



CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Founded in
1936

VOL. 5, NO. 3

MAY 1999

QUALITY TURF REQUIRES GOOD FERTILITY MANAGEMENT

By Dr. W. M. Stewart

People have used turfgrass for centuries to improve their environment and quality of life.

A few of the many practical benefits that turf provides include soil erosion control and dust prevention, surface water quality improvement, heat dissipation, noise abatement, and glare reduction. A critical component in the production and maintenance of dense and healthy turf is proper soil management and fertilization. Response of turfgrass to various fertilizer elements is generally measured in terms of color, density, uptake, and clipping yield.

Nitrogen is required in the largest quantities of all the plant essential mineral elements and is often the most limiting nutrient in turfgrass growth.

The most obvious result of nitrogen fertilization is a rapid green-up and increased shoot growth and overall turf density. Nitrogen nutrition also affects root growth, stress tolerance, recuperative potential, and weed encroachment.

Nitrogen fertilizers used on turf are classed as quick release or slow release.

Quick release sources like ammonium sulfate, urea, and ammonium nitrate tend to cause flushes of growth that last for only a few weeks. Therefore, the most effective way to apply quick release nitrogen is by "spoon feeding" in frequent applications. Slow release nitrogen sources like sulfur coated urea (PCSCU), IBDU, Ureaformaldehyde (UF), methylene ureas (Nutralene/Meth-Ex40), and Polyon provide a way to avoid the more erratic growth cycles encountered with quick release sources.

Phosphorus is an important component of turfgrass nutrition.

Sufficient phosphorous fertility of turfgrasses is associated with increased root growth and branching, increased tillering, hastened maturity, reduced encroachment of some weed species, and improved drought tolerance and recovery. Excessive phosphorous applications have in some cases been related to annual bluegrass (*poa annua*) encroachment.

Turfgrass requires large amounts of potassium.

Potassium is second only to nitrogen in the amounts required by turfgrass plants. Soil potassium can be quickly depleted under turf. Therefore, frequent applications of potassium fertilizers are usually necessary to achieve optimum performance. The recommended rate of potash fertilizers can be as much as twice that of nitrogen in some cases. Proper potassium fertility management has been shown to be associated with increased disease resistance, increased heat and cold tolerance and improved overall ability to endure stressful conditions. Adequate potassium levels improve the winterhardiness of warm season grasses such as bermuda grass and the heat tolerance of cool season grasses such as bentgrasses. Satisfactory levels of potassium produce turf that is more likely to endure stressful conditions such as drought and excessive traffic.

Secondary and micronutrient fertilizer is often essential in the production of healthy turf.

For example, turfgrass color is often improved with foliar applications of iron.

Balanced fertility management can reduce the risk of encountering many problems in turf production.

Soil and tissue tests in conjunction with field observations should be used in determining the need for all nutrients.

In this issue.....

- What is the Allied?
- Questions of 25 years ago
- Preventing Patch Disease



President's Message.....

Winter kill! Old Man Winter left his mark on many of us here in Northeast PA. I, for one, now know what it is and how devastating it can be. Poor drainage after a heavy rain, to be followed by an ice storm, did me in on two greens, with damage done to several other greens and fairways. So the fun begins!

We started aerating, verticutting, overseeding, topdressing and fertilizing everything. We even overseeded the second and third time. Covering the greens with plastic to help with germination and getting the ground temperature up was done. Now we sit and wait. "Patience" is the key word in this case. Once you have done all you can, you must be patient. Mother Nature has got to do her part.

I called on some of our fellow supers who have dealt with this before, and who are dealing with it now for the first time, and we discussed ways of dealing with this. It's nice to know your fellow superintendents are there to help out with advice and equipment. That is also what the P.T.G.A. is about - helping one another.

Membership dues should be in by now, giving us a solid number for our budget. We will give you some numbers next issue. No scholarship was awarded this year as we received no applications. The money allotted for this scholarship was put back in the education fund.

There will be a "Strategic Planning Meeting" held on May 21, 1999. Please plan to attend. Don Bretthauer from the GCSAA will be guest speaker. Ron Garrison will be gathering more information concerning this meeting.

