Table of Contents

President's Message
Welcome message from PGMS President Mark Feist.
Page 4

PGMS® Strategic Vision
Learn more about the 2020 Strategic Plan and how you can get involved.
Page 6

2020 Green Star Awards® Grand Winners
Learn more about the winners of the 2020 Green Star Awards®.
Pages 8 - 15

Interview with TJ Brewer
Learn more about working at a NFL stadium.
Page 16

Interview with PGMS® Past President John Burns, CGM
Past PGMS® President Gerry Dobbs, CGM shares how he became a member of PGMS®.
Page 20

Interview with PGMS® Past President John Burns, CGM
Catch up with PGMS® Past President John Burns, CGM.
Page 22

PGMS Partners In Professionalism

Platinum
Gold
Silver
Bronze
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

WITH THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND STRENGTH SHOWN TO ME DURING 2020 AND CONTINUING INTO THE NEW YEAR I HAVE GAINED GREAT INSPIRATION AND COMFORT THAT I IN TURN OFFER TO YOU, OUR PGMS® MEMBERSHIP.

I must admit to the difficulties in getting started writing my 2021 President’s message as we have just finished the most challenging year of our collective PGMS® lives. It would have been easy for the PGMS® Board and staff to have adopted the Four Tops “oldie” song lyrics “Shake me, wake me when it’s over” using the pandemic as an excuse to paralyze us into a non-productive cycle of “self-quarantines”. Instead, I witnessed leadership contributions during this period that were no less than stellar enabling the Professional Grounds Management Society® to successfully adapt to the impact of adversity. With the positive attitude and strength shown to me during 2020 and continuing into the new year I have gained great inspiration and comfort that I in turn offer to you, our PGMS® membership.

Our progress in offering The Grounds Management Summit as a “virtual” education alternative was truly inspirational. Ten (10) webinars were offered starting in October 2020 with Joe Estey, “Predictably Human: Develop a Risk Competent Workforce” and ended December 16th with Ian Hanou, “Modern Tools for Managing Trees and Assets”. I know our membership joins me in saying “Thank you” to you, our PGMS® membership.

I recently experienced a disappointment in learning that our scheduled 2021 PGMS® School of Grounds Management Summer Regional Committee and Education Committee are already looking at a “virtual” program replacement with enhanced education opportunities which may include “Live Streaming” and Webinar formats. The Education Committee are also putting the final touches on the October 2021 School of Grounds Management held in Louisville, Kentucky. Indeed, being in Louisville in 2021 represents to me a/an excuse to paralyze us into a non-productive cycle of “self-quarantines”. Instead, I witnessed leadership contributions during this period that were no less than stellar enabling the Professional Grounds Management Society® to successfully adapt to the impact of adversity. With the positive attitude and strength shown to me during 2020 and continuing into the new year I have gained great inspiration and comfort that I in turn offer to you, our PGMS® membership.

As we enter the 2021 winter season, I want to emphasize utilizing the resources available to you as PGMS® members such as:

• Mary Abbott’s helpful advice given in her PGMS® Grounds Management Summit talk “The Risk of Repetitive Injuries Among Winter Workers”
• Referencing the newly published Landscape Management Guidelines produced by the PGMS® Book Taskforce
• Utilizing the “PGMS® Partners in Professionalism” products and services that are available to help make your winter work activities a little easier
• Referencing the “NEW” PGMS.org website and member portal

Be safe, Be alert, Be prepared to make a difference in 2021.
In July 2020, the PGMS® Board of Directors met virtually to conduct the Society’s three year strategic plan. The Society conducted a series of surveys to members, suppliers and partners, and non-members to ensure that stakeholders were able to provide feedback. The strategic planning sessions were very successful and the Board of Directors is pleased to present the Society’s key driving factors for the coming years.

President Mark Feist will share elements of the plan as part of a series of videos that will be emailed to the membership and that are located on the PGMS® website (pgms.org/page/strategicvision). PGMS® wants you to get involved and has multiple opportunities available, including micro, short and long term volunteer opportunities. To get involved, visit: https://pgms.org/page/Volunteer.

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 https://pgms.org/page/CertifiedGroundsManager.

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 50 questions based on the overall grounds maintenance field and 10 questions (multiple choice) based on your region. Details can be found at https://pgms.org/page/CertifiedGroundsTechnician.

**FRESH LOOK FOR A NEW YEAR**
Tired of seeing the same few perennials and shrubs planted all over town? Get to know these five underused varieties that are just as easy to care for but with far greater seasonal impact and benefit to pollinators. Hundreds of unique varieties of hardy Proven Winners plants are available from wholesale growers nationwide. Work with your design team to find a supplier near you at provenwinners.com/professionals/growers/locate.
A battery powered line trimmer is used to trim the stepping stones by the vegetable garden. Using this equipment allows professors to conduct outdoor classes and demonstrations undisturbed. It also aids in efficient management of the gardens as chores can be completed without disrupting unscheduled events.

Weekly tailgate training is conducted to keep the team safe and pertinent topics are touched on seasonally. There are also internal weekly shop inspections based on OSHA regulations and weekly vehicle, mower and tool inspection.

**Challenge**

- Irrigation water in Brazos County has a pH of 8 to 9 and soluble salts are commonly above 300 ppm. Native soil is predominantly clay which causes slow drainage and creates a salty crust in the top few inches of the root zone.
- Due to high soluble salts and high pH, woody plants typically defoliate where spray irrigation comes in contact with foliage (picture above).
- Where irrigation water comes in contact with turf grass grown on predominantly clay, a salty layer is deposited causing consistent stress to the turf.

**Solutions**

- Drip irrigation is used for all landscape beds which applies water directly to the root zone and not the foliage.
- Rotors have been adjusted so the angle at which they spray water is lower, which causes less water to contact foliage of trees.
- Plant selections for the Gardens were chosen for their ability to grow in this area despite poor quality irrigation water.
- Sand capping is used in turf areas of the Gardens as a means to flush soluble salts through the root zone. Texas A&M turf grass research has shown that sand capping is an effective management strategy to minimize the effects of high soluble salts in irrigation water.

**AWARDS SUBMISSION COMPLIED BY:**

NEIL FLETCHER
Horticulture & Arboriculture Manager
The Leach Teaching Gardens at Texas A&M University

Winner of the PGMS® Green Star Sustainability Award

There are 21 named garden collections and 14 named structures in the garden, each constructed with individual donor funds to showcase sustainability through their design, purpose, and construction. The unique gardens feature both native and non-native plants that are tolerant to the harsh environmental conditions in College Station, TX. The structures feature a variety of sustainable attributes that could be used in local residential gardens, including a variety of cisterns and the use of local and recycled materials. Lastly, there are natural areas displaying farming techniques and natural wildflower prairies.

The gardens are designed to have a natural appearance and are expected to be in impeccable condition at all times with management requirements that exceed APPA 1 standards. Organics are incorporated in a progressive IPM program that limits pesticides and uses organic fertilizers.

The entire design of The Gardens at Texas A&M University have been designed with sustainability in mind.

“The creative team behind The Gardens saw a need growing on campus – the need to enrich lives by connecting people with the living world of horticulture. The importance of plants to life on earth is immeasurable. We depend upon them for the air we breathe, the food we eat, the shelter we need, and the medicine we can’t live without. Through our numerous programs and educational materials, guests can learn about ecosystems, growing food, growing plants, conserving water, and much more. In addition, recreation and events in our tranquil and eclectic landscapes will bring the community together.”

Gardens.tamu.edu

The structures constructed in the Gardens feature a variety of sustainable attributes that could be used in local residential gardens, including a variety of cisterns, rain catchment systems, and windmill and the use of local and recycled materials. Focusing on social sustainability, visitors are able to view these areas to learn from and replicate and professors are able to use them as a teaching tool for the students to learn from with hands on experience.

Sustainable items found throughout The Gardens:

- Battery powered equipment, including line trimmer, edger, blower, hedge trimmer and push mower
- There are several rain catchment systems in The Gardens
- Earthkind Garden water fence holds 720 gallons
- Farmers Market Cistern, holds 1500 gallons
- Water efficient drip irrigation is used in all landscape and annual flower beds
- Flow sensors are used in irrigation management
- Rain sensors are used in irrigation management
- Natural areas display farming techniques and natural wildflower prairies.
- Progressive IPM program that limits pesticides and uses all organic fertilizers.
- Tents used on the AgriLife Event Lawn are required to use water barrels to anchor the tents instead of tent stakes which could damage the irrigation system.
- Xeriscape designs to show visitors what is possible with little water input
- Food items harvested from the gardens are donated to the local food bank
- All spray nozzles for the irrigation are MP Rotator adjustable nozzles resulting in 30% less water use compared to traditional sprays.
- Wildflower gardens to further enhance habitat for birds and pollinators
- Active bioswale, which is used for phytoremediation of storm run off from a large parking lot nearby
- Over 300 trees were planted in construction of the Gardens
- All tree stakes are biodegradable
- All landscape beds are native soil
- Native or adapted plants are used in the design
- No trees were removed during the construction of this project, including the 200 year old Post Oak listed on slide 12
- All lighting used in The Gardens is LED
- 100% of green waste is diverted from a landfill
- Tree Campus USA

FROM FIRST SPARK TO LAST LIGHT.

WE DESIGNED YOUR KAWASAKI ENGINE TO KEEP UP WITH YOU FOR AS LONG AS YOU NEED IT TO, BECAUSE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF A DAY'S WORK IS THE ABILITY TO ALWAYS SEE IT THROUGH.
AURORA UNIVERSITY UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE GROUNDS - SMALL

Aurora University traces its origin to the 1893 founding of a seminary in the small town of Mendota, Illinois. Though established initially to prepare graduates for ministry, the institution soon adopted a broader mission and moved to a new campus on the western edge of the nearby community of Aurora. This is the oldest building on campus built in 1911. The STEM building on the bottom left is LEED platinum certified. Native plant material makes up the landscaping around this building. New synthetic field is seen in the background. This one year old field is used as an on campus practice area for sports teams and intramurals.

University Banquet Hall is a multi-purpose event space that host events on a daily basis. This is area is maintained at a high level and debris is checked throughout the day. The European Hornbeam trees along the wall have been very challenging to keep alive. The reflected heat from the west facing wall and the fact that there is no irrigation and limited root zone make it a challenge to manage. The overhang from the roof allows no rain in this area. The retaining wall islands along the front are planted with State Street Maples. Another challenge to watering these trees is the porous walls that allows water to run out. They must slowly water and pulse in.

Each Fall it has become tradition to use yellow mums in twenty five large containers, entrance gardens and throughout other strategic areas on campus. They work closely with a grower to ensure the number of plants and timely flower display.

Aurora University has no irrigation. All watering must be done with water cannon, and sprinklers or for hard to reach areas we have a small water wagon pulled with a UTV. The Town of Aurora has permanent water restrictions in place that only allow watering on odd/even days from 6am - 9am according to building number. To further complicate we have restriction of not using the water cannon in the quad past 7:30am so as not to disturb students and administration. We have introduced wetting agents and bio stimulants to encourage deeper and denser rooting thus reducing water frequency and saving on water cost and use.

Randy mowing Institute building. Safety glasses, gloves and ear protection are worn at all times when mowing. In the background you can see river rock has replaced mulch. They have found that using the stand on type mowers provides us access into smaller areas and reduces compaction that larger, heavier Z's do.

Spartan Athletic Park is the home to Aurora University football, men's and women's lacrosse and soccer. This rubber in-fill field is 4 years old and is in excellent condition. Grooming is done every 4 to 6 weeks and sweeping is done as needed. Each summer the field is professionally cleaned and de-compacted. GMAX tests are done on all synthetic surfaces yearly to ensure we have safe fields for athletes.

The weekly safety meeting is shown here. A different topic is discussed each week. High visibility shirts or vests are required at all times. PPE is also mandatory and all employees are trained on proper PPE on their first day. Due to COVID 19 all staff is required to wear facemasks. All weekly safety meetings are documented. Spot inspections are conducted for PPE, each employee is challenged to check on their peers and they encourage other team members (not grounds to hold us accountable).

CHRIS METCALF, CGM, CSFM
Grounds Manager
SSC Services for Education at Aurora University
2020 Green Star Grand Award® Winner

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE GROUNDS - MID-SIZE

During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Land-Grant Colleges Act, providing funding for the establishment of a new college in each state and territory. These schools were to promote higher education and practical learning to people of all classes and walks of life, especially rural life. In 1888, the Agricultural College of Utah was founded as the state’s land-grant institution. It became Utah State University in 1957.

Utah State University’s main campus covers over 400 acres. 100 acres are covered in turf, 42 acres covered in trees, shrubs, and flower beds, and 5 acres are covered in annual flowers. The campus has over 6,800 trees on the main campus including 38 State champion trees!

There are many theme gardens on campus including this cone flower bed. During the spring it is filled with tulips that give way to the cone flowers when summer arrives.

The Permaculture garden is a beautiful part of campus making use of plants in a variety of ways such as medicinal use, food production, and pollinators. The food is used by the Nutrition and Food Science department of the University. No pesticides and only organic fertilizers and maintenance practices are used in this garden and many other parts of campus.

There are over 50,000 to 60,000 annual flowers grown each year in the university’s greenhouse and are planted in 5 acres of annual garden beds twice per year.

Challenge
Keeping the sidewalks, parking lots, and streets clean of snow and ice for the safety of thousands of students and employees that are on campus everyday presents a big challenge. There are three shifts that come in early morning, day, and evening to clear snow and ice. There is also a weekend crew that comes in on the weekends. Up to 4” of snow can be cleared off campus in 3 hours.

Beauty
As buildings, parking lots, and other hard surfaces are added to the campus finding ways to manage the storm water is an ever increasing challenge. For this part of campus storm water is used to their advantage by bringing it to the surface and adding it to our landscape. This small canal runs down the middle of the road dividing the traffic and flows into a pond. We have learned that often we can think through a problem and make it into something that has a positive influence on the campus and community.

Safety
Consistent training and proper PPE allows the employees to feel safe and comfortable working for Landscape Operations and Maintenance.
By: Joe Kovolyan, CGM | PGMS® President Elect

One of the greatest perks of being a member of PGMS® is being able to connect with industry peers from very diverse industries. I immediately thought of TJ for an interview both for working in my home state of Ohio and my experience painting for an NFL team for five years.

Joe: TJ first thanks for taking the time to share a little about yourself with the membership. Golf course, educator, consultant, college and pro sports you have been able to experience so many sides of the industry can you give a brief rundown on your journey to head Groundskeeper of Paul Brown Stadium and the Cincinnati Bengals.

TJ: Thanks for the invite. I took a pretty unconventional route to the NFL. I started my turf career with the Athletic Department at Iowa State University while I was pursuing my Bachelor’s Degree. From there I spent time working on golf courses, even helping to build a golf course. I worked for a large city’s school district and then an athletic field construction company. After that the majority of my time was spent as a Head Groundskeeper in Minor League Baseball, 10 years. From there I moved to the University of Memphis where I oversaw the grounds for all of their intercollegiate athletic facilities. Finally, I moved to Cincinnati to become the Stadium Head Groundskeeper at Paul Brown Stadium, the home of the Cincinnati Bengals.

Joe: Being a fellow CSFM through Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) how did you come across PGMS® and what did PGMS® offer that interested you enough to have you and your staff join?

TJ: The STMA offers a lot of great content and opportunities regarding the care and maintenance of our athletic fields. It has been essential in my growth and success in sports turf management. PGMS® provides a plethora of content and opportunities that support the care and maintenance of our facility as a whole. We have 6.5 acres of Bermuda grass athletic fields, an artificial turf stadium field and about 6.5 acres of a very diverse and well-manicured landscape. The PGMS® gives our crew access to materials that allow us all to stay up to date with current trends and technology.

Joe: What do you think are some of the most important skills that you learned early in your career that you still use today performing your job at the professional NFL and televised level?

TJ: We work in a very unique and dynamic industry. The ability to read and react to changing variables is paramount to success, most important is the ability to make confident decisions. Training and delegation are two very important keys to long term success in our industry. It takes time to train and it takes trust to delegate, both things that can be hard to come by, but these two skills are very important to career longevity and personal happiness.

Joe: Thanks TJ!! You have a great story and I truly appreciate you taking the time to learn a little bit about me. What do you think are some of the most important skills you learned early in your career that you still use today performing your job at the professional NFL and televised level?

TJ: Any time you can grow your peer network is a huge benefit! Staying connected with others in your area or in your situation can help you normalize your issues and find solutions to your problems. The education and insight available from professional organizations and industry partners can be critical to your success. Being able to connect with the wealth of knowledge available close to home is very helpful in growing your own skillset.

Joe: So lastly TJ for some of our younger and future members that are thinking semi pro or pro sports may be the direction they want to pursue, any advice you can give on how to start out, actual expectations to have in the job like, hours worked, restrictions or flexibility in daily tasks, budgeting, long term plans etc?

TJ: This is a pretty loaded question, there are a lot of different ways to go. Here’s how I’ll lay it out: I have worked hard and made many sacrifices to get to where I am. There have been times when I thought I should make more money or wished I was working less hours, sometimes I was jealous others were able to go on summer vacations. With all of that said, I wouldn’t trade anything for the sunsets, sunrises, thunderstorms and rainbows I have had the opportunity to see. For all of the times I was knee deep in snow freezing or soaking wet in the rain, yesterday it was 80° on November 9th, I was wearing shorts standing on an NFL Shield on the 25-yard line of a 60,000-seat stadium… dressed for work, in my office.

How do you get here? Don’t give up. Do the best you can where you are with what you have. Keep going! Enjoy every step and cherish every challenge. Thanks for taking the time to learn a little bit about me.

Joe: What are your thoughts on the importance and benefits of being a member and actively involved in organizations like PGMS® and STMA and one step further the relationships with your industry supply partners.

TJ: Any time you can grow your peer network is a huge benefit! Staying connected with others in your area or in your situation can help you normalize your issues and find solutions to your problems. The education and insight available from professional organizations and industry partners can be critical to your success. Being able to connect with the wealth of knowledge available close to home is very helpful in growing your own skillset.

Joe: What are your thoughts on the importance and benefits of being a member and actively involved in organizations like PGMS® and STMA and one step further the relationships with your industry supply partners.

TJ: Any time you can grow your peer network is a huge benefit! Staying connected with others in your area or in your situation can help you normalize your issues and find solutions to your problems. The education and insight available from professional organizations and industry partners can be critical to your success. Being able to connect with the wealth of knowledge available close to home is very helpful in growing your own skillset.

Joe: What are your thoughts on the importance and benefits of being a member and actively involved in organizations like PGMS® and STMA and one step further the relationships with your industry supply partners.

TJ: Any time you can grow your peer network is a huge benefit! Staying connected with others in your area or in your situation can help you normalize your issues and find solutions to your problems. The education and insight available from professional organizations and industry partners can be critical to your success. Being able to connect with the wealth of knowledge available close to home is very helpful in growing your own skillset.
2021 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.

NEW! 2021 Submission Dates 2021 Green Star Awards Application will be released Monday, February 15, 2021 and is available through Tuesday, June 15.

For more information, including eligibility, FAQs, and how to enter, please visit: https://pgms.org/page/GreenStarAwards.
If you are like most of us in grounds management, we have trained ourselves to develop a critical eye to look for the problems in a given landscape and figuring out creative solutions to solve them. In essence, it is hard for us to truly sit back and enjoy the beauty the landscape has to offer to us. We feel like we should be concentrating on making sure the landscape is perfect. Instead, we our focus on the problems that we see in the landscape. For many of us, it is difficult to appreciate the overall beauty of a well-landscaped area that we maintain.

Several years ago, I attended a PGMS® conference in the fall. While at the conference, I had the opportunity to meet with Walt Bonvell, the Grounds Manager from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. We found a place to sit down and as we talked, I discovered that he was also the President of the Cincinnati Branch of PGMS®. After telling him that he was not too far away from where I worked as the Grounds Manager at Bernheim Arboretum in Clermont, Kentucky, I extended an invitation to Walt to come down anytime for a visit.

A few months later, Walt came down with a busload of members from the Cincinnati Branch of PGMS® for a guided tour of Bernheim in the spring. As they got off the bus, I told the story of how the Visitor Center was a platinum LEED-rated facility. After walking around the Visitor Center site, we ambled over to the Research facility and they enjoyed learning about the horticultural research projects going on inside the glass greenhouses. On the day of the tour, Bernheim was giving away native trees in one-gallon size pots. I invited my guests to pick out that they may like to plant at home or at a place where they worked. After taking a lunch break, we boarded the tour bus and visited several more spots within the Natural Areas part of Bernheim. As we concluded the tour, Walt shared with me that I should consider submitting Bernheim for a Green Star Award for its beautiful grounds. After all, there was a lot to brag about the grounds at Bernheim.

Maybe Walt was right. It was time that my staff and I should brag about the beautiful grounds at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest. Over the next few weeks, we took many photos and we completed the application with detailed information about Bernheim. Within a few weeks, we found out that Bernheim had won an Honor Award. At the Fall PGMS® Conference, we attended a special banquet where Bernheim was one of the Green Star Award winners for its achievement in managing a well-manicured landscape area. After coming home from the conference, I was able to share with the entire Bernheim staff about our accomplishment.

There is a benefit in belonging to Professional Grounds Management Society®. Whether meeting together at a conference or a branch meeting, we can be bold and brag about what we are doing at our particular facilities. We like to share ideas and experiences with each other that have helped us to be successful as grounds managers.
A PAST PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE: AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHNS BURNS, CGM

By: Joe Kovolyan, CGM | PGMS® President Elect

PGMS® Past President John Burns, CGM and I caught up just after the Thanksgiving break and I thought this would be a great way for some of our newer members to hear from a past PGMS® leader and for us old timers a great way to catch up with a friend and colleague.

Joe: John its great to catch up with you and I hope you have been enjoining a well-earned retirement. For our members can you remind us how long you have been a member of PGMS®, what year you were president, where you worked, when you retired etc.

John: Hi Joe thanks for reaching out to me. I have missed hearing from and seeing all my PGMS® friends. Well let’s see, I have to really think about when I joined PGMS®. I believe it was 2002. I may have the year wrong, but I know the year I joined we had the GIE in Nashville, Tennessee. This was my first GIE to attend and boy was I surprised. It was amazing to walk through the showroom floor to see all the vendors. It was eye opening. Back in those days we had the outdoor vendor event in another location and it was amazing to see how the convention center changed to accommodate the outdoor event. It was definitely not as convenient as walking out the back door in Louisville to see the outdoor vendors. Sorry for going on so long, that is a great memory for me since it was my first GIE to attend. I believe it was my second year as a member of PGMS® but I would not believe I had missed out on PGMS® my whole career prior to this and I wanted to do what I could to promote and be active with PGMS®. A few years after that I was asked to be a central director. I accepted and started on the Board of Directors in 2006. In 2011 I went onto the executive board as an officer and became president in 2015. This was a big decision for me as I had really planned to retire in a couple of years and the decision to become an officer was a 5-year commitment. I ultimately decided to accept and thus extended my working career a few years. I was committed to PGMS® and thoroughly loved my time on the Board of Directors. Following my commitment to PGMS® I retired from The University of Texas at Austin. When I retired, I had been at UT for 38 years. It was a great place to work and I truly loved my job. I can say I love retirement more.

Joe: I wonder how many members realize you delayed your retirement to see through the commitment you made when you were elected to the executive board. I’m always impressed with the loyalty hard work and dedication PGMS® members show for a volunteer organization. You and your wife Marilyn have been doing some very cool things, spending time with family, continuing to help others and still active with PGMS®. Can you give us a quick rundown what you have been up to too?

John: Joe since I retired Marilyn and I have taken several great trips. Right after I retired, we celebrated my retirement by taking a river cruise in Europe for 19 days. It was a wonderful trip and great memory. We have traveled some since and plan to continue to travel as much as we can. We also have a travel trailer that we have been able to use quite a bit since we have more time now. We love to go camping with the kids and grandkids. Speaking of grandkids, they keep us pretty busy attending all their different events.

I have tried to keep in touch with PGMS®, but have not been able to attend any meetings. I do hope to attend some Texas Branch meetings. I am currently the chairman of the Landscape Management Operations and Accreditation committee.

I am active with a group here in Texas called the Central Texas Master Naturalists. This group is a chapter of the state wide Texas Master Naturalist organization. Our local group has many projects we work on in our area. We have worked on trails in state parks and Corp of Engineers parks, removing invasive plants, litter捡拾, community planting, etc. Our group also does education events at local elementary schools and public events. I personally head up a project to remove invasive plants from the Miller Springs Nature Center. The nature center is a 185-acre natural area opened daily to the public and is a wonderful asset to our community. Marilyn and I also have done some tree trimming in a local city park. This was a “Marilyn project” since she walked this park almost everyday and she saw the need for tree trimming, so I had the privilege to help on this project.

We have also been very blessed to work with 8 Days of Hope. It is a Christian based non-denominational organization that goes into areas following natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. Being retired makes it much easier to pick up and go quickly to help. This year we have gone to Mississippi twice and Louisiana twice. The group likes to say we are all just trying to be the hands and feet of Jesus! I would say this is the hardest work I have done since I retired, but it is also the most rewarding. If anyone is interested everyone is welcomed. You just have to register through 8DOH.

Joe: Some very great stuff John and after spending time with you on the Board of PGMS® not surprised one bit. Now that you have had some time to reflect what advice would you give your younger members just starting out in their career and what advice would you give about not just being a member but being actively involved with PGMS®.

John: I would tell our young members not to expect to keep moving up in a career by just getting your job done. You need to step up and go the extra mile. I don’t know what extra that mile would be in every workplace, but I would definitely say join PGMS® and be active. In my acceptance speech as president I borrowed a quote in President Kennedy and changed it a bit to fit our organization. I said, “ask not what PGMS® can do for you, but what you can do for PGMS®”. I feel strongly that as a member you are not going to get much from PGMS® unless you are willing to put back into the organization. The more active you become the more you will get to know other PGMS® members across the country. At the end of my career if I had something come up at work that I might like to get feedback as to how others were handling the same issues I could call my PGMS® friends from New York to California, to Florida to be on the South-Central Director and many areas in between. I can definitely say I was truly blessed to have had these opportunities I had with PGMS®. I have life long friends across this great country. Some friends closer than others, but all friends. I thank you Joe for being one of those friends. Best of luck to you as you serve on the Board of Directors and the Executive Board.

Joe: Thank you John, as a past president that I had the privilege to work with you made a great role model and if not I’ll just blame John, with three past presidents named John they will never know who I mean!! With Denny Baker’s son joining us to do a ventriloquist act on safety. I can honestly say I have never laughed harder at anything before or since. He had some volunteers that night that included former PGMS® presidents. George Van Hestern, Jr., CGM, John Van Etten, CGM, Donald Bottger, CGM and Gene Poully, CGM. What great sports they were after being humiliated.

Joe: John, I can’t thank you enough for taking some time and sharing with our membership. Building friendships, learning from our peers while giving back to the industry has always been one of the great things about PGMS®. Past Presidents have so much knowledge and experience from there years serving on the board its nice to be able to share their insight with the current membership while taking us fellow long time members down memory lane.

Thanks Again!!
PGMS® New Members
New Members since November 2, 2020

- Jessica Adam
  The University of Iowa
- John Adams
  New Mexico Tech
- Robert Anderson
  SSC Service Solutions
- Jacob Annunziata
  Holden, MA Dept. of Public Works
- David Brown
  The University of Iowa
- Nick Chapla
  University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
- David Chavez
  New Mexico Tech
- John Clintsman
  The Ensworth School
- Megan Crosswell
  Miami University
- Juan Del Valle
  University of Arizona
- Thomas Demeuleenaere
  The University of Iowa
- Cordel Dietzig
  ABM
- Matthew Dugger
  The University of Iowa
- Jon Ebert
  John Deere Company
- Alan Flaig
  New Mexico Tech
- Christ Fry
  The University of Iowa
- Scott Gritsch
  The University of Iowa
- Jay Hammer
  Miami University
- Darius Lane
  John Deere Ag & Turf
- Kyra Eden Longacre
  Northern Virginia Community College
- Tony Marsalo
  Arader Tree Service, Inc.
- Justin Peloquin
  University of Redlands
- Robert Plankinton
  Winterthur
- Michael Rhinehart
  The University of Iowa
- Gilbert Rosales
  University of Arizona
- Humberto Sarabia
  University of Arizona
- Joel D Schock
  Willow Valley Communities
- Brian Simmons
  Virginia Episcopal
- Susan Stansbury
  Texas A&M University/SSC Service Solutions
- Tanner Storer
  Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum
- Ramon Terrazaz
  New Mexico Tech
- Patrick Vargas
  ABM Services
- Micheal Weikamp
  The University of Iowa

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.

PGMS® New Members
STANDARD MP ROTATOR
- 0.4 in/hr
- 8-35 ft.
- Maximum water efficiency
- Slowest precipitation rate
- More heads on one zone

MP800
- 0.8 in/hr
- 6-16 ft.
- Small spaces
- Tight water windows
- Spray retrofit solution

MP STRIPS
- 5 ft. wide
- Rectangular spaces
- Pair with standard MP or MP800 nozzles

Greater water savings. Faster installation. More than a decade of proven performance. Manage irrigation according to exact landscape needs with the industry-best MP Rotator nozzle family. With two precipitation rates across the widest radius range available, it’s the smarter solution for high-efficiency irrigation.

THE WORLD’S MOST POWERFUL BACKPACK BLOWER
NEW PB-9010
POWERFUL, LIGHT WEIGHT, GREATER PRODUCTIVITY.
Its class-leading 79.9 cc professional-grade 2-stroke engine allows it to produce 1,110 CFM of air volume at a speed of 220 MPH at the nozzle, which equals to 48 Newtons of blowing performance.
MSRP is $599.99 and comes with an industry-leading two-year commercial warranty and five-year consumer warranty.

ECHO-USA.COM

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL IRRIGATION | Built on Innovation®
Learn more. Visit hunterindustries.com
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

Recruiting a new member helps to grow the Society and establish a better foundation for professionals in the green industry.

Questions about becoming a member? Visit our website at www.pgms.org or contact PGMS at info@pgms.org.

J. Paul Burfoot
President, PGMS
U.S. Soldiers Home
Washington, D.C.

The 1972 Annual Meeting of the Professional Grounds Management Society will open at 10:00 A.M., Wednesday, September 13, at the Twin Bridges Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C. The conference theme will be "The New Image For An Old Profession" which will be a major topic throughout the entire three and a half day meeting.

Beginning on September 13, the first day will be devoted to registration of attending delegates and preparation of exhibits. This year’s conference ranks the first year PGMS will sponsor a trade show in conjunction with its Annual Membership Meeting.

The social prelude will officially kick off Wednesday night with a ribbon cutting ceremony opening the Exhibition Hall and a reception by the host D.C. Branch.

Thursday morning will begin with a continental breakfast with the exhibitors in the Exhibit Hall. The evening agenda will also include the Opening Business Session (official welcome to Washington, address from PGMS President J. Paul Barefoot, and various branch and committee reports). Other noteworthy events occurring on Thursday include two extremely informative educational sessions presented by Dr. Jerome F. Robinson and Dr. Wesley P. Judkins, both from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; a special luncheon and keynote speaker; and an exciting dinner theater program to wind up the evening.

Friday morning will begin with a continental breakfast with the exhibitors in the Exhibit Hall followed by two more educational sessions presented by Drs. Paul Smal and James Shanks of VIP. After lunch there will be a special tour of the Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland.

The evening schedule for Friday includes the highlight of the Annual Meeting -- the Annual Banquet and Installation of Officers. All delegates are urged to be sure to attend this gala affair.

Saturday will be the final day of the Annual PGMS Conference, but it will by no means be the anti-climax. The opening session will be a business meeting for applying the final touches to the coming year’s programs. All members should attend this important meeting to register their support for the Society. After the business meeting, there will be a special tour of beautiful Gunbarrel Oaks, one of the most fascinating garden spots in the country.

PGMS ANNUAL MEETING (cont. from preceding page)

Recruiting a new member helps to grow the Society and establish a better foundation for professionals in the green industry.

Questions about becoming a member? Visit our website at www.pgms.org or contact PGMS at info@pgms.org.

A LOOK BACK AT PGMS® IN JULY 1972

Vol XXII
July, 1972
No. 7

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Members:

Throughout the past year, PGMS has been working diligently to realign its goals and efforts to the new image of our profession. After one year, we have made numerous advancements to reorganizing our operations and records to keep abreast of our dynamic field. In doing so, we have had to put aside some of the roadblocks that had been holding us back and take on a new approach to how we view our own worth as professionals. As a result of these changes, the Professional Grounds Management Society has slowly, but surely, advanced and grown. Particularly in the past six months.

New members are bringing an important new energy to the Society. Young, college-educated professionals and older, veterans groups are blending to form an organization with a unified voice for the profession. We have made a study of ourselves. We know where we have been, and we know where we are. Now is the time to take our new direction and move.

To do this we need a united effort from each and every PGMS member. With the Annual Meeting only a month away, we all have a magnificent opportunity to join in the decision-making process of the Society. The theme of this year’s conference is “The New Image For An Old Profession.” The major subject of the conference will be the direction of the Society for the coming year.

I strongly urge all PGMS members to attend this year’s meeting. It will be our most important meeting. Help your professional organization meet a clear, strong voice for all Professional grounds managers.

Let us have our year of action. Let us carry our new image across the entire country and give all Professional grounds managers what they truly need--the PROFESSIONAL GROUNDS MANAGEMENT SOCIETY -- -- THE NEW IMAGE FOR AN OLD PROFESSION.

J. Paul Burfoot
President, PGMS
U.S. Soldiers Home
Washington, D.C.

The Professional Gardener
PGMS® REMEMBERS

PGMS® Great Lakes Branch Mourns Loss of Eugene Kociba, Secretary Treasurer

Eugene Kociba passed away on November 16, 2020. Eugene was a charter member and secretary treasurer of the Great Lakes Branch. Eugene was a graduate of Michigan State University, not once but twice. Yes – you read that right! It was noted that Eugene loved MSU so much that he decided to attend twice. Eugene spent 15 years as a horticulturist at Fernwood Botanical Gardens in Niles, Michigan before dedicating 25 years of his career at working as grounds manager at Frankenmuth Insurance Company in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

Eugene is remembered as an accomplished, extensively knowledgeable and passionate horticulturalist and one who was equally passionate about the mission and membership of PGMS®. Eugene was instrumental in chartering the Great Lakes Branch and was known and will be remembered for not only his contribution to PGMS® but also for his humble demeanor which was parlayed through his ability to connect with and becoming friends with countless PGMS® members, and his ability to share his vast horticultural knowledge and passion for all things plants with anyone that knew him.

While Eugene was seriously committed to his employer and for how their property and grounds were presented aesthetically, here you can see from the picture taken for his 20th work anniversary, that Eugene’s sense of humor spilled over into his work reminding everyone of all the things he would do.

With great sorrow, we announce the passing of our friend, Joe Proskine

Joseph Proskine, 61, of Littlestown, PA passed away Saturday, Dec 5, at Wellspan Gettysburg Hospital. He was the husband of Stacy (Kimball) Proskine for 19 years. Born April 27, 1959 in Oxford, PA, Joe was the son of Tyler Proskine of Quincy, FL and the late Buena (Wickham) Proskine who died in 2015. He was a Peters Township High School graduate. Joe was a certified Horticulturist and Arborist and was a sales representative for Ruppert Nurseries of Laytonsville, MD.

Joe was an active member of PGMS® DC Branch since 2008 and a PGMS® member since 2011. His effort especially with the raffle were instrumental in providing funding for the DC Branch Scholarship. He worked so hard talking to vendors about donating items for the raffle. He was a friend to everyone and always made sure visitors to our meetings felt welcome.

In addition to his PGMS® membership Joe was a member of Frederick Area Landscape Contractors and Nurserymen’s Association, International Society of Arboriculture and Maryland Nursery & Landscape Association. He was an avid golfer, gardener, an outdoorsman and loved family gatherings.

---

Gardener
Columbia Country Club

Gardeners report to the Horticulturist and is under the direction of both the 1st Assistant Superintendent and Golf Course Superintendent. The individual in this position will be held responsible for daily maintenance and related duties necessary in keeping the clubhouse and golf course beds to very high standards of aesthetics. This position will require manual labor involved in landscaping maintenance and construction. To apply please contact either Brandon Carberry (bcarberry@columbiacc.org) or Jimmy Halley (halley@columbiacc.org).

Grounds Operations Manager
University of Massachusetts Lowell

The Grounds Operations Manager is responsible for the overall appearance and care of 175 acres of urban University grounds. This care covers lawn spaces, landscaping, tree maintenance, turf maintenance, recreational and intercollegiate field preparation, and instruction and hands-on gardening experience. Under the direction of the Horticulturist staff, interns will participate in the installation, maintenance, conservation, and preservation of the Bishop’s Garden and the Cathedral grounds. Areas of emphasis include ornamental herb garden, herbaceous perennial borders, a rose garden, a 5-acre native woodland, and a classroom vegetable garden. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to Sandra Flowers at sfowers@cathedral.org no later than March 26, 2021. Earlier applications will receive an earlier decision.

Horticulture Department Summer Intern
Chevy Chase Club

Horticulture interns work alongside staff to complete various tasks that enhance and maintain the landscape and gardens. The areas of emphasis include an herb and vegetable garden, rose garden, native woodland gardens, herbaceous perennial borders, two acres of turf and an extensive collection of trees, shrubs, annuals and tropical plants. Please submit your resume and cover letter by email to Michael Gildea, Garden and Grounds Manager (mgildea@chevychaseclub.org). Application deadline is Friday, April 2, 2021.

---

Contact Us:

Facebook: gingharrifarmSubscribe on YouTube

Find up-to-date job listings on our website at www.pgms.org and click on Career Center.

---

Air-driven Granular Spreaders

Vortex™ Spreaders will apply granular fertilizer, granular deicers, granular pre-emergent herbicide, granular growth regulator, granular aquatic herbicides, and much more.

Vortex™ spreaders eliminate most hand application of granular product!

Uses of the Vortex™ Spreaders include:

- Lawn and landscape maintenance
- Municipality right-of-way
- Deicer application on stairs, between and under vehicles
- Parks and recreation areas
- Pest control application around homes and ornamental areas
- Golf course bunker faces and ornamental beds
- Waterway pesticide application
- Nursery pre-emergent and fertilizer application

Toll Free (877) 886-7839 or Local (954) 650-7590

WWW.VORTEXADVANTAGE.COM
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/page/Membership.

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.