

The Green Sheet



Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 15 Issue 2

May 2007

May Meeting

LedgeRock Golf Club

May 21, 2007

11:00 AM - Speaker 12:00 PM - Lunch 1:00 PM - Shotgun

There will be a CPGCSA Board of Directors Meeting at 9:30 AM.

Superintendent Profile

Alan FitzGerald was born in Kilkenny, Ireland. He worked at Mount Juliet Golf and Country Club from '91 to '96. Alan attended National Botanical Gardens Turfgrass Science course in Dublin while working, and graduated in Spring 1996. He graduated from Penn State's 2 year program in '98, interned at Loch Lomond Golf Club in Scotland during the summer of '97 and was Assistant Superintendent at Pine Valley in New Jersey from 1998 to 2004 where he managed the Short Course. Alan arrived at Ledgerock in the Spring of '04 prior to construction. He is finally getting married this September in Ireland.

Golf Course Profile

LedgeRock is a private equity club designed by Rees Jones with five sets of tees measuring to 7200 yards. Construction started in May 2004 and after an extremely wet season most of the bulk earthwork was completed. The course was shaped and majority seeded during 2005 with the last few fairways seeded in the spring of 2006. The course opened all 18 holes in July 2006.

Education

Jeff Borger from PSU will speak at our May meeting. The format for the day will be a question and answer session. The first half will be on Growth regulators, ranging from what products to use at certain times to what really works on controlling Poa seed heads. The second half will be on herbicides from the timing of a pre-emerge to post-emerge control strategies. So bring plenty of questions.

Mid-Atlantic USGA Update

Patience Is A Virtue

By Keith A. Happ, Senior Agronomist April 23, 2007

It has been at least ten days since the sun peeked its head over the golf courses in much of the Mid-Atlantic Region with unseasonably cold weather accompanied by varying degrees of precipitation. These weather variables greatly affect turf management and cannot be controlled. The real test is to determine what factors can be controlled and keep the big picture in mind. Even as the golfers lose patience with the weather, turf managers have to adjust and adapt to evolving conditions. Aeration schedules, fertility programs, and early season course preparation strategies may need to be altered. Adjusting early in the season can make a difference later in the year.

Don't risk compromising the health and future performance of the turf by:

- A. Pushing growth with too much fertilizer early is the season. A little is good, but too much can lead to problems.
- B. Aerating when it is too cold. If the weather is bad and you are scheduled to aerate make every effort to schedule an alternate date.
- C. Excessive dragging of topdressing into the canopy. If topdressing is performed after aeration, use less abrasive techniques to work the topdressing into the canopy.
- D. Mowing too low. Many of the Poa annua biotypes as well as bentgrass varieties are slow to respond during colder weather. Surfaces may be bumpy, but this is a short term effect.

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President's Message

Dear Members,

I would like to thank Greg Bingeman, Superintendent at Susquehanna Valley Country Club for hosting the joint meeting in April. We all enjoyed the course, food, education, and friends. Thanks, Greg!

A few months ago I was contacted by the USGA. In 1955, President Eisenhower wanted a green built behind his Gettysburg farm house. The house sits on the property of the National Park Service at the Gettysburg Battlefields. President Eisenhower hired Bill Gordon, architect, to design and build the green. The USGA was also part of this construction consultation. The ironic story is this: In 1955, Charles Shirey, then, superintendent at the Country Club of York and President of the Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Associations was also asked to be a consultant in this project. Now, 2007, I have been asked to be part of the process which includes CCY and CPGCSA. By time you read this, we might have broken ground. If you are interested in participating in the project, feel free to contact me.

Along with the USGA (Stan Zontek and Darin Bevard), CPGCSA, CCY, we also have some of our Central Penn members involved. They include: Greg Borzok from Lawn and Golf and Brad Helcoski and Fred Rapp from Atlantic Irrigation. Thanks for your support! Heading the way with the design and construction is McDonald and Sons Design and Construction Company.

As we get ready for our May meeting at LedgeRock Country Club we should be getting our foursomes (no sand bagging) together to enjoy a fantastic course. I have heard a lot of great things about this new golf course. Alan FitzGerald will be the host superintendent.

Dan Brickley will start to put together a golf course schedule for the 2008 CPGCSA meetings. We have already had a few superintendents contact us to host a meeting. If you are interested in hosting a 2008 meeting, give "Dr." Dan Brickley a call to help fill the schedule. CPGCSA will be hosting seven monthly meetings which include both joint meetings.

CPGCSA Board of Directors have decided to schedule and run our own GCSAA Regional seminars next year. Usually they are held the last Thursday and Friday in January, but the GIS show in Orlando is right around the same time. The reason for us to run our own GCSAA two, one-day, full-day educational seminar is that we will not be obligated to pay a cancellation fee to GCSAA like we had to in March. The seminar will be run exactly the same, but CPGCSA will do all of the leg work. Don Dodson has already started this process.

Reminder: Please take the time to fill out your surveys and mail them back to Wanda. The surveys will provide great information for you to use when preparing your operating budget or negotiating your next contract.

Until next time...

Respectfully,

John Colo, GCS

What other people may find in poetry or art museums, I find in the flight of a good drive.

~Arnold Palmer

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Golf Ryan Freed 2008 Regents Glen Country Club 717-505-4665 rfreed@regentsglen.com

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Membership News

There were no new membership applications presented this month.

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

Andrew Sheehan......Class AF Davisson Golf Inc., Sales Representative

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Rebecca Matis (717) 545-5593 or Jed Vail (717) 755-1919.

Directions to LedgeRock Golf Club

From Reading:

Travel Route 222 west to Route 625 south, and bear left. Traveling south on Route 625, go approximately 3.5 miles from the intersection of Route 724. Turn right onto Greenbriar Drive. The entrance to LedgeRock Golf Club is 0.1 mile on the right.

From Lancaster:

Travel north on Route 222 to Route 568. Turn right onto Route 568 continuing east 2.3 miles to the intersection with Route 625. Turn left onto Route 625 and travel north approximately 2.5 miles to Greenbriar Drive. Turn left onto Greenbriar Drive and travel 0.1 mile to the entrance to LedgeRock Golf Club on the right.

From Chester County:

Take the PA Turnpike west to the Morgantown exit #298. Take I-176 north toward Reading for 7.7 miles to the Green Hills exit #7. Make a left onto Route 10 and proceed for 2.5 miles. Make a left onto Freemansville Road (towards Angelica). Proceed onto Freemansville Road for 2.1 miles and make a left onto Route 625 (New Holland Road), heading towards Angelica. Travel Route 625 for 1.3 miles to Greenbriar Drive. Turn right onto Greenbriar Drive. The entrance to LedgeRock Golf Club is 0.1 mile on the right.

1 Greenbriar Drive Mohnton, PA 19540 Directions from Google are available at www.ledgerockgolf.com

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USGAcontinued from page 1

will wound the turf and compromise its ability to photosynthesize.

F. Failing to scout for spring disease and insect pests. As soon as temperatures warm up, annual bluegrass weevil adults will emerge quickly, and cool weather diseases such as Michrodochium patch and cool-season brown patch may be active. Monitor for these conditions and treat accordingly.

These are just a few ideas to communicate to golfers regarding the presentation and playability of their course. Keep in mind that we cannot have mid-season conditions with the recent weather patterns. Exercising patience with good judgment will pay off.

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.

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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
- A guest is limited to two (2) meetings per year with the exception of club officials or with Board approval.

Equipment For Sale

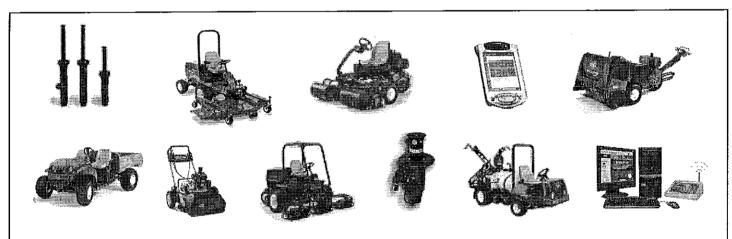
Please contact Alan FitzGerald, GCS at LedgeRock Golf Club (610-777-9890 or alan@ledgerockgolf.com) for following equipment: information the on

- 2000 Case 580L 4x4 Back Hoe, 3300 hrs Full cab, heat and air, Extendahoe 4 way front bucket (& attached forks) Auxiliary Hydraulics New front tires, Rear 60% \$36,000
- 2000 John Deere 3235 B Fairway Mower, 830 hrs Groomers & power roller brushes Extra set front rollers \$15,000

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

Advertising

Space is still available for advertising in the "Green Sheet" for the 2007 meeting year. Please contact Wanda, for information on sizes, pricing, and deadlines.



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Heather and Gorse

By Mark DelSantro

Let me first apologize to Wanda and her Newsletter editorial staff for stretching this deadline beyond the normal limits. My so called life has just been busier than ever before. Between some increased job responsibility, traveling out of town the past five of six weeks, and the children just not going to bed as early as they used to, getting the time to write this monthly article has become more challenging than ever before!

Another distraction has been that I'm coaching my son's Rookie League baseball team, which has been an experience in its own right. Let me tell you, in my demented mind, I can't think of many things more exhilarating and frustrating wrapped into one neat, tidy package. The team is made up of six, seven, and eight year old boys of varying abilities and attention spans. It is a developmental league... We generally play three or four innings, depending on a few factors, everyone bats, every inning unless the fielding team records three outs and there are no strike outs. The exhilaration comes from seeing the kids do something special... for instance, in one of the first games, our kids recorded eleven outs in a four inning game... they actually looked as if they knew what they knew! The frustration comes from seeing them successfully perform the aforementioned and then proceed to get a total of eleven outs in their next four games! I guess that's just the beauty of dealing with this age group of kids.

Of course, there are other things that seriously annoy me about child athletics. One of the primary things... Considering that this is my third year of coaching Zach's team, with each season we've had at least 1/3 of the players who obviously were playing because their parents wanted them to play. These are the kids that stand in the outfield and count the dandelions... they may end up being rocket scientists twenty years down the road, but what is absolutely certain is that playing baseball, or any other sport won't be in their near future.

Another thing that draws my ire deals with keeping score. As previously mentioned, this is a developmental league and we don't keep an official score book because we don't play by the official rules. Ultimately, every season there are at least a few coaches that actually keep score and tell their players through out the game where they stand. One little prick, a coach's son from the opposing team, was rubbing in the fact that his team had outscored our team during the ceremonial hand shake following the game. Of course, his father was right behind him in line, witnessed the whole thing, and said nothing. Rather than continue down the path of my annoyances, let me just say that the reality is that the good far outweighs the bad and that as tiring and time consuming as it may be, I wouldn't want to miss the opportunity to experience that exhilaration, no matter how few and far between those moments occur.

In the world of golf course management, it's all about aerification, seedhead suppression, BTA's, and Waitea Patch, and at the center of it all is the weather. It's always been funny how everyone talks about the weather, but no one ever does anything about it! As for aerification, it seems to me many golf course superintendents have tended toward earlier and earlier spring aerifications to best accommodate their membership schedules. Of course, the downside is that when the weather fails to cooperate, the holes tend to stay open longer. While this may be good for the grass, it generally creates gastrointestinal issues for the membership and often for the superintendent. From what I've heard ye old Augusta Syndrome is alive and well at many golf courses this spring.

Seedhead suppression is once again a hot topic of discussion. From what I've gathered there once again has been marginal success depending on your timing. For those who tried to time it with the Forsythia, most would concur that for this year this method didn't work as well as in years past. Furthermore, the inconsistency has been indiscriminate regardless of whether you chose the Primo/Proxy combo or Embark. I'm aware of one superintendent who claims annual success with higher rates of Primo MAXX only... based on what I've seen at his golf course, it seems to work consistently for him. Regardless of your strategic choices, if you had success this spring, consider yourself ahead of the curve and give yourself an "attaboy!"

Critter-wise, BTAs are out there, but for the most part it seems the world is staying ahead of them. Especially those who have been proactive in their ABW control methods. Using a synthetic pyrethroid on and, more important, around your greens has been a solid control strategy. I'm hearing that many are seeing dead adults beetles, which is generally a good sign of success. Additionally, there are a few new control options that should be discussed with your local distributor rep. DuPont just introduced a new insecticide named Provaunt, which focuses on both turf and landscape surface feeders. Additionally, Syngenta just recently introduced its long awaited neonicotinyl, broad spectrum insecticide named Meridian. Meridian offers both preventative and curative opportunities for grubs and surface feeders in the turf and landscape markets.

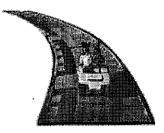
Finally, let's talk about Waitea Patch, aka Brown Ring Patch, aka Rhizoctonia circinata. This is a relatively new disease that focuses mainly on annual bluegrass greens. It strongly resembles cool season brown patch, but acts much more virulently, starting at the tip of the leaf blade and working its way towards the crown of the plant. The rings are more yellow and pitted, as it can and will take the turfgrass out over time. The general weather associated with this disorder is cool, wet weather, followed by milder temperatures, followed by cooler, wet weather. While this disease has only been in the headlines

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

Rules of the Road; Golf Car Safety and Etiquette

Presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Although the first golf car was invented in the late 1940s as a way for people with disabilities to get around a golf course, they have become a convenience enjoyed by millions of players. The National Golf Foundation estimates that about two-thirds of all 18-hole rounds are played with the use of a motorized golf car.



For your golf course superintendent, golf cars can present a challenge. When they are used improperly, they can cause serious damage to the course. More importantly, unsafe operation can lead to accidents and injuries.

The rules for safe operation are simple:

- Golf cars should only be operated from the driver's side.
- Never carry more than two occupants or allow riders on the back of the car.
- Be sure your passenger is fully seated and check for obstructions before moving.
- Keep your entire body particularly your feet inside the car when moving.
- Drive slowly through turns and drive straight and slowly up and down slopes.
- Set the brake when coming to a complete stop.
- Use extra care when operating a golf car in reverse, or on hills, wet turf, loose surfaces or rough terrain.
- Remove the key when the golf car is not in use.
- Never operate a golf car when impaired by alcohol or drugs.
- Golf cars do not provide protection from lightning seek appropriate shelter if lightning is present.

For the sake of your golf course, remember that golf car traffic can cause damage to the golf course that is both unsightly and expensive to repair. Tire ruts in soft, wet areas can take weeks to heal. Compaction caused by heavy traffic can ruin the playing surface. As a result, most courses have a standard golf car policy and sometimes employ temporary restrictions due to weather, construction or other factors. If you "drive friendly," your golf car won't impede the play of others:

- Park your car behind or beside the green never in front to allow players behind you to hit sooner after you've finished the hole (You should generally always avoid driving a golf into the "approach" area 20 to 30 yards in front of the green.)
- Stop your vehicle to avoid distracting a nearby player who is preparing to hit a shot.
- Never drive into yards or neighboring properties.

Golf course superintendents only put restrictions such as "Path Only" rules in place when they feel it's necessary to protect the turf from damage. On the other hand, there are some everyday guidelines that golfers can follow to maximize their golf experience and protect the turf.

"Superintendents know golf cars have become an important part of golf," said GCSAA President Mark J. Woodward, certified golf course superintendent. "But golfers can be a big help in reducing the potential for damage to the turf from carts by simply following a few commonsense guidelines."

- Never drive a golf car through standing water or on any obviously wet turf.
- Never drive onto a green, collar, tee or any marked hazard.
- Never drive into any area that has been recently seeded or sodded.
- Avoid abrupt stops and sharp turns that cause skidding.
- Spread out wear-and-tear by avoiding compacted areas.
- Watch for signs or other markers that direct traffic.
- Avoid driving over sprinkler heads and yardage markers.
- Don't drive cars into out-of-play areas that may be environmentally sensitive (such as wildflower patches, native grass plantings and marshes).

Key points:

- The National Golf
 Foundation estimates
 that about two-thirds of
 all 18-hole rounds are
 played with the use of a
 motorized golf car.
- Most courses have a standard golf car policy and sometimes employ temporary restrictions due to weather, construction or other factors.
- When used improperly, golf cars can cause serious damage to the course. More importantly, unsafe operation can lead to accidents and injuries.
- If you "drive friendly," your golf car won't impede the play of others.
- Golf course superintendents only put restrictions such as "Path Only" rules in place when they feel it's necessary to protect the turf from damage.

- Keep all four tires on the path whenever possible. Do not park with tires off the path.
- Golfers with disabilities may be allowed access to areas not normally open to golf car traffic. Their cars are usually marked with a flag.

Golf courses located in residential areas frequently have cart paths that cross city streets. Golfers can minimize the risk of serious injury by remembering three things when crossing residential roads in their golf cars:

- Golf cars can be hard for automobile drivers to see.
- A person in a golf car is extremely vulnerable in an accident
- It is a golfer's responsibility to watch for oncoming traffic.

Motorized golf cars aren't the only means for carrying golf bags. The USGA says the popularity of two-wheel and three-wheel pull carts is on the rise, especially as interest in health and fitness grows.

If your club permits pull carts – more than half of all private clubs allow them – are they being adequately controlled to protect the golf course? Pull carts are far lighter than motorized golf cars, but this does not mean pull carts do not damage turf. Because they are more maneuverable, golfers are more inclined to take them onto areas they would not normally drive golf cars.

Although many course enforce the same rules for pull carts as for motorized golf cars, alternative policies can be developed. Pull carts should:

- have wide wheels (three to four inches) or air-filled tires,
- be kept 15 to 30 feet from the edges of tees and greens,
- be directed around green-side bunkers and not be taken into the narrow gaps between greens and bunkers,
- never be taken across excessively wet areas, and
- not be used following periods of heavy rainfall or under persistently wet conditions.

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

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

since the Spring 2006, when many New England golf courses were decimated by this pathogen, the speculation is that it has been around at least since the turn of the century/millennium. In most cases, it is thought to have been simply misdiagnosed for Yellow Patch. If you suspect you have this disorder and you want more information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

The sad reality is that even when there's nothing going on, there's always something going on! Here's hoping and praying for a great spring golf season! That's my better late than never, inexperienced, always coaching, sometimes exhilarating, partially frustrating, never keeping score, often annoying, aerified, suppressed, munched on, and new disease introducing point of view from the heather and gorse.

Mark DelSantro can be reached at <u>mtdelsantro@comcast.net</u> or by cell phone @ (724) 433-8332.

For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the June newsletter, please fax information to Wanda at (717) 279-0368 or e-mail to cpgcsa@comcast.net by May 31, 2007.

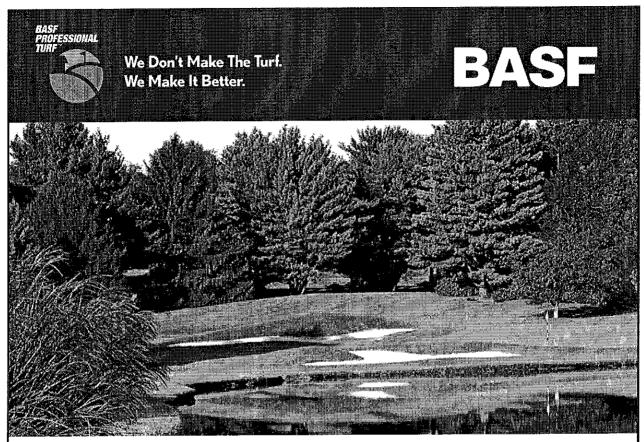
PSU Update

To all Penn State Alumni and Industrial Cooperators,

Effective this past week, I have resigned from my position with the Penn State University Turfgrass Program. Please know that this was a difficult decision for me to come by as I love this program and Penn State University dearly. Those of you that know me know how true this is and that I will always bleed blue and white. I have experienced tremendous personal issues in the past two years that have left me in a position that requires a change. And, while there is never a right time for a decision like this, the time has come for me to do it. Above all else, I will miss the daily contact with our students and faculty that I have worked so closely with in our efforts to take our program into the future to prepare the turf industry leaders of tomorrow. Special appreciation goes to Heather Treaster and all of our students who supported and taught me more than words can say.

The experiences that I have gained in my tenure at Penn State will be carried with me always. I will continue to do anything I can for anyone in need. If I can ever be of assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime. 814-933-9399. I wish all of you the best of luck in your endeavors and I look forward to seeing you in my travels. Thank you for the experiences and your friendship.

Carmen Magro, CGCS

















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

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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:

Eligible Candidates:

Applicants must fall into one of the following categories:

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

Guidelines for Applicants:

- a. Applicants must have completed at least one year at an accredited institution.
- b. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- c. 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.
- d. Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation: one from an instructor and one from a CPGCSA member.

Timeline

- a. May 10 Scholarship applications will be accepted.
- b. June 30 Deadline for submission of applications.
- c. August 1 Board will review applicant's information, approve and notify recipient.
- d. Central Penn Night ceremonial presentation of the award.

Enclosed please find a scholarship application. 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.

Sincerely,

John M. Colo, President

(Scholarship application is printed on Page 10)



GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION Scholarship Application

Personal Data	
Name:	Date of Birth:
Address:	Telephone:
City:	State: Zip:
Educational Data	
School:	Major:
Address:	Telephone:
City:	State: Zip:
Current Status: [] Freshman	[] Sophomore [] Junior [] Senior
Current GPA: Cumulative GPA:	Year expected to graduate:
Are you a CPGCSA member? [] Yes	[]No
Employment Data: Work Experience: (Club/Position/Dates)	
Miscellaneous Data: What are your sources to pay for college?	
what are your sources to pay for conege?	
Enclosures: [] Essay [] Resume [] Professor R	Recommendation [] Superintendent Recommendation

Return to: CPGCSA, P. O. Box 1420 Lebanon, PA 17042

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20 Holly Court Manchester, PA 17345 (717) 648-5493

Philadelphia Turf Company Tom Drayer

4049 Landisville Road Doylestown, PA 18901 (215) 345-7200

Syngenta Mark DelSantro

75 Ramblewood Drive Glenmoore, PA 19343 (724) 433-8332

Turf Management Associates Thed Fraleigh, Jr.

151 Valleybrook Drive Lancaster, PA 17601 (717) 917-5361

UAP Professional Products Jim Byrne

352 Buch Avenue Lancaster, PA 17601 (717) 471-5569

May 2007 Meeting Information

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2007 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

June 20

Crossgates Golf Club

July 10

Deer Valley Golf Club

August 7

Tattersall Golf Club

Meeting with PAGCS

September 24

Outdoor Country Club

Golf Championship/Annual Meeting

October

TBD