



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 30 Issue 1

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

April 2023

Happy 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,
84 years later.



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2023 Meeting Schedule

May 10

Pine Meadows Golf Club

Host – Tom Kintzer

June 22

Range End Golf Club

Host – Pete Ramsey

September 14

Schuylkill Country Club

Host – Will Schneider

October 18

Country Club of York

Host – Chuck Zaranec

EARTH DAY 2023

10 Facts About Golf in Celebration of Earth Day

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, according to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of American and the USGA.



A professionally managed golf course also 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, the GCSAA and the USGA offer 10 facts about golf that help promote 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 two-thirds 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 continue to 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 14,000 acres between 2006 and 2014.
6. Use of recycled water has increased by 32.7 percent from 2006 to 2014. Recycled water now counts for 25 percent of all water used on golf courses.
7. Golf courses routinely have recycling programs to reduce and reuse.
8. More than 90 percent of a typical golf course is comprised of turfgrass, a water body or other natural areas that prevent erosion, filter runoff, and provide for cooler temperatures when compared to urban settings.
9. 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.
10. Through governmental affairs involvement, professional education and public information, the golf industry continues to promote environmental responsibility as a widespread industry practice.



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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.

Keith PerlClass AF
Director of Sales, W. S. Connelly

Fred Rapp.....Class AF
Regional Golf Sales Manager, Ewing Irrigation

Bob WindsheimerClass AF
Director of Operation, Walker Supply Inc

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

Braden L. Byers Class C
Assistant Superintendent, Penn National Golf Club

Kole Martin..... Class B
Superintendent, Tanglewood Manor Golf Club

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

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



**ASK YOUR SALES LEADER
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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2023 National Golf Day

National Golf Day serves as the pinnacle advocacy event of the year for the American Golf Industry Coalition. As a coalition of golf industry leaders, National Golf Day will celebrate its 15th year in 2023.

National Golf Day will take place May 8th-10th in 2023 and will return to Washington D.C. for the first time since 2019. Planning is underway to bring back all aspects of the in-person event.

To kick-off the event, the Community Service Project (CSP) will return on Tuesday, May 9th. In partnership with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and National Park Service, the CSP will allow attendees the opportunity to participate in various beautification projects around the National Mall.

National Golf Day 2023 will also see the return of a Keynote Briefing Session and Congressional Reception on May 9th. And finally, all attendees will have the option to participate in more than 250 legislative meetings on Wednesday, May 10th.

If you'd like to participate in this year's event, please follow the registration prompts located below.

Registration will close April 17th.

Please Note: The host hotel for this event is the Doubletree Crystal City. Registrants will be sent the hotel booking link, via email, once they have completed their registration. It is preferred that advocates schedule departing flights on Wednesday, May 10th no later than 6 p.m. ET.

A detailed schedule of events can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

[National Golf Day 2023 \(golfcoalition.org\)](http://NationalGolfDay2023.golfcoalition.org)

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- 2 Follow course(s) near you
- 3 Download and follow the ABW assurance program sheet



@SyngentaTurf #WeevilTrak

*Survey of 256 golf course superintendents conducted via TechValidate in Sept. 2021.

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5 Ways Golf Courses Have Shown Improvement in the Past Decade



- ENERGY USE**
Annual median energy use at U.S. golf facilities has decreased by 8.3 percent. This was primarily the result of a 31.4 percent decrease in the consumption of electricity since 2008.
- NUTRIENT USE**
U.S. golf courses have significantly decreased overall nutrient use since 2006, including a 34 percent reduction in nitrogen, a 53 percent reduction in phosphate and a 42 percent reduction in potash.
- PEST MANAGEMENT**
Golf courses have increased their reliance on non-pesticide pest control practices such as cultural control, plant growth regulators and biological control.
- LAND USE**
The amount of maintained turfgrass on an average 18-hole golf course has decreased from 99 to 95 acres, with 46 percent of average 18-hole courses having increased natural-area acreage.
- WATER USE**
Use of recycled water has increased by 32.7 percent. Recycled water now counts for 25 percent of all water used on golf courses, thereby reducing the use of surface, ground, and potable water sources.

