



# CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Founded in  
1936

VOL. 10, NO. 3

May 2004

## Upcoming Field Days/Conferences:

Thursday July 19, 2004  
Rutger's Golf and Fine Turf  
Research Section

**Where:** Hort. Farm- Ryder's La.

**Times:** 8:30 am Registration

**Tours Begin:** 9:30 am

**Lunch:** 12:30

**Tours End:** 3:00pm

**Cost:** \$35.00 includes lunch

Pesticide Credits will be  
offered

For Directions or other  
squestions, please call:

Dick Caton 856-853-5973

Marlene Karasik 732-932-9400  
Ext. 339

11/04 and 8/12/04

Penn State Turfgrass Field Days  
This event is held every other  
year. Pesticide Credits will be  
offered both days.

**Where:** Joseph Valentine  
Research Center

Landscape Management  
Research Center

**Price:** \$25.00/person (pre-  
registration)

\$30.00/person on-site

No Charge for

Spouses/Students/Kids

*Continued on Page 8*



## June Meeting: Elk View CC Host: Superintendent: John Downer

This month's meeting brings us to the 'Northern Swing' of our meeting adventures. Elk View CC is another Donald Ross design dating back to 1919. The first 9 holes were done in 1919 and the second 9 were finished in 1957 by Donald Ross Associates. Holes 1-4 and 7-11 are the Ross holes. The course measures 6600 yards from the tips and is a par 72. It is nestled between Crystal Lake and Lake Newton. Water only comes in to play on one hole. There are 30 bunkers on the course and low cut grasses consist of the 'always exciting' bent/poa mix. Recently the clubhouse has undergone major renovation. There are currently 350 members, but with Juniors, Women and Seniors that number climbs to 618. John has two Green committee Chairmen: Paul Pisarchik and Greg Viadika. The Club President is Paul Ruddy. Our superintendent, John Downer came to Elk View in 1988 after graduating from the 2 year turf program at Penn State. Prior to Penn State, he received his B.S. in Business Management in 1986 from the University of Scranton. His prior work history includes an internship at TPC Cromwell in Connecticut and

several years working for his 'Mentor' Ed Cimock at Scranton Muni. He did have the pleasure(?) of rooming with Ron Garrison while doing his internship at TPC Cromwell. Off the golf course, John enjoys a busy life with wife Susan (aka: Queenie) and his 2 daughters Amanda (age 11) and Sarah (age 9). He is currently the Commissioner of the Division A Girl's Basketball Program in North Pocono School District. He also has coached the girl's (11, 12, 13 year olds) All-Star team for 2 years. John currently serves on the Pocono Turfgrass Board as Treasurer. As you can see, he keeps his winters busy too!





## President's Message

Kudos to John Downer for a very enjoyable day at Elkview. Thanks to Steve Chirip for being our meeting sponsor. It was nice to see former PTGA president Gene Huelster and boy wonder Darrin Batsky back in town, both emphatically stating how there is no better superintendent's association than the Pocono Turfgrass Association. For those of you who called looking for the educational segment of last month's meeting, we are looking into what happened. If anyone knows, please let the PTGA Board know.

That's all for now. It appears that I am going to have to go out and locate my sprinkler heads after all.

*Eric Reed*

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## From the Editor's Desk.....

Judging from the attendance at the Elk View meeting, we should be in for a real treat at Panorama. It's good to see so many new faces this year. Even 'boy wonder' Batsky attended the meeting from Pittsburgh. Who said Pocono meetings were too far to travel to?

As far as meeting highlights, I will save those for the next edition of Chips and Putts. One highlight does stand out in my mind, though. It was the shot of the day by Andy Jubinski on a 155 yard par 3. He was 3 inches from the cup. Nice shot Andy! Even witnessing such near perfection keeps you coming back.

As far as Chips and Putts goes, I would like to thank Jim MacLaren for his help providing copy for last month's Pocono Round Up. I neglected to thank him in last month's edition.

Until next month, good luck fighting the daily battles and remember, football season is not far away.

*Charlie Koennecker*



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## What's Bothering Your *Poa annua*? Observations From The Field

*Darin Bevard, Agronomist  
USGA Green Section*

Man, what a year, and it's only early July at the writing of these ramblings. While no grass (or golf course for that matter) is immune to problems, if you are managing *Poa annua* on any part of the golf course (and most of you are!), chances are you have had some sort of problem already this season. Pick your poison. Winterkill? Annual Bluegrass Weevil? Anthracnose? Summer Patch? Straight heat stress? We have seen it all in our travels so far this season in the Pocono region and elsewhere.

The first problem experienced on a widespread basis was isolated winter damage. Very few courses had severe damage that required major renovation, but many courses had areas of *Poa annua* that declined over the winter. This impacted early season playability, but in most instances, aggressive fertility, bentgrass overseeding, periodic topdressing and patience were enough to provide recovery on most greens by mid-May.

Winterkill of turfgrass is not well understood. Too many factors are involved to determine definitive causes of winter damage. Covers can help, but we saw significant damage with and without covers at several courses. The biggest factor in winterkill seems to be poor drainage that allows standing water and ice accumulation. If winterkill has been a problem on your greens because of ice accumulation, consider experimenting with the black sand topdressing product, Early Green. It has provided excellent results in increasing the rate of ice melt. Winterkill is a difficult problem to grasp, but happens to some degree in our region on an annual basis.

Then came high populations of Annual Bluegrass Weevil (ABW). This pest affected golf courses all over Pennsylvania, in Northern Delaware and in Maryland. Dr. Paul Heller from Penn State has warned that the ABW problem would expand at some point. His predictions have come true. Second Generation ABW adults are out and about at a golf course near you. Best control of ABW is gained by using well timed contact insecticide

applications to kill adult weevils and break the life cycle. Thatch penetrating insecticides will work best in controlling larvae when they are present. Once ABW are present on your golf course, they will likely provide ongoing maintenance challenges. The important thing is to try and find them before they find you! Scout aggressively on tees, greens and fairways in late April and early May for the adults.

As for the disease and stress issues, some courses have had their hands full with Summer Patch and Anthracnose already. This can make for a long summer season. When Anthracnose is active, it is important to tighten fungicide intervals to no longer than 7 days and maintain foliar inputs of nitrogen. Research clearly shows that low nitrogen fertility is a major predisposing factor to Anthracnose. If you mow extremely low, groom, topdress, verticut, maintain low nitrogen, etc.; do not expect fungicides to save the grass. If the turf is extremely weak and unhealthy, fungicides will not prevent decline. If they would, we would never have dead grass. I liken it to beating a person within inches of their life, throwing them a couple of aspirin and claiming the aspirin did not work if they die! With stress related diseases, it is the same thing. Eventually, *Poa annua* reaches a point of no return. In these instances, do not blame the fungicides. Speed kills. An Anthracnose Management Fact Sheet developed with help from Penn State, Rutgers and University of Maryland in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Green Section is available from our office.

Most of the courses that we have visited are doing well, but virtually none are without problems, especially on *Poa annua*. As Superintendents, there are always challenges. Where *Poa annua* is involved, these challenges are often more intense. You have to love a grass that dies because it is too hot, too cold, too dry or too wet. Hey, if managing golf course turf was easy, most of us would not have jobs. If the agronomists of the Mid-Atlantic Region can help, do not hesitate to contact our office (610)558-9066 or [dbevard@usga.org](mailto:dbevard@usga.org).

**PLEASE NOTE- CONCERNING THE JOB NOTICE FOR "REGIONAL SALES MANAGER" recently mailed to the membership: Correction on the fax number: 414-359-9495.**





## The Beer is Colder When the Grass is Greener

Course conditions can affect  
golfer perceptions of other club facilities.

By Jeff Heilbrun, CCM

Teton Pines Resort and Country Club (Jackson Hole, Wyoming) has undergone many changes in golf course management over the last few years. As general manager, I have had the mixed fortune of seeing our golf course go through some difficult times and then come out on the other side.

In the spring of 2001, we woke up from winter in shock. More than 70% of our greens were in bad shape from both pink and gray snow mold. Five of the greens had 25% healthy grass at best, and two of them were closer to 10%. Almost all of our tees were given last rites. The weather that spring was terrible, so recovery was excruciatingly slow.

Luckily, I had hired Mike Kitchen as our new golf course superintendent during the winter, so I could discuss our operation with a clear conscience, not knowing what lay beneath the snow. Our first phone call was to Matt Nelson, our USGA regional agronomist. The short-term forecast was pretty grim and, as it turned out, it was August 1st before some of our greens had any semblance of recovery.

The interesting thing to me as a general manager was that we also didn't have the best year in other parts of the operation. There were complaints about our snack bar, lounge, and food and beverage operations, and golf shop sales were down even though we didn't change the way we operated those departments. I witnessed what I now realize was evidence that our golfers were looking at the club through a lens clouded by a golf course they could not be proud of. An end-of-the-season member survey acknowledged the poor course conditions, and asked for other comments not related to course conditions, but we still received a very high number of comments about the greens and tees.

Following new agronomic practices put into place by Mike and making diligent efforts with winter preparation, including earlier-than-normal aerification, the next spring was much better. At the same time, we still had remnants of disease. As both Matt and Mike reminded this turf-simple mind of mine, patience is a virtue and we were headed down the right path.

Enter spring 2003. Our superintendent has risen to saint status and "the grass is greener and the beer is suddenly colder." While most of this article is anecdotal, in reality the beer temperature hasn't changed. Our menus haven't changed much and the snack bar is about the same, but the golf course is dramatically different. Our members are proud of our course again, and we set records for the number of lunches served last year. Food and beverage service complaints were minimal, and our member golf events were well subscribed.

The moral of this story is that golf course conditions affect the entire club — financially, psychologically, and in many other ways. Past decisions to delay aerification until as late as possible so that our players didn't suffer putting on bumpy greens put us at great risk if early fall weather conditions turned sour as they did in the fall of 2000. By waiting so late to aerify, we couldn't properly drag in the topdressing sand, which resulted in damaged grass leaves and aerification holes that weren't completely filled. We neglected sound agronomic practices in favor of over-concern for upsetting the golfers. The irony is that we ended up with course conditions that upset members and guests for a full season.

Now we aerify more often and agronomics come ahead of just about everything, while striking a balance with golf course access. We have a superintendent who understands the importance of the revenue side of our golf operation and instills an understanding of proper golf course care to the golf professional staff.

In this time of economic uncertainty, keeping the jewel of your operation in extraordinary condition ensures loyalty from your existing customer base and makes the rest of your golf operation look that much better to your players. By the way, you may notice a difference in your bottom line as well. Thanks to an understanding ownership, an experienced superintendent, and the services of the USGA Green Section, we're back on top of our game.

Jeff Heilbrun, CCM, is general manager, Teton Pines Resort and Country Club, Jackson Hole





# ?????????? Intelligence Quiz

The following was found on the internet. Good luck!

### First Question:

You are participating in a race. You overtake the second person. What position are you in?

Try not to screw up in the next question. To answer the second question, don't take as much time as you took for the first question.

### Second Question:

If you overtake the last person, then you are...?

### Third Question:

Very tricky math! Note: This must be done in your head only. DO NOT use paper and pencil or a calculator. Try it. Take 1000 and add 40 to it. Now add another 1000. Now add 30. Add another 1000. Now add 20. Now add another 1000. Now add 10. What is the total?

Today is definitely not your day. Maybe you will get the last question right?

### Fourth Question:

Mary's father has five daughters: 1. Nana, 2. Nene, 3. Nini, 4. Nono. What is the name of the fifth daughter?

**ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 6!**

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## ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 5

- 1. Answer:** If you answered that you are first, then you are absolutely wrong! If you overtake the second person and you take his place, you are second.
- 2. Answer:** If you answered that you are second to last, then you are wrong again. Tell me: how can you overtake the LAST person?!
- You're not very good at this are you?
- 3. Answer:** Did you get 5000? The correct answer is actually 4100. Don't believe it? Check with your calculator.
- 4. Answer:** Nunu? NO! Of course not. Her name is Mary. Read the question again.

How did you do? If you answered:

None Right: You could be editor of Chips and Putts

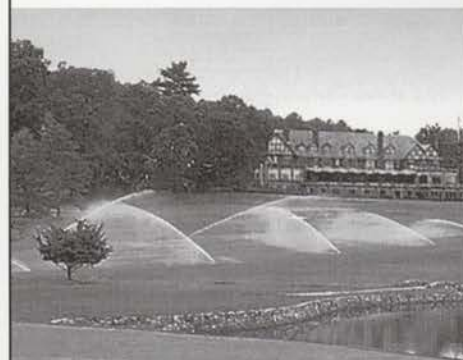
One Right: You could write an article for Chips and Putts

Two Right: You could keep score at the next meeting for your foursome.

Three Right: You must have used a calculator.

Four Right: Okay Smarty, you da man, or you have seen this before!

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- Rake bunkers



*A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA*





## Recent Advances in Turfgrass Science

A Turfgrass Management Workshop Sponsored by  
American Society of Agronomy - Northeast Branch,  
Soil Science Society of America, and Rutgers Center for Turfgrass  
Science

Rutgers EcoComplex, Bordentown, NJ  
July 14, 2004

12:30 PM Welcome - Bruce B. Clarke, Director, Rutgers Center  
for Turfgrass Science

- Current perspectives in turfgrass management  
Dr. James Murphy, Associate Extension Specialist in  
Turfgrass Management

Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers U.

- Soil fertility and disease suppression Dr. Joseph Heckman,  
Extension Specialist in Soil Fertility

Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers

- New and emerging diseases of cool- and warm-season  
turf Dr. Bruce Clarke, Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Pathology

Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers

- Controlling *Poa annua* and *Poa trivialis* with Bispyribac:

A new era in golf and sports turf weed control

Dr. Steve Hart, Assistant Extension Specialist in Turf and  
Ornamental Weed Science

Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers

2:15-2:45 PM - Discussion and Coffee Break

- New developments in the management of turfgrass insects

Dr. Albrecht Koppenhöfer, Associate Extension Specialist in  
Turfgrass Entomology, Department of Entomology, Rutgers

- Breeding turfgrasses for pest and stress tolerance

Dr. Bill Meyer, Professor Turfgrass Breeding

Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers

- Water conservation and irrigation management in cool-  
season turf

Dr. Bingru Huang, Associate Professor in Turfgrass Physiology

Department of Plant Biology and Pathology,  
Rutgers University

4:00-4:30 PM - Discussion and Concluding Remarks

NJ DEPE Pesticide Recertification Credits and GCSAA CEUs will be  
provided for those attending the entire program.

For registration info or questions please call: For more information  
about the meeting, contact:

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# POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO  
TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

## May Golf Results- Schuylkill CC

Format: 2 Man Better Ball of Partners



First Place: Rodger Smith, Ted Zabinski 66  
Second Place: Lee Kozsey, Duane Schell 67  
Long Drive: Jim Rattigan  
Closest To Pin : Jim Rattigan

Skins: Chris Snopkowski, Doug Stewart  
Lee Kozsey, Ron Garrison

## June Golf Results- Elk View CC

Format: Low Gross/Low Net

### Low Gross:

First Place: Ian Kunesch 76  
Second Place: Paul 'Scrape' Brandon 78  
Third Place: Ed Cimoch 79

### Low Net:

First Place: Steve Chirip 65  
Second Place: Gene Huelster 68  
Third Place: Duane Schell 68

Long Drive: Ron Garrison  
Closest to the Pin: Andy Jubinski (3 inches WOW!)

Continued from Green Box, Page 1

**Times:** 8/11/04 Registration starts at 10:00am with  
tours until 4:30 pm with tours until Noon.  
**Social Hour:** Please pre-register for the Social Hour/  
Pig Roast at Toftrees Resort  
**When:** 5:30pm to ?  
**Price:** \$30.00 Age 21+ and \$13 for Ages 6-20

Please note: This year's Field Days will feature a  
Closest to the Pin and Putting Contest. So bring  
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