

ISSUE 3: 2019 / VOLUME 51

THE GREENERSIDE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY





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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Russell Harris, Chapter President
Gallop Hill Golf Course*

.....



THANK YOU

As I sit at my desk sorting out all my EOP purchases, it surprisingly dawned on me that this would be my 12th and final President's message. I can hardly believe how fast the last three years as President of GCSANJ has gone! I am truly humbled and honored to have served this great organization in this capacity.

We as a board, as ever-changing as it was at times, have accomplished a great deal these last three years. Change will always occur, for better or worse, but I believe the ones we have made will prove to be for the better GCSANJ and its future.

I can not begin to properly thank all the people that have helped and guided me through what has been an unbelievable eight years serving on the Board of Directors of GCSANJ. The number of friendships I have made and career mentors I have met makes every minute of it truly worth it. I can only hope that I have made similar impressions on people during my tenure.

As we move forward as an association, I hope our members will embrace whatever new leadership is behind me because with new people comes fresh thoughts and ideas, growth, and an even brighter future for GCSANJ. My three years at the helm is a small blip on the radar of the history of this association. There is a rich history of the past and an even brighter future ahead.

So, for one last time, thank you for allowing me to serve you as President, it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career.

Sincerely,

RUSSELL HARRIS

Chapter President

FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Maureen Sharples

THE LAST 60

Let's take a moment and trackback to January 2019. Many of us made resolutions with hopes and promises of making an impactful change. Maybe you wanted to embrace a new management style, grow your relationship with your members, or dedicate more time to your family. Well, now that we are in the last 60 days of the year and this DECADE, what did you achieve? Did you make progress or reach your personal or professional goal? Can you confidently put your stamp on this year?

We often make promises to ourselves that we don't keep. If you had an employee who rarely completed their daily tasks, would they still have a job? If you had a friend you canceled or never called back, would you keep reaching out to them? We typically don't tolerate that behavior from others, so why is it okay to do it to yourself? It's essential to keep the promises we make to ourselves; it builds self-confidence and trust in our abilities.

It may be discouraging to think about, but in actuality, there is still time! I have listened to quite a few podcasts talking about the importance of finishing strong and transferring your focus on the last few months of the year instead of focusing on the "fresh start" of the new year. The fresh start of the new year makes us believe that we are starting from scratch, which is not the case. Odds are you made progress, but you're just not there yet. The "Last 60" idea is to take these last few weeks to gain more momentum and use November and December to remember your goals. Create a list of actionable yet small steps to get there.

I challenge you all to go back during November and December and finish the "Last 60" strong! You'll be ahead of the game for the new year, and most importantly, you'll have a stronger relationship with yourself!

MAUREEN SHARPLES

Executive Director, GCSANJ



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➔ WOMEN IN GOLF SUMMIT

GCSANJ proudly had five members selected to attend the first ever Women in Golf Summit sponsored by Bayer.

Tammy Stephens, golf course superintendent at Warrenbrook Golf Course (Somerset County Parks), Jill Seymour, golf course superintendent for Monmouth County Parks System, Jennifer Torres, golf course superintendent at West Lake Golf & Country Club, Jennifer Schneider, sales representative for Harrell's, and Elizabeth Holmes, assistant superintendent at Metuchen Golf & Country Club.

The event took place in Cary, North Carolina September 18-20, 2019. They were chosen after submitting a detailed application highlighting their achievements, accolades and work history.

According to Bayer, women in golf course turf management account for a small percentage of the industry, so creating a space and finding time to connect and share experiences is important. With that in mind, the Women in Golf event was created to help foster this community of dedicated, passionate women.

Throughout this 2-day event attendees had the opportunity to take part in networking, round table discussions and presentations on leadership from a variety of diverse leaders. There were also educational workshops that focus on personal and professional development and agronomics.

➔ MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Nick LeViere formerly of Canoe Brook Country Club, has accepted the position of Old Course superintendent at Trump National Bedminster.

Jennifer Torres is the new superintendent at West Lake Golf and Country Club in Jackson, NJ.

Steve Bradley is the Sales Director at Storr Tractor, following Ken Indyk's retirement.



Tammy Stephens, golf course superintendent at Warrenbrook Golf Course (Somerset County Parks)

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➔ GCSANJ VOLUNTEERS AT THE NORTHERN TRUST

August 6th -11th Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City hosted the 2019 Northern Trust. Golf course superintendent Greg James and his team recruited approximately 130 volunteers and interns from all over the world including Switzerland, England and Ireland. Many GCSANJ members volunteered their time for the event as well. Brian Gjelsvik of Noble Turf planned and coordinated all the hospitality and housing for the volunteers. Even though they battled some tough weather at the start, the tournament was a great success. Congratulations to Greg and his team!



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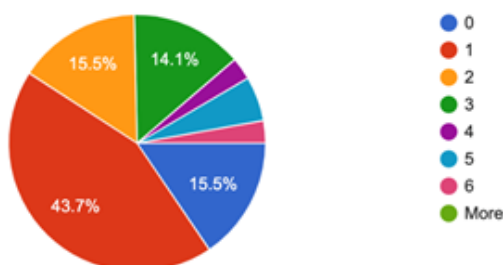
By Todd Raisch, CGCS

GCSANJ recently polled A & B members in an online survey about their staffs and, in particular, their assistant superintendents. We had 71 responses. 59.1% were from private clubs, 31.8% from public courses and 9.1% from semi-private facilities. While the full results have only been distributed to those that participated in the survey, a few of the aggregated results are worth sharing with the entire membership.

