

CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

www.ptga.org

Founded in 1936

VOL. 15 NO. 4

June 2009

Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club *Duane Schell, GCS Mountaintop, PA*

June brings us to Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club in Mountain Top for our monthly meeting. Duane Schell has agreed to host us again and allow us to enjoy the 27 hole layout. Blue Ridge Trail is situated on 750 acres which contain three nines that married the original holes with the new construction.



Duane is a Penn State graduate who is in his eleventh season at Blue Ridge Trail. Prior to becoming superintendent at Blue Ridge Trail his experience was gathered at Saucon Valley, Doylestown, and Sugarloaf Golf Club. This year Aaron Franklin joined the staff at the club as the assistant superintendent. Aaron is a Rutgers graduate who has previously worked in the area at Glenmaura National Golf Club.

Blue Ridge Trail is maintained by a staff of 20 in the summer and a crew of 4 in the winter. They maintain the 4 acres of Greens, 5.3 acres of tees, 40 acres of Fairways, and 80 acres of rough out of a shop that is rather centrally located on the property, with additional equipment stored in the cart storage area.

Originally called Alberden Acres when it was a 9 hole layout, it has been transformed into Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club with the designs of Ault & Clark and Dan Schlagel.

Our speaker this month is Dr. John Kaminski, head of the two year program at Penn State University. Dr. Kaminski will be speaking on the subject of dollar spot management.

This month we will be playing a modified scramble as our tournament format. The sponsors for this month's meeting are Andre and Son and Seeton Turf.



President's Message.....

Thank you to Jason Brown of Berwick C.C. for hosting our May meeting and to Duane Schell of Blue Ridge Trail G.C. for hosting our June meeting. July's meeting will be at Jack Frost National, hosted by Bryan Nuss. This is the first time the PTGA will be at Jack Frost, so many members will be getting their first chance to play there.

The clam bake isn't that far off, either. We will be starting to contact our tee sponsors soon, but if anyone knows an individual, group, or business that would like to contribute to our scholarship fund, please feel free to contact me. We had excellent attendance at Elmhurst C.C. last year and great support from our tee sponsors. I hope this year can be even more successful.

I would also like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Fourth of July.

Darrin Larkin

Editor's Notes.....

Well, summer begins this month, believe it or not. Rainfall seems the norm thus far and indications are that we are still under normal for the year. With the forecast at the time of this writing we should be close to on pace for the year. Hopefully the moisture and humidity will abate as the summer really gets into swing so those tight budgets won't be stretched to the breaking point, adding even more stress to the summer.

We have had good meeting attendance thus far, thanks to the moderate weather. I believe that our season will only get stronger with the returning venues and the new venues that we have coming up.

Jim Gurzler



Officers & Directors 2009

PRESIDENT

Darrin Larkin, Panorama Golf Course
570-222-9260

VICE PRESIDENT

Rick Anglemeyer, Water Gap CC
570-424-6391

TREASURER

John Downer, Elkview C.C.
570-840-0078

SECRETARY

Ray Wadell, Elmhurst CC
570-842-4705

DIRECTORS

Steven Chirip, Grass Roots, Inc.
973-418-3468
Matthew Brown, Philadelphia Turf
215-340-5401
Greg Boring, Glen Oak C.C.
570-586-5791
Patrick Knelly, Sugarloaf Golf Club
570-384-4724
Thomas Height, Frosty Valley C.C.
570-275-4266
Chris Snopkowski, Wyoming Valley C.C.

CHIPS & PUTTS STAFF**EDITOR**

Jim Gurzler, George Schofield Co.
732-433-5474
jim@gurzler.com

Managing Editor

Melinda Wisnosky
570-388-2167

Editorial Committee

Darrin Larkin
Matt Brown

Past President

Duane Schell, Blue Ridge Trail G. C.
570-868-8113
djschell@epix.net

**PTGA Office**

R.R. 1, Box 219
Harding, PA 18643
Phone/Fax: 570-388-2167

Any opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author and/or person quoted, and may not represent the position of PTGA. Information contained in this publication may be used freely, in whole or in part, without special permission, as long as the true context is maintained. We would appreciate a credit line.



