



# The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 17 Issue 1

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

April 2010

## April Meeting

Joint with Keystone Association

### Dauphin Highlands Golf Course

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Education - 9:00 AM

Golf/Boxed Lunch - 10:00 AM

Putting Contest/Hors d'oeuvres/Beverages -  
Following Golf

*There will be a CPGCSA Board of Directors Meeting  
at 8:00 AM.*

## Mid-Atlantic USGA Update

### The Desired Effect - Action Following Preparation And Patience

By Keith A. Happ, Sr. Agronomist  
March 29, 2010

In the northern tier of the Mid-Atlantic Region the turf is waking up from a long winter's rest. As the snow has melted throughout the region, evidence of varying degrees of damage is apparent. We have observed and heard reports of direct cold temperature damage on *Poa annua* putting surfaces, although it is impossible to determine the exact cause of the damage. We experienced one of the longest periods of heavy snow cover in recent history. Significant levels of gray snow mold, pink snow mold, and direct cold temperature damage in the northern and eastern portion of the region have been reported. The key issue now is how you recover from the damage and prepare for the upcoming season?

First and foremost, develop a game plan. Evaluate your current conditions to determine the appropriate course of action, focusing on restoring plant health first, so that surface playing quality can be sustained. This is not the time for short-term fixes! The grass in many areas of the region is just breaking dormancy. As the soils warm and day length increases, turf managers will be able to determine the full extent of the winter's effects. Preparing for summer weather is essential. For example, overly aggressive fertility strategies can predispose the turf to damage from harsh summer weather. Although no one wants to start off the year with weak grass, golfers will not tolerate damage during the heart of the golf season.

Several programs can be implemented to stimulate controlled

*.....Continued on page 4.....*

## Superintendent Profile

Jon Szekeres has been Superintendent at Dauphin Highlands since 2004 and worked there since construction started in 1994. Jon graduated from Penn State in 1990 and worked at West Shore Country Club and Blue Ridge Country Club prior to Dauphin Highlands. In 1989 he did an internship at Augusta National and still volunteers at The Masters every year.

This year Jon has taken on the role of Director of Golf as in addition to Superintendent. Jon is married to Kim, and they have two children Madeline who is 13 and Luke who is 6, they both love to come to the course to fish and play golf. Jon also has a dog named Titus who comes to the golf course every day and helps try to keep the geese away.

## Golf Course Profile

Dauphin Highlands Golf Course opened in August of 1995, it was built on the site of the old Bethlehem Steel Management Club. The course was designed by Bill Love who worked for Ault, Clark and Associates. The Golf Course Superintendent was Bill Wall until 2004. Since opening in 1995 many trees have been planted and a few new tees built to make the course more challenging and course friendly. Dauphin Highlands has a great reputation as one of best public courses in the area, known for its great design.

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## President's Message

**Good Morning Central Penn!!!!** The forsythia and daffodils are in full bloom, the temps are in the high 80's, and we are just days away from kicking off our 2010 season of monthly golf meetings. I think you will all agree that we have a great lineup of venues for this year, starting off with Dauphin Highlands, which is a joint meeting with Keystone. We will then visit Flying Hills CC and next to Greencastle Greens. July is the joint meeting with Philly and the Super's Cup Tournament. We are fortunate to have Lancaster Country Club hosting this meeting on July 19. I think this will be a big event, so mark your calendars so you will be able to attend.

The winter is the down time for most of us, but your board has been working very hard to bring new ideas and events to 2010. We have refined our sponsorship program with an emphasis on event sponsorship to offset the cost of our events to the membership. We are happy to have Dow Agro Science and Valent as our first two sponsors for the Dauphin Highlands meeting. New events included a winter social event, which was a Hershey Bears hockey game. We had 25 people in attendance. We are also planning a summer social event in August at Leisure Lanes in Lancaster. This event will be in the evening so everyone will have time to relax after work and bring the family out for a free evening of entertainment. More details to come... We have also ordered new Central Penn merchandise. We will have hats and shirts for sale at every event. The shirts are the new "Cool Swing" shirts with our updated Central Penn logo. We have not set prices, but you may want to bring 40 bucks for one of these "must have" shirts...

I would like to thank Ryan Freed and Jeff Green for their hard work in providing us with a great Winter Educational Meeting. Ryan did a fantastic job in lining up speakers to provide us with many cost saving ideas for these challenging economic times. Jeff and his staff had a great facility and wonderful food and beverage. Thank you both for a great event.

I hope that you will be able to join us at our monthly meetings. Our goal is to provide education, an opportunity to network, and the chance to play golf in an event that is affordable.

See you at Dauphin Highlands April 22.

Stephen J. Ludwig



(L-R) Barry Bollinger, Rebecca Matis, Don Dodson, Ryan Freed, Matt Turner, Steve Ludwig, Alan FitzGerald, Chad Oxenreider, Jim Byrne, Phil Easton (Missing from Photo - Curt King, Matt Strader)

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Daniel Brickley  
Matthew W. Strader

## Membership News

The following individuals have applied for membership into our association. If there are no written objections within the next seven days, they will be accepted into CPGCSA at the next meeting.

Tyson E. Cain ..... Class C  
Assistant Superintendent, West Shore Country Club

Andrew Shuttlesworth ..... Class C  
Assistant Superintendent, Felicita Golf Resort

George Skawski ..... Class AF  
Irrigation Sales, Turf Equipment & Supply

We would like to welcome the following individual into our association.

Jared Weaver ..... Class C  
2nd Assistant, Out Door Country Club

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Chad Oxenreider (610) 775-1903 or Phil Easton (717) 464-3740.

## Congratulations for Renewal of Professional Certification (CGCS)

- Gregory Fantuzzi, GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at Carlisle Country Club
- Thomas H. Brown, CGCS, director of maintenance at Chesapeake Bay Golf Club

Membership information is also available on the Central Penn website at:  
[www.cpgcsa.org](http://www.cpgcsa.org)



Steve Ludwig, CPGCSA President congratulates this year's Scholarship Recipient Andrew Shuttlesworth. Andrew is currently enrolled in the Penn State University World Campus and is employed as Assistant Superintendent at Felicita Golf Resort.

## Happy 71st Anniversary CPGCSA!!!!

On Tuesday evening April 11, 1939 a meeting was held at the Colonial Country Club in Harrisburg for the purpose of organizing the greenskeepers of the area. Those in attendance at this meeting were George Morris, Riley Heckert, Hugh McJunis, James Morrison, Charles Bolton, John Grove, Jack Narril, and Al Heron. At this meeting it was decided to call the group "The Central Pennsylvania Greenskeepers Association". Officers elected were George Morris - President, Hugh McJunis - Vice President, and Riley Heckert - Secretary-Treasurer. Meetings were scheduled for the second Monday of each month with monthly meetings March through November. Dues to cover expenses were set at \$3.00 and the first meeting was set for May 8, 1939 at the Colonial Country Club.

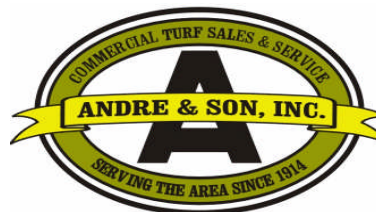
Riley Heckert sent letters to all greenskeepers in the area to announce the gathering. The day started with golf in the afternoon and was followed by dinner. Following dinner Mr. Musser and Mr. Benham from State College and County Agent Fromeyer spoke about fairway grasses, heights of cut for bluegrass and fertilization. Following the educational sessions a business meeting was held and Edward Zwick and E. P. Morris were taken into the Association as new members, raising the membership to ten.

During 1939 the membership grew to thirteen members and at the November meeting the members decided that they wanted to continue meeting throughout the winter rather than wait until March as originally planned.

The Association was a success, just as today, **71 years later.**

### Editors Note:

As we approach the 75th Anniversary, we are looking for pieces of our past: pictures, minutes, newspaper articles, etc. If you have anything that you would like to contribute or share with us, please give me a call.



**Rich Gdovin**  
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## USGA ....continued from Page 1

recovery. One of the most important is mowing. Comments from golfers often center on ball roll, and it is not uncommon for greens to be a bit bumpy and even slow early in the year. Avoid extreme lowering of mowing heights in an attempt to appease the golfers. Early in the year it is important to allow the greens to grow uniformly before mowing adjustments are made. There is tremendous diversity on *Poa annua* greens, and the annual and perennial biotypes do not grow at the same pace until the soil warms. The bumpiness affecting ball roll is a direct result of these various growth rates. Rolling can be used and topdressing applied, but to achieve mid-season conditioning expectations, we need beneficial mid-season weather patterns.



After the winter, golfers are anxious to get out on the course. Golf superintendents are equally anxious to prepare the course so that play can proceed and golfers can have fun. Patience will be a virtue while waiting for golf course turf conditions to improve along with the spring weather.

Please give us a call to schedule a Turf Advisory Service visit. We can help plan spring or summer programs and discuss seasonal preventive strategies to improve turf health.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic is scheduled at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Bedminster Township, NJ on Monday, May 3rd, 2010. If you are interested in playing or in sponsoring this event, go online at [www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org). A great day is planned.

The Mid-Atlantic Region agronomists are part of your agronomic support team. If you have a question or concern, call or send an e-mail. Stan Zontek ([szontek@usga.org](mailto:szontek@usga.org)) and Darin Bevard ([dbevard@usga.org](mailto:dbevard@usga.org)) at 610/ 558-9066 or Keith Happ ([khapp@usga.org](mailto:khapp@usga.org)) at 412/ 341-5922.

### TURF UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2010

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## Directions to Dauphin Highlands Golf Course

### From 81 and North of Harrisburg:

Take bypass 83 South to the Exit 46A which is 283 south. Get off at first exit, route 441 (Swatara). At top of ramp turn right, immediately get into left hand to make left onto Eisenhower Blvd., follow Eisenhower for 1-1/2 mile and make right onto Quarry Rd. (opposite Wingate Hotel) Come to stop sign make right turn (Harrisburg St.) golf course entrance is on left at top of hill.

### From Hershey, Lebanon and east of Harrisburg:

Follow route 322 W to Harrisburg International Airport 283 south Exit. Get off at first exit, route 441 (Swatara). At top of ramp turn right, immediately get into left hand lane to make left onto Eisenhower Blvd., follow Eisenhower for 1-1/2 mile and make right onto Quarry Rd. (opposite Wingate Hotel) Come to stop sign make right turn (Harrisburg St.) golf course entrance is on left at top of hill.

### From Lancaster Route 283 and South of Harrisburg:

Follow route 283 until it come to the end. (past Hbg. exit). At traffic light (Eisenhower Blvd.) make right, continue north on Eisenhower for 3/4 mile and make a left onto Quarry Rd. (opposite Wingate Hotel) Come to stop sign make right turn (Harrisburg St.) golf course entrance is on left at top of hill.

### From Carlisle, Camp Hill, Rte 83 and west of Harrisburg:

Follow route 83 north to airport/turnpike/route 283 exit. Get off at first exit, route 441 (Swatara). At top of ramp turn right, immediately get into left hand to make left onto Eisenhower Blvd., follow Eisenhower for 1-1/2 mile and make right onto Quarry Rd. (opposite Wingate Hotel) Come to stop sign make right turn (Harrisburg St.) golf course entrance is on left at top of hill.

### From Pennsylvania Turnpike, exit 247 (old exit 19):

After leaving toll booth, take second exit on right (1B) to Highspire. Continue until it comes to the end. At traffic light (Eisenhower Blvd.) make right, continue north on Eisenhower for 3/4 mile and make a left onto Quarry Rd. (opposite Wingate Hotel) Come to stop sign make right turn (Harrisburg St.) golf course entrance is on left at top of hill.

**Dauphin Highlands Golf Course**  
650 S. Harrisburg Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17113

## Equipment for Sale

9 roll base sprinkler kits without sprinklers. \$225 for all or \$30.00 each. Contact Jeff Green (Valley Green Golf Course) at 717-943-2543 or 717-932-8744 for further information.

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## For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the May newsletter, please fax information to Wanda at (717) 279-0368 or e-mail to [cpgcsa@comcast.net](mailto:cpgcsa@comcast.net) by May 3, 2010.

### 2010 Membership Dues are Now Overdue.

Please contact Wanda as soon as possible to arrange payment and update employment or address changes.

### Sponsorship/Advertising

We continue to have available opportunities for advertising and sponsorship for this meeting season. Please contact Wanda for further information

*The reason they call it "golf" is that all the other four-letter words were used up.*

- Leslie Nielsen

## The Truth & Consequences of Green Speed

*Golf Course Superintendents Association of America*

*www.gcsaa.org*

Years ago, there was a man named Edward Stimpson who loved golf and craved to create more fairness in the game. To further his passion, he invented a device intended to ensure that all the greens on a course were of relatively equal speed. The idea was to give superintendents (then, greenkeepers) a way to compare the speed of the 4th green with the 13th and take steps to equalize them. This was, no doubt, a sound and noble idea.

But sometimes bad things happen to good ideas.

Today, his simple tool, the Stimpmeter, is often misused to compare the speed of greens from course to course and unfortunately, to establish a benchmark of putting difficulty. Golfers are sometimes heard to say, "Hey, Hickory Hills was 'stimping' 13 last week." This essentially means that the greens were as fast as the linoleum on most kitchen floors.

From a purely competitive standpoint, that's OK. However, this quest for fast greens has serious consequences in terms of cost, environmental quality and the long-term health of the green. In short, speed can kill. Here's why:

A healthy, vigorous green can be maintained at a very short cutting height (as low as 1/8-inch) for short periods of time without serious consequences if it's been prepared properly and weather conditions are acceptable. Courses hosting tournaments often take months (and spend significant extra money) to bring greens up to an ultrafast speed for PGA Tour players. For example, the greens at Augusta National or Oakmont may "stimp" up to 14 when properly prepared and dry.

However, fast greens are extremely fragile. If you compared them with human beings, it would be fair to say that their immune systems can be very weak. They become susceptible to diseases and pests, and therefore may require more chemical treatments. Weather can also quickly destroy the health of an ultrafast green. High temperatures and lack of moisture in the air are deadly to greens that are maintained at very short cutting heights for any length of time.

The risks of maintaining fast greens -- even with the best professional management by superintendents -- were apparent in the summer of 1995 when golf courses across the eastern United States lost greens during an extended period of drought and high temperatures. Many of the world's best-known courses suffered serious damage and were essentially unplayable for the last half of the year. Many of these had to be reseeded or completely rebuilt at a cost that was high in terms of budget, playability and reputation.

The solution to the dilemma of fast greens is twofold. First, the golf industry is sponsoring and promoting research and development of new grasses that are more tolerant of fast speeds under adverse conditions. Organizations such as the USGA and GCSAA are investing millions of dollars in this effort.

On the other side, golfers should understand and accept the limitations of these living systems we call greens. Golfers should also heed the advice of superintendents who manage, nurture and protect these ecosystems. And finally, many golfers must change their attitudes about the competitive aspect of green speeds. They should, in the footsteps of Mr. Stimpson, strive for fairness, not fastness.

### Key points:

- Invented by Edward Stimpson, the Stimpmeter was created to give superintendents a way to compare and equalize speeds of different greens.
- The Stimpmeter, is often misused to compare the speed of greens from course to course and unfortunately, to establish a benchmark of putting difficulty.
- The quest for fast greens has serious consequences in terms of cost, environmental quality and the long-term health of the green.
- The golf industry is sponsoring and promoting research and development of new grasses that are more tolerant of fast speeds under adverse conditions.
- Golfers should understand and accept the limitations of greens

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There are many ways to punish a putter, such as burning, rusting and drowning, but the most torturous is to drag it along the pavement out of the door of a fast-moving vehicle.

- Dan Jenkins

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### **2010 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule**

May 20	Flying Hills Golf Course
June 16	Greencastle Greens GC
July 19	Lancaster Country Club Joint meeting with PAGCS
August	Family Social Event
September 20	Country Club of York Golf Championship/Annual Meeting
October	Felicita Golf Course Super/Pro/GM/AF Tournament



### **The Green Sheet**

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*Inside This Issue*

***April 2010 Meeting Information***

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