



CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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GPS & GIS - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

With all the chatter about technology and how it all changes the way we manage our golf courses, the one that has the potential to change the way we do our jobs as much as any other is GIS and GPS.

Acronyms for Geographic Information Survey and Global Positioning System, these two computer based technologies will be a part of golf course management in the future. The Global Positioning System helped the United States win the war in the Persian Gulf in 1991 and soon this advanced technology will help you find the fastest way home. The U.S. Department of Defense developed GPS in the 1970's so those military units can always know their exact location and the location of other units. During Operation Desert Storm, military vehicles relied on the system to navigate across the barren desert at night. By using GPS, along with maps of the desert, the vehicles could rapidly cross the desert, allowing surprise attacks. The system is comprised of satellites and portable units, which receive and analyze the satellite data. This data tells the user exactly where they are on the earth's surface.

Military, as well as the public, are using the Global Positioning System. For national security reasons, the public's system is not as accurate as the military system.

Twenty-four satellites are orbiting above the earth at 20,200 km (12,500 miles), simultaneously broadcasting the time and their exact position. At any point on the earth, one can receive the data from at least four satellites. GPS units are portable and are either attached to laptop computers or self-contained. The portable unit receives the transmissions from the four satellites and determines the receiver's position on the earth's surface. GPS provides them user with latitude and longitude, as well as altitude and speed of travel (when the unit and user are moving).

GPS units can be placed in cars, boats, airplanes or anywhere else, including golf course management

equipment or personnel. In cars and delivery vehicles, GPS will be used in conjunction with a computer in the vehicle. The computer will contain maps and road information. When combined with the GPS unit, you will be able to know your precise location and the quickest route to your destination.

In the future, your car's computer will also receive information about traffic conditions and provide you with the least congested path. This system will be used in emergency vehicles and will allow emergency officials to dispatch the closest unit to the scene of an emergency.

Currently, the public is only allowed to use GPS receivers which are purposely made to be less than the military system. The public's system allows a user to determine his location to within 100 meters (about 300 feet). The U.S. military's GPS is much more accurate. Within four to ten years, the U.S. Department of Defense, which owns the satellites, will allow release of the more precise system to the public. This delay gives the military time to prepare for "enemies" to have the technology.

Mapmaking will become much easier with GPS, as anyone will be able to determine the exact longitude and latitude for specific locations and plot them on a very accurate map.

There are many users for GPS systems, and soon they will be as commonplace as cellular phones. In a news release, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena said, "Most people don't know what GPS is. Five years from now, Americans won't

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"GPS helped the United States win the war in the Persian Gulf in 1991....and soon will help you find your way home."

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- PTGA Wish List
- Just My Opinion
- How's Your BEQ?



President's Message.....

It's been over a month now since we had the greensmowers out and cutting. The sounds of leaf blowers and vacuums will soon be replaced with the scrapes of shovels, snow plows and the engines of snow blowers.

The Board of Directors and myself discussed the need to collect any and all PTGA information from the past, set up a "Historical Committee", if you will. We will be asking all PTGA members to donate any PTGA articles and records from the previous years so that we can centralize this data. We will then organize it and store it in our Executive Secretary's office for safekeeping. Anyone interested in helping us with this undertaking is urged to contact myself or anyone of our board members.

This is the time of year where I usually dedicate a large part of each day to catching up on my trade journals and cutting out articles that seem interesting for future reference. I don't know how many times I've found articles from past magazines and trade journals that would have helped me "during" the season. It's just a matter of setting aside the time for it. We all should be sure to take time for certain things - not only reading current issues, but more importantly, time for our family and for ourselves.

Another nice thing about this time of the year is the opportunity to recharge ourselves and prepare for the upcoming season. The budget work is completed, the course is clean and ready for its long winter nap, the staff is small and the equipment is getting prepped for another hard year.

Don't forget to pick up the phone or stop by your neighboring course to see what's new and exciting. I am looking forward to another great year with the PTGA!

I wish you all a very Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Ronald Garrison, CGCS

From the Editor's Desk.....

It is with mixed emotions that I turn over the reins of newsletter responsibilities to Jim and Tony. Fear not, you have my continued support, and I know this publication is on to bigger and better things. This may be hard to believe, but at times I actually enjoyed it. Next to the Secretary/Treasurer's position in any organization, it is the least wanted job. Nonetheless, it is one of the most important, and it was with that approach that I accepted the responsibilities. It was a lot of hard work and effort, but I can honestly say that it was quite the learning experience, and at times quite enjoyable. Over the past three years I sincerely believe we have accomplished what the editorial committee set out to do. We have continually increased the number of issues annually; we have made editorial improvements, as well as aesthetic improvements. Most importantly, we provided the membership with pertinent information on a timely basis. At the same time, through the generous support of our advertisers, we accomplished much without any financial burden to our general membership. When I begin to think about all the people to whom I owe a debt of gratitude, I need not look much beyond those that supported this publication through advertisements. If not for them, *Chips & Putts* in its current form would not have been possible. To my Editorial committees over the past three years, thanks so much. It was with your support and guidance that we endured, persevered and accomplished all that we did. Finally, last but not least, thanks go out to my wife and family. There was more than one occasion that I heard "that confounded newsletter is more important than your own family". Although it may have seemed that way, I assure you it could not be farther from the truth. From the bottom of my heart, I appreciate your love and support.

Scott A. Schukraft, Editor



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(Continued from page 1)

know how we lived without it." With a statement like that, I know it will somehow impact the way we manage our golf courses.

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1997 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 6-8 - Eastern PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, Contact Michael Smith at 610-828-0253 or P.T.C. at 814-863-3475 or fax 814-863-3479.

JANUARY 29 - Northeastern PA Turf-grass & Grounds Maintenance School, Mountain Laurel Resort, Contact Andrew McNitt, Dept. of Agronomy, PSU, 814-863-1368 or P.T.C. at 814-863-3475 or fax 814-863-3479.

FEBRUARY 24-26 - Western PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, Pittsburgh Expo Mart/Radisson Hotel, Contact P.T.C. at 814-863-3475 or fax 814-863-3479.

GCSAA ONE DAY SEMINAR

"Enhancing Your Image as a Golf Course Superintendent" will be presented by GCSAA and the PTGA on March 17, 1998 in the Lake Harmony area.

The seminar will be taught by Tommy Witt, CGCS, and currently a GCSAA Board Member. This has been one of GCSAA's most beneficial and popular seminars. Please plan to attend!

FROM GCSAA....

Following is a letter from Carrie N. Riordan, GCSAA, dated November 19, 1997:

Mr. Scott Schukraft
Pocono TGA

Dear Scott:

We are pleased to inform you that on November 18, 1997, President Clinton signed an FY98 appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) which includes \$55,320 in funding for the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP). Final passage of the bill was delayed while a conference committee resolved controversial provisions of the larger agriculture appropriations bill.

Letters, phone calls and e-mails to Congress from member superintendents and other GCSAA allies directly influenced the appropriations committees to restore funding for NTEP to the spending bills. This campaign could not have been successful without the participation of you and your colleagues.

GCSAA and NTEP are now working together on a strategy to ensure that federal funding for the program will remain a priority and be included in the USDA budget proposal in the future.

NTEP provides valuable information to golf course superintendents and we thank you for taking the time to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

Carrie N. Riordan
Legislative Analyst

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*The Board of Directors would like to wish
the Members and their Families a Very
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*



**GCSAA's 69th International Golf Course
Conference and Show**

February 2-8, 1998

Anaheim Convention Center

Trade Show: February 6-8





The Pocono Turfgrass Association *Patterson Scholarship* is awarded annually to second year two year students and fourth year four year students. One applicant is chosen as the recipient of the scholarship and given honorary membership to The Pocono Turfgrass Association for that calendar year.

Requirements for consideration are:

- ◆ Applicant must be a second year student in a two-year program, or a fourth year student in an undergraduate program in a turfgrass related major.
- ◆ Applicant must submit in writing why he or she feels that he/she should be considered for the scholarship.
- ◆ Applicant must include what he or she feels his/her contribution to the turfgrass field will be.
- ◆ Applicant must submit a letter of endorsement from his/her employer in the turfgrass field. This endorsement may come from an employer from an internship program.
- ◆ Applicant's request for consideration and his or her employer endorsement must be submitted TOGETHER on or before December 31, 1997.
- ◆ Applicants requesting consideration for the Patterson Scholarship should send requests to:

The Pocono Turfgrass Association
c/o Melinda Wisnosky
147 Hayfield Road
Shavertown, PA 18708

PTGA Wish List

'Tis the Season for a little fun and frolic, and the PTGA is no different! The Editorial Staff of *Chips & Putts* conducted a small survey and came up with this Christmas Wish List:

From Scott Schukraft to Hal Parr, CGCS - - a career season in Kentucky.

From Tony Grieco, CGCS, to Ron Garrison and Kelly Kressler - - a 6'4", 300 pound 25 year old that is still eligible for high school football.

From Jeff Peters, CGCS, to all superintendents whose membership insists on winter play - - the silence expected until June 10.

From the Mayor of White Haven to Jonathan Switch - - a lawn care service for his residence.

From Ron Garrison, CGCS, to Kelly Kressler - - many safe rides home from Cook College.

From Jonathan Switch to Mark Sobeck and Rich Crossin of Four Seasons Golf Course - - Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year!

From Melinda Wisnosky to the Board of Directors - - a timer for those board meetings.

From John Chassard to Turf Net Tony - - a cure for his carpal tunnel syndrome.

From Hal Parr to the Pocono Members who have played in the Met Tournament - - the Pocono fields a team.

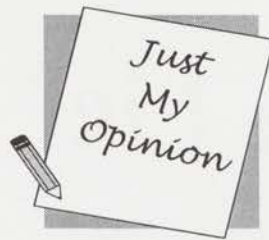
From Tom Wilchak to Gene Huelster - - Go Dolphins!

From the Hideout Boys (Jack & Jody) to the Woodloch Boys (Mark & Jeff) - - an improved golf game to stimulate a more competitive golf rivalry.

From Gene Huelster to the Membership - - Have a Healthy & Happy 1998.

Merry Christmas!





To say I was taken aback with the phone conversation I was a part of would be the understatement of the year. At first I didn't quite believe what I was hearing, but then I wholeheartedly agreed with what was being said.

The phone conversation was about professionalism, particularly that of the Pocono Turfgrass Association. Are we a professional organization, or just a group of "good ol' boys" who like to get together once a month during the season to play a little golf and enjoy a boy's night out. I would like to think we are the former, not the latter. In fact, why have an Association and all that goes with it, if we are just looking for a little fun once a month. We can certainly do that without all the aggravation and expense that can go along with running an Association.

As a professional organization, dedicated to improving ourselves, our careers and our lives, there is much to be gained. Wouldn't it be great to have the respect of our membership, to be compensated with above average packages, and be considered more than just the guy that cuts the grass. As we all know, our responsibilities go far beyond just cutting the grass. Are we doing our part as a professional organization to get

that point across to the people who have the greatest impact on us? How we are perceived is how we will be treated. Why not have an Association that promotes our image in a positive light. There is much that goes into professionalism, but what it really comes down to is the perceptions that people have of us - - the way we conduct ourselves in different situations, our mannerisms, our ethical conduct, our associations and the way we perform our jobs. I, for one, would like to be part of a "professional association", as are a number of other individuals, judging by the aforementioned telephone conversation. I have been fortunate to enjoy many of the benefits that go along with being a part of well run, well organized golf courses and Superintendents' organizations which there is much to be gained. Although we have stumbled along the way, I honestly believe there is not an affiliated GCSAA chapter in the country that has come as far as the Pocono Turfgrass Association in the last three years. Being a part of this association at the board level has proven to me that we are headed in the right direction. Stick by us, and you will be duly rewarded. Continue to voice your criticisms, for it is the silence that is most damaging. The phone conversation made me swallow hard at first, but I knew the truth had been spoken. Professionalism is truly the key to our success.

Scott A. Schukraft

HOW'S YOUR BEQ?

Proper business etiquette is key to getting ahead. According to *Secrets of Executive Success*, etiquette books are outselling cookbooks. Test your Business Etiquette Quotient (BEQ). Answer *Yes*, *Sometimes* or *No* to the following questions:

1. When I am invited to a business function, I always RSVP within the week.
2. I always return a phone call the same day I receive a message.
3. I never use curse words at home.
4. I always write thank-you notes for meals and gifts.
5. My table manners are superb.
6. I see myself as a part of a team, rather than seeking praise for my individual efforts.
7. I answer important letters immediately and take care of the rest of the mail within the week.
8. Before dealing with someone from another culture, I find out the proper etiquette unique to that culture.
9. I give verbal or written credit where credit is due.
10. I send holiday cards to my most valued business relationships.

Give yourself a 3 for each *Yes*, 2 for each *Sometimes* and 1 for each *No* answer.

BEQ Scoring: 25-30, Excellent; 25-27, Good; 20-24 Fair. If you scored 10-19, your BEQ is poor.

Source: Margaret Fitch-Hauser, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

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A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA

1998 TENTATIVE MEETING SITES

March 1998 - Schuylkill Country Club
Host: Nathaniel W. Binns

April 1998 - Silver Creek Country Club
Host: Tony Grieco, CGCS

May 1998 - Berwick Country Club
Host: Jason Barndt

June 1998 - C. C. at Woodloch Springs
Host: Mark Eisele

July 1998 - Shawnee Inn and C. C.
Host: Steven Taggart

August 1998 - Blue Ridge Country Club
Host: Paul E. Weiss, Jr.

September 1998 - Delaware Water Gap
Host: Charles LaBar

October 1998 - Fox Hill Country Club
Host: Ron Garrison, CGCS



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POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO
TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

A special thanks to Fran Berdine and the Scotts Company for a donation of \$217.50 to our Scholarship and Research Fund. The donation comes from a small sales promotion sponsored by Scotts during the Spring/Summer of 1997.

Gene Huelster, Chairperson for the Social/Welfare Committee needs your help. If you know of someone who has been sick or has had a death in the family, please let him know. Gene can be reached at 717-894-8055. Or you can let a salesperson know and he will contact Gene.

Seems that a simple, yet quite effective solution to controlling moss on putting greens is Dawn Dishwashing Detergent. Several area courses have reported excellent moss eradication with this material at 4 ozs. Dawn/gallon with little or no discoloration to the turf. Higher fertility and raising the height of cut are also recommended to keep the area free from re-infestation.

O.K., Jeff, you one upped me good this time. After thoroughly riding you about the Berwick Football Program, the following appears in the local paper:

"LIFE GOES ON": The team enjoyed its traditional post-game meal at a Hoss's restaurant and returned to the Berwick area around 3:10 A.M. Saturday.

Despite the hour, junior guard Jeff Peters had to prepare for his second big test in less than a day - - the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

"Education before sports," he said. "I got three hours sleep, and I was there at 8:00 A.M. (Saturday) morning."

I was very impressed, as most people should be. O.K. - - no more "Classless Berwick" remarks. My congratulations to you, Jeff, and all those associated with the Berwick Football Program.

Editor



POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION
147 HAYFIELD ROAD
SHAVERTOWN, PA 18708-9748

POSTAGE

NAME & ADDRESS

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED.