

July Meeting

Blue Ridge Country Club

July 13, 2005

11:00 AM - Speaker

12:00 Noon - Lunch

1:00 PM - Shotgun

5:30 PM - Hors d'oeuvres/Cash Bar

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

Superintendent Profile

Scott Fischer has been at Blue Ridge Country Club since July 2003. Scott started out at Manada Golf Course during high school. After receiving his two year certificate from Rutgers in 1993, Scott was the assistant at Colonial Country Club and Dauphin Highlands Golf Course before taking his first Superintendents position at Red Lion Country Club. After three years at Red Lion Country Club, Scott went to the dark side as a sales representative for Lesco.

Scott is married to his beautiful wife Michelle and has three daughters, Cassidy, 3 and twins Caitlyn and Jessica, 6 months. Scott's activities include changing diapers and beer tasting.

Golf Course Profile

Blue Ridge Country Club was originally a public golf course from 1932 to 1937. It was designed by George Morris and Calvin Black. The course is laid out over a gently rolling property, with scenic views and a nice atmosphere for golf. Blue Ridge is relatively narrow off the tee with small undulating greens. The greens are usually kept at a fast speed and can be quite tricky to putt from above the hole. The Golf Professional at Blue Ridge is Pete Micklewright.

**Blue Ridge Country Club
3940 Linglestown Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112**

Mid-Atlantic USGA Update

A Taste of Summer

By Stanley J. Zontek, Director
June 17, 2005

The pattern of weather extremes continues for the Mid-Atlantic Region. Depending upon where you live in the region, May was one of the coldest in at least 50-years. By contrast, June ties a 50-year record for the most consecutive days above 85 degrees. Wow...if we were statisticians this would all balance out. As turf managers, weather extremes present unique challenges for growing grass in this part of America.

Those reading this update may be surprised to learn that most of the problems on the golf courses are not disease related. There is disease activity, most notably dollar spot. Leaf spots were active in the roughs, but this is a common occurrence at this time of the year, and even reasonably fertilized and irrigated roughs normally grow out of this disease problem.

The real problem is mechanical damage. Two separate types are most prevalent. The first is mower damage. Weather contributes to part of this problem. While there may be some good scientific reason to explain what happens (which we don't know), the grass plant becomes "fluffy." When this occurs, more scalping tends to occur.

The second problem occurs when trying to mow wilted grass. When the grass is under wilt stress it should not be cut. Syringe the turf lightly in the morning and then mow the grass or, mow the grass and then lightly syringe to, "seal the cut."

The weather has cooled, but this period of hot weather should provide us with a hint of what may be ahead. Just be careful.

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.

Inside This Issue

President's Message	Page 2
Directions to Blue Ridge CC	Page 3
Membership News	Page 3
Heather and Gorse	Page 5
Green Sheet Supporters	Page 11

President's Message

Well Mother Nature gave us a sneak preview of what she's capable of later this summer. Fortunately it has cooled off in time to enjoy the U.S. Open. Know how Phil Mickelson must feel at Pinehurst. I also had a lot of bogeys at The Links of Gettysburg and played like a dog. The facility is a true test of golf. A.J. Moyer is doing an excellent job and I am proud to have him join the association.

Next month will not be any easier when we travel to Blue Ridge Country Club to see my good friend Scott Fischer. We have a full day planned for everyone with education, lunch, golf and cocktails. This will be almost like our very own U.S. Open. Enjoy the weather until the next Bermuda high shows up!

Pete Ramsey

Dear CPGCSA Member:

The CPGCSA Board of Directors has developed a scholarship for students pursuing a career in Golf Course Management. This scholarship is open to any college student who is currently a member of CPGCSA, employed by a member of CPGCSA or is the child of a member of CPGCSA. The deadline for applications is June 30 to insure there is a recipient for the upcoming school year. The scholarship recipient will be acknowledged at Central Penn Night.

Listed below are the CPGCSA Scholarship Guidelines:

1. Eligible Candidates:

Applicants must fall into one of the following categories:

- Students majoring in Golf Course Management at an accredited institution who are employed at least part time by a CPGCSA member.
- Students majoring in Golf Course Management at an accredited institution and are currently a member of CPGCSA in good standing.
- Students majoring in Golf Course Management at an accredited institution and are the child of a CPGCSA member in good standing.

2. Guidelines for Applicants:

- Applicants must have completed at least one year at an accredited institution.
- Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Applicants must submit a typed essay of no more than 300 words outlining his or her career goals and why they feel they are deserving of the CPGCSA Scholarship.
- Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation: one from an instructor and one from a CPGCSA member.

3. Timeline

July 11 – Deadline for submission of applications.

August 1 – Board will review applicant's information, approve and notify recipient.

Central Penn Night – ceremonial presentation of the award.

Additional applications can be obtained by contacting CPGCSA office at (717) 279-0368 or cpgcsa@comcast.net. If you know of a deserving student, Central Penn GCSA can help.

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Nominations
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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.

Joseph G. Baidy
Retired Class R

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

Gregory D'Antonio, Assistant Superintendent
Chester Valley Golf Club Class C

Grant Huffman, 2nd Assistant Superintendent
Chester Valley Golf Club Class C

Rebecca J. Matis, Assistant Superintendent
Blue Ridge Country Club Class C

Dr. David Spak, Field Development/Tech Service
Bayer Environmental Science Class AF

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Terry Bennett, 717-770-4725.

Directions to Blue Ridge Country Club

From Lancaster:

Route 283 West to 283 North. Route 283 North becomes 83 North. Merge onto 81 South, Exit 51A on the left. Take the Progress Ave. Exit 69. Turn left onto North Progress Ave. Follow North Progress Avenue for approximately 1 mile. Turn right onto Linglestown Road/PA 39 East. Blue Ridge Country Club is 1 mile on left.

From York:

83 North and then follow Lancaster directions.

From Carlisle:

81 North to Front Street, Exit 66. Take North Front Street to Linglestown Road/PA 39 East. Follow 39 East for three miles. Blue Ridge Country Club is on the left.

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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Golf Results

The following are the results from the June Golf Tournament at The Links At Gettysburg.

Low Gross

Terry Bennett and Ryan Freed 73

Low Net

Thom Mahute and Rob Brown 60

This month's tournament at Blue Ridge Country Club will be 2 Best Balls of Foursome.

For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the August newsletter, please fax information to Wanda at (717) 279-0368 or e-mail to cpgcsa@comcast.net by July 15, 2005.

CPGCSA Guest Policy

Guests will be limited to the following:

- One guest per member per meeting with the approval of the host superintendent. (As indicated on the reservation form)
- Sponsoring member is responsible for any costs to the host's club.
- A guest is limited to two (2) meetings per year with the exception of club officials or with Board approval.

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

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Heather and Gorse

By Mark V. DelSantoro, CGCS

There is some awfully strange and somewhat brilliant karma going around lately. Just a few days ago, I was driving past Valley Forge Military Academy when I started having flashbacks thinking about Tom Cruise and the movie Taps. I was approaching the academy from the exact perspective of one of the scenes where Cruise and his fellow cadets had barricaded themselves inside the gates and I thought that window right up there was about where he and C. Thomas Howell were during that siege. Suddenly I found my mind shifting gears and thinking about how silly and staged his couch trampoline incident seemed on Oprah regarding his affection for Katie Holmes (of Dawson's Creek fame). Now this morning I sat down to have a cup of java and read the paper and it seems that at nearly the exact time I was thinking about these little ole TomKats, they got engaged atop of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Totally weird in a very strange, metaphysical way! Does anyone think this means I'll be invited to the wedding or something like that!??!

On a more brilliant note, I believe that I've discovered the answer to every short, fat person's dieting dilemma. Forget the Adkins, forget the South Beach, forget the Hollywood, and forget every other fad diet on the planet. The newest smack-your-mama, heaven and earth moving, pound-reducing, sure-fire diet, guaranteed to shed those extra pounds and re-establish your girl-ish figure is none other than the Heather and Gorse diet. Git-R-Dun! The Heather and Gorse diet consists of three grossly simple things... Quaker Puffed Rice Cakes, Glenly's Barbecued Soy Chips, and Arthur Guinness Extra Stout. That's right, I didn't studder... Arthur Guinness Extra Stout, one of the best tasting, light beers in the beer universe. Now I know what y'all are thinking... Guinness as a part of a regular diet? Brilliant! I kid you not when I tell you that this has been the official Heather and Gorse diet for me over the past four months that has allowed me to melt away 33 pounds or 15.1724% of my body weight since coming home from Orlando. I'll let you rocket scientists figure out exactly how much I weighed prior to beginning this diet. I assure you it is not something of which I'm proud and it certainly isn't something to brag about!

The interesting thing is that in actuality, Guinness has acted as a governor of sorts... you must understand that with Weight Watchers they are extremely serious about you only losing one to two pounds each week. Additionally, they grant you a certain amount of flexibility in your eating habits. But considering my tendencies toward OCD, early on in my diet, I didn't figure I needed that flexibility, so I went full speed ahead with eating extremely healthy, directly off of their core food list. Fruits, vegetables, etc... nearly everything I consumed was either low fat or no fat and the pounds started to disappear rather quickly. But a few weeks later, I began receiving hate mail from the powers that be at Weight Watchers because, in their expert opinion, I was losing too much weight, too fast. Thus, my "keep it simple stupid" solution was as follows... lose the weight during the week and drink more Guinness on weekends to buffer my loss prior to my Tuesday morning weigh-in (more Brilliant!). Think of it this way... one can never get enough of one of life's simplest pleasures!

The challenge now is the re-evaluation of my weight loss goals... I've already hit my original goal, which was simply to comfortably fit back into my existing old clothes. Having lost three inches of rotundness and now that some of my old clothes are starting to look baggy, I now need to decide exactly how far I'm going to take this obsession. At my current pace, I'll have to go buy a new wardrobe by the end of July. I guess as long as I can continue to consume a pint or two each week, along with an occasional good cigar, life won't seem all that awful.

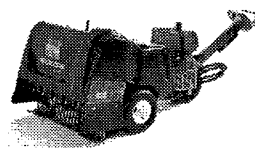
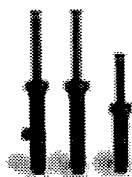
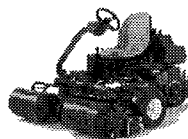
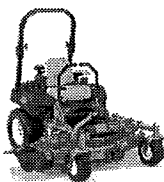
By the way, for those of you curious about how the puffed rice cakes and soy chips actually taste... well let's just say that the human brain is a brilliantly amazing organ... it can rationalize and essentially hypnotize you into thinking that cardboard with the right seasoning actually tastes good! Seriously, I think the key is that once you break your sugar addiction, which for me was huge, the cravings for Snickers bars, M & Ms, and Mountain Dews disappears as fast as Pythium on a cool, crisp evening.

Speaking of Pythium (how'd y'all like that transition? Brilliant!); let's talk briefly about the weather... we have gone from the refrigerator to the frying pan and back again over the past few weeks. After being so obscenely cool through out the spring, we suddenly experienced an 11 day stretch of weather that grimly reminded us why growing grass in the Mid Atlantic region sucks so stinkin' bad. Especially when a "Bermuda High" imbeds itself, dictates, and dominates the weather pattern for a while. We went from Snow Mold and Yellow Patch weather to Brown Patch and Pythium weather overnight. I think we had more > 85° F days over the past two weeks than we had all of last year and the soil temperatures jumped nearly 15 degrees during this spike. Additionally, I believe that we essentially covered the entire Compendium of Turfgrass Diseases during the past month. Of course, y'all know what they say... it's not the heat, it's the humidity, but the heat sure makes it a lot hotter!

On a final note... the US Open is going on as I'm writing this... much of the talk over the past week has been focused on the USGA and the golf course set up at Pinehurst #2. Seems no one wants a repeat of the Shinnecock Hills hand watering debacle that took place one year ago. Given the differences in the golf course styles and the general environments, as well as all of the abusive criticism the USGA took over the past twelve months, I'd be extremely surprised if the golf course is allowed to get out of hand.

That being said, I really don't have a problem with a US Open golf course being set up extremely difficult in an effort to challenge the world's best golfers and determine the best of the best for that week. I'm of the general belief that the PGA Touring

.....continued on page 7.....



Address: 4049 Landisville Road
Box 865
Doylestown, PA 18901

Cool Temperatures and Slow Bermudagrass Green-up

By Darin S. Bevard, Agronomist
June 8, 2005

Depending upon your location, the month of May was anywhere from the fourth to the tenth coolest on record. This has led to many minor problems in our travels. Discoloration of fairway bentgrass from repeated early May frosts and slow healing of putting greens from spring aeration have been very common laments. However, the loudest complaints have come from golf courses with non-overseeded bermudagrass fairways, especially those fairways that are primarily common bermudagrass. The slow bermudagrass green-up has led to increased discussion of perennial ryegrass overseeding of bermudagrass fairways. Before making any knee-jerk reactions, be sure to consider the ramifications of overseeding such as cost, impacts on base bermudagrass populations, weed control, transition problems, etc. This spring has been abnormally cool and we may not experience the same conditions next year.

Continued cool temperatures have promoted late season outbreak of diseases such as pink snow mold and cool season brown patch on putting greens. Usually, these diseases are associated with March and April. These diseases have been reported as far south as the Virginia Tidewater area within the past week. As long as damp, cloudy, and cool weather conditions persist these diseases can continue to occur. Resist the urge to spray fungicides unless symptoms actually begin to cause turfgrass loss on greens. Drier and warmer temperatures will stop these diseases very quickly.

For the past several years, our spring updates have mentioned damage and the potential for damage from the annual bluegrass weevil and measures for their control. It seems that the word has finally spread. Damage from annual bluegrass weevil has been far less this spring as golf course superintendents implement properly-timed insecticide applications and better scouting programs. To date, annual bluegrass weevil damage has been far less this spring than in the past two years. We still expect that this insect pest will spread to additional golf courses as it increases its range in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Monitor regional updates for further reports on this insect.

This spring, *Poa annua* populations have proliferated noticeably on greens and in fairways, especially where less aggressive *Poa annua* control programs have been implemented. If your golf course seems to have more *Poa annua*, you are not alone. Continue to implement growth regulator applications to try to suppress *Poa annua*. You may consider experimenting with some of the new *Poa annua* herbicides that are now labeled for use on fairway turf. They show great

promise, however, significant discoloration of desirable grasses occurs with applications of these products. Experiment with these products prior to widespread implementation on your golf course so that results can be evaluated.

Be prepared, when it does warm-up it will do so with a vengeance. Any bets we will transition from a cool spring to a hot summer?

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.

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

guys make way too many birdies and have it way too easy during the majority of the golf events through out their season. I think what most golf traditionalists were upset about was not as much the set up as the hand watering of that Par 3, in the middle of the final round, to slow the green speed down, only after several groups had already played the hole and then, on national TV, in front of millions of viewers, openly attempt to deflect the blame towards the maintenance staff. Ok, ok, ok, I know, we don't need to revisit it. Brilliant bygones!

I guess I just often wonder if the USGA had the opportunity to do it all over again, whether they would change their approach and accept full responsibility for the set up, which I believe they should have done from the start. If my Women's US Open experience in Baltimore back in the late 1980's taught me one primary thing, it was that for the week of the championship event, the golf course belongs to the USGA and whatever they say, whatever they desire, whatever they command... there is usually little negotiation and it gets done.

At Pinehurst, through the first three rounds, as it is Father's Day morning as I'm finishing this, Retief Goosen is the only competitor under par and to my knowledge, there hasn't been one complaint on the set up. So hopefully I'm not jumping the gun when I say kudos to the USGA for putting on a championship event that met all of their objectives and met all of the fans expectations, without any major incident. That's my always brilliant, strange, karma-laden, metaphysical, smack-your-mama, pound-reducing, Guinness indulging, hot and humid, stand up and always forthright, championship point of view from the heather and gorse.

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Comments in 1957

- "I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, its going to be impossible to buy a weeks groceries for \$20.00."
- "Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long when \$5,000 will only buy a used one."
- "Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?"
- "If they raise the minimum wage to \$1.00, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store."
- "When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon. Guess we'd be better off leaving the car in the garage."
- "I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas."
- Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday that they will be making more than the President."
- "I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now."
- I'm just afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business."
- "Fortunately I won't live to see the day when the Government takes half our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to Congress."
- "The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on."
- "I guess taking a vacation is out of the question these days. It costs nearly \$15.00 a night to stay in a hotel."
- "No one can afford to be sick any more, \$35.00 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood."
- "35 cents for a haircut, cut it all off!"

The nomination forms for the David Rafferty Distinguished Service Award will be mailed next week. Please take the time to review and nominate.

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PTC Calendar

Penn State Golf Turf Conferences, Nittany Lion Inn, State College

- November 15-17, 2005
- November 7-9, 2006
- November 13-15, 2007

Eastern PA Turf Conference and Trade Shows, Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia

- January 10 - 12, 2006
- January 9 - 11, 2007

Northeastern PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, The Woodlands Inn & Resort, Wilkes-Barre

- January 26, 2006
- January 25, 2007

Western PA Turf Conference and Trade Show, Greater Pittsburgh ExpoMart, Monroeville

- February 28 - March 2, 2006
(USGA Seminar February 27)
- March 6 - 8, 2007 (USGA Seminar March 5)

Don't Tread Lightning

*Presented by the
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America*

It always seems to happen when you are having the round of your life. The sky darkens, the wind picks up and the thunder begins to roll across the golf course. It's tempting to convince yourself and your playing partners that there is enough time to finish your round, or at least a few more holes. If you play on, instead of seeking shelter, your great round could become the last round of your life.

Every year more people are killed or injured by lightning than by tornadoes, floods or hurricanes. In fact, it's estimated that in the United States, as many as 300 people are killed by lightning each year. Because of the generally open areas with scattered individual trees, golf courses are dangerous places during a thunderstorm. A lightning bolt will take the shortest route between the cloud and the ground, which means that a golfer standing in the middle of a fairway or huddled under a tree is a prime target for a strike.

However, there are several safety measures you can take to avoid being hit by lightning:

- Seek shelter at the first sign of a thunderstorm. If the course's warning system sounds, take cover.
- If possible, get off the golf course or go to a designated lightning shelter.
- Do not stand under a lone tree. This is where most people are injured or killed.
- Stay away from water.
- Stay away from your golf clubs.
- If your shoes have metal spikes, take them off.
- Move away from your golf cart.
- If stranded in the open, go to a low place such as a ravine or valley.

First aid

If a player in your group is struck by lightning, the person is no longer carrying any electrical current, so you can apply first aid immediately. The golfer will be burned and have received a severe electrical shock. People who have been apparently "killed" by lightning can be revived if quick action is taken. If you must make a choice, treat those who are not breathing first -- those who are unconscious but still breathing will probably come out of it on their own.

First aid should be rendered to those not breathing within four to six minutes to prevent irrevocable brain damage. Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation should be administered once every five seconds to adults and once every three seconds to infants and small children. However, if the victim is not breathing and has no pulse, cardiopulmonary resuscitation is necessary, but should be administered only by persons with proper training. You should also check for burns along the extremities and around areas in contact with metal, give first aid for shock and then send for help.

For more information regarding golf course management practices, contact your local superintendent or the GCSAA at (800) 472-7878 or www.gcsaa.org.

*I hate
I love the trees
on my course!*

Golf course superintendents have mixed feelings about trees.

LOVE 'EM!

Superintendents adore trees. Esthetically beautiful, trees enhance players' privacy, comfort and enjoyment. A thousand healthy trees are a thousand assets.

HATE 'EM!

Superintendents also dislike trees. A hundred diseased, unhealthy trees are a hundred liabilities. Trees compete with turf. Twigs and branches always need clean up.

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Call today for an appointment with a highly qualified, certified arborist. We can help you determine an efficient and effective plan to manage your course's trees for you.

Let Arborist Enterprises help turn your love/hate tree relationship into pure love.

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Harrisburg, PA 17110
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cpgcsa@comcast.net
Lebanon, PA 17042
P.O. Box 1420

The Green Sheet



2005 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

August 15	French Creek Golf Club Joint Meeting with Philadelphia AGCS
September 27	Chambersburg Country Club