

# CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

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## September Meeting

Pine Hills Country Club  
Hosts: Greg Kozar & Eric Duffy

Greg Kozar and Eric Duffy are our hosts for the September meeting at Pine Hills Golf Course. Greg and his brother, Scott, purchased the course about 10 years ago from their uncle. Since then, they have been improving course conditions, adding bunkers, constructing greens and renovating the Par 3 course. The course has gotten a new irrigation system and pump station as part of the renovation work.

Pine Hills was constructed in 1966 by Hank Evanish as a 9 hole course with construction being completed

by Greg's uncle in 1972 for the 18 hole course. Greg began to work for his uncle before the partnership that is the current ownership was formed. Greg, Scott, and superintendent Eric Duffy formed a partnership where they set out to provide a safe, fun, affordable golf course for the public to enjoy. With this mindset they have made the improvements listed and have goals of more changes in the future.

In 2006, the pitch and putt course was renovated to offer golf in a different way to the public. This Par 3 short course of 735 yards of challenging target golf is available to us at our meeting.

The course is run with a summer staff of 4 and just 1 in the winter. They have a 1500 square foot heated garage for winter repairs and an additional 2500 square feet of cold storage.



Greg has a great day planned for us with our regular tournament, a par 3 tournament with a prize from TES equipment, Thanks George, and a great pig roast for dinner. Come on out and enjoy the day.

Thanks to our meeting sponsor for this event: Syngenta. Thanks for all your support, Lee. The PTGA really appreciates all your help!



### President's Message.....

Well, there's another year down the drain! Hope you all made it through and had a great season. I saw a few new faces at our meetings this year and hope to see many more next year.

A ton of thanks to everyone who hosted a meeting; they all were fun. Once again, I feel the Board has done some good work this term and moving forward there is still a lot to do. Thanks to Melinda for her help and patience, as well as every Board member.

*Rick Anglemyer*

### Editor's Notes.....

I write again an apology to the Association membership about the delay in getting the last two newsletters out. There is little material that isn't out via some sort of internet site, social media outlet, or other direct-to-user source to glean information from that is relative to the Association, in this editor's opinion.

On my ride to a tradeshow the other day, I was thinking of how everyone is saying the tradeshow is a dying breed. Oh, how I wish it were true, but on the drive home, I reflected back on those people that I interacted with at the show, in the Hard Rock café, and in the hotel common areas. I realized that this is a great time to catch up with friends. In our phone-based society, between texting, posting, emails, and instant gratification, I find the time spent with others to be of great value.

I read somewhere, I believe it was a post from Peter McCormick of Turfnet fame, that a great gift would be 2 hours with family with no distractions and no electronics — just conversation. It would slow the world down for us and make for memories we don't have to post for the whole world to see.

Wow, I got sentimental sitting alone writing that, so let's change the mood. I could really use some direction on what info you would like to see in the newsletter. I can continue stealing articles from our allied sources or I could print relevant info about the PTGA, which is my desire. Anyway, send those photos, short stories, or quick fixes to us here at PTGA for others to see. I could really use the help with the newsletter info.

*Jim Gurzler*



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### Meeting Results from September Meeting at Pine Hills Country Club

A day filled with great weather greeted the participants at Pine Hills Country Club. We had around 40 players for this event which featured 18 holes of blind draw partners for the regular tournament and a shootout on the Par 3 Course.

Pat Knelly won on both venues with a partnership featuring Gino Marchetti on the 18 hole and a hole out on the first hole of the shootout. Second place went to Joe Walsh and Joe Bilyo, with Duane Schell and George Skawski taking 1st place in the first flight.

Closest to the pins were had by Jack Rude and Tom Culle. Barry Goodhart had the longest drive on 18.



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The 2010 Pocono Turfgrass Directories have been mailed out. If you didn't receive one please give Melinda a call and check your address with her. Thanks to Eric Reed, CGCS, for working on getting that out to the printer for us!



## What a year! The challenges continue.

By Keith Happ, Senior Agronomist  
Mid-Atlantic Region

Drought stress has a firm grasp on much of the Mid-Atlantic Region. Although dry weather is good for the golfer, it makes it very difficult for the turf manager to establish new sod, germinate new seed, and, most of all, prepare the turf for winter. Recovery of damaged areas is very slow for this time of year, due to lack of rain. As of this update, many turf managers are faced with making difficult decisions about the care of the course due to water shortages!



All of Pennsylvania is either under a drought warning or drought watch. This involves either a mandatory or voluntary reduction in water usage. This can have an effect on golf course fall renovations. Only renovate what you can support with irrigation!

Drought-stressed grass should be cut less, fertilized less (a real problem if turf must recover from the summer), raise mowing heights, and restrict cart traffic from drought-sensitive grasses like fairway bentgrass. When will this year's weather problems be over?

Though many turf managers can buy water, doing so will affect the bottom line. Many courses had to make adjustments to their budgets as the year began, and it was not uncommon to hear from superintendents that the line item for water was slashed. The last two years were somewhat benign compared to this season. Monies not spent for water last year were viewed as potential savings this season rather than a real estimate of need during a tough year. The decision to purchase water should be based on agronomics rather than economics. It will cost far more over the long term to reestablish playing surfaces from seed or sod compared to the cost of water needed to sustain the current stand of turf this fall.

The critical issue this fall is to prepare the turf for cold temperature stress. Properly hydrating the turf is the first step towards maximizing cold temperature tolerance. During the fall, sugars are produced and act as an anti-freeze within the plant. This is referred to as *hardening*. Without water (irrigation/or precipitation), it is very difficult to fertilize the turf, maintain surface density, maximize root mass, recover from disease or mechanical damage, or even implement basic grass growing techniques such as aeration. And, if faced with a choice, a turf manager would always prefer rainfall to irrigation in order to stimulate the grass. We can't duplicate what Mother Nature can do.

For more information specific to your area (current and forecast) go to <http://drought.unl.edu/dm>.

Many courses continue on the road to recovery, but turf managers are still battling turf diseases. Summer Patch (*Magnaporthe poae*) for example, has been a persistent problem in most of the region. Summer patch has affected *Poa annua* on greens and in bluegrass rough. Although pest control measures can be enacted, it is essential that fertilizers be used to grow grass this fall. Using holistic practices continues to provide the best results.

Give us a call; we are here to help. The Mid-Atlantic Regional agronomists are part of your agronomic support team. If you have a question or

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Our heart felt condolences go out to Tom Drayer and his family on the passing of his wife:

**Barbara A. Drayer**

Barbara A. (Dox) Drayer, 62, of Orefield, died Friday, September 3, 2010 in the Hospice House of the VNA of St. Lukes, Lower Saucon Township. She was the wife of Thomas H. Drayer. The couple celebrated their 38<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last May 20. Born in Allentown, October 2, 1947, Barbara was the daughter of the late Frank J. Sr. and Anna (Stubljar) Dox. She was employed as a teacher's aid in the Parkland School District for the last 4 years. Prior to that, she worked in the same capacity at Sand Spring Children's Center, Schnecksville for 10 years. Barbara was a member of St. Joseph the Worker Roman Catholic Church, Orefield.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph the Worker Memorial Fund c/o the funeral home, P.O. Box # 196, Schnecksville, PA 18078-0196.



