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THE GREENERSIDE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY



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Andrew Hojnowski, Superintendent



Clinton Kent Bradley

The interesting yet controversial history of the "Jersey Genius."



Remembering Garry Crothers, CGCS

One of New Jersey's finest superintendents to ever keep a green.



GCSAA NEWS

Insight from our Field Representative, Kevin Doyle.



The Ask

Find out how your peers got their start.

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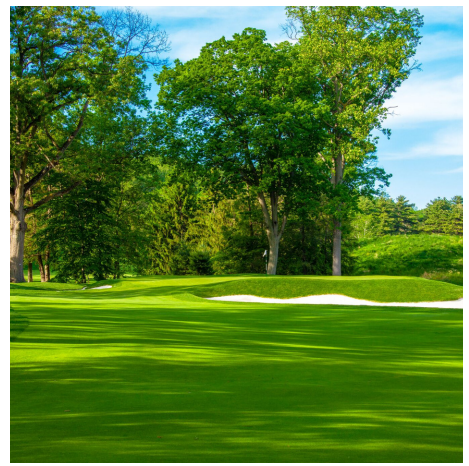
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Russell Harris, Chapter President
Gallop Hill Golf Course*

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CALLING ON OUR LEADERS

I often check Twitter and am in awe of what our members are achieving and influencing on a regional and national level. I can positively say that New Jersey is filled with some of the best superintendents in the country. Our state boasts numerous nationally ranked golf courses, some of the finest private country clubs, and many of the public courses are designed and maintained as if they were private. Our membership includes award winners, noted environmentalists, and recognized industry pioneers.

With achievement comes responsibility, and I implore the leaders among us to join the GCSANJ Board of Directors. We are always looking for superintendents who are passionate about our industry and the game of golf and we need you bring your expertise, energy, and vision on our Board of Directors.

Serving as a board member is not just about planning golf events and monthly meetings. It includes strategic planning, initiating programs like the First Green and Rounds 4 Research, and providing cutting edge education through Green Expo and our Spring Seminar. While serving is incredibly rewarding and frankly a great resume booster, it is also a lot of fun. Over the past ten years, I've formed great friendships and have created a huge network. I can proudly say I have met most of our members and am a better superintendent as a result.

If you're reading this and it speaks to you, please contact me or Maureen for more information. I am proud of our achievements during my time serving the chapter. I am confident there are great things to come, and I believe many of you out there are the ones who can achieve them.

Sincerely,

RUSSELL HARRIS

Chapter President

FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Maureen Sharples

HOST GCSANJ IN 2020

Our Golf Committee is preparing the 2020 and 2021 events calendar and is looking for superintendents throughout the state to host a GCSANJ event.

Each year, we strive to showcase a variety of courses within our four districts. This allows our members to meet and network while playing a new golf course each time. We love to visit all types of courses, public or private. Our events run from April through November, and we defer to your schedule and preferences for dates and times.

It is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your golf course and your team's hard work to your peers in the industry. Our membership is always growing, and hosting an event helps you meet and network with new superintendents in your area and throughout the state. Forming new friendships within the association is one of the greatest benefits of belonging.

Frequently, I am asked by you, our members, how to become more involved with the chapter. Many of you may feel the commitment to serve on our Board of Directors isn't a good fit right now because of the time involved. Hosting an association event is a great way to do your part and give back to your association.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact me.

MAUREEN SHARPLES

Executive Director, GCSANJ



Let's Connect



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JENNIFER TORRES IS ELECTED TO THE GCSANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEMBER NEWS



Jennifer Torres was elected to the GCSANJ Board of Directors. She is fulfilling the open Director-At-Large vacancy left by Mike Tardogno who was recently appointed to Chapter Secretary. Jennifer is the Golf Course Superintendent of Makefield Highlands Golf Course in Yardley, PA.

She is an Army veteran who used her G.I. Bill to enroll in the Rutgers Turf program. As an active member, Jennifer is the Grassroots Ambassador to Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick and a volunteer of National Golf Day in Washington DC.

She resides in Brown Mills, NJ with her husband Ricardo and their three children and granddaughter.

The Board of Directors is excited to welcome Jennifer and are confident she will be a great asset to the chapter.



MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Tyson Karcher has stepped down as the superintendent of Mattawang Golf Club and is relocating to Ohio as the superintendent of Salt Fork State Golf Course.

RJ Blanchard is the new superintendent at Mattawang Golf Club.

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➔ NEW MEMBERS

Josh Conner
Class B, Navesink Country Club

Juan Casiano
Class A, East Orange Golf Course

Patrick Critchley
Class C, Canoe Brook Country Club

Lorne Collins
Class C, Hanover Golf Club

Nick Adams
Class AF, Helena

Drew White
Class B, Riverton Country Club

Steve Gauli
Class C, Arcola Country Club

Matthew Carmichael
Class C, Arcola Country Club

Kathy Conard
Class AF, Turf Trade

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➔ **MONMOUTH COUNTY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INTRODUCES TURF MANAGEMENT APPRENTICESHIP**

The Monmouth County Vocational School District announced a U.S. Department of Labor approved greenskeeper and turf management apprenticeship program.

