

August Meeting

**Joint Meeting with Philadelphia AGCS
& Central Penn GCSA**

Radnor Valley Country Club

August 13, 2001

Registration 10:30 AM
Lunch 11:15 AM Buffet
Golf 12:30 PM Shotgun
Cocktails 5:00 - 5:30 PM
Speaker George Hamilton

There will not be a Board of Directors meeting.

Superintendent Profile

Daniel Hall has been Superintendent of Radnor Valley Country Club for 6 years. Previously he was the assistant superintendent at Torresdale-Frankford Country Club for eight years. In his years at Radnor Valley, Dan has overseen a complete remodel of the course (the course closed from August 1997 to May 1998) by Ault, Clark & Associates. A graduate of Rutgers' two-year program, he restores classic cars in his spare time.

Golf Course Profile

The 1997-1998 remodel of Radnor Valley included USGA greens and tees, double row irrigation, fertigation and required the grow-in of the entire course. Measuring 6,600 yards, it is a par 70 that rates 71.9 with a slope of 130 from the blue tees.

The 18 hole course also includes one chipping and two practice putting complexes. A fairway topdressing program is in the works for the future. Eric Noonan is the assistant.

Mid-Atlantic Update

By Darin S. Bevard, Agronomist
updated 7-23-01

Summer weather patterns have arrived with a vengeance. While spotty rain has occurred throughout the region it is very dry in many areas and equally wet in others. Hotter temperatures also have made their presence felt.

The biggest problem observed in recent travels has been turf decline in the rough of many golf courses. In some instances, insect problems have been to blame. Most of the problem lies with the weak grasses present in roughs. Most irrigation systems still do not cover roughs separately from fairways. During dry weather the roughs dry out because superintendents do not want to over water fairways. The result is the *Poa annua* that is present declines rapidly. This is usually the true annual *Poa annua* biotype that germinates in the fall and produces seed during the spring. As soon as hot and dry weather persists, the grass dies.

Now is the time to plan for overseeding of the roughs. A common mistake is attempting to establish desirable rough grasses too late in the growing season. After Labor Day, *Poa annua* begins germination very rapidly. It is much better equipped to compete than perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, and especially Kentucky bluegrass. To be successful, overseeding needs to be performed prior to Labor Day. Otherwise, the same areas will likely reestablish to *Poa annua* and the cycle will repeat itself the following summer. Consider scheduling rough overseeding earlier in the growing season. Also, be mindful of herbicide residuals in the rough from spring-applied preemergence crabgrass and goosegrass control products.

The majority of fine turf areas are doing quite well. Some problems are beginning to develop, especially on shaded greens with poor air movement. If you have one of these disadvantaged

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Directions to Radnor Valley Country Club

- **From Harrisburg:** Take PA Turnpike (I-76E) to King of Prussia Exit 24. Follow 76E (Schuylkill Expressway) to the I-476 South (Blue Route) exit, exit number 28A, towards Chester. Merge onto I-476 S. Take the US-30 exit, exit number 5, towards St. Davids/Villanova. Keep right at the fork in the ramp. Merge onto East Lancaster Avenue/US-30. Go to third traffic light and turn onto Route 320 (Sproul Road). Radnor Valley Country Club is located 1.5 miles on the left.
- **From South Jersey & Philadelphia:** Using either the Ben Franklin or Walt Whitman Bridge, head west on the Schuylkill Expressway (76W) to Interstate 476 (Blue Route). Exit is just past Conshohocken on the left. Take 476 South to Exit #5 (St. Davids/Villanova) and turn right onto Route 30 East (Lancaster Avenue). Go to third traffic light and turn right onto Route 320 (Sproul Road). Radnor Valley Country Club is located 1.5 miles on the left.

Radnor Valley Country Club
555 Sproul Road
Villanova, PA 19085
(610) 688-9450

A Meaning for Life

A philosophy professor stood before his postgraduate class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly he picked up a large empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks, rocks about 2" in diameter. He then asked the students if the jar was full? They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They all laughed and agreed it was.

