

# The Green Sheet



Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 6 Issue 4

June 1998

## June Meeting

**Heritage Hills Golf Resort  
Tuesday, June 9, 1998**

**Speaker - 10:30 AM**

**Lunch - 11:00 AM**

**Golf - 12:00 Noon**

**There will be a CPGCSA Board of  
Directors Meeting at 9:00 AM.**

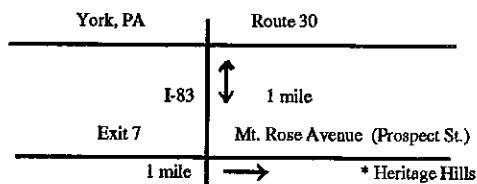
## Superintendent Profile

Tony Goodley, CGCS is a 1971 graduate of North Carolina State's Turfgrass Management program. He has been at Heritage Hills Golf Resort since its conception in 1988 as the Superintendent of Construction, and then Golf Course Superintendent. Tony was previously at River Bend in Washington, D.C. for 3 years and 12 years previous at Loudoun Golf and Country Club in Northern Virginia.

## Course Profile

Heritage Hills began construction in 1988 and opened in summer of 1989. Russell Roberts from Gaithersburg, Md was the architect. Heritage Hills considered a "fun course" has generous greens and tees with a premium on accuracy considering 18 holes was manipulated into 117 acres of a 250 acre project.

## Directions to Heritage Hills



Take 83 North or South to Exit 7. Go East on Mt. Rose Avenue (Prospect Street) to Heritage Hills Golf Resort.

## USGA "Tip of The Month"

by Darin S. Bevard

### "Some Thoughts for the Early Summer"

Hopefully by now, everyone has started to dry out from the rains of early May. It seems that most people came through without any major catastrophes. The TAS season is well underway and Stan, Keith, and myself have already been traveling extensively throughout the region. Now that the true growing season is upon us, we have some thoughts to offer on what we have seen and what may lie ahead.

In our travels we have seen very active populations of adult Black Turfgrass *Ataenius*. Control measures should be in place by now. If you haven't treated, keep your eyes open for occurrence of this pest. Some spot treatments may be necessary.

We've also seen the disease Summer Patch (*Magnaporthe Poae*) already in our travels. The damp spring has been perfect for the occurrence of this disease. Often, symptoms aren't noticed until the weather gets dry and hot. Again, control measures should already be underway for those courses with a history of this disease. This disease attacks the turf well in advance of visual symptoms.

Black Cutworms could very well be a severe problem this year due to the mild conditions experienced. If treatments are needed for this pest, please, treat the green surrounds as well as the greens themselves. Cutworms can travel up to 50 feet in a single evening to infest a site. Treating the green banks and greens can greatly extend the period of effective control.

The time for postemergence crabgrass applications is also approaching. We have seen a trend .....continued on page 4...

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## President's Message

by John Gehman

Well, my mental state is getting just a bit better than was implied in last month's president's message. I did the unconscionable by taking a vacation ...in Spring. There was a basketball referees' convention in Orlando and it was determined to be therapeutic to get away from the business for a while. I played two rounds of golf on back to back days, never did that before...never played two rounds in back to back weeks before. One day I simply parked my butt on a bench at Disney's Buena Vista Village for about three hours, alternating between a box of popcorn and an ice cream cone, listening to a series of elementary school chorus' perform and watching people pass by. It was wonderful. There were a few convention functions that got attended, but that wasn't really the point of the trip. The arrival back home was just in time to enjoy the deluge. Did you know that once a maintenance shop is clean, it doesn't get any better no matter how many times the broom is pushed through it?

Driving past all the different Orlando area hotels, one item of Central Penn business came to mind, is there any interest in blocking out a series of rooms in one hotel during GCSAA convention in February? We always seem to be rather scattered about at these affairs. Assuming quite a few supers will be bringing their families to do the "Disney Thing", why not try to coordinate our plans a bit and make it a Central Penn social event as well? Let me know if you're interested.

Being negative about another super or his golf course is not consistent with GCSAA's code of ethics, but Bob Wert, at Harrisburg North had a whole day to dry out the facility and he didn't do it. I wouldn't normally complain, but my pants got dirty. They had to be thrown into the wash basket that night, usually it's two to three weeks for a set of casual clothes. Actually Bob did a great job. He had called a week before the meeting almost in a panic about the condition of his course, he had closed the entire back 9 due to flooding conditions. He was assured that we're not expecting optimum playing conditions at every meeting, I wouldn't know what to do with them anyhow. If he's dealing with some adverse conditions, as we all were right then, it becomes a catalyst for conversation resulting in a learning experience for all of us. By meeting day however, things were actually fairly good. There was still some water coming out of the ground in places where it wasn't supposed to, but that's what water proof shoes are for. Thanks Bob, for bringing forth the sunshine so we could get out on the course and get our feet wet once again.

Mr. Goodley, are you prepared for a big crowd on June 9th. An awful lot of the regulars have already missed the first two meetings and this one's more centrally located. I always look forward to coming back to Heritage Hills every few years. This was the first "new course" I'd played after becoming a CPGCSA member. It had only been open a few weeks but made quite an impression. it's fun to observe the growth and change of the facility from one visit to the next and then compare it to the evolution of my own course. If we don't have a good turnout, I might start taking it personal...nahhh, if I took things personal, I wouldn't be so active on the websites.

At next month's board meeting, we are devoting a good deal of time to discuss budget issues. We have gone into this year with a healthy financial reserve but we are relying on a portion of it to balance our budgeted expenses for this year. If anyone has any thoughts or concerns, please convey them to any board member prior to our July meeting.

## Penn State Turfgrass Field Days

Turfgrass Field Days will be held on 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.

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## Membership News

There were no new membership applications reviewed at the May meeting.

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

Rick Eschbach, Superintendent

*Upper Perk Golf Course.....Class A*

Leon Drawbaugh, Superintendent

*Yorktowne Golf Course.....Class A*

Martin Campfield, President

*Nutrient Solutions in Agriculture...Class AF*

David Mattes, Head of Golf Course Construction

*TSG Services.....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.

## 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 through May 20th, 1998, the majority of diseases seen in the field have been all cool season in nature. For the most part, Red Thread, Pink Patch, and Pink Snow Mold have been diagnosed. Also, he has seen some early signs of Take-all Patch on a few bentgrass golf courses.

If you are having trouble diagnosing a disease problem, you can contact Mike at Penn State. His office number is (814) 863-3440.

## Equipment For Sale

Please contact Alby Gerst at Colonial Country Club (717) 545-6760 if you are interested in the following piece of equipment.

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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!!!



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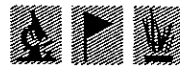
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## USGA Tip..... continued from page 1

away from the use of preemergence herbicides on fairways, greens and tees due to concerns about early fall overseeding. There is also a desire to define how bad the crabgrass problem really is on certain golf courses. Very good postemergence treatments are available and can be worked in with other programs. It has been a good spring for crabgrass.

We wish you the best as the season progresses. Feel free to contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

## Speaker Profile

The speaker for the June meeting will be Lee A. Mangum, Director of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System in Selkirk, NY. The topic will be **The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses - The Steps and Benefits of Participating**. Lee has a B.S. in Park Administration from the California Polytechnic University in Pomona. He was self-employed as a California Landscape Contractor for over 12 years. Lee has extensive golf course management experience including 3 years at the Resort at Squaw Creek, Olympic Valley, CA, a fully-certified course with the Audubon program. He has served as the California Audubon State Steward and has been employed with Audubon International since February 1997.

## Valentine Memorial Golf Tournament

The Twenty-second Annual Joseph Valentine Memorial Golf Tournament is scheduled for October 19, 1998 at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. Designed and constructed by A. W. Tillinghast in 1921, the Cricket Club continues to be one of the classic jewels in the Philadelphia area. 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.

## 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 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.

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## 5 Ways Experience Adds Value

- 1 Crisis Management.** An experienced superintendent is familiar with the uncontrollables and can prepare for them. Problems may be identified earlier and responses implemented earlier, which can lessen their impact.
- 2 Attention to Detail.** Less experienced superintendents may not be as familiar with golf course maintenance practices and may need to concentrate their efforts there. Thus, they may possibly overlook the importance of consistent attention to course details.
- 3 Management Ability.** Supervising even a small crew tests the management ability of superintendents. Generally, more experienced superintendents have developed effective strategies to help manage their time and their crew. Understanding the complexities of financial and risk management may also come with experience.
- 4 Business Decisions.** More experience helps to make the right decision the first time, limiting the cost of reworking and recovering from failure. Experience generally helps to focus on the long view, rather than constantly putting out fires.
- 5 Trust.** As manager of the most important asset of the golf facility, trust is critical. A trusting relationship comes with a proven track record of meeting expectations. An experienced superintendent has that track record.

