

October Meeting

Pine Meadows Golf Complex

October 8, 2002

10:00 AM - Golf

2:00 PM - Cocktails

3:00 PM - Lunch

Elections and Meeting following Lunch

There will be a CPGCSA Board of Directors Meeting at 8:00 AM.

Superintendent Profile

Randy Super is the Superintendent at Pine Meadows Golf Complex. Randy started out at Valley Green Golf Course after high school. After receiving his 2 year degree from Rutgers, Randy was the Assistant at Blue Ridge Golf Club and Colonial Country Club. Randy came to Pine Meadows for the grow-in during the summer of 1998. Randy is married to Shawn and has two daughters, Molly, 10 and Madelyn, 8. Randy's activities include keeping up with his daughters activities.

Golf Course Profile

Pine Meadows Golf Complex was originally a 9 hole golf course built in 1960. Construction began in 1997 to expand to an 18 hole course and opened for play in May 1999. The course was designed and owned by Larry Rabold and constructed by Jay Crouse Inc.

The course features a beautiful natural setting among wetlands, bent grass fairways, Kentucky blue grass roughs and challenging contours. This par 72 layout has four sets of tees with the yardage ranging from 4,956 to 6,680 yards. Pine Meadows Golf Complex also features paved cart paths and spectacular bridges taking you over the beautiful Swatara Creek twice. Fourteen (14) holes are featured with water hazards.

Proper golf attire is required.

Mid-Atlantic USGA Update

The Worst (Almost) Is Over

By Stanley J. Zontek, Director
updated September 18, 2002

As the agronomists of the Green Section's Mid-Atlantic Region continue to travel this fall, there is an all too common theme about this year. While the statistics may provide hard facts of just how dry and hot it was, numbers do not tell the human toll this summer has taken on the individuals who manage golf courses. Except for a few fall diseases and insects worth monitoring, the massive loss of turf that possibly could have occurred this summer is thankfully nothing more than just a bad germinate grass seed to aid in turfgrass recovery.

The first suggestion in this update is non-agronomic. It is to sit back and take a deep breath, and maybe offer an apology, if needed. It has been a challenging year for all golf courses, people and turf were under a huge amount of stress, and maybe saying I'm sorry for any grumpy words, the need to work overtime...anything can help improve everyone's conscience heading into the fall. Even the wonderful administrative assistants I have in this office deserve a pat on the back (and maybe a free lunch) for surviving this summer (Note, even USGA agronomists get grumpy and impatient).

A newly recognized problem on perennial ryegrass fairways has been identified. The disease is *Leptosphaerulina* blight. In the past, this leaf spot type disease has been associated with the gray leaf spot organism. This year, the disease has been identified on a small number of golf courses as a stand alone disease. The disease needs to be identified by a laboratory.

Finally, with the cooler weather and at least one soaking rainfall this month, the grass is beginning to recover,
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President's Message

I have never looked forward to a week's vacation as much as I have this year! A promised tropical storm "soaker" never showed up here so I guess I'll finally give up on so-called up-to-the-minute, accurate, detailed forecasts! There used to be a time where we could look forward to September 1st as being the beginning of less stress on the grass and us. But the last few years have shown that those days are over we can all look forward to the first snowfall!

I wasn't able to stay for golf at Butter Valley but I heard that people had a great time. This was a unique kind of meeting. John Gehman was generous enough to give airplane rides to those who trusted him. I did find out that John not only knows how to grow grass and fly planes, he's also a successful chef as he helped to prepare the food. Thank you, John for an all-around good day.

Please remember to sign up for our annual meeting at Pine Meadows on October 8th. It is important that we have a good turnout at that meeting.

Have a great fall!

Bill Brooks

Directions to Pine Meadows Golf Complex

From Harrisburg:

Take Interstate 81 North. Exit onto Interstate 78 East. Take Exit 1. Follow signs for Route 343 South. Golf Course is on right

From the North:

Take Interstate 81 South. Exit onto Route 72 South. Exit onto Route 22 East. Take Route 343 South. Golf Course is on right

From Reading:

Route 422 West into Lebanon. Turn Right on 7th Street. 7th Street becomes Route 343 North. Course is on left approximately 3 to 4 miles North of Lebanon.

From Allentown:

Take Interstate 78 West. Take Exit 1. Follow Route 22 West. Follow Route 343 South. Golf Course is on right.

From Lancaster:

Take Route 72 North to Lebanon to Maple Street. Right on Maple Street, go 2 Blocks to 7th Street. Turn left on 7th Street. 7th Street becomes Route 343 North. Golf Course on left, approximately 3 to 4 miles North of Lebanon.

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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.

Matt Fellows, Sales Representative
Lesco Class AF

Rick Krout, Superintendent
Honey Run Golf Club Class B

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

Michael Dachowski, Superintendent
Arrowhead Golf Course Class B

Ryan Fogel, Assistant Superintendent
Lehigh Country Club Class C

Ricky Siefkas, Superintendent
Green Hills Golf Course Class B

Member Updates

Congratulations to:

- Scott and Michelle Fischer on the birth of their daughter, Cassidy Elizabeth Fischer.
- John and Amy Fowler on the birth of their daughter, Ciera Lynn Fowler.

Our Sympathies to:

- Mike May and his family on the loss of his father.

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.

USGA Update.....continued from page 1

especially in the roughs. As an agronomist, I am constantly amazed at just how resilient grass can be. I am reminded of a quote from the late Professor Lawrence Dickinson from the University of Massachusetts, "grass does not commit suicide." Grass has a wonderful dormancy mechanism unless we run enough traffic across the grass to kill it.

As always, if the agronomists of the Mid-Atlantic Region can be of any 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.

2003 CPGCSA Nominations

The CPGCSA Annual Meeting with the election of officers will be held on October 8, 2002 at Pine Meadows Golf Complex. Listed below are the nominations:

President:

Bill Brooks

Vice President:

Pete Ramsey
Ron Diefenthaler, CGCS

Secretary/Treasurer:

Faron Stoops

Directors:

Steve Ludwig
Mark MacDonald
Steve Gross
John Colo

If you or someone you know is interested in running for the 2003 Board of Directors, please contact Ron Diefenthaler at Colonial Country Club (717) 545-6760.



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Golf Results

The 2002 CPGCSA Association Championship was held at Butter Valley Golf Port. The results were as follows:

Championship Flight

1st Faron Stoops
2nd Tom Kintzer

2nd Flight

1st Ray Zelek
2nd Terry Wueschinski

3rd Flight

1st Pete Ramsey
2nd Dave Weitzel

4th Flight

1st Charlie Koennecker
2nd Mike Janzer

Our final golf meeting will be held October 8 at Pine Meadows Golf Complex. The format will be one free throw per hole. We've been under enough stress this year, so this is meant to be a fun relaxing event.

PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE, include your handicap on every entry form. I know some office personnel take care of sending in the registration, BUT see to it that you fill out the handicap! I'd hate to see a lot of "scratch" players in future events.

Enjoy your brief time between meetings. See ya at Pine Meadows.

Faron Stoops, Golf Chairman



Charlie Koennecker, Pete Ramsey, Ray Zelek, Faron Stoops



Dave Weitzel, Mike Janzer, Tom Kintzer



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Heather and Gorse

By Mark V. DelSantoro, CGCS

Well, today is the autumnal equinox... one of only two days through out the year that the sun sits exactly over the equator. And just as was prognosticated in the last Heather and Gorse, the days have gotten shorter and the nights longer. Nice to know that some things are actually predictable. Of course, if it were not for this fact, this year would have to be declared as the mother of all endless summers. Each week it seems the drought can't get any worse and yet on and on it goes, seemingly in perpetuity. I've heard it's so bad that Dauphin County even declared drought restrictions! Good thing they made it through to the end of the Hershey Park season... tough to take a water ride without the water. Funny how life is so full of such chocolatey sweet irony!

The drought has created some interesting strategic situations... back in August, when water supplies were first running dangerously low, many superintendents were forced to minimize and/or cut off their fairway watering. The general thought process was that any lost turf areas could be renovated through seeding. One month later, there is neither the ground moisture, nor the water supply to support any overseeding procedures. Furthermore, we're now into the prime *Poa annua* germination period. Those who lost turf now have to decide how to proceed from this point forward. Is it better to allow the *Poa annua* to fill in the voids and then attempt to knock it out at a later point in time, or is it better to prevent the *Poa annua* from germinating and then attempt to establish seed next spring? A very undesirable dilemma if ever one existed.

On the disease front, Gray Leaf Spot has crept into the area over the past few weeks... although many superintendents are betting that the weather will keep the severity of the disease down. Based on the current headlock that Mother Nature has on the region, this is a decision that needs to be thoroughly evaluated. As fast as this disease can take out turf and as prolific a spore producer as it seems to be, this is definitively not an enviable position in which to be.

Additionally, those virulent strains of Dollar Spot have been popping back up through out the region... Dr. Vargas calls these strains VCG's or Vegetative Compatibility Groups. I don't know where he came up with that name, but what I do know is that they're especially difficult to control once they establish themselves. Thus, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

As mentioned in the last Heather and Gorse, secondary organisms are still prominent in many turf loss situations... *Curvularia*, *Leptosphaeum*, *Anthraco* and a number of other maggot-like pathogens that aid in microbially breaking down dead tissue are being identified on dead and/or dying turf. In many cases, the pathologists aren't finding any primary pathogen on the samples, which means that the turf is first experiencing a myocardial infarction of sorts from the heat/drought stress, prior to any infection from these secondary pathogens.

On the Anthracnose front, the latest and greatest theories on control of this nemesis, aside from cultural practices that promote plant health, is to start your preventative spray applications early and continue them into the late fall. I'm about to embark upon a prophylactic study that basically involves off-season fungicide applications, especially on *Poa annua* greens; the methodology behind the madness being to simply manage for healthy *Poa annua* during the entire growing season. Of course, if the weather continues along its current trend, y'all might be spraying for *Pythium*, *Rhizoctonia*, and *Moellerodiscus* in December anyway.

This theory isn't as far fetched as one might think... and while it may seem to be a pathogen prevention conspiracy brought on by the major chemical manufacturers, I assure you it's not. The majority of superintendents who have had great success fending off Anthracnose are those who have consistently been on Summer Patch prevention programs beginning in early March and have extended their preventive applications into November. In other words, managing for healthy *Poa annua*. As time goes by, I think we'll be all hearing more about this type of strategy.

Entomologically, the region is currently experiencing its fourth generation of cutworms. If the weather continues down its current path, we may see a fifth generation... while this may excite the Dr. Heller's of the world, it's just another reminder of how severe the drought has been. Grub damage is being seen in certain areas, although the severity seems to be spotty.

An interesting bit of information pertaining to grubs... information coming out of Rutgers is that Japanese Beetle grubs are no longer the most commonly found grub. In fact, it seems the Japanese Beetle is now fourth or fifth on the population charts. While this may not seem like a big deal, it could be depending on what other grubs are chowing down on your turf.

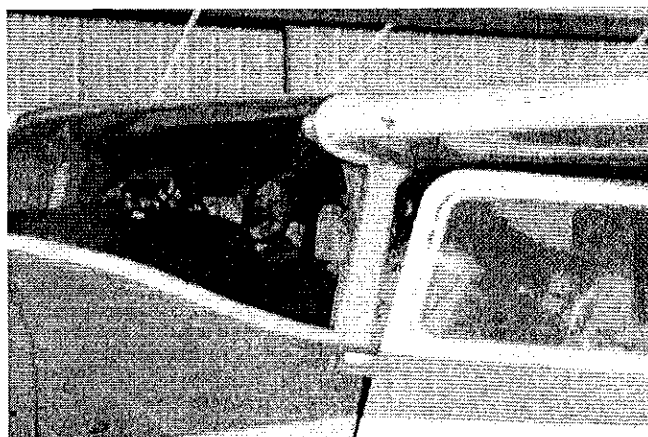
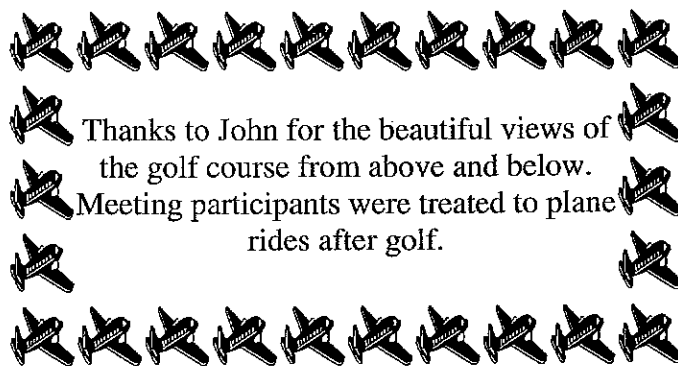
Of the two primary pre-emergent grub control products, Japanese Beetle grubs are the only grub species that are commonly controlled. Most of the other species can be controlled by one product or the other, but generally not by both. This means a superintendent needs to accurately identify which species of grub is munching on his or her root systems prior to determining the best control product. This means break out those old raster pattern charts and start digging!

Well, I believe we've reached our depression limits for this issue... it's still warmer than normal and drier than ever before; there's more diseases to manage than ever before and less management options for prevention and/or control; there's more opportunistic insects feasting on your dried-up, disease-ridden turf (not to mention, now you have to start looking at grub asses); and of course, *Poa annua* is just lying in waiting for the chance to proliferate and predominate... as the saying goes... it's always darkest just before it goes pitch black!!! Hang in there, my friends, only three months until the winter solstice. Chin up and all that sort of stuff... that's my hot, dry, fungal-laden and entomologically-opportunistic point of view from the Heather and Gorse.

Upcoming Events

- **October 21, 2002** - 26th Annual Joseph Valentine Memorial Golf Tournament, Whitemarsh Valley Country Club, Lafayette Hills, PA.
- **November 5-7, 2002** - Penn State Golf Turf Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, Penn State University.
- **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.



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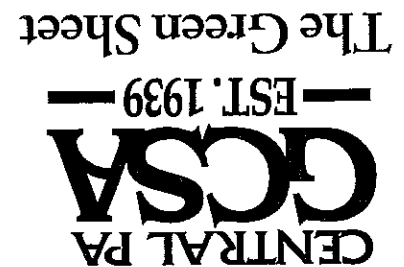
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Mark Your Calendars!

Central Penn GCSA
has scheduled the following
GCSAA Chapter-Hosted seminars for 2003.

January 23

Effective Uses of Soil Amendments in Golf Course Management

January 24

The Microbiology of Turfgrass Soils

Newsletter Deadline

If you have any information that you would like included in the September newsletter, please fax information to Wanda at (717) 279-0368 or e-mail to cpgcsa@nbn.net by **October 23, 2002**.