



CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

www.ptga.org

Founded in 1936

VOL. 22 NO. 2

April 2016



April Meeting
Mahoning Valley Country Club
Host: Brian Cross

We kick off the golfing season with a trip to Mahoning Valley C.C. in Lehigh. This classic design originally opened its first 9 holes in 1926 and were designed by William Gordon. As golf continued to gain in popularity, they decided to open another 9 holes in the mid 1960's. In an interesting twist, the second 9 holes were also designed by a Gordon...William Gordon's son, David Gordon. The two 9's are quite distinct, with the front 9 routed through the trees and river that runs through the property while the back 9 is considerably more open and on some higher ground. At 6,670 yards, this par 73 (that's right, it's a par 73...the only one I'm aware of in the area) is a beautiful blend of wooded seclusion, natural scenery, and great conditions.

Mahoning Valley had been a private club since its inception. In 2004, after declining membership and financial struggles, the Club was purchased and went through a variety of ownership and management until 2010. The current ownership, with management via Brown Golf Management, has made a solid commitment to the Club, investing in the property and infrastructure.

Mahoning Valley is maintained by Superintendent Brian Cross, who's been at the Club since July of 2012. A 2006 Colorado State graduate, Brian found his way here after a stint in his native Pittsburgh area at

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President's Message.....

Greg Boring

Editor's Notes.....

What a difference a year makes.....this year we took the covers off and found a much better scenario underneath. Coupled with the early warm temperatures in March, it was off to the races. While things have settled down and returned to more seasonal averages now, the season is certainly off to a good start and moving ahead.

I'm out of interesting pictures, and I know you have them....send them to me!!

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



PTGA Office

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

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Pocono Turfgrass Association 2016 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, 2016**. 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, 2016**. 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:

Greg Boring
Country Club of Scranton
P. O. Box 269
Clarks Summit, PA 18411



Congratulations Shane Miller!!



News Release
March 24, 2016

Allentown superintendent receives professional certification

Contact:

Craig Smith, Director, Communications and Media Relations
Phone: 800-472-7878, ext. 4431 or 785-691-9197 (cell)
csmith@gcsaa.org

Shane A. Miller, golf course superintendent at IRON Lakes Country Club, Allentown, Pa., has earned the title of Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), a top designation currently held by only about 1,500 golf course superintendents worldwide. Shane, a 19-year GCSAA member, has been the superintendent at Iron Lakes Country Club since 2010.

“This certification program requires the highest set of competencies in golf course management through testing and practical application, and we are proud of the Association’s Class A members who have advanced to earn this highest level of professional recognition as a certified golf course superintendent,” said Rhett Evans, GCSAA chief executive officer. “We congratulate Shane on his accomplishment.”

To qualify for GCSAA’s top certification, a candidate must have at least three years’ experience as a golf course superintendent, be currently employed in that capacity and meet post-secondary educational requirements and/or continuing education points. A candidate’s knowledge, skills and abilities are validated through development of a portfolio consisting of case-study scenarios, skill statements and work samples; an on-site inspection of the golf facility; and a rigorous six-hour examination covering turfgrass cultural practices, golf course landscapes, pest management, equipment, Rules of Golf, business systems, regulator and programmatic systems, project management, human resources, environmental management and stewardship, natural systems and ethics and values.



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Churchill Valley C.C. from 2006-2012, where he was everything from the Landscape Manager to the Assistant Superintendent. Brian and his Assistant, Michael Robertson, supervise a crew of five full time seasonal employees and his mechanic. In his free time, Brian enjoys boating/fishing, playing guitar, and most other outdoor activities.

I look forward to you joining us to enjoy this great golf course and the camaraderie of our peers.




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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).



April Photo of the Month

When you don't send me any pictures you get mine....saw this vehicle at a gas station in the Lehigh Valley. They guy that was driving it looks just like you picture him in your head.

Lee Kozsey
Turf and Landscape
Territory Manager



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POCONO ROUNDUP

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Shane Miller**, CGCS, at Iron Lakes C.C. on his recent achievement of becoming a certified golf course superintendent.

PTGA SCHEDULE

Apr 18	PTGA Meeting @ Mahoning Valley C.C.
May 11	Joint Meeting With Central Penn @ Reading C.C.
June 22	PTGA Meeting @ Eagle Rock
July 19	PTGA Meeting @ Jack Frost G.C.
Aug 15	PTGA Annual Meeting and Clambake @ Glenmaura National G.C.

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