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## PGMS® Partners In Professionalism

**Platinum**
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- PW Proven Winners
- Rainbow Treescapes
- Kubota

**Gold**
- Bartlett Tree Experts
- Hunter
- Kawasaki
- TruAire
- Wright
- Gemplers

**Silver**
- Bailey
- EarthPlanter
- Jacks
- Country Casual Trail
- Echo
- CalSense

**Bronze**
- Leaf
- Burrito
- Gemco
- Reliable Yard Debris Bag
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

"PGMS® INVOLVEMENT GOES TOGETHER WITH FAMILIES, CAREERS, INTERESTS AND BUILDING UPON CORE VALUES."

At a moment like this I find myself asking “What motivated me to make a leadership commitment to become a President of the Professional Grounds Management Society® (PGMS®)?” The answer goes back almost 40 years when I was introduced to PGMS®. Before I knew about the local PGMS® Washington DC Branch an advertisement about a landscape award program in the Grounds Management magazine caught my eye. The program was called “The Professional Grounds Maintenance Awards” currently known as the “Green Star Awards Program”. The year was 1982 and I worked on Constitution Ave., NW Washington, DC at the National Academy of Sciences as Grounds Manager. I applied for the PGMS® award and to my surprise walked away with a Grand Award for my small institutional site. Traveling to San Diego, California to pick up my award plaque at the 1982 PGMS® Annual Meeting I was again surprised as I joined a group of PGMS® Washington, DC branch members at the awards dinner program. The friendly DC group at my table quickly educated me on the rewards and benefits of PGMS® membership and the great resources that were available to me both at the national and local branch level. One of the DC branch members remarked “You really don’t have a good excuse now for not attending a DC branch meeting since you traveled all the way to California to meet us”. He made a good point and from that moment forward I started to learn about the PGMS® organization taking advantage of educational benefits and resources to grow my career. The greatest benefit and resource gained has been the lifelong friendships that grew from attending meetings, seminars, getting involved in committees, and offering some of my time to help others in the PGMS® organization. Although it sounds a little “corny”, PGMS® became family. This was particularly apparent at the DC PGMS® Branch annual picnics where over the years together we watched our children grow to be adults.

Through attending the yearly PGMS® annual meetings I was introduced to PGMS® Board members and transitioned from local branch involvement to serving on the national board, executive board and today serve as the 2021 President of PGMS®. I know first-hand that our families, careers, and outside interests compete for our investment of time however I believe your involvement with PGMS® can be accomplished without taking time away from your core values. In fact, PGMS® involvement goes together with families, careers, interests and building upon core values.

Our next steps together will require your help, your investment of a little time. Over the past year the PGMS® board has been working hard in creating a new strategic plan for our organization. The plan outlines a Top Ten (10) Actions for 2020-2021 along with the need to recruit committee members to participate in growing PGMS®.

Over the next few months, I will be sending you via e-mail a series of short (2-3 minute) video message that will outline each of the ten (10) PGMS® actions for 2020-2021 along with our committee structure.

My hope is that something will “catch your eye” as it did for me in 1982 and you will be inspired to help grow our PGMS® organization to benefit our profession during these turbulent times of Covid-19 and beyond.

Interested? You know where to find me… I am here serving you and the Professional Grounds Management Society family.

Mark Feist
PGMS President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

By: Stephanie Bruno, CAE, PGMS Executive Director

PGMS® Members,

Thank you for your continued support and volunteerism this year. Your support has helped the Society grow this year and on behalf of the PGMS® Board of Directors, I am pleased to be able to share the following with you:

First, the Society’s expansion of the institutional membership from 4 to 8 total members has allowed more members access to PGMS® educational programming and member benefits. The Society launched bi-monthly webinars this year and with the forced cancellation of our in-person meetings, the Society quickly added more webinars to provide our members with additional education and continuing education opportunities. By the end of 2020, PGMS® will have provided 19 webinars, with our initial 2020 goal being 6 webinars – an incredible feat! A special thank you to the webinar taskforce, led by Jeff McManus, CGM and 2020 Vice President Joe Kovolyan, CGM for developing an incredible education line-up.

The future of the Society is the continued focus of the Board of Directors and the cancellation of our in-person March strategic plan required the Board to creatively regroup and conduct our plan virtually, which was accomplished this July. Thank you to the 2020 Board of Directors for their preparation, flexibility and participation to make this a success. As a member of PGMS®, get involved and help continue the positive growth of the Society. The 2020-2022 strategic plan offers many engagement opportunities for members and you can learn more at the bottom of this page and on the pgms.org website.

Another accomplishment of 2020 was the release of the Society’s Landscape Management Guidelines series. The first handbook in the series “Maintenance Management Guidelines” includes an overarching look at the many areas of grounds management, with subsequent handbooks providing more details based on maintenance and management requirements. Thank you to taskforce chair Ryan McCaughey, CGM and taskforce members Sandra Obenour-Dowd, Roger Conner, CGM, Brandon Hale, CGM, and Kevin Mercer, CGM for their hard work and continued dedication to providing members with updated educational materials. If you are interested in getting involved in the development of future handbooks, please email info@pgms.org.

Finally, one of the largest positives seen in 2020 was the collaborative and supportive nature of our members during this tough year. Our members were happy to lend a helping hand wherever possible and their volunteer efforts in 2020 have helped to build a strong foundation for an even more successful 2021. We encourage you to get involved, even if you only have an hour or two to spare. From something as simple as providing an article for the Forum newsletter to volunteering on the Green Star Awards® committee to review award submissions, giving back to your industry will help us further the PGMS® mission and continue the Society as Leaders for a Sustainable Future. Wishing you a happy, healthy and successful 2021!

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

PGMS® is committed to cultivating a Society that:

- Increases access to educational content and products to the industry
- Highlights the diversity of our members and the grounds management industry
- Creates meaningful partnerships with Supplier Partners and allied groups
- Increases engagement opportunities for existing and potential members
- Builds and supports our dynamic Branches
- Promotes rising stars in the Green industry
- Creates leadership development programs and pathways for current and emerging leaders.
Mark Feist (pictured on left) of American University in Washington, D.C. was elected and installed as the new president of the Professional Grounds Management Society® (PGMS®) during a virtual board meeting held on Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

The 99th grounds management professional to hold the office, Feist succeeds Gerry Dobbs, CGM as the chief elected officer of the over 100-year-old green industry organization.

In addition to Feist, PGMS® members elected Joe Kovolyan, CGM, CSFM of Richland School District in Richland, WA as their president-elect. Bruce De Vrou, CGM of Spectrum Health Hospitals in Grand Rapids, MI was elected vice-president and Roger Conner, CGM of Duke University in Durham, NC was elected as treasurer.

The Regional Directors are as follows: North East Regional Director, Ryan McCaughey, CGM of The Pennsylvania State University in University Park, PA; North Central Regional Director, Kevin Mercer, CGM of Denison University in Granville, OH; Northwest Regional Director, Mike Beaulieu of Central Oregon Community College in Bend, OR; South East Regional Director, Brandon Haley, CGM of Moody, AL; South Central Regional Director, Philip Dierker, CGM of Rice University in Houston, TX; and Southwest Regional Director, Sandra Obenour-Dowd of the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ.

Directors-at-Large include: Jenny Gulick of Urban Canopy Works, LLC in Union, KY; Donna Hibbs, CGM of Masonic Homes of Kentucky in Masonic Home, KY; and Michael Gildea, CGM of the Chevy Chase Club in Chevy Chase, MD.

Warren Gorowitz of Hunter Industries in San Marcos, CA and Joel Spies of Rainbow Treescare Scientific Advancements in Minnetonka, MN will serve as the Supplier Member Representatives. Dr. Gwen Stahnke of Walla Walla Community College in Walla Walla, WA is the Educator Representative.

PGMS® leaders are already at work planning the 2021 Annual School of Grounds Management, which will take place in Louisville, KY, Oct. 19 - 22, 2021 in conjunction with the GIE+EXPO.

ADD CELLULAR TO YOUR ACC2 MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Gain more freedom and flexibility to manage your ACC2 irrigation controller on the go with the new A2C-LTE module. A2C-LTE enables powerful Centralus® central control capabilities from your cellular device to maximize water savings and receive instant alarms and flow histories. That’s the power of innovation.

PGMS® PROFESSIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Professional Grounds Management Society® (PGMS®) honored two grounds professionals with awards as part of its 2020 Week of Excellence, October 19 - 23.

PGMS® Gold Medal
PGMS® recognized Pioneer Athletics with the PGMS Gold Medal Award. The PGMS® Gold Medal is given to an individual or entity to recognize them for outstanding and long-term achievements and/or contributions to the green industry. PGMS® salutes Pioneer Athletics for its leadership and dedication to the grounds management industry. From its inception, Pioneer has been committed to learning from stakeholders and sharing the knowledge gained for the betterment of the green industry. Their tagline “ingredients matter” means more than simply the chemical composition of their paint or seed. It embodies their commitment to excellence for every customer experience, no matter how small, which in turn provides a great product for the customer and the environment. Pioneer is well versed in the demands of the grounds management industry and has embraced these challenges by creating and providing stakeholders with detailed manuals and literature, all free on their website.

PGMS® President’s Award
Each year the PGMS® President is asked to give a President's Award to a member or members they feel have shown outstanding service and contributions to the Society. This year, President Gerry Dobbs, CGM honored Ryan McCaughey, CGM of The Pennsylvania State University in University Park, PA. For several years, the Board has engaged in several discussions to develop and offer a useful tool to PGMS® members with regards to best management practices of grounds management. When Ryan first came on the Board of Directors and heard about the goal, he offered to chair the book taskforce and he became the driving force behind the development of the Landscape Management Guidelines series, including topic selection, writing and editing. Since beginning his term as the North East Regional Director this past year, he has brought new collaborative opportunities to the PGMS® Board and is highly engaged with the development of educational material. Ryan shares his knowledge with grounds professionals across the country through webinars and by hosting meetings at The Pennsylvania State University, where he serves as the Manager of Equipment and Grounds.
PGMS® CALL FOR 2021 PRESENTERS

Interested in sharing your expertise at a PGMS® School of Grounds Management event?

Do you know someone who you think would make a great speaker?

If the answer is “Yes” to either question, we would love to hear from you! We are currently seeking speaker proposals for the coming year for both virtual and in-person education. Fill out the PGMS® School of Grounds Management Speaker Proposal Form found at https://cdn.ymaws.com/pgms.org/resource/resmgr/documents/pgms_school_of_grounds_manag.pdf and send it back in to us at info@pgms.org.

About the School of Grounds Management

Designed to provide grounds professionals with the hard-to-find opportunity to gain knowledge, ask questions, and network with their peers, the PGMS® School of Grounds Management provides goal-oriented education and experience to expand knowledge in four (4) core-competencies:

- HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
- TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT — HORTICULTURE
- TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT — NON-HORTICULTURE

For more information on the School of Grounds Management visit: https://pgms.org/page/Education.

INTRODUCING THE NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

MARI A DONOVAN, QAS

Maria has a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Bonaventure University in New York, is a certified Qualified Association Specialist (QAS) and is currently pursuing the Certified Association Executive (CAE) credential.

Maria began her career as a Membership Manager with the Broome County Chamber of Commerce & Convention Bureau in Binghamton, NY. At Stringfellow Management Group Maria has worked for the Chesapeake Human Resources Association and Synthetic Turf Council.

Originally from Binghamton, New York, Maria has lived in the Washington DC/Baltimore area for the past 25 years and currently resides in Forest Hill, MD with her husband and teenage son.

A committed fan of baseball and baseball analytics, Maria has visited ten (10) Major League ballparks on an ongoing quest to visit all thirty (30). She enjoys cooking and baking, herb and rose gardening and is currently learning to navigate the Chesapeake Bay as a student at the Annapolis Sailing School.

PGMS® RELEASES NEW WEBSITE AND MEMBERSHIP PORTAL

PGMS® is excited to announce the launch of your new website and member portal! Everything was designed with our members in mind, with the primary goal to streamline navigation and expand the functionality for both events and membership communications. New features include:

Profile Management
- Easily maintain and update your information
- Adjust notification preferences and settings
- Review and pay your renewal invoice online
- Track continuing education credits
- Enhanced job postings

Online Community Engagement
- Review your news feeds
- Visit your Branch and Region for up to date events and information
- Connect with peers
- Send direct messages
- Search our directory of members using relevant and industry specific criteria
- Review member spotlights
- Read current issues of the PGMS® Forum
- Browse photos from current and past events

Additional Features
- View and Register for online and upcoming in person conferences and events
- View historical events and webinars
- Browse the online store
- Sign up for the Green Star Awards® and Certification Programs
- And much more...

You should have already received an email from PGMS with instructions on how to access your member portal and update your information. If you have any questions please contact us at info@pgms.org.

We will continue to offer guidance in the coming days as our members begin to get acquainted with this dynamic and integrated website and hope you will enjoy using it as much as we have enjoyed creating it for your benefit!

Welcome to your new and enhanced online PGMS® – let us know what you think!
PGMS 2020 GREEN STAR AWARDS® RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the following 2020 Green Star Awards® Recipients...

Athletic Fields
- Honor Award – Florida State University
- Honor Award – Southern Methodist University

Hospital or Institute
- Honor Award – Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and Penn State College of Medicine

K – 12 School Grounds
- Honor Award – The Bolles School
- Honor Award – Virginia Episcopal School

Small Site
- Grand Award – The Leach Teaching Gardens at Texas A&M University
- Merit Award – Texas Tech University

University and College Grounds - Small (0-199 acres)
- Grand Award – Aurora University
- Honor Award – Greensboro College
- Honor Award – Texas A&M Corpus Christi

University and College Grounds - Mid-Size (200 - 499 acres)
- Grand Award – Utah State University
- Honor Award – McDaniel College

Urban University Grounds
- Honor Award – George Washington University
- Honor Award – The University of Tampa
- Merit Award – Bethune Cookman University

University and College Grounds - Large (500+ acres)
- Honor Award – University of Central Missouri
- Honor Award – University of North Carolina Charlotte

Honor Award – University of Wisconsin – Whitewater Campus
- Merit Award – Texas Woman’s University – Denton Campus

University and College Grounds - Mid-Size
- Honor Award – University of Rochester
- Honor Award – The University of Rochester
- Merit Award – Bethune Cookman University

2020 GRAND AWARD WINNERS

Small Site
- The Leach Teaching Gardens at Texas A&M University
  
Named for Dr. Cotner ’64, former head of the Horticulture department at Texas A&M, The Memorial Floral Border and Event Lawn hosts annual flowers that are changed four times per year. The beds include ‘Forest Pansy’ redbud and Knockout roses and the large trees aligning the horizon are native Post Oaks. In the background, the sand capped AgriLife event lawn measures 60,000 square feet and is used for the College of Agriculture Tailgate during football season.

University and College Grounds - Small
- Aurora University
  
Built in 2003, the Institute for Collaborative Education is lined with Serviceberry which add for a dramatic entrance when the white flowers are blooming in the spring. Red decomposed granite is used under the Serviceberry for a splash of color and to reduce mulch. The color of the large flower pots were chosen to accent the building colors and the permeable pavers.

University and College Grounds - Mid-Size
- Utah State University
  
Utah State is located in the mountain desert, which has four very different seasons, from 100-degree dry hot summers to below 0 freezing cold winters with deep snow. Totaling 400 acres, 100 acres of the campus are covered in turf, with 42 acres covered in trees, shrubs, and flowerbeds. 50,000 to 60,000 annual flowers are grown in the campus greenhouse each year and are used for the 5 acres of annual flowers. The campus also features over 6,800 trees on its main campus, including 38 State champion trees.

2021 GREEN STAR AWARDS

The application for the 2021 Green Star Awards will open in the Spring of 2021. Start thinking about your presentation now by taking pictures of your grounds throughout the seasons. The goals of the Green Star Awards® program are:

• To bring national recognition to grounds manicured with a high degree of excellence.
• To recognize individual professional efforts leading to high maintenance standards and high quality appearance of the landscape.
• To challenge those responsible for maintenance of grounds throughout the country to achieve a higher level of excellence. In sponsoring this awards program, the Professional Grounds Management Society® wish to extend its mission in promoting well-maintained landscapes throughout the country.

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MEET THE FIRST LINE OF SAE CERTIFIED TURF ENGINES.

Become a true turf master with help from our innovative and efficient line of EFI engines. No turf, temperature, or terrain condition can stand up to what you get when you combine Integrated Electronic Throttle Control and advanced ECU to continuously match mower engine power to cutting load and ground speed. Get pro-grade results when you mow with Kawasaki EFI.

Visit your local dealer or KawasakiEnginesUSA.com/Engines/EFI for more information.
UNPLUGGED: STUDENTS BUILD GREEN TRAILER TO ENERGIZE TOOLS

By Blaine Friedlander

Around campus academic quads and residential areas, in the thick of autumn’s red and yellow leaves, soon there’ll be something green: a new tool-toting, solar power-generating trailer.

Designed and created by CUSD’s Solarize team, the trailer will help Cornell reduce carbon emissions while raising awareness of Cornell’s environmental initiatives, aimed at helping the campus achieve carbon neutrality by 2035, said Dan Schied, CGM director of the Grounds Department.

Members of the Cornell University Sustainable Design (CUSD) student group have delivered to the Grounds Department a 7-by-12 foot trailer that will cart and energize electric string trimmers, hedge clippers, chainsaws and an electric heavy-duty commercial mower.

“Transportation is a large contributor to humanity’s carbon footprint,” said Jahan. “We are a team of engineers and other professions who are passionate about sustainability and we want to develop this untapped market of mobile solar. We believe that solar is a good solution.”

Current and former students on the Solarize project are: Julia Adler ’23; Leah Balkin ’19, M.Eng. ’19; Azhir Barodawala, M.Eng. ’18; Connor Bayne ’21, the team’s current lead; Rikki Chiba ’23; Francesco DeMare ’20; Evan Halloran ’18; Kenneth Harlley ’21; Erin Huang ’22; Ada Lian ’22; Simon Liu ’22; Owen MacDonnell ’20; Ellie Moon ’21; Ken Park ’18; Shivani Poddar ’21; Teddy Reiss ’19; Mahima Shah ’19; and Jessica Wojnicki ’18.

Four solar panels on the trailer’s roof can generate 1,151 kilowatt hours of electricity over the course of a year – enough energy to power a 60-watt lightbulb for 19,187 hours or 2.2 years, said Dan Pyrek ‘20, the team’s second project director.

“If all the energy is used every day, that is roughly equal to 33 gallons of gasoline or diesel,” Pyrek said. “Using solar energy as a sustainable power source in the trailer offsets annually about 660 pounds of emitted carbon dioxide of gasoline or diesel fuel.”

As a groundskeeping professional, Schied had seen similar tool trailers and approached the CUSD group to see if they would build a solar trailer sturdy enough to withstand rigorous campus requirements.

In 2017, inspired by Cornell’s “living laboratory” concept, CUSD students formed a team, meeting with Schied and his crew to determine specifications. Over four semesters, the team conducted research, secured grants and created an interior design to fit the Grounds Department’s needs.

“The trailer’s system was designed to achieve enough solar power generation to run for hours,” Poluka said, “as well as provide ample electricity storage in the likely event there is a string of cloudy days.”

Ithaca-area engineering firms lent a hand in outfitting the trailer: Taitem Engineering donated the trailer’s solar panels, and TetraTech senior electrical engineer Aaron Abb showed the students how to install components and provide proper electrical grounding.

Team members liked the trailer so much, they decided to market it. In summer 2019, members of Solarize participated in the local Life Changing Labs startup incubator, which works closely with Entrepreneurship at Cornell. Pyrek and Tameem Jahan ’20, the Solarize team’s third director, spent eight weeks learning about marketing and brand management to bring the trailer’s concept to the marketplace.

“Transportation is a large contributor to humanity’s carbon footprint,” said Jahan. “We are a team of engineers and other professions who are passionate about sustainability and we want to develop this untapped market of mobile solar. We believe that solar is a good solution.”

Originally published at: https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2020/09/unplugged-students-build-green-trailer-energize-tools
Three distinguished individuals successfully completed PGMS® rigorous Certified Grounds Manager (CGM®) program in 2020 and now hold this industry recognized certification.

Taking roughly a year to complete, candidates must first meet one of three criteria before submitting their application. After submitting their application they must pass a two part examination process. Part One, the Application Test, covers a core of principles of grounds management in a series of multiple choice and true false questions and must be passed within 30 days of being accepted into the program. Part Two is the Professional Grounds Manager Evaluation (PGME). This extensive portfolio is compiled by the applicant based on his or her personal experience and the local situation. Candidates have one (1) year to complete the PGME and are provided a CGM® as a mentor. It covers topics such as Site Inventory, Turf Management, Irrigation, Management Skills, Budgets and Finance, in addition to Safety Standards and Regulatory Compliance.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 CGMS**

#182 William Douglas, CGM of City of Alexandria in Alexandria, VA  
#183 Eric Andrews, CGM of Bucks County Community College in Newtown, PA  
#184 Mark J. Baldwin, CGM of Oakland County - Facilities Maintenance & Operations in Waterford, MI

For more information on the CGM® program please visit https://pgms.org/certifications/certified-grounds-manager/

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 CGTS**

Twenty-one individuals successfully completed PGMS® Certified Grounds Technician (CGT®) program in 2020 and now hold this certification.  
#192 William Campbell, CGT  
#193 Eric Andrews, CGT  
#194 Mandy Roth Meyer, CGT  
#195 Gregory Meyer, CGT  
#196 Jacob Matthew Cody, CGT  
#197 R. Michael Tinkham, CGT  
#198 Stephen Moore, CGT  
#199 Patrick Scott Rutledge, CGT  
#200 Trevor Lancaster, CGT  
#201 William Campbell, CGT

For more information on the CGT® program please visit https://pgms.org/certifications/certified-groundstecnician/

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**2020 Certification Accomplishments**

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Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and Penn State College of Medicine

The Accreditation recognizes the Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and Penn State College of Medicine’s forward thinking approach to seeking and setting standards and expectations, as demonstrated with their Campus Tree Inventory, Forest Management Plan, Native Planting and Maintenance Strategies, Campus Stormwater Study, and the Landscape Master Plan. It also recognized the institution’s sustainable maintenance activities, which include reforestation, planting of native materials, composting, pervious pavements, rain gardens, green roof gardens, and the use of battery and electric equipment and vehicles. “The grounds operation not only presented evidence of the on-going attainment of many best practices on the campus but also provided an abundance of proof validating an increased mastery and execution of each of the program’s best practices,” Accreditation Facilitator Joe Jackson, CGM stated.

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The PGMS® Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation program is a dynamic evaluation tool that can be utilized 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 PGMS® Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation verifies and recognizes an environmental management systems approach applied to a grounds management template.

**How Can I Get More Information?**  
Phone: 443-966-3852 x 1146 | E-mail: info@pgms.org
MEMBER PROFILE:  
BRI GROENEVELD, CGT

Spotlight on the president of the Western Washington Branch

As we head into fall, I thought it would be a good time to catch up with the President of PGMS® Western Washington Branch Bri Groeneveld, CGT.

Joe: Bri - Can you share with the membership a bit on your background and what you are currently doing besides presiding over the Western Washington Branch.

Bri: Sure, Joe! I started my outdoors career working as a trail crew member of the Washington Conservation Corps in Issaquah, Washington before moving on to join the prestigious Grounds crew at the University of Puget Sound Grounds crew. Having great help is so important. Follow that up with lots of to-do lists and a timeline schedule of things you need to accomplish. I made a schedule of which volunteers needed to be where, when they needed to be there and what they were doing at that time, over the course of the two-day conference and asked them to look it all over beforehand so everyone was prepared the day of. They all did such an amazing job to help me prepare.

Joe: So, you have hosted a Summer Conference, what advice can you give to another branch that is interested in hosting in the future?

Bri: I couldn’t have done it without the support of the Western Washington Branch board and the University of Puget Sound Grounds crew. Having great help is so important. Follow that up with lots of to-do lists and a timeline schedule of things you need to accomplish. I made a schedule of which volunteers needed to be where, when they needed to be there and what they were doing at that time, over the course of the two-day conference and asked them to look it all over beforehand so everyone was prepared the day of. They all did such an amazing job to help me prepare.

Bri: Can you share with the membership a thought it would be a good time to catch up with the President of PGMS® Western Washington Branch Bri Groeneveld, CGT.

Joe: Yes everyone knows the great and infamous Joe Kovolyan, CGM recruited me to become a member of PGMS® and how did you get started? (For most of you, this is a trick question for Bri!

Bri: I just landed my dream job as an Arborist with the City of Cheyenne in Cheyenne, Wyoming. I actually developed a love for trees, and recently, I moved to the Pacific Northwest to be closer to my family. I have been working in the field for over 10 years!

Joe: Pandemic aside what do you find to be the biggest challenges of trying to keep a Branch moving forward?

Bri: Our board has trouble reaching our president and non-members alike. We have tried to send out membership surveys to find out what topics members are interested in hearing about and what event sites they are interested in attending and only a small percentage responds. We then organize site tours, volunteer events and Member-Get-A-Member events to low turnouts. It has been frustrating and I am not sure how to improve our marketing strategy. We try to stay positive and focus on the quality responses we do receive and attendees do reach because we really appreciate them, and their input is very valuable to our branch and the board.

Joe: So, you have hosted a Summer Conference, what advice can you give to another branch that is interested in hosting in the future?

Bri: I couldn’t have done it without the support of the Western Washington Branch board and the University of Puget Sound Grounds crew. Having great help is so important. Follow that up with lots of to-do lists and a timeline schedule of things you need to accomplish. I made a schedule of which volunteers needed to be where, when they needed to be there and what they were doing at that time, over the course of the two-day conference and asked them to look it all over beforehand so everyone was prepared the day of. They all did such an amazing job to help me prepare.

Bri: Lastly, can you share any thoughts on earning your CGT, continuing education in general like CGM® or ISA certification? Do you think it helped in the hiring process with employers?

Joe: Yes, I think it helps in the hiring process with employers.

Bri: Studying for the CGT exam really helped expand my knowledge of grounds maintenance, and I think it is really valuable to have certifications like the CGT or CGM® as part of your resume to set you apart from other applicants. Especially if you are applying for a position in a highly competitive area, like the Seattle-Tacoma metro area. I can’t speak for my employers but I personally feel like these certification programs and hands-on experiences are the most attractive part of my resume when I apply for a position.

Joe: Thank you so much Bri for taking some time out of your schedule to share with the membership. Your contributions to PGMS® both nationally and the branch are greatly appreciated.

Bri: Not a problem, thank you for all you do for PGMS®! Go Blue!!
Tell us what you have to accomplish; we’ll point you toward the exact right equipment for getting it done. And thanks to contract purchasing, we’ll make sure you get the best price, with the least hassle. Your local dealer salesperson will help you navigate the whole process—including set-up, delivery, and training. It’s as easy as it sounds. Because sometimes, the right answer just clicks. JohnDeere.com/Local.

Exactly what you want, for everything you need to do.

JOHN DEERE CELEBRATES THE EVOLUTION OF THE ZTRAK™ ZERO-TURN MOWER LINE

The landscaping industry is highly competitive, making it critical to select the right tools and partners to ensure success. Since launching the Z900 Commercial ZTrak™ Zero-Turn Mowers in 2013, John Deere has consistently improved its lineup to provide solutions for every operation. The Commercial ZTrak line now features a full range of products including 11 gas models, two diesel models, and three deck options, including the 7-Iron™ PRO, Mulch On Demand™ and Fastback™ PRO rear-discharge.

The 7-Iron PRO deck is stamped from 7-gauge steel, minimizing the number of welds and providing a smooth underside, with fewer sharp corners where material could build. With rounded corners, the potential for damage is reduced if the deck should contact trees, rocks, curbs or other fixed objects.

In 2015 the introduction of the MICHELIN® X® TWEEL® TURF airless radial tire fully embodied that commitment, providing an innovative option that directly addressed machine downtime. The X TWEEL TURF airless radial tire arms landscape contractors with a solution that virtually eliminates flats and is nearly maintenance free. The X TWEEL TURF airless radial tire minimizes the cost and time spent on repairs and maintenance of traditional pneumatic tires.

Fast forward to 2018, John Deere expanded its electronic fuel injection (EFI) solutions with the Z955M EFI model, and later the Z955R EFI model in 2020. With the EFI models, John Deere directly addressed a growing desire for fuel saving solutions. The EFI-equipped machines use less fuel, resulting in fuel savings of up to 25%, positively impacting customers’ bottom lines.

John Deere then took operator comfort and productivity to the next level with the introduction of the ComfortGlide™ suspension on all Z900 seat options. With ComfortGlide, the seat can travel up to two inches fore and aft, absorbing bumps to enhance ride comfort.

New for 2021, John Deere expanded its lineup with updates to the machine design, new attachment offerings, and the addition of the Fastback™ PRO rear-discharge mower deck. In October John Deere rolled out design enhancements, including spoked rims, cast-iron spindles housings and quick-release belt covers, improving durability and simplifying maintenance. In addition to the machine updates, John Deere expanded its exclusive Mulch On Demand™ (MOD) deck lineup with a 54-inch option for the Z950M. MOD enables the operator to switch between mulching and side-discharging without ever leaving the seat. A new Dump-from-Seat Material Collection System – compatible with all Z900 models – features a new design to improve operation and efficiency. Three new attachment options, including a string trimmer rack, cargo tray and tool carrier, further enhance productivity.

Most recently, John Deere unveiled its 60- and 72-inch Fastback PRO rear-discharge decks. The rear-discharge deck features the heavy-duty, commercial-grade design customers expect, and is built to enhance productivity and performance, while providing a high quality of cut.

Since launching, John Deere has continuously listened to customer feedback and delivered new solutions to boost productivity and uptime. Customers can learn more about the evolution of the ZTrak line by visiting the John Deere Virtual Pavilion, live beginning November 9th!
and sustainable, despite the challenges and uncertainty they and services that enable farmers to become more profitable farmers. For John Deere, it’s about the machines, technologies work is driven by a commitment to empower the livelihoods of country.

"John Deere and Farm Rescue share something special—our open to the general public, will honor how innovative, vulnerability of family farms—when something unpredicted happens, not only is the family carrying that health burden, but many overcome adversity and continue their farming and ranching operations.

The Farm Must Go On by John Deere

John Deere is committed to ensuring all farmers have access to the vital resources they need to leap forward and sustain their farms for generations to come. John Deere’s work with Farm Rescue, a nonprofit organization that serves farmers and ranchers who have experienced a major illness, injury, or natural disaster, has helped many overcome adversity and continue their farming and ranching operations.

The Farm Must Go On by John Deere will broadcast on Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. EST and will be streamed to the general public on YouTube. All proceeds from the event will benefit Farm Rescue, a nonprofit organization that serves farmers and ranchers who have experienced a major illness, injury, or natural disaster, and provide hands-on product experience.

"Toro once again sponsored the Irrigation Association’s E3 Program that provides scholarships to professional irrigation students. The program awarded students a record number of scholarships last year.

"The Toro Company also continued its sponsorship and production of the weekly WaterSense radio program focused on outdoor water efficiency best practices and products. Since the show has been available on iHeart Radio, it now has up to 19,000 listeners per month!"


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WaterSense honored The Toro Company as Excellence Award winner in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Since the program was initiated in 2006, winners of the Water Sense Partner of the Year award have been given the opportunity to showcase their water-saving efforts and provide hands-on product experience.

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EPA RECOGNIZES TURF PROFESSIONALS FOR INNOVATIONS THAT HELP CUSTOMERS SAVE WATER, MONEY

The Toro Co. recently was named one of several winners of the Water Sense Partner of the Year awards. The awards, which were announced Oct. 7, are presented annually by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that “help consumers and businesses save water, energy and money by producing and promoting water-efficient products, homes and programs.”

One of 28 award recipients across three categories, Toro was named winner in the Water Sense Excellence category. According to the EPA: "The Toro Company has continued its tradition of promoting WaterSense and water efficiency, winning another Excellence in Outreach and Training Award for its work in 2019. Throughout the year, Toro showcased its WaterSense-labeled products at 35 home expos and trade shows, reaching thousands of homeowners and industry professionals. Toro conducted several training sessions in a variety of locations to educate attendees on water management trends, share best practices, demonstrate WaterSense labeled irrigation products, and provide hands-on product experience. "Toro once again sponsored the Irrigation Association’s E3 Program that provides scholarships to professional irrigation students. The program awarded students a record number of scholarships last year.

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"Helping veterans achieve self-sufficiency in farming careers. Toro conducted several training outreach and training sessions, which provide hands-on product experience.

"WaterSense honored The Toro Company as Excellence Award winner in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Since the program was initiated in 2006, winners of the Water Sense Partner of the Year award have been given the opportunity to showcase their water-saving efforts and provide hands-on product experience.

GRAPENINE, Texas (October 12, 2020) – Kubota Tractor Corporation today announced the selection of five new veteran farmer recipients of new Kubota equipment as part of its 2020 “Geared to Give” program in partnership with the Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC). In recognition of their current and past U.S. military service and their continued service to their communities through farming, country music singer and songwriter Brantley Gilbert helped Kubota and FVC honor each veteran, inviting those nearby to his farm to bestow the gift of Kubota equipment that will help them achieve self-sufficiency and take their farming operation to the next level.

"It truly is the American dream for many — and certainly those returning or starting a new career in farming — to become a self-sufficient farmer, with the right mix of equipment, drive and determination to make tending to the land your life’s work,” said Alex Woods, Kubota senior vice president of sales operations, supply chain and parts. “Kubota is proud to work with FVC and with Brantley and his team to recognize the 2020 recipients and help us power and empower them with the right equipment to help them achieve their dreams.”

Kubota’s Geared to Give program has provided equipment and grants to more than 76 farmer veterans since 2014 through FVC’s Fellowship Fund, which matches veterans’ needs with donated resources to help them further their agriculture careers.

"Helping veterans achieve self-sufficiency in farming communities across the country is one of the greatest joys of our work,” said Jeanette Lombardo, executive director of FVC. "We’re extremely grateful to continue working alongside Kubota to help more nation’s farmers. We and the veterans are honored to take our veterans’ farms to the next level; it’s truly the greatest gift, particularly for farmers just starting out.”

Gilbert, a strong supporter of efforts to honor active duty military and veterans’ organizations, wanted to get involved and invited this year’s honoree to his farm in Alabama for a special ceremony and private performance in celebration of National Farmer’s Day. “We wouldn’t have the abundance, or variety, of food we have today without our nation’s farmers,” said Gilbert. “I’m honored to be able to share in this effort with Kubota and FVC, and to pay tribute to all our active military and especially to these five veterans who have served...
our country once in the armed forces and who continue serving their communities today through farming.”

The 2020 recipients were carefully selected from each one of Kubota’s five operating divisions: Midwest Division: Cody Miller of Thayer, Iowa, is a U.S. Army veteran who served more than 16 years with one deployment to Afghanistan from 2009-2010, and was part of a family farm, the same one he is currently operating. Cody farmed up until the day he joined the Army and returned once he separated from service, tending to 40 acres of row crops, raising ducks and chickens, and learning about horses. He also rents another 200 acres for raising cattle, hay and row crops, mostly soybeans, and sells his products to local co-ops and plans to sell his calves at local livestock market. Cody plans to finish his Ag Business degree, purchase his grandmother’s farm to keep it in the family, and purchase more cattle. Kubota will award Cody with a $250-hour lease on a Kubota M7 Ag tractor with a loader and baler to handle virtually every agricultural job for his row crop, hay and cattle operation. To learn more about Cody Miller and Full Moon Farms, visit his www.facebook.com/Full-Moon-Farms-107262012126562/.

Northern Division: Josh Nelson, of Ripley, West Virginia, is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and currently serving as a pilot in the West Virginia Air National Guard with deployments to Kuwait flying combat missions into Iraq and Syria. Josh is a first-generation farmer who turned a hobby farm start up in 2015 to an approximately 200-acre farm with leasehold organic grass-based ranch and farm, raising poultry, cattle, pork, bees and other livestock following regenerative ranching practices. The Nelsons sell their products through a store they co-owns called Farm House Naturals as well as through direct farm sales. To help him achieve his future plans to build ponds for irrigation and water sources for his cattle, as well as develop a full line of grocery and local goods to sell at their farm store, Josh will receive a Kubota MX mid-size tractor, with a cab and loader, and versatile enough to handle almost any application. To learn more about Joshua and Nelson Family Farms, please visit www.instagram.com/theflyinrancher/.

Southeast Division: Kara Rutter of Aken, South Carolina, retired from the U.S. Army this year after more than 23 years of service. She last served as the Army Central Food Service Sergeant Major overseeing subsistence operations in the Middle East. Her husband, Matt, also retired this year as a pilot overseeing subsistence operations in the Middle East. Together, they own Project Victory Gardens, a 20-acre farm with chickens, ducks, turkeys, goats, pigs, beehives, fruit trees, berry bushes, a 1,000-foot greenhouse, raised bed and traditional vegetable gardens. Kara has plans to be fully operational in the next 12 months with an aquaponics facility and training lab and teaching kitchen. Her future goals include improving veterans’ mental health and helping them gain employment in agriculture. Kubota will award Kara with an LX Series contract tractor with a cab and loader designed to easily tackle any needed job on the farm. To learn more about Kara and Project Victory Gardens, please visit www.projectvictorygardens.org.

Western Division: Bodhi Anderson of Honoulu, Hawaii, is a U.S. Navy veteran who served five years on active duty as a Corpsman for the Marines with deployments to the Adriatic Sea during the Bosnia War and the Middle East. Bodhi was also commissioned as a Navy Reserves MSC Officer (Physician Assistant) providing medical support to the 4th Force Recon Battalion in Kanoelho Bay, Hawaii. Bodhi grew up on an organic vegetable farm and now he and his wife, Brittany, own Sugar Hill Farmstead, a 15-acre farm that specializes in sustainably raised regenerative meats, sold direct-to-consumer for Hawaii Island families. Cattle, sheep, pigs, rabbits, and meat chickens are all processed on-farm and sold as part of a meat CSA. Bodhi will be awarded a Kubota Sidekick RTV-XG850 utility vehicle, built for durability to move up to 1,000 lbs. in its cargo bed, to more easily distribute food and more directly handle current hands carried across the farm. He will also receive a $10,000 grant to assist in the expansion of his pastured poultry production to reach his goal of feeding 100 families each month. To learn more about Bodhi and Sugar Hill Farmstead, please visit www.sugahillfarmstead.com.

Central Division: Andrew Edelen of Alice, Texas, served five and a half years in the U.S. Marine Corps as an aviation equipment mechanic. As a second-generation farmer, he has taken over his family’s 350-acre farm, Edelen Farms, where he produces grass-fed beef, pastured poultry, free range eggs and vegetables to sell at local farmers’ markets. Andrew has future goals, which include starting an additional farmers’ market, building new greenhouses, and expanding his products to include pork and goats. To assist in these efforts, Andrew will be awarded a Kubota L Series tractor to replace his all 40-year-old tractor to meet his most pressing needs on the farm. To learn more about Andrew and Edelen Farms, please visit www.edelenfarms.com.

Each year, farmer veterans can apply to the FVC Fellowship Fund in order to be considered for donated Kubota equipment through the “Geeved to Give” program. For more information on FVC 2023 application process, visit www.farmveto.org. For more information on the “Geeved to Give” program, visit Kubota Care.

BILLY GOAT® CELEBRATES IT ANNUAL CLEAN-UP SPECTACULAR, GOATOBERFEST, WITH SPECIALS THAT OFFER LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS GREAT DEALS FOR FALL

LEE’S SUMMIT, MO (September 20, 2020) – Billy Goat is pleased to celebrate its annual Goatoberfest® campaign, a Fall Clean-up Spectacular providing combo deals and other options that support contractors through the optimal leaf season.

Through participating dealer stores, Goatoberfest specials will be offered on any combination of blowers (starting at 9 gross hp!) with any Billy Goat 13.0 – 37.0 gross HP® debris loader! When combined with our “Recovery Financing™” Special of up to 120 days deferred and zero down or low interest options up to 120 days of interest, landscape contractors benefit from serious Goatoberfest savings with the lowest financing for offered by Billy Goat.

Billy Goat offers the largest line-up of blowers on the market from 6.0 to 35.0 gross HP. Force wheel blowers (starting at 349 lbs.) are lighter and have up to 52% more debris blowing force and up to 55% more air velocity than others on the market. Aim n Shoot™ technology directs air flow where it’s needed, directly from the blower’s handle. The award-winning Hurricane 33000 and 23000 zero turn stand-on blowers boast unprecedented commercial leaf and debris clean up from seamless operating controls to blowing discrimination options including left, right and center. The Patented Quad Control Handle System™ provides seamless forward / reverse direction, automatic return to neutral, integrated operator presence control and a self-activating parking brake. The Patented Dual Defender Air Flow System™ allows the operator to change angle of air flow for deeper more efficient cleaning of leaves and debris.

The award-winning Next Gen Debris Loader Series features a square 10 gauge steel discharge chute that not only spreads to load but also has a 63% thicker back plate for added durability, extended life and ease of service. The poly housing liner features a non-counter sink bolt pattern that has equal to or better life compared to quarter-inch steel liners in accelerated testing. These composite liners won’t cause secondary failures to engine shafts like a failed steel liner may.

The 13.0 – 37.0 gross HP® truck loaders offer Billy Goat’s exclusive dual shredding system with Piranha® blade for extra shredding and better debris reduction, maximizing trailer loading across multiple properties, saving time and dump fees.

Electric start is featured on the 14.0, 18.0, 29.0 and 37.0 gross HP® models, with Vanguard® EFI11 power on the 37.0 gross HP® loader — the only Vanguard® EFI powered unit on the market. EFI delivers an automotive-type cold weather starting as well as fuel savings up to 25 percent over carbureted equivalent.

And the 14.0 gross HP® unit is the only electric start on the market.

Leave no leaves behind with Billy Goat’s Goatoberfest Spectacular this fall.

®
COMPLETE YOUR SCALE MANAGEMENT TOOLBOX!

Scale insects are a common issue on almost every landscape and property. Effective scale control is dependent on a number of factors including proper identification of the scale insect, selecting the right solution, and applying that solution at the right time.

NEW! Proxite™ Insect Growth Regulator, a softer on beneficial insects and pollinators option for managing your scale pest issues!

Available on the EOP & Save for 2021!
www.treecarescience.com/eop

To learn more about scale management contact your Territory Manager or visit www.treecarescience.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

Grounds Management Summit
Virtual Wednesdays 1:00 EST

JULY 26 - 28 2021

PGMS® School of Grounds Management Annual Conference & GIE+EXPO
Washington, D.C.

OCTOBER 19 - 22, 2021

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

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SUBMITTED BY ROGER CONNER, CGM | DUKE UNIVERSITY

PGMS® MEMBERS SUPPORT BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

SUBMITTED BY JOE KOVOLYAN, CGM
RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Complete Your Scale Management Toolbox!

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Louisville, KY
BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS – WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN HIRING A TREE CARE COMPANY

From weeping willows to towering oaks, one of the best investments you can make for your property is trees. Not only do trees provide the vitality and energy of a lush landscape, they add value to land, reduce cooling costs in the summer and heating in the winter, and help produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide in our environment. Trees grow with families, often providing a safe, natural place for play and relaxation.

To maintain the health of your trees from the roots up, it’s important to provide more than just space to live, but to hire an expert to monitor and treat them. Too many unfortunate accidents occur when homeowners take arboricultural care into their own hands or hire uncertified tree care providers. When looking for a tree care company, it’s essential to consider exactly who you are hiring to tend to your trees.

**Certification is Important**

The first thing to look for is a certified arborist on staff. These professionals must pass certification testing and maintain credentials with the International Society of Arboriculture, a worldwide organization dedicated to trees and the professional practice of arboriculture. Additionally, membership in organizations like The Tree Care Industry Association, which addresses all aspects of arboriculture from insurance to licensing, or the American Society of Consulting Arborists, is also important. Always check to see if your state requires a special license or certification for tree services and that the company you’ve hired can show you this documentation.

**Ask Questions**

Just as you’d interview a prospective employee for a job, it’s important you ask questions of your tree care provider. First and foremost, find out how long they’ve been in business. Then ask for references and be diligent about checking them.

Ask about safety training and find out how much time is spent educating workers on job safety. You don’t want to leave your landscape in the hands of a poorly trained worker who can cause irreparable damage to trees and unnecessary accidents.

**Confirm Safety**

Do a visual check of the provider’s crew. Tree experts, especially when they use chainsaws and other dangerous tools, should be fully equipped with protective gear such as goggles, hard hats, ear plugs, and protective clothing. If workers aren’t properly protected, this could be a hazardous to your property and family.

**Know the History**

As far as background information, ask the provider to verify they have both personal and property insurance. Inquire about worker’s compensation, too.

In general, your tree care provider shouldn’t hesitate to answer any of these questions. If it seems that there is something your provider is hiding or glazing over, you may be seeing clues that will lead to poor service. Trusted, established names in the arboricultural industry, such as Bartlett Tree Experts, work openly and directly with clients and have earned a reputation for their honest and professional service.

For more information about certified arborists in your area, visit www.bartlett.com.

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Me? Obsessed with trees? Yes. Yes, I am.

Vaughn Chandler champions the trees, landscapes and property investments of the customers in his care.

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Omar Lewis  
American University

Michael Mastrota  
American University

Jorge Morales  
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Marcus Zito  
American University

JR Williams  
Berea College

Michael Gene Underwood  
Blue Marble Landscape

Brian Nelson  
Central Oregon Community College

Charles Mabry  
Chicago Public Schools

Taurean Jamar Allen  
City of Alexandria

William Douglas  
City of Alexandria

Joshua Krug  
City of Alexandria

Michael Reid  
City of Alexandria

Jimmy Roland  
City of Alexandria

Michael Simmons  
City of Alexandria

Chris Watson  
City of Alexandria

Bob Williams  
City of Alexandria

Parrish Guidry  
City of Maitland

Chris Kennedy  
City of Maitland

Teresa Van Court  
City of Maitland

Joe Workman  
City of Maitland

Noel Gonzalez  
City of Rockville

Steve Mader  
City of Rockville

Dennis E Trantham  
City of Troy

Clark Bartholomew  
Duke University

Ian Christie  
Duke University

Cheryl Lewis  
Duke University

Scott Thompson  
Duke University

Mark Tidey  
Duke University

Keith Updyke  
Duke University

Stephen Hayes Jr.  
Hales Arboretum

Ryan Steiner  
Hershey Medical Center

Sarah Norris  
Kansas City Medical Center

Lori Hayden  
Kansas State University

Donna Barton  
Longwood University

Mark Dennee  
Longwood University

Colin Haslip  
Longwood University

Burt Hurdle  
Longwood University

Wayne Marshall  
Longwood University

Frances Moore  
Longwood University

Scott Callahan  
Masonic Homes Kentucky

Allen Flynt  
Masonic Homes Kentucky

Bryan Kirk  
Masonic Homes Kentucky

Joshua Neumann  
Masonic Homes Kentucky

John Addison  
Medxcel Landscaping

Prince Arnold  
Medxcel - Sacred Heart Hospital

Vince Billafana  
Medxcel Landscaping

Bryce Brown  
Medxcel - St. Francis Regional Medical Center

Cody Courney  
Medxcel - Sacred Heart Hospital

Petey Day  
Medxcel - St. Vincent's Medical Center - Southside

Adam Farmer  
Medxcel Landscaping

Wade Ferrell  
Medxcel - St. Francis Regional Medical Center

Kevin Frack  
Medxcel - St. Francis Regional Medical Center

Stephen Gaar  
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Kevin Hamilton  
Medxcel - St. Vincent Hospital Kokomo

Brent Hayes  
Medxcel Landscaping

Jason Hisch  
Medxcel - St. Vincent Hospital Evansville

Jonathan Hodges  
Medxcel - St. Vincent's East Hospital

Andrew King  
Medxcel - St. Vincent's East Hospital

Jake Lucas  
Medxcel - CSM Ozaukee Hospital

Christian Osborn  
Medxcel - Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital

Chris Payne  
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Matt Richardson  
Medxcel - St. Vincent's Medical Center - Southside

Bret Schmidt  
Medxcel Landscaping

Rebecca Smith  
Medxcel Corporation

Stephen Smith  
Medxcel - Sacred Heart Hospital

Ken Stein  
Medxcel Landscaping

Justin Stevens  
Medxcel Landscaping

Cannon Todd  
Medxcel - St. John Medical Center

Scott Usry  
Medxcel - St. Vincent's East Hospital

Tim Wetstein  
Medxcel - St. Elizabeth’s Hospital

Jesse Zuelsdorff  
Medxcel - Good Samaritan Hospital

James Fraley  
Millikin University

Jonathan Pokrzywinski  
Millikin University

Chris Haugen  
Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements

C.J. Carley  
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Kevin Johnson  
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David Lee  
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Ray Murphy  
Richland School District

Charles Richardson  
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Ed Thomas  
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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.
TORO PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTOR PRODUCTS EXUDE HIGH-PERFORMANCE FROM START TO FINISH

Built for ultimate productivity and multi-season usage, Toro continues to deliver innovative high quality products built to reduce labor time for maintenance professionals. From the latest additions to the GrandStand® MULTI FORCE® family of any task, any season attachments to the highly-efficient Z Master® models and high-performance solutions for spraying, next-level productivity is what these products aim to deliver. Some noteworthy professional contractor products from Toro include the following:

GrandStand MULTI FORCE Attachments
The GrandStand MULTI FORCE attachments are engineered for year-round versatility such as dethatching and aerating in the spring, and fall cleanup and plowing in the winter, the MULTI FORCE attachments do it all. The newest attachments to the GrandStand MULTI FORCE family include:

- Leaf Plow — Once fall comes around, facilities can turn their GrandStand MULTI FORCE into a leaf plow to clear large areas of leaves in a short time. The high-strength galvanized steel construction not only ensures long-term durability, but it also provides the strength to push heavy, wet leaves. Plus, the stainless-steel tines won't damage grass or turf.
- Snowblower — To conquer the cold, unruly winters, users can transform their GrandStand MULTI FORCE into a snowblower. The snowblower attachment is 48” wide and is ideal for sidewalks but also big enough to make quick work of driveways and parking lots. The blower also features a unique urethane trim edge that softens any contact with obstacles such as uneven pavement, cobblestones and more. The lift and chute rotation are controlled by low-flow hydraulics for easy adjustments, and the blower is powered by high-flow hydraulics to ensure there's plenty of power to throw piles of snow.
- BOSS® 48” Plow — For the snow, the GrandStand MULTI FORCE is also compatible with the BOSS 48” snowplow (in addition to the 60” plow already available). The 48” BOSS snowplow clears standard sidewalks in one pass while providing users the versatility of getting snow out of tight spaces. Lifting the blade and adjusting the angle on the fly is easy thanks to the low-flow hydraulics and features a 44” width at full angle.

Other attachments for the GrandStand MULTI FORCE include an EZ Vac Powered Bagger, Pro Force Blower, BOSS 60” Plow, Power Broom, Tine Rake Dethatcher and a Hooker Aerator.

SprayMaster
Gone are the days of uneven applications, thanks to the Toro SprayMaster® series. Users will experience precision applications with consistent liquid flows, and the industry-first electronic smart controls ensure precise liquid and granular spreads on the Lean-to-Steer model. The SprayMaster features easy controls and allows users to check the fluids at a glance due to the transparent white tanks. Designed to work seamlessly on any property size, the SprayMaster is the ultimate in precision and productivity. The Toro SprayMaster series includes several models, including the Stand-On Spray Master Lean-to-Steer, Stand-on Spray Master Junior, Stand-On Spray Master Intermediate, Stand-On Spray Master Max and the Stand-On Spray Master Max XL.

Z Master Mowers
The Toro Z Master 7500 is designed to get more work done in less time. The unit comes in two configurations — gas and diesel. The Z Master 7500 series mowers come in a variety of deck sizes, including a 96” deck that folds to 75 inches for easy transport on most standard trailers. The wings flex up 20 degrees and down to 15 degrees, which hug the ground as users mow, giving the operator a pro-quality cut on uneven terrain. And when the engine isn’t on, users can still lift and fold the deck with the 40-amp charging system. Operators can adapt to changing terrain on the fly automatically by choosing the right operating mode for the conditions with Toro’s Horizon™ technology.

