

The Green Sheet



Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 7 Issue 4

June 1999

June Meeting

Golf Club at Felicita

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

11:00 AM - Speaker
11:30 - 12:15 PM - Lunch
12:30 PM - Shotgun

There will be a CPGCSA Board of Directors
meeting at 9:00 AM

Golf Course Profile

"Blue Mountain Golf Club" was originally the "Blue Mountain Skeet Lodge" owned by Wm. and W. Franklin Hollinger. Then in 1961 they hired Golf Course Architects William F. Gordon and David W. Gordon to build the course, which opened for play around 1964. The course was then purchased by Richard Angino in 1998, and has since seen many renovations from the club house to many of the holes. Plans are in the works to renovate the entire course. The course is now known as "The Golf Club at Felicita".

Superintendent Profile

Brian K. Heffley has been the Superintendent at The Golf Club at Felicita since 1989. He started in 1981 when it was "Blue Mountain Golf Club". He graduated from Rutgers Turf Maintenance program in 1989. Brian is married to Holly and they have two children: Timothy, 12 and Sasha, 9.

Memo

To: Golf Course Superintendent
From: Experienced Memo Writer
Date: Today
Re: Tips on Writing Memos

Some of you may sweat over writing memorandums. Others may find it a delight. Whatever, the more effective you can make them, the better it will be for yourself as well as the recipients of your memos.

Often, a well-written memo can be the difference in persuading someone to your viewpoint or in edging out someone from a new job.

Here are some tips:

- 1 **Know why you're writing a memo.** Write a purpose statement to yourself that tells you what you expect your readers to do or know when they finish reading your memo. Refer to your purpose statement as you write to be certain you're staying on track.
- 2 **Quickly let your readers know the reason for your memo.** Get to the point. Keeping people in suspense is for mystery novels.
- 3 **Anticipate reaction.** Chances are your memo should or will be read by anyone interested in the topic it addresses...or you shouldn't be writing the memo. Consider the perspectives all the possible readers.
- 4 **Answer the questions they may have...clearly.** If your memo shows that you are sensitive to other's needs and interests, your credibility will be enhanced.
- 5 **Does your memo appear to be too long?** Take time to revise it. Be certain you say exactly what you want to say. Extra words dilute the strength of your message.
- 6 **Polish your memo.** Once you are comfortable with its organization, look at the memo's finer points.
- 7 **Keep the tone of your memo natural.** Read it aloud; listen to the language. Does anything sound awkward. Depending upon the readers of your memo, you may use an informal tone...or a more formal one.
- 8 **Be courteous.**

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President's Message

I would like to thank Greg Bingeman, Susquehanna Valley Country Club and the Keystone Association for hosting the joint meeting. Although I was unable to attend the meeting I understand the course was in great shape and the weather was perfect.

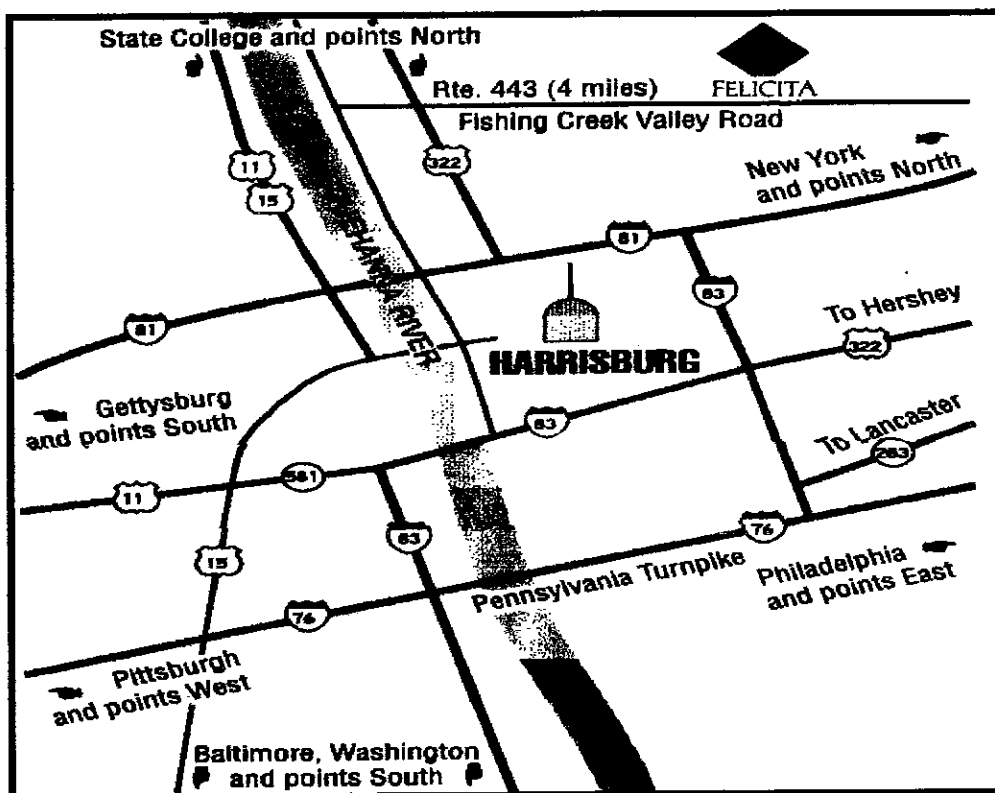
I would personally like to thank all the Superintendent's who participated in the 1999 Survey. I am sorry for the delay, but the job of compiling the numbers and information is time consuming and most of us are working with small crews and perfect growing conditions.

Next months meeting will be at the Golf Club of Felicita with Brian Heffley as our host. This would be a great meeting to attend if you have not been to one in a while.

Hope to see everyone there!

Theodore S. Zabrenski, President

Directions to Golf Club at Felicita



Speaker Profile

The speaker for the June meeting will be Jeff Hoachlander. His presentation will focus on retirement and investments. Jeff is currently an Investment Representative and Regional Leader for Edward Jones Investments in Harrisburg. He is also a Commander for Naval Intelligence in the United States Naval Reserve. Jeff's other affiliations include Lower Paxton Township Lions Club, Assistant Cubmaster for Pack 68 in Linglestown, and Board of Directors for Lower Paxton Township Business and Professional Association. Formerly, he was a Federal Investigator with the US Department of Defense conducting National Security Investigations.

We hope to see you next month for this educational session and for a great day of golf!

Bob Wert, Educational Chairman

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MEMBERSHIP/NOMINATIONS
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COUNTRY CLUB OF HERSHEY
(717) 533-3269

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
MARK V. DELSANTRO, CGCS 1999
WYNCOTE GOLF CLUB
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To The Editor:

Here's another comment you may (not) want to use in the newsletter. If you do, you'd better fax it around for approval. Thanks, by the way, tell Jeff, "Nice Job!"

Congratulations Mark. Welcome to the very exclusive club of newsletter editors who have successfully crossed that fine line where a less than flattering editorial opinion becomes misinterpreted as direct reporting. This is a club where you must have offended a company with accusations that may very well hit closer to home than they'd like. I have to tell you Mark, it's been lonely. Welcome.

In discussions among basketball officials, one constantly recurring comment is, "perception is reality". If we are weak or hesitant in our calls, even though correct, the coaches will be all over us. We are expected to appear strong and confident, especially in controversial situations. The perception of our competency becomes reality in the eyes of the coaches, players, and fans.

This agency pricing nonsense is perceived as "price fixing". Competition is history. Product costs will play follow the leader and go right through the roof. (Economics 101) That is my perception, so that is the reality. What efforts have been made to allay concerns over agency pricing? What's the extended, five year plan for this agency pricing scheme? I'm waiting!"

I don't think Marks comments were one bit out of line. I found them quite entertaining. It certainly will have no effect on my perception of the company he used as an example. Since they've locked Lawn & Golf out of their distribution network, I don't buy their products anyhow.

Mark, like I stated in the beginning, welcome! It has been lonely.

John Gehman

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Memo ...continued from Page 1

- 9 **Be factual.**
- 10 **Be specific.**
- 11 **Be brief.**
- 12 **Don't write anything you wouldn't say publicly.** Privacy isn't guaranteed, even if you mark a document "personal" or "confidential" (often, sensitive issues are best dealt with face-to-face).
- 13 **If you write a negative memo, wait a day before sending it.** Should you reconsider, shred the memo...wastebaskets aren't private property.

Strong writing skills can gain you visibility and respect. If you find writing hard, get a good writing handbook. Some diligent effort can improve your spelling and grammar. All types of writers continually seek to improve their skills. Developing your memo technique is an excellent step toward a good, clear writing style that will benefit you in many ways.

Credit: Hole Notes

Membership News

There were no new applications presented this month. 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.

Heather and Gorse

by Mark V. DelSantoro, CGCS

Where's the love, man? Why can't we all just get along? What a wonderful society in which we live, one minute you make one simple, somewhat obvious observation, and the next minute Corporate America is scrambling to put out potential wild fires. It is amazing what happens when you ruffle some feathers. The most interesting result of a situation such as this is your ability to decipher those who truly support you and those who only superficially claim to support you. The proverbial "Perception vs. Reality" situation.

What a wild ride I've had these past few months. Aside from the April censorship of Heather and Gorse, no longer do I call the "Windy Cottage" my kingdom. In late March, I accepted a tour o' duty with Fieldstone Golf Club in Wilmington, DE. Within days of this happening, I found myself being charged with ethical violations, not only by my x-employer and an x-employee of my x-employer, but by the x-employer of the x-employee whose position I filled at Fieldstone Golf Club. This was truly an x-citing x-perience. But, as anticipated, life has settled down to near normalcy.

Fieldstone is set to open on June 15th, 1999. This simple fact has punished me in two ways: first, my golf game is unpracticed and secondly, my self-proclamation of being the world's laziest golf course superintendent is in serious jeopardy. To add even more fuel to the fire, my wife and I are expecting our first child later this month. I'm told that this will be a life-style altering experience, but nonetheless, it is something we've been looking forward to for a few years now.

As a sidebar, as if my plate wasn't full enough, I'm also currently into my last graduate school class of the first year. The class is "Managerial Accounting". The good news is that there are no exams, the bad news is that there are no exams. Simply one rather extensive and large written analysis of a Fortune 500 company. My first inkling was to analyze Novartis, but unfortunately, another student in the class took the company first. Thus, I settled on Deere and Company (hopefully, this won't incite any visits by men in green jackets). Of course, only as the Gods could have scripted it, my twenty-page midterm paper is due at the scheduled arrival time of our "babe, soon to be wrapped in swaddling". At least lately, there seems never a dull moment in Professor DelSantoro's life.

Fieldstone Golf Club is located in Greenville, Delaware, just minutes across the PA border, south of Kennett Square. It's a high dollar private golf-only facility designed by Dr. Mike Hurzdan and Dana Fry. The scenery is absolutely fabulous, but the maintenance of the golf course is an absolute nightmare. What is it about golf course architects that inspires them to set up nearly impossible growing and maintenance conditions for the sake of a breathtaking vista?

The best adjective describing Fieldstone Golf Club is extreme. The golf course had extremely deep bunkers, extremely steep green banks, extremely rocky soils, and extremely high expectations. Also, the playability of the golf course is extremely demanding with a slope rating from the back tees of 146. The golf course is definitely not for the faint of golfing hearts. A stray drive will leave even the best golfers deep into the woods, deep into a sod-faced bunker, or deep into the rough. The putting greens are A-4 bentgrass, and are moderately sloped. The closing hole, a 540 yard, uphill Par 5, is accented by three things: a twelve-foot deep sod-faced bunker known as "Lisa's Heart", a eight foot deep "Devil's Asshole" in the center of the approach, and a severely sloped, multi-tiered putting green.

I got to walk the golf course with Dr. Hurzdan a few weeks back. Quite an interesting and somewhat down to earth kind of fellow. He professed to me that architects tended to not consider how difficult a track would be to maintain when contemplating the design. Of course, this was not earth shattering news. It was just weird hearing it from the very guy whose name is associated with creating the monster. More than once during our visit, Dr. Hurzdan suggested that if there were any changes to the golf course that would ease the maintenance, we should feel free to make them. Aside from dynamite and a D-8, I couldn't think of any others.

Seriously, it has been my observation that more times than not, top-rated golf courses are generally more difficult to maintain than most. So, I guess if Fieldstone gets the anticipated accolades, it would simply be at expectation. In otherwords, as long as I can figure out what the hell I'm doing and how the hell I'm going to do it, everything should be fine and dandy. Of course, anyone who knows me would confirm that rare is the case when I seem to know what the hell I'm doing. Either I'm pretty lucky or I'm a master at illusions! I've yet to determine exactly which!!!

In signing off for this month, I'll leave you with a quote from one of the two Australian interns I have employed through Ohio State University (let's remember that that's the Buckeye's for those who follow this column). In speaking towards the beauty and serenity of the golf course and property at Fieldstone prior to opening, one of the outback Aussies quipped, "its a shame a place like this has to be ruined by allowing golfers to play it!" Maybe those old Buckeyes are wiser than I've give them credit. In fact, I officially take back all the bad things I've ever said about those hard headed tree worshippers. That being said, from where the deer and the antelope play, that's strictly my opinion and solely my point o' view from the heather and gorse.



Rules of the Game

Scenario: You're playing a golf course that has extremely penal secondary rough. Let's call it heather and gorse. You're about half way around and not playing your best. Your gravity golf swing has left you! You've strayed fiercely off the tee all day long and the brutality of the long gnarly fescue rough has got you ready to throw all of your clubs into the nearest and deepest water hazard you can find. On the fourteenth tee, you're simply playing for pride and trying not to lose any more of those for-entertainment-purposes-only dollars, when you once again block what felt like a good swing twenty yards into the heather on the right. Fully aggravated, you proceed to hit a provisional ball in the same general area. You decide not to search for either ball. Thinking you know the rules better than you do, you declare the first ball unplayable, say you're abandoning your provisional ball, and hit a third ball from the tee. Your third tee shot lands in the center of the fairway. Your line of reasoning to your playing companions is that according to Rule 28, you, and you alone are the sole judge of whether your golf ball is unplayable. Under Rule 28/1, you may proceed under the stroke-and-distance option of the unplayable ball rule without finding your first ball. Your playing companions vehemently disagree.

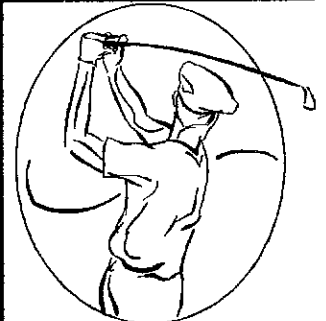
Question: In the fairway, are you laying three as you claim, or five as your playing companions claim?

Answer: Your playing companions are correct! You will be playing your sixth shot from the fairway. You may not declare the first ball from the tee unplayable, disregard your provisional ball and put another ball into play under a stroke-and-distance penalty because, having played a provisional ball (your second ball), you would have to find your original ball to declare the ball unplayable. Unless the original ball is found, the provisional ball automatically becomes the ball in play. When you hit a third ball off the tee without declaring it a provisional to your provisional ball, that ball becomes the ball in play. Your first two shots are considered lost and under two stroke-and-distance penalties you would be laying five in the fairway.

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 jcm Myers@lazerlink.com.



Your Cheatin' Heart

The one thing to be said about my Uncle Steve was that he never let a rule stand in his way of winning. I first witnessed this behavior when I challenged him to a game of "Snakes and Ladders". I was only a mere child of 5, but that didn't keep him from using his warped logic to win. He argued that since he was not afraid of snakes, he should be allowed to climb the beasts as well as the ladders. This, of course, begged the question: If my uncle would go to that much effort to win a child's game, how far would he go for something important?

By the time Steve was in his early 30s, he had become an adequate golfer whose handicap was that he still hated to lose. It was because of his attitude and temper that he was often forced to play alone. This did not keep him playing as though his life depended on a victory. Rules became suggestions for people with limited imaginations. He would take a 16-foot gimme and then whirl around to see if I was going to argue. I, of course, had long since learned that reminding my uncle of the rules meant a small tip.

I turned 15 the summer Pine Greens Golf Club held its 50th annual championship. Pine Greens was the oldest business or club in the area and therefore was viewed with reverence. The Golf Trophy, a truly unimaginative name for the award, was the most prestigious prize in the county and my uncle was geared up for the victory.

"Al, my boy," he said, "this year the Golf Trophy is mine." I hesitated to remind him of his promise to never play in the tournament again. This oath had been made after calling the tournament officials fascists for refusing to allow him his multi-mulligan rule.

"Are you sure you want to play?" I asked cautiously. "After all, you did offend quite a few people last year."

"Water under the bridge," he assured me. "I'm a changed man."

This appeared to be true. As the tournament wore on, my uncle demonstrated levels of self-control that would have put a Zen master to shame. He followed, without the slightest complaint, every rule he had ever dismissed as archaic. What made the situation even more unbelievable was that he managed to keep his anger in check.

At the eighth hole, he missed a three-foot putt and smiled. Everybody in the group, myself included, had fallen to the ground in preparation for the ritual tossing of the putter. "What gives?" I asked as I placed the putter back in the bag. "You're acting like a good sport. You should have lost your temper back at the first hole."

"I told you I was prepared this year," whispered Steve. "I went and got myself hypnotized last night. According to the Amazing Freddie, every time I would normally get angry, I focus the energy on the next shot. Considering the quality of my last drive, my tee shot should be a beaut."

It was. The hole was a dogleg left, 350 yards. Steve was on the green after his first shot and sunk a long putt for eagle. He smiled politely as the rest of his party bogeyed.

At the end of the day, Steve was tied with Angus Popovitch, a man whose reputation for cheating made Steve look like an amateur. According to club rules, they would face off the following day in an 18-hole match.

It was a lovely fall day as the two golfers prepared to tee off. Word has spread as to who was in the final and a huge crowd

had assembled. They had not come to see a great round of golf, but rather to witness what had the potential to be the first brawl in the history of Pine Greens.

The first sign of animosity occurred at the second green. Angus's shot was within three feet of the cup and he bent down to pick up his ball. Steve asked his opponent what he was doing and Angus replied that anything under three feet was a gimme.

"Anything under three feet is a pygmy," snarled Steve. "Now putt the ball."

Thus the flood gates were thrust open and those who had come to watch flagrant breaking of the rules were not disappointed. Angus drew first blood when he swore the wind from his practice swing had knocked the ball off his tee. It was not until Angus and his caddie were prepared to sign a sworn affidavit that Steve dropped his complaint.

At No. 3 Angus's second shot bounced into the rough among some daisies. It was not a difficult shot to recover from as the weeds offered a minimum of difficulty. Angus, however, was not one to take chances. He plucked a handful of daisies and dropped them in front of Steve's face.

"Wind appears to be from the west," he laughed.

There was a murmuring of displeasure from the gallery at what was generally considered poor decorum. Steve surprised everyone by not saying anything.

My uncle's second shot at the sixth hole saw his 5-iron take him into the rough. It was not a totally bad shot except that his ball landed behind a small boulder. Steve surveyed the ball from all angles, as did Angus. The shot was difficult, if not impossible, as the ball was less than an inch away from the rock. Angus showed his usual compassion. "Drop the ball and take a stroke. It's getting late."

Steve was ready to comply when he was struck with an epiphany. He reached down and grabbed the boulder with two hands and slowly lifted the rock off the ground. The boulder must have weighed about 200 pounds and Steve only managed to lift it waist-high. Before Angus could utter a protest, Steve tossed the rock away from his ball.

"You're right, Angus. The wind is westerly," Steve said, and he proceeded to hit his ball onto the green.

This time the gallery gave a polite round of applause at what it deemed to be poetic justice. Steve doffed his cap, leaving Angus to complain to his caddie.

At last the combatants arrived at the 18th. Angus had the lead by one stroke and the par 3 offered little hope for my uncle to mount a comeback. Still, he did his best as his tee shot landed 20 yards from the green. We waited as Angus prepared for his tee shot and were rewarded by a drive that trailed left, towards the woods.

"Keep an eye on him, Al," warned Uncle Steve, "Angus will try to drop a ball in play if he can't find his."

We walked toward the green and watched as Angus and his caddie searched for the ball. I joined in the search, but Steve wouldn't move from where he was standing. It was not easy to look for the ball and watch Angus and his caddie. I was about to suggest that Steve help when I heard a shout of joy as Angus found his ball. It was a feat just short of a miracle, I thought, as I had searched the same piece of ground just moments earlier. I rushed back to Steve.

"We got him," I whispered, "That's not his ball."

The prestige of winning the tournament and the trophy disappeared with Steve's sharp retort. "I know," he answered. "I'm standing on it."

By Alan Broderick, Golf Journal, September 1998

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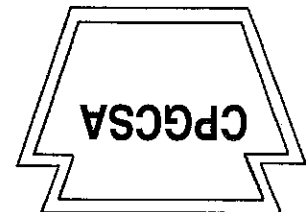
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 (800) 338-1466

Tom Drayer
Philadelphia Turf Company
 4049 Landisville Road
 Doylestown, PA 18901
 (215) 345-7200



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

The Green Sheet



1999 CPGCSA Meetings

- * July 13 Range End Country Club
Kirby Putt, CGCS
Pete Ramsey, Superintendent
- * 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

FYI

If you have any information that you would like included in the July Newsletter, the deadline for submissions is June 14, 1999.

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

IT'S IN THE TAG

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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.