



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 20 Issue 2

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

May 2013

May Meeting

Country Club of Harrisburg

Monday, May 6, 2013

Speaker - 10:15 AM

Lunch - 11:00 AM

Golf - 12:00 Noon

Buffet Dinner - Following Golf

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

Thanks to our May Meeting Sponsors



Bill Mast
Steve Thompson



Jim Byrne

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Superintendent Profile

Scott Fischer has been in the golf course industry for over 25 years working up through the ranks at various courses mainly in the Harrisburg region. He went to Cook College at Rutgers University where he received his two year certificate in turf grass management. He's been a superintendent for about 13 years and spent 3 years in sales. Scott notes he has had the privilege to work under superintendents such as Mike Benedict, Manada Golf Course; Bob Jackson, Meadowlands Country Club; Sam Snyder and the late Alby Gerst, Colonial Country Club; and Bill Wall at Dauphin Highlands Golf Course during the construction and grow-in. Scott's first gig as a super was at Red Lion Country Club for 3 years before going into sales for Lesco. After sales, Scott was the super at Blue Ridge Country Club for about 8 years before going to Country Club of Harrisburg.

Scott is happily married (14 years!) to his beautiful wife Michelle and they are blessed with 3 great daughters: Cassidy 10 and twins Jessica and Caitlyn 8. They also have a 2 year old German Shepherd, JD.

Golf Course Profile

The Country Club of Harrisburg started out as a 9 hole club along the Susquehanna River in 1896 before moving to its current location in the early 1900's. William S. Flynn designed the 18 hole golf course in 1916 for the sum of \$14,189. Since then, the golf course has experienced many changes to the original design as well as the routing of the course.

May Education

The Speaker for the May Meeting is [Paula Ballaron, P.G.](#) Manager, Policy Implementation & Outreach, at the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

Education is sponsored by

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President's Message

Greetings Central Penn!

I hope this message finds all doing well, and off to a great start for the 2013 season. This spring certainly was not close to last year in regard to the Weather! Last year we were all in full swing in the beginning of March, and this year it snowed on the 25th. Within a week it went from a high of 34 degrees to a high of 87 degrees, and now back to some cooler days and late frosts! Hopefully we start to see some "normal" days soon here!

I would like to remind everyone again that we will be voting on a bylaw change at the May meeting, so hopefully it is well attended! The change to the bylaws was sent out in the April newsletter if you need to refer back.

This season has a great schedule of venues so hopefully everyone can set the time aside to come out to support the Central, the hosting club, and the hosting superintendent. The sponsorship program is new this year, and the main goals are to keep the meeting cost affordable and approximately the same price range for all of the meetings! Thanks go out to our sponsors for their continued support given to the Central, as well as the hosting superintendents who work hard to provide us with a fantastic meeting.

We are looking forward to the May 6th meeting at The Country Club of Harrisburg. I would like to thank Scott Fischer who worked extremely hard on every aspect of the meeting to keep the costs down for all of us. The best way to thank Scott for his efforts is by attending the meeting! Hopefully you can take the opportunity to join us for a great day!

Thanks,
Rebecca Matis

Proposed Bylaw Change

There will be a vote on the following Bylaw change at the May 6th meeting at the Country Club of Harrisburg.

The current Bylaw states:

Section 3.02 **Annual Meeting**. The board of directors may fix the date and time of the annual meeting of the members, but if no such date and time is fixed by the board, the meeting for any calendar year shall be held *during the month of December during such year*, and at said meeting the Voting Members shall elect directors and shall transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting. If the annual meeting shall not have been called and held within six (6) months after the designated time, any Voting Member may call the meeting at any time thereafter.

The new Bylaw states:

Section 3.02 **Annual Meeting /Election of Officers**. The board of directors may fix the date and time of the annual meeting of the members, but if no such date and time is fixed by the board, the meeting for any calendar year shall be held during the *Winter Educational Meeting*, and at said meeting the Voting Members shall elect directors and shall transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting. If the annual meeting/*election of officers* shall not have been called and held within six (6) months after the designated time, any Voting Member may call the meeting at any time thereafter.

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Update On PA Fertilizer Law Changes

During the March meeting of the Fertilizer Advisory Board in Harrisburg a 62 page report, "Recommendations of the Expert Panel to Define Removal Rates for Urban Nutrient Management, CBP APPROVED FINAL REPORT" was handed out prior to discussion. This report cited studies in regard to urban nutrient runoff, fertilizer usage etc. The panel who amassed this report also made recommendations that were used to help draft the new Fertilizer Bill.

Some of the main points of the report that pertain to Golf and Lawncare are:

- The basic idea is to reduce the amounts of Nitrogen and Phosphorus applied by Commercial Applicators (including Golf Courses) and Homeowners by certain percentages over the course of several years.
- Create a "credit" system for nutrient reductions.
- Reporting of sales of fertilizer tonnage for compliance and reductions.
- The panel defined 10 Lawncare practices or best management practices as a recommendation. These were common sense items that the industry basically follows anyway. These include limiting Nitrogen applications to less than one pound per application, cleaning off excess from paved surfaces, using soil tests as program guidelines, increase the use of slow release fertilizers etc.
- Create a program to help educate homeowners as to proper fertilization practices.

Below are some of the minutes from the actual meeting:

"Marel Raub, Chesapeake Bay Commission, spoke about the lawn care legislation which was introduced by Senator Brubaker. Marel has been working on this bill with Senator Brubaker's staff. Bills similar to this one have been passed in Maryland and Virginia. New England states are currently working on similar bills. There have been proposed changes to the language of the bill, and concerns have been raised. The main goal of the legislation is to minimize the impact of fertilizer application on watershed. There is a need to help move urban and suburban areas in the right direction and a need for clean water in the Bay. Marel gave everyone an overview of the framework of this bill. First, there are new labeling requirements on fertilizer. The aim is to reduce the content of nitrogen and phosphorous in bagged fertilizer for the do-it-yourself homeowner. There would be an exception for organic products. Second, application standards are being established. The items being addressed are as follows: rates; set back from stream channel; reduced rates for professionals in Winter; professionals would not have to use a certain amount of slow release; and bags cannot be labeled as ice melt. Third, there are certification requirements for professional fertilizer applicators. At least a supervisor in a crew

has to be certified. Finally, this would be *the* single statewide standard, preempting local rules. Marel then pointed out key changes to the bill. Changes are denoted with red and blue ink. Most of the changes dealt with definitions. The definitions come from nutrient management regulations and Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO). The terminology needs to be consistent.

The floor was opened for questions and comments regarding Senator Brubaker's bill. Scott Chambers mentioned about the dates in the bill (November 15 – March 1) for reduced application of fertilizer by professionals. He reminded everyone that Penn State University recommends that October/November is the healthiest time to prepare a lawn for Winter. If environmental conditions are good, this is a good time to fertilize. There was then a discussion about the difference between the terms *enhanced efficiency* and *slow release*. John Breitsman stated that AAPFCO terms and definitions are fully accepted in Pennsylvania. Accurate and current definitions are a must. Bill Angstadt then stated that fertilizer tonnage reports will come into play as of July 1, 2013 for receiving credit for nitrogen reduction. Jay Howes questioned the relationship between this and the legislation. Jay also mentioned that education is a component of this bill. Marel stated that the panel did consider giving credit for community educational programs for homeowners. She said that it has been found that these programs do not work for homeowners. They will continue to spread fertilizer as they have always done, regardless of any education they might receive. Marel pointed out that by reducing the percent of nitrogen and phosphorus in bags of fertilizer, homeowners will ultimately be using less nutrients."

As always, more to come...Phil Easton April 2013

Membership News

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

Andrew Dooley Class SM
Superintendent, Berkshire Country Club

Jason Frey Class C
Assistant Superintendent, Wilmington Country Club

Eric Kline Class AF
Sales Representative, Genesis Turfgrass

Bryant Roush Class C
Assistant Superintendent, Country Club of Harrisburg

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.epgcsa.org



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Banding Together to Improve Our Public and Political Image.

Submitted by Kathy Conard, Harrell's

On April 16, 2013 the *WE ARE GOLF* coalition along with several industry partners met with Members of Congress during the sixth annual National Golf Day to share stories and data about golf's diverse businesses, employees, tax revenue creation, tourism and charitable benefits, and environmental leadership. Here is a snapshot of the information they shared:

- **Economic Benefits of Golf:** Golf is a nearly **\$70 billion industry**, providing nearly **2 million jobs** and total wage income of \$55.6 billion. That's larger than spectator sports and performing arts industries combined.
- **Golf's Charitable Impact:** Golf's national charitable impact was **\$3.9 billion** in 2011— more than **12 million people** participated in **143,000 golf-related charity events** at 12,000 different golf facilities.
- **Supporting our Troops:** The PGA TOUR has raised more than **\$10 million for US military and their families** through Birdies for the Brave. PGA professionals and USGA members have raised more than **\$16.4 million** for the Folds of Honor Foundation, which has provided more than **3,600 scholarships** for military families. The Salute Military Golf Association has helped rehabilitate wounded warriors, providing more than **1,700 free, private lessons** and custom-fitted clubs to our veterans.
- **Health Benefits of Golf:** Walking 18 holes of golf is the same as taking a 5 mile walk or running 3.5 miles – well in excess of the **10,000 steps** recommended for daily exercise. You burn about **2,000 calories** when you walk and 1,300 when you use a cart – and your blood glucose levels fall anywhere from 10 to 30 percent.

Environmental Stewardship: Golf is now on the leading edge of environmental sustainability and stewardship efforts. Golf courses account for **two million acres** of green space across the country, which are home to a vast array of wildlife species. New, industry-wide principles on sustainability ensure continual improvement in the design, development, construction, and management of golf courses.

As golf course professionals we owe it to our families, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and the game to be good stewards of the environment and to educate those outside the industry about the importance and benefits of golf and proper turf management. Then the public and policymakers will place our industry a little higher on the ladder of importance, particularly when making those tough decisions on water—or pesticide—regulations. We are making positive strides. Together we can keep the momentum going.

For more information, visit the [WE ARE GOLF](#) , www.GCSAA.org and www.EIFG.org



May Hole Sponsors

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Directions to the Country Club of Harrisburg

From Cameron Street in Harrisburg:

Take Cameron Street N onto #322 W . Follow #322 W to Fishing Creek Exit (Rt. 443) Turn right onto Fishing Creek Valley Road (Rt. #443) Proceed to the Club entrance, approximately 1/4 mi. on the right.

From Camp Hill and points West:

Proceed to Cameron Street in Harrisburg and follow the directions as above

-OR-

Follow Rt. 81 N across the Wade Bridge to the Front Street exit . Follow Front Street N to the end of Fort Hunter Turn right onto Fishing Creek Valley Road (Rt. 443). Proceed to the Club entrance, approximately 1/4 mi. on the right

From Colonial Park and points East:

Proceed to Cameron Street in Harrisburg and follow directions as above

-OR-

Follow Rt. 81 S to Rt. 322 W. Follow Rt. 322 W to Fishing Creek Exit (Rt. 443). Turn right and proceed to the Club entrance, approximately 300 yards on the right.

From Philadelphia:

Take Exit 19 from the PA Turnpike. Follow Rt. 283 N to Rt. 83 N. Follow Rt. 83 N to Rt. 81 S. Follow Rt. 81 S to Rt. 322 W. Follow Rt. 322 W to Fishing Creek Exit (Rt. 443). Turn right and proceed to the Club entrance, approximately 300 yards on right.

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Mid-Atlantic USGA Update

Ups And Downs Are Part Of The Business

By Keith Happ, Director, North-Central Region

April 17, 2013

When our last update was sent most of the region was in the grasp of a late winter blast. Many areas were still waiting for snow to melt and the soil to warm to begin spring conditioning programs. Since that regional update, we have again experienced weather extremes. Temperatures reached well into the 90's in portions of the central and southern parts of the region. This surge in temperature promoted a rapid growth response which was welcome for some, but for others, it was not.

Poa annua seedheads are beginning to emerge. For those that treated too early, the only recourse is to try and control seed that is still in the "boot" of the plant. Once the seed emerges we cannot treat to magically reverse this natural process. Don't panic and increase growth regulation rates and don't retreat or tighten the treatment interval. Stay with the plan to grow the strongest grass possible; much of the season is still ahead of us. Fertilize judiciously and brush to help make the grass and seed more erect prior to mowing. Use your best judgment to get through the seeding period and don't bruise or wound the grass. Remember that just after *Poa annua* produces seed it is at its weakest point in its life cycle. Significant energy reserves are used to produce seed and this energy comes from the stored reserves in the roots. While the surface may look fine, it is the roots that will determine the survival of the plant when the soils get hot. Be proactive, communicate and manage through the spring transition to summer growth. Don't hesitate to call us if you have any questions.

We have had confirmations of adult annual bluegrass weevil activity in portions of our region. Make every effort to wait until a consistent migration of adults occurs to implement control strategies. Use the calendar as guide but do not allow a penciled date on the calendar to dictate when the pest control is enacted. Missing the window of control for annual bluegrass weevil will only add to the potential stress that could severely damage weakened *Poa annua*.

Portions of the region have been very dry. This is a good thing as long as turf health is not compromised. Managing the soils on the dry side is a good idea. However, be sure to maintain a level of hydration that supports consistent, controlled growth. Keep checking soil moisture to determine the baseline levels that dictate the need for irrigation.

By now, preemergence herbicides should have been applied in most of the region unless the use of a product with postemergence activity is planned. Remember, most preemergence herbicides need to be watered in for activation. In non-irrigated areas, this means planning applications prior to rainfall. Early application should be the rule in these areas.



We have been dry and managing the soils on the dry side is a good thing. However, establish a baseline this spring for irrigation. Don't allow the turf to become compromised as we prepare for the summer ahead.

For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the June newsletter, please call Wanda at (717) 279-0368 or e-mail to cpgcsa@hotmail.com by May 24, 2013.

We continue to have available opportunities for advertising and sponsorship for this meeting season. Please contact Wanda for further information.

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2013 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

June 24 - Spring Ford Country Club
Joint Meeting with Philadelphia AGCS

July - Social

August - Social

September - Lebanon Country Club
Golf Championship

October 7th - Oktoberfest Open
Berkshire Country Club



The Green Sheet

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Inside This Issue

May 2013 Meeting Information