The program is for students in the Landscaping and Turf Management program at the Monmouth Career Center in Freehold, NJ. It will provide paid, on the job training at the Monmouth County golf courses. While working, the students will earn an apprenticeship certification to help further their careers in turf management and turf related fields.

A recognition ceremony was held in June at the Career Center, home of a par three golf hole which is an outdoor lab for students. GCSANJ member Dave Mishkin was recognized by program instructor, John Neyhart for his support in creating the curriculum and his continued support of the FFA program.



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ROUNDS 4 RESEARCH RESULTS

Thank you to all our members who donated rounds and helped promote Rounds 4 Research this year. We surpassed our goals thanks to your support.

New Jersey's auction sold all 47 rounds collected, raising \$19,800, a 40% increase from last year. The top bid in New Jersey was \$4,030 for a round of golf for four donated by Somerset Hills Country Club, making it the second highest bid in the nation.

The 2019 Rounds 4 Research fundraising program to support turfgrass research sold 1,465 rounds of golf and raising nearly \$364,000 in its May online auction — an increase of \$51,000 over 2018 — making it the most successful in the program's history.

We look forward to growing the auction next year. Please contact the office if you would like to donate a round.



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THE IKE MGA STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

Canoe Brook Country Club hosted The Ike MGA Stroke Play Championship on June 25th-26th. Congratulations to winner, Dawson Jones.

Pictured is Rob Schipper, Assistant Director of Grounds and Jamie Devers, Director of Grounds.



118TH NJSGA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Neshanic Valley Golf Course hosted the 118th NJSGA Amateur Championship on July 9th-11th. Congratulation to winner, Dawson Jones.

Pictured is Andrew Hojnowski, Golf Course Superintendent and Darrell Marcinek, Director of Golf Maintenance and their team.



99TH NJSGA OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Trump National Golf Club Bedminster hosted the 99th NJSGA Open Championship on July 22nd-July 24th. Congratulations to winner, Chris Gotterup.

Pictured is Alex DeHaven, Golf Course Superintendent of The New Course, Rob Wagner, Director of Grounds, and their team.



SAVE THE DATE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR UPCOMING 2019 EVENTS!



DISTRICT 4 GOLF MEETING

August 20th
Seaview Hotel & Golf Club
Host: Mike Bair



MET TEAM QUALIFIER

September 9th
Mendham Golf & Tennis Club
Host: Chris Boyle, CGCS



BATTLE OF THE BRIDGES CLASS C CHAMPIONSHIP

October 28th
Arcola Country Club
Host: Paul Dotti



CHAPTER CHAMPIONSHIP

October 21st
The Ridge at Back Brook
Host: Alan Bean

NAVESINK COUNTRY CLUB HOSTS 2019 GCSANJ FOUNDATION SHOOTOUT

By Shaun Barry

As everyone knows, Tony Hooks is President of our Foundation. His partner in the Leslie Cup tournament has been Brett Scales who until recently was the superintendent at Navesink CC. With that background information it is easy to see why Brett was asked to host the Shootout.

Brett and Navesink CC accepted and we were very lucky that they did. Brett was deeply involved in making this happen and is one of the reasons the club was so generous and accommodating. It is another example of how important it is to get the superintendent involved during the planning stage. I would suggest getting Mr. Hooks involved also. He seems to have a magical touch.

As the date for the Shootout approached Brett was given an opportunity that he couldn't pass up. He is now the superintendent at Hudson National GC. That meant Navesink CC needed a new superintendent. They were blessed that Pat Husby was the assistant, so the club was in great hands while they conducted a search.



Josh Conner was chosen, and he started about a month after Brett left. He found the course in excellent shape and I know he and Pat will continue to maintain and improve. The course was primed and was ready for our event.

We had 96 players pass through registration and that went smoothly with Maureen Sharples helping our trustees greet everyone. Most people were shocked to receive a pro shop gift certificate in the amount of \$75. We have done this before because it makes everyone a winner no matter what they do on the course.

Lunch was sponsored by Nufarm. It had everything that you wanted for a BBQ and was delicious. Tony Hooks welcomed everyone, and he singled out DryJect NJ and Helena who were our two Title Sponsors. Both companies continued their amazing support for this event and by extension the GCSANJ Foundation. People had time to hit balls and practice their putting but the greens once again baffled most people. The Caddy Master chuckled as he said that most people rename the course to be "No-Sink."



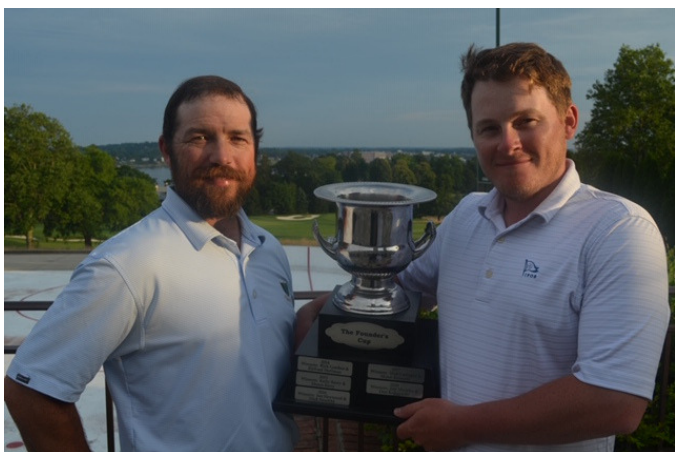
Before everyone started out to play, GCSANJ President Russ Harris surprised Bill Murray with a plaque honoring him for his many years of service representing GCSANJ at the National level as our Chapter Delegate. Bill's smile showed how much he appreciated the acknowledgment.

