

August Meeting

Conestoga Country Club

Joint Meeting with the Philadelphia
Association of Golf Course
Superintendents

August 31, 2004

10:30 AM - Speaker

11:30 AM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Shotgun

5:00 PM - Cocktails

6:00 PM - Dinner

There will be a CPGCSA Board of Directors
meeting at 8:30 AM.

Mid-Atlantic USGA Update

Summer Aeration

By Stanley J. Zontek, Director

August 2, 2004

We all should learn something new every day. Last year, the Mid-Atlantic Region agronomists began to better appreciate the importance of summer aeration.

Some background information to explain this update seems appropriate. In this region, the summer of 2003 was one of the wettest in history. With soils that stayed wet and saturated for so long the grass did not have a good root system. To encourage rooting, and also to dry out wet soils, aerating greens using solid tines, high-pressure water, quadlines, and the traditional spikers of old helped to keep the grass alive.

What made this work practical was the fact that with the aeration equipment of today, surface aeration only disturbs the surface of the green for a short period of time. Thus, this work is good for the grass without antagonizing golfers who tend to hate the thought of putting green aeration.

In the summer of 2004, an increasing number of superintendents continue to do this work. It recently has become very wet (the Baltimore area has experienced the wettest July ever), and the response to summer aeration is the same; new roots are extending into the soil through the aeration holes. We should all be reminded that grass roots only grow in the presence of air. Thus, even these small holes help to aerate the soil, relieve surface compaction, and stimulate new root development. Aeration holes also improve drainage through the organic mat, and generally help to dry out wet soils.

Remember, we are not talking about hollow tine aeration with large diameter tines. It is small, closely-spaced tines that continued on page 7.....

Golf Course Profile

Mark Hendrixson began working in the Philadelphia area at Rolling Green, Llanerch, and Coatesville Golf Clubs. He is a 1985 Penn State graduate and has been at Conestoga Country Club since 1988. Mark and his wife Cathy live in Lancaster with their six children. They are very grateful for their faith in God, a wonderful family, and to live in the greatest country. God Bless America.

Superintendent Profile

Conestoga Country Club was built in 1948. The golf course architect was William Gordon. The golf course was constructed on 120 acres of old farm land. Conestoga was named after the original Conestoga covered wagons that were built in Lancaster, Pennsylvania to take the long journey west.

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President's Message

In my first message this year I said it could not be as wet as last year. That statement finally caught up with me. Although warmer temperatures could have made things much worse much sooner. It has been a difficult month in the Central Penn with the recent passing of two of our members and a tornado ravages the course of another. Now many of us are reenrolled in a crash course on Grey Leaf Spot. For me this has not been a factor since 1999. Thoughts of conversion or a war chest of fungicides are rushing back to me. Regardless, it is very reassuring to see how members in our association come together to help each other through Mother Natures fury.

The end of August we are taking on the Philadelphia Association in a head to head match play event for The Super's Cup at Conestoga Country Club. I have told Philly's President the cup will not be leaving the Central Penn this year. Please try to contain the celebration when we win this year, we don't want any controversy in the commonwealth. The forms for the CPGCSA Scholarship and DSA Award are out and would encourage nominations for those. Fall is just around the corner; we will all make it one way or another. My son and I are off to Steelers Training Camp, see you at Conestoga with you're A game.

Pete Ramsey

Directions to Conestoga Country Club

1950 Stonemill Road Box 4043
Lancaster, PA 17604

Conestoga Country Club is located on Stone Mill Road, which is off of Route 741 which runs East-West through Lancaster. -

From Harrisburg:

Take 283 East to 741 East. Cross over Route 30, and continue on 741 East for approximately 2 miles. Turn left on Stone Mill Road. Conestoga Country Club is 1/4 mile on right.

From York:

Take Route 30 East to 741 East. Continue on 741 East for approximately 2 miles. Turn left on Stone Mill Road. Conestoga Country Club is 1/4 mile on right.

From Reading:

Take 222 South to Route 30 West to 741 East. Continue on 741 East for approximately 2 miles. Turn left on Stone Mill Road. Conestoga Country Club is 1/4 mile on right.

