

The Green Sheet



Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 6 Issue 8

October 1998

October Meeting

Lebanon Country Club

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Lunch - Ala Carte off menu
Golf - 1:00 PM Shotgun
Cocktails (Cash bar) - 5:30 PM
Dinner - 6:30 PM

There will be a CPGCSA Board of Directors
Meeting at 10:00 AM.

Superintendent Profile

Jeffrey L. Fry, CGCS has been the superintendent of the Lebanon Country Club since 1987. He is a 1985 graduate of the Penn State University Turfgrass Management Program. Jeff became certified in 1993. Prior to being a superintendent he was the assistant superintendent at Carlisle Country Club as well as being a grounds person. Jeff currently serves as a director on the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council and Allied boards. He is married to Wanda and has two children — Abbey, 7 and Thomas, 4.

Course Profile

Lebanon Country Club was built in 1920 by golf course architect Alexander Findlay. The course was opened as a 9 hole course, which is currently the back nine holes. Several years later the front 9 holes were built. Over the past several years, much renovation has been done to the front 9 holes to blend with the same design characteristics as the back. Lebanon Country Club is a typical example of a course built in the 1920's with small poa/bent greens, tees that are a mix of many cool season grasses, and ryegrass fairways destined to be new grass -- thanks to gray leaf spot.

Lebanon Country Club is a non-metal spike facility.

USGA "Tip of The Month"

by

Keith Happ, Agronomist

GRAY LEAF SPOT! GRAY LEAF SPOT!

The 1998 season has been interesting to say the least. Spring rains gave way to drought and higher temperatures as the season progressed. Needless to say, as the weather patterns become more stressful (wide variation), the potential for stress related disease increases.

In late July and early August gray leaf spot has again become a serious problem on ryegrass turf. This season disease presence was first brought to our attention in the Western PA area. Several courses near the Pittsburgh area had confirmed infestation. Unfortunately, turf damage had already occurred before damage control strategies were put in place.

Gray leaf spot (*Pyricularia grisea*) can cause a great deal of turf blighting in a short period of time. Acres of turf can be lost in 24 hours if the turf is left untreated. It has been said that gray leaf spot makes *Pythium* look like a wimp. That's how much damage can occur. During the 1995 season, courses in Baltimore, MD and Washington, D.C. lost acres of turf in just days. The disease took many by surprise because so few had had experience with the signs and symptoms of this turf disease.

Most turfgrass pathologists suggest that gray leaf spot will become a problem on ryegrass in late July and early August. Prolonged drought and high temperature stress appear to be the main triggers for the disease, although in past seasons this disease has been active well in to the months of September, October and even November. This disease is a prolific spore producer and literally overnight, enormous spore quantities can be generated.continued on page 2.....

Inside This Issue

<i>President's Message</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>Nominations/Bylaw Proposals</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Directions to Lebanon CC</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Heather and Gorse</i>	<i>Page 6</i>

President's Message

by John Gehman

O. K. This one's gonna be short and sweet.....I'm tired. It's halfway through September and still hot with no rain in sight, I've gotta get up early tomorrow to aerate greens and I still have 142 pages to read of Ken Starr's report to Congress. It hasn't seemed like an especially long season, but I can't wait for short days and cold nights.

Our September meeting with Philadelphia and Scott Schukraft from Pocono once again found Foxchase in its usual great shape, but they must have been having some trouble with the center of all their greens. The weather was most cooperative, and we even had real rest rooms with plumbing. (That was a cut on last month's meeting). John Byrne of Floratine Products gave us a short review on how to interpret and apply the results of our soil tests. I was hoping for a little more info about all the snake oils on the market today, since they're really big into that stuff. I've been using these things for some time now and they just might have some value.

October's meeting will be held in Wanda's kitchen. Well not exactly, we'll be across the street at Lebanon Country Club. This will be our golf championship round for the year as well as our annual business meeting and election of next year's officers. I'm running for past president.....that means I won't have to go to any more meetings as long as I live. Actually, I'm hoping that Past President's Disease is one turf related pathogen that I'll be able to control. This is the last regular meeting of the year. Please make every effort to attend.

Gray Leaf Spot! Gray Leaf Spot!...continued from page 1

As new seed is introduced, the potential for additional damage remains high. Thus, curative strategies must be used to stop the damage and preventative measures must then be utilized to reestablish turf. These treatments can become cost burdensome.