Saucon Valley Country Club To the Rescue!

We invite you to welcome Saucon Valley Country Club's newest member, Max. Having been with the Club for a month, he's made himself right at home. Rather than playing a round, he's patrolling the course, ridding Saucon's 800 acres of the perennial pest, the goose. Adopted by Gabe Wochley, Saucon's Grace Course Superintendent, Max represents his German Shorthaired Pointer (GSP) breed well. He was quick to learn his new job, desires to please and at the end of the day nothing makes him happier than settling in with his new owner.

Surrendered to German Shorthaired Pointer Rescue PA by his former owner, who was to be deployed, Max's journey to his new home started when Gabe submitted an application through the GSP rescue of PA website. When asked why he chose a GSP and a rescue, Gabe said, "Having had a Weimaraner as a child, I knew the pointer breed was high energy and loved the outdoors and there are so many dogs in rescue that need that "I decided to give finding the right rescue a chance".

Deb Orpen, one of the founding volunteers of GSP Rescue PA (active since the mid-1990s) is committed to pairing dogs and owners. "Volunteers, particularly those who foster, work very hard to assess each GSP and home in order to make placements that offer a good fit for the dog and their new family." Another active GSP volunteer, Jessi Wyke believes GSPs and golf courses are made for each other, "GSPs have high prey drive but are able to be called off easily. They would consider chasing geese great fun."

Max's goose chasing training started with Ron Burda of Vogel Hund Kennels and Training Academy who noted, "Training GSPs for goose chasing is like training a flushing breed without the need to retrieve. The GSP is a great fit for this job. I hope to see more golf courses using them.

At 5 AM each morning, Max rushes through breakfast to wait anxiously at the door for the 6 AM start to his workday. He loves his new home and new job.



***German Shorthaired Pointer, Max,
Joins Saucon Valley Country Club Just in Time
for 2009 U.S. Women's Open!***

Friendly and focused, he draws the attention of Saucon's members who, as one member observed, may wish to be reincarnated as the next Max, spending their day on the course.

German Shorthaired Pointer Rescue PA is a nonprofit organization that has re-homed hundreds of GSPs over the last 14 years. All dogs that come through the program are evaluated by experienced volunteers, brought up to date on vaccinations and spayed/neutered before being placed into their new, loving homes. For more information and to view available dogs, please visit www.gsprescuepa.com.

Lawn and Golf supply co., inc.
 Chris Butler
 Sales Representative
 647 Nutt Road, PO Box 447
 Phoenixville, PA 19460-0447
 Cell: 610-657-6923 cbutler@lawn-golf.com
www.lawn-golf.com
 Phone: 610-933-5801 Fax: 610-933-8890

SynaTek
 The Turf Solutions People

Mike Zellner
 Technical Sales Representative

261 Schoolhouse Road • Suite 4
 Souderton, PA 18964-2416
 Main Office: 888-408-5433
 Cell: 484-357-9197
 Fax: 267-203-1613
mzellner@synateksolutions.com

www.synateksolutions.com



May Meeting Results from Berwick, PA

Our May meeting was hosted by Jason Brown at Berwick Country Club. We were lucky that day as the weather was wonderful, as were course conditions when the crew from the Poconos took to the course.

Prior to our tee off, Dave Dougherty of ISTRC was in to speak about aerification, soil amending, and how to marry them. Dave is the owner of International Sports Turf Research Center, Inc in Lenexa KS.



We had almost 40 players at this event, which featured a blind draw team format which was drawn after play was completed. The winning team with a

score of 346 was Ed Ladamus, Mark Brown, Patrick Knelly, and Brian Bachman. The second place team



with a 354 was Steve Chirip, Kevin Vrabel, Tom Drayer, and Herb Williams. Our skill prizes were Long Drive - Patrick Knelly and Closest to the Pin - Bob Simmons.