From Philadelphia:

Take 76 (PA Turnpike) to Exit 21. Take 222 South to Route 30 West to 741 East for approximately 2 miles. Turn left on Stone Mill Road. Conestoga Country Club is 1/4 mile on right.

For Your Information

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 August 31, 2004.

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Daniel W. Achenbach
William E. Brooks

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.

Mike Fidanza, Professor
Penn State University Class H

Reid Mitchell, Sales Representative
Finch Services, Inc. Class AF

Edward W. Smith Jr., President
A & E Turf Supply Class AF

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

Jason Shambaugh, Assistant Superintendent
Hanover Country Club Class C

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Steve Ludwig at (717) 334-0441 or Jim Byrnes (717) 786-0547.

Our Sympathies to:

The family of George Hamilton. George passed away on July 9, 2004.

The family of Greg Wargo. Greg was killed in a motorcycle accident. He was the Superintendent at Rich Maiden Golf Course.



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



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Upcoming Events

- Penn State Golf Turf Conference
November 9 – 11, 2004
Nittany Lion Inn, State College
- Eastern PA Turf Conference and Trade Show
January 11 - 13, 2005
Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia
- Northeastern PA Turf Conference & Trade Show
January 27, 2005
The Woodlands Inn & Resort, Wilkes-Barre, PA
- Golf Industry Show
February 10—12, 2005
Orlando, Florida
- Western PA Turf Conference and Trade Show
March 1-3, 2005
Greater Pittsburgh ExpoMart, Monroeville, PA

Golf Report

The golf results from the July Meeting at Hanover Country Club are as follows:

Low Gross 144

Jim Carville
Bill Rahling
Faron Stoops
Dan Davis

Low Net 122

Galen Evans
Harry Grove
Mark Gutshall
Tim Davisson

Wacky Ball 69

Ted Zabrenski
Tom Ocepek
Stuart Hartman
Brian Ahrens

The golf format at the August meeting at Conestoga Country Club will be Individual Match Play – Central Penn vs. Philadelphia to retain the Supers Cup.

George W. Hamilton, Ph.D.

It is with great sadness that we inform you that Dr. George Hamilton Jr. passed away on Friday evening, July 9, 2004 after a year-long battle with cancer.

George had been involved in Penn State's turfgrass program since 1982, serving successively as Research Technologist, Instructor, Senior Lecturer, and Assistant Professor. In December of 2001, he completed his Ph.D. working in Turfgrass Stress Physiology. George was the technical advisor for the Two-Year Golf Course Turfgrass Management Technical Program and taught courses in cultural turfgrass management and golf course specifications, construction, and renovation. George's other responsibilities included coordinating the turfgrass research facilities, and serving as the advisor to the Penn State Turfgrass Club. He also conducted research in turfgrass management and developed new technologies for the turfgrass industry, including products such as PennMulch.

George's positive outlook, innovation, and commitment to students and the turfgrass industry will be greatly missed.

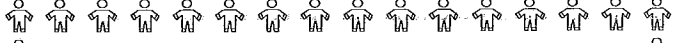
In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, 2221 Rosecrans Ave, Suite 131, El Segundo, CA 90245.

August Education

The speaker for our August meeting will be Peter Landschoot, Ph.D. from Penn State University. Dr. Landschoot received his Bachelor and Master Degrees in Agronomy from Penn State University and his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from the University of Rhode Island.

Dr. Landschoot's primary responsibility at Penn State University is to serve as the resident extension turfgrass management specialist in Pennsylvania. This assignment involves organizing and implementing extension education programs and is accomplished through organizing large regional conferences; development of extension publications, slide sets, videos, and computer programs; contribution to newsletters and trade magazines; and participation in media events. Dr. Landschoot provides current management information to clientele through presentations at meetings, seminars, workshops, and field demonstrations. His research program focuses on integrated pest management with emphasis in disease management, use of composts as soil amendments in turf, turfgrass variety evaluation, and soil fertility.


Dr. Landschoot will speak on "Summer Stresses on Low Cut Turf".



CPGCSA Merchandise

There will be CPGCSA logo merchandise available for purchase at upcoming meetings.

Golf Shirts.....	\$35.00
Windshirts	\$40.00
Hats.....	\$10.00



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Heather and Gorse

By Mark DelSantro

Another fabulously enjoyable British Open! During the seventy-six holes of top notch tournament golf, in which the little known Oklahoman Todd Hamilton took home the Claret Jug, there was a wonderful combination of windy and calm conditions, rainy and sunny skies, green and brown turf, soft and firm bunker sand, perfect and imperfect lies, experienced and inexperienced touring pros, and heather and gorse! And yet with all of these inconsistencies, there were no complaints about the green speed, the color of the turf, the inconsistency of the sand, the bumps in the greens, the divots in the fairways, the length of the clumpy rough, the softness of the heather or the harshness of the gorse.

It never ceases to amaze me how polar opposite the golf cultures are between the British Isles and the US. And it never ceases to amaze me how these cultural differences are illustrated so very well in two very different, yet very major golf tournaments in June and July.

As I'm writing this, I believe it fair to say that we've officially hit the dog days of summer. The heather and gorse theory of global cooling has continued to be on the mark as we've experienced our second straight summer of slightly cooler, but much wetter weather. And did I mention extreme? There were at least ten days in July that we had the air conditioning off and the windows wide open. In the nineteen years I've lived in this area, this has happened, uh, can you say never!

I happened to be in New Jersey on July 13th, the morning after the Medford area got 12.5" of rain in a relatively short period of time... not good! Something like five dams that were interconnected through the area burst leaving 100's of people stranded and at least one golf course without irrigation for the remainder of this golf season. Another golf course had several four-foot tall swaths of sand across their golf car paths. Man-o-man-o-chevitz, this was truly a disaster area, if ever I've seen one.

Of course, one didn't need to be in New Jersey to experience extreme weather. The very next day, July 14th, I happened to be in Hershey, PA when another severe thunderstorm came through the area. The skies were very dark, it got extremely windy and very rainy and it even hailed a bit as four or five of us weathered this thunderstorm scrunched into Sean Henry's little concrete office at Wren Dale. Little did we know at the time that about five miles southward a tornado was ripping its way through part of Campbelltown, PA eventually rearranging the layout at Fairview Golf Club in Lebanon.

You know, I never did like the way those two large Maple trees forced you to hit out to the right on the opening hole... but they're not a problem no more! Seriously, visiting briefly with Jim Jones, a few days following the twister, he estimated that about 300 trees were lost, but thankfully, and some may even say miraculously, no one was killed. But, once again, this was an extremely grim reminder that one should never mess with Mother Nature.

Speaking of extreme conditions... thanks to the weather, we've seen some extraordinary growing conditions coupled with some intense disease outbreaks.

As for the growing conditions... well, it is August and just take a good look at your non-irrigated rough areas. In my travels around the area, I've yet to see any of the browned out rough areas that are normally associated with this time of year. In fact, I got to believe that the fuel costs associated with having to constantly run the rough mowers are putting a strain on some golf facilities.

At my house... ever since I officially boycotted watering my turf about twelve years ago... for the first time ever (or as far back as I can remember) I've had to mow every week through July and into August. I definitely need to adjust my growth regulator rates, especially since I applied a slow-release fertilizer that tends to release more nitrogen every time it rains.

Let's stop and think about this for a brief moment... especially if you're having issues with your growth regulator performance. Anything that stimulates plant growth (i.e. cooler, wetter weather and nitrogen) will tend to adversely affect the performance of your PGR's. With the excess rain, the type of fertility release mechanism of your granular fertilizer becomes a rather important issue. While some fertilizers release microbially, most release mechanisms involve moisture, meaning every time it rains, a little more nitrogen is released.

On the other hand, PGR's do require a certain amount of fertility to function properly. I've seen on more than one occasion over the past few years where golf courses were too lean on the fertility for the PGR to perform at normal levels. Additionally, under saturated soil conditions, there tends to be a denitrification process that takes place... thus, while you may think you have enough fertility, the reality is that you may not!

As far as what is the right amount of nitrogen... from what I've extrapolated from several in depth and thoughtful conversations with area superintendents is that four pounds of nitrogen per year (plus or minus depending on your growing medium) seems to be a tell tale number through out the region, for one primary reason to be discussed in a few paragraphs from now. Unfortunately, there are many variables that may move you slightly up or slightly down from this poundage, but inevitably, that seems to be the magic number I keep hearing.

Regardless, it's ultimately always highly recommended to have an unsprayed check plot on your greens, tees, or fairways... a nursery green, driving range tee, or practice fairway will usually do quite nicely. I know this is often easier said than done, but given the weather this summer, while you may be unhappy with your PGR performance, you may be surprised at how well they actually are working and how bad off you'd be without them!

.....continued on page 7

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

On the disease front... while it was mentioned that it has been slightly cooler than normal (i.e. not that many 90+ degree days), it certainly has been warm enough for fungi to proliferate, especially with the excessive humidity, moisture and high dew point temperatures. At the top of the list of moisture diseases, dollar spot has been at the forefront of most round table discussions.

In my travels through out the region I've seen a definitive trend with this disease. Bad-da-boom, bad-da-bing, and suddenly, presto-chango, we're back at that magic four pounds of nitrogen per year (plus or minus depending on your growing medium). Riddle me this Batman... why is it that few and far between have been the times that I've seen dollar spot and brown patch munching on the same fairway at the same time? It is a one-word answer and I'll give you a clue... it starts with an N, ends with an N, and has an I-T-R-O-G-E in between!

Seriously folks, while I was once a leading proponent of and participant in keeping turf as lean and mean as possible, I believe the problems we've seen with dollar spot are directly correlated to fertility or lack thereof. I've not spoken to one golf course superintendent in the past month that has had severe dollar spot problems and fed their turf to the tune of (take a guess) at least four pounds of nitrogen.

In simplified terms... the golf courses around or above four pounds of nitrogen have not had the dollar spot problems of those below this threshold. In fact, all of these more fertile blokes have disclosed to me that the biggest disease issue they'd faced to that point was brown patch.

The other great coffee house debate out there regards liquid vs. granular fertilizer applications... while as one might anticipate, I do have an opinion on this subject, I'll digress and save it for another rainy day, which given this summer's weather pattern, just might be tomorrow or the next day for sure!

So, I know what y'all are thinking. Just this afternoon an assistant superintendent asked me the \$164,000 question... "So, is it better to be lean and battle Dollar Spot or be more fertile and battle Brown Patch and Pythium?" After I picked myself off the floor, simply due to the fact that never since the day I first met John Colo can I recall an assistant who had the capacity to put so much philosophically deep thought into such a complex question, I answered in my most perplexing Caddy-shack Zen way... "The Zen philosopher Basho once said, a flute without holes is not a flute and a doughnut without holes is a danish!" And then after buying a little more time, I gave the more open and honest answer... "The fact of the matter is that as an aged turf professional, I'm not young enough to know the answer to that question anymore!" The assistant looked more confused, but the superintendent gave me an understanding smile.

Thank goodness football season, tailgates, and cooler nights are but a few weeks away! Hang in there everybody. That is my inconsistent, complaint-free, globally-cooled, tornadic, always irrigated, never fertile, simplified, and always questioned point-of-view from the heather and gorse.

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USGA.....continued from page 1

offer the most benefit in this situation. The larger tines are used for soil modification, thatch removal, etc. Be careful not to confuse the type of tine to be used in summer aeration.

If your golf course is considering subscribing for a Green Section Turf Advisory Service visit our calendars for the month of August are becoming full. We still have some openings, so give our offices a call sooner vs. later.

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/ 558-9066 or Keith Happ (khapp@usga.org) at 412/ 341-5922.

Equipment For Sale

We will continue to advertise "used equipment" and "equipment wanted" in monthly newsletters. If you have anything that may be of interest, please contact Wanda.

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GCSAA News

Submit Your Chapter's Voting Delegate and Alternate Statement Form by October 1

The deadline to appoint your chapter's voting delegate and alternate for the 2005 annual meeting and election in Orlando is Oct. 1. The voting delegate is the individual who attends the GCSAA annual meeting and casts votes on behalf of your affiliated chapter.

Golf Industry Show Registration Opens Sept. 15

A new show, new solutions and new opportunities—that's what you will find in Orlando in February 2005.

Be on the lookout for the Golf Industry Show and GCSAA Education Conference brochure! The brochure will be poly-bagged with the September issue of Golf Course Management magazine. It will provide you with all the information you need to know about this new and exciting events.

You will also find information about housing and travel. GCSAA will offer a wide variety of hotels ranging in rates from \$74 to \$235. Complimentary shuttle bus transportation will be provided from all hotels that are not within walking distance. Start making plans now to attend. Registration will open Sept. 15, 2004. For more information, please visit golfindustryshow.com.

2005 EGR Awards Nomination Deadline Oct. 15

Nominations are being accepted for the 2005 GCSAA Excellence in Government Relations Awards, which were established to recognize GCSAA members and chapters for their government relations efforts and accomplishments in the areas of advocacy and compliance. Any GCSAA member superintendent, assistant superintendent or chapter is eligible to receive the award. Current members of the GCSAA Board of Directors (or their immediate families) are not eligible. All nominations must be received by Oct. 15, 2004. Visit GCSAA Online to learn more about the EGR Awards and to complete an application form.

Watson Fellowship Awards Deadline Oct. 1

The Watson Fellowship awards \$5,000 to second year candidates for masters and doctoral degrees in fields related to golf course management. The goal of this program is to identify and reward tomorrow's leading industry teachers and researchers. Applications must be postmarked by Oct. 1.

The Toro Company, in honor of Dr. James Watson, provides funding for the program through The Environmental Institute for Golf. For more information and an application go to GCSAA Online.

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The First Tee

During the August 31st joint meeting with PAGCS and CPGCSA, we will be taking donations for the "The First Tee of Susquehanna Valley at Crossgates Golf Course". The First Tee was developed to impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character-development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf.

Each child that submits a registration also has to have a fee of \$25 attached to it. Some children cannot afford this fee. This is where we as golf course industry professionals can give back to the community. We will be taking small donations at the August meeting hoping to support at least 10 children (\$250).

Please feel free to visit their web site at: www.thefirstteesvpa.org at your leisure to learn more about the "The First Tee". You can also donate your time with the kids as a volunteer in the evenings at Crossgates Golf Course.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact John Colo at 717-843-2190.

Even if you are not a golfer you may find this interesting!

- The following is not intended to offend fans of tennis, basketball, football or baseball. It is, rather, an attempt to put everything in its proper perspective.
- Ever wonder why golf is growing in popularity and why people who don't even play go to tournaments or watch it on TV? The following truisms may shed some light:
- Golf is an honorable game, with the overwhelming majority of players being honorable people who don't need referees.
- Golfers don't have some of their players in jail every week.
- Golfers don't kick dirt on, or throw bottles at, other people.
- Professional golfers are paid in direct proportion to how well they play.
- Golfers don't get per diem and two seats on a charter flight when they travel between tournaments.
- Golfers don't hold out for more money, or demand new contracts, because of another player's deal.
- Professional golfers don't demand that the taxpayers pay for the courses on which they play.
- When golfers make a mistake, nobody is there to cover for them or back them.
- The PGA raises more money for charity in 1 year than the NFL does in 2.
- You can watch the best golfers in the world up close, at any tournament, including the majors, all day every day for \$25 or \$30. The cost for even a nosebleed seat at the Super Bowl costs around \$300 or more unless you buy it from scalpers in which case it's \$1,000+.
- You can bring a picnic lunch to the tournament golf course, watch the best in the world and not spend a small fortune on food and drink. Try that at one of the taxpayer funded baseball or football stadiums. If you bring a soft drink into a ballpark, they'll give you two options -- get rid of it or leave.
- In golf you cannot fail 70% of the time and make \$9 million a season, like the best baseball hitters (.300 batting average) do.
- Golf doesn't change its rules to attract fans.
- Golfers have to adapt to an entirely new playing area each week.
- Golfers keep their clothes on while they are being interviewed.
- Golf doesn't have free agency.
- In their prime, Palmer, Norman, and other stars, would shake your hand and say they were happy to meet you. In his prime Jose Canseco wore T-shirts that read "Leave Me Alone."
- You can hear birds chirping on the golf course during a tournament.
- At a golf tournament, (unlike at taxpayer-funded sports stadiums and arenas) you won't hear a steady stream of four letter words and nasty name calling while you're hoping that no one spills beer on you.
- Tiger hits a golf ball over twice as far as Barry Bonds hits a baseball.
- Golf courses don't ruin the neighborhood.
- And Finally : Here's a little slice of golf history that you might enjoy.

Why do golf courses have 18 holes - not 20, or 10, or an even dozen?

During a discussion among the club's membership board at St. Andrews in 1858, a senior member pointed out that it takes exactly 18 shots to polish off a fifth of Scotch. By limiting himself to only one shot of Scotch per hole, the Scot figured a round of golf was finished when the Scotch ran out.

Thanks to Ron Diefenthaler at Colonial Country Club for this article.

Aer-Core, Inc.
William Rahling, Rich Valentine
Bob Eichert, Dennis DeSanctis
 47 Heron Hill Drive
 Downingtown, PA 19335
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Andre & Son, Inc
Rich Gdovin
 2 Mill Street
 Montrose, PA 18801
 (607) 761-9465

A J Sales Associates
Chip Presendofer, Jake Straub
 1011 Church Road
 Oreland, PA 19075
 (215) 886-6011

BASF
Ted Huhn
 2819 Blue Ball Road
 Elkton, MD 21921
 (410) 398-8244

Bayer Corporation
John Wiblshauser
 318 E. Glenside Avenue
 Glenside, PA 19038
 (215) 887-8936

Davissan Golf, Inc.
Ron Nichols
 200-F Penrod Court
 Glen Burnie, MD 21061
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Egypt Farms
Fred Heinlen
 P. O. Box 223
 White Marsh, MD 21162
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Erl & Henry Equipment, Inc.
David "Tiny" Heimbach
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Finch Services, Inc.
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Drew Weaver
 North Wales, PA
 (800) 875-TURF
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 (800)-78-DEERE

CPGCSA Supporter List

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Fisher & Son Company
Thomas Mahute
 3009 Gloucester Street
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 Box 247
 Buckingham, PA 18912
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Grass Roots
Steven Chirip
 P. O. Box 336
 Mount Freedom, NJ 07970
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Helena Chemical Corp.
Jim Byrne
 94 Tanglewood Drive
 Quarryville, PA 17566
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Leroy Hurst
 4126 Oregon Pike
 Ephrata, PA 17522
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Hydro Designs, Inc.
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Jade Run Sod Farm
 P. O. Box 216
 Bethel, DE 19931
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Lawn & Golf Supply Co.
Greg Borzok, Ted Zabrenski
 647 Nutt Road,
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 Phoenixville, PA 19460
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 Wind Gap, PA 18091
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Outside Unlimited, Inc.
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 (215) 345-7200

Shearon Golf
Charlie McGill, Jr.
 337 Route 31
 Hopewell, NJ 08525
 (609) 466-0666

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Paul Wickey, Jim MacLaren
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 (717) 664-4204

Syngenta
Mark DelSantro
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 Glenmoore, PA 19343
 (724) 433-8332

Turf Management Assoc.
Thed Fraleigh, Jr.
 151 Valleybrook Road
 Lancaster, PA 17601
 (717) 917-5361

Tuckahoe Sand & Gravel
Ray Zelek, Ron Carusi
 Route 610 & Sharp Road
 Tuckahoe, NJ 08250
 (609) 861-2082

Watson Irrigation Supply, Inc.
Tim Watson, Chris Thomas
 4021 North Sixth Street
 Harrisburg, PA 17110
 (800) 999-1630

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The Green Sheet



2004 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

September 21 Honeybrook Golf Club

**October 18 West Shore Country Club
Annual Meeting**