The professor then picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. Now, said the professor, I want you to recognize that this is your life. The rocks are the important things - your family, your partner, your health, your children - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else. The small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out dancing. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and fix the disposal. Take care of the rocks first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.

But then. A bright and enterprising student named Ted, took the jar which the other students and the professor agreed was full, and proceeded to pour in a can of beer. Of course the beer filled the remaining spaces within the jar making the jar truly full. Which proves that no matter how full your life is, there is always room for a little beer.

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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.

Ryan Batz, Superintendent
Green Acres Golf Course.....Class B

Geoff Brunner, Assistant Superintendent
Saucon Valley Country Club.....Class C

Thomas Coulson, Superintendent
Rocky Springs Golf Course.....Class A

Mike Janzer, Sales Representative
Plant Food Co.....Class AF

Joshua McClarren, Student Intern
Penn State Turfgrass Program Class S

Matthew Smereski, Assistant Superintendent
Saucon Valley Country Club.....Class C

Robert Stiffler, Superintendent
Saucon Valley Country Club.....Class A

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Tom Kintzer, Quail Valley Golf Course (717) 359-8053.

USGA...continued from page 1

greens, consider tree removal to enhance sunlight penetration and air movement. If sunlight penetration is not the issue consider fans to improve air circulation. Spoonfeeding of fertilizer nutrients at light rates should be performed on a 7-14 day interval to stimulate turfgrass growth.

If your golf course is a bit rough around the edges you are not alone. Where the irrigation coverage stops some drought stress is occurring. However, the frequent breaks in the weather have allowed the majority of turf to perform very well.

One final note. In test plot situations the first development of gray leaf spot has been detected. This is two weeks earlier than the disease has ever occurred. There have been no confirmed cases diagnosed in the field yet. Carefully monitor your indicator areas for gray leaf spot, as there may be an early season outbreak.

As always, if we can be of help, you can contact Stan Zontek and Darin Bevard at (610) 696-4747 or Keith Happ at (412) 341-5922

For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the September newsletter, the deadline for submissions is August 31, 2001. Please fax information to Wanda at (717) 279-0368 or e-mail to cpgcsa@nbn.net.



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Golf Results

The weather didn't cooperate with us, but if you were in the right place, to wait out the storm, it was a nice delay. The delay helped with those 80 foot downhill eagle putts....if you know what I mean.

The golf course was well-groomed and just magnificent! It teased you to go for some risky shots, but the "cabbage" around the greens made you pay dearly. It only took one or two times to realize that safe is better.

The golf results are as follows:

Low Gross

1st	Mark MacDonald	75
2nd	Mark DelSantro.....	76

Low Net - Calloway

1st	Tom Kintzer.....	70
2nd	Bill Brooks	71
3rd	Steve Ehrhart.....	71
4th	Rennie Sacco	71

The August meeting is a joint with Philadelphia. They determine the golf event. The September meeting is at Bent Creek Country Club with the Association Championship to be held there. See ya all soon. Have a pleasant summer!

Faron Stoops

Speaker Profile

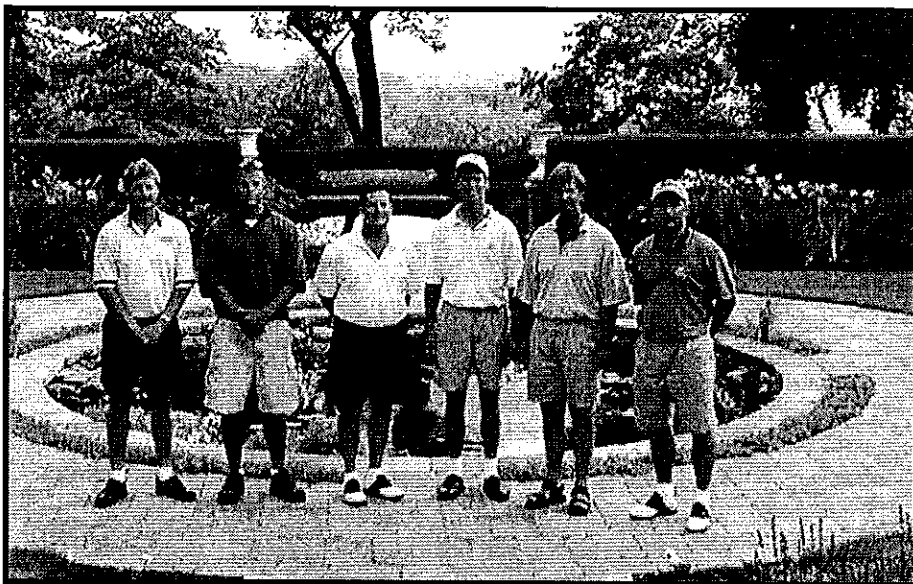
The speaker for the August meeting at Radnor Valley Country Club will be George Hamilton. The title of his presentation will be, "So you want to go to the next level".

A graduate of Penn State's Agronomy program, George Hamilton, Jr. went on to earn his master's in Agronomy from Penn State in 1990, his thesis being "Infiltration Rates on Experimental and Residential Lawns". Since 1996, he has held the position of senior lecturer for the Department of Agronomy.

George maintains an active professional life as advisor to Penn State's Turf Club (since 1992) and Technical Advisor for the Turfgrass Management Technical Program and membership in numerous professional associations including Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, USGA and GCSAA.

*Thanks to Mark
MacDonald and his staff at
Regent's Glen Country Club
for a great July meeting.
The course was spectacular!*

Regent's Glen Golf Winners



(L - R) Tom Kintzer, Steve Ehrhart, Mark DelSantro, Bill Brooks, Mark MacDonald, Rennie Sacco

15th Annual John Deere Tournament

For the second consecutive year, there will be three Qualifying Tournaments.

- Northwestern - August 16, 2001 at Diamond Run Golf Club in Sewickley, PA
- Mid Atlantic - September 10, 2001 at Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center in Ellicott City, MD.
- Philadelphia Regional - September 26, 2001 at Sea Oaks Country Club in Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey.

Please contact Tom Wojcik at Finch Turf Equipment, 800-78-DEERE, for entry forms and further information. Tournaments will be limited to the first thirty entries received with the proper paper work.

Heather and Gorse

By Mark V. DelSantoro, CGCS

As we quickly approach what I consider to be the ugliest time of the year for golf courses in the Mid Atlantic region, I always seem to find myself pondering the meaning of perfection. From a Taoist's point of view, perfection is water running through a stream, smoothly and effortlessly avoiding rocks and the like... slowing down at times, but never stopping... always flowing in a positive direction. If only life as a golf course superintendent in the United States could simply emulate such a wonderfully peaceful and natural process.

So, how do we define perfection? Mr. Webster defines perfection as the highest degree of proficiency, skill, or excellence. While this definition seems reasonably simple, I contend that once human emotion is thrown into the equation, that very same simplicity becomes extremely complex. Furthermore, the perceptions of perfection have changed rather drastically over the past few decades. Consider the Olympics for example... I heard recently that the same performances that scored perfect marks in gymnastics by the likes of Nadia Comaneci and Mary Lou Retton back in the 1980's would barely have scored 9.5's by today's standards.

And what about perfection in golf course management? Is there such a thing as a perfectly maintained golf course??? Considering we're on the eve of the 2001 British Open, is there a difference between what is considered a perfectly maintained British golf course and a perfectly maintained American golf course? Does anyone believe that the greenkeepers in Great Britain get the same complaints that American superintendents get? Somehow I have a hard time imagining golfers complaining to the greenkeeper at St. Andrews that the greens were too firm, the bunkers were too deep, the sand too fluffy, the rough too deep, and the gorse bushes too thick and prickly. I wonder if any of the players at this week's British Open will complain that the golf course conditions aren't perfectly?

You see my point is that perfection, much like beauty, is mostly in the eye of the beholder. When I was keeping the greens at Brandywine Country Club I used to get numerous complaints that the 0.500" ryegrass fairways were too short. The green committee chairman, who was about a 14 handicap, once told me that he just couldn't sweep his five-wood under the ball when the fairway was that short. So I obliged him by raising the height of cut to 0.510". About a week later I saw him playing and asked if he liked the higher fairways and his response was... they're perfect!!! This is proof for any of you doubters that the game is more mental than anything else! And all this time we thought golf was a game of inches, the reality is it's a game of microns!

The unfortunate reality for us greenkeepers and brownkeepers alike is that perfection in the competitive man-made world of American golf course management is much more subjective than that of the Taoist's natural river. For many superintendents, their performances are measured and often times judged on assumptions made by the supervising entities from what they seen, heard and experienced elsewhere in the world of golf, be it on TV or while playing another golf course. We've all seen and experienced it... if I had a sleeve of Titleist Pro V1s every time a member or owner played golf somewhere else and came back with so many new and wonderful ideas, I'd never have to buy another tournament golf ball in my life. But is it fair to compare? While most superintendents would say probably not, Professor DelSantoro would say "Sorry Charlie, yes it's unfair, but no it's not going to go away anytime soon... thus, you better learn to live with it!"

Let's face it... Americans as a whole compare everything. Our jobs, our kids, our spouses, our kids, our cars, our kids, our food, our kids, our drink, our kids, our friends... did I mention our kids??? As a parent of a two-year old, one of the things I enjoy the most is going to the playground and just watching the other kids and the other parents. Especially when you consider that in another ten years no one is going to remember that your son was potty-trained at eleven months or that your daughter was reciting the Gettysburg address at fifteen months. I remember when my niece was an infant... my brother was so proud of the fact that she could count to ten in Spanish about the same time she learned how to count to ten in English. Now ten years later I wonder if he is still so proud? People are funny!!! The fact of the matter is that comparisons are a normal part of our everyday lives and an integral part of our society and culture. But are comparing things such as golf course conditions a good thing or a bad thing?

Consider this... An old man and his son lived in a rundown shack in this little village in Northern Minnesota and their only possession of any value was one horse. One day the son accidentally left the gate open and the horse ran away. The other villagers ran over to the family to express their sorrow... this is very bad they all said. But the old man said, "How do you know?" The next day the horse came back with three other wild horses and the son closed the gate. The villagers ran over to the family to express their happiness... this is very good they all said. But the old man said, "How do you know?" The next day the son, in an attempt to ride one of the wild horses, fell off and broke his leg. The villagers ran over to the family to express their sorrow... this is very bad they all said. But the old man said (all together now), "How do you know?" The next day the government came into the village and informed the villagers that Canada was invading their state from the north (ay?!?). As a result, all able-bodied young men of the village were to take up arms and head north to battle and most would not return alive. Because the old man's son broke his leg, he was not recruited to fight.

OK, if they were really from Minnesota then the old man would not have used proper English... it would have been something

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

Heather and Gorse.....cont'd from page 5

more like, "Ya, well oakay ya know, like how du ya know fer shur ya know?" The point is very simply that many times in life, it is difficult to determine what is good and what is bad. Especially when emotions get involved in the process. Comparing golf course conditions are a good thing if your supervising entity believes your golf course by comparison is better than most of the others. In the event the opposite is true and your supervising entity believes other golf courses are in better condition or possibly that they're not getting the value out of what they're compensating you, then that's probably a bad thing... of course, due to metaphysical forces beyond our control, you really just don't know! That's my very ugly, extremely philosophical, mostly incomparable, and somewhat incomprehensible point of view from the heather and gorse.

I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed the article in the June issue of GCM written by Alan Tays of the Palm Beach Post. In the article, Mr. Tays iterated a scenario in which one of the local superintendents was fired effectively because of not meeting the unrealistic expectations of his managing party. It spoke of another superintendent down there who disregards the criticisms of his members with the idea that it's easier to apologize for slow greens than to lose your job because of brown greens. The heather and gorse take on the subject... I sincerely wish life were that cut and dry.

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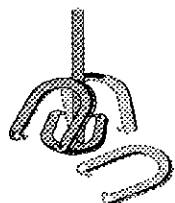
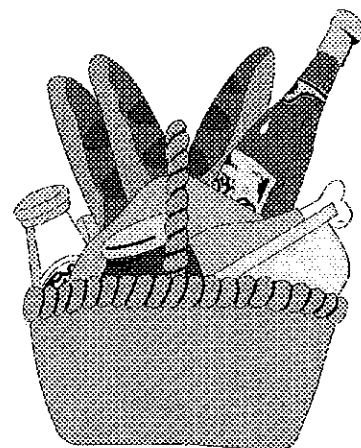
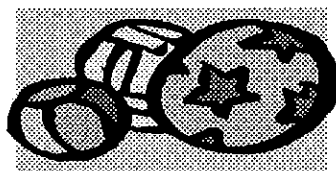
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Annual CPGCSA Family Picnic

October 6, 2001

Creekview Park, Camp Hill

Watch for reservation forms
and more information in the
September newsletter



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Member Updates

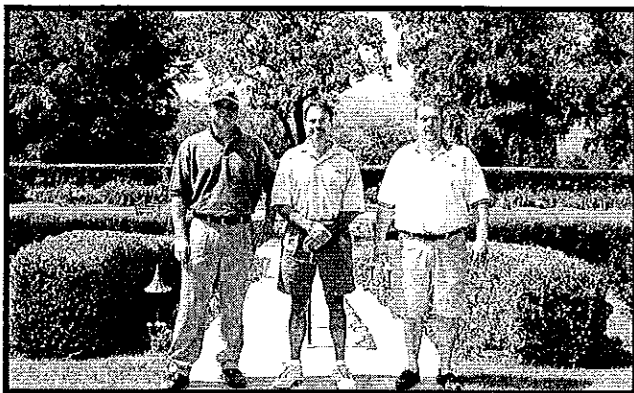
Congratulations to:

- Terry Bennett on his new position as Superintendent at Riverview Golf Course
- Darren Romano on his new position as Superintendent at Scenic Valley Golf Club
- Jim Byrne, Sales Representative for Helena Chemical

Our Sympathies to:

- The family of Russ Hutchinson, Russ died on July 3

New Members



(L-R) Martin Miller, Tony Grieco, Jeff Patterson

Make History With the GCSAA

GCSAA is initiating a special golf ball collection drive to visually illustrate the far-reaching scope of the golf course superintendent profession. Members are asked to submit three golf balls bearing the logo of his/her facility. GCSAA will assemble and display the impressive collection representing members from across the country and throughout the world. The Golf Ball Showcase will first be on display at 2002 Conference and Show in Orlando and eventually on permanent display at GCSAA Headquarters.

Editors Note: For your convenience, you can bring the logo balls along with your business card to any CPGCSA meeting before September and give them to Wanda. She will package and mail them to GCSAA as a chapter.

Equipment For Sale

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!!

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Ask The Golf Course Architect

by

Edward M. Beidel, Jr., ASGCA, RLA
Vice President and Director of Golf Services
Daft-McCune-Walker, Inc.
Towson, Maryland

In a previous column on golf course restoration, you recommended removing trees to return a course to its existing condition. I thought trees on a golf course were a distinct advantage. What are you suggesting?1

As mentioned in an earlier column, trees can pose problems with respect to the play and maintenance of the golf course. Trees can also benefit the facility when they are the result of professional assessment and planning. As a matter of fact, a landscaping plan is an element of golf course development or improvement usually overlooked or given minimal consideration. Sometimes landscaping is considered a course enhancement but not a course necessity or a high priority. Lately, trees have been given a "bad rap" because on many older courses, architects and agronomists generally recommend their removal. Golf course architects recognize the value of vegetative plantings, which add to the playability and appearance of a course. More recently, it has become apparent that, with careful planning and patience, the strategic use of trees, shrubs, grasses and natural plantings also reduce maintenance. Particularly as golf course superintendents seek to minimize costs associated with frequent mowings and waterings, and fertilizer, the low maintenance approach of utilizing plant material is an attractive alternative.

At the outset, it must be noted that patience is required to reap the benefits of a tree assessment and enhancement program as part of an overall golf course master plan. Just like fine wines, plants take time to mature. Thus, although trees represent a low-cost, high yield investment, such programs will not satisfy individuals looking for a "quick-fix."

The initial phase of a landscape program is to survey the existing course to determine the program requirements. Potential problem or low-interest areas on the course that have the potential of being alleviated or accentuated by vegetative plantings should first be pinpointed. The golf course architect's design checklist includes both functional and aesthetic requirements. The functional requirements include (a) strategic positioning, (b) safety barriers, (c) depth perception, (d) framing, (e) directional indicators, (f) shade, (g) yardage markers, (h) windbreaks, and (i) erosion control.

In designing for facilities with a limited budget, the planting program may be implemented over a period of years with priority functional requirements making up the first phase and aesthetic requirements that provide the finishing touches in the final phases. At such courses, the high cost of mature plant material can be reduced by reserving a few available acres to establish a tree nursery. Seedlings are very inexpensive and, if properly cared for, in a few years could be moved into the previously selected positions. It is wise to consult your State Forestry Representative or Department of Agriculture Extension Office for information on seedling availability.

Keeping program requirements in mind, a planting plan is developed. Included in this process is an inventory of existing vegetation. Native trees give the designer an indication of plant material that mature properly in the geographic area. This does not mean that only these trees or those of the same genera should be utilized. However, it does indicate what characteristics to look for in selecting new plantings that will blend with the existing landscape.

Prior to making selections based on plant characteristics, there are a number of site considerations to be reviewed. Site selection factors include (a) hardiness, (b) type of soil, (c) soil moisture, and (d) pH of soil.

The hardiness factor is most important and will immediately rule out a number of plants. Plants must be suited to the climatic temperatures of the region. This is the one factor that cannot be resolved by planting or maintenance operations. A plant is either suited to a zone or it is not. In borderline cases, selection of an alternative specimen is advised. There are numerous plants that will prosper in the area yet fulfill the same requirements. The remaining four factors can be altered to suit the selected planting. But alterations in initial planting and tree maintenance are expensive and should be avoided if the budget is limited.

The final step in the planning phase is plant selection. After reviewing functional requirements, aesthetic requirements and site selection factors, a designer should have a preliminary list of genera fitting the region and intended use of the course. Final plant selection can be made based on plant characteristics of specific species and cultivars.

.....continued on next page.....

Ask the Architect.....cont'd from page 8

Plant characteristics to consider include: (a) type of plant (evergreen or deciduous), (b) size (mature height), (c) plant form, texture and density, (d) rooting habit, (e) seasonal leaf color and size, (f) leaf drop and time, (g) insect and disease susceptibility, (h) storm damage susceptibility and life span, (i) fruit color and size, (j) flower color and size, (k) fruiting and flowering time, and (l) bark color. In selecting plant material, designers seek a balance by creating a harmonious landscape with several species - not to overwhelm, but to avoid monotony. There are varying plant characteristics available in cultivars of the same species.

The designer must also consider the effect of plant characteristics on the future growth of the golf course. Certain plants may be better suited to an area than others. For example, in an area requiring a narrow screen, a coniferous evergreen border would achieve the goals better than a grouping of broadleaf deciduous plants.

Similarly, a tree with a high open crown is preferable for use near a green to one with a low-branched thick crown, which would block light and air circulation required for successful turf growth. Also, plant material with large leaves, early leaf drop or objectionable fruits would not be preferable for golf course enhancements. Numerous other examples could be cited. Vegetation on a golf course should not be selected for simply aesthetic or cost purposes. All aspects should be considered, keeping in mind that individuals have their own plant preferences. Above all, remember that a good landscape plan for a golf course not only has eye appeal, but has basic functions as well.

Planting/landscape programs can be successfully or unsuccessfully implemented. Successful programs usually include evaluation and planning on the part of the golf course architect in close collaboration with a landscape architect and the golf course superintendent. Unsuccessful efforts usually result from well-meaning but untrained facility personnel or even club members, who happen to like a particular tree or shrub and want to see it on the course, without regard for the issues outlined above. Consequently, to avoid an unsuccessful program, the best advice (as always) is collaboration with a professional.

For further information on planting assessments and planting programs or other aspects of golf course Master Planning, contact Ed Beidel at Daft-McCune-Walker, Inc. at 410-296-3333 or e-mail Ed at ebeidel@dmw.com. Daft-McCune-Walker is a multi-disciplinary firm of golf course architects, land planners, landscape architects, civil engineers, environmental professionals and surveyors.

¹Part of this article originally, co-authored by Edward Beidel and X.G. Hassenplug, appeared in Golf Course Management, September 1983

Actual Caddy Quotes?

Golfer: "I've played so poorly all day; I think I'm going to go drown myself in that lake."

Caddy: "I doubt you could keep your head down that long."

Golfer: "I'd move heaven and earth to be able to break 100 on this course."

Caddy: "Try heaven. You've already moved most of the earth."

Golfer: "Well, I have never played this badly before!"

Caddy: "I didn't realize you had played before, sir."

Golfer: "Caddy, do you think my game is improving?"

Caddy: "Oh yes, sir! You miss the ball much closer than you used to."

Golfer: "Please stop checking your watch all the time, Caddy. It's distracting!"

Caddy: "This isn't a watch, sir, its a compass!"

Golfer: "Caddy, do you think it is a sin to play golf on Sunday?"

Caddy: "The way you play, sir, it's a sin any day of the week!"

Golfer: "This golf is a funny game."

Caddy: "It's not supposed to be."

Golfer: "That can't be my ball, caddy. It looks far too old."

Caddy: "It's a long time since we started, sir."

Golfer: "Do you think I can get there with a 5-iron?"

Caddy: "Eventually."

Golfer (screaming): "You've got to be the worst caddy in the world!"

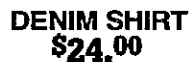
Caddy: "I doubt it. That would be too much of a coincidence

GCSAA Seminars

Central Penn GCSAA will be offering the following GCSAA seminars in January 2002.

- Sustainable Golf Course Landscape Design: Enhancing Aesthetics, Function and Maintenance by John Fech and Steven Rodie, ASLA on January 24, 2002.
- Management of Localized Dry Spots and Water Repellent Soils by Keith Karnok, PhD on January 25, 2002.
- Managing Turfgrass Root Systems by Keith Karnok, PhD on January 25, 2002.

Central PA Golf Course Superintendent Association

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**2001 CPGCSA
Meeting Schedule**

August 13	Radnor Valley Joint Meeting with PAGCS
September 24	Bent Creek Country Club Jim Loke, CGCS Association Championship
October 16	Iron Valley Golf Course Chris Martin Annual Meeting

**Consider yourself
a candidate.**



Applications for the 2001 Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards are available from the May issue of *Golf Course Management* magazine, chapter leaders, *Golf Digest*, participating sponsors and the GCSAA Service Center (800/472-7878) or the GCSAA Web site (www.gcsaa.org/enviro/elga_form.html).

*We'll look forward to receiving your application
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