



The BONNIE GREENSWARD

OUR 95TH YEAR

2020 VOL. I

OPEN FOR PLAY IN PA

When Governor Wolf announced that courses would open for play on May 1, golfers across the state of PA snapped up tee times and dusted off clubs. For the industry, it was a sign of hope and collective sigh of relief.



A young golfer enjoys opening weekend of golf in PA: hole #5, The Abington Club [photo credit: Deana Marshall]

The PAGCS, along with the newly formed Pennsylvania Alliance for Golf [P.A.G.], labored long and hard over the past many weeks to advocate for the industry, both to keep maintenance going and to reopen golf. With little guidance from the state, it fell to the industry leaders to fill the gap.

Throughout this issue, you will find more highlights and information about the impacts and efforts in the industry amid the COVID-19 pandemic, starting off with the President's Message from Doug Rae on the next page.

The new PAGCS website will continue to evolve to accommodate the needs of the membership and the industry as we navigate the changes ahead. The goal is to provide updated resources for everyone.

The PAGCS will turn 95 this year and remains one of the oldest and strongest associations of its kind. Note the #Headingto100 hashtags and features in this issue and throughout the year as the Association looks forward to celebrating its centennial. ♦

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ALL TENTATIVE AND PENDING

WAR AT THE SHORE: JOINT WITH GCSANJ

Rescheduling in the works

PAGCS SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT

Rescheduling in the works

MEMBER-GUEST TOURNAMENT

Tentative - June 16

Huntingdon Valley Country Club

PHILLIES VERSUS METS

CANCELLED

MEMBER-MEMBER TOURNAMENT

Tentative - September 14

Squires Golf Club

GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Tentative - October 12

Rolling Green Golf Club

PAGCS ANNUAL MEETING

Tentative - November 2

Whitemarsh Valley Country Club

NINETY-FIVE, GOING ON 100!

The PAGCS will turn 95 in September. And there's lots to celebrate this year!

Check out the features about Henry Wetzel 50 years ago and the 20 year old membership report in this issue.

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>>THE PM

I always wondered what it would be like to manage a golf course without golfers: no rush to get ahead of play, pristine conditions, no divots, spray whenever, no bunkers to rake, no one to complain. But I never thought I would experience it and never thought I would hate it.

The last seven weeks showed us, and for many of us, we had to maintain with a scaled down crew, if not just ourselves! The real mission is to have golfers on our courses every day and provide the best experiences we can. That is what I think drives us to get out and do what we do.

It is May 2nd as I write this, and it is the second full day of golf open again for play in the state, with restrictions. Wow have things changed in the last two months since I wrote the last "President's Message." I find it funny that I initially had a snippet in my early spring message all about the coronavirus pandemic and how it might affect the United States. My fiancé thought maybe I should pull it out and focus on the positives. Here is what I wrote back in March that I pulled out of the message:

"One thing to talk about this winter would be the coronavirus outbreak we are experiencing globally. I am watching the markets take a plunge right now as fears of it spreading across the United States will undoubtedly happen. I believe as I write this there are confirmed cases in 15 states. That being said, I heard today that the concerns are very real, as NCAA officials are talking about not having fans during the March Madness Tourney. The NBA, MLB, and other sporting events are also thinking about it. So, the question in the back of my head is what affect will this have on the golf industry? It is a game that is played outdoors, but we could see an impact at golf courses as people choose to stay indoors. This could have a harmful effect on rounds, food and beverage, and banquets. I am hopeful that this outbreak will come to end and we can go on living our normal lives—we shall see!"

I look back on what I wrote and say to myself: I never thought it would have gotten to this level, but it did and it hit all of us hard.

So, what a time to be President of the PAGCS! I thought this would be more about building the membership and getting out to play some great golf with some great people. I was wrong: it has been a whirlwind the last two months for everyone, and the membership, along with other industry groups, have turned to us for help and guidance. What an appropriate time to ask, "What has PAGCS done for me lately?"

It took this pandemic to bring us all together, primarily the state of PA. We unified with many different organizations to get answers to how we can maintain our biggest asset, the golf course. What come out of this unification was a newly formed group called **Pennsylvania Alliance for Golf [P.A.G.]**. The P.A.G. was formed to create a unified voice for the future of golf in Pennsylvania. Supporting Pennsylvania golf organizations include; Central Pennsylvania Chapter of Club Managers Association, Golf Association of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Golf Association, Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association, Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association (all seven Pa. Chapters), Philadelphia & Vicinity Club Management Association & Philadelphia Club Foundation, Philadelphia PGA Section, Pittsburgh Chapter of the Club Management Association of America, Tri-State Section PGA, Western New York PGA Section, Western Pennsylvania Golf Association.

Continued on next page



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We collaborated together to help push for golf to reopen and felt that golf was one activity where we definitely could social distance. Hats off to Kristen Liebsch for all of her hard work, keeping us informed through daily blog updates, emails, and new website resources. She also has been keeping the statewide "Allied" group updated by using our website to create a special PGCSA blog.

UPDATE ON MEETINGS 2020

We currently cannot have a gathering of larger than 50 people for the next eight weeks. The War at the Shore in April at Atlantic City CC was postponed, with the hopes of a reschedule in the fall. We are also working to reschedule the May Scholarship event at Rock Manor. The July event at Citizens Bank Park has been cancelled period. We felt that even if the ballparks were opened by then, we might have to be spaced out, so we decided to just punt. We do plan to bring it back for 2021, if possible.

Depending on what happens with containment of the virus and CDC guidelines, we will play it by ear for the rest of the meetings, so keep your fingers crossed. That being said, we might still be able to get the majority of the events in this year, if we can reschedule.

HOUSEKEEPING

As you know, the new website has been up and running, and we like the way it is working, internally and externally. In addition to using the BLOG, we have designed a new tab called BMPs. The drop down menu includes two pages: first is "Plan for Play" and has key resources, including info from the newly formed P.A.G., as well as GCSAA, National Golf Foundation, CDC, and PA Government, to help us create beneficial environments for our facilities and the game amid the crisis. The other page will be the PA statewide BMP that is coming soon. Please continue to check the website for updates, and we will continue to keep you informed.

It is just the beginning of the 2020 golf season and I can only hope it will get better for everyone as we navigate the challenges of the pandemic. Going forward, this will change many of things we used to do. It seems like masks and gloves are the new norm, and we better get used to it until something is found to combat this virus.

The PAGCS work behind the scenes will not stop, though. We will continue to serve the membership and help however we can through these tough times. Please give thanks to all levels of sponsors: they have not skipped a beat to keep us going, be it drop offs, delayed billing, or whatever else we need.

Also, please give thanks to our essential workers on the front lines of this pandemic. I have not personally been affected by the COVID-19 virus, but have many friends who have lost a loved one during this time. Stay safe, social distance, and adhere to the guidelines from the CDC to stop the spread of this virus. If you have any questions or comments about your experience with the Association, please feel free to contact myself or any other PAGCS board member. ♦

Thank you,



—Doug Rae

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RESTORATION AT "THE ROAD"

by Nick Sujkowski, PAGCS Assistant Representative to the Board

I recently visited Old York Road Country Club to speak with Assistant Superintendents Nate Rogers and Adam Pellicciotti. Both Nate and Adam are 2017 graduates of the four year Turfgrass Science program at Penn State University. Nate was formerly an Assistant at Fox Chapel Golf Club in Pittsburgh, PA, and then spent a year at Advanced Turf Solutions as an Internal Sales Representative. Nate joined the team at Old York Road in July of 2019. Adam formerly served as an Assistant at Bel-Air Country Club in Los Angeles, California and became an Assistant at Old York Road in August of 2019.

Old York Road Country Club originally began as a nine hole course located in Jenkintown, PA in 1910 [*now known as the Abington Club*—see Sidebar for more history] before moving to its current Spring House location in 1963. The current course was designed by William and David Gordon, but over the years has lost many of its original design characteristics.



Hole 12 After



Hole 12 Before

In 2017, Golf Course Architect [and PAGCS Member] Andrew Green created a restoration master plan for the club. Rather than committing to a full-scale restoration, the club decided to do a sort of "sample hole" on number 12.

Number 12 is a 354-yard par 4 with a hard dogleg left and a cluster of three bunkers guarding the cutoff. In theory, the hole was a great risk/reward for the big hitters who would dare to take the direct line over the bunkers with a 260 yard carry. However, there was a large Dawn Redwood in the center of the fairway bunkers that hindered players from utilizing this approach.

Andrew Green's restoration of this hole included removing the tree from the fairway bunkers, adding a bunker in its place, reshaping the fairway and greenside bunkers and widening the fairway. The fairway was expanded left, to be closer to the bunkers and to bring them more into play off a big bounce or roll.

Continued on next page



A view of the finished product

In order to make this vision a reality, Nate, Adam, along with Golf Course Superintendent Darren Farrar and the rest of the Old York Road team began by removing the Dawn Redwood and stripping all the sod around the bunkers and fairway expansion area. The contracted construction team of Mottin Golf Course Renovations was then able to come in and reshape the bunkers, as well as add a fourth to the cluster in the fairway.

The Old York Road grounds staff assisted Mottin's team in completing the bunkers by doing the drainage for them in-house. They then edged the bunkers and resodded all areas that were disturbed. They decided to use the Capillary Concrete system as their bunker liner of choice and this installation was done in-house.

This past summer, I was fortunate enough to play Old York Road Country Club in the PAGCS meeting hosted there. It is a great course with an excellent layout, however, I think with the implementation of Andrew Green's plan and the execution of said plan by the Old York Road team and Mottin Golf, the course will be that much better. I look forward to seeing the improvements that are made by Darren, Nate, Adam and the rest of the team at "The Road." ♦

[Nick Sujkowski, Assistant Superintendent at Concord Country Club and PAGCS Assistant Superintendent Liaison to the Board, can be reached at nicksuj@gmail.com]

ASSISTANT'S CORNER

Anyone who would like to be featured in the next edition of the Assistant's Corner, please contact Nick at nicksuj@gmail.com

HISTORY OF TWO COURSES INTERTWINED

The **Abington Club** originated as **Old York Road Country Club** in 1909 when a small group of men from the Jenkintown area purchased 67 acres of land from the Abington Friends Meeting. In 1910, a contest to design a 9-hole golf course was held and won by Mr. Lang, a golf professional from Huntingdon Valley, PA. With an additional 35 acres leased, the 18-hole golf course opened for play in 1913.

In 1962, under obligation to support its expanding school, the trustees of Abington Friends Meeting requested that Old York Road Country Club relocate. The original 18-holes were split, and the current 9-hole course developed into the Foxcroft Country Club. In 1979, a group led by Ron Jaworski of the Philadelphia Eagles purchased the lease from the Abington Friends and created THE ABINGTON CLUB. The golf course retains much of the original design, as only one new green has been added.

Over the years, the club has played host to a number of prominent guests, including John Philip Sousa, who resided here in 1926 during his engagement at Willow Grove Park. In 1995, The Abington Club was honored to have Bob Hope as a guest while he was visiting the Philadelphia Area. ♦

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ZOOMING IN ON THE CRISIS: GAP INTERVIEWS SUPERINTENDENTS AND OTHER KEY INDUSTRY PLAYERS

In an effort to engage the Philadelphia golf community during the COVID-19 crisis, GAP launched three initiatives in the vein of online interviews, education and social media.

GAP on Zoom is an ongoing series of chats with individuals connected to GAP and its member clubs and those tied to the Philadelphia golf region at large. The organization's Communications department covers topics new and old via a Zoom video conference. All videos are available on the GAP YouTube channel. Click

here to view the GAP ZOOM with PAGCS superintendents

The GAP webinar series is the association's version of Quibi: short (approximately 30 minutes), condensed versions of seminars. Participants are encouraged to submit questions during each webinar. The GAP webinar series is free to attend and open to all. The purpose is to further educate golfers on the course rating system and the World Handicap System.

#GAPGames is a social media campaign dedicated to the golf deprived. Participants must create a video – no longer than a minute – and post it on social media using the hashtag #GAPGames. A golf component (ball, club, flagstick, cup, etc.) is a must. GAP will repost #GAPGames submissions via its social media platforms (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook). ♦



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>>FRIENDS OF THE INDUSTRY

INDUSTRY LOSES KEY LEADER

It is with great sadness that we share the loss of Ken Melrose, legendary former chairman and CEO of The Toro Company. Ken was an extraordinary person and leader with an unwavering commitment to serving others. This core value enabled Ken to positively impact so many throughout his professional career, his post-retirement mission to advance the principles of Servant Leadership, and his generous philanthropic efforts. Ken was a giant among the many exceptional leaders throughout the history of The Toro Company. His legacy cannot be overstated and will continue to guide us long into the future.

[Click here](#) to read more about Ken's life and legacy.



Kendrick B. Melrose was a great leader who took The TORO Company from the brink of bankruptcy to a position of prominence today. In addition to his business acumen, Ken was a caring, compassionate and wonderful person. The industry will miss Ken.

-Frank Shuman

An advertisement for Turf Equipment and Supply Company. The background is a photograph of a golf course with several large irrigation nozzles spraying water across a green fairway. In the top left corner is the company logo, which consists of a stylized 'T' in blue and green, followed by the text 'TURF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY COMPANY'. In the top right, the slogan 'One Team, Many Solutions' is written in a blue, italicized font. In the center, the text 'Your full line vendor for Golf Commercial Equipment and Golf Irrigation.' is displayed in a large, bold, blue font. At the bottom left are icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram. At the bottom center, the website 'www.turf-equipment.com' and the phone number '800.827.3711' are listed. At the bottom right is the Toro logo, a red rounded rectangle with 'TORO' in white, and the slogan 'Count on it.' to its right.

TEACHING PANDEMIC UPDATE ON PENN STATE TURF, FIDANZA FAMILY STYLE

by Michael Fidanza, Ph.D., Professor of Plant and Soil Science
Director - Center for the Agricultural Sciences and a Sustainable Environment

During this COVID-19 crisis, the Penn State "turf team" has operated in a sort of business-as-usual way, in terms of continuing to teaching the undergraduate and graduate courses online for the remainder of this spring semester.

Dr. Ben McGraw has produced several presentations with voice-over commentary for his turf entomology course, Brad Jakubowski is teaching his irrigation course remotely from home. He sent irrigation sprinkler parts to his students, then produced a video on making repairs so the students could follow along. His irrigation videos have been getting a lot of positive comments on social media. For this coming academic year, Penn State plans to keep tuition frozen for both in-state and out-of-state students.

On a personal note, during the week I've been working at home like many others. I'm teaching four courses this semester, with the second-half being all online, of course. Our Penn State



Paul is not so thrilled to have a college professor as his substitute teacher

students are great. They are resilient and we're all getting through it.

It seems that I'm on multiple Zoom or Webex video conferences every day, either with students or turf industry folks. It's interesting to see everyone's home office or background during those calls. On the weekends, I'm at Valentine East, keeping the 30-acre facility maintained and starting this year's research trials.

At home, I tutor my son, Paul, with this daily lessons. I'm often interrupted by a high school senior taking calculus, a college student taking microbiology (I insisted on helping her with the assignment on fungi ... of course!), a 6th grader learning about soil in her earth science class, and another high school senior who says he's all caught-up (my wife - a high school Spanish teacher - is checking on that). ♦

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AS SEEN ON THE BLOG: EXCERPTS FROM INTERVIEW WITH DELVAL'S DR. DOUG LINDE

Turf majors at DelVal take a lot of science-based classes that have labs. The lab classes are where many students learn the most because the content is face-to-face, hands-on, interactive, and experiential. ...

One of my colleagues, Dr. Jackie Ricotta, turned one of her regular field trips into an online experience. She compiled photos and recorded descriptions from previous field trips to a greenhouse into a presentation

the students could watch and reflect upon. Other colleagues have created their own videos or have used videos already online to simulate a lab class.

Online classes have been around for many years. There is a difference between planning an entire online class from the beginning versus being forced to go online half way through the semester...Developing a quality online class takes much preparation time. I commend my fellow faculty for

rising to the challenge of changing their delivery method in such short notice and for the students being patient and flexible. Plus, they all had to make this change during a time when they had much anxiety related to other changes in their life caused by the virus....

[Click here](#) to see the full interview with Dr. Linde or visit the PAGCS BLOG. ♦

ON COURSE IN A CRISIS: HOW ONE FACILITY HAS ADAPTED

Pat Michener, PAGCS Board member and golf course superintendent at Bidermann Golf Club in Delaware, where golf never closed for play, gives us a view on what his facility has been doing.

[editor's note: effective Friday, May 8, golf carts are permissible in DE per the governor's latest mandate]

Talking about golf and course maintenance in the middle of a pandemic may seem out of the realm of reality for a lot of people – but not for superintendents and others in the industry. We are, in fact, part of a group of people who are encouraging this discussion to achieve a level of recreation or economic function for our members, customers, ourselves, and our teams.

We're aware of the restrictions placed on golf and I don't intend to review those. We are collectively faced with hardships, personal to professional, that not only hamper expectations now but will do so for the foreseeable future. Golf will survive, but like you, I have no idea what golf and course maintenance look like when we get back to "normal."

The good news is golf is alive in Delaware (for now.) I am hopeful that the First State can be an example to states around us when we start reintroducing activities back into our lives that don't include self-isolation. I readily admit it is different, in many indescribable ways, but golf is here for them (and us) and they appreciate that – even if it is just for a few holes.

The Governor of Delaware has not closed golf courses since this all began just before St. Patrick's Day. There have been 10 or so modifications to his executive orders that have included golf at some level. Thankfully, the Governor's office has been responsive to requests for clarification about modifications that apply to Delaware golf courses and clubs. We have been fortunate to have Jordan Seemans, Director of Legislative Affairs at the Governor's office, to help clarify the legal language of the modifications – he is also an advocate for golf.

Using the Governor's directives as a foundation, it was then up to our Club's governing body to establish a set of guidelines for our members and staff that suggested a safe and cautious environment to come play golf.

Below are just a few of the highlights of opening the course although it is constantly evolving:

- Tee times start at 9 am to account for a reduced agronomy team.
- Currently, only members are permitted on the golf course.
- Golf is permitted for walking only (Governor's latest modification does not permit cart use.)
- Tee times are in 15 minute intervals – groups must adhere to social distancing standards.
- Putting green and chipping green are available only 15 minutes prior to your tee time.
- Locker rooms, bathrooms, common facilities are closed to prevent gathering areas.
- We are using cup inserts and have eliminated most on-course touch points.
- Staff schedules are staggered. All staff members are provided and must wear face coverings and gloves.

We all remain optimistic that the condition of COVID-19 will improve as the weeks go by. With that said, the reality is also setting in that we will not be flicking the switch back to "normal" any time soon. Golf, like most other businesses, will likely come with a different set of rules and standards to abide by that will shape the future of our industry and the world of golf.

It's not the end – in fact it's an opportunity. Let's all be proactive, along with our industry leadership, in continuing the conversation to get golf back on its feet. ♦



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CUSHMAN'S GROWING GREENS CONTINUES TO GENERATE FUNDS FOR ASSOCIATION

Local chapters of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America are winning big with Cushman's "Growing Greens" program. For every lease or purchase of a new Cushman Hauler utility vehicle, \$50 is donated to the local chapter of the purchasing course.

Textron Specialized Vehicles Inc., which manufactures and designs certain Cushman vehicles, is a Textron Inc. (NYSE:TXT) company. Through its Cushman brand, Textron Specialized Vehicles is a Silver Partner of GCSAA, and is proud to further support golf course superintendents with Growing Greens.

"Cushman's support of the industry both locally and nationally are impressive," said J. Rhett Evans, CEO of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. "Its dedication to advancing the superintendent profession and growing the game of golf is continually demonstrated by various programs that support GCSAA. It's a nice way to give back."

Superintendents can customize their Hauler utility vehicles to fit their course's specific needs. Cushman performed extensive customer research and listened to feedback, which led engineers to design a high-performing, customizable golf utility vehicle with a large bed, practical dash and a wide array of accessories that enhance the functionality of the vehicle.

New Cushman Hauler features include:

- A standard rear hitch receiver to tow whatever the day demands;
- Premium turf tires that provide traction without damaging the greens;
- Optional power dump bed for heavy lifting;
- Versatile glove box with removable shelf to make room for larger items;
- Optional 12V or USB outlets, to ensure tablets and smartphones don't lose power.

Superintendents can schedule a demonstration of the new Hauler and get more information on participating in the Growing Greens program by contacting Jeff Haas or TJ Hart from Golf Cart Services, Inc. your Cushman sales representatives.



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Connect With Us!

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

As managers of the land associated with golf courses, Pennsylvania's golf course superintendents are dedicated to protecting the natural resources and environmental functions of golf courses. As a demonstration of this commitment, golf course superintendents have partnered with Penn State University scientists to develop and document best management practices (BMPs) for golf courses. These research-based, voluntary guidelines have been developed specifically for the state's golf courses. These guidelines not only protect natural resources, they also afford the opportunity for superintendents to be recognized as environmental stewards by club members, state officials, and the community at large.

Development of the BMPs is almost complete following a review by state regulatory agencies. The BMPs address all aspects of golf course management operations that pertain to maintaining water quality and conserving water, and in addition address emerging issues, including pollinator, landscape, and energy conservation BMPs. The development of these BMPs was spearheaded by GCSAA's BMP program. Through

this effort, superintendents will have the ability to create their own site-specific, facility BMP plan on the GCSAA facility BMP portal (<https://facilitybmp.gcsaa.org/>) accessible to any Pennsylvania-based superintendent with a GCSAA log-in.

Widespread adoption of facility BMPs will contribute to the recognition of superintendents as stewards of Pennsylvania's natural resources. Additional incentives for creating a facility BMP plan and implementing BMPs include the following:

- potential for more efficiently allocating resources
- cost savings associated with applying less fertilizer and pesticides
- cost savings associated with more efficient irrigation and other water conservation efforts
- improving stormwater management efforts as storms in the area become more intense
- improved community relations
- recognition by club members and the community at-large as environmental stewards

The BMPs will be published in early summer 2020, along with a companion website. GCSAA has a how-to guide and pre-recorded webinars to assist superintendents in navigating the on-line editing process for facility BMPs.





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PLAN FOR PLAY, ONE MECHANIC’S WAY

by Mike Lawrence

Spray, wipe, wash has now become part of a mandatory daily requirement around the world. In many areas of golf course maintenance, this procedure will be repeated numerous times daily.

Some facilities may have appointed a person to handle the specialized sanitizing responsibility throughout the day. What might have been a weekly part of a “to do” list has now gone to the first part of any assignment. Safety First!

At our facility, we have continued our social distancing policy and have assigned specific vehicles, tools and equipment to each employee for use. Everything we do on a daily basis from opening a door, walking, talking, working and shopping has been affected by the Covid-19 virus. Everyone is trying to comprehend the how and why the Covid virus pandemic has affected each one of us. Honestly, some of us thought..... “This is overblown,” “no way,” “not us,” “not me,” “not here.”

The statistics don’t lie. The truth is in the numbers. We all now know how serious this situation has become and will continue in the future for some time. Every vendor in the golf industry and beyond has published their best suggestions for cleaning and disinfecting. This is not a competition. Anyone we deal with is trying to help out in any way they can for each of our own well-being.

EVERY VENDOR IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY ... IS TRYING TO HELP OUT IN ANY WAY THEY CAN FOR EACH OF OUR OWN WELL-BEING.

As an industry whole, we have always been there giving support both in front and behind the scenes. From disinfecting golf carts, mowers, hand tools, tractors, trimmers and course accessories to lunch tables, doors, chairs, desks, computers, phones, everything, anything someone could have touched, coughed on, talked to, walked on, sat down on, worn as clothing (uniforms, overalls, hats, shoes), the list can actually be endless. Nothing or anyone is exempt from the cleaning process.

Let us adapt daily practices that include all industries’ and vendors’ suggestions as they can be implemented into our own facility. Remember: spray, wipe and wash. Repeat often and then some more. ♦

[Mike Lawrence is the Equipment Manager for Bala Golf Club and can be reached at mikelawrence124@gmail.com]

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NAME: Norah

BREED: English Setter

AGE: 6 years old

FACILITY: Manufacturer's Golf & Country Club

Norah and her owner, Tim Zurybida, have the exact same birthday. She has been on a golf course just about every day of her life since she was eight weeks old. "It's the same breed I had while working at Aronimink. People who worked at AGC during those times think she is my favorite pup of all time, Bunker, reincarnated." – Tim Z

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HOW TO BE A STEWARD OF THE COURSE AMID THE CRISIS

ADJUSTING AS A GOLFER TO THE NEW NORMAL ON COURSES—TIPS AND GUIDELINES YOU CAN SHARE WITH GOLFERS AT YOUR FACILITY

Many courses are operating with reduced budgets this year. Putting extra effort into course care etiquette will go a long way toward maintaining good playing conditions. Here are some ideas and pieces of advice to share with golfers at your facility.

Golfers should always be doing our part to help care for the courses they play on, but contributing to course care is especially important this year. Many golf course superintendents have been operating with reduced budgets and fewer staff members due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They have been forced to focus on critical tasks, like mowing, and have postponed or eliminated many other important maintenance practices. Courses will be playing catch-up for a while and doing what we can to help keep them in good shape will help maintenance teams focus on the most important tasks. A little extra effort on each golfer's part might make a big impact on playing conditions because some of the routine repairs we've come to expect from the maintenance staff may not happen for a while. Here are five ways golfers can help care for the course during this challenging season:

REPAIR BALL MARKS

Repairing ball marks is something we should always be doing. Maintenance staffs often spend a significant amount of time each year fixing unrepaired ball marks so they don't negatively impact playability and aesthetics for weeks to come. This year, the last thing maintenance teams need to be doing is a job golfers can easily do—you'll be doing everyone a favor.

REPAIR DIVOTS

Repairing our divots correctly is another easy way to make a difference this year. Maintenance teams may not have the resources to fix unrepaired divots, and the scars can be lasting. Improperly repaired divots can take months to heal – if they ever fully heal at all. This leaves the risk of a bad lie in the fairway for fellow golfers. This will go a long way toward keeping fairways smooth this year.

FOLLOW [NEW] CART RULES

This year there is added pressure to the usual cart use guidelines with the [single-rider cart policies](#) enacted. More cart restrictions may be enacted this season as courses try to limit damage. Following the rules and keeping carts on paths as much as possible will make a difference. If you're able to walk more often this year, that certainly won't hurt either.

SMOOTH THE SAND

Bunker conditions may be a little rougher than what many of us have become accustomed to. With rakes removed to reduce touchpoints, maintenance teams may not have the same amount of time to spend on bunkers as they have in the past. Do the best to smooth footprints and other disturbances with a club or feet it will reduce the number of tough spots out there this year. It's not the ideal way to smooth bunker sand, but it's far better than doing nothing.

ADJUSTING EXPECTATIONS

Many golf courses in the U.S. have started this season behind schedule. Due to staffing and budget challenges, important practices like aeration and topdressing had to be scaled back or postponed. Heights of cut were raised to reduce mowing requirements and countless detail-oriented tasks had to be skipped entirely. One of the best ways to help golf courses through this difficult time is by being understanding. Course conditioning and/or presentation may be different than what most are used to. There's a good reason behind it, and this year has reminded everyone that just being out there playing the game we love is something to celebrate.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/green-section-record/58/special-edition/five-ways-golfers-can-care-for-the-course.html#returnable>

FACILITY FOCUS: Jeffersonville GC



Jeffersonville GC @Jefferson... · 17h ▾

Day 8, we explore the nearly 200-yard Par 3 eighth. This hole combines length, wind and a small target with what is the most frequently-visited water hazard on the course. Anyone out there have good memories here?
[#golf](#) [#phillygolf](#) [#jeffersonvillegolf](#)



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50 YEARS AGO TODAY— A PAGCS MEMBER ON THE FRONTLINES

The PAGCS turns 95 this September. We will continue to collect memories and share stories and history as we celebrate and prepare for the century mark. **#Headingto100**

Most of us know Henry Wetzel [fondly known as Butch]. For anyone who doesn't, Henry, the long-time superintendent of St. Davids Golf Club, served on the Board of the PAGCS for 30 years, 27 of them as the Board Secretary. Henry retired in 2012, the same year he was the PAGCS Eberhard Steiniger Award Recipient.

APRIL 29, 1970

On this date [50 years ago], Butch was part of the combined allied forces (19,300 Americans and 29,000 Vietnamese) on a series of thrusts into border areas of Cambodia known from their map shapes as the Parrot's Beak and the Fishhook. Please take a few minutes to remember our fallen comrades and their lives that were cut short by this awful and unpopular war. This phrase comes to me over and over again: "OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND." We as a country and as a people are very deficient in our understanding of history.

—Henry Wetzel

HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Please send it to the PAGCS office. klibsch@pagcs.org

BREAKING NEWS: GCSAA RELEASES BACK2GOLF RESOURCE—WILL BE ADDED TO PAGCS SITE SOON FIND GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTING GOLF COURSE EMPLOYEE AND CUSTOMER SAFETY, INCLUDING SETTING UP A TOUCH-FREE COURSE, CLEANING EQUIPMENT AND MORE.

Editor's note: Download the following guidelines as a [handy PDF](#), and visit [GCSAA's Back2Golf hub](#) for more golf course reopening resources, including templates for operational documents and information from allied golf associations.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL PHASES: INDIVIDUALS

- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet.
- Strongly consider using cloth face coverings when social distancing can't be observed.

Continue to practice good hygiene — people who feel sick should stay home. Do not go to work, and contact and follow the advice of your medical provider.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL PHASES: EMPLOYERS

Develop and implement appropriate policies in accordance with federal, state and local regulations and guidance, and informed by industry best practices:

- Maintain 6 feet for social distancing and wear protective equipment.
- Implement temperature checks for staff.
- Implement testing, isolating and contact tracing.
- Sanitize maintenance equipment, hand tools, etc.
- Disinfect common and high-traffic areas.

Monitor workforce for indicative symptoms. Do not allow symptomatic people to physically return to work until they have been cleared by a medical provider.

[Click here to read more...](#)

#HEADINGTO100

The PAGCS will be 95 this September. In celebration and in preparation for the 100th in five years, we are sharing history and ask you to do the same. Email your ideas, content, etc., to klibsch@pagcs.org. We will be forming a committee to plan for the 100th celebration. Let us know if you want to be involved.

Enjoy this little piece of history the office unearthed recently from 20 years ago.



PHILADELPHIA ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

Membership Report January 18,2000

First Readings:

Michael J. Mulligan Jr. Class: C Limekiln Golf Club
GCSAA#157074
Proposed By: Edward Roynan
Seconded By: Paul Carman

Second Readings:

None

Third Readings:

John Roedell Class:A Talamore Country Club
GCSAA# 011372
Proposed By: Jay Buck CGCS
Seconded By: James Stauring

Lawrence Corr Class: C Talamore Country Club
GCSAA# 158952
Proposed By: Steve Carpenter
Seconded By: David Koch

Please welcome Mike Tyson , Shawn B. Werley , John Cannon ,John D. Fowler , Ryan Davidheiser , Christopher D. Smith . They were approved for membership At the November Board meeting.



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CLEANING AND SANITIZING IDEAS

WASHING YOUR VEHICLE

Routinely clean all visible surfaces with clean, warm water and mild soapy water. After using soap, thoroughly rinse the vehicle with running or pressurized warm water to purge all particles. Avoid or minimize using pressurized air on the vehicle until after it has been washed to avoid to avoid sending settled matter airborne.

DISENFECTING YOUR VEHICLE

Disinfect or sterilize a vehicle's contact surfaces including the steering wheel, seat, dash area, bag straps, hand holds etc. to reduce or eliminate remaining risks*. Always take great care to use personal protection equipment (PPE), such as gloves, to protect yourself while disinfecting the vehicle, and to avoid critical contact surfaces. When selecting a disinfecting agent, consider the following guidelines.

Quaternary ammonium-Clorox

- No known chemical interactions with contact areas

Sodium hypochlorite- Tilex

- Not recommended for contact with sweater basket & bag holder, rocker panels, hip restraints, rear bumper, hand holds

Hydrogen peroxide- Oxi Clean

- Not recommended for contact with windshields
- Not recommended for contact with sweater basket & bag holder, rocker panels, hip restraints, rear bumper, hand holds

Isopropyl Alcohol- Rubbing Alcohol

- Not specifically listed by EPA as an effective COVID-19 control
- Not recommended for contact with windshields
- Not recommended for contact with sweater basket & bag holder, rocker panels, hip restraints, rear bumper, hand holds

Ammonia- Windex

- Not specifically listed by EPA as an effective COVID-19 control
- Not recommended for contact with windshields

*Materials used on E-Z-GO products along with many other similar products can withstand infrequent disinfecting with household chemicals. The above guidance on the use of general disinfecting agents recommended by the CDC and EPA to limit COVID-19 is based off of general chemical resistance recommendations and cleaning information provided for products using similar materials.

[These recommended guidelines are courtesy of E-Z-GO]

