



The BONNIE GREENSWARD

OUR 95TH YEAR

2020 VOL. IV

PAGCS LEADERSHIP PLAYS KEY ROLE IN NEWLY PUBLISHED STATEWIDE BMP

Pennsylvania's new BMP development project, two years in the making, reached its critical final stages with the official publication of the statewide BMP document [[Click Here](#)].

The state's latest Best Management Practices project takes its impetus from the GCSAA initiative to provide BMPs for all 50 states. The original PA state BMP was created in the mid-

2000s. Key to the current effort is leadership from the PAGCS, including President Doug Rae, President Emeritus Derrick Wozniak, Board Director Mike Mulhare, chairman of the Government and Environmental Relations Committee, Association members Josh Saunders and Mike Hartley, and Executive Director Kristen Liebsch.

PA BMP—WHAT'S NEXT?

The updated PA BMP features an easy-to-use tool kit for every golf course in the state to create its own Facility BMP [[click here](#)]. This Facility BMP tool was developed through a collaborative effort involving key Pennsylvania industry leaders, GCSAA, and many others in the

Continued on page 3

ADVOCACY BY PAGCS AND ALLIED GROUPS IMPACTS CITY EFFORT TO BAN CHEMICALS

On September 10, Bill 200425 [[linked here](#) in amended format] to ban synthetic chemicals on all city property was hastily introduced to City Council and referred to the **Public Health and Human Services Committee**.

During the 10/30 hearing before the committee, allied industry leaders testified in opposition of Bill 200425, including PAGCS president Doug Rae. "Golf course superintendents, by our nature, are environmental stewards who make it a top priority to manage golf courses in environmentally sound and sustainable ways," he attested.

His two-minute testimony, conducted virtually, pointed to key industry facts about the benefits area golf courses provide to the community:

- dedicated, open green spaces
- employment and recreational opportunities
- youth development programs
- environmental benefits: habitat for area wildlife, carbon sequestration through diverse and abundant plant life, etc.

Regardless, the committee voted unanimously to move the bill forward for final reading and passage before City Council on 11/19. In the interim,

the collective industry and allied partners, many representing the PAGCS, began both targeted and grassroots efforts to thwart passage of the bill without amendments.

This continued advocacy led to amendments and deferred passage of the bill at the City Council Meeting on 11/19. As of this date, the amended Bill 200425-A is scheduled for final reading and passage on 12/3. ♦



THOMAS L. WATSCHKE,
REMEMBERED FOR HIS LEGACY.....4

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>>THE PM

So, it's November, and I can say we made it...or did we? COVID-19 is spiking again, but golf has not slowed one bit! I am happy to say that we made it through almost all of the planned Association events this year, with social distancing, of course.

The last three meetings we had this year were a success: hats off to Squires, Rolling Green, and Whitmarsh Valley for putting together some great golf and delicious food. I believe everyone had a blast playing these courses and enjoyed the comradery, even with our masked up conditions.

I know that many members did not make it out to meetings due to COVID-19 and the plain fact that they were busy dealing with play on their own courses and trying to understand the yearly EOP ordering seasonal push. I delayed things like aerification, because we had so much play booked on the tee sheet and every Monday had some sort of outing rescheduled from the spring. Everyone is trying to keep either the public or their members happy golfing during this pandemic that much is placed on the back burner.

The Chinese labeled 2020 as the year of the Rat. I could not agree more with that statement, but only because of what Americans think of when they think of a rat. The Chinese state that, "Rats are clever, quick thinkers; successful, but content with living a quiet and peaceful life." Actually sounds more like us who work in the Green Industry! We all are smart individuals who have the ability to pivot, and make the best of what we have. COVID-19 made us stop and rethink some things, and we bounced back to provide great golf for all.

So what will 2021 bring for all of us? I can say one thing, after sitting down with my club's Membership and Outing Director: 2021 is looking busy already. It will be the year of the Ox, and the Ox is very hardworking and methodical, and 2021 is going to be a year when work will get rewarded, so hang in there and plan diligently—the light at the end of the tunnel! Let us hope the tunnel is not long, looks like those vaccines are coming shortly!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and with restaurants closing their doors again and capacities lowered, we cannot hold the Annual Toys for CHOP Drive and Christmas Party. Instead, the Association teamed up with the Matthew Renk Foundation to make the Toy Drive happen. This will help ensure that the young patients at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) will still enjoy opening toys this holiday season. Please help us make the holidays special for these children through a tax-deductible donation in support of the Child Life, Education and Creative Arts Therapy team at CHOP: [Click here](#). In the absence of an in-person toy drive this year, the Child Life Department depends on monetary donations to provide holiday gifts to the many children spending the season in the hospital.

Again, I would like to thank all of our sponsors for their support in this difficult and ever changing year. 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. Have a safe and happy holiday season and please remember those less fortunate. ♦



Continued from cover

industry. The PAGCS is excited to roll this Facility BMP feature out to our members and add another tool for advocacy.

The final step will be a state website to house and promote the PA Best Management Practices. Keep your eyes out for this new tool as well.

The publication of the Pennsylvania Best Management Practices would not have been possible without the help, support, and leadership of the following:

BMP SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME TO THIS PROJECT INCLUDE:

- Kyle Woodfield, Superintendent, Whispering Woods Golf Club
- Jason Batchelor, Superintendent, Moon Golf Club
- Andy Bates, Superintendent, Hickory Heights Golf Club
- Josh Saunders, Superintendent, Lancaster Country Club
- Mike Mulhare, Superintendent, White Manor Country Club
- Derrick Wozniak, Superintendent, Radley Run Country Club
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- Chris Passenti, Superintendent, Lords Valley Country Club
- Rick Pagett, Superintendent, Penn State Golf Courses
- Dave Williams, CGCS, Superintendent, Mountain View Country Club
- David Wood, Golf Course Superintendent, Oxbow Country Club

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE PENN STATE SCIENTISTS WHO CONTRIBUTED THEIR EXPERTISE IN REVIEWING DRAFTS OF THIS DOCUMENT, INCLUDING:

- Michael Fidanza, Ph.D., Professor of Plant and Soil Science
- John Kaminski, Ph.D. Professor, Turfgrass Science
- Peter Landschoot, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Plant Science
- Benjamin McGraw, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Turfgrass Science
- Andrew McNitt, Ph.D., Professor of Soil Science/Turfgrass

Additional thanks to Kristen Liebsch, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents; Kevin Doyle, Field Staff-Northeast Region Golf Course Superintendents Association of America; Chase Rogan, formerly of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America; and Ken Benoit, CGCS, Eco Turf Consulting. ♦

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RECIPIENT OF 2004 EB STEINIGER AWARD, PAGCS' TOP HONOR, IS REMEMBERED FOR HIS LEGACY

"I am terribly saddened by the loss of Dr. Watschke. He was incredibly influential in my career and life, and he never let me forget to remain a student in all that I do. In a recent conversation, he expressed how proud he was of the efforts for positive influence on the industry being made. I thanked him for setting me and so many on the right path. He will forever be in my heart as my mentor and friend. You will be missed Dr. Watschke, and the industry cannot thank you enough!"

-Carmen Magro

"Dr. Tom was as outstanding teacher and always kept your attention at conference presentations and field days. He was one of several turf faculty members that got my interest in research. He provided me a lot of practical turf management experience outside of the classroom through his entrepreneur endeavors. Turf management has lost a great researcher and a really nice person. Tom will be missed by many of his students."

**-Henry C. Wetzel III, Ph.D.
Class of 1992**

"So sorry to hear about Doctor Watschke passing! He was such an inspiration to all who had him in class. I was blessed to know him personally and will miss his Witt and humor! The turf industry lost a great one! Doctor T might be gone but he will never be forgotten! RIP !!"

**-Terry Laurent
Class of 1986**

OBITUARY OF THOMAS L. WATSCHKE

Thomas L. Watschke of State College, Pa. passed away peacefully Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at the Mount Nittany Medical Center.

Tom was born April 12, 1944 in Charles City, Iowa, the son of the late Paul E. Watschke and Beulah M. Watschke.

Surviving at home are his wife, Christa, and daughters, Katelyn and Madison.

In addition, he is survived by a son, Jon (Kim) Watschke and their children: Micah, Sierra and Sawyer of San Clemente, California; brothers, Doug (Ginny) Watschke of Bozeman, Montana and Gary (Nancy) Watschke of Weare, New Hampshire; sister Colleen (Bruce) Copper of Charles City, Iowa; step-mother, Bette Gullickson of Charles City, Iowa; cousins, Dan (Nancy) Watschke of Bermuda Dunes, California, Mike (Joy) Peterson of Pleasant Valley, Iowa and Ken (Carol) Peterson of Bettendorf, Iowa; seven nieces and nephews; and fourteen grandnieces and nephews.



Thomas L. Watschke

Tom received his B.S., Horticulture, from Iowa State University and his M.S. and Ph.D in Agronomy from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Upon graduation in 1970, Tom moved to Penn State University to join the turfgrass program in the Department of Crop and Soil Science.

Throughout his career at Penn State, Tom coordinated the undergraduate turfgrass program and advised all the students majoring in turfgrass science. In addition to resident instruction and research, he taught several online courses through PSU's World Campus.

His primary research focused on the use of plant growth regulators and herbicides for use in turfgrass systems. His most influential studies revealed the positive influence of turfgrass on mitigating the movement of fertilizers and pesticides into waterways. Other research areas included turfgrass



Dr. Thomas Watschke speaks to the association after accepting the 2004 Eb Steiniger Award.

Continued from previous page

physiology, turfgrass establishment methodology, and the evaluation of bio-stimulants. His environmental research supported the golf course turfgrass industry in several court cases.

He retired from PSU in 2005 as Professor Emeritus.

In addition to his academic work, Tom consulted at many golf courses around the world. He greatly enjoyed collaborating with former students and received great satisfaction in witnessing their success.

Outside of his professional passions, Tom enjoyed spending time with family and friends, fishing, golf, watching all sports and traveling to warm climates. Anyone who interacted with Tom, both personally and professionally knew him to be a kind and caring individual. His magnetic personality could light up

any room. He was an inspiration to many.

Tom was a member of the Grace Lutheran Church in State College. Services will be private at the convenience of the family, and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date, due to COVID-19.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Turfgrass Program in the College of Agricultural Sciences at raise.psu.edu/Watschke or by check made payable to Penn State (Watschke memorial gift in memo) and mailed to Donor and Member Services, 2583 Gateway Drive, Suite 130, State College, PA 16801.

Arrangements are under the care of Koch Funeral Home, State College. Online condolences and signing of the guest book may be entered at www.kochfuneralhome.com.



This photo of Tom was taken in the early to mid-1980's. He is wearing his "Penn State Proud" hat and shirt, to commemorate the recent winning of the National Football Championship. We were attending a rare summer meeting of the Agronomy-Crop Science Societies meeting in Washington DC. There was a field trip to several sites, including this photo taken at RFK Stadium. Tom helped me immeasurably during my early years at the University of Maryland, and we became very good friends. I always will remember him as a kind, helpful, good-natured and humorous, uncommonly bright and charismatic man.

—Pete Dernoeden
Retired UM Turf Professor



Tom, also known to his fishing friends as the Captain, at the wheel of our pontoon boat on the Chippewa Flowage in Wisconsin.
—William Edward Sharpe

TRIBUTES

[credit Turfnet: <https://www.turfnet.com/news.html/col-leagues-former-students-remember-watschke-as-a-great-teacher-and-mentor-r1475/>]

Many of Watschke's former students and colleagues took to social media to remember their friend and mentor.

"Tom was an outstanding turfgrass scientist and educator; he was also a good friend and colleague" said Al Turgeon, Ph.D., professor emeritus at Penn State. "He will certainly be missed by so many who benefitted from their association with him. I am deeply saddened by his loss."

Leah Brilman, Ph.D., of DLF Pickseed wrote: "Dr. Watschke was a kind person but more than anything a dedicated teacher. Success of many PSU alums is probably due to him."

Said Kevin Hicks, regional agronomist for EarthWorks: "He could be so intimidating in class, but you always knew he wanted you to learn. I had the opportunity (to) reconnect w/him years later when he reached out to me at the CDA Resort. He brought his son & grandson for a tour. Totally different person outside of the class. RIP Doc."

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"I will first remember him for the friendship that we developed over the years after I departed Penn State," Bevard said. "We had a lot of fun fishing and solving the world's problems over a couple of beers. Second, I will remember the huge impact that he had on my life and my career. He was one of my primary mentors. Perhaps he saw potential in me that I did not, or at least had the wherewithal to get me to realize it."

"One of the funniest things that I remember was advice that he gave me during my time in graduate school," Bevard said. "I remember him walking out onto my research plots and saying 'Hey, Bevard, come here, I need to tell you something.' He proceeded to tell me that the liver is an organ not a muscle. Thus I did not need to 'exercise' it every day. I laugh about that to this day when I think of Tom. He was just a great individual and enjoyed teaching so many of us about turfgrass and life at a time when most of us could use a little education on both."

-Darin Bevard, USGA

Dr. Watschke was my first true mentor starting back in 1996. He supported me in getting my first position on a golf course, hired me to conduct research at Penn State, and supported me throughout graduate school. He was a dominate force at

Penn State and trained hundreds of students who likely feel the same way. He was instrumental in developing the Turfgrass Science major and expanding the influence of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council and their many regional conferences. For me, his academic achievements are only overshadowed by the friendship that we developed following my return to Penn State as a faculty member. I will forever be grateful for the time that I was able to spend with him. His profound influence on my personal and professional life will never be forgotten.

-John Kaminski, Class of 1998.

Dr. Watschke was a dedicated educator, and he must have brought his mid-western Iowa roots to Pennsylvania. Dr. Watschke was instrumental in establishing Penn State's baccalaureate degree in Turfgrass Science, which helped propel Penn State's turf program to national and international acclaim. Prior to that, an undergraduate student completed a four-year degree in agronomy, with classwork in crops and soils.

Dr. Watschke was very forward thinking, as he created one of the first degrees in the country with the actual program of study listed as "Turfgrass Science." This was a real game changer, because it now enabled

students to focus on courses suited to careers in the turf industry.

Dr. Watschke was a very engaging and charismatic speaker, and he will always be remembered as captivating the audience with his authoritative voice at those Eastern Pennsylvania Turf Conferences.

-Mike Fianza, PhD

Dr. Tom really was gifted at public speaking. He must have had his subject matter committed to memory because he could get up and present his whole story with just several words on a few slides. He always kept your interest with his presentations at conferences and field days. He was always willing to have undergraduates work with his research technicians at the Landscape Management Research Center on ongoing projects. He was one of several faculty members that got my interest in turfgrass research. Dr. Tom was a pioneer in turfgrass management research. His contributions and comradery will be missed in our industry.

**-Henry C. Wetzel III, Ph.D.
Research Associate
Washington State University**

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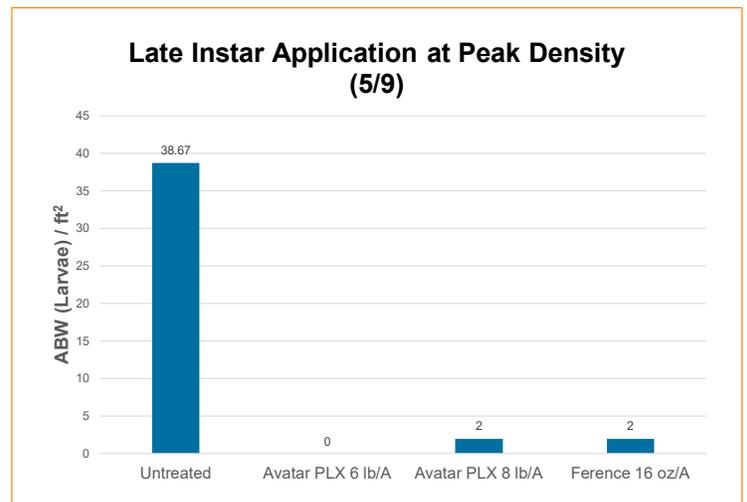
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*Dr. Ben McGraw
Penn State University 2016*



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WHERE HARD WORK, DEDICATION AND GREAT MENTORS CAN GET YOU

by Nick Sujkowski, PAGCS Assistant Representative to the Board

For this edition of the Assistant's Corner, I sat down with Assistant Superintendent at Green Valley Country Club, Thomas Boileau. We spoke all about how Tom got into the Turf Maintenance industry, his time at Green Valley, the recent renovation work they have completed and what's next for his career.

How did you get into turf?

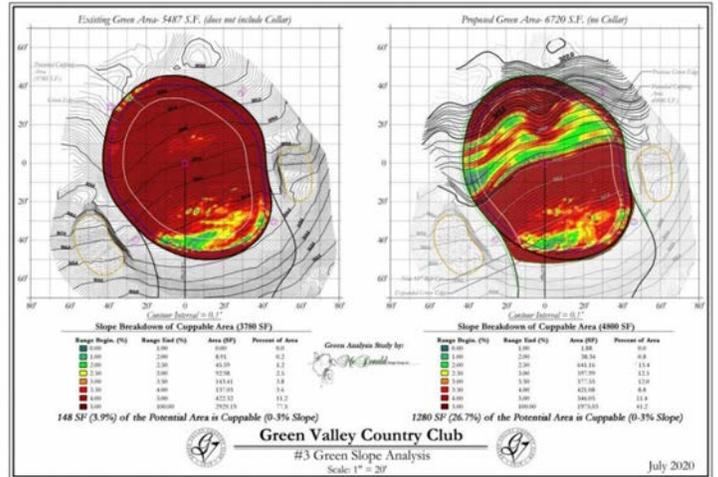
After high school, I decided to attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania to pursue a career in teaching. After completing multiple courses and hands on experiences, I came to the conclusion that teaching was not for me. During this time, I started working at Yardley Country Club during my summers off. It was a great summer job for me because I love playing golf, and it was a great way for a broke college student to get out on a golf course as much as possible. While I was still unsure of what my plans were for the future, Superintendent Matt Glenn noticed my passion for golf course maintenance. He took me under his wing and started giving me more and more responsibilities, and I loved everything about it. At that point, I knew that I wanted to turn my current job into a career.



Thomas Boileau

What was it about working on a golf course that made you want to make the career change?

I have always loved golf. I started playing golf with my dad when I was just six years old, so I have been on golf courses for almost my entire life. It was not until I started working on a grounds crew when I learned of all the time, passion, hard work, and dedication that goes into making a great golf course. I was always someone who has worked very hard my entire life, and I could see myself



Green Valley #3 green slopes

fitting perfectly into the industry. I love seeing all of the time and effort I put in every day paying off and creating the best possible product for our members and guests.

Please give the readers some insight on the recent green regrading project that the Green Valley team has completed.

Two of our greens, numbers three and five, were in desperate need of recontoring. Number three was a 5,500 square foot green with just 148 square feet of cuppable area. Green number five was 3,500 square feet with just 57 square feet of cuppable area. Both of those greens were constantly under stress due to foot traffic being concentrated in such small areas. On both greens, the sod was stripped and drainage was added to match the rest of our greens that were completed in the spring. The slopes on the greens were then adjusted to make the putting surface more playable while still giving them a William Flynn feel.



Green Valley green construction

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Once completed, the sod from the original greens was reinstalled after we had set it aside temporarily. Hole three is now 6,720 square feet with 1,300 square feet of cuppable area and hole five is now 4,760 square feet with 831 square feet of cuppable area. All design work was done by Joel Weiman and construction was completed by McDonald & Sons.

What did you learn from doing this project?

This project was a very exciting and educational experience for me to see the entire process unfold from beginning to end. It was amazing to see the existing sod stripped and stored to the side of the green in such a manner that when it was time to re-lay it, every piece went back right where it belonged.

It was also my first experience installing irrigation of that magnitude. I am experienced in irrigation repair, but have never had to install an entire greens loop before. The rear of number three green was lowered five feet to soften the back to front slope, which necessitated us redoing the irrigation loop around the back half of the green. We installed the pipe in 20 foot sections one at a time, while installing wiring and swing joints for the irrigation heads and quick couplers in the proper locations. The process took some time, but in the end, everything fit together properly and is currently working just as it should (knock on wood).

Do you have any big plans for yourself for your future career?

As of now, I am not sure exactly what my future career plans are. I would ideally like to stay in the Philadelphia area. All of my family and friends live in this area and



Green Valley sod removal

it would be very hard for me to leave. I would also miss going to Eagles games being that I am a season ticket holder. Ultimately I would love to be a superintendent one day, so to make that dream happen, I plan on going back to school for Turfgrass Management. I have learned so many things from some great Superintendents starting with Matt Glenn at Yardley, followed by Sean Remington who gave me a shot at being an Assistant Superintendent, and now Matt Herrmann. I would be so honored to take what I have learned from all three of them, and put that knowledge to becoming a Superintendent myself one day.

I would like to give a special thanks to Tom Boileau and Matt Herrmann for taking time out of their day to speak to me for this interview. Tom's career in golf course maintenance is a great example of where hard work and dedication can get you. I am excited for Tom that he is planning to go to school for Turfgrass Management and want to wish him the best of luck! ♦

-Nick Sujkowski
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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

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>>SEEN ON THE WEB

THE SPECIAL INGREDIENT OF THOSE BRILLIANT WHITE SAND TRAPS AT THE MASTERS

By Sam Farmer – www.latimes.com, Nov. 11, 2020

Rob Hamrick could sell sand to the desert.

He has, in fact, shipped 4,000 tons of it from a tiny community tucked in the Blue Ridge Mountains to an exclusive golf course in Dubai. But this is no ordinary sand.

"It's a beautiful material," said Hamrick, co-owner of Golf Agronomics, which supplies sand to golf courses.

For five decades, [Augusta National Golf Club](#) has filled its 44 bunkers with the brilliant white grains produced near the three-stoplight town of Spruce Pine, a four-hour drive to the north. The dramatic contrast of those immaculate bunkers, the bleached-white teeth of the course, and the verdant grass is a hallmark of the Masters golf tournament.

The pandemic forced the event to move from its traditional spot in April to this week, when it will begin Thursday without spectators, or as they're called at genteel Augusta, "patrons."

CBS announcer Jim Nantz, an institution at the Masters, compares the sand traps to bowls of sugar.

"They pop, they stand out," Nantz said. "Visually, they look different than everything else that you see. It just fits the rest of the motif, that it's fantasyland for the golfer. Everything appears to be perfect."

Tiger Woods, [the tournament's defending champion](#), recently had three truckloads of Spruce Pine sand delivered to his Florida home. He called it "the brightest sand there is in the world," and joked that whenever he's in an Augusta trap, he's tempted to borrow his caddie's sunglasses.



[photo credit David C. Jones via Pinterest]
@dufferdavej

"Over the years they've had it when it's watered down, or not watered down where it's more fluffy," Woods said. "No matter the year, I just don't ever remember being able to spin the ball very well out of that sand. ... But every year it's so bright and reflective."

Known in the industry as "SP55," that chalk-white trap filler is granulated quartz. Although coveted in the golf world, it is merely a waste product of a far more valuable Spruce Pine resource, a material that has competing multi-national corporations in this western North Carolina town guarding their trade secrets with Wonka-like fervor.

Those companies mine ultra-pure quartz to produce sand that is essential in the production of semiconductor chips for computers, phones and other devices. Spruce Pine quartz is molded into crucibles that are ideal containers for preserving the purity

of molten silicon, which is formed into single-crystal silicon and ultimately chips. Crucibles made of inferior quartz would contaminate the silicon.

"Total impurities are measured in parts per billion, and some of these materials are less than 50 parts per billion," said Alex Glover, retired head geologist for the Feldspar Corporation. "That's hugely pure quartz. Those materials can cost as much as \$20,000 per ton. Regular quartz is probably \$40-\$50 per ton."

The most valuable Spruce Pine sand is "leachable," meaning it can be even further purified by an acid-washing process that removes a portion of quartz that has even the slightest impurities. Cracks and fissures in grains of that premium sand allow acid to get inside and thoroughly clean them.

"If you look at it under a microscope, that tells the story of why it's so

Continued on next page

glistening and bright," Glover said. "It's so crystal-faceted and so diamond-like. The golf course sand is not the purest, but it appears to be the same. It may have a small imperfection of iron or a piece of feldspar, but you can't tell with the naked eye. You could tell chemically."

The Quartz Corp., a Norwegian and French conglomerate, politely declined comment for this story, and Augusta National didn't want to talk about the sand either. The company is largely hidden from the road behind a grassy hill, and a sign at the security gate instructs truck drivers to "turn to Channel 24 on your CB and wait for clearance to enter plant for loading."

"Even when a salesman was a rep for a machine and had to work on it, they would blindfold him and bring him to the machine," Glover said. "My company didn't do that, but others did. These are the only companies in the world that do this kind of work."

For decades, corporations have searched the planet for quartz as pure as Spruce Pine's, dispatching geologists to Norway, Brazil, Australia, and elsewhere to no avail. The pegmatites in the Spruce Pine Mineral District, an area about 25 miles long and 10 miles wide, were formed hundreds of millions of years ago under intense heat and pressure. Those rocks were 10 to 15 miles under the surface of the earth, where a lack of water prevented the transfer of impurities.

Generations of Spruce Pine miners tossed the quartz aside in favor of the feldspar and mica. Feldspar is essential in the production of glass and porcelain. Mica gives metallic paint its glitter and is used in drywall joint compound and electrical insulation.

"If it hadn't been for the mining, we wouldn't be here today," said Kay Buchanan, who owns Gem Mountain,



Alex Glover, retired head geologist of the Feldspar Corporation, looks at grains of high-purity quartz sand under a microscope in his home office in Spruce Pine, NC
(Sam Farmer/Los Angeles Times)

a popular tourist attraction in town, and the Hoot Owl

With the computer age came an appreciation for the region's unique geological bounty.

Said Robin Townsend of the Mitchell County Chamber of Commerce: "We always tell people that if you own a computer, a cellphone, or any kind of electronics, you own a small piece of Mitchell County."

Owning a small piece of the Masters is a different story. In 2012, Augusta patron Clayton Baker ducked under the ropes lining the 10th fairway and tried to abscond with a beer cup full of bunker sand. He was surrounded by three security guards, brought to the ground and handcuffed, then taken to county jail. That humiliation came with a \$20,000 fine.

It's a more casual setting at Mount Mitchell Golf Club, which neighbors Spruce Pine and uses the same hometown sand in its bunkers. The traps are not as meticulously maintained as Augusta's, and more than 100 inches of rain this year have introduced impurities that make the sand slightly more tan. But when the sand is fresh, oh my.

"When the sun's out and the sand is in its best condition, it's breathtaking," said Dean Hicks, a manager at Mount

Mitchell. "A lot of times people will just come off the parkway not even knowing we're here and see it, and they're just awed by the background with the mountains and when the sun hits that sand."

But how did Spruce Pine sand make it to Augusta?

In the early 1970s, Clifford Roberts, Augusta National's chief executive, was unhappy with the club's bunker sand, which he found inconsistent and coarse. He had a seasonal home at Grandfather Golf & Country Club in Avery County, N.C., and knew that nearby Linville Golf Club was using Spruce Pine sand.

Roberts and Augusta's golf pro met at Linville with that club's general manager, pro and Spruce Pine businessman Claude Greene, who owned a Chevrolet dealership and a crushed stone mine.

Also in attendance was a young assistant pro, Wayne Smith. "The opportunity to sit there with Clifford Roberts and just watch these guys was quite an experience," Smith recalled. Roberts had co-founded Augusta National with the legendary Bobby Jones in the 1930s. "Mr. Roberts didn't have to say anything for me to be in awe."

Smith said Roberts tossed a few balls in a greenside bunker on the first hole, and hit them out of the wet sand, as it had rained that day. He liked the way the compacted sand played.

Roberts decided he wanted Spruce Pine sand at Augusta and said he would need enough to fill 13 boxcars. Greene vowed to make that happen, refusing payment for either the sand or transporting it. After all, that sand was a byproduct of the mining process — Greene's company had to dig holes to bury it.

So moved was Roberts by the gesture, he offered to host Greene at Augusta whenever he wanted to play. Later,

Continued from previous page

Greene received six passes to every Masters.

Getting the sand to Augusta, however, required the transportation equivalent of a mulligan. The first 13 boxcars Greene used had hauled coal, and that black dust mixed with the white sand and dulled the color. He sent new sand in cleaned boxcars.

Smith said that in those years, the Spruce Pine sand was even whiter than it is now, and he surmises it might have contained more mica, as the extraction and separation methods weren't as thorough as they are today.

"It was a bright white," he said. "You'd hit a ball out of that sand and it would just sparkle with mica."

The sand does indeed sparkle and, as Nantz said, is strikingly similar to granulated sugar. Sometimes, too similar.

"Our office secretary at Feldspar Corporation was named Reba, and she had been with the company 50 years," Glover said. "She and her manager were always playing

tricks on each other, so she swapped the sugar bowl for the coffee with the quartz. You cannot tell the difference. The guy put two spoonfuls of quartz in his coffee.

"They were all watching because they all knew. They saw him take a sip, and he could feel the sand in his teeth. They all laughed, and he poured it out."

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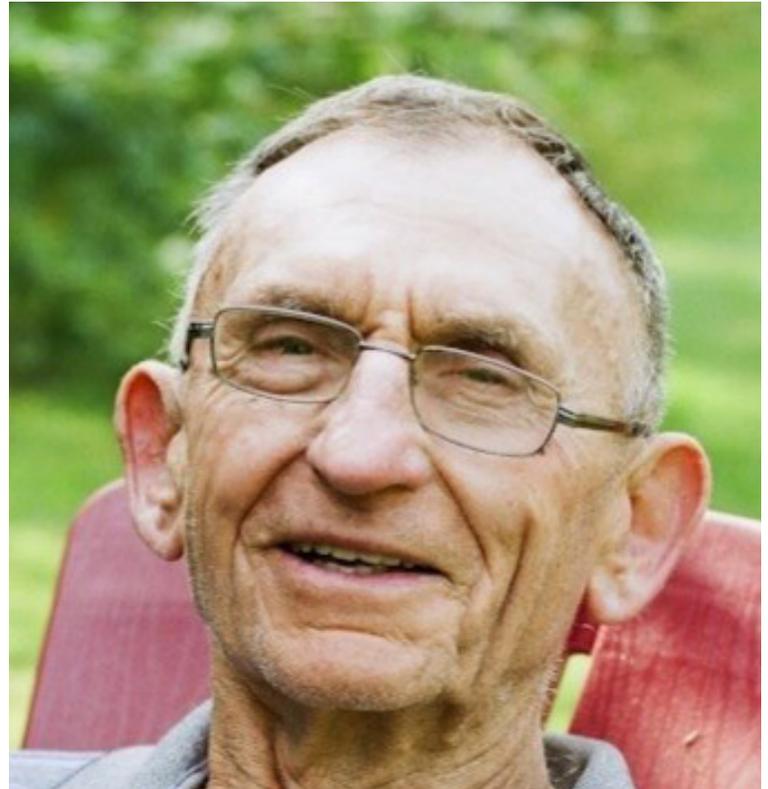
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INDUSTRY LOSES KEY LEADER

Arthur T. Schmidt, Sr., 93, of Emmaus passed away Sunday, October 11, 2020 At South Mountain Memory Care. Born in Allentown, he was a son of the late Victor and Frances (Trexler) Schmidt. Arthur was a farmer and business owner. He owned and operated Meadowbrook Farms, Kramer Textiles, Indian Creek Golf Course and the Farmhouse Restaurant. He was founding member of the Summer Harmony Men's Chorus and the Lehigh Valley Men's Chorale. He graduated from Muhlenberg College with degrees in Mathematics and Physics and played on their basketball team. He served in the U.S. Air Force during WWII.

He is survived by sons, Arthur T. Jr., and wife, Tammy; Alan T.; daughters Rebecca Reverie; Frances wife of Dr. Gary Wilson; grandchildren, Arthur T. III, Tristan, Hayden, Christopher, Jessica, Timothy, Kyle, Taylor, Rachel, Tessa and Peyton; great granddaughter, Lily Margaret. He was predeceased by a brother, Victor.

In lieu of flowers, a donation in Arthur's memory may be made to the Sanctuary at Haafsville 901 Nestle Way, Breinigsville, PA 18031



OF COURSE, A FIELD OF DREAMS

Art had an early love for the game which was embodied by his great friendship with one of golf's greats, Craig Wood. They played many rounds together on some of the greatest courses, such as Pine Valley and a local staple, Lehigh Country Club.

The passion grew into his lifelong dream of developing his family farm into a golf course. It started with a professional layout from architect Dick LaConte in 1969. It was ultimately adapted into nine holes to start, which opened in 1986, and then completed to 18 in 1996. A farmer – with no golf construction experience, a paltry budget and old farm equipment – turned his dream into reality.

Well before the course opened, he started planting the crops to mimic the layout of fairways and roughs, while positioning saplings around the farm in anticipation of the course he would open 15 years later. He began planting grass in the fields along the turnpike, which would ultimately be the driving range, but had been his personal range for many years. Indian Creek Golf Club was more than a dream. In many ways, it was central to his life's pursuit.

Those that loved the course along with Art and his dogs were devoted. There were a host of now Superintendents

that shared in that passion for the property. One of which was right down the road, John Chassard at Lehigh C.C. Art was inspiration for so many and hosted the Lehigh Valley Superintendents Group along with his popular Annual Schmidt Winter Invitational Golf Tournament, which centered around his birthday [November 2nd] each year.

He was truly an inspiration and launched many professionals into the industry, myself included. Matt Walbert who worked in the Pro Shop is now a Pro at Laurel Creek C.C. outside Philly and Kyle Krause, who worked on the course, is now the Superintendent at the North Course at Quail Ridge C.C. in Florida.

–Chris Reverie, GCS at Allentown Municipal Golf Course

"A great man! Touched the lives of so many and gave so many of us the opportunity to grow to who we are today. Indian Creek Golf Club was his dream and the starting point of many careers in the industry. Dogs, Restaurants, Farms, Golf, Textiles, and experiencing the life of General Harry Trexler. We've lost a great part of history, as we all know he was the keeper of Lehigh Valley knowledge, history, secrets. I just wish he would have finished his book."

–John Chassard

GAP—GAPGOLF.ORG

Did your men’s, women’s, Junior, senior or super-senior champion win in wild fashion this year? Does he or she have an interesting personal story behind the victory to tell? Or perhaps your men’s, women’s, Junior senior or super-senior champion reached a milestone in 2020? GAP Magazine wants to know. Email your suggestions to Tony Regina, GAP Assistant Communications Director, at tregina@gapgolf.org.

Get in the spirit of giving this holiday season. Consider making a donation to the J. Wood Platt Caddie Scholarship Trust, GAP’s charitable arm. The Trust, created in 1958, aims to financially aid deserving caddies in their pursuit

of higher education. Visit www.gapgolf.org and click on the “Platt” tab to learn more.

Reminder: The active handicap-posting season for the Philadelphia region ended on Nov. 14. Only scores from areas that remain in active seasons can be posted to your handicap record until April 1. Those areas include Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Southern Nevada, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. Score posting for rounds played at courses in the GAP region will resume at the start of the Association’s next season – April 1, 2021

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GOLF COURSE TREE ASSESSMENT FOR PLAYABILITY AND SAFETY

As time passes, golf course properties age and so do their trees. Trees that were planted 50-100 years ago for architectural or aesthetic function, may now be improperly located, affecting turf health and playability, or be in decline. A progressive plan, developed comprehensively by the superintendent, architect, and certified arborist will identify solutions to strategically and selectively maintain the tree canopy.

Trees that were planted decades ago are now causing serious problems to the turf. Mature trees can cause shade issues and create competition for water and nutrients; creating an environment turf will not thrive in. We utilize sunlight studies and other advanced data, focusing on optimal turf health and playability. This allows us to identify the necessary canopy pruning or the complete tree removal.

Declining trees on a golf course property create a hazardous environment for people frequenting the course, the parking area, the club house, the practice area, etc. Pruning to remove hazardous limbs or complete removal of declining trees are necessary steps to keep the property safe.

Hazardous trees cannot always be visually identified. Trees can possess a high percentage of interior decay while the canopy remains healthy, which may lead to unexpected tree failure. A resistograph test [pictured], performed by a certified arborist, identifies the hazardous trees and generates data so the trees can be removed properly and safely.

It is imperative to evaluate the trees in relation to the turf and safety of your property. We have the knowledge, resources, and experience to provide

valued solutions. I look forward to working together!



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APPRENTICESHIPS – TYLER BLOOM

Skill gaps, talent shortages have left employers stressed and overworked to meet the demands of stakeholders and the golf season. Finding talent to show up for interviews or the first day on the job continues to frustrate and cripple operations across the country regardless of budgetary resources.

Collective efforts by local, state and national associations to promote career awareness and outreach has been steady. Increasing wage scales appears to be a short-term motivation tactic, but it is not tipping the scale in favor of employers.

As discussed in the previous two posts, a focused approach towards creating a fantastic workplace culture is of paramount importance in the fight for “competent and willing” labor. Establishing yourself as an “employer of choice” requires consistent effort, focus and flexibility.

Once employees show up, what is your process to upskill and develop? Growth opportunities include increased responsibility, continued education, autonomy and increase in wages among many other tangibles. Often, golf course superintendents face an uphill battle for promotion for hard-working, skilled employees.

I faced the same challenges in 2014-2015 as we had 50-percent turnover, with the average employee earning less than \$10.00 per hour. Culture was being significantly improved, but my club leadership needed more data to go beyond cost of living adjustments.

Yes, I provided all of the local labor data necessary to win an argument, but those statistics could be adopted for any employee across the club operations.

The concept of “pay-for-potential” to chase local labor data was not enough. Based on my consultations and observations in the industry, you will set yourself up for a political battle if this is your primary method to justify pay increases for any level of employee.

What I needed was a systematic “pay-for-performance” plan with structured on-the-job training. Upon my research and a little bit of luck, I was educated about apprenticeship programs.

REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

Registered apprenticeship programs are employer driven programs that combine 2,000 minimum hours of on-the-job training with 144-hours of job related instruction. Apprenticeships help recruit and develop a highly skilled workforce. Employers see benefits such as reduced turnover, lower training costs and improved productivity.

Apprenticeships offer an affordable alternative to a four-year degree, without resulting in a six-figure college loan. A great selling point to a student, parent or job seeker. Related instruction can include college credit programs, local training provided by industry partners such as Golf Safety or continued education seminars such as GCSAA or Turfnet.

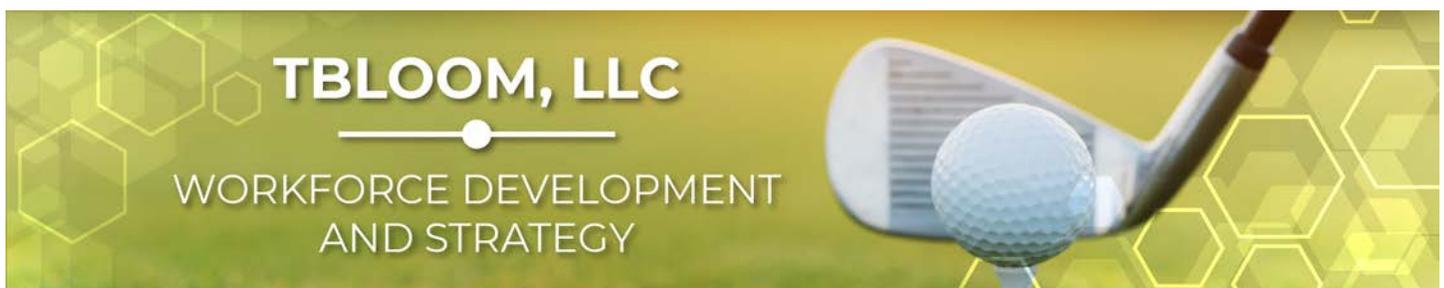
The requirements to be an apprentice include:

- Be 16 years or older
- Provide proof of completion or working towards completion of high school, GED or equivalent
- Be eligible to work in US
- Be able to pass a substance abuse screening if required by the employer
- Be physically able to perform duties of golf course management

Apprentices develop specialized skills and continued education needed for career advancement. Earning an industry-recognized credential and advancement through the organization. As apprentices develop skills, they are offered increasing wages set by the employer.

In many instances, golf course superintendents already have on-the-job training programs. However, these programs are either ad-hoc or are not registered with the state and federal Department of Labor. Programs can be integrated into existing training curriculum and human resource development strategy.

Continued on next page



FEATURES OF APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

Apprenticeship programs have been existent for years across various industries. Most people think of manufacturing, electricians, plumbers, energy and transportation. However, sophisticated programs in food and beverage, finance, business, landscaping, turf management are now facing a dire need to recruit and retain key positions.

Both new hires and existing employees can enroll into apprenticeship programs. As a registered apprenticeship employer, you will have access to the Department of Labor's workforce exchange program - a national job board of skilled employees.

Often, apprenticeships are developed by schools - high school and community colleges - along with community workforce development agencies. These connections attract a diverse population of candidates including veterans, women, under represented segments including African Americans, Latinos and various ethnicities.

Most importantly, apprenticeships are highly customizable to the employer's skill and labor needs. As a golf course superintendent, we created apprenticeships offered at the high school level, and also for existing employees.

BENEFITS OF APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

Prior to my resignation as a golf course superintendent, I had not posted a position in over two years from 2018-2020. Reduction in turnover from 50-percent to 10-percent. We filled all specialized roles, irrigation technician, chemical technician and assistant roles internally.

Clubs that have a robust assistant program would benefit from creating a "farm team" through apprenticeships, and have a third tier of employees ready to fill open positions on a dime's notice.

School systems are able to partner with businesses to provide related instruction, earn government support through robust grant opportunities upwards of \$500,000 to support academia, on-the-job training and necessary technological tools to facilitate learning.

As a result, apprenticeships provide career pathways to higher levels of employment and development. These should not be misconstrued as a replacement for the traditional pathway of today's assistants who attend a 2 or 4-year post-secondary institution.

Quite contrary, the university systems would be very wise to adapt their academic offerings to apprenticeship models. This would be a direct connection to an additional pool of students. Partnering with business partners to create awareness to youth about progressive career opportunities wouldn't be a bad thing.

Did I mention, businesses that implement apprenticeship programs are eligible for tax credits and state grants up to \$45,000 a year to offset on-the-job training and continued education learning. Want to earn additional credibility within your organization?

In an industry facing a major labor shortage, the golf industry needs alternative and non-traditional options like apprenticeships to strengthen existing recruiting and development efforts. ♦

-Tyler Bloom

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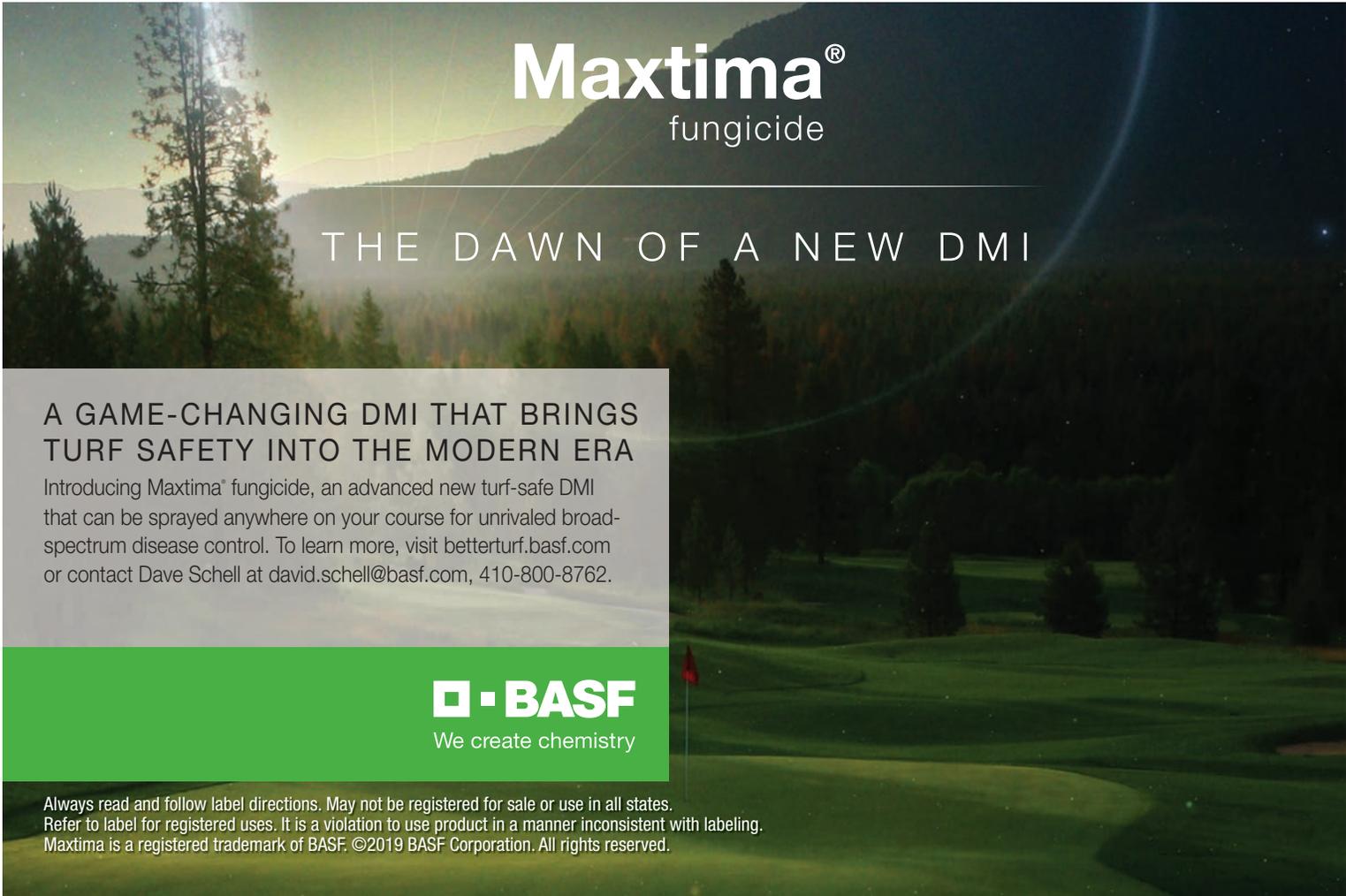
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PETS OF THE PAGCS

FACILITY: Merion Golf Club

MEMBER: Scott Musser

Sawyer has been selected to be “Mr. July” as part of GCSAA’s 18th annual “Dog of the Year” contest: it’s a family thing—sibling Kasey was “Mr. December” in 2018.

As a Plott Hound mix, Sawyer’s mission is to play with all the wildlife at Merion and swim in the creek. Like many around these parts, he’s a huge PSU football fan—wonder what he thinks of last weekend’s win and the season so far?

Scott Musser is the Association’s 2016 George E. Ley Scholarship Recipient and currently a senior assistant superintendent at Merion.



Photo by Scott Musser

The 18th annual “Dog of the Year” contest will be held on the floor of the [virtual Golf Industry Show](#) in February, and attendees’ votes will determine which will be crowned king or queen for 2021. The winning dog will earn \$3,000 for his or her golf course superintendent’s local golf course association and a \$500 cash prize from [LebanonTurf](#).

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A GREEN SECTION CENTURY—HAPPY 100TH



[Click here](#) to check out this visual summary of the USGA Green Section history.



Stanley J. Zontek
1949 – 2012

No tribute of the USGA Green Section would be complete without a nod to our beloved Stan Zontek, who served 41 years with the USGA. At the time of his death, he was the longest serving USGA staff member.

The USGA Green Section has served the same basic principal for 100 years: to serve the game and specifically, help superintendents and their teams do their jobs as efficiently and effectively as possible while being responsible with resources and inputs. Although faces within the organization have changed, procedures and tools are new and grasses technology is better than it was 100 years ago, our basic foundation of helping improve agronomics has not.

–Elliott Dowling, Northeast Regional Agronomist

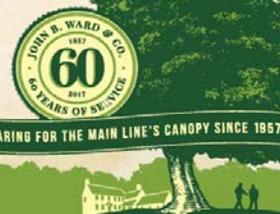
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BULLETIN OF THE GREEN SECTION OF THE UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION FEBRUARY, 1921

While many things have changed in the golf world since the Green Section was founded 100 years ago, our fundamental mission and values have remained consistent.

Editor's Note: November 30, 2020, marks the 100th birthday of the USGA Green Section. This announcement from the first issue of what is today known as the "Green Section Record" eloquently describes the reasons why the Green Section was founded and the ways in which it hoped to improve golf in the United States.

It is estimated that American golf clubs spend annually in the maintenance of their golf courses between \$15,000,000 and \$25,000,000. Figure it out for yourself. There are many more than 2,000 clubs, which on the average spend not less than \$7,500 a year. Some a trifle less and a great many several times as much.

The melancholy fact is that at least a third of this amount is wasted through ignorance and the use of ineffective methods. If the money wasted was applied in a proper direction, better results and a higher standard of maintenance throughout the United States would be accomplished. The aim of the Green Committee of the United States Golf Association (appointed to oversee the Green Section) is to remedy this situation.

It is intended that the Green Committee shall serve nationally as the local green committees serve locally, to the end that the interest and cooperation of local committees may be aroused. If the information and experience possessed by local committees, local greenkeepers and others who can contribute something in a practical and scientific way are made available to all, the results cannot be otherwise than beneficial.



The Committee is composed of amateurs - amateur green committeemen - who will serve without financial recompense and will feel amply rewarded if they are able to stimulate the interest of local green committees. The Committee will keep itself perfectly free from entangling alliances, either real or implied, so that its ideals can be accomplished.

The Bulletin will contain no advertisements and the Committee will neither favor nor disfavor anyone who is interested commercially or professionally. The Bulletin will not seek to occupy the field of the golf journals, golf architects, construction men or the like, and it will contain no golf news or stories. It will carry nothing more than articles and information of interest and benefit to local green committees. The Bulletin will be issued monthly, with perhaps an occasional special Bulletin, and the service and aid of the Green Committee of the United States Golf Association will be available at all times.

Any question relating to greenkeeping or the duties of a green committee may be submitted at any time and will be answered to the best of the ability

of the Committee. All information of a technical nature will be obtained from qualified persons. In every issue of the Bulletin will be printed the more important questions and answers handled by the Committee during the interim between the publication of Bulletins.

It is intended that the service and aid of the Committee in the way of answering questions shall be personal. In other words, the Committee will make the same effort to give a complete and satisfying answer to inquiries that would be expected if the green committee of any club asked a question of the committee of another club.

It is believed that if the interest of local green committees can be aroused and if they will come to seek information as to what others are doing and as to the best methods and practices, a cooperative spirit will be induced that cannot fail to produce good results. Everyone can contribute something of value to the others and so that this may be accomplished it is hoped that green committees will make the freest possible use of the service and aid of the Green Committee of the United States Golf Association. ♦



Green Section Update

What A Difference A Year Makes!

By Darin S. Bevard, agronomist,
USGA Green Section,
Mid-Atlantic

It is amazing to sit back and think about the 1999 growing season considering the weather patterns experienced in 2000. This time last year, I discussed the drought, high temperatures and impending water restrictions.

Hot and dry? Forget about it. To date, we have been blessed with favorable weather patterns for turf management. No long stretches of hot temperatures or dry conditions. That's not to say that things cannot change in a hurry. We all know that they can.

Remain vigilant in evaluating the golf course for potential problems. It only takes one or two days of assuming things will be okay — then bang, all hell breaks loose. Overall turf conditions have been good throughout the region. However, there have been some problems observed in our travels.

The biggest problem on greens has been outbreaks of anthracnose on *Poa annua*. This beast has proven to be unpredictable and difficult to control. Ironically, some of the anthracnose problems are directly related to saturated soil conditions brought on by frequent heavy rains.

What can you do? Remember, anthracnose is generally a stress-related disease. While it is not always possible to raise mowing heights to provide stress relief, keep in mind that even the slightest increase in mowing heights can make a big difference to the turf. If the disease is present, discontinue any grooming, verticutting or topdressing activity that can provide additional wounds

for infection. Additionally, maintain regular, light spoonfeeding fertilizer applications to help speed healing, and provide fill-in of damaged areas with existing turf. Fungicide applications help. However, length and degree of control of anthracnose with fungicides has been varied depending upon growing environment and other factors. Gaining absolute control of anthracnose has been difficult at best.

On fairways, the biggest nuisance has been dollar spot. The cool and moist conditions have provided great conditions for development of this disease. Control has been difficult with control intervals becoming shorter and shorter. Two things to keep in mind regarding dollar spot are whether or not a thatch problem is present and whether adequate fertility is available for turf growth.

Spoonfeeding with light rates of urea, in addition to fungicides, can help to suppress dollar spot. If you are applying fungicides during a dollar spot outbreak, use curative rates! Preventative rates won't likely provide any length of control when the disease is present.

As of the writing of this update, there has been no activity on the gray leaf spot front. It is early in the season.

Again, those with perennial ryegrass turf should monitor closely. It may just be drought stress or slight turf discoloration, but it could be gray leaf spot. Stay tuned.

With overall turf conditions good, we

have noticed that bunkers and roughs are getting a great deal of attention. The tees, greens and fairways are in good condition, so what can you address next? More time has been spent discussing roughs and bunkers this season than in the past. Everyone should read Stan Zontek's opinion article in *The Green Section Record* that addressed the misnomer of "roughs."

The roughs are no longer all that rough, and the bunkers are no longer supposed to be hazards. Perfect lies are needed from tree line to tree line. So what if the ball's 40 yards left of the intended target? All shots, no matter how bad, should be rewarded with a good lie. Unfortunately, we see this line of thinking becoming the rule rather than the exception. It may be necessary to take some extra effort (and money) to address conditions in the roughs and bunkers if this trend continues.

Hopefully, weather patterns will continue to provide us with favorable conditions. It seems likely that a hot, dry weather pattern will hit before the end of the summer. Everyone should think back to the conditions of last summer. By mid-July we had already had enough 90-degree days to fill an average summer. Enjoy the weather while you can. It's only a matter of time before harsh conditions will return, but what a difference a year makes!

Good luck with the rest of the growing season.

With overall turf conditions good, we have noticed that bunkers and roughs are getting a great deal of attention ...

... bunkers are no longer supposed to be hazards ...

... So what if the ball's 40 yards left of the intended target! All shots, no matter how bad, should be rewarded with a good lie.

Unfortunately, we see this line of thinking becoming the rule rather than the exception.



Twenty years ago, PAGCS member and regional agronomist Darin Bevard contributed this to "The Bonnie." Darin is now USGA Director, Championship Agronomy



The Bonnie Greensward

"Our 60th Year"



NOVEMBER 1985

President's Message

TIME FLIES! It seems like yesterday that I was elected president. It's been a time to make many friendships, to see people grow, and watch many change directions in their careers. It has been a time I have enjoyed immensely. Being president of this prestigious group will always remain special to me. Many thanks to all who have helped me along the way. You have made it a pleasant task. There is an old saying, "many hands lighten the load", and I tried to involve many to do just that. So, Thank you again, one and all for your help and consideration.

This is one of the best associations in the country. If not *the* best! Let's all work together to keep it that way!

Ed



Anyone interested in hosting a meeting in 1986 please contact Ed Roynan or Paul Carman.

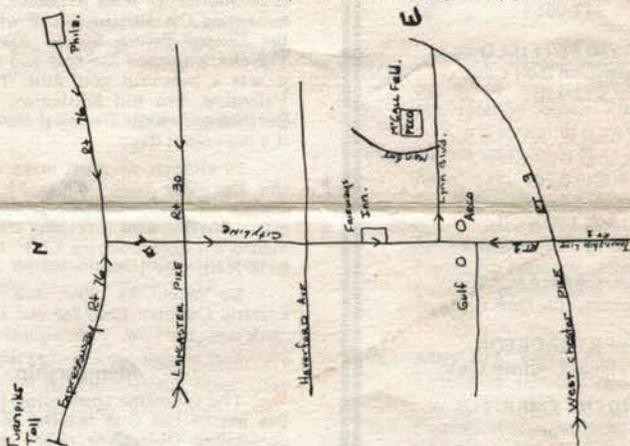
TAKE NOTE! The cocktail hour will be held at the Fairways Inn. No Alcoholic beverages are permitted on premises of Philadelphia Electric C.C.

Philadelphia Electric C.C. To Host Annual Meeting

Date	November 19, 1985
Place	McCall Field PECO C.C.
Host Superintendent	Lou Amadio
Greens Chairman	Harry Conners, Jr.
Club Manager	Ray D. Adams, Jr.
Clubhouse Superintendent	Lloyd Genner, Jr.
Golf Pro	Mickey McAnally
Golf	9 Hole Scramble, 12:30 Shotgun Start
Cocktails	4:30 Cash Bar
Dinner	6:30 - \$15.00
Carts	Not Available
Education	Annual Meeting

Philadelphia Electric C.C. was started in 1909. It is private, 19 holes, and plays to Par 66. The greens are bentgrass, tees and fairways are bluegrass ryegrass. Lou's irrigation system is manual on tees and fairways and hoses are used on greens.

Our Host Superintendent Lou Amadio has been at PECO for the past 25 years, the last four as superintendent. Lou and wife Mary have two sons, Lou, Jr. 20 and Frank 16.



- Directions:**
- From Delaware:** North on Rt 1 cross Rt 3 approx. 3 tenths mile. Turn Right on Lynn Blvd., go to Club entrance.
 - From Harrisburg:** Turnpike to Valley Forge exit. Take Rt. 76 East to Rt. 1 South approx. 6 miles to Lynn Blvd. Take a left to main gate.
 - From Lancaster:** Take Rt. 30 East to Rt. 1 South approx. 2 miles to Lynn Blvd. Turn Left to main gate.
 - From New Jersey:** Walt Whitman or Ben Franklin Bridge to Rt. 76 West to Rt. 1 South approx. 6 miles to Lynn Blvd. Turn left to main gate.
 - From West Chester:** East on Rt. 3 to Rt. 1 North approx. 3 tenths mile. Turn right on Lynn Blvd. to main gate.

FACILITY FOCUS

COURSE: Middletown Country Club

SUPERINTENDENT: Jim Morgan

TENURE: Five years

- Course Details: Par-69 6,217-yard classically-designed golf course that has been played by World Golf Hall of Famers such as Ben Hogan, Henry Picard, Leo Diegel, Vic Ghezzi, George Fazio, and Johnny Miller.
- Gary Player, one of five players to win golf's four major championships, was the playing professional representing Langhorne CC during the early 1960s. Last month, Gary Player returned to check out Middletown and enjoyed a round of golf.

Jim: When I found out [Gary Player] was playing Pine Valley the next day, I said, "slight uptick." [Gary Player] turned to me and said: "Jimmy, it's clubs like these that are the foundation of this game. We don't have Pine Valleys without MCC. You and Danny are doing a wonderful job here and keep up the fantastic job."



Gary Player, center, recently visited Middletown; pictured with Middletown Golf Course Superintendent Jim Morgan, far left.



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2020 ANNUAL MEETING

[Click here to view full event photos on Facebook](#)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT WHITEMARSH VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

1st Place: Roger Smith, Tim Smith,
Mike O'Brien, Tom
Kuhar—65 [MC]

2nd Place: Tom Currie, Chris
Walton, Jason Criss,
Randy Rider—65 [MC]

Last Place: Doug Rider, Joe Agnew,
Joe Liebsch, Charlie
Koennecker

SKILLS

CLOSEST TO PIN

Tim Smith, 10'11", #4

Doug Rider, 16'7", #9

Mike Handly, #12

Jeff Haas, 11'6", #16

LONG DRIVE #3

Chris Walton

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Quick, take off your masks, hold your breath and smile for the camera: Rich Sweeney displays his service honors plaque awarded by PAGCS President Doug Rae, second from right. Also pictured are PAGCS Director Tim Edwards, far left and incoming PAGCS Golf Chairman Jeff Haas.

OUR HOST: Drew Goehler

COMMENTARY: In a last ditch effort, Mother Nature attempted to again take sides with COVID-19 and the year that is 2020. The Annual Meeting almost fell victim, but a hearty group persevered through the 40+ MPH wind gusts and frigid temps.

The post golf business of the Annual Meeting was kept to a minimum, and included the awarding of service honors to long-time golf chairman, Rich Sweeney. Rich served the Association as golf chair for seven seasons and was awarded a plaque, along with a pair of PAGCS etched wine glasses and bottle wine.



Host Drew Goehler looks on as partner Chris Freeman eyes up his putt on #18.

2020 GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

[Click here to view full event photos on Facebook](#)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT ROLLING GREEN GOLF CLUB

GROSS

- 1st Place: Jeff Haas, 70
- 2nd Place: Brad Helcoski, 73
- 3rd Place: Rob Johnson, 79

NET

- 1st Place: Brendan Byrne, 68
- 2nd Place: Bob Burd, 71 [MC]
- 3rd Place: Steve McDonald, 71 [MC]

GUEST WINNER

Ken Anson, 64,
guest of Eric Shilling

SKILLS

LONG DRIVE #11

Steve McDonald

CLOSEST TO PIN

- Jeff Weld, 5'6", #3
- Jared Rudy, 10'3", #6
- Doug Rider, 12', #10
- Nick Tristani, 6', #14
- Matt Mount, 5'1", #16

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Caption: Host Brian Chapin is all smiles as he holes out on #18.

OUR HOST: Brian Chapin

COMMENTARY: COVID Could NOT Kill It

-In a first for the PAGCS: tee times over a shotgun, a format dictated by the pandemic.

An impressive field of 22 groups [85 total players] took turns teeing off of holes 1 and 10 on one of the region's most challenging courses. And COVID almost did kill it.

In a flurry of efforts and phone calls, the team at RGGC and the PAGCS leadership team overcame the shutdown of the facility's kitchen and F&B, due to COVID-19 exposure, just hours before the first tee time.

Substituting breakfast sandwiches from a local shop and WAWA for pre golf noshing was one thing. The ultimate was the resourceful reach out to a RGGC member who owns the Nifty Fifties restaurant chain to provide dinner: every attendee was offered a menu to order ahead their own post golf meal, from bacon cheeseburgers to salads, and more. What an amazing day and way to pivot: Thank you, 2020.

Continued on next page



>>EVENTS

Continued from previous page



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GCSAA ADVOCACY FOR FIRST GREEN TARGETS SCIENCE TEACHERS

First Green, in partnership with GCSAA, has begun advertising with the National Science Teachers Association in their STEM Classroom e-publication. The focus in 2021 is to build back the ground game. One of the big efforts is to increase awareness with teachers, school districts and administrators—here are some of the ads that are being used for the effort.

First Green

FUN HANDS-ON OUTDOOR EDUCATION

First Green is an innovative environmental education outreach program using golf courses as hands-on environmental learning labs. First Green coordinates outdoor STEM field trips at golf courses that allow students to perform hands-on experiments and tests.

First Green has been around since 1997 and is now a part of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and its 501(c)(3) Foundation, the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIG).

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Golf.
Nature's
STEM Classroom

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THE FIRST TEE BRINGS NEW LIFE AND ENERGY TO JOHN F. BYRNE GOLF COURSE IN NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA

by Joe Juliano, Posted: October 16, 2020 [Philadelphia Inquirer]

The John F. Byrne Golf Course in Northeast Philadelphia, a facility that had deteriorated so badly that the city planned to shut it down almost a year ago, has found new life and new energy thanks to The First Tee of Greater Philadelphia and its young participants.

The First Tee assumed operation of the property on Nov. 1, 2019, offering a place to play for residents of the community as well as the youths who are provided educational opportunities and taught values through golf by coaches in the program.

Only 15 of the nation's 150 First Tee chapters operate golf courses, and the Philadelphia chapter operates two, having taken over management of the formerly city-owned Walnut Lane Golf Course in 2016.

Click here to read more: <https://www.inquirer.com/sports/john-byrne-golf-course-philadelphia-first-tee-20201016.html>. ♦



On left, the fifth hole sand trap before restoration. On right, the same trap after restoration.

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