

# CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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1936

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JULY 2008

## *Congratulations!*

The Pocono Turfgrass Association would like to congratulate all our members whose courses were chosen for WNEP's *Elite 18 golf holes*. Viewers of WNEP e-mailed the Sports Department about their favorite golf holes within the area. A WNEP celebrity would play a hole and air the results on Thursday nights. The courses were limited to those open to the public.

- 1) STONEHEDGE #2 PAR 4.
- 2) MILL RACE, #16 PAR 5, #16. **James Hartkorn**
- 3) WOODLOCH, # 14 PAR 5. **Jeff Hugaboom**
- 4) BLUE RIDGE TRAIL # 8 PAR 4. **Duane Schell**
- 5) PANORAMA # 15, PAR 4. **Darrin Larkin**
- 6) BELL SPRING, MILL HALL
- 7) W-B MUNI #11 **Gregory McElhattan**
- 8) SCRANTON MUNI #14 PAR 4.
- 9) SHAWNEE # 7 PAR 3 **Steven Taggart**
- 10) WYNDING BROOK, #5 PAR 5.
- 11) WHITE DEER #15 PAR 5.
- 12) SAND SPRINGS, # 5 PAR 3.
- 13) LIBERTY VALLEY, # 15, PAR 5.
- 14) HIDDEN VALLEY, #9, PAR 4
- 15) MAHONING VALLEY #9 PAR 3.
- 16) TOWANDA #13, PAR 4 **Corey Pries**
- 17) SHADOWBROOK, #16 PAR 3.
- 18) MOUNTAIN GOLF COURSE, #18 PAR 4



## President's Message.....

I would like to thank everyone that made it to Panorama G.C. for the July meeting. I have to apologize as the course was playing a little short that day.

Diana Kern of the GCSAA would like me to tell everyone to keep track of their education and service points for the PDI. Although Melinda enters our meeting attendance for us, it is your responsibility to verify that your transcripts are accurate.

Ray Waddell will be hosting the clambake on Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. This is a week before he hosts the Nationwide at Elmhurst C.C. Please contact Ray to see if you can be of help.

*Darrin Larkin*



**TOWANDA COUNTRY CLUB  
HOLE #13 GREEN**



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## Developing and Maintaining Native Areas at Edgewood Country Club

By Paul E. Dotti, Class A member, Superintendent  
Edgewood Country Club, Rivervale, NJ

### PART II

In order to have wildflowers flowering throughout the year, we needed to go in and reintroduce new seed, so annuals would be present and some of the older perennials could be replaced. Each spring, we went in and tilled these areas to offer a nice seed bed, similar to what we did to get them established. We then seeded in late March or early April and hopefully April showers allowed them to germinate. The first year or two of doing this we had promising results, but each year after, the flowers were less and less and weeds were becoming more of an issue.

We believe the constant tilling of the soil brought weed seeds up and not having irrigation to allow the flowers to germinate first, brought on the problem. Some years the weeds were manageable, but others they were dominant and we had large weed patches in high visibility areas. We could not continue to do what we were doing because we did see the decline in flowers and increase in weeds over time. Wildflowers are very sensitive to herbicides and it is hard to spray these areas, even with hand sprayers to target the individual weed plants. We did experiment with Plateau, an herbicide that allows you to make pre-emergence or post-emergence applications with sprays right over the flowers. Of course you will not drive a sprayer through these areas when they are fully established, so we went the pre-emergent route and saw mixed results. We experimented with slice seeding and aeravating, to limit surface disruption, but created enough areas for seeds to germinate. These areas too had some successes and failures.



In 2007, we decided to use 3 areas and import screened topsoil. These areas were sprayed with roundup first, capped with a couple of inches of topsoil, leveled and then seeded. The seed was "dimpled" in with sand pro tires and we applied no fertilizers or nutrients to aid the establishment. We did cover the areas with salt hay to keep soil moisture in. The results were much improved over the previous years and flowers bloomed for the entire season. Weeds were present, but they did not have a negative effect on the overall appearance of the areas and we did not go in and remove them manually or chemically.

In the spring, we did have to use portable sprinklers or hand water these areas due to the lack of rainfall during establishment. The other seven areas that were previously wildflower areas were treated with roundup

in October of 2006, aeravated in several directions, and seeded with a fine fescue and little bluestem mix. By the spring of 2007, these areas were about 90% grown in and looked very attractive for the 2007 season. It is important to note that none of these areas get irrigation, including the wildflowers. Around the fescue areas irrigation heads were converted to part circles heads in order to eliminate any water from entering the areas.

Here are some conclusions and lessons drawn about the development and maintenance of wildflower and native areas at Edgewood Country Club:



Continued from Page 3



- There is no such thing as zero maintenance areas on the golf course. Some manpower will be needed to remove unsightly vegetation and you should mow down the areas in the fall and possibly the spring of each year. Wildflowers, as beautiful as they are, will require maintenance after a few years.

The first year or two wildflower areas will be absolutely striking, but trying to introduce new seed over time will create new problems.

- It may be beneficial to have irrigation in wildflower areas to help with establishment, but eliminate the use of water once they become established in the summer.

- Keep the members informed at all times and educate why you want to create native or wildflower areas. The benefits of the areas will outweigh the negative elements, but you must demonstrate the importance of developing the areas.

- Also, be flexible on where you locate new native areas. Remember, Edgewood is relatively tight, so a native area may be out of play on one hole, but in play on another. I have cut back some areas when complaints arose, but also stuck to my guns with others.

- Experiment with different seed varieties, flower species, and even seed brands. You may find a variety or brand that looks better than another and it may be wise to use different kinds the first year to see what works for you.

- Make sure you document your successes and failures before, during and after establishment. It is a great reference to review where you may have made mistakes or could make improvements.

- Finally, native areas are much easier to establish and maintain than wildflowers. Start slow with the flowers and research what varieties work best in your zones and only do an area or two the first year to have a good handle on what to expect.



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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Elmhurst Country Club in Moscow, PA, will be hosting the PGA Nationwide Tour NE PA Classic from August 18 through August 24, 2008. We are in need of volunteers to assist our Maintenance Staff in providing the quality playing conditions required by the PGA Nationwide Tour. If you are able to volunteer, please contact **Steve Chirip** (e-mail: stevechirip@hotmail.com, cell phone - 973-418-3468); or **Ray Waddell** (e-mail: rpwgolf@moscowmail.com, cell phone - 570-903-9571).

We anticipate a need for volunteers for morning and afternoon work each day of the tournament and possibly some help the week before the tournament. Any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Ray Waddell


## PTGA 2008 SCHOLARSHIPS

Deadline for Scholarship Applications  
**July 31, 2008**

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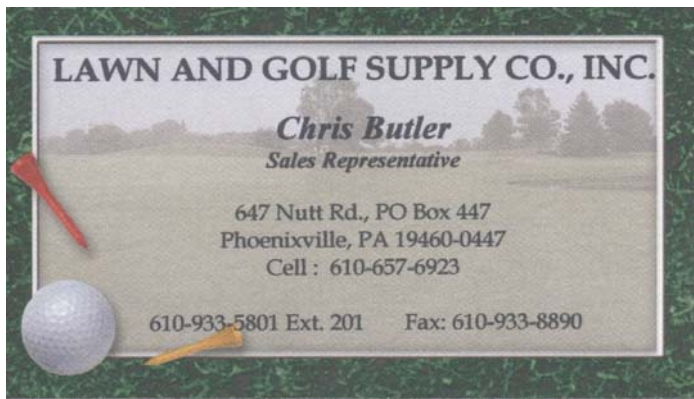
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The Penn State Field Days will be held on Wednesday & Thursday, August 6 & 7, 2008.

- Pesticide and GCSAA credits are expected to be offered to all paid attendees.
- Vendor demonstrations and product displays
- Family Pig Roast at Toftrees Resort (limited number of reservations available)
- Contact Heather Treaster at 814-863-0129 or [hgwl@psu.edu](mailto:hgwl@psu.edu) or Sue Eisenhauer at 814-865-6542

## PTGA MEETING SCHEDULE

April 30	Fox Hill Country Club
May 22	Sugarloaf
June 2	Three Ponds Golf Club
July 15	Panorama Golf Course
August 13	Elmhurst Country Club
September 29	Frosty Valley CC
October 13	Wyoming Valley CC

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