



CHIPS & PUTTS

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May Meeting

Mt. Airy Golf Club

<http://www.mountairycasino.com/golf/index.cfm>

Host: Andy Faist, GCS

Speaker: Jim Nedin, TESCO

May will bring us to Mt. Airy Golf Club (and Casino). For those who like to gamble as well as golf, the package that Mt. Airy is putting together for the PTGA will definitely get your attention, so keep your eyes open for the meeting notice. The club history goes like this.....

The original Mount Airy Lodge opened in the early 1950's and holds a place in history as the cornerstone of the legendary Pocono Mountain vacation retreats. Considered America's premier "Honeymoon Highway" for almost half a century, Mount Airy Lodge once had 890 hotel rooms, indoor and outdoor pools, skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, archery, sports center and a variety of other recreational activities.

Continued on Page 5



President's Message.....

I had forgotten just how many projects that were put on standby for the winter. It didn't take long for the golfers to remind me. The warm snap in March got everyone looking closely and wondering why the courses they had been playing in the south all winter were more ready than Elkhart. I thought to myself that most southern courses even as close as Scranton never really closed. Right Kozar? As I write this little note, looking at last year's calendar, we were snow covered until the 12th of April. You have to wonder why people can't just appreciate the little gifts in life like early golf.

Be sure to make those aware in the higher up positions of the costs of earlier golf. Additional labor, sprays, fuel, electricity, irrigation and other materials. My entire budget needs shifting. I have heard that in southern PA a fellow super never had a budget for irrigation pump electricity in March. The cost this year was four thousand dollars. We find ourselves in the first month of operation - OVER BUDGET.

Remember, take the time for your mental and physical health. Plan a get away trip, and make it your goal. Be happy. Play golf. Go fishing. Go camping. Visit the beach. It's going to be a long season.

John Downer

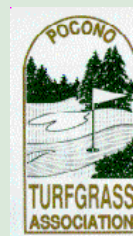
Editor's Notes.....

Well, I'll avoid the obvious and not talk about the weather....but what a relatively welcomed shot in the arm of the golf economy that it has been.

As always, I will send my plea out for articles, information, etc. that you all would like to see in the newsletter. It's all our Association and newsletter, so if you think you have something for the benefit of the whole then pass it on.

Good luck to all as the season keeps accelerating at a furious pace.....

Brian Bachman



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Pocono Turfgrass Association 2012 Scholarships

The Patterson Scholarship for Turfgrass Related Studies

The Pocono Turfgrass Association is now accepting scholarship applications for the Patterson Scholarship. The deadline for application is June 30, 2012. The following is a list of guidelines for all individuals interested in applying for the scholarship:

1. Applicant must be in his or her final year of study or a recent graduate of a two- or four-year turf related program.
2. The applicant must be a member of the Pocono Turfgrass Association, employed by a member of PTGA, or an immediate family member of a member of PTGA.
3. The applicant must submit, in writing, why he or she would like to be considered for the scholarship. The essay should include what he or she feels their contribution to the turfgrass field will be.
4. Applicants must include a letter of endorsement from their PTGA relation with their application.

The Pocono Turfgrass Association Scholarship for Non-Turf Related Studies

The Pocono Turfgrass Association is now accepting applications for a non-turfgrass related field of study scholarship. The deadline for application is June 30, 2012. The following is a list of guidelines for all individuals interested in applying for the scholarship:

1. Applicant must be in his or her final year of study or a recent graduate of a two- or four-year non-turf related program.
2. The applicant must be a member of the Pocono Turfgrass Association, employed by a member of PTGA, or an immediate family member of a member of PTGA.
3. The applicant must submit, in writing, why he or she would like to be considered for the scholarship. The essay should include information pertaining to field of study, educational achievement, and future goals with respect to utilization of his or her education.
4. Applicants must include a letter of endorsement from their PTGA relation with their application.

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Thinking of becoming a
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Know someone who would
like to be a PTGA
Member??



The Pocono Turfgrass Association has revived some old initiatives to make your membership even more valuable than it already is by introducing two new membership drives:

Drive #1:

Any Class A superintendent member who joins the Association (with their paid dues and approved application, of course) will be able to attend the monthly meeting immediately following their membership for FREE!!!

Please Note: Free meeting excludes the clambake in August

Drive #2:

Any existing member who signs up 3 new members (with their paid dues and approved application, of course) will be able to attend the monthly meeting of their choice (excluding the clambake) for FREE!!!

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Superintendent's Son Named MVP

Andy Faist, Jr., son of Mount Airy Golf Course Superintendent Andy Faist (who is hosting our May meeting), was recently named MVP for the championship game of the Canadian Cup Hockey Tournament in Montreal, Canada.

Andy Jr., who plays goaltender for the Wilkes-Barre Jr. Penguins Pee-Wee A team, led his team to a 4-3 overtime victory over the New Jersey Jr. Devils to close out the four-day tournament which was played over the recent President's Day weekend.

The Wilkes-Barre Jr. Penguins Pee-Wee A team, which consists of players ages 12 and 13, competes in the Delaware Valley Hockey League. The team recently concluded their season finishing second in their division, but were eliminated in the playoffs in a heartbreaking 1-0 loss.

Congratulations to both Andy and his son on a successful season.



Andy Faist, Jr.



Continued from Page 1

In the late 1970's, resort owners developed the 18-hole Mount Airy Golf Club to add to the long list of resort amenities. A premier golf course for its day, the eighteen holes of Mount Airy were said to be designed after the 1966 Sports Illustrated article "The 18 Best Holes in the United States."

With the decline of Pocono mountain tourism in the 1980's and 1990's, Mount Airy Lodge would eventually go into foreclosure in 1999. As the original hotel and much of the property fell into disrepair, the golf course would remain open as bank management companies sought a buyer for the property.

In 2004, the property was purchased by Dunmore businessman, Louis DeNaples, with the ambition of redeveloping Mount Airy into a casino/resort under Pennsylvania's newly approved gaming laws.

Over the next several years, the entire original Mount Airy Lodge was demolished and subsequently replaced with the new Mount Airy Casino-Resort. Opening in 2007, the four-star resort includes a casino with 2500 slot machines, casino table games, a 188-room hotel, spa, restaurants ranging from casual to high end Italian and steak house....and of course the original golf course.

The early stages of development of the \$412 million Mount Airy Casino-Resort project saw little attention directed toward the golf course, as focus was understandably on the revenue generating foundations of the casino and hotel. Recent years have seen a firm commitment by management to invest in the golf course and bring it back to its original glory as Mount Airy Casino-Resort once again seeks to establish itself as a premier resort destination in the Poconos.

Since 2010, the Mount Airy Golf Club has seen the installation of a new irrigation system, re-surfacing of cart paths, extensive tree work, new equipment purchases and an increased maintenance budget.

Construction of a new clubhouse is underway and will be completed by the beginning of the 2012 season. Plans are in place for bunker renovations and the construction of new practice areas to replace the original ones which were lost during the Casino/Hotel road construction.

Mt. Airy is overseen by Golf Course Superintendent Andy Faist, who has been there for 5 years. Assisted by Dio Alvarez, they supervise an in-season staff of 9 on the par 71 golf course and another 4 just for the casino landscaping. Andy, originally from the New England area and a UMASS grad,

uses his history as an assistant at three different clubs, including Glenmaura, to manage the 6500 yards of poa/bent greens, rye/poa tees, and Heinz 57 fairways at Mt. Airy.

So come on out...play some golf, enjoy some camaraderie, and have a chance at taking home a lot more than just the 50/50 money.

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Vendor's Views

By: John Vojick

First I would like to thank Brian for moving the idea to print as well as last month's segue to today.

Well, you have to go with the obvious; the winter that wasn't and the weather that it is. The 2011 season filled with epic rainfall amounts left for a lot of winter play and early season play, maybe not in some private ends, but certainly from owner operator courses. It is a recoup of many lost events and league nights gone.

Now to get that winter wear back into desired conditions. Are these ball marks going to heal...gotta roll the cart ruts...should I aerify earlier...carts still need service. These were just a couple of thoughts I've heard getting around and visiting.

Things are starting to bloom and fly right now, literally fly. The signs for the soon-to-be applications are everywhere and need to be prepared for and most likely recalculated. Is my application rate of pre-emergent enough? Do you move it up for 30 days more in duration? What's the cost,? Do you have enough, maybe split applications. This is just one thought of what will most likely be a season of recalculating with the start it has been given.

I mentioned the idea of this column of thoughts to Brian and felt it would be as it is so named "Vendor's Views" a fun and informative way for the vendors to contribute some of the things we find, see and hear. To our future contributors it is an open forum. Articles can come from any corner of your life, i.e., how your seminar was, the fun you have coaching your kids or just about anything. We just ask that it be kept as a view, not a sales tool. So to whomever chooses to go next, let Brian know and homework is due to him by the 23rd of the month.

Photo of the Month

We all see interesting things every day....wildlife (like bald eagles and bears), strange turf problems (like a lightning strike), an employee who stayed out too late the night before, etc. So if you have a great photo, send it to me (bbachman@genesisturfgrassinc.com) and share it with everyone to enjoy (or laugh at!).



April Photo of the Month

This photo was submitted by Patrick Knelly from Sugarloaf Golf Club. Anyone who knows Patrick knows that he's always looking to do things in a new, creative, and of course, money saving way.

I'll have to check the child labor laws on this one...

Chips & Putts

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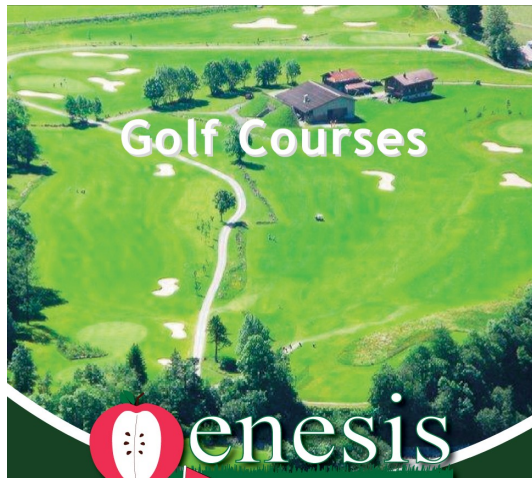
Congratulations to Aaron Giordano on stepping into the Assistant Superintendent position at Wyoming Valley CC.

As a service to our members and a way to say thank you.....all PTGA members will receive their own bag tag to proudly display.




PTGA SCHEDULE

- | | |
|------------|---|
| April 25th | PTGA meeting @ Berkleigh
Speaker: Matt Shaffer,
Merion CC |
| May 14th | PTGA meeting @ Mt. Airy
Speaker: Jim Nedin,
TESCO |
| June 19th | PTGA meeting @ Terra
Greens GC
Speaker: Dr. Landschoot
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