

# CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

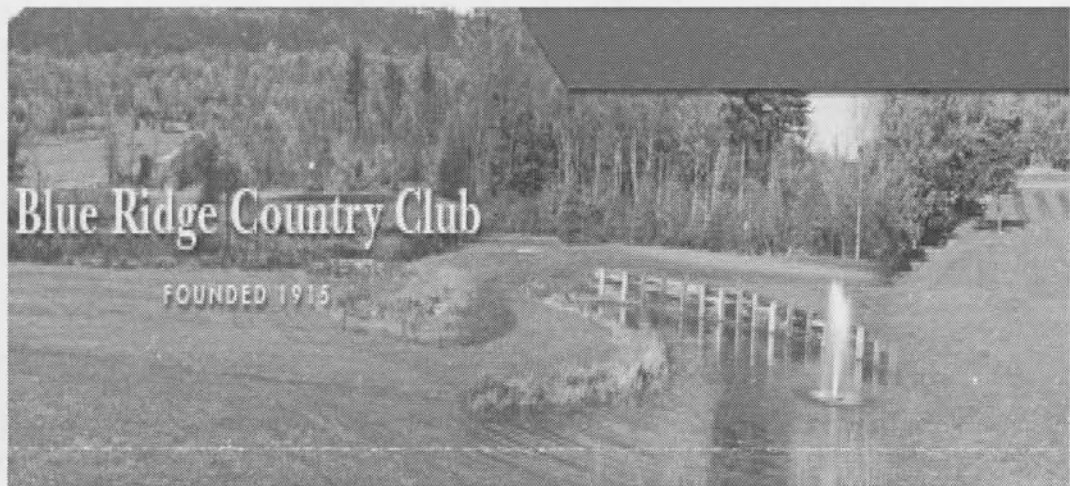
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Founded in  
1936

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MAY 2005

\*\*\*\*\*May Meeting Notice Enclosed.\*\*\*\*\*



## Blue Ridge Country Club Pete Beblavy, Golf Course Superintendent

Pete Beblavy, Golf Course Superintendent at Blue Ridge Country Club, will host this month's meeting on Wednesday, May 18. Pete, a 1996 graduate of Delaware Valley College, where he received his BS in Agronomy, has been superintendent at BRCC since 2000. Prior to becoming superintendent, Pete was the assistant for 4 years. Pete was born and raised in Palmerton and has worked at the club since 1988. Congratulations go out to Pete on his recent engagement to Stacy Sault.

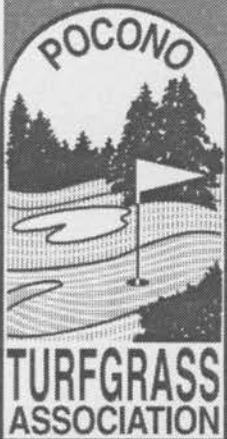
His current assistant Dion Barner, has been with BRCC for the past two seasons. Dion, a 1997 graduate of Penn State University, holds a BS in Turfgrass Science. Prior to working at BRCC, Dion worked at Turbot Hills, Shade Mountain, and performed an internship at Congressional to round out his education.

Blue Ridge C.C. was founded as a 9-hole course in 1915. Since then, membership has grown to its current level of 430 members. It was decided in 1990 to move forward with a plan to build an additional 9 holes and bring the course to its current 6700 yards. Jim Blauckovich provided the club with a master plan, which has provided guidance to the club during construction of the new nine. All the work at the club relating to the construction of the new nine was performed in house.

When not building a golf course, Pete and his staff can be found honing their carpentry and drywall skills. In 2002, BRCC started construction of the maintenance facility and although the drought delayed some of the finish work, today the staff of BRCC has a wonderful new shop.

Two years ago, BRCC was able to build a new clubhouse. No doubt the Chefs will provide another typically wonderful fare, just as the Golf committee will provide another enjoyable format for golf. The speaker this month is Carmen Magro of Penn State University. Carmen is the turfgrass technical coordinator and also an instructor at the university.

It should be a great day at Blue Ridge Country Club and hopefully the membership will come out in strong support of this meeting.



## President's Message.....

Greetings to all on this fine spring day. I am relieved to say that the early July we were experiencing is finally gone.

One nice thing about that weather stretch was that we were able to enjoy our first Pocono Turfgrass Association meeting under sunny skies. Thanks again to Mel Leaver, Jeff Flamisch, and the staff at Brookside Country Club for a great day. Also, thank you to all those who were able to attend the meeting and spare the PTGA from a completely humiliating turnout. For any choir members reading this....support the PTGA or there will be no PTGA to support.

*Eric Reed*

## Assistant Editor.....

On Wednesday, May 18, 2005 Blue Ridge Country Club will host the monthly meeting of the Pocono Turfgrass Association. Pete Beblavy and his staff will undoubtedly provide a fine site for our meeting, and I am looking forward to bettering my golf at the course.

With this being my first issue as associate editor, I will provide the necessary begging and groveling for articles and materials for the upcoming newsletters. As I discussed this editorial role with Eric, I had the brainstorm of an article on spring irrigation system start up. I have learned that articles take time and although I have gone through two revisions and various phone calls with knowledgeable sources, the deadline has come and gone so you will have to wait for next year. I have now tabled those drafts for an outline on irrigation system winterization so that I will have it ready for October. Good luck and may the rain this year be timely.

*Jim Gurzler*



**Dean Snyder**  
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MEETING NOTICE

Date: Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Location: Blue Ridge Country Club  
2230 Fireline Road  
Palmerton, PA 18071

Hosts: Pete Beblavy, Golf Course Superintendent

Meeting Officials: Duane Schell, Eric Reed, Steve Chirip

10:30 am Registration  
 11:00 am Lunch Buffet:  
 11:30 am Speaker: Carmen Magro, Director, Penn State Short Course Program, "PSU Turfgrass State of the Union"  
 12:30 pm Golf: Shotgun Start, 2-man teams, Fourball (net Better Ball of Partners), full handicap  
 5:00 pm Draft Beer, Cash Bar, and Buffet Dinner

Meeting Cost: \$ 4.50 Lunch  
 \$10.50 Cart Fee  
 \$ 2.50 Host Fee  
 \$ 2.50 Speaker Fee  
 \$ 6.00 Prizes  
\$25.00 Dinner

Total Cost: \$51.00 \$28.00 Dinner Only

Directions: From PA Turnpike: Northeast Extension Exit 34, take 209 South to 248 East. Take Palmerton Exit and travel through town for approximately 10 blocks. At fork in road, bear left (Texaco is on right), travel 1/4 mile and turn left at Blue Mountain Pub. Travel 2 miles past Palmerton High School. Golf course is on the right.

From Allentown/Bethlehem: Follow 248 West to Palmerton Exit; then see above instructions.

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Pocono Turfgrass Association May 2005 Meeting

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Send Payment to:

PTGA  
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Deadline: May 13, 2005

If you are not a member of the PTGA, please accept our invitation to be our guest



## POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO  
TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

### Golf Results from Brookside Country Club

1st Place Ron Walczak & Mike Skumich (Elk View)  
2nd Place Ron Garrison & John Vojick  
3rd Place Tim Sage & Paul Brandon

Longest Drive: Bill Owens (PTGA Accountant)  
Closest to the Pin: Scott Rabenold (Brookside)

#### Skins:

Paul Brandon & Tim Sage #5  
Mel Leaver & Jeff Flamisch #14  
Ron Garrison & John Vojick #4 (was an Eagle)  
Joe Sellers & Darrin Larkin #6  
Art Schmidt & Chris Reverie #7

## PTGA MEETING SCHEDULE

May 18	Blue Ridge Country Club
June 16	Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort
July	Joint Meeting w/ NJ at Fiddler's Elbow
August 15	Water Gap C. C. (Clambake)
September 8	Elmhurst Country Club
October 5	Irem Temple C.C.
November	Whitford C.C. w/Philadelphia

## It's Not Too Late!

For those who would still like to advertise in *Chips & Putts*, you still have time. We have several openings for the Type A Business Card. We also have advertising available on our website [www.ptga.org](http://www.ptga.org). Please call Melinda at 570-388-2167 if you are interested in placing an ad either with in the newsletter or on the website.

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## BITING FLIES

*Joe Kehn, Superintendent and Owner  
Windy Hills Golf Course  
Easton, NY*

By 2001 the biting flies on our course were so bad that we had seriously discussed selling the course that took us five years to build. The flies not only were driving our staff crazy, but, worst of all, were affecting our golfers, resulting in fewer rounds....and lost revenue.

We solved the problem and wrote about the solution in the January 2003 issue of Golf Course Management. Since then I have received many "How's it going?" inquiries and felt that an update four years later would be helpful to those with a similar problem and for those who might have missed the original article.

Our course, Windy Hills Golf Club, in Easton, NY, is surrounded by many natural wet areas along the Battenkill River. It so happens that wet areas are the kind of breeding grounds that this family of flies seeks. Although our particular problem was deer flies, other members of this family of biting flies are the horse fly and yellow fly.

My initial investigation of how to address our fly problem was discouraging. Because insecticides are ineffective, many of the entomology web sites (and fellow superintendents) said that there was no solution to the problem. You just had to wait the season out. This turned out not to be true.

Fortunately, in 2001 we found a trap on the web that effectively trapped biting flies and purchased six of them. We placed the traps where the flies were most numerous and out of the way of the golfers. That first year we estimated we trapped between 600 to 700 flies each day. It is dramatic to see the many dead flies in the trap, but the real biological significance is that none of those dead flies will be laying eggs for the coming season.

That first year we reduced our deer fly problem by about 75%. It reduced our number one complaint to a tolerable problem. The increase in green fees that first season quickly paid off the expense of the traps. The traps have required virtually no maintenance and with proper winter storage, still are in good shape after five seasons.

Subsequent seasons have seen a steady reduction in the number of biting flies to the point where they are no longer a significant issue for our customers or staff. Continuing to use the traps each year has allowed us to keep the fly problem from recurring. Last year the traps continued to catch biting flies, although at a reduced rate given the lower number of flies that appear each year. After five years we remain very pleased with our solution.

The traps we used are available from Newman Enterprises; [www.bitingflies.com](http://www.bitingflies.com) or toll free 1-888-685-2244.



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of coarse-textured sand particles. Golf course superintendents that use OARS will now be equipped to manage water movement problems in their soil profile as well as take corrective action to remove hydrophobic deposits from the soil particle surface.

Researchers generally agree that the cause of water-repellency in soils is the result of organic coatings on the soil particles. Research also suggests that these coatings are the result of naturally-occurring microbial breakdown of organic matter (thatch, plant tissue, root exudate, fungal exudate and fungal hyphae) that produce high molecular weight polymer compounds. Humic substances, such as humic acid and fulvic acid, have been identified as compounds that contribute to the formation of hydrophobic organic coatings on soil particle surfaces.

When subjected to repeated wet-dry cycles, these humic substances undergo structural changes that render the soil particle water-repellent. Because of their small surface area, coarse-textured sands used to construct greens and tees are highly susceptible to becoming water-repellent. There is a strong correlation between humic substances on soil surfaces and localized dry spot (LDS) and non-uniform movement of water in greens and tees.

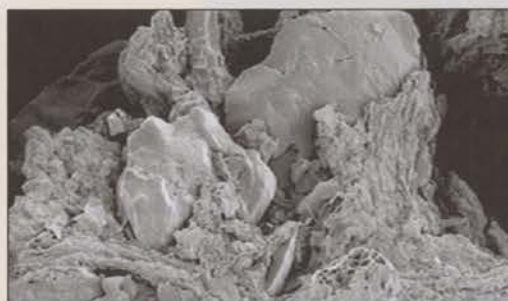
### **SURFACTANTS — A MANAGEMENT APPROACH**

The application of surfactants is a valuable tool used by golf course superintendents to temporarily alleviate symptoms of water-repellency. Soil surfactant molecules are attracted to the water-repellent (non-polar) coatings on soil surfaces. Surfactant molecules attach to these coatings and create sites where water can attach to the soil surface (adhesion). Re-establishment of water attachment sites on soil particles promotes the uniform movement of water into and through the soil matrix and improves the amount of available water to meet transpirational and metabolic demands of the turfgrass.

It should be remembered that surfactants are used to maintain reduced levels of water-repellency and manage its symptoms. **Surfactants cannot and do not deal with the cause of water-repellency—organic coatings on the soil particle surface. Indeed, biodegradation of the surfactant molecules will return the soil profile to its pre-treatment water-repellent state.**



Electron microscope photo of hydrophilic "clean sand."



Electron microscope photo of hydrophobic sand showing humic substance coating.

### **OARS — TAKING CORRECTIVE ACTION**

OARS is a patented combination of an organic solvent and a surfactant complex that, under extensive testing, has proven to be effective in removing accumulations of hydrophobic humic substances on soil surfaces. OARS represents a major breakthrough in dealing with water-repellent soils. Unlike surfactants and other soil amendments that just alleviate the symptoms of soil water-repellency, **the chemistries in OARS work to correct the cause of water repellency.**

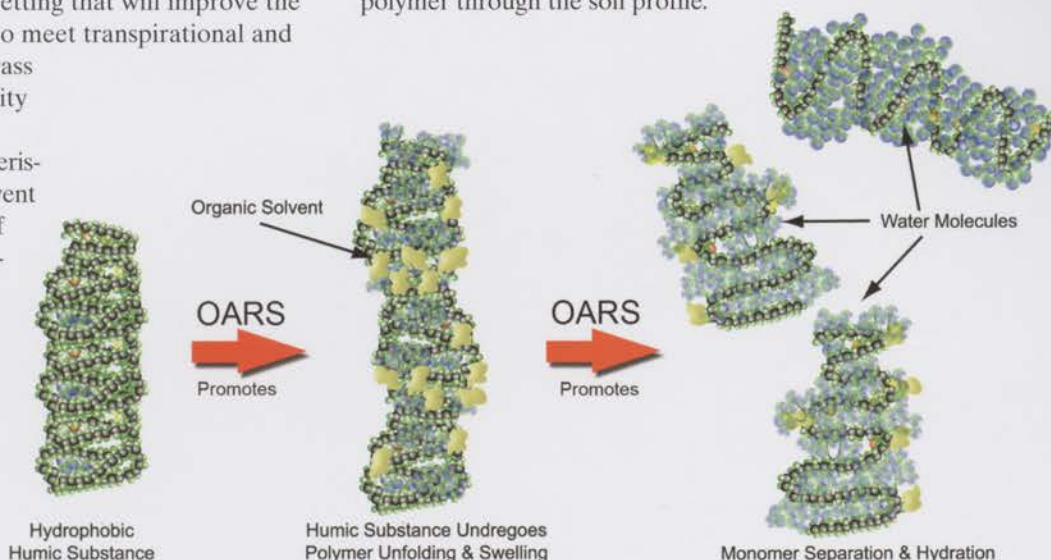


## HOW DOES OARS WORK?

OARS should be applied to soils using conventional spray equipment. Its surfactant components attach to the non-polar sites on hydrophobic soil surfaces and thatch to provide:

- Uniform movement of water into and through the soil matrix
- Patterns of wetting and re-wetting that will improve the amount of water in the soil to meet transpirational and metabolic demands of turfgrass
- Long lasting surfactant activity

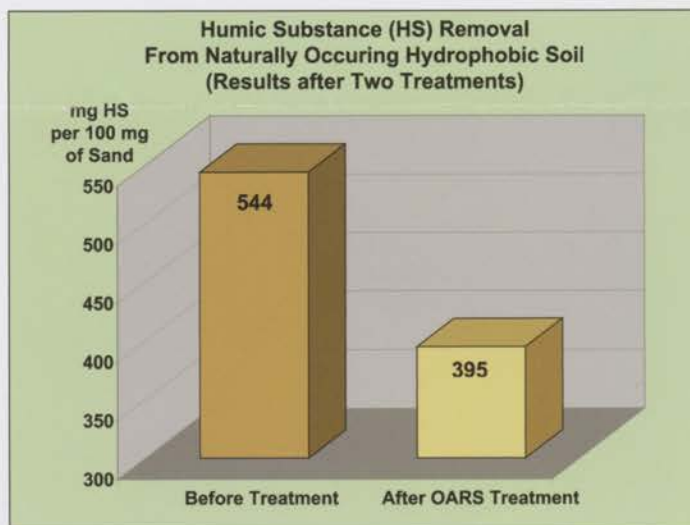
In addition to its surfactant characteristics, OARS contains an organic solvent that weakens the chemical bonds of "packed" or "collapsed" humic substances that coat the surface of soil particles. The organic solvent in OARS disrupts the hydrogen bonds on the humic substance molecule which allows the polymer structure to reconfigure, "unfold" and undergo "polymer swelling." The surfactant component also aids in the hydration of the unfolded humic molecule.



## TEST RESULTS – 27% REDUCTION IN HUMIC SUBSTANCES FROM SAND SOIL SURFACES

OARS has been thoroughly researched and tested to verify its ability to remove humic substances from hydrophobic sands. Replicated trials were conducted on hydrophobic sands comparing two treatments of OARS with two water treatments used as a control.

The sand samples were then flushed with water, dried, and the remaining humic substances were removed from the sand samples, measured, and analyzed according to methods approved by the International Humic Substance Society (IHSS). Results were consistent. **After just two treatments with OARS, over 27% of water-repellent humic substances were removed from the sand soil surfaces.**



## USE DIRECTIONS

Apply OARS at 6-7 oz. per 1000 sq. ft. in 2 gallons of water. For best results, apply monthly throughout the growing season. No water-in is required when used at recommended rates.



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