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New Textbook from Penn State Professor Dr. Fidanza Examines Sustainable Turfgrass Management

A professor of plant and soil sciences at **Penn State Berks** and former editor-in-chief of the *International Turfgrass Society Research Journal*, Mike Fidanza served as the editor of *Achieving Sustainable Turfgrass Management*, a new textbook centered on implementing eco-friendly initiatives in maintaining turfgrass, published in January by Burleigh Dodds Science Publishing.

Fidanza's research focuses on turfgrass ecology, diseases and plant protection. In 2016, he created the **Penn State Berks Center for the Agricultural Sciences and a Sustainable Environment**, which conducts agriculture, horticulture, plant and soil ecology, rhizosphere microbiome and turfgrass science research, while also supporting teaching and outreach efforts on campus.

Burleigh Dodds Science Publishing, based in Cambridge, U.K., said it reached out to Fidanza before the COVID-19 pandemic hit about writing a textbook that would be a part of its agricultural sciences series.

Fidanza said he enlisted the help of researchers in the field to write chapters for the book based on their areas of expertise. He also said he wanted to involve early-career scientists in contributing to the book "because they have the latest research," and to give them a chance to be featured in a publication.



Ticks and Tickborne Illnesses

Thursday, May 4, 2023 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Most of the insect pests we discuss feed on turfgrass. In this 60-minute webinar, Nicole Chinnici, DHSc, provides information on ticks who might feed on you! What they look like, where you may encounter a tick and their seasonal behaviors will be covered. We will dive in and discuss the various pathogens each tick can transmit and a few hallmark symptoms. Lastly, we will consider personal, home/yard and pet prevention tips, then end with current research. Join us to help keep you and those dogs of turf well.

About the Instructor Nicole Chinnici, DHSc, C.W.F.S., is the Laboratory Director at the East Stroudsburg University Dr. Jane Huffman Wildlife Genetics Institute, home to the PA Tick Research Laboratory. Chinnici earned her bachelors at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, masters and Doctor of Science at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania. Over the past 6 years, Chinnici has presented her research at various academic conferences, is involved in multiple ongoing tickborne disease studies, and was a mentor on multiple student research projects evaluating tickborne diseases in ticks and mammals. She has been identified as a subject matter expert and testified before the Pennsylvania Senate and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on combating this health crisis.

REGISTER

NORTHEAST REGIONAL UPDATE
**New Beginnings in the
 East Region**

April 07, 2023

Brian Gietka, agronomist, East Region

It was a mild winter in much of the Northeast, which means the busy golf season will be getting an early start this year.



I hope everyone had a wonderful offseason. I've lived in the mid-Atlantic area my entire life and can say it's been a mild winter and one with little snow. While it's been a productive winter for many maintenance teams, I hope the mild weather did not hamper everyone's ability to relax, recharge and gear up for the season.

For well over 20 years, I've been part of the golf course maintenance industry in the mid-Atlantic. I grew up and went to school in Maryland, was an assistant superintendent at several Baltimore-area clubs, and then served Fountain Head Country Club as their golf course superintendent for 15 years. During that time, I've gotten to know many of you in the region and I'm excited to work with all of you in my new role as a USGA agronomist. Having utilized the USGA Course Consulting Service for my entire career, I understand how valuable the visits are and I'm looking forward to continuing the tradition of being a trusted partner for golf facilities.

As another season starts, it's always a great time to begin new habits. Data collection has become an increasingly important part of agronomic decision-making. If you don't currently collect much data at your course, now might be a good time to try something new. I'm sure you'll find that data gives you a better understanding of how maintenance practices influence turfgrass performance, which leads to higher-quality conditions and improved efficiency. I urge everyone to look into the USGA's [DEACON™](#) platform, the new [GS3](#) and our [GPS Service](#) to see how these tools can help you collect and analyze data to make more-informed decisions. Starting something new means some extra effort and challenges, but I'm confident you'll see the rewards. Don't hesitate to [reach out](#) if I can help with data collection or any other aspects of your course maintenance program and I look forward to seeing all of you in my travels!

Northeast Region Agronomists

Darin Bevard, senior director, Championship Agronomy –
dbevard@usga.org

Elliott L. Dowling, regional director, East Region –
edowling@usga.org

Brian Gietka, agronomist, East Region –
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[New Beginnings in the East Region \(usga.org\)](#)

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Spring is Just Around the Corner

by [John Kaminski](#) | Mar 21, 2023

Spring Awakening: Golf Course Season Kicks Off with Turf Pest Diagnostic Focus

As the sun peeks out from the cloudy winter skies and the temperature rises, golf enthusiasts eagerly anticipate the start of the golf course season. While the players are honing their swings and preparing their equipment, turf managers are also gearing up for a busy season ahead. A key aspect of managing golf course greens is turf pest diagnostics, with the primary focus on keeping the grass healthy and pristine. In State College, PA, we are hitting the perfect timing for controlling annual bluegrass seedheads.



Turfgrass Waking Up

The transition from winter to spring marks a significant change in the life cycle of turfgrass. As temperatures rise and daylight hours increase, the grass begins to break dormancy and enters a period of active growth. This is a critical time for turf managers, as they must carefully monitor the health and vigor of the turf and address any issues that may arise. For those managing bentgrass greens, this is the time when anthocyanin build up in patches can sometime mimic disease activity. These patches will disappear as the turf starts to grow.

Annual Bluegrass Seedhead Control

Annual bluegrass, also known as *Poa annua*, is a common turfgrass species found on many golf courses. Although it can provide a playable surface, it is not the most desirable grass for golf courses due to its propensity to produce seedheads, which can affect ball roll and overall playability.

As we enter the prime seedhead production period in State College, PA, it's essential for turf managers to focus on implementing

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effective control measures. This is usually done by applying plant growth regulators (PGRs) that suppress seedhead formation and reduce the overall *Poa annua* seed bank on the greens.

Timing Is Everything

Applying PGRs at the optimal time is crucial for effective seedhead control. The ideal window for application is when the turfgrass is just beginning to break dormancy and before the seedheads start to emerge. To determine the best time to apply PGRs, turf managers can monitor growing degree days (GDDs), which is a measurement of accumulated heat units. The target GDD range for effective PGR application is typically between 200-500 GDDs, depending on the product being used. At Penn State we hit 200 GDDs this week and seedhead treatments have gone out.

Best Practices for PGR Application

1. Choose the right PGR: Select a product specifically designed for annual bluegrass seedhead control, such as mefluidide (if you still have any) or combinations of ethephon + trinexapac-ethyl or prohexadione calcium.
2. Follow label instructions: Read and adhere to the recommended application rates and guidelines provided by the manufacturer.

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3. Monitor weather conditions: PGRs are most effective when applied under mild temperatures and adequate soil moisture. Avoid applying during extreme weather conditions, such as heavy rain or drought.
4. Keep an eye on GDDs: Monitor GDDs to help determine the most effective window for PGR application.
5. Record your results: Keep a log of your PGR applications, including the date, product, rate, and weather conditions. This will help you refine your approach in future seasons.

Conclusion

The start of the golf course season is an exciting time for both players and turf managers. As the turfgrass wakes up and begins to grow, it's crucial to stay vigilant and address any potential pest issues promptly. Also note that turfgrass in our area isn't going to really move until some warmer temps make their way here. Despite The Masters being on TV soon, remind your members that we don't live in Georgia!

[Spring is just around the corner | Penn State Turfgrass Pest Diagnostic Lab \(psu.edu\)](#)

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Golf Course Superintendents Association

Dear CPGCSA Member:

The CPGCSA Board of Directors has developed a scholarship for students pursuing a career in Golf Course Management and/or for children of a member of CPGCSA seeking any type of higher education. The deadline for applications is July 31st.

Listed below are the CPGCSA Scholarship Guidelines:

Eligible Candidates:

Applicants must fall into one of the following categories:

- * Students majoring in Golf Course Management at an accredited institution and are employed at least part time by a CPGCSA member.
- * Students majoring in Golf Course Management at an accredited institution and are currently a member of CPGCSA in good standing.
- * Students attending an accredited institution and are the child of a CPGCSA member in good standing.

Guidelines for Applicants:

- * Applicants must have completed at least one year at an accredited institution.
- * Applicants must submit a typed essay of no more than 500 words outlining his or her career goals and why they feel they are deserving of the CPGCSA Scholarship.
- * Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation. (One from an instructor and one from a CPGCSA member)
- * Applicants are eligible to receive this award one time.
- * The scholarship will be paid directly to the college or university.

Timeline

- * July 31 - Deadline for submission of applications.
- * August - Board will review applicant's information, approve and notify recipient.
- * Annual Scholarship Tournament – ceremonial presentation of the award.

Attached please find a scholarship application. Additional applications can be obtained by contacting CPGCSA office at (717) 279-0368 or cpgcsa@hotmail.com. If you know of a deserving student, Central Penn GCSA can help.

Sincerely,

Scholarship Committee

Superintendents can now apply for the 2023 Syngenta Business InstituteSM



Applications are open until Aug. 21 for this four-day professional development program

GREENSBORO, N.C., USA. April 3, 2023 — Golf course superintendents can **now apply online** for the 2023 [Syngenta Business InstituteSM](#) (SBI) professional development program, which will be in-person at the Graylyn International Conference Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Dec. 5-8. Golf course superintendents have until **Monday, Aug. 21**, to apply online.

“We know superintendents are responsible for not only managing course agronomics, but also being exceptional leaders, which is why Syngenta has been committed to this program for 15 years,” said Stephanie Schwenke, turf market manager for Syngenta. “The education by Wake Forest University MBA professors is truly elite. It is refreshing to see the superintendents who complete the program eager to implement the strategies they have learned.”

In partnership with the nationally ranked [Wake Forest University Executive Education program](#), the 2023 SBI curriculum will feature educational courses designed to teach superintendents critical business leadership skills. Superintendents will also be given the opportunity to build valuable connections with industry professionals throughout the week. Upon completion, participants will earn 1.5 GCSAA Education Points. Topics to be covered during this year’s program include:

- Work/life balance
- Negotiations
- Leadership/decision-making
- Tools for managing employees
- Leading across cultures and generations

“Interested in applying for SBI? Go for it,” said Jill Seymour, CGCS, golf course superintendent at Charleston Springs Golf Course in Millstone, New Jersey. “It’s a lot of work, but work that will come back to you tenfold. I met three fellow superintendents all within an hour of me who I have stayed in contact with since.”

Class size for SBI is limited to establish a strong interaction among participants and instructors. Attendees must be employed as a superintendent, director of agronomy or at an equivalent level in the golf course industry in the U.S. to be eligible.

“2023 will mark the 15th year of the Syngenta Business Institute, yet each year we continue to make curricular changes to better reflect the needs of the participants,” said Kerry Shronts, executive director of executive education at Wake Forest University. “For that reason, we worked extensively with Syngenta to integrate additional leadership content into the curriculum to better prepare SBI participants for enhanced leadership roles.”

To apply, visit [GreenCastOnline.com/SBI](#). Superintendents can also contact their local [Syngenta territory manager](#) for more information. To be considered, candidates must fill out an application, which includes a short essay on why they should be chosen to attend.

Applications must be submitted online by midnight PDT on **Aug. 21**. Selected participants will be notified in October.

Join the conversation on [Twitter](#) with [@SyngentaTurf](#) by using #SBI23.

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