As people moved through their rounds, they were pleased to enjoy the beverages and snacks sponsored by BASF and LaBar Golf Renovations. They also had 2 CPs and 2 LDs contests sponsored by Coombs Sod Farms, Growth Products, NJ Soils and Pocono Turf Supply Co.

Tony and Tyler covered announcements and thanks to everyone in attendance and to all of our sponsors. They did not forget to mention Aquatrols, Bayer, Black Lagoon, Brandt, Corteva, Double D, Ocean Organics, PBI Gordon, SePRO and Collins, Vella & Casello L.L.C who are our attorneys. To most golfers they are just names on hole signs, but to the Foundation they represent about 25% of our bottom line from this fundraiser.

The day ended with Tyler announcing the names of the winners of skins from both flights. Tyler suggested having a Skins Game and he ran it. We had six different winners and it turned out to be a great ending to a beautiful day and a successfully tournament.

I know I speak for the Foundation, the Association and everyone in attendance when I say thanks to Josh, Pat and every Navesink staff member for their efforts to make our day memorable. They succeeded.



**Low Net
Pine Valley
Mike Elliott & Kyle Cwynar - 62**

**2nd Low Net
Due Process/Winged Foot
Tony Hooks and Steve Rabideau-63**

**Low Gross
(Rumson)
Jarred Richardson/Sean Konsavich - 71**

**Closest to the Pin
#3- Ken Indyk- 8ft
#17 - Bill Malek - 21 inches**

**Long Drive
LD #1 - Grant Plantz
LD #15 - Chris Kallicky**



**For more information contact:
Tim Gerzabek (609) 221-9240**

NAVESINK COUNTRY CLUB FOUNDATION SHOOTOUT



**Chris Carson, Donovan Maguigan,
Joe Kinlin, Jason Osterhoudt**



Pat Husby & Dennis Granahan



**Todd Raisch, Nick Roberto, Ben Stover,
Dennis DeSanctis Jr.**



Mike Brunelle, Dave Walsh, Brian Gjelsvik, Mike Linkewich



Keith Bennett, Dave Mishkin, Scott McBane, Mike Molchan



Lance Rogers, Jim Cadott, Jen Schneider, Tyler Otero



Frank Tichenor & Pat Quinlan



**Nate Spence, Anthony Neumann,
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Tim Gerzabek & Brett Scales



Tony Hooks, Steve Rabideau, Bob Lippman, Brett Scales

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TALENT AND TROUBLE

A Look at the Career of Clinton Bradley

BY DOUG VOGEL

Golfdom Magazine called him the Jersey Genius. The Passaic County Park Commissioners called him the answer to their problems. His friends and colleagues called him Kent. In later years, some colleagues didn't call him at all. Clinton "Kent" Bradley, expert greenkeeper of the Passaic County Golf Course, was all of the above and much, much more. Inventor, innovator, educator, writer, organizer, entrepreneur, trailblazer, as well as opportunist and opinionated curmudgeon. His fifty-plus years in the golf course maintenance industry impacted everyone who came to know him -whether they liked it or not.

Clinton Bradley was a native of New England and one of the early wave of greenkeepers that were American-born and college educated. He was a student of Professor Lawrence Dickinson and a graduate of the Winter School for Greenkeepers at the Massachusetts Agricultural College in the early 1930s. Established in 1927, Dickinson's turf management program was the first of its kind in the United States. Along with the pioneering work of Dr. Charles V. Piper and Dr. Russell A. Oakley of the United States Department of Agriculture, golf course managers were now able to apply science to the art of greenkeeping and Bradley was all in. He would become the first in a long line of distinguished greenkeepers/superintendents to navigate the Massachusetts to New Jersey greenkeeper pipeline.

Bradley got his first break into the greenkeeping business when the newly opened Passaic County Golf Course in Wayne, New Jersey fired their greenkeeper John Cerretto. The club manager and Cerretto were often at odds with each other during the course's inaugural season because the greenkeeper was "playing too much golf."



After surveillance by the park police verified the accusations, the park commissioners terminated Cerretto for negligence of duties in January of 1934. A search committee was formed and a job notice was sent out to the local greenkeeping associations. Some very respected greenkeepers of the era, including John Elliffe of the Winged Foot Golf Club and John Anderson of the Crestmont Country Club were interviewed. Both candidates withdrew their applications due to a low starting salary. Bradley, who was working as a salesman for Woodworth Bradley; a golf course, estate and park supply company in Newburgh, New York, was next in line and received the job offer. He was appointed head greenkeeper by the Passaic County Park Commission on February 1, 1934. His starting salary of \$125 a month came with housing and the stipulation that he had to supply his own heat.

The young greenkeeper would work tirelessly his first season; making improvement after improvement to the maturing course and was rewarded with a new contract that included the addition of a coal-fired furnace for his house. With the county paying for his coal, Bradley's wood splitting days were over. It was noted in the 1934 Park Commission minutes that the difference of Cerretto's salary of \$150 a month and

Bradley's \$125 would save the county \$300 a year and would help cover the stipend for the coal.

