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"The Green Industry event every professional needs to attend."

See page four for details and register now at www.pgms.org.
Lots of Travel, Big Accomplishments, New Goals

Wow this year has flown by quickly. It has been a good year and I believe a successful year, but a very busy year.

In March I traveled to Dallas to promote the Landscape Management and Operations Accreditation program. Also in March, we held our spring board meeting in Baltimore followed by a strategic planning meeting. Immediately after the strategic planning meeting Joe Jackson, CGM, Diana Bramble, and myself took part in a panel discussion at the National Facilities Management and Technology conference (still in Baltimore). In June we had a Texas Branch meeting in Denton, Texas where we toured Texas Women’s University and the University of North Texas. The day after I returned from Denton we took off for a fun personal trip to Alaska. An Alaskan cruise, now that was fun, and I left all the worries of work and PGMS behind. Things slowed down just a bit for the next few weeks and then it was back on the road to Washington, D.C. for the Renewal & Remembrance event where 10 PGMS members partnered with NALP to volunteer at Arlington National Cemetery. Following that trip it was an honor to represent PGMS in attending the funeral services for Immediate Past President Walt Bonvell, CGM. What a loss for our PGMS family. I can’t begin to express how much we will all miss Walt and all he did for PGMS. Walt, we miss you buddy! A few days later, with a major hole in our PGMS family, it was off to California for our Summer Conference, the last trip of the summer. California was a ton of fun, but to be honest, I am glad to be home and settled for a few weeks.

Let me backtrack a little and talk about some of the things, other than travel, that have been going on with some accomplishments and some goals. As I mentioned in March we worked on a new strategic plan following the board meeting. We worked with Steve Keating of Toro to review our 2011 strategic plan and to develop a new plan for 2015 - 2020. The good news was we met many of the goals we previously set and we have set some new goals. One of our new goals is to have 1,500 members by 2020. I believe we could achieve this, but it takes all of us to accomplish our goals and this is one that could be done easily. In fact, if each of the current members brought in one new member in the next five years we would be closer to 2,000 members. Sounds easy, now let’s do it! Another goal which was set is to develop a new branch each year. This goal might not be as easily attained. In fact, we have not developed a new branch this year, but we have started the ground work for one in California.

As I talked about earlier, in August we visited the University of California at Davis for the School of Grounds Management Summer Conference. It was a very successful conference, we had more than 100 in attendance and many of them were from California and new to PGMS. I talked to quite a few in attendance that had never heard of PGMS and they were excited about the possibility of being active members. We came away with many of these folks talking of developing a California branch. Hopefully this will come to fruition in the coming year. The California Summer Conference was a huge success and they have set the bar high for the next Summer Conference which will take place in San Antonio, Texas in June of 2016. The Texas Branch is planning to meet in San Antonio in September to do some exploring and to make some early decisions about the conference and to set the ground work for a great conference for everyone.

October is rolling around quickly and we will be off to Louisville, Ky. for the School of Grounds Management & GIE+EXPO. It’s going to be a great conference again this year.
Marion Bolick, CGM has done an excellent job putting together the Pre-Conference Field Trip. We will be touring the Governor’s Mansion grounds and the Proven Winners Signature gardens and then over to the Botherum Historical Estate. He has done an excellent job on the education sessions as well. I have been looking at the schedule and trying to decide which ones I will be attending. I just wish I could go to all of them. Great job Marion!

Then of course we will close everything out with the banquet where we will honor all of our Green Star Award winners. Wow, what an excellent group of winners we have this year. Of course at the banquet I will also be turning over the presidential duties to John Doiron. I know John will do an excellent job.

It has been an honor to serve as president this year. It has also been my pleasure and honor to serve for the past eight years in different capacities on the Board of Directors. I look forward to continuing to provide support wherever I can. I would like to thank the officers, the board of directors, the Shaner group, the leadership in the branches, and those active on committees for all the work you have done and will continue to do to make PGMS successful.

I will close with one last appeal. If you are not doing anything to be active with PGMS, please find a place to be active and to serve. A good place to start would be with your local branch. Do some recruiting, bring someone new to a meeting and invite them to become a member. I know there are a lot of things happening in the branches and your support is needed. Maybe you know a vendor that might be a good fit as an Elite Partner and could talk to them about partnering with us. Write a blog for our website or an article for the Forum. There are a ton of things that need to be done to make our society better. It takes ALL of us to be successful!

