



CHIPS & PUTTS

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2011 GCSAA GIS SHOW WRAP UP

Golf Industry Show

Total attendance for those utilizing the two registration portals was 14,781. This is a 4 percent increase over 2010. Qualified buyers attendance increased 11 percent for a total of 5,752 qualified buyers.

There were 551 exhibitors spread across 180,000 net square feet of exhibit space; this is a 4 percent decline from last year in San Diego. From my personal perspective it felt much smaller than recent years but those in attendance seemed to be in more of a buying mood and were talking positively about the future.

I believe the show was a success when put into context of the current economy. It certainly doesn't compare with Orlando shows of the past but is an improvement over recent years and indicates that things are moving cautiously in a positive direction. I, for one, feel that one of the appeals of the National is the bigness of it and hope that we can get some of that back in upcoming years; but even if it stays at this level of participation it will remain a great sales and networking opportunity for the participants.

Education Conferences

Running concurrently with the Golf Industry Show were the annual education conferences for the Golf Industry Show presenting partners. Numerous educational sessions and seminars focused on solutions to operating in challenging times, environmental management, financial benchmarks, leadership and communications. I thought the seminars that I attended were excellent, especially those that were taught by active Superintendents, as these were more down to earth and practical for those of us looking to apply the instruction at our own courses.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held on Friday, February 11th, the results were:

A member **dues increase** of \$20 annually for Class A members and \$10 annually for Class C members was passed.

Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, director of golf course and grounds at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, Fla., was elected president. Randquist will serve as president until the 2012 annual meeting and election.

Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, manager of golf operations for the city of Overland Park, Kan., was elected vice president.

Check Page 8 for the 2011 Golf Schedule.

Qualifying for Met GCSA Tournament starts in April!

Remember - each meeting gets you points for the Stableford which helps get you to Galloway National, the fabulous Tom Fazio course in Galloway, NJ.

It could make for a great weekend getaway to Atlantic City in the fall of 2011.



President's Message.....

Well another season is almost upon us. Can I get an Amen Brother! This has been a rough winter for most, but not all, I suppose.

Plans for the upcoming meetings are moving along very nicely. There are just a few more details to work out and then let the fun begin.

Good luck to everyone this year; hope to climb to higher ground and recoup some budget dollars. Looking forward to seeing you at meeting real soon.

Rick Anglemyer

Editor's Notes.....

Thanks to Ray Waddell and Jennifer McMorrow for their articles. Keep the information coming please, I love the help.

Wow, another 1st issue, another spring, another golf season is upon us. The Board has been working to provide education at the golf meetings for the coming season. You can see that we have a pretty good slate of speakers, so try to make the time to come on out, network with your peers, enjoy some fun and learn something new.

All I have heard all winter is how the trade show is dying and how information is available online in an instant, but tactile learning is far better in my opinion. I always liked the EDGE method — Explain, Demonstrate, Guide and Enable success, which I believe allows for better retention. Speaking with others about turf helps you and the person with whom you're speaking. With the exchange of ideas, growth occurs, making you and our Association stronger. So don't let the lack of golf skills or the course hold you back. Make a couple meetings this year, we will all be better for it.

Jim Gurzler



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MY FAVORITE TURF DISEASES

By Jenny McMorrow of Turf Diagnostics Inc.

There is nothing more exciting as a turf pathologist than receiving a sample that is loaded with mycelia and spores. It launches a euphoria so great that it keeps me coming back to work day after day. I marvel at how resilient turfgrass truly is. There have been samples of Paspalum that were loaded with so many diseases at such great quantity it was staggering to imagine how this grass was still putting out new growth. Also, Bermudagrass Decline is a constant struggle for some golf courses yet the superintendent puts out a good product despite the almost constant disease pressure.

The most exciting disease to study under the microscope has to be Fusarium Patch (formerly called Pink Snow Mold). It produces large mycelia with distinct cross walls. The spores are a magnificent crescent moon shape and are abundant. The symptoms can look like anything from a small spot that looks like Pythium to a large patch with a frog-eye. Control is easy as long as the superintendent uses a contact fungicide to clean up the spores and a systemic fungicide to clean up the mycelia. We know that the disease is consistent with cool, overcast weather and loves available nitrogen. Fusarium Patch wins the award as my favorite turf disease.

The runner-up goes to Take-all Patch. This disease was the culprit of my first "tough" case in 1992. I

could see the dark ectotrophic hyphae on the roots of the young bentgrass I had under the microscope but other labs could not confirm presence of any disease. It was exhilarating to solve the problem of what disease was afflicting the greens and then work to find an appropriate fungicide to cure Take-all Patch.

A discussion of my favorite diseases probably wouldn't be complete without quickly mentioning my least favorite disease. *Pythium volutum* is an annoying pest because it can be present but not necessarily produce symptoms. I still feel we have not nailed down a good fungicide control method for the disease. It also is still not clear what environmental conditions are conducive to a *P. volutum* outbreak. Time, asking the right questions and looking at lots of samples with this disease will finally unravel the mystery.

I couldn't ask for a better job than being a turf pathologist. Every day brings new adventures and new challenges. I love working on the microscope because every slide tells a story of what that turf has been through. The superintendents I work with are knowledgeable, hard working and a lot of fun to talk to. Good people and interesting work. I couldn't ask for more.



PLEASE NOTE!

The Membership Directory will be going to print in early April. If you have any changes to your information, please send it to Melinda ASAP mmel500@aol.com



Continued from Page 1

Peter J. Grass, CGCS at Hilands Golf Club in Billings, Mont., **Keith A. Ihms**, CGCS at Country Club of Little Rock in Little Rock, Ark., and **John J. O'Keefe**, CGCS, director of golf course management at Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, N.J., were each re-elected to another two-year term.

