



CHIPS & PUTTS

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April Meeting
Southmoore Golf Club
Host: Kelly Kressler, GCS
Speaker: Steve McDonald, TDS

Our first meeting of the year takes us on a return trip to the Lehigh Valley and Southmoore Golf Club. Southmoore, which opened in 1994, is another beautiful design by prolific area architect Jim Blaukovitch. Known for its large undulating greens, the course stretches across the rolling hills and landscape of the area for 6,200 yards from the tips with 4 sets of tees. The perennial ryegrass tees and fairways of Southmoore have hosted a Nike Open Qualifier and numerous other events from the region.

Southmoore is overseen by the only superintendent that it has ever known, long time PTGA member Kelly Kressler. Kelly has been at the club since day one, supervising the construction and shaping (done by Shapemasters out of South Carolina), grow in, and now maintenance.

Continued on page 5....



President's Message.....

John Downer

Editor's Notes.....

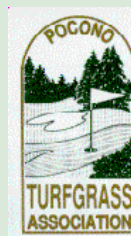
What a difference a year makes. I guess we all got a little spoiled last year with the warmth and early spring, but it's back to reality this year.

Hopefully everyone has had a chance to check out the new website at ptga.org and can appreciate the improvements that have been made.

Thanks again to all who have contributed articles, photos, etc to the newsletter. I appreciate it.

I hope to see everyone at Southmoore for our first meeting of the year.

Brian Bachman



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CHIPS & PUTTS STAFF

EDITOR

Brian Bachman, Genesis Turfgrass, Inc.
484-661-6105
bbachman@genesisturfgrassinc.com

Managing Editor

Melinda Wisnosky
570-388-2167
mmel500@aol.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Rick Anglemyer, Water Gap CC
570-424-6391



309 Terrace Avenue
Harding, PA 18643
Phone/Fax: 570-388-2167

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Pocono Turfgrass Association 2013 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.

Applications should be submitted to:

John Downer
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Talk to any Board Member for additional details.

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.....Continued from page 1

Kelly, who is a Rutgers grad, has been in the golf industry since 1982, and previously served stints at the Center Valley Club, and two TPC courses in Connecticut and Memphis.

Married to wife Renee for 22 years, Kelly has two boys who grew up with him on the golf course. Assisted by an in-season staff of 6 along with 9 full time seasonal employees, Southmoore has recently redone the landscaping and tee complex on #3 (their signature par 3 that features a beautiful waterfall) and will also be installing irrigation at the entrance to the Club this year.

I hope you'll all come out to enjoy the camaraderie and golf of the new season with us at Southmoore.

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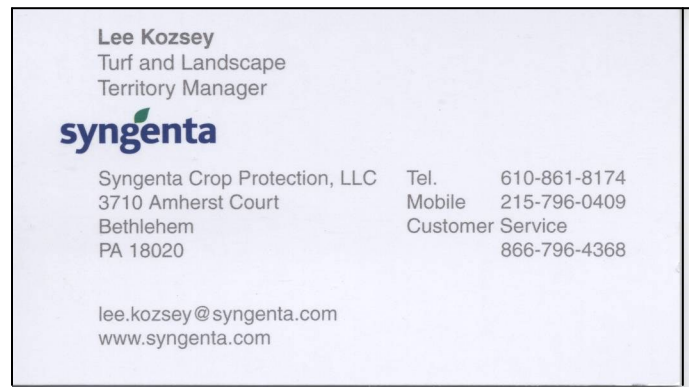
Soil testing laboratories use the “acre furrow slice” (AFS) as a way to estimate the volume and weight of an acre of land to a depth of 6.7 inches. Why 6.7 inches? In farming, a typical moldboard plow penetrates the soil to a depth of 6.7 inches. The typical soil volume of an AFS is 24,394 cubic feet (calculated from multiplying 43,560 sq. ft. [*the surface area of one acre*] X 6.7 inch [*or 0.56 ft*] depth). Incidentally, a football field (including the endzones) covers a 1.3 acre surface area.

The typical soil weight of an AFS is approximately 2 million pounds (calculated from multiplying 24,394 cubic feet X 83 pounds of dry soil in one cubic foot [*based on a standard bulk density of a silt loam soil of 1.33 g/cm³ which equals 83 lbs/ft³*]. So, an acre of soil at the 6.7 inch depth weighs 2 million pounds, but an acre of soil that is 3.35 inches thick weighs 1 million pounds.

How can golf course turf professionals in use this information? Well, are you interested in the nutrients levels in the upper 3 inches of rootzone or upper 6 inches? Typically, soil labs use AFS to express nutrient content for an acre of soil - - keep in mind, that's for a 6.7 inch rootzone depth. Some soil labs report nutrients as ppm (parts per million). So, multiplying the ppm value X 2 gives you the nutrient amount for 2 million pounds of soil or an AFS. If you use only the ppm value, you will already have the nutrient amount for 1 million pounds of soil (or an acre of soil at the 3.35 inch depth). If you're not sure, ask your soil testing laboratory; and check-out Dr. McNitt's article, too.

Source: McNitt, A.S. 2010. What is an “acre furrow slice of soil?” Center for Turfgrass Science. Pennsylvania State University. <http://plantscience.psu.edu/research/centers/turf/extension/factsheets/acre-furrow-slice>

Mike Fidanza, Ph.D., Professor of Plant and Soil Sciences, Pennsylvania State University, Berks Campus, Reading, PA; (email: fidanza@psu.edu; twitter: @MikeFidanza).



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.

Please pick up your tag at the meetings throughout the season.



GCSAA Weighs in on MSMA with the EPA

Representatives discuss the importance of MSMA use, support its continued use

At an EPA meeting to review the registration of the herbicide MSMA, GCSAA members Mark Esoda, CGCS at Atlanta Country Club, and Greg Pheneger, CGCS at John's Island Club in Vero Beach, Fla., as well as Chava McKeel, GCSAA associate director of government relations, helped represent the interest of the golf course management industry and the role MSMA plays in integrated weed management programs on golf courses.

MSMA, an important turf management tool for the \$68 billion U.S. golf industry, is used especially in the southeastern United States as a spot treatment control for goosegrass, dallisgrass and tropical signalgrass to provide high-quality golf course playing surfaces.

In August 2006, the EPA issued a decision to make MSMA ineligible for re-registration on golf courses. MSMA use is currently banned in Florida, and a ban in other states was set to go into effect at the end of 2012. However, in October, MSMA applications labeled for use on golf courses (except in Florida) were [extended for at least 3 to 4 more years until a new National Academy of Sciences review on inorganic arsenic is completed](#).

The Feb. 13 focus meeting held in Washington, D.C., is part of a new registration review program mandated by the Food Quality Protection Act. As part of the program, the EPA must re-evaluate each registered pesticide at least every 15 years to determine whether it continues to meet the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) standard for registration. The meetings are intended to address areas of uncertainty such as unclear labels or missing studies that could affect the EPA's pesticide risk assessments and risk management decisions. By obtaining better information early in the process, the EPA can narrow the scope of pesticide re-evaluations to areas that pose real concerns, based on current data and use patterns.

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 to late the night before, etc. So if you have a great photo, send it to me (bbachman@genesisturfgrassinc.com) and share it for everyone to enjoy (or laugh at).



April Photo of the Month

This month's photo is from John Chassard and the crew at Lehigh CC.

When dropping a tree this winter it just so happened that this branch pierced the ground at precisely the right (or wrong if you're the guy who has to fix it) spot. It went in the ground deep enough to break this irrigation line and make a little more work to get the year started.

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POCONO ROUNDUP

Have any news?

Please let us know.

Contact Brian Bachman at
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PTGA SCHEDULE

- April 9th** PTGA meeting @
Southmoore GC
Speaker: Steve McDonald
- May 31st** PTGA meeting @
Fox Hill CC
Speaker Topic: H2B workers
- June 11th** PTGA meeting @
Pocono Manor GC
Speaker: TBD

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