The last few years has been a difficult climate for finding qualified assistants. Several courses are down an assistant and 15.5% are completely without one. Competition between courses has been fierce as well with 25.3% having lost at least one assistant to another course for more money.

How many assistants do you have?

71 responses

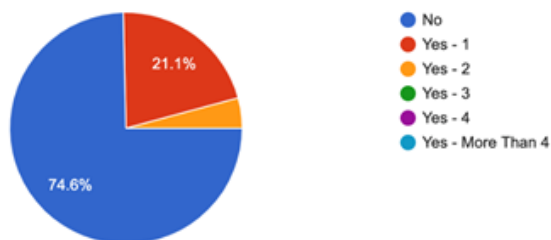


Disillusioned by the frequent hours and difficult lifestyle amongst other reasons, almost a third of the courses surveyed have had an assistant leave the industry in the last two years.

Perhaps the fact that 57.8% of NJ assistants work more than 50 hours per week is a factor.

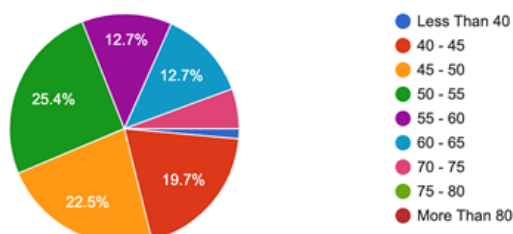
Have you lost an assistant in the last 2 years to another course that paid more?

71 responses

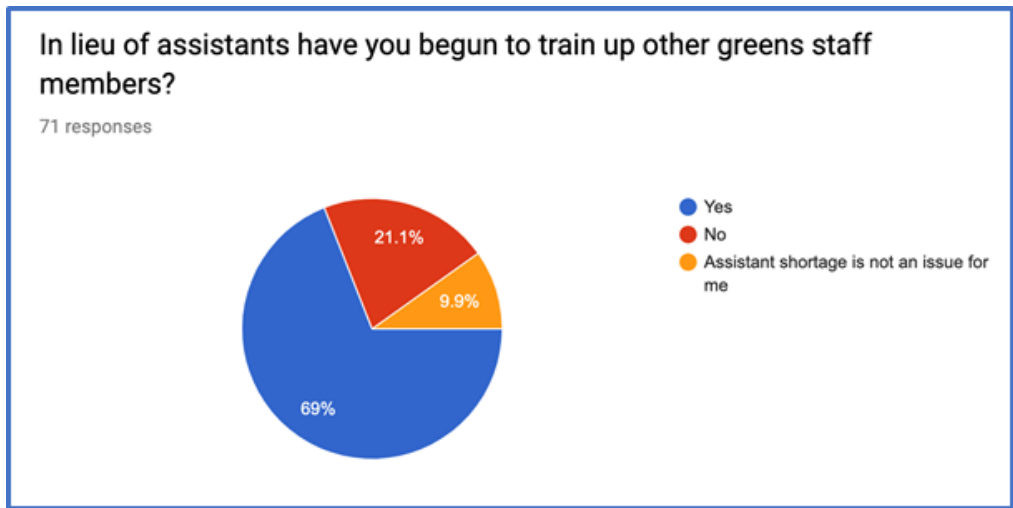


In a typical summer week, how many hours do your assistants work?