Rafael Barajas, CGCS at Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights, Calif., was appointed to the GCSAA Board of Directors, filling the remaining year of Finlen's term, created by his election to secretary/treasurer.

William H. Maynard, CGCS at Milburn Golf and Country Club in Overland Park, Kan., remains on the board with one year remaining in his two-year director term.

James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, director/superintendent at Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Club in North Quincy, Mass., will serve on the board for one year as immediate past president.

Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, director of grounds at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J., retires from the board after serving the last year as immediate past president.

Next Year Vegas! So remember quit smoking at least one month prior and eat light meals while in Vegas so the kidney harvesters don't have any issues.



grass roots

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Managing Expectations 2011

Darrin Bevard, USGA Senior Agronomist, Mid-Atlantic Region

The last Mid-Atlantic update was titled "What's Under All That Snow and Ice?" Warmer temperatures have allowed the question to be answered in much of the region. Overall, what we have seen and heard regarding putting green turf is positive. While it is too early to tell exactly how the grass will fare in the coming weeks, but our opinion is -- so far, so good. That's the good news. The bad news is that another arctic blast sent temperatures into the low single digits in parts of the region. This is a cause for concern after the series of days that saw daytime temperatures in the 50's and 60's. Recent research on winter injury to *Poa annua* suggests that even a short period of warmer temperatures can rapidly reduce winter hardiness of this grass. As for creeping bentgrass, there is little concern for any winter damage on this more winter-hardy grass.



On a completely different topic, a recent walk around a local golf course raised some questions about improving the quality of rough. The goal is to develop a maintenance plan that promotes rough that is more uniform with limited off-type grasses and weeds. The rough should be more visually appealing and offer improved playability. Of course, all of these improvements must be accomplished without disrupting the golf course or having any significant

short term reduction in playability. This specific discussion brought to mind a great challenge as we head towards another growing season: expectations and desire for improvement, perhaps with limited resources (budget).

It is not too early to make a very important point for 2011. Expectations need to be managed. Better rough, better bunkers or better whatever will not come without some inconvenience and extra costs on the golf course. If having the best of everything, or at least having everything just right, was easy, every golf course would have everything just the way the golfers wanted it. However, when a *problem* is present, it often did not develop overnight. Similarly, these problems will not be fixed overnight, either. The golf course that

maintains a high level of conditioning has invested in their golf course maintenance operations and the infrastructure of the golf course. Very few dramatic improvements come without investment and some level of inconvenience.

The Mid-Atlantic Region agronomists are part of your agronomic support team. If you have a question or concern, give us a call or send an e-mail.

Stan Zontek (szontek@usga.org) and Darin Bevard



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SKI Vermont 2011 Or CSI Vermont

For the seventh year in a row several PTGA members and friends have taken an annual trip to Killington, Vermont to enjoy a favorite wintertime activity, and show strong support for the food and beverage portion of the economy. Conditions for skiing were pretty good over a three-day stretch, and all came back without any major bodily harm (from skiing), thanks to the hot tub, some ice baths, and a year's supply of Ensure! It's always a great trip away with fellow colleagues when sampling a number of fantastic meals (endless appetizers, steak night, and "the whole-half of ham") all while creating some epic stories.

A new house rental this year created a few snags, one of which was our house didn't get major networks and therefore no NFL playoffs!?! Thankfully there was a local establishment we were able to visit and make home for

six hours or so. Garmin (supposedly) took one vehicle's passengers on an impromptu tour around Syracuse before arriving in Vermont. In a final, strange turn of events, we experienced a real life CSI - Vermont. Thankfully, no one was seriously injured, but the investigation is still ongoing and a couple pictures have been released to the media for help in identifying a suspect, so please review them carefully.

The names of those partially or fully involved in any of the previously mention events have been removed for their protection. However, I'm sure at the next meeting; you can twist a few arms and get better details with a little persuasion.

Respectfully submitted, albeit anonymously



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POCONO ROUNDUP

Under the "If your going to be dumb, you have to be tough" category:

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery, go out to Chris Vojick on his hip surgery after the great fall while snow boarding

Best Wishes to Greg McEllehattan, Wilkes Barre Muni, on his continued recovery.

Congratulations to Barry Goodhart, for surviving a whole day in Vermont without injury.

Kudos to Steve Chirip of Grass Roots on his NJTA Hall of Fame award (ask Steve to sign his new card with HOF signature for you)

Bylaw changes are underway to correct or clarify some items. You should see them in the next few weeks. If you have ideas, please email Melinda at mmel500@aol.com or Rick Anglemyer at turfgap@hotmail.com with your issues for consideration by the committee.

PTGA SCHEDULE

- April 20 Southmoore Bath PA
Kelly Kressler, Supt
Joe Gallagher, Pond Management
- May 17 Jack Frost National, Blakeslee, PA
Bryan Nuss, Supt.
Dr. Peter Landscoot, PSU
- June 21 Mountain Valley, Frackville PA
Robert Kaufmann, Supt.
- July 12 Scranton Canoe Club, Lake Winola, PA
Pat Healey, Supt.
John Kaminski, PSU
- Aug 16 Buck Hill Country Club Buck Hill Falls, PA
Tim Stem, Supt.
- Sept 27 Paupack Hills Country Club, Greentown PA
Mark Monahan, Supt./GM
Doug Linde, Del Val
- Oct 18 Blue Ridge Country Club, Palmerton PA
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