



# The BONNIE GREENSWARD

OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> SEASON

VOL 24-5



GCSAA RECOGNITION OF PAGCS CENTENNIAL YEAR  
—PLEASE JOIN US IF YOU ARE ABLE

WHEN: WEDS., FEB 5, 1 P.M.

WHERE: MEMBER SERVICES AREA OF TRADE SHOW

## OUR YEAR IS HERE —AND WE ARE ALL PART OF IT!

The PAGCS centennial year kicks off with a tribute to all our sponsor partners—they have been and continue to be the backbone of the Association’s ability to thrive.

The year of celebration continues next week as GCSAA pays tribute to this amazing accomplishment. **Please join the PAGCS leadership next Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Member Services area of the trade show floor in San Diego! This 15 minute spotlight will include a photo opportunity for all in attendance.**

The year ahead promises us the opportunity to not only celebrate the legacy of the second oldest chapter in the country, but to acknowledge who we are right now. Please keep an eye on the website, calendar and email so you can be part of the Centennial Year journey.

## >> UPCOMING EVENTS

### PAGCS/GCSANJ SOCIAL EVENT SAN DIEGO

Wednesday, February 5  
The Deck, San Diego, CA  
7 – 10 p.m.

[Click Here To Reserve Your Spot](#)

### NOR-EASTER SKI DAY

Wednesday, February 26  
Killington, Vermont  
More info on page 32

## 2025 CALENDAR PREVIEW

### WAR AT THE SHORE

Tuesday, April 22  
Seaview Bay Course

### SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT OUTING

Monday, June 30  
Green Valley Country Club

### PHILLIES GAME

Wednesday, August 20  
4:05 Start v. Marlins

### MEMBER-GUEST: TBD

### MEMBER-MEMBER: TBD

### GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP & BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, October 27  
Whitmarsh Valley Country Club

### PAGCS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Thursday, October 30th  
Details to come

[Visit the website events tab for more!](#)

## #HEADINGTO100

As we head to our centennial in 2025, the 100th committee has been hard at work.  
Please share your history: [pagcs1925@gmail.com](mailto:pagcs1925@gmail.com)

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## >> THE PM

Dear PAGCS Members,

I hope that everyone's year is off to a great start. I am sure projects are in full swing but the cold weather has hopefully given your course a breather. It was great to see the attendance at our 4th annual Education Event this month. As mentioned to those who attended, the idea each year is to provide information on outside the box ideas you don't typically get at pesticide credit events. If you have any ideas for future speakers, please don't hesitate to reach out.

For those attending GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in San Diego, please don't miss our 3rd annual GCSANJ/PAGCS social event: Wednesday, 7-10 p.m. This event has received positive feedback, and we hope it helps our sponsor and affiliate members connect with a larger number of customers each year in a fun and relaxed setting. Due to the cost of this event, it is

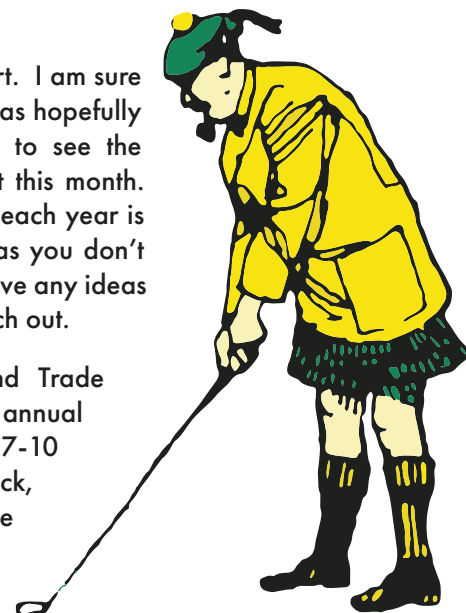
open to members only and you must pre-register for the event. We cannot allow people to come in at the door you bump into on your way.

As the season kicks off, so will our 100-year celebration for the PAGCS. This will be highlighted by our October 30th event featuring keynote speaker, two-time national championship coach and current CBS College Basketball analyst, Jay Wright. Our golf and events committees are finalizing a great celebratory schedule, so we will have a fun, year-long celebration of the Association's 100th birthday.

