PGMS School of Grounds Management

The PGMS School of Grounds Management is now the umbrella name for two educational events that take place annually, the PGMS School of Grounds Management Summer Conference and the School of Grounds Management & GIE+EXPO.

Both offer the most up-to-date and need to know information to help you be the best green industry professional you can be. Both offer exclusive networking opportunities that gets you rubbing shoulders with the best of the best.

Don’t miss the PGMS School of Grounds Management & GIE+EXPO in October! (see page 7 for details)
John Burns, CGM
President’s Welcome

Challenges and Triumphs

We just got back from California for our Summer Conference. Carey Avery, CGM worked very hard on this Summer Conference and I want to thank him for all his hard work. It was a wonderful program with some great speakers and some great places to visit. The keynote speaker was Ahmed Hassan, the celebrity landscaper from DIY’s Yard Crashers. It was fun hearing from a celebrity landscaper whom I have watched many times on his entertaining show. We also heard about water conservation and sustainable landscape practices. Of course while we were on the University of California Davis campus we toured the grounds which is the first 4 star accredited campus in our Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation program. We also toured Raley Field, the home of the Sacramento River Cats, and Maple Rock Gardens & Farm (one of the best private gardens in Native California). Cary had reminded me that California is in the middle of a severe drought and for this reason the campus might not look its best, but I was able to visit his campus last year and he warned the same thing then and I thought the campus was beautiful. We all have challenges and this was a way for us to see how Cary and his team are dealing with the drought.

I know very well the challenges of drought. We have experienced a wet spring and early summer here and Texas has just come out of a really bad extended drought. We are very relieved to be out of the drought, but we know it is just a matter of time until we are in another one. Seeing how others deal with drought is a very important way to learn and to either put the practices in place or at least have some tools in the ready for when droughts come around.

On July 20 volunteers representing PGMS attended the National Association of Landscape Professionals Renewal and Remembrance event at the Arlington National Cemetery. This was a wonderful and very moving event where the volunteers donated time to do many things to help keep the cemetery looking beautiful. It is a time when we were able to participate and give back just a little for those who paid the ultimate price for this country. At times, it was a very solemn event, but still a very rewarding experience.

This year is slipping away quickly and it’s not too early to start thinking about the GIE. Start planning now to attend, registration is open! Details and registration are available at http://pgms.org/2015schoolofgroundsmanagement/.

Marion Bolick, CGM has been working hard all year and he has some great speakers set up with some excellent education sessions. We will also be visiting the Kentucky Governor’s Mansion and a historical estate. Don’t let this year pass you by, let’s get together to reconnect and network with our peers.

Let’s get really excited about reconnecting again in Louisville this October.

John Burns, CGM
PGMS President

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In July PGMS lost a well loved member, Immediate Past President Walt Bonvell, CGM. Walt had been a dedicated PGMS member since 1999. In 2009 he earned his Certified Grounds Manager (CGM) designation and he served as PGMS President for the year 2014. He was very well loved and will be missed terribly.
Beautiful Weather, Dynamic Education, Exclusive Tours Highlighted PGMS’s 2015 Summer Conference

PGMS just returned from a dynamic, education filled summer conference hosted by the University of California, Davis, a 4-Star Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation campus. Through the assistance of Cary Avery, CGM, attendees from 12 different states partook in exclusive tours of the UC Davis campus, arboretum and sports fields, Raley Field, home to the Sacramento River Cats, Maple Rock Garden & Farm, and High Hand Nursery.

Day one was highlighted with diverse education sessions centered around the critically important issues of water conservation, sustainability, and best management practices. The morning started with UC Davis Landscape Architects Skip Mezger and Christina Reyes who discussed the history of the UC Davis landscape and how landscape design has evolved to focus on future sustainability for new sites. Attendees then heard captivating talks from Michael Smith of Rain Master and Don Franklin of Hunter Industries on the uses of technology in conserving water and energy in landscapes. The morning session concluded with Accreditation Facilitator, Joe Jackson, CGM, who discussed the accreditation program and the successes UC Davis had with their sustainability efforts during a time of drought.

Prior to lunch attendees were treated to a campus tour, starting at the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Sciences. As it was the first day of harvest, many attendees were given the opportunity to taste the grapes as they were brought in! Next up was a tour of the UC Davis campus with Matt Forrest of the UCD staff narrating. One of the most unique areas on the campus was the Arboretum Walk, lined with Redwoods, California native plants, a duckweed pond, and the Shield Oak Grove, which is one of the largest and most diverse oak collections in the country.

After lunch and a break with the conference vendors, the afternoon session began with campus arborist Melanie Gentles, who included an insightful look into managing and maintaining the campus arboretum. Gerald Dobbs, CGM provided an in-depth discussion into keeping your maintenance budget on track, highlighting practices used at his workplace, Rancho Cordova Recreation and Park District. The day finished with motivational speaker Ahmad Hassan of the DIY network, who discussed how he approaches the daily challenges he faces in the green industry and how he turns them into triumphs.

Day two began at Raley Field where Head Groundskeeper Chris Shastid provided an in-depth look into his approach with turf management, his different aeration preferences, the effects of wind damage on the field and the effects of the mandated water reduction on his day-to-day operations.

Following the stadium tour, attendees went to one of the best private gardens in Northern California, Maple Rock Garden & Farm. Conference attendees had the opportunity for a private tour of the gardens to see how owner Scott Paris has significantly reduced his water consumption while keeping the 30 acre estate in pristine condition. For lunch, PGMS went to High Hand Nursery, also owned by Scott, and had access to exclusive and rare selections of different plants. It was an amazing and unique tour for PGMS.

The Conference ended with a tour of the UC Davis Nursery by Taylor Lewis, who discussed the variety of drought tolerant plant, known affectionately as the Arboretum All-Stars. For more information on the UC Davis arboretum, visit http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/default.aspx.

More photos from the event are posted to the PGMS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ProfessionalGrounds-ManagementSociety.
Koby is the Landscape and Transportation Manager at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, Texas.

**Koby**: I was previously a member of PGMS when I was employed with Texas A&M University in the 2000’s. However, when I moved to Abilene, I wasn’t able to keep up the membership until recently.

**John**: What are your goals in joining our organization (certifications, networking, education, events)?

**Koby**: My main goal for joining the organization is to be able to utilize the educational materials that are offered. In a hospital work environment where every penny is pinched and finances are highly scrutinized, it behooves me to improve our efficiency as well as our ability to compare ourselves to others.

**John**: What is your background in the Green Industry?

**Koby**: I began working as the Urban Forester for Texas A&M University in College Station in 1999. In 2009, I moved into general landscaping at the University. In May of 2012, I moved to Abilene, Texas and was hired as the Landscape Manager for Hendrick Medical Center.

**John**: What do you enjoy to do when you are not working?

**Koby**: When I’m not working, I enjoy hanging out with my wife, Irma, and my two children, Olivia and Gabriel. We like to do outdoor activities and watch movies. When I get the chance, I like to head out to the disc golf course for a few rounds.

**Know someone who is not a member?** Suggest they join! Membership information can be found at http://pgms.org/join-pgms/benefits-of-membership/.

“**It behooves me to improve our efficiency as well as our ability to compare ourselves to others.**

**SKIMP ON PARTS, SPEND ON REPAIRS. JUST SAYIN’.

Only Kawasaki Genuine Parts are engineered, proven and approved for Kawasaki engines. That means spot-on fit and performance, first oil change to final tune-up. It’s the best way to ensure maximum payback from your premium engine. Keep it Genuine Kawasaki. [www.kawasakienginesusa.com](http://www.kawasakienginesusa.com)
PGMS had ten volunteers attend the Renewal & Remembrance event that took place July 20, 2015 at Arlington National Cemetery where they spread over 10 tons of gypsum while working alongside 400 other landscape professionals. Entering its 19th year, Renewal & Remembrance is the largest landscape industry day of service in the country. The event is organized by NALP (formerly the Professional Landcare Network). Each year, hundreds of volunteers donate their time mulching, upgrading sprinklers, cabling and installing lightning protection for the trees, pruning, planting, liming and aerating the soil at Arlington National Cemetery.

Three PGMS participants share their experiences below:

“T was grateful for the opportunity to participate in the 2015 Renewal and Remembrance event. Arlington National Cemetery is a special place to me as my Great Aunt, Uncle and Cousin (United States Navy) are all buried there. It was a great way for me to utilize my skills in a way that positively contributed to the health of the turf, which serves as a “blanket,” as one of the presenters mentioned, over the graves of those who have served our country. Being able to work alongside landscape professionals who are not only local, but who had traveled from all across the country, was especially wonderful. I was born in Washington, D.C. and I was honored to be a part of this day of service as well as represent the PGMS DC chapter.”
-Sara Jensen, Rockville, Md.

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-Sara Jensen, Rockville, Md.

“My wife and I want to thank NALP and PGMS for the opportunity to participate in such an honorable event. The team we worked with was awesome! The depth at which this has touched me, my family, and my friends is to our souls. Me and my wife’s lives are deeply rooted in military tradition. My father served in the Navy and Army and fought in both World War II and the Korean War. My brother served in the Army and fought in Vietnam. My nephew currently serves in the U.S. Navy and has done several tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. My wife’s father flew fighter jets for the Air Force during the cold war.

It’s hard to put into words what being a part of A Day of Renewal and Remembrance means to me. For the second year, I was privileged to be a part of this amazing endeavor at Arlington National Cemetery. Coming together with hundreds of people from all over the United States magnifies the gravity of my pride in my country. And when I think of the lives beneath my feet on that sacred ground, I realize that anything I do for them pales in comparison to what they did for me.

I am humbled and honored to have had the great fortune for a second year to do something for those that protected my freedom. My gratitude to them for their service is immeasurable. Thank you again for this chance to give back.”
-Jimmy Viars, CGM, Gloucester County Public Schools, Gloucester County, Va.
**Member Profile: Ken Stanton, CGM**

By: John Doiron, PGMS president-elect

Ken is the Grounds Supervisor, Facilities Services at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich.

**John:** How long have you been a member of PGMS?
**Ken:** I have been an active member of PGMS since 1990 and actively involved with the PGMS Board of Directors from 2004 to 2009.

**John:** What would you say is your greatest benefit of being a member of PGMS?
**Ken:** The greatest benefit of being a member of PGMS, aside from the educational opportunities associated with PGMS, is the opportunity to network with many other professionals associated with the many different aspects of the green industry. By far, this has become the greatest asset I could have in my “professional toolbox” as a grounds and landscape professional.

**John:** I know you and I have shared many conversations about our challenges of snow removal and the long winters we have experienced. Is this your biggest challenge that you face each year or are there others that you encounter?
**Ken:** There is no question that due to my location in this area of the country, snow removal continues to be one of my biggest challenges and responsibilities on a yearly basis. My greatest challenge lately has been finding good, qualified applicants to fill vacant grounds keeper positions, that have occurred within my department, due to staff moving on (for various reasons) or retiring. In discussing this issue with others, I am learning this seems to be an issue with many other professions also, across our region and in different parts of the country. I see this as becoming one of the newer and “upcoming challenges” for those of us responsible for hiring and training new employees.

**John:** How is the new branch developing in your area?
**Ken:** The Michigan Branch of PGMS started in the fall of 2013. There are about 20 active members in the branch, and we are looking to add as many more grounds and landscape professionals from around the state of Michigan as possible, that would be interested in joining our group. We are currently working with a two meeting per year format, and have partnered with the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association, and the Michigan chapter of the Sports Turf Manager’s Association, in conducting our first few meetings. Our late spring 2015 meeting had the chapter visiting the corporate site of the Frankenmuth Insurance Company in beautiful and historic Frankenmuth, Michigan, and the chapter is currently planning a fall meeting at the site of the Dow Gardens in Midland Michigan.

**John:** What do you like to do for enjoyment when you’re not working?
**Ken:** In my free time, I enjoy riding my mountain bike, trout, bass, and salmon fishing, landscaping and container gardening, photography, and traveling and sightseeing.
Show Highlights: plan now to be there for it all

Pre-Conference Field Trip to Kentucky Governor’s Mansion (pictured below, one of seven Proven Winners Signature Gardens), Capitol Building and the Botherum Historical Estate (pictured right, winner of the 2014 Preservation Award).

Saturday Breakfast and Education Session featuring “Hitting the Links: Utilizing Social Media as a Tool for your Business” and “Maximizing Production by Minimizing Injuries”

First Timers Reception and Welcoming Reception - Network with other green industry professionals, renew old friendships and build new ones while you enjoy hors d’oeuvres and drinks.

15 Education Sessions - on featured topics such as “Managing Your Water Needs in a Sustainable Landscape,” “Adding Value to Exterior Spaces with Lighting Controls,” “Customizing your Snow Management Plan,” and “Equipping and Operating an Equipment Maintenance Shop Effectively.”

Details and registration available at pgms.org!
As is required in the Bylaws, once the Board has accepted and endorsed these nominees, their names will be presented to the voting members of PGMS along with the following statement which advises them how additional nominations can be offered.

Additional nominations may be made provided that they are made in writing, endorsed by at least ten (10) voting Members in good standing, with the written consent of the nominee and received by the Secretary of the Society not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the annual meeting.

The Secretary shall be responsible for seeing that all those members with the privilege of voting are notified of any additional nominations, in writing, immediately. There shall be no nominations on the floor unless an unopposed and announced candidate should withdraw his or her name from consideration.

Recommended Nominations are:
- **President** - John Doiron
- **President-Elect** - Marion Bolick, CGM
- **Vice President** - Gerald Landby, CGM
- **Treasurer** - Jeff McManus, CGM
- **Director-At-Large** - Cary Avery, CGM
- **North Central Regional Director** - Bruce DeVrou, CGM
- **South Central Regional Director** - Corey Ruff

For any questions please contact PGMS headquarters at 410-223-2861 or pgms@assnHQtrs.com.
Philadelphia Branch Tours Mt. Cuba Center

On Wednesday June 24, 2015, members of the Philadelphia Branch of PGMS attended a behind the scenes tour of the Mt. Cuba Center in Wilmington, Delaware. The program for the tour and discussion reviewed “Composting Systems and Practices.”

The Mt. Cuba presenters, Dave Korbonits and Peter Shotsberger, began with a brief slide show in the main house lecture room showing microbial content of their custom brewed compost teas, slides of their test plots, and spray equipment.

We visited the vermiculture stacks in the main house basement and received a quick run down on how to create terrific castings without generating fruit flies and odors.

We toured several of the gardens and turf areas where compost and compost teas have been used for several seasons with noticeably improved turf, plant material and soil activity.

The group was able to see the compost tea brewer in action in the equipment garage along with several more pieces of useful equipment.

The tour was cut slightly short due to recent storm damage which had closed several local roadways and the group happily toured the Mt. Cuba grounds for the remainder of the beautiful afternoon.

Thank you to Dave, Peter and the Mt. Cuba staff!

*Stay abreast of what’s going on in your area with PGMS branches! Event details, meeting information and more are posted on the PGMS Branch webpages.

If you aren’t already involved with a branch, visit http://pgms.org/pgms-branches/ to find one near you. If you want to join a branch, contact PGMS Associate Director Stephanie Dodd at 410-223-2861 or stephaniedodd@assnhrs.com.
All with the pull of a lever.

Increase productivity with the Mulch On Demand Deck by John Deere. Mulch on. Mulch off. Either way cut grass at the perfect size to feed a lawn. You’ll get less clean-up, reduce the risk of throwing sticks and rocks and gain more overall productivity and versatility. No cumbersome after-market kit required. See our MOD deck in action at JohnDeere.com/MOD

The object is productivity.
PGMS Blog Wants Your Submissions!

The new PGMS member portal has launched and we need submissions for the blog! The PGMS blog is a resource for members to increase their knowledge base of grounds management. PGMS members are the experts in your industry, why not share your knowledge with your peers?

Need some suggestions on topics to write about? PGMS has a few to get your head spinning with ideas:

- snow removal
- recycling practices
- alternative ways of lawn care
- natural turf vs. artificial turf
- water conservation
- staff benefits/education
- budgets
- what does sustainability mean to you
- sustainable practices you use and why
- environmental challenges
- safety in the workplace
- pesticides
- tips you have received from other landscape professionals
- if I could go back and change [blank] I would...and why...
- latest industry education

So we have started you off on the right foot, it’s your turn to grab a hold of the topic, write up an article (it doesn’t have to be long) and submit it to share with your green industry friends! Please e-mail it to pgms@assnHQtrs.com and in the subject line please include “PGMS Blog Topic.”
PGMS DC Branch Hosts Summer Field Day

The Green Industry Field Day and Trade Show was held on Thursday, July 16, 2015 at American University in Washington, D.C. from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The event was organized and directed by the DC Branch of PGMS, Northern Virginia Nursery and Landscape Assoc., Va. Cooperative Extension, and the Mid-Atlantic Chapter ISA.

The Field Day included four concurrent sessions: Tree Care, Sustainability/Landscape Design, Landscape Maintenance and a Spanish Session. The trade show featured equipment suppliers, plant vendors, landscape material companies, professional organizations (including PGMS) and landscape specialty services. Several of the classes provided valuable CEU’s for many professionals.

Some of the topics covered this year included: Tree ID Using Keys, Pest of Trees, Chainsaw Safety, Tree Preservation, DOT Truck Inspections, Pollinators in the Landscape, New Plant Introductions, and Campus Tours.

The Field Day was attended by 225 green industry professionals, 50 volunteers, and 50 trade show personnel. Breakfast and lunch was provided and the music of Durham Station entertained attendees during the midday.

Worthy of mention was the effort of the Coordinator Mary Bean for putting together the program, and the outstanding support from Mark Feist and Stephanie DeStefano of American University along with their staff. This event takes six months to come together, and is all done by volunteers. They did a tremendous job!

OPEI Offers TurfMutt Program

Children’s publisher Scholastic has partnered with the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute’s (OPEI) TurfMutt program. TurfMutt is an OPEI environmental educational program that teaches children, their parents, teachers and homeowners about the benefits of properly caring for plants and grasses, shrubs and trees in their communities, backyards, parks, and school grounds. TurfMutt and his team of superheroes, the Outdoor Powers, are on a mission to “Save the Planet One Yard at a Time” by showing families that our individual greenspaces should be appreciated, understood and cared for in a sustainable way. By partering with Scholastic, TurfMutt gives teachers resources to teach the science behind our green spaces, including standards aligned lesson plans and activities. For more information visit http://opei.org/greenspace-and-you/turfmutt-digital-toolkit/.
CRPD Making Efforts to Conserve Water in Parks

By Gerald S. Dobbs, CGM, Cordova Recreation and Park District, Rancho Cordova, Calif.

In California the ideal amount of water needed for landscaped areas equals 1 acre inch of water per week. One acre inch of water is equivalent to 27,155 gallons applied onto an acre of land.

During last year’s drought conditions, Cordova Recreation and Park District (CRPD) reduced the amount of water used within the parks and on the ball fields by 15% to 20%. That translated to using 4,100 to 5,500 gallons less water per acre, per week.

This year, the Park Services staff is implementing a strategy of inspecting, testing, and retrofitting the irrigation systems within the park and streetscape areas for water use efficiency and effectiveness. The retrofitting strategy includes replacing older nozzles in existing irrigation heads with more water efficient nozzles; replacing worn-out solenoid valves; replacing drip irrigation lines with low-flow sprinkler heads; and adjusting irrigation heads to target green spaces and not hard surface areas like sidewalks and asphalt areas.

Through most of spring we will be watching the weather reports and reduce water usage for irrigation by 20%. For player safety, the ball fields will receive more irrigation, but there will still be a 20% reduction of water being used on the fields. We are currently experimenting with other conservation practices that will hopefully be useful in our water conservation efforts. Those practices include aerating the lawn panels more frequently; fertilizing with a polymer coated fertilizer; applying more organic matter to the soil structure; and using plant growth regulators.

The spray parks and the splash park will remain open throughout the summer. The water used at those facilities is cycled through intricate filtration and treatment systems and reused on a continuous basis.

We encourage the public to call or e-mail Cordova Recreation and Park District whenever they see any water-related issues within the parks such as a broken irrigation head or water running down a sidewalk. Together, we can make a difference in water conservation.

*NOTE: Since this article was written, two of the three water companies that provide water for our parks have passed down more stringent water restrictions. We are now required to use 32% to 36% less water in many of our parks and streetscapes. This could very well be the new norm for park and landscape maintenance in Northern California.

Calendar of Events

August 25, 2015
Lawn Care Professional Workshop
Springfield Botanical Center
Springfield, Mo.

Oct. 1, 2015
PGMS DC Branch Meeting
City of Gaithersburg
Gaithersburg, Md.

Oct. 21-24, 2015
2015 PGMS School of Grounds Management & GIE+EXPO
Galt House Hotel
Louisville, Ky.

Nov. 5, 2015
PGMS DC Branch Meeting
Virginia Theological Seminary
Alexandria, Va.

Visit pgms.org/calendar-of-events for details and to see other industry events.

Ten Alternatives for Shade Gardens

Hostas and Yews are dependable standbys for shade, but there are many alternatives you may have not yet considered. Calycanthus, Itea, Tiarella, and Coleus light up shady landscapes with their colorful foliage and fragrant blooms. Read more about these and six more to try this season at www.provenwinners.com/professionals/landscapes.
Water-efficient irrigation has received a great deal of attention recently, particularly in drought-plagued areas in the Western and Southwestern United States. And, while water efficiency is a key area of focus for many, it can be quite a challenge to match water resource efficiency with playing condition and site beautification expectations. Responsible water management has long been a focus among grounds professionals throughout the country, due in part to the cost of water but even more significantly due to its scarcity in some areas. Grounds professionals around the world know that it makes good sense to reduce water usage to be good environmental stewards and to help improve profitability. They are continually using improved irrigation technologies to meet the needs of stake-holders and the environment.

The Toro Company, with its Irrigation Business based in California, has a long history of helping grounds and sports turf professionals manage their water use. Key product innovations from Toro have put water management center-stage at hundreds of sites—large and small, throughout the country. Many use state-of-the-art computerized irrigation control systems that include weather stations, ET (Evapotranspiration) information and a growing number are using soil moisture sensors. Products like the Sentinel® Central Control System help grounds professionals manage and apply water only when needed and most efficiently. Between weather-based scheduling and flow sensing capabilities that detect line breaks, faulty valves and missing heads, these sophisticated systems allow irrigation control that can lead to significant water savings annually. By leveraging a Toro irrigation system, grounds managers can deliver highly desirable site conditions with as little water as possible.

One of the latest technologies available today is soil monitoring. Soil sensors monitor soil moisture levels and know precisely what’s going on beneath the surface. Toro’s Turf Guard® wireless soil sensing technology measures soil moisture, salinity and temperature so that turf professionals can make timely, more-informed decisions. Turf Guard helps account for how much moisture is in the soil to determine specific areas that need watering, and can even alert them when defined thresholds are exceeded to shut down the system. This type of soil monitoring results in reduced water use and improved playability without risking turf quality.

Sprinklers are also key contributors to water use reduction. As irrigation control systems have advanced over the years, so have the sprinklers they control. Toro sprinklers deliver industry-leading durability and flexibility with superior nozzle options and adjustment capabilities to apply water precisely where it is needed. In fact, Toro was the first company to utilize Airfoil™ nozzle technology, which creates a zone of low pressure just below the main stream to ensure uniform water distribution across all turf areas. By simply upgrading older sprinklers to today’s models, managers can significantly reduce water use, without sacrificing playing conditions.

Like many in our industry, grounds and sports field managers want to do their part in responsible water management and that does not mean that they have to sacrifice keeping turf at its best. Similar to the improvements in indoor water use brought by high-efficiency shower heads and low-flush toilets, the technology and innovation has been developed to significantly save on outdoor water use as well. Highly knowledgeable ground professionals and sports field managers, along with proper maintenance (i.e. scheduling, monitoring and sensing technology) have made it possible to achieve successful results without excess water use. Moreover, sites that pay for their water can see a positive impact to cost reduction from these water-saving technologies.
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Toro is committed to creating the most durable and reliable equipment to help grounds and facilities maintenance professionals work more efficiently. With a wide range of innovative, productive products to choose from, Toro has the right solution for any season. Contact your local Toro distributor today. 800-803-8676

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### PGMS Welcomes Our Newest Members!

New members since May 4, 2015

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<td>Curtis Singleton</td>
<td>Emory University</td>
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<td>Chris Smith</td>
<td>Thrive, Inc.</td>
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<td>Earl Snyder</td>
<td>Charter Oak Tree Service LLC</td>
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<td>Michael Swicord</td>
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<td>Steve Vikesland</td>
<td>Pacific Lutheran University</td>
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<td>Julio Villatoro</td>
<td>University of Maryland</td>
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<td>Mary Weber</td>
<td>Belmont University</td>
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<td>Mike Wichtowski</td>
<td>Monroe Community College</td>
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<td>Robert Williams</td>
<td>Emory University</td>
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Know someone who isn’t a member? Help grow your profession and spread the word about joining PGMS!

Membership details can always be found on the PGMS website at [www.pgms.org](http://www.pgms.org).
PGMS Announces Philip Dierker as the 160th CGM

The Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) has announced that Philip Dierker, CGM of Columbia, Missouri has become the 160th grounds management professional to successfully complete its Certified Grounds Manager (CGM) program. Dierker currently serves as the landscape gardener for the University of Missouri (Mizzou) Athletics Department. PGMS recently spent a few moments getting to know Philip, who joined PGMS in September 2014.

PGMS: Why did you want to become a CGM?
Dierker: When I joined Mizzou Athletics in late 2013, my colleagues (both STMA members) suggested I look into a green industry organization to benefit myself and our managed landscape. That organization turned out to be PGMS. After attending last year’s School of Grounds Management & GIE+EXPO, I was inspired to take the next step. Though I met him but once, the late Walt Bonvell, CGM was very welcoming, taking time to answer my questions about PGMS and the CGM designation. My mentor Joe Payne, CGM offered valuable insight into the process, particularly the open book portion.

PGMS: What is an experience you have had in your career that helped prepare you to become a CGM?
Dierker: As a former small business owner, my experiences included designing, implementing and maintaining managed landscapes of all sizes. Outside of my current role, I’ve worked as a contractor on landscape projects at a variety of campuses. This winter, I studied and tested for my pesticide applicator’s license. This recent “bookwork” was useful in preparation for the closed book exam.

PGMS: How has the CGM program helped you further your career?
Dierker: The CGM has helped my career by demonstrating that I’ve met the industry standards for grounds management, that I am dedicated to life-long learning as it applies to our chosen field, and that our team here at Mizzou manages the sports park landscape using well thought out organizational, financial and management skills.

PGMS: What advice do you have for aspiring CGMs?
Dierker: Just do it. The CGM process is a unique opportunity to add to your career accomplishments. The time is now!

PGMS: How do you think having the CGM designation will help you professionally?
Dierker: The CGM designation is a nationally known, and respected, certification program. The process, particularly the open book exam, requires one to review, package and present the many aspects of competently managing a landscape. With CGM certification, one’s presentations, funding requests and recommendations carry more weight.

*PGMS has also announced that Andrew Moran, grounds supervisor at the University of Pittsburgh, has become the 161st CGM. Keep an eye out on the PGMS website for an interview with him shortly!

Be Elite - Become a CGM

The Certified Grounds Manager (CGM) program is the premiere 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:

• A candidate must meet specific criteria in order to be eligible to apply.
• Once criteria is met, there is a two part examination process.

• Part One is administered by an approved proctor and covers a core of basic principles of grounds management, consisting of one hundred true/false and multiple choice questions. The applicant is required to answer these particular questions without referring to notes or reference materials.
• Part Two is the open book exam. This take home examination is to be completed by the applicant based on personal experience and the local situation. Candidates have one (1) year to complete this open book test on CD for review by the committee.

For more information please visit http://pgms.org/certifications/certified-grounds-manager/.
Classifieds

PGMS offers classified postings for job opportunities. To place a classified ad on the PGMS website and in the PGMS Forum, please visit http://pgms.starchapter.com/classifieds.php to submit your ad. To view details on any of the positions below visit http://pgms.starchapter.com/classifieds.php.

We are looking for skilled gardeners to perform advanced landscape and garden maintenance tasks to preserve, maintain, and modify landscape planting plans in accordance with department standards; act as a landscape steward and lead gardener with day-to-day supervisory responsibilities.

Landscape Supervisor - Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Va.
We’re seeking a qualified individual to plan, supervise and coordinate Foundation landscape projects and garden maintenance, including ordering and scheduling materials, scheduling personnel, developing efficient production, exercising cost controls, and maintaining quality standards within established horticultural practices.

Quality Control Inspector - Didlake, Inc.
Implements quality control procedures to ensure compliance with contract specifications and applicable regulations, inspects all phases of a variety of goods, services or operations for conformity to established quality, health and safety, and other operational standards by performing on-going work for compliance with contractual provisions; ensures all services listed on the performance requirement summary are performed in a satisfactory manner, communicates deficiencies to proper persons, maintains Quality Control files, and document results of all inspections.

Grounds Crew Supervisor - The Menil Collection, Houston, Texas
This position entails two areas of focus: oversight of landscaping projects and the oversight of routine grounds maintenance to include public parks, green spaces, museum grounds and residential units. The position is responsible for ensuring the grounds are well-maintained and properly cared for as well as supervising the grounds crew and ensuring that all work adheres to prescribed safety standards and regulatory requirements applicable to the work.

Horticultural Technician - The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
The Horticultural Technician is responsible for the budgeting, planning, assigning, and completion of grounds maintenance tasks and functions.

Grounds Director - Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.
The Director is a key staff advisor to senior facilities executives, and is responsible for leading 50 professional and unionized line staff employees in the management of the 900 acre Cornell University Ithaca campus, Cornell Plantations’ arboretum, and seasonal support of the Athletic Department’s outdoor facilities.

Perform various duties such as grass cutting, raking, digging, pruning, trimming, planting and caring for trees, bushes, shrubs, flowers, grass, etc., consistent with the upkeep and maintenance of the grounds, greenhouses and the athletic fields.

PGMS also offers postings for internship opportunities and member resumes as an added member benefit. To place an internship opportunity or your resume on the PGMS website, please e-mail the information to Justine Harper at justineharper@assnhrs.com. More information can be found at pgms.org/career-center/.