There will be a few changes proposed in the Pocono Turfgrass by-laws. They will be announced at three different meetings and voted on at the annual meeting in the fall.

Hope to see everyone soon.

Jack Bird



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

1999

PRESIDENT

Jack Bird
The Hideout

VICE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Tony Grieco, CGCS
Silver Creek Country Club

PAST PRESIDENT

Ron Garrison, CGCS
Fox Hill Country Club

DIRECTORS

Jason J. Barndt
Berwick Golf Club

Darrin M. Batsky
Glen Oak Country Club

Gene Huelster
Pocono Farms Country Club

Jim MacLaren
Turf Partners, Inc.

Mark Eisele
Country Club at Woodloch Springs

CHIPS & PUTTS STAFF

EDITOR

Jim MacLaren

Managing Editor,

Melinda Wisnosky
R.R. 1, Box 219
Harding, PA 19643
570-388-2889
Fax: 570-388-2167

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Sankey Brumley
Tony Grieco, CGCS
Doug Witcraft

From the Editor's Desk.....

As of this writing and traveling the highway and byways of the Poconos, the common thread of comments seems to be "We need some warm weather and where do you find good help or any help?"

The warm weather will come in time, but with the economic trend we are in and a burgeoning economy, the unemployment is down; so is the workforce pool.

Other comments heard have been "Why is the cost of meetings so expensive?" Well, if you compare the cost of other association meetings that can run as high as \$100.00 plus per day, we aren't so bad. I beseech each and every one of you to poll your own facility and cost out a day of golf, carts, lunch, dinner, prizes, etc. In other words, a day you would be proud of to showcase your facility to your fellow members. THEN offer your facility to our disposal. Otherwise, we will pursue the way things are!!

And while we are on this subject, some of the amenities we enjoyed at Silver Creek would not have been possible (at that cost) without the generous contribution from NOVARTIS and John Fowler. In other words, we could not have had such a BANNER day with PRIMO amenities. It would have been a more SUBDUED affair.

Jim MacLaren



Chips & Putts

PATRON SPONSORS

AERIFICATION AND OVERSEEDING

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
Aer-Core, Inc.	Bill Rahling	610.458.0890
	Bob Eichert	610.458.0890
E&M Golf Supply	Bill Smith	800.554.4863
Valentine & Sons	Rich Valentine	610.525.5710

EQUIPMENT

E&M Golf Supply	Bill Smith	800.554.4863
Finch Turf Equipment	Bill Sablich	800.875.8873
	Samuel Baird	800-875-8873
Lawn & Golf, Inc.	John Bodock	800.362.5650
Mid-Atlantic Equipment	Bob Vail	610.489.1400
Philadelphia Turf Co.	Matt Brown	215.345.7200
Valentine & Sons	Rich Valentine	610.525.5710
Aer-Core	Bill Rahling	610.458.0890
	Bob Eichert	610.458.0890

FERTILIZER

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
Earthworks	Joel Simmons	800.732.8873
Egypt Farms	Dean Snyder	410.335.3700
Lawn & Golf, Inc.	John Bodock	800.362.5650
Lesco	Don Liprando	570.868.3592
Turf Partners, Inc.	Jim MacLaren	570.443.7154
Philadelphia Turf Co.	Matt Brown	215.345.7200
Plant Food Company	Tom Weinert	800.562.1291
Seedway	Dennis Wagner	800.836.3720
Valentine & Sons	Rich Valentine	610.525.5710

GREEN AND TEE SUPPLIES

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
Lawn & Golf, Inc.	John Bodock	800.362.5650
Partac Peat Co.	Jim Kelsey	800.247.2326
Lesco	Don Liprando	570.868.3592

GOLF CARTS

Golf Cars, Inc.	Paul Szymanski	215.340.0880
Mid-Atlantic Equipment	Bob Vail	610-489-1400

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

Aquarius Irrigation	Joe Jaskot	201.423.0222
Century Rain-Aid	Phil DeMarco	800.642.3706
Koonz Sprinkler Supply	Todd Robinson	800.772.8486
Lesco	Don Liprando	570.868.3592
Philadelphia Turf Co.	George Skawski	215.345.7200
Purcell & Associates	Jerry Purcell	215-230-1911
Valentine & Sons	Rich Valentine	610.525.5710