Respectfully,



President, Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents



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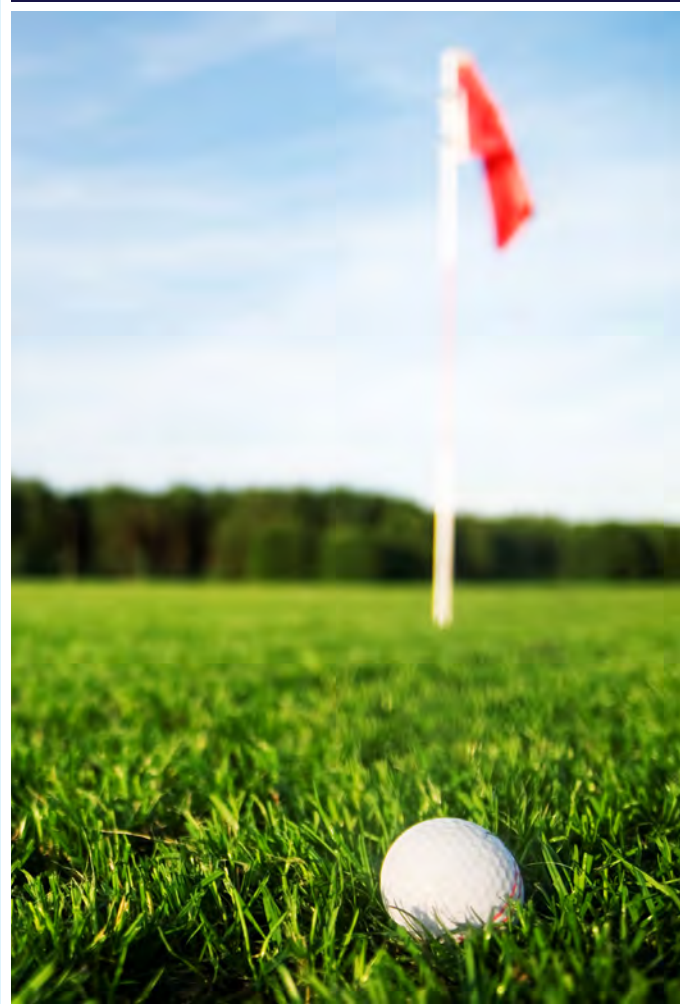
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# CENTRAL

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We are deeply grateful for the continued support of our clients, which has enabled us to grow and expand. Thank you for making us a trusted partner in your most important turfgrass projects. As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited to continue building lasting relationships in the golf industry.



*Early Morning Harvest*

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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



As you prepare for 2025, we want to thank you for making 2024 such a special year!

In 2024, we served over 45,000 young people through numerous programs at more than 25 locations and 105 schools and youth service organizations. In its first full year, our Access to Golf Program, created to reach Philadelphia's most underserved communities by providing transportation, a meal and programming at Walnut Lane and John F. Byrne, reached 341 young people from 16 schools. Our Life Skills Experience classes grew to over 2,400 students while increasing our retention rate to 42%! The Caddie Academy saw tremendous growth with 61 caddies completing over 1,000 loops. In our third year of

offering our Academic Scholarship, we were able to support 15 students attend 6 different tuition based high schools. In October, we were thrilled to open the Michael J. Brown Learning Center at Walnut Lane Golf Club. The renovation is a Game Changer for our students, providing them a state-of-the-art facility to help them prepare for life on and off the course.

These are just a few highlights from the year, none of which would be possible without you! We are proud to provide all of these opportunities and more to our students at no cost, thanks to your remarkable generosity.

On behalf of the young people we serve, thank you for your dedication to First Tee! ♦



## LIVE, BREATHE AND BLEED GREEN



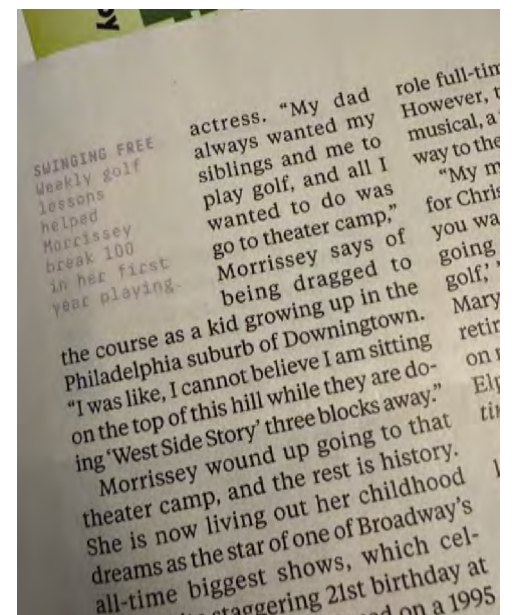
Welcome to Philly! This region is home to a wicked breed of sports fans unlike any other. And right now, even NYC is lit up green with envy. To “Bleed Green” is one mantra of diehard Philadelphia Eagles fans, as much now as ever, headed to another Superbowl.

What if your job is to actually BE green? That is the current life of Mary Kate [Morrissey] Blake. Raised in Chester County by an avid golf playing family, Ms. Morrissey, as she is more well known, graduated from Bishop Shanahan High School. But not before convincing her parents that she wanted to trade her sticks for stage lights.

Ms. Morrissey, now 35 years old, is a Broadway Star currently playing Elphaba [the Wicked Witch] in the show **Wicked**. And she credits her recent return to face the greens [tees and fairways] as a discipline that enhances her career in theater, according to Golf Digest Magazine [see photo]: [CLICK HERE FOR LINK](#).



This past weekend, she took time off to head back to her roots and perform the National Anthem for the Eagles-Commanders NFC Championship Game—whatever gave this idea the green light is an emerald gem in the rough.



If you missed Ms. Morrissey's performance, search for it, watch it, and GO BIRDS [easier to spell than IGGLES]! We have included a link to a video we found on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vY3IA50JsM> ♦

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### EXPLORE OUR STORY

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Our "Growing Together" rewards program for golf course superintendents and turf managers has been developed to help you maximize your maintenance budget in 2025.

Golf course superintendents and turf managers can earn rewards on our most popular products used in the industry, which include Country Club MD, Country Club IV, Emerald Isle Solutions, Country Club with Acelepryn + Dimension, Country Club Humic Max, Country Club Natural, and Country Club Root Reviver.

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Congratulations! Joseph Nace, assistant superintendent at Sunnybrook Golf Club in Plymouth Meeting PA, has completed the ASCS. This program is sponsored by John Deere. (P.S. Your golf course is so photogenic. Always fun to play)



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Nick Lubold, CGCS at Sunnybrook Golf Club, left, and Cody Sanders, GCS, Wilmington Country Club, right, are proud graduates of the SBI program



Golf course superintendents have increasing requirements to not only deliver outstanding turf conditions, but to also possess excellent business and managerial skills. For this reason, Syngenta partners with the [Wake Forest University Executive Education](#) program to offer an innovative business development program tailored to superintendents, the Syngenta Business Institute<sup>SM</sup> (SBI). This unique four-day program provides a business and leadership management curriculum that includes **negotiations, tools for managing employees, decision making and more.**



## ENVU SENDS MEMBERS TO THE 2025 GCSAA CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

Dec 31, 2024 | by Kelsey Underwood

*The Envu Superintendent Grant Program assists golf course superintendents with their professional development.*

Lawrence, Kan. (Dec. 31, 2024) – Envu has partnered with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) to send up to 10 members to the annual GCSAA Conference and Trade Show through the Envu Superintendent Grant Program. Ten members have chosen to participate in the 2025 program at the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in San Diego Feb. 3-6, 2025.

The purpose of the Envu Superintendent Grant Program is to assist golf course superintendents with their professional development through participation in the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show, which features the most comprehensive education program available in the industry.



As part of the selection process, all applications were judged anonymously by a panel of golf industry professionals, who evaluated applicants on their professional career development experiences, ability to motivate and mentor, innovation, self-expression, unique capabilities, talent and drive to excel as a superintendent.

The 2025 Envu Superintendent Grant Program winners are:

- William Daniels of Sugar Mountain (N.C.) Golf Course
- James Doepke of Galena Golf Club in Dubuque, Iowa
- Charles Fultz of Heritage Oaks Golf Course in Harrisonburg, Va.
- Richard Kremer of Pequabuck Golf Club in Glastonbury, Conn.
- Jonathan Lee of National Golf Club of Kansas City in Parkville, Mo.
- Troy Lorenz of Benson Park Golf Course in Omaha, Neb.
- Timothy Moore of The Omni Grove Park Inn in Asheville, N.C.
- Jill Seymour, CGCS, of Charleston Springs Golf in Millstone Township, N.J.
- Jonathan Stack of Milwaukee County Department of Parks in Brown Deer, Wis.
- Scott Winling of the City of Fort Wayne (Ind.) Parks & Recreation

The winners' trips are funded through Envu, a company founded in 2022 that is built on over 50 years of environmental science experience for the "sole purpose of advancing healthy environments for everyone, everywhere." The grants are awarded by the GCSAA Foundation, the philanthropic organization of GCSAA.

"GCSAA's partnership with Envu through the Superintendent Grant Program is a vital avenue for professional development for our superintendent members," GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans said. "With Envu's continued funding, GCSAA can further bolster our members' career goals and growth while fostering an inclusive environment for these leaders in our industry."

The grant winners will receive airfare, hotel accommodations for five nights, full conference registration, registration for two two-hour education seminars of their choosing and \$200 spending money.

"We at Envu believe that supporting golf course superintendents through travel grants to attend the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show is crucial for the continued growth and innovation of the industry," said Mark Schneid, Envu, head of commercial operations for North America. "By investing in their development, we empower them with the knowledge and tools to elevate the quality of the courses they oversee. This conference offers invaluable opportunities for learning, networking and sharing best practices — ultimately benefiting not just the superintendents, but the entire golfing community."

## GROWING WITH PURPOSE: TYLER BLOOM CONSULTING EVOLVES INTO NEW ENTITY – BLOOM GOLF PARTNERS [BOOTH #4700 IN SAN DIEGO]



[Bloomsburg, PA] — Bloom Golf Partners, formerly known as Tyler Bloom Consulting, is proud to unveil its new name and expanded vision as a premier executive search and business consulting firm specializing in the golf and private club industries. This evolution reflects not only the company’s commitment to its clients but also its organic growth and industry impact.

“The change from Tyler Bloom Consulting to Bloom Golf Partners is a reflection of the continued growth of our team, our capabilities and as much as the strategic direction of the company,” said Tyler Bloom, Founder and Managing Partner. “Our mission continues to inspire and empower golf industry leaders daily through education, service, and the highest standards of personal and professional excellence.”

Since its founding in 2020, the company has experienced rapid growth, supporting golf courses and club leaders in nearly all 50 states and internationally.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- Successfully placing over three dozen Directors of Agronomy and Golf Course Superintendents.
- Placing over 300 professionals including Equipment Managers, Assistant Superintendents, Sales Representatives, Manufacturer Representatives, Sports Turf and Hospitality professionals.
- Establishing a nationally recognized apprenticeship program with the U.S. Department of Labor.

- Partnering with over 20 industry associations to advance workforce development initiatives, including education, on-the-job training, best management practices, and compensation studies.

“I couldn’t have imagined the trajectory of our company in a short four and half years, and it is in large part to the dedication of our team, evolution of our capabilities and insights, and the support of client partners,” said Bloom.

Primarily focused on serving the golf course industry, the company has leveraged key partnerships and a growing network of top performing leaders and clubs committed to enhancing the game of golf through its workforce initiatives. Looking ahead, the company is poised for further growth with plans to:

- Enhance executive search and recruitment services.
- Expand workforce development, professional development and training programs.
- Integrate club and golf industry experts to its growing team.
- Launch a research and business services division to provide cutting-edge insights and strategies.

“With a continued growth mindset, collaboration and focus, Bloom Golf Partners is uniquely positioned to address the most pressing challenges in talent recruitment and business development in the golf industry” said Bloom. “Our vision remains to be a catalyst for transformative results in golf communities across the globe.”

### Media Contact:

Tyler Bloom  
Founder  
610.844.3009  
[www.bloomgolfpartners.com](http://www.bloomgolfpartners.com)

**If you’re heading to the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show, please make sure to stop by booth 4700 to meet with our team, discuss your recruitment needs, learn the latest trends and best practices in workforce development, or discuss career needs!**



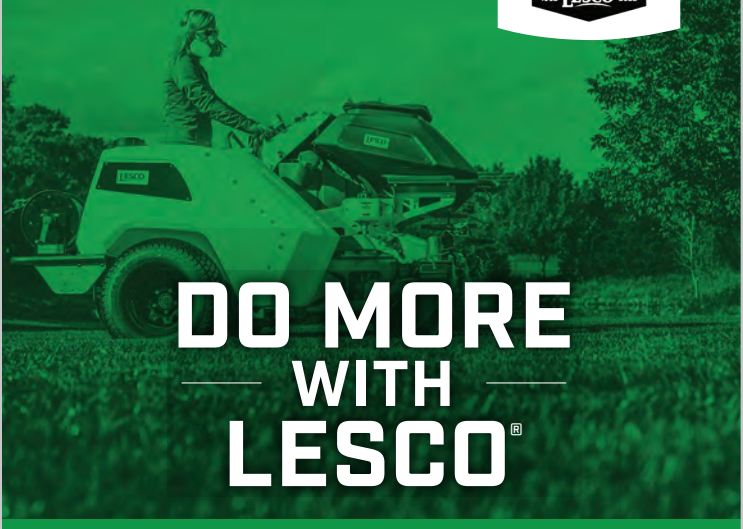
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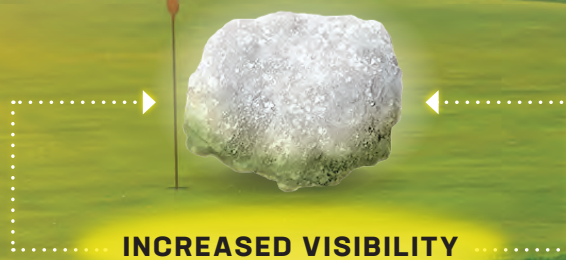
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## GOLF COURSE DOGS: AMBASSADORS OF GOODWILL

December 20, 2024 • John Petrovsky, manager, Green Section Education



*Pinki is a 17-year-old Chihuahua-Yorkshire mix that belongs to Damon Di Giorgio, director of agronomy at Point Hardy Golf Club in St. Lucia. Pinki is a big hit with golfers, staff and social media.*

### A FRIEND TO ALL

Being a golf course superintendent is a tough job. Beyond managing turf, today's superintendents have to deal with increasing administrative duties, labor complexities, project management, and politics – all while courses remain busier than ever. Fortunately, dogs are generally immune to the pressures of golf course management. In fact, they have an uncanny ability to sense their human's unease and offer a much-needed, well-timed distraction. Long days on the course would feel a lot longer for dog-owning superintendents without the company of their pooch, and the benefits of this companionship extend well beyond their owners.

"The members don't always remember my name but everyone knows Pinki – and they are always so happy to see her," said Damon Di Giorgio, director of agronomy at the Point Hardy Golf Club at Cabot Saint Lucia. Pinki, a 17-year-old mixed Chihuahua-Yorkshire terrier weighing in at a whopping 4.5 pounds, is a big hit with golfers, the maintenance staff and social media. Di Giorgio adopted Pinki as a puppy in the Dominican Republic and she has remained at his side as new opportunities brought him back to the States and then around the Caribbean, ultimately leading to his current role in Saint Lucia. Pinki doesn't look like most golf course dogs, but Di Giorgio didn't want to leave her home alone so he started bringing her to the course.

Now, the staff and golfers can't imagine spending the day without her. Whether she's taking selfies with golfers, going for a ride around the course, or getting to know the exotic wildlife on the island, Pinki is a friend to all those lucky enough to spend their day at Cabot Saint Lucia.

All the superintendents I spoke with for this article emphasized that their dog's ability to put folks at ease and be a positive, steady, endearing representative of their department is a tangible asset. A golf course dog is an effective public relations tool for the maintenance department. No matter what issues may exist, golf course dogs are a great icebreaker and take the edge off tense conversations.

### AN INVALUABLE MEMBER OF THE MAINTENANCE TEAM

Superintendent Dan Vater's 3-year-old pit bull and Labrador mix, Moose, is a fixture at Blue Mound Golf and Country Club outside Milwaukee. It was love at first site for Vater and his wife Maggie, who found Moose on the [Lucky Mutts Rescue](#) website.

Having Moose at work lightens the mood for both Vater and his staff and makes for a better work environment. Each morning, Moose greets everyone in the break room and is quick to spot his favorite employees who carry tasty treats. Out on the course, Moose is a morale booster and an important part of the maintenance team. "If Moose hears the backup beeper from my cart, his ears perk up instantly and he is quick to run outside to find out where we are headed," said Vater. Members and employees enjoy the sight of Moose running alongside the cart on his way to a jobsite.

Moose is "a bit of an odd one" according to Vater, and his favorite work toys include sprinkler springs, marking flags and sod staples. If you catch him on the course, he is sure to have one of these with him, although his coworkers don't always love him sneaking off with parts. Despite the occasional shenanigans, the maintenance team at Blue Mound couldn't imagine not having Moose as a coworker and friend.



*Moose was rescued by superintendent Dan Vater and now spends his days at Blue Mound as a valuable member of the maintenance team. Walk-mowing par-3 tees is more fun when Moose is around.*



At Apogee Club in Hobe Sound, Florida, director of golf courses and grounds Tony Nysse and his 7-year-old blue Weimaraner, Charlie, keep a watchful eye on the constant activity at the multi-course development.

“Charlie is my second dog of turf and comes with me everywhere – a true companion,” said Nysse, who arrived at Apogee in 2022 to grow-in the first of the club’s three golf courses. “I saw the positivity that my previous dog brought to the maintenance team, and as we filled in our key staff, he met each candidate so that everyone became comfortable with him.”

In addition to interviewing new hires, Charlie loves a good morning run interacting with the wildlife around the course. He is not a water dog, which is okay with Nysse given Apogee’s abundance of alligators. Charlie’s favorite area is currently Apogee’s North Course, which is under construction and full of interesting sights and smells, with plenty of newly exposed soil to explore.

“A golf course dog is an effective public relations tool for the maintenance department.”

It’s hard to overstate the good vibes that Charlie brings to the maintenance team. He has a routine of greeting all the staff members while they receive their job assignments each morning and checking in with them throughout the day. “He brings a level of positivity to the entire staff,” said Nysse. “Whether it’s employees, visitors, contractors or golfers, everyone enjoys his greetings, and of course Charlie enjoys the extra attention.” He continued, “Our other turf managers bring their dogs in on the weekends, so there are plenty of pup parties here at Apogee.”

## A GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

Di Giorgio feels strongly that having Pinki with him on a daily basis at Cabot Saint Lucia makes him much more approachable to members, guests and staff. “She is a conversation starter and puts people at ease,” said Di Giorgio. “Most of all, people smile



*Pinki plays a key role on Di Giorgio’s maintenance team as the “ambassador of happiness.”*

and are happy to see her, which is always a good thing – even if they’re not happy to see me for some reason,” he joked.

Pinki’s main job has always been “ambassador of happiness,” and her diplomacy extends beyond the golf course. Together, Di Giorgio and Pinki worked with the nonprofit pet therapy organization [PAWS](#) to provide therapeutic services to individuals battling Alzheimer’s and other diseases. The organization benefited from Pinki’s services while Di Giorgio worked at the Fieldstone Club in Delaware between stints in the Caribbean. In fact, Pinki is in the PAWS Hall of Fame for therapy dogs.

Pinki and Di Giorgio have been acknowledged by the New York Times and others for their work on and off the course. They may have ended up together by accident, but their relationship has been filled with purpose and is representative of all the wonderful ways a golf course dog can benefit our lives.

Whole Article: <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/green-section-record/62/issue-23/golf-course-dogs--ambassadors-of-goodwill.html#>



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Planning continues to ensure the highly anticipated race for the Cup Cutter trophy is contested once again.

Housing will likely be through Killington resort, as in past years, with a transportation option still in the works.

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Sponsorship opportunities will follow, and event details will be found at [VtGCSA.org](http://VtGCSA.org) soon.

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\*Survey of 258 golf course superintendents conducted via TechTrends in Sept. 2021.  
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