# THE GREEN SHEET



#### CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

Volume 4 May 1996 Number 2

## May Meeting

Harrisburg North Golf Course

**Tuesday, May 14, 1996** 

1:00 PM Shotgun - Golf 5:00 - 6:00 PM - Cocktails 6:00 PM - Dinner

There will be a CPGCSA Board of Directors Meeting at 10:00 AM.

## **Superintendent Profile**

Robert Wert has been Superintendent/Owner of Harrisburg North Golf Course since 1987. Prior to 1987, he worked for Ross Perot - Electronic Data Systems as a computer engineer trouble shooter. Bob is one of 18 children and is originally from the Central Pennsylvania area.

## **Course Profile**

Harrisburg North Golf Course was built in 1960. It is 6,100 yards. Fairway irrigation was installed in 1994 and cart paths in 1995. A tree planting program was started in 1990 with 8,00 trees planted in the last 5 years.

## Winter Damage Update

by Stan Zontek and Keith Happ from The USGA Green Section

Well, it had to happen. Another harsh winter has taken a toll on turf in the USGA Green Section's Mid-Atlantic region. Keith Happ and I have and are making early visits to assess the damage. Here is what we have found.

As with the winter of 1993-1994, the culprit for most all of the lost turf was ice. Again, the principal grass species damaged were perennial ryegrass on fairways, tees and roughs and Poa Annua on greens, tee and fairways. We have even seen bentgrass damaged in a few isolated instances. Currently, we are not certain of any damage to bermudagrass or zoysia in this region. We know bermudagrass has been extensively damaged farther south but the blanket of snow in the lower realms of this region seemed to insulate the grass thus, reducing the potential for winterkill on warm season grasses. Sometimes snow can be a help!

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## President's Message

by John Dougherty

I would like to thank Mark Jacobs and his crew at Armitage for a great meeting. For those of you who did not make it, you missed a good meeting with the Superintendents from the Keystone Chapter. The weather was great, and the course was in fantastic condition.

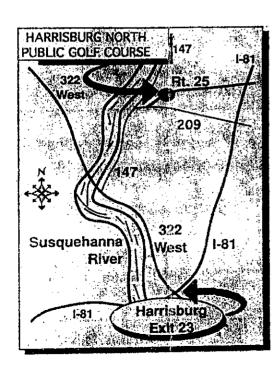
You might have noticed, if you read the President's Message, I hinted that the superintendents that did not make the past meeting, missed a good meeting. There are still a good many of you out there that have not been to a meeting in a long time. Take the time, come on out and meet with your old friends or make new ones.

For those of you who have not heard, the National would like all Affiliate Chapters to re-affiliate with them. By-laws, Incorporation, and Tax forms, are just a few things the National would like from us. The biggest change the National will be making is in the superintendent classifications. We will be voting as an association on the re-affiliation at a later meeting.

It's nice to see the weather man has not changed. He calls for cold and rainy and we get hot and dry. But this is okay, at least the grass is starting to grow and the golfers are starting to act normal -- complaining about everything under the sun.

Good luck with your courses and see all of you at the next meeting.

## **Directions to Harrisburg North Golf Course**



#### From the Scranton/Wilkesbarre I-81:

Get off I-81 at the Hegins Exit #34 and take Route 25 West to the Golf Course.

#### From Harrisburg:

I-81 Exit #23 at Harrisburg. Route 22 and 322 West to Route 147. Route 147 to Route 209 (Millersburg). Route 25 East to Golf Course. Follow the green and white Golf Course signs.

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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 our association at the next meeting.

> Terry Bennett, Assistant Superintendent Dauphin Highlands Golf Course .....Class B Josh Gehman, Grounds Maintenance Staff Butter Valley Golf Port ......Class AS Edward W. Gross, Assistant Superintendent Northampton Country Club ......Class B Ralph Meola, Assistant Superintendent Bent Creek Country Club ......Class B Jon Szekeres, Assistant/Irrigation Technician Dauphin Highlands Golf Course ..... Class B

We want to welcome the following individuals into the association.

> Andy Mummert, Assistant Superintendent Outdoor Country Club......Class B David Visocan, Assistant Superintendent Chester Valley Golf Club......Class B

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the organization or has questions on the status of their applications, please have them contact Ted Zabrenski at (610) 326-7069.

## **Equipment For Sale**

Please contact Tony Goodley at Heritage Hills Golf Resort regarding the following equipment. (717) 755-1919.

- Wetting Fork made by "The Thinking Superintendent λ Company", New. \$150.00
- Accu-Procut (Cup Cutter) made by MRJH λ Enterprises, with level bubble in handle. \$125.00

Please contact Curt King at Moccasin Run Golf Course regarding the following equipment. (610) 593-2600.

