

# The Green Sheet



Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 6 Issue 5

July 1998

## July Meeting

### Reading Country Club

**Tuesday, July 14, 1998**

**Speaker - 11:30 AM**

**Lunch - 12:00 Noon**

**Golf - 1:00 PM**

**Cocktails - 5:30 PM**

**There will be a CPGCSA Board of  
Directors Meeting at 9:30 AM.**

## Superintendent Profile

Brian Ahrens has been the superintendent at the Reading Country Club since September 1994. He started there in March of 1994 as Assistant Superintendent. Brian received a B.S. of Agronomy degree from Penn State University in December 1992.

Brian is married to Christy and has a 2 year old son, Hunter. They are expecting their second child in late July. Brian enjoys hunting, golfing, and family time.

## Course Profile

Reading Country Club is an Alexander Findley design. The first 9 holes were completed in 1923. By 1931 the clubhouse and the remainder of the course was completed. Between 1969 and 1979, 95 of the original 237 acres were sold off leaving the club with it's current layout of 142 acres. Golf legend Byron Nelson and former PGA President Henry Clay Poe both served in the capacity as Head Pro at Reading Country Club.

## USGA "Tip of The Month"

by Keith Happ

### "Establish a Test Area to Better Evaluate Methods and Materials"

The turfgrass management business is dynamic to say the least. New products are being developed and better ways of managing turf are evolving. University and independent researchers constantly evaluate materials and methods to determine if they have merit and can be applied successfully to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency with which the turf is prepared. The results generated from these tests offer a starting point when new strategies are taken to the playing field (i.e. your course).

Establishing a test area on the course can allow the true benefits of any new material to be better exhibited and evaluated. A section of a fairway, tee, green or nursery (if you are lucky enough to have one) could provide the desired effect. Establishing side-by-side comparisons of treated and untreated plots can be very telling. Also, new treatment strategies can also be compared to currently used treatments to determine if the benefits derived are worth pursuing.

The premise of this message is to never stop asking questions or trying new products and procedures. However, in the quest for information and answers, some form of on course evaluation should be performed. If new materials are to be applied, leave a check site. On the nursery or practice green for example, use a piece of plywood to cover the turf so the clear differences between treatments can be seen and critiqued. The differences may also allow cost benefit analysis to be performed. Some new .....continued on page 4.....

## Inside This Issue

<i>President's Message</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>Directions to Reading CC</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Heather and Gorse</i>	<i>Page 6</i>

## President's Message

by John Gehman

Remember seeing the infrared picture in the infamous Daconil case a few years ago? What I observed was a big red picture that didn't show me squat. The whole idea sounded like a bunch of B.S. Conversely, while the plaintiff's claim was a bunch of hokey, the use of infrared photography for turf management is not. At last month's meeting, John Seid of Precision Turf gave us an excellent overview of how this technology can be used to pinpoint the cause of problem areas in our turf. Quoted from their brochure, "...these degrees of color indicate plant stress...the images can detect: drought stress, low fertility, compaction, disease, leaks in irrigation systems, flaws in sprinkler patterns, problems in drainage systems". This is the first real exposure I've had to this area of technology. It was ironic that Rich Brandel had shown up at my place just a few days earlier with a gentleman who performs a similar service. There must be some merit to the process, there's already competition.

Thanks Tony for a wonderful day. Before the board meeting, I stood in the parking lot at Heritage Hills, looking out over the golf course with the sun beating down on me, thinking this is going to be a wonderful day. The sky was clear, the course looked great and best of all, there were no fires to put out at home. It was an extremely enjoyable day. Neither Ted nor I won any money, but we did come in first, along with Benner and Wiblishwhatever....we came in first by about an hour. I think there may still be one foursome finishing up the last hole. Where the h— was everybody?

Enclosed with this Green Sheet is an updated CPGCSA Membership Application. The application fee has been adjusted and there is a text revision for compatibility with the GCSAA affiliation agreement. Please make some photo copies for your files and chuck the old ones.

This month's board meeting will focus on Central Penn's finances and budget issues. I'm proposing to raise the annual dues to \$495. This would be \$95 to the association and \$50 toward each month's meeting, use it or lost it. (That ought'a get a rise out of a few people.) Seriously, if you have any concerns or suggestions, please convey them to any board member.

See you at Reading. Thank you.

