



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 22 Issue 2

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

May 2015

May Meeting

Joint Meeting with Pocono TGA

The Schuylkill Country Club

877 West Market Street
Orwigsburg, PA 17961

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Speaker - 10:15 AM

Lunch - 11:00 AM

Golf - 1:00 PM Shotgun

“Steak” Dinner - following Golf

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

Superintendent Profile

Will Schneider is a 1998 graduate of Blue Mountain School District. Will attended Penn State University and graduated with a degree in Business Management in 2002. Currently Will resides in Friendsburg with his wife Amy and their son Ike. Will has been an employee of the Schuylkill Country Club since 1997. Will was the Assistant Superintendent to Jim Rattigan for ten years and Golf Course Superintendent since January of 2015.

Thanks to Our Sponsors for this Event!

Food Sponsor for this Meeting



The Speaker for this meeting is Tanner Delvalle from Pottsville Penn State Extension.

Education Sponsored by



Golf Club Profile

The Schuylkill Country Club was formed in 1905 in Pottsville as the "Outdoor Club of Pottsville". The club's original charter and by laws were created at this time, and the basic outline and structure of these documents still exist today. In 1919, the members of the "Outdoor Club of Pottsville" decided to purchase a scenic piece of property in Orwigsburg, PA and build a 9-hole golf course. They purchased 4 pieces of land totaling 113 acres for \$11,850. Francis X. Reilly was hired as architect of the clubhouse and Gordon Nagle as contractor, and together they built a beautiful clubhouse on top a hill at a cost of \$32,875. The view allowed for all to see for miles in all directions.

The original 9-holes of the golf course were designed by world renowned golf architect Willie Park Jr and built by Frank James at a cost of \$20,700. In 1921, the course and clubhouse opened and the members officially moved from the Pottsville location to Orwigsburg. The same by laws and charter were kept, just the name was changed to Schuylkill Country Club.

The existing building is still the main focus of the clubhouse today. The Schuylkill Haven room, living room, dining room, grill room and kitchen area are all part of old structure. The 2nd floor was the original ladies locker room. They had showers, bathrooms, lockers, and a sitting area. What many people do not know is the 2nd floor also had rooms that were used for different employees as living quarters throughout the years. These rooms have since become unlivable and are now used for club storage.

In the mid 1940's, the course was redesigned to 18 holes by another world renowned golf course architect, Donald Ross. Ross was involved in designing or redesigning around 400 courses from 1900-1948, laying the foundation for America's golf industry. His challenging layout is known for its fabulously maintained playing conditions in a peaceful, quiet atmosphere.

Over the years the club has grown into more than just a place for golf. With a variety of memberships available Schuylkill is now an ideal place for family and friends to meet and enjoy the many social activities that are held throughout the years!

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President's Message

Greetings!

The 2015 season looks like it has started with a bang – having gone from cold straight to warm weather. At least it has been dry! In a way it is good as it meant that courses are busy and superintendents can get work done, on the other hand the turf is looking like we're in July! I hope everyone has recovered from the winter and aeration and are settling into a more regular maintenance routine.

As typical for this time of the year it is a quiet time for the organization as we wait for the first meeting of the year at Schuylkill Country Club. It is a joint meeting with Pocono so there should be a good turnout and a fun day.

On June 9th, the golf industry within Pennsylvania will host a State Golf Day in the Capital Building. Along with the Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association (ie the Allied), the other organizations participating are:

Golf Association of Philadelphia
West Penn Golf Association
Philadelphia Vicinity Club Managers
Philadelphia Section of PGA
Tri State Section of PGA

The Pennsylvania State Golf Day will allow these organizations to meet with state leaders to discuss the impact of the game on the state's economy and is intended to reflect the efforts of the GCSAA's initiatives within WE ARE GOLF. Chad and I are representing CPGCSA / the Allied. If you have anything comments or questions, please let us know beforehand.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Schuylkill.

Alan

Rounds 4 Research Rapidly Approaching

It's golf season! And if you love golf like I do (and nice weather), then that excites you. In fact, it excites a lot of people. Like the 25 million golfers around the U.S. that we hope to target in this year's Rounds 4 Research auction.

Rounds 4 Research is an innovative program supported through the Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic arm of GCSAA. The purpose of R4R is to generate resources to fund research and ensure golf's future. Essentially, R4R works by collecting donated foursomes from golf courses across the country, and then those rounds will go to a public auction that runs congruently with the U.S. Open at Chambers Bay on June 8-June 21.

We **NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION** by asking that your club or course donate a round of golf today. Anybody can contribute! And any stipulation can be placed on the round when you donate, so please do not shy away. If you are unable to give a foursome for any reason, we ask that you consider a cash donation.

All courses donating rounds have the ability to market their course by including a short description, photo and web link. Furthermore, GCSAA provides resources for fundraising partners at <http://www.rounds4research.com/participating-organizations/>.

The auctions will also be promoted by our allied golf industry partners, including the United States Golf Association, PGA of America, state and regional golf associations (NCGA, SCGA, SNGA) and The Golf Channel. Additionally, SiriusXM PGA TOUR radio will be promoting the program on Sirius channel 208 and XM 93.

To donate, visit www.rounds4research.com and click on the 'Donate Now' button. The entire process takes less than 10 minutes. By doing so, you are helping steward our great game in to tomorrow.

President

Alan FitzGerald
LedgeRock Golf Club
610-777-9890
alan@ledgerockgolf.com

Vice President

Chad R. Oxenreider
Galen Hall Country Club
717-484-2523
grnsmower@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Brian L. Ahrens
Reading Country Club
610-779-8888
Brian@readingcountryclub.com

Past President/Social

Rebecca Matis Clark
Blue Ridge Country Club
717-545-5593
turfirl03@aol.com

Cody Frederick

LedgeRock Golf Club
610-777-9890
chody87@yahoo.com

Jeff Green

jeffreygreen2011@yahoo.com

Stuart Hartman

Lederach Golf Club
215-513-9877
shartman@lederachgolfclub.com

John Long

The Links at Gettysburg
443-643-5050
psuturf@yahoo.com

Kevin Skarbek

Berkshire Country Club
610-374-2952
kevinskarbek@yahoo.com

Affiliates

Donald G. Dodson
ddodson392@aol.com

Thomas Mahute

tmahute@fisherandson.com

Executive Director/Newsletter Editor

Wanda S. Fry
717- 279-0368
cpgcsa@hotmail.com

PAST PRESIDENTS

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Membership News

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

Joshua Rogers..... Class C
Assistant Superintendent, Berkshire Country Club

Gary Hite..... Class A
Superintendent, Walnut Lane Golf Club

Mark Rubbo..... Class A
Superintendent, Spring Ford Country Club

Will Schneider..... Class SM
Superintendent, Schuylkill Country Club

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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Count on it.

Dear Mother Nature,

We apologize for complaining about the weather. If you would please turn your clock back to May. I promise we will never complain about the weather again! But seriously, who ever made her mad needs to apologize! We go from one of the most damaging winters in the past 20 years to spring for a total of 4 days straight into a drought-stricken summer. If these weather patterns continue we are in for a long one!

So it is May and the temperature gauge is cranking and the precipitation is turned off. I was always one to hope for a little dry weather in the spring to precondition the plant for the stresses of the summer but this is a little beyond my liking. With all of the stress the plants have been through, it is important to be on the lookout for Anthracnose. As we all know it is a disease that is stress induced. The most common stresses are low mowing heights, low fertility, drought stress, excessive traffic, and poor drainage. Have any of you seen the aforementioned stresses? I would venture to say that at least 4 of the 5 are present to some degree at every golf course in the Central region.

As you all know, what you do know will make or break you in the months to come. My former boss always stressed that there are 3 majors to focus on to keep the grass alive: sound agronomic practices, proper moisture management, and traffic management. With a year like this, implementing sound agronomic practices might entail taking the time to sit down and analyze what you have planned out and making any necessary adjustments. Maybe you don't typically send out the needle tines in season, maybe you typically use DMI's well into June, maybe you top-dress on a weekly basis. I am not going to waste your time and list everything you could possibly do because I'm sure you get the idea. It is important to remember that just because you have always done it a certain way, doesn't mean you should. The second is proper moisture management. I know this is going to look different at every facility because not everyone has the budget to have 5 guys pulling hoses all day, and not everyone has a state of the art irrigation system. But managing your moisture to as close to perfect as you can will reward you in many different ways. And, the third is traffic management. We were always looking for wear patterns, weather they were from the golfers or from us. As soon as we saw one start to develop it was time to adjust. Whether it was changing the rope and stakes 6x's a day, or changing the mowing pattern, or altering the normal walk on/off areas of greens. It saved a lot of grass and in hindsight it really didn't take that much time when compared to plugging, sodding, and seeding. I know none of the above concepts are new to you and I'm sure most of you are already doing them, but I thought it might be a helpful reminder as it is easy to get distracted by the day to day tasks in weather like this.

I hope everyone has a great month! I look forward to seeing you all soon!

*Eric Shilling, Eastern Pa Territory Manager for Harrell's LLC
eshilling@harrells.com*

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Finding Happiness in the Turf Business

My father was called home last year, just two weeks short of his 87th birthday. He would often say "...I've lived a good life, and I'm very happy." His story is similar to many of his age: son of European immigrants, served in World War II, worked hard to raise a family. In his generation, a person's wealth was measured by family and friends. I thought about what he said, and then I found an article about happiness, and how it may apply to our own personal and professional lives. In an article "9 Things Happy People Don't Do" (BottomLine Personal; Feb. 15, 2014), Dr. Dan Baker summarizes a book he co-authored titled What Happy People Know: How the New Science of Happiness Can Change Your Life for the Better (St. Martin's Griffin Press). Here are the nine points, copied-and-pasted directly from that article that I'd like to share, plus some of my own comments:

1) Happy people **don't** blame others for their problems.

They take personal responsibility when things go wrong – even when those problems truly are largely someone else's responsibility (i.e., golfers, greens committee, etc.). This might seem counterintuitive. Taking responsibility for problems can lead to feelings of shame, guilt and inadequacy. But it turns out that blaming other people is even more likely to lead to unhappiness, because it is psychologically disempowering. If someone else is responsible for our problems, then our happiness is outside our control and we are victims. **Instead:** If we take responsibility for our problems, then we take responsibility for solving those problems. We are more likely to effectively manage our lives and our happiness, and see that we have the power to set things right.

2) Happy people **don't** overreact to the present moment.

Many unhappy people are prone to thinking, "*This is horrible*" or "*My life is ruined*," when something bad happens to them – even if it's really just a run-of-the-mill unpleasant event that mostly will have faded from their consciousness in a few months. Happy people typically do a better job of remembering that unhappiness usually mitigates over time. That reduces the odds that the unhappy moment will snowball into a long-term funk. **Instead:** If you catch yourself fearing that a recent negative event is devastating or permanent, ask yourself, "*What can I learn from this?*" or "*How can I become wiser and/or stronger from this?*" These questions encourage the mind to consider a time when we will have moved past the problem. This may be good advice for those dealing with winter turf injury issues.

3) Happy people **don't** use negative language.

They rarely chastise themselves or insult other people, either out loud or in their internal self-talk. **Instead:** When you catch yourself using negative language toward yourself or others, mentally rewrite the story you're telling. Make it about how you have evolved past this problem or challenge, learned a valuable lesson or otherwise improved. **Example:** If you think "you look awful" each time you notice your -wrinkles, you might rewrite this story so that it's about how you came to respect those wrinkles as signs of hard-earned experience and wisdom about managing putting greens during heat/drought stress.

4) Happy people **don't** feel trapped.

They focus on the options that remain, even when outside -forces greatly restrict the paths open to them. That keeps them from feeling like helpless victims, a common source of -unhappiness. **Instead:** When you feel trapped by circumstances, ask yourself, "*How can I manage myself better?*" *I use this method often to navigate through the university's multi-layered bureaucracy!*

5) Happy people **don't** focus on a single passion or relationship.

They usually have multiple hobbies, belong to multiple clubs and organizations and socialize with a broad range of different friends and acquaintances. This diversification of interests reduces the risk that their happiness will suffer a catastrophic loss, much as diversifying an investment portfolio reduces the risk for catastrophic financial losses. Should something go wrong with one of their interests or relationships, they still have plenty of sources of happiness to fall back on. **Instead:** Continue trying new activities, joining new groups (i.e., becoming an active member of the Central PA GCSA chapter), and building additional friendships even if you already have things and people you know that make you happy.

6) Happy people **don't** dwell on past failures.

Unhappy people tend to be very failure conscious – they kick themselves endlessly for old mistakes. Happy people tend not to do this. They, too, remember their missteps – they just tend to remember them as times when they learned important lessons or as small steps on the larger journey of life, not as disasters to -lament. **Instead:** When an old failure comes to mind, think about how you rebounded from it, what you learned from it or what you could learn from it. Green industry professionals are always learning which results in better and better turf playing conditions – just think about putting green mowing heights in the 1960s compared to today.

7) Happy people **don't** spend more time than necessary around unhappy people

Naysayers, can't-do types and other chronically unhappy people can make the people around them less -happy, too. **Instead:**

...continued on Page 6.....

Finding Happinesscontinued from page 5.....

Avoid unhappy people. When you must spend time among them, treat it as a learning opportunity. Try to discover what makes these miserable people so miserable, then see if you can identify and manage any similar tendencies in yourself.

8) Happy people **don't** gossip.

If they are told something in confidence, they keep the secret. If they have something critical to say about someone else, they either say it directly to that person or they don't say it at all – they don't complain to a third party. **Instead:** If you feel the urge to talk about someone behind his/her back, ask yourself, “How could I instead use this time to improve my own life?” If you are gossiping about someone because you are upset with that person, consider whether discussing the underlying issues directly with this individual would lead to a more constructive result. If so, do that. If not, let the matter drop.

9) Happy people **don't** procrastinate.

They usually get unpleasant tasks over with so that they can move on to happier things. They understand that putting off an unpleasant task doesn't make the task any less unpleasant – it just leaves the task hanging over their heads longer than necessary. **Instead:** To spur the process, set your own deadlines well in advance of an unpleasant task's actual deadline. Break big unpleasant tasks down into more manageable segments. Promise yourself that you will do something that makes you happy as soon as you complete the unpleasant task. Sometimes people put off difficult tasks because they are afraid that they will fail. Remind yourself that putting off difficult tasks means that you will probably have to do them in a mad rush as the deadlines near, which only increases the odds of failure.

There you have it. Something to consider as we all strive for happiness in our lives.

Mike Fidanza, Ph.D., is a Professor of Plant and Soil Sciences at Penn State Berks Campus, Reading, PA. Email: maf100@psu.edu
Twitter: @MikeFidanza



Bill Mast
Cell: 610-608-8319
bmast@aer-core.com

Office: 610-327-3390 • Fax: 610-327-0581
1486 S. Hanover St. • Pottstown, PA 19465 • www.aer-core.com

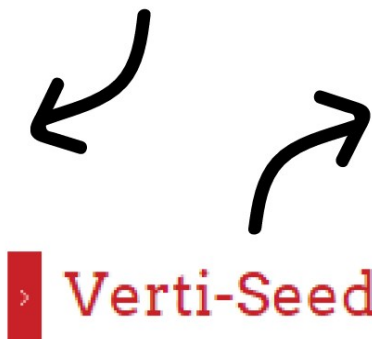
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Speaker profile

Our speaker for the May meeting is Tanner Devalle from the Schuylkill and Berks Counties Penn State Extension Office. The topic of his presentation is "Using Technology and Research to Improve Decision Making at Your Course".

Tanner is a Commercial Horticulture Educator with Penn State Cooperative Extension. Tanner's coverage area includes both Schuylkill and Berks Counties. His major focus areas include green industry, turf maintenance, weed control, vegetables, fruit, berries, and Christmas tree production. Tanner's professional experience includes golf course maintenance, a sales consultant for a green industry supplier, director of a lawn care company, and six years in the U.S. Air National Guard. Tanner received a M.S. in Agronomy and a B.S. in Turfgrass Science from Penn State.

WOTUS Update

GCSAA continues to focus on the EPA's proposed rule to redefine a "Water of the U.S." (WOTUS) under the Clean Water Act. The rule is at the Office of Management & Budget getting final review. EPA would like to see it go final in June. Many on Capitol Hill know this and are doing what they can to slow down the process. On April 15, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee introduced and passed out of committee the [Regulatory Integrity Protection Act \(H.R. 1732\)](#). On April 30, the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee unveiled their companion anti-WOTUS bill, the [Federal Water Quality Protection Act \(S. 1140\)](#). Both bills aim to force the agencies to go back to the drawing board with stakeholders to come up with a better rule before the end of 2016. Please reach out to your federal lawmakers today using our House and Senate action alerts!

We also have some new resources to help you better understand the impact of the WOTUS rule on your golf course and communicate your concerns about the rule. First, in advance of National Golf Day, our department hosted a [30 minute WOTUS maps webinar](#) which shows you how to use EPA-USGS maps to see what waters at your property will come under federal jurisdiction. Second, the Waters Advocacy Coalition has developed a fresh set of [WOTUS talking points](#), especially targeted toward conversations with Democrats. Many Congressional Democrats we met with on NGD told us they want EPA to finalize the rule and then they'll weigh in to help if it is as bad as we and others say it is. These talking points address why it is important for Congress to act now rather than wait until the rule goes final.

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2015 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

May 19
Schuylkill Country Club –
Joint Meeting with Pocono TGA

June 22
Royal Manchester Golf Course

July
Social

September 29
Golf Championship
Iron Valley Golf Course

October
Oktoberfest Open
Galen Hall Golf course



The Green Sheet

1314 Porter Avenue
Scranton, PA 18504
cpgcsa@hotmail.com
www.cpgcsa.org