Bradley served as Passaic County's greenkeeper for ten years. During his tenure he developed many innovative turf management techniques and personnel management practices. He was a prolific writer and shared everything he learned about maintaining a golf course in professional trade journals such as *Golfdom* and *The Greenkeeper Reporter*. By today's standards the articles seem mundane, almost absurd, but for Bradley's contemporaries they were eye-opening knowledge. He was famous for his "how-to" articles in *Golfdom*. "How to Take Notes at Trade Conferences," "How to Choose Mowing Equipment," "How to Purchase Golf Course Supplies" were a few of his popular lessons in writing. His "X" Marks the Spot column in *The Greenkeeper Reporter* offered similar simple but helpful turf-related offerings. Those who read them became better greenkeepers.

"Talk-O-Vision" was Kent's most interesting article. Bradley enlightened his readers with his revolutionary method of communicating between crew members on the golf course. In 1938, two-way radios were not yet an option for greenkeepers so Bradley developed an intricate method that was based on pantomime so the crew could communicate or "talk" through "vision" across long distances on the golf course. Think of it as semaphore with flailing arms and legs. His gesturing-based language never caught on but the article is so historically interesting that it has been republished twice in *Golf Course Management* in the last twenty years. Another article- "An Index to What a Greenkeeper Should Know," with a co-writing credit with fellow greenkeeper Mel Lucas, Sr. was comprehensive and informative, but it was entirely written by Lucas. Bradley wasn't above taking credit where it wasn't due. Bradley also wrote editorials, reported on trade shows/conferences and unsuccessfully tried his hand with humor with his "Kibitzing with Kent" column.

A tireless promoter of the greenkeeping profession, Bradley started the Greenkeeper Alumni Association of the Massachusetts State College in 1934 with the idea that graduates could raise money together to help fund Professor Dickinson's research and supply much needed equipment to the classrooms.

Networking was another of his goals for the association and may have been a factor in many graduates/alumni making their way to employment in New Jersey. Clint was also the chairman of the New Jersey committee that lobbied for the change of the job title Greenkeeper to Superintendent. He had already had his own title changed at Passaic County the previous year and carried his passion to the national level with fellow New Jersey superintendents. When support for change nationally was won, Bradley helped design the Greenkeeping Superintendents Association logo.

No article about Clinton Bradley could be written without an acknowledgement of his mentorship of Sherwood Moore, CGCS. Moore is considered one of the greatest superintendents to ever keep a green and he learned many of his skills while under the watchful eye of Bradley. Well-known as an exploiter of young assistants, Bradley hired Moore right out of the Stockbridge School (UMASS) in 1936 and put Sherwood to the test leaving clerical work for the eager assistant to deal with. The young pupil excelled and absorbed all the turfgrass management innovations being tested at Passaic County. Many of Bradley's techniques and ideas can be seen throughout Sherwood Moore's distinguished career.

World War II presented new opportunities for Bradley. He left Passaic County in 1943 to enter private industry engaged in war work. He supplemented his income by selling used parts which were hard to find due to scrap drives to support the war. His niche market grew exponentially. He started C K Bradley Enterprises and became a very successful golf course supply entrepreneur. He invented mow over tee markers and successfully sold storage shed kits. He marketed Best Tee tee towels with "improved" brass grommets and manufactured aftermarket bed knives, nuts, bolts and other repair parts. His proprietary Beau-Tee-Ball markers were made of maple and resin and coated with his own Kentelite plastic finish. He improved flag sticks, designed signage and imported bamboo poles. He bought up inventory of obsolete repair parts for pennies on the dollar and sold them to his large client base at a fair profit.

In retirement, Bradley kept his eye on the pulse of the industry. His close relationship with Col. John Morley during the early years of the GCSAA enabled him to be privy to the inner workings of how the association ran. As the association and industry matured, Bradley's views were stalled in a 1930-1940's mentality. He became a serial letter writer and harassed GCSAA Presidents Charles Baskin, CGCS and Ted Woehrle with his "ideas" during the 1970s.

Lucas, Jr. revealed that Bradley had hoarded NAGA/GCSAA materials/ephemera. He offered them to the association for their archives but the historical goldmine came with a cost. The GCSAA board politely said no thank you to the retired opportunist.

Golf historians will look back at the Clinton Bradley story and debate the motives of the enigmatic greenkeeper. Genius is often perplexing, and the slightly tarnished end cannot deny that his contributions were significant during the era when greenkeepers were trying to figure it out. The Jersey Genius lives on.

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REMEMBERING GARRY CROTHERS, CGCS 1933-2019

BY DOUG VOGEL

It is with great sadness that The Greenerside has learned of the passing of Garry Crothers, CGCS. Garry served our association honorably as a newsletter editor and board member. His distinguished service to his fellow superintendents culminated in being elected GCSANJ President in 1967.

