



April 2017

New Jersey Green Industry Council

ADVOCATING for the Green Industry
through **COMMUNICATION** and **EDUCATION**

P.O. Box 166
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The Landscape

**Monthly Newsletter Exclusively for
NJGIC Members**



President's Message

Good day all!

There's an old saying in New Jersey that "if you don't like the weather, just wait 15 minutes and it will change"! After going through everything Mother Nature threw at us this winter, we are finally out in the field, doing fertilizer applications, spraying weeds, doing clean-ups, and pruning our plant material. The toughest part of our Industry is that many of the jobs need to be done at the same time, and lack of manpower has a way of raising its head creating problems. Even with that being said, we find a way to get it done in a timely manner!



The Masters and Augusta National

Funfacts about the Grounds

The history of Augusta is much more than golf; it was once home to Fruitland Nurseries. Owned and operated by P.J. Berckmans and his family the nursery was one of the most successful horticultural sites of its time in the South. Located on Washington Road, approximately 3 miles northwest of downtown Augusta, Fruitland planted millions of peach trees in the 1800s and early 1900s and made Georgia famous for its sweet Georgia peaches. In 1931, the land was purchased and transformed into the most famous golf course in the world, Augusta National. The Berckmans' family home still remains on the Augusta National property and serves as the clubhouse.

One of the busiest jobs at this time of year is the applications of chemical treatments including pre-emergent crabgrass controls, post-emergent broadleaf herbicides for winter clean-up, and pre-emergents for plant beds to hopefully alleviate a lot of hand labor throughout the growing season. We all use products that are Federally, and State Registered, and were developed for specific jobs, while being safe to use if applied according to Label Usage. In addition the applications are being made by trained and educated NJDEP Certified Commercial Applicators that constantly train and update their knowledge through the awarding of Recertification Credits approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The point of my message today is twofold.

The first is to make sure you have read (and have in your possession) a copy of the latest Pesticide Label from the Company of Manufacture. Labels change! Product uses are added and some are deleted, personal protective equipment can change, as well as first-aid verbiage. The "Label" is the law of the land and don't assume that because you read a label three years ago that it is still current.

Secondly, is one of the most important yet seldom known programs and that is the Rutgers Pesticide Safety Education Program, also known as PSEP. We are very fortunate in New Jersey to have Patricia Hastings (Rutgers) as our Rutgers PSEP Coordinator, working with Dr. George Hamilton. As the name implies, this program deals with the constant changes dealing with pesticide safety for agriculture as well as the green industry. It is their job to educate all parties including the applicators, growers, consumers, and the public on the proper usage of the many products available to help insure safe food sources, as well as a desirable product being raised for purchase and/or consumption. I proudly serve on Pat's Rutgers PSEP Advisory Board as well as the National Stakeholders PSEP Group because I strongly believe that their hard work and goals serve as the foundation for our Industry for many years to come. This is all being done with greatly diminishing funds and support. Please feel free to contact the NJGIC or myself to see what you can do to help this valuable program remain sustainable!

My thanks to you all and we wish you a safe and profitable 2017 Season.

Respectfully submitted,

John Patten

NJGIC President

Magnolia Lane extends from the entrance gate to the clubhouse. The 61 large Magnolia Trees that line both sides of the 330 yard road date to the 1850's.

The Pine Tree is the most abundant tree at Augusta National. Several species grow along the course including Loblolly Pines, Shortleaf Pines, Slash Pines, Longleaf Pines, and Eastern White Pines.

The "Big Oak Tree" along the right side of the clubhouse is over 150 years old.

The tournament was not played during the years 1943, 1944, and 1945 due to World War II. To help with the war effort, turkey and cattle were raised on the grounds of Augusta National Grounds.

Ike's Pond is named after General Eisenhower. The three acre Pond is man-made, has a dam, and is fed by a spring.

Each hole at Augusta National is named after a tree or shrub: Tea Olive, Pink Dogwood, Flowering Peach, Flowering Crab Apple, Magnolia, Juniper, Pampas, Yellow Jasmine, Carolina Cherry, Camellia, White Dogwood, Golden Bell, Azalea, Chinese Fir, Firethorn, Redbud, Nandina, and Holly. And each hole at Augusta National showcases the plant after which it was named.

Golf Digest's Mike Stachura was fortunate enough to play the course in 1996 – and bold enough to take a sample from the pond in front of No. 15. Tests revealed the water contained food dye, similar to what's used in blue-colored icing you might find on a kid's birthday cake.

