

CHIPS & PUTTS

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Irem Temple Country Club Kris Pries, Golf Course Superintendent

October brings us to yet another Tillinghast course. This time, Irem Temple will be hosting our monthly meeting and annual election. Tillinghast originally designed this course as a 27-hole facility. Around 1936 or so, the course was changed to its current 18-hole layout. The Par 72, 6654 yard track has many greens that say Tillinghast. Kris Pries and his staff should have the place in wonderful condition.

Kris Pries, Golf Course Superintendent is a 2003 Rutgers University graduate. Kris had previously worked at Fox Hill from 1996 until taking the reins at Irem Country Club in 2003. Kris began on the crew, grew to Assistant Superintendent, and decided to pursue a career in turf management through the Rutgers Program.

John Potera, Assistant Superintendent, is in his second year at Rutgers and has been with Kris since 2003. John and Kris have a year round staff of 5 and swell to 12 crew members during peak season. The course sits among 550 acres in Dallas, PA that belong to the Shriners.

During the next few months a new driving range will be started. Incorporated with that project will be the construction of a new maintenance facility. Kris hopes to have a much larger structure than he currently has, along with all the accoutrements of the newer facilities in the area. Projects that have already been done are renovations to bunkers on the 15th and 18th holes and, by the time we play, renovation work should be started on the 14th hole bunkers.



President's Message.....

Kudos to Ray Waddell and the staff at Elmhurst Country Club for making the rest of us look really bad (that's a compliment, Ray). In a summer that most of us would like to forget, Ray has done a great job. I have never had the chance to play Elmhurst. My only experience was once walking onto the course behind the maintenance building and setting sight on that blind, uphill par three. Expecting to see seventeen more holes just like that one, you can understand my amazement at the rest of the course. Thanks to Chuck DeAngelo and Golf Cars, Inc. for sponsoring the meeting. Next month, we are at Irem Temple. If I don't get another opportunity to say it, I would just like to again thank our meeting sponsors, our meeting hosts, and all those who were able to make it to the meetings this year. Attendance was consistently good for the entire season, something we have not experienced in a long time. Thanks also to Jim Gurzler and Melinda for their work on the newsletter, and Darrin Larkin for doing a great job with the website.

Best of Luck to Duane Schell as he takes the reins and becomes your next president.

Eric Reed

Assistant Editor

Well, the weather has begun to break and fall should definitely be in full swing by the time of this meeting. I am hoping a windbreaker will be daily attire and that all the stressed turf will be a thing of the past. Also, the hum of the A/C is gone and the new noise is that of Daniel Joseph, the newest member of my family. Thanks to all those well wishers.

I haven't received any articles and the time should allow such things now, also remember please let us know about births, engagements, weddings, and other such things so that we may all hear good news about friends. These items can be sent via email to me at jim@gurzler.com or to your favorite board member for submission to *Chips and Putts*.

As I write this, New Orleans is still flooding and threads on the GCSAA website are talking of where the GIS show will be. Hopefully, those affected by Hurricane Katrina have found solace and there is a plan in place for the repair of that historic city.

This month will bring elections, and I hope that we will have candidates that will perform as well as any outgoing officials so that the Pocono Turfgrass Association will continue its growth.

Thanks again to all the sponsors and thank you to Chuck DeAngelo and Golf Cars, Inc for sponsoring the September meeting.



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The Three "R's" Recovery, Replenish and Return

By Keith Happ, Senior Agronomist



Weather patterns have moderated and some parts of the region have experienced precipitation that has helped the turf recover from a very difficult season. Also, nighttime temperatures have been much lower, which is allowing root systems to recover and replenish carbohydrate reserves. Unfortunately, many parts of our region have received little or no rainfall in the last six weeks and that has greatly hindered recovery programs.

Recovery begins with a plan. For example, aerate to open the soil and remove thatch that for many caused serious problems this season. Introduce as much topdressing sand as possible to ensure air exchange is encouraged and drainage is promoted. In other words, return to the basics of turfgrass management! Any recovery plan should focus on a strong agronomic foundation before using fine tuning techniques.

Fertilize in a controlled manner. All too often fertilizer is applied in the fall to promote the most rapid recovery possible. Don't compromise natural growth. Rather, support it so that growth proceed above and below soil level. Excess fertilization in the fall will promote excess topgrowth at the expense of root growth.

Also, lush turf is much more susceptible to disease, particularly pink snow mold (*Microdochium patch*). When it comes to fertilizing for recovery, take the "steady as she goes" approach. It will pay off over the long term.

We are now beginning to see grub damage in bordering rough. Foraging animals and even flocks of turkeys are searching for this food source. Site specific treatment to control grub activity may be necessary this fall. However, chart and map the current areas of damage so treatments can be scheduled and implemented next year when the maximum control can be achieved.

Questions and concerns about gray leaf spot have been fairly steady this fall. Diagnostic labs have confirmed many severe outbreaks this season. Explore all options when recovery programs are developed. The use of turf-type tall fescue and dwarf turf-type fescue has become much more aggressively practiced. The turf-type tall fescues are classified as drought avoidant due to their deep, extensive root structures. To date there are no confirmed cases of gray leaf spot on turf-type tall fescue in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

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 TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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November Whitford C.C. w/Philadelphia



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At the
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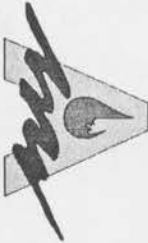
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