The Florham Park, New Jersey native earned a B.S. degree in Agronomy from Penn State in 1955 with a farming career in mind. It didn't work out and a chance introduction to Sherwood Moore, CGCS of The Winged Foot Golf Club in 1959 found Garry moving to New York to start a career in turf management. Crothers enrolled in the UMASS winter school to further his education where he became one of Dr. Joseph Troll's first students. Within two years, Garry landed his first superintendent job at the Deal Golf and Country Club back in his home state of New Jersey. He remained at Deal for eight years before moving on to the The Apawamis Club in Rye, New York. Crothers immediately got involved with his new association and followed his New Jersey script being elected to a two year term as METGCSA President.

Garry's career found him moving often and he spent many years tending greens in Vermont, Japan, Indonesia, Micronesia and back to Vermont. At every new post, Crothers got involved with the local superintendent association. If there wasn't a local association, he would help write up a set of by-laws and start one up.



Crothers was well known throughout the golf industry as a leading agronomist. He was a welcome sight at the Golf Industry Show, always wearing a big smile and with his famous satchel hanging from his shoulder full of information to share with his fellow superintendents. At the time of his death, Garry had been certified for 45 years having been one of the first superintendents to enter the program.

Garry Crothers, GCSANJ Past President, will be remembered as one of New Jersey's finest superintendents to ever keep a green.

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14 QUESTIONS WITH DREW WHITE

By Todd Raisch, CGCS

INTERVIEW

Drew White of Riverton Country Club recently sat down with The Greenside to discuss his career, family and Riverton.

1. Tell us a little about where you are from?

I grew up in York County, Pennsylvania and went to Mansfield University in northern PA for a couple of years before transferring to UMass. It was in the summers while I was attending Mansfield that I got introduced to golf course management.

2. How long have you worked at Riverton Country Club?

I have been at Riverton Country Club since February of this year. Previously I worked at Westchester Country Club (Rye, New York), Glen Oak Country Club (Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania), and Fieldstone Golf Club (Wilmington, Delaware).

3. What change would you most like to see to your operation or Riverton CC?

We have implemented several changes to the operation. Most of the changes has been to the logistics for how tasks were assigned and carried out. To name a few, we started utilizing a digital job board, built trailers for walk mowers, and changed the routing the mowers took to be more efficient.

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

Apart from being able to work outside, my favorite aspect of working on a golf course is working within a team dynamic. Each day, everyone on our team has a job to perform that depends on or affects another team member's job. Being able to rely on each other and work towards a common goal is a powerful work environment.

5. What are your interests outside of work?

When I'm not at work, I enjoy spending time with my wife and our two kids. Although, my main hobbies away from golf are hunting and fishing.



6. Tell us about your family.

I have been married to my lovely wife Jenn for the past 6 ½ years. We are blessed with two amazing children. Their names are Chase, who will be 3 years old in August, and Grace, who is 10 months old.

7. Why did you become a superintendent?

I feel that I became a superintendent for the same reason as most of us have, it started with a summer job. I was working on a golf course during the summers while I was playing football at Mansfield University and took an interest to the profession. The superintendent that I was working for at the time gave me a couple of books about turfgrass management and the idea stuck with me.

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

Riverton is a family-oriented club originally founded in 1900. The club expanded to an 18-hole golf course in 1916 which was designed by Donald Ross. One of my favorite stories about Riverton is that when a new club house was built on the other side of the property, they kept the section of the original building that was home to the bowling alley and turned it into the halfway house. The bowling alley is still intact and is utilized by members often.

9. What are your biggest on course challenges at Riverton?

The biggest challenge that I've faced since taking over here is learning the agronomic subtleties of the course. Such as, what area dries out first, where is a hot spot for ABW, etc. The more that I've been on property the more I learn, so I've been walking the course a lot and I'm starting to get a good grasp of the land.

10. What does a typical summer day look like for you as a superintendent?

If there is such a thing, it starts at 5:00 AM for me. I like to get into the shop before the rest of the team to allow myself time to organize, plan and to make sure the irrigation ran as scheduled. From there it depends on the day, some days are filled with meetings and emails where other days I'm able to do some of the physical work on the golf course.



11. The club is working with Ron Prichard to restore your Donald Ross course. What changes are being made?

The restoration project that has been going on at Riverton is amazing. The club is working with both Ron Prichard and Tyler Rea to bring the golf course back as close to the original Ross design as possible. We can be very accurate with this since the club has all of Donald Ross's original drawings. The main area of focus is the bunkering throughout the golf course. However, we are taking this opportunity to rebuild and adjust teeing grounds as well as adding forward tees.

12. Riverton recently installed a new irrigation system. How are you watering differently now?

The new irrigation system is a Toro TDC 2-wire path system with all the bells and whistles. The biggest impact is that we can put water where it is needed without having to over water an adjacent area.





13. You spent time at Westchester Country Club. What did you learn from Dave Dudones?

In short, everything. I spent four years working for Dave. In that time, he not only sharpened my agronomic and management skills but showed me how to best represent myself on a daily basis.

14. List four things we don't know about you?

- 1) I have a seven-year-old black lab named Chloe who thinks she's more human than dog.
- 2) A big pet peeve of mine is when people call an SUV a Truck.
- 3) I HATE snakes.
- 4) I would rather watch a movie at home versus in the theater.