A big thank you to everyone for your support!

John Burns, CGM
PGMS President

Calendar of Events

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

Oct. 3-4, 2015
Tree Climbing for Women
Morris Arboretum
Philadelphia, PA

Oct. 9, 2015
PGMS Michigan Branch Meeting
Spectrum Blodgett
East Grand Rapids, MI

Oct. 9, 2015
PGMS Philadelphia Branch Site Visit
Drew University
Madison, NJ

Oct. 9, 2015
Field Identification of Landscape Trees
Morris Arboretum
Philadelphia, PA

Oct. 14, 2015
Native Wildflower Meadows: Let’s Get Real
Morris Arboretum
Philadelphia, PA

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

November 11, 2015
PGMS Philadelphia Branch Site Visit
Blair Academy
Blairstown, NJ

Visit pgms.org/calendar-of-events for complete event details.
EDUCATION

*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.* - Nelson Mandela

Here’s a quick guide to the education sessions that will be available for your enjoyment:

**Thursday, October 22**
• Breakfast of Champions - Ventriloquist Denny Baker will present "Safety is No Joke."

• Three education sessions taking place at the Kentucky Exposition Center with six different programs to choose from.

**Friday, October 23**
• Three more education sessions taking place at the Kentucky Exposition Center with six different programs to choose from.

**Saturday, October 24**
• Breakfast and Education Sessions including "Hitting the Links: Utilizing Social Media as a Tool for your Business" and "Maximizing Production by Minimizing Injuries."

NETWORKING

*Pulling a good network together takes effort, sincerity and time.* - Alan Collins, author

• **PGMS First Timers Reception** - First time attending the PGMS GIE+EXPO? Please join other newcomers at a special welcoming reception for all first-time conference participants. This brief reception will help guide you through the in’s and out’s of the GIE+EXPO experience.

• **Welcoming Reception** - PGMS will open its annual conference with a welcome reception for all conference participants. Renew old friendships and build new ones while you enjoy hors d’oeuvres and drinks.

• **CGM Reception (must be a CGM)** - whether you have been a CGM for one year or 20 years, come enjoy the camaraderie with your fellow industry professionals.

• **PGMS Awards Reception & Dinner (requires separate ticket)** - Celebrate the outstanding grounds maintained and the beauty of the landscapes as we announce for the first time the 2015 Green Star Award winners. Also join in on recognizing certain professionals who have stood out in their professionalism, service and overall commitment to the green industry as we award them with several PGMS professional awards.

• **GIE+EXPO at the Kentucky Exposition Center** - A dynamic two day showcase of more than 700 exhibitors. Talk to suppliers and network with fellow landscape professionals. Both the indoor and outdoor areas are open all day. Its the largest show of its kind!

Details and registration available at pgms.org!
New Member Profile: Jack Barnwell

By: John Doiron, PGMS president-elect

Jack is an award winning garden designer, author, and owner of C3 Gardens of Southwest Florida as well as Barnwell Landscape and Garden based on the small Northern Michigan island of Mackinac.

Jack’s first book, "An Introduction to the Gardens of Mackinac Island," was published in the spring of 2013. He is currently working on his second book, "Container Garden Recipes for Porch, Pool, and Patio." This second book will read like a cookbook and include many of his favorite designs.

His plantings received top honors at the Cincinnati Flower Show, taking home an award for Best in Show. Jack’s work has been featured in many publications, including Landscape Management Magazine. As a consultant for Proven Winners, Jack contributes to the design of beautiful gardens at prestigious commercial properties all over the U.S.

John: How did you pick the green industry for your career path?
Jack: I’ve always had a passion for plants, color, and design. Both of my parents were in the landscape and garden field at one time or another and I always seemed to gravitate toward the gardens as a child.

John: I had a conversation with John Van Etten, CGM (Grounds Superintendent at Mission Point Resort in Mackinac Island, Mich.) about your current position, how about a little background of your career and how it led you to the island?
Jack: I started studying tropical horticulture at the University of Hawaii, but ended up taking some time off to travel the world and eventually, eight years later finished with a degree in Environmental Science from the University of Montana. My family has deep roots in Northern Michigan, and specifically, Mackinac Island. After school, I was working in Montana where I met my wife. We decided to take a chance and start a small landscape and garden business “back home” where I had a feeling there was a need for some quality service.

