

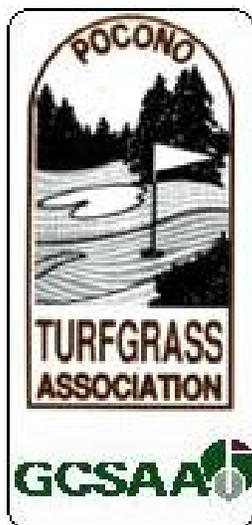
CHIPS & PUTTS

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September 2008



Frosty Valley Country Club

Tom Height, GCS

September 29, 2008

Tom Height and Frosty Valley Country Club will host the PTGA for the monthly meeting in September. Frosty Valley is a premier club in the Susquehanna Valley. The club was incorporated in 1959 with 18 holes completed and ready for golf in 1962.

David Gordon was the architect for the club. David Gordon a graduate of Penn State University with a degree in Agronomy, is the son of William Gordon. William Gordon worked closely with Donald Ross, Willie Park Jr., and Devereux Emmet before starting his own firm in 1941. Then in 1950 after building courses for Donald Ross and others, he began designing and building course under the Corporation of William F. Gordon Co.; then in 1953 David joined the firm. Courses in PA done by the Gordons include the Weyhill Course at Saucon Valley, as well as the Grace Course at Saucon Valley. Other clubs designed include Edgewood in the Pines, Wedgewood, Hershey's Mill, Mahoning Valley CC, Locust Valley CC and Bethlehem Muni,. Other clubs where remodeling or expansion work was by the Gordon's include Lancaster CC, Saucon Valley (old Course), Seaview GC, Brookside CC, Gulph Mills, Lehigh, Manufactures, and Buck Hill, as well as many others.

Frosty Valley, a Par 72 layout, plays 6716 yards from the Blue Tees with a course rating of 72.2 and a slope rating of 129. The course has an automatic irrigation system, installed in 1993. Recently bunkers were added to holes. Also a major renovation was done to the fairway on the 9th Hole. During February of this year, a new double row Toro irrigation system was installed in house. Tom and the crew will be beginning a bunker renovation program this fall and continuing through completion in 2012. A new tee on the Par 5 11th is being added which will lengthen the hole by some 35 yards.

Tom is a 2002 Penn State graduate and has been at the Club since February of 2005. Prior to Frosty Valley Tom's stops were Augusta National as both an intern and an assistant from 2002 to 2004 and also as an assistant for Ron Garrison at Fox Hill G.C. from 2004 through 2005. Tom has been operating this year without an assistant - something he is hoping to rectify for the upcoming season.

President's Message.....

I would like to thank Ray Waddell for hosting this year's Clam Bake at Elmhurst C.C. 100 golfers turned out for one the of the best attended meetings in a long time. Not only did we have a large turnout, but we also had 36 tee sponsors. That is the largest number of sponsors that I can remember. Thank you to all the individuals and organizations that purchased a tee sign for your contributions.

Congratulations also goes to Ray for hosting his first Nationwide Tournament the week after the clam bake. The course was in great shape for both events.

Just a reminder, September's meeting is at Frosty Valley and October's meeting is at Wyoming Valley. See you there.

Darrin Larkin

Editor's Notes.....

First let me apologize to the Association, members and sponsors for the delays in getting out newsletters. I failed in my duties as editor to juggle both the newsletter and my new position with Green Valley Landscaping. Second, I would like to thank Melinda and the B.O.D. for picking up my slack and getting the newsletter and meeting announcements out during my faux pa.

I have heard that we had many great meetings with many excellent talks. Glad to hear that the season has been going well on those fronts.

I had the opportunity to attend the TES night at PNC field. Thanks to Matt Brown and Tom Drayer for making that night, along with the one in August, available to the PTGA. I know that everyone I spoke with enjoyed the evening. See Page 6 for some photos from the first event.

Anyway, thanks for the tolerance and Darrin beware the harassing phone calls and emails will begin for presidents messages It is no longer safe to be the president. **(Insert Jaws theme here ;<)**

Jim Gurzler



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Field Trip the USGA Golf House in Far Hills, New Jersey

September 23, 2008

John Downer and Elkview Country Club are planning a trip to the USGA Golf House in New Jersey. The trip will include the Golf House, the new Arnold Palmer Museum, and the Tech Center with Iron Byron. Contact John Downer at j_s_downer@comcast.net or call 570-840-0078. There will also be a sign up sheet at Elmhurst CC. If the interest is great, we are hoping to charter a bus with lunch on the go and a nice dinner upon return.

Scheduled to open in September is a putting course using replica clubs and balls, so hopefully this will be open at that time as well.

Museum Hours

Tuesday to Sunday 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Admission

Adults — \$7
 USGA Members — \$5
 Group Rate (10 and over) — \$5
 Children (13-17 years) — \$3.50
 Children 12 and under — Free
 Bus Fee TBD



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Nationwide Tour Comes to Elmhurst

Reprinted from the Sunday Times

ELMHURST TWP. — It's a question that might make some superintendents bristle. Not Ray Waddell. The man who spent the past three months readying Elmhurst Country Club for this week's Nationwide Tour event doesn't seem to mind the possibility of a player going low in the Northeast Pennsylvania Classic.

"Anybody can come out on any day and shoot a 59," Waddell said. "And that may happen, but it's not going to embarrass me if it happens. These guys are good.

"That's very exciting for the fans. It's not going to upset me if we see guys shooting low scores. But, I don't think it's going to be a guy shooting it four days in a row so we have some ridiculously low score for the tournament."

He's doing what he, and the PGA Tour, can do, to make sure that doesn't happen to the Donald Ross design. "We're doing what we can to protect the golf course," Waddell said. "We mowed the rough high. I'd like to bring the greens speed up a little bit to make it a little more challenging, but the PGA feels with the undulation in our greens, they don't want them too fast so it's not crazy."

The rough has been grown to four inches, and it will be mowed from green to tee, making for more difficult lies. "We're cutting the rough at four inches, but when you get that height, you're not cutting a lot of grass," Waddell explained. "A lot of it ends up laying over, so it will probably be six inches or more. We're trying to stand the grass up so we can get it cut."

It's not easy. The grass is matted and tangled, so the efforts to cut it at 3½ inches on Monday and let it go after that will be a challenge. Just like everything else for Waddell, who got a late jump preparing the golf course for such an event.

"We got kind of late notice about this," he said of the decision in May to host. "Usually you are preparing a year, or years, ahead of time, and we only had a few months.

"It's been a lot easier than I thought it would be. The Tour is constantly involved in the greens speed and to make sure they are where they want them. They wanted them actually slower than what I expected, 10.5 to 11 (on the Stimpmeter). We are where we want to be, because there is a lot less effort involved to get them there. We just have to maintain what we're doing." To do that, a force of 50 to 60 volunteers from area clubs will be coming to help for tournament week, and equipment has been donated by Toro, Jacobsen, Baroness and John Deere to keep things spic and span.

Not that Waddell needs much help there. He and his staff have been getting rave reviews.

"Fantastic," PGA Tour advance rules official Tom Hearn said. "This place has exceeded our expectations, our hopes. Everybody's got a little bit of apprehension coming here. The players do, the officials do, the members have apprehension. But by the end of this week, all that will be gone. It looks awesome."

Being a superintendent can mean having a resume ready after one bad growing season. So far, Waddell's four years have brought Elmhurst back to the ranks of the area's best.

"I don't really like a lot of praise," Waddell said. "I'm kind of embarrassed by it. But I'm certainly glad that the membership is happy. I'm very proud of what we've done here.

"These professionals play all over the world and they see great conditions. What I want to do is give them what they expect and what they are used to. I'm thrilled that we are able to do that at this club. I think four years ago, it wouldn't have even been a thought. To bring it to the level where it's acceptable to the professionals, it's very gratifying."

Contact the writer: mmyers@timeshamrock.com

2008 PTGA Scholarship Winners

Brandon Wisnosky (interning @ Glen Oak) & Corey Stranzl (interning @ Saucon Valley).

Congratulations!



Thanks to Turf Equipment Supply, Matt Brown and Tom Drayer for a great night of fun at PNC Field in Moosic, PA




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