

THE GREENERSIDE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY



Issue 4: 2022/ Volume 64



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CONTENTS

12
Donovan Maguigan
shares his experience
traveling to Singapore.

20
TIMELINE: Lee Kozsey's
60 year career.

25
CHAPTER AWARDS: Congratulations
to Les Carpenter Jr. and Donovan
Maguigan.



On The Cover

Tavistock Country Club

Golf Course Superintendent: Victor Frederico

6
Chapter News

10
GCSANJ Foundation News

18
**Dr. William Meyer's contributions to our
industry.**

22
We Asked, You Answered
In honor of Lee Kozsey's 60-year career, we
asked a few of his biggest fans to share their
memories and well wishes.

30
GCSAA Feature
A recap of the GCSAA Conference and Trade
Show in Orlando.

36
Photo Pages

40
Patron Directory

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

DONOVAN MAGUIGAN



While this is not the first time that my words have appeared in the Greenside, this is the first time that I am writing to the membership as President of the GCSANJ. I am honored and humbled to serve the association for many reasons, but most importantly, to represent our New Jersey family of golf course superintendents, assistants, mechanics, students, and affiliates. Between the two periods that I have worked in New Jersey, both at Seaview Golf Club in Galloway and most recently here in Princeton at Springdale Golf Club, the constant in my time here has been the friendships I have formed with members of the association.

I am also honored to serve as president because it connects back to the long history of my club at Springdale. Lewis Weiland, who served as superintendent from the 1920s through the 1940s, was a founding member of the association meeting in 1926 at Crestmont Country Club alongside Ed Cale of Canoe Brook, Fred Ross of Plainfield, and Walter Toddy of Echo Lake. Weiland then served as the 5th President of the GCSANJ from 1936-1937. As I flipped through old copies of the Greenside, I felt a strong connection to my predecessor from nearly a century ago.

I am proud to be part of this association's history, which is as rich as the courses spread across our state, and made better by the men and women who work hard every day in all aspects of our profession.

The board is planning for a busy 2023, from our golf events, assistant superintendent roundtables, First Green education, and wrapping up with the NJ Green Expo. 2023 will also feature four LPGA events across the state and our state events. The year has already begun with a strong start with a big New Jersey presence at the GCSAA Conference in San Diego (and more so at our well-attended social).

If you find yourself thinking of great ideas for the association, whether it be golf events, social events, or education, please consider joining a committee on the board. I am proud to serve our board, as each member brings enthusiasm, education, and ideas to every meeting.

With the "winter" of 2023 coming to an end, I hope that all of our hard-working members have been able to take time and relax ahead of the upcoming season. With time shoveling snow and driving plow trucks instead spent on extended projects, the time off the course during the winter is equally important as that winter work.

As you will read in this issue, I enjoyed a trip abroad in Singapore during the Chinese Lunar New Year celebration. 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit in the Chinese zodiac, symbolizing longevity, peace, and prosperity. In closing, I will leave you with a traditional blessing in mandarin, gōng hè xīn xǐ, which means, "Good luck in the year ahead."

THANK YOU,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donovan Maguigan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

DONOVAN MAGUIGAN
Chapter President





MAUREEN SHARPLES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LET'S CONNECT



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FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year at Green Expo, several members approached me with positive feedback after our keynote speaker, Adam La Reau's presentation. If you missed it, Adam co-founded O2X Human Performance which offers performance training for tactical organizations. He is a former Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy and completed the Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) training to earn the title of U.S. Navy SEAL. He spoke for an hour about maximizing human performance in the workforce by building trust and strong teams. It was an excellent presentation and outside the box of what we typically provide at Green Expo. Our Board of Directors spent a lot of time fine-tuning our program and was very excited to have Adam present. We were thrilled to receive such positive feedback, but I was pleased to get any feedback.

Like your teams at work, performance reviews and feedback are vital to succeed. Our chapter is no different. Without hearing from you, our Board of Directors and I will never know what you would like offered or what changes to our programs or initiatives are needed. Please reach out to me or any of our chapter leaders with your ideas and opinions. We'd like to know your thoughts. Input and two-way communication keep us engaged and connected with our members.

As we wrap up our winter and look forward to spring, we are steadily planning our programs for this year and next year. This is the perfect time to share your thoughts or join a committee and help out. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

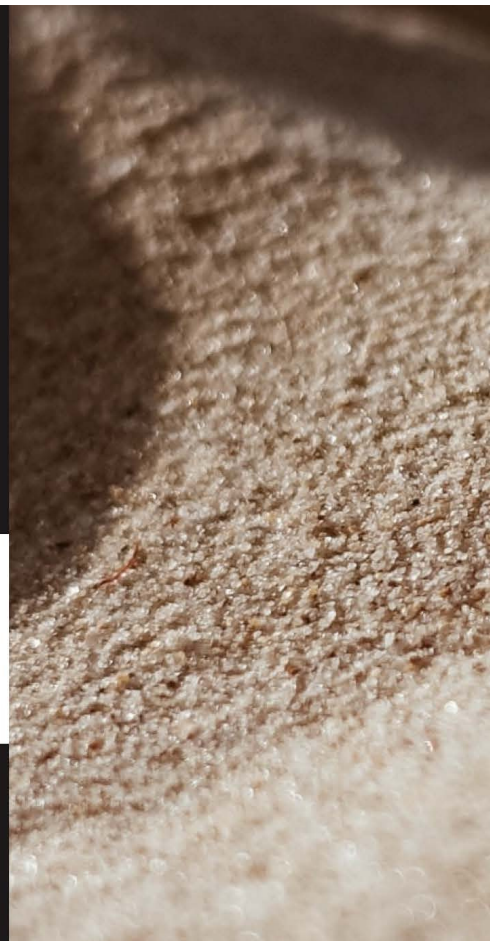
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CHAPTER NEWS

ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS

The 2023 GCSANJ Annual Meeting and Election was held on Tuesday, December 6th, at NJ Green Expo at the Borgata Hotel. Chapter President Jeremy Hreben recapped the year and thanked our members for their participation and support. The voting members present approved the membership dues increase from \$200 to \$225 for Class A, B, and AF members.

GCSANJ Foundation President Keith Bennett conducted the election, and the 2023 Board of Directors is listed below.

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chapter President- Donovan Maguigan, Springdale Golf Club
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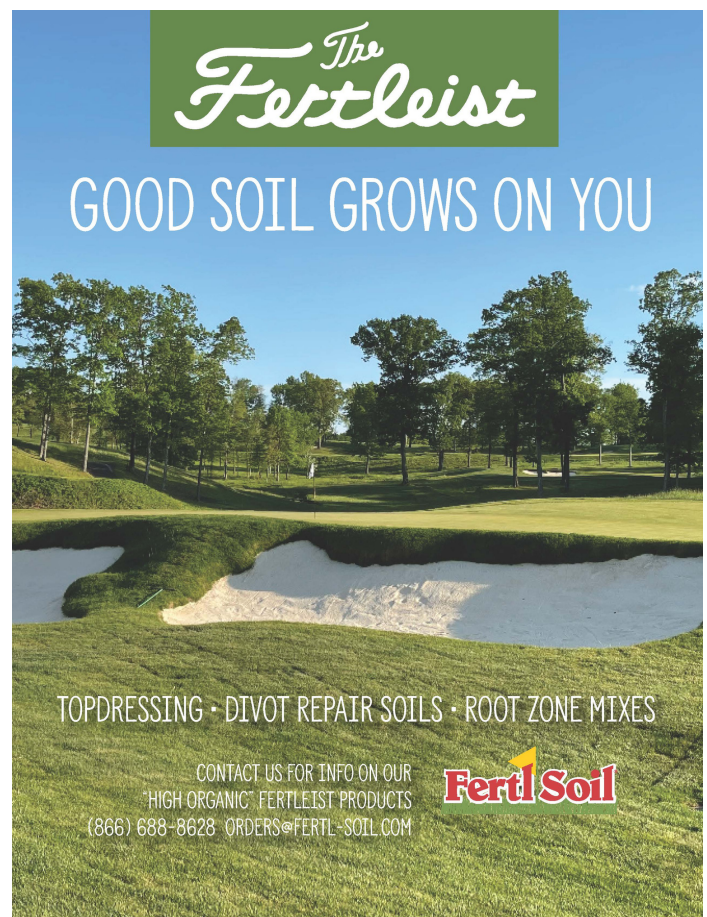
Dr. James Murphy



Ken Anson, Donovan Maguigan, Mike Tardogno, Jennifer Torres



Our newest board member, Victor Frederico, was elected as the District 3 Director. Victor is the golf course superintendent at Tavistock Country Club.



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CHAPTER NEWS

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Dhenilson Pizarro, Class C
Baltusrol Golf Club

Miguel Torres, Class C
Baltusrol Golf Club

Greg Byrne, Class A
Cherry Valley Country Club

Samuel Butler, Class AF
Storr Tractor

Doug Rider, Class AF
Syngenta

Stuart Kiely, Class C
Deal Country Club

Vanja Drasler, Class A
Montclair Golf Club

Sung Soun, Class C
Montclair Golf Club

Richard Kane, Class B
Indian Springs Golf Course

Matthew Corbridge, Class A
Galloping Hill Golf Course

Patrick Haughey, Class A
Union League National

Ryan Burbridge, Class AF
TSP Outdoors

Chip Dayton, Class C
Suneagles Golf Club

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

- Patrick Hickey is the new golf course superintendent at Crestmont Country Club.
- Phil Page is the new west coast director of sales for Harrell's.
- Ricardo Torres is the new golf course greenskeeper at the First Tee Jersey Shore.



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CHAPTER NEWS

WOMEN IN TURF LUNCHEON

GCSANJ, in partnership with Harrell's and Pure Seed, hosted the first Women in Turf Luncheon at this year's Green Expo. The session's keynote speaker, Nicole Sherry, director of field operations for the Baltimore Orioles, shared her insight on becoming a leading woman in a male-dominated field. The attendees enjoyed a networking session promoting camaraderie in the spirit of growing this community.



Harrell's Tyler Otero and Jennifer Schneider, with Jennifer Torres and keynote speaker Nicole Sherry.

DOG OF THE YEAR

After tallying all the votes, LebanonTurf named Chico from Upper Montclair Country Club the winner of the 2023 Dog of the Year contest! Chico's lucky owner is our member, Graham Kasprzyk. The 20th Dog of the Year contest winner won a \$500 cash prize, a \$3,000 donation to our chapter from LebanonTurf, and a \$2,000 donation to K9s For Warriors in partnership with the GCSAA. Congratulations to Chico and Graham Kasprzyk, and thank you to everyone for voting at the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show!



Women in Turf Luncheon Attendees



Chico in his element at Upper Montclair Country Club



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CHAPTER NEWS

RETIREMENTS

Bill Murray retired after 25 years as a golf course superintendent for the Monmouth County Park System. Congratulations, Bill, and thank you for your longtime commitment and service to our chapter!



Jay McKenna retired after 29 years as operations manager at Grass Roots Turf Products. Congratulations, Jay and thank you for your service and commitment to our members.



NEWLY CERTIFIED

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Montclair Golf Club

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FOUNDATION NEWS

RUTGERS TURFGRASS SCHOLARSHIP

The GCSANJ Foundation awarded \$3,000 in scholarships to the Rutgers Turfgrass Scholarship Program. The recipients were Tyler Seeton, Carson Chiovarou, and Jeremy Rys. The students received their scholarships at the Rutgers Turfgrass Scholarship Dinner in December.



Dr. Stacy Bonos, Jeremy Rys, and Tyler Seeton.

FOUNDATION SHOOTOUT

Save the date for the 2023 GCSANJ Foundation Shootout at Riverton Country Club on Monday, May 15th, hosted by Drew White. For sponsorship information, please email foundation@gcsanj.org.



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Singapore

RETURNING HOME AFTER 30 YEARS
BY DONOVAN MAGUIGAN

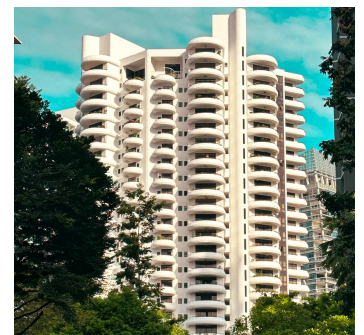


Nineteen hours is a long time to spend on an airplane, which became apparent after about six hours into the flight somewhere over the North Atlantic. For context, Neil Armstrong only spent twenty-one hours total on the moon in 1969. Despite sitting reclined with the option to lay down fully and being completely comfortable in my business class “pod” with a scotch in hand, my mind and body were too excited to fully relax as we cruised at 500 miles an hour towards our destination. With a library of e-books, audiobooks, music, movies, tv-shows, and a full entertainment menu at my disposal, I remained too eager to focus on anything, except that I was returning to my childhood home, Singapore. I spent most of my childhood years in Wilmington, Delaware, before heading to college in Ohio, but I was fortunate enough to spend three of those years from 1991 to 1994 living in the city state of Singapore. This trip, a yearlong delayed honeymoon with my bride, Jen, was the first time that I was returning after leaving thirty years ago.

in August of 1991 just before the start of the school year in Singapore. We lived on the 15th floor of an apartment tower shared by a number of American expats, attended the private Singapore American School, and spent the next three years living abroad. Aside from living in Singapore, we also traveled to Thailand, Indonesia, and Australia. The experience of living there would impact every day of my life since and would change my viewpoint on the world forever.



1991 vs 2023



Our apartment building

Back in 1991 when my father worked for DuPont, he was offered an opportunity to work on a three-year project in Singapore with the company assisting with moving our family to live in the country. My parents, my older sister, myself, and my younger brother packed up, rented out our home in Delaware, and flew to the other side of the world

Singapore is a city state located at the south terminus of the Malaysian Peninsula and marks the southernmost point of Continental Asia. Approximately the size of North Jersey, it can be crossed East to West in an hour or forty-five minutes traveling North to South by car. Despite its small size, it is home to 5.6 million people and is the third most densely populated place in the world. It sits barely a degree longitude above the equator, which provides it with uniform tropical weather and an evenly split day of 12 hours of day and 12 hours of night. Being that close to the equator, the temperature is hot and sticky, with high temperatures in the mid to high 80s and lows in the mid to high 70s. A “cool day” in Singapore is approximately 80 degrees, which we witnessed seasoned Singaporeans wearing windbreakers and long-sleeve jackets to fight off the “chill.” When chatting with my assistant via text, I mentioned that the normal weather on our first day would have been one of the worst summer days in NJ, with a high of eighty-eight and a low of seventy-eight, packing lots of humidity.

Walking the streets around Singapore, whether walking to get food, shopping, or checking out a local attraction, can be exhausting and overwhelming during the afternoon heat. Thankfully, the country is easily accessible with its trident of public transportation, the Mass Rapid Transit System (MRT), which is its subway, frequent buses, and an armada of taxis. Relief from the heat can be as easy as an air-conditioned train, bus, or taxi to your next destination. The fully automated MRT system can quickly get you to your destination at the tap of your smartphone for a few dollars each day, all in clean, air-conditioned luxury, with trains running less than six minutes apart. Buses and taxis are also efficient as Singapore has many systems to reduce cars on the road, including expensive car ownership certificates and restricted toll roads.

Singapore is figuratively and literally a melting pot of Asia with a blend of cultures including British, Australian, Chinese, Malaysian, Thai, and Indonesian, and the greatest byproduct of that is the food. Singapore is SERIOUS about food from Michelin Star restaurants to the affordable, authentic goodness of hawker centres. As Anthony Bourdain said, “If you love food, Singapore might be the greatest place on Earth.” Aside from a strong hit of nostalgia for me, the primary reason for our honeymoon to Singapore was to savor all of the flavors and varieties of food that would be readily available to us. We planned to set out daily and explore the many available food

Random Facts About Singapore

- Most Singaporeans speak English, as the national languages are Mandarin Chinese, Malay, Tamil, and English.
- Singapore has been repeatedly voted the most expensive city in the world and its economy is driven by shipping and tourism. Almost everything from drinking water to construction materials are imported into Singapore.
- It's more expensive to purchase a license to own a car, than it is to purchase a car. To deter traffic on its limited road space, Singapore enacted a requirement that purchasing a car requires purchasing a certificate to be allowed to purchase a car, based on the price of the car you wish to purchase.
- Singapore is a young nation, founded in 1965. Prior to that, it was a British colony and a Malaysian state, while also being occupied during World War II by the Japanese.

options, including the most unique aspect of Singapore's food culture, the hawker center. The hawker center was devised by Singapore in the 60's to combat an unruly number of street carts selling food and the result of that initiative was the polar opposite of a mall food court in the US. Instead of mass produced heat and serve food, each of these food courts feature dozens of stalls made by individual chefs who specialized in traditional dishes of their ethnicity. On top of the unrivaled authenticity of the dishes, the meals are cheaper than eating at an American fast food chain, with a full meal costing less than \$10.



Hawker Center

Back when I was a kid, I was a big fan of the standard American kid diet; chicken nuggets, hot dogs with ketchup, and mac & cheese. Upon arriving in Singapore, I was overwhelmed by the variety of food that looked like nothing I had ever eaten. I did sample the variety of food as a kid but still found myself begging my parents to go to McDonald's and KFC, a fact that my parents still remind me of thirty years later. Returning as an adult, I made a pact with myself to try everything at least once and not shy away from food, as this would be the best way to sample and experience Asian food culture. Each meal, regardless of ethnicity, would be a journey into the unknown of Asian dishes.



If this section of the article is really firing up your taste buds, I recommend making a trip to Urban Hawker in New York City (135 W 50th St). Founded by a Singaporean hawker center critic and historian. This is the closest thing that I have found stateside to a hawker center complete with multiple stalls offering many of the foods that I listed.

It's difficult to encompass the flavors, smells, and permeations of food in Singapore, but imagine a world where you could sample an Asian food style of your choice. You could wake up in the morning and enjoy a dish of Char Kway Teo (a lard-fried noodle dish with bean spouts, tofu, and vegetables); for lunch, you could eat Chicken Rice (the national dish of Singapore, boiled chicken, rice made in the chicken stock, topped with your choice of sauces, chilies, and seasonings), for a snack you could have a few sticks of Satay (chicken/lamb/beef skewers), and finish off with a dinner of Chili or Black Pepper Crab. The list of incredible food in Singapore is endless, with foods like Roti Canai, Nasi Lamak, Laksa, Nasi Briyani, Mee Goreng, Beef Rendang, and Chwee Kueh (look them all up).

My wife and I safely explored the country, eating almost anything we could put in front of us. When we were stuffed, we would retire to our hotel for a cool dip in the pool and a cold beer or cocktail. Aside from the food, there are plenty of tourist attractions to attract people to the country, including botanic gardens, museums, recreational opportunities, and shopping. As Singapore is ranked as one of the most expensive places in the world, the shopping in Singapore mirrors that ranking with high-end brands featuring multiple locations, including Hermes, Chanel, Rolex, LV, and Cartier. The main shopping district, Orchard, features a long stretch of upscale malls with small artisan shops in between. Even if you aren't interested in purchasing anything, taking a step from the sweltering heat to the cool comfort of a mall provides a brief tropical heat respite.

Singapore takes pride in its clean streets, minimal crime, and comfortable living conditions, which does come as a byproduct of strict but reasonable

laws and fines. The country is known around the world for its reputation of being a strict nation with corporal punishment for violations of those laws. With a minimal police presence on the streets, Singaporeans are essentially self-policed by fines and corporal punishment for littering, eating on subways, spitting, vandalism, and jaywalking. On the felony side of the law, drugs are strictly prohibited with heavy penalties including the death penalty for trafficking and distribution in small quantities. When I speak to people about Singapore, it is not uncommon for people to ask about how strict Singapore was or if I was caned for vandalism or fined for chewing gum. From outward appearances with its laws, Singapore sounds like a strict, heavily policed nation, but in fact, it feels quite the opposite. Singaporeans are incredibly courteous and friendly, fueled by public initiatives aimed at courteousness. If walking on the streets, in line for a taxi, or finding a table at a hawker center, Singaporeans display a calm friendly nature that never feels impatient or rude.

In returning to Singapore, I was merging what I remembered as a child with what I was learning about through adult eyes. I was fascinated by the laws and restrictions that existed in Singapore and how those impacted everyday adult life. Of the laws and fines that I saw posted on the MRT or along the road, none of them felt excessively strict. I've experienced enough of the New York Subway or been on a dirty NJ Transit train to appreciate the

cleanliness that a strict fine for eating on a train can provide. No one wants trash on a train, litter on the streets, or graffiti, but a strict deterrent that can keep a place clean in my opinion does have validity. You don't find Singaporeans who are angry that you can't spit on the street or who want to throw their trash, you find a nation of people who want to preserve a clean place to live.



BIG TAKEAWAYS FROM THE TRIP

Always Make Time to Connect with Family and Friends

Almost all of the expats that lived in Singapore when we lived there have since returned to the States or are living abroad, but there were several Singaporeans who worked with my father and shared time with my family when we lived there. While I was nervous to see my dad's old co-workers as I had very distant memories of them, the meals and time we spent with them proved to be the best memories we took from the trip. Over some of the best food we ate, we discussed eating, Singapore, our shared history, our lives, and cultural differences. As the continent celebrated the Lunar New Year, we shared many traditions with our hosts, including the Yu Sheng "Prosperity Toss." The Yu Sheng is a salad with salmon and crispy wontons that the guests toss and mix together while wishing each other wealth, prosperity, luck, and happiness.



Examples of Laws in Singapore

- **Chewing Gum** - The sale and importing of gum is illegal while chewing it remains legal. This came as a result of subway doors jamming in the early 90's as well as preservation of Singapore's cleanliness.
- **Smoking Outside in Non-Designated Areas** - Smoking in public can be challenging as it is required only in designated areas. Smoking in public outside those areas carry hefty fines and penalties.
- **Laws Against Pornography** - Pornography, including texting/sending nude photos, is illegal in the country. Walking around naked in your house with the blinds open, is also illegal. However, prostitution is legal and strictly regulated.
- **Not Cleaning Your Table** - When you are finished at a Hawker Center, you are required to wipe down your own table of food and trash, leaving it clean and ready for the next patron.
- **Not Flushing A Public Toilet** - Not flushing a public toilet can net a \$150-500 fine in an effort to keep public toilets clean.
- **Graffiti / Vandalism** - The laws regarding graffiti and vandalism are well known to Americans, following an incident involving an American student in 1994. The student spray-painted more than a dozen cars and stole street signs before being caught. He was consequently sentenced to six lashes with a cane, a typical corporal punishment for that crime. After lobbying from the U.S. against the harshness of this sentence, it was reduced to four lashes in addition to several months in jail. A side note mostly unknown to Americans was that a Singaporean who was also arrested in connection to the crime, received twelve lashes.

Be Adventurous

Get out there and try things, especially food. With strict sanitation guidelines for restaurants and an endless list of food options, and easy access to mass transit, get out there and try new foods. Keep a running list in your head of what you want to do, but also stay open to new experiences. When you are with locals, ask for recommendations, especially in Singapore. Anthony Bourdain described how Singaporeans are very democratic in their food choices, voting with their dollars for the best places to eat. Every Singaporean that we spoke to about food had a passionate recommendation.

Stay Away From Home Comforts

In an expansion from when I lived there in the 90s, western fast food continues to expand its presence with brands such as Shake Shack, Five Guys, Little Caesar's, and Popeye's appearing more frequently on top of KFC, Burger King, Starbucks, and McDonald's. Stay away from those because you can just eat those at home when you get back. Hawker center food is far superior to these heat and serve options at the same price. If you really want a Big Mac, just fly home. My one exception to this was at McDonald's, which was offering a Lunar New Year menu including a strawberry pie, curly fries, and a "Prosperity Burger" - a McRib with special seasoning.



Be Available (With Boundaries)

By taking this trip for two weeks in January, I hoped to eliminate the majority of work issues I would have to address back at the course. It is plausible to disconnect entirely from work, but I wanted to make sure that I was available for emergencies, especially for the staff of my department. I made a point that I would only check work emails for approximately a half hour in the morning before my day started to stay in the loop. With the thirteen-hour time difference, my morning coincided with the end of the day back home, which kept work disruptions to a minimum.

It Doesn't Have to Involve Turf or Golf

I had grand plans to play some golf, meet with local superintendents, and spend some time learning about turf in Singapore. After being in the country for only a few days with my wife, I discovered that part of the reason that I was on this trip was to escape from the daily turfgrass grind and while I would have enjoyed doing those, spending time with my wife held a higher priority to me.





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A GROWING LEGACY

DR. WILLIAM MEYER RETIRES

By Donovan Maguigan

After over 25 years at Rutgers University as a professor and the Associate Director of Turfgrass Breeding, Dr. William Meyer has retired, leaving behind a legacy of industry-changing turfgrass research. The number of turfgrass plants worldwide that Dr. Meyer's research has impacted is incalculable. Dr. Jim Funk, Director of Turfgrass Research at Rutgers and longtime colleague of Dr. Meyer, stated in 2020, "Whether people realize it or not, he has had an impact on their lives if they have done anything on grass."

Dr. Meyer began his turfgrass career with a B.S. in Horticulture-Turf from the University of Illinois, where he continued his master's studies in Plant Pathology, graduating in 1969. Before continuing his doctorate at the University of Illinois, Dr. Meyer completed a graduate study at the JNAU Agriculture University in Jabalpur, India, studying soil-borne diseases in 1971. He received his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology in 1972.

After receiving his doctorate, Dr. Meyer began working as a research director at Warrens Turf Nursey in Illinois. He moved to Oregon to work for Turf-Seed and Pure Seed Testing Inc. from 1975 until 1996 as a turfgrass breeder, researcher, vice president, and president. During his tenure in Oregon, he also served as an adjunct graduate faculty member at Oregon State University's Department of Crop Science.

As the President of PureSeed Inc., Dr. Meyer worked closely with turfgrass breeding pioneer Dr. C. Reed Funk, who started the turfgrass breeding program at Rutgers University. They co-developed Midnight Kentucky Bluegrass, which today remains a top cultivar 40 years later.



Funk served as Director of Turfgrass Breeding at Rutgers for almost 35 years before passing the reins to Meyer in 1996. Through their research in turfgrass breeding, the program has become the largest and most productive program for releasing improved turfgrass cultivars for the United States and the world market for cool-season turfgrasses, releasing over four hundred cultivars of turfgrass.

Building upon the turfgrass breeding success at Rutgers, Dr. Meyer successfully released the first turf-type tall fescue following Funk's release of Rebel tall fescue, which became the largest species for cool season turfgrass in the United States. Dr. Meyer has worked on additional cultivars, including Falcon, Olympic, Mustang, Apache, and Apache III.

The development of Gray Leaf Spot resistant ryegrass stands out as an industry-changing development from the Rutgers turfgrass breeding program under Dr. Meyer. When Gray Leaf Spot emerged in New Jersey during the early 1990s, it was very destructive to ryegrass stands throughout the state. In 2001, the turfgrass breeding team at Rutgers discovered resistance in ryegrass to gray leaf spot. Through that discovery, more than half of the top perennial ryegrass varieties today are gray leaf spot resistant.

Beyond the legacy that Dr. Meyer leaves with healthy turf firmly planted in the soil around the world, his work with turfgrass students, graduate

students and the faculty were always held in the highest regard. Meyer recounted that “One of the reasons I came to Rutgers was to work with the faculty and grad students of the Turfgrass Center. I am proud to say all my thirteen grad students successfully finished their studies, and they are now leaders in our industry.”

One of many examples of the contributions from Dr. Meyer’s graduate students is Dr. Stacy Bonos, Director of Turfgrass Breeding and Associate Director of the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, and her research on creeping bentgrass and dollar spot. Dr. Meyer shared that “Dr. Bonos started working with the germplasm of bentgrass at Rutgers in the late nineties. Through her research, she was able to identify stable sources of resistance to dollar spot disease and put them in adapted species of creeping bentgrass.” Dr. Meyer also noted that in reviewing NTEP trials for creeping bentgrass, more than 50% of the putting green and fairway tests were sourced from that material.

Through his research in turfgrass breeding, Dr. Meyer received numerous awards from the Turfgrass Breeders Association, Oregon Seed Trade Association, the Golf Course Superintendent’s Association of America, National Association of Plant Breeders, and most recently, in 2020, he was recognized with the United State Golf Association’s Green Section Award. This award recognizes “an individual’s distinguished service to the game of golf through his or her work with turfgrass, including research, maintenance, and other areas that positively impact the landscape upon which golf is played.” Dr. Bonos shared, “He doesn’t do his job to win awards; he does it because he loves what he does.”

Thank you to Dr. Meyer for providing notes used to compile this article, including his research contribution and turfgrass cultivar histories. Quotes are from the USGA video, “Meet Dr. William Meyer, the 2020 USGA Green Section Award Recipient.” – March 2020

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TAKE IT BACK TO THE FIRST TEE

Lee Kozsey
Through the Years



1962

A friend of Lee's father worked for Diamond Alkali Co. and encouraged him to apply to the new T.R. Evans Research Center that the company opened for research and product development. Lee applied and was hired as a research assistant working on new compounds.



1963

Lee was a member of the four-person team that developed Daconil fungicide. Head Chemist Dr. Robert Battershell developed the molecule and tasked Lee and his fellow team members to make it in larger quantities. It was tedious work for the small team because each member had to monitor the small reactor in shifts. Lee fondly remembers holding the first successful pound of Daconil in his hands.

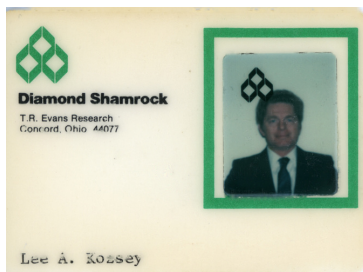
1966

Daconil's first registration was for turf and ornamentals.

1967

Lee was promoted to research farm manager. He spent summers working at the farm and winters at the research center. He was also promoted to research and development manager for Ohio and Kentucky, working closely with the universities conducting research.

Diamond Alkali Co. merged with Shamrock Oil to become Diamond Shamrock. Daconil quickly became one of their most successful turf disease control products.



Diamond Shamrock I.D. card from 1967

1952

Lee Kozsey grew up in Fairport Harbor, Ohio, located on Lake Erie. At age 12, he got his first job at a local nursery, making 10 cents an hour pulling weeds after school and on weekends.

1959

In high school, Lee worked at a gas station helping fix cars. College tuition was expensive so Lee decided to enroll in General Motor's Training School in Cleveland after high school graduation in hopes of becoming a mechanic.



GM Training School Class of 1959

1960

Lee joined the Coast Guard and became a merchant marine. He was stationed in Cleveland where the ships transported iron ore and other supplies along the Great Lakes. Lee ended up working on a ship owned by Bethlehem Steel, and strangely enough, Lee ended up moving to Bethlehem, PA later in life.

1970

Daconil is approved for agriculture and is rebranded to Bravo for agricultural use. The first label was for potatoes; eight more crops were approved a year later. At this time, Daconil and Bravo are still being produced at the research center in Ohio using a 10-foot reactor. There is a small sales force, and most employees take on extra responsibilities to handle the demand. On top of working R&D and managing the farm, Lee also took shifts monitoring the reactor.



Lee at The Masters

1990

Lee became a sales representative. His territory was Maine to the Carolinas.

1995

Lee marries Lucille.

1998

Zeneca purchase's SDS-Biosciences. Lee's sales territory is reduced to Turf & Landscape in Northeast. Agriculture sales became a different division.

2000

Zeneca and Novartis merge to form Syngenta. Lee's sales territory changes to Turf & Landscape in NJ, NY & PA.

1988

Lee meets his wife, Lucille, on a blind date set up by a golf buddy from Bethlehem Golf Club.



Lee and Lucille Kozsey

1988

He moves to Pennsylvania and became the research and development representative for the Northeast, working with all the universities. He is also tasked with working with the Christmas tree farmers in Wisconsin. Golf was still a smaller market so most of his work was with the agricultural side.



Golf Industry Show in 1989



Tobacco sprayer at the Florida research farm in 1984

1984

Lee is transferred to the research farm in Naples, FL. In 1987, they were forced to sell the farm due to the housing boom in the area.

1983

A Japanese company, Showa Denko merges with Diamond Shamrock and renames it SDS Biotech. The company changes names five more times until becoming Syngenta in 2000. Lee has saved all his business cards through all the transitions.

2013

Lee inducted into the New Jersey Turfgrass Association Hall of Fame.



Dennis DeSanctis Jr. & Lee at the NJTA Awards ceremony in 2013.

2022

Lee celebrated 60 years with Syngenta on August 1st and retired on November 30th.

Present

Lee is looking forward to a long retirement spending more time with Lucille and his family, golfing, fishing, and staying in touch with his lifelong friends he made in this industry.

1971

Construction begins on a plant to produce Daconil in Greens Bayou, TX. The plant officially opens in 1973. More crops are added to the label.

Around this time, Lee is introduced to golf by a coworker and falls in love with the game.



Lee's business card from each company

WE ASKED

"Plain and simple, Lee is one of the great ones. Down to earth with a good heart and even better wit. Talk about stories! The guy literally blew up the lab not once but twice! I'm not sure how he snuck in there in the first place, but we are all glad he did! His legacy is truly something to admire. Wishing Lee all the best!"

-Rob Wagner, Trump National Bedminster

In honor of Lee Kozsey's 60 year career and contributions to our industry and chapter, we asked a few of his biggest fans to share their memories and well wishes.

"Lee is one of my best friends in the industry. He's kind, generous, and has been a major supporter of the turf industry and the Rutgers Turf Program for more than 50 years. I remember when I first arrived at Rutgers, Lee gave me one of his golf putters to help improve my game. I still have that club and smile each time I see his name on the handle. Always there with a smile and a handshake, Lee has always been a fun person to be around!"

-Dr. Bruce Clarke

"Lee is the GOAT (greatest of all time) manufacturer's representative in the turfgrass industry. His strong work ethic, knowledge, and experience made him "the go-to person " if you had questions or concerns about growing grass. Lee was very generous to the industry with time, wisdom, and sponsorships. Lee is a lifelong learner whose positive outlook on life made him an asset to our industry. His favorite part of his job was helping customers. One of Lee's claims to fame was developing and bringing Daconil to the market. Now is the time for him to enjoy more golf, a sport he is very good at, and spend time with his lovely wife, Lucille. I am proud to have Lee as a special friend with whom I share many industry memories."

-Ken Kubik, Grass Roots Turf Products

"Lee Kozsey has been my role model, and I assume many others can say the same thing. He never looked to be in the limelight, but his dedication to the industry has certainly put him front and center. His knowledge of his and other companies' products is legendary, and he readily shared that knowledge with everyone who asked. He had a job to do, and he did it very successfully while engendering respect from his peers and customers. He has been a true renaissance man and friend."

-Shaun Barry, GCSANJ Foundation

"Lee was one of the first people I met when I switched careers to sales. I have spent the 15 years since trying to emulate his dependability, thoughtfulness, and professionalism. He's a rare example of a perfect leader for our industry. Congrats on a superb career and a long retirement! Looking forward to seeing you on the links Mr. Kozsey! "

-Rob Johnson, Fisher & Son

"The golf industry is very unique that even competitors can be friends and respect each other. I always had a ton of respect for Lee Kozsey. He was strong, fair competition that did not waste his time bashing competitors. He simply sold his products with great success. Lee is the dean of manufacturer reps, with a few other responsibilities along the way. Anybody that contributes to one industry as long as Lee is obviously a unique and amazing individual."

-Jeff Weld, Envu

"Lee, you've been a wonderful supporter of the NJTA and to me with your friendship. Your astonishing career and unwavering support is a shining example of professional excellence, and you will be missed by your many friends!"

-Chris Carson

"Lee has been a great friend over the years and an integral part of my career. He is always quick to provide thoughtful advice and helpful information, especially during the long summer months! I have enjoyed playing many rounds of golf with Lee. He was always kind enough to invite me to play at events. Best of luck in retirement, and I look forward to playing more golf soon!"

-Pat Dolan, Copper Hill CC

"Since the very start of my career, Lee quickly became one of my closest friends and mentors and will always be those to me. Being around him has always been magical for me – like Disney World is to a child. He has an aura about him, a passion, and immense sincerity...he is the true definition of an industry legend. The number of people he has helped throughout his career is astonishing, and I feel so lucky to be one of those whom he helped guide and mentor. I always ask Lee, "when are you writing your book?" because he has the most amazing stories about his career experiences. I hope that one day he does publish a book so everyone can read about just how interesting his career stories are. To mention a few of those career stories. He was robbed at gunpoint, walked away from a major car accident versus a tractor-trailer, and shucked peas (for research) in his hotel room with strangers he convinced to help him – the list of his amazing stories is endless! But regardless if he writes a book, his impact on so many people in this industry will live on for many decades in our minds, hearts, and stories. Enjoy your retirement, Koz – if anyone deserves some R&R, it is you and your lovely wife, Lucille."

-Dennis DeSanctis Jr., Double 'D' Turf

YOU ANSWERED

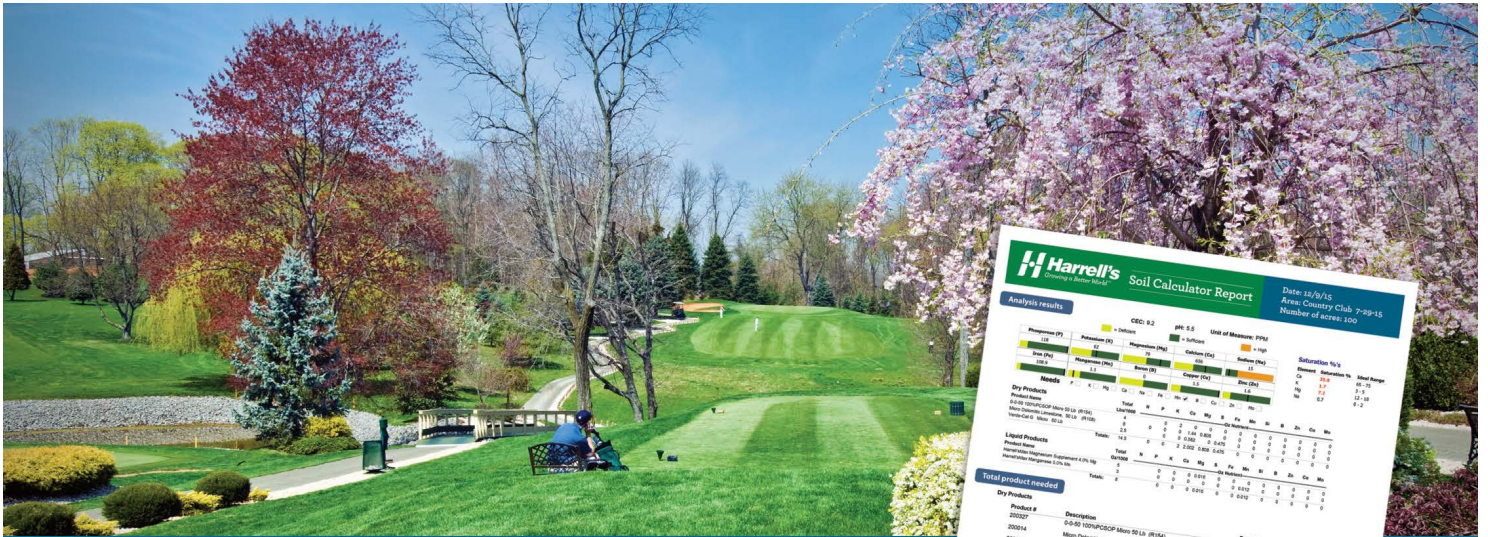


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2022 Shaun M. Barry Distinguished Service Award Recipient

LESLIE CARPENTER JR., CGCS

By Maureen Sharples

Congratulations to Leslie Carpenter Jr., CGCS, the 2022 Shaun M. Barry Distinguished Service Award recipient. This award is the pinnacle honor of Golf Course Superintendents Associations of New Jersey given to a member who consistently made significant contributions to GCSANJ, resulting in a stronger and more viable association. Les has proudly served our chapter for over 52 years. He is a former board member, GCSANJ Foundation Trustee, a passionate advocate for the environment, and a mentor to many local superintendents.

For the Carpenters, golf course maintenance is the family business. Les Carpenter Sr. was the golf course superintendent at Musconetcong Country Club, now Mine Brook Country Club. Les and his younger siblings, including his brother Scott, golf course superintendent at Brooklake Country Club, spent most of their time on the property helping their parents. Les began working on the golf course after school and on weekends at ten years old. At age 14, he joined GCSANJ as an assistant superintendent.

Les enrolled in the Rutgers Turfgrass Management program and after graduating, became the golf course superintendent at Picatinny Golf Club. In 1986, he became the superintendent of Newton Country and served in that role until his retirement in 2017. Les was always passionate about nature. In the 1990s, when the golf industry faced political scrutiny from environmentalists, Les worked hard to implement a sound ecological plan for golf maintenance operations at the club. He became one of the first in the area to do so. In 1998, Newton Country Club became a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program member. A few years later, Les became an Audubon International Steward and is still active today. He has won numerous environmental awards, including the GCSAA Environmental Steward Award and, along with Newton Country Club, the Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award.

In 2012, GCSAA introduced the Rounds4Research program. Les volunteered to become the Rounds4Research Chairman for our chapter and

hit the ground running. He eagerly called his fellow members to collect rounds. Since its introduction, Les and the GCSANJ Foundation have raised over \$100,000 through the Rounds4Research program for the GCSANJ Foundation. Thanks to all his efforts, our chapter is consistently one of the top earners in the program. Les was awarded the Member of the Year Award in 2017 due to his dedication to the program.

After his retirement, Mr. Peter Kellogg, the owner of Hudson Farm Club in Andover, NJ, recruited Les to work part-time as the Grounds Manager of the 4,000-acre property. Hudson Farm has a strong culture of environmental stewardship, so it was the perfect fit for Les. He has hosted three GCSANJ Foundation fundraising events at Hudson Farm.

Outside of work and his volunteer efforts, Les is a family man. He has been married to his wife Dana for 40 years. They have two sons, Daniel and Stephen, and four granddaughters. Stephen is the assistant superintendent at Cedar Hill Golf Club. He shares, "My dad embodies what it means to give back and inspires me to do more daily." Les has been a compassionate mentor, a great friend to his fellow superintendents, and a fierce advocate for the environment. Thank you, Les, for your tremendous contribution to our chapter and continued service.



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2022 Member of the Year Award Recipient

DONOVAN MAGUIGAN

By Maureen Sharples

The Member of the Year Award allows our members to nominate someone who has shown great enthusiasm and service to our chapter. This year, the Board of Directors received several nominations for one individual. The nomination forms were filled with sentiments about creativity, dedication, commitment, and volunteerism. On behalf of the chapter, I would like to congratulate Donovan Maguigan, our newly elected Chapter President as our unanimous and worthy recipient of the 2022 Member of the Year Award.

Donovan is the golf course superintendent at Springdale Golf Club in Princeton. He is also our Chapter President, Editor in Chief of the *Greenside*, a Grassroots Ambassador, and serves as a director on the New Jersey Turfgrass Association board. Aside from all these commitments, Donovan resides in Hopewell

and enjoys spending time with his wife, Jen, and their dog Emerson.

When the *Greenside* needed volunteer writers, Donovan was the perfect fit. He enjoys traveling, reading, writing, photography, and much more, and as a result, his interests and perspective have provided the publication with numerous unique articles. He was the obvious choice when it came time for a new editor, and he was eager to volunteer as he graciously always is. He has brought new creative ideas while still honoring the history of the publication. Writing is not just a skill for him but a passion. The members of GCSANJ are fortunate to be able to read his thoughtful articles. One nomination read, "Donovan has impressed me with his professionalism and a strong desire to help in any way that is needed. I have yet to hear him say no. He puts a tremendous effort into the *Greenside*."

Donovan has quickly moved up the ranks on the Board of Directors. Beginning as a director, then secretary, and now president. Treasurer Ken Anson shares, "Donovan has been a great leader on our board. He is punctual and professional and always treats everyone with respect. As president, I know he will make a lasting positive impact on our association for years to come."

Certainly, Donovan Maguigan deserves the distinction of Member of the Year, and on behalf of the chapter, I thank you for your dedicated service to GCSANJ.



Donovan and Jen Maguigan on their wedding day in 2022.



Emerson at Springdale Golf Club.

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For questions, please contact: **Jessica Santiago** (jessica.santiago@libertynationalgc.com), or **Greg James** (greg.james@libertynationalgc.com), or **Brian Gjelsvik** (briang@nobleurf.com)

A RECAP OF THE 2023 GCSAA CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

By Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Field Staff



If you were fortunate to attend Conference and Show in Orlando, I really hope you enjoyed it! From a sold-out golf tournament to the engaging education, and the tremendous support of our industry partners delivering a fantastic trade show, this year's event was highly energetic and interactive. If you were busy making the most of the Show, or not able to attend, not to worry. This wrap-up takes pieces from GCSAA media outlets to give you a small snippet of the many impacts our members from the Northeast region made in Orlando. Be sure to add Phoenix Jan. 29-Feb. 1, 2024 to your calendar now!

Excellence in Government Affairs Award Winner

Kenneth Benoit Jr., CGCS, 28-year GCSAA member and past president of the Metropolitan GCSA, has earned the 2023 Excellence in Government Affairs Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). Benoit was honored for his efforts in establishing the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for New York state golf courses, educating those outside the industry on BMPs, and developing a strong working relationship with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. This award honors the cumulative efforts of Benoit's proactive approach in establishing BMPs at New York state golf courses, as well as his dedication to developing a positive and productive working relationship with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York State Agency tasked with regulating pesticide registrations, commercial applicators, and other relevant issues.

Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards

Four golf course superintendents were named winners of the 2022 Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards (ELGA). The annual awards are presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Golf Digest in partnership with Syngenta. Eight runners-up also received recognition for their environmental efforts.

The Innovative Conservation Award recognizes unique and innovative strategies for conservation. The 2022 Northeast region was represented as first runner-up in the Innovative Conservation category:

- Jim Pavonetti, CGCS, Fairview Country Club, Greenwich, CT.

Melrose Leadership Academy

Thanks to funding from the Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation, 12 members of the Golf Course

Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) had the opportunity to attend the 2023 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show.

Participants in both Melrose programs are chosen through an application process based on financial need, community involvement through volunteer efforts, and a drive to progress in their careers. Four superintendents from the Northeast region were chosen for the 2023 Melrose Leadership Academy:

- David Golembeski of Newtown Country Club in Newtown, CT.
- Duncan McGowan of Sharon Country Club in Sharon, CT.
- Colin Smethurst, CGCS, of Hillview Golf Course in North Reading, MA.
- Reese Wasson of Spook Rock Golf Course in Suffern, NY.

The Melrose Leadership Academy supports the professional development of GCSAA superintendent members, while the Melrose Equipment Management Experience provides professional development for GCSAA equipment managers. Both programs are administered through the GCSAA Foundation, the philanthropic organization of GCSAA.

Envu Grant Program Winners

Envu partnered with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) to send up to 10 members to the annual GCSAA Conference and Trade Show. As part of the selection process, an emphasis was placed on leadership and inclusion – motivating their teams and embracing and encouraging individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, innovation, self-expression, unique capabilities, and talent.

The 2023 Envu Superintendent Grant Program winners from the Northeast region were:

- Patrick McIntyre of Buffalo Olmstead Golf Courses in Buffalo, NY.
- Michael Sharpe of Montclair Golf Club in West Orange, NJ.
- Jesse Sutton of Fox Run Golf Club in Ludlow, VT.

The Inaugural Larry Powell Scholarship

Travis Campbell, GCSAA member, and student at Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science in New Brunswick, N.J., was named the winner of the inaugural Larry Powell Scholarship from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

The Larry Powell Scholarship was established in 2022 by GCSAA Past President Mark F. Jordan, CGCS, and the GCSAA Foundation to honor Larry Powell, a 48-year GCSAA member and golf course superintendent at Clearview Golf Course in Canton, Ohio. The scholarship focuses on individuals from underserved populations who are GCSAA members or interested in becoming a member. Scholarship preference is given to needs-based applicants with consideration for leadership skills and community engagement.

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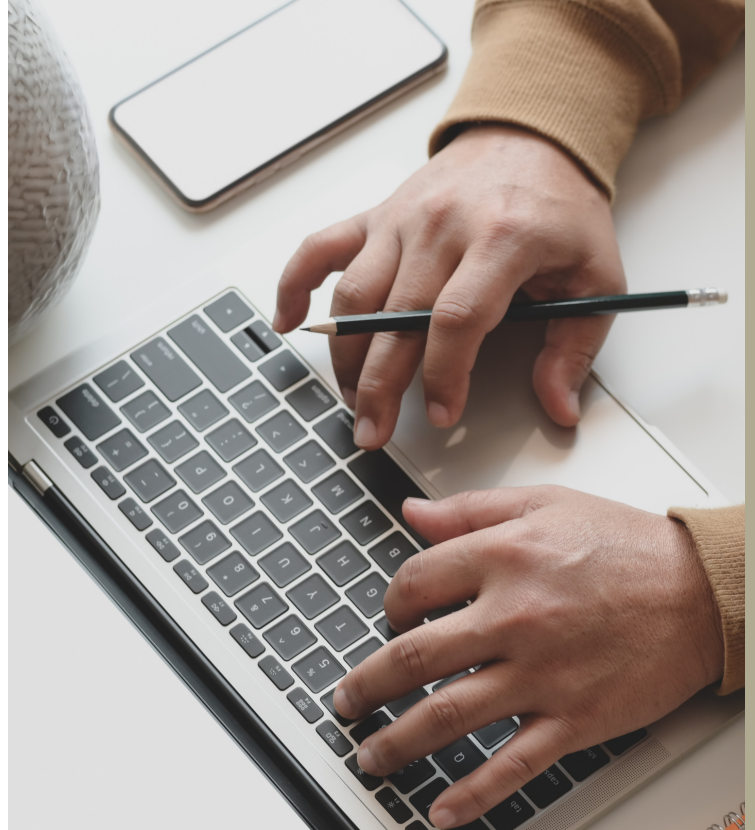


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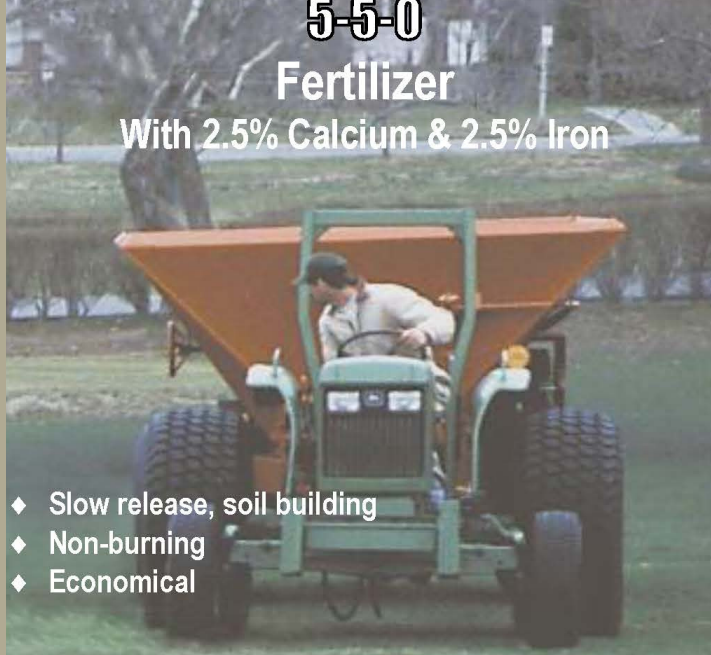
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For more information on this member benefit and more, visit:

<https://www.gcsaa.org/about-gcsaa/membership/membership-benefits>



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to provide you with vendor-agnostic insights and activities to improve your turf based on over 30 years of experience across the country.

“ ”

Corey has provided valuable guidance and expertise on several of the golf courses I have had management responsibilities for. In 2017, I hired Soil and Water Consulting to help our turf staff manage very difficult soil and water conditions at our club. Corey has proven to be a valuable team member in contributing to the many awards our course has received for golf course conditioning.

- Harry Turner, Rams Hill Golf Course



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in

GCSANJ TAKES ON THE GCSAA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2023 GCSAA Golf Championships in Orlando were played at Omni ChampionsGate Golf Resort and Orange County National Golf Center. Below are all the GCSANJ who placed or won in the tournament. Congratulations to all!

Tournament	Flight	Division	Player	Place
Classic	1	Net	Kelly Barrell	9th
Classic	1	Gross	Rob Arnts	5th
Classic	4	Net	Jon Heywood	2nd
Classic	AF	Gross	Rob Johnson	2nd
Classic	AF	Net	Chris Marra	4th
Fourball	1	Gross	Rob Arnts/Rob Johnson	8th
Fourball	2	Gross	Greg Boring/James Boring	4th
Fourball	2	Gross	Victor Frederico/Mike Linkewich	5th
Fourball	2	Net	Mike Brunelle/Tom Weinert	4th
Fourball	2	Net	David Dudones/James Swaitlowski	8th
Fourball	3	Gross	Jon Heywood/Lucas Knutson	1st
Fourball	#15	Closest to the Pin	Victor Frederico	1st
Scramble	2	Gross	Lance Rogers/Cliff Moore/James Leahy/Glen Misiaszek	1st
Scramble	#16	Straightest Drive	Sean Charles	1st

Correction: In last year's golf results article we failed to mention that Doug Johnstone won the gross division in the super senior flight at the GCSAA Golf Championship in San Diego. Congratulations, Doug!



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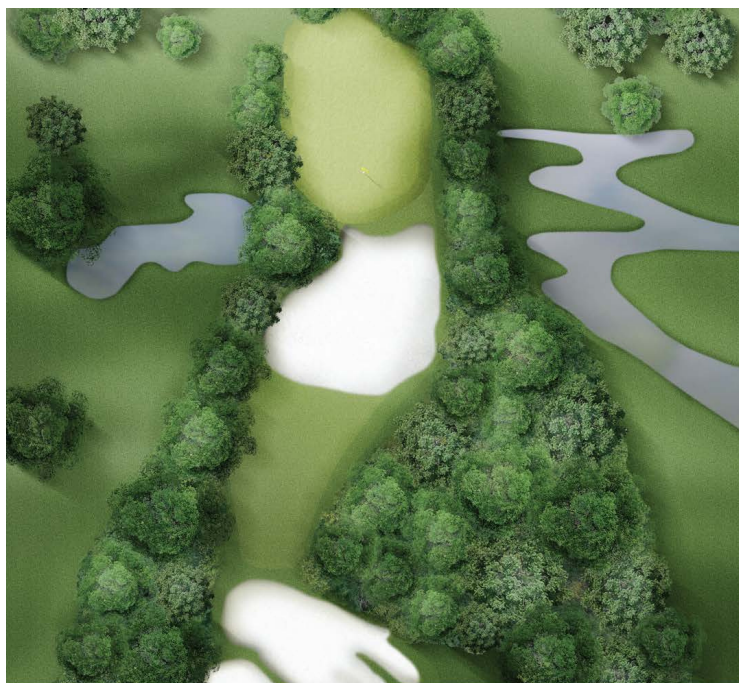
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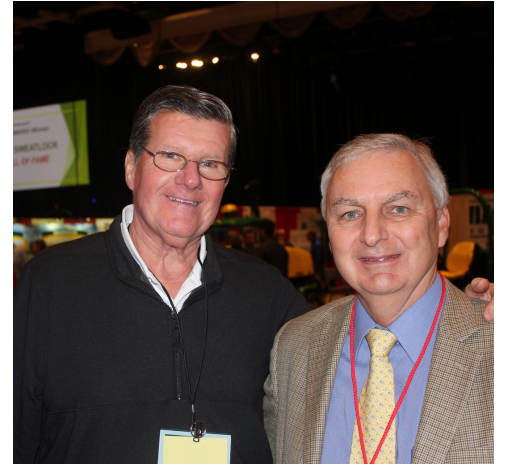
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