

## June Meeting

### Chester Valley Golf Club

June 4, 2001

11:00 AM - Speaker

11:30 AM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Shotgun

There will be a CPGCSA Board of Directors Meeting  
9:00 AM.

## Superintendent Profile

Dave Visocan has been the Superintendent at Chester Valley Golf Club since 1997. He was previously Assistant Superintendent for 2 years. Dave has also worked as an Assistant Superintendent at Waynesborough Country Club and West Chester Golf and Country Club. He graduated from the Penn State University Turfgrass Management Program in 1989. Dave lives in Downingtown with his wife Cathy, and enjoys golf, hunting and traveling.

## Golf Course Profile

Host to the Bell Atlantic Senior Classic from 1985 until 1997, Chester Valley Golf Club is a classic in her own right. Established in 1923, and redesigned in 1968 by Tom Fazio, Chester Valley has matured into a challenging and picturesque golf course. The small greens and tree lined fairways set the stage for a wonderful day of imaginative and strategic golf.

*We apologize for the error on the reservation form that stated that dinner was included. This is a lunch meeting only. It should have stated Lunch/Golf/Tournament. Again, we apologize for the inconvenience.*

## Mid-Atlantic Update

By Stan Zontek, Director  
updated 5-7-01

Poa annua seedheads!!! Boy, has this ever been a spring for Poa annua seedheads. Every year is bad, but this year is worse. Why? In our opinion, it is because of the mild, wet summer and early fall of 2000. Poa annua germinated early, grew through the fall, went through its winter cycle, and produced a huge crop of seedheads, just like a winter annual plant.

First, some research is being done so that we will know how to better use the latest plant growth regulator, Proxy. The potential advantage to Proxy is that it can be applied to Poa annua that has already begun its seedhead production cycle. While this product has a label for greens, our experience with it is very limited. Use caution.

Another growth regulator labeled for seedhead suppression on greens is Embark with the new turf & ornamental formulation. The problem is, if Poa annua is in flower you may have to wait for next year. Increasingly, we are seeing more golf courses using Embark on greens. While it is true that this could make Poa annua stronger (which is good or bad depending upon whether Poa annua is a friend or foe), fewer seedheads makes for a superior putting surface. Many superintendents want to keep their golfers happy in the early spring. Controlling and suppression Poa annua seedheads is becoming an increasingly common practice.

If you have locked the door of your office and are hiding from your golfers because of puffy greens caused by Poa annua seedheads, take heed, there is something you can do about it. Maybe not this year, but mark your calendar for next spring.

As always, if any questions arise feel free to contact your Mid-Atlantic agronomists, Stan Zontek and Darin Bevard at 610/ 696-4747 and Keith Happ at 412/ 341-5922.

## Inside This Issue

President's Message	Page 2
Membership News	Page 3
Heather and Gorse	Page 5
Ask The Architect (New this year)	Page 8
Green Sheet Supporters	Page 11

## President's Message

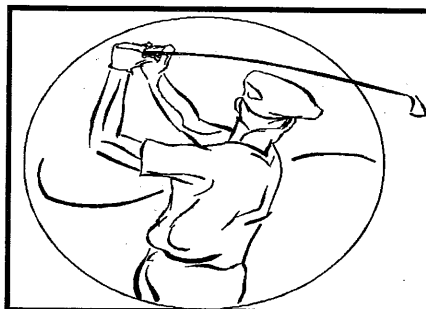
The meeting at Fairview Golf Course was one that usually has great attendance and this year's meeting was no different. Jim Jones, Dave Krick and the entire staff at Fairview did an excellent job in making the casual day extremely fun for everyone. The course, as usual, was in great shape and the THICK, juicy steaks were in great demand! My personal thanks to Jim for hosting the meeting during the easy days of May. It was supposed to be easy anyway.

Last month, I mentioned something about too much grass to cut. Well, we all know weather is something we unfortunately can't do anything about. Recently, the conditions have made us hand-water areas we wouldn't even have thought about watering, not in May anyway. Unpredictable weather is something that makes our job one of the toughest to master. It certainly makes life interesting when we have frost one week and drought conditions the next.

Recently, we were all saddened by the passing of two colleagues: Dave Rafferty, Superintendent of Chambersburg Country Club and Larry Smith, longtime employee (40 years) of Lebanon Country Club. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers. When things like this happen, we tend to think about priorities in our lives and the uncertainty of things. I would again like to emphasize the importance of friends and family. Please don't allow other things in your life take priority over more important ones.

The June meeting is at Chester Valley Golf Club in Malvern. It is a very scenic, old golf course that hosted the Bell Atlantic Senior PGA for many years. Make time in your schedule to attend this meeting. Bring on the RAIN!

Dan Achenbach



# Happy Father's Day

## Directions to Chester Valley Golf Club

### From Central Pennsylvania:

Take PA Turnpike to Exit 23 Downingtown. Take Rt. 100 S. to Rt. 30 E. approximately 5 miles. Then turn left onto Rt. 30 East and go approximately 2 miles. Turn left (Wawa on corner) onto Plainbrook Road. At first traffic light, turn right onto Swedesford Road. Chester Valley Golf Club is approximately 1 mile on the right.

### From Philadelphia and New Jersey:

Take PA Turnpike to Exit 24 or Schuylkill Expressway to West Chester Exit. Take Rt. 202 S. to Frazer Exit 401. Bear right off exit. At the first traffic light, make a left turn. At the fork, bear left onto Church Road. Go to stop sign turn right onto Swedesford Road. Chester Valley Golf Club is approximately 400 yards on the left.

### From Delaware and Maryland:

Take Rt. 202 N. or Rt. 1 to Rt. 202 N. Exit at Frazer Rt. 30 East. Turn right off exit ramp onto Rt. 30 East. At the second traffic light, (Wawa on left) turn left onto Plainbrook Road. At first traffic light, turn right onto Swedesford Road. Chester Valley Golf Club is approximately 1 mile on the right.

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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.

Daniel Brickley, Assistant Superintendent  
Lebanon Country Club.....Class C

Robert Clarke, President  
R. L. Clark Enterprises, Inc.....Class AF

Dean Cochran, Superintendent/Student  
Tanglewood Manor Golf Club.....Class S

Anthony Grieco, CGCS, Sales Representative  
Aquarius Irrigation Supply, Inc.....Class AF

Martin Miller, Superintendent  
Honey Run Golf Club.....Class B

Jeff Patterson, Sales Representative  
Stull Equipment Company.....Class AF

Steven Shadle, Superintendent  
Berkleigh 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.

## In Remembrance

Dave Rafferty, Superintendent of Chambersburg Country Club died on Tuesday, May 1, 2001. Dave earned his degree in agronomy in 1974 from Penn State University. He was employed at the Chambersburg Country Club for 15 years. Dave was a member and past president of CPGCSA, member and past president of Allied Superintendents of PA and a member of GCSAA. Besides work and golf, Dave enjoyed hunting. He was a volunteer with the Pennsylvania Transplant Support Group in Harrisburg. Dave is survived by his wife Bonnie.

Memorial contributions may be made to Central Pennsylvania Transplant Services, c/o Dr. Harold C. Yang, P. O. Box 8700, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8700.

## PA Turfgrass Council Offers Calibration Workshop

The Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council will be sponsoring a Calibration Workshop in mid August. The work shop will be a hands on session in the calibration of spreaders and sprayers and is designed for any employee in all areas of turfgrass management.

Registrations forms will be mailed out within the following weeks and will also be made available through the PA Turfgrass Council office. Pesticide credits will be available for attendees with Applicators Licenses.



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## Golf Results

It was a perfect day for golf at the well-maintained Fairview Golf Course. The event for the day was a 6-6-6 Tournament.

President Dan Achenbach and Eric Fisher dominated the event by firing a seven under par 64. However, each 6 hole segment was played as a mini-tournament.

The results were as follows:

### Scramble: 1st Place tie

Bill Rahling, Rick Holanda  
Bob Orazi, Paul Wickey  
Tony Grieco, Mel Leaver

### Alternate Shot: 1st Place tie

Tom Drayer, Thed Fraleigh  
Chuck Crawford, Randy Crawford  
Chris Martin, Robert Gomboc

### Better Ball

1st Dan Achenbach, Eric Fisher  
2nd Pete Ramsey, Kirby Putt

### Closest to Pin:

#9 Pat Beard  
#18 Tony Grieco

See ya at Chester Valley!!

Faron Stoops

## 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.

## Mark Your Calendars!!!!!!

### Annual CPGCSA Family Picnic

October 6, 2001

Creekview Park, Camp Hill

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## Heather and Gorse

By Mark V. DelSantro, CGCS

I did not know Dave Rafferty very well. In fact, I only met him two or three times since joining the CPGCSA four years ago. But upon reading an article on him, I regret that I did not take advantage of those few opportunities. Dave was described as "dedicated, but fun-loving," "a man who had his priorities in order," and "one of the best superintendents in the area!" A rumor going around last month's Fairview meeting was that Dave was extra stressed over criticisms that his golf course was not meeting the memberships' expectations. While this seems to be commonplace in our industry (I know I've experienced similar criticisms), I find it to be one of the true tragedies, directly resulting from flaws in our Western culture and philosophies.

Western culture, you see, is all about chasing that Holy Grail. It is the foundation of the American dream. Work hard and surely good things will come. And while I believe that there is a lot of truth to this theory, unfortunately, all too often, what fails to be factored into the equation are the required sacrifices. Most superintendents I know epitomize this concept to various degrees. While they may differ in their individual formulas for gaining success, the one commonality is there work ethic. 60+ hour workweeks seem more the rule than the exception. And forget about going to the beach for the weekend... in the golf business, weekends off are generally considered taboo.

But what about those sacrifices? This is where I begin to get somewhat confused. Some may call it fuzzy logic! At least intuitively speaking, as someone gains experience they generally worked smarter and more efficiently, and thus in theory spend less overall hours performing their job. Furthermore, technology has been added to the mix... computers, email, fax machines, palm pilots, cell phones... all of these have been marketed as having the ability to make our lives easier. And yet, while my theory/philosophy would seem to make the assumption that the utilization of these technologies would allow us to spend less time at work and focus our energies on the theoretical more important things in life, the reality has been the antithesis of this ideal. The direct resultant of experience and technology seems to be more stress, more anxiety, and less quality time with the wife and kids! Isn't there something wrong with this picture? At what point did our priorities get so improperly balanced???

Whenever I get to this stage of confusion I start contemplating the world through the eyes of my two-year old son, Zachary. When I do this I suddenly find myself back at the aforementioned "uncarved block of wood" theory. To further explain, I'm very much intrigued and encapsulated by Eastern philosophies... I've read a few books on Zen Buddhism and Taoism and find myself enamored with the simplicity and honesty of the Tao. Within my meditations I find myself pondering and postulating the way things ought to be.

For those of you unfamiliar with some of the Eastern thought processes, the greatest difference between Eastern and Western cultures appears most evident in the search for utopia and in the philosophies towards nature's roll in that utopian quest. In a nutshell, general Western philosophy leads one to believe that people need protection from the natural world. Eastern philosophy openly postulates that the natural world needs protection from the people. Which one do you believe??? It essentially comes down to a respect for the natural world, which I believe is at the core of our profession. Paraphrasing Sir Arthur Conan Doyle... to understand nature, one's ideas must be as broad as nature, and when one attempts to rise above nature, they're liable to fall below it. Consider this next time you disagree with the weather. Additionally, Benjamin Hoff (author of the Tao of Pooh and the Te of Piglet), summed it up this way... "Modern man's difficulties, dangerous beliefs, and feelings of loneliness, spiritual emptiness, and personal weakness are caused by illusions about, and separations from, the natural world."

Now I know this is somewhat deep, but the fact of the matter is that Western culture and philosophy is driven by the ego and has been proven, in many cases, to be impractical. With that, we might as well go deeper yet... Henry David Thoreau best sums this up in the following writing: Shams and delusions are esteemed for the soundest truths, while reality is fabulous. If men would steadily observe realities only, and not allow themselves to be deluded, life, to compare it with such things as we know, would be like a fairy tale and the Arabian Nights' Entertainment... By closing the eyes and slumbering, and consenting to be deceived by shows, men establish and confirm their daily life of routine and habit everywhere, which still is built on purely illusionary foundations. Children, who play life, discern its true law and relations more clearly than men, who fail to live it worthily, but who think that they are wiser by experience, that is, by failure... Men esteem truth remote, in the outskirts of the system, behind the farthest star, before Adam and after the last man. In eternity there is indeed something true and sublime. But all these times and places and occasions are now and here. God himself culminates in the present moment, and will never be more divine than in the lapse of all the ages. And we are enabled to apprehend at all what is sublime and noble only by the perpetual instilling and drenching of the reality that surrounds us.

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

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

Now don't ask me to repeat any of that and don't ask me exactly what it all means... just be assured of my point, which is that Western philosophies tend to forget about natural laws and the effects of these laws on the environment around us. Taoists believe that one must observe, be in tune with, and understand these natural laws and how they affect the operation of the world around them. It's all about balance. The underlying message is not to forget what's really important to your life and to properly prioritize your real responsibilities. If your job is truly your number one priority in your life than I'd tell you that you're delusional, you need to seek help, and you need to get a life. Furthermore, you need to consider the stakeholders in your life that control happiness and prioritize accordingly. The fact is that it really isn't that hard to do... simply lie down, close your eyes, and imagine your world from a two-year olds perspective...

...I never really knew Dave Rafferty, but irregardless, it sure seems that there's an awful lot we could all learn from him... May he rest in peace! That's my Zen-like, Taoist, two-year olds perspective of life, liberty, and the pursuit of true happiness from the heather and gorse.

## Equipment For Sale

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

- GA-30, good condition (Make an offer)

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!!

## For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the July newsletter, the deadline for submissions is June 15, 2001. Please fax information to Wanda at (717) 279-0368 or e-mail to [cpgcsa@nbn.net](mailto:cpgcsa@nbn.net).



# Five Reasons to Join GCSAA NOW!!!

**1**

## **Access to GCSAA Online**

Access to the "Members-Only" section of GCSAA Web site ([www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)) links you instantly to the knowledge, ideas, and opinions of your peers through GCSAA's Talk Forums.

## **Education**

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**2****3**

## **Industry Leading Information and Publications**

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**4****5**

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\*Offer limited to superintendents and assistant superintendents joining GCSAA for the first time or those superintendents and assistant superintendents whose memberships have lapsed for at least two years. All applicants for class A or B membership must also be a member of a GCSAA Affiliated Chapter.

**For more information contact the GCSAA Service Center  
at 1-800-472-7878**

## 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

**Our golf course originally was designed in 1926 and it is in need of some invigoration. Some members of the greens committee are calling for remodeling of the present course, others want a program of reconstruction, and still others want to want to engage in a process of restoration. What are the differences?**

The terms, remodeling, reconstruction, and restoration often are used interchangeably when describing program improvements for a golf course. However, the terms have different meanings and sometimes the particular descriptor used by the membership does not always accurately reflect their wishes or ideas. The terms, remodeling and renovation, for example, commonly refer to changes made on a golf course for the purpose of updating it to match modern technology and accommodating the playing abilities of today's golfers. With the exception of new course construction, remodeling and renovation projects are the most common golf construction activities that occur today. I consider the term reconstruction to describe a somewhat different practice, that is, reconstruction is the process of rebuilding the physical structure of the components of the golf course (bunkers, tee boxes, greens) to reduce maintenance problems and help the course accommodate the ever increasing number of rounds as the game's popularity continues to grow.

Restoration usually is defined as the process of returning a course to its original state. However, today, the term sometimes is used inaccurately. "True restoration" of a golf course would require returning the course to its original design, which might have been lost as a result of renovation or remodeling projects completed during the interim period. To effect a "true restoration", copies of the original drawings, still or aerial photographs of the original course, or perhaps even the recollections of older players or members may help the architect replicate the original course. Today, there are numerous sources that exist that could be researched to provide the information necessary for a restoration. Although a "true restoration" sounds glamorous and exciting, it is a major commitment of time and resources. Once members understand the entire process and how playing conditions and strategy may be altered, enthusiasm for the process may be diminished. In actuality, very few "true" restorations are done today. One reason for the limited number of true restorations is due to the way that modern technology has altered the game. Through vastly improved equipment, today's golfer hits the ball farther than did those in the first half of twentieth century. For example, improvements in equipment have increased the average shot length such that bunkers placed 200 - 220 yards from the tee box (earlier designs) are now "misplaced" to challenge today's seasoned player. Therefore, restoring a course to its original design likely would not challenge and interest a large proportion of today's users.

### **Other questions to ask when considering a "true restoration".**

First, are the players willing to give up the "lush, green look" expected and achieved by today's modern irrigation systems? Golf courses were maintained differently in the 1920s than they are today. Most members do not understand that the manicured look that they see on television every weekend is not only unrealistic for most golf courses, but was virtually unheard of when many courses were originally designed. Turf maintenance has advanced similarly to that of playing equipment. Players often do not understand the relationship between maintenance practices and a golf course's strategic design. Simply put, the lack of irrigation systems meant that many more areas of a golf course were "natural" terrain, and thus, mother-nature called the shots on course condition. Therefore, these "dry" areas were often incorporated into the design of the course and became an important part of how the golf course was "played." Philosophically, returning to the original design would mean returning areas of the course to their original conditioning, whether dry or wet.

Second, as most superintendents know, trees on a golf course present more than aesthetic value. Some can be positive while others can be negative features. Trees also play an important role in shot strategy. Often after a golf course is designed, clubs engage in a tree planting program in order to improve the aesthetic quality of the course (framing and backdrops). However, as trees mature, they can become a screen rather than a frame, which in turn influences shot selection and dictate the playing line of the golf hole. A complete restoration of the course would require the removal of many mature trees in order to return the course to the playing strategy that was in the mind of the original architect. Removing all mature trees as part of the restoration project would not likely be a popular recommendation to make to the owner or club membership.

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



## Ask the Architect.....continued from page 8

Of course, there are many other questions that could be asked to guide the facility through the restoration decision process, but overall, it could be summarized as follows. Would not a true restoration of a classic course, for example, mean returning the course to all of the playing conditions that existed at the time he designed it? The bottom line is how far are facilities and members "willing to go" in order to regain their 1920's classic? Luckily, if it is not as far as tearing up the sprinkler system, removing the trees and letting the turf grow, there are more palatable options. This is where the involvement of a golf course architect working in close collaboration with the superintendent and facility personnel can provide appropriate and far more exciting alternatives.

### Restoration or Rejuvenation?

In summary, when discussing the idea of golf course reinvigoration, an important consideration for superintendents and the club membership is whether they want to undertake a complete and true golf course restoration. Preserving history in the form of classic golf courses is an admirable goal. However, that must be balanced by an acknowledgment to today's advances in technology and the desire of superintendents, players and the golf course architect to have a course that is challenging, interesting and enjoyable. In short, perhaps what we really mean when we talk about the latest boom in golf course restoration is really **golf course rejuvenation**. Rejuvenation for a classic course, for example, could be conceptualized as the restoration of greens to their original sizes but alteration of the placement of sand bunkers to accommodate current golf shot lengths. By rejuvenation, the original character of the course and its components can be retained yet the course is remodeled to provide a challenging game for the modern golfer.