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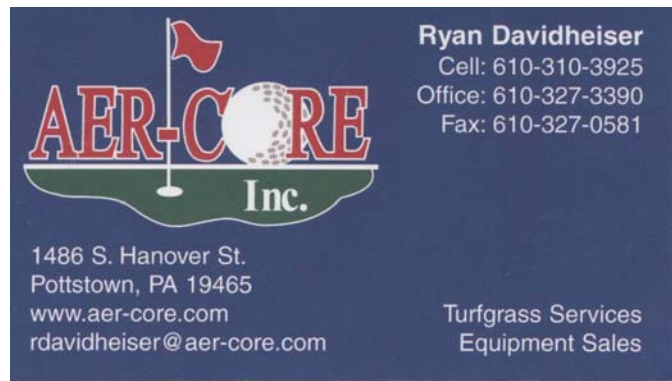


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September 7, 2010

To: Terraclor, Turfcide and ParFlo Customers - United States

Re: PCNB – Stop Sale

Dear Valued Customers:

As you may have read from our press releases, last month the United States Environmental Protection Agency issued a stop sale order with respect to our PCNB product line within the United States on the ground that our product contained a trace impurity that is not listed on our confidential statement of formula (CSF). We were shocked and surprised at the order, as it was issued without any advance warning just as our main selling season was starting and related to an impurity about which we had notified the agency nearly 20 years ago.

By way of background, under FIFRA for each registered compound, a registrant is required to list in its CSF all components that either (i) constitute at least 0.1% (1 part per 1,000) of the compound or (ii) are determined by EPA to be of toxicological significance. In 1993, we informed EPA that our PCNB manufacturing process yielded a trace impurity. It was unclear then (as now) whether this impurity had to be listed on a CSF. The agency took that information without further comment. In 1998 and then again in 2005, that agency approved our CSF for PCNB without making mention of any of the trace impurity. Last June, we engaged in discussions with USEPA about our CSF with a focus on impurities and embarked upon what we thought would be a mutual effort to assess purity levels, manufacturing processes and our CSF disclosure.

Without furnishing any technical analysis, notice or opportunity to explain our position, the agency stopped sale of our product in August. Bear in mind that the stop sale order did not include any contention that our product poses any risk to health or the environment. Indeed we are talking about an impurity of less than 10 parts per billion or 0.000001%. We promptly called for meetings with USEPA to hammer out an informal resolution, but quickly determined that the matter had been effectively handed off to government lawyers.

In the interest of protecting our business and saving our season, we filed a motion for emergency relief from the stop sale with the federal court arguing, among other things, that the issuance of the order amounted to the taking of our property without due process. Last Thursday, however, that court denied our motion. In making his ruling, the judge noted that although the agency's actions were troubling and Amvac had been treated unfairly, the agency was legally permitted to take this action.

At this stage, we plan to amend our CSF and work as expeditiously as possible with USEPA to get this stop sale removed. We will also continue down the path of further litigation, as we continue to believe that the order is an abuse of process. However, there is no guarantee that the agency (or a court) will work through this issue in less than four months (which they are permitted under applicable law). **As a result, we are not confident that we will be able to ship product to our customers in time for turf application in the late Fall and Winter of 2010. We sincerely apologize in advance if we are unable to supply your needs in time for your application. Nevertheless, we thought it best to give you ample time to protect your business interests as we work on this matter. We will, of course, keep you apprised of material developments as we learn of them.**

Thank you for your understanding and support. We look forward to continuing to serve you when this storm passes. For your reference, we are also including a copy of our latest press release on the subject. If you have questions on the continuing status of this matter, please contact Jeff Alvis at 817.742.7423. If you would like us to send this note to anyone else in your organization, please contact Glen Anderson at 888.462.6822.

# *Chips & Putts*

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# POCONO ROUNDUP

Nothing to report or nothing reported!

Send your info to us so we may keep the members abreast of your good news.

Best Wishes to Paul Brandon on a speedy recovery.

Send your announcements to the PTGA. Help others stay current on the things going on in our area.



## PTGA SCHEDULE

### PTC New Venue for Valley Forge

January 11-13th, 2011  
Crowne Plaza Valley Forge

Northeast PA Turf Conference  
January 27, 2011  
The Woodlands Inn and Resort

GIS Show  
February 7-11  
Orlando FL

PTGA Holiday Party February?  
Stay tuned for details



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