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# CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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DECEMBER 2004



## Meeting: Wyoming Valley CC (Annual Election Meeting) *Hosts: Jeff Koch and Chris Snopkowski*

Our November meeting was held at Wyoming Valley CC. It was a beautiful day to play a fantastic golf course. As many members will attest, Jeff and Chris did a fantastic job grooming the golf course and planning the weather and leaf color to cooperate.

Course Stats: Par 71, 6300 yards. Designed in 1896 by A.W. Tillinghast (yes, that was 1896). The course is the 45<sup>th</sup> oldest course in the US and 5<sup>th</sup> oldest in Pennsylvania. It is a private club with 400 members. There are 14 push up style poa/bent greens and 4 sand based Pennlinks greens. Fairways are being converted to Pennlinks, and Penncross, but also consist of various rye, blue and poa plants. The course receives approximately 23,000 rounds/year. Please note, meeting costs were only \$25.00 because of Wyoming Valley's donation of carts and golf. We appreciate the generosity shown to us by the club for graciously hosting our event.

Our Host Jeff Koch started working on a golf course at age 12. He started at Rolling Meadows Golf Course in Ashland, Pennsylvania. (Executive length GC, 4500 yards, Par 68) His first assigned job was actually emptying the trash. He has come a long way since then. He spent 10 years at RMGC and then graduated from Penn State's 2 year Turfgrass Technical Program in 1997 under George Hamilton. After PSU he was hired as the second assistant at Talbot Country Club in Easton, Maryland, under course superintendent Guy Ostrander. He was promoted to first assistant after a few months but became homesick for the mountains of NEPA. He was hired in February of 1998 as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant under Andy Jubinski at Glenaura National Golf Club. In July 2002 he was hired as the Superintendent at Wyoming Valley CC.

*(continued on page 5)*



## President's Message.....

Greetings to all. Oddly enough, I am at a loss for words since I do not know where to pick up from our last conversation. Therefore, I will hit you with a barrage of independent thoughts which should offer you plenty of material for your daily meditations.

First and foremost.... Thank you to our meeting hosts this past season. The courses were wonderful, as were the staff at each facility. It was also great to have the opportunity to play some different courses in our chapter.

Second, thank you to all our meeting sponsors and other affiliate supporters for their assistance in making our meetings more affordable for everyone.

We are currently working on securing sites for the 2005 season. A number of superintendents had inquired last year about hosting a meeting. We will be in contact with you shortly. If anyone else would be interested in hosting a meeting next year, please let us know ASAP so that we will be able to schedule speakers for each meeting, also.

We had approached a few of you about serving on the PTGA Board for this upcoming year. As of now, the present board appears to still be intact and the presumed vacancies are not going to be developing. I did not want you to think you were forgotten. As for the PTGA Board, we have obvious issues to address, and we are already working on those. We will be announcing a number of changes shortly which will continue to make some of our responsibilities somewhat simpler and more efficient. I do feel we have righted a couple ships, but it appears the fleet is bigger than we had assumed, and our ship righting is not yet complete.

Eric Reed

## From the Editor's Desk.....

What a year for the PTGA. It certainly has been a learning year for me. Let me first apologize to everyone for my lack of production on *Chips and Putts*. I have seen how much work this really takes, and I vow to do a much better job next year as your editor.

With that said, there should be a few changes you will notice. We have shortened the coming editions of *Chips and Putts* in an effort to get more issues to the membership on a more timely basis. Please note, even with smaller issues, we still need copy for the coming issues. You can email, fax, or send in story ideas or even stories at any time! For 2005, I will have Eric Reed and Jeff Koch helping me to produce the issues on a more timely basis. We are currently in the process of planning for next year. Rumor has it, we might even be seeing a PTGA website. Rumors were still unconfirmed at press time (more details next issue).

Stay tuned for an exciting year! See you on the trade show circuit. Have a happy and healthy holiday season!

Charlie Koennecker



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## Winding Down for 2004

Darin S. Bevard  
USGA Agronomist

It's just about time to park the mowers and hook up the snow plow. There is still a little bit of golf left to be played; but with the leaves all but fallen, the days getting shorter and temperatures a little colder, preparing for winter is on everyone's mind. What preparations are you making? There are many things to think of.

