



*Seasons
Greetings
from the
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Mid-Atlantic USGA Update

WHERE IS INDIAN SUMMER?

By Stanley J. Zontek, Director
updated 11-4-02

As originally planned this Web site update was to discuss weed control. Normally, this region of the country experiences an Indian summer: that period of warm weather following the first frosts. Typically this is a good time to spray for weeds. After all, the weeds you kill in the fall equate to fewer weeds in the spring. With the drought of this year and with so many voids in the roughs, weeds are growing without much competition. The old adage is true; "the best weed control is a thick turf." Unfortunately, the current period of wet, below normal temperatures and above normal rainfall is not the weather pattern one would choose for spraying weeds.

If you cannot control weeds now, and you can see them scattered in the roughs, mark your calendar to spray when conditions allow next spring. Have the herbicide on-hand, have the sprayer calibrated with the right nozzles and be ready to go.

Other work in the roughs can still be done this fall. During our final USGA Green Section course visits this month we are observing many thin roughs showing the lingering effects of this year's heat and drought. Even now, it's a good time to consider applying a dormant application of fertilizer to any areas of grass that need better density. If these thin areas don't fill-in with the grass you want, they will fill-in with *Poa annua*, which sets up another problem situation for the following spring and summer. As long as the ground is not frozen rhizomes will continue to spread, plants will tiller, and carbohydrates accumulate within the grass plant so that when the spring comes, strong growth occurs. Dormant feeding gets the grass off to a good start in the spring, and puts fertilizer in the soil so that if we do have some better growing weather in November and December, strong turf growth can still occur.

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President's Message

I would like to thank Randy Super and his staff for hosting the annual meeting and final golf meeting of the season. The golf course was in great shape and quite challenging. The weather turned out to be perfect at a time of year when anything can happen!

With the elections now completed, I would like to thank those who have served this past year on the CPGCSA board. I look forward to another year as president with some new and very enthusiastic people on the board. I want to thank Wanda for all that she does as our association secretary. I know that every past president that has worked with her can attest to that! Wanda puts up with a lot of stuff throughout a given season but I can honestly say I have yet to find her grumpy. Either she never gets grumpy or she just hides it very well. I think perhaps Jeff would be able to tell us.

The next big formal event is the first Annual Central Penn Night to be held on January 25 at the Holiday Inn Grantville. The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the first Dave Rafferty Distinguished Service Award, which Sam Snyder and his committee have worked so diligently to establish this past year. The award will be given in honor of the late Dave Rafferty, a dedicated past CPGCSA president who recently passed away.

I would like to congratulate Jim MacLaren (Everybody knows Jim), who was nominated this year to be the recipient of that prestigious award. Jim's dedication, leadership and service to the turfgrass industry has earned the respect of many people.

Who could be better than Jim Jones to MC the evening? We often look for ways to have a good social event with our wives included. This happens to be a great opportunity. Please mark your calendars and expect to have a great time!

I hope all your golf course drains are working well. Have a great holiday and winter season and spend time with your family!

Top Ten Gifts Your Wives Don't Want for Christmas

10. A Car Wash kit
9. A table saw
8. Two all-day passes to Home Depot's Kitchen Installation Seminar
7. A case of oil
6. Five-year subscription to Sports Illustrated
5. Custom engraved bowling ball
4. New outboard motor for fishing boat
3. Football Trivia on DVD
2. New satellite dish with sports package
1. Three-year membership to Weight-Watchers Clinic

Top Ten Gifts Your Husbands Don't Want for Christmas

10. Anne of Avonlea/Anne of Green Gables Collectors Edition
9. Any knick-knack
8. Tickets to the flower show
7. Another tie
6. A Bath and Body Works Soap Basket
5. New teddy bear pajamas
4. Vacuum Cleaner
3. A weekend seminar on "Getting in Touch With Your Feelings"
2. Pair of fuzzy bunny slippers
1. A nose and ear hair trimmer

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Mark Your Calendars For The...

First Annual Central Penn Night

Saturday, January 25, 2003

Holiday Inn – Grantville

*Join us to honor this year's recipient of the
Dave Rafferty Distinguished Service and Leadership Award,*

Jim MacLaren

The one and only, Jim Jones will M. C. this great social event.

6:00 - 7:00 PM Hors d'oeuvres

7:00 - 8:30 PM Dinner

8:30 - 9:30 PM Program

6:00 - 8:30 PM Cash Bar

Menu

Soup du Jour

Spinach Salad

Chef's Choice Potato & Vegetable

Broiled Filet Mignon with Crabmeat Stuffed Shrimp

Breads, Rolls, Beverage

Crème de Menthe Parfait

\$40.00 per person

Invitations with details will be sent later in December.

Overnight accommodations are available at the Holiday Inn and surrounding hotels.

Membership News

The following individual has applied for membership into our association. If there are no written objections within the next seven days, he will be accepted into CPGCSA at the next meeting.

David Ellison, Superintendent
Chisel Creek Golf ClubClass B

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

Matt Fellows, Sales Representative
Lesco Class AF

Rick Krout, Superintendent
Honey Run Golf Club.....Class B

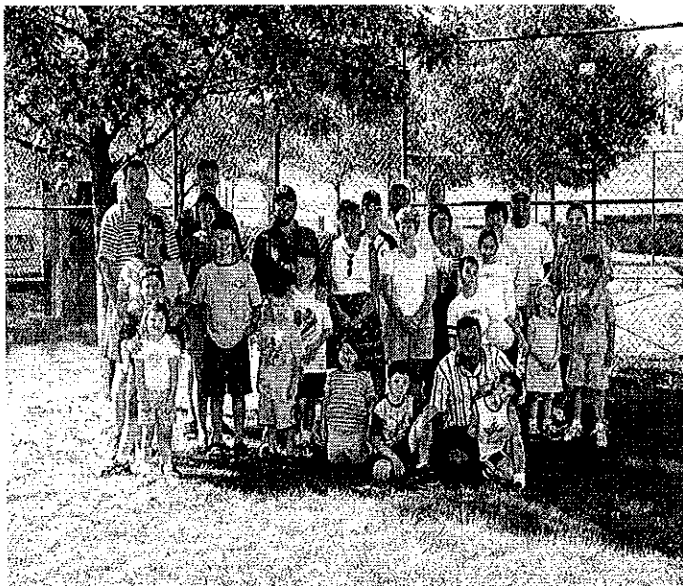
If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Tom Kintzer, Blue Mt. View Golf Course (717) 861-5722.

Member Updates

Congratulations to:
New Grandpa Shaun Barry

Our Sympathies to:
Scott Keener and his family on the death
of his father

2002 CPGCSA Family Picnic



Missing from photo: Scott, Michelle and Cassidy Fischer, Terry Bennett, and Photographer Pete Ramsey.



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USGA Update.....continued from page 1

The good news with this weather pattern is the rain. The reservoirs are filling up and this should eventually have a positive impact on ground water levels. According to the information provided during the last meeting of the Chester County (PA) Drought Emergency Task Force the groundwater levels are still far below normal,

One final thought. With the coming of November, the winter seminar season is upon us. Plan on attending these important educational sessions.

As always, if the agronomists of the Mid-Atlantic Region can be of assistance, contact Stan Zontek (szontek@usga.org) or Darin Bevard (dbevard@usga.org) at 610/ 696-4747 or Keith Happ (khapp@usga.org) at 412/341-5922.

Golf Results

I hope everyone had a great time at Pine Meadows. The conditions were perfect! I'm wondering how many of you had to ice down their arms. Hopefully we didn't have any major personal injuries.

The event was one free throw per hole. This event was to be a fun stress-relieving time. The outcome was as follows:

	Gross		Net
1st	Chris Martin	1st	John Colo
2nd	Faron Stoops	2nd	Dale Kintzer
3rd	Deron Zendt	3rd	Tom Kintzer

Closest to the pin:

#9 Jeff Fry

#17 Art Graybill

This was my last event as Golf Chairman. I enjoyed the experience of meeting a lot more of the membership. The golf shop staff's were very helpful, to say the least. I know I didn't make everyone happy all the time, but I tried to accommodate as many as possible. I hope you enjoyed yourselves for the past two years. I know I did!

The golf chairman has a lot to do behind the scenes. It makes the job easier when you include your handicap and preferred playing partners on the registration form. Hopefully you will continue to do a better job for the next chairman.

Take care and enjoy a great off-season.

Faron Stoops, Golf Chairman



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Upcoming Events

- **January 7-9, 2003** - Eastern PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA
- **January 30, 2003** - Northeastern PA Turf School & Trade Show, The Woodlands Inn & Resort, Wilkes-Barre, PA
- **February 10-15, 2003** - GCSAA Conference and Show, Georgia World Conference Center, Atlanta, Georgia
- **February 25-27, 2003** - Western PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, Pittsburgh Expo Mart/Radisson Hotel, Monroeville, PA.

Please contact Wanda with any employment or address changes, so that we can keep our records up to date.

October Golf Winners



L-R: Deron Zendt, Tom Kintzer, Chris Martin, Dale Kintzer, Faron Stoops, John Colo

Stressed Out?

By George W. Hamilton, Jr. Ph.D.

The long hot dog days of summer are behind us, but many areas of scorched turf remain. The dead turf reminds us of what a difficult summer it was for many golf course superintendents and their staffs. Drought, high temperatures, disease, anything that could give grass a hard time seemed to appear in the summer of 2002, and stress levels were at all time highs. Of course I'm talking about plant stress, which can lead to human stress.

It seems that the causes of turf loss are somewhat misunderstood by golfers. I've spoken with several club members, green committee chairs, etc. this summer; and they all had a consistent theme when talking about the loss of turf at their golf courses. The theme revolved around the golf course being attacked by a dastardly disease or exposed to prolonged drought and heat. I was shocked (not really!) that the demand for fast greens and tournament conditions wasn't part of their reasons for dead turf. I informed them that the main reason for so much turf loss is that too much turf is consistently stressed to provide tournament conditions every single day. As we (i.e. turfers) all know, stressed turf is more susceptible to environmental and pest-related stresses. The pursuit of perfect playing conditions day in and day out is the major reason that so much turf can be lost in a single season.

Practically no one escaped the summer unscathed. Our industry's hidden mission statement of "keep up with the Joneses" has forced far too many golf courses to abandon good agronomic practices. Less core cultivation, low fertility, excessive rolling, etc., will eventually take its toll. After all, it is a living plant.

This year, even the "Joneses" have lost grass, and golfers need to be reminded of that when ridiculous demands are being placed on golf course superintendents. Dead grass looks the same at big budget clubs as it does at low budget clubs. Stress doesn't discriminate by budget size. If you maintain grass on the "edge," sometimes you'll go over the edge.

There is no easy cure or quick fix, but we as an industry need to work together to develop a consistent message that this unrealistic and consistent pursuit of perfect playing conditions is going to continue to lead us down a path of over-stressed turf, which can easily revert to really dead turf. We need to become proactive and begin to educate golfers that this pursuit for perfection is agronomically incorrect and that the consequences of "living on the edge" will eventually result in poor playing conditions (dead turf) that will lead to significant inconveniences (renovations, course closings) to players.

Unfortunately, a lot of superintendents will probably lose their jobs this year because they lost grass as a result of creating too much stress by doing things against their will, experience, and education. The demand for perfect playing conditions has gripped our industry, and the resulting stress has begun to take its toll. And I'm not talking about plant stress.

Heather and Gorse

By Mark V. DelSantoro, CGCS

Gentlemen and ladies, I have seen the light and it is not necessarily good! The Penn State Turf Conference was definitively enlightening, and I'm not talking just about the educational talks. I'd always heard the rumors about the wild evenings out at PSU, but up to this point, my few PSU experiences had been relatively benign. At this year's PSU Turf Conference my experience included: consuming an OK steak, with no vegetable medley; enduring several category five hurricanes; smoking several good cheap cigars; observing one dancing superintendent's version of "living lavita loca"; living the legend of "the old speckled hen"; dodging spit balls, straws, and lemon wedges; making plans to retire in Montana in nine years (I guess I better learn how to fly fish and hunt!); ride sharing in the king cab with three very naïve, but blindly confident college coeds; and sitting next to Madonna for nearly ten minutes (I've yet to wash my right side!). By the way, did I mention that this was all experienced in one rather long enchanted evening! Oh the humanity... oh the belligerence... oh the ambiance... oh the immaturity... oh the memories... oh my God, my daughter will absolutely not be attending PSU main campus!!!

As for the intellectual education sessions, I enjoyed many of the presentations. I must say that my heart did skip a beat when Dr. Heller held up a copy of the Green Sheet and made mention of a past Heather and Gorse column. My first reaction was oh-oh, what did I do now! Thank goodness, Dr. Heller's Heather and Gorse references spoke more toward the importance of accurate pest identification and pest control options, which were discussed in the September edition of the Green Sheet. Phew!

One of the talks that I found most interesting was by Reed Mackenzie, USGA President on the state of the game of golf. His talk focused on technology and how it potentially could affect the game. And how about some of the statistics that were discussed in that presentation... John Daly, the leading driver on the 2002 PGA Tour, averaged 306.7 yards per drive, while the leading driver on the 2002 Buy.com Tour averaged 328.5 yards per drive. The average of the top ten long drivers on the 2002 PGA Tour was 295 yards, while the top ten on the 2002 Buy.com Tour averaged 308 yards.

By the way, the man who consistently outdrove John Daly and Tiger Woods by a remarkable 21.8 and 34.8 yards per drive respectively, is none other than Victor Schwamkrug (I'm not making this name up!). The Schwammer, with the exception of his ability to hit the golf ball out of sight, probably won't be seen on any Wheaties cereal boxes anytime soon... he finished the 2002 season ranked 70th on the Buy.com official money list... isn't there an old saying about driving for show and putting for dough?

One might ponder how it is possible to average over 325 yards per drive, especially when not that long ago the longest drivers were averaging not much more than 250 yards per drive. The answer is directly linked to advancements in technology and advancements in research and development. The fact of the matter is that with research and development of new and better products and processes, the future of everything we know and experience has unlimited potential.

Think of where we all were ten years ago and then think of where we'd all be today without computer technology. Ten years ago I was thinking about getting a computer and now, I can't imagine living without one (or, in actuality, five or six). When one thinks about how far we've come over the past ten years, it seems the sky is the limit for where we'll be ten more years down the road.

The same can be said for golf course maintenance product technology as well. Think about how we've come from Penn Cross to the A's and G's, or how Dr. Huff is persistently and ever so diligently attempting to grow the perfect Poa. Look how mower technology has advanced through the years... when one evaluates the history of turf mowers, we've gone from sheep to battery-operated laser mowers in a relatively short period of time.

The thing that always seems to get lost in all the technological hype is the cost of research and development. At a recent meeting I attended in October, there was a presentation explaining the processes involved with researching and developing a new product and successfully bringing it to market. While I had a general idea of the concept of bringing a new product to market (my wife works in clinical research and development for a major pharmaceutical corporation), I had no idea of the time and money involved.

In a nutshell, a patent lasts seventeen years from registration of a new product, idea, or process. Once the active ingredient has been established and registered, the product must be put through a series of preliminary trials, all performed in an effort to determine whether it's worth further testing the product. The product then enters a battery of government phase testing, which involves safety to rats, humans, plants, etc. as well as continued testing on the product's capabilities (FYI, good portions of these tests are run at universities such as PSU, RU, UM, etc.). Finally, the product has to be tested for all of the things found on the material safety data sheet (i.e. flammability, volatility, combustibility, flash points, etc.). At this point it enters the EUP field trial stage, which is used to finalize the labeling process and the product marketability. If the product meets and/or exceeds all of the government, company, and market standards, the product goes forth and prospers.

Sounds easy, right??? Here's the kicker..... once the discovery has taken place..... the preliminary, phase, and MSDS tests take roughly eight to ten years and the EUP and labeling generally take two to four years. The cost of this entire research

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Heather and Gorse

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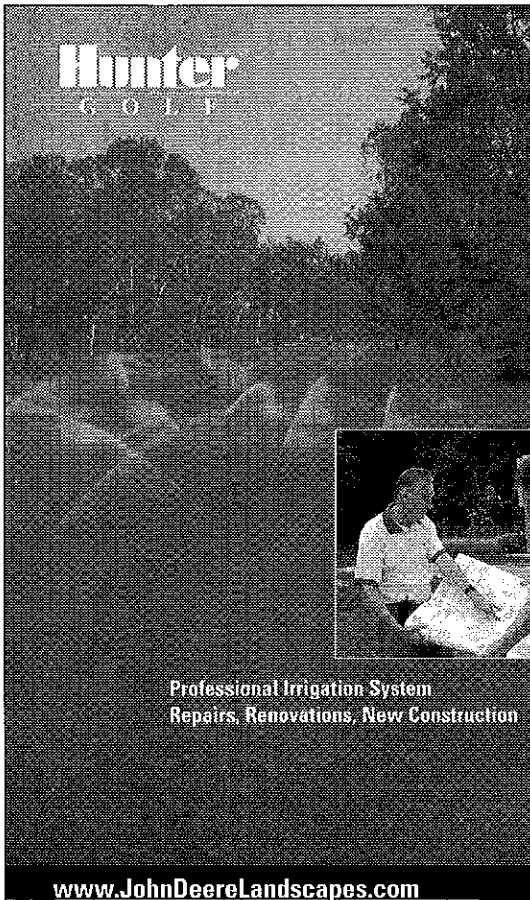
and development process is between \$60 and \$80 million per product. Now, do the math on the total process time and you'll come up with ten to twelve years before a new product gets to market. Given the price tag, this gives the company has somewhere between five and seven years at best to recoup their R&D expenses of \$60 to \$80 million before generic competition begins threatening the R&D marketplace.

An additional kicker, as if the first one wasn't enough... generally an extremely small percentage (2 to 5%) of new products make it to market. Thus, in conclusion, is there any confusion as to why there aren't more new products and/or chemistries coming to the marketplace each year? Technology/Research and Development costs inordinate amounts of money! And yet, while it costs a lot of money, think of where we'd be without it! The choice is yours... a steel-shafted persimmon-headed, \$75.00 driver that will travel 250 yards on your best hit, or a frequency-tuned, graphite-shafted, titanium-headed, \$599.00 driver that will travel 300+ yards on an average hit? Support the PTC and other R&D based organizations my friends... it's what makes the future unlimited and extremely bright!!! That's my enlightening, Old Speckled Hen'ish, spit balling, Schwammin', technologically advanced, government and market-tested point of view from the heather and gorse.

Youngest Picnic Attendee



New Dad Scott Fischer and daughter Cassidy enjoy the Central Penn Family Picnic



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Things Not To Do When Traveling

By Faron Stoops

I recently flew to Kansas City for the Chapter Delegates meeting. My journey had a secret agenda too. I was to "test" the security at BWI airport for Homeland Security and George W.

I arrived two plus hours before my flight departed. I picked up my ticket and checked my bag. (So far, so good) I moved to the cattle chute to have myself and my carry-on bag screened. This is where the fun began!

After criss-crossing back and forth through the chute for 30 minutes, I was assigned a lane. I took off my coat and placed it on the conveyor; emptied my pockets into a bin and laid my bag with them. I stepped through the metal detector...passed with ease! I waited as the conveyor brought out my belongings.

I picked up my coat and put it on, then grabbed up my personal stuff and dumped it into my pockets. However, my carry-on bag didn't come out. I waited and still no bag. I heard someone say that they were having trouble with a bag, but I paid no attention to it.

After what seemed like a couple minutes, a security officer asked me to identify my bag. I confirmed it. She then told me that they had a problem with it. I was perplexed to the situation. They said there were tools in the bag. I thought for a minute and remembered that I'd put some hand tools in the bag about a year ago. As my insides fell into my stomach, I said "oh sh*t, they are in there" as I reached out to the bag, pointing to the zippered compartment. She pulled the bag back towards her and told me to keep back.

She called for a supervisor and opened the bag. I felt like I was standing there, naked in the spotlight, as every square inch of the bag was searched. She opened the zippered compartment and pulled out the following: 2 full size screwdrivers; a set of miniature screwdrivers; a stubby screwdriver; a pair of hand pruners; a utility knife that was lying apart with 3 razor blades exposed; a set of allen wrenches and a 4" adjustable wrench.

They weren't happy with me, but the supervisor said that he knew it was an honest mistake because the tools were not concealed. He left me keep the allen wrenches and the adjustable wrench., BUT he gave me three options on the remaining items:

1. he would escort me back and check my bag under the plane with the rest of the luggage
2. he would escort me back and I could Fed Ex the tools to myself (in both cases I would have to go through the security line again)
3. dispose of them.

What a *tough* choice!!! If I were to go through the security line again, I figured that I'd be a prime candidate for a full strip and cavity search!!! I had no sentimental ties to the tools, so.....see ya!

After apologizing for the 18,000th time, I was on my way.

In all honesty, they treated me in a fair manner. I was very embarrassed, but they were just doing their job. I'm glad that they are there searching for things such as tools and potentially dangerous items. I was in three different airports, and I saw no signs of profiling. I witnessed elderly couples; younger people and various races being pulled aside and screened. I'm sure there are horror stories out there, but I didn't see any.

The results of my test: security was thorough, but very fair. I learned that before my next journey, I will check my bags very well before packing!

Central Penn GCSA Seminars for 2003

January 23

Effective Uses of Soil Amendments in Golf Course Management

January 24

The Microbiology of Turfgrass Soils

GOV. SCHWEIKER LIFTS DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN 16 COUNTIES

Cumberland, Chester and Delaware counties remain in drought emergency

PHILADELPHIA (Nov. 7) -- Gov. Mark Schweiker today lifted the drought emergency for 16 counties, while continuing the drought emergency in Cumberland, Chester and Delaware counties.

"We are thankful that October's rainfall was above normal in some areas of southeastern and southcentral Pennsylvania," Gov. Schweiker said. "What we have to remember now is that this drought was years in the making, and we still need to practice water conservation, especially in the three counties where the drought emergency has been extended."

Northampton, Lehigh, Berks, Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Lancaster and York counties have been upgraded to drought-warning status, which calls on residents to voluntarily conserve 10 percent to 15 percent of their daily water usage.

Dauphin, Lebanon, Bedford, Fulton, Franklin and Adams counties been upgraded to drought-watch status, which calls on residents to voluntarily conserve 5 percent of their daily water use. Perry and Schuylkill counties have been upgraded to normal status.

Because Cumberland, Chester and Delaware counties remain in drought-emergency status, residents there continue to be under mandatory water-use restrictions. Groundwater level remains a problem in these three counties and is the deciding factor in keeping them in drought-emergency status.

Gov. Schweiker first declared a drought emergency on February 12, for 24 counties in southcentral and eastern Pennsylvania. He extended the emergency for 20 counties on May 8, extended the emergency for 14 counties on August 9, and then added 5 counties to drought emergency status on September 5 after a long dry spell.

"While our rainfall for the past few weeks has been excellent, we'll need several more months of above average rainfall to return all of our counties to normal status," Gov. Schweiker said.

For more information, including a color-coded map to show the drought status of each Pennsylvania county, visit the PA PowerPort at www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: "drought."

CURRENT DROUGHT STATUS FOR PA COUNTIES

Emergency Status

Chester
Cumberland
Delaware

Warning Status

Berks
Bucks
Lancaster
Lehigh
Montgomery
Northampton
Philadelphia
York

Watch Status

Adams
Beaver

Bedford
Crawford
Dauphin
Erie
Franklin
Fulton
Greene
Lawrence
Lebanon
Mercer
Potter
Washington

Normal Status

Allegheny
Armstrong
Blair
Bradford
Butler

Cambria
Cameron
Carbon
Centre
Clarion
Clearfield
Clinton
Columbia
Elk
Fayette
Forest
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