

# The Green Sheet



Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 7 Issue 7

September 1999

## September Meeting

Wyncote Golf Club

Tuesday September 21, 1999

11:00 AM - Registration

11:30 AM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Golf

5:30 PM - Social/ Dinner

6:30 PM - Speaker

**There will be no CPGCSA Board of Directors meeting this month.**

## Golf Course Profile

Wyncote Golf Club opened 18 holes for play in June 1993. A heathlands style by Brian Ault, Wyncote is reminiscent of an inland Scottish Links featuring moguls, mounded bunkers, windy rises, and wetlands. As a Par 72 course, Wyncote has four tees and a range from 5,454 from the front to 7,012 yards from the back tees. A carpet of bentgrass covers the entire course including tees, fairways, greens and even the practice facility.

## Superintendent Profile

Bill Nickerson came to Wyncote in April 1999 from Wheeling WV where he was Golf Course Superintendent for ten years at Wheeling Country Club. In 1993 Bill was voted West Virginia Superintendent of the Year by the WVGCSA. He has been a member of the WVGCSA for 15 years and the GCSAA for 9 years.

**Welcome to Pennsylvania, Bill!**

*Thanks again to our meeting sponsors:  
Jade Run Sod Farm, Novartis, and Zeneca*

## USGA "Tip of the Month" Managing the Drought of 1999

While the different states that encompass the USGA Green Section's Mid-Atlantic Region have different water use regulations, it may be a worthwhile exercise to review some basic agronomic principles about managing grass during a drought.

1. **Follow the Law.** In some states there are mandatory regulations on the use of water, especially, for fairway irrigation. Roughs are not to be irrigated. Agronomically, grasses that are less sensitive to heat, like Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, tall and fine fescues, have a very efficient dormancy mechanism. Within certain limits, while the grasses may look bad now, they can recover rapidly when normal rainfall patterns return.

2. **Control Traffic.** Heavy traffic on grass under wilt stress can cause permanent damage. Restrict cart traffic to paths, minimize traffic on roughs to the extent possible, do not allow crossovers or the "90-degree rule" and even encourage walking. The less traffic the better.

3. **Raise Mowing Heights and Mow Less Often.** After all, the grass should be growing slower.

4. **Use Plant Growth Regulators.** Where appropriate, apply or continue using growth-regulating chemicals. These products can reduce the water use rate of grass by at least 30 percent.

5. **Renovation/Reconstruction.** Rethink renovation or reconstruction projects. Generally, do not disturb the turf unless you have the ability to irrigate these areas. Be patient, wait for better weather and monitor your current state regulations covering renovations and reseedings.

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## President's Message

I would like to thank Greg Fantuzzi, the staff and Carlisle Country Club for hosting our August meeting. The golf course was in excellent condition, the meal was superb and our speaker was not only interesting but also humorous (anyone for chocolate covered cut worms Wanda!)

Congratulations go out to Jim Loke for his hole in one and to Greg for being the hole in one partner for the second month in a row. I as president, evoke my powers to be paired with Greg as my partner at the September meeting so I may possibly enjoy my first hole in one.

Our September meeting is a joint meeting with the Philadelphia Superintendent's Association at Wyncote Golf Club. If you have not attended a meeting lately, this is one you may possibly want to attend.

I would also like to send my special thanks to Bill Wall and Dave Rafferty for organizing and attending the meeting with DEP on the drought emergency declared by Governor Ridge.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the fair and reasonable water reduction uses of golf courses in comparison with reductions asked for the rest of the water using businesses of Pennsylvania. We as an organization have met with the state and asked for a variance to water at night and not during the day. We as fellow Superintendents should applaud and respect the hard work of Bill Wall, Dave Rafferty and other Superintendents who worked hard with DEP to obtain these variances for the benefit of us all.

Please do not abuse the system by running your sprinklers longer than allowed by law. One violator could destroy all the hard work done by others and hurt the integrity of our organization. We must self-police our organization as a whole - if I were your neighbor Superintendent and caught you breaking the law I would turn you in!

I bet you are glad I'm not your neighbor, see you in September.

Theodore S. Zabrenski, President

**Editors Note:** *The Variance form can now be located on-line at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us). Click on Drought Emergency, then Drought Update, then Drought Emergency Rules, then Application for Golf Course Variance from Non-Essential Use of Water Restrictions in Drought Emergency Area (4 Pa. Code Chapter 119)*

## Speaker Profile

The speaker for the September meeting at Wyncote will be KYW-3's Tom Lamaine. Tom has been a veteran broadcaster on the air in Philadelphia for 30 years. As meteorologist for *Eyewitness News This Morning* and the noon newscast, Lamaine has distinguished himself as one of Philadelphia's most trusted weathercasters.

A jet pilot, Lamaine's early forecasting skills were honed in pilot training at the Aviation Officer's Candidate School in Florida, where he served as a Navy flight officer. In 1984, as part of a National Hurricane Center reconnaissance flight, Lamaine flew into the eye of Hurricane Gloria as part of the data-collecting team.

His flight experiences have also included flying with the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels and the U. S. Air Force Thunderbirds who awarded him a special commendation for achieving 9Gs (nine times the force of gravity) during a flight, an honor only a select number of Air Force pilots have achieved.

Tom is a graduate of Fordham University in New York City where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in English. He also holds a degree in Meteorology from Drexel University. He is a life-long surfer and owns and rides a Western Performance Horse, Sky King, in competitions. A native of Atlantic City, he now resides in Riverton, New Jersey.

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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.

Ron Diefenthaler, CGCS  
Colonial Country Club                      Class A

Christopher T. LeBarge, Assistant Superintendent  
Berkleigh Country Club                      Class C

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.

***If you or someone you know is interested in running for the 2000 CPGCSA Board of Directors, please contact Mark Malasavage at (717) 533-3269.***

## Equipment For Sale

Please contact Tony Goodley, Heritage Hills Golf Resort at (717) 755-1919 if you are interested in the following equipment.

- Foley Bedknife Grinder                      \$450.00
- Cushman Spiker/Slicer                      \$500.00

Please contact Curt King, Moccasin Run Golf Course at (610) 593-2600 if you are interested in this equipment.

- VT-2 Satellites ( includes new cabinets)

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!!

## Drought.....continued from page 1

6. **Disease Control.** While overall disease pressure may be reduced during the drought, watch the weather. Dry weather diseases like Dollar Spot can become a problem. Heavy thunderstorms can stimulate diseases like Pythium, Brown Patch and Gray Leaf Spot so, keep your golf course well scouted for disease outbreaks.

7. **Fertility.** Defer applications of fertilizers, especially granular materials, until the weather moderates. Guard against stimulating too much turf growth. Sprayable forms of fertilizers can be beneficial when applied in a timely fashion.

Remember, all golf courses represent the turfgrass management industry and the game of golf. Respect local regulations. While individual conditions vary, we are in a serious drought unfortunately, with no relief in sight. Hopefully, these points will help golf courses manage their grass through a difficult period. As always, if any specific questions arise, feel free to give this office a call at 610/ 696-4747. Good luck and, let's all pray for rain!

Stanley J. Zontek, Director                      Keith A. Happ, Agronomist  
Darin S. Bevard, Agronomist

## Congratulations to:

- \* ***Terry Wueschinski, CGCS of Country Club of York and his staff for a successful U. S. Junior Amateur Tournament***
- \* ***Brad Shaffer, Matthew Hengst and their staff at Briarwood Golf Course for another successful Futures Tournament.***

## Directions to Wyncote Golf Club

**From Reading:** Take the PA Turnpike to Downingtown Route 100 exit. Follow Route 100 South to Route 113. Take a right on 113 and follow to Route 30 West. Take Route 30 West to Route 10 South. Continue on Route 10, when blinking light at 896 is reached, Wyncote is 2 and 1/2 miles on the right.

**From Lancaster:** Take Route 30 East to 896. Follow 896 South to Route 10. Go right on route 10 approximately 2 and 1/2 miles on the right.

**From Harrisburg:** Take 283 East to 30 East. Follow 30 East to 896 South. Take 896 South to Route 10 South. Go right on route 10 approximately 2 and 1/2 miles on the right.

**From Philadelphia:** Follow 95 South to 322 West. Take 322 West to Route 1 South. Follow Route 1 South to Route 10 Oxford exit. Take Route 10 North approximately 1/4 mile. Wyncote is on the left.

## Heather and Gorse

by Mark V. DelSantro, CGCS

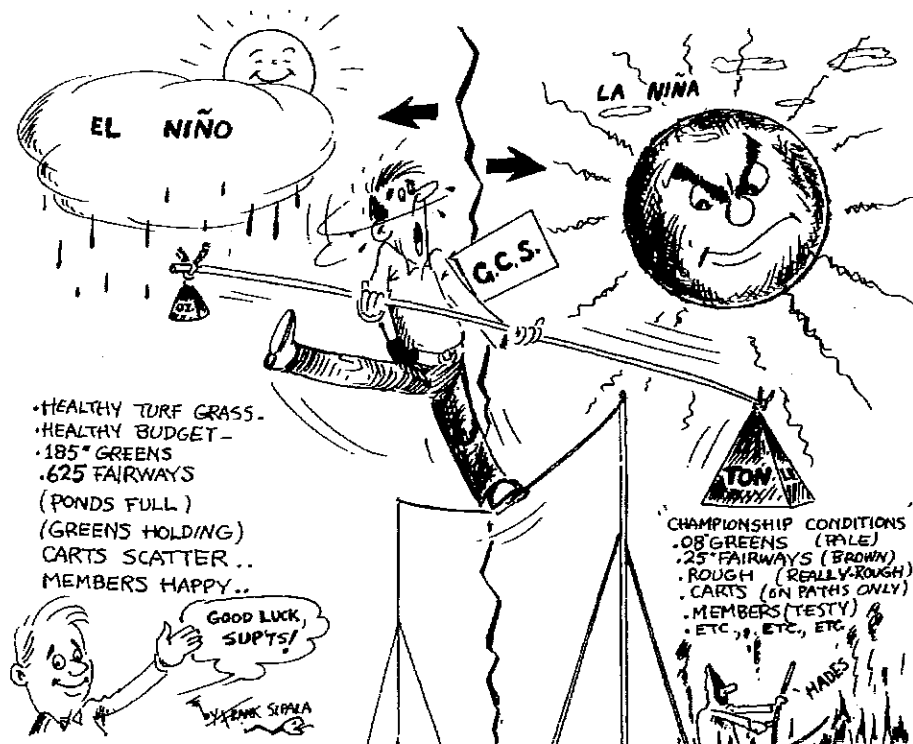
Water water everywhere and not a drop to drink! The dog days of summer are upon us my friends and the bitches are extraordinarily in heat! The wrath of "la niña" has run rampant across the Mid-Atlantic region, and "she's pretty, she's a bad woman!" Her extreme, ultra arid temperatures and winds that have virtually sucked the life out of our irrigation ponds, our turfgrass stands, and the normally positive, optimistic attitudes of many superintendents in the area. Would someone start the suicide watch please? Never do I remember a time when more superintendents were seriously talking about getting out of the grass-growing business. Maybe this is Mama Nature's way of natural selection amongst the superintendents of the world. Only the strongest will survive and in the end will justly thrive. It's situations such as these that lead us all towards looking at the big picture of life, and it's times like these that many of us seek solace in higher places. My favorite patience prayer reads "Be patient my soul, for surely you have endured worst than this." Of course, exactly what's worst than this in the life of a golf course superintendent, who knows? Surely, there must be something!

Stan Zontek of the U.S.G.A. paid Fieldstone a visit towards the end of July. In actuality, Fieldstone paid the U.S.G.A. for the visit. Nonetheless, Mr. Zontek brought along his worldly wisdom, his charming humor, and a wee bit o'moisture. Come to think of it, the date was July 20th, 1999 and as of the copy date for this article, it was the last measurable amount of rainfall northern Delaware received (very interesting! I wonder if there is any correlation?). What amused me the most about the visit was the number of times Mr. Zontek spoke off the record. I would ask him about some off-the-wall angle towards managing turfgrass and prior to his response, he would make me promise that I wouldn't write about it in Heather and Gorse. Oh the humanity! Where's the love, Stan?

One of the discussions that I'm sure Mr. Zontek would allow me to share dealt with Carnoustie, host of the 1999 British Open. Our discussion focused on how Carnoustie, atypical to other British Isle golf courses, overseeded and fertilized their rough to make it thicker and more difficult for the Open championship. It was Mr. Z's humble opinion that British golf courses seem to be trending toward American-style turfgrass maintenance, while American golf courses seem to be trending toward British-style maintenance. I believe this observation to be somewhat obvious. The question that remains is exactly where the two frames of thought will meld.

Over the past few decades it has become blatantly obvious to me that American country club golfers have become spoiled with outstanding golf course conditions provided by many outstanding golf course superintendents (both young and Bencreek-ish alike) or should I say "a Loke!" By the way, this is not a typo!). This phenomenon has held true for those facilities of seemingly unlimited budgets, and those frugally budgeted golf clubs as well. And just when many superintendents had been battered and bruised to a point beyond recognition and pushed towards the brink of budget efficiency insanity, along comes the "drought of the century" to take what little sense of self-worth and dignity that remains. Exactly how brutal can Mother Nature be??? Well, I'm not sure, but I think I actually saw some goosegrass wilting the other day.

I always find myself somewhat torn between desiring excessively dry conditions and knowing that with wetter weather patterns I could theoretically spend less time at work. Let us remember that I am not a proponent of *Poa*, unless it's pretentiously *pratensis* in nature. Furthermore, I don't necessarily like to spray many pesticides; I do like having absolute control of water and fertilizer; and with the exceptions of the putting greens, I seriously don't prefer to mow the tees, fairways, and rough more than a few times a week. As for mowing my yard at my house, I can't honestly say that I've ever looked forward to running home to



continued on page 5

## Golf Results

I'd like to thank Greg Fantuzzi and his staff for a great day of golf, the course was in excellent condition. The golf event was an individual stroke play using callaway scoring.

Unfortunately my dog devoured the results.....sorry, but I do remember Jim Loke had a hole-in-one! Congratulations Jim.

Sincerely,  
Scott Fischer, Golf Committee



## Upcoming Events

- \* October 4, 1999                      25th Annual Western PA Turfgrass Tournament, Fox Chapel Golf Club, Pittsburgh, PA . Contact Mark Kuhns (412) 828-8000 or PTC (814) 863-3475.
- \* October 5, 1999                      Joseph M. Duich Turfgrass Endowment Tournament, Saucon Valley Country Club, Bethlehem, PA. Contact Beverly, Saucon Valley Country Club (610) 758-7170.
- \* October 18, 1999                      23rd Annual Joseph Valentine Memorial Golf Tournament, Gulph Mills Country Club, King of Prussia, PA. Contact John Chassard at (610) 967-4643 or PTC (814) 863-3475.
- \* November 9-11, 1999                      Penn State Golf Turf Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA Contact Peter Landschoot (814) 863-1017 or PTC (814) 863-3475.
- \* January 11-13, 2000                      Eastern PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA. Contact Michael Smith (610) 828-0253 or PTC (814) 863-3475.
- \* February 9-11, 2000                      Western PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, Pittsburgh Expo Mart/Radisson Hotel. Contact Barry Grote (412) 848-1674 or PTC.
- \* February 14-20, 2000                      GCSAA 71st Conference & Show, New Orleans, LA. Contact GCSAA at (800) 472-7878.

## Heather and Gorse...continued from page 4

mow it down. So, in the highly distorted, dream world of Heather and Gorse, I must conclude that this summer is damn near perfect!

Nonetheless, Professor/Prophet DelSantro believes that you must (as the song says) "always look on the bright side of life," no matter how bleak the future appears. While we'd like many of our country club members to believe that we possess divine powers, superintendents are, in fact, flesh and blood. As mere mortals, we can only control that which is controllable. And while some of us are delusional and vain enough to believe we can constantly tease the grim reaper of turfgrass and survive, sooner or later his razor sharp scythe will slice our arrogant jugulars, leaving us to die the most slow and loneliest of deaths.

Think of it this way... maybe Mother Nature is simply allowing us an unscathed glimpse into the abyss of turfgrass management's future. Lower maintenance turfgrasses and lower maintenance golf courses... golf ala natural. Ah, sounds a lot like turfgrass management ala the British Isles!!! Your destiny just might be the mightiest of your foes. That's my delusional, somewhat vain, dark-sided view from the heather and gorse.

\*\*\*As a side note to heather and gorse, I wanted to take the time to plug the Exelon Invitational on September 13th, 1999, as well as the joint Philadelphia and Central PA Superintendent Association meeting on September 21st, 1999. Both of these events are being hosted by the Wyncote Golf Club in Oxford, PA. As many of you know, I was the golf course superintendent at Wyncote for four seasons, and I'm proud to say that I was involved with initiating of both these events.

The Exelon Invitational is an 18-hole PGA Tour Skins event featuring Lancaster-native Jim Furyk, PGA Champion Davis Love III, Two-time U.S. Open Champion Lee Janzen, and British Open Champion Justin Leonard. The four will tee it up at Wyncote Golf Club at 1:30 PM on Monday September 13th. The total purse for the event is nearly \$300,000. Spend the afternoon at Wyncote and watch four guys make the game that we've all dedicated our lives to look really easy! Tickets are required. For ticket information contact The Wyncote Pro Shop at (610) 932-8900.

As for the joint meeting with the Philadelphia Golf Course Superintendent's Association, the details are posted in this newsletter. For the meeting to be a total success, collectively 100 attendees are required. Several sponsors have contributed towards lowering the overall price. Wyncote Golf Club is a unique Scottish Heathlands design and generally is worth the price of admission. I think you'll find the golf course a wonderful challenge for good and bad golfers alike. The bonus is that Wyncote is closer than you think! Wyncote is located a little less than 30 minutes from Lancaster, just over an hour from Harrisburg, and taking back roads no more than 45 minutes from York. Definitely a must attend meeting! One bit of advice lads... pack your wind gear, for you just never know how the wind may blow through the heather and gorse. Hopefully we'll see all of you fellow Heather and Gorsers at the Windy Cottage in September.

## Rules of the Game

**Scenario:** For those of you who watched the PGA Championship at Medinah in mid-August... During Sergio "El Niño" Garcia's back nine charge vs. Tiger Woods, Sergio pushed a tee shot under a tree in the right rough. He was 188 yards from the green and his golf ball was buried in 6 to 8 inches of Bluegrass rough. During his preshot routine, Sergio was extremely careful not to dislodge a leaf and/or a pine needle. Why was he so careful?

**Answer:** The reasoning behind "El Niño's" cautiousness was simply because he knew the U.S.G.A.'s rules of golf. Rule 13-2 states that a player shall not improve or allow to be improved: the position or lie of his ball, the area of his intended swing, his line of play or a reasonable extension of that line beyond the hole or the area in which he is to drop or place the ball. Had Sergio taken a practice swing and knocked a single leaf or pine needle off of his area of intended swing, he would have most likely incurred a penalty of two strokes for a breach of Rule 13-2. Considering Sergio was only a stroke behind Tiger at the time, the 19 year old Spaniard proved to be wise beyond his years.

**Bonus Question:** During the above scenario, you've done everything right and you address the ball to play your shot. During your backswing the branch above your head breaks, but you continue your swing and proceed to hit the ball on the green. Are you penalized?

**Bonus Answer:** Not as long as you continue your swing in an attempt to advance the ball. Had the branch broke during your backswing and you decided to discontinue your swing prior to hitting the golf ball, you'd be penalized two strokes. As long as the branch broke in the process of making a stroke.



### 1999 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

- \* October 20 Dauphin Highlands Golf Course  
Bill Wall, Superintendent  
Annual Meeting/Golf Championship

### For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the October Newsletter, the deadline for submissions is September 24, 1999.

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

## CPGCSA Supporter List

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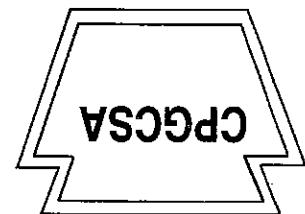
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## The Green Sheet



### GCSAA Seminars

The following is a listing of GCSAA Chapter-Hosted seminars that are being offered locally this fall/winter. Please mark them down, they are excellent seminars, close to home, good for certification.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Seminar</u>	<u>Hosted by</u>
November 18	Human Relations	Pocono TGA
December 14	Bentgrass Stress Management	Mid-Atlantic Association of GCS
December 15	Personal Stress Management	Mid-Atlantic Association of GCS
January 11	Ecology	Greater Pittsburgh GCSA
January 27	Management Strategies for Turfgrass Systems	Central Penn GCSA**
January 28	Enhancing Your Value As A Golf Course Superintendent	Central Penn GCSA**
March 7	Stress Management	Philadelphia GCS
March 14	Turfgrass Stress Management	Mountain and Valley GCSA

**\*\* CPGCSA Seminars will be held at Heritage Hills Resort and Conference Center, York, PA**