

♦ The Green Sheet ♦

November/December 1996

President's Message

by Jim Loke, CGCS

In a very short time, I have come to realize that Central PA is a very special place to work and raise a family. It is truly the garden spot of the world. There is fertile soil, clean water, that wonderful "fresh farm aroma", great Dutch foods (as my waistline continues to remind me!), and friendly people. I still remember being new to the area, and the day Ken Dietrich came over and introduced himself to me at a meeting. It was a special experience, and although we've both been busy building new golf courses and haven't had much time to engage ourselves, I knew I had a friend in Ken and that Central PA was a good place to be a superintendent.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you and our Chapter as President. I know that I have large shoes to fill — there have been many fine superintendents who have held this position, and I wish to continue the tradition. This is the second time for me as a Chapter President, and I must say that I am actually far more excited this time around. Perhaps it comes from the wisdom gained in being 50 years old and having more appreciation for the honor!

This next year will be as productive as the Board and our members wish it to be. As a group, we have very fine volunteers who realize the importance of giving something back to the association. In my many years of volunteering within various superintendent associations, I have had moments of hard work that come with the responsibility, but mostly I have gained so much from the time and commitment required. There is great value and return on the investment.



*Happy Holidays to you and
your family!*

It is important to keep ourselves challenged and support one another in this profession. By taking part in Chapter meetings and functions, we can make many friendships that will always be cherished, become the professional superintendent/golf course manager that we strive to be, create networks that help us to educate ourselves in time of need, and generally become a much better person.

I look forward to serving you this year and in the future.

Membership News

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

*Robert Seltzer, Superintendent
Monroe Valley Golf Course....Class A*
We want to welcome the following individual into the association.

*Christopher Hummer, Sales
Sporting Valley Turf Farms..Class AF*

Light's Out: Time for a Change?

Okay, America, we can't live in the dark any longer. It's time for a change, to see things in a new light. The only question left is:

How many politicians does it take to change a light bulb? None. They'll just use the light at the end of the tunnel.

How many Presidential Aides? None. They prefer to keep their candidate in the dark.

How many conventioners? One to change the bulb and seven to sell t-shirts.

How many supply-siders? None. If the government would just get off the light-bulb's back, free market forces will correct the problem.

How many environmental activists? Don't touch it! You'll destroy its fragile ecosystem?

How many Republicans? One to change the bulb while another steadies the chandelier.

How many democrats? One to change it, another to declare it the New Bulb.

How many Libertarians? None. If it wants to be dark, that's its own business.

How many ditto-heads? One to change the bulb while 250,000 pat each other on the back for predicting that the old one would fail.

How many Russian leaders? Hard to say - they burn out before light bulbs.

How many lobbyists? Just one, if you promise to buy the bulb from him.

How many housekeepers? One, but you don't need a Social Security number, do you?

How many thrilling candidates? Whew! It's going to be a dark four years, isn't it?

From the Editor.....Terry Morgan

Do you keep getting the question, What do you do all winter? Maybe this can help.

Inform Uninformed of Winter Chores

by Glenn Peters

In the years that I have worked as a golf course equipment technician, people always ask me: "What do you do all winter?" This is the question I am asked most frequently, both by people who play the game and those who seem to think that there couldn't be very much to do once the temperature drops and the snow flies.

What follows is a brief synopsis of what happens at the Sunset Ridge Country Club maintenance facility during the winter months.

First and foremost, I prioritize what equipment will be worked on and in what order. Once this is done, the work begins with a visual inspection of each machine for obvious problems and, then, a thorough pressure washing is done. Hoods, fenders and body panels are removed to clear any accumulation of grass and dirt.

The most important aspect of our maintenance program, which affects both course playability and condition, is the sharpening of the cutting units.

All cutting units, from greens to rough, are sharpened during winter maintenance. Oil changes, lubrication, tune-ups and overhauls are performed at this time as well. As the maintenance on each piece of equipment is completed, it is inspected again and then waxed. Waxing of turf equipment may seem unnecessary, but it pays off by protecting the paint and aiding in cleaning during the season.

The goal of this maintenance is increased longevity of the equipment, improved production and decreased downtime during the season.

Although this maintenance program does not sound time consuming, it is.

It takes me and four other men helping to complete the work in time for the upcoming golf season. So, as the 1996 golf season approaches, the membership at Sunset Ridge Country Club can be sure that the maintenance facility will be ready, even if the weather isn't.

Editor's Note: We can add a lot of duties to this short article written by a mechanic such as late fall clean-up, tree trimming, Superintendent's commercial pesticide license updating seminars, GCSAA Training seminars, GCSAA convention, budget for the upcoming year, meetings with general manager and owners and golf pro, etc. We may even get our well-deserved vacation this winter if we're not too busy.

Equipment For Sale

Please contact Tony Goodley, CGCS at Heritage Hills Golf Resort if you are interested in the following piece of equipment (717) 755-1919.

⇒ HIO Cup Cutter - - - \$150.00

Upcoming Events

- * December 12-13, 1996. GCSAA Seminar, Golf Course Restoration, Renovation, and Construction Projects at the Hershey Lodge, call GCSAA for further information.
- * January 6-9, 1997. Eastern PA Turf Conference, Sheraton Valley Forge Hotel.
- * February 6-12, 1997. 68th International Golf Course Conference and Show, Las Vegas Convention Center.
- * Tuesday, March 11, 1997. GCSAA Seminar, Irrigation Systems Scheduling, Repair and Maintenance at Heritage Hills Golf Resort, York, PA.

We Have Cover Letters Covered!

GCSAA Career Development — The most commonly asked question of our resume-writing service is, Do you do cover letters? the answer is finally yes!

We have been refining our resume-writing process to manage the demand for this service, and now we can offer custom written cover letters. The ability to promote yourself is key to a successful career. Your resume and your cover letter begin the process.

Our standard resume-writing service offers a master copy and five laser-printed copies on high-quality paper for \$25.00 and an electronic version on disk for \$30.00. A custom written cover letter, with a few areas for you to personalize, costs just \$5 more. We will also critique your resume at no charge.

Remember, employers make staff selection based on a variety of criteria, and many of those decisions are made before you ever meet. That's why a good resume and a cover letter that gets attention are critical to your job search. For more information on resume writing, critiquing and cover letters, contact career development at 800/472-7878. ext. 421.

Member Updates

Congratulations to Jay Angelo and his wife on their 50th wedding anniversary.

We have been informed that Cameron Henderson passed away on December 1, 1996. A memorial service will be held on December 23, 1996 at 2:00 PM at the Hibernia Methodist Church in Coatesville, PA. Cameron was a lifetime member and past president of Central PA GCSA. If you would like to attend the service and need directions, please call Wanda at (717) 274-6004.

Please keep us informed of any news that we may print to keep our members informed.