

The Green Sheet



Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

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October/November 2005



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2006 Golf Industry Show Will Move To Atlanta

Conference and Show Registration Is Open

Visit http://www.golfindustryshow.com to register for the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show. The event will be hosted by the city of Atlanta, Feb. 6-11, 2006. If you attended in 2003, you will remember that Atlanta has been revived and is a much more "happening" city. The new Aquarium which opens in late November is a fabulous addition to the downtown area and is the largest aquarium in the world. The hotels are in close proximity to each other. The Atlanta hotels have agreed to maintain the room rates offered to GCSAA in 2003. You may make your hotel reservations online or by calling (800) 442-7220 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday-Friday. Don't delay, plan now to attend.

Penn State Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program Now Accepting Applications

Applications are now being accepted for Penn State's Two-Year Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program for the class beginning in September of 2006. There is an application fee of \$35 and the deadline for applications is March 1, 2006. Applications can be obtained by calling (814) 863-0129, visit the website at http://cropsoil.psu.edu/academic/turfgrasst.cfm or by writing to Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program, The Pennsylvania State University, 456 Ag. Sciences and Industries Building, University Park, PA 16802-3507.

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President's Message

Lately it is very difficult not to have a cynical attitude about the golf industry. Now that some of the pressure is off and conversations with friends and colleagues can resume, some of them are not doing well or are out of jobs. Good men who poured themselves into their jobs only to see their best efforts trampled by the weather or some committee. The industry is almost unrecognizable from when I first joined the board eight years ago. Maybe by 2015 we will think '05 was a breeze. Adaptability is likely the key to our future. If it works for Poa it might work for us.

Take a rest, April will be here before we know it.

Pete Ramsey



Join Us in Congratulating this year's recipient of the David Rafferty Distinguished Service and Leadership Award.

Gregory Borzok

Information regarding Central Tenn Night will be mailed shortly.



Fast Recipients Jim MacLaren Charles Cadiz, CGCS Tevry Wueschinski, CGCS



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Mid-Atlantic USGA Update

(We hate to say it but...) GET READY FOR THE WORST

by Stanley J. Zontek, Director October 21, 2005

If you have attended USGA Green Section regional meetings in the Mid-Atlantic Region there has been a recurring theme in that this region of the country is experiencing a pattern of weather extremes. September was the driest month in more than 100 years and October will be the wettest month in the same time period. These type of weather patterns create grass-growing problems for the golfer, homeowner and turf manager. What to do?

We suggest that you grow...healthy grass. Maintain reasonable levels of fertility, promote root growth control thatch, and interseed or regrass with the most-improved and disease resistant grass varieties available. Then, when adverse weather occurs, follow a conservative management program.

A number of interesting discussions have occurred about traditional weather patterns following untraditional weather. The best guess from our friends at the Weather Channel as well as other private meteorologists suggests a cold, snowy and wet winter for at least our region of the country. This reoccurring weather cycle follows similar weather patterns dating back to the 1940's.

Remember the old Boy Scout motto, "Be Prepared."

- Complete fall construction projects. Don't start projects you may not be able to complete before winter sets in. The last thing you need is to have unfinished work to carryover to the spring.
- Complete fall renovation projects. Lay the last pallets of sod, complete final reseedings, and plant those last trees sooner vs. later.
- Grow healthy grass. Raise mowing heights, mow less, plan to make late fall and dormant applications of fertilizer. This helps to grow better roots while getting the turf off to a good start next spring.
- Are you ready for snow mold applications? Don't miss these applications, especially in areas where snow mold has traditionally been a concern.
- Winter Covers. In those parts of the region that utilize covers, make sure they are ready to go.
- Tree Work. Winter shade is never good for grass, especially on greens and tees. Consider doing tree work sooner vs. later so the grass has a chance to enjoy more hours of sunlight prior to going dormant.
- Drainage Work. Low spots that hold ice and water are never good. You still may have time to install drains and/or improve surface drainage prior to the winter.

The preceding is a checklist of things to consider heading into the winter. Most turf managers we visit are tired after a challenging season. Nonetheless, we still must prepare our golf courses for what could be a potentially harsh winter.

Finally, the winter turf conference season is beginning for the Mid-Atlantic Region. Remember the turf conferences scheduled for Penn State and West Virginia. These meetings are a good opportunity to discuss the season with your peers while, again, planning for the future. It is time well spent.

As always, if the Mid-Atlantic Region agronomists can be of assistance, contact Stan Zontek (<u>szontek@usga.org</u>) or Darin Bevard (<u>dbevard@usga.org</u>) at 610/558-9066 or Keith Happ (<u>khapp@usga.org</u>) at 412/341-5922.

Erosion? Flood Damage?

The Long-Term Solution -STREAM RESTORATION & STABILIZATION



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Golf Results

The golf winners from the Association Championship at Chambersburg Country Club are as follows:

Championship Flight:

Mike Benedict Faron Stoops

2nd Flight:

Terry Wueschinski

Ryan Freed

3rd Flight:

Pete Ramsey

Ben Ulevich

4th Flight:

Tony Goodley

Fred Heinlen

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)

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Heather and Gorse By Mark V. DelSantro, CGCS

Lord, I apologize for bustin' on all the criminals in New Orleans, yada yada, and the starvin' pigmies in New Guinea! Brilliant bygones! Seriously folks, I found it hard to believe that some seemed so aghast by the last H&G reference to the looters in New Orleans. My comments may have been in poor taste (again Lord, I apologize), but realize that they were only in response to what was being televised on every channel for days on end and they certainly weren't meant to belittle the devastation and tragedy of the situation down south. I hope everyone's thoughts and prayers are directed towards our brothers and sisters, no matter their ethnocentric backgrounds, that they may survive and get their homes rebuilt as fast as possible. If you believe that that which doesn't kill you only makes you stronger, then the people who live down south along the coast, who were impacted by the devastation, should be on the verge of morphing into some awfully serious stones!

As for up here in good old inland Pennsylvania, where devastation is defined as a running over some Amish Buggy horse excrement in a freshly washed automobile, it has been a feast or famine kind of month! At least this seems to be the consistent battle cry of the golf course superintendent. First it was too damn hot and dry and then it was too damn wet and furthermore, it never stopped to sniff the in between!

Hot and dry conditions dictated the weather pattern through September up until early October. Then the remnants of Hurricane Rita saturated the area for nearly ten days allowing us to experience, at least a little bit of nearly ½ of that biblical story regarding that great flood. I know more than one of you that were considering building an ark! As of the current conglomerate of low pressure systems along side the remnants of Wilma, we're nearly 14 inches above the normal October rainfall amounts. And lest we remember that October is normally the driest month of the year. Given this feast or famine attitude of the modern day superintendent, I'd say that y'all have evolved into modern day grass farmers of yore. Weather always has and weather always will dictate a substantial portion of your management strategy moving forward, whether you like or not!

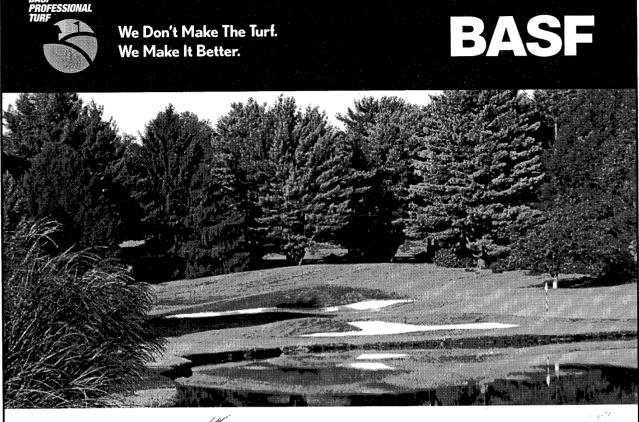
For me it was a good time to double check the health of my basement sump pump... I know mine ran for at least four straight days without a serious break during the first week of rain. Thankfully, with the exception of a ground fissure along the water line that enters my basement that the rain water found easily accessible given the excessive dry conditions, our home weathered the storm!

Additionally, in extreme weather circumstances, your weaknesses are always exacerbated. Excessive wetness exacerbates drainage issues, while excessive dry exacerbates your irrigation system weaknesses. The challenge for any golf course superintendent is to act immediately to improve those weaknesses. My experience is that golf course boards and memberships have short memories... they may remember from year to year whether the golf course was in good or bad shape, but they won't remember the cause of the conditions.

Thus, the opportunity is now if you want to sell your management on an improvement plan and/or project. A great example of this was 2001 through 2004. 2001 and 2002 were a perpetually droughty... no matter how good your irrigation system, that irrigation system only supplemented your turf until Mother Nature fed and nurtured her turf. 2003 and 2004 were cool and wet, irrigation weaknesses were quickly forgotten and suddenly drainage and/or a lack thereof became the primary issue with most golf clubs. In either case, your ability to capitalize on the problems and get some additional funding for improving the situation is part of the formula for longevity within this industry.

This past week we were all watching Hurricane Wilma, which at one time was being touted as the strongest hurricane ever, based on the barometric pressure readings from its core. It is amazing how fast these storms can develop. Wilma went from a tropical storm to a Category 5 hurricane seemingly in a matter of hours, only to be downgraded to a Category 2 Hurricane before slamming into Cancun, Mexico. It then turned eastward and raced through the Gulf of Mexico, briefly stopping in Southwestern Florida before heading nor'eastward to dump more rain on our region.

And I certainly learned something new this past week regarding named tropical storms... who knew that once you exhausted all the selected names, A through Z, that you automatically kicked into the Greek alphabet. Hell, if anyone knew that they ought to get some additional green partner points and/or join MENSA or something of the like! We've already seen tropical storm Alpha and according to the Weather Channel this morning are looking at a strong possibility that Beta is about to develop in the Caribbean. This global warming thing is really something... I mean, someone aught to consider syringing the globe to cool it down!

















For more information, contact Ted Huhn at 443-206-1095 or huhnt@basf.com.

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Heather and Gorse

Continued from page 5

like mad tillers! OK, maybe not that bad, but the ryegrasses and bluegrasses have been extremely happy! Lack of turf growth as of late has not been an issue. In fact, most guys are praying that a heavy frost comes soon to slow the uncontrollable growth so they can catch up on the mowing and trimming and think about letting golf cars back out onto the fairways. Unfortunately with the way this year has played out, I believe it will snow before we have a heavy frost, which will potentially create a whole set of new problems for the turf managers in the region, depending on whether it hangs and freezes and thaws and freezes, etc.

What is known for sure is that autumn is most definitely in the air and the golf season is quickly coming to close. I'm hearing many guys squawking about hunting trips coming up... bow season and shotgun season and the like. This year, more than ever, I'd say most have rightfully earned the vacation time. As for us darksiders, our season is really just beginning... have you hugged your favorite manufacturing or distributor rep lately? If not, you'll get the opportunity in the next few months... the two month barrage of programs and sales calls from every manufacturing and distributor sales rep in the industry known as the early order period is about to begin... coupled with education seminars, conferences, and the like, makes for a relatively hectic time for us lowly sales reps. So if you haven't already done so, brace yourself for the rush because the blitz is about to begin. 'Tis a dirty job, but 'tis the dirty job which has to be done.

So enjoy the fall equinox and the winter months that will follow... work on some golf course improvement projects... spend time with your family and friends... shoot straight and true... and remember that I like deer jerky! That's my final 2005, apologetic, horse excremental, excessively wet and wild, feast or famine, always improving, sometimes Greek, autumnal equinoxing, and early order blitzing point of view from the heather and gorse.

Mark DelSantro can be contacted either by e-mail at mark.delsantro@syngenta.com or by phone at (724) 433-8332

For Your Information

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

December 15, 2005.



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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.

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

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CPGCSA Scholarship

Dear CIGCSA Board of Directors,

Thank you very much for awarding me with your 2005 scholarship. This award will help me pay for both books and tuition for the upcoming school year. Thanks again for your generosity and I look forward to meeting all of you at the Central Penn Night.

Sincerely,

Galen Evans

A Superintendents Last Will

To my wife, my overdraft at the bank – maybe she can explain it.

To my banker, my soul – he has the mortgage on it anyway.

To my brother-in-law, my clown suit – he will need it if he continues to be a superintendent.

To the D.E.P., my unaffordable plans for a "compliance maintenance building" complete with a high-tech waste disposal.

To my director of golf, my stimpmeter, maybe he can get it to work to please the members because I never `could.

To the junk man, all my equipment, he had his eye on it for years.

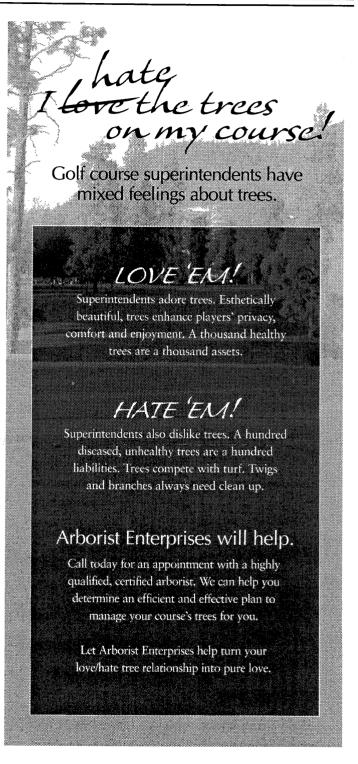
To the S.R.B.C., my flow meter for the recalibration, I sure as hell wouldn't want to short change them this year...especially on evaporation.

To my undertaker, a special request – I want six equipment and fertilizer dealers for my pallbearers. They are all used to carrying me.

To the weatherman, rain, sleet and snow for the funeral please – no sense in having good weather now.

To the gravedigger – don't bother; the hole I am in should be deep enough.

Tony Goodley, CGCS



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Pair to be honored at GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Atlanta

Cook, Zontek recognized by GCSAA for distinguished service

Thomas W. Cook, associate professor of horticulture at Oregon State University, and **Stanley J. Zontek**, director of the United States Golf Association Green Section's Mid-Atlantic Region, have been selected as recipients of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) Distinguished Service Award. They will be acknowledged at the Opening Session (Feb. 9) of the 2006 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Atlanta, Feb. 6-11. The Opening Session is presented in partnership with Bayer Environmental Science.

"Tom and Stan are most deserving of the Distinguished Service Award," said GCSAA President Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS. "They have made outstanding and significant contributions to the advancement of the golf course superintendent profession as well as to the game of golf. GCSAA is honored to have them as colleagues in the field of golf course management."

During his 20 years at Oregon State, Cook has developed, refined and continually updated the turfgrass management curriculum. Recognized for his professional and scientific expertise in the field, Cook was hired by the university in 1977 to develop an undergraduate program for students interested in the turf and landscape industry. As the expert in turf management in the Pacific Northwest, he has established modern golf course management standards in the region. He is a member of the American Society for Horticultural Science, American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and the International Turfgrass Society, among others. He is also a member of the Northwest Turfgrass Association, the Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Western Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Inland Empire Golf Course Superintendents Association, and serves as the advisor to the Oregon State University GCSA student chapter.



Thomas W. Cook

Zontek, the USGA's longest tenured employee, has been instrumental in serving golf course superintendents for more than 30 years, educating them on evolving agronomic practices. The son of a golf course superintendent, Zontek joined the USGA staff in 1971 and has been a director for the North Central, Northeastern and currently the Mid-Atlantic Green Section Regions. He serves on the Musser International Turf Foundation Board of Directors as By-Laws Chairman, has received the Don Rossi Humanitarian Award from the Golf Course Builders Association, the Eb Steinger Award from the Philadelphia Association

of Golf Course Superintendents and has overseen and participated in the maintenance of the putting green at the White House in Washington, D.C. He has made more than 4,000 Turf Advisory Service visits and regularly travels throughout the world to speak to the industry about basic and practical element of turfgrass maintenance and management.

The GCSAA board of directors selects Distinguished Service Award winners from nominations submitted by affiliated chapters and/or association members. First presented in 1932, the award is given to individuals who have made an outstanding, substantive and enduring contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent profession.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 20,000 individual members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Visit GCSAA at www.gcsaa.org.



Stanley J. Zontek

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

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4021 North Sixth Street Harrisburg, PA 17110 (800) 999-1630



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2006 CPGCSA Seminars

January 26, 2006
Plant Growth Regulators
Ronald Calhoun, Ph.D.

January 27, 2006 Successful Project Management Bruce Williams, CGCS