



The Green Sheet



Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 8 Issue 4

July 2000

July Meeting

Rich Maiden Golf Course

Tuesday July 11, 2000

10:45 - 12:30 Tee Times

Cocktails begin at 3:00 PM

Dinner is served as each group finishes play.

There will be a CPGCSA Board of Directors meeting at 9:45 AM.

Golf Course Profile

In 1929 Verna and Jake Merkel started building Rich Maiden and in 1931 it opened as a 9 hole course. Then in 1947, the course became an 18 hole course. The Merkel's daughter Betty Fabian has been operating the course since the 1960's. In 1977 Betty and her son, Michael Buchman opened the Flowering Pot Restaurant. Mike is the Executive Chef.

Superintendent Profile

Chuck Berger has been the Superintendent at Rich Maiden Golf Course since 1985. He graduated from the 2 year Turfgrass Program in 1982. Chuck lives in the Hamburg area with his "significant other" Pat and her daughter Erin. Chuck's hobbies include: golf, kayaking, jet skiing, and restoring their 1840's farmhouse.

**Don't forget to call the
Pro Shop at
(610) 926-1606
for Tee Times**

10 Tips to Prevent Sun Damage

- 1 UV reflection from sand, water, pavement, cement, and snow doubles the amount of ultraviolet exposure.
- 2 Check your local paper or radio station daily for the UV index. The higher the number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.
- 3 Protect children by limiting their sun exposure and applying sunscreen to children 6 months and older.
- 4 Stay out of the sun between 10 AM and 3 PM, when the sun's rays are strongest.
- 5 Wear a sunscreen with a minimum of 15 SPF, even on cloudy days.
- 6 Wear sunscreen under your clothing, a standard T-shirt only provides SPF protection of 6 to 8.
- 7 Apply sunscreen at least 15 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every two hours, especially during exercise or swimming.
- 8 Be sure your sunglasses have UVA and UVB protections, which should filter at least 80% of the sun's rays.
- 9 Sunscreen is only a part of a good program, which includes a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, a long-sleeved shirt and pants.
- 10 Don't forget to apply sunscreen to your lips and ears!!

Did You Know....

Melanoma afflicts nearly 45,000 Americans yearly. Sunburns in childhood greatly increase the risk for melanoma in later years. Melanoma usually starts as a flat brown mole or pigmented area that changes in color, shape and size and may itch and bleed. Diagnosed at an early stage it can usually be cured, but melanoma diagnosed at a late stage is more likely to spread and cause death. Melanoma can also begin in the eye, but far less commonly than on skin. Excessive sun exposure is a major cause of melanoma, especially in fair-skinned individuals.

Be Sun Smart and Have a Great Season!

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President's Message

As I prepare for another day of work, I reflect on the past event at Mayapple. The more involved I am in our association the more I enjoy it. I consider the upcoming events and find a way to get them into my schedule. I'm pleased that I have taken a day off from my job to share time with my fellow colleagues. I know it makes me more informed on the issues affecting our industry. I've never regretted attending a monthly meeting, but have regretted missing them. I hope to see you at an upcoming meeting. The day away will do you good.

In closing, I want to thank Dave Weitzel and his staff for a great golf outing. It definitely was worth the day away.

*An Invitation to our esteemed
Class A - Life Members and Class R - Retired
Members of our Association.
It is with great pleasure that I get to extend an
invitation to you.
Attend the July 11 meeting at Rich Maiden Golf
Course on us, your fellow members.
We all hope you can attend.*

Increase Efficiency With The Internet

Effective usage of the "www" technology is a great asset to golf courses, golf course maintenance departments and the superintendent. Benefits to your course's operations:

- **Improve communication.** Use E-mail to communicate with golf course staff and officials, suppliers, fellow GCSAA members.
- **Monitor weather conditions.** Up-to-date local area forecasts affecting daily operations.
- **Recruit crew.** Use GCSAA's online recruiting service, the Employment Referral Service, to advertise for assistant superintendents, interns and other crew members.
- **Preview purchasing.** Visit the growing number of supplier Web sites to gather information and comparison shop for equipment, supplies, and services.
- **Research.** Find technical information by using various search engines and databases of research findings and agronomic practices.
- **Access regulatory information.** Compliance and regulatory information from local, state, and federal agencies are widely available on the Web. Superintendents can get MSDS from the GCSAA Web site.

No matter what information needs may be met by using the internet, the end result is the same: superintendents will be able to do their jobs more efficiently. Employers can also access GCSAA's newly redesigned Web site to gain valuable information at www.gcsaa.org.

*Source: James Garrett, CGCS, Zimmerer Kubota & Equipment as printed in GCSAA's
Leader Board, March/April 2000.*

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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.

Jeremy M. Weand, Sales
Lawn & Golf Supply, Inc.....Class AF

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

Gregory A. Byrne, Assistant Superintendent
Carlisle Country Club.....Class C

Dennis DeSanctis, Branch Manager
Finch Turf Equipment.....Class AF

Eric Fisher, Sales Representative
Lesco.....Class AF

David T. Frey, Superintendent
Country Club of Harrisburg.....Class A

Ted Huhn, Sales Representative
Helena Chemical Corp.....Class AF

Andrew Johnston, Irrigation Sales
Philadelphia Turf Company.....Class AF

Mike Oleykowski, Sales Manager
Fisher & Son Company.....Class AF

Timothy A. O'Neil, Assistant Superintendent
Moselem Springs Golf Club.....Class C

Walter K. Robinson, Assistant Superintendent
Crossgates Golf Course.....Class C

Robert C. Werth, Assistant Superintendent
Lancaster 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 Scott Fischer at (717) 246-6538.

Green Sheet Supporters

If you are interested in being a supporter of the "Green Sheet" please call Wanda for information on how to have your company listed in each monthly issue. Be sure to also ask about other advertising options.

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

July Educational Program

The speaker for the July meeting at Rich Maiden Golf Course will be Mike Agnew from Novartis. The topic of this presentation will be Gray Leaf Spot.

2000 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

- | | | |
|---|--------------|--|
| * | August 15 | Heidelberg Country Club
Thomas C. Ocepek
Joint Meeting with Philadelphia |
| * | September 12 | Chambersburg Country Club
Dave Rafferty
Association Championship |
| * | October 10 | Country Club of York
Terry Wueschinski, CGCS
Annual Meeting |

From the Editor.....Bill Brooks

Are any of you facing the same challenges I am this year with part-time help? I downloaded the following article off of the USGA website which was written in June, 1999. I'm sure most of you can relate to the article.

Where Have All the Good Men and Woman Gone?

6/11/99

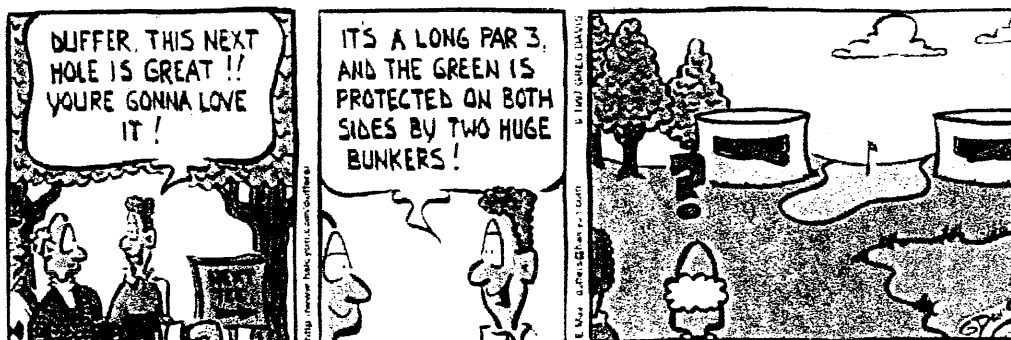
By Dave Oatis, Director, Matt Nelson and Jim Skorulski, Agronomists

The relatively dry and moderate temperatures have made life good for superintendents that survived the winter season. Turf health has been better than usual in much of the region. Those of you suffering from winterkill do not share the same good feelings. However, the recent rains and warmer weather have helped push the recovery of damaged areas. So what is the biggest problem facing many in the region this spring? Is it disease, insects, drainage, thatch, green speed (always), trees, or an over zealous green chairman? For many it is none of the above. In fact, it is not an agronomic problem at all. It is labor. The strong job market in much of the Northeast has been great for workers, but has made life difficult for golf course superintendents. This is especially true in resort areas where competition for summer labor can be intense. Golf course superintendents are suffering, but so are others. Landscape and lawn service companies are reporting the same woes. The lack of labor is forcing some of those companies to cut back on jobs. Try that on a golf course! The statement I often hear is, "we are just trying to get a few "warm bodies" as the pool of available applicants dwindles." Often, those that do answer job ads are members of the walking dead clan, an often unreliable and apathetic band that bounce from job to job. Let's face it, the statement, you are only as good as your employees, holds true. What is one to do? One idea is to increase the starting wage in hopes of enticing workers. This has become a necessity as competition for the seasonal labor increases. Reports from Long Island indicate that McDonalds and other fast food restaurant chains are paying starting employees \$12/hour and more. Sometimes money alone isn't enough. Seasonal workers may simply choose a job where they do not have to work weekends or start work in "the middle of the night." Workers can be picky when unemployment rates are at record lows. Many employers have had to learn to bite their tongues and be more understanding of today's workers. A wider and more creative range of incentives is sometimes offered to attract and maintain staff. Part time schedules with flex hours, overtime, free golf, an exciting and upbeat work place, free golf, employee uniforms, clean and updated employee facilities, a sense of comradeship and, did I mention free golf, are just some incentives used to keep a solid and contented work force.

Let's face it, free golf is the one unique incentive a golf course operation has to offer its employees. Unfortunately, that incentive is being lost at some private golf courses where the golf schedule is increasingly filled with outside outings. Superintendents have had to become creative in searching out and attracting new and nontraditional employees. Seniors, high school teenagers, schoolteachers, fire fighters and policemen are used successfully at golf courses for part time work. We see more and more women on maintenance staffs these days. Golf courses have turned to legal aliens to fill out staffs and often find these workers to be excellent and dedicated employees. Maybe its time to dust off the old language books. The bottom line is that it is a worker's market and it will likely continue to be until the economy begins to sputter. Operations that can maintain a larger, well-trained, full-time core staff will be in better shape to tolerate the difficult job market. Golf course operations have found it in their best interest to offer benefits and just compensation to keep good quality workers. After all, many golf course jobs require reasonable skill and precision, not to mention the operation of machinery in excess of \$40,000 per unit! Superintendents will have to continue to be creative, and a little lucky, to attract and maintain seasonal or part-time employees to fill-out staff requirements. It is a dog-eat-dog world and this holds true in attracting and maintaining a quality staff. Those who can offer competitive financial incentives have the ability to keep the job place fun and exciting and can offer the ultimate, free golf, should be able to withstand the labor shortage and continue to provide a quality product.

THE DUFFERS

By Greg Davis



Golf Results

The following are the results from the June tournament at Mayapple Golf Links.

1st	Terry Wueschinski, Randy Crawford	
2nd	Rick Eschbach, Bill Wall	
3rd	Tim O'Neil, Pete Ramsey	

Longest Drive
Randy Crawford

Closest to the Pin			
#8	Bill Wall	9'9"	
#13	Dave Feldman	8'3"	

Golf Format for Rich Maiden

Individual stroke play with prizes for low gross and net with one throw allowed per nine.

Member Updates

Congratulations to:

John & Susan Chassard on the birth of their daughter.
Bob & Lora Gomboc on their recent marriage.
Don Benner on his RETIREMENT!!!
Paul Wickey, CGCS on his recertification.

Sympathies to:

Dave Weitzel and his family on the loss of his father.

Directions to Rich Maiden Golf Course

From Harrisburg:

Take I-81 North to I-78 East to Rt. 61 South to 662 South to 222. At the intersection of 662 & 222 turn right (222 South) and drive 1.5 miles and turn right onto Rich Maiden Road.

From Lancaster:

Take 222 North to Allentown. At the intersection of 222 & 73 continue on 222 North for 2.6 miles and turn left onto Rich Maiden Road.

From Allentown:

Take 222 South to Reading. At the intersection of 222 & 662 continue on 222 South for 1.5 miles and turn right onto Rich Maiden Road.

From Pottstown:

Take 422 West to 222 North (Allentown). At the intersection of 222 & 73 continue on 222 North for 2.6 miles and turn left onto Rich Maiden Road.

Great Golf Quotes

- ↑ "One of the nicer things about the Senior tour is that we can take a cart and cooler. If your game is not going well, you can always have a picnic."...Lee Trevino
- ↑ "Golf is a game of days, and I can beat anyone on my day".....Fuzzy Zoeller
- ↑ "What other people may find in poetry I find in the flight of a good drive".....Arnold Palmer
- ↑ "Always throw your clubs ahead of you. That way you don't have to waste energy going back to pick them up".....Tommy Bolt
- ↑ "I'd like to see the fairways more narrow. Then everyone would have to play from the rough, not just me."...Seve Ballesteros.
- ↑ "One of the most fascinating things about golf is how it reflects the cycle of life. No matter what you shoot — the next day you have to go back to the first tee and begin all over again and make yourself into something"....Peter Jacobsen
- ↑ "Nothing dissects a man in public quite like golf".....Brent Musberger
- ↑ "I'd like to think that my priorities are still my God, my family, and then golf. How I perform on the course does not affect my relationship with my God".....Tom Lehman.

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Golf Events

July 6-9, 2000

Buy.com Hershey Open. Country Club of Hershey, Hershey, PA

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

GOD & LAWNS

"Winterize your lawn," the big sign outside the garden store commanded. I've fed it, watered it, mowed it, raked it and watched a lot of it die anyway. Now I'm supposed to winterize it? I hope it's too late. Grass lawns have to be the stupidest thing we've come up with outside of thong swimsuits! We constantly battle dandelions, Queen Anne's lace, thistle, violets, chicory and clover that thrive naturally, so we can grow grass that must be nursed through an annual four-step chemical dependency.

Imagine the conversation The Creator might have with St. Francis about this:

God - "Frank you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there in the Midwest? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracted butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds! I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles."

St. Francis - "It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great extent to kill them and replace them with grass."

"Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?"

"Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn

"The spring rains and cool weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy."

"Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it - sometimes twice a week."

"They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?"

"Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags."

"They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?"

"No, sir. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away."

"Now let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?"

"Yes, sir."

"These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work."

"You aren't going to believe this Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of

"What nonsense! At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life."

"You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and have them hauled away."

"No! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and keep the soil moist and loose?"

"After throwing away your leaves, they go out and buy something they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves."

"And where do they get this mulch?"

"They cut down trees and grind them up."

"Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. Saint Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?"

Saint Catherine - *"Dumb and Dumber, Lord. It's a real stupid movie about...."*

"Never mind I think I just heard the whole story."

This article was submitted by Jay Kline from the Keystone Golf Course Superintendents Association. Thanks Jay for sharing this with us.

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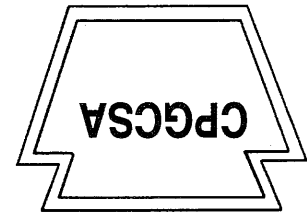
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The Green Sheet



You Are Invited....

The Centre Hill Country Club will be renovating their ryegrass-Poa fairways to bent following Roundup treatment. A unique feature shall be seeding bentgrass with the Bannerman Quick-Slit Seeder, a European innovation. Following a demonstration recently, it was decided to use this machine rather than the originally planned three conventional groove seeders for quality, speed, and economic reasons. Triple seeding will take place on August 9-10 (and the 11th if necessary) and interested parties are invited to attend. Ron Horner, Superintendent can be reached at 814-237-5414 in event weather dictates a date change.

Ronald D. Horner
Joseph M. Duich

For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the August Newsletter, the deadline for submissions is **July 17, 2000**. Please fax information to Wanda at (717) 279-0368 or e-mail to fry@nbn.net.

New This Year....

There will be a \$100.00 award given to the best newsletter article 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.

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