



# CHIPS & PUTTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Founded in  
1936

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FEBRUARY/MARCH 1997

## GCSAA Conference and Show Highlights...

The conclusion of GCSAA's 68th International Golf Course conference and Show brings the anxious anticipation of yet another season. This year's gala extravaganza, held in Las Vegas, Nevada, was no exception. As I return from my briefest conference to date, I do so with a renewed vigor for the challenges ahead. I even had Lady Luck on my side as I returned with a few more pennies than I went out with. The Conference and Show again attracted record numbers: over 22,000 attendees visited 700 vendors at the Trade Show. The educational sessions, seminars, forums and General sessions offered opportunities for career enhancement in many different areas. As has been the case in recent years, to do all and see all is quite the impossible task. Some of the highlights from the week included:

- At the Government and Environmental General Session **Huntsville Golf Club** received a regional award for Environmental Stewardship.
- Paul S. McGinnis, CGCS from Phoenix, AZ, was chosen as GCSAA president. George E. Renault, III, CGCS of Bethesda, MD, was chosen as vice-president, and David W. Fearis, CGCS of Kansas City, MO, was elected secretary/treasurer. Bruce R. Williams, CGCS remains on the board for one year as immediate past-president. Elected to the board from a field of four candidates were Tommy D. Witt, CGCS of North Barrington, IL, Michael Wallace, CGCS, CGCS of Simsbury, CT, and **Sam Snyder VII**, CGCS of Wilmington, DE. Congratulations to Sam, as he is "one of our own."
- At the GCSAA annual meeting the dual requirement amendment was passed. Effective July 1, 1997, all Class A and B superintendent applications must be a member of an affiliated chapter and retain such membership thereafter. The second amendment of importance that was passed increases dues for Class A, B, and C members. Membership in GCSAA will now be \$250 annually. Special thanks to **Hal Parr, Jr.**, CGCS and **Jeff Peters**, CGCS for all their hard work and effort as voting delegates representing the PTGA at the annual meeting.
- It was announced that GCSAA's 30-minute television show, "Par for the Course", will be

moving to The Golf Channel beginning March 22 at 6:30 P.M.

- Although not a participant, the silent auction conducted for the first time with proceeds going to the Robert Trent Jones Endowment Fund for scholarship and research, seemed to be a big hit. A great opportunity to get some early season deals.
- GCSAA's presence. I am continually impressed with what and how much our Association has to offer. Merchandise, educational materials, employment opportunities, networking possibilities, and staff interaction, just to name a few. Their presence is everywhere!!
- And of course, the Trade Show. It is the Big Show, and to me it seems to get bigger and bigger each year. Without a prepared plan of attack, I find it to be quite overwhelming.

Those were my impressions from this year's extravaganza in Vegas. I must admit I enjoyed this trip to Las Vegas much more than I did several years ago. Maybe it was all that glitz from all the new casinos. It truly is the city that never sleeps.

For those that like to plan ahead, the 6 year Conference and Show schedule has been set:

Anaheim, CA - February 2-8, 1998  
Orlando, FL - February 8-14, 1999  
New Orleans, LA - February 14-20, 2000  
San Diego, CA - February 5-11, 2001  
Orlando, FL - February 4-10, 2002  
Atlanta, GA - February 17-23, 2003

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE.....

More on Winter Play.....  
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## President's Message.....

I can hardly believe that in a few short weeks the 1997 golf season will begin in a few of our areas. The early winter season brought very mild temperatures and allowed a few of our diehard golfers to enjoy play into the second week of January.

Your Board of Directors has been very busy these past few months. The Board has met on numerous occasions and has been working on a number of things to insure that the upcoming season is a success. One of the things we will be working on will be increased membership activity. The more of us involved, the better and stronger our association becomes.

We will be having two joint meetings this season. Our first will be at Silvercreek Country Club with the Central PA Golf Course Superintendents Association. The second will be at Paupack Hills Golf Club. It will be a joint meeting with the Philadelphia Golf Course Superintendents Association. We will be the "Host Association" for both events. We look forward to having these two groups at our monthly meeting.

