



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

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

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Now What? Take One Step Forward At A Time!

By Keith Happ,
December 2, 2010

During the recent Penn State Turf Conference, many superintendents were discussing their fall activities in preparation for winter and snow mold control. Other issues, such as putting green topdressing, late season aeration, drainage, tree maintenance and equipment maintenance were discussed in detail. However, one of the biggest concerns focused on dealing with another summer like 2010.



There are still many agronomic programs that need to be completed before winter is here, and it is never too early to communicate with golfers and committees about course setup for the New Year. Defining the course setup allows for a more accurate determination of the necessary programs to achieve course playability criteria. The Green and/or Golf Committees define the course setup, and the maintenance staff are charged with meeting golfer expectations. Without a defined setup document, it is very difficult to meet expectations. In effect, it is like trying to hit a moving target. Now is the time to come together, put on a pot of coffee, and decide how the course should play and, ultimately, be maintained. Only then can an accurate and realistic budget be outlined.

This past season, there was much discussion about developing fast and firm conditioning. Contrary to many golfers' beliefs, fast and firm playing conditions are not achieved by

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President's Message

Greetings all.

Wow! What a year! Hope all of you survived the best you could and are finished with the recovery processes. It was the toughest year that I know, not that I am that old or anything like that. I guess that was just nature's way of removing the undesirable grasses for us without getting us into too much trouble.

For those of you who do not know why I am returning to the Board, I am filling a need. In the business that we are in, sometimes misfortune is handed out. Two of our Board members, Officers actually, suffered that fate. The Board asked several of the Past President's to fill in while the current members of the Board could continue their journey through the Officers seats at a normal pace. Thus, I was the fortunate one chosen. Thanks go out to Tom Ocepek for also offering his assistance at this time of need.

We also need to welcome back the Jeff and Wanda Fry family to Pennsylvania. They may have been gone for a short time, but it was way too long. Welcome home!

Getting to the business of our Association, we need to address a variety of issues. Whereas I haven't been on the Board for 4 years, and we haven't had a Board meeting yet, I see things that we need to get feedback from you, the member. I intend on sending out a "survey" or comment email during the early winter. WE NEED 100% RESPONSE!!! We can't address your needs unless you reply. This applies to all classifications of our membership. It doesn't matter what your "letters" are after your name ... you are still a member. So please take the few minutes and help us, you included, out.

That being said, it's time to recharge the batteries and get more education over the winter. Fill out all of your DEP forms and applications for water use. Plan next year's strategies and relax a bit too.

Until I ramble on again, take care.

Faron Stoops

2011 Board of Directors



(L-R) Matt Turner, Rebecca Matis, Brian Ahrens, Barry Bollinger, Faron Stoops, Steve Ludwig, Tim Hill, Jim Byrne. Missing from photo: Don Dodson, Alan FitzGerald, Chad Oxenreider, Phil Easton

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Golf Championship Results

The CPGCSA Championship tournament was held at Country Club of York. We want to thank John Colo and his club for hosting the CPGCSA tournament. John Colo and his staff did an outstanding job organizing and preparing the course for the tournament. The course is in fabulous shape considering going thru the summer from hell! These Donald Ross "insane undulating" greens were very firm, fast, and smooth, if you were on the wrong side of the green, you had no prayer to get near the hole. Anyway, the weather was perfect and we all had a blast.

Gross Scores only

Championship Flight:

Faron Stoops	82
John Colo	83

First Flight:

Barry Bollinger	81
Jim Byrne	83

Second Flight:

Tim Hill	89
Scott Fisher	100

Remember, you have to attend two meetings per year in order to qualify for the championship trophies.

Longest Drive:

Championship flight:	Matt Turner
First and second flight:	Scott Giles

Closest to the Pin:

#3	Tim Hill	
#6	Brad Helcoski	9 feet 1 inch
#12	Barry Bollinger	31 feet 4 inches
#17	Curt King	27 feet

For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like to share with the membership, please call Wanda at (717) 279-0368 or e-mail to cpgcsa@hotmail.com

Or mail to:

CPGCSA
1594 Cumberland Street #250
Lebanon, PA 17042-4532

**** 2011 Dues Statements will be mailed out this week, please make sure to update your information before returning****

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Upcoming Events

- **January 11-13, 2011**
Eastern Turfgrass Conference & Tradeshow
Crown Plaza Valley Forge, Valley Forge PA
- **January 27, 2011**
Northeastern PA Turf Conference
The Woodlands Resort, Wilkes-Barre, PA
- **February 7-11, 2011**
Golf Industry Show
Orange County Convention Center
Orlando, FL
- **February 22-24, 2011**
Western PA Turf Conference & Trade Show
Four Points by Sheraton Pittsburgh North, Mars, PA

GCSAA UPDATE

By Alan FitzGerald

The GCSAA Board of Directors, 2011 board candidates, and 87 delegates representing 93 of GCSAA's 100 affiliated chapters, convened at the Hilton Kansas City Airport on October 23-24, for the 18th annual Chapter Delegates Meeting. For further information go to www.gcsaa.org/chapters/delegatemeeting.aspx to view the meeting's presentations.

GCSAA Financial Position

Interim Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans discussed GCSAA's financial position stating that overall the GCSAA is in financial good health; however the current economy and a down golf market have taken its toll. Due to prudent past and present leaders GCSAA has a financial reserve of \$6.5 million, has no long-term debt, owns the headquarters building and has a high membership retention rate. All of which add to a solid financial picture.

GCSAA Dues Increase Proposal

Proposed GCSAA member dues are established through a process that was created by the delegates that uses the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as a guide. The members then vote upon the proposal at the association's annual meeting in February. The process calls for the association to consider a dues adjustment every two years as a means of ensuring a sustainable organization. The process is not automatic, and the GCSAA Board of Directors may elect not to bring forward dues adjustments according to schedule as was the case last year when the board opted to forgo consideration of an increase. The board supports a dues increase for 2011 because it represents your opportunity to help ensure the success of your career and your facility.

The main points on why there is a need for a dues increase are:

- It will allow the association to begin covering costs that have already risen in the years since the last increase. They have experienced a 5.8 percent rate of inflation since that time and therefore need the increase to compensate for that. Dues would be increased by \$20 for Classes A and SM, and by \$10 for Class C.
- GCSAA dues account for 27 percent of the GCSAA budget, which is less than that of comparable associations (38-40 percent).
- The two-year cycle was approved in order to keep increases smaller and more frequent thus eliminating the need for large, 20 percent increases that had a significant negative impact on membership growth and retention, which was the main reason the CPI-based process was requested and developed.
- Though not tied to a specific program, project or service, GCSAA member dues support the entirety of association programs and services that members have deemed valuable to them and their facilities.
- GCSAA has also looked to reduce expenses and create more efficient operations. Over the last three years GCSAA has cut \$5.4 million from its budget and has reduced its staff by more than 25 percent. This has been necessitated by a decrease in revenues of roughly the same amount (\$5 million) during that same period. Because membership has decreased over the years, the actual revenues generated through member dues have decreased.
- GCSAA is diligently exploring additional revenue opportunities, those that are somewhat traditional and others that have not been pursued before.
- The board is committed to no longer funding traditional operating expense items from the association's reserve account.

Having heard these arguments in person, and considering that it amounts to 5 cents/day, I recommend that the CPGCSA should support the increase however we will vote at the annual meeting based on what we hear from the CPGCSA members.

Field Staff Expansion

The program began in 2006 as a pilot program to create a tie between chapters and the GCSAA so the chapters can better utilize and benefit from GCSAA programs and services, for GCSAA to learn more about chapters and their needs and ultimately to grow membership for both. There is no offering of agronomic services as that is well supplied through the USGA and private consultants. The feedback from chapters who have utilized the program has been overwhelmingly positive and those chapters have continually expressed interest and support.

The board of directors announced in August the expansion of the program and shared that affiliated chapters have been grouped into nine regions. The goal is to eventually have resident field staff in each region. Four regions will have field staff trained and fully in place by mid-2011.

These regions were selected in this first expansion phase using “as-needed” criteria that included specific requests for regional support, a desire to balance field staff throughout the nation and available resources. Regions not immediately receiving resident field staff will continue to have access to GCSAA resources. As for the remaining regions, the board voted at their Fall Board Meeting to fill two additional field staff regions sometime in the last quarter of 2011, which will bring the total to six field staff. They took this action in recognition of the value of this program and the desire to get the entire program fully functional as soon as possible. The board has yet to determine which regions these two positions will focus on. A timeline for filling the final three regions will be based on available resources.

GCSAA CEO Search

It was somewhat disappointing, but understandable, that Mark Woodward’s resignation was not explained any further (due to employer/employee confidentiality), however James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, GCSAA President updated the delegates on the search for a new chief executive officer for the GCSAA. The board of directors has hired an executive search firm to assist with the search process and is clear on what they are looking for in a candidate and as a result the position description has been posted on the GCSAA website. They have targeted early January 2011 for initial candidate interviews with the follow-up interviews in the following weeks. President Fitzroy assured the delegates that GCSAA is not on “hold” during this transition period.

Additional Information

- Six chapters made presentation on programs they have instituted with the assistance of GCSAA resources in the areas of government relations, corporate partnerships, consolidation/sharing of resources and communications.
- New program initiatives in the area of web services, environmental programs, marketing communications, surveys and data and media public relations were shared.
- Considerable advancements were noted in the area of professional development resources with the new job board, self assessment tool and webcasting software.
- Outlined were new features for Conference and Show including education programs, networking opportunities and cost-saving options available to attendees.
- Candidate presentations for the offices of president, vice president and secretary/treasurer and a minimum of two and potentially three directors.

GCSAA Election Slate

For President – Robert M. Randquist, CGCS

For Vice President – Sandford G. Queen, CGCS

For Secretary/Treasurer – Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS

Keith A. Ihms, CGCS

For Director (electing three) –

Rafael Barajas, CGCS

Peter Grass, CGCS

John J. O’Keefe, CGCS

Mike B. Wooten, CGCS

Bill H. Maynard, CGCS, will remain on the board with one year remaining in his two-year director’s term.

Jim R. Fitzroy, CGCS will serve as Immediate Past President during 2011.

Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS will be retiring from the GCSAA Board of Directors.

Alan FitzGerald, CPGCSA Board Member attended this annual meeting to represent CPGCSA. Alan can be reached at 610-777-9890 or alan@ledgerockgolf.com if you have any questions.

USGA.....continued from page 1

simply turning off the irrigation. There must be a holistic plan put forth to develop this playing condition, and once the plan is in hand, it may need to be implemented over a number of years to achieve the desired playing quality. The Mid-Atlantic regional conferences scheduled for Richmond, Virginia on March 8th and Baltimore, Maryland on March 15th will offer presentations on the issue.

As we move into the next phase in the change of season, put forth every effort to do at least one or two things that will make your course operation better. For example, it is not too early to give us a call to schedule a Turf Advisory Service visit for next season. Open discussion with course officials can be very productive. Golfers' concerns can be addressed, programs can be discussed, and realistic expectations and goals can be put forth.

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 can reach Stan Zontek (szontek@usga.org) and Darin Bevard (dbevard@usga.org) at 610/ 558-9066 or Keith Happ (khapp@usga.org) at 412/ 341-5922.

Felicita Golf Results

Front Nine Winners - 2 Best Balls 60

Shawn Cooper
John Szekeres
Tom Kintzer
Matt Davenport

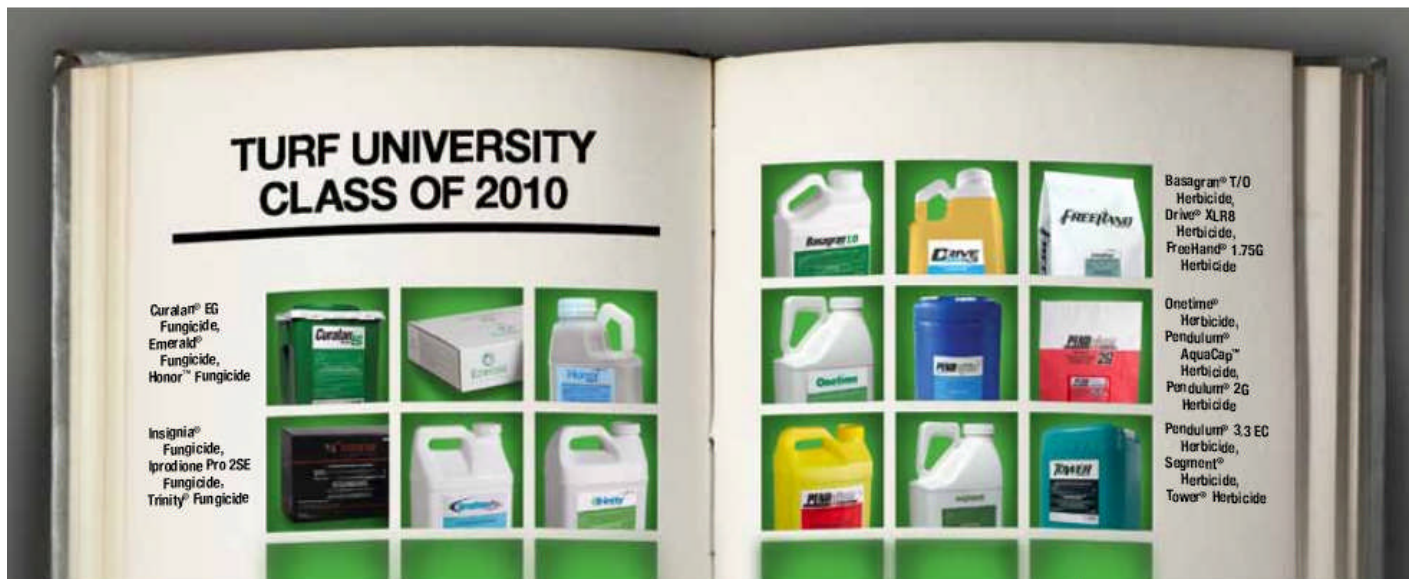
Back Nine Winners - Scramble 27

Andrew Shuttlesworth
Scott Machermer
Shane Shutt
Rich Gdovin

Overall Winners - 85

Paul Wickey
Barry Bollinger
Jeff Austin
Nolo Fernandez

Longest Drive #6 Brian Davis
Longest Drive #12 Rebecca Matis
Closest To Pin #3 Jeff Green
Closest To Pin #7 Brian Davis
Closest To Pin #13 Jeff Austin
Closest To Pin #17 Shawn Cooper



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