



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 25 Issue 4

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

July 2018

July Meeting

Berkshire Country Club

1637 Bernville Road
Reading, PA 19601

July 16, 2018

Registration - 10:00 AM

Speaker - 10:30 AM

Lunch - 11:30 AM

Golf - 12:30 PM Shotgun

Cash Bar/Hors d'oeuvres - Following Golf

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

Wet Weather and Diseases Create Problems on Pennsylvania Golf Courses

by Pete Landschoot
June 17, 2018

Abnormal temperatures and frequent rains during the spring of 2018 have led to mowing injury and disease problems on Pennsylvania golf courses. The worst of the problems began to occur in central and western PA during late May, when daytime temperatures climbed into the 80's and night temperatures were in the mid to high 60's.

Mowing is always a challenge when turf is wet and soils are saturated, but when coupled with rapid late-spring growth, the result can be scalping injury on putting greens. One of the worst cases I observed was on a course where the membership requested the superintendent curtail his spring aeration and top-dressing practices. Towards the end of May, the bentgrass became puffy and was severely scalped when mowed under wet conditions.



Mower injury on bentgrass putting green.

Diseases are always an issue this time of year, but timely fungicide applications and good cultural practices typically keep damage to a minimum. This year's abnormal spring weather ushered in some unusual disease problems, some of which we are still trying to diagnose.

Two diseases that showed up on putting greens and fairways in May and early June in central PA were *Microdochium* patch (formerly called *Fusarium* patch) and leaf spot. Typically, **Microdochium patch** produces distinct circular pink or reddish-brown patches, about 3 to 6 inches in diameter, during periods of wet weather in May. The pink or red color comes from fungal fruiting structures called sporodochia, which give rise to millions of microscopic slightly curved spores called conidia. Conidia are spread from plant-to-plant by water, mowers, or golf shoes. The pathogen of *Microdochium* patch, *Microdochium nivale*, is the same pathogen that causes pink snow mold. The difference between these diseases is that *Microdochium* patch does not occur under snow cover, and usually occurs in late spring. *Microdochium* patch can cause disease on bentgrasses, but is more common on *P. annua*. A number of fungicides are labeled for control of *Microdochium* patch, including

.....Continued on page 6.....



Sponsorship Opportunities

There are still sponsorship opportunities available for the 2018 meeting year, please call Wanda for more information.

President's Message

Summer is back, and so is my summertime frown. July came in with a raging heat wave that had a lot of us scrambling for the right combination of wetting agents and watering cycles. That heat wave has past and right now we are trying to get ready for the next bout of 90-degree weather. If this is any indication of what the rest of the summer will bring us, its going to be a long two months.

Oh well, it's only grass...

I would like to thank everyone that made it out to Colonial last month. Despite the heat, I think everyone had a good time. I would especially like to thank Rebeca Clark for her hospitality and beverage cart skills, those cool beverages really helped get us through the round. Next on the schedule comes a date with Berkshire CC on Monday, July 16th. Hopefully the weather cooperates a little better.

The one thing I have learned over the 25 years I've had this stupid career is that summer has to be treated with a little bit of humility. I learned a long time ago that it never hurts to reach out to your surrounding supers and ask how they are getting thru the tough stretches of weather. We all have tips and techniques that we have learned over the seasons, but I have yet to meet anyone who has all the answers. Sometimes a phone conversation or a round of golf can provide us with a different way of looking at what we do. I was fortunate early in my career to know a lot of the old-timers. A few things I learned that have helped me out are as follows:

1. Raise your cutting height, I know you've heard it a million times, but sometimes it's not that easy to remember.
2. If you like to cut and roll to keep up your speed, try rolling first then cutting, you'll save yourself some critical leaf tissue.
3. Back off on the Nitrogen, but do not eliminate it, the plant still needs food.
4. Throw some type of calcium and potassium in your spray tank when you spray.
5. If your plants are not responding to your irrigation water, you may be loading up with bicarbonates, sometimes you may need to do a soil app to strip this crap off of your soil colloids.
6. Get your irrigation water tested now, most water sources change a bit from season to season, a mid summer water sample can tell you exactly what you are using when you need it the most.
7. Remember there is life other than work! No one can perform at their best when they are burned out.
8. Flip all the calendars in your life to October, I've noticed it comes faster this way.
9. End the day with a very cold beer (this one is my favorite).

Hang in there everyone, we're almost through it. Trust me, we'll be poking holes soon enough. I hope to see all of you at Berkshire.

Good Luck the rest of the way!

Brian

Mark Your Calendars.....



July 31
Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days

August 1
Lawn Care Association of PA (LCAP)
Pest Walk
Penn State - Berks Campus

August 8
Turfgrass Field Days
Joseph Valentine Research Center,
University Park, PA.

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Chad Oxenreider

July Meeting

Superintendent Profile

Andrew Dooley is a Bucks County native where he first began his career on the grounds crew at Jericho National Golf Club in New Hope. While pursuing a bachelor's degree in Turfgrass Science at Penn State Andrew completed internships at Saucon Valley C.C., Wilmington C.C. and Merion Golf Club. Andrew worked as an Assistant Superintendent at Merion Golf Club where he helped prepare the famed East Course to host the 2009 Walker Cup and 2013 US Open. Andrew became Golf Course Superintendent of Berkshire Country Club in 2012 where he has led an irrigation system replacement, green's restoration project, tree removal plan and many more course improvement projects with guidance from Jim Nagle of Forse Design. Andrew and his wife Amanda are expecting their first child this summer.

Course Profile

Founded in 1899, Berkshire Country Club began in Wyomissing a suburb of Reading. The Berkshire Country Club provides a masterful blend of leisure, athletics and elegance. It is a country club lifestyle the way it was meant to be enjoyed - with a proud legacy of exceptional service, opportunity and the benefits only available at such a grand private club. Sophisticated. Surrounded by casual elegance. Berkshire Country Club was the first golf course in Berks County. In 1916, world renown golf hall of famer Willie Park Jr. was hired to layout a 14-hole golf course located on the east side of Bernville Road. In 1921, additional land was purchased on the west side of Bernville Road and 18 holes were completed for opening in 1923.

Whatever your passion - golf, tennis, swimming, business or a vibrant social calendar - you will find it all here at The Berkshire. From superb athletic amenities to a clubhouse that is beyond compare to a celebrated social calendar to dining and entertaining options for the most discerning palate to a very personal sense of arrival and belonging, The Berkshire is the pinnacle of country club life the way it was meant to be enjoyed. One visit, and you will understand why The Berkshire Country Club is the region's premier country club experience.

Speaker Profile

Jim Nagle, Design Associate, joined Forse Design in early 1998 after nearly five years with Derck & Edson Associates – Landscape Architects, Land Planners and Civil Engineers (D&E). During his time with D&E, Jim was involved with a variety of projects both of small and large scale from project designer to project manager. Jim has been practicing golf course design for 21 years.

Prior to graduating from West Virginia University in 1993 with Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture, Jim spent time as a design team member with the golf design firm of Dye Design International in Denver, CO.

Jim has been involved with all aspects of the golf design and construction process. Jim provides support for Ron on numerous projects but will also manage projects from the interview stage through to construction completion. He often coordinates multi-disciplinary projects. He also speaks at various conferences and regularly speaks to Landscape Architecture and Turfgrass students at various Colleges and Universities.

"A Road Map for Success"

Hiring a Golf Course Architect and the process to complete a Golf Course Master Plan

- Hiring the architect, the relationship between the club and architect, relationship of the architect and superintendent expectations of the architect.
- Master Plans - how long, how much, to what detail, how does the history of a club play into the plan, what can be done with the plan, Club's role in the development of the plan, Superintendents role, deliverables.

Education/Meeting



Thanks to this Month's Sponsors

Food



Hole



How Does Summer Heat Stress Affect My Game?

By USGA Green Section
June 2, 2017

Regardless of the weather, superintendents frequently are asked to push putting green turf to its limit to meet player expectations. Superintendents face a real dilemma during hot summer weather: continue pushing for fast green speeds and risk turf damage, or err on the side of safety by raising mowing heights and risk complaints about slower green speeds. Superintendents walk a fine line between these choices in an effort to provide quality summer playing conditions. However, when conditions dictate, they must be prepared to make adjustments that protect long-term health and playability of the putting greens.

One adjustment superintendents make to protect the putting greens during hot weather is raising the mowing height. Mowing at low heights is a common practice to achieve fast green speeds. Unfortunately, low mowing heights also leave very little leaf area available for photosynthesis. During periods of hot weather, turfgrass that is mown extremely low will struggle to produce enough energy and can quickly decline.



Golfers can help superintendents protect the putting greens during hot weather by being patient with maintenance practices that help turf survive heat stress.

Furthermore, ultralow mowing heights during hot weather makes turf vulnerable to disease and reduces its ability to tolerate other stresses such as insects, traffic, drought, shade and poor drainage. As a result, there is a serious risk of turf loss, which can lead to bumpy playing conditions and lost revenue. At minimum, extra resources will be needed to maintain acceptable putting green quality when heat-stressed turf is mown extremely low.

Golfers can help keep putting greens healthy and smooth during hot weather by being patient with temporarily slower green speeds. A well-timed, conservative decision to raise the mowing height could be the difference between healthy and dead putting greens.

Next time you see a superintendent checking putting greens on an extremely hot afternoon, be sure to express interest and understanding in the steps that are being taken to protect the putting greens from summer heat stress. Working together is the best way to protect a golf course.

www.uspg.org

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.

James Dennison, Superintendent
Class B..... Carroll Valley Golf Course

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

Mark Wood, Superintendent
Class B..... Colonial Golf & Tennis Club

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

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

Our condolences to the family of Sam Risteff (Sunset Golf Club) on the passing of his wife Susan.



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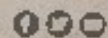


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Wet Weather ...continued from page 1

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Symptoms of *Microdochium* patch on a putting green, and close up of individual patch on *P. annua*.



Symptoms of *Microdochium* patch on a putting green, and close up of individual patch on *P. annua*.

Leaf spot is a disease of bentgrass greens and fairways. It often shows up as circular or irregular reddish-brown patches of varying sizes during periods of persistent, light rain in May and June. Spots on individual leaves have red or reddish-brown borders, and can be observed with a good-quality hand lens or dissecting microscope. As the disease progresses, spots coalesce and develop into blighting of entire leaves and stems. Although the cigar-shaped spores of the pathogen(s), *Bipolaris* or *Dreschlera spp.*, are easy to identify using a microscope in a diagnostic lab, they are too small to be observed in the field. Many different fungicides can be used to control leaf spot diseases, including those containing iprodione, chlorothalonil, and the strobilurins.



Leaf spot symptoms on bentgrass fairway in central PA.

During early June, several golf courses in the Pittsburgh area experienced damage on *P. annua* putting greens and fairways from one or more root and crown diseases. Root/crown diseases are difficult to diagnose because fungal pathogen structures used for identification are not easily observed in root tissue, more than one fungus may be present in the roots, and some fungi on or in roots revert to pathogenic activities only when plants are under environmental or cultural stress. Despite these issues, disease outbreaks were diagnosed as a *Pythium* root disease and/or summer patch. The fact that root diseases are occurring this early in the season reflects the unusual weather conditions experienced in May and early June. In the case of root/crown diseases, fungicides are most effective when applied prior to symptom expression. Disease symptoms may continue to develop when fungicides are applied after the disease becomes apparent.



This disease of *P. annua* on a putting green in western PA was diagnosed as summer patch.

<http://psuturf.com/2018/06/wet-weather-and-diseases-create-problems-on-Pennsylvania-golf-courses/>



Thom Mahute, Jon Cuny, Brian Ahrens, Tanner Delvalle enjoying the course at Carlisle Country Club.

July Golf Results

1st - 71

Steve Ehrhart
Jim Byrne
Brendon Clark
George Brander

2nd - 80

Kevin Mark
Jeff Green
Tim Davisson
Chris Gray

3rd - 88

Darrin Batisky
Matt Paulina
Andrew Harrison
Jason Frey

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Hiring New Employees

The Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council Magazine

Winter 2018

Volume 7, Number 1

Below, seasoned sports field managers discuss the hiring process, what they are looking for in job candidates and how you can make a winning impression.

Advertising the job

Most job announcements are posted to industry websites (STMA, Teamwork Online and TurfNet), social media, university websites and external job boards. Networking in the industry and relationships built within KAFMO also provide valuable resources when searching for candidates. Managers often reach out to members of KAFMO for recommendations or knowledge of candidates.

Sorting through applications

Candidates are required to submit a resumé, cover letter and references. Managers share the top four items they look for in those documents:

- Make sure all information is correct and that the letter and resume are free from errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling. Nothing gets you disqualified faster than when you send a cover letter addressed to another company.
- Keep the cover letter brief. Shawn Kister, Grounds Division Leader at Longwood Gardens, Inc., advises, “Make sure it is specific to the job you are applying for and that it does not read like a form letter. Do not repeat information that can be found on your resume. Do some research on the organization you are applying to, and let that knowledge show in your letter. This shows a high level of interest and personalizes your letter to set it apart from others.”
- Keep the resume to one page, and don’t get too fancy. The resumé should be a concise, yet informative reflection of the candidate’s work history. Include all relevant work experience pertaining to the job for which you are applying.
- Set yourself apart. CJ Lauer, Associate Director of Facilities at The Episcopal Academy, recommends, “Make sure that the few sheets of paper can somehow set you apart from the stacks of resumes that file in for a position. Be creative to get yourself known. On the cover letter, I like to see a quick glimpse into the personality of the candidate. I do not need a work history, as the resume will explain that. I would rather see an interesting part of their work history described or why the position is something they desire. Also, if it is sent electronically, maybe add photos of accomplishments in the field.”

The interview

Typically, the first point of contact is a phone or Skype interview to see if the candidate is a good fit. The in-person interview may be one on one, in front of a panel or both. A facility tour is usually included, along with meeting a human resources representative. Occasionally, a working interview will be required to measure how the candidate interacts with coworkers and approaches tasks. Hiring managers shared some of the qualities that make a candidate stand out in an interview:

- Previous experience. Chris McCardell, President/Senior Sports Turf Manager at Windview Athletic Fields, shares, “If you have jobs listed on your resumé, be prepared to speak in-depth about each one and give examples of projects/tasks you performed.” Managers are gauging general turf knowledge and how previous experiences apply to the position. They also want to know what you liked and disliked about previous experiences.
 - Personality. Enthusiasm is a key trait that managers are seeking. Managers want to learn what you find fulfilling in a job, how you work as part of a team and independently, and how you can contribute to making the organization better.
 - Goals. Ryan Hills, Director, Field Operations for Lehigh Valley IronPigs, will ask, “What are your goals? What goals have you set for yourself for the next five years, and how will you go about reaching those goals?” Managers also want to know what your expectations are for the position.
 - Professional appearance. First impressions are crucial, and there are many jobs where expectations regarding appearance are very high. Wear a dress shirt, slacks, tie and a sport coat, and comparable attire for women. As Mike Boekholder, Director, Field Operations for the Philadelphia Phillies, puts it, “My theory is you can’t overdress. Dress for success!”
 - Sell yourself. Managers want to know why they should choose you. Shawn Kister advises, “Do not shy away from a question that asks you to sell yourself; other candidates are being asked that same question and are selling themselves in their answers, so you need to also.” Hiring managers also shared what you should avoid during an interview:
 - Don’t be late. Do not plan to arrive “on time”; on time means early.
 - Hiring managers agreed the most difficult part of an interview is if the candidate is not prepared. It is always good
-
-

when a candidate wants to learn about the company culture and if the position is the right fit. Don't be afraid to ask questions during an interview. It's important to be well informed about any potential job. Ask purposeful questions, such as:

- ⇒ Please provide a brief overview of the facility, operations and crew structure.
 - ⇒ What does a day look like in this position?
 - ⇒ What can I do to succeed in this position?
 - ⇒ What can I do to help or improve the organization?
 - ⇒ What are your performance expectations at the end of my first six months working in this position?
 - ⇒ What are the learning opportunities available? Please explain the salary, benefits and overtime.
- If you're entering the professional sector, Mike Boekholder recommends, "Don't be a 'Super Fan.' We are hiring for a job, not looking to bring someone on staff who is so infatuated with the team or the game that it would potentially be a problem for them performing their job duties."

Post interview

Hiring managers expect a follow-up because it shows interest in the job. Some managers prefer phone or email, while others appreciate handwritten thank-you notes. In your note, restate your interest in the position and what you will bring to the organization.

Closing advice

When interviewing or starting a new position, CJ Lauer advises, "Keep an open mind. Expect to learn a lot, and respect the leadership of your supervisors. Always have a positive attitude. See everything as a new opportunity. Take initiative when it is needed. Do not be afraid to fail or make mistakes. It's the best way to learn."

Thank you to the following professionals for their contributions to the article: Mike Boekholder, Ryan Hills, Shawn Kister, CJ Lauer and Chris McCardell.

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A Super's View: After the U.S. Open Shinnecock Hills Superintendent Jon Jennings Expects Lengthy Recovery Outside the Ropes

by National Golf Foundation

June 2018

Shinnecock Hills Golf Club is typically in championship condition throughout its season, so it's no surprise that the course was ready for member play immediately after the U.S. Open ended.

Outside the ropes, away from the fairways and greens that drew so much attention during the tournament, the club's recovery from hosting golf's second major championship will take considerably longer. Particularly in the areas that were covered by grandstands, corporate tents, restroom facilities and more than 20 miles of fiber optic cable.

"With everything moving, coming undone and areas that haven't seen light for four months, we're probably looking at a two to three year recovery," Shinnecock Hills Superintendent Jon Jennings said, "Especially in the native rough areas, because the fescue takes a while to establish. The first year, it's just kind of green; the second year it moves along a little bit more, but the third year is when it blends in seamlessly. So it's a three-year recovery period before everything is back online."



Every year there seem to be more tents at the U.S. Open, whether it's for merchandise, food & beverage or corporate hospitality. This year, the tents at Shinnecock Hills had 385,000 square feet of canvas – enough to cover the playing surface at New York's MetLife Stadium eight times. There was also 556,000 square feet of flooring – enough to cover the basketball floor in Madison Square Garden 99 times.

For Jennings and his regular staff of more than 30, which includes three assistants, the most involved tournament preparation was all the construction away from the field of play.

"With all the tents and grandstands they were building, it was about locating where our wires and pipes are, all the infrastructure, to make sure nobody hit anything," Jennings said. "And then just the communication coordinating all those things."

Now that the pros and hordes of golf fans have cleared out of the tony Southampton community on eastern Long Island, the golf season is just kicking into full gear at Shinnecock Hills. Jack Druga, the club's head professional, said about 60 percent of Shinnecock's membership is from New York City, 30 percent lives in the Hamptons area and the remaining 10 percent are national members.



"We play about 13,000 rounds and the club is open from mid-April to early November," says Druga. "But the weather in Long Island can be snowing in April, so late June, July and August is really when our season starts. So the U.S. Open didn't really disrupt it that much."

The U.S. Open trophy outside the clubhouse at Shinnecock Hills, which will again host the U.S. Open in 2026.



Corporate tents lined several of the fairways at Shinnecock Hills.

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CUSHMAN



2018 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

July 16

Berkshire Country Club

Speaker - Jim Nagle, Golf Course Designer

September

TBD

October 2

Moccasin Run Golf Course

Oktoberfest Tournament

2019 Winter Educational Meeting

January 28, 2019

**Country Club of
Harrisburg**



The Green Sheet

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www.cpgcsa.org