Sure, there are the agronomic issues. Applying snow mold control, potentially using covers and worrying about the winter impacts on turfgrass are thoughts. However, much of the winter is spent on projects and non-grass growing issues. This is an important time to determine what worked, what didn't and what new strategies should be considered for 2005.

With regard to covers, we have more options available for synthetic covers than ever before. Covers can help with winter survival in some instances and have no impacts in others. High greens that receive frequent wind and have damage in the spring may be considered for covers. Covers can prevent desiccation injury. Winter damage that occurs due to ice accumulation, poor drainage and shade will not be helped significantly by covering.

Another question that you should ask yourself is "Do we have a defined maintenance plan?" In my travels, it is amazing how often the golf course superintendent is not quite sure what his members (owners/customers) really de-

sire in the golf course. There is an assumption that the goal is always faster greens, lush green conditions, etc. Often times, there is a middle ground that prevents turfgrass being pushed to extremes. Without some maintenance standards, how do you evaluate your performance? How fast is fast on the greens? We often do not like to get into numbers, but unfortunately, if you do not know the speed of the greens, conditions become arbitrary. There is no way to tell when you have achieved a goal with regard to putting green conditions. Maintenance guidelines are becoming more common throughout our industry and provide a way to set priorities and evaluate progress.

Finally, the winter is a time to recharge our minds and bodies before the next growing season. There is no off season anymore. There are conferences, projects, equipment maintenance and many other tasks for a superintendent to direct during the winter months. However, the winter does provide a chance to relax compared to the golf season. The Green Section Agronomists of the Mid-Atlantic Region wish everyone a good upcoming winter season. We hope to see most of you during our conference travels.

# Reminder!

If you have recently moved or changed employment,  
please call Melinda at  
570-388-2889 or e-mail her at [mmel500@aol.com](mailto:mmel500@aol.com)  
so she can update her records.

Thank you!



(continued from page 1)

His assistant was Chris Snopkowski.

In addition to being a superintendent, Jeff enjoys hunting, fishing and watching college football. He is currently enjoying the single life.

Shortly after our meeting Jeff was hired to be the Superintendent at Glenmaura National G.C. Congratulations Jeff!

Chris Snopkowski replaced Jeff as Superintendent at Wyoming Valley G.C. Congrats to Chris also!

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Happy  
Holiday Season!*



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*A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA*



## Pocono Turfgrass Winter Plan

(Or Words to Live By)

### Mayonnaise Jar and Coffee

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty Mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full.

They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls.

He then asked the students again if the jar was full.

They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else.

He asked once more if the jar was full.

The students responded with a unanimous "yes!"

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand.

The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things — your family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favorite passions — things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else — the small stuff."

"If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you."

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness."

Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Lay on the grass and look at the clouds. Go fishing or take that much needed walk in the park. Play another 18 holes. There will always be time to clean the house, and fix the disposal, wash the clothes. Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled.

"I'm glad you asked," he said. "It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a cup of coffee with a friend."



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## POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO  
TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

### September Golf Results

#### Winners - Net Stableford

First Place:	Paul Brandon	67
Second Place:	Steve Chirip	65
Third Place:	Ron Garrison	61
Fourth Place:	Chris Snopkowski	61
Fifth Place:	Charlie Koennecker	59
Sixth Place:	Jim Carville	58

Longest Drive: Marty Myers

Closest to the Pin: Ron Garrison

### October Golf Results

#### AFFILIATES

##### Gross:

1st -	Jim Carville	87
2nd -	Joe Sellers	87

##### Net:

1st	Rodger Smith	47
2nd	John Vojick	49
3rd	Matt Brown	51
4th	Jim MacLaren	53

#### SUPERINTENDENTS

##### Gross:

1st	Dave Wisnosky	76
2nd	John Weinperl	79

##### Net

1st	Ron Garrison	66
2nd	Walt Whitney	70

Closest to the Pin, Hole #13: Chris Butler, 11'7"  
Longest Drive, Hole #11: John Downer



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