



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 15 Issue 7

November/December 2008

**Happy Holidays
to you and your
family
from the
CPGCSA
Board of
Directors**



**Please Join Us On
February 28, 2009
to honor this year's recipient
of the
David Rafferty
Distinguished Service and
Leadership Award.**

Samuel R. Snyder, VII

**The 7th Annual Central Penn
Night will be held at the
Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey**

*Information regarding Central Penn Night
will be mailed in January.*

Mid-Atlantic USGA Update

Is it Winter Yet?

By Darin S. Bevard
November 14, 2008

With the growing season winding down, the conference season has started with ample educational opportunities available. The Penn State Golf Turf Conference was held November 11-13. Some very good information was provided on a variety of topics. Some highlights are provided below.

- Jeff Borger, instructor of turfgrass weed management at PSU, presented information on herbicides and growth regulators, and Dr. Wakar Uddin, turfgrass pathologist at PSU, presented information on control of *Pythium* blight and dollar spot. Both provided results of research trials performed in 2008. More impressive than the results achieved is the number of confidential compounds that are being tested in each discipline. As certain products are removed from the market place, it is good to see that companies continue to develop new products to help combat the weed and disease problems superintendents face on a regular basis.
- Steve McDonald, president of Turfgrass Disease Solutions, presented information on the decline of bentgrass collars during the summer months. The primary cause of decline is sand topdressing applied to turf under environmental stress, which contributes to abrasion of the plant leaves, in addition to mechanical wear from equipment. Increased rolling and double cutting are

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President's Message

Hello all,

Need to let everyone know that as of November 4, 2008 I am no longer employed at Penn National Golf Club. My Assistants, Dave DeWitt & Ray Farber respectfully, will continue to carry on the operations of the facility to the highest standard that the Penn National Golf Club & Inn are known for. This separation was solely for economic reasons and I have the support of Penn National in my search for a new position.

I will continue my duties as President of the Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association for my term, unless relocation would deem that impractical. I look to you all for your support in these efforts. Here at home, we are optimistic of the future and looking forward to opening new doors of opportunity!

Best Wishes to All.

Respectfully,

Matt Strader
Cell - 717.496.3039
stra6@comcast.net

USGAcontinued from page 1

major contributors to this mechanical stress. Creeping bentgrass collars also exhibit a high degree of stolonization that increases the chances for problems. Basically, plant density is low in collars, but the amount of leaf tissue is high. Pathogens generally are not the primary reason for decline. Site specific fertilizer applications and cultural programs such as grooming or light vertical mowing may help to reduce leaf tissue and increase density to improve wear tolerance of collars.

- Michael Morris, certified golf course superintendent from Crystal Downs CC in MI, discussed his experience with finding the ideal green speed for the members at his club. The biggest take home message he provided is that the Stimpmeter should be a tool that you use to your benefit, not detriment. It is difficult to evaluate what cannot be measured. Knowing the speed of your greens and knowing what members expect in terms of green speed are critical for managing healthy grass and overall satisfaction of everyone.

Regionally or in the field, most maintenance crews are focused on leaf cleanup and preparation for the coming winter. Irrigation systems are being winterized and snow mold control products are being applied or they soon will be.

Always remember that the agronomists of the Mid-Atlantic Region are part of your agronomic support team. If you have a question or concern, especially now, give us a call or send us an e-mail. You may contact the agronomists of the Mid-Atlantic Region, 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.

For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the April 2009 newsletter, please fax information to Wanda at
(717) 279-0368 or e-mail to cpgcsa@comcast.net
By March 15, 2009.

President/Bylaws/Social

Daniel Brickley
Lebanon Country Club
717- 273-1944
djb301@yahoo.com

Vice President/Scholarship

Matthew W. Strader
Penn National Golf Club
717- 352-7360
greens@pennigolf.com

Secretary/Treasurer/Chapter Relations

Stephen J. Ludwig, CGCS
Gettysburg Country Club
717-334-0441
stephen.ludwig@comcast.net

Past President/Scholarship

John M. Colo
Country Club of York
717-843-2190
jcolo@ccyork.org

Education/Career Development

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

Curtis King 2010
Moccasin Run Golf Course
610-593-2600
cgking@zoominternet.net

Nominations

Barry Bollinger 2009
Rich Valley Golf Course
717-691-8805
turfdpra@yahoo.com

Golf

Rebecca Matis 2009
Golf Club at Felicita
(717) 599-5703
turfgirl03@aol.com

Media/Public Relations/Membership

Jed A. Vail 2008
Heritage Hills Golf Resort
717-755-1919
jed_vail76@hotmail.com

Media/Public Relations

Craig Esbenshade 2010
Lancaster Host Inn
717-397-8928
cesbenshade@hotmail.com

Affiliates

Paul Wickey 2008
717-697-1013
turfwick@aol.com

Brad Helcoski 2010
856-466-9049
bhelcoski@atlanticirrigation.com

Newsletter

Wanda S. Fry
717- 279-0368
cpgcsa@comcast.net

PAST PRESIDENTS

George Morris
Ed Tabor
Riley E. Heckert
Richard T. Funk
Harry L. Latschaw
Daniel L. Snowberger
Charles A. Barley
Richard Wilt
Fred N. Baker
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Faron J. Stoops
John M. Colo

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.

Doug RiderClass AF
Sales Representative, Syngenta

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Steve Ludwig (Quail Valley Golf Course) at 717-359-8053.

Congratulations to:

Joe and Delores Sellers welcomed their 1st grandchild into the family on October 17th.

Our Sympathies to:

The family of Met GCSA member David W. Mahoney who died suddenly on September 27, 2008.

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Letters from the Membership

I have been on orders working at Fort Indiantown Gap since April 2008 and by my obvious absence from meetings it has kept me from my duties both with the chapter and with Heritage Hills. This fall I had made a decision to choose one path over another. As of December 1, 2008 I have been assigned to full time active duty status with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Grant Huffman will be taking over my duties at Heritage in the interim.

For 14 years I have been attempting to accommodate both a full time career in the turfgrass industry and a part time career in the National Guard. It is no longer fair to impose on an employer and my family such a burden. I am proud to serve and enjoy what I do very much. Being a member of the Central Penn for the past 5 years has been both an honor and a pleasure. I value the relationships that I have established and hope to keep in touch with all as much as possible. Thank you for your friendship and support, and I wish the best for the Central Penn and all of it's members.

Jed Vail

Hello everyone:

My sister fought pancreatic cancer for nearly two years, but passed away on Saturday, December 13th.

I want to express my appreciation to everyone for all of your thoughts and prayers. I could not have been there for her, if you had not been there for me. We are not the first family to be affected by cancer, but I wish we were the last. So many of you shared your personal experiences with cancer in your family, and I am grateful and comforted by your kind words. Please forward this email to others, since I know I did not capture everyone's email address on this message.

She was a first grade school teacher for 29 years at New Garden Elementary School, and she had a tremendous positive impact on the lives of so many people. Last week, I counted 416 cards and letters in one box, but did not count the other pile of cards on the dining room table or stacked on the kitchen counter. We were truly blessed to have such a person in our lives.

Again, thank you for your prayers and support. I am so grateful.

Mike Fidanza

"True friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation."

- George Washington

Golf Results

Thanks to all who attended the final golf outing of the year at Regents Glen Country Club. Ryan and his staff did a fantastic job at getting the course in tip top shape for all of us and the weather held up too!! Thanks to Jim Byrne for donating all of the beverages, Rich Gdovin, Paul Wickey, Dave Milore and Mark DelSantro for their generous prize contributions. Without them we wouldn't have been able to have such a successful year end tournament. Thanks again guys!!!

The following are the winners:

1st Gross

Tom Kintzer
William Neiswender
Jonathan Byler
Shawn Cooper

2nd Gross

Ryan Freed
Mark MacDonald
Don Dimoff
Jim Byrne

1st Net

Pete Ramsey
Brett Ernst
Mark DelSantro
Bill Brooks

2nd Net

Paul Wickey
Jeff Austin
Greg Bollinger
Barry Bollinger

Closest to Pin

#3 – Brett Ernst
#8 – Brad Helcoski
#12 – Craig Howe
#14 – Tom Czaus

Long Drive

#17 – Josh Grundon

Thanks for a great year!!!! We look forward to seeing you all again this spring complete with all new tournaments, golf courses, prizes, camaraderie and fun!

Brad Helcoski

"Golf. You hit down to make the ball go up. You swing left and the ball goes right. The lowest score wins. And on top of that, the winner buys the drinks."

-Author Unknown

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Vice President / Chapter Delegate's Message:

I hope everyone is finding time to relax and reflect on this year's activity. I was fortunate to attend the Chapter Delegates Meeting, which was held in New Orleans. The purpose for moving the meeting was to showcase New Orleans in preparation for this year's National Convention. I must say that I had never been to New Orleans and found the city ready to host the National. We were given a tour to show us how the city has progressed from "The Storm" as they now call it. The downtown area has been repaired and many places like Bourbon Street are cleaner now, then prior to the storm. Many of the local attractions are within a 10 minute walk from the convention center. If you have the opportunity to attend the National, New Orleans is awaiting you.

The following is a portion of an article from GCSAA about the Delegate's Meeting:

The agenda for the meeting was developed by GCSAA Vice President Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS. His focus was on presenting a complete picture of New Orleans, providing in-depth discussion on Chapter Effectiveness and giving attendees a look at the future of the association. The meeting also afforded attendees to hear GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Mark Woodward address the delegates for the first time. Woodward, who took over in July, shared his vision for the association. He touched on the following topics:

- The importance of chapter effectiveness.
- The need for member engagement on the chapter and national level.
- Building relationships to advance the association and its members.
- GCSAA and The Environmental Institute for Golf's role as a leader in ensuring golf's compatibility with the environment.
- The role of the GCSAA member now and in the future.

Special attention was paid to sharing tactics with delegates how they could help their chapters to become more effective. A report on the extensive work of the Chapter Relations Committee, chaired by GCSAA Past President Tim O'Neill, CGCS was presented. The committee identified four key elements to enhancing chapters:

- Strategic Planning
- GCSAA Field Staff
- Executive Paid Leadership
- Sharing of Resources with other Chapters

A staple of every delegates meeting, the opportunity to meet the candidates and discuss issues of importance was also conducted.

Based on the discussions, financial issues were leading area of interest. Downing, Woodward and GCSAA Managing Director of Finance Cam Oury presented the association's financial picture as being strong with no debt, valuable assets and a solid cash reserve. Although revenues will be lower in 2008 than 2007, association leaders indicated expenses were being managed down appropriately. Delegates also asked for assistance in communicating issues during tough economic times. Staff will provide support to help members in this area regarding Conference and Show attendance and in sharing their value and the importance of golf course maintenance in light of budget cuts.

As we are planning for 2009, mark your calendars for Wed, March 11 for the Winter Educational Meeting at West Shore Country Club. I am working diligently to provide a unique experience.

I would also like your input on how Central Penn can better serve you in the future. I realize that everyone is doing more with less finances, time is away from the course is an issue, and having time for family at the end of the day is important. Each year we struggle with monthly meetings, this is why I need your input. Please give me your thoughts, such as: \$75 for a meeting is too much. If meetings started at 9 am with golf. Education at meetings needs to be more or maybe less.

I realize surveys get set aside, I hope you will be able to give me a email or call to provide information on what we as the board can do to get you to a meeting or meetings next year.

Thank you,

Stephen J. Ludwig, CGCS
Quail Valley Golf Club
717-359-8053 x 5
stephen.ludwig@comcast.net

Regents Glen Golf Tournament



Bill Neiswender, Shawn Cooper, Jonathan Byler, Tom Kintzer



Paul Wickey, Jeff Austin, Barry Bollinger, Greg Bollinger



Pete Ramsey, Brett Ernst, Bill Brooks, Mark DelSantoro



Host Ryan Freed



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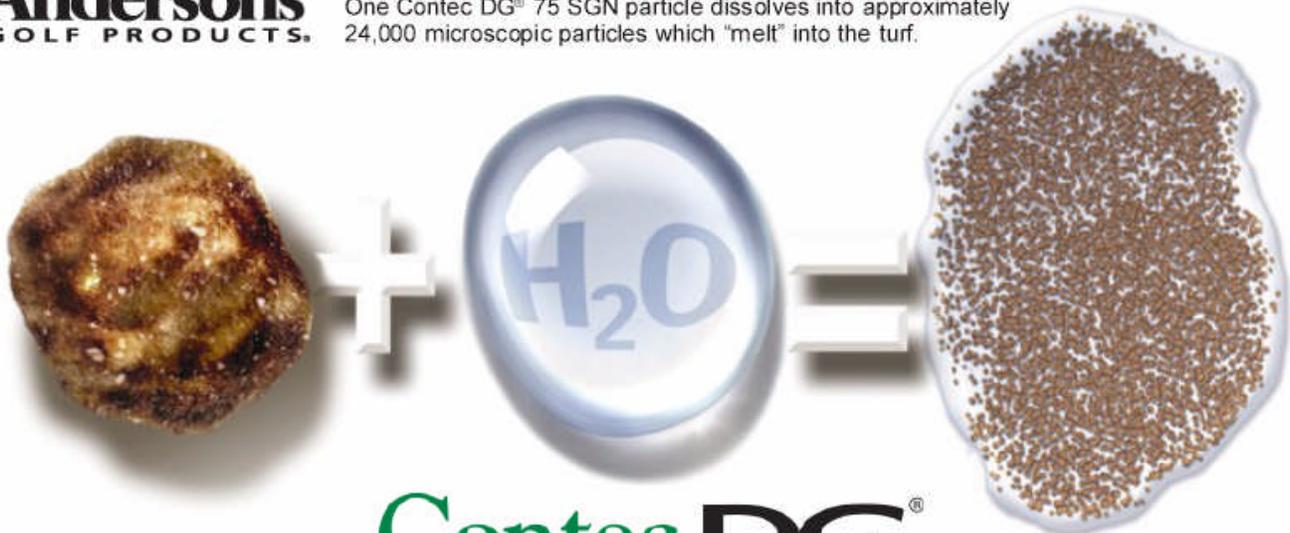
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Five superintendents win trip to Golf Industry Show in New Orleans

Bayer Superintendent Grant Program winners announced

For the sixth straight year, Bayer Environmental Science has teamed with The Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), to send five golf course superintendents to the 2009 GCSAA Education Conference (Feb. 2-7) and Golf Industry Show (Feb. 5-7) in New Orleans.

The winners are:

- Charles Fogle, CGCS, University Golf Club, University Park, Ill.
- **Rebecca J. Matis, GCSAA superintendent member, Felicita Golf Resort, Harrisburg, Pa.**
- Matthew J. Kowal, GCSAA Class A superintendent, Twin Hills Country Club, Longmeadow, Mass.
- Scott A. Davis, GCSAA Class A superintendent, The Club at Strand, Naples, Fla.
- Christopher L. Beaty, GCSAA Class A superintendent, Odessa (Texas) Country Club

The purpose of the grant is to assist golf course superintendents with their professional development through participation in the annual event, which features the most comprehensive education program and trade show in the industry.

"We are very fortunate to have Bayer Environmental Science offering opportunities like this to superintendents," said GCSAA president David S. Downing II, CGCS. "Rebecca is the first female superintendent to win one of the grants in the history of the program, Charles hasn't been to conference and show since 1997 and the others have never attended."

All five winners receive airfare, hotel accommodations for six nights, conference registration (full-pack), two education seminars (half-day, one-day, or two-day), and \$200 for personal expenses.

"Bayer Environmental Science recognizes the importance of professional development to stay current in the field," Jimmy Johnson, fungicide business manager and golf market lead for Bayer, said. "We are pleased to continue our relationship with The Environmental Institute for Golf by helping these five golf course superintendents further their professional development at the 2009 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show."

Congratulations Rebecca!

Board Member Spotlight

New Director - Don Dodson

Don was born and raised in Lancaster Pa. He started in the golf industry while in high school as a summer job. He then went to Penn State for Ornamental Nursery management but ended up switching to Turfgrass Management. After Graduation, Don took an Assistant Superintendent Job at Conestoga Country Club. Next, Don worked with a golf course construction group for a year and ended up getting his first Superintendent job at Honey Run Golf Course in York working with GF Management which then promoted him to the Director of Grounds for a Resort that they bought in Morgantown WV. In 2004, he moved to Hunt Valley Golf Club in Hunt Valley Md. This was an opportunity to get back home with friends and family. Don, Jennifer and their three sons now live in York.

CPGCSA Website

Our Central Penn GCSA website is now LIVE!
Please visit our site at www.cpgcsa.org
for up to date information.

Meeting Information, membership applications, newsletters and job announcements will all be readily available for access and viewing.

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717-279-0368 or cpgcsa@comcast.net
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 Elkton, MD 21921
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 318 E. Glenside Avenue
 Glenside, PA 19038
 (215) 887-8936

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 133 Peat Moss Road
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Syngenta
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Turf Management Associates
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Upcoming Events

- **Eastern PA Turf Conference and Show**
Valley Forge Convention Plaza
January 6-9, 2009
- **2009 Golf Industry Show**
New Orleans Morial Convention Center
February 5-7, 2009
- **NEW DATE AND LOCATION!**
Western PA Turf Conference and Show
Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh Green Tree
March 3-5, 2009
- **Central Penn Winter Educational Meeting**
West Shore Country Club
March 11, 2009



The Green Sheet

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

Seasons Greetings