## Directions to Reading Country Club

### From York/Lancaster:

Take Route 30 to Lancaster. Take Route 222 North through Shillington into Reading (Lancaster Avenue). Follow signs for 422 East (Pottstown). Take 422 East Bypass to traffic light; Best Western Dutch Colony Inn and Suites is on the left. Go to the fourth traffic light (McDonalds and Shelbourne Square on right). Turn right at light, into shopping center, make a U-turn and come back to the light. Now make a left. You will be going west on 422. Reading Country Club is the first driveway on the right.

### From Harrisburg:

Take PA Turnpike to Morgantown exit (Exit 22). Take Route 176 North to Pottstown 422 East exit. Take 422 East to traffic light. Best Western Dutch Colony Inn and Suites is on the left. Go to the fourth traffic light (McDonalds and Shelbourne Square on right). Turn right at light, into shopping center, make a U-turn and come back to the light. Now make a left. You will be going west on 422. Reading Country Club is the first driveway on the right.

### From Allentown:

Take Route 100 South to 422 West. Take 422 West toward Reading. Follow 422 West for approximately 13 miles. After passing Dairy Queen on the left, proceed to the next traffic light (Shelbourne Square and McDonalds on the left). Go through this traffic light and Reading Country Club is next driveway on the right.

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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.

James V. Byrne, Superintendent

*Tanglewood Manor Golf Club.....Class A*

John M. Colo, Assistant Superintendent

*Bent Creek Country Club.....Class C*

Michael S. Bedi, Sales Representative

*Philadelphia Turf Company.....Class AF*

Steven Chirip, Sales Representative

*Egypt Farms.....Class AF*

Al Sonchen, Sales Manager

*Jade Run Turf & Sod Farm.....Class AF*

Rich Valentine, Sales Representative

*Valentine & Sons.....Class AF*

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 Mark Malasavage at (717) 533-3269.

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.

## Upcoming Events

- Penn State Turfgrass Field Days — August 12-13, 1998 at the Joseph Valentine Turfgrass Research Center and Landscape Management Research Center at Penn State University. For information contact: Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, P. O. Box 1078, Lemont, PA 16851, (814) 863-3475 OR Mr. George Hamilton, Department of Agronomy, 116 ASI Building, University Park, PA 16802, (814) 865-3007 or e-mail h8x@psu.edu.
- The 22nd Annual Joseph Valentine Memorial Golf Tournament — October 19, 1998 at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. The Valentine tournament has been one of the key fund raising events for the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council in Eastern PA. Your participation is critical towards the continued support the PTC provides for the Turfgrass program at Penn State University. Tournament details will be mailed to past participants in the next few months. For additional information call John Chassard at (610) 967-4643.



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## USGA Tip..... continued from page 1

techniques may only be suited to a select few due to the economics of the treatment regime while other new strategies have broad-based application.

Day-in and day-out we are bombarded with new products and their claims of superiority. The only real way to determine if products work as described is to test them under the conditions that exist at your course. Rather than treating the entire property, establish a test area. Significant and even quantifiable information can be gained to make decisions that are not based on emotion. Management programs can be adjusted and continuously fine-tuned to provide the conditions demanded.

Many product claims sound too good to be true and often are. Never stop asking questions, but test materials wisely.

## Scholarship Golf Tournaments

This fall there are two turf student scholarship golf tournaments being held in our general area. The first is September 16, 1998 at Pilgram's Oak Golf Club and is being sponsored by the George E. Ley Company. The proceeds will be split between the scholarship programs for the CPGCSA, as well as the PGCSA. The cost is \$75.00 per person. The George E. Ley Company, which is an irrigation contractor and supplier located in Glenmoore, PA, will be providing all golfing fees and lunch. The scholarship funds will be raised directly through entry fees and hole sponsorships.

The second golf tournament is October 14, 1998 at the White Deer Challenge Course. The golf tournament is being hosted by the Keystone Association of Golf Course Superintendents, with proceeds benefitting their turf student scholarship fund. The cost is \$200 per foursome.

For more information about either of these events, please contact Wanda at (717) 274-6004.

## Penn State Disease Diagnostic Update

Speaking with Mike Soika, Senior Research Aide for diagnosis and management of turfgrass disease at Penn State, he has informed us that over the past month (through June 15th), there have been no turfgrass disease problems sent through the diagnosis laboratory. He believes that cool, relatively dry weather over the past 30 days is the primary explanation for this phenomenon.

As we progress into the warmer, more humid months of the summer, if you have trouble diagnosing a disease problem, you can contact Mike at Penn State. His office number is (814) 863-3440.

