



CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Founded in
1936

VOL. 9, NO. 1

March 2003

A Top 100

GCSAA's annual trade show is listed 94th in Trade Show Weeks top 200 trade shows in the world. The publication ranks trade shows according to a combination of square footage, attendance and number of exhibitors. The most recent GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show drew more than 18,000 attendees in Atlanta.

Next year's event will be in San Diego, February 9th-14th, 2004.



RODGER ZELLNER, GCS GREEN POND COUNTRY CLUB

Green Pond Country Club, a public facility, with a regular membership of 50, is located in the Bethlehem/Easton area of PA. The course is the host of nearly 40,000 rounds of golf per year. Established in 1929, this Alex Finley design has tree-lined fairways, plays to a length of 6,595 yards, and par of 71. The tee and fairway turf-types consist of a perennial ryegrass / *Poa annua* mix with the putting surfaces being primarily *Poa annua*.

For nine days in September, the golf course plays host to a highly publicized, annual event, known as the Lehigh Valley Amateur Championship. This event attracts 350 players from all over the northeast region of the country and also attracts low-handicappers from southern states. Lee Kozsey of Syngenta, Geoff Brunner of Saucon Valley, and Chris Butler of the Woodstone Golf Club are three, well-known local players who also participate in this tournament.

The Golf Course Superintendent and recently promoted General Manager of Green Pond is Rodger Zellner. This dual position requires a considerable amount of time and management ability with emphasis on not only maintaining the golf course, but also in developing internal revenues from club functions such as restaurant and banquet sales.

Mr. Zellner, a Two-year Rutgers Golf Turf Management graduate (Class of 1993), has been employed at Green Pond since the fall of 1998 and is complemented by Assistant Superintendent Todd Krauss, who helps effectively manage twelve employees on the golf course during peak season. Rodger admittedly seeks satisfaction by 'teaching and training the young employees of this industry' and uses a work philosophy of 'operating the maintenance

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President's Message.....

In last month's message, I had stated that I hoped winter would end! For the time being it looks like it has. According to our calendars, spring begins this week. We all know that more cold weather will come along with more snowfall, but at least this time it should fade away a lot quicker.

Our first meeting of the year will be held at Green Pond Country Club. A big thanks to Rodger Zellner for setting this meeting up. I look forward to getting down there and enjoying the day.

Our raffle tickets have been sent out, and we hope that all of you will sell your tickets. These tickets will be our scholarship and research donations. As mentioned in the letter that was sent to all members with the raffle tickets, each one of you will be responsible for the tickets sent to you. Please return any unsold tickets to our Executive Secretary. Remember, if they are not returned, you will be invoiced. Thank you for your cooperation with this raffle.

This year's monthly meetings will be exciting in regards to our golf portion of the meeting. The Golf Committee and Board of Directors have put together some new golf formats which should increase membership communication and morale!

We all look forward to the new golf season. We hope that many of your needs as members of the Pocono Turfgrass Association will be fulfilled. Please feel free to pick up the phone and give me a call if you have any questions or comments.

See you all at the meetings!

Ron Garrison, CGCS

From the Editor's Desk.....

I offer up to you our State of the Association Report in this issue. The Board has worked hard to make the PTGA more organized, professional, and fiscally responsible. We have instituted what we hope will be many improvements, and we have already seen many areas that have become priorities for improvement next year. The result we are hoping for is the restoration of your confidence and the procurement of your approbation (word of the day).

Last month's stellar newsletter was put together by co-editor Jason Barndt, and it should have been his name at the bottom of the editor's message. Part Two of Dr. Clarke and Mr. Murphy's report on Anthracnose and Abiotic Stress will appear as our lead article in the April Issue of *Chips and Putts*.

Eric Reed



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THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT

The Pocono Turfgrass Association Board of Directors has been hard at work this off-season preparing for what we hope will be an enjoyable year with an increased level of professionalism and organization. This newsletter issue will be dedicated to reporting to you, the membership, about the state of the Association and the direction we intend to take during our tenures as members of the Board of Directors. Instead of beginning this report by discussing the 2003 budget, we will begin with the individual aspects of the Association, relating each one of them back to the budget throughout our discussion.

Membership

The 2002 Pocono Turfgrass Association was comprised of 138 active members, 3 inactive members, 14 retired members, and 10 honorary members. The dues revenue is arrived at from the following:

68 Class A and B Superintendents	@ \$75.00	\$5,100
22 Class C Assistant Superintendents	@ \$65.00	\$1,430
1 Class D Golf Course Employee	@ \$65.00	\$ 65
42 Class AF Affiliate Members	@ \$95.00	\$3,990
5 Class AS Associate Members	@ \$95.00	\$ 475
3 Inactive Members	@ \$35.00	\$ 105
Total:		\$11,165

With the exception of the \$1,500 earmarked for the research and scholarship fund, all membership dues are used to support member services. Melinda Wisnosky is employed as our Executive Secretary, and seventy percent of her salary is paid out of member services.

Other items from the budget that you may not be familiar with include GCSAA Affairs and Allied Superintendent Association of PA. GCSAA Affairs refers to the sending of a representative to the annual GCSAA Chapter Delegates meeting. There are 102 local chapters in the United States. The Allied Superintendent Association money goes toward the Pennsylvania Hospitality room at the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show. In addition to the support of our af-

filiate sponsors throughout the state, each chapter in Pennsylvania contributes toward that evening.

The Newsletter and Membership Directory

Our goal in producing the newsletter and membership directory is to fund this service entirely through the support of our advertisers. However, that will not be achievable this year. One of our biggest advertisers did not renew this year. As a result, we have approached some of the national vendors in an attempt to fill the void in our insert advertising. Response has been very good, and we are in the process of following up with those vendors. The \$8,675 anticipated in advertising revenue includes our ability to sell at least nine insert advertisements. Despite this, expenses are expected to exceed revenue by approximately \$600 for this year.

Due to our commitment to our advertisers, we will not make any changes to the newsletter or the directory for this year. One of the biggest priorities going into this fall will be to make the necessary revisions to get this category operating on a balanced budget. We will explore the possibility of utilizing the Internet with online members in an effort to reduce our postage and production costs. We will also be looking into other refinements to the production process.

Fundraising

We are interested in raising money for the research and scholarship fund because it is the right thing to do. An education in today's society is becoming a greater necessity every day. Right now, we can only hope to make a small difference in someone's life, but if we strive to continue developing this fund, someday that difference may be quite appreciable. The eventual goal is to establish a fund that will generate two scholarships annually based on the revenue that the principal fund generates. We would also like to see one of those scholarships be non-turf related.

The golf raffle ticket sale was brought back this year because it is an effective way to raise money for the research and scholarship fund. Eighteen courses have donated a round of golf for four at their courses. For \$5.00 a ticket buyer will have a one in fifty-six chance of winning a round of golf for himself and three

(continued on page 7)



Pocono Turfgrass Association 2003 Operating Budget

Membership Dues Revenue		\$11,165
Membership Services:		
Executive Secretary Wage	\$4,360	
Postage	700	
Telephone	425	
Office Supplies	400	
Board Meetings	500	
GCSAA Affairs	500	
Allied Supt Assoc of PA	1,000	
Welfare	200	
Publicity/ Membership cards	150	
Accountant Fees	350	
Bank Charges	80	
Insurance	1,000	
Allotment to Scholarship Fund	1,500	
Total Member Service Expenses		\$11,165
Newsletter/Directory Advertising Revenue		\$8,675
Executive Secretary Wage	\$1,870	
Postage (Newsletter)	1,200	
Newsletter Production	4,000	
Membership Directory	2,200	
Total Newsletter/Dir Expenses		\$9,270
Tournaments and Meetings Revenue		\$20,000
Greens/ Cart Fees	\$6,525	
Prizes	2,175	
Food	9,600	
Guest/ Host Fees	800	
Education (Speaker Expenses)	900	
Total Meeting Expenses		\$20,000
Fundraising Revenue:		
Allotment from Member Dues	\$1,500	
Golf Raffle Ticket Sales	5,000	
Clam Bake Tee Signs	3,000	
Total Fundraising Revenue		\$9,500
Fundraising Expenditures:		
Sign/ Ticket Production	\$ 500	
Scholarship Awards	1,000	
PTC Valentine Tournament	1,000	
Research/ Scholar Fund Deposit	7,000	
Total Fundraising Expenditures		\$9,500
Capital Purchases		
Executive Secretary Computer	\$1,000	
Current Checking Balance		\$10,128
Research/ Scholarship Fund Balance		\$13,161



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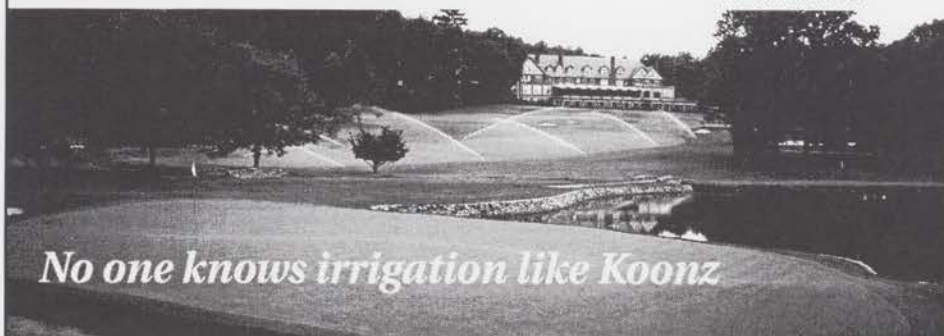
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A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA



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friends. With a little assistance from the pro shop, you should have no problem selling these tickets to the golfers at your course. If we can make this endeavor successful, we will be able to offer more courses and better odds of winning, which should make selling these tickets even easier. Please do your part and sell your tickets.

The research and scholarship fund lost \$5,172 in the market last year. The accountant has recommended that we leave it in place. However, the market is waver- ing in its signs of promise and we are looking into more conservative accounts as of late.

Tournaments and Meetings

The Board has put the greatest effort into planning this year's golf and educational meetings in an effort to restore member confidence. We hope to offer an educational forum at all meetings. We are also planning on running the meetings on a breakeven plan. The meeting notices will be revised in order to show you a breakdown of the meeting costs so you can see exactly what you are paying for.

The Board of Directors comprises this year's Golf Committee. We hope to have a good variety of formats as well as a good mix of lunch and dinner meetings. We will also be utilizing the blind draw as much as possible to entice more individuals to attend the meetings.

The Pocono Turfgrass Association will be sending a team to the Joseph Valentine Tournament in October. The September meeting will utilize a Stableford scoring format to determine who will represent the As-

sociation at the PTC event. All members of the Association in good standing will be eligible. As an added way of thanking those who support the Association by attending the monthly meetings, each member will receive three points for each meeting attended prior to the September meeting. If you attend all the meetings, you will have fifteen points before you tee off in September.

Finances

We have touched on just about the entire budget with the exception of two things. First, we will be buying Melinda a new computer as a capital acquisition. Second is the discussion of the current checking account balance. We will not be carrying this large of a balance in the future. With the changes we have made to the Association for this year, we will wait until the end of the year to make any changes to the checking account. If the support for the insert advertising comes through, we will probably still have a \$600 deficit with respect to producing the newsletter and directory. Without the insert sales, that deficit will be over \$2,000. In addition, the capital acquisition will be coming out of the checking account.

While we hope that the subtle changes we have made will have a positive effect on this Association, we also realize that next year will require further fine tuning to get the Pocono Turfgrass Association to where it should be.

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POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO
TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

In Sympathy



Our deepest condolences go out to the family of Frank I. Shuman who passed away on March 5, 2003. Frank had been a member with the PTGA for many years and was past President of the Philadelphia Turf Company. He was also a member of the GCSAA and the O.J. Noer Turf Grass Foundation. Contributions may be made in Frank's memory to the Greater Philadelphia Scholastic Golf Assoc., P. O. Box 17675, Philadelphia, PA 19135.

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end as a coach.' His previous work history includes an Assistant Superintendent position at the Panther Valley Country Club in New Jersey, from 1994 to 1998, with Patrick Campbell, CGCS. His career had begun at the Blue Ridge Country Club, under the supervision of legendary Golf Course Superintendent, Paul Weiss, in the spring of 1989.

Rodger, a Palmerton/Lehighton native, is married to wife, Michelle. His hobbies include all outdoor activities, playing golf, fishing, saltwater fishing, and the adventures of hunting. Hunting is, without a doubt, his greatest pastime activity.

Reminder

Just one more reminder about getting your dues in before April 1, 2003. Time is running out!



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