



# CHIPS & PUTTS

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POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION  
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## August Meeting **Country Club of Scranton** Host: Greg Boring, GCS

Our Annual Clambake and Scholarship Fundraiser Tournament takes us to one of Northeast PA's truly historic and beautiful golf courses in the Country Club of Scranton. The club, started in 1896, was originally located in downtown Scranton on the site of Marywood University. In 1926 they moved the site to their current location with the 18 hole course being designed by Walter Travis. With an extensive membership of over 600, the 18 hole course could not meet the demands of the members; so in 1989 a new 9 holes (The Falls), were constructed under the architectural supervision of Michael Hurzdan.

Known for its difficult, sloping greens, C.C. of Scranton has hosted many tournaments over the years. Three PA State Amateurs, a PA State Open, and the Anthracite Open, which boasted players such as Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, and Gene Sarazen. This year C.C. of Scranton hosted a US Open qualifier, as well, which just happened to have the highest qualifying score of any location (76). They are also slated to hold the Senior PA State Amateur this August and the State Amateur in 2015.

As with most of the established courses in our area, the fairways, greens, and tees are all a poa/bent mix. The course plays to a par 72 at 7,000 yards from the tips and is protected by 62 bunkers. The 27 hole property boasts 4 acres of greens, 4 acres of tees, and 44 acres of fairways.

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## President's Message.....

John Downer

## Editor's Notes.....

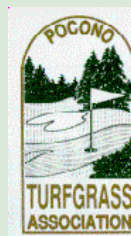
Well, the relatively easy spring has led to recent hot, humid, nasty conditions around the area....but what else can we expect in July. The courses are in great shape, and as I always say, if being a superintendent were easy then everyone would do it. Congrats to all the fine superintendents and the great work they're doing.

Thanks to Duane Schell at Blue Ridge Trail for this month's picture. We get to see lots of great things while working on a golf course.

Thanks also to Corey Pries for hosting us in a very wet June. We were only able to play nine holes but still had a great time.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Scranton!!

Brian Bachman



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## Research to Reality:

### Soil Microbes and Turfgrass

Soil microbiology is the study of the biology and function of microorganisms in soil, and their affect on soil properties and plant life. Dr. David Zuberer, Professor of Soil Microbiology at Texas A&M (College Station, TX), lists the following turfgrass soil/ root zone variables that influence the growth of soil microbes (in no particular order):

<u>Soil Parameter</u>	<u>Source/Desired Range</u>
• organic carbon	grass clippings, stems, root exudates, organic wastes, etc.
• inorganic nutrients	adequate N, P, K, etc.
• pH	6 to 8 (~near neutral optimal)
• temperature	50 to 104 °F
• moisture	50% water-filled soil pores
• aeration	balance of air-filled and water-filled soil pores

Research shows that turfgrass soils are similar to agricultural or native grassland soils in terms of microbial function, and that the turfgrass rootzone environment is favorable for the growth of soil microbes. In fact, after 35 years of work, Dr. Zuberer concludes that the "best practices for managing soil microbes [in turfgrass ecosystems] are those that adhere to well-established agronomic principles" and that "healthy turf will provide the necessary resources for soil microbes to thrive".

How can golf course turf professionals use this information? As Dr. Zuberer stated, employ sound agronomic/cultural practices. Also utilize various plant and soil health products that are verified by research, in order to facilitate and maintain a soil rootzone environmental favorable for soil microbes that exist in the thin water films or "biofilms" surrounding soil particles.

Source: Zuberer, D. 2012. Soil microbes: some practical perspectives for turfgrass systems. USGA Green Section Record 50 (15).

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

## Syngenta Accepting Applications for Business Institute

Syngenta is excited to announce for the fifth year, they are inviting golf course superintendents across the United States to apply for the Syngenta Business Institute™, an innovative professional business development program developed specifically for the industry in partnership with Wake Forest University Schools of Business.

The unique, four-day program focuses on financial and human resource management, delegation skills, effective communications and negotiation skills, managing general differences and more. The program will supplement and complement superintendents' existing knowledge base, allowing more productive and efficient golf course management.

Syngenta is eager to provide a learning experience that goes well beyond the agronomic requirements of a superintendent's job. The Syngenta Business Institute will be held **Dec. 9-12, 2013**, at Graylyn International Conference Center on the campus of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. Superintendents must fill out an application, which includes an essay on why they believe they should be selected to attend. The application is due by Tuesday, Aug. 20 and can be found at [www.greencastonline.com/SBI](http://www.greencastonline.com/SBI). Only 25 superintendents will be selected to participate.

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## PTGA Membership Drives

Thinking of becoming a  
PTGA Member??



Know someone who  
would like to be a PTGA  
Member??

Anyone who joins the Association (with their paid dues and approved application of course) will be able to attend any monthly meeting immediately following their membership for half price!!! (Half-price meeting excludes the Clambake )

Talk to any Board Member for additional details.

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### June Meeting Wrap-Up

Thanks to Corey Pries and his staff for hosting our June meeting. We powered through the rain and wet conditions to enjoy the afternoon.

**1st Place** TJ Hart, Kelly Kressler, John Chassard,  
Ron Garrison

**2nd Place** Jerry Decker, Ken Givens, Chris Butler,  
Ed H.

**Closest to the Pin**

TJ Hart #3

Steve Esposito #18

**Long Drive**

Russell Hauenstein

**Skins**

John Chassard on #1 and #17

Chris Butler on #18



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Continued from page 1....

Since 2009, shortly after Greg's arrival at Scranton, the course has undergone some major renovations and improvements. In the fall of 2009 all of the greens had new drainage installed via the XGD System. In July of 2011 the Club embarked on a major renovation project that includes the complete rebuilding of all 62 bunkers on the 18 hole course, the re-contouring of some fairways, construction of some forward tees, and the addition of 2.5 acres of tightly mowed greens surrounds/collection areas, as seen in the picture on the right. Oh, and I can't fail to mention that Greg and his crew have also overseen the removal of more than 2,500 trees through his years there as well. Since our last visit to Scranton, the driving range has also been completely renovated. All these renovations have led to C.C. of Scranton now being ranked in the Top 100 Classical Golf Courses in the United States.

Greg, an Ohio State grad who interned at Oakmont, has been superintendent at C.C. of Scranton since January 2008. He came to Scranton having previously worked as a superintendent at neighboring Glen Oak C.C. for a stint of 3 years. Before that, he spent 2 years as the assistant at Preakness Hills C.C. in NJ and 3 years as an assistant in Florida.

As you can imagine, this sizeable property takes a sizeable staff to keep it in tip-top shape. The in season crew of 35 has 4 employees with Turf degrees, including Assistants Tom Height and Jeff Wilbur, along with long time employee and now equipment manager Charlie Saxe.

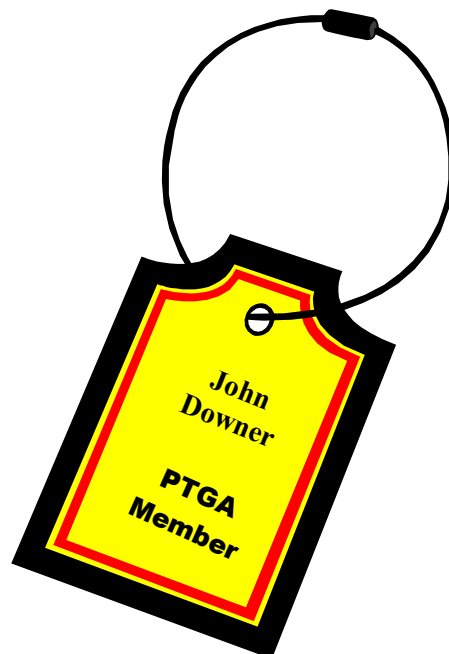
I certainly hope you have the opportunity to get away and play this course (which we will be getting the pleasure of playing the day after Greg's 3 day Member/Guest) and catch up with some peers as the season quickly continues.



**As a service to our members and 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.**







## 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](mailto:bbachman@genesisturfgrassinc.com)) and share it for everyone to enjoy (or laugh at).



## July Photo of the Month

This photo was submitted by Duane Schell from Blue Ridge Trail G.C. in Mountaintop.

You never know what you'll see early in the morning, but on this day Duane was able to capture a picture of a white fawn. It's not truly an albino with brown ears, but a rare sight nonetheless.



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## PTGA SCHEDULE

- July 29 PTGA Annual Clambake  
**C.C. of Scranton**  
Speaker: Dr. John Kaminski
- August 26 PTGA meeting @ **Elmhurst C.C.**  
Qualifier for Met Tourney  
Speaker: Dr. Buckley  
Rutgers University
- Sept 17 PTGA meeting @  
**Glenmaura National**  
Speaker: Darin Bevard  
USGA
- Oct. 21 PTGA meeting @  
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Annual Meeting/Elections

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