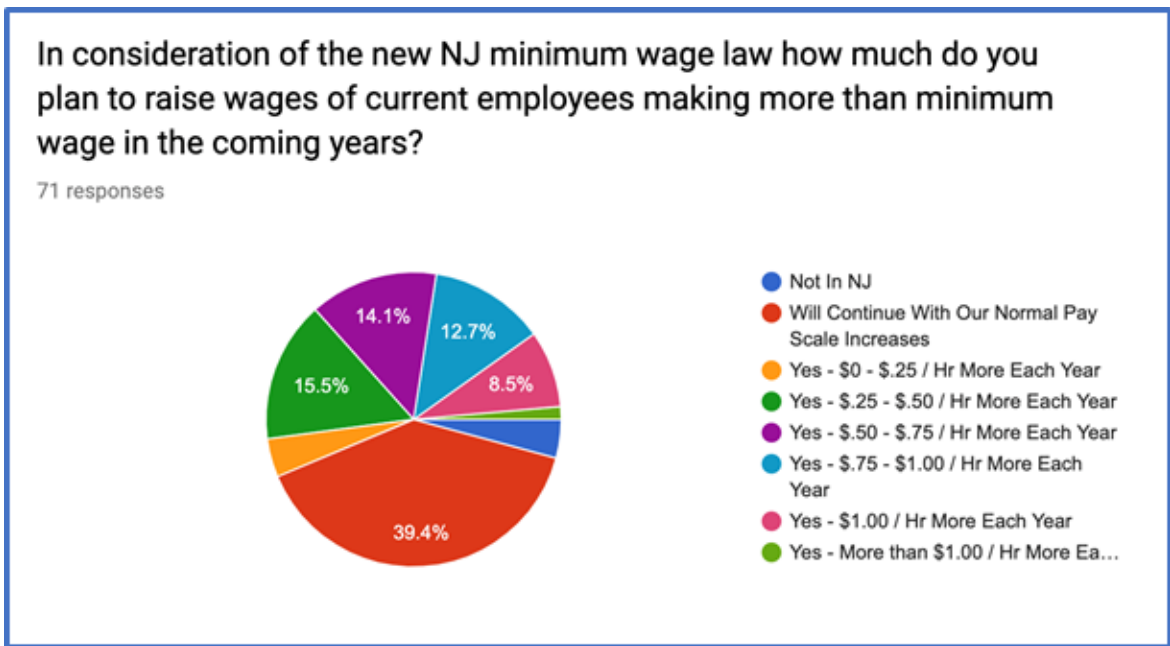
71 responses



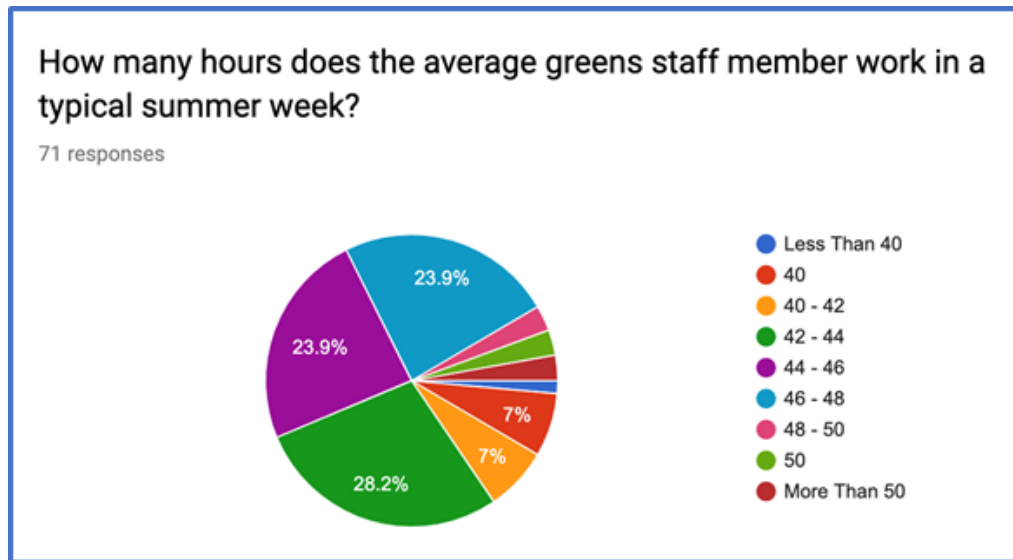
As turf graduates become increasingly rare, affecting the assistant ranks, 69% percent of courses have begun to “train up” regular staff members to do jobs normally associated with assistants.



With the minimum wage set to raise by \$1/hour per year through 2024 (\$11/hr on January 1st), superintendents were asked how they planned to handle existing staff who make more than the current minimum wage. Nearly 40% said they would continue with their normal pay scale while 9.9% indicated they will pay \$1.00 or more per hour going forward in each of the coming years.



Finally, we asked how many hours the average greens staff employee works per week. 76% work between 42 and 48 hours per week.





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As we exit the turf equipment industry, Wilfred MacDonald would like to thank our loyal and dedicated customers for 91 years of patronage. We have been fortunate to be associated with the GCSANJ over the years, and feel blessed to be able to call so many of you friends.

Thank you for an enjoyable ride.

Passaic County Launches Rutgers Cooperative Extension Teaching and High Tunnel Demonstration Site

By Cecilia Diaz, Agriculture Associate, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County inaugurated a new teaching and demonstration site consisting of a high tunnel located at the Preakness Valley Golf Course. The installation of this structure will allow Rutgers Master Gardeners, youth, and others to learn about horticultural and agricultural techniques. A high tunnel is a fairly simple, inexpensive greenhouse-like structure consisting of an enclosed metal pipe framing covered with greenhouse-grade plastic that provides the opportunity to extend the growing season by growing earlier into the spring and later into the fall, while protecting crops from excessive rain, wind, sun, cold, and in many cases from wildlife damage.

This urban project will play an important role in the training curriculum of the Rutgers Master Gardener Program of Passaic County by providing an appropriate space for hands-on learning.

The high tunnel was built and installed at the Preakness Valley Golf Course by Parks Department employees under the supervision of GCSANJ members Darryl Sparta Director of Parks and golf course superintendents Vincent Spano and Doug Vogel. A number of parks department employees assisted in making this project possible: Daniel Alvarez was in charge of installing the irrigation system, Julio De La Cruz and Frank Viglione were the official carpenters in charge of all the wood work, and John Burrafato and his crew were in charge of the masonry. The staff of Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County is greatly appreciative of all their efforts.

Prior to the grand opening, a 4-H youth group, along with recent graduates of the Rutgers Master Gardener program, and RCE staff, hosted the first planting event at the high tunnel on June 28. The event gave 4-H youth the opportunity to learn more about planting vegetables, building a trellis to support plants, as well as planting a pollinator garden. It also gave the Master Gardener graduates the opportunity to practice horticultural skills while mentoring the youth on the gardening techniques.



(l-r): RCE Family & Community Health Sciences Educator Sara Elnakib, golf course superintendent Vincent Spano, director of Parks Dept. Darryl Sparta, manager of the Hudson, Essex and Passaic County Soil Conservation District Glen Van Olden, RCE county agent Amy Rowe, chair of the Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources Nick Polanin, Freeholder Terry Duffy, director of Cooperative Extension Brian Schilling, RCE agriculture associate Cecilia Diaz, county administrator Anthony DeNova and supervisor of the Hudson, Essex and Passaic County Soil Conservation District Jerry Flach.



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2ND ANNUAL GCSANJ FOUNDATION HUDSON FARM CLAY SHOOT

BY SHAUN BARRY

It is the second year that GCSANJ Foundation hosted a fundraiser at the renowned and picturesque Hudson Farm in Andover, NJ. If somehow you missed hearing about this meeting, Hudson Farm is a world-class hunting club for hunters and hobbyists to learn how to handle firearms and hone their skills. Their professionals and instructors assist in military and police training while also handling novices like our group consisting of beginners that have never fired a weapon.

We had 40 attendees participate in the sporting clay shoot. Our success range in 2019 saw last year's winner only hitting 48 out of 50 pigeons. He hit 49 out of 50 in 2018. We had a new shooter hit only 5 out of his 50. Despite the difference in the level of competency, I believe everyone truly enjoyed this experience. They got to do something different with the help of an experienced guide offering support on every shot.

Last year Michael Campbell brought his two sons with him. Mike was thrilled to do something non-golf with his sons, and the boys truly enjoyed the event. Unfortunately, Colin wasn't feeling well, so he had to cancel, but Ethan competed, and he did very well. He was almost in the middle of the shooters and only four behind his dad. Ethan was the real winner, as he was chosen to light the ceremonial cannon while we all diligently covered our ears!



We had 15 superintendents/assistants, and 19 affiliates participate with the balance of the field being guests. Jamie Devers (34) was top superintendent, Pat O'Brien (36) was top assistant, Rob Johnson (37) was third overall, and the top affiliate. Doug Sutphen (48) and William Perrine (43) were guests from the Groff Tractor team and were first and second overall. After everyone had completed their ten stations, they all returned to enjoy a Pig Roast Dinner. According to my tastebuds, this pig was cooked to perfection. My only disappointment was that I hadn't brought a "doggie bag" to take some home for me. I mean for my dog.

The Foundation doesn't try to make this a big fundraiser. We make some money, but being able to offer a unique experience to our members is the best reason. Hopefully, Les Carpenter stays involved because he not only suggested we consider doing this last year, he also is our primary contact with the club. It is because of his great relationship with the owner and club members that have inspired them to make donations. Last year, the club's owner Mr. Kellogg, wrote us a check from his Foundation, and this year Marc A. Hembrough sent us a personal check. They may not know much about our Foundation, but they know Les and his passion for our foundation.

We are considering ways to increase the field in future years. To do that, we will need additional sponsors because we supplement the cost of each shooter. Doing so will ensure that members can continue to afford to attend the event. Those additional sponsors will need to be affiliates who currently aren't sponsors. When you review the list below, you will see company names that are always stepping up to help. They deserve our sincere thanks.

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TAKING ONE SMALL STEP

UPGRADING AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM ON A BUDGET

BY LEO BARBER

Editor's Note: For those of you who attended the NJ Green Expo in 2017 you might remember guest speaker Leo Barber delivering multiple talks. Any of those attending who met Leo are for sure saying, "how could we forget?" Leo is the general manager and superintendent at Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club, a world Top 100 golf club in Paraparaumu Beach, New Zealand. He is one-of-a-kind and made many friends that week as well as in two tournament volunteer efforts at the 2014 and 2018 Northern Trusts. Leo was named honorary member of the Association in 2016 and has agreed to serve as a regular columnist for the next few issues. He is a talented writer, who has submitted to The Greenside in the past. In this issue, Leo describes the bare bones approach, he, his team and the membership have successfully taken to upgrade their irrigation system.

Golf was first played over the sand dunes of Paraparaumu Beach, New Zealand in 1929 when a group of enthusiasts gathered and created a rudimentary 9-hole course. In 1937, the course was purchased as part of a greater scheme of subdivision and extended to 18 holes. In pursuit of a course that was capable of hosting the country's most significant golfing events, former Australian Open winner and renowned golf course architect Alex Russell of Royal Melbourne fame having designed its East Course and supervised Mackenzie's West, was employed to substantially redesign the course and in 1949 the Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club was incorporated. Work was undertaken on constructing the new course which included the installation of a galvanized pipe system that supplied water to tap boxes beside each green where hoses were then used to apply irrigation to the turf.

In 1976 a "new system" was installed utilizing PVC and polyethylene pipe with greens fully automated and single lines extended down fairways with quick couplers and manually inserted bayonets. It had remained that way until we recently commenced a long-awaited upgrade and you can imagine the struggles of not only maintaining healthy turf with such an archaic system, but the intensive labour required to simply run a nightly cycle all with a ground staff of just five!



