



CHIPS & PUTTS

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POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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SEPTEMBER 1998

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors would like to announce to the membership for your consideration, a \$10 dues increase for 1999. This increase will be voted upon by the membership this fall. The intent of this increase is to fund our ongoing support of the Patterson Scholarship and local research in our industry. This money is not intended, nor will it be used, for any other operating expenses. The Board believes this increase is good for our association, and it hopes to have your support.

Nominees are now being accepted for the 1999 Board of Directors. Any member interested (including commercial) should contact Jeff Peters or the PTGA office.

Assessing differential root zone mixes for putting greens over time under two environmental conditions - *Rutgers University*

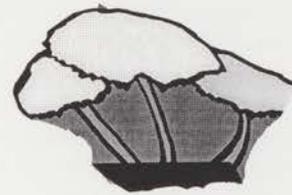
Construction of putting greens with USGA-recommended root zones has become more difficult and expensive because of the limited availability of suitable materials. The GCSAA Foundation and the USGA are sponsoring a project at Rutgers University to identify the best combinations of materials to reduce costs while still providing acceptable performance. The project is evaluating physical characteristics of sands with and without amendments. Amendments include reed sedge peat, Irish moss peat, sphagnum moss peat, Profile, Axis, zeolite, Isolite, Greenschoice, Allgro and soil. Open and sheltered field plots of creeping bentgrass allow evaluation of these amendments at rates up to 20 percent by volume. Other supporters of this project include the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey and the New Jersey Turfgrass Association.

Pennsylvania IPM Program Organization

Pennsylvania's Integrated Pest Management program strives to coordinate and promote modern approaches to pest management in the various agricultural and urban programs served by Penn State and other state agencies. It is a partnership between Penn State and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

The main focus of the IPM program is facilitation of communication among college faculty, county staff,

Continued Page 5



Call for fungi

Phil Colbaugh of Texas A&M University is collecting and cataloguing the fungi associated with fairy ring. His research will be used to develop an identification data base for future research efforts.

Colbaugh is requesting samples of fairy ring fungi from superintendents across the United States. Please send samples to Colbaugh at Texas A&M University at Dallas, Research & Education Center, 17360 Coir Road, Dallas, TX 75252, (972-231-5362).

Did you know? A rotary mower can fling debris three times faster than a bullet shot from a .357 Magnum pistol.



In this issue.....

- Pesticide Availability?
- The Survey Says...
- Buck Hill - Back to Normal



President's Message.....

The days of summer are winding down and with that brings crisp mornings and cool nights. It was a tough year, very wet spring, untimely storms and pest problems, which were predicted to hit earlier. As I've mentioned a few times this year, blame it on El Nino! I promise it's the last time I'll say that.

The 1998 clambake at Blue Ridge Country Club was great! Not only because I was a scrub on the winning team, but the attendance was good and the hospitality as good as ever. I tried my best with the golf prizes, filling in for vacationing golf chairman, Tom Wilchak. But heck, it was easy. I walked in and GM Terry Steinmetz informed me that he and Tom had set everything up and his staff would do the rest. "Get going, enjoy the day. I'll see you in an hour and a half after this storm hits us," he said. Fortunately, the storm never arrived (along with my golf game). My hat and ALL members' hats should go off to the staff at Blue Ridge, their Board of Directors and of course Paul Weiss, Thanks, everyone.

The annual raffle and donations brought in nearly \$3000. Way to go everyone!

The annual election meeting will be held at Fox Hill Country Club. The date has been changed to Tuesday, October 20. This has been moved twice, first to avoid conflict with the PTC Tournament at the Philadelphia Cricket Club, and the second due to an outside event brought into our club on the re-scheduled date of October 12. I hope this will not cause any conflict. Please try to attend and cast your vote for new board members and directors. As mentioned in prior newsletters, contact Jeff Peters if you would like to be put on the ballot or have someone nominate you from the floor at the election.

Host clubs interested in having us for the 1999 golf season should contact one of the board members as soon as possible to get put on the list.

Jeff Peters, our GCSAA Chapter delegate will be attending the Chapter Delegates meeting at GCSAA headquarters September 18-20. I'm sure Jeff will have a nice report to pass on to all members when he returns.

Keep giving us your comments, both positive and negative. We are still moving forward and will continue to get better with your continued support.

See you at the meetings!

Ronald C. Garrison, CGCS

From the Editor's Desk.....

Why is it that many superintendents complain about golfers who demand perfect conditions, but throw a fit when some or all pesticides are threatened to be taken away. While I believe that proper pesticide and fertilizer use on golf courses is not the problem, would the elimination of pesticides, at least on a limited scale, be such a bad thing? Wouldn't it put courses on a more even playing field? I'm not an advocate, but personally I wouldn't mind pesticides being limited to only Greens and maybe Tees. I was disgusted the other week when the pro shop marked the course for the Club Championship. Without going into great detail, they marked areas that would make some of our greatest predecessors turn over in their graves. Even the USGA agronomist who was visiting at the time shook his head in disbelief. Their excuse was that the members demand such perfection. Why are golfers so demanding? Not only do they see perfect conditions on TV, but are then given relief at home from the smallest blemish. Perhaps the USGA could simplify this whole issue by granting relief from lies that possess less than a certain number of turf grass plants per square inch. Well, I've gotten off on two separate paths, so let's wrap this up. Should golfers be so demanding? Could we stand a little less pesticide use? Talk amongst yourselves. I've got to go put up the Winter Rules sign on #1 tee. We started fairway overseeding, and they say the little grooves are disruptive.

Tony Grieco, CGCS



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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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1998 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, October 19, 1998

22nd Annual Joseph Valentine Memorial Golf Tournament. The Philadelphia Cricket Club, 415 W. Willow Grove Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118. Contact: John Chassard, Lehigh C.C., 2319 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18103, 610-967-4643 or P.T.C., P.O. Box 1078, Lemont, PA 16851-1078, 814-863-3475 or fax 814-863-3479.

Tuesday-Thursday, November 3-5, 1998

Penn State Golf Turf Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA 16801. Contact: Peter Landschoot, Dept. of Agronomy, 116 ASI Building, University Park, PA 16802, 814-863-1017 or P.T.C., P.O. Box 1078, Lemont, PA 16851-1078, 814-863-3475 or fax 814-863-3479.

Tuesday-Thursday, January 5-7, 1999

Eastern PA Turf Conference & Trade Show, Valley Forge Convention Center, 1200 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA. Contact: Scott Guiser, Bucks Co. Coop. Ext., Neshaminy Manor Center, Doylestown, PA. 18901, 215-345-2383 or P.T.C., P.O. Box 1078, Lemont, PA 16851-1078, 814-863-3475 or fax 814-863-3479.

Raffle Results!

The 1998 Raffle sponsored by the PTGA was once again a success. We sold 560 tickets, which raised a total of \$2,800.00, less the cost of prizes of \$866.00. That leaves a total of \$1,934.00 raised for the Scholarship and Research Fund.

Our thanks go out to all who sold the tickets, and also to the clubs which sponsored the golf prizes.

The lucky winners and their prizes are:

1st	Andrea O'Neill	Taylor Made TI Bubble 2
2nd	Tony Prudenti	Adams Tight Lies
3rd	Margaret Biery	Adams Tight Lies
4th	Jerry Katz	Slazenger Putter
5th	Fritz Sprandel	Dexter Golf Shoes
6th	Dave Kiery	Round of Golf for Four
7th	John M. Hollick	Round of Golf for Four
8th	Stan Kooyega	Round of Golf for Four
9th	R. Carpenter	Round of Golf for Four
10th	Ryan Fogel	Round of Golf for Four
11th	Tony Prudenti	Round of Golf for Four
12th	J. Flamisch	Round of Golf for Four
13th	G. Wilchak	Round of Golf for Four

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EDUCATION

Applications are now being accepted for Penn State's Two-Year Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program for the class beginning in September 1999. There is an application fee of \$35.00 and the deadline for applications is December 31, 1998. Applications can be obtained by calling 814-863-0129 or by writing to: Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program, The Pennsylvania State University, 456 Ag. Sciences and Industries Building, University Park, PA 16802-3507.

For more information contact Heather Treaster, Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program at the above address and telephone number. Fax number 814-865-3006, hgwl@psu.edu.



And the Survey Says.....!

GCSAA has recently released a summary report "Trends in Compensation and Benefits for Golf Course Superintendents" that analyzes the trends in compensation and benefits for superintendents. The information is based on member surveys taken in 1995 and 1998.

According to the GCSAA report, the average base salary for a golf course superintendent has increased to \$53,205 in 1998. This is a 19.5 percent increase since 1993. Half of all superintendents today earn more than \$50,000 annually; 15% earn more than \$75,000 annually.

Certified superintendents with the highest education levels realized greater salary increases than their peers. The average salary of a CGCS rose to \$62,948 from \$56,994 in 1995 (10.4% increase). Certified superintendents salaries average 27 percent greater than superintendents who do not have GCSAA certification.

Salary increases by state showed New Jersey first with an average salary increase for certified superintendents over the 3-year period of 51.5% or \$50,247 to \$76,145. Oklahoma ranked second with 45.5% and Delaware ranked third with a 32.1% increase. Pennsylvania ranked ninth with a 21.9% increase.

The survey also shows an overwhelming support by employers for involvement in GCSAA. The survey shows that 96% of all employers pay GCSAA dues, 91% pay for seminar/trade show fees and travel, and 89% pay superintendents' chapter dues.

Bonuses were also increased with 7% more of GCSAA members receiving a bonus than in 1995. Criteria is based on merit and performance on the job, profitability of the overall operation and staying within budget. The average annual bonus in 1998 was \$3,710, up 11% from the average bonus in 1995 of \$3,353.

The average number of employees directly reporting to the superintendent was reported as 15. This was comparable to the results in 1995. Assistant superintendents' salaries have also increased from \$25,053 in 1995 to \$27,981 in 1998. This is a 12% increase, which is comparable with the average increase for superintendents.

Copies of this survey can be obtained from Cathy Hut at 800-472-7878, Ext. 655.

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Back to Normal...

As many of you already know, the maintenance building at Buck Hill Falls Golf Club in Buck Hill Falls, PA was completely destroyed by fire last March. Fran Davitt is the golf course superintendent at Buck Hill. There was more than \$420,000 in damage, including equipment and course set up supplies. At the time of the fire the course was due to open in less than a month. Fortunately for Fran and his crew, many people volunteered their help, starting with **Jim MacLaren**, Turf Partners, Inc., who faxed 135 superintendents and others in

the industry asking for their assistance. **Bill Lansdowne, CGCS**, at the Country Club of Scranton, who had been a good friend of Fran's father, brought Fran mowers and cup changing supplies. Altogether, 40 golf course superintendents and industry members offered their help.

The new maintenance building was finished in June and is 400 square feet larger than the original 92-year old building. The new building allows for more space and modern conveniences.

Life is finally returning back to normal for Fran and his crew, and they are very grateful to everyone who helped out in their time of need.



New law threatens pesticide availability for golf courses.



Every day there is more news about the implementation of the new pesticide law, the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA).

The law requires the EPA to consider a broader range of exposure information in evaluating pesticide risks. Anxious to fulfill its mandate, the agency planned to use assumptions about use and exposure instead of real data, which would have likely resulted in the loss of more pesticide uses than was necessary. The EPA did not respond to industry concerns, and GCSAA members have been participating in a grassroots effort to get Congress and White House officials to address problems with FQPA.

Following a directive issued in April by Vice President Al Gore to include stakeholders in the process, the EPA formed an advisory committee to provide input on implementation issues. However, pesticide user representatives on the committee report that agency officials were unwilling to conduct a meaningful debate during the first

committee meeting in May.

In response to the flood of communications from constituents (including many GCSAA members), a hearing on the EPA and FQPA was held on June 25 in the U.S. House of Representatives. Among those testifying before a subcommittee of the House Agricultural Committee was a panel of pesticide users.

GCSAA also filed comments in June on a proposed EPA policy to make alternatives to organophosphates (OP's) a higher priority in the agency's registration program. It is rumored that the EPA will take action to cancel many OP registrations next year, although growers have voiced concerns about the lack of good alternatives.

GCSAA President George Renault, III, CGCS, urged the agency to avoid the elimination of all OP's, but that "if upon review of the best available scientific data it is determined that certain OP product registrations will be revoked or denied, superintendents will need to have alternatives available in order to preserve healthy turf. Action without adequate transition will be counter-productive if it results in the need to use less effective products in greater amounts which thereby increases risk to the environment."

On the national level, GCSAA is working with Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE) to have input

in the FQPA controversy as specialty (non-agricultural) pesticide users. Many state coalitions are also forming to address regional issues related to FQPA. State regulators have joined users and manufacturers in gathering information and communicating concerns to EPA and federal lawmakers. Through *Briefax* and the government relations network, GCSAA is encouraging chapters to send representatives to coalition meetings.

How you can help

As pesticide users, golf courses will be dwarfed by the food production industry in the competition for uses that the EPA is creating with implementation of the new pesticide law.

It is therefore critical that GCSAA and superintendents participate in the implementation process and speak out about the need for pesticide options in golf course maintenance.

For information about FQPA and communicating with your lawmakers, or to participate in one of the many new state coalitions of pesticide users working on FQPA issues, contact the GCSAA government relations department at 800-472-7878, Ext. 459. You can also find information on FQPA, including an action alert issued in *Briefax* No. 33 and a directory of state coalitions in the members-only government relations area of the GCSAA Web Site.

Continued from Page 1

state and national government, the private sector and the general public. Good communication promotes collaboration and cooperation and allows the program to take advantage of the broad range of expertise in the system. The IPM program has established several means of distributing information:

- Developing commodity working groups which consist of faculty, county staff and others interested in IPM research and implementation.
- IPM Website at cas.psu.edu/docs/CASDEPT/IPM/index
- IPM e-mail listserv
- PDA IPM Advisory Committee appointed by Secretary of Agriculture that advises the IPM program on policy and priorities.
- Developing commodity-based stakeholder groups that provide direct client input into the IPM

If you would like to be on the list, send your address to Kristie Auman at kma@psu.edu.

PA IPM Newsletter Membership List

Since this is the first newsletter, we do not have a complete list of individuals. Your assistance in identifying others who would like to be on the mailing list would be appreciated. If you receive the newsletter, but would prefer not to, please let us know. Also, if you would like to contribute any information to the newsletter, please contact Kristie Auman at 814-865-2839 or email kma@psu.edu.



TIME TO REFLECT...

As we wind down another season of growing turf, let's look back and reflect on some of the problems or mishaps that have occurred along the way. I know that sometimes we just want to forget about these types of situations. But let's learn from them. We can incorporate these problems into next year's educational agenda. So please call me with any ideas you may have.

This year was my first year as committee chairperson, and I feel that I, along with the rest of the committee, worked extremely hard to make the meetings well rounded and interesting. I want to thank everyone on the committee: Steve Chirip, John Vojick, Tom Wilchak and Bryan Nuss. Good job, guys. I would also like to thank Ron Garrison, CGCS, for giving me the opportunity to head this committee. Thanks, Ron.

I look forward to working with everyone in the Association, so we can all participate and enjoy our meetings.

See you all soon,
Gene Huelster



ROSTER BOOKS!

The 1998 Roster Books will be mailed out with the October Meeting Notice. If anyone would like an extra book, please contact Melinda (717-675-3800). The price for an extra roster book is \$6.00.



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A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA



1998 PTGA MEETING SITES

September 28, 1998 - Delaware Water Gap
Host: Charles LaBar

October 20, 1998 - Fox Hill Country Club
Host: Ron Garrison, CGCS

October 19, 1998 - Philadelphia Cricket Club
22nd Annual Valentine Memorial Golf Tournament
Call John Chassard for details at 610-967-4643



MEETING NOTES....SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE

This year's Clambake at Blue Ridge Country Club was a huge success! Course conditions, food and the weather could not have been better. If you did not have a good time, it was your own fault! Thanks again to Paul Weiss and his staff, and to the clubhouse personnel for the good food and hospitality.

Here are the results from the day's activities:

1st Flight

1st	T. Grieco, J. Chassard, R. Garrison, K. Kressler	58
2nd	C. Phillips, G. Phillips, Jr., J. Milo, J. Rosenkrans	59

2nd Flight

1st	Jim Vedomsky's Team	66
2nd	Nestor Dickert's Team	67

3rd Flight

1st	Mark Reed and Charlie McGill's Team	72
2nd	Ronald Lee's Team	72

Closest to the Pin

#3	Dave Wisnosky	3'3"	#15	Tony Grieco	7'10"
#8	John Neff	5'10"	#18	Jack Zwick	3'2"

Congratulations to all the winners!

September's meeting will be hosted by Superintendent Charlie LaBar at Delaware Water Gap Country Club. Charlie has been in the turf industry for 18 years. He has been at Delaware Water Gap C.C. for 16 years and has been the Superintendent there for the past 7 years. His wife is Pauline and they have 5 children. He enjoys hunting and playing golf. The greens are Bent-Poa and the tees and fairways are Kentucky Bluegrass and fescue. If you enjoy scenic golf courses, don't miss the meeting.

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POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

- Congratulations to the **Steve Taggart** Family on the birth of Colin Taggart!
- And Welcome Back to work **Ray Masker** (Sand Springs), who is also the Great Grandpa of Colin Taggart.
- Skytop Lodge is in the process of MAJOR renovations: two new holes, driving range, and a super new lodging facility.
- Mt. Laurel is now open for business, finally! Many compliments on the condition of the course. No divots and/or ball marks.
- Gray Leaf Spot has gone CRAZY. If you were not protected and in some cases, even if you were, ryegrass fairways are being decimated. The disease has been reported as far north as the Mahoning Valley (north of the Blue Mountain) and in Greensburg, PA (north of Pittsburgh).

- Many grubs have been seen. These, of course, were on NON treated areas.
- PA Golf Turf Conference is November 3-5, 1998. Make your room arrangements NOW!!

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



Jeffrey Koch, Class C, Glenmaura National Golf Course
William Misson Jr., Class C, Twin Oaks Golf Club
Joseph Petorak, Class C, Glenmaura National Golf Course
Alex Stoy, Class C, Pocono Farms C.C.

Congratulations!

Michael Bird was selected as a 1998 GCSAA Merit Scholar.

Jeff Lansdowne was recently named Superintendent at Bear Brook Golf Village (new construction). His new contact information is Route 94, Fredon, NJ 07860; telephone number is 973-300-5775.



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