
THE SUPER-SCRATCH FOUNDATION The Super-Scratch Foundation | info@superscratchfoundation.org





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#### LETTER FROM THE BOARD

#### Dear Friends, Sponsors, and Supporters,

We hope this message finds you well and filled with the same passion for the game of golf and its future that drives our mission at the Super-Scratch Foundation. As we reflect on the achievements of 2024 and look forward to the exciting opportunities ahead, we are filled with gratitude for your support and dedication to our cause.

This year, we introduced our **Club Advocate Program**, a groundbreaking initiative allowing clubs and organizations across the country to directly support the foundation. We're thrilled to share that this program has already garnered more than **35 members nationwide**, underscoring the shared commitment of the golf community to ensuring the long-term sustainability of our sport.

With your generosity, we achieved a major milestone: Donating more than **\$140,000** in scholarships to students pursuing degrees in turfgrass management and related fields. These scholarships will touch more than 40 students across **15-plus universities** in 2025. It will empower the next generation of golf course superintendents that is critical to the game we all love.

As we turn our sights to 2025, our goals are ambitious but achievable with your continued support:

- Expand the National Advocate Club Program to include more than 75 clubs nationwide.
- Raise more than \$500,000 in donations to provide even greater support for students and programs.
- Host our first regional event, the West Coast Invitational, at the iconic PGA West Stadium Course this March, kicking off what promises to be a new era for the foundation.

These goals represent more than just numbers; they reflect our unwavering commitment to addressing the growing challenges faced by the golf industry. By championing education, fostering collaboration and celebrating excellence, we are laying the foundation for a brighter future for golf course maintenance and the sport as a whole.

Thank you for your continued belief in our mission. Together, we are making a lasting impact on the lives of students, the future of golf course management and the game we all cherish.

With deepest gratitude,

Andrew Mason

President
The Super-Scratch Foundation

#### CLUB ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The Super-Scratch Foundation's Club Advocacy Program is leading the charge in securing the future of turfgrass management. With over 35 club members—including some of the most prestigious in the country—we're building a strong network to support scholarships and inspire the next generation of superintendents. A special thank you to those clubs and members who have taken the time to support our foundation.

Green Keeper Clubs (\$5,000+)























Foundation Advocates (\$1,000+)