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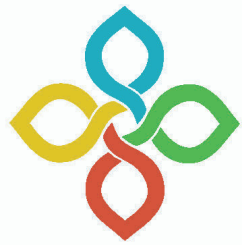
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FACE-TO-FACE INTERACTION IS STILL THE KING OF COMMUNICATIONS

BY KEVIN DOYLE, GCSAA NORTHEAST FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

How do you communicate to your staff or colleagues on a day-to-day basis? My guess is that it is much different now than it was, say, ten years ago. While radios may still be a piece of the on-course puzzle, text messages might be the dominant choice. While you are off property, text messages and email can keep you alerted of goings-on instantly. How long could you operate your facility using only electronic communications without putting your eyes on a fellow worker or even holding a brief conversation? I'm thinking it's not too long, for despite technology, face-to-face interaction is still the king of communications.

While an entire robotic staff might be in our future, we rely on our staff or colleagues to accomplish our goals. First, we need them to be there. Without eyes on that situation, the best laid plans could easily come off the rails. A sense of community or teamwork comes with the ability to interact and socialize, and this sets the foundation. This should allow the team to gain trust, and ultimately develop better working relationships. To operate well as a team, leadership must communicate the duties and expectations and reinforce the culture that has been developed. Verbally and in person should be the top choice to accomplish this goal.

Many important pieces are missing from communications without visual contact. Non-verbal cues are often cited for their importance, so I won't dwell on those. By looking at the staff post-aerification week or after member-member preparation we know the responses communicated back from tired staff will be different than a typical day.

Think about what goes into a written communication. The ability to edit the content stands out. Are the emails and text messages you receive really what the sender intended to say, or was that message tailored to illicit a favorable response? Maybe the message you received wasn't the first thing that came to mind from the sender?

Tone does not come across in writing either. If you instruct a staff member via text message to check moisture and do another lap with a syringe hose at 4 P.M. and get "ok" as a response, what does that mean? Is it "yes sir I'm glad to because it will help the team," or "my buddies are waiting for me to go the beach but I need this job no matter how much I hate it." Same message sent but could easily be a big difference in tone.

Do you ever engage staff or colleagues in brainstorming sessions? Maybe engaging key staff or colleagues with a discussion on a Friday afternoon, rainy day, or in advance of upcoming event on ways to improve or adjust operations. Accomplishing such a beneficial task electronically would be a tedious mess and more likely counterproductive.

Beyond the course related items, the personal side of the personnel tasks superintendents perform require face to face communication and your full attention. Whether it relates to strife within your team, home life, or medical issues creating stress with your team members, avoiding misinterpretations of any kind is a must. While sometimes written documentation may be required as a policy, building trust through personal interactions is key. Communicating understanding and compassion via written word is difficult and may not convey the importance your staff member or colleague believes the situation deserves.

Instead of sending a text or email next time you need to communicate, consider using your phone as it was originally designed for, as a telephone. Maybe instead of texting a job assignment to a staff member, text them to meet you someplace convenient and communicate that next task to them in person. Your time is valuable, and those around you know it. By you taking some of that time to interact with staff and colleagues directly or face to face only communicates the importance of your message and the value you have for them. When clear, concise communications take place, it becomes easier for a team to achieve the desired goals.

Again, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Kevin Doyle
GCSAA Field Staff
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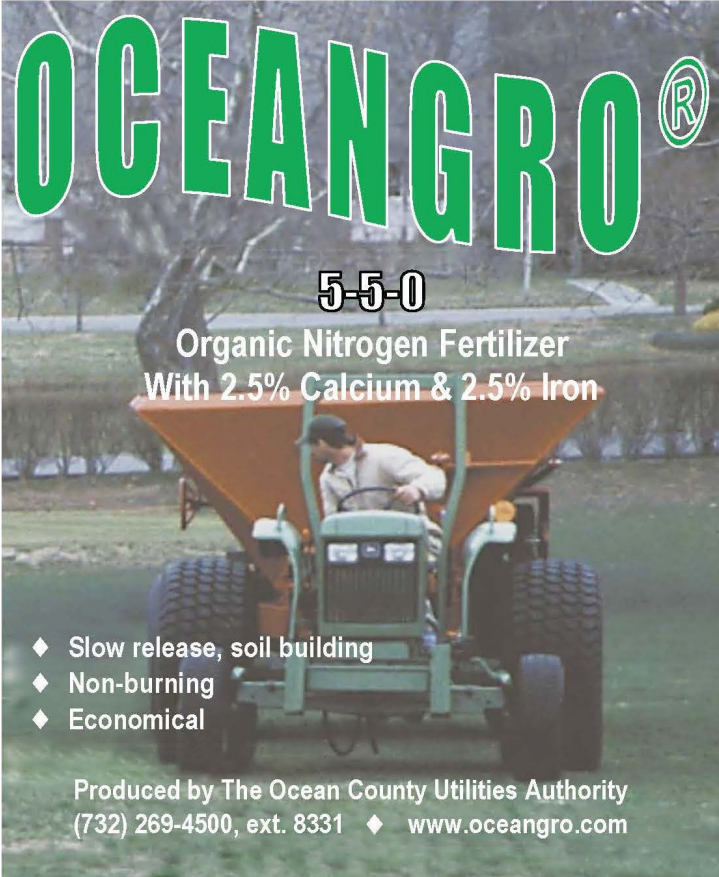
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RESOURCES AND DEADLINES

Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation donates

\$500,000 Endowment to support GCSAA's First Green

The Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation has donated \$500,000 to the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). The endowment will support First Green, which provides hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education at golf courses.

Dog Days of Golf Calendar

Submissions for the 2020 Dog Days of Golf Calendar will be accepted through Aug. 1, 2019. From the submissions, 14 dogs will be selected. Owners of the selected dogs will be notified in September, and the calendar will be distributed with the November issue of GCM magazine. LebanonTurf has been supporting golf course superintendents and their chapters through the Dog Days of Golf Calendar for more than a decade.

Edwin Budding Award

The GCSAA Edwin Budding Award is given annually to an individual in the turf equipment industry whose actions have gone above and beyond the norm to help shape the turf equipment management industry into what it is today. Edwin Budding was one of those individuals who helped define golf, not as a player, but as an engineer. He designed the first reel mower, which has shaped golf as we know it today.

Nominations for the 2019 Edwin Budding Award will be open through Aug. 10, 2019.

Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award

The GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award (DSA) is presented annually to an individual or individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession. The contribution must be significant in both substance and duration, and may be, or have been, regional in nature.

Nominations for the 2020 DSAs are open through Aug. 20, 2019

UPCOMING GCSAA WEBINARS

August 13th @ 10 a.m.

Cultural Best Management
Practices for the Golf Course
-John H. Foy

August 22nd @ 10 a.m.

Topdressing 101: Organic Matter
Management
-Roch Gaussoin, Ph.D.

September 18th @ 10 a.m.

Developing Engaging Presentations
and Enhancing Your Delivery
-Rick Capozzi

October 10th @ 10 a.m.

Redox Potential and the Black Layer
-Lee Berndt, Ph.D.

October 30th @ 10 a.m.

What About Wetting Agents?
-Doug Karcher, Ph.D.

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THE RUTGERS TURFGRASS RESEARCH GOLF CLASSIC REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

By Shaun Barry



The 24th edition of The Rutgers Turfgrass Classic reached a level of success that was a goal that Dr. Bruce Clarke and Dr. Bill Meyer have had for over a decade. That goal was to have over 400 golfers enjoying the three courses at Fiddler's Elbow CC. On May 6, 2019, that goal was achieved.

Last year we had 368 golfers listed, but the final number was 354 players. That was the highest number in the history of the Classic. This year our final pre-event number was 412, which is almost unbelievable. Attendees came from every part of our industry. In addition to players from golf courses (107), affiliates (94), seed companies (47) and university staff (37), arborists, cemeteries, irrigation companies, lawn care companies, and landscape contractors showed their support of the Center for Turfgrass Science by attending.

One class of attendees that stands out is the number of associations in attendance.

We had teams from A-LIST, the GCSANJ/GCSANJ FOUNDATION, the MetGCSAA, NJLCA, NJTA, NJ Turfgrass Foundation, Pocono Turfgrass, Sports Field Managers, Tri-State and the USGA. The team from the USGA shot the lowest score of all of the associations and they also were the low team on the Forest Course with a 57. We only give one team prize so they are listed as low association and Dave Oatis promptly donated their prizes back to the NJT Foundation. Hopefully Dave will return from retirement next year and join the USGA team again.

We watched as the list of teams grew but history told us it couldn't be true because schedules change and people cancel. We knew what to expect but we had to prepare as if it was true. 40 more carts were brought in, 16 more cases of beer were ordered and Chef Michael added additional food for the Grand Reception which was once again sponsored by A-LIST.

Anyone reading this would be justified in asking how this event can be so successful? Most fundraisers start strong and start to fade somewhere around the seven-year mark. Why has this event started strong and has gotten more successful? There are many reasons for that. The main reason is that Dr. Bruce Clarke was involved with the initial planning, and when Dr. Bill Meyer arrived at Rutgers, he immediately joined Bruce. All of the scientists at the Center for Turfgrass Science to make it bigger and better.

Bill and Bruce reached out to their contacts in the industry and received positive responses. Additionally, it is wonderful that Dr. Stacy Bonos and Dr. Matt Elmore have gotten seriously involved in this critical part of the event. The combined efforts of these scientists account for 13 Premier Sponsors, 4 Eagle Sponsors, and 8 Birdie Sponsors. All of the sponsors at these levels will be listed at the end of this article, but it is always important to recognize Syngenta and Storr Tractor/Toro because both have been Premier Sponsors for all 24 years. That is true support for Rutgers and our industry.

It is important to note that even though the Turfgrass Classic Committee is 100% volunteer, they are committed to improving the Classic every year. Steve Chirip was the Chairman for the early years, and his assistant was Shaun Barry. Shaun worked with Steve for over seven years, and he became Chairmen when Steve moved out of state. Shaun is the current Chairman, and his Co-Chair is Dr. Karen Plumley and has been so for four years. She is eminently qualified to take the reins of leadership when needed.

Another important factor is the steady hand of Cece Peabody. Cece is the Executive Director of the NJTA. That position makes her and her staff the central location that all registrations and sponsorships. They have a difficult job, but the paperwork and registration forms are complete, accurate, and ready for registration.

Volunteers start arriving at 7:30 A.M. with most of the 15 people coming from Rutgers. These students start working at 8:00 A.M. with everyone getting time for breakfast sponsored by Turf Merchants, Inc. and Turfgrass Water Conservation Alliance. Karen usually runs registration but this year she coordinated the efforts of our print media and our first effort with using a drone. The final video should be excellent. Look for it at Field Days or Expo. Dave Schell, Keith Bennett and Ron Luepke were the key volunteers selling Mulligans and 50/50 tickets. Jeff Weld, Matt Lindner and Cece ran the Silent Auction. Anywhere you looked you would find NJTA board members helping out.

Just before Dr. Clarke welcomed everyone, Lebanon Turf made a check presentation to GCSANJ President Russ Harris. He was given this check because GCSANJ member Kyle Lenkey's dog Rosie was the winning dog from their annual dog calendar. She was chosen by the attendees at the GCSAA National Conference in San Diego. Kyle is the assistant at the Fiddler's River Course and he and Rosie take good care of the course. The check was in the amount of \$3,000.00 and is given to the local superintendent association if the winner is a member. Lebanon has been doing this for years. Rosie is the second winner from the GCSANJ. Brian Minemier's dog Bandit was our first winner.

Once everyone started playing they were greeted by three golf courses in great shape which was not easy to do after a long period of difficult weather. Matt Willigan, Steve Saxe and their dedicated and talented staff provided excellent playing conditions. Carts were cart path only due the excessive amount of rain the state has received and years ago our event would have been canceled. It shows that all of the work that has been done on the courses has been worth the costs and the efforts.

Usually having such a large number of golfers on the course plus using cart paths only would add about an extra hour to the round but that didn't happen. The pace of play was almost normal. Maybe having Dr. Bruce Clarke, Dr. Bingru Huang and Dr. Albrecht Koppenhofer stationed on each course helped teams lower their score and moved play along.

Once play was ended everyone started enjoying the Grand Reception. People seemed content relaxing while enjoying food, drink and renewing old acquaintances as the sun started to set. It was the perfect way to relax after a fun day of playing golf.

Dr. Brad Hillman spoke briefly thanking everyone for their support of Rutgers and the CTS. He stressed the great relationship between Rutgers and the industry and that it is recognized throughout the different departments in the university. Bruce acknowledged the Premier, Eagle and Birdie Sponsors by name but he never forgets that every sponsor is truly important to the success of the Classic. He however recognizes that many people have time constraints so brevity is important.

Dr. Meyer graciously accepted Bruce's concession of defeat in their annual competition to see who is responsible for bringing in the most revenue. To his credit Bruce is gracious in defeat but he plans on winning in 2020 which will be our 25 Anniversary.

I hope you will make an effort to join us next year on May 4th because we plan on making it the best Classic ever and we need you to make that happen.



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METUCHEN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB



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GCSANJ Putting Contest Participants
The group raised over \$500 for Fran Owsik.



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Joe Kinlin & Rob Arnts



Fran Owsik & Jason Osterhoudt



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Mike Weber, Rob Johnson, Ken Anson, Dave Schell



Lance Rogers & Kevin Doyle



Nick Adams & Tim Gerzabek



Jason Osterhoudt, Brett Scales, Josh Kopera, Cliff Moore

**we asked,
you answered**



"What led you to this business? "

"I was 19 and looking for summer work. My friend Brad Sparta said he was working over at Great Gorge Country Club, and that they were looking for extra guys. After just a few weeks of working on the golf course, I knew that this was the right profession for me. That was 30 years ago this summer!"

-Chris Boyle, CGCS, Mendham Golf & Tennis Club

"It kind of just happened. A summer job back in Ohio turned into a passion. I started off not knowing anything, but they gave me an opportunity to learn. I quickly realized that I loved every part of what it took to make a golf course look amazing. Honestly, I could never sit in an office all day."

-Jennifer Schneider, Harrell's

"I chose this profession because it was one of the few that allowed me to combine my passion for sports and the outdoors. I am challenged with something new and unique almost everyday. I really enjoy helping people and being a problem solver. Overall, I appreciate the hard-work, science and technology behind this business."

-Curt Moore, Finch Services Inc.

"I have loved golf since I was 12 years old. I knew then that I would do something in the golf business (caddy for Seve Ballesteros was my first choice). I liked talking to people, operating a business and managing my own time. Everything came together in 2005 in Las Vegas where I started Soil and Water Consulting."

-Corey Angelo, Soil and Water Consulting

"I grew up around the game since I was 5 years old. My father was a caddy and a low digit handicap. He taught me how to caddy from there my love only grew for the game and by the time I was a graduated high school I was already working on a grounds crew."

-Joe Scioscia, Spring Brook Country Club

"I first became interested while working summer's at MRGC for Pete and then Glenn Miller. At college in Florida, my fraternity was very golf orientated. Between the two, I gave it a shot full time, and thirty years later still love it!"

-Jim Cadott, Pebble Creek Golf Club

"I started working at a golf course in the Poconos during my summer break while attending East Stroudsburg University to obtain my B.S. in Education. I already enjoyed playing golf and quickly fell in love with working outside on the golf course. Fortunately, I worked for a great superintendent, Jeff Lipics who advised me to enroll in Rutgers Turf School if I wanted to make this a career."

-Rob Schipper, Canoe Brook Country Club





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