Over the last few weeks we have been able to grow accustomed to the "normal" weather patterns that have been hitting the region. This is also the time of year that I dedicate to

"refueling, recharging, regrouping, and reeducating" myself. I look forward to this time of the year. Each winter we have an excellent opportunity to get reeducated at the numerous educational seminars offered throughout the region. These programs bring to us often overlooked facts and findings. At these seminars we get the chance to see old friends and acquaintances we haven't seen since the previous winter. If you haven't had the opportunity to get out to these seminars, there are a few more scheduled for the upcoming weeks.

We are currently accepting resumés from all applicants interested in the position of Association Executive Secretary. As the mailed notice stated, please send resumé to Mike Vella. The Search Committee will review.

At this time I would sincerely like to thank Leile Saxe for her time and dedication devoted to the Pocono Turfgrass Association over the past few years.

See you all at the meetings!

*Ronald C. Garrison, CGCS*

## From The Editor's Desk.....

A New Year and a New Look!! I hope you all agree that it is another step toward the continued improvement of our Association newsletter. Considerable thoughts and discussions over the past several months have led to what we all hope will be the foundation and basis of this publication for many years to come. With the help of co-editor Jim MacLaren, we have re-vamped our advertising to maximize the editorial content, but still allow our purveyors an avenue of "peddling" (as Jim often refers to it). You will notice a purveyors' insert in this issue. This insert will appear in all nine issues. It is our intent that you keep this insert on a bulletin board and support those individuals that so generously support this publication and the Association

We have also made changes to the editorial committee. Newcomers are Paul Weiss,

Jonathon Suitch, John Novak, and George Skawski. With the addition of Jim MacLaren as Co-editor, Mark McCormick and Jeff Peters remain as holdovers from humble beginnings. I would certainly be remiss if I didn't mention our managing editor, Melinda Wisnosky. She is THE reason for the success of the past two years. She has been the rock that has many times steadied an unsteady boat, reminding me of approaching deadlines, formatting, editing, stuffing, licking, and stamping. I think we all agree it has been a job well done. I personally thank her for her efforts and look forward to continuing to work with her.

As I have stated many times before, comments, suggestions, etc., are always welcome. This is your Association newsletter. We want it to be a publication you can be proud of and look forward to receiving.

*Scott A. Schukraft, Co-Editor*



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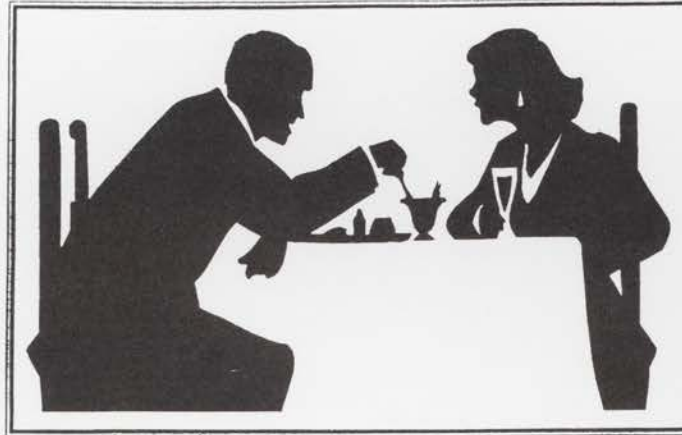
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# PAST PRESIDENTS DINNER

THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION IS PROUD TO PRESENT  
AND SPONSOR:

**THE 1ST ANNUAL PAST PRESIDENTS DINNER/DANCE**

MARCH 1, 1997 AT SHADOWBROOK RESORT, TUNKHANNOCK, PA

## 1997 MEETING SITES

### MARCH 25, 1997

Bethlehem Municipal Golf Club  
Bethlehem, PA  
Tom Wilchak, Host Superintendent

### APRIL 22, 1997 with Central Penn

Silver Creek Country Club  
Hellertown, PA  
Tony Grieco, CGCS, Host Supt.

### MAY 13, 1997

Woodland Hills Country Club  
Hellertown, PA  
James Vedomsky, Jr., Host Supt.

### JUNE 10, 1997

Woodloch Springs Country Club  
Honesdale, PA  
Mark Eisele, Host Superintendent

### JULY 11, 1997

Edgewood in the Pines  
Drums, PA  
Anthony Barletta, Host Superintendent

### AUGUST 18, 1997 - PTGA Clambake

Blue Ridge Country Club  
Palmerton, PA  
Paul Weiss, Host Superintendent

### SEPTEMBER - with Philadelphia

Paupack Hills Golf and Country Club  
Greentown, PA  
Mark Monahan, CGCS, Host Supt.

### OCTOBER 7, 1997 -

PTC Valentine Tournament  
Huntsville Golf Club  
Lehman, PA  
Scott A. Schukraft, Host Superintendent

### OCTOBER

Split Rock Country Club  
Lake Harmony, PA  
Scott Seidel, Host Superintendent

## MARCH MEETING NOTES

Re-affiliation update with an emphasis on  
Bylaw Amendments

Board activity and plans for upcoming  
season

All indications from our host  
superintendent, Tom Wilchak, are that we  
will be able to play golf. If you plan to  
attend, please do so with clubs in hand.

\*\*\*\*\*

USGA Regional Green Seminar

Thursday, March 20, 1997  
Woodholme Country Club  
Baltimore, MD

For more information and a copy of the  
program call:

James A. Farrell - 401-295-5430  
or  
Scott A. Schukraft - 717-675-3800.



**WINTER PLAY MYTHS....**

**Myth:** Sand-based greens drain well and don't compact, making them very suitable for winter play.

**FACT:** Direct wear injury is likely to be more severe on sand greens.

**Myth:** Traffic on dormant turf doesn't cause injury.

**FACT:** Weather and soil conditions at the time of play will dictate the type and extent of damage.

**Typical Soil Scenarios:**

- Traffic on dry unfrozen soil (rare during winter) - Causes least damage.
- Frozen soil - Can cause significant wear injury but little soil compaction.
- Wet unfrozen soil - Significant soil compaction but less wear injury
- Thawing soil (wet on surface, frozen below) - Severe soil compaction and wear injury.
- Frosted turf - Direct injury.

**Myth:** A good golf course superintendent should be able to fix the damage done during the winter by implementing management techniques during early spring: aerifying, top-dressing, overseeding, fertilizing, applying herbicides for weed control, and irrigating.

**FACT:** Rarely can intensive springtime work completely compensate.

**FACT:** Chemicals applied to control weeds have a negative effect on root growth.

**FACT:** Renovating the greens takes more money for labor and materials and comes at expense of other spring course preparation activities. **Statistics:** Industry surveys estimate 35 to 75 percent of all energies put into turf management involve preparation for and recovery from winter.



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**LETTER OF THANKS...**

We would like to express our appreciation and heartfelt thanks to all members of the Pocono Turfgrass Association during our recent tragedy. The outpouring of support through cards, calls and contributions is truly what is helping to carry us through what continues to be a most difficult time in our lives. We would like everyone to know we are most grateful and express many thanks.

Sincerely,

Scott and Heidi Schukraft

**RE-AFFILIATION UPDATE.....**

The old saying, "almost only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades," best describes our current re-affiliation process with GCSAA. We are almost there, but it is not yet enough. Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of our proposed Bylaw Amendments. You are encouraged to review these changes as they will set the course of the Association for the foreseeable future. They will be discussed at the next two regular meetings of the Association and be voted upon in April. Adoption of the proposed amendments is a huge step toward completing our re-affiliation process. There has never been a better time to be a part of this Association.

A special thanks to the Bylaw Committee who spent considerable time discussing each and every amendment. Although difficult and mind-boggling at times, we all feel it was certainly worth the effort.

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## GCSAA MEMBERS' CODE OF ETHICS.....

The revised code of ethics of GCSAA was adopted by the Board of Directors at its fall meeting in Phoenix, AZ, held November 1-2, 1996. GCSAA's bylaws, Article III, Sections 2 and 3, authorize the board of directors to enforce this code by procedures established through standing rules for the conduct of such proceedings.

This code is established to promote and maintain the highest professional standards of service and conduct among the membership of GCSAA. Steadfastly maintaining these principles will accrue to the membership a level of justly deserved recognition and respect from those who come into contact with any member. Through high regard for, and strong enforcement of, the code, membership in this association will be deemed a significant indicator of individual responsibility, character and professionalism.

As a professional courtesy, a member should always contact a fellow superintendent before visiting that superintendent's golf course.

As a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, I accept and fully agree to abide by this code and pledge myself to:

- 1 Recognize and discharge all my responsibilities and duties in such a fashion as to be a credit to his association and my profession.
- 2 Practice and insist upon sound business and turf management principles in exercising the responsibilities of my position.
- 3 Utilize every practicable opportunity to expand my professional knowledge, thereby improving myself and my profession.
- 4 Maintain the highest standards of personal conduct to reflect positively upon and add to the stature of the profession of golf course management and refrain from any act tending to promote my own interest at the expense of the dignity and integrity of the profession of golf course management, this association, or a fellow superintendent.
- 5 Base endorsements, whether written, verbal, or through any other medium, strictly upon satisfactory personal experiences with the product, item or service endorsed.
- 6 Refrain from encouraging or accepting considerations of any value without the express understanding of all parties that said consideration is available to all persons in similar circumstances, and that no conduct or favorable consideration shall be forthcoming as a result of acceptance.
- 7 Recognize and observe the highest standards of integrity in my relationships with fellow golf course superintendents and others associated with this profession and industry.
- 8 Assist my fellow superintendents in all ways consistent with my abilities.
- 9 Abstain from making false or untrue statements concerning another superintendent of causing public embarrassment to another supt.
- 10 Lend my support to, and actively participate in, the efforts of my local chapter and national association to improve public understanding and recognition of the profession of golf course management.
- 11 Promptly report all known or suspected violations of the code of ethics and voluntarily participate as a witness and present information in all proceedings to determine the possibility of a violation of this code of ethics.
- 12 Abstain from apply for or otherwise seeking employment in an unprofessional manner. For the purpose of this section of the code, a member seeks employment in an unprofessional manner if he or she does one or more of the following in connection with the prospective employment:
  - provides false or misleading information to a prospective employer
  - makes slanderous or defamatory statements concerning a fellow supt.
  - attempts to undermine or improperly influence the staff of a fellow supt.
  - attempts to deceive, mislead or mininform a fellow superintendent's employer, supervisor or fellow employees
  - makes misleading, deceptive or false statements or claims about his or her professional qualifications, experience or performance
  - makesmisleading, deceptive or false statements or claims about a member superintendent's professional qualifications, experience or performance
- 13 Refrain from accepting employment, as a consultant, in an unprofessional manner. For the purposes of this section of the code, a consultant accepts employment in an unprofessional manner if he or she does one or more of the following in connection with such consulting:
  - provides false or misleading information to a prospective employer
  - makes slanderous or defamatory statements concerning a fellow supt.
  - attempts to undermine or improperly influence the staff of a fellow supt.
  - attempts to deceive, mislead or mininform a fellow superintendent's employer, supervisor or fellow employees
  - makes misleading, deceptive or false statements or claims about his or her professional qualifications, experience or performance
  - makesmisleading, deceptive or false statements or claims about a member superintendent's professional qualifications, experience or performance
- 14 Abstain from conduct constituting a crime under federal, state, or local law, the penalty for which is, or may be, imprisonment, including but not limited to crimes of moral turpitude and dishonesty. A member's conviction of a crime will be considered conclusive evidence that the member committed that crime for the purposes of this code.
- 15 Abstain from knowingly making false statements or knowingly failing to disclose a material fact requested in connection with application or renewal for GCSAA membership or for membership in an affiliated chapter.
- 16 Express professional opinions on technical subjects publicly only when that opinion is founded upon adequate knowledge of the facts and competence in the subject matter.