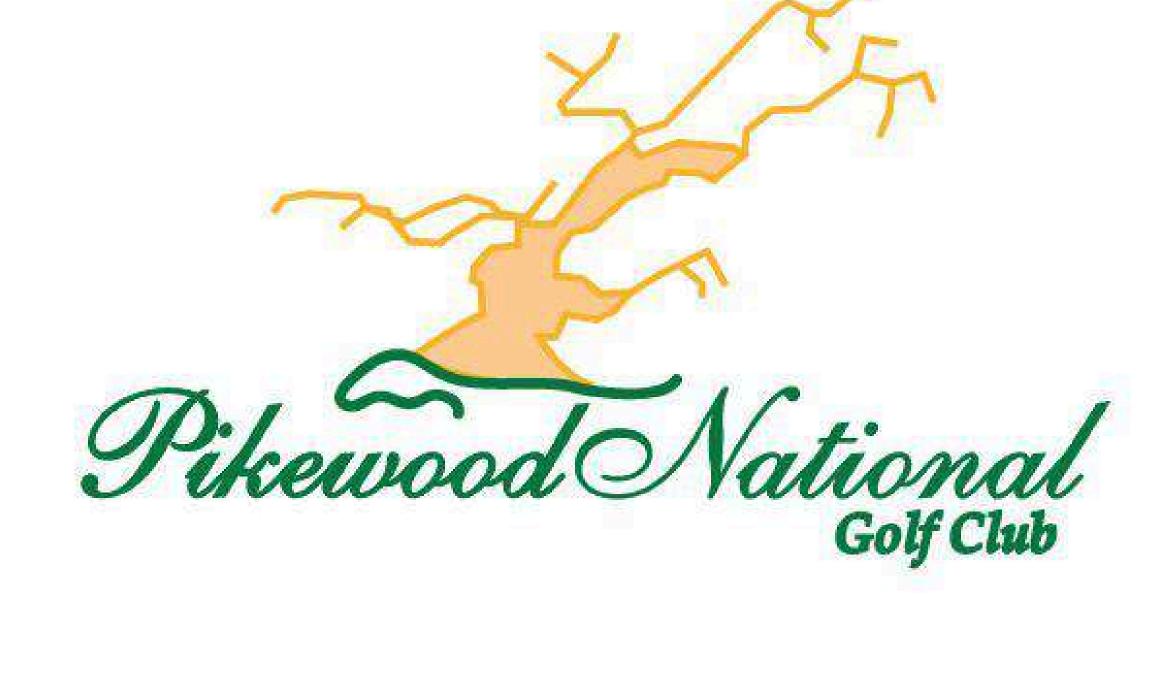








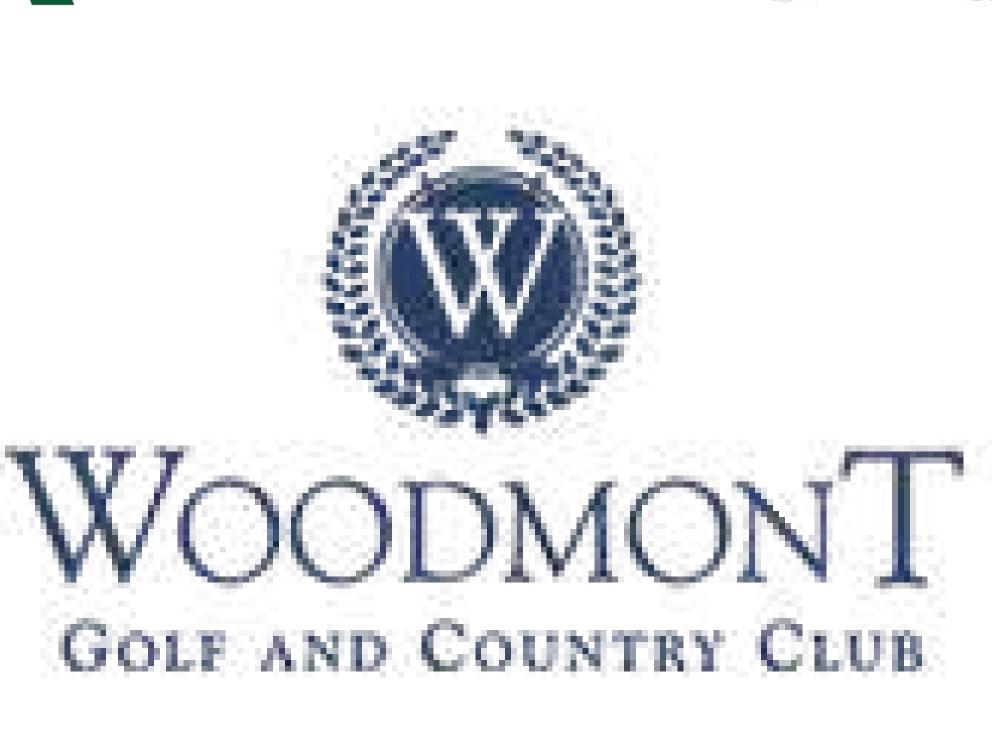
