# The BONNIE GREENSWARD

OUR 97TH SEASON



#### **PAGCS & GCSANJ SOCIAL** GCSAA Conference and Trade Show

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023 7:00-10:00 OLE RED ORLANDO



#### THROUGH THE LENS: LOOKING BACKWARD AND FORWARD

As the Association begins to close out the "2022" season of membership and sponsorship, it is important to look in both directions. The season has been one still impacted by pandemic outcomes, no doubt. Yet it will be a season worth celebrating.

Event attendance reached an all-time high, with an average of 100 attendees at the first four golf outings. The Association initiative to add in non-golf, social options have included a networking event with the PVCMA, Phamily Phun night at the Phillies, a brewery tour and happy hour, and Winter Classic ice hockey/ skating event for families. Similar initiatives will continue!

Our partnership with Inside Golf TV gave the Association, our members, and the industry exciting and important "facetime" with the broader golfing audience in the region. This initiative continues, so keep an eye on the Inside Golf channels and our communications.

#### LABOR!

Another focus of the PAGCS Board addresses this key challenge. The Association continues

to invest in efforts that address building the pipeline of not only future leaders but also competent base labor that every facility needs to succeed. First Green and First Tee programs are certainly pathways, and other efforts will continue.

#### **EVERY MEMBER VOICE COUNTS**

The leadership of the PAGCS seeks YOUR input. First up, the compensation survey: <u>https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAI</u> <u>pQLSc8mQf3NkxWD8udP7niQN8J2R4xxr</u> <u>KUk6gZ\_6tUuJgDVa9Wsw/viewform</u>

Next: What should the years ahead look like? The PAGCS 100th anniversary is two years away. Join us as we plan for this special celebration. What else do you want from your PAGCS membership? The Winter Education Session was extremely well received, tackling subjects outside agronomy and golf course management that target professional and personal development. Please contact any Board member with your thoughts and ideas for how to improve the PAGCS and benefits to members! ◆ 2022 VOL. IV

#### >>EVENTS

# PAGCS HOSPITALITY EVENT

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

#### EASTERN PA TURF CONFERENCE, HOSTED BY PTC

Thursday, February 2, 2023 Shady Maple Conference Center. Visit <u>PATURF.org</u> for more info

#### **2023 PSU TURF CONFERENCE**

October 10-12, 2023 HUB

#### PAGCS-GCSANJ WEE ONE FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

#### >>SEASON PREVIEW

#### WAR AT THE SHORE

Monday, April 17, 2023 ACCC

#### MEMBER-GUEST

Monday, May 15, 2023 Llanerch CC

#### **SCHOLARSHIP**

Monday, June 5, 2023 Sandy Run

#### MEMBER-MEMBER

Monday, August 28, 2023 UL Torresdale

Visit the website events tab for more!

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Kristen Liebsch Executive Director, Newsletter Editor 484-467-5298

#### >>THE PM

#### A FEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023 has arrived! It's been a whirlwind few years since the pandemic hit, and most of us didn't expect it would be so busy. It's been a good problem to have -- the game is as popular as it has been since the late '90's! Hopefully the Association and industry will continue to adjust to the new normal in 2023.

The Board of Directors has worked hard to plan a great event and networking schedule for the year ahead. Thanks to Darren Farrar and Jeff Haas for putting together an impressive golf schedule. We are still looking for one host for the fall: please reach out to them if interested.

As COVID has evolved, the ability to gather is easier. We will continue working towards increasing our non-golf events as well. First up will be the Winter



Education session on 1/18, followed by the Winter Classic family fun gathering on 1/21.

I am happy to welcome Joe Agnew of The Bucks Club to the Board for 2023. Joe fills the slot of Chris Toporski, who has shifted to a Vendor Liaison board position. Joe has already attended the 2022 GCSAA delegates meeting, representing our Association, and will be an asset to the Board.

Also new this year is appointing an Equipment Manager Liaison to the Board. Equipment Managers are perhaps the most important position on a golf course maintenance staff and also a great bridge to our Affiliate equipment provider sponsors. Mike Smethurst of Gulph Mills Golf Club has volunteered to fill this inaugural position and we look forward to including all of our EM's in events moving forward. Thank you to both Joe and Mike!

Finally, donate to the First Tee of Greater Philadelphia's Auction for Game Changers. See pg. 5 for full details on ways to help. ◆

Respectfully,

Cy a DH.

#### PAGCS COMPENSATION SURVEY UNDERWAY; IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE LINK, PLEASE CONTACT <u>KLIEBSCH@PAGCS.ORG</u>



PAGCS Winter Education Session Awarded CEUs from GCSAA: email kliebsch@pagcs.org if you need the code

#### **#HEADINGTO100** 100TH PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING 3/15/23 email Kliebsch@pagcs.org to be included

#### >>ISSUE GUIDE

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We are looking for unique experiences to showcase during our online auction so that we can continue our mission of **Building Game Changers**.

In 2022, the Auction for Game Changers raised over **\$240,000!** Join us in surpassing that success this year.

#### AUCTION RUNS FEBRUARY 1-12, 2022, ENDING ON SUPER BOWL SUNDAY



Contact Maggie Farrell at *mfarrell@firstteephila.org* for information.



Subject: 2023 Auction for Game Changers

October 18, 2022

Dear Prospective Donor,

First Tee — Greater Philadelphia is a youth development organization that teaches over 40,000 kids of all privileges essential life skills using the game of golf. As one of the major fundraising sources for our chapter, First Tee conducts our Auction for Game Changers, which will run from February 1 through February 12, 2023. This auction has taken off nationally over the last two years and raises over \$200,000. This success allows the chapter to provide **ALL** programs to our young people at no cost. At First Tee, we are excited that we can help grow the game of golf by introducing the sport to new players from non-traditional backgrounds.

Would you consider donating a foursome, item, or experience to support our cause? Your donation will assist us in making the community a better place. We are lucky to have so many who give back to make all that we do possible. Our kids, parents, Board of Directors, and staff thank you in advance for your generosity. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

William Hyndman, V Executive Director First Tee – Greater Philadelphia whyndman@firstteephila.org

First Tee – Greater Philadelphia is a tax exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN number 23-2088969

800 Walnut Lane | Philadelphia, PA 19128 | 215.482.3370 | www.firstteephiladelphia.org

**BUILDING GAME CHANGERS** 



#### FIRST TEE PHILLY HOLDS INAUGURAL CHAMPIONSHIP!

The First Tee Championship was an inaugural two-day event taking place at both Walnut Lane and John F. Byrne in late September of 2022. Paired with a Drive Chip and Putt Competition, 100 students showed up to take on the links and show their skills. A 27-hole event for those 14 and up and an 18-hole event for those 13 and younger, this event allowed our young people to put their on-course skills to the test.













# 2023 Eastern Pennsylvania Golf, Lawn, Landscape and **Sports Turf Conference**

## **NEW DATE:** Thursday, February 2, 2023

Education Sessions Listed Inside Along with **Registration Form. 2023 Conference Includes** Exhibitor Tabletop Displays

LOCATION: **Shady Maple Conference Center** 129 Toddy Drive • East Earl, PA 17519













Association of Golf Course Superintendents



#### WHO:

Darren Farrar, Vice President

#### CAREER:

Darren holds both a B.S. in Agronomy from North Carolina Sate University and an A.S. in Business Management from Guilford Tech. His latest move takes him to Whitemarsh Valley Country Club as head Superintendent, just this month.

Darren cut his teeth in the Transition Zone at Philadelphia Cricket Club for a couple of years, during which the facility hosted the Senior Players Championship and the Philly Am. Five years ago, he took the helm at Old York Road CC and led the facility through a complete course transformation, including extensive tree removal and a master plan orchestrated with Andrew Green.

#### **GETTING THERE:**

Born and raised in Burlington, NC, Darren spent time at Olde Stone in Bowling Green, Kentucky; as well as Greensboro Country Club and Wade Hampton Golf Club in North Carolina before heading to PA

"...Most of my family was passionate about the game of golf ... I was first introduced to the game by my father when I was 13. My first job was working on a golf course when I was 15, where I got a glimpse of what it took to maintain a golf course, which grew my respect and passion for the game even more.

I am now married to my wonderful wife Brooke from Hummelstown, Pennsylvania. We met through mutual friends in North Carolina. Brooke played field hockey at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was living in NC when we first met."

Darren and Brooke just welcomed their first child on December 4: Andrew Bradley Farrar.

#### **INTERESTS**:

"During my free time, I enjoy playing golf, smoking/grilling bbq, skiing, hiking and other outdoor activities."



Darren Farrar









# **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

The 2023 conference will be at HUB again from October 10-12. It will be held in conjunction with the Watschke Scholarship Outing and the Job & Internship Fair. Organizers hope to be back at the Nittany Lion Inn in 2024, following an expected renovation and reopening.

2023 PSU Turf Conference to be held Oct. 10-12, 2023, in conjunction with the Watschke Scholarship Outing and the Job & Internship Fair.



#### >>ASSISTANT'S CORNER

#### SOMETIMES YOU NEED TWO MEET JONATHAN KASCHAK & RORY LENNOX

by Nick Sujkowski, PAGCS Assistant Representative to the Board

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and new year! As we shift to off-season work I hope we all find more time to relax and unwind. I am in the planning stages of an assistant event next month (February) so keep an eye out for details to come in your PAGCS email blasts. Superintendents, please encourage assistants to attend as it is a great networking opportunity and allows everyone a chance to get to know their peers in the area.

#### **INTRODUCING YOUNG TALENT:**

#### Jonathan Kaschak - originally from Hazleton, PA

Jonathan is a graduate of the four-year turf science program at Penn State University (2020).

Jonathan began his career in golf at Valley Country Club in Sugarloaf, PA. During college he interned at Valley, Lancaster Country Club, and Baton Rouge Country Club. Following graduation, he worked at Milwaukee Country Club then became Assistant Superintendent at Upper Montclair



Jonathan Kaschak

Country Club in New Jersey, host of the LPGA Cognizant Founders Cup. Jonathan joined us here at Concord right around Thanksgiving.

#### Rory Lennox - originally from Landenberg, PA

Rory is a graduate of the two-year turf management program at Penn State University (2022).

After high school, Rory attended the University of Alabama, studying accounting. During his first year, he realized that was



Rory Lennox

not for him and discovered the turf industry. During his time at Penn State, he interned at Wee Burn Country Club, Castle Pines Golf Club, and The Country Club during the 2022 U.S. Open. Rory is excited to be working near his hometown for the first time. He joined our team here at Concord right around Halloween.

Both Rory and Jonathan have been a huge asset to our team and I am excited for them to be joining a great network of Assistant Superintendents that we have in the Philly region. ◆

#### **ASSISTANT'S CORNER**

Got any cool projects or stories to share in 2022? We want to hear from you! Contact Nick: <u>nicksuj@gmail.com</u>



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#### **NEW INITIATIVE AIMS HIGH**

The Super Scratch Championship Foundation, Inc., is a 501(C)3 founded in 2020 with the purpose of giving back to the agronomy industry, while at the same time building relationships between Superintendents and top-level amateurs at their respective clubs. The idea was formed as a way to support an often-unrecognized side of the golf industry, while creating a fun and competitive golf event to raise money for the next generation of Superintendents. In the fall of 2020, during the midst of a worldwide pandemic, the first Super Scratch Invitational was contested at Huntingdon Valley Country Club, in Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

Based on the research of the foundation, the Super-Scratch is the first event in the country that pairs a scratch amateur with a Superintendent from the same club. The competition is a better ball tournament to raise scholarship funds for students studying agronomy. Depending on how the teams place, they are each able to determine an institution where funds will be directed for the following year. The foundation then works with those schools to find students to support in their agronomic programs.

In 2020, the event had a humble start, with 12 teams participating. The inaugural Super Scratch Invitational was won by Huntingdon Valley CC's Superintendent, Scott Anderson, and his amateur partner, Ben Cooley. The \$1,500 prize was donated to DelVal University's "Friends of Turf Fund," which supports students in its turfgrass program.



SSI Timothy Zurybida

The event has grown significantly since then, with the 2022 field hosting 24 teams and providing \$15,000 in scholarship donations. The recipients of the 2023-2024 scholarships will be Penn State University (\$10,000) and Rutgers University (\$5,000), with students from these programs directly receiving the funds.

#### BELOW ARE THE RESULTS OF THE 2022 EVENT.

#### **PRIZE POOL**

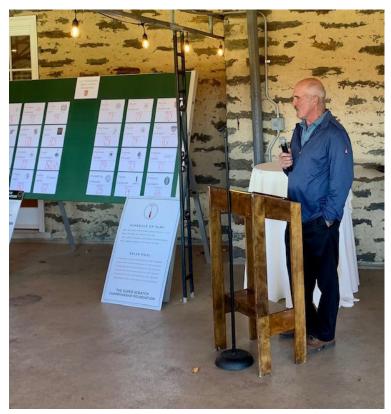
- **1 st Place Team** Sam Greenlaugh and Patrick Knott (Merion Golf Club) \$5,000 Scholarship Rutgers Turfgrass Program
  - **2nd Place Team** Andrew Giordano and David Pompey (Scranton Country Club) \$3,500 Scholarship to Pennsylvania State University Turfgrass Program
    - **3rd Place Team** Brendan Byrne and John Lalley (Llanerch Country Club) \$2,500 Scholarship to Pennsylvania State University Turfgrass Program
    - **4th Place Team** Colin Harley and Brian Gillespie (St. David's Golf Club) \$2,000 Scholarship to Pennsylvania State University Turfgrass Program
    - **5th Place Team** Gene Stricker and Gerrard Rosato (The 1912 Club)
  - Low Amateur David Pompey (Scranton Country Club) \$1,000 Scholarship to Pennsylvania State University Turfgrass Program

Support from the industry has been overwhelming, with over 20 sponsors now contributing from the golf turf industry. The foundation has taken a slow crawl, walk, then run approach to building the event. The goal for 2023 is to raise \$50,000 for scholarships and expand the field to 36 teams, potentially attracting a more national base. The desire is not only to grow the event within the region but also to build the event into a national Superintendent/ amateur competition. The ultimate goal is to attract top clubs, their Superintendents and amateurs from across the country to play in Philadelphia annually to raise money for the agronomy industry.

The first three events were held at Huntingdon Valley Country Club and the 2023 event will again return there in early November. HVCC enjoys a rich history of amateur competition and a unique agronomic program that has been spearheaded by long-time superintendent Scott Anderson, who has been at the club for nearly four decades. Until 2010, HVCC hosted the second longest running amateur event in the country, The Lynnewood Hall.

The club's membership has been comprised of Walker Cup participants, USGA champions and other players of high caliber throughout its history. The long-term vision for the foundation is to resurface that history, support the turf industry's next generation and bring a national event to Philadelphia that both Superintendents and amateurs can enjoy.

#### Continued from previous page



SSI Scott Anderson

With a limited field and the vision toward building the event to include teams from across the country, the foundation welcomes feedback. The foundation is working to launch its website and make



SSI winners

the registration and participation process more streamlined so more teams can participate and get involved.

The outpouring of support from the industry has been humbling, and we would like to again thank all our local and regional sponsors for a successful 2022 event. ◆

--submitted by Tim Zurybida, GCS at Bellewood Country Club and founding board member of the foundation [timz@bellewoodgolf.com]



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#### >>EVENTS MEMBER-MEMBER TROPHY TOURNAMENT

Member-Member Trophy Tournament November 1, 2022 Rivercrest Golf Club & Preserve Host: Tim Edwards

#### RESULTS

SKILL CONTESTS Closest to the Pin #5: Collin Berger, 8'6" Closest to the Pin #17: 5" Long Drive #14: Brandon Collins, 315 yards

BETTER BALL – NET 3rd: Brandon Collins & Josh Saunders 2nd: Mike Janzer & Rich Sweeney 1st: Matt Paulina & Doug Rae

BETTER BALL – GROSS 3rd: Mike Kachurak & Darren Farrar 2nd: Rob Johnson & Brandon Perrine 1st: Jeff Haas & Kevin McClellan

















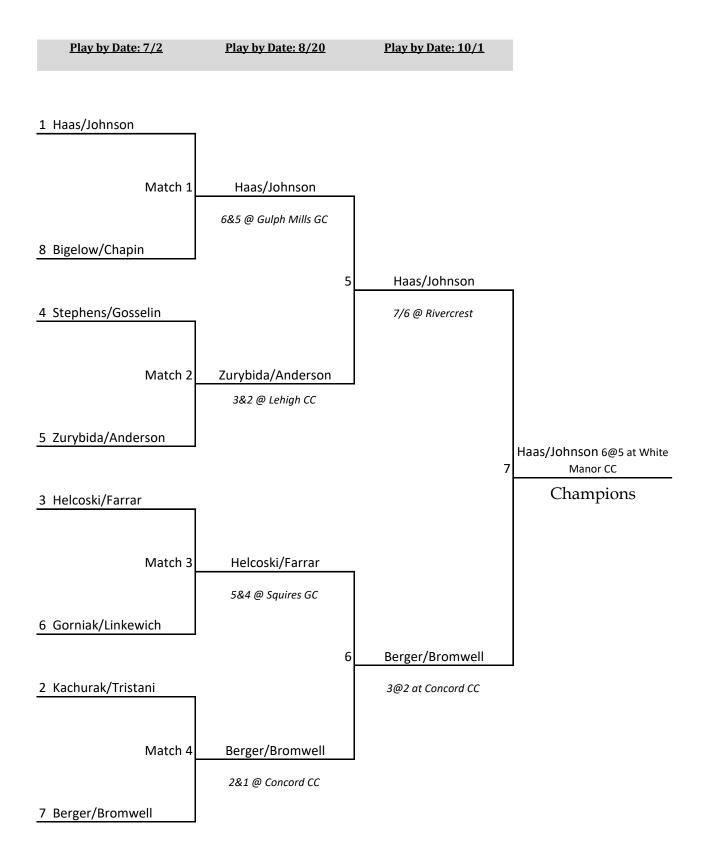


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#### **TEAM MATCHES**

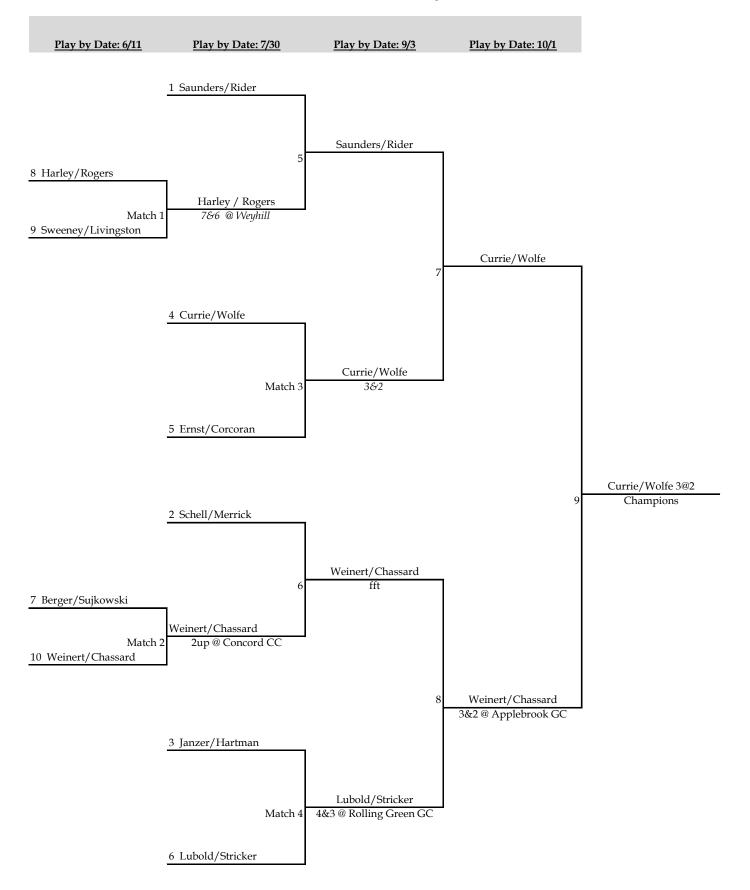
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#### **TEAM MATCHES**

#### **PAGCS Net Match Play 2022**



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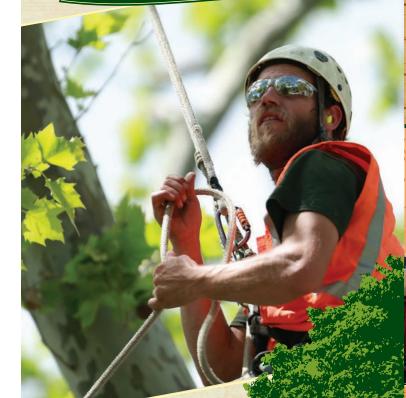
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#### INNOVATIVE INTERACTION start 2023 off right

Start 2023 off right at the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in Orlando, Florida. The Conference and Trade Show is back in the Sunshine State better than ever. All your favorites from the Golf Championships to education to the Trade Show floor are back. 2023 will be our most interactive Conference and Trade Show yet. Throughout the week we will have networking and connections opportunities. In addition, the Conference and Trade Show will have an interactive app to help you enjoy and get the most out of your time in Orlando. GCSAA has created and expanded interactive education opportunities. Monday and Tuesday will provide facility tours on numerous topics including tournament preparation, First Green, all about bunkers, and more. The interaction does not stop when the Trade Show Floor opens Wednesday morning. Look for hands-on experiences throughout the Trade Show Floor and do not miss out on the new Interactive Grass Stage where demonstrations and hands on learning will continue. More surprises are ahead in Orlando so do not miss!

