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Mid-Atlantic USGA Update

Fall Thoughts

By Darin S. Bevard, Senior Agronomist
November 2, 2006

Colder temperatures have arrived. Some warmer temperatures are forecast in the short term, but by the weekend freezing temperatures will dramatically reduce turf growth rates in much of the region. Maintenance programs are quickly changing to drainage projects, tree management, and other tasks that are difficult to complete during times of normal maintenance. Leaf removal also is an ongoing task. While a full staff is not required during the winter months, be sure to retain enough employees to allow necessary work to be completed, especially course improvement projects.

Unfortunately, several courses have pushed aeration of greens and fairways into later October to accommodate the fall golf schedule. In these cases, open holes will likely persist, leading to very bumpy conditions when weather is suitable for play in the latter part of the fall and winter. There could also be green aerator holes next spring! If these conditions are to be avoided, aeration must be scheduled earlier in the fall when the grass is actively growing so healing from aeration occurs before cold weather slows turf growth rate.

Frost delays are becoming commonplace in recent weeks. It seems this topic comes up on an annual basis. How much damage can it cause? Other courses play on frost, why can't we? Visible damage does not always occur under frosted conditions. In some instances, frosted turf can be traversed with no obvious damage. At other times, traffic on frosted grass leads to complete turf collapse. The challenge for the golf course superintendent is that we do not know when frost will cause damage or how much damage will be incurred with traffic on frost. Just

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From The President

It hardly seems like a year has passed since being elected President. But the new Board has been elected and it is time to move forward.

I thank the 2006 BOD for all their effort and hard work. They are a good bunch and we had a lot of ideas and discussion. Every chairman did a great job with organizing and performing the duties associated with his committee. And a special thanks to our "glue" that holds the Association together....Wanda Fry. She does so many hidden things, that only officers can truly appreciate. She is a very valuable asset to our Association. I also thank the membership for their support and attendance. I keep harping on "we are only as strong as the membership makes us, through attendance"...but it is so true!! We can always think of a reason or excuse *not* to go to a meeting...but why not think of a reason *to* attend. There are so many to choose!

The Annual Meeting was held at Lebanon Country Club (yes I got it right this time!!) on September 29, along with the Golf Championship. The golf course was in very fine condition and play was challenged by the windy day. Some ringer from Florida came in and beat me, on his old home course. So I guess I'm a loser again. But playing there made everyone a winner. Dan Brickley; Brian Decker and the maintenance staff had the place looking great! Thanks also go out to one of our former peers, Jeff Fry, GM, and the clubhouse staff, for the delicious food and hospitality; and to Mike Swisher and the Pro Shop staff. Thank you all for a great day.

Congratulations to the new BOD members and I wish you well. Please support them with thoughts and attendance as they lead us through another successful year. They are only as strong as...well, you get the picture!

Even with the elections completed the year isn't over. There are still more events to participate in from the Bunker Boot Camp to Central Penn Night. Come out and join the fun!

With that, I say see ya at a meeting! And thank you again!

Faron Stoops

USGA....continued from page 1

remember, the golf course superintendent is trying to protect the turfgrass for the long term. While frost delays are inconvenient, they are necessary to prevent the opportunity for weakening the turfgrass and creating other problems later in the season and next spring.

Finally, conference season will soon be in full swing. In fact, the Penn State Turfgrass Conference at University Park, PA begins next week. Too often, it seems attendance at conferences is geared around social events and how many pesticide applicator credits attendees receive rather than the educational value of conferences or certain presentations. Without a doubt, conferences are a social opportunity and a great time to catch up with old friends, but do not forget to take advantage of the educational opportunity they provide.

As always, if the Mid-Atlantic regional 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.

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CPGCSA Golf Championship Results

It was another beautiful day to play golf. The course was in great shape and perfect to test ones putting for our fewest putts contest. Thank you to Dan, Brian and their staff for those wonderful conditions. Once again I was glad to see all the familiar faces at the meeting, however I would like to see some new ones. We, the board, need your input to help make the meetings more successful in attendance next year. Voice your opinion by e-mailing me at rfreed@regentsglen.com or talk to me at the next meeting.

The results from the championship round at Lebanon Country Club were as follows:

Championship Flight

1st place - Deron Zendt	76
2nd place - Faron Stoops	78

2nd Flight

1st place - Dan Brickley	85 w/ tie breaker
2nd place - Barry Bollinger	85

3rd Flight

1st place - Ron Nichols	93
2nd place - Jim Byrne	98

4th Flight

1st place - Reid Mitchell	94
2nd place - Scott Keener	102

Fewest putts:

Faron Stoops w/ 26

Closest to the pins: Hats donated by Lebanon C.C.

Championship flight Hole #12

- Nobody (I thought that they were the best golfers of the group)

2nd flight - Hole #9

- Terry Wueschinski 13'6"

3rd flight - Hole#14

- Pete Ramsey 13'3"

4th flight Hole - #3

- Rebecca Matis 24'4"



Ryan Freed, Golf Chair
Golf Course Superintendent
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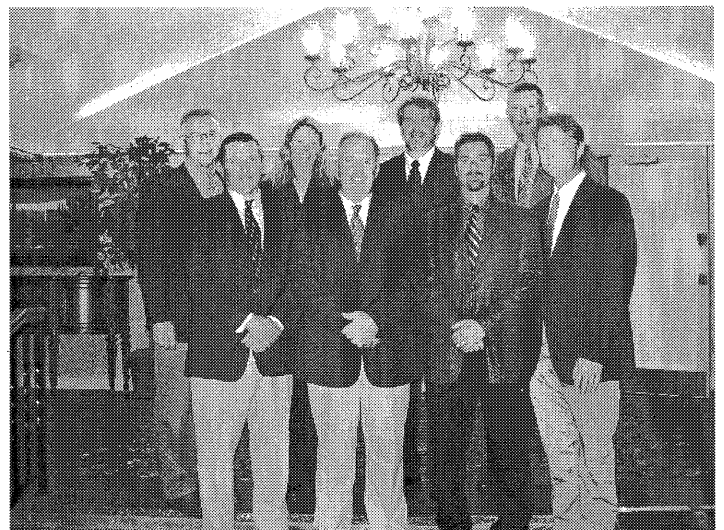
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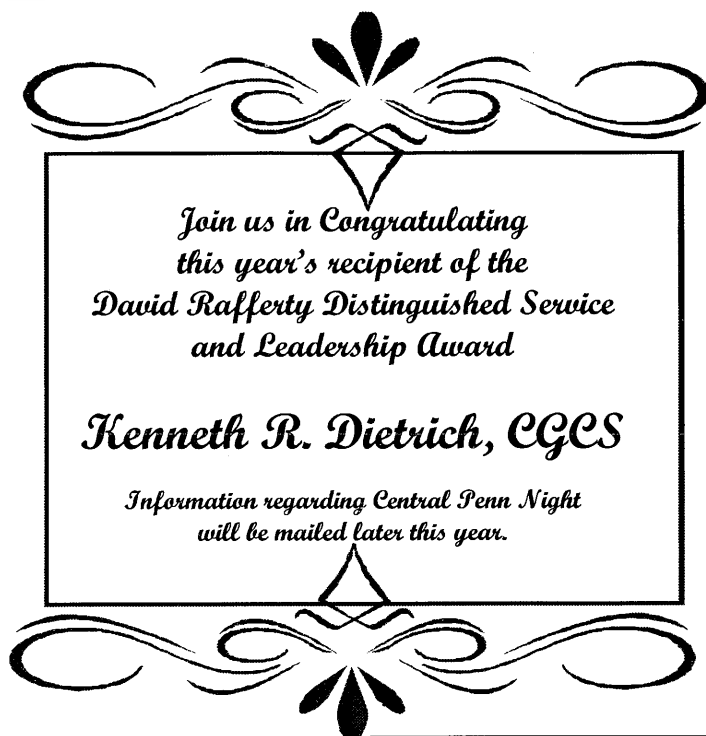
CPGCSA Board of Directors



Front row L-R: Dan Brickley, John Colo,
Ryan Freed, Matt Strader

Back row L-R: Greg Borzok, Rebecca Matis,
Faron Stoops, Jed Vail

Missing from photo: Barry Bollinger, Dave Ellison,
Mark DelSantro



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

Kenneth R. Dietrich, CPCS

*Information regarding Central Penn Night
will be mailed later this year.*

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.

Kenneth Crider, Jr. Class A
Great Cove Golf Club, Superintendent

John Dale Class C
Ledgerock Golf Club, Assistant

Brad Helcoski Class AF
Atlantic Irrigation, Sales Representative

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Matt Strader at 717-352-7360.

Our Sympathies are extended to the families of:

Byron "Corky" Knoll
Former Class AA Member

Robert Boehmer
Former Retired Member

Randy Howard
Former Member

*(Obituaries for Knoll and Boehmer can be found on the
Reading Eagle website - www.readingeagle.com)*

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Faron Stoops, Deron Zendt

Heather and Gorse

By Mark DelSantro

"The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over with the expectation of getting a different result!"

-- Albert Einstein

Let's get ready to rumble! It's been a while since I received any editorial criticism from some of my left wing liberal friends in south central PA. So as I sit here on the eve of All Saints Day, a night that I would theorize as most Dentist's favorite eve of the year, dishing out candy to all of these ghosts, goblins, and princesses knocking on our door, I'm feeling a little forgotten.

Here we sit on the cusp of another mid-term election and once again I have to say I am confused. I've been trying to watch and understand the platforms and positions of each candidate, but to no avail. All the bashing and he said/she said politicking has my mind ready to explode! Man oh man, if our political party philosophies and strategies haven't fuelled the most Harvard Business School behavioral case studies over the years... let's just say that I'd be hard pressed to imagine any one other thing more intriguing and it just seems to keep getting better and better!

OK, so the issues on the table really haven't changed... there is this whole Iraq thing, which is getting a little old. I don't think anyone would disagree that there needs to be an exit strategy and more important, an exit strategy follow through. I can't help but wonder whether Osama bin Laden is somewhere in the foothills of Pakistan hooked up to a kidney dialysis machine and laughing hysterically! Of course, I heard recently that he made a statement that he was prepared to kill as many as 10 million Americans, so we got that going for us, which is nice!

Then there is this whole budget spending thing... wouldn't we all like the fortune of having a money machine in our backroom just printing off millions of dollars at the flip of a switch. Again, I'm not sure anyone would argue that as a country we need to cap our spending. And of course, the whole paying down the debt by raising taxes debate brings on whole other set of emotions. What I know is that I don't like the taxes I'm paying now... seems every year the cost of living goes up and my net income goes down!

Energy is an issue... the recent reduction in the price of oil has overshadowed our country's dependence/reliance on what most experts consider a limited and inefficient source of energy. It sounds like new fuel systems are on the horizon, but I have a feeling that old big money oil companies won't be willing to give up the fight just yet. Furthermore, while Exxon Mobil just reported another record earnings quarter, has anyone noticed that their stock price remains flat?

Of course, one of my favorite debatable issues of yore is global warming and the environment. While I've made fun of the arguments utilized by many of the global warming enthusiasts, it is a very serious issue that is directly related to the aforementioned energy issue.

Finally, lest us not forget the new hottest topic on the planet, one that hits the very heart and tummy of most of us... the governmental regulation of trans fatty acid in our foods! It's like butter, only better! Let's face it, next time you go to a mall or any other place there are lots of people, look around the room... we are a fat society when we should be more of a phat society. The issue is whether the government should get involved with what we choose to consume. Alcohol and tobacco aren't good for us, but they allow anyone over a certain age drink and smoke to their little heart's desire. Now they're talking about banning trans fat?!? Maybe moving to Europe or Asia isn't such a bad idea after all... at least there is no illusion of freedom in many of the countries overseas!

Seriously, the challenge for all of us middle-aged, somewhat confused denizens of the political middle-of-the-road is that when you cut through the crappadi-doodoo, it really isn't about any of these previously mentioned issues which the politicians would love to have you believe... ultimately, the average voter doesn't really know what they're voting for or against. The simple question it should come down to is this... Do you like the direction of the way things are going in your life and with your country, or do you want to shake things up and see that direction change? It is the answer to that simple question... Stay the course or shift direction... that should decide how you vote come this November.

The problem, as I see it, is that with the Republicans, you will get more of the same, which is a bit over the top for most people... essentially the same old song and dance in a world that is looking for something new and different. They are a party with strong convictions to not only their beliefs, but your beliefs as well... The best thing is that for the most part, you know what you get with them and you either like it or you don't.

On the other side of the fence are the Democrats, who have remained wishy-washy since Governor Bill left the Oval Office six long years ago. They have attempted to shift their party's position to be more middle-of-the-road, but have done so in a manner that has further fragmented an already disillusioned party. It's been almost laughable to watch the likes of Hills and Howard Dean attempt to manipulate the organization to become more a party of the people and for the people. It's like a political version of the Simple Life where people who have lost touch with us commoners try to pretend to understand how it is to be one of us. All in all, too funny!

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Heather and Gorse

....continued from page 5.....

So where does all of this leave the likes of me come November 7th... ultimately, even more confused than ever before and the only thing that is certain is that in the end, the politicians will win! On one hand, I can't stand the self-righteousness of the Republican Party and on the other hand, I'm not comfortable with the idea that we are potentially one assassination and one heart attack away from President Nancy Pelosi?!?!? Now that is a vision that is scarier than even the scariest ghost and goblin visiting my door on this Halloween.

That's my insanely challenged, lonely, eve of canonization, terrifying, issue oriented, nationally secure, financially concerned, energy conserved, globally warmed, trans fat free, politically confused, middle-of-the-road, indecisive, wanting a little change, but not necessarily a lot of change, Halloween, simple life, scariest point of view from the heather and gorse.



Upcoming Event

- **Eastern PA Turf Conference and Trade Show**
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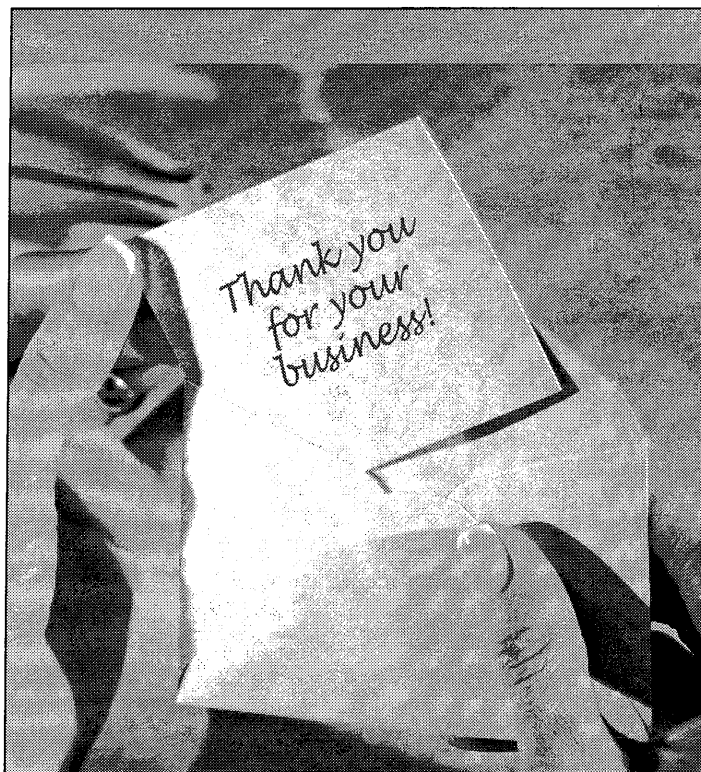
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Color Abounds. . . And So The Work Goes On!

By Keith Happ, Senior Agronomist

October 18, 2006

As attentions are turned to collecting and removing leaves from golf course turf, questions continue to arise. For example, should leaves be removed or can they be mulched and returned to the profile via large mulching mowers? Do all the leaves need to be removed? Will a layer of leaf litter create a problem next spring and summer?

By far the best strategy is to remove the fallen debris from the turf. Leaves can be collected and composted off-site and then used on other areas of the property. An aged compost product can be topdressed into areas of the rough that often do not have the best soil conditions. It will take time to develop a useable product, but benefit can be gained from topdressing with an aged, processed compost over perimeter areas of the course.

Insect damage is exposed as leaf collection efforts begin. Sweepers and blowers easily dislodge damaged areas of turf. The insect populations have fed aggressively on the root structures of the turf, resulting in large carpet-like sections of turf being turned over or turned up in the wind. Chart these areas this fall to allow for the use of insect control products next year. In some instances, an integrated strategy of using two insecticide treatments may be needed on site-specific areas next season.

Many superintendents have overseeded Bermuda grass fairways and portions of rough with ryegrass. Questions concerning germination rates of the ryegrass seed have followed. Some have expressed concern over delayed germination this fall. Those that have experienced this problem may want to contact suppliers and request information about the harvest dates of the seed. Freshly harvested (new crop) seed will germinate slower.

NOTICE:

The GCSAA Golf Course Environmental Profile Project is underway. The goal of this project is to collect information on golf course properties including details about the playing surfaces, natural resources, environmental stewardship efforts and management practices. The GCSAA has contracted the National Golf Foundation (NGF) to help implement a series of surveys to collect the necessary information.

The information collected will provide baseline data for documenting change and progress and help to set priorities for education, research, and other environmental programs. Each individual survey will be repeated at five-year intervals so progress can be documented over time.

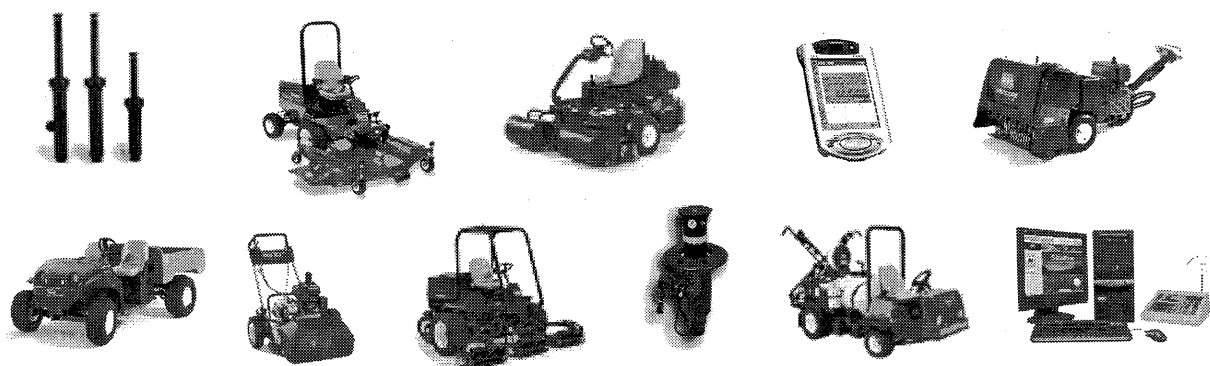
The GCSAA sent the water use and conservation survey electronically on Monday, October 9, to all superintendents with an e-mail address. In addition, paper surveys were sent and they should reach superintendents by Friday, October 13, or early in the week of October 16. The more participation the better! The survey is to be completed and returned the GCSAA by Monday, November 20. Your participation is important. This information will be good for the game of golf and the turfgrass management industry.

As always, if the Mid-Atlantic regional 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) 412/341-5922

Insurance Lesson Learned (the Hard Way)

I had the unfortunate experience of having our maintenance facility broken into. Luckily no equipment was damaged, all the thieves were after were the guns in my office. After filing a police report, I learned that the Club's Policy does not cover employee property, unless there is a provision or binder written. Therefore any claims of theft must be covered under my homeowner's policy. I found this a little shocking as I thought of all the equipment I had in my office, which if stolen would not be covered. If any of you have mechanics who have their personal tools, these are not covered as well. This was something I had not thought about previously, so I wanted to pass the info along.

Stephen Ludwig, CGCS
Gettysburg Country Club



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CPGCSA Golf Championship Winners



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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

by December 15, 2006.

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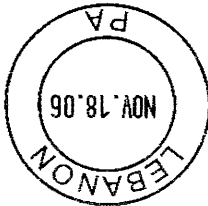
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**Central PA
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—EST. 1939—
The Green Sheet



Penn State Now Accepting Applications

Applications are now being accepted for Penn State's 2-year Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program for the class beginning in September of 2007. There is an application fee of \$35 and the deadline for applications is April 1, 2007. 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.