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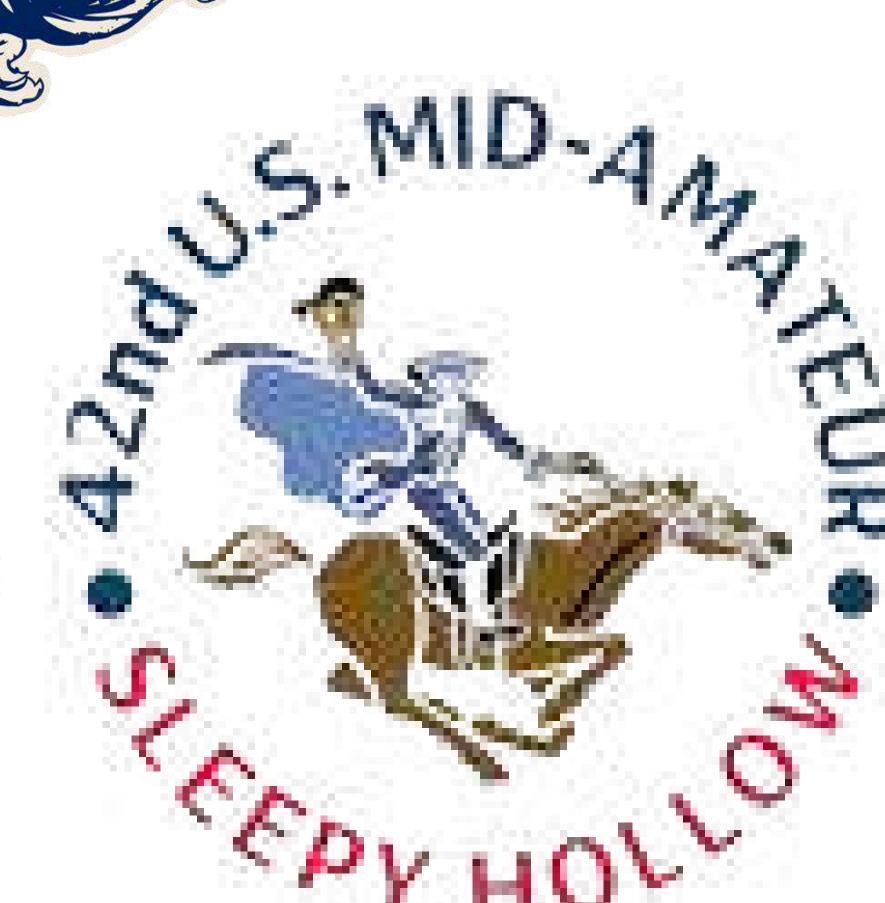


