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OF GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS

The Bonnie Greensward



Our 93rd Year

2018 Issue III

First Green—Philly Style

by Bill Corcoran

This past summer, Dan Meersman and Robb Moulds of The Philadelphia Cricket Club hosted a "First Green" Event, at the Militia Hill Course, on the Philadelphia Cricket Club property.

As the First Green website states: First Green is an innovative environmental education outreach program using golf courses as environmental learning labs – the only program of its kind in the world. First Green has extensive resources for golf course superintendents, including **online lesson plans**, as well as facilitating the connections between golf courses and local schools and science/horticulture teachers.

Golf superintendents, course staff and/or local industry representatives (such as regional associations and members) host students on field trips where they test water quality, collect soil samples, identify plants, pre-

serve wildlife habitats, assist in stream-bed restoration and learn about the ecology, conservation and environmental aspects of golf courses. The kids also visit the practice green or hit balls at the driving range, giving them their first taste of playing golf.

First Green has been providing STEM learning labs since 1997.

You had about seventy 3rd grade students, broken into six groups, for 20 minute stations, for different types of golf education. While I am pretty sure the Philadelphia section of the PGA wins just for having a blowup dinosaur, I will

Continued, see "Links," p. 6



BMP: Pond Aeration

Navigating the waters of pond aeration

by Sandra Burton

As Best Management Practices (BMP) and the value of subsurface water aeration becomes more widely known, superintendents need reliable solutions for even their most remote lakes and ponds. When a quick Google search delivers aeration options ranging from fifty bucks to tens of thousands of dollars, how do you separate the backyard novelty from the professional grade systems, while still focusing on keeping the greens green?

Aeration: Then and now

Subsurface aeration to maintain a golf course water hazard is a BMP for a good reason. It improves pond water quality,

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**See Pg. 30 for
Upcoming
Events!**



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The PM

As the roller coaster of challenges this year continues to affront us even now, it is important to remind ourselves why we chose this career path. Despite the cool temperatures and excessive rainfall early in the season, the extreme heat and minimal precipitation the first half of summer, then more excessive rainfall followed by brutal late season heat, more rain all fall, the “why” will guide us when making the best management decisions for maintaining our facility’s biggest asset.

Golf course superintendents are professionals who direct and manage the personnel, time, material and financial resources needed to care for the turfgrass and landscaped grounds on a golf course in an effort to exceed the expectations of players and/or members. When I began working on a golf course, I had previous landscaping experience, but what attracted me to this industry was the gratification of maintaining something as perfectly as possible on a daily basis that so many different people enjoyed. As I continue to grow in this business, I have realized that most of the time, the easy part is maintaining the turf.

When I was an assistant, I did not understand everything it took to become a successful superintendent. It wasn’t until I became a superintendent that I realized the changes to the daily plan were dictated by the players and the golf schedule, through their expectations or concerns. Turf school did not teach me how to become a superintendent or see the golf course through the eyes of a superintendent or a player. Turf school taught turf: what was going on in the soil, the reasoning behind certain issues and how to rectify the problem, etc.

We often learn through hard work and dedication as an assistant at various facilities how to “manage” – manage the turf, plan the maintenance program, etc. I learned as much of what to do as what not to do through our successes and failures within our maintenance programs, which has helped me to develop my current maintenance standards and practices.

No matter what level of facility you maintain, you learn that your staff is the most important piece of the maintenance plan. The ability to successfully manage a diverse staff is the most integral part of the program in order to maintain the facility within your budget. I did not realize how much “behind the scenes work” took place in order to have a successful product. Whether it is purchasing decisions, processing invoices, answering questions or communicating current conditions and what is going on throughout the property, a superintendent has to adapt each day to a very demanding, diverse, and random schedule.

Continued, see “PM,” p. 4





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We, as superintendents, and our courses are constantly subjected to member or player comparisons to other golf courses within our area or on television, which may or may not have a similar maintenance budget. It doesn't take hearing those player comparisons to know what's going on next door or down the road—fact is, most of us are in communication with each other and have a general idea of what is taking place at each other's facilities. We have such a tight network as turf professionals that, as information and conditions of the “other golf course” are relayed to each of us, we simply make contact with one another to find out the truth. No matter if we are right down the road as competing golf courses, or hundreds of miles away, we are all in this together, and we all help one another no matter the circumstances. We rely on one another for information and help during times of physical, mechanical or mental stress.

I have been fortunate throughout my career to have known and worked with some great people and turf professionals who were patient with me and guided me in the right direction. Each and every one stressed the importance of patience, communication, networking, and having a work-life balance. Never did I realize the importance of this until I had children. But being a golf course superintendent is in our blood. If

you polled every superintendent, I really think you would find we all feel the same way. As much as we love spending time with our families when the weather cooperates and we have little to worry about, we all have a few screws loose and the challenge of overcoming difficult circumstances is what keeps all of us going each and every day. How many people would want to contend with the weather, which is out of our control, AND have multiple bosses who at times have unrealistic expectations and different agendas on a daily basis? Not many!



This season has been an exceptional example of the challenges we all face year after year. And, no matter the communications, expectations do not change. While we are all trying to stay afloat battling circumstances out of our control, we continue to pride ourselves in maintaining our golf courses for the enjoyment of the players, because we love what

Cont. next page





“PM,” continued

we do. We take on tasks within our facilities because we know everyone relies on us--they know the job will be done efficiently and correctly every time. We sacrifice our personal lives daily because a big piece of all of us lives within our golf courses and the success of our facilities. Our jobs are a constant balance and battle of member, player, and self expectation, and I wouldn't change it for the world!

We have had great events this year. Thank you very much to of all facilities and their respective staffs for providing such great venues. As you saw starting on pg. 1, Philadelphia Cricket Club also hosted the 2nd First Green event in our region, which was a fantas-

tic day that introduced and exposed the third graders from Whitmarsh Elementary School to the golf industry. It was a fantastic event, and everyone who volunteered and attended had a great experience.

On behalf of the entire PAGCS Board of Directors, I hope everyone continues to survive and find some joy in the 2018. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions on how we can improve your experience or the Association, please feel free to contact me or any PAGCS board member at any time. Thank you for your continued support!

—Derrick Wozniak, President



Mike Dynda
@dyndagolf

If you are a Philly golfer. Y'all need to be kissing your @GCSAA Super "what a summer". Or your favorite Coach 😊😂 @MattStout13 @Ljcorr3 #dueforagoodfall #fallball #sweaterweathersoon



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“Links,” continued from p. 1
 say most of the kids really enjoyed the soils station and what happens when clay and water meet! Luckily, we had some help from Chase Rogan and Ralph Dain from the GCSAA and Nick Dunlap from the USGA at our station to present.

The support from the Philadelphia Golf family and attendance of some national organizations represented, was impressive to see. In attendance was the Golf Association of Philadelphia (GAP), Philadelphia Section of the PGA, The First Tee of Greater Philadelphia (TFTGP), Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), United States Golf As-



Dan Meersman addresses First Green participants, the third grade class of Whitemarsh Elementary, at the 2018 event.

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PAGCS Scholarship Program

Lesson learned from a college freshman

by Dr. Doug Linde

In September 1999, I was driving the DelVal College van to our first golf match and a freshman was in the back asking a bunch of questions to the four other players. “Where are you from?”...“What’s your major?”...“What high school did you attend?”...“What’s your favorite golf course?”

At the time, I thought that this freshman could be a handful for me, plus he’s annoying the other players. Typically, freshmen don’t say a word when riding to their first golf match. They are in a new situation with people they don’t

know very well and are anxious about the entire day ahead of them.

During the next year, I observed that all the players on the team liked this freshman. Even I liked him. Plus, he was a good golfer and was studying turf management. Over the next three years, the team had great camaraderie, the players were committed, and the team was successful in competition.

In 2001, I took the Dale Carnegie course and learned principles and skills to win friends and influence

people. The fourth principle was to become genuinely interested in others and the seventh was to encourage others to talk about themselves. Both require the skills of asking questions and being a good listener. I immediately thought of that freshman in the van. He had those skills and they worked—everyone liked him. Those skills gave him the trust and respect of the other students and I, which helped lead the team to being so successful. I had direct proof that the principles worked and was inspired to use them my-

Continued, see “Scholarship,” p. 10



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“Scholarship,” continued from p. 8

self. I wish I had them in middle school. It would have been a better way to get a girl to like me instead of teasing and throwing things at them. Plus, I learned that being interested in others is a leadership skill my father and my best friend had as well. People liked working for these guys, including me.

One day I asked the mother of that “freshman in the van” what she and her husband did as parents to make their son so friendly. She said it was due to the fact that he was their only child and quickly learned to be friendly in order to have a playmate. I also think it was good parenting. Today, my wife and I are doing our best to encourage that skill in our children.

That annoying freshman went on to have a great college golf career, was a good student, and was a leader for the golf team and for all



The 2003 Delaware Valley College golf team: Steve McDonald is third from the right. Steve was awarded a PAGCS scholarship in 2001.

turf students on campus. He went on to graduate school for turfgrass pathology and today is a very successful turfgrass consultant and researcher and is a friend of mine. A major part of his success has been due to his strong relationship skills. Many of you already know this person, Steve McDonald, owner of Turfgrass

Disease Solutions, LLC. If not, reach out to him and you will see what I mean.

Steve, thanks for teaching me this valuable life lesson. Become genuinely interested in others by asking questions and people will like you!

Doug Linde is the Professor of Turf Management at Delaware Valley University. He can be reached at douglas.linde@delval.edu



The 2001 PAGCS Scholarship Recipients—Steve McDonald is third from the left. Also pictured: PAGCS Scholarship Benefactor George E. Ley, far left.





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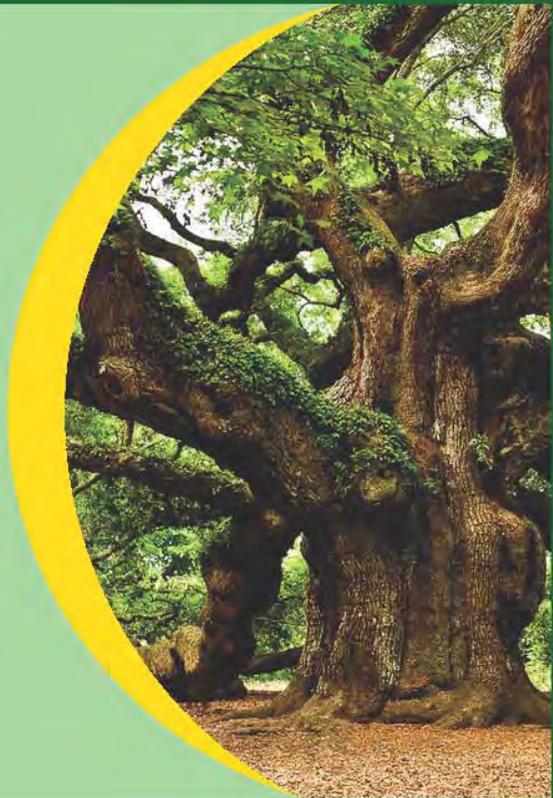
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Member News

Honoring A Long Time PAGCS Member

OECHSLE, ROBERT WILLIAM

Died peacefully on June 30, 2018 in Wilkes Barre, PA, at the age of 91. The son of the late Caroline and S. John Oechsle, he was born on February 27, 1927 in Philadelphia, and grew up in the East Falls section. An Army paratrooper during the latter part of World War II, he later settled in Flourtown, PA, where he lived for over 50 years, raised five children, and became the founder and long-time president of Montco Products Corporation, producing turf grass products, a role he carried out until well into his 80's.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother S. John Jr. (Jack) and sister Jean Lefevre. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Madelene, of Dallas, PA; son Robert Jr. and daughter-in-law Etsuko, of Okinawa, Japan; daughter Carolyn (Lyn) and son-in-law Mark Hettler of Bordentown, NJ; daughter Anne and son-in-law Marshall Rumbaugh of Dallas, PA; daughter Jeanie and son-in-law William Haas of Sanibel, FL and Bear Creek, Pa.; son Peter of Randolph, NH; 24 grand-children, 12 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

[Published on Philly.com on July 17, 2018]

The family can be reached care of Montco Products, P.O. Box 251, Bear Creek, PA 18602

I can still here the sincerity in his voice as he would say to me 'hello young man', then launch into many, many stories that all led to a valuable life lesson. He led a full and wonderful life.

He was there at the very beginning, when wetting agents were being developed for the turf in-

dustry. He helped create a turf management category that didn't exist before. He was a true pioneer, and the many advances in soil surfactant chemistry would not have happened unless there was Surfside 37 first.

—Dr. Mike Fidazna



Bob was a friend to the Wetzel family: Linda, Henry, Brian and myself. Shortly after I started at St. Davids Golf Club in 1976, I met Bob. He wanted to apply some product. We started in the turf nursery which is near the 15th green. I knew what Bob was thinking. Not long after, we were putting product on the 15th green. Bob was very confident. I felt a tightening in the sphincter area. No superintendent wants to have self-inflicted damage to the putting greens: Not much sympathy from management.

Bob was also concerned with foam in the spray tank. When I told Dr. Mike Fidanza that I had nine different products in the tank, he was in shock. I told him: no problem, I just add Zap.

When Brian was in the hospital, Bob visited and tried to cheer him up. When Henry's engagement fell through, Bob was there to give encouragement.

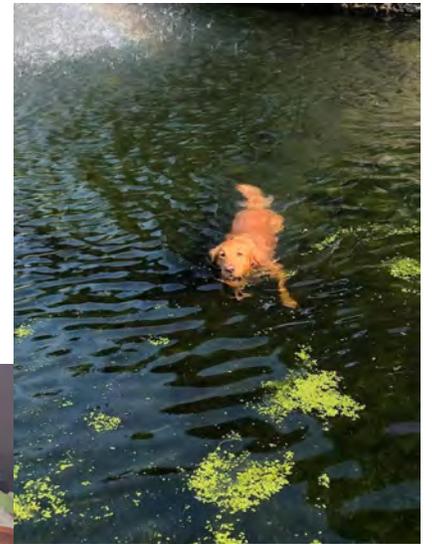
Henry had a VW microbus, Bob had a VW squareback — a shared love affair with the VWs. Bob gave Henry his squareback when Henry's microbus died. Bob charged Henry \$1.00 because of the front license plate.

I could go on and on about Bob. He was a true friend of the Wetzel family.





Dogs of Turf



Have news to share? Please send it to the PAGCS office.

Charlie Miller, CGCS, shares a few shots of a day in the life of his puppy!

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SBA Hosts Regulatory Reform Roundtable

I recently attended a Small Business Administration (SBA) Regulatory Reform Roundtable, at which small business representatives were afforded an opportunity to share their stories of how regulatory policy has affected small business. Approximately 50 attendees showed up to voice opinions, heard by a panel of representatives from the SBA Office of Advocacy. The conversation was interactive, and the panel listened deliberately, answered questions, and offered insights and follow up on presented matters.

The SBA Office of Advocacy is an internal office of the SBA and serves as the independent voice for small business within the federal government. In a nutshell, this office advocates on behalf of small business to ensure their regulatory feedback is noted. As part of their mission, the Office of Advocacy hosts roundtables across the country to gain valuable insights from small businesses in the field. Through the follow up process, the office has specialists who engage with the businesses that bring forth concerns, making

sure that the office understands the concern so that it can be addressed within the context and conversation of regulatory reform.

Industries showed up from manufacturing, transportation, construction, environmental engineering, cyber security, and others. As one individual brought up concerns regarding the WOTUS (Waters of the United States) rule, it provided an easy segue for me to speak of similar challenges within golf, citing the ambiguity of the definition of WOTUS and consequential lack of understanding of how the rule will be enforced. Likewise, I spoke to the industry's challenges with labor shortages across the country, as well as industry use of the H-2B visa program. And one thing is for certain, we are not the only industry struggling to find labor.

The office defines small business as fewer than 500 employees, thereby including nearly all golf course venues. While GCSAA's Grassroots Ambassadors program serves as a voice for representation within regulatory policy, the SBA Office of Advocacy can also help our industry, and have regional advocates across the country with which you can connect. Find more information at

the SBA Office of Advocacy website at www.sba.gov/advocacy.

I learned that one of President Trump's early policies on regulatory reform included a mandate to eliminate two federal regulations for every one new federal regulation imposed, which is a strategy to help small business growth. One of the most intriguing concerns that highlighted why the SBA Office of Advocacy is so important for considering the ramifications of regulations on small businesses was concerns over an issue with a change-order for the manufacturing of U.S. Naval Academy pea coats. Turns out, the change-order will switch to synthetic jackets that will hurt U.S. small-business manufacturing, including the production of wool required for the classic pea coats used in the past. Furthermore, the classic wool pea coats worn by officers are much more flame and heat resistant than their incumbent synthetic version, further puzzling the decision to make this switch. This meeting was a great learning experience.

—Chase Rogan, Mid-atlantic Field Staff Rep, GCSAA



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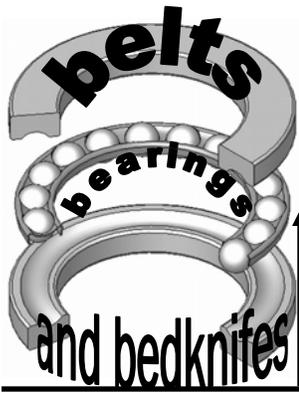
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GCSAA MVT Award and More from the Equipment Manager Corner

Our *Belts, Bearings, and Bed-knife* feature wants to hear from you! If your equipment manager would like to be featured, please contact the office: kliebsch@pagcs.org

A curious mind: Trent Manning named 2018 Most Valuable Technician

Fueled by a natural inquisitiveness, 2018 Most Valuable Technician Award winner Trent Manning has established a reputation as one of golf's most respected equipment managers.

But not many have taken that natural curiosity to as many places as Manning has in his nearly 30 years in the industry.

A broad background in golf

course management means Manning not only knows the nuts and bolts of the equipment business, but that he's also well-versed in matters of irrigation, agronomy and staff management. He has given back to the industry through a long history of service to his local chapter, the Georgia GCSA, and on the national level with GCSAA. He gives time to his community, too, as a member of a volunteer search and rescue team. He's a competitive barbecue judge, loves to fish, and is an enthusiastic and supportive family man.

As the four-year GCSAA member puts it, "I don't get bored very often."

At his core, though, Manning remains an equipment manager, and he is one of the industry's most respected, whether you're talking to his colleagues throughout the business or his superintendent at Ansley, Courtney Young, CGCS. And that respect shone through loud and clear in the voting for GCM's 2018 Most Valuable Technician Award, presented in partnership with Foley United. A finalist for the second consecutive year, Manning won this year's award over fellow finalists Patrick Drinkard from the Clubs of Cordillera Ranch in Boerne, Texas,

and Hector Velazquez from Riverside Country Club in Provo, Utah. Read more at https://www.gcmonline.com/profession/people/news/equipment-manager-trent-manning?utm_source=informz&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=This%20Week%209%2F11

Is Your Mechanic a Member?

Both GCSAA and PAGCS offer memberships under the Mechanic Class.

Visit <http://www.pagcs.org/member-services/become-a-member/> for information on PAGCS membership.

For information on GCSAA, visit www.GCSAA.org





Inside the Shop: Hidden Heroes

The industry and the PAGCS have a lot of heroes. Some are front and center in our minds and others take a rear seat.

This picture was taken during the BMW Championship at Aronimink Golf Club in September, during a rare moment of calm before the storm. Among the many volunteers during the event were a team of equipment managers who kept the show running and humming behind the scenes.

Pretty sure these two like to fly under the radar, but if you see them in your travels, give them a nod!



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Legends of Turf

A Walk Back in Time....

Courtesy of Rich Valentine

September, 1930 The TORO NEWS MAGAZINE

MERION CRICKET IN GREAT SHAPE FOR THE NATIONAL AMATEUR

Specially Written for the Toro News Magazine
By Ted Hoyt

GOLF stars from all over the United States, Canada and Great Britain who will converge on the Merion Cricket Club for the national amateur championship to be staged there during the week of September 22, will face an even harder proposition when they tackle the famous East course in practice and in the qualifying rounds than they did when the last title tournament for men was held there back in 1924.

Not only has the course been lengthened a bit, but new traps have been added here and there which make several of the holes much more formidable. The yardage is now 3425 out and 3140 in for a total of 6565 as compared to the 3410-3130-6540 of 1924. The par of 36-34-70 remains the same.

So it is hardly likely that any contender will go on a scoring rampage and equal or better the amazing 67-78-142 hung up by D. Clarke Cokran, of Huntington Valley, in 1924, or the 72-72-144 made by Bobby Jones in that same qualifying test.

The first hole, formerly comparatively simple, has been lengthened to 360 yards and is now a difficult dog's leg. The second hole is still a stern test with its yardage of 523 and its severe trapping. But birdies will be made there and perhaps even eagles by the long hitters. The fourth continues to be the longest hole on the course, measuring 593 yards and few will get home in two there. The fifth hole is unchanged.

Some fifteen yards have been added to the sixth hole and it now measures 442. The green has been rebuilt and new and larger traps added. But it meets the ball better now. Three traps have been put in to the right of the seventh green stiffening that hole considerably. The eighth



Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents Who Are Helping to Make the Tournament a Success



Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents Who Are Helping to Make the Tournament a Success

Jones, by the way, likes the Merion East course. He broke into big league golf there way back in 1916 when he was only a kid and he won the title when the event returned to the East course in 1924. It has no trick holes and is exactly suited to his steady, accurate, almost machine-like type of game.

That Joe Valentine, even though he does rate high among eastern green keepers, was able to nurse the East course through the terrific heat of that prolonged dry spell, was due to the foresight of the officials of the club in piping the whole layout, both fairways and greens, and providing a big reservoir some fifty feet in diameter with a capacity of 200,000 gallons.

When the amateur championship was awarded to Merion over a year ago, no time was lost. A general committee was appointed of which Frank M. Hardt, an official of the Fidelity-Philadelphia Trust Company, one of the biggest banking institutions in the country, was made chairman.

As Merion had handled three national tournaments in the past, the women's in 1926 as well as the amateur in 1924 and 1916, an experienced nucleus for all the other necessary committees was available. Plans were outlined at once and these committees have been working steadily ever since. There was also available the advice and assistance of Alan D. Wilson, member of the rules committee of the United States Golf Association, whose knowledge of golf and the practical handling of big golf tournaments dates back to the infancy of the game in this country.

Alan Wilson, who acts as liaison officer between Merion's general committee and the championship

to do this by constant watchfulness, the hardest kind of work and the fact that he had a dependable water supply



The Thirteenth Hole ranks as one of the most beautiful.



The Merion Clubhouse follows the Colonial influence typical of that section.



Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents Who Are Helping to Make the Tournament a Success

First row, left to right, sitting down—George Cunningham, Service Bureau; Thomas Dougherty, Springhaven; M. E. Farnham, Philadelphia Country Club; Thomas Bolton, Linwood; James Bolton, Berkshire; Thomas Ryan, Rolling Green; James Comito, Huntingdon Valley; Dan Carlo, Torresdale Frankford; Benjamin Mantell, Gulph Mills; Alex Stracha, Paxon Hollow; T. L. Gustin, Philadelphia Toro Co.
Second row, seating, from left to right—Joseph Kelly, Old York Road; Tony Mignon, Beaderwood; Raymond Lane, Bala Golf; Thomas Young, Whitemarsh Valley; Joseph Paoboli, West Chester; L. M. Evans, Cedarbrook; Angelo Junto, Lansdowne; Chas. Yerkes, Sandyrun; Eugene MacFarland, Marble Hall Links, Inc.; Paul Weiss, Lehigh.
Third row, standing, left to right—Arthur Davis, Philmont; Joseph Valentine, Merion Golf Club; James McMullin, Ocean City; Schell Scott, Asst. Greenskeeper, Old York Road; Joe Sante, Ashbourne; Edward Cale, Penn.; Robert Pollock, Llanerch; William Getty, Valley Forge; William Carney, Manufacturers' Club; Wilbur Carney, Manufacturers' Club; Elwood Young, Phila. Cricket Club; Eberhard Speinzer, Asst. Greenskeeper, Pine Valley; Chas. Taddell, North Hills; Alex Brice, Aronimink; Robert Valentine, St. Davids; James DeFelice, Tredyffrin.





“Legends,” continued from pg. 18

The TORO NEWS MAGAZINE

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Volume II

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Number 3



GENERALS OF THE NATIONAL AMATEUR

To be Held at the Merion Cricket Club, Philadelphia, During the Week of September 22nd, 1930

Left to right—Joseph Valentine, Grounds Superintendent; Alan D. Wilson, Advisory Committee U. S. G. A.; Frank M. Hardt, Chairman Merion Cricket General Committee; Arnold Gerstell, Chairman Merion Cricket Green Committee; George Sayers, Veteran Professional.

More “Legends,” pg. 21





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“Legends,” continued from p. 19



“Arnold Palmer and I agree . . . baron is the best bluegrass I could choose to prepare Merion for the 1981 U.S. Open.”

Rich Valentine, Golf Course Superintendent, Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, Pa.

What could be more exciting than the U.S. Open? We're really looking forward to hosting next year. And because we're already preparing it, I visited with Arnold Palmer at Baltusrol to check out this year's Open.

Everyone enjoys watching the pros demonstrate their talents. And it's always interesting to talk to them about their preferences. Arnold Palmer's an unusual guy in that he's both a pro golfer and course owner. That makes his perspective a little different.

Baron has done as well for him as it has for Merion, where we've used it since 1971. "Baron really suits my low-feeding program because it doesn't require high-nitrogen applications. Since we've been using Baron, we've had fewer problems with fungus and thatch.

"Preparing for the '81 Open is no easy job. But my choice of bluegrass will remain the same as it's been . . . I'll use Baron. It'll give me a turf I can be proud of and will help keep the pros happy too."



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PAGCS Helps Fund Local Research Study

The PAGCS recently agreed to help fund a putting green organic matter study in the Philadelphia region. The study is being conducted by Dr. Doug Linde, Delaware Valley University's turf professor, along with Brendan Hannan, an agronomist with the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute. Linde and Hannan conducted a similar study in 2013 on golf courses throughout New Zealand. The objective of the study is to benchmark current trends in top-

dressing rate, nitrogen rate, and organic matter on putting greens in the Philadelphia region. Despite significant changes in sand top-dressing/injection practices the past eight years, golf courses in the Philadelphia region are still vulnerable to excessive levels of organic matter which can, in severe cases, lead to catastrophic turf loss. The results will give insight on the ideal range for each variable and should give superintendents more confidence in maintaining their putting greens. The study began in 2016. So far, 35 courses (108 greens) have been tested. The funds from the



PAGCS will be used to pay for the lab testing in 2018 and 2019. Thus, the visit and testing will be free of charge to participants. To date, labor and travel costs have been donated by Dr. Linde.

During a course visit, Dr. Linde takes cores samples from three
“Research,” cont. next page.

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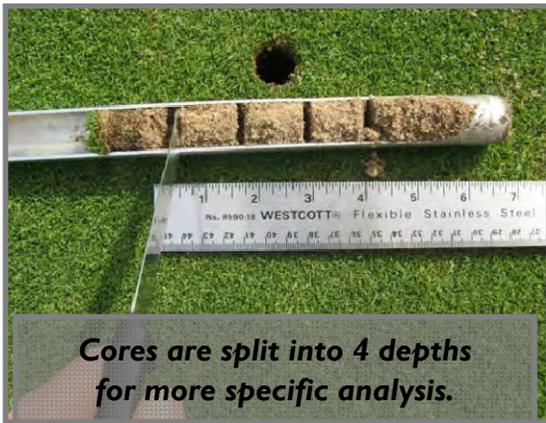
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“Research,” cont. from previous



Cores are split into 4 depths for more specific analysis.

greens to test for percent organic matter and then measures surface firmness, moisture content and trueness. Then he asks the superintendent some survey questions about nitrogen rate, amount of sand introduced per year, and

coring practices. The data will eventually be put into different categories such as budget size, grass species, soil type, etc. A superintendent can see how they compare to others in those same categories.

The study is projected to end in 2019. If you are a PAGCS member and want more information

about the study, please contact Doug Linde at Doug-las.Linde@delval.edu

If water squeezes out of your plugs then you may have too much organic matter, thus a higher potential for catastrophic turf loss in summer. (photo by B. Hannan, NZSTI)





“Pond,” Continued from p. 1
course aesthetics, player comfort (fewer odors and mosquitoes), and reduces chemical applications.

Historically though, adding pond bubblers was a huge hassle. It meant connecting a loud vane compressor, installed in the pump house, to ridiculous lengths of tubing running throughout the irrigation pond.

These vane compressors cost several thousand dollars per year in electricity to operate, and they require annual removal for servicing, an additional labor cost. Compressors not contained in the pump house are often too loud and impair player enjoyment, leading to timers that curtail use to off hours, assuming there is electricity

available to run the compressor.

For all other ponds without electricity nearby, the cost of running power (permits, trenching, electricians, inspections, etc.) and turf disruption makes bringing power to the pond too expensive. So, the ponds are often neglected or treated with temporary solutions like dyes and chemicals.

Power to the powerless

Without power but still saddled with the responsibility of pond management, superintendents need options. Perhaps the greatest option that requires consideration is solar-powered pond aeration systems.

Navigating a Google search full of a wide range in quality, cost, and

value options, all seeming to make similar claims, superintendents will easily eliminate lower quality products, such as the backyard novelty gadgets for small applications like bird baths and koi ponds. Also on the low end are the DIY solar kits used by private pond owners and farmers for de-icing stock tanks. On the other extreme are the high-cost industrial solar circulators that are used in reservoirs and industrial containment facilities.

Superintendents, as stewards of a property, whether public or private, require a professional solar pond aerator that is durable, reliable, safe, cost effective and warranted.

“Pond,” Continued next p.



Nearly all ponds need management to help keep the habitat, water quality and clarity in a healthy balance. Far too often though, ponds are neglected or treated with chemicals and dyes, which can easily damage the delicate pond ecosystem.

PondHawk is the patented solar-powered aeration system that works without batteries. It is designed for use 365 days a year and requires minimal maintenance.

And because PondHawk is not connected to the electric grid, its operating costs are very low. The innovative design installs quickly, doesn't require a

special license and can be situated away from the pond and easily secluded if necessary.

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“Pond,” continued

Safety & efficiency

Systems with unprotected or exposed wires are not an option for both reasons: they may cause player concerns with electrical safety plus systems with on-grade hardware or exposed components are prone to mower damage and mower slow-down. In this day of limited labor resources, superintendents need a system that requires minimal maintenance and has a track record of proven reliability on golf courses.

Going long term

Superintendents need engineered specifications that show the same level of expertise as expected from a mowing equipment supplier. How much wind will that solar array on the pole manage before leaning or falling? As a superintendent selecting course equipment, best solutions are those with a track record of withstanding high winds and fluctuating water levels. Are all electrical and mechanical components up off the ground? Ponds are stormwater basins, and every pond will someday reach the designed overflow level. Can the aeration equipment withstand high water?

Additional considerations include a system that resists tampering from vandals. This means avoiding options that have exposed components within reach that could encourage theft or vandalism. This means designs that blend into their surroundings with dark colors so they are left unnoticed.

“Pond,” continued p. 35



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The Decimation that Was 2018

What a year?!

“Tornado or straight line winds ripped patio roof off last night and took down 7 or 8 trees. Another 1” of rain and who knows what other damage just yet. This is what we are paid to do. As always the staff is rising to the occasion.

—Ryan Howard, GCS,
Winters Run



And yet...there's this





Challenges of Growing Turfgrass in the Season that was 2018

Over the summer, the Philadelphia region had some atypical weather which has caused a more than normal amount of turfgrass death on golf courses. The region had above average rainfall in August and September. During the month of August, the 30-year average for rain is about four inches, but this August it rained 20 inches. This trend continued in September with 10 inches of rain while the historic average is also about four inches. One local superintendent had nine floods onto his course in August and September.

During this period, soils were saturated longer than normal and there were periods of high humidity with nighttime temperatures greater than 70 degrees Fahrenheit. These conditions are a plant pathologist's dream but a superintendent's nightmare. Warm weather diseases such as brown patch, dollar spot, Pythium blight and gray leaf spot were more aggressive and persisted longer than normal, which was a main cause

of turf death. Even the best fungicide programs could not overcome the combination of abiotic stress (i.e., persistent hot and wet weather, and low light conditions from cloud cover) and high disease pressure.

These weather conditions also contributed to delays with mowing and other agronomic tasks, and then having to get equipment out before turf areas properly dried-down often resulted in scalping and mechanical turf damage. Because of the prolonged saturated soil conditions, many superintendents said, "...the turf (rootzone) never got a chance to drain." And using a wetting agent, under these extreme conditions, would not necessarily help, because, as also noted by superintendents, "...where's the water going to go?" As the late Dr. Burt Musser is credited with saying, the three most important aspects of turf management are "...drainage, drainage, and drainage."

These conditions persisted until the third week of September. Normally, between mid-August and mid-September, superintendents are busy aerating, topdressing, seeding, and sleeping well at night because night time temperatures drop below 70 and grass thrives. Instead, superintendents were making additional fungicide applications, cleaning up flood damage, fixing bunker washouts, and waiting to mow soggy turf areas. Finally, by the third week of

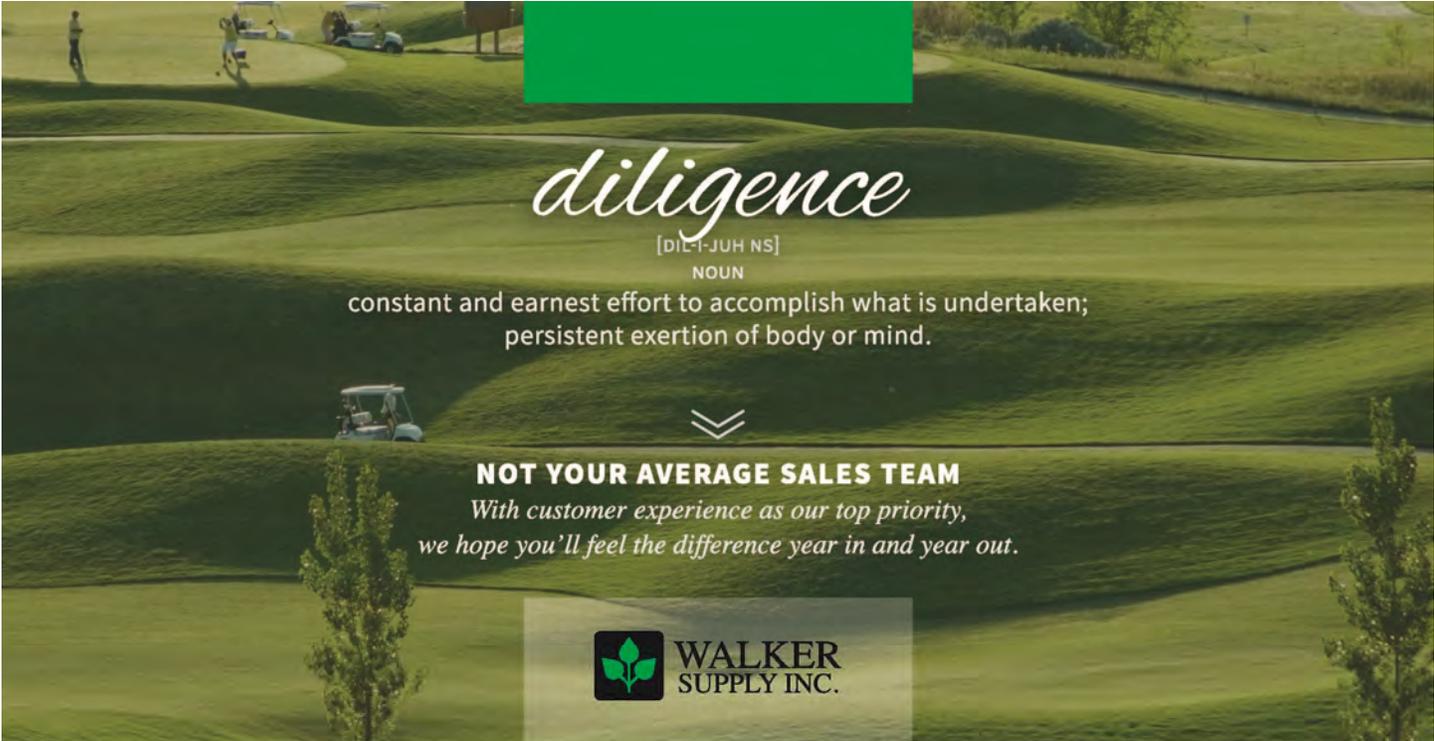
September, some were able to start seeding and sodding damaged areas but were running out of daylight as days are getting shorter and the sun angle is getting lower.

In addition, the higher than normal rainfall and warm conditions resulted in quicker than normal breakdown of pre-emergence herbicides used to prevent crabgrass. Thus, there was plenty of crabgrass breakthrough and, in many areas, goosegrass became a problem. Another weed that thrived this summer was yellow nutsedge. Finding a dry time to apply post-emergence herbicides added to the difficulty in controlling those weeds, and, in most cases, a follow-up application was needed.

This summer was also difficult for superintendents to provide normal green speeds, firmness and trueness. Lift, clean, and place were the norm rather than the exception on fairways. Even courses with the larger or more generous budgets struggled with all of the above.

Fortunately, most golf course superintendents rise to the challenges that Mother Nature brings their way.

Doug Linde, PhD, Professor of Turf Management, Delaware Valley University;
Mike Fidanza, PhD, Professor of Plant and Soil Sciences, Penn State University



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Events 2018

check out our Facebook for more photos soon!





Upcoming Events

☞ PTC Eastern Pennsylvania:

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019

Golf, Lawn, Landscape and Sports Turf Conference

☞ --PA Hospitality Event at GIS 2019:

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019

Half Door Brewing Upstairs, 7-10 p.m.

☞ PTC Rounds for Turfgrass:

February 8th – 10th at the Golf Expo in Oaks, PA.

Last year, we raised over \$13,500 and 2019 will be our 3rd consecutive year representing Penn State Turf and fundraising for the Turf Project.



Events 2018

check out our Facebook for more soon!





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You can contact the PAGCS office or email Doug Rae, events chairman, at doug@applecrosscc.com

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PAGCS Scholarship Program 2018

The 2018 PAGCS Scholarship Program concluded another successful year with the award of four scholarships! Please spread the word about this valuable program! The 2018 Scholarship Benefit fell victim to the horrible weather conditions this year. If you would like to support the PAGCS Scholarship Program, please contact the office.



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“Pond,” continued from p. 25

These are all aspects that contribute to equipment longevity and ensure your investment pays off.

Aesthetics Matter

Golf has always been in the forefront of giving customers a clean, groomed, beautiful environment to increase satisfaction. Signage, ball washers, irrigation control boxes, even mowers are delivered to either make them stand out or allow them to blend into the background.

Superintendents, regardless of their level of expertise in renewable resources or energy efficiency experience, must still provide guidance to their stakeholders when procuring equipment that uses a renewable power supply. Vendors who specialize in understanding the challenges of harnessing solar energy on a golf course are a valuable resource. Professional grade integrated systems that are designed, constructed, and warranted for years will provide utility-bill-free pond and lake aeration.

Sandra Burton and the team at PondHawk by LINNE Industries can be reached at sburton@LINNEindustries.com

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“Links,” continued from p. 6

sociation (USGA) and the Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents (PAGCS). Also, there were students from Temple talking about Environmental Hydrology (or here in Philadelphia Wudder), representatives from the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association and Morris Arboretum. Also, in attendance, was Dr. Doug Linde, of Delaware Valley University's Turf Program and a large group from Ewing-Rain Bird Irrigation, including Brad Helcoski and Tim Riismdel.

Too busy seems to be the mantra of our world today, but the efforts to grow the game, by plant-

ing the seeds with young students, is truly imperative, for the future of the golf industry.

Congratulations to Dan, Robb and the staff, at Philadelphia Cricket Club, for their efforts to put together such a great program for the kids!

[More to come as the First Green program grows in our region!]



Scott Hosier, assistant superintendent at Philadelphia Cricket Club, led the students on a series of adventures on a green, from testing water levels to top-dressing.

More photos next page →

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“Links,” continued from previous





Assistant Corner

Two PAGCS Members Named to Green Start Academy Class

Assistant Superintendents from Gulph Mills Golf Club and Sunnybrook Golf Club are two of 50 elite members selected to attend the premier educational and networking event for golf course superintendents.

[John Deere Golf](#) and Environmental Science, a business unit of Bayer Crop Science, have announced the [Green Start Academy](#) class of 2018, which includes Collin Harley, Assistant Superintendent at Gulph Mills Golf Club and Nicholas Lubold, Assistant

Superintendent at Sunnybrook Golf Club.

“Every year, Green Start Academy illuminates some of the highest caliber assistants in the business – and 2018 is no exception,” said David Wells, golf segment manager for Bayer. “Their knowledge and passion for the industry is truly unheralded, and we’re grateful for the opportunity to help support them as the next generation of golf course management leaders.”

Since 2005, Green Start Academy has invited 50 prestigious assistants per year to the Bayer Development and Training Center in Clayton, N.C., the John Deere Turf Care factory in nearby Fuquay-Varina and the John Deere headquarters in Cary, N.C. Through a plethora of hands-on learning activities, networking opportunities, panelist presentations and breakout sessions, Green Start Academy attendees have a chance to learn from likeminded peers as well as top industry professionals in career development,

Continued next page

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Continued from previous

turfgrass science and general management.

“For years, Green Start Academy has been recognized as a premier experience for assistant superintendents looking to build strong careers,” said Ren Wilkes, marketing manager for John Deere Golf. “Cultivating the leaders of tomorrow is critical not only for the impressive professionals that attend this event – but to the industry as a whole. With each new class of graduates, we become even more proud to support this unique development program.”

About John Deere

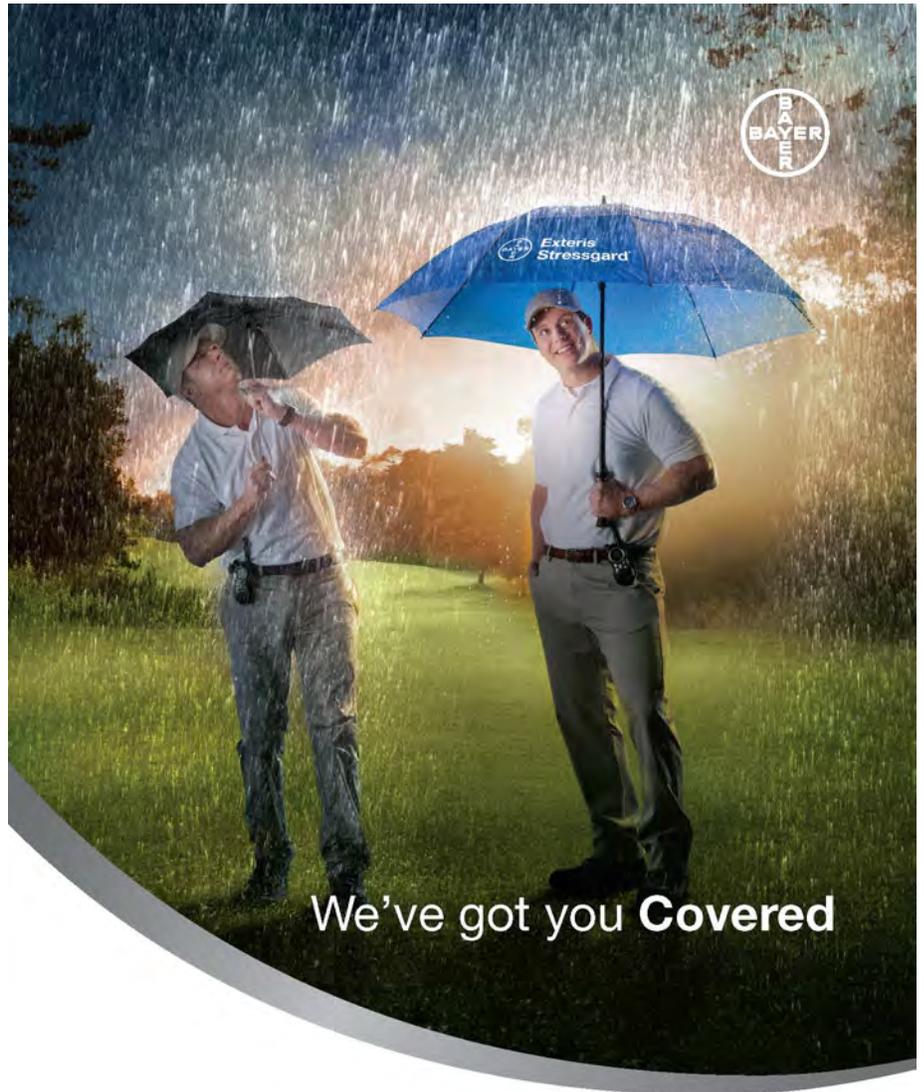
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had sales of EUR 35.0 billion. Capital expenditures amounted to EUR 2.4 billion, R&D expenses to EUR 4.5 billion. For more information, go to www.bayer.com.



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