike Cambell, Golf Course Superintendent at Montclair Golf Club, purchased his fleet of mowers with plans to begin using them in the Fall of 2023. He and the club elected to demo and then purchase a set of mowers for their short game area in an effort to "stay on the front edge of things and ahead of the tech curve".



Campbell hopes to use the initial fleet of mowers to help gain experience with the operation, before moving them to larger portions of the course as he said, "(We're) hoping that as we learn more and use them on our short game area, we will learn and be able to position the club easier in higher productivity and efficiencies across larger acreage areas when the time comes." He stated, "I see this as a stepping stone and, if all goes well, will help us find new ways to reduce our labor footprint on our large acreage areas."

While Husqvarna is gaining momentum and establishing their fleets at several facilities, other companies are entering autonomous mower production. ECHO is currently producing a fleet of autonomous mowers including a model that can collect golf balls from a driving range which a separate unit that can mow without damaging golf balls. For larger units including fairway mowers and triplexes, Toro and John Deere continue to test models and invest in development of these mowers.



New Jersey superintendents are already implementing these machines into their maintenance programs with success and plans to expand their fleets. As the technology continues to improve and develop, many additional courses will surely follow. We may not have flying cars or droids, but science fiction is quickly becoming reality.

RUTGERS ATHLETIC TURF MANAGEMENT

*By: Chris Fox,
Rutgers Athletics*

The Rutgers Athletic Turf Management Program maintains seven natural grass fields and seven synthetic fields used by Rutgers athletic department student athletes. Along with the playing surfaces the program maintains the lawns and landscape around all stadiums and athletic buildings. The department consists of an 8-person crew, one foreperson, and a director.

Busch campus contains the football and soccer stadium, practice facilities for football and soccer, and an indoor synthetic turf field used by various sports throughout the year. Livingston campus contains stadiums for baseball, softball, field hockey, and track and field along with two auxiliary grass fields used for visiting teams and camps.

The football and soccer practice fields along with the soccer stadium are all Kentucky Bluegrass sand-based fields. The two auxiliary fields are native soil. Teams will start using the grass practice fields in March then take a pause over the summer. The teams will start back up between mid-July August. To help with recovery we walk all grass fields daily after practice and fill divots with a divot mix of green sand, soil amendments and grass seed. This helps to prevent weeds from filling in bare spots and maintain grass coverage. We try to aerify and top-dress all fields once a month during the growing season.

We will vary between standard aerification and deep tine aerification depending on what the fields need. We overseed all fields in spring with Kentucky bluegrass using disc seeder. For high wear areas we will seed perennial ryegrass to help maintain grass coverage. The fertilizer program is based off yearly soil tests, we use a combination of both granular and foliar products to help push grass recovery. IPM includes disease scouting and preventative fungicide programs as well as spot spraying for any weeds that may appear.

Our football, softball and baseball stadium are all synthetic turf. We have a standard grooming schedule we use on the fields to help maintain infill levels and keep the infill clean from outside debris. Spring sports start practice in January so having the synthetic fields helps the teams get on the fields to practice at a time when natural grass is dormant.

Our goal is to supply the student athletes with safe playing conditions at all our athletic fields. We continue to update our management practices to meet the requirements of the teams as well as adapting the latest research and technological advancements in turfgrass science to produce high quality athletic fields



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<i>If Applicable:</i> NJ Pesticide License #	_____	Date of Birth (DOB)	_____

Select PARTNER Category that Best Describes Your Business or Profession

<input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS: Manufacturer/Supplier	<input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Cemetery
<input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS: Sod Producer	<input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Parks and Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Golf Course	<input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Lawn Care Applicator
<input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Landscape/Lawn Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Architect
<input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Irrigation Installation	<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT: Enrolled in Turf Related Program
<input type="checkbox"/> TURFGRASS: Schools & Athletic Fields	<input type="checkbox"/> HONORARY: Rutgers Professionals, Award Wnr

Payment Information (Required) •

MAIL OR FAX TO NJTA Office

Type of Credit Card:	SIGNATURE:
Card Number:	Name on Card:
Expiration Date: (MM/YY)	Street Address:
3 Digit Security Code:	City/State/Zip:
Check By Mail: (Payable to NJTA)	PURCHASE ORDER #:
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AMOUNT:	\$
NJ TURFGRASS FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTION (Optional): This portion is tax-deductible. Supports Turfgrass Research & Scholarships	\$ 25.00
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:	\$

*Since 1970, New Jersey Turfgrass Association's (NJTA) Mission is to promote the Turfgrass Industry
and enhance the environment through education, professionalism, leadership,
and our partnership with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.*

Meet the 2024 NJTA Board of Directors



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Serving on the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association is very rewarding. We welcome you to become more involved by joining a committee for one of our events - Golf Classic, Field Days, or Green Expo. If you have interest or questions, reach out to any of our board members or our Executive Director.
execdirector@njturfgrass.org



2024 EVENTS



Monday, May 6, 2024 Rutgers Turfgrass Research GOLF CLASSIC

*Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
Bedminster, NJ*



Tuesday & Wednesday July 30 & 31, 2024 Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days

Tues: Hort Farm II, N. Brunswick, NJ

Weds: Adelphia Farm, Freehold, NJ



Tuesday - Thursday December 10-12, 2024 Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference

Borgata Hotel & Casino, Atlantic City, NJ

Rutgers Extension Offices & Numbers

RCE of Atlantic County	(609) 625-0056
RCE of Bergen County	(201) 336-6780
RCE of Burlington County	(609) 265-5050
RCE of Camden County	(856) 216-7130
RCE of Cape May County	(609) 465-5115
RCE of Cumberland County	(856) 451-2800
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RCE of Passaic County	(973) 305-5740
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RCE of Sussex County	(973) 948-3040
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RCE of Warren County	(908) 475-6505

*Please notify the NJTA office if any of the
above numbers have changed. Thank you.
973-812-6467 • execdirector@njturfgrass.org*



clippings

N T A Board of Directors

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- Ryan Petitti, Secretary
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- Donovan Maguigan, Director
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New Jersey Turfgrass Association

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RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
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Chemical and mechanical analyses of soils:

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- ◆ Farm - fertility, pre-sidedress nitrate, full farm
- ◆ Organic Media - greenhouse, soilless, compost
- ◆ Sports Turf - fertility, sand-based root zone
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- ◆ Individual / Specialized Tests
- ◆ Irrigation Water - pH, salts, nitrate-nitrogen, phosphorous, iron

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