



# CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

[www.ptga.org](http://www.ptga.org)

Founded in  
1936

VOL. 11, NO. 5

AUGUST 2005



## Water Gap Country Club

### Rick Anglemyer, Golf Course Superintendent

The Water Gap Country Club will host this year's Clambake on August 15<sup>th</sup>. This course, built in 1921 as a 9-hole property was completed in 1925. When it was built it was called Wolf Hollow Country Club. This course was saved when it was purchased by the current owners after being closed from 1946 to 1958. The history of this course is again strong with Pocono history. Robert White, the architect of record for Wolf Hollow, was the first president of the PGA and was a charter member of the ASGCA. During his free time, he pioneered scientific turfgrass management. He immigrated from St. Andrews, Scotland to study agronomy and later served as pro-greenskeeper at some very reputable courses on the East Coast.

Water Gap Country Club is now in the very capable hands of Rick Anglemyer, who has his own lengthy history in golf courses. Rick's great grandfather owned thirteen courses through his career, the last of which was Indian Mountain, where Rick was superintendent from 1988 though 1996. After a brief respite, Rick returned to golf as the Assistant at Water Gap CC under Charlie LaBar, CGCS, from 1999 to 2002. During the 2002 season, Rick became Superintendent and has begun making improvements to the club.

Jeff Lesione, the Assistant Superintendent, has been with Water Gap Country Club since 2003. Jeff is a Delaware Valley graduate, with his BS in Agronomy and Turfgrass Management. In addition to Jeff, Rick has the help of a staff of eight to provide the maintenance to this historic course.

The signature hole is a 120-yard, Par-3 with the name of Hagen's Folly. Walter was kind enough to set a benchmark of 11 on this hole. Hagen and John Farrell are known to have played this course, as well as other PGA pro's, since the Water Gap CC hosted the Eastern Open from 1926-1928. It is at one of these Opens that Mr. Hagen posted his 11. On his behalf, he still holds the course record with a 64.



## President's Message.....

It was nice to get away from what I predict now will be one of the most difficult summers we have ever encountered as turf managers.

Thanks to Brian Bachman and the rest of the staff at Riverview Country Club for a great day. It would be great to get back there one day and see the completed pavilion/clubhouse. Thanks also to Andy McNitt for speaking about sodium levels in sand topdressing and lack of any need to exhibit concern over our topdressing purchases. Let's hope his message reached all those in attendance. Thanks to Andy Jubsinski, Paul Brandon, and Finch Services for sponsoring the July meeting. Next month, we are at Water Gap Country Club for the clambake. If you have never had the opportunity to play Water Gap, you are in for a formidable challenge. We can only hope that Rick doesn't go crazy with the flagstick locations, ultimately triggering a chain reaction encompassing all the remaining meeting sights, with only despair and high scores left in its wake.

*Eric Reed*

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## Assistant Editor

### Notes from Jim Gurzler:

The temperature and humidity are still high as the sun sets during this writing. I won't admit to date since I am running very late on this month's meeting announcement. With the recent weather, know that you are not alone and that the "chemical guys" will be buying drinks this fall.

Jim Gurzler



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## How About Some Patience and Flexibility

By Keith Happ, Senior Agronomist



Golf courses have begun to aerate greens, tees and fairways, but not all courses have elected to begin in August. Many courses are still trying to treat the turf tenderly due to persistent environmental stress factors. While rainfall has been variable, heat and humidity has not. Have patience with these much needed agronomic practices. Early treatments are often scheduled for a reason. Many courses have maintenance standards in place and have scheduled these events well in advance.

There will be a need for some degree of flexibility regarding the implementation and completion of aeration practices. For example, while the surfaces may tolerate and benefit from aeration, they may not be able to tolerate topdressing and the procedure needed to move material into the turf canopy. All summer we have discussed controlling stress-related variables. This is one time it may be necessary to alter the program and topdress later in the season when the weather is more favorable for recovery. Too many times turf has been lost because it has been dragged into submission by an employee who was only trying to do what he or she was told. Filling the holes is preferred, but there are considerations when the weather has been harsh and the turf is weak.

This has been a summer to remember, especially if

you are a plant pathologist or an entomologist. We continue to see and hear about disease pressure, particularly pythium damage. The conditions have forced turf managers to use much more judicious water management practices and more daytime irrigation. Minimizing leaf moisture is critical to disease management. Golfers need patience as maintenance crews try to give the turf what it needs without stimulating more disease pressure.

Calls have been coming in about product residual and the need to retreat for insect populations. Scout areas that have been troublesome in the past. The dry conditions have allowed damaged areas to be much more visible. The last two seasons have been wet and damage from feeding insects has been masked. Take the time to identify grubs to ensure that proper procedures can be implemented. Blanket applications may not be necessary.

As always, if the Mid-Atlantic Region agronomists can be of assistance, contact Stan Zontek (szontek@usga.org) or Darin Bevard (dbevard@usga.org) at 610-558-9066 or Keith Happ (khapp@usga.org) at 412-341-5922.



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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO  
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### PTGA MEETING SCHEDULE

August 15	Water Gap C. C. (Clambake)
September 8	Elmhurst Country Club
October 5	Irem Temple C.C.
November	Whitford C.C. w/Philadelphia



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