A failed join across the 3rd fairway mainline which requires a \$600 coupler and many hours of labour to repair. With little to no isolation, this breakage "took down" the entire system.



A typical join failure of a Fairway lateral pipe. The weld which is 40 years old has simply split. There can be up to 50 joins on each fairway vulnerable.

A new system had been priced at about \$450,000 USD which unfortunately was a giant leap and beyond the means of our modestly resourced club. So, any opportunity to upgrade was deemed unattainable and we simply continued to battle away with the bayonets and the regular failures that with limited isolation valves, could take our entire system out with just one untimely break.

Schemes to raise funds never successfully took off given the club's focus on the reduction of a debt that was taken on in the early 2000's for the upgrade of the...you guessed it...clubhouse! The solution we did settle on was to approach it in terms of a series of small steps - break the upgrade into manageable chunks, stage the works, source the generic materials direct from suppliers and undertake the majority of the installation ourselves using our own labour with the assistance of voluntary help from the membership. We also separated the greens and tees from the rest of the project as these were fully functioning, albeit with block control and not critical for immediate replacement. This reduced the price tag massively to almost half of the initially quoted costs and gave us a realistic option to commence this long overdue upgrade of a critical piece of course infrastructure.

This winter just gone we have completed our fourth stage and although it's still a small light, we are beginning to see the end of the tunnel with just four fairways left to complete. Most of the mainlines have been installed and all except one tee and one green are now connected to new pipe and have brand new cabling with a PC based central control system. It should be realistic to complete the whole project within the next two winters.

In terms of how the upgrade has been achieved in a practical sense, we pay a specialized irrigation contractor to set out the design and undertake the trenching. One of our senior guys runs the install up front under the guidance of the contractor and then I acted a little more superintendent than general manager in my dual role to run the dedicated crew of member volunteers doing the backfilling,



The system required a large amount of manual control and labour with all the fairways being irrigated by above ground sprinklers which are shifted cyclically in season (daily).



The system "through the green" inadequately covered the necessary areas and poorly distributed the water – pictured above is an example with the white line depicting the effective coverage. Areas outside of these zones are poor and struggling for grass cover.



Areas just outside the fairways but in the critical "playing zones, dried off and were largely devoid of grass. This made for poor playability and presented badly.

consolidation and final turfing. It gives me piece of mind that critical things like ensuring quality control of the install, depth of pipe and a flush turf finish is achieved and ensures that the pool of volunteers are organized and motivated and the benefit from their involvement is not wasted.

For our members it has given them a unique insight into the detail of achieving such a project and most importantly it has created a greater sense of community and an opportunity to connect with staff that they would otherwise see as perhaps just a labour unit. It has been very positive both ways with staff also learning more about their members and members gaining an insight and a respect for the work staff do and learning a little more about their lives outside of work.

The system to date, although in its infancy has improved the turf quality, given us greater reliability and has achieved labour savings which in turn we have redirected towards other areas of daily maintenance. Every journey regardless of distance starts with just one small step. Sometimes the end looks too far away and perhaps if we focused on taking just that next step, we might find the task of getting to the finish a much more manageable prospect. That's how we approached this project anyway and what started out as an impossible dream has almost become a reality.



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A photoshopped impression of new fairway shapes with expanded irrigation. The increased width is more aesthetically pleasing and allows for greater strategy with areas of short grass becoming options for angle of attack or safety.



Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club members and crew members.

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15 QUESTIONS WITH ANDREW HOJNOWSKI

By Todd Raisch, CGCS

INTERVIEW

Andrew Hojnowski recently sat down with The Greenside to discuss his career, family, and Neshanic Valley.

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

I grew up in a small town in South Jersey called Mt. Ephraim. I spent my summers living and working at the Jersey shore, and I now live in Frenchtown, NJ.

2. How long have you worked at Neshanic Valley Golf Club?

I started working at Neshanic Valley in 2007, and I've been here ever since.

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

We have made many changes to the operation during my time here, most of them geared towards reducing labor without losing quality on the course. Each year we try to reduce the size of our bent grass fairways and convert the areas to rough height bluegrass. We also have several bunkers slated to be filled in and sodded to reduce maintenance costs. This year we added a GPS controlled sprayer to our fleet, and I hope to add another one in the next year. I would also like to add a Promethium job board to our break room with the ability to make adjustments from the field.

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

Being able to work outdoors is my favorite aspect of working on a golf course. Every day is different, which makes the job challenging and also rewarding when you make the right decisions.

5. What are your interests outside of work?

When I'm not working, I spend most of my free time hunting and fishing. I also enjoy traveling to new places with my wife and spending time visiting our families who don't live in the area.



6. Tell us about your family.

Eleven years ago, I met my beautiful wife, Karla, and we have been married for two years. We have a 13-year-old yellow lab named Fletcher, who still loves to come to the golf course, greet the golfers on the weekends and run around the golf course.

