



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 30 Issue 2

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

May 2023

May Meeting

Pine Meadows Golf Complex

319 Pine Meadow Road, Lebanon, PA 17046

[Pine Meadows Golf Complex](#)

Host - Tom Kintzer

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Registration begins - 10:30 AM

Lunch - 10:45 AM

Golf - 11:30 AM Shotgun

Appetizers/Cocktails - Following Golf

USGA NORTHEAST REGIONAL UPDATE

The Springtime Yo-Yo

May 05, 2023

Brian Gietka, Agronomist, East Region

During my travels over the past few weeks, the theme remains the same:

“What happened to our head start on the 2023 season?” After brutal cold in December, the remainder of winter blessed the region with mild temperatures. While there was an early spring greenup, the weather has been



Cooler temperatures mean putting greens will be slow to recover from aeration.

unpredictable lately, with large temperature swings coupled with stretches of dry and wet weather.

With the yo-yo in temperatures and precipitation, a touch of cabin fever and golf calendars already published, courses find themselves playing aeration roulette when scheduling this springtime task. For the courses that have already aerated, temperatures have not allowed for consistent turf growth and recovery. The positive is that this disruptive, necessary process has been completed and the agronomy team can move on to other tasks. Unfortunately, the limiting factor in healing is not fertilizer or water, it is simply warmer temperatures. These will come soon enough so we just need to be patient. Additional fertilizer now will help to heal lingering aeration holes but it will cause an unnecessary flush of growth when temperatures do finally increase.

What hasn't been slow to grow is the number of rounds played. As many golfers are finding their way back to the course, a little communication can go a long way and help [educate them on what to expect](#). Here are some thoughts to take the edge off the uncertainty that comes with spring golf:

- Many putting surfaces are still slowly healing from aeration and the weather hasn't allowed maintenance teams to dial in the performance of their greens yet. Greens are typically a little slower and more receptive at this time of year so take advantage of the opportunity to use hole locations that might be too challenging for normal use. On greens with limited hole locations, this can alleviate traffic stress and give golfers something they're not used to.



Pine Meadows Golf Complex—

This championship golf course redefines beauty& challenge.

Pine Meadows Golf Complex was originally a 9 hole golf course built in 1960. Construction began in 1997 to expand to an 18 hole course and opened for play in May 1999. The course was designed and owned by Larry Rabold and constructed by Jay Crouse Inc.

Our Lebanon golf course features a beautiful natural setting among wetlands, bent grass fairways, Kentucky blue grass roughs and challenging contours. Pine Meadows Golf Complex features paved cart paths and spectacular bridges taking you over the beautiful Swatara Creek on multiple occasions.

Presidents Message May 2023

Welcome to the 2023 golf season. So far we have had a great winter and spring for getting projects done on the course. Facilities got off to record starts this year with play and revenue. Fortunately the golf boom continues and hopefully carries through 2023. I am excited for our golf meeting to start kicking off at Pine Meadows and then the WeeOne Challenge at Range End. We will be raising money to give back to the WeeOne Foundation who has so generously helped families in Central Penn over the years.

Over the last several months I have had several conversations with Commonwealth Drought Coordinator Susan Weaver about conditions throughout the state. She has been very helpful in educating me on changes and updates to the drought process. Even though we just had significant rainfall, we are still at a deficit. It has been over 20 years since we had to deal with these issues but we need an open line of communication with DEP and to be prepared. There are two steps in this process. First, update your chapter 110 annual reporting. They only require the last five years (2018-2022). Second, complete your drought emergency plan. Both of these are available on the DEP Greenport website. If you have questions, call DEP at 717-783-2400. They are very helpful with walking you through the process.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon,

Pete Ramsey
Central Penn President

The Springtime Yo-Yo....continued from page 1

- Soon enough, if not already, the rough will be growing aggressively and swallowing golf balls. It can be tough keeping up with rough mowing, especially if courses aren't yet fully staffed or labor is needed for other springtime tasks. Consider setting tee markers farther forward than normal to take some rough out of play and keep golfers moving while the rough is thick. This also saves wear and tear on the primary teeing areas for when they're needed most.
- Navigating the fluctuations in springtime conditions can be challenging, so communication is paramount. Golfers just want to play golf and may not understand the challenges facing the maintenance team. Remind golfers that playing conditions will improve soon enough. In the meantime, emphasize the importance of repairing ball marks, filling divots and following cart rules. With slow turf growth this spring, everyone's efforts will help protect the golf course.

