

The Green Sheet



Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 7 Issue 5

July 1999

July Meeting

Range End Golf Club

Tuesday, July 13, 1999

11:00 AM - Speaker

11:30 AM - Lunch

12:30 PM - Shotgun

There will be a CPGCSA Board of Directors meeting at 9:30 AM

Golf Course Profile

Range End Golf Club was opened in 1954 as a semi-private club. The course changed ownership in 1995 and was opened for public play. Since then many changes have been made including new irrigation, re-routing of holes, design features and continued upgrades to compete with other area courses. Range End is a Par 71 layout measuring 6,200 yards.

Superintendent Profile

Pete Ramsey graduated from the University of Maryland in 1993. Pete worked four years as the Second Assistant at West Shore Country Club before taking the Superintendent position at Range End. Pete has been married to Chrystal since 1989 and has two children: Mitchell, four years old and Paige, 2 years old. Pete resides in Mechanicsburg and enjoys Formula One Racing and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Speaker Profile

The speaker for the July meeting will be Kirby Putt, CGCS. Kirby attended Penn State University's two year certificate program from 1980 - 1982. He has been employed at West Shore Country Club, Tucson Country Club, Arizona Country Club, and Chester Valley Country Club. Kirby is currently the General Manager at Range End Golf Club.

USGA "Tip of the Month"

By Darin Bevard

Dry Weather Plagues the Mid-Atlantic

While travelling in our region, the most common concern expressed is the lack of rainfall. It has been very dry! Many facilities with limited water resources are very concerned. We have irrigation lakes at levels expected in late July or early August, and it is only mid-June!

However, for the most part irrigated turf areas are holding up very well. With the dry weather, Superintendents can control the amount of water applied allowing conditions to be maintained on the dry side. This greatly reduces the chance for disease infestations. Rainfall is needed throughout much of our region to relieve drought conditions.

In addition to the dry conditions, there are insect issues as well. One insect pest, the annual bluegrass weevil (a.k.a. *Hyperodes* weevil) holds the potential for severe turf damage, while the other, the seventeen-year locust is more of a curiosity.

Annual Bluegrass weevils have already caused damage in Central and Northern Pennsylvania and are as far South as the Philadelphia area. This is not a welcome sight. These insect pests seem to be moving from their traditional habitat, Northern New Jersey, Metropolitan New York, Connecticut and New England into Pennsylvania, as far West as Pittsburgh. These insects exclusively attack annual bluegrass and can cause severe damage. Quite often, annual bluegrass weevils are present in many different stages of their life cycle, from the beetle-like adult to larvae and pupa stages. Damage from these insects first appears as small yellow-brown spots that will eventually coalesce into larger patches if control measures aren't taken. Early stages of damage can be confused with *anthracnose*.

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President's Message

Thanks to Brian Heffley and his staff at the Golf Club at Felicita. The weather was beautiful, the course in great playing condition. We would also like to extend our thanks to the staff at the clubhouse and the Pro Shop for their help and excellent service.

Recently I attended a meeting at Turtle Creek Golf Course for the Philadelphia Association. I was amazed at the amount of association members who were in attendance. It really made me wonder how to get our members in our association more involved. (NOTE: There was no presidential preference taken when the courses were selected for our meetings — this is directed toward my fellow Harrisburg and surrounding area association members). If anyone has any ideas or suggestions to promote more involvement PLEASE contact myself, another Board member or Wanda, we would be happy to hear from you.

The monthly meetings are a relaxed atmosphere to exchange ideas, problems and realize you are not the only one working eighty hours plus per week.

Our next meeting is being held at Range End Golf Club on Tuesday, July 13. I am sure Pete Ramsey and Kirby Putt would like to have as many association members participate as possible.

For those of you who cannot or have not attended any of our meetings thus far and for those that have, I hope your golf season is going well and disease free!

Theodore S. Zabrenski
CPGCSA President

(The following survey has been circulated by Penn State Cooperative Extension, Bucks County Conservation District, Bucks County Farm Bureau, and related agencies. Please take a moment to review this and pass on to the Extension Offices in your area for their assistance.)

Canada Goose Damage Survey

Are Canada geese causing damage on your golf course? Several agencies in Bucks County have started an effort to document losses from non-migratory geese so that they can begin an effort to change the laws protecting the pests.

The culprits are not the migratory geese that come down from Canada, but the resident population that lives here year round. They have no natural predators and they are protected by federal law so the population is exploding.

Geese damage more than farm crops. We have data for agricultural crop production, but need your help to document damage on valuable turfgrass areas. Attached is a survey to document goose damage to golf turf. We hope to collect enough data to prove that there is severe economic damage from geese.

Please complete the survey, tape it closed and drop it in the mail. It already has the necessary postage. It won't take more than 5 minutes to complete, and it may provide big dividends if we can get some relief from these geese!

1. Do you experience problems with non-resident geese on your golf course?
2. If so, please indicate the nature of the problem: (check all that apply)
 - ☐ Turf loss
 - ☐ Loss of use of certain areas due to goose activity and/or droppings
 - ☐ Increased labor costs due to clean up or management
 - ☐ Cost of control measures being used to discourage geese
 - ☐ Other
3. What methods are you currently using to manage geese?
4. How many acres are on your golf course?
5. Where is your golf course located? (town and county)
6. Please estimate your approximate yearly dollar loss (average over the last 5 years): What is the total number of dollars spent per year on geese-related problems? (i.e. goose management, clean-up and replacement of lost turf?)
7. Other comments:

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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.

Steve Marnic, Superintendent Honey Run Golf Club	Class A
Edward Roynan, Superintendent Limekiln Golf Club	Class A
W. Brooke Tymeson, Superintendent Furnace Bay Golf Course	Class A
Jim L. Koontz, Jr., Assistant Superintendent Penn National Golf Course	Class C
Michael L. Wilcox, Assistant Superintendent Lebanon Country Club	Class C
John Fowler, Sales Representative Novartis	Class AF
Scott R. Mauchin, Sales Representative Fisher & Sons Company	Class AF

If you know of anyone who may be 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.

Golf Results

We thank Brian Heffley and his staff for a great day of golf and the staff of the Pro Shop for assisting us in tallying score cards. The format was a Better Ball with a Callaway system. The winners are as follows:

1st Place	66
Bill Brooks, Steve Ehrhart	
2nd Place	72
Kirby Putt, Dan Achenbach	
3rd Place	72
Bob Wert, Larry Hart	
4th Place	72
Charlie McGill, Mark Oesterling	

Larry Hart won both closest to the pin!

Also special thanks to Bob Wert for helping out with skins.

Bill Brooks and Scott Fischer, Golf Committee

USGA..... continued from Page 1

Another important indicator is that other turf varieties, such as creeping bentgrass or perennial ryegrass, will not be damaged. The pyrethroid insecticides are effective curative control agents for the annual bluegrass weevil.

Be aware that annual bluegrass weevils are moving further South and West with each growing season. If problems are experienced with *Poa annua* collars or fairway edges that can't be explained by other phenomena, look very closely in the thatch to be sure *Hyperodes* are not present. You will often see a snout-like adult (not unlike the bluegrass billbug), along with a pupa having a soft, white body with bronze/gold head just under the thatch.

In addition, the seventeen-year locust is due to make an appearance in several areas of our region. In fact, in some areas we have already seen them. These insects cause no damage to turf, but are extremely visible and even easier to hear. We receive concerned questions about the presence of this insect but, actually, they cause no harm (see digital image).

We will continue to provide updates on conditions in our region as the season progresses. Stay tuned.

Congratulations to:

Mark & Patricia DelSantro on the birth of their son,
Zachary Thomas, on May 22, 1999 at 9:14 AM.

To The Editor:

I just would like to write a short letter to our members concerning the recent run-in the CPGCSA had with the GCSAA and a prominent chemical company. For the last three or four years our newsletter has been very entertaining to say the least. I'm not alone when I say that I can't wait to see what John, Mark or whoever has written about this time. These guys speak from their hearts and have a real talent for putting their thoughts into words. We all should be thankful that we have people who are not afraid to ruffle some feathers and discuss real issues. If the article about agency pricing had been written in a politically correct manner, I probably would have filed it in the garbage after a line or two. The article would not have been as widely circulated and the issue would have died. That certainly is not the case, these companies know they have some unhappy campers in Pennsylvania and hopefully beyond. If the GCSAA, or anyone else wants to read "our" newsletter, batten down the hatches, because you are going to hear it like it is. Don't worry, we won't mention any names, but you'll know who we are talking about. If that concerns you, don't read it.

Bill Wall

Heather and Gorse

by Mark V. DelSantoro, CGCS

Greetings and salutations to all of you fellow heather and gorsers. Hopefully, everyone has had a pleasant spring growing season. A few hot days, but nothing out of control. My wife and I are enjoying our new roles as parents. We gave birth to a 6-lb. 14.5 oz.; 20.5" long boy named Zachary Thomas on May 22nd. Since then, life has been generally chaotic, but enjoyable nonetheless.

The U.S. Open was played this past weekend at Pinehurst #2. As some of you may remember from an article last year, the U.S. Open has never been one of my more favorite major golf tournaments. I've never been a big fan of 6-8 inch rough six or seven feet off a 27-yard wide fairway on a 485-yard par 4. Nor am I in favor of greens that by Sunday afternoon are purple and parched from heat stress, moisture stress, and mower/roller stress. I think it was one of our own AF members Jeff Lacour who said of his experience at Congressional a few years ago, "I would just keep rolling a green over and over until someone told me to stop." Following a weeks worth of two separate double cuttings and a daily double rolling, can a green really get more smooth???

Anyway, while the U.S.G.A. openly states that their U.S. Open golf courses generally display a fair test of golf, I would beg to differ by stating that there are very few things about a typical U.S. Open golf course that are fair. Furthermore, as a superintendent, I find it extremely ironic (don't you think?) that the U.S.G.A. on one end of its organization is pushing golf course maintenance to the nationally televised brink of insanity, while on the other end, the U.S.G.A. agronomists, among others, are promoting the polar opposite.

There is one thing for which I must compliment the U.S.G.A. The rough at Pinehurst #2 actually seemed manageable. It was penal, but at least one could find their golf ball and have a reasonable opportunity to hit the green. As for the hole locations, well that's an entirely different story. The greens at Pinehurst #2 were unbelievable in their own right. If I placed the hole locations at my golf course as near to the ridges as the U.S.G.A. did at Pinehurst, I'd be calling some of my fellow heather and gorsers to see if you had any full-time rough mowing positions available. So much for relatively flat locations.

Another issue I found annoying was the timing of the last couple groups. The U.S.G.A. stated on Saturday that both of the final groups fell behind their targeted pace and were being timed. Thus, they had 45 seconds to play their shot from the moment it was their turn. I can understand this until you get near the green. But when you have greens that elevate well over ten feet in places and hole locations within a few feet of ridges that would run your ball 15 yards off the green, you can bet your bananas that I'd take my time to evaluate the chip and/or putt. Especially when you're within a few strokes of the lead.

Lastly, I find it truly a shame that there can not be a balance of toughness and beauty when it comes to describing our national championship. Let face it, when a member tells you that your golf course reminds them of "Augusta National" this is the ultimate compliment. But, when a member tells you that your golf course reminds them of the U.S. Open, it usually means that they believe the golf course was set up unfairly. Maybe the U.S.G.A. ought to think about changing the image of this grandiose event.

All and all, I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed this year's event. It was fun to watch. Hopefully, the U.S.G.A will take steps to make future U.S. Opens similar to this past one. And kudos to Payne Stewart for making the putts down the stretch. He definitely earned that championship! That's my un-timed, Augusta-like opinion from the heather and gorse.

For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the August Newsletter, the deadline for submissions is July 16, 1999.

Please fax information to Wanda at (717) 279-0368 or e-mail to fry@nbn.net.

PTC News

The Second Annual Agronomy Alumni Picnic is scheduled for Friday, July 23, 1999. Bring your family and join other Penn State University Agronomy Alumni for a day of food, fun and fellowship.

For more information and a reservation form, contact Joel Myers at (814) 422-8680 or e-mail jcmeyers@lazerlink.com.

USGA "June Tip of the Month"

By Stanley J. Zontek

Spring Dead Spot

The latest on the frustrations of trying to control this disease problem of bermudagrass fairways in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Spring Dead Spot occurred on some golf courses in the Green Section's Mid-Atlantic region. Note the emphasis on the word *some*. At least as it pertains to this region, Spring Dead Spot of bermudagrass was more of a problem west of the Allegheny Mountains and less of a problem East of the Allegheny Mountains. Does weather have an effect? You bet.

Spring Dead Spot has always been a difficult disease to control. For one thing, it's always difficult to predict when to apply a fungicide. A small group of fungicides are labeled to control Spring Dead Spot of bermudagrass. They are Rubigan and Heritage.

As it pertains to using fungicides to suppress this disease, the latest information from the University of Maryland suggests an early September application. Water the fungicides in lightly. The level of control expected normally is about 50 percent.

An IPM approach is to apply monthly applications of ammonium sulfate. The rate of nitrogen is 1-lb. /M sq. ft. per month for a minimum of 3-lbs. but preferably 5-lbs. in situations where the disease is severe. It is also good to apply phosphorus and potassium according to soil tests. Potassium applications are also beneficial in the late summer to early fall in an attempt to protect the bermudagrass from winter injury. This acidification program should show results over a period of 3-5 years depending upon the pH of the soil, the pH of the irrigation water, etc..

The purpose of this information is twofold. The first is to provide the latest information on how to manage this disease. The second is to illustrate just how hard it is to reliably control this disease. There is no quick fix to controlling Spring Dead Spot of bermudagrass. It is frustrating. It is hard to explain why the problem is worse one year than the next; why it occurs on one side of a mountain range and not on the other side. If you know the answer, drop us a line!

1999 CPGCSA Meetings

- * August 5 Carlisle Country Club
Greg Fantuzzi, CGCS
- * Sept 21 Wyncote Golf Club
Joint Meeting with Philadelphia
- * October We are looking for a host for this
meeting. Annual Meeting

Equipment For Sale

Please contact Pete Ramsey at Range End Golf Club (717) 432-3711 if you are interested in the following equipment.

- F-10 - Fair condition - units are good. No longer in use at the club. Make offer.

We will continue to advertise used equipment and equipment wanted in each newsletter. If you have anything that may be of interest, please contact Wanda to place your ad FREE!!

Directions to Range End Golf Club

From Harrisburg: Route 15 South to Dillsburg. Past 84 Lumber Company turn right and go 1/4 mile on Mt. Road to sign. Make a left into parking lot.

From Gettysburg: Route 15 North to 1st traffic light in Dillsburg. Make a left onto Mt. Road and go 1/4 mile to sign. Make a left into parking lot.

From York: Route 83 North to 581 West to Route 15 South. Then follow directions from Harrisburg.

CPGCSA Roster Books

The 1999 CPGCSA Roster Books are now in the editing phase. If you have any changes in address or employment, please contact Wanda at (717) 279-0368 as soon as possible.

Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council Announces \$175,000 for Turf Research at Penn State

The Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council recently announced allocations of \$175,000 to support the turfgrass science program, an interdisciplinary program, housed in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

The Council designated its support for the three disciplines within the turfgrass science program: agronomy, entomology, and plant pathology. The department could use the funds for staff and research support for projects designed to solve problems relating to turfgrass pests and other cultural practices used in the turfgrass industry. The allocations included \$16,000 for scholarships in the two- and four-year programs.

The turfgrass science program offers study in all aspects of the turfgrass industry, which includes golf courses, surfaces for recreation and sports, areas surrounding highways, airports, industrial parks, schools, and ornamental landscapes. A 1989 survey noted that Pennsylvania has nearly two million acres of turfgrass, 75 percent of which is home lawns. The next survey will be conducted near the year 2000.

Founded in 1955, the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council is a non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of the entire turfgrass industry, primarily through research. Its membership includes 1,200 individuals or corporations. Since 1974, the council has contributed well over \$1.5 million to the turfgrass science program at Penn State.

In Your Lifetime You'll...

- * spend three and a half years eating
- * consume 350 lbs. of chocolate
- * grow 28 yards of fingernails and 450 miles of hair
- * have crawled 80 miles by age two
- * spend two and a half years on the phone
- * walk 13,673 miles
- * spend six months on the toilet
- * shed 45 pounds of dead skin
- * be able to name 2,000 people and call 150 of them friends
- * will fall truly in love only twice.

The History of Medicine

2000 B.C. "You say you're not feeling well? Here, eat this root."

1000 A.D. "That root is heathen! Here, say this prayer instead."

1850 A.D. "That prayer is superstition! Here, drink this potion instead."

1940 A.D. "That potion is snake oil! Here, swallow this pill instead."

1985 A.D. "That pill is ineffective! Here, take this antibiotic instead."

2000 A.D. "That antibiotic is artificial! Here, eat this root instead...."

Rules of the Game

Question: You are playing in the U.S. Open and you're in the lead by one shot on the 72nd hole sitting in the middle of the fairway. The gravity of the moment and your nerves are really working on you and your H. J. Loke gravity golf swing is beginning to falter. The pressure seems too much as you miss hit your approach shot and leave your ball a few feet short of the green. When you reach your ball you find that you're really not in bad shape. About twenty-five feet away from the cup, straight up the false front of the green. As you begin to survey your shot you notice that there are several worm casts, some remnants of loose sand from an adjacent bunker, and some leaves between your ball and the green. You're very interested in putting your ball from off the green because you're afraid you might chili-dip your wedge, but the above mentioned objects may have an effect on the roll of your ball. Of the worm casts, the loose sand, and the leaves may you legally remove any or all of these from your line???

Answer: Rule 23. Loose Impediments, defines a loose impediment as naturally occurring objects such as stones, leaves, twigs, branches and the like, dung, worms, and insects and casts or heaps made by them, provided they are not fixed or growing, are not solidly embedded and do not adhere to the ball. Sand and loose soil are loose impediments on the putting green but no where else.

Thus, the worm casts and the leaves may be removed before you play your shot, but the loose sand (because you're not on the putting green surface) may not be removed. In the event that you do remove the loose sand prior to executing your shot, you would incur a penalty of two strokes. Something like this might prove costly in an event such as the U.S. Open, and such an event almost happened to Payne Stewart in the final round of this year's event. Fortunately for Payne, he asked his U.S.G.A. rules official what he could and couldn't remove, and as a result, he won the event.

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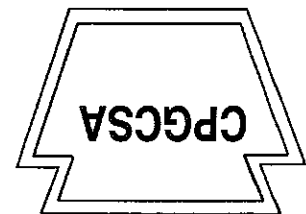
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The Green Sheet



IT'S IN THE TAG

Help your Affiliated Chapter receive up to \$.50 per tag from qualified Turf-Seed, Inc. Tag Team™ or Tee-2-Green Corp. Penn Pals™ varieties or seed mixtures.*

Turf-Seed, Inc. and Tee-2-Green Corp. have pledged to contribute to your Affiliated Chapter and The

GCSAA Foundation's "Investing in the Beauty of Golf Campaign." Just collect the blue tags* and send them to The GCSAA Foundation along with your name and your designated Affiliated Chapter. The staff at The GCSAA Foundation will do the rest. It's that simple.

Your Affiliated Chapter and The Foundation will split \$.50 for every Turf-Seed variety or mixture blue tag and/or \$1.00 for every Tee-2-Green Penn Pals variety or mixture tag. This rebate offer could provide your Affiliated Chapter with the funds to sponsor scholarship programs for turfgrass students or local and regional research.



Call The GCSAA Foundation for more information at (800) 472-7878 ext. 465.

*Variety names must match qualified seed list. Mixture tags must carry a M16 or M16M prefix. Turf Seed product Blue Tags are redeemable for \$.50 each, while Penn Pals™ product tags are redeemable for \$1.00. Rebates will be split evenly between the Affiliated Chapter and The GCSAA Foundation. Direct rebate offer to GCSAA Foundation, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049.



We would like to acknowledge Turf-Seed, Inc. and Tee-2-Green Corp. for their contributions through this philanthropic program.