PLANT PROTECTANTS

AgrEvo	Shaun Barry	732.846.8173
Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
Bayer Corporation	John Wiblehauser	215.887.8936
Lawn & Golf, Inc.	John Bodock	800.362.5650
Lesco	Don Liprando	570.868.3592
Novartis	John Fowler	610.998.2896
Turf Partners, Inc.	Jim MacLaren	570.443.7154
Zeneca Prof. Products	Lee Kozsey	610.861.8174

SEED & SOD

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
Lawn & Golf	John Bodock	800.362.5650
Lesco	Don Liprando	570.868.3592
Turf Partners, Inc.	Jim MacLaren	570.443.7154
Seedway	Dennis Wagner	800.836.3720

TOPDRESSING / SOIL AMENDMENTS

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
Aquatrols	Phil O'Brien	800-257-7797
Blue Ridge Peat Farms	Gene Evans	570.443.9596
Egypt Farms	Dean Snyder	410.335.3700
Partac Peat Co.	Jim Kelsey	800.247.2326
Plant Food Company	Tom Weinert	800.562.1291
Turf Partners, Inc.	Jim MacLaren	570.443.7154
Valentine & Sons	Rich Valentine	610.525.5710

The Pocono Turfgrass Association would like to acknowledge the efforts of Llewellyn & McKane, Inc., Manufacturers of Fine Printing. They are located at 31 New Hill Street, P. O. Box 507, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-0507, Phone: 570-822-8181; Fax 570-823-3579.

Support our Sponsors - They support us!

A Successful Season... Starts with Century Golf Course Services



Century offers the complete line of Legacy Golf products to help you control water, labor and energy costs. Featuring Legacy rotors, valves, Genesis central satellite and Viking decoder control systems.



Legacy Golf System



SyncroFlo, Inc.

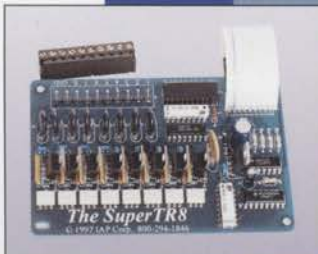
Efficient and economical, SyncroFlo pumping stations are the solution to many golf course irrigation problems.



SyncroFlo Eagle Pumps

BoardTronics™

Repair or upgrade your Rain Bird or Toro golf controllers. Replacement boards can be shipped from the Century National Service Center within 24 hours. Call 888-855-9132.



Controller Board Repairs



Improve water quality with an aerating fountain, or create water features from existing golf course streams and ponds.



Aqua Master Fountains

CENTURY RAIN AID

Sprinklers • Valves • Controllers • Pump Stations Controller Board Repairs • Fountains

An inviting, well-maintained course means challenging play...and a profitable season. As a golf superintendent, you can achieve this success with Century Golf Course Services. Century's team of professionals can help you solve irrigation or drainage problems and show you what's new in clubhouse lighting, water features and more. Call today for a free catalog and on-site consultation.

800-347-4272

www.rainaid.com

Monitor Course Conditions, Control Irrigation Costs With a Legacy System

Retrofits • Upgrades • New Construction

Legacy by Hunter is one of the most recognized names in golf course irrigation. This premium product line of rotors, valves and control systems is manufactured by Hunter Industries, among the world leaders in professional irrigation equipment.

If you are considering a course retrofit, upgrade or are planning new construction, Legacy by Hunter can supply a complete system that offers programming flexibility and total control over irrigation operations. The versatile Legacy system also allows you to retrofit to existing field controllers, wiring and stations.

Featuring Hunter Rotors • Valves • Controllers



Legacy G60, G70 and G90 Golf Rotors

With Hunter's proven gear drive technology, Legacy closed-case rotors ensure years of reliable perfor-

mance and positive pop-downs in all soil conditions. Like all Hunter rotors, they feature through-the-top adjustability and rugged construction. Impact and vandal-resistant. With block check, check-o-matic and N.O. hydraulic or electric valve-in-head models.

Genesis Central Computerized Control System

Fully-featured yet simple to operate, the Genesis Central Control System can manage a 9-hole course or a 36-hole resort complex. This easy-to-use Windows™-based unit allows full programming and control of Genesis radio or hardwire field controllers, data retrieval units and weather stations from a single location. Expandable to meet future needs.



Genesis Field Controller

Stand-Alone, Hardwire or Radio

Genesis controllers can handle up to 60 stations as a powerful stand-alone unit or as part of a network that manages the entire course. The modular design allows quick and easy field upgrades. Genesis features 20 programs and start time combinations. Manual/semi-automatic starts. Multiple/continuous cycles with cycle delay capabilities. Solid construction and dependable operation.



Genesis Data Retrieval Sensor Ready Device

Connect the "real world" to your central system. Now you can monitor flow, wind speed and direction, rain and other key conditions on the course to provide updated input for system

status, custom reports and alarm monitoring. Interfaces with up to 6 sensors for maximum efficiency.

Genesis Viking Two-Wire Decoder Control

The Genesis Viking Two-Wire Decoder is an economical solution with program flexibility. It operates from stand-alone

consoles or a Windows™ driven Genesis central system. Connect heavy-duty watertight decoders to both select and power valves and/or electric valve-in-head sprinklers.



CENTURY RAIN AID

800-347-4272
www.rainaid.com

Get more for your dollar

Rebuilt Yamahaulers cost about $\frac{1}{2}$ as much as new, competitive, utility vehicles



The Black Box: Basic Yamahauler with G1 (2 Stroke) or G2 (4 Stroke) engine and carry box 24" x 39" x 9".



The G2: Yamahauler with G2 (4 Stroke) engine and a diamond plate carrier for large payloads 33" x 42" x 11".



The G1: Yamahauler with G1 (2 Stroke) engine and a diamond plate carrier for large payloads 34" x 43" x 12".

And they work just as well,
prices start at \$1,985⁰⁰.

Why pay top dollar for a brand new utility vehicle when a fully reconditioned Yamahauler will do the same job and save you a lot of money? Time-tested Yamaha engines are well known for their reliability and durability. As an exclusive Yamaha dealer with a full stock of parts we turn reclaimed vehicles into like-new condition. Experienced mechanics remanufacture each vehicle from the ground up for long life.

- Full one year drive train warranty
- Financing and terms available
- Customization available on request

**MID-ATLANTIC
EQUIPMENT
CORPORATION**

Authorized dealers for Yamaha and E-Z-GO/Textron Products

Route 29
Collegeville, PA 19426
800-526-7278

18960 Woodfield Road,
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
800-962-3804

Golf Cars of Florida, Inc.
3572 S.E. Dixie Highway
Stuart, FL 34997
407-286-7416

Web address - <http://www.golfcart.com>



Robert A. Vail III
Territory Manager
(610) 489-1400
Fax: (610) 489-9478
<http://www.golfcart.com>



1999 MEETING SITES

May 25, 1999	Great Bear Golf & C.C. Keith Snyder, CGCS
June 22, 1999	C. C. at Woodloch Springs Mark Eisele
July 20, 1999	Skytop Lodge Tom Williams
August 16, 1999	Pocono Farms C.C. (Clam Bake) Gene Huelster
September 20, 1999	Eagle Rock Resort Doug Witcraft
October 19, 1999	Bethlehem Golf Club Tom Wilchak

1999 MEETING NOTICES

PESTICIDE TRAINING

Pool Update & Exams
May 19, 1999 & June 2, 1999
814-863-1948
Core offered.

Weed Science
May 21, 1999
610-388-1000

Plant Disease
June 11, 1999
610-388-1000

COMING EVENTS


Vietnam Memorial Wall
August 17-22, 1999
Tannersville Elementary School



FINANCIAL REPORT

The PTGA continues to operate within a comfortable range of our budget. Due to the \$10 increase approved last season, we now have in excess of \$8,000 in our Scholarship and Research Fund. We still have a long way to go until this fund is self-sufficient, but we are progressing very nicely now.

Tony Grieco,
Secretary/Treasurer


EarthWorks
Natural Organic Products
P.O. Box 278K • 6574 S. Delaware Drive
Martins Creek, PA 18063
610•250•9560
Fax: 250•7840
soilfirst.com

Joel Simmons

800 • 732 • TURF

Lee A. Kozsey
Senior Territory Sales Lead

Zeneca Professional Products
3710 Amherst Court
Bethlehem, PA 18020-1356
Telephone (610) 861-8174
Mobile (610) 730-9185
Fax (610) 882-9358
E-mail lee.kozsey@AGNA.Zeneca.com
Voice Mail (888) 875-9990, X0163
A business unit of ZENECA Inc.

ZENECA



Nothing Runs Like A Deere



WILLIAM SABLICH

FINCH TURF EQUIPMENT, INC.
404 Elm Avenue
North Wales, PA 19454

(215) 661-0390
(800) 875-TURF
FAX: (215) 661-9161
www.finchinc.com

KOONZ
Koonz Sprinkler Supply, Inc.



Irrigation supplier to the
Golf Course Superintendent

No one knows
irrigation like Koonz

800-772-8486

39 Waverly Avenue, P.O. Box 55
Springfield, NJ 07081

RAIN BIRD



GREEN-RELEASE



More of what goes around comes around.

Questions posed 25 years ago by:
The Golf Course Superintendents
Of New England.



Is my equipment accessible without tearing up the whole maintenance building?

Would my building be suitable for a meeting of the club's Board of Directors? (Probably should have one!)

Would I think twice about staying overnight in my maintenance facility?

Could I offer the restroom facilities in my building to anyone without fearing the possibility of being embarrassed?

Is there a clear path from one end of the building to the other?

Is my building a firetrap?

Could I wear a suit in my building without fear of having it soiled or permanently damaged?

*Editor's Note:
Sounds like a casting call for "Caddy Shack!"*

More Quotable Quotes:

Every man of action has a strong dose of egotism, pride, hardness, and cunning. But all those things will be regarded as high qualities if he can make them the means to achieve great ends.

1000 Springbrook Avenue
Moosic, PA
18507
800.650.1936

LESCO™

4217 Fritch Drive
Bethlehem, PA
18017
610.866.6665

Don Liprando
Turf & Ornamental Specialist

LESCO, Inc.
911 Fox Lane
Mountaintop, PA
18707

717.868.3592
610.778.4003 Pager
717.868.3597 Fax




Dean Snyder
President

Egypt Farms, Inc.
P.O. Box 223
White Marsh, Maryland 21162

Phone: 800-899-7645
Local: 410-335-3700
Pager: 800-705-0430
Fax: 410-335-0164

GOLF CARS INC.
LEASING • SALES • SERVICE

PAUL SZYMANSKI SALES
4180 SKYRON DRIVE
BUCKINGHAM, PA 18912-0247

215-340-0880 OFFICE • 215-340-1634 FAX



Carryall I



Carryall II

CENTURY RAIN AID

Your Link to Legacy Golf Irrigation Systems



CENTURY GOLF PROFESSIONALS
NEW JERSEY/PENNSYLVANIA
PHIL DEMARCO • 800-642-3706
VALENTINE & SONS • 610-525-5710

LEGACY™
GOLF IRRIGATION

Call today for an on-site consultation.

PTC PHILADELPHIA TURF COMPANY
4049 LANDISVILLE ROAD, BOX 865
DOYLESTOWN, PA 18901-0865
OFFICE 215-345-7200 FAX 215-345-8132

MATTHEW W. BROWN
Commercial Products
Voice Mail
215-340-5401

GEORGE J. SKAWSKI, JR.
Irrigation Products
Voice Mail
215-340-5450

TORO

CARRYALL
DRIVE IT TO WORK. Club Car



KNOW YOUR SOIL TEST REPORTS

By Dr. T. Scott Murrell

Soil testing is an essential part of a fertility program.

How much fertilizer should you apply this fall? Your answer may be "The same amount I always have." But are your fertilizer applications efficient and profitable?

Universities dedicate many resources to develop profitable recommendations based upon soil test levels. Soil testing is inexpensive and effective and will provide you with the knowledge you need to make wise decisions. However, it is useful only if you are able to understand the reports generated from a laboratory.

Soil test levels.

Soil testing laboratories often report the levels of nutrients in units of parts per million (ppm) or pounds per acre. If the sample represents soil cores taken to a depth of 6-2/3 inches, you can convert ppm to pounds per acre by multiplying ppm by two. For instance, a soil test of 15 ppm nitrate is equal to 30#/acre. For nitrate and chloride, these numbers indicate the amount actually in the soil. However, for the remaining nutrients, the amount reported represents only a portion of the total amount present. For instance, a soil test report with a value of 300# per acre of potassium does not mean the soil contains 300# of potassium per acre. Instead, the value is an index of the availability of potassium to crops. The number itself is meaningless unless it has been related to yield response. Universities have developed databases that relate soil test results to appropriate fertilizer rates. Lower soil test levels require higher amounts of fertilizers.

Soil pH and buffer pH

Soil pH is a measure of soil acidity. The pH scale ranges from 0 - 14. A pH of 7 is neutral. Values less than 7 are acidic, while values greater than 7 are basic. The availability of soil nutrients depends greatly upon soil pH. The pH range optimum for production varies by crop. At low soil pH values, typically less than 5, aluminum and manganese may be soluble enough to become toxic to some crops. Lime is used to increase soil pH. The amount of lime to apply depends upon the buffer pH value. Buffer pH is an indicator of the soil's ability to resist pH changes. Generally, soils with a higher buffer pH require more lime. Universities and certified soil testing laboratories have databases that relate buffer pH to lime requirements.

Cation exchange capacity.

Cations have a positive charge. Plant nutrients that are cations include ammonium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, copper, iron, manganese, and zinc. Soils generally have a negative charge, so they are able to hold cations and keep them from being leached away with water. The ability of soils to hold cations is measured by the cation exchange capacity (CEC). The units used by soil test laboratories for CEC are milliequivalents per 100 grams of oven-dry soil (meq/100g) or

centimoles of positive charge per kilogram of oven-dry soil (cmol(+)/kg). Both units are a measure of the positive charge that can be held by the soil. The units are equivalent, so 20 meq/100g is the same as 20 cmol(+)/kg. Soils with a higher CEC are generally more fertile, since they are capable of providing more nutrients to crops. Soils with a CEC less than 6 meq/100g should not be fertilized in the fall, since they are unable to keep ammonium, nitrogen or potassium from being leached away with winter and spring precipitation. CEC is also needed for following label restrictions on pesticides.

Percent base saturation.

In addition to many plant nutrient cations, soils hold aluminum and hydrogen, which are also cations. Hydrogen and aluminum reduce soil pH and are therefore considered acidic cations. Soils with a low pH may have high levels of hydrogen and aluminum, causing plant growth problems. However, in soils with pH levels that are slightly acidic or basic, cations such as potassium, calcium, magnesium, and sodium are more abundant. These cations are therefore considered basic. The percent of soil's CEC that is occupied by basic cations is termed the percent base saturation.

Soil testing is essential to profitable crop production.

However, the work doesn't stop when the soil is sent into the laboratory. Spend the time to learn what your soil test report means. Only then can wise management decisions be made.

Preserving trout bait!



In order to preserve our earthworm populations avoid using the following products that affected the worm population two-three weeks after treatment, and up to 20 weeks.

Dursban 4E (32.3%)	Diazinon 14G (58.4%)
Triumph 4E (59.4%)	Benomyl (60.0%)
Thiophanate-methyl (88%)	Sevin SL (89.8%)
Fonofos (96%)	Mocap (96.8%)
Turcam 2.5G (99%)	



Diary of a Greenskeeper

TUESDAY



Went in at daylight – the air feels like a police dog's breath. Got the sprayer working. Can't figure out why the chemical companies package dusty chemicals in bags that are impossible to open without getting it all over yourself and the sprayer, not to mention breathing it. The cheapest cereal on the market is packaged in easy to open and easy to close containers. We should all go with granules; that would snap their eyes open. Fairway tractor is stuck in a wet spot the crew calls Iran. Why are there so many cars in the parking lot? The pro shop says it's a ladies' member-guest that transferred from another club that had a fire in their kitchen. I think I'll set one in ours so they have to eat at Burger King. Got home early, power napped

through dinner. Wife mad again – too tired to be mad. Mowed rough 'till dark. Showered, ate cold supper. Felt sexy, wife still mad from last evening. Lost interest.

