



# The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 26 Issue 2

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

May 2019

## May Meeting

### Conestoga Country Club

1950 Stone Mill Road  
Lancaster, PA 17603

Host - Matt Turner

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Registration -10:00 AM

Speaker - 10:30 AM

Lunch Buffet - 11:30 AM

Golf - 12:30 PM Shotgun

Appetizers/Draft Beer - Following Golf

*There will be a CPGCSA Board of Directors Meeting  
at 8:30 AM.*

## Conestoga Country Club

Conestoga Country Club was built in 1948 by the membership. This club was formed by a group of members who played at Overlook Golf Course. After purchasing the land from the proceeds of a bowling alley, this group hired William Gordon as the architect for this course. He guided the membership on how to build the golf course with their time and equipment. They formed



a private club, whose original name was Overlook Country Club. But after six months, they changed it to Conestoga Country Club, named after a creek running one mile across the property. Little Conestoga Creek winds through both front 9 and back 9, coming into play on 6 holes. During that time, William Gordon was famous for building bowled greens which were designed to hold water where irrigation was insufficient. In the fall of 2006, Golf Preservation Inc. installed drainages in all 19 greens to alleviate the problematic bowled greens.

## Berks County Fungi Could Help 'Decimate' Spotted Lanternflies in Pa., New Research Says

BY ADAM HERMANN

MAY 1, 2019

*PhillyVoice Staff*

*Cornell professors found two naturally-occurring pathogens are killing the insects near a Reading apple orchard*

May has signified the beginning of spotted lanternfly season in eastern Pennsylvania for a half-decade, and 2019 is more of the same. The invasive insects have basically been unstoppable since 2014, but new research from Cornell University suggests the answer to beating back the bugs exists - and it's located in Berks County.

Researchers found two fungal pathogens that could help curb the lanternfly, according to a new report from two Cornell professors of entomology.



The fungi, *Batkoa major* and *Beauveria bassiana*, were found to have killed sizable swaths of lanternflies in Berks County, near Reading, starting in late 2017, according to the Cornell Chronicle.

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive species from Southeast Asia. Its presence has been confirmed in Philadelphia and some of the surrounding suburbs, including Chester County. Officials say anyone who finds this insect should kill it.

The first reports of the fungi killing lanternflies trickled in at the end of 2017, but Eric Clifton and Ann Hajek, the co-authors of the study, traveled to Angora Fruit Farm - part of Antietam Lake Park in Lower Alsace Township - in October 2018 to examine more reports near the fruit farm's apple orchard.

"It was clear anywhere you walked, you'd see dozens of lanternflies killed by the Beauveria on the ground, and then you'd see cadavers all over the trees killed by Batkoa," Clif-

*...continued on page 2 ....*

## May President's Message

What a difference a month makes. Grass is growing and the 8 months, give or take, of madness has begun. I'm sure it is safe to assume that everyone is getting back into the normal routines of daily tasks and trying to get sprays out dodging the rain, or trying to take advantage of the rain, whichever it may be. This is always a hectic time of year, but everyone needs a break at some point.



What better time to take a break than to join us for the May meeting at Conestoga CC. I know Matt will have the golf course dialed in and ready for us. I know I am looking forward to yet another networking opportunity and a chance to see people I haven't seen in a few months.

At the May meeting we will be honoring a lot of our sponsors with their sponsorship plaques. This is a simple way for us to be able to say Thank You for being a sponsor and show our appreciation for their support. Without their support, the viability of the association would be at serious risk. It is my hope that a lot of our sponsors, or a representative from the sponsor, will be in attendance to accept their plaque and be recognized in front of the group.

As you will see our meeting locations stay local for the first couple events and then we are taking our show on the road. Our June meeting will be at the Country Club of Harrisburg and we are inviting our friends from the Keystone group to join us for the day. In September we are going to make a trip up to Dallas, PA and take advantage of an opportunity that one of our past presidents graciously offered us, and that is to play Huntsville Golf Club. Thank you very much Jeff Fry for the opportunity. This meeting will also be another chance to network with some of the folks from the Pocono Association. In October we are headed to Moselem Springs for our annual golf championship and Oktoberfest meeting. If you haven't had the chance to play Moselem this is an opportunity you don't want to miss. I am sure everyone will see the benefit of not only playing these great golf courses, but also taking advantage of the great networking opportunities.

I hope this message finds everyone doing well here in the beginning of yet another golf season and excited about the opportunities that the CPGCSA has in place for our members this season.

Until next month,

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Superintendent/ Business Manager  
Carlisle Barracks Golf Course

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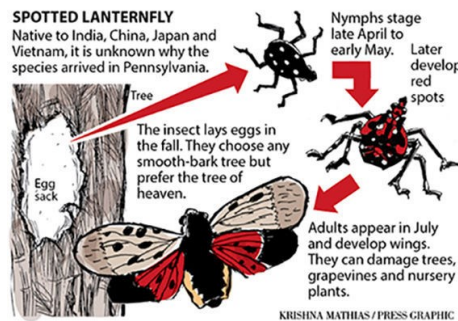
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## Berks County Fungi Could Help....continued from Page 1

ton told the Cornell Chronicle. Just as interesting, Clifton said, was the scarcity of other insects killed by the fungi in the area.

Officially, the study found, a staggering 97% of lanternflies on tree trunks had been killed by the Batkoa, and among the insects found on the ground, the causes of death were effectively a half-and-half split between Batkoa and Beauveria.

Clifton did note that Batkoa major isn't a well-known fungus, unlike Beauveria bassiana, but there seems to be potential for both to be used against lanternflies after further research.



The insects, which spread from Asia, feeding on trees and are harming local ecosystems, as well as hurting small business owners like vineyard and orchard growers. They pose an obvious threat to Pennsylvania's fauna, so much so that the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Penn State University announced an initiative in March [putting 150 researchers and experts on the case of developing strategies to fight lanternflies](#) in the coming years.

## Membership News

We would like to welcome the following individuals into our association

James Chiesa, Assistant Superintendent  
Hershey Country Club ..... Class C

Mark DelSantoro, Dir. of Innovation/Development  
UPL NA ..... Class G

Albert Geniviva, Sales Representative  
Hodges Rash Company ..... Class AF

Josh Saunders, Director of Golf Course Operations  
Lancaster Country Club ..... Class A

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](mailto:cpgcsa@hotmail.com).

*There are a few outstanding 2019 Membership Dues, please contact Wanda if you have any questions about your dues.*

*Please see a list of our Association Sponsors on Page 14.*

*Please Support Them as they Support Us!*

Membership information is also available on the Central Penn website at: [www.cpgcsa.org](http://www.cpgcsa.org)

## Superintendent Profile

Matthew Turner has been a superintendent at Conestoga Country Club for 14 years. Prior to Conestoga, he was a superintendent at Devils Knob Golf Course at Wintergreen Resort in Virginia for 6 years. Matt has been in the golf industry for 30 years.

Matt graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in Business Management. He also graduated from Rutgers in 1999 with a 2 year certificate in Turfgrass management.

He has been married for 22 years to Michele, and they have 3 children: Gabriela (18) and the twins Matthew (13) and Makenzie (13). Gabi will be attending Millersville University next year playing softball.



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## “Bluegrass, Buffet and Baseball”

The Reading Fightin Phils are hosting an educational and social event for turf managers on July 24, 2019.



Turfgrass related presentations starting at 10:00 a.m. followed by a baseball game featuring the R-Phils vs. the Binghamton Rumble Ponies (Mets) at 11:35 a.m. with an all-you-can-eat buffet lunch from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and an opportunity to tour the field after the game.

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\$30 per person includes the presentations, buffet and a private group area for the game.

Visit [Bluegrass, Buffet and Baseball](#) for the day's agenda and to purchase tickets.



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## May Education

Our speaker for the May meeting at Conestoga Country Club is Darrin Batisky. Darrin is the Bayer Turf & Ornamental Manager for Pennsylvania, New York and West Virginia.

Darrin is a 1992 graduate of The Ohio State University with a BS in Agronomy. He has been with Bayer since July 2014; where he serves in the role of helping customers with agronomic solutions in the Turf & Ornamental markets. Before coming to Bayer he was with Jacobsen turf equipment for 2.5 years as a territory manager, covering the northeastern US and Quebec in Canada. Prior to Jacobsen he was the Golf Course Superintendent at Chartiers Country Club in Pittsburgh, PA for 9 years and Glen Oak Country Club in Clarks Summit, PA for 5 ½ years. While at Glen Oak he was active in the Pocono Turfgrass Association where he served as a board member for 4 years. At the time of his departure for Pittsburgh he was the Vice President of the association. In 2003 he was appointed to the Greater Pittsburgh GCSA Board of Directors and became President (2007 to 2009). Darrin has been actively involved in various local & state turf associations, such as: Ohio Turfgrass Foundation where he is the current President; Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, past board member; the New Jersey GCSA; Metropolitan NY GCSA and Hudson Valley GCSA. Darrin has also been a 29 year member of GCSAA. He actively presents at numerous local, state and national conferences; most recently at the GIS as an instructor for a 4 hour seminar on labor data collections/data uses for the golf course superintendent.

### The Science of Managing Poa Annua Seedhead

- Controlling seed heads of Poa annua
- Biology Annual Bluegrass biology
- Story on Proxy for Poa seed head control
- Research of Proxy
- Geographic differences?
- Effect on snow mold applications?
- Do we need the PrimoMaxx?
- Practical recommendations for seed head control

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## As the (earth)worm turns

By [Karl Danneberger, Ph.D.](#)

May 7, 2019

Walking across my lawn in May, I feel bumpiness under my feet. Although not visually apparent, I know bumpy turf is a sign of earthworm casts. Helping verify my diagnosis are mole tunnels throughout my lawn from the moles hunting for earthworms as food. Moles crave earthworms so much that they eat the equivalent of their body weight of earthworms in a day.

Earthworms are beneficial to turfgrass systems, producing tunnels through the soil that help reduce soil compaction and let air and water move in and through the soil. Feeding on grass clippings and thatch, earthworms are important in the initial steps of microbial breakdown of plant litter. Dan Potter, Ph.D., at the University of Kentucky, has reported that an acre of turf can support more than a million earthworms that consume more than 4 tons of plant debris. Earthworms affect turfgrass soil fertility and land worldwide.

Commenting on the global adaptation of earthworms, Charles Darwin — in one of his last — papers speculated that almost all the fertile soil in the world passed through the gut of an earthworm. Earthworm activity is desirable and a sign of a healthy soil.

The downside to some, but not all, earthworm feeding is the deposition of their fecal material in small mounds, called casts, on the turf or soil surface. Casts are most evident during cool, wet weather, primarily in fall, but also at other times of the year.

I'll live with the bumpiness in my lawn caused by the casts through the "shock absorbers" of my forearms on the lawn mower. But on golf courses, excessive earthworm casts can disrupt playability and playing surface aesthetics. Castings cause disruption to ball roll, and traffic can result in a muddy smear over the turf. In some cases that I observed in Europe, golf courses close temporarily because of the excessive mudding and smearing of earthworm casts.

Cultural practices to reduce earthworm casts include using soil-acidifying fertilizers, rolling, topdressing with angular sands or aggregates and removing clippings. Earthworm populations, at least of the casting type, decline with a drop in soil pH. At a pH below 5.0, earthworm populations are low. The use of acidifying fertilizers lowers the pH at the soil surface, reducing earthworm populations.

Rolling on courses to flatten castings was the most popular practice in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Disadvantages to rolling, depending on the type of roller, were the potential for soil compaction and the fact that the casts often smeared across the turf, making for a muddy surface.

Heavy topdressing with angular sands or aggregates is believed to agitate earthworms and discourage them from coming to the surface and creating casts. In the early 1900s, greens sometimes were constructed with a cinder layer in the subsurface to discourage earthworms from migrating upward in the green mix.

Recent research studies at the University of Arkansas and other places have looked at light sand topdressing for earthworm-cast suppression. Although preliminary results show variability, it will be interesting to see how these studies pan out.

The results from lowering pH, rolling, topdressing and removing clippings have been inconsistent at best in reducing earthworm casts.

There has been considerable attention paid recently to a naturally occurring plant compound known as saporins for controlling earthworms. Saporins are found in hundreds of plants. However, tea seed meal, a byproduct of tea oil production, is especially high in saporins. Field and laboratory studies have confirmed that saporins from tea seed meal are effective in controlling earthworms. Tea seed meal works as an expellant that causes the earthworms to come to the surface and die.

Earthworms present a dichotomy for golf course superintendents. On one hand, they provide many agronomic benefits to the turf. At the same time, they can cause significant disruption to the playing surface. Balancing earthworm activity on golf courses has been — and will continue to be — an ongoing challenge.

<https://www.golfdom.com/as-the-earthworm-turns/>

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## Verdure: T is for turfgrass, and P is for Poa

*Auburn University researchers evaluated the effects of phosphorus on Poa annua growth and seedhead production.*

December 2018 | Beth Guertal, Ph.D.

Hate it, love it or tolerate it, *Poa annua* is a persistent plant in the turfgrass landscape. In fact, it is the only nonnative flowering plant species found on every continent in the world. Now that is a plant that can adapt.

Given its ubiquity in the landscape, turfgrass researchers have been studying *Poa annua* for a long time. Early work that examined soil characteristics found that *Poa annua* was negatively affected by high soil phosphorus or by low soil pH. That work was often conducted with a goal of keeping *Poa annua* in the landscape. However, in the southeastern United States, *Poa annua* is usually considered a weed, and research is conducted with a goal of reducing *Poa annua* populations.

In 2010, scientists at Auburn University revisited phosphorus fertilization effects on *Poa annua*, this time with a goal of determining whether phosphorus could be used to control *Poa annua* rather than to encourage its growth.

The researchers grew pots of *Poa annua* from seed, with the seed placed in three different soil types: a USGA-type sand/peat greens mix (90/10 v/v), a clay soil, and a loamy sand soil. Before seeding, five rates of phosphorus (applied as triple superphosphate) were mixed into the pots of soil: 0, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0 and 4.0 pounds of phosphorus/1,000 square feet (0, 25, 50, 100 and 200 kilograms/hectare).

After germination and two weeks of growth, plants were thinned so that there were five *Poa* plants in each pot, and they were allowed to grow until seedhead production and maturity. As the *Poa annua* grew, the number of days until the emergence of a seedhead was recorded. Once a seedhead matured, it was clipped, and the following information was collected for each seedhead: 1) number of branches on a seedhead, 2) number of seed on each branch, and 3) weight of the seed from each branch.

After all the seedheads were harvested from a pot, the total number of seedheads, branches and seed plus the weight of those seed were calculated for each soil type/phosphorus rate treatment. Randomly selected seed were then used in an experiment to measure percent germination.

All of that clipping, sorting and weighing revealed that soil type and phosphorus fertilization each affected the growth of *Poa annua*. There were generally no differences attributed to growing *Poa* in the two native soils, but *Poa annua* growing in the greens mix was shorter and had fewer seedheads, seedhead branches and seed, and it took longer for the plants to produce a first seedhead. These differences were likely due to the overall lower initial soil fertility of the greens mix. Although the plants were fertilized uniformly during the experiment, background soil fertility was not adjusted at the start of the experiment.

Shoot weight and total seed weight increased as the phosphorus rate increased. Additionally, as the phosphorus rate increased, seedheads appeared earlier. When no phosphorus was applied, it took 127 days for a seedhead to appear, compared with 119 days to seedhead emergence when any phosphorus was applied.

All other measured variables — number of seed, weight of that seed, number of seedhead branches and germination of harvested seed — were largely unaffected by soil type or phosphorus rate. In general, *Poa annua* plants that were grown in soil with a high sand content and received no or lower rates of phosphorus were smaller and took a week longer to produce a visible seedhead. These results could affect decisions about growth regulator applications intended for *Poa annua* seedhead suppression.

*Source:* Guertal, E.A., and J.S. McElroy. 2018. Soil type and phosphorus fertilization affect *Poa annua* growth and seedhead production. *Agronomy Journal* 110:1-6

<https://www.gcmonline.com/course/environment/news/phosphorus-poa-annua>

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## The Spring Seed

May 3, 2019

By Elliott Dowling,  
Agronomist, Northeast Region

[www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org)

*Poa annua* is a prolific seed producer at any height of cut. The grass' ability to seed contributes to its spread, and the seedheads can affect putting green smoothness in spring. *Poa* plants are also noticeable on bermudagrass fairways that are starting to green up. The *Poa* plants grow quickly, making them very noticeable within the much shorter bermudagrass.

Managing seedheads is necessary in many cases, especially on putting greens. Suppression of seedheads is possible with properly timed growth regulator applications. If your course is like many others in the Northeast, seedheads have already emerged. Once that occurs, suppression is no longer possible. Fortunately, some seedheads can be removed mechanically. Some of the most popular and effective methods to mechanically remove seedheads are brushing, verticutting or grooming. However, it is important to be careful with aggressively brushing or grooming grass that is not yet growing rapidly. Although these procedures will help remove seedheads, if performed too often or too aggressively, they can hurt the desired grass and slow spring development.



***Poa annua* seedheads on putting greens can affect surface smoothness and ball roll. Controlling them before they emerge reduces playability issues and helps the turf conserve energy.**

Several herbicides are labeled for selective control of *Poa annua* and broadleaf weeds in bermudagrass tees and fairways. It is important to control the plants with postemergence herbicides so that seeds do not spread with mowing and increase the population, making control more difficult next year.

If you aren't on a preventive program for *Poa* seedhead control, perhaps it is time to consider one. For putting greens, ongoing research suggests that preloading *Poa* with a late fall application of the growth regulator Proxy<sup>®</sup> can help suppress seedheads. Timing is variable, but the most recent research shows good results with the following program:

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- One application after the last mowing in the fall
- An initial spring application between 200 and 500 growing degree days with a base of 32 degrees Fahrenheit
- A final application three to four weeks after the initial spring application

On bermudagrass, applying a preemergence herbicide in late summer to early fall will control the emergence of *Poa* plants from seed in the soil. The University of Tennessee have examined several products for preemergence control of *Poa*. This summary [video](#) is a helpful resource for determining optimal treatments for *Poa* control in warm-season grasses. If plants still germinate, waiting until the bermudagrass is dormant and applying a nonselective herbicide will clean the rest of the plants up.

*Poa annua* is a frustrating plant to control because it is so prolific. That doesn't mean that suppression isn't possible or warranted in various instances, especially on putting greens if the desired grass is something other than *Poa*. Continue to mechanically remove seedheads this spring and plan for preventive programs this fall and winter.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/regional-updates/northeast-region/2019/the-spring-seed.html>

## Fired Up

*Yes, you could lose your job. But it could be just the shake-up you need.*

Golf Course Industry Magazine  
April 10, 2019  
Tim Moraghan



This column is about losing your job.

Now, before you think “that’s not going to happen to me,” or if, as my wife said, “no 30-year-old is going to think this column pertains to them,” think again. The subject here isn’t why you lost your job or how not to; it’s what to do when it happens.

Trust me, it happens. It happened to me.

And it happened to a superintendent I know who called a few weeks ago to tell me he had just been fired. His termination was a total surprise: Two weeks earlier, he’d received a stellar performance review and the club was “so happy to have him on the staff.”

What happened? Doesn’t matter. What does matter is being ready when/if/should this happen to you. Will you be ready for your next chapter, whether it’s a move up, laterally, down, or into a redirection of your career? I’m not suggesting you dwell on this, but somewhere in the back of your head should be a little voice that reminds you to, as the Boy Scouts say, “be prepared.”

I don’t care how old you are now, 30 to 65. Think about it. The way our industry is going, you need to be alert to the possibility of being out of a job at any minute. In particular, I’m seeing an unfortunate trend in over-50 dismissals. Maybe I’m noticing it more because I’m getting more phone calls like the one above. Or maybe because I’m in a position to help people like you find their next jobs.

So, whether you think everything at work is great and everybody loves you, or you have that sneaky feeling that something isn’t quite right, it’s time to take stock.

Start by understanding your financial situation. Take a good look at the current status of investments, savings, health care, insurance and, if applicable, savings programs for your children’s education.

How well do you understand the terms of your current employment? Does your contract include a severance package and/or a buy-out clause? Do you even have a contract? Has it been checked lately by a lawyer? If you think your job is truly secure, consider asking your club for a new contract better aligned to your current financial needs.

OK, bang! You lose your job. What do you do?

Look in the mirror and ask yourself why and what are you going to do about it. Don’t beat yourself up, but think back and look for clues you may have missed. If you can, ask your now-former employer for a detailed explanation if only to have a road map to future improvement. (While I’m not advising you threaten legal action if you think your firing was unwarranted, this “explanation” is worth showing to a lawyer who can compare it to the terms of your contract. It’s just something to consider.)

This is important: If you did something wrong, own up to it, at least in your own head. Blaming others for your actions will not help you move forward.

Something else is important to understand: There is no such thing as “wrongful termination.” If there is a reason — any reason — your position can be terminated. A good attorney can make sure you get what you’ve earned and are entitled to, under either state or federal employment regulations or your employment contract.

Expect a flood of emotional reactions. It could take days, if not more, before the shock wears off. But don’t wait too long to get thinking about a few key elements.

Are you prepared to pay for your own health care? COBRA is your legal right and available at your own expense for 18 months following your termination. Verify the details with human resources or an insurance professional. And expect it to cost a lot more than you’re paying for health insurance now.

An important aside: Right now, while you are still employed and covered by health insurance, get a full physical. Superintendents are under a great deal of stress, often more than they realize, and I’m getting tired of hearing about colleagues suffering heart at-

....continued on Page 12....

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## Fired Up.....continued

tacks, strokes and other stress-related ailments. Get on top of your health. Now.

Cut miscellaneous household spending. The bills still have to be paid so figure out how you're going to do that. Lattes, games, hobbies, satellite TV, dining out, etc. may have to be put on hold until you get your next job.

Should you dip into your savings or retirement fund? That's a personal, but potentially very expensive, option. Talk to an accountant, financial expert, someone who understands the tax implications. I'm not qualified to give such advice, but I do know that tapping into "rainy day" funds when you're over 50 is a bad idea because there won't be enough time to recoup.

If you're in your 60s, retirement may be an option. However, are you really ready to shut it down? Can you go from go-go to slow-go overnight? Check your social security, too. Depending on your situation, early or semi-retirement could be great. There are lots of less-than-full-time opportunities out there, but you're going to have to work hard to find them.

You're going to have to start paying for lots of things that were once perks such as company vehicle, cell phone, gas and computer. Figure those into your new budget.

As important as managing your money is managing your mental health. Don't be embarrassed by what happened. Job loss is way too common, particularly in our industry. Start networking right away. Be honest with the people you talk to. Explain what happened, and ask them to keep their eyes and ears open for you. Don't be bashful. Get on the phone right away, ask for help. Even if you're getting a long-term severance, don't delay.

Don't get angry at family and friends. They're not at fault, they are there to offer help and encouragement.

If you want another job, stay current in the industry. Going to conferences and tournaments not only keeps you up to date, it gives



### Fired Up ....continued from page 12

you more ways to network. It might even be worth stepping down a rung on the ladder — taking an assistant’s job, for example — to help financially and remain plugged in.

Finally, consider this an opportunity to change your life for the better. You may uncover new interests or find a job that offers new challenges. Or have the time to de-stress, reconnect with family and friends, improve your health and seriously assess your life as a golf course superintendent.

I know lots of people in many different industries who look back at the misfortune of being fired as the best thing that ever happened to them. There’s no guarantee, I make no promises. But if you’ve been smart and made the right arrangements, and if you’re still willing to work hard while being totally honest with yourself, the loss of a job can be the first step to gaining a great new life.

<https://www.golfcourseindustry.com/article/superintendent-firing-advice-golf/>

Tim Moraghan, principal, ASPIRE Golf (tmoraghan@aspire-golf.com). Follow Tim’s blog, Golf Course Confidential at [www.aspire-golf.com/buzz.html](http://www.aspire-golf.com/buzz.html) or on Twitter @TimMoraghan



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**2019 Meeting Schedule**

**June 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Country Club of Harrisburg

**September 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Huntsville Golf Club

**October 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Moselem Springs Golf Club



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