

CHIPS & PUTTS

Founded in 1936 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

VOL. 4, NO. 6

AUGUST 1998

Prepare Your Research Proposals

Research - It's the time of year to start thinking about submitting research proposals for the National, Chapter Cooperative and The Chapter Grant-in-Aid Research programs. The research department will accept proposals August 1 - November 1, 1998.

Each program serves a specific purpose. The National Research Program is designed to fund projects with broad, national scope or projects with results that can be applied to a broad geographical area. National projects may be co-funded with other agencies such as the USGA, the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program or other organizations. Support through this program is limited to \$10,000 per year for up to five years per project.

The proposals must be accompanied by a letter of support from the president of a GCSAA-affiliated chapter that attests to the need and relevancy of the research to the golf course industry. All qualifying proposals will be considered by the research committee early in 1999. The committee will recommend which projects to fund, and The GCSAA Foundation Board of Trustees will act on the recommendations at its meeting in Orlando in February.

The specific requirements and guidelines for the proposals can be found on the GCSAA Website or you can obtain a copy of the guidelines by calling the service center. If you would like to obtain a sample of a proposal or have questions about the guidelines, contact Anne Woods, research coordinator, at 800-472-7878, Ext. 615, or email to awoods@gcsaa.org.

The place to be when lightning strikes

No place is absolutely safe from the lightning threat; however, some places are safer than others. Large enclosed structures (substantially constructed buildings) tend to be much safer than

smaller or open structures. In general, fully enclosed metal vehicles such as cars, trucks, buses, vans, fully enclosed farm vehicles, etc., with the windows rolled up provide good shelter from lightning.

Avoid being in or near ...

High places and open fields, isolated trees, unprotected gazebos, rain or picnic shelters, baseball dugouts, communications towers, flagpoles, light poles, bleachers (metal or wood) metal fences, convertibles, golf carts and water (lakes, swimming pools, rivers, etc.)

When inside a building avoid

Use of the telephone, taking a shower, washing your hands, doing dishes or any contact with conductive surfaces exposed to the outside, such as metal door or window frames and wiring (electrical, telephone, cable television, plumbing, etc.).

Abbott jumps into market with organic nematicide

By M. Levans

NORTH CHICAGO, ILL. - Abbott Laboratories' Chemical and Agricultural Products Division has officially entered the golf course market with the recent release of its new biological nematicide, DiTera WDG.

According to Abbott - a manufacturer and marketer of nutritional, pharmaceutical, diagnostic, hospital and agricultural products that did more than \$11 billion in sales in 1997 - DiTera has been produced from a naturally occurring microorganism *Continued on Page 4*

In this issue Seminars, Research. Nominations., It's all Here!

Field Days Recap



President's Message......

It seems like yesterday that we were getting our irrigation system charged up for the season. Today we completed our eighth consecutive day with the irrigation running. We all knew it was going to be a strange year with all that El Nino hype this past winter!

I must extend a "Thank you" to a few people for their work the past few months: Mark Eisele and staff for hosting the June meeting at Woodloch; Dr. John Grande for his talk at Woodloch; Steven Taggart and staff for hosting the July meeting at Shawnee; and Gene Huelster, Chairman, Education Committee, for getting the round table discussion started. I know we didn't get the response we were hoping for, but new things take some time to get established. A special thanks to Nat Binns, Schuylkill C.C. for donating \$50.00 to the Association. Thanks, guys!

Why does it seem much easier to be negative and critical, than it is to stay positive and compliment a job well done. I may be venturing into an area best suited for our editor, but here goes...

It's been a strange year.

Our monthly editorials have created a lot of discussion and criticism. Last month I did not write a President's Message because I think I reached a point of disgust that I initially set forth not to do. How soon people forget how far we all have come. Not only in this association, but in our everyday lives and daily routines.

The article that was written in the area where the President's Message is usually printed was put there to possibly stir some interest and get people involved. The

(Continued on page 3)

From the Editor's Desk.....

Recently the Nation mourned the loss of one of its great astronauts, Alan Shepherd. Why mention this in our newsletter? Because many forget the contribution he made to our livelihood: golf. Alan Shepherd, you may remember, is the astronaut who hit a golf ball on the moon. Although this feat is often excluded from the annals of golf's rise in popularity, it did come at a very opportune time in the sport's history.

I often use this space to gripe about something in our industry or life in general, but I would like to mention something positive this time. Last month Valley Country Club was hit by a small, but very damaging storm (see Eric Reed's letter in this issue) and earlier Fran Davitt lost his maintenance building in a fire. One of the great things about our profession is the way in which people work together and help each other. It's easy in this day and age to make excuses and look the other way. I know I did. I told myself those clubs are too far away; I've got enough problems of my own this time of year, and so on. I'm sure many of you came to the same conclusion, but that's o.k., because I know if any one of my neighboring courses was in trouble, I would be there to help. That is the kind of people superintendents are (you guys in sales are included!). I can't think of any other business or aspect of our industry that supports each other the way we do, and it makes me proud. Can you imagine the chef borrowing food from another club if he ran short before a major function? Even the pro comes to me when he is short of carts for an event because his calls to other pros go unanswered. So next time you're depressed and wondering why you ever got in the business, just think of all those individuals that are not golf course superintendents. Don't forget, that wasn't a bat and baseball they took to the moon!



Tony Grieco, CGCS



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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Doug Bowman John Chassard Scott Schukraft Jonathan Suitch

Managing Editor, Melinda Wisnosky

1998 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, October 19, 1998

22nd Annual Joseph Valentine Memorial Golf Tournament. The Philadelphia Cricket Club, 415 W. Willow Grove Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118. Contact: John Chassard, Lehigh C.C., 2319 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18103, 610-967-4643 or P.T.C., P.O. Box 1078, Lemont, PA 16851-1078, 814-863-3475 or fax 814-863-3479.

Tuesday-Thursday, November 3-5, 1998

Penn State Golf Turf Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA 16801. Contact: Peter Landschoot, Dept. of Agronomy, 116 ASI Building, University Park, PA 16802, 814-863-1017 or P.T.C., P.O. Box 1078, Lemont, PA 16851-1078, 814-863-3475 or fax 814-863-3479.

Tuesday-Thursday, January 5-7, 1999

Eastern PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, 1200 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA. Contact: Scott Guiser, Bucks Co. Coop. Ext., Neshaminy Manor Center, Doylestown, PA. 18901, 215-345-2383 or P.T.C., P.O. Box 1078, Lemont, PA 16851-1078, 814-863-3475 or fax 814-863-3479.

(Continued from page 2)

current Board of Directors has tried in many ways over the past few years to get people involved, and a lot has improved. Two years ago we had committee chairmen, but no committees. It is the committee chairman's responsibility to ask interested people to join him in working on his committee.

The latest and most frequent heard complaint is the cost of our monthly meetings, especially since we are getting donations to offset the cost of lunch. The only thing I can say in regards to some of these questions is that we are guests at the host's club. We are getting quite a discount by not having to pay for the greens fee. The host club is losing the daily revenue by blocking certain tee Granted, some clubs try to times. schedule around these days. The donation or lunch sponsorships do not cover the costs for lunch - only a percentage.

Our monthly meetings are to bring us together as a group, to learn from each other through discussion, to listen to a guest speaker, to **see** another golf course and its techniques, (Notice I said "see" another course, not "play", because I usually see more than I play. I'm all over the place!), and to have a bite to eat. We should enjoy the company of other Superintendents, whether it be one superintendent or three in your foursome. I am sure they are experiencing many of the same problems we are, or at the very least, have experienced them before. The only thing we ask is that the PTGA does not lose too much money on the monthly meetings.

Each one of the members of the PTGA Board of Directors puts many hours into each month, improving our association, month by month, and year by year. By no means are we faultless, but we try to listen to any and all comments. As I've said before, and Tony Grieco has echoed it in the past: GET INVOLVED! Be seen and heard.

thing. One last A fellow superintendent asked if he should run for the Board at the upcoming elections in October. Each one of us who would like to be a member of the PTGA Board should get to the meetings first, and sit on a committee before they run for the Board. Once you do decide to run for a seat, please be committed for at least three years. If you would like to be the President or an officer, realize that it is a six- to eight-year commitment.

We do have a good association! We can all learn a lot from each other.

I'm looking forward to another great clambake at Blue Ridge! Uncle Paul and his staff will have the course in great shape, as always.

Ronald C. Garrison, CGCS



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BUNKER SAND



Continued from Page 1

(*Myrothecium spp.*) isolated from a cyst nematode.

"The non-toxic profile of DiTera is its key differentiating factor," said Joe Maliekal, product manager of bionematicides at Abbott. "DiTera is a biological. It's naturally occurring, so it controls nematodes without all the restrictions of traditional chemicals. Studies have shown that it doesn't have any adverse effects on mammals, environment or other beneficial nematodes."

Aside from killing adult and juvenile nematodes in the soil, the company said that depending on the concentration, DiTera can also inhibit hatching and development of nematode eggs, modify the behavioral orientation of nematodes to plant roots and alter the plant's rhizosphere microbiology.

"There are no restrictions on the amount that can be applied or the number of applications per year, unlike the chemical nematicides," said Malickal.

For superintendents, Malickal said that DiTera can be worked into an existing IPM program with little problem. "The only recommendation we have is that superintendents use DiTera as a standalone," he said. "Right now, we're not recommending that it be tank-mixed with other insecticides or fertilizers."

Abbott's research has found that DiTera is effective against root-knot, cyst, lesion, stubby root and sting.

Although this marks Abbott's first official move into the golf market, the company's DiPel product has seen some limited use on golf courses for the control of army worms.

Golf Course News

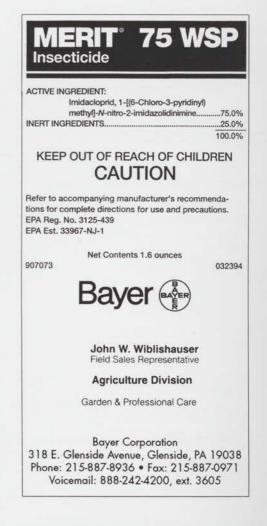
Reminder!

Change your Address? Please call or write to Melinda and let her know. Otherwise, your mail will be delayed or may not reach you at all. She can be reached at 717-675-3800, or write to her at 147 Hayfield Road, Shavertown, PA 18708.

Thank you!

We would like to thank Nat Binns, superintendent at Schuylkill Golf Course, for his \$50.00 donation to the Pocono Turfgrass Association. Nat recently provided valuable input to Market Works, a strategies and research company, for a marketing project on which they were working. He requested that his honorarium from this project be donated to our association on his behalf.

Thanks again, Nat!



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EDUCATION UPDATE

Just a little reminder for September at Windgap Country Club.... Dr. Bruce Clark will be our guest speaker. While many of us are still dealing with this year's numerous obstacles, the Education Committee is looking to start next year's education calendar. Anyone with ideas for speakers or topics, please contact me at Pocono Farms C.C. or e-mail me at turfman@ezaccess.net. The schedule for GCSAA educational seminars has been published through May 1999. We have listed for you the seminars in this region. For a complete listing, you can contact the GCSAA or visit their website.

GCSAA Regional Seminars:

- 10/20/98 Strategies for Managing the Turfgrass System (Neptune, NJ)
- 11/10/98 Wildlife Management and Habitat Conseervation (Syracuse, NY)
- 11/11/98 The Microbiology of Turfgrass Soils (Garden City, NY)
- 12/07/98 Using Annuals and Perennials in the Golfscape (Atlantic City, NJ)
- 01/07/99 Preventative Maintenance of Turf Equipment (White Haven, PA)
- 01/08/99 Maximizing Teamwork (White Haven, PA)
- 01/12/99 Golf Greens: History, Theory, Construction and Maintenance (Pittsburgh, PA)
- 01/18/99 Managerial Productivity (Poughkeepsie, NY)
- 02/23/99 Maximizing Turfgrass Disease Control (Albany, NY)
- 03/09/99 Strategies for Managing the Turfgrass System (Valley Forge, PA)



1999 ESA Call For Entries

In 1998 33 GCSAA members were recognized with Environmental Steward Awards (ESAs). In 1999, such recognition could go to you.

For the seventh year, ESAs will be presented to GCSAA members around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship efforts on the golf course. The awards are sponsored by Novartis Turf & Ornamental Products, Rain Bird, Textron Turf Care And Specialty Products with Cushman, Jacobsen, Ransomes and Ryan brands, and Pursell Technologies Inc.

New in 1999 is the feature of a standardized application form, evaluation in six specific categories, the prohibition of supporting documentation (photos, videos, etc.), awards made by affiliated chapter instead of region and the ineligibility of previous national winners. These changes were made to ensure equality in the application/judging process and are further explained in the application.

Applications are available in the August issue of Golf Course Management, on the GCSAA Website (www.gcsaa.org) for printing out or submitting electronically and from affiliated chapter presidents and each of the participating sponsors. Entries will be due to GCSAA on or before October 30, and winners will be notified in late December.

Since 1993 participating sponsors of the ESAs have donated more than \$100,000 to The GCSAA Foundation, and more than 180 golf course superintendents have been recognized with ESAs.



Scotts Seeks Exemplary Superintendent

The Scotts Company is seeking the country's "best" golf course superintendent to award him or her with the 1999 Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award. Scotts gives this award annually to recognize outstanding achievement based on several criteria: teaching and mentoring, leadership, environmental responsibility, research and innovation, and professional involvement. Nomination forms are available from Scotts Technical Representatives or the GCSAA. Anyone involved in the golf industry may nominate an active or retired golf course superintendent. Nomination forms must be postmarked by January 2, 1999.



LETTER FROM ERIC REED:

The golf course at Valley Country Club was recently devastated by a microburst that came through the Conyngham area. Approximately one hundred and twenty to one hundred and fifty trees were damaged or downed in the storm. While it seemed like a trivial matter to try and host a member-guest tournament three days later, the decision was made to try and get the course playable, and proceed with the tournament.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank those members of this association who stepped forward and offered their assistance in the effort. Crews and equipment from Berwick, Fox Hill, Pocono Farms, Sand Springs, and Huntsville Golf Club were sent out to help with the cleanup. Special thanks to Jim MacLaren for getting the word out, and even spending a day manning a chainsaw.

The tournament went off with only a canceled practice round and a three-hour delayed starting time. The membership was completely taken aback at the generosity of the neighboring clubs and their staffs. A number of guests from Tennessee commented on how one would never see their local clubs band together in a situation such as this. Our club professional talked about how the handling of the storm cleanup was such a positive reflection on our profession and its associations.

Although I have only had a short time to experience the Pocono Turfgrass Association and its members, I am honored to be part of this professional association. Once again, thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely

UNOVARTIS

Eric Reed, Valley C.C.

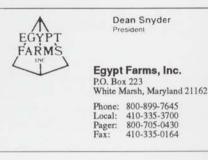
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A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA

1998 PTGA MEETING SITES

August 24, 1998 - Blue Ridge Country Club Host: Paul E. Weiss, Jr.

September 8, 1998 - Foxchase Golf Course (Joint Meeting with Central and Philadelphia) September 28, 1998 - Delaware Water Gap Host: Charles LaBar

October 12, 1998 - Fox Hill Country Club Host: Ron Garrison, CGCS

October 19, 1998 - Philadelphia Cricket Club 22nd Annual Valentine Memorial Golf Tournament Call John Chassard for details at 610-967-4643





If You're considering fertigation at your club,

make sure to put us on your short list!



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MEETING NOTES.....SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE

Last month's meeting at Shawnee Inn and Country Club was a day filled with great golf, great food, and great weather. It was also great because someone besides Tony Grieco and Kelly Kressler won! Here are the results:

1st Place - 57.5:	2nd Place - 58 (match card):	3rd Place - 50:
Rich Gdovin	Greg Phillips	John Chassard
Chips Woody	Jim Phillips	Tony Grieco
Don Liprando	Walt Whitney	Ron Garrison
Craig Lambert	Mark Keiper	Kelly Kressler
4th Place - 58.8:	Closest to the pin on #4 - Chips Woody, 24'2"	
Steve Chirip	Closest to the pin on #7 - Chips Woody, 2'11"	
Shaun Barry	Closest to the pin on #8 - Greg Phillips, 6'6"	
Tom Weinert		
Kevin Hattony	Congratulations to all the winners!	

A big thank you goes out to Steve Taggart and his staff for the great course conditions. Keep up the good work guys! Thank you to the clubhouse staff for the good food and hospitality. We would also like to thank Stull Equipment for providing lunch.

Next month's meeting is the Clambake at Blue Ridge Country Club. Our host Superintendent is Paul Weiss Jr. Paul has been in the turf industry for over 45 years, spending the last 10 at Blue Ridge. Originally from Emmaus, PA, Paul worked at Lehigh Country Club for his father, who was the superintendent there for 43 years. He landed his first superintendent's job at Sparrows Point Country Club in Maryland in 1953. When asked what the highlight of his career is he jokingly says, "It hasn't happened yet." Paul is married to his wife Jean and has five children and five grandchildren.

The original 9 holes at Blue Ridge were built in 1917 by the New Jersey Zinc Company. The new 9, an in house project, opened in 1990. They are also going through major renovations with wetland restoration. Hope to see everyone there!



POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

News & Notes from PSU Field Days

Bugs: If you are after surface feeders, use the Tempo's - Talstar's - Delta Guards' (New Delta Guard looked excellent!). If you are after Sub Feeders (Grubs) use the Merit's - Mach II's.

Disease: Dollar Spot Trials were inconclusive- No pressure THEN. Some new, unnamed products looked promising!! Pythium trials -NOTHING looked good after 8 days. The pressure (heat & humidity) in the chamber was INTENSE!

Moss Control: Dawn wasn't doing well in the PSU plots; maybe different strains. Fe2S04 looked good at .36#/M. Look for a PSU product in the future. SECRET!

MISC.: Hydraulic oil spill product looked VERY impressive. Watch when combing PCNB and Prograss on greens. Might cook them during winter. George Hamilton is working on a state-of-the-art Putting Machine - makes about 10 out of 10 putts.

Study to show that Stimpmeter don't get it!! Putting machine is not approved by USGA for PTGA events. Chassard thinks it's fixed.

Job Change:

Duane J. Schell who was listed as a new member in last month's newsletter is no longer with Doylestown C.C. He has taken a superintendent's position at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club. Best of Luck to you, Duane.



WELCOME!

The Pocono Turfgrass Association would like to welcome the following new members:

Samuel J. Baird, Jr., Class AF, Finch Turf Equipment, Inc. Douglas J. Bowman, Class C, Huntsville Golf Club Arthur Alan Schmidt, Class A, Indian Creek G. C. Artie Schmidt, Class A, Indian Creek G. C.



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

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