



GCSAA

CHIPS & PUTTS

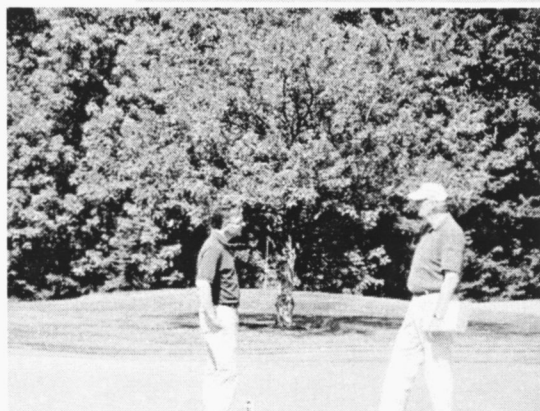
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

www.ptga.org

Founded in 1936

VOL. 15 NO. 6

August 2009



Elmhurst Country Club

Ray Waddell, GCS
Moscow, PA

Elmhurst Country Club will again be the venue for our annual scholarship fundraiser, "the Clambake". Probably our most well attended event, the Clambake affords the PTGA the opportunity to fund the scholarship which has grown to two categories, a turf scholarship and a non-turf scholarship. See the article inside for more information on this.

Ray Waddell, a graduate of Rutgers University, has been superintendent at Elmhurst since 2005. Dave Weber was promoted to assistant superintendent this season and is active in helping Ray and the staff prepare for both the PTGA visit and the Nationwide Tour event, the Northeast Pennsylvania Classic the week of August 24. Over 150 players from around the country will play in this event. If you have some time during the week, I am sure Ray would be grateful for a little help in getting the course ready for this event.

Since our last visit to Elmhurst, Ray and club have been busy with some projects to improve the playability of the golf course. One of the projects was a reworking of the 9th hole. This project included renovation of the tee ground and softening of the hill in front of the green for a better line of sight. Another of the projects was the rebuilding of the 14th green surround. This project included bunker renovation and the sodding of the surround. These projects were done utilizing Greenscene Landscaping and Elmhurst staff.

Elmhurst Country Club has a staff of about 20 in the summer for maintenance and trims this down to 4 in the winter for snow removal and equipment maintenance, as well as project work as the weather allows.

Elmhurst Country Club was incorporated in 1929 as a 9-hole course. These 9 holes became the back nine in 1931 when the course was expanded to 18 holes. For those of you who haven't been able to make a clambake this is a great one to attend. The course is in great shape and the club always treats the Pocono Turfgrass very well. Thanks to Chuck DeAngelo for helping to sponsor this year's event.



President's Message.....

I would like to thank Ray Waddell for hosting the Clam Bake again this year. It's a lot on his plate with the Nationwide Tournament the following week.

Congratulations go to the winners – Joe Sellers, Bob Seltzer, and Mike Zellner. Who gets to keep the trophy? Or will it be like the Stanley Cup and they each get it for a while?

I would especially like to thank all our tee sign sponsors. We had another successful year adding to our scholarship fund.

Darrin Larkin

Editor's Notes.....

August is here already. Wow, another summer is nearing its end. I can't believe back to school flyers are in the Sunday paper, and we haven't even experienced 90 degrees four times this year yet. Maybe we will have some summer yet, so don't winterize that sprayer too soon.

There are some great golf courses yet to come this season. I have heard many are looking forward to the chance to play Huntsville Golf Club and Glenmaura National. Don't forget that attendance is part of the qualifier for the Met Team Championship tournament that the Pocono supports each season. If you haven't gotten to a meeting yet, there is still time. Remember, we want to see everyone attend our meetings, but be kind and register early so the host knows what to expect. Last minute registration costs you another \$10.00, so register by the deadline.

The list of some education opportunities is on the back page, so maybe the next time you are caught in the office you can register early for one of those, as well. Be sure to communicate the need to continue your education by attending some of these events to bring new ideas and technology back to your club.

Have a great overseeding and find some time with family and friends as Labor Day will be here before you know it.

Jim Gurzler



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The Rules, your course and its golf course management staff

It's not uncommon to hear a golfer say, "The Rules of Golf are too complicated."

But what's most important for golfers to understand is that many of the rules are actually intended to help them out. For instance, most golf courses have cart paths, sign posts, permanently anchored yardage markers, ball washers, etc. These are immovable obstructions, and golfers are permitted relief from them under rule under 24-2.

In addition to those permanent features of the course, golfers and/or their golf ball will interact with the work of the golf course maintenance staff, or with natural situations that affect the course. These are called "abnormal ground conditions" and also offer relief under Rule 25.

For instance, in wet weather, portions of the course can have standing water outside of a water hazard. This is casual water and golfers can also get relief from it under Rule 25.

When the golf course management staff is working on the projects such as resodding, maintaining or repairing the irrigation system, or renovating bunkers, these areas maybe marked as ground under repair. In such cases, golfers are entitled to relief from the area.

If the committee wishes to protect an area of the course such as new sod, The Rules of Golf also recommend identifying the area as ground under repair, and requiring players to take relief from it. The recommended local rule is:

"The _____ (defined by ____) is ground under repair from which play is prohibited. If a player's ball lies in the area, or if it interferes with the player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the player must take relief under Rule 25-1."

What's most important for golfers to understand is many of the rules are actually intended to help them out.

Of course, there are other times when The Rules of Golf can help you on the course. One of the regular maintenance practices that can have an effect on play is the aeration of greens, tees and fairways. According to The Rules of Golf:

When a course has been aerated, a Local Rule permitting relief, without penalty, from an aeration hole may be warranted. The following Local Rule is recommended:

"Through the green, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green."

On the putting green, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be placed at the nearest spot not nearer the hole that avoids the situation."

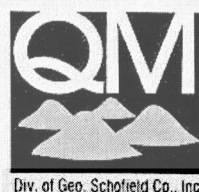
The Rules even offer a specimen local rule for trees that have been planted:

When it is desired to prevent damage to young trees, the following Local Rule is recommended:

Continued on Page 4

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Continued from Page 3

"Protection of young trees identified by _____ — If such a tree interferes with a player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the ball must be lifted, without penalty, and dropped in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Rule 24-2b (Immovable Obstruction). If the ball lies in a water hazard, the player must lift and drop the ball in accordance with Rule 24-2b(i) except that the nearest point of relief must be in the water hazard and the ball must be dropped in the water hazard or the player may proceed under Rule 26. The ball may be cleaned when lifted.

While the rules don't specifically address the maintenance staff itself, golfers need to remember that sometimes the work to be done puts golfers and the staff on the course at the same time. At those times, a little patience can make for a safer, more productive day for the staff, and produce better golf course conditions when the project is done.

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Golf Rules Trivia

1. Out of Bounds stakes may be treated as obstructions? True or False
2. A player may lay his or her golf bag parallel to the line of putt to shield the ball from the wind? True or False
3. In match play, what penalty does a player incur for hitting in front of the tee markers?
 - a. No penalty, opponent may require player to re-hit
 - b. 2 strokes
 - c. loss of hole

Go to the PTGA Facebook page for the answers or wait for the September newsletter.

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From the GCSAA

USCIS accepting new H-2B petitions for fiscal year 2009

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced Aug. 6 it is reopening the FY2009 (Oct. 1, 2008-Sept. 30, 2009) H-2B petition filing period and will immediately accept petitions from employers to bring foreign workers to the U.S. to fill temporary nonagricultural jobs for which there is a shortage of available U.S. workers.

Even though the visa cap for the second half of FY2009 was met back on Jan. 7, 2009, the Department of State received fewer than expected requests for H-2B visas, and as a result, has issued only 40,640 H-2B visas for FY2009 to date. USCIS is now making 25,000 visas available.

The normal (non-premium processing) time frame for H-2B petitions is 60 days. USCIS will make visa numbers available to petitions in the order in which the petitions are filed. However, because H-2B petitions (Form I-129) for FY2009 visas must be received, evaluated, and adjudicated on or before the FY2009 deadline of Sept. 30, 2009, USCIS cannot guarantee

approval of any H-2B petition on or before the Sept. 30, 2009 deadline. Employers are encouraged to file as soon as possible and to request premium processing by filing a Form I-907 and submitting the \$1000 premium processing fee, which will allow for expedited processing.

To qualify for a FY2009 H-2B cap number, employers must: submit the Form I-129 Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker to USCIS with all required documents, including an approved Alien Employment Certification from the U.S. Department of Labor that is valid for the entire employment period stated on the petition. The petitioner must also indicate an employment start date before Oct. 1, 2009.

Petitions received on or after Oct. 1, 2009, and/or requesting a starting date on or after Oct. 1, 2009, will be considered towards the FY2010 H-2B cap and are subject to all eligibility requirements for FY2010 H-2B filings.

Visit the USCIS Web site for more information and a Q&A document. You may also contact Chava McKeel, GCSAA senior manager of information and public policy, at 800-472-7878 or cmmckeel@gcsaa.org for more information

Jack Frost Meeting Results

Bryan Nuss hosted the July meeting at Jack Frost National. It was another new club for the PTGA to visit and another well attended meeting. This month, Mark Fine was our guest speaker. Mark was there to discuss bunkers and maintenance practices that would benefit the clubs.

Our tournament was the Pink Ball Tournament and more than one group finished this year with the ball still in their possession, so scoring was important. The winning team was Chuck DeAngelo, Jim Ghigerelli, Walt Godek, and Joe Roach, with a score of 73. In second place was the team of Jack Sudlesky, Dr. Joe Barrett, Gary Phillips Sr. and Gary Phillips Jr., with a score of 77.


The low gross for the tournament was won by Walt Godek, with a 76 on a match of cards over Joe Roach.



The skill prizes were two Closest to the Pins and a Long Drive contest. The closest to the pin on #3 was won by Gary Phillips and the closest to the pin on #11 was won by Dr. Joe Brown. The long drive was won by Russell Hauenstein of Elkview Country Club.

A skins tournament was held and 7 skins held up. Our speaker, Mark Fine, won a skin on the first hole. Jack Sudlesky had a skin on the second hole, Joe Roach had one on the fifth, Dr. Joe Barrett had a skin on the sixth, Barry Goodhart had one on eleven, Pat Healey had a skin on the fourteenth, and Joe Y (sorry no last name) won the final skin on the 10th hole.

Thanks to Bryan and Jack Frost for hosting our tournament this year. Thanks also to Mark Fine of Fine Golf Design for speaking this month. Thanks also to our meeting sponsors, George Ley and Turf Equipment Supply for helping with our meeting costs.



SAVE THE DATE

October 5, 2009

LET'S HELP AN INDUSTRY FRIEND!

We have the opportunity to help one of our own on October 5th at Lehigh Country Club in Allentown, PA.

We are holding a golf outing to support Ed Zimmerman, Golf Sales Representative for John Deere Golf for the past 10 years.

Ed was diagnosed with melanoma four years ago, and, after successful surgery and chemotherapy, he was in remission for two and half years. Last year, the cancer returned, and now his fight continues. Ed has endured multiple surgeries and very difficult chemotherapy to combat this disease.

Ed has been a trooper through this entire process without a complaint. This is our time to show Ed how much we care for him and to show him how big his family really is. This will be a great opportunity for you, your crew and members to support Ed and play at one of the finest golf clubs in Pennsylvania.

This will be a shotgun-style tournament with great prizes and a silent auction that will have some great deals for you and your club. This will only be available to the first 36 teams that sign up. The cost will be \$800.00 per team. More information to follow.

Check back regularly for information on how you can sponsor this event!

Contact the PAGCS office with questions:

LET'S HELP AN INDUSTRY FRIEND

Monday, October 05, 2009

Kristen Liebsch

Executive Secretary

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RAIN BIRD



Summer Always Comes Eventually, Doesn't It?

By Darin S. Bevard, senior agronomist
August 19, 2009

One of the common comments heard from members and golfers during our late July and early August visits was "summer is just about over; there should not be much to worry about." During these conversations, we always point out that it does not take two or three weeks for problems to occur. With the right weather conditions, rapid turfgrass decline can happen in three or four days. Mind you, there have not been many recent catastrophes, but there has been much more stress on the grass in our recent travels, especially in the areas that received ample rainfall in conjunction with the arrival of high temperatures.

Anthrachnose has been more of a problem in recent weeks than it has been in quite some time. Nuisance disease levels have been replaced with noticeable turfgrass thinning in several instances. Summer patch and bacterial wilt have added to problems with *Poa annua* populations on greens. Make sure that frequent, light applications of nitrogen are made to keep the grass growing and healthy both to resist and recover from these diseases. Spoon-feeding through the sprayer is still a very good way to deliver approximately 1/10 lb. of actual N per 1,000 sq. ft. on a 7-10 day interval. Stress-related diseases generally are worse under low nitrogen fertility.

The other major problem persisting throughout the summer is dollar spot disease, especially in fairways. With budgets tight, efforts to use reduced fungicide rates and extended spray intervals on fairways has led to difficult-to-control dollar spot outbreaks. In each instance where the disease has been a serious problem, nitrogen fertility was low. While excessive nitrogen applications can create turfgrass problems, the grass needs to be fed to keep it healthy.


The other challenge of summer resurgence has been aeration. Many courses scheduled mid-August aeration with the thought that the weather would be breaking at this point in time rather than having the peak of summer temperatures. Be cautious during aeration. At this point in the growing season abrasive dragging or other grooming practices may create problems. Err on the conservative side of maintenance. Use smaller tines, especially if the turfgrass is already weak. Self-inflicted stress can ruin a good growing season.

The weather will break soon enough, but, until that time, be wary of the problems that can still occur during this late summer heat wave. Although it's been a mild summer, it only takes a few days of summer stress to forget the mild July weather.

The Mid-Atlantic Region agronomists are part of your agronomic support team. If you have a question or concern, give us a call or send an e-mail. Stan Zontek (szontek@usga.org) and Darin Bevard (dbevard@usga.org) at 610/ 558-9066 or Keith Happ (khapp@usga.org) at 412/ 341-5922.

Turf Grass Disease updates by University Professors is a blog started by Dr. John Kaminski of Penn State University. The blog is updated by many professors with up to minute information on diseases they have encountered. A great place to learn how to Tweet or link to one of your networks to stay up to date with what is going on.

See the blog at <http://turfdiseases.blogspot.com/>



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POCONO ROUNDUP

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Samantha Kramer. She has taken over as Superintendent at Riverview Country Club in Easton, PA. Sam has been at Riverview since May 2004 when the course was being built.

Looking for Photos

Got a strange photo or interesting sunset? Maybe a bear at the tee box? Send your photo or story in for publication. Let others in the area hear what is going on at your course.

Local Tournaments

Northeast PA Classic Elmhurst CC
Moscow, PA August 27-30th

The Barclays Fed Ex Cup Playoff
Liberty National Jersey City NJ August 27-30th

PTGA MEETING SCHEDULE

2009 Golf Schedule

Aug 17	Elmhurst Clambake
Sept 15	Huntsville Golf Club
Oct 5	Lehigh Country Club Ed Zimmerman Benefit Tournament
Oct 15	Glenmaura National Championship

Conferences & Expos

Nov 10-12	Penn State Turf Conference State College, PA
Nov 10 & 11	GCNJ Crystal Conference Crystal Springs Resort, Hamburg NJ
Dec 8-10	NJTA Expo Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ

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