



The Bonnie Greensward



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OF GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS

Our 93rd Year

Spring 2018

So This is Chris...Wait, It's ChrismaSpring!

This year, March went out like a wet, cold lamb. The Farmer's Almanac actually predicted a prolonged winter for Pennsylvania, but did not predict an Eagles Super Bowl win or a Villanova NCAA victory.

Right now, the region is facing turf that is more saturated than normal for this time of year, due to a winter and early spring replete with regular snows and rains and short on sunny, windy days. As this is being typed, more torrential rains are pounding the PAGCS

office window. As a result of the weather and soil conditions, regular maintenance practices, such as aerification, have been delayed, and even routine course maintenance is stymied because it could cause "self-inflicted" turf injury that will impact turf health and playing conditions later in the season.

Meanwhile, Bentgrass is still sleeping, and Poa annua seedheads are delayed, along with crabgrass germination. The forsythia that started to bloom in the last week

First Meeting: the Philly BLUE-OUT Special!



It's almost here! A few more days until we host our first ever Joint Meeting combined with FUNd-raising and awareness for autism in partnership with the Els for Autism foundation. Oh, and let's not forget the Philly Special! Phew, there's a lot going on. So head on over to Middletown Country Club and check out all the excitement. After all, we need something fun and exciting this strange spring. Registration is on the website: <http://www.pagcs.org/member-services/register-for-an-upcoming-event/>



[Overbrook Golf Club@OverbrookGC](mailto:OverbrookGolfClub@OverbrookGC)
Apr 2

Came in to another blanket of snow this morning. Had to blow off a couple of greens to get started but we are going full throttle now! Thanks @Dry-jectEastPA for working through this with us!

SAVE the DATE: PAGCS Scholarship Benefit is May 21 at Turtle Creek!

Continued, see "Spring," p. 6



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The PM

I would like to welcome all current members--new and returning--to the start of 2018 golf season. It certainly has been a challenge to prepare for the start of the season as we experienced a record four Nor'easters in March.

The weather in the month of March is always very unpredictable, but, this year, Mother Nature has reminded us that she is in charge [see pages 1, 6 and 37 for more on that subject]. High winds, cold temperatures, snow and ice have slowed any chance of breaking dormancy from the record warmth in February. Communication with club officials and membership is critical during this time as everyone is anxious to begin the season without causing any human inflicted problems to the turf. Before we know it, this crazy weather will be a distant memory, and we will all be counting down the dog days of summer. Our ability to adapt is why each of us is such a valuable asset to our facilities!

We are very fortunate to have such a strong Association made up of so many dedicated industry professionals. The PAGCS continues to grow, year after year, thanks to each of our members' and allied vendors' support. The Association offers a wealth of resources and knowledge that is not only valuable to each of its members, but also to the future of the industry. We are beginning to work with the local universities in order to attract new members to the Association and cultivate the current and future labor force. As part of this initiative, we have extended an offer to Dr. Doug Linde's students at Delaware Valley University: for each article published in an issue of "The Bonnie," the PAGCS will provide the student author complimentary attendance to one of our upcoming meetings this season. We are hoping this will instill the value of networking and the Association in the students. Be sure to check out the features highlighting two of our industry's potential future leaders, beginning on pages 28 and 32.

I have spent some time recently working with two statewide turf industry organizations, which are completely different, by the way [see pg. 24 for a comparison], in an effort to reestablish working relationships for the betterment of the golf industry in Pennsylvania. Known to most as PTC, the **Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council** has graciously requested that the PAGCS be involved in the strategic planning sessions for the 2019 Eastern PA turfgrass conference. Working with other chapters and representatives from all areas of turfgrass management, we are developing a fantastic educational platform for next year. Simultaneously, in response to feedback from the "Allied Room" at the Golf Industry Show (GIS), we are working to reestablish and reinvigorate the **Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association** (PGCSA), formerly known as the Allied group. Teaming up with the GCSAA and representatives

Continued, see "PM," p. 4





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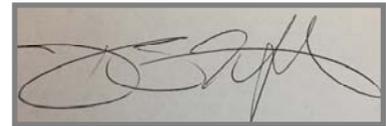
from the six other PA chapters, we are working to revamp the networking event at the GIS and obtain a lobbyist in Harrisburg to keep our industry abreast of any upcoming legislation which may impact our industry.

April is the official beginning of the new golf and meeting season. Doug and Kristen have worked tirelessly putting together an assortment of fantastic venues from all around our region. Included in the calendar are two philanthropic events this year: the Wee One Foundation in September and Els for Autism Organization’s Blue Out day in April. I encourage each of you to take the time and participate in the events for this upcoming season—check out the

Google calendar on our website. The time spent networking and the camaraderie with your peers will be well worth your investment. This is also a time when we as members can show appreciation and support to all of our affiliated vendors who support our Association and each of us as PAGCS members.

In addition to official PAGCS events, the Philadelphia area will once again play host to the world’s best golfers during the BMW Championship at Aronimink Golf Club, September 3rd thru September 9th. I would like to congratulate John Gosselin and wish he and his team the best of luck for this event.

On behalf of the entire PAGCS Board of Directors, I hope everyone has a great start to the 2018 golf season. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions on how we can improve your experience or the Association, please feel contact me or any PAGCS board member at any time. Thank you for your continued support!



Derrick Wozniak, President

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“Spring,” continued from p. 1 of March has paused briefly but will soon resume full color display. Later this April, when forsythia's flowers should start to wither and fall away, that's nature's way of telling us that minimum soil temperature near the surface is approaching about 55 F. Three or four consecutive days at that soil temperature, combined with good soil moisture, will get crabgrass seed germinating.

Even though the weather feels like winter is still here, stick to your pre-emergence herbicide application plans. A pre-emergence application combined with a well timed April rain shower will ensure good product placement and delivery. And charge the batteries of

your soil moisture meters: cold, wet, saturated soil conditions are good reasons to start monitoring soil water content.

Cloudy, overcast, cold and wet weather during the month of April is a perfect environment for red thread disease, especially in poorly nourished turf stands. Fungal pathogens that cause leaf spot diseases of cool-season turf also like that weather; their populations can build up undetected, and when warmer May temperatures



Middletown CC, host of our Philly BLUE-OUT Special faced major clean up after the March 2nd storm—thankfully, many paws make light work! Huzzah, Roxie!

appear, the infection process begins with vengeance.

While Mother Nature has conspired to limit the amount of play and traffic at most facilities in recent months, which has to impact

“Spring,” continued p. 37

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From the Outside, Looking in ...

by Paula Weinert

We were a couple with four children, exhausted from the general pre-teen/teenage activities of basketball, baseball, softball, and a multitude of other activities. Our days were packed with errands, school and work, practices, and games. There was never enough time.

