PGMS GROUNDS MANAGEMENT FORUM

MAY/JUNE 2020 | VOLUME 44 NUMBER 3









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Gold

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Silver

Billy Goat

EarthPlanter

Bailey

Wright

EGO Power Beyond Belief

Bronze

Jacks Small Engines

Country Casual Teak

ECHO

Gempler's

calsense

BioSafe Systems

Leaf Burrito Reusable Yard Debris Bag

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello to PGMS®!

Springtime has arrived once more, but it's a very different springtime for all of us in grounds management. For example, each year I look forward to attending the PGMS® School of Grounds Management Summer Conference to meet fellow professionals, vendors, and suppliers face-to-face to discuss the latest innovations concerning new equipment and products designed to help us perform our jobs at the standards and quality expected by our customers. However, this year, many conferences typically held in the summer are being cancelled or postponed to a later date due to the nation's response to the COVID-19 virus. This includes the PGMS® Summer Conference that was scheduled to be in Washington, DC this coming July. However, we are fortunate that we are able to reschedule the PGMS® Summer Conference for the summer of 2021. In the meantime, many of our PGMS® members are learning how to adapt by using communication technologies to share knowledge, experiences and concerns with other grounds management professionals nationwide.

In late March, PGMS® organized a webinar with the Executive Board to host to our membership the discussion "How COVID-19 is Impacting Grounds Operations". The webinar was well received and very well attended. Over 135 PGMS® members participated in that discussion. This discussion has been recorded and posted on the PGMS website under the heading "PGMS® COVID-19 Resources". As we roll into the summer, many of us are learning about the value of on-line communication tools such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams. At PGMS® we will be doing more webinars and encouraging more on-line communication meetings as part of our response to the threat of COVID -19.

I believe as we meet the challenges of COVID-19, we will learn to use these new tools to quickly communicate our grounds management ideas, thoughts, and experiences with each other anytime throughout the year. See you all at the next webinar!



Gerry Dobbs, CGM
PGMS® President



PGMS

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COVID-19 RESOURCES

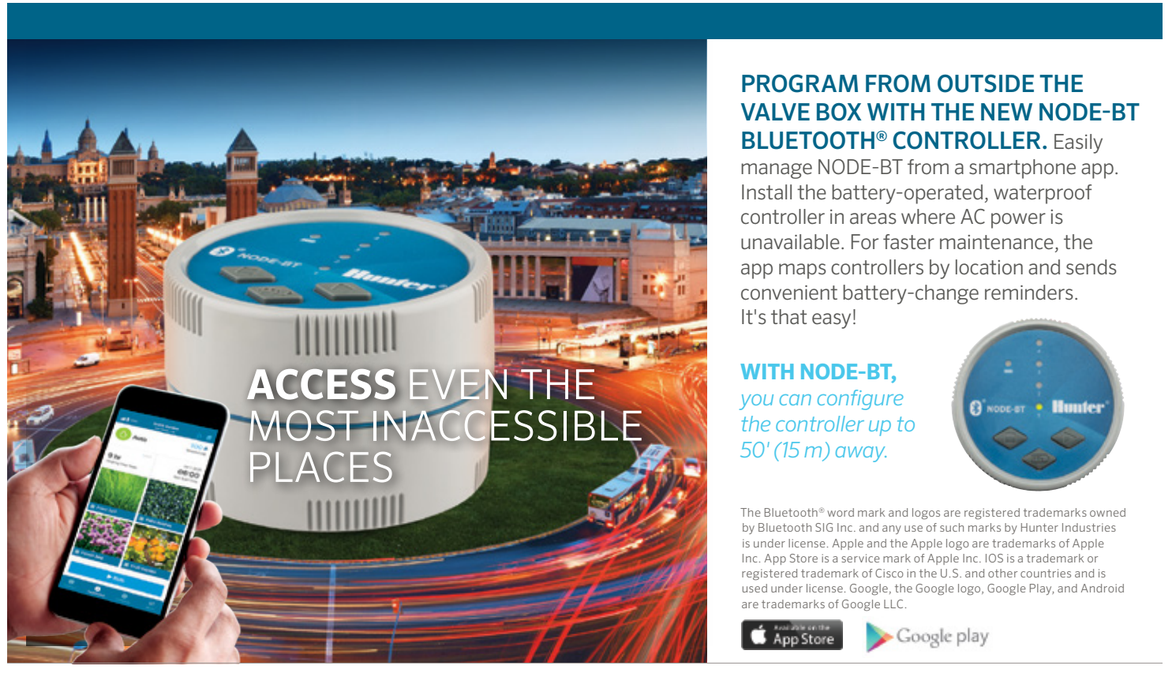
PGMS® understands the difficult situation our members are facing during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Society has developed a resource document, providing key considerations, recommendations, what members around the country are doing, and other resources. You can access the page at: https://pgms.org/2020/03/19/pgms-covid-19-information/.

Additional information will be updated on the webpage as it becomes available. PGMS® encourages members to use the "COVID-19" thread in the "Ask A Professional" section of their member portal to share what their institutions are doing and to post questions.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/

National Institutes of Health (NIH)
https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus



PROGRAM FROM OUTSIDE THE VALVE BOX WITH THE NEW NODE-BT BLUETOOTH® CONTROLLER. Easily manage NODE-BT from a smartphone app. Install the battery-operated, waterproof controller in areas where AC power is unavailable. For faster maintenance, the app maps controllers by location and sends convenient battery-change reminders. It's that easy!

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PGMS® RELEASES NEW LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES



The Professional Grounds Management Society® (PGMS®) is proud to announce the release of its Landscape Management Guidelines series, which was developed to provide the grounds management profession with quick reference tools for general landscape maintenance operations.

The first in the multi-part series to be released is the Maintenance Management Guidelines, which provides a compilation of maintenance practices collected from working professionals in the field to serve as a starting point for grounds managers to develop their own operating standards tailored to their individual institutions. Highlights of the Maintenance Management Guidelines include: Priority Designation for Maintenance, Grounds Management Best Practices, Shrub and Perennial Plant Bed Maintenance, Integrated Pest Management, Tree Care, and Safety Guidelines.



The Landscape Management Guidelines series will be FREE to all PGMS® members, with non-members able to purchase the guidelines for a nominal fee. Your digital copy of the Maintenance Management Guidelines will be made available in your member portal in early June. Additional details will be sent to members via email.

Further series development topics are listed below. If you are interested in volunteering for the Book Taskforce to work on the development of future series, please email info@pgms.org.

The Management Series will include topics such as:
- Leadership
- Defining Scope of Work (maintenance levels/ standards, zone, broadcast, combination maintenance, and estimating)
- Budgets
- Contracting Options
- Personnel (staffing guidelines, training, and human resources)
- Equipment
- Inventory
- Sustainability
- Safety
- Landscape Maintenance Plan (Develop and/or Update)

The Maintenance Series will include topics such as:
- Lawns/Turf (Athletic, Non-Athletic, and Synthetic Turf)
- Trees
- Shrubs
- Open/Natural Areas
- Irrigation
- Water Management/Storm Runoff
- Snow Removal
- Event Management

PGMS® thanks Book Taskforce Chairman **Ryan McCaughey, CGM, CSFM, CEFP**, and Taskforce members **Sandra Obenour-Dowd**, **Brandon Haley, CGM**, **Roger Conner, CGM**, and **Kevin Mercer, CGM, CSFM** for their time, hard work, and dedication.

WELCOME

PGMS® New Members

New Members since February 20, 2020

Adam Betts
Green Harbor Land Management

Joseph Britton
Keene College

Andrew Cawood
University of Kentucky

Monty Coleman
University of Kentucky

Giuseppe Durso
Davey Tree Expert Company

Gerry Geil
Miami University

Jeffrey Getty
Jasper County Schools / SSC Service Solutions

Mike Hasty
University of Tampa

Alex Hedlund
Turf Star

Kenny Hettinger
University of Tampa

Jason Hirth
Cincinnati State College

Jason Jones
EGO Corporate

Trevor Lancaster CGT
Kaiser Permanente

Terry McGovern
Fircrest Golf Club

Maya Meff
Lakewold Gardens

Alejandro Navarro
University of Tampa

Ryan O'Meara
Clark College

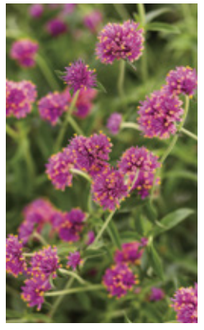
James Schackmann
Springfield Park District

James Taylor
Henderson State University / SSC Services

Lori Taylor
Garden Conservancy Northwest

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.

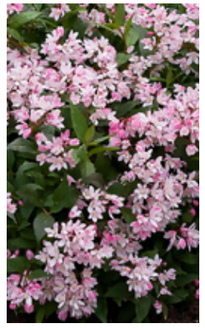
5 PROVEN PLANTS DEER DESPISE


TRUFFULA™ Pink *Gomphrena*


COLORBLAZE® GOLDEN DREAMS™ *Solenostemon* (Coleus)


COLOR SPIRES® 'Pink Dawn' *Salvia*


BLUE CHIFFON® *Hibiscus*


YUKI CHERRY BLOSSOM® *Deutzia*

If deer tend to leave a path of destruction through your properties, it's time to switch out a few of their prime targets for plants that are known to be deer resistant. You will save time, labor and expense on unnecessary repellents or barriers and won't have to worry about replacing decimated plants midseason. Shown are five of our most popular deer resistant annuals, perennials and shrubs. Find more options at www.provenwinners.com.

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GREEN STAR

2019 Green Star Awards® Grand Winner



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND URBAN UNIVERSITY GROUNDS

The University of Maryland campus is an Arboretum and Botanical Garden that strives to be an instrument of horticultural distinction, landscape design and interpretation, and place-making, reflecting the university's education, research, and service missions. The Arboretum and Botanical Garden incorporates the diverse heritage landscapes of the campus from its beginnings as an agricultural college founded in 1856 to its current urban setting befitting a distinguished research university.