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Classification \_\_\_\_\_ Date accepted by Board of Directors \_\_\_\_\_ Date accepted check \_\_\_\_\_

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

I hereby apply for membership in the **Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association**, an affiliate of the **Golf Course Superintendents Association Of America**. Membership in the GCSAA is mandatory for Class A and B members and recommended for all other classifications.

Enclosed is my application fee of           \$50.00           (Dues will be billed upon acceptance and classification.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY & STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE JOINED GCSAA \_\_\_\_\_ GCSAA# & CLASSIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_ PESTICIDE LICENSE # \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY & STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

(1) State your present position: \_\_\_\_\_ If, superintendent, Certified? \_\_\_\_\_

(2) How long have you been at this position? \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Summarize your previous golf course experience: \_\_\_\_\_

(4) List any turf organizations you are or were associated with: \_\_\_\_\_

(5) List your educational background: \_\_\_\_\_

(6) Briefly explain why you would like to join **Central Pennsylvania GCSA**: \_\_\_\_\_

(7) How many **Central Pennsylvania GCSA** meetings would you estimate you would be attending throughout the year? \_\_\_\_\_

(8) Check category of membership you are applying for:

- ☐ Superintendent      ☐ Assistant      ☐ Course Employee      ☐ Owner  
☐ Commercial - Type of Business \_\_\_\_\_

I do hereby acknowledge that this information must be reviewed by the Membership Committee and the Board of Directors. If accepted I pledge to participate actively in all Association functions and to serve the Association whenever called upon. I do also pledge to observe the By-Laws and Code of Ethics of the **Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association** and the **Golf Course Superintendents Association of America** and conduct myself as a professional at all times.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Must be attested by Class A Members:**

Attestor \_\_\_\_\_ Attestor \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Applicants and attesting members will be notified to be present for an introduction to the Board of Directors before Applicant is accepted into the Association. Applicants will not be accepted unless completed in full. Enclose check or money order (no cash) payable to CPGCSA and send to Secretary:

Wanda S. Fry  
P.O. Box 1420, Lebanon, PA 17042  
(717) 274-6004

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## Speaker Profile

Our speakers at the Heritage Hills meeting on June 9th were Marty Campfield, President of NSIA, Inc. and John Seid, Professional Aerial Photographer and image interpreter. Marty introduced John noting his outstanding experience of over 30 years shooting and interpreting infrared images on over 500 golf courses during all phases of construction, renovation, and management. John comes highly recommended by many of the top course architects and superintendents in the world today.

Interesting slides were shown highlighting the ability of infrared film to pinpoint diseases and pest pressure, uneven irrigation patterns and system leaks, moisture stress, up to 4 weeks before the human eye can detect them. We thank John for his presentation and appreciate that he drove here from Minnesota to share his information with us.

## Equipment For Sale

Please contact Bob Wert at (800) 442-4652 if you are interested in the following pieces of golf course equipment.

- 11 Standard Ball Washers at \$80.00 each

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!!!

## Just A Reminder

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.

Should you need to fax information to Wanda, the number is the same as her home phone number (717) 274-6004.

## 1998 Meeting Sites

August 11	Honey Run Golf Course Don Dodson, Superintendent
September 8	Foxchase Golf Course Dan Achenbach, Superintendent <i>Joint Meeting with Philadelphia and Pocono</i>
October 7	Lebanon Country Club Jeffrey L. Fry, CGCS <i>Annual Meeting/Association Championship</i>



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## Heather And Gorse

by Mark V. DelSantoro, CGCS

The U.S.G.A., the governing body of American golf, has kicked me below the belt, and quite frankly, it hurts! For nearly ten years I've been telling my wife that neither size, nor length matters, and just as I was on the verge of convincing her of this, the U.S.G.A. has come out of the closet and publicly announced that both size and length actually do matter, at least from their point of view.

Some serious scuttlebutt was recently created in the golfing community as a result of an interview that new U.S.G.A. President F. Morgan "Buzz" Taylor granted to Golf World magazine about a month ago. Essentially, Mr. Taylor threatened a number of controversial changes to the rules that could be implemented as early as this year's U. S. Open Championship at Olympic Hills outside San Francisco in Mid-June. There were primarily six potential rule changes that are being considered, all of which deal with golf equipment. In a nutshell, the U.S.G.A. is considering: 1) outlawing the newest line of jumbo titanium drivers i.e. Biggest Big Bertha, Ti Bubble 2, etc.; 2) scaling back the length of drivers, which have gone from 42" to 46" and even 50" long; 3) lowering the overall distance standard of U.S.G.A. conforming golf balls; 4) outlawing wedges with sixty or more degrees of loft; 5) reducing the number of golf clubs one can legally carry during a round from fourteen back to twelve; and the *coup de grace* for me, 6) outlawing the use of long-shafted putters. According to President Taylor all of these changes are being considered "in order to preserve and protect the game's ancient and honorable traditions."