Our heads hit the pillow in exhaustion each night, just like most American families. During a visit from our pastor's family, his wife freely whispers, "you guys would make great foster parents." We laughingly responded with "Yeah, sure." When we realized that she was

actually serious, we replied: "If God wanted us to be foster parents, He would drop a baby in our laps."

Knowing full well that babies don't drop out of the sky, we felt pretty confident that our lives would re-

main unchanged and comfortable, just the way we liked it.

A few weeks later, a phone call revealed that a six-week-old would need a home. Not really thinking about the future and responding only to a tug on some

heart strings, little Miss Kyra would soon be a new family member in our home.

We don't write this to say, "Wow! Look what we've done". We write this to



Continued, see "Adoption," p. 10



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"Adoption," continued from p. 8
say, "Wow! Look what God has done!" Kyra was welcomed into our home by each and every member. What we thought would be a difficult adjustment for our children was actually the best move we could have made for our family. Things that were once important to us did not seem to matter much anymore. To visually see our older children becoming selfless beings as they sacrificed their time was simply amazing to watch.

Kyra was only the beginning of a journey that we never anticipated. Many children have entered our home under foster care and have become a piece of our family. Some of those pieces we are still in contact with, others we are left wondering where and how they are doing. Whether or not the children have left or stayed, the changes that they caused to occur in each family member are irreplaceable.

There are many times when the children will return home to their parents for another opportunity to be a family. That is ultimately the goal when a child is placed in a foster home. Through our years of fostering, we have had the privilege of seeing successful reunifications of the parent-child relationship.

Unfortunately, the story doesn't always turn out that way. Sometimes, the child is never able to return home for one reason or another. In those cases, a



**From the Outside, Looking in ...
We Were Just Like Every Other Family...**

permanent home is sought. We have had the honor of adopting three amazing children out of the foster care system and are currently awaiting our fourth. It is truly an experience to be celebrated and a role that we do not take lightly.

It hasn't been easy, but change never is. When we find a purpose that impacts those around us, inward change is inevitable. To look into a scared child's eyes when he or she walks into your home for the very first time is inexplicable. To have a two year old lift her arms up and say, "Are you my new mommy?" or "Are you my new daddy?" is heartbreaking. That is just simply not how it is supposed to be. When you open your home to a child, you cannot help but open your heart.

It is embarrassing to have people point us out and say what a wonderful thing it is that we do. It's

humiliating because we are only doing what we, as humans, are supposed to do. We are directed to take care of those who cannot take care of themselves. Our family should not be the exception, we should be the norm.

Sometimes, when we open our eyes to see the struggle outside of our own little world, it causes us to change. To change for the better. To change for a purpose bigger than what we are able to see. I don't know about you, but doing nothing about the problems of this world is no longer acceptable. There are many innocent lives at stake waiting for families to be just a little less selfish even if it is only for a short while. 

For more member news, see page 12.



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Member News

Congratulations

Welcome



First up, please meet the newest **Rogan:**

Baby girl
Palmer Cecylia!
Palmer was
born last fall
weighing 8 lbs.
1 oz. and meas-
uring 20.5
inches.



Congrats to Chase, mom Taylor,
and big brother, Fitz.

**Please take a moment to
welcome our newest members
to the PAGCS**

Steven Alderman
Delcastle Golf Club

Robert Marterella
Whitemarsh Valley Country Club

Brian Chapin
Rolling Green Golf Club

Mark Williams
Penn Oaks Golf Club

Tyler Rae
Tyler Rae Design, LLC

Greg Eisner
Fieldstone Golf Club

Thomas McFeeley
Llanerch Country Club

David Ward
Biderman GC

Ryan Morrison
Union League Golf Club

Anthony Heath
Rolling Green Golf Club



Davies: Next up are forthcoming nup-
tials! Congrats to
Walnut Lane Golf Course Superintendent
Ben Davies and fiancé Rebecca Caimano
of The First Tee staff
who announced their engagement
this past winter.

No wedding date is set yet,
so we will keep you posted
on this exciting story.



Recertified: The PAGCS members below were recently
recertified by GCSAA to maintain their CGCS status.

Jeff Edwards, The DuPont Country Club, October 2017

Bill Brown, Aqua Aid, Inc., February 2018

Paul Stead, Kennett Square Golf & Country Club, March 2018

*Have news to share? Please send it
to the PAGCS office.*

**Speaking of TFTOGP, don't miss the latest issue of *Gap Magazine* and coverage of
the PAGCS and TFTOGP partnership:**

http://www.gapgolfmag-digital.org/gapgolf/2018_spring?pg=24#pg24



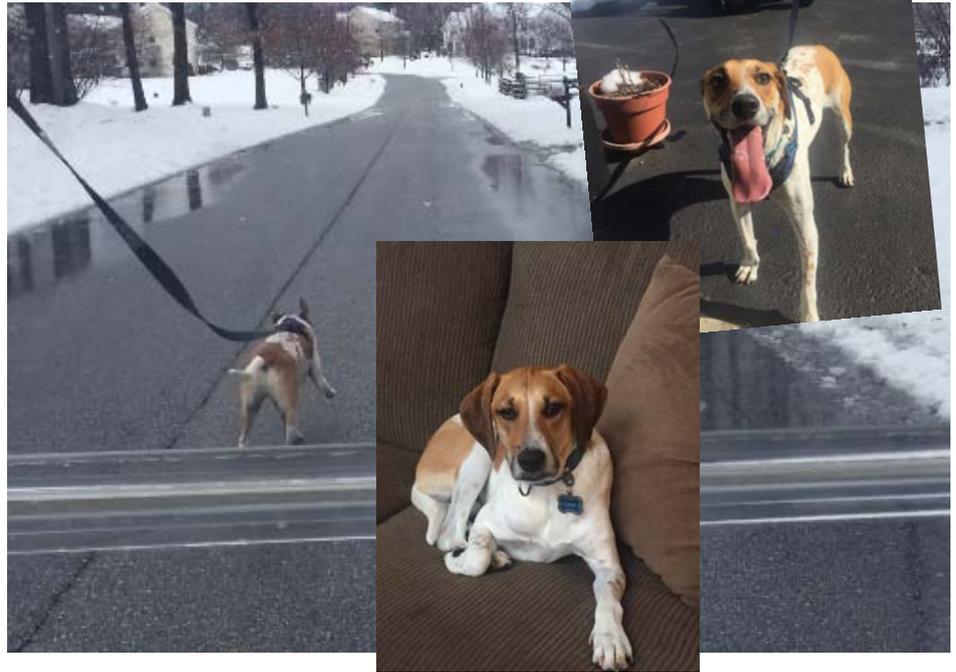


Meet CHOP—A very special Dog of Turf

'Chop' was named for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. My son, Paul, had surgery there in September of 2016.