Student volunteers help plant a rain garden with native plants to help channel outflow water. The University's stormwater is governed by Maryland's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit and responsibility for all outflow drainage, rain gardens, bioretention ponds, swales and other stormwater runoff facilities falls under the arboretum. Student volunteers are incredibly active with our department, donating between 4000-6000 volunteer hours annually, and their maintenance of these stormwater facilities provides an excellent teaching opportunity.



A growing number of beautifully arranged pots add color and interest in some of the more urban and paved areas of campus and also serve as a beautiful alternative to bollards in areas of higher security.



AT WORK

ISA-certified Master Arborist Richard Jones explains the life cycle of the Emerald Ash Borer to a group of student volunteers.



CHALLENGE

Maryland Day, a campus-wide open house, draws close to 100,000 visitors the last Saturday in April. While most university horticulture departments focus solely on commencement, our entire spring season is taken up with first prepping for Maryland Day, then restoring turf and beds after the event, and then prepping for commencement a month later.



SUSTAINABILITY

The slope of this tract of land was largely unused until a grant from the University's Sustainability Fund and matching funds from Facilities Management created the Community Learning Garden, with demonstration teaching beds, an orchard, sustainable stormwater-sourced irrigation, and plots for campus community members to rent out. Produce grown in the garden is donated to volunteers and the campus pantry.



BEAUTY

Mayer Mall, which was converted from a large parking lot to multi-use greenspace, is a district-wide gathering space and entrance to campus, interconnecting with the other many malls and vistas on south campus.



The University of Maryland hosts over 40,000 students and close to 100,000 visitors, faculty, and staff. Our entire 1250 acre College Park campus is an arboretum & botanical garden. Here, our mascot Testudo greets visitors in Van Munching Courtyard, home to the Robert H. Smith School of Business and the School of Public Policy.



BILL MONAN

Associate Director, Arboretum and Landscape Services

2019 Green Star Awards® Grand Winner

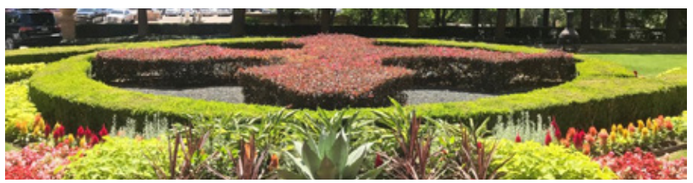


FOUR SEASONS RESORT AND CLUB DALLAS AT LAS COLINAS HOTEL, MOTEL, OR RESORT

The story of Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, which opened its first hotel in 1961, is a tale of continual innovation, remarkable expansion and a single-minded dedication to the highest of standards. The Canadian-based company has, for more than 50 years, transformed the hospitality industry by combining friendliness and efficiency with the finest traditions of international hotel keeping.



This late winter photo of the Four Seasons Golf Pavilion features a circular flower bed filled with Dianthus (Dianthus caryophyllus), Giant Liriope (Liriope mascari 'Giant'), and a Vitex (Vitex angus-castus) center planting. The lawns are Tifway 419 Bermudagrass (Cynodon dactylon x C. transvaalensis germplasma) overseeded with a blend of Annual (spp. multiflorum) and Perennial (spp. perenne) Ryegrass.





Landscape Manager, Brian Watson, conducts a monthly safety meeting with the landscape staff. These meetings are done in English and Spanish and cover a variety of work related and seasonal issues such as: Personal Protection Equipment, Equipment operation and maintenance, and safety/incident reporting procedures. Our supervisors are CPR and First-Aid Certified while our staff includes specialists: Licensed Irrigator, Licensed Pesticide Applicators, Certified Arborist, and Certified Grounds Manager.



AT WORK

PGMS® members (left to right) Cortland Winkle, Brian Watson, and Anthony Williams, CGM, help lead the way by educating the Four Seasons Dallas staff on proper planting techniques as a part of our Earth Day 2019 activities.



BEAUTY

The landscape around the Hall of Champions is in mid-summer bloom. The sidewalks are lined with Boxwood (Buxus microphylla), Loropetelum (Loropetalum chinense) and Crape Myrtles (Lagerstroemia indica). A guest favorite is the 35 year old Wisteria (Wisteria sinensis) arbor.



AT WORK

The Landscape crew is busy renovating the front club sign area by transplanting the Agave and adding a mix of river rock mulch to the traditional wood mulch in the bed. The landscape at Four Seasons is constantly evolving.



The Four Seasons halfway house landscape finds itself on Smectite Clays, or Black Gumbo soils, that are difficult to manage because of their tendency to move with extremes in moisture and heat. This is a relatively rare soil type found primarily in North Texas and is widely considered one of the most undesirable soils. In this photo, a period of heavy rains after an extended drought caused a sluff from under the cart path causing severe movement of the soil that dislodged the landscape and hardscape. The solution to this situation was a partnership with Dallas County Utility Reclamation District (DCURD). Together we were able to design and construct a system of interlocking and retaining walls to stabilize the slope and protect the landscape and water feature. The cost of this repair is estimated at $250,000 and is scheduled to be completed in September 2019.



ANTHONY WILLIAMS, CGM

Director of Golf and Landscape Operations

2020 GREEN STAR AWARDS®

Bring National Recognition to Your Grounds!

The Green Star Awards® salutes the grounds manager responsible for maintaining a well-manicured landscape year round. Grand, Honor, and Merit Awards are offered in 15 categories, covering all types of private, public, commercial, and industrial landscapes. To qualify for entry, a landscape must be at least two years old and under your continuous maintenance for at least two (2) years.

The 2020 Green Star Awards® Application was released Monday, March 23 and is available through Friday, July 17, 2020.

For more information, including eligibility, FAQs, and how to enter, please visit: pgms.org/green-star-awards/.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW CERTIFIED GROUNDS MANAGER

The Professional Grounds Management Society® (PGMS®) has announced that Mark Baldwin, CGM has become the 184th grounds management professional to successfully complete its Certified Grounds Manager (CGM®) program. Baldwin currently works at the Oakland County - Facilities Maintenance & Operations in Waterford, MI.

Mark J. Baldwin
CGM #184



PGMS: Why did you want to become a CGM®?
Baldwin: I wanted to validate my 40 plus years of experience in the Green Industry. I also wanted to be able to network with a group of peers and hopefully gain additional insights.

PGMS: What advice do you have for aspiring CGM®s?
Baldwin: The advice I would give is to keep learning and growing. Grounds Maintenance is such a diverse undertaking. We deal with Horticulture, Arboriculture, Turf Management, Snow and Ice Management, Storm Water Quality, Pavement Maintenance just to name a few. Also, use this group as a resource of information. There is an abundance of knowledge here.

Read the full interview with Douglas at https://pgms.org/2020/02/13/pgms-announces-william-douglas-as-cgm-182/.

Interested in Getting Your CGM® or CGT® Certification?

The Certified Grounds Manager (CGM®) program, developed and offered by PGMS®, 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/certifiedgrounds-technician.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW CERTIFIED GROUNDS TECHNICIANS

Patrick Scott Rutledge
CGT 199
University of Mississippi
Oxford, Mississippi

Trevor Lancaster
CGT 200
Kaiser Permanente
Portland, Oregon

William Campbell
CGT 201
Central Oregon Community College
Bend, Oregon

A few things you may have missed going on in the grounds management industry.

Industry News

DEERE BEGINS PRODUCTION OF PROTECTIVE FACE SHIELDS FOR HEALTH-CARE WORKERS

MOLINE, Illinois (April 9, 2020) – John Deere, in collaboration with the UAW, the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, announced today it is producing protective face shields at John Deere Seeding Group in Moline, Illinois. Deere employees will initially produce 25,000 face shields to meet the immediate needs of health-care workers in several of its U.S. manufacturing communities.

Materials and supplies are on order to produce an additional 200,000 face shields. The company is using an open-source design from the University of Wisconsin-Madison for the project and leveraging expertise, skills, and innovation of its employee base.

"Our manufacturing and supply management teams, along with our production and maintenance employees, the UAW, and our partners have worked tirelessly to ensure we could lend our support and protect our health-care workers during this crisis," said John May, Chief Executive Officer, Deere & Company. "By working closely with the communities where our employees live and work, we can help support the needs we've identified close to home and, as the project expands, address additional, urgent needs across the country."

John Deere Seeding Group employees are supporting the special project and are utilizing extensive and robust safety measures adopted across the company to safeguard employees.

"This is a very proud day for the UAW and our UAW members," said Rory L. Gamble, UAW President. "I want to recognize the hard work that Secretary-Treasurer and Agriculture Implement Department Director Ray Curry and Region 4 Director Ron McInroy contributed to this effort. This included working to put the necessary health and safety provisions in place for our members to begin manufacturing critically-needed face shields for the health-care workers who are on the front lines of this crisis saving lives. We are especially proud of the courageous UAW members who are stepping up to do this critical work."

The production of protective face shields is one of many initiatives the company and its employees have executed in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Efforts in the U.S. have included the following:

- PPE donations to health care facilities
- 2:1 employee match program encouraging donations to local food banks and the American Red Cross
- Production of approximately 18,000 protective face shields for use by factory employees
- Employee volunteerism efforts to sew cloth masks for community members along with a match from the John Deere Foundation for the time invested in this volunteer activity
- Launch of a COVID-19 innovations site to share open-source specifications for related projects, including 3D-printed clips to affix face shields to protective bump caps

For additional information regarding Deere's response to COVID-19, visit the Coronavirus Update Center.

THE TORO COMPANY GIVES $500,000 TO GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS RELIEF EFFORTS

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (April 14, 2020) – The Toro Company today announced that it is giving $500,000 to assist families and communities worldwide that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Grant funding from the Toro Foundation will span all regions where The Toro Company operates, and will focus on providing food, health and humanitarian assistance to helping people adversely impacted.

"Supporting our customers and communities is an important part of our culture and core to who we are as a company," said Rick Olson, chairman and chief executive officer of The Toro Company. "Now more than ever, it is critical that we come together to respond to the unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19 and to support those most vulnerable in our communities."

The contributions include commitments to several global nonprofits that are assisting in the relief efforts. This includes the American Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross, Feeding America, the World Food Program, the United Way Worldwide, and United Way organizations in communities where The Toro Company's employees live and work.

An additional element of the global giving effort includes a special program for its employees who wish to personally give to designated COVID-19 relief organizations. Under the program, The Toro Company will match employee contributions to a nonprofit organization of their choice in support of relief efforts.

JEREMY CROKE JOINS CALSENSE WITH AN EYE ON SUSTAINABILITY

Austin, TX – Water is critical to life – a fact that Calsense's Jeremy Croke knows well. Croke, who graduated from St. Edwards University with a degree in marketing and environmental policy, recently left a successful career at Waste Management, Inc. to bring smart water solutions to customers in Texas and Oklahoma.

"I wanted to expand how I was making a difference in the world," said Croke, who also holds a certificate in advanced electronics and renewable energy. "Water is a precious resource, and I want to learn about our customers wants and needs to help them meet their objectives while securing a sustainable future."

Croke will be providing technical sales support to a part of the U.S. where growing water concerns present new challenges for city planners, environmental architects, and others who need to carefully manage water use as populations grow. In Texas, nearly nine million acre-feet of additional water will be required by 2070 to meet the state's needs, according to the Texas Water Development Board.

"Calsense helped the University of Texas at Austin reduce water use by 70 percent," Croke said. "I want to help other customers achieve their sustainability goals too."

Sustainability is more than just work for Croke; it is a way of life. He has volunteered in the community with several environmental nonprofits including The Hill Country Conservancy.

"We protect one of the world's most precious resources by providing our clients with intelligent water management," said Calsense President A. J. van de Ven. "Jeremy knows how to do that and we're excited to see what he can do for our customers."



PGMS® PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Attention PGMS® Members - Time is Running Out to Submit Your Nominations

Special Award of Distinguished Service – The PGMS® Special Award of Distinguished Service recognizes outstanding service from a board or committee members, while all board and committee members are hardworking, and committed to our growth and success, this award is given to acknowledge outstanding service for an individual that goes above and beyond the normal call of duty.

Gold Medal Award – The PGMS® Gold Medal is given to an individual or entity in recognition of outstanding and long-term achievements and/or contributions to the green industry.

E. Earl Wilson Award – The E. Earl Wilson Award is given to a PGMS® member for long-term dedication to the Society and the Green Industry.

If you would like to nominate someone, please send a letter that includes the following:

- Nominated individual or company
- The award for which you are nominating them
- Why you are nominating them for the award
- To view a list of award winners, visit: https://pgms.org/professional-awards/

Send your nominations to PGMS® Past President Jeff McManus, CGM at jmcmanus@olemiss.edu.

*Please note that only PGMS® members are allowed to submit a nomination.

The Deadline to submit nominations is Monday, June 1





NAPPC Funds Research Projects to Improve Honey Bee Health

Five new research projects related to honey bee health issues have been funded by a combination of a USDA APHIS grant, J.M. Smucker Company sponsorship, and donations from Pollinator Partnership's (P2) generous supporters. Each project will explore one or more identified priority areas that will elucidate the issues faced by honey bees in North America and provide insight for management.



The Honey Bee Heath Task Force of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), co-chaired by **Dr. Olav Rueppell, University of North Carolina-Greensboro**, and **Dr. Barry Thompson, Estate and Orchard Bee Keeping, LLC**, solicits proposals each January from University professors, researchers, and graduate students who provide the latest findings in honey bee pesticide exposure, pests and disease, and climate effects among other areas. Research topics are diverse and aim to support bees and beekeepers.

This spring, the NAPPC Honey Bee Health Task Force convened and expert panel to review the proposals, which included **Laurie Adams, Jay Evans, Ph.D.**, **Danielle Downey, MS**, **Gloria Degrandi-Hoffman, Ph.D.**, **Lora Morandin, Ph.D.**, **Olav Rueppell, Ph. D.**, and **Barry Thompson, Ph.D.** The committee funded 5 outstanding research projects that will advance the science supporting practical applications in honey bee management and conservation. The following projects have been chosen from many high quality submissions to the NAPPC Task Force and will report their progress at the annual NAPPC International Conference in Washington D.C, October 20-22, 2020:

- **Dr. Meghan Bennett** at the USDA-ARS Carl Hayden Bee Research Center is investigating the effectiveness of using nutrition to combat the biggest threat to honey bee survival, Varroa destructor.
- **Dr. James Nieh** at the University of California San Diego is exploring the role of feral honey bees in pathogen dynamics in pollinator communities of southern California.
- **Dr. Mauricio Quesada** at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México is researching the effects of landscape and floral resources on population density, honey composition, nutritional stress and prevalence of parasites and pathogens in Apis mellifera in Mexico.
- **Dr. Juliana Rangel** at Texas A&M University is elucidating whether we can alter the macronutrient ratios within artificial diets to bolster honey bee pathogen defense.
- **Dr. Kirsten Traynor** at Arizona State University is quantifying the impact of varroa on social cohesion and longevity of a colony.

More than 30 donors contributed to the funding of the 2020 Honey Bee Health grants, with the largest funding resulting from a research partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and APHIS. Honey Bee Health Grants have been distributed for the past 13 years, totaling more than $600,000 in research support for 69 research programs in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Individuals are encouraged to make tax-deductible donations of any amount to help fund these grants by choosing the "Honey Bee Health Research" option at www.pollinator.org/donate or by designating donations for honey bee research. Alternatively, you may contact Kelly Rourke of Pollinator Partnership at kr@pollinator.org or at 415.362.1137 to become a supporter of the program.

The request for proposals for 2021 research projects will be distributed in November 2020. Visit www.pollinator.org/honeybee-health for more information.





ABOUT THE NORTH AMERICAN POLLINATOR PROTECTION CAMPAIGN (NAPPC)

For over 15 years, NAPPC has brought together stakeholders form all sectors of the pollinator issue in a collaborative partnership to support pollinator health across the North American continent. More than any other single organization, the collective effort of these 180 plus organizations has made pollinator health a feature in conservation landscape management. From its many Task Forces, NAPPC affects change and moves solid science into real progress on the ground. Managed by the Pollinator Partnership, more can be found about NAPPC at www.nappc.org.

ABOUT POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP (P2)

Established in 1997, Pollinator Partnership is the largest 501(c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to the health, protection, and conservation of all pollinating animals. Pollinator Partnership's actions for pollinators include education, conservation, restoration, policy, and research. P2's financial support comes through grants, gifts, memberships and donations from any interested party. Its policies are science-based, set by its board of directors, and never influenced by any donor. To make a donation or for information on events during Pollinator Week, visit www.pollinator.org



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY LANDSCAPE SERVICES HONORED WITH PRESTIGIOUS PGMS® RE-ACCREDITATION

Texas A&M University (managed by SSC Services for Education) has been re-accredited with a 4-star rating as part of the Professional Grounds Management Society's (PGMS®) Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation, it was announced by Accreditation Facilitator Joe Jackson, CGM. They were originally accredited in March 2017 with a 2-star rating.

Phillip Zeller, CPTM, Regional Director of Operations, Grounds Management, submitted the update report and received the re-accreditation honor on behalf of the school.

This accreditation process and subsequent follow-up measures combine to exemplify a commitment to continuous improvement. The PGMS® Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation is initially awarded for three years. An accredited facility must then seek to be re-accredited through a mandatory update report provided by the organization that verifies the continuing conformance to best practices and the adherence to the principles of the accreditation.

"Initial accreditation requires organizations to successfully complete a robust process to prove the knowledge, understanding, and the implementation of grounds management best practices. To obtain reaccreditation, those organizations must document their continuing adherence to the attainment levels of the best practices. The Grounds Management Leadership Team at Texas A&M University did exactly that in exemplary fashion. Not only did they provide evidence of the on-going maintenance of demonstrated best practices, they also showed exceptional improvements across the board in the evaluation process which merited an accreditation rating upgrade," Jackson stated.

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. 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. For more information on the accreditation program please visit http://pgms.org/accreditation/.







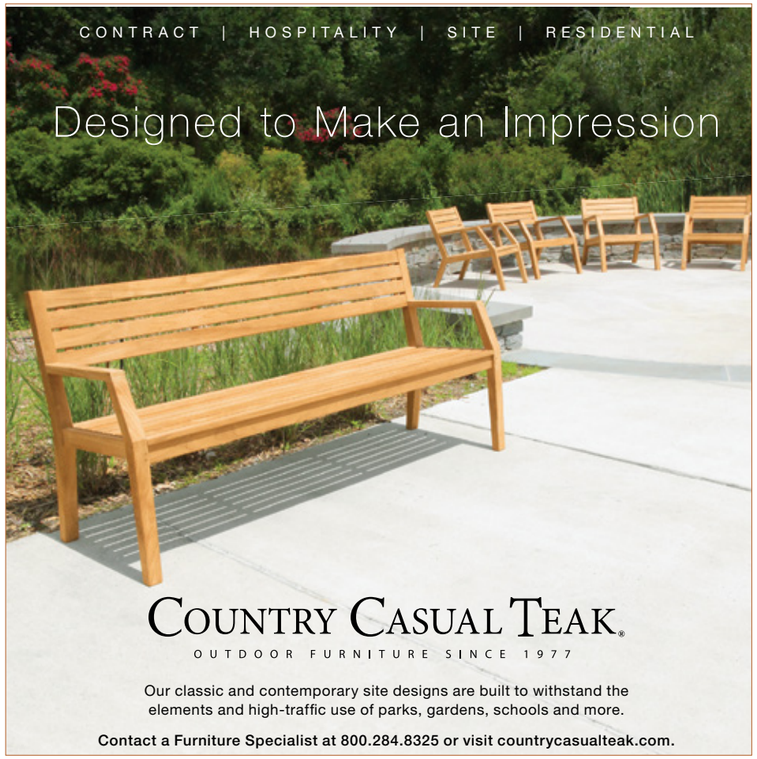
Connect with PGMS on Social Media

https://www.instagram.com/PGMS_Official/

https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4173565/profile

http://www.facebook.com/ProfessionalGroundsManagementSociety

https://www.youtube.com/user/PGMSheadquarters





POLLINATOR WEEK 2020 - JUNE 22 - 28

Information from www.pollinator.org

Pollinator Partnership is proud to announce that June 22-28, 2020 has been designated National Pollinator Week!

National Pollinator Week is a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what you can do to protect them.

Thirteen years ago the U.S. Senate's unanimous approval and designation of a week in June as "National Pollinator Week" marked a necessary step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. Pollinator Week has now grown into an international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles.

Pollinator Week was initiated and is managed by Pollinator Partnership.

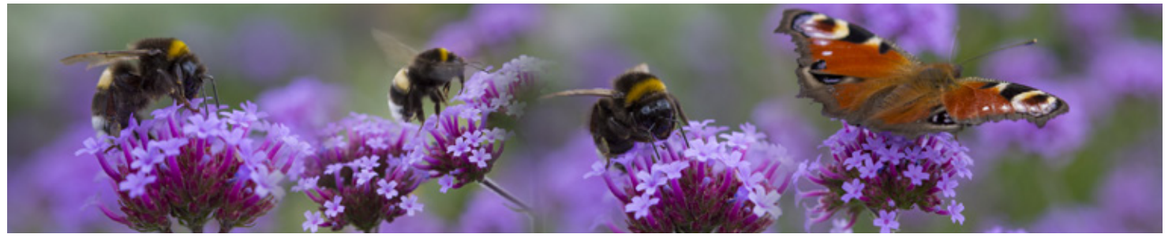
Due to the current situation with COVID-19, Pollinator Week 2020 will not be a typical Pollinator Week. We urge everyone to hold a social distancing appropriate event. In an effort to lighten the load on state governments during this time, we are not pursuing formal state proclamations this year, but will continue to post proclamations that we do receive. Moreover, we encourage everyone to go outside and spend some time with the bees and butterflies that inspire hope in many.

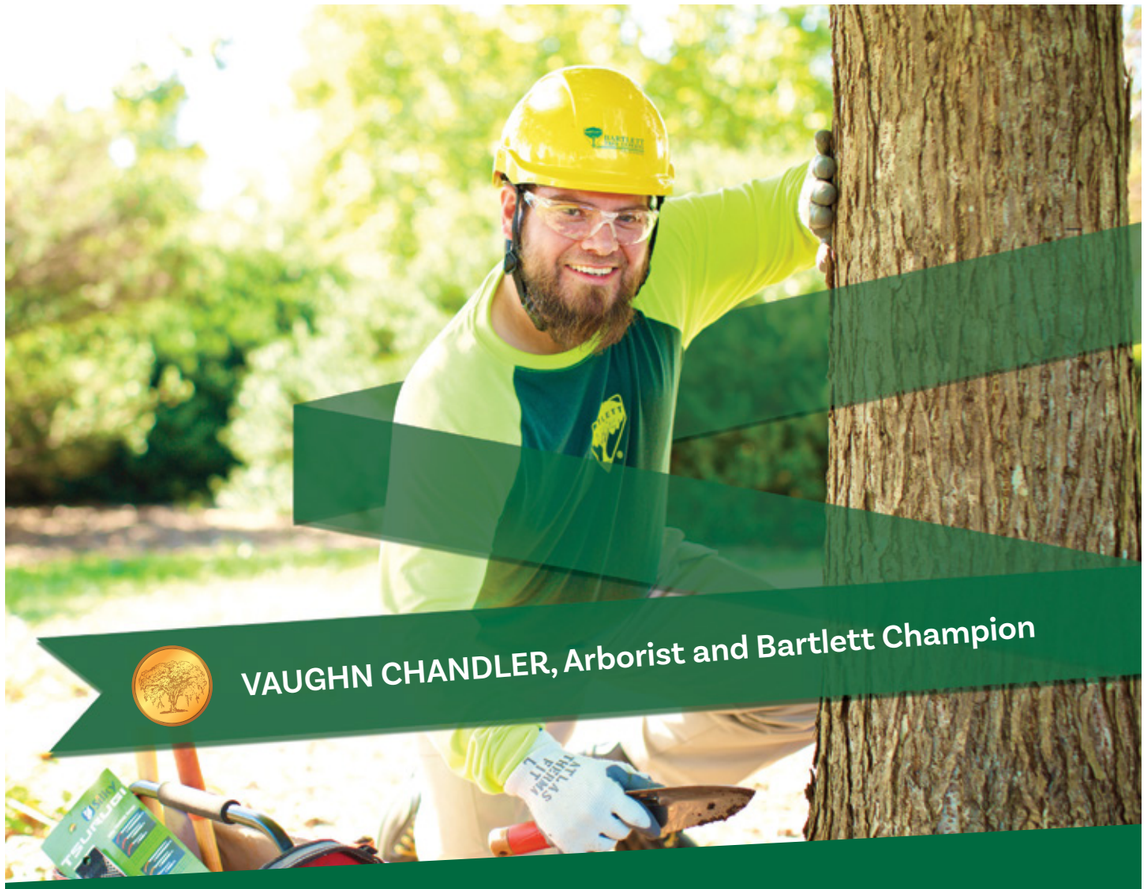
There are countless ways to celebrate:

- Encourage your Governor to sign a proclamation
- Display pollinator artwork and outreach materials in your office lobby
- Begin your own or join a social media campaign
- Highlight Pollinator Week in a newsletter, blog, or magazine
- Sponsor Pollinator Week (see additional resources)
- Host a pollinator-themed meal or mixer
- Pollinator planting day at your school, office, local park, or library
- Build native bee houses (see additional resources)
- Join the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge (see additional resources)
- Request a local establishment or building light up for Pollinator Week (For example: Light up City Hall in Yellow and Black)
- Plant habitat in your backyard using native plants
- Host a nature walk or pollinator expert lecture
- Screen a pollinator film (see additional resources)
- Host a pollinator festival or native plant sale
- Host an educational event at a local library

Visit these links for ideas and updates:

National Pollinator Week - http://pollinator.org/pollinator-week
Educational Materials - http://pollinator.org/shop
Post your event on the Pollinator Week map - http://pollinator.org/pollinator-week#find-events
Request a Proclamation from Governor - http://pollinator.org/pollinator-week#pw-action
Sponsorship Opportunities - http://pollinator.org/nappc/sponsor
Ecoregional Planting Guides - http://pollinator.org/guides
DIY Bee Hotel - https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/DIY-Bee-Hotel.pdf
7 Things You Can Do For Pollinators - http://pollinator.org/7things
Million Pollinator Garden Challenge - http://pollinator.org/mpgcmap
The Guardians Film - http://www.theguardiansfilm.com/
Pollinators Under Pressure - https://www.pollinatorsunderpressure.org/





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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 the PGMS® scholarship opportunitiess.

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 recieved.



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.

LONG TERM OPPORTUNITIES

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.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK 2020

Volunteer Appreciate Week was April 19 - 25. PGMS® recognized a few of our volunteers on Facebook. In case you missed it here is what we had to say about some of our amazing volunteers!



Ryan McCaughey, CGM, CSFM, CEFP
Ryan serves as the North East Regional Director on the National Board and Chair of the PGMS® Book Task Force. Ryan's passion for the industry and PGMS® has been a driving force in the development of the soon to be released PGMS® Landscape Management Guidelines Handbook and his attention to detail has been instrumental in the handbook's development. Ryan is the Manager of Grounds and Equipment of The Pennsylvania State University and has been a member since 2005.



Jenny Gulick
Jenny serves as a Director-at-Large on the National Board, is the Society's Sustainable Urban Forest Coalition representative, and is the President of the Cincinnati Branch. Jenny's experience working for governmental agencies and her extensive knowledge of arboriculture have contributed to diverse thought and opportunity at both Board levels. One of the owners of the women-owned, small business Urban Canopy Works, LLC, Jenny is an experienced arboricultural consultant with over 30 years of experience and will celebrate her 20th year of membership with the Society in 2021.



Mark Feist
Mark Feist has been a member of the Society since 1996, a member of the D.C. Branch, the "voice" of the Green Star Awards®, the 2021 Summer Conference Chair, and is the 2020 President-Elect of the National Board. Mark has a keen eye on the future, and has been instrumental in the Society's preparation for its 2020 strategic plan. Mark promotes the importance of mentoring emerging talent, a major initiative of his employer, American University, and has worked hard to integrate this as one of the Society's core values. Mark is the Assistant Director of Grounds, Vehicle Maintenance & Support Services at American University, which will host the Society's 2021 School of Grounds Management Summer Conference.



Jared Rudy, CGM
Jared serves as a Director-at-Large on the National Board and the Society's Certification Chairman. Jared's dedication to enhancing the certification program includes updating the certification exams to an online platform, streamlining the application process, and he continually seeks ways to improve the certification candidate's experience. Jared has been a member of PGMS® since 2008 and is the Superintendent of Grounds at Villanova University.



Jeff McManus, CGM
PGMS® President in 2019, Jeff's leadership skills has been invaluable in the continued growth of the Society. His passion for teaching leadership skills include presentations at PGMS® conferences, branch meetings and other industry events. He championed the importance of virtual education and chaired the webinar taskforce, identifying topics of relevance to members and serving as a panelist and moderator. Jeff is the Director of Landscape Services, Airport & Golf Services at the University of Mississippi and has been a member since 1991.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

OCT 20 - 23



PGMS® School of Grounds Management Annual Conference & GIE+EXPO

Louisville, KY

SUMMER 2021



PGMS® School of Grounds Management Summer Conference

Washington, D.C.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Horticulture Internship
Smithsonian Gardens - Washington, D.C.
Internships with Grounds Management Operations are designed for students who seek work-related experience in a public garden with a diverse workforce. Internships involve manual labor; exposure to adverse weather conditions (particularly heat and humidity); and exposure to dust and dirt. Application Deadlines: Fall Internships will tentatively begin mid-September.



PGMS®
MEMBERSHIP

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 visit https://pgms.org/join-pgms/categories/.

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/.

GET IN TOUCH

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