



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

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October 2012

October Meeting

West Shore Country Club

October 22, 2012

Lunch - 10:45 AM

Golf - 12:00 Noon Shotgun

Reception - 5:00 PM

Dinner - 5:45 PM

There will be a CPGCSA Board Meeting at 9:30 AM.

Thanks to Jim Byrne and Turf Trade for sponsoring beverages.

This tournament will be a Fundraising Tournament with funds from the 50/50 and "Hole in One" Car going to Matt Strader.

Matt has recently been diagnosed with Amyloidosis and is currently undergoing treatment.

(Amyloidosis is a relatively rare blood disease that develops when protein called amyloid builds up in your organs or body tissues in areas such as your heart, liver, kidneys, spleen, digestive (gastrointestinal) tract and nervous system.)

If you can't join us on October 22nd and would like to contribute, please contact Wanda.



Superintendent Profile

Brendon Clark has been Golf Course Superintendent at West Shore Country Club since June 2009. Originally from New Zealand, Brendon has been in the industry 19 years and worked at all types of golf courses including public, semi private, resort and totally private. Most notably he worked at Oakmont Country Club for 6-1/2 years and was Assistant Superintendent for 3 of those years which during that time hosted a Men's U.S. Amateur in 2003, a Men's Open in 2007 and a Women's U.S. Open in 2010. Brendon carried out a 7,500 hour apprenticeship in New Zealand and was administered through the New Zealand Open Polytechnic which took 3-1/2 years to fully complete. In 2002, he began what was supposed to be an 18 month international internship program administered through the Ohio State University which turned into a more permanent situation. Brendon enjoys all types of sports and is a huge Pittsburgh Steelers/Pirates/Penguins fan.

Golf Course Profile

Established in 1928, West Shore Country Club is situated on the west side of the Susquehanna River just 5 minutes away from Harrisburg City. Originally a nine hole course designed by George Morris (his great uncle was Old Tom Morris) in 1928, nine more holes were added in 1938 and all 18 greens complexes were reconstructed in 1943 by Ed Tabor. Gil Hanse (Architect for renovating the first ever Olympic venue for golf) redesigned and built the bunkers in 2004. While the course is reasonably short by today's standards (6,600 yards from the tips), it is regarded as one of the most challenging golf courses in the area because of its small, undulating greens complexes which places a premium on shot accuracy.

**West Shore Country Club
100 Brentwater Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011**

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Close To The End, But Far From Over

By Darin S. Bevard, senior agronomist
October 2, 2012

As this update is written, the calendar says October 1. Cooler temperatures and timely rainfall have reduced environmental stress on the turfgrass, but disease and insect problems are still a source of frustration in the northern half of the region. Further south, bermudagrass growth has slowed dramatically, and the grass is beginning to go off-color. This is a stark reminder that summer is over and fall is upon us. However, while many see the fall as the finish line for a tough growing season, it is really the starting line for preparing the grass for the environmental stresses that will inevitably return in 2013.

Reports of active gray leaf spot in roughs continue to filter in. While the disease is not as devastating with cooler temperatures, it can still damage perennial ryegrass seedlings and remains a concern. In rough, conversion to grasses more tolerant to gray leaf spot such as turf-type tall fescues is currently the best way to minimize the damage from this disease. Fungicide applications are cost prohibitive for most golf courses.



Soil moisture levels have been good in most areas since August. This has limited visible damage from the actual feeding of grubs. However, it has also made it much easier for animals such as skunks and raccoons to dig for grubs, and they have eaten well in golf course roughs.

Aggressive digging by animals searching for white grubs has also been a common problem. In some instances, as a cost-saving measure, superintendents decided not to treat roughs with insecticides or, at the very least, reduced the acreage treated. For those that treated early, protection has broken down late in the growing season. The wet and dry cycles that were experienced in mid-summer also may have contributed to late grub development. We continue to see more difficulty in gaining season-long control of white grubs using long-residual insecticides, and effective contact products are limited, especially when the grubs are fat and healthy!

Annual bluegrass weevil activity continues as well. All stages of this insect have been observed on recent visits. While damage at this point in the growing season is not severe, any applications to control adult populations will help to control next year's populations.

For bermudagrass golf courses, traffic management on fairways as the grass enters dormancy is always important. Limiting cart traffic, increasing height of cut and reducing mowing frequency will aid in winter hardening. Cool-season golf courses that have established bermudagrass practice tees also need to reduce traffic. Keep in mind that any divots removed now from these tees will be visible until late next spring when temperatures warm and aggressive bermudagrass growth resumes.

Many golf courses will stage their "Closing Day" golf events in the near future. This can mean that additional aeration and other renovation strategies may soon follow. While these practices will reduce playability for a portion of the fall, just remember this is the starting line for preparing turf for the summer of 2013.

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

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President's Message

Greetings Central Penn!

I hope this message finds everyone over the crabgrass, grubs, grey leaf spot and working on the recovery phase of the year. Another couple weeks to go until we can all find some much deserved rest and relaxation with our family and friends. With a clear mind we can always better prepare ourselves and get our thoughts collected for 2013.

The September meeting at Hanover Country Club was enjoyed by all that attended! Thanks go to out to Bill Brooks and his crew for preparing an impressive golf course and for planning a great day! The Annual Elections were held so I guess it's time to say Thanks to those moving on, and to welcome new Board Members.

As terms come to a close, I would like to thank Matt Turner for his time and dedication to the Board of Directors over the past couple of years. Kathy Conard spent the last year sharing her knowledge and experience with the board, as well as providing us with her timely articles in the Green Sheet. Faron Stoops has continually provided us with his direction and guidance as our Past President and kept us all on the right track. Barry Bollinger will be passing the gavel and moving to the Past President's position on the Board of Directors. I would also like to welcome Ben Ulevich and Jeff Green to the board, as I am sure they will be great additions. Thanks again to you all!

Our final Golfing meeting of the year will take place Monday October 22nd at West Shore Country Club. We have an exciting day planned full of great prizes and special events, all benefiting Matt Strader. I am excited to get out and enjoy a great day filled with fun and camaraderie, while donating to a great cause!

Please come out and join us for the day!

I hope to see you all at the October Meeting!

Thanks.

Rebecca Matis

For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the October newsletter, please call Wanda at (717) 279-0368 or e-mail to cpgcsa@hotmail.com by November 16, 2012.

2013 Central Penn GCSA Board of Directors

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Grant Huffman - Heritage Hills Golf Resort
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Ben Ulevich - Out Door Country Club
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Membership News

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

Harry Grove Class C
Assistant Superintendent, Chambersburg CC

Aaron Schroeder Class C
Assistant Superintendent, West Shore Country Club

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Don Dodson at 410-527-3307.

Membership information is also available on the
Central Penn website at:

www.cpgcsa.org

2012 GCSAA DELEGATES MEETING SUMMARY

Representatives from GCSAA's affiliated chapters came together Oct. 5-7 for the 2012 Chapter Delegates Meeting in Lawrence, Kan., and Kansas City, Mo. During the event, delegates were updated on GCSAA programs and initiatives, introduced to the candidates for the 2013 board of directors and encouraged to network with their peers from across the country. In addition to association updates, board members and GCSAA staff shared information on the EIFG's Rounds 4 Research fundraiser, GCSAA's field staff program and the Chapter Affiliation Agreement. Citing the considerable amount of dialogue among participants, GCSAA President Sandy Queen, CGCS, said the association's 2012 Chapter Delegates Meeting was productive and will pay additional dividends in the future.

"It is important that our members know the 'what' and 'why' of GCSAA efforts, but it is equally important that we hear what our members have to say," Queen said. "We cannot make decisions or shape policy without that feedback. That is why I am so pleased that there was debate on what was presented. I continue to be impressed with the quality of representatives the chapters send to the meeting." Queen noted that prior chapter delegate feedback helped formulate the new conference and show schedule, implement free GCSAA webcasts and restructure the annual meeting. Discussion this year will be utilized to "tweak" certain aspects of the Rounds 4 Research program, study the GCSAA Chapter Affiliation Agreement and help the board of directors and staff prioritize programs and services.

Chapter affiliation deliberated

One of the most lively discussions regarded the GCSAA Chapter Affiliation Agreement, specifically Class A conformity between GCSAA and chapters in terms of membership classification. Ultimately, the board of directors opted to extend the current affiliation agreement to give the association and chapters an additional year to collect data and do further study on the issue.

The extension was also granted to give the association time to analyze the report of the Membership Standards Advisory Group (MSAG). For the past nine months, this independent panel of members has been studying the impact of the professional development initiative (PDI) that resulted in the creation of membership standards. The MSAG presented to the delegates its findings that PDI had been successful with increased advocacy with policymakers, the creation of the IPM requirement, expanded education opportunities that were accessible and affordable, and improved playing conditions. It did note that the faltering economy and the cost and time necessary to affect change through a public relations campaign worked against the program.

Recommendations focused on membership conformity, simplifying membership classifications, and strengthening the requirements for Class A status and items to help market it.

Dues increase up for vote

The association presented a proposed dues increase that will be voted on at the annual meeting in February in San Diego. The vote will be to increase dues \$25 for Class A and SM members, and \$15 for Class C members, making annual dues \$365 and \$185, respectively. The increase is a combination of a \$15 increase (for Class A/SM) based on the Consumer Price Index and \$10 (for Class A/SM) to compensate for GCSAA's group life insurance premium being doubled by the provider.

GCSAA member dues are tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in a process created and voted on by members. The process calls for the association to consider a dues adjustment every two years as a means of ensuring a sustainable organization. The process is not automatic, and the GCSAA Board of Directors may elect not to bring forward dues adjustments according to schedule. Such was the case in 2009 when the board opted to forgo consideration of an increase until 2010. The board supports a dues increase for 2013 because it represents your opportunity to help ensure the success of your career and your facility. The CPI increased 5.07% over the last two years, which translates into a \$15 increase for Class A/SM and a \$10 increase for Class C.

An additional dues increase over the CPI amount (\$10 for Class A/SM and \$5 for Class C) is being recommended by the Board of Directors to cover the increase in premium expense for the member term life insurance benefit. This would make the proposed member dues increase \$25 for Class A/SM and \$15 for Class C, which must be approved by a majority of the member-

ship at the February 7, 2013 annual meeting.

Why is the dues increase needed?

1. GCSAA dues account for 28% of the GCSAA budget, which is less than that of comparable associations (38% to 40%).
2. The two-year cycle was approved in order to keep increases smaller and more frequent thus eliminating the need for large, 20% increases that had a significant negative impact on membership growth and retention, which was the main reason the CPI-based process was requested and developed.
3. Though not tied to a specific program, project or service, GCSAA member dues support the entirety of association efforts on your behalf including Field Staff, Advocacy and Government Relations, Media and Public Relations, Conference and Show, Professional Development, Golf Course Management magazine, Career Services, and a host of others.
4. Industry is being asked to support GCSAA operations through an increase in various fees for exhibiting at the Golf Industry Show.
5. GCSAA also has looked to reduce expenses and create more efficient operations. Over the last four years GCSAA has cut \$5.4 million from its budget and has reduced its staff by 28%.
6. GCSAA is diligently exploring additional revenue opportunities, those that are somewhat traditional and others that have not been pursued before.
7. The proposed dues increase would allow the association to begin covering the revenue shortfall from the low yet steady decrease in members due to the severity of the recession and the extended length of the economic recovery. The claims paid loss ratio on the member term life insurance benefit has exceeded 200% over the last three years, which has caused the insurance premium expense to double. The additional dues increase beyond the CPI of \$10 for Class A/SM and \$5 for Class C will offset the increase in expense for this member benefit.

How is the GCSAA going?

GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans shared the association's invest-recover-grow strategy that has shaped the association's budgeting philosophy for the past two years. He described how funds have been invested in new programs such as field staff, Rounds 4 Research, web technology, advocacy and other areas to better serve the members. Giving time to allow these programs to gain traction will ultimately help stabilize association operations.

Evans indicated that staff will present a balanced budget to the board in December, but will pull some funds from the association's reserve just as it has done in the past. Among the new items in the budget will be funds to complete the filling of field staff, pay for headquarters facility improvements and add technology resources. The Mid-Atlantic and the Southeast regions are the remaining two regions without field staff. The facility improvement plan, announced earlier this fall, focuses on necessary structural repairs and enhancing the efficiency of the building. In all, expenses for the project are expected to be approximately \$1.9 million.

What has the GCSAA have been up to?

Among the more popular presentations were those that demonstrated how GCSAA resources were being used to advocate on behalf of members. Staff outlined the various government relations activities and the importance of members meeting with federal, state and local lawmakers to be heard on policy decisions. Various examples of GCSAA media placements on television, in print, on the web and on the radio were shared as well. Evans pointed out that NGF studies continue to place a premium on GCSAA members for their role in driving golfer satisfaction and facility success. He said that reaching out to key influencers such as employers, avid golfers and policy makers will continue to be a priority for the association.

Next Meeting

Chapter delegates will convene on February 7 at 2:30 p.m. for the association's annual meeting in San Diego, held in conjunction with the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show.

Presentations available online

GCSAA members can view the meeting presentations online at <http://www.gcsaa.org/Community/Chapter-Delegates-Meeting/Members/2012-presentations/2012-Chapter-Delegates-Meeting.aspx>

Directions to West Shore Country Club

From the West:

Take the PA. Turnpike East to Exit 17. Take Rt.#15 North into Camp Hill. Turn left at Brentwater Road. Club is first driveway on right.

From Gettysburg:

From the South: Take Rt.#15 North into Camp Hill. Turn left at Brentwater Road. Club is first driveway on right.

From York:

Take Rt.#83 North to Rt. 581 West towards Camp Hill. Exit at the Camp Hill Exit. (this is Rt.#15 North). Go 4 traffic lights to Brentwater Road. Turn left at Brentwater Road. Club is first driveway on right.

From Allentown, Bethlehem:

Take Rt.#78 West to I-81 South to Rt.#83 South to Rt. 581 West towards Camp Hill. Exit at the Camp Hill Exit (this is Rt.#15 North). Go 4 traffic lights to Brentwater Road. Turn left at Brentwater Road. Club is first driveway on right.

From Philadelphia:

From the East: Take the PA Turnpike West to Exit 17. Take Route 15 North into Camp Hill. Turn left at Brentwater Road. Club is first driveway on right.

From Scranton, Wilkes-Barre & North:

Take Rt.I-81 South across the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg and exit at the Enola Exit (immediately after crossing the river). Take Rt.#11 & 15 South through Wormleysburg into Camp Hill. Turn right at Brentwater Road. Club is the first driveway on right.

From State College:

Follow Rt.#322 East to Rt.#15 South past the Radisson Hotel. Go to the third traffic light and make a right (this is Brentwater Road) Club is the first driveway on the right.



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Upcoming Events

- * 2012 Penn State Golf Turf Conference
November 13 - 15, 2012
Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, PA
- * Golf Industry Show
February 4-8, 2013
San Diego, CA



The Green Sheet

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Inside This Issue

October 2012 Meeting Information