Skins were awarded to Tom Height for the 5th hole, Chris Butler for the 17th hole, Herb Williams for the 1st hole and using his local knowledge, Jason Brown took two skins for holes 2 and 9.

Thanks again to Dave Doherty for coming out to enlighten us with his knowledge of the soil system. Thanks also to Jason Brown and the staff at Berwick for a great meeting and a really fun event.

Next month is Blue Ridge Trail so try to make some time to come out and enjoy a day with your peers.

Please Note!

Our golf meetings this year have been well attended and have been thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. However, we would like to emphasize the importance of sending in your reservations in a timely manner. Please contact Melinda by the deadline indicated on the reservation form. Too many people showing up at a meeting who are not registered can create a problem for our host golf course, both with golfing and dining.

So please take a few minutes to call, email or fax Melinda so we can have an accurate count for each meeting. Contact information is always on the meeting notice. Anyone showing up at a meeting unregistered will be charged an extra fee of \$10.00.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The PTGA Golf Committee



Less Turf + Less Water = Less Cost

Superintendents across the country are under pressure to reduce costs yet, at the same time, not sacrifice playing conditions. Though you can't draw blood from a stone, there are ways to accomplish this course maintenance dilemma, and one of them is to reduce turf. While it sounds simple, reducing areas of managed turf and in turn, reducing water use, are often overlooked by courses when it becomes necessary to trim operating costs. The reason is often a concern for aesthetics, strategy and pace of play. All of which are crucial considerations. To address these concerns, some courses are utilizing what we call a "Turf Assessment Plan" (TAP) to get at the heart of the issue and answer the questions, "Can we responsibly reduce turf...and how much money will it save us?"

We sometimes prepare a TAP as part of an overall Master Plan. Long range plans are essential to all golf facilities, even those that are relatively new. A roadmap for the future can save thousands of dollars as courses make emergency repairs, capital expenditures and planning decisions.

Most TAPs include three primary components:

- 1) An evaluation of areas that can potentially be removed from managed turf, but with careful planning for playability, pace of play and irrigation integration
- 2) landscape solutions for treating areas after removal of turf
- 3) a cost analysis. The investment for a "TAP" is generally a fraction of the cost of a full master plan.

Savings associated with turf reduction

- ◆ Less Mowing and Turf Care
- ◆ Less Fertilization
- ◆ Less Water Use
- ◆ Less Pumping Cost
- ◆ Less Irrigation Maintenance and Capital Expenses
- ◆ Reduced Areas of Drainage Concern
- ◆ Reduced Areas of Seasonal Debris

Some Associated Benefits

- ◆ Improved Visual Definition of Holes
- ◆ Better Tree Health
- ◆ Environmental Stewardship
- ◆ Better Aesthetics
- ◆ Enhanced Strategy

In addition to turf reduction, superintendents can save thousands of dollars in costs with modified mowing practices such as limiting themselves to four cutting heights: greens, tees/approaches (with a riding mower), fairways, and one height of cut for the rough. Also, adjusting maintenance practices for hazards can dramatically reduce costs.

Mark Fine is a Golf Course Architect (www.finegolfdesign.com) based in Allentown, PA. Part of his mission is to help educate golfers and superintendents on a variety of golf architecture topics. Fine recently co-authored a book with fellow architect Forrest Richardson devoted to these topics, "Bunkers, Pits and Other Hazards" (published by Wiley and available through book retailers), which is now in its second printing.



Lee A. Kozsey
Territory Manager
Turf, Ornamental & Aquatics

Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.
3710 Amherst Court
Bethlehem, PA 18020
Tel 610-861-8174
Fax 610-882-9358
Mobile 215-796-0409
www.syngentaprofessionalproducts.com
lee.kozsey@syngenta.com

For further assistance, contact our
Customer Resource Center at: 866-Syngenta (866-796-4368)

EarthWorks ♦ Grigg Brothers ♦ Lebanon Turf ♦ PHC



Fisher & Son
COMPANY, INC.

The "Green Industry" Supplier

Bob Seltzer
610.704.4756
bseltzer@fisherandson.com

A
n
d
e
r
s
o
n
s
♦
S
y
n
g
e
n
t
a
♦
D
o
w
♦
B
a
y
e
r
♦
B
A
S
F
♦
F
M
C

Dow ♦ DuPont ♦ LidoChem ♦ PROKoZ ♦ TriCure



Have experience. Will travel.

If you're looking for some help on your course, consider the Stores-on-Wheels®. We can deliver agronomic expertise, top brands and more straight to your course. Call us at **1-800-321-5325**. We can help with whatever job you have in mind. www.JohnDeere.com/golf




Grass Roots, Inc.
P.O. Box 336
Mount Freedom, NJ 07970
4 Middlebury Blvd.
Suite 7
Randolph, NJ 07869


(973) 418-3468, Mobile
(570) 839-3399, PA Office
(973) 252-6634, NJ Office
(973) 252-6630, NJ Fax

Steve Chirip
Technical Sales Rep.

Service ♦ Technical Support ♦ Quality Products



Brian Bachman
Sales
Cell: 484-661-6105
Fax: 484-601-3164
bbachman@genesisturfgrassinc.com
www.genesisturfgrassinc.com
7399 Autumn Road
New Tripoli, PA 18066



Kevin Driscoll

609 760 4099 CELL 856 769 9555 OFFICE 609 561 5384 FAX
596 Pointers Auburn Road • Pilesgrove NJ 08098



Mike Zellner
Technical Sales Representative

261 Schoolhouse Road • Suite 4
Souderton, PA 18964-2416
Main Office: 888-408-5433
Cell: 484-357-9197
Fax: 267-203-1613
mzellner@synateksolutions.com

www.synateksolutions.com

Office & Home Phone Top Dressing
White Haven 570-443-9596 Bunker Sand
Fax 570-443-9590 Infield Mix

Blue Ridge Peat Farms, Inc.
White Haven, PA 18661-9674

Potting Soil Gene Evans, Owner
Soil Mixes Professional Engineer

732.356.SAND Fx. 732.356.5161
Cell. 732.433.5474



JAMES GURZLER
Sales Associate

Quality Materials
Engineered Sands & Soils

jamesg@geoschofield.com
PO Box 110, Bound Brook, NJ 08805

Div. of Geo. Schofield Co., Inc.



Family Fun Night With the SWB Yankees!

Join Turf Equipment Supply at PNC Field on Thursday, July 9, 2009. Matt Brown and TES invite members of the PTGA and their immediate families to enjoy a baseball game.

Game time is 7 PM

Contact Matt Brown to make reservations.

100 seats are available on a first come first served basis.



**ATLANTIC
IRRIGATION
SPECIALTIES INC.**

Locations in NY, NJ, PA, CT
 Ph 973-379-9314
 Fax 973-379-6504
 Contact Fred Rapp
 Mike Yarussi
 Ken Givens
 Suppliers of all your irrigation needs




John Holick, Superintendent at Knoebels Three Ponds once again made available special discounts for golf course superintendents and their families throughout the state.

On June 29th, the discounts were made available for both the park and the golf course.

Family and friends enjoyed a great day at this wonderful facility.

Chips & Putts

PATRON SPONSORS

AERIFICATION AND OVERSEEDING

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
	Rich Gdovin	570.278.1131
Lawn & Golf	Chris Butler	710.933.5801

EQUIPMENT

Aer-Core, Inc.	Dennis DeSanctis	610.608.3181
Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
	Rich Gdovin	570.278.1131
Lawn & Golf	Chris Butler	610.933.5801
Turf Equip. & Supply	Matt Brown	484.357.6312
	George Skawski	610.554.9366

FERTILIZER

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
	Rich Gdovin	570.278.1131
Fisher & Son	Bob Seltzer	610.704.4756
Genesis Turfgrass	Jim MacLaren	570-443-7154
	Brian Bachman	484.661.6105
Grass Roots, Inc.	Steve Chirip	973.418.3468
Lawn & Golf	Chris Butler	610.933.5801
SynaTek	Mike Zellner	484.357.9197

GREEN AND TEE SUPPLIES

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
	Rich Gdovin	570-278-1131
Fisher & Son	Bob Seltzer	610.704.4756
Genesis Turfgrass	Brian Bachman	484.661.6105
	Jim MacLaren	570-443-7154
Grass Roots, Inc.	Steve Chirip	973.418.3468
Lawn & Golf	Chris Butler	610.933.5801
SynaTek	Mike Zellner	484.357.9197

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

Atlantic Irrigation	Joe Jaskot	973.445.9418
Turf Equip. & Supply	George Skawski	610.554.9366
	Matt Brown	484-357-6312

PLANT PROTECTANTS

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
	Rich Gdovin	570-278-1131
Fisher & Son	Bob Seltzer	610.704.4756
Genesis Turfgrass	Brian Bachman	484.661.6105
	Jim MacLaren	570-443-7154
Grass Roots, Inc.	Steve Chirip	973.418.3468
Lawn & Golf	Chris Butler	610.933.5801
SynaTek	Mike Zellner	484.357.9197
Syngenta	Lee A. Kozsey	610.861.8174

SEED & SOD

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
	Rich Gdovin	570.278.1131
East Coast Sod & Seed	Kevin Driscoll	609.760.4099
Fisher & Son	Bob Seltzer	610.704.4756
Genesis Turfgrass	Brian Bachman	484.661.6105
	Jim MacLaren	570-443-7154
Grass Roots, Inc.	Steve Chirip	973.418.3468
Lawn & Golf	Chris Butler	610.933.5801
SynaTek	Mike Zellner	484.357.9197

TOPDRESSING / SOIL AMENDMENTS

Andre & Son, Inc.	John Vojick	570.278.1131
	Rich Gdovin	570.278.1131
Blue Ridge Peat Farms	Gene Evans	570.443.9596
Fisher & Son	Bob Seltzer	610.704.4756
Genesis Turfgrass	Brian Bachman	484.661.6105
	Jim MacLaren	570-443-7154
Grass Roots, Inc.	Steve Chirip	973.418.3468
Lawn & Golf	Chris Butler	610.933.5801
SynaTek	Mike Zellner	484.357.9197

Support our Sponsors - They support us!

POCONO ROUNDUP

Condolences

Our condolences to Kelly Kressler who lost his mother Starla Kressler this past May.

News Around the Area

Wild Pines is now being managed by Ron Jaworski Golf.

Turf Equipment Supply will again be hosting a night at the ballpark. See inside for details.

PTGA MEETING SCHEDULE

2009 Golf Schedule

June 24	Blue Ridge Trail G. C. John Kaminski, Penn State
July 21	Jack Frost National Mark Fine, Fine Golf Design
Aug 17	Elmhurst Clambake
Sept 15	Huntsville Golf Club
Oct 15	Glenmaura National Championship

Local Tournaments

U.S. Womens' Open Saucon Valley CC July 9-12th

Northeast PA Classic Elmhurst CC
Moscow, PA August 27-30th

The Barclays Fed Ex Cup Playoff
Liberty National Jersey City NJ August 27- 30th

Moving Ahead To Serve You Better

TORO
A Toro Partner

YOUR FRIENDS AT...
TURF EQUIPMENT
AND SERVICE COMPANY

888-384-8676 www.turf-equipment.com

POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION
R.R. 1, BOX 219
HARDING, PA 18643

POSTAGE

NAME & ADDRESS

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED.