

The Green Sheet



Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 6 Issue 2

March/April 1998

April Meeting

Moccasin Run Golf Course

Tuesday, April 14, 1998

Golf - 12:00 Shotgun

Dinner - 5:00 PM

There will be a Board of Directors meeting at 9:15 AM.

Superintendent Profile

Curt King has been working at Moccasin Run Golf Course for 12 years as Superintendent. He has been married to Grace for 8 years and God has blessed them with 2 children, Lauren Grace - age 4 and Lucas Storm - age 3. In the winter Curt's passion is skiing in the Colorado Rockies and golfing in the sunny south.

Course Profile

In April of 1986 the King family went to work to build Moccasin Run Golf Course. The land was originally used to harvest hay and corn for their Holstein dairy at another farm owned by the family. The beautiful stone house (3 story field stone) is approximately 150 years old. They used one room for the club house when they first opened in fall of 1987 with 9 holes. The following summer in June of 1988, they opened with 18 holes. The lakes with the rolling hills make for some beautiful and interesting golf holes.

Directions to Moccasin Run

From Lancaster: 30 East to 41 South. Go 7 miles, then turn right on Highland Road. Go to Schoff Road. Turn right to Club House.

From Reading or Coatesville: Route 10 South, approximately 5 miles turn right on Highland Road. Go 3 1/2 miles to Schoff Road and turn right to Club House.

Speaker Profile

Roy Knupp will talk about "Poa Annua, Like it or not, you've got it, how do you deal with it?" Roy is a Research Associate and works with the Turfgrass Breeder Project at Penn State University. He has also worked on turf projects under Dr. Joe Duich and Dr. Dave Huff.

Golf

The golf tournament scheduled for the April meeting at Moccasin Run will be a 2-man scramble.

A USGA Handicap is required to play in a number of tournaments in 1998. If you do not have access to a USGA handicap system, please contact Bob Wert at Harrisburg North Golf Course (717) 692-3664.

Inside This Issue

Presidents Message	Page 2
Membership News	Page 3
Heather and Gorse	Page 4

"Investing in the Beauty of Golf"

The GCSAA Foundation Campaign

Our own past president Jim Loke, of Bent Creek Country Club, is a member of the GCSAA Foundation committee. The foundation's plan is to raise \$3.5 million in an effort to meet the challenges facing the superintendent and golf today; improving playing conditions, stewarding the environment, stimulating the professional development of superintendents and assisting in the promotion of the game through education and research.

The money will be used to support projects in the areas of education and research. Educationally, the foundation will support things such as initiatives to address the evolutionary requirements of the superintendent position and curriculum improvement programs focusing on the areas of agronomic, business, and communication skills. On the research end, the foundation will support things such as applied research projects conducted on golf courses and environmental initiatives that promote assurance, awareness, and education.

The campaign is expected to greatly benefit the game of golf economically, aesthetically, artistically, and environmentally, as well as technologically. The campaign will incorporate GCSAA members, GCSAA affiliates, industry partners, allied associations, golf clubs, and golfers, and is expected to run through July of 1998.

For more information, please contact the GCSAA Foundation Campaign Office at (800) 472-7878, extension 646.

Presidents Message

Who'dda ever thunk we'd be mowing greens in January and February. It's good I brought the equipment in for service when I **thought** it was gonna turn cold. If we'd have waited till we were finished mowing for the season, we'd be doing some major scrambling right now.

For my first President's message, I know most of you are expecting/hoping for some literary masterpiece characteristic of my style of writing. I'm afraid you're going to be disappointed. After all, I am the President, and as such I must conduct myself in a manner that will truly uphold the integrity of the office. Well, considering what's going on in Washington, that pretty much leaves the ole barn door wide open doesn't it? I'll try not to get too political or too offensive. At least with those constraints, my messages won't be too long.

We've got a great board of directors. I see a lot of enthusiasm among the younger members, which means all of us, because none of us have a lot of past experience sitting on the board. While this can be perceived as a deficiency, we have already taken direction on some issues that have been persistently under discussion for years. We will be recommending a by-law change to raise the Class A- B/AF membership ratio. We will also be preparing to change our election policy to encourage two back to back one year terms and also allow the secretary/treasurer to be reelected perpetually. We have initiated the position of Chapter Liaison to take some of the work load off the President, insuring that the general membership is continually apprised of what is happening at the National level. It may also hopefully serve as an antidote for Past Presidents Disease. There will be an effort to recruit new A and B members from those clubs in our geographic region that are currently not represented in any local GCSA. We have also initiated a public relations effort aimed at organizing an advisory program to assist schools and municipalities in dealing with their athletic field concerns more effectively. We've also instructed Jim Loke to come up with a social event some time before Christmas.

Our April meeting will be held at Moccasin Run Golf Course in Atglen. I haven't seen the site, but in talking to Curt King, the operation sounds like a clone of my place. Being the first meeting of the golfing season my primary concern was that there be plenty of good food and a warm place to eat it, so our dinner and meeting will be held about a quarter mile from the course at a small private school which is often utilized for this type of event. One note of caution, if you're gonna need "one for the road", you'd better check out the options on the way in, because your not going to find any alcohol at the golf course or at the school.

Job Descriptions Offer Legal Protection

Key to defending the rights of both employers and employees is having well-written job descriptions.

Liability protection: This may protect employers from legal disputes regarding wage and hour claims, discrimination and wrongful termination law suits. Employees know exactly what is expected of them.

Important: While your facility may have a standard employee handbook, it is also crucial to provide specific job descriptions to all employees. When creating or revising job descriptions, remember to:

- Create detailed job descriptions for every position.
- Consider what is essential to doing the job.
- Include all physical and mental requirements for every position.
- Be sure that each employee understands their duties and that they agree to fulfill them.

Employers have the right to change job descriptions, but changes need to be made in written form.

Source: Murry E. Page, Esquire, Dallas, Texas, Credit: March/April GCSAA Leaderboard.

Helpful: A free booklet of sample job descriptions is available from GCSAA by calling (800) 472-7878.

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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 CPGCSA at the next meeting.

Eric Houck, Assistant Superintendent
Chester Valley Golf Club.....Class C
 Robert Book, Sales
UHS.....Class AF
 Jerol Hughes, Sales Representative
NCH Corp.....Class AF
 James J. Nagle, RLA
Derck and Edson Assoc.....Class AF
 Thomas Mahute, Sales Representative
Lesco, Inc.....Class AF
 Theodore Huhn, Representative
BASF Corp.....Class G
 Charles Groff, Owner/Manager
Groff Farm Golf Club.....Class M
 Darin Bevard, Agronomist
USGA.....Class H

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

Robert Cuddeback, III, Supt.
Flying Hills Golf Club.....Class A
 Don Petry, Superintendent
Country Club of HersheyClass B
 Hal D. Neil, Superintendent
Quail Valley Golf ClubClass B
 Pete Ramsey, Superintendent
Range End Country Club.....Class B

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, Country Club of Hershey, at (717) 533-3269.

Increase Efficiency with the Internet

To be successful and provide the highest value to employers, a superintendent needs to stay on course with more than just the latest technology in turfgrass management. Superintendents also should have access to the latest computer technology, including the Internet, at the office.

Benefits of superintendents having Internet access in the office:

- **Improve communication** with golf course officials and fellow GCSAA members using E-mail.
- **Access current weather forecasts** for their local area to stay aware of how weather conditions may affect daily operations.
- **Visit the growing number of supplier Web sites** to gather information and comparison shop for equipment, supplies and services.
- **Post problems** on the GCSAA discussion forums and gather

expertise from hundreds of member superintendents.

- **Participate in association activities**, such as registering for regional seminars, planning your conference and show schedule, reviewing publications, and getting the latest news.
- **Find technical information** by using various search engines and databases of research findings and agronomic practices.
- **Access compliance/regulatory** information at the local, state and federal levels and get MSDS from GCSAA's Web site.

Double Benefit: No matter what information needs may be met by using the internet, the end result is the same: superintendents will be able to do their jobs more efficiently for their employers.

Source: GCSAA Info. Services Comm.
 Credit: Leaderboard, Jan/Feb 1998

Green Sheet Supporters

We would like to thank the following individuals for their interest in supporting the Central Penn GCSA "Green Sheet".

- | | |
|--|---|
| * Turf Specialty Inc. - Don Hollinger | * Mid Atlantic Equipment - Lee Frey |
| * Exeter Supply Co. - Barry Goodhart | * Lawn & Golf Supply - Greg Borzok, Don Benner |
| * AgrEvo - Shaun Barry | * Golf Cars Inc. - Paul Szymanski |
| * Seedway - Fred Mohr | * York Distributors - Tom Walsh |
| * Aer-Core, Inc. - Bill Rahling, Bob Eichert | * Floratine Products - Mike Shoppell |
| * Valentine & Sons - Richie Valentine | * Diebolt Landscape Co. - Pete Diebolt |
| * Scotts - Paul Wickey | * Stull Equipment Co. - Dan Davis, Charlie McGill |
| * Bayer - John Wiblishauser | * Purcell & Associates - Jerry Purcell |
| * Novartis - John Wendorf | * Farm & Golf Course Supply - Bennett Wartman |
| * Tee & Green Sod - Chip Presendofer | |
| * Philadelphia Turf Company | |
| * Lesco - Tom Mahute | * Koonz Sprinkler Supply - John Gumm |

Heather And Gorse

by Mark V. DelSantoro, CGCS

What do Jimmy "the Greek" Snyder, Ben Wright, and Peter Jacobsen, all have in common? They will all go down in the annals of history as people who expressed their own version of the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and got hammered by the media, as well as the general public, for not being politically correct.

For those of you who don't know what I'm referring to, Peter Jacobsen was the keynote speaker at the opening session of the GCSAA conference in Anaheim last month. In his speech, he expressed his opinion on several issues relating to golf and professional sports, in general.

In a nutshell, he viewed public golf as becoming way too overpriced, to the point where "you need a small business loan to pay the green fees at Pebble Beach".

Towards club managers, he questioned how they could tell a superintendent how the golf course should play, quipping, "you have this guy who graduated from Salad Bar U, majoring in garbanzo beans, and minoring in toilet bowl disinfectant."

He fired at greens committee chairmen stating, "You got some guy who doesn't know the game, and he's well-liked, and he came from the dance committee."

On corporate golf companies Jacobsen remarked, "(The management company's) objective should not be making money, but the betterment of the game. The superintendent maintains the golf course until some corporation buys it and fires his ass!"

He also busted on free agency in professional sports, and the positive nature of the "Tiger Woods" affect compared to the affect other professional athletes, and what they have done (or haven't done) to change our children's future, among other things.

Interestingly enough, while I agree

that Peter needs to work on his approach, (as well as, his take away, his downswing, his point of contact, and his follow through) I believe that his opinions are all arguably true statements. But in today's hyper-sensitive society, no one wants to hear that something they've put their heart and soul into isn't good and pure.

Take the Casey Martin issue of whether he should be allowed to ride a golf car during tournament play. The level playing field issue in this case reminds me of a "battle of the sexes" tennis match between Martina Navratilova and Jimmy Connors a few years back. In this match, they claimed to be equalizing the unequal ability levels of the players by allowing Jimmy only one serve per point and allowing Martina to use the doubles lanes (four extra feet per side) on offense. The tennis match essentially was an exhibition, with proceeds going to charity. Nonetheless, the playing field wasn't equal in that scenario and it certainly can't be considered equal in the Martin case, either. Anyone who has ever played golf can attest to the fact that physical, emotional, and intellectual endurance all play a huge role in the game, no matter what the level of competition.

The PGA's defense was clear-cut and simple; allowing Casey Martin to ride a golf car when all the other competitors are required to walk wouldn't be equitable to all the competitor's. It would be like allowing Jimmy only one serve and Martina the doubles lane every single match, of every single tournament each year. The controllable conditions of the game must stay as consistent as possible for all the competitors. Unfortunately, the real issue didn't deal with playing on a level playing field. Similar to the fact that O. J. Simpson's trial not being about whether or not he killed Nicole and Ron.

At the conclusion of the Casey Martin trial, the PGA was made out to be the bad guy for being insensitive to disabled Americans. They weren't politically correct in the public's eye.

The point is that in today's mixed-up world in which we live, you have to wear kid gloves in nearly every scenario that you deal with, lest the lawyers and the bleeding heart liberals prosecute you for hurting someone's feelings or bruising someone's ego. What ever happened to freedom of speech, and your ability to call a spade a spade? I guess that's only applicable in the media's case. It's a sad state of affairs when you can't tell it like it is and get away with it. What I'm really asking is "where's the love, man?!! Love it or hate it, that's my view from the "over-priced" Wyncote Golf Club's heather and gorse. By the way, for Mr. Loke and any other "gravity golfers" out there who never hit your balls off the fairway, "heather and gorse" is the really deep, nasty, unmaintained rough found primarily in Scotland and Ireland.

1998 Meeting Sites

- May 13 Harrisburg North GC
- June 9 Heritage Hills Golf Resort
- July Reading Country Club
- Aug. Honey Run Golf & CC
- Sept. Bridges Golf Club
- Oct. Lebanon Country Club

FYI

- March 15 was the deadline for 1998 CPGCSA Membership Dues
- If you are interested in becoming a "Green Sheet" Supporter for the 1998 season, please contact Wanda or forward a business card along with your \$100.00 payment.
- Please contact Wanda if you need your nametag replaced or if you have not received one.

USGA "Tip of The Month"

Communicate, Communicate, Communicate!!!

Spring weather is approaching and the urge to get outside is growing stronger. This urge is being fed by weekly television broadcasts of the PGA Tour. It may seem unfair to those who manage turf that golfers view those events and expect their home courses to be in the same condition as soon as the sidewalks and driveway pavement surrounding their home is dry. We know it's unfair (even unrealistic) but, somehow/someway it must be communicated that waiting until the weather allows play to proceed without damage is the best strategy to implement. This short-term inconvenience will, inevitably, give way to better conditions later in the year.

With all that occurs during spring preparation of the course, at times, we fail to explain the conditions of the course to the members. The explanation may fall on deaf ears, but the lines of communication must stay open. The spring is a great time to start off on the right foot by outlining the game plan for course preparation. This may stimulate questions from members and, hopefully, these questions will be directed to the Greens or Golf Committee who then may discuss golfer expectations and concerns with the superintendent. No game plan should be set in stone, and being somewhat flexible early in the year can reap benefits.

You cannot accommodate all of the golfer requests, but don't trivialize their concerns. A great deal of effort is put forth to proactively plan turf maintenance activities for the season ahead. Keep the lines of communication open early in the year; proactively, many problems can be avoided.

Keith A. Happ, CGCS

Thank You!

The Allied Golf Course Superintendents of Pennsylvania wish to thank the following businesses for their support of the Pennsylvania Hospitality Suite at the 1998 GCSAA Conference in Anaheim.

- ◆ Aer-Core, Inc
- ◆ AgrEvo
- ◆ Allegheny Lawn & Golf Products
- ◆ Andre & Son, Inc.
- ◆ A T Sales Associates, LTD
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- ◆ The Scotts Co.
- ◆ Shearon Environmental
- ◆ Stull Equipment Co.
- ◆ Sweeney Seed Co.
- ◆ Tanto Construction & Supply
- ◆ Three Rivers Tractors & Equipment
- ◆ Walker Supply
- ◆ Zeneca Professional Products

Proper Equipment for An 18-Hole Golf Course

United States Golf Association

July 21, 1923

"What equipment is needed for the proper maintenance of an 18-hole golf course?" This is a question submitted by a gentleman who is just completing such a course. Manifestly the best answers are those of clubs or of men who have had long experience, but even so there are considerable differences in their lists of necessary equipment. The question was passed along by the editors to several men of experience, five of whom kindly submitted lists which in their opinions represented the necessary equipment for an 18-hole course. The information gathered from these lists is as follows:

Tractor - A good tractor is considered necessary by all five men reporting, especially for mowing the fairways.

Vehicles - Two advise 1 dump-cart with attachments; one advises a two-horse wagon; another, 1 broad-wheeled dump-cart, 1 wagon for hay and miscellaneous hauling, and 1 or 2 auto trucks; another, a one-horse cart with 6-inch tires, 1 auto truck with dump body, and 1 small touring car for use of the course manager.

Horses or Mules - Two advise 1 or 2 horses or mules; one advises 1.

Wheelbarrows - Two advise 4 iron; two, 6 with 3/4-inch tires; and one advises 8.

Plow - Four advise 1 plow.

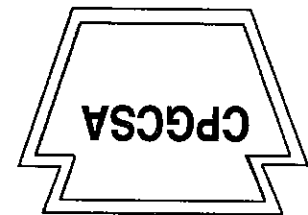
Harrow - Two advise 1 disk, 1 chain, and 1 Meeker harrow, and one of these men advises in addition 1 drag-brush for pulling over top-dressing; another, 1 small hand harrow; another, 1 horse-drawn harrow; another, 1 drag harrow.

Scraper - Advised by one.



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The Green Sheet



The Rules of the Game

Question: As a result of poor drainage and excessive amounts of "El Nino" driven rain, several of the sand bunkers on a golf course are filled with water. Player A hits his ball into the middle of a bunker that is completely filled with water. 1) Is the water considered casual water, and if so, 2) what are the players relief options?

Answer: 1) Rule 25 defines "casual water" as any temporary accumulation of water on the course which is visible before or after the player takes his stance and is not in a water hazard. Snow and natural ice, other than frost, are casual water of loose impediments at the option

of the player. Manufactured ice is an obstruction. Dew and frost are not casual water. A ball is in casual water when it lies in or any part of it touches the casual water. 2) Rule 25-1b (ii) *In a hazard*: if the ball is in a hazard, the player shall lift and drop the ball either: (a) without penalty, in the hazard, as near as possible to the spot where the ball lay, but not nearer the hole, on a part of the course which affords maximum available relief from the condition; or (b) Under penalty of one stroke, outside the hazard, keeping the point where the ball lay directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the hazard the ball may be dropped.