John: Did you hear of PGMS before meeting John or do you know of anyone in the association?
Jack: I had heard of PGMS through my work with Proven Winners. I work a lot with Tom Ewing and Pat Seibel and we have talked of the PGMS organization before. I do a fair amount of consulting, design work, as well as presentations and events for Proven Winners at locations all over the country.

John: When your not working with plants and landscapes, what do you like to do in personnel life for enjoyment?
Jack: In my "spare time" I like to soak up every moment I can with our 18 month old little boy, Reed. Simply lying in the yard and letting him smash soil, bugs, and grass on me is probably my favorite thing to do outside of work!

Season-Extenders for Fall Landscapes

Fall is an ideal time to work outdoors – conditions are ripe for planting and the crisp, clear air is invigorating. Deliver a bounty of beauty for your clients this fall with season-extending annuals, perennials and shrubs from Proven Winners. Discover more top recommended season-extenders at www.provenwinners.com/professionals/landscapes.

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New members since August 13, 2015

Nathan Bickerstaff
Robert Morris University

Daniel F. Bangert, Jr.
Great Expectations

Jack Barnwell
Barnwell Landscape & Garden Inc.

Sean Belanger
UMASS Lowell

Bruno Borsari
Winona State University

Wayne Caldwell
Sewanee: The University of the South

Thomas D. Dickerson
The University of Mississippi

Willem duPreez
Winona State University

Brian Eastman
Brigham Young University

Steve Furmanski
Penn State Hershey Medical Center

Michael Gaudin
The Children’s Mercy Hospital

Jason Hallam
University of Nebraska at Kearney

Denise E. Hill
The University of Mississippi

Spencer Jubert
Concord Hospital

Ty Kasey
University of Texas at Austin

Terry Kreiser
Penn State Hershey Medical Center

Nathan John Lazinsky
The University of Mississippi

James Lo Monaco
Paul’s Best Lawn Service, Inc.

Mark P. Mann
Plant Growth Management Systems

Brett L. Ney
Centerville-Washington Park District

Shane Plott
Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Resort

Kevinn Rodas
Paul’s Best Lawn Service, Inc.

Jacob Scott
Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Resort

Marvin Smith
Penn State Hershey Medical Center

Paul Staehle
Landscape Conservation Planning LLC

Dave Swift
Paul’s Best Lawn Service, Inc.

Mark Tennant
North Carolina State University

Marsel Wells
Paul’s Best Lawn Service, Inc.

Thomas R. Wells
Away With Geese

Amy Welch
Winona State University

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.
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The object is productivity.

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Every year before New Year’s Day, the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) receives scholarship applications from a number of hopeful students across the country vying for up to $6,000 worth of scholarships. Scholarships are for students studying landscape and grounds management, turf management, irrigation technology, or a closely related field. There are two primary sections to the screening process. The first section is mandatory information that is required from the applicant for the scholarship to be considered. The next section is what the scholarship committee is looking for. This is where the clarity and definition of the presentation separates the candidates and categorizes the potential in the scholarship recipient. Key items in the presentation include: active student in a horticulture or related field with solid grades, past and current employment in the green industry, green industry involvement with professional organizations, apprenticeships, and internships, community volunteering and involvement, personal development in the form of classes and volunteering, extracurricular involvement, and personal goals and objectives.

I’d like to introduce the 2015 PGMS 1st Place Scholarship Award winner Tylee Sewell of Gwinnett Technical College in Lawrenceville, Ga. (on the right in the picture). Tylee clearly was a leader from an outstanding field of applicants. Not only did she meet the mandatory requirements for the scholarship, she was also rich in work and volunteer experience. She had clear objectives and goals for her future. I met Tylee at the PGMS Summer Conference at the University of California-Davis on Aug. 2-3 and she had quite a story to tell...

Gerald: Congratulations on being recognized as the 2015 PGMS Scholarship Award Recipient! What does it mean to you to be recognized by PGMS?

Tylee: It means so much and so many things. For one, I feel like I must be doing something right, even though some family members didn’t support my new career choice in the beginning. I had to depend on my faith and I listened to my heart. While I attended school and was in the thick of learning, studying, volunteering and working in the green industry, I could not see where all of it was going. All I knew was I was having a fantastic time following my passion and was enjoying every new experience. Having what I have been doing for the past few years recognized was encouraging. It was a validation for me and the naysayers that I made the right decision to follow that gentle whisper and study Horticulture and now I can confidently continue my journey while I figure out my place in this industry.

It is a wonderful feeling to know PGMS is in my corner, that’s really big for me. Thank you.

Gerald: It was very impressive to see you on the front cover of the June 2015 issue of Lawn & Landscape magazine and your spot in the accompanying article. Why did you choose to study horticulture at Gwinnett Technical College? What aspirations do you have for your future?

Tylee: The answer to this is part of a dream deferred. I have been intrigued by plants all my life. Although I was born and raised in the concrete city of New York, my Caribbean grandmother grew fresh vegetables and herbs in her tiny backyard. My mother also had a green thumb and grew all kinds of houseplants inside our apartment. So I always had a respect for plant life. However, the seed was finally planted when during my career as an art teacher in 2008, I convinced my principal to let me and a colleague start a school garden. I wanted our students to learn where their food came from and begin to learn hands-on how to eat healthier, plus I got tired of the lack of fresh vegetable and fruit choices in our cafeteria. Through that three year garden experience, I realized my calling. I think I loved going to the school garden more than to my classroom. The kids did too! Then there was a point in my life in 2012 where I felt I was living, but not alive. I made some ‘no turning back’ decisions. I quit my 13 year career in art education, sold my house and possessions and moved from Virginia to Atlanta to literally start from scratch. I asked myself, what is left, when ‘things’ that were supposed to fulfill you, have left you? My answer, Horticulture! Crazy, I know, but that’s the short backstory answer. The simple ‘why’ is because when I made up my mind and searched around for schools, I eventually called Gwinnett Tech to ask questions. Aaron Poulson, the program director, actually answered the phone, no voice mail message. He kindly invited me to take a tour of the department that same week and after our tour, I was hooked.

My future aspirations involve food-literacy, educating future farmers in Urban Agriculture food production and practices. Right now, I am a first generation Urban Farmer who has an interest in growing food, flowers and herbs. I am working on being a residential and commercial ‘Foodscaper’ creating public and private edible landscape designs. One of my goals as I develop in my career is to educate people and families to eat healthier by growing food themselves or to see the value in buying food from farmer’s markets rather than supermarkets for...
both environmental, food quality and safety reasons. By teaching aspiring Urban Farmers about small-scale farming techniques, diversifying crops and produce without heavy equipment or expensive infrastructures, I hope to raise awareness of the many environmental benefits. Personally, I want to continue to explore designing public spaces with both ornamental and edible plants and in some way make community agriculture common again.

Gerald: I am glad you were able to come to the PGMS Summer Conference at the University of California-Davis. You had the opportunity to connect and visit with many of the attendees, listen to interesting speakers, and see some inspiring sites. Was there a favorite moment you would like to share?

Tylee: I would have to say the tour of Maple Rock Garden and Farm. As I walked into the gate I was impressed at the plant varieties and combinations. I felt so peaceful. There was so much beauty there. Scott was a great storyteller and kept us laughing and smiling the whole time as he gave us some of the history of the property. He let us wander around the farm. The landscaping of the different garden spaces was like eye candy. I enjoyed walking into the watermelon patch, seeing the lavender field and picking a juicy apple in the orchard. The other site that I enjoyed was the campus tour of the Robert Mondavi Institute Winery/Vineyard. We even got a chance to sample freshly harvested grapes and learn about the history and research that goes into studying wine production. I loved the courtyard filled with combinations of olive trees, fruit shrubs and vegetables. I felt so at home surrounded by all the bountiful food growing everywhere.

Gerald: Is there anything you would like to tell PGMS members about yourself? What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? What interests do you have?

Tylee: I am an artist and studied at Pratt Institute for Graphic Design and Art Education. I enjoy working in watercolor, pen and ink, print making, mixed-media and ceramics and have a small art studio in Ellenwood, Ga. My current ongoing project is developing a line of clay pots called Hydra-Oyas for use in garden irrigation. Since I’m a ‘Foodscaper’ and an artist, I wanted to find a simple way to use art in the garden that was functional. This product helps people to continuously water their containers and raised beds all season. I re-discovered this simple ancient in-ground irrigation technique while researching irrigation systems for a school project. The pots are cast from gourds I grew and come in four sizes. I am adding a drip irrigation component to hook up to a water source to keep them full. I plan to have them ready by next spring 2016.

I rarely have spare time. I am a "Garden Geek," I love reading books on Urban Farming, Landscape Design, growing fruits, vegetables and anything Permaculture. I enjoy dehydrating and canning the vegetables I grow and make relishes, pesto, chutney, salsas and jellies. I have dabbled in learning about essential oils and herbs since 1999. This past spring and summer an opportunity became available for me to start an herb area at our farm. I ended up growing 75 types of medicinal and culinary herbs, all from seeds. I use some of these herbs to make natural herbal body products and teas. Lastly, I enjoy Yoga and I ‘Zentangle.’ I am a certified Zentangle Instructor. It is a meditative form of drawing where you use repetitive lines and shapes to create patterns called tangles in various combinations, contained in squares and circles. They are great stress relievers.

Gerald: In Sacramento, you shared a passionate desire to grow food and show people how to grow food. How do you see the future of horticulture and grounds management? Do you see edible landscapes playing a major role on campuses?

Tylee: Yes, but eventually everywhere as well. I see a shift to more public edible landscaping. Right now we have a cheap, abundant, accessible food system. Food security is a concern that many don’t want to deal with, until they have to. However, everyone has a right to the choice of quality, good, healthy and accessible food. This is not the case everywhere. I know it is not the popular solution and definitely will need refining, but I feel public spaces (where the risk of development is lowest), can be areas where we as grounds managers and landscape designers can provide those choices. That’s where the art and knowledge of grounds management of this type of plant material will need attention. Incorporating fruit and vegetable varieties that are low maintenance, aesthetic and edible can start being the way to give free access of food to everyone. However, just planting them is not enough; we need skilled and trained people to maintain this kind of landscape. Schools, college campuses, city hall buildings, court yards, town squares, parks and grounds around libraries can incorporate fruit and nut trees, shrubs, herbs, annual and perennial vegetables for free public access. However, there will need to be some major education and awareness of how and why to eat healthier along with this ‘free’ public food concept to the public. I would like to see the day when growing food around us is not rare, but common place and part of the natural landscape. I personally would like to start at the residential homeowner level, empowering them to grow food around their outdoor living spaces and show them how to create landscapes of nutritional beauty right outside their door.

Gerald: What would you tell someone with an interest in studying horticulture?

Tylee: I would say to them, you will be some of the key players in our world. Horticulture bridges that gap between people and earth through plants. We need people who have that interest in studying plant life and being stewards of the land. Horticulture leads to so many fascinating areas of study. If they have that calling, they should absolutely pursue it. We need individuals that will care for the land directly and indirectly through science and research, which helps others to see the beauty in nature around them. Because at some point, when people leave their office, school, campus, store, home, car, or go to a park, a game, or amusement park, what are they experiencing? That’s where we come in. We are responsible for the green spaces they come in contact with. Whatever part of this industry you get into impacts those experiences and sets a mood. Those who look at our world through the horticulture lenses of green colored glasses are super-special people! I would say to them, don’t let anyone discourage you because it’s not the ‘popular’ profession in dollars or title. If you have a passion in it, go for it, eventually the money will come. The people I know in this industry didn’t get into it for that, but, they are making money. On top of that, they are some of the kindest, caring, sharing, and joyful people I know!

Gerald: Thank you for sharing so much with us, Tylee. It was a pleasure talking with you!

Tylee: It was my pleasure, Gerald. Thank you PGMS for this great opportunity you have given me!
What’s Growing On With...Your Branch?

Getting involved and participating with your local PGMS branch is a great way to meet others in the industry, share ideas and learn the latest updates on grounds management. Check out these upcoming PGMS Branch events that you don’t want to miss:

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

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

**Philadelphia Branch**
Oct. 9, 2015
PGMS Philadelphia Branch Site Visit
Drew University
Madison, NJ
Deadline to RSVP is Oct. 2!

