



CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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1936

VOL. 3, NO. 7

SEPTEMBER 1997

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE REVEREND JIM.....

Editor's Note: The Reverend? Most of you will know him as James "The Peddler" MacLaren. I am not quite sure how he received the nickname, but for whatever reason, it has stuck here at Huntsville. We always look forward to his visits as we know his blessing will provide a moment of good fortune. - Scott A. Schukraft.

Now that the fairway overseeding time has almost come to it's conclusion, it is time to review observations during this time of "Celebration."

In the past, the reasons for overseeding were straight forward - to improve the stand of the fairway turf. Lately, this practice has evolved to include the aforementioned, but also to change the species of grass to bluegrass or bentgrass. The reason for this change is the invasion of "Ryegrass Blast" (*Pyricularis grisea*) in the route #22—#222 corridor from the Reading area through the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton area to the New Jersey border.

For those overseeding to improve their existing stand, the practice has remained the same for many years. It has been successful, but some of the procedures necessary to change the species can also apply for enhanced success in a straight renovation.

Many factors need to be addressed when changing species.

First and foremost, which species will be chosen - bluegrass or bentgrass?

Changing from rye/poa to bentgrass means your customers will have to accept a lower height of cut. What will the time frame be? One season or many? How many seasons? Will new maintenance equipment/practices need to be implemented?

In changing to bluegrass, academia has recommended much more drastic measures to be successful in the conversion. Due to extended time of germination of bluegrass, the need for suppression

of the existing stand has to be of a longer duration. Henceforth, we may need to look at a total kill (Roundup or Finale) or higher rates of PGR products, such as Primo, and adjust the time of application for enhanced duration of suppression.

Using PGRs at higher rates will cause some discoloration of the poa, but who cares! These higher rates will give a much more extended suppression time, hence less competition for the new seedlings and higher sales volume for your sales representative. Or how about this scenario: do your normal overseeding procedures, then wait 4-5 days. Now apply the PGR! The new seeds will probably not have germinated yet, so the PGR will not be an issue on the new guys. Even if the new guys emerged, they have not yet formed gibberlins, so the PGR will not affect them anyway.

Or how about this wild idea from a "loco" peddler: do the overseeding, wait 4-5 days, then apply Roundup or Finale. As the Roundup/Finale is beginning to work (4-5 days), the seedlings will begin to emerge (4-5 days or longer). Hopefully, the trauma of discoloration will be less traumatic to your patrons.

Of course we must include the old standby, Prograss. Follow the label, and you can't go too far astray.

Local observations/information has indicated that no new bluegrasses have exhibited any shorter germination time in conjunction with a quality turf ratings. As with any overseeding procedure, choose

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- ◆ Seminars
- ◆ Educational Programs
- ◆ Calendar of Events



President's Message.....

Well, it looks like we made it through another tough golf season. Now we must start thinking about the upcoming fall renovation projects, leaf clean up, winterization and educational seminars....Vacations, seeing our families, hunting, fishing, and everything else we seem to put aside. Why is that....?

The end of the season also brings with it the thoughts of your winter equipment maintenance programs. Not being very mechanically inclined, we will be rehauling everything we can the next five months or so, unless someone can get us a 2% loan on \$300,000. What do you think Parker, can you do it for us...?

The 1997 Clam Bake was a big hit once again. Paul Weiss and his staff really did a great job getting the course and food out to us in excellent fashion! Thanks, Paul.

I am looking forward to our next meeting at Paupack Hills and the joint meeting with the Philadelphia Superintendents. Rumor has it, we are going to have some sort of competition with the visitors. Knowing a few of the superintendents from Philly, they are going to be tough to beat. I mean their President and V.P. play more golf in one week than most of us play all year!

Our meeting in October is scheduled at Split Rock Resort and the new nine. Don't forget to get to this meeting and cast your vote for new board members!!

We are still in search of more host clubs for the 1998 meeting schedule. Please contact Jack Bird if you would like to host a PTGA meeting next year.

One thing I must comment on. Please make your best effort to prepay for each monthly meeting. It really allows the host club and the PTGA to plan and operate much more efficiently. ALSO - NO CASH! We would like to eliminate any cash payments. Write a check, please!

Thanks need to go out to all the PTGA members for another great year - from our monthly meeting attendance records, to the PTGA Board for hanging in there, to ALL our sponsors for donating as always, to all our critics for helping us make this association better, to all the monthly educational speakers, and to our executive secretary, Melinda Wisnosky, for doing more and more each month!

We are still moving forward, and we will only continue to get better with all your continued support.

Thanks.

Until next time,

*Ronald C. Garrison, CGCS
President*



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Jim MacLaren
Mark McCormick
Jeff Peters, CGCS
George Skawski
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1997 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPT. 16, 1997 Philadelphia

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

OCTOBER 6, 1997 -

MET Area Team Championship
Country Club of Darien
Darien, CT
Tim O'Neill, CGCS, Host

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

NOVEMBER 4-6 - Penn State Golf

Turf Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, State
College, PA. Contact Peter Landschoot,
Dept. of Agronomy, 116 ASI Building,
University Park, PA 16802, Tel. - 814-
863-1017 or PTC -814-863-3475.

NOVEMBER 5-8 - New York State

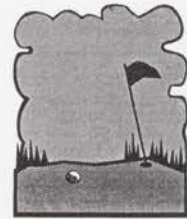
Turfgrass Association Turf & Grounds
Exposition, OnCenter, Syracuse, NY,
Tel. - 518-783-1229. Keynote speaker
will be Joe Theismann, Super Bowl
quarterback for the Washington
Redskins and ESPN football analyst.

DECEMBER 9-11 - New Jersey

Turfgrass Expo '97, Trump Taj Mahal
Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ
Sponsored by the New Jersey Turfgrass
Association

DECEMBER 9-12 - Ohio Turfgrass

Foundation Conference and Trade Show,
Columbus Convention Center,
Columbus, OH



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Anaheim
GCSAA's 69th International Golf Course
Conference and Show
February 2-8, 1998
Anaheim Convention Center
Trade Show: February 6-8

(Continued from page 1)

quality varieties and adjust your suppression procedures to better enhance your success!

Some other rambling thoughts: If you plan to overseed again in the spring, why not use Embark as your growth suppresser and get the double whammy of poa seedhead suppression. Also, for crabgrass control, you could choose Dimension to be applied after the germination of the desired specie as Dimension will give you post emergence control.

As with any procedure, it is wise to take soil tests and follow the recommendations to get your soils in the best possible condition for success, and again choose quality seed. If you're going to the aggravation of a renovation procedure, there is no sense putting birdseed in the ground - you can't take it up! And of course, make sure you get good seed to soil contact, even if you have to drive nails in a pallet and drag it behind your tractor to scarify the surface, as some people have done.

Some, and most of these thoughts, are not recommended by anyone, including the author. They are intended to make you THINK!

Jim MacLaren

Jim is a sales representative for Turf Specialty, and more importantly - co-editor of "Chips & Putts."

ELECTIONS

It is important for the growth of any association to have its qualified members remain active in the governing decisions of its future. I strongly urge anyone who is willing to spend a little extra time in exchange for the opportunity to work with his colleagues in enhancing the professional image of Superintendent to consider being a candidate.

Election of Officers and Board of Directors will be held during our October meeting at Split Rock. The Nominating Committee is currently accepting names of people willing to serve on the Board. Please contact me at 717-788-4277 after securing permission from the candidate to have his name placed on the ballot. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor before the elections are conducted.

Our current slate of candidates are:

President

Ron Garrison, CGCS

Vice President

Jack Bird

Secretary/Treasurer

Scott Schukraft
Kelly Kressler

Board of Directors (2)

Gene Huelster
Tony Grieco, CGCS

Jeffrey A. Peters, CGCS
Nominating Chairman

Resumé Writing Made Easy

If you are one of the many who would like to go for a new position but just can't face the prospect of writing your resumé, GCSAA might be able to help. Their career development department will critique a resume you have written free of charge - or, for a minimal \$25 fee, will help write your resume and provide a master copy and five laser-printed copies on high-quality paper. For \$30, you can have an electronic version.

Better still, just \$5 more will get you a custom-written cover letter with several areas for you to personalize.

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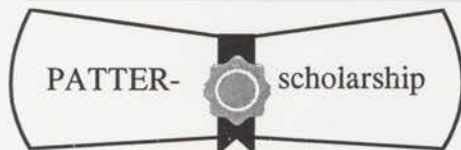
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The Pocono Turfgrass Association *Patterson Scholarship* is awarded annually to second year two year students and fourth year four year students. One applicant is chosen as the recipient of the scholarship and given honorary membership to The Pocono Turfgrass Association for that calendar year.

Requirements for consideration are:

- ◆ Applicant must be a second year student in a two-year program, or a fourth year student in an undergraduate program in a turfgrass related major.
- ◆ Applicant must submit in writing why he or she feels that he/she should be considered for the scholarship.
- ◆ Applicant must include what he or she feels his/her contribution to the turfgrass field will be.
- ◆ Applicant must submit a letter of endorsement from his/her employer in the turfgrass field. This endorsement may come from an employer from an internship program.
- ◆ Applicant's request for consideration and his or her employer endorsement must be submitted TOGETHER on or before December 31, 1997.
- ◆ Applicants requesting consideration for the Patterson Scholarship should send requests to:

The Pocono Turfgrass Association
c/o Melinda Wisnosky
147 Hayfield Road
Shavertown, PA 18708

SUPERINTENDENTS REAP BIGGER AND BETTER BENEFITS WITH EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS

When raise time rolls around - or if you're negotiating your benefits package at a new job - you may want to join the growing number of superintendents throughout the country who are lobbying for bigger and better benefits with employment contracts.

Among the many perks, aside from the typical vehicle and house, are:

- computer
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- once-a-week golf round with green chair or other committee member
- all expenses paid for superintendent and family to attend GCSAA's national conference, show, and golf tournament

To request a free sample employment contract that can be customized to fit your needs, contact GCSAA Career Development Department at 800-472-7878, Ext. 421.

With or without employment contracts, the following percentage of members report that these benefits are paid by their employers.

How do your benefits stack up?

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GCSAA Dues	96%
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ENJOY PUERTO VALLARTA WHILE EARN- ING 1.2 CEUs

The Professional Golfers' Sport Psychology Program is going to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico! Researched with PGA members, this two day school has just opened to certified golf course superintendents. 1.2 CEUs have been approved by the GCSAA for credits toward certification renewal requirements only.

Classes will be held from 7:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. on December 10-11, 1997. Reduced rates of \$90/dbl (if reserved by October 27) are available at the Marriott CasaMagna resort. Enjoy golf and diving in your free time. Call 800-228-9290 for accommodations. The two day school is taught by Dr. Natalie Newton. The fee for GCSAA certified members is \$300.00.

To register, please call 609-463-1997, Ext. 1, or fax 609-463-1010. PGSP is designed to improve play ability and enhance communication and management skills.

Bring along the pro! PGA members attending the school are certified as PGSP instructors. The cost for PGA members, including certification in PGSP and a teaching handbook, is \$375. This school is approved for 13 PDP for PGA members.

GCSAA COLLEGE GUIDE TO THE GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT PROFESSION

This new and exclusive publication provides a concise profile of each turf management program offered by two- and four-year colleges and universities. Information is provided on faculty, special research and laboratory facilities, types of degrees offered, number of hours required for a degree, internships required, career placement assistance, tuition costs and much more.

The GCSAA College Guide is organized into four sections:

Section One - describes the profession and role of the golf course superintendent

Section Two - provides examples of course offerings for two- and four-year programs.

Section Three - in-depth profiles of U.S. institutions offering two- to four-year turfgrass programs.

Section Four - geographical listing and chart of turfgrass programs.

To order, call the GCSAA Bookstore toll-free at 800-974-2711.

Price of the GCSAA College Guide is \$18.00.

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A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA

Meeting Notes

Blue Ridge Golf and Clambake

One hundred-plus golfers/clam eaters found their way to Blue Ridge Country Club. Paul Weiss, Jr. and Terry Steinmetz had everything ready for a terrific day. Paul had the course in tip-top shape, with beautiful greens and fairways, and sand traps that didn't want you to leave once you were in them. Terry certainly made my job easier by having everything ready for us. It's not easy putting together a golf tournament, special prizes, and a menu that was fit for a king. Paul and Terry, along with their respective staffs, really made it an enjoyable day. We would also like to thank the membership and club officials for the use of their golf course and facilities.

The format for the day was captain and crew. We had three flights with three teams winning per flight. We did not get all the team players' names, because they were not put on the score cards, but we do have the teams' captains. (In future, please write all players' names on the score cards.) I added a little twist by having the 1st, 2nd, and last places win. Here are the flight winners and special contest winners:

First Flight

1st Gary Phillips (-9)

2nd Hal Parr (-8)
Bill Smith
Stan Zelinski
Dean Snyder

Last Pete Beblavy (-4)
Tom Swanson
Al Himmelwright, Sr.
Dave Reinert

Second Flight

1st Jim Vedomsky, Jr. (-4)
Jim Vedomsky, Sr.
Alex Patullo
Dave Huttie

2nd Ron Garrison (-3)
Kelly Kressler
John Chassard
Tony Grieco

Last John Menapace (Even)
Frank Ciampa
Tom Suiman
Jim Carlo

Third Flight

1st Jason Barndt (Even)

2nd Joel Simmons (+1)
Mark Reed
Jack Zwick
John Wendorf

Last Jack Patterson (+8)
Rick Patterson
Chip Presendofer

Closest to the Pin #8
Big Z 8'6", John Menapace 10'9"

Closest to Pin #18
Esposito 4'3", Bill Smith 5'8-1/2"

Closest to the Sprinkler #9
Al Himmelwright, Sr.

Shortest Drive #9
Tony Stranzl

Thanks again to Paul for hosting us, and the entire Blue Ridge Country Club for a fantastic day.

Jack Bird, Golf Committee



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GCSAA EDUCATION SEMINARS

11/4/97 Turfgrass Stress Management -
Syracuse, NY

11/6-
11/7/97 Writing Successfully for
Business & Publications -
Somerset, NJ

11/18-
11/19/97 Golf Greens: History, Theory,
Construction and Maintenance-
Garden City, NY

12/8/97 Maximizing Teamwork -
Atlantic City, NJ

GOLF COURSE TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Applications are now being accepted for Penn State's Two-Year Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program for the class beginning in September 1998. There is an application fee of \$35.00 and the deadline is December 31, 1997. Applications can be obtained by calling 814-863-0129 or by writing to: Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program, The Pennsylvania State University, 221 Ag. Sciences and Industries Building, Univer-

POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Applications for the 1998 **Environmental Steward Award** are available from the August issue of *Golf Course Management*, GCSAA Online (www.gcsaa.org), affiliate chapter presidents, program sponsors and the GCSAA service center (800-472-7870). Applications must be received by October 31, 1997.

Huntsville Golf Club, along with eight other award winners, will be presented with the 1997 Environmental Partnership Award at the Seventh Annual Evening for Northeast Pennsylvania's Environment on October 9, 1997, at East Mountain Inn in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Doug Witcraft has accepted the grow-in and maintenance responsibility at Eagle Rock Resort in Hazleton, PA. Welcome back to the Superintendent Ranks, Doug!

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 member:

Michael Petrilak, Class A



We are soliciting PTGA Meeting Sites for 1998. What better way to show off your course than to host a PTGA meeting for all your fellow PTGA members. Please contact Golf Chairman, Jack Bird at 717-698-6384.



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