

SPRING 2021/ VOLUME 57

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY



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ON THE COVER

Alpine Country Club
Stephen Finamore, Superintendent

Photo credit: Stephen Finamore



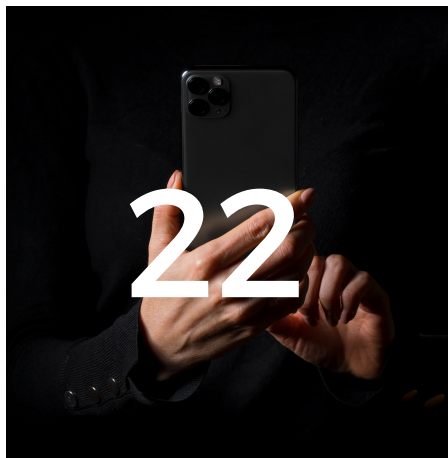
Going the Distance

Patrick Husby completes the David Goggins 4x4x48 Challenge for the GCSANJ Foundation.



Take It Back to the First Tee

A timeline of Stephen Finamore's life and career.



Tech Tips

Quick and useful smartphone apps for turf.



The Ask

Find out which books your fellow members are reading.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joe Kinlin Chapter President
Bey Lea Golf Course



As I write to you, I trust that you and your families have received the Covid vaccine or will soon be doing so. My family is close to joining the herd (immunity), and I pray that yours is too.

Just over a year ago, our industry was filled with uncertainty, but because there are so many great leaders in the golf industry, we came together with a path forward, which made golf something safe to do. The directives set forth lead to increased rounds, cart traffic, and turf stress at levels some of us have never seen before. There have been countless webinars over the past months talking about the pandemic and golf. One that stuck out for me was hosted by TurfNet with Brad Klein giving his observations from the past year. Brad suggested that we may need to change our strategy to manage traffic; he said maybe we need to use more nitrogen. Something so simple, feeding the plant, I know it sounds silly, but I had a why didn't I think about that moment. When someone that does not sell fertilizer tells you to feed the turf more, he may be on to something.

There are so many great tips and tricks out there. One of the best places to get them is from volunteering your time at a PGA or LPGA Tour event. Fortunately, you have 3 great opportunities right here in New Jersey. First on the calendar is The Northern Trust at Liberty National from August 16th to the 22nd. Next is the LPGA ShopRite Classic at Seaview from September 27th to October 3rd. Finally, the Cognizant Founders Cup at Mountain Ridge Country Club from October 4th to the 10th. I am sure Greg James, Mike Bair, and Cliff Moore would love your help. I hope to see you at one of these great opportunities that showcase the talent and dedication of GCSANJ members.

In closing, I would like to thank you for renewing your membership to GCSANJ and wish you a successful 2021 golf season.

Stay well,

JOE KINLIN
Chapter President



FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Maureen Sharples

This community never ceases to amaze me with its generosity and unwavering support for one another. In February, I received a text message from Patrick Husby and Tyler Otero about a fundraising idea. Pat was training for the 4x4x48 David Goggins Challenge, which is an incredibly tough physical and mental challenge (learn more about it on page 13), and they wanted to create sponsorships for each leg of the race to raise money for the GCSANJ Foundation.

I loved the idea and Pat's determination and immediately got to work. I knew we would have a lot of support from our association, but it grew exponentially beyond my expectations as each day passed. Watching donations pour in day after day from our members, Twitter followers, Pat's community, other chapters, and Navesink Country Club members was inspiring.

In the end, he raised over \$16,000 from over 150 donations. Please take a moment to read the article about the fundraiser, his accomplishment, and all those involved in supporting the cause. It showcases how fortunate we all are to work in an industry comprised of such wonderful people.

As expected, the money raised is put to good use through the GCSANJ Foundation Scholarship program. The GCSANJ Foundation has a long tradition of supporting our members by providing college scholarships for members, children, or spouse. We are currently accepting applications through June 11th. Visit our website for more information.

MAUREEN SHARPLES

Executive Director, GCSANJ



Let's Connect



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MOVERS AND SHAKERS



Fred Parcels is the new golf course superintendent at Skyway Golf Course at Lincoln Park West.

Michael Tardogno is the new golf course superintendent at Tamarack Golf Course.

Joey Wolff is the new South Jersey representative for Finch Services. Curt Moore was promoted to a new territory.

Chris Marra is the new golf course superintendent at Maplewood Country Club.

NEW MEMBERS



Michael Warner, Class AF
Fertl Soil

Charles Belmont, Class AF
Fertl Soil

Joey Wolff, Class AF
Finch Services

James Bryson, Class B
The Bedens Brook Club

Michael Wagner, Class B
Trump National Golf Club Colts Neck

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GCSANJ FOUNDATION TO RECEIVE THE ACE AWARD FROM THE FIRST TEE-JERSEY SHORE

The First Tee of the Jersey Shore will be awarding the GCSANJ Foundation the 2021 Ace Award for their continued donations and member volunteer support in maintaining The First Tee Learning Center at Ocean County Park. The learning center serves thousands of people each year and provides a first-class learning experience for over 500 First Tee kids each year.



The awards reception will take place on Monday, August 2nd, at the 15th Annual First Tee of the Jersey Shore at Metedeconk National Golf Club. To register for the event or to support the First Tee of the Jersey Shore, visit www.firstteejerseyshore.org.

A large photograph of a golf course green with several sand traps and a flag in the distance, surrounded by dense trees. Overlaid on the image is the text for LABAR Golf Renovations.

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THE 2021 RUTGERS TURFGRASS RESEARCH CLASSIC

By Shaun Barry



In the past 24 years, the Rutgers Turfgrass Classic was only postponed once because the course was unplayable due to flooding. It eventually moved from the original date in May to an August date. As expected, attendance was reduced because of prior commitments, and typical August stresses on turfgrass forced many registered attendees to cancel. However, that event still provided every attendee the chance to enjoy a great day of playing golf with friends and business associates while actively supporting Rutgers's Center for Turfgrass Science. It still proved that even a significant disruption wouldn't change our industry's belief that this was a not to be missed fundraising event.

Fast forward to the Spring of 2020. Preparations for the 25th Anniversary were completed, and sponsorships and registrations were on pace for a new record. In March, we were introduced to Covid, and all of our lives were changed dramatically. The Classic committee quickly realized that we had to postpone our event. Fiddler's had an open date in early October, and we chose that date, thinking Covid would not be an issue. As everyone now knows, that event was canceled. A Classic in 2020 would not be possible.

We decided to go back to an early May date in 2021 and celebrate our 25th Anniversary. We were starting from a great position. Every Premier, Eagle, and Birdie Sponsor had committed to 2021 right after we canceled the October 2020 event. Everyone was enthusiastic about knowing we finally were all going to get together.

Unfortunately, Covid has proven to be an ongoing issue. Vaccines became available, but it soon became apparent that keeping the May date was just too questionable. Many major companies were not allowing their people to travel or stay overnight, and Rutgers University was not opening up until July. The May date would have kept away some sponsors that had been sponsors for 24 years. We weren't even sure how involved the Rutgers scientists and staff could be. It was a difficult decision, but we needed a new date.



RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station
CENTER FOR TURFGRASS SCIENCE

Fiddler's Elbow CC has hosted this event for most of those 24 years, and they have been the perfect hosts. The courses are great, the food is always delicious, and we are treated with the same respect as their members. The only potential open date was August 16th. We would not usually pick an August date, but this date would give our sponsors and potential attendees the best possible opportunity to attend. That was our goal, and Drs. Clarke, Meyer, Murphy, Bonos, every scientist and staff member of the Center for Turfgrass Science, and the entire Classic Committee hopes you will mark the new date on your calendar. It has been a long and frustrating process, but it is a day that will be worth the wait.

To register, visit njta.wildapricot.org.



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Doug Rae, Jeff Haas



Our host, Mark Beaumont
with Riggins and Lyla



Ken Anson, Jeff Weld, Nick Alley,
John Wiblishauser



Lance Rogers, Mark Miedler,
Josh Kopera, Travis Pauley



Keith Bennett, Jeff England,
Joe Oswik, Jay Parisien



Matt Sudol and Louis Pitcock



Roger Smith, Bob Prickett,
Kevin Mitchell



James Cunningham and
Shawn Reynolds

WAR AT THE SHORE

ATLANTIC CITY COUNTRY CLUB



Dan Livingston



Mike Handley, Matt Herrmann,
Scott McBane, Jeremy Hreben



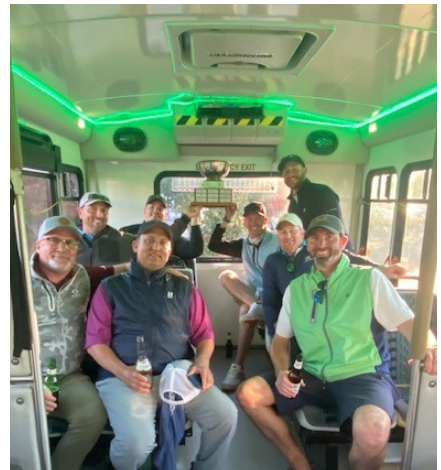
John Carpinelli



Lee Kozsey



GCSANJ Takes The Cup!
Mark Beaumont, Doug Rae, Joe Kinlin,
Lance Ernst, Kevin Monaco, Rob Johnson



Lance Rogers, Josh Kopera, Rob Schipper,
Mark Miedler, Travis Pauley, Jon Heywood,
Ken Anson, Sean Konsavich



Scott McBane



Ben Brace, Steve Rudich,
Kevin Doyle



Jonathan Heywood and
Rob Johnson



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GOING THE DISTANCE

Patrick Husby completes the David Goggins 4x4x48 Challenge for the GCSANJ Foundation.

Beginning on March 5th, our member Patrick Husby of Navesink Country Club ran four miles every four hours for the total 48 hours in the David Goggins 4x4x48 challenge to raise money for the GCSANJ Foundation. He raised \$16,200 from 150 donors throughout his community and the golf community. The difficult challenge was created by retired Navy Seal David Goggins, who encourages participants to test their physical and mental stamina to complete the grueling task.

If you follow Patrick on Twitter then you know he is quite the fitness enthusiast. He began to follow David Goggins and the challenge after reading his bestselling book, "Can't Hurt Me: Master Your Mind and Defy the Odds," and seeing it trend on social media. Husby describes, "I had considered attempting it just as a personal challenge, but very quickly determined that the only right thing to do would be to make it something that would benefit many. As Secretary of the GCSANJ Foundation and having served with the rest of the board members since 2012, the choice was simple."

"Immediately, our President, Tyler Otero, forwarded the information to our Executive Director, Maureen Sharples, who began the tireless work of setting up the information debriefs and sponsorship link. Thankfully, it was a tight window between the decision and the actual event, as it left me no time to come to my senses."

Once the information was shared with the GCSANJ membership and golf community, the positive responses of support and donations were immediate. The incredible response and participation are a testament to this community and the value of our foundation.

Husby's typical fitness regime consists of running and bodyweight training, but he had to alter his training to prepare for the challenge. He removed all physical



Patrick Husby and Tyler Otero

workouts for 16 days leading up to the event, only running 4-mile distances.

"I went into the challenge knowing the extreme physical burden it would put on me, but I felt as though I was reasonably prepared physically. I had no illusions as to how difficult the mental aspect of the challenge would be. That proved to be precisely as hard as I had expected. Simply being ready to get after it for 30 minutes or so every 4 hours was tough on the body, and trying to get an hour or two of sleep between each of the 12 runs was equally so."

He notes that the second to last run proved to be the most challenging and demanding test to his will as he was physically drained and feverish. He pushed through, knowing he had collected over 150 donation pledges, totaling over \$16,000.

"I knew I was not going to let down the over 150 colleagues, friends, and family that had contributed to the GCSANJ Foundation during a pandemic when we are all trying to make ends meet. That was my biggest fear heading into this challenge. Letting anyone down, falling short of expectation, failing."

Patrick Husby completed the challenge on March 7th with supporters following this progress on Twitter. He describes the immense support as "humbling" and looks forward to finding another fitness challenge fundraiser in the future.



4X4X48 CHALLENGE SPONSORS

\$16,200 RAISED

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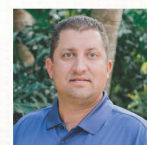
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August 24th

Morris County Golf Club

Host: Jonathan Heywood

RYDER CUP

September 30th

Canoe Brook Country Club

Host: Rob Schipper

SEPTEMBER GOLF MEETING

September 9th

Beacon Hill Country Club

Host: Tim Meyer

CHAPTER CHAMPIONSHIP

October 18th

Somerset Hills Country Club

Host: Ryan Tuxhorn



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GCSANJ COMPENSATION SURVEY RESULTS

BY TODD RAISCH, CGCS

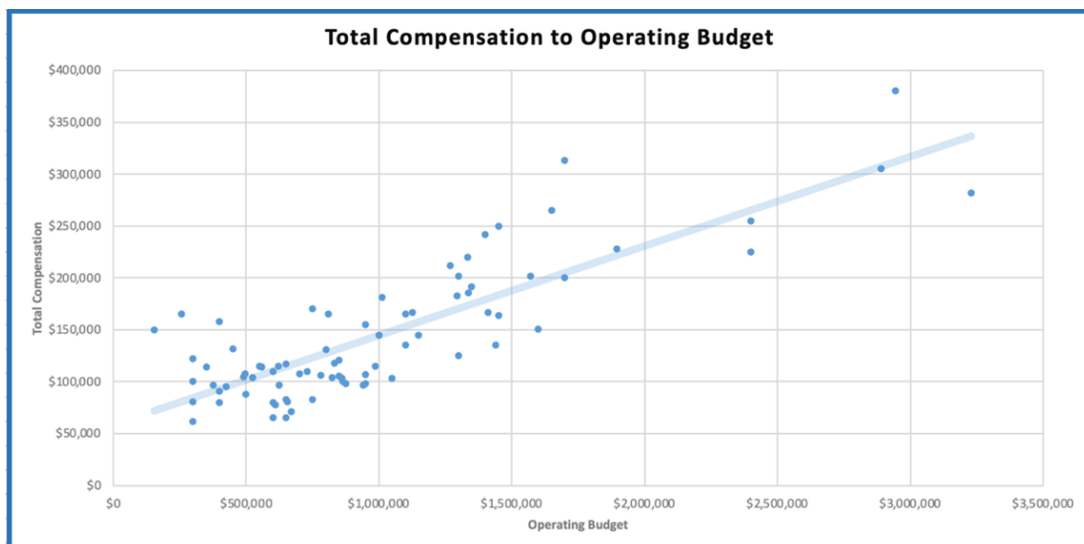
GCSANJ recently polled A & B members in an online survey about their compensation. We had 81 responses. While the full results have only been distributed to those that participated in the survey, a few of the aggregated results are worth sharing with the entire membership.

In addition to salary and other compensation numbers, participants were asked information such as years of experience, total acres, total acres maintained, total finely maintained acres (greens, tees and fairways), course revenue, employees managed, number of holes managed and in the case of private clubs, the number of members.

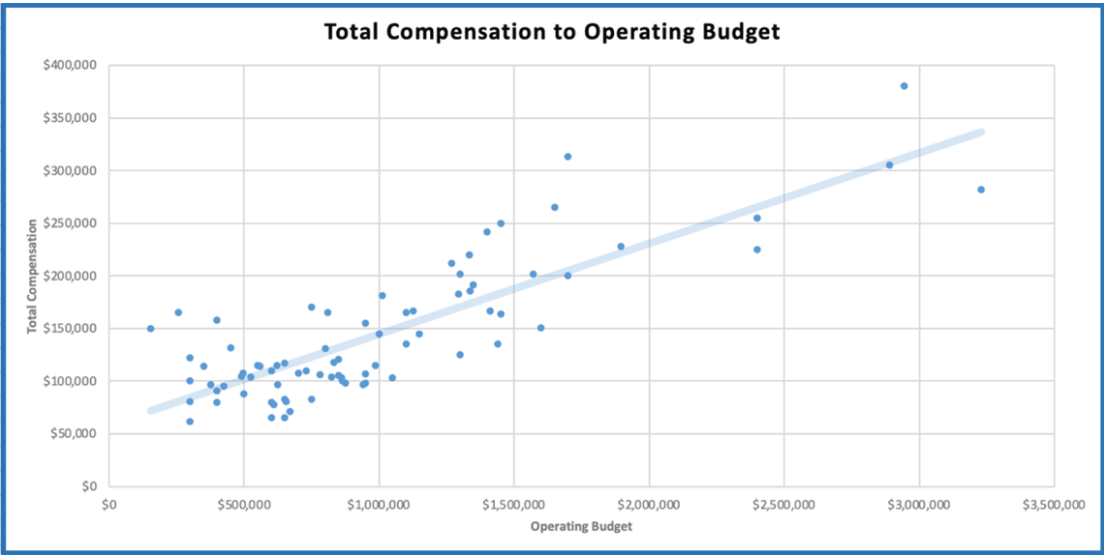
The averages were as follows:

	Overall	Public	Private
Years Sup't Experience:	15.21	16.39	14.87
Total Acres:	191.93	187.22	193.12
Total Maintained Acres:	94.02	84.16	96.84
Total Finely Maintained Acres:	38.27	34.58	39.32
Number of Holes:	18.89	18.50	19.00
Number of Employees Managed:	14.75	11.66	15.63
Operating Budget:	\$992,014	\$659,372	\$1,083,222
Number of Members:	279.11	N/A	279.11
Course/Club Revenue:*	\$5,192,503	\$1,544,444	\$6,560,525
Base Salary:	\$126,165	\$89,444	\$136,656
Other Compensation:	\$16,239	\$14,250	\$16,806
Total Compensation:	\$142,404	\$103,694	\$153,462

Scatter graphs of all the comparative metrics only showed direct correlation (relatively speaking) between total compensation and operating budget and number of managed employees. They are below.

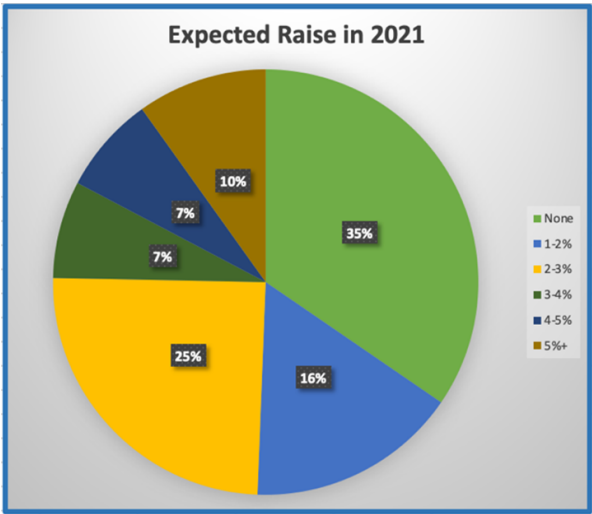
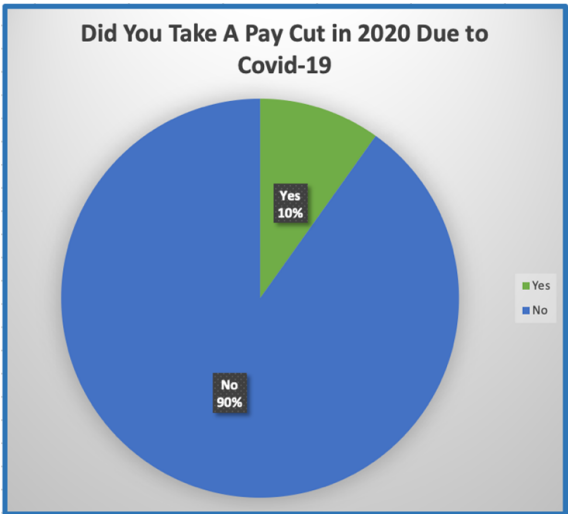


Perhaps the old metric of superintendent compensation being 12-13% of the total operating budget no longer holds. Overall, it was 14.36%. For public courses it was 15.73% and for private, 14.16%.



As for employees managed, NJ superintendents averaged \$9,654 per employee. Public courses \$8,893 and private courses \$9,818.

In addition, participants were asked how Covid-19 affected their compensation in 2020 and if they are expecting a raise in 2021.



TAKE IT BACK TO THE FIRST TEE

Stephen Finamore, CGCS Through the Years



Steve volunteering at The Northern Trust at Ridgewood CC.

During his tenure with Monmouth County, they acquired Pine Brook Golf Course and Hominy Hill Golf Course.

Steve also hired fellow GCSANJ members, Bruce Peeples and Dave Pease.

1977



Bruce Peeples and Steve Finamore

1979

Steve and Janet welcomed their first child, Sara.



Steve and Janet

1966

Stephen Finamore grew up in Waltham, MA. As a kid, he played ice hockey and was introduced to golf in 1966 when he began caddying at Pine Brook Country Club in Weston, MA at 14.

1968

Steve took a summer job on the grounds crew at Wayland Country Club and worked there for five years.

1970

He graduated high school and continued to UMASS to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Turf Science.

Dr. Joseph Troll ran the program, and Steve credits Dr. Troll for positively influencing his education and career.



1973

He worked on the grounds crew at The Country Club in Brookline, MA during The Walker Cup.

1976

Steve became the golf course superintendent for Monmouth County Park System, which consisted of the Howell Park Golf Course and Shark River Golf Course.

He also married his wife, Janet, in 1976.

1974

GCSANJ Past President Al Rathjens hired Steve as the assistant superintendent at Raritan Valley Country Club.

1980

Steve was elected to the GCSANJ Board of Directors.

Steve credits Ed Walsh for encouraging him to get involved in the association.

1981

Steve became the golf course superintendent at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, NY.

Their second child, Christina was born.

1992

In 1988, the area's superintendents were struggling with summer patch. Along with Ed Walsh and Gerald Fountain, Steve met with the MGA to fundraise for research to be conducted by Dr. Clarke and the staff at Rutgers to help find a solution. A committee was formed, and they collected donations from the area's clubs. It was such a great success that they continued to fundraise for research and officially became the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation in 1992.



Steve still serves on the Board of Directors today.

1990

Their fourth child, Corrine was born.



From a 1990 issue of The Greenside.

1989

A year after rejoining the Board of Directors, he is elected GCSANJ Chapter President.

Steve initiates the compensation survey which is a beneficial tool still used by our chapter.

Alpine Country Club hosts the NJSGA State Open.



Alpine Country Club

2006

For four years, Steve was the head coach for the Pascack Valley High School ice hockey team.

He also coached rec baseball and softball for 20 years.



Bill Murray, Paul Dotti, Steve, and Bruce Peeples

1988

Steve becomes the golf course superintendent at Alpine Country Club. He is again elected to the GCSANJ Board of Directors.

1986

Steve is hired at Essex Fells Country Club as the golf course superintendent.

1985

Their third child, Michael was born.

1982

Wykagyl Country Club hosted the LPGA Chrysler-Plymouth Charity Classic in 1982 and the LPGA MasterCard International Pro-Am in 1984.

He joined the MetGCSA.

2008

Alpine Country Club hosts the NJSGA State Open again.

2014

Alpine Country Club hosts MGA Senior Open.

2015

Steve was awarded the Shaun M. Barry Distinguished Service Award for his commitment and service to GCSANJ.



Bill Spence, Steve, and Dave Pease

Present

Steve is retiring in the fall after 34 years at Alpine CC and 46 years as a superintendent.

He enjoys spending time with his family and still plays ice hockey and softball.

He plans to enjoy his retirement with his wife, children, and grandchildren.



Steve's family



2020 MEMBER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT

JEREMY HREBEN, CGCS

By Maureen Sharples

Amid the pandemic, the GCSANJ Board of Directors decided to postpone our annual awards until 2021. The Board felt that recognizing our outstanding members via Zoom rather than hosting the proper event in front of their peers demeaned the achievements of our award recipients. As the year ended, the Board of Directors reconsidered after they received many requests for nominations for the Member of the Year Award and with the aspiration to recognize those who contributed during this unprecedented year.

Several nominations were received for the same person, and the vote was unanimous. On behalf of the chapter, I am proud to award Jeremy Hreben, CGCS as our recipient of the 2020 Member of the Year Award for his work and commitment to the New Jersey Best Management Practices.

Jeremy has been our chapter's Vice President for the past three years and has served on the Board

of Directors since 2014. He took over as chairman of the BMP committee two years ago after both previous chairmen, Tim Connolly and Jason Pierce, moved out of state. It became a running joke among the board that if you were interested in an out-of-state job, chair the BMP committee. Jeremy settled in quickly as he served on the committee under both Jason and Tim's leadership. He was also passionate about the project since he had seen how practical the BMP manual was in Florida, where he previously worked.

Using the GCSAA template and framework, Jeremy teamed up with Dr. Murphy to spearhead this undertaking with a goal set by GCSAA of completing the New Jersey manual by the end of 2020. They gathered a large committee of Rutgers faculty, industry experts, superintendents, and state officials to write and review the manual.

Jeremy has been a passionate and dedicated

member of the association since 2009. His start in the golf industry began by chance. After ending his four-year military service, he struggled to find a job. In 1999, Dennis Parker hired him at Eagle Ridge Golf Club to work on the grounds crew. Jeremy immediately liked the work, enjoying the outdoors and the variety the job provided.

In 2003, he became an assistant at Ballamor Golf Club and enrolled in the ten-week program at the Rutgers Turf Management School.

After completing the program, he became the first assistant at Bensalem Country Club. He wanted to leave the cold behind him and moved to Florida for the first assistant position at Wildcat Run Golf & Country Club. In 2005, Jeremy got his first superintendent job at Kings Gate Golf Club building and growing in the course. He became active in the Everglades GCSA and served on the board of the Calusa GCSA.

He married his wife Lauren in 2006 and moved back to New Jersey when she received a job offer in merchandising. Their daughter, Jordan, was born in 2008. Jeremy worked as a Sale Representative

for Seeton Turf. In 2009, he became the superintendent at Indian Spring Country Club in Marlton, where he still works today. He spends his downtime enjoying quality time with his family. Lauren is a two-time breast cancer survivor. They soak up their family time off-roading in a 1987 Jeep Wrangler, taking their boat out, and traveling for Jordan's softball games.

Jeremy Hreben is well-deserving of the distinction of Member of The Year, and on behalf of the chapter, we thank him for his dedicated service to GCSANJ. The BMP manual and his efforts will service our membership for years to come. When asked about his goals for the BMP, Jeremy says, "I hope that this will educate the golf community and public about our industry and how important our work is to the sport and environment. Superintendents can be misrepresented; I want the public to understand the management skills, science, and expertise that goes into our work every day."

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TECH TIPS

BY DONOVAN MAGUIGAN

QUICK AND USEFUL SMARTPHONE APPS FOR TURF

There was a time before everything had a smartphone app, but now your smart home, your BBQ, your sportsbook, and even flipping a coin has an app. If you still have some space left on your phone for another application, here are some great helpful turfgrass apps.

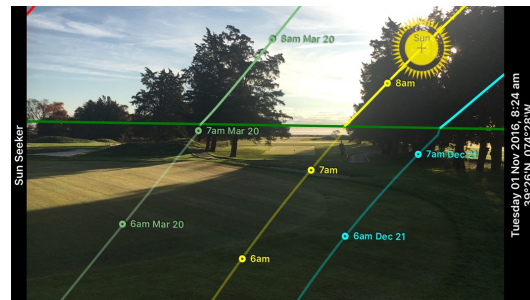


▼ Sunseeker



This app is excellent at identifying sun angles using both GPS maps and the camera with augmented reality. The app allows you to search through the entire calendar year for sun angles and can help identify problematic trees or to determine the sun angles that strike a particular area of the golf course. The app also allows you to capture photos of the sun angles while using the camera feature. Completely worth \$10.

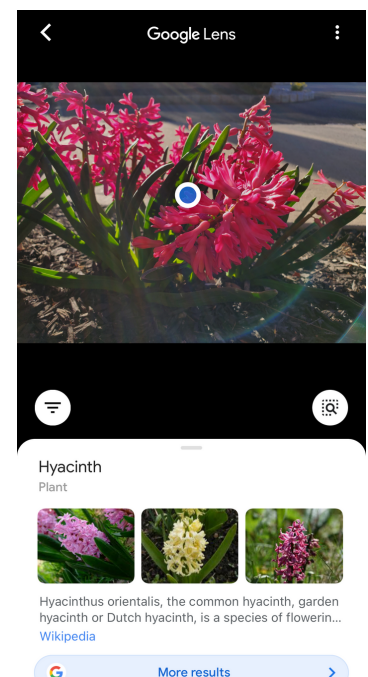
(\$9.99: iOS/Android)



▼ Google Lens / Google Photos



Google Lens is a great tool for identifying a remarkable number of things using your smartphone camera or from a photo already on your phone. If it is searchable on Google, it is likely identifiable via the app. The app analyzes the image, identifies that subject, and can provide helpful search links in Google. For a turf manager, this tool can be extremely useful in helping identify weeds, trees, or landscape plants. Tips: For iPhone users, you will have to use the Google Photos app and click the Lens option when viewing a picture. It is also a great app for photo cloud storage. When you aren't searching for turf information, you can use the features to identify album covers, clothing, and food. (Free: iOS/Android)



▼ Measure



Originally, the “Measure App” was just a simple level that used the gyroscope on your iPhone (sorry Android) to serve as a float. The app has been updated over time to include measuring using the phones camera depth sensor. A \$10 tape measure can do the same thing, BUT this will also take screenshots that include the augmented reality measurements for easy record keeping.
(Free: iOS)



Perimeter

661 ft

Area

22,179 ft²

▼ Google Earth



A sibling app to Google Maps, Google Earth provides more detailed maps and tools in addition to 3D maps, which include details such as buildings and trees. The app can also be used to take large measurements such as distance or area in a wide variety of units. The desktop application also includes a timeline feature that can sort through all historical aerial photos of a particular location, which can provide useful to tracking changes on your golf course or historical reference.

(Free: iOS/Android)



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15 QUESTIONS WITH KEN ANSON

By Maureen Sharples

Trump National Golf Club Philadelphia golf course superintendent, Ken Anson recently sat down with The Greenside to discuss his career and new job.

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

I was born in Hamburg, Germany, and moved here when I was ten years old. I grew up in the Hudson Valley in Poughkeepsie, NY. We traveled back to Germany every summer.

2. Why did you become a superintendent?

I always loved and played golf at a young age with my grandfather. I spent my allowance every week playing rounds at College Hill Golf Course after school. When I was 20, I took a summer internship with Joe Gardner at Fresh Meadow Country Club. I didn't think I was going to last a week, and then Joe encouraged me to stay. I quickly realized that the job gave me the discipline and structure I lacked at the time. I ended up enrolling in the turfgrass program at SUNY Cobleskill.

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

It's rewarding to see my younger assistants come into their own and hone their skills. I had a smaller crew at Fox Hollow Golf Club and didn't have any turf students on staff. At Trump, I have three Rutgers students that are passionate about the job and eager to learn. I know one day they will move on for new opportunities, but for now, it is my job to prepare them, and that's very humbling.



4. Tell us about your family.

I grew up in a military family. My dad was in the military and is a police officer. He worked for the NYPD most of his career and now works for the DEP. My mom is also in the military and manages a barbershop on a base in Hawaii. Growing up, my mom loved to travel. She would take us on trips all over Europe when we went back to Germany.

5. What are your interests outside of work?

I am a motorcycle enthusiast. When I got my driver's license, I used all the money I saved to buy a Yamaha YZF R1. Caught my parents off guard; they thought I was coming home with a car. I have upgraded since then and ride a Ducati Hypermotard. When I'm not riding my motorcycle, I love to golf.

6. How long have you worked at Trump National Golf Club Philadelphia?

I only started seven months ago. I have spent many years networking within the industry, and it paid off with this opportunity. I received a call one night from the General Manager asking if I would like to interview. It was supposed to be a 20-minute walk through which turned into four hours, and I left with the job. It has been great so far, the club and staff are very supportive, and there are many resources to help me showcase the property.



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

I always come in before the crew and take a ride around the course. I pinpoint issues and strategize for the day's work. The ride always helps me clear my mind and get in the right headspace. I strive to have a positive and consistent attitude with my crew to keep morale up.

8. What are some of your biggest on course challenges at Trump National Philadelphia?

Our biggest challenge is the size of the property. It sits on 385 acres. The course is a New England style, so the holes are far apart, which requires a lot of travel time for my crew from a logistical standpoint. I am strategic when planning the day. I will send an extra triplex mower to reduce time. I bought a Dakota 440 with a conveyor belt attachment to fill the top dressers on the fly instead of riding back to the shop. The furthest point on the course to my shop takes me 20 minutes on a cart.

9. What change would you like to see most in your operation?

The top of my list would be a bunker renovation. It has been 20 years since the bunker faces were done. I would love to redrain, replace the sand, and add capillary concrete or Better Billy Bunkers.

10. You spent the start of your career in Hamptons? Tell us about that.

It was the best time of my life. I was working at Atlantic Golf Club in Bridgehampton for Bob Ranum. I felt like the luckiest kid in the world when he called me to come on board. Bob has had the most influence on my career. He is an incredible superintendent. His eye for architecture helped me understand how to present a golf course. When it came to making a change on the course, whether big or small, he taught me how to consider balance, color schemes, and contrasts. Bob is also a great people person. I learned how to fit in and how to communicate with the membership.

11. What has been the most trying experience of your career?

Without a doubt, trying to get my first superintendent job. I was 25 years old, and I interviewed for four years for all types of jobs, not just golf courses. I was working for Ryan Merriman at East Hampton Golf Club, and as much as I liked the position and working with Ryan, I was hell-bent on becoming a superintendent. I went to work for Tony Hooks at Due Process because I knew he would support me and allow me to interview as much as I needed to, and he did. He helped me prepare, and ten months later, I got my first superintendent job at Follow Hollow Golf Club.

12. What advice would you give an assistant who is looking for their first superintendent position?

Prepare to interview for a couple of years. Focus on your communication skills and how you present yourself. I interviewed as much as I could, even if I knew I was not interested in the job. It helped me improve my interviewing skills, and it also helped me create buzz for myself. Our industry is a tight-knit community. You want people to know you are out looking and eager to get started.

13. You were elected to the GCSANJ Board of Directors last year? Why did you decide to run, and what are some of your goals?

I decided to run because I have always enjoyed being a member of the association, here and in New York. I met my fellow board members at our events and saw them work together, which encouraged me to get involved. At this point, my goal is to learn from the seasoned board members and continue to grow with our board.



14. As the membership chairman, why do you think a GCSANJ membership is valuable?

Being a member of GCSANJ gives you opportunities and time to be with your peers. Any time you can spend time with other superintendents, you will always learn something new. It's the best way to meet your peers and neighbors.

15. List three things we don't know about you.

1. When I was 14, I broke my ankle on my dirt bike. A few weeks later, I was goofing around in a wheelchair in gym class, tipped over, and broke my other ankle. Good times.

2. I used to spend most of my days off walking other superintendent's properties. I did this for many years and continue to do so.

3. I'm bilingual. I speak German and English.



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RETIRING AND REFLECTING AFTER 56 YEARS

By Jeff Wetterling, CGCS



My golf maintenance career began in the summer of 1965 at the age of 13. I worked on a construction crew building six new golf holes at the Cranbury Golf Course. I skipped the next year and worked on a potato farm with two locations: Princeton Junction and the other in Cranbury. Getting up at 4:00 am and working until noon, I thought it was great. My boss was a young paratrooper returning from his service commitment. His name was Charles Dey, son of the farm's owner. As of no result of my career decisions, Charley also became a golf course superintendent and eventually retired from Springdale Golf Club in Princeton after 34 years.

When I was 15, a family purchased the house next to my parents. The new owner was Vic Perone, who was the new Superintendent at Greenacres Country Club, a club that was unfamiliar to me. I remembered Vic walked over to me in the front yard where, surprisingly, I was mowing the grass. He asked me if I needed a summer job working for \$1.10/hour. I accepted. Pushing a lawnmower as opposed to moving irrigation pipe in a potato field that was 12 inches deep in mud sounded pretty good.

It was 1968, and the State of New Jersey had commenced the construction of Interstate 295. They were taking approximately 4 acres of land from the club in the northwest corner. The 17th hole and part of the 18th hole were to be sacrificed, along with a small amount of land behind 10 green (what is now the rear of #4). We constructed 14 new greens, 30 plus tees, and moved 300 trees. I believe the whole project cost about \$250,000. George Fazio was the architect who just happened to be Tom Fazio's uncle. I worked for the club until 3:00 pm and then worked with Tom and Uncle George's crew some days until dark. I was 16-17 years old, and Tom Fazio was in the infancy of his career at 27 years old. It was a great experience and a lot of fun.

I stayed on at the club for summers during my remaining high school and college years. In 1974 I

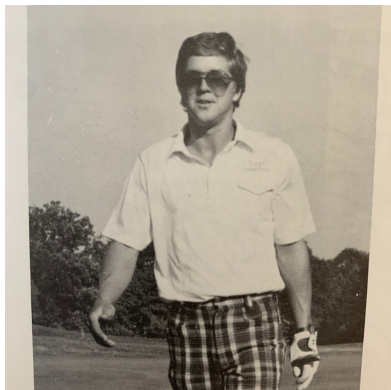


Dennis Shea, Jim Gilligan, Bob Ribbans, Jeff Wetterling,
Charlie Dey & Charlie Edgar

was back at the club full time as the Assistant Superintendent. I attended the Rutgers Turf School program offered at Cook College, graduating in 1975. I remained at the club until 1978 when I accepted the golf course superintendent position at Forest Hill Field Club in Bloomfield, New Jersey for the next 15 years.

Ron Chmura called me in the fall of 1992 to see if I would be interested in interviewing for the new superintendent position at Greenacres Country Club. Ron and I had worked together as both the assistant golf pro and the assistant superintendent back in the '70s at Greenacres. We each had gone our separate ways, only to both come full circle back to Greenacres as the new Golf Pro and Superintendent. My wife and I had been good friends with Linda and Ronny for many years.

I was very happy to come down from Westfield, where we lived, to talk to the hiring committee. I was very relieved and surprised to see three familiar faces when I entered the card room – Dr. Arnold Gordon, David Friedman, and Philip Levy. I was hired almost immediately and began what has become a 29+ year career. I was certified in 1985 and have maintained the title of certified golf course superintendent for over 35 years.



The year I returned to Greenacres, it was in the middle of a two-year master plan renovation formulated by architect Stephen Kay. Upon completing this project in 1994, we embarked on completely replacing the irrigation system and pumping station.

Over the past two decades, the golf course and property has seen consistent improvements and changes. As you know, a golf course is in a constant

state of flux and requires continual tweaking. It is a perennial necessity.

None was as drastic in the change of the landscape as the Lennar project. I embraced the challenge of this rebuild of the golf course. We built a new golf course in five months, starting July 2017, and opened the following year. Bobby Weed did a great job with the design and my compliments to everyone involved in bringing the new course on line.

The last two years have been concentrated on the fine-tuning of a great instrument, and I am sure it will continue under new leadership. Being the Superintendent of now Cobblestone Creek has been a very fulfilling responsibility, and I truly appreciate the many years of support and friendship of the members of Greenacres and Cobblestone for making my tenure so memorable.

Nancy, my wife of 46 years, and I now will take some time to reflect on our lives and enjoy our children and six wonderful grandchildren. We hope these crazy pandemic times are nearing an end so we can make travel plans and explore new adventures together.

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WHERE DOES OUR INDUSTRY FIT INTO THE NEW “GREEN” MODEL?

By Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Northeast Field Representative

There is always so much emphasis on the color green. As spring ramps up temperatures, the grass does indeed come to life bringing with it that wonderful seasonal hue we all enjoy. The Masters returned to its typical April time slot adding a green jacket to the discussion. Earth Day arrives, a day when sustainability and protecting our environment are meant to be celebrated. I am unsure if the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, or on the other side of the aisle. It is strange how politicians now can influence turf management at your facilities even more than general managers, greens committees, or owners. When did being environmentally green turn political? Where does the golf industry fit into this new “green” model?

It seems not long ago that recycling and saving water were very important. Switching lights off to save energy and utilizing electronic documents to save paper were emphasized too. Everyone seemed happy to be making improvements to our wonderful planet. The good old days. Now, fast forward 30 seconds (it seems), and using materials that even require recycling is wasteful. Every drop of water belongs to the environmentalists. Energy must be generated by wind or solar and if not, it should be banned. You must know how your power was generated or you are part of the problem.

At one point, doing the right thing to protect the environment went from a voluntary movement by the masses to a mandate by just a few. Our industry continues to see the impact of this activism. If the small minority of loud voices are not making the impact on society they hoped for, they channel their

efforts to the political realm. Initiatives to enact their preferred changes at every level of regulation, including local, state, and federal, are now the norm.

GCSAA has expanded our industry-leading government affairs to help protect our members. Chava McKeel, Director of Government Affairs, and Bob Helland, Director of Congressional and Federal Affairs continue to advocate strongly at the federal level. GCSAA’s Manager of Government Affairs, Michael Lee, has increased efforts at the state level.

In addition to policy research and communication with members, Lee has initiated a monthly call with state lobbyists retained by GCSAA chapters. These calls have aided in sharing of ideas and resources in hopes of minimizing duplication and streamlining advocacy efforts. With nearly 20 lobbyists on the call each month, many of the regulatory and legislative pressures our superintendent members are dealing with are discussed.

Regarding efforts in New Jersey, thanks to all of you who have already taken action on A 2070, a neonicotinoid ban bill that has passed the Senate and is now in the Assembly. Your messages have improved the conversation, but more outreach is still needed. Legislators must hear from those affected by legislation and grassroots efforts like those undertaken by the GCSANJ are essential in accomplishing that balance. State Street and the New Jersey Green Industry Council have worked hard to ensure your point of view is considered by those legislators directly responsible for the bill, but ultimately your engagement is critical.

A 2070 would be the most stringent neonicotinoid bill anywhere in the country. Not only would it create a drastic change to the green industry in New Jersey, it could easily cause reverberations in state houses across the country. I have learned in my nine plus years in this role if there is a group that refuses to give in without exhausting every effort, it is the GCSA of New Jersey. Thank you for doing your part.



NEED ASSISTANCE?

Kevin Doyle
GCSAA Field Staff
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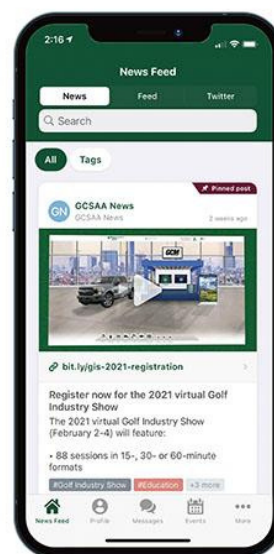
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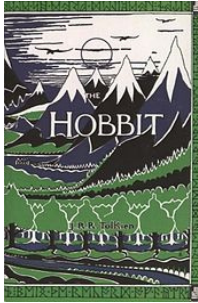
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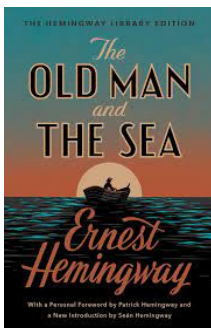
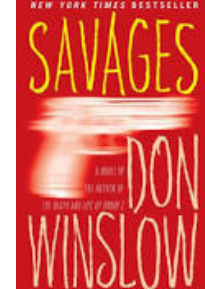
"My favorite book is "The Hobbit" and I am currently reading "Column of Fire" by Ken Follet."

-Drew White, Superintendent, Riverton Country Club

"What are your favorite books and what are you reading now?"

"I recently read "Fear" by Bob Woodward on a trip to Jackson Hole in Wyoming, and my favorite books are by Don Winslow such as "Savages" and "The Teeth of the Dog."

-Conor Geisel, Assistant Superintendent, Springdale Golf Club

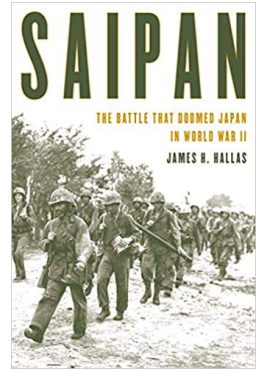


"I am currently reading "The Old Man and the Sea" by Ernest Hemingway. The recent Ken Burns documentary spurred my interest. My favorite books are those authored by Kevin Cook, Malcolm Gladwell, Bill O'Reilly, John Grisham, and Kurt Vonnegut. "

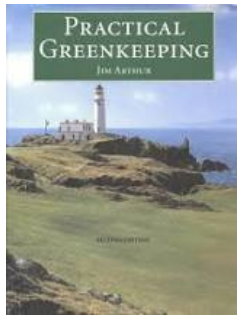
-Ken Kubik ,CEO, Grass Roots Turf Products



"I am reading "Saipan" by James Hallas, "The Irishman" by Charles Brandt, and I just started Tom Doak's "Confidential Guide to Golf Courses". Normally, I would be reading something by Lee Child, David Baldacci, James Patterson, John Sanford, Harlan Coben, or Stuart Woods but with the extra time granted us because of Covid, I seem to have read all the recent works from these authors."



-Shaun Barry, GCSANJ Foundation



"Currently reading "How To Talk So Kids will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk" by Adele Faber & Elaine Mazlish. Simon Sinek touts this book as the best book on managing a workforce, I am hoping to gain some psychological advantage over my 3-year-old. Favorite book is "Practical Greenkeeping" by Jim Arthur. I like the way it talks about the trends of greenskeeping in the past."

-Joe Kinlin, Superintendent, Bey Lea Golf Course

"Currently reading: "Just Looking" by John Updike. It's a compilation of critiques of some great works of art that I also admire. I'm reading this because I like the author and the subject and because it belonged to my Dad: we are cleaning out the house where I grew up.

Favorite book: Patrick O'Brian's 20 volume novel of the British naval world during the Napoleonic wars, the days of iron men and wooden ships. It's a fantastically written series that I dip into again and again for the story, the elegance of the writing, and the humor.

I'll add that the most influential book I've read was The Grapes of Wrath by Steinbeck. I read it when I was 12 and it made me aware of the power of good writing and storytelling."



-Chris Carson, Superintendent, Echo Lake Country Club





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