



# The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 16 Issue 2

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

May 2009

## May Meeting

### Rich Valley Golf

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Education - 10:00 AM

Lunch - 11:00 AM

Golf - 12:00 Noon

Social/Hors d'oeuvres - Following Golf

*There will be a CPGCSA Board of Directors Meeting at 8:30 AM.*

## Mid-Atlantic USGA Update

### It Is Never Good To Procrastinate!

By Keith Happ, Senior Agronomist  
May 4, 2009

Erratic spring weather patterns have resulted in temperature fluctuations by as much as 60 degrees in only six days. For example, snow blanketed the southern portion of West Virginia and southwestern Virginia during the third week in April, however, the last week in April brought temperatures near record highs with bright sunny skies and dry winds. This temperature change has triggered a turf response. Cool-season grasses are flowering and warm-season turf has broken dormancy and is beginning to grow.

Poa annua seedhead control in the spring is always an important discussion topic. Without seedhead suppression, turf can become bumpy with an uneven ball roll. Several different strategies have been used throughout the region to control Poa annua flowering. Timing is everything so treating early may not deliver the best results. Monitoring growing degree days has worked well, and leaving a check plot provides a clear picture of the differences in surface quality that can be achieved. During Turf Advisory Service (TAS) visits this spring, as much as 90 to 95 percent control has been witnessed, although any amount of suppression of Poa annua seedheads is important for improved playing quality.

Turf managers who delayed spring putting green core aeration until the turf is growing have been rewarded with faster recovery in contrast to an earlier timing when the grass was still semi-dormant. Also, as soils warm, the turf responds better to fertilizer applications. This is particularly important if bentgrass is the primary turf on greens, tees or

.....continued on page 6.....

## Superintendent Profile

Barry Bollinger started at Rich Valley for the initial course construction and grow in. Barry began his career at Blue Mt. View Golf Course as Assistant and then Superintendent. Barry is a 1996 graduate of Rutgers. Barry has been a member of CPGCSA since 1994 and is currently serving on the board as Golf Chairman.

## Golf Course Profile

Rich Valley Golf was designed by the owner and his son, Jeff and Jason Austin. The Par 71 Championship bentgrass course measures 6,642 yards and includes challenging bunker, water, and woodland hazards. Rich Valley opened for play in 2003. There is also a 3 hole beginners course as well as a driving range.

## Education

Our speaker for this meeting will be Dr. Mike Fidanza. Mike will speak on the season's "Hot Topics" and will be available for questions.

**Rich Valley Golf**  
227 Rich Valley Rd  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

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# Spring Update: Are You Ready For Water Restrictions?

By Darin S. Bevard, Senior Agronomist  
April 27, 2009

A drier than normal winter in much of the Mid-Atlantic Region may lead to water restrictions this summer.

Rainy weather in the last few weeks may make that statement seem ridiculous, however, according to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), groundwater levels are below normal as we enter the time of the year when groundwater recharge slows dramatically. This condition is a cause for concern, but not a cause for panic. The most important thing to take from this information is to ensure that your golf course drought management plans are up-to-date for your governing authorities. Do not wait until drought restrictions are imposed to find out that you are ill prepared to deal with water restrictions. Be sure that required documentation is current.

## Early Season Expectations

The colder than normal temperatures have slowed recovery from spring cultural practices, including core aeration. With the onset of warmer temperatures greens should heal rapidly providing better playing conditions. Without adequate soil temperatures we cannot make the grass grow, and trying to push growth with excess nitrogen applications only leads to a growth surge that impacts green speed in the short term and plant health over the long term. When the weather gets warm enough, the grass will grow.

The colder temperatures also have affected warm-season grass. Travels over the southern portions of the Mid-Atlantic Region provide evidence that bermudagrass is beginning to break dormancy. Temperature is the key, and once uniform growth is experienced programs can be initiated to condition the turf. Again, be patient; the grass will grow when we experience a stretch of warm weather without nighttime frosts.

What impact has the adjustment in daylight savings time had on early season expectations? It is hard to say for sure, but consider that we used to transition to daylight savings time in early April. Now, we make the change in early March. This earlier change seems to encourage golfers to play earlier in the season. Now we have two or three hours of daylight after work to play a leisurely nine holes or, better yet, a quick eighteen. There is a perception that if we have time to play golf then the grass should be ready. Unfortunately, the grass cannot tell time, and the change to daylight savings time does not affect turf growth one bit. All parties involved need to keep in mind that it is still very early in the growing season, and your golf course maintenance staff is still preparing the golf course for the season.

## GCSAA Energy Use Survey

NOTE: The GCSAA is conducting an Energy Use and Environmental Practices Survey. The survey can be accessed at <http://survey.ngf.org/81022/login.asp?code=1>. Any questions about the survey should be directed to Mark Johnson, GCSAA's senior manager of environmental programs ([mjohnson@gcsaa.org](mailto:mjohnson@gcsaa.org)). This very important survey considers the attention paid to energy usage by the golf industry, carbon footprints, etc. Participation by superintendents is critical to ensure that the survey assesses a good cross section of golf courses.

The Mid-Atlantic Region agronomists are part of your agronomic support team. If you have questions or concerns, give us a call or send an e-mail. Stan Zontek ([szontek@usga.org](mailto:szontek@usga.org)) and Darin Bevard ([dbevard@usga.org](mailto:dbevard@usga.org)) at 610/ 558-9066 or Keith Happ ([khapp@usga.org](mailto:khapp@usga.org)) at 412/ 341-5922.

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Daniel W. Achenbach  
William E. Brooks  
William P. Ramsey  
Faron J. Stoops  
John M. Colo  
Daniel Brickley

## 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.

Ryan Davidheiser ..... Class AF  
Territory Manager, Aer-Core, Inc.

Lance V. Ernst ..... Class AF  
Vice President, Turf Equipment & Supply Co.

Bob Good..... Class AF  
Owner, Good's Tree Care, Inc.

Ryan Grady..... Class C  
Assistant Superintendent, Flying Hills Company

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

Kevin Driscoll ..... Class AF  
Vice President, East Coast Sod & Seed

David van Leeuwen ..... Class AF  
Territory Manager, SePRO Corporation

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Craig Esben-shade (Lancaster Host Inn) at 717-397-8928 or Curt King (Moccasin Run Golf Course) at 610-593-2600.

**2009 Membership Directories  
are now online in the  
Member Section of the website.  
[www.cpgcsa.org](http://www.cpgcsa.org)**



**Brad Helcoski**  
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**Paul Wickey, Sales Representative**  
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**cell: 570-499-6408**

## Genesis Turfgrass, Inc.

is the sponsor of this month's meeting  
at Rich Valley Golf

## Directions to Rich Valley Golf

### From the South:

- From 81 North, take Mechanicsburg Exit 57. Turn right onto Route 114 South. Follow 114 South and take right onto Route 11 (Carlisle Pike). You will see a Sheetz gas station on your right. Continue on Route 11 and take a right at the stop light onto Rich Valley Road (you will see Bobby Rahal Honda on your right). Go 1.7 miles and take a left into Rich Valley Golf.

### From the North:

- From 81 South, take Mechanicsburg Exit 57. Turn left onto Route 114 South. Follow 114 South and take right onto Route 11 (Carlisle Pike). You will see a Sheetz gas station on your right. Continue on Route 11 and take a right at the stop light onto Rich Valley Road (you will see Bobby Rahal Honda on your right). Go 1.7 miles and take a left into Rich Valley Golf.



## Golf Course Superintendents Association

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:

- 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.

### 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.

### Timeline

- May 10 – Scholarship applications will be accepted.
- June 30 – 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.

Enclosed please find a scholarship application. Additional applications can be found on the website [www.cpgcsa.org](http://www.cpgcsa.org) or obtained by contacting CPGCSA office at (717) 279-0368 or [cpgcsa@comcast.net](mailto:cpgcsa@comcast.net). If you know of a deserving student, Central Penn GCSA can help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew W. Strader".

Matthew W. Strader, President

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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? \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosures: [ ] Essay [ ] Resume [ ] Professor Recommendation [ ] Superintendent Recommendation

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 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](mailto:cpgcsa@comcast.net) by May 25, 2009.

## Advertising

Space is still available for advertising in the "Green Sheet" for the 2009 meeting year. Please contact Wanda, for information on sizes, pricing, and deadlines.

## Are You A 3rd Generation???

GCSAA has been asked by a longtime industry partner for help in identifying third generation superintendents. The industry partner will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year in business in 2010. They are proud to say that they've had three generations of family members serving the golf industry and golf course superintendents. To help illustrate this fact they would like to highlight some third generation golf course superintendents in a promotion of their anniversary.

If so, could you please reply to [dfearis@gcsaa.org](mailto:dfearis@gcsaa.org).

Thanks so much for your help.

## USGA.....continued from Page 1

fairways. The bermudagrass in the southern tier of the Mid-Atlantic Region is finally beginning to grow as a result of the recent warmer weather.

TAS travels have provided an opportunity to examine all areas of the region for insect activity. Adult Hyperode weevils have been found in Pittsburgh, Wheeling, WV and in Berkley Springs, WV, as well as most of Pennsylvania and Maryland. Black turfgrass Ataenius adults have been found in abundance in Charleston, WV, Bluefield, VA, Roanoke, VA and Winchester, VA. Scouting for these adult insects allows control programs to be implemented in an effective manner. Controlling the adults can minimize the occurrence of many problems later in the year. Contact us if you have questions regarding control procedures.

Finally, continue to monitor drought conditions in your area. Don't be caught off guard by a regulatory authority enacting a drought watch or warning. Be prepared to submit all pertinent information. While very little irrigation has been necessary, it is still important to document monthly irrigation totals.

The Mid-Atlantic Region agronomists are part of your agronomic support team. If you have a question or concern, give us a call or send an e-mail. You may contact Stan Zontek ([szontek@usga.org](mailto:szontek@usga.org)) and Darin Bevard ([dbevard@usga.org](mailto:dbevard@usga.org)) at 610/ 558-9066 or Keith Happ ([khapp@usga.org](mailto:khapp@usga.org)) at 412/ 341-5922.



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## Quick Facts About Golf Courses

Presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

1. A properly repaired ball mark heals completely in 2-3 days, while an unrepaired ball mark takes 15-20 days to heal properly.
  2. A typical 18-hole golf course covers approximately 125 - 150 acres of land. The total landmass of golf courses in the United States equals about 1/2 the state of Connecticut.
  3. A typical 18-hole golf course produces enough oxygen to support 4,000 to 7,000 people.
  4. Golf courses nationwide combine to filter 13 million tons of dust from the air every year.
  5. Who is the most important person at a golf facility? According to a 1997 survey of 500 Golf Digest subscribers, the golf course superintendent was listed the most (48 percent). Other responses included the course/club professional 25 percent, club/course manager 14 percent, beverage cart or halfway house person 11 percent.
  6. Golf courses have a cooling effect during the hot summer months. The average temperature on the golf course is typically 5- 7 degrees cooler than a residential area and 7 - 15 degrees cooler than an urban downtown setting.
  7. The infield of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway is home to four holes of the Brickyard Crossing golf course. The remaining 14 holes outside the oval are accessed through a tunnel under the track.
  8. Golf courses delay play on frost-covered turf (especially greens) because stepping on frost-covered grass causes the frozen leaf cells to rupture. The turf will turn brown and eventually die.
  9. The Old Works Golf Course in Anaconda, Mont., is the first golf course built on an Environmental Protection Agency Superfund Site. Designed by Jack Nicklaus, the land served as a smelting location for the mining of iron ore. The golf course opened in June of 1997.
  10. Why do golf course superintendents aerate turf? Because it reduces compaction on a golf course by removing soil cores from the ground, allowing the movement of water, air and nutrients to the turf roots. Highly traveled areas plus poor soil composition creates compacted surfaces.
  11. What is the origin of the stimpmeter? In the early 1900s, a man by the name of Edward Stimpson was looking for a means to create more fairness in the game of golf. Specifically, he was looking to make putting surfaces on a particular course all relatively the same speed. He developed the stimpmeter to achieve this purpose. By using this device, he could determine, for example, if the fourth green was the same speed of the 17th. The device is often misused and misinterpreted by the novice and avid golfer alike. It is best used to compare greens on the same course, NOT to compare greens from one course to another.
  12. How much has technology and research improved speed and quality of a putting green? In the early 1960s, professional tour event superintendents cut putting green turf heights at about 1/4 inch. Today, the height of putting green turf for professional tournament competition is 1/8 inch or less.
  13. How do trees affect the quality of a putting surface? All things being equal, a putting green with air circulating around it will be in better shape than a green with little or no air circulation. Trees tend to reduce circulation, thereby having a negative effect on putting green quality. Older, more mature trees adjacent to putting greens will negatively impact surface conditions because the tree roots will grow under the putting surface and disrupt the flow of water and nutrients.
  14. What is a golf course superintendent doing when he/she syringes a green? Syringing is the process of spraying a light cover of water on a green during hot weather to reduce the temperature of the turf. This prevents putting surfaces from becoming "baked" and "dried-out," and having a negative impact on putting surface quality.
  15. What is topdressing? It is the practice of spreading material over a putting green to level and smooth the surface. The material is generally sand and/or organic matter that improves drainage, controls thatch and maintains biological balance.
  16. Golf courses have a positive impact on the economy. It is estimated that more than 25 million people annually spend 2.5 billion hours outside, playing one of the nation's 17,000-plus golf courses. The impact of golf facilities on the economy is \$20 billion annually.
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## A New Useful Golf Book

Now finally - **The Truly Useful Golf Book**. It includes the following chapters:

- How to Properly Line Up Your Fourth Putt
- How to Hit a Nike from the Rough When You Hit a Titleist Off The Tee
- How to Avoid the Water When You Lie 8 in a Bunker
- How to Get More Distance Off the Shank
- When to Give the Ranger the Finger
- Using Your Shadow on the Greens to Maximize Earnings
- Crying and How to Handle it
- Proper Excuses for Drinking Beers before 10am
- How to Rationalize a 6 Hour Round
- How to Find That Ball That Everyone Else Saw Go in the Water
- Why Your Wife Doesn't Care That You Birdied the 5th
- How to Let a Foursome Play Through Your Twosome without getting embarrassed
- How to Relax When You Are Hitting Three Off the Tee
- When to Suggest Major Swing Corrections to Your Opponent

**I understand that they are working on the sequel "When To Re-grip Your Ball Retriever!"**



**CPGCSA  
Supporter List**

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### 2009 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

May 19	Rich Valley Golf
June 23	LedgeRock Golf Club Joint Meeting with Philadelphia
July 22	Quail Valley Golf Course
August 10	Country Club of Harrisburg
September	Penn National Golf Course Golf Championship/Annual Meeting



### The Green Sheet

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*Inside This Issue*

***May 2009 Meeting Information***

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