



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 22 Issue 4

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

July 2015

Congratulations to Todd Bidlespacher, Mike Yelenosky and the entire Lancaster Country Club Grounds Staff on a spectacular U.S. Women's Open Tournament



Pre-dawn hours key for Lancaster Country Club Groundskeepers

Posted: July 8, 2015 7:01 pm
Lancaster Online

The riding mowers roared to life before dawn. With headlights knifing the darkness, a dozen set out Wednesday across Lancaster Country Club's championship-level golf course. Every rough, fairway, approach, collar, green and tee box required a trim before the golfers arrived at 6:45 a.m. for their final practice rounds of the U.S. Women's Open. Cutting the grass couldn't wait for the sun. Nor could raking bunkers, rolling greens and hauling off grass trimmings.

About 4:30 a.m., as a half moon slipped behind thickening clouds, Mike Yelenosky scooted off in a golf cart to check on the work. Burly, chatty and detail-oriented, Yelenosky is the golf course superintendent. It was the third day of the week-long tournament, and he seemed to be running on coffee and adrenaline. The best women golfers in the world were competing on the course he has fussed over for 10 years. "It's definitely very exciting," Yelenosky said. "But my No. 1 task is not to sit back and say, 'Oh, we're hosting the Open.' My job is making sure my staff is doing the job."

Dedicated volunteers

Yelenosky had his regular crew of 42 to supervise. But he also was relying upon 55 volunteers, mostly professional groundskeepers from golf courses as far away as Los Angeles. Many were supervisors of their own courses back home. But they're happy to show up at prestigious tournaments to do the grunt work and to do it well. "What you get is a bunch of guys that know what they're doing collectively, working toward the same goal," said Geoffrey Barber, the assistant superintendent at Kirtland Country Club in Willoughby, Ohio. Barber's job was to rake several of the 60 sand bunkers on the course. He returned each evening to fill dozens of divots. Barber and other volunteers from out-of-town were staying in dormitories at Millersville University. "It's a brilliant experience," said David Houston, a student from Ireland serving an internship at Saucon Valley Golf Course near Bethlehem. "They're looking after us so well." He liked the meals and missed his tea.

Tooling around in a cart, Yelenosky shouted greetings to staff — "Dave, you good?" — and talked frequently with others by portable radio and cell phone.

Continued on Page 6

President's Message

Greetings!

I can't believe it is almost the end of July as I'm writing this – the year so far has flown by. I think the story since my last message is how wet it has been – there never is a sure thing easy year in this industry as Mother Nature keeps us on our toes one way or another! It's been interesting hearing the stories of rainfall across the region – considering some of the stories I've heard, I'll happily take the 9" we had here since June 1st!

Unfortunately the May meeting had to be cancelled due to lack of participation. It was very disappointing as John Long did a great job stepping in last minute to host on the original date after the venue had to be moved. As I've discussed numerous times I know how hard it is to make meetings but an association is only as strong as it's members – the more we get together, the better the comradery and the stronger the association. Barring a few blips like the May meeting, I can't complain as overall attendance has been good over the last three years, but I hope that everyone makes the fall meetings and we have an exceptional finish this year. If nothing else, come out and tell us your rain stories!!

There was also a summer social tentatively scheduled but the board struggled to find a type of event that would be a success. Over the last number of years, the board has tried a number of different types of events but none have been successful since Rebecca hosted the pig roast at Felicita. Since the May meeting was cancelled, the board decided to combine it and the social together and are working on an early September event that hopefully everyone will be interested in! More to come soon....

Lastly I hope everyone made it to the Women's Open at Lancaster Country Club. I don't think I have ever seen a golf course as perfect as it was for the week. Todd, Mike and all their staff (and volunteers) should be extremely proud of their hard work and for showing the world what Central Penn golf has to offer!

As fall aeration gets closer, I hope the weather cooperates and it goes well for everyone.

See you soon!

Alan

Membership News

The following individual has applied for membership into our association. If there are no written objections within the next seven days, he will be accepted into CPGCSA at the next meeting.

*Timothy RiismendelClass AF
Account Manager, Atlantic Irrigation*

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Wanda at 717-279-0368.

Membership information is also available on the Central Penn website at:

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Be an Advocate

Chase Rogan | Field Staff – Mid-Atlantic Regional Rep
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Investing in government relations is an important endeavor in our business. Whether we like it or not, our industry can be affected by various pieces of legislation on the federal, state, and local level. From entertainment taxes, to immigrant staffing, to fertilizer legislation, we must build relationships that allow us to be a resource for our officials at every level of government.

Nationally, GCSAA has the Grassroots Ambassadors program that matches a Class A, SM, or C member with every member of congress. The goal is to educate representatives about our industry. Locally, you may deal with water authorities or township ordinances of varying degrees. Here, the goal is still the same – build a relationship and make yourself a resource for those around you. Educate.

Even our recently completed Rounds 4 Research program is an extension of government relations. This year, we yielded over \$112,500 to support turfgrass research around the country. Promoting a program like R4R shows people that we are serious about continual improvement, that we care about getting better, and that we put our money where our mouth is regarding management practices based in science.

Recently in PA, we hosted Pennsylvania Golf Day in Harrisburg. Participants from 7 golf organizations engaged in about 80 meetings with state legislators and/or their staff. We talked about golf's economic impact in Pennsylvania – almost \$2 billion annually. And we talked about the number of jobs golf creates in the state – about 30,000 with a payroll approaching \$500 million. We also met with chairmen of the committees that are responsible for fertilizer and drought legislation.

In my opinion, we need to grow these initiatives. Continue to build relationships. Continue to do what you can on the local level. Your club may even be the biggest employer in the township, and that is a story worth telling. But regardless of how you do it, find a way to get engaged in government relations. Be an advocate for *your* industry, because nobody is going to do it for us.

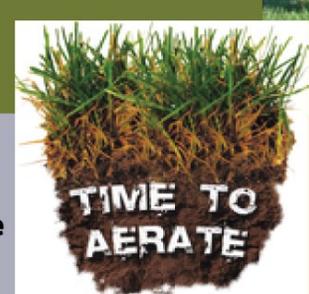




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Lancaster CC Continues The Tradition in Pennsylvania

Lancaster Country Club continued Pennsylvania’s winning tradition of hosting the USGA Women’s Open during July 9-12, 2015. Congratulations to all those spectacular women athletes who competed on a golf course that presented itself also in a spectacular way. Congratulations to Director of Golf Course Operations and Penn State alum, Todd Bidlespacher, and his golf course superintendent and Penn State alum, Mike Yelonosky, and the entire assistants, staff, crew, and also all the volunteers during tournament week. I even got a chance to participate, with a very important job of moving the turn-around sheet for the greens mower crew!

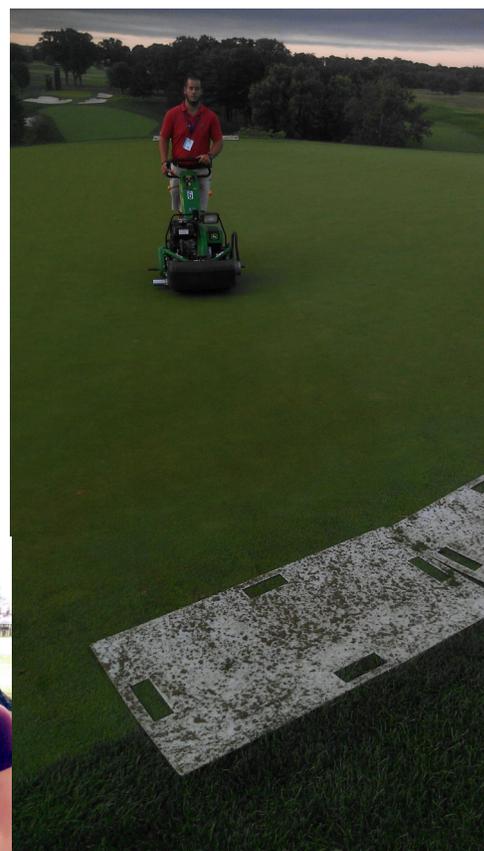
Although the USGA listed this tournament as the 70th Women’s Open, this was actually the 9th time it was held on a Pennsylvania golf course. Here is a list of USGA Women’s Open events held in Pennsylvania:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Golf Course</u>	<u>Location:</u>
2015	Lancaster Country Club	Lancaster, PA
2010	Oakmont Country Club	Oakmont, PA
2009	Saucon Valley Country Club	Bethlehem, PA
1992	Oakmont Country Club	Oakmont, PA
1976	Rolling Green Golf Club	Springfield, PA
1971	Kahkwa Country Club	Erie, PA
1968	Moselem Springs Golf Club	Fleetwood, PA
1959	Churchill Valley Country Club	Pittsburgh, PA
1952	Bala Golf Club	Philadelphia, PA

Mike Fidanza, Ph.D., is a Professor of Plant and Soil Sciences at Penn State Berks Campus, Reading, PA. Email: maf100@psu.edu
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Fisher & Son sponsored an education session on Friday afternoon in the air conditioned grounds crew volunteer tent (everyone was sitting toward the



Great attention to detail by the greens mowing crew!

USGA Green Section agronomist Darin Bevard let my son (Paul) and I actually hold the Women’s Open trophy!



My daughters Quinn (who turned 8 that day) and Victoria enjoyed the day at the USGA Women’s Open.



US Women's Open.....continued from Page 1

Agronomy expert

An hour into the morning work, Yelenosky was glad he had not heard from Darin Bevard, a representative of the United States Golf Association with a noteworthy title: director of championship agronomy. Bevard's job is all about the grass, and he was out and about checking on the pampered, tidy course, paying close attention to the greens. "I believe the USGA is very happy," Yelenosky said. "They won't tell you that, but it's one of the situations that no news is good news." Besides Bevard, other USGA workers were collecting data about the greens — their moisture content and their "speed."

Speed is measured by how far a golf ball, released from an incline, rolls on a flat surface. "I want them (to roll) 11 to 11-and-a-half" feet, Bevard said. And Wednesday the greens were cooperating. "No issues at all this morning," Bevard said, speaking before asking Yelenosky to cut and roll the 15th green a second time.

Tasty breakfast

By 7 a.m. most of the mowers, rakers, blowers, hole cutters, clippings collectors and other workers had returned to the maintenance area for breakfast: an egg croissant, hash browns and banana. No tea. "Overall, I'm very happy with the way everything is shaking out," Yelenosky said. But his day was far from over.

After lunch, he would meet with his bosses and USGA staff to address any concerns. And around 6 p.m., after every golfer had finished her round, Yelenosky's crew would head out yet again to mow, rake, fix divots and attend to every other detail a championship demands.

"Sleep? I don't need sleep," Yelenosky told a crew member. "It's over-rated."



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Turfgrass Research at Penn State University

Chase Rogan | Field Staff – Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative
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We all know how important university research is to the vitality and future success of our industry. This post will serve as the first feature of a blog mini-series highlighting the research being conducted around the Mid-Atlantic region. Next time, I will take you inside the research programs at the University of Maryland and Virginia Tech. To get us started, here is a little bit of what's going on in Happy Valley.

Dr. Max Schlossberg's research trials on Kentucky bluegrass are evaluating efficiency and recovery of controlled-release granular nitrogen fertilizers. These studies involve weekly measures of canopy color/density, growth, and fertilizer-N recovery. Field trials investigating organic N fertilizers and liming agents are also underway. Lastly, the Turfgrass Nutrition team is repeating several flux-chamber studies measuring ammonia volatilization (loss) following foliar and granular applications of urea and stabilized-urea fertilizers. The outcomes of this N-fertilizer research include guidance on fertilizer selection, rate(s), and cultural practice that support resilient golf course roughs, sports fields, and lawns; while limiting non-point N loading of water resources.

Dr. Ben McGraw and his team are working on interesting research involving turfgrass ants. Some believe that turfgrass ants are major predators of Annual Bluegrass Weevil (ABW) eggs, and Dr. McGraw wants to learn more. By monitoring these ant colonies using pit-fall traps and ABW egg stations, the entomology team hopes to gain insight into the impact that ants have on ABW populations. In answering this question, Dr. McGraw would gain insight on whether conserving these ants on fairways may actually help reduce ABW populations in the future.

Speaking of ABW, Dr. McGraw's graduate student, Ben Czyzewski, is researching how different greens cultural practices (mowing height and N fertility) affect ABW survival rates, egg laying, and larval development. Since ABW damage is rarely reported on greens, this research helps gain insight into whether or not ABW can lay eggs on greens-height grass. Furthermore, Ben is learning more about ABW foraging activities using a time lapse camera – pretty cool. He actually marks the adult ABWs with a UV pen, and then can easily pick up their activity on the camera.

Dr. Kaminski and his research technician, Tim Lulis, are embarking on a long-term study looking at how to maximize playability without compromising plant health. In short, what is the point of diminishing returns when it comes to high intensity management and the expected gains? The idea is to come up with a sort of mathematical equation that can be used to attain maximum playability with the fewest necessary inputs. Think: Is that extra roll or cut necessary to attain speeds of "X"? Or, given "X" weather conditions, your greens can only attain "Y" speeds, with "Z" inputs. Complex, yes. But they hope this information is useful for tournament preparation in the future.

Some of the influencing factors include mowing frequencies, mowing heights, etc. As far as data collection, there is a ton, including thermal photography, ball roll, and plant color and quality. They are currently working on a bentgrass green, with plans to replicate the study on a fine fescue green as well. Pretty interesting.

Dr. Landschoot is working on some research that aims to control *poa annua* within a Kentucky bluegrass stand. While controlling *poa* is hard enough, controlling *poa* in a stand of Kentucky bluegrass is even harder, since both grasses are in the same genus. His research is showing a positive response to an Exonerate and Tenacity mixture. In this case, the exonerate kills the *poa*, and the Tenacity serves as a pre-emergent. While there is some phytotoxicity associated with this treatment, the results are pretty promising.

Lastly, Dr. Andy McNitt and Tom Serensits, manager of Sports Turf Research, are working on a project looking at the playability of warm season grasses on athletic fields in northern climates. The trial is evaluating three bermudagrasses up against new Kentucky bluegrasses. Some of the evaluation parameters include traction and divot resistance. In other work, the McNitt group is experimenting with froze mowing and various sodding techniques for NFL fields.

In closing, I'd like to thank all of the Penn State Turfgrass Faculty and Staff for presenting their research, and the hard work they continue to put forth to serve our industry.

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