

The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 31 Issue 3

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

June 2024

June Meeting

Carroll Valley Golf Course

78 Country Club Trail, Fairfield, PA 17320

Carroll Valley Golf Course | Liberty Mountain Resort

Host: Jamie Dennison

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Registration begins - 8:15 AM Golf - 9:00 AM Shotgun Lunch - following golf

CPGCSA Championship Tournament



Unique in design, stunning in scenery, abundant in amenities and painless in price, Carroll Valley Golf Course at Liberty Mountain Resort really does have it all. The marvelous 18-hole masterpiece offers extreme diversity with its six par 3s, five par 5s and seven par 4s that test every aspect of the golf game. Not to mention, the resort also offers hotel accommodations along with restaurant service to take a quick pick-up game with your buddies and turn it into a weekend getaway.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL UPDATE

Paint It Like Picasso

June 07, 2024

Elliott L. Dowling, Regional Director, East Region



A light syringe around the hole location in the morning can give you peace of mind on a hot summer day.

There was discussion during the U.S. Women's Open telecast about the maintenance team adding a little water to the greens around the hole location. This is a common practice at USGA championships and something that can be used for routine course setup too.

Our championship agronomy team commonly refers to this practice as "painting the cup," or providing a light syringe around the day's hole location. Our primary goal is to add a little more water where we expect a lot of foot traffic. When the weather is dry like we had at Lancaster Country Club, preventing midday wilt and maintaining adequate putting green health is our utmost priority. Just a little additional water before play starts is often enough to stave off wilt until we can get back on the greens later that day.

Another reason this is done is to maintain playability around challenging hole locations. A little additional water can prevent a hole location from becoming too difficult. Keep in mind that this practice will not work on holes cut into a steep slope or on greens that are too firm, but if the slope is slight or the greens are on the firm side of average, a light syringe may be enough. Next time you're looking to buy yourself some time on a hot, dry day or want to provide a little security for a tricky hole location, give "painting the cup" a try.

Northeast Region Agronomists

Darin Bevard, senior director, Championship Agronomy – dbevard@usga.org

Elliott L. Dowling, regional director, East Region – edowling@usga.org
Brian Gietka, agronomist –

bgietka@usga.org

Information on the USGA's Course Consulting Service
Contact the Green Section Staff

Active Listening to Build a Career in the Golf Industry

Being an excellent listener is important in your professional life, and spills over into lasting professional friendships. May 2024 | Carol D. Rau

In this month's Career column, I want to encourage one simple action item as we enter the summer and all the challenges it will bring: Listen up! Choose to intentionally embody a posture of genuine listening, learning and growing as you lead your team and operations at your golf facility.

Let's highlight areas of professional life where the art and skill of listening well could ignite the career breakthrough you are seeking.

This summer, your calendar will probably include items such as green committee meetings, social events at your golf facility or maybe even a job interview. Many GCSAA members have shared with me that they are not inclined to feel confident naturally in these settings. Just as Malcolm



"The art of conversation lies in listening. - Malcolm Forbes

Forbes infers, a key to improving your performance and poise starts with focusing first on listening well, rather than fixating on what we are going to say.

Start with body language by turning toward the person speaking and using affirming gestures, such as nodding and making good eye contact. Practice not looking ahead to what you plan to say, but rather train yourself to first listen and learn. Excellent listening includes asking questions and creating dialogue where the speaker feels heard and understood.

Surround yourself with great listeners and communicators to learn and grow your active listening skills. One great example of someone who might be right at hand for many GCSAA members is your PGA Professional. Many of them have exceptional listening and communication skills. Learn from them. Stand alongside your facility PGA Pro when they are greeting golfers at the putting green on a Saturday morning as a way to activate your listening "muscles" on a regular basis and gain confidence in interacting with your customers.

At networking events, make an intentional choice to listen well and invest your valuable time in genuine conversations to connect beyond shallow pleasantries. Approach business functions, social events and local GCSAA chapter meetings as opportunities to learn from others. Before attending events, review your go-to open-ended questions that you can ask if any nervous situations arise. My personal favorite, particularly in a room full of golf industry professionals, is to ask what they like to do when they aren't at the golf course. This is a great way to find connections through learning what is important in their life through hobbies and recreation, instead of just reciting job titles and golf facility names.

