



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 24 Issue 1

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

April 2017

Ten Facts About Golf in Celebration of Earth Day 2017

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and USGA offer facts on water and environment

Lawrence, Kan. (April 11, 2017) – Golf is a sport for a lifetime that delivers more than 2 million jobs and \$69 billion in annual economic impact while contributing \$3.9 billion per year for philanthropic causes -- more than all other sports combined.

A professionally managed golf course can demonstrate environmental stewardship and provide a place to meet exercise and fitness goals. Just walking 18 holes, for example, can burn more than 2,000 calories.

As part of the celebration of “Earth Day” on April 22, here are 10 facts about golf, promoting the sport and the environment:

1. Golf courses are professionally managed landscapes where environmental stewardship is important – from using water and nutrients more efficiently to implementing improved methods of erosion control.
2. In general, the golf industry is striving to deliver firm playing surfaces that are better for everyone and improve the bottom line. More than 70 percent of golf courses report that they are keeping turfgrass drier than in the past.
3. The golf industry is continually investing in research to identify drought-tolerant grasses and improve water conservation through best management practices.
4. Golf courses adopt water conservation practices, reduce irrigated acreage and use innovative technologies, such as targeted irrigation systems and ground moisture measurement tools, along with weather monitoring systems, providing the science to water only when and where it is needed.
5. Irrigated areas on golf courses have decreased by more than 14,430 acres between 2006 and 2013.
6. Use of recycled water has increased by 32.7 percent from 2006 to 2014. Recycled water accounts for 25 percent of all water used on golf courses.
7. Golf courses routinely have waste and water recycling programs to reduce and reuse.
8. More than 90 percent of a typical golf course is comprised of turfgrass, a water feature or other natural areas that prevent erosion, filter runoff, and provide for cooler

.....Continued on Page 6.....

Happy 78th Anniversary CPGCSA!!!!

On Tuesday evening April 11, 1939 a meeting was held at the Colonial Country Club in Harrisburg for the purpose of organizing the greenskeepers of the area. Those in attendance at this meeting were George Morris, Riley Heckert, Hugh McJunis, James Morrison, Charles Bolton, John Grove, Jack Narril, and Al Heron. At this meeting it was decided to call the group “The Central Pennsylvania Greenskeepers Association”. Officers elected were George Morris - President, Hugh McJunis - Vice President, and Riley Heckert - Secretary-Treasurer. Meetings were scheduled for the second Monday of each month with monthly meetings March through November. Dues to cover expenses were set at \$3.00 and the first meeting was set for May 8, 1939 at the Colonial Country Club.

Riley Heckert sent letters to all greenskeepers in the area to announce the gathering. The day started with golf in the afternoon and was followed by dinner. Following dinner Mr. Musser and Mr. Benham from State College and County Agent Fromeyer spoke about fairway grasses, heights of cut for bluegrass and fertilization. Following the educational sessions a business meeting was held and Edward Zwick and E. P. Morris were taken into the Association as new members, raising the membership to ten.

During 1939 the membership grew to thirteen members and at the November meeting the members decided that they wanted to continue meeting throughout the winter rather than wait until March as originally planned.

The Association was a success, just as today, **78 years later.**

May Meeting

Crossgates Golf Club
1 Crossland Pass, Millersville, PA 17551

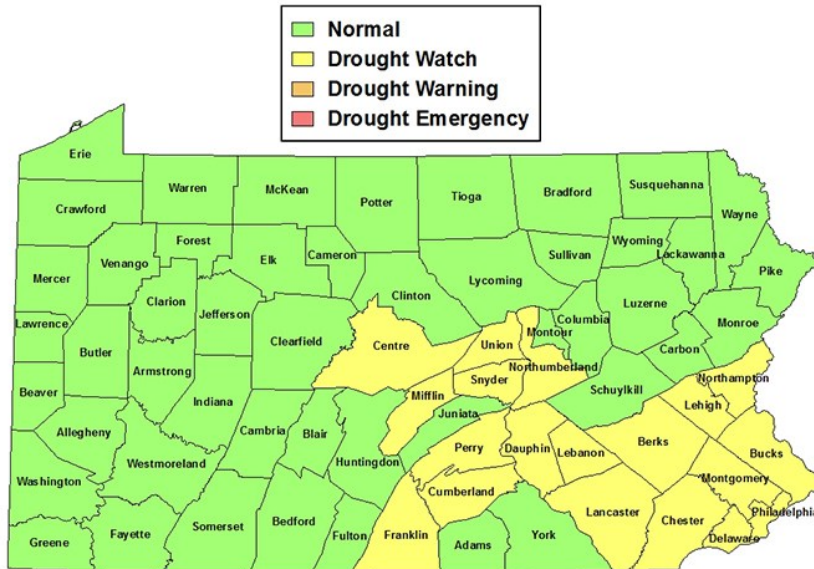
May 16, 2017

DROUGHT INFORMATION

CURRENT DROUGHT DECLARATION STATUS

April 14, 2017

Office of Water Resources Planning Rachel Carson State Office Building
| P.O. Box 8555 | Harrisburg, PA 17105-8555 | www.dep.pa.gov



Water Resources Planning - March 28, 2017

The 30-day running average streamflow indicators are showing twenty-five counties in drought “Watch” (Adams, Armstrong, Bradford, Cameron, Carbon, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Cumberland, Elk, Franklin, Huntingdon, Jefferson, Juniata, Lycoming, McKean, Monroe, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Union and York); eight counties in “Warning” (Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh, Mifflin and Northampton) and one county in “Emergency” (Philadelphia).

Groundwater – The 30-day moving average indicators for groundwater levels are showing eleven counties in drought “Watch” (Adams, Bucks, Erie, Lawrence, Mercer, Mifflin, Montgomery, Northumberland, Sullivan, Wyoming and York); four counties in “Warning” (Berks, Centre, Lehigh and Northampton) and eight counties in “Emergency” (Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon and Philadelphia).

Palmer Drought Severity Index – The Palmer soil moisture indicator is showing all counties in “Normal” drought trigger status for this reporting period.

Public Water Supply Agencies (PWSAs) – Public water suppliers are requested to continue to follow the county-wide declarations unless there is a need for more stringent restrictions, at which point water suppliers many initiate their own voluntary or mandatory water use restrictions. The following public water suppliers continue to implement voluntary restrictions:

- Bloomfield Boro Water Authority, Perry County
- Mahanoy Township Authority, Schuylkill County
- Mary D Community Assn, Schuylkill County
- Richfield Area Joint Auth, Juniata County
- Schuylkill County Muni Auth, Schuylkill County
- Schuylkill Haven Boro, Schuylkill County

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April Meeting

2017 PAGCS-CPGCSA-PTGA
Tri Cup Challenge

The Schuylkill Country Club

877 West Market Street
Orwigsburg, PA 17961

Monday, April 17, 2017

Registration - 10:30-11:30 AM

Lunch - 11:00 AM

Golf - 12:00 PM Shotgun

Reception/Golf Awards - 4:30 PM

Joint meeting bringing together three associations, Philadelphia, Central Penn and Pocono chapters of GCSAA, for a spirited day of competition, networking and camaraderie.

Tri-Cup Trophy sponsored by
Fisher & Son Company

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Plant Food Company

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.

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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Earth Day 2017



When is Earth Day 2017?

This observance always falls on April 22. On Earth Day, enjoy the tonic of fresh air, contact with the soil, and companionship with nature! Walk through the woods in search of emerging wildflowers and green moss. Go outside, no matter what the weather!

Earth Day History

Ever wondered how Earth Day started? This observance arose from an interest in gathering national support for environmental issues. In 1970, San Francisco activist John McConnell and Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson separately asked Americans to join in a grassroots demonstration. McConnell chose the spring equinox (March 21, 1970) and Nelson chose April 22. Millions of people participated, and today Earth Day continues to be widely celebrated with events on both dates. The most common practice of celebration is to plant new trees for Earth Day.



5 facts about golf for Earth Day (April 22)

1. Golf courses are comprised of turfgrass, water features and other natural areas that prevent soil erosion, filter water and provide cooler temperatures for everyone.
2. Golf courses have reduced water usage by more than 1.6 billion gallons since 2005.
3. Turfgrass on golf courses works as a natural filter, making water cleaner for people and animals.
4. The average 18-hole golf course has 32 acres of natural areas and water features that provide habitat for birds, amphibians, mammals and pollinators, which is equal to 25 football fields or 5,000 parking spaces.
5. Golf courses have recycling programs to reduce waste that would normally end up in landfills. In addition, courses continue to use reclaimed water.



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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.

Kevin Alfieri..... Class C
Assistant Superintendent, Country Club of Harrisburg

Drew Chevaux Class C
Assistant Superintendent, Berkshire Country Club

George Manos..... Class C
Assistant Superintendent, Lancaster Country Club

Nathan Trone Class C
Assistant Superintendent, Quail Valley Golf Club

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

2017 Membership Dues are now due.

In Memoriam

Luke Joseph Szekeres, 13, entered into rest April 2, 2017 at his home in Hershey after a hard fought battle with cancer. Luke, the son of Jon Szekeres and Kimberly DeRemer Szekeres, was born on November 30, 2003. Luke attended Hershey Middle School where he had many friends and was an excellent student. Luke was a talented golfer, participating and placing in numerous tournaments. He loved going to work with his dad at Dauphin Highlands Golf Course and loved golfing with his family and friends. Memorial contributions may be made in Luke's honor to the Four Diamonds Fund or Hershey Little League.

John A. Fetzeck, 64, died March 14, 2017 at his residence in Marietta. He was born Aug. 5, 1952 in Kane, son of John and Delores Fetzeck. John was employed as Superintendent at the Four Seasons Golf Resort in Landisville before his retirement in January 2016.

Betty (Detweiler) Gehman, 94, widow of John B. Gehman, of Barto, (mother of member John Gehman and grandmother of member Josh Gehman) passed away on Thursday, April 13, 2017 at Lehigh Valley Hospital – Cedar Crest. She was a co-owner, along with her husband, of Butter Valley Golf Course. She also had worked at the former Pillsbury plant in East Greenville as a custodian and test baker and was also a farm wife. She enjoyed crocheting, knitting, quilting and cross stitching.

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

www.epgcsa.org

Ten Facts About Golf...Continued from Page 1

- temperatures when compared to urban settings.
- More than 70 percent of acreage on an 18-hole golf course is considered green space that provides benefits to the ecosystem, reduces maintenance and supports wildlife habitat, including protected species.
 - Through governmental affairs involvement, professional education and public information, the golf industry promotes environmental responsibility as a widespread industry practice.

Suggested Tweets

#Golf courses: Professionally-managed landscapes prioritizing environmental stewardship. #EarthDay2017

#Golf courses practice water conservation, reduce irrigated land & use innovative tech. #EarthDay2017

About the USGA

The USGA conducts the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Senior Open, as well as 10 national amateur championships, two state team championships and international matches, attracting players and fans from more than 160 countries. Together with The R&A, the USGA governs the game worldwide, jointly administering the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status, equipment standards and World Amateur Golf Rankings. The USGA's reach is global with a working jurisdiction in the United States, its territories and Mexico, serving more than 25 million golfers and actively engaging 150 golf associations.

The USGA is one of the world's foremost authorities on research, development and support of sustainable golf course management practices. It serves as a primary steward for the game's history and invests in the development of the game through the delivery of its services and its ongoing "For the Good of the Game" grants program. Additionally, the USGA's Course Rating and Handicap systems are used on six continents in more than 50 countries.

For more information about the USGA, visit usga.org.

About GCSAA and the EIFG

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) is a leading golf organization in the United States. Its focus is on golf course management, and since 1926 GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the U.S. and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to nearly 18,000 members in more than 78 countries. The association's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Visit GCSAA at www.gcsaa.org or find us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA. Its mission is to foster sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game. Visit EIFG at www.eifg.org, or find us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).



Lawmaker: Environmental Group Taking Money to Line Pockets

By [Chris Davis](#) Published: March 31, 2017, 9:10 am



HARRISBURG, Pa. (WHTM) – A group of state legislators is accusing an environmental group of hiking fees to municipalities to line its own pockets, and they want the state to cut funding to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

A group of Republican lawmakers held a meeting with the Department of Environmental Protection and representatives of local municipalities Wednesday to discuss the possibility of reigning in the commission. “Right now, they are beyond unreasonable,” Rep. Dan Moul (R-Adams) said Thursday. “These people are building themselves an empire on the backs of the ratepayers.” Moul said the SRBC gets some state money — not much — but aren’t under legislative control or other oversight beyond their own. “They kind of run wild with themselves as to what they want to do, what they want to charge, and they need some oversight,” he said.

The legislative group that includes Moul and at least eight other lawmakers or their proxies are not worried about the Susquehanna itself or its tributaries; they say the SRBC’s permits and fees for municipal wells are the problem. The group regulates quantity, not quality of water, so they’re concerned with how much a well can produce before it’s drilled and while it’s in operation.

“Almost an insurance policy that communities have knowing that their residences and their businesses and industries will have the water they need in times of drought,” said Andrew Dehoff, the SRBC’s executive director. Moul said growing fees for permits, testing, and constant monitoring are too high for some municipalities.

Shrewsbury Borough is among those affected. Council president Richard Buchanan spoke at Wednesday’s meeting, presenting a four-page list of grievances against the SRBC. The borough spent \$141,546 in direct and indirect costs to renew permits on two municipal wells in the last three years, according to documents Buchanan prepared for the meeting. That includes permit and legal fees, engineering and hydrologists fees, well drillers, and borough employee compensation, among other costs, he said. The borough has raised water rates three times in seven years to pay for it. “We’ve created a public water supply assistance program for small municipalities that offers technical assistance in filling out their permits and in meeting post-approval conditions,” Dehoff said. Municipalities can get discounts, he said, for things like testing fees to determine how much water can be safely drawn from a well without depleting it too quickly. “We have up to 40 percent discounts for municipalities,” he said.



As for continued monitoring fees for municipal wells, Dehoff said, “The annual fee is – we consider to be minor and we have instituted discounts on that fee.” He said such expenses are a “wise investment of public resources” given that so many people rely on the wells that serve those municipalities. Dehoff also said they’ve heard the concerns from local governments and are working to address them further.

Moul and the other lawmakers argued all the money the SRBC is pulling in goes to higher salaries for executives and that the agency has upwards of \$30 million sitting in the bank already. The money in that account, Dehoff said, comes from high water users like power plants and goes to a separate fund reserved to keep water flowing in times of drought. “These people are building themselves an empire on the backs of the ratepayers,” Moul said. “We don’t mind some oversight. They’re out of control.”

The SRBC, set up decades ago to regulate water flows in the entire basin spanning multiple states, gets less than \$500,000 in state funding (out of a \$30-billion-plus state budget). Moul said he’s prepared to eliminate that money as “shot across the bow” to put the agency on notice. Dehoff said losing the funding would impact some programs, but it wouldn’t be a major loss. “It is a racket, no doubt about it,” Moul said.

The lawmaker made clear the SRBC isn’t breaking any laws — and that’s the problem, he said — the law should never have been written to let them do what they’re doing. He said his message to the DEP secretary was clear: “If you don’t address this problem, we will do it legislatively, and this will get ugly.”

DEP acting secretary Patrick McDonnell, who was in that meeting, said through a department spokesman that it was “a good meeting with useful feedback from municipalities” and they’ll work with all parties “to best meet everyone’s needs.”

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2017 CPGCSA Meeting Locations

May 16
Crossgates Golf Club

June 19
Country Club of York

September
Penn State Football Game

October 2
Golden Oaks Golf Course



The Green Sheet

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