



CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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Tips for those 'Native' Areas:

Orange Blooming Echinacea

Researchers in Chicago have developed an Orange flowering Black-Eyed Susan. Chicagoland Grows, Inc. (a research division of the Chicago Botanical Gardens) will introduce the 'Orange Meadowbright' variety in Spring '04. The plant is at home in formal borders as well as naturalistic meadows and prairie gardens. It performs best in full sun and well drained soils and grows 24 to 36 inches high with a 24 inch spread. It has great drought and cold resistance. For more info check out: www.chicagolandgrows.org.



January S.N.O.W. Meeting

The Third Annual S.N.O.W. Meeting was another cold day at Elk Mountain Ski Resort. However, attendance was once again solid with over 20 skiers taking part. The mountain was in excellent shape with many groomed and ungroomed trails to challenge every level of skier. Beginners as well as experts (Steve Chirip?) had a great time. As the "Base Commander" at least I stayed warm!

Many of the skiers made frequent stops at the halfway house because of the cold. Blackberry brandy will always warm you up, as John Vojick will tell you. The kids seemed to tough out the temperatures much better than the adults. Nothing beats a day off from school. The catered lunch was excellent as usual, with hot entrees like baked chicken, ziti with meatballs, and scalloped potatoes to warm you up. The after meeting - meeting was held at Chet's Place. This is a well known, hard to find apré ski hideout. Children of all ages enjoyed the games, food, and ambiance.

The Superintendents Need Other Weather meeting was again fortunate not to have any bad accidents or injuries. Just the run of the mill face plants that all skiers enjoy. Chris Collins of Dry-Jet came into the halfway house a couple times with snow smashed into his hair. I'm sure many others had their falls, but nobody was bragging. John Hollick of Indian Hills C.C. was skiing with the professional ski instructors seminar going on at Elk, but managed to stop by to say hello.

The S.N.O.W. meeting was another success in large part because of our sponsors. So a spe-



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President's Message.....

Well, I've been moved into a new position on this page. I don't know if I would call it a promotion or not. All I know is that I have a larger spot to fill with those inspiring words that many of you probably hang on your refrigerators. I promise to not let this message reduce to a monthly rant. I am not here to challenge you and your manhood to be a better member of this association. Our association is in the midst of change. We are all facing greater expectations and demands in our jobs and also in our personal lives. We must continually re-prioritize our time and our commitments. Your Board of Directors has recognized this and has made a conscientious effort to make the Pocono Turfgrass Association an attractive and worthwhile membership for you to be part of. Every effort has been made to make education a part of your experience. We are striving to operate this association in an economically efficient manner, thus carrying the savings on to you. In addition, we are trying to make the meetings enjoyable for all who attend. The rest is up to you. If the PTGA can improve your performance at your own course through its networking capabilities, or its opportunity to observe other golf courses, or if you find redeeming value in getting away for a day, then we will all have a purpose to continue forward with this association.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank outgoing president Ron Garrison for offering his services to get our association back on track during the past year. There is a large amount of responsibility that goes into serving this association, and most of it is often overlooked by the casual observer. Ron has been our president three times now, and has offered a commitment to the rest of us that no one can rival.

Eric Reed

From the Editor's Desk.....

Preparing for the 2004 Golf Season has brought about some changes to the Pocono Turfgrass Association. I was pleased to be appointed the new editor for the newsletter. I will work hard to bring you timely information in addition to quality content. Together with the help of Matt Brown, John Vojick, and the Board, we plan on producing a first class publication. Please note, **we cannot do this without your help**. We appreciate any suggestions/article ideas to help improve your newsletter. Our contact information is in the directory. We are in the process of streamlining and improving the processes in which the newsletter is produced. How do you feel we can improve? Let us know before it is too late! As an anonymous philosopher once said, 'Plan now and succeed, plan later and fail.' Let's not wait.

Charlie Koennecker



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"DON'T BE SURPRISED"**Make time to inspect your turf even during cold weather***By Keith Happ, Senior Agronomist*

Plunging temperatures have driven home the fact that it is WINTER. Rapid temperature swings are common, and this can result in turf damage, particularly if susceptible areas are dominated by *Poa annua*. Mild temperatures, accompanied by excessive precipitation and a rapid temperature drop equate to a high potential for direct low temperature turf damage. Crown hydration damage occurs when the active growing point of the plant ruptures during periods of low temperature extremes. This is more likely to occur when soils are at or above saturation.

Proactive measures should be enacted to minimize potential problems and to prepare for the spring.

1. Scout the golf course, particularly areas exhibiting poor surface drainage.
2. Don't panic and overreact. Assess the situation and develop a game plan that will not promote worse problems later in the season.
3. Remove excess moisture when possible. Use roller base squeegees to remove standing water.
4. If snow is present and freeze - thaw cycles are occurring, ensure that the surface drainage patterns are free of obstruction.
5. If ice has formed, it is possible to encourage ice melt. Research from Penn State indicates that black topdressing sand (Early Green) can be applied to melt the ice cover and encourage quicker spring green-up without risking damage.

A significant amount of research has been conducted on winter damage problems. For additional information don't hesitate to call our offices.

Additionally, planning for the upcoming season should include proper documentation of all resources used to maintain healthy turf. Water use remains a hot topic. In Pennsylvania, for example, Act 220 requires individuals and operations that withdraw more than 10,000 gallons per day (averaged over any 30 day period) from their own source to register their water use with the PA Department of Environmental Protection. The information gained will help update the state water use plan. Check with your state's DEP and comply with requests to document resource usage. Be a leader and participate.

As always, if the Mid-Atlantic Region agronomists can be of any assistance, contact Stan Zontek (szontek@usga.org) or Darin Bevard (dbevard@usga.org) at (610)696-4747 or Keith Happ (khapp@usga.org) at (412)341-5922.

Editor's Note: This article was printed May 03 and has been shortened, but could help you plan for this year.

A Bitter End to a Bitter Winter*by Jim Skorulski, USGA Green Section Agronomist*

For golf course superintendents, many are now faced with bringing their greens-and in some cases even tees and portions of fairways-back from a condition most shudder to even think about: WINTER KILL. There are so many variables to winter freeze injury that it didn't seem to matter whether superintendents covered greens, removed ice and snow cover, or simply let nature take its course. In each scenario, there are cases of winter damage. The only thing you can be relatively sure of is that when there are severely fluctuating winter temperatures, turf is highly susceptible to damage, with annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and perennial ryegrass in shady or poorly drained areas most at risk. To help all those battling winter kill this year, here's a quick review on the common causes of winter damage and some practical turf management tips to undo the damage done.

What Went Wrong?

Assessing damaged greens to determine the cause of injury is difficult at best; though we do know there are three basic forms of freeze injury. They are:

1. Low Temperature Kill, which occurs when plants are exposed to extremely cold temperatures that freeze-and ultimately kill-cells near the base of the grass plant. This type of injury is most common during frigid winters with no snow.
2. Crown Hydration, which is thought to occur when plants that are hydrated become rapidly exposed to very cold temperatures. If this happens in the leaf tissue, the plant will grow out of it and recover. If it happens in the crown or growing point of the plant, the grass plant dies.
3. Anoxia or suffocation, which is generally caused by a prolonged and impermeable layer of ice directly over

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cial "Thank You" goes out to them: **DryJect LLC, Finch Services, Inc., Grass Roots, Inc., and Philadelphia Turf.** Also, a "Thank You" to the social committee members for their efforts, John Downer, Superintendent of Elkview C.C., John Vojick, Andre and Son, and Darrin Larkin, Superintendent of Panorama G.C.

The biggest thanks goes to all the PTGA members who came, whether alone or with the whole family. This is an excellent meeting to get to know your peers in a relaxed, non-golf oriented setting. Hope to see more of you next year!

Darrin Larkin



A Special Thanks to the guy who started it all.....

John Downer



CLOSEST TO THE PIN WINNER - AMANDA DOWNER

(AT NO TIME DURING THIS CONTEST WERE ANY PARTICIPANTS INJURED!)

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the turf. The plants, though dormant, are still carrying on the functions necessary to keep themselves alive—just at a greatly reduced rate. The foul odor that is sometimes present under an ice layer is an indication of an anaerobic condition and the potential for problems. Note, however, that impermeable ice covers often take the blame for winter kill, but it's not that easy. In most instances, the turf damage is probably a result of one of the forms of freeze injury.

The decision to remove ice has typically been based on the number of days of ice cover. Poa annua, for instance, has been known to survive 40 to 60 days under ice, and bentgrass up to 100. But researchers are finding that other factors come into play, such as the organic matter content of the soils, the depth of frost, and the type of ice present.

Second-Guessing Game

Freeze injury is directly related to weather events and, as we've seen this winter, can vary in effect from golf course to golf course, influenced by such things as course elevation, surface drainage, soil type, growing environments, and grass species. Even subtle variations in a course's microclimates, light intensity, or green orientation can influence turfgrass survival. Because of this, some superintendents have second-guessed their management practices. Two of the most frequently asked questions regarding winter turf management are:

"Would green covers have prevented the damage?" The answer is no.

Permeable covers alone, in most cases, will not offer adequate insulation to buffer against severe temp. fluctuations or prevent the hydration that leads to freeze injury.

"Should we have cleared the snow and ice off the greens more frequently?" Removing snow and ice sheets is a more complex—and risky—issue, since the success of this operation often depends on the weather conditions that immediately follow the removal work. Generally, snow is a valuable insulating material that will protect the turf from damaging temperatures and can absorb light rains.

Undoing the Damage Done

Discovering you're going into the season with significant winter damage is far from a pleasant experience. The best you can do is focus your energies and resources on the recovery effort. Some thoughts:

1. Think positive. Treat the situation as an opportunity to showcase your operation and management expertise.
2. Keep the lines of communication open throughout the recovery process. Formulate a realistic recovery plan.
3. Remain optimistic with the recovery dates, but don't make overly optimistic promises that you know you can't keep.

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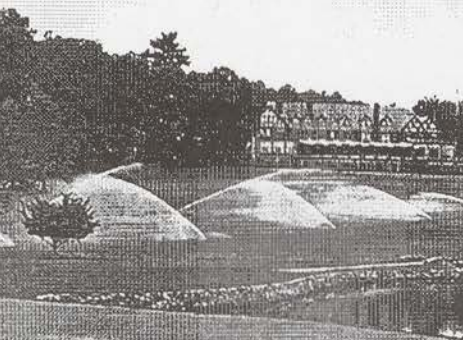
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A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA



Penn State Announcement

Dear Alum:

I hope this email finds you well. It continues to be snowy and cold here in Happy Valley, but spring break isn't far away!

We have had a lot of request for 2-yr program applications in the beginning of January, so we have extended the application deadline to March 1, 2004. If you know of someone who is considering applying for the 2-yr Golf Turf Management program, or if you have that "special" someone on your staff that can cut the Penn State mustard, please let them know that the application deadline for the incoming class for the fall of 2004 has been extended. This application deadline will probably be permanently moved to March 1.

If you need an application or any other information, you can check out: <http://www.agronomy.psu.edu/Academic/TurfgrassT.html> or contact Heather Treaster at 814.863.0129 or hgw1@psu.edu.

I wish you continued successes in 2004!

Best Regards, George

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4. Fight hard for temporary greens, where damage is extensive. This is one of the most important steps you can take in ensuring the success of your recovery program.
5. Begin cultivation and seeding efforts as soon as the soils permit. Be sure, also, to equip mowers with smooth rollers.
6. Consider re-sodding, if your damage is extensive. The sod will provide a bentgrass turf that will be less susceptible to winter injury in the future.
7. Maintain conservative management practices. Be sure to remain tame not only during the initial recovery, but also through midsummer or until the seedling plants have had an opportunity to mature.
8. Expect the turf damage and related recovery efforts to wear down staff, physically and mentally.

Walter M. Petrilak

(following is an excerpt from Walter's obituary)

Walter M. Petrilak passed away Sunday, February 1, 2004 at the Mercy Hospital in Scranton. He was eight days short of celebrating his 87th birthday on February 9. Walter left as he lived—peacefully and surrounded by his family. His passing culminated a battle with chronic respiratory disease. His widow is Corine Gardner Petrilak. They would be married 62 years this coming July. He was a graduate of Scott High School.

Walter was one of 14 siblings born in Greenfield Township where he was a lifelong resident. His parents were the late Michael and Irene Rusiniak Petrilak. His brother Andy and wife Peg own and operate Skyline Golf Course which was designed and constructed in 1960 by Walter and Andy. Wally and Corine retired from Skyline in 1987 and were thereafter associated with Sleepy Hollow Golf Course which is owned by their son Michael and Wife, Mary. Wally was also instrumental in the design and construction of Sleepy Hollow. Anyone who knows local golf is likely to be familiar with Wally.

Prior to building Skyline Golf Course, Wally was involved in dairy farming. He was a Greenfield Township tax collector and auditor, a member of the Pocono Turfgrass Association in which he held the offices of vice-president, secretary and treasurer and he had a successful local baseball career that led him to opportunities within the minor leagues. His enjoyment in life came from sharing in the passions and interests of his family. He took great pride in their accomplishments in business, academics, local stock car racing, music and sports. There are few who will not miss Wally.

Memorial Contributions can be made to the following: Greenfield Township Historical Society, 423 Hickory Ridge Road, Greenfield Township, PA 18407

Luck of the Draw

Hopefully, your golf course was one of the lucky ones this year. Yes, there are things that can be done to prepare the turf for the winter season and reduce the chances for winter freeze injury. I strongly recommend addressing any obvious shade or surface drainage problems that may have led to damage this winter. But the fact remains that little can be done to prevent winter freeze injury when weather conditions are right for its occurrence. Sometimes it's just better to be lucky than good.



POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO
TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

REMINDER!!



Notices for the 2004 Dues have been mailed out. Deadline for payment is April 1, 2004. Any changes you have made in the past year (job change, address, classification, etc.) please let Melinda know when you send in your dues payment. If your dues are not paid on time, you will not have your name in the Member Directory!

CONDOLENCES

We would like to express our deepest sympathy to Andrew Jubinski and his family on the loss of his mother, Dawn Jubinski, on Saturday, December 20, 2003. Our prayers are with you and your family.

We would also like to express our sympathy to Corine Gardner Petrilak on the death of her husband Walter Petrilak. For more information on Walter, please turn to page 7.

Thank You

Andy Jubinski would like to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers or contributions to his mother's memorial fund. It was greatly appreciated.

Also, Clara Gardner, Walter Petrilak's sister-in-law would like to thank the PTGA for the "generous donation in Walter Petrilak's memory. It will help us reach our goal of a museum building."



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