



CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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INDUSTRY NEWS:

GROUND WATER GETS GREEN LIGHT.....

A recent water quality study confirmed the results of previous research that pesticide runoff and leaching to ground water from golf courses is minimal. And when detected, at levels that are usually well below health advisory standards. Research: Researchers Stuart Cohen, Ph.D, Amelia Svrjcek, Tom Durborow and N. LaJan Barnes analyzed data from 35 U.S. golf courses and one on Prince Edward Island, Canada. The group analyzed water quality monitoring data for the pesticides, metabolites, solvents and nitrate/nitrogen used on courses. The study was the first attempt at a comprehensive examination of water quality on golf courses. Past research, with similar results, was limited to just one



geographic region. Note: Three factors largely explain the positive results of the study:

- ◆ Golf Course superintendents are educated, licensed and regulated in the application of golf course chemicals - - therefore, superintendents judiciously employ chemical use and adhere to science-based course management practices.
- ◆ Healthy turfgrass acts as a good filter of water, thereby removing pollutants. In addition, chemicals in water are broken down by microbes in the turfgrass ecosystem before they reach water resources.
- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency intensely scrutinizes all pesticides before they are registered for use.

For more information: The full results were published in the November issue of GCSAA's monthly magazine, *Golf Course Management*, and are available on the Web site.

Sources: 1997 GCSAA Water Quality Study, Stuart Cohen, Ph.D, President, Environmental & Turf Services, Inc.

Improvements at Delaware Valley College

Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, PA, has announced improvements in its four-year Bachelor's program in Turf Management over the past year. The improvements include hiring another turf specialist, adding 3 new turf courses, changing the curriculum to be more specific to turf management, establishing a turf research facility and beginning a student-run Turf Club.

For information, contact Dr. Douglas Linde, Delaware Valley College, 700 East Butler Avenue, Doylestown, PA 18901, or call Dr. Linde at 215-489-2260 or Admissions at 215-489-2373.

The GCSAA's 1998 Compensation and Benefit Survey has been mailed out. Please take the time to complete this and any other information requests you may receive from our associations. These surveys were developed to help us and our industry. Broad participation is the only way to insure accurate results. The job you benefit may be your own.

In this issue.....

- Scholarship Information
- Dual Membership
- Questions & Answers



President's Message.....

It won't be long now!!! The second annual Past President's Dinner is over and the next thing on our agenda is our March meeting at Schuylkill Country Club. Thank you Jeff Lansdowne, CGCS, for helping us put the great evening together. I'm looking forward to getting back on our monthly meeting schedule. It's been a mild winter. Let's hope spring is mild and eases right into summer.

Congratulations need to be extended to a few individuals:

Mark Monahan for putting together a great hospitality room for the Allied Golf Course Superintendents of PA in Anaheim, CA. Mark was fortunate enough to be responsible for organizing and recruiting our sponsors for this night. Thank you to all donors who were very generous with their contributions. (Please see enclosed insert.)

Scott Schukraft for winning the Regional Environmental Steward Award, along with being the Editor of *Chips & Putts* which placed second in its budget classification **NATIONWIDE!**

The current Board of Directors, while seeing many friends from our allied chapter of PA, discussed the progress of each chapter for the upcoming year. We've completed most things they haven't even started yet. **Way to go!**

Hope I didn't overlook anyone. If I did, I'll get you next time.

On to other things....This year's Trade Show and Conference was held in Anaheim, CA. The word is that it was one of the best ever. The trade show floor covered over four huge rooms, and was packed with everything and anything you might need. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate with the event. In fact, NE PA has had more sunshine than Sunny California. Blame it on El Nino!

The educational seminars were excellent. The PTGA is sponsoring one of the most frequently attended one day seminars the GCSAA offers on March 17, 1998: "Enhancing Your Value as a Professional G. C. Superintendent", given by Tommy D. Witt, CGCS, member of the GCSAA Board of Directors. Mr. Witt is an exciting speaker who keeps you involved - no napping. It's a great bargain at \$110, along with earning CEU's. Hope to see many of you there.

This is Tony Grieco and Jim MacLaren's maiden voyage as Co-Editors of *Chips & Putts*. They'll have a tough standard to keep. Let's hope they can raise it up a notch and bring home first place this year. Good Luck, Guys!

Ronald Garrison, CGCS

From the Editor's Desk.....

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about *Chips & Putts* as well as its former editor, Scott Schukraft. When I became active in the Pocono Association, Scott had already taken charge of the newsletter. It was a quality publication that continued to improve until the day Scott turned it over to me. Not only was this recognized locally, but on the national level (by GCSAA), as well. Under Scott, *Chips & Putts* has shown dignity and earned respect. I hope to continue that tradition, but I cannot do it alone. Scott had a partner in Melinda and the support of a fine committee. I hope to expand that support to the entire membership. I have already received several quality suggestions from members and would like to see that continue. Remember, my goal, like Scott's, is for continued improvement. Without your feedback, I will not know what is liked or disliked. So the next time you see Scott, take a moment to thank him for all the work he has done and when you see me, try to keep the advice constructive. My ego is easily bruised.



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The USGA will conduct a regional green seminar in cooperation with the Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents on Tuesday, March 17, 1998. It will be held at the DuPont Country Club, Rockland Road, Wilmington, DE. This seminar is for golf club committees, members, managers, golf course superintendents, public golf course officials, golf professionals and interested golfers. Prepaid registration fee is \$50.00, \$60.00 at the door (includes lunch). Inquiries can be made to James A. Farrell, Manager, NE Region, USGA Regional Affairs, Telephone 401-295-5430, e-mail jfarrell@usga.org. Or call Melinda Wisnosky (717-675-3800) for a reservation form.

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Scholarships....

Application deadlines are approaching for three scholarship programs administered by the GCSAA Foundation.

March 1, 1998 is the application deadline for The Scotts Co. Scholars Program, which offers summer internships and the opportunity to compete for two \$2,500 college scholarships. The primary goal of this program is to seek out promising students from culturally diverse backgrounds who have an interest in pursuing a career in the green industry. Applicants must be pursuing a career in the industry and be a graduating high school senior to college freshman, sophomore or junior who has been accepted at an accredited college or junior college for the next academic year. The program is funded by a permanent endowment established by The Scotts Co.

The deadline for entries to be submitted to the GCSAA Essay Contest is March 31, 1998. This contest is open to undergraduate or graduate students pursuing degrees in turfgrass science, agronomy or any field related to golf course management. Essays should be 7 to 12 pages long and focus on the relationship between golf courses and the environment. In addition to prizes totaling \$2,000, winning entries may be published in *Golf Course Management*.

The application deadline for the GCSAA Legacy Awards is April 15, 1998. These \$1,500 scholarships are available to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members who have been a member for five or more consecutive years. Students must be pursuing degrees in fields unrelated to golf course management and be enrolled full time at accredited institutions of higher learning, or in the case of high school seniors, to be accepted at such institutions for the next academic year. The Legacy Awards are sponsored by Novartis.

A change in the eligibility requirements of this program was recently recommended by the GCSAA scholarship committee and approved by the Board

of Trustees of The Foundation at its fall board meeting. Past Legacy Award winners are now ineligible to reapply the following year. Winners may reapply after a one year hiatus.

For more information, contact The Foundation at 1-800-472-7878, Ext. 445.



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Dual Membership Steps Explained.....

Dual membership took effect July 1, 1997. As outlined in the affiliation agreement, dual membership requires a golf course superintendent who wishes to join either GCSAA or an affiliated chapter to join both associations. Below are the steps involved with meeting this requirement:

1. If you are a golf course superintendent and wish to join a GCSAA affiliated chapter, you must also join GCSAA.

A. Select and contact a local chapter to request a membership application. Complete the membership application and follow the application process required of that chapter.

B. Request a GCSAA membership application and submit it with national dues to GCSAA's membership department. The local chapter will submit a membership intent form to GCSAA, verifying that you have applied for local chapter membership. *Note: A chapter may choose to collect the applicant's national dues and membership application and forward them to GCSAA's membership department.*

C. Upon receipt of these items from you and your local chapter, GCSAA will process your national membership application and notify the local chapter so it may accept you as a new member.

2. If you are a golf course superintendent and wish to join GCSAA, you must also join an affiliated chapter:

A. Contact GCSAA to request a membership application. You will receive an application, affidavit form and map of affiliated chapters, including contact names and telephone numbers.

B. Complete the GCSAA membership application and submit it with your national dues to GCSAA's membership department.

C. Select a local chapter from the map and request a membership application from that chapter. At the same time, obtain a signature from an official of the

chapter on the affidavit form and send the completed form to GCSAA's membership department. GCSAA will notify the chapter that the applicant's national membership has been approved and the local chapter can then approve the applicant's chapter membership.

3. You allow your GCSAA membership to lapse, but you maintain membership in a local chapter.

A. As long as you joined the local chapter before July 1, 1997, and you continue to maintain that membership, you are not required to be a member of GCSAA. *Note: The same is true if you maintain GCSAA membership, but allow your local chapter membership to lapse.*

4. You allow your local chapter membership to lapse and you are not a member of GCSAA. Later, you decide to renew your local chapter membership.

A. You are now considered a new member and must join an affiliated chapter and GCSAA to fulfill the dual membership requirement.

5. You are a golf course superintendent and are a member of a local chapter. You move to another state and wish to join a local chapter there.

A. If you are already a GCSAA member or if you continue to maintain your membership with the chapter where you previously resided, you are not required to comply with the dual membership requirement.

B. But, if you are not a GCSAA member and you apply for membership with the local chapter in your new area, then you must also join GCSAA to comply with dual membership.

GCSAA membership intent forms, applications, brochures and maps of affiliated chapters are available by contacting GCSAA's chapter relations department at 800-472-7878, Ext. 603.



Increase Efficiency with the Internet.....

To be successful and provide the highest value to employers, a superintendent needs to stay on course with more than just the latest technology in turfgrass management. Superintendents also should have access to the latest computer technology, including the Internet, at the office.

Benefits of superintendents having Internet access in the office:

- √ Improve communication with golf course officials and fellow GCSAA members using E-mail.
- √ Access current weather forecasts for their local area to stay aware of how weather conditions may affect daily operations.
- √ Visit the growing number of supplier Web sites to gather

information and comparison shop for equipment, supplies and services.

- √ Post problems on the GCSAA discussion forums and gather expertise from hundreds of member superintendents.
- √ Participate in association activities, such as registering for regional seminars, planning your conference and show schedule, reviewing publications, and getting the latest news.
- √ Find technical information by using various search engines and databases of research findings and agronomic practices.
- √ Access compliance/regulatory

information at the local, state and federal levels and get MSDS from GCSAA's Web site.

Double Benefit: No matter what information needs may be met by using the Internet, the end result is the same: superintendents will be able to do their jobs more efficiently for their employers.

Source: GCSAA Information Services Committee.

In addition to GCSAA, you can get free information from the USGA and PGA websites. There are also pay services like TurfNet, that provide a wide range of information not available from these other sources.

OTHER NEWS....

Wausau, WI - A golf course has been found at fault in a legal case involving a golfer who had 13 drinks before tripping on this golf spikes, falling face first onto a brick path outside the clubhouse, breaking his jaw and shattering his teeth. The appeals court upheld a trial judge's ruling that the golf course was 50 percent negligent because of its terra block brick ramp that led from the clubhouse bar. The man wearing **golf spikes** fell on the ramp as he left the bar. He argued the gaps were unsafe because a spike caught in one, causing him to lose his balance. An asphalt surface was installed a year later. (*And you thought spikeless shoes were going to be a problem!*)

Two Men's Metal....

During the Sunday telecast of the Bell Canadian Open, Andy North commented on how Justin Leonard added 10 yards to his tee shots by changing from a persimmon driver to a new Titleist titanium model. A few weeks earlier Davis Love, III stated he was more accurate since abandoning his wood for this same club. Going into the Ryder Cup, Leonard's average driving distance was 258.6 yards and his percentage of fairways hit was 71.6. Both statistics have fallen from 1996 totals of 262.3 and 75.3, respectively. Similarly, Love's numbers have also declined: driving distance is down from 285.75 yards to 283.9 and

accuracy has slipped from 69.6 percent of fairways hit to 67.9.

Does this represent improvement? It is undoubtedly easier to replace a metal head than a persimmon model in the event of breakage or theft, and I believe this played a large factor in both players' decisions to change. However, I doubt Titleist plans on marketing this feature or these statistics.

Is there truth in advertising? Perhaps there is as the current ad reads: "The best kept secret on tour is no longer a secret."

David Curran, Scottsdale, AZ

Leonard switched to a metal driver at the Shell Houston Open in May. Love switched at the U.S. Open in June.

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Peanuts are good for you!

Not only does shelling them build manual dexterity, but peanuts contain the compound resveratrol, the same stuff behind red wine's apparent ability to block the artery damage inflicted by a high fat diet, according to Timothy H. Sanders, Ph.D, research leader at the USDA in Raleigh, NC.



Chips & Putts Forum

In case you were wondering, this is one of the areas we need your help. In this section, we would like to post questions from the membership. Our hope is that these questions will promote thought and perhaps interaction between members. In case we don't receive any thought provoking questions, we are prepared to access various resources to provide similar results.

Sample Questions: What's the best method for controlling Poa seed heads on greens? Financially, is it better to buy or lease equipment? Is it worth the hassle to compost materials on my golf course?



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How Do You Compare Maintenance Budgets?

You can't. Why? Although there may be some similarities between like courses, such as 18-hole private courses or 9-hole public courses, there are many noteworthy differences.

Key Differences:

- *Does your facility have a mission statement?* These are as unique and individual as each golf course. Your budget must support that goal.
- *Have you defined desired level of quality?* These expectations will never be met unless they are clearly defined and communicated.

(Both the above must be employer-driven.)

Once the desired goals are understood by the entire staff, the superintendent must identify the standards of maintenance to produce that quality on the golf course. Example: If a standard of quality is a Stimpmeter reading of 10 on the greens, then the superintendent must determine the standards of maintenance to achieve that quality. This may include the number of times to mow, roll, topdress, irrigate, syringe, fertilize, and the staff, equipment and supplies needed — all of which must be included in the budget.

Other Factors Affecting Comparisons:

- **Acreage:** More area to maintain?
- **Design:** Cause more handwork?
- **Volume of Traffic:** Is it low, moderate or high?
- **Tee Time Policy:** Do you need to

conduct maintenance practices around golfers?

- **Age of Equipment:** Are there expected breakdowns due to age? New purchases required?
- **New Projects:** Are renovations planned or landscaping needed?
- **Bonus:** Is it in your operations budget or the general account?
- **Water:** Are you using city water, well water or effluent?
- **Taxes:** Are payroll and workers compensation taxes in the maintenance or general budget?
- **Electricity:** Is it in the general accounts or maintenance budget?
- **The Golfing Experience Philosophy:** Do you allow equipment to operate while golfers are near? Or, should the maintenance operation be invisible?
- **Weather:** Harsh or unpredictable?
- **Environmental Management:** Are there federal and state environmental regulations compliance issues due to a feature on the course, such as wetlands?
- **Quality of Crew:** Well trained, efficient?
- **Superintendent's Experience:** Level of experience and qualifications?

Consider: A golf course's maintenance budget should be an accurate reflection of the cost of doing business; therefore, it should also show corresponding revenues. Green fees, car rentals, food and beverage sales, etc., are all directly dependent upon the quality and activity of the golf course.

It's every player's responsibility...

- Repair ball marks
- Replace or fill divots
- Rake bunkers



A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA



1998 PTGA MEETING SITES

March 24, 1998 - Schuylkill Country Club
Host: Nathaniel W. Binns

April 20, 1998 - Silver Creek Country Club
Host: Tony Grieco, CGCS

May 1998 - Berwick Country Club
Host: Jason Barndt

June 19, 1998 - C. C. at Woodloch Springs
Host: Mark Eisele

July 7, 1998 - Shawnee Inn and C. C.
Host: Steven Taggart

August 1998 - Blue Ridge Country Club
Host: Paul E. Weiss, Jr.

September 1998 - Delaware Water Gap
Host: Charles LaBar

October 19, 1998 - Fox Hill Country Club
Host: Ron Garrison, CGCS

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Superintendent Profile

This month the PTGA has the privilege of holding our March meeting at Schuylkill Country Club. Nathaniel Binns is the Golf Course Superintendent and has been for five of his twenty years in the business. He serves on the GCSAA Publication Committee and is a member of both the Audubon Sanctuary Program and the Donald Ross Historical Society. If you get a chance, Nathaniel loves to talk about his wood working, apparently more than his six handicap. That's probably because his fourteen year old son Nathaniel, Jr. is slowly creeping up on him and he's getting nervous. Nathaniel and his wife, Maureen, have been married for fifteen years and also have a daughter Colleen who is eleven. If this weather continues, we may have a chance to play Schuylkill C. C. The course is a beautiful Donald Ross design (9 original, 9 re-design) completed in 1945. When I asked Nathaniel's take on the industry, he replied, "It is vital that we, as golf course superintendents remain in the forefront as guardians of the game of golf. Our goal should always be to ensure the relationship between nature and the game receives the highest priority."

IMPORTANT MESSAGE!

Cash will no longer be accepted at monthly meetings. At this time we are not set up for any type of credit card. This means your options are limited to either a check or money order made out to PTGA. We apologize if this causes any inconvenience. To avoid any complications, we encourage sending in your payment prior to the meeting.

Jerry Purcell, CID

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POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

CONGRATULATIONS!

Thirty-three golf course superintendents have been named national, regional or merit winners of the 1998 Environmental Steward Awards, underscoring their commitment to stewardship efforts on the golf course through contributions that enhance local environments. **Scott Schukraft** of Huntsville Golf Club in Shavertown, PA won for Best Private Course in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

WELCOME!

Ron Capaldo is the new John Deere representative for Eastern PA, replacing Dennis Wagner. Ron has been in the industry since 1973 and carries the distinction of being the first representative in John Deere's Turf Division in 1985. He is from Colorado Springs and is looking to relocate his wife, Laura, and their seven children to the area. If you have some property to unload or need any equipment info, Ron can be reached at 1-800-875-8873 or page him at 1-888-441-3285.

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

- Ron Capaldo**, Class AF, Finch Turf Equipment, Inc.
- Steven Luty**, Class A, Villa Roma Country Club
- Robert Price**, Class B, Four Seasons Golf Club

Sympathy

Our sincerest condolences go out to the family of **Bill Keeley** who passed away on December 13, 1997. Bill was a long time driver (over 30 years) for Lawn & Golf.

Best Wishes

To Dennis Wagner and his family. We are sure Dennis is on his way to bigger and better things. We will keep you posted. Best of luck from the PTGA.

Information

The PTGA Board of Directors is seeking information on PTGA past presidents and Association activities. We would like to accurately preserve our history and require your help. Anyone with documentation or local knowledge, or would like to help in anyway, please contact the PTGA office.



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