Well let me tell you man, quite frankly, I don't get it! In an effort to preserve and protect the game's ancient and honorable traditions, should we as superintendents revert back to allowing sheep to mow the rough? How about furrowing the sand in our bunkers to increase the difficulty of a bunker shot? For the sake of tradition, let's convert our fairways back to Kentucky Bluegrass and while we're at it, let's refurbish and reinstate our old pull-behind gang mowers. Yeah, and how about our putting greens....for the sake of tradition!?? And for the real "Greatest Big Bertha" on preserving tradition: let's talk about a certain golf pro being allowed to use a golf car in the U.S. Open!!! One word best describes my belief towards the hypocrisy of the preservation of the ancient and honorable traditions of the game....Garbage!

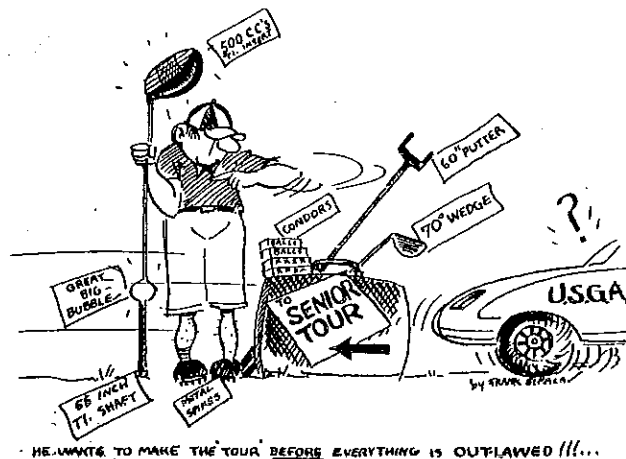
Times have changed; women in the United States can vote, the U.S.S.R. is no longer a super power; East and West Germany are united (sort of); the U.S. men's soccer team is in the world cup! Yes, times have changed. Think about how golf course maintenance has changed just over the past 25 years: Putting greens are being maintained at 0.100" and less; some fairways stimp faster than some greens did back in the 1960's;

new irrigation systems are so advanced and management practices so finely tuned that for an event like the U.S. Open Championship, if one blade of turfgrass is out of place, not only is it noticed, but it is scrutinized by the media and the touring professionals to no end.

Yes, times have changed and golf has also changed. Rather than fight the natural evolution of technology, maybe the U.S.G.A. ought to try adapting to those changes. If Joe Golfer wants to hit a 50" driver and his "H.J. Loke Gravity Golf Swing" is consistently good enough to control it, so be it. If Joe Golfer wants to putt with a 48" putter and he's talented enough to successfully manipulate both long and short putts, so be it. If Joe Golfer wants to spend \$50.00 per one dozen golf balls, \$500.00 per one driver, \$375.00 per one short game lesson, \$15.00 for a Monte Cristo cigar, and \$100.+ per one eighteen hole round of golf, who is complaining???

The world is experiencing a golfing boom like never before seen. It's a craze that seemingly has no end and its rewards reach out to everyone within the golf industry. Technological advances are generally a good and natural thing, and while more people than ever before are playing golf, the scoring averages of these people, from the pros to the hacks, have not statistically changed over the past twenty years. Byron Nelson's 1945 PGA scoring average record of 68.33 strokes per round still stands today as the benchmark. I personally have a Greatest Big Bertha, a sixty degree wedge, and an extra long putter, and my handicap has gone up by two strokes so far this year. So much for technology! The bottom line is you still have to select the right club, manipulate the environmental conditions, and most importantly, execute the golf shot. I don't think there are any technological advances that have the ability to simplify this process. So, keeping this in mind, from whom exactly is the U.S.G.A. trying to protect the game???

As Professor DelSantoro sees it, size actually does matter, and as far as the U.S.G.A. is concerned, there are much bigger, better, and more important things for them to focus their energy on. That's my "Greatest Biggest Bertha"-like view from the wild, windy, and wonderful heather and gorse.



HE WANTS TO MAKE THE TOUR BEFORE EVERYTHING IS OUTLAWED !!!...



## MID-ATLANTIC EQUIPMENT

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## Short Stories

Feeling too busy to read those epic novels? Try these books on for size - they're the shortest short stories we could find!

- **The Amish Phone Book**
- **What Men Know About Women**
- **Lawyers We Love**
- **Ethics in Washington**
- **Bob Dole: The Wild Years**
- **Guide to Manners by Dennis Rodman**
- **Popular Dance Instruction by Al Gore**

## Golf Results

We thank Tony Goodley and his staff at Heritage Hills Golf Resort for the use of their beautiful resort. The tournament of the day was a Calloway Individual Ball.

### Low Gross

**Bill Rahling** 70

### Low Net

**1st Place** Mike Giordano 70

**2nd Place** Bill Holloway 71

**3rd Place** Chris Martin 71

### Closest to Pin #5

Dave Mattes

### Closest to Pin #12

Eric Krick

### Special Recognition

Don Dodson !!!

If you are still in need of a handicap, please contact Bob Wert, Harrisburg North Golf Course (717) 692-3664.

Our next meeting is at Reading Country Club. We're hoping to see everyone July 14th.

Thanks!

Bill Brooks and Bob Wert, Golf Chairmen

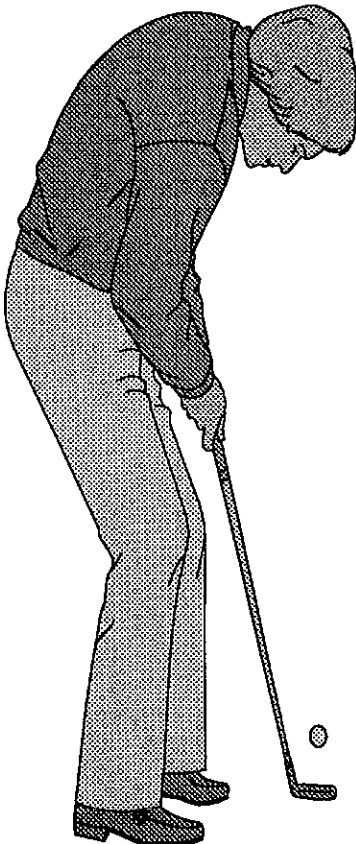
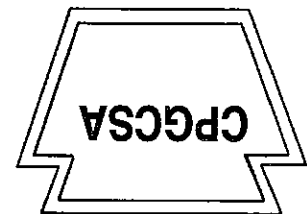
## For Your Information...

- **Reservation reminder...**Please remind your club of the importance of mailing your meeting reservations by the posted deadline date. Many reservations are being received late which can cause an inconvenience for the host and hosting club. If you have any doubt about your reservation, please call Wanda at (717) 274-6004.
- 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.
- 1998 Roster Books have been printed and will be mailed shortly. If you do not receive your book by the July meeting date, please call Wanda.
- If you or someone you know is interested in running for the 1999 CPGCSA Board of Directors, please contact Mark Malasavage at (717) 533-3269.
- Please contact Wanda if either your home or work address and telephone numbers change, so we can keep our records up to date.



Mark V. DeSantoro, CGCS - Editor  
Wanda S. Fry - Executive Secretary  
P.O. Box 1420  
Lebanon, PA 17042-0200

## The Green Sheet



## The Rules of the Game

### Rule 25-1b/10 Casual Water on the Putting Green

**Question:** A player whose ball is on a putting green is entitled to relief from casual water. However, the nearest position affording maximum available relief which is not nearer the hole or in a hazard is off the green in the rough. If the player opts to take relief, must he place the ball in the rough?

**Answer:** Yes! Rule 25-1b(iii) states "if a ball lies on the putting green, the player shall lift the ball and place it without penalty in the nearest position where it lay which affords maximum available relief from the condition, but not nearer the hole nor in a hazard." In this situation, depending on the players ability to get the ball up and down, it might be better to play the ball as it lies in the casual water, rather than opt for relief.

Now **what** if a ball lies in casual water within an area defined as ground under repair. May the player take relief from the casual water under Rule 25-1b, drop the ball in the ground under repair, and then either play the ball as it lies or take relief from the ground under repair also under Rule 25-1b?

**Answer:** Yes! In fact, relief from a situation similar to this must be taken in this fashion. Relief must first be taken from the casual water, and then, if you don't like your lie, second, from the ground under repair. You are not entitled to take relief from both conditions in a single procedure.