

The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 22 Issue 3

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

June 2015

June Meeting

The Links at Gettysburg

601 Mason Dixon Road Gettysburg, PA 17325

Monday June 22, 2015

Speaker - 11:00 AM

Lunch - 12:00 Noon

Golf - 1:00 PM Shotgun

Cash Bar/Lite Fare- following Golf

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

Superintendent Profile

John Long has been employed at The Links At Gettysburg for 9 years, prior to that he was a Director of Grounds for Mountain Branch and Hartefeld National. John graduated from PSU in 96' with a Bachelors of Science in Turfgrass. He has a son Jacob and lives in Gettysburg with his wife Ashley and stepchildren Lucas, Whitney and Ethan. John is very eager for Jacob and Lucas to start working on the grounds crew this summer so to teach them how to work hard and to go get a good education and NOT follow him into this profession!

Thanks to Our Sponsors for this Event!





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Golf Club Profile

Near hallowed ground where Union and Confederate soldiers marched and camped during the defining battle of America's Civil War, a supreme challenge of golf has been waged at **The Links At Gettysburg** - "Golf's Gettysburg address" - since the first shots were fired in 1999.

Accolades from professional and amateur golfers pour in about the magnificent architecture by Lindsay Ervin, superior playing conditions maintained by Superintendent John Long and the signature service that distinguishes **The Links**, a "4 1/2 Star" rated facility by *Golf Digest* and a "Must-Play" by *Golfstyles*.

As was the historic "Battle of Gettysburg" on July 1-3, 1863, **The Links** is not for the timid or faint of heart. This battleground features daunting, elevated tee boxes with slender, precise landing areas; 14 sparkling lakes and streams where golf balls often "swim with the fishes"; indigenous, redrock canyons and formations; massive, swift, sloping greens.

Created by The Klein Family Partnership, this Europeanstyle links course plays 7,069 yards from the tips, with a 74.1 rating and 144 slope, making it an exciting challenge for low handicappers. Four other tee areas - 6,666, 6,277, 5,802 and 4,977 yards - make the course accessible to players of all skill levels.

Directions to The Links at Gettysburg

From Harrisburg:

Take Route 15 South toward Gettysburg, turn left on Route 134 South, go approximately 4 miles and turn right at Mason-Dixon Road. *TO THE RETREAT*, turn right on to Savannah Drive and proceed over the bridge to The Retreat Sales Office. *TO THE LINKS GOLF CLUB and LINKS CLUBHOUSE (for weddings & special events)*, pass Savannah Drive and the entrance to The Retreat and, approximately 1/2 mile, turn right into The Links At Gettysburg entrance.

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President's Message

Greetings!

As I'm writing the first heat wave of the summer is under way and the countdown to fall aeration has begun (9 weeks and counting!). I hope that everyone is in good shape and ready for the dog days of summer. At least the summer weather gives us something to talk about at PSU in the fall!

The joint meeting with the Pocono Association at Schuylkill Country Club was another success with a nice turn out from both Associations. We would like to thank Will Schneider and Schuylkill CC for a great day. It was also nice that the number of superintendents exceeded the number of affiliates – at trend that the board hopes will continue.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the May meeting has been moved to The Links at Gettysburg. The meeting is still on the 22nd. John at the Links has a nice day planned and we look forward to going to Royal Manchester GC at a later date.

As I mentioned last month, on June 9th, the golf industry within Pennsylvania hosted a State Golf Day in the Capital Building in Harrisburg. Chad and I attended, representing CPGCSA and the Allied PGCSA. We had the opportunity to meet Representatives and Senators and let them know the issues facing the golf (in our case turf) industry as well as informing them how much golf brings to the state. There was a lot of interest in what we do as an industry and it helped that the Pros brought a golf simulator to attract more attention. The day as a whole was a success and it is something that we can build on and going forward benefit the industry as a whole.

I look forward to seeing everyone at The Links of Gettysburg.

Alan

The PGCSA Display at the PA Golf Day



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Membership News

We would like to welcome the following individuals into our association

Gary HiteClass A Superintendent, Walnut Lane Golf Club

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

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

www.cpgcsa.org



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IMPORTANT! Read the Letter about Fungicide ALT70...

Below is an important message about a stop sale notice for a fungicide called **ALT70**. This is a **generic version of fosetyl-Al** which has been associated recently with extensive turf loss on a number of golf courses in the Mid-Atlantic and New England Regions.

Right now we do not have any additional information, but I will be evaluating lots of this product from affected golf courses to see if I can find out what the problem is and will provide further information as soon as it is available.

Please forward this message to as many golf courses in adjoining states as you can.

Thank you, Dr. Bruce Clarke Rutgers University Center for Turfgrass Science



United Turf Alliance

8014 Cumming Highway · Suite 403-282 · Canton GA · 30115 · (770) 335 3015 www.utaarmortech.com

June 5, 2015

Dear United Turf Alliance customers:

Within the last 10 days, United Turf Alliance (UTA) has been notified of a few turfgrass incidents in the Northeast regarding the use of ArmorTech® ALT 70 Fungicide.

As we initiate a full and complete investigation, I am voluntarily stopping the sale of ArmorTech ALT 70 and offering our customers the opportunity to return the product for full credit.

Our investigation began this week with onsite visits to two golf courses that tank mixed ArmorTech ALT 70 in multiple product spray programs on Bentgrass/Poa putting greens, collars and approaches and reported compromised turf. Turfgrass growth regulating products were also used in the course of these two spray programs.

University Cooperators at Rutgers and the University of Rhode Island have been contacted to review the use patterns, programs and the effects on turf.

We have not concluded that the product affected the turfgrass. We have learned that the product was used according to label directions as part of the spray programs. The ArmorTech ALT 70 manufacturer (Tersenderlo Kerley Inc.) has conducted laboratory testing showing that the product was within the manufacturer's proper specification.

I want to personally assure you that we are working diligently with the product manufacturer and university researchers to resolve this issue and return the product to the market.

In the meantime, please visit our website www.utaarmortech.com for details and updates or contact me with your questions. You may reach me at email tech@utaarmortech.com or phone (770) 335-3015.

Regards,
Tim Zech
Tim Zech

President

(00972195- }

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The Ten Commandments of Greens Maintenance Dr. Jeff Higgins, Harrell's

With Sunday June 21st being the official first day of summer I thought the following article which was written by Dr. Jeff Higgins of Harrell's would be very appropriate.

Summer is recognized by most people as the fun time of the year with children being out of school, going on vacation, swimming, fishing, sun bathing, grilled hamburgers, cold beer, and so on.

For golf course superintendents that manage bentgrass and/or Poa annua greens, summer may be recognized as something different than a vacation but rather more like "90 days of Hell". So, to try and offer some salvation to the lucky superintendents that have this grave challenge, we have assembled The Ten Commandments of Greens Maintenance to hopefully decrease your chances of going through Hell during this time period.

1. Thou Shall Raise Greens Mowing Heights - One of the challenges we face during the summer is trying to maintain greens at "tournament putting speeds" to keep the "want to be, I think I am a professional" golfers at bay while still maintaining a healthy turfgrass culture and not losing grass. Unfortunately, many superintendents find that the easiest and most common way to gain or maintain putting speed is to lower the mowing heights. Not only does lowering mowing heights increase putting speed, it also increases stress to the turfgrass plants. If you are in the southern US and have bermudagrass greens, then pay attention in case you move north.

During the summer, the bentgrass and Poa annua become less active physiologically as a natural means to try and withstand the heat stress period of summer. By lowering the mowing height, we significantly reduce the % leaf area of the turfgrass plants, which in turn reduces the plant's ability to conduct photosynthesis, etc. It is all about photosynthesis and anything that interferes with efficient photosynthesis will reduce turfgrass health and its ability to deal with stress.

Ideally, the mowing heights should be increased during the summer months so that the leaf area can be increased, thus increasing the plant's photosynthetic capacity and increasing the stress tolerance of the greens.

- 2. Thou Shall Mow Using Smooth Rollers While adjusting the mowers to an increased mowing height, go ahead and switch out the rollers to solid rollers instead of the grooved grooming rollers. This too will impart less stress on the turfgrass plants and increase your odds of surviving summer without losing turfgrass.
- 3. Thou Shall Alternate Mowing and Rolling Mowing is the most important aspect of turf maintenance and impacts turf quality more than any other task. It would be recommended whether you are walk mowing or triplex mowing greens to reduce the mowing frequency during the summer and implement an alternate mowing and rolling schedule. If a lightweight tournament greens roller is available, then it should be utilized to roll greens in lieu of mowing. Research has clearly shown the benefits on turf quality and putting quality by implementing this strategy.

Ideally, the schedule would be to mow greens one day and then roll the greens the next day, etc. This alternating schedule should be utilized throughout the summer with greens being mowed 3 to 4 days per week and rolled 2 to 3 days per week. DO NOT roll greens more than three times (3x) per week as research has shown turf quality will be reduced.

- 4. Thou Shall Increase Potassium Fertility Potassium (K) has been shown to increase the stress tolerance of turfgrass when maintained in the tissues at sufficient levels. A minimum of 1.5% shall be maintained through tissue testing. This is a challenge, but it can be attained with the appropriate fertility program. Some academics, or at least one, feel that potassium is not needed nor required, but if that is the case then why is potassium the second highest concentrated element found in turfgrass plants when analyzed? I am just saying! I think not only you need potassium to help you manage stressed turfgrass, but you need a lot of potassium to make sure you plants can enjoy the luxury consumption of potassium that they use and make certain the plants are never deficient. K?
- 5. Thou Shall Use Cytokinins and Fulvic Acid Based Products Research has shown that the use of cytokinins and humic acids will increase the stress tolerance of turfgrass. Seaweed extract is naturally high in cytokinins, which are known as the "stay green" hormone. Cytokinins stimulate the production of antioxidants which stabilize chlorophyll and increase photosynthetic efficiency and capacity. Humic acids (at least some of them) are excellent chelating agents and have been shown to mimic

....continued on page 6.....

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The Ten Commandments ... continued from Page 5

the effect of auxins that promote root growth. Fulvic acid is a humic acid, but it is unique in that it is the only water soluble humic acid known to date and is much more effective than other humic acids that may or may not be beneficial. Don't forget that humic acid is also the substance that coats sand particles to cause hydrophobicity! We need more research and understanding of which humic acids are good and which are bad.

Research has shown that the application of cytokinins (seaweed extract) and humic acid together is better than apply both of the materials separately.

Ideally, these products should be used in the spring prior to the onset of heat stress as they will be more effective with concentrations elevated in the turfgrass plants versus waiting to initiate applications after heat stress has begun.

6. Thou Shall Vent Greens - The frequent use of quad tines or needle tines during the heat stress months of summer will aid in getting bad gases out of the root zone and supplying good gas (oxygen) to the root zone. The use of these small solid tines should be done on a biweekly basis and the aerification holes left open for gas exchange. A simple rolling of the greens with a lightweight tournament roller will close these holes enough that putting quality will not be affected.

This is also a good time to supplement potassium while these small aerification holes are open.

7. Thou Shall Apply Wetting Agent - Many golf course superintendents overwater their greens in an attempt to keeping them alive, but many times in the process only cause more damage due to the increase in temperatures this water creates. In addition, if not performed properly syringing and hand watering exercises can cause more problems than benefits if excessive water is applied in the process.

If the greens are holding too much water in the top few inches due to excessive thatch, topdressing layers, or soil compaction layers, then the water will cause the greens to heat up. During the summer, the heat energy of the day will be absorbed at the soil surface and cause an increase in temperature. The soil then cools itself by this heat energy dissipating downward to the cooler soil. Water is a great conductor of heat energy, so if excessive water is present in the top two inches or so, then increased temperatures will be noted in this region. If the water is evenly distributed deeper in the soil profile, then the soil will dissipate the heat energy faster and to a greater depth causing a cooling effect.

8. Thou Shall Apply Phosphite Fertilizers - Phosphites have been shown to be not only a very good source of potassium, but also to stimulate the turfgrass plant's natural defense mechanism to aid in fighting off plant diseases and other plant stresses. Phosphites stimulate the production of phytoallexins in the plant which are antimicrobial in their activity.

Phosphites will not replace fungicides and should not be used as such; however, the application of use of phosphites is a no brainer on bentgrass and Poa annua greens during the summer months as the benefits far outweigh the minimal costs associated with applying phosphites every week or every other week to the greens.

9. Thou Shall Apply Preventative Fungicides - The use of preventative fungicides is essential to maintaining healthy turfgrass throughout the summer months, but it is important that the appropriate fungicides are utilized and just as importantly these fungicides are applied at the proper timing intervals.

Please consult with a turfgrass pathologist that knows their stuff in planning your fungicide program and spray interval timings.

10. Thou Shall Pray - Don't underestimate the power of prayer to help you as a superintendent maintain a positive attitude and health for yourself during this time of increased stress. It would probably not hurt you to pray for your turfgrass while you are at it. Good luck!

I hope everyone has a great month! I look forward to seeing you all soon!



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Pennsylvania Golf Day Rendered A Success

Chase Rogan | Field Staff – Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

On Tuesday, June 9, we made golf history in the Keystone State. This date marked our first ever Pennsylvania Golf Day hosted in Harrisburg, the state's capital. What's Pennsylvania Golf Day? It's an opportunity. An opportunity to tell golf's story. An opportunity to build relationships with the legislators who govern the land where we reside and work. For superintendents specifically, an opportunity to promote ourselves as professional land-managers and stewards.

We had seven participating organizations from around the state, including the CMA, two PGA sections, Pennsylvania Golf Owners (PGO), Western PA Golf Association (WPGA), Golf Association of Philadelphia (GAP), and, of course, the PGCSA.

Throughout the day, participants engaged in about 80 meetings with state legislators and/or their staff. We talked about golf's economic impact in Pennsylvania – almost \$2 billion annually. We talked about the number of jobs golf creates in the state – about 30,000 with a payroll approaching \$500 million. We talked about the charitable contributions of golf – almost \$4 billion annually across the U.S. We also met with chairmen of the committees that are responsible for fertilizer and drought legislation in the state, both of which impact the way we do business.

By cultivating these relationships with our state government, it improves our chance of having a "seat at the table" when new bills are proposed, or existing legislation is reviewed. If we can establish the trust that empowers our legislators to seek our opinions, then we are doing ourselves and our industry a great services.

In addition to the meetings, we had a large exhibit set up in the East Wing rotunda of the main capitol building. Imagine a trade show. There was a hitting simulator (huge draw), a putting green and booths for each participating organization. At our table, we promoted our BMP manual, multiple irrigation technologies, different types of turf plugs and anything else that highlighted water, fertilizer or environmental management. Anybody – including legislators – coming through the rotunda that day could stop and talk with us. The traffic was steady.



Bill Mast

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Everyone that participated found the day worthwhile and educational. Not only does this day help us promote the industry we love, but there is a great deal of learning that takes place simply by engaging. I think it's safe to render Pennsylvania Golf Day 2015 a great success. We look forward to building on that momentum in 2016!



Superintendents promoting our profession.

A patron steps up to hitting simulator

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How the Irish (and Alan FitzGerald) Saved Civilization

Thomas Cahill authored <u>How the Irish Saved Civilization</u>: The Untold Story of Ireland's Heroic Role from the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Medieval Europe (Doubleday Publishing; 1995). It is a fascinating account of how Irish monks sustained learning and scholarship during the dark times of Europe's middle ages. After the fall of the Roman Empire, Europe became a collection of small city-states and regions where libraries were destroyed, the common people didn't really read and write, and learning was considered something the ancient Greeks and Romans did. This was the "dark ages" of medieval Europe. Wikipedia states that in "... European history, the Middle Ages, or Medieval period, lasted from the 5th to the 15th century. It began with the collapse of the Western Roman Empire and merged into the Renaissance and the Age of Discovery."

St. Patrick, who was actually a Roman citizen, returned to Ireland as an ordained Catholic priest and is credited with leading Ireland – then a backwater outpost of a declining Roman Empire – in the direction of learning and keeping knowledge alive in Europe. After St. Patrick, other monks began to gather together in Ireland and build monasteries where they would copy ancient manuscripts, texts, books of the Bible, and study Greek and Roman books and writings and anything else they could collect or "save" from Europe in those times. At first, many people would travel from Europe to Ireland to learn at these monasteries, and some would remain to join that religious order. After a time, some of those monks traveled from Ireland into continental Europe to build monasteries there and attract others to their way of life. There was actually a formula developed, whereby when a monastery reached a set limit of monks, one monk was chosen to lead 12 other monks to branch out and start another monastery somewhere else. Perhaps one of Alan Fitzgerald's ancestors was one of the learned monks of Ireland or Europe!

Every year – usually in late October or early November – all the world's "turf nerds" (i.e., turf professors at the land-grant universities) gather at the 'Tri-Society' conference. This is our academic version of the Golf Industry Show. The three societies are: Agronomy Society of America, Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America. The turfgrass folks are listed under Division C5 (Turfgrass Science) in the CSSA. At the conference, there are education sessions in all three societies that anyone can attend to get the latest research on soils, turfgrass science (i.e., physiology, breeding, weed control, disease management, insect control, fertility, etc.), plant breeding, plant drought/heat stress, soil microbiology, etc. Some of the research presented is considered "discovery" research that may not have immediate applications to the practitioner. Other research shared is "translational", which is information that turf practitioners may be able to use in their turf management programs today.

If those Irish monks were here today, they would want you to know that the United Nations declared 2015 as the "International Year of Soils"! The overall purpose is to create a global celebration and promotion of all things soil, and to further the awareness and understanding of soil – considered one of our most limited and valuable resources. The Soil Science Society of America (www.soils.org) has assemble information on this topic, with a new theme each month. For example, January's theme was 'Soils Sustain Life', which provided an overview of soil formation and soil ecosystems. April's theme was 'Soils Clean and Capture Water', and June's theme is 'Soils Support Recreation'. The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization also has a soils website: www.fao.org/soils-2015.

Keep learning!

Mike Fidanza, Ph.D., is a Professor of Plant and Soil Sciences at Penn State Berks Campus, Reading, PA. Email: maf100@psu.edu Twitter: @MikeFidanza

Golf Results from Schuylkill Country Club

May 19th 2015

1st place: Mike Weinert

4th place:

8th place: John Downer

Tom Weinert Luke Chassard Greg Boring Brian Bachman

John Chassard

Eric Shilling 12th place: Jerry Decker

Paul Wickey Doug Rider

John Vojaik Tom Wilchack

Bob Jones
Bill Holloway

Lee Koszey

Closest to pin #4: Mike Weinert Longest Drive #8: Jeff Shoemaker Closest to pin #11: Mike Weinert Longest Drive #14: Brian Pardoe

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2015 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

June 22

The Links at Gettysburg

July Social

September 29

Golf Championship Iron Valley Golf Course

October

Oktoberfest Open Galen Hall Golf Course



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