- Toro Irrigation System Varitime 2 Central with 3 panels - \$1000.00
- 24 Satellite Controllers with surge protectors λ (Total Package -- \$11,000) \$500.00 each.
- 1990 GA30 145 hours \$7,000.00

e will continue to advertise used equipment each newsletter. If you have anything that may be of interest to anyone else, please contact Wanda to place your ad FREE!!! Remember, one person's junk is another person's treasures.



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## From the Editor ..... Terry Morgan

This recent article by Armand LeSage on people management was an eye-opener and I thought our organization would want to read it.

## Staying on The Positive Side of Golf Club Politics

- Be Professional In Everything: dress, written and oral reports, and management style. Attend every greens committee and every board of directors meeting. Give a report at every board meeting. Stand up to present your report, give a written copy to the secretary, answer questions, then leave. If questions arise later, the board will have a record of your report. Informed directly by the superintendent, each board member becomes an ally, passing your suggestions and explanations on to members on the course, and in the clubhouse. Dress appropriately for meetings with the club management, pro or officers. "Keep a set of business clothes hanging in the shop, and wash up and brush your hair before meetings or events," LeSage says.
- λ Be Present And Accounted For. Superintendents, are on the course many hours that members are not. But on certain days be sure you are there to see and be seen. Know what day the president golfs, and be visible on the course; checking on work. If there's a problem on a tee, don't hide. Be there checking or working on it, ready to explain the insect or disease. When there's a problem on the course, don't leave. Skip the function or meeting to tend to the problem. Let the manager and board know your schedule -- when you will be away and where you will be.
- λ Be Polite. You never get a second chance to make a good first impression. Be an exception to the declining trend in manners. Respect the people we work for and with, including staff, vendors, and members. Make sure everyone on your staff is polite. Temper has no place on a golf course. Holler at a tree if you must, but never at people. "If you yell, holler, or curse at someone, you bring yourself down lower than a snail," LeSage observes. "You're under the lights and under the gun so much with members, you've got to be under control, in charge of yourself." If a co-worker makes a mistake, or a golfer drives off the cart path, speak respectfully and politely. Never embarrass someone in front of others. Even if you disagree with a member, the member you are not polite to today, could cast a vote against you in the future. Stand up to people when you believe you are right, but always respectfully.
- λ Listen To What People Really Say. Don't be your own worst enemy. If someone compliments you on the course, say, "Thank you."

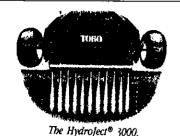
- λ Listen To Your Employees, and follow up on what they tell you. LeSage listens to the caddies, who spot details like leaks, dead woodchucks, greens getting hard. LeSage says this is the toughest rule for him, to not interrupt people and really listen.
- λ Don't Be Afraid To Admit Mistakes. Don't try to buffalo the members. Instead, explain how the mistake was made, how it can be corrected, and prevented from recurring. To prevent mistakes: "Never experiment on golf course greens -- that's why we have nurseries."
- λ Develop A Sense of Humor: Humor can relieve stress and tension, but don't overdo it. And never use humor to belittle people or make them feel inferior. People don't like to work with unhappy people. Be positive. "I'm outdoors doing something I love, and I'm not going to be unhappy doing it," LeSage asserts. Laughter is an asset among co-workers who speak different languages -- "Laughter has no foreign accent."
- λ We Don't Own It. They Do, And They Employ Us. Too often superintendents talk about "my club". We don't own it. They call the shots, and if you don't like it, you leave.
- λ Learn To Play Golf. It's not necessary to play like a pro, but only a golfer can understand the conditions golfers are looking for. Let members know you know how to play, understand their problems, and that you land in the long rough, too. Play with the manager and chairman monthly. The women at White Beeches hold an annual "Beat the Superintendent" tournament. LeSage plays his course every other night, so he finds problems he would not notice driving by. He says it has improved the course.

Please remind your employers of the importance of returning your meeting reservations by the advertised deadline.

## **Upcoming Events**

- August 7-8, 1996 -- Penn State Turfgrass Field Days.
   Joseph Valentine Turfgrass Research Center and
   Landscape Management Center, Penn State University.
   Contact Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council (814)
   863-3475 or Mr. George Hamilton, (814) 865-3007.
- λ Monday, October 14, 1996 -- 20th Annual Joseph Valentine Memorial Golf Tournament, Bent Creek Country Club, Lancaster, PA
- λ November 12 14, 1996. Penn State Golf Turf Conference. Penn State University.
- λ Tuesday, March 11, 1997 -- GCSAA Seminar, Irrigation Systems Scheduling, Repair and Maintenance at Heritage Hills Golf Resort, York, PA

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## Winter Damage ... continued from page 1

An excellent article is contained in the Green Section Record, Jan/Feb, 1996 issue. Basically, it provides a "recipe" for recovery from winter damage. While the thrust of the article is for greens, many of the same techniques can be used on tees and fairways. As with any reseeding for winter injury, it is critical to have proper soil temperatures. If the soil is too cold the seed can simply rot. Be patient. Use covers or wait until the soil warms.

Hopefully, the weather will break soon, soil temperatures will rise and golf courses can begin the recovery process both from reseeding as well as from the natural spread of the grasses that did survive the winter of 1995-1996.

We of the Mid-Atlantic region wanted to send this letter along to state the obvious. Winter-kill is a function of the weather and not, a deficiency in management. Actually, it reminds us that, to a large extent, Mother Nature determines much of what we do on golf courses. She certainly has not been kind to us again this year.

If any of the agronomists in our office can be of assistance. give us a call.

## We Were Just Wondering.....

- Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?
- λ. Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?
- λ If fire fighters fight fire and crime fighters fight crime, what do freedom fighters fight?
- λ Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii?
- λ Why isn't there another word for thesaurus?
- λ If olive oil comes form olives, where does baby oil come from?
- λ Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?
- λ If buttered toast always lands butter-down and cats always land on their feet, what would happen if you dropped a cat with buttered toast tied to its back?
- λ What does Geronimo say when he jumps out of a plane?



Robb A. Werley, C.I.D.

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## 1996 CPGCSA Meetings

June 11 Galen Hall Country Club

Robert Mogel, Superintendent

Brookside Country Club July 8

Joint Meeting with Philadelphia GCS

Ted Zabrenski, Superintendent

Conestoga Country Club August 20

Mark Hendrixson, Superintendent

Berkshire Country Club September 24

Robert Ehrhart, Superintendent

Outdoor Country Club October

Robert Beyer, CGCS

## **Speaker Profile**

The speaker for the May meeting at Harrisburg North Golf Course will be Halvard Alexander. Halvard is the General Manager of J & J Turf Management Group in Dillsburg, PA. He has been with the company since it's inception in 1979. His talk will focus on "How Can The Soil Help Your Turf".

If you have any suggestions for speakers or ideas for topics, please contact Tom Ocepek at (610) 488-1255.

## **Golf Results**

The following are the winners from the tournament at Armitage Golf Club.

Low Gross

Low Net

Dale Kintzer 1st

Chris Papada

Mark Malasavage 2nd

Ken Pepple

3rd

John Dougherty

Longest Drive - John Gehman

Closest to Pin #14 - Corky Knoll

Closest to Pin #18 - Lee Kozsey

The tournament at Harrisburg North Golf Course will be 6-6-6. (Better Ball of Partners - Alternate Shot - Two Man Scramble) Two man teams -- pick your own.



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## **Helpful Hints**

What type of material can you use to clean up hydraulic leaks on turf?

According to Jim Moore of the USGA Greens Section, powdered soap, such as laundry soap, is a typical remedy. After a spill or leak, many superintendents sprinkle soap on and around the spill, wet it and then scrub with a broom. This helps loosen and remove grease or oil. You should thoroughly rinse the treated area afterward.

Unfortunately, hydraulic fluid usually will scorch the turf before you have a chance to treat it. This is especially true when the fluid is hot. The degree of damage depends on the severity of the spill. Larger spills may kill entire turfgrass plants, including roots, while small leaks may simply produce minor leaf burning that disappears shortly thereafter. Moore points out that cleaning up after a spill simply prevents further damage; it cannot reverse any effects that occurred prior to your efforts. Still, prompt attention may prevent more extensive damage to your turf.

Microbes that digest petroleum products are available in some spill clean-up kits. However, because of the added effort and expense, this technique is better suited to larger spills that have the potential to sterilize soil. These kits are available from golf course suppliers.

## Why do "hot spots" occur on bentgrass greens and how do you cure them?

Hot spots result from hydrophobic (water-repellent) soil or rooting media. This occurs primarily with coarse, sandy soil, including most greens mixes. According to researchers from the University of Georgia, hydrophobicity results from an organic coating deposited on the sand particles. This substance repels water when dry. Apparently, this coating is a result of the normal, microbial breakdown of organic matter present in upper portions of the soil profile.

The Georgia researchers note that relatively high root-zone levels of organic matter, as well as pronounced wetting and drying cycles, tend to enhance the development of hydrophobicity. However, it eventually can develop under a wide range of maintenance regimes and conditions, including 100 percent sand. Although certain pesticides and fertilizers also may promote the condition, these relationships are not well understood.

Wetting agents are a common approach to treating hot spots, and, according to the University of Georgia researchers, still represent the most practical options. They are not a one time cure, however; periodic re-treatments often are necessary.

## Just a Reminder - -

Should you need to fax information to Wanda, the number is the same as her home telephone number (717) 274-6004. If the answering machine picks up, be sure to let it run through the recorded message, then the fax will automatically turn on.





HAGAR

Terry B. Morgan - Editor Wanda Fry - Executive Secretary P.O. Box 1420 Lebanon, PA 17042-0200

The Green Sheet