Nov. 11, 2015
PGMS Philadelphia Branch Site Visit
Blair Academy
Blairstown, NJ

**Michigan Branch**
Oct. 9, 2015
PGMS Michigan Branch Meeting
Spectrum Blodgett
East Grand Rapids, MI

**Northeast New Jersey & New York City Branch**
Nov. 10, 2015
Presentation by Bartlett Tree Experts on their work at the National 9/11 Memorial
Event location and time TBA

**Virginia Branch**
Sept. 30, 2015
PGMS Virginia Branch Meeting
Longwood University
Farmville, VA

For details on all events, go to [http://pgms.org/calendar-of-events/](http://pgms.org/calendar-of-events/).
ArtisTree Landscape Maintenance and Design, a company located in Venice, Fla., started an initiative to thank landscapers for the work they do. The website (www.thankalandscaper.com) gives people the chance to thank any person or group of people that has had a significant impact on their experience with the green industry. It includes a tab where people can go on and thank any individual or company that has helped shape their awareness of the industry. You can select any option from parent to residential maintenance company to environmentalist. People can choose between pre-written thank you’s, or opt to write their own. The thank you is then posted on the home page of the website for everyone to see.

The idea of the website originated from a small gesture given to the company. The company had been asked to help transplant fruit trees that were being removed from the future site of a sales center. The landscape chairman serving on the HOA board didn’t want to see the trees destroyed, so he asked ArtisTree to transplant them around the community.

“To thank us, he and his wife made us the homemade bread and jam,” says Debra Morrow, vice president of marketing for ArtisTree. The bread and jam were made from the trees and Morrow called it “one of the kindest gestures we ever received.”

Source: https://www.lawnandlandscape.com/ll-091815-ArtisTree-Thank-Program.aspx
Floating Landscapes to Clean and Adorn Polluted Waterways

Brooklyn’s Gowanus Canal, one of the most polluted bodies of water in the U.S., has a new feature that not only visually enhances the canal, it acts as sponges that filter and clean water and provide wildlife habitats: a floating landscape.

Balmori Associates, a New York based international landscape and urban design firm, and the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, a community-based non-profit organization that serves as the environmental steward for the Gowanus Canal Watershed, funded the project through a $20,000 grant received from the Cornelia & Michael Bessie Foundation. Balmori then designed and fabricated the floating infrastructure, which is one in a series of this type of work by them.

One other benefit of floating infrastructures is that they can adapt to and address rising seas.

Once a hub for maritime and commercial activity, the Gowanus Canal has captured industrial waste products from factories located along its banks; and during heavy storms, combined sewer overflows bring not only stormwater to the canal but also untreated human and industrial waste, toxic materials, and debris.

The floating landscape, named GrowOnUs, transforms metal culvert pipe into planters. These are the same pipes used to bring the polluted runoff and sewage waste to the canal. Each of the 54 “test tubes” isolate different experiments in plants (over 30 plants selected for phytoremediation and natural dye production), various watering conditions (clean water through phytoremediation, desalinated canal brackish water through evaporation and condensation, and collected rainwater), as well as a variety of buoyant construction materials (coconut fibers, bamboo, mycelium, and matrix of recycled plastic).

GrowOnUs will be monitored to study the viability of producing large-scale edible floating landscapes in cities with polluted rivers. It will also further explore other functions with urban potential as a multi-functional green infrastructure: shoreline protection, biodiverse habitats, energy production, and public space.

More information can be found at www.gowanuscanalconservancy.org.

Source: http://landscapeonline.com/research/article/27682
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John: How did you begin your career in the green industry?

Don: I began in high school working in local nurseries and garden centers. I got a job as an applicator for a chemical lawn care company after college and worked in that industry segment for about 18 years. In the early 90’s I got my first grounds manager job at a 40 acre private school in Wilmington, Delaware. I had a crew and we did full service including tree work. I was there for about 12 years. Then I moved to my present position at Salesianum School, also in Wilmington. There, I manage a 20 acre urban high school campus as a department of one. I outsource all of the routine landscape maintenance, but I perform all of the services that I cannot easily outsource, like game day field preparation. I write the specification, manage the process and keep things running smooth. That and pick up trash, lots of trash!

John: How long have you been a member of PGMS?

Don: I think I joined either in late 2003 or early 2004. I did belong to the First State Branch as a local member beginning in the early 90’s.

John: What is the best benefit of being a PGMS member?

Don: For me, the best benefit is getting to know and associate with some of the best grounds managers in the industry. They in turn encouraged me to pursue the Certified Grounds Manager credential. That experience was a milestone in my career. It has definitely challenged me to become the best that I can be, and I am still learning and growing.

John: What are the biggest challenges you face in your current position today?

Don: Every time I speak with other grounds managers, the same topics seem to come up, that is, weather, resources we don’t have and expectations that are difficult to meet. It changes with the season. My biggest challenge in my job (and my personal life) is remembering to think before responding. I can be my own worst enemy. I have learned, though, that it is OK to have an unexpressed thought.

John: When your not at work Don, what do like to do for enjoyment in your personal life?

Don: Outdoor cooking with family and friends. I have a bunch of smokers and grills and cast iron dutch ovens. I cook in them all year long. There is nothing like a feast to bring people together. If I am not doing that, I enjoy long drives through the countryside.

In the photo: Don doing what he loves best, grilling outside!
HARD-CORE COMFORT

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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.

Grounds Team Leader - Berea College, Berea, Ky.
Berea College is seeking an individual to serve as the Grounds Team Leader with Facilities Management. The Grounds Team Leader will provide leadership to the Grounds, Recycling and Solid Wast, and Pest Management staff and students by using the following methods: gathering input from others and personal review of conditions in order to strategically coordinate daily work assignments and prioritize work orders; organize, keep and review records of work performed by the team; making decisions on personnel issues and day-to-day problems that arise; leading group and individual evaluation of team members and coordinating training and safety of team members. This position will have to perform hands-on maintenance-related work in all aspects of seasonal grounds operations such as mowing, trimming, edging, planting and snow and ice control.

Groundskeeper II - Armstrong State University, Savannah, Ga.
Full-time position involving grounds maintenance and general landscaping. Primary duty involves the chemical and mechanical control of weeds in ornamental beds and turf on campus Additional duties may include mowing grass, edging and blowing sidewalks, pruning shrubs, mulching ornamental beds, installing plants, litter removal and other jobs as required. Will apply herbicides with backpack sprayer and powered sprayers. Might require the operation of riding mowers and small power equipment. May drive a truck and some light construction equipment, involving responsibilities for safe and efficient operation.

Landscapec - Waverly Heights LTD, Gladwyne, Pa.
Waverly Heights, Ltd., a premier life care community located on 63 acres in Gladwyne, Pa., is currently seeking a Full Time Landscape. Candidate will contribute to all outdoor maintenance activities including mowing, fertilization, reseeding, pruning shrubs, plantings, equipment maintenance, insect/pest control, and snow removal. Broad working knowledge of landscaping functions, including turf management, seasonal landscaping and safety.

Landscape Department Manager - Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Va.
We are looking for an experienced arborist to assist in the scheduling, management, and implementation of the daily maintenance of Colonial Williamsburg’s urban forest. Job requirements include: performs and manages all arboricultural practices in a safe and professional manner including tree climbing, rigging, pruning, take down, cabling, bracing, lightening protection, stump removal, aeration, fertilization, injection and other related duties; operates and maintains all hand and powered equipment normally used in the tree care industry; demonstrates a broad knowledge of tree identification and cultural requirements, recognizes common disease symptoms and structural defects, conducts hazard tree analysis surveys and prepares written and oral recommendations; works in a safe manner at all times to protect self, coworkers, the public, guests and property. Must possess a valid Virginia driver’s license and a commercial driver’s license (CDL). The driver’s license and the CDL must be maintained, current, and valid.

Horticulturist Assistant - Georgia Tech, Atlanta, Ga.
Provide specialized landscape and grounds maintenance services in support of horticulturists to include plantings, chemical applications and equipment maintenance. Major responsibilities include: perform horticultural related maintenance of trees, shrubs, ground covers and flower beds; transport equipment and personnel via motor vehicle to and from job sites; provide instructions to landscaping crews as required; lead in and perform lawn maintenance activities; keeps landscape and grounds free of debris; apply appropriate chemicals to lawn, trees, shrubs, ground cover, and flower; perform routine maintenance of equipment; complete daily grounds maintenance reports; train new employees in horticultural related duties; promote safe working practices; perform other related duties as assigned.

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@assnhqtrs.com. More information can be found at pgms.org/career-center/.