*For further information, contact Ed Beidel at Daft-McCune-Walker, Inc. at 410-296-3333 or email Ed at [ebeidel@dmw.com](mailto:ebeidel@dmw.com). Daft-McCune-Walker, Inc. is a multi-disciplinary firm of golf course architects, land planners, landscape architects, civil engineers, environmental professionals and surveyors.*

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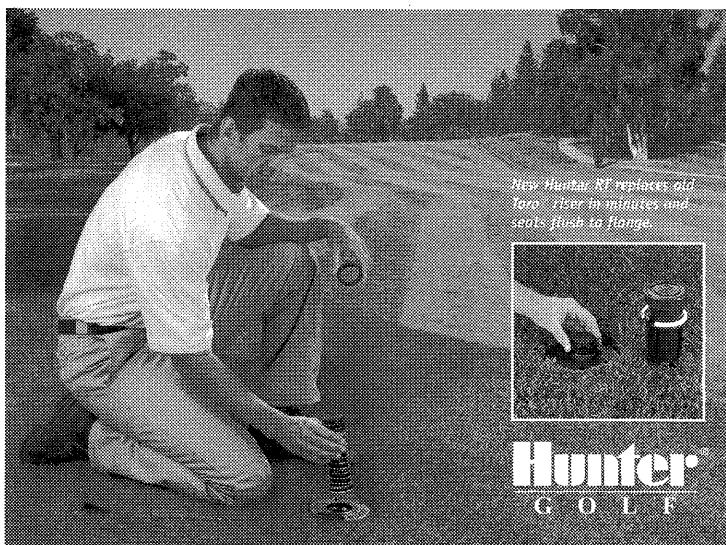
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and expandable central/satellite control systems. Hunter Golf now offers the new RT Retro-Riser, which replaces inefficient Toro® heads. Your staff can pop out old Toro® internal mechanisms and replace them with efficient Hunter gear-drives within minutes. The Toro® body with flange remains undisturbed during the change-out and no digging is required. The RT is specifically designed to retrofit all 1-inch Toro® golf rotors, including models 630, 730, 760, 765 and the discontinued 660.

**Call Century today for new solutions on bringing your irrigation system up to par.**



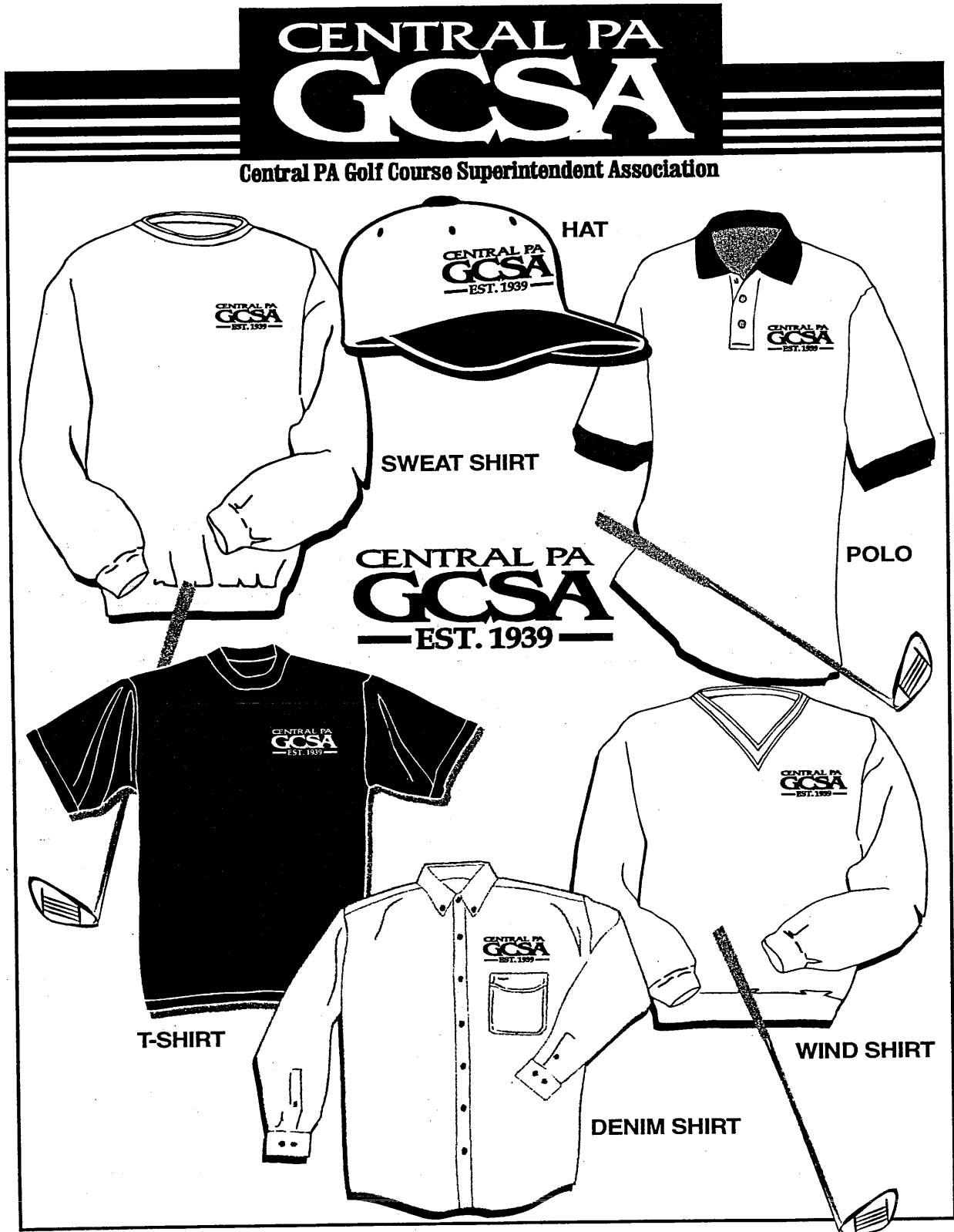
New Hunter RT replaces old Toro® riser in minutes and seals flush to flange.

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## CPGCSA Merchandise

We have adopted a new Central Penn logo and are now in the process designing merchandise. Look for order forms, prices, and sample items at upcoming meetings. (We now have hats available, please contact Wanda for further information)



**William Rahling, Bob Eichert**  
**Aer-Core, Inc.**  
 47 Heron Hill Drive  
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 (610) 458-0890

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## CPGCSA Supporter List

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*Thanks to our supporters!*

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

## The Green Sheet



## 2001 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

June 4	Chester Valley Golf Club Dave Visocan
July 10	Regents Glen Country Club Mark MacDonald
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

## IT'S IN THE TAG

Help your Affiliated Chapter receive up to \$.50 per tag from qualified Turf-Seed, Inc. Tag Team™ or Tee-2-Green Corp. Penn Pals™ varieties or seed mixtures.\*

Turf-Seed, Inc. and Tee-2-Green Corp. have pledged to contribute to your Affiliated Chapter and The GCSAA Foundation's "Investing in the Beauty of Golf Campaign."

Just collect the blue tags\* and send them to The GCSAA Foundation along with your name and your designated Affiliated Chapter. The staff at The GCSAA Foundation will do the rest. It's that simple. Your Affiliated Chapter and The

Foundation will split \$.50 for every Turf-Seed variety or mixture blue tag and/or \$1.00 for every Tee-2-Green Penn Pals variety or mixture tag. This rebate offer could provide your Affiliated Chapter with the funds to sponsor scholarship programs for turfgrass students or local and regional research.

Call The GCSAA Foundation for more information at (800) 472-7878 ext. 465.

\*Variety names must match qualified seed list. Mixture tags must carry a M16 or M16M prefix. Turf Seed product Blue Tags are redeemable for \$.50 each, while Penn Pals™ product tags are redeemable for \$1.00. Rebates will be split evenly between the Affiliated Chapter and The GCSAA Foundation. Direct rebate offer to GCSAA Foundation, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049.



We would like to acknowledge Turf-Seed, Inc. and Tee-2-Green Corp. for their contributions through this philanthropic program.