Top-notch performance, productivity and reliability are the cornerstone of every Toro product for every task, no matter how challenging it is. From Start to Finish, Toro’s commitment to innovation and designing products that meet customers’ requirements is what every Toro product stands for.
COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING ON THE RIVER CAMPUS

Update Submitted by: John McIntyre | Manager, University Horticulture & Grounds | University of Rochester

We hosted a socially distanced tree planting event in recognition of Arbor and Earth Day. We planted 16 native trees, 3 different species in the Susan B. Anthony bowl. The group planting the trees were professors, doctors, students and staff. Right now it is so important to bring our community together safely and do something we all agree helps, planting trees to shade the next generation. Volunteers came from the student body, faculty, staff and Emergency room doctors, of which went to NYC for a few weeks to help treat covid positive patients. Our Horticulture and Grounds team prepped the holes and added compost made from leaves collected two years ago. We set cloves at each hole for planting as we did not have 16 shovels.

It was a great event and people truly felt good about what we did over that 1 hour period.
WE ASKED YOU DELIVERED!

PGM® asked members to send in photos highlighting the beauty of their institution for the new website and the photos do not disappoint! Here are a few of the photos we received. It's not too late to submit! We will be switching the photos out periodically and giving you the credit. Submit photos to info@pgms.org and please make sure that they are high resolution.

Learn more at egopowerplus.com/commercial

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Thick, wet grass. Uneven terrain. No problem with our full commercial lineup and comprehensive fleet program with special discounts and free loaner units to keep you productive. The Z700, SZ Stand-On and W Series. Built to mow it all. And build your business.

Together we do more.

Today’s forecast: perfect conditions for growing your business.
PARTNER PROFILE: BOB BUCKLEY
By: Joe Kovolyan, CGM

EarthPlanter is a Silver Partner of PGMS®, and the products have become well known with a large part of our membership.

Joe: Bob, first thank you for your support and to all our Partners in Professionalism support of PGMS®!! Can you share with us a little about yourself and Earth Planter?
Bob: Hi Joe and thanks for reaching out. Well my background is in sales and marketing with a specialization in new product development and launches. In 2012 I was introduced to the EarthPlanter product by Tom Herbert, a friend and owner of Bo-Mer Plastics. Within a month I knew it had great potential. Later that year we launched the company…we had no customers and only a few models. Today we’re the leading commercial self-watering brand in North America with over 40,000 installed…go figure!

Joe: So how did you hear of PGMS® and decide to join as a Partner?
Bob: That’s an interesting path and one I will always be grateful for. PGMS® Member Dan Schied, CGM who was at Univ. of Rochester at the time accepted my offer to try a few EarthPlanters. 4-6 weeks later we received our first order. Dan and I hit it off right away and he gave us a lot of feedback on the product. Many of those suggestions made it into the line. It was also at that time when he introduced me to PGMS®. We joined shortly after and we’ve been with group ever since. So, thank you Dan…friends for life!

Joe: What advice would you give to someone that was thinking about becoming a partner of PGMS® in the future?
Bob: I’ve been asked this before and it’s pretty straightforward. If you value a professional community built on respect, sharing, and friendships, you’ll find none better than PGMS®.

If anyone has ever visited your web page, or other social media they will see its packed with bright colorful photos, how to videos, customer testimonials I dare say you have even become an Earth Planter celebrity yourself!!

Joe: What advice can you share with the membership if they want to stand out make a better impression on their property’s social media platforms?
Bob: If you’re the leader of any organization you need to put yourself out there. And that can be uncomfortable for a lot of people. But think of it this way…if I was a recruit who was considering joining your grounds crew, do I want to see a fancy video of your property or a personal message from the ground’s leader? Having a passion for what you do is contagious…so be prepared to make it personal if you want great results from these platforms.

Joe: Lastly any insights you can share and advice you can give to our membership on dealing with industry suppliers during these uncertain times?
Bob: A little-known secret that may serve to make my point on this one. When I’m not running EarthPlanter I own Kelly’s Irish Pub in Geneva NY. Talk about rough…owning a bar during a global pandemic is not an ideal scenario. So how do we survive until the tide turns? Loyal customers who care about us and our business. Whether they spend $10 or $200, everything counts. My message in support of all PGMS® Suppliers, don’t forget we are out here and don’t think you need to spend a fortune to make a difference.

Joe: Thanks again Bob, we will all be looking out for the next how to video or member customer testimonial showcasing there awesome flowers thriving in your Earth Planters.
Bob: My pleasure an thank you to all PGMS® members!

PGMS® School of Grounds Management Summer Conference brings education and exclusive tours to a new city each Summer.

Interested in hosting PGMS? Contact us at info@pgms.org.

PGMS® School of Grounds Management 2021 Summer Conference

Registration Opening Spring 2021
Mount Vernon | U.S. Botanic Gardens | American University
Smithsonian Garden Tour | U.S. Capital Grounds
Groundskeeper II
Kent State University
Under general supervision, performs a variety of routine to skilled grounds maintenance work to include irrigation work for the purpose of maintaining an attractive landscape. Supervises student, staff, and public crews. Performs related work. Requirements: High school diploma or General Education Development (GED). Two years of related experience are preferable. Applications are available at https://www.kent.edu/employment.

Grounds Manager
SSC Services for Education - Green Bay, WI area
Manages groundskeeping at all areas and facilities. The primary focus will be on the SSC Services for Education - Green Bay, WI area. This includes the care of plantings, trees, container plants, and snow removal operations. Requires a high school diploma and 1-3 years of related experience. The salary range is $18,000 - $26,000 with potential for additional compensation.

Groundsperson
Bentley University
The physical demands of this position range from LIGHT to MEDIUM-HEAVY. This position involves planting and transplanting shrubs, removing and installing sod, watering both cultivated ground and new plantings. Seasonal grounds maintenance including: lawn mowing, trimming, edging, mulching, lining walkways and parking lots, surface trash clean-up, snow removal, and installation of traffic signals, sign posts, barriers, etc. These are completed in accordance with all applicable OSHA regulations and established schedules and procedures at Bentley University. Apply Here: https://www.click2apply.net/xWjVrNdJkiJ7z1F4Zdxc64.

Internship Opportunity
Chevy Chase Club
Horticulture Department Summer Intern
Chevy Chase Club offers members and their guests’ relief from the hustle and bustle of daily life. The gardens reflect an estate design philosophy that both provides an aesthetic experience and educates the guests. The gardeners are expected to work in the field as needed during the working day. For more information, contact: Brandon Haley, Project Manager - Grounds at Brandon.haley@sscserv.com.

Advanced Weed Control Solutions
Bayer offers solutions to your toughest weed challenges with a portfolio of proven postemergence weed solutions. With products like Celsius WG, Tribute Total, and Revolver, lawn care operators have the ability to effectively address difficult targets, timing, and turf types so lawns stay weed-free and your customers stay happy. Learn more about these and other Bayer solutions for lawn care professionals at es.bayer.us/herbicides-solutions.

PGM Classifieds

Gardening Specialist
Bentley University
The physical demands of this position range from LIGHT to MEDIUM. This position involves planning, planting, and maintaining ornamental flower beds, plants, and all herbaceous plant material. Also schedules and maintains all campus interior plants and may assists in planting, maintaining, and pruning ornamental shrubs and trees. These are completed in accordance with all applicable OSHA regulations and established schedules and procedures at Bentley University. Stand, walk, lift, carry, push, pull, twist, and reach are performed on a frequent to constant basis. Bending, pushing, pulling, climbing, kneeling and twisting are performed on an occasional to frequent basis. The heaviest physical demands are required during handling of furniture, heavier equipment, irrigation pipe, fertilizer, seed bags, etc. These activities require handling of 25-50 pounds of load resistance on an occasional to frequent basis. Heavier tasks may require the assistance of (2) or more co-workers. Apply Here: https://www.click2apply.net/ozOyvAT0S5a8fPswvHQ.

Questions about becoming a member? Visit our website at www.pgms.org or contact PGMS at info@pgms.org.
The Professional Grounds Management Society® (PGMS®) is an individual membership society of grounds professionals advancing the grounds management profession through education and professional development.

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 https://pgms.org/page/Partners.