To help guard against damage, diagnosis is critical. Gray leaf spot can easily be misdiagnosed.

- Initial symptoms are discoloration with a distinct twisting of the leaf tip.
- The turf may appear to be suffering from wilt stress but it does not respond to syringing or light irrigation.
- The next symptom is reddish brown spots, which can easily be confused with brown patch or *Pythium* blight. The disease can be streaked across an area via mower traffic, cart traffic or even foot traffic. With gray leaf spot, foliar mycelium will not be present.
- Lesions will become present on the leaf. They will be circular to oval and grayish brown to dark brown in color.
- The disease is most prevalent on south facing slopes.

If there is a suspicion that this turf pathogen is at work on your course, send a sample to the laboratory ASAP. This will allow damage to be minimized. If ryegrass continues to be the turf choice in the fairways, then consider overseeding with a variety or a blend of varieties that have exhibited resistance to the disease. Timely fungicide treatments will also be a must. Proactively protecting the plant is the only way to minimize gray leaf spot infection. Fertilize judiciously to maintain plant health. If sustained growth is promoted, recuperative potential will be increased and low level infection may not be as damaging. Attempt to irrigate in the morning daylight hours. Avoid prolonged periods of nighttime leaf wetness if at all possible.

If there is any other information that we can provide, don't hesitate to call our office (610) 696-4747.

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1998 Annual Meeting

The October meeting at the Lebanon Country Club will be the annual meeting with election of officers and directors for the 1998 meeting year. Listed below are the nominees compiled by the nomination committee.

President:

Ted Zabrenski - Brookside Country Club

Vice-President:

Tom Ocepek - Heidelberg Country Club

Secretary/Treasurer:

Dan Achenbach - Foxchase Golf Club

Directors:

Scott Fischer - Red Lion Country Club

Bill Wall - Dauphin Highlands Golf Course

If you are interested in running for the board of directors, please contact Mark Malasavage at (717) 533-3269. Nominations may also be made from the floor by a voting member in good standing at the annual meeting.

Proposed Bylaws Changes

We will also be voting on the following:

Proposal: Change Affiliate Member ratio from 30% to 40%

Section 6.11. Class AF - Affiliate Members. To qualify for affiliate membership, an applicant must be a person interested in the growing, management or production of turf grasses, either individually or through employment by, or other affiliation with, a company, proprietorship, or association, who does not qualify for membership in another class. Affiliate members shall have all privileges of the association, except those of voting and holding office. Affiliate members shall not exceed forty (40%) of the total of Classes AA, A, B, C, and voting R members with the following exceptions: A bona fide turf oriented company may be granted one (1) membership representative into the association, regardless of the Class AA, A, B, C, and voting R members to commercial ratio, provided they are not presently represented in the association. He or she shall pay fees, dues, and assessments.

Proposal: Add Student Classification

Student - To qualify for Student membership, an applicant must be a full time turfgrass student enrolled in a formal course of education, or have completed his or her formal education less than one year prior to the date of application for membership.



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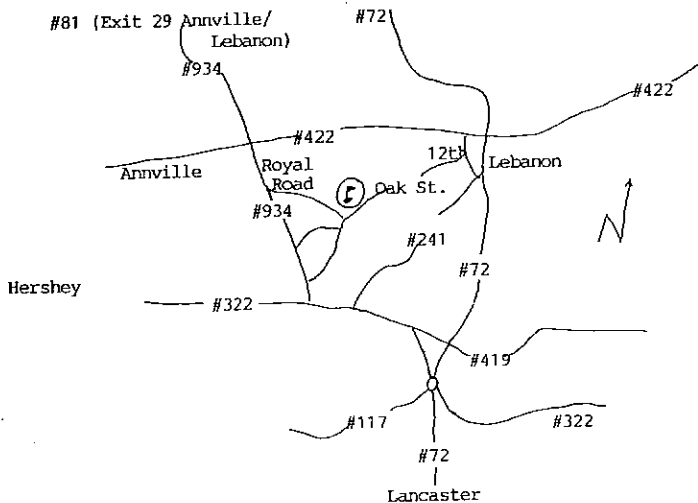
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Membership News

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.

Andrew T. Affeldt, Superintendent

Iron Valley Golf Course.....Class A

George F. Barger, Agriculture Division Director

Nutramax Laboratories.....Class G

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.

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- you get a speeding ticket while parking.
- you power walk in your sleep.
- you answer the door before people have a chance to knock
- the only time you're standing still is during an earthquake.
- you lick your coffeepot clean.
- you've worn out your third pair of tennis shoes this week.
- your eyes stay open when you sneeze.
- you can jump-start your car without using jumper cables.
- you wear out the handle on your favorite coffee mug.
- you go to AA meetings just so you can get free coffee.
- it's a good thing when someone amounts to a hill of beans.
- you help your dog chase it's tail.
- when someone says, "How are you?" you answer, "Good to the last drop!"
- your birthday is a holiday in Brazil.
- your Thermos has wheels.
- you short out motion detectors.
- you have a picture of your coffee mug on your coffee mug.
- you watch videos in fast-forward mode.
- instant coffee takes too long.
- you don't wait for the water to boil.

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) 279-0368.
- 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.



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Heather And Gorse

by Mark V. DelSantoro, CGCS

Nature's signs of the autumnal equinox on the golf course...The nights are cool and custom made for sleeping. The days are noticeable shorter, and even the occasional 90 degree day just doesn't seem to have too much bite. The Canada Geese are getting restless as if they can sense the approach of their southward flight. The woolly-bear caterpillars are actively motoring about. The Bluejays are more prevalent in preparing their nests for winter. Goldenrod is in full bloom causing sinus problems for many, and Ironweed and Heath Aster are set to flower. Whitetail Deer are visible almost every morning and evening. White grubs are feasting on the roots of many an unsuspecting turfgrass plant. Superintendents are often seen atop of a fairway mower or a cup cutter. Yes, autumn is most definitely in the air and without question it is this middle-aged superintendent's favorite time of year.

The year 1998 might be remembered by some for the gray leaf spot outbreaks, the excessively aggressive white grub outbreaks, or the constant struggle to hire consciously competent staffers when staffer availability seems to be at an all time low. But in my twisted mind, 1998 will live in infamy as the year that Penn State lowered its academic excellence standards. After fourteen years of hanging around Penn State people, and listening to their fan's incessant whining every time the football team happens to lose a stinking game (which by the way, isn't very often, thank goodness!), Penn State has somehow accepted me into their Masters in Business Administration program. The only thing I can't figure out is essentially why? I figure that either the Dean of Admissions was afraid of challenging the likes of Wharton and Harvard, and decided PSU needed a great equalizer to bring them down, or all of my incessant begging and pleading/whining made him comfortable that I would simply fit right in with everyone else within the framework of the university. The mystery may never be solved. In either case, I officially became a Penn State graduate student August 31, 1998.

One thing is for sure, as an official Penn State grad student, I somewhat unconsciously have become a pseudo-PSU fan. I feel like I've been reborn in a totally cosmic way. The other day I found myself sitting outside actually waiting for the delivery of the Sunday paper, as to satisfy my new found pride and see just how badly Penn State beat up on that perennial powerhouse Bowling Green (48-3). As I read the score, I found myself in an uncontrollable manner clenching my fist and pumping it skyward like I was Tiger Woods winning the Masters. Wow, that Nittany Lion pride thing is seriously powerful stuff!!!

My first class is Organizational Behavioral Management, which essentially investigates the impact of individuals,

groups, and structures on behavior within organizations. So far we've covered everything from motivation of all different styles and types of employees, to attitudes and perceptions of management, to proper business structure. We've even discussed how to deal with the "Generation X'ers" in today's workforce. The most interesting feature is that nearly every theory is backed up by research done over the past 100 years. The ideas have been proven over time.

One of the more applicable points of interest from this class deals with the motivation of subordinates. It has been statistically proven that positive feedback and recognition is one of the greatest motivational tools available to us as personnel managers. If you are anything like the superintendent at the windy cottage, after a seemingly long summer, its easy to become self-absorbed and forget about the fact that your employees are likely more tired and burned out than you are. Simply recognizing a job well done and letting them know you appreciate their efforts goes a long way towards promoting pride and job satisfaction within the rank and file. It is also important to note that this simple feel good gestures are duty free. In other words, for H. J. Loke and you other O.S.U. *Aesculus glabra* worshippers nuts, telling someone they've done a good job has no extrinsic cost, but the intrinsic value can potentially be priceless.

One last H. J. Loke thought before Professor DelSantoro fades away into obscurity. Did anyone know that one of Mr. Webster's definitions for "buckeye" is "gaudy and cheap looking"??? Keeping this in mind would it be fair to extrapolate that a buckeye buckeye would be a gaudy, cheap looking Ohio State University graduate???

So, the moral to this story is that when times seem rough and you're bordering on burn out, remember that it is extremely difficult to do all the golf course work by yourself. Be good to your staff and they'll in turn be good to you. That is my twisted "buckeye" point of view from the heather and gorse.



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Golf Results

Thank you to Dan Achenbach and Steve Graybill for a great day and golf course! Results of the total point quota tournament between Central and Philadelphia was Central 84, Philadelphia 74. No prizes were awarded for the team event. Individual prizes were awarded as follows:

1st Low Gross	Bob Mogel	74
2nd Low Gross	Tom Kintzer	75
3rd Low Gross	Steve Graybill	76
Highest Score	Dave Cook	147
Long Drive	Bob Mogel	
Closest to Pin #3	Lee Kozsey	
Closest to Pin #13	Chuck Cadiz	

We hope to see all of you at Lebanon Country Club for the Association Championship.

Bill Brooks and Bob Wert, Golf Chairmen

Upcoming Events

- 1st Annual Keystone AGCS Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament — October 14, 1998 at White Deer Challenge Course. For further information, contact Jay Kline, P. O. Box 73, Reedsville, PA 17084.
- The 22nd Annual Joseph Valentine Memorial Golf Tournament — October 19, 1998 at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. For additional information call John Chassard at (610) 967-4643.
- Penn State Golf Turf Conference — November 3 - 5, 1998, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA
- Eastern Pennsylvania Turf Conference & Trade Show — January 5-7, 1999, Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA
- GCSAA 70th International Golf Course Conference and Show — February 8-14, 1999, Orlando, FL
- Western Pennsylvania Turf Conference & Trade Show — February 23-25, 1999, Pittsburgh Expo Mart, Monroeville, PA

Just A Reminder

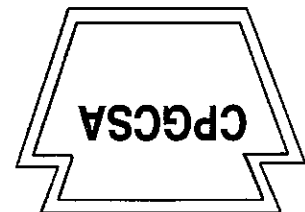
If you have any accomplishments or things you have done that could benefit other members, please be sure to get the information to Wanda so that it can be included in the newsletter. The deadline for the November newsletter is October 14, 1998.

Should you need to fax information to Wanda, the new phone and fax number for Central Penn GCSA is (717) 279-0368.



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

The Green Sheet



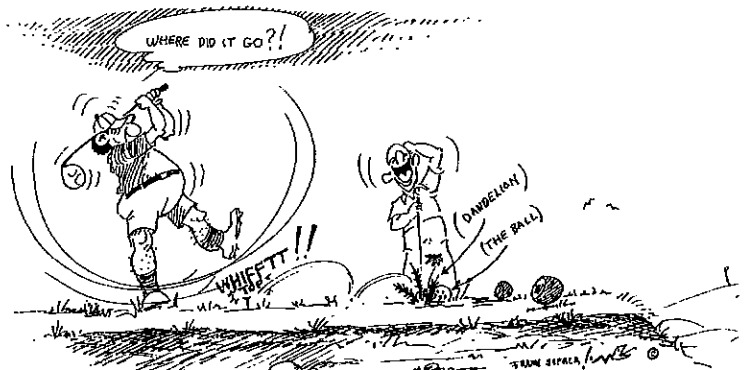
The Rules of the Game

Question: A player teed his ball within the teeing ground. He made a stroke at the ball but missed it. He addressed the ball again and accidentally knocked the ball off the tee. What is the ruling?

Answer: When the player made a stroke at the ball, it was in play, thus it must be played as it lies. When the ball in play moved after it was addressed, the player incurred a penalty stroke under (Rule 11), and was obliged to replace the ball back on the tee. In this situation, if he fails to replace the ball on the tee, the player incurs an additional penalty stroke (Rule 18) for playing a ball from the wrong spot.

Now what if, a player teed his ball within the teeing ground. He made a stroke at the ball nearly missing the ball altogether. The ball only moves a few inches and comes to rest within the teeing ground directly in front of a huge dandelion. Is it permissible to either pull out or break off the dandelion?

Answer: Yes, Rule 13-2 permits eliminating regularities of the surface on the teeing ground, whether or not the ball is in play.



ONLY HYPOTHETICALLY: DANDELIONS LIKE ABOVE WOULD **NOT**
EVER BE PRESENT ON A C.P.G.C.S.A. MEMBER'S GOLF COURSE!!