



# The BONNIE GREENSWARD

OUR 96<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

2021 VOL. II



## PAGCS TO HOST CHAPTER HOSPITALITY EVENT IN SAN DIEGO

The Association is pleased to announce that it will host a hospitality event at GCSAA's Conference and Show to be held in San Diego in February.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 8, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. The Rustic Root's rooftop deck is booked and we are very excited to offer this to our members and their guests. ♦

## HEADING TO 100!

see page 9 for the Coatesville coverage

The committee begins meeting this fall. Please join us/we need you--email [kliebsch@pagcs.org](mailto:kliebsch@pagcs.org)

## >>EVENTS

### GOLF CHAMPS

Monday, October 4  
Lancaster CC

### WATSCHKE SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, October 13  
Penn State Blue Course

### ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, November 2  
Applecross CC

### HOLIDAY EVENT

December  
TBD

### EASTERN PA GOLF, LAWN, LANDSCAPE AND SPORTS TURF CONFERENCE

Thursday, January 13  
Shady Maple

### SAN DIEGO EVENT

Tuesday, February 8  
The Rustic Root's rooftop deck  
San Diego, CA

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## >> THE PM

# THIS IS A [MOSTLY] DISEASE FREE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Where did the summer go!? They say time flies when you are having fun, and that as we grow older, the days go by much faster--I believe it. Many of us have taken opportunities to enjoy time with the people we love, and that makes a great summer.

The crisp air of September is already starting to flow into the Philadelphia region, and the Eagles season started with a win, Go Birds! This summer has been very interesting, ranging from hot and dry days, to having again record rainfall in the area, particularly from tropical storm Ida.

Ida brought destructive flooding and some fungus among us if you know what I mean. Our 4th hole was under water for two days until we could open it back up. The Philadelphia area had on average 8.25 inches of rainfall that day. We have seen more tornadoes this season (ones the rank higher than an EF-1) and straight-line winds this summer than others I can remember.

Many of you have had to deal with lots of cleanup throughout the summer, and I tip my hat to you and your maintenance crews for getting the job done and managing to keep or get your courses open for play quickly. Many people do not understand how hard it can be to motivate your crew to rebuild bunkers that you just had to fix the day before. The other weird thing was the cool temperatures we had for the summer holidays on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day! Believe me, I not complaining, because of course I was working those weekends.

As I wrote in the last PM message, the labor pool has not been that great for our industry. The rounds are up this season and many people are getting out to play. Public golf courses deal with early tee times and there is a need for more workers to accomplish these early time slots to stay ahead of play. The question is how do we attract workers and retain them?

I found that once the middle of May came around this year, the college students were looking for work, and it was somewhat easy to get a few workers. Then came the middle of August, and they all left to go back to school, leaving many of us short staffed again going into this fall season. The job postings and signs are out there for workers, and hopefully with the end of the stimulus we can start to get people back to work. Payroll numbers were not great for August, so I am hoping to see some better numbers going into the fall.

I think the wage rate of our workers will need to increase with the standard pay of local landscape companies and retail stores. It is tough to compete with them! We need to continue to promote the industry so we can get some young new workers eager to work and learn the trade. So good luck to everyone that has job postings out that need to be filled!

This summer we played great golf and had some great turnouts. Hats off to the crews at Sandy Run Country Club for the Scholarship Outing [see pg## for coverage], Cedarbrook Country Club for the Member-Guest [see pg## for coverage], and Hershey's Mill Golf Club for the Celebration event [coverage to come in the next issue]. The courses were in great shape, and everyone enjoyed themselves, so thanks again for hosting.

We will close out the fall season with the PAGCS Championship at the legendary Lancaster Country Club, followed by the **Annual Meeting on TUESDAY, November 2 here at Applecross [note the date and location change]**. The Championship is

*Continued on next page*



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nearly full as of this writing and be sure to join us on Tuesday November 2nd for a fun and relaxed end to our golf season, followed by elections, awards and other business.

**We have made plans to team up with the TV show Inside Golf going forward into the fall and next year. We will do some small segments with superintendents in the area on a variety of different topics. These will be short clips that will help promote the PAGCS and the industry. The Board and I look forward to growing this partnership!**

Again, I want to remind everyone about our **career development initiative that we set forth in the beginning of the year with Tyler Bloom. If you have not used your time slot, I encourage you to do it before the end of the year. I encourage everyone to give this a try and see what you get out of it. There is nothing better than some constructive criticism from a peer and somebody that understands our industry.**

With that, we are always looking for new Board members to fill the spots of those whose terms are ending. If you do have any interest in running for the Board, please let me or any of the Board of Directors know.

I made it this far without mentioning the elephant in the room. This is a disease free President's Message! I am going to avoid discussing it, as we all know it's there. So let us finish out the season with some normalcy and hope that the worst is behind us! We have two more events and would love to see some new faces. As always, we could not do it without the help from our Sponsor Partners! Thank you again to all the **2021 Sponsors [see page##]** and the support you bring to our events and efforts. Every time you see a sponsor, thank them! ♦

Thank you,



Doug Rae

## >> ISSUE GUIDE

ASSISTANT'S CORNER.....	4-5
MEMBER & INDUSTRY NEWS.....	6-9
SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT .....	12
BELTS BEKNIVES AND BOLTS .....	15
ALLIED PARTNERS .....	19
EVENTS.....	20-21
PETS OF THE PAGCS .....	23
FMC GIVE BACK.....	27
PSU .....	29
GCSAA .....	30-32
FIRST GREEN.....	33
SEEN ON THE WEB .....	36

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## >> ASSISTANT SERIES

# ROLLING WITH IT—HOW RGGC ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS PREPARED FOR A PGA TOUR EVENT IN THREE MONTHS

by Nick Sujkowski, PAGCS Assistant Representative to the Board

### How did you get into the turf industry?

**Anthony Heath** - In high school I began working at a public course near my hometown in Michigan. Originally, I was working with the pro shop, helping with carts and bags. One day I started talking to the grounds crew member who was spraying greens and he told me that I could get a degree for turf management, and the rest is history.

**Adam Malasavage** - My father was a Golf Course Superintendent and I grew up around the golf course. The first job I had was mowing greens when I was 16 years old. I was immediately hooked and wanted to follow in his footsteps. He helped put me on the right path and it has been a great choice for me as I could never see myself having an office job.

**Adam Mivsek** - Working on a golf course started out as just a summer job for me but I fell in love with it and decided to go back to school to pursue my Turf degree

### Where did you attend college?

**Anthony Heath** - Michigan State University, Class of 2013

**Adam Malasavage** - Penn State University, Class of 2014

**Adam Mivsek** - I attended Ohio University and graduated in 2012 before going back to Rutgers Turf program where I graduated in 2016



RG #15 - pretty self explanatory but #15 looking back towards clubhouse



RG Assistants - from left to right: Adam Malasavage, Anthony Heath (and dog, Keira), Adam Mivsek. Not pictured: Alan Peterson

### What brought you to Rolling Green Golf Club and how long have you been here?

**Anthony Heath** - This summer has been my fourth season at Rolling Green Golf Club. I moved down to the Philadelphia area from New York when Brian Chapin (our current GM) accepted the Superintendent position. I wanted to continue working with Brian but also knew that RGGC would be a great building block for my career.

**Adam Malasavage** - I will have been at Rolling Green for three years this December. I came to RGGC because I wanted to further my career in one of the best golf markets in the country. I was also excited by the idea of being a part of a new management team and restoring a great golf course to its original intent.

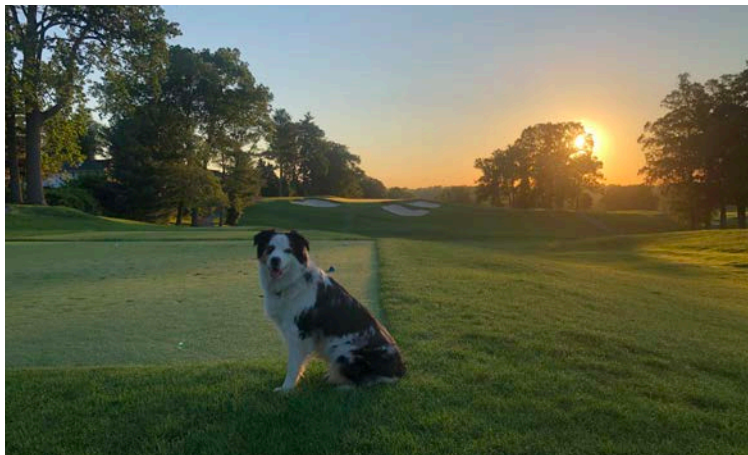
**Adam Mivsek** - I came here about about two and a half years ago for a change of scenery and to be closer to my Philadelphia Flyers!

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## THE MAIN EVENT

September 1st through the 4th, Rolling Green Golf Club hosted the "Rolling Green Championship" as part of the Forme Tour. The Forme Tour is a collection of eight events which was created to allow non-Canadian members of the PGA Tour Canada (80% of its members are US born) access to Official World Golf Ranking points.



Keira - Assistant Superintendent Anthony Heath's one-year-old Blue Merle Australian Shepherd

restrictions across the Canadian border. Rolling Green will be the penultimate stop on the tour [Huntsville Golf Club, Dallas, PA is the final stop]. Ultimately, the top five finishers will be granted membership to the Korn Ferry Tour for next season.

This is an exciting event for the RGGC team but it has not been one that they could plan for well in advance. The grounds team at Rolling Green only had about three months to plan and prepare.

The team at Rolling Green Golf Club does an excellent job keeping the course in tournament-type condition all year for regular member play. This allowed them to make only slight adjustments to their daily routine in order to ramp up for the tournament.

The event was free for spectators to walk the grounds and was a wonderful display of not only one of the great Philadelphia golf courses but the tremendous work by some of our PAGCS family. Kudos to Golf Course Superintendent Steven Bigelow, Assistant Superintendents Anthony Heath, Adam Malasavage, Adam Mivsek & Alan Peterson, Equipment Manager Diego Patino, and the rest of the Rolling Green Golf Club grounds team on a job well done.

—Nick Sujkowski  
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## ASSISTANT'S CORNER

Anyone who would like to be featured in the next edition of the Assistant's Corner, please contact Nick at [nicksuj@gmail.com](mailto:nicksuj@gmail.com)



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## MUSINGS FROM THE LEDGE: REMEMBERING 9/11

By Alan FitzGerald | September 16, 2021

The first real sign for me that we are getting back to normal after COVID-19 (at least until the next Greek letter variant hits us) was finally getting out to see Guns N' Roses at Hershey Stadium. The now only semifat Axl Rose warbled, "Did you wear a black armband when they shot Kennedy?" and I was reminded of my mother telling me that she remembered exactly where she was when she heard about his death, just like she knew exactly where she was when Neil Armstrong uttered his famous words.

There are defining events in our own lives that leave an imprint in our brains, but then there are those world-stopping events that take everyone to where they were at that specific moment in time. I remember watching the Space Shuttle Columbia returning from its first trip to space on a grainy 25-inch TV, and my grandfather saying how they look more and more like airplanes these days. Then there was the Challenger disaster, a moment that nearly everyone my age remembers watching live on TV. I clearly remember being about 3 feet from the TV, watching the launch of an actual teacher into space, and moments later my 10-year-old brain trying to process the magnitude of what I just saw.

I guess it is inevitable with the amount of time that I spend on a golf course that one of these moments came while working. On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, I was sodding greens — never a good way to start a story when you're a turf manager — from damage caused by a tainted herbicide. It was a warm and sunny morning outside Philly, and I was stripping sod from the right of the second green on the par 3 course. We went in for our 9 a.m. break to find everyone crowded around the little 15-inch TV in the breakroom. The initial curiosity of how an accident like that could occur was quickly quelled as the second plane



hit. The shock and realization of what was happening set in.

