



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 25 Issue 2

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

April/May 2018

May Meeting

Carlisle Country Club

1242 Harrisburg Pike
Carlisle, PA 17013

May 14, 2018

Registration - 10:00 AM

Speaker - 10:30 AM

CPGCSA Elections - 11:30 AM

Boxed Lunches/Range Open - 12:00 Noon

Golf - 12:30 PM Shotgun

Cash Bar/Hor d'oeuvres - Following Golf

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

CPGCSA Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

The May 14th meeting at Carlisle Country Club will be the Annual Meeting with election of officers and directors for the 2018 meeting year.

Here are the nominations:

President – Brian Ahrens, Reading Country Club

Vice President – Jeff Green, Carlisle Barracks Golf Course

Secretary/Treasurer – Barry Bollinger, Rich Valley Golf

Directors:

Chris Martin, Crossgates Golf Club

Joshua Hampton, Hershey Country Club

Cody Frederick, LedgeRock Golf Club

*If you are interested in running for the Board of
Directors or have any questions,
please contact Jeff Green
jeffrey.a.green103.naf@mail.mil*

Triage For Trees

Feb 2016 | John C. Fech

Have a troubled tree on your hands? Before you take action, you need to diagnose. Here, a certified arborist guides you through the process of determining just what's befallen an ailing tree.

Trees can provide significant functional and aesthetic value on a golf course. The shade, structure and beauty they lend are an essential factor in the overall enjoyment of golfers and visitors alike. Keeping trees healthy requires following best management practices for vigor, and integrated pest management techniques for pest control. When things don't go according to plan, however, most situations will call for malady diagnosis, otherwise referred to as "triage."



Co-dominant leaders are two or more stems emerging from the same area of a tree's trunk, an occurrence that commonly results in compressed bark and trunk tissue, severe cracks, and the eventual development of heartwood decay.

Photos by John C. Fech

A main difference between caring for herbaceous/grassy plants vs. caring for woody plants is that it's much easier to examine the entire turfgrass plant than, say, the entire oak tree. Not being able to see roughly half the tree's tissues presents an obvious limitation, and it's the reason I sometimes lament being an arborist. If I were a carpet installer or an orthopedic surgeon, I'd at least be able to look at the full space or subject in front of me — that's not possible with the roots of a problematic tree. (Oh, sure, you could use an air spade, but that's pretty drastic and invasive to the tree. Not my favorite technique.)

Alas, simply figuring out what's wrong with a particular tree or set of trees can be quite challenging, if not outright daunting. On top of that, each tree species has its own set of problems and often produces different symptoms at various times of the year. The following step-by-step guide will help you determine the causal agent(s) responsible for the current status of trees and other woody plants on your golf course. Keep in mind that, as with many other operational diagnostic approaches, triage doesn't follow a cookbook recipe — there can be a great deal of give and take or "three steps forward, two steps back."

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

President's Message

Don't look now, but I think winter may finally be over. Temperatures are staying somewhat consistent, tulips and daffodils have erupted (at least those that the deer and rodents didn't hammer over the long winter months), and our annual crop of broadleaf weeds are out in prominence and laughing at us. It seems that most of us are a bit behind our normal routines, but as we scratch and claw to get back to normalcy, another golf year awaits us.

I'd like to grab your attention for a few paragraphs and discuss our transition into a new year of our Central Penn GCSA. As you may be aware, we have been showing signs of decline over the past ten years in terms of membership, attendance, and board support. While none of us can deny that the golf industry has been on a downward cycle, it has come to our attention that there are indeed other reasons for this trend in the association. Whether it's the price of the events, location of the events, or even the structure and organization of the board itself, take your pick. It's no secret that the board has struggled a bit over the past few years, but I can assure you that it has not been for a lack of caring. I can say that it becomes difficult to organize and accomplish certain things and even more difficult to come up with fresh ideas when the same small group of people are trying to keep things going.

The climb through the chairs of the board is supposed to be about a five-year process at the most. However, our two most recent presidents have given their service for nearly ten years, and they should be commended for their dedication. Due to a lack of fresh ideas and points of view, the organization began to erode into an all hands on everything mentality, which is not an ideal way to run an association, but it was done out of necessity. Those days seem to be over.

I'm excited and encouraged to announce that the board structure is showing definitive signs of recovery in terms of strength in numbers. We are nearing capacity but not there yet. We have been able to recruit several new individuals who have volunteered their time and their fresh points of view. This is mostly due to the energy of two individuals. Jeff Green and Thom Mahute have truly been the root of this re-birth, so to speak. They have been a vital link to the recruiting of superintendents and assistants from the regions of Central Penn where we struggled for help in the last few years. I think it's obvious that this Association is all about relationships. And the more regions that we cover with representation, the stronger we can be. In addition to the efforts of Thom and Jeff, I would like to welcome two past presidents back to the board, Rebecca Clark, and Barry Bollinger. Rebecca will be acting as Past President and an advisor to the board. Barry will be returning to the executive committee as the Secretary/Treasurer.

As we get into our meeting cycle for 2018, I can tell you that we are ahead of the game. All meetings are scheduled for the year, we will be offering more variety in terms of formats for our golf events, and the 2019 Winter Ed Meeting is scheduled and coming together. We have formed several new sub-committees. The first is focused toward education, including our winter education, as well as our monthly meetings. The second is our affiliate relations committee which will create more interaction with our affiliate partners and year-round sponsors. In addition, we are forming a committee to re-introduce Central Penn Night. For those of you who are new to the association, as well as those that have not heard of it in the past, Central Penn Night is a social event we used to hold for some pre-holiday mingling and to honor someone in the association for recognition of excellent representation and efforts in issues relating to the members of the CPGCSA. This event takes place after the golf calendar is complete in the fall.

Another area we will be focusing on is that of membership. There has been a decent amount of movement in the association in terms of new superintendents, assistants, and affiliates moving into the area. If you know of a new neighbor in your area, feel free to invite them to one of our events.

As you can see, there is a lot happening. If anyone is interested in more information or has any questions, feel free to reach out to me anytime. If I have not stressed it to this point, I urge you to communicate your specific needs or interests to myself or any member of the board. While there is a good bit of work to do, it is my personal opinion that there is great optimism for the future of the CPGCSA, see you all at Carlisle.

Yours truly,
Brian Ahrens
In-coming President.

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Alan FitzGerald

May Meeting

Superintendent Profile

Greg Fantuzzi, CGCS has been the Golf Course Superintendent at the Carlisle Country Club since February 1980. Prior to this he was the Assistant Superintendent at Lehigh Country Club in Allentown, PA.

Greg has been a member of the GCSAA and the Central Penn GCSA since 1977. He has served on the Central PA GCSA Board of Directors and was President in 1987.

Greg has also served on the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council Board of Directors from 1996 - 2012, participating in both the Western PTC Conference and chairing the Eastern PTC Conference and Trade Show for approximately 12 years.

In 2013, Greg was honored when he received the Dr. George Hamilton Distinguished Service Award at the Penn State Turf Conference in University Park.

Greg and his wife Tracy have a 29 year old son Sean who is currently an Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach for the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks.

Assistant Profile

Kevin Mark is the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at Carlisle Country Club and current CPGCSA Board Director. He was raised in Carlisle and his first job was actually at the country club. After graduating from Penn State University in 2008 he made stops at courses in Ocean City, MD and back in State College before settling in Richmond, VA. Five years of heat and humidity were enough for Kevin and he returned to Carlisle in June of 2014 in his current role.

Kevin has been married to his wife, Toni, for six years and they have a four-year-old son, Mason, as well as a two-year-old daughter, Emma. Away from work Kevin enjoys spending time with his family and golfing. He is an avid Penn State sports fan as well as Chelsea Football Club supporter.

Speaker Profile

Tanner Delvalle is currently a Commercial Horticulture Educator with Penn State Cooperative Extension based in Schuylkill and Berks Counties. Tanner has been with Penn State Extension since 2013. His areas of responsibility are turfgrass management, vegetable, small fruit, Christmas tree, and hops production. Tanner received his B.S. in Turfgrass Science and his M.S. in Agronomy from the Pennsylvania State University.

Tanner's presentation will be:

- Identifying and Controlling Aquatic Weeds - This talk will show common pond weeds, and explain strategies to control them.
- Resistance Management – This talk will demonstrate how resistance occurs plants, and steps taken to prevent resistance.

Please bring your pesticide license to be scanned.

Course Profile

The Carlisle Country Club, founded in 1924, offers a complete package of facilities highlighted by a par 71 championship golf course. It is set amidst the scenic rolling countryside of the Cumberland Valley and partially borders the winding Conodoguinet Creek. Narrow fairways, relatively undersized greens and continual elevation change offer a challenge to the best of golfers.

A two-phase bunker renovation project was recently completed. Nine bunkers were done in the spring of 2015 with the other 20 finished this past winter.

Thanks to this Month's Sponsors

Education/Meeting



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Membership News

We would like to welcome the following individuals into our association

Seth Knaper, Assistant Superintendent
Class CRegents Glen Country Club

Sean Gregson, Assistant Superintendent
Class CBerkshire Country 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.

There are a few outstanding 2018 Membership Dues, please contact Wanda if you have any questions about your dues.

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

Happy 79th Anniversary CPGCSA!!!!

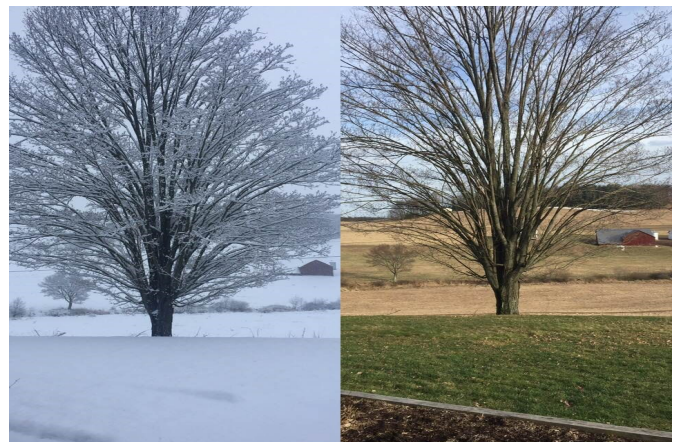
On Tuesday evening April 11, 1939 a meeting was held at the Colonial Country Club in Harrisburg for the purpose of organizing the greenskeepers of the area. Those in attendance at this meeting were George Morris, Riley Heckert, Hugh McJunis, James Morrison, Charles Bolton, John Grove, Jack Narril, and 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, **79 years later.**

Happy Spring???



April 2, 2018 at 7:30 am and 5:30 pm

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Triage for Trees.....continued from Page 1

1. Establish the basics

ID the tree. The industry standard for tree identification is the book “Manual of Woody Landscape Plants” by Michael Dirr. You want to be able to identify at least the genus of the tree in question. Crataegus or hawthorn is nice, but *Crataegus phaenopyrum* would be better. Why? Just as certain turf cultivars are resistant to rust or leaf spot, certain species or cultivars of trees are resistant as well. Also, given that most reference books are categorized by tree species, you’ll find it handy to instantly be able to jump to the right place.

Look for normality vs. abnormality. In Mel Brooks’ classic movie “Young Frankenstein,” Dr. Frankenstein (Gene Wilder) asks Igor (Marty Feldman) what kind of brain he used in the experiment. “Abby,” replies Igor, followed a few seconds later by “Normal.” The doctor answered in astonishment, “Are you saying that I put an abnormal brain into a 7 1/2-foot-long, 54-inch-wide gorilla?” The point is that even though employing what he had on hand in the lab may have been convenient for Igor, in the end, the experiment yielded unintended results because Igor didn’t pay attention to simple details of normal vs. abnormal.

Knowing the difference between what the tree is supposed to look like “normally” and what it might look like if it were diseased or insect-infested is a necessary element of triage. Is the tree supposed to bend like that? Are the leaves supposed to be green and white, or just green? Is the bark supposed to peel off, or should it all be tightly attached to the sapwood? I’ve heard that U.S. Treasury agents master a similar technique in their field to tell the difference between real money and counterfeit money — they get to know the real stuff so well that a fake \$20 bill becomes a cinch to detect.

2. Look for classic symptoms

Studying the classics in literature — “Homer,” “War and Peace,” “Paradise Lost” — is a cornerstone in the shaping of young minds. Familiarity with the classic symptoms or easy -to-spot clues associated with certain tree ailments is just as valuable in triage.

Foliar insects. Damage commonly appears as round, serpentine or blob-like holes in leaves. Leaves may look speckled or “peppered,” as if stuck with pinpricks. A simple 10× magnifying hand lens can help you see such small marks on a leaf.

Foliar diseases. Many tree diseases show up in a similar pattern to turf diseases, such as brown patch and dollar spot. Distinct ovals and round spots are typically symptoms of leaf disease. Other diseases may appear as an overall blighting, especially if the stems are also disfigured.

Deep planting. A trunk that doesn’t widen as it enters the soil to create a flare is often a telltale sign of deep planting. In extreme situations, the tree’s lowest branches arise out of the soil rather than above ground.

Topping. A distinct difference in size between branch tissues from one year to the next may signal that a tree has been “topped,” which is when most or all of the stems have been removed at the same location within the canopy to control height. The unfortunate result is the production of fast but weak growth from imbedded buds. Topping allows entrance of decay organisms as well as growth that often breaks in storms.

Co-dominant leaders. Trees sometimes develop two or three main leaders. When this occurs, the usual outcome is compressed bark and trunk tissue, severe cracks, and the eventual emergence of heartwood decay.

Improper mulch depth, placement or type. The cardinal sin of mulching is too much and too close to the trunk. Mulching is a root treatment, not a trunk treatment — as such, it should be placed 2 to 3 inches deep, starting 6 inches away from the trunk and extending as far into the golfscape as is practical. Injury to the root plate often occurs from too much or too little mulch.

Borers. Holes in the trunk and lower limbs are the most noticeable indicators of borers, but a few holes here and there don’t mean a tree has a major borer problem. Many holes, lots of sawdust-like frass and leafless stems are symptoms to be concerned about.

Decay. Soft and punky wood at the root plate, main trunk and branch-removal sites can be serious. Checking the softness of the wood with a screwdriver or golf club shaft is a good way to determine whether excessive decay exists.

Cankers. These oval-shaped, sunken or raised lesions vary in size from an inch to 6 inches and are usually darker or lighter in color than the balance of the stem tissue. Cankers are serious degraders of the conductive vessels of a tree.



If planted too deep, a tree won’t develop the healthy even and stout root flare, which was the case with the tree shown here. This inhibits the tree’s structural integrity.

Stem-girdling roots. Sometimes visible, sometimes not, wayward roots grow around the trunk instead of outward from it. As girdling roots expand in diameter, they impinge on the trunk tissue and other roots, causing a restriction of the rate of movement of water and nutrients in the tree.

3. Dig into the past

The history of the tree site is important in triage, especially if none of the classic symptoms are present. It's worthwhile to investigate matters of the past related to weather events, the movement, removal or addition of soil, previous site use, and the performance of any former trees that needed to be removed.

How does one go about learning the history of the site surrounding a particular tree? The same way you'd find out about any other historical element on the course: Ask the people who have worked at the facility the longest, ask other superintendents, and ask neighboring property owners. Look in the files for reconstruction plans. Visit with industry and manufacturer representatives who may have worked on the course, such as irrigation installers. When in the midst of triage, even small bits of information can be helpful.

4. Inventory the here and now

Many current factors can be equally as influential in a tree's condition as the history of the site. The triage process involves moving from the general to the specific, and, as you do so, you should consider each of the following categories.

Low and high sites. These areas tend to be where soil has been moved, deposited or blown away over time. Low sites can be places where water tends to remain for days; high sites can be drier than other spots on the course.

Herbicide applications. Revisit your records for both pre-emergence and post-emergence applications. Correlations are always possible. Consider sublethal and less-than-full-dose treatments as well.

Irrigation applications. Most trees need less than half the amount of supplemental water that turf needs. If the tree in question is co-located among mid- to high-input turf, it may be getting too much water, which tends to deprive roots of oxygen. Trees located in rough or out-of-bounds areas may face the opposite predicament.

Trunk injuries. Upset golfers and Mother Nature can inflict cracks and bark injuries that are difficult for a tree to recover from. Up-close inspection will normally reveal the evidence of any recent physical damage.

Compaction. Just as with turf, compressed soil particles exclude soil oxygen and decrease lateral and vertical movement of roots. These factors have a compounding effect on nutrient uptake.

Fertilization. Like water need, the requirement for fertilizer is also generally less. If trees and turf are fertilized at the same rate, the trees tend to become more herbaceous than is desirable, and more susceptible to pests. Nutrient deficiencies can also be an existing limiting factor, in terms of both micro- and macronutrients.

Weather. Weather extremes can be the cause of many maladies for trees on a golf course. Cold winters, hot summers, overly humid conditions and windy stretches of time are some of the most common.

Soil type. Soils can affect tree health as much as or more than any other of the other current contributing factors. Compare current soil test results with those from tests taken at the same time in previous years to see whether any levels have risen or fallen. A key difference with woody plants is that when a soil test indicates a need for a specific nutrient, the woody plant usually takes much longer to respond than turf does. The general suggestion is to wait up to a year to determine whether a particular treatment had a positive result.

5. Evaluate known specifics

Each tree species has known maladies associated with it, but a frequent mistake made while trying to determine the cause of a decline or of the odd appearance of a tree is being overly mindful of the common problems of a tree species. This is a kind of "skip to the end" technique — an attempt to pinpoint the issue by taking the easy way out — and it leads to a greater potential for misdiagnosis.

Considering known specifics is a good step, but it should be done as one of the last steps, not the first. If you leave the considerations of planting, foliar/root disease, foliar/trunk insects, initial care, mulch placement and depth, site history, root disorders, soil type, weather and present conditions out of the process, you've done the tree a disservice.

.....Continued on Page 8.....

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Mark Your Calendars.....



This year's Turfgrass Field Days will be held August 8th 2018 at the Joseph Valentine Research Center, located in University Park, PA.

Sponsorship Opportunities

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

2018 Budget Bill Includes H-2B Cap Relief

Megan Smalley and Lauren Rathmell

March 23, 2018

<http://www.lawnandlandscape.com>

The omnibus bill allows the government to double the number of visas available.

This week, Congressional leaders agreed to include language in the 2018 budget bill that authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to issue additional H-2B visas. The National Association of Landscape Professionals said the language is identical to what was approved last year and grants discretion to the Secretary to issue additional visas up to the historic maximum number that were issued in a single year when a returning worker exemption was in place.

NALP and other Workforce Coalition members spent several weeks advocating for the language to be included in the bill. According to NALP, "champions on Capitol Hill have indicated that they will quickly urge DHS to act expeditiously on the matter. We will keep members informed on next steps for engagement."

"We were able to get basically the same language we had last year, which provides the Department of Homeland Security to issue additional visas if they think they are warranted," said Paul Mendelsohn, NALP's director of government affairs. "I think the fact that we were able to get any relief language in the omnibus is a recognition of the members of Congress that this is an important issue. So, the secretary can authorize up to the maximum amount that was issued last year, which is somewhere in the vicinity of 60,000 additional visas theoretically possible."

In 2017, President Trump signed the spending bill on May 5 and the Department of Homeland Security did not take action to issue additional H-2B visas until July 18. When they did, Mendelsohn said it only issued an additional 15,000 visas. However, he said there is hope that more visas might go through in 2018 since the language is identical to last year.

"We're hoping this can be implemented quicker and that they will recognize the demonstrated need to authorize the maximum that Congress has allowed them to issue," he said. "Last year was the first year they had language like this and it took a while to formally act on it. The Department of Homeland Security secretary was John Kelly, who is now Chief of Staff. He made it clear he did not like guest worker programs. Now, Kirstjen Nielsen is secretary and she hasn't made comments on her stance formally. But, there are 90,000-plus visa applications that have been certified by the Department of Labor as meeting need requirements. So, we're hoping (the department) will act quickly, but we don't have any way of knowing what they are going to do."

Mendelsohn said NALP plans to continue to work with its members and the Workforce Coalition to push the Department of Homeland Security to authorize additional visas as quickly as possible.

—OUR EXPERTS EXPLAIN—

Do The Right Thing, At The Right Time

March 16, 2018

By USGA Green Section
2018 United States Golf Association

Golf courses are living, breathing organisms. They evolve as factors like the weather and maintenance practices change. Often, the most successful golf course superintendents and golf facilities are those that adapt – i.e., they realize that focusing on course maintenance at the appropriate times yields the most consistent playing conditions.

As a golf course changes, the one constant that remains is a full golf calendar. Golf facilities rely on regular play, outings and local or regional tournaments to provide revenue.

Busy golf calendars often provide little leeway for superintendents to perform basic yet critical maintenance practices such as aeration, topdressing and fertilizer applications. Routine management practices that improve playing conditions like topdressing, grooming and verticutting are often pushed aside to avoid disrupting golf events.



Light and frequent applications of sand are beneficial to putting surfaces. They smooth the surface, dilute organic matter and create a more resilient playing surface. This maintenance practice should not be dictated by the golf calendar.

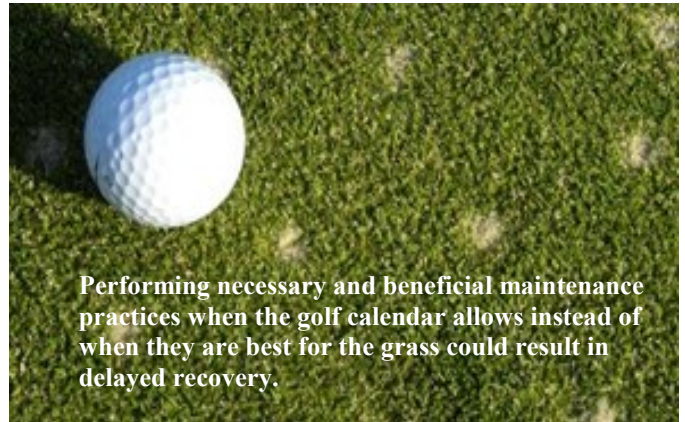
Understandably, disruptive maintenance practices like aeration can be frustrating. Aeration can conjure negative emotions even before a golfer plays the course. Therefore, this procedure is sometimes scheduled around the golf calendar – i.e., when it will be the least disruptive to play and not when it is of most benefit to the grass.

Regardless of anything else, properly timed maintenance practices are the only way to meet golfer expectations on a consistent basis. Golf facilities that recognize this consistently provide the most reliable playing conditions by performing important maintenance practices at the best time for the grass.

Conversely, performing maintenance practices when they are convenient for the golf calendar instead of when they are most beneficial for the grass can lead to long-term problems including slow turf recovery and weed infestations. To mini-

mize their negative effect on playing surfaces, it only makes sense to perform disruptive maintenance practices when conditions favor rapid turf recovery.

Conditioning expectations rarely change because of a busy golf calendar, so performing all maintenance procedures when they will provide the most benefit is the best choice. Choosing to schedule maintenance around the golf calendar could cause poor results leading to reduced playing conditions and unsatisfied golfers. Remember, the most beneficial procedures are often the most disruptive.



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2018 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

May 14

Carlisle Country Club
Speaker - Tanner Delvalle
GCSAA - .10 Credit
PDA - Aquatic Credits

June 18

Colonial Golf & Tennis Club
Speaker - Dr. John Kaminski
Travis Russell

July 16

Berkshire Country Club

September

TBD

October 2

Moccasin Run Golf Course
Oktoberfest Tournament

**2019 Winter
Educational Meeting**

January 28, 2019



The Green Sheet

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