

# The Green Sheet



#### **Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association**

Volume 8 Issue 5

August 2000

# **August Meeting**

### **Heidelberg Country Club**

Joint Meeting with Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Tuesday, August 15, 2000

1:00 PM - Shotgun Cocktails - 5:30 PM (Casual) Dinner - 6:15 PM (Casual)

The Education session for this meeting with be a round table discussion of current "hot" topics.

There will be a CPGCSA Board of Directors meeting at 10:30 AM.

#### **Golf Course Profile**

Heidelberg Country Club opened for play in 1968. The original layout was changed with the construction of Blue Marsh Lake. The Par 70 course measures 6,532 from the back Tees. Most recently Heidelberg hosted the Philadelphia PGA Championship in 1997, 1998, and 1999. John Guenther was the Golf Course Builder and Mark Anderson is the PGA Professional.

### **Superintendent Profile**

Tom Ocepek has been superintendent at Heidelberg Country Club for 12 years. Tom graduated from Penn State's Turfgrass Management Program in 1988. Tom's start in golf was in 1970 as a caddy at Westmoreland Country Club, Intern at Oakmont Country Club, Assistant at Cloverleaf Golf Club and also worked at Wilmington Country Club.

Tom has been married to Louise for 12 years and has 3 children: Erin - 7, David - 6, and Mary - 4.

### The Dog Days of Summer

By Darin Bevard, Agronomist

What a difference a year makes! In 1999, the first week of July brought temperatures above 100 degrees throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region. The drought was well entrenched and water restrictions for golf courses were on their way. To date, the summer of 2000 has not seen any real weather extremes. Most golf course superintendents agree that the weather conditions generally have been favorable. In fact, in some portions of the Mid-Atlantic, too much rain has fallen resulting in turf loss and disease, especially on poorly drained greens.

In our travels, dollar spot continues to be the biggest problem throughout the region. Conditions for dollar spot development have been very favorable. Even bermudagrass tees and fairways have been damaged in some instances, which normally is rare. Residual control of dollar spot from fungicide applications has been poor, with control intervals getting shorter and shorter, especially on fairways. Providing additional fertility for affected areas has helped to some degree, but dollar spot likely will continue to be a major problem with the current weather patterns.

Another disease that has become active in the last two weeks is the recently identified dead spot of creeping bentgrass. This disease is mainly a problem on newer, sand-based putting greens. The disease starts out with an appearance similar to dollar spot or even an unrepaired ball mark, but progresses to cause severe pitting of the turf, which can affect playability. Be aware that this disease is active if you are managing new sand based greens. If in doubt, send a sample to a plant diagnostic lab.

In the northern part of our region, annual bluegrass weevils have been very active. Keep an eve out for adult weevils crawling on putting greens. Monitor the edges of fairways, tees, and collars where Poa annua is present. What initially appears as drought stress may actually be damage from feeding larvae of annual bluegrass weevil. Dig just below the thatch. If you see soft-bodied larvae, these may be Hyperodes weevils. The Poa annua will be affected, but not bentgrass or perennial ryegrass that may be in the affected area. .....continued on page 2.....

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### President's Message

The hot issue this month is again the SRBC deadline of August 24, 2000. The following letter is from the Keystone Association concerning SRBC Regulations:

On July 6, 2000, the Keystone Association of Golf Course Superintendents held a meeting at Nittany Country Club. A round-table discussion was held with State Representative Mike Hanna in attendance. The discussion centered around our concerns about the Susquehanna River Basin Commissions regulations on golf course irrigation water. We wanted to express our concerns to State Representative Mike Hanna and see what could be done to combat these regulations; including the new evaporation issue. As you know, the SRBC now has a formula to determine how much water evaporates off of our irrigation ponds for which we will be charged \$.14/1,000 gallons consumptive use.

It was the suggestion of Representative Hanna that all concerned Superintendents get in touch with their State Representatives, State Congressmen, Federal Congressman, and Federal Representatives; and to have those Representatives get in touch with his office. Mike Hanna is spearheading an initiative to negotiate further settlements with the SRBC to further clarify the golf industries position. Representative Hanna would like to have contact with your Representatives by July 20 in order to have something done by August 25.

State Representative Mike Hanna's office can be reached at: 1-570-748-5480 or at this address: 29 Bellefonte Avenue, Lock Haven, PA 17745.

Although this information has been brought to our attention rather late. Please feel free to contact your area representative.

From my view, please have your application process started. The alternative of water use restrictions is not a pleasant picture. On average the few thousand dollars for water is a small amount of our operating budgets, but is so critical to the overall quality of our golf courses.

Thanks again to Chuck Berger and his staff at Rich Maiden Golf Course. What a great day for golf and a great meal. Hope to see you all in August at Heidelberg Country Club for our joint meeting with the Philadelphia Association.

#### USGA .....continued from page 1

One thing we have noticed in our travels is that bunkers and roughs are now a major topic of conversation. With the good weather overall turf health on tees, fairways, and greens has been good, shifting focus to other areas of the golf course. It seems that the golfing public will not accept anything but a perfect lie on any part of the golf course. Complaints about "soft" bunkers and "bad lies" in the rough are on the rise. Several times, turf establishment within wooded areas has been addressed to prevent golf from having bare lies after an errant shot. Where this trend will end, nobody knows. It certainly has made course maintenance a much greater and more expensive challenge.

The dog days of summer are here, but the overall weather patterns have been cooperative in the Mid-Atlantic Region. For the next update, we may be discussing hot weather and drought conditions! Time will tell.

As always, if we can provide help, do not hesitate to contact the Mid-Atlantic offices (West Chester: 610-696-4747 or Pittsburgh: 412-341-5922). Keith, Stan and I are always available.

#### New This Year....

There will be a \$100.00 award given to the <u>best newsletter article</u> submitted in 2000. A committee will be formed to vote at the end of the year and the \$100.00 award will be presented to the winner at next year's Winter Educational Meeting. All members are eligible.

If you would like to write an article for a particular month, please contact Bill Brooks ASAP.

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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.

Joey Filippini, Assistant Superintendent Golden Oaks Golf Course..........Class C

Darren Romano, Assistant Superintendent Penn National Golf Club......Class C

We would like to welcome the following individual into our association.

Jeremy M. Weand, Sales
Lawn & Golf Supply, Inc.....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 Scott Fischer at (717) 246-6538.

#### **Member Updates**

Get Well Wishes to:

Robert Jones at Hidden Valley Golf Course

#### Congratulations to:

Mark Malasavage and his staff at Country Club of Hershey for a successful Buy.com Tournament. The course looked great!

#### **Quotable Quotes**

(or in this case a quotable conversation)

Mark Delsantro playing golf with a doctor and his son whom he had never met before. The doctor respectfully asked on the 1st tee, "Oh, you must be the one who takes care of the greens?" To which Mark proudly responded with a hesitant "Ahh, yeah I do." It was on the eighth hole as they were waiting to tee off, the doctor's son then asked, "Who takes care of the tees and fairways?!"

Mark - Next time just tell people that you are the Head Grass Cutter and that you are in charge of cutting everything! That is all we do, isn't it?!

Tom Ocepek recently had a complement from a member. The member said, "Tom, the place looks great. I've never seen so much grass!"

Can you top these quotes? If you can, see me (Bill Brooks) at the next meeting or give me a call and we'll publish it.

#### From the Editor......Bill Brooks

I can't believe it's August! Normally, this time of year I'm counting each minute that the sun isn't beating on the golf course by looking at the sunrise - sunset times on the weather channel. I'm sure most of you can relate to that. This year seems a bit different, however. Most of us need the sun and wind to dry out our golf courses. Needless to say, the forecast of a drought in 2000, which was going to be worse than in 1999, was wrong and it's been great grass growing weather. Prolonged hot temperatures have been nonexistent.

So what has been your challenge this year? I recently read the article in the May issue of GOLFDOM, Great Expectations - Battling the Dreaded Augusta National Syndrome. The article addresses golfer's expectations and wants after watching The Masters. Yes, the average golfer does have unrealistic expectations especially when it comes to day in and day out green speed. But as I reflected and thought about what causes my own stress, I came to the conclusion that I am my own worst critic. Things look great but they have to look better and when they look better, they even have to look better. So when driving around the course, my eyes are directed to what looks bad instead of what looks good. In some ways that can be good, but not when it starts to eat at me from the inside. Intentions may have been to have a nice leisurely ride in the evening with Debbie and the kids, but those intentions turn into a grumpy mess because dollar spot, crabgrass, clover, nutsedge, etc. has infested rough areas that we couldn't have afforded to spray anyway. Can you relate to this? I know you can!

I guess the bottom line is this. We all need to be looking for ways to improve our golf courses but only within the confines of what we have to spend to achieve it! We can't let what we can't do kill us!

Finding the right help has been a stress this year, but I won't even begin to get into that!!



Featuring



Rotors • Valves • Central Control Systems 800-347-4272 **Pond Evaporation** 

These values are to be used to calculate pond evaporation for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's Consumptive Use

Regulation.

Month	Inches of Evaporation*
January	0
February	0
March	0
April	3.0
May	4.9
June	5.4
July	5.8
August	4.9
September	3.6
October	2.4
November	0
December	0
	1

\* Inches of Evaporation are averages for the Susquehanna River basin and account for rainfall for each month. These averages are based on pan evaporation at various climatological stations. Penn State University then converted the numbers to reflect Lake Evaporation

The following is a sample calculation of daily average pond evaporation for a 2.5 acre pond for the month of July. Please note that the size of your particular irrigation pond(s) and the month will directly affect your calculations. This calculation should be completed for each month and each pond.

Example:

**Pond Size = 2.5 Acres** 

Inches of Evaporation for July = 5.8 inches

5.8 inches  $X = \frac{1 \text{ ft}}{12 \text{ i}}$ 

<u>1ft.</u> X 2

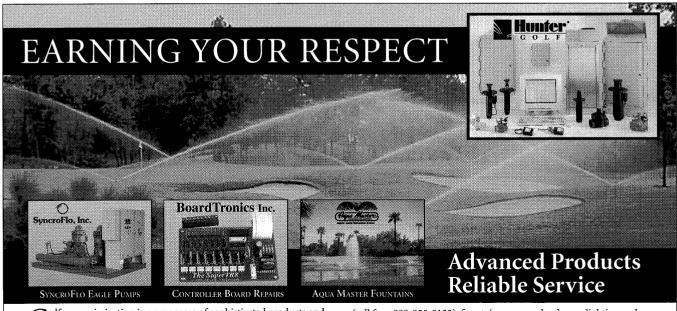
.5 acres

43,560 sq. ft. 1 acre

7.48 gal. cu.ft.

12,700 gallons day

This is the daily average of pond evaporation from a 2.5 acre pond for the month of July. This number should be recorded daily and included in your total consumptive water use calculations. The appropriate daily value should be calculated and recorded for each month.



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- Durable Kubota® 35 hp turbo diesel for abundant power
- High floatation front and rear tires for low PSI on the turf and minimal tire marking
- Ergonomic operators stations for improved comfort and productivity
- ◆ Large 7" diameter cutting units to handle heavy grass conditions
- ◆ 5, 7 or 11 blade reels and manually adjustable reel speed to meet your mowing expectations
- ◆ Available in 2WD and 4WD models

