



# CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Founded in  
1936

VOL. 3, NO. 3

MAY 1997

## GCSAA RE-AFFILIATION COMPLETE.....

The Pocono Turfgrass Association has officially re-affiliated with GCSAA. With the unanimous approval of the proposed by-laws presented to the membership earlier this year, the PTGA has completed all reaffiliation requirements. The purpose of reaffiliation with GCSAA as written in the reaffiliation agreement is to:

- Enhance the image of its members and assist in elevating their professional status
- Have an effective national and Chapter network of trained volunteers that vigorously represent the profession in the areas of education, government relations, public relations, membership recruitment, research and development, and funding
- Promote and develop future leaders
- Support both GCSAA and Chapter in their activities and programs to benefit members and the golf course superintendent's profession
- Share information that helps preserve and advance the members' livelihood and the golf course superintendent's profession.

As a reaffiliated Chapter, the Pocono Turfgrass Association receives the following privileges of affiliated status:

**Voting Representation:** Chapters holding affiliated status have the privilege to be represented at any annual or special meeting of GCSAA by a delegate. Such Chapter delegate shall represent and be authorized to cast the votes of the voting members of GCSAA who are also members of such Affiliated Chapter and who desire to be represented by such delegate.

**Promotional Materials & Logo:** Chapters which have been granted affiliated status may identify itself as such on circulars, brochures and other such promotional materials related to solicitation of

members, continuing education programs, or other such programs or materials.

**Member Lists:** Affiliate Chapters shall be provided with the names and addresses of GCSAA members who are not affiliated with a chapter and the executive staff shall be provided with a GCSAA Membership directory.

**Cooperative Programs:** Affiliated Chapters shall be entitled to participate in cooperative programs sponsored by GCSAA. A few of the programs sponsored by GCSAA are the Chapter Research Program, Chapter Consulting Teams, Chapter Tournament Team Competition, Chapter Merchandise Program, Regional Seminars, and Chapter Insurance Program just to name a few.

As part of our newly approved by-laws, committees have been formed. They are listed below, along with the board member who chairs that committee.

Education	Mike Vella
Publicity/Editorial	Scott Schukraft
Golf	Jack Bird
Sergeant at Arms	Tom Wilchak
Finance	Mike Vella
Membership	Kelly Kressler
GCSAA Affairs	Scott Schukraft
Social and Welfare	James MacLaren
Bylaws	Scott Schukraft
Scholarship & Research	Steve Stranzl
Government Relations	Scott Schukraft
Nominating/ .. Long Range Steering	Jeff Peters

### In This Issue.....

For Your Eyes Only.....  
More on Softspikes.....  
New Product Update.....





## President's Message.....

Things are starting to really turn around for the better for golf these past few weeks! Temperatures are beginning to rise enough to promote good golfing conditions. Forecasts appear to be heading towards a back to normal pattern - if there is a normal pattern, anymore.

Our second meeting of the year was held recently at Silvercreek Country Club, with host Tony Grieco, CGCS, providing us with a great day of golf and camaraderie. For those of you who were unable to attend, Tony was put in a tough position when our meeting date had to be changed, due to overbooking in the clubhouse. Tony did an excellent job in contacting the entire sign-up for both our association and the Central Penn Association to reschedule. Thanks again, Tony.

Over the past few weeks many things have developed for my family and for my professional career. We were fortunate enough to purchase a home, negotiate a new position, re-negotiate my old position, accept a new position, resign from my former position, move from my home into our "new" home and I will soon be starting at my new position. All within the past two weeks!

I am no longer at Glen Oak Country Club. I will be starting at Foxhill Country Club on May 12, 1997. I am sure many of you have heard this already, maybe even before I accepted the position. It is funny how this industry works. As it currently stands, Glen Oak Country Club has moved my former Assistant, Tom McLane, into the position of Acting Superintendent. He has been at Glen Oak for the past sixteen years, with the past two as Assistant Superintendent. Best of Luck, Tom. You deserve the job!

As I mentioned, this all took place over a period of two weeks. Stress and a very difficult decision was not what I had planned for April. I do want to thank a few of my colleagues (you know who you are) for the personal insight and advice in helping me to make the best decision for myself and my family. Time will tell... If any of you would like to talk to me further, please call me to discuss some of the things we have learned throughout this process. It is something that warrants further discussion in a future newsletter. (Hint, Scott!)

*Ron Garrison, CGCS*

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

Between Golf Course Cleanup, Green and Tee Aerification, pressurizing the Irrigation System, restoring the bunkers from the winter season (did winter ever come?), and numerous on-going projects, I have somehow managed to piece together the May Issue of *Chips & Putts!* Haven't heard much about the publication so, as the old saying goes, "No news is good news." The Editorial Committee will continue on the steady track that has been established, at least for the remainder of 1997. It has been a very busy month here, as I am sure it has been with you, but I hope you take a few minutes and read all the good information inside. A few health tips, for yourself and your turf, maintenance tips, PTGA news, reminders, and, of course, the Pocono Roundup, the latest, greatest news from around the area. Enjoy!



*Scott A. Schukraft, Editor*



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## It's so bright, you gotta wear shades!!



There's been a lot said about the hazards of sunshine to your skin, but don't overlook the hazard the sun can be to your eyes. That's what leading eye specialists are saying.

Ultraviolet radiation (UV) contributes to eye disorders and the glare from the sun is a major contributor to these problems. Sunglasses protect your eyes from both glare and UV light.

The answer then, is sunglasses. The question is, how do you select the right ones?

Optometrists agree, paying a lot for a pair of sunglasses is no guarantee that they will provide the right protection. Blocking UV light is the top priority. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has set standards for nonprescription lenses. Those that meet these standards will have "Z-80.3" printed on the frame.

While it is best to get the advice of an eye care professional when selecting sunglasses, when you're in a profession that demands that you're exposed to the sun a great deal — sound familiar?— there are some guidelines you can follow as you search for the right "shades":

- Make sure the lenses are large enough to block light from coming around the glasses.
- Sunglasses should fit properly. A recent study showed that if sunglasses slipped even a quarter of an inch down the nose, 20 percent more UV rays entered the eyes.
- Tint is important. Traditionally, grey and green have been considered best because they distort color less. Brown and amber are gaining favor, however, in some conditions.
- Polarizing lenses reduce reflected glare.
- Distorted lenses (non-prescription)

won't harm your vision, but can give you headaches. To check a pair you're considering, hold them at arm's length and look at a straight line in the distance. Move the lens across that line. If the line appears distorted, don't buy that pair.

- Both glass and plastic lenses have their advantages and disadvantages. Glass is more scratch resistant, but it's heavier. Plastic is lighter, but will tend to fog up easier and scratch quicker. Both need to have a special coating applied to block out UV and blue light.

Studies have shown that cataracts may be caused by exposure to the sun, and that if proper protection is provided, cataracts can be prevented. If you are fair skinned and blue-eyed, have a family history of eye problems such as cataracts, or are taking medications such as tetracycline that increases sensitivity to UV light, you need to be aware of the benefits of sunglasses. Don't leave home without them! Experts also say that those who spend a great deal of time outdoors should always protect their eyes with sunglasses. There are few professions that demand more outdoor exposure than yours on the golf course. Protecting your eyes should be a top priority.



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Joel Simmons

## GCSAA's Statement On Softspikes.....



The Golf Course Association of American (GCSAA) recognizes there is considerable information establishing the benefits of alternatives to metal spikes. It is GCSAA's position that facilities should consider requiring the use of these alternatives. GCSAA recognizes that many factors affect the decision to mandate alternatives to metal spikes. These factors may include any or all of the following:

- Design of the golf course
- Quality expectations of golfers
- Turfgrass species and varieties used on the golf course
- Amount of foot traffic on the course
- Perceptions of golfers
- Region of the country
- Climate
- Maintenance levels and budgets
- Level of ability of golfers
- Liability or legal issues

While it is the responsibility of each golf course to determine what policy is best for their facility, GCSAA is committed to facilitating the development of these policies through the accumulation and dissemination of information. As a result, it is in the best interest of facilities to consult with the golf course superintendent before making a decision. GCSAA will serve as a comprehensive source of information in the following areas:

- Agronomic questions
- Legal questions
- Golfers' perceptions
- Impacts on pliability
- Financial impacts
- Golf Course aesthetics
- Anecdotal information

Where valid information exists in these areas, GCSAA will collect and make it available through its various resources to its members and the industry. Where information does not exist in a particular area, GCSAA will identify and encourage research.

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## The Art of Cup Cutting.....

Superintendents use a range of strategies in locating cups on greens, from formal "clock" or "grid" strategies to unstructured "mix-it-up" viewpoints. Whatever the strategy, superintendents' attention to detail makes the game more enjoyable for golfers and protects turf.

### Cup Cutting Considerations

- Strive for a balance of fair, challenging and in-between holes.
- Locate on a constant slope or flat area.
- Avoid edges of the green.
- Locate the pin high and dry, avoiding drainage areas when rain is likely.
- Assess the condition of grass around proposed hole locations and avoid areas with shoe wear, scuffs and depressions.
- Consider heat, humidity, compaction, moisture, amount of play and wind direction.
- Train appropriate staff utilizing one or two crew members for consistency. Critical: Designated staff must understand golf.
- Designate same crew members to set tee markers to insure consistent course yardages.
- Provide quality control check of their work on a regular basis.
- Clean flag often. Replace as needed.
- Clean cup and wipe flag stick.
- Provide special treatment during tournaments, i.e., paint cups.
- Replace old cup cut evenly avoiding "volcanoes."

- Insist staff adhere to facility's cart rules which may mean they can't drive up to the green when performing duties.
- Involve the golf professional when necessary.
- Use cup cutting staff as "eyes and ears" for potential problems since they are often first on the course.

Sources: John Carlone, CGCS, Middle Bay Country Club, Oceanside, NY; Richard Lavine, CGCS, Peacock Gap Golf and Country Club, San Rafael, CA; Ronald ? CGCS, Hillcrest Country Club, Lincoln, NE; Gary Skolnik, Fountain Grove Resort and Country Club, Santa Rosa, CA.



Raffle tickets are now on sale. Each board member has been issued tickets to distribute to PTGA members. If you do not receive tickets soon, you may contact any member of the board. There will be a donation of \$5.00 per ticket.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those clubs participating in this year's raffle for their support. It is our hope that the membership will show their support and sell every ticket. The drawing will be held at our monthly meeting on June 10 at Woodloch Springs Country Club.

The winning ticket will receive a round of golf for 4, including green fees and carts, at one of the following courses:

1. **Glen Oak Country Club**  
Clarks Summit, PA
2. **Old Homestead Golf Club**  
New Tripoli, PA
3. **Locust Valley Golf Club**  
Coopersburg, PA
4. **Southmoore Golf Course**  
Bath, PA
5. **Hickory Valley Golf Club**  
Gilbertsville, PA
6. **Green Acres Golf Club**  
Bernville, PA
7. **Country Club of the Poconos**  
Marshalls Creek, PA
8. **Wyoming Valley Country Club**  
Wilkes-Barre, PA
9. **The Hideout Golf Club**  
Lake Ariel, PA
10. **Bethlehem Golf Club**  
Bethlehem, PA

Note: Winning ticket holders will be subject to individual club rules, dress codes, availability of tee times, conduct, etc.

**STEVE STRANZL....**  
*Scholarship & Research Chairman*

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## FUNGICIDE TRIALS BENEFIT COURSE AND INDUSTRY FOR WEST CHESTER SUPERINTENDENT.....



Participation in fungicide trials is a beneficial experience for both the individual superintendent and the overall golf course industry, believes John Keeler, golf course superintendent at Hershey's Mill Golf Club in West Chester, PA.

Keeler explains that environmental

issues are an increasing concern among his club members, and he needs to keep abreast of how newer, more environmentally sensitive products work under his particular conditions. "Although many of these compounds are used at much lower rates than what we are accustomed to applying, they return better results than some of the old standbys," says Keeler.

"By participating in new product trials, we are able to learn how to use these chemistries properly and maximize their benefits for the turf, the applicator and the environment," he adds. "This first-hand knowledge helps keep our members happy, our turf healthy, and promotes the industry as being environmentally responsible." Keeler points to new HERITAGE Fungicide as an example of a product that promises to benefit disease management programs and the image of the golf course industry. A new, broad-spectrum fungicide developed by Zeneca Professional Products, HERITAGE, with the active ingredient azoxystrobin, recently has been granted Federal Registration and registered under the Environmental Protection Agency's reduced risk pesticide initiative. Pennsylvania State registration was granted in March of this year. Approved for use on all varieties of turfgrass, HERITAGE controls more than 18 diseases, including brown patch, Pythium, take-all patch, summer patch, and anthracnose. Other advantages include preventative and curative activity, a 10 to 28-day extended application interval, low use rates, and a unique mode of action conducive to resistance management programs.

Keeler tested HERITAGE under the golf course research and evaluation program last summer. Although he had been spraying a preventative program for brown patch control, the hot, humid conditions typically experienced during southeastern Pennsylvania summers promoted an outbreak of the disease on two greens. "We had the problem, the company had a product that was looking good in university and corporate research trials, so we decided to work

together and see what happened," he explains.

Keeler sprayed 0.4 ounces of HERITAGE in two gallons of water per 1,000 square feet in early July. "The curative activity was excellent. The brown patch was controlled in the treated areas within a few days after applying HERITAGE," he says.

Keeler adds that besides controlling brown patch, the product's broad-spectrum activity, combined with its extended application interval will benefit his disease management program in the long run. "By having a product that provides broad-spectrum control with extended application intervals, we should be able to eliminate a few sprays throughout the year. The less we have our sprayer out, the better for all of us," he says.

*Continued on Page 6*



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## PA Superintendent Renews Professional Certification...

Mark Monahan, superintendent at Paupack Hills Golf and Country Club, has completed a renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the GCSAA. He has been a superintendent at the Greentown, PA, course since 1983. Monahan initially achieved the title of "CGCS" in 1977.

GCSAA instituted the certification program in 1971 to recognize outstanding and progressive superintendents. More than 1,600 golf course superintendents currently hold "CGCS" status.

To become certified, a candidate must have at least three years' experience as a golf course superintendent, be employed in that capacity and meet specific post secondary educational requirements and/or continuing education units. The candidate must then pass a rigorous six-hour examination.

To fulfill certification renewal requirements, Monahan earned 15 CEUs, with at least 4.9 coming from GCSAA tested categories. Maintaining certified status requires a renewal process be completed every five years from the initial date of certification.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enrich the quality of golf and its environment.

*Continued from Page 5*

Keeler continues, "By using products like HERITAGE, we are able to take care of diseases and keep our members happy at the same time. That is a definite advantage in my book."

*Editor's Note: It has been a long anticipated wait for this particular product to arrive on the market. With the reported problems of summer patch and take-all patch at several area courses, the Editorial Committee decided to report this interview. It is only intended to make our readers aware of a new, exciting product available to them for their use. The PTGA in no way claims to endorse or recommend this product in any way.*



Now that Spring is finally here and you are beautifying your course, you may also want to take a look at getting your course certified in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

The certification process has six categories which must be completed before your course can become a Certified Cooperative Sanctuary. These are:

1. Environmental Planning
2. Member/Public Involvement
3. Integrated Pest Management
4. Wildlife & Habitat Management
5. Water Conservation
6. Water Quality Management

Anyone interested in becoming involved in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program can contact Marla Briggs at 518-767-9051 in Selkirk, NY.



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# REMINDER!

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Thanks!



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*A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA*



## MEETING NOTES

### GOLF AT SILVER CREEK...

Host Super Tony Grieco had Silver Creek Country Club in beautiful condition for our joint meeting with the Central Superintendents Association. I had the pleasure of playing along with Tony and Grounds Chairman, Phil Sabitino. Did you know that holes 3 through 11 are the "new nine?" Also, the nine they replaced were brought back to life and live in the hills near the clubhouse. The green on #9 was rebuilt to its original design, along with some new trap around the course. Back to the original — ya gotta love it!

We would like to thank Tony and his staff for a great day. Thanks also go to General Manager, Jay Gallo; Club President, Tim Fehr; Ray Sinic, Golf Pro; and Rob Ruch, Chef, for having

over 90 people invade their club.

Several golfers hit the course scoring record breaking numbers. The winners of flights, special contest, and skins went as follows:

#### 1st Flight:

Jim Loke & Lee Kozsey - 71  
Charles McGill & Marc Oesterling - 73

#### 2nd Flight:

Brian Ahrens & Ken Papada - 77  
Gary Phillips, Sr. & Gary Phillips, Jr. - 79

#### 3rd Flight:

Tony Gordley & Ken Pepple - 82  
Jim Vedomsky, Jr. & Mark Reed - 82

#### 4th Flight

Ron Lee & John Bodock - 86  
Doug Wolfgang & Andy Mummert - 86

#### 5th Flight:

Rick Patterson & Len Predtechenski - 90  
John Vojick & Gene Huelster - 90

#### Closest to Pin

#13 - Ted Sabrenski - 5'11"  
#16 - Charles McGill - 2'9"

#### Most Honest

Greg Haines  
Tony Stranzl

#### Skins Game

Jim Carville, Kevin Driscoll,  
Bill Rahling and Charles McGill

As you can see, lots of winners, lots of fun! Once again, thanks to Tony and Staff. See you at the next outing.

*JACK BIRD,  
Golf Committee*



## 1997 MEETING SITES

### MAY 20, 1997

Woodland Hills Country Club  
Hellertown, PA  
James Vedomsky, Jr., Host Supt.  
Speaker: Joe Battellino, Otterbine

### JUNE 10, 1997

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

### JULY 11, 1997

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

### AUGUST 18, 1997 - PTGA Clambake

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

### SEPT. 16, 1997 Philadelphia

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

### OCTOBER 7, 1997 -

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

### 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

**Finch Turf Equipment** has just announced the appointment of Tom Wojcik as their new Turf Division Manager. Mr. Wojcik will be directing Golf and Turf sales and support operations from the Westminster, Maryland, and North Wales, Pennsylvania, offices. Tom has twenty-one years of experience in the Turf Equipment sales industry. For the last nine years, he specialized in golf course equipment sales and joined Finch Turf Equipment, Inc. in 1992.

**Ron Garrison, CGCS**, and current President of the Pocono Turfgrass Association, has accepted the Golf Course Superintendent's position at Fox Hill Country Club in Exeter, PA. Ron was most recently in a similar position at Glen Oak Country Club in Clark Summit. Good Luck, Ron!

**Hal Parr, CGCS**, reports that he is doing very well. Beware!! Should he call you and ask to play a round of golf, he is doing so with plenty of time on his hands to practice and hone his game. Be advised that giving him strokes could be a big mistake!!

In the May issue of *Golf Digest*, they had their annual rankings of the States best Golf Clubs. In the Commonwealth of PA, three area courses made the list. All three courses for Saucon Valley were rated in the top ten. Huntsville Golf Club ranked #6 and Glenmaura National #11. Congratulations to all three.

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).

We would like to welcome the following new members:

**Edward Gross**, Class B, Northampton C.C.  
**Jason Barndt**, Class B, Berwick Golf Club  
**Sankey A. Brumley, Jr.**, Class A, Timber Trails G.C.  
**Todd F. Moyer**, Class C, Timber Trails G. C.  
**John Spencer**, Class A, Lehman Golf Club  
**John Wendorf**, Class AF, Novartis Crop Protection



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