President’s Message

Good leaders learn, but great leaders learn and take action.

Over 100 grounds leaders made their way to Tacoma, Washington for the Summer Conference and it was worth the trip! Our PGMS Western Washington Branch, led by Joe Kovalyan, CGM, Bri Groeneveld, CGT and Steph Bruno put together a top-notch event that will be remembered for a long time. Our speakers and suppliers offered up some wonderfully informative presentations and we all learned a great deal. Thank you for a great event!

Now, on to our October event in Louisville, Kentucky. I don’t need to tell you this event is going to be spectacular. I’ve already heard from Stephanie Bruno, PGMS Executive Director, that our hotel space is sold out. Luckily there are other area hotels, so please make arrangements to come. It will be worth the effort. The PGMS School of Grounds Management is a great networking event for you and your leaders. Mark Feist, PGMS Vice President, has put together an exciting tour as well as a great educational line up. Take a look at the October conference schedule on pages 8-9.

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak to a group about having an “eye for detail” in the landscape business. This is a term my former boss, Jamie Boynton, taught me when we worked at the Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando. An “eye for detail” means watching daily for the small stuff such as: Noticing limbs laying on the ground or hanging too low over a sidewalk; tending to yellowing or dead plants; keeping the sidewalks clean and the list goes on. The idea is to be proactive - pay attention to the little things, and the big things will take care of themselves.

Today, we teach this term to new and seasoned grounds staff and discuss it often. We encourage them to be proactive: “Don’t wait for me to tell you to pick up or trim the limbs - just have an ‘eye for detail.’” PGMS helped me realize that having an “eye for detail” is more than the way my property looks – it’s the way I am viewed as a professional. By being more proactive, doing my best, yes, but also doing the small things like gaining certification, entering awards competitions, volunteering, and helping grow professionalism in our industry. PGMS was instrumental in developing my leadership skills, adding to my credibility in the eyes of my direct reports and the administration.

Winning a Grand Green Star award was a much-needed validation for the staff and me – sending the message to the administration that we are doing our job at a superior level. The PGMS CGM certification (which I never really wanted to get), added credibility to my 4-year horticulture degree in ways I never imagined. Having an “eye for detail” about your own value and potential can build your career opportunities. Many universities and property management companies see the value of CGM certification and require it or prefer it on job applications. Being a CGM or CGT differentiates you from others because it shows you are being proactive, learning on your own and taking your personal growth seriously.

Start with the first step. Be proactive and sign up for the Louisville conference. Do the Tuesday tour, show up, listen and learn. Good leaders learn, but great leaders learn and take action. I look forward to seeing you continue on the path of learning, leading and serving this year.

Jeff McManus, CGM
PGMS President

PGMS Nomination and Elections Report

As is required in the Bylaws, once the Board has accepted and endorsed these nominees, their names will be presented to the voting members of PGMS along with the following statement which advises them how additional nominations can be offered. Additional nominations may be made provided that they are made in writing, endorsed by at least ten (10) voting Members in good standing, with the written consent of the nominee and received by the Secretary of the Society not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the annual meeting. The Secretary shall be responsible for seeing that all those members with the privilege of voting are notified of any additional nominations, in writing, immediately. There shall be no nominations on the floor unless an unopposed and announced candidate should withdraw his or her name from consideration.

Recommended Nominations are:

- President - Gerry Dobbs, CGM
- President-Elect - Mark Feist
- Vice President - Joe Kovalyan, CGM, CSFM
- Treasurer - Bruce De Vrou, CGM

PGMS along with the members of the Board of Directors, recommends the following candidates for their respective offices:

- President - Jeff McManus, CGM
- President-Elect - Gerald Dobbs, CGM
- Vice President - Mark Feist
- Treasurer - Joe Kovalyan, CGM

Board of Directors

Directors

Kent Bagnell
Mike Beaulieu
Roger Conner, CGM
Philip Dekker, CGM
Bruce De Vrou, CGM
Jenny Giulick
Brandon Haley, CGM
Jared Rudy, CGM
Don Savard, CGM

Supplier Member Reps

Paula Sileet
Lynda Wightman

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Mike Beaulieu
Roger Conner, CGM
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PGMS Nomination and Elections Report

PGMS Nomination and Elections Report

Time to Vote

Low Scape Mound® Aronia melanocarpa – spring, summer and fall

Low Scape Mound® Aronia melanocarpa has accepted its place as one of the most versatile aronia on the market and suitable for a variety of environments. This shrub is adapted to the climate and soil type of the Pacific Northwest and can be grown in a variety of landscapes. It is also adaptable to different soil types, making it an ideal choice for gardens and landscaping projects. Its compact size and eye-catching leaves make it a great addition to any outdoor space.
"One Water: Green Solutions to Stormwater Management"

Jennifer & Greg Nichols, Owners, GreenWeaver Landscapes

Clean water is essential to all of us and green industry professionals are uniquely positioned to care for this valuable resource. How we manage our properties can create vast improvements to stormwater problems such as erosion, water pollution, and localized flooding while making our properties more beautiful and inviting.

Learning Objectives:
- Legal and Ethical reasons we manage water
- Learning the stormwater language
- Finding stormwater management opportunities
- Maintenance of SMPs
- Examples and lessons learned from both residential and non-residential projects

"Ice Melt 101 (Understanding the Tools in Your Toolbox)"

Ron Eckman, Owner, Deicing Depot

Covering topics related to ice melt chemicals, techniques, and operations that are vital to a successful snow removal operation, Ron will delve into chemical usages and effective eutectic temperatures, chloride reduction, and selecting appropriate chemicals for job sites.

Learning Objectives:
- Deicing chemicals and their effectiveness
- What really causes concrete damage
- Turf Damage
- Concrete Parking Structure
- Liquids and Chloride Reduction

"TreesLouisville: Protecting and Growing our Tree Canopy"

Cindi Sullivan, Executive Director, TreesLouisville, Inc.

TreesLouisville, Inc. is a non-profit 501c3 organized in 2015 by the leadership of the Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission after an Urban Tree Canopy Assessment (UTCA), using data from 2004-2012, showed the alarming loss of 54,000 trees a year.

Learning Objectives:
- You can’t improve tree canopies without public education, advocacy, and strong policy
- Partnering/collaboration provides synergy
- Best management practices for Urban Landscapes

"The Manager’s Toolbox"

Jeffrey Bourne, Retired, Montgomery County, MD

Explore the changes that occur when transitioning to a supervisory role. New skills to be reviewed include selecting and hiring employees, orienting new (and old) employees, training and coaching employees, evaluating accomplishments and performance, essential supervisory techniques and explore how to get tasks, projects, and routine work completed.

Learning Objectives:
- Counseling and Coaching
- Motivation and Discipline
- Task accomplishment
- Develop your own “Train-the-Trainer” program

"A Better Understanding of Tree Roots and How to Improve Their Environment"

Kelby Fite, Vice President & Director of Research, Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories

Tree roots are often taken for granted, providing anchorage, water and nutrient absorption, carbohydrate storage, and chemical production. We acknowledge how important they are for plant health, but how can we improve their function?

Learning Objectives:
- Understand root system growth patterns and how that relates to distribution.
- Recognize the impacts of soil compaction on tree root development
- Awareness of treatment options to alleviate soil challenges and promote root performance
SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019
7:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  Board of Directors Meeting (invitation only)
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Registration Desk Open (Field Trip Attendees only)
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  Pre-Conference Field Trip Masonic Homes Kentucky and Waterfront Botanical Gardens
5:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  First Timer Orientation
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  Welcoming Reception
8:00 p.m.  The Crashers - Fourth Street Live!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019
7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.  EDUCATION SESSION 1
Breakfast of Champions – Dr. Richard T. Olsen
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  EDUCATION SESSION 2 (choose one)
“The Human Connection: Bring Your Presentations to Life! Part One” – Carol Doscher & Joe Masi
“Majestic Tree Management” – Patrick Anderson
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  EDUCATION SESSION 3 (choose one)
“The Human Connection: Bring Your Presentations to Life! Part Two” – Carol Doscher & Joe Masi
“One Water: Green Solutions to Stormwater Management” – Jennifer & Greg Nichols
11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  Branch Leadership Luncheon (invitation only)
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  EDUCATION SESSION 4
GIE+EXPO Keynote – Lt. Col. Rob “Waldo” Waldman
This energetic keynote is not about relating combat tactics to winning in business. Rather, it’s about focusing on what really matters in business – building high performance, trusting teams and fully serving your customers and co-workers.
3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  GIE+EXPO (indoor only)
6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.  Certified Grounds Manager Reception (Must be a CGM®)
9:00 p.m.  Easton Corbin - Fourth Street Live!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019
7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.  Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  Registration Desk Open
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  GIE+EXPO
9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  EDUCATION SESSION 5 (choose one)
“Ice Melt 101 (Understanding the Tools in Your Toolbox)” – Ron Eckman
“Avoiding the Temptation of Enabling Our Robotic Overlords” – Anthony Gondick
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  Lunch on your own
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.  EDUCATION SESSION 6 (choose one)
“The Manager’s Toolbox: Part One” – Jeffrey A. Bourne
“From Good to Great: Taking Your Waste and Recycling Program to the Next Level” – Tyler Orton
2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.  EDUCATION SESSION 7
“The Manager’s Toolbox: Part Two” – Jeffrey A. Bourne
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  PGMS Annual Awards Dinner (requires separate ticket)
8:00 p.m.  Cassadee Pope - Fourth Street Live!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2019
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.  EDUCATION SESSION 8
“A Better Understanding of Tree Roots and How to Improve Their Environment” – Kelby Fite
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  GIE+EXPO (Outdoor Area closes at 1:00 p.m.)
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  EDUCATION SESSION 9 (choose one)
“More Growth – More People – More Business” – Brian Beaulieu
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  EDUCATION SESSION 10 (choose one)
“Transformation of a Campus Landscape Brings Rewards and Unexpected Benefits” – Mike Mastrota
“TreesLouisville: Protecting and Growing Our Tree Canopy” – Cindi Sullivan

9 / FORUM
"From Good to Great: Taking Your Waste and Recycling Program to the Next Level"
Tyler Orton, Zero Waste Manager, American University

American University’s Zero Waste program has successfully moved to managing almost all traditionally contracted services internally. Learn the steps to planning out your waste and recycling program and tips for how to maximize economic benefits for your recycling and composting program.

Learning Objectives:
• Understand what Zero Waste is and the steps American University is taking to move towards it
• Learn about current recycling market conditions and ways to maintain successful programs
• Gain an understanding of best practices for recycling and composting operations

"Majestic Tree Management"
Patrick Anderson, Arborologist, Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements

Mature trees provide a host of eco-system services that benefit humans and their environment. In addition, many of these large trees hold a greater sentimental significance, and these ‘Majestic Trees’ require a higher level of care.

Learning Objectives:
• Identify majestic tree species in your area
• Common cultural issues affecting trees in the built environment
• Learn how cultural issues affect tree health
• Practical protocols for managing mature trees in the landscape

"The Human Connection: Bring Your Presentations to Life!"
Carol Doscher & Joe Masi, Graceworks Inc.

Strengthen your presentation skills over the course of two highly interactive workshops. Increase your public speaking confidence, learn to better connect with board members and management, and utilize best practices for using body language and PowerPoint slides!

Learning Objectives:
• Create chemistry and trust by connecting personally, emotionally, and intellectually with the audience
• Develop confidence by recognizing, diagnosing and eliminating nervous habits
• Create client-focused messages
• Communicate messages, design ideas and benefits so others can visualize them
• Practice effectively

"More Growth – More People – More Business"
Brian Beaulieu, Industry Economist, ITR Economics

We all manage business cycles, but it is also important to keep your sights on the underlying reality of ongoing growth in the U.S. economy. Our economic system is geared for growth unless obstacles are put in our way. Our population is growing. And, business opportunities are expanding for those willing to take risks, act and trust in a good decade ahead. Join economic expert Brian Beaulieu to learn about the state of the economy and how it relates to our industry so you can stride boldly into the future.

KEVIN MERCER GROUNDS AND LANDSCAPE MANAGER, DENISON UNIVERSITY

Tell us about your background and how you chose a career in the green industry. The love of the grounds started for me in 1974. I was five and remember my grandfather Grayson Wilson Mercer Sr walking with me in the corn fields on his farm in Frederick Maryland scouting for earworns before IPM was even a trend.

I got into golf course maintenance and worked my way up the ranks to management and eventually in the higher education campus grounds management arena. I always try focus on the little details of the grounds and equipment before anything big could escalate. I was taught never take anything for granted and always give thanks to the lord and appreciate everyone that has help you along the way. My grandfather passed away on my birthday in 1991, he would be happy that I’m in this line of work. I love this business and have been very blessed.

Where are you currently working? What is it known for? I currently work for Denison University, a nationally ranked private liberal arts college in Granville, Ohio. The college is known for its pretty amazing academics and faculty, an innovative career center and helping its students to achieve their potential. It’s also known for its beautiful campus set amid the rolling Welsh Hills area of Ohio.

What is the greatest satisfaction that you derive from work? Most higher education is still trying to rebrand themselves and figuring out what makes them different from other colleges or universities. Denison President Dr. Weinberg had already figured that part seven years ago and has been sailing our ship in a down wind current with the sail out. We are riding the wind and it feels good that the grounds team is an important part of his vision.

What do you like to do in your free time? I am working harder this year to spend more time with my family and take in the little things. Good red wine and French culinary food are always on the top of the list.

What enticed you to become a member of PGMS? How long have you been involved with PGMS? The first word in the PGMS, “Professional” is what enticed me to join back in 2007 and I am still growing and learning to this day as a CGM and personally.

PGMS offers many benefits to its members. What benefits would you rate as most important to you? It is hard to say just one thing. First, I would recommend is the CGT for grounds staffing employees, our team have refine their IPM skill sets from it and second the CGM is really going to show your strengths and challenges. Finally get your property accredited.

Joe Jackson, CGM has done an outstanding job with this and you will get real value from it.

Bailey is more than a trusted provider of quality plants with superior breeding. We’re also a partner that offers innovative programs designed to meet your needs, from bare-root to finished plants.
SPEAKERS

Lynda Wightman
- Hands-on demonstration of an Irrigation System Audit

Blair Coates
- Marketing, Networking and Production Management

Dr. Gwen Stanke
- Demonstrating surface hardness (Gmax) testing

Bob Kief
- Leadership, Budgeting, and Human Resources

Patrick Anderson
- Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements, discusses the results of plant growth regulators on the University of Puget Sound campus.

Wright Park and Seymour Conservatory
- Attendees toured three areas: Seymour Conservatory, Wright Park, and the Lawn Bowling Green.

Cheney Stadium
- Cheney Stadium is a multi-purpose stadium and attendees were present for the transition from baseball field to soccer field.

Chambers Bay Golf Course
- Host of the 2015 U.S. Open, the public golf course is a British links-style course built on a former sand and gravel mine quarry.

Point Defiance
- Attendees were treated to a guided bus tour of the 760 acre park, highlighting 550 acres of old growth forest. Some of the oldest trees in the park are Douglas Firs at over 500 years old.

University of Puget Sound
- Thank you to Bill Boggs, CGT Todd Bramble, CGT and Colin Pruitt, CGT for the behind the scenes tours. Special thanks to the Western Washington Branch and Bri Groeneveld, CGT for hosting the Summer Conference.
Tough conditions won't slow you down with the new Z700 EFI.

With a high-performance, gas powered EFI engine, you can easily handle tall, thick and wet grass. Resulting in decreased downtime and increased productivity. The Z700 EFI. Built to make sure your business never backs down.

A two-step process for tough terrain:
Start it up. Mow it down.

Since receiving the scholarship, I became the Outreach Coordinator for the University of Maryland's Arboretum & Botanical Gardens. This September, I will have been in the position for three years and I love my job! As the Outreach Coordinator, I have multiple roles. The main job I have is taking volunteer groups out into the campus landscape for service events, where I teach them proper horticultural practices like how to mulch a bed or how to plant a tree. I have an opportunity to speak to them about how the Arboretum supports the University's sustainability goals. This past January, I started a very popular program called 'Walk with an Arborist'. I became a certified arborist in December 2018 and have thoroughly enjoyed giving tours of not just our trees on campus, but also our gardens, greenroofs, and other natural areas. I also lead our social media efforts, including starting a quarterly newsletter, which we haven't had before and generally work to continually promote awareness that our campus is 1) an arboretum 2) a TreeCampus USA and 3) a Level IV ArbNet Accredited arboretum. I would encourage students to take advantage of any training opportunities and to speak up to request training as they are working or pursing an internship. I was able to obtain my private pesticide applicator license through one of my classes and I think it gave me a little leg up in the interview for my current position. Also, don't discount volunteer experience as not "real" experience in the field. I spent many hours volunteering with Casey Trees and it absolutely has benefited me in my current role.

Below are photos of me leading a student group, me picking up supplies for a workshop at Behnke's that was generously funded through a Pepsi Grant, and myself and faculty adviser of the Community Learning Garden on campus.

A two-step process for tough terrain: Start it up. Mow it down.

Tough conditions won't slow you down with the new Z700 EFI. With a high-performance, gas powered EFI engine, you can easily handle tall, thick and wet grass. Resulting in decreased downtime and increased productivity. The Z700 EFI. Built to make sure your business never backs down.

SPOTLIGHT ON 2016 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER: MEG SMOLINSKI

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THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS IN PROFESSIONALISM

Please take time to visit them at the PGMS School of Grounds Management & GIE+EXPO. You can see their booth numbers below.

PGMS also thanks the following Partners for their support.
CINCINNATI BRANCH HOLDS THEIR SUMMER EDUCATIONAL EVENT (AT 12MPH!)

Write-up and Photos submitted by: Jenny Gulick

The Greater Cincinnati Branch held its summer educational event on July 16th, and it was a fun one. The Branch again arranged a Segway tour, but this time Eden Park was the destination. Eden Park is a 183-acre urban oasis that is one of the most visited parks in the region due to its natural and historic attractions and the impressive views of the Ohio River and Kentucky.

Branch members learned that the city bought the land in 1869 from Nicholas Longworth who had previously used it as one of America's first commercial vineyards. Longworth called his scenic estate the “Garden of Eden,” and noted landscape architect Adolph Strauch (who was also responsible for designing Spring Grove Cemetery and Forest Lawn Cemetery) created the landscape plan for the new park.

The 2 hour tour included fourteen points of interest throughout the park. Among others, Branch members got to enjoy gliding past Mirror Lake, through Liberty Gardens, and into Memorial Grove, and taking in the beautiful views of the Ohio River and Northern Kentucky from the Twin Lakes overlook. Our guides covered the long history of the park. We learned that Eden Park was the site of the first American Forestry Congress in 1882. The convening group became at once nationally influential in promoting the cause of forestry, and is known today as American Forests, the oldest citizen-based conservation organization in the country.

After gliding on Segways, Branch members used their legs on a private tour of Krohn Conservatory led by the Cincinnati Park Board’s General Manager Andrea Schepmann. The Krohn Conservatory is a Gothic Revival and Art Deco style public conservatory that was originally built in 1933. It contains over 3,500 plant species from around the world, and hosts seasonal, themed displays throughout the year. Amazingly, Park Board horticulturalists grow nearly all the 30,000+ plants used in these special displays in the Parks’ Warder Nursery facility.

Eighteen Branch members and guests participated in the July event. Members were from organizations near and far including, the University of Kentucky, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, H. J. Benkens Florist & Garden Center, Paul Brown Stadium, Tree Service, Inc., Davey Tree Expert Company, and Urban Canopy Works, LLC.

The next event is the annual Diagnostic Walk-About of historic Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum in Cincinnati with The Ohio State University Horticultural Extension agent “Buggy” Joe Boggis. It will be held on September 19th at 4:00pm, and a catered dinner will be served after the walk-about. Any and all PGMS members are welcome to attend. For more information or to RSVP, contact Branch President, Jenny Gulick at jenny@urbancanopyworks.com or Doug Young at dyoung@benkens.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Submit your events to us at info@pgms.org.

SEPT 21
Great Lakes Inaugural Branch Event
West Lafayette, IN
New branch kick off meeting for the Great Lakes, including: Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota

OCT 15 - 18
PGMS School of Grounds Management & GIE+EXPO
Louisville, KY
Information about the speaker line-up and registration is open.

SEPT 26
Snow Summit
Roanoke, VA
For more information or to register contact Bob Boren at bob.boren@roanokeva.gov.

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Great Lakes Inaugural Branch Event
West Lafayette, IN
New branch kick off meeting for the Great Lakes, including: Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota

Other Industry Event

Snow Summit
Roanoke, VA
For more information or to register contact Bob Boren at bob.boren@roanokeva.gov.
TREE CAMPUS
Write-up and Photos submitted by Jenny Gulick, PGMS Director-at-Large and Dan Lambe, Arbor Day Foundation President

TREES AND HEALTHCARE: WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

Ever heard the saying, “An apple a day keeps the doctor away”? What if it wasn’t so much the apple as the apple tree?

Many people often think of the benefits of trees in terms of environmental outcomes: shade, stormwater retention, carbon sequestration, natural beauty. But their benefits expand far beyond this.

Take a look around your grounds and community. All that green you see is hard at work supporting the health of everyone who lives, works, and plays there. Research shows that interaction with green space, gardens, parks, and natural areas helps the human condition. Specifically, trees play an important role in improving physical and mental health in a variety of ways, including improving respiratory health, lowering urban temperatures, reducing ADHD symptoms in children, and providing healing and restorative benefits. There is also an economic case for investing in trees, as even a small increase in tree cover in a community is associated with a reduction in average annual Medicare expenditures per person per year. [Source]

All of these benefits are important, given the fact that modern lifestyles are contributing to a rise in poor overall health across the globe. People are becoming more sedentary, experiencing more unhealthy stress, and being exposed to higher levels of harmful pollution. It’s time to harness the powerful benefits of trees to combat a looming health crisis in America.

To make strides for a healthier society, the Arbor Day Foundation is committed to making strides for community trees. In collaboration with the Professional Grounds Management Society and other professional green industry and healthcare organizations, we have teamed up with professionals in healthcare, sustainability, grounds management, community forestry, and city leadership to develop Tree Campus Healthcare, a program designed to nationally recognize health institutions that improve community wellness through tree planting, education, and community engagement. We want to shine the spotlight on healthcare facilities leading the way in the advancement of human health and wellness through trees.

The good news is that as we have interviewed professional grounds managers and sustainability leaders at hospitals and other in-patient facilities throughout the U.S. to develop the Tree Campus Healthcare program, we found that many health organizations are already working hard to fulfill some — if not all — of these standards.

They are already actively embracing the physical and mental health benefits trees provide. Community health organizations are planting and caring for trees not only on their campuses but communitywide as well. They are creating onsite arboreta, distributing trees to community members, creating better connectivity for community trail systems, and planting trees in public spaces. They are also educating people about the ability of trees to promote healthy physical activity, aid in stress recovery, and remove pollutants from the air and water. And it’s having a positive impact in their communities. These efforts are helping to combat issues such as shrinking urban tree cover and inequitable distribution of trees to ensure green space (and all the benefits that come with it) is accessible to all residents.

To receive Tree Campus Healthcare recognition, in-patient healthcare facilities need to fulfill five program standards throughout the calendar year. Those standards include: the formation of an advisory committee, development of a tree care plan, participation in a community forestry project, sponsorship of a celebration event or education campaign, and a suggested commitment to financial investment in tree projects, education events, and community outreach. Through these standards, the goal is to help raise awareness about the importance of trees — not only for the environmental benefits they provide but also for the pivotal role they can play in the future of healthcare.
A few issues back, Jeff McManus asked me to write about retirement and how I planned for it. (Three things McManus covered before you retire.) My hope was to help fellow members achieve that status and comfortable move into the next chapter of their lives. I retired at 52, which was later than most folks don’t know what inspired me. Our dear friend Walt Bonvell was within months of his retirement before he passed away too young. Hopefully you had the privilege to meet this great man, Walt was the biggest PGMS ambassador for members and made everyone feel welcome. Walt’s untimely passing accelerated my retirement plans, I looked at my job and modified it so I could retire sooner. Life is way to short, and my bucket list is too long to wait for retirement!

Since I was a young teenager, I was inspired to hike the Appalachian Trail (AT) after a family camping excursion in Franklin County, Indiana. I was a young boy who was fascinated by backpackers and inquired what they were doing, I became a life dream that I would think about for the next forty years. From dreaming to planning was my next step. I read no fewer than 14 books on the AT, watched YouTube videos, subscribed to a couple hiking blogs and several AT Facebook groups. I attended a few classes at REI and joined a couple hiking groups through MeetUp. Referring back to my dear friend Walt, his son Jared reached out to me after I shared my goal of hiking the AT in 2019. Jared has a friend and fellow military veteran that was currently hiking the AT, Jared let him know I wanted to follow his adventure, so he friended me on FB. I was inspired by following Eric Wilcox - MavERick (trail name), for my adventure! Meanwhile I developed a training program to condition for my hike. I trained for nearly a year. I eventually met up with Eric two months after his summit in Tampa and I told him I was going to hike the AT in 2019. He was invaluable in providing updates and trail conditions during the government shut down and afterwards when conditions resumed back to normal! Mike phoned me a few days before my start to let me know that 8” of rain was predicted for the next two weeks. I nervously laughed and told Mike that I will stick to my start date. I’m going to get wet and the motto of the trail is; No Rain, No pain – No Maine! I planned to embrace the suck! Mike told me that with that attitude, he had no doubt I would finish it! As luck would have it, it was over “10” when all was said and done!!

The timing for my adventure was perfect, our youngest daughter was finishing her graduate studies and living with us in Florida, so she was there to help me get ready for the AT. When February rolled around, I was more than ready to begin! You may be thinking why February? It’s not that cold then, rainy, snowy? It is! There are generally three major starting time from Springer Mountain, Georgia. (Southern Terminus) March/April, Mid May and June are the popular times, these are referred to as bubbles, a bubble is a large group of hikers. I’m not a fan of large groups of people for many reasons; my personal solitude, competition for space and resources are my biggest reasons! So, I would rather endure the cold, snow and rain than be in or near a bubble.

Initially my goal was to hike the AT in 150 days, this was based on my research. The average time is 165 days.

Feet on the trail, my start date was February 17th, ironically it was the start of the Daytona 500, where I live. So, it would be the AT 2,192 for me! I chose to start as a solo hiker. My goal was to hike northbound (NOBO) as a thru hiker (to hike the trail in 1 calendar year). Through my research and networking I met a new friend, Mike Cordisco, he is another friend of a friend and he is the Sawyer chairman for the AT in Georgia. He was invaluable in providing updates and trail conditions during the government shut down and afterwards when conditions resumed back to normal! Mike phoned me a few days before my start to let me know that 8” of rain was predicted for the next two weeks. I nervously laughed and told Mike that I will stick to my start date. I’m going to get wet and the motto of the trail is; No Rain, No pain – No Maine! I planned to embrace the suck! Mike told me that with that attitude, he had no doubt I would finish it! As luck would have it, it was over “10” when all was said and done!!

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hardest and most technical climbing to date, but it was simply incredible!

Then we were in Maine! The beauty and ruggedness combined with the remoteness was what I truly love! Maine continues the toughness that the Wildcords showed us and really didn’t let up until we were more than half way through the 100 mile wilderness! Our schedule was working out great and incredibly the weather forecast looked awesome for July 3rd! Before any of us realized, we were ten miles from the Birches campground and Kathadin stream. That morning we excitedly woke up, packed our gear and literally tore off down the trail to greet family and friends. We pushed 10 miles in 2 ½ hours! We all met up in Millinocket where we could meet each other’s families and friends in celebration!

Summit day! July 3rd. true to form was a spectacular day with a memorable sunrise, we arose at 4:30 am, ate breakfast and was at the Baxter Park gate by 5:30 am waiting for the gate to open at 6! We loosely stayed together on our summit, going slow to accommodate family and friends. The 5.4 mile trail turned out to be the hardest climbing yet – fitting for an epic conclusion to this journey! It was the culmination point of the trip that took me 123 days to complete!

Lucky and Togs got stronger and decided to savor the end, a surprise visit by Lucky’s dad was their cue to go slower and enjoy the end. They summited less than two weeks after us. We plan to finish the 170 miles we have left on the long trail from Killington, Vermont to Canada next summer as our reunion.

Three days after summiting, I returned to Vermont, visited and caught up with another retired PGMS member, Rose LeLand and her husband Jim. The next day I knocked off another bucket list item by running a full-length marathon in Mad River Glen. This was the best/worst idea ever! I finished 15th in my age group, my time was 5:24.24. I felt good about this considering I hadn’t run more than 2 miles in fifteen years!

What’s next? Combining my passions, a wild turkey slam (5 species) next spring, the Long Trail, (summer) Colorado backpack bowhunt for elk, (Autumn) then the PCT (Pacific Crest Trail) – 2021 and maybe the Camino De Santiago, What’s next? Combining my passions, a wild turkey slam (5 species) next spring, the Long Trail, (summer) Colorado backpack bowhunt for elk, (Autumn) then the PCT (Pacific Crest Trail) – 2021 and maybe the Camino De Santiago,

...plus write a book!

If you want to read more... go to: TheTrek.com – JC Van Etten aka Catmando for blogs and special interest stories of Arizona, Colorado Trail, CDT…… plus write a book!

If you would like more information about this topic, please call Peter Vue at 952-252-0524, or email pvue@treecarescience.com.

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**AT Fun Facts**

- Length - 2019 – 2,192 miles, changes yearly – doesn’t include side trails, towns, shelters, water, etc... estimated to be 2,600 miles.
- 20% - success / completion rate for thru hikers
- 85% - are North bound hikers (NOBO)
- 3,500 – how many try to thru hike in a year
- 165 – the hiking days an average hiker takes to thru hike the AT
- 6,643” - the highest point on the trail – Clingman’s dome in the Smokies
- 124” - the lowest elevation in New York at the Bear Mountain Bridge
- 45 - the number of shoes a hiker wears through: (I went through 7)
- 5,500 calories - a hiker needs to consume daily backpacking, in other words 11 Big Macs would still leave the hiker deficient in calories for the day!
- 30 pounds - is the average weight loss for hikers. I lost 35 pounds, Lucky lost 50!
- $5,000 - average cost to hike the trail, includes gear, food, etc...
- 262 - shelters along the way (average 8 miles apart)
2-TIME TURF MANAGER OF THE YEAR.
5 SEASONS OF STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE.
1 TURF TEAM THAT WILL NOT BE STOPPED.

Congratulations to Charlotte Knights’ Sport Turf Manager Matt Parrott, and his entire turf team, for bringing home the Sports Turf Management Association (STMA) Triple-A Turf Manager of the Year Award two years running. Playing consistently at that level takes work. So they always leave everything on the field, with an assist from John Deere Mobile Service and Support. See for yourself at JohnDeere.com/Sportsturf

Volunteer

SHORT TERM OPPORTUNITIES

Mentor – Annual Conference: Attend the First Timers’ Orientation and welcome our newest attendees.

Present at the PGMS School of Grounds Management: Submit your proposal for an education session.

Scholarship Committee: Help review applicants vying for one of PGMS’ scholarships.

Mentor – Certified Grounds Manager Candidate: Serve as a mentor for a CGM Candidate or volunteer to review a Candidate’s Professional Grounds Manager Evaluation portfolio.

Green Star Awards – Reviewer: Assist in reviewing the applications received.

Micro-Volunteering Opportunities

Blog Posts: PGMS has a blog in our member portal and on our website. Be a guest writer.

Newsletter Articles: PGMS has a bi-monthly newsletter, The Forum, and we are always looking for valuable articles to share with our members and friends.

Paparazzi: PGMS has two large events each year and we could always use your help with photographs at our conferences. If you would like to be the designated photographer at one of our events, let us know and we will give you 25% off your registration.

Branch Development/Leadership: One of the greatest member benefits is networking. Contact PGMS for details on developing a branch in your area.

National Committees: Opportunities are available on the Membership, Marketing, and Education Committees.

Host the School of Grounds Management Summer Conference: PGMS brings education and exclusive tours to a new city each Summer.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW CERTIFIED GROUNDS TECHNICIAN

The Certified Grounds Manager (CGM®) program, developed and offered by PGM®, is the premier program of its type in the Green Industry. With certification, your presentations, requests for funds and equipment, and recommendations carry more weight. For those interested in becoming a CGM there is a very specific prescribed procedure. Details are posted at pgms.org/certifications/certified-grounds-manager.

The Certified Grounds Technician (CGT®) certification is for those applicants who are directly involved with performing the day-to-day tasks of grounds maintenance. The CGT test consists of 40 questions based on the overall grounds maintenance field and 10 questions (multiple choice) based on your region. Details can be found at pgms.org/certifications/certified-grounds-technician.

Interested in Getting Your CGM or CGT Certification?

Brett Tanner
CGT 190
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Brandon Till
CGT 191
MTD Products
Valley City, Ohio

The project was supported by New York energy supplier ConEdison and the Mount Sinai Health System.

Contributing Partners
- Artisan Garden Landscape Construction
- CAST Lighting & Landscape
- Clinton Community Garden Club
- EdgeTite
- EP Henry
- FMC
- Glenwood Mason Supply
- GST International
- Midtown Lumber
- Plant Detectives
- Solu-Cal
- Turf’s Up Radio

Since 2006, Project EverGreen has renovated more than 50 community parks across the country as part of its GreenCare for Communities initiative. Municipal parks and recreation departments and/or community groups can nominate a park for revitalization. Once selected, Project EverGreen works with green industry professionals and suppliers, local businesses, community groups and volunteers to transform and sustain community green spaces.

Specific elements of the project included:
- Installation of new planting beds and adding new soil to new and existing beds
- Raise existing beds and regrade site to eliminate standing water
- Installation of pavers to create a patio for residents to use
- Installation of pea gravel path
- Installation of shade garden
- Transplant existing plants into new soil
- New plantings including ornamental shrubs, flowers and vegetable plants

“Community gardens are labors of love. Having highly skilled volunteers build paths and patios makes a huge difference in helping these valuable public spaces become accessible to all New Yorkers,” says Bill LoSasso, Director of GreenThumb. “We are happy Project EverGreen supported the vision of the gardeners at Clinton Community Garden who have worked hard for years to transform this site into a place for the entire community.”

Volunteers including landscape contractors, industry suppliers and neighborhood residents from the Lower East Side came together on a rainy morning to complete a two-phase renovation project valued in excess of $10,000.

The Clinton Community Garden, one of more than 550 community gardens across the city’s five boroughs, is a source of great pride for neighborhood residents. It serves a connection point for new and old residents as they bond over gardening and other social activities, while promoting the health and environmental benefits that come with green spaces.

“Neighborhoods deserve a healthy community garden and green space that they can call their own,” says Cindy Code, executive director of Project EverGreen. “Thriving gardens create a community hub for neighbors – young and old – to meet and connect in a healthy, cool environment. Vibrant gardens also help instill community pride, create confidence, and establish a learning environment to grow fruits, vegetables and shade plants.”

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NEW MEMBERS

PGMS New Members

New Members since June 19, 2019

Steve Frank
Jackson National Life Insurance Company

Thomas Landry
Monroe Community College

Erik Melvin
Monroe Community College

Wayne Caldwell
Sewanee: The University of the South

Kara Phillips
Kendal at Oberlin

Kenneth Krause
DC Ranch Association

Paul Lindeman
Indiana State University

Rodrick Snodgrass
Indiana State University

Kyle Flanagan
Briarwood Group, Inc.

Carley Elizabeth Barrett
University of Maryland

Ryan Stehouwer, CGT
VANDENBERG HORT INC.

Gabe Bishop
Boise State University

William Christopher Bayliss
WSSC Water

Alan Debnam
Enduraplas & Ice Master Systems

Matthew D’Amico
Central Park Conservancy

John Dillon
Central Park Conservancy

John Keul
Central Park Conservancy

Lindsay Okarmus
Central Park Conservancy

Russell Riddell
Central Park Conservancy

Mike Sestiaga
University of Arizona

Gary Gentilucci
Central Park Conservancy

James Bilbo
City of Franklin Parks

Adam Shriners
Kansas State University

Lee Williams
City of Franklin Parks

James G. Espinoza
Patriot Rooter & Irrigation LLC

Know someone who isn’t a member?
Help spread the word about joining PGMS! Membership details can be found on the PGMS website at www.pgms.org.

BUILT REPUTATIONS ARE BUILT FROM THE GROUND UP.™

The Toro® Z Master® 7500-D was designed for those who know that getting the job done right is the only option. With the legendary TURBO FORCE® rear discharge deck, a cutting width of 96 inches and wing decks that flex to follow the contours of the terrain, it’s built for productivity.

*As configured to meet safety, emission and operating requirements, the actual engine horsepower on this mower may be significantly lower.

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FIND US AT BOOTHS
7148 + 7600-D
INSIDE — DEMO OUTSIDE

This compliant to noise, setback and operating requirements, the actual engine horsepower on this mower may be significantly lower. © 2019 The Toro Company
PGMS Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation

The PGMS Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation program is a dynamic evaluation tool designed to be used by facilities and organizations that have a landscape services or grounds component. Through peer expertise, the program evaluates strategic grounds management principles and practices that produce and guide the delivery of properties to an attractive, healthy, sustainable and high quality state, states PGMS. The accreditation focuses on three categories: environmental stewardship, economic performance, and social responsibilities. The program has four levels of accreditation (1, 2, 3 and 4-star). It is designed to not only recognize excellence but to provide a means by which facilities can measure growth and improvements in meeting the goals of best practices. The PGMS Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation verifies and recognizes an environmental management systems approach applied to a grounds management template. For more information visit http://pgms.org/accreditation/.

Are There Different Levels of Accreditation?

The PGMS Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation program has four (4) levels of accreditation. It is designed to not only recognize excellence but to provide a means by which facilities can measure growth and improvements in meeting the goals of best practices. Accreditations will be awarded to deserving applicants based on a 200 point evaluation system and on a four-star recognition system.

What Are the Steps for Accreditation?

1. Organization requests information/application from PGMS
2. PGMS sends accreditation package to applicant
3. Organization completes site survey and prepares formal application to PGMS
4. Application review by Accreditation Committee
5. Initiate scheduling of site visit by PGMS
6. PGMS identifies site evaluation team
7. PGMS confirms site visit with applicant
8. Evaluators conduct site visit and prepare report
9. Accreditation Committee reviews report for needed clarifications
10. Accreditation Committee approves or denies accreditation

What is your current job title and what are your primary responsibilities?

I am a Grounds Manager and I assist in managing the business of the department as well as manage the administrative and personnel activities of several crews including landscape/irrigation installation, greenhouse operations, heavy equipment/gravel pit/composting operations and refuse/recycle/confidential material shredding for the university.

What are your biggest challenges? One of the biggest challenges is aligning all of our operations with campus growth/change and staying within budget. Many of our operations overlap by design to maximize our capital and human resources, so careful planning is needed to ensure that we don’t miss an important element when a change is implemented to a service. Service delivery to the campus is a priority so this is an important on-going process.

What is the greatest satisfaction that you derive from what you do at work? Creating and maintaining a safe and aesthetically pleasing learning environment to the Purdue campus community.

What do you like to do in your free time? I love to spend time with my family. I also love to spend time outdoors golfing and visiting the shores of Lake Michigan.

Tell us about your background and how you chose a career in the green industry. I grew up in the horticulture industry. We had a family orchard and my father was the manager of the Horticulture Research Center at Michigan State University for 37 years. Growing up, this environment was a big part of my life which I enjoyed very much. I attended MSU and earned a bachelor’s degree in Horticulture and a minor in Agricultural Engineering Technology. After graduation, I partnered with my oldest brother in establishing a propagation nursery in western Michigan while exploring career options.

In 1987, I began my career in grounds management within the Michigan Department of Corrections in Muskegon, MI where I learned how to care for and manage grounds in a unique setting with lots of policy and procedures.

In 1992, I move to South Bend/Mishawaka, IN and helped Bethel College establish their Grounds Department. Bethel was a small but growing Christian/ Liberal Arts college. They were building academic buildings, dorms and park space to meet their growth. This afforded me the opportunity to expand my skill sets in landscape design and construction while managing the existing campus grounds. I was also given the responsibility of managing the athletic fields and construction of a new soccer field and renovation of the women’s softball field. In 1996, family circumstances moved my family to Branson, MO. There I started and operated my landscape/maintenance company for 12 years.

Where are you currently working? What is it known for? I am currently working at Purdue University. Purdue is public land grant university with a total enrollment of more than 40,000 students on their West Lafayette campus and is a member of the Big Ten Conference. The Grounds Department cares for approximately 1,200 acres of lands at various levels of service. The campus has been designated as an arboretum in accordance with the American Public Gardens Association guidelines and is home to approximately 11,000 trees of more than 400 different varieties. Purdue has also received the Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree Campus USA designation every year since 2009.

Purdue University is a major research university and is known for strong academics in areas of agriculture, engineering and science.
Classifieds

Senior Landscape Technician  
The University of Texas at Austin  
The University of Texas at Austin - Landscape Services division has an opening at our research campus in North Austin. It’s a full service landscape maintenance position, and offers a wide variety of duties. To apply: https://utayustin.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/UTSStaff/jobs/PIECE-RESEARCH-CAMPUS/Senior-Landscape-Technician_R_00004161.

Landscape Services (Grounds) Manager  
Richmond School District  
The District is recruiting a leader for the District’s quality grounds program. The successful candidate will have strong technical skills appropriate for the position plus strong leadership skills that creates a strong team atmosphere within the department. For questions about this position and/or the application process please contact Mr. Lettau at (509) 967-6104 or jeffrey.lettau@risd.edu.

Maintenance Supervisor - Apartment Community  
Monarch Investment and Management Group  
This is a hands on maintenance position and is responsible for property inspections, make readies, work orders, general maintenance and repair. The position is responsible for ensuring that the physical aspects of the property meet Monarchs established standards. Apply Here: http://www. Click2Apply.net/5xckhsxg4rjhsnyz.

Operations Manager  
Los Angeles Community College District  
This position plans, coordinates, schedules, and manages the operational activities of a college such as custodial, grounds maintenance, receiving, and other related areas. Apply here: https://jobs.asu.edu/asujobs/.
The Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) is an individual membership society of grounds professionals advancing the grounds management profession through education and professional development.

**Key membership benefits include:** Annual conference and Green Industry Expo, bi-monthly newsletter, membership certificate, certification programs (Certified Grounds Manager and Certified Grounds Technician), free educational manuals, local branch meetings, “Who’s Who in Grounds Management” membership directory, site awards, free industry magazine subscriptions, etc.

The Society believes that there are four (4) essentials to remaining a professional in the industry:

1. Being a member of the appropriate membership organization or organizations.
2. Attending educational conferences in the field.
3. Reading industry publications.
4. Becoming certified at the level you wish to operate.

**Other Key facts About PGMS:**

- It is the only membership organization for institutional grounds managers.
- It is the only membership organization serving the breadth of the service arm of the Green Industry which professionals can join as individuals.
- It is the oldest individual membership organization for grounds professionals.
- For membership categories and to sign up as a member please click here.

We offer Green Industry Suppliers the opportunity to meet their marketing needs by becoming a PGMS Partner in Professionalism. For more information visit www.pgms.org/partnersinprofessionalism/.