



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 31 Issue 1

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

April 2024

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,
85 years later.



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2024 Meeting Schedule

May 16

Sunset Golf Course
Hosts – Bob Gomboc
Sam Risteff

June 13

Carroll Valley Golf Resort
Host – Jamie Dennison

October 7

Hanover Country Club
Host – Bill Brooks

Ask the Superintendent – Happy Earth Day

Eli Jordan / Apr. 2nd, 2024

Welcome, avid golfers, to the April installment of Ask the Superintendent. If you have followed our column for any length of time you are aware of the many environmental strengths that golf courses have, especially in urban settings. April has always been a special month for golfers, but since 1970, it is even more special as we have celebrated Earth Day on April 22nd every year. It is a time to reflect on how we can all become better environmental stewards and sustainability champions, golfers and non-golfers alike.



Caring for the planet is one thing that brings people of all walks of life together. Which brings me to this month's Ask the Superintendent question. Can a great golf course also be a great green space? The answer is absolutely yes, and now let me explain some of the terms, data and organizations that help keep golf green and maximize the symbiotic relationships between great green spaces and great golf courses. **Golf is Green (always has been, always will be)**

Since the earliest days of golf, the game has thrived in harmony with the green space upon which it is played. When golf transitioned into a business opportunity, it became even more linked to limited inputs and using resources wisely. There sometimes is an old stereotype of golf not embracing the mantle of environmental stewardship, but if you look deeper into the science and the data, the ability of golf to co-exist within a wonderful green space is apparent.

Golf also brings economic viability, especially in urban settings. Places like Pebble Beach and Pinehurst, for example, are some of the best greenspaces in the world, that just happen to be amazing golf courses that host some of the most memorable events in the game. This is no accident; it is the result of tireless planning, execution and teamwork.

In my new role as a Regional Agronomist with Invited Clubs, I have touched over 50 clubs in my first year on the job, and they each have a unique green story to tell. Every Invited Club is a member of the Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary for Golf Courses, and many have achieved Certified status and have been recognized for environmental excellence by many of the leading golf and environmental organizations. Our clubs provide vital urban green space and habitat for plants and wildlife. In fact, members and guests can see on average 140 documented varieties of plants and wildlife at our Texas clubs alone. The species range from Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) to Snapping Turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) and from Blue Bells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) to Vitex or Texas Lilac (*Vitex angus castus*). How many plants and wildlife call your golf course home and are integrated into the natural process of the property?

Your golf course superintendent not only is the keeper of golf's green traditions, but they are highly trained environmental and financial stewards who conduct the natural orchestra of the property. During my career as a golf course superintendent, I have won many environmental accolades including two world championships in the GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf contest and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) highest environmental honor: the President's Award for Environmental Stewardship. Today, golf course superintendents continue to raise the bar for environmental performance.

Your golf course superintendent is charged with protecting the delicate balances of Mother Nature, but he/she has the support of some amazing organizations. Let's take a look at some of the green partners and evaluators available to your course and superintendent.

The Guardians of Environmental Stewardship in Golf

There are many organizations that support and encourage environmental stewardship in golf courses. Some of the most influential of these third-party green guardians include Audubon International, Golf Environmental Organization (GEO) and the Groundwater Foundation. These organizations are beyond the traditional organizations of golf, such as the PGA, LPGA, USGA, CMAA, GCSAA, etc., which all have programs to promote environmental stewardship within their own organizations. These green-minded organizations work with golf courses (and other green spaces) to craft environmental plans, record and analyze data, share case studies and relevant information and, in some cases, earn various certi-

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fications and awards for verified exceptional environmental stewardship. They help keep the green industry green! Here is a quick overview.

Audubon International

Founded in 1987 and supported by the United States Golf Association (the USGA has donated over \$2,000,000 to support the Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses). AI has enrolled over 4,000 properties in their golf, recreation and hospitality certification programs. For more details about programs and the requirements and levels of certification, go to www.auduboninternational.org.



Golf Environment Organization

Headquartered in North Berwick, United Kingdom, and is an international environmental non-profit working to improve the level of sustainability of golf courses. They have a variety of services and programs, most noted is their OnCourse computer program that provides a base to track all your environmental efforts. The OnCourse program helps a course ultimately earn GEO certification. More information can be found at www.GEO.org. Beyond the GEO certification program GEO provides tools and resources covering operations, golf events and course development.

The Groundwater Foundation

Groundwater Foundation provides public recognition for stewardship and protection of groundwater and the environment for highly managed green spaces such as golf courses, ball fields, parks and campuses. The Groundwater Foundation’s Ground Water Guardian Green Site program is available to golf courses. Through the program, golf courses will measure and document groundwater-friendly practices. To be designated as a Groundwater Guardian Green Site, you must apply and earn at least 70 percent of total points based on current best management practices related to pesticide and fertilizer use, water use, managing sources of pollution, protecting water quality and environmental stewardship. More information is available at www.groundwater.org.

Presidents Message

What a difference a year makes! Kind of wishing we had last spring back with the drier conditions. Sounds like supers are scrambling to accomplish what they can between storm systems. Definitely has been a slow start with the cold wet soils and turf just waiting for some warmer days. Reminds me there is not much we can do to speed up Mother Nature when it’s cold. I have a feeling this is going to be a very chaotic year with world events. Our golf courses will be a good refuge for people to get away from it all.

This year we are scaling back to three meetings. September is just too difficult anymore for guys to get away. We will be at three great venues however. May we head to Sunset Golf Club in Middletown. Not sure if the association has ever been to Sunset. Wait till you see the tee shot you have to hit on #10. The ball will have some serious hang time! In June we travel down to Carroll Valley Golf Resort. This is an Ault Clark design in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Finally we finish up in October at one of our favorite venues, Hanover Country Club. Bill Brooks lovingly refers to his course as “The Goat Ranch” but we all know better. His greens will curb our egos real quick. Grateful to Bob, Jamie and Bill for their willingness to host the association.

See you soon.

Pete Ramsey
Central Penn President

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The main takeaway here is that there are many organizations that can help your golf course become better environmental stewards and be recognized nationally and internationally for their efforts. Ask your superintendent for details of the environmental programs and certification held on your course.

What all this means to you

Golf is a game tied directly to the green space that it is played upon, and it takes all of us working together to keep the green space and the game thriving. If you love the game and your course, get involved in the support of the environmental programs at your club as soon as you can. Your golf course superintendent could use the help! They oversee all the environmental and agronomic programs for the course, and they can find a way for you to contribute. It is easier for your superintendent to raise the level of stewardship if they have the support of the membership and/or other stakeholders.

This Earth Day, decide to make your game a little greener this year and support the environmental efforts of your course (what a great Earth Day present). Here are the three best ways to accomplish this.

Contact your course superintendent and ask about current and planned environmental programs and activities.

Tell all your golf buddies (and anyone else, for that matter) about the great environmental work that is going on at your course.

Volunteer some time for a green cause, either on the course or in the community.

Happy Earth Day, avid golfers, from all of us who keep our beloved game green.

[Ask the Superintendent - Happy Earth Day - AvidGolfer Magazine \(myavidgolfer.com\)](#)



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Membership News

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

Name That Member.....



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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GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS TREAT EVERY DAY LIKE EARTH DAY

by Apr 18, 2023 | Mike Strauss

Key facts about golf for Earth Day 2023

Lawrence, Kan. (April 18, 2023) – In recognition of Earth Day April 22, there are several ways that members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) demonstrate environmental stewardship while adding to the enjoyment of the game of golf.

Golf course superintendents follow science-based best management practices to protect the environment while providing quality playing surfaces. Results from GCSAA’s Golf Course Environmental Profile, a landmark study to develop a comprehensive profile of U.S. golf courses that began in 2006, show superintendents continue efforts to conserve important resources on golf courses.

Some of the key findings from the reports include:

- Golf courses used 29 percent less water in 2021 than in 2005.

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- Irrigated acres of U.S. golf facilities declined by 11.5% since 2005.
- Golf courses are participating in impactful conservation practices by keeping turf drier, increasing no-mow areas, hand watering, and changing to drought-tolerant varieties of turfgrass.
- State golf course best management practices (BMP) guidelines now exist for all 50 states.
- Water management plans are an important aspect of BMPs.

An average 18-hole golf course is 151 acres with 90 percent of that area consisting of native areas, managed turf grass, water features and other healthy landscapes. Golf courses exist within and rely upon healthy soils and water. Scientists say managed turfgrass filters pollutants, provides cooler temperatures, prevents erosion and improves air quality, while also providing a habitat for wildlife.

Earth Day is every day for GCSAA members.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) guidelines in all 50 states – Water management plans are an important aspect of BMPs

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5 Things to Know About Golf Courses and The Environment

April 19, 2024

Brandi Merrick, manager
Green Section Education

.Playing golf means being outdoors, usually for hours at a time. It is impossible to avoid interacting with or observing nature while you're on the course, whether you're watching hawks soar overhead or judging the best way to avoid a mid-fairway stream. Most golfers see and experience the environmental benefits of golf courses on a regular basis, but the relationship between golf and the environment isn't always well understood or accurately portrayed. Read on to learn how golf courses can be eco-boosting green spaces.



Golf courses provide habitats to a wide range of plant and animal species, along with many other environmental benefits

Chill Out

While it may not always feel like it on a hot summer day, golf courses are actually cooling the air above and around them. In highly developed areas, the vegetation and turfgrass on golf courses can cool the air by several degrees and help mitigate the effects of urban heat islands. That cooling effect can extend more than a quarter of a mile beyond the course. In metropolitan areas, golf courses may be among the only large green spaces offering a break from steamy summer temperatures.

Where the Wild Things Are

As a golfer, you have probably seen any number of animals on the course while playing. Birds, reptiles, deer and many other critters are a common sight on courses everywhere. Golf courses are great homes for a wide range of plants and animals, including some threatened species. Superintendents often devote considerable time and resources to expanding wildlife habitats and participating in environmental programs.

Water Works

Most people know that golf courses use water to maintain healthy grass, but many do not know that golf courses also capture, retain and filter stormwater, and recharge groundwater supplies. Some courses are even specifically designed to reduce the risk of flooding in surrounding communities. The turfgrass and natural areas on golf courses slow and filter runoff from adjacent properties. When best practices are followed, the water exiting a golf course can be cleaner than when it entered.

A Breath of Fresh Air

Golf courses contain acres of plants that are constantly improving the surrounding air quality. Plants take carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen for us to breathe. They also absorb gaseous pollutants and trap dust and particulates that

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are carried in the air. This is especially important in urban areas where there are high incidences of asthma and other breathing disorders.

Golf Can Still Do More

While golf courses provide many environmental benefits today, there is always room for improvement. Enlarging areas of native vegetation, making more space for wildlife, increasing use of electric-powered equipment, and continuing to improve golf course water use are just a few ways that golf courses can upgrade their environmental stewardship.

Some people don't think of golf courses as environmentally friendly spaces, but they offer plenty of [scientifically demonstrated environmental benefits](#) for plants, animals and humans, especially in developed areas. As golfers, we want to see our courses thriving for years to come. Part of that includes caring for the plants and animals that call the golf course home and the environment around us.

[5 Things to Know About Golf Courses and The Environment \(usga.org\)](https://www.usga.org)

National Golf Day is back May 8-10, 2024

The 2024 National Golf Day Event will be held May 8-10 in Washington, D.C. National Golf Day celebrates the game's \$101.7 billion economy, nearly \$6 billion annual charitable impact and many environmental and fitness benefits. Registration for National Golf Day is now open through April 16.

NEW SCHEDULE AND NEW OFFERINGS

Due to the availability of hotel rooms, the National Golf Day event is moving from a Monday-Wednesday event to a Wednesday-Friday event. Also, the lobby day on Capitol Hill will precede the Community Service Projects.

The Community Service Project will take place at two locations: turf projects on the National Mall near the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and FDR baseball fields; and clubhouse landscaping project at Langston Golf Course, an 18-Hole course named after John Mercer Langston, the first African American elected into public office. The facility is a celebrated beacon of African American golf heritage.

LOBBY DAY

On May 9, GCSAA and other golf allied organizations will spend the day meeting with Members of Congress in meetings to discuss golf's 15,000 diverse businesses, 2 million jobs, tax revenue creation and tourism value. Congressional meeting prep will be provided online and in person in advance of NGD on May 8. An online training recording will be sent to you in advance.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

The Community Service Projects will be held from 7-10 a.m. on Friday, May 10, on the National Mall and at Langston Golf Course.

REGISTRATION

Learn more and register on the [American Golf Industry Coalition website](#).

For questions or more information, contact [Chava McKeel](#), director, government affairs, at 800-472-7878, ext. 3619.

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SCAN ME

-----NORTHEAST REGIONAL UPDATE-----

To Split or Not To Split?

April 05, 2024

Elliott L. Dowling, regional director, East Region

According to Michigan State's [growing degree days \(GDD\) tracker](#), most of southern New England has entered the optimal time for preemergence crabgrass control. This is about two weeks earlier than last year, but still a somewhat normal time. Courses at low elevations south of New York City, Pittsburgh and Cleveland should have already made an initial application.



The question I get most often regarding preemergence herbicide applications is whether it is best to apply once or make split applications. While I lean toward making split applications, I also understand that time, equipment and labor are limited for many courses so this isn't always an option. If you can only make one application, wait until you are comfortably inside the window for optimal timing. Making a singular application too early means products could lose efficacy later in the season, when you still need that herbicide barrier. Also, make sure to apply

If you don't want to be looking at weeds like this on your course it's important to get the timing right on preemergence applications.

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If you can make split applications, you extend efficacy by getting some herbicide into the soil early, then follow that up with more product a few weeks later to extend control. I think this is the best way to hedge against variable spring weather and improve application uniformity and distribution. If you can slightly change the angle of the two applications, you safeguard against misses and improve overall coverage, whereas a miss with a single application leaves a gap in the herbicide barrier.

Spring preemergence applications are important. We often say in golf that it is cheaper and more efficient to control diseases, weeds and insects preventatively rather than curatively. Regardless of whether you make a single application or split applications, getting the barrier set at the appropriate time will control most weeds, helping you have a successful season.

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 – bgietka@usga.org

[Information on the USGA's Course Consulting Service](#)

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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

[2023 Scholarship Application](#)



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The Green Sheet

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

Please join Thom Mahute and Fisher & Son for an Open House during the 2024 US Women's Open at Lancaster Country Club. Attendees can walk to this event, just north/east on New Holland Pike approximately 100 yards from the patron bus drop off.

More details to follow for the attendees as we get closer to the event.

Please respond by May 16th to: tmahute@fisherandson.com or 717-940-0730

please join
Thom Mahute Fisher & Son
Open House

**2024 US
 Womens Open**

GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2024
 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm

MAHUTE RESIDENCE
 1462 NEW HOLLAND PIKE, LANCASTER

Food and drinks provided