Be present. We all know the feeling when we are speaking to someone who keeps looking around the room for the next conversation or is distracted by their phone. Excellent listeners make us feel valued and truly heard. Of course, you will eventually need to end the conversation, so prepare a go-to exit statement to end conversations well.

Finally, becoming an excellent listener is not only important in our professional life and career advancement, but it also spills over into our professional friendships that we build along the way. There is joy in the camaraderie of building relationships with the men and women in this industry who share your experiences in the life of managing golf courses.

As a final encouragement as we seek to become exceptional listeners, I will end with this quote from Edward Cunningham, who authored the book "Reciprocity." As GCSAA members, let's live this out as we build relationships in this industry we love so much: "Friends are those rare people who ask how we are, and then wait to hear the answer."

Carol D. Rau, PHR, has been a career consultant and speaker with GCSAA since 2005 and specializes in golf and turf industry careers. Rau is a frequent speaker at national, regional and local GCSAA conferences and teaches GCSAA webinars.

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Lancaster Country Club Prepares for 79th U.S. Women's Open

Josh Saunders and crew are ready to welcome players and attendees May 30.

May 2024 | Howard Richman

Josh Saunders was born in Ridgeway, Va., home to the Martinsville Speedway, one of the first paved stock car racing oval tracks.

Saunders certainly seems to be running on all cylinders at his golf course.

Saunders, director of grounds at Lancaster Country Club in Lancaster, Pa., will oversee the 79th U.S. Women's Open from May 30 to June 2. "We're here for the best players in the world, and we want to make it an unbelievable week for them and our team," says Saunders, a 20-year GCSAA member. "We want to focus on walking away from this week and remembering it."

For USGA Senior Director of Championship Agronomy Darin Bevard, Saunders is impossible to forget. "First of all, he's a great superintendent. He's super organized, extremely thorough," says Bevard, a 34-year GCSAA Educator member. "He stated to me the reason he wanted to be golf course superintendent is to host championship golf events. The bottom line is, we're going to be very prepared for whatever comes our way."

Saunders' path includes school at Virginia Tech and internships, one of them at Westchester Country Club in Rye, N.Y., under 49-year GCSAA member Joe Alonzi, CGCS Retired, then David Dudones, a GCSAA Class A superintendent and 25-year GCSAA member still at the club.



The team that will oversee the U.S. Women's Open this month includes, from left, Cameron Foreman, Eli Thompson, Matt Wolfe, director of grounds Josh Saunders, Nathan Schell and Zachary Smith.

Photo by Mark Pynes

And here's another internship moment in Saunders' life that happened 20 years ago that never gets old.

He came home one summer day in 2003, following his internship at WCC, and friends were there. One of them said, ""You've got to listen to this message." So, back in the days of answering machines, Saunders pushed the button. He heard the voice of Brad Owen, senior director of agronomy and 38-year association member at Augusta National Golf Club, home of the Masters. Saunders' response to Owen's offer to intern at ANGC? "Kind of shocked. Excited. Humbled. I felt my future was ready to take off with that on my résumé," says Saunders, who more than likely soared higher in that moment than Phil Mickelson's jump for joy after he birdied the 72nd hole to win his first major with Saunders in attendance on the maintenance team in 2004.



Lancaster Country Club in Lancaster, Pa., is home to this month's U.S. Women's Open.

Photo courtesy of the USGA

The team that Saunders has at Lancaster CC includes superintendent Matt Wolfe; senior assistant Nate Schell; and assistants Zach Smith, Cameron Foreman and Eli Thompson. They oversee a club that hosted the U.S. Women's Open in 2015, and it has changed somewhat in the past nine years. Starting in 2017, a new Rain Bird irrigation system was installed. Five years later, a \$2.5 million renovation was launched, featuring restoration of 11 original bunkers mapped out by designer William Flynn more than 100 years ago. Also, a 14,500-square-foot putting green went into the former pool location on the back side of the clubhouse near the first tee. Forward tees have been installed to the course, fairways have been altered, and nearly a dozen acres of native grasses have been added. Trees were cleared, providing improved views. "Now you can see 14 holes on the property," Saunders says.

In March, Saunders was wishing it would stop raining, with weekly showers a common occurrence up until that point (also of note is that the Conestoga River runs through the course). Lancaster CC has A1-A4 bentgrass greens, which were redone in 2011 (from a bentgrass/Poa annua blend). "We're not pushing it (the greens) as we get closer to the championship," Saunders said.

