



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 18 Issue 2

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

May 2011

May Meeting

Reading Country Club

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Education - 10:30 AM

Lunch - 11:30

Golf - 12:45 PM

Hors d'oeuvres/Cash Bar - following Golf

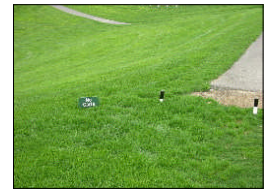
There will be a CPGCSA Board of Directors Meeting at 9:00 AM

Mid-Atlantic USGA Update

Controlling Stress Variables Now Pays Off Later In The Season

By Keith Happ
April 26, 2011

Spring travels through the Mid-Atlantic Region have provided many opportunities to examine turfgrass that has been inundated with persistent precipitation and cool temperatures. Saturated soils are frustrating to both golfers and golf course superintendents. There is nothing worse than trying to prepare the golf course for play while being concerned about self-inflicted damage from tire tracking, mower damage and foot traffic. It is equally distressing to worry about golf cart traffic that creates damage that, in many instances, is avoidable.



Many golf courses are operating short-handed. Employee callbacks and staffing have been kept at base levels for several reasons, including the budget. As a golfer, take into consideration these limitations and be realistic about expectations. More importantly, be realistic about playing the course during inclement weather.

In many portions of the Mid-Atlantic Region we have had few days of consistent, good conditions to allow the turf to grow. Anything that can be done to control stress variables (for example, golf cart traffic) will help over the long term. Superintendents are not trying to inconvenience golfers when golf carts cannot be used. They are simply trying to make the best long-term-decision for the grass

.....Continued on page 4.....

Golf Course Profile

Reading Country Club was chartered by the Court of Common Pleas of Berks County, Pennsylvania, on June 6, 1922, as a corporation not for profit. The club purchased 237 acres of land, consisting of two farms and four additional tracts of land in Exeter Township. The golf course, consisting of nine holes, was laid out by renowned architect, Alexander Findlay, and opened in 1923. A second nine opened for play in 1926. The present clubhouse was completed in 1931.

In 1937, Byron Nelson was hired as the club's golf professional. He arrived at Reading Country Club in 1937 right after winning the *Masters*. He told a fellow professional that he used his \$1,500 first place check from the *Masters* to stock the pro shop. That summer he finished 20th in the U.S. Open and played on the first Ryder Cup Team to win on British soil. While in England he finished 5th in the British Open.

During the history of the club, ownership has changed hands quite a few times. Exeter Township completed its purchase of the golf course in January 2006 and is now open to the public, providing excellent golfing opportunities and event space to the region.

Reading Country Club
5311 Perkiomen Ave
Reading, PA 19606

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President's Message

I bet everyone is waiting for me to talk about rain, correct? Well, I have a surprise for you... you are correct! It's just the nature of our profession that we have to include weather into all of our conversations. Every extreme condition has its drawbacks and provides us with different challenges. Last year, in my area, we couldn't buy a raindrop. This spring, we've only had a handful of "dry" days. I've had to wash silt off our island green twice this year already and only had to do that once in my previous nine years here. But I guess this is why we love our chosen professions!

April's meeting was a joint meeting with our friends from the Keystone Association. I looked at the radar in the morning and pretended to be a meteorologist and decided not to attend. Using an excuse from the weather people, "the jet stream surged and the lower trough stalled and the blah, blah, blah" I assumed (and for those who know the joke, it did) that it would rain all day and I stayed home and went to my daughter's volleyball game instead. Guilty as charged. But my hat is off to those of you who did trek up and play.

I think we have a great schedule of golf courses for our upcoming meetings. I want to thank those Superintendents who stepped up and accepted being a host for this year. It's not easy fitting us into the golf schedule this late in the year, but these men worked with their clubs and made it happen. Now as appreciation for their efforts, WE, the members of the Association, SHOULD attend their meetings and show them that WE appreciate and respect their efforts. THAT would truly show them our gratitude!

Our surveys have been tallied and it really didn't take long to do that. Only 15 people responded. I really don't know what to say about that. This is a tool for you to use. It is only for your benefit. Thanks to those few that did fill it out.