Biography of Jason Barndt Berwick Country Club Director of PTGA

I was born and raised in Hellertown, PA. I spent my summers in high school working at the Silver Creek Country Club for Bill Yob. Upon graduating high school I attended flight school. With school loans piling up, I needed to work. My brother talked me into working construction on a new golf course that was being built. I then went to work for Ron and Kelly at The Center Valley Club. I was fortunate to see the last stages of construction, followed by the highly anticipated opening day. At this time the aviation industry was hurting, and I was enjoying the golf course business so much, I decided to attend the two year turf program at Rutgers' University. After my first year at Rutgers, Mel hired me as his assistant at Brookside C.C. After two years at Brookside in March 1997, I attained the Superintendent's position at the Berwick Golf Club.

I have been married for almost three years to my wife, Melissa, who gave birth to our first child, Alexis, on St. Patty's Day. In my free time I like to golf, play ice hockey, water and snow ski, and I try not to change dirty diapers.

AER-CORE, Inc.

Specialized Turfgrass Aerification

For Service or Demo Please Call:

1-800-823-7267

Bob Eichert

Bill Rahling



VALENTINE & SONS

Turf and Landscape
Supplies & Services

RICH VALENTINE

A Division of Valentine Golf Associates Inc.

204 Rodney Circle
Bryn Mawr, Pa.
19010-3730

Office: 610-525-5710
Fax: 610-525-1480
Pager: 610-501-9891



Seed, Fertilizer & Soil Erosion
Control Material for
Golf, Athletic, Landscape,
Construction & Maintenance

DENNIS L. WAGNER

Territory Sales Representative

Seedway
980 Loucks Mills Road
York, PA 17402
Ph: (800) 836-3720
Fx: (717) 848-2261

Home
Ph: (610) 921-8779
Fx: (610) 921-8779
Email: greenthumb2@aol.com

AQUARIUS

IRRIGATION SUPPLY, INC.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE IS
OUR #1 PRIORITY
PA 1800-989-7374
NJ 1800-922-0717**



31 Hill Street, P.O. Box 507
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-0507
570-822-8181
FAX: 570-823-3579

- Layout and Design
- Typesetting
- Mac/IBM desktop publishing interface
- Laser color separations
- Scitex® electronic photo retouching
- Full electronic prepress services
- Foil stamping, embossing
- Complete bindery including saddlestitch and perfect binding

It's every player's responsibility...

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



A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA



What is the Allied Golf Course Superintendents of Pennsylvania?

The Allied was established (in conjunction with the GCSAA) for the purpose of fostering the highest standards of professionalism and integrity in the golf turf industry, promoting public understanding and recognition of the profession of the golf course superintendents, promoting fraternal and professional contacts between golf turf professionals, and acting as an advocate in furthering the aims, objectives, and concerns of the organization and the golf turf industry.

The Allied consists of seven golf course superintendent's associations in Pennsylvania. They are: Central PA, Greater Pittsburgh, Keystone, Mountain Valley, Northwestern PA, Philadelphia, and Pocono Turfgrass. Each chapter assigns two of its members to serve on the Board of the Allied for two-year terms. The current Pocono liaisons to the Allied are Mark Monahan and Gene Huelster. The current president of the Allied is John Shaw from the Greater Pittsburgh Association.

The Allied Board recently met on March 25, 1999 at the Elks Club in State College, PA. The Board is in the process of formulating a readiness program in which all chapters will participate. This program will prepare us to take immediate action in the event that a statewide or even a regional problem pertaining to our profession would occur; such as, further regulating products and/or procedures necessary to our livelihood. A schedule of mailings will be organized in order for each chapter to contact the state Senators and Representatives from their area. The larger the voice, the better the chance to be heard.

The allied also discussed the hospitality suite which is held in conjunction with the Annual GCSAA Conference & Trade Show. The suite enables us to represent the Pennsylvania Superintendents on a national level, socialize with fellow superintendents and our suppliers (who sponsor the funding of the room), and show our support when one of our fellow superintendents is running for national office. Over the past ten years, Pennsylvania has been successful in having two of our fellow superintendents ascend to the presidency of the GCSAA. Currently, Sam Snyder, CGCS, is serving his second term as GCSAA director. The Allied will continue to support the annual hospitality suite and seek the support of the statewide suppliers who have generously supported us in the past.

The Allied Golf Course Superintendents of Pennsylvania is alive and well, and is prepared to serve its constituents.

Mark Monahan, CGCS

Preventing Patch Diseases

The best way to control patch diseases is to prevent them from occurring in the first place. The trouble is, many of your cultural practices may actually be stimulating the development of disease organisms. For example, low mowing enhances symptom expression. And heavy use of nitrate-based fertilizers can also encourage the growth of patch diseases.

A balanced IPM program incorporates all available methods to help you maintain the quality and beauty of your golf course. In addition to fungicide applications, cultural practices designed to alleviate stress and promote root development should be part of your IPM program. This can help weak turf become strong enough to resist disease.

By incorporating the following IPM practices into your turf management program, you will reduce your risk to patch diseases:

- Minimize environmental stress to turf.
- Encourage turf growth to reduce disease risk.
- Enrich the soil and fertilize for proper nutrition.
- Remove standing water from your turf and promote good soil drainage.
- Plant disease-resistant turfgrass cultivars.
- Prune shrubs and trees to improve air circulation and reduce shaded areas.
- Topdress, core aerify, or verticut to prevent thatch buildup. (This allows fungicides to penetrate the soil for more effective control of patch disease pathogens.)
- Raise mowing heights in late summer and periods of high heat stress. Low mowing enhances the severity of patch disease symptoms.
- Integrate into your program a broad spectrum fungicide for year-round control.
- Fertilize with 1/2 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per month to encourage fill-in of infected areas.
- Re-seed to encourage fill-in of areas where disease has attacked.
- Use light, frequent irrigation for shallow rooted turf. Light, frequent irrigation helps cool plants and provides water for short root systems.
- Irrigate deeply and infrequently when normal turfgrass root systems are present.

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.



POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO
TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

MEETING NOTES

The meeting this month will be held at Great Bear Golf and Country Club, and our host will be Keith Snyder, Superintendent.

Great Bear Golf and Country Club is a Jack Nicklaus Signature Course which opened for play in the summer of 1997. Greens, tees and fairways are southshore Bentgrass. The course is Par 71 and the length varies from 5,000 yards at the forward tees to 7,000 yards at the back tees.

Keith Snyder started in golf course maintenance at Water Gap Country Club and Tamiment in the early 1970's. He graduated from the two-year Turfgrass Management Program at Penn State in 1975. Keith worked 20 years at DuPont Country Club in Wilmington, Delaware, before returning to the Poconos in the fall of 1995 at the start of construction for Great Bear. He lives in Marshalls Creek, PA, with his wife Judy and daughters Jennifer and Jessica.

NEW MEMBERS

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



Michael C. Condur, C. C. of the Poconos, Class B
Shaun A. Henry, Wyoming Valley C.C., Class B
Derrick E. Hudson, Wyoming Valley C.C., Class C
William A. McCausland, C.C. of the Poconos, Class C
Michael J. Paff, Woodstone Golf Club, Class C

ROSTER BOOKS

The 1999 Roster Books should be out shortly. All data listed in the book is based on our records as of March 31, 1999.

quotable quotes

*When you reach for the stars, you may not quite get one,
but you won't get a handful of mud, either.*



POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION
147 HAYFIELD ROAD
SHAVERTOWN, PA 18708-9748

POSTAGE

NAME & ADDRESS

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED.