



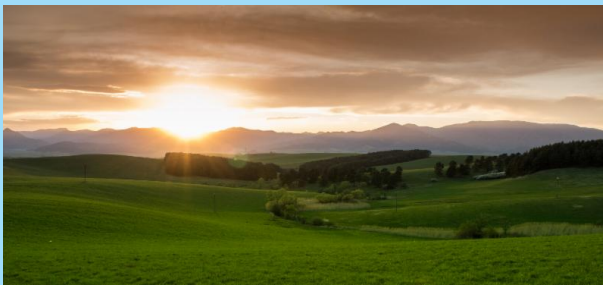
March 2017

New Jersey Green Industry Council

ADVOCATING for the Green Industry
through COMMUNICATION and EDUCATION

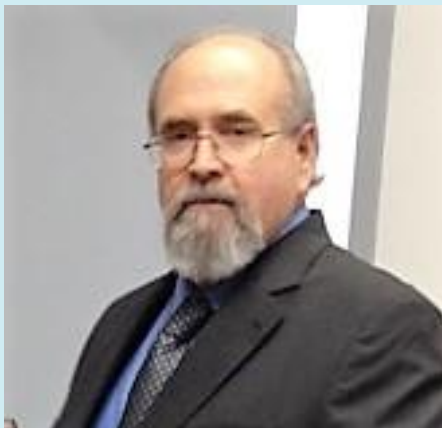
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[Visit our Website](http://NJGIC.org)



The Landscape

Monthly Newsletter Exclusively for
NJGIC Members



A Message From Our President...

A hardy good day to all of our members of the **New Jersey Green Industry Council!**

This is a very exciting time in the history of the New Jersey Green Industry Council, ushering in a new Executive Director Buddy Freund, as well as an aggressive new agenda encompassing **Advocacy**, **Communication**, and **Education** or **ACE** as I prefer to call it.

The New Jersey Green Industry was fortunate to be able to hire Mr. Buddy Freund in late December as our new Executive Director of the New Jersey Green Industry Council after an exhaustive search for just the right individual to take us into a new direction for our Organization. Buddy's expertise in



NJGIC Announces New Executive Director
New Jersey Green Industry Council recently announced the appointment of Buddy Freund as its new Executive Director.

Buddy assumed his role on January 1, 2017. Buddy is the founder and president of **Vision Strong Management Group**. He and his team at Vision Strong pride themselves in providing a close, personal touch to its clients and their membership.

"Buddy's expertise in organizational skills, electronic media, and growth initiatives will blend nicely with our stated goals of getting more involved with our Allied Organizations in New Jersey's Green Industry."

John Patten, NJGIC President:

organizational skills, electronic media, and growth initiatives will blend nicely with our stated goals of getting more involved with our Allied Organizations in New Jersey's Green Industry, while working with the Executive Board and Board of Directors of the New Jersey Green Industry Council with our new "**ACE Concept**" as stated above. The hiring of Buddy Freund as our new Executive Director was a matter of being in the right place, at the right time and we welcome him to our Organization.

I would also like to acknowledge the **NJGIC Executive Board and Board of Directors** at this time. They are as follows;

- President, John Patten (PBI-Gordon Corporation)
- Vice President, Mark Kuhns (Director of Grounds at Baltusrol G.C.)
- Secretary, Joseph Turchi Jr. (Synatek, Terra-Vita)
- Treasurer, Robert Windish (Owner of Fairway Green)
- Past President, Jim Jensen (Formulation Business Manager for NuFarm Americas)
- Executive Director, Buddy Freund (Owner of GoVision Stong)
- **Boardmembers,**
- John Buechner (Technical Manager of Lawn Doctor Corporate)
- Wayne Dubin (Vice President and Division Manager of Bartlett Tree)
- Keith MacIndoe (Sales Manager of Johnson Farms)
- Michael Cavanaugh (Owner of PestID LLC)
- Mike Caprio (Regional Business Consultant for Lawn Doctor Corporate)
- Keith Bennett (Sales Territory Manager for Grass Roots Inc.)
- Mark Mason (Owner/Operator Lawn Doctor Franchise)
- Tom Armstrong (Branch Leader at SavaTree)
- Larry Freedman (Agronomic Sales Manager at SiteOne Landscape Supply)
- Rob Brown (Landscape Marketing Manager for Lebanon Turf)

It is an absolute pleasure to work with such a dedicated group of Green Industry Professionals as we all work towards making the New Jersey Green Industry Council the go-to Organization representing our interests and needs in Trenton, New Jersey.

Our **2017 NJGIC Agenda** will include the following, just to name a few;

- Pollinator training agenda's.
- Neonicotinoid Legislation being proposed in Trenton.
- Potential resurfacing of the Safe Playing Fields Act.
- Constant bombing of Legislative Actions concerning New Jersey's Green Industry.
- Establishment of the new NJGIC "Ed Platz Scholarship Awards".
- Continued fundraising for Legislators, friendly to the needs of New Jersey's Green Industry.

"I look forward to helping NJGIC fulfill its mission of representing, promoting, and advocating for the interest of the Green Industry and its partners," states Freund.



NJGIC Legislative Update

Neonic Update:

John Buechner and Ed Waters continue to represent NJGIC in the neonicotinoid stakeholder group, advocating for green industry professionals. The other stakeholders include the Audubon Society and we are currently working to find common ground. We have additional meetings scheduled in March.

In 2017, the Governor, Senate and Assembly will all be up for election in New Jersey.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, Phil Murphy, Senator Ray Lesniak, and Assembly Deputy Speaker, John Wisniewski are top three Democrats running for governor. Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno, Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli, and Nutley Commissioner Steve Rogers are the top contenders running for the Republican nomination. There are also rumors that *Saturday Night Live* Alumnus Joe Piscopo may run as either a Republican or an Independent.

Legislative Races

Senate - all 40 seats up for re-election. Democrats currently have a 24 to 16 advantage over Republicans

Assembly - all 80 seats up for reelection. Democrats currently have a 52 to 28 advantage over Republicans.

The races to watch are as follows:

District 2 – Popular Senator Jim Whelan (D) is retiring and the district's two Assemblymen are both running for Senate. This will be the most competitive race in the state as Democratic Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo takes on Republican Assemblyman Chris Brown. There will be no incumbents running for the Assembly in District 2. This district will be a toss-up for both seats.

□ Renewed effort to support our fellow Green Industry Allied Associations, and be their Legislative Go-To group.

□ Support of Pesticide Safety Education Programs (PSEP) in New Jersey and Nationally.

Stay tuned to our updates and communications, and if you haven't signed up yet as new and existing members of the NJGIC please help support our efforts in representing your interests legislatively in Trenton! **Remember, this is your livelihood!**

I look forward to speaking with you, and if you have any comments please feel free to reach out to me with your thoughts. I can be reached at jpatten@pbigordon.com or at 609-970-1546.

Respectfully submitted,

John Patten
NJGIC President



District 7 – Senator Diane Allen (R) is also retiring which will leave an open Senate seat in this District. Democratic Assemblyman Troy Singleton has already declared his candidacy which will set up a race against a still yet to be determined Republican.

Incumbent Assemblyman Herb Conaway (D) will run for re-election with Carol Murphy (D), against yet to be named Republican candidates.

District 11 – Former Monmouth County Democratic Chairman Vin Gopal will take on Senator Jennifer Beck in this highly competitive District. The District's two incumbent Democratic Assembly Members Joann Downey and Eric Houghtaling are seeking reelection. The Republicans are expected to take a run at the first term Assembly members. This will be one of the most competitive Assembly races in New Jersey during this election cycle.

District 24 – GOP Assemblywoman Gail Phoebus has announced that she will challenge popular Senator Steve Oroho in the Republican Primary. Incumbent Assemblyman Parker Space will run with former New Jersey Labor Commissioner Hal Wirths (R).

District 40 – Senator Kevin O'Toole announced that he will be retiring at the end of his term which sets up a race between former Assembly Majority/Minority Leader Paul DiGaetano and Kristin Corrado, the Passaic County Clerk. Corrado will run with incumbent District 40 Assemblyman Kevin Rooney and Christopher DePhillips. Joining DiGaetano and running for Assembly are former Senator Norm Roberts and Joe Bubba, Jr.



JOHN BUECHNER: A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

Last month, John Buechner was recognized at the New Jersey Green Industry Council Annual Meeting in Trenton for a lifetime of service...literally. He has committed his entire professional career to the betterment of those associated with the green industry. His work does not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

[Read the Article](#)

Allied Associations Unify To Prevent Leaf Blower Ban

Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association joined forces with New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association in an attempt to prevent the passing of an ordinance that would place significant restrictions on the use of leaf blowers in Maplewood, NJ. They presented their case at the meeting of the Maplewood Town Council on Tuesday, February 21st. They will meet again on Tuesday, March 6th where the Allied Associations will present ideas for consideration by the Town Council.

Lori Jenssen, Executive Director of NJNLA, Gail Woolcott, Director of Operations of NJLCA, and Buddy Freund, Executive Director of NJGIC represented their respective associations along with nearly 50 landscape business owners who will be affected by this town legislation. Nelson Lee, President of NJLCA, and Jenssen, spoke respectfully with the Maplewood Town Council about the need of finding some common ground that would fulfill both the needs of the citizens of Maplewood and the business owners servicing this Essex County community.

Along with a line of affected landscape business owners also spoke passionately about their desire to continue servicing the community in a manner that meets the Town Council's vision yet not dramatically affect their ability to provide quality service at an affordable price.

Some of the major points of the proposed leaf blower ban...

- Annual summer ban on gas commercial leaf blowers from May 15-October 15
- Restriction of the number of commercial blowers being used at any one time on a single piece of property
- Increased restrictions on the hours of operation for commercial leaf blowers
- Dramatically increase fines to \$500 - \$1000 for first time offense

These efforts by NJGIC as well as the other Allied Associations is a clear example of how they fight and support those in the Green Industry, and their ability to continue making a living.

[Read more about this meeting...](#)

Silent Auction "Shouts Out" Success

For the 6th consecutive year, the NJGIC Silent Auction was a resounding success. Armed with extremely supportive sponsors and generous contributors, fundraising chair, J. Turchi, Jr. and the fundraising committee generated significant excitement for the auction. Held each year at the GREEN EXPO Turf & Landscape Conference in December, the Silent Auction has been a major part of the NJGIC fundraising efforts. The 2016 Silent Auction was no different.

Turchi, Jr. is quick to point to his committee of Bob



NJGIC 2017 Membership

Please be on the lookout for your NJGIC 2017 dues invoice which was recently distributed.

NJGIC is your voice on all issues affecting your professional lives.

The New Jersey Green Industry Council represents, promotes, and defends the interests of the Green Industry and its partners at the state and local level. We protect your right to do business in the Garden State.

Your continued support assists our efforts representing you and your business interests.



Hope to See You Next

Year!

Windish, Fairway Green, Mark Kuhns, Baltusrol Golf Club, Tom Armstrong, SavATree, and Rob Brown, LebanonSeaboard, as workhorses for this great event. "It's a labor of love," says Turchi. "These guys are committed to the mission of NJGIC and work diligently to ensure that this fundraising effort is a success."

He also points to the generous contributions of the sponsors and donors for the Silent Auction.

[Click here](#) for a complete list of NJGIC Sponsors

"We rely heavily on these generous companies and individuals. This is what makes the event so successful."

Also helping with the Silent Auction at the Green Expo were Jim Jensen, Keith MacIndoe, John Patten, Buddy Freund, Audrey Miller, and Becca Miller.



| BUDDY FREUND, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | NEW JERSEY GREEN INDUSTRY COUNCIL |
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STAY CONNECTED

