



CHIPS & PUTTS

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Reflections from 2009 - We Survived Just Fine (More or Less)

By Stanley J. Zontek, Director
December 16, 2009

As we prepare for the holidays, it is good to reflect on the past year. 2009 has been a challenging year in many different ways for golf courses in the Mid-Atlantic Region. That said, much of the gloom and doom about golf course closings, membership decline, and the economy, while serious, were not catastrophes. In fact, our region of the country seems to have survived many of these problems better than most. Was it luck or the natural tendency of golf course turf managers to be, (1) inherently conservative and (2) good managers under stress? Either way, catastrophes out on the golf course were few and far between.

What was also good was that most of the golf courses we visited this season were under budget. All courses were asked to either maintain the existing budget or to reduce costs. While it was a struggle, the "heroes" at many golf facilities were the grounds department and how well they controlled costs. These actions no doubt helped all parts of the facility survive the lower incomes and great unknowns of 2009.

2010 will have its own challenges with, hopefully, more generous operating budgets. Most inventories have been exhausted, equipment continues to wear out, and you just cannot defer golf course maintenance for very long as invariably it will show.

From the agronomy to the personal, this is a great time of the year to realize how fortunate most all of us are.

- Appreciate Your Staff. No one can do every job on the golf course. You need a motivated staff to prepare and present the golf course to the level of maintenance the golfers expect. Thank your employees who work for you and the course. It is a tough job maintaining today's golf courses.
- Appreciate Your Employer and Your Family. Without the support from both, the job could not be accomplished as efficiently or as effectively. We live and work in a great industry.
- Give Thanks. All of us have much to worry about, but we also have much to be thankful for this year.



President's Message.....

First of all, Thank-you to Darrin Larkin and his commitment to the Presidency. His dedication and service to the PTGA will not soon be forgotten. A big hand to the whole Board for their efforts this past year and Welcome to new Board members, Patrick Healy and Gino Marchetti. Lest we not forget Melinda who is seldom seen, but we couldn't do without. She does more than most know, so Thank-you.

One of my goals as President is to get more members involved in what the Board does. Just because you are not a Board member doesn't mean we wouldn't want your input and help. A few members have already expressed interest in assisting with our meetings, and I applaud that. Please call me or another Board member to voice your concerns, needs or offer advice, this is after all your turf association.

Hope to see you at a meeting in 2010 and have a Great Holiday.

Rick Anglemyer

Editor's Notes.....

My apologies about the tardiness of the last issue in 2009. The holidays and trade shows crept up on me and time got away from me. The good thing is 2009 is now behind us and there is the prospect of a better year ahead. As of this writing temps have been colder than the norm and snow has been present almost all winter, so hopefully the courses will be able to rest without much winter play and recover for a great summer of golf in 2010.

Our new Board is in place and the membership is their priority. We are under taking some programs to hopefully better inform that membership of the events of the Board. Remember, those voices that reach out to the Board are the ones who get their voices at the Board level. Please take time to voice concerns or praises so the Board is sure they are acting in your best interest.

Have a Great and Healthy New Year.

Jim Gurzler



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Off season? What's that?

Presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Many golf facilities have a nine-month golf season, which means they also have a period when the volume of play declines. So what type of activity does the golf course management staff engage in during the "off" season?

While golfer activity may be virtually non-existent during the off-season, there is still much work to be done by the golf course superintendent and his/her staff. It should be noted that a golf course is staffed on a seasonal schedule to meet demand, thus temporary workers and/or student interns may not be available during the off-season to assist the full-time staff.

Depending upon weather conditions, a variety of golf course projects can be completed even though the temperatures are not conducive for member play.

Such activities could include sodding bare areas with turf, renovating bunkers, rebuilding tee areas, trimming and planting trees, etc. These projects could close down portions of the course if undertaken during the playing season, therefore the off-season offers the opportunity to make improvements with little or no inconvenience. Whether or not there is play on the course, superintendents must be attuned to turf conditions. For example, allowing ice to sit on the turf for extended periods can result in turf winterkill.

Various golf course accessories might also need repair. Benches, signs, water cooler containers, trash bins, ball washers, rakes, etc., may need to be built or renovated. Routine building maintenance on areas such as the clubhouse, turf care center, pump houses, green house, tennis center, etc., are often set aside for this time period. Again, delaying work on these areas until consumption patterns decline results in little interruption.

Equipment is also a focus for the golf course superintendent during this time period. Everything from purchasing to various mechanical repairs such as engine tune-ups and reel sharpening are on the schedule. Irrigation systems are in need of similar annual maintenance to ensure that they do not get damaged during extreme cold spells.

While golfer activity may be virtually non-existent during the off-season, there is still much work to be done

The off-season also provides the opportunity to complete a variety of business management responsibilities. Annual plans and budgets must be developed and then presented to the appropriate club leaders. Inventories for fertilizers, pesticides, seed and other supplies need to be replenished. Staffing plans must be developed and employees have to be secured for the golf season. Golf course managers should also review their course conditioning programs on annual basis. Issues such as turf selection, green speed, bunker sand characteristics, fairway widths and integrated pest management programs all require significant research and planning.

Staff development is also a requirement for golf course managers. Superintendents and assistants participate in regional education seminars and attend the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show. These continuing education opportunities provide information on the latest management techniques, products and services available to course managers. The opportunity to network with peers and learn how others tackle challenges can result in significant benefits to a facility, some of which do not have a price tag.

For more information regarding golf course management practices, contact your local superintendent or the GCSAA at (800) 472-7878 or www.gcsaa.org.

Key points:

- A golf course is staffed on a seasonal schedule to meet demand.
- The offseason offers the opportunity to make improvements with little or no inconvenience.
- The offseason provides the opportunity to complete a variety of business management responsibilities.
- Superintendents focus on equipment during this time period.
- Staff development is a requirement for golf course managers.



OCTOBER RESULTS

Glenmaura National Golf Course

Superintendents

1st Place	Jerry Decker
2nd Place	Ian Kunesch

Affiliates

1st Place	Chris Butler
2nd Place	Steve Chirip

Guests

1st Place	Ed Cimoch
2nd Place	Tom Moore

Closest to the Pin #2	Les Kozsey 16'
Closest to the Pin #11	Ed Ladamus 9'6"
Closest to the Pine #9	Ron Garrison 11'3"

Longest Drive	Patrick Knelly
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2009 MET Area Team Championships

Plainfield CC
West Course – Par 72
October 5, 2009

<u>Team Scores</u>	Par 288	<u>Score</u>
1 st	GCSA of New Jersey	294
2 nd	Connecticut AGCS	295
3 rd	MET GCSA	304
4 th	Philadelphia AGCS	306
5 th	Central Penn GCSA	306
6 th	Long Island GCSA	308
7 th	Mid-Atlantic AGCS	309
8 th	GCMA of Cape Cod	314
T9 th	Pocono TGA	316
T9 th	Hudson Valley GCSA	316
11 th	Northeastern GCSA	323
12 th	Rhode Island GCSA	333

Skill Events

Closest to the pin hole #3, sponsored by Toro	Paul Strani – Toro	8' 2"
Closest to the pin hole #6, sponsored by BASF	Chris Strong – Northeastern GCSA	12' 11"
Closest to the pin hole #11, sponsored by Syngenta	Joe Herkalo – Mid Atlantic AGCS	1' 8"
Closest to the pin hole #14, sponsored by Bayer	Jerry Noons – Rhode Island GCSA	3' 7"

Long Drive

Sponsors Division sponsored by Aquatrols	Blake Halderman – Brae Burn CC
Net Division sponsored by The Care of Trees	Les Kennedy Jr. – MET GCSA
Gross Division sponsored by Agrium Adv. Tech.	Chet Walsh – Philadelphia GSCA

Individual Gross

Glen Smickly – Mid Atlantic AGCS Score of 81

Sponsorship Team Winner

Dennis DeSanctis and Lee Kozsey from Syngenta Score of 68

Two Man Team High Score

Gross	Jerry Noons & Joe Olivera – Rhode Island GCSA	Score of 93
Net	Nick Burchard and Jim Santoro – Rhode Island GCSA	Score of 83



SOME TIME MANAGEMENT TIPS IN A BUSY LIFE

Article Author: Craig Lock

TIME WASTERS

1. Telephone Interruptions
2. Drop-in Visitors
3. Meetings
4. Crisis Management
5. Lack of Objectives, Priorities a Daily plan
6. Cluttered Desk, Personal Disorganization.
7. Ineffective Delegation
8. Attempting too Much at Once
9. Lack of Clear Communication
10. Inadequate, Inaccurate Delayed Information
11. Indecision and Procrastination
12. Confused Responsibility and Authority.
13. Inability to Say "No".
14. Leaving Tasks Unfinished
15. Lack of Self-Discipline

MORE COMMON TIME WASTERS (IN RANK)

1. Planning (lack of).
2. Priorities (lack of)
3. Telephone interruptions
4. Disorganization/cluttered desk
5. Procrastination
6. Visitors
7. Lack of Self Discipline
8. Ineffective delegation
9. Attempting too much
10. Inability to say 'No'

The 80/20 Principle

20% of activity gives 80% of results and 80% of activity gives 20% of results (known as the Pareto Principle).

- Focus on the important few activities, not the trivial many.
 - * Don't procrastinate * The key is self discipline. * "First we make habits, then habits make us."

TIME TIPS FOR THE BUSY

Get the news only once a day - in only one form - read the paper or watch television or listen to the radio, but vary the form so you don't get the news through one bias. Don't worry about or spend time on things irrelevant to you, eg.. reading every bit of the newspaper.

Unless it is crucial for your business, the news is not only depressing (don't worry about it, unless you can do something about it), but it gives a distorted picture of life.

If you can't sleep, don't waste time lying in bed. Get up and do something.

Use an answer phone.

Walk out of a poor movie or show. You've already wasted the money - so don't waste the time as well.

Plan your leisure. Don't expect your free time to fall into place by itself. Plan your weekends as carefully as you plan your weeks...and it's OK to do nothing.

Don't read a book, just because it has been given to you- if it doesn't interest you, give it to someone who would be interested.

(Continued on page 7)



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Stop going to social events you would rather avoid - life's too short.

On the other hand, don't miss a social event you would enjoy just because you feel tired. If you enjoy something, it revitalizes you. But remember - there is usually work tomorrow!

"Never hurry - and don't worry - and don't forget to stop and smell the flowers."

- Walter Hagen American Golfer

"What I do with this day is important, because I have exchanged a day of my life for it."
Take rest; a field that has rested gives a beautiful crop. - Ovid

Always remember,

"Yesterday is a cancelled cheque, tomorrow is a promissory note, today is ready cash - use it."

WHEN YOU TAKE CONTROL OF TIME, YOU TAKE CONTROL OVER YOUR LIFE.



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POCONO ROUNDUP

Tentative Meeting Schedule 2010

April Bethlehem Municipal
May Pocono Manor
June Glenbrook
July Jack Frost Golf Course
Aug Elmhurst
Sept Pine Hills
Oct Valley CC

Congratulations to our Scholarship Award winner: **John Drzewicki**

John attends Virginia Tech and has worked the last 4 summers at Green Pond with Rodger Zellner and Todd Krauss.

PTGA MEETING SCHEDULE 2010 Golf Schedule

Jan 12-14 Eastern PA Turf Conference
Valley Forge PA

Jan 28 Northeast PA Turfgrass Show
The Woodlands, Wilkes Barre, PA

Jan 29 SNOW Meeting
Elk Mountain
Contact Darrin Larkin for more info.

Feb 8-12 GIS Show
San Diego, CA



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