

The Green Sheet



Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 5 Issue 5

August 1997

August Meeting

Downingtown Country Club
Joint Meeting with PAGCS

Tuesday, August 19, 1997

Lunch - 11:00-12:00 Noon

Golf - 1:15 PM

Dinner - 5:30-7:00

Thanks to Shearon Environmental Design for
sponsoring lunch.

Superintendent Profile

Mike Ward has been the Superintendent at Downingtown Country Club for 2 1/2 years. Prior to this, he was the Assistant Superintendent at Chester Valley. Mike graduated from the Penn State Turf Management Program in 1992. He is married to Lisa and has two children: Brian - 14 years old and Brittany - 10 years old. Mike's hobbies are fly fishing and Para-sailing.

Course Profile

Downingtown Country Club was built in 1966 as a resort course for the Downingtown Inn. It was designed by George Fazio. In 1995 it was purchased by a local developer who built an adjacent mall and funded a nearly 5 million dollar improvement project for the now daily fee/semi-private establishment. Re-design work was done both in-house and with the help of Golf Course Architect Gill Hanse and construction firm Pennick Arrimour. The full length of the course is 6,619 yards, Par 72. Slope is 132 and rating 72.9.

Speaker

The speaker for the August meeting will be Dr. Paul Heller from Penn State University. Paul's topic is "Big-Bug Update".

Golf Course Superintendents Create Real Fields of Dreams

News USA

Whether you live in a well-developed urban setting, a sprawling suburban tract or a small rural community, it's likely that many of the people you interact with are golf enthusiasts.

Those who enjoy the sport are aware of the key person at the golf course when it comes to providing maximum enjoyment of the game. A recent survey by Golf Digest revealed that nearly 50 percent of its readers indicated the golf course superintendent as the most important individual at their facility. That figure surpassed combined selections of the golf professional, course champion, club house manager and beverage facility personnel.

The golf course superintendent is the professional entrusted with the management and maintenance of the course. It's a responsibility that has grown in importance during the past three decades as golfers have come to demand optimal conditions for playing the game.

Those heightened expectations have been largely fueled by expanding television coverage of professional golf events that highlight the nation's top courses. Also, budget limitations, unpredictable weather patterns, governmental regulations and increased participation all have an impact on the superintendents' operations.

"You won't find one member of the profession who doesn't say their career is a challenge," says Paul McGinnis, certified golf coursecontinued on page 6.....

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President's Message by Jim Loke, CGCS

At the time of this writing, we have just experienced our first rain in weeks. Hopefully, it is just the beginning of returning to something closer to normal precipitation and temperatures. The surprise so far is the light disease pressure we have had considering the hot temperatures.

I know this heat and drought has helped to expose any possible weakness in our irrigation systems. This is another opportunity (I hope) to convince our clubs of our need to continually update our irrigation and other equipment. Good Luck!

This past July 14 we represented the CPGCSA at Bucknell Golf Club, which hosted the joint meeting with the Keystone Chapter. Mr. Charlie Lincicome was our gracious host, and Andy McNitt our educator. We were challenged by a wonderful, tight and beautiful golf course. Our thanks to Charlie and the Bucknell staff for a great experience.

As golf course superintendents, we are given many opportunities to make monetary contributions to turf research through our purchases. Both CIBA/Novartis and Milorganite will allow you to designate a place to send your charitable gifts based on purchases. CPGCSA is eligible to receive donations. Tee to Green will contribute \$.50 per "Blue Tag" from seed purchases to the Musser Foundation (which gives substantial scholarship money to doctoral candidates doing turfgrass research; you may mail the tags to me or directly to the Musser Foundation, P. O. Box 124, Sharon Center, OH 44274). As a Board member of both the Musser Foundation and CPGCSA, I ask you to seriously consider contributing — we all benefit from the research which these funds provide, and this is a "painless" way to help out.

Directions to Downingtown Country Club

From the Southeast & South Jersey — Follow I-95 South (from Phila. airport) to Route 322 West. Exit "West Chester". Follow 322 West to Route 1. Make a left onto Route 1. Follow Route 1 approximately 3 lights. Make a right onto 202 North. Follow 202 North approximately 15-20 minutes to Route 100. Exit "Exton" Follow Route 100 approximately 2.5 - 3 miles to Route 30 Bypass. Make a right onto Route 30 Bypass West. Follow Bypass to Lancaster Avenue/Business 30 Exit. Make a left onto Business 30, go to 2nd traffic light and make a left (into Brandywine Square Shopping Center). Follow driveway and bear to your right to Downingtown Country Club.

From the Northeast & New Jersey — Take New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 6 PA Turnpike. Take PA Turnpike to Exit 23 "Downingtown" Bear to the left onto Route 100 South. Take Route 100 South to the 2nd traffic light Route 113. Make a right onto Route 113, approximately 4 miles to a dead end at Business 30. Make a left onto Business 30 to the next traffic light and make a right (into Brandywine Square Shopping Center). Follow driveway and bear to your right to Downingtown Country Club.

From the West & Harrisburg — Take PA Turnpike to Exit 23 "Downingtown". Bear to the left onto Route 100 South. Take Route 100 South to the 2nd traffic light Route 113. Make a right onto Route 113, approximately 4 miles to a dead end at Business 30. Make a left onto Business 30 to the next traffic light and make a right (into Brandywine Square Shopping Center). Follow driveway and bear to your right to Downingtown Country Club.

From the South & Delaware — Follow 202 North approximately 15 - 20 minutes to Route 100. Exit "Exton" Follow Route 100 approximately 2.5-3 miles to Route 30 Bypass. Make a right onto Route 30 Bypass West. Follow Bypass to Lancaster Avenue/Business 30 Exit. Make a left onto Business 30, go to 2nd light and make a left (into Brandywine Square Shopping Center). Follow driveway and bear to your right to Downingtown Country Club.

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Membership News

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

Mark MacDonald, Superintendent

Regents Glen Country Club.....Class A

Scott Frederick, Assistant Superintendent

Regents Glen Country Club.....Class C

John Wiblishauser, Representative

Bayer Corporation.....Class G

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 Tom Ocepek at (610) 488-1255.

Nominations

by John Gehman

An election slate is being compiled for the board of directors for the 1998 season. I am happy to report that the Clinton summit on Volunteerism has had a profound effect on the CPGCSA. All of the potential candidates contacted thus far have expressed a sincere desire to get involved in the association. (Or they all realize I may be president next year and figure they better be on board to help keep the association from going down the toilet!) I think we're going to have a real election this year. Anyone wishing to contribute their talents to help strengthen our association is invited to throw their name into the hat by notifying either Wanda (717) 274-6004 or myself (610) 845-2491. Election will be held at the October general meeting at Hershey Country Club.

Lightning-Thunderstorm Safety

- Don't play that next shot! Get off the course immediately.
- Don't seek shelter under an isolated, unprotected tree.
- Don't hold on to metal shafted clubs.
- Don't use an umbrella with a metal shaft.
- Don't be naive and play the odds and think you will never be affected by lightning on a golf course.
- Do get off the course at once.
- Do seek refuge in a large building or a rain shelter or other small building equipped with approved lightning protection.
- Do get off high terrain - you are safer in a ditch, gully, or depressed area or lying flat on the ground.



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Reflections by John Gehman

My thoughts resulting from the presentation by Andy McNitt at Bucknell Golf Club.

Andy's presentation sparked quite a few thoughts in my mind. Unfortunately the weather was too hot and I was too tired to think of them until a day or two later.

For 20 years my greens held on to a fairly high bentgrass population on an original 60-20-20 construction mix. As the top dressing layer thickened and the surface began to seal up the bent roots were less aggressive and the poa populations began invading at an accelerated rate. My own water infiltration tests revealed almost no surface movement but subsurface tests showed more than adequate percolation. Now, three years after a devastating turf loss (I'd have been fired if I hadn't been so tight with the owner) my bent roots are once again coming out the bottom of the plug when I change cups, storm water and irrigation puddles disappear in a matter of minutes leaving a firm putting surface and the poa seems to be struggling to compete with the bent.

Bucknell Golf Club has the old type soil push-up greens with about 2-3 cumulative inches of topdressing. Andy showed how the water just sits on these greens regardless of whether or how they may have been aerified, similar to my own greens three years ago. He demonstrated that deep tining is of little value when there is no integral drainage to carry the water away. He also implied that good surface drainage is far more important than a good internal system. The last comment I recall alluded to the inevitable plugging of the surface by dust and other air and water borne particles.

Now for my thoughts and questions:

1. If the infiltration rate is that slow because the water has nowhere to go, shouldn't your water requirements be relatively low?
2. If the problem is a tight clay soil not allowing roots or water to penetrate to the lower depths, wouldn't soil modification with deep tine aerification be the hot ticket. You still have the "bath tub" effect with each hole, but with good surface drainage, is that really a concern?
3. If the soil moisture is adequate and the roots are not penetrating into the original construction soil, maybe the problem is in the 2-3 inches of topdressing rather than in the original soil.
4. If the problems are a result of the sealing of surface pores, how much aerification would it take to replace that surface layer? By my calculations: Quarter inch tines on 1 inch centers would take 20 passes to completely replace the surface,

.....continued on page 7.....

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Are You Ready For Retirement?

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If you answer "yes" to the following statements, chances are it's time for you to call the Social Security office and have a serious chat. Here we go:

- Were you born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen TV dinners, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and the Pill?
- Do you remember when young people got married, then lived together? Or when your Sunday School placed a 25-cent limit on the Christmas exchange.
- Do you remember when closets were for clothes, not coming out of? Rabbits were bunnies and not antique Volkswagens, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with your second cousins?
- Were you born before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, day-care centers, group therapy and FM radio?
- Do you have trouble with guys who wear earrings, yogurt, condominiums and terms like software and main-frame?
- Do you recall when we laughed at a "Made in Japan" label because it meant the item was junk? Did you ever use the term "made out" to describe how you got an "A" on a final exam?
- Are you familiar with nickel ice-cream cones, three-cent stamps, Ford roadsters and gasoline that sold for 16-cents a gallon?
- Do you remember when Coke was something you drank and pot was something you cooked in? And when the only rock music was when grandma sang a lullaby while rocking you to sleep? And AIDS were girls who worked in the high-school principal's office?
- Do you feel really stupid when you think that you spent your entire life believing that a girl needed a husband to have a baby?
- OK, tell the truth. Did you answer "yes" to all of the above questions? Of course you did, so my final question to you is: How long are you going to keep working?
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Fields of Dreams....cont'd from page 1

superintendent and president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

There was a time when a person could climb the career ladder from a maintenance crew member to staff assistant to superintendent through on-the-job training.

But the level of knowledge necessary to manage and maintain healthy turfgrass, administer large budgets and comply with environmental, safety and employee regulations has made education paramount. The vast majority of superintendents have two- or four-year degrees in either turfgrass science, agronomy or biology. This professional background is often supplemented with continuing education courses provided by organizations such as the GCSAA.

"I think most people get into this profession for two reasons," McGinnis says. "No. 1, many of us grew up on a golf course either as a worker or playing the game. And No. 2, superintendents have a love for the outdoors and environmental stewardship. We understand what it takes to manage a facility so that it is a benefit to the community."

Golf courses also are becoming outdoor classrooms for schools, civic groups and junior golf programs. It's not unusual for people to take to the course, not in search of birdies, but of animals, aquatic life, various plant species, composting projects and nature trails.

"The facilities not only offer recreation, but provide an environmental sanctuary to numerous plant and animal species," McGinnis says.

Equipment For Sale

Please contact John Gehman at (610) 845-2491 if you are interested in the following pieces of equipment.

- Marlow Irrigation Pump, 240 Volt, 3 phase, Model #312 Hel-10-431744. 30 years old. Best Offer.
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- Fairway 5-gang rollers. \$250.00
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- Jacobsen Greensking II & 3 Verticut heads. \$1,900.00
- Jacobsen Aeroplane 548 Overseeder. \$3,500.00
- 1970 Dodge Super Bee 440. \$7,200.00

We 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!!!

Golf Results

We thank Charlie Lincicome, our host at Bucknell Golf Club for a great day of golf. The tournament format was a Scheid Tournament - The USGA's version of "Calloway". The USGA Tournament Program will analyze players hole by hole scores and arrive at a gross and net score based on the Scheid System for handicapping the unhandicapped.

Gross Scores

Ed Sharon	70
Dave Redcay	72
Dan Davis	76

Net Scores

Andy McNitt	69
Jim Laubach	70 Tie
Tom Drayer	70 Tie
Colleen Swartz	70 Tie
Todd Steward	70 Tie

Closest to Pin

#2	Terry Sprenkle
#13	Keith Perl

Our next meeting is a joint meeting with the Philadelphia Association. We hope to see all of our members at Downton Country Club this month.

Reminder — The September meeting is our Association Championship meeting. To qualify to play in the championship you must have attended one meeting prior to the September meeting. You must also have a USGA handicap for 1997. Anyone needing a handicap can call me at (717) 692-3664 with three to five scores to receive a valid handicap.

Met Tournament - The Met Tournament is scheduled for October 6, 1997 at the Country Club of Darien in Connecticut. If anyone is interested in participating with the Central Penn GCSA Team, please contact Mike Benedict at Manada Golf Course (717) 469-2400. This is a gross and net tournament, handicaps should not exceed 20.

Thanks,

Bob Wert, Chairman - Golf Committee

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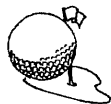
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Reflections....cont'd from page 4

providing you didn't re-aerify any previous holes. Half inch tines on two inch centers would take 20 passes while 5/8 tines would take 13. 3/4 inch tines on 4 inch centers would take about 36 passes. How many times per season do we usually aerate?

5. What alternatives to multiple aerifications could be employed to maintain the surface porosity?

This was a great subject but the timing may have been a little off. Most of us were half asleep from being up all night watering and just too d— exhausted for our brains to function at high speed. Then there was Jim Loke. He had all the questions and seemed to be well primed. Makes you wonder what he actually does all day long at work.

The more I listen to researchers and other superintendents, the more confident I am that I'm on the right track to bringing my greens back into shape. I'm glad I don't have to contend with push-up greens but then I'm not so sure I like what I'm seeing in the 99 & 44/100's% pure USGA sand greens either. But, those are your problems!!!

1998 Meeting Sites

by John Gehman

I am still in need of a few sites to host our 1998 monthly CPGCSA meetings. If interested please call me at (610) 845-2491. I'm not gonna go beggin....any months not filled will be held at Butter Valley Golf Port. (I know the owner real well.)

For Your Information...

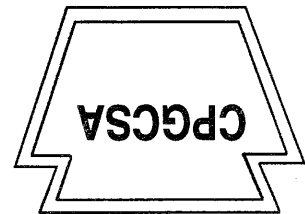
- **LOST!!** Mike Benedict from Manada Golf Course lost a Golden Ram Pitching Wedge with a 7.5 precision shaft at the Fairview meeting in May. Please contact Mike at (717) 469-2400 if you have any information.
- Don't forget to wear your name tags to all meetings. If you haven't received one or can not find yours, please contact Wanda to order a new one.
- Please remind your club of the importance of **mailing** your meeting **reservation forms** by the posted **deadline date**. Many reservations are being received late. If you have any doubt about your reservation, please call Wanda at (717) 274-6004.
- Please contact Wanda if either your home or work address and telephone numbers change, so we can keep our records up to date.
- **Congratulations to Mark Malasavage** at Hershey Country Club on a successful Nike Tournament.

Inside This Issue:
August Meeting Information



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

The Green Sheet



Bosses Vs. Leaders

A Boss creates fear
Bossism creates resentment
A Boss says "I"
A Boss fixes blame
A Boss knows how
Bossism makes work
drudgery
A Boss relies on authority
A Boss drives

A Leader creates excitement
Leadership breeds enthusiasm
A Leader says "We"
A Leader fixes mistakes
A Leader shows how
Leadership makes work
interesting
A Leader relies on cooperation
A Leader leads!

1997 CPGCSA Meeting Dates

Sept 23 Dauphin Highlands
Bill Wall, Supt.
Oct 13 Country Club of
Hershey
Mark Malasavage