Source: *Does Experience Count, Jan./Feb. 1997 Leader Board.*

## For Your Information...

- If you are interested in becoming a "Green Sheet" supporter for the 1998 season, please contact Wanda.
- 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 contact Wanda if either your home or work address and telephone numbers change, so we can keep our records up to date.
- We are in the process of preparing the 1998 Roster Book, so please contact us as soon as possible with any changes.
- Gene Evans of Blue Ridge Peat Farms has been injured and recovering in a New York hospital. Please keep him in your thoughts or drop him a card.
- If you are interesting in hosting a meeting, please contact any CPGCSA board member.



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## Heather And Gorse

by Mark V. DelSantoro, CGCS

"April showers bring more May showers!?" Somebody turn off the faucet, please!!! Looking back on the twelve straight rainy days we experienced last week, I'm pondering why it is that everyone talks about the weather, but no one ever does anything about it. Nearly 8.0" of rain over the past two weeks has left me contemplating the feasibility of constructing an ark, and wondering if it is time to start pairing up the animals into groups of two.

What's potentially worst is a report I heard on MS-NBC the other night about "La Nina," the evil, little, bitchy sister of "El Nino." The report concluded that if you thought "El Nino" had PMS, just wait until you get to know her vixen-like younger sibling. Extremely hot and extremely dry was the predictive model for the Mid-Atlantic states for June, July, and August, with an extremely active and severe hurricane season in September and October.

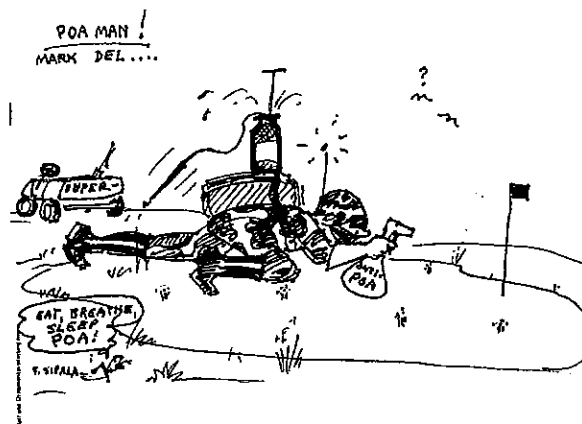
After three seasons at the "windy cottage" (that's Wyncote in Scotland, UK), I thought I'd seen all the extreme weather there was to see. A record drought in 1995, record rainfall in 1996, record cold through June of 1997, and record warmth in early 1998. I seriously don't know what the hell is normal anymore? Mr. Webster defines normal as "conforming to the standard or the common type; usual; not abnormal; regular; natural." Professor DelSantoro defines normal as "the mean or average of all the extremes." In other words, SNAFU'ed!!! This is similar but different.

In actuality, I won't mind seeing an extremely hot, dry summer (just like I didn't mind seeing 6" of ice over my green, tees, and fairways for 45+ days a few winters ago). I call it natural selection, or nature's way of cleansing my bentgrass. It seems that every year about this time, I declare global-thermal-nuclear war on the quarter size spots of *Poa annua* that develop on my greens and tees each year. Thus, any help that Mother Nature gives me along the way is absolutely "Farfegnugen" in my book! I used to simply plug the *Poa* spots out using an old *Zoysia* plugger or a pocket knife, but given my short attention span (too many brain cells killed by Foster's), I got bored with this process. Last year, I began to experiment with an idea that Bentcreek Country Club's CGCS, and Gravity Golf expert, H. J. Loke suggested. Mr. Loke creatively offered the idea of using a "Bingo Blotter" filled with an assortment of similar, but different things, and applying them on the nasty, undesirable *Poa* spots. While "Bingo Blotter" are very difficult to come by (I think they went out sometime in the late sixties), and the gravitational effects of bending over reeked havoc on my back, this process worked fairly well. But once again, the tediousness of this process wore me down.

For the calendar of 1998, I've decided to shift gears and get serious! It's time for a little *Poa* guerrilla warfare (if you want to kill a *Poa* plant, you have to start thinking and acting like a *Poa* plant...). I've started experimenting with low doses of several different products in broadcast applications over the top of my bentgrass, with the idea that the perennial nature of bentgrass will allow the plant to survive, while the *Poa* goes on a permanent vacation. I would love to give you more details about the experiments, but due to the covertness of the operation, I'd have to kill you. Actually, I've just started playing around with a few products (some old, some new), and as I succeed or fail I'll let you know!

Back to the cultural, and much more spiritually fulfilling forms of control, I've found over my tenure at Wyncote that *Poa* can be minimized by carefully controlling its work environment. Good drainage, good drying conditions, and good water management are cultural keys to *Poa* reduction. (As for mowing height, I think I'll allow our U.S.G.A. agronomists to blow that horn; in other words, it is easier said, than done, depending on whether you would like where you are currently employed). Overwatering is Professor DelSantoro's number one way to weaken your desirable turfgrass and strengthen your *Poa*. Hand-syringing is inevitable in our area; make sure your employees know what they're doing when it comes to watering. Let your bentgrass reach it's wilting point, then syringe. Bentgrass can recover from wilt, many times *Poa* can not recover.

Many people have suggested that I'm a bit eccentric for trying to fight the *Poa* encroachment; that eventually I'll be forced to take a bite from the forbidden fruit and accept *Poa*'s place in the biological food chain. I think not! There is simply too much technology out there to throw in the proverbial towel. Remember, sometimes the race isn't always to the swift, but to those who keep on running! Besides, Professor DelSantoro believes that eccentricity is a matter of relative perspective. That's my imbalanced, semi-distorted view from the heather and gorse.



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**Bennett Wartman**

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## Small Facts

- The collision of a ball and bat lasts only 1/1000 second, but the force of a homer reaches 8000 pounds, mashing the ball to half its original diameter.
- It's true - the first coin authorized by Congress in 1787 was inscribed with the following motto: "Mind Your Own Business."
- Since 1945, the rise in the Dow Jones Industrial Average is 17 times greater during the periods when both houses of Congress are out of town.

## Golf Results

We thank Bob Wert and his staff at Harrisburg North for a day without rain. Bob takes credit for the sunshine. The tournament was Best 2 Balls of Foursome.

### 1st Place

Bill Brooks John Wendorf 149

Scott Fischer Clair Rummel

### 2nd Place

Dan Davis Jim Bierly 151

Paul Wickey Fred Strouse

### 3rd Place

Terry Bennett Marty Campfield 158

Ken Fogelman Lee Frey

### Closest to Pin #7

Keith Perl

### Closest to Pin #10

Paul Wickey

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 Heritage Hills Golf Resort. We hope to see all our members on Tuesday, June 9.

Thanks!

Bill Brooks and Bob Wert, Golf Chairmen

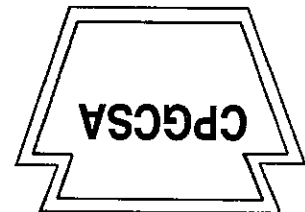
## 1998 Meeting Sites

July 14	Reading Country Club Brian Ahrens, Superintendent
August 11	Honey Run Golf Course Don Dodson, Superintendent
September 8	Foxchase Golf Course Dan Achenbach, Superintendent Joint Meeting with Philadelphia and Pocono
October 7	Lebanon Country Club Jeffrey L. Fry, CGCS Annual Meeting/ Association Championship



Mark V. DeSantoro, CGCS - Editor  
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## The Green Sheet



### The Rules of the Game



This one is for rules professionals only!

**Question:** A player, whose ball lies on the putting green, plays a stroke from across the putting green. The ball strikes the hole liner, which had stuck to the bottom of the flagstick and had come out of the hole when the person attending the flagstick removed the flagstick. Is there any penalty?

**Answer:** No! A hole-liner is an outside agency. Accordingly, if the hole-line was moving when the ball struck it, the stroke is canceled and the ball must be replaced (Rule 19-1b). If the hole liner was not moving, the ball must be played as it lies (Rule 19-1). In case of doubt, the ball must be played as it lies.

**Now what if....:** Essentially the same situation except...the player doesn't authorize his opponent to attend the flagstick until after he realizes that his ball has a chance to go in the hole. His opponent, standing well off to the side, is caught off guard by the command, and hurries to remove the flagstick. As he does this the hole-liner comes out with the flagstick and the player's ball strikes the hole-liner. Are there any penalties?

**Answer:** Absolutely! Both players are penalized two strokes each for breach of Rule 17: The Flagstick. The player is penalized for breaching Rule 17-1, authorizing his opponent to remove the flagstick after the player had started making his stroke, or his ball was in motion, and his opponent is penalized for breaching Rule 17-2, for removing the flagstick after the player had made his stroke, or his ball was in motion.