

The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 19 Issue 5

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

September 2012

September Meeting

Hanover Country Club

Thursday, September 27, 2012

Lunch - 11:00 AM

Golf - 12:00 Noon Shotgun

Dinner - 5:00 PM

Annual Meeting - 6:00 PM

Meeting Sponsored by:

Jim Byrne & Turf Trade

There will be a Putting Contest after Golf Sponsored by Rich Gdovin - Andre & Son

There will be a CPGCSA Board Meeting at 9:30 AM.

Superintendent Profile

Bill Brooks graduated from Penn State with a BS in Agronomy in May, 1988. Immediately upon graduation, he began working as Assistant at Lehigh Country Club in Allentown. In 1991, Bill was hired as Superintendent at Corning Country Club in NY had the experience of hosting the LPGA Corning Classic for 2 years. Bill was then hired as Superintendent at Hanover Country Club in 1993 and has been there ever since.

Golf Course Profile

The golf course was designed by JW Gitt and constructed in 1923. Gil Hanse was called on to do revisions to the course in 1996 and most recently, a Master Plan was completed by course architect, Mark Fine. In addition to a great Master Plan, Mark was able to convince the members at Hanover the need to remove several trees throughout the property. Approximately 300 trees have been removed with several more to go. Members have seen some new beautiful views and the difference in turf quality and have responded positively!

CPGCSA 2012 Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

The September 27th meeting at Hanover Country Club will be the Annual Meeting with election of officers and directors for the 2013 meeting year. We are currently accepting nominations for positions on the Board of Directors.

President:

Rebecca J. Matis - Blue Ridge Country Club

Vice President:

Alan FitzGerald – Ledge Rock Golf Club

Secretary/Treasurer:

Chad Oxenreider - Galen Hall Country Club

Director:

Jeff Green - Valley Green Golf Course

If you are interested in running for the Board of Directors, please contact Chad Oxenreider at grnsmower@aol.com

Nominations may also be made from the floor by a voting member in good standing at the annual meeting.

6th Annual Byron "Corky" Knoll Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament

Monday, October 15, 2012

Tournament information is attached with this newsletter.

Central Penn is sponsoring a team for this event, if you would like to participate, please contact Wanda.

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It's Time To Rejuvenate!

By Keith Happ, senior agronomist, Mid-Atlantic Region



(L) Aeration is essential and there are a number of ways to meet the needs of turf at your facility. The one common, denominator, however, is that aeration needs to be completed. (R) Size does matter! The need for aeration, however, is dictated by science and this can be validated by using an accredited physical soil testing laboratory to complete an ash test to determine the organic matter percentage in the soil profile.



Preparation for the Fall Golf Season is Underway

Most golf facilities have completed aeration and topdressing treatments. Some have elected to use multiple procedures. Common combinations include core aeration combined with either deep tine aeration, linear aeration, or deep verticutting, sand injection or some combination thereof. Why so many variations in treatments? Soils and turfgrasses being managed are different at every golf course. Therefore, there is no one procedure that is best for every golf facility in every situation.

Timing for aeration of creeping bentgrass, for example, is critical. Aerating when the turf will heal quickly and resist Poa annua encroachment is a best management practice (BMP). That may be the reason a neighboring golf course aerates in August and the course on the other side of town aerates at the end of September. One golf facility may be managing bentgrass while the other is managing Poa annua putting greens. Another factor is the golf schedule. While it may be difficult to accept, in many instances aeration is performed when it is best for the golf schedule, not necessarily best for the turf.

As for aeration procedures used, the decision is, or should be, dictated by the amount of organic matter (thatch) each golf operation is managing. Superintendents can quantify the amount of organic matter present in the soil profile by submitting intact core samples to an accredited physical soil testing laboratory. This is very useful to establish a baseline to monitor soil physical properties over time as well as progress made by different cultural programs and strategies. Different aeration methods can be used to address varying levels of thatch accumulation. Suffice it to say, at every golf facility, some degree of surface disruption has to occur to maintain consistent playing quality through the golf season.

Summer weather patterns have again placed environmental stress on trees. Leaves are already falling in fairly large quantities. It is early for leaf drop, but it is just another indication of how difficult the weather has been this season in the Mid-Atlantic Region. When it comes to prioritizing leaf removal efforts, after the putting greens, consider cleaning out bunkers first. There are fewer Rules of Golf issues to deal with when bunkers are free of debris.

The current weather pattern is shaping up to be a mild and dry fall, which is perfect for conditioning golf courses for desired playability. Autumn can provide some of the best playing conditions of the growing season so get out and take advantage of it!

Always remember that the agronomists in the Mid-Atlantic Region are part of your agronomic support team. If you have a question of concern, especially now, give us a call or send an email. You can reach Darin Bevard (dbevard@usga.org) at 610-558-9066 or Keith Happ at (khapp@usga.org) at 412-341-5922.

President

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2012

2014

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Grant Huffman

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Kathy Conard 2013 kconard@harrells.com Paul Wickey turfwick@aol.com 2014

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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.

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

Cody Frederick......Class C
Assistant Superintendent, LedgeRock Golf Club

Matthew HopperClass SM Superintendent, Carroll Valley Golf Course

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Don Dodson at 410-527-3307.

Sympathies to the families of

Henry Nixon passed away on July 22nd. Stanley Zontek passed away on August 28th.

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



Rich Gdovin
Sales Consultant

Turf King Supplies & Contracting Services

Cell: 607.761.9465 Fax: 570.825.9267 rgdovin@andreandson.com www.andreandson.com

17150 State Route 706 Montrose, PA 18801

Directions to Hanover Country Club

From York:

Travel approx. 14 miles out of York on route 30 west. Hanover Country Club is on route 30 on the right, make a right turn at the white lamp post onto Country Club Road. (If you reach the Abbottstown square, the intersection of routes 30 & 194, then you have gone too far. Turn around and the Club is 1/4 mile from the square.)

From Hanover:

Take route 194 north to route 30 east, travel on route 30 for 1/4 mile to the bottom of the hill and take a left at the white lamp post (Country Club Road) into the Club's entrance.

From Gettysburg:

Travel approx. 15 miles on route 30 east, after you reach the intersection of route 30 & 194 continue on route 30 1/4 mile to the bottom of the hill and take a left at the white lamp post (Country Club Road) into the Club's entrance.

From Harrisburg:

Take interstate 83 South to N. George St. exit, follow signs to route 30 west. Follow directions form York the rest of the way.

Hanover Country Club 200 East Water St. Abbottstown, PA 17301 Hanovercc.com



For Your Information

If you have any information that you would like included in the October newsletter, please call Wanda at (717) 279-0368 or e-mail to cpgcsa@hotmail.com by October 1, 2012.

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Don't Let Winter Damage Disrupt Spring Play

By Kathy Conard

It has been a long and tough season; for those of you with weak turf you know that you need to do all you can to strengthen roots and nurse it back this fall...and then take the necessary steps to protect it through the winter. Winter damage is caused by a wide range of environmental stresses, including early and prolonged exposure to cold temperatures, desiccation, freeze-thaw cycles, extended snow cover, ice encasement, and disease. Direct low-temperature kill, crown hydration damage, wind desiccation and, in some rare instances, suffocation can occur. There is no way to predict the weather but you can protect and have some control over how the turfgrass is affected. You all know damage to Poa can occur in as little at 14 days whereas some Bentgrass varieties can withstand prolonged snow cover of more than 30 days usually without problem. Here are a few tips and reminders to help you protect your greens, tees, fairways, and other susceptible turf areas (Clubhouse grounds, turf next to parking lots that are treated with salt, etc)

Maximize Your Protection with the Right Mix of Products and Cultural Practices.

You know your golf course and are aware of several cultural practices that can affect turfgrass health and hardiness in difficult winter weather. Increased fall mowing heights go a long way; adequate fertilization to build carbohydrate reserves but not too much quick release N; you don't want to stimulate shoot growth late in the season. When you can, prune branches or eliminate trees around or near greens to open putting surfaces to increased sunlight and decrease their susceptibility to shady conditions and freeze during the winter. Ensure proper drainage, aeration and topdressing to reduce thatch and better manage moisture on the surface and air to water ratios throughout the soil profile. Some of you will use turf covers to protect greens and/or tees that are highly susceptible to disease or ice damage.

In addition to cultural practices there are products that can help you improve turf quality and color, reduce desiccation, disease and other problems that come from winter weather. Wetting agents, snow mold fungicides, pigments (not to be confused with turf paints or colorants), Potassium (coated K preferred so it is available and doesn't leach), as well as anti-desiccants (a.k.a. anti-transpirants) help protect turf during winter *and* give you a head start next spring. Timing and product selection is important to maximize results.

Apply wetting agents before blowing out the irrigation system and protect turfgrass because a good penetrating wetting agent:

- Allows the removal of standing water from the surface and manages soil moisture so it moves throughout the soil profile and soils don't become over saturated before the ground freezes.
- Reduces potential for crown hydration by reducing the upward movement of water from the frozen soil during thaw periods.
- Helps turf survive repeated freeze/thaw cycles during early spring.
- Manages surface and soil moisture in early spring before irrigation systems are turned on to reduce spring desiccation on greens, tees and fairways.
- Do not choose a wetting agent that has water holding capabilities. Ones with excellent penetrating characteristics are necessary.

Crown hydration damage can also be **reduced** by incorporating **Potassium** (K) late fall. Crown hydration is a problem generally associated with turf growing in wet soils whose saturated cells rupture and die following extreme fluctuations in freezing and thawing temperatures. This doesn't only happen in the coldest winter months. Many of you will be vulnerable to crown hydration damage in the 2 to 3 week transition period during snowmelt in early spring when standing water and saturated crown tissues often exist on semi-frozen soil surfaces. Turf is beginning to grow, temperatures rise during the day and plummet at night. Research shows and experienced superintendents understand the value of "hardening-off" the plant long before winter dormancy to help prevent this from occurring. Many supers will incorporate 2 – 4 pounds of Potassium into their greens aerification program anytime from August – November – if you are using a coated K it will last 16-20 weeks getting you through the spring transition period.

Potassium source selection is important. All water soluble K sources are not very long lived in the soil. Because most K sources are water soluble and have a low binding strength to the cation exchange capacity, they leach readily and are not available for plant uptake and utilization except for a very short time. This is why polymer coating K is so important. You want to make sure the Potassium you are applying will be available to thicken the cell wall thereby helping the plant survive winter desiccation, freeze/thaw cycles and crown hydration. And since Potassium also enhances the ability of turf to survive cold temperature stress you need it around for more than a week or so.

Timing of your Snow Mold Fungicide Is Important. As the days become shorter and temperatures struggle to reach 50 degrees, many of you will normally spray greens, tees and fairways with a cleanup spray. This second to last spray of the season has proven

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to be very beneficial in helping to clean up fall Dollar Spot and also manage it the following spring but it is also important as a **beginning, preventative spray for snow mold.** The fungus is usually starting to affect the plant well before you put that fungicide down. If you only do one late application just prior to the snowfall, you may be missing some of the initial infection. Snow mold, both Pink and Gray, can be devastating to untreated turf so this early preventative snow mold application in October is important. Your second app can be made just prior to snowfall, usually mid to late November. Consider a mixture of fungicides with different modes of action to increase efficacy against a range of snow mold pathogens.

Turf pigments can also be used to improve winter performance and, when used in combination with winter protection fungicides, give added protection from winter disease. Fungicides are important in protecting turf from winter disease but some can cause bleaching of the turf that is noticeable during the winter and can delay green-up in the spring. Apply pigments to turfgrass in the fall BEFORE the turfgrass goes dormant and/or loses its color from the onset of cold weather. If applied too late after the turfgrass has lost color, then the color enhancement and retention will not be as good or last as long. This is critical as research trials show there is a direct correlation to the application timing of pigments to the turfgrass while it is still physiologically active relative to the degree of color enhancement noted. Pigments, tank mixed with fungicides improve turf color during the winter and provide an advantage in turf color, health and performance for winter protection and early spring green-up.

As the ground freezes, turf can't draw up essential moisture, so the blades begin to sacrifice stored moisture from their stomata, especially during windy winter days and can dry out too much.

Spray an anti-desiccant on turf, shrubs and evergreens to:

- Safely coat the turf or leaf blades with a thin, flexible, natural-looking film to prevent desiccation.
- Reduce transpiration and excessive water loss on warm, sunny winter days.
- Apply these products when temperatures are around 40°, with no rain in the immediate forecast as turf needs to dry thoroughly, before any precipitation.
- Apply just after your snow mold fungicide application to seal it on the turf blade.
- Reapply during the spring thaw since some of the winter damage can actually occur in early spring when the temperatures are above freezing but the soil is still frozen.

These are just a few ways to protect your golf courses, prevent winter damage to turfgrass and have playing surfaces ready in the spring. You can outwit Old Man Winter.





- Renovation of Greens, Tees & Bunkers
- Imigation Installation
 Renovations
- · Laser Leveling
- · PC Drainage
- · New Construction
- · Cart Paths & Bridges
- · Irrigation Pond & Stream Bank Restoration
- Water Features & Decorative Ponds

Contact Greg Hufner
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1965 Byberry Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

Golf Results

July Tournament at Chambersburg Country Club

Format: Texas Scramble (shamble)

1 st gross:	Harry Grove	70
1 st gross: 2 nd gross:	Dave VanLeeuwen	75
3 rd gross:	Lee Kozsey	76
1 st net:	Brendan Byrne	64
2 nd net:	Barry Bollinger	65
3 rd net:	Greg Byrne	67

The September Meeting at the Hanover Country Club will be the 2012 Association Golf Championship.

Upcoming Events

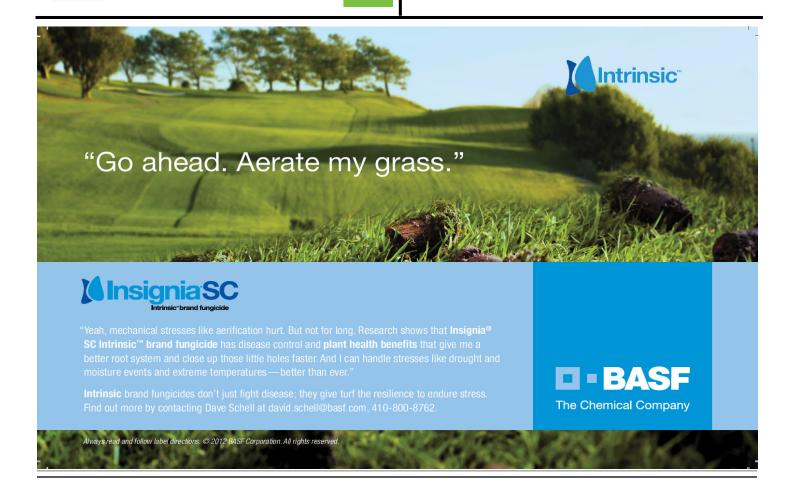
- 2012 Penn State Golf Turf Conference November 13 - 15, 2012
 Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, PA
- * Golf Industry Show February 4-8, 2013 San Diego, CA

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People We Meet

There are many we meet, As we journey along, Who remain just people we've met. And others there are, As their lives touch our own. Who are folks we shall never forget. Like those who walk close, In the darkness of night, To help carry our burdens awhile, And linger nearby, To share and to care. And to shorten a difficult mile. They're often the ones Who have grief of their own, And they've learned That true giving takes two. When their pathways are rough They'll reach for a hand, If there's something another can do. Sometimes, on our way, We're sad and alone, And at other times, happy, complete. The reason's as simple As reason can be -It's because of the people we meet.



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Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsor







Silver Sponsors



















Bronze Sponsors











Blue Ridge Peat Farms





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2012 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

October 22

West Shore Country Club Super/GM/Pro/AF Tournament



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