There is no better way to start 2023 off right than by saving money. GCSAA has so many member benefits that the savings can help you year-round. <u>GCAA Member Benefits</u> offers discounts and services that you can only receive as a member.

One of the greatest benefits GCSAA offers is health insurance opportunities. The <u>GCSAA Association Health Program</u> partners with Association Health Programs (AHP) to offer members specialized personalize health insurance options. The program was created out of the needs of our GCSAA members. The program is not limited to just health insurance but also includes dental, vision, telehealth, mental health, disability, life, accident, long-term care, and Medicare supplements. The program is available in 38 states including Pennsylvania (New Jersey is excluded). Please visit <u>GCSAA Association Health Program</u> to learn more about the program. The health insurance program is eligible for all GCSAA membership levels.

Our affinity programs do not stop there. We have career resources from job search to contract negotiation help. Erin Wolfram, CPRW, is available to also help with individualized career consultations. GCSAA also offers great discounts for computers, car rentals, clothing, uniforms, batteries, and more. The list of savings and discounts is always growing so keep checking the great available discounts at <u>GCSAA Member Savings</u>.

Another great way to start 2023 is to explore <u>My Learning Hub</u> and all the great free webinars available. GCSAA's database of great education will help you explore an unlimited number of topics. In addition, throughout the year we continually update our educational webinars. If you think you have a topic or have a topic you would like to be added, please let us know at GCSAA. We are always looking for new ideas. ◆

--Katrin Wolfe, GCSAA MidAtlantic Field Staff Representative



### **My Engineer Friend**

By Henry "Butch" Wetzel

I grew up on a farm in Mt. Laurel, N.J. From our farm we could see and hear the locomotives on the Back Road, the line from Camden to Pemberton and Fort Dix. Dad liked trains and every night we would hear the whistles of the steam locomotives blowing for the grade crossings in Hartford and Masonville. On one evening Dad and I were out in the field with the "hay shaker," a Model A Ford with a flatbed wood body Dad made. We would use the hay shaker for different jobs around the farm, but the main job was to clean out the cow barn and spread the manure on different fields.

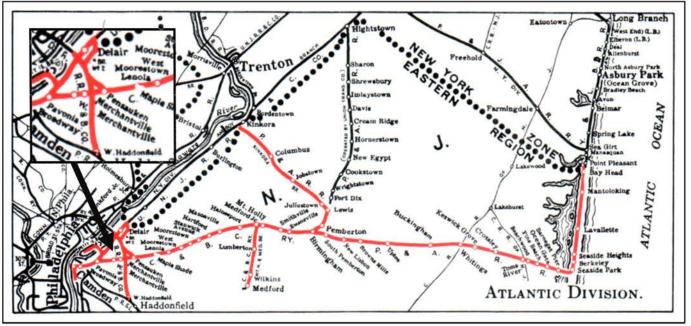
One evening Dad and I were on the "hay shaker" and Dad heard a different whistle on one of the evening trains headed towards Pemberton. Dad said, "Let's go see what type of steam engine would have this different whistle." Well, let me explain this ride.

The hay shaker had no hydraulic brakes, they were mechanical. That would present a problem. I was holding on for dear life as Dad left the farm field, got onto Ark Road, crossed New Jersey Route 38, and headed down the hill towards Marne Highway, the railroad tracks, and the small shelter with a sign that read Masonville. The only thing that I remember was that the front of the engine had a keystone number plaque. We stopped on Marne Highway in time to see the steam engine and some passenger cars pass. I was so concerned with the ride down to see the steam engine, that I don't remember anything about the engine, number of cars, etc. You must remember I was only nine or ten years old. Today you could not cross Route 38 as we did 65 years ago. Route 38 has four lanes of traffic, and I am told that the hill leading to Marne Highway has been cut down. There are many shops and businesses there now.



The "Hay Shaker" with my dad, Henry Wetzel Sr., behind the wheel on the family farm in Mt. Laurel, N.J. (Henry Wetzel collection)

Continued from previous page



This 1941 PRR map of the Atlantic Division shows the location of West Merchantville where we moved. (PRR, Tim Garner collection)

Dad sold the farm and on December 3, 1955, we moved to Browning Road in Merchantville. That was the first stop for the passenger trains coming out of Camden. The station was a small shelter with the PRR sign that read West Merchantville. Every night, Monday through Friday at 5:30 the first train would stop to let a few passengers off. I would be standing on a small blacktop path with my dog, a cocker spaniel named Friskie. The engineer's name was S. F. "Fred" Sypherd and he always called himself, "your engineer friend." I always remember how he would stop his engine right on the middle of the path, which was four feet wide. If anyone has ever operated large trucks, semis, or heavy equipment, you would understand how difficult it is to always stop in that same spot. If my engineer friend was not on this run, someone not familiar would either brake or open the throttle to make the proper stop.

My engineer friend would usually throw me a candy bar and we would make small talk. I would usually say, "What does the s stand for after K4s." He would explain the term *superheated*, but to a boy 10, 11, 12 years old and his dog Friskie, I thought that I was in heaven – the size of the locomotive, the sound

Friskee and I posed for this group portrait. (Henry Wetzel collection)



Continued from previous page

of the air pump, the blower sometimes sending smoke straight up into the sky. Of course, the size of the driving wheels was always a marvel to me. If it were winter, the cab would be dark, but I could see the light on the steam gauge. After a few minutes, my engineer friend would get the two short beeps on the air line, open the throttle, and wave good-bye, see you tomorrow. Then those huge drivers would start to turn and that great sound of the steam locomotive starting out was always so exciting. I am sure Friskie wondered why we did this every night at 5:30 and every morning at 7:30.

One night my engineer friend said, "Ask your mother if you can ride in the cab with me and I will bring you home. But leave Friskie at home." Well, when I went home and asked Mom about my train ride, she knew how much I loved the steam engines and said, "Okay." The next night I went down to meet the train, but Friskie was at home. I am sure she was a little concerned since that was our every night and every morning walk.

This train always had three cars. I was told to go to the first seat on the first car. The conductor told me,

"Sit and the fireman will come back to get you." After a few stops, I would guess it was Maple Shade, Sam, the fireman came back, and we climbed up into the cab. Sam told me to sit in his seat. I don't believe there are enough words to describe the sights, sounds, and smells of the cab and the ride that followed. I was so excited, and my eyes had to be the size of silver dollars. I looked over to see my engineer friend with a big smile on his face.

He later told me that I would remember this cab ride the rest of my life. It's been 60 plus years, and I remember the ride like it happened yesterday. It was winter time, dark, and a little snow on the ground. The headlight was so bright, it seems like the sun was on the front of the engine.

When we got to Mt. Holly the conductor came up to the fireman's side of the cab, they talked for a few minutes, and then we went on to Pemberton. At Pemberton the three cars were uncoupled, and I got to sit with my engineer friend on his seat. He let me ring the bell and work the sander valve. We turned on the wye. I got to turn on the light on the tender when we made the move on the wye. The fireman flagged the road crossing with a lit fusee. Of course, all of this was so routine for Sam and my engineer friend, but they never let on. They knew how much this trip meant to me and how excited I was. When we got back to Pemberton, we left the engine and went into the station area where the crew could change out of their coveralls.



The West Merchantville, N.J. passenger shelter near our house. (Henry Wetzel collection)

When we got to Mt. Holly the conductor came up to the fireman's side of the cab, they talked for a few minutes, and then we went on to Pemberton. At Pemberton the three cars were uncoupled, and I got to sit with my engineer friend on his seat. He let me ring the bell and work the sander valve. We turned on the wye. I got to turn on the light on the tender when we made the move on the wye. The fireman flagged the road crossing with a lit fusee. Of course, all of this was so routine for Sam and my engineer friend, but they never let on. They knew how much this trip meant to me and how excited I was. When we got back to Pemberton, we left the engine and went into the station area where the crew could change out of their coveralls.

My engineer friend drove me home. When I got into the house Mom said my face was black from the soot. I was surprised when I saw how black my face was.

#### Continued from previous page

Friskie and I continued to go down at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. to see the train. My engineer friend developed a heart problem and retired. I continued to go every night and every morning even though this engineman was not S. F. Sypherd. He was not like my engineer friend. To him it was just a job.

Then it happened. Friskie and I were waiting for the train at 5:30. Now you could look down the track towards Camden and you were fixed on the City Hall building which was directly in line with the curve of the track. During the winter you would see the headlight as the train rounded the curve. In the summer you would see the smoke of the engine. This was fall and I saw the headlight. Then I saw a very large diesel stop on the small blacktop path. I think it was a sharknose, but to me it was not very funny. The engineman said that there would be no more steam engines, only diesels. When Friskie and I got home Mom always had supper ready. But I was crying. Everyone, Mom, Dad, and my sister Louise wanted to know what was going on. I explained that no more steam engines were coming. Dad understood how I felt since he also liked steam engines. Mom understood because she knew how much I loved those big, black, fat steam engines. My sister

thought I was very weird. "Who would like such a dirty old black steam engine?"

She wrote a story for her sixth-grade class explaining how every night and every morning her brother would run down to see these big, black, dirty steam engines. Of course, she would say they are all the same, when we know 5351, 3880, 7133, 3750, 1361 and many others were each a little different.

I stayed in touch with my engineer friend. He would go to card parties and my Uncle Bill would see him. When he went to Florida for a few weeks in the winter, he would send me a note. One winter he sent me a little stuffed alligator, too.



K4s #3752 at a crossing in New Jersey. She was built at the Juniata Shops in April 1920 with serial number 3705 and was dropped from the roster in April 1958. (Henry Wetzel collection)

When I was in college, S. F. "Fred" Sypherd, my engineer friend, died. Uncle Bill took me to his viewing, and I told his wife how much he meant to me. She said he never had children of his own but loved many like me.

It's funny how a boy and his dog, Friskie, became so attached to a man and his big, black, steam locomotive.

Check out the article "Diesel Tonight" by Frank Tatnall (*Classic Trains*, Summer 2000). It includes a photo of K4s #5351 on the last run November 12, 1957, in



#### The High Line

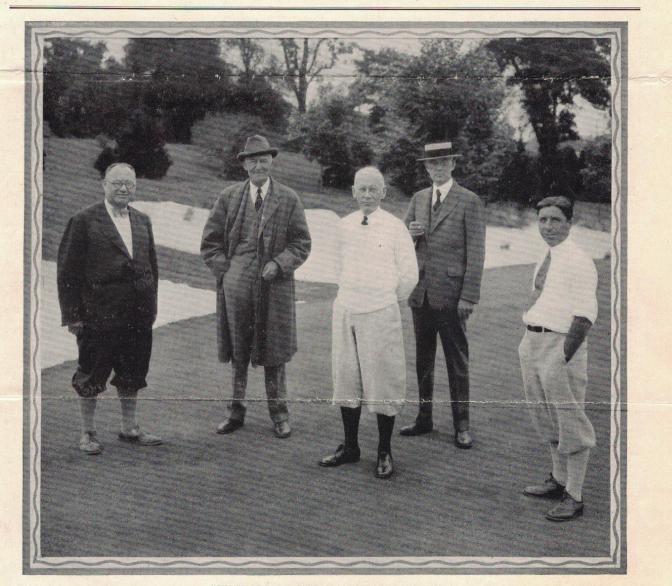


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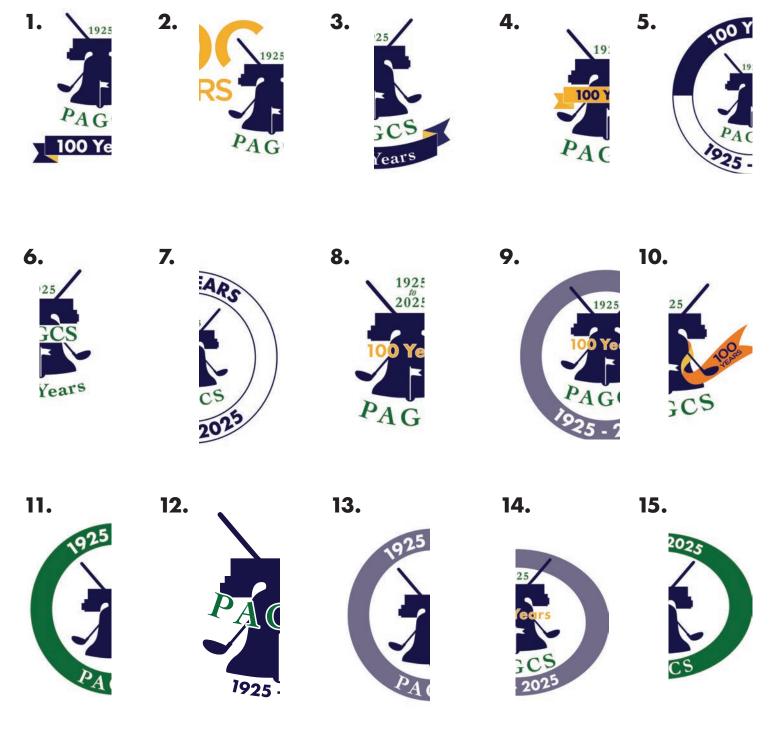
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Left to right—Joseph Valentine, Grounds Superintendent; Alan D. Wilson, Advisory Committee U. S. G. A.; Frank M. Hardt, Chairman Merion Cricket General Committee; Arnold Gerstell, Chairman Veteran Professional.

The history of the PAGCS is its people. Everyone comes into the Association with their own story, their own "why." The oldest Association [as far as we know] representing superintendents and those who work with and for them, the PAGCS and its members offer many stories.

We will continue to highlight members as we head into the final two years of planning for the 100th celebration. Every member is part of it. So, what's your story?

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#### >>BELTS, BEDKNIVES, & BOLTS



Frank McQuiggan recently earned the status of Certified Turf Equipment Manager from GCSAA, the first PAGCS member to do so. Read on to learn more about his career path through life.

I spent 20 years in the US Army as a Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic [retired in 2003]. I started working on a golf course in Wiesbaden, Germany in June 2003 as an operator, then in January 2004 took over the maintenance facility as the mechanic. I spent 8 1/2 years there until I moved back to the states and started working here.

I have worked at TPC Jasna Polana, Commonwealth National, Makefield Highlands, Raritan Valley Country Club, and finally at Whitemarsh Valley Country Club. During this time, I was a member of the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association (IGCEMA) from 2006 until 2015 when IGCEMA dissolved in order to become part of GCSAA.

While with IGCEMA, I was on the committee working on putting together a certification program for Equipment Managers. During this period, the association came up with some of the material that is now included

#### **IN HIS OWN WORDS**

in GCSAA's EMCP [Equipment Manager Certification Program] level 1. After IGCEMA dissolved, GCSAA took over the task of the certification program.

I was then involved in helping as a subject matter expert for the Cutting Units for EMCP Level 1. The Level 1 certification opened up in 2017: I took and passed the eight required exams. When asked about being a subject matter expert to help get level 2 finished, I again offered to help out. Then when the test for level 2 came out, I took and passed the Exam for level 2 in December of 2018.

It took until May 2022 for the final piece of the program to be rolled out: the actual Certification. I looked over the requirements and rubric and prepared the shop for attesting and on September 8, 2022. I passed my attesting and could finally say I was a Certified Turf Equipment Manager.

So, from the beginning back in 2006 until September 2022, I have been working



Life of an EM, checking QOC in the dark, this is why every mower gets checked before it goes to sleep at night.





towards this pinnacle of my career. I will say that it has taken a long time for the Certification program to come to full effect, and every step of the way was a challenge. It was a challenge that I put myself against, saying this is what I want to be – one of the best -- and I believe that this is what being a Certified Turf Equipment Manager is all about. If anyone would like to know more information on this program or needs some guidance to get through the program, feel free to contact me at wvccem@gmail.com.

#### **BELTS, BEDKNIVES & BOLTS**

the BBB features content for and by our EM category members--the backbone of many successful operations. Please reach out if you would like to contribute. Contact Kristen: <u>kliebsch@pagcs.org</u>



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- A ball moved by enemy action may be replaced, or if lost or destoryed, a ball may be dropped not nearer the hole without penalty.
- A ball lying in a crater may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole, preserving the line to the hole, without penalty.
- A player whose stroke is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb may play another ball from the same place. Penalty one stroke.

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#### OPPORTUNITIES ALL AROUND—CHAPTER USES A NATIONAL TOURNAMENT TO HIGHLIGHT PROGRAM

First Green initiatives just keep expanding. Check out this cool idea happening soon.

[excerpted from a GCSAA Field Staff blog: Jeff Jensen, dated Jan 02, 2023:

A Field trip co-hosted by the Century Club of San Diego, Farmers Insurance, GCSAA and the San Diego GCSA]

The PGA TOUR's Farmers Insurance Open will host a First Green Field Trip on Monday, January 23, 2023, at Torrey Pines Golf Club in San Diego. The field trip, co-hosted by the Century Club of San Diego, Farmers Insurance, GCSAA and the San Diego GCSA will kickstart the tournament week. Click here for full blog post: <u>https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/regional-resources/</u> <u>southwest/southwest-blog/2023/01/02/first-green-field-</u> <u>trip-to-be-held-at-pga-tour-s-farmers-insurance-open?utm</u> <u>source=Informz&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=This%20</u> <u>Week&\_zs=RMEEN1&\_zl=VwP07</u> Host Superintendent Devin Cullen is preparing labs in soils, math, water conservation and wildlife habitat for the 60 7th graders who will attend. [Golf Course Superintendents and their teams make First Green possible.]

Key Notes About First Green:

- Founded in 1997
- Only STEM education and environmental outreach program in U.S. and Canada using golf courses as labs
- Students range in age from 3rd grade through high school
- Most Field Trips incorporate a team of volunteers, from chapter members and staff to collaborative allies, such as the PGA, local universities and environmental groups ◆



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#### PETS OF THE PAGCS

Meet Colt

BREED: Poodle Mix Rescue [maybe part Wolfhound]

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AGE: 6

PET PARENT: Golf Course Superintendent Matt Herrmann

#### FAVORITE FOOD: Cheese

According to Matt, Colt is quite the napper, but will get rowdy enough to beg persistently at the dinner table. Although stubborn, Colt likes dressing up for holidays, but he prefers to go "au-Furnatural" while doing his favorite activity: chasing Matt's golf cart.



#### **SHOW US YOUR PETS**

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There are a lot of PAGCS pets out there--Please share yours! Seems there's no love for shop cats so far... Email <u>Kliebsch@pagcs.org</u>





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#### >>GAP CONSTRUCTION PAGCS MEMBERS TEAM UP AT WYOMING VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

A winter makeover, figuratively speaking, is underway at Wyoming Valley Country Club.

At the forefront is a complete bunker renovation, which addresses all 68 of the club's sandy structures. In addition, the Wilkes-Barre, Pa. venue is expanding its clubhouse, rebuilding its 10th green and installing a new 7,800 square-foot practice green.

Andrew Green is the architect overseeing the golf course adjustments. Mottin Golf Course Renovations is handling construction efforts, which began in November 2022.

"This is really going to change the footprint of the course and bring it back to its former glory," Matt Mount, Wyoming Valley's superintendent of two years, said. "This course, in my opinion, has one of the greatest layouts."

A 126-year-old A.W. Tillinghast design,

#### By Tony Regina

Wyoming Valley offers sloped, undulating green complexes. The 10th hole in particular required emergency surgery.

"Obviously, they were cutting it at different heights back then, so we didn't have a lot of options for pin locations there," Mount, 34, of Shavertown, Pa., said. "We tried to keep the contour to what Tillinghast would've meant it to be. We softened he slopes and got it back to more modern-day practices."

The clubhouse expansion prompted another green change. Wyoming Valley's practice green previously sat adjacent to the patio area. The addition of a new bar and premiere outdoor seating required a relocation. Wyoming Valley installed a practice green near the club's driving range and pro shop, adjacent to No. 1 tee.

A complete bunker renovation highlights the club's offseason work. Bring bunkers into play. Make it feasible for bunkers to be maintained effectively. That's the Wyoming Valley mantra.

"Our bunkers were redone in the late 80s, and they kind of just dug them down deeper. They have narrow, steep faces. It's hard to even get into some of the bunkers, especially with us having an older membership," Mount said. "Working with Andrew, looking at old aerials, we came up with a masterplan. We're trying to get it back to the way Tillinghast would've had it, but with a modern twist."

Winters aren't always friendly to Wyoming Valley and its brethren in the Poconos. But optimism conquers all as Mount and his team continue the cosmetology.

"As long as the weather cooperates, our hope is to be done by the end of March. We might be touching up a few cart path edges throughout April of where equipment was traveling," Mount said. ◆



#### Kevin Coombs 856-542-4178