Doing the right thing at the right time while balancing Mother Nature, the golf calendar and golfer expectations is always a challenge. This is exacerbated when growing temperatures are less than optimal. While every effort can be made, we cannot change what Mother Nature gives us so make the most of it. Be patient and set up the golf course for fun!

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Brian Gietka, agronomist, East Region – bgietka@usga.org

[Information on the USGA's Course Consulting Service](#)

[The Springtime Yo-Yo \(usga.org\)](http://usga.org)

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Membership News

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

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Director of Sales, W. S. Connelly

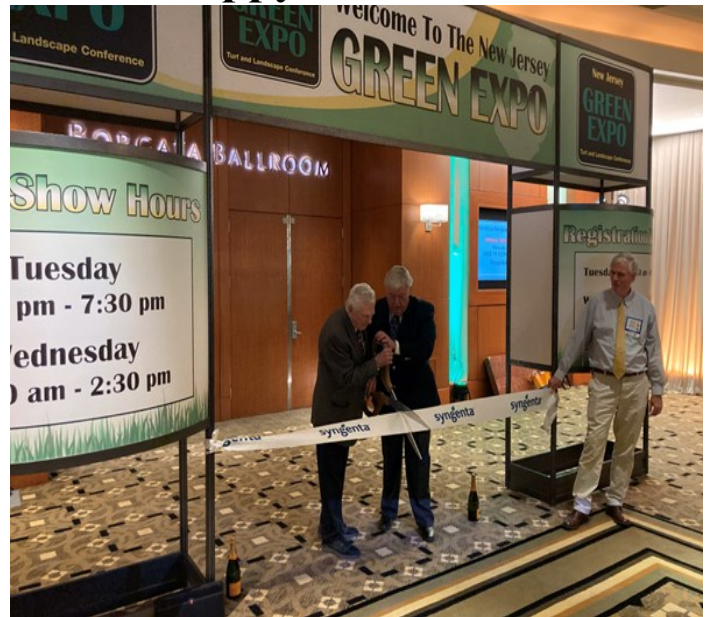
Fred Rapp..... Class AF
Regional Golf Sales Manager, Ewing Irrigation

Bob Windsheimer Class AF
Director of Operation, Walker Supply Inc

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

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The Wee One Foundation was founded in 2004 when friends of Wayne Otto, CGCS banded together to financially assist him in his battle with cancer. Wayne was a pioneer in the turf industry always searching for new and better ways to produce a finer playing surface. As Wayne learned more about his disease, he applied those same pioneering principles to overcome his illness.

Those that knew Wayne, knew a man small in stature and a man that placed more effort and enthusiasm into his friendships and care for his fellow man. As passionate as Wayne was about turf, his love for life could not measure. Wayne died in the fall of 2004 but his passion for life and his willingness to help still live on because of the work of the Wee One Foundation.

Through the perseverance and hard work of several friends of Wayne, the group developed its mission of helping those in need. Founded on the principle of assisting golf course management professionals (or their dependents) who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources, the Foundation has evolved into a cause that goes way beyond its initial reason for existence.

The Wee One Foundation was aptly named to honor Wayne. Nicknames are rarely chosen by their owner as in this case. On a golfing trip to Scotland with some friends, one of the group's caddies decided to place his wager on the "wee one". A small action (as legend has it) that turned out to be a sound decision by the caddie that day and a small gesture that has helped many other individuals through economic hardships due to overwhelming medical expenses. Simply, that is what the Wee One Foundation accomplishes today.

Since its inception in 2004 the Wee One Foundation has gifted over \$1,800,000 to those in need. The Foundation raises money through its membership, golf outings and sponsorships.

The members of the Wee One Foundation Benevolence Committee reviews all applicants and makes recommendations to the Wee One Foundation Board of Directors for financial support.

Eligibility

Applicants must be a golf course superintendent, assistant golf course superintendent or an individual employed by a company or organization that services the golf course management industry or a dependent of named applicant and who has suffered a catastrophic medical hardship.

Criteria for Selection

All applicants for assistance will be required to provide a written explanation of the medical hardship and indicate how the funds will be spent. The Wee One Foundation reserves the right to verify any information received.

Assistance

The amount of assistance provided to each approved applicant differs by each situation. All requests shall be processed by the Benevolence Committee and legitimate claims shall be presented to the Wee One Foundation Board of Directors. Legitimate claims are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. The Wee One Foundation from time to time may conduct a fundraiser from which all funds may be directed towards one individual.

One for the Wee One

One Cause: Help golf course management professionals and their dependents that are having trouble paying medical bills due to the lack of comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources.

One Goal: Raise \$10 million in 10 years to help support families in need forever. The One Percent Endowment Fund will provide a permanent source of supplemental funding for Wee One mission and new endeavors to benefit individuals and families in the golf course industry. 100% of funds generated through this campaign will be placed in a permanent endowment fund.

One Percent: Pledge one percent of your salary and donate this amount over the next ten years.

Example Contribution

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Women Golf Course Superintendents

By [John Torsiello](#)

Posted on October 13, 2022



The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America reports it has 299 female members among its 18,500 members worldwide, or just over 1.5 percent. That includes 61 female superintendents (Class A and B) — 54 in the U.S., three in Canada and one each in Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and South Korea. Although still a small percentage, that number has grown since first being counted in 1990. And,

only about half of all course superintendents in America are members of the Association, so the overall number of women in the role is likely higher.



Renee Geyer,
superintendent at
Canterwood Golf
and Country Club

As a youngster, Renee Geyer loved mowing lawns. Later, she decided she wanted to mow bigger lawns, i.e. as at a golf course. That led to the pursuit of a career in agronomy, eventually becoming one of a growing number of women breaking through what might be termed the grass ceiling.

“Golf course maintenance was a way for me to combine a love of the game with a love of the outdoors,” said Geyer, superintendent at Canterwood Golf and Country Club in Washington. “I was a late-in-life turf student, but it made complete sense to me once I realized that it was a viable career and something I knew I could accomplish.”

So “for a lot of reasons”, both personal and professional, Geyer decided that after three years of college she would transition into a completely different major from vocal music education and vocal performance. “It was when I realized that I needed to find my happiness and to live for myself that I found the turf industry. I had played golf as a teenager and loved mowing lawns around my neighborhood in my hometown.”

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Jill Seymour, superintendent at Charleston Springs Hill Golf Course

Jill Seymour, superintendent at Charleston Springs Hill Golf Course in New Jersey, had worked on a golf course for the summer and also fell in love....with agronomy that is. "I loved working outside, seeing the sunrise, the hours and the actual work." She worked at Penn State University's Valentine Turfgrass Research Facility "where it all began while concurrently earning a Bachelors in Turfgrass.

Said Seymour, "I had previously been in school earning a psychology degree but once I found out about this field I jumped at the chance to try it out. I enjoyed working with my hands, prepping the course for play for the golfers. I was doing course set up within my first week. The super kept throwing different jobs at me and I can't remember a single one that I disliked. I was instantly hooked. I'd finally found it!"

Laurie Bland, superintendent at Miami Springs Golf and Country Club in Florida was aware that there weren't many women in the golf course industry and felt there was a lot of room for growth and new challenges if she went after turf management as a career. Her decision didn't initially bring standing applause from family and friends.



Laurie Bland, superintendent at Miami Springs Golf and Country Club

"No one in my family or friends really understood why I would go down this path, but once they saw all that I was up too, they came around and thought it was cool.' Working in turf management might not be for everyone, said Bland. "It could be difficult task on your home/family life. You have to find a balance and always surround yourself with a great support system, both at work and at home. I was very fortunate from early on while attending college that I surrounded myself with great mentors who always checked in with me and made sure I was doing okay and being respected."

BLAND'S ADVICE TO WOMEN?

"Just simply try it out, if it is not for you at least you learn something new along the way." She has found support among peers. "In the last 17 years of being in this industry I have worked for and with a lot of men, all with vastly different cultural backgrounds, nationalities, and languages. None of them have ever said I wish you were a man. Although, I'm sure there are a few folks out there who probably still think that it is a 'man's job'; they probably haven't met a female superintendent yet."

Laurie Frutchey, superintendent at Rosedale Golf and Coun-

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try Club in Florida has found her career as a golf course superintendent to be both very rewarding and exasperating. "The pride I take in my work is what keeps me going day to day. On those days when some things are not as great as you hoped, you take a deep breath and wait for the next day. When things are as perfect as possible at the end of the day, you leave with a smile at a job well done. Those are the days that keep me coming back."



Laurie Frutchey, superintendent at Rosedale Golf and Country Club

Frutchey worked part time at her college town's golf course and also "loved every aspect of the job." She continued, "As I progressed through the field and learned all of the duties of a golf course superintendent, I felt at home. I was never questioned as to why I chose this career. My parents were very understanding, especially after they had paid for my teaching degree, as long as I was happy."

Frutchey has had "great experiences" with the mentors she

has had, the events she has supervised, the friends she has made, the places she has been employed at and the beauty she has witnessed in nature. She believes more women can be exposed to the possibility of making golf course maintenance a career. “Perhaps women can be inspired through leadership. Knowing others have accomplished the role and are being proactive in recruitment, even with first time hires. I’m hoping throughout my career, I may have changed a few minds of this being a man’s job. If I’ve ever felt discrimination it was not from my colleagues.”

Frutchey opined, “I have always felt that more women aren’t in the industry because they simply don’t know that this is a career path. After all, our goal as superintendents is to get the majority of the work done on the course before golfers arrive, which means that we aren’t seen very much. More women are asking questions about course [maintenance](#), which means that awareness of the career is increasing.”

Geyer said, “There are many things about this business that people automatically assume it is a ‘man’s job’. But the finesse that women can bring to the table is a great asset in many ways to either running a golf course or being a part of the maintenance team in some capacity. It is so much about visibility. If women don’t see other women in this line of work, then they don’t think that it is an option for them. You have to see it, then you can be it.”

Geyer views the fact that a greater number of women looking into agronomy as a career as a “great step forward”. She continued, “It’s all about visibility, and an understanding that this is a viable career for women. After having met a small group of industry women back in 2019 at an event, the circle just continued to grow. We now know that each other exists, we support each other when we can, and are aware that by us doing what we love to do it may inspire a young woman to go into this field. Social media is one way we keep in touch, and it is great that others can get glimpses into what we do for a living.”

Seymour said, “When young women and girls see us out there preparing the course.....they might think ‘Hey...that looks interesting!’ Especially when they see the friendships and camaraderie between the women doing the work.”

Shelia Finney, Senior Director of Member Programs for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, pointed to her group’s involvement with youth organizations such as the National FFA, as increasing awareness of career opportunities in the

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Shelia Finney, Senior Director of Member Programs for the Golf Course Superintendents Association

turfgrass industry. The group's First Green introduces young students to careers through a STEM education field trip to a golf course.

"I feel that the most important thing that GCSAA can do for our female members is provide the platform and resources for them to be able to connect with each other," said Finney, "The reality is that they are spread out across the country and sometimes don't even know each. When they are able to connect, the support network that is created is vital to creating a community where they can

thrive as turfgrass professionals. Of course, all our members support each other through the overall community. This creates another network that provides lifelong friendships and support systems."

At the group's conference and tradeshow there is a yearly panel discussion that centers on women. "Everyone is invited to this event, not just women," said Finney. "The Ladies Leading Turf panel has a different focus each year and there is a networking reception following that is heavily attended. It's been exciting to see this event grow each year."

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The organization held its first ever GCSAA Women's Task Group meeting this year at its headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. "There was a great deal of brainstorming on how to encourage more women to choose the turfgrass industry as a career track," said Finney. "The task group will be diving into how to create even more opportunities and resources for connection, growth and career success.

Geyer offered some advice to those women considering a career in agronomy, "It isn't always glamorous, and it certainly isn't always easy, but it is so gratifying once you achieve a goal that you have set out for yourself, or when your team accomplishes something incredibly worthwhile. Taking positive steps forward doesn't happen every day, but once you conquer an obstacle it makes you want to achieve more. That is the kind of business/career this is."

2023 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

June 22	Range End Golf Club
September 14	Schuylkill Country Club
October 18	Country Club of York



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Golf Course Superintendents Association

Dear CPGCSA Member:

The CPGCSA Board of Directors has developed a scholarship for students pursuing a career in Golf Course Management and/or for children of a member of CPGCSA seeking any type of higher education. The deadline for applications is July 31st.

Listed below are the CPGCSA Scholarship Guidelines:

Eligible Candidates:

Applicants must fall into one of the following categories:

- * Students majoring in Golf Course Management at an accredited institution and are employed at least part time by a CPGCSA member.
- * Students majoring in Golf Course Management at an accredited institution and are currently a member of CPGCSA in good standing.
- * Students attending an accredited institution and are the child of a CPGCSA member in good standing.

Guidelines for Applicants:

- * Applicants must have completed at least one year at an accredited institution.
- * Applicants must submit a typed essay of no more than 500 words outlining his or her career goals and why they feel they are deserving of the CPGCSA Scholarship.
- * Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation. (One from an instructor and one from a CPGCSA member)
- * Applicants are eligible to receive this award one time.
- * The scholarship will be paid directly to the college or university.

Timeline

- * July 31 - Deadline for submission of applications.
- * August - Board will review applicant's information, approve and notify recipient.
- * Annual Scholarship Tournament – ceremonial presentation of the award.

Attached please find a scholarship application. Additional applications can be obtained by contacting CPGCSA office at (717) 279-0368 or cpgcsa@hotmail.com. If you know of a deserving student, Central Penn GCSA can help.

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Scholarship Committee

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