COUNTRY CLUB







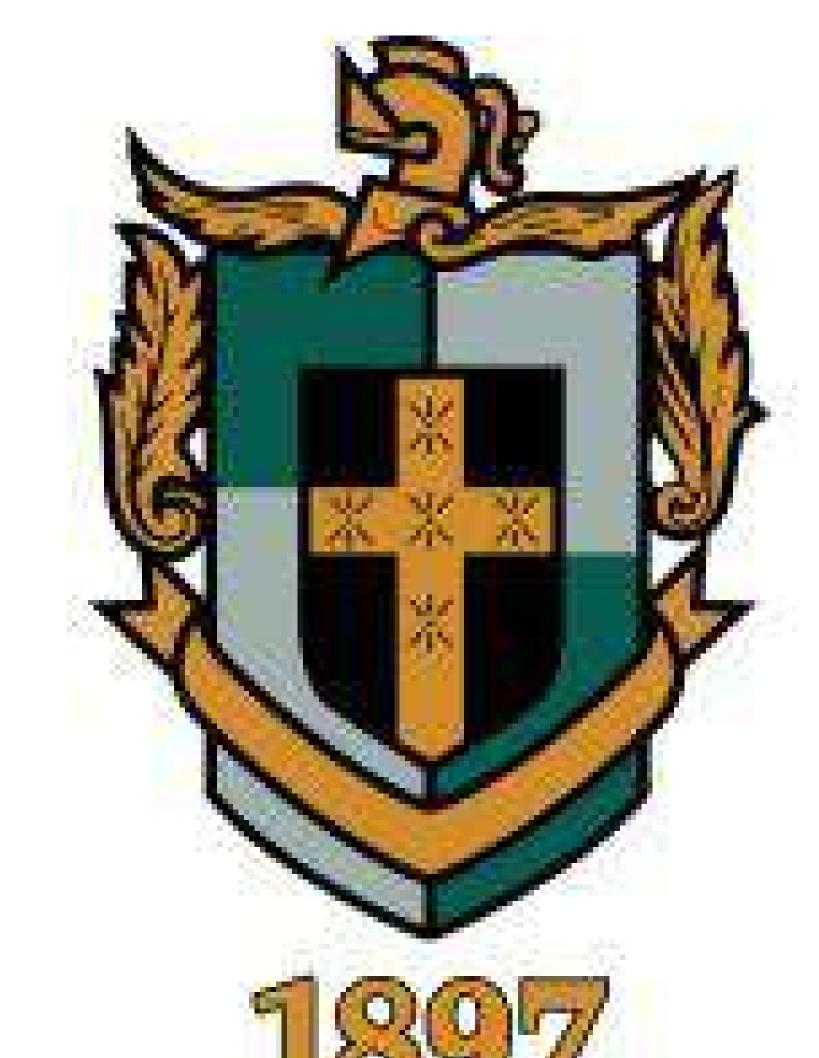




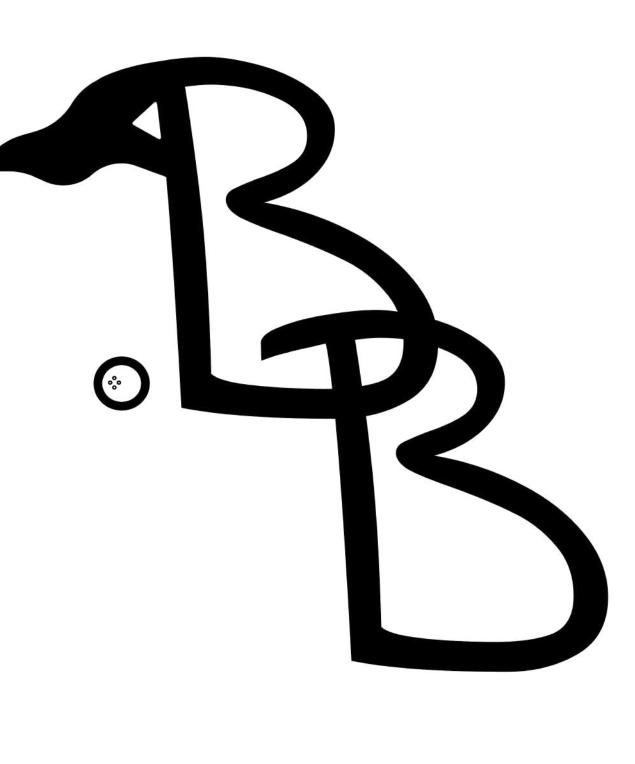


















### WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

The turfgrass industry is facing a critical challenge: a significant decline in students enrolling in turfgrass management programs, leading to a shrinking pool of qualified candidates for superintendent and assistant superintendent positions. This shortage is particularly detrimental to local and municipal golf courses, which often lack the financial resources to attract top-tier professionals, thereby impacting the very courses that nurture the growth of golf.

#### Key Facts:

- 1. Declining Enrollment: College turfgrass programs have experienced a 75% decrease in enrollment since their peak in the 2000s, with some universities discontinuing their programs entirely.
- **2. Program Closures:** Several universities, including the University of Arizona and the University of Kentucky and University of Illinois, have either ended or paused their turfgrass programs due to dwindling student numbers.
- **3. Industry Impact**: The reduction in turfgrass professionals poses a significant challenge for the maintenance of golf courses, especially those with limited budgets, potentially affecting the quality and availability of facilities that are essential for introducing new players to the game.

#### Our Goal

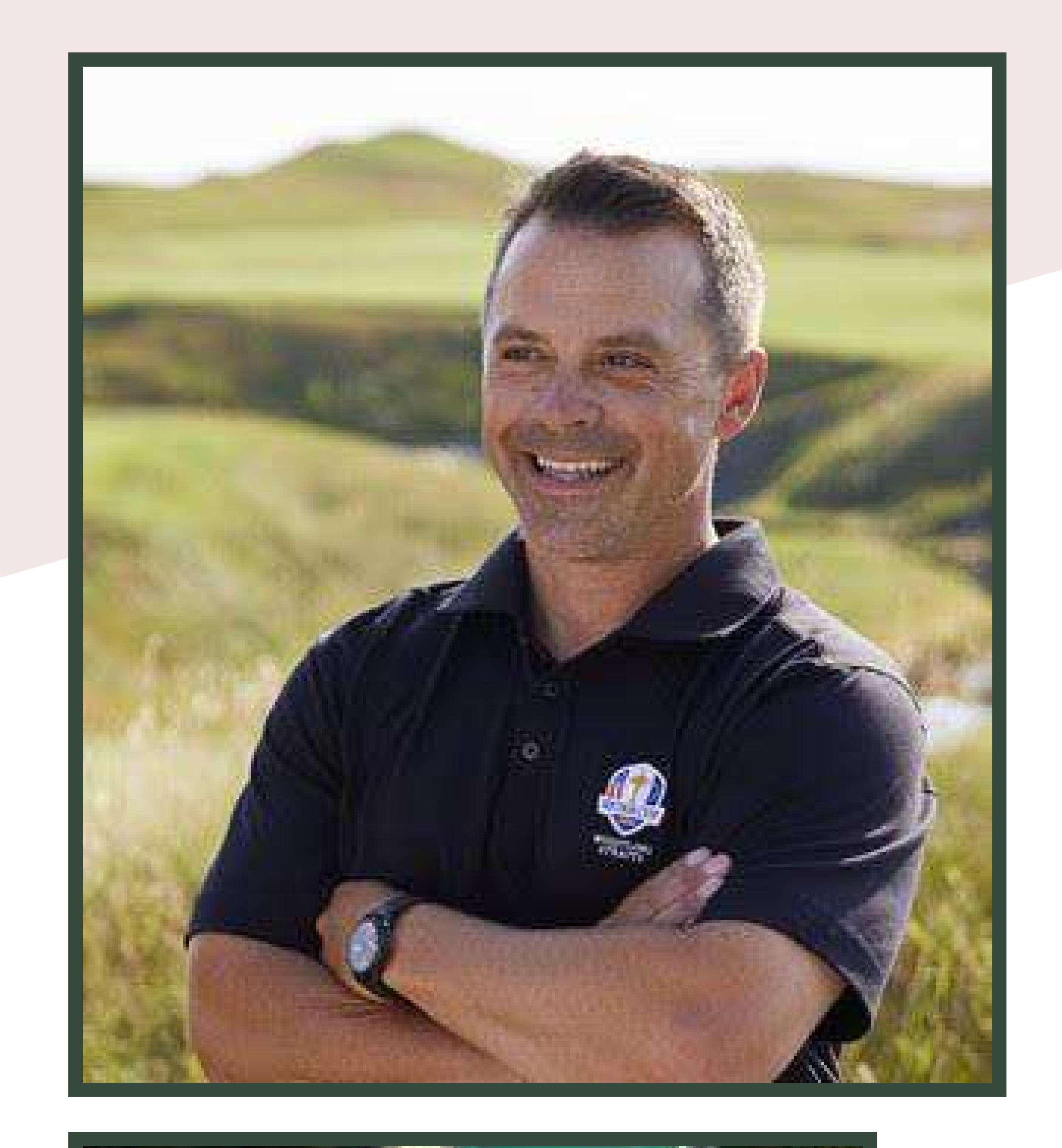
The Super-Scratch Foundation is committed to reversing the decline in turfgrass enrollment and addressing the growing shortage of golf course superintendents. Through national awareness campaigns, scholarship support, and club advocacy, our goal is to inspire the next generation of turf professionals and ensure a strong, sustainable future for the game of golf.



#### From Christoper Zugel

#### Director - Agronomy & Landscape, Kohler Co.

"The Super Scratch Foundation shines a light on the knowledgeable hardworking profession that is the backbone of all golf course operations. With our donations we have been able to fund the educations of future generations of agronomy professionals."



# From **Brendan Byrne**Greenskeeper, Llanerch Country Club

"The Super-Scratch Foundation is an incredible organization built to help grow the 'Profession of Greenkeeping'! When I informed the membership at Llanerch Country Club of the positive impact The Super-Scratch Foundation is having in our industry, the Club enthusiastically committed to current and future funding! I can personally say, the mission is already having a positive effect in our field by giving new students the resources to assist in becoming the next generation of Greenkeepers. The Game of Golf is and will continue be in a better place with the leadership of the Super-Scratch Foundation and contributions from member clubs and organizations!"



# ZOZY NATIONAL SUPER-SCRATCH INVITATIONAL

In October 2024, the Super-Scratch Foundation hosted its **5th Annual Super-Scratch National Invitational** at Huntingdon Valley Country Club. The event is the nation's first of it's kind: pairing a club's superintendent with it's top amateur. The event attracted a full field of **40 teams from across the nation**, including participants from Florida, Maryland, Rhode Island, New York, Illinois, Wisconsin, West Virginia, New Jersey, DC, Massachusetts, PA, and Texas.

Demonstrating remarkable growth since its inception in 2020, the tournament's **scholarship purse was over \$90,000**, significantly contributing to scholarships for **15 students and funding for six universities**, such as Wisconsin, Penn State, Maryland, Rutgers, Delaware Valley, and UMass Amherst. This initiative underscores the foundation's commitment to fostering the next generation of golf industry professionals.



Aaron Giordano + David Pompey (Scranton CC)



#### 2024 National Invitational Leaderboard

#### Team Better Ball Net

	Player	Club	Score	Scholarship Award
	Aaron Giordano David Pompey	Scranton Country Club	65 (-5)	\$15,000
	John Kelly Benjamin Cooley	The Kittansett Club	67 (-3)	\$12,500
3	Tim Kelly Andrew Mason	Huntingdon Valley CC	68 (-2)	\$10,000
	Matt McAlister John Lalley	Llanerch Country Club	68 (-2)	\$7,500
	Ethan Cairns Chet Walsh	Philadelphia Country Club	69 (-1)	\$6,000

#### Low Amateur

	Player	Club	Score	Scholarship Award
	Andrew Mason	Huntingdon Valley CC	72 (+2)	\$5,000
2	Benjamin Cooley	The Kittansett Club	72 (+2)	\$2,500
3	Mac Ryan	Overbrook Golf Club	72 (+2)	\$1,500

#### Sponsor Leaderboard

It is through the support of our trememdous group of corporate sponsors that the Super-Scratch Foundation is able to make a meaningful impact on students pursuing turf. We would like to give a special thank-you to all of those involved:

Premium Sponsors	Corporate Sponsors	Hole Sponsors
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	Ventrac	TurfMend
		The Marty & Iris Walsh

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Salado Fernandez discovered his passion for turf management during his agricultural engineering studies. His journey has taken him to some of the world's top golf courses, including Yas Links, Quail Hollow Club, and Finca Cortesín. Now a sophomore at Penn State, he credits the Super-Scratch Foundation for easing financial stress and opening doors for industry connections.

"THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT
HAS ALLOWED ME TO
FOCUS FULLY ON MY
STUDIES AT PENN STATE,
WITHOUT THE STRESS OF
FINANCIAL BURDENS"





CONNER TODD

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

PRESTON, MD

Todd found his true passion while working at Queenstown Harbor after high school. Encouraged by Maryland alumni superintendents, he shifted his focus to turfgrass management at the University of Maryland. Now a senior, Todd completed his internship at Queenstown Harbor's Lakes Course and will return as an assistant superintendent after graduation. He credits the Super-Scratch Foundation for easing financial stress, allowing him to focus on his education and career in the turf industry.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Over time, displaced sand can accumulate around bunkers. The picture to the right shows 8-10 inches of sand splash accumulation over 8 years. Here are some reasons sand splash is not favorable to growth:

## SAND SPLASH ORIGINAL SAIL LAYER

#### POOR NUTRIENT RETENTION

Sand has low water and nutrient-holding capacity, making it difficult for grass to access essential nutrients for growth

#### DRAINAGE ISSUES

While sand improves drainage, excessive sand can dry out the soil too quickly, depriving grass roots of moisture

#### SOIL IMBALANCES

A heavy layer of sand can create an imbalance in soil texture, leading to poor root establishment and weak turf.



### EDUCATORS OF THE FUTURE...

#### DR. JOHN KAMINSKI

#### PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. John Kaminski is the Director of the Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program at Penn State and one of the turf industry's most respected educators. With over 30 years of experience, his journey began with an internship at Desert Mountain and continued through roles at major championships and advanced academic research. He's led groundbreaking work in turfgrass disease management, including the discovery of four new diseases. Today, his greatest passion is mentoring students and watching them thrive in their careers. He praises the Super-Scratch Foundation for helping students return to school and chase their dreams in golf course management.



#### DR DOUG SOLDAT

#### UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Dr. Doug Soldat, Associate Professor of Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, brings nearly three decades of experience in turf management to his role as a leading turfgrass educator and extension specialist. His journey began on the grounds crew of Riverside Golf Course in Janesville, Wisconsin, and evolved into a distinguished academic career driven by curiosity and a passion for research. A strong supporter of the Super-Scratch Foundation, Dr. Soldat recognizes the critical need for financial support in turf education and applauds the Foundation's efforts to make advanced training more accessible for future superintendents.





GROWING THE GAME, FROM THE GROUND UP



The Super-Scratch Foundation | info@superscratchfoundation.org