Message from the Director

Whoever said ‘life is about building positive relationships’ really knew what they were talking about. Take our Professional Golf Turf Management School for instance. It was 33 years ago (hard to believe!) when I first set foot here on the Rutgers campus - and quickly built lasting friendships with a community of veteran cooperative extension faculty who, at the time, were the primary educators for a relatively small class size for turf management school. This was 1978. There were no computers, or electronic calculators (well, barely). For that matter, there was no Cable TV, and the concept of value-added relationship building had yet to be fully expanded upon. And, most importantly, there was no Facebook. But in my own naïve way, I went about building strong relationships with a truly caring group of faculty and, from those honest beginnings, we have assembled one of the truly great teaching faculty anywhere on this planet to serve your learning needs.

Though far from perfect, there is one central characteristic common among all of us who teach in the turf program - heart. Yeah, sure, we all have one, but we do not always put it to good use. What I know about our turf instructors is that their hearts are all about your future success, and that goes to the relationship piece. Because of the concern for your own future success, you chose to come to Rutgers and, in fact, have sent us generations of your employees from across the United States and world. As I look back on a third of a century of service, nothing gives me greater pleasure than to learn of the continuing successes of our alumni and current students. It is a pretty neat thing when you boil it all down - to take a group of knowledgeable and passionate instructors, throw them into a classroom of very enthusiastic learners and all good things are possible. No matter how complicated the world has become with our ever increasing dependency and connectivity through computer technology, at the end of the day success usually forms around the in-person relationships we build with others. And the degree to which we nurture those relationships will, in large part, determine our ultimate success in whatever career field we choose.

We have just completed our 2010/2011 turf management schools, and I am delighted to say that with recessions all around us (and very real to your industry in terms of negative impacts), our enrollment was as strong as ever and the quality of our students continues to amaze me. There is no question that many of our students who will be coming back to finish next year, as well as those graduating this fall, will become superintendents in the very near future. They will become your industry’s future leaders. Now perhaps you have gotten the theme of my message, and that is capturing success.

We have finally moved into the 21st century with our social networking initiatives thanks to Fran Koppell and others here in my office. We are now locating long lost alumni as well as making new friends through our Facebook presence. What I would now like to ask of you is, if you believe you have a compelling story to tell about how our turf management school helped you fulfill your career goals from wherever you may have originated, we would like to tell your story to your fellow alumni and our future applicants. Specifically, we would like to capture your impressions on video and share your story about your Rutgers days and your current successes as a golf turf or sports turf management professional. We would boil your interview down and post it on our website (via YouTube), as well as share it through our Facebook, for all the world to see. It would mean a great deal to me and to our faculty if we could reach many of you, and tell your stories, so that others will know of the great opportunity awaiting them here at Rutgers.

(continued on page 18)
How P.J. McGuire Formed the Nevada Golf Industry Alliance

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Certified Golf Course Superintendent P.J. McGuire (1994 Graduate) mobilized his fellow superintendents to form an alliance that advocates for the golf industry as a united front.

In December 2008, when golf course superintendents in Nevada became aware of a state bill that potentially would cost golf courses hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars in additional taxes, Certified Golf Course Superintendent P.J. McGuire took action of his own. He mobilized the members of the Southern Nevada and Sierra Nevada chapters of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), as well as the Southern Nevada Golf Association, the PGA Southwest Section, the Club Managers Association of America, the Nevada Golf Course Owners Association and the First Tee of Southern and Northern Nevada, to form the Nevada Golf Industry Alliance (NGIA).

After all, as the Director of Golf Course Maintenance for Par 4 Golf Management Co. in Las Vegas, McGuire knows about strength in numbers. He oversees maintenance operations at four Las Vegas-area properties—Primm Valley, Badlands and Silverstone golf clubs and Spanish Trail Country Club.

Because of the organized efforts of the NGIA, the bill never made it out of the state legislature's taxation committee for a vote. Under McGuire's leadership, the alliance is poised to challenge similar legislation that is expected to come up again this year.

For his efforts, McGuire won the national GCSAA's 2011 Excellence in Government Relations Award. Recently, he told Club & Resort Business about his work to form the alliance and, along with other stakeholders in the industry, to strengthen the golf business in Nevada.

Q. How did you bring the different golf associations in Nevada together to form the Nevada Golf Industry Alliance?

A. Nevada is kind of like the wild, wild West, and for many years no one cared what anyone else was doing. But golf courses started getting attacked about water usage, and then it moved into taxation.

About 10 years ago, we recognized that we needed to pull together and work as a team. Our state legislature only meets every other year, and two years ago a bill was introduced that would change the way golf courses are taxed. Different golf courses could have been taxed from $2,000 up to six figures, with additional bottom-line tax dollars. This would have been an added expense for clubs that are already struggling, and it would have affected people's lives.

So, the motivation was there to work together with a single voice. As individuals, we didn't have much influence with legislators. But when you go to them as a representative of a $2 billion industry in the state that has 10,000 employees, and the backing of several major golf groups in Nevada, they'll give you some time.

The way we set up the alliance is that we'll try to take care of whatever issues come up — whether they're issues affecting pros, superintendents, club managers or owners. We don't need to have one mission. We just need to be one group.

Water issues in southern Nevada will be important in the coming years, and at some point, they will also be critical in the north. If the alliance pulls together with a unified voice, we'll be organized and ready. It will simply be a matter of informing our members.

Q. What is the mission of the alliance?

A. The mission of the alliance is to improve business conditions for the golf industry in the state of Nevada by serving as an educational resource for the industry and the public, by serving as an advocate for the industry before the state legislature and other governmental bodies, and by communicating to the public the economic benefits and environmental stewardship provided by the game of golf.

The interesting thing about politicians is that they're folks from all walks of life, and they're not necessarily educated about the game of golf or the business of golf. It's important for us to give them someone to call. Otherwise, they're going to listen to a lobbyist or the person who drafted the bill. But with golf-specific issues, we can be the guys that will give them the facts.

This year, 10 percent of the golf courses in Las Vegas have closed their doors and another 10 percent are in danger of going bankrupt. If 20 percent of the golf courses are already closing their doors and you add a bottom-line tax increase, the number of closures is going to go up. The other 80 percent of golf courses in Las Vegas are barely

(continued on page 3)
making ends meet because of issues such as the year-round season and the cost of purchasing reclaimed water.

Our revenues are really dependent on tourism, and because of the economy, the golf industry here isn't doing that well. We're struggling to make ends meet, and the high cost of operating expenses, along with lower revenues, will put people out of work.

Q. How did you first become aware of the state bill that would no longer consider golf courses as open space under state tax laws?

A. In years past, we rode the coattails of a few developers who had paid lobbyists at the state house. We piggybacked on other folks' lobbyists and their efforts. This year we were able to stand on our own. We have no choice, because the developers aren't making any money either.

Q. How would the bill have affected golf courses in the state?

A. It would have added a bottom-line tax increase to golf courses that truly couldn't afford it.

Q. Tell us about your initial visit to the state legislature to discuss the bill with lawmakers.

A. Our initial visit wasn't about the bill. Our initial visit was to introduce the group to the politicians, to hold a reception and to let them know who we are and to make a presentation to the natural resources committee about the positive benefits of golf in the state of Nevada and golf's positive use of Nevada's natural resources. At that point, the bill hadn't been introduced.

We made a second trip once the bill had been introduced and made its way to the taxation committee.

Q. What kind of tax-related legislation that would affect golf courses is expected to resurface this year?

A. The exact same bill is coming back. They've changed the wording a little bit to exclude certain golf courses in the state, but the same bill that got squashed in 2009 has reared its ugly head again. And realistically, we expect it to come up every year.

Q. What is your game plan to challenge the bill?

A. In 2009 we immediately contacted golfers and people who are passionate about the game to start a letter-writing campaign to committee members. On the day of the hearing, we went to Carson City and filled the committee room with golf folks to argue our side of the bill. With our strong showing, it never made it out of the committee and never went to a vote.

This year we also have a lobbyist that the NGIA has hired and who works behind the scenes for us. We're working from the inside to make sure that the bill doesn't make it to a vote.

Q. What are the other key issues facing golf in Nevada?

A. This year it looks like the biggest issue will be water usage in the southern part of the state. In 2003 there was a mandate about the amount of water that golf courses could use in Nevada. But there was no scientific backing. It was just an accounting number.

Golf courses use less than 8 percent of the water in southern Nevada. Almost 50 percent of the water is used by single-family homes. But because we have green grass, golf is a pretty easy target. We're not green because we waste; we're green because we do it right.

Raising prices isn't going to change anything. If homeowners have a $10 increase to their bills, it's not going to make any difference to them. But a rate increase to a golf course operator could be as much as $100,000 to $150,000 a year.

We need to put some science behind the numbers for water usage. We don't want to adversely affect our tourism industry and our ability to bring people into the state.

People need to know how well we use water. Because it's our highest single expense, we absolutely watch what we do with our water. But people don't know that. Almost 800 acres of turf have been removed from golf courses in the Las Vegas area to save water. We don't want to do anything that will change the economy and close down golf courses.

Q. What are other misconceptions that lawmakers have about the golf industry?

A. There are misconceptions that golf is making plenty of money and that it only affects wealthy white folks. Those are misconceptions that both lawmakers and the public have about golf.

We did an economic study and found that real estate agents, servers, busboys and hotel maids have jobs because golf is drawing tourists to the state. We need to support the business because everybody is affected by it. There is no warm-weather destination in the world that doesn't have golf as an amenity.

Q. What does it mean to you to win the 2011 Excellence in Government Relations award?

A. It was nice for me personally. It was nice to be recognized by my peers. But it's more important to draw attention to our organization. It is a benefit to all of us in the golf industry on a national level to see that our work in Nevada is getting recognized. All it can do is strengthen our position when we go talk to our legislators.

Q. How have your efforts contributed to the industry as a whole?

A. We saved every golf course in the state between $5,000 and $100,000 in 2009.

Q. What is the future role for the alliance statewide and nationwide?

A. The golf industry is going to be under attack for something every year, whether it's water usage or tax issues or land use. But now that we have joined together as a group, we can react quickly to any challenges that face golf.

Q. What have you learned from your experience?

A. Going to Carson City in 2009 truly opened my eyes to how our political process works. It's just regular, everyday folks in the legislature who vote and make decisions on issues. And sometimes they might not have all of the facts.

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Click 'subscribe at the top of the page.
Welcome to Emily Merewitz who will join our teaching team for Fall 2011. Having received two Bachelor of Science Degrees in Plant Biotechnology and Plant Science at Rutgers University she will continue her research studies while teaching our first year students Stress Physiology. The second session of Stress Physiology will continue to be taught by Dr. Bingru Huang, world renowned turfgrass scientist, and Emily’s thesis advisor as she pursues her doctorate in Philosophy in Plant Biology.

Emily may proudly add the 2011 Gerald Mott Meritorious Graduate Student Award from the Crop Science Society of America to her list of achievements. This national award is provided each year to one of the top graduate students in turfgrass science and is based on academic excellence, research and teaching accomplishments, demonstrated leadership, and service activities for graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in crop science. She was also named as a recipient of the 2011 GCSAA’s Watson Fellowship, funded by the Toro Co. and the GCSAA’s Environmental Institute for Golf.

We are eager for her to join the ranks of our talented instructors and pass on her knowledge to our incoming classes. We wish her much success!

In Memoriam

Robert Adamec, Class of 1999
- Conklin Player’s Club, Conklin, NY
- Glenmaura National Golf Course (previous)

Gregory Closs, Class of 1983
- Lehman Power Equipment, Ashley, PA
- Wyoming Valley Golf Course (previous)
- Mill Race Golf Course (previous)

Samuel Leon, Class of 1972
- Leon’s Sod Farm, Pittstown, NJ (Owner)
- NJ Turfgrass Association (Past President)
- NJ Turfgrass Association (Hall of Fame)

Dennis C. Wilson, Class of 1971
- Sunset Ridge Country Club, Northfield, IL
- Superintendent for over 45 years

Billy Casper Golf 2010 Awards

Assistant Superintendent of the Year
Brian Kessler, Class of 1997
Glenview Golf Course, Cincinnati, OH

Agronomic Rookie of the Year
Mike Tardogno, Class of 2007
Cranbury Golf Club, Cranbury, NJ

TRIPLETS!
Congratulations to 2009 Graduate, Alex Matos!

Analyesse
Tyler Alexander
Kylie Naleah

Golf Development expands to Russia

Golf Development’s Dmitry Butyrin, class of 1999, presented his company’s plans to expand in Russia early this year. The company is involved in nine projects in various regions of Russia. A 38 hectare all-season project in Troparyovo-Nikulino near Moscow is now under construction. A golf course is to be integrated with commercial real estate. There will be a 9-hole golf course, a swimming pool, gym, office space, open-air sport grounds and 20 cottages for visitors. The project is being built in a natural area which has passed the necessary state ecological expertise.

But that was not the only sensation from Dmitry Butyrin. He introduced an intelligent golf ball, by World Golf Systems. This is a golf ball installed with a micro-chip. The ball is programmed for a certain player and information about how far the ball went and where it hit is shown on display near the player. The Troparyovo-Nikulino complex will include 44 hi-tech golf stations for five people each, where visitors can take advantage of such modern technologies.
Rutgers Professor Receives Early Career Award
Reprinted by permission - Landscape Management, Athletic Turf News

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ — Stacy Bonos, assistant professor at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, has been selected by the multi-state Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee (PBCC) to receive its inaugural Early Career Excellence in Plant Breeding Award. The award was announced at the annual scientific meeting of the PBCC on Aug. 4, 2009. As the award recipient, Bonos has been invited to present her research and anchor a roundtable discussion for graduate students at the 2010 meeting.

The PBCC is a broad-based group including plant breeders from land-grant universities in more than 38 states, plus plant breeders working in the federal government and private companies. All types of crops are represented, including grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables, ornamentals, turf, and trees. This Early Career award is the first of its kind for plant breeding. The PBCC hopes that the award will help attract young people to consider a career in plant breeding, by demonstrating peer recognition of the accomplishments of outstanding young plant breeders.

“In very rewarding to know that the new varieties help to improve the quality of our environment,” says Bonos who is a faculty member with the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology at Rutgers. “I truly love my job. I am grateful and proud to receive the Early Career Award in Plant Breeding from the PBCC. It is good to be recognized for my plant breeding efforts and it encourages me to continue my research and inspire students to pursue careers in plant breeding.”

For a young scientist, Bonos has a remarkable record. She has developed 14 new plant varieties, mentored many graduate and undergraduate students, written numerous extension and popular publications about how to use the new varieties, and published 36 scientific articles. Bonos has received several awards, including the 2005 Young Crop Scientist Award from the Crop Science Society of America and the 2001 Musser International Turfgrass Foundation “Award of Excellence.”

“Plant breeding is a key science for agriculture, and early career plant breeders will shape its future,” observes Phil Simon, PBCC’s Chairman and a vegetable crop breeder with USDA’s Agricultural Research Service. “The achievements of Stacy Bonos are an outstanding example. We applaud her success, and congratulate her on being the first recipient of the PBCC Early Career Excellence Award in Plant Breeding.”

Ryan Davis paints what he loves
Anticipated Graduate, Winter 2012

Forsgate Country Club

The Forsgate Country Club has built “family tees” on the front nine of its Palmer Course and developed a special scorecard for families who use them. The creation of family tees, along with its many programs for children, adults and families has earned Forsgate the designation of New Jersey’s “No. 1 Family Club” by GolfStyles Magazine.

Key management of Forsgate Country Club includes: Thomas Saunders, Director (1984 graduate), David Morrow, Superintendent (1994 graduate) and Harold Pyett, Assistant Superintendent (2009 graduate).
Perfection by the Lake
By Seth Jones

Reprinted with permission of the GCSAA and Golf Course Management Magazine

With a combination of art and science, the crew at Whistling Straits looks to make the 92nd PGA Championship perfect.

They say that bad men wear black.

Dressed in head-to-toe black, Chris Zugel, superintendent of the Straits Course at Whistling Straits, has been driving around to supervise his crew scattered about the course. He's popped out of his Club Car a few times, giving lectures on proper bunker raking and a cup that was cut too close to a break. He brought the course dog, a border collie named Babe, along on each coaching trip.

“Do bad men wear black? If so, then this one also pampers a dog named Babe and ends each coaching moment with a joke and a smile.

“You see how that ball rolled a bit backwards right when it got to the cup?” Zugel asks an intern.

“That was a nice putt at an unfair pin. In fact … you should probably go down there right now and apologize to Mr. Collins for costing him that putt.”

The intern's jaw drops. Zugel laughs as he parks his car. He's still tickled about the panicked look the intern gave him. They like to joke out here, Zugel says, the most common form being quoting movies back and forth. The popular movie recently has been the slapstick film “Super Troopers.” The quotes wouldn't make sense to an outsider, but to the crew, the film is canon and the more obscure the line, the bigger the laugh.

“We have to laugh some out here,” Zugel says. “Everyone's working so hard, we need to have a few laughs along the way or everyone's going to get overloaded. I want everyone to have their work seriously, to strive for perfection, but they'll be better at their job if they're also having fun.”

Enjoy the limelight

It is hard work, but the top brass at Whistling Straits is having fun preparing for the 2010 PGA Championship, which arrives the week of Aug. 9th in Kohler, Wis.

“It's fun when you've done all the planning ahead of time,” Michael Lee, CGCS, manager of golf course maintenance for Kohler Co., says. “There's little anxiety about who is doing what when you've trained everyone so much, and everyone's been through so much planning. By the time you get to championship week, you just enjoy the limelight and keep working the plans.”

The Straits Course is the pride of Destination Kohler’s four golf courses. The Irish Course completes the 36-hole Whistling Straits resort, while the River Course and the Meadow Valleys Course make up the 36 holes at nearby Blackwolf Run. All four courses were designed by legendary architect and 2003 Old Tom Morris Award winner Pete Dye.

Destination Kohler also offers visitors a five-star resort, a four-star spa, shopping, fine dining and hunting, all a little over an hour north of Milwaukee.

All four courses are relatively new - the original 18 holes at Blackwolf Run opened in 1988 and was named that year’s “Best New Course” by Golf Digest – but they've already made their mark on the golfing map. Blackwolf Run's River Course hosted the 1998 U.S. Women's Open (and will host the 2012 edition as well); the Straits Course has hosted the 2004 PGA Championship as well as the 2007 U.S. Senior Open. The PGA Championship will return to the Straits Course in 2015.

What is left to be said about the Straits Course? The layout, a links course built along Lake Michigan on what used to be a flat, unassuming military base, now features Dye's signature pot bunkers, myriad sand dunes and railroad ties throughout its 7,362 memorable yards. The fairways are chewings fine fescue while the tees are Penncross bentgrass and the greens are Providence bentgrass. Scottish Blackface sheep roam the course. And as the sun goes down, it's even prettier than the high-def 50-inch flat screens portray it.

Not a lot has changed on the course since the Senior Open in ’07. Some fairways have been adjusted, but only by a few paces in either direction. The layout of the fairway on No. 18 has been adjusted to allow players to hit driver to carry a large patch of rough, if the prevailing wind from Lake Michigan allows. It could be a fun risk/reward hole on Sunday.

The biggest change to the course has been in the reinventing of a few greens. Dye believes that the greens were too similar in size and (continued on page 7)
shape from hole to hole, so he went in with an excavator on two holes, the par-3 No. 3 and the par-4 No. 6. When he was finished, both greens were smaller, with added hazards for wayward shots.

“(Dye) walked up to the green and said, ‘I want a pin placement here,’” Lee says of No. 3 green, pointing to an area in the back of the green. Behind him, the green drops off 30 feet to deep pot bunker hell. He then simply took an excavator and peeled back earth around the green to reduce the shape and size. Dave (Swift, then-superintendent of the Straits Course) couldn’t stand to watch - he had to look away!

### Maintenance and Metrics

It’s understandable that the course superintendent would have a hard time watching a green that he had spent so many hours maintaining get scooped away in a few quick bucket loads of an excavator. Greens are like children to many superintendents.

The crew at Whistling Straits has an interesting relationship with the property. It’s left-brain, right-brain; half heart, half science. The heart part comes from the hard work of Lee and Zugel as well as the two assistants, Joe Sell and Emily Shircel, both Penn Staters, as well as the 43 members of the crew, which include nine interns. This die-hard, movie-quoting, bunker-obsessed crew truly believes that the person working next to them is the hardest-working person in the business. None seem to realize that the other person thinks the exact same thing about them.

The science part comes from the amount of research and calculations the course does. For every job at the Straits Course there is a corresponding metric. It’s left-brain, right-brain; half heart, half science. The heart part comes from the hard work of Lee and Zugel as well as the two assistants, Joe Sell and Emily Shircel, both Penn Staters, as well as the 43 members of the crew, which include nine interns. This die-hard, movie-quoting, bunker-obsessed crew truly believes that the person working next to them is the hardest-working person in the business. None seem to realize that the other person thinks the exact same thing about them.

The science part comes from the amount of research and calculations the course does. For every job at the Straits Course there is a corresponding metric. Want to know how many hours were dedicated to mowing greens the third week of July, 2008? They have the figures. Dave (Swift, then-superintendent of the Straits Course) couldn’t stand to watch - he had to look away!

“(Dye) walked up to the green and said, ‘I want a pin placement here,’” Lee says of No. 3 green, pointing to an area in the back of the green. Behind him, the green drops off 30 feet to deep pot bunker hell. He then simply took an excavator and peeled back earth around the green to reduce the shape and size. Dave (Swift, then-superintendent of the Straits Course) couldn’t stand to watch - he had to look away!

Her boss, Lee, a Class A, 25-year member of GCSAA, revels in the number crunching. He says that comes from the top at Kohler Co.

“To be a part of an industrial company (like Kohler), we’re well exposed to metrics,” Lee says. “We measure things to get to the heart of the matter.” Lee brings up the Women’s U.S. Open in 1998. The green speeds got away from him that year, a mistake for which he takes full responsibility. It’s also a mistake he’s sure he won’t repeat. How is he so sure? Metrics.

Lee created a program for future tournaments that would focus solely on getting green speeds right. He calls the program the “Pro Greens Group.” “We had to call it something,” he says.

The system works like this: The week of the tournament, he forms teams of expert volunteers that will solely monitor green speeds. The teams go out with the greens mowers armed with Stimpeters and radios. Before a green is mowed, it’s Stimped. After it’s mowed, it’s Stimped. After it’s mowed a second time, it’s Stimped. After it’s rolled, it’s Stimped. And so on, until perfection is achieved.

“That group is totally responsible for conditioning that green,” Lee says. “Nobody leaves until it’s the way we want it.”

It might be one of the easiest but most involved processes that we do, and we take a huge amount of pride in it and its results,” Zugel says. “We don’t want to let a green get away from us. We will not just schedule mows and rolls blindly. Some greens gain speed quicker than others so we want to be in a place where we can adjust accordingly.

Sound impressive? Then consider this – they’ve already hosted the 2010 PGA Championship once during a test run last August.

The crew conducted what they called “mock-up week” and they held it the same week as the 2009 PGA Championship at Hazeltine in Chaska, Minn. They mostly focused on the greens, but also kept a keen eye on chemical applications and rough density. You can bet they recorded everything, too.

“I thought that putting not only the course through mock-up, it was just as important for me and the staff to be put under just a bit more pressure than normal,” Zugel says. “At the end of the week the interns suddenly got to the end of the tunnel and finally understood some of the concepts that we would only talk about. I think they got stronger and I gained a little confidence on where both the staff and the course would be.”

There’s even a plan on how to keep the crew excited on rain days.

“Any downtime, we have our interns watch some of the ’04 PGA that we have on tape,” assistant superintendent Shircel says. “Just to get them going and fired up.”

Major golf tournaments, they believe, favor the prepared.

For the complete article, visit: http://digitalgcm.gcsaa.org/DigitalAnywhere/viewer.aspx?id=14&pageId=46

Seth Jones (sjones@gcsaa.org) is senior editor of GCM.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: Chris Goeben, 2010 graduate and Nick Jensen, 2010 graduate are currently employed by Whistling Straits.

Jamesleigh, 2001 graduate and Kale Zimmerman, 2009 graduate are currently employed by Blackwolf Run.
Greens
The Newsletter for Rutgers Turf Alumni

2010 Golf Turf Banquet

Registration opens, at the 2010 Golf Turf Banquet

Anne (left) and Chase Brackley (right), Winter 2010 Class President

Ned Lipman, Director, greeting our alumni and family

Alumni Award for Professional Excellence recipient, Thomas Ritchie

Jim Morris, Associate Director and gifted emcee

“Yes, we’re paying attention!”
Dr. Bill Meyer, Associate Director of CTS, program instructor, Acceptance Committee member and turfgrass industry leader

Keynote speaker, Chris Carson, has everyone’s full attention

Joe Bianco (left) and Thomas Ritchie (right) present the 2010 Turfgrass Association Award to 1980 Graduate Fran Owsik (center)

Dr. Rich Hurley (left), with 2010 scholarship winners Jessee Schwartz (center) and Greg Bohus (right)

Jeffrey Barr, 2010 Graduate

http://golfturf.rutgers.edu
2010 Scholarship Recipients

**Paul DesChamps Memorial Scholarships**
Matthew Bain
Brian Powell
Christian Scheller
Daniel Zaroff

**Duke Polidor Memorial Scholarship**
Cody Aaron
Brian Berberet
Ryan Coburn
Michael Lemke
Travis Martin
Denssy Saldana Ruiz

**New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation**
Gregory Bohus (Hall of Fame)
Jeff Antoniewicz (Challenge)
Justin Sadowski (Lou Vasvary)
Eric O’Toole (NJTF)

**New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association Scholarships**
Jeff Antoniewicz
Gregory Bohus
Eric Koch

**Pine Valley Scholarship**
Nicholas Grandi
Eric O’Toole
Kevin Rundstrom

**Syngenta Turfgrass Scholarship**
Charles Schmid

**Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey Scholarships**
Jeff Antoniewicz

**Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey Scholarships**
Brian Hall
James Hempfling
David Jesperson
Kevin Shipley

**New Jersey State Golf Association and Ralph Engel Caddie Scholarships**
Gregory Bohus
Jessee Schwartz

**Golf Course Builders Association Scholarship**
Gregory Bohus
Justin Sadowski

**Henry Indyk Graduate Fellowship**
Matthew Koch

**Allen and Scott Off Memorial Scholarship**
Gregory Bohus
Eric O’Toole

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**Silver Sponsor**
Grass Roots Inc., New Fairfield, CT

**Graduate Sponsors**
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Pine Valley Golf Club, NJ (Graduate Michael Deal)
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Memorial Scholarships
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Ryan Berger
Justin Biceck
Patrick Burgess
Laura Cortese
James Cross
Robert Dreesen
Wesley Easton
Thomas Kennedy
Robert LaRoque
Daniel Lindholm
Emily Merewitz
Andrew Morris
Priti Saxena
Charles Schmid
Sergio Sosa
Daniel Thompson
Katelyn Venner

Ralph Engel Scholarships
Ryan Berger
Brian Clair
David Held
Eric Schmitt

Cleary Chemical Scholarship
Brian Hall

Ralph Geiger Scholarships
Jeff Antoniewicz
Lisa Beirn
Patrick Burgess
Laura Cortese
James Cross
Jay Ewan
James Hempfling
David Jespersen
Eric Koch
Matthew Koch
Emily Merewitz
Kevin Rundstrom
Justin Sadowski
Priti Saxena
Charles Schmid
Katelynn Venner

Dr. Paul Sartoretto Memorial Scholarship
Kevin Shipley

Rutgers Turfgrass Alumni Association Scholarship
Justin Bieck

Proud Center for Turfgrass Science Award recipients

http://golfturf.rutgers.edu
## 2010 Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Club/Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOSEPH C. ADKINSON</td>
<td>1st Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>Missouri Bluffs Golf Club, St. Charles, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANDREW L. CAREY</td>
<td>Grounds Crew</td>
<td>Chevy Chase Club, Chevy Chase, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAIN K. HARDAKER</td>
<td>Greenskeeper</td>
<td>Burhill Golf Club, United Kingdom</td>
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<td>ROBERT ARMOUR</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Crab Orchard Golf Club, Carterville, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUSTIN K. CARROLL</td>
<td>Grounds Crew</td>
<td>Richland Country Club, Nashville, TN</td>
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<tr>
<td>KYLE HARRIS</td>
<td>Spray Technician</td>
<td>Huntingdon Valley Country Club, Huntingdon Valley, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATHEW BAIN</td>
<td>2nd Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>Wolf Run Golf Course, Reno, NV</td>
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<tr>
<td>STEPHEN CHRISTIANITY</td>
<td>Grounds Crew</td>
<td>Laurel Creek CC, Moorestown, NJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAVID HELD</td>
<td>Crew Member</td>
<td>Fort Collins Country Club, Fort Collins, CO</td>
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<td>JEFFREY BARR</td>
<td>Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>Galloping Hill Golf Course, Kenilworth, NJ</td>
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<td>CHRISTOPHER DESALVIA</td>
<td>Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>Forest Hill Field Club, Bloomfield, NJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>NICHOLAS JENSEN</td>
<td>Crew Leader</td>
<td>Whistling Straits Golf Course, Sheboygan, WI</td>
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<td>HARRISON, BEAL</td>
<td>2nd Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>Oconomowoc Golf Course, Oconomowoc, WI</td>
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<td>JASON DEVOE</td>
<td>Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>Meadow Brook Golf Course, Jericho, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>JOHN C. KAFADER</td>
<td>2nd Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>Cherry Valley Country Club, Garden City, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRIAN BERBERET</td>
<td>Foreman</td>
<td>Hurr Sprinkler &amp; Landscape, Loveland, CO</td>
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<tr>
<td>THOMAS ADAM</td>
<td>Crew Member</td>
<td>Hyde Park Golf &amp; Country Club, Cincinnati, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRADY KLEIN</td>
<td>2nd Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>Minnesota Valley Country Club, Bloomington, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUSTIN BICEK</td>
<td>Greenskeeper</td>
<td>North Oaks Golf Club, North Oaks, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROBERT DREESEN</td>
<td>2nd Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>Chenal Country Club, Little Rock, AR</td>
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<tr>
<td>SETH A. KNAPER</td>
<td>Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>Country Club Of York, York, PA</td>
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<td>CHASE BRACKLEY</td>
<td>Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>Berry Hills Country Club, Charleston, WV</td>
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<td>PATRICK K. DORAN</td>
<td>Groundskeeper</td>
<td>Martindale Country Club, Auburn, ME</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRADY KLEIN</td>
<td>2nd Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>Minnesota Valley Country Club, Bloomington, MN</td>
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<td>SHON BRIGGS</td>
<td>Greenskeeper</td>
<td>Scotch Hills Country Club, Scotch Plains, NJ</td>
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<td>JOHN R. FASANELLA</td>
<td>2nd Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>Mercer County Sheriff's Office, Trenton, NJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>AARON LITTLEFIELD</td>
<td>Intern</td>
<td>Mission Viejo Country Club, Mission Viejo, CA</td>
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<td>ROBERT V. BROMBERG</td>
<td>Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>Noyac Golf Club, Sag Harbor, NY</td>
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<td>DENNIS R. GEHRKE</td>
<td>Line 3 Unit Member</td>
<td>Columbia Falls Aluminum Company, Columbia Falls, MT</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANDREW J. LUBY</td>
<td>Greenskeeper</td>
<td>Regents Glen Country Club, York, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANDREW P. BROWN</td>
<td>Intern</td>
<td>Brattleboro Country Club, Brattleboro, VT</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHRISTOPHER R. GOEBEN</td>
<td>Grounds Crew</td>
<td>Whistling Straits Golf Course, Sheboygan, WI</td>
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<td>ALBERTO RODRIGUEZ MANA</td>
<td>Irrigation Tech</td>
<td>Castiglion Del Bosco, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRIAN BUTCHER</td>
<td>Greenskeeper</td>
<td>Pequenakonck Country Club, North Salem, NY</td>
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Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School

Two-Year Certificate Program

Fall Session - October 4 to December 16, 2011
Winter Session - January 4 to March 16, 2012

As an alumnus of The Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School, we look to you to recommend qualified applicants who can help build the reputation of our Rutgers program. If you have an employee, a co-worker or an associate who may be interested in and qualified for our program, please have them contact Fran Koppell via e-mail at koppell@rci.rutgers.edu. Visit our website at www.golfturf.rutgers.edu for an online application!

TIMOTHY MARS, National Golf Links Of America, Southampton, NY
Assistant Superintendent

JOSHUA CHARLES FREDERICK
SMITH, California Golf Club, South San Francisco, CA
Assistant Superintendent

CHRIS R. TOPORSKI, Saucon Valley Country Club, Bethlehem, PA
Grounds Crew

ROBERT P. MERRICK, Useless Bay Golf And Country Club, Langely, WA
1st Assistant Superintendent

NATE SORENSEN, Fox Hollow Golf Club, American Fork, UT
Assistant Superintendent

PAUL TOWLER, Willow Run Golf Club, Pewaukee, WI
Superintendent

ANDREW MORRIS, Valle Vista Golf Club And Conference Center, Greenwood, IN
2nd Assistant Superintendent

BENJAMIN STARKEL, Quarry Oaks, Ashland, NE
Assistant Superintendent

SHAYNE TREMBLAY, Hamilton Golf And Country Club, Ancaster, ON
Grounds Crew

JEFFREY NIEMCZYK, Noyac Golf Club, Sag Harbor, NY
2nd Assistant Superintendent

TANNER J. STOVER, Elks Country Club Grounds Crew

CODY A. TREXLER, Center Valley Club, Center Valley, PA
2nd Assistant Superintendent

NICHOLAS PUSKARICH, Mountaintop Golf And Lake Club, Cashiers, NC
Irrigation Manager

PETER STRAHAN, Ash Brook Golf Course, Scotch Plains, NJ
Assistant Superintendent

CHRISTOPHER VARGAS, Piping Rock Club, Locust Valley, NY
Maintenance

WILLIAM J. ROCCO, Pine Valley Golf Club, Pine Valley, NJ
2nd Assistant Superintendent

DENNIS E. SUPE JR., Heritage Shores, Bridgeville, DE
Assistant Superintendent

MICHAEL VARRONE, Cherry Creek Country Club, Denver, CO
Irrigation Tech

DENSSY SALDANA, Republic Golf, Panama City, Panama
Assistant Superintendent

KYLE T. SWART, White Landscaping, Ruston, LA
Lawn Maintenance

ROBERT WALDROP, Rockaway River Country Club, Denville, NJ
Intern

ERIC SCHMITT, The Links At Northfork, Ramsey, MN
Greenskeeper

DANIEL P. THOMPSON, Rock Creek Cattle Company, Deer Lodge, MT
Horticulturalist

GERRIT WOODS, Nicklaus North, Whistler, BC
Superintendent

BUBBA WRIGHT, Riverbend Golf Club, Madera, CA
Assistant Superintendent

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT

Learn more about some of our Golf Turf Management School instructors by visiting their websites!

Richard Hurley, PhD, CPAg http://www.bentgrassdoctor.com
Stephen Kay http://kayandsmithdesign.com
Bruce Neary http://bcnhorticulture.com
Gene Westmoreland http://www.westmorelandgolf.org
Blue Heron Pines Golf Club has retained its designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program Golf Course (ASCP), an Audubon International Program.

To reach certification, course personnel must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in the following areas: environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation, and water quality management.

“We are very proud to have earned this distinction from Audubon International,” said Blue Heron Pines general manager Will Arabea. “As one of only 816 golf courses in the world to achieve this designation, we believe that an essential part of being a good neighbor and a responsible business leader in the community is environmental stewardship.”

“Our superintendent, Shawn Reynolds, takes that responsibility seriously, and it is because of his dedication and commitment, and that of his staff, that we have been recognized by Audubon International.”

Ranked 34th among the top 50 public golf courses in the nation according to GolfWorld’s 2010 “Readers’ Choice Awards,” Blue Heron Pines is an award-winning, 18-hole championship golf club. Designed by Stephen Kay and opened in 1993, Blue Heron Pines was rated four stars in GolfDigest’s most recent “Places to Play,” and was voted “Best 18-hole Golf Course” by the readers of The Press of Atlantic City and Casino Connection magazine. Blue Heron Pines is also one of southern New Jersey’s most popular venues for weddings, banquets, and other social and business gatherings.

For more information, call 609.965.1800, or visit blueheronpines.com.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Superintendent Shawn Reynolds is a 1993 graduate of the Rutgers Professional GolfTurf Management School. Designer Stephen Kay is an instructor of the program.
We’re on Facebook, R U?

One can only avoid social media for so long. This year, the Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School has become a player. We started our own turf alumni page and, much to the chagrin of salesman and network hounds, only alumni may “friend” us. And “friend” us you have! From Gary Orlando, 1980 graduate, and owner of Azul Verde Design Group (a landscape and Architecture firm in Cave Creek, AZ) to Andrew Grau, 2007 graduate, and Assistant Superintendent at Heritage Club in Mason, OH - welcome back! With 450 alumni friends, our numbers grow each day. According to Social Media Today, as of April 2010 an estimated 41.6% of the US population had a Facebook account. Out of approximately 2,200 Rutgers Professional Golf School alumni, there are still several of you to join us. Over the years we have lost contact with too many of you, so this has been a wonderful way to reconnect. We’ve enjoyed reading and seeing pictures of everything from your construction projects to your beautiful families. So we imagine it must be fun for you to see the postings from classmates with whom you had bonded in the Holly House and Geiger Center for 20 weeks. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. We will use our network as a resource to support each other’s success. We can draw on our “community” to improve our program, communicate about events, post open positions, and be readily available as a resource for all of you. We are thrilled to open communication through Facebook and other social media as an easy way to stay connected. Your feedback and updates are always welcome, so drop us a line, send a message and stay in touch. If you’re on Facebook, friend us!

Forest Hill Field Club Turf Management: Two Hard Working Guys

As I write this the temperature outside is 64 degrees and the stress levels on our staff, turf, and myself have been lowered by the drop in the mercury. It is at this time that I want to acknowledge two of the hardest working guys in the business, Mike Weber and Chris De Salvia. This month has literally been one for the record books. Record heat has put enormous stress on turfgrass throughout the region and reports of dead and dying greens are widespread. Mike and Chris have done an amazing job of keeping the greens at FHFC in great shape under some very tough conditions. They have both spent many afternoons on the end of a hose cooling down turf that was on its way to the afterlife. Mike Weber, a graduate of Virginia Tech, has been with FHFC for the past four seasons and is a big reason FHFC has made the advances in conditioning that it has. Chris De Salvia is a new addition to the staff this year and will be returning to Rutgers University for his second year of the Golf Turf Management Program this fall. Chris has exceeded all of the expectations I had for him and has gained a great amount of knowledge along the way. These two guys have never complained when told to go and syringe greens when it was quitting time and their dedication to the course is unquestionable. While we are not out of the woods yet as far as the summer goes I have to give credit where credit is due so a big THANK YOU to Mike and Chris is appropriate. Thanks again guys!

Country club is finalist for environmental award

NEWTON, NJ — The Newton Country Club was selected amongst multiple entries as a finalist to receive the Metropolitan Golf Association (MGA) Arthur P. Weber Environmental Leaders in Golf Award.

The award is named in honor of the late Arthur Weber’s outstanding commitment to golf and the environment. Weber wrote the Code for Environmental Conduct for golf course maintenance that was adopted by the USGA and recognized by the Audubon Society.

The award has been established to annually honor MGA member clubs that have demonstrated environmental stewardship through golf course maintenance, construction, education, and research.

“We are proud and honored to be recognized by the MGA for our club’s efforts and commitment to the environment,” said Les Carpenter Jr., superintendent of the Newton Country Club. “Not only can our members enjoy playing golf on a beautiful, well-maintained course, they can be proud that their club is supporting the environment and the community in which they live, work and play.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: The Newton Country is a also a certified Audubon Sanctuary - the 8th in the state to receive this designation, and re-certified four times. In his 33rd season as Superintendent (25 of which have been at NCC), Les Carpenter (Class of 1978) is proud of the accomplishment.
Look What They Are Doing Now!

SCOTT J. BAILEY, 2008 - Assistant Superintendent, Makalei, HI
SEAN C. BROWN, 1994 - Assistant Supervisor, Greensboro Coliseum, NC
BRIAN J. CAMPBELL, 2006 - Assistant Superintendent, Legion Memorial Golf Course, WA
JOSEPH L. CASE, 1997 - Grounds Superintendent, Washington College, MD
LAWRENCE J. CORR, 1996 - Superintendent, Manufacturers Golf & Country Club, PA
EVAN CURTIS, 2006 - Assistant Superintendent, Eagle Creek Country Club, FL
RICHARD DIFERDINANDO, 2006 - 2nd Assistant Superintendent, Merion Golf Club, PA
PAUL E. DOTTI, 1994 - Superintendent, Arcola Country Club, NJ
JEFFREY DUMONT, 2004 - Superintendent, Sherwood Country Club, CA
BRETT J. FLECK, 2001 - Superintendent, French Lick Springs Resort, IN
GERALD B. FOUNTAIN, 1978 - Sales Representative, Arium Advanced Technologies, PA
TIM GATHERS, 1998 - Superintendent, Alpharetta Athletic Club, GA
ROBERT W. GLUCK, JR., 2004 - Superintendent, Verde Country Club, CA
BRIAN HAMPSON, 1998 - Director of Agronomy, Indian Wells Golf Resort, Dubai
JEREMY HREBEN, 2003 - Superintendent, Indian Springs Country Club, NJ
CHRISTOPHER KESKITALO, 2005 - Superintendent, Wildflower Golf Club, MN
ANDREW R. KEYEK, 2005 - Superintendent, Steamboat Golf Club, CO
JAMES C. KNIGHT, 1994 - Sales, Lawn Care Doctor, CO
KEITH KRAUS, 1999 - Superintendent, Tulsa Country Club, OK
BILLY MALCOLM, 2008 - Mechanic, Nansmond River Golf Club, VA
NOAH McCABHILL, 2006 - Assistant Superintendent, Creek Club, NY
PATRICK J. McMAHON, 2005 - Superintendent, Trump National (formerly Pine Hill), NJ
BART MILLER, 1992 - Superintendent, Virginia National Golf, VA
GREG M. MUNSON, 1998 - Superintendent, Durango Hills Golf Course, NV
ERIC NEVILLE, 1993 - Project Manager, Dominica, Caribbean
BROOKS M. PICKERING, 2007 - Assistant Superintendent, The Kittansett Club, MA
NICK PIENHTKA, 2007 - Assistant Superintendent, Firekeeper Golf Course, KS
JEFFREY M. PLATTIS, 1997 - Cactus & Pine GCSAA (AZ chapter), AZ
RAYMOND RIPPERT, 1995 - Superintendent, Indian Valley Country Club, PA
RONALD RUPPERT, 1980 - Superintendent/Owner, Sunridge Canyon Golf Course, AZ
ARAGORN SCHAFFER, 2006 - Owner, K&A Landscape & Orchard Management, CO
ROBERT W. SEITER, 1999 - Superintendent, Glade Springs Village, WV
NIGEL F. SLADE, 2000 - Superintendent, Freeway Golf Course, Australia
KIRK W. SPIETH, 2004 - North Course Superintendent, Olympia Fields Country Club, IL
MATTHEW R. STOUT, 2008 - Landscape Designer/Builder, Back to Nature, CO
KEVIN M. TAGG KER, 2000 - Superintendent, Riverview Golf Course, PA
CHAD THOMSON, 2007 - Superintendent, Beaver Creek, CO
CHRISTOPHER S. VAN PELT, 2003 - Grounds/Facilities, Seton Hall University, NJ
DEAN M. WHITE, 1996 - Superintendent, Old York Country Club, PA
JONATHAN WHITE, 2009 - Superintendent, Golf de Domont Montmorency, Paris France
JACOB M. WOOD, 2006 - Superintendent, Las Vegas Golf Club, NV
Have You Seen These Alumni?

RICHARD (RICK) ADAMS 2004
GERALD K. AHMAI 1994
LISA ANCUTA 1997
BRYCE ANDERSON 1997
DREW C. ANFINSEN 1999
KYLE L. AURAN 2003
MICHAEL BABAK 1998
SCOT BAER 1995
CHAD BAKER 1999
CHRISTIAN H. BAUER 1994
JOHN G. BAUMAN 1983
ROBERT D'IMPERIO 1986
STEPHEN DIEHL 2004
ROBERT D'IMPERIO 1986
ROBERT L. DODDS 1999
THOMAS H. DOOLEY 1994
COLE T DREW 1999
JASON P. DYPSKY 1999
BRANDON R. ELLSWORTH 2001
DAVID EMMA 1989
THOMAS V. FARRELLY 1998
WILLIAM T. FILMORE 1997
MATTHEW FIRMAN 1995
PATRICK L. FOGEL 2000
PAUL E. FOLTZ 1997
MARK C. FOULKS 1995
JOHN G. FOWLER 1982
RANDY FREDERICK 1994

THOMAS R. DAVENPORT 2007
LAFOREST GARDINER III 1995
MARTIN A. GIANNINI 1994
WARREN GILDER 1998
JOSEPH J. GLOVIAK 1999
JAMES A. GOERLICH 1979
JEFFREY GREEN 1995
LEONARD J. GRIPPO 1996
STEVEN E. GROVES 1994
STEVEN J. MORGAN 1996
ROBERT HANDBERG 1978
EARL D. HARGIS 1994
DAVID L. HEFFERNAN 2000
JON M. HENRY 1992
RUDY HOBBES III 1995
JAMES W. HOCKO 1996
THOMAS E. HENNIGAN 1986
ALEX HENDRY 1998
THOMAS F. HEGEL 1994
DANIEL J. HEGEL 1994
MATTHEW J. HEGEL 1994
ROBERT H. HEDRICK 1994
SHELLY HEIDEMANN 1994
FRANK H. HEIDEMANN 1994
JAMES P. HEFFERNAN 1994
STEVEN E. HEFFERNAN 1994
STEVEN E. HEFFERNAN 1994

THOMAS KC LEARNER 1987
DANIEL MELE 1997
CHRISTOPHER METZGER 2000
CHRISTOPHER A. MEYER 1998
BRUCE MICKELSON 1986
CASEY MIFLIN 2002
RICHARD MILLER 1995
BRIAN C. MILLER 1999
GREGORY G. MILLER 2000
DAVID M. MILLS 1994
BRENT J. MOISA 1991
EDWARD L. MORAN 1983
STEVEN J. MORGAN 1996
JAMES B. MORMILL 1996
JEREMIAH L. SIMMONS 2004
DAVID E. SICKLER 1978
DANIEL SHUTT JR. 1998
PETER M. SHERONAS 1996
BRUCE J. SHARP 1997
JOHN SEDAM 2007
JOHN K. SCHIKAL 1994
DAVID SCHAILILI 1983
PAUL S. SANSON 1985
DANIEL W. SANTOS 1994
JAMES CARNEY 1985
BRADLEY P. SCOTT 1991
MICHAEL J. TREZZA 1996
ROBERT TUBMAN 1985
DAVID J. ULRICH 1997
ALBERTO VASQUEZ 1999
TROY VROMAN 1997
ROBERT T. WACHTER 1994
JOSHUA P. WALDSCHMIDT 2000
WADE S. WEAVER 1994
PAUL T. WILLIAMS JR. 1991
KENNETH WNEK 2002
STEPHEN WOJDULA 1997
JOHN R. WOLFF 1994
DONALD WOOLDRIDGE 1995
KENNETH YACCA 1986
THOMAS D. YODER 1999

http://golfturf.rutgers.edu
The Rutgers Turfgrass Alumni Association

Thanks to your generous support we continue to offer scholarships to turfgrass students who have worked hard and excelled in their studies, helping them on the road to success. When you have a moment, please visit the Alumni section of our website www.golfturf.rutgers.edu to view the featured links. The ability to complete a membership application and pay dues online means alumni are now able to enroll year round instead of just once with the annual mailing. We also have items for sale online this year - our Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management hat, with $5 of the proceeds benefiting the scholarship fund, and two styles of our turf shirts. Please contact Rosemary when ordering the shirts to ensure your size is available. While you are visiting our website, click on our new Share Your Story link and let your fellow alums know how the Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School benefitted your life. And join our Facebook page!

Also on the website are photos from this year’s banquet where our very own Thom Ritchie (’76), RTAA Executive Director, was the recipient of the 2010 Award for Professional Excellence. This honor is bestowed upon a program graduate who has long served the turf industry with distinction and character. Thom has consistently demonstrated the highest principals of respected leaders including fellowship to all and high ideals based upon a fervent desire to improve the turf and landscape professions. Mr. Ritchie is unarguably one of New Jersey’s most recognized green-industry leaders and has been an active and ardent supporter of green professionals and Rutgers since his graduation from turf school over 30 years ago. With lifetime ally and fellow alum, Joe Bianco (’62 and RTAA Treasurer), Thom led the development of two three-week OCPE courses (Utility Turf Management and Professional Landscape and Turf Management) in 1989. Those classes and their successors have served well over 2,000 professionals who care for the lawns, public athletic fields and public grounds of the Northeast. These programs would not have been developed without the vision and persistence driven by Thom’s desire to serve his colleagues in landscape and grounds management. Congratulations and many thanks to Thom for his unending drive and dedication to our industry and program.

We are proud that our alumni feel this special lifelong dedication to our program, and hope that your dedication to our future alumni continues each year. Thank you sincerely for your support, and best wishes for a successful season.

The Rutgers Turfgrass Alumni Association is an affiliate of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association and supporter of Turfgrass Research at Rutgers. Help us touch base with someone from the Have You Seen list and receive a Rutgers Turf hat. For more information or questions, please contact Rosemary Mahony at 732-932-9271 or email turfalumni@gmail.com.

RTAA Board Members
Thomas Ritchie (’76) Executive Director
Robert Dickison (’62) Vice-President
Donald Heyniger (’75) President
Joseph Bianco (’62) Treasurer

Director’s Message
Continued from page 1

Oh, by the way, for those of you who are interested, Fran tells me that we have close to 450 friends on our Facebook page now and that number is growing every day, which takes me back to my original statement about the importance of building and maintaining relationships. As fast as the world continues to move, it will always grow upon trusted relationships, and we hope that you had a chance during your years here at Rutgers to test that theory out and put it to work in your life every day.

In closing, know that it was then, continues to be now and will, hopefully, always be the mission of our program to bring the highest learning value to our students and to best position them for successful careers in the golf and sports turf industries. This was Ralph Engel’s vision over 50 years ago, and we continue to serve it in 2011. On behalf of all of your instructors, here’s hoping you have yet another rewarding and successful season.

Sincerely, Ned Lipman
Realizing His Full Potential

How hard work, determination and three weeks at Rutgers helped one student turn a “fun” summer job into a successful and satisfying lifelong career

By Corin Huff, Freelance writer

What started out as a fun summer job on the golf course turned into an exciting and successful career for Paul Sutter, a 1997 graduate of the three-week Golf Turf Management program at Rutgers.

During high school and college, Paul and his friends worked as laborers on a local golf course. With plans of going on to law school someday, Sutter was simply enjoying the world of golf and the great outdoors. He learned the job quickly and rose through the ranks, first as foreman and then as second assistant. But it wasn’t until his Superintendent recommended that he attend the three-week program at the Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School that Paul realized the full potential for a career in golf turf management.

“During the three-week program, I started to learn the science behind why I was doing what I was doing on the golf course,” Sutter said. “It gave me a huge base of knowledge that I hadn’t had before.”

The three-week class gives students hands-on experience and knowledge in the science behind the cultural practices used on golf courses as well as the opportunity to learn the management and communication skills that sets workers apart from leaders. Students learn from a dozen Rutgers researchers, Rutgers professors, Golf Course Superintendents, and other highly trained professionals in the fields of irrigation, landscape science and soil fertility, some of whom are among the top professionals in their fields. As one 2010 student put it, “The presenters are stars in their own rights.”

Armed with the knowledge of what he calls “real life on the golf course,” Sutter landed a position as Assistant Superintendent at Bay Shore Municipal Golf Course in Miami, Florida. He continued on to two more successful Assistant Superintendent jobs at American Golf, the management company for the New York Parks Department, and Leewood Golf Club in East Chester, New York. Gleaning even more knowledge from these experiences and a very influential mentor, Sutter landed his first Superintendent position at Emerson Golf Club in Emerson, NJ in 2003.

Now Superintendent of Oronoque Country Club in Stratford, Connecticut, Sutter can look back on his career so far and recognize the value of “having the Rutgers name” on his resume. “Rutgers is definitely recognized as one of the top golf turf management schools in the Northeast,” he said. “I have run into so many graduates who now have successful careers in my field.”

In fact, the benefits of the three-week program are still playing a role in Sutter’s career progression, over 13 years later. Already a Class A member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), Sutter is taking the next step to earn the professional designation of Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS), the most widely recognized certification in the industry. Only 25 percent of Class A members hold the title.

Superintendents must meet stringent requirements, including professional experience and continuing education. Sutter’s classroom hours at Rutgers have put him well on his way to complete the certification process by July 2011.

Paul Sutter is not the only student whose life and career were forever changed by the three-week program. Others have given the class similar praise and thanks:

“The instructors here at Rutgers truly care about helping each student fulfill his dream in the golf industry. I have been able to go further than I had ever dreamed. They have all been as dedicated to helping me get there as I have,” said Jesse Shannon, Superintendent of Manhattan Woods Country Club in West Nyack, New York.

“I cannot think of one thing [from the course] that would not help me in my job,” echoed Mark Jones, a 2009 attendee who works at Bear Creek Golf Club in Westminster, Maryland. “Everything just ties into itself.”

Paul Sutter is so convinced of the advantages of the three-week course of study, he is creating an Assistant Development program that will enable him to send his employees to Rutgers for the same invaluable training he received. There’s no doubt that if they are as dedicated and ambitious, Sutter can expect to see these employees do well in the three-week class and earn their place among top-ranked professionals in the field.

http://golfturf.rutgers.edu