**Local Associations host the following seminars.....**

"Irrigation System Scheduling and Maintenance," co-hosted by the Central PA Golf Course Superintendents Association and the GCSAA, presented in York, PA, March 11, 1997.

"Irrigation Water Quality," co-hosted by Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the GCSAA, presented in Philadelphia, PA, March 19, 1997.

"Irrigation System Operation and Principles of Design", co-hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the GCSAA, presented in Bethesda, MD, March 18, 1997.

"Turfgrass Ecology," co-hosted by the Central New York Golf Course Superintendents Association, presented in Syracuse, NY, March 18, 1997.

Registration for all seminars will include lunch and a reference manual. Advance registration is required. To register for any of the above seminars call 800-472-7878.




**Local Superintendents Recognized for...**



On Monday, February 10, **Bill Lansdowne, CGCS**, long time Superintendent at the Country Club of Scranton, was recognized for 25 years of excellence in the GCSAA Certification Program. Bill was recognized at the Certification Luncheon at CGSAA's Conference and Show held in Las Vegas. The GCSAA members celebrating their 25th anniversary as a certified golf course superintendent are from the inaugural class of 47 who were first recognized at GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show in 1972 by Paul M. Alexander, Ph.D. Bill is only one of four individuals who have maintained their CGCS status by completing the CGCS renewal requirements five times. Congratulations, Bill, on your milestone achievement!

Certification status is "truly a measure of professional excellence in our industry" according to Past President Bruce R. Williams. Other members of the Pocono Turfgrass Association who have attained CGCS are Ron Garrison, Tony Grieco, Jeff Lansdowne, Mark Monahan, Hall Parr, Jeff Peters, and Keith Snyder. They are part of a group of more than 1,600 superintendents who currently hold "CGCS" status. Since 1971, GCSAA has bestowed the coveted designation of Certified Golf Course Superintendent upon those who qualify with professional experience and education, and successfully complete a rigorous examination and on site inspection of their golf course operations. To ensure this level of excellence is maintained, certified superintendents must renew their CGCS status every five years through continuing education requirements or re-examination.






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*A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA*

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.....**

**Golf Course Superintendent**  
**Springwood Golf Club, York, PA**  
 - new 18 hole public course, Ault/Clark design. BS in Turfgrass Mgt., 5 years' exp., grow-in preferred. \$40K plus bonus, plus life/health, vacation/sl, dues/expenses, future pension plan. S/R by 2/19 to Springwood Golf Club, c/o Mr. Dan Stees, 2677 St. Andrews Ct., York, PA 17402-888.

**Assistant Golf Course Superintendents**  
**Lebanon Country Club, Lebanon, PA** - 18 hole private club. 2-4 year degree, 2 yrs. exp. min. Computer knowledge helpful. \$25-28K, health, vacation/sl, dues, limited meals. S/R by 2/28 to Jeffrey L. Fry, CGCS, Lebanon Country Club, P. O. Box 266, Lebanon, PA 17042

**Wiltwyck Golf Club, Kingston, NY** - 18 hole private club, 32K rounds, \$390K Budget, 4 year degree pref., 2-4 years work exp., \$24-26K, plus health, dental, vacation and dues. S/R by 2/22 to Paul F. Pritchard, CGCS, Wiltwyck Golf Club, 404 Stewart Lane, Kingston, New York, 12401, Phone 914-331-8632.

**The Bedens Brook Club, Skillman, NJ** - 18 hole private club, 13K rounds, Maxi V-Nimbus system, 2-4 year degree plus exp. Salary negotiable, plus health. A Nominating/Long Range Steering Committee, vacation/sl, 401K, dues/expenses, bonus, great working environment. S/R by 3/1/97 to Benny A. Peta, Supt., 44 Rolling Hill Road, Skillman, NJ 08558.

**Brae Burn Country Club, Purchase, NY** - 18 hole private course, AS degree in Turf Mgt., BS in agron. or allied field, min. 3 yrs. exp., competitive salary, plus health, sick, vacation, dues paid. S/R by 2/28 to Dennis M. Flynn, CGCS, Brae Burn C.C., Brae Burn Dr., Purchase, NY 10577, Phone 914-946-1074.

**1ST & 2ND Assistants**  
**Siwanoy Country Club, Bronxville, NY** - 18 hole private club, 1914 Ross design, BS degree or Turf Mgt. prog., 1st Asst - \$28-34K; 2nd Asst - \$23-25K, Housing & meals, health, dental, pension plans. S/R by 2/21 to David W. Mahoney, Property Manager, c/o Siwanoy Country Club, Pondfield Road, Bronxville, NY 10708

**FROM KELLY KRESSLER.....**

Right now the Membership committee consisting of Anthony Grieco, Thomas Wilchak, John Chassard, and Jim MacLaren are hard at work spreading the word about our ever growing Association. Last year we had 35 new Members. This is an increase of over 25%. It is the goal of the committee to exceed that number this year. Judging by what I've been hearing this winter at all the seminars, this goal should be easy to achieve. A lot of people are impressed with the growth and also the professionalism of our Association. Please do not hesitate to call me or one of the committee members for information on helping someone join. Remember that after July if you are a member of the GCSAA you must also be a member of a local affiliated chapter. So spread the word!

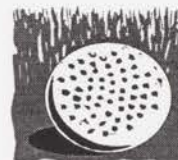
Roster books are being printed up right now. We should have them ready for distribution by the end of March.

See you at the March Meeting.

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 2522 Jones Road  
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Or you may contact any Association Member to attend the next scheduled meeting.  
 The information needed for application will be provided.



# POCONO ROUNDUP

## NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

From Jeff Lansdowne, CGCS: Jeff recently received a bulletin with headlines that state "The EPA has targeted 21,000 Pennsylvania Storage Tank Owners for Fines up to \$10,000 a Day." It certainly caught his attention! As it turned out, it was more of a scare tactic to lure you into purchasing a 1997 *Storage Tank Survival Kit*. Nonetheless, it does raise the issue of underground storage tanks and the problems they can pose should a leak occur. There are enormous fines and liability for tanks that are not in compliance. If you are an underground storage tank owner, it is an issue that should not be ignored.

The PTGA is again looking for 10 clubs willing to host a foursome for our course raffle. This is the fundraiser that enables our Association to donate money towards scholarship and research. We would like to see some new names on the raffle ticket this year. If interested, please contact Scholarship and Research Chairman, Steve Stranzl at 610-488-0886.

The Pocono Turfgrass Association would like to welcome the following new members:

- David B. Huttie, Class A, Allentown Municipal G. C.
- Harold B. Sprague, Class C, Shawnee Inn & C.C.
- Matthew W. Brown, Class C, Philadelphia Turf Co.

Fred Raphael, who originated "Shell's Wonderful World of Golf" series on television, recalls playing at Pine Valley, a difficult, exclusive course in New Jersey. "Counting whiffs, lost balls, and every other penalty, I shot 154," Raphael said.

What Raphael didn't know was that the balls Gene Sarazen had given him were undersized British balls, which were not authorized for U.S. courses.

"A couple weeks later, the member who got me on Pine Valley called to say the president of the club sent out a letter saying 28 illegal British balls were found in the rough and that anyone caught playing them would be kicked out of the club," Raphael recalled.

"What should I tell him?" the member asked.

"Tell him to keep looking," Raphael replied. "There are four more out there."

*Citizens' Voice, Wilkes-Barre, PA, Saturday, January 25, 1997*



POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION  
 2430 MILWAUKEE ROAD  
 CLARK SUMMIT, PA 18411

POSTAGE

NAME & ADDRESS

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED.