

April Meeting

*This is a joint meeting with the
Keystone Golf Course Superintendents
Association*

Susquehanna Valley Country Club

April 16, 2003

11:00 AM - Speaker

12:00 Noon - Lunch

12:45 PM - Shotgun

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

Superintendent Profile

Greg Bingeman has been Superintendent at Susquehanna Valley Country Club for 31 years. He is a 1969 Penn State University turfgrass graduate.

Golf Course Profile

Susquehanna Valley Country Club is a private club that was established in 1918. It was originally a nine hole course. The back nine which was designed by William Gordon was opened in 1958.

Susquehanna Valley Country Club
Hummel Wharf, PA 17831
Phone: 570-743-7052

The speaker for this meeting is Mark Hartle from the PA Fish Commission. Mark's presentations will be "Multiple Methods to Control Weeds in Ponds".

This presentation provides 2 credits in Aquatics (Category 9).

Mid-Atlantic USGA Update

HAS SPRING SPRUNG?

By Stanley J. Zontek, Director
Updated 3-24-03

At the risk of being wrong, the answer is a resounding, 'yes.' The phone is ringing off the wall with some very interesting questions.

1. When can we open the course?

By the time this update appears, practically every golf course will be open for play in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Because of the winter, some golf courses, especially those with shaded fairways and putting greens, no doubt were opened too early. Superintendents are reporting some rutting. Basically, while the surface may be thawing out, the underlying ground is still frozen. Until that frozen ground thaws, the water from melted snow and ice is trapped near the surface. In this situation, any traffic, whether foot or wheeled, will cause a rut. The best bet is to wait until the ground thaws and the soil is relatively dry and firm under foot.

2. Should I spray for snow mold?

It all depends whether the snow mold you see is still active and what the short-term weather outlook is for your area. On some golf course visits made last week, more snow mold has occurred this year than in recent memory. This includes gray snow mold in such unlikely areas as northern Virginia.

Gray snow mold needs an extended period of snow cover, which we had in abundance this year. Fortunately, in the Mid-Atlantic Region this type of injury was superficial in nature and the grass underneath seems to be little damaged. The fungal mat from gray snow mold should be raked up, dragged, or generally opened up so that the good grass underneath is not suffocated.

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President's Message

What a winter it has been! It is hard to believe that this time last year we were all gearing up to attempt to grow grass in the midst of a drought emergency. This year, I'm sure you are waiting, as I am, for some drying conditions to be able to install drainage. Thankfully, this winter was one where we could relax and regroup from a tough year. Hopefully, the cold weather has killed off many of those pests we have been dealing with for the past couple of seasons.

Last year, the monthly golf meetings were very well attended and we hope to continue that trend this year. Enclosed you will see the meeting sites and dates. Please mark your calendars and plan on taking advantage of getting together with turf professionals who have all had the humble experience of dealing with the many challenges of the golf business. And we all know that it's not just about growing healthy grass!

I'll see you at Susquehanna Valley Country Club on April 16th for our joint meeting with Keystone. The long range forecast for April 16th says sunny and 83! And we know the forecasts are always right!

Have a great season!

Bill Brooks

Central Penn Night

To all members of the Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents I want to thank this opportunity to thank you all for the Dave Rafferty award bestowed upon me for 2003. The award affair was a wonderful event and much gratitude goes to the committee and to all of you who attended.

The ceremony was intended to be a celebration of Dave's life and it proved to be a success. For me to be compared to Dave was quite an honor to which I will cherish forever. As this perpetuates through the years it should become a "need to attend" event to honor your "man of the year" and Dave's legacy but more importantly, be a vehicle to bring together our membership and families for a night of fellowship, comingling, and comradeship.

Again, to all of you involved, thank you, and for those of you who missed the event, we hope to see you next year.

You missed a great event !!

