



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 27 Issue 1

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

April 2020

Governor Announces May 1 Statewide Reopening of Limited Outdoor Recreational Activities to Help Pennsylvanians Maintain Positive Physical, Mental Health

Harrisburg, PA – To ensure that Pennsylvanians have opportunities to safely enjoy outdoor recreation as a way to maintain positive physical and mental health, and in keeping with the commonwealth’s stay-at-home orders to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, Governor Tom Wolf today announced that the Wolf Administration is lifting some restrictions on businesses related to certain outdoor activities.

Starting Friday, May 1, golf courses, marinas, guided fishing trips and privately owned campgrounds may reopen statewide and are required to follow updated [life-sustaining business guidance](#) and [FAQ](#) issued by the Wolf Administration to include specifics for how these outdoor recreational industries can resume activities while prioritizing public health and safety. Campgrounds in state parks will remain closed through Thursday, May 14.

“Pennsylvanians have remained resilient throughout this COVID-19 crisis, and as we successfully continue to flatten the curve to protect our physical health, it is critical that we also focus on our physical and mental health during these extraordinary times. As the weather warms and daylight lengthens, enjoying time outdoors is an important way to manage stress,” Wolf said. “As we start to take measured, limited steps to reopen our commonwealth, reopening these industries will help to rebuild our economy and strengthen our mental health.”

According to a recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation, nearly half (45 percent) of adults in the United States reported that their mental health has been negatively impacted due to worry and stress over COVID-19 with the burden likely to continue even as the pandemic’s threat diminishes.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued [guidance](#) on visiting parks and recreational facilities. These guidelines must be followed statewide by businesses and when engaging in outdoor activity while the state disaster declaration remains in effect. The guidelines will ensure the safety of individuals and families engaging in outdoor activities and adherence will help slow the spread of COVID-19.

- **Stay close to home:** Pennsylvanians are encouraged to enjoy permitted outdoor recreational activities within their community and avoid crowding popular destinations.
- **Practice social distancing:** Maintain the recommended minimum 6 feet apart from fellow recreationists. Pennsylvanians are also encouraged to wear a mask or protective garment that covers the nose and mouth any time they go outside. If a parking lot at a park is full or there are too many people on the same trail, find an alternate place to recreate. Cross the street to avoid running directly past another runner or wait longer at a golf hole for a fellow golfer to move forward.
- **Minimize risk to others:** Individuals should only go out if they feel healthy and have not been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- **Practice good hygiene:** Wash hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol. Avoid surfaces that are touched often, such as doorknobs and handrails.
- **Have a plan:** Create a safety plan before heading outdoors. Explain to children the need to keep their distance from others, even if they happen to see a friend while outside. Discuss with partners, social distancing while on the golf course. Think through how to avoid other runners when waiting to safely cross a street at the same time.

“Practicing social distancing takes a little planning and patience but it is necessary if we want to continue to flatten the curve while ensuring that Pennsylvanians have opportunities to de-stress and get exercise,” Wolf said. “Finding the balance between enjoying the outdoors and staying safe is only possible when all Pennsylvanians are abiding by the same precautions. It’s critical that all Pennsylvanians adhere to the safety guidelines to allow for these outdoor activities to remain available to the public.”

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/governor-announces-may-1-statewide-reopening-of-limited-outdoor-recreational-activities-to-help-pennsylvanians-maintain-positive-physical-mental-health/>

President's Message

There were many times as a younger Assistant, heck even in 2019 as a first-year Superintendent, when I thought, "Gee...wouldn't it be awesome to maintain a golf course without any golfers? How absolutely pristine this place would be!" Well, I think we can all agree now that thought may have been a bit short-sighted, because we would surely welcome back golfers/members in droves right now.

First of all, I hope this message finds you and yours in a state of health. COVID-19 is obviously nothing to joke about and has affected many lives across the world. It has also offered a unique challenge to all of us, one that was certainly not covered during my turf schooling! Everyone's situation is a little different, whether they are a private/public facility, dealing with a board or single owner. The computations are endless! However, in my time getting involved with the association, I have found our members to be a savvy bunch, and I am confident that during these difficult days our ingenuity and perseverance will help us rise to the occasion. If there is anyone out there having a difficult time, maybe because of an extremely limited staff or stubborn boss that is handcuffing you even more than you already are, I encourage you to reach out to me or another member of the board. We are here to help!

Now for some turf talk...made those applications yet?? Depending on your location, I would say that our region was a good two weeks ahead in terms of weather, maybe even three. However over the past two weeks we have logged some near record lows and are currently amidst a Seattle-esque pattern. We are riding that springtime rollercoaster and while on it must be at least preparing for or have already made our pre-emergent applications. Adulicide applications for annual bluegrass weevil possibly have occurred or will soon and prevention for a myriad of root pathogens will need to be considered in the near future. Do not forget your education/experience and keep an eye on those phenological indicators.

Although there is uncertainty as to what the future holds, I do know that your board has been working hard to provide a great year for the association. I would like to thank Jeff Green for his successful term as President and for his guidance over the past few years. Jeff and I have built a great relationship, one that I solely attribute to our participation in the association. This is one of the many reasons to join...you never know who is literally down the road from you, dealing with the same stress and sometimes just in need of an outlet...thanks Jeff! I would also like to thank Wanda Fry, someone who I have been on the phone with a lot over the past few weeks! Wanda has been an incredible resource for not just me, but for our entire association. She has been on top of this pandemic from before the beginning, and across many different statewide platforms. Thank you Wanda! Chris Martin has also been on the frontlines fighting for a return of golf. Chris was able to hop on an important call that I was not able to attend at the beginning of all of this. That, along with the countless email trains and group texts, updating everyone on the latest, is cause for applause...thanks Chris! Finally, thank you John Erickson and Andrew Harrison, our newest members to the board. I look forward to getting to know you and working alongside you to better this association.



Golf in this state has a tight grip around it, one that we all feel should have been released by now. Hopefully the next time we see each other that will be the case. I know that many of you are hurting out there, in a time of the year where there are already not enough hours in a day. Be smart. Stay strong. Lean on one another. We are all individually tough, but together we are unstoppable. This pandemic has thrown quite the haymaker, but I for one cannot wait to get out of this, on the other side, still standing.

Regards,
Kevin Mark

2020 CPGCSA President Kevin Mark presents Past President Jeff Green with a commemorative plaque thanking him for his service on the Board of Directors. We look forward to his continued support and advise.

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Guidelines to a Safe Reopening of Golf in Pa.

The **Pennsylvania Alliance for Golf** embraces the opportunities for the successful reopening of golf, and maintaining a safe environment for all staff and golfers to maintain our open status during this pandemic. Even in these unprecedented times, with the COVID-19 threat affecting all aspects of life as we know it, golf is available as an outlet for people to exercise and provides one of the few respites from the confines of home. With vast areas of open space containing green grass, ponds and trees, a golf course can provide the ability for social distancing.

The Pennsylvania Alliance for Golf is committed to doing all it can to support our constituents by being a resource of information and a clearinghouse of best practices that will provide guidance to any and all facilities, operators, golf professionals, club officials and stewards of the game. As golfers and industry operators, let's all do our part to keep the game and our loved ones safe.

1. Staffing

- It is strongly recommended that all fees, including green, guest and cart fees be paid on line or via touchless payments prior to arrival.
- Staff to assist in bag handling anywhere on the property are prohibited. Players should retain personal possession of their golf bags which should not be stored in a baggage storage facility.
- Caddies should be prohibited.
- Staff will be permitted to provide, sanitize and maintain motorized carts and/or pull carts for individual use only. No shared carts are allowed.
- Staff will be allowed to ensure access to the property by authorized golfers only. No observers or non-golfers should be allowed on the course.
- Staff will be allowed to ensure enforcement of the health and safety restrictions outlined by the Governor. Special attention should be paid to prohibiting grouping in the parking lot and the first tee.
- Staff to maintain and sanitize on-course restrooms can be provided.
- Staff should wear protective gloves and face masks.
- Staff levels should be kept at a minimum appropriate to facility activity.

2. Common Use Items/Equipment

- All rakes should be removed from the bunkers. Players should smooth the sand after use using their shoes or a club.
- No tees, scorecards, ball markers or other common use items should be provided.

- Ball washers and water coolers should be removed. If they cannot be removed, clear signage forbidding their use should be provided.
- Flagsticks should not be removed while putting unless a "touchless" device has been installed. Raised cup liners or foam inserts should be used while leaving the flagstick in place.

3. Tee Times

- Tee times should be spaced, preferably no closer than fifteen minutes apart, to minimize chance of congregating on the first tee.

4. Social Distancing

- Social distancing should be strictly maintained at all times and places on the course.
- Handshakes should be eliminated.
- No balls or equipment should be shared or exchanged. Rental equipment is prohibited.
- Signage outlining these playing restrictions should be prominently posted.

5. Clubhouse/Pro Shop

- Pro shops should remain closed to in-person retail sales.
- All clubhouse/restaurants should remain closed, take out services permitted in strict accordance health and safety restrictions outlined by the Governor.
- Clubhouses should be closed, limited restroom access may be made available.



The **Pennsylvania Alliance for Golf** was formed to create a unified voice for the future of golf in Pennsylvania. Supporting Pennsylvania golf organizations include; Central Pennsylvania Chapter of Club Managers Association, Golf Association of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Golf Association, Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association, Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association (all seven Pa. Chapters), Philadelphia & Vicinity Club Management Association & Philadelphia Club Foundation, Philadelphia PGA Section, Pittsburgh Chapter of the Club Management Association of America, Tri-State Section PGA, Western New York PGA Section, Western Pennsylvania Golf Association.

Happy 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, **81 years later.**



Dr. Kaminski from PSU presents at the Annual Winter Educational Meeting

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Membership News

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

John Alexander, Superintendent
Armitage Golf Club Class A

Chris Braun, Owner
Synthetic Turf International of PA....Class AF

Douglas Hall, Superintendent
Bon Air Country Club Class A

Dallas Sledzik, Assistant Superintendent
Regents Glen Golf Club..... Class C

Randy Super, Superintendent
Valley Green Golf Course 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.

There are a few outstanding 2020 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

BACK2GOLF:

REOPENING RESOURCES

GCSAA knows your lives and businesses have been affected by the global COVID-19 Pandemic. While there is no lack of general information about the virus and its widespread impact, we wanted to provide you with resources specific to golf and business operations to assist you as golfers get back on the course. Check back as resources will be added regularly.

<https://www.gcsaa.org/resources/back2golf-resources>



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Planning intentionally for the new normal [opinion]

Rep. P. MICHAEL STURLA | Special to LNP



In recent weeks, necessary steps were taken by Gov. Tom Wolf to ensure the safety of Pennsylvanians throughout the commonwealth. Temporarily suspending nonessential business operations as well as implementing a stay-at-home order was deemed necessary and now factually found to be successful in limiting the spread of COVID-19.

For now, as we focus on saving lives and protecting workers, we must also be proactive and smartly plan on the reopening of our economy in a safe, effective and intentional manner. History proves similar worldly challenges can be overcome and that we will get through these uncertain times.

With an eye to the future, government, businesses and individual citizens should begin planning for the transition to a new normal. Even when the pandemic curve is bent downward, prepandemic social behaviors and business practices will not return without significant changes.

Health care professionals stress that widespread readily available and accessible testing should be in place before we consider lifting restrictions and that until there is a vaccine for COVID-19 that is available for everyone, any business that reopens will still have to practice social distancing and other safety protocols to operate.

My guess is that we will permanently adopt many pandemic-safe practices as part of our regular private and business routines, even after a vaccine, to avoid having to relive many of the same hardships in the event of any future viral threat.

We need to develop protocols, in collaboration with our health care professionals, for a post-surge/prevaccine period, and we should prepare ourselves for the reality that this could last a year or longer.

If the stay-at-home order is lifted and businesses are permitted to reopen without specific guidance, standards and protocols, Pennsylvanians will either lack the confidence to patronize these businesses or, worse yet, inappropriate practices will cause a resurgence of the virus, thereby prolonging the negative impacts on Pennsylvanians' lives, as well as our economy.

Everyone can work on this now to ensure that a plan is in place that safely invites Pennsylvanians to reengage with our economy when it is safe to do so.

Now is the time to create a smart and intentional transition strategy. For example, auto dealerships, restaurants, construction companies, dentists, golf courses, manufacturers, bankers, real estate agents, lawyers and other businesses all have statewide associations that could work with their members to develop safe social distancing, sanitation and logistics protocols that are, in most cases, unique to their industries or professions.

Once developed, these standards should be approved by the

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Pennsylvania Department of Health for content and effectiveness prior to any rollout, in order to instill confidence in the public and have a single managed site for all to access and research accurate, factual and pertinent information to live by.

By coming up with strategies now, businesses will have time to prepare for the new normal while their operations are currently suspended. For example, manufacturers may retool production lines to provide adequate social distancing. Restaurants and bars could reconfigure their dining areas. Dentists may adopt new sanitizing protocols. Real estate agents, car dealers and lawyers could configure safe office areas and institute new and advanced technology practices that would include virtual interactions with professionals such as lawyers and notaries. Like grocery stores, retail stores could erect shields at checkout counters.

In other words, individual businesses could prepare for the new normal before it gets here.

If we rush to get through this crisis, we will only prolong the confusion and disruption. However, if we all work together to develop and follow agreed-to protocols, I believe we can emerge from this crisis sooner and stronger.

Democratic state Rep. P. Michael Sturla's district includes all of Lancaster city and parts of Lancaster and Manheim townships.

Keep The Main Things, The Main Things

Elliott Dowling, Agronomist, Northeast Region
Volume 58, Issue 08 - April 17, 2020

Reducing the risk of major turf loss will be the focus of many courses this year. Proper timing and execution of preventive plant health treatments is important.

Many golf courses that I've communicated with recently indicate that they are operating with a much-reduced staff and are starting to feel pressure to either eliminate items from the budget or at least to only buy and apply what is absolutely necessary to maintain plant health. If you are faced with tough decisions and budget cuts, place top priority on any application that will reduce the risk of catastrophic turf loss. In my opinion, these applications include insecticide, fungicide and herbicide applications.



Grubs and annual bluegrass weevils can very quickly wreak havoc on turf health, killing large swaths of grass in a relatively brief time. Ensuring preventative products are applied at the appropriate time will help maintain manageable pest levels, just as you would hope to do in any year.

Diseases like *Pythium spp.*, brown patch and summer patch can cause significant turf discoloration and eventually turf loss if left untreated. Some diseases, such as summer patch, fairy ring and take-all patch require spring applications for preventative control. Despite budget and staffing challenges, well-timed applications to control these diseases should continue to be made this spring and throughout the season to reduce the risk of severe outbreaks.

I would also prioritize preemergence herbicide applications this spring without compromising on timing or product cost. Weeds can quickly overrun an area if left untreated. The price of postemergence weed management can ultimately be more than the price of preventative controls. Moreover, allowing the seed bank of weed species to increase in the soil this year could mean more applications are necessary to reduce the population during the coming years.

Because of the season-long ramifications of poor plant health, proper timing and execution of the aforementioned applications is critical this year when there are so many changing variables with course maintenance.



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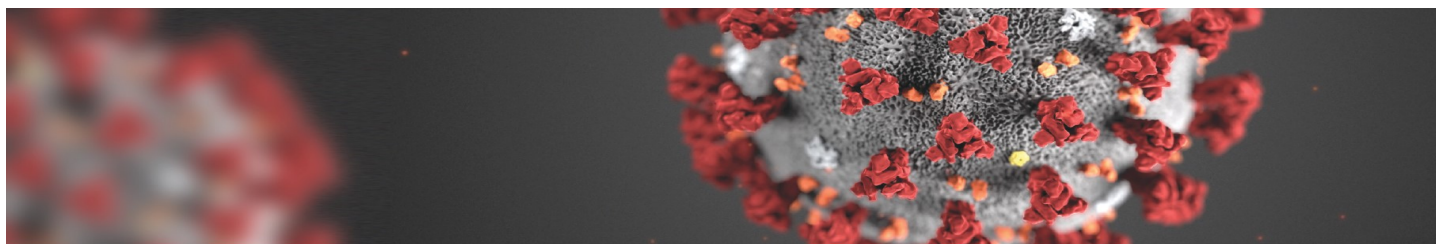


First, we want to thank you for all that you are doing in these extraordinary times. Your dedication and perseverance is inspiring. And we vow to support you in any way that we can. Towards that end, we'd like to offer you a **No Interest, No Payments for 9 Months Financing Plan***. So your plans can stay in place.

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Ten Steps All Workplaces Can Take to Reduce Risk of Exposure to Coronavirus

All workplaces can take the following infection prevention measures to protect workers:

- 1** Encourage workers to stay home if sick.
- 2** Encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- 3** Provide a place to wash hands or alcohol-based hand rubs containing at least 60% alcohol.
- 4** Limit worksite access to only essential workers, if possible.
- 5** Establish flexible worksites (e.g., telecommuting) and flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts), if feasible.
- 6** Discourage workers from using other workers' phones, desks, or other work tools and equipment.
- 7** Regularly clean and disinfect surfaces, equipment, and other elements of the work environment.
- 8** Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved cleaning chemicals with label claims against the coronavirus.
- 9** Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use of all cleaning and disinfection products.
- 10** Encourage workers to report any safety and health concerns.

For more information, visit www.osha.gov/coronavirus or call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).



2020 David Rafferty Dedication, Service & Leadership

This year's recipient of the David Rafferty Dedication, Service and Leadership Award is Gregory Fantuzzi. Greg has been a member of Central Penn GCSA since 1978 and has actively participated since then.

Greg graduated from Delaware Valley College in 1975 with a degree in Agronomy. His first exposure to golf transpired from having to "get a job in your major". Greg worked summers at Greenbrook Country Club through his 3 summers of college. After graduation he worked for Turfco Lawns Inc., an industrial landscaping company. In 1977, he became Assistant Superintendent at Lehigh Country Club until he went to Carlisle Country Club and spent the next 38 years.

Greg has also been very committed to the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council where he served on the board for 16 years, and was Chair of the Eastern PA PTC Conference and show.

Greg has been married to Tracy for 32 years and they have a son Sean who is 31 years old.



DSL Committee Member Greg Borzok presents Greg with the DSL jacket and crystal.

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Faron Stoops - 2014, Greg Borzok - 2006, Greg Fantuzzi - 2020, Jeff Fry - 2008, and Pete Ramsey - 2019

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