



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 18 Issue 1

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

April 2011

April Meeting

Joint with Keystone Association

Toftrees Golf Resort

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Education - 11:00 AM

Lunch - 12:00 Noon

Golf - 12:30 PM

There will not be a CPGCSA Board of Directors Meeting

Directions to Toftrees Golf Resort

From State College:

Take 322W to the Toftrees/Woodycrest exit (exit #71). At the traffic light at the end of the ramp, turn right onto Waddle Road, then right onto Toftrees Avenue. Toftrees is on the left.

From The West (from I-80):

Take I-80E to Exit 123/Route 970S to toward Woodland/Philipsburg. Go 1.6 miles and turn left onto US-322E (Twenty-eighth Division Hwy). Go 10.4 miles and turn left to continue on US 322E for another 20.9 miles. US-322 will merge with I-99/US220. Take exit 71 toward Toftrees/Woodycrest. Turn left on Waddle road and go approximately 0.3 miles. Turn right onto Toftrees Avenue and then left on Country Club Lane arriving at the resort.

From Harrisburg, PA: (Approximately 1 hour, 20 minutes)

Take US-22W from Harrisburg. After approximately 56 miles, US-22W becomes US-322W. Continue another 32 miles and take exit 71 toward Woodycrest/Toftrees and turn Right on Waddle Road. Turn right onto Toftrees Avenue and then left on Country Club Lane arriving at the resort.

Toftrees Golf Resort & Conference Center
One Country Club Lane
State College, PA 16803

Mid-Atlantic USGA Update After The Snow, The Grass Will Begin To Grow

Stanley J. Zontek,
March 29, 2011

Golfers are asking their superintendent to core aerate, either earlier in the spring or later in the fall in order to maximize the number of days that golf can be played on the best possible putting surfaces. Unfortunately, recent cold weather has resulted in this important work, either being deferred, which is not good in the long term, or delayed, which means that some aerator holes will be open when spring golf will be played. As much as we might not like to believe it, so much of what we can and cannot do is affected by the weather.



It has been a cold spring. Note the natural color variations in the grass on this green

In reality, there is very little that can be done. Dark-colored topdressings and dark-colored natural organic fertilizers absorb heat due to their dark color, helping to increase turf growth. In some rare cases, turfgrass covers can be used, but generally only for areas where you are trying to germinate seed.

Our best guidance is to simply understand the situation, appreciate the limitations caused by the unseasonably cold weather, and be patient. Simply said, the grass will grow when temperatures rise.

This image describes a fairly typical putting green in the Washington, D.C. area. It is a pure stand of bentgrass that shows the effect of turf being frozen or frosted while in

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President's Message

Greetings all.

Spring is upon us. I don't know if that's a good thing or not. But what it does mean is that there's another exciting golfing season beginning. All those fun tasks of: aerification, pre-emergence applications, seed head controls and the complaining from the golfers; are commencing. I just received a Weevil Trak announcement that ABW's were spotted at Bulle Rock, in Maryland on March 17th. So be ready for that pesky critter with monitoring and the adult control application.

All that being said, remember first and foremost that you have a life and a family. Take the time to enjoy yourself and those around you that you hold so dear. Look at the amazing life around you that nature provides us through trees, shrubs and flowers blooming; birds and animals re-emerging from their winter hiatus and the grass turning green, getting rid of that dull dead brown. It is truly awesome to sit back and take it all in. Time flashes by so fast and life is so short, that if you don't stop and smell the roses every now and then, they won't be there for you to enjoy.

That goes with attending meetings as well. I know in the technological age everyone knows everyone's business as soon as it happens. But looking a friend in the eye and speaking to him or her can not be replaced by texts or emails or whatever form of techno-communication there is. This is not intended to be a sales pitch for meeting attendance. There is so much more education from meetings than the one hour speaker.

We the Board have heard the voice of the membership and are trying to make our meetings as economical as possible. Our Affiliate members have been hounding Wanda for the schedule so as they can assist that process by providing sponsorship. I'm still in the process of finalizing our remaining dates and hopefully the full schedule will be out soon.

So mark down on your calendars our meeting dates and plan on attending. One day a month to visit with your friends, share the love and enjoy the roses.

Our first meeting is a joint meeting with the Keystone guys, and they are a great group of people! It will be held at Toftrees Golf Resort in State College on April 12th. That is only one hour and forty minutes from Harrisburg and the cost is very reasonable. So make plans to attend this meeting and enjoy the day with your friends. Also, you will be able to see the new highlights in my hair. Only those attending will be privy to this.

Until next month, take care and have a great start to our season.

Faron Stoops

New Golf Term

Four old men went into the pro shop after playing 18 holes of golf. The pro asked, 'Did you guys have a good game today?'

The first old guy said, 'Yes, I had three riders today.'

The second old guy said, 'I had the most riders ever. I had five.'

The third old guy said, 'I had 7 riders, the same as last time.'

The last old man said, 'I beat my old record. I had 12 riders today.'

After they went into the locker room, another golfer who had heard the old guys talking about their game went to the pro and said, 'I have been playing golf for a long time and thought I knew all the terminology of the game, but what's a rider?'

The pro said, 'A rider is when you hit the ball far enough to get in the golf cart and ride to it.'

President

Faron J. Stoops
Waynesboro Country Club
717-762-6370
fstoops@comcast.net

Vice President/Scholarship

Barry Bollinger
Rich Valley Golf Course
717-691-8805
turfdpa@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Rebecca Matis
Felicitia Golf Resort
717-599-5703
turfgirl03@aol.com

Past President/Social

Stephen J. Ludwig, CGCS
717-495-0679
stephen.ludwig@comcast.net

Education/Chapter Delegate/Bylaws

Alan FitzGerald 2011
LedgeRock Golf Club
610-777-9890
alan@ledgerockgolf.com

Nominations/Scholarship

Donald G. Dodson 2011
Hunt Valley Golf Club
410-527-3307
ddodson392@aol.com

Education/Media/Public Relations

Chad R. Oxenreider 2012
Flying Hills Golf Club
610-775-1903
grns mower@aol.com

Golf

Matthew S. Turner 2012
Conestoga Country Club
717-394-5548
turnerm@conestogacc.com

Brian L. Ahrens 2013

Reading Country Club
610-779-8888
Brian@readingcountryclub.com

Membership

Timothy A. Hill 2013
Foxchase Golf Club
717-336-3847
foxgreens@yahoo.com

Affiliates

Phil Easton 2012
717-464-2707
peaston@agriumat.com

Bob Beyer 2013

717-873-0899
rbeyer@Harrells.com

Executive Director/Newsletter Editor

Wanda S. Fry
717- 279-0368
cpgcsa@hotmail.com

PAST PRESIDENTS

George Morris
Ed Tabor
Riley E. Heckert
Richard T. Funk
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William P. Ramsey
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John M. Colo
Daniel Brickley
Matthew W. Strader
Stephen J. Ludwig, CGCS

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.

Justin J. Curley Class FM
Superintendent, Royal Oaks Golf Club

Mike DelBiondo Class AF
President, Genesis Turfgrass, Inc.

Gregory Hufner Class AF
Director, of Operation, Total Turf Golf Services

Jon MacNamara Class AF
Sales Representative, Genesis Turfgrass, Inc.

Mark Merrick, CGCS Class AF
Vice President, Genesis Turfgrass, Inc.

Derek B. Wentling Class SM
Superintendent, Blue Mountain Golf Course

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

Brian Hiester Class SM
Superintendent, Willow Hollow Golf Course

Congratulations to:

Chad & Trista Oxenreider welcomed Avery Russell to the family on March 15th.

Our Sympathies to:

Bill Brooks and family on the loss of his father.

Jim Byrne and family on the loss of his father.

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Tim Hill at 717-336-3847.

Membership information is also available on the Central Penn website at:
www.cpgcsa.org

2011 Membership Dues are Now Overdue.

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

Happy 72nd 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.

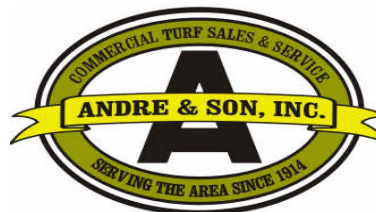
Riley Heckert sent letters to all greenskeepers in the area to announce the gathering. The day started with golf in the afternoon and was followed by dinner. Following dinner Mr. Musser and Mr. Benham from State College and County Agent Fromeyer spoke about fairway grasses, heights of cut for bluegrass 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, **72 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
Sales Consultant

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semi-dormancy. These colors are the grasses' natural response to temperatures, and there is a sign of phosphorus deficiency or leaf spot disease. Also, the yellowing on the bentgrass is not anthracnose. When putting greens take on this color, they are still semi-dormant. As temperatures warm, the grass begins to grow, the plant physiology changes, the discoloration goes away, and a more even and consistent stand of grass occurs.

Nevertheless, there are exceptions to everything. Intense yellowing of *Poa annua* in small dime- to quarter-sized spots can be an indication of carryover from fall or early spring anthracnose. The base of the grass stems may be discolored, brown to black. The scientists at Rutgers University need samples from you. The disease most commonly occurs in areas where anthracnose has been a problem in the past. Send cup-cutter sized plugs to:

Dr. Bruce B. Clarke,
Dept. of Plant Biology and Pathology
59 Dudley Road
School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
Foran Hall,
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8520
Office: (732) 932-9375 Ext. 331

We thank everyone in advance for helping Rutgers find samples of early anthracnose, which is active now.

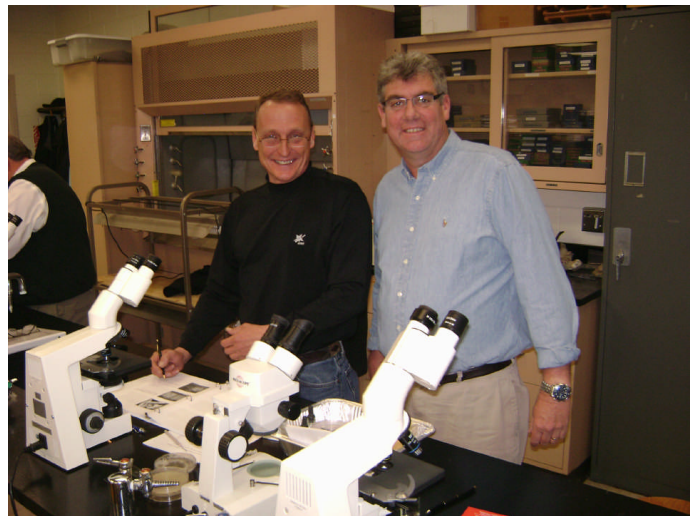
The longer this cool, damp and cloudy weather continues, the greater the likelihood that cool-weather diseases will be active, including pink snow mold, cool temperature brown patch and *Waitea* patch. In most cases, the greens should be treated with a blend of fungicides labeled for their control.

One of the more interesting parts of the industry is that there are no two golf courses alike. However, while we love all of these different golf courses, some golfers compare one course to the other, even though these comparisons are seldom valid. Just because one golf course has or has not aerated their greens, it does not mean that this is something that is best for you. Discuss the options, develop a plan, communicate that plan to the golfers, and do what is best for the grass and soils on your course.

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

Turf Diseases Identification at Penn State Berks

On March 10 and 11, 2011, the Microscope Identification of Turfgrass Diseases workshop was offered at Penn State Berks Campus. Dr. Mike Fidanza hosted the event, which was sponsored in-part by Syngenta, Genesis Turf, and Turf Trade. Dr. Henry Wetzel, Washington State University, was brought in to teach the class, and he also teaches the workshop annually at the Golf Industry Show. Turf Trade is offering a digital microscope suitable for identification of turf pathogens, in which \$100 for each purchase will support turf research at Penn State Berks. Contact Jim Byrne (jbyrne@TheTurfTrade.com) for details.

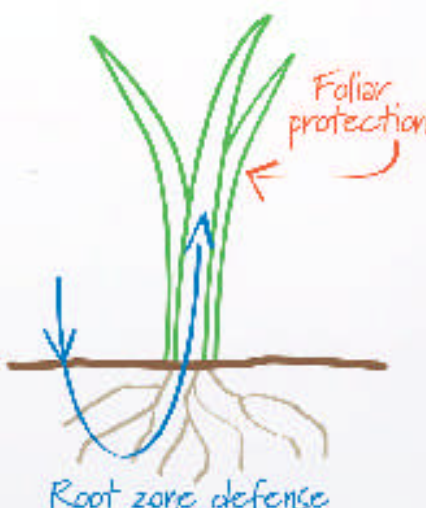


Dave Frey (left) and Jim Byrne (right) take a break from all that microscope work.



Dr. Henry Wetzel (left), unknown student (center), and Dr. Mike (right).

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Update on the Pending PA Fertilizer Legislation

by Phil Easton

As you may be aware the Pennsylvania Fertilizer Advisory Board and the Chesapeake Bay Commission are working towards enacting legislation in the state of Pennsylvania to regulate fertilizer usage in an effort to limit nutrient runoff into the Chesapeake Bay. The current proposal is very similar to a law enacted in New Jersey last winter. Similar language also appears in proposals for Virginia and Maryland.

After the initial proposed bill was circulated, several groups banded together to effect some basic and common sense changes to its language. LCAP, the Lawncare Association of Pennsylvania and PNLA, Pennsylvania Nursery and Landscape Association, employed a lobbyist and enacted a united front towards the state and the CBC. Manufacturers including Agrium Advanced Technologies adopted similar strategies.

Without going into every aspect of the bill there are a few issues of concern to the Golf Course Superintendent. These issues and others were addressed at a meeting held in Harrisburg on March 17th of the PA Fertilizer Advisory Board, the CBC and industry representatives:

- The proposed maximum .9 pounds of Nitrogen per application per square foot would exclude products such as Duration and Polyon which typically require an initial Nitrogen load of over 2 pounds. The requested revision would make a provision for "enhanced efficiency fertilizers" to be applied at rates up to 2.5 pounds of Nitrogen with a maximum release rate of .7 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. per month.
- Since the proposed bill requires no Phosphorus application at all unless a soil test recommends it or seed is being applied there could be some issues with Organic fertilizers. It was proposed that an allowance of 3% in trace Phosphorus be allowed for these products only.
- The original proposed blackout application dates for any fertilizer were from early November until March. The new proposed language would allow for applications until December 15th or until ground freeze. Since Pennsylvania is a diverse state and temperatures can be vastly different from one area to another this seemed to be the best way to approach this issue for dormant feeding etc.
- The application of fertilizers near water (streams, ponds, lakes etc) was written to have a restriction to within 15 feet. It was proposed to move that to within 5 feet if a drop spreader or broadcast spreader with a deflector is used.

The main argument that surfaced many times in the meeting was that Pennsylvania is not NJ, VA or MD and this bill should reflect the diversity of our state and meet the needs of Pennsylvania Turfgrass and the applicators as well.

The current status of the legislation is that the proposed bill is to be modified to include the changes that the Fertilizer Board and the CBC feel make sense and help to get to the main purpose of the bill; enhance the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay. The Board and the CBC will meet again hopefully in May to go over the modified bill. Industry representatives will again be in attendance and I will again report on this meeting. Once the bill is approved it will go to the State lawmakers for a vote and the Governor's Office for final approval. Then it will become law.

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@hotmail.com by May 2, 2011.

Sponsorship/Advertising

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

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Jon MacNamara
Central Penn Lawncare and Golf
717-885-3255
jonathan@genesisturfgrassinc.com

For more information visit www.GenesisTurfgrassInc.com

Some Do's and Don'ts As The Golf Season Approaches

Keith Happ, March 9, 2011

Patience Everyone!!

Most golfers are chomping at the bit to get out and play some golf. Television golf has teased those who are still waiting for the snow to melt, the ground to thaw, and the grass to start growing. Golf course superintendents are cleaning up winter debris and getting ready to implement programs to get the playing surfaces ready for what many golfers hope is an active season of golf. Remember, no matter how much golfers and superintendents want to get going, we just can't rush Mother Nature.

Many superintendents have taken full advantage of winter opportunities to complete projects out on the golf course. For example, superintendents have topdressed aggressively during breaks in the winter weather. Golfers, don't be surprised if you see some sand on the greens when your course is opened for play. The sand provides protection for the grass and many other agronomic benefits. There may be some minor negative effects on playing quality, but these will be short lived. When the weather allows, the grass will grow and the sand will be incorporated into the turf canopy.

It is important that superintendents implement early season programs when they are most productive. For example, don't rush to mow unless there is a real need. That first mowing will initiate a growth response and remove any lingering pink snow mold (*Microdochium* patch) protection from the grass. We don't need snow to have an outbreak of pink snow mold. Rolling greens can be used to smooth the surfaces for the short term. It won't be long before regular mowing schedules are used on all parts of the course, but don't expect mid-season conditions until mid-spring.

If your operation is short-handed because of labor reductions, be realistic about what can be achieved during early spring. Focus on the center lines of the course and work toward the perimeter as time and resources permit. Bunkers may have to wait until after the more important areas of the course are cleaned and readied for play. There may be a few sticks in the rough (all covered by the Rules of Golf) until these areas can be cleaned and prepared, similar to the rest of the course. Superintendents and their crews are prioritizing maintenance needs to provide satisfactory playing conditions.

After a long winter, foundational maintenance strategies need to be implemented to prepare the turf for the variable summer weather that Mother Nature brings. Do not defer important maintenance needs this spring. Programs are not performed to inconvenience golfers, but rather to prepare for and deliver consistent playing quality when it really counts -- in the summer.

The Mid-Atlantic Region agronomists are part of our agronomic support team. If you have a question or concern, give us a call or send an e-mail. Stan Zontek (szontek@usga.org) and Darin Bevard (dbevard@usga.org) at 610-558-9066 and Keith Happ (khapp@usga.org) at 412-341-5925.

Equipment for Sale

Please contact Randy Super at Pine Meadows Golf Course at (717) 865-1445 if interested in the following equipment.

- National - used
698 hrs
16 hp v-twin Briggs engine
great shape have not used in the last 4 years
\$2200 or best offer.

Please contact Alan FitzGerald at LedgeRock Golf Club 484-824-3539 if interested in the following equipment.

- 2006 John Deere 3235C Fairway Mower 4WD
1,026 hours
Groomers and roller brushes, New reels in Summer 2010
Put into service in April 2007
\$18,500

We will continue to advertise "used equipment" and "equipment wanted" in each newsletter. If you have anything that may be of interest, please contact Wanda.

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2011 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

May 18	Reading Country Club
June 14	Heritage Hills Golf Resort
July 19	Applecross Country Club Joint Meeting - hosted by Phila AGCS
August	Social Event
September	TBA Annual Meeting/Golf Championship
October	TBA Super/Pro/GM/AF Tournament



The Green Sheet

1594 Cumberland Street #250
Lebanon, PA 17042
cpgcsa@hotmail.com
www.cpgcsa.org

Inside This Issue

April 2011 Meeting Information