Product

# Reelmaster 5500-D

	REELMASTER 5500-D 2WD, MODEL 03550 REELMASTER 5500-D 4WD, MODEL 03551		
ENGINE	Kubota® liquid-cooled turbo diesel, 3-cylinder. 35 hp (26.1 kW) gross @ 3000 RPM. 68.5 cu. in. (1123 cm³) displacement. Pressurized lubrication system with 4.0 quart (3.8 liter) capacity. Heavy duty three stage, radial seal air cleaner with dust bowl and restriction indicator. Fuel filter/water separator with visible bowl.		
RADIATOR	Mid-mounted radiator with industrial tube and fin construction; 7 fins per inch. 7.5 quart (7.1 liter) capacity.		
<b>FUEL CAPACITY</b>	10 gallon (37.9 liter) diesel fuel.		
TRACTION DRIVE	Power to the front drive wheels is via a hydrostatic transmission coupled to a mechanical drive axle. Toro 4-matic on-demand 4-wheel drive, consists of drive shaft connected to mechanical rear drive axle.		
<b>GROUND SPEED</b>	0-10 mph (0-16.1 km/hr) forward for transport or mow; 0-4 mph (0-6.4 km/hr) reverse.		
TIRES	26.5 x 14-12 front drive tires provide maximum traction ability while minimizing turf abrasion. 20 x 10-10 rear tires.		
MAIN FRAME	All welded formed steel frame, includes three tie-down loops.		
BRAKES	Individual drum type wheel brakes and parking brakes on front traction wheels. Hydrostatic braking through traction drive.		
STEERING	Power steering with dedicated power source.		
GAUGES	Hour meter, speedometer, fuel gauge, temperature gauge, cluster gauge with glow plug and charge indicator lights, low engine oil pressure and high coolant temperature warning lights (high temperature safety shut off).		
DIAGNOSTICS	The Automatic Control Electronics, ACE™ system allows precision timing and control of machine functions for maximum reliability.  Available diagnostic display connects to an electronic control unit to pinpoint any electrical problems quickly and easily.  Available DATA LOG™ system allows mechanic to find intermittent problems.		
CONTROLS	Power steering, adjustable seat position, single forward and reverse traction pedal, traction speed limiter, individual brake pedals, parking brake latch, ignition key switch, PTO switch, throttle, joystick control for cutting unit raise and lower, reel speed and backlap control knobs.		
ELECTRICAL & INTERLOCKS	12 volt maintenance free battery, 530 CCA. Electronic control unit is a microprocessor based, solid state control unit with diagnostic capabilities. Traction pedal, operator presence in seat, PTO engage or disengage safety interlock switches, parking brake switch and individual circuit backlap switches.		
REEL SPEED CONTROL	Reel drive circuit is split into front and rear independent circuits. Hydraulic functions controlled by an integrated hydraulic control block. Reel speeds are manually adjustable between 200-1600 RPM (200 RPM in backlap).		
SEAT	Deluxe high back suspension seat with adjustable fore and aft travel, and weight and height adjustment.		
OVERALL DIMENSIONS	Height         Length (w/o baskets)         Wheel Base         Overall Width/Transport         Front Wheel Tread           59" (150 cm);         113" (287 cm)         62" (158 cm)         88" (224 cm)         72" (183 cm)           82" (208 cm) w/ROPS		
∨ WEIGHT [	2,962 lbs. (1,345 kg) w/7 blade cutting units and full fluids.		
CERTIFICATION	This product complies with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI B71-4 – 1999) and European Community specifications (CE Certified).		
WARRANTY	Two year limited warranty. Refer to the Operator's Manual for further details.		

	5, 7 AND 11 BLADE CUTTING UNITS, MODELS 03860, 03861, 03862
TYPE	Five hydraulically driven, balanced cutting units, interchangeable to all positions with standard weight transfer.
SIZE	22" (56 cm) wide cutting units, 7" (18 cm) diameter reels.
WIDTH OF CUT	100" (256 cm) total.
HOC RANGE	$^{3}/_{8}$ " - 1 $^{3}/_{4}$ " (9.5 mm - 32 mm) height of cut range. Recommended use: 5 Blade 1.0"-1.75" (25.4 mm - 44.5 mm); 7 Blade .5"-1.0" (12.7 mm - 25.4 mm); 11 Blade $^{3}/_{8}$ " - $^{5}/_{8}$ " (9.5 mm - 16 mm).
CLIP FREQUENCY/ BACKLAPPING	Manually controlled variable reel speed for adjustment of clip frequency. Standard on-board backlapping.
BEDKNIFE/BEDBAR	Single point adjustment (SPA) of bedknife to reel.
ROLLERS	Front roller: 3" (7.6 cm) diameter machined Wiehle roller standard. Rear roller: 3.0" (7.6 cm) diameter Full roller standard. Scrapers optional.



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We reserve the right to improve our products and make changes in the specifications, designs and standard equipment without notice and without incurring obligation.

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#### **Golf Results**

The following are the results from the July tournament at Rich Maiden Golf Course.

#### Low Gross

1st	Don Benner	70
2nd	Mark DelSantro	72
3rd	Dan Achenbach	73

#### Low Net

1st	John Gehman	56
2nd	Greg Borzok	57
3rd	Mike Olevkowski	58

#### **Longest Drive**

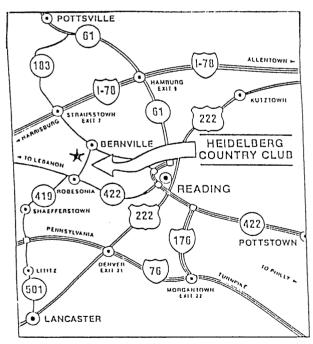
Scott Keener

#### Closest to the Pin

Bill Rahling Mike Shoppell

Golf format for Heidelberg Country Club will be Individual Stroke play for low gross and net.

# Directions to Heidelberg Country Club



Located in Bernville, PA, 12 miles North of Reading, close to PA Route 183. Turn off Route 183 at the Robesonia/Bernville Road, drive 1/4 mile to Christmas Village Road. Turn right. Drive 1/4 mile to Country Club entrance at Koenig Road. Turn right and Follow signs to clubhouse.

#### Heather and Gorse By Mark V. DelSantro, CGCS

Prior to sitting down to write this article, as usual I started to think about what I wanted to articulate to all of you. I was going to write about the weather, but considering "la niña" hasn't been riding that cotton pony the way all the weather people prognosticated and considering that the majority of superintendents in this area feel blessed by the pleasantness of the summer. I didn't find it intriguing enough. To better define "the majority of superintendents" statement, by majority I mean everyone I know except me. As most of you should know by now, I prefer a bit more of an anti-Poa weather pattern (i.e. hotter and dryer!). Similarly, I considered writing about Y2K Mid-Atlantic region disease models... but with the exception of grey leaf spot, which has yet to establish itself in our area, dollar spot has been the only serious threat. And if Sclerotinia is the worst of your nightmares, you all should be sleeping more soundly at night. I even went so far as to briefly contemplate discussing all the things you can learn as a parent of a 14-month-old. For instance, in Winnie-the-Pooh (on which, by the way, I am a self-proclaimed expert), who would think that the old, long-eared one would be such a sadistic bastard when it came to the bouncy, trouncy, flouncy, pouncy one? And why on earth did that honey loving, somewhat slobbish, "chubby little cubby all stuffed with fluff" have a Mr. Sanderz over his doorway? And most importantly, am I the only one who believes that the young boy in the blue shorts and the yellow shirt might not bat from the heterosexual side of the plate? These are all-important things I've contemplated over the last few months, but I felt none of them worthy of a heather and gorse article. Then suddenly, it hit me like 1200 dozen Titleists (that's 14,400 golf balls for those of you who either haven't taken the GCSAA's practical math seminar or graduated from OSU) and so, off to the first tee we go.

Considering that the 1990's seemed to be the age of Like many commercials have said, "image is everything!" And yet twenty years ago this month one of the funniest, yet deplorably and somewhat image-destroying movies ever made about life on a golf course turned 20 years old. Hard to believe, isn't it? Twenty years since assistant greenkeeper Carl Spackler was ordered by head greenkeeper Sandy McFiddish to rid the golf course of all the golphers. Twenty years since Ty Webb gave his Zen philosophy on golf and life (Na-na-na-na, ba-ba-ba-ba). Twenty years since Judge Smail's disclaimer to Al Czervik, "gambling is illegal at Bushwood and besides, I never slice!" Twenty years since Noonan beat Denunzio for the caddy championship and got Lacey Underall as a prize. Twenty years since the Baby Ruth in the swimming pool incident. And yes of course, twenty years since we all first heard the real Cinderella story... assistant greenkeeper turned Master's champion. It's in the hole! IT'S IN THE HOLE!!! Yes sports fans, for those who

.....continued on page 6.....

### Heather and Gorse.....continued from page 5

have had their heads buried in the sand bunker, I'm talking about every middle-aged golfer's favorite golf movie from July 1980, Caddyshack.

After I purchased the 20th year Caddyshack special edition videotape and sat down to seriously watch the unedited version for the first time in about twenty years, I started thinking about the movie's impact on the professional image of the golf course superintendent. Call me crazy... maybe it was my wife's incessant and short-lived comments about the utter silliness and downright patheticness of the 20 minutes that she endured prior to heading upstairs to watch the tail end of a Providence rerun (now, that's entertainment). Of course, it could be that 20 years removed from my junior year at Fairmont High School in Fairmont, Minnesota population 10,500 (SALUTE!), my analytical state of mental well being has deteriorated by at least a smidgen. Maybe it's all that PMAS and Lead Arsenate I sprayed while in Baltimore. Whatever the reason, the fact of the matter is that, like most other avid male golfers, I have always loved this movie. The unfortunate thing is that upon reviewing it, what I simply can't remember is how and/or why?

Image is something that I feel every golf course superintendent has struggled with through the years. It was most probably the single greatest issue that prompted the association title change in 1951 and to a point, it's what's prompted the recent title change contemplation. We all desire a certain amount of respect both professionally and personally. While none of us want to be treated like dregs, exactly what have we collectively done to change our image in the eyes of our country club memberships? Politically correct or not, my general philosophy is that you call a spade a spade. If you don't want to be looked upon as a Carl Spackler, then don't act like Carl Spackler, don't talk like Carl Spackler, and don't dress like Carl Spackler. In other words, much of another person's perception of us is created by how we market ourselves to the people with whom we interact.

In a recent marketing management graduate class in which I was enrolled, the textbook stressed the four P components of the marketing mix. These are the product, the price, the promotion and the place. The marketing mix describes a general set of tools that most firms use to pursue its marketing objectives in the target market. All of these components are interrelated. Putting this in terms of marketing our image, the product is the golf course and the operations department we manage. Each superintendent brings their own individual attributes to the table which affect the product... different experience levels, different abilities, different work ethics, different organizational skills, etc. The price is what it will cost the consumer to meet their golf course condition and playability objectives as well as to purchase our services (i.e. our budget and our compensation package). The place is where we provide our service (the country club, the city, the region, the country, etc.). While the product, the price and the place are important interrelated variables that must be considered, the most important variable in the marketing mix is promotion. Promotion is how one packages and sells the other three variables. Promotion is the gasoline that keeps the engine running! And would it surprise anyone to know that the basis for successful promotion is good communication? Does anyone out in the heather and gorse universe feel they effectively communicate 100% of the time? If you answered yes, would you mind taking a polygraph test? Let's face it, no matter what the business, the winning company (or winning superintendent) are those who can meet the customer needs economically and conveniently, with effective communication.

I could write several newsletter articles on this subject, but unfortunately the dreaded Wanda Fry deadline is upon me. The bottom line in my mind is that every superintendent must collectively work towards shedding the Carl Spackler image. And the best way to do so is to market yourself and your occupation in a way that epitomizes professionalism both on and off the links. The new millennium superintendent has enjoyed increased professional respect and enhanced professional image thanks to the efforts and the sacrifices of many of the greenkeepers of the 20th century, but the battle isn't over! You've all heard the saying "this is the first day of the rest of your life!" Well, from this day forward, we are the torch carriers for the future image of greenkeepers, superintendents, directors of golf course operations, or whatever we so choose to call ourselves. If we don't learn from our past, we're doomed to repeat it! That's Professor DelSantro's image-conscious point of view from the heather and gorse.

#### **Golf Events**

September 8-10, 2000

First Union Betsy King Classic. Berkleigh Country Club, Kutztown, PA

September 14-17, 2000

SEI Pennsylvania Classic (new PGA Tour Event). Waynesborough Country Club, Paoli, PA

#### 2001 GCSAA Seminars Sponsored by CPGCSA

January 25

Strategic Planning for Golf Course

Operations

Allan Pulaski

January 26

Managing on the Job Behavior Gerry Sweda

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(717) 848-3312

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Thanks to our supporters!

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William E. Brooks - Editor
Wanda S. Fry - Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 1420
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### The Green Sheet



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## **Upcoming Events**

August 9-10, 2000

Penn State Turfgrass Field Days, Penn State University

October 9, 2000

26th Annual Western PTC Tournament, Wildwood Golf Club, Allison Park, PA

October 16, 2000

24th Annual Joseph Valentine Memorial Golf Tournament, Inniscrone Golf Club, Avondale, PA

November 14-16, 2000

Penn State Golf Turf Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA

January 9-11, 2001

Eastern PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA

January 25, 2001

Northeastern PA Turf School & Trade Show, The Woodlands Inn & Resort, Wilkes Barre, PA

February 27-28, 2001

Western PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, Pittsburgh Expo Mart/Radisson Hotel, Monroeville, PA

# For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the August Newsletter, the deadline for submissions is **August 18, 2000**. Please fax information to Wanda at (717) 279-0368 or e-mail to **fry** (a) **nbn.net**.

## 2000 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

September 12 Chambersburg Country Club Dave Rafferty, Superintendent Association Championship

October 10 Country Club of York Terry Wueschinski, CGCS Annual Meeting