Paul was in the hospital for three weeks. I told him if he does what the doctors say to do, then I'll get him a puppy dog.

On the way home, we stopped at the Brandywine SPCA, and he picked out the dog, and he picked the name, too! Craziest thing - Paul, his twin sister, Quinn, and Chop all have same birthday: July 9th!



Photos and content courtesy of Dr. Mike Fidanza: maf100@psu.edu

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National Golf Day This Weds., 4/25

Community Service Project Prelude to National Golf Day

We Are Golf — a coalition of the game’s leading associations and industry partners — will host the second annual Community Service Project in advance of National Golf Day in Washington, D.C. The event took place today, Tuesday, April 24 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., with activities focused on beautification and preservation of the National Mall.

In addition to GCSAA, organizations taking part in National Golf Day as part of the We Are Golf coalition include the Club Managers Association of America, Golf Course Builders Association of America, Ladies Professional Golf Association, Links to Freedom, National Alliance for Accessible Golf, National Golf Course Owners Association, PGA of America, PGA Tour, Salute Military Golf Association, The First Tee, United States Golf Association, U.S. Golf Manufacturers Council, World Golf Foundation, and more.

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Update: State BMP's

As most know by now, the Best Management Practices (BMP) manual that was created in 2009 is in the process of being evaluated.

The Pennsylvania chapters have begun working together to update and add to the existing BMP program, using the GCSAA template. The chapters have already been assigned sections of the existing BMP manual to review, edit, and

suggest supplemental material.

There will be more to come on this in the coming months. The current PA State BMP is available on at <http://www.pagcs.org/about-us/government-and-environment-relations/>





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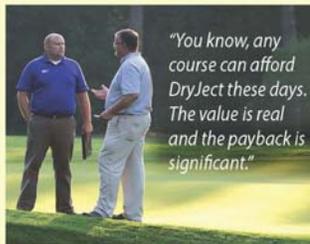


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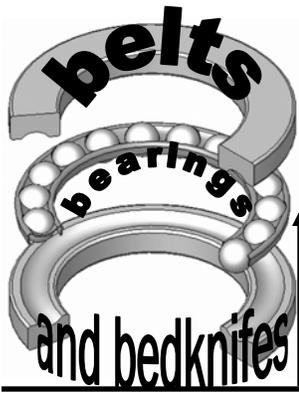
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Technologies





Spring is a Season of Giving: gift ideas for your favorite techy

Our *Belts, Bearings, and Bed-knife* feature wants to hear from you! If your equipment manager would like to be featured, please contact the office: kliebsch@pagcs.org

It's gift giving season again! Yes, SERIOUSLY! It's that time of year that you need to think about graduation gifts and something special for the men in your life—Father's Day will be here before you know it. So, we are sharing excerpts from an article published last year in **GCM**.

Squeezewrench

In 30 years, the Squeezewrench has saved me countless hours and scraped knuckles. I recently got out the Squeezewrench (above) when I saw less than 1 inch clearance between the engine compartment wall and the 10-millimeter bolts holding a water pump pulley. The wrench is about a half-inch thick and rotates the fastener 45 degrees with each squeeze. Its hex-socket head fits 14 millimeters (9/16 inch) and comes with adapters down to 8 millimeters (5/16 inch). There's also a quarter-inch adapter to

handle fasteners or quarter-inch hex drive bits.

Websites offer competing versions from different makers. The best price I've found for mine is from the manufacturer, [Spec Tools](#). There is a newer "Pro" model with a longer reach, a 3/8-inch square drive adapter, and mating extra-short hex sockets in 16, 17 and 19 millimeters (5/8, 1 1/16 and 3/4 inch). The Pro reverses ratchet direction with the flip of a switch, whereas my older model makes you flip the wrench over.

Step drills

Step drills stay in my portable tool box because I'm a little clumsy and ham-fisted. I drop and/or break regular drill bits. A lot. Most of the time, I'm drilling holes in plastic or sheet metal, the latter of which has tendency to snag or break a drill bit just when the hole starts to open.

My cone-shaped step bits handle pressure and wobble, and the quarter-inch hex shanks give a no-slip grip in keyless chucks. Mine range from 4.76 millimeters (3/16 inch) up to 35 millimeters (1 3/8 inch). My collection includes a



Step drill bits tolerate pressure and wobbling, and they can cut several sizes of holes in plastic and sheet metal. The shanks are quarter-inch hex-shaped, so they eliminate slippage in drill chucks.

Gator Grip

A Gator Grip multi-pin socket fits fasteners from 7 millimeters (about 1/4 inch) to 19 millimeters (3/4 inch), including rounded-off hex nuts and bolts. It will also grip squares, flats, multi-point Torx fasteners and other odd shapes. Online prices are low enough.

tapered reamer that opens holes from 3 millimeters (1/8 inch) to 13 millimeters (1/2 inch). Online prices are also very affordable

Lock ring pliers

Lock ring pliers have jaws that open when you squeeze the handles. They open up the spring

"Equipment," continued next page



“Equipment,” continued

steel rings used in engines, transmissions and other high-load assemblies, and they also work to install springs, remove hydraulic lifters from an engine block, spread brake pads when working on disc brakes — you get the idea.

Scott R. Nesbitt is a freelance writer and former GCSAA staff member.

Have a favorite article or blog post to share? Please send it to the PAGCS office: kliebsch@pagcs.org

Is Your Mechanic a Member?

Both GCSAA and PAGCS offer memberships under the Mechanic Class.

Visit <http://www.pagcs.org/member-services/become-a-member/> for information on PAGCS membership.

For information on GCSAA, visit www.GCSAA.org

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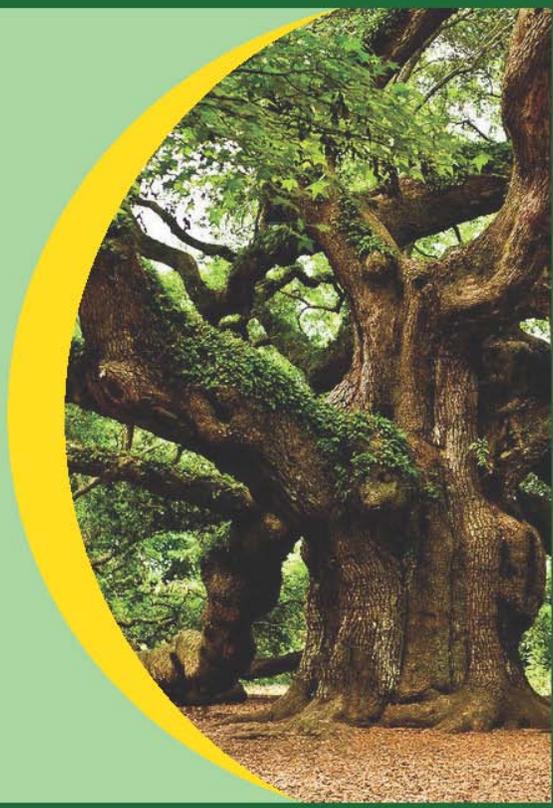


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Unearthing a Legend

A Cigar, A Wink ... A Legacy with a Smile

by Andrew Green

The life of a turf manager can be lonely. Often, when making critical decisions, we operate as individuals. We use our experience, our knowledge, and our gut to direct our team in the right direction.

This can be nerve racking – especially when the weather and conditions push us to the edge. That is when we need a friendly face to help guide us along, share some wisdom of years past, and show us that things will be ok. We need a person we can count on and confide in. In daily life, these situations call for a relative, a close friend, or a religious supporter. In the world of turf, they call for a fellow “soldier,” someone who has been where you are, knows what kind of thoughts are racing through your head, and someone who can see the big picture when you need to be reassured.

No friendlier such face has been shown in this region than Stanley J. Zontek. Stan was an institution in Philadelphia and the greater Mid-Atlantic. He served for over 40 years as a USGA Green Section Agronomist, impacting countless turf lives over that period. We lost Stan in 2012, after a brief illness. His death rocked the turf community and left a void of sup-

port that is impossible to overcome.

Recently, while doing some research, I came across this article in the USGA Green Section Record. With his trademark grin showing through, there is Stanley getting ready to start his life’s

This find made me reflect on the people I find in my travels who genuinely care about me, my family, my career, and my way forward. And it also made me think about how I support those around me and how I project my experience on the younger generation coming through this business.

Stanley was a beacon for all, showing how to care for one another in this business, and how we can communicate with colleagues, employees, and employers in effective and heartfelt ways.

To help show how Stan did this for me and countless folks around me, I asked some fellow turf heads to share their experiences with me to include in this piece. I trust that these will stir memories of Mr. Zontek in you and continue show how we are part of a legacy for those that play this game...



New Green Section Office Opens

To better serve Green Section subscribers on the eastern seaboard, a new Mid-Atlantic Region has been established with an office in Charlottesville, Virginia. Holman Griffin has been appointed Mid-Atlantic Director and will work out of the new office serving South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Western Pennsylvania. The new address for the Mid-Atlantic office is Box 5563, Barricks Road Station, Charlottesville, Va., 22903. The telephone number is (703) 296-5353. The office will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Holman Griffin has been a member of the USGA Green Section staff since 1961 and now becomes its fifth regional director. He has represented the USGA Green Section in most of the states located in the new Mid-Atlantic region. Earlier he served as agronomist in the Northeast, Southern, and Southwestern regions. During the past 10 years, Griffin has been a guest speaker at many turf conferences and has written numerous articles for national publications on turfgrass management.

New Faces in Green Section Eastern Office



WILLIAM G. BUCHANAN

William G. Buchanan became a member of the Green Section staff in November, 1970. He is attached to the Eastern Regional Office in Highland Park, N.J. Alexander M. Radko is the Eastern Director of the Green Section.

A native of Blacksburg, Va., Buchanan attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy. While at VPI, he assisted with research projects conducted at the Turf Research Center. He was a member of the golf team and co-captain during his senior year.

After graduation, Buchanan became assistant superintendent at the Cedar Point Country Club in Virginia. The United States Army Corps of Engineers then called him to active duty, and he served his country for the past three years. He is now Eastern Agronomist for the USGA Green Section.



STANLEY J. ZONTEK

Stanley J. Zontak became a member of the Green Section staff in February, 1971. He, too, is based in the Eastern Regional Office.

Zontek received his Bachelor of Science degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1970. He has carried on research projects at the Joseph Valentine Turfgrass Research Center under the direction of Dr. Joseph Duich and Dr. Herb Cole, of Penn State.

Zontek is a native of Clarksburg, W. Va., and has spent much of his life working on the maintenance crew of golf courses. His first job was at the Manor Country Club in Rockville, Md., where his father was the golf course superintendent. Work on other courses in West Virginia and Pennsylvania continued through his college career.

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work in 1971. This was a defining moment for the area’s turf managers and shows how Stan’s time in the region and breadth of knowledge from being around so many circumstances made his knowledge base so strong.

More memories and stories of Stan collected for this feature start on the next page. Be sure to check them out. Thank you to Andrew Green for compiling this feature. Andrew can be reached at greenca@gmail.com





“Zontek,” continued from p. 19

Here are a few favorite “Stan-isms” and memories from colleagues:

... Grass doesn't care how much money you spent on your Nitrogen (it takes it regardless of cost)

... You want to be about the fifth person to own a golf course. By then, they are affordable enough to make money.

... this is off the record ...

“Being invited numerous times to sit with Stan to have a drink were my favorite experiences though. Especially when the stories started with “this is off the record.”

During a late summer afternoon on the course, I'll catch the whiff of a cigar. There are days this smell instantly transports me back to my time fresh out of college while trying to absorb Stanley's infinite wisdom during one of his drop-in visits – wondering if I'd ever comprehend it all.

I don't – I don't think I ever will – but the smell of the cigar reminds me, in a very simple way, the “turf talks to you.”

Obviously one of Stanley's most famous quotes is ‘trees are bad for grass.’ I remember sitting in the USGA seminars or a various course visits where Stanley must have said this a dozen times or the ‘repeat with me, trees are bad for grass.’”

More memories....

“Stan was our primary USGA agronomist from 1987-2012. The Club would accept nobody else and I would have to call the office on January 2nd to get him for a full day that would conclude with an evening board meeting. The board demanded his presence once a year, and, when he rose up to answer questions, they were never about the golf course but about who was going to get the next US Open or to tell us about the conditions of the last Open.

About seven years before Merion hosted the Open, the board was asking if Merion would ever host the Open again? Stan, in his usual posture, stood up straight, crossed his arms, and look to the left then abruptly looked to the right and said, “Merion is kinda a shorter course with not a lot of room for tents,” but then he gave the all-knowing Stan Zontek wink, wink to the entire board ... enough said! Merion hosted in 2013.”

“I remember during his golf course tour, he would never leave a course tour until he found ‘I’ ABW larvae.

One year, for some unknown reason, it took him at least an hour of probing and prodding until he found one. We had so many other things to talk about but he had to find this damn insect. I guess then he felt his visit was

justified. And I swear he had an adult ABW in his pocket just in case.”

“I was still pretty green and I show up to work on the green and there sits Stan in a golf cart with a cigar in one hand and an opaque cup filled with who knows what in the other, just watching. Talk about being nervous. He spent most of the time I was there observing. We would engage in typical banter and talk about the design concept and I would go back and work. At the end of the day, he gave me a thumbs-up and told me I did a good job. A great sense of relief came over me with his words.”

“I had a habit early in my career that when a member would complement the course, I would say thank you then follow it with a list of things we still were working to improve. In my mind, it showed my work ethic and commitment to excellence and that I wasn't willing to settle with the current conditioning. After witnessing it one day, [Stan] told me... “you should have stopped at thank you. Why give a happy member a list of reasons he shouldn't be?” It has always stuck with me since then.”

“The staff at our club, pros, restaurant staff, and myself took a party bus to Atlantic City and I invited Stan. He was the oldest on the bus by 20 years and made the rest of us feel old with his energy. Everyone was enam-

See “Zontek,” continued p. 23





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“Zontek,” continued from p. 21

ored with him by the end of the night. He knew how to personally connect with anyone he met.”

“He kept his handicap at my club and would routinely drop off his stack of scorecards from all over the world to me for our pro to put in the computer. Everyone of the best clubs on everyone’s dream list was on there. One day I asked him two questions... what is the one course I must play and what separates the top 10 courses? His response was perfect. “The top 10 are all amazing, the difference is location, scenery, and exclusivity. Anyone of them is worthy of #1. You must play Old Head if you do nothing else; there

is nothing else like it. While I haven’t done it yet, it’s on the top of my list.”

Receiving compliments on conditioning from Stan has always been my most cherished accomplishment in the business. In my eyes, it was pure validation, especially as a young superintendent. This guy who had seen it all, walked with the best turf managers, seen the best clubs, been all over the world is taking note of your conditioning and your philosophies and complimenting them. In my opinion, there could be no higher achievement. When he would introduce me to other professors, turf managers, etc.

who were highly revered, I was always blown away by the sincerity and the words, often coupled with a smile as he would describe me.”

Fortunately, I had an opportunity to work with and receive career advice from Stanley while an assistant. He told me one day, “You know, when you go on this interview, take your earrings out, shorten your side burns, please trim your beard. You are a great guy, but your appearance is very misleading.”

Stanley was always willing to help you and offer his insight to the industry and what it takes to take that next step. It was always great

See “Zontek,” continued next p.

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“Zontek,” continued from p. 22

when he would show up, usually on a Friday afternoon at the end of the work day, grab a libation and a cigar and say ‘let’s go take a ride.’ To this day, I still remember him saying in his very distinct voice: ‘You know ...’

He is truly missed, but for those of us who had the opportunity and pleasure to work with him, his legacy will live on forever!”

“He was like a superhero... armed with a camera bag and a soil profiler/probe. His superpower was genuine care for the game and people. He had instant credibility with members and blended storytelling, technical

knowledge, and club politics like no one I have ever known. He was a shining example of how we should be in this business.”

“He was a legend. I remember exactly where I was when I got the news he passed: Sitting in my office, alone, and in complete shock. I wept at a friendship, and ... ambassador to our profession, lost that will never be replaced.”



Share your tweets, photos, projects, news and stories: Anything that is fit to share, please send it to the PAGCS office at kliebsch@pagcs.org/ 484-467-5298.





The Industry In PA

Working with the Broader Root Zone

by *Kristen Liebsch*

While frequently assumed to be two branches of the same tree, the PTC [Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council] and the PGCSA/Allied [Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendent's Association] are more like two separate species of a similar genus. Their roots are comingle as they operate for the benefit of the golf and turf industry in the state of Pennsylvania.

Taking a closer look, the PTC [a.k.a Council] has had a few more rings around the sun. Founded in 1955, the Council's original goal was to provide independent funding for turfgrass research in the state. Decades later, the organization's goals can now be divided into three major areas: fundraising for education and research, conducting educational conferences, and representing the turfgrass industry.

In comparison, the roots of the PGCSA or Allied date to the '80s when an "ad-hoc" group formed to discuss a unified voting voice for the GCSAA national elections [fueled in part because a PAGCS member and past president, John Segui, CGCS, was running for director and eventually president of the GCSAA]. A group of industry professionals continued to gather during GCSAA's national convention each year to discuss a unified

voting voice for the affiliated chapters in the state.

Stemming from this effort, in the early 90s, it became clear that a more organized and structured effort would give the industry in PA a more cohesive voice state-wide and nationally. Bylaws were established, communication among the state's chapters increased, and advocacy in Harrisburg began on a larger and more effective scale. Over the years, the group's leadership has been made up of proactive individuals who have worked hard to represent the industry to state legislators, and, at times, the PGCSA/Allied has contracted a lobbyist or partnered with other golf groups in the state to share a lobbyist.

Getting down to the nitty-gritty, the next thing that stands out is membership and fiscal structure. The PTC is a 501c3 foundation whose primary objective is to raise funds for Penn State and turf research and education. The soil sustaining the Council is a membership program open to anyone and there are several levels of support. In contrast, the PGCSA/Allied is made up of the seven chapters in the state. Each chapter is part "owner" and helps support the organization and its efforts.

Peering further between the leaves, it is also the leadership that

keeps these trees alive. The PTC is led by an elected board, typical of any foundation. The Allied, being an organization made up of chapters, looks a little different: each chapter is responsible for *appointing* two representatives to the board. These chapter representatives are responsible for choosing by popular vote the executive committee of the PGCSA. Over the years, there has been crossover among the organizations, with the elected leaders of the PTC sometimes also serving on the mostly appointed board of the PGCSA/Allied, either simultaneously or at different times.

Right now, the PAGCS is committed to working with both organizations to achieve goals that benefit the industry in the Commonwealth. As referenced in this issue's **PM**, the PAGCS leadership has ramped up its involvement in both organizations "for the betterment of the golf industry in Pennsylvania." You can read more about what President Derrick Wozniak has to say on pg. 2, in case you missed it. For the PTC, this includes collaborative efforts to plan and execute the yearly educational programming.

As most know, the PGCSA/Allied group continues to meet each year at the PA Hospitality event held during GIS, and, currently,

"Statewide," Continued next p.





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Thank you!

“Statewide,” Continued from p. 24

plans are in the works to tweak this event for 2019. Meanwhile, in conjunction with GCSAA’s nationwide effort, the PGCSA is coordinating the state’s effort to revise the BMP manual that was created for PA in the mid 2000s. More on that in the Summer issue of *The Bonnie*.

Seeing the forest for the trees now, it is perhaps clearer the intertwined impact each organization has on the industry. Although functioning independently of the other, both are rooted in missions to serve the golf and turf industries in the state of Pennsylvania.

Kristen Liebsch can be reached at kliebsch@pagcs.org



More to come on the statewide efforts in the next issue. See page 14 for a brief update on where the state stands on the effort to update the PA BMP Manual.



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Future Leaders Of Turf

Interview with a DelVal turf student

If you read the “Spring” feature by Drs. Mike Fidanza and Doug Linde, starting on p. 1, you know there is a current topic that few have time for right now, yet all need to keep on the radar: cultivating qualified staff members. The PAGCS is endeavoring to find ways to partner with our local turf programs [see “The PM” starting on pg. 2] to do just this. Here is what we hope is the first of many features by and about the future of the industry. Meet Jarrett Kramer.

How did you get interested in Turf Management?

When I was 16, my parents made me get a summer job. My father worked for the City of Allentown and helped me get a job at Allentown Municipal Golf Course. My first summer as a crew member went well. The next year, Chris Reverie became the superintendent. He spent much one-on-one time with me because there was not much staff at the time.

He “threw me into the fire.” I worked weekends until high school ended. During my first full week back after school, Chris had me mowing all 18 greens. That’s where my interest started in turf management. Chris kept throwing new things at me such as mowing fairways, changing holes, and helping with irrigation.

As I did more things and I asked more questions, I found it all so interesting. Towards the end of the summer, I talked with Chris and Kyle Krause, the assistant, about going to college for turf management and their career paths. After some good advice and encouragement from both of them, I knew I wanted to study turf management and enrolled at Delaware Valley University.

Where have you worked?

I have worked at Allentown Municipal Golf Course, Saucon Valley Country Club, and Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, NJ. This coming summer, I will be working at Liberty National Golf Club in NJ before graduating in May 2019.

Best part of working on a golf course?

The best part of working on a golf course is being outside everyday enjoying the weather. I’d rather not be stuck in a cubicle all day answering phones or staring at a computer. Also, I enjoy producing a product for people to use. It’s satisfying and feels great to know that people are enjoying something you worked hard on every day.

Where do you see yourself in five years, 10 years?

In five years, I see myself as an assistant superintendent for a great superintendent and learning as



DelVal intern Jarrett Kramer

much as I can in order to prepare me for my own course in 10 years or less.

What are qualities of a good golf course work experience for a student?

One quality of a good work experience is that it meets the desires of the student. While there is grunt work that students are expected to do, I believe the best employers are those who ask the students what they would like to learn and help them learn it.

There is a typical hierarchy system where you have to show you can do one skill before being taught a new skill. Employers that continually give a student the same task day in and day out are not helping the student learn and progress,

Continued, see “DelVal,” p. 40





Rutgers Turf Student Flies with the Philadelphia Eagles

by Casey Sky Noon

*Two-Year Turf Management Certificate Student
Conor Geisel Talks About His Summer Internship with the 2018 Super Bowl Champions*

Winners of the LII Super Bowl, the Philadelphia Eagles played hot while their grounds crew kept their home playing field warm. To be exact, the turf managers kept the soil at precisely 59 degrees warm throughout the summer and winter months using 28 miles of underground heating pipes. This intricate turf-warming system is divided into six zones and creates an optimal root temperature that keeps the grass growing through the end of the NFL post-season.

The science behind keeping Lincoln Financial Field at peak playability goes well beyond regulating temperatures. The greens team also monitors a SubAir system that can suck moisture out of the ground, so that excess water does not linger in the soil. Mowing heights and fertilizing schedules are also precisely calculated and controlled. Professional

sports fields like the home of “the birds” are perfect examples of the art and science of turfgrass management.

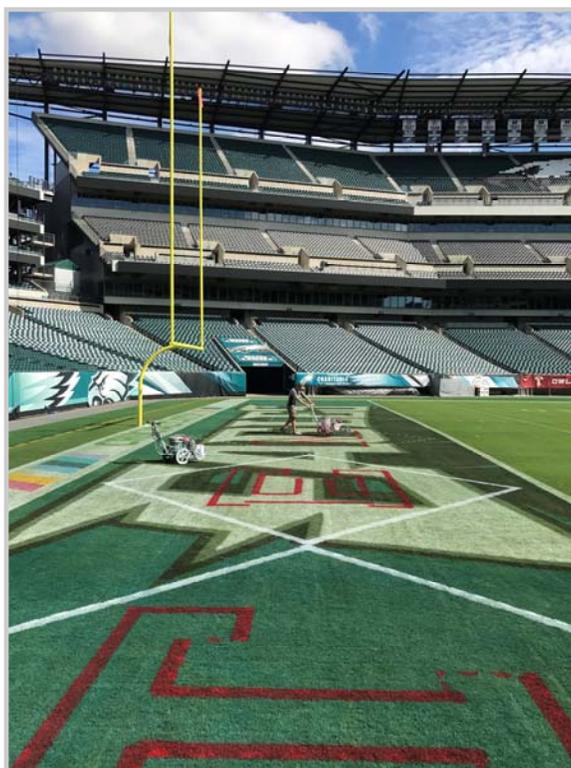
To get this insider’s view, we spoke to Conor Geisel, who interned on the grounds crew for the Philadelphia Eagles in the 2017-2018 season and will graduate from The Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School’s 2-Year Certificate Program in March 2018.

After he arrived on the Rutgers campus, Conor dove right in, leveraging the Rutgers turf community to grow his professional net-

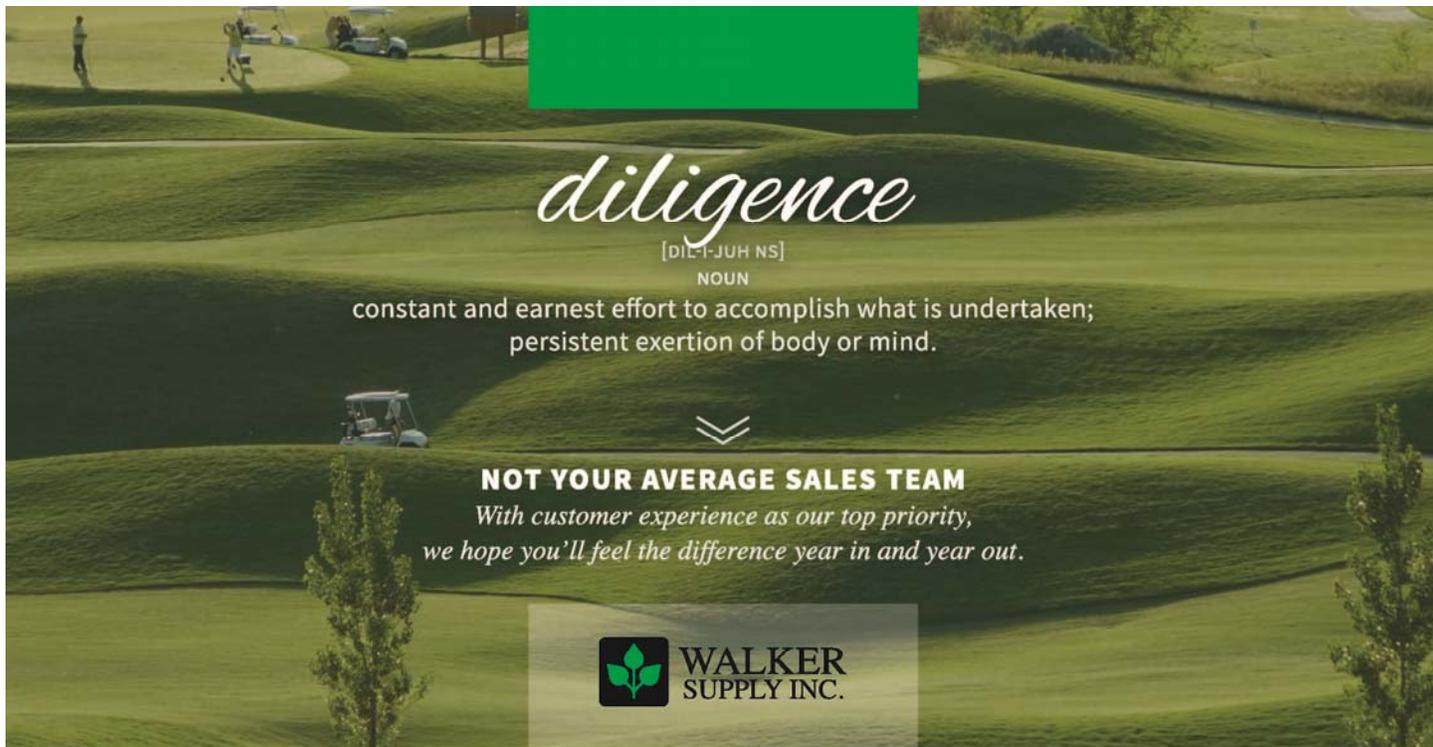


work. Conor started by asking Steve McDonald, instructor of the class on turf weeds, for help making connections in the sports world. Founder of Turfgrass Disease Solutions, LLC, McDonald has over 15 years of experience consulting with more than 100 golf courses annually. Steve put Conor in touch with Tony Leonard, the Eagles’ director of grounds. The Rutgers turf student submitted a resume, interviewed, and secured a coveted internship with the Eagles’ franchise.

“Networking is key,” Conor said. “You never know who you may meet in a day who can help you further your career. Even if it is just getting an internship, you never know where it may lead.”



“Intern,” cont. next p.



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“Intern,” continued from p. 28

Conor worked on the greens teams at the Philadelphia Eagles this 2017/2018 season during his time off between his two 10-week academic sessions at The Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School. Turfgrass management is soil fertility, irrigation, aeration, diseases, weeds, and insect pests whether you maintain a golf course, municipal park, or baseball. Nevertheless, working at an NFL field certainly has its own unique attributes.

As an intern, Conor helped care for the team’s practice facility (275,000 square feet) as well as the stadium itself (75,000 square feet). Interestingly, the Eagles use

both warm and cool season grasses to blanket the playing field. Conor explained that the Philly facility uses Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) in the warmer months because it plays better and grows fast. For the November, December and January games, the grounds crew ripped up the entire field and did a number-to-number, goal-line-to-goal-line re-sod with Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*).

One major difference between working on a golf course and for a professional football organization is budget. If your NFL boss isn’t happy with how the turf is holding up, they may tell you to re-sod. Instead of topdressing or trying to

address the issue in another way, they pay a premium to start fresh. To put it simply, Conor said, “Budget is no issue for the NFL.” In fact, the entire stadium is typically re-sodded at least three times a year.

Another major difference is painting. Because the stadium is also used for Temple University college football games, the field is painted and repainted each week. After the completion of each Temple Owls game, Conor and his coworkers ripped up the end zones and laid new sod down as a “fresh canvas” for the Philadelphia Eagles logo.

“We rolled out huge stencils,” Conor explained, “to paint both

“Intern,” cont. next p.





“Intern,” continued from p. 29

end zones, the sidelines, the numbers, the hash marks, and the four-color Eagles logo in the middle of the field.” Once the Eagles finished playing, the grounds crew would paint the cherry red and white Temple patterns right over the Eagles’ midnight green. Conor estimates that painting and re-painting the field takes about 400 gallons of color -- every week!

As exciting as it sounds to work on a field where Super Bowl champions play, the work takes precedence. Sharing the same cafeteria and working in the same buildings, Conor was often near the famous athletes, but he remained professional. “We are all at work, so it’s not like I’m going to sit there and ask for an autograph,” he said matter-of-factly. “The majority of my conversations with players were asking them to stay off the wet paint,” he laughed. But some of his brushes were exciting. For example, once at a charity event, wide receiver Tory Smith mistook Conor for quarterback Carson Wentz. “I have actually gotten that a few times,” he chuckled.

Besides the close proximity to the likes of Nick Foles, Malcolm Jenkins, and Zach Ertz, one of the perks of working for the Philadelphia Eagles grounds crew was being on the field during each game. Part of Conor’s job responsibility was to pull the safety nets behind the uprights when either team

lined up to kick a field goal. The team even sent him to the Super Bowl! Indeed, Conor had the pleasure of watching the Philadelphia Eagles defeat the New England Patriots live and in person at the U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He even had the opportunity to hold (and kiss!) the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

“We are all at work, so it’s not like I’m going to sit there and ask for an autograph ... The majority of my conversations with players were asking them to stay off the wet paint...”



Although Conor will not return to the Lincoln Financial Field grounds crew next season, he is thrilled that Rutgers helped him secure the opportunity to be part of the Eagles’ franchise the year the team went all the way.

“I always wanted to work with turf,” he said. Conor grew up in a sports family. His father coached and both he and his brother played football. He has fond memories of going to training camp as a kid. “There is just something about the smell of grass getting cut early in the morning,” he said. At a young age, Conor appreciated the look of

manicured sport turf and knew that he wanted to forge his a career in the turf industry.

After graduating from Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania with a degree in business, Conor got his feet wet in the turf industry working at Manasquan River Golf Club in Brielle, New Jersey. Hearing how The Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School’s Two-Year Certificate Program helped many of his peers advance their career, Conor applied and enrolled. The reputation, convenience, and cost drove him to Rutgers over other education options.

Clearly, it worked out for him. First, connecting with instructor Steve McDonald was the key that helped him attain his epic football internship. Now, with the internationally-recognized two-year certificate on his resume, Conor recently secured an Assistant Superintendent position at Medford Village Country Club in Medford, New Jersey.

“I haven’t even graduated yet and it [Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School] has already paid off,” Conor said. “With this Assistant Superintendent job, I am exactly where I wanted to be on my career path.” 



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Thank you to every host of a PAGCS event! If you have hosted your peers and colleagues, you know how rewarding it is. We have had some amazing events at some wonderful venues. Last year was no exception and 2018 is on par for exceptional.

We are laying the groundwork for 2019. If you would like to be part of the PAGCS calendar, please reach out to us.

You can contact the PAGCS office or email Doug Rae, events chairman, at doug@applecrosscc.com





PAGCS Scholarship Program

The 2018 PAGCS Scholarship Application process will open on May 1, 2018 and close on August 30, 2018. Please keep an eye on the PAGCS website and emails for more information!

Meet our 2017 Recipients

David Robertshaw was awarded the *George Ley Scholarship*. He was an intern with PAGCS member Jay Parisien, CGCS, at Bala Golf Club and studying at Rutgers University.

David Ward received one of two *PAGCS Scholarships*. He interned at Bidermann Golf Club and is now an assistant there. He also attended Rutgers University.

The second PAGCS Scholarship was awarded to

Joseph Kopania, an Intern at Merion. Joe will intern at Aronimink in 2018 and studies at Penn State University.

The 2017 Frank Shuman Scholarship went to **Alex Gomez**, intern at Hershey's Mill Golf Club [see the winter issue of *The Bonnie*.]



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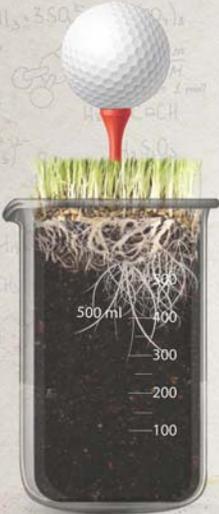
revenue, another matter also complicates the spring start up. Right now, there seems to be a dearth of qualified candidates to fill the wealth of assistant and second assistant superintendent positions now open in the region. And this is certainly a topic that will remain under review and discussion for the foreseeable future.

This article was compiled by information supplied by Drs. Mike Fidanza [PSU] and Doug Line [DeVal]/[contact info]

Spring in all its Glory



Trees down were the norm this winter and spring: [above] this sideways beauty is from Iron Lakes, courtesy of Shane Miller, GCS. Also the norm: confused plants like the snow covered grass stand, right.



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Assistant Corner

Cool Opportunities for Assistants!

Green Start Academy World-class training for assistant superintendents

Green Start Academy is a leadership and development program co-hosted by Bayer and John Deere. The event will be held at the Bayer and John Deere facilities in North Carolina, October 24-26, 2018.

Since 2006, the goal for this program has been to help assistant superintendents build a strong

foundation for their careers, as well as to support the future of golf courses and the entire industry.

Attendees have the unique opportunity to network with peers and receive valuable insights from industry veterans. With topics from career development to budgeting to labor management, the Green Start Academy provides attendees with the education, networking and career insights they need to excel as superintendents and lead

our industry into the next decade and beyond.

EXCEL Leadership Program, Funded by NuFarm

The Excel Leadership Program offers leadership training for personal, career, and community/industry stewardship for assistant superintendents; the future leaders in the golf course management industry.

Continued, see "Assistant," p. 40



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April is Autism Awareness Month. Please help us support the Ernie Els Foundation: Els for Autism. Join us at the [Philly BLUE-OUT Special](#) or contact the office to help.

2018 Events



May 2: The Philly Blue-Out Special

May 21: Annual Scholarship Benefit Tournament and Pig Roast at Turtle Creek Golf Club

June 11: Member-Member at White Clay Creek Country Club

July 16: Member-Guest at Applecross Country Club

Sept 17: PAGCS benefit for The Wee One Foundation at Manufacturers' Golf & Country Club

Oct 15: PAGCS Golf Championship at Jericho National Golf Club

Nov 5: PAGCS Annual Meeting at Stonewall

Dec 20: PAGCS Annual Toy Drive and Christmas Party at Barnaby's Havertown





“DelVal,” continued from p. 27
 especially if they have proven their competence with other skills. Most students will be in a management role one day and not allowing them to learn as much as possible is not beneficial in the long run. A superintendent and assistants who spend much time with the students, showing them just about everything they know are the ones who give us, the students, the best opportunity and experience working on a golf course. Also, do not work the students into the ground. While many people like myself want to work and make money, students want a day or a weekend off here and there. We’re human beings,

too; everyone needs a day to rejuvenate, relax, and enjoy their personal life.

How do you think we can get more people interested in turf management?

While it is tough for budget reasons, I believe pay is a big factor when it comes to getting people interested. Many high school students do not want to be awake before the sun rises for under \$10 an hour to rake bunkers. They could work at other places for \$10 an hour “under the table” and do much less demanding work as they would at a golf course.

One way to get young people interested is to reach out to high school golfers or other kids who play golf. They see the course from the young golfer’s perspective and could provide another point of view of your course. Provide them with discounted play or some other incentive to work. Also, distribute information on turf management and golf course work to local high schools and explain how it can lead to a future career. Be sure to include factual information on salaries and any positive statistics about turf management that would be appealing to young people.



“Assistants,” continued from pg. 38

EXCEL

- E** — Educating golf industry leaders of tomorrow.
- X** — Cross-training opportunities so they can share what they have learned.
- C** — Creating community leaders who serve more than take.
- E** — Encouraging future leaders through advisory boards and councils.
- L** — Developing leaders who will mentor others.

The program

The EXCEL Leadership Program features two, two-day education and training sessions and a trip to the annual Golf Industry Show for assistant golf course superintendents. The education and travel

for 2018 includes:

Golf Industry Show, Feb. 4-9 in San Antonio, Texas

Spring Meeting, April 16-18, at GCSAA headquarters, Lawrence, Kan.

Fall Meeting, Oct. 1-3, at Nufarm, Chicago

Eligibility

To be considered, a GCSAA Class C member must complete the application and respond to two pre-selected essay questions. Up to 12 assistant superintendents will be selected for this opportunity to develop their leadership skills over a three-year period.

Applicants must be:

Currently employed as an assistant golf course superintendent within the United States (including Alaska and Hawaii) or Canada.

A Class C member of GCSAA

Able to participate for three full years

Not be working for current members of the GCSAA Board of Directors or EIFG Board of Trustees, children of GCSAA or Nufarm staff, or current employees of those organizations.





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