Jim MacLaren

Bonnie Rafferty and Jim MacLaren joined by committee members:

(L-R)
Greg Borzok
Sam Snyder
Bonnie Rafferty
Jim MacLaren
Chuck Cadiz
Jim Jones



PRESIDENT
WILLIAM E. BROOKS
HANOVER COUNTRY CLUB
(717) 259-8706
wbrooks547@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT, SOCIAL
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(717) 432-3711
regc@pa.net

SECRETARY/TREASURER
FARON STOOPS
WAYNESBORO COUNTRY CLUB
(717) 762-6370
fstoops@comcast.net

PAST PRESIDENT/SCHOLARSHIP
DANIEL W. ACHENBACH
FOXCHASE GOLF CLUB
(717) 336-3847
foxgreens@dejazzd.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
MARK MACDONALD
REGENTS GLEN COUNTRY CLUB
(717) 505-4664
rgmaint@earthlink.net

MEDIA/PUBLIC RELATIONS
THOMAS MAHUTE
AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE
(717) 892-1455
fscmahute1@aol.com

BYLAWS/CHAPTER RELATIONS
MARK DELSANTRO, CGCS
AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE
delsantro@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP
JOHN COLO
SPRINGWOOD GOLF CLUB
(717) 747-9088
jc5288@aol.com

STEVE LUDWIG
GETTYSBURG COUNTRY CLUB
(717) 334-0441
sludwig@blazenet.net

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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.

Craig Esbenshade, Superintendent
Lancaster Host Resort Class B

Edward Keil, Superintendent
Lehman Golf Club Class A

James Laubach, Assistant Superintendent
Bucknell Golf Club Class C

Ben Tresselt, Owner
Arborist Enterprise, Inc. Class AF

Matthew Turner, Superintendent
Wintergreen Resort Class B

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

David Ellison, Superintendent
Chisel Creek Golf Club Class B

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact John Colo at Springwood Golf Course (717) 747-9088.

From the Editor

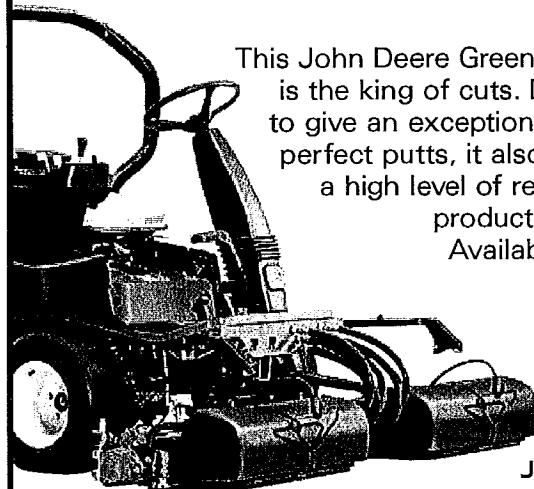
Wasn't that a long cold fall! I don't know about you, but we had a heck of a time keeping our employees busy. We all have that three page long "to do" list, but how much of it can you do with all that snow cover? Did anyone do anything besides pruning trees, painting shop floors, watching safety / training videos or waxing equipment?

I would love to hear from anyone who found time to do something constructive, that typically you could not find time to do in the off season. Your ideas will be included in May's Greens Sheet. Please email your responses to me at rgmaint@earthlink.net.

Mark MacDonald

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

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- Ideal Bedknife Grinder M-50
- Antique Toro Power Roller
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- Pneumatic wheels for Toro gang units
- GVM Pull-behind sprayer unit (200 gallon)
- FMC Sprayer and boom (100 gallon)

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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!!

USGA Update.....cont'd from page 1

Pink snow mold can be active without snow. It needs cool, damp, and cloudy weather to occur.

3. When should I spray my Embark T&O for Poa annua seedheads?

The quick answer is – very soon. Follow the normal recommendations on the label. The best results are achieved by monitoring the Poa annua on your golf course. Look for the first seedheads emerging or scout the turf to see the seedheads beginning to form at the base of the stem. There is a very narrow window, usually in the 2-3 day range, for applied growth regulators to obtain good suppression of seedheads.

4. Should I delay my traditional early spring aeration?

This is a tough question to answer. While each golf course is different, and generalizations are not correct for all situations, the quick answer is probably yes. If there was a positive aspect to this winter's weather, it is that the grass received no traffic. The winter freeze and thaw cycles are natural soil aeration. Thus, while the grass may not need a traditional early spring aeration, some form of aeration will be necessary later in the spring to repair the damage caused by early traffic.

These are the most frequently asked questions our office has received in recent days. If others arise, or if we can be of assistance in any way, just give us a call. Stan Zontek (szontek@usga.org) or Darin Bevard (dbevard@usga.org) at 610/ 696-4747 and Keith Happ (khapp@usga.org) at 412/ 341-5922.

Heather and Gorse

By Mark V. DelSantro, CGCS

One of the best quotes I've ever heard... *"Going to war without France is like going hunting without your accordion!"* Donald Rumsfeld, US Secretary of Defense talking about France's failure to support the US in the war against Iraq.

Spring has finally sprung my friends... and what a winter it was! Makes one contemplate moving south to grow all of those warm season turfgrasses. I'm trying to remember the last time that we had a winter that sidelined essentially all outdoor projects. I'm sure it wasn't that long ago, but it sure seems like forever!

It seems like the majority of golf course superintendents were straining their brains in an attempt to create new and different things to keep their staff members busy. One superintendent told me, "We've painted the tee markers, the benches, and the shop three times... I'm thinking about putting everyone through an embroidery class so that we can make our own flags!" My take on it is simple... worry about what you can control and take advantage of the hand you're dealt.

I think it will be interesting to analyze and evaluate the effects of the severe winter on turfgrass pests. My belief has always been that severe winters generally knock the populations of secondary pests back to non-competitive levels. This is especially intriguing considering the relationship of these secondary pests on the incidence of anthracnose. Of course, this doesn't mean you can take the summer off... but it will give this writer something to write about.

So another exciting golf season is upon us and I hope everyone is well rested and prepared. I thought the CPGCSA Education Meeting was well put together. Once again, thanks to Pete Ramsey for all of his time and effort in putting such a great group of speakers together. I especially thought the lead off speaker was top notch! Of course, nobody gets fired in Central PA do they? Seriously, while I'm sure the weather kept the attendance down, I thought the content was solid through out the day.

The 2003 golf season has a lot of things about which all golf fans should be excited. Tiger Woods has made a splash already this year. He had knee surgery last December and didn't play an event until February. I guess the R & R did him some good... he's won several events since returning and is currently in position to win his fifth straight Arnie Palmer Bay Hill Invitational as this article is being written. Good thing he has the ability to overcome such inferior equipment and still manage to dominate the tour. Bygones Phil!

Of course, the golf press would have the general population of fans thinking that Ernie Els was going to give Tiger some competition based on his dominance of the January and early February tour events. I guess they all forgot that in today's PGA Tour, when Tiger plays with his "C" game he wins most of the time... if he plays with any game better than that, the contest is for second.

By the way, we did have a Ty Tryon sighting at the Bay Hill Invitational and shut my mouth, he did make the cut. I hope he makes me stick my foot in my mouth. It certainly wouldn't be the first time!

The PGA Tour is going to have a new look at two of the tour events this upcoming summer. That new look will be females competing directly against the guys, from the pro tees. Now this is a novel idea... Martha Burke should be all over this one. At Colonial Country Club in Dallas, TX in May, Annika Sorenstam is going to be the first female since Babe Dedrickson to play in a PGA Tour event. She was given a sponsor's exemption and since then the golf writers have been busy.

The thing that bothers me about this is that she has gotten more press from accepting a free invitation than the other woman who actually earned her invitation to the big dance. Suzy Whaley, a club pro in Connecticut, competed against her male counterparts in their sectional event last fall and won the event outright. This victory earned her the right to play in the Greater Hartford Classic PGA Tour event in July. And yet, all the golf writers write about is Annika. Furthermore, the timing of the whole situation smells megalomaniac-ishly fishy! Don't get me wrong, I like Annika! I just would respect her more if she actually earned her invitation, as opposed to having it gifted to her tax-free.

Finally... God, bless America! Bombs are bursting over the skies of Baghdad, Iraq, we are at war, and Martha Burke is upset that the local judge in Augusta, GA won't let her protest off of Magnolia Lane during the Masters. Instead he granted her a permit to protest about one half mile away from the entrance. But that's not good enough for Martha... she's taking her own personal war to a Federal Courthouse. Maybe her and Casey Martin can share notes at the local Augusta Diner. It is amazing what people will do to get their names in the newspapers!

Well it is time to put this scatter-brained heather and gorse to rest. In these times of war, remember to keep your families close, be thankful for what you've got, keep your thoughts and prayers with our service men and women in Iraq, pray for their safe return with minimal casualties, and be sure to keep your life in the proper perspective. This is my patriotic, springtime, inferior, megalomaniac, and protesting point of view from the heather and gorse.

Member Spotlight on Warren Savini

By Tom Valentine

I think Warren Savini was a bit dazed when it dawned on him during our interview that he has already amassed over 30 seasons on golf courses. As the son of a Superintendent, he was barely a teenager when he started working on the crew at Overbrook Golf Club for his father, Warren Sr.. "Woody" as his father is known worked at Overbrook for much of the 60's, 70's and into the 80's. Warren is quick to point out that the "Old World Work Ethic" was applied to the full extent during his tenure. "The Superintendents that were around during that time worked as hard as anyone today and they had many of the same self-imposed high standards that we embrace today, but they had only the most rudimentary of tools to employ." It was a "can do" attitude that my Dad's crew had and I'm sorry to say it's one that I think is slipping away today. "I try and incorporate as much of those old ways of management with today's latest technology"

After his time at Overbrook GC, he got a taste of what it was like to work in the public sector at the municipally owned Paxon Hollow Golf Club. He stayed at Paxon for much of the 90's until moving on to Plymouth Country Club in 1998. He said he could have happily stayed at Plymouth for many years, but he couldn't resist applying for his "dream" course, Rolling Green Golf Club, when the position opened two years ago. In his first year there he supervised the re-grassing of greens, tees and several fairways that were devastated by "Bacterial Wilt". He showed me a card that Maryland's Dr. Dernoden had sent to him thanking him for the best photos of the disease he'd ever taken. Although this was not an honor any superintendent would want to claim, Warren's good sense of humor took it all in stride. We touched on a variety of topics during the interview, but my favorite response came when I asked him if he'd ever want his daughter to marry a superintendent, he jokingly replied "only if I wanted to get back at her!"

Tom: Are the members at clubs today anymore knowledgeable about what you do than they were in your Father's day?

Warren: Our local and National associations have made an effort on illustrating the importance of communication, but the constant change in Greens Chairman and other club officials presents a real challenge in getting everyone up-to-speed on what's happening out on the golf course. I would like to add that the GCSAA does have a lot of helpful information, but you have to pursue it. I don't believe that the average superintendent is taking full advantage of the GCSAA resources.

Tom: How often are you in front of the membership?

Warren: They invite me to the member-guest events and I try and play throughout the season so I can see the course the way they see it, but you have to exercise some restraint and not be out there too much.

Tom: You mean like Owsik or Gustaitis?

Warren: Exactly, but don't print that OK?

Tom: Don't worry, I won't.

Tom: How do you balance the demands of family and job?

Warren: I've been married for over 20 years now and thankfully my wife Barbara understands the commitment and has been supportive of the fact that when summer hits I'm logging the long hours with little vacation time available. With that said though, I remember an article John Segui wrote some years back urging us to take the time even during the season and I think he is absolutely right. I can remember my Father loading us up in the old '63 Ford and sending us to the shore without him. Maybe here's a case where the old work ethic needs to be eased up. I mean my daughter is 18 now. The time just flew by!

Tom: It's kind of like you're always on call. How much do you bring home with you?

Warren: Hey, if the President of the United States can go to Camp David for a week of R&R during this intense time in the world, we ought to be able to take a week off during summer. If there's a problem while I'm away all they have to do is call me on my cell, but to be truthful, it's really a lifestyle and not just a job. I'm sure many guys share the experience of being at a family barbecue on a Saturday afternoon and then the weather turns nasty. It's hard to resist that urge to drive by and make sure your guys are out there cooling things off.

Tom: More and more superintendents are taking that step into general management positions. Is that something you see yourself doing in the future?

Warren: I never had any aspirations to do that, but as I look around me now it's clear that the average age of a superintendent seems to be dropping and I have to ask myself, do I really want to be in this kind of labor intensive business in 10 or 15 years from now? It's not that easy to make that transition from Superintendent to GM and the ones that make that move are really talented guys.

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

Tom: As a longtime board member of the PAGCS and it's unofficial humorist what changes have you witnessed?

Warren: We are starting to get back to the "united front" attitude that really existed in the early days of the association. I think in my Father's time there was a feeling of "we're all in this together" and they wanted to help each other out when times got rough. Maintaining that kind of camaraderie in today's competitive climate is not an easy thing to do. When a course hits troubled times, and we all do, the wolves are always poised to move in. Although, I can't remember a time when our association was stronger and much of the credit goes to the last several Presidents.

Tom: What does the future of the PAGCS look like?

Warren: We have a lot of bright guys in the PAGCS and we need to keep mining these resources to strengthen our group. I would like to encourage all new and current members to get involved with the PAGCS. The same feelings of accomplishment that you feel about your golf course you can experience in this Association. I've enjoyed my involvement in the PAGCS on the different committees and in particular as the Golf Chairman. I was also very pleased with the way our association responded to the anthracnose outbreak that occurred in 2001. One of the reasons we set up those emergence meetings was to let all club officials know that anthracnose was a problem affecting almost all of us. This kind of organized solidarity among colleagues is the ultimate goal of any association. I think there were many jobs saved as a result of our response.

Tom: What advice would you give to someone thinking of entering the business today other than they ought to have their head examined?

Warren: There are no shortages of guys who come out of school and are immediately looking to go into some kind of managerial position and I think they are missing an opportunity to expand their knowledge of the industry. What I mean is, I've done every job you can think of on this crew. A lot of young guys never grinded a blade or operated a backhoe. I think it's a huge advantage knowing what goes on in every facet of this business. It'll help you set realistic goals of what you can accomplish as well as gain a good insight on what to look for when hiring.

Tom: There seems to be a lot more titles on crews today?

Warren: I think that you could run the risk of not getting a well-rounded education if you were only a spray tech or spent all season as an irrigation assistant or whatever. Lets face it, if you hire a guy coming from a mid or low range public course, you know they've done it all because they've had to. I always thought the measure of a good superintendent was when they produced conditions that went beyond what their budget might indicate. You can only achieve that through varied work experiences and time.

(Warren is a member of Central Penn as well as Philadelphia, our thanks to Tom Valentine for sharing this interview.)



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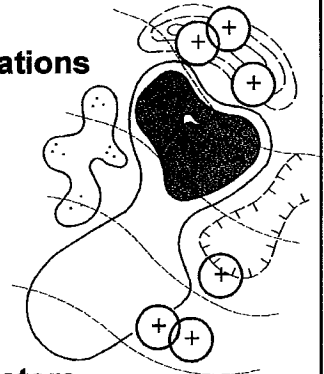
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GCSAA Scholarships

Applications are now available for the following scholarships administered through the GCSAA Foundation.

- The GCSAA Legacy Awards, application deadline is April 15, 2003.
- GCSAA Scholars Competition, application deadline is June 1, 2003.
- GCSAA Watson Fellowships, application deadline is October 1, 2003.

Application booklets and additional information can be obtained by contacting Pam Smith, Scholarship Manager, at (800) 472-7878, ext. 678. This information is also available on the GCSAA Web site at <http://www.gcsaa.org/career/pursuing/scholarships/scholars.html>.

Uncertainty

By Darin S. Bevard, Agronomist

Updated 3-5-03

As winter slowly erodes into spring, one word continues to surface, and that is uncertainty. Prolonged snow cover followed by warm temperatures, rain, and repeat freezing temperatures have raised some concern in those areas that still retain significant snow cover. Many superintendents in the northern parts of the Mid-Atlantic Region have indicated that ice accumulation is now present beneath the snow. Should the snow be removed, or do we let nature take its course? Building on the theme of uncertainty, as agronomists we do not have a sure answer to this question. At the very least, it may be necessary to monitor shaded and pocketed tee and green sites.

As warmer temperatures arrive, some removal of the heaviest snow accumulation will likely be beneficial. At the very least, you will accelerate the snow and ice removal process that will help you identify a problem if one exists. For example, dark colored turf with a foul odor is a good indicator of ice damage. Patches of snow mold will be self evident. Be careful not to damage the underlying turf during the snow removal operation!

In the southern parts of the region the question is whether or not bermudagrass winterkill will be an issue. Again, there is no sure way to tell until warmer temperatures arrive and grass begins to grow. It is likely that shaded and poor drained areas will suffer some damage. Many of these areas have literally been saturated or frozen for three or four months. This condition seldom is a good thing. Of considerable interest will be how well 419 bermudagrass performs in areas such as Richmond, VA, where planting of this particular variety has greatly increased in the last five years. Time will tell.

If you are uncertain about whether or not winter damage has occurred to any turf areas, do not hesitate to remove a plug of turf and place it in a warm, sunny indoor location. In a short period of time the grass should green-up and grow. If it does not, you may want to take further samples to determine whether widespread winter damage has occurred to the turfgrass.

As winter winds down, do not forget about the USGA Regional Conference on March 20th at Woodholme Country Club just outside of Baltimore, MD. Topics include new problems on greens, annual bluegrass weevil, factors affecting green speed, and course marking. These meetings are organized to provide information for golf course superintendents, general managers, golf professionals and course officials. For more information contact Jim Farrell, USGA Regional Affairs, phone # (401) 295-5430 or jfarrell@usga.org, or call Pat or Marti in the West Chester office (610) 696-4747.

Overall, the Mid-Atlantic Region agronomists feel that most of the turfgrass will come out of the winter very well. However, there is no way to be sure, and we are still uncertain of the weather that will occur over the next few weeks. This is a critical time. We can only hope for a mild spring that will allow for delayed projects to be completed, good spring green-up to occur, and a positive start to the 2003 golfing season. Until the weather permits good turfgrass growth there will continue to be a large degree of uncertainty with regards to the impact of the winter on overall turfgrass health. Now is the time to discuss contingency plans at your golf course in the event any significant winter turf loss does occur!

As always, if the Mid-Atlantic Region agronomists 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.

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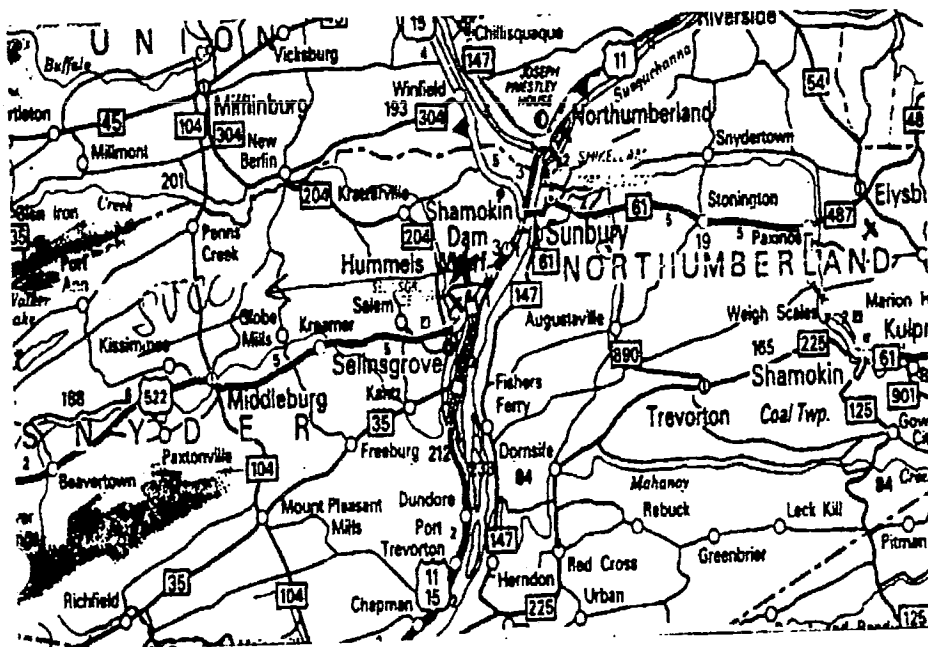
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Directions to Susquehanna Valley Country Club

Routes 11/15 North. Turn left onto Mill Road to SVCC entrance. (Past Susquehanna Valley Mall and Pep Boys)



Thank You

The CPGCSA Board of Directors and the Dave Rafferty Distinguished Service & Leadership Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the planning of Central Penn Night. We would also like to thank those individuals that attended to make the evening a success.



Jim MacLaren
January 25, 2003

And finally, congratulations again to Jim MacLaren, this year's recipient.

For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the May newsletter, please fax information to Wanda at (717) 279-0368 or e-mail to cpgcsa@nbn.net by April 18, 2003.

Restoration, Sympathetic Redesign, or Renovation?

By: Edward F. Shearon, III – Shearon Golf

When assessing a golf course and making a decision as to the best way to revive its physical features and appeal, there are three redesign styles to consider: **restoration**, **sympathetic redesign**, and **renovation**. The first step in deciding which style is right for your course is to gather insight from the Club's membership. A membership survey is the best way to garner this information. The survey will help determine members' likes and dislikes and areas of concern that need to be addressed, all broken down by demographics. The resulting information can then be summarized and used as the basis for research and strategy development by a committee comprised of the course superintendent, golf pro, and various levels of players within the club, with the design team acting as a consultant.

A **restoration** is the basic level of redesign. By studying archived pictures and plans, the course can be restored as it was originally built. With the plans and pictures as a guide, the original shapes of bunkers, tees, and greens that may have been altered over the years through maintenance practices, can be re-established. By restoring the nuances of the architect's original design, you can capture the essence of the course as it was intended. However, there are some disadvantages to this process. Unless you apply the same technology (i.e. hickory-shafted clubs and gutta perch balls) and agronomics (i.e. green speeds) as in the past, the course's original intent will be lost and will no longer have the shot values to challenge the best players, but instead penalize the higher handicap golfer because of the locations of the hazards.

A more desirable approach is to develop a **sympathetic redesign**. In this approach, the course will be restored to its original design while making slight modifications that allow for changes in technology, agronomics, and environmental issues. In order to have the course play to its original objective, it must be lengthened, hazards moved out, and tees pushed back. The use of computer-aided design allows for the re-creation of the design intent while taking modern factors into consideration.

The top concern when doing a sympathetic redesign is safety. The Urban Land Institute recommends 300-foot corridors – 150 feet from the center of each fairway to adjacent fairways or property. Few classic courses meet this requirement. A master plan will attempt to mitigate this concern and many others by way of mounds, hollows, tree plantings, and bunkering. If the safety concerns are not addressed, liability will become an issue. Drainage is another important concern that must be addressed when developing a sympathetic redesign. Due to upland development, many classic courses are now being flooded. A strategy must be developed to remove this additional water as quickly as possible to prevent any turf damage. The membership demographics must also be taken into consideration. Most classic courses were originally designed for the male golfer playing fewer rounds per year. Now, a course must cater to all types of players, including women, seniors, and juniors, by adding new tee boxes and adapting for an increase in the number of rounds.

A **renovation** is the third design option. This approach entails the complete redesign of a course without regard for the original intent of play or style. A renovation is usually chosen when a course is in need of modernization in regards to agronomics, technology, environmental issues, and player demographics. A renovation may also occur when land is sold or acquired and necessitates the re-routing of various holes. Re-routing may also be necessary if it is decided that the infrastructure (i.e. parking lots, clubhouse, tennis courts) of the course needs to be relocated.

Regardless of which design style you choose, having a master plan is vital. The general objective of a master plan is to provide maximum playability for the membership, enhance the aesthetics of the course, and allow for the most efficient maintenance. This plan will also provide you with the existing conditions of the course that should prove useful to generate in-house discussion and comments on existing problems and proposed solutions. By having a set, coherent plan, alterations to the course can easily be implemented in one stage or be broken down into multiple stages, regardless of turnover in staff or membership. As the master plan will serve as the basis for the future of the course, much painstaking effort should be parlayed into its development.

Whether embarking on a restoration, sympathetic redesign, or a renovation, it is imperative that you select a quality golf course architectural firm. Having a firm that will take the time to gather the necessary information, skillfully design a master plan, and work harmoniously with the contractor during its implementation is essential in the success of the redesign process. With over 4,000 new golf courses built in the last ten years, competition for rounds is steadily increasing. If existing courses remain stagnant, they will lose their original design intent and shot value and may fall behind in the campaign to attract new members.

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Thanks to our supporters!

D. Mark MacDonald - Editor
Wanda S. Fry - Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 1420
Lebanon, PA 17042



Gullibility's Travels

A junior high student won first prize at a science fair with his attempt to prove the old adage that "figures don't lie, but liars figure". The student urged people to sign a petition opposing the everyday use of the chemical dihydrogen monoxide. He offered plenty of good reasons, all of which are strongly supported by legitimate research:

- Dihydrogen monoxide is one of the major components in acid rain.
- In its gaseous state it can cause severe burns if it contacts the skin.
- It can cause excessive sweating, choking, and vomiting.
- It has been found in tumors of terminal cancer patients and in the kidneys of those requiring dialysis.
- Accidental inhalation can be deadly.
- It contributes to soil erosion.
- Due to runoff from farm fields, the chemical is found in every major American river, affecting both fish and wildlife.
- It is proven to significantly decrease the effectiveness of automobile brakes.

Of the people he asked to support a total ban on dihydrogen monoxide:

- 86% said they supported banning the chemical's use altogether.
- 12% said they were undecided
- Only 2% opposed the ban, knowing that dihydrogen monoxide is --
- water.

The title of his prize-winning project was, "How Gullible Are We?"

2003 CPGCSA Meeting Dates

May 13	Golden Oaks Golf Course Stuart Hartman
June 17	Wyncote Golf Club Adam Bagwell
July	TBA Joint Meeting with PAGCS
August 19	Galen Hall Country Club Bob Mogel
September 15	Lebanon Country Club Jeffrey L. Fry, CGCS Dan Brickley
October 9	Springwood Golf Course John Colo Annual Meeting