"We've developed good organic matter, have a lot of body, so firmness is our main focus."

Bevard, who visited Saunders twice in a three-week span from March into the first days of April, saw lots to like. "In theory, it's a

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fantastic time to host a championship in this neck of the woods. With the work that they've done with tree removal, renovation and that type of stuff, it's really a pretty good site for growing grass now," he said. "Their greens are such that they don't have to be 13 feet on the Stimpmeter to be fast. With the bunker renovation, they relocated some bunkers that are going to provide a great challenge for these ladies that play the golf course."

Pete Wendt, CGCS, has no doubts that Saunders will provide something special. He saw Saunders deliver daily when he worked for Wendt at Kinloch Golf Club in Manakin Sabot, Va. "He was the first guy at work, the last to leave. He showed a thirst for learning," says Wendt, a 30-year GCSAA member who is director of golf courses and grounds at famed Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md. "He's dedicated to his craft, has a crazy work ethic, and he's dedicated to the club. I know he loves the game of golf. I know, too, I wouldn't be where I am without guys like Josh."

Plenty will be on Saunders' mind during the U.S. Women's Open. "I want to make the membership proud and the community proud. That will be in the back of my mind," says Saunders, who came to Lancaster CC in 2019 from Longue Vue Club in Verona, Pa.

His father, Mitch, never is out of his mind. They played at Augusta National while Josh was an intern there. A highlight for him was seeing his father, who didn't play a lot of golf, knock a 3-wood onto No. 6 to 3 feet and record a birdie. "It was the last round of golf I played with my dad," Saunders says of Mitch, who died in August 2016. "This (Women's U.S. Open) will be tough. I wish he'd be by my side."

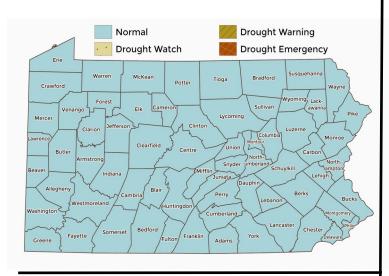
His mother, Gayle, will be there. After all, she is one of his biggest fans. And she has been instrumental in his becoming an effective golfer, whose handicap was once a 2 and now hovers around 6, a casualty of his dedication to Lancaster CC, the focus of women's golf worldwide this month.

"As a teen, mom dropped me off at the golf course every morning," Saunders says. "She considered it my daycare, and it definitely led to the path of my career."

Howard Richman is GCM's associate editor

Current Drought Declaration Status

6/10/2024



2024 Meeting Schedule

June 13

Carrol Valley Golf Resort Host – Jamie Dennison

October 7

Hanover Country Club Host – Bill Brooks



JUST ASK A GENESIS TEAM MEMBER

Sunset Golf Course - May 2024

Beautiful view of the Harrisburg International Airport and Dauphin County



Thanks to Bob Gomboc and Sam Risteff for a great day on the golf course!



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.

Mark Blest, Associate Brand Manager Lebanon Turf Class AF
Kevin Keezer, Sales Rep Turf Trade
Jeff Rice, Mid Atlantic Market Specialist FMC Class AF
Nate Rogers, Sales Rep Synatek Solutions
Kevin Rundstrom, Territory Manager The Aquatrols Company Class AF
Matthew Schifano, Account Manager Ewing Outdoor Supply Class AF
William Staz, Assistant Superintendent Hershey Country ClubClass C
Joe Szkalak, Superintendent Pilgrims Oak Golf CourseClass FM
Eli Thompson, Assistant Superintendent Lancaster Country ClubClass C
Chris Toporski, Territory Rep Synatek Solutions
Kyle Woodfield, Superintendent Foxchase Golf ClubClass 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.

Membership information is also available on the Central Penn website at:

www.cpgcsa.org



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Research Update from PSU

Turf to Soybeans

Mike Fidanza, Ph.D. - Professor of Plant and Soil Science, Penn State Berks Campus

There was a popular song in 1970 called <u>Big Yellow Taxi</u> by Joni Mitchell. The phrase that resonates throughout the song was "*They paved paradise, put up a parking lot.*" At the Berks Campus, specifically at the Center for the Agricultural Sciences and a Sustainable Environment, the par four golf hole was planted over and became a soybean field! During this past spring 2023, a local farmer was granted permission to convert the three acres of creeping bentgrass, tee, fairway, and putting green, and tall fescue rough into a soybean field in exchange for the generous rent of \$50 per acre. This was very unfortunate with perhaps a bit of bias.

The generosity of Pennsylvania's turfgrass industry made it possible to install that teaching and learning facility. Back in 2017, we conducted a field day event, where irrigation was installed and the turfgrass areas were seeded and established. It was only possible because of donations of materials from Turf Equipment and Supply Company, donations of equipment use from George Ley Irrigation and *other* companies, and donation of time and sweat equity from many golf course superintendents, industry professionals, and our undergraduate students too. The entire cost would have been over \$120,000 or more if we had to actually pay a company to install that entire complex. Of note, Gary Nolan and his brother Greg Nolan did the initial shaping of the site. Also of note, the golf hole layout was designed by golf course architect Jim Nagle, an alum of West Virginia University. I am so grateful and appreciative for all the industry support, as this was a great example of outreach and community engagement. But as that famous saying goes: "no good deed goes unpunished".

The site was being professionally maintained by M. John Nairn, who was providing part-time technical support for all the turfgrass test and demonstration acreage, which included climate resilient irrigation and mowing strategies. Nairn retired in December 2021, and the Campus would not replace his position. The Campus' maintenance department, however, agreed to take-over the mowing. But, in the end, they could not mow or maintain the site as they originally intended. Thus, the Campus decided to rent the land to a local farmer. After all, "... it's just grass" as someone commented. The site was seeded into soybeans overtop all of the creeping bentgrass and tall fescue. Unfortunately, most of the many irrigation sprinkler heads were damaged from the seed planter as well.

So, let's hope that the Berks Campus will someday reestablish that tee, fairway, putting green, and rough site as well as support under-

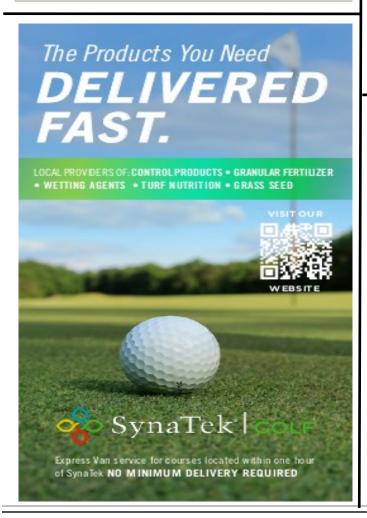
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graduate student learning and discovery as well as support community outreach and engagement and our sustainable grassland ecology learning initiatives. Until then, we can let the lyrics to <u>Big</u> Yellow Taxi remind us:

Don't it always seem to go That you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. The paved paradise, put up a parking lot.



This is what soybeans look like when planted into a creeping bentgrass fairway.











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FYI.....

Hershey's Kiss May Soon Be More Than Just a Kiss; It Could Be The State Candy

Published: Mar. 25, 2024, 4:34 p.m.

Jan Murphy | jmurphy@pennlive.com

The Hershey's Kiss is the original individually wrapped and portion-controlled chocolate confection. More than 70 mil-

lion of them are produced daily in Pennsylvania. And the tiny sweet treat has been around for more than 125 years and is sold in a variety of flavors and sizes.

That's why state Rep. Tom Mehaffie, whose Dauphin County district includes Hershey's corporate head-quarters, said the iconic Kiss deserves the distinction of being named the commonwealth's official state candy.



The Hershey's Kiss is gaining traction in the effort to be named Pennsylvania's official state candy. Dan Gleiter | dgleiter@pennlive.com

His <u>legislation</u> granting the candy this official status is

expected get a vote by the House this week. His bill sailed through the Tourism and Economic Recreational Development Committee, 25-0.

Supporters point to the huge economic benefits the Kiss has delivered for Pennsylvanians from the longshoremen at the Port of Philadelphia who unload the cocoa, to the truck drivers who deliver it to the factory in Derry Township to the dairy farmers who provide the milk and factory workers who produce the candies.

Critics have said, what about Pennsylvania's other candy makers? Just Born Quality Confections in Bethlehem, home to Peeps, or Pulakos Chocolates, which opened in Philadelphia in 1889 and moved to Erie in 1903; or Montgomery County's Asher's Chocolate Co. that has been around since 1892.

Mehaffie, a Republican, acknowledges that there are some great candy makers in this state.

"The one thing that sets Hershey aside from others is who it supports and what it does," Mehaffie said, referring to Milton Hershey School. "It supports disadvantaged children to actually have a chance at success in life."

What's more, he said, this particular Hershey candy has its own street lights, it's the symbol raised on New Year's Eve in Hershey and it certainly has global acclaim, being sold in approximately 85 countries.

"It's not a bar. It is truly a different kind of candy when you look at it," Mehaffie said. "And the best thing about it – everybody loves a Kiss."

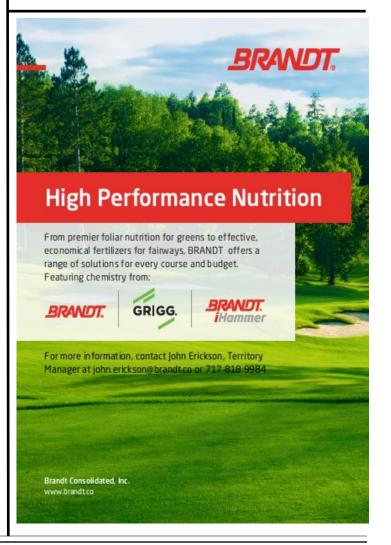
Rep. Russ Diamond, R-Lebanon County, sought to limit the length of the Kiss' official designation to five years.

He said unlike official state symbol designations given to an animal, plant or geographical feature that can't "ever be taken away from the control of this commonwealth," it is possible The Hershey company could be subject to a hostile takeover by a foreign entity "which do not abide by the rules of American tradition.

This legislation would "tie the good name of this commonwealth" in perpetuity to that potential situation, he said. But his attempt to amend that five-year limit into the bill failed to garner enough support for the House to even consider it.

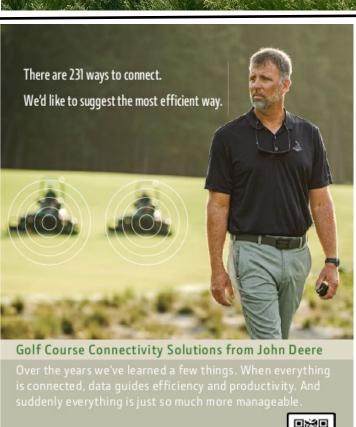
Attempts in the <u>House</u> and <u>Senate</u> to name the Kiss the official state candy in the last legislative session were foiled. **Pun intended.**

Hershey's Kiss may soon be more than just a kiss; it could be the state candy - pennlive.com



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David Rafferty Dedication, Leadership, & Service Award

The Board of Directors is seeking nominations for the 2023 Rafferty Award. This award recognizes dedication, leadership, and service to CPGCSA and its members.

The award will honor the memory of Dave Rafferty. Dave was a Past President of our association as well as the Northwest PA GCSA and the Allied GCS of Pennsylvania. He was a forerunner in educating our elected and regulatory officials to the benefits of golf turf to the environment.

This award is designed to honor current and former superintendents attaining a minimum of 14 years association membership. This is the number of years Dave was a CPGCSA member. All classes of membership shall be eligible to receive the award although superintendent or retired superintendent nominees will receive favored consideration. The award is dedicated to a superintendent who worked hard for our association. Other classes of membership will not be ignored but must show outstanding dedication, leadership and service.

DSL Nomination Letter/Form







The following offices will be up for election for the GCSAA Board of Directors at the 2025 Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

- President
- Vice president
- Secretary/treasurer
- Director (four positions)

The Call for Nominations deadline is on June 30. If your chapter will be nominating a candidate for the 2025 GCSAA Board of Directors, please have your letter of nomination to Shelia Finney, Senior Director, Member Programs by the deadline. You can send it to her via mail or email. Even if your candidate is an incumbent, we still ask for the nomination letter.

Here is a link to the Call for Nominations with a list of offices up for election in in 2025. It also has directions on how to nominate a candidate.

2025 Call for Nominations | GCSAA



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.

Sincerely,

Scholarship Committee

2024 Scholarship Application

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Name That Member.....



Ron Brown, Randy Howard, John Boyd

Look for more unidentified members in future issues! Thanks for the help!