



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

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USGA Update - Mid Atlantic Section

Low-Maintenance Areas Aren't Meant To Be Perfect

By Darin S. Bevard, director, Mid-Atlantic Region
July 9, 2014

The expansion of low-maintenance areas has been positive with respect to labor required for mowing and other inputs. Also known as naturalized areas, tall-grass areas or fescue areas, the purpose of these areas is to provide contrast to more manicured turf and reduce water and maintenance inputs. In recent weeks, weed emergence in naturalized areas has been a topic of conversation, causing some course officials to complain about the appearance of these areas. Expectations for the appearance of naturalized areas need to be realistic; otherwise, some of the maintenance savings that should be realized will be lost.

Naturalized areas are low maintenance rather than no-maintenance areas, but there needs to be an understanding that they will have some weeds and thin areas throughout the year. In the mid-Atlantic, golfers expect to find and advance their golf ball in most instances. If the proper grasses are planted – normally hard, sheep's or other fine fescues – this is possible. However, playability can be difficult to maintain when existing rough grasses are simply allowed to grow without mowing. Furthermore, periodic inputs of herbicides and even insecticides are necessary to manage weed and insect problems in naturalized areas, but perfection is not the goal. Educating golfers about the maintenance of naturalized areas and establishing reasonable expectations for their appearance and playability is critical for their success and acceptance.

On another note, annual bluegrass weevil activity has subsided since our last update, or at least additional damage has been minimal. Unfortunately, recovery of areas that were damaged by weevils has been very slow. Slow recovery has been a point of frustration for golf course superintendents, especially considering that cool-season grasses are naturally slow-to-recover during the summer. Spiking, slicing or aeration with small, solid tines can aid in recovery. Also, light, liquid fertilizer applications of no more than 0.10 pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet can be made on a seven-to-10 day interval to promote recovery of damaged areas, but patience is still the most important ingredient. For those who experienced damage on greens, light sand topdressing can help improve playability as areas recover.



Weed emergence and areas of thin grass in naturalized areas should be expected. One of the goals of establishing these areas is to reduce maintenance inputs so that resources can be used on other parts of the golf course. Unreasonable expectations for appearance and playability reduce the benefit of low-maintenance areas.

The toughest stretch of the summer for turfgrass management in the mid-Atlantic is upon us. Maintenance strategies on cool-season grass cannot be as aggressive in the next six weeks without risking damage, especially on putting greens. A few weeks of slower green speeds is better than a couple months of trying to recover from damage.

Source Darin Bevard dbevard@usga.org, *USGA Regional Updates*, www.usga.org
Information on the USGA's [Course Consulting Service](#)
Contact the [Green Section Staff](#)

President's Message

Greetings!

I hope everyone had a great 4th of July; weather wise no-one could have asked for a nicer day! Overall the weather has certainly been kind to us keepers of the green so far this season.

I'm sure the beautiful weather helped the good turnout at the June meeting at Bent Creek Country Club. Unfortunately I was tied up at work, but from all accounts Steve had the course in fantastic shape and everything was first rate; so a big thank you to Steve Ehrhart and all the staff at Bent Creek for a wonderful day.

We also have to thank the Title Sponsor Turf Trade & Jim Byrne. These events wouldn't be successful without all our sponsors helping to make them more affordable and enjoyable. So we need to offer a hearty thank you to Fisher and Sons for sponsoring the food; the education sponsors – Walker Supply, Syngenta and Direct Solutions; and the hole sponsors - Andre and Sons, Genesis and Atlantic Irrigation.

I would also like to thank Lee Kozsey for his presentation, although I was very disappointed to hear that there was minimal attendance to hear him speak. As an association we promote education and comradery. While I understand it is difficult to get away from your course to go to a meeting and appreciate everyone that makes an effort to attend, you should maximize the experience. I know it can be embarrassing to enter a meeting room late. However it is better to make the meeting and show your support, not only for the association, but out of respect for our speakers also.

We are very fortunate to have a fantastic pool of speakers like Lee who take the time from their schedules to provide us with these educational opportunities. Likewise, as a board, we want all the attendees to know who sponsored the event and welcome everyone but this is missed when people do not attend the meeting. So going forward if you are committing to attend a meeting please allow yourself enough time to get there and attend the education meeting before catching up with your peers.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our summer family picnic at Rich Valley Golf Club as we did not have enough people sign up. The board will look at more viable options going forward to make these socials more successful. If anyone has any suggestions please let me know; alan@ledgerockgolf.com As the countdown to fall aeration continues, I hope the remainder of the 50 days of hell treats us as nicely as it has to this point and everyone continues to have a great season.

Alan

New Board Member Profile

Brendon Clark has been employed at West Shore Country Club as Golf Course Superintendent since June 2009. Originally from New Zealand, Brendon has been in the industry 20 years and just under 7 of those years at Oakmont Country Club, Pittsburg PA, 4 as Assistant. Under the leadership of John Zimmers, Oakmont hosted the men's U.S. Amateur in 2003, the Men's U.S. Open in 2007 and prepared for the Women's U.S. Open in 2010. Brendon's love for the game of golf (four handicap) created the passion for this industry while carrying out a 7,500 hour apprenticeship in New Zealand administered by the New Zealand Open Polytechnic. In 2002, he began what was supposed to be a 18 month international internship program administered through the Ohio State University. In June 2003, the opportunity turned into permanent employment in the USA. In December 2013, Brendon married Rebecca Matis who is the golf course superintendent at two golf courses. Brendon enjoys all types of sports and is a huge Pittsburgh Steelers/Pirates/Penguins fan.



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Rebecca Matis Clark

Membership News

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

Christopher GrayClass AF
Lebanon Turf, Marketing Manager

We would like to welcome the following individuals into our association

Koby Gehman.....Class FM
Foxchase Golf Club, Superintendent

Michael JanzerClass AF
Plant Food Company, Territory Manager

Patrick MichenerClass SM
Country Club of York, Superintendent

Eric Shilling.....Class AF
Harrell's, Territory Manager

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Wanda at 717-279-0368.

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



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Golf Results from Bent Creek Country Club

1st Place: (134)
Dave Dewitt, Gordon Kaufman, Matt Rayman, Dave Van Leeuwen

4th Place: (143)
Brian Davis, Jeff Green, Scott Hunter, John Hicks

8th Place: (159)
Mark DelSantoro, Matt Paulina, Curt King, Scott Fischer

Closest to the Pin
#2: (33") John Chassard
#13: (49") John Dougherty

Longest Drive on #1: Matt Kessler

Straightest Drive on #10: Brian Ahrens

From the Archives.....



Kenny Dietrich, Chuck Cadiz, Jim MacLaren



Mark Your Calendars.....

On October 3, 2014 we are going to celebrate this milestone at a special “Central Penn Night! In honor of this special occasion, this event will be held at Colonial Country Club, where it all began!

Please plan to join us to celebrate this event as well as to celebrate and honor Faron Stoops, 2014 Recipient of the Rafferty DSL Award.

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 contact Wanda at cpgcsa@hotmail.com or Greg Borzok, Chairman at zok1@aol.com or 717-652-8409.



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Blast from the Past . .



Carlisle Country Club Tries New Vegetation Management Tool

July 29, 2014

Carlisle Country Club is testing out a new vegetation management tool: Grazing Green Goats.

The club decided to use the goats to clear a gully in front of their #18 tee box. According to superintendent Greg Fantuzzi, weed control in the area has been a problem at the club for many years. Carlisle Country Club decided to use the goats because “the process is environmentally friendly in that no chemicals are used”. The club has also calculated that the goats will save the club “approximately \$6,000 and this does not include the costs of lost time due to staff being off with poison ivy, bee stings, etc. (Naturally, the intent is to use these savings in other areas of the course which directly influence play)”.

Goats have been used at other clubs around the country for similar weed control problems, but Carlisle Country Club is the first club in Central PA to use this process. Fantuzzi says that “the results of this test period will determine if the goats will be used in the future” at the club. Other area superintendents with similar weed control issues have already contacted Greg about the process.

The goats are leased from Grazing Green Goats located in Hummelstown, PA. You will find a lot of interesting information by visiting [their website](#).



Source: psuturfnews.com



July 2014

Dear Member:

The Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association supports research, scholarships and networking for its members. By enhancing the qualifications and skills of our members, we provide your clubs with superintendents who are the best at what they do. On October 3, 2014 the Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association will celebrate two significant events.

The first is the presentation of the Dave Rafferty Distinguished Service Award to Waynesboro Country Club Superintendent Faron Stoops. Faron, a dedicated husband and father, is a strong leader and mentor in our golf community. It will be an honor to celebrate his achievements with his family and friends.

We will also celebrate the CPGCSA's 75th year. Our professional association began at Colonial Country Club. One of our founding fathers was George Morris, Pro/Superintendent of Colonial and a relative of the most famous "Old Tom Morris". It is appropriate that our anniversary celebration will take place in the same place that we began.

We would appreciate any financial contributions your club/business may choose to give us to make our celebration a success.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

All sponsors will be recognized. The following are suggested levels of support:

- _____ **Albatross**
\$750 - 3 tickets, event title, name on all literature, verbal recognition during the night, place/table cards
- _____ **Eagle**
\$500 - 2 tickets, name on all literature, verbal recognition during the night, place/table cards
- _____ **Birdie**
\$250 - 1 ticket, verbal recognition during the night, place/table cards
- _____ **Par**
\$100 - place/table cards
- _____ **Mulligan**
\$ _____ - Please fill in donation amount

Checks Payable To: **CPGCSA**
Mail To: **Wanda S. Fry, 1314 Porter Avenue, Scranton, PA 18504**

Payments can also be made on the website www.cpgcsa.org

Thank you so much for your support of this event and your continued support throughout our 75 years!

Alan FitzGerald, CPGCSA President



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2014 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

September 29
Golf Championship
Outdoor Country Club

October 21
Oktoberfest Open
LedgeRock Golf Club



The Green Sheet

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