

THE GREEN SHEET

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

— Founded April 11, 1939

HARRISBURG

Course:
HIDDEN VALLEY

Host:
Jeff Jones / Bob Jones

Date:
August 23rd, 1990

CARLISLE

READING

Lunch: Anytime from restaurant.

Cocktails: 5:00 to 6:30

Dinner: 6:30 - Cookout
Steak, Baked Potato, Soup, Salad.
Dress is casual.

\$10.00

Shower Facilities: Yes

Golf: Anytime between 11:00 & 1:00 PM
Quota Tournament

Carts: \$8.00 per person
(not mandatory)

Reservations: By August 21st
Pro Shop 739-4455

Speaker: Bill Kirkpatrick on
"Pond Management"

Board of Directors Meeting
will be 10:00 AM

YORK

GETTYSBURG
CHAMBERSBURG

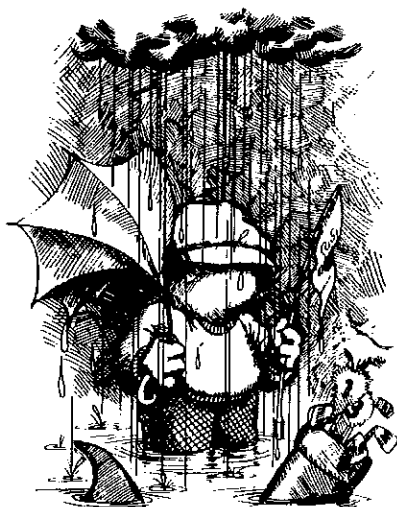
LEBANON
LANCASTER

HOST SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE

Hidden Valley is run by Jeff and Bob Jones, who as cousins, took over last year for long-time superintendent Howard Merrick. Jeff is married and has one son, Jeff Jr. Bob is married and has two children, Amy and Adam.

COURSE PROFILE

Nestled in the foot hills of the PA coal region, Hidden Valley was Schuylkill County's first public golf course, designed by James Harrison. It opened May 1, 1958. Today's course is a 6,000 yard par 72 layout with bentgrass greens and bluegrass fairways. Two ponds and a gentle meandering stream make the course scenic yet challenging, tee to green. Cart paths were installed last summer for year round play.



Patti has information about scholarships available from: GCSAA, Educational Aid from the Legacy Award Program from GCSAA, and a scholarship from the Central PA Chapter of Club Managers. Please contact Patti Wall at 508 Spring House Rd., Camp Hill, PA 17011 for more information or call (717) 761-8353 for Patti.

THANKS

Many thanks to our Host Superintendent Paul Krout for a wonderful outing! Aside from a few directors "getting lost" — the day went smoothly. Great job Paul!

PTC NEWS

The PTC Pesticide Regulation Committee met with officials from PDA to discuss current and future pesticide regulation issues. Here are a few pertinent notes from the meeting:

Your Pesticide Application Business license number must appear on all pesticide application vehicles. This would include your greens and fairway spraying equipment. The number doesn't need to appear on hand carried units such as 2 & 3 gal. Poly sprayers. Monsanto's Expidite systems, etc. These units are not "vehicles".

PDA is preparing press releases for early July to announce "Prior notice for Hypersensitivity" and the business license rules. Spot checks for business licenses will begin July 1st.

What "on site" means —

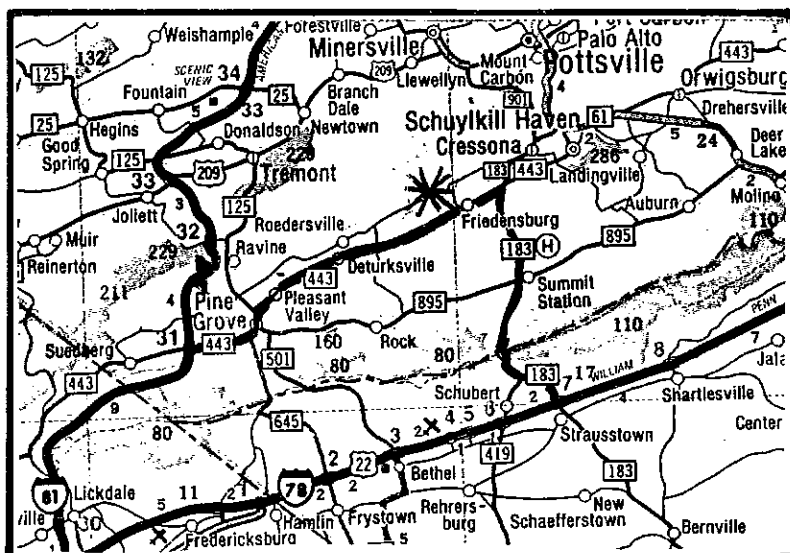
If a certified pesticide applicator is supervising a "registered technician," the certified individual must be available within 5 hours if needed.

When supervising pesticide application by non-certified or registered personnel, the certified pesticide supervisor must be "on site". This means in direct contact at all times, such as in sight and vocal contact. Just being on the golf course doesn't count!

All license expire Sept. 30 of each year unless re-applied for by that date. No grace period will be allowed. If you apply, but do not receive your license by Oct. 1st, you can't legally apply pesticides. It would be wise to return your license application ASAP. They will be mailed out early August.

Representative Fox is planning another bill for this summer or fall. Watch for more information in this newsletter or from PTC.

Directions to Hidden Valley...



Loose Impediments

Frank Hannigan

A super job

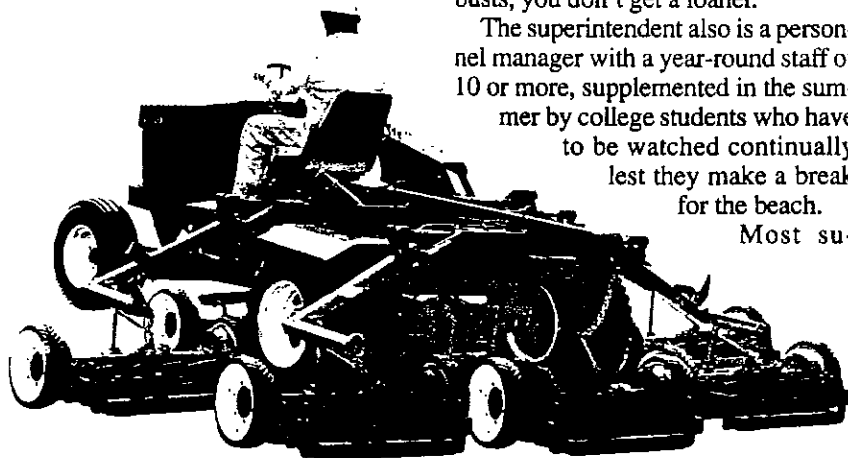
We live in a society of declining standards. It's not easy to put your finger on anything that's better today than it was 20 or 30 years ago. Our air is lousy, our politics disgraceful and our music appalling. Golf courses, though, are in better shape than they used to be.

That's partly because there is more knowledge about how to maintain delicate turfgrass under conditions never intended by nature, but mostly because today's turfgrass managers are better at their jobs.

If somebody gave me a new golf course to manage along with a decent budget, the first thing I'd do would be to hire the best golf course superintendent money can buy.

After that, I'd probably get a little cheap. But so what? The only part of the operation that matters—the course itself—would be in the best of hands.

"The machines used to maintain a golf course are complicated. A fancy modern fairway unit costs as much as a Mercedes—and when it busts, you don't get a loaner."



Golf course superintendents historically have been the game's forgotten servants because they were hidden behind compost piles two miles from the clubhouse and wore old clothes.

If the clubhouse manager and the pro stopped showing up for work, the club members would be inconvenienced. But if the course superintendent and his staff go on strike, the game is over. In two weeks, you would have what's known as a "passive recreational park" with a lot of tall weeds.

The superintendent's relatively low station in life was mirrored by his income—traditionally lower than his colleagues, the clubhouse manager and the pro.

Superintendents are no longer hurting in the financial department. Their salaries soared during the 1980s. The national average for an 18-hole course is close to \$60,000, but salaries of \$100,000 are not uncommon, and the superstars of the trade earn \$125,000 and more.

And why not? The job has become increasingly technical and demanding. Annual maintenance budgets of \$500,000 are commonplace, and that figure doesn't include the cost of new equipment. The machines used to maintain a golf course are complicated. A fancy modern fairway unit costs as much as a Mercedes. And when it busts, you don't get a loaner.

The superintendent also is a personnel manager with a year-round staff of 10 or more, supplemented in the summer by college students who have to be watched continually lest they make a break for the beach.

Most su-

perintendents are college-trained. Many have four-year degrees in agronomy from such universities as Penn State and the University of California at Davis. Others have two-year associate degrees from various state institutions. Still others train by taking two 10-week winter programs, a specialty of Rutgers University in New Jersey. Graduates usually start out as assistant superintendents. The better ones are running their own shows by their mid- to late 20s.

Despite the favorable trends, the maintenance of American golf courses continues to be beset with some basic flaws. Foremost among these is the tendency to overwater. Overwatering is a cop-out on the part of superintendents who know better but react to the pressure of golfers who want everything a rich green. (Joe Dey, former executive director of the USGA, once labeled this hue "cemetery green.")

Overwatering is a short-term fix and a long-range disaster. It weakens the root system of the grass, causes compaction, invites plant diseases and certainly encourages the spread of the annual bluegrass called *Poa annua*—which is okay for golf courses until it's subjected to high heat and humidity. Then it tends to die. When you see a brown golf course in the summer, you're looking at dead *Poa annua*.

Superintendents will also tell you they dump water on courses to achieve that phony green look because televised golf tournaments push them in that direction. The look of the Augusta National GC during the Masters telecast has become the standard, not only in this country but throughout the world.

There is also increasing pressure to produce putting greens that are super-fast, like those at The Masters or at a U.S. Open. Golfers don't understand that those greens have been specially

continued

prepared for one week. They can't possibly be maintained at such speeds throughout the year.

Superintendents also have a problem with the high priests of modern golf course architecture. The complaint is that the sexiest looking courses, those built to attract attention when photographed from helicopters, are difficult and expensive to maintain because of their slopes and overall artificiality.

I heard a superintendent from Austin complain at a conference of his peers that he is expected to maintain an "agronomic zoo" because the architect, in a frenzy of false creativity, installed seven varieties of grass, only three of which made any sense in the middle of Texas.

The hot new topic among superintendents is the environment. People who take care of golf courses are, by their very nature, pro-environment. They wouldn't have gravitated toward their line of work if they were indifferent to the look and feel of the outdoors.

But they find themselves on the defensive and accused of being chemically careless. In a profession of 10,000, there are bound to be a few bad apples. But, by and large, superintendents—who have to be state-licensed to apply pesticides—are sensitive and careful. If they aren't, they can go to jail.

The superintendent tends to be invisible until something goes wrong. Then he becomes a celebrity. That's true in both recreational golf and on the Tour.

Take the case of Fred Klauk, the man in charge of the TPC Stadium Course at Ponte Vedra, Fla., where there was a monumental flap earlier this year because the greens were not up to snuff during The Players Championship.

All of a sudden, he became a media figure, including a live television interview. Coincidentally, I once conducted a USGA national championship at another Florida course with Klauk as the superintendent. He was sensational.

So his greens were a little thin and bumpy during the 1990 Players Championship. The world didn't come to an end. The fact is, when the

temperature hit zero in the Jacksonville area last winter, it was ordained that the TPC greens were not going to be dense and smooth for a golf tournament in March.

Klauk kept his temper. He managed to restrain the impulse of saying, "Who the hell are these guys, who have never done a thing in their lives except hit golf balls, to criticize my work and my golf course?"

At a U.S. Open, I was once asked to name the single most important person on the premises. Without hesitation, I said it was the golf course superintendent. "If he fails, we all fail," I commented.

Think of that this month when you watch the PGA Championship telecast from Shoal Creek. That's in Birmingham, Alabama. Bentgrass greens in Alabama in August are like hand grenades in an incinerator; they can blow up at any time. The superintendent at Shoal Creek, Jim Simmons, is experienced and cool. He also will be very glad when the week of the PGA Championship is over.

Superintendents get fired. As a rule of thumb, if the superintendent has two bad years in a row, even if the climate has produced nothing but fire and brimstone in that time, he's gone—and he goes without a golden parachute.

At private clubs, superintendents are subject to the whims of volunteer green committee chairmen, many of whom haven't the remotest idea what they want or why. A very successful and expensive lawyer said to me not long ago that his would be the best of all professions if only there weren't clients. Many golf course superintendents feel the same way. It would be a great job—if only there weren't golfers.

At resort courses, superintendents often take the hit for disappointing bottom lines. There is an inherent conflict between quality golf and the profit motive. That conflict is almost never resolved. That's why a place like Pebble Beach changes superintendents so often.

Still and all, the lot of the superintendent is to be envied—if he survives. The single most exhilarating experience in the game is to be on a golf course at dawn—alone. ■

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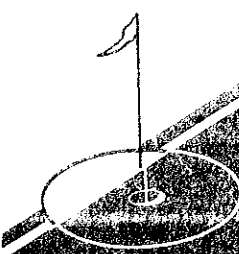
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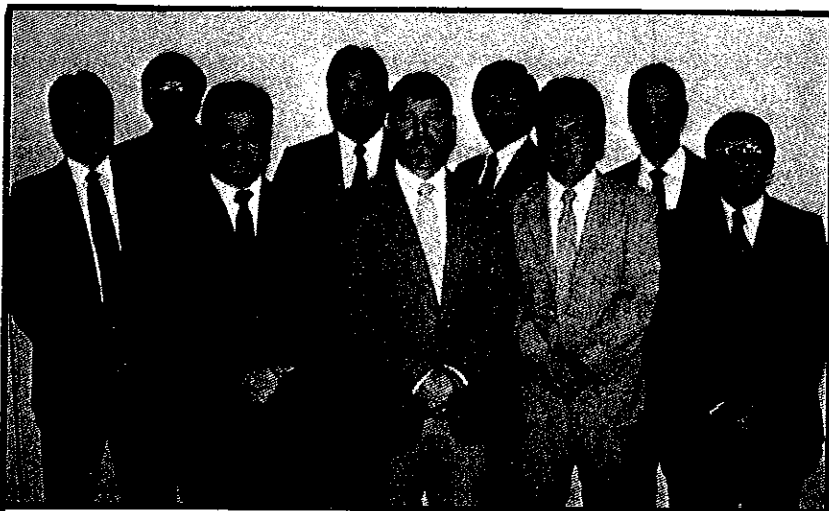


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For those of you who may not have noticed, this picture was in the April issue of "Golf Course Management." What a motley crew !

"Eighteen holes of match play will teach you more about your foe than 19 years of dealing with him across a desk."

Grantland Rice
Sportswriter

NICK CHRISTIANS, Ph.D.

Dr. Nick Christians will be our speaker for "Basic Principles of Turfgrass Management." The C.P.G.C.S.A. look forward to bringing this seminar to our area. More information will follow in the "Green-sheet".

Nick Christians is a professor of Horticulture at Iowa State University. His area of specialization is Turfgrass Science. Nick received his Ph.D. and M.S. degrees from Ohio State University in Agronomy and the B.S. degree from the Colorado State University School of Forestry.

Between his B.S. and his M.S. degrees, Nick was employed as a Golf Course Superintendent for two years in Pueblo West, Colorado, and prior to that as an Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at Boulder, Colorado. Nick is a member of the American Society of Agronomy and the American Society for Horticultural Science. He is presently involved in several areas of research on Turfgrass Management.

The meeting will be held December 12, 13 and 14. Seating is limited. Reserve this date in your appointment book. Members will have priority for reservations.

EDITOR'S NOTE

August is here! Our courses are noticeably at their weakest as the weather is at its most stressful.

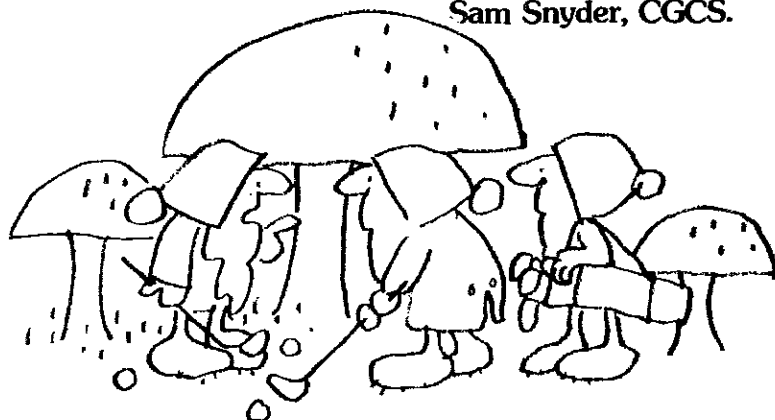
Another stress not often discussed at our meetings is the hardship our profession causes to our family relationships. We all have job related demands. These demands were either present when we accepted the position, ones we put on ourselves, or ones that were added as the years went by. Since superintendents are generally an extremely responsible lot, we tend to attract added responsibility because we get the job done.

Our families usually are not as demanding as the customers we serve are. If we only concentrate on the "squeaky wheels," the rest of our responsibilities will suffer. We only have a few weeks before school starts, and we become limited as to available time and potential diversions for an outing.

The golf course will always be there when you return. Don't make yourself more of a slave than you already are. Think about the reasons your present priorities developed and consider positive adjustments. In the words of a former greens chairman, "Don't worry, be happy."

Sam Snyder, CGCS.

Recently the PA Dept. of Agriculture distributed a newsletter called "Pesticide Newsletter." This newsletter is a summary of the regulations of the newest pesticide legislation. If you have not received a copy and would like one, please contact Patti Wall, 508 Spring House Rd., Camp Hill, PA 17011. This newsletter also includes a short list of who are "Pesticide Hypersensitive Individuals" and also a list of upcoming training meetings for credits.



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

Matthew E. Hengst —
Briarwood Golf Club, Inc.

William P. Kreider —
Village of Olde Hickory G.C.

P.S.U. vs. SYRACUSE

Our annual Penn State bus trip will be Oct. 13. PSU vs. Syracuse. Tickets will be \$45 which includes tickets, bus, lunch and "refreshments." The bus will leave promptly at 8 a.m. Be at Park Village Plaza in Hummels-town (in front of K-Mart) at 7 a.m. Tickets usually go very quickly, so don't delay. Call Tony Goodley to reserve your spot on the bus at (717) 755-1919 or (club no.) (717) 755-4653. Reservation deadline will be Oct. 1 — **Call EARLY!**



PETE'S TURF TIPS

- Watch for Anthracnose! To combat this disease, improve drainage, airification, use a preventive fungicide application, and use light fertilization applications in May and June.
- For any fungicide applications, alternate between contacts and systemics.
- And for anyone with real problems dealing with disease pressure, and fungicides are not effective, investigate your soil profile.

PLANT NUTRITION AND FERTILIZERS

These comments from former students in **Plant Nutrition and Fertilizers** describe the "brush-up" course designed to help you evaluate your fertilizer program based on scientific knowledge of the soil, plant and fertilizer carriers. In this two-day seminar, Dr. Paul Rieke of Michigan State University and Dr. Robert Carrow of the University of Georgia present an overview of the soil and plant factors that influence turfgrass nutrition.

Plant Nutrition and Fertilizers earns 1.4 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for those who pass the examination at the end of the course. In addition, GCSAA awards certificates of achievement to successful participants.

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2nd	Mike Benedict	72
3rd	Jack Montecalvo	72
4th	Farron Stoops	73
5th	Paul Brandon	73
6th	Bill Brooks	74