

The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

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Winter Edition 2024 - 2025



Meeting on Water Use Management for the Golf Course Industry in the Susquehanna River Basin (both in-person and virtual options)

If you've already registered, we look forward to seeing you!

We'd like to remind you that the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Commission) is holding an informational meeting focused on its oversight of the golf course industry on March 5, 2025, from 10 a.m. to noon. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for the industry to hear the latest updates with regards to management of water withdrawals and consumptive use for golf course operations.

Commission staff will also host a question and answer session during the meeting to address any topics the audience would like to discuss. The meeting will be held at the Commission's Harrisburg office and welcomes "in-person" participation, however, we will also have available the option to connect to the meeting virtually through Zoom.

To register for the meeting, please follow this link: https://mdw.srbc.net/golf-course-operators-meeting/index.html

Topics will include:

- The Commission's role in managing the water resources of the Susquehanna Basin
- Water resource management associated with the golf course industry
- Guidance for golf course operations with upcoming docket renewals
- Recent changes to consumptive water use mitigation policy and new potential mitigation management options
- Grant funding available for consumptive water users
- Open question and answer session

Feel free to forward this invitation to other interested parties. If you've registered for the virtual option, you will receive a zoom link via email on Tuesday, March 4th.

If you have any questions, please email us at <u>SRBCevents@srbc.gov</u>.

Thank you,

Commission Staff



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Office: 717-238-0423 | Fax: 717-238-2436

December 2024 Presidents Message

Hopefully everyone has been able to take some time off with family over the Christmas holiday. Unfortunately it is a devastating time for one of our members family. It is with a heavy heart I express my condolences to Carol Wickey and her family on the passing of Paul Wickey. Paul was one of the first people I met in the industry 35 years ago. He always cared for his customers on a very genuine personal level. He was never one to complain about his own struggles. He relied on his faith to fight his battle and ultimately won. His friendship will be a void hard to fill for many.

The major issue of the 2024 season still continues to be the drought. Even with the cold weather, conditions are still not improving. You can use the Greenport website from DEP to update your year end reporting and drought emergency plan. Hopefully we will not need to execute the plan if a good old fashion winter kicks in. The SRBC has reached to the turf community and offered to host an informative meeting and allow us to ask questions and voice our concerns as consumptive users. No this is not a joke. We are trying to schedule this meeting for the first week in March. We will be to attend in person or a zoom option will be available. Details will be coming out soon. Something to look forward to!

Pete Ramsey Central Penn President

Membership Updates

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.

Grant Huffman, Superintendent Honey Run Golf Course...... Class A

Hunter King, Superintendent Moccasin Run Golf Club........Class B

Robert Dohner, Superintendent Meadia Heights Golf Club Class B

Scott Gingrich, Superintendent Out Door Country Club Class B

- Membership Dues are now overdue. If you need a new invoice/update form, please contact Wanda.
- Please contact Wanda if you have questions on the 2025 Sponsorship Program. 2025 Sponsorship

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Carlisle Barracks Golf Course 717-243-3262 jeffreygreen2011@yahoo.com

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PAST PRESIDENTS

George Morris Ed Tabor Riley E. Heckert Richard T. Funk Harry L. Latshaw Daniel L. Snowberger Charles A. Barley Richard Wilt Fred N. Baker Richard J. Suttles John J. Boyd Y. Lewis Payson
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Brian Ahrens Jeff Green Kevin Mark

Pennsylvania Urban Nutrient Management - Spring Greening



Spring to Life

As the snow slowly melts away, the birds begin to sing and fresh life bursts from the soil heralding the approach of Spring and the lawn maintenance season.

For the 1 million-plus acres of home lawns in Pennsylvania, selecting and implementing an appropriate lawncare management program to promote healthy and aesthetically pleasing lawns is not only important to homeowners, but is also essential to protecting our waterways.

Know What's Best. Soil Test!

The first step to understanding what your lawn really needs to be lush, healthy, and green is to know what your soil needs. It is important to conduct regular soil tests to determine nutrient deficiencies that should guide fertilizer selection and application. Soil test kits can be purchased for a nominal fee from your local Penn State Extension office.

Following soil test recommendations, reading fertilizer label instructions, and using a properly calibrated spreader will ensure the right amount of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are applied, while reducing nutrient loss and fertilizer cost.

Soil Health. It's the bottom line.

Maintaining a happy, healthy soil is imperative to your lawn's success. Soil is the foundation for your lawn and is home to a multitude of microorganisms that are essential for plant growth. Take the time to support your soil by incorporating some simple practices into your lawn care program. Your lawn and wallet will thank you.

- **Keep it open**. Routine soil aeration can help reduce soil compaction. Good soil structure is essential for proper root growth, healthy microbe communities, and the movement and exchange of water, air, and nutrients.
- Raise it up. Maintain a taller lawn by only cutting 1/3 of the grass blade with each mowing. Taller lawns slow runoff and promote deeper roots, which reduces lawn stress and improves soil structure.
- Put it back. Return nutrients and organic matter back to the soil by mulching your leaves and grass clippings.

For more soil management strategies, contact your local county conservation district or Penn State Extension office.

Green Lawns – Clean Streams

Pennsylvania's 2022 Fertilizer Law amendments were developed to protect Pennsylvania waterways and the waterways downstream. As a bonus, following the limitations in the law will boost your bottom line by ensuring that your investment doesn't wash away. The 2022 law established the following nitrogen and phosphorus limits for turf fertilizer applications.

• Nitrogen is limited to 0.9 pounds of total nitrogen and 0.7 pounds of available nitrogen per 1000 ft₂ per application.



Good soil structure has adequate pore space between soil particles to allow for the movement of air, water, and nutrients into the root zone Page 4 The Green Sheet

No phosphorus can be applied unless establishing or repairing turf.

Nitrogen and phosphorus rates can be adjusted based on soil test recommendations and/or if using an enhanced-efficiency fertilizer.

In addition to the nutrient limitations, the law also established application parameters to prevent direct movement of fertilizer nutrients into our streams:

- Do not apply fertilizer if a heavy rain event is expected.
- Keep fertilizer away from drainage ditches, storm drains, or water. Maintain a 15-foot buffer from the banks of all waterways.
- Remove fertilizer that lands on impervious surfaces (driveways, sidewalks, roads, parking lots).



Working Together for Clean Water

With ever growing acres of managed turf in Pennsylvania, controlling what goes into PA waterways is ALL of our responsibility. Help protect Pennsylvania's waterways by being wise when you fertilize!

For more information on the Pennsylvania Fertilizer Law, visit the Department of Agriculture's website at agriculture.pa.gov/fertilizer or contact Denise Uzupis at duzupis@pa.gov.





JUST ASK A GENESIS TEAM MEMBER

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2025 CPGCSA Meetings

May 21

Conestoga Country Club Matt Turner

https://www.conestogacc.com/

June 11

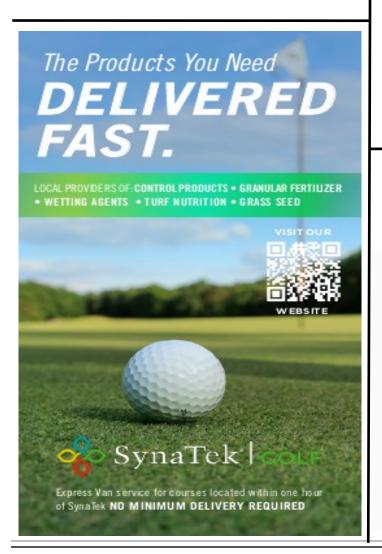
Country Club of Harrisburg Scott Fischer

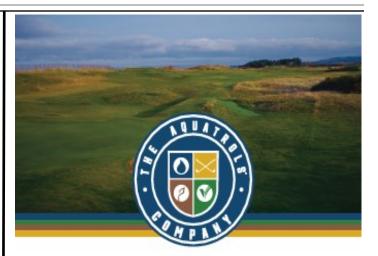
https://ccharrisburg.com/

October 13

Regents' Glen Country Club Kevin Shue Dallas Sledzik

https://www.regentsglen.com/











A MERGER THAT HAS TURF AT HEART

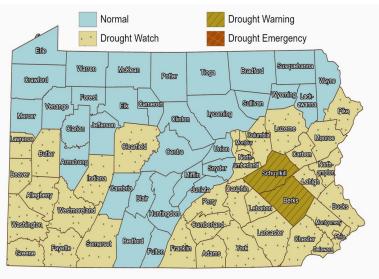
Kevin Rundstrom

Mid-Atlantic Territory Manager krundstrom@aquatrols.com (856) 287-9258 www.aguatrols.com



Current Drought Declaration Status

February 2025





WWW.HYDRASMART.NET



FERTILIZERS, SPRAY ADJUVANTS, AND SOIL SURFACTANTS.

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Super 600



Eclipse Elite



Sand Star E





Check out these bestsellers from 2023!

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Northeast Regional Update

Winter Injury: Prevention and Preparation

January 17, 2025 Elliott L. Dowling, regional director, East Region

Winter injury is a complex problem with no guaranteed prevention. We know a lot about the mechanisms that cause winter injury and we have several options to reduce the risks, but whether you experience injury or not often comes down to timing and luck. Getting in front of potential winter injury by raising mowing heights prior to dormancy, improving growing environments, and improving surface drainage plays a critical role in prevention.

So, what can be done now that we are in the middle of winter and have a few months left to go? One thing is to help water move off surfaces when possible. Standing water can lead to crown hydra- Areas that hold water have a higher risk tion. Plants will absorb water during a warmup, which can lead to damage if temperatures drop. Depending on how much water needs to be pushed from the surface, or in some instances snow and ice, this can take a lot of labor. Even if you want to remove water or snow, you might not have that ability based on reduced winter



for winter injury, especially in shaded growing environments. Removing water, snow and ice from trouble spots during winter can be helpful if you have the staff

staffing. Even if you can't get to every potential trouble spot, trying to get water moving in the highest-risk areas will help.

If you suspect winter injury might've happened, the article "How To Sample for Winter Injury on Putting Greens" will show you how to check. This process is simple to do and knowing if you have damage as early as possible is important so that you can let people know what to expect and start planning for how to recover.

Northeast Region Agronomists:

Darin Bevard, senior director, Championship Agronomy – <u>dbevard@usga.org</u>

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

Brian Gietka, agronomist - bgietka@usga.org





Name That Member.....



Please let me know if you can identify these members - we have many unlabeled photographs in the files.

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Penn State adds two new faculty to Turfgrass Science Program

By Will Coughlin January 29, 2025

The Penn State Center for Turfgrass Science and the Department of Plant Science announced two additions to its faculty, Manoj Chhetri, Ph.D., and Chase Straw, Ph.D.

Chhetri joins as an Assistant Teaching Professor in Turfgrass Science. Chhetri holds a Ph.D. in Horticulture from Kansas State University, where he focused on cultural strategies for zoysiagrass management in the transition zone.

His academic journey also includes an M.S. in Horticulture from Oklahoma State University, where he investigated the



(Photo: Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council)

effects of shade and drought stress on bermudagrass. These research endeavors have equipped him with a strong foundation in managing turfgrass under challenging environmental conditions.

Before joining Penn State, Chhetri was an Extension Field Specialist in Horticulture at the University of Missouri. In this role, he delivered science-based education to homeowners, turf managers and service providers, addressing practical challenges and developing innovative solutions for the turfgrass industry.

At Penn State, Chhetri's primary focus is on teaching and mentoring students in turfgrass management. He is also committed to conducting research on sustainable practices that enhance turfgrass resilience under abiotic stress. His approach emphasizes blending academic rigor with real-world applications, ensuring students are well-prepared to tackle industry challenges.

Straw joins as an assistant professor of Turfgrass Soils and the director of the Center for Sports Surface Research. Straw earned his B.S. in Turfgrass Science from the University of Kentucky, followed by M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Georgia.

His academic pursuits have been complemented by practical experience, including two years as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Minnesota. In February 2020, he began his role as an Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Management and Physiology at Texas A&M University, where he served for nearly five years before joining Penn State in January 2025.

At Penn State, Dr. Straw's role includes a 40 percent research, 40 percent teaching and 20 percent extension appointment. His research focuses on technology-driven strategies to enhance the performance and sustainability of golf courses and sports fields. Additionally, he serves as the Academic Director on the **Sports Field Management Association**'s Board of Directors.

https://www.golfdom.com/penn-state-adds-two-new-faculty-to-turfgrass-science-program/



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PTC Honors Central Penn GCSA Member With Award

John Chassard is the 2024 recipient of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council's Dr. George W. Hamilton, Jr. Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented to individuals who have exhibited outstanding service to the turfgrass industry. The award is considered PTC's highest individual honor. John will be recognized by the membership in a formal ceremony February 26th at the Eastern PA Golf, Lawn, Landscape and Sports Turf Conference at the Shady Maple Conference Center, East Earl, PA.

John Chassard - His Journey in Golf and Turf Management

John's love for golf—and the idea of being on a golf course—began in his early youth. He was fortunate to spend much of his childhood at Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where his father served as the tennis and squash pro for 23 years. It was here that John first walked countless rounds of golf on the club's 6-hole course, often with friends, and occasionally convinced (begged) his father to take him out on one of the "big" championship courses. At times, John would also find himself on his bike in a part-time game of being chased by the golf pro while searching for golf balls along the course's stream banks. John spent more time on the golf course than on the tennis courts, and he cherished every moment of it.

After moving to Lancaster, John worked on course maintenance at Indian Springs Golf Course (now Four Seasons) while finishing high school and attending Millersville University, where he initially studied Oceanography. But after his first year at Millersville, John realized he was more passionate about life on the course than life on the ocean. At this turning point, he reached out to Dave Miller, the Superintendent at Saucon





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Valley, for advice. Dave encouraged John to return to Saucon Valley, work under him, and apply to the two-year turf management program at Penn State University—advice John took to heart.

While at Penn State, John took an internship on Long Island. During this time, Dave Miller once again reached out to him, encouraging him to contact the Superintendent at Lehigh Country Club in Allentown about an assistant position that had just become available. Ironically, John had never heard of Lehigh, despite it being less than 10 miles from Saucon Valley. That phone call from Dave Miller led to what would become a 42-year career at Lehigh. Dave continued to be a mentor and friend throughout John's career until his passing. Along the way, John also received valuable guidance from Scott Nissley and Marty Nadenicek, superintendents at Indian Springs and Lehigh, respectively, who played a pivotal role in John's development as a turf professional.

Over the span of his 42-year career at Lehigh, John formed many meaningful relationships and friendships, both professionally and personally. He credits his faith in Christ for helping him navigate the more challenging aspects of his career and for blessing him with the longevity he has enjoyed in the turf management field. John has had the privilege of working alongside many talented peers, club members, and fellow employees who have not only helped him become a better manager but also a better person.

John's involvement with local Superintendent chapters has been one of the most rewarding aspects of his career. Serving for 15 years with the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council was an especially fulfilling experience. There he worked alongside university staff and turf professionals from across the state contributing to the advancement of golf both in Pennsylvania and globally. John served as PTC's President from 2005-2006.

Though John is proud of his professional achievements, his greatest reward comes from being the best husband and father/stepfather he can be. He tries to live by the reminder that "knowledge is sometimes proud that it knows so much, while wisdom knows in the realization that it knows so little." For John, this mindset has been a guiding principle in both his career and personal life.

2025 NATIONAL GOLF DAY

The American Golf Industry Coalition, a group of the game's leading associations and industry partners including GCSAA, hosts the annual National Golf Day event in Washington, D.C.

Industry leaders meet with Members of Congress, the Executive Branch and federal agencies to discuss golf's 15,000-plus diverse businesses, 2 million jobs impacted, tax revenue creation and tourism value.

2025 National Golf Day April 30 - May 2

The 2025 National Golf Day Event will be held April 30-May 2 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 8.

Register on the American Golf Industry Coalition website.







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