



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 17 Issue 7

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

October 2010

October Meeting

Felicita Golf Resort

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

Lunch - 11:00 AM

Golf - 12:00 PM Shotgun

Hors d'oeuvres/Cash Bar– following golf

There will not be a Board meeting this month.

Superintendent Profile

Rebecca Matis began her career in 1996, working as a staff member of the Penn State Blue and White Courses in State College, PA. In 1999 Rebecca moved to the Harrisburg area and worked under Bill Wall at Dauphin Highlands Golf Course, first as a crew member, then became an Assistant in 2002. While attending Penn State Rebecca remained at Dauphin Highlands as well as helped Bill with the grow-in phase at Deer Valley. After graduating Penn State in 2005, Rebecca took the Assistant position at Blue Ridge Country Club under Scott Fisher. Then in 2006, Rebecca became the Superintendent at Mayapple Golf Links in Carlisle until the spring of 2008. Since then Rebecca has been the Superintendent at Felicita Golf Resort in Harrisburg.

Course Profile

The Golf Club at Felicita is one of the most beautiful and challenging courses one will experience. The design emphasizes the natural setting of the mountain environment while also creating an aesthetic experience through careful landscaping. The course itself was originally a farm, then a skeet & trap club and in 1963 William and David Gordon designed what was Blue Mountain Golf Club. Now Felicita Golf Resort under the ownership of Richard Angino, the course has been spotlighted in many different publications over the years for its spectacular layout and challenging fairways. The course has a slope rating of 136, and for the past two years has been host to the LPGA Duramed Futures Tour.

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What A Year! The Challenges Continue

By Keith Happ, Senior Agronomist
September 27, 2010

Drought stress has a firm grasp on much of the Mid-Atlantic Region. Although dry weather is good for the golfer, it makes it very difficult for the turf manager to establish new sod, germinate new seed, and, most of all, prepare the turf for winter. Recovery of damaged areas is very slow for this time of year, due to lack of rain. As of this update, many turf managers are faced with making difficult decisions about the care of the course due to water shortages!



All of Pennsylvania is either under a drought warning or drought watch. This involves either a mandatory or voluntary reduction in water usage. This can have an effect on golf course fall renovations. [Only renovate what you can support with irrigation!](#)

Drought-stressed grass should be cut less, fertilized less (a real problem if turf must recover from the summer), raise mowing heights, and restrict cart traffic from drought-sensitive grasses like fairway bentgrass. When will this year's weather problems be over?

Though many turf managers can buy water, doing so will affect the bottom line. Many courses had to make adjustments to their budgets as the year began, and it was not uncommon to hear from superintendents that the line item for water was slashed. The last two years were somewhat benign compared to this season. Monies not spent for water last year were viewed as potential savings this season rather than a real estimate of need during a tough year. The decision to purchase water should be based on agronomics rather than economics. It will cost far more over the long term to reestablish playing surfaces from seed or sod compared to the cost of water needed to sustain the current stand of turf this fall.

The critical issue this fall is to prepare the turf for cold temperature stress. Properly hydrating the turf is the first step towards maximizing cold temperature tolerance. During the fall, sugars are produced and act as an anti-freeze within the plant. This is referred to as *hardening*. Without water (irrigation/or precipitation), it is very difficult to fertilize the turf, maintain surface density, maximize root mass, recover from disease or mechanical damage, or even implement basic grass growing techniques such as aeration. And, if faced with a choice, a turf manager would always prefer rainfall to irrigation in order to stimulate the grass. We can't duplicate what Mother Nature can do.

For more information specific to your area (current and forecast) go to <http://drought.unl.edu/dm>. Many courses continue on the road to recovery, but turf managers are still battling turf diseases. Summer Patch (*Magnaporthe poae*) for example, has been a persistent problem in most of the region. Summer patch has affected *Poa annua* on greens and in bluegrass rough. Although pest control measures can be enacted, it is essential that fertilizers be used to grow grass this fall. Using holistic practices continues to provide the best results.

Give us a call; we are here to help. The Mid-Atlantic Regional agronomists are part of your agronomic support team. If you have a question or concern, give us a call or send an e-mail to 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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President's Message

What a wonderful day we had for the October meeting at the Country Club of York. The weather was absolutely outstanding to hold our Association Championship. The day began with a great lunch out on the terrace. Dave Gordner from DEP was available during lunch to answer questions anyone may have had about the recently enacted drought watches and warnings. Dave wanted to remind everyone that their Drought Emergency Plan is good for 3 years. If you are unsure of the last time you renewed your drought emergency plan, it would be wise to check and re-file. Dave has been very conscientious in keeping the lines of communication open between DEP and our association. After lunch, we took to the course, in search of that winning round. Many of us found the course very challenging. John and his crew did an amazing job in setting up course for the day. Following golf there was a cocktail hour followed by a fantastic dinner. The Chef and staff did an amazing job to give us a feast meant for Kings. Once dinner was finished we began our annual meeting with elections.

I would like to thank Curt King and Jim Byrne for their dedication and service to the board of directors. Curt and Jim will be going off the board this fall. I would also like to welcome Tim Hill and Brian Ahrens to the board as the newly elected directors. We would also like to welcome Faron Stoops back to the board as President.

This month's meeting will be the Super/Pro/GM/Affiliate tournament at the Resort at Felicita. Rebecca and her staff are putting together a great event for our last golf outing for the 2010 season.

Stephen J. Ludwig
CPGCSA President

For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the November/December newsletter, please call Wanda at (717) 279-0368 or e-mail to cpgcsa@hotmail.com

by
October 25, 2010

Please make sure to update your files and the files at your club offices with the new address.

The new contact information is:

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

Directions to Felicita Golf Resort

2201 Fishing Creek Valley Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112

(Route 443) Fishing Creek Valley Road exit is marked on Route 322 heading West, or can be accessed off of Front Street. Travel east approximately 4 miles up the valley to the Felicita Signs.

From Harrisburg:

Proceed west on Second Street to Division Street, then left one block to Front Street. Turn right and proceed about 4 miles north on Front Street, past Route 39 intersection. Proceed through Fort Hunter area; turn right onto Route 443 and go approximately 4 miles to FELICITA.

From Lancaster:

Follow 283 West and take the last exit before the Turnpike. Follow I-83 North (middle ramp) to I-81 South to Exit 67B. Take Exit 67B (Lewistown); proceed to second exit (Fishing Creek Valley Road - Route 443). At the stop sign at the top of the exit ramp, turn right. FELICITA is located 3.8 miles east on Fishing Creek Valley Road. Look for the large FELICITA directional sign on the right.

From Carlisle:

Follow I-81 North to Exit 67B. Take Exit 67B (Lewistown); proceed to second exit (Fishing Creek Valley Road - Route 443). At the stop sign at the top of the exit ramp, turn right. FELICITA is located 3.8 miles east on Fishing Creek Valley Road. Look for the large FELICITA directional sign on the right

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

2010 CPGCSA Annual Meeting



Barry Bollinger presents Steve Ludwig with his Past President Plaque thanking him for his service to Central Penn.



Faron Stoops accepts the President's gavel from Steve Ludwig



Brian Ahrens, Faron Stoops, Timothy Hill - newly elected Board members and President

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Upcoming Events

- **November 16-18, 2010**
Penn State Golf Turf Conference,
Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA
- **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
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October 2010 Meeting Information