Andy Stranger is a greenskeeper who has worked at Augusta in the run-up to the Masters. He told *National Club Golfer*: "You will get weak spots, bits that are in the shade we will be working on. "Anything that can be picked up on camera will be painted green."

Augusta, Georgia is one of the few places that *Sunset Magazine* designated a "garden spot," meaning there you could throw a seed in the ground and six weeks later you'll harvest something.

In that vein, the site founder Bobby Jones selected was a nursery, so the flora is amazing, to say the least. But Augusta National does it to extremes. If an early spring comes, grounds crew will put ice under the azaleas to slow down their blossoming. They want everything in full color come Masters week. (Note: They cannot control rain, however. Yet.)

Get there early enough during Master week and you will find more than 60 people working on the course, mowing, raking, edging, etc.

(Of note, there are many who think this does the golf industry a disservice by showing a course so luxurious, verdant and immaculate. It's a standard that any other course cannot meet, much less your local municipality. But then, there's no other



Mark Your Calendars!

May 2	CNLP Private Tour of Rutgers Gardens East Brunswick
June 8	NJFA "Attracting Butterflies & Moths" FREC, Jackson
June 22	NJNLA North Meeting Conductor's, Montville
July 25	Rutgers Field Turf Day New Brunswick
July 26	Rutgers Field Turf Day Adelphia
August 15	NJNLA Summer Plant Symposium Rutgers Gardens
December 5-7	Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference Atlantic City

course in the America that has the resources of Augusta National when it comes to maintenance.)



NJGIC Legislative Update

Assembly Agriculture Committee Amends Resolution Creating a Healthy Pollinators Task Force

NJGIC's successful efforts lead to adding an NJGIC Representative to the Task Force

NJGIC successfully obtained amendments to [AJR-144](#) (Taliaferro), which establishes "Healthy Pollinators Task Force," and added industry representatives to the taskforce. When AJR-144 was first introduced, NJGIC noticed, as written, AJR-144 lacked industry representatives, but included two representatives from the environmental NGOs. We quickly arranged a meeting with the bill's sponsor to make a case for adding industry representatives to the membership to ensure fair, balanced and science based conclusions.

Assembly Joint Resolution 144 will create a Healthy Pollinators Task Force, a group whose purpose is to study all issues impacting pollinators, and who will produce a report documenting the taskforce's findings. The task force is charged with coming up with a plan to address issues which impact pollinator health.

The task force shall be comprised of 15 members and will include the following:

- The commissioner of Environmental Protection and the secretary of Agriculture, or the commissioner's and the secretary's designees, respectively, who shall serve ex officio and who shall serve as co-chairs of the task force;
- The commissioner of Transportation or the commissioner's designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- The commissioner of Corrections or



2017 CLA & RISE Regulatory Conference:

EPA, Industry Talk Pesticide Science

The 2017 CropLife America (CLA) and RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) Regulatory Conference took place earlier this month with the unveiling of a new Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) Report, *Crop Protection Contributions Toward Agricultural Productivity*. Held at the Renaissance Capital View Hotel in Arlington, Virginia, this year's conference focused on the theme *Partnering for Progress*, encouraging open communication and partnerships among the pesticide industry, government, and other stakeholders. Featuring speakers and panelists presented in areas across the pesticide registration lifecycle.

"CLA and RISE are proud to provide an opportunity for the crop protection and specialty pesticide industries, stakeholders, and academia to meet with representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other Agencies to discuss the latest developments in pesticide science and regulation," said Jay Vroom, president and CEO of CLA. "Our country's successful food system rests upon a foundation of partnerships. The CLA and RISE Regulatory Conference helps facilitate these important discussions and collaborations."

Since 2009, the CLA and RISE Regulatory Conference has provided a forum to discuss the evolving science and regulation behind crop protection and specialty pesticide products. The educational sessions scheduled throughout the two days encouraged open discussion among industry, stakeholders, and federal regulators about the issues facing the crop protection and specialty pesticide industries. The keynote speaker on Thursday morning, Dr. Robert Johansson, chief economist at USDA, discussed the economic landscape for agriculture and key regulatory approaches to risk-based decision making. Starting the sessions on Friday was the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs Leadership Panel that provided Agency updates and discussions about EPA's priorities for 2017.

the commissioner's designee, who shall serve ex officio;

- The state apiarist, or the apiarist's designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- The president of the New Jersey Farm Bureau, or the president's designee, who shall serve ex officio;
- One representative each, appointed by the governor, from the New Jersey Audubon Society, and a recognized statewide environmental organization;
- One representative each, appointed by the president of the Senate, from the New Jersey Green Industry Council and the New Jersey Utilities Association;
- One representative each, appointed by the speaker of the General Assembly, an apiary entomologist or scientist and a representative from Rutgers, the State University; and
- Three members of the general public, one each appointed by the governor, the president of the Senate, and the speaker of the General Assembly, respectively, who have an understanding of the issues affecting pollinators and their health, including, but not limited to, climate change, pesticide use, and diseases affecting pollinators.

