

CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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Inspection-Proofing Your Operation

Mike Cook, a former Inspector with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, gives you the straight story on surviving a DEC Pesticide Inspection...

You've just dropped by the shop for a quick cup of coffee and an unfamiliar face makes an appearance at the door. As you're preparing an "I'm too busy to talk" excuse for what you believe to be a new sales rep, the fellow flips out a photo ID and identifies himself as a pesticide enforcement inspector with the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation)- or DEP (Department of Environmental Protection), if you're in New Jersey or Connecticut.

The jig's up. Your operation is about to undergo a surprise inspection for compliance with federal and/or state pesticide regulations.

If you think this is one of those "It'll never happen to me" scenarios, think again. All it takes to prompt a DEC inspection is a call from a disgruntled employee or a neighboring homeowner who believes chemicals are being misapplied or mishandled.

On rare occasions, you'll receive a warning call. But more often than not, an inspector will just show up at your door. The reason is obvious: The DEC wants to see how you really operate.

To help you inspection-proof your operation, Mike Cook of Alpine, the Care of Trees draws from his past experience as a pesticide inspector

for the New York DEC to offer insight into what to expect--and how to conduct yourself--when an inspector calls.

First Things First

When a DEC inspector walks through your door--and it's usually during the thick of the season, when you're at your busiest--your worst mistake would be to treat this person as an unwelcome guest. Work hard at being cordial and cooperative. And know that you'll be expected to drop everything--even if your greens are wilting--for the duration of the inspection.

Inspections are generally a minimum of one hour, but will vary depending on the size of your operation, the readiness of your records, and the overall appearance of your facility.

The inspector will first want general information pertaining to your business, including:

- *Type of operation: public or private?
- *Certification and/or business registration numbers
- *Types and quantities of equipment
- *Types and quantities of pesticides used
- *Type of storage area
- *Disposal procedures

Digging a Little Deeper

The inspector will then begin to look a little more closely at your operation, starting with your pesticide application records. This is the portion of the inspection that, without question, generates the most violations and

Continued on page 6



President's Message.....

As professionals, we are required to keep records of our many daily practices. There is no question that documenting these records consumes valuable time. A busy person can become overwhelmed with just the records required by law. But no matter how busy we get, it is a detail for which we must find time.

Certain types of record keeping can save valuable time in future endeavors. Records of fertilizer applications which detail rates, spreader settings, and ground speeds can save time and money when metering for your next application. Keeping track of monthly expenses can help save time when preparing the next year's budget. Documenting rainfall can help show you how much water your turf requires and lets you plan accordingly. Names, times and dates of phone calls can help you track down that missing parts order, or help to expedite a project.

Certainly, the list can go on and on, and the detail of the records may vary to an individual's needs. Whether you keep records in a log book, filing cabinet, or computer matters little. But try to keep records other than those required. You will find it not only saves you time, but money.

Jeff Peters
President

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.....

I am only into my second newsletter, and already I realize four issues per year is not nearly enough to present the wealth of information in a timely manner to the members of the Association. Of course, the key words are "in a timely manner". The thought of additional issues means additional work, but it also means a better informed membership, and hence, a better Association for all. This is something to think about as we make plans for the newsletter in 1996.

This issue's feature article on *Inspection Proofing Your Operation* is reprinted with permission from the January/February 1995 *Tee to Green*, a publication of the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Scott Schukraft



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1995 MEETING SITES

July 18, 1995

Hideout, Lake Ariel, PA
Host Superintendent: Jack Bird

August 21, 1995

Water Gap C.C., Delaware Water Gap, PA
Host Superintendent: Charlie LaBar

September 19, 1995

Split Rock, Lake Harmony, PA
Host Superintendent: Bob Sterrett

October 17, 1995

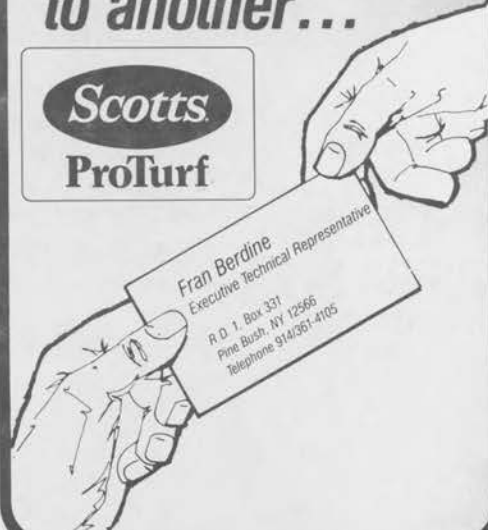
Fernwood Resort, Bushkill, PA
Host Superintendent: Bob Meaney

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

October 17 - Met GCSA Professional
Turfgrass Field Day, Westchester
C.C., Rye, NY

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR
ON THESE IMPORTANT DATES!!!

**From
one professional
to another...**



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Executive Technical Representative
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THANK YOU!

A Special Thank You is extended to our hosts for the past four meetings of the PTGA. The weather has been cooperative, and the golf has been competitive and fun. The speaker programs have been outstanding, from Soil Micro-Biology to the Tri State Research Foundation, and most recently an Introduction to Fertigation. Also, congratulations go out to all the golf winners.



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WELCOME!

The Pocono Turfgrass Association would like to welcome the following new members:

Shaun Barry, Class C, Agrevo USA Co.

Michael Dalberto, Class B, Valley C.C.

Stuart Hartman, Class A, Golf Course Supt., Golden Oaks C.C.

Gene Huelster, Class B, Pocono Farms C.C.

Steve Klem, Class C, Penn State Seed Co.

Michael Kline, Class A, Golf Course Supt., Elmhurst C.C.

Michael Kovalchick, Class B, Lords Valley C.C.

Mark McCormick, Class B, Asst. Golf Course Supt., Huntsville G.C.

Pat McDonagh, Class B, Golf Course Supt., Timber Trails G.C.

Bill Rahling, Class C, Aer-Core, Inc.

Joel Simmons, Class C, Earth Works

We would also like to welcome back the following returning members:

Todd Ahner, Class A, Golf Course Supt., Olde Homestead G.C.

Edward Cimoch, Class A, Scranton Municipal G.C.

Edward Kern, Class R

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Chip Presendofer

PROFILE.....

TURFNET ASSOCIATES, INC.

TurfNet Associates, Inc. is a provider of information services specific to the maintenance segment of the golf course industry. Founded early in 1994, TurfNet was created to assist the golf course superintendent in keeping abreast of new products and technologies, while also acting as a forum to share the "tricks of the trade" everyone has up their sleeves. TurfNet currently has over 225 clubs involved, ranging geographically from northern Virginia to New England to Ohio.

TurfNet Monthly is the newsletter of the organization, and focuses on presenting concise, bulleted topics without hype, sales pitch, or sugar-coating. Features include capsules of information from area university and industry specialists during the growing season, and synopses of industry seminars. Information presented is timely and focused on what is happening *at the time*, rather than three months prior. The annual Used Equipment Special Edition serves as a clearing house for used equipment, with some dramatic success stories of increased value received through selling direct, rather than trading in.

TurfNet Research Reports are available to TurfNet members on 20 categories of turf equipment, and provide an overview of every available product within each category. Specific performance advantages and disadvantages are highlighted, along with numeric indexes of satisfaction and reliability (generated from questionnaires submitted by TurfNet members). Comprehensive User Reference Lists and Transaction Histories of recent selling prices are provided in an effort to help fine-tune purchasing decisions.

All information is currently presented in print, although plans are in place to integrate an on-line component to the service shortly. Computer experience is not needed to participate.

TurfNet Associates is proud to be a Friend of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England. Further information can be obtained by calling TurfNet Associates at 1-800-314-7929.



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Inspection-Proofing

Continued from Page 1

finer (and they can run from \$2,000 to \$5,000 for each *first* offense). If you can maintain your daily use pesticide records in a fashion required by your state regulator, you can eliminate more than 50% of potential violations.

Most state agencies require that your records include the following specifics:

- *Date of pesticide application
- *Target organism
- *Pesticide used
- *Dosage rate
- *Total quantity used
- *Place and method of application
- *Use of pesticide

Next in the lineup is your pesticide application equipment. Here, the inspector will want to ensure every piece of equipment is:

- *Clean of pesticide residuals that can pose a contamination problem
- *Equipped with an antisiphon device
- *In good running order

The added bonus of keeping your spray equipment in top-notch condition is that it presents a favorable image to the inspector and the public.

Storage Do's and Don'ts

With all that said and done, the inspector will ask to see your pesticide storage area. Though some states--such as New York--do not have specific regulations pertaining to pesticide storage, most *do* have published recommendations that will guide you in setting up a responsible storage facility.

You could also look to the pesticide container label for guidance. It generally lists storage requirements--and, of course, instructions for proper use and container disposal.

To pass an inspector's scrutiny of your storage area, you should take the following precautions:

- *Lock and eliminate unauthorized access to your storage area.
- *Post warning signs in and around the facility.
- *Be sure the storage area is both well ventilated and heated to prevent the

pesticides from freezing--and potentially altering their potency--during the winter months.

*Store all pesticides in well-labeled, secure containers. All containers should be examined monthly for signs of deterioration.

*Post the telephone numbers of various emergency service agencies: police, fire, and local poison control center.

*Keep sufficient spill control materials--such as kitty litter--on hand and a fire extinguisher on the inside of the storage facility.

*Follow proper protocol for container disposal, such as triple rinsing all containers before discarding them.

*Store herbicides and insecticides away from fertilizers to avoid cross-contamination.

*Store materials off the floor. Wooden pallets, for example, can be used.

*Be sure personal protective equipment--gloves, respirators, goggles, gloves, coveralls, aprons--are cleaned after each use and stored away from pesticides.

Once the Inspection's Complete

When the inspection's finished, the inspector will ask that you sign a written inspection form. Read the form carefully, paying close attention to any violations listed and any recommendations for correcting them.

Frequently, you're expected to send in a written response at a later date, specifying the steps you've taken to correct violations cited during the inspection. Reply as soon as possible, but most definitely within the time requested by the inspector.

In the End

It's important to remember that there is no single article, publication, or seminar that will cover everything you must do to comply with federal and/or state regulations. But by constantly reading pesticide label directions, staying tuned to ever-changing pesticide regulations, and attending educational seminars, you can substantially reduce your risk of violation--or worse, a series of costly fines.

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RAFFLE WINNERS

The winners of the raffle drawing benefiting Scholarship and Research were announced at the June 8 meeting in Towanda. They were:

1. Elkview Country Club --
Golf Cars, Inc.
2. The Center Valley Club --
Tony Stranzl
3. Huntsville Golf Club --
Butch Webb
4. Fox Hill Country Club --
Scott Everett
5. Valley Country Club --
Tom Guzzi
6. Paupack Country Club --
Jeff Peters
7. Pocono Farms Country Club --
Rob Stewart
8. Edgewood In The Pines --
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POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO
TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to John Downer, Superintendent at Elkview Country Club, and to his wife, Sue, on the birth of their daughter, Amanda Marie, on April 8.

Also, congratulations to Scott and Heidi Schukraft on the birth of their daughter, Alaina Claire, on May 3. Scott is the Superintendent at Huntsville Golf Club.

We extend our sincerest sympathies to the family of Joe Demyan, who passed away Thursday, May 25. He was a former member of the Pocono Turfgrass Association and past superintendent at Bethlehem Municipal Golf Course.

Welcome to Pat McDonagh who has recently accepted the position of Golf Course Superintendent at Timber Trails C. C. Pat comes to NE PA from Long Island, NY.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant Superintendent, Wyoming Valley Country Club, Wilkes-Barre, PA - private, 18 holes, poa/bent G/T/F, \$365K Budget, automatic irrigation greens and tees. SALARY: \$18-22K plus benefits. Two-year Turf degree preferred. Position available immediately. Deadline 6/30/95. Send resume to Mr. Greg Closs, Supt. Wyoming Valley Country Club, 1695 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-2641.

Huntsville Golf Club, one of the area's newest additions, will be hosting this year's Met GCSA Team Championship on Thursday, October 5. The low eight scores from the September meeting at Split Rock will automatically qualify. In the case of substitutions, players will be selected from the membership at large on the basis of first come - first served. In past years this has been a very competitive, but fun event - one you will not want to miss.



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