



CHIPS & PUTTS

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July Meeting **Glen Oak Country Club** Host: Gino Marchetti, GCS

Our July meeting takes us to Glen Oak C.C. where we are hosted by superintendent Gino Marchetti. Gino, a native to Northeastern PA, is a 2001 graduate of Penn State. After graduation he went to Fieldstone C.C. as the assistant there from 2001-2005. When the opportunity arose to return to the area as the assistant at Glen Oak, he jumped on it. He served as the assistant until 2008, when former superintendent Greg Boring (our host for the August meeting) moved across town to The Country Club of Scranton. Gino then stepped right into the superintendent position at Glen Oak, where he has continued to keep the country club's golf course in fantastic condition. In his task of maintaining these primarily poa greens, bent/poa fairways, and bent tees, Gino is assisted by Les Lear and Brandon Wisnosky. The in season crew of 22 is whittled down to 6 full time members over the winter months.

Originally called The Excelsior Club, Glen Oak was first opened in 1951. Designed by James Harrison, an understudy of Donald Ross, this track plays to just over 6,600 yards from

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President's Message.....

Can you believe summer is a third of the way over? Labor Day will be here before we know it. If you are like me, you haven't done much watering lately. The dry conditions of May have given way to an extremely wet June. On a positive note the excessive rainfall has expedited the recovery of my Winter Damage.

I want to thank Patrick Healey for hosting June's meeting at The Scranton Canoe Club. This month has us headed to Glen Oak Country Club. We continue to try to increase our attendance at monthly meetings, so if you have an idea or suggestion to improve our meeting, please reach out to me. We have some great sites this year, and we will be offering more Pesticide Credits at one of our Fall meetings.

We will be announcing the recipient of our Scholarship award next month. The funds collected from the Tee Signs at the Clambake are used to provide this scholarship. If you would like to sponsor a tee sign for this year's clambake, please contact Melinda at 570-388-2167 or mme1500@aol.com. It takes some time to have these signs made, so please contact her a few weeks prior to the event, which is scheduled for August 31.

Hopefully, summer is treating all of you well. After the last two winters, I am looking at the summer months with a newfound appreciation. We hope to see many of you over the next few months at our monthly meetings. It is a great opportunity to speak with your peers and perhaps pick up a few tips that can benefit your facility.

Greg Boring

Editor's Notes.....

Back on pace for the July newsletter. After a hot May, the weather has turned much more amiable in June and almost all the scars from last winter have healed up.

I have officially run out of pictures.....SEND ME MORE!!

Thanks to Dr. Mike Fidanza for the article this month.

Hope to see you all at Glen Oak.

Brian Bachman



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Finding Happiness in the Turf Business

My father was called home last year, just two weeks short of his 87th birthday. He would often say "...I've lived a good life, and I'm very happy." His story is similar to many of his age: son of European immigrants, served in World War II, worked hard to raise a family. In his generation, a person's wealth was measured by family and friends. I thought about what he said, and then I found an article about happiness, and how it may apply to our own personal and professional lives. In an article "9 Things Happy People Don't Do" (BottomLine Personal; Feb. 15, 2014), Dr. Dan Baker summarizes a book he co-authored titled What Happy People Know: How the New Science of Happiness Can Change Your Life for the Better (St. Martin's Griffin Press). Here are the nine points, copied-and-pasted directly from that article that I'd like to share, plus some of my own comments:



- 1) Happy people **don't** blame others for their problems. They take personal responsibility when things go wrong – even when those problems truly are largely someone else's responsibility (i.e., golfers, greens committee, etc.). This might seem counterintuitive. Taking responsibility for problems can lead to feelings of shame, guilt and inadequacy. But it turns out that blaming other people is even more likely to lead to unhappiness, because it is psychologically disempowering. If someone else is responsible for our problems, then our happiness is outside our control and we are victims. **Instead:** If we take responsibility for our problems, then we take responsibility for solving those problems. We are more likely to effectively manage our lives and our happiness, and see that we have the power to set things right.
- 2) Happy people **don't** overreact to the present moment. Many unhappy people are prone to thinking, "*This is horrible*" or "*My life is ruined*," when something bad happens to them – even if it's really just a run-of-the-mill unpleasant event that mostly will have faded from their consciousness in a few months. Happy people typically do a better job of remembering that unhappiness usually mitigates over time. That reduces the odds that the unhappy moment will snowball into a long-term funk. **Instead:** If you catch yourself fearing that a recent negative event is devastating or permanent, ask yourself, "*What can I learn from this?*" or "*How can I become wiser and/or stronger from this?*" These questions encourage the mind to consider a time when we will have moved past the problem. This may be good advice for those dealing with winter turf injury issues.
- 3) Happy people **don't** use negative language. They rarely chastise themselves or insult other people, either out loud or in their internal self-talk. **Instead:** When you catch yourself using negative language toward yourself or others, mentally rewrite the story you're telling. Make it about how you have evolved past this

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DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP IS JUNE 30, 2015

Pocono Turfgrass Association 2015 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, 2015**. 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, 2015**. 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:

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problem or challenge, learned a valuable lesson or otherwise improved. **Example:** If you think “you look awful” each time you notice your -wrinkles, you might rewrite this story so that it's about how you came to respect those wrinkles as signs of hard-earned experience and wisdom about managing putting greens during heat/drought stress.

4) Happy people **don't** feel trapped.

They focus on the options that remain, even when outside -forces greatly restrict the paths open to them. That keeps them from feeling like helpless victims, a common source of -unhappiness. **Instead:** When you feel trapped by circumstances, ask yourself, “How can I manage myself better?” *I use this method often to navigate through the university's multi-layered bureaucracy!*

5) Happy people **don't** focus on a single passion or relationship.

They usually have multiple hobbies, belong to multiple clubs and organizations and socialize with a broad range of different friends and acquaintances. This diversification of interests reduces the risk that their happiness will suffer a catastrophic loss, much as diversifying an investment portfolio reduces the risk for catastrophic financial losses. Should something go wrong with one of their interests or relationships, they still have plenty of sources of happiness to fall back on. **Instead:** Continue trying new activities, joining new groups (i.e., becoming an active member of the Central PA GCSA chapter), and building additional friendships even if you already have things and people you know that make you happy.

6) Happy people **don't** dwell on past failures.

Unhappy people tend to be very failure conscious – they kick themselves endlessly for old mistakes. Happy people tend not to do this. They, too, remember their missteps – they just tend to remember them as times when they learned important lessons or as small steps on the larger journey of life, not as disasters to -lament. **Instead:** When an old failure comes to mind, think about how you rebounded from it, what you learned from it or what you could learn from it. Green industry professionals are always learning which results in better and better turf playing conditions – just think about putting green mowing heights in the 1960s compared to today.

7) Happy people **don't** spend more time than necessary around unhappy people.

Naysayers, can't-do types and other chronically unhappy people can make the people around them less -happy, too. **Instead:** Avoid unhappy people. When you must spend time among them, treat it as a learning opportunity. Try to discover what makes these miserable people so miserable, then see if you can identify and manage any similar tendencies in yourself.

8) Happy people **don't** gossip.

If they are told something in confidence, they keep the secret. If they have something critical to say about someone else, they either say it directly to that person or they don't say it

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May Meeting Results Schuylkill Country Club

1st Place

Mike Weinert
Tom Weinert
Luke Chassard
John Chassard

8th Place

John Downer
Greg Boring
Brian Bachman,
Eric Shilling

4th Place

Paul Wickey
Doug Rider
Bob Jones
Bill Holloway

12th Place

Jerry Decker
John Vojick
Tom Wilchak
Lee Kozsey

Closest to Pin #4

Mike Weinert

Closest to Pine #11

Mike Weinert

Longest Drive #8

Jeff Shoemaker

Longest Drive #14

Brian Pardoe

June Meeting Results Scranton Canoe Club

Morning 3 Club Event

Ron Garrison - 33

Closest to the Pin:

Lee Kozsey

Skins:

Ron Garrison
Tom Collum
Jeff Clarke

Afternoon Event

1st Place

Tom Collum, Ed Ladamus
Jim Hill, Frank Miner

4th Place

Lee Kozsey, Eric Shilling
Shaun Barry, Chris Moran

Closest to the Pin:

George Skawski
Jeff Clarke

Skins:

Ron Garrison



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the tips, but don't let the length fool you. The greens are devilishly fast, and as with many Pocono courses, there are plenty of trees and water features to challenge your game.

With a strong golfing membership of 320, Glen Oak has continued to improve the course over the years, undergoing some major renovations. In late 2013 and early 2014, Gino oversaw a complete bunker renovation, coupled with the re-grassing/contouring of the greens surrounds to turf type tall fescue. Additionally, the crew also stripped and re-grassed their collars and approaches, choosing PennTrio bentgrass for those surfaces. In the Fall of 2014 they finished their string of major renovations by completing a project to level and re-grass their tees with PennTrio bentgrass as well.

Glen Oak was also one of the many local courses who suffered from substantial winterkill on their greens this year. Below is a before and after picture of #5 green that shows you just how much work was done and how great a recovery they had.

Come and take a look for yourself at how Gino and Glen Oak approached their greens, and join us for what will certainly be a great day of golf with friends and peers.



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at all – they don't complain to a third party. **Instead:** If you feel the urge to talk about someone behind his/her back, ask yourself, "How could I instead use this time to improve my own life?" If you are gossiping about someone because you are upset with that person, consider whether discussing the underlying issues directly with this individual would lead to a more constructive result. If so, do that. If not, let the matter drop.

9) Happy people **don't** procrastinate.

They usually get unpleasant tasks over with so that they can move on to happier things. They understand that putting off an unpleasant task doesn't make the task any less unpleasant – it just leaves the task hanging over their heads longer than necessary. **Instead:** To spur the process, set your own deadlines well in advance of an unpleasant task's actual deadline. Break big unpleasant tasks down into more manageable segments. Promise yourself that you will do something that makes you happy as soon as you complete the unpleasant task. Sometimes people put off difficult tasks because they are afraid that they will fail. Remind yourself that putting off difficult tasks means that you will probably have to do them in a mad rush as the deadlines near, which only increases the odds of failure.

There you have it. Something to consider as we all strive for happiness in our lives.

Mike Fidanza, Ph.D., is a Professor of Plant and Soil Sciences at Penn State Berks Campus, Reading, PA. Email: maf100@psu.edu Twitter: @MikeFidanza



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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 for everyone to enjoy (or laugh at).



July Photo of the Month

How many of you remember and have used these? I guess its been awhile since this unit has seen action.

Thanks to John Chassard at Lehigh C.C. for sending me this gem!!

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July 6 PTGA Golf Meeting
Glen Oak CC

Aug 31 PTGA Clambake
Scranton CC

Sept 15 PTGA Golf Meeting
Mt. Laurel GC

Oct 6 PTGA Golf Meeting
Fox Hill CC

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