

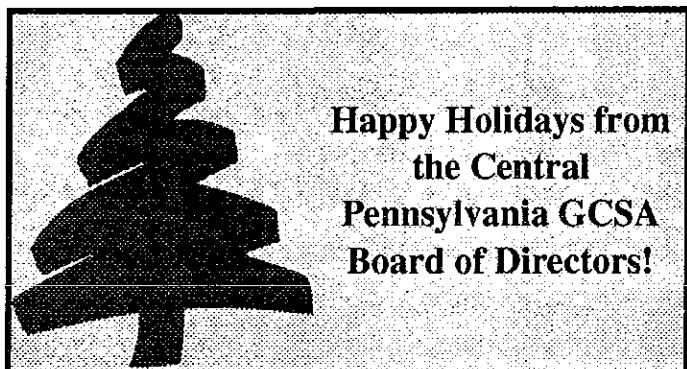
# The Green Sheet



Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 5 Issue 8

November/December 1997



## 1998 CPGCSA

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## Preventing De-Icing Injury to Plants

Credit: Northern Ohio Turf, Jan/Feb 1997

Winter weather can be hard on plants, not only through strong winds or heavy snow, but also from the harmful effects of salt used to de-ice roads and sidewalks.

Though common salt (sodium chloride) is the most effective way to melt ice on roads, sidewalks and other areas, it is highly toxic to plants. Salt harms plants' roots system even when the ground is frozen, and it may cause leaf dieback and even death.

Salt that touches plant roots causes water to be drawn out from the root cells, shrinking the roots. Once the root cells have been drained of moisture, water is drawn from the leaf cells, causing leaf scorch. Because the problem is hidden beneath the soil, the tree may have suffered severe damage by the time symptoms appear on the leaves.

Sodium chloride leaves a high concentration of salt in the soil. It also causes soil compaction, which results in poor soil drainage and decreased oxygen penetration into the soil. Gypsum, or calcium sulfate, may be used in conjunction with sodium chloride to help reduce plant injury. Gypsum should be applied at the same time as the salt, not after salt injury appears. If gypsum is present in the root area when salt is applied, the calcium helps flush excess sodium from the soil. Gypsum also helps relieve soil compaction caused by salt. Gypsum's calcium ion pulls clay particles together to form an aggregate.

When larger aggregates form, the pore size between particles gets larger, improving oxygen penetration and water drainage. In soil where common salt is excessive, sodium may temporarily replace calcium on the soil particles, causing the aggregates to come apart. Gypsum helps prevent this from happening.

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## Past President's Message by Jim Loke, CGCS

A modest group of superintendents met on October 13, 1997 at the Country Club of Hershey for our annual elections and golf outing. Since 1992, I have had the pleasure of playing Country Club of Hershey 4 times. Mark Malasavage and his fine staff produced excellent conditions - it was the best I have ever seen at Hershey. This was an exceptional golfing experience. We were, however, once again plagued by the problem most chapters face for annual elections: low attendance. It is really sad that the turn out for our elections is not as consistent as it has been at all of our other meetings during the year. It was unfortunate that so many of our members were not able to enjoy the great day of golf and a fine steak dinner we had at Hershey. Thanks again Mark.

Despite the relatively low attendance, we had an exciting election of officers. Vice President John Gehman put together a very strong field of prospective board members. I want to thank each member who ran for the board. It showed we have an excellent group of members who are committed to the future of CPGCSA and our association. The members who do run and are eventually elected, realize that you will gain invaluable experience both personally and professionally.

With elections being held, it is time for me to say thank you to the membership for allowing me to serve this fine association and chapter. You are a wonderful group of progressive professionals. THANKS!

Without the support of the Board of Directors, we could not have accomplished what we did. We had two commercial representatives (Tom Drayer and Paul Wickey) who attended our meetings as liaisons to the Board. Tom and Paul - many thanks for your valued remarks and advice. Our spirited Vice President, John Gehman, I thank for his valuable professional input to the Board. CPGCSA has gained an incredible President with lots of energy. I can't wait for his President's Messages, as I know they will be highly stimulating!

There are not many chapters in this country who have an Executive Secretary. Central PA is blessed to have a wonderful woman who graciously coordinates the board activities each year. We are truly fortunate to have a special person such as Wanda Fry as our Executive Secretary to look after all the details and keep us in order. There is no way to thank her enough!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as President, and will continue to look forward to chapter meetings and spending time with this outstanding group of people.

## Preventing De-Icing ....continued from page 1

Other types of de-icers may be used to help minimize plant damage from de-icing. Each has it's advantages and disadvantages. Other de-icers include:

- \* Calcium Chloride. Also a salt, this compound melts ice more quickly than common salt does and is effective to - 59 degrees F. However, it is significantly more expensive than sodium chloride.
- \* Fertilizer. Nutrient salts such as ammonium nitrate and urea are the least effective and most expensive way to melt ice. Usually, a large quantity of fertilizer is needed to achieve the same results as sodium chloride or calcium chloride.
- \* Abrasives such as ash or sand. These materials are usually less expensive and less harmful to plants than chemical de-icers. However, they do not melt ice as do sodium chloride and calcium chloride and are used as anti-skid agents.

To help minimize plant damage from sodium chloride and other salts, shovel snow and ice away from plants. Landscapes should be designed so excess salt doesn't reach plants' foliage or root area. Trees and shrubs should be planted about 30 feet away from the edge of the street so they are not hit by salted road spray. If this is not possible, plant salt-tolerant species. Annual aerification can also minimize the effects of salt on plants. Aerification improves soil drainage, decreasing the concentration of salts in the soil. Rain also helps to disperse and flush sodium in the soil.

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## Membership News

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

Robert M. Gomboc, Assistant Superintendent

Sunset Golf Club.....Class C

Brian Ahrens, Superintendent

Reading Country Club.....Class A

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association or has questions on the status of their applications, please have them contact Tom Ocepek at (610) 488-1255.

As of July 1, 1997, GCSAA bylaws require an individual applying for Class A or B membership also be a member of a local affiliated chapter.

We regret to inform you of the death of Richard "Whitey" Suttle.

## Equipment For Sale

Please contact Matt Lerew at Range End Country Club (717) 432-9290 if you are interested in the following piece of equipment.

- 1992 Chevy Dump Truck - 75,000 miles (white) 454 cu. in., V8, 5 speed, power steering and brakes, AM/FM Radio, Class 3 trailer hitch. Just inspected with new tires and brakes. Well maintained. \$14,500 or best offer.

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!!!

## For Your Information...

- 1998 Membership Dues statements and roster updates will be mailed early December.
- Applications are now being accepted for Penn State's Two-Year Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program for the class beginning in September of 1998. There is an application fee of \$35.00 and the deadline for applications is December 31, 1997. Applications can be obtained by calling (814) 863-0129 or by writing Penn State University, 221 ASI Building, University Park, PA 16802.
- Please contact Wanda if either your home or work address and telephone numbers change, so we can keep our records up to date.



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## Just a Few Words From the Newbie:

Wanda, I'm really trying, but I just can't come up with anything to write for this newsletter. Every time I put something down, I reread it and think, "nope, Sam won't like that", or "this might be offensive to a non member who could read our "Green Sheet". .....Well, maybe I can come up with some tamer stuff.

A sincere thank you to Mark Malasavage for providing a beautiful facility and a beautiful day for our final meeting of the year. To be truthful though, it may have been a bit upscale for my personal tastes. I felt a little out of place when I walked into the men's room. Just inside the door sat a fancy, plush love seat. Why?

Congratulations to our new officers and board members. I got talked into this position. **HELP!!!** I hope to learn how to delegate real fast.

Turf Net is running a promotion to recruit new members. You can cut my membership fee substantially if you join and tell Pete that John Gehman referred you. I log on to [www.turfnet.com](http://www.turfnet.com) and [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) daily and usually find something new and/or entertaining has been posted. It seems the bulletin board postings on turfnet are less likely to mince words than those on GCSAA's, but there are more people participating on the GCSAA board. Make your kids show you how to use the computer to access the internet. There's a lot of valuable information floating around out there and you don't have to look real hard to find it, and with these two web sites, you can usually get an answer to almost any trade related question in a relatively short time.

Okay, how'd I do, Sam? One request for help, one computer promo (with no mention of Macintosh), a plea for cash, and a reference to a rest room. Well, if anyone does have a concern about my essays, who are they going to complain to, the President?

John Gehman

## Upcoming Events

- January 6-8, 1998 - Eastern PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, 1200 First Avenue, King of Prussia, PA. Contact: Michael Smith, Gulph Mills Golf Club (610) 828-0253 or the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council (814) 863-3475.
- February 2-8, 1998 - GCSAA's 69th International Golf Course Conference and Show, Anaheim Convention Center.
- February 24-26, 1998 - Western PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, Pittsburgh Expo Mart/Radisson Hotel. Contact PTC for further information (814) 863-3475.

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## The Proof of a Golfer

by Edgar Guest

The proof of the pudding is the eating they say,  
But the proof of a golfer is not  
The number of strokes he takes in a day  
Or the skill he puts into a shot.  
There is more to the game than the score which you make  
Here's a truth which all golfer's endorse:  
You don't prove your worth by the shots which you make:  
But the care which you take on the course.

A golfer is more than a ball-driving brute  
He is more than a mug-hunting czar  
To be known as a golfer, you don't have to shoot,  
The course of your home club in par.  
But you do have to love every blade of the grass.  
Every inch of the fairway and greens.  
If you don't take care of the course as you pass;  
You're not what "a good golfer" means.

Just watch a good golf some day when you're out,  
And note what he does as he plays,  
He never goes on leaving divots about.  
"Till the grass is put back, there he stays.  
Observe him in traps as he stands for his shot,  
Then note when the ball has been played.  
He never unthinkingly turns from the spot,  
"Till he's covered the footprints he made.

You may brag of your scores and may boast of your skill,  
You may think as a golfer you're good;  
But if footprints you make, in traps you don't fill,  
You don't love the game as you should.  
For your attitude unto the sport you enjoy,  
Isn't proven by brilliance or force;  
The proof of a golfer - now get this my boy,  
Is the care that you take of the course.



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## Safe Steps For Winter Weather

*Credit: American Red Cross*

### Wind Chill -

Winter temperatures can be deceiving. Thermometers measure only the cold. Don't forget that the effects on your body are compounded by the wind. The combined effect of winter cold and wind speed is called wind chill.

The dangerous effects of wind chill rise as the temperature drops and the wind increases. Heat is carried away faster from the skin, driving down body temperature. This can lead to frostbite or hypothermia.

### Hypothermia -

Low Body Temperature

**Warning signs** - Uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion.

**Detection** - Take the person's body temperature. If it is below 95 degrees F (35 degrees C), immediately seek medical attention.

### Winter Dress -

To avoid a chill, try to stay warm and dry. Layering clothes helps prepare you for different conditions and activities. Use three essential layers - underwear, insulation and outer shell in different combinations to maintain comfort through changes in weather and exertion levels:

#### Underwear -

- Provides basic insulation and moves moisture away from skin, preventing chill when activity stops.
- Choose long underwear, or thin, snug-fitting pants with a long-sleeved T-shirt or turtleneck.

#### Insulation -

- Use one or more layers, depending on conditions.
- Sweaters, sweatshirts and other similar garments are good insulators. Some newer insulating pieces are also suitable as an outer shell in milder weather.

#### Outer Shell -

- Choose garments that are windproof, and preferably waterproof, such as those made of coated nylon or polyester. Many shells - such as ski-style jackets or parkas - combine the outer and insulating layers.
- Good fit is crucial. If the shell is too big, heat loss can occur rapidly. If it is too small, you may not have enough room for insulating layers.

Plan for head to toe. Wear a hat, which can save half your body heat loss. If needed, wear layers of pants to keep your legs warm. Gloves and warm socks help protect fingers and toes, where you can first feel the effects of cold temperatures.

### Walks & Drives -

Treading a slick sidewalk or moving your car from a slippery driveway can be dangerous. Accidental deaths occur most frequently in January, when an estimated 1,000 people die from falls outside the house.

To increase safety of family, friends, and neighbors, keep your walkways and driveway free from snow and ice. Snow blowers and ice-melting granules make the process much easier and less physically demanding.

#### When the weather turns nasty -

- Act early. It's easier to remove snow immediately following a snowfall, before it becomes packed or turns to ice. You can help prevent ice from forming by spreading ice melters when heavy wet snow, sleet or freezing rain begins. Reapply later, after removing any accumulation.
- Remove ice and provide traction to keep walkways safe. Many ice melters can help reduce the risk of slips and falls, and are more effective than household items like sand or kitty litter. Be sure to check the package labels. Always look for products that do not irritate skin, require special handling or protective clothing, or contain harsh chemicals. Follow directions carefully.
- Clear a wide path. When snow accumulates, take extra time to clear more than just a single shovel width on sidewalks. It will make walking easier and safer.

### Shoveling -

Shoveling demands heavy physical exertion. The strain from the cold and hard labor may cause a heart attack. Sweating from overexertion can lead to a chill and hypothermia. Seek alternative to shoveling. Use a snow blower and ice-melting products to help make snow removal easier. Get help from others.

#### *If you must shovel, remember to -*

- Take it slow; do it carefully
- Lift small amounts, especially when removing heavy snow, slush or ice.
- Use proper posture to prevent back strain. Keep your back straight, and lift gently from the knees and hips. Stop if you feel pain or become short of breath.

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## GCSAA Dress Code for Seminars

At their summer meeting, the GCSAA Board of Directors approved an education committee recommendation regarding a dress code for all GCSAA seminars, including conference seminars and chapter-hosted regional seminars. As you may recall, a dress code already exists for several conference events. The new seminar dress code is intended to help promote the professional image of golf course superintendents through professional attire.

Accordingly, the new dress code for conference and chapter-related seminars is: **Casual business attire** (slacks and collared shirts for men, similar attire for women); jackets are recommended.

For your reference the dress code for other conference events follows:

- \* **Trade Show & Educational Sessions:** Golf casual attire.
- \* **Opening Session and Government and Environmental General Session:** Sport coat and similar dress for women.
- \* **Gala Reception and Dinner:** Coat and tie, and similar dress for women.
- \* **Golf Tournament: Golfing events:** Golf casual attire, such as golf shirt or sweater and casual slacks, no jeans. *Welcoming Reception:* Semi-business attire, such as an open-collared shirt with sport coat for men, and similar for women. *Victory Reception and Banquet:* Business attire, such as a suit with coat and tie for men, and similar attire for women.

Members will be notified of the new guideline through seminar registration confirmation letters and through Newslines. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact Tommy D. Witt, CGCS, Education Committee Chairman at (847) 304-2840 or by e-mail at [tomwitt@ix.netcom.com](mailto:tomwitt@ix.netcom.com) or contact Deena Amont, Director of Education at (800) 471-7878, ext. 414 or by e-mail at [damont@gcsaa.org](mailto:damont@gcsaa.org).

## Just A Reminder

Should you need to fax information to Wanda, the number is the same as her home phone 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.

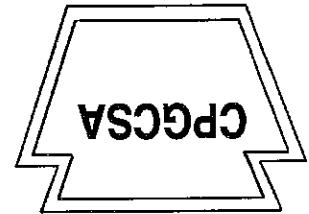
If you have any accomplishments or things you have done that could benefit other members, please be sure to get the information to Wanda so that it can be included in the newsletter.

*Happy Holidays!*



Terry B. Morgan - Editor  
Wanda S. Fry - Executive Secretary  
P.O. Box 1420  
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## The Green Sheet



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