



# CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Founded in  
1936

VOL. 3, NO. 4

JUNE 1997

## PHOSPHORUS MANAGEMENT OF TURF....

*Editor's Note: A special thanks to co-editor James MacLaren for this information regarding Phosphorus and turf. Listed below are some general suggestions governing phosphorus management in turf.*

Phosphorus applications should be made to a mature turf based on the results of soil tests for plant available Phosphorus and/or tissue analyses. Because most soils contain so much Phosphorus that is not available to plant roots, it is important to know how much readily available and slowly available Phosphorus is present in a soil at the beginning of a growing season. For most soils, 150 to 200 lbs. of available Phosphorus per acre should easily satisfy turf needs.

**Incorporate Phosphorus fertilizers throughout the soil profile before seeding or sodding turf.** Phosphorus is so immobile in soil that its penetration throughout the root zone from surface applications will occur very slowly, if at all.

**Apply Phosphorus fertilizer in the fall.** In most parts of the U.S. rainfall is more abundant during the fall-winter-spring season than it is during the summer. Phosphorus is incorporated into the soil under an established turf mostly by water infiltration, possibly assisted by freeze-thaw cycles, so Phosphorus application prior to the wet cold season will enhance soil incorporation. Do not apply Phosphorus, or any fertilizer, on snow or frozen ground. That practice may promote excessive runoff and contaminate surface water bodies.

**Maintain a balanced fertilizer program.** Plants require six macronutrient elements and all should be considered when culturing plants especially on a non-soil medium. While Phosphorus deficiency is not common on turf, its requirement for healthy grass is as great as that of any macronutrient. The ratio of nutrients in fertilizer should approximate the ratio in plant tissues. A radical departure from such a ratio can cause metabolic disorders due to nutrient

imbalance which may promote intolerance to stresses, greater disease susceptibility and generally poor growth.

**If clippings are retained, Phosphorus applications to an established turf may be reduced.** There is virtually no Phosphorus loss from a turf-soil ecosystem if clippings are not removed. In such a case, consistent with 4 above, Phosphorus may accumulate in the soil and further additions may serve no purpose. Again, this will be a valid consideration only in established turf where clippings have not been removed for many years.

**Monitor soil pH and apply lime as needed since Phosphorus availability to roots is directly influenced by the H<sup>+</sup> concentration of the soil solution.** Lime applications can easily be overlooked by turf managers and the soil pH can drop below the optimum for most turfgrasses. This will have several negative effects on turf growth not the least of which may be reduced Phosphorus availability and fluctuating incipient Phosphorus deficiency.

**If a low pH or Phosphorus availability problem is detected and turf re-establishment is not an option, apply lime and Phosphorus fertilizer in conjunction with aerification treatments.** By allowing these materials to infiltrate into aerification holes, their incorporation into the soil profile can be achieved without disrupting the turf. While this method is not very efficient, with time, it can correct soil pH or fertility problems more quickly than surface applications.

**Do not rely on deficiency symptoms to indicate when Phosphorus must be applied since symptoms are rarely seen on turf.** An appropriate soil analysis is the best way to monitor Phosphorus availability. Tissue analysis is less reliable since the Phosphorus content of turfgrass leaves can vary greatly depending on the rate of leaf growth and the health of the root system. The best approach to maintaining proper Phosphorus nutrition of turf is to make an annual application approximately equal to the Phosphorus removed or fixed within the soil (about 4-8 lbs. Phosphorus/acre/year).



## President's Message.....

April showers bring May flowers??? Maybe in Seattle! What happened to the spring weather?? I guess we have two seasons, instead of four anymore. And who knows which season we will get next. Apparently, we may be in for another strange year.

Many thanks need to be extended to Jim Vedomsky and his staff for a great day at Woodland Hills! Now we have completed our Lehigh Valley swing and will begin our POCONO swing for the remainder of the year. Jack, you really know how to schedule these monthly meetings. Woodloch Springs, Edgewood in the Pines, Blue Ridge C.C., Paupack Hills, and Split Rock C.C. -- what a great lineup!

The golf community has started its annual tournament schedule and soon we will be requested to present super fast greens and near perfect conditions. The U. S. Open was held recently and



the area clubs will be wondering why "our" course doesn't look like Congressional. It has been interesting of late to watch a few of the televised events with less than near perfect conditions. Or was it because the broadcast companies have reduced their color filters?

A sincere thanks for those clubs who have offered golf passes for the annual raffle drawing. Once again, Steve Stranzl and his committee did a great job putting this year's raffle together.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

*Ron Garrison, CGCS*

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## From The Editor's Desk.....



With all the recent hullabaloo (I actually had to check Webster's to see if that was correct English. The month of June tends to bring out the worst in me.) about the Joseph M. Duich Turfgrass Endowment, I feel it appropriate to spend considerable editorial space regarding this issue. The PTGA Board of Directors has received and discussed at length the letter and endowment information from John Chassard (See Page 4 and Page 6). With the information provided to us, the endowment was looked upon favorably by the Board of Directors. Although some questions may remain unanswered, it certainly is our opinion that all members of this association in some small way can and will continue to benefit from this endowment. I ask that you review this information carefully and direct any comments you may have to one of us on the Board so that we can base our decision to support or not support the endowment in the best interests of all.

*Scott A. Schukraft, Editor*



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## BLACK CUTWORMS....

Black cutworms (*Agrotis ipsilon*) are destructive pests of creeping bentgrass on greens and tees. Their feeding causes small patches of dead turf and depressions. This damage interferes with ball roll and reduces the overall aesthetics or value of the turf. Many superintendents will find themselves making several insecticide treatments each year in an attempt to control this pest.

The larvae stage is the only destructive stage of this pest. These larvae actively feed throughout the night on bentgrass putting greens and tees.

In North America, most areas in the cool season turfgrass zones have one to three generations per year. Each generation (egg to adult) averages 40 to 50 days depending on temperatures. The transition zone has three to four generations per year and in warm season turf areas, the pest may have up to seven generations a year.

Since this pest has several generations per year, several insecticide treatments may be necessary. The following suggestions may help reduce cutworm populations.

- 1 Nearly all the eggs deposited by black cutworms are laid on the grass blades. By removing the clippings, unhatched eggs will also be removed.
- 2 Insecticides applied just before sunset are less susceptible to photodegradation and volatilization.
- 3 Choose an insecticide carefully, based on its label and on its performance under your local conditions.
- 4 Apply the insecticide when the insect is at its most vulnerable stage.
- 5 Be sure equipment is calibrated accurately and that application patterns are well planned to avoid skips and overlaps.
- 6 Consider using materials which remain in the thatch (e.g. Dursban) or some of the relatively new pyrethroids.



## WINNERS!

Listed below are the results of the raffle. Winning tickets were drawn at the June 10 meeting at the Country Club at Woodloch Springs.

1. Fox Hill Country Club - **Aer-Core**
2. Old Homestead Golf Club - **Charles Masteller**
3. Locust Valley Golf Club - **Bob Bachman**
4. Southmoore Golf Course - **Peter Beblavy**
5. Hickory Valley Golf Club - **Bob Bob Jerry Joe**
6. Green Acres Golf Club - **Frank DeGaebno**
7. Country Club of the Poconos - **Gail Messina**
8. Wyoming Valley Country Club - **Lori Stranzl**
9. The Hideout Golf Club - **Aer-Core**
10. Bethlehem Golf Club - **Mark McCormick**

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Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States with more than 1 million new cases diagnosed each year. The following suggestions may help to reduce the chances of being affected by skin cancer:

- 1 Wear a wide brimmed hat.
- 2 Protect as much of your skin as possible with clothing.
- 3 Use sunscreen SPF-15 or greater.
- 4 Work in the shade in peak UV hours (10: A.M. to 3 P.M.).
- 5 Wear UV filtering protective eyewear.

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### PESTICIDE CREDITS!

The Eastern PA Pesticide Institute located at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA, will hold its seminar on August 14, 1997.

Following is the schedule for the day:

**7:30 A.M. - Registration**

**8:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. -**

**Turf Track: (Category 7 & 23) 4 credits**  
Participate in six 20- minute sessions and learn about pesticide formulation, organo silicone surfactants, ID and control options for pests, and plant growth regulation on turfgrass.

**11:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. (lunch 12:15 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.)**

**Core Track: 4 credits**

Speakers with recognized expertise will cover topics such as low volume applications, surviving spot checks, and storing pesticides safely.

**2:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

**Product Showcase: (Category 6 & 7) 4 credits**

Learn the latest technical information on six new products. Six 20-minute sessions will give you an opportunity to ask the experts.

Pesticide Credits will not be awarded to Attendees arriving late!

Lunch during the Core Category is not provided by the PLNA.

Send a completed registration form, along with payment, to PA Landscape and Nursery Association, P. O. Box 4765, Harrisburg, PA 17111-0765. Checks should be made payable to Keystone Service Alliance. Call PLNA at 717-238-1673 for more information or a Registration Form.

The 7th Annual Pesticide Institute promises to be better than ever! Interactive learning stations will be featured for the second year. Receive recertification credits while hearing experts discuss the latest information on specific pest problems, diseases, insects, and weeds.

### THE PTC AND THE JOSEPH M. DUICH ENDOWMENT....

June 2, 1997

Mr. Ron Garrison, CGCS  
President, Pocono Turfgrass Association

Dear Ron:

I wanted to write to follow up our conversation regarding the J.M. Duich Endowment Tournament. I've enclosed a brief description from Penn State about the endowment. There hasn't been much awareness of the endowment and its purpose. Even as a director of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, I was ignorant to its existence until recently.

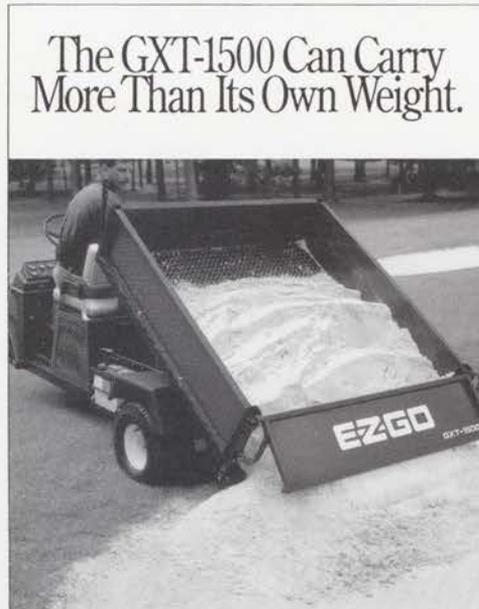
Penn State is no exception to the financial restrictions that are happening

nationally to State schools. This has especially had an impact on the Turfgrass Science Department in terms of funding from the University. There was a hold on staff replacements and even doubt that vacant positions would be filled. This is one example where the J.M. Duich Endowment could fund the expense of replacing key positions in the Turfgrass Department. In the uncertain financial climate of the University, the endowment has come to the forefront as one vehicle to help fund the progression of education, research, and extension in the Turfgrass Department at Penn State.

The Tournament was created to bring awareness to the endowment and its purpose. The intent was to have Penn State Turfgrass alumni at high profile clubs host a tournament every 18 months in different areas of the country. The first was held at Oakmont Country Club in the fall of 1995. The Oakmont tournament raised over \$35,000 for the endowment. This year's tournament was held in Denver at Castle Pines Golf Club on May 19. It is still early, but we believe we've surpassed the first event's earnings.

As part of the turf industry, I thought you may find value in not only being aware of the endowment tournament and its purpose, but participating to a certain

*Continued on Page 6*



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## METHODS OF AQUATIC WEED CONTROL....

Aquatic plants fulfill many natural functions and definitely have important and vital roles to play in aquatic environments. However, they may interfere with man's use of the environment. Since many aquatic plants are desirable and in some cases necessary, you should control them only when they become a pest by interfering with use of a particular aquatic environment.

There are four methods to control aquatic weeds:

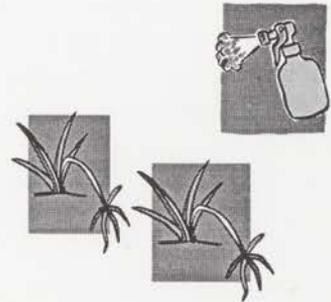
**MECHANICAL CONTROL** - Mechanical methods may be as simple as pulling or digging up a few objectionable plants along the water margin. Mechanical methods also include using expensive and complicated underwater

mowers. While removing a few plants by hand in a small pond can be effective, generally, mechanical aquatic weed control is useless on a large scale.

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANIPULATION** - This can be effective on ponds that have extensive feathered edges which can be reworked to deepen the edges to a minimum depth of 18 inches. This eliminates the habitat for many of the troublesome aquatic weeds. Deepening the pond edges coupled with a good fertilization program, will, in many cases, be the most economical and best method for controlling many aquatic weeds.

**BIOLOGICAL CONTROL** - This may be the most promising form of aquatic weed control. The long term cost benefit ratio can be extremely attractive. The grass carp is an excellent biological control for some aquatic weeds in certain situations.

**CHEMICAL CONTROL** - Herbicides are a convenient but expensive means of aquatic weed control in most cases. Before you try any herbicide, you must accurately identify the aquatic weed. You must choose the correct and most economical herbicide and proper treatment rate. Make an accurate measure of the water volume or surface area to be treated. Always read and observe label precautions before using any herbicide in an aquatic environment.



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degree. Its obvious that being a player participant in the tournament would be impossible at this point. In the future you may want to consider playing yourself or even hosting your own team. You can still have some participation in this year's event by being a sponsor or contributor. For \$500.00 or more, Pocono will be recognized in all post tournament publication as a tee sponsor. Any amount less than \$500.00 and you will be recognized as a contributor. As I mentioned in our conversation, technically I was representing Pocono with my presence at the tournament. Without sounding pushy, I believe politically, it would be great for Pocono to donate the \$500.00 and have it go directly into the endowment, if monies are available.

If you find value in participating, please make your tax deductible check out to the J. M. Duich Endowment and mail it ASAP to Mr. George Hamilton, Department of Agronomy, LMRC Orchard Road, University Park, PA 16802. I can be reached at 610-967-4643 to answer any further questions. Thank you for your consideration to this invaluable cause.

Sincerely,

John A. Chassard  
Director, Pennsylvania  
Turfgrass Council

## JOSEPH M. DUICH TURFGRASS ENDOWMENT

The purpose of the J. M. Duich Endowment is to provide monies for turfgrass research, education, and extension in the center for Turfgrass Science in the College of Agricultural Sciences, The Pennsylvania State University. The initial principal of this endowment, in excess of \$1,000,000, has been received by The Pennsylvania State University from royalties and gifts designated for the above-stated purpose in honor of Joseph M. Duich, Ph.D., Class of 1952 and 1957.

Penn State has one of the world's leading academic programs in turfgrass science. A majority of the world's golf courses employ turfgrasses developed at Penn State, and much of contemporary turfgrass technology reflects the results of research conducted at this University during the past 65 years. Penn State has one of the few undergraduate Turfgrass Science majors and one of the preeminent two-year technical programs in turfgrass management in the United States today. Many of the leading turfgrass professionals from around the world had their technical, undergraduate and/or graduate training at Penn State.

The Center for Turfgrass Science involves a substantial group of faculty and support staff from many academic departments from the College of Agricultural Sciences. Laboratories and other facilities available for turfgrass research are among the best found anywhere in the world. The teaching facilities include well-equipped, fully computerized, state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories.

Turfgrass research at Penn State

encompasses all areas of turfgrass science including: turfgrass breeding and evaluation; pest management; soil fertility and modification; fate of pesticides and fertilizers; and athletic field characterization. The research covers many types of turfgrass management systems, from highways to home lawns to athletic fields to golf courses. The extension effort is utilized to disseminate this and other university research to the turfgrass industry.

Turfgrass education at Penn State is available in a few different formats. A Two-Year Technical Program is offered to provide a specialized training in turfgrass management. The Turfgrass Science major is another educational option which is a four-year baccalaureate degree program. Turfgrass courses and an internship provide students with principles, concepts, and practical experience. Advanced degree programs in turfgrass science also are available in the Department of Agronomy.



**Finch Turf Equipment** is pleased to announce the appointment of **Mr. Robert Kaufman** as Sales Representative for the Central PA Area. Robert's responsibilities will be the marketing of the John Deere Golf and Turf products along with allied products to your golf course. Robert enjoys golf, fishing, and gardening; his wife Noelle Sue is a teddy bear collector and a great cook! Please join us in welcoming Robert to our Golf and Turf Team.



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*A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA*

## MEETING NOTES

### GOLF AT WOODLAND HILLS C.C.

The Pocono Turfgrass Association landed at Woodland Hills Country Club on Tuesday, May 20. Jim Vedomsky, Jr., Superintendent, and Alex Patullo, Sr., Owner, rolled out the carpet and gave us a great time. The hospitality was unbeatable!

Woodland Hills opened in 1966 in the rolling hills of Lower Saucon Township. The layout consumes 160 acres and offers rye grass tees and fairways, with bentgrass greens. Jim started here in 1987 as a mechanic and took over as superintendent in August 1990. He designed and built

two new holes, and is planning to attend Rutgers in the winter of 1997.

The golf event for the day was a two person scramble. The results were:

#### 1st Flight:

(match of cards, both  
4 under par 68)

Jim Vedomsky, Jr. & Phil Contents

Gary Phillips & Mr. Albino

#### 2nd Flight:

(match of cards)

Scott Schukraft & Robert Vail

Gene Huelster & John Vojick

#### Closest to Pin:

Steve Stranzl & Gary Phillips

#### Long Drive:

Mike Fischer

#### Straight Drive:

Jason Barndt

Jim and Phil, being the sports they are, relinquished their winning to the most honest twosome - Sean Cullen and Pat Roda.

Guest speaker, Joe Battellino of Otterbine Barebo, showed us some easy to use methods for treating water quality problems through use of surface and sub-surface water aeration. Thanks, Joe, for the handouts and info.

We would like to again thank Jim for a wonderful day. The course was great, along with the service in the golf shop and clubhouse.

*Jack Bird, Golf Committee*

## 1997 MEETING SITES

### JUNE 10, 1997

Woodloch Springs Country Club  
Honesdale, PA  
Mark Eisele, Host Superintendent  
Speaker: Andy McNitt, Penn State

### SEPT. 16, 1997 Philadelphia

Paupack Hills Golf and Country Club  
Greentown, PA  
Mark Monahan, CGCS, Host Supt.  
Speaker: Dr. Peter Landscoot,  
Penn State

### JULY 11, 1997

Edgewood in the Pines  
Drums, PA  
Anthony Barletta, Host Supt.  
Speaker: Bob Dickison,  
Upper Montclair C.C.

### OCTOBER 7, 1997 -

PTC Valentine Tournament  
Huntsville Golf Club  
Lehman, PA  
Scott A. Schukraft, Host Supt.

### AUGUST 18, 1997 - PTGA Clambake

Blue Ridge Country Club  
Palmerton, PA  
Paul Weiss, Host Superintendent

### OCTOBER 1997

Split Rock Country Club  
Lake Harmony, PA  
Scott Seidel, Host Superintendent



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# POCONO ROUNDUP

## NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

The **Annual Joseph Valentine Memorial Golf Tournament** will be held at the Huntsville Golf Club in Lehman, PA on October 7, 1997. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Turf Project at Penn State University. Contact John Chassard (610-967-4643) or Todd Struse (215-884-2590) for more information. Anyone interested in assisting with the preparation of the course on the day of the event, please contact Scott Schukraft, Superintendent at (717-675-3800).

**Hal Parr, CGCS**, is currently serving on the GCSAA Chapter Relations Committee, chaired by GCSAA Vice President George Renault, CGCS. Hal recently attended a Chapter Relations Meeting in the Washington, D. C. area. We look forward to an update at a forthcoming meeting. To our knowledge, Hal is currently the only PTGA member to serve on a GCSAA committee.

Our sincere condolences go out to **Sean Cullen** and his family on the death of his brother, Christopher John Cullen, who passed away on Friday, June 13, 1997.

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

- Michael Bird**, Class S, Delaware Valley College
- Mark Fuller**, Class A, Green Pond Country Club
- Edward Gross**, Class B, Northampton Country Club
- Adam Herman**, Class C, Southmoore Golf Course
- Darrin E. Larkin**, Class B, Panorama Golf Course
- Don Liprando**, Class AF, Lesco Inc.

**Douglas Bowman**, an employee of Paul Weiss at Blue Ridge Country Club, has recently accepted an Assistant's position at Huntsville Golf Club. Doug, we look forward to having you as a member of the PTGA.

Best wishes to **Jeff Peters**, CGCS, our current Past President. He is recovering from Gall Bladder surgery. Hope you're feeling better, Jeff.

**DID YOU KNOW?** In 1984 the Pocono Turfgrass Association had more certified members than any other Pennsylvania association!



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