7. Why did you become a superintendent?

I have always been an outdoor enthusiast and could never imagine working behind a desk. When I was 15 years old, I started working in the maintenance department at Cape May National Golf Course. The superintendent took me under his wing and introduced to me a career that I did not know existed. I knew from that first job that golf maintenance was what I wanted to do for a living.

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

Neshanic Valley has three 9-hole championship courses and a 9-hole executive course, a double-ended driving range, and an extensive practice facility. This creates some major challenges with scheduling as the three 9s are utilized differently every day, depending on the demand. On weekends two of the three courses begin play at 6 AM. We also have some interesting historical features on the course, including two large Dutch-style barns from the early 1800's and a cemetery on the property with gravestones that date back to the mid-1700's.

9. What are your biggest on course challenges at Neshanic Valley?

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?

A typical day for me usually starts around 4 AM. I like to allow enough time to prepare myself for whatever challenges Mother Nature has in store for us and to be in the office before the crew arrives around 5:15 AM. I'm very hands-on, so I try to help in any way I can on the course throughout the day, whether its course setup, mowing, or hand watering greens. I still enjoy the physical aspects of the job. I also have plenty of office work and meetings to fill in the gaps before heading home for the day.

11. Neshanic Valley is in phase 2 of a bunker renovation. Tell us about that.

Last fall, we began a 3-phase project to renovate nine holes of bunkers each year. Better Billy Bunker was chosen for the project, and we are very happy with the results after the first year. I've been fixing bunker washouts for 25 years, and it amazes me to see how well these bunkers perform after heavy rainfall and how little time we spend maintaining them compared to the soil-based bunkers.



12. How has a high-end municipal experience differed from your previous private course experience?

Going from an assistant position at an 18-hole private club to overseeing a 36-hole high-end public course was quite challenging, and I wasn't sure what to expect at first. Some of the differences that come to mind are being able to take more time off and trust my staff to keep things under control and allowing them to take time off as well, even during the golf season. Overtime at Neshanic is minimal vs. the private clubs I've worked at where 80-hour weeks and working from dawn till dusk wasn't uncommon. Stress levels are also much lower, and we are more critical of ourselves than the golfers are here. One of my favorite things is hearing the compliments that our golfers give to the maintenance staff. It really motivates them. When I worked in the private sector, it was very rare for members to compliment the maintenance staff on the course.

13. What is the most difficult part of your job?

I'd have to say managing and motivating the maintenance staff is one of the hardest things about the job. Like most superintendents, I had to learn this through trial and error and by observing former superintendents that I've worked under. It's not something that is taught in turf school.



14. What challenges do you face maintaining the California greens at NV?

Our biggest challenge with the greens here is moisture control. The course is wide open which is great for turf health, but the California greens dry out quickly and can be tough to keep up with on hot summer days. Soil temperatures are also a problem because the greens soil temps fluctuate quickly with the air temperature making it tough to get aeration holes to fill in at times.

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

1. I've worked at seven golf courses.
2. I drove a moped to work until I was old enough to get a driver's license.
3. I am a licensed charter boat captain.
4. I hate spiders.



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YOUR WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOLF

BY KEVIN DOYLE, GCSAA NORTHEAST FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Whether good or bad, we find ourselves working in a relationship business. Many of us didn't sign up for the career with the knowledge that we would need to manage turf with the same vigor as personal interactions, but alas, here we are. I don't want to focus on turf, or even people — one of my favorite topics. I want to ask how you balance the one thing that we all rely on whether you are a superintendent or in sales. We all depend on the sport of golf, and it depends on us. The industry has seen a building boom, the Tiger craze, and the economic regression followed by course closures. Hundreds of New Jersey facilities and thousands of employees were taken on that same ride, whether we wanted to or not.

Member expectations seemed to have missed any regression or corrections. As the turf speed limit continues to get pushed and demand for perfection continues to ramp up, pressure continues to escalate on all of us. Technological advances in products and devices that fostered new groundbreaking solutions that previously helped achieve the desired conditions while saving time, money, or labor, are now simply achieving the new normal.

With the industry continuing to dictate the cornerstone of our lives in a manner we simply can't seem to impact no matter what we do, how do you balance golf? Do you put in your time and maximize your effort on the job and leave it all behind when you "punch out," if that is possible? Do you golf often, watch golf on television, and take vacations to play in far off lands? There is no correct way to balance, and I have no intention of pontificating on how you should approach golf. We all develop an approach and hopefully manage the impact it has on us in a positive way, and often changes in our personal lives can affect change on our approach.

What I want to touch on is a word you just read and probably glossed over quickly: "positive." Above were challenges in our daily lives that are dictated to us, many beyond our control. There are many more negative items that can be added that we in the industry have no control over. Can a focus on some of the positives in our golf world help overcome some of the challenges?

Are rounds up this year? With added revenue might come a new piece of equipment, approval for a beneficial project, additional dollars to the labor budget; items that can help ease the burden on the work aspect of golf.

Did your staff complete a successful season; help you deliver a good product to your membership or customers? It is now cultural practices season, meaning the grind of another season is over.

As you assess the impact of 2019, what positives came from it that you can build on in 2020? Have you had the chance to play golf? An enjoyable round of golf with friends or colleagues can be a wonderful reminder of what makes the game so great. We depend on the positive impacts the sport has on all of our players to survive as an industry. Taking the time to play yourself should find its way on your to do list, even if it is a rare occasion.

The golf industry might seem like it has all the momentum, a freight train that dictates all. Our little individual piece of that industry may simply be a railroad tie connecting the rails and responsible for moving the industry forward. With every positive step we make personally, and impact our facility adds, can change the outlook for the entire industry. Collectively, we can impact the direction of the freight train our golf industry has become for the better. All aboard! Again, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

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UPCOMING GCSAA WEBINARS

November 19th @ 10 a.m.

Water Management BMPs
-J. Bryan Unruh, Ph.D.

December 5th @ 10 a.m.

How to Set Yourself Apart in the Golf Industry - The Art of Self Promotion
-Darren Davis, CGCS

December 12th @ 10 a.m.

Best Management Practices for the Turf Care Center
-Gary Bogdanski

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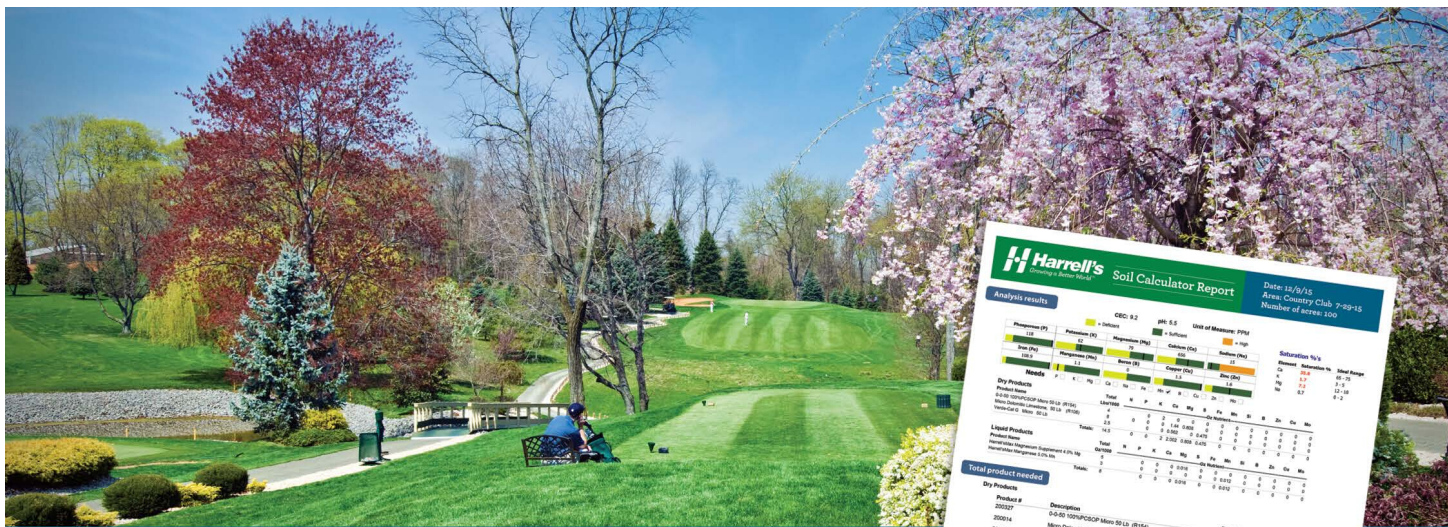
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GCSANJ MEMBERS VOLUNTEER ACROSS THE POND

Bill Murray & Dave Mishkin's Great Adventure!

By Shaun Barry



On June 28, 2019, Bill Murray and Dave Mishkin left Philadelphia Airport heading to Ireland not to return until July 16, 2019. That may not be unusual for most people, but Bill and Dave are not most people. They are golf course superintendents working for the Monmouth County Park System. Bill works at Pine Brook GC, and Dave works at Howell Park GC. Superintendents have been known to visit Ireland many times but not in the middle of the summer. How and why did they choose this destination and time of the year?

This adventure started back in 1995 when Bill became a Lifetime Overseas Member at Lahinch GC. He had fallen completely under the spell of Ireland and Lahinch. The best pint of Guinness in the world and a redhead or two may also have had something to do with his love affair.

Lahinch Golf Club was started in 1892, and it was known for hosting the South of Ireland Golf Tournament, which is one of the four main Men's Amateur Tournaments in Ireland. In 2018 the club was asked to host The Irish Open for the first time.

The Irish Open is part of The European Tour, so the quality of the field would be outstanding. Irishman Paul McGinley was a former player and Captain of winning European Ryder Cup teams, and he became the face of this Open. He had lobbied for Lahinch to host this event, and he reached out to the players asking for their commitment. The combination of his asking and the second-largest purse on the European Tour made it an easy sell.

Bill, inspired that "his" course was going to be the center of attention on the world stage, immediately decided that he needed to be part of the support team. Dave Mishkin has traveled to Ireland many times with Bill and has also fallen in love with Ireland and Lahinch. They also decided to stay one more week so they could head up to Royal Portrush and help Graeme Beatt the week before "The Open." The "boys" really wanted to do this, so on January 3, 2019, they requested these dates for their vacations, and their requests were granted.

