



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 32 Issue 1

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

April 2025

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,
86 years later.



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2025 Meeting Schedule

May 21

Conestoga Country Club

Matt Turner

<https://www.conestogacc.com/>

June 18 (Note Dage Change)

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<https://ccharrisburg.com/>

October 13

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Our Power, Our Planet™

Earth Day 2025



For 55 years, Earth Day has led the world in educating and mobilizing the public to take action to address critically important environmental issues. We are global advocates for the health of the planet, calling for the protection of our air, oceans, soil, ecosystems, wildlife, and human health.

April 22nd, 2025 will mark the 55th anniversary of Earth Day. 192 countries and over one billion people around the globe are expected to participate, demonstrating the longstanding convening power of Earth Day to bring people from all walks of life to work together for a better future.

Grassroots people-power has always been at the heart of Earth Day. It is the catalyst for paradigm-shifting change because when individuals unite with a common purpose, they can overcome even the most entrenched systems and industries.

As we approach this milestone, we celebrate a transformative reality: the solutions we need to create clean, inexpensive, and unlimited energy for the entire planet through renewable solar, wind and other technologies are within our reach.

This Earth Day 2025, let us commit to harnessing renewable energy to build a healthy, sustainable, equitable and prosperous future for all, let us commit to Renewable Energy Now.

TRIPLE RENEWABLE GENERATION BY 2030

We are calling for renewable energy generation, globally, to be tripled by 2030. The production and use of renewable energy transcends economic systems, political borders and political parties, demonstrating a universal appeal.

CONSIDER THESE REMARKABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY FACTS

- In 2023, the U.S. produced more solar power than ever before with California, Texas, Florida, North Carolina, Nevada and Arizona leading the solar revolution. They are helping to produce the cheapest electricity in history.
- In the United States, Texas—long associated with oil production—now leads the nation in wind energy generation
- The U.S. has used its existing drilling capacity to become the world's leading producer of advanced geothermal energy.
- California and Florida, polar opposites politically, are both at the forefront of the solar power boom
- Across the U.S., solar capacity has grown over ten-fold in the last decade, and is poised to become the 2nd largest source of the U.S.'s generating capacity in the next few years.
- China and the U.S. (largely through the Inflation Reduction Act) are both making massive investments in renewable energy. China is currently leading the world in both wind and solar, with twice as much capacity under construction as the rest of the world combined in 2024
- Uruguay has transformed its energy sector, moving from being dependent on oil imports to generating 98% of its electricity from renewable sources
- India has set ambitious goals for renewable energy, aiming to achieve 50% of its energy requirements from renewable sources by 2030.
- Kenya is a leader in Africa, with geothermal power accounting for nearly half of its electricity generation. Geothermal can be beneficial for the electrical grid, as it puts less strain on it and can help mitigate blackouts. Geothermal also emits 97% less acid rain-causing compounds and 99% less carbon dioxide.
- A third of all homes in Australia use solar power.
- In Brazil hydro-electric accounted for nearly 68% of its total electricity generation in 2023. In Italy hydro-electric accounts for 23% of the total electricity generation and is growing, and in Netherlands it accounts for 16%.
- In Denmark, over 50% of the country's electricity is generated from wind turbines and by 2026, wind energy will power 30% of the electricity needs of Spain, 17% of the electricity needs of the Netherlands, and 23% of the electricity needs of Germany.

RENEWABLE ENERGY COSTS ARE PLUMMETING

Over the past decade, the cost of manufacturing solar panels has plummeted dramatically, making them into one of the most affordable, and often the cheapest, form of electricity. Solar module prices fell by up

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to **93% between 2010 and 2020**. During the same period, the global weighted-average levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) for utility-scale solar PV projects fell by 85%.

THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF OPTING FOR CLEAN ENERGY

Renewable energy can spark a humanitarian revolution – for the first time in history, we have a pathway to providing virtually unlimited, low-cost energy to everyone.

The per capita electricity usage of 3.8 billion people does not reach the Modern Energy Minimum (MEM), meaning such usage is under 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh)—the threshold for mitigating poverty. Renewable energy can transform this situation, thus improving living standards and enhancing health outcomes.

- Reducing air pollution caused from the burning of fossil fuels can significantly lower the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, including asthma, bronchitis, heart attacks, and strokes.
- Women are especially vulnerable to the adverse effects of air pollution and water contamination with these threats linked to an increased risk of developing breast cancer, ovarian diseases, and complications with maternal health.
- Decreased greenhouse gas emissions help mitigate the risks associated with climate change, such as heatwaves, floods, and the spread of infectious diseases.
- Mental health can be improved by reducing the stress and anxiety linked to pollution, climate change, noise pollution, and environmental disasters.
- Reducing water pollution and improving water quality can significantly lower the risk of waterborne diseases.
- Lowering the health care costs associated with pollution-related diseases can ease the strain put on healthcare systems and reduce medical expenses

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF EXPANDING RENEWABLE ENERGY

This profound and fast-moving transition to renewable energy isn't just an environmental necessity—it's an economic revolution. It will drive innovation across industry, transportation, and agriculture, spurring more technological advancements and creating millions of new jobs and opportunities, globally.

According to the 13th National Solar Jobs Census released in 2022, there are 263,883 solar energy workers across the U.S, working to manufacture, install, distribute, and carry out maintenance, marking a 3.5% growth in solar jobs compared to 2021.

Renewable energy represents a huge economic opportunity and will create 14 million new jobs globally. In 2023, renewable energy, worldwide, was worth \$1.21 trillion and is projected to grow 17.2% annually from 2024 to 2030.

Investments in clean energy through the Inflation Reduction Act can collectively save U.S families \$27-\$38 billion, between 2022 and 2030.

RENEWABLE ENERGY REDUCES GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

“Renewable energy sources – which are available in abundance all around us, provided by the sun, wind, water, waste, and heat from the Earth – are replenished by nature and emit little to no greenhouse gasses or pollutants into the air.”

Switching to renewable energy sources is crucial for reducing greenhouse gas emissions because renewables generate electricity without producing carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas. In contrast, fossil fuels are major emitters of greenhouse gases and thus are primary contributors to global warming. According to the U.S Energy Information Administration in 2023, petroleum accounted for roughly 38% of U.S. energy consumption and was responsible for 47% of U.S energy-related CO2 emissions. Natural gas accounted for 36% of energy use and contributed to 37% of these emissions. Coal accounted for around 9% of energy consumption and 16% of energy-related CO2 emissions.

THE POWER OF EARTH DAY MOVEMENT IS UNSTOPPABLE

The strength of this movement lies in its grassroots nature, and our power as individuals. It's the collective voice of concerned citizens that pushes governments and corporations to make bold commitments and take decisive action. By engaging in community initiatives, participating in local and national elections with renewable energy in mind, and making sustainable choices in daily life, individuals are the catalysts for change. This people-powered revolution demonstrates that when we unite our voices and actions, we can overcome even the most recalcitrant systems and create a cleaner, more equitable energy future for all.

This Earth Day 2025, let us commit to harnessing renewable energy to build a healthy, sustainable, equitable and prosperous future for us all. Support and adopt the rapid transition to renewable energy sources now, be it solar, wind, hydro-electric, tidal or geothermal.

From Governments, to global industry and local businesses, from unions, to schools, religious leaders, to civil society, families and individuals. Whether you are a town mayor, a trade union boss, a CEO, a banker, an artist, farmer, fisherman, teacher, or firefighter – the true power of this revolution lies in the hands of individuals like you. People power is the driving force behind this transformation.

In 2025, as EARTHDAY.ORG turns 55, join us as we embrace a powerful, renewable future. **It's Our Power, it's Our Planet.**

Presidents Message

Congratulations to Chris Martin of Crossgates Golf Club on becoming president of Central Penn. Thank you to Bob Gomboc of Sunset Golf Course and Kyle Woodfield of Foxchase Golf Club for stepping up to directors positions on the board. Looking forward to working with everyone in the role of past president.

The March meeting with the SRBC was very well attended. It was reassuring to have Rep Dan Moul of Adams County and Sen Dawn Keefer there in support of us. There were no revelations that came of this meeting. I was left feeling very indifferent to some of their presentation, particularly the grant programs. I can say for certain it is worthwhile meeting with SRBC staff to discuss docket renewal as your project dates approach. They have been very helpful as I work on my own renewal. They do appear to be concerned about the current drought condition although still don't have much collaboration with DEP. This spring reminds me of 2023. I don't mind the dry conditions in the spring but this summer could be under restrictions. If we get enough rain soon to get us back to normal it could wreck our revenue. This career is never boring.

Grateful to everyone for their support and participation of Central Penn over the last several years. A special thank you to Wanda for her continued dedicated service to our association. It has been an honor to represent all of you. God Bless.

Pete Ramsey
Central Penn Past President

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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

C. J. Buck, Territory Manager
Harrell's Class AF

Mike Johnson, Sales Representative
Turf Equipment & Supply Class AF

Casey Post, Assistant Superintendent
Conestoga Country Club Class C

Max Wertman, Assistant Superintendent
Royal Manchester Golf Links Class C

Kenneth Willis, Superintendent
Rich Valley Golf Class B

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

Grant Huffman, Superintendent
Honey Run Golf Course Class A

Hunter King, Superintendent
Moccasin Run Golf Club Class B

Robert Dohner, Superintendent
Media Heights Golf Club Class B

Scott Gingrich, Superintendent
Out Door Country Club Class B

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



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Finding Labor in The Early 2020s

Navigating challenges to staff a complete golf course maintenance team.

March 2025 | Jesse F. Sutton, CGCS

March 2, 2020, was my first official day as a golf course superintendent. I couldn't have been more excited to get started, as I had been preparing for this opportunity for the last 12 years.

I didn't know it then, but less than two weeks later, our entire world would be shut down by the COVID-19 pandemic. Suddenly, I had a massive problem with my operation: labor. Unemployment skyrocketed, and fear of the virus completely changed the way our world operated. Quickly, the dynamic of our seasonal workforce was crushed. Hourly wages increased by upwards of 30%, and even with higher salaries, it was nearly impossible to fully staff a golf course maintenance team in the year to follow.

Even before the pandemic, the days of sifting through a stack of job applications to build your seasonal staff were long gone; however, it forced many in our industry to adapt to different techniques to fill the gaps in each of our operations. After that first year, I had little hope for the future of hiring seasonal labor. I knew I had a long career ahead of me, and I needed to completely reevaluate how I looked at hiring. Four years later, after persistence, creativity and — most importantly — patience, I have turned the corner to building a solid team.

The first step was to complete a general labor audit of where all my labor dollars were going. Once you know your numbers, you can start making sense. No, this doesn't require an expensive software package with daily tracking down to the minute. With some thought and time, you can quickly understand approximately what percentage of time you spend on the essential tasks. After evaluating the numbers, I knew exactly where my gaps were, but I didn't know how to fill them.

The first technique that helped me bridge the gap is utilizing what I call "task hires." These part-time employees complete specific tasks and then leave for the day. Most of my mowing and rolling is achieved by task hires. For me, these employees are retirees, ski instructors, college and high school students and a local real estate agent. The primary motivation for these employees is complimentary golf, paid exercise and a little bit of gas money at the end of the week.

When advertising these task-specific positions, it is critical to give the job seeker a reason to be interested. Highlight the benefits of the position. Shine a light on the peacefulness of the early mornings, physical exercise and personal satisfaction. Don't limit yourself to just posting a job online. Contact local organizations and other businesses with seasonal staff or part-time workers. Word of mouth can be powerful.

Once you have the right people, it is time to keep them in place. Understand their needs with the position and be as flexible as possible. They are creating value for you. Now it's time for you to create value for them.

Although hiring for specific tasks helped lighten the load, a considerable amount of labor still needs to be completed. This is the most challenging area for most superintendents. It seems that hiring one or two employees to complete these labor-intensive tasks was realistic, but I couldn't fill the rest of my positions, and it was taking its toll on the team and myself.

I turned to utilizing the H-2B visa program. For many superintendents, this may seem intimidating, expensive and complicated. What's so intimidating about it? You are only bringing workers from halfway across the world to your golf course you don't know, who don't speak your language and who have zero golf course maintenance experience. What's so hard about that? What about the expense of acquiring the visas? Although there certainly is an expense per employee, it's much less expensive than dealing with poor golf conditions. It made perfect sense by selling the program as an investment into our property's future.

It doesn't need to be complicated. After quickly researching, you will find many recruitment resources and agencies that aid in procuring visas. Three years into the program, our team is getting stronger, and our network of referrals is growing. Now, we



Some of the crew at Fox Run Golf Club in Ludlow, Vt., where Jesse F. Sutton, CGCS, is superintendent. Photos by Jesse F. Sutton



The author has found using the concept of "task hires" — part-time employees hired to complete specific tasks — can help lighten the load.

have eight H-2B visas, with five returning workers and three new workers.

All that blood, sweat and tears from Year One are paying dividends as employees can train each other, and our communication between English and Spanish has improved. Investing time and money into this program has paid our operation back twofold. The benefits of the H-2B program work both ways, as these employees are provided an opportunity to provide meaningful income for their families in their home country. We've even implemented an incentive program where, after three years of service, our company will sponsor them and their family to gain Permanent Resident status — a legal path to citizenship.

Even with a full staff now, there are still tasks on the golf course that are incredibly labor-consuming. One major annual project for us is spraying over 30 acres of fine fescue tall grass areas.

Typically, because of the geography of our property, this task would take four people nearly two weeks to complete. This season, we are utilizing a contractor with a drone to spray all of these areas, which will allow our team more time to complete critical projects on our property.

The technological advancements in all areas of our trade have significantly increased our productivity as superintendents — robotic mowing, mobile irrigation operation, moisture meters, drones, etc. The majority of golf courses simply do not have the resources to go “all-in” on these new advancements, and many never will. It's important to be realistic about what your club's limitations are regarding resources.

Utilizing multiple avenues for building your seasonal labor staff is critical. There is not a one-size-fits-all approach, and every facility has different needs and resources. The good news is that I am hopeful for the future and remain confident that our seasonal teams won't turn into robots just yet. Despite the challenges of building a team in my 20s, I have full confidence that “people” are what will continue to make a difference.

Jesse F. Sutton, CGCS, is a golf course superintendent at Fox Run Golf Club in Ludlow, Vt., and a 11-year GCSAA member.



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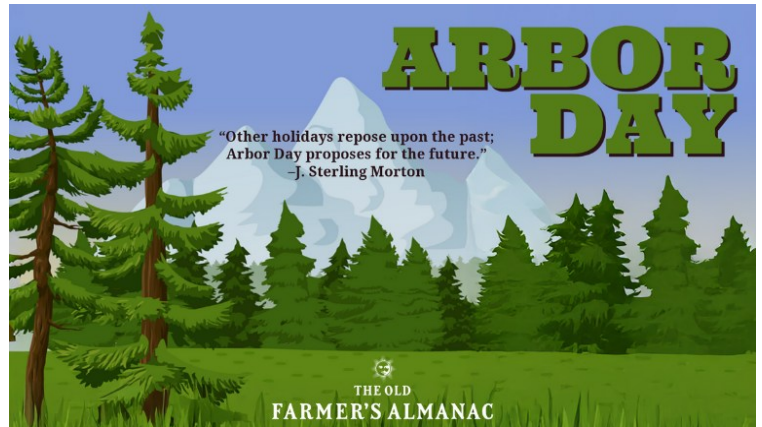
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Arbor Day 2025: Why Do We Celebrate Arbor Day? Learn the History Behind Arbor Day—and Plant a Tree!

Alice Cary
April 16, 2025

*"Other holidays repose upon the past;
Arbor Day proposes for the future."
—J. Sterling Morton*



Arbor Day sprouted from the mind of a zealous tree lover named Julius Sterling Morton. A popular Arbor Day tradition is to plant a tree in honor or memory of a loved one. Learn some interesting facts about this day, and learn about the power of trees, which support our well-being!

When Is Arbor Day?

Arbor Day is celebrated on the **last Friday in April**, although some states observe it on dates that better coincide with the local area's planting times. For instance, Hawaii celebrates Arbor Day on the first Friday of November, and Alaskans celebrate it on the third Monday in May.

What Is Arbor Day?

Arbor Day, much like [Earth Day](#), is a holiday that celebrates nature. Its purpose is to encourage people to plant trees, and many communities traditionally take the opportunity to organize tree-planting and litter-collecting events on or around the holiday.

A popular Arbor Day tradition is to plant a tree in honor or memory of a loved one.

*What does he plant who plants a tree?
He plants cool shade and tender rain,
And seed and bud of days to be,
And years that fade and flush again;
He plants the glory of the plain;
He plants the forest's heritage;
The harvest of a coming age;
The joy that unborn eyes shall see—
These things he plants who plants a tree.*

—Henry Cuyler Bunner (1855–96), in *The Heart of the Tree*



A New York City school celebrates Arbor Day 1908 by planting trees. Looks like fun! Photo by George Grantham Bain, courtesy of The Library of Congress.

The History of Arbor Day

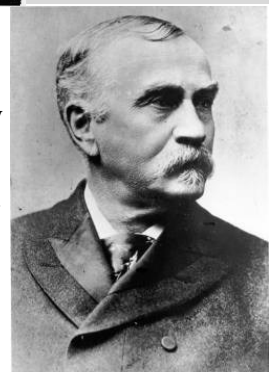
[Julius Sterling Morton](#), an avid tree planter and enthusiast, created Arbor Day.

The first Arbor Day occurred on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska City, Nebraska. It's estimated that nearly one million trees were planted on this day.

By 1885, Arbor Day had become a legal holiday in Nebraska. (The date was changed to April 22 to honor Morton's birthday.) On that day, thousands of Nebraska City citizens turned out for one big party, including 1,000 schoolchildren who formed a parade.

Within 20 years of its creation, the holiday was celebrated in every American state except Delaware, which eventually joined in.

Morton found it particularly pleasing that schools across the country began celebrating Arbor Day by dedicating the trees they planted to special people.



Julius Sterling Morton

Who Was Julius Sterling Morton?

Morton was born in Adams, New York, in 1832, but his life took a decisive turn on his wedding day in October 1854. After he and his bride, Caroline Joy French, were married in Detroit, they headed west for adventure in the wilds of Nebraska Territory.

The couple settled on 160 treeless acres (the key word here is *treeless*).

Despite having a busy career and four sons, Morton planted thousands of trees on the homestead he called the Morton "ranch." He planted an apple orchard, as well as peach, plum, and pear trees, plus cottonwoods, evergreens, beeches, and more.

Morton took every opportunity he could to spread the word. He gave speeches and filled his newspaper with agricultural advice, urging Nebraskans to plant trees and try new crops.

Today, the family home, Arbor Lodge, is a state park in Nebraska City, Nebraska. Over the years, Arbor Lodge grew from a four-room home into a 52-room mansion, complete with a terraced garden, a pine grove, and 65 acres of more than 250 varieties of trees and shrubs.

J. Sterling Morton died on April 27, 1902, at the age of 70. Just a month earlier, he had written that he hoped to plant trees as soon as the weather turned warm. A statue of him stands in the National Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C.



Secretary of Agriculture Edwin T. Meredith and the District Federation of Women's Clubs plant a tree in honor of J. Sterling Morton in May 1920. Photo courtesy of The Library of Congress.

Highlights from Morton's Career

- Morton worked as a journalist and a politician, becoming secretary and acting governor of the Nebraska Territory from 1858 to 1861.
- In 1872, Morton declared: "If I had the power, I would compel every man in the State who had a home of his own to plant out and cultivate fruit trees."
- In 1893, President Grover Cleveland appointed him U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. He also served on the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture and the State Horticultural Society.



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Fun Fact: Arbor Day was almost called Sylvan Day, which means “wooded.” Several members of the [Nebraska State Board of Agriculture](#) favored it, but Morton argued that *sylvan* refers only to forest trees and that the name Arbor Day was most inclusive, covering forest trees *and* fruit trees.

The Power of Trees

1. Trees support our health and the health of our planet! They clean our air and water. They provide shade, which cools our urban areas. Even on a personal level, trees have been proven to calm us and reduce our stress levels.
2. Trees also support wildlife and our entire ecosystem. One oak tree attracts thousands of pollinators and beneficial insects! Trees provide birds and aquatic animals with habitats. In addition, they provide humans with powerful medicine, materials for living, and agriculture.
3. Finally, trees are our biggest allies as the world climate warms; they are a cost-effective way to pull carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere today. Planting even one tree makes a difference.



Photo by Zinkevych/Getty Images

<https://www.almanac.com/content/arbor-day-history-facts-date>

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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.

SCHEDULE AND OFFERINGS

Due to the availability of hotel rooms, the National Golf Day event will be a Wednesday-Friday event.

LOBBY DAY

On May 1, 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 on April 30 in advance of NGD. 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 2, on the National Mall and East Potomac 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.



American Golf
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Learn more at: AquatrolsCompany.com

Managing Golfer Expectations to Help Conserve Water

April 18, 2025
USGA Green Section Staff

Trying to meet golfer expectations plays a big role in how courses are managed, especially when it comes to watering. Any golf course that wants or needs to use less water will have to manage expectations and build support among golfers for water conservation efforts to be successful. No matter what your water-saving goals are, this article has strategies that will help you educate golfers, get productive feedback, and adjust expectations to match any changes in water use

Golfer expectations play a big role in how courses are managed, especially when it comes to watering. Many golf courses end up watering more than what is necessary to maintain healthy grass because they are trying to meet golfer expectations for aesthetics and presentation. Whether it's keeping playing surfaces lush and green during dry weather or maintaining large expanses of irrigated turf in out-of-play areas, trying to keep golfers happy can come at the expense of efficient water use and optimal playing conditions.

Beyond daily maintenance, golfer expectations also come into play when courses have to address short-term water issues like a drought, or if they are trying to make long-term reductions in water use. Using less water – whether by choice or out of necessity – is going to change how a course looks and plays. That doesn't mean the course will not look or play as good, but it will be different than what golfers are used to. Understanding what matters most to the golfers at a particular course and taking steps to educate, persuade and build “buy-in” is a critical part of successful water conservation.



Building support among golfers is a critical part of successful water conservation.

Golfer expectations are built around established norms, but expectations can be changed. There are many examples of golf courses that have dramatically decreased water use, established a new set of expectations among their customers, and improved their business in the process. Communication, as always, is key. In the [USGA Water Conservation Playbook](#), we have a chapter that goes into detail about [managing golfer expectations to help conserve water](#). The following is a summary of the key points.

"Golfer expectations are built around established norms, but expectations can be changed."

Common Scenarios

Water-Use Restrictions and Shortages

During drought or water restrictions, proactive communication helps golfers know what to expect. This is important because even short periods of drought or relatively minor watering restrictions can cause sizeable impacts on a golf course depending on the course's situation and the duration of the water shortage. It may be easy enough to explain some short-term dry spots in peripheral areas of the course, but long-lasting water shortages force difficult choices and it's important to have open conversations about how to handle irrigation reduction. Obviously, greens, tees and fairways are a priority for watering, but what if a course has to cut water use even further? What if the drought or restrictions may go on indefinitely? It's important to be transparent about the potential impacts and to be honest about the uncertainty that may exist.

Long-Term Water Conservation Plans

Long-term strategies to decrease overall water use will affect playing conditions and course appearance. Golf courses that are thinking about these changes should have an overall water conservation plan that helps golfers understand the short- and long-term implications of water saving strategies and the costs and benefits of different approaches. Making changes without informing golfers – even if the changes improve course conditions in the long term – can lead to complaints. Being proactive about explaining water-use strategies and asking for feedback where choices exist helps ease some of the pains associated with change. In many cases, golfers must approve the spending for something like a new irrigation system or a turf conversion project, so without their support water conservation simply cannot happen.

Considerations

Droughts or mandates for significant water reductions are very likely to impair playing conditions, turf health and course aesthetics. Golfers may be understanding of some short-term impacts, but they can become increasingly restless if the shortage wears on and course conditions continue to suffer. Recovering from drought or water restrictions also requires patience. Just because rain has returned or water is available again doesn't mean that the course will go



Mandated water restrictions can have a profound effect on course presentation and playability. It's important to explain to golfers the likely impacts, how long they will last, and what the recovery process will be like.

right back to normal. Turf damage from a lack of water may last for months depending on the grass type, time of year and budget for recovery. All of this has to be explained, and golfers might still be unhappy regardless of how well informed they are.

When it comes to making longer-term changes, it's important to honestly evaluate the expected impacts and explain various trade-offs. Golfers need to understand that it will take time for major changes to settle in and for the full benefits to be realized. It could take several years before [water-saving naturalized areas](#) look and play as desired. In the meantime, they may be too dense, too weedy, too thin or anywhere in between. Similar patience is required when converting turf areas to grasses that use less water. The course may eventually play firmer and faster for more of the year, but not until the new grass is fully established and new management practices have been refined, which may take more than a year. Some courses may have no choice but to reduce water in ways that impair playing conditions and presentation. In these situations, it's important to explain why and talk about how the facility is working to achieve the best experience possible under a new reality.

Implementation

Managing golfer expectations and building support for water conservation strategies is not easy. Making meaningful change never is! Here are a few effective steps courses can take:

- Prioritize strategies that can potentially improve the golfer experience or keep negative impacts to a minimum. There are many ways to save water, some affect playing conditions and presentation less than others.
- Have a flexible, readily available drought-emergency plan to prevent surprises when water supply issues arise. Give golfers and facility leadership a chance to weigh in on target areas for watering reduction to help build support for the plan if it ever needs to be put into action.
- Let golfers know about water conservation goals by providing clearly defined targets. Explain how much water the course is looking to save and why – whether it's to reduce costs, manage droughts, improve playing con-



This course set up a test area to show how different grasses performed with less irrigation. Demonstration areas like this are a very effective way to educate golfers

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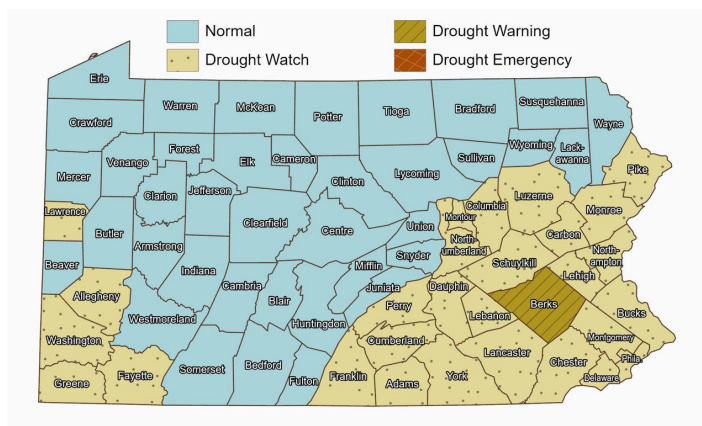
ditions, or any other reason – and explain the changes golfers can expect to see on the course as a result.

- Demonstrate water saving strategies in areas where golfers can see them in action and offer input on various options. Host workshops or informational sessions, provide side-by-side test areas on the course, or visit nearby courses that have implemented similar projects to help stakeholders visualize the changes ahead of time and share their preferences.

Tips for Success

Managing and changing expectations is not easy, but it's necessary for successful water conservation. Communicating early, often, and in a variety of ways helps raise awareness about why a course may want or need to decrease water use. Be proactive and educate golfers about the water issues a course faces today and in the future. Highlight any short- or long-term benefits that come with water conservation – whether that's firmer and faster conditions or a better chance that the course can stay open for business. Develop baseline metrics for water use and objective conservation goals. That makes talking about how to achieve those goals much easier. Show the impacts of different strategies in a way that allows golfers to experience them firsthand to build support. Don't let a lack of communication and education derail the important work of water conservation.

Current PA Drought Declaration Status



Drought declarations aren't based on one indicator alone. DEP makes drought watch, warning, or emergency declaration recommendations based on four numeric indicators: stream flow, groundwater level, precipitation, and soil moisture. There are normal ranges for all four indicators. DEP makes its drought declarations after assessing the departures from these normal ranges for periods of 3-12 months. DEP also factors in information it receives from public water suppliers.

Drought Announcements

- After the April 2, 2025, meeting of the Commonwealth Drought Task Force a drought watch has been lifted for six counties but remains in place for twenty-seven counties.
- Beaver, Butler, Clearfield, Indiana, Somerset, and Westmoreland Counties have returned to normal status.
- Adams, Allegheny, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Lancaster, Lawrence, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Philadelphia, Pike, Washington, and York Counties remain in drought watch.
- Schuylkill County's status has been changed from drought warning to drought watch.
- Drought warning will continue for Berks County.
- Residents on drought warning are encouraged to reduce their individual water use by 10 to 15 percent, or a reduction of six to nine gallons of water per day.
- Varying localized conditions may lead water suppliers or municipalities to ask residents for more stringent conservation actions.
- Residents on drought watch are encouraged, but not required, to voluntarily reduce their water use by five to ten percent.

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

Spring? Is That You?

April 18, 2025

Elliott L. Dowling, regional director, East Region

As most of the golfing world was glued to their televisions last week watching what will go down as one of the best Masters Tournaments ever, much of New England was receiving snow and the rest of the Northeast was cold. In fact, April has felt more like March.



Recent snowfall in New England was a stark reminder of the ups and downs of spring weather.

When spring takes forever to arrive, it is even more important to rely on nature's cues to make decisions on the course. Just because the calendar says it might be time to aerate greens or fertilize rough, if the weather isn't conducive to growth and recovery it may not be a good idea to move forward with these practices just yet. Phenological indicators such as the forsythia and rhododendron bloom reflect the soil temperature and are better guides than what the date is. Another tool that golf courses and homeowners can use to time various spring practices is a growing degree day (GDD) tracker. Again, rather than relying on what the calendar says the weather should be, GDD trackers use daily high and low temperatures to provide a numerical value. This value is used to determine the appropriate timing of all sorts of spring applications, like preemergence weed control.

Spring always gets golfers excited. Whether you are returning home from warmer areas, or you tuned in to the Masters and now have the bug to play, spring weather isn't the same for everyone. Although the grass is green and trees have leaves in the South, most courses in the Northeast are still far from prime condition. Not only is this true of the look of the course, it is also true of course preparations. Be careful not to go too early with preemergence herbicides and summer disease or insecticide applications, because you could miss the prime window.

There are a lot of ups and downs to spring course conditions, but consistently good golf and growing weather will be here before you know it. For more ways to get your season off to a good start, please reach out to your regional USGA agronomist.

Northeast Region Agronomists:

Darin Bevard, senior director, Championship Agronomy –
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Elliott L. Dowling, regional director, East Region –
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Rounds 4 Research: BID NOW!

The annual GCSAA Rounds 4 Research auction is officially live. We have **more than 1,500 rounds** currently available with additional rounds being added every day – from local courses right in your backyard to bucket list opportunities across the nation and abroad.

Whether you're purchasing a round for yourself or searching for a once-in-a-lifetime gift for family and friends, you're sure to find the perfect round of golf in our auction.

Explore Rounds & Bid Now!

Want to donate a round to help ensure the future of the game? There's still time! **Donate to Rounds 4 Research now** through Friday, April 25, at 12 p.m. EST.

Rounds 4 Research allows GCSAA chapters and turfgrass foundations to participate as fundraising partners with the vast majority of proceeds going back to those organizations. In this way, these organizations can direct the proceeds to specific projects that will have the most significant impact in their local areas.



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.

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

2025 Scholarship Application



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