Time seemed to stand still while we watched the events unfold. I can still picture the assistant mechanic running in saying, "They just hit the Pentagon!" right before it too popped up on our little screen. The newscaster said that there was still a missing plane and that all the others were told to land.

A couple of the assistant superintendents had family and friends in New York and were distraught as they tried to get ahold of family to make sure they were OK, only to find all the lines were busy on the then-

infant cell network. After about an hour or so, we headed back out to continue sodding, realizing on that day how unimportant dead turf was in the scheme of things. My memory of the day fades from there as the initial shock wore off, but I do recall the surreal effect of not hearing the constant flow of planes above us on their final approaches to Philadelphia International Airport and how shocking it was the next day when a C-5 roared over us out of the silent skies.

It is hard to believe that 20 years have passed, and I can still clearly picture that hour or so of my life.

Over the passing days and months, we heard of the heroes — those who risked their own lives to save others — and how some of these heroes were everyday people including those volunteering their time from the turf industry.

During the summer struggles with the weather, disease, staffing and whatever else can be thrown our way, the course becomes your whole life, so it is easy to lose perspective about the bigger outside world. It's good to remember at the end of the day that it's just grass, a playing surface. Yes, keeping it alive and playing well is our job, but don't forget to take the time to look around and enjoy the real world too, as you never know when that world can change in an instant. ♦

### Seeking Normal

In response to your editorial, "Seeking a New Sense of Normal" (Flagstick, November), I would like to share the following story:

One day shortly after Sept. 11, I was on the phone with my sister and used the word "normal" to describe our lives. It was met with silence on her end. So I added, "Well, the new normal." I believe her response went something like, "Whatever the hell that is."

For my sister, Jeanine, the "new normal" will mean redefining every expectation she has ever had, from recent hopes of decorating the new home she and her husband were to move into on Sept. 15 to starting their own family. Her husband, Jim, died in the World Trade Center attack. For Jeanine and thousands of other moms, dads, husbands, wives and children, the new normal will take years to define.

In the rocky and unstable time ahead, they and all Americans will depend on things that stay the same, like golf. Superintendents will help people heal and move through this tragedy by providing places of beauty where people can gather to relax and learn how to enjoy life again.

My husband, Joe Liebsch, superintendent at Kennett Square Golf & CC in Kennett Square, Pa., put it succinctly in a recent article in his club's newsletter. He wrote: "It is through this great game that some of my pain has been eased — remembering all the times we played and the joy that the game gave us. Although difficult, continuing to play the game without our 'fourth' has been therapeutic for our family."

**Kristen Liebsch**  
Executive Secretary/Newsletter Editor  
Philadelphia Association GSCA  
Philadelphia



# SYNGENTA LAUNCHES NEW ASSURANCE PROGRAM FOR GUARANTEED, SEASON-LONG CONTROL OF ANNUAL BLUEGRASS WEEVILS AND MORE

*New WeevilTrakSM assurance program is the turf industry's first and only guarantee for control of ABW, grubs and turf caterpillars*

**GREENSBORO, NC, USA, Sept. 21, 2021** – As the trusted leader for annual bluegrass weevil control solutions, Syngenta announced the launch of its new [WeevilTrakSM annual bluegrass weevil \(ABW\) assurance program](#). In addition to guaranteeing the performance of Syngenta products for fighting ABW on golf course turf, the assurance also guarantees prevention of all white grub species and turf caterpillars in the applicable states.

"For the last nine years, Syngenta has been the industry leader in helping superintendents control ABW, grubs and turf caterpillars. Years of research developing products, the program and the timing with WeevilTrak uniquely positions Syngenta to develop this guarantee to help superintendents feel confident about controlling ABW all season," said Stephanie Schwenke, market manager for turf at Syngenta. "This is the first and only guarantee of its kind in the industry and we're proud to be able to support it alongside all of the tools superintendents have come to trust as part of the [WeevilTrak](#) program."

Annual bluegrass is the most troublesome insect for golf courses in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic U.S., and its impact continues to spread. Syngenta is well-known for its WeevilTrak program, which provides an optimum control strategy featuring [Acelepryn®](#), [Ference®](#), [Provaunt®](#) WDG and [Scimitar® GC](#) insecticides, as well as in-season monitoring of ABW populations by 11 trusted industry researchers. Superintendents registered for WeevilTrak have access to local pest development alerts, application timing recommendations and real-time blog updates from researchers.



"ABW is notoriously challenging to control, so making product applications at the proper timing is critical," explained Mike Agnew, Ph.D., technical manager for turf at Syngenta. "The years of Syngenta research coupled with constant seasonal monitoring from WeevilTrak ensure the assurance program recommends the proper application timing of proven products for the greatest success."

To qualify for the assurance, users must:

- Be registered for WeevilTrak
- Follow the guidelines outlined for their region in the optimum control strategy
- Purchase products from an authorized Syngenta distributor or retailer

As part of the [GreenTrust® 365](#) early order period, which will run from Oct. 1 – Dec. 8, 2021, superintendents can save on purchases of the products featured in the assurance by qualifying for year-long rebates. Additional savings opportunities during the early order period include:

- The [ABW Solution pallet](#), containing Acelepryn, Provaunt WDG and Ference, which offers 10% savings
- The [GT Bonus Booster rebate](#), which

offers up to 3% savings for purchases made in October

- The [Plan It Your Way rebate](#), which can be applied to purchases of Acelepryn half-gallon bottles for up to 12% savings
- [Volume pricing](#) on Acelepryn purchases for savings up to 10%

To learn more about the WeevilTrak ABW assurance program, visit [WeevilTrak.com](#) or contact your [local territory manager](#).

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*Continued on next page*



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## COMING TO COATESVILLE

While the Association approaches its 100th anniversary, member facilities have celebrated their own. This year included Coatesville Country Club, a club directed by PAGCS member Chris Walton.

The celebration and history were chronicled in the publications linked below. Here are few key excerpts and highlights.

### LINKS

Press: <https://www.pressreader.com/usa/daily-local-news-west-chester-pa/20210322/281492164087764>

GAP: <https://www.pressreader.com/usa/daily-local-news-west-chester-pa/20210322/281492164087764>

### EXCERPTS:

Club President Tom Riesenbergh: "When that opening came up [for GM], Chris raised his hand and asked to be considered for the position. We thought it over, and we knew his demeanor is perfect for this place. His work ethic is unmatched. But in the end, we believed Chris' personality is what makes him the best fit for the club now and moving forward."

### THAT WAS OVER TWO YEARS AGO NOW. IN CHRIS' WORDS:

"In 2012, I got the superintendent job, and I was so excited, but it was a lot of work. I was also the super, mechanic, everything in one. I had total freedom to make this place what I wanted it to be."



Chris Walton, far right, with the CCC leadership team

### FOR EVERYONE AT CCC, IT'S FAMILY DRIVEN:

Chris: My parents joined here a few years ago. My brother is here as well. My kids come to camp here. My son plays the PGA Junior League here. Coming to Coatesville was a very positive thing in my life. And it's been a big part of all of our lives.

### COATESVILLE HISTORY [SEE ARTICLES FOR MORE {SOME RUMORED} HISTORY]

- Opened: 1921 with nine holes; opening another nine in 1922
- Architects: original nine--Arthur Findlay; added nine--Cyril Hughes of famed Lancaster CC
- Built on Lenape Indian land and situated across from the Rock Run Dam, built in 1916
- Original mascots: two pesky goats

THE COMMITTEE BEGINS MEETING THIS FALL. PLEASE JOIN US! WE NEED YOU!  
EMAIL [KLIEBSCH@PAGCS.ORG](mailto:KLIEBSCH@PAGCS.ORG)

## SUPER SUPERS

John Canavan may be the only PAGCS golf course superintendent whose membership profile has changed facility names numerous times without him ever having left property.

He is now charged with leading the grounds maintenance team at Union League's Liberty Hill, most recently dubbed The Ace Club, and once fondly known as Eagle Lodge. John cut his teeth under the tenure of another long time PAGCS member and leader, Chuck Cadiz, who passed away in 2018 at the age of 92.

## HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Please send it to the PAGCS office. [klibsch@pagcs.org](mailto:klibsch@pagcs.org)



**PAGCS1925** @PAGCS1925 · 9h  
And from new PAGCS member @AndrewDooleyGCS and @TorresdaleGolf to longtime PAGCS Superintendent John Canavan @TheUnionLeague Liberty Hill.



**GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY** · 22h

A superintendent who fell for a property as a teenager and has never left: @TheUnionLeague Liberty Hill's John Canavan. He's been enhancing the suburban Philadelphia land since joining the crew in 1982.





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## >> SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

### GREETINGS!

I hope you all are well and managing given the severe weather we have experienced this season.

I've had the good fortune of working with many of you in the past, supplying you with your staff apparel and headwear needs. Thank you for your continued support. It is greatly appreciated. I'm thrilled to have my company, KMGolf Sales, on board as a new sponsor of PAGCS! This is an exciting opportunity for me and my business.

The Cutter & Buck and Clique brands stock a large variety of styles in multiple colors in both men's and women's options. We have short and long sleeve polos, layering pieces and terrific outerwear to fit every budget and all unique situations, fitting sizes up to 5XL in certain styles.

The Ahead line of headwear offers caps and visors in cotton and tech fabrics as well as bucket style hats for sun protection and dozens of knit options for when the weather turns cold and windy.

The general product offerings are listed with catalog links on my website. I'm also available by cell or email. The contact information is all listed below. I look forward to meeting you soon. In the meantime, please let me know if I can help.

My Best,

Kevin McClellan

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## >> MISCELLANEOUS

# GROUNDING: A FEW ODDITIES THIS SUMMER FOR BALLPARK GROUNDS TEAMS

### ABOVE AND BEYOND

Citizens Bank's Grounds Crew rises to the occasion when netting fell in the middle of the game—something no player or manager or turf manager may have seen before. Head of ground Mike Boekholder is credited with calmly guiding the all-hands-on-deck team to a solution, in 20 minutes.

### EJECTED NOT REJECTED?

In a rare scene, an umpire "removed" the entire Baltimore Orioles grounds crew from a game recently. The crew, called in to be at the ready for impending rain, was sent scurrying after umpire Tim Timmons gave the thumbs OUT. ♦



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## >> BELTS BEKNIVES AND BOLTS

# ALLENTOWN MUNI'S MUTH NAMED 2021 GOLDEN WRENCH WINNER

When Robert Muth received the plaque that identifies him as the recipient of the 2021 TurfNet Technician of the Year Award, presented by John Deere, he called it "A big plaque for a little place."

Muth is more than the equipment manager at Allentown Municipal Golf Course in eastern Pennsylvania; He also is a member of the crew who also rides a mower, sprays, cuts cups and more on a daily basis, all while keeping all equipment in top shape for Allentown superintendent Chris Reverie, who nominated Muth for the award for his ability to innovate and create solutions, play a leadership role on the staff, finding creative ways to meet budget and helping drive and environmental philosophy at one of the best maintained municipal courses in Pennsylvania - and beyond..

"It's nice for the little guy to win," Muth said. "We are a very small muni with a small staff; there are six of us for the entire property. I'm not just a mechanic."

Muth came to Allentown from a background in auto mechanics, so he had a pretty good handle on the job with one exception - grinding.

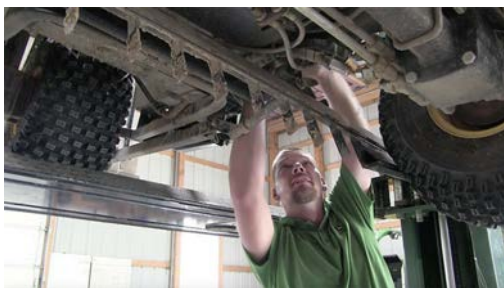
"He was a quick study," Reverie said.

"He knows he has to stretch things."

He also now knows his way around reels, and often is able to make bedknives last an entire season on a single grind.

"As a machinist, I'm about precision. I am about thousandths, not watching for sparks and listening for noise. That doesn't work for me. I'd rather know how much I'm taking off. That's how I save bedknives for a year. If I know how much I'm taking off and how thick the bedknife is, I can account for all of that."

Muth is active in driving Reverie's goal of achieving Allentown's certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Audubon certification. To minimize issues associated with water runoff around the maintenance facility, he blows equipment clean instead of washing it when feasible and built a hybrid filtration system to



*Robert Muth, who is both the equipment manager and a mower jockey at Allentown Municipal Golf Course in Pennsylvania, is the winner of the 2021 TurfNet Technician of the Year Award, presented by John Deere. Photos by John Reitman*

catch water from the washpad behind the building. Water now moves through rock sediment and moves through grasses, then into a pool. All those materials are getting stopped before entering into the water into the ground."

Robert Muth build a wash area behind the Allentown Muni maintenance shop that filters impurities from the water.

Muth was selected by TurfNet's panel of judges and received the Golden Wrench Award along with a \$1,000 cash prize. On hand to present Muth with the 15th annual award were Reverie and Ted Zabrenski, account manager for Finch Turf Inc., a John Deere distributor covering eastern Pennsylvania.

"I've been coming to Allentown Muni as a sales rep for 11 years, and I've coming here for 25 years overall," said Zabrenski. "You can see the enthusiasm that Chris and Robert bring to the job. These guys eat, live and sleep, Allentown Muni."

When he is not fixing equipment at Allentown, Muth is operating it, splitting time as mechanic and a member of Reverie's small, but dedicated on-course staff of six.

"He is the greatest assistant (superintendent) and mechanic any superintendent could hope to have," Reverie said. "Having the golf course in this condition is a direct reflection of Rob and the job he does. If I don't have someone in his position who is able to do what he does, then I don't have

a golf course in the condition it's in right now."

Criteria on which candidates are judged include: crisis management; effective budgeting; environmental awareness; helping to further and promote the careers of colleagues and employees; interpersonal communications; inventory management and cost control; overall condition and dependability of rolling stock; shop safety; and work ethic.



*Robert Muth build a wash area behind the Allentown Muni maintenance shop that filters impurities from the water.*

Previous winners of the Golden Wrench Award are: (2020) Evan Meldahl, Bayou Oaks GC, New Orleans; (2019) Dan Dommer, Ozaukee CC, Mequon, WI; (2018) Terry Libbert, Old Marsh Golf Club, Palm Beach Gardens, FL; (2017) Tony Nunes, Chicago Golf Club, Wheaton, IL; (2016) Kris Bryan, Pikewood National Golf Club, Morgantown, WV; (2015) Robert Smith, Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, PA; (2014) Lee Medeiros, Timber Creek and Sierra Pines Golf Courses, Roseville, CA; (2013) Brian Sjögren, Corral de Tierra Country Club, Corral de Tierra, CA; (2012) Kevin Bauer, Prairie Bluff Golf Club, Crest Hill, IL; (2011) Jim Kilgallon, The Connecticut Golf Club, Easton, CT; (2010) Herb Berg, Oakmont (PA) Country Club; (2009) Doug Johnson, TPC at Las Colinas, Irving, TX; (2007) Jim Stuart, Stone Mountain (GA) Golf Club; (2006) Fred Peck, Fox Hollow and The Homestead, Lakewood, CO; (2005) Jesus Olivas, Heritage Highlands at Dove Mountain, Marana, AZ; (2004) Henry Heinz, Kalamazoo (MI) Country Club; (2003) Eric Kulaas, Marriott Vinoy Renaissance Resort, Sarasota, FL. ♦





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GAP is accepting nominees for its **Distinguished Service Award**. First issued in 2006, the Distinguished Service Award is presented to **individuals from any golf related disciplines**, who have exemplified the spirit of the game at its highest level and who have made a substantial contribution to the game at the Philadelphia, national or international level. Email Martin D. Emeno, Jr., GAP Director of Operations, at [memeno@gapgolf.org](mailto:memeno@gapgolf.org).



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**HOST:** Tim Kelly

Kudos to our host and his team: Tim and his wife gave birth to a healthy baby girl, their second, just hours before the outing! Pretty sure that was another PAGCS first

**ASSISTANTS:** Vince Hill and Tom Strosser [see photo]



Assistants Vince Hill, second from left, and Tom Strosser, Temple hat, with their playing partners Ben Sensenig and Nate Thompson



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Alex Lennertz far right with his foursome

**HOST:** Tim Kelly

Eager to host the PAGCS knowing he and his wife would have a newborn and toddler on their hands, Alex stepped up to the plate and hit a homerun on a hot as ##### June day with real feels around 100+



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**ABOUT BOGEY:** He has been on the job since he was 8 weeks old, and he can typically be found riding around in the golf cart with Jeff. Bogey's favorite activities include greeting crew members every morning while also trying to steal some of their breakfast, helping dig holes for irrigation repairs, and chasing the leaves blown about by backpack blowers. As Bogey gets older, Jeff hopes he can be trained to help control geese on the golf course.



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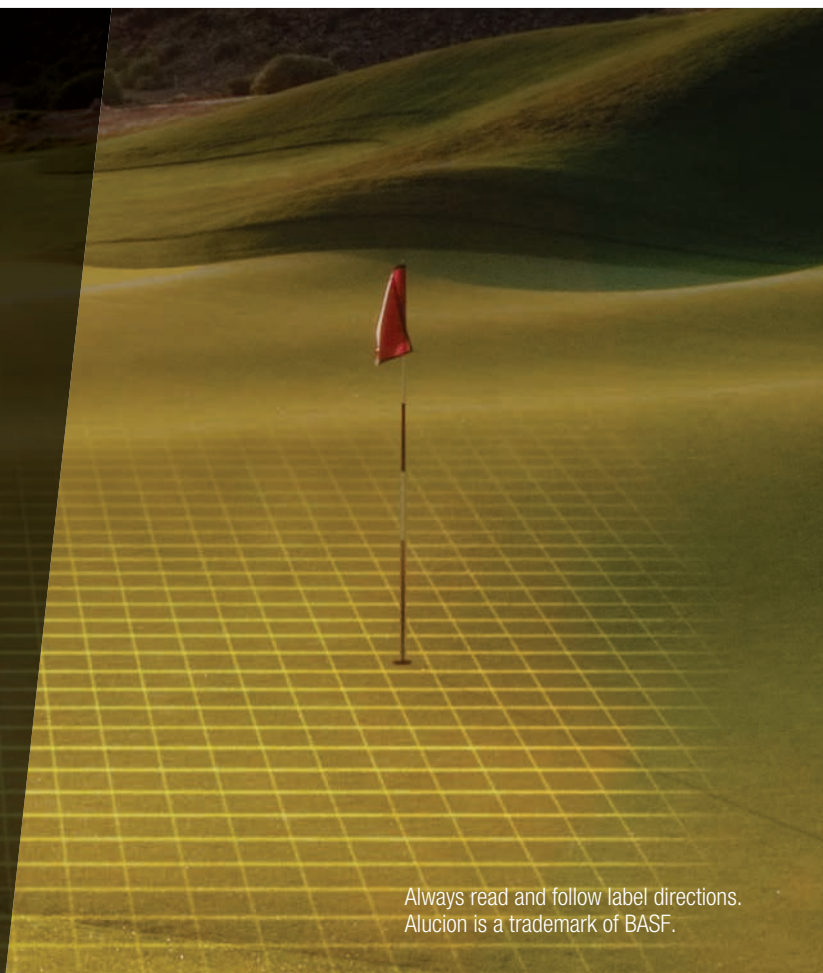
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While this year's program concluded in August, FMC is adding a bonus month: for each unit of [Kalida™ fungicide](#) purchased during FMC's 2021 September Spotlight and Early Order Program, FMC will donate \$25 per unit back to their local chapter. Superintendents can enroll for the FMC Spotlight + EOP and the Give Back program at [FMCTrueChampions.com](https://www.FMCTrueChampions.com)





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## THOMAS L. WATSCHKE SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

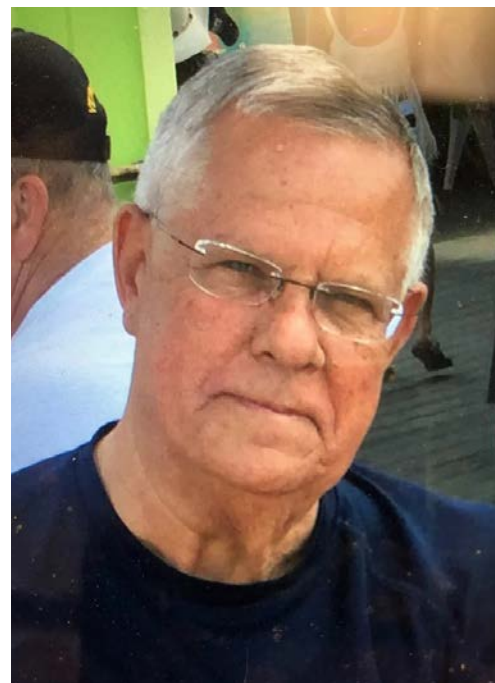
Penn State Blue Course  
Wednesday, October 13, 2021  
Registration & Lunch: 11:00AM - 12:30PM  
Shotgun Scramble: 12:30PM  
19th Hole Mixer and Awards Following Golf

**Registration deadline is September 17th**

**[Register to Sponsor and/or Play](#)**

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, Penn State is hosting a fundraiser golf tournament to support the Watschke Scholarship started by his family. The award will be given annually to a Bachelor of Science student in Turfgrass Science.

[Sponsorship Opportunities](#)



Thomas L. Watschke

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## PENN STATE TURFGRASS JOB FAIR

Hetzel Student Union (HUB)  
Thursday, October 14, 2021  
10:00AM - 2:00PM

### FEATURED PRESENTATIONS/EVENTS

What Professional Associations Have to Offer

Turfgrass Managers Panel Discussion

Resume review

Mock Interviews

Giveaways and Prizes

**[Register for the Turfgrass Job Fair](#)**





## GCSAA ELEVATES, ENHANCES COL. JOHN MORLEY AWARD FOR SUPERINTENDENTS

IN ADDITION TO THE REVAMPED AWARD — NOW EXCLUSIVELY FOR GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS — GCSAA HAS ANNOUNCED NEW AWARDS FOR YOUNG LEADERS, OUTSTANDING INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTIONS.

by GCM staff, August 17, 2021

GCSAA has announced changes to its Col. John Morley Award that elevate it to the status of one of two association Pinnacle Awards that recognize service to the golf industry.

The Col. John Morley Award, named for GCSAA's founder, will be presented annually to an individual who is or has been a GCSAA Class A or B superintendent member and who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession. The contribution must be significant in both substance and duration.

The nomination period for the Morley Award is open through Oct. 25. The recipient will be determined by the GCSAA Board of Directors.

The Morley Award joins the status of the other GCSAA Pinnacle Award, the Old Tom Morris Award, which will now be limited to those outside of the GCSAA membership who have helped mold the welfare of the game.

"We are very excited to introduce the new Morley Award as one of our two highest



honors and to recognize our superintendent members who have advanced the profession and the game," says GCSAA President Mark F. Jordan CGCS, natural resources leader at Westfield Country Club in Westfield Center, Ohio. "As is the case with our Old Tom Morris Award, we look forward to the Morley Award becoming a widely recognized accolade in the golf and sports industries."

[Learn about the life of Col. John Morley and the creation of GCSAA:](#)

With the Morley Award's rise to the Pinnacle Award level, its annual winner will be honored in the same ways as the Old Tom Morris Award winner, with on-stage recognition at the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show, media promotion — including gracing the cover of the January issue of GCSAA's GCM magazine — and more. The first Morley Award will be presented at the 2022 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in San Diego in February.

The Col. John Morley Award is different from the now-retired Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award, which was open to anyone in the golf industry who had shown lifetime achievement.

Along with the revamped Morley Award, GCSAA is introducing two new awards to honor specific golf industry achievements: the Emerging Leader Award and the Outstanding Contribution Award.

### GCSAA'S EMERGING LEADER AWARD

The Emerging Leader Award recognizes a GCSAA member who serves the industry as a superintendent with less than five years' experience, an assistant superintendent, a student or an associate member, and who displays continuous growth in service and leadership.

A nominee must be a GCSAA member in good standing, engaged in his or her local chapter or at the national or community level, and an advocate for the profession.

The Emerging Leader Award will be selected by the GCSAA Assistant Superintendent Task Group. The nomination period will be open Sept. 7-Oct. 31, 2021, and the first winner will be recognized at the 2022 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in San Diego in February.

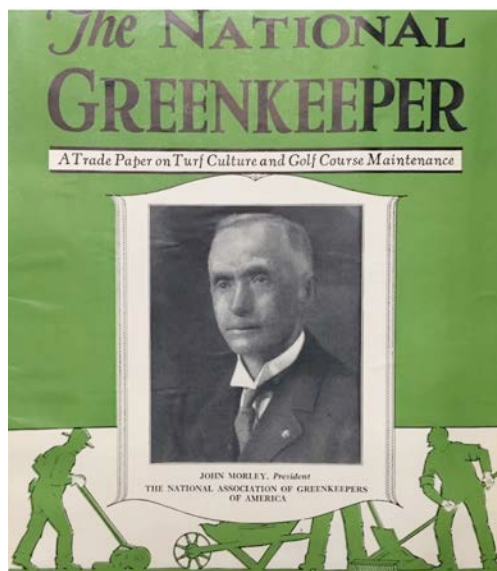
### GCSAA'S OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD

The Outstanding Contribution Award recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to the GCSAA membership through outstanding contributions to the golf course industry.

A nominee must not currently be a Class AA, A, B, C, EM or ISM GCSAA member, and must not have retired in any of the membership classifications listed.

The Outstanding Contribution Award will be selected by a new committee to be appointed. Nominations will be accepted Sept. 7-Oct. 31, 2021, and the first winner will be recognized at the 2022 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in San Diego in February.

For more information and nomination forms for each of these awards, visit the [Awards page on GCSAA.org](#).



## MID-ATLANTIC GCSAA FIELD STAFF UPDATE

### KATRIN WOLFE

*Mid-Atlantic regional representative*

Before joining the GCSAA staff, Katrin was associate athletic director for East Stroudsburg (Pa.) University and a collegiate golfer on the Penn State women's team. She resides in East Stroudsburg, Pa.

**Tel. 800-472-7878, ext. 3609.**



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## LENDING A HELPING HAND

*by Katrin Wolfe | Sep 14, 2021*

The end of August and September have been difficult for the Mid-Atlantic. In a 14 day span, the Mid-Atlantic area experienced the path of two hurricanes: Henri and Ida. If that was not enough, there was more rain from summer storms to add on to all the rain totals. Henri brought a punch but Ida brought a knockout. Maryland and the metro D.C. area experienced tornados and flash flooding. The rain moved north and brought more flashing flooding to Pennsylvania to New England. Philadelphia experienced terrible tornados and flooding. Major highways closed down. News from New Jersey, NYC, and New England echoed the same. The rain did not spare the local courses. Many had to close for several days to focus up on clean up. Others worked diligently to open the courses as soon as possible to their players. Their efforts were incredible and appreciated. Ida came in right before one of the biggest holiday golf events of Labor Day. In addition, Mid-Atlantic is in the yearly fall ritual of aerification. It seems appropriate that the unofficial end of summer was marked with more storms and rain.

The Forme Tour of the PGA has been in the line of fire of all the hurricane and storms. The Forme Tour was created by the PGA for the 2021 season in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Canadian travel restrictions. The tour will provide golfers the opportunity to gain membership for the Korn Ferry Tour. The end of the season of the Forme Tour was slated for the Mid-Atlantic region. First, the Rolling Green Championship battled storms during their opening round and Ida pushing through the area. The weather event brought severe storms through the area. However, after several delays the tournament was able to get in all rounds in. The Rolling Greens ground crew were vital to the success and the ability to get all the rounds completed. Brian Chapin and his staff helped get that course in tournament shape every day with massive obstacles. Tournaments are always a little more difficult but adding Mother Nature to the mix makes it more interesting.

The following week the Forme Tour was slated to end at The Ridge at Back Brooke in Ringoes, N.J. While Rolling Green was being delayed by Ida, she had other ideas for the final event. On Wednesday, September 1, The Ridge at Back Brooke received almost 9 inches of rain from Ida and left the course unplayable. Thursday left the Forme Tour planning what to do next. That's when a friend stepped in to help. That friend came in the form of Huntsville Golf Club. On Thursday, September 2, Huntsville Golf Club said yes to hosting the final round event slated to start Wednesday, September 8. The golf club said yes to hosting a professional event in less than a week! Courses typically have months to prepare.

The tournament needed to be completed in a set time frame due to Korn Ferry Tour qualifying requirements. Huntsville Golf Club stepped in and was able to meet the needs of the Forme Tour finishing requirements. Lets talk about how incredible this feat of hosting a tournament in one week is. First, the quick turn around shows the ability and strength of Huntsville. To be tournament ready that quickly means that the course in great shape all the time. Second, it takes a village to say yes. Huntsville has that village. General Manager Jeff Fry (GCSAA member), superintendent Mark McCormick (GCSAA member), PGA Professional Matt Occhiato and owner Dick Maslow put a strong team together and started troubleshooting. A great friend says yes and then starts to put the pieces together. That is exactly why Huntsville did, figuring out all the hurdles needed to host after agreeing to host.

I am writing this because the superintendent and his crew need to be highlighted! Many stories have come from last week and not many even talk about the work on the course. Without the course, there is no tournament. In addition, the course received major storms overnight in the middle of the event. Add to that working with a crew that was down some members due to COVID-19. Mark was able to commit and provide a fantastic course for the



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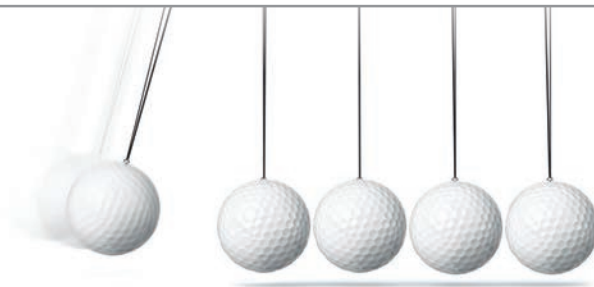
event. Local sport teams came out to help Mark and his crew. A local golf team and baseball team came out to help fill divots. Extremely early morning and even later nights were required to get the course ready. In addition, Mark had his course in such great shape on a daily basis that he was able to say yes to hosting event. I do not think this would have occurred either without the support of General Manager Jeff Fry, a former superintendent and a GCSAA member. Having two knowledgeable individuals on staff like Jeff and Mark is such an asset. I also want to acknowledge owner Dick Maslow who created a course and had the vision. That's quite a strong village. It's great to have a course

like Huntsville in my own backyard. So proud of Huntsville and two great members of the GCSAA.

The event ended on a Friday due to events already scheduled at Huntsville. However, the players could not have been more thankful for the opportunity. The club stepped up and allowed the Forme Tour to finish the year already made difficult by the global pandemic. Brad Miller raised the trophy on Friday afternoon. The win marks Miller's first at any PGA affiliate.

I think the real trophy belongs to Huntsville Golf Club. When people step up and help without hesitation, you've found yourself a winner!

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## Connect With Us!

## CHALLENGES ACCEPTED!

The Association is beyond excited to again help members host *First Green*  events for the 2021-22 academic school year.

First up will be another brilliant trip to **Ledgerock Golf Club on October 19, hosted by Alan Fitzgerald**. The Governor Mifflin school district will once again send students— this time 80+ 4th graders—for a STEM field trip that will Educate, Promote, Inspire, Communicate. It's a challenge we all accept.

The PAGCS is fortunate and proud to partner with allied groups such as The First Tee of Greater Philadelphia, the Northeast Regional USGA, Golf Association of Philadelphia, Philly Section PGA, state universities and their extensions, various watersheds, arboreta and other environmental organizations, to name just a few. And not the least of which are our own PAGCS sponsors who always step up to volunteer at the field trips and provide support. This collaborative model eases the challenge and makes these field trips possible.

Speaking of a challenge: it's all hands on deck for **10/25 when Chris Walton, GCS at CCC**, will host the first half of the entire 4th grade of Coatesville School District [the second half will come in the spring]: Just how many students is that, you ask? Come find out!

More trips are waiting in the wings, and the team would love to add even more. The collaborative model built in this region allows for increased resources, help, and making the process easier. We are here to help so please reach out!

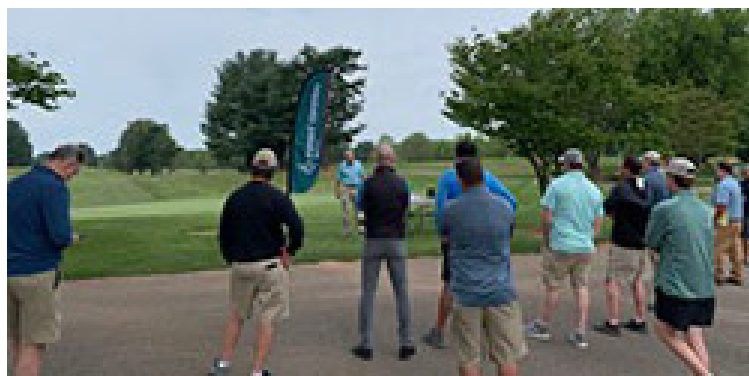
## TENNESSEE GCSA HOSTS FIRST GREEN TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

GCSAA Director Paul L. Carter, CGCS, is director of agronomy, at The Bear Trace at Harrison Bay in Harrison, Tenn., and the chairman of GCSAA's First Green Task Group. Carter is an advocate of the youth and community outreach program that facilitates STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) field trips on golf courses. Superintendents invite a local school or youth group out for a fun, hands-on excursion that highlights the golf course as a living laboratory.

While many of his fellow chapter members were aware of First Green, there had not yet been a field trip in the state of Tennessee. Carter knew some superintendents might be hesitant to participate in the program if they haven't actually seen one. So, the Tennessee chapter decided to hold a train-the-trainer workshop prior to an already scheduled chapter meeting.

Train-the-trainer workshops are opportunities for members to see the structure of a field trip, view the learning stations and come away with ideas and best practices. First Green can help coordinate a workshop while an actual field trip is underway with students, or, as in the case of the Tennessee GCSA, a workshop can occur without the young people.

Melissa Martin, Tennessee GCSA executive director, said that they added the workshop to an already scheduled regional meeting scheduled on May 18 at Link Hills Country Club in Greeneville, Tenn. Host Superintendent Corey Seals allowed the chapter to add an additional hour to the day's program. Seals even invited a local high school teacher to view the workshop. The two have been working on scheduling a field trip.



Carter and GCSAA Southeast Regional Representative Ron Wright, CGCS, modeled two stations for the attendees -- Soil Science and Math on Course. The attendees were able to see what tools were needed for each station, view the step-by-step lesson plans and listen as Carter and Wright taught the "students".

Carter was satisfied that it was time well spent.

"I felt it was a great way to introduce members to the concept and how it works," he said. "We were able to dispel some of the myths and worries about how the program looks and functions and what is expected of the course and its staff before hosting an event. It's all good to watch videos and listen to people speak on the program, but to see it in person answers a lot of questions."

First Green Train-the-Trainer workshops are free to chapters. Contact [Leann Cooper](#), senior manager, chapter services, or your GCSAA field staff representative for more information and to schedule a workshop.



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