At Lahinch, the crew couldn't believe a member would actually work on the course. Brian McDonough is the head superintendent at The Old Course, and Paudie Grealish is the head superintendent at The Castle Course. Brian and Paudie have known Bill and Dave for years, and they knew the "boys" weren't afraid to work. They were up at 3:15 am and at the course at 4:00 am every day. They were given the job of stimping the greens and checking for firmness and moisture. They did their job so well that the European Tour's professional who was also doing this was assigned another task. Their day finished between 9:30 pm and 10:00 pm. The days were long, but they still found the time and energy to head downtown for a pint or two.

The schedule at Royal Portrush was much more relaxed because it was the week before the tournament. The staff arrived at 6:00 am and the day would end around 4:00 pm.

Bill and Dave did whatever was needed. The first couple days, they were cutting out weeds on approaches, greens, and tees. The next days, they were joined by interns from former and future "Open" courses as they did the same thing on fairways. The final days found them repairing ball marks on the greens, and then they added fescue seed to the repair followed by green sand so there would be no brown visible for the television audience to see.

This adventure required lots of planning, hard work, and expense, but it truly was a chance of a lifetime. They had helped both courses be the best they could be, and their new friendships and memories will never fade. I am also sure that the Irish guys will always remember the two superintendents that they called "The Crazy Americans."

Bill and Dave are home now, but I am sure they are planning a return to Ireland sometime in the near future. If Ireland is in your future, reach out to them because I know they love to discuss their adopted second home.



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THE GOLDEN CUP CUTTER AWARD CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

By Shaun Barry



In 1995 many of the superintendents in Sussex County decided to start a scramble tournament that would include any of the local clubs that wanted to play. Dave Brubaker hosted the first event. He also was one of the original organizers along with Eric Carlson and Dave Mayer. The event was created to foster camaraderie between the local clubs and is still going strong in its 25th year.

Each club brings one or two foursomes solely made up of staff members. It was an idea that caught on quickly. For the next 23 years, Rich Fodor hosted the tournament at Walkill GC. It was a great choice, and people loved gathering at this nine-hole course that arguably has the smallest green in the state.

This year the tournament returned to Great Gorge GC, with Wild Turkey GC defeating Black Bear GC on a match of cards. There were 12 courses represented, and several affiliates got to play the third nine for fun.

The 2019 event saw Rich Fodor and his son Zack (who works at High Point GC.) enjoy the day. Chris Boyle celebrated the 30th anniversary of his start in the industry, which began at Great Gorge GC. Chris didn't bring a team, but he was happy to pose for a few photos with his son Nick who is wrapping up his second summer working at Great Gorge GC.

It was a great relaxing day. We played nine holes, successfully avoiding the thunderstorms that kept popping up. The course was in great shape, and we had a delicious meal followed by a very talented band closing out the evening. Dave wanted everyone to enjoy the day, and we did. Thanks, Dave!

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The GCSANJ Foundation awarded \$16,000 in scholarships to 12 applicants. The applicants ranged from recent high school graduates to graduate school students. Many of the applicants earned a high GPA in challenging courses; they are leaders in their school or community and have committed to and excelled in extracurricular activities and sports. Their academic careers and integrity are impressive, and their parents should be proud of their accomplishments.



Faith Vogel



Kayla Campbell



Emily Gray



Richard Krok



Kirsten Dorman

2019 Scholarship Recipients

Emily Gray
Isabella Candeloro
Kristen Dorman
Richard Krok
Faith Vogel
Michael Candeloro
Victoria Kunesch
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**Josh Kopera, Brian Bontemps,
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**we asked,
you answered**

?

"What are your plans for the off-season? "

"I recently tried altering my own clothes so I am hoping to learn how to sew better over the winter. And I'm hoping to bake more again this holiday season."

-Elizabeth Holmes, Metuchen Golf & Country Club



"Off season is more like tradeshow season for me. There is increased travel for Expo, National, and the New England show, as well as many of the smaller regional events that I attend, but I am looking forward to a few days in Disney with my family before National this year. In between all of that, just working on some projects around the house and enjoying a bit of time off to go skiing with the family."

-Brian Bontemps, Noble Turf

"This off season I am looking forward to some R&R. I'll be hitting the slopes with family, friends, and colleagues to recharge the batteries. Of course, I'll also be keeping current by attending the Green Expo, GIS, and Spring Education Day."

-Tim Meyer, Beacon Hill Country Club





"Watch my girls play basketball, enjoy some family time, and make time to hit the slopes."

-Fred Parcells, Shackamaxon Country Club

"My plan for the off-season is to take some much needed time off! I plan on heading down to Florida to do some fishing, spend plenty of time skiing in Vermont, and take a trip out west."

-Pat Dolan, Copper Hill Country Club



"From a Hamilton Farm perspective, the off season brings substantial tree work, drainage and course construction projects, along with making sure the turf and equipment are ready for the 2020 season. We also reevaluate our operations and cultural practices to see if we need to make any adjustments for the upcoming season."



From a personal perspective, I plan to take a little time away and recharge the batteries. In fact this winter I am getting married, so I have hopes of giving my soon to be wife a little more time with me."

-Jason Harrison, Hamilton Farm Golf Club



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