



CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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Third Annual Snow Meeting

by: Darrin Larkin

The third annual snow meeting brought some cold temperatures and about 20 skiers to Elk Mountain Ski Resort. With the cold temperatures we were sure to get excellent ski conditions, and we were not disappointed. I skied some of the best snow I have ever skied.

The cold temps didn't cool the spirits of this year's attendees either. Everyone had a great time. Great skiing, socializing at the Halfway House, and a terrific meal at the Winter Garden Restaurant gave everyone a chance to enjoy themselves. It's common to take a few runs and stop in the Halfway to warm-up with a beverage. Eric McCousland (son of Willie McCousland, Horticulturalist at Saucon Valley) even took his annual nap at the Halfway House.

Lunch was served upstairs in the Winter Garden Restaurant in the main lodge. It's an easy location for non-skiers to join us. The food was great. There was more than enough to go around of baked chicken, rigatoni and meatballs, roast beef, and all the other fixings. Our group photo was taken in the lounge by the fireplace under the elk.

As for the skiing, it was some of the best snow conditions I've skied in a long time. I never found an ice patch. Charlie Koennecker must have, because I don't have any other explanation for him getting snow in his face on several occasions. I only saw the Downer Clan once on the mountain. Sarah and Amanda Downer were hitting every trail and even wanted more when the ski day was done.

Once the ski day was over, we held an impromptu meeting at Chet's Place, a local establishment off on a dirt road. If you ever want to go there, just ask Eric Reed for directions. We even ran into the PTGA accountant, Bill Owens, out with his wife, Michelle. It was a good time



President's Message.....

I had high expectations of delivering to you the great news concerning the formation of an affiliated chapter in the state of Pennsylvania, but after our meeting January 18th, I would be surprised to ever see its occurrence in this state. The four smaller chapters in our state all echo the same sentiment and face the same problems. The affiliation idea would be a very positive step for the smaller chapters. The "big three" are sympathetic to the plight of the smaller associations, but differ on how they view the state chapter benefiting them. The only way a state chapter would succeed would be if all seven chapters were completely on board with the idea, and as of right now, that unison is nowhere in sight. I wrote an article outlining what the PTGA was hoping to achieve through a state affiliated chapter, but after you read it, please line your gerbil cage with it.

Eric Reed

From the Editor's Desk.....

I would like to personally thank each member of the Pocono Turfgrass Association. Over the last 3 years, I have had the pleasure to call on many of you and to enjoy attending the meetings.

This will be my last issue as Editor of *Chips and Putts*. As of February 7, 2005, I will be covering Southern New Jersey for Finch (John Deere One Source). It has been a pleasure serving on the Board and trying to produce *Chips and Putts*. I will always value the friendships and contacts I have made along the way. For those of you who allowed me in your door, I am grateful. For those of you who competed against me, I wish you the best of luck, and I have enjoyed the camaraderie and knowledge gained from my experiences in the territory. I will never look at a Pink ball and a bottle of Yuengling the same way again.

Thanks for the memories and good luck in the future.

Charlie Koennecker



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A New Era For Turfgrass at Penn State

*A Message from John Chassard
President of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council*

As we look back over the past 75 years at Penn State, it is hard to imagine how anyone in the green industry has not benefited from the turfgrass research and education that has been produced since the inception of the University's turfgrass program in 1929.'

The Center for Turfgrass Science at Penn State has the most comprehensive educational program of its kind in the world. This program reflects the quality of the collective efforts of those who are currently involved, as well as the contributions of those who came before them, beginning with Burt Musser back in 1929.

Penn State's research, which includes work in breeding and genetics, edaphology, water quality, plant nutrition, plant growth regulation, and pest management, continues to lead the turf industry. The commitment to maintaining this standard is as strong as ever.

As we look into the future, the opportunities for Penn State's Center for Turfgrass Science and the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council are greater than ever. With the Council's establishment of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Research Trust, we are poised to make new strides and take advantage of these opportunities. PTC's "Growing the Game" campaign is already raising money to ensure that the Research Trust becomes a reliable source of funding for continuous turfgrass research at Penn State.

□

The Turfgrass Council welcomes Jim Wellen to serve as the first Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Research Trust. Mr. Wellen is working with volunteers that represent all aspects of the turf industry to shepherd the Growing the Game campaign. Over the next several months he will be providing additional information on the Trust and how it will impact the future of research at Penn State.

With mixed emotions, we look forward to recognizing the contributions of Dr. Thomas Watschke to the turf industry as we celebrate his retirement this year. His presence will be truly missed but his contributions will continue to live on. Mr. Jeff Borger has been Dr. Watschke's trusted Research Technician and has become a familiar face at our conferences. We are excited about Jeff's commitment to continue Dr. Watschke's research programs and teaching responsibilities.

Carmen Magro brings a youthful enthusiasm as the new advisor to the two-year turfgrass program. Carmen shares a similar passion with his predecessor, Dr. George Hamilton, for developing world-class turfgrass professionals. We welcome Carmen and look forward in sharing in his vision. Dr. Watschke will formally introduce Mr. Magro and give a "state of the turfgrass program" presentation at the Penn State Alumni Breakfast during the GCSAA Conference in Orlando next month.

In closing, I would like to mention that additional copies of Penn State's 75th anniversary book, "The Grass Keeps Getting Greener" are available on a first-come/first-served basis. Please contact Heather Treaster at hgw1@psu.edu for your copy. The publication of this book was the mission of our friend, Dr. George Hamilton. It is only fitting that "The Grass Keeps Getting Greener" is dedicated to his memory.

John Chassard, President,
Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council

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www.ptga.org
Darrin Larkin

During the offseason, we have been busy building a new website to better serve our membership. We went online in December. In the meantime, we have been trying to fine tune the site to suit the organization's and members' needs.

While visiting the site, you will find seven pages of information. Here is a brief description of what you will find:

1. Home Page: Introduction, special announcements, and PTGA contact information
2. Newsletter: Information from *Chips & Putts* - technical article, President's Message, Editor's Message, and any other important topics from the printed newsletter
3. Board of Directors: Current list of Board members, officers, and their responsibilities to the Association.
4. Host Course: Information about the upcoming meeting, host superintendent, directions, and weather. Also, past meeting results and future sites are available.
5. Bulletin Board: A forum for questions, answers, or comments about any topic important to any member. Sorry, this page is still under construction.
6. Vendors' Links: A current member list of all our association's vendors and their specialties. There are direct links to their websites (if available).
7. Member Services: Information on membership, printable membership application, by-laws, and dues. Also, employment and educational opportunities, scholarship requirements and printable scholarship application. Helpful links are also available.

Vendors!

Check your information. E-mail corrections, new phone numbers, and company website information. Advertising space will be available on most pages. Please e-mail company logos for advertising purposes. We will put your logo on our site with available links.

We hope this site will be useful to many members. Visit our site at www.ptga.org. Please feel free to use the e-mail link (found on every page) to send questions, comments, or suggestions.

Happy surfing.



(Continued from page 1)

for some pool shooting (Susan Downer is a shark; don't play with her), foosball, and video games. Speaking of foosball, I might mention that the super combo of Eric Reed and Darrin Larkin beat up on the Finch boys, Andy Jubinski and Charlie Koennecker.

We want to thank everyone for coming. Our sponsors were great again, helping with refreshments and snacks at the Halfway House and Chet's. They were Finch Turf, Grass Roots, Philadelphia Turf Co., and Andre and Son.

We had a great time and are looking forward to the Fourth Annual Snow Meeting next year. We hope more people can make it. Remember, you don't need to ski to come up and have a good time.



Discussing the morning's skiing.

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RAIN BIRD GREEN-RELEASE



POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION BYLAW CHANGE PROPOSAL

The following proposal for bylaw change of the Pocono Turfgrass Association has been recommended by the Board of Directors:

Current:

Article V, Section 2- Qualifications and Terms of Office

Only Class A or Class SM members who are actively employed as Golf Course Superintendents are eligible to serve as Directors of this Association, with one exception, that **being one seat on the Board of Directors may be held by an Affiliate (AF) Member.**

Proposed:

Article V, Section 2- Qualifications and Terms of Office

Class A or Class SM Members who are actively employed as Golf Course Superintendents, and Affiliate (AF) Members are eligible to serve as Directors of this Association.



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A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA



WINTER EDUCATION MEETING

By
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 &
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FEBRUARY 21, 2005
SPLIT ROCK LODGE

7:00-8:30	REGISTRATION	Coffee & Danish
8:00-8:45	Lee Kozsey	Syngenta
8:45-9:30	Bryan Bolehala	Cleary's
9:30-10:15	Marie Pompei	Jacklin Seed
10:15-10:45	BREAK !!!	
10:45-11:30	John Wiblishauser	Bayer
11:30-12:00	Phil O'Brien	Aqua Aid
12:00-1:00	LUNCH	
1:00-1:30	Phil O'Brian	Aqua Aid
1:30-2:15	Len Conley	Sanctuary
2:15-3:00	Chris Santore	P D A



It was a beautiful day on the slopes.



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POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO
TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

New Positions:

The Pocono Turfgrass Association would like to congratulate the following people on their recent job changes:

Tommy Height, formerly Assistant Superintendent at Fox Hill, now Superintendent at Frosty Valley.

Andrew Jubinski, formerly Superintendent at Glenmaura National, now Account Manager for Finch Services (John Deere One Source) covering Northeast PA. (Welcome to the dark side Andy!)

Charlie Koennecker, formerly of Seeton Turf, now Account Manager for Finch Services (John Deere One Source) covering Southern NJ.

Condolences:

We would like to extend our condolences to the Harper Family on the passing of Jack Harper on January 3, 2005. He was truly a legend in our business. A \$100.00 memorial remembrance was made by the PTGA to the JC Harper Memorial Fund to be used for the continued renovation of State College Area High School's Memorial Field where Jack was an alumnus.

The State College Area School District thanked PTGA for their donation:

"On behalf of students and faculty at the State College Area School District, who stand to benefit from your recent donation, I would like to thank you for helping us go above and beyond public education funding as we strive to prepare our students for lifelong success through excellence in education."

"We appreciate your gift and treasure it as a tribute to the past and an investment in the future."

Sincerely,

*Patrice Best
Superintendent*



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c/o MELINDA WISNOSKY
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