Our next meeting is set for Wednesday May 18 at Reading CC. Come rain or rain, I will be there and I hope to see a lot of you there also. Support Brian and his facility for hosting our Association.

I wish everyone good weather and be well. Until next time, I will see you at Reading CC.

Faron Stoops

On Course Etiquette: It's Everyone's Responsibility

Presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

A famous college basketball coach once said that recruiting was like shaving -- miss just one day and you look bad. It could be said that golf course management personnel, especially superintendents, feel the same way about golfer etiquette on the course.

Golf course etiquette is an all-encompassing term that refers to demeanor, adherence to course maintenance rules, and dress, among other issues. However, most associate golf course etiquette to the concept of ball mark repair and divot replacement. Take a moment and consider what a course would look like if patrons were excused from replacing divots or fixing ball marks for just one day. A well-managed facility would look like a battlefield.

Golf course personnel are unanimous in stating that, as a whole, golfers still do not do an adequate job in repairing their ball marks and divots. Despite the presence of posters, notes in newsletters and announcements in meetings to serve as reminders, most facility managers believe the message can never be repeated too much.

This becomes an even bigger issue as the game expands to include more juniors and those who have recently picked up the sport. Instructors and experienced golfers should be diligent in teaching the how and why of golf course etiquette. Failing to teach golfers the proper techniques now creates future problems.

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Membership News

There were no new memberships this month.

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

Justin J. Curley Class FM
Superintendent, Royal Oaks Golf Club

Mike DelBiondo Class AF
President, Genesis Turfgrass, Inc.

Gregory Hufner Class AF
Director, of Operation, Total Turf Golf Services

Jon MacNamara Class AF
Sales Representative, Genesis Turfgrass, Inc.

Mark Merrick, CGCS Class AF
Vice President, Genesis Turfgrass, Inc.

Derek B. Wentling Class SM
Superintendent, Blue Mountain Golf Course

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Tim Hill at 717-336-3847.

Membership information is also available on the Central Penn website at:
www.cpgcsa.org

May Speaker Profile

The speaker for our May meeting will be Dr. Mike Fidanza. Mike Fidanza, Ph.D., Professor of Biology (Plant and Soil Sciences) is located at Penn State Berks Campus, in Reading, PA. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Penn State, and his Ph.D. at the University of Maryland. "Dr. Mike" was in research and development for a major plant protection company from 1995 to 2000, and has been at Penn State Berks since 2000 where he holds a research and teaching appointment. Dr. Mike conducts a broad range of research in turf ecology, integrated pest management, evaluation of pesticide application technology, and development of sustainable turf management practices. Dr. Mike enjoys time with the family, which includes 5 children (2 sets of twins) and 2 yellow labrador retrievers.



Host Superintendent Profile

Brian Ahrens was born and raised in Reading PA. After receiving a B.S. of Agronomy from Penn State in 1992, he spent a brief stint at Galen Hall C.C. in Wernersville PA from 1992 thru 1993. Hired as the assistant at Reading C.C. in March of 1994, he took over as Superintendent later that year and has enjoyed home-town life ever since. While in his first year at Reading, he met the love of his life, Christy, who was hired as the snack-shop girl. They were married in 1995. They have since raised three children; Hunter, Maryn, and Tucker. Their home is also graced with their coonhound Jed, and jack-hound Ellie May. Aside from being an avid golfer, the majority of Brian's free time is spent in the pursuit of furry and feathered woodland quarry. Brian is a huge Philadelphia Sports Fan, and has also enjoyed moments over the years following the Grateful Dead and their post-Garcia ensembles.

For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the June newsletter, please e-mail information to Wanda at cpgcsa@hotmail.com or mail to
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USGAcontinued from Page 1

and soil. Signs, ropes and other traffic-control measures are used to keep the course accessible while pointing golfers away from areas of potential damage. These signs and ropes must also be moved by the maintenance crew when mowing, and, while this is an inconvenience, traffic control measures are part of the landscape and are essential damage control measures.

To date, in most instances, marvelous root growth has been exhibited where aeration programs have been conducted and topdressing programs have been completed. While the tops of the grass have not been growing, roots continue to develop. In fact, most of the grasses develop the best roots in the spring, which aids in summer turf survival.

Many questions have been posed in respect to putting green management programs; in particular, mowing programs. The cool weather experienced this season is affecting turf growth. In fact, the cooler temperatures slow turf growth, and consistent growth patterns have not occurred, further hindering course preparation. For the short term, remain realistic about playing expectations. When the turf is growing consistently, many programs can be put into place to present the greens in the desired manner. Reducing the mowing heights early in the season in an attempt to smooth the surface or enhance ball roll, could predispose the turf during difficult weather later in the season. Close mowing now slows the development of roots that the turf needs for the summer.

The Mid-Atlantic Region agronomists are part of your agronomic support team. If you have a question or concern, especially now, give us a call or send an e-mail. Stan Zontek (szontek@usga.org) or Darin Bevard (dbevard@usga.org) at 601-558-9066 or Keith Happ at (khapp@usga.org) at 412-341-5922.



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North Wales, PA

Directions to Reading Country Club

From Shillington into Reading (Lancaster Avenue)

- Take 422 East Bypass to traffic light at 47th Street
- Go to the 4th traffic light, Shelbourne Square and turn right at the light, into shopping center
- Turn around in the parking lot and come back to the same light
- Make a left at the same light onto 422 West
- Reading Country Club is the first driveway on the right

From Harrisburg, PA

- Take PA Turnpike to Morgantown Exit 298 (old exit 22)
- Take Route 176 North for 10 miles to Pottstown 422 East exit
- Take 422 East to traffic light at 47th Street
- Go to the 4th traffic light, Shelbourne Square and turn right at light, into shopping center
- Turn around in the parking lot and come back to the same light
- Make a left at the same light onto 422 West
- Reading Country Club is the first driveway on the right

From Allentown, PA

- Take Route US 22 West to Route 100 South
- Take Route 100 South to Route 222 South
- Take Route 222 South to 422 East toward Pottstown
- Follow 422 East to traffic light at 47th Street
- Go to the 4th traffic light, Shelbourne Square and turn right at light, into shopping center
- Turn around in the parking lot and come back to the same light
- Make a left at the same light on 422 West
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“Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.”

~Maria Robinson~

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Updated Chapter 102 Regulations

Stephen J. Ludwig, CGCS
USDA-NRCS Soil Conservation Technician

In November of 2010 the revised Chapter 102 Regulations became effective through the PA DEP and Federal EPA. The Chapter 102 Regulations deal with erosion, sedimentation and storm water. The main focus to the updated regulation is the size of a project requiring a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Previously a NPDES permit was required for any earth disturbance over 5 acres. Project under the 5 acre limit only needed an Erosion and Sedimentation plan from the local conservation district. The new regulation decreases the acreage to only 1 acre. This means that any earth disturbance over 1.0 acre would require an NPDES permit. This 1 acre of earth disturbance is for the entire project site, even if the project is being completed in stages. This includes site development for new construction, renovations, new roads, buildings, and parking lots. Example effecting golf courses: Bunker renovation project where a few bunkers will be rebuilt at a time, but the entire project would have over 1.0 acres disturbed. This type of project would require an NPDES permit.

So what's the big deal with an NPDES Permit you ask? Quick answer is added permitting expense and delay to project start time. To get started you will have to contact your local conservation district to see what they require. A NPDES permit will need to be completed by a consultant / engineer as there are multiple pages of very technical information and calculations that are part of the permit. The cost of completing the permit may cost between \$5,000 and \$15,000. Once the permit is filled out it will be submitted to the conservation district which has 20 days for an administrative review of the permit. Then the District has 30 days to review the E&S plan. If any deficiencies are found the District has up to 32 days for a 2nd review. Once the permit is administratively reviewed by the District, it is submitted to DEP for their review. They have 86 days to review the project. At any time if changes must be made the review process starts over again. This review process could be as short as 6 months and could take up to a year or more to complete.

"...a municipality or county **may not** issue a building or other permit or approval to those proposing or conducting earth disturbance activities requiring a Department permit until the Department or conservation district has issued the E&S or individual NPDES Permit or approved coverage under the general NPDES Permit for Storm water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities under §102.5..."

If you have any questions or need more info, give me a call or email at stephen.ludwig@pa.usda.gov.

Planning By Darin S. Bevard

In spite of cool, below-normal temperatures, our typical early-season pests are starting to emerge. In recent travels on golf courses, annual bluegrass weevil (ABW) adults have been easy to find. Applications of insecticides to kill adult weevils before they can lay eggs will need to be made soon. The half-green/half-gold stage of forsythia is a good phenological indicator for these applications, but maintain regular scouting for weevils on your property if they have been a problem in the past. For those who have not been affected by ABW, aggressive scouting is recommended for this insect pest, as new golf courses are impacted every growing season.

Initial applications for *Poa annua* seedhead control have been performed in most of the region, although northern areas have yet to reach the necessary growth stage of *Poa annua* for these applications. Remember, when timing your applications, the goal is not to control the first seedheads that emerge. Rather, the goal is to control as many seedheads as possible with the applications. Timing is essential. If there are any questions about timing of application, do not hesitate to contact our office.

Preemergent crabgrass and goosegrass applications should be made soon if they have not already been made. While cold temperatures have been an issue, crabgrass germination will occur as soon as warmer temperatures persist. Do not be lulled to sleep by this period of cold temperatures.

Every spring we hear the debate about putting green aeration timing. Should we aerate in late winter/early spring or wait until later in the spring when warmer temperatures are more likely? Each spring, the results are different. In 2010, it was very warm in the early spring. This allowed for rapid healing from core aeration in spite of the early timing of this program. Fast forward to 2011, and those courses that aerated early are suffering through very slow healing because of cold temperatures. With all of the technology and products that are available, it's still tough to overcome cold temperatures when trying to get the grass to grow aggressively. Thus, in 2010, the "early birds" made out very well, and the golfers benefited. In 2011, those with later aeration dates will probably subject their golfers to less inconvenience because warmer temperatures should reduce the length of time required for the greens to heal from aeration. The moral of the story is that a superintendent can do the exact same programs at the exact same time each growing season, and weather conditions lead to a completely different result!

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. 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.



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On Course Etiquette:continued from page 2

The basis for ball mark repair and divot replacement is for competitive and agronomic reasons. Balls that land in unrepaired divots place a golfer at a disadvantage, just as having to putt over a ball mark. By leaving turf damaged (unrepaired), it becomes susceptible to disease and/or infestation of weeds, resulting in a lower quality of playing surface. This necessitates the need for attention by golf course superintendents and their staffs, thereby taking them away from more pressing duties. As a general rule, a ball mark repaired within 10 minutes will heal with a smooth surface within two to three days. An unrepaired ball mark may take as long as three weeks to heal, but the result will be an uneven surface.

Because grass varieties differ from course to course, and from fairways to the rough, the best rule to follow in replacing divots is to check with the golf course superintendent for the particular policy. As a general rule, replace any divot on the course unless there is a sand or sand/seed mixture provided in a container on the golf car. Typically, the divot is replaced on any course with bentgrass or bluegrass fairways. If you are playing on a course with bentgrass fairways and bluegrass rough, you must pay particular attention to the materials in the container. If just sand is provided, then fill the divot hole and tamp down the sand with your foot. If a sand/bentgrass seed mixture is provided, divots in the rough would not be replaced so as to not contaminate the bluegrass with bentgrass seed. In bermuda grass fairways, generally sand is just used.

In replacing a divot, the policy is to replace the divot so the grass can send down new roots. If so, replace the turf in the same direction it came out, and tap down firmly so the mower won't pull it back out. If you are walking and no sand is provided, smooth the divot hole with your feet, gently pulling the sides of the divot hole to the center.

For more information regarding golf course maintenance and etiquette, contact your local superintendent or the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at 800-472-7878 or www.gcsaa.org.

Editors Note: This article along with many other informational articles are available on the GCSAA website. Please reprint and share with your board, membership, and golfers.

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2011 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

May 18	Reading Country Club
June 14	Heritage Hills Golf Resort
July 19	Applecross Country Club Joint Meeting - hosted by Phila AGCS
August	Social Event
September 29	Hanover Country Club Annual Meeting/Golf Championship
October 20	Carlisle Country Club Super/Pro/GM/AF Tournament

2011 Membership Dues are Now Overdue.

Please contact Wanda as soon as possible to arrange payment and update employment or address changes.

Sponsorship/Advertising

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The Green Sheet

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