The amendments include added members representing the New Jersey Green Industry Council and either an apiary entomologist or scientist. The original bill did not include either of these representatives, but included two NGO environmental groups. We were concerned that without balance, that the discussion could be headed in the direction of unfairly blaming and banning neonicotinoid pesticides. Pollinator health is a complicated issue, and some NGO's want to use it as a vehicle to ban safe low risk pesticides. NJGIC opposes any efforts to restrict or ban neonicotinoid pesticides, since they are safe for humans and pets.

This resolution now heads to the Assembly floor for potential action.



NJGIC 2017 Membership

Please support **your** Green Industry by forwarding your membership dues.

"The Regulatory Conference is an excellent opportunity for our members to have a dialogue with EPA staff about regulatory issues that affect the industry. This year, RISE hosted their second annual *EPA Labels Live!* session to help EPA staff learn about the pesticide product lifecycle and provide context for label regulation," said Aaron Hobbs, president of RISE. "We're excited the conference facilitated these two-way conversations."

"It is more important than ever to highlight the importance and impact of strong science in regulation of crop protection products. The Regulatory Conference puts that message front and center," stated Dr. Janet E. Collins, CLA's executive vice president of science and regulatory affairs. "Science is the cornerstone of agriculture, helping growers and ranchers around the world farm smarter, faster and safer with less pressure on natural resources. We're excited to hear new discussions and see emerging partnerships that occur throughout this year's regulatory conference."

Earlier this year, CLA and RISE teamed up to promote the value of pesticide technology through a new video, *Know Your Pest!* The animated video depicts beetles, mosquitoes and other pest threats encroaching upon a farm and a city, only to be stopped in their tracks by "science and the wonder of pesticides." The final video tagline shares a fact upon which all consumers can agree: Nobody likes a pest. To learn more about CLA, RISE and the benefits of pesticides, visit www.croplifeamerica.org and www.pestfacts.org.

Established in 1933, CropLife America (www.croplifeamerica.org) represents the developers, manufacturers, formulators, and distributors of plant science solutions for agriculture and pest management in the United States. CropLife America's member companies produce, sell and distribute virtually all of the necessary and vital crop protection and biotechnology products used by American farmers. CLA can be found on Twitter at @CropLifeAmerica.

RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) is the national trade association representing manufacturers, formulators, distributors and other industry leaders involved with specialty pesticides and fertilizer products.



Maplewood Leaf Blower Ban: Passed

The Maplewood Town Council unanimously passed an ordinance last week banning commercial landscapers' use of gas-powered leaf blowers for the summer months. The new rule, the town's slawmaker said, is meant to decrease noise and environmental pollution in the community. "We are just trying to keep the calm in the town," Maplewood Mayor, Victor DeLuca said. "To keep it quiet. We're talking about the summer time."

The new ordinance bans the commercial use of gas-powered blowers from May 15 – September 30 each year. It does not apply to residents or non-commercial associations. Businesses caught violating the ordinance would be fined \$500, then \$1000 for a second violation, and \$1500 for any subsequent violation. The ordinance also restricts the use of leaf blowers to certain hours for both the commercial and residential user.

The controversial ban has elicited mixed reactions from residents, and outspoken opposition from local companies and the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association. "We are already planning to file an injunction," Gail Woolcott, the NJLCA Director of Operations, stated. "That will at least stall them from being able to enact the ordinance."

Checking Your NJDEP Credits

Pesticide Recertification and Course History

With the season upon us, it might not be a bad idea to take a look at your recertification credit and course history. October 31st, the license renewal date and last date to obtain recertification credits will be here before we know it.

The DEP website offers a great deal of information including your current recertification credit status.



And it's very easy to do from your desk computer, tablet, or smart phone.

- go to www.pcpnj.org
- click on **Pesticides** in the middle of the page
- click on **Check your credit and course history** in the middle of the page

Information will be provided for both commercial and private applicators

You will be prompted to provide your license number, your date of birth, and the last four digits of your social security number.

The website of the DEP offers a great deal of information that might be beneficial to your business.



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STAY CONNECTED

